

Lancefield Mercury



Professor Anne Buist was awarded the Order of Australia (AO) in the General Division in the 2026 Australia Day Honours

We are delighted to report and congratulate local Lancefield resident Professor Anne Buist for this award. The citation reads: 'For distinguished service to psychiatry, to advancing best practice in perinatal mental health research and treatment, and to mental health education'.

Anne Buist's career spans appointments at The University of Melbourne, Austin Health and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists. Her professional associations and government roles include the International Association for Women's Mental Health, International Marcé Society for Perinatal Mental Health, the Committee on Parental Mental Illness, Substance Abuse and Infant Death, and the North East Women's Mental Health Reference Group to name but a few. Her CV is long and impressive! As well as her professional appointments, Anne has been active in the Australian writing and publishing sphere.

When I interviewed Anne following this announcement, we discussed her career, some of her passions, and living in Lancefield.

In her distinguished career, Anne is most proud of her role as Director of the Postnatal Depression Program at Beyond Blue. The project was ambitious at every level and

challenging at every turn. The team are passionate about peri-natal psychiatry. In this program, the government agreed to have screening as part of good obstetric care and as part of the health outcome of new mothers.

From 1996-1999, Anne was a Member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Women's Health under the Jeff Kennett Liberal Government. She comments that Jeff Kennett was a hard taskmaster and applying for funding (the program received \$4 million over five years) was an experience in itself! Although a member of this Committee, she comments that she is 'not a committee person'.

While being a wife and mother with young children, working full-time on this Committee, Anne was also a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne. Her thesis, 'Childhood sexual abuse and its association with postpartum depression and early parenting difficulties' was awarded in 1999. Her 1992 Masters' Thesis addressed 'postpartum depression in breastfeeding mothers'. Her passion is palpable when she discusses these subjects.

Anne is proud to have run Mother and Baby Units for most of her career, and is proud that, with the support and good intentions of the Victorian government, she has been able to ensure that there are trained registrars in Victorian hospitals, thereby increasing peri-natal support for mothers. When required, she has worked with patients in prisons and

ANNE BUIST awarded the Order of Australia

written reports for coroners.

Given her work with patients suffering post-natal depression, I asked Anne if she ever felt the emotional side of any of her cases. Instead, she nominated one particular case that was high profile and tragic, commenting that: ‘you have to get involved, you have to be the voice of the baby’. The importance of Anne’s work and her passion is clear.

I was curious about the name Buist. It seems it was Dutch and goes back to the seventeenth century. Her father’s maternal side – strong Methodists and Presbyterians – came to Australia from Scotland. Anne and her husband Graeme Simson purchased their land and house around 35 years ago – when their children (a boy and a girl) were very small. They now have children of their own. They bought the property in Red Gap Road and sometime later, her parents Jean and David (known as Greg) Buist moved from Wonga Park in Melbourne to a nearby property. Greg (who died nearly two years ago) and Jean (who has since moved to Melbourne) were very active in the local Lancefield and Romsey communities. Jean is remembered for her support of the Historical Society, CWA, Red Cross and other associations. Jean is still driving and continues to return to Lancefield to visit the family and friends. She celebrated her 90th birthday at the end of February and is enjoying the arrival of great-grandchildren.

Anne and Graeme are enthusiastic walkers, although this has not always been the case. They regularly travel overseas and have enjoyed the Fisherman’s Trail in Portugal, a two-

week coastal walk. Since walking the Camino de Santiago trail, they have become more interested in walking tours; and as Anne says, ‘it gives you the capacity to see the whole of the country’. The Camino was something of a turning point for them – they have been hooked since then! They are going to Tasmania for the Three Capes Walk in mid-February.

While undertaking a sabbatical at Yale University in 2010 they visited southern Burgundy in France. They rented a house there before purchasing one of their own and thoroughly enjoying walks through this region. Anne describes their Tramaynes to Assisi trip as ‘walking into spring’. Their walk in Spain was the subject of their 2017 book, *Two Steps Forward* and another, *Two Steps Onward* was published in 2021. They are both about their walk to Rome.

It was in Italy in September 2024 that they discovered parkun. Friends suggested they go to the parkrun in Treviso which they enjoyed, and have regularly participated in other parkruns, especially our local Lancefield parkrun on a Saturday morning.

Anne Buist is the author of books and medical articles as well as travel books and novels. Her titles include *Medea’s Curse* (2015), *Dangerous to Know* (2016), *Two Steps Forward* (2017), *This I would Kill for* (2018), *The Long Shadow* (2020), *Two Steps Onward* (2021), *The Glass House* (2024) and *The Oasis* (2025). Her forthcoming publication, *The General Hospital* will be published in March 2026.

Publishing *The Glass House* in 2024 may be considered a milestone event for Anne and Graeme who co-authored the book. *The Glass House* follows psychiatry registrar Hannah

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Wright as she navigates life as a doctor in a busy psychiatric ward, learning on the job about the tough choices that have to be made within the constraints of the strained public system. Described as ‘an addictive read that provides a unique insight into mental health care in Australia’, the book delves into the challenges posed by different clinical perceptions and prejudices. Andrea Davison has written that ‘Leveraging Anne’s clinical insight and Graeme’s ability to write a page-turner’, the pair wanted to spark candid conversations about mental health treatment and break down the stigma surrounding acute psychiatric conditions.

As part of the initiative for the book, Anne and Graeme set off on an ambitious road trip – The Great Australian Bookshop Tour the day after their book was launched at Red Door Books on 28 March 2024. The tour visited almost every independent bookshop across Australia where they spoke about the book and signed copies. They treated each stop as an opportunity to get people talking about mental health while also supporting independent bookshops. By May 2024, Anne and Graeme had travelled 3,420 km and visited 127 bookshops. In total, they visited 400 bookshops in four months.

There appears to be a clear trajectory from Anne’s work in psychiatry, to the publication of *The Glass House* and the 2024 tour, and her recent AO Award. While greatly mourning the closure of Red Door Books in June 2025, we look forward to seeing Anne’s forthcoming book, *The General Hospital*, when it appears on the bookshelves of other book shops.

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Dr Rob Walsh with plankton nets in his lab.

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WATER HEALTH

WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE IS THE KEY

Water – we just turn the tap on and out it comes. We drink it, cook with it, bathe in it, clean our homes and clothes and bodies. That’s all you need to know, right?

Just before Christmas we at the local quilting group, A Patch of Lancefield, had a visitor, Angela Clarke, from the Maribyrnong River and Waterways Association. Angela’s primary concern is the health of water in that catchment, and she is heading a community art project called Unseen Creatures, which involves quilters and handwork artisans embroidering/beading/decorating quilt panels that depict various aquatic microfauna (AMF from here on).

Being the curious gal that I am, I asked to meet the source of her intel about these critters, and soon after I spent a riveting morning with Dr Rob Walsh, Aquatic Micro-invertebrate Ecologist, looking at diagrams, tiny shapes in small specimen bottles, and peering down microscopes. My kind of fun!

Rob is here to make us all think a lot more about what lives in water - specifically aquatic microfauna, which is his passion and his focus - and the importance of getting the balance of these varied critters right, so that our water is clean, healthy and sustaining, not toxic and damaging to us and our livestock.

Rob tells me that they are arguably the most important

link in the aquatic food web. As a group, they link all the components in the aquatic food web, living and non-living, together; serving both as consumers of algae, bacteria, and other micro-organisms, larval macroinvertebrates, fish fry (the very early juvenile stages of fish); then as prey for mature macroinvertebrates, small fish and juvenile stages of larger fish, and many water birds. They also play a role in the diet of birds – swans, ducks and geese consume a wide variety of aquatic plant material, and associated crustaceans.

For example, “filter-feeding AMF are among a few known animals that can clear pollution-causing algal blooms in lakes”, and “are a critical part of freshwater ecosystems, as aquatic macroinvertebrates, most freshwater fish species and many bird species depend directly on them as a significant source of food.”

Changes in their composition and abundance in the species composition of lakes, wetlands etc. – both in the USA and Europe “have been used as bio-indicators for watershed deliveries, climate changes, measures of major nutrients in ageing aquatic systems, and acidification of water bodies.” In Australia studies show a link between population changes in billabongs and European settlement in the Murray-Darling Basin.



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WATER HEALTH

Wow, impressive for these creatures that measure up to 2 millimetres each at their longest. And they are just one example of hundreds of widely differing AMF creatures in our water supply.

Copepods, for example, are often used as a bio-diversity indicator, and may form the largest animal biomass on earth, almost certainly contributing far more to the secondary productivity of the world's oceans...perhaps more than all other groups of organisms together. Also, predacious copepods have been used successfully in Vietnam to control disease-bearing mosquitoes and may be added to water-storage containers where the mosquitoes breed.

Also, copepods, apart from being a major food source for larger invertebrates and many small or juvenile fish, have been found to consume up to 22% of the daily carbon production which play an important part in the nutrient pathways of many freshwater systems.

Daphnia (a Cladoceran) appear to be most efficient in cleaning up water bodies made turbid by blue-green algae; and are used to measure the responses to toxic substances that may enter freshwater systems. A single Daphnia may remove up to 35,000 algal/bacteria/protozoan cells per day. They have a filtering system that may remove incredibly small particles from the water bodies (e.g. the wastewater lagoons of sewerage treatment plants).

Then there's the Chydoridae. Another group of cladocerans with up to 130 different species known from Australia which as a group feed on organic detritus, algae, diatoms,

cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) and algae. Overseas they have been used as an ideal organism for studies on evolution and adaptive radiation within inland waters.

Another group of Cladocerans, the Moniidae – can survive in low oxygen, high salinity like salt pans, and environments affected by farm pollutants. At the same time these crustaceans are successfully used in the culture of rainbow trout, salmon, striped bass larvae, and also by tropical fish hobbyists, who also use this Moina genus to feed over sixty fresh and saltwater fish varieties in the aquaculture industry overseas.

OK, one more: cladocera feed on, amongst other things, detritus, bacteria and algae, and they link everything in aquatic food webs together – if this group is missing then the system will quickly collapse.

Put simply: No microfauna = No fish!

Rob is a consultant to corporations, universities, water authorities, councils etc, who need to ascertain the impact their projects may have on the water systems around Australia; he is also keen and happy to talk with local farmers, schools and interested folk about how we might all take steps to improve the health of our water – simple ideas, exciting outcomes.

Meanwhile, we at A Patch of Lancefield are busily beading, embroidering and decorating panels of these fascinating creatures for the final quilt, to be displayed later in the year.

I bet you'll never look at water the same way from now on.

Beth Child

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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Advertising Enquiries to

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Annual Subscriptions -

Colour - yearly advertising packages (11 editions):

Annual 1/4 page \$ 7 80.00

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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.

ELECTRIFY MACEDON RANGES

Want to convert some, or all, of your appliances to electric? Having trouble wading through all the information? With the launch of the “Electrify Your Home Planner” the local Electrify Macedon Ranges (EMR) and Go Renewable Energy (GREG) Groups are here to help.

They have a free 28-page booklet Electrify Your Home Planner which is designed to help you on the electrification journey to save on bills, while creating greater comfort and a healthier home as well.

The planner will be formally launched with a short presentation and free copies made available at the following locations during the Shire Council’s Changemakers Festival: -

Saturday 21 March 11.30 – 12.30 pm Riddells Creek Leisure Centre

Tuesday 24 March 4-5 pm and 6.30-7.30 pm Kyneton Mechanics Institute

Saturday 28 March 1-2 pm Lancefield Neighbourhood House

Wednesday 1 April 4-5 pm and 6.30- 7.30 Gisborne Community Centre

Saturday 4 April 1-2 pm Woodend Community Centre

Registrations for these events are open at Changemakers: <https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/See-Do/Events-and-Awards/ChangeMakers-Macedon-Ranges>

At each of the above events, local volunteers with knowledge of the electrification process will be available for you to chat with, and for those interested in more personalized help, free one-on-one “kitchen table” discussions can be arranged.

Consider what you can electrify, come and meet us at Changemakers, and take your first steps towards reining in your energy bills.

MEET THE MAYOR OPPORTUNITIES

In 2026, Mayor Kate Kendall is keen to be as accessible to the community as possible. To support this, the Mayor’s office at Kyneton Town Hall will be open for weekly Meet the Mayor sessions.

These sessions provide an opportunity to discuss concerns, ask questions, or share ideas about your local

community.

Appointments are available in 30-minute sessions. Meetings can be held online via Microsoft Teams; by scheduled phone call; or in person at Kyneton Town Hall. In-person meetings will generally take place on Mondays between 12pm and 2pm.



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NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LUNCH

We often say there is no such thing as a free lunch.

And this is true in the sense that people often offer things freely, only to get something in return. Perhaps a taster tester at the supermarket, enticing you to buy the whole box, or a free trial on a subscription service, so that you forget to cancel and are automatically signed up for another month. I'm sure we've all experienced such things and so we tend to agree that nothing is "really" free. Now, this may be true for human relationships, but what about a relationship with God? Is that free, or do we need to strike a deal with God?

If we look to Jesus' example, we can see what God is like. Throughout his life, he befriended people, healed them, offered them love and compassion, and even on a few occasions, provided a free meal! But ultimately, Jesus offered up himself to die on the cross for us. There, he took away what separates us from God: sin. All the wrong we've said and done, Jesus took upon himself-freely. We didn't ask him to, but he did it anyway. "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"

(Romans 8) God's love for you was the catalyst behind this gift. Because of his love for you, he sent Jesus to die for you-and he did it freely for us, yet at great cost for himself. This means we don't need to purchase what he has to offer. We don't need to strike a deal with him. All we need to do is receive it-gratefully, joyfully, and wholeheartedly- receiving

Jesus' love and forgiveness through faith in him. I pray that you may receive this free gift wherever you may be.

Romsey Church Service - 9am and Lancefield Church Service 10:30am each Sunday.

Good Friday 3 April 10am Lancefield

Easter Saturday Easter Fun Day Romsey 11am-1pm

Easter Sunday Romsey 9am. Lancefield 10:30am

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

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

Come and enjoy a cuppa while spending time pondering the Bible with like-minded people.

On 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.

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

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UPPER DEEP CREEK LANDCARE EQUINE LANDCARE INFO SESSION

You are welcome to join the Upper Deep Creek Landcare Network for an information session on Equine Landcare, to be held on Saturday 28 March in Riddells Creek.

Attendees will hear from guest speakers, Marianne Sawyer, president of the Yarra Valley Equestrian Landcare Group (YVELG) and member of the Victorian Equine Landcare Community of Practice, and Tina Keene, Vice President of YVELG. This Landcare group formed in 2010 and is the longest running equine-focused Landcare group in Victoria.

Marianne will speak about the experience of setting up an Equine Landcare group, how they operate and set priorities, and the groups achievements over time. We'd also like to hear from attendees if they are interested in being involved in a new Equine Landcare Group for the Macedon Ranges, and what the group should focus on.

This is a free community event, aimed at horse-property owners and people connected to the equine industry.

Register at - <https://events.humanitix.com/equine-landcare-info-session>

Or contact Ammie Jackson - udc.landcare.facilitator@gmail.com

GRANT FOR LANCEFIELD SHOW

The Victorian Government is helping regional communities showcase the best of Victoria, providing funding to 40 agricultural and pastoral societies to deliver projects that families and visitors can enjoy.

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas announced recipients of the 2025 Agricultural and Pastoral Society Grants Program, supporting projects that bring communities together and promote Victoria's agricultural industry.

Victoria's regional shows celebrate the heart of their communities, showcasing everything from fresh produce and handmade craft, making them a must visit destination throughout the vibrant spring and summer seasons.

The program supports projects and activities promoting agriculture, improving infrastructure and upgrading amenities for community use during annual agricultural shows and events – ensuring these shows remain a vibrant hub for families, volunteers, and visitors alike. The successful agricultural and pastoral societies in the Macedon electorate include Lancefield Agricultural Society who will receive \$6,806.25 for a storage shed and fence which will increase security and enable additional exhibits.

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ROMSEY LIBRARY

A BUSY MONTH

The Library has a busy month ahead, full of fun activities and programs for all ages.

BOOK CLUB CONNECTIONS:

Wednesday 4 March, 10.30-11.30am

Are you interested in joining a book club? Is your book club looking for new members? Would you like to learn about Goldfields Libraries' fabulous book club sets? Come along and connect with fellow book lovers at this relaxed literary-flavoured gathering. All are welcome and refreshments will be provided.

Bookings are required. If you're keen but can't make this date, please give us a call on 5429 3086 and a staff member will answer any of your book club related questions.

CRAFTING CONNECTIONS

(formerly known as A Curious Circle):

Wednesday 11 March, 5.30-7.30pm

Join our friendly gatherings and connect over craft. Bring your current crochet, knitting or craft project, share tips and learn new skills. All are welcome and refreshments will be provided. Bookings are required.

CHANGEMAKERS

Macedon Ranges Festival, 21 March – 4 April

We've partnered with the Macedon Ranges ChangeMakers Festival - a shire-wide, family friendly fortnight of interactive, practical and thought-provoking climate and sustainability events – and have a range of fun activities planned at the Romsey Library:

JUNK JOURNALS FOR KIDS:

Saturday 21 March, 10.00am-12.00pm

Create your own special journal using recycled materials and quirky embellishments, a fun and creative way to preserve your story. For ages 8-15 years. Journals and materials will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own items if you would like. Bookings are required.

STORYTIME SPECIAL: ANYWHERE FARMS FOR KIDS

Monday 23 March, 11.00-11.45am

Join Lexie for a Special Storytime! Enjoy a reading of Phyllis Root's delightful picture book, 'Anywhere Farm', then create your own mini garden using a small vessel you bring along (a teapot, a cup, a shoe, a jar...). All it takes is one small seed and someone to plant it. Bookings are required.

MOVIE SCREENING FOR FAMILIES

Saturday 28 March, 10.30am-12.00pm

Come along and catch a great movie on our big screen. Young families are invited to come along and enjoy this delightful classic film about a grumpy yet charming creature who fights to protect his world. PG, 2012.

For further information on the movie title, call us on 5429 3086. Bookings are required.

SUSTAINABILITY FOR SENIORS: GET TECHY, GET READY!

Monday 30 March, 2.00-3.00pm

A free, practical workshop empowering you to use technology more effectively before, during and after a disaster or emergency. Includes assistance with downloading and setting up helpful apps on your smartphone or tablet. Bookings are required.

ROMSEY WONDER WALK

Saturday the 18 April, 10 - 11.30am

Think you know Romsey? Prepare to be surprised, delighted and intrigued ... join Romsey Library and the Romsey and Lancefield Districts Historical Society on a gentle stroll around the streets of Romsey. Learn about the history of our town and the significance of local buildings. Tour will begin and end from the Romsey Library and is suitable for all levels of fitness. Bookings are required.

For all events with 'Bookings are required', please head to our website www.goldfieldslibraries.com/romsey-events, or phone us on 5429 3086.

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FROM INDONESIA TO LANCEFIELD

A DOCTOR'S JOURNEY IN CARE

If you've recently visited Ochre Medical Centre Lancefield, you might have spotted a new friendly face in the consulting rooms. That's Dr Adrian Cakra – a GP who's traded the bustle of big hospitals for the welcoming pace of Lancefield's relaxed, community-focused lifestyle.

Adrian's journey to Lancefield began far from here. He grew up in Indonesia before moving to Adelaide at the age of 18 to study. "I wasn't 100% sure what I wanted to do," he admits. "I planned to study science, but during a pre-university program I realised medicine would let me apply that science in a more practical, meaningful way. Once I started, my interest just grew stronger."

He didn't always have general practice in his sights. "In medical school, I couldn't choose just one specialty – I enjoyed so many aspects of medicine. It was during my hospital years that general practice started to appeal to me. I liked the idea of knowing a little bit about everything, having variety in my work, and still having a life outside the hospital."

That variety is something Adrian still loves today. "Every day is different – you never know what's going to walk through the door. Sometimes the symptoms are vague and it's like being a detective, putting the clues together to find the problem."

Adrian has a special interest in chronic disease management – particularly diabetes, asthma, and hypertension – and is passionate about mental health care. He's especially focused on making support accessible for conditions like ADHD, depression, and anxiety. "Specialist care can be expensive or hard to reach. If GPs can confidently manage mental health conditions, patients can get help sooner, without unnecessary barriers," he says.

Preventative care is also a priority for Adrian, including travel medicine. His top tips? "Get vaccinated well in advance, take out proper travel insurance, check the latest DFAT advice – and don't forget to bring back a souvenir!"



After eight years in Tasmania, Adrian and his family moved close to Lancefield. The quieter lifestyle, friendly community, and lack of traffic won him over – with Melbourne close enough for city trips when needed. "Lancefield has a great sense of community. I prefer smaller practices where you can really get to know patients and their families," he says.

Looking ahead, Adrian is keen to help improve health awareness locally, particularly for the town's older population. "Simple things – like eating well and exercising more – can make a huge difference," he says. He's also enthusiastic about supporting health awareness events and local fundraising efforts.

Outside of work, Adrian enjoys travelling, cooking, baking, and photography, especially landscapes and architecture. At the end of a busy day, he's happiest relaxing at home with his two cats.

You can book an appointment with Dr Adrian Cakra by visiting ochrehealth.com.au or calling (03) 5429 1362.

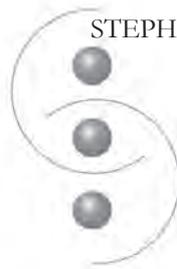
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Parish Priest: Fr. John Healy C/- Woodend Presbytery 5427 2690.

WE WELCOME NEW ASSISTANT PRIEST

The start of March brings a new Assistant Priest to our Parish. We welcome Fr. Zaher Al Mhanna.



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 1st Saturday of each month.

Thursday 9:30am at Romsey Church

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.

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.

2026 SACRAMENTS

Registration is now open for Sacraments to be celebrated in 2026.

Please contact the office if you would like to be included in information sent out for Sacraments in 2026.

Reconciliation registration now closed. Holy Communion is available to Year 4 and above, and Confirmation is available to Year 6 and above.

Sacrament fee for 2026 is \$100. Baptism details required for registration.



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ENCOURAGE CHURCH

THE VALLEY

Does anyone remember Christmas Day and how cold it was? Since then, we've had extreme heat, wind, humidity, storms and smoke coming from the bushfires. Now is a good time to pause and thank all those who have responded to the various emergencies around us. We are grateful to you and your families, and we remember that in the Macedon Ranges most of you are volunteers. Sadly, in Victoria most of us either have a bad memory related to fire or have a close friend who has, and for some of this it's a nightmare memory. There's nothing wrong with reaching out to get professional support when you need to – it may help more than you know.

People often ask where's God when we go through this? The answer is he's there with you; he sees your tears, he knows your pain – all you need to do is reach out to him. In this world bad things happen to good people – we're not living in a perfect place yet, that will happen in Heaven. Lots of us have heard Psalm 23 – let's read verse 4 from The Message paraphrase "Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure". The shortest prayer in the world is "help". Trust that God will hear you and answer you – then remember the second shortest prayer "thank you". If you would like to know more about God, Psalm 23 or prayer why not attend a Church service? Sunday services at Encourage Church start at 10am.

EASTER SERVICES

Penitential Service – Gisborne 18 March 7pm
 Holy Thursday – Gisborne and Woodend 2 April 7pm
 Stations of the Cross – Gisborne and Woodend 3 April 10am
 Good Friday – Macedon and Lancefield 3 April 3pm
 Holy Saturday Easter Vigil – Gisborne and Lancefield 4 April 7pm
 Easter Sunday – Normal Sunday Mass times

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Will be celebrated on a rotation through our Mass Centres at 7pm on a Friday evening.
 March 6 Lancefield, March 13 Woodend, March 20 Gisborne, and March 27 Romsey
 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 JUNIORS SET FOR A BIG 2026

Lancefield Junior Football Netball Club is set for an exciting year in 2026, with the club announcing major developments across football, girls' football, netball and broader club infrastructure, promising a season full of growth, opportunity and community pride.

FOOTBALL

The club is thrilled to welcome back Under-17s football after the side was absent from recent seasons. The return of the Under 17s provides a vital pathway for young players, strengthening junior development and helping bridge the transition into senior football.

Adding to the excitement, premierships-winning former AFL player Anthony Stevens has joined the club's coaching team. Anthony brings a wealth of elite-level experience and a proven winning mindset, which the club believes will inspire players and raise performance standards across the board. His knowledge, leadership and passion for the game are expected to have a lasting impact on both player development and team culture.

GIRLS' FOOTBALL

Girls' football continues to go from strength to strength, with the welcome return of Sienna Green as head coach for the upcoming season. Sienna was instrumental in establishing the club's very first youth girls' team in Lancefield and has since built an impressive football résumé, including playing with the Calder Cannons, participating in the SEDA AFL high-performance program, and undertaking numerous coach training programs.

Her return marks a significant step forward for the club's female football pathway, reinforcing a strong commitment to inclusivity, opportunity and long-term development. The growing popularity and success of the girls' program highlights the strong community support behind women's football and the positive environment being created for young athletes.

NETBALL

The club's netball program also received a major boost in 2025, with significant upgrades to facilities at Lancefield Park. Improvements include court resurfacing, a new undercover spectator shelter, and upgraded team boxes, providing better protection and comfort for players, coaches and supporters alike.

These enhancements have transformed match-day experiences and reflect the club's dedication to providing high-quality facilities that support participation, safety and enjoyment at all levels.

CLUB NEWS

Looking ahead, 2026 promises even more exciting developments, including further infrastructure upgrades at Lancefield Park, and upper age group netballers expecting a visit from high-profile netball players. These announcements, set to be revealed in the coming weeks, underline the club's ambitious vision and commitment to continued growth. With renewed energy across football and netball, along with ongoing facility investments, Lancefield Junior Football Netball Club is firmly positioned for a standout year.





BEDS FOR FARMERS

This weather reminds me what it was like living in Queensland many years ago – a wonderful place to grow up and the fishing is to die for, but I couldn't handle the Queensland weather now. I am blown if I know how our farmers are getting on, hopefully we will get some decent rain soon.

The Shed has started off well for another year with plenty of projects on the go. The guys are fixing up some beds to donate to some of our farmers who lost everything in those fires recently.

I have mentioned before that I am happy fixing old stuff for people but not all that keen on the boring bit of stripping paint, sanding back so we can bring some lovely old furniture back to life and it occurred to me that I should introduce you to Frank. Now Frank has a PHD in what I call "Sticktuidifness". He works away sanding and scraping, with never a complaint, he sticks to the hard boring stuff that I would give up on. He amazes me with his patience. What I have discovered in our chats is that in his working life he had a very successful sail-making business and is in fact a great mate of John Bertrand of Australia 2 fame in the America's

Cup. His company built the spinnakers that were used in that famous race many years ago.

When the boss was checking my spelling and punctuation on this article, he told me Frank was a member of the crew in that famous race; Frank, being the sort of bloke he is, didn't feel it necessary to let me know about that part of his contribution.

Frank is a great character, full of fun and because he is as hard of hearing as I am, quite happily puts up with me saying "Hey" over the sound of the bandsaw as he tells me his latest off-colour joke.

The best bit is that you can meet Frank and all our team, at our Open day on March 14 between 9 am and midday and maybe enjoy a sausage with him when we show you around the remodelled Shed. So please come along as you will all be very welcome. The Open Day will give you an idea of what we do and hopefully encourage some more of you to join us.

Cheers

The Shed Bloke.

JOIN THE TIGER FAMILY!

2026 RDFNL REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

FOOTBALL **NETBALL**




LANCEFIELD JUNIOR FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB





Brian on the left and Gavin on the right



RT Edgar

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CALLISTEMONS

KEEP ON KEEPING ON!

Over spring and summer many of the callistemons (bottlebrushes) in our garden near Lancefield have been in full bloom. The sight prompted the question – why have we got so many at our place?

Is it because they are endemic to Australia? Is it because they flower multiple times over the year and have big, bright flowers in a range of colours? Is it because they attract birds and many of our local insects that face an uncertain future? Is it because they are tough and keep on keeping on when our harsh climate throws everything at them? Is it the name? After all, “callis” is Greek for beauty! Time to take a walk around the garden, surely I will find answers there!

More questions and exclamation marks! Why have we planted 28 of them around the house? Is it because they come in all shapes and sizes, provide nectar and many have dense foliage providing suitable nest sites? The answer, of course, is all the above, as well as the fact that they are generally fast growing and live a long time.

Plant selection and care is important. Do not plant



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large varieties near water pipes; prune regularly to keep the desired shape and density. The general rule is to prune back behind the flowers shortly after flowering has finished. However, they can be cut back hard in spring to rejuvenate an old or neglected plant. Nevertheless, beauty is in the eye of the beholder, leaving some seed capsules can look attractive, so it is up to you.

Smaller callistemon to consider are “Brogo Overflow” which has a weeping habit and only grows to a height and width of 1.5m or “Captain Cook” which reaches a similar height. Medium varieties, growing to about 2m include “Shannon”, “Slim” and “Saint Mary MacKillop”. “Kings Park Special” is widely grown and reaches a height of 3m with a width of 3m. Another locally available favourite variety of ours is “Injune”. It looks good all year round, flowers prolifically and attracts a good range of pollinators.

An indigenous callistemon is “Sibieri” which is often known as “River Bottlebrush”. It prefers moist soils and grows naturally along many of our creeks and rivers in this ▶



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area. It is a favourite of our Landcare group when planting along local waterways or naturally damp areas. It is a good backyard specie - in the right spot.

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.



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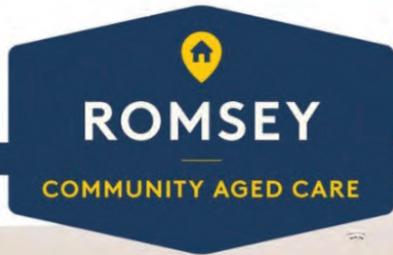
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ROMSEY MENS SHED

1925 T MODEL FORD ON SHOW!

The Romsey Mens Shed has an OPEN Day to display the "T" on Thursday 26 March at 47 Barry Street (Romsey Park). All are welcome come down about 11.30 and stay for the free sausage sizzle. About the car: the chassis and bits were given to us by Doug Newnham about three years ago. It is now a beautifully restored utility/truck. It was first registered

in 1926 so it is celebrating its 100-year anniversary. Surprisingly, the T has been in the Macedon Ranges since its sale at Gardners Garage, Gisborne in 1926. The vehicle is now owned by the Shed and it will be available for community events.



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MISSING

Tigger

Domestic Shorthair Tabby | Desexed Male | Microchipped
Last seen in Bennett Close Lancefield on Tuesday the 4th of March 2025 at around 6PM

If you have the time it would be much appreciated if you could please check you locked sheds, garages backyard etc or just keep an eye out for him!

He is a very loved and missed boy ❤️

If you have taken him in, have him, or thought he was a stray and gave him a home, please return him or drop him at a local vet for a microchip scan— no questions asked.

He had a serious accident last year that still requires a repeat ultrasound. He also needs a regular veterinary procedure every 3 months to stay healthy. He has a sister from the same litter who misses her other half deeply. He is family, and we miss him more than words can say — please help bring him back home where he is loved.

Any sightings or information big or small would be appreciated immensely 🙏

His microchip has been marked missing and all surrounding vets, councils and shelters have been notified.

Please contact Hayley on 0481150867

for any leads. Thank you!

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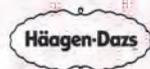


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A PATCH OF LANCEFIELD

LOTS OF PLANS

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 on when 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



Angela Clarke, with a map of the water catchment and a panel of the quilt to be completed.



Water is essential for life in our region. Let's look after it together.

Drying conditions are placing pressure on our local storages.

Permanent Water Saving Rules are always in place to help us all use water wisely.

Every small action you take to save water can make a big difference to your community.

Follow these tips to help protect our precious water supply:

Stick to a 4-minute shower.

If you have a leaking tap, replace the washer.

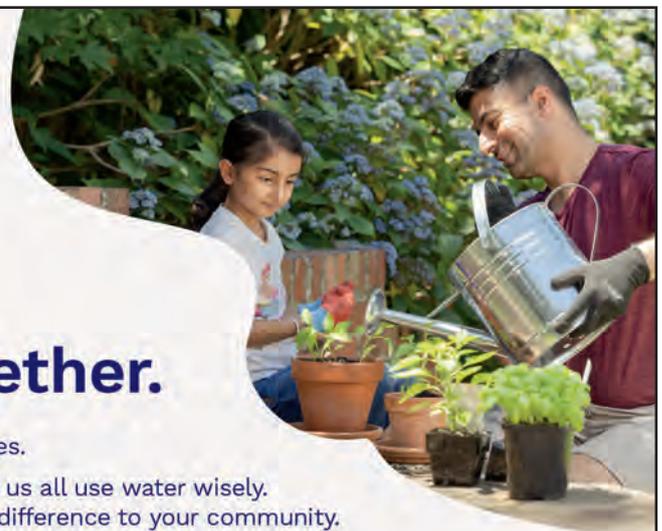
Brush up on the Permanent Water Saving Rules, like fitting your hand-held hose with a leak-free trigger nozzle and only using your watering system between 6pm and 10am.

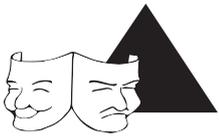
Install a water-efficient showerhead.

Turn the tap off when you're brushing your teeth or shaving.

Only use your washing machine when you have a full load.

Visit our website for more information gww.com.au/saving-water





A STRONG SEASON AHEAD

Our year has kicked off well with our first show, *The Cemetery Club* by Ivan Menchell opening to a full house on Friday 20 February. The season runs until 8 March, so if you haven't seen it check the website for any stray tickets still available.

Our second show, *Mr Bailey's Minder* by Debra Oswald, opens Friday 8 May and is now in full rehearsal. This is an Australian Dramatic Comedy and is our 2026 entry into the Victorian Drama League Awards. Director Sonja Prater has gathered a very strong cast and is looking forward to presenting this tough, funny and big-hearted play.

Are you a singer or musician? Then come along to an information night for our August production, *After-Light: The Dramatic Prog-Rock Opera* on Thursday 26 February at 7pm at The Mountview Theatre. Meet the Composer and the Musical Director and find out all about the production and the auditions.

On Friday 13 February, two outstanding members of the company were presented with their Life Memberships. Frank Harvey and Karlana Santamaria have both given so much to make the theatre what it is today - a thriving, successful, creative space for the whole community to enjoy. Congratulations to both!

For tickets and full details on everything mentioned go to



www.themountplayers.com or call us on 5426 1892.

See you at the theatre!

Karen Hunt on behalf of The Mount Players

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OFF TO A GREAT START

We have had a very calm and happy start to the school year with students quickly settling into new classes. With the whole school participating in our LPS Start Right program, consistency of expectations across the school for both academic and social interactions are being explicitly taught and practiced.

We have a great year coming up with our school calendar already full of great events and learning. This is a big year for our school as LPS turns 150! We will be celebrating in lots of different ways across the year with our main celebrations taking place later in the year during term 4.

Student Leadership

Congratulations to our year 6 team for 2026 who were presented with their very smart bomber jackets and year 6 team badges at our first assembly. We are really looking forward to our 6s developing their leadership skills and confidence across the year

Our student council leaders for 2026 are:

- 3C- Harry G and Sophie B
- 4W- Indi S and Lincoln A

4/5N- Poppy F and Savannah H

5/6T- Linkyn H and Matilda M

This group of students will be working with teachers to support all types of events across the year including representing our school in the wider community.

Our fabulous new preps are just amazing and getting on with learning all about school. It's wonderful to see such happy, confident and enthusiastic new students start their educational journey with us.

Some events coming up at LPS during term 1 are:

- Whole School Indigenous Incursion with Scott Darlow
- Ride to School Day
- Weekly Wednesday Breakfast Club
- Get to know you parent interviews
- Whole School Auslan incursion
- Clean Up Lancefield Park – LPS student councillors working with Landcare and St Marys PS students
- Year 5/6 Urban Surf excursion
- Whole School Cross Country at Lancefield Park





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OLD BOYS' REUNION

The forecast high temperatures and fire danger alerts did not affect the attendance at the seventy-ninth reunion of the Kyneton Marist Brothers Old Boys, held at the Shamrock Hotel on Sunday January 25, 2026. As the membership diminishes, the event has become a family affair, rather than just the past pupils. Forty-two members and guests attended and enjoyed the camaraderie, and to renew lost friendships.

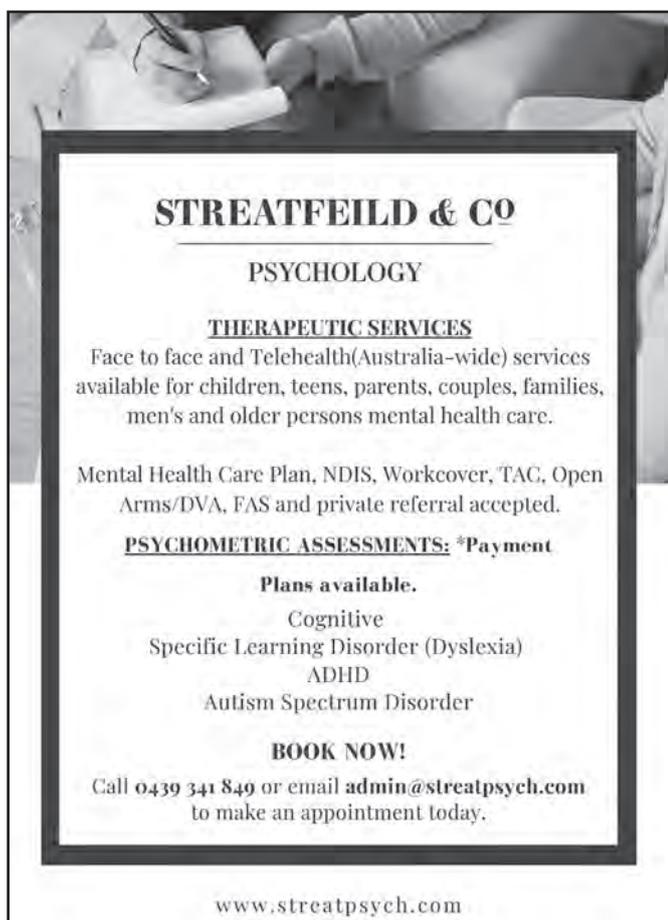
The Marist Brothers commenced teaching at Kyneton on July 26 in 1947. On August 2-3, 1968, a 21st Birthday celebration was held at Kyneton when 150 past students gathered at a reunion dinner from many parts of Victoria. At that meeting they formed the Old Boys' Association and the group continues. The Brothers ceased teaching at Kyneton in 1967 and with their departure the records were lost. It is known that 58 boys enrolled in the first class and the highest annual attendance probably never exceeded 120. At the recent meeting, the names of seven members who had died since the last reunion was related, and members were given time to personally reflect upon their mates. The association's web site: - <https://kynetonmaristbrothersoldboys.com.au/deceased-old-boys->

honour-roll/ - lists the five-hundred plus names of deceased past pupils that have been reported.

The Alma Mater was delivered by Vice-President Michael Halley, and he invited a special guest and Old Boy Father John Hegerty to "say grace", which he delivered with reflections on life and the school. John is a member of St Columbans Missionary Society and has spent most of his life in Chile where he used his agricultural training, gained at the family farm in Redesdale, to impart knowledge and logistics that has markedly improved agriculture and food quality.

After John's inspirational address, meals were served and the participants settled down to enjoy their selection from the extensive menu. Slowly and surely the day came to an end and folks returned to their own homes, after spending quality time with the Old Boys family. The 2027 reunion is scheduled for Sunday 31 next January at a venue to be determined. But as the Golden Centenary of the Brothers first day will occur on Monday July 26 a special occasion event may be organised.

Written by Michael Halley



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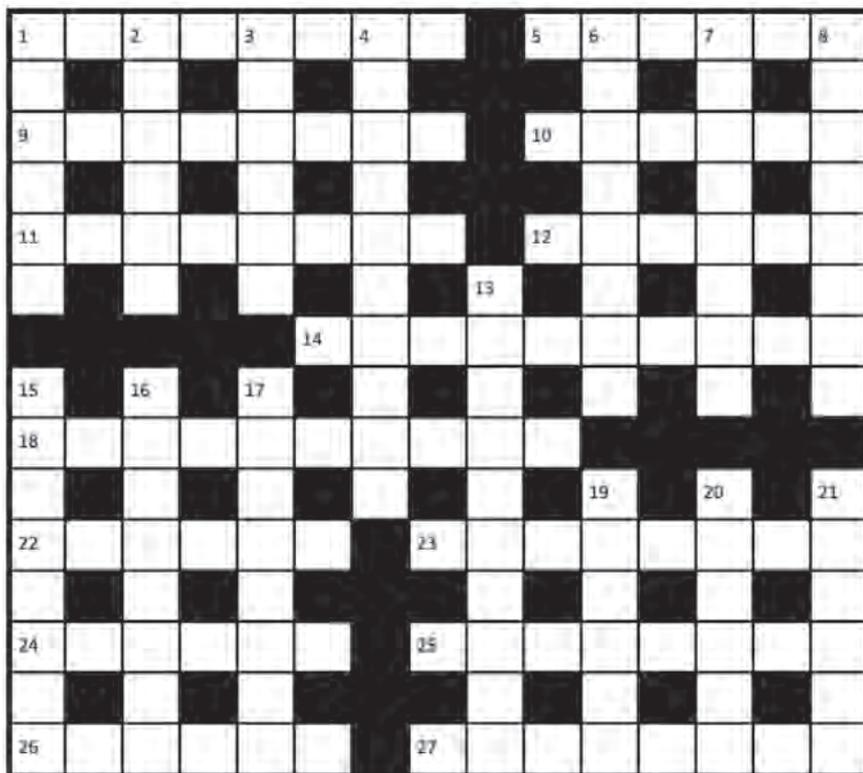
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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD NUMBER 30

By Kevin Moysey



ACROSS

- 1 Ironside discovers contemptuous ridicule (8)
- 5 Infected in short ninth month I see (6)
- 9 Reed rots when stored away again (8)
- 10 Disclose a lever arrangement (6)
- 11 Guests can be it in visors (8)
- 12 Why this is what makes it logical. (6)
- 14 Dave's tuner was used on exciting journeys (10)
They've happened before and may affect the outcome in court (10)
- 18 Cymraeg would make sense to someone who is one (6)
- 22 More depressing or simply a bit darker (8)
- 24 Offer agreement for asset with no beginning (6)
- 25 Strange line first in choke (8)
- 26 Organised process that follows operating for your PC (6)
- 27 Stick to Northern Territory to find a believer (8)

DOWN

- 1 Drive the end to create from something else (6)
- 2 Push back sister act (6)
- 3 Holds forth about Optus's arrangement (6)
- 4 Vetoed or just ridden to excess (10)
- 6 Pieces that are often arranged periodically (8)
- 7 It may be buried although it's precious (8)
- 8 Early settler makes punctuation resistors centre (8)
- 13 Well this means you won't suffocate (10)
- 15 Maybe a separate list from which you can save (8)
- 16 Eremites arranged to cure less (8)
- 17 Nice and deaf is shown if you resist (8)
- 19 Discover where to lace up (6)
Niggle could indicate enjoyment with one of two instead of one centre (6)
- 21 Enthusiastic about a trend (6)

Answers page 34



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LANCEFIELD COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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

CREATIVE ARTS EXHIBITION COMING UP

Well, let's finally hope that the fire season is now behind us.

Once again, congratulations and a big, heartfelt 'thank you' to the wonderful dedicated and committed CFA volunteers who have done a fantastic job throughout our long and challenging summer.

The Central Highlands Group Creative Arts Exhibition will be held at the Lancefield Mechanics Institute over the weekend of April 18 and 19.

We know that this is at short notice as entries close on March 15, which only gives you a couple of weeks to prepare. However, we would be delighted to see entries from our Lancefield students.

Of course, afternoon tea will be available.

The following are the categories for both primary and secondary schools:

- Bead work- including jewellery;
 - handmade card - no verse;
 - drawing - maximum size A4;
 - knitted item; painting - maximum size A4;
 - photograph; sewn item;
 - three pieces unbaked slice (single variety),
 - three decorated cup-cakes in paper cases;
 - and a pot plant arrangement in novelty container.
- Please contact Maybelle (54291624) for entry forms (there

is no entry fee.)

What is the CWA Country of Study for 2026?

Bula! (hello) Yes ,you guessed it, Fiji is our country for study this year.

More to come throughout the year.

ZUCCHINI FRITTERS

Here is a recipe that is very popular when zucchinis are readily available.

Grate two medium zucchini, add a peeled and firmly chopped clove of garlic, and salt and pepper to taste. Whisk an egg and add 2 tablespoons of plain flour. Mix grated zucchini and eggs together well then fry in a small amount of oil until golden brown. Corn, capsicum, and grated halloumi cheese can be added to change the flavours. A little curry powder will lift the flavour too.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be held on the fourth Friday of the month at 10.30 in the annex of the Mechanics Institute.

Come and join us, as new members are always very welcome.

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HALL HAPPENINGS

Lancefield Mechanics' Institute

WE ARE BACK IN FULL SWING FOR 2026

The Lancefield Mechanics' Institute continues to play a major role in our community with many regular and varied bookings throughout the year adding to the cultural and social fabric of our community.

We are back in full swing for 2026 - so if you are thinking of running an event or activity of any type, contact us at LMI to see how we can help make your event a great success.

If you are planning an event, I suggest you contact me early to get a placeholder in our booking calendar - this year is shaping up to be another very busy one at your Hall. And speaking of events, I hope you got along and enjoyed the first big event for 2026 when "Charlie Bezzino brought murder to the Lancefield Golf Club" for their major fundraiser.

And I trust you saw the pictures on our social pages of recent major improvements to your Hall:

1. Thanks to a State Government Tiny Town Round 2 grant, we replaced the old (almost 30 years old!) carpet in the Annex space with stylish cushion-backed carpet tiles, which I am sure you agree look fantastic, and should do us for another 30 years!

Thanks to Steve Gilbert and his team from FloorByFloor in getting this work done over a weekend last November, enabling us to be fully operational by the first Monday morning in November, critical for the very busy lead up

to Christmas. This project was the last step in our major improvement plans for this space, which we started back in 2020. Your committee of management, all volunteers, worked tirelessly to delivery this plan.

2. Another of our great local trades - ACE Seating (and Flooring), Jason and Dale and the team, deserve a very special thank you. Over the Christmas and New Year break, the ACE team smashed it out of the park by installing a new blackbutt timber floor in the Main Hall and having us fully operational by January 27, two weeks ahead of our planned date.

This was a fantastic outcome as all our regular users were chaffing at the bit to get running for 2026 and try out the new floor. The committee is so pleased with the very, very positive feedback on the new floor - and phew! - all the dancers are happy with the result.

In the coming month or so, Bruce Ferguson and his team will improve the under-stage area of the Main Hall to provide much improved and needed storage space.

We are so lucky to have such great local trades people who have a passion to keep this 'hub of Lancefield' meeting the current and future needs of our community and are key to the success of the improvement works at the Hall - on-time, on-budget and with minimal impact on Hall operations.

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REGULAR BOOKINGS:

(* are School Term based activities)

For details, please contact the group directly or call the LMI Booking Officer (John) on 0437 313 564.

- LINE DANCING on Monday and Wednesday mornings; (Main Hall)
- * PILATES on Tuesday mornings and evenings; (Annex)
- DEMENTIA SINGING Group on Tuesday mornings and evenings; (Annex)
- OLD TIME DANCE lessons & practice on Tuesdays (Main Hall)
(and an evening dance on the fourth Friday of the month)
- PATCHWORK group on Thursday mornings; (Annex)
- * KARATE on Tuesday and Thursday evenings; (Main Hall)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES:

Get that diary pencil sharpened and make sure you don't miss out on four special events coming to Lancefield Hall for your enjoyment: SAVOY OPERA - The Elixir of Love [by Donizetti], Lancefield Town HISTORICAL WALK with Bronwyn Wilson (fundraiser for the Hall Committee), our

local GAB Theatre presents - Alice in Wonderland, and Live & Local @ Lancefield returns - a great night of music (another fundraiser for the Hall Committee).

MARCH

- Sunday 1, CLEAN-UP Australia LANDCARE Morning Tea (Annex)
- Tuesday 3 (morning) Dementia Singing group (Annex)
- Wednesday 4 (evening) No Lights No Lycra Disco (Main Hall)
- Friday 6 (evening) Kyneton Paranormal ghost tour (Whole complex)
- Tuesday 10 (morning) Dementia Singing group (Annex)
- Saturday 14 (afternoon/evening) Witches of Macedon Fair - Equinox Celebration (Whole complex)
- Sunday 15 Family celebration - private event (Annex)
- Monday 16 (evening) Deep Creek LANDCARE group - monthly meeting (Annex)
- Tuesday 17 (morning) Dementia Singing group (Annex)
- Saturday 21 SAVOY OPERA - The Elixir of Love [by Donizetti] - tickets TryBooking (Main Hall)
- Tuesday 24 (morning) Dementia Singing group (Annex)
- Preparation for Community Luncheon (Main Kitchen)

Enjoy a wine whilst soaking up intimate views of the Lyons Will vineyards along with the breath-taking backdrop of the ranges.

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HALL HAPPENINGS

Wednesday 25 (afternoon) Feed-It-Forward Community Luncheon (Main Hall)
 Friday 27 (morning) CWA monthly meeting (Annex) (day) Company Activity - private event (Annex) (evening) Lancefield OLD TIME DANCE group – monthly dance (Main Hall)
 Saturday 28 Little Treasures Market (Whole complex)
 Tuesday 31(morning) Dementia Singing group (Annex)

APRIL

Wednesday 2 (evening) No Lights No Lycra Disco (Main

Hall)
 Monday 6 (afternoon) LMI Committee monthly meeting (Annex)
 Friday 16 – Sunday 19 CWA Central Highlands - Creative Arts Exhibition (Whole complex)

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT:

John Severson, President and Booking Officer,
 Lancefield Mechanics' Institute Committee of Management
 Email: lancefieldhall@gmail.com or ring 0437 313 564

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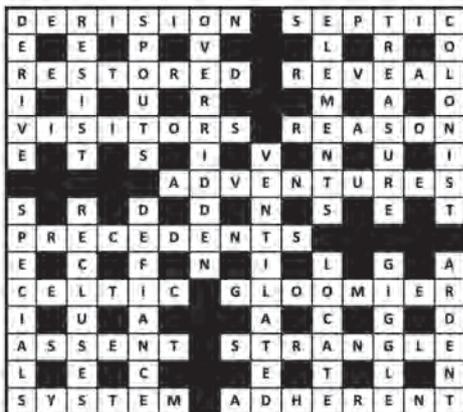
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Boomerang Bags

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

COMING SOON

I'M HERE, LET'S SING

A weekly community singing group for people living with dementia and their carers

Join a welcoming, inclusive space to sing, connect and have fun. No experience needed, just show up and enjoy.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Group singing in a relaxed, friendly environment
- Delicious morning tea provided
- Connection, support and great company
- No musical experience required
- Let us know if you need transport

COMMENCING FEBRUARY 3, 2026

TUESDAYS | 10:30 AM 12:00 PM
 LANCEFIELD MECHANICS HALL ANNEXE

\$10 per person

Feed it Forward Community Lunch

Wednesday 25 March 12.30 \$5
 Lancefield Mechanics Hall

Please make sure to book 54291 214

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Saturday 21 March 9am - 4pm

Opening Hours

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Saturday 10am - 1pm

Townhouse - Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm

& Food Share Saturday 10am - 1pm

Mens Shed - Mon - Fri 9am - 12pm

Farmers Market

Saturday 28 March 9am - 1pm

A skatepark our community can be proud of!

By the time you are reading this, the upgraded Romsey Skatepark will officially be open, and what an incredible result it is.

This project has been many years in the making. Initiated and driven by the Lancefield Romsey Lions Club, the vision for a revitalised skatepark began with a \$32,000 Community Bank investment back in 2021 to support the design phase. Last financial year, we were proud to commit a further \$114,821 towards construction, our largest single grant ever, along with an additional \$32,359 to support the remaining build costs and community launch event. We also announced a further \$45,950 at our community investment evening last November to support Stage 2 of the project – the mural involving our local youth and wider community.

In total, that is more than \$225,000 invested into creating a vibrant, modern and inclusive space for young people and families in Romsey and surrounds.

We are absolutely thrilled with the result. The upgraded facility is more than just ramps and rails. It is a safe and welcoming community asset that encourages active lifestyles, connection and pride in place. Seeing so many local young people already embracing the space, alongside families and supporters, reinforces exactly why our Community Investment Program exists.

Projects like this are only possible because local people choose to bank with our two branches in Lancefield and Romsey. As a locally owned Community Bank, up to 80 percent of our profits are returned directly to our community. When you bank locally, your money helps build facilities like this right here at home.

A huge thank you to the Lancefield Romsey Lions Club, the many contributors and volunteers, and our community for supporting the journey. We are proud to have played a role in delivering such a significant and lasting asset for Romsey.

Community Investment Program for Events, Opening 1 March

When you partner with our two locally owned Community Bank branches, good things happen. Your organisation receives sponsorship, and your banking helps strengthen the Lancefield and Romsey communities.

We love supporting local events that bring people together and encourage visitation to our region. Over the years, we have provided funding for events large and small, supporting sporting tournaments, swap meets, business breakfasts, the Lancefield Agricultural Show, Christmas in Romsey, local markets and many more community celebrations.

Our 2026 Community Investment Program round for events will open on 1 March and close at midnight on Tuesday 31 March.

If you are planning an event in the coming year and are seeking sponsorship support, we encourage you to apply.

All applications must be submitted via our online platform:
communitybanklancefieldromsey.smartygrants.com.au

If you would like to discuss your proposal before applying, please email cip@lrcfsl.com.au or contact Lauren on 0418 456 112 during business hours.

We look forward to partnering with more local organisations to bring great events to life across Lancefield and Romsey.



APPLY NOW

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Lancefield and Romsey Community Investment Program for Events



A Community Grant can support your organisation when it needs it the most.

Applications close Tuesday 31 March

<https://communitybanklancefieldromsey.smartygrants.com.au>



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The Lancefield and Romsey Community Investment Program is a management account 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. 1409006-1409008 OUT_48394494



PREPS' FIRST DAY

St Mary's was abuzz with excitement on Thursday, 29 February as our wonderful students returned to school.

We were particularly excited to welcome our new Prep students in their shiny new shoes, big hats and nervous smiles. Their first day of school was filled with exploring the school environment, working through

the goodies in their lunchboxes, making new friends and settling into their classrooms. A highlight is always meeting their Year 5 buddies for the first time, and it was delightful to see our big people taking care of the newest members of our school community. A whole new world of learning and fun awaits!

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Frank at the Lancefield Mens Shed telling one of his famous jokes. See page 16