

CHURCHILL & DISTRICT NEWS

"Connecting Your Community"

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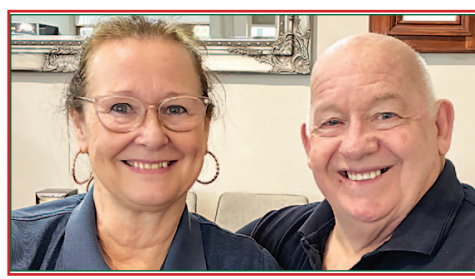
SCAN TO VIEW:
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Disc Golf - p18



St Vinnies Soup Van - p12



Yinnar Bakery - p15



YYS Land Care - p24

Churchill Neighbourhood Centre Community Garden

Sowing the Seeds of Health and Wellbeing

The Churchill Community Garden, located at the Churchill Hub, is one of the area's hidden gems, and we are inviting more members of our community to discover and enjoy this thriving space.

Over the past 12 months, the garden has undergone quite a transformation. Thanks to a generous grant from Latrobe City Council and the hard work of the Australian Disaster Relief organisation, we now have 10 self-watering vegetable pods (wicking beds).

Built at an accessible height, these gardens have been designed so that people of all ages and abilities can comfortably enjoy growing fresh produce.

The garden also features a three-tiered embankment, with plans for each level to have its own unique purpose: a colourful flower garden, productive vegetable beds and

a native garden to encourage local biodiversity.

Our goal is to maintain a continuous rotation of seasonal crops, all germinated and grown on site. This has become possible thanks to another generous grant and the dedication of our skilled volunteers, who have built our very own greenhouse. As production grows, we hope to propagate our own seedlings, which will be available to the public at a low cost, with proceeds helping support the garden.

We are also committed to sustainable gardening. We collect seeds from existing plants, encourage pollinators through thoughtful planting, and will soon be installing a Bee Hotel to provide habitat for our native bees. Our gardening principles are organic, and we love sharing knowledge while learning from others in the community.

Our next exciting addition is a group of chickens. Through grants and the support of local schools and volunteers, we have built an engineer-designed chicken enclosure where animal welfare is the highest priority. The hens will enjoy a temperature-controlled hen house, and three of them will each wear a lightweight GoPro camera, allowing children and adults alike to choose a favourite chicken and follow its daily adventures via YouTube, 24 hours a day. The cameras have been carefully positioned to ensure the privacy of all visitors.

The Churchill Community Garden has progressed significantly over the past year. Whether you are an experienced gardener, just getting started, or simply looking for a peaceful place to relax, we would love to welcome you.

Garden volunteers generally meet on

Tuesdays and Wednesdays, while the garden itself is open for everyone to enjoy five days a week. We are always looking for new volunteers and welcome visits from schools, community groups and families.

Churchill Playgroup now visits each week, bringing plenty of smiles and curiosity to the garden.

There are outdoor tables available for small social gatherings, community catch-ups or simply enjoying a cup of tea. We also plan to offer a range of short, practical workshops with an organic gardening focus in the near future.

The Churchill Community Garden is an inclusive space where everyone is welcome. Come and explore, enjoy the gardens, meet new people and become part of something growing.



Shop Local
MARKET
2026

Father's Day Market SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

Christmas Market SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5



"Connecting Your Community"



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

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- Team Leader / Sec: Ruth Place
- Treasurer: Maureen Schenkel
- Assistant Treasurer: Rachael Perrott
- Advertising: Ruth Place, Shelley McDonald,
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The DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION of articles and advertisements for the September 2026 edition is August 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



MEMBER 2026

ADVERTISING

Advertising enquiries can be addressed to:
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We acknowledge the support of



Morwell and District Red Cross



Morwell and District Red Cross Round Up.

Winter has sure hit with a blast, which has given us an excuse to stay indoors and get plenty of planning underway for the coming months. September sees us host our Annual Afternoon Tea.

The Afternoon Tea is to be held on September 9 at 1:30pm. \$30 per person with funds going to the Red Cross Big Cake Bake.

On Sunday October 18 we will be having a Plants and Preserves Stall at the Glengarry Market, 10-2 pm. Rolling on into November and it is time to fire up the BBQ. Saturday November 14 we will be hosting a BBQ at Bunnings Morwell. Stay tuned to see what December will bring.

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.

Big Cake Bake
Morwell and District Red Cross



JOIN US FOR AN ELEGANT
AFTERNOON TEA

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH 2026
1:30 PM

HOPKINS CRT, YINNAR

Cost: \$30 per Person

Rainfall

Churchill Rainfall

Rainfall for the month of July for Churchill was pretty good once again with a total of 53.75mm recorded. Our highest 24hr rainfall was 10mm and we did just miss out on some good rainfall which fell to our north. July was a fairly mild month temperature wise for both overnight and daily temperatures. Compared to last July we did not have the really bad severe frosts which is a good thing. Churchills' rainfall year to date total is now 307.25mm.

Rain at Hazelwood South

Hazelwood South had lots of south west wind, bringing in cold and wet weather, as it should in winter.



The 88mm of rain was 14% above the July average, but the temperature failed to come down as it should, with the coldest morning only +3 degrees. Up on the hills there should have been frosts and dustings of snow. No white Christmas in July this year.

The hills received more rain, with Hazelwood South receiving 24% more rain than the Latrobe Valley weather station. For the year of 2026 the rain is 1.3% above the average. The ground water recharge is very poor for this time of the year. The early start of weeds growing is concerning.

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No.	Size		B/W	COLOUR	10% Discount (6 issues)	
	Height x Width	Column size			B/W	COLOUR
			\$	\$	\$	\$
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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Father's Day Market

9.00 am to 1.00 pm at Churchill Shopping Centre

SATURDAY, 29th AUGUST

CRAFT MARKET
& STALLS

SHOPPING LOCALLY
SUPPORTS LOCAL
EMPLOYMENT

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GIFTS FOR
DAD

FREE BBQ

CHILDREN'S
ENTERTAINMENT

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Book your market stall site on-line at
churchill.org.au/events

CHURCH *news*

Co-Operating Church Snippets



Cathie organised a café church style service at the end of July. Tables and chairs were set up with coffee and tea ingredients on each table. Hot water was supplied. The service was interactive with tables asked to discuss questions and give answers.

Coffee Connections

A small but enthusiastic group gathered for Coffee Connections. After Shirley's devotion which centred on love as the most important aspect of our life and being, we shared our responses to the theme of "Something you are Passionate About".

We heard about protecting our environment, being involved in social justice work, church involvement, the St Matt Op Shop, love of birds, the involvement in a nature reserve and contributing to its educational development, Churchill & District News, gardening and reading the Bible, and looking after God's creation by being pro active in how you shop and trying to use less packaging. These sorts

of topics always bring inspiration and shared memories from others in the group. Along this important part of the morning, a time of

fellowship and refreshments is a part of what makes this group an important part of our parish activities.



Eyes Wide Open

New addition each month from Karen Blake:

My eyes are wide open. They see a lot and they understand more, some people are special, especially those who comprehend that difference is an asset, not something to be feared or denigrated, instead difference must be understood in terms of respect and the understanding that individuals do not decide

who, or what they grow into but rather that life shapes how we interact on a personal, social and institutional level. Importantly, education does not define intellect, either emotionally or academically. Life itself, and the experiences it brings, mould our very being. Having one's eyes wide open and being prepared to listen intently are immensely important attributes.

Mental illness is just one more variation in the human psyche. Sufferers need help. Unfortunately, this rarely comes in a form that is helpful to the individual concerned. Instead, medical misogyny and supposed superiority of intellect takes control. An over-reliance on chemical treatments is prioritised over the simple question - How can I help? Doctor Who understood.

Churchill Christian Fellowship

By Steve McNeilly (Pastor)

It is a matter of great concern to all the world that the devastating wars in the Middle East continue to rage. Personally, I find it disgusting that reporting on these wars in Australia has tended to focus more on how it will affect our petrol prices than on the tragic destruction and loss of life.

On Sunday July 12, Churchill Christian Fellowship had a visiting speaker from an organisation called Celebrate Messiah. Barry Buirski was booked to speak at our 10am Moe service on the topic "Jesus in the Feasts of Israel" and at our 3pm Churchill service on "Jesus in the Feast of Pentecost". Both fascinating topics but the

Churchill meeting turned out differently to what was planned.

After meeting with Barry one-on-one over lunch, and hearing his heart for the plight of Jewish people even in Australia, as well as the challenges facing Messianic congregations like the church he attends in the inner south-east area of Melbourne, I asked him if he would share these concerns with us at our Sunday service. We devised a series of questions which would allow for this important discussion.

The result was a powerful presentation about the effects of anti-semitism on the Jewish community. People in Australia who have no influence whatever on the politics of Israel or Gaza

are living in constant fear. Those in the Messianic community; ie. Jews who profess Jesus (Yeshua) as their Lord and Saviour, have the added burden of trying to show their solidarity with their brethren who still reject Jesus as Messiah.

Our Sunday services can be found on YouTube. CCF is a small but active local church.

Our men's breakfasts happen on the first Saturday of each month, \$5 suggested donation, 9am start. We have ladies' meetings on Wednesdays, home fellowship meetings on Tuesdays and lots of other special events. Visitors are always welcome.

For more information, please call 0409 173 747.



Church Times

Co-Operating Churches of Churchill

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

King of Glory Ministries

Yinnar / Boolara

Meeting at RSL Hall, Yinnar
3.00pm each Sunday.

Prayer and Bible Study

10.00am Mondays at
Yinnar Bakery
and Coffee Shop.
10.00am 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 Sacred Heart,
Morwell.

Sunday 9.00am Lumen Christi,
37-39 Williams Ave, Churchill.
10.30am Sacred Heart, Morwell.
Thursday 5.00pm at Lumen Christi
9.00am every 4th Sunday alternating
between Yinnar / Boolarra.

*See Church bulletin or
call 5134 2849*

Boolarra / Yinnar Co-Operating Parish Boolarra / Yinnar

10.00am 1st and 3rd Sunday.
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

Morwell International Rose Garden Festival Returns

International Rose Garden Festival Morwell returns for 2026

A highlight of Latrobe City Council's tourism calendar, the International Rose Garden Festival Morwell will return on November 6 and 7, 2026, bringing back all the much-loved festival favourites.

Now in its ninth year, the free community event continues to grow, thanks to support from major sponsor AGL Loy Yang, participating for the eighth consecutive year, and the Victorian Government.

Latrobe City Council Mayor, Councillor Sharon Gibson reminded the community to save the date.

"The International Rose Garden Festival is an important event on our calendar and continues to place Latrobe City firmly on the tourist map," Councillor Gibson said.

"We are delighted to receive funding from the Victorian Government through the Regional Events Fund recognising the important role events like this play in attracting visitors and boosting tourism in our

region.

This funding will help deliver exciting feature attractions, including the aerial acrobat performance 'Bloom', along with crowd favourites Costa the Gnome, 'dirtgirl' and 'scrapboy'. It is a welcome investment in our community and will help create a very memorable experience for everyone who attends."

A key highlight will again be the AGL Loy Yang Night Lights installation, transforming the gardens from 6.30pm to 9.30pm both nights, with illuminated displays, roving performances and pop-up attractions.

"We are deeply grateful to AGL Loy Yang for its continued commitment to supporting the festival," Councillor Gibson said.

"AGL's ongoing support helps us enhance the festival experience and ensures it remains a highlight for our community and visitors."

AGL Loy Yang General Manager Christo van Niekerk said AGL Loy Yang was pleased to once again support the International Rose Garden Festival

Morwell in 2026.

"This much-loved event continues to connect communities across the region, supporting tourism, strengthening local pride and contributing to the Gippsland economy," Mr van Niekerk said.

"We are delighted to see the return of the AGL Night Lights Installation. It remains a standout feature for visitors and showcases how creativity and innovation can transform shared spaces into something truly special.

We commend the Friends of the Rose Garden, Latrobe City Council and the many volunteers whose ongoing commitment brings this event to life. Their efforts help ensure Morwell remains home to one of Australia's most beautiful rose gardens."

Stay up to date with festival announcements, program releases and exclusive updates by visiting www.irgfm.com.au and subscribing to the International Rose Garden Festival Morwell newsletter.

This event is proudly supported by the Victorian Government and AGL Loy Yang.

Plants in my Garden

By Mike Beamish
Species: *Pterostylis concinna*.

Family: Orchidaceae.

Derivation:

Pterostylis: From Greek, pteron, meaning "wing", and stylos, meaning "pillar, pole or column" and referring to the broad wings found on the upper part of the column in this genus of orchids.

Concinna: From Latin, concinnus, meaning 'neat, pretty or elegant'.

Common Name: Trim Greenhood.

Distribution:

From the far south-east of South Australia, through southern Victoria from west to east, through the ACT to about Bulahdelah in NSW, coast and ranges, and in Tasmania.

Description:

Plants form a basal rosette of 3-6 leaves to 30mm long by 15mm wide, often forming very large colonies, with a high percentage flowering in years of good rainfall. Each plant may produce a single stem to 20cm tall holding a single hooded, green and white-striped flower about 12mm in length with dorsal and lateral sepal free-points extending a few mm further. The sepals can have reddish-brown stripes or tips as well. The labellum is brown with a forked tip and is visible through the sinus (the gap at the front of the hood), but



does not protrude.

Opinion:

My plants are in a hanging basket with several other species of orchids, probably causing dedicated growers to have conniptions and shake their heads in horror. They seem to like it though, and are slowly increasing in numbers. The problems will come when it is time to repot due to overcrowding. I am only a beginner when it comes to growing orchids, so it always worries me when it comes to disturbing the plants. Generally, the colony-forming greenhoods like this species are considered easy to grow, but the main

concerns are keeping the snails and bugs at bay and getting the watering right. Keeping the mix too damp over the warmer months can result in all the tubers rotting, but not watering enough may cause the tubers to desiccate. Disturbing the mix is the most likely time to upset the plants or unwittingly introduce pathogens. Oh, the stress!

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:

Sharr – WA Plant Names and their Meanings.

Backhouse – Bush Beauties: The Wild Orchids of Victoria, Australia.



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

MORWELL

RSL
CLUB



Phone
5134 2455

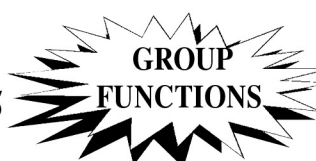
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<https://morwellrsl.com.au>



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Churchill Fire Brigade



Churchill Fire Brigade part of new AV and CFA Lifesaving Program

Churchill Fire Brigade commenced responding to life threatening medical emergencies on June 24, 2026 as part of the Ambulance Victoria partnership with CFA providing Fire Medical Response (FMR).

Since that time, the brigade has already been called out to three medical emergencies.

“When a life-threatening cardiac emergency occurs, early intervention is key,” Churchill brigade captain Matt Fisher said.

The Churchill brigade is proud to be supporting our community in this new way, and is always looking for new members who may be interested in being trained in Fire Medical Response.

Fire Station Update

The Churchill Fire Station is getting a much needed uplift, through an extension on the south side near the skate park, and renovation throughout the rest of the station. New additions include:

- a Merton Group office/operations room for when we assist with managing and coordinating response to local incidents;
- a brigade office which will also be used in support of ongoing operations as a communications room;
- a store room;
- a workshop;
- a laundry/drying room so we can launder and dry our wildfire protective clothing on site;
- a Breathing Apparatus cleaning and storage room, for maintaining our PPE after use at an incident.

The motor room is also getting a 1.5m extension at the front of the station to allow more room to safely move around and in front of parked appliances.

Renovation is being undertaken of our existing Communications/Operations rooms to turn it into a dedicated turnout room where firefighters get dressed in the appropriate personal protective clothing prior to a turnout, with the toilets, kitchen and meeting/training room also getting a refresh to give the whole station a modern look and feel.

The building upgrade is

presently due for completion at the end of September, allowing us to be comfortably settled in before this summer.

In the meantime, the brigade is still operating from the fire station site using the HVP shed to house two appliances, with our Field Command Vehicle/FMR Primary Response vehicle housed in the brigade’s shed.

Churchill Fire Brigade is turning 80 - a little bit of history

Preparations are well under way in getting ready to celebrate our 80th birthday which we will be celebrating at our 2026 Annual Presentation Night on Saturday October 10, 2026.

Former members interested in attending the 80th Birthday celebration are invited to contact the brigade Secretary, Lisa Cannon, by email at secretary.chur@gmail.com with your contact details, and reference to the years of your brigade membership.

Although the brigade was first formed through a meeting held on October 7, 1945, official recognition came through the Country Fire Authority (CFA) registration dated February 16, 1946 – Certificate of Registration No. 25.

Along the way, there have been a few name and location changes. Initially registered as the Jeeralang North Rural Fire Brigade, on February 27, 1961 the brigade name changed to Jeeralang Junction Rural Fire Brigade. In 1967, the brigade was relocated into Churchill and on October 29, 1974, the brigade name changed to Churchill/Jeeralang Rural Fire Brigade.

On December 19, 1990, CFA granted the brigade Class D Urban Fire Brigade status, and on January 8, 1991 the brigade name changed to the Churchill Urban Fire Brigade which we still retain. However, we commonly refer to ourselves as the Churchill Fire Brigade, responding to all emergencies throughout the Churchill and surrounding district.

Churchill Urban Fire District

The gazetted boundaries of the Churchill Urban Fire Brigade is the area bounded by Boldings Road to Tramway Road intersection, north westerly to the intersection of Monash Way, (old Midland Highway)/Brodrigg Road, along Brodrigg Road to Yinnar Road, south along Yinnar Road to Switchback Road, east along Switchback to Fraser Road, south along Frasers Road to Billys Creek, up Billys Creek to Jeeralang North Road, down Jeeralang North Road to Morwell City Boundary on Thomsons Road, across to Bennetts Creek, North up



Bennetts Creek to Farrens Road and back to Boldings Road. The area between Bennetts Creek and Thomsons Road is covered by the Hazelwood North Rural Brigade with support from the Churchill Urban Fire Brigade.





Melina BATH MP

THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

MY DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN

melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au 2/181 Franklin St, Traralgon VIC 3844
03 5174 7066 MelinaBathMLC

Martin CAMERON MP

MEMBER FOR MORWELL

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THE NATIONALS
for Regional Victoria

BOOK REVIEW

"The One and Only Dolly Jamieson" by Lisa Ireland 2023

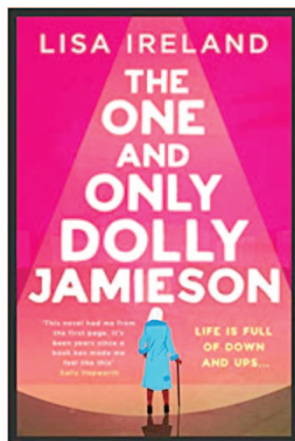
Lisa Ireland is an Australian author who lives in a small Gippsland town with her husband. She writes across a number of genres with an emphasis on women supporting each other. She mentors other writers and has published eight novels to date, the most well known being "Feels like Home" 2015 which was an Australian best seller.

"The One and Only Dolly Jamieson" begins in 2019 in London and we meet Dolly who spends most of her time in the local library, often sleeping, as she is homeless. She becomes aware of a new visitor to the library, well dressed and clearly affluent and senses a sadness in her, so starts a conversation. There is little response on this occasion but when she visits again Dolly makes a pretence of writing and tells the woman she is trying to record events in her life. The woman, Jane, happens to be a writer so suggests she and Dolly write a memoir. Jane takes Dolly under her wing after she was beaten by a group of youths while sleeping rough, and she eventually moves in and becomes part of their family. Jane's husband is a lawyer and sets in motion the steps to find Dolly's son. The story climaxes in a visit to Melbourne with a view to meeting Dolly's son.

Dolly's back story begins in Geelong 1941 when Eleanor and James Ferguson welcome a daughter, Margie who unfortunately never meets her father as he is killed in action. James is an only child and whilst his mother Ada does not think Eleanor is good enough she supports Margie and her mother. Margie seems to be a natural performer and Ada pays for her to have music and dancing lessons.

All is going well until Eleanor remarries and has three children in quick succession, then her new husband leaves. Ada has stopped all support so Margie is forced to leave school and work in a factory. However she wins a talent quest and a successful musical career unfolds. She is able to support her family until she falls pregnant to a band member who loses interest as soon as he knows she is pregnant. Margie does not want this child but comes to an agreement with her mother who will raise the child so Margie can return to her career. Tragedy strikes the family and Ada takes control and forces Margie to have the baby adopted out.

For a fresh start Margie adopts the name of Dolly Jamieson and resumes her turbulent career, starring in London's West End. She falls in love with a married man but they come to an arrangement with his wife and continue their relationship. Her career



over she is happily living in London until her partner dies and she loses her home to his daughter.

Some members of our group enjoyed this book, others thought it read like a fairy tale. The story is simply written and easy to read but there were many holes in it and the ending was too predictable. It did detail how two women grieving the loss of a child support each other and how older women sometimes feel invisible. The very real message in the book details how older women, currently the fastest growing group, can become homeless. The death of a partner, the loss of housing, lack of computer skills and no awareness of any benefits that are due all contributed to Dolly's situation. (As an aside, if Dolly came into the Churchill library Rita would have offered her help with technology.)

12 Steps

Congratulations to Ron Bell.

Ron has recently achieved a wonderful milestone of sixty years being clean and sober through using the Twelve Steps.

Ron has been devoting his life to helping others who are alcohol and drug affected and at 88 continues to travel to meetings across Australia and in New Zealand.

The Twelve Steps

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol — that our lives had become unmanageable.
2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him.
4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another

human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all.

9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

10. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to

carry that out.

12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these Steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.



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Churchill Community Family Fishing & Fun Day

COME ALONG BRING THE FAMILY FOR A DAY OUT OF FISHING & FUN AT LAKE HYLAND MATHISON PARK MACKEYS ROAD CHURCHILL

Saturday 21st November

Everyone must register to enter

Cost is \$ 2.00 per child or \$ 5.00 per Family

Come along and experience the wonder of fishing as a family

Every child who has registered gets a chance to win a prize for catching a fish. They will also receive a Lucky Door prize entry ticket, a free sausage and a drink.

Registration opens at 10.00am.

Fishing starts at 10.30am and finishes at 1.30pm.

Prize presentation starts at 2.00pm

The Lions Club will have
Hot food & Cold Drinks available all day.
Free face painting and other exciting activities.



Presented by Lions Club of Churchill & District
See us on our Lions Club of Churchill Facebook page or
Web Page: lionsclubchurchill.com.au



Darren Chester

Putting Locals First

#lovegippsland



THE NATIONALS for Gippsland www.darrenchester.com.au



Latrobe Regional Health

Research and Clinical Trials

Latrobe Regional Health leads the way - clinical trials, care closer to home for Gippsland residents

Why should where we live determine our access to the best healthcare? The team at Latrobe Regional Health (LRH) believe the answer is simple—it should not. Recognising the importance of bringing world-class healthcare closer to home, LRH has made research a key strategic priority over the last decade. In 2019, the hospital established

its Research and Clinical Trials Unit, creating new opportunities for people across Gippsland to access innovative treatments and participate in cutting-edge medical research without leaving the region. Since 2019, more than 750 Gippslanders have enrolled in a clinical trial at LRH, with research now spanning across 13 medical specialties including cancer, cardiology and respiratory services – all areas where Gippslanders have a disproportionately

higher burden of disease.

Clinical trials provide patients with early access to innovative drugs, therapies, or medical devices that are not yet available in standard clinics. Prior to 2019, Gippsland families would need to travel to metropolitan centres to access clinical trials, adding greater burden at a time when staying connected to local community becomes even more important.

Dr Jhodie Duncan says, “Latrobe Regional Health’s Research and Clinical Trials Program is the largest in Gippsland, developed in direct response to the needs of our community. Many clinical trials we are part of are also being conducted globally, and it is reassuring to know our community has access to the same world-class treatments, regardless of where people live” This year LRH’s Research and Clinical Trials Unit marked an important milestone with the activation of its 60th clinical trial since the

program began. “It has been incredibly rewarding to see the program grow—not only expanding treatment options for local people, but also strengthening LRH’s capability to deliver high-quality, research-led care. Every new trial brings hope to patients, builds expertise within our health service, and ensures Gippslanders can access innovative healthcare closer to home.” Dr. Duncan said. Clinical trials are carefully monitored research studies designed to test whether new treatments, medicines or medical devices are safe and effective.

Every study goes through rigorous ethical review processes, is closely monitored and participants are fully informed before deciding whether they would like to take part. For local resident Nick Johnson access to a clinical trial at LRH provided care closer to home following a cancer diagnosis, allowing him more time to contribute to his role with the CFA.

“Being on the trial meant that I did not have to endure the stresses of having to travel to hospital to receive IV Chemo. I signed up to the trial because I wanted to contribute to assist future treatments if I was able to. It was good to have a good rapport with the local hospital care team which was, and is still, there for me. They have my back”. Mr Johnson’s clinical trial is investigating whether a reduction in the amount of chemotherapy can achieve the same treatment outcomes

while minimising the debilitating side effects often associated with this form of cancer treatment. Clinical trials also expanded into respiratory services this year, offering Gippslanders living with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) access to new and emerging treatment options without having to travel outside the region. COPD is a form of lung disease and makes breathing difficult, having a major impact on daily life. With lung disease rates in Gippsland 107 per cent higher than the Victorian average, this new trial has been launched in response to a real and growing community need. Next on the horizon is a clinical trial investigating alternative medicines for pain relief in palliative care patients, offering the potential for improved symptom

management and quality of life.

LRH is proud to continue our vision of “Research for Change”, improving access to new treatments and health outcomes for more than 290,000 people who call Gippsland home. By developing a program that offers an alternative treatment option and access to tomorrow’s treatments today, local Gippsland residents can have world-class care closer to home while contributing to research that will improve treatment and outcomes for future generations.

For further information on LRH’s clinical trial program or updated list of our current trials you can visit our web site Clinical trials-LRH or email clinicaltrials@lrh.com.au.



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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

Disability Access

Latrobe City Council

FOGO is here!

From Wednesday July 1, 2026, Latrobe City Council’s new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service will start, making it easier for households to recycle food scraps and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

From this date, the lime-green lidded Garden Organics (GO) bin will become the FOGO bin, where food scraps can now be added alongside garden waste and be transformed into nutrient-rich mulch and compost.

To support the transition, Council has provided free FOGO kitchen caddies to help residents collect food scraps at home. These 7-litre caddies are compact enough to fit neatly under the sink

or in a cupboard. They are optional, but available to each household.

Residents can collect their caddy from Council Headquarters in Morwell or any Latrobe City library, by presenting the coupon they received from Council in the mail or with a valid ID which contains the home address

The only change for households is that most food scraps now go into the lime-green-lidded FOGO bin instead of the red-lidded general rubbish bin. Bin collection schedules and frequency will remain the same.

This new service will begin from residents’ first scheduled bin collection after July 1, 2026.



By participating in the FOGO service, households will help reduce landfill, cut greenhouse gas emissions and support the creation of high-quality compost used to grow more food – a practical, local step toward a more sustainable future.

For more information about what can go in your FOGO bin, visit:

<https://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/FOGO>



Mr. Nick Johnson, local clinical trial participant



Internship program

Applications for Gippsland Water's Summer Internship Program are now open, giving undergraduate students the opportunity to gain paid hands-on experience in their chosen field.

The 12-week program will run from November 2026 to February 2027, with students working across a range of disciplines in a practical, professional environment.

Managing director Sarah Cumming said the long-running program plays an important role in building local capability, while creating careers for the future. "Interns contribute meaningful work that

delivers for our region now and in the future, using their academic studies for real-world work while making a difference," Ms Cumming said. "The program provides great career development pathways for young people in our region.

Around 80% of interns also continue to work with us after or enrol into our graduate program."

Interns can gain experience in the following fields:

Engineering: civil, environmental, mechanical, process or electrical engineering, collaborating on minor capital projects and developing an understanding of challenges

such as risk assessments, investigations, budgeting and planning. Science: environmental, natural resource management, climate, sustainability, ecology and botany, and geographical information systems science, while contributing to catchment management planning – targeting those with low adaptive capability to increase quality native vegetation. Information Technology: artificial intelligence, and how it can support strategic analysis, knowledge management and operational efficiency.

Business and Commerce: help map strategies and learn how they align to the organisation's priorities, requirements, and outcomes. Students may be able to receive academic credits for their participation, depending on course requirements.

For more information on the Summer Internship Program, and to apply, visit.

www.gippswater.com.au/summerinternshipprogram



Gippsland Water interns gain hands-on experience while making a difference in the region.

COMMUNITY SAFETY *Words of Wisdom*

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

Food Scams

Scammers are targeting people who use food delivery platforms, including restaurants, customers and delivery workers. They may pretend to be DoorDash, Uber Eats, a restaurant or a customer.

They may contact you about an order, refund, cancellation, account issue or payment problem. They may ask for a one-time code, login details, your mobile number or bank information. They use these details to take over accounts, change payment settings or redirect money. Scammers may claim they can see your order but demand you provide additional details or payment outside the app in order to process it.

Scammers are also targeting delivery workers by gaining access to their accounts and redirecting the money they have earned. Delivery workers may receive messages about orders that have been cancelled for being 'fraudulent' or a 'double order' and ask for the worker's details to compensate them.

Who's at risk

Restaurants, customers and delivery workers can all be affected. You may be at higher risk if you share one-time codes, respond to account alerts that do not include clear details, or feel pressured to act quickly

Email issues

If you are concerned about an email from a food deliverer or company, check the email address that the email is sent from. Often, the addresses have nothing to do with the company that the sender is claiming to be from. Simply delete the email or ignore it if you have any concerns.

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.

Strzelecki Koala

The Importance of "Microrefugia"

Sightings of Strzelecki koala scats or poo on the roads of the Jeeralang Hills indicate that the Strzelecki koalas are still present and actively feeding during the night. Because of the cooler weather in winter, the Strzelecki koalas are conserving their energy and body heat. During the day, they are sleeping in curled up balls in the forks of thick canopied shelter trees, and where possible, have their backs facing the sun. In this way they can absorb heat into their bodies. Even though the Strzelecki koala's fur is multi layered, thick, insulating and water proof on the back, the Strzelecki koala

relies on a suitable habitat to survive the cold of winter and the heat of summer. The Strzelecki koalas need their home ranges to have places that have micro climates which are warmer in winter and cooler in summer. These places also need to have diversity in vegetation so that there are shelter and food trees in proximity to each other. Usually these micro climate habitats are along creek beds and gullies where the soil is nutrient rich and moist. These places offer refuge for the Strzelecki koala and other native fauna and flora. Scientists refer to them as "microrefugia"

(www.sciencedirect.com 21-7-26)

"Microrefugia" are very important for the survival of many species with the current and future changes in climate. A scientific study.

"Seasonal Habitat Selection in an Arboreal Mammal Identifies Landscape Characteristics that Improve Species Resilience under Climate Change" by S. Bonat and other scientists 2026 (www.sciencedirect.com 20-7-26) found that landscape features are important in koalas survival. In the cooler seasons the koalas prefer northern aspects where they can find radiant heat. In the warmer seasons koalas use west aspects and higher elevations which provide cooling from prevailing winds. Though shelter trees are used more in the summer months, these trees are necessary for the survival of the koala all year round. Most importantly the scientists observed that gully microclimates were used all year round. Another scientific study "The Thermal Niche of the Koala (Phascolarctos cinereus) Spatial Dynamics of Home Range and Microclimate" by Darlene Adams and fellow scientists (www.mdpi.com 21-7-26) observed the ways koalas used the space in their home range to cope with the heat. This study concluded that the koala use non-fodder trees for shade and cooler temperatures during the summer months. The findings of this study stressed the importance for both food and shelter trees in the habitat of koalas. This study also emphasised the need for koalas to have wildlife corridors, healthy forest maintenance and the preservation of mixed species forests. Fortunately

within the Strzelecki Ranges there are reserves of mixed species forests that contain gullies and creeks with suitable microrefugia. These are: The Morwell National Park, Tarra-Bulga Park, Mullungdung and Wron State Forests. All are significant and critical habitat for the Strzelecki koala. However connectivity between these reserves needs to be improved and more wildlife corridors developed.

Population movement is important to maintain genetic diversity and population viability. Isolated populations of koalas or any native animal can cause extinction. Also these important refuge areas need to be free of dangers like

feral animals and weeds to be suitable viable areas for the Strzelecki koala to thrive in.

How to help the Strzelecki koala:

Remember to drive carefully through bush areas at night. Look out for wombats too.

Be a responsible pet owner and have a koala friendly property. (www.wildcare.org.au has fact sheets about this.)

Preserve, protect and plant koala food and shelter trees. Let others know about the Strzelecki koala and its diverse genetic makeup. Join or support organisations that care for native animals or land. Remember to be a weed warrior and remove weeds from your property.

Future Event

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



Churchill & District Lions Club

Meet
1st and 3rd Wednesday
of each Month



Contact Secretary Phone:

Peter Tait

0421 167 915

Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club Inc

Threatened species conservation and the plight of the Baw Baw Frog

Guest presenter: Deon Gilbert, Zoos Victoria

Zoos Victoria is fighting to protect many threatened Australian fauna species, such as the Brush-tailed Rock-wallaby, the Eastern Barred Bandicoot, the Southern Giant Burrowing Frog and the critically endangered Helmeted Honeyeater, Victoria's bird emblem.

In particular, the Baw Baw Frog *Philoria frosti* is at risk of extinction in the wild in just the next decade or so. The population's huge decline on the Baw Baw Plateau is mainly attributed to the fungal disease Chytridiomycosis, but impacts from climate change and habitat destruction have also contributed.

Zoos Victoria's amphibian specialists have over recent years contributed to the first successful breeding program to supplement wild populations.

Our speaker, Deon Gilbert, is a key member of this group; he is a threatened species biologist – Herpetofauna with Zoos Victoria and has spent more than a decade studying the Baw Baw Frog and working on its reintroduction to sites on the plateau.

Deon's talk promises to give us a valuable update on this significant species which

has long been of particular interest to many club members.

Interested folk are welcome to join us at our general meeting in the Moe Library at 7:30pm on Friday August 28, for this presentation.

The following day, Saturday August 29, we will walk the Billys Creek track of Morwell National

Park. Meet in the car park off Junction Road at 10am, bring your lunch and water, and wear sturdy shoes and suitable clothing for the conditions.

For further information, contact the club secretary, Rose, on 0410 237 292 or via e-mail at info@lvfieldnats.org.



Photo credit Zoos Victoria



A cup of tea has been a feature of the Australian way of life since the early days of colonisation.

The caffeine in its leaves provide a stimulus to the drinker which provides a refreshing feeling, which in turn gives the drinker a boost in energy. Our climate is such that a cup of tea warms you in winter and cools you in summer. The added bonus is that tea leaves are light and portable and they only need hot water to release the properties stored in the leaves. The tea plant originated in a band across northern India and Burma and southern China on elevated slopes of mountain foothills. The plant, a species of the camellia, can grow up to sixteen metres in height but plantation tea is kept pruned to waist-height to make the young leaves easy to pick. The plant needs a moist climate with well-drained soil to grow so hilly, monsoonal areas are ideal. Today, tea is cultivated mainly in India, China, Sri Lanka and Kenya with several other countries including Australia producing part of the annual production of 30 million tonnes. The young green leaves on the top 25-50 mm of the plant are plucked because these provide the best quality tea and a new set of leaves will be ready for picking within 15 days. Hand-plucking provides the best teas but today most teas are mechanically harvested, producing a lower quality product. Tea-drinking began in China as a medicinal drink and gradually spread across the world. At first in Europe it was taxed and it was the rich people who drank it, but increasing production and widespread smuggling led to the tax being lifted and so its use became almost universal. The big exception is the United States because in the

STAMP MATTERS- A NEW EXPERIENCE



days of English colonisation tea was taxed highly and the locals rebelled against this in 1774 by tipping imported tea into Boston harbour. This became known as the Boston Tea Party, a term widely known even today. The people of the New United States reverted to coffee as the everyday drink and that is why you cannot get a good cup of tea in the U.S.A.

Most tea is sold in loose chopped leaf form today but in Russia and Mongolia you can find tea sold in blocks. Traditionally, Russian tea was brewed in a special device known as a samovar. Modern developments include the addition of different flavours including ginger, cloves and bergamot.

Green tea which is popular in Japan and China is brewed using unoxidised leaves and these produce a different flavour. The teabag is also a modern innovation. Many countries have cultural customs involving tea. The English still argue about the best way to add sugar and milk. Stamps featuring tea have been issued, the best of these being from Sri Lanka, but hunting others would be an interesting pastime and could lead to an interesting collection of stamps.

Now, how about a nice cuppa?



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Chaos inside the student mind Touching grass: how to survive the second semester slump.

By Catherine Yeates

As we enter into semester two, students of all kinds are faced with new challenges, the primary one being the dreaded second semester slump. Now loyal readers, what is this dreaded slump you might ask. Well, the phenomenon is experienced by most students following the mid-year break, during which they realise how joyous a life void of study is. At which point they deliberate why it is they continue to subject themselves to this laborious experience that is University. Well students and community members, I have a few resources to share with you when it comes to mid-year motivation. First for the students among us, do you have a standard study spot? Where the blankets are warm and caffeine free flowing? If not, I would highly recommend the 24/7 study space at Fed Uni where there are couch corners and tables alike that make for great study spots of the unmotivated. This space has the added bonus of being accessible to all Fed students meaning that peer pressure of seeing other motivated students can be put to great use. As for our community members, the great thing about university libraries is that as a member of the public you can apply for a membership to the libraries

collection that allows you to utilise its spaces during business hours. While you may miss out on the midnight shenanigans that occur after hours, you still have the opportunity to change up your routine and maybe get some recreational research done at the same time. Research environments not your speed? How about a meandering through the campus grounds. To make it more interesting why not keep a tally of all the wildlife you spot on the way? I for one have been spooked by a rogue kangaroo more times than I can count. Perhaps they have become a little too comfortable being surrounded by humans but then again, they probably think the same of us. On one afternoon stroll I came across a family of kangaroos, a very shy koala and a wandering echidna who had found his way all the way to the main road. While the university campus is a great place to start a wildlife walk the wider town of Churchill offers more than enough opportunity to marvel at the creatures that look like they are out of a Dr Seuss novel. While such friendly wildlife cannot proof read your papers for you, they do offer a nice excuse to brave the outdoors in this weather.

Speaking of which how many of you have felt the effects of vitamin D deficiency in this cold weather? While it might be overcast and chilly enough to frighten away even the

toughest of outdoors men, I remind you the importance of touching grass. Especially for our university students locked in their hobbit holes of research papers and old coffee cups. A great place to do this is the many lakes we have at our disposal around our university campus. My favourite of these is located between the golf course and university grounds. This lake is also home to much wildlife from a family of ducks to the discontented grunts of the golfers across the water.

My final recommendation to liven up a stale week is to take a stroll along the lovely trails we have at our disposal. For students this means the lovely little trail that bypasses the lake mentioned above and also runs by my favorite place, that I have found a way to mention, the old art studios again. Walking I'm sure has been proven to improve mental focus and just might be the one thing standing between me and a breakdown on a bad week. I implore you fellow students and other adults take a few moments, just to yourself, no music, no deadlines. Sit on a bench and just breathe, take a moment to live without responsibility, without pressure without everything that makes life feel like too much. It is at this point that I am reminded that perhaps there is more to life than money and education. But then again, I do love my books and for that I need funds.



Beware of scams for online pokies and casino-style games

What is happening?

Scambling is a new kind of scam where scammers use illegal online pokies and casino-style games to steal your money or personal information. Scammers promote these games through social media, messaging apps, websites and word of mouth. Do not assume they are safe because they look professional, familiar, have positive reviews or are referred by someone you know. At first, you may be allowed to win small amounts, or you may hear about other players receiving big payouts. However, when you try to withdraw your money, scammers may delay, make excuses, ask for more payments or disappear. It is important to know that online casino-style gambling is illegal in Australia. If you choose to play, you are not protected.

Who is at risk?

Anyone can be targeted by scambling — even people who do not usually gamble. Scammers may use bonuses, small early wins or referral rewards to make the game seem genuine and encourage referrals. Scambling can spread quickly through trusted networks, including family, friends and community groups.

Warning signs to look out for:

An online ad, post or message promoting an online casino-style game, often with sign-up bonuses, free credit or easy wins. You are told to buy credits using PayID, or to transfer money to different bank accounts using payment descriptions that are not genuine.

The platform offers rewards for inviting other people to play.

You are pressured to keep depositing small amounts to unlock winnings, verify your account, or qualify for a withdrawal.

You are invited to use or rent your personal bank account to move money for a game, in exchange for commission or bonus credit.

Customer support is unavailable, unresponsive, vague, or disappears when you ask to withdraw money.

Visit Scamwatch to learn more about gambling and betting scams.

If you have been affected:

- Stop sending money immediately.
- Contact your bank or payment provider as soon as possible.
- Change your passwords if you created an account or shared login details.
- Be alert to follow-up scams, including offers to recover your money for a

fee. Making it harder for scammers:

In response to the harm caused by scambling, the National Anti-Scam Centre is running a fusion cell focused on this issue. The fusion cell brings together government, industry and other partners to improve coordination and awareness, build a clearer picture of scambling activity, and identify effective ways to disrupt it and reduce harm.

Report scambling to Scamwatch: You can help by reporting scambling to Scamwatch. First Nations consumers can also call the ACCC's First Nations Infoline on 1300 303 143. Together, we can make it harder for scammers to target Australian communities.

Stay safe from scambling:

STOP. Take a moment before signing up to any online pokies or casino-style games. Only provide identity documents when you have checked you are dealing with a regulated business in Australia.

Do not pay to unlock winnings, recover losses or prove your identity. CHECK. Use the Australian Communications and Media Authority website to check if a gambling service is legal in Australia before you sign up or pay money. PROTECT. Never allow your personal bank account to be used to move money for another person, business or game. Do not use fake payment descriptions. This can make it harder for your bank to help keep you safe.

Think twice before encouraging others to play. You could be referring them to a scam. To report scams and find more info go to Scamwatch.gov.au



Morwell & District Red Cross Branch

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

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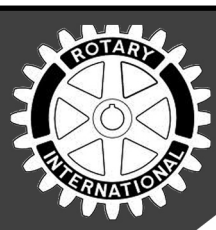
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Hazelwood Rotary Club



Soup Van

The Vinnies soup van recently had a big problem solved. Operating out of the Vinnies welfare building in Traralgon, the soup van had difficulty storing frozen and fresh produce due to limited fridge and freezer capacity. Through the generosity of renewable energy engineering and construction company, Zenviron (which is engaged to deliver the Wooreen Energy Storage System adjacent to the Jeeralang gas fired power station at Hazelwood (North), with the assistance of one of our volunteers, a Zenviron employee donated an industrial fridge and freezer to the Vinnie's Traralgon soup van, enabling the soup van to provide a better service to its Tuesday Traralgon and Wednesday Churchill van runs. The donation has made a big impact in delivering a better service to those we serve. We thank Zenviron for the support they have given the soup van but also to those in our community who need our service.

The Vinnie's Soup van is now doing its van run in Churchill every Wednesday night. Recently, along with

the normal soup, sandwiches and yoghurts, pizza was given firstly to the children then to the adults. The pizzas are provided by a popular pizza place free of charge once per month, and proved to be very popular on the night. Along with pizza, hot sausages will be provided once per month and pies for the children are also back.

The number of families attending is increasing which puts a strain on the volunteers going out each night, so new volunteers are very welcome.

Our volunteers help in preparing and packaging food. Each week they make sandwiches, delicious soups, pick up bread, fruit and other food products from suppliers, they assist with loading the soup van, distributing food on a soup van run as well as assisting in unloading the van and cleaning the kitchen and vehicles.

The need for volunteers has never been greater, so if you have some time to give volunteering with Vinnies soup van is a rewarding experience, and you can be sure you are making a difference in peoples' lives. On the soup van we help

anyone in need, regardless of their background, culture, religion or political opinion, it is about giving back to your community to those in need and from all walks of life. The soup van volunteering community is very welcoming. It is friendly and fun at the same time, but you must be over 18 to volunteer.

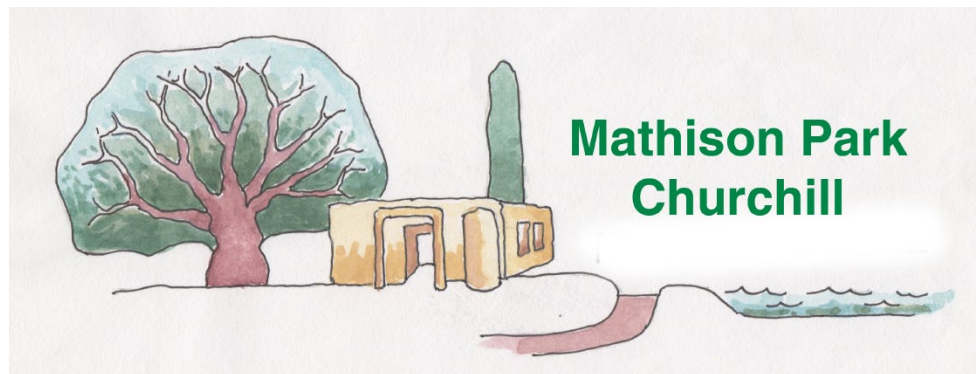
For more details Contact
Soup Van Co Ordinator
Bill Hurenkamp on
0418 327 287
Team leader Felicetta
Kile on 0421 950 661



Soup Van Coordinator Bill Hurenkamp, Soup Van Team Leader Felicetta Kile preparing fresh fruit for soup run with donated fridge and freezer.



Soup Van Coordinator Bill Hurenkamp, Jason Donohue from Zenviron.



Mathison Park Churchill

The working bee was managed by a small number of volunteers. With Bruce digging holes and preparations made, seventeen trees were planted.

A large burn pile was

also dealt with.

Mathison Park disc golf course will be the venue for the Victorian State Masters Disc Golf tournament on Saturday September 5. For those who have been using

the course, it will be a great way to see the masters at work and learn some tips. There is also a come and try time during lunchtime for those interested in trying and learning about the sport.

BUCKETS FOR MND

BIGGER BUCKET. BIGGER SPLASH. BIGGER DIFFERENCE.

Ice Bucket Challenge to remember and honour Sylvia Cranwell while raising awareness and funds for Motor Neurone Disease (MND).



THE BIGGER YOUR DONATION... THE BIGGER THE SPLASH!

- \$5** - Small Bucket
- \$10** - Medium Bucket
- \$20** - Large Bucket
- \$50+** - Extra Large Buckets



BBQ & REFRESHMENTS

Enjoy some food and drinks after the service:

- Sausage & Onion - \$3.50
- Cans of Soft Drink - \$2.00
- Cup of Soup - \$3.50

Every purchase helps support our fundraiser.



EVENT DETAILS

- Date:** Sunday 23 August
- Time:** Approximately 11:00am
(Following the 10:00am church service and dedication of Sylvia's plaque)
- Location:** Co-operating Church, Churchill

DONATE • DUNK • REMEMBER • MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Together, we can honour Sylvia's memory and support the fight against MND.



Soup Van

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

Do you:

- Have a passion for giving a 'hand up' to individuals experiencing food and financial insecurity?
- Love giving back to your local community?
- Enjoy engaging with people from all walks of life?

What could I be doing on the Soup Vans?

Preparing and packing food, assisting with loading the Soup Vans, distributing food on a 'Soup Van Run' and assisting in cleaning up the kitchen and soup van vehicle as a team.



Sign up now using our QR code!



cooking with **Noelene**

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



What do you know?

Here are the answers to July's challenge:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Junket. | 2. Blanch. |
| 3. Scold. | 4. Ganache. |
| 5. Zucchini. | 6. Sweat. |



Here is my August challenge for you:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Which ingredient is included if a dish is cooked Florentine? | 4. which spices make up Chinese five spice powder? |
| 2. Which common salad is named after a famous New York city hotel? | 5. What family does the pineapple belong to? |
| 3. What is quinoa a type of? | 6. Which vegetable can be cooked parmentier style? |

Balti Fish Fillets In A Spicy Coconut Sauce

Balti is an economical, easily prepared style of Indian food. Balti food consists of marinated and spiced ingredients usually stir fried and cooked in a pan

Ingredients:

30 ml canola oil, 1 dsp dried onions, 2-3 dried chilli flakes, 3 tbs minced garlic, 1 onion, sliced, 8 cherry tomatoes, halved, 2 tbs desiccated coconut, 1/2 tsp salt, 1 tsp ground coriander, 4 firm white fish fillets, 75gm - 100gm each, 150 ml water, 15 ml lime juice, 1 tbs fresh coriander, chopped.

Heat the oil in a deep round frying pan over a high heat. Lower the heat and add the onions dried and sliced, chilli flakes. Cook for 4 minutes stirring until the sliced onion softens. Add the tomatoes, coconut, salt and ground coriander, stir through to blend thoroughly. Cut each fish fillet into 3 pieces. Drop the fish pieces into the mixture and gently turn them until they are well coated. Lower the heat to medium and cook for 7 minutes. Add the water, lime juice and fresh coriander and cook until the water has almost evaporated.

Serve with a plain steamed grain.



Apple Snowballs

Ingredients:

4 red skinned apples, 2 tbs brown sugar, 4 whole cloves, 1 banana, mashed, 1 tsp lemon juice, 2 egg whites, 1/3 rd cup castor sugar, 1 cup shredded coconut, 30 gm flaked almonds.

Preheat your oven to 180 deg C. Lightly grease and line an oven tray. Peel and core the apples. Place 1 dsp of brown sugar and 1 clove in each core cavity, this will flavour the apples while cooking. Stand the apples in a large saucepan with water, 1 cm / 1/2" deep, cover the pot and cook the apples until just tender.

Remove the apples from the saucepan and allow to cool. Mix together the mashed banana with the lemon juice. When the apples are cool fill the apples with the banana mix. Beat the egg whites until soft peaks form, add the sugar gradually and continue to beat to a stiff meringue consistency. Cover the apples with the meringue, sprinkle over the shredded coconut and finally top with the flaked almonds.

Carefully slide onto the prepared oven tray and bake in the preheated oven until the meringue is lightly browned



Baked Eggplant And Quinoa

Ingredients:

2 eggplants, 1 tbs canola / rice bran oil, 2 tbs minced garlic, 150 gm quinoa, 375 ml vegetable stock, 1/2 tsp salt, 1 tsp cracked black pepper, 60 gm pine nuts, fresh parsley to garnish.

Preheat your oven to 220 deg C. Line an oven tray with baking paper. Place the eggplants on the baking tray and place in the heated oven. Bake for 15 minutes or until soft. Remove from the oven and allow to cool slightly. Cut each eggplant in half lengthwise and scoop out the flesh, leaving a border so they hold their shape. Finely chop the eggplant flesh. Heat the oil in a large pan over a medium / high heat. Add the garlic and cook stirring until fragrant. Add the quinoa, stock, salt and pepper, stirring through. Reduce the heat to low, cover and cook for 15 minutes until quinoa is tender. Add pine nuts and eggplant flesh and stir to combine. Divide the quinoa mixture equally among the four eggplant skins. Garnish with parsley and serve.



Raspberry Chia Pudding

Ingredients:

125 gm fresh raspberries, extras to serve, 1 orange, peeled and pith removed, roughly chopped, 375 ml almond milk, 40 gm white chia seeds, 1 tsp vanilla extract, 2 kiwi fruit, peeled and diced, 2 tbs maple syrup, fresh mint.

Use a food processor on high to process the raspberries, orange and half the almond milk until smooth. Place the mixture in a serving dish, then pour the remaining almond milk, chia seeds and vanilla extract in. Cover and transfer to your refrigerator for 1 hour. Now stir through to combine and then return to the refrigerator overnight. To serve, pile the kiwi fruit and extra fresh raspberries on top, drizzle over the maple syrup and garnish with fresh mint.



Honey Garlic Beef Stir Fry

Ingredients:

1 kg beef strips, 2 tbs minced garlic, 1 tsp five star powder, 1 tbs minced ginger, 1 tbs Apera (sweet sherry), 60 ml honey, 1 tbs ketjap manis (sweet soy sauce), 2 tbs peanut oil, 1 red capsicum, thinly sliced, 1 green capsicum, thinly sliced, 1 yellow capsicum, thinly sliced.

Combine beef strips, garlic, five spice, ginger, sherry, honey and soy sauce in a medium bowl, cover and refrigerate overnight. Drain the beef over a medium bowl, reserving the marinade. Heat 1 tbs of the oil in a large pan, stir fry the marinated beef in batches, until browned and just cooked, then remove from the pan. Heat the remaining oil in the same pan add the reserved marinade and capsicums, stir fry until the capsicums are tender. Finally add the beef, stir fry until heated through.



Swahili Chicken

Ingredients:

8 - 12 chicken drumsticks, 1 tbs minced ginger, 3 tbs minced garlic, 1 tsp ground turmeric, 1 tbs ground paprika, 1 tsp ground cinnamon, 8 tbs lemon juice, 4 tbs canola / rice bran oil, 1 dsp ground cumin, 1 tbs ground coriander, 1 dsp chilli flakes, 100gm natural yoghurt, 1 tbs runny honey, ground black pepper to taste.

Place the chicken drumsticks in a large mixing bowl. Mix together all the above ingredients and pour over the chicken, cover and marinate in the refrigerator overnight.

Preheat your oven to 160 deg C. Place the chicken drumstick mixture in a lightly oiled, shallow ovenproof dish. Bake in the preheated oven for 90 minutes. Cover the dish with aluminium foil for the last 30 minutes of cooking, when the drumsticks are quite dry.

Serve with plain rice and flat bread or with a cumin dip. The cumin dip is easy to make, whisk 250 gm of natural yoghurt with 1/2 tsp of ground cumin and 4 tbs of finely chopped fresh mint.

Season with cracked black pepper and chill until ready to serve.



Hazelwood Cemetery

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

Les Hare
 On Friday evening December 26, 1902, Mr Peart, a popular teacher at the 10 Mile Creek State School was farewelled as he was to accept a promotion elsewhere. There was a tight community gathering of friends and students present. First opened in June 1891, by 1900 there were 27 students registered on the school roll; albeit with an average attendance of about 20.

Some speakers congratulated Mr Peart, but there was one, aged 18 years, who apparently “spoke in eulogistic terms.” (Morwell Advertiser, Friday December 26, 1902.)

His name, Les Hare. It seems as though young Les had cut his teeth for a career in oratory enveloping a desire to make life better for others.

Recently, a precis of his life was published in a local newspaper. It was brief, accurate, yet omitted so much. Perhaps page space was extremely tight. So unfortunate.

Born at Tragowel, a farm-irrigation area 15 km south of Kerang, farming for his parents was tough. Somewhat similar to the Strzelecki Heartbreak Hills, absent government bureaucrats thought small selections would create reasonable income for dairy farms. Alas, no.

A farm had been selected at Marcorna, which in 1903 was described as having two churches (Anglican and Baptist), a state school, hotel, coffee palace, a Rechabite’s tent, the Orange Lodge, several stores and a butter factory. In 1891 local population totalled about 140.

Eager to succeed, his parents moved to Ten Mile Creek. Ellen (not Nellie as shown elsewhere) and Arthur are interred together at the Hazelwood Cemetery. There were other siblings alongside Les - Ernest, Nellie (Mrs F Powell), Emily (Mrs Sheriff), Daisy (Mrs T Kleine), Herbert and Grace (who died in the February 1944 fires as they raged across Hazelwood

North).

According to various opinions, in 1884 Morwell’s population was approximately 550. By 1900 the population was about 800 and, in 1910 the population had grown to almost 1370. For a young Les Hare, Morwell was a mecca waiting for business development. It was larger than Marcorna.

Initially gaining employment with George Billingsley, himself being a noted character about town with a strong determined entrepreneurial spirit, he is credited with being Morwell’s first carrier.

There were other competitors, John Bolger for example, nonetheless George carved the way forward. In November 1907, he successfully applied for three carriers’ licences and three stage carriage licences. (Morwell Advertiser).

He eventually sold out to John Bolger in June 1919.

History tells us Les could see business opportunities. Transport was an early desire, as a carrier, even proving a taxi service some years later. In 1918, he advertised as being a carrier while providing a livery stable for locals.

At one stage, he used stables owned by Mrs Ryan (Jeremiah Ryan’s wife, himself a wealthy business person in town and Driffield).

Les successfully applied for a carrier’s licence in late January, 1913.

His application was for “a share of shire carting about the district.” This placed him in competition with George Billingsley. Later, John Bolger was a competitor.

Les’s farm upbringing along with business acumen to identify an emerging market for vehicles, fuelled his ambitions. During late 1917, he was advertising with Yinnar stock agent, Thomas Keogh, to receive entries for local sales of pigs and calves. No doubt his carrier’s licence was useful.

Within a couple of years, Les was advertising widely that he was the local agent for the new six-cylinder prestige car, the Oakland. His agency extended across Morwell and Mirboo Shires. With a new building in

Commercial Road, Morwell, and subsequent new vehicles coming along to tempt local enthusiasts, who were switching away from horses and wagons, into buying flash vehicles.

(The Oakland company was purchased by General Motors in 1909 and continued to produce modestly priced automobiles until 1931 when the brand was dropped in favour of GM’s Pontiac brand.)

Les was not daunted. The car was here to stay, and during 1941, A L Hare Pty Ltd was advertising RACV service, Ford V8 (cars, trucks and tractors), alongside being the district representative for H V McKay Massey Harris farm implements, selling C.O.R (Commonwealth Oil Refineries) products including fuel and kerosene. Cars were also available for hire, day or night. (Morwell Advertiser Thursday July 10, 1941.) Earlier in mid-1924, Les advertised Ford cars, trucks and tractors. For a Ford Universal Tourer, the price was £185 without a starter, or £199-10-0 with a starter. Acquired in 1919, Les expanded his new business premises on the Commercial Road site through which he sold, or was the agent, for basically anything with wheels. In 1925, he advertised motor

cycles. Research shows he was also an agent for Sunshine farm implements, Fiat cars and with petrol bowlers installed in the street, it is little wonder that Les played a pivotal role in local commercial development.

Earlier when he started to expand, being a carrier was profitable. Les had a contract to cart clay water pipes from the Morwell Railway Station to Jeeralang using a dray and bullock team. He was working for Ike Billingsley who had a contract to construct the Morwell Weir at the head of Morwell River.

Developing real estate took his attention opening Hare’s Buildings in 1935. He now owned a valuable corner block (Commercial and Hazelwood Road corner) which celebrated its opening on Friday November 15, 1935, hosting a highly successful annual Church of England flower show. (Morwell Advertiser, Thursday November 21, 1935.) Les Hare was once described as a part of the life of Morwell. His success in business is one half of a remarkable life. The other half, a massive contribution to Morwell’s wider community, will appear in Churchill & District News, September 2026 edition.

PIGS and CALVES

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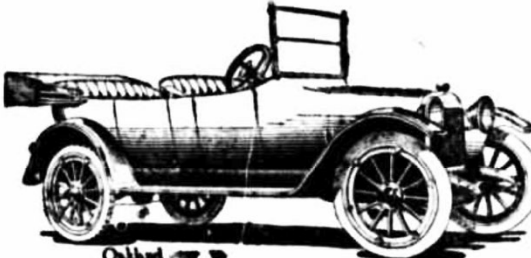
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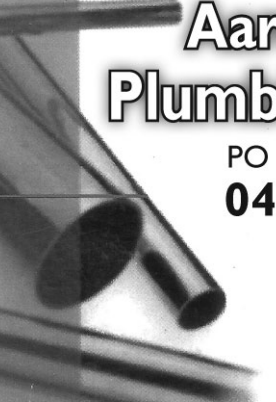
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Yinnar Bakery and Cafe is back !



After a six month closure the bakery and coffee shop in Yinnar has reopened.

On January 6 this year Yinnar residents were shocked to see that this popular venue

had been ram-raided and the ATM stolen, causing enormous damage to the building.

The owners, Theresia Gailberger and Stuart Booth were devastated.

The damage was extensive, they lost stock, income and of course their staff no longer had jobs.

It was some months before work on repairing the premises could be started, but eventually all the work was completed and the business reopened in July.

Theresia, Stuart and their team are serving coffee and other hot drinks once more, bread and other goods baked on the premises. Sandwiches and pies are available as well as newspapers and some groceries.

By the end of July they were able to recommence their popular Friday to Sunday Fish and chip, HSP and souvlaki takeaway service.

Theresia is delighted that customers are returning and said 'Thank you everyone for your kind support. We will continue to offer you a service to the best of our ability.'

Unfortunately the ATM service cannot be replaced but readers might be interested to know that the alleged perpetrators have been charged with the break-in and theft and will appear in court this month.

Friends Of Morwell National Park



In sad news, our longtime member Eulalie Brewster OAM died on July 1. Along with Ellen Lyndon and members of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalists Club, Eulie was an early campaigner for the creation of Morwell National Park. Her fascination for the natural world encompassed everything from flora and fauna to fossils, and she was active in several conservation, historical and community groups.

Eulie remained interested in Friends of Morwell National Park and our activities throughout her life. She leaves behind an impressive legacy of curiosity, care, advocacy and action for the natural world. Our sympathies are with her family and friends and the communities she devoted so much energy to.

On July 22, Ken, Matt and Caitilin guided groups of employees from the local Environment Protection Authority office around Fosters Gully as part of a staff wellness day. Two koalas were spotted by one group, and someone

in another group managed to photograph a lyrebird. Everyone enjoyed the walk and left with new knowledge and appreciation of the flora and fauna in this part of the park.

For the day's activity we planted 40 trees in celebration of our recent 40th anniversary as a friend's group. The area planted was the cleared area near the junction of Weir, Billys Creek and But But Tracks. A mixture of plant varieties, indigenous to the area, were planted.

The group either rode in one of the four vehicles or walked (it was good to get the blood moving on the cold morning) into the work site. Peter had organised and provided all the equipment needed. The wire guards and stakes were recycled from another planting project. The plants were propagated by Peter and grown on by Caitilin and Peter.

The group generally worked in pairs, siting the new plant, clearing the site of undergrowth, digging a hole, planting the seedling, surrounding it by the tree guard and driving in two



stakes to hold the tree guard. The groups leap frogged around the hill side.

During the activity, we also checked on last year's revegetation project on the disused section of Billys Creek Track. It is pleasing to see that most of the 135 plants have survived, with some now standing at more than a metre tall. Many guards were removed, although some were left in place around smaller plants and those that have been browsed by deer or kangaroos. Some weeding was done in the area, including the removal of a few big thistles. We will continue to check on both planting sites over the coming months.

After the bulk of the planting the group stopped for lunch. Either a dry perch or a folding chair was located and people caught up while lunch was eaten.

Planting finished up soon after lunch and the group was happy in the knowledge that we are adding back to the park.

Thank you, Caitilin, for most of the day's photos.

Danny O'BRIEN MP

State Member for Gippsland South

Working for Gippsland South

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A Churchill & District History Series

Looking Back...

...through the eyes of local residents



By Leo Billington

Two stories from Morwell's heydays

Perhaps not an appropriate topic with which to start, nonetheless, disposing of night soil was a constant bother annoying Morwell's residents back in the day.

as used by the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works being effective for a local sewerage scheme.

After all, Morwell had a pottery making bricks using quality grade clay, but no.

Many years later, in 1937, disposal of sewerage was becoming an urgent

the Morwell Advertiser (Thursday November 14, 1940) headlined the November monthly meeting of the Morwell Sewerage Board as a "monthly pow-wow".

Eventually a Treatment Works and Disposal Area had to be identified. An early option was somewhere in the Brinsmead Estate. Another was adjoining the Hazelwood Cemetery, perhaps a bit far from town, and not a good look. Somewhere "at Morwell's southern boundary, such as out the Thorpdale Road" was another option canvassed in Council's discussions with the Sewerage Board.

How ironical to step through even a brief history outlining provision of a sewerage scheme when we read what was published in October 1940. (The Morwell Advertiser, Thursday October 24, 1940.) Headlined:

"Morwell The Coming Capital of Gippsland. Progress Reviewed.

It is no stretch of imagination, as some may think, to say that Morwell is destined to become "The Capital of Gippsland."

There is an old and true saying that "You cannot keep a good man down," and when there is a community of good men with rare potentialities in their midst to assist them, progress and advancement is a natural outcome; and a foregone conclusion.

Under certain conditions you cannot stop advancement any more than you can sweep back the sea."

Meanwhile, away to the south of Morwell, triumph was being waged over those Heartbreak Hills.

Having experienced parts of these hills as a youngster, your scribe still wonders if triumph was won or not. The Strzelecki hills are fully laden with stories of triumph and despair.

These hills were tackled from a southern boundary as well as a northern side. History tells stories

detailing how one large family actually beat all the odds. At the end, this family remained stoic eventually making a significant impression throughout Morwell and Traralgon. Gunyah Gunyah was their launching pad; and credit is well overdue.

Briefly, our family started their journey to Australia in about 1856, arriving in Adelaide after a long trip from the Isle of Guernsey.

Over the next two or three years members of our family located to Victoria;

hotel, school, houses, rifle club, bush nursing hospital, post office, basically all this kept the community satisfied. Nonetheless, promises of a railway line from Yinnar, better roads, a fully equipped bush nursing hospital and hope for less severe winters, total satisfaction was not delivered.

Take a drive along the Grand Ridge Road, perhaps in spring.

Savour the bush, tall plantation eucalypt timber (and soft-centred) pines. But remember Gunyah was once a thriving township with a



It was reported, there were accusations night soil was being buried in the Roger and Madden Streets area (Morwell Advertiser, September 29, 1949). The Shire Engineer, Mr F A Horsfall in 1940 had investigated possibilities of a sewerage scheme. He actually made preliminary estimates and prepared contour plans.

There the matter rested for several years until an accurate costing was agreed.

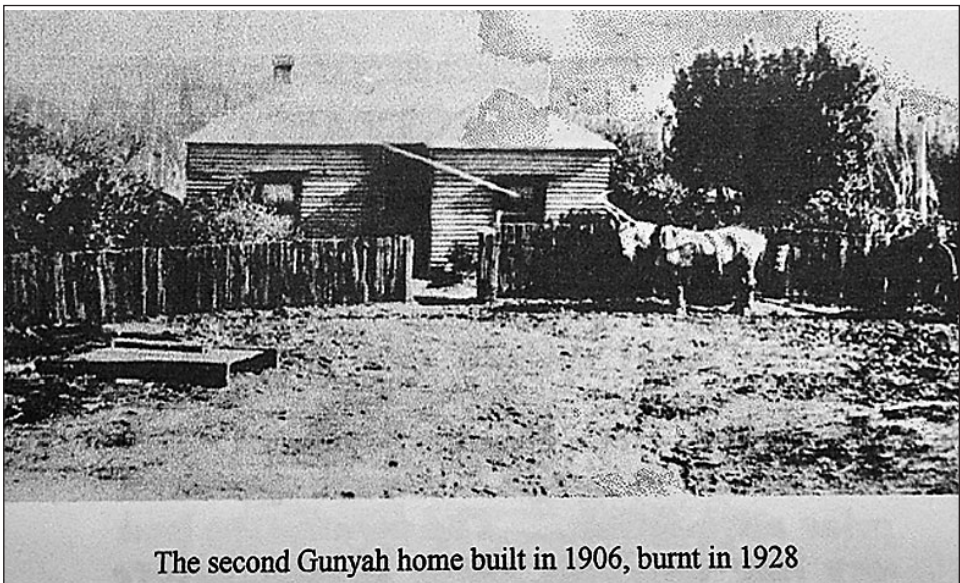
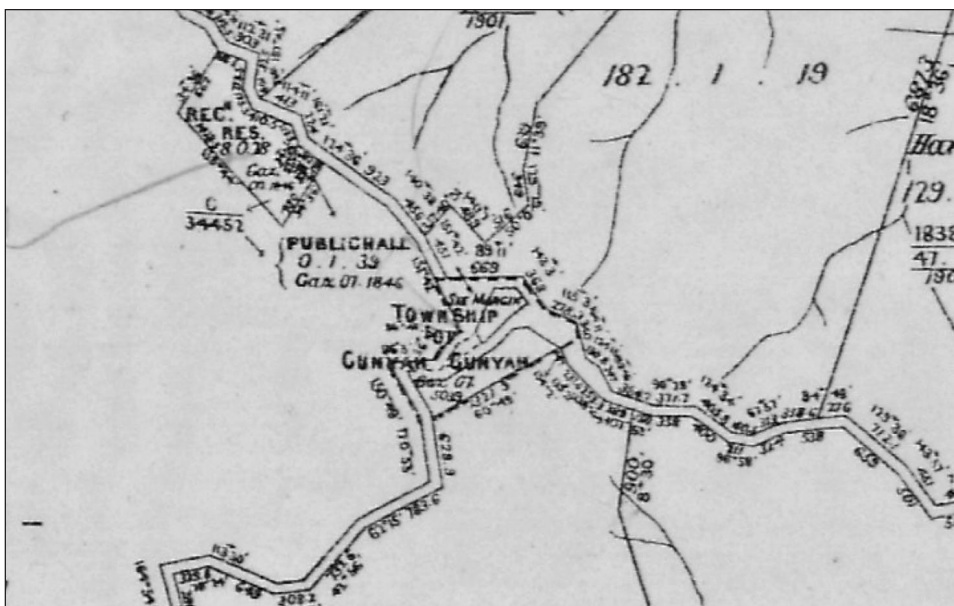
Morwell Waterworks Trust was formed in September 1912 to address a need for regular flows of water.

During 1909, there was debate about clay pipes,

matter. Morwell Shire Council talked about it again, concluding a sewerage authority must be established relatively soon, within six months of approval from the (State) Government in Council.

The proviso was State Government funding would be required. Nothing happened.

A break-through came along in October 1938 when the Morwell Waterworks Trust agreed to act as the Sewerage Authority for Morwell. Unbelievably however, 95 Morwell residents protested against this, demanding a poll before any sewerage scheme was adopted. With some humour,



of bureaucrats sitting in Melbourne deciding the hill country would be ideal for dairy farming.

To government officials visiting either Foster or Toora, vacant hills painted pictures of ideal small farms.

Similarly from our side, south of Jumbuck down to Toora and Foster, via Le Roy, Balook, Budgere, Womerah, Wonyip, Christies, Ryton to name a few where a house or two plus a community hall struggled to hold communities together. Their enemies - bracken fern, rabbits, severe winters, ragwort, blackberries, hot summers, bushfires, unmade roads, small farm allotments (which bureaucrats argued should be productive only if people worked hard). And work hard they did.

One settlement was Gunyah (sometime named Gunyah Gunyah).

During recent weeks, I received a history book

some settling in north-east Victoria at Youanmite, near Shepparton. An unviable farm, droughts and poor commodity prices soon had this family relocate to Kilmore.

Soon, Dumbalk beckoned, mainly with stories of better dairy prices being earned from farming in South Gippsland.

Grand stories of Crown lands being opened in and around Gunyah were enticing.

A move was made to farm a selection of 160 acres; and, in hindsight, a daunting and awesome sight.

To write about Gunyah requires time and energy and commitment.

Such a pity now that memories have disappeared. Years ago, my father cut timber there when he was young; his stories have remained.

Gunyah once boasted a township, complete with

community of optimists.

In closing you will note a press release about a "Hot Rod Scramble" (from the Morwell Advertiser, Thursday July 2, 1959.)

Hot Rod Scramble

THE Morwell Sporting Car club will conduct another of its popular hot-rod scrambles at Firmin's Lane track on Sunday.

The site of the scramble is reached by taking the first turn left on the Tramway Road, and the course is about two miles further on.

A 10 event programme will be staged from 1 p.m. and at least six cars will compete in each event.

Refreshments will be available to spectators.

Proceeds will go towards fitting out an ambulance for the Latrobe Valley and District Ambulance Service.

An amount of £150 already raised for this purpose by the club will be presented on Sunday afternoon to Ambulance Superintendent, Mr. D. B. Matthews.

The target set is £400, and when that is achieved, other local and district charities will be assisted by the club.

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Downstairs in Churchill Town Hall

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

Lions Club of Churchill

Well, I am sure you are all feeling it – winter has arrived and some of our Lions are gone, going up north for the warmer weather.

On a warmer note the Churchill Lions Club at the end of June held its

2026-2027 Changeover dinner at the Churchill Chinese restaurant. A great night was had by all, great food, wonderful hosts, lots of fun and some lighter moments through the fines dished out by Tail Twister Lion Reg Grisotto. He may have stretched the truth a little with some of his tales, but done in fun and a little honesty.

David Lyne was returned as Club President for a second term, David served the Club well and led the Club to a very successful 2025-2026 year, installing three new members during a year with record financial support given out to our community projects, such as our schools, Junior sporting Clubs, scout group plus putting on community events such as Australia day, ANZAC day, the Family Fishing & Fun day just to name a few.

The new board for 2026-2027 led by Lion David Lyne is:

- Secretary Peter Tait
- Treasurer Peter North
- 1st Vice President: Bill Hurenkamp,
- 2nd Vice President: Paul Jordan.
- 3rd Vice President: John Groen

Membership Chairman: Steve Duggan,
Tail Twister: Reg Grisotto,

Lion Tamer: Robin King
Directors: Wayne Pool, Fiona Lane. Wendy Armstrong and Sean Walker

Another busy year lays ahead, with this usually being a quieter period for the club, but with much construction happening in the area our services have been called upon a bit more than normal with more and more catering requests coming our way by companies wishing to assist service groups such as Lions to give back to the community. This is a good thing, as catering is our main source of income, and more income means we can support our community projects more.

In June the Lions Club again assisted at Latrobe's Biggest Ever Blokes BBQ held in Kernot Hall Morwell, which again was a hugely successful event, this year raising over \$1 million for prostate cancer research, and awareness. The Lions Club has proudly supported this important men's health event for many years with members giving their time freely to help find a cure.

Over the last month or so the Club has been busy with a number of functions which included:

- Cooking a bacon and egg breakfast for the SEC Delburn Wind Farm project.
- Feeding 110 hungry Engie Hazelwood Mine



rehabilitation employees, who enjoyed their hamburgers with the lot and BBQ sausages, with the leftovers going to the Vinnies Soup Van.

The Club catered a Fish and Chip lunch for Monash Rural Health at the University.

At Bunnings working the BBQ.

The Club donated to the Churchill Neighbourhood Centre from the profits gained from the university catering.

The same with the profits from our recent Bunnings BBQ being donated to young Churchill Scout Zoe English to help with her fundraising to attend the Aotearoa New Zealand Jamboree,

The Club will also purchase sausages to the value of \$100.00 every month to be donated to the Vinnies soup kitchen, for the soup van to give out on its Tuesday and Wednesday night soup run once a month.

A day to put in the calendar is Saturday November 21, when the Lions Club will again be holding the Churchill Family Fishing & Fun Day.

Caption:
Scout Zoe English with Lion President David Lyne at Bunnings



Your Care Choice worker Carmen shares how small acts of support can make a difference.

For Carmen, being a Your Care Choice Support Worker is about more than helping with household tasks — it is about supporting people to live life their way.

“As a support worker, my tasks involve making beds, vacuuming, mopping, dusting, and doing all the things that clients struggle with in their day-to-day living.

However more than that, I'm there to support and respect their home, and support and enable regular routines,” Carmen said.

“My help means when I visit people, I am maintaining their quality of

life,” she added.

Your Care Choice is an in-home support program provided by Latrobe Community Health Service. It is designed to provide help for people to live independently at home.

As well as general home care and housekeeping, Your Care Choice support workers can provide personal care services, such as help with showering and getting dressed, and help people attend activities like social outings or social support groups.

Carmen acknowledges that not everyone has a strong support system around them, and her role offers the type of connection that people might otherwise go without.

“Not everybody gets family support, not everyone is lucky to have that. By me being there, they know that somebody cares about them. To a lot of people, it is very important that they have a choice of how they live and what they do in their lives.”

For Carmen, the most rewarding part of her job is to see her clients come out of their shell and become the best version of themselves.

“Every person I have worked with has surprised me, because some of them start off a bit wary and suddenly, they become a totally different person. They are a lot more confident and comfortable with you, and it is so good to see.”

Are you interested in a rewarding career supporting people in your local community? We would love to hear from you. Contact LCHS on 1800 242 696 to find out more.



Churchill Town Walk

Walk with Dad on Father's Day!

The Churchill Guided Historical Walk will be held on Sunday September 6, 2026. The Walk is organised by volunteers from the Churchill and District Community Association. The Walk is a 1.8km easy walk and will take about two hours from leaving the Cafe.

Walk participants are

asked to be seated in Cafe and Pizza HQ by 10.15am at the latest. Prior to the Walk commencing, images of Churchill's flora and fauna will be shown followed by photos of Churchill's development.

The route of the Walk is predetermined with 19 commentary points.

At these points, the guide will provide commentary.

The Walk will be subject to weather on the day. The cost for walkers is \$15 for secondary school age children and older.

Further details, enquiries and bookings at- <https://churchilltownwalk.com.au>

Alternatively, people can book by phone by contacting David McInnes on 0400 809 376.



Disc Golf in Churchill

COME AND TRY DISC GOLF AT MATHISON PARK DISC GOLF COURSE

Discover disc golf by joining our **free Come and Try session** and learn one of Australia's fastest-growing sports with experienced players providing all the equipment and guidance you need. 11.30am-1pm, Sept 5th.

Just look for the big 'Masters arch banner'.



For more info about the Come and Try session, or Australian Masters Disc Golf, visit

amdgi.au

Australian Masters Disc Golf coming to Mathison Park

Masters-aged disc golfers from across Victoria will soon be heading to Churchill, with the Australian Masters Disc Golf (AMDG) bringing the Victorian Masters Series to Mathison Park Disc Golf Course on Saturday, September 5.

The Victorian Masters Series is a friendly, state-wide competition designed specifically for players aged 40 and over, providing a welcoming and inclusive environment for people of all skill levels.

The event will showcase the recently installed Mathison Park Disc Golf

Course, which has quickly become a valuable new recreational asset for the Churchill community. Developed in collaboration with Latrobe City Council and VicHealth, with ongoing support from the Friends of Mathison Park volunteer group, the disc golf course has been designed to cater for both beginners and experienced players. Free to play, the course offers a fun and accessible way to enjoy the outdoors, while adding another exciting attraction to the park for locals and visitors alike.

Between rounds of the Victorian Masters Series, AMDG will host a free "Come and Try" session

from 11.30 am to 1.00 pm at Mathison Park. The session is open to people of all ages and abilities, providing the perfect opportunity for anyone who has been curious about disc golf to give it a go. Experienced players will be on hand to provide discs, basic instruction and guidance throughout the session. Easy to learn, affordable and suitable for the whole family, disc golf is a great way to combine fun, fitness and community.

For more information about the Victorian Masters Series, the free Come and Try session, or Australian Masters Disc Golf Incorporated, visit amdgi.au.



Churchill Bowls Club

It is proposed to have barefoot bowls on Sundays commencing on September 20. Other dates are October 18 and November 15.

The town sporting clubs are invited to their special barefoot day on Sunday October 4. Secretary David will contact clubs prior to this day.

Play on all days will commence at 1 pm.

Anyone requiring information may contact President Gill Turpin – 0417 341 057 or Secretary David Moir – 0419 555 875.

Please come and give bowls a go.

It is a great game and is an excellent opportunity for socialising, and age is no barrier as we have members ranging from early teens to mid eighty year olds.

The club has a liquor licence so alcoholic drinks are available, as are tea and coffee.

Toilets are available in the adjacent clubhouse.

A reminder that the club is situated in Manning Drive adjacent to the football ground and can be accessed via the road into that ground.

Churchill & Monash Golf Club

Monthly Medal (Stroke) – June 27, 2026

Monthly Medal Winner: A. Jenkins 73 Nett Scratch Winner: A. Jenkins 85

Putts Winner: R. King 26 A Grade Winner: A. Jenkins 73 Nett

B Grade Winner: G. Leahy 74 Nett C Grade Winner: P. McGann 78 Nett

D.T.L.: 1. M. Soppe 76, 2. R. King 77, 3. S. Cook 79, 4. G. Tattersen 80, 5. M. Hutchinson 80, 6. P. Kearns 80 N.T.P.: 12th N. Erasmus (Propin), 14th N. Erasmus Birdies: 3rd D. Byers, 12th T. Bennet, 14th M. Soppe Target Hole: C. Gilfillan

2 Person Ambrose (drawn partners) – June 30, 2026

Winners: S. Caldwell/M. Ryan 84/73.5 D.T.L.: M. Dear/C. Stevens/L. Van Rooy 89/74 N.T.P.: 3rd S. Caldwell, 12th L. Brent, 14th M. Ryan Stableford – July 4, 2026

A Grade Winner: I. Fortune 34 pts B Grade Winner: C. Stevens 34 pts

D.T.L.: 1. C. Waring 32, 2. D. Burridge 30, 3. C. Sterrick 29, 4. R. Dent 25, 5. A. West 25 c/b N.T.P.: 3rd C. Waring (Propin), 12th I. Fortune, 14th R. Harvey

Birdies: 3rd C. Waring Target Hole: R. Harvey

Women's Monthly Medal (Stroke) – July 7, 2026

Winner: C. Stevens 84 Nett Scratch Winner: S.

Caldwell 108

Putts Winner: K. Del Piccolo 29 D.T.L.: S. Caldwell 85 Nett

N.T.P.: 3rd S. Turner, 5th M. Dear, 12th M. Dear, 14th M. Dear

Foursomes Championships (27 holes) – July 11, 2026

Winners: K. Barnes/A. Jenkins 109 nett Runners Up: G. Leahy/S. Gregor 110.5 nett D.T.L.: 1. P. McGann/R. Tewierik 111.5, 2. D. Cluderay/G. Sanders 112, 3. C. Thompson/R. Zomer 112 N.T.P.: 3rd S. Allison (Propin)

Target Hole: C. Waring/G. Barnes

Stableford – July 14, 2026

Winner: M. Hutchinson 39 pts D.T.L.: C. Stevens 27 pts Birdie: 3rd M. Hutchinson N.T.P.: 3rd M. Hutchinson, 5th S. Caldwell, 14th L. Brent

Stableford – July 18, 2026

A Grade Winner: D. Byers 32 pts B Grade Winner: C. Sterrick 36 pts

C Grade Winner: T. Collins 30 pts D.T.L.: 1. D. Cluderay 34, 2. S. Caldwell 33, 3. R. Dent 32, 4. B. Skinner 31, 5. I. Fortune 31, 6. R. Harvey 31, 7. C. Waring 31, 8. D. Burridge 31, 9. G. Leahy 30 c/b N.T.P.: 3rd D. Byers, 12th D. Cluderay

Birdies: 3rd D. Byers, 5th L. Anderson, 12th D. Cluderay, 15th C. Thompson Target Hole: R. King Stableford – July 21, 2026

A Grade Winner: R. Tewierik 32 B Grade Winner: M. Dear 32

D.T.L.: 1. P. Bolding 31, 2. S. Caldwell 31 N.T.P.: 3rd L. Van Rooy, 5th J. Soppe, 12th S. Caldwell, 14th S. Caldwell,

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

Monthly Medal Winner: D. Cluderay Nett 67 Scratch Winner: J. Langstaff 83 strokes Putts Winner: C. Gilfillan 25 putts

A Grade Winner: J. Langstaff Nett 72 B Grade Winner: D. Cluderay Nett 67

C Grade Winner: G. Spowart Nett 81 D.T.L.: 1. I. Fortune 72, 2. R. Dent 73, 3. Adam West 74, 4. S. Allison 75, 5. R. King 77, 6. R. Tewierik, 7. C. Waring 77

N.T.P.: 5th D. Cluderay, 12th Adam West (Propin), 14th P. Kearns Birdies: 12th Adam West, 14th P. Kearns Target Hole: D. Cook

Stableford July 28, 2026

A Grade Winner: G. Dingwall 38 pts B Grade Winner: C. Stevens 34 pts

D.T.L.: 1. M. Hammer 32, 2. M. Hutchinson 30 N.T.P.: 3rd S. Caldwell, 12th S. Turner, 14th S. Turner

✓ Freshly baked bread daily

✓ Pastries

✓ Pies

✓ Salad rolls

✓ Slices

✓ Donuts

✓ Cold drinks

✓ Tea and coffee

✓ Hot Dogs

✓ Hamburgers

✓ Daily newspapers

✓ Milk

**Fish & Chips, HSP and Souvlaki available:
Fri, Sat, Sun 5.00pm - 8.00pm**



✓ All to have-in or takeaway

Mon - Thurs

7.00am - 4.30pm

Fri - Sun

8.00am - 8.00pm

44 Main Street,

Yinnar

Ph: 03 5115 8696

Australia Day and Sporting Hall of Fame Awards



Nominations for Latrobe City Council's 2027 Australia Day Awards and Sporting Hall of Fame are now open.

The Australia Day Awards recognise local individuals and groups who have made an outstanding contribution to the community. Nominations can be submitted by any individual or community group.

The Sporting Hall of Fame celebrates exceptional athletes and sporting contributors who have left a lasting legacy in Latrobe City.

Latrobe City Council Mayor, Councillor Sharon Gibson, encouraged residents to take the opportunity to recognise the people who make a difference in their community.

"Every town, club and neighbourhood has people who quietly get on with helping others and making life better for those around

them. These awards are about giving those people the recognition they deserve," Councillor Gibson said.

"It might be a volunteer who is always there when needed, a community group bringing people together or someone who has dedicated years to local sport. If someone comes to mind, I encourage you to put their name forward.

We have so many great people in Latrobe City and these awards are a chance for the community to say thank you for the contribution they make every day."

Residents are invited to nominate a person or group for the following Australia Day Award categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Senior Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year
- Community Service of the Year

Latrobe City Council administers the Australia

Day Awards on behalf of the National Australia Day Council Victoria.

The Sporting Hall of Fame accepts nominations every four years in the following categories:

- Legend – an elite competitor who has achieved sporting excellence at the highest level; or
- Member – an athlete, coach, official, administrator, manager, mentor, sports scientist or sports media representative who has made a significant contribution to sport.

Award recipients will be announced at a civic ceremony on Australia Day January 26, 2027.

Nominations for both the 2027 Australia Day Awards and the Sporting Hall of Fame close at 5pm on Friday September 11, 2026.

To learn more about the eligibility criteria and submit a nomination, visit www.latrobe.vic.gov.au



Fake purchase callback scams

What is happening?

Scammers are sending fake messages that say you bought something you did not buy and tells you to call a phone number to stop or reverse the payment.

You might get the message by text, email, app notification, calendar invitation or another way. It might even include your details such as your name, email, phone number or address.

The fake purchase is often between \$300 and \$2,000 and might be for items such as a phone, security software, plane or event tickets, or cryptocurrency.

The message may mention a payment service you know, such as PayPal. It may also mention an account you closed or an account you have never used.

Scammers try to make you feel rushed by claiming you only have a short time to call the number before the money is taken from your account.

Who is at risk?

Anyone can be targeted by this scam. You may feel pressured to act urgently if your details are included in the message, or if you use the apps or payment service named in the message. It is

important to check, even if it looks real at first glance.

What this may look like:

These scams can look like messages from well-known companies and services, including:

Shop App order receipts
Google Meet invitations
Apple iMessage texts
PayPal email invoices or text messages
Norton / McAfee software renewal emails
Microsoft annual subscription emails.

A Shop App receipt of a fake PayPal purchase for a Microsoft Surface laptop.

An email from Shop App about a fake PayPal invoice saying 'A shipment from order #2020 is on the way'.

A text message about a fake recent PayPal purchase saying 'A payment authorisation request was recently flagged by our monitoring system due to unusual login activity' Transaction amount A\$718.90, rest of message says 'If this request was not initiated by you, please contact our support immediately to verify and secure your account access. PayPal support +61 1800, redacted.

Warning signs to look out for:

A message about a payment or purchase you do not recognise.

A phone number shown clearly with instructions to call if you did not make the purchase.

A high-cost purchase, often \$300 or more, to make you worry and call the number. Pressure to act quickly before the money is taken from your account.

If you call the number, the scammer may:

ask for your bank or card details to give you a refund say they paid you too much and ask you to send money back

get you to install software so they can control your device and access your accounts ask you to help catch the scammers by buying gift cards sending photos of them Protect yourself from fake purchase callback scams:

STOP. Do not rush. Do not call the number in the message or share financial information, passwords, one-time codes or gift card numbers.

CHECK. Log in to your account by using the official app or website to check whether the payment is real. Use the official website to find the real phone number. PROTECT. If you sent money or shared personal information, act quickly. Visit Scamwatch to find out what to do if you have been scammed.

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

Heritage Gap Study and Heritage Advisory Committee

The Heritage Gap Study is about finding important places in Latrobe that may not already be identified and protected in the Latrobe Planning Scheme to ensure that all places of heritage significance are properly identified, valued, and considered for protection.

The project will also assess the need and purpose of a Heritage Advisory Committee in advocating for and preserving heritage within Latrobe City municipality. We invite you to attend an interactive workshop to share your knowledge of Latrobe's history.

Your insights will

help uncover important places, local stories, historic themes, and events that have contributed to the region's identity.

The workshop will also provide an opportunity to discuss your thoughts on establishing a Heritage Advisory Committee for Latrobe.

Community Engagement Session - August 18, 2026 Kernot Hall 6pm to 7.30pm

If you would like to attend, please register by August 16, 2026.

You can also register through Latrobe's Have your Say Page.

Alternatively, you could meet us at the following

consultation sessions:

- August 16, 2026 Glengarry Market 9am to 2pm
- August 19, 2026 Moore Street, Moe 10am to 3pm
- August 25, 2026 Mid-Valley Shopping Centre 10am to 3pm
- August 27, 2026 Traralgon Plaza 10am to 3pm
- August 29, 2026 Churchill Market 9am to 2pm

An online survey is also available on Latrobe's Have your Say Page.

If you require further information, please contact me on 0407 719 224 or via email Amruta.Pathak@latrobe.vic.gov.au.



1st Churchill Scout Group

1st Churchill Scouts is participating in a monster raffle which covers all Scout groups in Victoria. All those

who click on the link in the poster to help need to specify 1st Churchill Scouts. All proceeds received by 1st

Churchill Scouts will be used directly for the hall upgrade and essential maintenance works.



Win Big!

with the

Monster Raffle

Photo for illustration purposes only

scoutsvic.raffletix.com.au/1stchurchill

\$2
Per ticket

1st Prize
Suzuki Swift Hybrid
Valued at \$29,584

Churchill Scout Group

scoutsvic.raffletix.com.au/1stchurchill

2nd Prize
Uluru Adventure Holiday
Valued at \$3,790

3rd Prize
Simpson III Rooftop Tent
Valued at \$1,943

SCHOOL news

Churchill Primary

New Leadership Team excited to join Churchill Primary School

Churchill Primary School is pleased to welcome its newest members of the leadership team, Reece Malcolmson (Acting Principal) and Patrick Kilday (Assistant Principal), who are looking forward to working alongside students, staff and families to build on the school's many strengths.

As locals with strong connections to the Latrobe Valley, both Reece and Patrick are passionate about public education and are heavily invested in the Churchill community. Their shared commitment to supporting young people and strengthening community connections is at the heart of their leadership.

Patrick is proud to be an ex-pupil of the school, making his return as Assistant Principal especially meaningful. He joins Churchill Primary School after an extensive career across several local primary schools including leadership

positions at Stockdale Road Primary School, Churchill North Primary School and, most recently, serving in a shared Principal role at Boolarra Primary School. Patrick has been recognised in recent years for his leadership capabilities through a range of Principal opportunities, and Churchill Primary School is fortunate to welcome him to the team. Many members of the school community may already recognise Patrick after he completed a four-week leadership placement at Churchill Primary School last term, working alongside former Principal Mrs Burrows, which supported a smooth leadership transition. Outside of school, he enjoys spending quality time with his wife and two children. He loves caring for the family chooks, exploring the outdoors, and making the most of family life.

Reece Malcolmson joins Churchill Primary School after serving as Campus Principal at Kurnai College – Churchill Campus for

the past four years. Prior to this, he spent six years as Assistant Principal at Morwell Central Primary School. Having worked across both primary and secondary education, Reece brings a broad range of leadership experience and a strong understanding of supporting students throughout their educational journey. Outside of school, Reece enjoys spending as much time as possible with his four children, whether that is watching them play sport or supporting them in the many activities in which they are involved. He is a passionate St Kilda Football Club supporter although, as Saints fans know, that does not always result in smiles! When time allows, Reece loves getting away with family and friends in the caravan, where the water is nearby and everyone can enjoy boating, relaxing, swimming and enjoying the outdoors.

Reflecting on their first weeks at the school, Reece and Patrick have been

incredibly impressed by what they have seen.

"We have walked into a highly effective school where students are clearly thriving academically, socially and emotionally.

There is a genuine sense of pride throughout the school. The positive relationships between staff and students, the calm learning environments and the commitment of everyone to supporting children has made us feel incredibly welcome. We know there has already been a lot of excellent work happening at Churchill Primary School, and our role is to continue building on those strong foundations."

Over the coming months, Reece and Patrick are looking forward to getting to know families, strengthening partnerships with the wider community and continuing to provide every student with the opportunity to achieve positive outcomes.

Churchill Primary students shine at State Cross Country
Bobby and Patrick

have proudly represented Churchill Primary School throughout this year's School Sport Victoria Cross Country competition.

Their journey began at the Yinnar & District competition, where they successfully progressed through the Latrobe Valley Division and Gippsland Region before competing at the State Cross Country Championships on July 16.

The boys travelled to the Yarra Valley Racing Club to compete against some of the best cross-country runners in the state over the 2km course. This was the second consecutive year that Bobby and Patrick have qualified for the State level, so it is safe to say they knew the track pretty well!

Both boys ran fantastic races, recording great times and finishing in the top 50. Throughout the competition, they demonstrated outstanding determination, resilience and commitment. We are incredibly proud of Bobby and Patrick and congratulate them on this

fantastic achievement!

Henny Penny Hatching Program

Churchill Primary School students are excited to be taking part in the Henny Penny Hatching Program! This hands-on learning experience provides students with the wonderful opportunity to observe the life cycle of a chicken up close.

As the fertilised eggs develop and eventually hatch, students will learn about life cycles, animal care and the responsibilities involved in caring for living things. They will also develop an understanding of the importance of treating animals with kindness and respect.

It is a fantastic opportunity to bring our science learning to life through a real-world, hands-on experience. We cannot wait to watch our little chicks hatch and grow!

Left to right Reece and Patrick, new Leadership Team
2 Bobby and Patrick, State Cross Country Championships



SCHOOL news

Hazelwood North Primary

Term 3 kicked off with a range of NAIDOC Week celebrations across the school. 5/6M learnt about the word 'deadly' in Indigenous culture and then created a poster (pictured) to share their own personal achievements or things that they believe are amazing! Their ideas ranged from sporting achievements, famous Indigenous people

that they look up to, and personal victories that they are proud of.

On Friday July 17, the whole school celebrated NAIDOC Week with a dress up day in Indigenous colours. All classes participated in a range of activities such as learning about Indigenous symbols and how they were used to tell stories, learning about Dreamtime stories

including Tiddalick the frog, researching famous Indigenous people who have made valuable contributions to society, and creating dot paintings.

Our mission to reduce waste and help the environment is continuing this term with can collecting still going strong. We are raising money for the Goodall Group

(environmental action group) and so far, we have raised \$355 which was a total of 3500 cans/bottles etc.

Mr Murphy and his team of dedicated students have worked tirelessly to organise cans and take them to Container Recycling Deposit Scheme in Moe.

The money raised will go to purchasing vegetables to grow in our garden as well as

some other resources for the sensory garden.

Please continue to donate cans so that they can be recycled!

On Tuesday July 28, our Foundation students will celebrate 100 days of school! A day of dressing up, themed activities and celebrations will occur for our wonderful Foundation students who have learnt so much in their

100 days so far. Bring on the next 100!

Captions
5/6M 'Deadly' Poster
Alice with her junior buddy, Sonny. They worked together to create a dot painting of a turtle.

Tommy creating stories in the sandpit with his buddy, Bowie.



SCHOOL news

Yinnar Primary School

This term, our Prep students first focus in English will be "Stories". Throughout the unit, they will explore a range of fiction texts from different countries, including fairy tales, folktales and trickster tales. Students will learn to identify the characters, settings and plots of these stories, as well as key features of fiction stories.

In the Grade 1 and 2 classrooms, students have been learning to identify the features of 2D and 3D shapes and sort them according to their attributes.

Earlier this week, students took part in an exciting hands-on challenge where they worked collaboratively in groups to design and build a boat using aluminium foil. Their goal was to create a boat that could hold the greatest amount of weight before sinking. The most successful design held an impressive 550 grams before finally sinking!

This term, our Grade 3 and 4 students are exploring the English unit 'Our Land, Our Stories'. This unit focuses on First Nations cultures, including Country, Place and Peoples. Our students will learn about traditional art, dance, dreaming stories, languages, and the significant contributions Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have made to Australian

society.

Our Grade 5 and 6 students have also begun an enriching exploration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, peoples and places through a variety of engaging texts and learning experiences. They will deepen their understanding of Aboriginal perspectives, histories and storytelling traditions while strengthening their reading, writing and discussion skills.

On Friday July 17, the whole school came together to celebrate NAIDOC Day. Throughout the day, students participated in a variety of activities that celebrated the cultures and history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Students learned about the significance of

NAIDOC Week, listened to creation stories, took part in a canoe-making activity, and created a flag collage. These experiences provided valuable opportunities for students to develop and deepen their understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Basketball

We really love basketball and take it seriously! We jumped out of our comfort zones to try out for the State Schools Victoria (SSV) basketball team. The first stage was held at the Moe Sporting Complex.

This was for the Latrobe Valley Region. When we arrived, we were confident. We did a lot of match play at this stage.

They picked 15 players

to go to the next stage, which we both made! The second stage was held at Casey and there were about 40 players trying out.

It was hard and there were a lot of really good players. Unfortunately, Eli did not make the next tryout but on a positive side Jobe made it through to the next stage.

At the third tryouts it was tough competition, there was a lot of scrimmage play and drills. Jobe gave it his all to try to make Yinnar proud. Sadly, no one from the Gippsland Region made it to State. We are both very proud and grateful for the opportunity.

Written by Eli and Jobe



SCHOOL *news* Kurnai College University

NAIDOC Celebrations

On Tuesday July 21, the University Campus school community came together to celebrate NAIDOC Week and this year's theme, '50 Years of NAIDOC'. NAIDOC Week is an important occasion on the Kurnai calendar, providing an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the rich history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Students and staff enjoyed a free barbecue and sampled a variety of native Australian-inspired treats, including lemon myrtle shortbread, salt bush

brownies, strawberry gum brownies and rainforest plum jam drops. These delicious creations were prepared by our Year 11 Food Studies class, Hospitality VET class and Year 12 Catering class, showcasing the unique flavours of Indigenous Australian ingredients.

The celebrations also featured live music performed by the talented Kurnai student band, creating a vibrant atmosphere throughout the day. Students also had the opportunity to participate in a hands-on cultural activity, making Indigenous-inspired salt dough ornaments. A game

of Mangrook, Indigenous Australian football was also played with a possum skinned ball.

A special thank you to Marina Cooper (and team) staff and students, whose hard work, creativity and generosity helped make this year's NAIDOC celebration such a memorable occasion. Their ongoing commitment ensures this important event continues to be a meaningful celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures within our school community.

Farewell to our Danish exchange student

It has been a pleasure

to welcome our Danish exchange student, Sofia Sachs, to the University Campus this year. Arriving at the beginning of the school year, Sofia quickly became a valued member of our Year 12 VCE community, embracing Australian school life with enthusiasm, curiosity and a positive attitude.

Throughout her time at the University Campus, Sofia enriched our school community with her warm personality, friendly nature and willingness to become involved in all aspects of school life. She formed strong friendships with

both students and staff and approached every new experience with an open mind and a sense of adventure.

Sofia participated in our English as an Additional Language (EAL) class, where she further developed her English language skills while sharing insights into Danish culture and traditions.

Outside the classroom, Sofia enthusiastically participated in school activities and events, making the most of every opportunity during her exchange. Her kindness, resilience and positive outlook made a lasting impression on

everyone who had the pleasure of getting to know her.

As Sofia returns to Denmark, we thank her for being such a wonderful ambassador for her country and for the many friendships and memories she has created during her time with us. We wish her every success in the future and hope she looks back on her Australian experience with fond memories. Sofia will always be a welcome member of the Kurnai community.



SCHOOL *news* Lumen Christi Primary

Lumen Christi students build confidence on Phillip Island Camp

Students in Grades 3 and 4 at Lumen Christi Primary School, Churchill recently returned from an exciting overnight camp at Phillip Island, where they embraced new challenges, strengthened friendships and developed valuable life skills.

The camp provided

students with a wide range of fun and adventurous activities, including a visit to A Maze'N Things, archery, the giant swing, a scavenger hunt and the low ropes course. Each activity encouraged students to step outside their comfort zones, build confidence and support one another as they tackled new experiences.

On the journey home,

the students enjoyed a stop at San Remo to watch the famous pelican feeding, providing a memorable conclusion to a wonderful camp experience.

While the activities were a highlight, the camp's primary focus was helping students develop greater independence, resilience and responsibility. Throughout the camp, students packed

and managed their own belongings, participated in regular cabin inspections and worked together in daily duty groups. These responsibilities included setting tables before meals, serving their classmates, clearing dishes and helping to keep shared spaces tidy.

Teachers were delighted with the way students embraced

these responsibilities, demonstrating growing maturity, teamwork and a willingness to help others. Many students challenged themselves to try activities they had never experienced before, showing courage, perseverance and resilience along the way.

The camp was a wonderful opportunity for students to learn beyond the

classroom, creating lasting memories while developing important personal and social skills that will benefit them well into the future. Lumen Christi Primary School is proud of the outstanding way the Grade 3 and 4 students represented themselves and the school throughout the camp.



SCHOOL news

Boolarra Primary

Mr K
Recently, Boolarra Primary School welcomed our new Principal Mr K. He has made everyone at our school feel welcome and has been really friendly.

Mr K is 36 years old, and he has been working as a teacher for 14 years. The reason why he works as a Principal is because he loves to help kids with their learning and he also loves to work with all the other teachers.

The first school he ever worked at was Scotsburn Primary School in Ballarat. He gets up at 5am in the morning so he can see all the wonderful kids at Boolarra Primary.

We are so thankful for our new Principal Mr K.

By Ava and Gewalin

Lunch Orders

Last term, two community members donated lunches for us at school.

We are lucky to have Julie donate lunches for us on Mondays for Term 3.

They provide us with a menu so we can choose from lots of healthy food. We are able to build our own sandwich and then we can pick a yoghurt, piece of fruit and a snack.

We both chose tiny teddys for our snacks and they were delicious!

Leon likes ordering the lunch because he likes making a new sandwich like chicken, lettuce and cheese.

Braxton likes to look at the menu because there are so many yummy options to choose from and he is going to have a different sandwich every week and a different snack until he has tried them all.

We are super grateful to Julie for giving us a healthy



lunch.

By Leon and Braxton
Hockey with Coach Sherrie

Coach Sherrie came from Gecko sports to our school, Boolarra Primary School to teach us hockey skills. Sherrie would come and we would go outside to do hockey with her every time we had sport.

We learnt how to control the ball by putting our left hand near the end of the hockey stick and the right

hand lower down it making sure there is a space between both of your hands keeping your feet apart and putting the hockey stick next to the ball and pushing not swinging at it to hit.

Finally, Sherrie organised a game - she made a field with cones and we had to keep our balls safe while others try to hit it out of the cones. I think she made it up herself so it doesn't have a name, but it was fun.



We loved learning about hockey and want to play again

By Richie. G.

Cupcake competition

On the last day of school, we had a cupcake competition to see who made the coolest cupcake, the funniest and the silliest. It was so cool we started making them one by one in groups of three or four students.

Granny Barb and some students in groups of three or four, baked the cupcakes and then we all decorated them with lollies.

Some kids made one, two or three. After we made them, we watched a movie called Space Jam.

We then had a cupcake competition, and the teachers rated the cupcakes. There were three winners. We all had a good laugh because they looked really funny.

After they were judged, we were able to eat them and they were really yummy.

By Jackson and Connor

Food Bank

At BPS we get food all the time, everyone gets yummy food. Mrs Boka orders our food bank. Mr delivery driver delivers it to our school so we can eat it. One of our amazing staff unpacks it.

Mr and Mrs Black use the bread to make everyone breakfast on Wednesdays. We get fresh fruit in both our classrooms each day. Granny Barb makes us all great treats like hot chocolates and toasties. At BPS we are so lucky to get food.

The best Principal, Mrs Duncan, at BPS helps get the food. Every day at BPS we get food to eat if we are still hungry.

By Azaleah and Harry



SCHOOL news

Churchill North Primary

Last term, students in 5/6 Watkins became kindness ambassadors as they explored the powerful impact that being kind can have on ourselves and those around us.

Students worked collaboratively in pairs to research how acts of kindness can positively affect the body, mind and relationships. Through this process, they discovered

that being kind can boost our mood, reduce stress and strengthen our connections and friendships, which also helps to create a positive and inclusive school community.

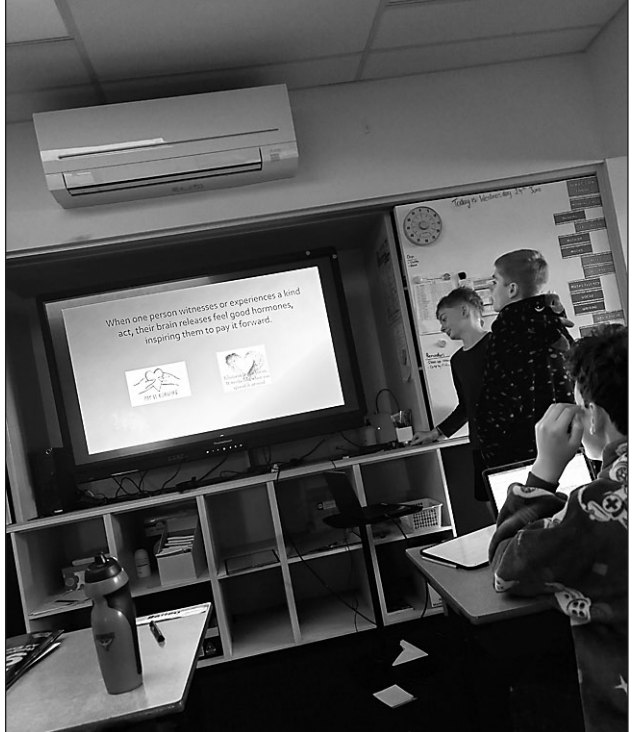
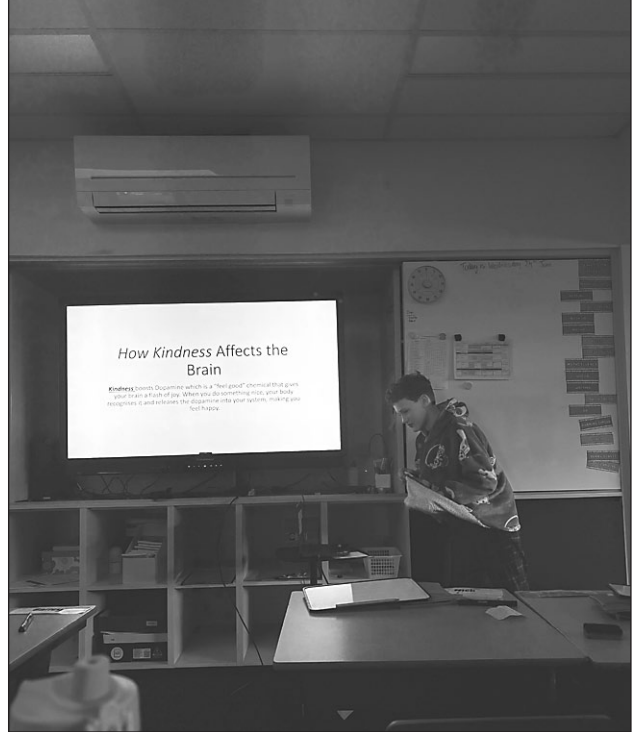
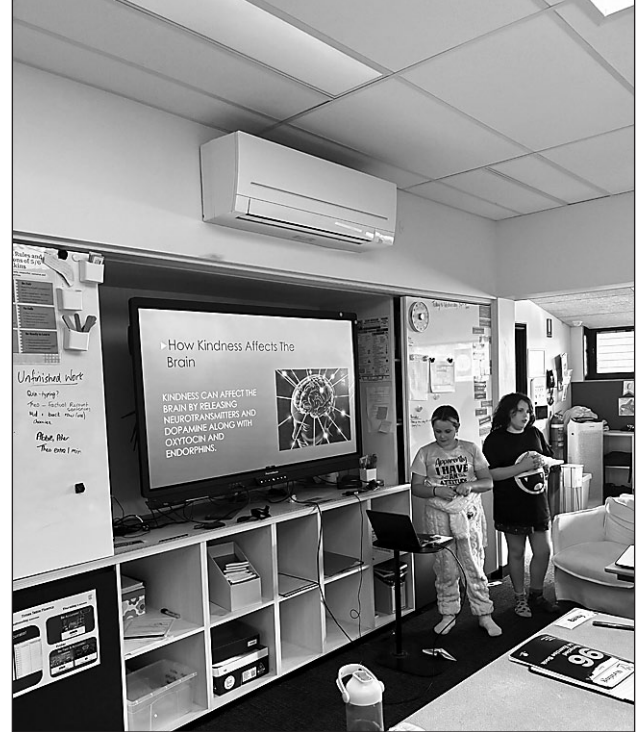
After a lesson and a

half, students bravely shared their learning with one another and presented their PowerPoint presentations to the whole class. Students worked well together to share the workload, explain their

ideas and use evidence to support their findings.

We are incredibly proud of the effort, teamwork and thoughtful discussions that occurred throughout learning

this topic. It was wonderful to see our students promoting the message that kindness is not only important – it is really cool!



Yinnar, Yinnar South Landcare Group

By Jan Duncan

One of our group's main priorities is to encourage and assist where we can in preserving remnant vegetation. Some of the most concern in relation to remnant vegetation is the loss of isolated old trees in paddocks.

Old trees, paddock trees and the life they support are all threatened by stock camping too close to them, land clearing, deliberate setting of fires under them, changed drainage patterns and a changing and heating climate.

It takes about 80 to 150 years for tree hollows to form, so every time a hollow-bearing tree is lost, a whole lot of other species come under increasing stress.

The creatures that rely on tree hollows are often very useful in providing pest control and as part of the natural world. Many insect, bird, mammal amphibian and reptile species are now diminishing in number and some are heading for extinction if conditions for their survival keep on deteriorating. Preserving and protecting paddock trees, and linking them to other areas of native vegetation is useful for the animals that use the trees and beneficial to the farms that host them.

For example, tiny bats and birds spend all night and

all day eating insects, and many hawks and owls hunt rabbits and other rodents.

Hollows come in many shapes and sizes as do the species that use them.

Owls and greater gliders use large ones, as do colonies of some species of microbat. Other microbats might roost in a crack in the bark of a large tree. Some roost hollows are not even trees. Eastern rosellas and blue-winged parrots often nest in old hollow fence posts and many people are familiar with the sort of alternative roost sites that some species of microbats have adapted to.

These tiny creatures are sometimes found living in roofs, sheds and other inventive places such as inside old coats etc. If they are found there, they are likely to be one of the long-eared bats. (*Nyctophilus gouldii* or *Nyctophilus geffroyii*)

As we are now having the sort of temperatures that will cause microbats to hibernate or go into a lighter sleep state called torpor, it is important not to disturb them at this time of year. They have spent the autumn building up just enough fat to use as a food reserve to get them through the season. Heating themselves up enough to be able to fly, and then chasing less abundant insects to eat and replenish their energy is

often too difficult and they will die.

Blue-winged parrots are a very special little bird that can often be seen here in summer. The natural tree hollows that they use are small and often located in stags and smaller dead trees that may be leaning against larger ones.

These particular hollows are said to develop earlier in messmate stringybarks than in other trees the same age. So it is good to leave these ratty looking dead trees in place.

Greater gliders use tree hollows to nest and for daytime roosts as well as for temporary refuges while foraging. They can only glide a maximum of 150m so retaining paddock trees that are close enough to trees that the gliders can launch from is helpful.

Like koalas, the gliders' only food is eucalyptus leaves. For both species, more gum trees for foraging are needed. Koalas like trees to be close enough for them to jump between trees and gliders also need hollow-bearing trees for roosting and hanging out. Each glider might use multiple tree hollows while foraging at night, so retaining groups of trees is important.

The best chance to keep paddock trees alive and well is to exclude farm animals

and then plant smaller trees, shrubs, native grasses and groundcovers around them. To restore the soil, it is best to leave leaf litter and coarse woody debris in place so that it can rot down, feed the soil and provide habitat for the fungi and invertebrates that digest it.

Birds will then come and eat the invertebrates and all this action will return fertility to the soil in a form that the trees can digest. Over the years micro-organisms will build up their numbers enough to eat the leaf litter at the same rate that it accumulates, while birds scratching in it for food will turn over the soil and accelerate decomposition.

Healthy soil retains more moisture and has better nutrient cycles. Stock camping under paddock trees will kill them. Compacted soil is not healthy soil. Rubbed-off or eaten bark on living trees cannot protect or nourish the tree canopy. The trees take up their nutrients from soil bacteria and fungi that are not adapted to large concentrations of the nutrients found in farm animals' urine and manure.

The trees can benefit the farm animals by providing shelter, shade and soil fertility, but excluding stock at least as far as the trees' drip line is needed for these important and often ancient

trees to survive.

Our group can apply for funding for on-ground works such as fencing, advise on suitable species for understorey planting, and/or organise volunteers for planting days. We also grow small numbers of locally indigenous plants to supply our own sites and other local revegetation initiatives.



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