

Lancefield Mercury

MT WILLIAM CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

In the July 2017 edition of the Lancefield Mercury, we celebrated the Mt William Advanced Tree nursery's 40th anniversary. Well, time has flown and here we are celebrating their 50th anniversary! We can't remember why the 40th birthday article was delayed until 2017 – but the business opened on 4 May 1976. As time marches on, so do businesses. What began as a dream shared by Alan and Lynne Renfree, together with Ian and Marita Brown in 1976, has grown into one of Victoria's most respected advanced tree nurseries. From its humble beginnings on

Staffords Road, the Nursery has built on hard work, innovation and commitment to produce quality trees in their nursery on West Goldie Road, Lancefield.

As the Nursery grew and evolved, Mt William embraced new technologies and production methods. They were one of the first nurseries to adopt Rocket Pot technology which significantly improved root development and tree establishment performance.

The business grew during the 1990s. Damien Choate joined the business in 1994 as

MT WILLIAM CELEBRATES 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS

an apprentice. After progressing through the ranks, Damien joined the partnership with the Brown and Renfree families in 2011. In his partnership role he helped guide the nursery through its next phase of development. Today the Mt William Advanced Tree Nursery is proudly owned by Damien and Lisa Choate who are leading the business into the future.

When I asked Damien how he knew what to grow at Mt William, he explained they grow what their customers want. Simple! A high percentage of his customers are local councils and property developers who buy trees for mass street tree plantings. These customers also provide repeat business.

Growing the trees to an advanced size (1.8 metres) is a three-year project and Mt William are one of 30 major producers of street trees here in Victoria. The Horticulture Industry is a \$22.2b industry in Victoria and Damien believes our state 'punches well above its weight' in size and production compared to the larger states around Australia.

And here's a fun fact about Victoria 'The Garden State': soon after he arrived in 1839 to take up the position of Superintendent of the Port Phillip District, Charles Joseph La Trobe began setting aside (that is, not allowing it to be sold) large areas of land near the city that he described as being 'for the public advantage and recreation'. On this subject he believed it was 'of vital importance to the health' of Victorians that there should be parks within a distance of their town 'where they could conveniently take recreation'. Later politicians agreed. In 1977 Premier Rupert Hamer officially launched the Garden State slogan on number plates

to promote civic pride and green spaces. Our love of green spaces does not appear to have diminished, although it may be compromised with some suburban developments.

Mt William is highly regarded within the nursery industry and is well known for its focus on quality across the business. Their clients come to inspect the trees before placing an order; once ordered, they usually return to inspect the trees, prior to transporting them to their chosen destination. Currently Mt William supply 40+ councils throughout Victoria including Macedon Rangers, Hepburn, Mitchell, Mt Alexander and Hume Shire Councils. They are supplied either directly to Councils or through Landscape Contractors and Landscape Architects. Some of their trees have made their way to the new Kingsfield development near Goonawarra, along with developments in Donnybrook, Clyde, Geelong and Wyndham Vale.

Today Mt William has a mix of permanent full-time and part-time staff, although they don't have an apprentice at the moment. Damien believes it is a true 'family business' where staff are trained and nurtured to achieve their best result.

Finally, I was intrigued by the logo and asked Damien about it. It seems the logo, the silhouette of a tree, has had a few variations over the years. The current logo celebrating 50 Years was designed by Lancefield local, Shana Smith.

I think we are lucky to have this nursery in our vicinity, and I congratulate them on their 50th anniversary.

Fay Woodhouse



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

Drying conditions are placing pressure on our local storages.

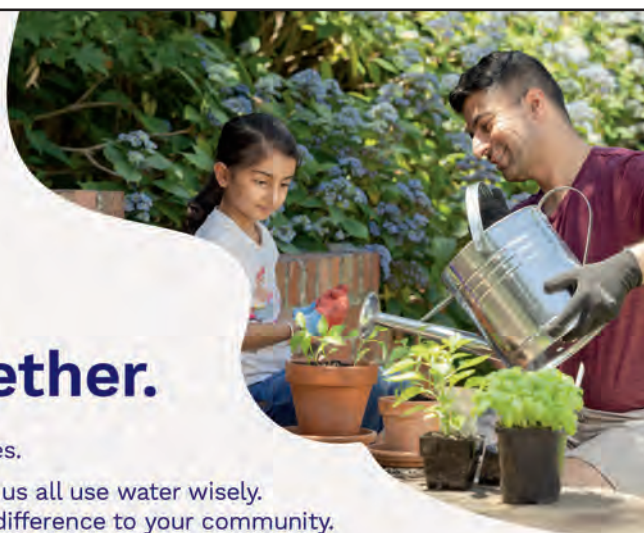
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THANKS REINHARD!

After years of service as the President of the Romsey-Lancefield RSL, Reinhard Goschiniak has stepped down from this roll following advice. Many of you would have heard Reinhard speak at Anzac Day or Remembrance Day events either at Romsey or Lancefield or one of our local schools.

Reinhard served as National Servicemen for two years, including service in South Vietnam with the 2nd Advanced Ordnance Depot. After leaving the army Reinhard returned to his engineering roll in the aviation industry. Upon retirement he moved to the Macedon Ranges.

Reinhard was president of the Romsey-Lancefield RSL from 2014-19 and 2021-26 and has led our community in reflection and remembrance. He's also been part of the regional RSL committees and the Airforce Association. Although he never served in the Airforce, the Association combines Reinhard's interests of war history and aviation.

We also would like to thank Marianne, Reinhard's wife. We know that those who serve in our community can only do so with the support of their families at home. Reinhard will still attend various RSL functions, keep telling us stories and be a reminder of the importance of remembering those who served. So next time you see Reinhard somewhere in town, make sure you stop, shake his hand and say thanks.





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DEEP CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

Covering Lancefield – Romsey and Monegeeta Districts

HIGH EXPECTATIONS, BUT NO RESULTS

MORE THAN 10 YEARS OF ROADSIDE NEGLECT

For over 10 years the local landcare groups, including Deep Creek Landcare Group has been trying to raise concerns about the significant weed infestations along the Rochford Rd (C324) between the townships of Newham and Lancefield. I'm sure many of you are familiar with the increasing unsightly spread of noxious introduced weed such as gorse and broom along this road.

This is not a local council managed road; it is in fact a Department of Transport Victoria managed roadway. If you're not familiar with this department, it was until recently called Regional Roads Victoria, and Vic Roads before that. Nothing like a few government name changes to make tracking down those responsible harder.

Deep Creek Landcare Group grows increasingly concerned

about the failure of Transport Victoria to provide any control of these weeds. Our group has been raising the issue as far back as 2015. There have been numerous interactions over the proceeding years, with various commitments for actions which have never eventuated. We now urgently seek action to bring this ever-increasing menace under control, as yet another year's worth of seeds has set.

The impacts of this significant weed infestation include

- Weeds spreading into adjoining properties effecting productive agriculture and financially burdening local landholders with costly weed control measures.
- Impacting on natural biodiversity of the roadside, including on threatened species such as the Brush-tailed Phascogale.



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DEEP CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

- Creating harbour for pest animal species such as rabbits.
- Significantly increasing the flammability and fire danger of the roadside.
- Reduced aesthetic appeal to one of the main entrances to the townships of Lancefield and Newham, impacting on the tourism appeal of the area.

It is our belief that the Department of Transport Victoria can show leadership in this area by undertaking control measures on the land under their management. This leadership is likely to encourage adjoining landholders to addressing the issue also. Without Transport Victoria's action it is increasingly pointless addressing the issue on adjoining privately owned land.

All the years of neglect have created a problem that has become ever increasingly complicated and expensive to deal with. If these weed issues had been managed years ago as promised, it would have cost a fraction of what it will cost today. Without action the impacts and ever-increasing costs grow, including those on adjoining landholders and the local community, productive agriculture and the natural environment.

Our group continues to lobby Transport Victoria for action but is now also reaching out to our local state government member and candidates in the upcoming election. If you share our concerns, please reach out to them also.

Robin Ford Deep Creek Landcare

OMNIA COMMUNITY HEALTH

SPEECH THERAPY FOR ADULTS

Adult speech therapy appointments are now available at Omnia Community Health's Romsey, Kyneton and Sunbury sites. Speech therapists can assist with communication difficulties, as well as helping make mealtimes safer and easier. Support is available for issues such as choking, coughing, difficulty swallowing and eating in public.

Speech therapy can also help with memory and comprehension, building confidence and independence to support participation in everyday life and enhance feelings of inclusion. The service is available to adults aged 18 and over and supports people living with a wide range of conditions including Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, brain injury, stroke, head and neck cancer and dementia.

Reduced rates are available for those with a concession card, and the service can be accessed through NDIS and Support at Home funding. Children's speech therapy is also available.

To enquire further, call Omnia's intake team on 5421 6035 or email intake@omniahealth.org.au

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 – Jack McPherson

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



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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.

CHARLIE CHAPLIN'S – SILENT FILM

Another silent film fun night came to Lancefield on Saturday 8 August. This was the third silent movie the Mechanics' Institute has hosted aided by a Bendigo Community Bank grant. Once again, the Lancefield Mechanics' Institute Hall was full of families and friends who met up to enjoy the novelty of the silent movie.

Prior to the main feature, we enjoyed a Laurel and Hardy short. The main event, *The Gold Rush*, is a 1925 American silent comedy film written, produced, and directed by Charlie Chaplin. The film stars Chaplin in his Little Tramp persona, supported by actors Georgia Hale, Mack Swain, Tom Murray, Henry Bergman and Malcolm Waite.

Despite the title bearing little resemblance to the content (gold mining in the snow?), we see Chaplin's famous rogue figure as a gold-digger who joins an optimist friend, Big Jim, determined to face all the difficulties associated with gold digging. We see the men suffering sickness, hunger, freezing weather and being attacked by a grizzly bear. Yes! Chaplin cooks his shoe, and his starving friend Big Jim attempts to slaughter a chicken. When it was released, *The Gold Rush* was critically acclaimed. It continues to be one of Chaplin's most celebrated works.

The audience, of course, were out for a night of fun. We were not disappointed. Once again, *The Sounds of Silent* (jazz orchestra) played some suitably animated music to accompany the film. Their range included music scores by John Williams' for films such as *Star Wars*, *ET* and *Raiders*



of the *Lost Ark*, to name but a few – all fitting tributes to an early filmmaker. With BYO food and drink, all we had to do was enjoy the film and the company we had chosen to enjoy it with. A fun night was had by all!

Fay Woodhouse



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FROM THE DESK

Words have power. Our words can encourage or discourage, heal or wound, build up or tear down. A single sentence can stay with someone for years. Yet even our most powerful words are limited. God's word is different. When God speaks, something happens, as the Prophet Isaiah says,

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. "For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off." Isaiah 55:10-13 gives us a beautiful picture of the power of God's word. Isaiah compares God's word to rain and snow that fall from heaven. They do not simply touch the earth and disappear; they water the ground, causing it to bring forth life and produce fruit. In the same way, God says, "so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth." God's word does not return empty. It accomplishes his purposes. It creates, restores, reveals, challenges and gives life.

From the opening words of Genesis, "Let there be light" to Jesus' declaration, "Lazarus, come out,"

Scripture continually shows us a God whose word brings life where there was emptiness, darkness and death. This is why we need to hear God's word—not merely as information, but as the living voice of our Creator. When we open Scripture, God is speaking to his people. His word takes root in us and produces fruit that we could never produce by our own strength. And

the result is joy. Isaiah pictures creation itself rejoicing: mountains singing, trees clapping, and God's people going out in peace. The God who speaks is still speaking. His word gives life. So let us listen, trust, and allow his word to take root in us and bear fruit.

Blessings.

Rev. Mike

CHURCH SERVICE

Church Service: Sundays- Romsey at 9:00am and Lancefield at 10:30am.

BIBLE STUDY

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

May God watch over us all and keep us safe during this testing time as we put our Faith and Trust in Him.

OP SHOP

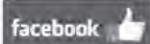
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A WONDERFUL ONE-ACT SEASON



Jessica Clementz and Emily Schembri in a scene from *The Other Sister* by Paula J Armstrong

GAB Theatre would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported our recent One Act Play Season at the Lancefield Mechanics Institute. The five productions—four comedies and one drama—brought laughter, thought-provoking moments and a few tears. Community support means so much to our local theatre and reminds us just how important live theatre is in telling stories.

Emily Schembri, cast member of *The Other Sister*, drew on personal experience for her portrayal of Jan: “Acting is a new venture for me, and I never thought I’d have an opportunity like this. I’m so grateful to GAB Theatre for what they have given to the community. I had a personal connection to this story with an aunt who, like one of the characters in the play, was also missing for over a decade. I felt I was representing my mum and her family in depicting how devastating it can be to have a loved one disappear.”

The cast of *The Other Sister* will be performing at Kyneton Festival of One Act Plays as part of the Daffodil and Arts Festival.

This will be the GAB Theatre’s third One Act Play Festival

this year following success at the Victorian Drama League’s One Act Play Festival with nine nominations and four awards for two productions: *Sure Thing* and *Nudity Rider* and performances at the Dandenong Ranges One Act Play Festival.

But it’s not all One Act Plays, as we pack up the props, put away the costumes and reset the rehearsal space, we are also thinking about what’s next. We are delighted to announce that our next production will be *The Wizard of Oz*.

We are excited to bring this much-loved classic to the stage In May 2027 and invite our community to join us for another magical theatrical adventure. There will be opportunities for performers and backstage crew of all ages to be involved.

Stay tuned for audition details and further announcements. We can’t wait to see you follow the yellow brick road with us!

Barbara Sapwell-Benca and George Benca

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Lancefield has new residents in the old Providore site at 42 High Street. Rabbit and Chair Vintage Co's Carol and Cheryl have moved in with a wonderful collection of unique one-offs – something vintage for everyone, with what they call “a farmhouse feel”, at affordable prices. Their pricing structure is based on asking themselves “What would I pay?” and marking the tag accordingly.

This is not a place you can just pop into for a quick look – there are so many pieces of furniture, and everyday objects from decades ago that catch the eye, and start a conversation, or spark a memory. Cabinets, bookcases, quilts, ceramics, paintings and curiosities are arranged in interesting groups, requiring focus so you don't miss anything. There are also cushions and lampshades – each a one-off - made specially for Rabbit and Chair by Anne from Nice in Yea, covered with a great variety of unique fabrics, some of which you can find



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in a remnant basket next to a kitchen dresser.

I asked about the most unusual piece they have, and Cheryl nominated a beautiful, wooden 1920s carpet sweeper, made by hand, the brand carved on top. I also spied a gentleman's valet chair, with a wide top to drape his shirt for the day, and rungs down the back for his socks, ties, long johns, braces, scarf and hankies for the top pocket, presumably. This piece, displayed in the rear of Rabbit and Chair, is from When I Was a Kid, Chris Konopka's shop in Cohuna.

Near the front door is a rack of crocheted garments by local Jenny Parks, and some lovely quilts are tucked into another dresser. There is also, currently, a pretty chenille bedspread – very collectible and bound to take most Baby Boomers back to their grandparents' spare room, or the daybed in the sunroom, if not their own beds.

Before she and Carol joined forces, Cheryl, who has been collecting vintage for thirty years, was a barista behind the espresso machine at Calipers, the car-themed café in Romsey. Carol met Cheryl at her stall in the Romsey Market, and then, for six months, she had a shed behind her house, filled with assorted treasures, where customers found her

through word of mouth.

The two decided that their different but compatible tastes worked well together - "Put us in the same shop and we go in two different directions" they say - so they started with a stall at Daylesford Bazaar for 15 months, then moved to a shop in Hepburn, which proved to be a bit far off the beaten track, and now they are here in Lancefield.

These past eras of better-made pieces, thoughtfully designed, or just funky (let's face it) are attracting a younger clientele, who have grown up with more and more plastic, throw-away, characterless furniture and wares. A piece that feels good to use, looks good and is unique - and affordable – irresistible!

As anyone who collects...well, anything... knows, road trips, houses being cleaned for sale, garage sales, swap meets and random finds all contribute to the Aladdin's Cave that is this charming, tempting addition to our town.

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Beth Child

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SCHOOL DISCO

St Mary's was pumping to the sound of music during our school disco. The theme for the disco was 'All Stars' and our students came dressed as their favourite star.

JUNIOR CHEF

Well done to our Junior Chefs - Toby, Jayde, Brooke and Alfie, who were selected to be our representatives at Sacred Heart, Kyneton's Junior Chef competition! The first round was held this week, and teams were challenged to create a tzatziki dip with fresh vegetables and home-made pita chips. Working together, they focussed on presentation, teamwork and time management to complete their dishes within the competition time frame. Scores will be combined with those from the Grand Final in two weeks, where the 2026 Junior Chef champions will be crowned. Congratulations to all involved, you should be very proud of your efforts. Well done to our students, and thanks to Mrs Montana Oliver (Dine & Design teacher).

PLAYGROUP

Please note that extra dates have been added to the Playgroup calendar. Dates for the remainder of Term 3 are: Mondays August 17, 24 and September 7 and 14 from 8:30 - 10am. The St Mary's Playgroup is in our school hall and is open to all pre-schoolers. Come along and enjoy some fun!

PREP 100 DAYS

On July 31, our Preps celebrated 100 days of school. This year the theme was '100 Days Brighter'. The children wore 100-day themed tops celebrating the day and brought in a packet of 100 things. Their day was then jam packed with activities based around 100. They decorated their special 100-day crowns and had a dance party with 100 helium balloons. They decorated 100 biscuits, made monsters with

100 body parts, played the game 'Race to 100' and made 100's & 1000's fairy bread. At the end of the day, they took home a special 100 helium balloon and a pack of smarties which read '100 days smarter'. What a fabulous day for all involved. Certainly, it will be a treasured memory for many years to come! A huge thank you to our Prep staff, Mrs D, Mrs Zarb, Mrs Caton, Mrs Smith and Miss Dowling for making this fabulous day happen.

NAIDOC WEEK

NAIDOC Week gave our students time to reflect on Indigenous culture and achievements. It is celebrated in the first full week of July each year. During class sessions and with Specialists, our students celebrated and recognised the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It was an opportunity for us all to learn about First Nations histories and cultures and to participate in a celebration of the oldest, continuous living culture on Earth. Our Year 3/4 students led our NAIDOC Week assembly through songs, music and a showcase of the achievements of indigenous artists, musicians, scientists and fashion designers.

JUNIOR LANDCARE

Our Junior Landcare team and Emma, our Junior Landcare Facilitator, have been very busy lately. They walked to Lancefield Park to study an area where previous St Mary's Junior Landcare groups had planted trees. They took along gloves, bags and buckets to collect rubbish and some tree planting tools. Keen to get busy, they picked up rubbish on the way to the park as well as in the park itself. Once there, Emma pointed out trees that our previous Junior Landcare Group had planted. They watered these and planted some more saplings, keen to make a corridor for animals and improve the natural environment in the park for all to enjoy. They were also hard at work recently, planting 201 trees provided by Melbourne Water at Lyons Will Estate to attract

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native pollinators and reduce the number of introduced insects. Thanks to Emma, our Junior Landcare Facilitator, for coordinating this event and sourcing the plants and to Renata and Ollie for giving us the opportunity to increase native vegetation and wildlife in our area.

We wanted to get rid of unwanted bugs such as a certain type of moth and we planted trees that attract pollinators. Abi and Ella

It felt amazing how we helped the planet grow with nature. We planted trees because we wanted to get the harmful moths out of the vines. Cooper

We did planting to help the pollinators and to keep unwanted bugs away. Ava

On Friday, we went planting. It was so fun to help the environment. Julian

On our Junior Landcare excursion, we planted trees to help the eco-system and the pollinators like butterflies, birds and bees. Indie

We planted trees to help the animals and the ecosystem. We also planted lots of plants for the pollinators and all the good bugs. Jayde

We planted plants to help pollinators to help in the environment. Sophie

We planted a mix of native trees to help pollinators in the winery. The pollinators will eat the bad bugs and keep the plants healthy. Sunny

On National Tree Planting Day, we planted 201 native trees at Lyons Will Estate to encourage native insects. Toby

We planted plants to help pollinators to come to the garden. Brooke

On our excursion, we went to a farm to plant trees to bring in good bugs and get rid of bad bugs. Will

MINI VINNIES: ROMSEY AGED CARE

Our Mini Vinnies visited Romsey Aged Care recently. They chatted to the residents based on a list of questions such as 'Name 3 things found in a wallet', 'Name 3 green vegetables.' They then played 'Would you rather....??' (e.g. Would you rather be a window or a door?)

It was a bit difficult to start a conversation but when we got going, it was fun. Each time we go, we get to know people even better. Kayleigh

This was my favourite activity because we got to know people better. Harry and Milla.

It was fun to interact with the people and hear their



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stories. Bella

Mingling with the residents was fun and some of them have a great sense of humour. Kayla

It was really nice to get to know all the people. Holly

FEED IT FORWARD LUNCH

The Mini Vinnies Group went to the Feed it Forward Lunch at the Lancefield's Mechanics Hall. As a group we got to interact with all the guests that were there, serving coffee and tea. Plus, we got to pull the raffle tickets out of the basket and call out the winner. This was an amazing experience, and we had lots of fun.

(Bella, Kayla, James C, Milla, Cillian and Holly)

GOLDFIELDS NETBALL TOURNAMENT IN CASTLEMAINE

Congratulations to our Netball superstars who recently competed in Castlemaine.

The second stage of netball was a great opportunity for the girls on the team to have fun and build strong teamwork skills. Having Meaghan was phenomenal because she taught us how to improve our Netball skills and it's not just about winning; it's about having fun. Sadly, we lost our first game, so we couldn't go to the next stage, but we won all our other games. We are so grateful for St. Mary's for organising this. Alice and Mollie.

35 YEARS OF BUDBURST!

Once a year, the wineries of the Macedon Ranges Region come together to open their doors and showcase stunning cool climate wines, delicious local food and warm, country hospitality. Alongside the region's established cellar doors, Budburst features producers not normally open to the public, small batch wines and special releases. This is a rare opportunity to discover something new and delicious, and all in the Macedon Ranges.

Over two festival days, November 14 and 15, wineries across 15+ Budburst venues will open their doors, offering locals the chance to taste their wines, hear their stories and learn what makes our region so special. It's then time to relax with a fantastic range of food and entertainment options, all set against a backdrop of the stunning Macedon Ranges scenery.

Festival hours run from 10am to 5pm on both Saturday and Sunday, with tastings, curated food menus, live entertainment and the chance to chat directly with the winemakers at every stop.

Designated drivers and children under 18 are invited to join the festival for free.

For more information about the festival and to book tickets, visit budburst.com



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WINE

DISCO THROUGH THE DECADES: DANCING FOR A GREAT CAUSE



Get your platform shoes and flares ready — St Mary's Parents and Friends is throwing Disco Through the Decades, a night of music, dancing and community spirit, and we'd love for you to be part of it. Join us on Saturday 12 September from 6pm to midnight at the Lancefield Mechanics Hall for an evening packed with entertainment, prizes and a silent auction, all in support of a project close to our school's heart.

Every ticket, raffle entry and auction bid on the night goes towards Roadside to Recreation, an initiative transforming our recently purchased roadside space into a beautiful, welcoming recreation area for our kids and families to enjoy.

We are hoping to create a space which features native garden beds, a striking mosaic gathering circle, Indigenous-designed art poles, outdoor chess tables and a specialized outdoor table tennis table — with more to come as fundraising continues. It's shaping up to be a wonderful place for our school community to play, gather and connect for years to come. We are also putting the call out to anyone who

may be able to help in sourcing Silent Auction prizes or have access to donations for the fundraising on the night. Please don't hesitate to call Meaghan on 0439 381 977 or email pandf@smlancefield.catholic.edu.au if you can help in any way.

Expect a night full of decade-spanning tunes, plenty of dancing, dress-up fun, great prizes and a silent auction with something for everyone. Whether you're bringing your best 70s twirl, 80s shoulder pads or 90s throwback moves, it's a night not to be missed — and every dollar raised makes a real difference. Everyone is welcome.

All of the event details including links to purchase tickets can be found on our website: <https://discothroughthedecades.netlify.app>

We can't wait to dance the night away with you — see you on the dance floor!

St Mary's PNF Fundraiser Saturday 12 September, 6pm–12am Lancefield Mechanics Hall

PUB TO PUB

BRINGING OUR TWO TOWNS TOGETHER

A few years ago, local publican Alex Gorman and I were having a beer and started talking about the two towns we now call home.

Alex had the Lancefield Hotel and The 1860 in Romsey, I had recently moved to Lancefield, and sitting between the two pubs was the Federation Trail. It seemed pretty obvious to us that there had to be a way to join the dots.

What we probably didn't realise at the time was just how deep the sporting rivalry between Lancefield and Romsey runs! But in a funny way, that was exactly why we liked the idea. We wanted to create something that brought the two towns together without the usual competitive edge. No football scores, no netball scores, no winners or losers. Just people getting outside, having a crack and enjoying themselves.

The timing also seemed to fit perfectly. The RDFL football and netball season has wrapped up, cricket and the summer sports are about to kick off, and there's this little gap in between. We thought it could be a great opportunity for the two communities to come together and do something different.

Now, somehow, we're heading into the third year of Pub to Pub.

Last year we had more than 800 people take part, which was way beyond what Alex and I ever imagined when we first came up with the idea. We had people coming from all over the place, but what I loved most was seeing so many locals

from Lancefield, Romsey and the surrounding towns getting involved.

I was chatting to Martin at the Lancefield Hotel recently. Martin moved to Lancefield from Kyneton 16 years ago and came down to watch the event last year rather than take part himself.

"It was very impressive, and one of the best things to watch simply because people came in from all areas. Melbourne, up the road, even people from Sydney. The numbers speak very highly of the organisers and the community who participated."

He also summed up what I think makes the event pretty special.

"For all the 16 years I've been here, it's a new thing that's fantastic for the town. It brings people in and there's something for everyone to be involved with. The cross section of ages is what makes it so engaging for families, the young and everyone in between."

That's exactly what we hoped Pub to Pub could become.

It's obviously a run, but it's really just an excuse to get people out, give something a go and bring two great communities together. Three years in, it's pretty cool to see it becoming part of the local calendar. We're looking forward to another big day on the trail and, as always, a few well-earned drinks and plenty of laughs at the other end.

Mitch Docker



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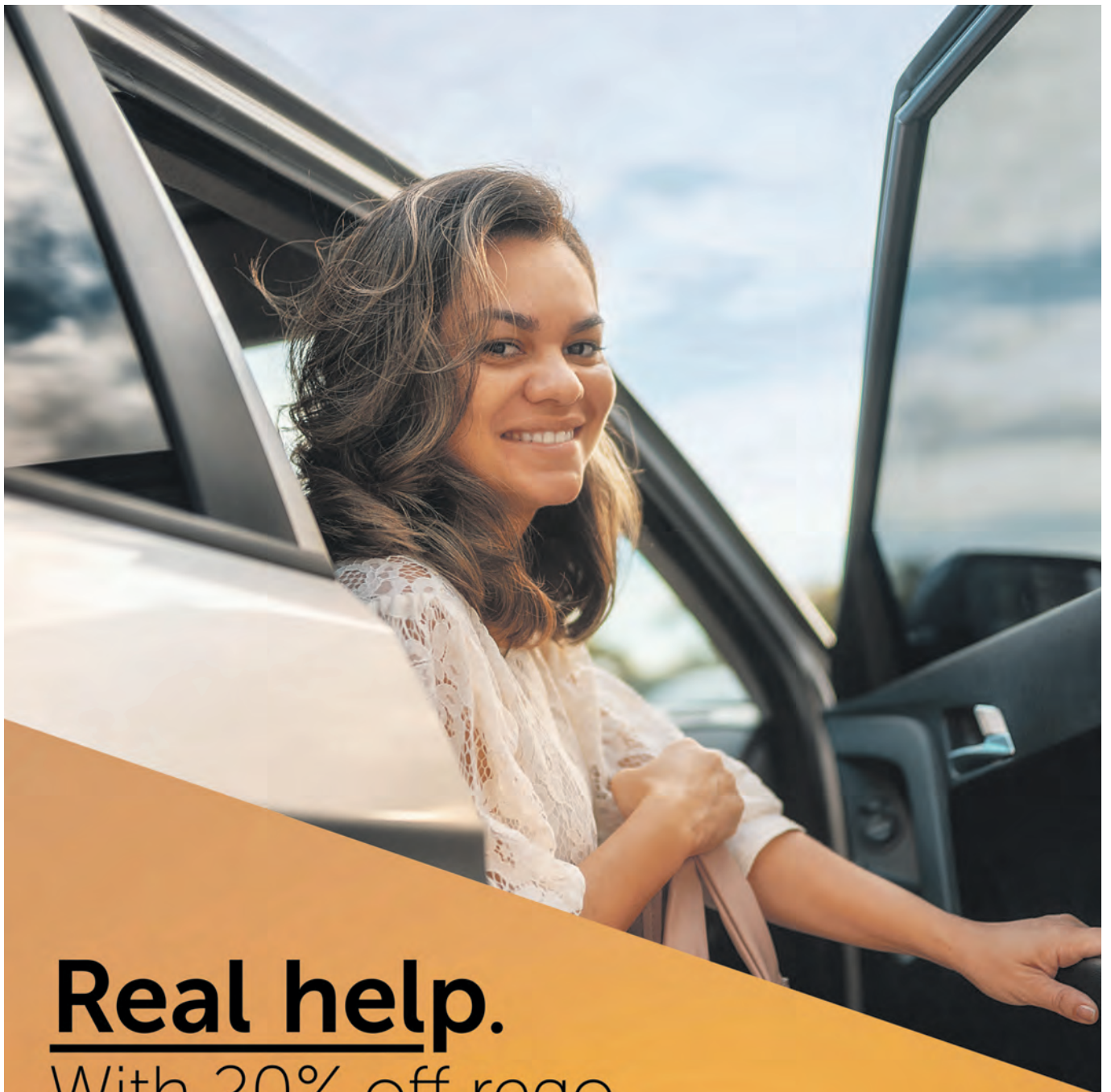
Last month the volunteers who show up week after week to run the weekly Parkrun began to offer a cup of tea, coffee and slices (and chocolates) after the run. On Saturday 1 August, greater comfort was introduced to the Saturday routine – Mitch Docker (who frequently joins the run) – set up a firepit! This was a welcome addition to the morning when it was only -1 degree. What a treat! Enjoy your run or walk and then enjoy the warmth while enjoying a cup of tea and a chat after the run!

Fay Woodhouse



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WORKING ON THE BUSINESS, NOT JUST IN IT:

VISION. STRATEGY. SYSTEMS. BOUNDARIES

EMRBATA's annual business breakfast on Friday 31 July did not disappoint. Held in the remarkable setting at Mount Monument Winery in Romsey, the venue and the speakers attracted an audience of more than 80 people on a very chilly morning.

Guest speakers on the panel were Emily Blades (the Victoria Hotel), Damien Choate (Mt William Advanced Tree Nursery), Tarni James (Islay House) and Anthony Stevens (Anthony Stevens Real Estate).

Col Cameron once again acted as MC for the event – he was MC at the 2025 event at the Lost Watering Hole in Lancefield. He introduced us to each speaker – who then spoke for themselves – and gave us a potted history of how they had arrived at their present position.

At the age of 16, Damien Choate loved his work experience at Mt William Nursery – he then became an apprentice, worked his way up into the business until he and a couple of others went into partnership and purchased the property from the original owners. In 2011 he bought out his two partners and today he and his wife Lisa are the sole owners. Tani James, originally a social worker then a journalist, had spent many years in television before falling in love with a building in Woodend and eventually purchasing it. Today she and her husband manage Islay House. Emily Blades worked as a waitress before studying events management at university. Her career was catapulted into the stratosphere when she worked

as an event manager at the Sydney Opera House, managing many major events. In a surprise career change, she worked for the Federal Police in Canberra before finding the Macedon Ranges. In another career pivot, she and her husband bought the Victoria Hotel in Woodend. Anthony Stevens is a former AFL footballer. By a circuitous route, he also found his way to the Macedon Ranges where in 2024 he opened a real estate business and bought a farm and has been living happily in the area ever since. He now has an office in Lancefield.

Col skilfully drew the guest speakers out on the ways in which they sought to, or were able to, work ON the business as well as working IN the business. There were no simple answers. Without exception, Anthony, Tani, Emily and Damian gave examples of the methods they used to combine the essentials of business. It's not easy, it takes a great deal of effort.

Running a business is also an emotional commitment, which is why it can be difficult to work ON the business as well as working IN the business – it's easier to work in something you love instead of working on developing it. One of the panellists has engaged a business coach to assist with the management challenges. Another has a 'wisdom circle' to meet and 'war-game' circumstances quarterly. One noted that it was important to 'look where you are and where you want to go'; while another concurred that staff challenges can keep you accountable. In response to Anthony's discussion about establishing a real estate business, when the floor





was opened for question, we found that there were four real estate agents in the room. They all agreed that in 2026, the real estate landscape was worse than the 1990s.

Regarding young employees, it was agreed by all the panellists that their youngest workers need to be coached in the business protocols they work in. This seemed to me to be both formal and informal mentoring. It was important to encourage their young workers to commit to the work they had taken on. At the end of the day, it seemed that 'resilience and perseverance' were the skills young people need to learn.

I believe that from this discussion, everyone who attended the event learned a great deal about running a business. As usual, there was much chatting after the panel had dispersed.

And of course, the venue at Mount Monument and the food on offer was part of the treat of the morning. All the food was prepared by Macedon Ranges Shire producers – and Raf's coffee was a welcome first port-of-call to the early morning attendees. The long list of Providers and Producers included: Bespoke Preserves & Pantry, Lost Watering Hole, Les Notres, Closed Loop farm, Azzurri Artisan cheese, Little Vic's Food + Wine, Force of nature, Chintin Botanicals and of course, Mount Monument.

The table was laden with food. The menu included Herbal Tea from Chintin Botanicals/Mount Monument (it was a lovely blend), and the jugs of bespoke cordial were very popular and were always being topped up. The fruit platters were the perfect start to breakfast. The choices of Mushroom Frittata, Pumpkin & Goats Cheese Frittata, Beetroot and Ricotta canapes, and the delicious vegetable tart disappeared from the food table pretty quickly. The Granola & Yoghurt Cups were also a hit, and for those of us who hadn't chosen them before the talks began, there were plenty left for take-aways. A flourless chocolate 'breakfast morsels' with Espellette Chilli and quince sound intriguing although I did not get to taste one. Likewise, I missed Les Notres Almond Croissant, Lunette Danish and Brown Sugar cinnamon Scroll (how did I not see these?)!

All EMRBATA events, such as this, are a wonderful opportunity to mix with friends and colleagues, and to meet new local business owners. It is a must-attend annual event. Of course, EMRBATA welcomes new members.

Why not join in?

Fay Woodhouse



TAKING ON A NEW CHALLENGE

Some of the blokes have joined Sunbury Woodturners to learn wood turning with the idea that we might learn to make some things to sell at the market. It's great fun and the people are lovely. My mate Frank and I were chatting on the way over there the other day and he mentioned that he had just turned 80 and there he was enthusiastically taking on a new challenge in his life.

Last week we celebrated Brian's 70th Birthday which probably makes him one of the youngsters in our shed. Now Brian is the bloke who makes those beautiful cutting boards although he has a permanent shake in his hands due to his schoolteacher 60 years ago belting his hands with a ruler for real or imagined misdemeanors in the classroom. This didn't stop him becoming a very skilled worker in a mechanical engineering workshop.

Brian is also our chef who organizes the luncheon each Wednesday.

It got me thinking about all the people I know or have heard of in our community who contribute in spite of their

advancing years.

There is the bloke who mows the football field on a regular basis. Our beautiful Mechanics Hall is looked after by John Severson and his committee and is a great credit to them.

I know of a lady who fashions quilts for Vietnam veterans who suffer from PTSD. There are a number of ladies who make quilts and donate them to the Children's Hospital.

I am sure if you looked you would find many more examples. These folk don't need a pat on the head; they do what they do because they want to contribute to our community despite their advancing years.

One of our guys told me there has been a huge reaction on Facebook about my article last month about the Kindergarten fence. Many people were very cross, especially a lot of folks who take their little ones to the kindergarten. We were very grateful for their kindness and support.

The Shed Bloke.

MORE ON THE KINDERGARTEN FENCE

To The Editor

In Support OF the Men's Shed

My first article re the Lancefield Men's Shed was written and then published in the Lancefield Mercury in October 2009. This came as a result of public comments from Lancefield Primary School that a Men's Shed should not be situated near a school (now resolved). My husband was a foundation member of the Committee that ensured the Lancefield Men's Shed became a reality and he thoroughly enjoyed attending the activities and the company at the Men's Shed. He rarely missed going to the shared lunch on each Wednesday! The members gain much from joining in their activities either by working there or just watching what is being done or sharing conversations.

The members of our local Men's Shed are generally locals therefore known to townsfolk. Why should group of men enjoying their own company have to put up with discriminatory comments being spread around by someone who to my mind, doesn't have any idea of what the Men's Shed really stands for and is too cowardly to speak openly.

Meryl Green 13.8.2026

Comments Continued on page 26





MORE ON THE KINDERGARTEN FENCE

To the Editor

Re: Recent Changes to Fencing at Lancefield Kindergarten, Adjacent to Men's Shed

I am writing to you out of concern for the unnecessary and unjustified attention drawn to the Men's Shed Lancefield, due to inferences about replacing the existing pool-style fence with a 2-meter fully enclosed fence at the Lancefield Kindergarten by the Macedon Shire Ranges Council based on child safety regulations. This gives the community the perception that there were child safety considerations to children being near the Men's Shed.

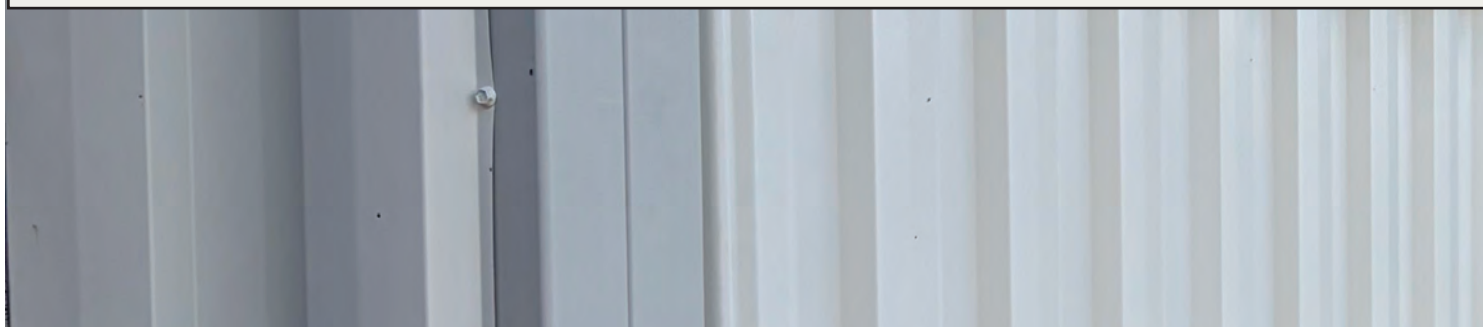
Whether the attention drawn towards the Men's Shed was unintended, it has however had a substantial psychological impact on the men who attend and participate in community-based projects, including programs with local schools involving children attending the Men's Shed to learn tool safety and basic carpentry skills. These programs are run by the men in the shed, who have all undergone a working with children's check to be involved with helping the children within the community.

There appears to have been little consultation about the replacement of the fence. With very little evidence of any wrongdoing this matter was immediately deemed a child

safety risk and a new fully enclosed fence was erected as a direct result of one complainant taking issue with the proximity of the Men's Shed to where their child attends kindergarten.

Can you imagine the impact such an implication has placed on the men who attend the shed each week since its opening over fifteen years ago. It has made many feel the justification provided by the council of child safety regulation is inferring that people see having their child near a men's shed as unsafe. A good majority of the men who attend have children, and grandchildren of their own, and look after their grandchildren. An implication like this can have devastating effects on the emotional wellbeing of the men who attend the shed and the shed is seen as a safe place to be by many who seek out the company of others, some have lost their partners and are on their own and look forward to seeing their friends each week for a yarn. The men's shed is much more than just a place to build bird boxes, it is a place of friendship, a place to build projects to help the community, a place where children can develop healthy relationships with older adults to learn new skills.

Prior to the kindergarten being constructed off-site and delivered in sections to be built on site, the Men's Shed had been in its current location for over fifteen years. Opposite the men's shed was a weatherboard hall where they ran



COUNCIL RESPONSE TO MERCURY QUESTIONS

All responses attributable to Martin Collins, Director Community Services, Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

July 17 - The Eastern fence was replaced as a child safety and privacy measure following a concern raised with Council. The decision was made in accordance with Council's child safe obligations and was not the result of any finding of inappropriate behaviour by the Men's Shed or its members. Council values both the kindergarten and the Men's Shed and is committed to maintaining safe and welcoming community facilities.

Further response on July 24 (this was received too late to be included in the August edition of the Lancefield Mercury) - Council replaced the eastern boundary fence at the kindergarten after a privacy concern was raised about visibility into the kindergarten grounds. We are unable to provide further details about the concern because of our

privacy obligations.

As both a Council and a kindergarten service provider, Council has clear responsibilities under the Child Safe Standards to help keep children safe in learning environments. In this case, Council considered that improving visual privacy along this section of the boundary was an appropriate and proportionate response. The decision should not be seen as a reflection on neighbouring users of the site. The three-room kindergarten, maternal and child health service, playground and original fencing were funded through a Victorian Government Building Blocks grant.

The replacement fence was funded through Victorian Government kindergarten grant funding received by Council to deliver kindergarten services. Council has discussed the fence replacement with the Men's Shed President. The Men's Shed and Kindergarten have a strong

playgroups. There was only ever a wire fence to keep the children from leaving the area, although there was never a situation where any parent expressed concerns about the men from the shed seeing their children because there was no fully enclosed fence. My wife used to take our grandson to this playgroup and there were never any issues raised from the parents about its proximity to the men's shed.

For the Macedon Ranges Council to build the kindergarten in its current location they would have had to undergo several procedures and evaluations in the planning process regarding child safety. At the time of construction there must have been approval for the pool-style fencing in relation to child safety regulations, otherwise they would not have put that style of fencing up in the first place as there were several delays in the construction process holding up the timeline to get it finished on time.

I would like the Macedon Ranges Council to invite the Men's Shed in Lancefield to a meeting to talk about the impact of public perception around kindergarten in close proximity to men's sheds and how we as a community can work together through proper communication channels as this has not been handled well at all and a lot of peoples' feelings have been hurt by the way they have been treated by the council through lack of consultation.

I feel the current news reports in relation to a number of early education and childcare centers where there have been perpetrators harming children has contributed to some of

this anxiety about childcare centers and many choosing not to take on male staff in fear that these incidents will occur again, however this does not justify looking through the lens that sees all men as a potential risk to children.

I would like our community to come together to appreciate the importance of having the Men's Shed in their areas, through the projects that they run, the support though friendship they offer other men who may be on their own, through the programs they run for the children to learn tool safety and basic carpentry skills as the children get a lot out of learning these new skills. The Men's Shed has helped a lot of people over the years between mending gates, furniture, doors and more. We are a better community when we all work together than tear down one group over another. It may have taken one complainant to change a fence base on their fears their child was not safe being in close proximity to the Men's Shed, but I have seen the reaction on Facebook from our community about the way the men's shed have been treated through this process and people are upset and hurt that Minority rules over Majority.

Lancefield is a great community, and I would hate to see the men walk away from being involved with their community due to one complainant, and it can happen if we don't back each other.

Sincerely, Silvestro Montalto,
Lancefield, Men's Shed member.



and positive relationship, and Council remains committed to ensuring community facilities are safe, welcoming and fit for purpose for all users.

FURTHER RESPONSE ON AUGUST 24 -

Council recently replace eastern boundary fence at the Lancefield Kindergarten. The fence upgrade should not be seen as a reflection on neighbouring users. The kindergarten has, and continues to have, a wonderful relationship with the Men's Shed.

This work was completed with funding from Victorian State Government grants and was undertaken as part of the operational upgrades and maintenance across kindergarten sites.

A risk assessment was completed for the kindergarten boundary, considering vehicle movement, heavy machinery, burning off and smoke, tools equipment and noise, unexpected visits and activities, shared boundary visibility,

children passing food and items through the fence.

The area outside the fence is known to have high traffic from parents and visitors who also, at times, congregate alongside the fence. It was deemed appropriate to upgrade the fence to meet kindergarten privacy standards.

The initial consideration was to apply shade cloth or a fast-growing hedge to the fence; however, the use of a Colourbond fence was selected as the most appropriate option. We acknowledge a new fence came as a shock to community members and apologise for not informing kindergarten families and neighbours. Our priority is to ensure that Council Kindergartens provide every child with the optimal foundation for a thriving and successful life.

Council will continue to communicate directly with the kinder families and neighbours, including the Men's Shed, on any queries they have relating to the fence or other matters. This is an operational decision made by Council officers in the best interests of the children attending the kindergarten.



When I went into the Lancefield Townhouse a few months ago, I popped into the Foodshare, which is a whole room full of shelves and refrigerators lined with food. As a tidiness freak, I was overwhelmed by the wonderful order of the room. It is very impressive. There are shelves filled with cans – of tomatoes, of tuna, of fruit, of baked beans and more. There are shelves filled with pasta, chickpeas and rice. There are baskets full of potatoes, lemons and onions. There are shelves of bread and eggs. Two of the fridges contain a mix of fresh vegetables – carrots, parsley, cabbage, kale and broccoli as well as pears, mandarins and oranges. And in the large fridge, you can find frozen home cooked meals (made by Julia and Joy), as well as frozen chicken, fish and other perishables. These frozen goods (apart from the homemade and hearty soups and casseroles) have come from local supermarkets with a use-by date very close to the date I was there. For example, I went to the Foodshare to see if they had any chicken thighs. Yes, they had a 1.5 kg tray of free-range chicken thighs. \$5. And other frozen chicken – tenderloins and nuggets – at the same price. Digging deep into the freezer compartment, I also found frozen salmon, frozen smoked salmon and a frozen marinara mix.

We are very privileged in Lancefield to have such a wonderful resource available to every resident. What is important, is that the food at the Foodshare is available to people like me who are happy to pay for the goods. More importantly, these foods are available to those less able to do so. The Foodshare operates a Point System. People can register and are able to purchase food every month to a certain number of points. The points available ensure that many people can take home food to sustain them, without having to pay.

On the other side of the equation – people like me can enjoy dropping into the Foodshare as a first stop. And this was what struck me when the ladies in charge – Julia, Joy and Nola – ensured me that my contribution was vital. Every time I buy food from the Foodshare, contributing cash, more and more people who are less able than me to pay, will be

given the food they need.

How does it work, I asked? Well, every week Julia Goddard, the manager, receives an email letting her know what will be available that week. She sees what is available, and orders food directly from the Foodbank Bendigo and Melbourne. They have deliveries about twice every week. The fruit and vegetables are fresh, and the frozen food is stored in freezers until there is a need to transfer it into the main Foodshare room. Community members also can, and do, donate food or produce from their own gardens. How good is that?

As we know, across Australia we are dealing with a severe cost of living and housing crisis, resulting in an increasing level of poverty in our communities. The latest Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey 2025, tells us that more than one in eight people in Victoria are experiencing significant economic disadvantage. The HILDA Survey also informs us that the poverty rate remains steady at around 13.3 per cent. It is present in every town and suburb. The Victorian Council of Social Service echo these statistics. VCOSS add that the cost of food, energy and other essentials rose drastically in 2022. Housing costs, including interest rates and rents have skyrocketed, putting additional pressure on household budgets and likely forcing more Victorians into poverty.

In Lancefield we can be grateful that the Neighbourhood House and Townhouse are thinking of constructive ways to deal with these worrying issues. When Julia said to me that ‘we cater for everyone’ she was right! The Townhouse Foodshare is open to everybody who needs it. And for those who choose to shop at the Foodshare before going to commercial supermarkets, we, too, are the winners!

My motto now is – instead of going to Aldi before going to the IGA, I now go to the Foodshare before leaving Lancefield. You won’t be disappointed!

Congratulations, Foodshare, very well done.

Fay Woodhouse



IT'S a RUN

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Coopers





CDS = PLANTS IN THE GROUND

At our September working bee, Deep Creek Landcare Group will be planting a 50 m section of Five Mile Creek in Romsey with indigenous trees, shrubs and grasses. The planting on the south side of the creek will replicate the planting we did last August on the opposite side.

Melbourne Water has previously planted along this section of the creek. Their efforts have been successful, but we identified potential for it to be improved and have subsequently liaised with MW and the Macedon Ranges Shire Council. In the coming years we will conduct further plantings along the creek to improve the aesthetics of the area and more importantly, the creek's ability as a biolink to enable insects, birds and native animals to not only thrive in the precinct but to be able to move through it when necessary. Five Mile Creek has always been a valuable east-west wildlife corridor, so anything we can do to enhance its capacity in this regard is important.

At the planting last August, we used jute matting to suppress weeds, planted and guarded 33 indigenous trees and shrubs and planted a further 248 small shrubs, wildflowers and grasses. The fertile and damp conditions along the creek have enabled the plants to thrive to such an extent that we can remove the guards. At a recent working bee, Landcare members weeded and tidied up the site and removed some of the guards. The biodegradable jute matting has performed its task and is now decomposing at a rapid rate.

Planning is almost complete for our September working bee. We expect to use 4 rolls of jute matting with 200 mm pins to hold it in position. Mulch is unsuited to the site which floods after heavy rain. The trees will be a combination of blackwood wattles, banksia marginata as well as manna and swamp gums. Shrubs will consist of common cassinia, sweet bursaria, tree violet, hemp bush, hop goodenia and river bottle brush along with prickly and woolly tea trees. To complete the planting, our lower storey will be made up

of poa, lomandra, carex and wallaby grass as well as some colourful swamp everlasting daisy (*Xerochrysum palustre*). The daisy is Melbourne's floral emblem and is well suited to damp conditions and over time will spread to provide a burst of golden colour over spring, summer and autumn.

The Five Mile Creek working bee will be on Sunday, September 27, the day after the AFL Grand Final! It will start at 9am and should be complete by 11am followed by morning tea and a chat. Non-members are welcome and can access the site from the end of Wrixon Street.

At our July members meeting our group decided to dedicate our earnings from the Container Deposit Scheme to revegetation works. Over the last financial year, the CDS has contributed \$543 to our coffers. Thanks to our members and the public for choosing to donate their refund to us and for taking the time to recycle drink containers. Our earnings over the last year will go some way toward meeting the costs of this year's work on Five Mile Creek.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

September 14 @7.30 pm in Lancefield Mechanics Institute Annex, all the committee positions will be declared vacant including: President, Secretary and Treasurer - DCLG was one of the earliest Landcare Groups in Victoria and has been active for over 30 years. New committee members will ensure ongoing success for the future years.

A guest speaker will be in attendance. Food and drinks provided. Please RSVP for catering purposes.

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.





I JUST LOVE THIS TIME OF THE YEAR

Don't know about you but I just love this time of the year as we move into Spring - Jonquils hanging on and daffodils dancing happily in the sunshine and breeze. A good time to reflect on August events at your Hall and I hope you managed to get along and join with others within our community and surrounding districts because there was a great mix on offer:

It was so pleasing to join with an almost full house of enthusiastic patrons of all ages for our *Silent Movie* evening on August 8 - we even had a chap from Florence (yup, Italy) come along and enjoy the evening - lots of laughter, great supporting music accompaniment from the Sounds of Silent.

Deep Creek Landcare Groups *Bush Dance* celebrating the groups 40th birthday - was a great evening (sell-out) so hope you got along and enjoyed this event and supported this important community group so they can continue to make a positive impact within our community.

We also had the pleasure to host the second appearance of Savoy Opera at LMI this year, with their performance of the 'The Yeomen of the Guard' (aka 'The Merryman and His Maid') - a very enjoyable afternoon of Gilbert and Sullivan indeed with this wonderful group of performers. Hope you joined Colonel Fairfax in his plan to secretly marry Elsie (for the short term!) whilst incarcerated and pull off a miraculous

escape from the Tower of London avoiding execution, and the chaos that followed.

A Patch of Lancefield held a successful destash event for all the patchworkers, quilters, craftswomen, sewists and inheritors/collectors of related stuff! How lucky are we to have such a much loved, beautiful and flexible venue in our town where enthusiastic, innovative and talented people can put on events, performances and activities for us all to enjoy and participate in. I just love to see the positive outcomes this brings - increasing community participation, building community connectedness and involvement and fostering an endearing village life. I dips my lid and say thank you to those in our community who, late last century embraced the Mechanic's Institute concept and opened the doors to the Hall in 1878; and extend the same to all the volunteer committee members who have continued the great work for over 150 years, ensuring the Hall has remained a centre piece of our town's life. This work goes on - please contact me if you would like to play an active role in this continuing story!

You may have noticed some activity going on in our waste wheelie bin fenced area along The Crescent - these works are part of the Town Emergency Resilience Plan, initiated and being driven by the Lancefield Neighbourhood House in cooperation with the LMI Committee of Management -

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should be completed by the end of August/early September.

I am also very pleased to advise that we are currently purchasing 160 new padded chairs for use throughout the complex - these will not only replace all the existing chairs (they sure have served their time!) but will also increase the total number of available chairs for larger events.

EVENTS TO PLAN FOR:

Please come along and support our fundraiser - raising funds for the upkeep and ongoing maintenance and operation of our town's iconic historic hall!!

Trivia night & memorabilia live auction - Friday, 11-September at the Lancefield Hotel.

Tickets @ <https://www.thelancefieldhotel.com.au>

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 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
- MOVING MEDITATION on Friday evenings - annex

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER

- Tuesday 1 (afternoon), Kitchen usage
- Friday 4 (morning), SENSORY PLAY sessions
 - (afternoon), CWA QUILTING activity
 - (evening), MEDITATION class - annex
- Saturday 5, Macedon Rangers Soccer Club Trivia Event
- Monday 7 (afternoon), LMI Committee monthly meeting - annex (all day), Kitchen usage
- Friday 11 (morning), SENSORY PLAY sessions
- Saturday 12 (evening), St MARYS 'DISCO
- Monday 14 (evening), Upper Deep Creek LANDCARE AGM/monthly meeting - annex
- Tuesday 15 (afternoon), Kitchen usage
- Friday 18 (morning), SENSORY PLAY sessions
- Sunday 20 (afternoon), Private event
- Monday 21 (all day), Kitchen usage
- Tuesday 22, Preparation for Community Luncheon -
- Wednesday 23, Community Luncheon at Lancefield
- Friday 25 (morning), CWA monthly meeting - annex
 - (evening), MEDITATION class - annex
 - (evening), Lancefield OLD TIME DANCE
- Saturday 26, Little Treasures Indoor Market
- Tuesday 29 (afternoon), Kitchen usage

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT:

John Severson, President and Booking Officer,
Email: lancefieldhall@gmail.com or ring 0437 313 564

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W: www.mary-annethomas.com.au

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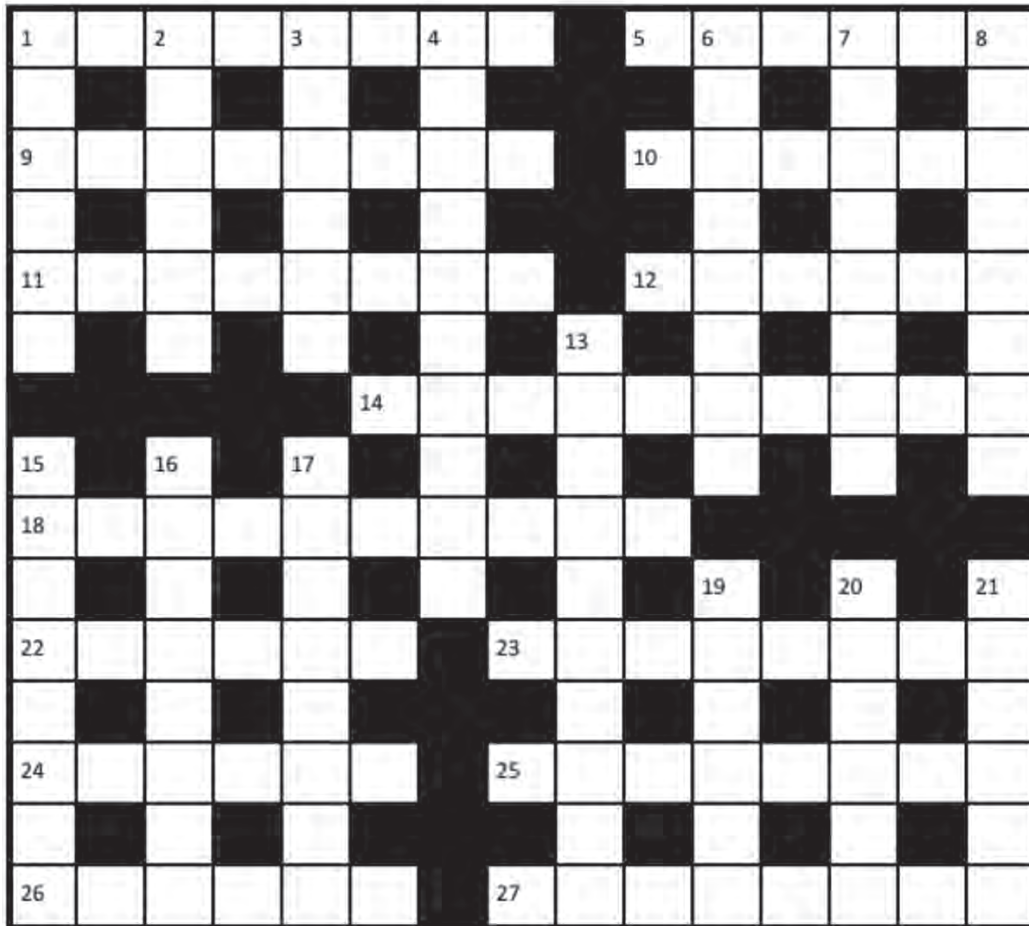
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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

NUMBER 36

By Kevin Moysey



Answers page 12

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Met in doing a reduction of rank (8) | 1 | Emend a sequence to destroy dignity (6) |
| 5 | This equals an excited sound (6) | 2 | Namely it's not nicely (6) |
| 9 | They make words useful (8) | 3 | They are probably like twenty four (6) |
| 10 | They may be needed when not on the level (6) | 4 | Counting horses instead of sheep? They aren't fun. (10) |
| 11 | Sent mail about illnesses (8) | 6 | Lining up full of vowels - five in a row in fact (8) |
| 12 | Admire forever in empty rage (6) | 7 | Components that are the basics (8) |
| 14 | For this to work there are strings attached (10) | 8 | An organ for a subscriber perhaps? (8) |
| 18 | Not to be taken at face value - like this clue (3-7) | 13 | Let down by pianist pod arrangement (10) |
| 22 | Start from deflate can still be happy (6) | 15 | A torn vine may produce an idea (8) |
| 23 | Gasp lend idea is too much for a magnificent result(8) | 16 | Sane king is creeping along (8) |
| 24 | Trial by start results in symbolic tattoo (6) | 17 | Free literate initial bear instead of two start (8) |
| 25 | It meant left-handed but sounds scary (8) | 19 | Desire to live there (6) |
| 26 | Greet with a rude opener causes remorse (6) | 20 | Made changes to a deed it composed (6) |
| 27 | Head the end date arrangement showed up (8) | 21 | Loved said a door would be shortened (6) |



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DATES

Tuesday 13th Oct - 24th Nov
(No class 3rd Nov, Melb Cup)



TIME

10am - 1:30pm



Please join us for our monthly community lunch



Next Market is on
Saturday Sep 26th

SUBSIDISED FULL FEE \$100 - For those aged 18+ who are Australian Citizens, Permanent Residents or humanitarian, protection, or refugee visa holders in Australia

SUBSIDISED CONCESSION FEE \$50 - For those listed above who possess a Health care card, pension card or gold veteran's card

FULL UNSUBSIDISED FEE \$285



Join us for an afternoon showcasing all that Lancefield has to offer to our residents. A fun, family-friendly event to connect, celebrate and build an even stronger community.

Sunday 29 November
3pm-6pm
Food, entertainment, stalls, resources

Boomerang Bags

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

Postural Alignment

Posture function and flow to improve mobility, posture and joint alignment.
Mon, Tues, Thurs 11.30am - 1 hour - \$15

Well Played Sensory

A sensory playgroup designed to engage children aged 6months-5 years and help build connections between families.

Fridays 10am at the Mechanics hall

French Conversation

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

Lancefield Jam

Any instrument, any level, or just come to listen.
Thursdays 6-8 pm Gold coin donation

Dungeons & Dragons

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

Community Singing Group

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

Yoga

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

A BUSY MONTH AHEAD

FULL OF FUN ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

ADULT PROGRAMS

Crafting Connections

New Date - Saturday 26 September, 10.30am-12.00pm
Join our friendly gathering and connect over craft. Bring your current crochet, knitting, or craft project, share tips, and learn new skills. Bookings required. New members welcome.

Movie Club at the Romsey Library

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

HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

Are you, or do you know someone, who would benefit from our Home Library Service? The Home Library Service,

provided by Goldfields Libraries, caters to individuals who aren't able to make it into their local library branch to borrow items. Once you've filled out a Home Library Application form and are a library member, we will organise regular deliveries to you with as many items of your choosing from our fiction, non-fiction, large print, talking books, DVD and magazine collections.

Who is eligible? Anyone living in the Greater Bendigo Shire, Loddon Shire, Macedon Ranges Shire, or Mount Alexander Shire who:

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- Can visit the library, but cannot carry items home due to injury, frailty or disability.
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Lancefield Mechanics Institute

Hall Bookings & Information



For enquiries regarding LMI bookings please contact the Booking Officer on 0437 313 564 or via email to lancefieldhall@gmail.com



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Tues	6.00am - 5.30pm
Wed	6.00am - 5.30pm
Thurs	6.00am - 5.30pm
Fri	6.00am - 5.30pm
Sat	7.00am - 3.30pm
Sun	7.00am - 3.30pm

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CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Spring School Holidays

The Spring School Holidays are fast approaching, and our exciting School Holiday Program will be available soon! Get ready for a range of fun activities for all ages. Stay tuned and visit our website www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au to be the first to secure your spot.

After School Stem Club

Our popular after school STEM Club is running once more on the following dates in September; Thursday 3, 10 and 17, 4-5 PM. Suitable for ages 8 – 12 years; we will create strong structures using set materials, make a marble run, a catapult and parachutes. Bookings required. Please contact staff to check availability.

Tea & Toasties Youth Event

Saturday 12 September, 10.30am-12midday

Learn how to make yummy and nutritious iced tea and healthy toasted sandwiches with a gourmet twist. Age 13+. Bookings required.

Google Workspace for beginners

Saturday 10 October, 10.30 – 11.30am

Cover the basics of accessing, using, and organising Google Workspace tools, including Google Drive, Docs, Sheets and Slides, for personal, everyday use. Learn the tools for creating a shared family shopping list on 'Docs', a photo book on 'Slides', a budget spreadsheet on 'Sheets' and organising these documents all through 'Drive'. Please bring along your Gmail login details to the session.

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



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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

CURRENT MASS TIMES

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

Sunday Mass will be celebrated each Sunday morning 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

Thursday 9:30am at Romsey Church except for the fourth Thursday which will be celebrated at Romsey Aged Care at 10:30am.

Friday 9:30am at Lancefield Church

BAPTISMS

Baptisms are held on the first Sunday of the month at 2:30pm.

Please contact the office for the next available dates.

RECONCILIATION

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

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

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.

2027 SACRAMENTS

Registration is now open for Sacraments due to be celebrated in 2027.

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

Reconciliation available to Yr 3 and above, Holy Communion available to Yr 4 and above and Confirmation available to Yr 6 and above.

Sacrament fee for 2027 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

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INAUGURAL YOUTH COUNCIL

Macedon Ranges Shire Council congratulates the nine young leaders appointed to its inaugural Youth Council. Representing communities across all three wards, these Youth Councillors will play an important role in ensuring the voices of young people are heard and reflected in local decision- making.

Council also congratulates Shiloh, elected as the first

Youth Mayor, and Matilda, elected as Youth Deputy Mayor. Together with their fellow Youth Councillors, they will help shape initiatives, advocate for young people and contribute fresh ideas that will strengthen the future of the Macedon Ranges.

We look forward to supporting their leadership journey and the positive impact they will have across our community.



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AQUATIC MICRO FAUNA - CRITTER #3 IN THE SERIES

EPHEMEROPORUS BARROISI

Ephemeroporus barroisi is a tiny freshwater cladoceran (water flea) belonging to the Family Chydoridae, and its ecological importance stems primarily from its role as an ecosystem bioindicator and a critical link in freshwater food webs. This tiny animal tends to be slightly oval, almost round in shape, measuring roughly 0.25 to 0.35 mm in length.

The species is broadly cosmopolitan across the globe, distributed across Mediterranean, European, Asian, and regional southern-hemisphere localities (like Australian tarns/ponds), preferring transparent, very weakly mineralized, and clean freshwater habitats. They are found in both permanent water bodies (such as small reservoirs or stable ponds) and temporary/seasonal aquatic habitats like temporary lagoons.

In Australia, they are classified as a cosmopolitan species, thriving across all global zoogeographical regions except Antarctica. Within Australia, it is commonly found in the vegetated littoral zones of shallow lakes, temporary ponds, wetlands, and rivers.

Their ecological importance is that they navigate heavy aquatic vegetation, feeding on detritus and microscopic algae while acting as a critical food source for larval fish.

Importance within inland waters: As a localized and substrate-associated species, it provides critical insights into water quality and environmental stability within temporary water bodies, shallow lakes, man-made water bodies, wetlands, and rivers

As a bioindicator of Water Quality and Land Use, its Pasture and Land Impact, for example: It acts as a specific indicator of moderate pasture levels and landscape degradation in surrounding terrestrial environments. By its presence, its sensitivity to conditions shifts predictably based on vital abiotic drivers like water temperature, pH,

conductivity, and dissolved oxygen; as an indicator of Ecosystem Health: tracking *E. barroisi* populations helps scientists map human-driven changes in tropical and temperate freshwater systems without relying on broad, less-accurate assemblage patterns.

As Primary Consumers: they consume microalgae, bacteria, and organic detritus, turning basic nutrients into high-protein biomass.

As a Prey Source: they serve as a foundational food source for larval fish, macroinvertebrates, and amphibians.

As a Biofilm Regulation: as substrate-associated scrapers, they help control the growth of periphyton and biofilms on aquatic plants.

In terms of Microhabitat Stabilization -

- **Macrophyte (aquatic vegetation) Dependence:** They heavily populate the littoral zones and aquatic macrophyte beds of shallow lakes, permanent lagoons, and temporary wetlands.
- **Niche Diversity:** By occupying the narrow physical boundaries (the littoral zone) of lake margins, they help maximize biodiversity in vulnerable shoreline ecosystems.

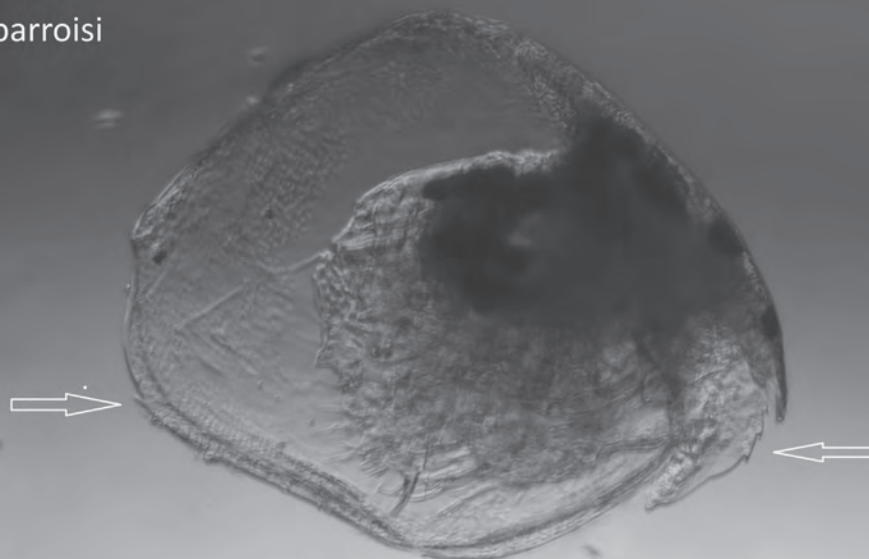
As Biodiversity Reservoirs

- **Egg Banks:** *E. barroisi* produces resilient dormant eggs (ephippia) that embed in the sediment, forming egg banks.
- **Resilience:** These egg banks act as a biodiversity reservoir, allowing the aquatic community to rapidly rebuild after severe droughts or seasonal drying, when these water bodies refill with water.

So, spare a thought for these tiny creatures, plus what else maybe present, the next time you look at, or pass, a body of freshwater.

Rob Walsh

Ephemeroporus cf. barroisi



LANCEFIELD BOWLING CLUB

EXTRA TEAM?

There's strong chance Lancefield Bowling Club will field an additional pennant team in the coming season. The club has gained several new players for 2026-27, and it appears there will be sufficient bowlers available to field four teams, spread across Saturday and mid-week competition. Recently appointed coach Garry Templar, who spent the past six seasons coaching at Romsey, is pleased to take up the role at Lancefield, where he resides not far from the bowling club.

Last season Romsey won its first-ever top-grade Saturday premiership, beating favourite Kyneton in the grand final with extra ends needed to determine the result.

Lancefield, building on the social atmosphere, has already arranged practice matches against Seymour VRI, Kilmore and Woodend in September.

The club's official opening day for the season was Saturday, August 30, at 1pm - 'Meet the Coach', with afternoon tea provided and all were welcome.

Bill West

PROBUS CLUB

ENJOYING THE COMPANY

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.

The Tasmanian trip planned for 2027 is now fully booked and a 4-day trip in October 2027 is currently in the planning stages. This trip will be a tour of Melbourne and some of its many attractions. The club is continuing to visit local venues for our outings with our latest being the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Trentham. It gave members the opportunity to explore the town and enjoy a meal together.

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.

President: Ken Colson 0404467125

Secretary: Lorraine Robb 0407349144

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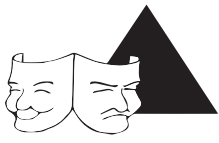
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THE MOUNT
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HAPPENINGS

ON A HIGH

Our August production, After-Light, wound up on a high and we were proud of being able to provide the opportunity to everyone in this original show. Thanks to both Zac and Tom, writer and musical director, for their passion and commitment in bringing their creation to life.

Time keeps moving on, and our last show for the year is already in full rehearsal! A David Williamson classic, Money and Friends, will run its season throughout November. First time Director to The Mount Players, Deborah Fabbro brings a vast amount of experience having worked across theatres in Melbourne for many years and has also enjoyed being one of our valued patrons. She is very excited to be a part of TMP 2026 season.

Our 2027 season launch will be held in October and feature presentations from each of our four directors, along with the opportunity to socialise with others over nibbles and drinks. A lovely evening to be a part of with a chance to engage and ask questions about each production. For full details on the evening, our next show and indeed all things theatre go to www.themountplayers.com.

See you at the theatre!

Karen Hunt

ENCOURAGE CHURCH

ONE DAY IN SEPTEMBER

It's footy finals time, a time when we can go a little footy crazy. Footy colors will go up around town and kids will have footy colors day at school. On Grand Final Day we essentially form three groups - those supporting team A, team B or those who don't mind which team wins. It's a bit like that with God: we essentially form three groups - there are those of us who believe, those of us who don't believe and those who don't know. But what if you don't have enough information yet?

Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that he was born, died and rose from the dead - therefore proving to us that he is the Son of God and that there is life after death. Romans 10:9 states, "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Christians also believe that God provides us with peace, wisdom and guidance as we navigate life's challenges.

There are Christians who play AFL (and other sports), including Gary Ablett Jr who said when winning the 2013 Brownlow Medal, "Most of all I want to thank God, because without him I couldn't be up here tonight." So this September, consider if you want to join "team Jesus" by accepting him as your personal Lord and Savior.

You're welcome to any Sunday morning at Encourage Church, our services start at 10am and we can answer questions you have about "team Jesus".

CITIZEN SCIENCE - DEEP CREEK BIOLINK

Tuesday 29 September 2026 11am to 12pm.

Join Macedon Ranges Shire Council Biodiversity Officer Jaclyn Harris and Deep Creek Landcare group for this walk and talk at Doggetts Bridge Streamside Reserve, Lancefield.

Participants will take part in eDNA sampling to understand the fauna living in the waterway and it will also be an opportunity to learn about the Deep Creek Biolink project and how you can get involved.

Registrations are essential. For more information visit: mrsc.vic.gov.au/Environment-Events

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Scams Awareness Week

We recently had scams awareness week, but it is something that you should be aware of every day. Keeping our community safe from scammers is very important to Bendigo Bank and we have some great tips on our website. Our advice: **Stop. Think. Protect.**



Anish Paudel (standing) presenting a free Banking Safely Online session with the Lancefield Men's Shed.

Stop: don't give money or personal information if you're unsure. **Think:** could this message be fake? **Protect:** If it feels wrong, act quickly. Remember, we will never ask you for your PIN, password or one-time code, so if someone does, hang up. If you are unsure about a link or a message, call us direct on Lancefield 5429 1977, Romsey 5429 5526, or Bendigo Bank on 1300 236 344 and ask.

Our Senior Branch Manager Anish Paudel has been running free Banking Safely Online sessions with local groups, including a recent visit to the Lancefield Men's Shed. Want one for your group? Get in touch with our branch team.

Pop into either branch for a free copy of the ACCC's Little Book of Scams, or find more scam awareness information at www.bendigobank.com.au/security/

Community Investment Program: where the banking profits go

Since Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey opened its doors, we've returned more than **\$3.9 million** to our local community through grants, sponsorships, scholarships and donations. It's what makes our banking different: your everyday banking profits stay right here in Lancefield and Romsey, funding the projects, clubs and causes that matter to you.

From the new Romsey Skatepark to business networking events and support for our many sporting clubs, it all starts with a local group's idea, and our funding to back it in.

Applications for our 2026 Community Investment Program are open now and close **Sunday 20 September**. We're looking for projects that build community spaces, and support youth, sport, creativity and services for our growing towns. Apply online at **communitybanklancefieldromsey.smartygrants.com.au**

Planning something bigger than \$30,000? Contact Lauren Harrison on cip@lrcfsl.com.au before you apply, so we can help you put your best case forward.

Spring events we're proud to sponsor

With the weather warming up, here's a few of the events we're proud to support this spring:

- Saturday 5 September: Fishing for Mental Health
- Sunday 20 September: Pub to Pub Fun Run
- Friday 25 September: Romsey Bowling Club Open Fours Grand Final Eve Tournament
- Saturday 10 October: Dirty Docker Festival
- Sunday 25 October: Lancefield Romsey Lions Club Swapmeet
- Saturday 14 November: Community Bank Lancefield Gift

If you're attending any of these events, keep an eye out for our team and say hello!

Community Bank · Lancefield and Romsey

20A High Street Lancefield VIC 3435

p 5429 1977 e lancefieldmailbox@bendigoadelaide.com.au

bendigobank.com.au/lancefield



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FATHER'S DAY MORNING TEA

We will be having morning tea at the Cemetery on Sunday September 6 between 9.30am - 11.30am. If you are visiting a loved one on the day or have any questions about the cemetery, our trust members will be in attendance to assist you.

POSITIVE RESPONSE TO WORKING BEES

Due to the positive response from the public to our previous working bee, we have decided to lock some dates in for the rest of the year. For those that are interested in lending a hand, jobs will include weeding, raking, pruning, picking up rubbish and a general tidy up, morning tea will also be provided.

As the Cemetery is maintained by a volunteer committee, we are hoping to get more people involved to assist with these jobs and help with the maintenance of our beautiful Cemetery and valuable community asset. Even if you can only spare an hour or two, we would look forward to seeing you on any of the below dates.

Working Bee Dates - (weather dependant)

Sunday 18 October at 10am

Sunday 13 December at 10am



MEMORIAL CHAPEL AND NICHE WALL

Installation of a new Niche Wall for interment of ashes has just been completed. We would like to thank the Community Bendigo Bank Lancefield Romsey for their generous donation towards this much needed addition to our Cemetery.



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Building work and most of the repairs have been completed, including plumbing and electrical upgrades. The new entrance and seating area is awaiting the addition of stairs and access ramp; we are hoping to have this completed as soon as final plans are signed off and the weather improves. Then we will move onto painting the interior and exterior and

reinstall the bell tower that has been restored for us by the Lancefield Men's Shed. We hope to have this all completed by the end of November, then start on the landscaping and paving areas around the chapel over the summer months.

Any enquiries can be made to our Secretary on 0477 092 946 or lancefieldcemeterytrust@gmail.com

You're invited!

LANCEFIELD RESIDENTS DAY

Our community. Our town. Our future.

Join us for an afternoon showcasing all that Lancefield has to offer to our residents. A fun, family-friendly event to connect, celebrate and build an even stronger community.

Fun for the whole family!

- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- KIDS ACTIVITIES
- FOOD

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29TH 2026

3PM - 6PM

LANCEFIELD MECHANICS HALL AND THE CRESCENT

Bringing our community together
Come along, have fun, meet your neighbours and discover the amazing groups, businesses and opportunities right here in Lancefield.

HISTORY OF LANCEFIELD

INFORMATION TABLES

LOCAL GROUPS, BUSINESSES & ORGANISATIONS

LNH
Lancefield Neighbourhood House

Provided brought to you by the Lancefield Neighbourhood House.
Created by the community, for the community.
03 5429 1214
events@lancefieldhouse.org.au

Supported by **Community Bank** Lancefield and Romsey

Supported by **Macedon Ranges** Shire Council

LANCEFIELD CRICKET CLUB

JUNIOR PLAYERS

\$50 Season Fees

Playing shirt & club kit provided

Under 11 Mixed (Friday night)
Under 13 Girls (Friday night)
Under 13 Boys (Saturday morning)
Under 15 Girls (Friday night)
Under 15 Boys (Saturday morning)
Under 18 Girls (Friday night)

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