

Lancefield Mercury

PAM AHERN FARM ANIMAL ADVOCATE



Lancefield residents will be delighted to learn that Pam Ahern, founder of Edgar's Mission, has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the King's Birthday 2026 Honours List 'For service to animal welfare'. The award recognises the more than two decades of her sustained, hands-on work rescuing farmed animals from cruelty, neglect and slaughter. The name Edgar's Mission is indicative of the fact that the mission is a location as well as a job to do. Edgar's Mission and the welfare of animals is Pam Ahern's vocation.

When I spoke to Pam after the announcement of her award, I was not surprised that her efforts have been so highly recognised. Her enthusiasm and passion for her work is infectious. Many of the stories she shared of animals in distress were, frankly, shocking. Our meeting was delayed because she was rescuing a duck; the next day

she was travelling to the other side of Melbourne to rescue a goat. Many of the animals she rescues are those that slip through the cracks of government legislation. In 2003, when establishing Edgar's Mission, she found that the Code of Practice for the care of animals differs – some practices are acceptable for animals as pets but are different for farm animals. This concerns Pam deeply and she has been a Farm Animal Advocate ever since.

Pam's lifelong passion for animals started as a child, rescuing stray cats and dogs, and evolved into founding the Central Highlands Animal Shelter with her mother. In 2003, Pam Ahern founded Edgar's Mission when a tiny piglet, destined for slaughter on a free-range pig farm, trotted into her life. In a delightful play on the name of the nineteenth century American poet, Edgar Allan Poe, Pam named the rescued piglet Edgar Alan Pig. As she reflects, 'Edgar Alan

PAM AHERN RECOGNISED AGAIN

Pig touched my life'. He was the first animal rescued and the animal sanctuary, Edgar's Mission, was named after Edgar Alan Pig. The mission of Edgar's Mission is to rescue animals in crisis, offer sanctuary to them and provide them with lifetime care. Today, it is home to almost 500 rescued farmed animals.

Located on Bridies Lane, just off Three Chain Road, Edgar's Mission is nestled among the rolling hills of Lancefield. The 153-acre property was once a horse stud and has excellent fencing and facilities. The Mission is run by a dedicated team of paid staff and volunteers. The sanctuary offers tours and education programs for thousands of people every year. Remarkably, the organisation is funded entirely from donations. Through Edgar's Mission, Pam spreads the message that every animal, regardless of species, deserves kindness, respect, and protection. Pam believes in the power of storytelling, advocacy, and education to inspire lasting change in the way animals are perceived and treated.

Pam has always been concerned with animal welfare. Her lifelong passion for animals started as a child, rescuing

stray cats and dogs, and evolved into founding the Central Highlands Animal Shelter with her mother. She is the proud Australian Ambassador for World Animal Day and was a 2014 Victorian Local Hero Finalist in the Australian of the Year Awards.



She came to her mission with a background in the equestrian world. Pam won her first Garryowen Equestrian Turnout Trophy in 1997 and her second Trophy in 2006. Awarded annually, it is one of the most prestigious equestrian events in Australia. The competition is named after three-time Royal Melbourne Show champion saddle horse, Garryowen, whose owner Violet Murrell died tragically whilst trying to save Garryowen from a stable fire in 1934.

The story of Edgar Alan Pig, rescued in 2003, is one to warm our hearts. Eight years after the modern Australian film classic, Babe, was screened, one of the cast, James Cromwell who played Farmer Hoggett, returned to Australia in 2003 to film another movie. In June he joined members of the Ballarat Organisation for Animal Rights in their

deputation to the steps of Parliament House in Melbourne where they met with Ballarat East MLA, Geoff Howard, and the Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture. They took with them Babe look-alike, Edgar Alan Pig, to express their

Macedon Ranges Shire Council
supporting World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Join us for an information session with Elder Rights Australia.

This session will inform and empower older people and those who support them. Elder Rights Australia will explain who they are, what advocacy is, and how they can help individuals and the wider community.

Topics include

- Aged care rights
- Navigating the aged care system
- Recognising and responding to elder abuse
- Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Program

When: Monday 15th June 2pm
Where: Kyneton Library, 3 Baynton Street, Kyneton

Registrations essential Contact Shan via:
VillageConnect@mrsc.vic.gov.au
03 5422 0333

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

To find out more, visit:
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EMRBATA ANNUAL BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Friday 31st July
7:00am - 9:00am
@ Mount Monument Winery

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Guest Speakers:-
Emily Blades (The Victoria Hotel), Damien Choate (Mt William Advanced Tree Nursery), Tarni James (Islay House) & Anthony Stevens (Anthony Stevens Real Estate)
In conversation panel being led by the amazing Col Cameron as MC.

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concerns about the practice of keeping sows for long periods of time in stalls too small to allow them to turn around or lie down comfortably. The politicians informed the deputation that they had asked the Department of Primary Industry Animal Welfare Advisory Committee to investigate the issue and that it was also being dealt with at the national level; all State agriculture Ministers and the Commonwealth Government planned a review of the Code of Practice. With photographs and the story in the local press, Edgar Alan Pig became 'Political Piggy' overnight! After a good life at Edgar's Mission from 2003, Edgar died in 2010.

As Pam insists, 'It's not just about animals, it's about us as human beings, and I like to think that through the work of Edgar's Mission, we can inspire the best within everybody to realise the choices we make shape the world we live in.' Edgar's Mission's thought-provoking motto says it all: 'If we could live happy and healthy lives without harming others, why wouldn't we?'

As Pam has written on the Edgar's Mission website in response to her award: 'Whilst I am deeply honoured to have my name sit alongside the award, this recognition truly belongs to the many animals whose stories have changed hearts simply by being seen, and to the compassionate community who have walked beside me over my many years.'

With the number of hours in every day she spends at the Mission, Pam loves to start the weekend with the parkrun on Saturday morning. As she says, 'It really makes me feel a part of the community and so many people coming together. The volunteers are amazing and the kindness of everyone to cheer each other on is truly uplifting. People coming from all walks



of life, if only the world could mirror this spirit.' Said in true Pam Ahern style!

Pam, we congratulate you heartily for your continued work and for the recognition it has gained.

Fay Woodhouse

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KINDNESS TO ELDERS INITIATIVE

Monday June 15 was World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) and to commemorate the day in Romsey an INFO HUB was established at the Verdure Bistro where it was launched with a Meet & Greet chat session with Macedon Ranges Shire Deputy Mayor and Cr Cassy Borthwick and Mrs Janet Wood AM.

Information on support services for elder abuse, advice on finances when entering care and assistance with moving into care were provided by Senior Rights Victoria, Elder Rights Australia, Nixon Financial Services Pty Ltd and The Lifestyle Managers. You can still find this information available at Verdure Bistro.

A standout feature of the day was the receipt of Friendship Letters and Cards from the 1st Romsey Scouts and Lancefield/Romsey Girl Guides to residents at Romsey Community Aged Care. The scouts are also hoping their letters might find a former scout or two who may be able to assist them with the history of Scouting in the Romsey district to coincide with their 100 year anniversary next year.

Visit the Kindness to Elders facebook page for all the details on WEAAD 2026.

If you or someone you know are experiencing elder abuse call the confidential help line at Senior Rights Victoria on 1300 368 821 between 10am – 5pm Monday to Friday.



William Balcam, Mrs Janet Wood AM and Deputy Mayor, Cr Cassy Borthwick at Verdure Bistro



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THE MOUNT PLAYERS HAPPENINGS

THAT'S TWO UNDER OUR BELT

With two successful productions under our belt, we are now in full rehearsal for our August production, *After-Light The Dramatic Prog-Rock Opera*. The Mount Players is proud to present this brand new, original rock opera written by Zac Vanstone with musical direction by Castlemaine's Tom Foster. A truly contemporary piece in the vein of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *The Who's Tommy*, boasting a rock band live on stage with singers and dancers telling the story of Boy as he struggles through his mistakes, exorcising his demons in a journey of self-discovery and ultimately redemption. Penned during Covid this production does explore some darker themes. "This is a show about learning how to let go," said composer Zac. "Following the break-up between Boy and Girl, Boy falls into a life-threatening coma. For Boy to wake, he must forgive the past, reconcile with the future and learn to let go of Girl. If Boy fails, his intrusive thoughts: Addiction, Paranoia and Depression will consume his soul."

Zac performed a stripped back version of this show at

the 2024 Melbourne Fringe Festival which TMP President Craig Lenaine-Smith and other committee members attended. "What impressed me the most was the music," said Craig. "It was incredibly evocative with undertones of King Crimson and Pink Floyd's *The Wall*. To now be able to realise Zac's vision with a full band on stage is going to be amazing. Visually it takes its cues from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and 1930's German cabaret, with lots of corsetry and elevated glamour makeup." The season runs from 14 – 30 August.

AUDITIONS

Auditions for our November production, *Money And Friends* by David Williamson will be held on Sunday 12 July. For full details and to book tickets to *After-Light* go to www.themountplayers.com.

See you at the theatre!

Karen Hunt

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:

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Editorial Enquiries to
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full \$2,165

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.

REMEMBERING LANCEFIELD - 1950s AND 1960s

With the loss of so many old residents in the area to call on to ask about matters from years gone by, the Secretary of the Historical Society Shirley Kishere, and returned local resident Peter Keenan, have had two meetings with a lively group of Lancefield's older residents. The group who met for the first time in April, were Barry Hunt, Sid Green, George and Florence (née Love) Showler, and Alan and Maureen (née Meyer) Shanahan, recorded what this generation remembers of Lancefield in the 1950 and 1960s. Some old stories have been told of the high-spirited behaviour of the local boys in their youth.

Peter Keenan has now created a list of well over 150 families who were living in Lancefield during the 1950s and 1960s. It is hoped that they can gather information from as many of these families as possible to boost the Historical Society's substantial number of family history files. The Society would love to hear from others who grew up in and around Lancefield in the post-World War Two years to participate in this oral history project. Each session is an exercise in remembering the people

who shared their childhood, and everything about their education and their participation in churches, sporting clubs and community associations.

Shirley Kishere has been recording and transcribing these interviews. This is no easy feat! When explaining the complexity of the process of transcribing these interviews, Shirley lately revealed that, 'With the help of Peter Quinn from 'Pete's Puters', I tried transcribing the recording using Chat GPT hoping it could save me some time'. Unfortunately for Shirley, adopting AI didn't help much, so she has gone back to 'doing it the old-fashioned way'; that is, listening to the conversation recorded on her phone and typing it up.

At their last session, the group were happy to meet and talk...and talk...and talk! It was a great session, and Shirley recorded it once again. The next session will be on a Friday soon. For those interested, phone Shirley Kishere on 0402 428 540 to find out the date and come along!

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GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

On July 25, 1926, a large group of Kyneton Catholic parishioners and other residents gathered for a special event. It was to acknowledge the coming of the Marist Brothers to set up education in Kyneton.

The Marist Brothers' Boys Band, from Bendigo, together with pupils of the Marist Brothers' colleges at Bendigo and Kilmore, marched from the Club Hotel to the front entrance of St. Mary's Presbytery, where they were joined by the clergy, members of the Hibernian Society, altar boys and school staff. From there a procession took place to the Brothers' residence, where a guard of honour was formed. At the conclusion of the blessing ceremony a meeting was held in St. Mary's Hall, with speeches delivered before the day's festivities came to an end.

The next morning the First Class assembled on a frosty morning to commence the Brothers tenure at Kyneton. There were 58 boys and 5 religious, joining the inaugural principal Brother Louis. Two of the boys Edward David Harris and John Denis Driscoll both then aged 12 later

became Marist Brothers. Edward Harris took the name Kenneth and John Driscoll became Brother Abel. Brother Abel had a stint teaching at Kyneton in 1946. Both used to attend the annual reunions in the 1950's when St Mary's hall was filled to overflowing for the Communion Breakfast.



The records of the school have been lost, so the actual number of boys who passed through the gates at the corner of Powlett and Hutton streets is not known, but nearly 400 deaths have been identified.

The Old Boys Association formed in 1947 has continued involvement since the Brothers ceased teaching in 1967. A numbers of Old Boy members represent families that were in the first class, covering three generations.

Visit <https://kynetonmaristbrothersoldboys.com.au/deceased-old-boys-honour-roll/> for more information.

Compiled by Michael Halley
Secretary

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LANCEFIELD COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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

Lancefield Mercury

STAY WARM

We are well and truly into Winter. I trust that you are keeping warm and free of the cold and flu. Some members attended the Craigieburn's Branch's 80th Birthday celebrations and had a lovely day. Following discussion between the members, we decided that the most appropriate action was to cancel our Anzac Day market stall. We donated all our biscuits to the LNH. We hope that in the future there can be closer coordination amongst the major stakeholders at the market.

Our next Pub Raffle is booked for a date in September.

As you are aware our country of study this year is Canada. Mt. Robson is the highest peak in the Rocky Mountains, creating its own weather system. A CWA member travelled on the regular train, not the Rocky Mountaineer, from Prince Rupert to Jasper and stayed overnight in Prince George. The train had one glass ceiling, and passengers were cycled through to see the scenery, but it was hard to see the peak due to the weather system.

Here's a recipe for those cold nights in front of a warm fire with a hot drink and a tasty snack.

FRUIT SLICE

Ingredients: 150 g unsalted butter, melted, 110g raw or white caster sugar, 1 egg, 350g spelt flour, sifted twice, 4 ¾ tsp baking powder

Your choice of fruit. Suitable fruits include drained

cherries, fresh blueberries (about 2 punnets), hulled and halved strawberries, pink lady apples (2 medium or 3 small) sliced and tossed in cinnamon sugar.

METHOD

Grease and line an 18cm x 28cm rectangular slice pan with baking paper, extending paper 3cm above long edges. Place the melted butter in a large bowl with caster sugar and the egg. Mix well. Stir the spelt flour and baking powder to form a dough. Divide the dough into three by weight. Press two-thirds over the base of the pan evenly. No need to go up the sides. Roll the remaining third of the pastry into a log, wrap with cling wrap and freeze. Arrange fruit over the dough in pan. Using the large holes on a box grater, grate the frozen dough over the top. Be quick (it can soften quickly in warmer weather). Bake in a moderate oven - 180 degrees Celsius - for about 30 minutes or until pastry is golden. Serve either cool dusted with sifted pure icing sugar, or warm with custard, whipped cream or ice cream. The cooked slice can be frozen.

Our next meeting will be held in the annex of the Mechanics Institute on the last Friday of the month commencing at 10.30. You are very welcome to attend.

Maybelle Briggs

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GREEN DRINKS

EVENT LAUNCHING IN THE RANGES

The Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group (MRSG) is launching a new monthly networking event, Green Drinks, with the first session taking place on Thursday 6 August from 6–7pm at the Mountain Shed, Victoria Hotel Woodend.

Green Drinks will become a regular fixture on the first Thursday of each month at the same venue, offering a relaxed and informal opportunity for MRSG members, volunteers, and the wider community to connect over a shared interest in sustainability.

The initiative aims to bring together MRSG's network in a social setting, while also creating space for the group's Action Groups to share what they are working on with the broader MRSG community. It also provides an open invitation to environmentally minded locals who are curious about MRSG's work and keen to get involved.

Many sessions will feature a short talk from a local or guest sustainability expert, followed by informal networking. Speakers and topics will be announced in advance via MRSG's website and social media channels.

Everyone is welcome to attend, meet like-minded people, and learn more about sustainability initiatives in the Macedon Ranges.

Email info@mrsg.org.au for more information

LANCEFIELD BOWLING CLUB

LOOKING FORWARD

Lancefield Bowling Club is looking forward to the 2026-27 season, with the recent Annual General Meeting re-electing its executive members for a further 12 months. Energetic president Jeff Smith was re-elected unopposed as president, stalwarts Bev and Jeff Holmes are again secretary and vice-president respectively, and Chris Jolly continues as treasurer. General committee members elected were Victoria Courtney, John Parks, Howard Mathews, Ken Johnson, Ann Shipcott, and Nicholas Shannon.

At the very well attended annual meeting, life member Gordon Charles commended the executive and committee members on their dedicated work over the past 12 months. He said he had been at the club for 45 years, and one of the pleasing features was the financial situation had become healthy many years ago and consistently remained that way.

Jeff Smith is again greens director, and the Holmes duo are again delegates to Central Highlands - Ballarat Region. Smith acknowledged the valuable work of various club members when required and pointed to the success of wood raffles over recent months as a source of off-season revenue.

Membership fees remain unchanged at \$160 (including a club shirt), \$80 for first year bowlers, and \$25 for social members. Green fees are again \$10 per pennant match. Lancefield has a strong record in Central Highlands, and despite being one of the smaller clubs, there is a degree of optimism about the 2026-27 season. While the club's division one pennant side uncharacteristically finished on the bottom of the ladder last season, its form over the past five rounds was promising, and it is hoped several new players may boost prospects this coming season.

The club will welcome new members with the grass green already in use. Contact any executive or committee members for further information. Lancefield Bowling Club was formed in 1959, and its green and clubhouse are an important asset in Lancefield Park, for both sporting and social activities.

Bill West

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HALL HAPPENINGS

Lancefield Mechanics' Institute

BRRR

Brrr - Don't know about you but I am certainly feeling the chilly damp weather of late. Which reminds me, winter is the perfect time to make use of the Hall facilities for your family celebrations - be it a child's birthday or one for any age, baby showers, engagement celebrations - well, any event or activity you care to think of - I am sure we can make it work for you!

We have already had a bit of a push on children's birthday bookings and other events through the Winter months ensuring the facilities continue to be very well utilized and appreciated by our community. This is what keeps your volunteer committee of management members enthusiastic and motivated to ensure LMI plays a key role in strengthening and connecting our community.

Our fundraiser Live and Local event went well on May 30 and was well attended - thank you. And thank you to The Whiskey Rogues and Paper Jane for a great night of music and dancing. This event was made possible through Creative Victoria Grant funding and the support of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

EVENTS TO PLAN FOR:

Get em in your diary - don't miss out on the following upcoming special events coming to Lancefield Hall for your enjoyment:

- Monday evenings (June-July) Rock n Roll Line Dancing is back with Aileen for a 5-week lesson block.
- Friday evenings it is planned to have MEDITATION classes starting up late June in the Annex space - keep your eye out for details.
- Wednesday July 29, join the Historical Society Winter Lunch
- On Saturday August 1 get along and support our local GAB THEATRE group for their 'One Act Season 2026' performances - five fantastic one act plays, matinee and evening performances.
- DON'T MISS THIS ONE - Saturday August 8, Silent Movies return to Lancefield - main movie is "Charlie Chaplin - The Gold Rush" followed by "Laurel & Hardy shorts"
- Saturday August 15 - LANDCARE BUSH DANCE
- Sunday August 23 - SAVOY OPERA performances of 'The Yeoman of the Guard'

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
- * PILATES on Tuesday mornings and evenings - annex
- COMMUNITY SINGING Group on Tuesday mornings - annex
- OLD TIME DANCE lessons and practice on Tuesdays

- (and an evening dance on the fourth Friday of the month)
- PATCHWORK Group on Thursdays - annex
- * KARATE on Tuesday and Thursday evenings

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & EVENTS:

JULY

- Friday 3 (evening), MEDITATION class - annex
- Saturday 4, Private event - annex
- Monday 6 (afternoon), LMI Committee monthly meeting - annex (evening), Rock n Roll Line Dancing (all day), Kitchen usage
- Wednesday 8 (evening), Kyneton PARANORMAL ghost tour
- Friday 10 (evening), MEDITATION class - annex
- Saturday 11 (evening), Private celebration
- Monday 13 (evening), Rock n Roll Line Dancing (evening), Upper Deep Creek LANDCARE monthly meeting - annex
- Tuesday 14 (afternoon), Kitchen usage
- Friday 17 (evening), MEDITATION class - annex
- Saturday 18 (afternoon), Private event
- Sunday 19 (afternoon), Private event
- Monday 20 (evening), Rock n Roll Line Dancing (all day), Kitchen usage
- Tuesday 21, Preparation for Community Luncheon - kitchen
- Wednesday 22, Community Luncheon at Lancefield
- Friday 24 (morning), CWA monthly meeting - annex (evening), MEDITATION class - annex (evening), Lancefield OLD TIME DANCE group - monthly dance
- Saturday 25, Little Treasures Indoor Market
- Monday 27 (evening), Rock n Roll Line Dancing
- Tuesday 28 (afternoon), Kitchen usage
- Wednesday 29 (afternoon), Historical Society Winter Lunch
- Friday 31 (evening), MEDITATION class - annex

AUGUST

- Saturday 1 (afternoon & evening), GAB THEATRE 'One Act Season 2026' performances
- Monday 3 (afternoon), LMI Committee monthly meeting - annex (all day), Kitchen usage
- Tuesday 4 (afternoon), Kitchen usage
- Saturday 8 (evening), SILENT MOVIE night (LMI fundraiser)
- Saturday 15, (evening), LANDCARE BUSH DANCE (fundraiser)

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT:

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

HOLIDAYS

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

The Memory Place: Intergenerational program

Saturday August 1 at 10:30 – 11:30

Young and old are invited to come together to learn and reminisce about days gone by, using objects of the past to spark memories and conversation.

Adults and children aged 7+ years.

A brief show-and-tell of our new Active Mind kits (available for loan) will be included.

Bookings required.

NAIDOC WEEK ART EXHIBITION

Romsey Library is excited to be hosting an Art Exhibition featuring local indigenous artists to coincide with NAIDOC Week. For more information, contact library staff.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Author talk

Wednesday July 22 at 2pm – 3pm

Big news this season as we welcome local authors Graeme



Simson and Anne Buist.

We are delighted to invite you to an afternoon celebrating international bestselling author of ‘The Rosie Project’ Graeme Simson and esteemed psychiatrist and researcher Anne Buist AO’s third book in their Menzies Mental Health series – ‘The General Hospital’. Buist’s experiences in the field of perinatal mental health research, treatment and education (for which she was recently appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia) add depth and sensitivity to the series. Filled with realism, heart and humour, ‘The General Hospital’ bring us into the world of physical and mental health whilst giving us an insight into the minds of those running the hospital.

*Bookings required.

MOVIE CLUB AT THE ROMSEY LIBRARY

Join us on the second Wednesday of the month from 10.30am for Movie Club.

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Lancefield Mercury

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Contact editor3435@gmail.com

July's screening will be on Wednesday July 8.
Each month we show a new and popular movie on our big screen.
To find out the upcoming titles showing for the rest of the year head into the Romsey Library.
No bookings required.

MEETING POD

Have you seen our new solo meeting pod?

Do you have an online interview? A telehealth appointment? Need a quiet place to sit an exam? Our new meeting pod is the perfect place to shut out the noise and focus. See library staff for more information and to discuss your individual needs. Two-hour time slots available now.

*Bookings required.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Rock and Read with Damo. Friday July 3 at 10am – 10:45

Damo returns with his show "Rock and Read". Damo has been a hit at various Goldfields branches for several years. Book early to ensure you don't miss out.

Minecraft Lab (9 – 13 years). Monday July 6 at 3pm – 4:15

Minecraft Lab returns for another fun session these school holidays.

Make Do (8+). Wednesday July 1 at 11am – 12pm

Sock Puppets (8+). Wednesday July 8 at 3pm – 4pm

For all bookings, please head to our website or give us a call. See you in the Library! 5429 3086 | romsey@ncgrl.vic.gov.au | www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au



CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Children's Storytimes (during the school term)

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

Storytime, age 2 – 5 years, Monday and Tuesday 11am – 11.45am

Baby Rhyme Time, age 0 – 2 years, Thursday 11am – 11.30am

Saturday Storytime July 18, 10am – 10:30am

**Children's Storytimes take a break for the school holidays and return Monday July 13.

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 July, look for objects that begin with M and N.

DECODABLE READERS

Is your child learning to read? We have a range of decodable readers to support your school's reading program. We stock most publishers, such as Decodable Readers Australia (Lancefield Primary) and Little Learners Love Literacy.

BOOK WEEK 2026

This is your friendly reminder that August sees Book Week and for many parents that means a costume must be sought. For us at Romsey Library we are super excited to host local illustrator and author Simon Howe for some special Storytimes.

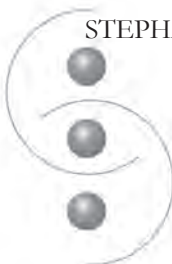
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FIRST 2027 TRIP

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

Our first trip is on the books for 2027 with a 7-day trip to Tasmania in October. A shorter trip in May 2027 is currently being organised, and the details will be available soon. If you are interested, feel free to contact the club. We are maintaining our numbers with some members dropping out and new members signing up. We have good numbers on our outing and just had a very successful lunch at Soltan Pepper, one of our local Romsey venues.

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.

Phone: President: Ken Colson 0404467125 Secretary: Lorraine Robb 0407349144

Visit our website: www.rlprobus.org.au

UPCOMING ENVIRONMENT EVENTS

NATIONAL TREE DAY

In celebration of National Tree Day 2026, join us for one our revegetation events:

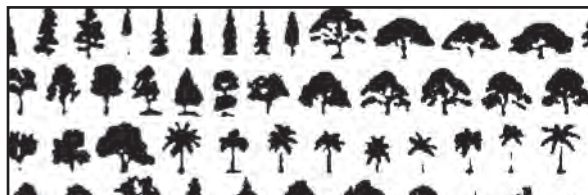
Tuesday 14 July | 12.30pm | Online session

This webinar will cover site preparation, plant selection and tips to help you start building a more biodiverse farm.

Friday 24 July | 1pm | Walk 'n' Talk session

This walk along Jacksons Creek Gisborne will help you discover different techniques and tools you can use to support your own revegetation project.

Book now: mrsc.vic.gov.au/Environment-Events



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FROM THE DESK

Every four years, the world seems to stop for a month as nation's battle it out on a green field with a round ball. Some of us don't care much for football. Others are completely obsessed. Yet somehow, we all catch a little of the fever.

The excitement is contagious. We gather with friends and family, celebrate great victories, and dare to dream alongside the underdogs. For Australians, moments like the Socceroos' historic victory against Turkey become stories that inspire a nation. Yet eventually the tournament ends. Teams lose, champions are crowned, and the celebrations fade. The unity and joy that seemed to grip the world give way once more to the realities of everyday life—a world often divided, troubled, and uncertain. But what if there were something greater that could unite us? Or rather, someone?

The Bible speaks of a future where joy and celebration never end. It points us to Jesus Christ, who has won a victory far greater than any World Cup. Through his death and resurrection, He defeated humanity's greatest enemy: death itself. In him, we find a reason for lasting hope and everlasting joy. Why not join us as we find everlasting joy in Jesus?

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Michael Kicevski

WHATS ON

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

Prayer Meeting: Christ Church Hall Lancefield Thursday 10am

Bible Study: Thursday 10:30am - 12noon and 6:30pm.
Come and enjoy a cuppa while spending time pondering the Bible with like-minded people.

ST PAUL OP SHOP

St Paul Op Shop open each Friday 12:30-4 and Saturday 10-1pm.

The OpShop is filled 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 for the benefit of the community.

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LANCEFIELD TOWN WALK WITH BRONWYN WILSON

Bronwyn Wilson is no stranger to conducting walking tours – she leads tours throughout Melbourne for local and international visitors. On Sunday May 24, a group of eight locals enjoyed her walking tour of Lancefield. The walk was organised by the Lancefield Mechanics' Institute, where Bronwyn is a committee member.

In 1999 she completed a Master of Tourism & Visual Arts Thesis, 'The township of Lancefield: from a cultural tourism perspective' at the University of Melbourne. Her studies and her deep interest in Lancefield are obvious in her enthusiastic and well-informed presentation.

Bronwyn and her family moved to Lancefield in the 1970s, and her love of our local history, was clear to all those who attended the tour, which focused on many of Lancefield's significant 1880s buildings.

If we were living in Melbourne in the 1880s, we would have 'done the block' which was in fact a promenade around the Block Arcade (between Collins and Elizabeth Streets). On this occasion, we certainly 'did the block' – but a different block – a Lancefield block!

To begin, Bronwyn explained the significance of the sculpture outside the Mechanics' Institute. The photograph of this sculpture on the flyer for the event had intrigued me and, frankly, I had never noticed it before. I now understand that it is a sculpture titled 'Leaving your Mark' by Macedon Ranges Artist Charlie Aquilina. It acknowledges the Indigenous clans of the region and the significance of the site. As you can read, it 'represents the Wurundjeri country, the green glass references the green flint stones from Mt William Stone Axe Quarry, which was traded as far north as central NSW by the Wurundjeri'.

'Leaving your Mark' by Charlie Aquilina, 2005, Mixed media, outside the Lancefield Mechanics' Institute, est. 1868. The date on the building is 1868 and the Foundation Stone 1877; the building opened 1878.

From the Mechanics' Institute we walked first to the Post Office, where we learned about the establishment of this important part of town life. Then we re-traced our steps, stopping along the High Street for information on the former general stores, butchers, milk bars and the former cordial factory and lolly shop (lately the Corner Store, now the Providore).

PLAQUES COMMEMORATING THE SCULPTURE BY CHARLIE AQUILINA

How lucky were we that two of the participants in our tour were two of Lancefield's older residents, Peter Keenan and Dennis Connors. Peter Keenan is involved with an oral history project with the Historical Society. He and Dennis were very much engaged with oral history on our walk! While Bronwyn led the way, telling us about the history and use of many of our wonderful Lancefield landmark buildings, we were lucky to hear stories about these properties from Peter and Dennis. With each building we visited, they reminisced about who owned the building, what it once was, and the mischief they got up to! As we stood outside each property, they told stories about the people and the places as they knew them which perfectly complemented the historical and architectural details Bronwyn provided.

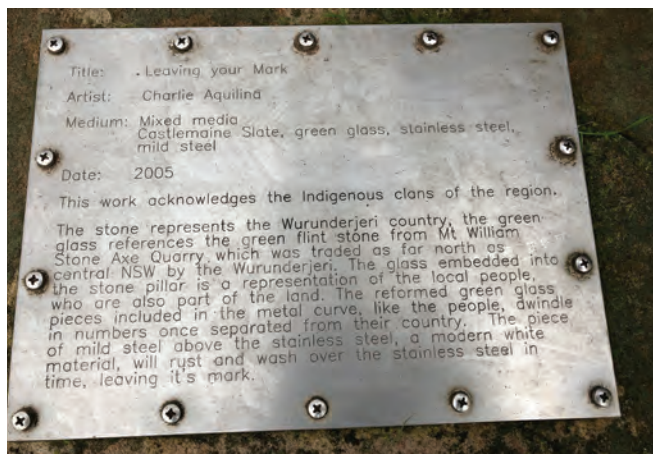
Who knew that the Macedonia was (or still is?) known by locals as 'the Massy'? News to many of us.

Continuing our promenade of 'the Lancefield block' we progressed from the Massy along the southern side of High Street, passing the Automotive Garage, the Grain Store (now a private home), Cameron's Store (now the IGA), and many of the 1880s Victorian villas – Dennis Connors pointed out the house that was once his father's home. Turning left into Raglan Street and left again, we then made our way down Dunsford Street, where Bronwyn pointed out some of





Walk leader Bronwyn Wilson



the historic buildings including Netherby (built 1897 and owned by one of the Mustey family), the Farmers' Arms (a private home, B&B and business premises) and the former Plough Inn (now a private home).

It was a great afternoon which concluded with a delicious afternoon tea prepared by Bronwyn back at the Mechanics' Institute Annex.

When the Historical Society hold their Annual Winter Lunch on Wednesday 29 July at the Mechanics' Institute Annex, Bronwyn will be the guest speaker. Her presentation will be on 'The Laneways of Melbourne' – always a topic of great interest. This will be a lunch not to miss! Phone Shirley Kishere for bookings on 0402 248 540.

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RUBY HEMPHILL AND THE GREAT BIG COOKBOOK

Some people collect recipe books for the photos – I am one of those. I love a large well-designed coffee table tome full of tempting-looking dishes, often pictured in a setting from the country of origin – Turkey, say, or Italy, or France – places on the One Day Bucket List, or the Return Trip Bucket List – in my case, they overlap.

Ruby Hemphill's recipe book, recently donated to the Romsey and Lancefield District Historical Society by her stepson, Ray is not one of those. It is a huge old ledger book, with dozens of hand-written entries in assorted writing styles; some local contributors were Edie Sharman, Mrs Mustey, Mrs Cameron, Mrs Evans, Mrs White and Mrs Vickerman, local teacher Mrs Greenshields, Mrs Galbraith, and Miss Derrick. Madge Johnson from 117 High Street has contributed Caramel Cake "Madge", in case anyone else's Caramel Cake might compete.

Dates of inclusion, names of inventors, and (mostly) appreciative comments in pencil guide us through the pages. The clearest critique is one for Shortbread, which has been scribbled out with wavy pencil lines and "Oh No!" written in quite large letters above it. Then, amongst many others, accolades for YoYo Biscuits – "Good"; Melon Jam – "My own. V good"; Walnut Mocha Cake – "Good cake. The Leader 2/1/51"; and Sultana Cake – "The cake I always make. One of the best." Also featured are "Soldiers Christmas Cake 1941" to be baked and sent, probably, to her two sons, both of whom enlisted; "To Preserve Tomatoes" with the footnote: "Dick got it in The Argus", and my favourite, a recipe for Solvol, using sandsoap and bicarb, presumably to scrub the kitchen down after all that messy baking.

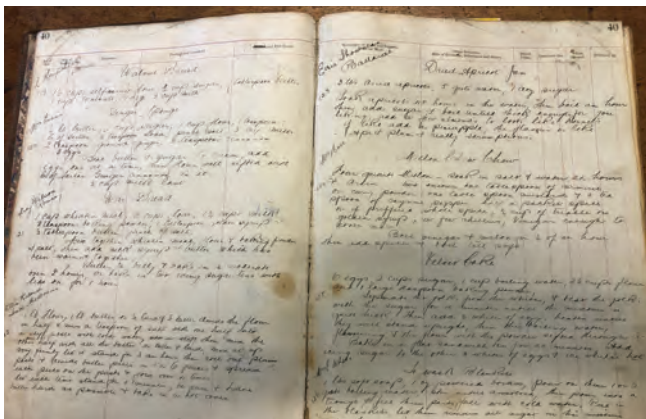
Ruby Hill, born in 1886, was the daughter of Martha Holt, who married James Hill in 1885. The Hills had five daughters, and fostered Frank Caine, well-known around the district for his football prowess, and his achievements playing for Carlton, North Melbourne and Essendon. Martha ran the Town Hall Hotel in Melbourne which she left to Frank when she died, having previously run the Macedonia, then known as the Railway Hotel, on the corner of Main Road and Lancefield-Kilmore Road. The large ledger book looks like one that might have been used by Martha for bookkeeping, before it was filled with recipes.



Ruby married Charles Hemphill in 1908, just before Martha took over running the Macedonia. The Hemphills stayed in Lancefield, and had two boys, Norman and Ray. The ledger-recipe book was clearly in use when the boys were little, as one whole double page is devoted to Norman practising writing his name, including backwards, so he must have been about 5, from my memory of mastering penmanship in both directions. The following pages return to recipes; maybe other paper was supplied so Norman could perfect his lettering, and let the cook get on with it.

Ruby was very active in various Lancefield associations – President of the CWA, active in the Red Cross - and she died in 1977, aged 91, leaving us a unique record of our tastes, and how we entertained in mid-20th century Australia. Not many oven temperatures or cooking times, though. This was tribal knowledge, handed down and implicit in the Australian kitchen – baked in, you might say.

Beth Child



ROMSEY LANCEFIELD ROTARY AND CFA JOIN FORCES

Clearing works have recently been completed along the Melbourne-Lancefield Road walking track between Romsey and Lancefield, improving fire safety and road reserve management.

Supporting the Avenue of Honour project, the collaboration involved CFA, Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee, Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), and Romsey Lancefield Rotary Club.

DTP approved the works within the state-managed road reserve to enable ongoing slashing and mowing along this important corridor. Starting in late January 2026, the project has significantly improved much of the western side of the road reserve. Melbourne-Lancefield Road is identified as a critical road under the Municipal Fire Management Plan, playing a vital role in protecting both townships and serving as a key transport linkage.

Through the state funded Safer Together program, CFA allocated several thousand dollars for the removal and management of scrub and tree suckers. This work enables adjacent landowners and community members to maintain the area through ongoing slashing and mowing in front of

their properties.

CFA Northwest Region Manager Community Safety, David Allen, highlighted the value of the partnership:

"CFA is delighted to be working in partnership with the Romsey and Lancefield Rotary Club and other community groups to support the Avenue of Honour concept.

"Having a well-maintained fire break that provides a safer major linkage between Romsey and Lancefield, while enhancing the amenity of the area and honouring fallen soldiers, is a wonderful joint initiative.

The funding is designed as a one-off investment to establish safe and manageable conditions. Ongoing maintenance will rely on the continued support of local landowners and the broader community to manage their sections through regular mowing and slashing.

Dr Greg Powell from the Romsey Lancefield Rotary Club said: "We have welcomed the partnership with the CFA and Macedon Ranges Shire Council. As a result, landowners along the Avenue of Honour are now better placed to undertake mowing, while our Rotary Club will continue its biannual roadside clean-up and mowing efforts."

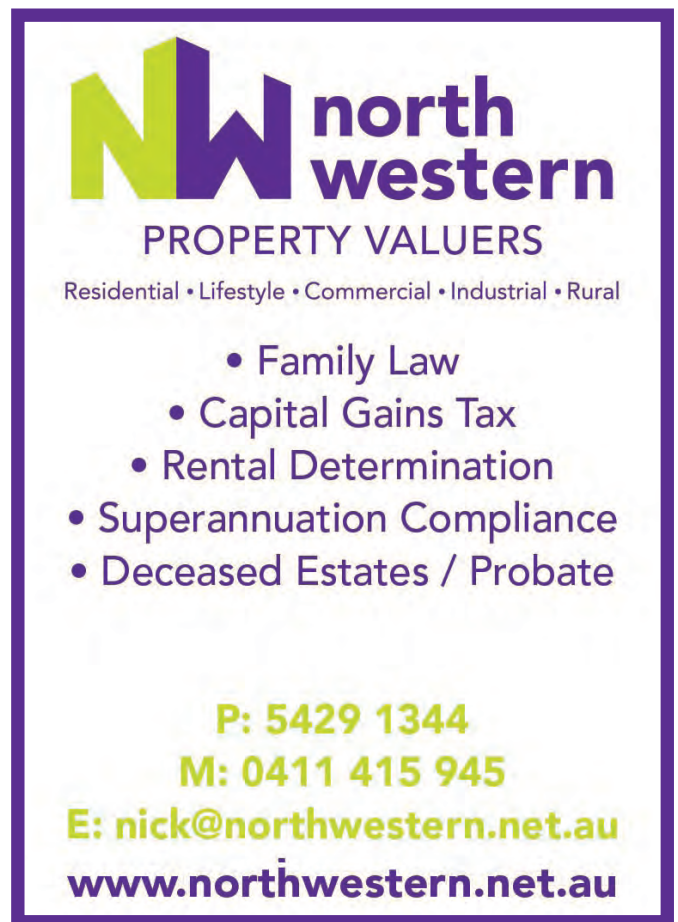


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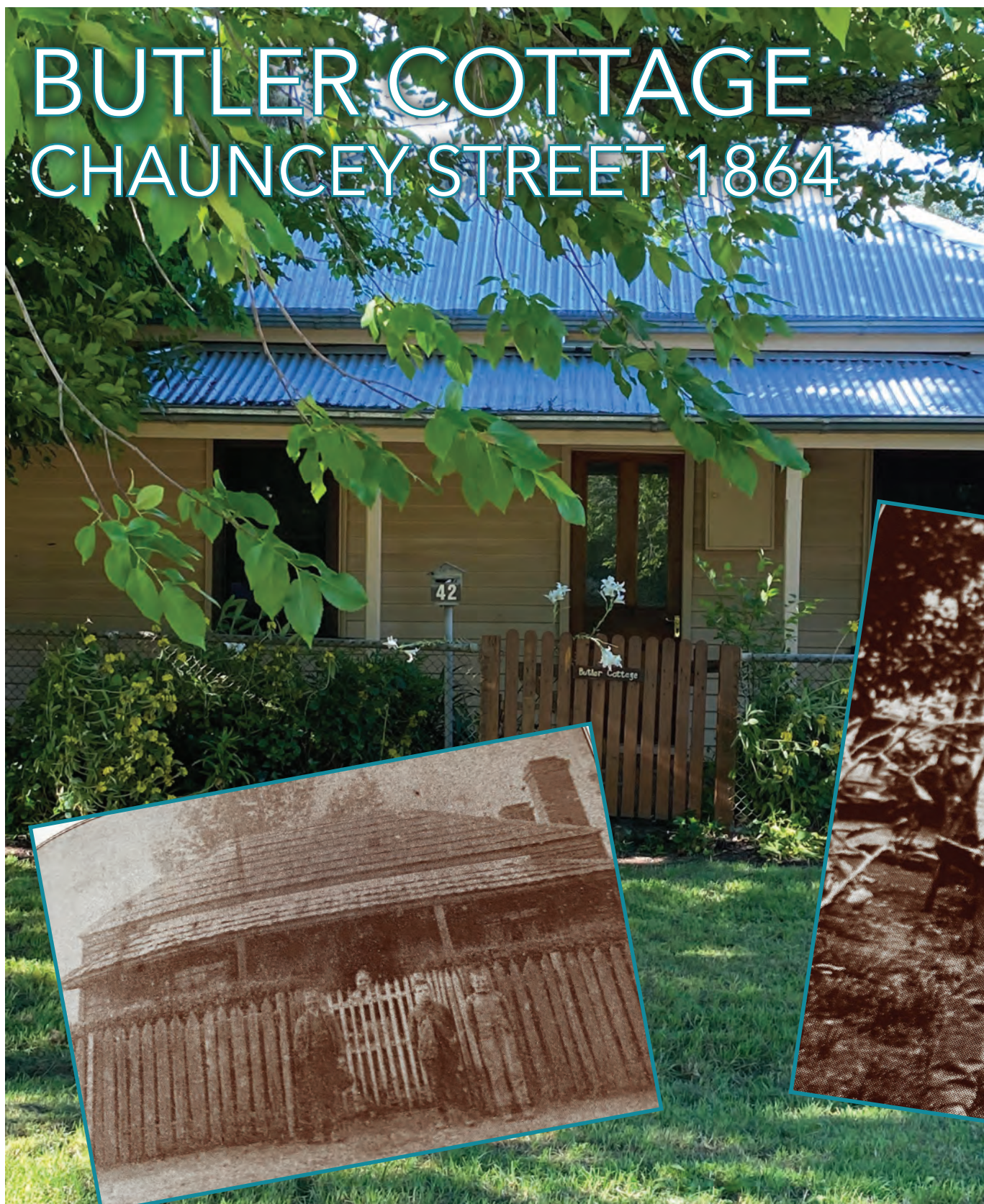
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BUTLER COTTAGE CHAUNCEY STREET 1864



William Butler, son of Daniel and Sarah Butler, from Tewkesbury England, was born in 1839 and in time, worked alongside his father as a rural worker.

At 21, while travelling to different districts in search of work, William met MaryAnne Newman from Asthall England. They married in 1860.

The rural districts were in a depressed economy and opportunities in Victoria beckoned, gaining assisted migrant

free passage in expectation for country labouring work.

William and MaryAnne travelled on the 'Shackamaxon' a three masted ship chartered by the Victorian Government to bring out Agricultural labourers and Housemaids.

Landing in Melbourne the young couple soon made their way to the Lancefield district. In 1861 some people were settling on the newly surveyed higher land in Chauncey Street, so they soon set up house in a tent. The same year

that Burke and Wills expedition camped at Deep Creek, North Lancefield.

There was plentiful labouring work for William working long hours and accumulating enough money to purchase Allotment 11 of Section 56 of land in Chauncey Street from Francis Foy.

Replacing the tent with a house built of bark, thatch, stone, wattle and daub with a wooden shingle roof. In time improvements were made to be the fine weatherboard house it is today with brick fireplaces and chimneys.

The rich Lancefield soil enabled the growing family to grow vegetables, milk a cow for milk and butter and keep poultry.

William soon purchased the two adjoining allotments, 9 and 10 from Francis Foy.

In 1879, an area of 40 acres opposite the Butler Cottage, was set aside as Lancefield Park. William and his sons were successful in tendering for the grubbing, clearing and fencing the area.

Tragedy struck in 1880 when William and eldest son William died of Typhoid. MaryAnne at the age of 42 was left with nine children from 16 years to newborn.

The children attended school at the Methodist Vestry in Dunsford Street, the

of 440 yards. In later years, Vincent and his family lived next door to the Cottage.

John died in 1951, but the Butler Cottage stayed in Butler hands until 1983 when sold to the Maplestone family who resided there for 42 years selling in 2025 to Rob Broadhurst from Kyneton.

Now the land of Lots 9, 10, 11 are providing housing for many families to enjoy the lifestyle Lancefield offers.

Attribution for this information is to Vern Butler, great grandson of William and MaryAnne Butler.

LEAVING LANCEFIELD

The Maplestone family thanks the people of Lancefield and district for forty-two years of happy quiet country living.

In January 1983 'Butler Cottage' in Chauncey Street opposite the Lancefield Park, became our renovation project. Small town living with a sizeable block of adjacent land suited us well.

Immediately welcomed by John McCarthy with assistance in managing the land, fencing and local knowledge for the renovation of this sturdy cosy Cottage; the home of the Butler family from 1864 to 1983.

The 160-year Butler family history of this lovely cottage warmed our hearts with stories from older Lancefield residents who remembered their parents and grandparents buying vegetables and fruit from the Butler family.

Colin and I arrived from Euroa having been teachers for some years, with our three young children and wanting to live closer to Melbourne. It was only a few months before word spread that Colin had been a Maths and Physics teacher, so tutoring to the young people of Lancefield and district was requested and became Colin's occupation for nearly thirty years. Not long later, parents found out I had been a music teacher and so began my lovely local occupation of piano teaching for over thirty years.

Also, within weeks of arriving, a local junior football club member arrived at our front door with a junior footy club jumper. This was the start of a long and fun-filled time for our children with footy, cricket, pony club and tennis and much more at the huge and a bit wild (in those days) Lancefield Park. In later times it has been the playground and skatepark that have been greatly loved by our four grandchildren.

Colin and I have always felt 'looked after' by this wonderful little town and reluctantly leave, but once again, the time is right.

Thank you from Colin, Jan, Boyd, Beth and Heath Maplestone.



older children worked their home block as well as labouring. John, second born, at 16 became the main support for MaryAnne and his siblings. Potatoes were grown and carted, stooking hay, pea thrashing, cutting wood, tree grubbing and fencing jobs undertaken.

John and his younger brother Vincent also kept the Hawthorn hedges along the boundary of the park in immaculate condition, as well as chipping the Bicycle Track



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126 Main Street Romsey**

**Third Thursday of the month
10.30am-12pm
Gatehouse at Rupertswood
1 Macedon Street Sunbury**

**Fourth Thursday of the month
10.30am-12pm
Social Foundry
86 Mollison Street Kyneton**





Our Prep/1/2 classes recently had an exciting excursion, experiencing Steam Train travel!

We bussed to Castlemaine where we caught the Steam Train to Maldon. For our preps this was their very first adventure away from school so even the bus trip was hugely exciting.

The train trip took around 45 minutes, and we slowly made our way across to Maldon with lots of waving to passersby. We practiced being very serious "olden time people" travelling on the train and had so much fun. The conductor gave all students a ticket which was a lovely

souvenir to take home from our adventures. We were fortunate to be invited to learn about and watch the magnificent steam engine be turned on the turntable so it could return to Castlemaine. We then explored several gold mine diggings and areas around Maldon before enjoying our lunch then back on the bus to school.

Our year 3/4s had a fabulous time this term at Camp Toolangi enjoying a range of activities such as flying fox, abseiling and the crate climb challenge. Camp Toolangi is a beautiful location and with pretty good autumn weather students and staff were able to be outdoors all camp completing "challenge by choice" activities. As always, we were very proud of our students, and the staff at Toolangi are always pleased to have Lancefield Primary return.

A big thank you to our Lancefield Primary School Council for working in partnership with the Lancefield Hotel to hold our Trivia Night on Friday 19 June. We are hopeful that many parents and carers will attend to support the school and to have a great night out! Thank you in advance to many local businesses for your support of this event.



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There is a group of tiny organisms that everyone knows little about or ignores. This is the aquatic microfauna. Representatives of this animal are widespread across Australia where they are present in the slow-moving rivers, such as the Murray and Darling System, or the pools of many small, often intermittent, creeks and in all types of standing bodies of water, both man-made (dams, ponds, lakes, natural and man-made reservoirs, storm water ponds etc), plus within many wetland types.

There are two main groups of aquatic microfauna: the Phylum Rotifera (rotifers) and the Micro-Crustacea (Copepods, Ostracods, Cladocera). These tiny animals link everything in the aquatic food web together. They are found wherever there may be water. The larger ones may just be seen with the naked eye in a glass of water taken from a water body or creek.

Mostly they are so tiny, you need a microscope to see them. To give you some idea of the size, there are 1000 micrometres (μm) in one millimetre (mm). The Rotifera typically range in size from 40-150 μm and the adult microcrustacea from 400 μm to approximately 3-4mm. The Copepoda (e.g. *Macrocylops albidus* or *Boeckella major*) typically range in size from 0.7mm (or 700 μm) to 2mm.

As a collective group these critters feed on dead organisms, detritus, bacteria, algae, diatoms, protozoa, and

ciliates. For example, a single *Daphnia* (Cladocera) may filter approx. 35,000 algal cells per day from the water it inhabits. They are extremely efficient filter feeders and may consume particles down to 2 μm in size.

Predators amongst them, like the *Macrocylops albidus* or *Boeckella major*, will consume other microfauna, larval macroinvertebrates, and some even fish fry. In turn these animals provide a food source for the aquatic macroinvertebrates, small and juvenile stages of fish taxa, and even some birds.

They link everything in aquatic food webs together. and if this faunal group is missing for any reason, then the system will quickly collapse. They link everything in aquatic food webs together.

Clearly, managers of wetlands, waterways, reservoirs, water treatment plants, need an understanding of the environmental baseline conditions and ecology of these waters that influence these animals.

If this faunal group is missing for any reason, then the system will quickly collapse. To put this simply:

No aquatic microfauna = No macroinvertebrates = No fish = No birds

No aquatic microfauna = No clean water = No life

Rob Walsh



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DAVID CONNELL
0429 168 475

DUNG BEETLES – OUR UNSUNG HEROES!

While Australia is home to over 500 native dung beetle species adapted to marsupial droppings, these beetles often struggle to process the large amounts of dung produced by introduced livestock like cattle and horses. To solve this, the CSIRO has successfully introduced dozens of specialized dung beetle species from Africa and Europe since the 1960s.

History suggests that the introduction of exotics does not always end well. Rabbits, foxes and deer were introduced for hunting. Cane toads were deliberately introduced to Australia from Hawaii in June 1935 by the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations. The goal was to act as a biological control for destructive grey-backed cane beetles attacking Queensland sugarcane crops. Mosquito fish (*Gambusia holbrooki*) are invasive pests across Australia. Introduced in the 1920s to control mosquitoes, they proved ineffective at this while heavily damaging native aquatic ecosystems. European carp were introduced to improve our fishing and culinary experiences. While it is a popular angling and food fish in parts of Europe and Asia, it is infamous in Australia and North America as a highly destructive invasive pest!

European blackberries were deliberately introduced to Australia in the 1840s. Early settlers brought the spiny shrubs from Britain for fruit production, to establish natural hedgerows, and to help control soil erosion along streams. The introduction was also heavily supported in 1851 by the Victorian government botanist, Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, who wanted to ensure the public had free access to fresh fruit year-round! The list goes on but dung beetles have been a success story with untapped

potential.

There are three main types of dung beetle – rollers, tunnellers and dwellers – each named for the way the beetles use the poop they find. Rollers shape dung into balls and roll them away from the pile. They then bury the ball to either munch on later or to use as a place to lay their eggs. Tunnellers dive into the dung pile, usually working in a ‘male-female’ pair, and dig a tunnel beneath it. The female beetle then stays in the tunnel sorting out the dung brought down by the male. Dwellers, on the other hand, simply live inside the pooey pile. Female dwellers lay their eggs there, and when the larvae (or young) hatch they happily munch away on the food that surrounds them. Nom nom nom!

Here are some interesting facts about these important little critters.

Dung beetles emerged in the mid-cretaceous period (~100 million years ago) at about the same time as flowering plants. They dined on dinosaur poo .

The Egyptians thought that the sun was rolled across the sky by a scarab beetle. They had a god named Khepri with the face of a dung beetle. He was the god of the rising sun, creation and rebirth.

Dung beetles can be eaten (though are said to be an “acquired taste”): cooked over coals like popcorn, stir-fried with basil and chili, or dehydrated for a snack on the go.

“Roller” dung beetles navigate the straightest paths back to their tunnels using the sun, moon and even the Milky Way.

They live for 3-5 years, reaching maturity in 1 year, and are one of the insect species that cares for their young.



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DUNG BEETLES - OUR UNSUNG HEROES!

Dung beetles can bury 50 to 250 times their body weight of dung in just one night. That's like an 80kg person burying 4 to 20 tonnes of poo!

In Australia, the CSIRO commissioned the Australian Dung Beetle Project (1965–1985) which, led by George Bornemissza, sought to introduce species of dung beetles from South Africa and Europe. The successful introduction of 23 species was made, which has resulted in improvement of the quality and fertility of Australian cattle pastures, along with a reduction in the population of pestilent Australian bush flies by around 90%. Each cow pat can produce 2000 to 3000 flies. Imagine trying to dine outside without dung beetles doing their thing!

Cow pats can also be homes for cattle gut worm larvae. These worm larvae hide away until weather conditions are suitable and then emerge onto pastures, becoming a source of infection for animals. Bush and buffalo flies lay their eggs in dung pats. These flies are a nuisance to cattle (and us!) and can also carry diseases. The shredding of dung pats by dung beetles breaks these life cycles. The breakup of manure pats improves pasture grazing efficiency as animals don't like grazing the area around whole cow pats and so some pasture goes to waste.

The reworking of the topsoil by dung beetles is called bioturbation (or should that be bioturdation?) When dung beetles bury the dung, it takes nutrients deep into the soil which both fertilises and reduces the nutrients in the manure from running off into our waterways when it rains. Dung

beetles can also reduce methane emissions. By shredding the dung pat, there isn't the opportunity for anaerobic fermentation and methane production.

Different species are active at different times of the year and thrive in specific climates. For each region commercial suppliers typically provide tailored packs containing a mix of species, including both day and night flying species in order to cover all seasons and as many variations of climate as possible.

One of our members has just received her winter beetle shipment of dung beetles. She has put a portion into a nursery and released the rest. It will be 12 months before the success of her experiment can be determined and she also notes that "dung beetles are susceptible to the chemicals we commonly used to worm our domestic animals so care needs to be taken around the timing and the type of wormers used if they cannot be avoided. Harrowing paddocks should also be avoided as it is also detrimental to dung beetles".

And lastly, a joke! A dung beetle walks into a bar and says: "is this stool taken?"

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 when we return in spring.



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Parish Priest: Fr. John Healy C/- Woodend Presbytery 0409 436 441 Assistant Priest: Fr. Zaher Al Mhanna C/- Lancefield Presbytery 5429 2130

Lancefield Mercury

WHATS CURRENTLY HAPPENING

CURRENT MASS TIMES:

Vigil Mass will be celebrated each Saturday evening at 6:30pm in the Lancefield Church. Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 9am in the Romsey Church. The Anointing Mass will be celebrated at 10:30am in Romsey on the first Saturday of each month. Weekday Mass is on Thursday 9:30am at Romsey Church (except for the fourth Thursday when it will be celebrated at Romsey Aged Care at 10:30am) and Friday 9:30am at Lancefield Church.

Please check the parish website for confirmation of weekday Mass times as they may change.

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, 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.

Saturday Mass will be celebrated at 9:30am, prior to Reconciliation.

Should a parishioner want private Reconciliation, please contact Fr. John directly at Woodend on 5427 2690 to make arrangement.

SACRAMENTS

Registration is now open for Holy Communion to be celebrated in 2026.

Please contact the office at lancefield@cam.org.au if you would like to be included in information sent out for Holy Communion.

Reconciliation registration now closed. Confirmation registration is now closed.

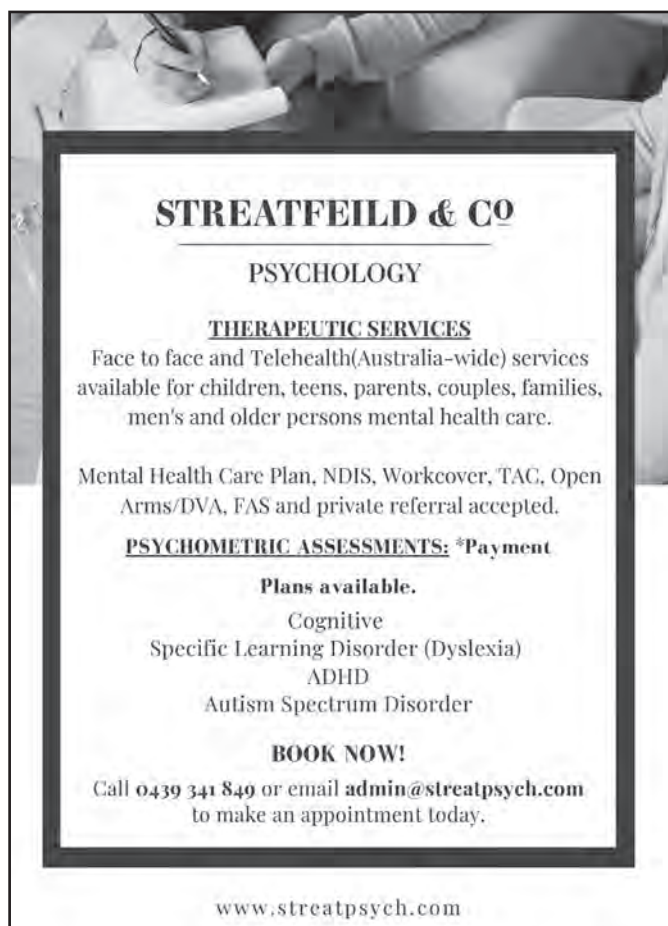
Holy Communion available to Year 4.

Sacrament fee for 2026 is \$100.

Baptism details required for registration.

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



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ENCOURAGE CHURCH

Worship Service Sunday 10am, 7 Mitchell Court Romsey.

Ph 5429 6327 E: office@encouragechurch.com.au W: encouragechurch.com.au

ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN, ONE GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND

This July is 57 years since Neil Armstrong stepped off the ladder, onto the surface of the Moon, and said these now famous words. Stepping off a ladder happens daily, but he stepped onto the Moon being the first person to do so and paving the way for others to follow him and for us to dream for bigger things, such as walking on Mars.

Whilst it may be unlikely that you will walk on the Moon or Mars, there are many options for you to make 'one small step' that will make a 'giant' change for you and potentially those around you. Maybe your 'one small step' is to spend more quality time with your children, to improve your health, to write a financial plan, to get to know your neighbour, to finish reading that book, to

volunteer in our community, to plan a family holiday.

Or maybe your 'one small step' that may seem like a 'giant leap' is to consider the God who created the heavens, the earth, the moon and the stars (see Genesis 1). Walk outside one cold evening, gaze at the stars and look at his magnificent handiwork. This same God created you!

Maybe your 'one small step' is to open the Bible (or go to Bible.com). Maybe your 'one small step' is to go to Church. You're welcome at 10am any Sunday morning at Encourage Church. Maybe your 'one small step' is to have 'that' question about God/the Bible/Christianity answered. We always have a cuppa after Sunday morning services so there's plenty of time to chat about anything.

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EMRBATA

PROPOSED CLARKEFIELD DEVELOPMENT

EMRBATA's Committee of Management (COM) has made a submission to the State Government's Draft Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme amendment regarding the proposed Clarkefield township development. EMRBATA's COM, in its role relating to visitor economy and community advocacy for the region, has a few concerns relating to the urban design and consequences of this proposed more-than-2000 homes development. EMRBATA's submission referenced the following key points:

Urban design concerns - Inconsistent with developments elsewhere in the Macedon Ranges

Prospective Rail and road infrastructure limitations with no commitment to upgrades

EMRBATA's COM expressed concern that the potential deleterious consequences (both real and perceived) relating to the issues outlined above will have a negative impact on the reputation of accessibility to the eastern corridor, thereby negatively impacting visitation.

CHRISTMAS IN ROMSEY (CIR) 2026

Although EMRBATA is no longer the overarching management body for the Christmas in Romsey festival, it is still providing support to the Christmas in Romsey Action Group (CRAG) as it progresses its planning for CIR 2026.

The Lancefield Romsey Lions' Club has kindly auspiced the CRAG in its CIR funding applications. CRAG is keen to hear from any community members who would like to assist with the following:

CIR Marketing

Lights and Decorations Competition

Other miscellaneous tasks

If you are interested in assisting with making this wonderful community festival (in its 11th year this year) happen, please email contact@easternmacedonranges.au.

EASTERN LIGHTS 2027

Following on from the successful Main Street Romsey Illuminations events during COVID, EMRBATA has commenced planning "Eastern Lights – Lancefield", scheduled for April 2027. Illumination of Lancefield landmarks will be complimented by an artisan makers market and entertainers over 2 weeks in April 2027. Sponsorship packages are available for this exciting event which will be attractive to eastern reanges community members and visitors to our region.

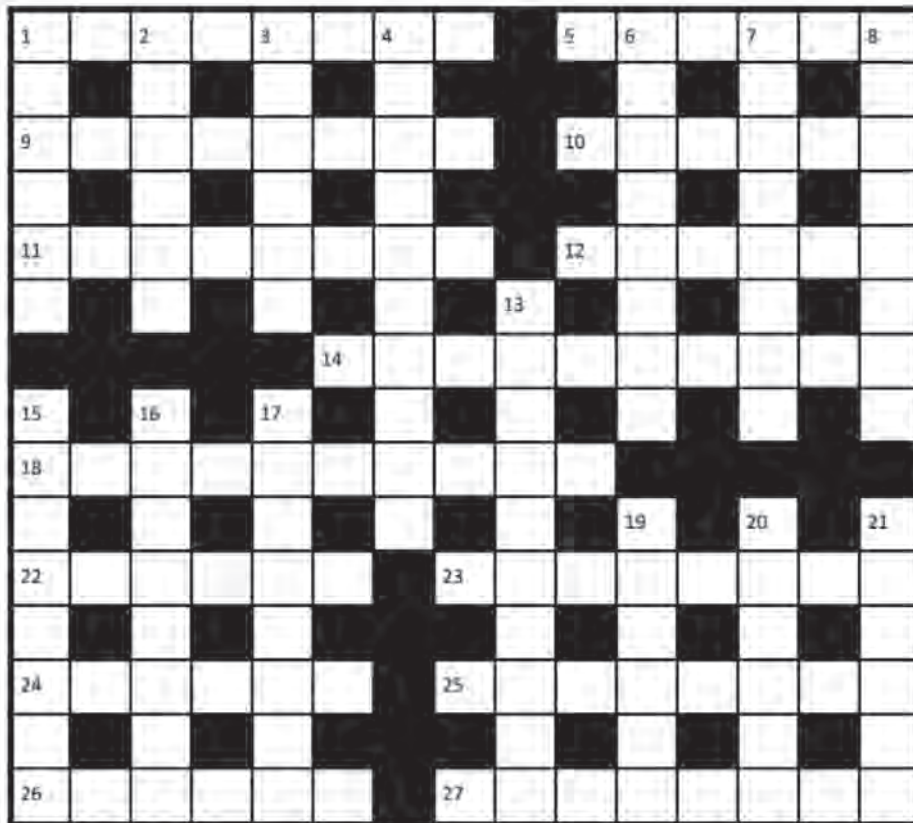
Email contact@easternmacedonranges.au for further information.

Don't miss out - the Annual EMRBATA Business Breakfast is coming (Friday July 31) and tickets are on sale now.



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

NUMBER 34
By Kevin Moysey



ACROSS

- 1 Near the edge is bruised after cataclysmic start (8)
- 5 Broke and very firm couple centre (4,2)
- 9 Late buns are risky or unhinged (8)
- 10 A spacer may be used to do this (6)
- 11 Ease grants to become excommunicated
- 12 These kinds of things can't be relied upon (6)
- 14 Unused or possibly not paid back (10)
- 8 Strange or perhaps just not used to it (10)
- 22 Picturesque ascend centre iced half (6)
- 23 Stripe angled ends caused to choke (8)
- 24 Nothing ends to be recording (6)
- 25 Redesigns - about examples? (8)
- 26 Edward departed and went around in circles (6)
- 27 Stuck with no hope from sad trend (8)

DOWN

- 1 Precipitated although not actually raining (6)
- 2 Resist but does exam again (6)
- 3 Hebrew whole is the basis of blessing (6)
- 4 East timor capital mildly does the job carefully (10)
- 6 Stressed, highlighted and aced with money (8)
- 7 Diaphragms with no acid/base scale yields drawings (8)
- 8 Appears to rend step (8)
- 13 Part of government or large retail enterprise ((10)
- 15 Ace in sun is so annoying (8)
- 16 Impacted or pretentious to impress (8) I
- 7 Mice and bean makes the vibe (8) 19 Asian tower for a smiling chubby chap (6)
- 20 No dispute about a deadly sin? (6)
- 21 Eased after last start is hired (6)

Answers page 31



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GAB THEATRE

GAB THEATRE RETURNS

Following the success of Alice in Wonderland, GAB Theatre will be returning to the Lancefield Mechanics Institute on August 1 with their One Act Play Season.

The vibrant collection of five short plays highlights talented performers, and playwrights bringing compelling stories to life. Starring new and familiar faces clever comedies will have you laughing out loud while a powerful drama will touch your heart.

Laugh along with Sure Thing, a romantic Groundhog Day-style comedy, Nudity Rider, where a film actor faces his worst nightmare, Pretence, a witty look at surviving the theatre world, and The Bonnet, proving romance is never out of fashion. Then uncover the dark secrets at the heart of The Other Sister, a powerful drama exploring family truths. From hilarious comedy to compelling drama, there's something for every theatre lover.

Director, and co-founder of GAB Theatre, George Benca noted, "Following on from our successful family

productions where we displayed the talents of our communities' junior performers, we wanted to present something for our adult audience. These plays provide an opportunity for our adult performers to flex their creative talents. The diverse set of plays ensures there is something for everybody to enjoy and engage with."

Join us for an evening of creativity, entertainment, and outstanding local talent as the magic of theatre unfolds before your eyes. Performances will be held at the Lancefield Mechanics Institute on August 1 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Seating is restaurant style and guests are encouraged to bring food and drink to enjoy during the performance. Tickets can be purchased from Trybooking on <https://www.trybooking.com/DMIEZ> or contact the Ticket Secretary (Barbara) on 0419 370 680.



We are thrilled to announce our upcoming productions:

1st August Winter One Act Play Season
May 2027 Wizard of OZ

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or 0419 370 680

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JUNIOR LANDCARE TEAM'S VISIT TO KOLORA

Our Junior Landcare Team visited Kolora in Newham recently where they had the opportunity to explore this beautiful property which has been revegetated and where 'green corridors' have been established to protect wildlife. Kolora is a private conservation property near Hanging Rock, rehabilitated over 30 years by Karl and Brigitte Kny into an ecological haven. As a key site for the Deep Creek Biolink project, our students enjoyed exploring biodiversity plantings, rehabilitated farm dams and wildlife habitat, which are examples of sustainable land management.

FAMILY WEEK

To celebrate Family Week, our students gathered in family groups to enjoy lunch together. There was lots of happy chatter as the children spent extra time together at school.

Some of them shared their thoughts as to why their family is special.

'We are sporty. We don't have time to sit down.' Darcy and Summer S

'Everyone is nice. We are good at compromising and

solving problems. We all love books.' Henry and Maisie

'We give each other hugs and wipe away tears.' Autumn and Lulu

'We always go on adventure walks and play games together.' Anthea and Hugo

YEAR 6S VISIT THE LANCEFIELD MEN'S SHED

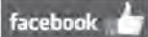
Our Year 6s have been lucky to spend time at the Lancefield Men's Shed creating some masterpieces. This worthwhile partnership has been supported by funding from the Bendigo Bank as well as volunteers from the Men's Shed.

From Archer – 'We walked to the Men's Shed and when we got there the kinder kids next door were waving at us. A few kind men showed us where we were going to make the bird boxes. Then we had some cordial and biscuits and got back to work making a book stand or ipad stand. We learnt how to use super glue properly and how to make cool things out of wood. It was a really fun visit.'



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5/6 ASPIRE HIGHER INCURSION

Our Year 5/6 students participated in workshops delivered by the Aspire Higher Leadership Program. This program is designed to equip our students with practical leadership skills, build strong peer relationships, and inspire them to lead by example—whether or not they have a badge. They learnt that leadership is about standing up and positively influencing others. Their motto is ‘We rise by lifting others.’

Students explored how leadership is more about actions, service, influence and kindness than about titles or positions. They shared ways to be a positive influence such as ...

‘Checking in on people and seeing if they’re okay. Picking up rubbish and helping people out’. Sophie.

‘When I see kids at break with no-one to play with, I’ll invite them to play with us.’ Mollie.

‘Doing simple little things that have an action even if it’s just as little as helping others. Leaders don’t always need to do big actions.’ Ava.

‘Being the person who checks in on people who are alone and need a friend to talk to or play with’. Christopher.

PREP TOY INCURSION

The Prep students thoroughly enjoyed their first Incursion Toys Over Time which supported their learning in Inquiry. Working in groups, they rotated through four hands-on stations focused on imagination, problem-solving, construction and play, while learning how toys have changed over time. Students were highly engaged as they dressed up,

solved puzzles, built creations and explored toys from the past. It was a wonderful balance of listening and hands-on learning, with students showing great enthusiasm, curiosity and cooperation throughout the session.

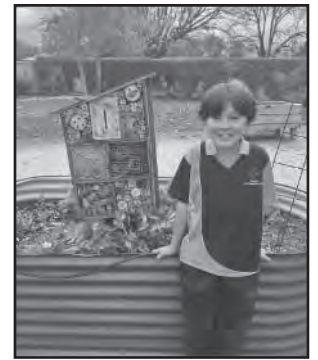
COBAW WINTER SPORTS

Our year 5/6s headed off to the Cobaw Winter Sports last week. They returned proudly carrying two flags for Netball and Softball. Congratulations to all our students who competed with great skills and teamwork! ‘Netball was an extraordinary experience. We faced struggles and successes and we all tried our best. The result of this is that we won the grand final and are heading off to Castlemaine. Yay!’ Mollie, Summer and Lily

‘When we first got to Cobaw sports. I didn’t think we’d win a lot yet alone to get to the grand final. The semifinal was very scary because it determined if we’d get to the grand final. On the bus home, the realization hit home and I couldn’t believe we’d won.’ Stephanie

DESIGN AND DINE

This year St Mary’s have launched a brand-new specialist subject called “Design & Dine”. This design-rich kitchen garden program goes far beyond simple



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ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL LANCEFIELD

vegetable beds.

This subject requires students to participate in Inquiry based structured learning with a focus on sustainability and community engagement. Along with this, Students are required to grow, harvest, prepare and share seasonal foods. Since the subject's launch, students have been diving deeper on a range of subjects such as biodiversity, food and fibre production, Indigenous farming practices and the nutritional profiles of foods. It has been amazing to see the students so engaged in their learning and we are looking forward to seeing the learning yet to come.

GRADE 3/4 REFLECTIONS FROM THE KITCHEN

Today we made Gnocchi. It was very fun, exciting and an enjoyable experience. I made the sauce. It was a tomato sauce with lots of herbs in it. It was fun to cut up the onion and garlic. I like cutting them into small pieces. When the sauce was done, we made the Gnocchi dough into balls. One tip for the kitchen is to make sure you communicate with your team, then it is easier. 'I love making gnocchi and I hope I can do it again.' Orla B.

'We made Spinach and Ricotta gnocchi this week. My role was to squeeze out all of the water from the spinach. I also helped to roll out the dough. I thought it was pretty easy.' Vicky K

CREATING A GARDEN FOR BENEFICIAL INSECTS

'We have been learning about beneficial insects. Part of this we had to design a bug hotel. I think practising the design process will be helpful if we want to build things in the future. I thought about the shape I wanted for my bug hotel. I also looked at inspiration pictures but none of them were exactly the shape I wanted. My class voted for my design to be made by the Lancefield Mens shed. It feels good and I'm happy that mine got made.' Luca W

'We were learning about bug hotels. This is good for our garden because it gives somewhere for the bugs to stay. First, I had to search up pictures of bug hotels and looked through different ones. That's when I found a good design. I had to draw it out in my own way. We then voted on the best design in the class so that the Men's shed could make a hotel for our class. I was happy when mine was chosen. I will be excited to see my design in the garden.' Marlow D.

'We had a walk in our garden and decided that we should make a bug hotel but first we needed plants, not just any plants, plants that attract pollinators! Then we researched about what bugs we want and what would attract them. Then we got to work planning and planting. We finally decided on the bug hotel in the middle of the garden and plants on the outside.' Ella D

Thank you so much to the Lancefield Men's shed for bringing our designs to life.

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- Times & details may change - we'll keep you updated
- Let us know if you would be interest in being a driver for any outings

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WED 	01-JULY	WATERGARDEN SHOPPING DAY OUT	10 AM- 4PM	\$20
THURS 	23-JULY	ROXBURGH PARK BUFFET LUNCH	11:30AM-3PM	ADULTS:\$36 SENIORS:\$28 +\$10 TRANSPORT FEE
TUES 	04-AUG	3-4 TOWNS THEN LUNCH	9AM- 4PM	\$20

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Postural Alignment

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Boomerang Bags

Help create re-usable bags for Lancefield,
Wednesdays 10am - 12pm

Dungeons & Dragons

New Macedon Ranges Society meeting for tabletop role playing games every second Sunday 1- 5 pm at the Neighbourhood House

Yoga

Reconnect with your spirit within; gentle and suitable for everyone of all abilities.
Wednesdays 7pm with Pina
Slow Flow restorative yoga **Sat 10am** with John

French Conversation

French conversation, for all levels,
Thursdays 6:30pm at the Townhouse. Gold Coin

Community Singing Group

All ages and abilities welcome!
Every Tuesday 10:30am - 12pm \$5
Lancefield Hall Annexe - 4 The Crescent Lancefield

Well Played sensory

A sensory playgroup designed to engage children aged 6months-5 years and help build connections between families.
Fridays 10am at the Townhouse



Next Market is on
Saturday July 25

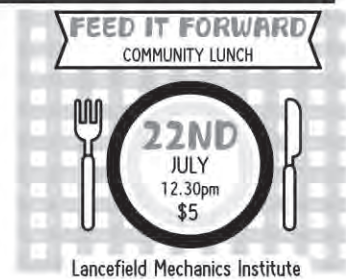
Wanting to volunteer?

We have many volunteer opportunities available through the Neighbourhood House!

- Running of Op Shop
- Helping in the Town House
- Assisting with Community Lunches
- Share Ride & More!

Contact us for more info on:

5429 1214 or admin@lancefieldhouse.org.au



Please join us for our monthly community lunch

Thanks for celebrating 25 years with us!

Senior Branch Manager Anish Paudel and Board Chair Suzie Ewart cut the cake.



Community Bank representatives gather at the market to celebrate our 25th birthday and present the \$2,500 community donation to Romsey Lancefield United Basketball Club.

What a day it was at the Lancefield & Districts Farmers' Market on 23 May, as we celebrated 25 years of Community Banking in Lancefield! Thank you to everyone who came down, said hello, and helped us mark the occasion with a cookie or slice of birthday cake.

As part of the celebrations, our community voted for a local group to receive a \$2,500 donation. With a total of 364 votes cast, Romsey Lancefield United Basketball Club came away with the most votes on the day and received the donation. Congratulations, and a huge thank you to everyone who took the time to vote.

It's a great example of what local banking is all about. When you bank with Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey, 80% of our profit is reinvested right back into our community, supporting local clubs, groups and projects. Thanks again for celebrating with us, here's to the next 25 years!

Welcome to the team, Tahir

Tahir Yar Khan, Customer Relationship Manager

Please join us in welcoming Tahir Yar Khan, our new Customer Relationship Manager. Tahir brings a strong background in banking and is looking forward to getting to know our local customers and supporting them with their lending needs.

Whether you're buying your first home, refinancing or investing, Tahir is always happy to have an open, no-obligation chat to help guide you through your financial journey.

Outside of work, Tahir is a proud family man and self-confessed DIY enthusiast, always on the go with a project. He's already found a favourite at Romsey Kebabs, and loves the scenic drive between Romsey and Lancefield, with plenty more of our local area still to discover!

Community Bank - Lancefield and Romsey
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p 5429 1977 e lancefieldmailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

bendigobank.com.au/lancefield

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Local business matters. Especially to us.

As an award-winning business bank, we're focused on helping your business make it. Talk to our specialist team today.

 Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey

 5429 5526

Visit our branch in
Lancefield or Romsey

 **Bendigo Bank**
The better big bank

For 2024 RFI Global Financial Awards information, visit rfi.global. Bendigo & Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL / Australian Credit License 237879. (2057438) (06/26)

A PATCH OF LANCEFIELD

WHOLE TOWN DESTASH

Do you have a boxful (a roomful? a shedful?) of fabrics you know you'll never use? Maybe there's a drawer of what we craft people call "haby" (haberdashery) or "notions" – needles, bias binding, buttons, lace, trims, needles and pins – in a filing cabinet or dressing table or on top of a cupboard; or some of grandma's craft goodies tucked away in the shed, waiting to be cleared out but never quite making it.

Lancefield's patchwork group A Patch of Lancefield is holding a Town Destash on Sunday August 30 in the Mechanics' Institute from 10am till 4pm. We are inviting anyone who has been yearning to declutter their lives of sewing or upholstery fabrics, associated tools and implements, or anything craft-connected, to hire a table (or part of one), and come along on the day to turn your stash into cash. You can see what everyone else is throwing out that you might like to acquire to replace what you just sold – it's a dangerous idea, but who in the sewing and craft population can resist the temptation? It's making space for new stash; we all know that!

Bookings for tables need to be made ahead of time, so the space can be arranged the day before for maximum access to all the exciting wares on display, asking to be



included in your next project.

Ring 0427 677 955 to book and pay for your table. Small 70cm x 70 cm \$5, medium 178 long \$15, large 310 long \$25 each. Seize the opportunity! Create more space in your life. Destash now. Entry \$5.00.

Turn your
stash into
cash

A PATCH OF LANCEFIELD

Patchwork DESTASH

Sunday AUGUST 30, 2026
10AM - 4PM Entry \$5
Lancefield Mechanics Hall

BOOK A TABLE to sell your patchwork and craft supplies

Small table (70x70cm) \$5 - Medium table (178cm long) \$15 - Large table (c.310cm) \$25 each.

Sellers must pre-book table space before the event. Limited number of tables available.

➤ Sellers are responsible for their own sales & keep their own takings.

Patchwork and craft / sewing supplies only please.



ENQUIRIES call 0427 677 955

LOST
WATERING
HOLE
THE LANCEFIELD BREWERY

What's on THIS WEEK

MONDAY
SCHNITTY NIGHT

\$20

CHICKEN OR VEGGIE SCHNITZEL
SERVED w/ SLAW, FRIES & GRAVY

TUESDAY
TACO TUESDAY

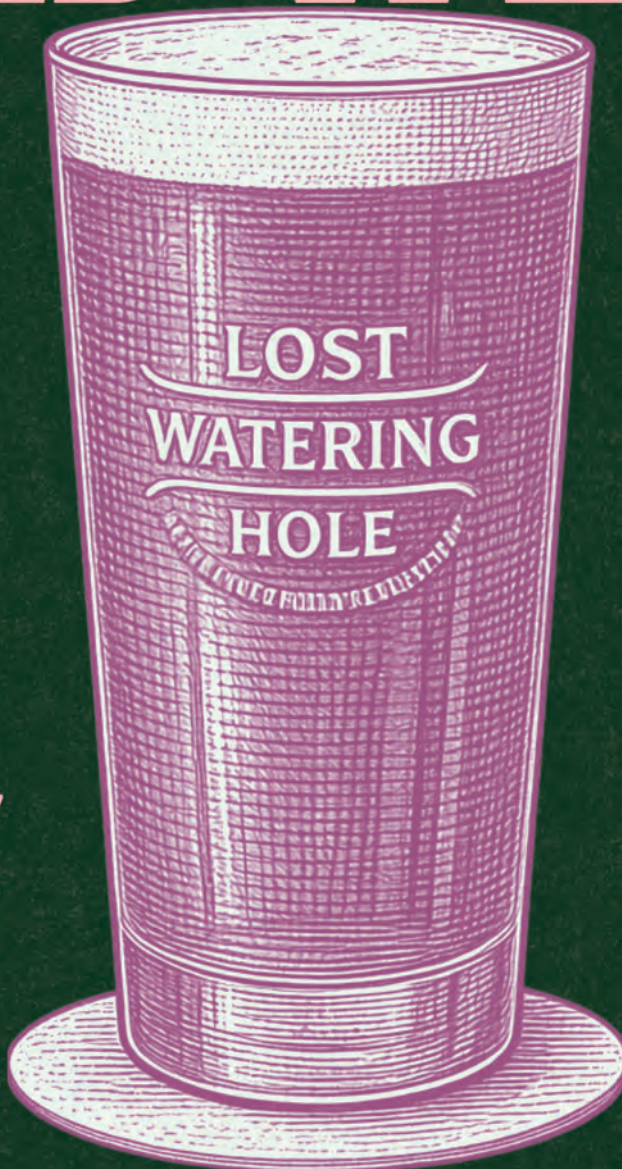
\$15

3 FISH, CHICKEN OR TOFU TACOS w/
FRIES - PLUS \$5 KIDS TACO & FRIES

WEDNESDAY
DUMPLINGS

\$15

CHOOSE FROM PORK & CHIVE, PRAWN &
GINGER OR VEGETABLE. SERVED w/
DUMPLING SOUP



THURSDAY
BURGER NIGHT

\$20

CHOOSE FROM BEEF, CHICKEN OR
VEGGIE, SERVED w/ FRIES

FRIDAY
BBQ RIBS & WINGS

\$15

PLATES STARTING AT \$15, SERVED WITH
FRIES & CHARRED CORN. BUILD YOUR
OWN PLATE w/ SIDES STARTING AT \$5

SUNDAY
SUNDAY NIGHT ROAST

\$20

A DIFFERENT ROAST EACH WEEK!
SERVED WITH VEGGIES AND GRAVY

*AVAILABLE FROM 5PM

