

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"

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SCAN TO VIEW:
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Community College opens - p 9



YYS Landcare - p 19

Flashback Fever Festival at Federation University, Churchill

This event on March 5 was aimed at connecting both beginning and current students with a range of internal and external services. It was an opportunity for students to begin thinking about their career outcomes, and what supports they may need to achieve their goals. There were food, games and a range of freebies available to students. It followed the previous week's orientation events at the campus where new students were officially welcomed to connect with their peers, receive course overviews, tour the campus and attend skills workshops and panel discussions. There is a growing demand for courses with strong employment outcomes - the most popular courses for Federation students in 2026 are degrees in Nursing, Early Years Education and Information Technology. Many Latrobe Valley agencies such as the Churchill Leisure Centre, Headspace and Wellways were represented at the festival and attracted considerable student interest, aided by the availability of many different freebies! All in all it was a successful day for the many varied participants. Churchill & District News was pleased to be in attendance also, and to be able to network with the university.



Shop Local
MARKET
2026

Mother's Day Market SATURDAY, MAY 2
Father's Day Market SATURDAY, AUGUST 29
Christmas Market SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

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

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The DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION of articles and advertisements for the April 2026 edition is March 25, 2026

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PO Box 234, Churchill, 3842
Or Email: cdneditorial@cdnews.com.au
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



Roger gets Support at Home: "Sometimes you need help to keep living in your own home"

Getting help before it is too late is important as we age – it is something 75-year-old Roger knows well.

Roger led an active life with his wife, Anne.

"I was reasonably fit, I enjoyed bush walking and outdoor activities," he said. "But then I had a few little accidents, and I could no longer do the caravanning, and the bush walking and the bike riding."

When Anne passed away, Roger found he needed

some extra support. While he was still able to take care of himself, Roger wanted to stay on top of his health and his home before things became too hard.

"I can manage washing and caring for myself. But I cannot do gardening very well, I cannot bend down and pick things off the floor like I used to. Before things got too bad, I saw the writing on the wall that things needed to be managed," Roger said.

Support at Home Services has given him the freedom to keep living his life independently.

"I get help with cleaning, with light gardening. I get



physiotherapy, which is really important to keep me moving and to get my strength up, and I get food support."

Now, Roger can do the things he still loves doing – going on drives, reading and jigsaw puzzles, catching up with his daughters, and visits to the Men's Shed in

Rosedale.

"Sometimes you need help to keep living in your own home," Roger said.

If you or a loved one needs some extra help, talk to our team today before things get too hard. Call us on 1800 242 696 or visit <https://www.lchs.com.au/support-at-home/>

Latrobe Through Your Lens winners announced

Latrobe City Council would like to congratulate the winners of the 2025 Latrobe Through Your Lens photography and video competition.

The competition ran for eight weeks and closed in December, inviting photographers and videographers to capture people and places across Latrobe City. Judges selected one winning entry in each category and an overall winner, with all content filmed or

photographed locally.

Each category winner received a \$200 Latrobe City gift voucher, while the overall winner was awarded the major prize of a two-night stay at Callignee Eco Bush Retreat and dinner at Little Prince in Traralgon.

Congratulations to competition winners:

Nature: Jess Krekelberg – Gippsland Plains Rail Trail (between Traralgon and Glengarry, near the Latrobe River)

Candid Culture: Keely Killeen – Miss Sparkle (Traralgon Railway Conservation Reserve)

Architecture: Cathy Tisdale – Loy Yang (an iconic feature of Latrobe City powering Victoria)

Local Flavours: Leonie Veitch – SBA Kitchen Cooking Classes (VRI Hall, Traralgon)

Overall Winner: Leonie Veitch – Aurora Australis (Coach Road, Moe)

Latrobe City Council Mayor, Councillor Sharon Gibson, said the competition highlighted the talent and creativity in Latrobe City.

"The competition let

people show off their love of our community, and the quality of entries was very impressive," said the Mayor.

"Our city is full of beauty and these images capture just that.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to enter and share their favourite photos of Latrobe City."

Winning photographers and videographers will be credited each time their images or footage are used. Entries will be showcased across Council's digital screens at Council venues and in a range of print and digital promotional materials.

Rainfall



Churchill
Rainfall totals for January - 16mm

February - 50mm (wettest 24hours was 31mm)

Rain at Hazelwood South

February did not disappoint, a thunderstorm lasting half a day, on February 27 added 33mm of steady rain, making a monthly total of 70.4mm, 61% above the average.

The gardens loved it. Following a dry January, the rain deficit for 2026 is

12% at the end of February. Most of the moisture for the rain travelled across the continent from the tropics, and cyclones in the west.

The grass is starting to green, and the fire danger is moderating.

The trees have not shown drought stress this summer. Hazelwood South had 3.5mm less rain than the Latrobe Valley weather station. The fire wood season is just around the corner.

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Glengarry

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- Rodents
- Wasps
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- Flies - Mozzies
- Termite Inspections
- Pre-Purchase Inspections
- Vermin / Pest Animal Control

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS		ADVERTISING RATES				
"Connecting Your Community"		Effective January 1, 2026				
No.	Size	B/W	COLOUR	10% Discount (6 issues)		
				B/W	COLOUR	
	Height x Width	Column size	\$	\$	\$	\$
1.	58 mm x 83 mm	2 x 5.8 cm	32.00	NA	28.00	NA
2.	123 mm x 83 mm	2 x 12.3 cm	65.00	103.00	58.00	93.00
3.	93 mm x 128 mm	3 x 9.3 cm	74.00	118.00	66.00	106.00
4.	58 mm x 260 mm	6 x 5.8 cm	93.00	150.00	84.00	134.00
5.	138 mm x 128 mm	3 x 13.8 cm	109.00	174.00	98.00	156.00
6.	188 mm x 128 mm	3 x 18.8 cm	154.00	247.00	139.00	222.00
7.	188 mm x 260 mm	6 x 18.8 cm	324.00	517.00	291.00	466.00
8.	375 mm x 260 mm	6 x 37.5 cm	475.00	761.00	428.00	685.00

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Plants in my Garden

By Mike Beamish

Species: *Hakea ruscifolia*.

Family: Proteaceae.

Derivation:

Hakea: Named after Baron Christian Ludwig von Hake (pronounced 'hark', 1745-1818), a German patron of botany.

ruscifolia; From the Mediterranean genus *Ruscus*, a plant of the lily family with small, spiny leaves, with the Latin suffix *-folium*, meaning leaf. Thus, this *Hakea* resembles a lily with small, spiny leaves!

Name: Candle-spike *Hakea*.

Distribution: Common in south-western WA from Jurien Bay on the west coast, east to Cape Arid on the south coast, in coastal sand heaths, Jarrah forests and laterite heaths.

Description: An

ignotuberous shrub to 2m tall, with arching branches to 2m wide. Leaves are arranged in crowded whorls around the top of each branchlet and are individually elliptic to obovate with a long, spiny-pointed tip, up to 4cm long and 1cm wide and hairy. White, pink-tinged, fragrant flowers occur over summer in terminal clusters on short

lateral branches, forming long, candle-like spikes. Fruits are ovoid, woody capsules to 2cm long, which retain their seed until the branch they are on dies and the capsules open.

Opinion:

My plant is still very small and is in a tub that needs re-potting and refreshing urgently, on the western side of the house, where it gets plenty of sun and all of our weather changes that come from the south-west. That is why I was surprised to find flowers on it a couple of weeks ago, when I wandered past. I cannot remember exactly where it came from, it might have come from a RBG Cranbourne

Friend's plant sale, but I suspect I've grown it myself from seed left over from our WA sojourn in 2016. My records show I planted some seed from the Cape Riche area back in 2018, of which 4 (66%) germinated, but none of those survived past 2022. There is no mention of the species since then in my records, which obviously leave a lot to be desired. Anyway, it is a nice little plant at the

moment, but it might get a bit spiky if it kicks on to its full potential. There are not many flower clusters this year, but you can imagine what it would look like if there were heaps of them completely covering the branches.

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: Holliday – *Hakeas: A Field and Garden Guide*.

Sharr – *WA Plant Names and their Meanings*.



Churchill Discount Pharmacy

Congratulations to all our winners in 2025!

We are doing it all again this year and our Health Programs are even better and our prizes are even bigger.



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CHURCH *news*

Co-Operating Church Snippets



welcomed into a community of loving fellowship, and to learn more of what it means to walk with Jesus and be the person He wants you to be. Jesus openly offers you the chance to come and see who He is and how you can be close to Him; become one of his disciples.

As disciples of Jesus, our call is to walk where He walked and to walk in the manner in which He walked.

The prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament of the Bible, seems to be talking about Jesus' crucifixion, most famously Isaiah 53, verse 5:

'But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole.

He was whipped so we could be healed.

6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.

Lent is upon us. It is a time for reflection about our lives, what we do and how we act; a time to decide how we might improve our relationships with God and others.

Also, it is a time to remember that at Easter Jesus came to show us how we should live caring for each other, but ultimately to realise that Jesus left this heavenly kingdom to become a human which ultimately led to his giving his life as the sacrifice for our sins. Those who believe this can live forever with God in heaven and with Jesus.

If you are seeking to know more about Jesus, attending a church on a Sunday is a way to be

We have left God's paths to follow our own.

Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all'.

Jesus did this for us.

Increasingly people know that the life they are living is leading to destruction. They are looking to change and they are willing to make the necessary sacrifices. Jesus has an invitation - come and see this Lent and Easter time.

Marie's 80th

One of our parishioners Marie turned 80 in February. She generously arranged, and invited us all to attend two occasions to celebrate her significant birthday. They were happy times of fellowship. At church there was a cake and a speech to acknowledge the caring person she is. Congratulations Marie on 80 wonderful years.

Coffee Connections

Coffee Connections was held for the first time this year. The devotion was based on

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

Holiday rest is often seen as a reward, but it is actually a gift of grace

from a God who designed us for balance. It is easy to bring the "busy" with us on vacation, but this season is an invitation to slow down and sit in the quiet. This is a time to let go of the pressure to be productive and instead embrace gratitude, allowing your soul to be renewed.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for the opportunity to rest. I often feel guilty when I am not doing something. Help me to remember that my worth is not measured by my productivity.

I release the need to control or worry, and I accept

Your gift of peace. Let this time away be a sanctuary for my soul, helping me to see Your beauty and kindness in the stillness. Amen.

A happy time of fellowship was had with sharing of how Christmas was spent with each present.

Matthew's and Lily's Wedding Blessing

Another auspicious occasion was the welcoming back of Matthew and his new bride for a small ceremony at the beginning of our service at the end of February. A very special wedding ceremony was held



in Cambodia, where Lily hails from. Ruth, Matthew's mother had provided a lot of extra goodies for the morning tea following the service.

The congregation remembers when Ruth came to our church when Matthew and Jeremy were very young. We have followed their progress through primary, secondary and university education. Both boys have done very well. Jeremy is now a primary teacher and Matthew wants to join the Navy to share his knowledge gained.



Churchill Christian Fellowship

By Steve McNeilly (Pastor)

I have occasionally heard (or read) comments to the effect that the Christian Church is too much about preaching and not enough about listening. One book that I read recently pointed out all the reasons why people these days think the Church is irrelevant. The very concept of preaching, where one person speaks and everyone else just listens, was seen as outdated. People these days apparently want more discussion, even maybe "open-mike" church services where anyone can get up and share their thoughts.

At Churchill Christian Fellowship, we do have plenty of opportunities for discussion. We have a home fellowship on Tuesday evenings, a ladies' meeting

on Wednesday mornings, craft social lunches on Fridays and men's breakfasts on the first Saturday of each month. However, on Sundays, we still like to have preaching - as long as it's Bible based. If, as we believe, the Bible is God's unchanging Word to us, that surely must be more important than the latest opinions and ponderings of other people.

Reading large sections of the Bible out loud in church has never been something we have done much of at CCF but we are discovering more and more how powerful it can be to let the Word of God speak for itself. We may invite comments from the congregation before our designated preacher wraps it all up with a shorter than

usual sermon. We did this both here in Churchill and also in Moe where, on January 18, I was appointed Senior Pastor. I am now leading two closely related congregations and finding that it actually presents some interesting opportunities. In some ways, it is bringing the two congregations closer together, which so far has been a good thing.

We are having our popular Op-Shop/Garage Sale day at the hall on Tramway Road on Saturday April 18. Of course our Easter Sunday service will be 3pm on April 5.

Visitors are always welcome at any of the meetings mentioned earlier in this article.

For more information, please call 0409 173747.

Lumen Christi welcomes Fr. Paul Zaher

On Sunday February 15, the parishioners of Lumen Christi officially welcomed new Parish Priest, Father Paul Zaher who has been appointed as leader of both Morwell Catholic Parish and Lumen Christi parish.

This is Father Paul's first appointment as a parish priest, having previously served in an assistant role at both Pakenham and Berwick parishes.

Born in Melbourne into a family of three boys with a Lebanese and Mauritian heritage, Father Zaher



worked as a remedial and massage therapist as well as a lecturer in remedial therapy prior to entering the Seminary.

He also taught ballroom dancing before his Ordination to the priesthood in 2020.

In welcoming Father Zaher to Lumen Christi, Michael Dyson, representing the Parish Council, assured him that parishioners were delighted to have him in Churchill and presented him with the gift of a journal to record his time while here. Father Paul was then able to mingle with parishioners over morning tea and familiarise himself with his new congregation.



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



STAMP MATTERS- A NEW EXPERIENCE



Jewellery

It has often been said that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. It is equally true that the way to a woman's heart is through her jewellery box. The adornment of one's female companion is a tangible way to express the feelings of love a man has for his mate, one which goes back to the dawn of time. Flowers are often the starting point, a ringlet of meadow flowers for her wrist, neck or hair. They are easy to access, they often have the added value of fragrance and the time spent in their creation shows the depth of his affection. Their only failing is that they do not last and a man can only afford a short time for this part of taking care of his partner.

More importantly there is shelter and food to supply and protection to provide.

A more lasting token of affection are pretty shells or pebbles fashioned into a necklace. They take a lot more time to find and the boring of holes is a long

technological leap ahead of stringing flowers together. The best point about the necklace is that provided the string is regularly replaced, it will last just about forever. You can also have more than one.

Over time, skills develop and craftsmen and women take up the making of better products. The personal love which inspired the original token is replaced by the amount of wealth you can part with to show your affection. A further bonus is that creativity is introduced into the mix and the formerly basic tokens are more beautiful to display. It is at this point that personal wealth becomes a factor in your choice. A good woman will still appreciate personal effort, but most will prefer a better-quality item.

One must also take into account what is available in your local area. A river area will produce pebbles, a sea-shore shells, a forest berries or feathers. There is also the intangible unknown, fashion. Each locality will produce its own style and design, and

this can change with access to new cultural influences or new technologies. It can be easy to recognise the jewellery from each particular locality and the age from whence it comes.

The ownership of precious metals and gemstones depends on economic circumstances as well. The rich are more likely to be able to purchase jewellery for decoration and a hedge against hard times.

As time has gone on, a greater percentage of the population has earned more and has entered the jewellery market.

Since jewels and precious metals are more durable, they can pass from one generation to the next. They are also easier to hide and can be carried, hidden away, in troubled times.

Many countries have issued sets of stamps featuring jewellery, both modern and from antiquity, so it has become a collecting theme. The stamps featured are from the United Arab Emirates but there are many more.

Morwell and District Red Cross



Kath Peruzzi received The Third Bar to the Long Service Medal

What a fabulous start to 2026 it has been, from catching up on everyone's holiday stories to donation of blankets for Quantum, the year has well and truly kicked off.

We have been busy planning for the year ahead, with the Fundraising BBQ to be the first event for the year. The BBQ will be held at Bunnings Morwell on March 21. If you are free, be sure to pop in and say hello and pick up a sausage for yourself.

To finish off the fabulous year of 2025, we gathered on December 10 at the Italian

Australian club, where we all enjoyed a fabulous lunch. During the luncheon three members were presented with Long Service Badges. Kath Peruzzi received The Third Bar to the Long Service Medal, for dedication over the past 40 years.

Anne-Maree Vella received 13 Years of Service Award and Ann Harwood received 15 Years of Service Award.

To conclude the day the raffle was drawn, so congratulations to the winners of the raffle.

C Simmons won First prize of a \$100 Christmas hamper and \$50 Bunnings voucher.

The Second prize of a \$50 Christmas hamper and \$50 Bunnings voucher was won by L Leishout, and Third prize of \$50 Bunnings voucher in a handmade Christmas stocking went to C. O'Malley.

Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month in the Yinnar and District Memorial Hall at 1:30pm. New members are always welcome, so pop in and say hello.



MORWELL BOWLING CLUB

Bistro Open 7 days
Lunch and Dinner

Bookings essential
Phone 03 5134 3449

Website
www.morwellbowls.com.au

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VO 2026
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Scan to learn more



CDCA Guided Walk

Churchill Guided Historical Walk

Volunteers from the Churchill and District Historical Association will hold the next Guided Walk on Saturday March 21, 2026. Members of the public wishing to participate are asked to meet and be seated inside the Churchill Cafe &

a Churchill resident and a member of the Morwell Historical Society.

The following are three commentaries from the predetermined commentary points from the last Walk.

Churchill was established on March 15, 1965 when the

and only other family in 1965 was the Arch family.

The Eel Hole Creek State School was the first school in what is now Churchill. The school was established as a result of a successful petition of local residents, led by Neil Shaw McDonald requesting a school to be established at Eel Hole Creek. The McDonald family lived where the Glendonald



Pizza by 10.15am. While walkers are waiting for the Walk to commence, photos by local Field Naturalist Ken Harris of Churchill's flora and fauna will be shown on the Cafe's television. This will be followed by photos showing the development of the town.

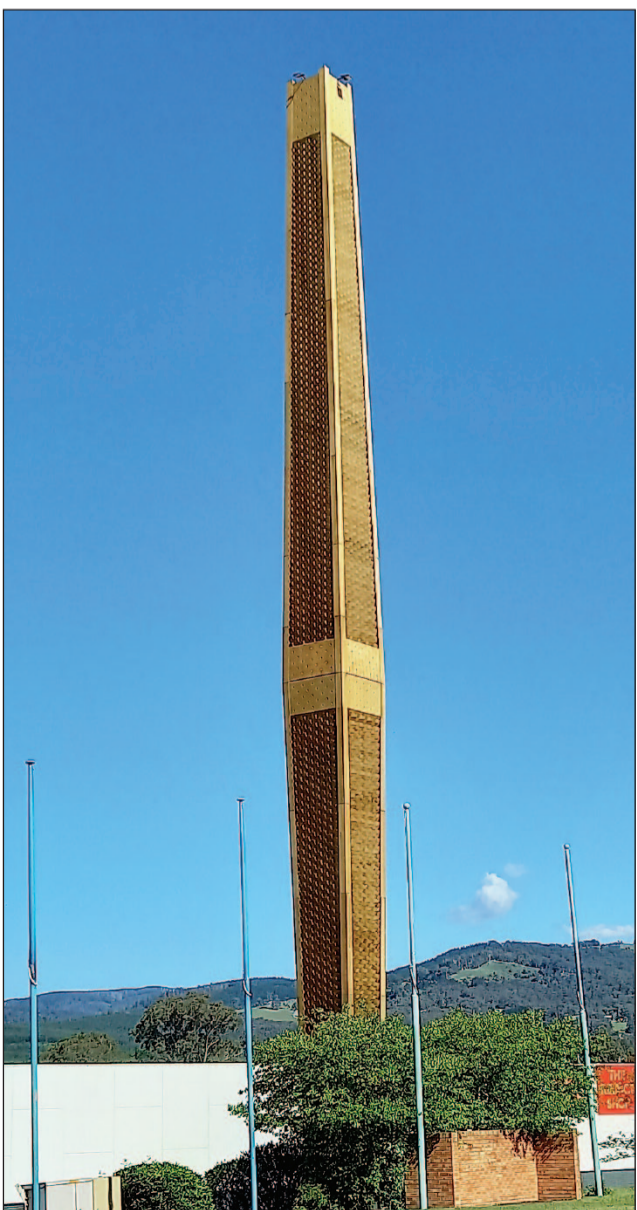
The Walk is 1.8 kilometres and will take around two hours. The guide for the Walk on March 21 will be Rob de Souza-Daw,

name was proclaimed and the town boundaries defined in the Victorian Government Gazette. 2026 will be the 61st anniversary of the town. Previously the planned town was named Hazelwood but no-one ever lived in the town of Hazelwood as defined as the initial houses had yet to be built. The first family was the Ayres family who moved into their Housing Commission home in October 1965. The second

shops are now located. The residents of Eel Hole Creek erected the school building built on land provided by Thomas Full Northway and agreed to provide board for the teacher. The Education Department provided the teacher and the first Head Teacher was William Henry Loftus who opened the school on January 22, 1900. In early 1904, at the request of local residents the school was re-named and became the Hazelwood South State School.

The Churchill Town Symbol was designed and erected at the initiative of the Housing Commission. After a meeting of the Commissioners in early 1967, the Chairman requested Pat O'Neil, Acting Chief Architect to design a symbol for the new town. Pat O'Neil considered that a tall structure was an appropriate design so the symbol could be seen from a distance. The structure was designed to be a geographic locator for the developing town and is not representative of anything. The symbol was initially lit internally with white light but now it is lit externally with coloured lighting. The structure has had several nick-names but Churchill Town Symbol is its original name and in 2022, that name was officially registered as a geographic name. The Latrobe City Council has prepared a design for signage on the structure but has yet to fund the signage.

All Guided Walks are subject to weather on the day. Members of the public are asked to book for the Walk by phoning David McInnes 0400 809 376.



International Rose Garden Festival Morwell

November 7th to 8th

Each year we look forward to this wonderful event that takes place when the garden is at its peak of colour from the blooms that the Friends have so lovingly cared for throughout the year. The 2025 festival started off on the Friday night with the amazing, colourful Night Light Installation sponsored by AGL, lighting up the garden beds, the trees and the arbour. The crowds arrived and were not disappointed even though the weather gods were not very kind to us, yet it did not deter those who came.

On the Saturday the rain arrived early and about lunch time the sky fell causing the festival to end earlier than scheduled. A lot of the stall holders and food vans had returned for another year. There was a wide variety of goods to purchase including, plants, garden structures, handbags, cards, cupcakes, candles and so much more. The local schools were asked to participate by creating banners depicting a garden theme.

The children's favourite TV personalities Costa the Gnome, Scrap Boy and Dirt Girl were there to delight the children with their performances. Becky Bubble was back again entertaining everyone with her giant bubbles and some children even got a turn at making them. The steam train came back to the festival with over two hundred passengers alighting at the Morwell station to walk to the garden.

Locals this year were able to hop on board and travel on to Traralgon where the train turns around at the terminus. There was a wide variety of goods to purchase including the essential coffee.

A hop-on-hop off bus was available to transport visitors to venues around the town including the Gallery and the Maltese Museum. above the crowd on top of long poles. Unfortunately, some of their performances were cancelled due to the inclement weather.



Sway Aerial Theatre, an amazing group, presented a vibrant, aerial performance inspired by the ephemeral beauty of the world of flowers as they swayed

This was the 8th year the festival has taken place and we hope that we can present it to the people for many more years.

MATCHBOX GALLERY

LEADLIGHTING & FINE ART



Pip Nikodemski
Marie Ward

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0429 432 896

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 [pipnikodemski](https://www.instagram.com/pipnikodemski)
 Matchbox Gallery - Yinnar

Artists in Residence
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 OFFICIAL OPENING: 2pm, Sunday, March 22
 16th March – 12th April 2026



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BOOK REVIEW

by Lucy Neave

Lucy Neave is an Australian born author, academic and creative writing teacher. She has lived in Canada, United Kingdom and Kathmandu but largely now in America where she is a Fulbright Scholar.

"Believe In Me" was highly recommended for the Christina Stead Prize in 2022 and won the ACT Book of the Year in 2023. She has also written "Who We Were", published in 2013.

This story begins in a town called Poughskeepie in upstate New York in the 1970's. It revolves around Sarah who lives with her mother and brother as part of a deeply religious community. Her father, a Vietnam veteran, has died. Sarah and a friend go to New York to see a rock band and her mother decides she is "going off the rails" so sends her with Isaiah, a missionary, to Idaho. He is going there to preach with a view to building the Church and converting Native Americans on a nearby reservation.

On the train journey he rapes Sarah and she falls pregnant. She is really captive in this isolated community, but when Isaiah tries to rape her again she needs to escape. She

"Believe In Me"

manages to contact her mother by telephone and after explaining the situation asks to come home. Instead she is sent a plane ticket to Sydney and a small amount of money.

In Sydney she is met by her father's brother and his wife who would like to adopt the baby. Sarah is placed in a home for unmarried mothers but she is horrified that they will take the baby from her. She gives birth in a toilet and with the help of Dora, a sympathetic midwife, she escapes from the home with Bethany, her daughter. Dora offers her shelter but then organises for her to leave Sydney for Adelaide where she can be a live-in housekeeper for Dora's elderly mother.

Sarah loves her daughter dearly but throughout her life she is unsettled and goes between Adelaide and Sydney, from one unsuccessful relationship to another. All of Sarah's relationships end badly with Sarah needing to inflict pain and suffering on the men who come into her life. Dora, who has returned to Adelaide, is a wonderful support and shares the

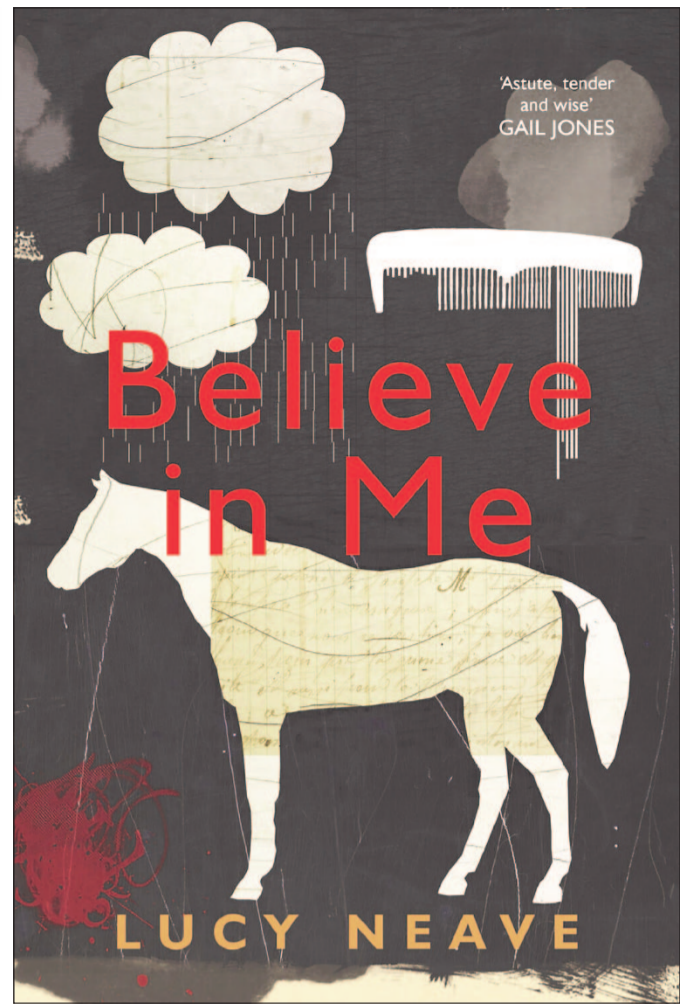
mothering of Bethany when Sarah has often extended periods of absence.

As Bethany grows up she decides to call herself Bet and dresses neutrally. She moves to Sydney where she studies to become a vet and has various relationships in her life. Her dream is to save enough money to buy some land and "re-wild" it as she shares her mother's affinity with animals. When Sarah leaves her latest abusive relationship and joins Bet in Sydney she confides that she wants to go back to America to confront her mother. Bet gives her the money she has saved and Sarah returns home, but tragedy strikes and Bet visits her extended family to attend a funeral. On the way back to Australia Bet has what could be a "life-changing" experience.

The story is sometimes told by Sarah but mostly by Bet, who has constructed it through the scrap-books her mother kept. Of those who finished the book only one person enjoyed it. However all who read it agreed it was well written and easy to read. The general comment was that the book was confusing but that

was possibly the whole purpose. The characters in the book were confused, Sarah because she was the victim of a rape but was not allowed to return home as she brought shame on the family. Her relationships with men were confused, she wanted to be loved but she had no trust and always needed to hurt the men in her life. Bethany was a constant reminder of what had happened to her and although she loved her daughter dearly she needed to have extended periods away, and was fortunate that Dora, her one true friend and mother figure acted as surrogate mother to Bet. Bet suffered gender confusion but also experienced the usual mother and daughter tensions.

There was a lot to unpack in this book.



SCAMWATCH

A spike in reports of scammers impersonating Qantas to steal your personal information and money.

What is happening?

Scammers are impersonating Qantas in emails and text messages to steal your personal information and money. They create a sense of urgency to try and get you to act quickly without checking first.

Scammers will use Qantas logos and branding to make the communication look real.

The email or text message will urge you to click a link to either: claim a refund/claim a gift, redeem points that are about to expire.

If you click this link you will be directed to a scam website designed to steal any information you enter.

Qantas has been warning of these sorts of scams, which were first identified in August 2025, and encourages

customers to be alert to continued scam activity. The airline does not contact customers to ask for their PINs, passwords, or one-time passwords in text messages or email.

More information can be found on qantas.com dedicated scams page. The NASC and Qantas work collaboratively to share scam intelligence and to disrupt scams.

Who is at risk? Anyone could be targeted by this scam. You do not need to be an existing Qantas customer or Qantas Frequent Flyer. However, people who know or suspect they have been involved in a data breach may be at greater risk of being targeted.

If you have been affected: Do not be embarrassed about being scammed.

If you have had money or personal information stolen, contact your bank or card provider immediately.

If you think your

accounts have been compromised, change your passwords immediately.

Monitor your bank statements and accounts for unusual activity.

If you have been scammed or have provided personal information, call IDCARE on 1800 595 160.

Help others by reporting to Scamwatch.

Warning signs to look out for:

Surprise offers that come from unsolicited emails or messages.

Sender names, email addresses or website addresses that have been changed and look different from the legitimate domain of an organisation.

Limited-time offers creating urgency such as expiring loyalty points or "missing out" on a refund or gift.

Communications that ask for your personal details, password, PIN, credit card or banking information.



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Community College opens



Community College Gippsland CEO Dale Gemmell, Operations Manager Jennifer McCafferty, former student James Trawin and Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester at the new Morwell facility launch.

Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester has welcomed the opening of Community College Gippsland's new Morwell facility, joining educators, students and community leaders to celebrate the milestone set to bolster the organisation's long-standing contribution to the region.

"Education is fundamental to building strong, thriving and productive regional communities," Mr Chester said.

"For more than 50 years, Community College Gippsland has been transforming lives across our region as a trusted provider of adult education and vocational training.

By delivering nationally accredited courses across a diverse range of fields,

the College provides accessible, practical learning opportunities for people from all walks of life."

Mr Chester said Community College Gippsland's personalised approach to education ensured every learner was supported to reach their full potential.

"They understand that every learner's journey is different," he said.

"Their tailored support helps students build confidence, develop practical skills and transition into the workforce as capable and qualified contributors to our local economy."

A highlight of the official opening was hearing from former student James Trawin, who shared his personal story about how Community

College Gippsland helped him throughout his educational journey, secure meaningful employment and gain self-belief. James' story was a powerful reminder of the life-changing impact education can have, not just for individuals, but for families and communities," Mr Chester said.

Mr Chester congratulated Community College Gippsland CEO Dale Gemmell and Operations Manager Jennifer McCafferty for their leadership and commitment in delivering the new facility.

"This expansion is a fantastic outcome for Morwell and for Gippsland," he said.

"Investing in education is investing in the future of our region."

Saturday 18 April | 8pm | GPAC Main Theatre | Tickets from \$74

Managed by Former Fleetwood Mac manager Dennis Dunstan, Seventh Wonder has been applauded by critics and fans, including Mick Fleetwood himself.

Fresh from a sold-out performance at the iconic Sydney Opera House, this world-class performance, led by the incredible Bloom, brings together world-class musicians live on stage to



create an unparalleled tribute to Fleetwood Mac's music.

The evening will showcase the entire Rumours album, performed note-for-note, alongside the band's

SEVENTH WONDER PERFORMS FLEETWOOD MAC

greatest hits. This masterful production promises to captivate fans of all ages and celebrate the legacy of one of the most beloved bands in music history.

Seventh Wonder Performs Fleetwood Mac rises above mere tribute—it's a celebration. Featuring meticulous, note-for-note recreations of Fleetwood Mac's greatest songs, the show has won acclaim for its authenticity, emotional resonance, and powerhouse performances, catapulting the band into being regarded as one of the World's Leading Fleetwood Mac shows.

Dennis, who managed Fleetwood Mac for over a decade, adds his stamp of approval to this exceptional production: "Fleetwood Mac's music is timeless, and this show is the perfect celebration of their artistry. It's a must-see for any music fan."



SCAMWATCH

Tai Chi and community activities malware scam

What's happening?

Scammers are advertising 'free' classes and creating fake groups on social media platforms and search engines. We have seen these for a range of activities including Tai Chi, dancing, walking, or hiking.

Once you join the online group, you will receive a call or message from the group administrator.

You will be told to download an app from a website to view and register for the free classes. The website may have a button or link to click to 'Download' the app from an app store but once you click, it will immediately begin downloading the malware directly to your device.

The malware can access and steal your money.

Who is at risk?

* Web and social media users

* People interested in free or new activities

What this might look like?

Warning signs to look out for:

Offers for free classes, activities, and events that require you to click on links, download attachments or install software.

Calls or messages from "group administrators".

Class locations and times not freely available.

Being asked to download an app from a third-party website.

If you have been affected

* Contact your bank or card provider immediately and continue to monitor your accounts.

* Report the scam to the platform (e.g. Facebook or Google) where the scam is happening.

* Remove yourself from the fake online community group and block contact with the scammer.

* If you think your accounts have been compromised, change your passwords immediately.

* If you have been scammed or have provided

personal information, call IDCARE on 1800 595 160.

* Help others by reporting to Scamwatch.gov.au.

Stay safe from malware scams

STOP. Scammers create fake online groups and opportunities to steal your personal information and money. Never download an app or attachment from an online group or ad.

CHECK. Check whether the ad, message or call you have received is real. Look for local reviews of any classes before going any further. Only ever install apps

from official stores like the Apple App Store or Google Play Store – not websites or third parties.

PROTECT. If you have downloaded malicious software onto your device or had money or personal information stolen by someone you suspect is a scammer, follow the steps above in "If you have been affected".

Visit the Scamwatch website for more information on what to do if you've been scammed.

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

CDCA

Churchill & District Community Association Inc.

supports Churchill & District News
We love our community newspaper!

CDCA meets on the 2nd Thursday of every 2nd month

Next Meeting - 7.00 pm Thursday, April 9, 2026
Downstairs in Churchill Town Hall

Contact CDCA via our website - www.cdca.org.au or find us on Facebook!

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Autumn at Latrobe Regional Gallery



Earthsong - Lucy Hersey

Stories of Place, Culture and Connection

Latrobe Regional Gallery is excited to announce its Autumn 2026 exhibition season. This vibrant program brings together five beautifully curated exhibitions that explore migration, identity, heritage, environment and our deep connection to place.

U n p a c k i n g Home (Gallery 6) invites visitors to consider how migrants create a sense of belonging in new countries. Through artworks and objects drawn from the Gallery's collection, this exhibition considers how people make, sustain, and see home.

A C o u n t r y Practice (Gallery 5) brings Janina Green's seminal artist book into the Gallery space, using photography to reflect on the lives of the 75,000 migrants who arrived in Australia in 1949. It offers a powerful insight into post-war migration and the courage it took to begin again in a new land.

Homeground: Continuing Connections (Gallery 4) centres on the Kurec family's Ukrainian heritage. Through sculpture, painting, photography, installation and treasured family artefacts, the exhibition tells a moving story of migration, loss, cultural preservation and the passing of traditions across generations.

The Land as Witness (Galleries 1 and 2) explores the evolving relationship between people and the natural environment. Featuring photography, sculpture and mixed media from the Gallery's collection,

the artworks explore how the land absorbs and records the traces of human presence.

Earthsong (Gallery 3) showcases the work of acclaimed South Gippsland artist Lucy Hersey. Using locally gathered earth pigments, the exhibition focuses on deep connections to the land, celebrating Gippsland's landscapes while calling for care, respect and responsibility for the places that sustain us.

Latrobe City Council Mayor, Councillor Sharon Gibson invited the community to check out the Gallery this Autumn season.

"Come and have a look at the different exhibitions on display here and see what it says to you about people's journey into Australia," said the Mayor.

"On Australia Day this year, we held a Citizenship Ceremony where we welcomed over 59 people from 21 countries – the story of migration continues in this beautiful country."

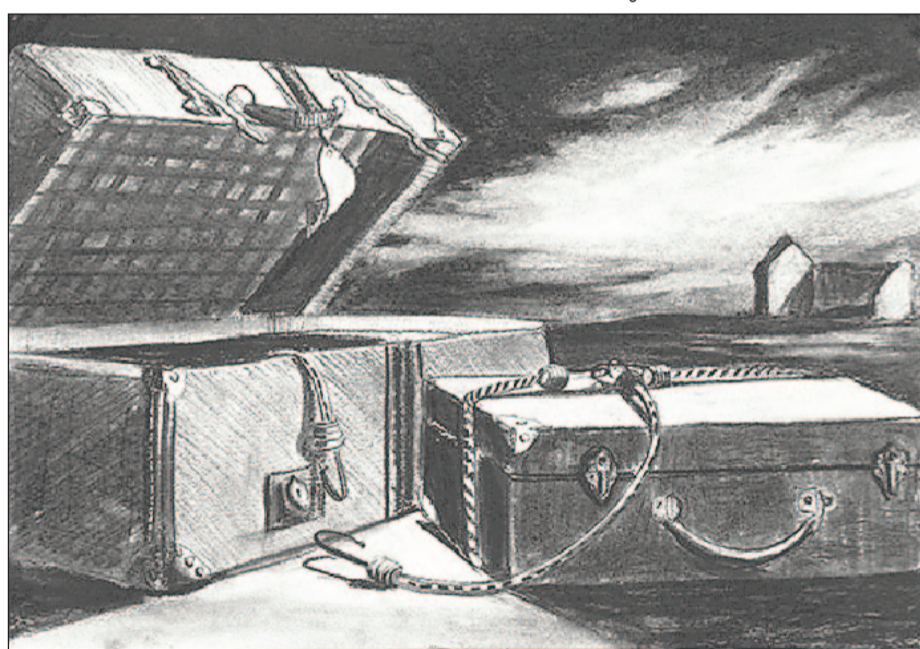
Community members are encouraged to explore the full range of upcoming public programs and events at: latroberregionalgallery.com/public-programs. When visiting the Gallery be sure to check out the recently opened Mainstreet Café.



A Country Practice - Jemma Green



Homeground



Unpacking

Danny O'BRIEN MP State Member for Gippsland South



Working for Gippsland South

54B Cunninghame St, Sale 03 5144 1987
 danny.obrien@parliament.vic.gov.au
 www.dannyobrienmp.com.au
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A Churchill & District History Series

Looking Back...

...through the eyes of local residents



By Leo Billington

History nurtures memories

Historical memories can be cathartic. History need not be dismal. Let us take a look with reminders of Morwell's history. How are your memories?

Columbines, those



Cute, tasty small cubes of caramel. When you have finished one you often said 'that's moreish'; that is you could eat some more. Initially made by the Pascall Confectionery company it was during the late 1940s, when manufactured and marketed by MacRobertson's confectionery, that these beautifully sweet, sticky, tooth-defying caramel lollies in shiny, distinctive blue and pink wrappers came in a long thin box. Just the thing to encourage a new girlfriend.

Many will recall a



Mayflower. It could describe someone who has given you momentary bliss and you are thankful for that, even though you are not destined to end

up together. It was a 17th-century English merchant ship that transported 102 English Pilgrims and approximately 30 crew from Plymouth, England, to the New World in 1620.

It was a name given to a new family car manufactured by the Standard Motor Company (Australia) Ltd. Marketed as a saloon for a niche Australian market, the Morwell dealer was Milner and Lawrence Vanguard Motors, located at the corner of Fleming and Church Streets. Their promotion of a Mayflower, using the Morwell Advertiser, commenced in about February 1951.

There are Harley-Davidson motor bike enthusiasts out there. They are so focussed that a hyphen must be in the name. If not, a failure to do so will create serious problems!

Yes, these motor bikes were available for sale in Morwell. Mr C King was advertising his range of motor cycles during the 1930's. Harleys seemed to be highly priced back then. Sometimes smaller private advertisements offered this "darling of motor bikes" as ex-Army, mainly in the late 1940's.

An intriguing business located in Commercial Road, (approximately opposite today's public transport bus exchange), was

called the 'Morwell Motor-Cycle Exchange.' Their advertisement (Morwell Advertiser May 29, 1931) while difficult to read, is also somewhat vague about what can be exchanged; although there is reference to repairs.

MORWELL
MotorCycle Agency

1929 Models

PANTHER (Lightweight) £37 10.
B.S.A. from £45 10.
TRIUMPH from £47 10.
RUDGE WHITWORTH
from £57 10.
ARIEL, from £58 10.
NEW HUDSON from
£59 10.
NORTON from £75 10.
HARLEY DAVIDSON
£75 10.

- **SIDECARS**
Pistette Grinding and Tension.
Special from £25.

Easy Terms may be Arranged.

C. KING,
Box 26, Morwell

While promotional efforts tried to sell Mayflowers, generally it was not one of the most popular cars introduced to Australia. There is literature around telling customers back then, that if a letter was sent to the Standard Motor Company, a car would be



sent to your home for an on-site demonstration. Hence, along came the Riley to force its way into Australia.

Named after its creator, William Riley Junior, the company started as part of the Nuffield Company in 1890. Over past decades, and through various company mergers, in July 1969 British Leyland announced

the immediate end of Riley production. Today, the Riley trademark is owned by BMW.

Before Australian cars were built on steel frames, Rileys were built on timber frames, nonetheless sold as a commodious car - roomy and comfortable, and seen as a prestige vehicle as well.

ALF. GANGE

AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEER.

REPRESENTATIVE FOR...
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In Morwell, Alf Gange was a local representative for Riley cars along with its stablemate, the Wolseley. During the early 1950's, Traralgon Auto Sales were regular advertisers in the Morwell Advertiser and occasionally, had a Riley for sale - generally where a deposit was first required.

Locally, there are keen Riley devotees working all hours, all weeks and years to reconstruct their sleek, commodious Riley. One day, gleaming new generation Rileys will appear once

again.

Gillette. Surely this name brings back memories - being clean shaven made men seem more trustworthy (at least that is what society thought). What a way to quick promotion in earlier times; even a quick way to a woman's heart. Even the W. A. Purvis advertisement in November 1946 told us a

Gillette razor was a "suitable gift line for men".



King Camp Gillette was born in January 1855; and died in July 1932. The Gillette Safety Razor Company's first sale, in 1903, consisted of a lot of 51 razors and 168 blades; by the end of 1904, it had produced 90,000 razors and 12,400,000 blades. Gillette's innovative sales strategy—he sold the razors for a loss and made his profits on the blades—helped make the product a success. A simple, logical wise strategy towards greater sales. That is, 'sell the sizzle not the sausage'; do not buy a product, buy the benefits of that product.

Rutherford's Bakery



was for many years, centre stage in Commercial Road, Morwell. Fresh bread, pies, pasties, cakes and everything in-between. Home deliveries were commonplace after the second World War.

After retiring from management of the Pottery Works, Mr Samuel Cooper took an active part in a local bakery business conducted by members of his family, until it was eventually sold and then owned by Mr Jim Rutherford.

As manager of the Pottery Works, Samuel Cooper had experience supervising the making of

tea-pots, jugs, basins, drain pipes and bricks, which were supplied locally, as well as elsewhere. It was in April 1914 that the Victorian Brick Commission visited Morwell. Three bureaucrats were appointed to obtain evidence concerning the manufacture, and distribution, and prices generally ruling in the expanding Victorian brick industry.

It was at this inquisition, without any local Morwell Shire Councillors in attendance, that Samuel certainly made sure Morwell's brick business enabled users to obtain bricks at a fair price.

Samuel and his wife Eliza, are interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery.

The largest brick manufacturer which started in 1870 was the Hoffman Brick and Tile Company based in Melbourne.

Thorough research reveals this company was a keen supporter of the Victorian Brick Commission.

"COLUMBUS" SOLID PRESSED STEEL EARTH SCOOPS (Heavy Pattern)

Pressed from a heavy plate of hardened steel of toughest quality. No joints or centers. Fitted with wearing runners.

These Scoops are shaped throughout on scientific principles. They fit easily, because being made from a single sheet of steel, they are perfectly smooth, both inside and outside, and offer no resistance, to the dirt, as it enters or leaves the bowl.

The Wearing Runners, as shown, in the illustration, are of steel, and save wear and tear, on the bottom; also strengthen it, and serve to make the scoop draw easily.

Size No.	Capacity in Cubic Ft.	Bowl Length	Width	Depth	Approximate Weight	Price Each.
1	7	30 1/2	33	9 1/2	102 lb.	876
2	9	29 1/2	29	9 1/2	94 lb.	826
3	3	28 1/2	24 1/2	10 1/2	80 lb.	876

One memory "for the road." Some readers may remember earth scoops used to dig and clean dams and trenches to drain swampy areas.

Churchill & District

Lions Club



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1st and 3rd Wednesday
of each Month

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Peter Tait

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Mathison Park Churchill

A well attended working bee was held on February 14. The large garden bed beside the long boardwalk was once again attacked to reduce the weeds. This is a continual battle for the volunteers.

The Gippsland Interchange crew were welcomed back to help with

cleaning up a lot of debris from the strong winds we experienced through January and early February.

It has been pleasing to see the number of people who have been trying out the disc golf course. There have been some oohhs and aahhs as people found out how

much skill was needed to control those frustrating discs so they went in the right direction. However, there were also lots of laughs as people tried out the course. There were families with the baby in the pusher, along with their dog on the lead having a lovely time together.



Community Groups Latrobe Volunteer Expo stallholder registrations now open

Latrobe City will again be hosting a FREE Volunteer Expo this May.

Volunteer groups, clubs and organisations in Latrobe are encouraged to submit an expression of interest to have a stall at the event.

Please note stallholder places are limited and EOIs will be prioritised for an even distribution from across the municipality.

Registrations close on Friday March 20, 2026, unless sold out sooner.

FREE Community Cooking Classes

Join Foodbank's Community Food Centre cooking classes to learn new skills and meet great people in your community!

Classes are held from 11am-1pm on the following dates:

Session 21: Tuesday

April 21

Session 22:

Wednesday April 22

Session 23:

Tuesday May 26

Session 24:

Wednesday May 27

It is all FREE, each participant will take home a fruit and vegetable hamper after each class.

Spaces are limited, bookings essential.



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- 
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- 
Personal care

Hazelwood Cemetery

Let's Not Forget

By Leo Billington

Dayable, Dayble, Dayabble, Dayaable, Dable - which is correct? One challenge with historical research is to ensure correct spelling of surnames; George Dayble features in this column for March 2026.

There have been other recollections written about George, but only half stories, which is disappointing.

George Dayble was born to Rebecca and Josh Dayble in 1846 in Lincolnshire, England, and as a young teenager, served his apprenticeship as coach builder and engineer. Afterwards, he started in business in London for himself. Then about 1876 an advertisement appeared in London papers calling

for 200 suitable men to undertake exploring work for the Government of Western Australia.

His work and travels allowed exploration of unknown parts of Western Australia. Apparently the expedition, however, proved disastrous to the majority of the party with less than 150 of the men who set out returned, the rest having died on the trip from malaria, thirst and other reasons. George Dayble was one of 50 who returned in a "wrecked" condition after having completed important work. (Morwell Advertiser, Friday September 28, 1917.)

Whilst in W.A. Mr Dayble was appointed foreman of works for Public Works Department and was, according to various articles,

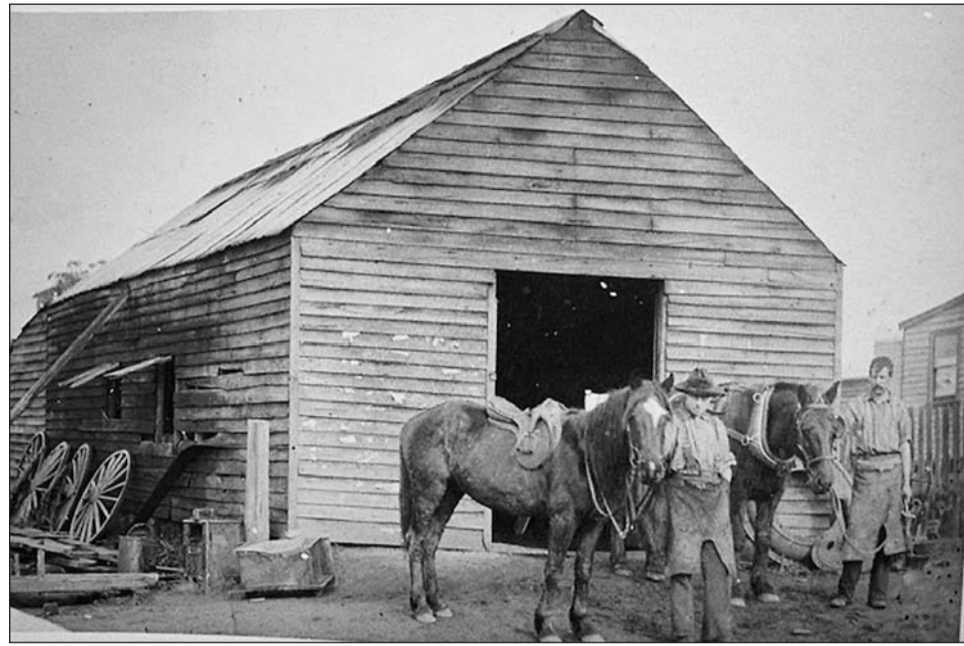
foreman over erection of the first gaol in Perth.

From W.A. Mr Dayble went to China where he remained sometime in the employment of the Government. (Author's note - although this is difficult to confirm.) From China he went to Queensland and opened the first blacksmith's shop in Townsville. Subsequently he came to Victoria and settled in Seymour, where for ten years he managed a large agricultural business for Mr D. Cameron.

Whilst at Seymour, George married Miss Maria Elizabeth Wembridge of St. Arnaud, in 1889, who was described as his partner in life for the rest of his days. Two children, George (1890) and Frank (1894) were born in Seymour.

From Seymour George and family moved to Ballarat, where after a short time, he went to Drouin and entered into partnership with Mr John Russell.

An article in 1901 described William Russell of the "Drouin Carriage Factory" keeping abreast with the times and building vehicles of every description. It stated he had won first prizes in every show he exhibited and his showrooms contained a number of well finished vehicles. William's uncle John Russell had established his blacksmith business in 1865.



John Russell is apparently credited with finding gold in the Tanjil river area, and Russell's Creek is named after him. Advocate (Melbourne, Vic. 1868 - 1954)

George, with his family came to Morwell in 1897 and bought the business of blacksmith and wheelwright established by Mr Richard Date, see accompanying advertisement in the Morwell Advertiser.

George had impeccable expertise and knowledge surrounding buggies, drays and horses, including anything in-between. His main competitor, on the other side of town was John Rintoull. Richard Date had established a strong, loyal clientele, just as was the same for John Rintoull. John Crimmins, a wheelwright based in Commercial Road was equally competitive as was Alfred John Foster when he took over George Dayble's business.

George died suddenly on September 28, 1917 and is interred in the Hazelwood Cemetery. Maria Dayble died in the Seymour Memorial Hospital, aged 85 years, on Tuesday October 28, 1947. At the time of her passing, George was living in Albury, Frank in Albert Park and Ruby (born in Drouin) lived in Essendon.

George's entrepreneurial drive extended to installation of an oil driven engine, advertising his services in selling farms and supplying farm implements from his Station Street based business.

His business was located at the corner of Church and Station Streets - where Morwell's Post Office is located, and directly across the road to where Morwell's first fire station was built.

A well-used photograph shows George and his employee, Thomas Joseph Pritchett. Thomas passed away at age 73 years on Thursday August 3, 1950. Born in Sale, and after serving his apprenticeship in Bairnsdale as a coach painter, wheel wright and blacksmith, Thomas moved to Morwell, being employed by George Dayble for about 18 Years.

Thomas married Miss Agnes Dusting, daughter of John Dusting, who conducted a saddlery business in George Street and, later in Commercial Road.

No doubt a strategic union, business wise. Agnes and Thomas are interred together in the Hazelwood cemetery.

Eventually, George's business was sold to Alfred John Foster. Born in Rosedale in 1883, and died in Bairnsdale

in 1967, A J, as he was known, was enthusiastic in promoting his love of horses and Glen Valley Tea - produced by Henry Berry and Co. Melbourne. This business was established in Melbourne in 1859, which was its Australian head office.

The Robur Tea Company was founded in Melbourne in 1900. Bushells was founded by Alfred Bushell in 1883. Griffiths Brothers tea company was established in 1879, by James Griffiths.

In October 1917, it was advertised that probate of last will of George Dayble was to be granted to Maria Elizabeth Dayble (The Argus, October 2, 1917).

Private records disclosed George's debts due to the estate totalled £3,464.4.0; his liabilities were £146.9.9; thereby the balance for duty was £3,317.14.5.

As a matter of interest, and curiosity, one local debtor owed George's estate £17.17.0 and another owed £22.2.6. - these being listed as substantial debtors.

George Dayble's memory is shown in a street named after him. Foster Avenue was named by the Hourigan family who came from that town.

George Dayble's story is now more complete, and he would not be disappointed.

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COMMUNITY SAFETY Words of Wisdom

Volunteering

Volunteering in the community provides opportunities to support local causes, meet new people, and gain skills through roles like aged care visiting, food relief, environmental conservation, and mentoring. Major organisations including the Red Cross, Uniting, and local Councils offer flexible, often short-term, positions ranging from administration to, in some cases, remote, home-based support.

Key Community Volunteering Opportunities

- Support Services: Assisting with food relief programs, mentoring youth, or providing companionship to older people.
- Council & Local Roles: Joining neighbourhood houses, assisting with library services, or supporting local events and festivals.
- Environment & Maintenance: Participating in local conservation efforts

or working at men's sheds.

- Skills-Based: Offering expertise in accounting, marketing, or website development to non-profits.
- Emergency & Practical Support: Helping in emergency services with the Red Cross or assisting with community transport.
- Online Portals: Search GoVolunteer, SEEK Volunteer, or Volunteer Gippsland.
- Local Council: Contact your local council, as they often have dedicated community asset committees and, in some cases, volunteer noticeboards.
- Direct Contact: Reach out directly to organisations like Uniting, Lifeline, or The Smith Family.

Requirements

- Background Checks: Specific roles may require background checks, and some organizations, such as Uniting, have a 2-3 week application process.

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ATTENDANCE WITH NO SIRENS, RING 131444**

Police advise members of the public that, if you require police assistance, call 000. The police communications operator will be able to assess your need and either send a police vehicle, relay a message or find out when the police station will be attended.

Rotary



DINNER MEETINGS:

**1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays
6.30pm - 8.00pm**

VENUE TO BE DECIDED

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February Activity Report

We met in the Kerry Road car park, and spent a fair bit of time chattering about what we all had been up to over the past month (Entomology Society visit Ken, bat monitors and training sessions Jay, and more on the 40th anniversary of the group Caitilin).

For the day's activity the group split with one group travelling over to Stringybark Track while another group worked around Fosters Gully Track.

Graeme, Rose and Caitilin conducted some much-needed maintenance at the top of Stringybark Ridge Track, finding it quite overgrown with Austral bracken in some places.

They cleared a few branches and other encroaching vegetation on Stringybark Ridge Track, West Boundary Track and the start of Muttonwood Creek Track, and attacked some thistle and blackberry along the way.

Beryl, Cathy and Mike decided on a loop of Foster's Gully, clockwise instead of the usual anticlockwise. There was koala scat on

the road halfway up to the Ranger's Hut, so while we were gazing up into the trees, the koala walked across the road behind us. Unusual to see them on the ground during the day, though Beryl had seen a mother and joey wandering along Hazelwood Estate Road on the way over.

I paused between the two hut access roads to take some photos of a nice Rose Hyacinth Orchid (*Dipodium roseum*) and then hurried to catch up with the ladies, putting my foot down next to a wary (flattened neck) Eastern Tiger Snake (*Notechis scutatus* subsp. *scutatus*) sunning himself beside the path.

I managed not to completely brick it and backed off a few paces, but the snake never flinched, not even after the ladies came back for a look and I sidled in again for the photos.

Beryl reckons she must have walked past it within a few centimetres without seeing it, probably why it was flattened out when I got to it.

After my pulse had settled down a bit, we continued on our way. The track did not need much attention, mainly a few ferns to knock back on the top section, and meeting Anita walking in the opposite direction, and again on the section just beyond Lyndon's Clearing. The occasional daisybush or currant bush seedling needed pruning, a couple of overhangs too, but most of the work

was throwing small dead branches off the track. There is daisybush also just past Lyndon's that is slowly toppling, but there is still plenty of clearance to get under it for the time being, although a chainsaw will be required for the 20cm trunk eventually.

A Lyrebird was scratching around in the gully, but we did not get good luck, just glimpses of movement through the ferns.

A couple of the butterfly orchids, opposite the one that was stolen last year are sporting seed capsules, so hopefully there will be some recruitment in the future.

Back in the car park, all the Friend's vehicles, except Rose's, were gone. There

was a MOP wandering about looking for the carpark koala (it was there, though we did not see it earlier, about five trees back but in plain sight). We had our lunch, no-one appeared, so we called it a day and headed home. Thanks go to Mike and Caitilin for writing about and taking photos from the day's activities.

In the week following the activity the work on the new bridges across Billys Creek was completed. This part of the park is now reopened for public use. Now the public can access Billys Weir without needing to enter the creek. Caitilin has taken photos of the new (and existing) bridges across Billys Creek.



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St Vinnies SOUP VAN

Soup van started Friday January 16
6.00 pm at White Parade reserve
6.30 pm at Illawonga Court
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COOKING with Noelene

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



What do you know?

Here are the answers to February's challenge:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| 1. Salad | 4. Mocha |
| 2. Shortening | 5. Korma |
| 3. Pastry | 6. Gluten |



Here is my challenge for you this month:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. A snack food from India, consisting of a deep fried turnover filled with spiced meat or potatoes? | 4. A Chinese sauce and condiment made of soy beans, chilli, garlic and spices? |
| 2. An hors d'oeuvre of sliced herring fillets filled with pickles and onions? | 5. The part of a cereal seed that sprouts, thus forming the new plant? |
| 3. An inexact cooking term usually meaning less than 1/4 teaspoon? | 6. The fruit of a tree of the ebony family that is more or less round in shape and ranges in colour from yellow to orange? |

Two tips that may help



Do you find that your oven does not cook evenly, you know - having to turn your dish / pan around to get even heating / cooking? You blame your old /out dated oven?

I have the answer -

I collect and read collections of 'old' recipes, there is always an answer.

The answer to this uneven oven heating - is place an ovenproof dish on the lower shelf of your oven. I am not a scientist, but this works. The old cook book that gifted me this wisdom said the heat was better spread through the oven. You know what? It works.

I keep an ovenproof plate on the lower shelf of my oven at all times.

I am often told that your home made muffins are not great.

The problem is you!

Muffin ingredients only need beating till just combined, anymore and the muffins will be tough or not quite right!

Baked spicy Easter pudding

Ingredients:

2 tbs sultanas/ raisins, 5 tbs polenta, 350 ml milk, 4 tbs molasses, 2 tbs soft brown sugar, 1 dsp salt, 30 gm butter/marg, 1 dsp ground ginger, 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon, 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg, 2 eggs, lightly beaten.

Preheat your oven to 160 deg C. Liberally grease a 900 ml/1 litre ovenproof dish, you will also need a larger roasting pan that will hold the ovenproof dish.

In a small bowl mix the dried fruit with 1 tbs of the polenta, set aside. Place the milk and molasses in a medium / large saucepan over a medium heat until the molasses has dissolved.

Add the sugar and salt and continue to stir until the sugar has dissolved. Sprinkle over the remaining polenta and bring to the boil, stirring constantly. Reduce the heat and continue to stir until thickened. Remove the saucepan from the heat, add the butter/marg, ginger, cinnamon, and nutmeg, continue to stir until the butter/marg has melted.

Now add the eggs and stir in the coated dried fruit. Pour the pudding mixture into the greased ovenproof dish. Place the dish in the roasting pan and pour in enough water to come halfway up the side of the dish.

Place the dish in the preheated oven and bake uncovered for 2 hours or until the pudding is set. Test with a skewer inserted that comes out clean.

Serve immediately with ice cream.

Hot cross bun and butter pudding



Spiced yeast buns were traditionally served hot on Good Friday. Nowadays you can purchase commercial brand hot cross buns for near on six months of the year. This is the ultimate Easter dessert, easily prepared and making the most of the commercial brand hot cross buns.

Ingredients:

4 hot cross buns, butter/marg for spreading, 4 eggs, lightly beaten, 1 tsp vanilla extract, 150 gm castor sugar, 600 ml milk, 400 ml cream, 200 gm choc bits, finely grated zest of a small/ medium orange.

Preheat your oven to 180 deg C. You will need a large ovenproof dish / casserole that will fit into a larger roasting pan. Slice 4 hot cross buns in half and spread with butter/marg and return the tops to the buns. Beat the eggs, vanilla extract and sugar together until pale. Pour the milk and cream into a medium saucepan over a low heat, stirring until well combined. Now add the egg mixture, whisking to combine and the mixture thickens. Remove from the heat. Add the chocolate bits to the custard. Place the buttered hot cross buns into the ovenproof dish, pour over the custard mix. Set aside for 20 minutes to let the custard soak into the buns. Place the ovenproof dish inside the larger roasting pan and fill halfway with boiling water. Sprinkle the top of the pudding with the orange zest. Place in the preheated oven and bake for 40 minutes.

No bake fruit, nut and chocolate cake



Ingredients

225 gm butter/marg, 225 gm 70% cocoa chocolate, 3 tbs coffee granules, 55 gm soft brown sugar, 1 tsp vanilla extract, 225 gm plain 'digestive' biscuits, crushed, 85 gm raisins, 85gm walnuts, chopped.

Grease and line with baking paper a 450gm loaf pan. Break the chocolate into pieces and place in a medium pot along with the butter/marg, coffee granules, sugar and vanilla extract. Stir over a low heat until the chocolate and butter/marg has melted and the sugar dissolved and the mixture is well combined. Add the crushed biscuits, raisins and the chopped nuts, continue to stir until well mixed. Spoon the mixture into prepared loaf pan. Place in the refrigerator to set for 2.5 hours. Then turn out onto a serving plate and cut into thin slices to serve.

The simnel cake (The history)



A spiced Easter fruit cake.

This is traditionally English. A rich, spicy fruit cake topped with a layer of almond paste (marzipan) and decorated with 12 balls of marzipan which are said to represent the Apostles, sometimes the number is reduced to 11 to exclude Judas.

Traditionally baked on Mothering Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent.

Some common faults in cake making

A damp heavy cake, sometimes called a sad cake.

This is because the proportion of liquid or sugar is too high in the mixture.

The oven temperature is too low.

The cake not cooled properly before serving/ storing.

Fruit sunk to the bottom of the cake.

Too much baking powder, so the cake rose too quickly.

Too much liquid and rose slowly so the fruit sank to the bottom.

The use of wet fruit instead of dried fruit.

The oven temperature too low.

Cake collapsed in the middle.

Because the oven was too hot.

Used too much baking powder.

A cold draught caused by opening the oven door before the cake was set and leaving the oven to slam shut.



COOKING with Noelene

COOKING with Noelene

More recipes on Noelene's blog page

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



Dry, warmer conditions increase autumn fire risk

After a dry and hotter than usual summer, most of Victoria will face an increased risk of fire over the coming months, according to the recently released Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Autumn.

A lack of significant rainfall, extreme heat and high fuel loads were a major contributor to the bushfires across large parts of Victoria during January and this elevated risk is set to continue well into autumn.

The outlook for autumn is again drier than normal, with forecast warmer than average maximum daytime and overnight temperatures.

These warmer, drier conditions may further increase fuel availability across already parched



grasslands, forests, woodlands and heathlands – making it easier for fires to start and spread.

A normal bushfire risk this autumn is only forecast for East Gippsland and the Mallee. East Gippsland, including Bairnsdale and Orbost, has had consistent rain in spring and summer and the Mallee, around Mildura and Kerang, has reduced fuel loads.

However, even in areas with normal bushfire potential, fast running fires are possible on dry and windy days in areas with dry or cured vegetation.

The extreme conditions may delay planned burning in much of the state, but it may also increase opportunities to target areas not typically available for planned burning during April and May.

Emergency services will continue to monitor conditions to identify key risk areas leading into the autumn period.

Victoria remains well prepared for the potential of fires, with aircraft positioned across the state to support dedicated volunteer and career firefighters on the ground.

The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Autumn is developed by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council and supported by the Bureau of Meteorology along with state and territory fire and land managers.

It is important for communities to understand their local risks. Keep up to date with the Fire Danger Ratings on the VicEmergency app and VicEmergency website.

Smoke alarms

By law, all residential properties in Victoria must have working smoke alarms.

Victorian Fire Services recommend smoke alarms with a 10-year lithium battery so you don't need to change the battery annually.

We recommend that smoke alarms are interconnected so when any alarm activates, all smoke alarms will sound. This can provide vital seconds for you and your loved ones to escape in the event of a fire.



Test monthly

- Press the button
- Hold until the alarm beeps



Dust annually

- Dust or vacuum around cover of smoke alarm
- If applicable, replace your smoke alarm battery annually



Replace every 10 years

- All smoke alarms (hard-wired and battery powered) need to be replaced every 10 years.

July 2021



Where do I install my smoke alarms?

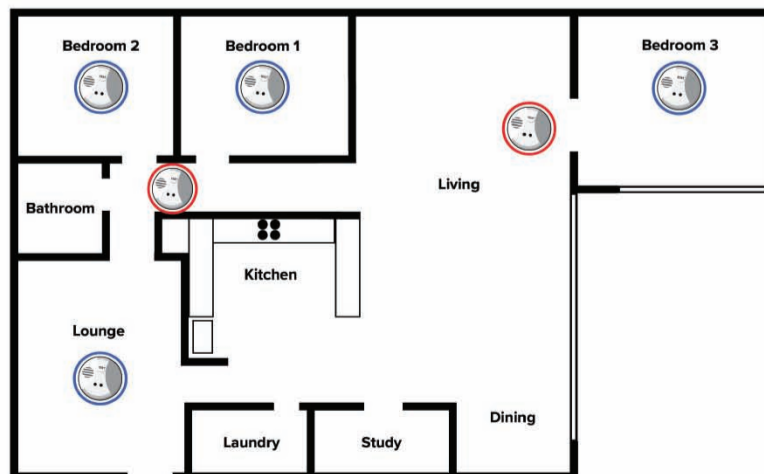
- By law, smoke alarms must be located outside each sleeping area and on each level of a house.
- Victorian Fire Services recommend installing smoke alarms in bedrooms, living areas and hallways.
- Smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling at least 30cm from the wall, preferably in the centre of the ceiling.
- Smoke alarms must meet Australian Standard AS3786.



By law, smoke alarms must be installed between each sleeping area and the rest of the house.



Victorian Fire Services recommends installing additional smoke alarms in all bedrooms and living areas.



For more fire safety information visit cfa.vic.gov.au and frv.vic.gov.au

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THE NATIONALS
for Regional Victoria

Yinnar, Yinnar South Landcare

By J. Duncan.

Tree hollows come in many shapes and sizes and many different species of fauna use them.

According to NSW research, hollow-dependent species include at least 46 mammals, 81 birds, 31 reptiles and 16 frogs. Of these, 40 species are listed as threatened with extinction. This is why the 'loss of hollow-bearing trees' has been listed as a Key Threatening Process.

This year, Yinnar, Yinnar South Landcare group is looking closely at one of the denizens of the trees, and a tiny one at that, Microbats.

Being nocturnal, microbats have fewer predators than small birds and so are far more likely to be found in and around paddock trees. Their echolocation calls allow them to find and eat insects at night. What is not to like about an animal like the Little Forest Bat that eats its own weight in mosquitoes every night?

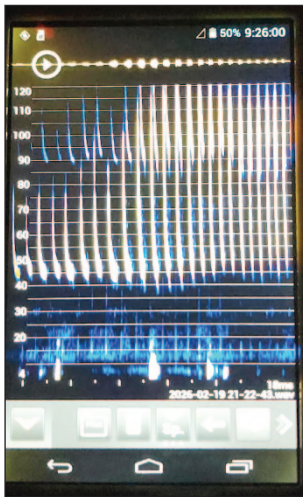
There is an opportunity to find out more about bats coming up on March 25, when our Landcare Group will repeat the very successful community workshop we held last year in Yinnar.

This twilight event is on Wednesday March 25 from 7.00 p.m. The indoor workshop will be followed by a bat detection walk. Everything will conclude by about 8.30 p.m. and if you miss one of the limited places in the walk, you will be finished at about sunset.

More information about this when you book. Booking is essential and the cost is \$5 for adults with those under 18 attending free.

Bookings opened on Sunday March 1. You can use this link to book at TryBooking <https://www.trybooking.com/DJVUK>

Our group has also bought two ultrasonic bat detectors. Our members and volunteers are busy learning to use the equipment and the software used to analyse the calls that we find. We need this equipment because most bat



Bat calls will show up on our detectors as sonograms

calls are not in the range of human hearing. By the time of the March 25 workshop we should have a few dates ready for those who would like to join us on more bat walks.

Old trees with hollows are a fast disappearing feature of our local landscapes, and many venerable remnant trees in paddocks are showing unmistakable signs of stress. Looking after these trees benefits wildlife. Wildlife includes species large and small. Microbats, birds, pollinating insects and tiny invertebrates eating up dead plant and animal matter are some of the smaller ones with big benefits that are often overlooked.

A biodiverse landscape,



this old Strzelecki gum has many hollows and pipes

supports pest control, seed dispersal, and ecological resilience. More trees cool the atmosphere and provide shade. There are some species of native trees and shrubs that can withstand higher nutrient loads and provide denser shade than tall eucalypts. blackwoods, black sheoaks and drooping sheoaks are easily grown local trees in this group. By fencing off old trees and planting understorey such as native grasses and shrubs around them, you can help the trees and the farm animals at the same time.

There is more about farm trees and tree hollows in a short (5 minute) video 'Living in the gaps' – the vital role of tree hollows from the Nature Conservation Council and Mid Lachlan Landcare, showing how farmers are seeing real benefits from conserving hollow trees on their properties.

<https://fireandrestoration.org.au/living-in-the-gaps-the-vital-role-of-tree-hollows/>

Another video, 'Home is Where the Hollow Is' from the NSW Environment Department shows more about how the hollows are important for a range of creatures

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/animals-and-plants/threatened-species/saving-our-species-program/resources/home-where-hollow>

If you're a landholder around Yinnar and you would like to protect your paddock trees, our group may be able to apply for a grant to pay for fencing materials, weed control and trees to plant. These grants do not cover installing the fence or planting the trees. You would need to be able to cost, map and carry out your project. Our small volunteer group has some, but limited, capacity to assist you. Victorian Landcare Grants are awarded to groups rather than individuals. Applications will be due in April/ May, so the time to plan is now.

You can contact Yinnar Landcare at yinnar.landcare@gmail.com

<https://www.landcarevic.org.au/groups/westgippsland/yinnar-south/>



The six and a half cm long Eastern Falsistrelle is large for a microbat

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SCHOOL news

Churchill North Primary

The year has started off with a bang at Churchill North PS. We have welcomed our 2026 School Captains, Ebony and Bailey, and our Vice School Captains, Lizzy and Quinton. Our Captains have already started running assemblies and taking on many other leadership roles.

This year we have welcomed 17 Foundation students, in their own dedicated grade with Miss Wood as their teacher this year. They have loved their learning journey since starting with us at CNPS and approach every day with a smile



SCHOOL news

Churchill Primary

CPS 5/6 Students take on Melbourne!

Our Year 5/6 students recently enjoyed an unforgettable city camp in Melbourne. Travelling by foot and tram, they quickly learned how to navigate the busy city and confidently hop on and off trams when signalled. Highlights of the trip included visits to the Eureka Skydeck, the interactive exhibitions at

ACMI, and some friendly competition at Strike Bowling, along with many other exciting activities. It was a wonderful opportunity for students and teachers to strengthen their connections - especially during the long (but memorable!) city walks. Welcome to our 2026 Preps!

Our Preps have had a wonderful and exciting start to their school journey and are settling in beautifully

to classroom routines and learning expectations. They have begun their countdown to 100 days of school and are eagerly anticipating their first full week of school beginning March 10. The students are also looking forward to the upcoming school sports and have been enthusiastically practising their skills in preparation for the events.



SCHOOL news

Hazelwood North Primary

*Hello wonderful readers!
What a wonderful start to the year we have had.*

The students at Hazelwood North Primary School have been busy settling into their new classes and enjoying their learning.

This year we have 35 new Foundation students beginning their learning journey, supported by their teachers and the students in the 5/6 classes. Buddy sessions are going fabulously. The Foundation students are enjoying learning about each other and doing hands on craft activities with support of their responsible 5/6 buddies.

Our Welcome BBQ was brimming with chatter

and laughter as parents, friends and families met their child's new teachers and other parents from the community. Students and teachers proudly showed parents the classrooms and their favourite pieces of learning. The free sausages were a hit, with numerous students advising me it was the best part of the evening. Our Parents and Friends Club volunteers were at the ready, fully stocked on the deliciously warm evening, selling nice cold drinks and icy poles to help raise funds for our school community. The teachers put together a presentation of what to expect in the junior (F-2) and senior (3-6) grades and were

able to assist parents with any questions or concerns. We had games out for students and their families to participate in, and it was lovely to see the smiles as families connected with each other.

Our enrolments have been steadily increasing, and we have eight classrooms this year. HNPS is proud to welcome Ms Cicala to the team, who is teaching Grade 5/6. Welcome Ms Cicala!

Our gardens are looking absolutely fabulous, with huge thanks going to Mr Murphy and his eager group of student volunteers. He has continued to help students learn valuable gardening skills during recess and

lunchtime, with students enthralled in learning how things grow and nurturing the plants in the sensory garden. The sunflowers the students planted last November have grown and bring bright yellow cheer to each new morning!

I hope you enjoyed catching up on our news, stay tuned for more HNPS events and adventures.

Rainbow Fish fun and new library bags:

Both FS and FJS have enjoyed their first visit to our school library. All our new Foundation students received their new red library bag from the Education Department that was full of books and other special

materials. To start our term in our library time our Foundation students have enjoyed listening to the books titled 'Guess What We Are Doing Today?', 'Elmer', 'The Rainbow Fish', 'The Monkey's Shoes' and completing a crafty activity about each book. These activities are great for building fine motor skills with colouring, cutting and paper folding.

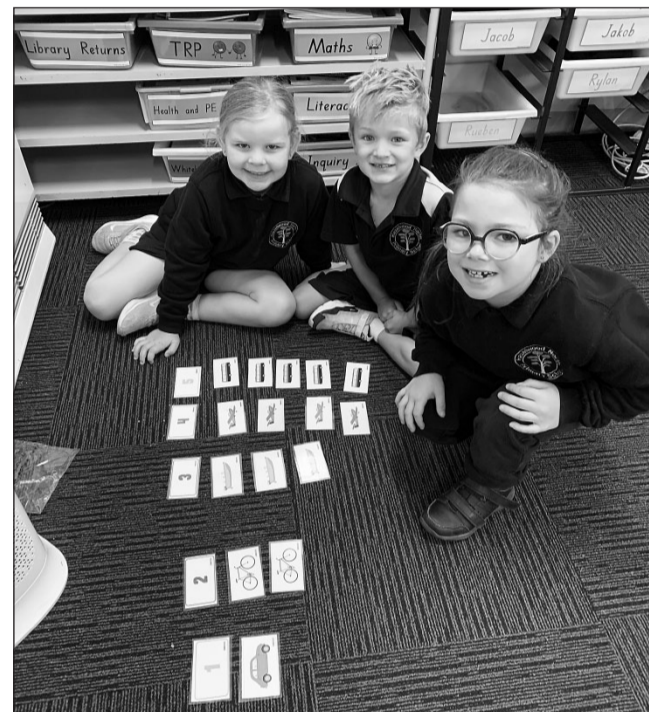
Collaborative maths tasks with our Foundation students:

Our Foundation students have been busy consolidating their learning with numbers to 10. They have happily

been involved in many hands-on, collaborative Maths learning activities.

Special 'All about me bags' and 'Show and Share':

As a way of getting to know our new Foundation classmates, students were given a special bag and had to select three items to bring to school to share with their classmates. It was a great way to get to know each other and to practise speaking in front of an audience. Jakob from FJS also had a special Show and Share when his Bearded Dragon, Loui, came to school for a visit.



SCHOOL news

Kurnai University Campus

ACMI excursion to view Sunset Boulevard

On February 3, all VCE Year 12 English students visited the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) for a special screening of 'Sunset Boulevard', followed by an insightful lecture exploring the film's key ideas, and cinematography techniques.

Directed by Billy Wilder and released in 1954, 'Sunset Boulevard' is one

of our core Year 12 English texts. Seeing the film on the big screen provided a valuable opportunity to deepen our understanding of its portrayal of key ideas, and the darker side of Hollywood, while the lecture offered expert analysis to support our studies of the text.

Senior Cricket Winner stays on showdown in Sale

On February 19, our

Senior Boys and Girls cricket teams travelled to Sale to compete in a "winner stays on" format against strong opposition.

The boys faced a confident Sale College side, fresh from a convincing win against Traralgon College. Our team delivered an outstanding performance in the field, restricting Sale to just 36 runs from their 10 overs.

Dom led the charge with a brilliant spell of 3/2 and took a sharp catch in the field. Jude, Liam U, Liam D and Harry all contributed with important wickets to keep the pressure on.

Opening the batting, Harry and Jack built a strong partnership to set the tone. Jack was our highest scorer, making an impressive 26 runs off just 15 balls before retiring. It was a dominant team

performance that has seen the boys progress through to the Gippsland Championships in March, a fantastic achievement!

The girls took on a very strong Maffra College side, who entered the match after a convincing win over Yarram Secondary College.

The girls showed great determination, posting over 30 runs, with co-captain Milee striking two impressive boundaries.

In the field, the team worked tirelessly, with co-captain Alex F showcasing exceptional pace down the pitch to claim a clean bowled wicket.

A big thank you to Alex S for umpiring on the day, and to our captains Milee, Alex F and Ashton for their outstanding leadership.



SCHOOL news



Lumen Christi Primary



New Foundation Students settle in at Lumen Christi Primary School

Lumen Christi Primary School in Churchill has warmly welcomed its newest students, with Foundation children settling into school life with enthusiasm, confidence and smiles.

The beginning of the school year is always an exciting milestone for families and staff alike, and this year's Foundation cohort has embraced their first weeks of primary school with eagerness. From

mastering classroom routines to making new friends on the playground, the children have shown a wonderful willingness to learn and grow.

Foundation Staff report that the students are quickly becoming familiar with daily classroom expectations, including listening during learning time, unpacking their bags, caring for their belongings and participating in group activities. The children are developing early literacy, numeracy and social development skills while

building independence and confidence.

"Starting school is a big step, and our Foundation students have risen to the challenge beautifully," said a school representative. "They are learning how to work together, take turns, and follow routines that help them feel safe and successful. It has been lovely to see their excitement and curiosity each day."

The playground has also been a hive of activity, with students learning how to share equipment, line up

safely, and play kindly with others. Under the guidance of staff and older student buddies, the children are practising important social skills such as cooperation, empathy and respectful communication. These early lessons help lay the foundation for positive friendships and a strong sense of belonging within the school community.

Parents and caregivers have also been encouraged by how quickly their children have adjusted. Many have commented on the joy their

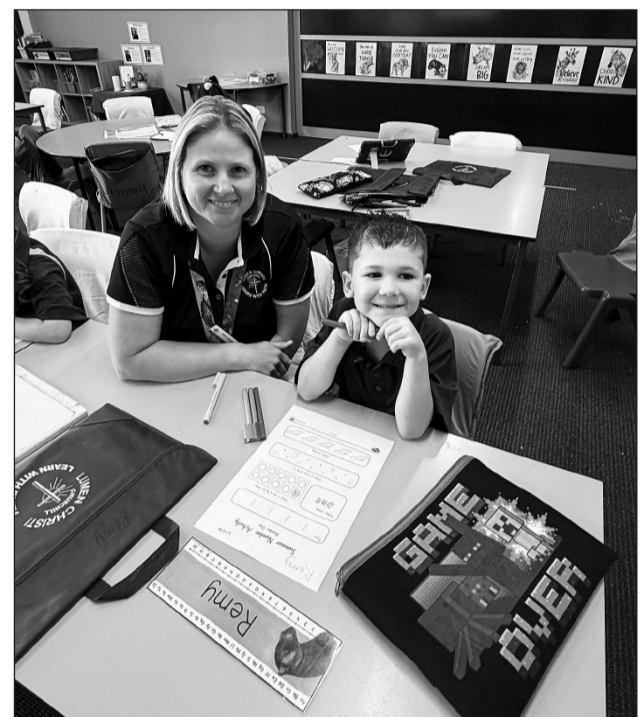
children bring home each afternoon, eager to share stories about new friends, classroom activities and favourite playground games.

Lumen Christi Primary School places a strong emphasis on nurturing the whole child—academically, socially and spiritually. The Foundation program is designed to support each child's transition into school, with a focus on wellbeing, routine and building a love of learning. Teachers work closely with families to ensure every student feels

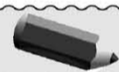
supported and valued.

As the year progresses, the Foundation students will continue to build on these early routines, developing their skills, confidence and independence. The school community looks forward to watching these young learners grow and flourish as they begin their primary school journey.

Lumen Christi Primary School extends a warm welcome to all new families and looks forward to a year filled with learning, friendship and faith.



SCHOOL news



Yinnar Primary



A warm welcome to all members of our school community, especially our new students and families joining us this year. It has been a delight to see our Prep children settling in so confidently, embracing their new learning environment with curiosity and enthusiasm. Their willingness to explore and take on new challenges will serve them well throughout the year.

We are pleased to report a smooth and positive start to the term. Students have quickly re-established school routines and are approaching the year ahead

with eagerness. There is a wonderful sense of energy and engagement across the school, both in classrooms and in the playground. Over the coming weeks, our teachers will focus on strengthening foundations by reinforcing expectations, nurturing positive learning behaviours, and establishing consistent and effective classroom routines.

One of the most special aspects of our school is the genuine care and inclusivity our students show towards one another. In these early weeks, our Prep students have been warmly supported by their Grade 6 buddies.

The playground can feel like a big and sometimes overwhelming place for our youngest learners, and having a friendly, familiar face to guide them makes a world of difference. A sincere thank you to our Grade 6 students for demonstrating such kindness and leadership - you are making a meaningful impact.

On Monday January 26, three of our four school leaders proudly represented our school at the Australia Day ceremony in Yinnar. Daisy, Harry and Henry participated in the official proceedings and delivered their first formal speeches as

student leaders. Speaking on the theme, "What it means to be an Australian," they confidently shared thoughtful reflections on values such as respect, inclusion, fairness and community spirit. Their presentations reflected maturity, careful preparation and a strong sense of pride in representing both our school and the wider community.

We recently held our House Fun Night, a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together. It was fantastic to see parents, carers and family members enjoying friendly house rivalry, participating in

activities and connecting with one another in a relaxed and informal setting.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of leadership badges to our School Captains, House Leaders, Junior School Council representatives, Grace Teams and Leaders in the Making. This is always a proud moment, as these students are formally acknowledged by their peers and recognised for the important roles they will undertake throughout the year. Our 2026 School Captains are Bonnie, Daisy, Harry and Henry, and we congratulate them on their

appointments.

This year, we are also excited to introduce Science as a specialist subject. Through dedicated Science lessons, students will have expanded opportunities to explore, experiment and ask questions about the world around them. We look forward to fostering curiosity, critical thinking and a love of scientific discovery across all year levels.

We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to the many opportunities for learning, growth and connection that 2026 will bring.



"Connecting Your Community"

A League of their own comes to Churchill

A League of their own comes to Churchill

Churchill Baseball Club backs historic launch of women's competition in the Latrobe Valley.

For the first time in its history, the Latrobe Valley Baseball Association (LVBA) will launch a dedicated Women's Baseball Competition in 2026 — and the Churchill Baseball Club is proud to be part of this historic inaugural season. The competition is scheduled to begin in May and will be played in a Saturday hub format, bringing all teams together at the same venue each week. Final season length and structure will be confirmed once team numbers are established. An exciting new chapter!

Churchill Baseball Club has always had strong female representation across junior and senior grades. From Tee Ball through to senior competition, girls and women have proudly worn the green and gold.

However, this new competition provides something that has long been missing — the opportunity for women to compete and develop in a league of their own.

Club President Gregg Duncan said the initiative was an exciting and important step forward for the sport locally.

"This is something our club has believed in for a long time. Women deserve a genuine pathway in baseball,

and we are excited to help lead that growth in the Latrobe Valley.

We have always had strong female participation at Churchill, and this competition gives those players their own platform to grow, compete and inspire the next generation."

Why women should try Baseball

Baseball is one of the most inclusive and family-friendly sports in the community. You do not need prior experience — just a willingness to have a go.

Baseball offers:

A supportive and welcoming team environment. A skill-based game that rewards effort and teamwork. A strategic sport that builds confidence and decision-making. A social atmosphere built around community and connection.

Whether you are:

A junior player looking for the next step. A former softball player wanting a winter sport. A mum wanting to return to sport. Someone who has never played before.

This competition is designed to reduce barriers and encourage participation at all levels.

Supporting the team – A local opportunity

As Churchill prepares for its inaugural women's team, the club is also inviting local businesses to partner with and sponsor the Churchill Women's side.

Sponsorship support would assist with:

Playing uniforms. Equipment and training gear. Player starter packs. Game-day apparel. General start-up costs.

This is an opportunity for local businesses to align with a historic first for the club, support female participation in sport, and be part of building something special from the ground up. Businesses interested in partnering with the Churchill Women's Team are encouraged to contact the club directly.

Building a stronger community

This initiative is not just about creating another team — it is about strengthening the entire baseball community in Churchill.

More participation means:

Stronger overall club participation across all programs. Greater family involvement throughout the season. Increased leadership and coaching pathways. A sustainable future for the sport.

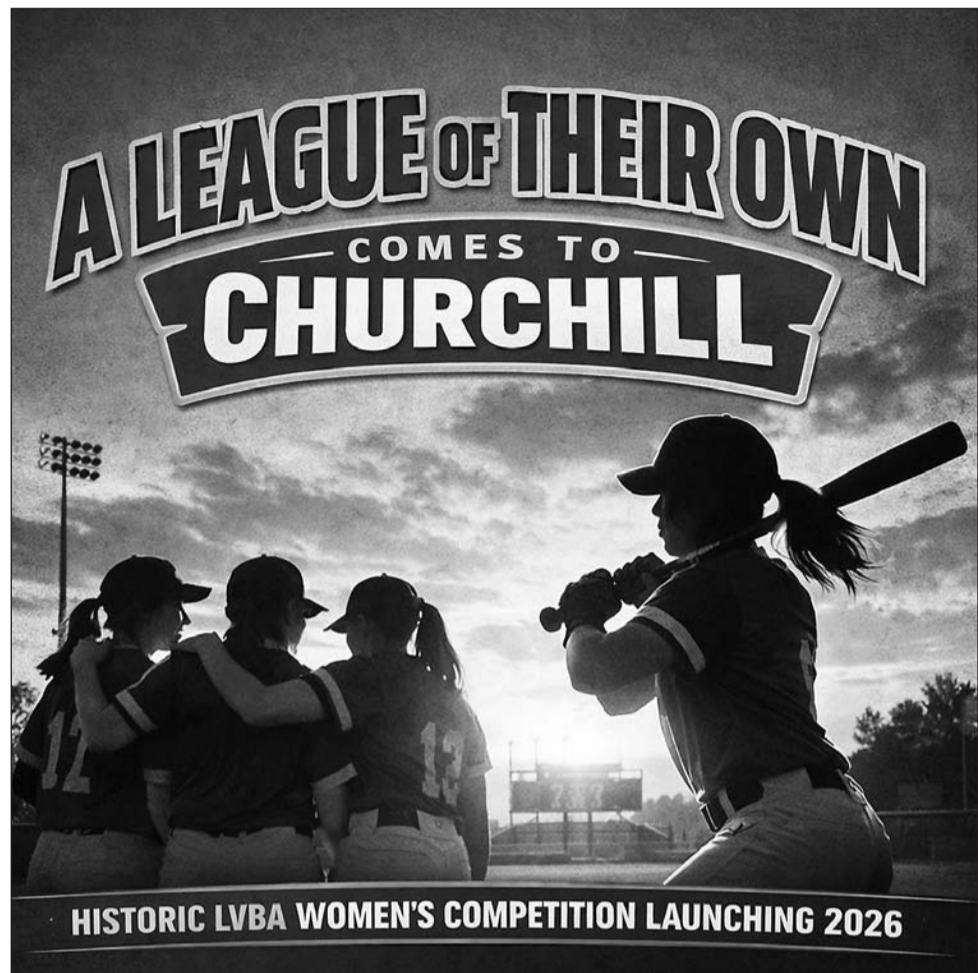
The Churchill Way

At Churchill Baseball Club, our core values of fun, enjoyment and being family-friendly drive everything we do.

We are committed to:

Creating welcoming environments. Supporting player development. Encouraging participation over pressure. Building lifelong friendships.

This women's competition aligns perfectly



with our culture and vision for the future.

Be part of History

Churchill Baseball Club is now calling for expressions of interest from female players aged 14+.

Importantly, the club will also offer a dedicated women's training night each week. This training will be open to women and girls who may not wish to commit to playing in the full season but would like to learn the game, build their skills, stay active,

and be part of a supportive environment.

This provides a relaxed and welcoming entry point for anyone curious about trying baseball without the pressure of competition.

This is your opportunity to:

Be part of the inaugural women's season

Represent Churchill in a new chapter of local sport

Learn new skills in a fun, supportive setting

Help shape the future

of women's baseball in the Latrobe Valley

Information and registration details will be announced shortly.

If you are interested in playing, training, coaching, umpiring or supporting the team — or if your business would like to be involved — please contact the Churchill Baseball Club via our Facebook page or speak with a club official.

Let us build something special — together.

Churchill & Monash Golf Club

Men's Monthly Medal (Stroke) January 31, 2026

Monthly Medal Winner: G. Spowart 68 Nett Scratch Winner: R. Vesty 83

Putts Winner: G. Spowart 25

A Grade Winner: R. Vesty 70 Nett B Grade Winner: G. Spowart 68 Nett

C Grade Winner: B. Mathieson 70 Nett D.T.L: 1. C. Gosling 69, 2. D. Cluderay 70, 3. A. Auld 71, 4. P. Chapple 71, 5. T. O'Sullivan 72, 6. S. Allison 72, 7. M. Brereton 72, 8. R. Sands 73, 9. R. Madigan 73 N.T.P: 3rd C. Waring, 5th

C. Gosling, 12th G. Barnes, 14th G. Maddocks Birdies: 3rd M. Brereton

Target Hole: T. O'Sullivan

Women's Monthly Medal (Stroke) – February 3, 2026

Monthly Medal Winner: M. McQuillan 75 Nett Scratch Winner: S. Caldwell 100 Putts Winners: L. Brent, J. Blizzard, K. Del Piccolo 32 putts

N.T.P: 3rd L. Brent, 5th S. Caldwell, 12th C. Carder, 14th K. Del Piccolo

Stableford February 7, 2026

A Grade Winner: C.

Waring 38 pts B Grade Winner: C. Wilson 38 pts

C Grade Winner: K. Del Piccolo 37 pts D.T.L: 1. M. Brereton 37, 2. S. Caldwell 37, 3. R. Davidson 36, 4. B. Kilday 36, 5. V. Monument 35, 6. G. Corponi 34, 7. P. Flanigan 34. N.T.P: 3rd I. Heppleston, 5th M. Soppe, 12th B. Downie (Propin) Birdies: M. Brereton 4th, T. Webb 8th, 11th, 16th

Target Hole: B. Jenkins

Captain vs Vice Captain (Stableford) – February 10, 2026

Winner: C. Carder 39 pts Winning Team: Captain's

D.T.L: 1. K. Del Piccolo 36, 2. L. Brent 36 N.T.P: 3rd C. Carder, 5th J. Balding, 12th C. Carder, 14th M. McQuillan Birdies: 11th M. McQuillan

Stroke February 14, 2026

A Grade Winner: M. Brereton 67 Nett B Grade Winner: A. Auld 66 Nett

C Grade Winner: G. Corponi 68 Nett D.T.L: 1. C. Wilson 67, 2. I. Heppleston 68, 3. P. Jordan 68, 4. P. Flanigan 69, 5. D. Burrige, 6. G. Leahy 71, 7. S. Allison 71, 8. P. Smart 71 c/b N.T.P: 3rd D. Byers (Propin), 5th B. Jenkins, 12th G. Tatterson,

14th S. Allison Birdies: 12th R. Madigan, M. Brereton, G. Tatterson Target Hole: C. Wilson

Stroke – February 17, 2026

Winner: L. Brent 70 Nett Scratch Winner: S. Caldwell 95 D.T.L: C. Gosling 75 Nett N.T.P: 3rd S. Caldwell, 5th L. Brent, 12th S. Caldwell, 14th L. Van Rooy

2 Person Ambrose February 21, 2026

Winners: C. Hogbin/D. Ellwood 60 Nett Runners Up: P. Kearns/Adam West 61.25 Nett D.T.L: 1. B. Downie/William McGrath 62.75, 2. M. Allen/Jeff Clegg

63, 3. L. Bevis/J. Balding 64, 4. A. Jenkins/G. Beyer 64.75, 5. C. Gilfillan/J. Cahill 65 N.T.P: 3rd J. Sanders, 5th M. Allen, 12th C. Wilson (Propin), 14th C. Gilfillan Hole In One: 5th M. Allen Target Hole: P. Smart/C. Wilson

Stableford February 24, 2026

Winner: J. Blizzard 43 pts D.T.L: L. Brent 38 pts N.T.P: 3rd S. Caldwell, 5th S. Caldwell, 12th L. Brent,



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

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Strzelecki Koala

Strzelecki koala in the heat

As the heat of summer continues into the autumn months, dehydration and heat stress can cause the Strzelecki koala to become unwell and in need of our assistance.

Days of extreme heat can decrease the amount of water and nutrients in the eucalyptus leaves and deplete shady areas in the tree canopy. www.krfa.org.au "Koala Research Foundation Australia. Branching Out. The Reason Koalas Are Disappearing from Australia" (8-2-26). According to www.koalainfo.com (7-2-26), dehydration "weakens" the koala and "makes" it "more vulnerable to predators", causes it to eat more leaves to meet its daily requirements, and to be in more "direct sunlight" as the animal browses during the day as well during the night.

Despite its name meaning "no water", the koala needs water to survive. www.koalainfo.com (7-2-26) We can help koalas have access to water by placing bowls of fresh clean water at the base of trees that Strzelecki koalas use for food or shelter. Spraying the trunks of these

trees with water also can create a cooler and moist environment. www.2re.com.au "Help protect koalas in hot weather" Dec.20th 2027 (7/2/26) Other ways suggested by this site are the provision of shade and safe spaces and containment of dogs. Also take extra care when driving because in times of heat, koalas will roam more in search of water and food and therefore be exposed to increased dangers.

In some communities water stations are being used to provide koalas with water. The WiREs organisation "water for Wildlife Project" has placed "TREE TROFFER arboreal drinker" in areas where dehydration is a concern. www.wires.org.au (7-1-16)

A koala is suffering from heat stress if it is showing these signs: "excessive panting or drooling, lethargy or unusual stillness, sitting low in trees or on the ground, descending from trees during the day, disorientation or uncoordinated movement." www.2re.com.au "Help protect koalas in hot weather" Dec.20th 2027 (7/2/26) A koala is often



signalling for help if it does not move away when approached. Never touch a koala as this causes more stress for the koala and can be hazardous to you. Always contact a professional wildlife carer for guidance such as Wildlife Victoria (03)8400 7300. Think about putting this number into your mobile for quick reference.

If you need to provide water to a koala, it is critical to place the water into a container so that it can "lap up the water with"

its tongue and their head down just like a dog. A hat or cap would be suitable if a bowl or pot is not available. Any other way could cause "water entering airways and may cause pneumonia". www.nsw.gov.au Environment and Heritage, "Helping Koalas in Emergencies". (8-2-26) Also never wet or spray a koala with water. www.facebook.com "Wildlife in Sandy Point" "Helping Koalas in the Summer." (8-2-26), a poster containing five points that are also

relevant to the Strzelecki koala.

Other ways to help the Strzelecki koala population thrive now and into the future:

Preserve, protect and plant more habitat.

Sign the petition that is requesting the Mullungdung State Forest to become a koala reserve. This petition to Minister Dimopoulos is available in the koala section of Friends of the Earth at www.melbournefoe.org.au Anthony Amis has just completed a report about the importance of the Mullungdung and Won Wron areas to the Strzelecki koala. The full published report can be found at <https://assets.nationbuilders.com> "Koalas of Won Wron and Mullungdung State Forests", Surveys 2020-2025 Final Report, February 2026" by Anthony Amis.

Be alert when driving especially through bush areas. Koalas have been spotted on the roads in and around Churchill.

Be a responsible pet owner by keeping pets inside at night and on leads when walking.

Support or join a wildlife or landcare group.

Contact Wildlife Victoria (03 8400 7300) or a local wildlife carer if you see an injured or sick koala or wombat. Deceased wombats or koalas should be reported so that the animal's condition and data collected.

Add sightings of Strzelecki koalas to the Koala Map by emailing the location to anthony.amis@foe.org or let Womsat know if you see a wombat at <https://womsat.org.au>

Future Strzelecki koala events:

The Strzelecki koala Festival in Yarram as part of the Tarra Easter Festival. Saturday April 4, 2026.

The Koalathon Melbourne. Tentative date is Sunday October 25, 2026.

Interesting fact

An adult koala will eat about "500 grams of leaves in a day, (approximately the size of a small lettuce)" and this will give the koala enough water to survive on unless conditions are "very hot and dry". Queensland Government, Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation, Environment, Koala facts" www.environment.qld.gov.au (16-2-26)

Helping Koalas in the SUMMER



- 1 Place a shallow water dish at the base of trees** for wildlife to drink from. Place a stick or rock in the dish to allow small insects to get out. 
- 2 Monitor wildlife in your yard** from a distance and report if a koala is on the ground or drinking continuously. 
- 3 If a koala is low in a tree mist the trunk/branch with water** to help cool them. **DO NOT** soak the koala or spray water in it's face. 
- 4 Call your local wildlife rescue hotline to seek advice** if a koala is low in a tree, sitting on the ground hunched over or continuously drinking. 
- 5 NEVER pour water directly into an animal's mouth.** Always pour water into a dish for them to drink from. 

In Partnership with 



Enroll your child & give them the gift of reading...FREE!



Whats the cost?

This program is **free**, thanks to the partnership of the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre and funding from AGL Loy Yang.



Who can join?

All children born from January 2025 onwards that live in;

- Churchill
- Yinnar
- Boolarra
- Morwell

What to expect

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a free book-gifting program delivered locally by the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre to inspire a lifelong love of reading.

Once enrolled, your child will receive a high-quality, age-appropriate book delivered to your home every month from birth until they turn five—at no cost to you.

The AGL Loy Yang Community Fund provides the vital funding for these books, while our small team of staff and volunteers manages all the administration, marketing, and enrolments across Latrobe to make this opportunity possible for our local families.

churchill.org.au/dolly