

Lancefield Mercury

COUNTDOWN BEGINS FOR THE 2026 LANCEFIELD AGRICULTURAL SHOW

The heart of the Macedon Ranges is gearing up for a spectacular celebration of country life as the Lancefield Agricultural Show returns to Lancefield Park on Sunday, October 18.

Promising fields of fun for attendees of all ages, the gates will open from 9:30am to 4pm for a jam-packed day of classic agricultural competitions, family entertainment, and local showcases. This year's show is expected to draw thousands of visitors from across Victoria.

The hard-working committee is most excited about this year's show. They are organising a show that blends long-standing regional traditions with ►



2026 AGRICULTURAL SHOW

fresh attractions. They have been very fortunate to have welcomed many new committee members, including two locals dedicated to bringing all of the Equestrian events back. If you would like to find out more about the entering equestrian events, please go to our website and follow the prompts.

Attendees can also look forward to a massive line-up of crowd favourites, including the high-powered tractor pull, the exhilarating dog high jump, and traditional yard dog trials. For those fascinated by historic timber sports, Central Victorian Axemen's Association will be back again hosting a major woodchop event featuring a Victoria Title event, open competitions, and the crowd-favorites tree felling disciplines.

Inside the historic Laurie Green Pavilion, the competitive



spirit is already building. Local artisans, bakers, and growers are preparing their best submissions for the home crafts pavilion, with entries across cooking, crafts, and produce officially closing on Wednesday, October 14, 2026. If you



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would like to get involved, you can access the homecrafts schedule on our website or pick one up from the Lancefield Bakery.

This year there will be more attractions and demonstrations than ever before. You can expect a Jaws of life demonstration provided by the Kilmore SES, have a go at whip cracking, cheer on the ferrets in their races or join a dance class with Boot Sync Line dancing or The Lancefield

Old time dance.

There will be a kids' section full of lots of free kid's activities provided by local clubs and organisations, and also a carnival section full of rides, showbags and show food. You'll also be able to enjoy the many thrilling tricks of Motorcross stunt men throughout the day.

There really is something for everyone at this year's show, so we are so looking forward to welcoming you.

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AMONG THE THREADS AT THE DE-STASH

Along with other quilters, sewers and craftswomen from Lancefield, Romsey and other local towns, I was very excited to take part in the Town De-stash on Sunday 30 August. The local quilt group, A Patch of Lancefield, hosted the day in the Lancefield Mechanics' Institute Annex and the thirty or more tables all had an incredible variety of goods to sell.

When I arrived to set up at around 8.30 am, women were wheeling or carrying in boxes and tubs of fabric. The feeling in the room was one of excitement and anticipation. The doors were due to open at 10.00 am and until that time, we all sorted our fabrics and other goodies to make an enticing presentation.

As so many of us said, by the time we all wandered around looking at the fabrics, the knitting wool and knitting needles, crochet blankets (works of art!), and assorted items such as



blankets, laces and dress patterns, many of us had purchased from our fellow stallholders! It was nice to be in amongst the threads, seeing what others were doing creatively. There were quilters, knitters, crocheters and more. So much for my de-stash! I have to admit that I came home with three pieces of dressmaking fabric I could not resist! But, what the heck, it was a great day, and I did come home with a little less of my own fabric and haberdashery!

Congratulations to the Patch of Lancefield and well done for putting on this event. They will be holding their second Town De-stash in two years' time.

Fay Woodhouse




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RANGERS READY FOR MORE

Macedon Rangers Soccer Club is now welcoming expressions of interest for players, paid Senior coaches, and volunteers in 2027, as the club puts a bow on a successful and enjoyable 2026 season.

Based at Romsey Oval 2 and with matches played in north/west Metro Melbourne competitions from April - September, the club fielded 9 teams and close to 140 players in total this year across non-competitive Miniroos teams (for girls and boys aged 11 or under), competitive Junior teams (ages 12 and up) where proper rules such as offside come into play, and competitive Senior Men's and Women's teams for the second and first year respectively.

Club President, Matt Bender, said the club came close to its first flags this season through the second-placed U/14 Girls and Senior Women, but that all teams improved and most importantly bought into the club's mantra of inclusivity and respect.

"We celebrate when our teams get a win, score a goal or keep a clean sheet, but the most satisfying results are more in the smiles and the positive feedback we get from our players, volunteers and parents," he said. "Whether you're a seasoned player or you've never kicked a ball competitively before, we'd welcome new or returning faces for next season on the pitch, as well as anyone willing to contribute in some way off it."

The Rangers are continuing to advocate for much-needed



upgrades at Romsey Oval 2 such as lighting and an improved playing surface, as outlined in the Council-endorsed precinct master plan and supported by Football Victoria.

Visit the Rangers' website (www.macedonrangerssoccerclub.com.au) or follow the club on Facebook for the latest information, and for links to submit an expression of interest for 2027.



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LANCEFIELD COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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

ASSOCIATION DAY A SUCCESS

Our Association Day, on September 4, was very successful. It was well attended and very informative. As well, folk commented on the wonderful afternoon tea. A very BIG thank you must be extended to Tracy for pulling it all together. Her quilts were beautiful works of art. Hopefully her examples may inspire other folk to take up this wonderful craft. Thanks again Tracy, your efforts were much appreciated.

We held our meat raffle on Friday September 18. Funds raised will be distributed to a variety of local causes. A *Big Thankyou* to the management and staff at the Lancefield Hotel for their continued support, it is much appreciated.

You may find interesting that at the start of each branch meeting those present recite the Collect of the Country Women's Association. Here are three of the many statements in the collect. Over the next few editions, I will put the remainder in. Maybe these are worth at times reflecting upon.

'May we put away all pretence and meet each other face to face without self-pity and prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgement and always generous.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straight forward and unafraid."

Unfortunately, Canada has been experiencing severe wildfires across nine of the ten provinces and all three territories. There has been a total of 5,248 fires, more than 24,000 folk were evacuated and tragically 5 deaths have occurred. Officials said flames were so high that they had created their own weather systems which created lightning. Sound familiar? We can certainly appreciate their situation.

Did you attempt the last recipe? Personally, I replaced the regular potato with a sweet potato, and I thought that it was even better.

Our next meeting is on the fourth Friday of the month in the annex of the Mechanics Institute at 10.30. Everyone is very welcome to attend.

Maybelle Briggs
Publicity Officer

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 – Jack McPherson

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



Editorial Committee:

Andy Moore

Craig Longmuir

Fay Woodhouse

Ken Allender

Julianne Graham

Beth Child

Jack McPherson

Editorial Enquiries to
Andy Moore 0430 448 120

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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.

CELEBRATE BEING SENIOR

Running from 1-31 October, this year's Seniors Festival theme, "Connect. Create. Celebrate.", encourages older people to enjoy new experiences, build connections and celebrate their contributions to the community.

Council is offering a range of free events and activities throughout October, including:

Come & Try activities during the first two weeks of the festival.

Coach trips to a Castlemaine concert featuring Dannielle De Andrea and a safari bus tour at Werribee Open Range Zoo (lunch at own cost). Coach pick-up and drop-off available from Gisborne, Woodend, Romsey and Kyneton.

Young Chefs, Golden Guests Lunch, a special intergenerational two-course lunch hosted in partnership with Braemar College.

Entertainment in Aged Care, with live performances visiting aged care facilities across the shire.

For the full program and bookings, call 5422 0333 or email villageconnect@mrsc.vic.gov.au

NET SWAP PROGRAM

Making your backyard safer for wildlife is as simple as changing your fruit tree netting. In Victoria, netting on household fruit trees must have a mesh size of less than 5mm x 5mm at full stretch. Larger mesh sizes can entangle and injure birds, bats and other native animals.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council are taking part in the Net Swap Program in partnership with the Victorian Conservation Regulator. This program gives residents the opportunity to surrender illegal household fruit tree netting and receive one legal, wildlife-safer alternative at no cost (limited stocks apply). Visit our website: mrsc.vic.gov.au/backyard-biodiversity for more information.



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MOVIE CLUB AT THE ROMSEY LIBRARY

Join us on the second Wednesday of the month (October 14) from 10.30am.

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.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Join us for a very special nature themed Storytime that includes a walk to the Ecotherapy park and a story in the Storytime chair. Saturday Storytime

Saturday October 17, 10am – 10:30



Don't forget our regular Saturday Storytimes are on the third Saturday of the month. Ages 0 – 6 years. No Bookings required.

PLAYWORK

Saturday October 24, 10am – 11:30

Join us for an open-ended and exploratory play session. Using large loose parts, children are given freedom to safely take risks during an imaginative, dramatic play time. Ages 3 – 6 years. Limited spots. Bookings are required.

UPCOMING CLOSURES AT THE LIBRARY

Tuesday November 3 Cup Day Holiday

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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MACEDON RANGES SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

IS YOUR ELECTRICITY BILL SHOOTING UP? LOOKING TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

Here's a true story of a local who found a much better deal through the Victorian Government Compare Energy website.

David recently reached the end of a 2-year contract with an electricity retailer. He had been paying: Daily supply charge (DSC) \$1.00, plus flat rate 23 cents/kWh, with Controlled Load Rate (CLR) (for electric hot water systems) 17 cents/kWh. David's new contract from that retailer came with much higher rates.

David had had enough! He visited the <https://compare.energy.vic.gov.au/> website. Look at the rates for his new contract with a different retailer: DSC \$1.11 (11% up on old contract), plus flat rate 21.95 cents/kWh (9.5% down on old contract) with CLR 13 cents/kWh (23% down on old contract).

Overall, David's new deal is significantly lower than his previous 'good' contract with his original retailer!

So, it really pays to regularly check if your electricity plan is the best for you. If comparing electricity plans is not something you're confident in doing, Bright Sparks volunteers are here to help. Friendly, knowledgeable, local volunteers from the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group are available to meet with residents to help interpret bills and suggest other practical ways of lowering energy costs.

You can book a free 30-minute Bright Sparks session with a volunteer at locations around the shire. Choose a place and time from the list below and call 0415 821 481 to book your spot.

BRIGHT SPARKS SESSIONS

Gisborne Library Tuesday 6 October 11 am – 1pm

Woodend Neighbourhood House First and third Tuesday/
month 10 am – 12 noon

Malmsbury Pub Friday 23 October 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Kyneton Library Monday 21 September 11 am – 1 pm

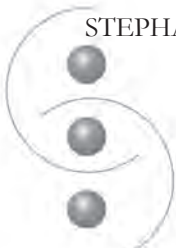
During your session, you will receive a free 28-page Electrification Home Planner plus details of a community Bulk Buy of Australia's own Reclaim hot water heat pump, offering a \$550 discount. You can also book a free kitchen-table energy consultation in your home with a knowledgeable volunteer by calling 0415 821 481 or emailing emr@mrsg.org.au with your contact details.

MACEDON RANGES SUSTAINABILITY GROUP 2026 AGM

The Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group (MRSG) will hold its 2026 Annual General Meeting on Saturday 17 October, bringing local residents together to reflect on another year of community-led sustainability action and to look ahead to the challenges and opportunities facing the region. The AGM will run from 3pm to 5pm at Norma Richardson Hall, Woodend, followed by light refreshments.

This year's AGM features guest speaker Professor Lauren Rickards, one of Australia's leading experts on climate change impacts, adaptation and resilience. Professor Rickards is Chair of Climate Change Adaptation and Director of the Climate Change Adaptation Lab at La Trobe University, and has worked extensively across agriculture, water, health, education, emergency management and regional development. An internationally recognised scholar and Lead Author for the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, she brings deep insight into how climate change is reshaping communities and what meaningful adaptation looks like in practice.

The AGM is an inperson event, and all community members are welcome. Registration, agenda, proxy forms and committee nomination details are available at mrsg.org.au/agm.



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THE LIFE AND TIMES OF FRANK 'SILVER' CAINE - LOCAL FOOTBALLER

While local historians may claim that Ike Johnston was Lancefield's greatest footballer at club level, his team-mate from that era, Frank 'Silver' Caine, is, to date, Lancefield's most successful player at the elite VFL level. Until very recently, apart from his football career, details of the life of this local hero have been sketchy. In an astounding instance of synchronicity, Rob Lakin, acting President of the Historical Society, has located a number of family items which fill in some of the gaps in Caine's life.

Frank Caine was born on 28 July 1881 in Murtoa. Under the care of his foster mother, Martha Gregory Hill, he settled in Lancefield in 1903 when Martha purchased the Macedonia Hotel. Frank, a tall, statuesque man of 6 ft (183 cm) weighing 13 stone (84kg), was known as 'Silver' due to his prematurely greying hair. Reports in the Lancefield Mercury reveal that Frank Caine enjoyed a strong presence in his hometown of Lancefield. One of his non-football interests and achievements was winning prizes at the Kilmore show for his thoroughbred horse.

Caine was one of four trophy winners for the club's Gold

Medal in season 1904 for his 'all round play'. Prior to his recruitment to Carlton in 1905, Frank Caine, along with several other players, was nominated to the committee at the Club's Annual General meeting in 1905. Frank was a 'journeyman' footballer and played for Romsey and Darraweit Guim because local associations would not allow Lancefield to join the Gisborne District Association. When he played for VFL clubs, he continued to play for the country teams.

'Silver' Caine's interest in Lancefield football obviously remained strong despite his commitments in the VFL at Carlton. When the Lancefield Club formed a committee in 1909 after a two-year recess of formal competition football, he was nominated to the committee who made efforts to join the Gisborne District Association. Letters were sent to the Romsey, Sunbury, Riddell, Gisborne, Macedon and New Gisborne clubs 'with a view of forming an association' adding, as an incentive, that 'Mr. Caine was of the opinion that Kilmore was willing to throw in its lot with Lancefield'. Despite the obvious influence of Caine, their admission to

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the Gisborne District Association was refused: the Macedon Club, claimed the distance was 'too far to travel'.

Caine's attachment to his local district and his love of footy was clear. In 1909 he represented Lancefield in the Gisborne District Association against the Metropolitan Police Team and appears in the team photograph taken in front of the Melbourne Cricket Club members stand. Caine also appears in the 1910 Lancefield Premiership Team

photograph. In August 1911 he played in a premiership deciding game for Darraweit Guim.

Caine's football career in Melbourne commenced in 1905 with the Rose of Northcote. His career milestones include playing for the VFL for Carlton (1905, 1906, 1907, 1908 and 1909), North Melbourne (1910 and 1911) and Essendon (1912, 1913, 1914). He eventually retired on the eve of World War One.

Before retiring, his foster mother, Martha Hill, sold the Macedonia Hotel in Lancefield and in 1913, bought the Town Hall Hotel in Melbourne. Frank lived at the hotel and managed it until Martha died in 1928. He remained at the Hotel until his death.

Frank Caine died on 19 January 1930, a shock to all those who knew him, although he had been ill for a short time prior to his death. Because of his spectacular career as a footballer, his death was noted in two Melbourne newspapers. On Saturday 25 January 1930 the Australasian and the Emerald Hill Record wrote that Frank Caine: 'was one of the four best forwards that has played the game in the last 40 years, and there has never been his equal as a punt kick... He was a lovable character and gifted with a fine sense of humour.'

Recent research has uncovered more about the life of 'Silver' Caine. At the forthcoming AGM of the Historical Society on 25 October, details of this exciting research will be revealed. The second part of Frank Caine's story will also be published in a forthcoming edition of the Lancefield Mercury.

Fay Woodhouse

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MASSES CONTINUE TO BE CELEBRATED

In an effort to sustain services throughout the Macedon Ranges, the parishes of St. Ambrose – Woodend, St. Mary's - Lancefield & Romsey and St. Brigids – Gisborne, Riddells Creek and Macedon, have come together under the guidance of Parish Priest, Fr. John Healy, along with newly appointed Assistant Priest, Fr. Peter Hoang to ensure Masses continue to be celebrated in all six towns.

Welcome to our new Assistant Priest – Fr. Peter Hoang. Fr. Peter has recently joined St. Mary's Parish after being Assistant Priest in Sunshine. We are delighted to have him onboard.



MASS TIMES:

Saturday 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.

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

Thursday 9:30am at Romsey Church except for the fourth Thursday.

Fourth Thursday Mass will be celebrated at Romsey Aged

Care at 10:30am.

Friday 9:30am at Lancefield Church.

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

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.

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

For funeral arrangements, please contact: Fr. John on 0439 033 750 or by email at john.healy@cam.org.au

NEW DOG AND CAT RULES

Council adopted its Dog and Cat Order 2026 in August, with the new rules taking effect from 1 October 2026 replacing Council's Dog and Cat Order 2019 and updates dog off-leash areas, conditions and prohibited areas across the shire.

Key changes include extended morning off-leash access along part of the Campaspe River Walk in Kyneton, updated

arrangements at Campaspe Park and Woodend Racecourse Reserve, some locations returning to on-leash use and additional waterways listed as prohibited areas for dogs and cats to help protect the environment.

To learn more and view the Dog and Cat Order 2026, visit www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/dogs

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A PATCH OF LANCEFIELD DESTASH SUCCESS

The major news this month is about our first DeStash, held on Sunday August 30 in the Mechanics Institute. It was very successful – the doors opened at 10.00, the hordes descended at 10.05 and didn't stop until just after midday. Much shopping was done. The afternoon was quieter, but we had a steady trickle of shoppers until we closed up.

There were 25 stallholders, some with single tables, some with longer stalls, all piled with wonderful goodies: mostly fabric, fat quarters, lengths, scraps; some with haberdashery and yarns and notions; one with three large tubs labelled "Fill a Bag for \$2.00" (that was me).

At one point, about an hour into the day, it was hard to move easily through the crowd – just what we wanted!

Several stallholders expressed interest in coming to the next DeStash, which we are thinking of holding in 2028,

alternating years with our biennial Quilt Show in 2027. At least two stallholders, most of whom were not local, coming in from across the Macedon Ranges and beyond, said they have huge sheds and warehouse-sized storage filled with treasures they couldn't fit in the car this time around. Imagine the treats we have in store!

With thanks to John Severson, as always, for his help in the setting up, and speaking for myself, for some lovely fabrics from his stall that made their way home with me, ready to be included in my next projects.

Start sorting now so you are ready for next time – after all, there will be more goodies that we've all accumulated in the meantime.

Beth Child

COME ON A WALKING TOUR

'EXPLORING THE FOUNDATIONS OF RURAL VICTORIAN TOWNSHIPS:
A FOCUS ON KILMORE AND LANCEFIELD'

On the weekend of 3 and 4 October 2026, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria's Regional Seminar series will be hosted by the Kilmore and the Lancefield historical societies. The seminar will feature walking tours of both Kilmore and Lancefield and talks on the development of the towns' foundational institutions. Participants will discover that the nineteenth century patterns of development remain visible in our picturesque and historic towns located in the beautiful Macedon Ranges and Mitchell Shires.

When early settlers arrived in a rural or regional district, the first institutions they established were churches, schools, hospitals, banks and post offices. Sporting clubs – especially football and tennis clubs – were often at the heart of these growing townships. Railway lines transporting people and produce to Melbourne or to the border, were welcomed. Kilmore was Victoria's first inland town. Both towns thrived during the Gold Rush era. These towns, like others across Victoria, followed a similar pattern of development.

Following the Kilmore walking tour on Saturday 3 October, the Conference Dinner will be held at the Lancefield Lodge. Our after-dinner speakers will be Denis Graham and Chris Dynon who will speak about the Lancefield Football Club's long and heroic history. Sunday 4 October begins with a walking tour of Lancefield, followed by morning tea at the Mechanics' Institute Annex. A wide range of speakers will then present talks on the development of our churches, schools, banks, hospitals and clubs in our towns.

You can find out more about our weekend seminar through this link: <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/2026-hssc-regional-weekend-seminar/> and purchase tickets at this address <https://www.historyvictoria.org.au/event/exploring-the-foundations/>

Both the Kilmore and Lancefield historical societies encourage local residents to participate in this joint seminar.

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LANDCARE AT THE SHOW

Once again, the Lancefield Show provides our Deep Creek Landcare Group with the opportunity to engage with the public. We are able to inform show-goers of our activities and educate them on how we can assist them and how they can assist us to improve our natural environment.

In 2025 our theme was pollinators and the important role they play. We had a pollinators display and had our young show-goers making insect hotels to improve their backyards when they got home. This year we return to our theme from 2024; water; after all we are the Deep Creek Landcare Group. In September alone, we conducted two working bees along Five Mile Creek in Romsey.

On Sunday, October 18, once again, we will be fortunate to have Dr Robert Walsh as our special guest on show day. Mercury readers might be familiar with Rob as he has contributed a series of recent articles on aquatic microfauna or “all the life we cannot see” in our wetlands, creeks and rivers.

With his visit to the Lancefield Show two years ago, a simple idea began when Rob introduced children and adults to the fascinating microscopic creatures that live in and help maintain the health of our waterways. That small idea grew into an extraordinary community art project, bringing together more than 100 people from Lancefield, Gisborne, Sunbury, Kilmore, Kyneton and Werribee. Stitch by stitch, these talented makers transformed microscopic invertebrates into beautiful embroideries, which have now been brought together to create three remarkable quilts telling the story of the Maribyrnong catchment and the unseen creatures that keep our waterways healthy.

Come to the show and see the wonderful result at our Landcare marquees, where Rob will once again bring his microscopes and invite you to discover the tiny creatures that inspired this incredible project. From people who had



never picked up a needle and thread to highly experienced embroiderers, everyone has played a part. Three quilts, more than 100 people, two years of creativity—and one big community idea. Come celebrate what our small town can achieve!

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

Phil Severs



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COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY



Our year 6s are plotting and planning with the Men's Shed on a great project for our school. We won't give too much away except to tell you the project is called "Little Lancefield". That may give you something to think about! We are also working with some businesses in our community on this project. The year 6s will be spending some time learning some new skills at the Men's Shed during the term.

Thank you also to the Men's Shed for creating our new LPS Street Library! It's just beautiful and has been installed. Don't forget to take a look at it near the front High Street gate and also drop a book off if you have one to donate.

Recently our youngest LPS students, our amazing preps, celebrated one hundred days of school. With thanks to our parents and carers, students dressed up as 100-year-old people, with lots of walking sticks and grey hair on display! Thank you to Jenna for making this such a special and memorable day for our students.

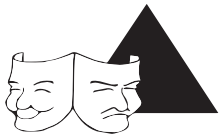
Our Lancefield School Council would like to thank the Lancefield Hotel for their wonderful support organising and running our Winter Solstice trivia night and two recent Friday night raffles. Such wonderful community support for our school and students. Funds raised will go towards supporting our ICT program and the purchase of new chromebooks and other ICT materials required for classrooms.

Our Student Council recently held a Beans and Beanies Day. Students enjoyed a delicious serve of hot baked beans and fresh bread at lunch time and wore their favourite beanie



to school. Gold coin donations were collected to support the Student Council fundraising efforts for Back Packs for Vic Kids.

(Editor's note – the snippet from the 2011 Mercury which was published last month referred to reservations that Lancefield Primary school had concerning the Men's Shed in 2011. As you can see from the above the Shed and the School share many activities)



THE MOUNT PLAYERS HAPPENINGS

DAVID WILLIAMSON'S 'MONEY AND FRIENDS'

Question: If you were financially able, would you lend a friend money to help him out of a life changing crisis?

It's the early 1990's, a time of increased financial tension for many following the crash of '89. In a pretty bay, 2 hours' drive south of Sydney, Crystal Inlet is a beachside settlement where three couples escape from the pressures of city life. A mixed bag of wealthy, self-centred, social climbers whose moral discomforts bubble to the surface and their fragility exposed when money enters the equation. Thrown into the mix are Peter and Margaret, both university lecturers, close neighbours at the inlet and very good friends. During this particular summer a series of events happened that forced the answer to the question.

Money and Friends is a sharp, social comedy about loyalty, hypocrisy and the price we put on relationships.

This is David Williamson at his best, with his trademark



funny dialogue, wry one-liners, and a storyline that remains relevant today.

The season runs from 6 – 22 November. Suitable for audiences 16+. Go to www.themountplayers.com for tickets.

We look forward to seeing you at the Mountview Theatre, Macedon.

Karen Hunt

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BUDBURST TURNS 35

What started as a local celebration for wine producers to welcome the arrival of Spring, has grown into become a landmark regional food and wine festival. Now a diary date on every wine lover's calendar, Budburst Festival returns this Spring and is proud to celebrate 35 years of showcasing the cool climate wines of the Macedon Ranges to visitors from both near and far. From little things big things do indeed grow.

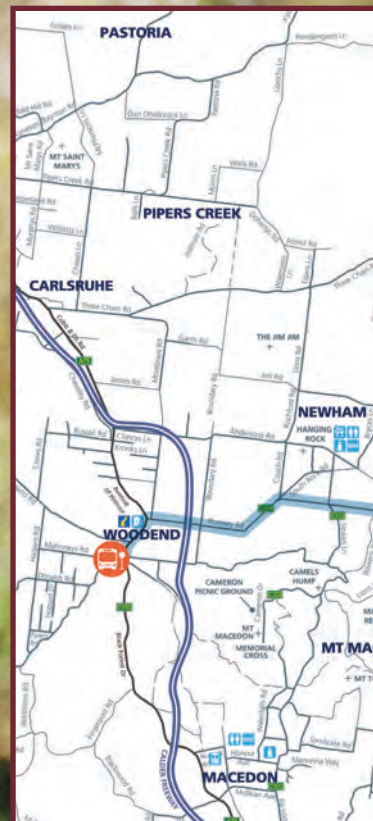
With just a handful of wineries in the early days, Budburst 2026 boasts a packed two-day festival program on November 14 and 15, with events featuring 25 winemakers, hosted by 15+ venues across the Macedon Ranges region. Budburst weekend is a rare chance to sample many artisanal producers who don't usually open their doors to the public. These smaller producers join forces with iconic cellar doors to showcase their wines, which are matched with an incredible range of delicious food, eclectic music and art throughout the weekend. Families are welcome and well catered for, with space for kids to explore, whilst their parents relax and enjoy the views. There is literally something for everyone!

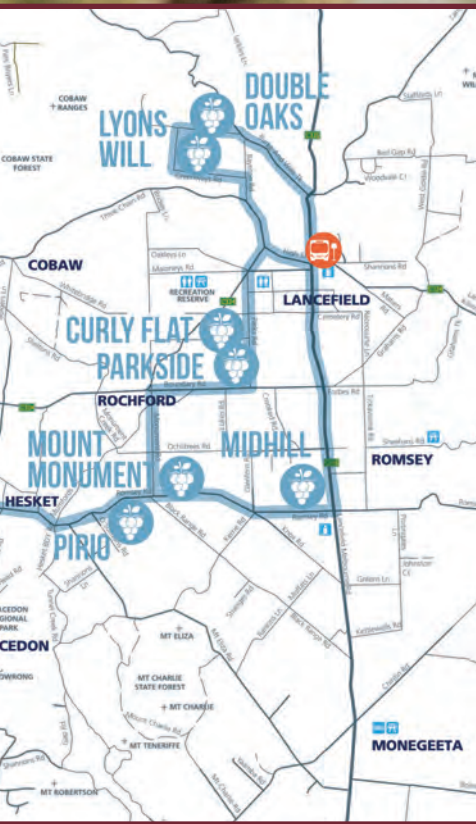
This year, Budburst is excited to welcome back Curly Flat to the festival and introduce new producers Boulder Fields, Limestone Track and Pirio to the line-up, who will stand alongside old favourites like Granite Hills, Hanging Rock and Midhill Vineyard who have been here from the beginning.

Lancefield residents can once again enjoy a dedicated 'Lancefield Loop' bus route, with pick up and drop off available from the town centre, with seven destinations, boasting multiple producers to explore over the weekend. If you'd like to venture further afield, 'The Woodend Wander' offers five destinations starting from Woodend Station; or alternatively you can choose your own adventure with the help of the Budburst Passport and touring map. 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.

For full information on individual winery offerings over the weekend and to purchase your festival tickets, please head to the Budburst website - www.budburst.com. We can't wait to welcome you all this November!

Festival Passes start from \$39, with weekend passes \$55. Tickets include a souvenir Plumm crystal Macedon Ranges wine glass, Budburst Passport guide and wine tastings across all 25 producers. Bus Tickets are \$70 for a one-day bus, available for both Saturday and Sunday and must be purchased in advance. Early booking is recommended as bus tickets do sell out.





FISHING FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Well, the day was cold and blustery - 36 km/hour winds. At one stage, the wind upended one of the Bendigo Bank marquees, and very nearly blew away the coffee vendor's awning as well. The heavy dark clouds looked as if they were balancing on the horizon, ready to deposit rain all over the Lauriston Reservoir. How could anyone fish in this weather, I asked myself?!

Jack Bamford had it all under control – apart from the weather. He and a group of his friends had volunteered to work the day before the event and from the early hours of the morning of Saturday 5 September to make it happen. They had set up the recreation/playground area at the Lauriston Reservoir so that a bunch of people could come and enjoy the fishing.

I knew nothing about the Lauriston Reservoir (now part of Coliban Water) and that it has a sporting and recreation facility. The Reservoir was constructed between 1938-41. Kyneton's water supply originally came from the Little Coliban River with two reservoirs at Fern Hill. The current system now provides one hundred percent of Tylden's water, and the majority of Kyneton's water is pumped from this Reservoir. The recreational areas with picnic tables, a children's playground, walking tracks and toilets, mean the area is welcoming and safe. Car parking is provided, and electric barbecues are free of charge. There are also designated picnic areas where you can set up your own barbecue. It's a great location.

This is a popular local fishing spot. As well as fishing from the banks of the Reservoir, you can fish from kayaks, canoes and small portable craft. The Reservoir is stocked regularly with Redfin, Brown trout, Rainbow trout, Murray cod and golden perch (Yellow belly) yearlings. Anglers can fish using flies, baits or lures.

When I arrived, Kyle's coffee van was ready to serve those who were cold and needing a hot drink; his hot chocolate was very popular. And for a cold day, he did a great trade in gelato! Rebekah was sheltering under another marquee and was giving away Coliban Water show bags for the kids. She also had brochures from Sunbury Cobaw Community Health on Youth Services and Housing Support. The Victorian Fisheries Authority were one of the many sponsors of the day. Other sponsors included Aussie Disposals, Goldfield Libraries, the Lancefield Providore, two of the local IGAs, the 1860 at Romsey, the Victoria Hotel at Woodend, the Lancefield and Romsey Neighbourhood Houses, the Central Victorian Community Radio, Bendigo Bank and Rob Mitchell, Labor MP for McEwen. As well as supporting Jack's Fishing for Mental Health venture, many of these sponsors provided gifts for the raffle that was held on the day.

The one thing that struck me was that this event was a family day. One father and son team, Ken (the father) and Marlo (ten years old), had driven up from Geelong to attend. Marlo was very keen and loved fishing. So did his



dad. They both knew their way around a fishing rod and a tub of bait (worms, cheese and corn – because different fish like different things to eat). Although the spot I occupied had previously been good for Yellow Belly, I didn't see one of them! My theory was that it was too windy. You should have seen the wind skipping across the water. But that didn't stop us enthusiasts.

Jake was there, and he showed me his spectacularly lifelike fishing lure. Later his partner Gemma and their three-year-old son Otto arrived – Otto was prepared in gumboots and plastic waders. His mother Gemma was watching him carefully - he had his own little rod as well!

Of course, on such a cold day, the barbeque was very popular. Andrew and Tina were in charge and cooking up sausages, burgers and chicken drumsticks to keep us all fed. There was a feeling of camaraderie amongst the participants. We chatted away, told stories of fishing experience or lack of it, and dare I say it – enjoyed being out in the elements! It was a mental health day.

Jack Bamford is passionate and an enthusiast about enabling people to experience fishing and, in doing so, have a break from day-to-day life. His next event will be held on Sunday 18 October at Lake Eppalock. It is a free event, sponsored by Trely's Outdoor Fishing and Hunting. There will be a BBQ and live music as well as more amazing prizes! You can phone Jack on 0472 829 991 for more details.

Well done, Jack, I look forward to my next foray into fishing.

Fay Woodhouse





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THE IMPORTANCE OF LIVING IN A RUBBISH FREE ENVIRONMENT



On Sunday, August 16, I joined the wonderful members of the Deep Creek Landcare Group who had organised yet another Big Roadside Clean Up within our town, on the Lancefield Kilmore Road and Grahams Road. They collected a trailer load of rubbish, with a few chairs and a tyre being amongst the absurd items of litter found.

While it is inspiring to see the volunteers tidying up our beautiful country town, it is a painful realisation to note that these diligent worker bees can't and shouldn't be responsible for cleaning up the township.

Some areas within our community are highly inaccessible and have accumulated lots of rubbish over the years. Notably, the stretch of Lancefield-Melbourne Road near Cemetery Road going up the hill towards Romsey seems to be the most impacted by our disappointing behaviours. While passing drivers may have contributed to the litter there, it is our responsibility to maintain the pristine and beautiful nature of our favourite town.

Volunteers tell me that when the Container Deposit Scheme was introduced the number of drink containers collected along the roads initially dropped but has increased again. Perhaps the 10-cent refund is insufficient; maybe it should be increased to 20 or 40 cents! On Sunday, we collected over 300 containers that were taken to the CDS depot in Romsey, contributing more than \$30 to Deep Creek Landcare's account.

We encourage you to take care of your rubbish and



dispose of it properly so that we and the surrounding wildlife are able to live in a healthy and clean community. Perhaps take a bag with you and pick up some litter next time you are out and about.

The next rubbish pick up by Deep Creek Landcare will be on Clean Up Australia Day which is always on the first Sunday in March. With enough volunteers we can clean up large areas of Lancefield and Romsey and the surrounding roads. Hope you can join me and the Landcare group.

Linda



VALE NEIL VINCETT

2 DECEMBER 1951 – 13 SEPTEMBER 2026

It is with profound sadness that I mark the passing of my dear friend Neil Vincett — a truly beautiful person whose warmth, talents and generosity touched many lives. Neil passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Sunday, 13 September 2026, while going about his usual Sunday morning routine. His loss is difficult to comprehend, and our hearts are especially with his loving wife, Lesley.

To Neil's family, I offer my deepest condolences, and I extend these also on behalf of our community. To Lesley, to Neil's son Simon and his beloved grandson Emile, and to his son Nick and partner Lucie, our thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathy are with you all at this heartbreaking time.

Neil and Lesley moved to Lancefield in early 2014 after retiring and wanting to be closer to their family. They chose a lovely Victorian-style house in our township — a home that needed not only their considerable renovating skills, but also patience and persistence, qualities they both have in abundance. Together, Neil and Lesley created something truly wonderful: a beautiful home that reflected their shared life, their creativity and their many passions. Their living and dining room became a place for craft projects, conversation and home-cooked meals. Neil, as he told it, took on the cooking duties after they moved to Lancefield so Lesley could have more time to pursue her own creative work — and, of course, he also claimed he was rather good at it.

There was Lesley's beautifully organised patchwork and craft room, where her talents could flourish. There was Neil's library and "interests" room, where he could read, learn, create intricate needlepoint artworks, tie flies for fly fishing, and store the many things that captured his curiosity. And down the back of the block, beyond the vegetable patch and

fruit trees, there was Neil's shed — so well appointed, so well organised, and, I think, his heaven on earth.

A LIFE OF SKILL, CURIOSITY AND PURPOSE

Neil loved working with wood, restoring things that needed care and attention, making walking sticks from branches, and always having another project on the go. From the stories he told, this love of woodworking clearly came from watching his father, an experienced and highly skilled carpenter.

There were many sides to Neil before he came to live among us and fall in love with Lancefield. He was a Queenslander — no more needs to be said on that. He had served in the Reserve Army's explosive ordnance disposal team, disarming bombs! He also worked for many years in the national team at IGA, developing a strong understanding of consumer sales, marketing, business improvement and the value of a determined and honest work ethic. Before settling in Lancefield, he and Lesley had also completed a couple of significant home renovations.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR LANCEFIELD COMMUNITY

I first met Neil early in 2019, partway through their Lancefield renovating journey, when Lesley brought us together. She thought it would be good for Neil to put his talents to work at the Lancefield Mechanics' Institute. I suspect my assigned task was to teach Neil to become a laidback Victorian Lancefieldian. I am not sure I was very



LANCEFIELD MENS SHED: SHED TALK

FIXING STUFF

It's funny about the coincidences in this world. I have a few old chairs to fix at the moment and was a bit stumped about how to go about it. I looked around and Russell and Joe were bringing box after box of tools and equipment into the shed.

Russell said one of the blokes in our community was very unwell and asked his family to donate all his tools and equipment to the Men's Shed.

In amongst all this lovely gear was a couple of woodworking books, including one about repairing furniture. After a quick look, I found the perfect answer to my problems with my chairs.

We are very grateful to this dear chap and his family for the donation.

Gavin has been beaver away producing some

wonderful structures for one of our horse communities. Although we are pretty certain that this bloke could probably produce this stuff himself, he preferred to give us the challenge.

I have been busy making a chocolate table for St Mary's, so I hope to see you at the show getting the ankle biters to give it a go.

And last but not least, our association with the Woodies in Sunbury has paid off with a beautiful lectern Graeme had them make for St Mary's Primary School.

The Shed Bloke

(editor's note: Unfortunately, Neil won't make it to the show as he passed away unexpectedly just after writing this article).

VALE NEIL VINCETT

successful, but Neil certainly made a difference.

At the Mechanics' Institute, Neil repaired the four old wooden pews, mounted castors on the four large old wooden reading tables and took on the many small fix-it jobs that are always needed around the hall complex. In 2024, Neil and I decided it would be a good idea to repaint the Supper Room. That was when I discovered Neil's least favourite passion: painting — especially the preparation part. But we got it done, just in time for the start of 2025.

Neil was quite deaf and needed high-tech hearing aids. Some say I am also a teeny bit deaf, though of course I do not need a hearing aid — at least, that is what I say, even if my daughters might disagree. Perhaps that is why Neil and I got on so well. When you cannot hear every word, you do not get uptight about the ones not worth listening to. That is how we got on and things done, and perhaps we could all do with a little more “deafness” and tolerance at times.

In time, Neil found another place where he could use his many talents and make an even broader contribution to our community: the Men's Shed. He poured his skills into the shed, especially into projects that helped improve the town. He loved fixing and restoring old things for local people, and he had a real passion for passing his skills on to others.

Neil could be straight down the line at times, but his purpose and his heart were always in the right place. He especially loved helping school children develop practical skills, creativity and confidence. He rightly saw the connection between older and younger generations as vital

— not only for the children, but also for the men at the shed. “Their smile and a wave always brightens our day,” he would say.

Many will also know Neil as the “Shed Bloke” behind the Mercury articles. He was a skilled and well-read writer, and he also wrote articles for the Red Tag Fly Fishing group, of which he was an enthusiastic and active member.

ON REFLECTION

How do you sum up a life, especially one cut so suddenly short?

Neil was here. He was loved. His life made a difference — especially to our community, when he and Lesley became part of his beloved Lancefield.

In this time of loss and heartbreak, I am consoled by words that have helped me through difficult times:

“When we leave this earth, the good that we have done and the love that we have given and received remains behind to light the lives of those we touched — each memory a candle burning bright.”

Neil, my dear friend, you have left the Lancefield community with not just candles, but a bushfire of bright memories. In my quiet moments, I will remember with a broad smile the times we shared. I will picture you fly fishing in all those bucket-list places you dreamed of, kissing those trout and releasing them into the oceans of the heavens.

Love you, mate.

John



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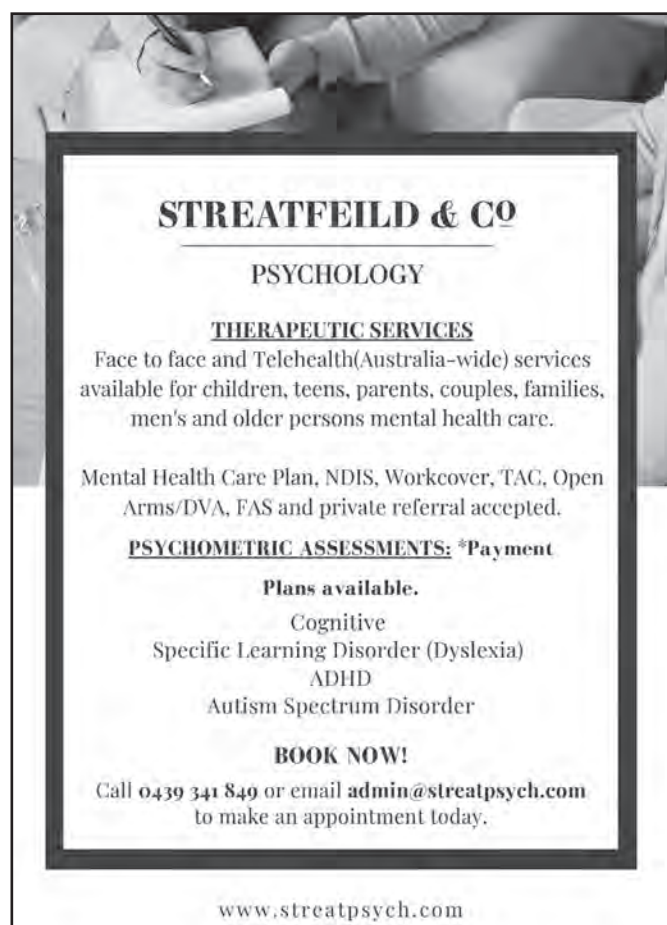
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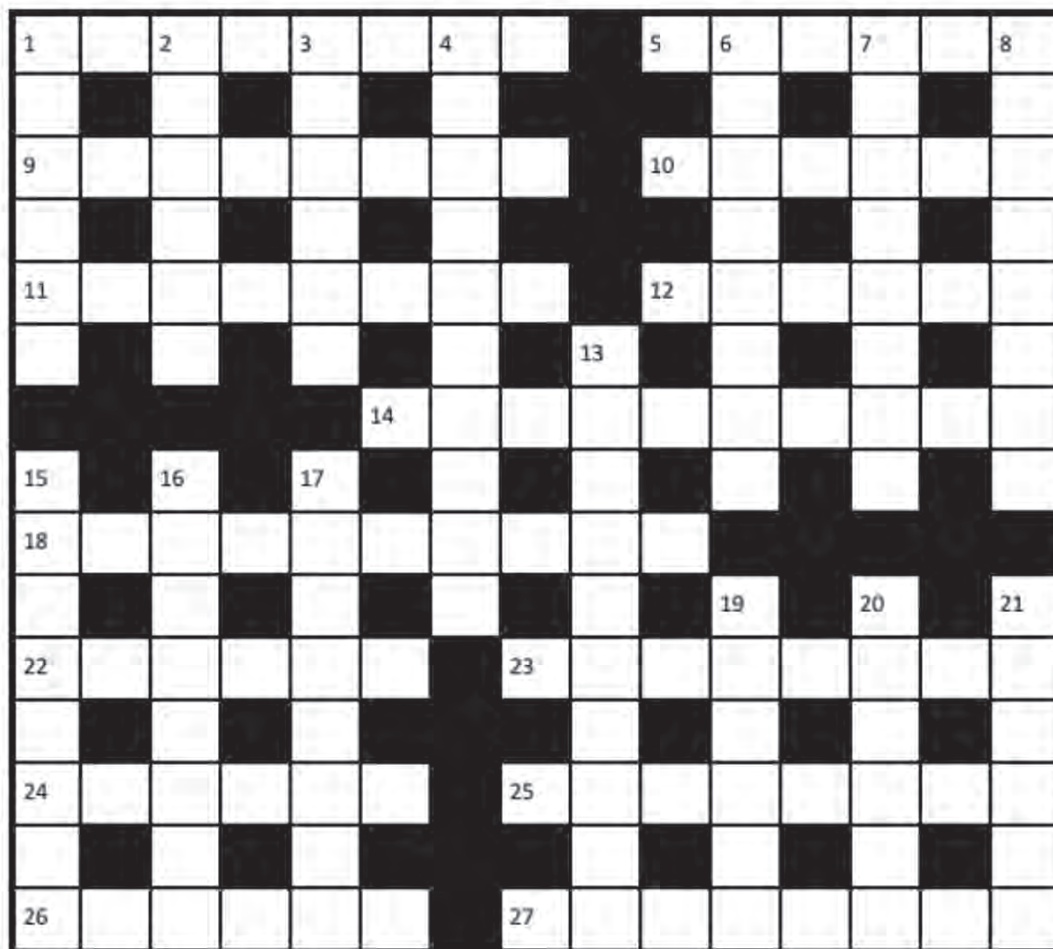
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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

NUMBER 37



By Kevin Moysey

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ACROSS

- 1 Substitutes and puts in a different position? (8)
Some men in Land's End donated and started to look happy
- 5 (6)
- 9 Belief in clear water revival (8)
- 10 Chewed after hard makes tough (6)
- 11 Cured pie might be a treat for feet (8)
- 12 Treads all over, then looked impolitely (6)
- 14 You need it to reload or defend yourself (10)
- 18 Arm with unction but unsuitable for RomCom (10)
- 22 You'll be one of these for a stretch (6)
- 23 Closes last with mums - but suffocates (8)
- 24 I took no act indeed (6)
- 25 It isn't unusual as something to measure up to (8)
- 26 First and around the longest (6)
- 27 Obtains visitation rights (8)

DOWN

- Eleven minus drum one and three enables meal preparation
- 1 (6)
- 2 Begs for plain little ending and dark secret openers (6)
- 3 The means to do a business (6)
- 4 Tempers can become a long steep slope (10)
- 6 Hold a position to take preventative action (8)
- 7 About a service without Capone (8)
- 8 Gnu dined by removing top layer (8)
- 13 Mum is satanic less as is about coins (10)
- 15 Could be done to gasbag with upstart instead of fifth (8)
- 16 Pushed and moved to the next level (8)
- 17 Feelings for digital movements? (8)
- 19 How you stand for position (even if sitting!) (6)
- 20 Scaled to arrange for stickers (6)
- 21 Only for the audience - or where the hits are? (6)



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

AGM Notice

**Thursday 29 October
7pm**

Neighbourhood House - 78 High Street
Scan QR code to membership form on website
or collect a form from the Neighbourhood House

Membership: Nomination
Form:



An opportunity to join the Neighbourhood House Committee of Management
and contribute to the future direction of the Lancefield community.



Next Market is on
Saturday Oct 24

SAVE THE DATE



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**

Music, food, free children's entertainment. Community group, business and
service organisation information. Prizes and displays.

The 'Lancefield' song performed live for the first time.

Contact the Neighbourhood House if you would like your group or business included - 0409 386 875

PERMACULTURE

Six week Permaculture Course Tuesdays, 13
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Visit our web site -
lancefield.neighbourhoodhouse.org for
information about regular classes & activities



October ShareRide

www.communitydriven.org.au

OpShop Crawl
WEDNESDAY
7TH OCTOBER

Booking Link: <https://tinyurl.com/CD10ct2026>

Cost \$20
9:30am Departure
4:30pm Return



Buffet @ Conservatory
MONDAY
19TH OF OCTOBER

Booking Link: <https://bit.ly/OCT192026>

Cost \$120
10:30am Departure
4:30pm Return



Romsey Neighbourhood House: 5429 6724
Lancefield Neighbourhood House: 5429 1214





HALL HAPPENINGS

Lancefield Mechanics' Institute

MOVING ON

Is it just me or is this year moving on very quickly - maybe it is all the booking requests already coming in for 2027. If you are planning on running an event in one or more of the spaces at the Hall next year - send me through your booking proposals sooner rather than later! And a reminder that booking slots in December 2026 are pretty full - so if you are planning a Christmas celebration of some type at the Hall - give me a call.

FUNDRAISER

Fundraiser For The Hall was a Trivia night at the Lancefield Hotel - *what a great night*

A big thank you to all the folk who came along to our fundraiser event at the Lancefield Hotel - A Trivia Night and Memorabilia Auction - it was a sell-out! Well done to committee volunteers Angelique and Guy for putting on such a great event, with great support from Alex and Ash at the pub, Mitch from Memorabilia Magic, and Chris Dynon for help in the auction.

It was a busy night as we kicked off things with our turn at the Friday Night pub raffle, which was so well

supported by all in attendance throughout the pub. Then followed, under the stewardship of Alex and Chris, a very lively auction of the sporting memorabilia. Bidding on each item started in the front bar with a lot of enthusiasm and flowed into the dining space to ensure the excitement and competition were at fever pitch.

Items snapped up included one for horse racing enthusiasts, another for Ali boxing fans, and quite a few fantastic Aussie rules items - of course the two Collingwood items attracted very spirited bidding! I am always amazed at how deep our locals and visitors dig into their pockets to help support our community - well done to you all - so very much appreciated. Then followed a very entertaining and fun trivia challenge with Alex testing the grey matter of all the teams.

And I cannot finish on this without the hugest thank you and shout out to Ash and Alex from the Lancefield Hotel - the effort, expertise and talent these guys put in to ensure this event and the fundraising outcome was a great success, is nothing other than extraordinary. As Angelique put it - "Big thank you to Alex and Ash; Alex has gone beyond helping us, not only on the night but also continuing

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Fri	6.00am - 5.30pm
Sat	7.00am - 3.30pm
Sun	7.00am - 3.30pm

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auctioning the memorabilia during the week following. We are really lucky to have the Gormans as part of our community”.

The money raised will give us a great kickstart in getting funds together for some planned major repairs and improvements to the Main Hall - again thank you to our community for your support in helping your volunteer Committee of Management ensure your Hall continues to be a centre piece of our town’s life.

COMMUNITY EVENT HELD AT LMI LAST MONTH

The Macedon Rangers Soccer Club Trivia Event was a great success with around 100 people supporting the club’s fundraising efforts.

Fingers crossed - its grant time

Have all my fingers and toes crossed for two grant applications currently in the pipeline:

MRSC Small Projects grant program 2026-27 - for the purchase of three table trolleys to make it easier and safer to move tables throughout the LMI complex.

Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey Community Investment Program 2026-27 - for the purchase and installation of blackout window furnishings (curtains and blinds) throughout the complex.

REGULAR BOOKINGS:

For details, please contact the group directly or call the LMI Booking Officer. LINE DANCING Monday and Wednesday, PILATES Tuesday, COMMUNITY SINGING Group Tuesday, OLD TIME DANCE Tuesdays and fourth Friday of the month, PATCHWORK Group Thursdays, KARATE on Tuesday and Thursday, SENSORY PLAY Friday mornings, MOVING MEDITATION Friday

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & EVENTS:

OCTOBER

Sunday 4 HISTORICAL SOCIETY event
Monday 5 LMI Committee monthly meeting
Monday 12 Deep Creek LANDCARE monthly meeting
Sunday 18 Private event
Friday 23 CWA monthly meeting
Saturday 24, Little Treasures Indoor Market
Sunday 25, WITCHES of MACEDON Fair

FOR BOOKINGS AND INFORMATION

John Severson,
Lancefield Mechanics’ Institute Committee of Management
Email: lancefieldhall@gmail.com or ring 0437 313 564



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ENCOURAGE CHURCH

SWOOPING MAGPIES

We've all seen the videos on social media of someone, normally riding a bike, being swooped by a magpie. And often it's quite amusing, until the person being swooped is us.

Magpies may swoop to defend their nest, eggs or chicks. Swooping is a natural defensive behavior, not random aggression. Magpies have excellent memories and are believed to be able to distinguish between people and so can identify unknown individuals whom they perceive as threats.

Whilst swooping magpies are annoying, it is amazing how God designed them to be protective and to remember who they identified as being friendly or not.

Christians believe that God designed everything, including swooping magpies, with a purpose. You were designed on purpose, with a purpose. It's your choice if you seek God's plan for your life or not.

When you find God's plan for your life and follow it, it fulfills you in a unique way that can't be described. And God's plan will be more than you can imagine. Jeremiah 29:11 reads "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

If you would like to learn more about finding God's plan for your life and following it, join us at our service on at 10am on Sunday morning at Encourage Church.

LANCEFIELD GOLF CLUB

PLAY HISTORY - BE PART OF IT

In March 2027, Lancefield Golf Club marks its 100th anniversary with a PGA of Australia-sanctioned Pro-Am backed by Golf Australia — bringing more than 27 PGA professionals and 84 amateur golfers to our course for a landmark two-day celebration. Amateur player places are strictly limited. Entry includes a place at the Centenary Dinner on Thursday 11 March — a once-in-a-century evening celebrating 100 years of golf at Lancefield, with a pairings draw, auction, speeches, and centenary exhibition. The Pro-Am takes place on Friday March 12. To register your interest, visit our website at lancefieldgolfclub.com.au. Amateur player places are strictly limited — register your interest early as places will fill quickly — don't miss out.

Centenary Dinner — The Lost Watering Hole Friday 12 March | Pro-Am Golf March 11 — Lancefield Golf Club

AGM

October 17 in the Lancefield Golf Club Clubhouse at 10am

The Club extends the invitation to join the Committee in the Club's 100th year.

Stephan Kosa
Secretary

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FROM THE DESK

“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” — Matthew 19:14

It is easy for children to be viewed as an inconvenience. They interrupt our plans, demand our attention, make noise, and require patience. Even Jesus’ disciples seemed to see children this way, attempting to keep them from taking up Jesus’ valuable time. Yet Jesus responds very differently. He welcomes the children and insists that they be allowed to come to him. This reminds us that children are never an interruption to God. They are precious to him and worthy of his time, attention and love. Jesus does not regard them as insignificant or unimportant. Instead, he points to them as belonging to the kingdom of heaven.

How easily we can adopt the disciples’ perspective. Every child who walks through our doors is someone made by God, known by him and precious in his sight.

Matthew 19:14 challenges us to make space for children—to listen to them, welcome them, teach them about Jesus and help them encounter the love of God. Children are not an inconvenience to be managed; they are a treasured gift and fellow members of the community whom Jesus himself welcomes.

Blessings.

Rev. Mike

DECEMBER DIARY

A note for your December Diary - The annual Christmas Twilight Market will be held again in December. Please look out for further details on this great activity held at St. Pauls Anglican Church Romsey grounds.

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

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.

ST PAUL OP SHOP

St Paul Op Shop open each Friday 12:30-4:30 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, 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. Thank you.

AQUATIC MICROFAUNA OF THE MONTH INTRODUCING DAPHNIA

Animals smaller than 2mm are collectively known as the Aquatic microinvertebrates, those larger than 2mm are the aquatic macroinvertebrates; micro=small, macro= large.

In Australia, to date, there has been an almost total lack of interest paid by the scientific community to the aquatic microfauna (Rotifers, Copepods, Ostracods, Cladocera). Australia is a bit of hotspot for the diversity of this faunal group. The number of rotifer species within Australia is in the region of 900, and the others somewhere in the region of 600.

As a collective group these tiny animals feed on detritus, bacteria, algae, diatoms, protozoa, and ciliates. The predators amongst them will consume other microfauna, larval macroinvertebrates, fish fry (just hatched form eggs). In turn these animals provide a food source for the aquatic macroinvertebrates, small and juvenile stages of fish taxa, and even some birds. These tiny animals (the microinvertebrates) link everything in aquatic food webs together, and if this faunal group is missing for any reason, then the system will quickly collapse.

Australia has more microinvertebrate species in many taxonomic groups than other regions. For example, within

the continent, we have some 20 species of the Genus Daphnia. They are extremely important in aquatic ecology, multiply extremely fast, often doubling their population in just a few days and growing up to tenfold every week under good conditions. However, the introduction of the exotic northern hemisphere Daphnia galeata to the lower reaches of the Murray River in South Australia, has the potential to outcompete many of the local species.

This species has large spines which make it unpalatable to many fish. It will probably eventually take over as it is very small, but apparently prolific. However, nothing is known of implications of its introduction to Australia. This has the potential of far-reaching impacts on the food web and health of inland waters, plus effect survival of many fish species.

Therefore, 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.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=sci-inspi+daphnia+magna

Rob Walsh

Banking safely online

Scams are getting harder to spot, and keeping our community safe online is something we take seriously all year round. Did you know we offer free 'Banking Safely Online' educational sessions for local community groups? If your group would like us to run one, get in touch with our branch team to arrange a time.

We also have free copies of the ACCC's Little Book of Scams available at both our Lancefield and Romsey branches. Pop in and grab a copy for yourself, or to pass on to family and friends.



Thank you for your Community Investment applications

Thank you to our community groups who applied for funding through our Community Investment Program in this round to help make their projects and ideas come to life. Our board is reviewing all applications, with announcements to follow in November.

Save the date! Our Community Investment Evening will be held on Thursday 12 November from 6.30pm at the Lancefield Mechanics Institute. Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram pages (/CommunityBankLancefieldRomsey), or check in branch closer to the date, for full details.

Tertiary Scholarships opening in November

Do you know a young person starting university or TAFE full-time for the first time in 2027? Our Tertiary Scholarship Program will be opening for applications in November, so keep an eye out for full details in next month's edition.

Our scholarships aren't awarded on academic results alone, we celebrate community spirit, leadership and resilience in the face of adversity. Three-year scholarships worth \$3,500 per year are on offer, so if you know a local student about to start their studies, encourage them to apply when applications open.

2026 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Lancefield & Romsey Community Financial Services Limited (the local company that owns our Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey) will be held at 6.00 pm on Thursday, November 12th 2026 at The Lancefield Mechanics Hall. Shareholders will have received formal notice of the AGM along with supporting documents early October.

Did you know?

With so many spring and summer events on the calendar, don't forget we have pull up banners, tear drop signs and marquees, available for local community groups to borrow. Call into either branch and speak to our team about how we can help dress up your next event.

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JUNIOR LANDCARE DAY OUT

Our Junior Landcare team recently visited Midhill Vineyard in Romsey to learn about dung beetles. Special thanks to our hosts, Hew and Di, who taught us all about the important work that dung beetles are doing on their property.

HERE'S WHAT OUR JUNIOR LANDCARERS LEARNT:

"I learnt that there are native wasps, what dung beetles look like as well as that dung beetles can fly. I found out that there are different types of species of beetles. I liked watching them crawl around the container. I also learnt that male dung beetles have tiny horns. Flies breed in dung, so dung beetles help a lot in the ecosystem." Ella

"Today we learnt that there are 30 to 40 different dung beetles and some are native to Australia." Julian

"Today us Junior Landcare people went to learn about dung beetles. We searched for them in the cow pats and shared facts around. One thing I learned was that there are native dung beetles and they can be different colours not just black. The native dung beetles have orange wings." Ava

"I learnt dung beetles crawl under cow poo and dig down 50cm to make a tunnel." Cooper

"There are native dung beetles and introduced beetles.

They both do good work for the environment, and they eat mostly cow, horse and sheep poo." Abi

"Did you know that dung beetles can hear and feel vibrations and sounds so they can hide from prey?" Indie

"I learnt that there are many different types of dung beetles." Jayde

"I learnt that dung beetles eat poo and that stops flies breeding in the poo." Finn

"At the Vineyard, I learnt that there is more than one species of dung beetles." Will.

"I learnt that dung beetles roll up cow manure and eat it afterwards and turn it into healthy soil." Brooke

"I did not know that beetles dig up all the dirt and push it up to the surface." Sophie

AFRICAN DRUMMING

St Mary's was aloud with the sounds of African drumming recently as Years 2 - 6 learnt how to play the west African Djembe drum. They experimented with how to make base, tone and slap notes and created a rhythm based on the syllables of their name. They also worked in groups to make their own rhythms. A fun day was had by all.

Continued on page 42



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ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

BOOK WEEK

Characters from a huge range of our favourite books came alive at St Mary's during Book Week. Our students proudly paraded their costumes and then read a variety of shortlisted books and completed activities based on these books.

Many thanks to our wonderful families who put so much effort into getting their children 'catwalk ready.' There was much excitement in the air!

COBAW BASKETBALL

"In Cobaw basketball, St. Mary's boys' team wasn't lucky enough to win but all of us had a great time playing with our mates. Whether we were losing or winning we all had a blast! Some of our players were lucky to make a 3 pointer and make loads of points!"

We were all very lucky to be at Cobaw basketball." By Arthur

"On Tuesday, 1st September, seven girls from St Mary's went to Cobaw Basketball in Sunbury. As a team, we won 5 games and drew 3! This put us second on the ladder, by the end of the day! Meaning, we are going to the next stage!! So proud of the team. It was such a fun day and all the girls had the best time. This will be a great memory for us after we finish primary school." By Alice

FATHERS' DAY/SPECIAL PERSONS' DAY

St Mary's was abuzz recently as our students enjoyed a very special day celebrating the wonderful Dads and special people in their lives. The morning was filled with excitement as students carefully selected gifts for their Dads and loved ones, taking great pride in choosing something special to take home. There were plenty of smiles and happy faces as they made their choices and prepared for the afternoon ahead.

In the afternoon, students were joined by their special guests for an action-packed session of Kaboom Sports. It was fantastic to see our students and their guests getting involved, having fun and enjoying some quality time together. Following Kaboom Sports, our visitors were treated to a well-deserved afternoon tea and an opportunity to relax and catch up. It was a wonderful day of connection, celebration and community at St Mary's!

ST MARY'S FEAST DAY

Friday September 11, was a day full of celebration at St Mary's. We started with a beautiful liturgy based on St Mary, our patron saint, and then enjoyed a bbq lunch. After lunch, we invited our families into our classrooms in a 'Celebration of All Things St Mary's'. Our students proudly showcased their learning to our guests, sharing what they have learnt across a range of curriculum areas. After a busy morning, we enjoyed another entertaining performance from 'Books to Life' based on the book 'Being Indy' which explores the themes of diversity and inclusion.



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RT Edgar

Three people are standing behind a large sign for the 18th hole of a golf course. The sign is blue and white, featuring a green golf course diagram with black dots. The text on the sign includes '18 Par 4', '315m', '306m', '301m', and 'RT Edgar'. The people are two men in suits and one woman in a leopard print jacket. The background is a grassy area with trees.

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