

Lancefield Mercury



NECESSITIES IN TIMES OF A DISASTER

Most people who were in the area when we had the storms in June 2021 would have felt a bit nervous last month with the forecast strong winds, wondering if it was going to leave us without power, phones and internet, with trees and branches down everywhere and power lines on the road, basically isolated for some days. This relieved feeling highlighted that we still don't have anything in place to provide support and necessities in times of disasters.

The Neighbourhood House, through some initial funding from MRSC, has been doing some research into what we can do in Lancefield. The project, now called CLEAR, Community of Lancefield Emergency Action Response.

This is not about replacing the role of our wonderful emergency or support services - this is about the time before they can get to us, or when they can't get to us, usually the first 72 hours. It's for supporting the vulnerable people in the community and providing a space and resources for anyone who needs it. It is about all of us helping each other and knowing how to do it.

TO DATE WE HAVE:

- created a list of things we already have and what we still need
- put together a draft website
- received Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey funding for,
 - a generator for the Hall

- an emergency trailer
- identified some Emergency Hub spaces
- put together an Emergency Hub kit
- applied for funding for a neighbourhood solar battery
- adopted an emergency hub guide based on a New Zealand model
- created a flyer for the community

WHAT WE NEED TO DO NEXT:

- research what we need in the emergency trailer
- research a communication system which doesn't rely on the phone network
- tick off some items on the 'need list'
- hold some practise emergency simulation exercises
- house the community cool room, emergency response + BBQ trailers.

The biggest challenge is spreading the word that we have something in place. Of course, we want people who want to get involved and make this all happen a bit faster, but the most important part is to spread the word so that everyone knows that we are setting up a community response. Let us not be nervous about what might happen, let's know that we have somewhere to go and some resources to support us or other people in need.

Visit lancefield.org.au/emergency or phone the Neighbourhood House on 5429 1214 for more information.

MEGAFAUNA PARK SCAN

On a typical Lancefield spring day – threatening raining, wind, brief drizzle, brief sunshine, mostly cloudy - a small group from La Trobe University gathered in the Lancefield Recreation Reserve to take another step in a process which has taken three years to progress to this point.

The committee of the Lancefield Mercury has been interested in the megafauna area in the Lancefield ‘swamp’ (not much of a swamp these days as it has been landscaped to drain the water away). It was felt that it would be useful to know the extent of the bone deposits in the park. Was there nothing left, as Syd Green maintains (bones were dug up and sold to US universities), or maybe there are patches of bones that are worth retrieving if we know where they are. Hence the idea of using ground penetrating radar (GPR), which is a relatively new way of seeing what is under the ground that we walk on (or run over in the case of parkrun). Hopefully the results will help in the long campaign to find why Australia’s giant mammals died out and why so many of their remains have accumulated in one spot.


Sedimentologist Sanja Van Huet, from Deakin’s School of Life and Environmental Sciences, is involved with the GPR scanning in the Lancefield Swamp, an area that contains one of richest deposits of megafauna fossils in

Australia. Megafauna were mostly giant marsupials that lived approximately 60,000 years ago.

“People have been working on this site since the mid-1800s but it’s been a very piecemeal approach with specialists working on their own individual projects and sitting apart from each other,” she said. “Scientists estimate that there could be more than 10,000 animals buried in the swamp. Although quite a few of them have been dug up - there could be many more still buried.”

Dr Van Huet said there was plenty of conjecture about why these animals died out, with scientists still debating climate change, human interaction, disease or multiple factors as the cause. “But I’m most interested in how they were buried here. It’s long been believed that this had something to do with the theory of animals gathering around a waterhole during drought conditions and then dying out once their food supply ran out. Further work is suggesting there are many other factors involved.”

The wheels in academic research circles turn slowly, but the idea was taken up by La Trobe University, and Daniel Brown came on board with the promise to help with funding. Daniel now lives in Adelaide but remembers vividly going down to the dig in the swamp in the mid 1990’s with his class from Lancefield Primary School and being enthralled with




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MEGAFAUA PARK SCAN

what he saw. His interest never waned and now he wanted to get involved.

After many months/years of emails discussing cost and timing and things like the position of the enormous mulch pile that had been stacked up down in the southeast corner of the park, how wet the ground was, who was overseas, how to fit the scanning in, we suddenly had a date!

So, in early November it came to pass that the swamp was to be scanned – put on the digital underground map!

Rebekah Kurpiel organised the scan. She is the Director of La Trobe Archaeology Research Partnerships and a Senior Research Fellow at La Trobe University, and leads a team focused on engaging in impactful collaborations with Traditional Owners, government agencies and industry partners, delivering meaningful contributions to archaeological research and heritage management.

We had a team of three from the University to operate the GPS machine and layout the grid pattern for the plots. There were also three Wurundjeri fieldworkers to learn and help. As well as scanning the southeast area of the park. A section of the centre of the trotting track was also scanned.

Sanja made the long trek up from her home to share her excitement that the scanning was going ahead.

We are now waiting for the processing of the data to see what is revealed by the GPS.

More to follow!

Andy Moore

PROBUS

Having Fun, making new friends, and catching up with old ones!

The Romsey/Lancefield Probus Club is for outgoing retirees or semi-retired people to meet, relax and enjoy the welcoming company of those at the same stage of life. There is a regular monthly meeting with guest speakers, morning tea and time to socialise with the other members. Each month there is a regular outing for lunch held at different venues around the region as well as short and longer trips throughout the year. There is a coffee morning at 10 am every Friday at the Lost Watering Hole where members meet for a chat and a bit of fun.

In November the club shared the photos and videos of the New Zealand, South Island trip. This was our Trip Coordinators, last event, even though she officially resigned last year. It was certainly a great way to finish, and the club would like to thank Shirley Lewandowski for the 9 years, and multiple trips and outings she organised over that time. Our final event for the year is our Christmas lunch at Glen Erin - they have hosted the club on several occasions which have always been a great success!

We are a friendly, welcoming group from diverse backgrounds with a variety of interests, and we'd love to meet you! Feel free to attend a meeting as a visitor.

Visit our website for more information or ring President (Ken) or Secretary (Betty) on 0409 359 048.



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FIRE DANGER PERIOD NOW IN EFFECT

The Fire Danger Period is now in effect across the Macedon Ranges, starting 17 November 2025. During this time, fires cannot be lit in the open air without a permit. Restrictions remain until 1 May 2026, unless advised otherwise by the CFA.

Living in the Macedon Ranges means living with fire risk. Our forests, open farmland and dry conditions make the region particularly vulnerable, so it's vital to prepare now and have a Fire Plan in place.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Slash long grass and remove weeds like gorse and blackberry
- Clear gutters and rubbish around homes, sheds and fences
- Rake up leaves, bark and debris
- Maintain your property all summer
- Create or review your Fire Plan and plan for the first 72 hours

GET INVOLVED:

- Visit your local CFA Open Day to learn more
- Pick up a Ready Get Go Bag for fire preparation tools and info
- Use your free green waste drop-off voucher from ShireLife to dispose of one trailer-load of green waste at Kyneton, Romsey or Woodend Resource Recovery Facilities

Council crews continue roadside slashing, vegetation clearing and fire hazard inspections to help reduce risk across the shire.

Always follow directions from VicEmergency at emergency.vic.gov.au or via the VicEmergency app.

Find out more:

- Fire readiness – mrsc.vic.gov.au/fire-ready
- Fire plans – cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare
- Fire permits – firepermits.vic.gov.au
- Resource Recovery Facilities – mrsc.vic.gov.au/RRF



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MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE WITH MUSIC THERAPY

We all know how much music affects our moods – there is so much scientific proof about music and memory, too. A song from your childhood, associated with family, friends or a special event deep in the past can change your day. The therapeutic effects of music are undeniable.

Our local Lancefield Bendigo Bank has come up trumps yet again, with a grant of \$9950 to set up a weekly community singing pilot programme, initially for six months, and specifically focussed on people living with dementia and their carers.

Beginning on February 3 next year at the Mechanics Institute Annex, from 10.30am till 12 midday, Helen Keenan will lead the music and rhythm-making. With her nursing background, and training in Dementia Care, working with older patients in mental health, community support and respite, Helen has been inspired to apply, through the Lancefield Neighbourhood House, for funding to encourage more widespread use of music therapy. She has conducted Music Therapy groups in aged care facilities, and private individual music therapy groups. She is currently running sessions at the recently opened Romsey

Aged Care where she encourages the residents to make a lot of joyful noise with tambourines, and drums, accompanied by much waving of drumsticks in between keeping rhythm, all the while singing along to old favourites like Roll Out the Barrel and You Are My Sunshine.

One of the aims of this pilot programme is to reduce isolation for carers as well as those they care for. These sessions will give carers a chance to meet others who will comprehend the challenges and offer support.

Treehouse4Two is offered at Glen Erin monthly, run through CHRH with government funding; it was set up and is led by Dora Mainsbridge and Paula Weekley, nurses and experienced facilitators. People living with dementia and their carers can stay overnight on Monday and Tuesday, going home Wednesday morning. Education, support, strategies, connection and empowerment utilizing individual strengths is key.

“Even if they can’t speak, they can sometimes sing” is a well-known comment with music therapists – those songs tucked away in memory can often stimulate long-silenced people to find their voices and sing along, when ordinary

LANCEFIELD MERCURY INC.

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Deadline for articles and advertisements is the 15th of the month. The Mercury is distributed by post and volunteer deliverers to all premises with a letter box in the Lancefield postal area at the start of the month. Copies of the paper can also be found at the Romsey Library.

The Lancefield Mercury is produced by volunteers as a service to the people of Lancefield.

The editorial committee reserves the right to edit articles for length and clarity.

Items for publication should be sent to editor3435@gmail.com – enquiries Andy Moore 0430 448 120

Enquiries about advertising: advertising3435@gmail.com – Ken Allender 0404 886 580

Check lancefieldmercury.org.au for general information about advertising and how to contribute articles, as well to see digital back copies.



Editorial Committee:

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Beth Child

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Ken Allender 0404 886 580.



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Half page \$ 1 70.00 per issue

Full page \$ 2 80.00 per issue

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Black and White - yearly advertising packages (11 editions):

Annual 1/8 page \$ 3 15.00

Annual 1/4 page \$ 4 15.00

Annual 1/2 page \$ 7 45.00

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Annual Subscriptions -

Colour - yearly advertising packages (11 editions):

Annual 1/4 page \$ 7 80.00

Annual 1/2 page \$ 1,375.00

Annual full page \$ 2,080.00

The Lancefield Mercury acknowledges the people of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung as the Traditional Custodians of the Country that includes Lancefield and Wil-im-ee Moor-ring. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all people of the First Nations. We recognise their continuing connection to the land and waters, and thank them for protecting this country since time immemorial.



speech has stopped. Lost confidence can be restored with these sessions, isolation reduced, connection with the carer strengthened, and shared experiences and difficulties appreciated.

The Tuesday morning singing sessions are \$10/person and include morning tea. Immediately after the Music Therapy, in the Mechanics Institute main hall, is the Old Time Dance group, who are keen to welcome and continue their musical enjoyment, just watching, or dancing along if anyone is keen to try it out, dusting off memories of slow, slow quick-quick slow. If you are interested, please register through the Lancefield Neighbourhood House, and notify them when you require transport.

The Woodend Carers Support group and Macedon Ranges Mayor Bonnanno wrote letters of support for Helen's application to the Bendigo Bank, understanding the need for such a simple effective idea with profound long-term effects.

Beth Child

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And they've got a fantastic party planned for the December 7. Featuring acclaimed Danish Chef Bente Grysbaek, a specialist in outdoor wood fire cooking. Her theatrical and creative kitchen set up impresses and brings to the front her sustainable ethos and focus on local produce. Couple this food option along with the release of the highly anticipated new Lyons Will Rose, Riesling and Picpoul, or enjoy a Pinot Noir, Gamay or Syrah; this is the perfect day to spend with family and friends. There will also have live music to take you through the afternoon.

Tickets are \$15 per person – this includes a complementary glass wine/or beer, children are free. Wine on the day will be sold by the glass or bottle, corkage free and at cellar prices along with the unique offer of a bakers dozen.

So, bring a picnic rug and get set for a relaxing afternoon amongst our vineyard at Lyons Will and celebrate another year of wine, flowering vines and the beginning of summer.

Go to lyonswillestate.com.au/events for bookings.

POOL SEASON IS NOW IN SESSION

Both Woodend and Lancefield Outdoor Pools are now officially open for the season. From 6 December, families, friends, and visitors are invited to enjoy the pools and all the facilities - subject to the temperature based operating guidelines.

Entry fees have been heavily discounted this year to encourage residents to take advantage of these important community assets and provide an affordable local activity that can be enjoyed by the whole family.

Prices represent a significant saving compared with previous years, making it easier than ever to enjoy the pools this summer. Why not plan to spend a few days by the pool this summer rather than sweltering at home.

- \$3 adults
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Pools will be closed on Christmas Day.

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/Outdoor-Pools for full opening hours and further information.

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CELEBRATE THOUGHTFULLY

As we head into the festive season, residents are reminded to celebrate with our local wildlife in mind. Outdoor decorations like tinsel and loose items can harm birds and animals, which may become tangled or mistake them for nesting material or food.

Think sustainably this Christmas — decorate responsibly, avoid single-use items, and dispose of decorations thoughtfully once the season ends. Let's keep the Macedon Ranges festive and wildlife-friendly this Christmas!

SHARE YOUR IDEA

Do you have a great idea that could make a difference in the Macedon Ranges? Each year, Council invites community members and local groups to share ideas for projects or initiatives that could be included in the upcoming Budget.

Council wants to hear from you in two ways that will inform the Budget:

1. Project idea submissions that will benefit the community.
2. General Budget input that highlights your priorities and services that are important to you.

Submissions close at 5pm on Thursday 11 December.
Submissions can be made online at yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au

TOWN CENTRE ACTION

Back in mid-2024, the Lancefield Town Centre Action Plan (LTCAP) was developed by community members with direction and support of EMBRATA (Eastern Macedon Ranges Business and Tourism Association) under the umbrella of the Macedon Ranges Thriving Village Project – a TMR (Tourism Macedon Ranges) initiative.

The focus of this Plan was to identify and drive delivery of actions to energise the town centre of our village of Lancefield to create meaningful change and thrive – driven by the knowledge, care and contributions of local people in partnership with businesses, Council and other stakeholders.

One of our achievements during 2025 focussed on the three sections of the High Street Plantation. There will be more to report on in 2026.

Raf Fabris, John Severson and Fay Woodhouse, LTCAP

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WHERE DID THE YEAR GO?

Last article for 2025; where did the year go? As always, it's been a busy one, with a huge variety of onsite and offsite activities and learning opportunities for our students. I'd like to say a giant thank you to all the various groups and organisations within our local and wider community that have worked with us throughout 2025 to give our students new and exciting experiences and further open their eyes and minds to the world around them. We are very lucky to live in such a close knit and generous community that supports each other and fosters growth and learning in all.

ROMSEY COMMUNITY AGED CARE

On Monday October 27, a group of Mini Vinnies visited Romsey Aged Care for their regular catch-up to enjoy leisure activities with the residents. There had recently been another bout of flu go through the home, so the residents were very glad to all be feeling well and be able to again welcome visitors. Our students Chase, Scarlett, Summer, Bailey and Josh enjoyed the fun of playing bocce with the residents; they all began to get quite rowdy as the game went on, they were all very competitive and there were many laughs. Another enjoyable visit for all!

We look forward to our final visit for the year, in December, when we take our Christmas Choir and the entire Mini Vinnies group to celebrate Christmas with the residents!

Chase: Both Lyns were crazy good at bocce, and Grant and Flo were also very good. It was good to see the residents.

Scarlett: It was good playing bocce with them and having a laugh, meeting new people and learning who is good at what and that everyone is good at something, even though you might not think it.

Summer: They were all competitive with each other at the end and we all had fun.

Bailey: It was fun playing bocce with the residents and we had a good time laughing and having fun with them.

Josh: It was a good experience seeing how everybody got better as the time went on and by the end everybody got very competitive. It was great fun.

TREE PLANTING @ LANCEFIELD PARK

On Friday October 31, our Junior Landcare team headed down to Lancefield Park to assist with tree planting. Thanks to a donation of trees from Greater Western Water, and with the approval of the Lancefield Park Committee, and assistance from the Deep Creek Landcare Group and the Junior Landcare Facilitator, we were pleased to be involved. Lancefield Primary School also had a group of students attend. We each had a different area for planting. It was the perfect weather day, in that it was a bit drizzly, overcast but still warm. There was lots to do; the students began by spreading a huge amount of mulch over a large area. Then tree guards had to be made up (they were not for the faint-hearted and you needed all your patience!) With tree guards at the ready, the plants were laid out across the area, holes had to be dug (the ground was quite hard, so it took a lot of small muscles to get the holes dug). The trees were then planted, tree guards placed over them and then they had to



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be watered. It was quite a mission and by the time we left our amazing team of adults were still going strong. But we achieved a great deal in the time we had, and I was most impressed with our students and the work they did. They all thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and didn't mind getting a bit wet, and their hands or feet dirty (although I'm not sure what their parents said when they got home). Another brilliant day out for our Junior Landcare Group and a great achievement that they can go back and look at over time to see how everything is progressing. A huge thanks to Emma, Ken, Phil, Stella and Judy who assisted us on the day and allowed us to be part of something very worthwhile for the whole community.

YEAR 5/6 BOYS SOFTBALL

We'd like to congratulate our Yr 5/6 Boys Softball Team on their outstanding achievement in winning the Regional Competition, at the end of October. This is a fantastic accomplishment, and we are incredibly proud of the way the boys represented St Mary's with teamwork, determination, and great sportsmanship. They now move on to compete at the State Competition, and we wish them all the very best as they take on this exciting challenge.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Tuesday November 11, our staff and students proudly participated in Remembrance Day services both at school and with the local community at the Lancefield cenotaph. Our students in Years 3-6 attended the local service, while students in Years Prep - 2 participated in a service held at school. We value the importance of this very special day of remembrance and teaching students about the sacrifices made for us to live freely as we do. We are proud of the way our students represented St Mary's, wearing their Remembrance badges and standing tall and proud, as we all remembered. Thank you to the Romsey Lancefield RSL for their lovely service and for always welcoming us to be part of what they do. We appreciate Reinhard and John attending our assembly on November 15 and speaking to us about Remembrance Day, lest we forget.

YEAR 6 TRANSITION DAY

On Wednesday November 12, our Year 6 cohort travelled to Kyneton Town Hall to participate in a transition day with students from St Ambrose Primary, Lancefield Primary, Woodend Primary and Newham Primary. The purpose of this ►

MIGHTY MOUSE ROOFING

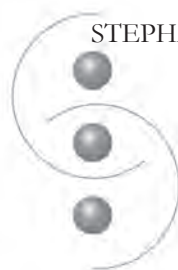
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ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

day was to assist students with their transition to secondary school by helping to alleviate their fears and anxieties and looking at all the positives of this next phase of their lives. It also gave them the opportunity to meet other students that may be with them next year and make new friends while realising that they all have the same concerns and questions about next year.

The morning was spent with 'getting to know you' activities, an introduction game, bingo and a game about having something in common. After a break, students shared their hopes and worries for the coming year, and we were able to discuss them to ease their concerns.

Then it was time for a fun activity to promote resilience - 'tie the tie challenge'! All students were given a necktie, which they had to try and tie on their own. Lots of laughs and new ways of wearing a tie were seen. The last part of the day saw representatives from the various schools attend so students could be broken into their 2026 school groups and ask lots of questions about next year. All in all, a very successful day that begins the transition phase for our Year 6 students. A huge thanks to Erin from St Ambrose for organising the day, Macedon Ranges Shire Council for providing the hall for us at no cost and Lancefield Neighbourhood House for helping to fund the bus trip so the local Lancefield schools could attend. All this support is greatly appreciated.

Jo Shannon (Community & Student Engagement)



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MIXED FEELINGS

As we approach the Christmas season, I'm often filled with mixed feelings.

On one hand, I'm filled with excitement—for time spent with family and friends, catching up on the year that has passed, and enjoying good food during the warm summer days. And yet, I know that to reach those moments, there is a lot of busyness to navigate: the rush to finish off work before the holidays, the obligatory end-of-year gatherings we need to attend, and, of course, the preparations for Christmas—buying presents, hanging lights, setting up trees, and so on. Where can we find peace and rest during this season of busyness? Isn't Christmas meant to be about peace, in some sense?

In the Christian faith, Christmas is all about peace coming into the world—the peace that so often eludes us in the usual busyness and chaos of our day-to-day lives. The story of Christmas promises that this peace has come. This peace is found in none other than the Prince of Peace, the child in the manger, Jesus Christ. He is the Saviour who has come to bring peace to this world because He is the Saviour who is able to save us from our sins. Why don't you join us as we celebrate this Prince of Peace this Christmas at one of our services?

Grace and Peace, Rev. Michael Kicevski

CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICES

Christmas Eve: Wednesday 24 Christ Church Lancefield - Carol Service 6:00pm

Christmas Eve: Christ Church Lancefield 11:00pm.

Christmas Day: Thursday 25 St Pauls 9:00am

Regular Sunday weekly Service: Romsey 9am : Lancefield 10:30am

Prayer Meeting: Lancefield Hall Thursday 10am

Bible Study: Thursday 10:30am - 11:30am Thursday evening 6:30pm. Rolling venue

The Christmas Night Market will consist of many children's attractions, entertainment, food stalls, ice cream servery and coffee van, trading markets and lots more. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun. 6pm till 10pm. Sunday December 21 at 77 Main St Romsey. If interesting in adding your trading table to the event please contact either Mike Kicevski or Margret Lynch 0402 808 646.

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St Paul's Op Shop will close over on Saturday December 13 and reopen Friday January 23.

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DEEP CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

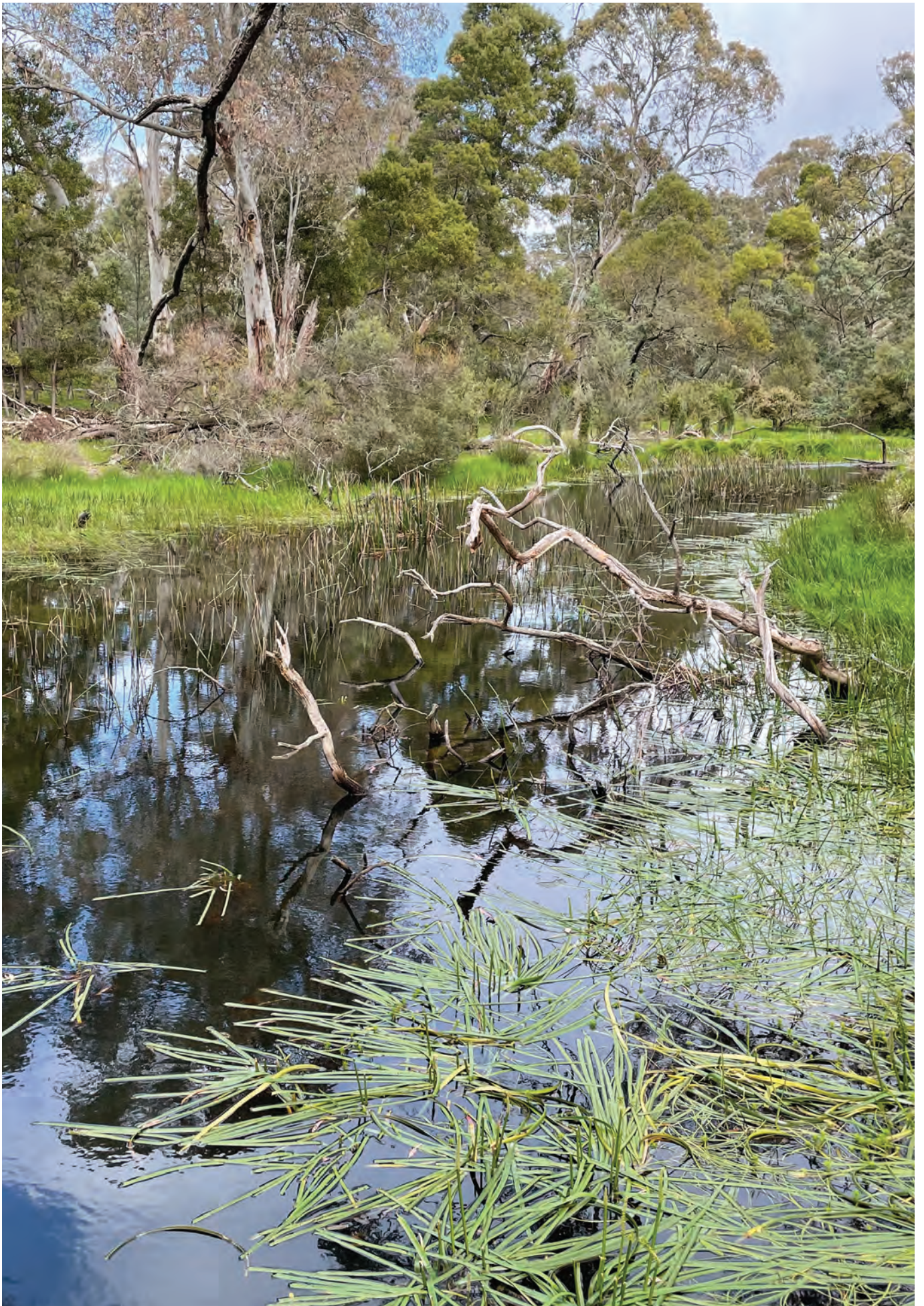
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COMMUNITY-LED INITIATIVE AT DEEP CREEK

A landmark new collaborative project between local Landcare groups, Central Victorian organisation Biolinks Alliance and Melbourne Water is underway to restore Upper Deep Creek and surrounds to its original health and vitality. The project aims to bring the community together to support restoration of not only the creek and its surrounding vegetation, but also the essential 'biolinks' that create corridors for wildlife to move around the region. It is a key part of an ambitious plan to eventually create a complete biolink along connected waterways from Melbourne to Echuca. Eligible landholders with properties abutting the creek and surrounding waterways can receive a free consultation and ecological property plan from the experts at Biolinks Alliance.

Not so long ago, before the gold rush, the land between Lancefield and Romsey had many large old trees. In a letter to the Back to Romsey Committee in 1929, John Harlow wrote: "I often wonder if anyone has a photo of the district before the great trees were removed, I am sure I counted 300 to the acre, all over 100 feet high" Local historian Peter Mitchell notes in his book, *Romsey: A veritable Garden of Eden*, that before the great clearing, bullock teams and wagons used for transport could not weave their way through the then heavily timbered country between Romsey and Lancefield. Very few of these old trees now remain, which act as essential life support for our landscape, providing habitat hollows for woodland birds and small mammals such as gliders and phascogales. Replanting is just one of the effective measures that will be employed to improve the health of our waterways, grasslands and forests and rebuild some of the lost connections to support local wildlife. The restoration plans are based on connectivity modelling conducted by Biolinks Alliance across the Deep Creek catchment for key species including a variety of woodland birds as well as the Koala and the Brush-tailed Phascogale. Using specialist local data, the team has determined critical habitat areas for wildlife to move around and access fresh water from Deep Creek and its tributaries. Fragmentation of native vegetation in the area over the years has resulted in certain species becoming 'trapped' in small pockets of land, unable to roam as freely or safely between these areas as they should.

Biolinks Alliance and Landcare are inviting all community members to get involved in this grassroots restoration effort. As well as providing property plans for eligible ►





landholders, the project will include many community events where you can come along, learn and get involved in hands-on community conservation.

Visit the website to learn more about this project and register your interest to get involved: <https://biolinksalliance.org.au/deep-creek-biolink>. [Two

comparative images side by side. Top photo: This section of treed creekside shows a healthy waterway thick with native vegetation and mature habitat trees. Bottom photo: This cleared creekside section shows the creek as it appears today, lacking native trees, grasses and shrubs that support wildlife, replaced instead by gorse, blackberry and other weeds.



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LANCEFIELD COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

President: Angela Turner, Secretary: Maybelle Briggs, Treasurer: Sandra Stevens, lancefieldcwa@gmail.com

Lancefield Mercury

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR



By the time that you read this article Term Four will be nearly over.

We wish all the Year Six students a very positive and happy ending to their Primary School years. We hope that Orientation Day will bring the excitement that will be ahead for the next chapter of their learning.

Our Branch AGM was held at the end of October. All office bearers presented very pleasing reports, including our Group President, Christine.

Did you attend the Lancefield Show? There was a great atmosphere, a bumper crowd and lots of smiling faces. Congratulations to the Lancefield Agricultural Society on an excellent effort. Our stall was very successful, selling out on the day.

We will present a Year Six student from both the Lancefield Primary School and St. Mary's P S with our annual CWA Scholarships.

The criteria for the awarding of these scholarships are based on good citizen values. Also we will distribute donations to other local groups. As this is our final article for the year 2025, we hope that the Christmas festivities will be happy and peaceful for you and your family and loved ones.

Our first branch meeting for 2026 will be held at the Soltan Pepper restaurant in Romsey on Friday January 23 at 12 midday. This luncheon gathering will be an opportunity for members to catch up with one another in a relaxed atmosphere.

If you would like to join us, you are very welcome.

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A PATCH OF LANCEFIELD

DAYS OF INTENSE CREATIVITY

Large groups of our members have been off on days-long quilting retreats lately, some joining up with the Kilmore Quilters who went to Queenscliff, and then a Craft Retreat at Hepburn Springs. They all came back with lovely, inspiring results from their days of intensive creativity.

The Victorian Quilters' Showcase was very successful for our members Christine Treseder (who won a Bernina sewing machine with her exquisite work), and Trish Stuart and Maxine West also won accolades, flying the skills flag for Lancefield. Onya, all.

In a Show and Tell recently, Margaret Dunn who has been making quilts and other wonderful pieces of handwork for the past 35 years, showed us 33 of the over 90 she has made – the other 57 or so she gave away to lucky family members and friends. There are four UFOs (Unfinished Objects, for the uninitiated) to make it up to the round 100. The techniques in her work covered almost every different approach in existence, each piece greeted with gasps of admiration.

Russell and Neil from the Men's Shed were on hand to be presented with a cheque for \$500, as a thank you for their essential support in setting up and demounting our biennial quilt show – we literally wouldn't be able to do without their height, strength and trailers!

Lesley Vincett is currently running ongoing monthly

sashiko classes where each person completes square of sashiko pattern to be combined into a whole quilt.

The committee met to discuss details of plans for the next quilt show in 2027. All the members present voted on which pattern from a choice of six we would like to work on for the Raffle Quilt: next is decisions about colours and fabrics, and off we go.

There are some new books in the library, donated by generous quilters and friends: an updated version of Linda Seward's Patchwork Quilting and Applique, Mary Thomas's

Dictionary of Embroidery Stitches; Charlotte Gerling's Beginners Guide to Patchwork, and Karen Snyder's Bundles of Fun, Quilts from Fat Quarters.

Exciting Rumour Department! There are plans afoot to organise a Whole Town De-stash in the Main Hall at the Mechanics' Institute for some time next year. It's a great opportunity to go through your boxes and cupboards and sheds, come along and set up a stall, and try to sell more than you buy from the other people with stalls, who are doing the same thing! There are people in Lancefield with piles of tempting fabric just waiting to find new homes in someone else's newly reduced collection!

Beth Child

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THANK YOU

LANCEFIELD SHOW

A huge thank you to all our families for supporting the LPS stall at the Lancefield Show. It was such a great success and drew a lot of attention especially our Pick A Prize! We had so many fabulous donations and vouchers which really made for attractive and wonderful prizes. We raised \$1,065.50 for our school to support our students' learning in 2026. Thank you to the families who helped us set up, pack up and run the stall, we really appreciated your help and support.

We would like to thank the following businesses for supporting our school with vouchers and other items.

- Victorian Drift Club
- Frontline Landscaping & Property Maintenance
- The Aspy Café
- Bendigo Bank
- Listra Skin Studios
- Third Drawer Down - Kyneton
- SK Dermal
- Brow Design by KB
- Lancefit
- Lancefield Bakery
- Lancefield Providore
- Milward Electrical Services
- The Treehouse

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Our Artist in Residence program was a great week of learning all about West African countries and drumming along with some African dance and song. Thank you to Nexus Arts and Abli for providing our students with such a rich and engaging week. Our whole school performance was amazing, with all students so excited to show off their drumming, singing and dancing.

GRANDPARENTS MORNING

Our preps and year 1s recently had a wonderful morning welcoming so many grandparents and special visitors to LPS. The students shared some fun activities and reading as well as showing off the amazing work they complete at school. We were lucky to have great weather; our year 6s were lovely hosts, passing around morning tea for our visitors.

INFORM AND EMPOWER PROGRAM

A big thank you to the Bendigo Bank for funding the amazing Inform and Empower online cybersafety program, accessed by all year levels throughout 2025. The program has been very well received by students and staff with important messaging and topics covered throughout the year along with great parent/carer resources which are shared regularly in



our school newsletter. We are so pleased to announce that this program will continue into 2026. The program has provided resources for teachers, students and families at no cost to the school or families.

Finally, we would like to wish all our families, staff and community members a safe, relaxing and enjoyable festive season and summer holiday break.





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PROMOTING BUSINESS AND TOURISM

The Eastern Macedon Ranges Business and Tourism Association (EMRBATA) is a not-for-profit interest group comprising local business operators whose primary task is to promote business and tourism in the Eastern Macedon Ranges. When I attended their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 18 November, it was heartening to see that more chairs had to be found or it would have been standing room only! Those attending were very interested in the Association and the work it does collaborating with business, community and the government to advocate for initiatives that foster regional prosperity.

EMRBATA have been involved in many initiatives in this region; they are experts in promoting the East Ward of the Shire and fight hard for Lancefield, Romsey and Riddells Creek to get as much exposure as other towns in the Shire. Some of their popular initiatives include Christmas in Romsey, the Producers Lunch and the annual Business Breakfast.

One of the dedicated members, and a woman well known to many Lancefield businesses, is Jenny Stillman. In the past couple of years, Jenny has been imparting her knowledge and wisdom as Vice-President; at the AGM she was voted in once again as President. The Executive committee are Michael McCarthy, Vice-President, Hannah Sutton, Secretary and Joel Bullimore Treasurer. Their four General Committee members are Raf Fabris, Caitlan Dinning, Seamus Flagg and Dan Ryan. They are a young and vibrant group, and I believe,



Jenny Stillman

worth joining. Membership is available to business as well as individuals.

I look forward to participating in their fabulous events in 2026 and congratulate them for their selfless work for our community.

Fay Woodhouse

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OLD TIME DANCE

AND ONE TWO THREE, ONE TWO THREE...

The Mechanics' Institute in Lancefield is a busy place every day of the week. Gayle Morgan, a long-time Old Time Dance group member, told me all about our local trippers of the light fantastic.

On Tuesdays the Main Hall welcomes Old Time Dance – beginning at 12 midday with an hour's brush-up on steps, led by instructor Sue and her assistant Peter, then dancing from 1pm till a break at 2.30 for afternoon tea, before more dancing till 4pm at the end of the day.

It's a great way to meet people, get some exercise, give both sides of your brain a workout, and enjoy some good music from the time, as a friend of mine says "when they had real live drummers!"

Tuesday sessions are accompanied by recorded music, all designed for sequence dancing, and largely featuring big band numbers – classics by Glenn Miller, and locals Tony Gilbert from Queensland, and Bernard Brooks, whose specialty is blues rhythms, and foxtrots.

The dances range from the Pride of Erin to Foxtrot, and Quickstep to Tango, with lots in between. I've never heard of the Alpha Emmerdale or the Twilight, for example, and assorted versions of the Waltz like the New Vogue and the Swing Waltz. And of course, there are Latin rhythms with Cha-Cha and Rumba to get the hips moving.

Anyone can become a member for \$25/year, and members pay \$5/week for the sessions; non-members weekly charge is \$7. The age range is mainly over 50, since the schedule suits retirees; but if the timetable suits you, whatever age you are, come along. The balance of male and female members is pretty even, and you will find a willing and helpful partner the minute you walk into the Hall. If you are coming along for the first time, you won't be charged the entrance fee. This applies if you are there just to listen to the music, which you are also welcome to do. The socialising is the point.

On the fourth Friday of the month there is an evening dance, which often attracts younger people, since it suits working schedules better. This evening "is a bit of a dress-up" says Gayle, but there is no specific dress code; with a country supper – sausage rolls, party pies, spring rolls, baby quiches, and scones jam and cream, and sponge cake for the sweeter of tooth – and a live band. There are also raffles, and "lucky spot" prizes, where whoever is standing on a secret spot when the music stops wins a small prize – this reminds me happily of party games in my childhood.

Dances are often themed – St Patrick's Day, Australia Day, and Melbourne Cup, for example, bring out some excellent costumes, like riding silks, jodhpurs and the occasional hobby horse on Cup Day, to be added to the regular smart outfits; the men mostly in suits and ties, the women in skirts with some fabric to swirl around in. At Christmas, there is a dinner dance, this year to be held on Sunday December 14 – the only dance held on a Sunday. The four dinner dances each year feature live bands.

The Lancefield group is one of several in the Macedon Ranges – Kyneton and Trentham have both had regular sessions in the past. The group donates to the community – in 2024 Kyneton Hospital received \$2000 for chemo skullcaps, funding for a bed, and new callipers for a needy child; and \$500 was donated to Feed It Forward.

It won't surprise you to learn that this regular event attracts people from Melbourne, Ballarat, Adelaide, and sometimes those travelling around Australia – Old Time Dance stalking? So come along and give it a try – you don't have to be experienced, just give it a crack – you'll be welcomed, clearly taught and guided every step of the way.

Beth Child



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EDEN PARK, ROMSEY – OPEN DAY



Earlier this year, when our member Deva Weitman suggested that Eden Park host an Open Day as a fundraiser for the Society's Seymour Cottage, the Committee were delighted and ran with the idea.

As many of you know, the Historical Society are the custodians of Romsey's Heritage Listed building, Sidney Seymour Cottage. Located in Palmer Street Romsey, Seymour Cottage, a simple farmhouse, was listed on the

Victorian Heritage Register in 2011. In many ways, the two buildings – Seymour Cottage built 1855 and Eden Park, settled in 1858 (the bluestone homestead constructed in 1875) are architecturally worlds apart – yet they are both culturally significant to the region. They each represent a noteworthy part of the history of the early white settlement of this township. Both buildings must be celebrated and cherished.

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The Society must raise funds for the restoration of Seymour Cottage – and we want to instil in our members the importance of the restoration of Seymour Cottage for the benefit of all residents of Romsey and the Macedon Ranges Shire.

When we planned the day, we decided on a Scottish theme, given the Scottish origins of the original owner Peter Mitchell. The momentum grew from there. Visitors loved hearing the Gregor Pipe Band, watching the Scottish dancers


who encouraged participation and enchanted everyone, and trying the Scottish Haggis sausages cooked by the Lions Club.

Inside the historic Woolshed it was appropriate to feature wool spinning by Lancefield local, Nick Pace. His corner of the Woolshed was well patronised, with many visitors intrigued to see how wool is spun. The Men's Shed and Deep Creek Landcare held a stall with information and pamphlets for visitors. Scottish merchandise sold well, as did the tea, coffee, sandwiches, cakes and scones made by the Committee. The freshly made asparagus rolls were also a feature enjoyed by many visitors! And when the jam and cream ran out temporarily, the snowballs were a popular alternative.

Outside, Raf's Coffee van had a consistently long line of coffee lovers waiting for a cup; and Midhill Wines enjoyed a steady stream of visitors, with wine by the glass or the bottle available to purchase. As mentioned, the magnificent Highland Cattle and Blue Rock Suffolk Sheep were on display and loved by all.

On behalf of the Committee and members of the Romsey & Lancefield Districts Historical Society, we sincerely thank Deva, Mark and the Clements family for instigating this great event, for their generosity, and for the work involved in preparing their magnificent property. We are gratified that people came from far and wide to Eden Park, Romsey; we know they enjoyed the ambience, conviviality and the opportunity to share in an integral part of Romsey's rich rural history.

Fay Woodhouse



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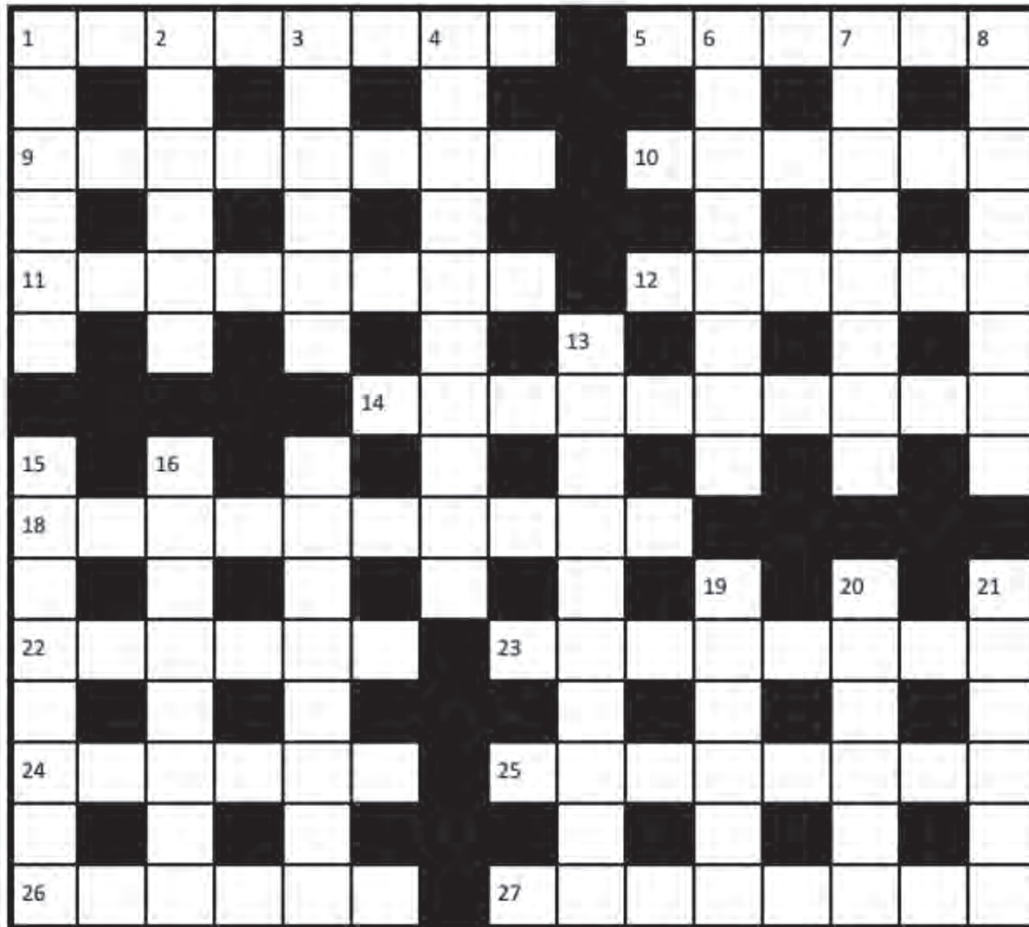
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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

NUMBER 28
By Kevin Moysey



ACROSS

- 1 Diagrams may reduce your funds (8)
- 5 Pregnant from raid veg without core (6)
- 9 Fixing pipe about inner layer (8)
- 10 Memorial piles can be found in far north Queensland (6)
- 11 Ledger checker? Why he can be associated with hearing (8)
- 12 A court case is about upper chambers (6)
- 14 Sounds like it's not moving office products (10)
- 18 It could enable the writing on the wall (5,5)
- 22 You may play them although they are essential (6)
- 23 Scab Don's arrangement heads off hastily (8)
- 24 Not basic is sharp on the tongue (6)
- 25 Drab yarn reveals protected part of farm (8)
- 26 Sweet as, say, rug concoction (6)
- 27 Sat to educe and teaches people (8)

DOWN

- 1 It's not in front - even if you turn around (6)
- 2 Refer to a lewd sound (6)
- 3 No need to be learnt what is ate after inn (6)
- 4 A type of gap that can produce electricity (10)
- 6 Response about an action (8)
- 7 Corners that could make a rice vest (8)
- 8 Sid plays in exhibitions (8)
- 13 Visual roadmap for a yarn on a plank? (10)
- 15 Solar school with no toilet produces highly educated people (8)
- 16 Strangling sir ends away but is knotting up (8)
- 17 Risk nine parts and end up not so fat (8)
- 19 See, Nick says it's picturesque (6)
- 20 Action to remove circles leaves things unbroken (6)
- 21 As the middle of the month are comments for the audience (6)

Answers page 14



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BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY!

We have had a very enjoyable year at the Shed, making all sorts of things and fixing stuff for our community. Our market stall has gone very well, and of course the fun and friendship that goes with it.

Brian, our Chef is getting organised for our Christmas lunch this year at the Mechanics Institute.

I am sorry about the ugly picture of my lug (that's if the editor allows it to be published), but when my wife took the photo, that is when it occurred to me that I will be 74 this month and that is my 74th skin operation. Being a Banana bender with a love of Fly fishing and golf and being fair-skinned I was always going to be, as they say "on a hiding to nothing" when it came to skin cancer.

Twenty-five years ago, my wife spotted a blemish on my leg and suggested I go and get it checked out, and after a bit of a grumble, off I went and had it seen to by a skin specialist. After the first twenty were removed over about six months, I have been back and forwards to the doctor ever since.

My understanding is that about 2000 families lose a loved one to skin cancer every year in this country, and by and large most of the cancers are avoidable. I know that a lot of work has been done to improve our awareness of skin cancer and it pleases me no end to see the little ones in the playground at St Mary's School down the road, all with their



hats on. The fact remains that all adults should take the time to get a skin check and deal with any problem.

It really pleased me the other day when our President decided to go and get a skin check. As a result, he has had a couple removed, so that's one member of our Shed I don't have to worry about!

And don't forget, our Men's Shed Christmas Raffle is open from November 22 and closes December 20. Great Prizes on offer – first prize is garden setting, second is a raised garden bed, third prize is a cutting board and fourth is a lazy Susan.

Merry Christmas to all in our lovely community,

The Shed Bloke

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THE MOUNT PLAYERS HAPPENINGS

EVERY REASON TO CELEBRATE 2025

The Mount Players have experienced yet another brilliantly successful year with four memorable, sell-out shows. The Importance of Being Earnest, The Girl on the Train, A Skull in Connemara and Puffs. These, together with an active Youth Theatre and visiting shows and entertainers, ensured the Mountview Theatre was always alive and buzzing with true diversity. We now look forward to our Christmas break-up with members to celebrate.

Our first production for 2026, The Cemetery Club by Ivan Menchell opens February 20. Three New York widows meet once a month for tea before visiting their husbands' graves. Ida, Lucille and Doris are very individual characters who take us on a journey filled with laugh-out-loud humour and pathos about love, navigating grief and the challenges of moving on. Tickets available early January.

Membership for 2026 is now available at just \$30 and

\$10 for each additional member of the family living at the same address. Be a part of a thriving theatre family and enjoy shows, members evenings, being involved in productions and perhaps even tread the boards. A great Christmas gift idea! Go to www.themountplayers.com for full details and for all things theatre.

A huge thanks to every patron who walked into our theatre, and of course, our incredible sponsors Bendigo Community Bank Gisborne, Officebarn Gisborne, Jellis Craig Woodend, Bradleys Curtains & Blinds Woodend, Hanging Rock Winery and Melbourne Helicopters. Without you we wouldn't be the unique, creative space that we are.

We wish all of you a happy Christmas season followed by the best year ever in 2026.

See you at the theatre!

Karen Hunt on behalf of The Mount Players Committee

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REVIEW OF MOUNT PLAYERS PUFFS

Puffs is a fast-paced comedy following the life of a boy who discovers that he is a wizard at age 11, but it's not the story that you are thinking of! This play is about a boy who goes to Hogwarts and is sorted into the "Puffs" house. Written by Matt Cox and directed by Craig Lenaine-Smith, Puffs was brought to life by an amazing range of youth performers at the Mount Players in Macedon.

The plot of the play follows the side characters of the Harry Potter books. While there are some recognisable characters, for example Harry Potter, played by Tahli McGregor, Cedric Diggory and Lord Voldemort, both played by Benjamin Cudmore, the play mostly consists of all new characters.

The main characters of the play are Wayne (played by Nathaniel Calleja), Megan (played by Maggie Falloon) and Oliver (played by Kevin McGeechan). Over the course of seven eventful years at Hogwarts (condensed into about 2 hours), we see Wayne and his friends' quests and attempts at saving the world, all the while the friends grow closer even though they might not succeed all the

time, continuously beaten by guest appearances of Harry Potter.

The cast was enthusiastic and hooked our attention right from the start. The narrator, played by Dwayne Winzar, kept things moving smoothly and was even giving out chocolates to the audience, and always making sure the audience was involved. Many actors in the cast played multiple roles and would have been constantly changing outfits throughout the show - what an effort!

The props (including a mop representing Ron Weasley) and set were amazing, with flashing lights and even a giant snake! It was great seeing everything come together so well after all the hard work the cast and crew put in.

This is a show for the whole family, especially suited to Potterheads, although knowledge of the Harry Potter books is not required.

As one of the characters would say, "J Finch approves!"

Reviewed by Madison13 and Chelsea Moore 11.



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ST. MARY'S PARISH LANCEFIELD & ROMSEY

27-29 Chauncey Street Lancefield; 85 Main Road Romsey. Presbytery office hours: Wednesday and Friday 8am-5pm - lancefield@cam.org.au 5429 2130
Parish Priest: Fr. John Healy C/- Woodend Presbytery 5427 2690. Assistant Priest: Fr. Wahid Riad

MASS TIMES

CURRENT MASS TIMES:

Vigil Mass will be celebrated each Saturday evening at 6:30pm in the Lancefield Church.

Sunday Mass is celebrated at 9am and alternates between Lancefield and Romsey.

First and third Sunday of the month in Romsey, second, fourth and fifth Sunday of the month in Lancefield.

The Anointing Mass will be celebrated at 10:30am in Romsey on the first Saturday of each month.

Weekday Masses are held on Thursday 9:30am at Romsey Church and Friday 9:30am at Lancefield Church.

BAPTISMS

Baptisms are held on the first Sunday of the month at 2:30pm. Please contact the office for the next available dates.

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is held on the second Saturday of the month at 10am in St. Ambrose Church in Woodend, on the third Saturday of the month at 10am in St. Brigids Church in

Gisborne, and on the fourth Saturday of the month at 10am in St. Mary's Church in Lancefield.

Should a parishioner want private Reconciliation, please contact Fr. John directly to make arrangement.

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS MASSES

Once again, the Church will host an outdoor Christmas Eve Mass in Lancefield this year.

Wednesday December 10 – 7pm – Advent Reconciliation - Romsey

Wednesday December 17 – 7:30pm – Advent Reconciliation - Woodend

Wednesday December 24 - outdoor family Mass – 5pm Lancefield; 7pm – indoor family Mass Woodend and 10pm Mass (carols commence 9pm) in Woodend

Thursday 25 December – 8:30am Christmas Day Mass – Romsey; and at 10am in Woodend

Please direct enquiries to the parish office by email at lancefield@cam.org.au or on 5429 2130. For funeral arrangements, please contact: Fr. John by email at woodend@cam.org.au or on 5427 2690.

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LANCEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE



phone: 5429 1214 email: admin@lancefieldhouse.org.au
website: lancefield.neighbourhoodhouse.org.au

Celebrate christmas with us

**LANCEFIELD
CHRISTMAS
EVENT**



Lancefield Park
Sunday 14 December
5pm - 7pm
East side Laurie Green Pavillion
(or inside if weather is not great).
Petting zoo, jumping castles,
music, Lions club BBQ, Santa visit. Great
family evening, but something for everyone.
BYO chairs/picnic rugs



Lancefield
Community
Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 16 December 12.30pm
Lancefield Mechanics Hall
Please make sure to book your place
5429 1214

\$100 Power Saver Bonus

Call the House on 5429 1214 for an
appointment to apply for your bonus.

Save the date



Sunday 1 March
2pm - 5pm
Lancefield Hall and
The Crescent

An afternoon to showcase everything Lancefield
has to offer. Community groups, stalls, food,
drinks, children's activities, information,
entertainment, music. An event to bring people
together, discover something new about
Lancefield, and surrounds, and have some fun.

2026 community calendar

2026 CALENDAR



Available at Townhouse, Neighbourhood House
and supporting businesses mid December

See our article about an exciting new project
STAYING IN PLACE

Community of Lancefield Emergency Response

If you haven't received a brochure explaining the Emergency Hub and the list of resources we
have and need by mid December please call the House on 5429 1214 for a copy.

Also contact us if you would like to be part of the emergency simulation.

Classes running in December

Postural Alignment - Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11.30am - 12.30pm
Boomerang Bags - Wednesdays 10am - 12pm
Yoga - Wednesday 7pm and Saturday 10am
Learn to sew - Thursdays 10am - 12 pm
Lancefield Jam - Thursdays 6pm



French Speaking - Thursdays 6pm - 8pm at the Townhouse
Dungeons and Dragons - every second Sunday 1pm - 5pm

FOR INFORMATION OR BOOKINGS FOR ANY ACTIVITY

phone the House on 5429 1214 or visit lancefield.neighbourhoodhouse.org

Holiday Trading Hours

However you celebrate, whoever you're with, may your Christmas be merry, always. During the festive season our branches will close at 4pm on Wednesday 24 December and reopen at 9.30am on Monday 29 December.

Community Investment Celebration

In November, we welcomed community groups, shareholders and local leaders to our Community Investment Celebration. It was a wonderful night that highlighted the impact local banking creates throughout our towns.

This year we announced \$435,296 in community investments through grants, sponsorships, donations and scholarships. This brings our total investment since opening our doors to more than \$3.9 million across Lancefield, Romsey and the surrounding district!

A warm congratulations to the community organisations below who were successful in their applications for funding in the first round of our 2025-26 Community Investment Program:

Lancefield Romsey Lions Club Romsey Skatepark Upgrade, Mural Project	\$45,950
Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group MacGregor's Farm Respite Centre	\$42,700
Romsey Neighbourhood House Community-led Emergency Activation Plan	\$40,000
Lancefield Mens Shed Schools & Children's Centre Facilities Development	\$20,000
Romsey Mens Shed Fitting Out of Extension	\$20,000
Thriving Romsey Mural Tourism	\$15,000
Benloch Fire Brigade Breathing Apparatus Capability	\$10,000
Lancefield Neighbourhood House I'm Here, Lets Sing!	\$9,920
Romsey Junior FNC Clubroom Storage Functionality Improvements	\$5,530
Romsey Lancefield Senior Citizen Club All Aboard the Bus 2026	\$5,000
Lancefield Cemetery Trust Granite Ashes Wall	\$5,000
Clarkefield CFA Equipment Upgrade	\$3,500
The Sisterhood Project First Aid for Parents in Macedon Ranges	\$3,200
St Mary's Primary School Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden	\$3,000
Lancefield Agricultural Society Lancefield Show 2025	\$3,000
Romsey Lancefield United Basketball Club Aussie Hoops	\$2,500
Newham Mechanics Institute Newham Community Get Togethers	\$2,000
Eastern Macedon Ranges Business & Tourism Assoc Business Breakfast	\$1,500
Thriving Romsey Shopfront Bunting Project	\$1,300

All of this is made possible thanks to our shareholders and to the customers who choose to do their banking with us in our Lancefield and Romsey branches. The funding we invest back into the community comes from the profits generated by local people and businesses opening their accounts and loans directly through our two branches. It does not come from Bendigo Bank Corporate or from products opened online with Bendigo Bank. When you bank locally with us, you help create real outcomes for our towns and strengthen the future of our community.

Team News

We recently farewelled Lisa Day, who made a significant contribution to our customers and community over her many years with our Community Bank. She has now moved into an exciting opportunity with Bendigo Bank, a step that reflects her hard work and commitment. We thank Lisa for all she brought to our Community Bank and wish her every success in her next chapter.

Community Bank · Lancefield and Romsey
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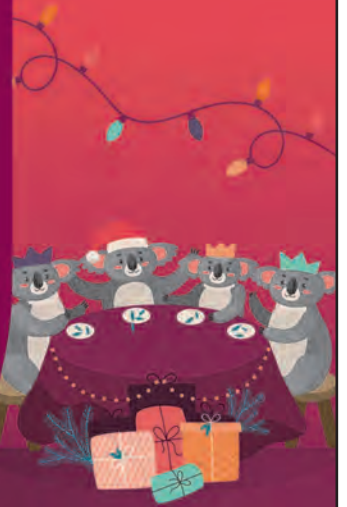
Share in the merry

From silent nights to loud Christmas lunches, may your festive season be a special one.

During the festive season our branch will close at 4pm on Wednesday 24 December, and reopen at 9.30am on Monday 29 December.

From the Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey team.

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Need help with the costs of study?

APPLY NOW

Applications are invited from eligible students who require assistance with tertiary education costs in 2026.

Applications close Sunday 1 February.

Find out if you're eligible and apply today:

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Bendigo Bank

Community Enterprise Foundation™

Community Bank Scholarships will be funded from management accounts of the Community Enterprise Charitable Fund ABN 12 102 649 968 (the Fund), The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo VIC 3550. Sandhurst Trustees Limited ABN 16 004 030 737 AFSL 237906, a subsidiary of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL 237879, is the trustee of the Fund. OUT_48017126, 14/11/2025



The Lancefield Gift took over Lancefield Park in November with competitors and spectators coming from far and wide. Over 500 athletes and their families lined the boundary with their marquees and sat out and enjoyed the sun which they really appreciated after the other meetings this season have been hampered by terrible weather.

The 400 metre races are the richest in Australia, and as such draw a strong field. In the men's race, Will Adams improved his time from his heat to take out the final from Mitchell Mullins, with Sean Davidson in third. Asleigh Palmer won the women's 400m Gift, just edging out Grace Carter in a very close finish.

This year's meeting introduced the inaugural Lancefield Cup, an 800-metre race that reprises the Matthew Maher Handicap, the half-mile event that was a highlight of the meeting during the meet's heyday. In the new headline event, the Nutrien

Harcourts Lancefield Cup, Kyle Hilson claimed victory. Kyle won this event, after being pushed to the line by Robbie Petrie (who gave Hilson a 114m start) and Adrian Bender.

During the morning, the newly introduced Highland Games (think caber tossing!) took over the second oval.

Organising committee's Chris Dynon said the second year of the reincarnation of the Gift was a great day. "We were rapt to hear all the feedback from the runners and officials. It's really encouraging to hear them all comment on how big they think the Lancefield Gift will get in years to come. I couldn't be happier with the introduction of the Lancefield Cup this year. It got a lot of traction in the lead up and is definitely something that will grow in stature now. We also bought in the Highland Games for the first time; that's something different to what we've seen in the past and we're hopeful that will continue to grow."

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