

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"

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SCAN TO VIEW:
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P 7 Strezelecki Bushwalking



P 11 St Vinnies Van



P 15 Public Toilet



P 24 Conference of Birds

Hazelwood House to be revived as an Aged Care Facility



There is exciting news for the Churchill community, with Hazelwood House set to be revived once again as an aged care facility, bringing renewed hope for local families and older residents in the area, pending approval from the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission. The application has already been submitted and is currently awaiting a response. The building was purchased by couple Dinesh and Pallavee last year, who saw the strong potential and community importance of restoring Hazelwood House back to its original purpose. After acquiring the property, they reached out to Comficare to explore the opportunity of reopening

the facility as a warm, family-focused aged care home for the local community. A small group of community members recently met with representatives from Comficare to discuss the future vision for Hazelwood House. The response from those attending was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing their happiness and excitement at the possibility of aged care services returning to Churchill. Comficare is led by TJ and Aklesh Pasuleti, a husband-and-wife team with two young boys. They currently operate successful aged care homes within Melbourne and are passionate about creating environments that feel homely,

compassionate, and community-oriented. When approached to inspect Hazelwood House, TJ and Aklesh immediately connected with the facility and its history within the local community. Although the building requires significant refurbishment and upgrades to meet current standards, they recognised the heart and potential the home still holds for the people of Churchill and surrounding areas. Dinesh and Pallavee will be undertaking and completing the renovations of the facility, after which Comficare will commission and operate the aged care home. Importantly, Comficare is committed to working closely with the community throughout

the process. Plans are underway. A community meeting was held where local residents could meet the team, ask questions, discuss aged care needs, and hear more about the vision for Hazelwood House. Future plans may also include the development of independent living units, allowing local residents to transition from home care to supported living and eventually residential aged care all within their own community and close to loved ones. With a childcare centre located nearby, there is also a vision to create intergenerational connections, where young children can regularly visit and spend meaningful time with

residents. Additional ideas being explored include raised garden beds for residents who enjoy gardening, helping provide both enjoyment and fresh produce for the home. Once renovations and refurbishments are complete, Comficare hopes to employ local staff and support workers, creating employment opportunities within the region. The home will focus on providing fresh, home-style meals prepared with care, rather than frozen or outsourced food services. An official opening day is planned for the future, which

will include tours of the facility, refreshments, activities for children, and an opportunity for the broader community to celebrate the reopening together. The overall aim is to create a genuine family-based organisation with a welcoming and homely atmosphere where residents feel valued, respected, and connected. In addition to residential aged care, Comficare also provides home care services to support older Australians to remain independent within their own homes.



Shop Local
MARKET
2026

Father's Day Market SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

Christmas Market SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5



"Connecting Your Community"

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Established 1966

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

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- Treasurer: Maureen Schenkel
- Assistant Treasurer: Rachael Perrott
- Advertising: Ruth Place, Shelley McDonald,
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- Distribution: Gary Weston, Roel Schenkel
- Team Members: Barbara Cheetham, Lorraine Glowacki
- Webpage: John Sunderland,
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Contributions

The DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION of articles and advertisements for the July 2026 edition is June 25, 2026

EDITORIAL

Articles for publication and Letters to the Editor can be sent to: Churchill & District News
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.



the voice of the community

MEMBER 2026

ADVERTISING

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Churchill & District News
PO Box 234, Churchill, 3842 or email:
cdnadvertising@cdnews.com.au
Telephone: Ruth 0456 786 577
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We acknowledge the support of



KidzFix Donation



Gippsland Mummas crew members Di Sterling, Donna Lawless and Sue Embrey learned about the new syringe drivers from LRH General Manager Janelle McInnes (far left), anaesthetist John Porter and surgical nurses.

Mummas drive better care at LRH

Gippsland children will benefit from new medical equipment at Latrobe Regional Health thanks to the stellar driving skills of local car rally crew, the Gippy Mummas.

Donna Lawless, Sue Embrey and Di Sterling took on rough roads, river crossings and mountain climbs from Lithgow in New South Wales to Murrumbidgee, via Lorne in south western

Victoria, to raise money for KidzFix, a charity which supports sick and disadvantaged children in Australia.

LRH received \$13,800 from KidzFix to purchase four paediatric syringe drivers, devices which deliver controlled amounts of medication to children. They are especially helpful for babies and children who need a precise dose of anaesthetic or pain relief medicine.

"The technology has been programmed for paediatric doses. LRH carries out the major paediatric surgery for Gippsland, particularly ENT (ear, nose and throat) surgery. Our youngest patient could be four months of age, so to give an infant a very small dose in an injection can be challenging. The syringe driver is safer and accurate," LRH General Manager Surgical Services, Janelle McInnes said.

In the future, the syringe drivers may be used to improve access to MRI or CT scans. Many children have to travel to a metropolitan hospital which is able to deliver sedation to a child having a scan.

"For many kids, the confined space, loud noises and unfamiliar environment of a CT or MRI scanner can be frightening, especially if it is their first hospital experience," Janelle said.

"We are hoping the paediatric syringe drivers will help our anaesthetics team to deliver sedation over the time the child is in the machine, which can be up to an hour and a half."

This year's KidzFix Rally is in September and will take crews from Yandina in Queensland to Inverell via Lennox Head in New South Wales.

Rainfall



Churchill Rainfall

Rainfall for the month of May for Churchill was pretty good with a total of 71.25mm recorded.

This is now our highest month for rainfall this year. Our highest 24hr rainfall was 13.5mm.

This is now two months in a row where Churchill's rainfall has come close to the Bureau of Meteorology's totals at the Latrobe Valley Airport. When Isolated Thunderstorms happen they can make local rainfall totals differ greatly.

Churchill's Year to Date Total is now 198.5mm.

Rain at Hazelwood South

What ever happened to frosty mornings? A few decades ago frosty mornings were common and numerous, and at Hazelwood South, a good dusting of snow occurred in many winters. The climate shift has changed the mix of bird species, and now makes it possible to grow avocados in Churchill. Lookout for the dreaded Queensland fruit fly moving in. The lowest temperature in May was 5.5C, and a welcome 95mm of rain was 48% above the May average. Hazelwood south had 25% more rain than the Latrobe Valley

weather station. The 2026 year had 5% more rainfall than average at the end of May. This did not saturate the soil and more is needed to replenish the ground water.

*Books Comics DVD/CDs
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Nook and Cranny
97 Buckley Street, Morwell



ADVERTISING RATES

Effective January 1, 2026

No.	Size	Column size	10% Discount (6 issues)			
			B/W	COLOUR		
	Height x Width		\$	\$	\$	\$
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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OR Mailed to: PO Box 234, Churchill, 3842

Advertising enquiries can be emailed to: cdnadvertising@cdnews.com.au

Farewell to Geraldine and Allan

In 2008, Allan and Geraldine moved into Churchill.

A chance hello and how are you settling in, revealed that they had both worked in printing. Allan more recently than Geraldine.

With little persuasion, they joined our Churchill & District News team.

To start with they helped with proof reading. From there the involvement grew.

Geraldine gave suggestions about advertising. Then she took on the task of producing all the

goody bags for our primary school writing competition entrants, which were in the hundreds. She also continued to do proofreading.

Allan took on producing some of the ads, then after we moved into the church office, all the advertising production that was not presented in JPG/PDF form. He also did the layout of the pages.

Allan also introduced us to In Design publishing program and nurtured us along the way.

COVID lockdowns

prevented us from being at the office, so we learnt to work at home using the programs uploaded onto home computers and with the aid of Dropbox.

This also happened during their visits to family in NSW.

Tracey then held the fort in Churchill and was able to solve our problems. Then Tracey went north to Queensland. There was division of all Tracey's jobs, the majority of which Allan picked up.

He prepared the layouts

and ads before production, putting all the information on our server. He then participated in production, making sure all the necessary parts were intact before emailing them to the Express Printery. This meant contacting the Express Printery to see what the print run numbers would be, if there were any changes, then emailing the number of pages; the ones that were colour or black and white. The pages had a final check by Allan who has a high standard of work.

There were the posters for Shop Local, the Shop Local logo, the Writing Competition poster, certificates and much, much more. We have a lot to live up to. Editorial files were placed in Dropbox for the Facebook and Web Site folks to use. A disc was burnt of the issue. A copy was sent to the State Library.

During the last twelve months, Allan has been tutoring two team members in how to do the layouts and position the ads and colour pages. Thank

goodness for that, for out of the blue, Allan and Geraldine have decided to make NSW their forever home with some of their family. They will be truly missed as their input was valuable and commendable. Allan particularly has been supportive, encouraging and patient with those not quite so computer literate and made sure our standard was maintained.

Allan and Geraldine have been an important and valued part of our team and we thank them wholeheartedly.



Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists' Club



Land for Fungi

On Friday June 26 the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists' Club will host an online presentation by Dr Sapphire McMullan-Fisher, an ecologist with a special interest in the conservation of biodiversity, particularly the macrofungi and mosses.

Sapphire and a colleague, Roz Hart, have worked hard to produce a much-needed and often-requested handbook on the use of fungi in conservation and revegetation. This book is now at the printers and we will be given a preview of its contents and the advice it contains.

Australian land managers are beginning to discover the important roles fungi play in healthy ecosystems. Australian fungi are different from those in other countries in the same way that our

plants, animals and other species differ.

Despite this, until now, Australia has lacked a practical guide for land managers for conservation and restoration focused management. This new guide "Fungi for Land" focuses on integrating fungi into current management tool kits. Healthy bushlands are resilient due to the myriad of interactions between our animals, fungi, plants and microbes. This guide helps explain these interactions, focusing on the role of fungi within ecosystems and how to include them in management of healthy ecosystems. The guide details practical tools to help managers understand:

diseases and weedy fungi
fire and fungi
threatening processes
fungi and soil

logs and litter vs mulch

If you are interested in this topic you are welcome to join Field Naturalist club members at Moe Library meeting rooms, 7.30pm on Friday June 26. The presentation will be streamed online - please contact the club for the link. Email info@lvfieldnats.org or phone or text the secretary Rose on 0410 237 292.

On Saturday June 27 there will be a club excursion to Lyrebird Walk, Mirboo North, from 10:00am to 2:00pm. This walk is known for its' fungi diversity. Warm weather combined with good autumn rain are favourable to a good fungi season. Meet in the carpark of the Lyrebird Walk or contact the secretary Rose for carpool options from Morwell Railway Station or other locations, ph 0410 237 292.

Job recruitment scams

Scammers are impersonating recruiters for companies like Amazon and Youtube.

What is happening?

Scammers are contacting people about "job offers" via SMS. They pose as recruiters offering well-paid, flexible, task-based work opportunities with companies like Amazon and YouTube.

The selling points of the jobs on offer include:

A high salary.
Remote work.
Flexible working hours or days.
Free job training.

Some roles are advertised as 'e-commerce assistant' while others are described as 'optimising product listings'.

Once you respond to the offer, you are directed to an encrypted WhatsApp chat for further information.

If you accept the 'job', you will complete sets of tasks, set up a cryptocurrency account, and may be paid a small sum of money to build your trust. Then, you will be told to 'top up' your account with your own money so that you can unlock the next set of tasks and earn your commission. Once you pay this money, you will never

get it back.

Amazon have published information on their website about these and other scams that impersonate them.

Who is at risk?

Anyone could be targeted by this scam. You do not need to be an existing Amazon customer or use YouTube. However, you may be at greater risk if you are:

Searching for employment.

Looking for ways to make extra money.

Looking for flexible work hours and the ability to work from home.

Warning signs to look out for:

Unexpected contact from a 'recruiter' via SMS or encrypted messaging.

Jobs offering a high salary for little work and effort.

Jobs that require no experience, qualifications or references that you can perform remotely.

Being told to pay with your own money to make more money.

Job details are vague but are about rating products or optimising listings.

Protect yourself from scams by:

STOP. If you are

contracted about a job offer do not rush to accept. No real job will require you to pay money before you make money.

CHECK. Check if the job offer is real. Companies like Amazon and YouTube advertise all their jobs on their websites. Real recruiters will not move your conversation to an encrypted platform like WhatsApp. Contact the organisation directly using a phone number you have sourced yourself to see if they are recruiting and whether the job is real.

PROTECT. If you have provided personal information or money to someone you suspect is a scammer, act quickly. Visit 'what to do if you have been scammed' for steps you can follow.

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



Photo: fungi Photo credit: Marcus Gwynne

CHURCH news

Co-Operating Church Snippets



Around the Campfire with Jesus

'Around the Campfire with Jesus' was the theme of the third regional family service for the Anglican churches of the Latrobe Valley. Forty-two people, including nine children and youths, attended the service which was held at the Co-operating Church in Churchill.

The wet weather did not dampen the spirits of the attendees. The afternoon service began outside under the veranda where a fire pit had been set up. Youngsters and some adults were keen to get their fingers in and make their own damper dough prior to plastering it onto a stick and heading for the fire pit. It was a modern-day recreation of Jesus' charcoal fire on the shore of the Sea of Galilee as told in John 21:9.

After making damper, everyone headed inside the church where a cellophane fire, lit within by torches, flickered invitingly. Chairs were placed in front of it in a semi-circular arrangement for everyone to sit. Ruth Place led a time of communal singing and word games based on the bible reading from John 21:1-19. Liz Hudson Cooper and Emma Hudson told the bible story, reading from The Big Rescue Bible and using cardboard figures made by Faye Foley.

Small groups were formed to discuss the bible reading. Key themes of 'trust', 'forgiveness', 'sending out' and 'commissioning' were discussed. Group leaders reported back key elements of their group discussion. The teenage group shared their thoughts on how difficult it can be to forgive



over time continues to bless those who attend. Joy was a special member.

The theme for the day was Amazing Moments. People shared amazing moments in their lives including, medical amazement, holding your baby when just born, chance meetings, visits by Julie and Trevor with meals and flowers, just knowing God was involved, feeling the holy Spirit on a visit to

life and influence. It was a pleasure to serve afternoon tea and engage with the family and friends who had come to farewell her.

Jeremy Courtis Graduates as a teacher

Jeremy Courtis with his Mother Ruth and Jeremy's sponsors attended his graduation ceremony late in May. It was a proud moment for all of them to see Jeremy now a fully fledged teacher who loves his job.



China, seeing whales with calves on a trip, special parts of God's creation seen on holidays, the thrill of having a child understand your teaching.

There was much chatter among the group as morning tea was shared.

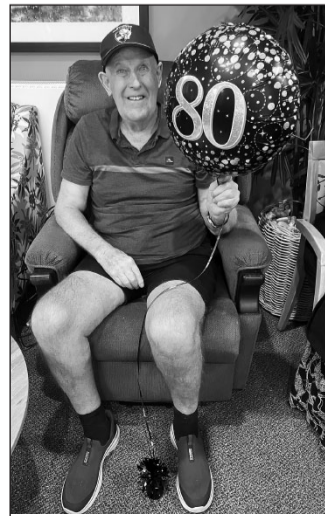
Funeral Service for Joy

The church congregation was blessed to be able to have the funeral service for Joy Blair at Churchill taken by Rev. Bec Hayman. The family gave wonderful tributes about how Joy had been part of their lives. She truly was a remarkable person who spent her life making connections with family, friends and her church congregations wherever she was.

In her time with us, Joy was an elder, helped with a senior's group and helped at Easter and Christmas Clubs. Joy's engaging smile and her dear way of being part of our congregation will be sadly missed. The large number of attendees was tribute to Joy's

David Cranwell turns 80

It is our tradition that those who turn 80 are given a cake and some kind words said about them. David is now a permanent resident of Heritage Manor and unable to come to the church, so the church folks went to him and gave him a lovely surprise. It was a pleasant gathering, one enjoyed by David seeing old friends.



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

others and the immensity of forgiving again and again. On being asked 'What has God given you to spread the word?' they shared that their immediate thought had been the bible, but then decided that God had given them a voice with which to share what He had done for them, enabling them to tell their own personal story. Following the small group discussion there was some more singing, then fish fingers were handed around as a reminder (21st century style!) of Jesus cooking fish for His disciples.

A meal was then shared together which was served by a group of volunteers from the Churchill congregation. It was a great evening of fellowship.

These regional family services are held monthly on the third Sunday of each month.

Coffee Connections

A happy group of people joined in the Coffee Connections morning. Joy Blair who has recently died started Coffee Connection many years ago. We acknowledged her dedication and gave thanks for the life and dedication of our Joy and for her wonderful guardianship of Coffee Connections. This group though changed and morphed



A Churchill & District History Series

Looking Back...

...through the eyes of local residents



By Leo Billington Local historical gems for our community

In last month's CDN, I wrote about Peter Bertrue being quite a saviour for the good folk of Morwell back on January 28, 1888, when he was given a permanent appointment "to the office of scavenger." His Key Performance Indicator (KPI) was to restore the town to a "wholesome condition."

Toward the later months of 1907, Peter and family moved to Tara in Queensland. They possibly moved at a time when Queensland, around Toowoomba and near towns, was opening up properties for sale. Unfortunately, the area around Tara was prickly pear country and very hard to clear and settle on. Even today it is not considered good farming land.

It was a coincidence that Tara is where Benjamin Walter Benn became a Councillor with the first Council there, and has a street named after him - Benn Street.

Some of these early settlers, apparently were not daunted, as was Benjamin Walter. In October 1913, he explained in a letter to the editor (Farmer and Settler

Sydney, NSW : 1906 - 1955, Tuesday October 28, 1913), a "sure-fire" method to protect fruit trees from rabbits and hares.

"I notice that you have an inquiry from someone as to how to prevent rabbits and hares from barking fruit trees. I have followed a certain plan for years, and have never had a tree damaged since. Take some fresh cow dung, put it into an old tin or bucket, add sufficient water to make it of the consistency of thin mud and paint the butts of the trees occasionally. Nothing will touch the tree afterwards. This treatment also cures woolly aphid on apple trees."

For a while Benjamin Walter was a local celebrity in Tara. In later years, members of the Benn family were farming in the Dumbalk North area.

Here is the link to Morwell's early history. From a story about an appointment "to the office of scavenger.", and a Melbourne reader of CDN, we learn more about the Reverend Leslie William Alfred Benn. Born in 1896, and second eldest of 11 children, his parents farmed at Dumbalk North. For seven years,

1928 to 1935, Leslie William Alfred Benn was Rector of St Mary's Anglican Church in Morwell (see accompanying photograph).

On Monday June 8, 1936, he gave a farewell speech at jubilee celebrations of the church; a function celebrated in the Morwell Fire Brigade Station.

In part, he said:

"We have a fine block of land on the Highway, on which is the Morwell Rectory, and I would urge you to make plans now for the future for a new church."

The Church complex was moved to that corner in Latrobe Road during 1929. Prior to this site, its location was in Chapel Street. The foundation stone of the present church complex in Latrobe Road was unveiled in 1958 and completed in 1980.

At the current Latrobe Road location, construction of a new vicarage was managed by Mr Stan Winchester, who was married to Leslie William Alfred Benn's niece.

There is more to this story; a link was made via the CDN being read in Melbourne.

Now cars and petrol, a

topic recently given huge media coverage in months past, and perhaps in the future as we wade onwards.

In the early 1950's a particular brand of car was being advertised - not a GMH or Ford or anything British, but a Simca. Fancy a French car being advertised in an English colony!

Actually, 'SIMCA' is an acronym - la Societe Industrielle et mecanique des constructions automobiles (i.e Industrial and Mechanical Automobile Construction Company) founded in 1934 by an Italian entrepreneur and distributed as Fiat in France. While commencing its life as a Fiat, in around 1951, the car was sold as a Simca.

In Morwell, Gange's Garage in George Street was announced in early 1954, as the place to buy a Simca. And, there was a competitor - Morwell Panel Works - who during 1953, was selling a Fiat Simca. Note the other brands beginning to forge a new market.

It was the early 1950's and petrol was in demand. During late 1952/early 1953, J D McErvale & Co made application to Morwell Shire to erect two petrol pumps on a property, corner Jane

Street and Princes Highway. (Such an irony - there's a petrol station there now. Or it may have been the former Travalloy Motors site opposite.)

McErvale & Co were keen to promote their business presence. On Thursday February 8, 1951, it was announced the company had taken over the Higgins & Wilson business - who specialised in briquette hot water units, for homes and dairies.

The company rebadged themselves as automotive and agricultural engineers; even being dealers for International Harvester. The two pumps would sell Shell petrol; monetary donations were made to various community groups in town; even giving 11/6d towards funding the 1954 Royal Tour into Morwell. (Morwell Sire Council gave £15.00.)

Another piece of local history is from Hazelwood North where the former Presbyterian Church building is falling into disrepair. Numerous questions are asked as to what its future is - albeit privately owned by an absentee landlord.

During the late 1880's, Hazelwood North boasted a strong, committed

Presbyterian community. A block of land was donated by the Wuttrich family who first settled here in 1881. Leon Wuttrich was the first church secretary, and he played a key role ensuring a third Presbyterian church anniversary was celebrated on Wednesday May 7, 1884.

Attendees from the immediate area and Morwell apparently had to "wade, ride or walk" through mud to join in. Church decorations included ferns and chrysanthemums; almost 150 persons enjoyed a sumptuous afternoon tea.

That early church building was unfortunately a victim of the 1944 fires which raged everywhere. However, not to be beaten - a new brick church "rose from the ashes" and was dedicated on Saturday February 16, 1946. Just over £303 was raised from donors who attended a combined Presbyterian and Methodist service.

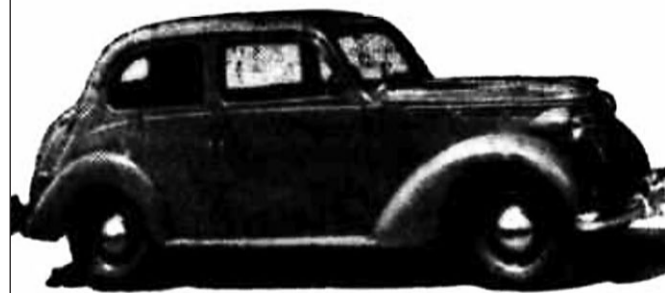
A week after the church was dedicated, a wedding was conducted in the "new" church - Irene Gray married Donald Barnett. Their tiered wedding cake was decorated by Miss Queenie Bolding.

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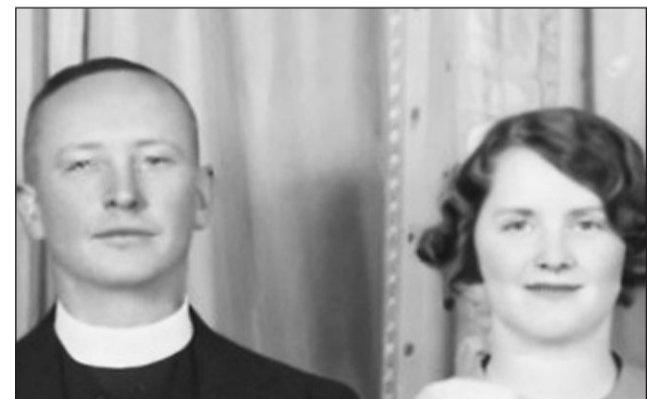
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Yinnar- Yinnar South Landcare Group

By Rebecca Turnbull,
President, Yinnar-Yinnar
South Landcare Group

On Saturday April 18, Yinnar-Yinnar South Landcare Group hosted a workshop on "How to Attract Pollinators to your Garden". The workshop was attended by 12 enthusiastic gardeners and was hosted by gardener and educator Liz Rowe from Sustainable Gardens Australia. Liz shared with the group the importance of encouraging pollinators into our garden, and some practical tips on how to do this. Afterwards, the group toured the Yinnar Community Garden, which is open to the public behind Yinnar ARC. Pollinators – what are they and why are they important? Pollinators are an agent, including insect, birds or bats, that

fertilise plants by transferring pollen from the male part of a plant (anther) to the female part (stigma). As pollination allows plants to seed, they are vital components of the environment and also for our food production. Recent research has shown that European Honeybees pollinate up to 75% of the food that we eat, and with the continued spread of the Varroa Mite, this is a real threat to food security. Encouraging native pollinators to our gardens, such as bees, butterflies and birds, which are unaffected by diseases like Varroa mite, is therefore really important! What can you do in your home garden (or farm) to encourage pollinators? Reduce pesticide use (especially insecticides); Increase the number and

diversity of plant species in your garden. Plant lots of flowering plants, especially native ones; Have a combination of sunny and shaded areas in your garden;

Incorporate rocks, logs and other objects into your garden as these provide habitat for insects. Some interesting Facts about Pollinators: There are more than 1600 species of native bees in Australia (and they are still being discovered!); 70% of native bees nest in the ground – loose sandy or loamy soil is best;

Butterflies and moths are both pollinators – butterflies during the day, and moths at night; There are approximately 90 species of bats in Australia and they are important long-range pollinators – flying foxes can fly up to 50 km in one night!

For more information:
Yinnar-Yinnar South Landcare
<https://www.lcln.com.au/yinnar-yinnar-south>
Sustainable Gardening Australia
<https://www.sgaonline.org.au/>
Yinnar Community Garden
<https://communitygarden.org.au/yinnar-community-garden-a-practice-in-sustainability/>



Lions Club of Churchill & District Inc.



At the Churchill Lions Club things are starting to slow down a bit with winter on the way. It is starting to get cold, I am guessing fires are roaring, heaters are on and power bills will be shooting sky high.

So please, as you are snuggled in bed or in front of that roaring fire, think of us dedicated Lions who are already set up and ready to go at the ever increasing Bunnings Sausage Sizzles, where we will be again on Sunday June 18. Come on down and grab a freshly cooked sausage with onions on freshly baked bread – yummy!

The Club cooked chips at the Bunnings Easter Community Family night. We gave the riders on the Lions Ride for Sight a great fish and chip dinner. The Lions Ride for Sight raises money for eye health research. We catered at the Wellness Expo at Kernot Hall Morwell, the Club did a BBQ for Latrobe Community Health at the Morwell Traffic School, assisted by cooking chips for the first round of Churchill Junior Football & Netball Club games, raising much needed funds for the Club.

The Club also did a BBQ at the Churchill Mother's Day Market.

The Club was asked to cook lunch for 220 people at the Wooren Battery Plant at short notice. As usual with Churchill Lions it is always a no fuss situation - get organised and away we go. On the day an early

start setting up tables, marquee and setting up cooking vans and Lions busy cooking.

The workers started to arrive over two staggered lunch breaks and were quite surprised to be served huge hamburgers with the lot, sausages with onions and bread, plus a vast array of salads and cold drinks, so to say it was all appreciated would be an understatement!

Once finished, it was pack up, clean up and away we all drove in convoy again back to the shed to unhook, unload and sit for a yak.

Churchill Lions would like to say a special Thank You to Zenviron the company who asked us to cater, for giving us the

opportunity to help out by supplying all the hard workers at the Battery Farm with a great lunch.

There was great turnout for the ANZAC Day ceremony, the Lions Club catered with bacon and egg sandwiches and sausages, our Secretary Peter Tait gave a powerfull address honouring the ANZACS.

The Club also approved sponsorship to the Churchill Junior Football Club & Netball Club and Churchill Junior Soccer Club. The Club also made donations to the Lions Ride for Sight, Lions Eye Health Program, Lions Assisted Dog program as well as Gippsland FM to replace outdated and broken equipment.



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🌐 www.dannyobrienmp.com.au
📱 /dannyobrienmp

THE NATIONALS for Regional Victoria

Strzelecki Bushwalking Club

This month the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club completed a challenging walk in the Mount Dandenong area beginning at the Doongalla Picnic Ground. "Doongalla" means "place of peace". This forest reserve provides many opportunities for recreation such as trail running, cycling and of course, bush walking! The spectacular forest trails are lined with towering Mountain Ash, Silver Wattle and Blackwood trees. The trails in the Mount Dandenong area can be extremely steep, and a good level of fitness is recommended to complete



Walk Leader Les Holloway (second from right)

plane crashed at Kyeema, Mt Dandenong. All people on board were killed. The Mount Dandenong historical society erected a memorial in 2003 honouring all those who perished in the tragedy.

the stunning and varied natural landscapes around us that we are fortunate to explore. Thank you to our members who bring camaraderie, encouragement and enthusiasm to every step and make each outing so very enjoyable. We look forward to many more walks in the months ahead with leaders steadily planning June's activities.

The Strzelecki Bushwalking Club continues to hold their monthly meetings in the Trafalgar Scout Hall on the second Thursday of each month beginning at 7.30 p.m. Visitors are most welcome to attend. This is a great opportunity to interact with existing members and answer any questions you may have.

Our newsletter is proudly published online by Mat Morgan and is freely available for anyone to read and enjoy. By sharing our stories, photographs, and walking experiences with the wider community, we hope to inspire others to discover the Strzelecki Bushwalking Club and the wonderful trails we explore together.

In the second half of our walk we came across some beautiful glass mosaics that have been created of butterflies, ferns and lyre birds and placed along the track. These works of art are stunning additions to the walking trail and well worth taking a moment to admire as you make your way along the trail.

This walk together with other May activities such as the Loch Valley, Hallston and Mt St Gwinear remind us of



Kyeema Memorial

this walk. Our participants climbed approximately 1070m of elevation throughout our 19km hike. Some of the most amazing views of Melbourne can be seen from Burkes Lookout. After a hard climb participants were rewarded with sweeping panoramic views across Melbourne stretching to Port Phillip Bay. The city skyline rises up in the distance and is framed by a vast suburban sprawl.

A little further into our walk and we came upon Kyeema which was the site of one of Australia's worst aviation disasters. On October 25, 1938 an ANA Douglas DC2 took off from Adelaide with eighteen people on board bound for Essendon Airport. On approach to Melbourne the flight crew encountered heavy fog and without the aid of modern navigation equipment, lost track of their position. As a result, the



Glass and stone artwork near Doongalla



Franz Joseph Haydn

Have you ever wondered while watching and listening to a large orchestra, why the bows in the various string sections are always synchronised? It was not always so. Up until the mid-1700s, players of stringed instruments did their own thing, and the music sounded a lot different from what we are used to today, and it was nowhere near as pleasing to the ear. The reason why things changed was down to the Austrian composer, Joseph Haydn.

Haydn's musical background was in folk music, his father being an enthusiastic amateur in his village. Realising that his son was musically gifted, his father arranged his first formal music lesson at the age of seven. He had a good voice and was chosen as a chorister in St Steven's Cathedral in Vienna. When his voice broke, he learned to play the piano and the stringed instruments and earned a precarious living as a free-lance musician.

He composed a lot of works of all types and his public reputation grew to the point where he attracted aristocratic patronage. When he gained the post of Kapellmeister to Count Esterhazy he became financially independent. His duties were demanding, covering composition, running an orchestra, playing chamber music for and with the family and staging operas. However, he thrived on hard work, and he was able to develop the classical form in many musical works including the symphony, the sonata and the string quartet. At the same time, he was able to publish his compositions widely.

With his orchestra work he realised that the string players needed to

synchronise their up and down strokes, getting rid of the different timbre between them and all sounding the same note. He was also able to form the symphony structure and that of the string quartet.

After 1790 he was allowed to travel away from the Esterhazy Court and associated with the great musicians like Mozart in Vienna and others. He went to London in 1791-92 and again in 1794-95 where his music was immensely popular. His London Symphonies are probably his best-known works from this period of his work.

He returned to Austria and continued to produce

compositions in all forms, becoming the grand old man of Austrian classical music. By 1803 his health had begun to fail, and he was unable to write much more, to his great frustration. He died in 1809.

Over his lifetime he wrote 107 symphonies, 68 string quartets and numerous



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operas, masses, trios, concertos, piano sonatas and other pieces. His style was lighter and had a simpler feel than his contemporaries and this probably came from his roots in folk music. It also was influenced by his isolation in the Esterhazy Court where outside influences could not easily reach him. It explains his continued popularity and his



wide following. His image graces postage stamps from many countries across the world but particularly Austria, Germany and Czechoslovakia, who honour the memory of this great classical composer.



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Hazelwood Cemetery

By Leo Billington

How people are remembered and, hopefully not erased by time (series continued)

Dear old social media. Perhaps the bane of our lives, even a burden used to support our social connectedness.

Currently, there is a tsunami of posts on social media advertising frothy cleaning fluids promising speedy cleaning of headstones. Basically it is spray and wipe stuff. Easy as!

The posts are either generated out of the USA; or via Artificial Intelligence, or any other fake news.

Please do not get taken in - the pictures are not from real cemeteries, just look at how close headstones are to each other for a start. Graves are privately owned, not by cemetery trusts. Unless privately approved by families, no-one just marches in and starts cleaning headstones to make a dollar. The same goes for felt text style pens being advertised to

enhance worn engraving on headstones.

In turn, all this highlights some interesting headstones in the Hazelwood Cemetery. They give us something tangible to visit — a name carved in stone, in granite, a photograph with a bronze plaque, a garden niche, a bench overlooking a favourite view.

For example, Michael Robert Ward's remains were laid to rest in the Hazelwood Cemetery, beside those of his only daughter, on Saturday May 7, 1932. He had passed away at his work place on Thursday May 5. There is minimal information provided at the family grave-site.

Nonetheless, the site is something tangible to visit.

At aged 62, Michael died suddenly on his walk home from the Bairnsdale Railway Station where he was stationmaster. He was well known across Gippsland having previously been stationmaster at Moe, Drouin, Leongatha, Nyora, Morwell and then Bairnsdale.

Michael's wife, Elizabeth passed away on January 4, 1945 at the Bairnsdale Hospital. There were two children, John and Dulce Daisy Jean - who was a nurse. Dulce, who died on September 8, 1921, is interred at Hazelwood with her father.

Family members were involved in community affairs - Michael as secretary of the Morwell and Moe Lodges, as a past Grand Lodge Officer, Elizabeth as a volunteer with Anglican Church functions and with the Women's Christian Temperance Union, Dulce as a community nurse in Moe and John with the wider Traralgon community.

Prior to his death, friends noticed Michael was struggling with constant coughing. Dulce was interred 11 years before her father. Elizabeth was a daughter of John Beaver Jones, employed at Morwell as a railway repairer. John and his wife, Annie Marie Beaver Jones are interred at Hazelwood, unfortunately in unmarked graves. (John's picture accompanies this article; seems a formidable character.)

Virtually hidden within a collection of larger graves is a discreet pale headstone in memory of Norman and Stella Victoria Cooke. While details of their story are scarce, it is known that Norman passed away on or about January 23, 1982 and Stella on or about December 11, 1983. Norman was aged 68 with his death being recorded at Moe; Stella's death at 70 years, was recorded as at Traralgon. Official records show they were husband and wife.

Headstones generally convey pieces of history. The Cooke one unfortunately is plain, without any fussiness. Nonetheless, and as mentioned above, their humble, modest site is something tangible to visit.

Michael Hogan's



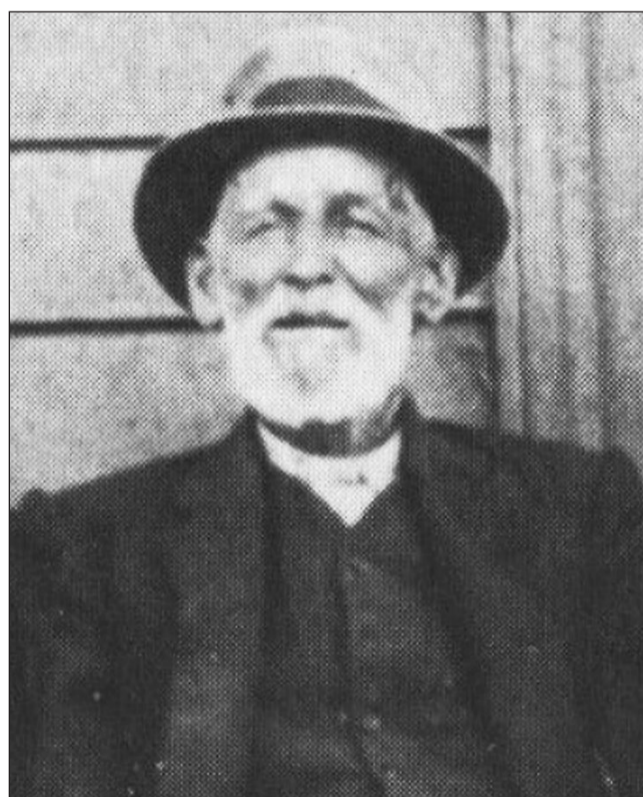
headstone reveals two names - Michael and Michael. For history buffs, any repeat of Christian/first names generally means a thorough search of whatever records may be located. It can be frustrating.

Michael Hogan - 1854 to 1919 - passed away in the Gippsland Hospital, on Saturday morning May 10, 1919; death being due to cancer, from which, apparently, he suffered quite considerably. His death notice published the Morwell Advertiser (Friday May 16, 1919) announced his age being 55 years. Looking at his headstone, perhaps he was 65.

Michael's headstone is unique in its disclosure of information. First, there is a second Michael mentioned - 1889 to 1934. He was the son of the top aforementioned Michael, aged 65 years. Moreover, Michael (the one who suffered from cancer) apparently had one daughter and three sons "to mourn their loss."

Intensive research shows another son, Michael Hogan, aged 26 and married, passed away in November 1943 - at the Yallourn Hospital apparently from serious injuries suffered about one year earlier from being run over by a goods train at the Yallourn Railway Station. He was employed by the then State Electricity Commission, and his injuries included his left arm and left leg being amputated.

Private Dan Hogan, who enlisted for overseas service in 1916 at age 18 years, was killed in action in France about two years later.



While being named as the "youngest son of Mr Michael Hogan of Morwell", Dan's enlistment papers showed his hometown being Drouin. He was with the 59th Infantry Battalion.

Back to Michael Hogan, who in his final three or four months, and suffering from terminal cancer, perhaps planned his rather unusual departure at the graveside in Hazelwood.

At the graveside where, in accordance with the expressed wishes of the deceased, Michael's will (in which he bequeathed his earthly belongings to his children) was read. (Morwell Advertiser, Friday May 16, 1919)

All this highlights some interesting headstones in the Hazelwood Cemetery. They give us something tangible to visit.



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Chaos: inside the student mind.

Creativity in Gippsland, a dying art?

By Catherine Yeates

While most students during this time of year are concerned with studying their mountains of course content in order to guarantee the grades they have worked so hard for all semester, a small corner of the university has finally met its rather tragic end. While we have all been preoccupied with passing classes the fine arts department that used to be the very soul of this campus has indeed closed for good.

Over these past few weeks staff from Ballarat have organised sales for most of the equipment still languishing in the forgotten studios, and invited much of the community to participate in the rehoming of less valuable items. I must say as many others who loved these studios, I am greatly saddened by this result. Not only does this event symbolise the demise of a much-loved discipline but it also highlights a greater shift in society's priorities. Perhaps Gippsland is no longer a place where artists come to sketch pine trees and experience a connection to nature only found in rural spaces. While this

dwindling of the more creative fields of study at the university has been ongoing for a significant period, the removal of the old painting studios has been the finality necessary to make it all seem real. Leaving behind a literal and figurative hole where it once sat upon the hill, I took the opportunity to explore the usually inaccessible rooms of this department during what I am coming to call the death of department free-for-all. These buildings feature three separate dark rooms complete with development equipment and chemical store rooms behind their ominous black curtain. The sculpture studios feature what remains of past students' pieces and clay covered equipment. There was a small point of joy in this otherwise sombre experience when wandering through the display cubicles in the lower storage shed, a past student with a sense of humor had gone to the effort of painting 'gullible' on the ceiling in bold black letters.

The buildings are a perfectly preserved time capsule of the lives they lived before. Posters in the drawing studios still highlighting the rules for live drawing sessions alongside browning advertisements for art shows long since

passed. I'm told the heyday for creatives in Gippsland was during the 1970s and 80s during the campus' time as the Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education. Many photos in the campus' archive feature art students with vibrate button ups and folio's twice their size wandering up to the fine arts studios. This bygone era is not only missed for its investment in creativity but also the communities support of the pursuit of passion rather than competing for a paycheck. This portion of campus has felt like a ghost town following the final year of fine arts students' graduation in 2024. However, this final development has stuck the nail in the coffin for creative endeavors at the Churchill campus at least in an official capacity. Overtaken by nature the fine arts department shall no longer be home to the vibrancy of creation but rather a reminder of the things we leave behind in a progressing society. For any young artists reading this column I do hope that this development does not crush your passion for your craft but rather inspire a determination in your creative process to stand against the odds and continue to create.



Latrobe City, recycling at home is changing for the better. Latrobe City residents are about to receive an exciting upgrade to their household waste and recycling service, making it simpler than ever to do their bit for the environment.

From Wednesday July 1, 2026, food scraps will not be wasted in general rubbish bins. Instead, they can be added to lime green-lidded bins to be turned into mulch and compost. Latrobe City Mayor, Councillor Sharon Gibson said it's a win-win-win situation. "It's a win for residents, a win for Council and a win for the environment. And the good news is there's no change to bin collection days or times. The only difference will be that food scraps can now be added into the lime green-lidded bin – allowing us all to put our food scraps to good use and be a bit more conscious about caring for our environment," she said.

FOGO is coming

The new service is part of a wider Victorian Government requirement for changes to kerbside waste collection that must be implemented by July 1, 2027. This program is widely known as Food Organics and Garden Organics, or 'FOGO'.

Households will soon receive an information pack from Latrobe City Council by mail, including a coupon to collect a FOGO caddy from Latrobe City HQ and service centres. The caddies are optional for residents but are a convenient way to collect food scraps in kitchens before adding to lime green-lidded bins. Residents are asked not to use certified compostable liners as they break down too slowly and can trap waste, disrupt processing and can become litter. "You can drop in to a service centre with the coupon you will receive in the mail and pick up your free FOGO caddy for your food scraps, or even use something you already have like an ice cream container. But just hold on a little longer! FOGO will be rolling out in July," the Mayor said. Food scraps accepted in the FOGO bin (lime green-

lid) include cooked leftovers, fruit and vegetable scraps, meat, small bones (such as fish, chicken and chop bones), seafood, eggshells, bread, rice, pasta, dairy, ground coffee and used paper towel. The Mayor said the FOGO service complements at-home composting by accepting certain items which usually cannot be composted at home but are easily composted on a commercial level. The food and garden waste collected will be taken to a new purpose-built composting facility, Pinegrove, in Morwell, Latrobe City.

At the facility it will be checked for contaminants, then composted in specially designed chambers, which create high heat and break down the material quickly. It will then be taken and stockpiled to continue the breakdown process, eventually becoming quality mature compost that can be used to grow more food crops. If residents have any questions about the changes, they can contact the Latrobe City Council Contact Centre on 1300 367 700 or visit latrobe.vic.gov.au/Home/Waste for more information.



COMMUNITY SAFETY *Words of Wisdom*

With the amount of house and car "break ins" going on lately, it's time to keep up to date with safety around where you live.

Secure Your Home

- Lock up: Always lock doors and windows, even when you are home or just working in the garden.
- Manage your visibility: Keep front gardens and hedges trimmed and report broken street lights to the local council. Overgrown bushes give intruders places to hide.
- Hide valuables: Never leave valuables in plain view through windows, and avoid hiding spare keys under doormats or flower pots.
- Take no-cost precautions: When going on holiday, ask a trusted neighbour to clear your mail and collect your bins, and avoid posting travel updates on social media until you return.

Stay Safe in Public

- Be aware of your surroundings: Avoid walking with noise-cancelling headphones, and stay off your phone when walking through parking lots or less familiar areas.
- Walk smart: Stick to well-lit, busy streets at night, and always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Protect your car: Never leave valuables unattended in your vehicle, and always park in a well-lit area or a garage if possible.

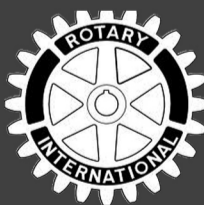
Connect With Your Community

- Get to know your neighbour's: Research consistently shows that connected communities deter crime. Introduce yourself, or organize a small street get-together.
- Take safety quizzes: You can evaluate your area and identify potential risks by using the How Safe is My Place interactive home and vehicle assessment tools.

FOR EMERGENCIES, RING 000
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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.

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Hazelwood Rotary Club

Have your say on this draft Community Amenity

Latrobe City Council is inviting the community to have their say on an important local law that helps support a welcoming, enjoyable and safe City for everyone.

Residents and ratepayers, business owners, workers, students and members of the wider community can contribute their input on the draft Community Amenity Local Law from Tuesday May 26, to Monday June 22, 2026.

This local law guides how Council manages everyday matters such as property upkeep, keeping of animals, open air burning, waste and recycling, certain business activities and the use of Council land and roads.

Latrobe City Council Mayor, Councillor Sharon Gibson is encouraging people to take a look and share their views and ideas.

"This is the first time in 10 years this local law has been reviewed. To

make it easy for everyone to understand and have their say, our Your Say platform includes a summary document and helpful FAQs," the Mayor said.

"Reviewing the Community Amenity Local Law helps ensure it reflects what matters most to our community, while continuing to support our City's needs and expectations for health, safety and local spaces."

Community feedback can help shape how these areas are managed, suggest improvements, and ensure the information is clear and easy to understand.

"The management of the majority of community safety issues are primarily the responsibility of Victoria Police and local laws also cannot override state or federal laws," the Mayor explained.

"Council's powers under the draft local law aim to fill the gaps between state laws on local matters, such as keeping of animals,

managing waste and some business activities on roads.

The local law aims to address local community amenity matters and is about supporting a respectful, safe and well-maintained community for everyone.

If anyone raises a concern about a community amenity issue or breaches the local law, Council works with residents to resolve issues, which may include providing guidance, issuing notices or taking further action if needed."

Have your say on the draft Community Amenity Local Law by midnight Monday June 22, 2026. There are several ways to complete a submission:

Online at: <https://yoursay.latrobe.vic.gov.au/localaw> (hard copy surveys available to download, or on request)

Email a submission or enquiry to localawreview@latrobe.vic.gov.au

By writing, address PO Box 264, Morwell VIC 3840

In-person engagement (by appointment)



A lasting thank you to our Churchill volunteers and community.

While National Volunteer Week has passed, Lifeline Gippsland would like to take this opportunity to formally and sincerely acknowledge the exceptional volunteers who support our Churchill op shop, as well as the broader Churchill community that continues to stand behind us.

It is through the generosity of our local community and the dedication of our volunteers that Lifeline Gippsland is able to deliver on its mission: to lead, develop and deliver programs and services that support Gippsland to be suicide safe.

The Churchill store plays an important role in this work, with funds raised helping to support Lifeline services across the region for people experiencing distress or crisis.

The Churchill op shop is far more than a retail space. It is a place where community members connect, contribute, and support one another. From

carefully presented stock and friendly conversations at the counter, to the warmth and humour shared among the volunteer team, the store reflects the pride, care, and commitment our volunteers bring each day.

This welcoming environment is what keeps customers returning and ensures the ongoing success of the shop.

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our volunteer team. Their time, energy, and care, both behind the scenes and on the shop floor, ensure the store remains well-run, welcoming, and firmly community focused. Their contribution makes a real and lasting difference.

We also extend our sincere thanks to the Churchill community and surrounding areas for their continued support.

Through generous donations, regular visits, and words of encouragement, the community plays a vital role in sustaining the store and the essential services it helps fund.

A special thank you is extended to our volunteer supervisors, Jacki and Annette, whose combined 70 years of service is a remarkable achievement.

Their reliability, leadership, and ongoing commitment to the store and their fellow volunteers exemplify the very best of community volunteering.

While National Volunteer Week has passed, our appreciation for our volunteers continues well beyond it, just as our need for new volunteers remains ongoing.

Lifeline Gippsland is proud to work alongside such a dedicated group and to be supported by a community that truly looks out for one another.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering with us please either drop into our Churchill Shop at 12 Georgina Place or call our main office on 5136 3500.

Thank you Churchill and District.



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THE NATIONALS for Regional Victoria



Council Grants

Whether you are a community group, sporting club, or local organisation, there is a funding opportunity available to support your community project!

The Social Inclusion Action Grant Round 1 opened on May 4, 2026 and closes on July 24, 2026.

For more support or to discuss your next project contact siag@latrobe.vic.gov.au or call 1300 367 700. In person support is also available.

Have your say on the Draft 2026/27 Budget

We are inviting our community to share feedback on the Draft Budget, which outlines how Council plans to deliver services, maintain infrastructure and support our region into the future. The Budget includes a capital works program of \$39.6 million that invests in asset renewal and upgrade works, which increases to \$88.5 million after including continuing multiyear projects from prior year budgets.

The proposed budget includes a 2.75% increase in rates and charges (excluding waste), in line with the

Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System.

Your feedback matters, help shape the future of our community by having your say today.

MSE Williams (Youth Support) Fund

The MSE Williams (Youth Support) Fund is available to support young people who show the potential and desire to further their talents, but who without assistance may lack the resources to achieve their full potential.

The Latrobe City Trust Trustees believe that all young people deserve the chance to achieve their best. Accordingly, Youth Support Grants are not restricted to a specific study or training path.

This will ensure that all grant recipients are given every possible opportunity to pursue their personal goals.

Grants of up to \$500 are available to support any young person with determination to advance themselves, in any field of endeavour including (but not limited to) education and training; visual or performing arts; sport; trade skills; music; in order to pay for or subsidise associated expenses

e.g. compulsory fees, equipment, textbooks, etc. If you are under 25 years of age, live in Latrobe City and have not received funding through this grant stream in the past three years, you may be eligible. Please note adults can nominate on behalf of a young person if they are unable to do so themselves.

Urban Forest Strategy

Latrobe City Council is in the process of developing an urban forest strategy.

The Urban Forest Strategy is a long-term plan to manage, protect, and grow the collection of trees and shrubs within a city. It aims to increase canopy cover, improve biodiversity, and mitigate urban heat effects by enhancing public streets and green spaces in residential areas.

Key goals include providing more shade, public amenity and green spaces for the community to enjoy, cooling cities, building climate resilience, and improving community well-being.

We are seeking community feedback to help inform us of what the community wants to see in the strategy.

We would like your input into what you think the issues and opportunities are for canopy trees with the townships, and what are the community's priorities for an urban forest.



Introducing our new palliative care support group!

Many people do not think of palliative care as a place to make connections and learn something new over afternoon tea. That is exactly what our new Palliative Care Social Support Group hopes to achieve.

The group introduces new palliative care clients and their carers to people in similar situations in a social setting, and educates them on the different services available to help people understand the journey ahead. "It all started because we have a lot of stable clients who our nursing team would visit each month. To get the most out of the check in, we wanted to make them team oriented and social. This opened the opportunity for them to meet other teams within the service so they could get information ahead of time, not when it was reactive," Community and Palliative Care Clinical Nurse Consultant, Monique Brentnall says.

Each week over a cuppa, the group hears from our social work, occupational therapy, dietetics and counselling teams. Normally, clients would only meet them when they needed a referral. Now, if a person uses those

services, they will already know the team members and what is involved.

Monique says this is critical to ensuring the best outcome for people and their families.

"In Victoria, we know that 70 per cent of people say they want to die at home, but only about 15 per cent do. A lot of this is due to not being prepared," she says.

"We want people to think of palliative care like giving birth. People would typically do a birthing class, share stories with other mothers,

and have a birth plan. Death is the same, it is something we can educate ourselves on, prepare for, and make decisions around. We find that the earlier people have these discussions, the more likely they get the outcome they want," she says.

"With this group, we want people to feel supported and empowered to make informed decisions about their own care or the care of the person they are looking after."

The group runs for four weeks each month in Morwell for current LCHS palliative care clients. If you would like to learn more, give our team a call on 1800 242 696.



St Vinnies Soup Van date changes

The St Vinnies Traralgon Soup Van, is a volunteer group, part of the St Vincent de Paul Society, which provides a soup van street service. They offer hot soup, sandwiches, fresh fruit and yoghurt as well as some produce such as bread, milk, pasta, rice and vegetables to our friends on the street - people in need and families experiencing food insecurity struggling financially due to

job losses, domestic violence or mental health issues in the Churchill and surrounding area. They operate on Friday nights each week at 37 White Parade at 6.00pm and 9 Illawonga Court at 6.30pm.

The Vinnies soup van is a not-for-profit organisation and is staffed by a dedicated generous group of local volunteers who give their time freely to support and help those in our community

who need it most. The Vinnies soup vans operate year-round, rain, hail or shine.

The Vinnies soup van services in Churchill will be changing from July 1, 2026 onwards when the soup van run will change from a Friday night to a Wednesday night at both the White Parade and Illawonga Court locations at 6.00pm and 6.30pm respectively.

For those who are struggling to get by and find life hard going, come see us at one of our locations at White Parade or Illawonga Court. Come see us for a chat, see what we do and what we can offer. We are non-judgemental, will help you wherever we can and guide you to other services, all while having a delicious cup of hot soup and sandwich.

Health Hints

By Andy Gergis
With temperatures dropping I thought this would be a suitable time to talk about chilblains.

Chilblains are a common condition that affects the skin during cold weather. They usually appear on the fingers, toes or feet after being exposed to cold temperatures.

When the body warms up too quickly, the small blood vessels under the skin can react badly.

This causes poor circulation, swelling, and discomfort.

People with chilblains may notice red, purple, or

pale skin. The affected areas can feel itchy, sore, swollen, or burning. Sometimes the skin may even blister or crack.

Symptoms often last for several days and can become worse during winter.

Chilblains are not usually dangerous, but they can be painful and uncomfortable. They are more common in people who have poor circulation or spend a lot of time in cold and damp conditions.

Wearing tight shoes or gloves can also make the problem worse.

The best way to prevent chilblains is to keep the

body warm and dry. Wearing gloves, thick socks, and warm clothing helps protect the skin from cold weather. It is also important to warm the hands and feet slowly instead of using very hot water or heaters directly on the skin.

If symptoms are severe, keep returning, or the skin develops sores, a doctor should be consulted.

In some cases, chilblains may be linked to circulation problems such as Raynaud's disease

If you or your loved ones have any health concerns please contact your doctor or pharmacist for further assistance

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COOKING with Noelene

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



What do you know?

Here are the answers to May's challenge:

1. Nougat.
2. Pepita.
3. Icing.
4. Corallini.
5. Brownie.
6. Aerate.

Here is my June challenge for you:

1. Usually served as an appetiser, entree, between courses, or with a main meal, sometimes as a meal by itself?
2. A large, rough textured fruit that will not ripen once it is picked?
3. A bright orange root, similar to ginger. When dried and ground it is used to flavour curries and pickles?

4. An early autumn pear, some call it a 'Williams' pear?
5. An aromatic, oval fruit with a thin waxy green skin, jelly like centre containing a few small edible seeds?
6. A tangy spread and pastry filling made with butter, castor sugar, eggs and lemon juice?



Cream of Tomato Soup



Ingredients:

1 tbs rice bran oil/canola oil, 1 onion finely chopped, 2 tbs minced garlic, 3 x 400 gm cans of diced tomatoes, 750 ml chicken stock, 1 tbs tomato paste, 1 dsp soft brown sugar, 250 ml cream.

Heat the oil in a large pot, add the chopped onion and cook until tender. Add the minced garlic, stirring through. Add the tomatoes, stock, tomato paste and sugar to the pot. Bring to the boil over a low heat. Simmer the soup, partially covered with a lid for 20 minutes.

Allow the soup to cool a little. Use a blender or a hand food processor to process until smooth. Stir through the cream and reheat very gently over a low heat.

Season with cracked black pepper to taste and dress with parsley.

A Hearty Vegetable Soup

Ingredients:

220 gm of dried soup mix, (dried soup mix is a combination of split peas, barley, lentils and dried beans. It is available from supermarkets and health food shops), 2 tbs rice bran oil/canola oil, 1 large onion, finely chopped, 1 green capsicum chopped, 2 zucchinis sliced, 2 celery sticks sliced, 125 gm sliced mushrooms, 2 carrots, washed and sliced, 1 large potato, peeled and chopped, 500 gm pumpkin, peeled and chopped, 2 litres of vegetable stock.



Put the soup mix in a large bowl and cover it with cold water. Leave to soak for 8 hours. Heat the oil in a large pot and cook the onions until tender and lightly golden. Add the green peppers, zucchinis, celery and mushrooms. Add the potato, carrots and pumpkin and stir to combine. Pour in the stock. Drain the soup mix and add to the pot. Bring the soup to a slow boil over a medium heat. Partially cover the pot with a lid and simmer for about 45 minutes or until the vegetables and soup mix are very soft.

Season with salt and cracked black pepper to taste. Garnish with chopped parsley.

Chicken Noodle



With a nourishing bowl of soup, a salad and some bread you have an easy, complete meal.

Ingredients:

2 litres of chicken stock, 1 onion chopped, 175 gm finely shredded cooked chicken, 150 gm vermicelli, 2 tbs minced garlic, 30 gm chopped parsley.

Put the stock in a large saucepan, add the garlic and chopped onion and cook over a medium heat until the onion softens. Add the shredded chicken and simmer for 2 minutes to heat through. Break the vermicelli into pieces and add them to the saucepan, cook until the noodles are tender. Stir the chopped parsley through the soup. Serve the soup hot.

N.B Vermicelli noodles look like spaghetti but they are much thinner.

Pea and Ham



Pork bones are not available all year round in the supermarket meat section, but you will be able to get the bones from your local butcher shop.

Ingredients:

440 gm dried split green peas, 750 gm ham bones, 2.5 litres water, 1 celery stick including leaves, chopped, 1 carrot chopped, 1 onion chopped, 2 leeks sliced, 1 potato chopped.

Place the split peas in a large bowl and cover with water. Leave to soak overnight. Drain and place the peas in a large pot along with the ham bones, water, celery, carrot and onion. Cover the pot with a lid and slowly bring to the boil over a medium heat. Reduce the heat and simmer the soup for 2 hours or until the peas are very soft. Add the potato and leek and cook for a further 30 minutes, until the vegetables are tender. Remove the bones from the soup, allow to cool and then cut off all the meat. Finely chop the meat and set aside. Transfer the soup to a large bowl to cool, then push it through a large wire sieve back into the pot. Stir through the meat and slowly reheat the soup to serve. It is optional, but you can garnish with a small sprig of carrot leaves to serve.

Minestrone



Minestrone soup is a great way of using any leftover vegetables, also any small pasta shapes can be used. Canned butter beans or borlotti beans can be substituted for kidney beans.

Ingredients:

1 tbs oil (canola or rice bran), 1 onion chopped, 150 gm chopped bacon pieces, 2 tbs minced garlic, 1.25 litres of beef stock, 2 tomatoes chopped, 1 carrot chopped, 1 potato chopped, 1 celery stick chopped, 2 tbs tomato paste, 1 zucchini sliced, 100 gm sliced green beans, 50 gm macaroni, 2 tbs chopped fresh parsley, 410 gm can of red kidney beans, finely grated Parmesan cheese, to serve.

Heat the oil in a large pot and cook the onion and bacon until softened. Stir through the minced garlic. Add the stock, tomatoes, carrot, potato, celery and tomato paste. Stir through to combine and slowly bring to the boil over a medium heat, now reduce the heat and simmer for 20 minutes. Add the zucchini, green beans, macaroni and chopped parsley to the pot, simmer for 15 minutes. Rinse and drain the kidney beans and add to the pot. Heat through. Ladle the soup into serving bowls and sprinkle with the finely grated Parmesan cheese on top. Enjoy.

Pumpkin Soup

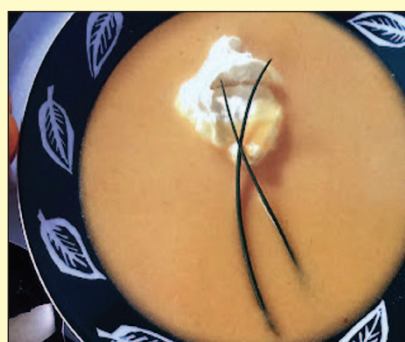
Ingredients:

1 kg piece of pumpkin, 60 gm butter/marg, 1 onion chopped, 1 litre chicken stock, 185 ml cream.

Cut the pumpkin into manageable pieces, then cut off all the skin. Chop the peeled pumpkin into smaller pieces. Heat the butter/marg in a large pot. Add the onion and cook gently until the onion is tender. Add the pumpkin and stock to the pot. Cover the pot and bring to a slow boil, then reduce the heat and simmer until the pumpkin is soft.

At this stage you can mash the soup mixture with a potato masher, or for a very smooth texture puree the soup in a food processor or with a hand blender. Return the soup to the pot and add the cream, cracked black pepper to taste. Stir over a low heat until heated through.

Serve with a dollop of sour cream, (optional).



French Onion Soup



Ingredients:

1 kg onions, (about 6 onions), 60 gm butter/marg, 1 tsp sugar, 30 gm plain flour, 2 litres beef stock, 1 stick of French bread, 60 gm grated tasty cheese.

Peel the onions and cut them into fine rings. Heat the butter/marg in a large pot. Add the onion rings and cook over a low heat for 20 minutes or until the onions are tender. Add the sugar and flour to the pot and cook, stirring for 2 minutes or until the mixture is just turning golden. Gradually stir in the stock and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to a simmer, and simmer over a low heat for 50 minutes. Season with cracked black pepper to taste. Slice the breadstick into 2 cm / 3/4" slices. Arrange the slices on a baking tray. Cook under a preheated grill until golden on one side. Turn the slices over and sprinkle each slice with the grated cheese. Cook under the hot grill until the cheese has melted. Serve the soup topped with the grilled cheese toasts.

Garnish with sliced chives (optional).

Friends of Morwell National Park

May Activity Report

The main activity for May was a lunch to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Friends of Morwell National Park.

At the 40th anniversary celebration we had most of our current members along with many past members and friends of the group. Two current rangers and a past ranger also joined us.

The celebration was held at Budgeree Hall, a wonderful venue for our event. Catering was done by the Budgeree Hall committee, and there was a

wonderful array of soups, sandwiches, pies, sausage rolls, quiche and later sweets to be eaten. The delicious lunch was eaten while people watched a photo display from the last 40 years in the park. Around the room a number of artifacts had been collected and displayed for browsing.

Early maps of the park, original handwritten plant lists collated before the park opened, old newsletters and an event list were all part of the materials on display. It is planned for some of the old records to be digitised

to be included in the history sections of the web site.

A cake for the event was created by Cathy and Anita. Past important celebrations have been celebrated with cakes, and this one was decorated with elements found in the park including koalas, goanna, gum leaves, ferns, fungi and wattle.

When people had caught up with old acquaintances, met new people and browsed the displays, Caitilin welcomed everybody. She conducted an entertaining quiz based on some aspects of the history of the Friends

group. The quiz both challenged and helped to recognise some of the achievements of the group.

She thanked the Budgeree Hall committee for their support and help, the Field Naturalists for the data projector, Cathy and Anita for the wonderful cake and Beryl, Anita, Cathy and herself who organised every aspect of the event.

Stories were shared about the incredible work accomplished over the years, including revegetation projects, storm clean-up efforts,

flora and fauna surveys, track maintenance, and the creation of publications that help showcase and protect the Park. The most recent publication has been the Birds of Morwell National Park.

The gathering was a wonderful chance to share stories and memories from our time with the group. Caitilin thanked everyone who came along to celebrate this wonderful milestone and the community that has helped make it possible over the past 40 years.

The cake was cut by five of the seven past and present Presidents of the group.

After cake, everyone assembled on the veranda for a group photo.

June Activity

Sunday June 21 at 10am

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



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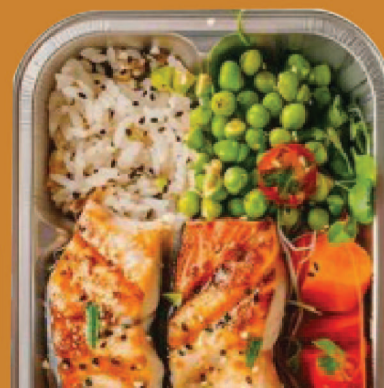
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Men's Monthly Medal (Stroke) April 25, 2026

Monthly Medal Winner: R. Davidson 72 Nett Scratch Winner: R. Madigan off the stick Putts Winner: P. Kearns 26 putts

A Grade Winner: P. Kearns 72 Nett B Grade Winner: A. Auld 74 Nett

C Grade Winner: R. Davidson 72 Nett D.T.L: 1. R. Sands 74, 2. R. Madigan 75, 3. D. Taylor 76, 4. Ash West, 5. W. McGrath, 6. I. Fortune 75, 7. P. McGann 76, 8. V. Monument 77, 9. R. Abel 77 N.T.P: 3rd R. Madigan (Propin), 5th R. Madigan, 12th R. Dent, 14th D. Vesty Target Hole: W. McGrath

Stableford April 28, 2026

Winner: S. Turner 34 pts D.T.L: C. Stevens 33 pts Birdie: 5th S. Turner

N.T.P: 3rd S. Caldwell, 5th S. Turner, 12th S. Turner, 14th J. Blizzard

Canadian Foursomes May 2, 2026

Winners: P. Kearns/R. Sands 64.125 Nett Runners Up: G. Leahy/D. Burridge 66.625 Nett D.T.L: 1. R. Welsh/A. Sharrock 68.25, 2. I. Heppleston/R. Timbs 69.25, 3. J. Soppe/M. Soppe 69.25, 4. Adam West/R. Zomer 70.625

N.T.P: 3rd R. Zomer, 5th G. Barnes, 12th I. Fortune, 14th D. Burridge Target Hole: W. McGrath

Monthly Medal (Stroke) May 5, 2026

Monthly Medal Winner: S. Caldwell 76 Nett Scratch Winner: S. Caldwell 97

Putts Winner: L. Brent 26 D.T.L: M. McQuillan 77 Nett N.T.P: 3rd S. Caldwell, 5th L.

Van Rooy, 12th S. Caldwell, 14th L. Van Rooy

Stroke 'Flag' Game May 9, 2026

A Grade Winner: I. Fortune 10th Fairway B Grade Winner: P. Flanigan 18th Green C Grade Winner: M. Hutchison 18th Fairway N.T.P: 3rd Ash West, 5th P. Flanigan, 12th R. Madigan, 14th G. Beyer Birdies: 14th P. Flanigan

Stableford Aggregate Draw Partners May 12, 2026

Winners: J. Blizzard/M. Dear 63 c/b D.T.L: S. Caldwell/C. Wilson 63 c/b

N.T.P: 3rd G. Sanders, 5th M. Dear, 12th S. Caldwell, 14th S. Caldwell

Par May 16, 2026

A Grade Winner: P. Kearns +3 c/b B Grade Winner: P. Flanigan +2

C Grade Winner: M. Hutchison +1 D.T.L: 1. R. Vesty +3, 2. M. Allen +1, 3. B. Kilday Even, 4. R. Zomer -1, 5. G. Barnes -1, 6. B. Downie -1, 7. R. Sands -1, 8. V. Monument -1 N.T.P: 3rd B. Jenkins, 5th S. Caldwell (Propin), 12th G. Barnes, 14th R. Vesty Birdies: 12th G. Harvey Target Hole: G. Barnes

Stroke May 19, 2026

Winner: G. Dingwell 64 Nett D.T.L: 1. S. Caldwell 74, 2. S. Turner 76

Stableford - May 23, 2026

N.T.P: 3rd S. Caldwell, 5th M. McQuillan, 12th M. Hutchison, 14th C. Carder

Plate Winners: P. Hobson/E. Flynn/T.

A Grade Winner: G. Beyer 36 pts B Grade Winner: S. Caldwell 32 pts

C Grade Winner: J. Bolding 36 pts D.T.L: 1. T. Bennett 34, 2. A. Sharrock 32, 3. J. Banfield 31, 4. R. Timbs 31, 5. T. O'Sullivan 31, 6. C. Gosling 30, 7. K. Del Piccolo 29, 8. G. Caponi 29 c/b, 9. B. Downie 29 N.T.P: 3rd D. White (Propin), 12th C. Sterrick, 14th G. Beyer Target Hole: I. Fortune

Peter Williams Memorial Plate (Stableford) - May 24, 2026

Plate Winners: P. Hobson/E. Flynn/T.

Carolyn/D. O'Brien 94 pts

A Grade and Scratch Winner: T. Johnson 31 pts B Grade Winner: P. Hobson 34 pts C Grade Winner: G. Harvey 35 pts D.T.L: 1. D. O'Brien 33, 2. P. Kearns 33, 3. M. Warry 32, 4. Ash West 31, 5. M. Hutchinson 31, 6. J. Cahill 31, 7. C. Thompson 29, 8. T. Laycock 29 N.T.P: 3rd D. O'Brien, 12th M. Payne, 14th T. Johnson Birdies: 3rd D. O'Brien, 12th M. Payne, 14th T. Johnson Target Hole: G. Barnes

3 Person Ambrose Dropout - May 26, 2026

Winners: C. Gosling/C. Stevens/G. Sanders 66.500 pts D.T.L: M. Brereton/ R. King/S. Turner 66.667

Gippsland Water



Forecasts suggest a drier winter, as El Nino conditions are expected to reduce rainfall.

Water supply remains secure despite drier winter forecast

Gippsland Water's water supply systems remain in a strong position despite a drier winter outlook, as El Nino conditions are predicted to reduce the likelihood of rainfall. While the Bureau of Meteorology has

indicated that winter rainfall has a fair chance of being below average across Gippsland Water's service area, current forecasts indicate the coming winter is unlikely to be among the driest on record.

Managing director Sarah Cumming said the region's drinking water supply systems were well-

placed to meet customer demands.

"Our supply systems are well-prepared, and our water storages are at healthy levels, with Moondarra at 88 per cent and our portion of Blue Rock at 78 per cent capacity," Ms Cumming said.

"Careful planning, ongoing investment in infrastructure and active storage management allows us to remain resilient, even when conditions are drier than usual."

Ms Cumming said while winters typically bring lower water use, milder conditions could drive higher demand this year.

"It's important that we all work together to keep our water storages stable and we remind our customers to follow the

permanent water saving rules and remain mindful of water use all-year round."

Permanent water saving rules apply year-round and include:

- Always using a trigger nozzle on hand-held hoses.

- Watering gardens with a sprinkler only between 6pm and 10am. Gardens can be watered at any time using a hand-held hose, a watering can or a bucket.

- Water must not be used to clean hard surfaces such as concrete, paths and driveways.

- All fountains and water features must use recirculated water.?

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Farewell Allan Larkin

Allan Larkin, a member of CFA for 45 years and the Churchill Fire Brigade for 17 years, has resigned from the Brigade and is moving up north to be closer to his daughters and their young families.

Throughout his service with CFA, Allan has fulfilled many roles including 11 years as a Brigade or Group Secretary, and two years as a Brigade Officer while located at Lake Boga. For the last 10 years he has been President of the Churchill Fire Brigade.

Allan has also been actively involved for many

years in the work the Churchill Brigade does servicing fire extinguishers and hoses around our district, which is an important means of raising funds to support the Brigades activities.

We wish both Allan and his wife Geraldine well, and thank them both for their contributions during their time in Churchill.

Fires in the Home

Now that we are approaching our winter months, it is time to turn our focus to home fire safety. Have you considered what you and your family would do in the event of a fire?

Plan how you would escape a fire in your home:

Families who are well-prepared are more likely to escape their homes safely and without panic. As part of your plan, all family members should know:

The two quickest ways out of every room

How they will exit from upstairs if your home has a second storey

An agreed-upon meeting place outside, such as the letterbox

How they will call triple zero (000)

You can download and print a home fire escape plan template to help create your plan. <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/6621/home-fire-escape-plan-template.pdf>

If someone in your family is older or has a disability, complete the Prevent Detect Escape e-learning module online. The module can be easily found on CFA's web site under Plan and Prepare / Fires in the Home.

Top survival tips:

If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop and roll.

Get down low and stay

out of smoke.

Use the back of your hand to check doors for heat before opening

If it is safe, close doors to slow down the spread of fire and smoke.

Alert other people on your way out.

Get out and stay out.

Meet at a safe place such as the letterbox or footpath outside your home.

Call 000 (triple zero) from a mobile phone or a neighbour's phone. Ask for FIRE when the call is connected.

What parents need to know:

Children are less likely than adults to wake up to the sound of a smoke alarm. Think about how you might be able to reach children's bedrooms if regular access is blocked by fire.

Families should practise 'fire drills' twice a year – more often with younger children.

Useful tips for parents

Turn it into a game by timing how quickly they can escape.

Make sure children know their home address and how to call triple zero (000).

Use online games and



activities to teach children about fire safety.

Never lock your deadlocks when you are at home.

During a fire it will be

dark and smoky – and a deadlocked door could block your escape.

If you must keep deadlocks locked, leave your keys in the door.

Churchill's Public Toilet finally taking shape.

Churchill citizens are taking a good deal of interest in the works happening

near the pathway to West Place Shopping Centre, as the earthworks are laid for

the installation of our long awaited public toilet.



Strzelecki Koala



Weeds impact the Strzelecki koala Part 1

The Strzelecki koala and other native animals and plants are adversely affected by the presence of weeds in their environment. A weed is a "plant that is not valued where it is growing and is usually of vigorous growth, especially one that tends to overgrow or choke out more desirable plants."

(www.merriam-webster.com 21-5-26)

Weeds threaten the biodiversity and ecological balance in a habitat. "Habitats and ecosystems" are "changed and destroyed" by weeds.

(www.environment.vic.gov.au 16.5.26) Weeds cover the ground where local native plants should be, compete for the nutrients, water and sunlight with native plants and degrade the soil. Some weeds even poison the soil so native plants cannot grow or reestablish themselves.

(www.parks.vic.gov.au 17.5.26). Creepers like the bluebell, can smother native plants like the eucalyptus trees that Strzelecki koalas need to live.

Most weeds, like Agapanthus, are wholly or have parts that are poisonous. Hence they do not provide a food source for native

animals and lessen the existence of appropriate food plants in an ecosystem. "No trees, no koalas. No grass, no wombats." A population of Hairy Nosed wombats in South Australia was starved and poisoned because onion weed had taken over pasture land where they lived. The paddocks were green but there was no feed for the endangered species of wombat.

(www.abc.net.au Btn 12 Sept. 2012 "Wombat Weeds" 22-5-26)

Some weeds increase fuel loads and burn more intensely, can "act as a fuel ladder carrying flames into tree canopies" (www.wwf.org.au 16.5.26). Also weeds can "burn at very high temperatures" causing wild life to be trapped "in burning trees."

(www.reefcatchments.com.au 16-5-26) Cool burns are difficult when weeds are present.

Weeds do not provide shelter like native plants. Instead some weeds, like blackberry bushes, create impenetrable walls that prevent native animal movement.

(www.hinterlandbushlinks.org 16.5.26) This is very problematic for the Strzelecki koalas as they

need to be able to move easily and safely around their home range to find suitable trees, to socialise and to breed. Barriers to movement can cause fragmentation and prevent habitat connectivity. The latter can cause koala populations genetic diversity to be diminished and the koala population viability to be lessened.

Like feral animals, weeds can quickly reproduce and take over areas. They have no natural predator or pathogens to control their numbers. Their seeds, which can be numerous, disperse over vast areas efficiently via wind, water, animals such as birds and foxes, machinery or human activity. Some weeds have seeds that "can remain viable" for nearly a decade. (www.reefcatchments.com.au 16-5-26) Weeds grow faster than native plants. (www.weeds.org.au 22-5-26)

Most weeds are introduced plants but some

native plants can become weeds when they take over new areas. The Sweet Pittosporum is becoming a local Latrobe City area pest as it is spreading west and away from its warm and cool temperate rainforests.

(www.latrobe.vic.gov.au 'Common Weeds in Gippsland' 17-5-26)

The latter reference lists and shows photographs of noxious and environmental weeds.

Weeds are an Australia wide problem. The Australian Government has "a list of the most problematic Weeds of National Importance (WoNS) (www.weeds.org.au 22-5-26).

There are 32 plants and some of these are present in the environments of the Latrobe Valley and the Strzelecki Ranges.

Weeds negatively impact the agricultural industry, the economy, pets, human

health traditional culture and the natural environment. Weeds have penetrated all Australian landscapes and water ways. They are definitely a danger to the survival of our unique and genetically diverse Strzelecki koala too.

What is being done to control weeds and how we can help will be discussed in the July issue.

Interesting Facts

There are over 1000 species of weeds on public land in Victoria.

(www.parks.vic.gov.au "Weeds and Diseases" 17-5-26)

"The Arum Lily produces 50 - 500 seeds per flower head and up to 5000 seeds per square metre in a dense stand of plants." (www.weeds.org.au 22-5-26)

Strzelecki Koala Event

Koalathon October 25, 2026 (www.koalathon.raiselysite.com)



Every Tuesday

10am to 12 Noon

Co-Operating Churches
Corner Williams Ave and McDonald Way Churchill

Admission Free

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided for morning tea by St Matts

BYO crafts on the day, knitting, crochet, card making, sewing or whatever craft you are interested in.

Everyone welcome, bring a friend, no booking required just turn up on the day and enjoy a friendly morning with like minded craft enthusiasts.

Please feel free to contact Sue on 0411 714 564 for more information

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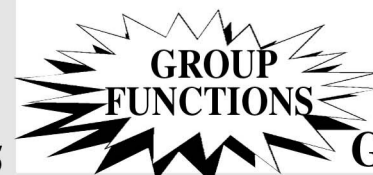


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Abacadabra

Sunday June 28, 11am
Get ready for a whirlwind of wonder with Abacadabra. A fast-paced, laugh-out-loud family magic show bursting with energy, surprises and impossible moments!

Monday July 13, 11am

In 2026, Promac Productions, led by its producer and compère Christopher McKenna, will celebrate 40 years of touring Australia, primarily performing morning music productions.

Welcome to Faulty Towers

Friday and Saturday October 16 and 17, 7pm

Kernot Hall Tickets \$89

The original, multi-award-winning West End sensation Faulty Towers The Dining Experience comes to Kernot Hall for two nights only.

Join Basil, Sybil and Manuel for two hours of hilarious, highly interactive comedy, alongside a three-course 70's inspired dinner by Duarts Homestead.

With 70% of the show improvised, no two performances are ever the same, so expect chaos, laughs and a brilliantly unforgettable night out.

Gather your friends, group bookings are essential to secure seats together with only 130 seats per show.

Song from the Canyon
Saturday November 7, 7.30pm

GPAC Main Theatre
Presale tickets from \$68

Journey back to Laurel Canyon in the 1960s and 70s - a creative haven in the Hollywood Hills where artists like Joni Mitchell, Neil Young and Carole King redefined popular music.

Through beautifully crafted performances,

Songs from the Canyon captures the spirit of this golden era, where rich harmonies and heartfelt storytelling shaped a generation.

This beloved production brings together an extraordinary ensemble of Australian musicians, including Husky Gawenda, Dan Kelly, Charm of Finches, Alma Zygiel, Stephen Grady and Dan Challis, to celebrate one of the most influential musical movements of all time.

Ian Moss + Troy Cassar-Daley: Together Alone 2026
Friday December 4, 7.30pm

GPAC Main Theatre
Tickets from \$93.40

Ian Moss and Troy Cassar-Daley, whose individual and collective footprints in Australian music are deeply respected and have contributed richly to the nation's musical landscape, will venture out on the road once again, bringing their songs and stories to fans across Australia on the Together Alone Tour 2026.

On paper, a rock musician and a country singer might not seem like a natural fit, but their chemistry makes it work effortlessly. Their styles blend seamlessly,

creating spontaneous moments that are one-of-a-kind and never repeated.

Mossy said "Touring Australia with Troy in 2022 was one of the most memorable experiences of my career, with amazing audiences everywhere we went.

So when we started talking about doing it again, I didn't hesitate to say yes. I can't wait."

Troy added, "Getting back on the road with my good mate Ian Moss, armed with our acoustic guitars, is going to be a whole lot of fun.

The last tour flew by,

and the shows were some of the most enjoyable I've played in years.

Ian brings a lifetime of guitar playing and musical experience with him, and our stories really come to life on stage when we perform together."



THE WORLDWIDE SMASH HIT TOURING AUSTRALIA



SEE DO EAT



BROADWAY BABY



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



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

St Vinnies SOUP VAN

Starting 1st July 2026 we are changing from Friday to Wednesday

6.00 pm at White Parade reserve

6.30 pm at Illawonga Court

Soup, sandwiches, frozen meals, fruit, pantry items.
Please bring a bag and yourselves. SPREAD THE WORD



Plants in my Garden

By Mike Beamish

Species:
 Eremophila waitii
 Family: Scrophulariaceae
 Tribe Myoporeae (previously Myoporaceae)

Derivation:
 Eremophila: From Greek, eremos, 'desert or lonely places' and phileo, 'to love', thus meaning a lover of lonely places.

waitii: Discovered by and named after Russell Wait, a collector and curator of the Australian Eremophila Collection.

Common Name:
 Silky Lavender.

Distribution:
 Restricted to a small area south of Mullewa in the northern Avon wheatbelt of Western Australia and hence given Priority One Conservation Status by the WA Government.

Description:
 An erect bushy shrub up to 2 metres tall and 1.5m broad, with dense, narrow, hairy, aromatic, silver-grey leaves to 2cm long and 5mm wide. Hairy white buds

open to deep lilac flowers in spring.

Opinion:
 My plant came as a gift from our American friend when she returned to the US to live in 2021. It is a grafted plant and originally came from the collector himself, from material gathered under permit when the species was discovered a few years earlier. It is planted at the end of my northern driveway, where it gets full sun for most of the day and plenty of air movement to keep the foliage dry as much as possible. As it grows naturally in a much warmer and drier environment than ours, I doubt very much that it would survive here without the grafting, and even so, the leaves would suffer from mildew attack if they remain too damp for too long.

It grew very well initially to about 1m tall and narrow, but then it was clobbered dead centre by a falling branch from the large Coast Banksia behind it, which took out most of the

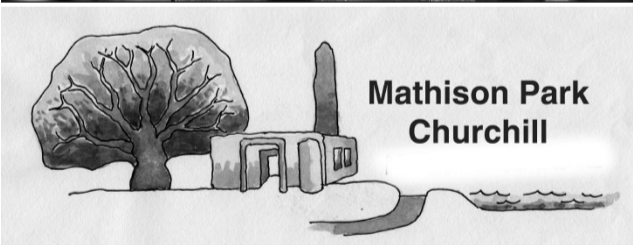
branches at the top of the shrub and only left one live branch just above the graft. I'm hoping this branch will survive and become a new leader of sorts, but the plant will probably never thrive or attain a similar shape to that before being struck. Cuttings would probably strike, but keeping them alive on their own roots in this climate is probably beyond my abilities, as is grafting them on to something more robust.

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: WA Plant Names and their Meanings – Sharr

Growing Eremophila – Wait (with Huf, Powers and West)

FloraBase – WA Flora Online



A good turn up made the working bee a great success. Old and rotten stakes were removed from trees and star pickets used instead where necessary, to support the young trees. Some new conifers were

planted and a tree removed. It was one which spreads its seeds profusely and one we do not wish to do so.

With Bruce and his excavator present, the garden near the old house, which is a considerable size, was mulched.

It was a good day with the rain holding off until the work was finished.



Morwell and District Red Cross



What a fabulous start to the month of May. This year's theme for World Red Cross Day was "United in Humanity". The day was celebrated with a visit to the Latrobe Regional Gallery followed by a luncheon at the Morwell Bowling Club. The morning started off with our wonderful tour guide Juan giving an in-depth insight into each of the Gallery's displays. The

displays were entitled, 'Land as Witness', 'Earthsong', 'Home ground', 'A Country Practice' and 'Unpacking Home'. We were then given the opportunity to explore further and take photos of the individual displays. After two hours exploring the Gallery, and all it had to offer, we then made our way down to the Morwell Bowling Club where we finished off the fabulous

morning with a wonderful luncheon that was enjoyed by all. 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.



BOOK REVIEW

“Days End” by Garry Disher

Garry Disher is an Australian author of crime fiction and children’s literature. He was born in 1949 in Burra, South Australia and has post graduate degrees from Melbourne and Adelaide Universities. His career began in the early 1980’s writing short stories and a series of historical text books for schools, some of which focused on bushrangers. He has published over sixty books on a wide range of genres and three times won the Ned Kelly Award for the best novel. “Days End” is the fourth in a series.

“Days End” is set in outback South Australia in around 2020 and the main character is Hirsch, a policeman who is stationed at Tiverton. This is a one man station and also where Hirsch resides. His Commanding Officer is Sergeant Brandl who is based at neighbouring Redruth Police Station and she is supported by

Officers Jean Landy and Tim Medlin. They have Petra Osman as support staff.

The story begins when Dr van Sant, mother of Willi, comes to report him missing. He has been back packing around Australia and was last known to be at Dryden Downs Station.

This property is owned by Sam and Mia Dryden. Sam is a former military officer and Mia is a well known anti vaxer. When questioned they tell Hirsch and Dr Van Sant that Willi and his girlfriend left months ago for a holiday in Noosa.

On returning to Tiverton smoke is detected and a body in a suitcase is found. Dr Van Sant travels on to Noosa and Hirsch is left to wait for forensic staff. Meanwhile a group of layabouts has moved into the town, stolen cars and number plates, using drugs and scamming townfolk amongst their repertoire of anti-social behaviour.

Hirsch’s partner

Wendy teaches at the local high school where her daughter also attends, and her daughter is experiencing serious on-line bullying. Then a post is shown of Auntie Steph, much loved social worker at the local Cultural Centre, having a seizure on the steps of the Police Station. This leads to the discovery of another post showing a man at the local Aged Care Centre being abused by a carer.

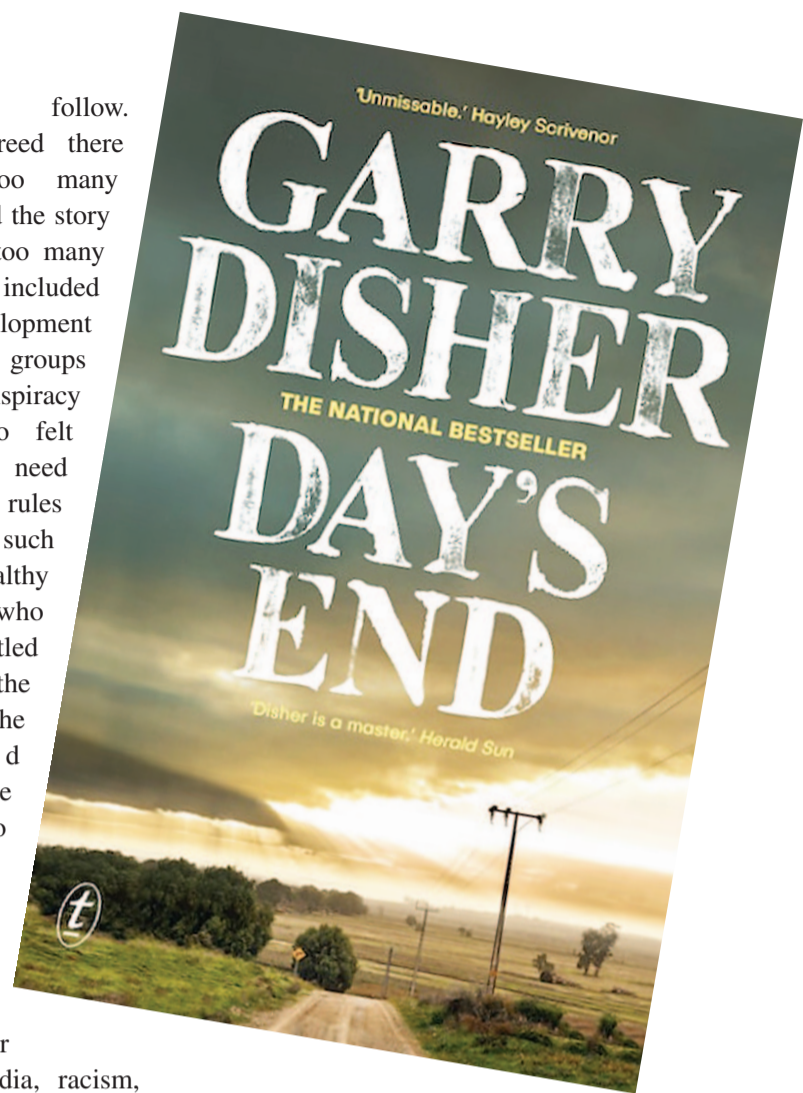
There is some disagreement in the local Indigenous community about an eagle which a local has carved into the landscape as a tourist attraction and there is a restlessness amongst some of the young adults in the area who have joined a group of conspiracy theorists.

This book met with a very mixed reaction. Those who had read the book in a couple of sittings found it a real page-turner. Those who took their time with it found it confusing and

difficult to follow. Everyone agreed there were far too many characters and the story crammed in too many issues. These included the development of far-right groups and conspiracy theorists who felt they did not need to follow the rules of society such as the wealthy graziers who felt self entitled and above the law, and the disengaged youth of the district who saw no future.

The book also touched on cyber bullying and the power of social media, racism, elder abuse and the drug culture.

It also gave an insight into the duties of a policeman in an isolated community and the trauma they deal with in their everyday work.



Digital Healthcare

New study to support older adults navigate digital healthcare

As healthcare services increasingly move online, new research is exploring how adults aged 45 and over navigate digital healthcare – and what support they need to access it safely and confidently.

The study includes an online Australia-wide survey, inviting adults aged 45 and over to share their experiences.

From booking GP appointments to accessing test results and telehealth, many Australians are using digital systems that can offer greater convenience and flexibility despite having some features that can be unfamiliar or complex.

PhD candidate Rachel Sinanan from Federation University Australia said while digital healthcare provides convenience for some, it is also creating real barriers for others.

“Healthcare is rapidly going digital,” Ms Sinanan said. “If people cannot

confidently use these systems, it does not just cause frustration – it can affect people’s ability to get care, understand health information and make decisions about their wellbeing.”

The research focuses on digital health literacy – the skills needed to find, understand, evaluate and use health information and services online. These skills are increasingly essential for maintaining independence, managing long-term health conditions and staying connected to healthcare providers.

Adults aged 45 and over are a critical group in this space, Ms Sinanan said. They are increasingly required to use online health systems while also being more likely to experience lower confidence with technology and have limited access or uncertainty about where to start.

“There is an overwhelming amount of health information

online,” she said. “With so many websites, apps, and sources – some reliable and some not – it is harder than ever to know what to trust.

Without the right support, people risk being left behind, especially those who are already more vulnerable because of location, isolation or health issues.”

Ms Sinanan said the project takes a people-first approach, with a focus on lived experience.

“This research is about everyday realities,” Ms Sinanan said. “The survey gives people the opportunity to tell us what actually gets in the way, what makes things harder and what would genuinely help them feel more confident using digital health services.”





Ms Sinanan said the findings will directly inform the development of a practical, user-friendly digital health literacy training program, designed with – but not just for – adults aged 45-plus.



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



This term, our school is lucky enough to have free weekly lunch orders, donated by local Julie. We have also been hitting the hockey ball around the schoolyard, making our Mothers' Days special, crossing the Cross Country finish line with Zed, welcoming Boolarra Preschoolers on their visit to our welcoming school, and joining in our Fun Friday club activities, led by our very own student captains.

All in all, we have had a very busy and memorable month, here, in the picturesque setting of Boolarra Primary School.

Mother's Day

On Wednesday, we designed bags for Mother's Day. We used a blank piece of paper and we drew our plans. Next, we got our draft and we put a small whiteboard in our beige coloured bag (so our textas wouldn't go through to the other side) and wrote our messages and drew our pictures. After we finished our bags, we put them somewhere safe.

The next day, Thursday, we made keychains, but these weren't ordinary key chains! The first thing that we did is draw our favourite photos and then Ms Pulbrook laminated them so that we could give them to our mums as a bookmark. After we did our first copy, we moved on to our good copy. We used all different types of colours. At the end of the day, Kylie shrunk them in the oven and Ms Pulbrook and Granny Barbe (our volunteer) put the

clips on the keyrings.

After we had made all of these things, we put them in the bag that we made for Mother's Day. Our mums loved the gifts we made. All our mums were so joyful and amazed, they had the biggest smiles.

Hockey

At school this term, we have just started to play hockey. We are learning lots with coach Sherrie. Every week we are getting better. It is great fun to play the games and learn about hockey.

We have learned to control the ball by moving the stick left and right and knowing how hard to hit it to go as far as we want it to go. We know to always keep our right-hand down lower on the hockey stick than our left. Hockey sticks are mostly all the same because they are right-handed, but some are taller than others.

To change directions, we only use the flat side of the hockey stick and not the other side. Instead of moving around to control the ball, we just have to keep rotating the hockey stick instead. We are focusing on trying to change directions of the stick.

We have been trying to learn how to play Rob the Nest with hockey sticks. We don't raise the hockey stick above our waist so that we don't hit or hurt anyone. We only use tennis balls and not anything else, like people's shoes or cans in the game. In Rob the Nest, we only use hockey sticks and not our hands to grab the ball.

By Richie and Jackson.

Hockey

By Ethan

Coach Sherrie is teaching us how to play hockey.

She comes on Thursdays to teach us different skills that we need to play. It has been fun to learn how to play hockey.

The equipment we use is a hockey ball and a hockey stick, and we use cones. Coach Sherrie has told us the names of the equipment that we need to use. Now we are processing our skills so we can play a real hockey game.

I can't wait to play a real game because I think it will be fun.

Cross Country

By Connor

On May 1, multiple kids and teachers went to a big event called Cross Country Run. They went to Churchill to run as the teachers watched (but didn't run). We were doing great and we loved the kids that were cheering us on.

The runners were all at the same pace but a lot of people lost their 1st place because they stopped and had a water break. Sadly, they couldn't catch up. People were tripping over big rocks and had pebbles in their shoes, so they would stop randomly, which meant my friend ran past all of them.

He was so speedy that random kids were cheering him on. He said he was happy about that, and that before the race, he was talking to them and they turned into friends! He liked how they were like him, they

do the same stuff and they have a cat, but once the race started, he ran as fast as he could. He got sharp rocks in his shoe but it was fine, he was at the middle of the race.

He did his best until a kid tripped him, - it was an accident but he couldn't catch up. He was devastated, but he was still happy about his performance and he showed good sportsmanship. He talked to his friends again and they said goodbye. The kid that accidentally tripped him said sorry, he was sad as well, as he lost in 8th place. My friend went home an hour later. He really enjoyed his day of cross country running.

Lunch Orders

By Harry

We have free lunch orders on Monday for Term 2. I like it and I'm lucky. The lady who made the lunch is nice. Her name is Julie and she used to own the Boolarra Store.

There were lots of things to choose from on the lunch order menu. I ordered a mayo, egg and lettuce sandwich and a fruit roll up. It was very yummy and I liked it. I thanked Julie.

I brought my lunch also, just in case.

Monday Lunch Orders

By Blake

We are having free lunch orders on Monday for Term 2. The school was given a list of yummy things that we can order. We get to choose a sandwich, a piece of fruit and a snack.

I chose a ham, cheese and tomato sandwich and

it was good. I also got a mandarin and a fruit roll up. Next time I think I will choose a different sandwich to try. It has been very good to have free lunches at school because it saves us money, and our Mum doesn't need to make lunches, only dinner.

Kinder Kids

By Liam

On May 20, 2026, the kinder kids from Boolarra Preschool came to our school. All of the little kids from the kindergarten were ages 3 and 4. We were playing games with them in groups, it was a lot of fun. We made them feel excited about coming to school next year. It was very good to meet them.

It was the first time most of these kids had come to our school. We are excited for when they become students here. Everyone got along very well. We had some freshly cut fruit, everyone thought it was tasty. We talked about what we like to do, like our favourite games and pets.

The kinder kids were very happy about the visit, and are excited about coming next year. They turned a normal day into something special for us.

Student Leadership

By Ava and Jake

On Fridays we have clubs one week and sport the next. During clubs, we split up into two groups.

One for cooking and the other for gardening/art. Once we were in our groups, we went to the veggie patch and we pulled out all of the

old tomato plants. Some of them were really hard to pull out. Then we put the red and yellow tomatoes into a pile.

In art we made chatter boxes. The little kids had a lot of trouble working it out, but they had heaps of fun trying. The cooking group made honey joys. They were very easy to make and very delicious. All the kids loved them.

National Education Support Staff Week

This week we recognised the wonderful work our Education Support Staff do for our students and school. Our School Captains Ava and Jake, with the assistance of Granny Barb, cooked some tasty lemonade scones so they could put their feet up and enjoy morning tea. Each was presented with a few words about their superpowers from our Student Leaders.

Kylie's superpower is kindness because she always helps us.

Jade's superpower is being helpful because she helps Dante and Bailey to concentrate so they can learn.

Emily's superpower is kindness because she helps us by teaching us spelling and reading.

Sharon's superpower is being super friendly because she plays SPOTTO with the kids and is easy to catch.

Alex's superpower is management because she manages the whole school.



Thank you to our schools

A very big thank you to our schools and their teachers who consistently submit an article and photos for the enjoyment of our readers. We have many people of all ages telling us how much they enjoy reading about what goes on in our schools, even though they may not have children at our schools at present.

SCHOOL news

Churchill Primary

Young Leaders Inspired at GRIP Conference

On Monday May 11, our House and School Captains proudly represented our school at the GRIP Leadership Conference held at the Sale Memorial Hall. The day provided students with an exciting opportunity to learn more about leadership and discover how they can make a positive impact within our school community.

Throughout the conference, students participated in engaging workshops focused on "What Makes a Good Leader." They explored important leadership qualities such as teamwork, responsibility, communication, confidence

and leading by example. Students also took part in interactive activities and discussions that encouraged them to think creatively, share ideas and reflect on ways they can help support and inspire others at school.

The conference was a valuable and motivating experience for our student leaders, who returned with plenty of new ideas and enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing them put their leadership skills into action throughout the year and continue making a positive difference in our school community.

Sports for Life: Staying Active for the Future!

Students in Grades 3-6 have launched into Term 2 by

exploring a range of "Sports for Life" activities during Physical Education lessons. These activities focus on lifelong physical activities, sports and games that people of all ages can enjoy, helping individuals stay active, healthy and connected throughout their lives.

Over the past two weeks, students have enthusiastically participated in activities such as Bocce and Footgolf. These sports are excellent examples of lifelong activities because they are inclusive, easy to learn and can be enjoyed both socially and competitively within the community.

As part of the unit, students have been learning about the many benefits

of maintaining an active lifestyle, including: supporting physical health and fitness, improving mental health and wellbeing, developing teamwork and social connections, building confidence and enjoyment through movement and participation.

It has been fantastic to see students actively involved, encouraging one another and developing a positive understanding of how physical activity can remain an important part of their lives well beyond their school years.

Cross Country

In addition to classroom sport, we are also incredibly proud of the four students

who recently represented our school at the District Cross Country event. Two students achieved outstanding results and progressed to the next level of competition in Drouin — an amazing achievement! Congratulations to all students involved for their effort, determination and sportsmanship.

A Heartwarming Mother's Day Celebration

Our school community enjoyed a wonderful afternoon celebrating Mother's Day at our Special Person's Afternoon Tea.

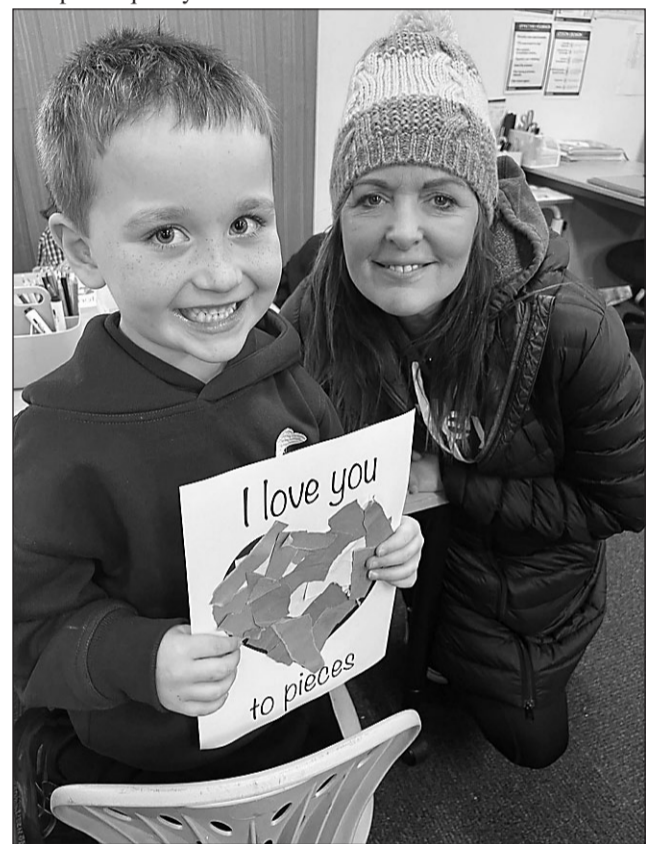
It was lovely to welcome so many mums, grandmothers and special guests into our classrooms to spend quality time with

the students. Families enjoyed sharing delicious scones, participating in fun classroom activities and creating special memories together.

The afternoon was filled with laughter, smiles and meaningful moments as students proudly shared their learning and enjoyed celebrating the important people in their lives.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event such a special occasion.

We greatly appreciate the support of our families and loved seeing our school community come together to celebrate Mother's Day.



SCHOOL news

Churchill North Primary

Churchill North students develop netball skills through teamwork and ball handling

Churchill North Primary School students have been sharpening their hand-eye coordination and teamwork skills during recent Physical Education lessons through a series of engaging netball activities.

Students across the school have been

participating in skill-based netball sessions designed to improve their coordination, movement, communication and confidence while working together as a team. The lessons focused on developing fundamental ball-handling techniques that form the foundation of netball and many other sports.

Throughout the

program, students practised a range of essential skills including bounce passing, chest passing and shoulder passing. These activities challenged students to accurately control and deliver the ball to their teammates while maintaining focus and concentration. As students improved their passing accuracy, they also strengthened their hand-eye

coordination and reaction times.

Another key focus was changes of direction, where students learnt how to move quickly and safely around the court. Through a variety of games and drills, students developed their agility and balance while learning how to create space and support teammates during play.

One of the most popular

activities was "Keeping Off," which encouraged students to work collaboratively while maintaining possession of the ball. The game required students to communicate effectively, move into open spaces and make quick decisions under pressure. Teachers observed excellent examples of cooperation, encouragement and strategic thinking as students worked

together to achieve success.

"Netball provides a fantastic opportunity for students to develop important physical skills while learning the value of teamwork," said Mr Taylor. "It has been wonderful to see students encouraging one another, communicating effectively and building confidence through participation."



SCHOOL news

Hazelwood North Primary

May has been a busy and exciting month at Hazelwood North Primary School.

We began the term with our wonderful Mothers' and Special Persons' breakfast in the first week. Families were invited to join in a range of fun activities including nail painting, colouring, necklace making, clay sculpting and many other creative experiences. It was a fantastic opportunity to share a special morning with

the important people in our HNPS community.

During the first week of term, we also celebrated Do it for Dolly Day, helping students learn the importance of "talking even if your voice shakes" and always choosing kindness. Students participated in a variety of activities that focused on spreading kindness and supporting others. Some classes created posters about speaking

up and showing kindness, while the Foundation class decorated blue cookies and practised saying kind things to one another. Every grade contributed by writing kind messages on blue butterflies, which were proudly displayed on the beautiful tree at the front of our school. Mr Murphy also showed his support by dressing in blue with a tutu and wig, bringing plenty of smiles to the day.

In the second week of term, HNPS students participated in the whole-school swimming program at Ford Swim Centre. Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience while developing important swimming strokes and water safety skills. We thank the wonderful staff at Ford Swim Centre for another successful year of swimming lessons.

Throughout the term, many district sporting

events have also taken place. Several students proudly represented our school at the district cross-country event. Congratulations to Emma, Isobel and Tommy, who qualified for the division competition and gave their very best effort while representing HNPS. Well done to all of our runners for their outstanding participation and determination.

The excitement continued with the district soccer competition on Friday May 22. Ten students proudly represented our school, demonstrating excellent sportsmanship and displaying our school values throughout the day. Congratulations to the boys on their teamwork and effort. Photos left to right The O'Sullivan family Doing it for Dolly District Soccer team



SCHOOL news

Yinnar Primary

At Yinnar Primary School, we proudly introduced Science as a specialist subject in 2026. Each week, every grade participates in a one-hour

science lesson, exploring a variety of topics from the Victorian Science Curriculum. Lessons focus on developing scientific vocabulary and content

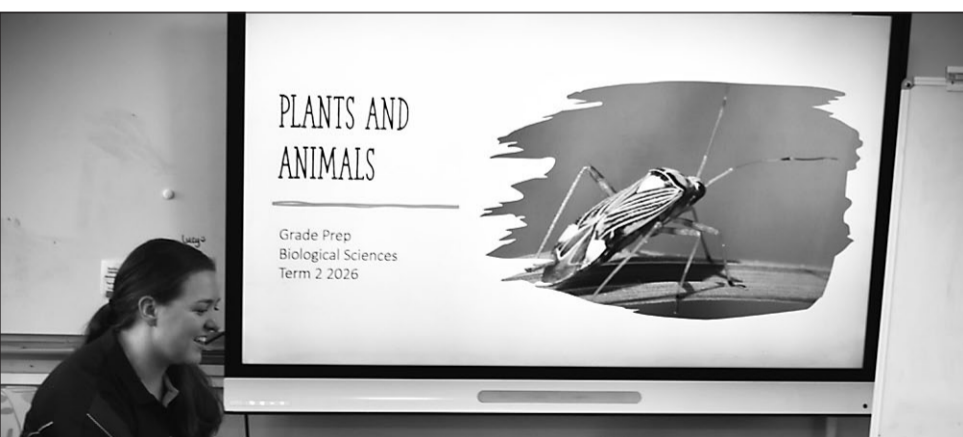
knowledge, while also providing engaging hands-on learning experiences.

This term, students in Prep-Grade 2 have been learning about plants and

animals. To support this unit, we welcomed five Mallee Darkling Beetles into the science room. Students have thoroughly enjoyed observing and handling the

beetles while learning about their survival needs and how to care for living things to help them thrive. Our Prep students have also taken on the important responsibility

of misting the beetles' enclosure each morning. We are excited to hopefully observe the beetles' full life cycle over time!



SCHOOL news

Kurnai University Campus

SSV Senior Boys Round Robin.

On Tuesday May 5, our Senior Boys Football team travelled to Sale to compete in the SSV Senior Boys Round Robin.

We opened with a competitive contest against Lavalla before facing a strong Catholic College Sale side. The day finished on a high with a convincing win over Maffra Secondary College.

As the day progressed, the team began to gel, with players finding their roles and working cohesively on the field. It was great to see their growth in teamwork, communication, and

confidence throughout the matches.

A big thank you to Hudson for coaching the team throughout the day. Thanks also to Alex for stepping in as runner, and to Aiden and Decklin for their efforts in boundary and goal umpiring.

All players put in an outstanding effort and displayed impressive skill and sportsmanship. Awards for overall performance were awarded to Jye, Lucas, Ryan, and Jack.

Media Excursion to Top Screens

On May 5, our VCE Media students and teachers attended the 2025

Top Screens screening at ACMI in Federation Square. Top Screens showcases exceptional short films, animations, and documentaries created by VCE Media students from 2025. Following the screening, students heard directly from the filmmakers, who shared insights into their creative process, including development, production, and editing. Teachers would like to commend the students for their maturity, engagement and exceptional behaviour on the excursion.

IDAHOBIT Day

The Senior Campus proudly recognised IDAHOBIT Day, with staff

and students encouraged to wear a colour of the rainbow to show their support for the LGBTQIA+ community and stand against discrimination. Throughout the day, many members of our school community embraced the initiative, creating a vibrant display of inclusivity and respect across the campus.

A number of staff and students also took part in a rainbow photoshoot at lunchtime, coming together to celebrate diversity and the importance of acceptance and belonging for all.

2026 Senior Formal – A Night to Remember

The 2026 Senior Formal was a memorable evening,

with students and staff coming together to celebrate in a setting inspired by the elegance of Paris — the City of Love. From the moment students arrived, the atmosphere was filled with excitement, laughter and celebration.

A special thank you to Arabella and her team for the incredible effort involved in planning such a large-scale event while balancing their studies.

Their creativity, organisation and dedication were evident throughout the evening and helped create a memorable experience for the senior cohort.

The night ran beautifully, with students enjoying music, dancing, finger food and the opportunity to celebrate together outside the classroom. The effort everyone put into their outfits certainly did not go unnoticed — everyone looked amazing.

Thank you to all staff, students and organisers who contributed to such a successful event.

The 2026 Senior Formal will no doubt remain one of the highlights of the school year, creating memories students will carry long after their final year at Senior Campus.



SCHOOL news

Lumen Christi Primary

Lumen Christi teams shine at Yinnar and District soccer

Lumen Christi Primary School students proudly represented their school at the recent Yinnar and District Soccer competition, with both the boys' and girls' teams enjoying an outstanding day on the field.

Competing against schools from across the district, both teams remained undefeated throughout the tournament, winning all of their matches and earning a place in the next round of competition. Their teamwork, determination and positive attitude were on full

display in every game.

Students demonstrated excellent soccer skills, strong communication and great perseverance, particularly during some closely contested matches. Teachers and supporters were especially proud of the way students upheld the school's expectations of being 'resilient, responsible and respectful' throughout the day.

Whether celebrating a goal, encouraging teammates or showing kindness and respect towards opponents and referees, the Lumen Christi students represented

their school community with pride. Their sportsmanship was noticed by many throughout the competition and reflected the values encouraged at the school each day.

The boys' and girls' teams supported one another enthusiastically from the sidelines, creating a wonderful sense of school spirit and encouragement. Staff members praised the students for the maturity and teamwork they displayed both on and off the field.

Congratulations to all students involved on their fantastic achievements. The

entire school community wishes both teams the very best as they progress to the next stage of competition.

Lumen Christi celebrates Catholic Education Week

Lumen Christi Primary School proudly celebrated Catholic Education Week from May 15 to 22, joining schools across the Diocese of Sale in reflecting on this year's theme, "Every School a Home of Peace."

As part of the celebrations, Mrs Darby and Miss Zahli travelled to Bairnsdale with the School Captains to attend the Catholic Education

Week Mass. The students represented the Lumen Christi community with pride and reverence throughout the special occasion.

During the opening procession, the School Captains had the honour of carrying the Lumen Christi school banner alongside students from other Catholic schools across the diocese. Their respectful behaviour and leadership were a wonderful reflection of the values lived out each day within the school community.

The Mass was officiated by Bishop Greg Bennet, who spoke about the importance

of creating peaceful, welcoming and faith-filled communities where every child feels safe, valued and connected. Students and staff were encouraged to continue showing kindness, compassion and understanding in their everyday actions.

Catholic Education Week provided a meaningful opportunity for the Lumen Christi community to celebrate faith, learning and the strong sense of belonging shared within Catholic schools across the Diocese of Sale.



Girls Team



Boys Team

Conference of the Birds - 2026

By Jules De Cinque, Margie Mackay

The third annual Conference of the Birds returned to Boolarra for another spectacular community arts event on Saturday May 23. Over 300 artists, dancers, musicians, puppeteers, volunteers, Boolarra Primary and Mirboo North Secondary school students and audience, participated in a creative gathering to celebrate the last days of autumn and herald the coming winter.

Artistic Directors, Margie Mackay and Gilbert Douglas (D&M Art Productions), produced a stunning epic-scale, accessible and site-specific community arts event based on a 12th century Sufi tale, Conference of the Birds.

The story tells of a group of birds embarking on a quest through seven valleys

in search of a leader, finally reaching the Valley of Harmony and Unity where they discover their strength lies within and among themselves.

Conference of the Birds began at Railway Park. As the crowd gathered, there were lively performances by the Latrobe Valley Multicultural Dance Group and the Bollywood Girls Dancers.

Mo Talib narrated the full story of Conference of the Birds, then Gunaikurnai poet and musician, Monica Karo McDonald, led walkers to the Valley of the Quest where she and Shannon Edwards offered a warm Welcome to Country. Ashleigh Dalton and the Djeetgun Girls danced beautifully, and the audience attended the smoking ceremony with eagerness before the walk.

Further along the trail, the students of Boolarra Primary, dressed in their fabulous costumes and big smiles, presented the Valley of Love.

The audience then walked the two kilometre journey along the Grandridge Rail Trail, towards the Meadows. During this Art Walk they experienced six extraordinary installations by local artists, nestled in the bush, and each representing a mysterious valley from the story. Lead Artists included Garryelle Rose, Cathryn Thompson (with Deb Morrison and Paul Jesse), Anthea Williams (with local women), Carla Callanan and Charlotte Ryan, Susan Purdy, Ronald Edwards Pepper and Chermaine Hall.

The final valley of the story, the Valley of Harmony and Unity, was staged at the Meadows. Here the audience settled beside glowing fire pits and enjoyed an amazing program of music and dance performances. Monica Karo McDonald returned to the stage, as well as ARIA award winner, Kavisha Mazzella AM, and widely acclaimed local musician Penelope Swales. The Djeetgun Girls generously and beautifully danced a Welcome to Ceremony and the



contemporary dancers of Company D&M skillfully interpreted the time of chaos that had led the birds to embark on their search for a leader. The fabulous Invy Horn Jam lead a joyful line of musicians, artists and performers to the stage followed by a parade of children and young people with their lanterns. Later these children and young people joined others for an exuberant dance to the iconic hit, 'BlackFella WhiteFella', creating a sense of connection, pride in and care for Country and each other. A group of local women joined Kavisha Mazzella to sing serenades to hope and healing. Two gorgeous fire performances added more excitement to the event, culminating in the brilliant Celebration of the Birds bonfire. Dancing around the fire, accompanied by the Invy Horn Jam, continued until the last shuttle bus left to return to town.

Thanks to all who made Conference of the Birds possible, including the amazing site and tech crews. We were very grateful for the

work of local volunteers, especially Craig Burrows, Nicole and Gareth Williams, Donna Mack, Leigh Shields, the Boolarra CFA and The Wednesday Warriors. We also recognise and appreciate the invaluable support of our sponsors, Creative Australia, Latrobe City Council, Boolarra Community Development Group, Mirboo North and District Community Foundation, Kennards Hire and Café and Pizza HQ, Churchill. Thank you.

If you would like to participate in some art making or volunteer to be part of the site crew next year, please email Gilbert and Margie: info@douglasandmackay.com.



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