

Lancefield Mercury

THE PROVIDORE HAS MOVED



When the Lancefield Providore opened at 42 High Street Lancefield on Friday 10 November 2017, the event was featured on the front page of the December 2017-January 2018 Lancefield Mercury! Eight years later, the Providore #2 opened on Monday 5 January 2026 at 18 High Street. Much has happened in the town since 2017. And while we have witnessed other food outlets opening and closing, we are delighted that the Providore has survived and indeed, thrived!

In 2017 the Providore moved into the former Fruit Shed; today the Providore has moved the former Corner Store. In 2017 the owners, Gabby and Greg Cheatley offered a fruit and vegetable supply, fresh juices, flowers, specialty goods and delicatessen items. They have built on their offerings throughout these years.

After nearly eight years, when the opportunity presented itself to move into the former Corner Store (vacated in 2024), Greg and Gabby grabbed the chance. Of course, this was a sought-after location, so they competed with other would-be tenants to rent the premises. Owned by local builder, Pat O'Grady, the building was extensively renovated before being offered on the rental market. Many months passed between making their application, having it accepted and moving into

the property. During this time, Greg and Gabby measured up the spaces before designing and building some of the furniture (mainly the timber benches); they also devised detailed moving plans. These plans were successful because the Providore operated on the Saturday and Sunday before moving into the new premises overnight and opening on Monday 5 January! Quite an achievement after what would have been a major logistical challenge.

Now, in Providore #2, although we see many of the same goods for sale – fruit and vegetables, flowers, smoothies, drinks, toasties, dairy, milk and delicatessen items – other goods are available. Gourmet groceries and take-away food, as well as specialty foods, such as a range of vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free items, now adorn their shelves.

When comparing the clientele of the first years of the Providore to the current clientele, Greg commented that originally locals came to the shop on weekends. Today, he is noticing weekend visitors from Melbourne and other Victorian towns. Let's hope the re-located Providore entices many visitors to Lancefield to enjoy the hospitality of our town.

Fay Woodhouse



LOCAL SUPPORT FOR FARMERS AFFECTED BY BUSHFIRE

Lancefield and district farmers have generously donated hay to assist recovery for those affected in the Longwood fires. Tom McDonnell - Darraweit Guim, Sandy Milne – Romsey, Russell Pattinson - Lancefield and Jack Richmond - Lancefield were the generous donors.

Since the fires, three semi loads totalling 102 large round bales of this year's hay have been collected and distributed by local transport operator, Jack Richmond, to properties in the Thorton, Highlands and Alexandra areas.

The Victoria Farmers Federation has coordinated the process matching those in need with those who can help out. Andrew Thompson from Tooborac also supplied the bales for a load delivered by Jack through Elders @ Euroa.

Well done to all involved!

Ken Allender



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MEMORIAL FOR SUE

Family and friends are warmly invited to attend a memorial service to celebrate the life of

Susan Cunningham. Susan will be remembered for her deep love of family and friends and her gift for sharing stories, laughter, and unforgettable moments with those around her. Sue was born in Kilmore and taught there for many years. She and Doug lived in Lancefield until moving down to the beach after retirement.

Date: Sunday February 1

Time: 11:30 am

Location: Owners and Trainers Room
Kilmore Trackside

This will be a time to come together to honour Susan's life, to share memories, and to celebrate the love, laughter, and connections she cherished so dearly.

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*FROM FEB 2026.

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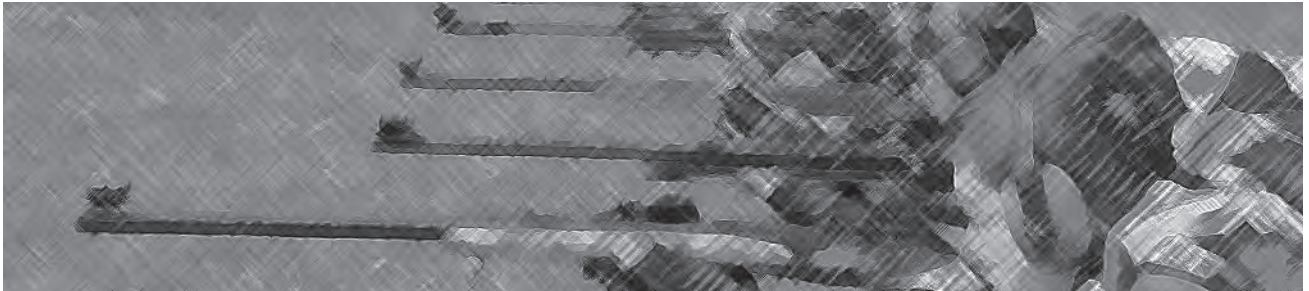
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LANCEFIELD SMALL BORE RIFLE CLUB

COMPETITION SUCCESS



The Lancefield Small Bore Rifle Club begins the new year hoping to continue recent competition success. We are pleased to report our team was successful in the State Benchrest small bore 20 metre competition held by Target Rifle Victoria. It's great to again be holding the trophy which the club has won several times before and reflects the wealth of experience of members.

The club AGM in December was well attended, and members were happy to take on positions within the Committee. Our club has both male and female members and age ranges from juniors through seniors to veterans.

Were you at the last Lancefield Show? You may have seen our information stand where members spoke to several people interested in learning more about the club

and the sport. The Lancefield Small Bore Rifle Club has been in existence since 1953, originally meeting at the old Malthouse in Dunsford Street, and then at the current location at Lancefield Park since 1956. The range, which is licensed by VicPol, was improved in 2017 with a roofed in range which makes for better shooting in all weather conditions.

If you would like to know more about membership and licence requirements, or just come for a general chat about the sport, our regular sessions are on Monday and Wednesday nights from 7 to about 9 pm in the Pavilion at the north end of Lancefield Oval and visitors are welcome.

Or email maxtj60@gmail.com for more information.



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THANK YOU

I would like to say a very big thank you to all who helped and assisted us when I unfortunately had a machinery accident while working out of town. I was very grateful for the fast response from all services involved.

Everyone was very professional and caring in the process of transporting me to the Alfred Hospital.

I would like to mention Alex, Ash and Ian who were extremely helpful. I am now recovering at home and will always remember the care and compassion shown to me by all.

Gordon Thrum
Thrum's Mini Diggers

FANCY A REGULAR FILM-NIGHT?

In 2024 and 2025, we were entertained by the Sounds of Silence and the Buster Keaton silent films shown in the Lancefield Mechanics' Institute Hall. It was a fun, family-night out and enjoyed by all.

A group of friends have recently talked about having a regular film night and we wondered who might be interested in attending? Many Victorian Shires have film clubs/film nights, and we would need to investigate the best method of organising a regular event. We think that the Mechanics' Institute Annexe would be a perfect venue.

So, if you are interested in seeing films on a regular basis, please let me know.

Email: pdanko1@bigpond.com
or phone me on 0417 103 064.

Patricia Danko

LANCEFIELD MERCURY INC.

A0045845D

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:

Andy Moore

Craig Longmuir

Fay Woodhouse

Ken Allender

Julianne Graham

Beth Child

Editorial Enquiries to

Andy Moore 0430 448 120

Advertising Enquiries to

Ken Allender 0404 886 580.



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One eighth page \$ 4 2.00 per issue

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One quarter page \$ 9 5.00 per issue

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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.

SCHOOLS SAVING WATER

SCHOOLS' WATER EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

Greater Western Water (GWW) is encouraging schools across its service region to sign up for the Schools Water Efficiency Program (SWEP) in 2026. The program, which is free for all Victorian schools in the first year, is helping schools across our region save water, money, and to educate the next generation about the value of this vital resource. Since 2012, schools in GWW's region have collectively saved a whopping 1.84 billion litres of water at an estimated cost of \$6.6 million. This is thanks to early detection and repair of issues such as dripping taps, leaking toilets, and malfunctioning evaporative coolers.

GWW's General Manager for Strategy and Partnerships, Kessia Thomson, said the organisation is proud to support schools in building environmentally responsible habits through the program, and encourages new schools to sign up to save water in 2026. "SWEP isn't just about water leaks; it's about smarter everyday water use. Over 80% of the savings come from finding leaks early and repair of everyday fixtures and fittings. "With dry conditions impacting parts of the Macedon Ranges, it's more important than ever to make every drop count, and the SWEP program is one of the ways we're supporting our communities to use water wisely," she said. SWEP is a Victorian Government initiative that enables schools to track their water use in real-time by installing



data loggers on water meters. This technology allows schools to identify leaks, faulty appliances, or unusually high-water usage, often before they become major problems.

Additionally, SWEP is an engaging educational tool; using real-time data, teachers can show students how their actions impact the environment. The curriculum-linked resources help students connect classroom learning to real-world outcomes, at school and at home. To learn more or get your local school involved, visit gww.com.au/SWEP



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FROM THE DESK

How often do we succeed in these endeavours? How often do we get to the end of March, only to be filled with guilt and self-resentment because of our inability to get our act together? How often do old habits just creep back in? In the Bible we find these words: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland." Isaiah 43:18-19

Here we find God giving us words of assurance and hope. When we are prone to despair because of our past, and even our inability to shape our future due to our weakness in the present, God sees and knows. God cares and reassures us that we don't need to try to succeed in our own strength, because He is doing something new! He is making a way—and indeed has made a way—to bring life, joy, peace, satisfaction, when everything else, including ourselves, falls short. God has done something new. He has made a way, and He has done so through His Son, Jesus. Will you come to know Jesus this year? Will you

let Him start something new with you? Why not join us at Taste and See, which begins on Thursday 12 February at 6:30pm Christ Church Lancefield? There you will have an opportunity to hear what God has done, over a free meal with good company.

Dates for the Taste and See at February 12, 19, 26 and March 5. Time 6:30-8:30pm

Venue is Christ Church Lancefield. To register - office@lancefieldromseyanglican.org

CHURCH SERVICE

Romsey Church Service: 9am each Sunday

Lancefield Church Service: 10:30am each Sunday

Prayer Meeting: Christ Church Hall Lancefield Thursday 10:30am

Bible Study: Thursday 10:30am - 12noon and 6:30pm

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EASTER

Easter Saturday April 4, St Paul's will be holding its annual Easter Fun Day at the grounds of St Pauls Church Romsey. Lots of fun activities for the children. Please watch for further information.

OP SHOP

St Paul Op Shop is open each Friday 12:30-4:30 and Saturday 10am-1pm. The OpShop is now open for the year with lots of new interesting items, with all fresh and interesting stock so come in a browse and have a chat with the friendly volunteers.

The Op Shop is on the Parish web site for viewing of the week's specials. Please leave your donations at the open times of the Op Shop, so we can use your much valued donations. If left in the open at brick fence or outside the Op Shop, they could be damaged before the items can be used. Thank you.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT IN LANCEFIELD

We are deeply concerned about the future of our beautiful rural town and its trees and wildlife. Our town is going through a lot of housing development which requires many tree being cut.

Lancefield is expanding rapidly, and with this growth comes an increasing need for accessible public open spaces, as well as the protection and planting of trees. It is deeply disappointing that the land behind the church is being sold to developers, as this site would have been ideally suited for a wetland, community garden, or botanical garden that could benefit both residents and the local environment.

The land currently contains several mature trees that provide an important habitat for wildlife. Once these trees are removed, this habitat will be lost forever and cannot be easily replaced.

Local politicians, along with the wider community, should work together to protect what little green space remains and to ensure that these mature trees are preserved. Sustainable development must balance housing needs with environmental responsibility so that Lancefield remains a healthy and liveable place for future generations.

Fiona and Linda

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HELP WILDLIFE STAY COOL THIS SUMMER

Hot summer days can be tough for our native animals. You can help by leaving out shallow dishes, plates or saucers of water in shaded spots. Add stones or sticks so small animals can climb out safely and remember to refresh the water regularly.

You might spot birds, possums, skinks or even frogs enjoying a cool drink! Small actions like this make a big difference.

For more tips on creating a wildlife-friendly backyard, explore our Backyard Biodiversity resources at mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Environment/Backyard-Biodiversity

MY AGED CARE DROP- IN SESSION

Wednesday 25 February 2026 | 1pm | Gisborne Library, 8 Hamilton St Gisborne

Got a question about My Aged Care? Feeling confused about the new changes, including the Support at Home Program? Maybe your situation has changed, you need more help, and you're not sure where to start or who to call. Come along and ask anything at our My Aged Care drop-in session - we're here to help, no bookings necessary.

For more information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is proud to recognise International Women's Day 2026 March 8, exploring this year's theme, Balance the Scales. The theme is set by UN Women every year, with this year's theme highlighting the urgent need to ensure fair, inclusive and accessible justice for every woman and girl.

UN Women Australia CEO Simone Clarke said: "Balance the Scales is a promise for every woman and girl to be safe, heard, and free to shape her own future. In 2026, unjust laws, policies, and ingrained barriers still stand in the way of fair and inclusive communities. This International Women's Day, we are calling on Australians to join a movement for real action – to transform our

justice systems, amplify marginalised voices, and ensure equality is not the exception, but the rule."

This year we have two incredible events that will explore the theme in different ways.

On Saturday 28 February there is a performance of The Deplorables at the Bluestone Theatre in Kyneton. It is 1874 and two women's teams play cricket for the very first time in Australia. On Sunday 8 March there is an author panel event in the Kyneton Town Hall, delivered in partnership with Northern Books.

For more details or to book visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/IWD. People of all genders are welcome.

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Parkrun has been operating for over 6 years in the Lancefield Recreation Reserve - starts just just to the left of the gate as you enter. Parkrun is totally free, but somewhat addictive, so be warned!

Come down before 8 am any Saturday morning and join in the fun. Rain, hail or sunshine, we never miss a Saturday. After a bit of a chat, it is off you go. Run, walk, stroll, push a pusher, walk the dog, spot the rabbits - and 5k later you have started your weekend off with some fresh air and community.

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ROMSEY LANCEFIELD ROTARY CLUB AND CFA JOIN FORCES

CFA and the Shire of Macedon Ranges Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee are working with Romsey Lancefield Rotary Club to enable further vegetation management along the Melbourne Lancefield Road walking track between Romsey and Lancefield, supporting the Avenue of Honour to remember servicemen and women.

Approval has been granted by the Department of Transport for these works to be undertaken on this road reserve, beginning the week of January 19.

The Roadway is listed as a Critical Road under the Municipal Fire Management Plan, primarily for the protection of both townships and as a critical road linkage. Accordingly, CFA, working through the State funded Safer Together program, have allocated several thousand dollars for the removal and management of scrub and tree suckers to enable adjacent landowners and community members to undertake slashing, and mowing in front of their properties ongoing.

David Allen, Manager Community Safety for CFA Northwest Region, advised that CFA is delighted to be

working in partnership with Romsey and Lancefield Rotary Club Inc. and other community groups to support the Avenue of Honour concept.

"Having an effective well-maintained fire break that provides a safer major linkage between Romsey and Lancefield while also enhancing the amenity of the area and the respect to fallen soldiers, is a wonderful joint venture" he said. "We are delighted Safer Together funds will support the initiative established by the Romsey and Lancefield Rotary Club."

Specialised mulching machines will be used to remove vegetation such as suckers and lower-lying trees to a level that local slashers can then maintain into the future.

"Obviously, this funding is designed to be a "once off" expense and moving forward we seek the support of local landowners and the community to manage their own sections with traditional slashing or mowing".

Submitted by Greg Powell



Lancefield Park Recreation Reserves Inc
PO Box 80
Lancefield 3435
ABN 96 027 852 522

LANCEFIELD PARK RECREATION RESERVES AGM

Notice is given of a PUBLIC MEETING to be held at LAURIE GREEN PAVILION on FEBRUARY 23 commencing at 7pm.

The purpose of the meeting is to nominate no less than three (3) or more than nine (9) persons as the Committee of Management for the LANCEFIELD PARK RECREATION RESERVES Inc. for a term of three years.

The current committee's term will expire on FEBRUARY 7, 2026. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night.

Nominations from women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, young people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds are encouraged.

Further information, nomination forms and nominee declaration forms may be obtained by contacting your local Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action office or at the meeting.

For further enquiries please contact the Secretary,

JUDY STAMMERS on 0437 566 138 or Lancefieldpark@hotmail.com

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LANCEFIELD COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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

THE START OF A NEW YEAR

Well, another year is underway. Let's hope that it is a year of good health, peace and prosperity, and that the devastating summer fires are behind us. Our thoughts are with the friends and families who suffered loss and tragedy during this dreadful period. We also extend our best wishes and appreciation to the dedicated volunteers who battled relentlessly to defend our homes and property under incredibly difficult circumstances.

The Victorian State President of the CWA forwarded a message to all members. In part it stated:

'Recovering from such devastation will be a long process and we need to appreciate that there are many phases, commencing with immediate Relief and moving through Rebuilding stages. The CWA of Victoria has, both in the past and going forward, played a very positive role in the Rebuilding Phases. We will support communities as they rebuild over the coming months'.

Once again, we thank the proprietors of the Lancefield Hotel for inviting us to host the Friday night meat raffle in November. We raised \$550, allowing the branch to distribute donations to local groups.

By the time you read, this term one will be underway. We wish all students the very best for the next stage of their learning. We presented a year 6 student from Lancefield and St. Mary's Primary Schools with our annual CWA scholarships. The criteria for their selection were based on 'good citizen values' Congratulations to Zoë Kranen and Anna Newham.

Our next meeting will be held on Friday 27 February at 10.30 am in the annex of the Mechanics Institute Hall. All newcomers are most welcome.

Maybelle Briggs

ADVERTISEMENT

Mary-Anne Thomas MP LABOR MEMBER FOR MACEDON

As your local Member of Parliament I am keen to hear from the community and assist with any State Government matter.

Mary-Anne Thomas



A: Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne, VIC 3437

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MACEDON RANGES WILDLIFE NETWORK: REINVIGORATED AND EXPANDING

The Macedon Ranges Wildlife Network (MRWN) has entered an exciting new chapter, guided by a refreshed committee, strengthened partnerships and a growing membership that now exceeds 80.

New members have brought expertise in web design, business management, photography and media which have contributed to an updated website, a refreshed social media presence and easier online registrations. MRWN has also achieved charity status, further strengthening its ability to support wildlife and attract community and business support.

TRAINING, ADVOCACY AND GRANTS

Grant successes in 2025 with the Lancefield and Romsey Community Bank, QANTAS and Macedon Ranges Shire Council, along with donations from the Stokes Collective, the Great Association, Holy Cross Primary School and the wildlife caring public, significantly expanded MRWN's training programs. More than 120 volunteers completed accredited courses in macropod rescue, foster care, humane euthanasia and basic wildlife rescue & transport. These training opportunities have strengthened the region's capacity to respond to wildlife injury, road trauma and seasonal pressures.

Donations also supported the purchase of specialised milk formulas and essential items for wildlife in care. MRWN's growing profile was further recognised at the Parliamentary Inquiry into Wildlife Roadstrike in Bendigo where the network represented the concerns of rescuers and the community. Ongoing collaboration with Macedon Ranges Shire Council continues to focus on reducing wildlife roadstrike, improving fencing safety, establishing a fruit net swap program and building long term wildlife response capability at a local level.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

Wildlife Awareness Month market stalls held across the Macedon Ranges in spring enabled volunteers to engage with many hundreds of residents. Community members learned how to create wildlife friendly gardens, understand safer fencing options and respond appropriately if they find or accidentally hit an animal.

New partnerships are also strengthening MRWN's work. The Gisborne Men's Shed is constructing possum and nesting boxes for rehabilitated and displaced wildlife.


The Wombats Masters Football Club is helping promote wildlife awareness and fundraising. The Medical Pantry now ►



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provides unused medical supplies recovered from hospital surplus for carers. MRWN has also partnered with Cherish Pet Food to promote kangaroo free pet food.

As 2026 unfolds, MRWN remains focused on empowering their volunteers as they care for the wildlife that defines the beauty of the Macedon Ranges.



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LANCEFIELD PARK RECREATION RESERVES AGM



The Lancefield Park Recreation Reserves are managed by a Committee of Management consisting of up to 9 persons publicly elected every three years and endorsed by the Minister of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

The Committee of Management is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the Park Reserves, for the governance of requests from User Groups, for maintaining the heritage values of the Park, and using the funds acquired in the best possible way. The committee do not get any Department money to run the Park, relying on a Council maintenance grant, fees from users and grant monies.

The volunteer Committee is responsible for maintaining

two areas – Lancefield Park, and the High Steet Reserve, which incorporates the Men's Shed, the Kindergarten and the area behind (used mostly by the Primary School).

This year's election will take place on Monday 23 February at 7pm. All Park user groups will be presenting a short précis of their activities for the past 3 years at the beginning of the evening. Following on, there will be the Park reports and then the election of the Committee.

If you are interested in being on the Committee please contact the Secretary, Judy Stammers on 0437 566 138 or via the Park email for further information.

All are welcome to attend the meeting.

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A LANDCARE GROUP FOR KERRIE AREA?

A community meeting will be held on Monday March 2 at the Kerrie Hall, Kerrie, starting at 6:30pm, to discuss forming a new Landcare group for Kerrie and district. All welcome.

Those people who live in Kerrie, Cherokee, and parts of Hesket and Bolinda, and are interested in our natural environment, Landcare and/or sustainable farming, and would you like to be part of a new Landcare group for Kerrie and district, are encouraged to attend the community meeting. Landcare is about a simple idea: the community coming together to discuss land management issues, and to design and implement practical solutions to address these issues. At the community meeting ideas will be discussed about what a Kerrie and District Landcare Group could do and what starting a Landcare group involves. The focus of the new Landcare group will be locally driven by its members.

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farming land, the Kerrie, Cherokee, Hesket and Bolinda areas are great places to live. However, the area has land management issues such as weeds and pest animals that affect many properties. Landholders can make a positive contribution to the area's natural environment by getting involved in Landcare to take positive action to help address these issues.

Landcare is already well established in the Macedon Ranges. Ammie Jackson, Landcare Facilitator for the Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network said, "The Kerrie area, extending from Hesket to Bolinda, currently has no Landcare group operating. We would like to address this gap and provide residents in that area with the opportunity to be part of a Landcare group, and to receive the benefits of being part of the Landcare movement."

The Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network, with support from Macedon Ranges Shire Council, has organised the community meeting.

For more details and to register, visit - <https://events.humanitix.com/kerrie-district-landcare-group-community-meeting> or contact Ammie Jackson (Landcare Facilitator, Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network) via udc.landcare.facilitator@gmail.com or 0436 333 079. Please register by Thursday 27 February 2026.

It's time to register for kindergarten!

Dear Families
It's time to register your child for 3-year-old or pre-prep kindergarten in 2027.

Access to a kindergarten place is easier than ever!

With 15 participating services across the shire, all you need to do is visit the Macedon Ranges Shire Council website and complete a registration.

Registrations are open year-round
Applications received by 31 May will be included in first-round offers, with registrations continuing to be accepted after this date.

How to Register
Visit: mrs.vic.gov.au/kinder-rego or scan the QR code.

Contact us: Kindergarten Enrolment Team on 03 5422 0239 or kinderenrolment@mrs.vic.gov.au

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Saturday 28th February

6.00 PM - 9.30 PM

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IT'S A NEW YEAR AT THE SHED

I was walking past St Mary's school before Christmas and went to have a look at the damage to the second Teepee that will need repair. I have now finished repairing the first teepee which was vandalized. A lady came out of the building and asked me what I was doing. I apologised for entering the school grounds as I thought the school year had finished for the year and I introduced myself and she introduced herself as Jo 2 who she said would be taking over from Jo the current coordinator. I said I was taking some pictures and working out what needs to be done. It's disappointing that this sort of thing happens, and we can only hope it won't happen again.

We have only limited materials at the shed, so we are looking for some old merbau decking so I can get on with fixing the second teepee; if anyone in the community has some, we would be very grateful if you could contact us.

On a more positive note, thanks to the ongoing generosity of the Bendigo Bank, we have just installed a new table saw that is guaranteed to prevent any shed bloke from hurting themselves, it's a pretty nifty piece of gear. It's very easy for us to forget that we are not as young as we once were and the potential for accidents is always there.

One of the problems of doing a great job on some project, is that sure enough you will get repeat business! One of our chaps has done superb work on repairing cast iron garden seats. I think he has done about four so far and he mentioned




to me when I was admiring the latest one that he still had another four to do!

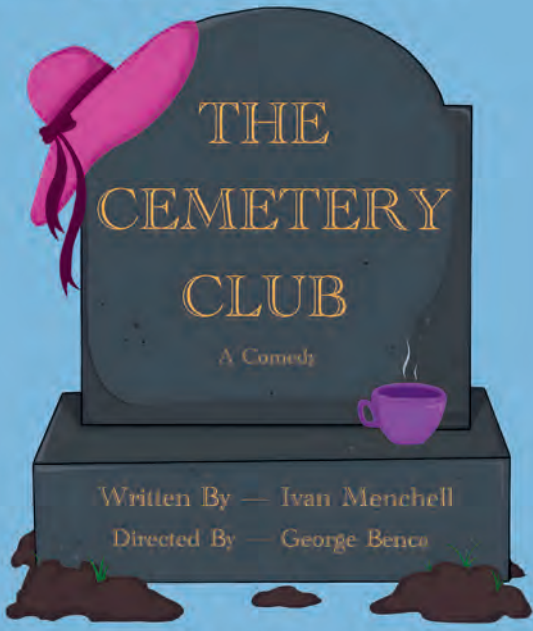
The Romsey Play group has had one of the chaps building a ramp for the little ones to run their toy cars down. Some of these jobs look a bit easier than they actually are, and we are looking forward to it being installed.

Many thanks to everyone who purchased tickets in our Christmas raffle.

Best wishes for the coming year and we need to remind all in our community that the Men's Shed is much more than just making stuff, it's a place of friendship and good fun and all men are very welcome.

The Shed Bloke

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Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Arcare Gisborne invite you to learn about residential aged care, fees and funding, what's on offer, and where to start.

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 Wednesday 11 February 2026

 10:30 - 11:30am

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LANCEFIELD EQUESTRIAN GROUP CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

Lancefield Equestrian Group Inc (LEG), formerly known as RADAR, recently celebrated its 40th anniversary with a special end-of-year dinner and awards presentation, marking four decades of growth, achievement and community spirit.

LEG President Annie Lavelle welcomed members, past members, sponsors and guests, acknowledging the club's rich history and the many people who have contributed to its success over the years. Long-standing members Roger and Annie Lavelle, who have been involved with the club for more than 35 years, reflected on the club's journey from its early days to the thriving organisation it is today.

Originally operating from various members' properties, RADAR later moved to the Lancefield Recreation Reserve, sharing facilities with the Lancefield & District Pony Club. From very modest beginnings, the club has played a significant role in developing the Equestrian Reserve into a well-equipped and widely respected venue. Through hard work, fundraising and generous sponsorship, LEG has been instrumental in the construction of arenas, yards, equipment sheds, improved drainage, and ongoing maintenance of the grounds, in partnership with the Pony Club.

LEG has also enjoyed notable competitive success, including winning the Top Team Trophy Horse Trials on three occasions and hosting major equestrian events, supported by strong sponsorship and community backing.

Following dinner, awards were presented to recognise outstanding contributions and achievements. Joe Dalbin was the recipient of the Roger Lavelle Trophy for Most Dedicated Member, acknowledging his commitment and consistent attendance at rallies. Special recognition was also given to Joy Dalbin for her ongoing support.

Awards were presented to committee members Bruno Granieri, Joe Palmieri and Alan Ward, as well as members Chris Burns and Jackie Burns, in recognition of their



Dianne Forrest (past Secretary) Bruno Granderi, Committee Member and Sponsor Monometh Steel



Left to right - Roger Lavelle, Annie Lavelle (President), Jenni Robinson, Joe Dalben receiving award for his contribution to LEG.

tireless work maintaining the grounds, equipment and club facilities. LEG also acknowledged and thanked its instructors Chris Pearce, Lisa Bray and Jenny Crowley, along with Holly Stansfield-Smith, who has supported popular additional clinics held throughout the year.

Special mention was given to JM Financial Services, John and Michael, who audited the club's accounts for the first time,

taking over from long-serving auditor Bill Krammer upon his retirement.

The evening concluded with the cutting of the 40th anniversary cake, celebrating not only the club's history, but its strong sense of community and positive future.

Annie Lavelle



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Diabetes Information Session

When and Where:

Tuesday, 24 Feb 2026

10-11am

Kyneton Library

3 Baynton Street, Kyneton



Join us for a diabetes education session with Omnia Community Health's Diabetes Educator.



My Aged Care Drop-in Session



When and Where:

Wednesday, 25 Feb 2026

1-2:30pm

Gisborne Library

8 Hamilton Street, Gisborne



Find out more about navigating My Aged Care and the new Support at Home program.

mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect



OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

I hope all our readers are well and had a enjoyable Christmas and festive season. Once again I will be writing regular monthly columns on all things Landcare. The Lancefield Mercury gives us a great opportunity to promote our group and educate readers on issues that are dear to us. Thank you to Andy and all the volunteers who make the Lancefield Mercury possible. I would also like to thank the Community Bank, and our local council, for their support over the years. Our group has grown in recent years but are looking for a secretary and can always do with more on-ground help.

Our first meeting for the year will held on Monday February 9 in the Annexe of the Lancefield Mechanics Hall, starting at 7:30 pm. There are some good opportunities to get involved coming up very soon.

The Bush Dance is back! Following the successful, sold-out event in July with positive feedback, we decided to hold

a summer event this year. The family friendly event will be from 6:00 to 9:30pm, Saturday, February 28 in the Laurie Green Pavillion in Lancefield, and the band is Bushwahzee. The venue is much bigger allowing more space for dancing and 250 participants. Bring your family and friends and kick up your heels or sit back, be entertained and enjoy yourself! Tickets are \$20 for adults, under 18 are free. To get tickets through Humanitix, search Deep Creek Landcare Bushdance. Thank you to our major sponsors: Lane's End Vineyard, Macedon Ranges and Nutrient Harcourt Kilmore, The Lancefield Hotel, The 1860 Romsey and Liberty Lancefield.

After warming up on Saturday night, please join us the next morning on Clean Up Australia Day, Sunday, March 1. Last year marked 35 years of Cleaning Up our environment and the biggest ever Clean Up Australia Day. Over 1 million Aussies got gloved up and out there to really make a

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DEEP CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

difference by joining one of the 12,242 events. The founder of the event, Ian Kiernan, AO was just an "average Australian" with a simple idea to make a difference in his own backyard. Ian passed away on October 16, 2018, but his legacy lives on. Our day kicks off at 9:30 at the registered clean-up sites in Lancefield and Romsey. The rotunda is the meeting point in Lancefield. We aim to clean up Main Road as well as our regular pick up as part of the "Adopt a Roadside Scheme" from the service station out to Doggetts Bridge on the Lancefield Kilmore Road. You can join by going to the Clean Up Australia website or by giving us a call prior to the day to assist us with planning.

Our involvement in The Tree Project is another opportunity for volunteers to help in a most worthy cause. Each year we grow thousands of indigenous trees through the project for landholders who placed an order in September and for our projects around the district. The seeds have germinated, and we are looking for help to grow them on, let us know if you can help.

Deep Creek Landcare has nesting boxes for bats, birds, possums and phascogales for sale from \$25. We also have Myna bird traps to lend out. Annual Landcare membership is \$20 per family. You can follow us on Facebook, our website, contact our President, Phil Severs (0476 324 000), attend our monthly meetings in the Lancefield Mechanics Hall or pop along to the Lancefield Farmers Market.

Phil Severs



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Our first meeting for the year will be Thursday 26 February at 10am. The Friday coffee mornings continue over the holidays at the Lost Watering Hole.

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.

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A PATCH OF LANCEFIELD

OUR YEAR AHEAD

Our year ahead looks exciting with lots of plans in the works. We are still talking about a Whole Town De-Stash, so dive into those sheds and cupboards and trunks and start making a collection to bring along for a day of sharing, swapping and selling at the Mechanics' Institute. More news soon.

Some of us are working on an interesting project, in collaboration with Maribyrnong River and Waterways Association. The project, Unseen Creatures, is a quilting project designed to highlight the microfauna in our water – what they do, and how many there are show us the health of our essential supply.

Project Manager Angela Clarke came to talk to us just before Christmas – we chose from a selection of designs to be embroidered, beaded and decorated in any ways the images inspire, of eight of the hundreds of critters living and contributing wellbeing to our water supply. More on this soon, too.

We are looking forward to a bumper creative year with time to work on lots of UFOs, perhaps (Unfinished Objects, for the uninitiated) before our next quilt show exhibition in 2027.

Beth Child



THE MOUNT PLAYERS
HAPPENINGS

COMEDY TO START THE YEAR

After a short break, the theatre is again buzzing, with rehearsals in full swing for our show, *The Cemetery Club*, a comedy by Ivan Menchell. Three New York widows meet once a month for tea before visiting their husbands' graves. Ida is sweet-tempered and ready to begin a new life. Lucille is a feisty embodiment of the girl who wants to have fun, and Doris is priggish and judgmental, particularly when Sam the butcher enters the scene, along with that other woman! A story filled with laugh-out-loud humour and pathos about love, navigating grief and the challenges of moving on. The season runs from 20 February – 8 March. Ticket includes a complimentary sherry, free tea/coffee and treats at interval with the bar open to cap off the experience.

Auditions for our second show, *Mr Bailey's Minder*, are on Sunday 1 and Wednesday 4 February.

The Mount Players AGM will be held on Friday 13 February at the theatre. Drinks and nibbles at 7pm with the meeting commencing at 7.30pm. All members welcome.

Membership for 2026 is now open. For full details on auditions, AGM, membership and ticket bookings go to www.themountplayers.com or call 5326 1892.

See you at the theatre,

Karen Hunt

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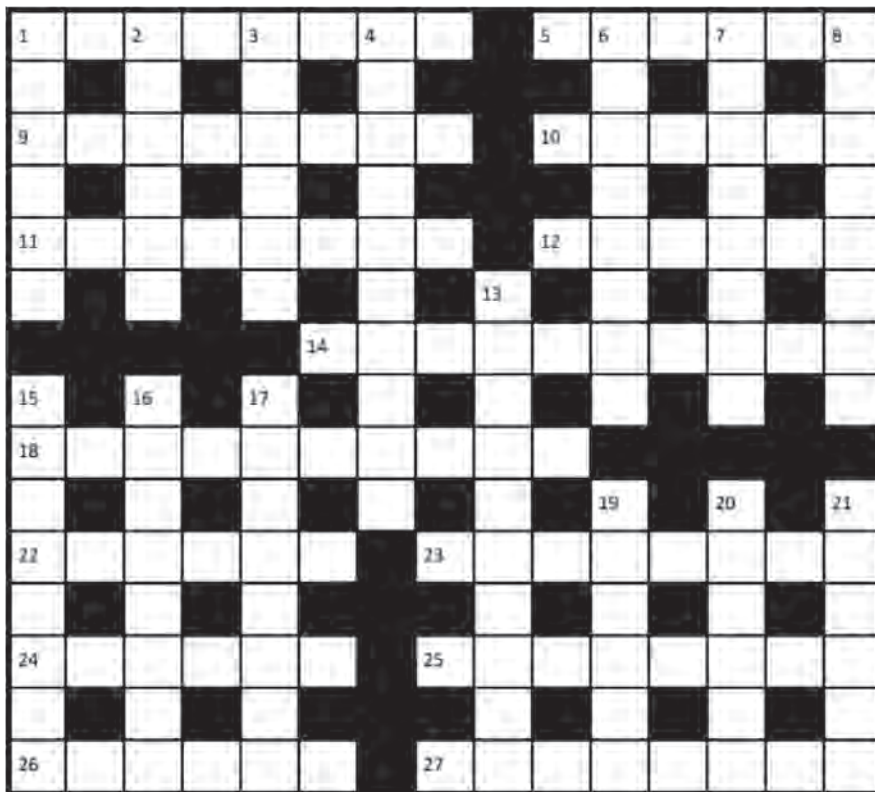
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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

NUMBER 29
By Kevin Moysey



ACROSS

- 1 Four spill the beans on what a seer can do? (8)
- 5 Dangerous calculators (6)
- 9 Food and drink arrangement for a cat doing the wrong thing?
- 10 Least contaminated purist where first is swapped for the last (6)
- 11 Not necessary for lion atop a mix (8)
- 12 Not as pretty as inland revenue glue arrangement (6)
- 14 Send and record sounds like someone who builds boats (10)
- 18 A rare bird that could be sad (4,6)
- 22 Bad result for a tree when you pull up stumps (6)
- 23 Sat right to be conventional and shortest route (8)
- 24 Endless charlatan nine leaves a bitter taste (6)
- 25 Put in place a posting (8)
- 26 Agreeable people who don't mean it (3,3)
- 27 Sundry - as classified (8)

DOWN

- 1 Fact or fiction is something to be considered (6)
- 2 Turn rotten mate outside (6)
- 3 Tear or sounds like the result of dread (6)
- 4 Hires a clan to be a ceremonial county (10)
- 6 Gee why rudder makes dull hard work (8)
- 7 Levelling's after the days are over (8)
- 8 Wet a statue, or end arrangement? (8)
- 13 Allocates PA portions (10)
- 15 Suddenly PT in ruly follows seaman (8)
- 16 Berries sound like water movements (8)
- 17 Pose a tip to be fitting (8)
- 19 Cappuccino ends can make Dog Day Afternoon lead (6)
- 20 Gate is to be someone concerned about age (6)
- 21 Donate in order to look like you did good (6)

Answers page 14



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A NEW BEGINNING

So much is new this time of year - kids are going back to school in new classes with new books. You open your new diary to find lots of new empty pages. You're waiting for the new season of your favourite tv program to start. Or maybe you're looking forward to a new AFL season.

God offers us all a new beginning that we can accept any time of the year. A chance to start over and to put the past behind us. In the Bible it says "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" 2 Corinthians

"The old has gone, the new is here" – sounds great, doesn't it? But what does that mean? Our mistakes can't just be erased from history. What God is offering us is hope for the future with the knowledge that he will be there with us to support us as we navigate life's challenges. Christians often report that as God supports them, they have been freed from their bad habits, addictions, illnesses, insecurities and the list goes on. Christians also live with the knowledge that when their life ends, they will go to heaven.

How do you receive this new start? Romans 10:9 states "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." You can become a believer in Christ and have a



new beginning today. Do you believe that "Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead"? If so, reach out to God in prayer. Follow up your prayer by reaching out to another Christian or attending Church for support.

Just one more thing – both 2 Corinthians and Romans are books in the Bible, and both were written after the life and resurrection of Jesus.

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CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES IN FEBRUARY

STORYTIMES ARE BACK!

Join us this term for age-appropriate songs, rhymes, stories and a fun activity.

Storytime, age 2 – 5 years, Monday and Tuesday 11am – 11.45am and Baby Rhyme Time, age 0 – 2 years, Thursday 11am – 11.30am

THE BENEFITS OF STORYTIME

There is abundant research available about the benefits of early literacy in enabling children to read, spell and experience overall success throughout school and in life. Regular attendance at Storytime sessions develops language and literacy skills from birth - through sharing books, telling stories, singing songs and talking to each other. Through rhyming and singing, children learn about how language works, they develop their social interaction skills and they have fun.

All Goldfields Library branches offer a range of engaging and age-appropriate sessions to cater for all children from birth to school age. Sessions are free, they do not require prior booking, and all are welcome.

ISPY TABLE

I spy with my little eye ...

The iSpy Table will be at Romsey this year, with different things to spot each month.

Throughout February, look for objects that begin with C and D; can you spot a Camel, two Dinosaurs, a Crocodile or some Dice?

SENSORY SPACE

Romsey Library offer a low sensory space Tuesday afternoons from 2.30pm to 4.30pm during the school term. An ideal time to visit if you prefer to read or relax in low lighting.

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OUR FABULOUS JUNIOR COLLECTION

With the school year underway we want to let you know how the Romsey Library is placed to support your child's learning journey.

Early Readers/Interest Readers - this section of our library has been re-categorised making it easier for students and parents to find suitable readers across all reading levels.

Dyslexia Friendly Readers – the collection includes resources aimed at those who learn differently as well as specially designed dyslexic-friendly readers for children learning to read.

Graphic Novels – popular titles including Pokémon, Dog Man, Hilda and TinTin.

Junior Fiction - up to date with current trends, titles and series.

Junior Non-Fiction - a range of texts to support interests and project work.

Picture Books - new titles arriving regularly as well as the old favourites. Our collection includes board books suitable from birth, through to older reader picture books.

Our staff at the Romsey Library are very happy to help all our young readers find reading material to suit their taste and level of reading; we are confident that we will find

something for even the most reluctant readers! We are also able to help source books on specific themes or subjects to support school projects and home school lesson plans. We have nine library branches within our service, allowing us access to a wide range of titles. Our collection also includes audiobooks and eBooks which can be easily accessed from most devices.

ADULT PROGRAMS

A Curious Circle Craft and Connection Group

Wednesday 11 February, 5.30 – 7.30pm

Tap into your creativity and enjoy making and connecting with other women in a friendly and inclusive setting.

A new craft each month. No experience necessary. Refreshments provided.

MOVIE CLUB

Join us at 10.30am on the second Wednesday of every month for a movie.

February screening Wednesday 11 at 10.30am.

Please see staff at the library desk for movie titles.



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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

CURRENT MASS TIMES

Vigil Mass will be celebrated each Saturday evening at 6:30pm in the Lancefield Church. Sunday Mass is currently being celebrated at 9am in Romsey each week. The Anointing Mass will be celebrated at 10:30am in Romsey on the first Saturday of each month, Thursday 9:30am at Romsey Church and Friday 9:30am at Lancefield Church. Please check the parish website for confirmation of weekday Mass times as they may change.

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 at Woodend to make arrangement. Please direct enquiries to the parish office on 5429 2130 or by email at lancefield@cam.org.au For funeral arrangements, please contact:

Fr. John on 5427 2690 or by email at woodend@cam.org.au

HEALTHY LANDSCAPES EVENT

A BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY FOR YOUR PROPERTY

Join Council's Private Land Conservation Officer, Jason McAinch, as he shares the real benefits of boosting farm biodiversity across Central Victoria. Learn how diverse pastures, mixed plantings and thoughtful property design can improve livestock health, strengthen farm resilience and support healthy soils and waterways. Discover practical ways to create landscapes that work for livestock, native wildlife and your land.

Don't miss it, February 25 - register now and start building a stronger, more biodiverse farm.

Book at mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events

DIABETES

Education Session: Tuesday 24 February 2026
10am | Kyneton Library, 3 Baynton St Kyneton

Diabetes affects many people in our community and understanding it is an important step toward better health. Join Credentialed Diabetes Educator Community Health Nurse, Breallen, for a friendly and informative diabetes education session where we'll discuss the differences between Type 1, Type 2, and pre-diabetes, common risk factors, and possible complications.

We'll also share simple, practical ways to reduce risk, including everyday food tips and easy ways to move more. This session is relaxed, practical, and suitable for all levels of knowledge. Everyone is welcome. Come along and learn how small changes can make a big difference. Register your attendance by contacting Shan Spiers on 5422 033, or by email at VillageConnect@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Session is brought to you by Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Omnia Community Health. For more information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect

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website: lancefield.neighbourhoodhouse.org.au

February 2026 activities

Postural Alignment

Posture function and flow to improve mobility, posture, balance and joint alignment.

Mon, Tues, Thurs 11.30am - 12.30pm - \$15

Boomerang Bags

Help create re-usable bags for Lancefield, Sewers & Non Sewers welcome.

Wednesdays 10am - 12pm

Dru Yoga with Pina

Reconnect with your spirit within; gentle and suitable for everyone of all abilities.

Wednesdays 7 - 8.30pm \$25

Learn to sew

Learn how to use basic and advanced sewing skills and techniques to further master your crafts!

Bring your own machine or start with one of ours

Thursdays 10am - 12 pm \$5

Lancefield Jam

An invitation to musicians - all ages, all instruments and all experience. A casual and fun session to make some tunes together.

Sing, play or just listen. children welcome.
Held at 78 High St.

Thursdays 6 - 8 pm -gold coin donation

French Speaking Friends

Practise speaking French in an inclusive and safe environment where all levels are welcome.
at The Townhouse, 5 The Crescent

Thursdays 6.30 - 8.30pm gold coin donation

Slow Flow Restorative Yoga

Gentle and suitable for all levels; this class is a lovely way to reconnect with your spirit within, slow down physically to have space to devote internally.

Saturdays 10am - \$15

Dungeons & Dragons

New Macedon Ranges Society meeting for tabletop role playing games.

Every second Sunday 1- 5 pm donation

Phone, email, or visit the website above for more information and bookings.

Dementia Singing Group

If you know anyone with dementia or someone caring for a person living with dementia, please tell them about this great initiative funded by our Lancefield and Romsey Community Bank

Feed it Forward Community Lunch

Wednesday 25 February 12.30pm \$5

Romsey Neighbourhood House

Please make sure to book 54291 214

First Aid Courses

Level II First aid certificate/ update includes CPR or just CPR component.

\$95 HLTAID009 \$137 HLTAID011

Saturday 21 March 9am - 4pm

Opening Hours

Op Shop - Mon - Fri 10am - 4.30pm

Saturday 10am - 1pm

Townhouse - Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm

& Food Share Saturday 10am - 1pm

Mens Shed - Mon - Fri 9am - 12pm

Farmers Market

Saturday 28 February 9am - 1pm

As we head into the new year, our 25th year of operations, there is a strong sense of momentum and fresh energy across Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey. From new faces in our branches to changes at a board level, we are excited about what 2026 has in store!

Community Investment Program – Events round opening soon

Our Community Investment Program for Events will be opening in March, providing local events and initiatives with the opportunity to apply for support. If you would like to be notified when applications open, we encourage you to join our mailing list by emailing cip@lrcfsl.com.au

Our Community Investment Program is made possible by people choosing to bank with us directly in our Lancefield and Romsey branches, allowing local banking profits to be reinvested back into the communities we all live in.

Welcome to our new Senior Branch Manager

We are pleased to welcome Anish Paudel to Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey as our new Senior Branch Manager. Anish brings a strong background in consumer banking and is passionate about coaching staff, building customer relationships, and driving community engagement. He has already begun meeting customers and community members and looks forward to becoming an active part of the Lancefield and Romsey community. We encourage you to drop into one of our branches and say hello.

New faces in our Branch Team

Alongside Anish's arrival, we have welcomed several new Customer Relationship Officers to our branch team. Chelsey Fisher commenced with us in January, with Jenna Spiteri and Michelle Arbon joining this month. Their arrival brings fresh energy and additional support to our branches, strengthening our ability to assist customers with their everyday banking needs.

We are also pleased to welcome Amy Gauld back to the branch team as she returns from maternity leave in February and we thank James Sheawick from Community Bank Gisborne & District for his temporary support during 2025 while we were short staffed.

Board and Committee updates

At board level, we recently farewelled Bev Beaumont, who made a lasting and valued contribution over her years of service as a Director. We are pleased that Bev will continue to support our Community Bank as a member of the Marketing and Community Investment Committee.

We also welcome new Directors Melinda Burgess, Seamus Flagg, Andrew Neaves and Bhavana Bhatia, along with new Marketing and Community Investment Committee members Jaimie Brunton and Gary Deer.

Annual General Meeting

In accordance with corporate regulations, Lancefield and Romsey Community Financial Services Ltd held its AGM on Wednesday, November 12th 2025 at The Newnham Room at Romsey Park. Duncan Brain and David Brennan were elected as Directors of the Company, after joining earlier in the year. Director Graeme Kelly was re-elected to the Board.

It is shaping up to be an exciting year for Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey, and we look forward to continuing to work with our customers, shareholders and community groups to help bring local ideas and goals to life.

Community Bank - Lancefield and Romsey
20A High Street Lancefield VIC 3435
p 5429 1977 e lancefieldmailbox@bendigobank.com.au

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WOMBAT COMING

Works are expected to soon get underway on a new raised safety platform (also known as a wombat crossing) along High Street in Lancefield, following earlier community consultation and refining of the design last year.

The crossing will upgrade an existing pedestrian crossing point located roughly halfway between Raglan Street to the west and Main Road to the east, with the raised platform to support the safety of both drivers and pedestrians by providing a clearer crossing point and encouraging drivers to slow down. Associated footpath and drainage improvements will also be delivered.

The project is expected to start by February, weather and final approvals permitting, and take about a month to complete. Construction dates are being carefully considered around known events such as the local farmer's market.

This project is being delivered as part of Council's 2025-26 Capital Works Program and has been funded through the Transport Accident Commission's Safer Local Roads and Streets Program.

ROMSEY LANCEFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS



WE ARE BACK!

We are back and running for 2026. Our weekly sessions have started back in our club rooms at the rear of the Romsey Mechanics Institute. Join us for lunch and a game of cards. We will be holding our monthly bus trips again this year. At this stage we will be visiting the Daylesford Mills. The Mills have a selection of stalls and great café, Maze Café and Larder.

We are unsure of the date just yet but feel free to join us on a Monday afternoon for updates.

The cost is \$50.

We will be travelling to a variety of interesting places this year, keep an eye on the upcoming reports for a list of trips.

We meet every Monday at the rear of the Romsey Mechanics Institute for lunch, for just \$10 – everyone is more than welcome.

For further information please contact Helen on 0409 064 303 or Jan on 0408 338 759.

Hope to see you soon.

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