

Lancefield Mercury



ALL THE GREEN YEARS

Syd Green's 80th Birthday celebration was held at the Lancefield Mechanics Hall, Sunday February 18.

An open invitation to the community resulted in a huge crowd and Syd was delighted with the turn out. Amongst the attendees were family, school friends, and previous employees, as well as fellow committee members from the Lancefield Park Committee and CFA, and other local organisations and clubs; and countless friends from within the broader community.

The Annex at the Mechanics Hall was the perfect fit for the occasion. Everyone enjoyed the slide show put together by his granddaughter Alexandra, and enjoyed the catering supplied by his daughter Sandy and family.

Syd's son Robert started a round of speeches, followed by Syd himself; and others contributed funny stories from Syd's life, and words of appreciation. He was even honoured with a certificate of appreciation from the Lancefield Equestrian Group. ▶



Syd was very grateful to all the people who came, some from as far away as Deniliquin and Geelong, and thought it was lovely to catch up with everyone.

Many thanks to all who came and contributed to a fantastic day.

Syd's family has been in Lancefield forever (Great-grandpa William Derrick came to Lancefield in the late 1860s) and even a brief chat with him reveals the extent of his family connections, and the scope of his interests.

One of Syd's first jobs was at a firewood depot near Macedonia House. The local wood was loaded into the goods wagons down a slide, and then sent to Melbourne to be sold. Later he carted logs to Melbourne

He ran an earthmoving business for 40 years, with up to five trucks and a busy workshop to keep them on the road. He contracted for the Shires of Romsey and Bulla, as well as the gas pipeline which runs just south of Lancefield.

Recently we have known him more as a farmer.

Syd and Anne produced 6 children. Sadly, Anne passed away a few years ago and has left a gap in Syd's life. His

highlight from his life was to have "married a very good woman".

He is universally respected as a person by his employees and the local community. He has joined the scientific panel at the Megafauna Festival to discuss the digs in the Park, and is still involved in the management and maintenance of the Park.

Syd has been an integral part of the Lancefield CFA, and at the age of 80 feels he is too old to man the trucks. He was awarded the Australian Fire Services Medal way back in 2006 - only a handful of these are presented each year.

The future of Lancefield, according to Syd, will be more and smaller houses crowded into new estates, farming will continue to decline and the small-town vibe of Lancefield will disappear.

If you need to know about Lancefield's rich history have a chat to Syd. If you want to find out about the names on the Sale of Gifts Quilt (1896) - see the Mercury article from August 2023 and have a chat to Syd.

Happy birthday, Syd – never was the phrase "Eighty Years Young" so appropriate!



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EVEN THE KITCHEN SINK

Customers to the Lancefield Op Shop always enjoy rummaging through the wide variety of goods on sale each week. Of course, there are clothes and shoes, books and DVDs, electrical goods, glassware and platters, as well as a huge array of other household goods. But who would have guessed that even the kitchen sink would end up at the shop a week or so ago! Yet here it is. With fun and flair, the creative volunteers at the Op Shop found the best possible way to display the sink. Has it sold yet!?

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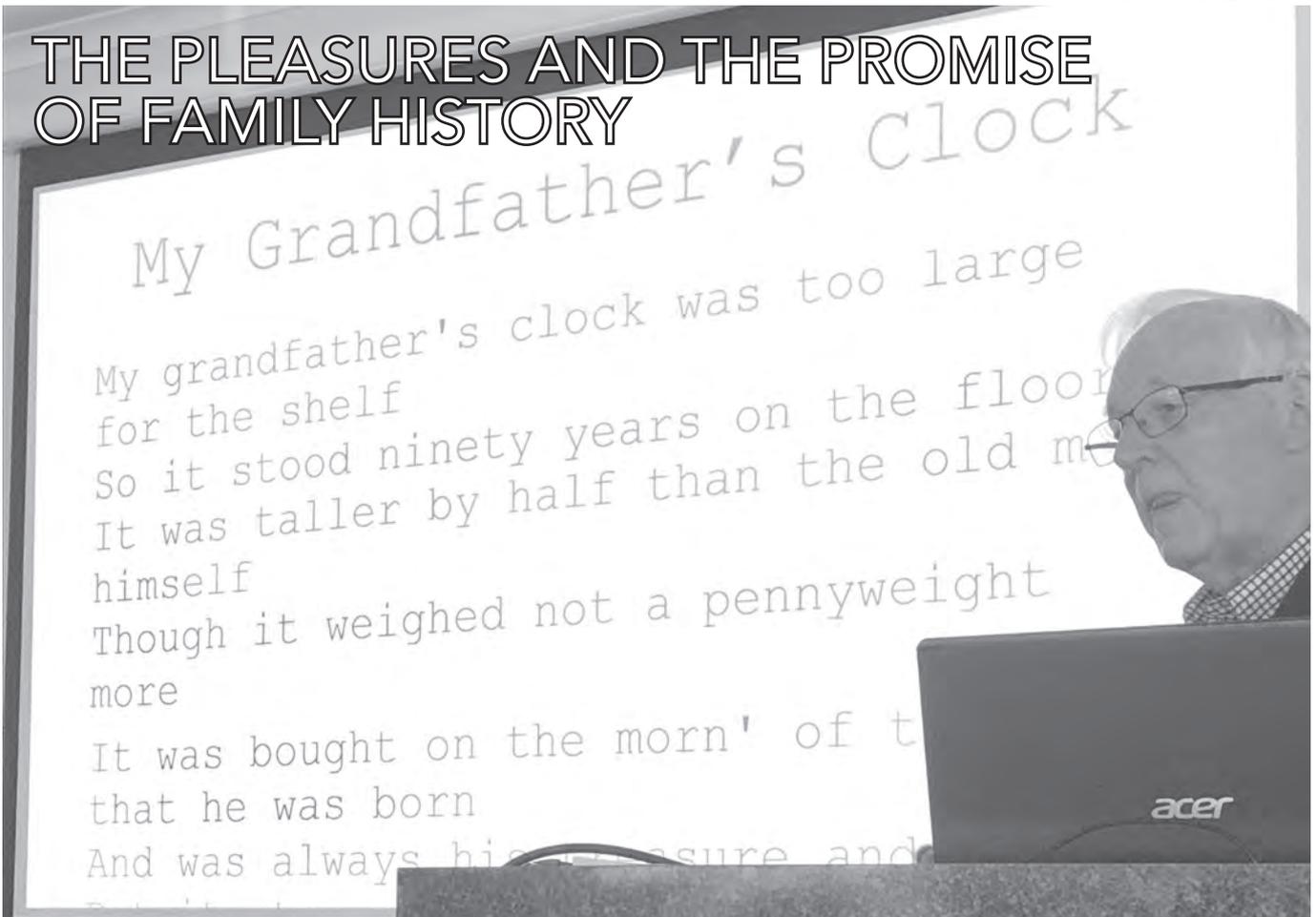
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THE PLEASURES AND THE PROMISE OF FAMILY HISTORY



The Mechanics' Institute Annex was the perfect location for the Historical Society's first talk of the year. The audience of more than forty – locals and visitors to Lancefield – were all engrossed by Graeme Davison's talk. To begin, Graeme told his audience about his family and the long history of the clock, the subject of his book. And the audience joined in a rendition of the song, 'My Grandfather's Clock'. The fact that so many people identify with an item passed down through the family resonated with so many of us in the audience. Memorabilia such as a book or a photograph, or indeed a clock, are tangible evidence of the past – they bring us together – they all have a story to tell and connect the past to the present.

After his presentation and a range of stimulating

questions and observations from the floor, we all enjoyed fabulous refreshments. With sandwiches from the Corner Store, cakes made by the Society's committee, wine from Seven Oaks and Curly Flat (excellent Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon) and beer from the Lost Watering Hole – it was very much a local event.

Everyone wanting a copy of Graeme's book, *My Grandfather's Clock: four centuries of a British-Australian Family*, went away content. (There are still a few copies available to purchase). With everyone very happy with the day, the Society is looking forward to a productive and active year ahead for all our members and friends.

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LANCEFIELD COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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

CWA IN ACTION

Did you know that the CWA has an annual Junior Camp?

Last year's camp at Phillip Island had the theme 'Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose', asking the challenging questions of what are we going to do with all the waste that we create each year? How are we going to solve the throwaway consumerism that we live with daily? How do we address food waste? The timetable was filled with wonderful experiences for the girls and adults.

It seemed that everyone was happily engaged in the activities and created wonderful products, exploring techniques and learning new skills - another very interesting facet of the CWA world.

We would like to thank the proprietors of the Lancefield Hotel for giving us the opportunity to participate in their Friday night meat raffle program. All the money raised will

continue to go towards giving donations to the local groups in our community. In addition, we wish to thank the hotel patrons for their courtesy, friendliness and generosity.

Now, let me share with you a little about our organisation. CWA is not just for older women; it is for women of any age wanting to be involved in their local community. The women come from all places, in the country and in the city. We are a volunteer group, and we meet in the annexe of the Mechanics Institute on the fourth Friday of every month at 10am.

We are a friendly bunch, and you don't need to knit or crochet!

We would make you feel very welcome.

Maybelle Briggs

RELAY FOR LIFE

This is a great day for team building, as well as connecting with community in this moving and rewarding event. Create a team of family and friends and join the fight against cancer.

It's extremely family friendly - loads of kids' activities like craft, bead counters for laps and live music all day to jig to

as you lap. We will have food trucks on the day, too. Join in the candlelight ceremony, walk the track or relax, soak up the atmosphere. Search for the website (Lancefield Relay For Life) for more details.

Saturday March 2 11am - 9pm Lancefield Park

LANCEFIELD MERCURY INC.

A0045845D

Deadline for articles and advertisements is the 15th of the month. The Mercury is distributed by post and volunteer deliverers to all premises with a letter box in the Lancefield postal area at the start of the month. Copies of the paper can also be found at the Romsey Library.

The Lancefield Mercury is produced by volunteers as a service to the people of Lancefield.

The editorial committee reserves the right to edit articles for length and clarity.

Items for publication should be sent to editor3435@gmail.com - enquiries Andy Moore 0430 448 120

Enquiries about advertising: advertising3435@gmail.com - Ken Allender 0404 886 580

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



Editorial Committee:

Andy Moore

Craig Longmuir

Karen Barr

Fay Woodhouse

Ken Allender

Julianne Graham

Beth Child

Editorial Enquiries to
Andy Moore 0430 448 120

Advertising Enquiries to
Ken Allender 0404 886 580.



Advertising Rates

One eighth page \$35
One quarter page \$55
Half page \$100
Full page \$165

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Annual 1/8 page \$280
Annual 1/4 page \$360
Annual 1/2 page \$650
Annual full page \$1000

Colour Advertising:

Full page \$240 per edition
1/2 page \$145 per edition
1/4 Quarter page \$80 per edition

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.



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EASTER SERVICES

Regular Sunday weekly Service are held in Romsey at 9am, and Lancefield at 10:30am.

Easter Services Good Friday March 29 at Christ Church Lancefield 10am and Easter Sunday Service in St Paul's at 9am and Christ Church at 10:30am.

On Easter Saturday March 30, St Paul's is holding its second annual Easter Family Fun Day. Lots of fun activities for the children and lunch will be served. The day is *free* to all and everyone is invited and most welcome to come and join in the day's activities at St Paul's 77 Main Rd Romsey at midday.

Prayer Meeting is held in Church Hall Lancefield Thursday 9:30am, and Bible Study also in Christ Church Lancefield Hall Thursday 10:30am. Enjoy a cuppa while

spending time pondering the Bible.

Monthly Parish Community Lunches are held each second Saturday of the month at Christ Church Hall, Lancefield. Next lunch will be on March 9 at noon. The day is free to all and everyone is very welcome to join us with good homemade food and it is a great time to meet new people, chat with old friends and make new acquaintances.

St Paul's Op Shop is filled with lots of new and interesting items and is open Friday 12:30-4:30 and Saturday 10-1pm. The Op Shop is on the Parish website for viewing and each week will display our specials for your perusal. Please note - the Op shop will be closed on Good Friday and Saturday March 30.

ENVIRONMENT EVENTS

GORSE CONTROL DEMONSTRATION DAY

The Victorian Gorse Taskforce, together with Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Pipers Creek Landcare, will bring you practical information and demonstrations of best practice gorse removal. Come along between

10am-12pm, Sunday 24 March, Kyneton to learn more about grants and to chat with local contractors and environmental representatives. Visit www.trybooking.com/COXDW to register.



Mon	6.00am - 5.30pm
Tues	6.00am - 5.30pm
Wed	6.00am - 5.30pm
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HALL HAPPENINGS

Lancefield Mechanics' Institute

LIVE & LOCAL IN COMMUNITY HALLS

Local artists are performing in Community Halls across the shire during the 2024 Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival. Twenty-three bands or singer/songwriters are performing every Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the month of April with local wineries and food providers showcasing regional produce.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Festivals Australia program’.

The first event of this program will be held right here in our beautiful village of Lancefield on Friday April 5.

Come and join us for Live & Local at the Lancefield Mechanics’ Institute - bring your dancing shoes for a great family friendly evening – music starts at 6.30pm.

Food and drink available on-site from 6.00 pm (this is a No BYO drinks event).

Tickets available on Trybooking.

In last month’s Mercury we featured Jarrod Shaw who will be performing on Friday 5 April along with The Whiskey Rogues.

THE WHISKEY ROGUES

The Whiskey Rogues is a 3-piece pop and rock band, specialising in 70’s, 80’s and 90’s music and beyond. Their vast experience in the music industry allows them to produce a polished, fun and very danceable show full of those ‘left of centre’ hit songs that you haven’t heard in years. All skilled musicians, they pride themselves on their sound quality, arrangements and smooth three-part harmonies. They love the interaction and energy of playing live, and love playing

parties, events and community function for people who love music as much as they do.

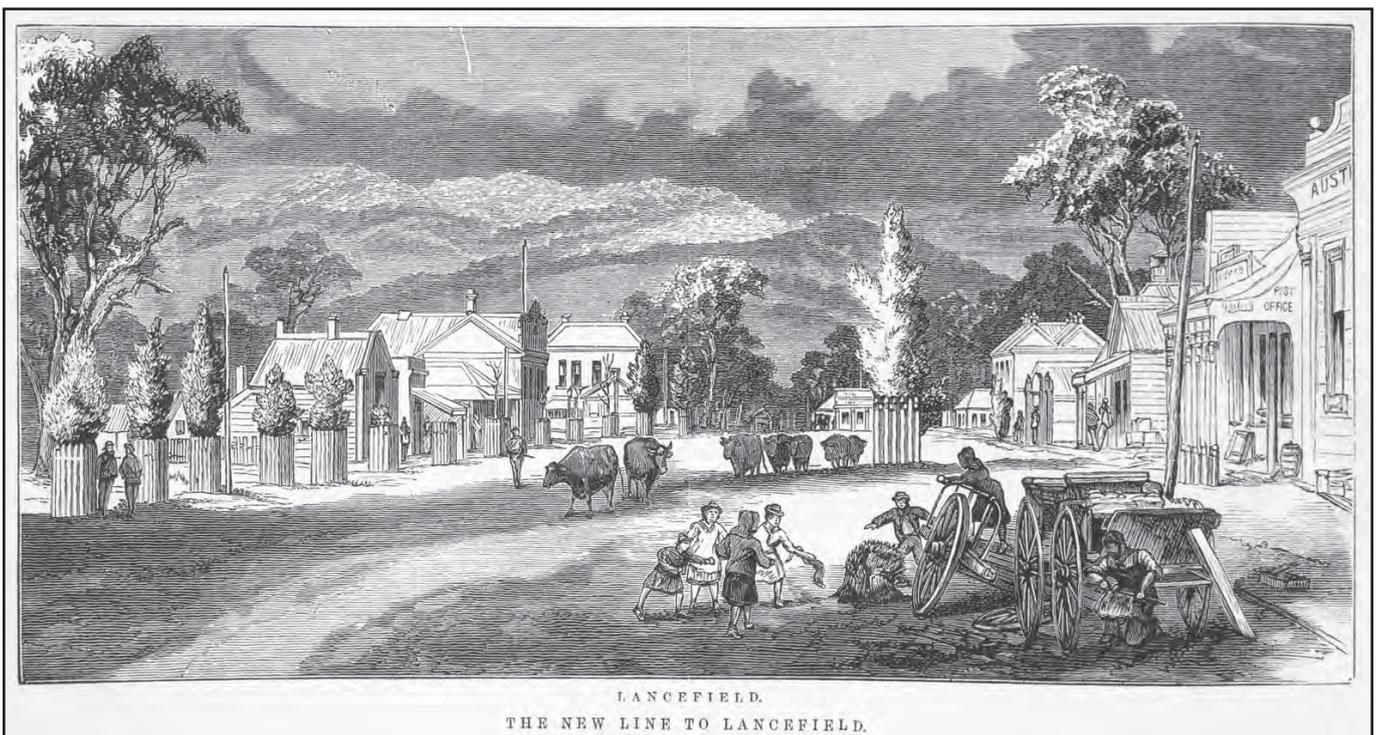
Your volunteer Committee of Management (LMI CoM) held a Working Bee on Friday February 2 with a long, long list of jobs. Maintenance of chairs and tables; general cleaning and removal of cobwebs throughout the complex; cleaning of split-systems, kitchen appliances and equipment, and much more. On Saturday some of the committee folk returned to shampoo all the carpeted areas and do a stocktake on crockery and cutlery, to finish off a big effort by all involved.

“Thank you to our hard-working committee members (Sandra, Bronwyn and Stephan) and a special thank you to the small group of enthusiastic volunteers who joined us, Suzanne Abbonizio, the Men’s Shed boys Neil Vincett and Graeme Day, and John Wilson, and Greg Raeburn” said the President John Severson.

COMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR MARCH AND EARLY APRIL

We were back at full steam during February and hopefully you had a chance to enjoy the Historical Society presentation Pleasures, Promise and Perils of Family History, the first Lancefield Witches Fair for this year, an Old-Time dance and Rock and Roll dance and let’s not forget the wonderful milestone birthday of Syd Green. Maybe you also volunteered as an extra for the film production!

The next few months are looking very busy as well with all our regular users;



Lancefield Heritage Walk – Then and Now

Line Dancing on Monday and Wednesday mornings;
 Pilates on Tuesday mornings and evenings;
 Old time dancing on Tuesdays as well as a Friday night dance on the fourth Friday of the month;
 Ellys Playtime Music (for Toddlers) on Monday mornings;
 Patchwork group on Thursday mornings;
 Karate on Tuesday and Thursday evenings;
 Tai Chi on Saturday mornings (Sundays mornings if Farmers' Market weekend); and now Iyengar Yoga on Wednesday evenings along with the following events and activities:

MARCH

Friday 1 Art Therapy Workshop
 Saturday 2 Birthday celebration
 Monday 4 Rock-n-Roll line dance lessons
 Sunday 10 Kyneton Paranormal investigation evening
 Friday 15 Kyneton Paranormal investigation evening
 Saturday 16 Landcare information day
 Sunday 17 Line Dancers Social
 Monday 18 (evening) Landcare meeting
 Friday 22 CWA meeting
 Friday 22 (evening) Lancefield Old Time Dancers – monthly dance
 Saturday 23 Little Treasures Market
 Saturday 24 (evening) 'A Night in Italia' – By a Slice of Perfection
 Monday 25 (evening) MRSC Community Halls meeting
 Wednesday 27 Feed-It-Forward Community Luncheon in Lancefield

EARLY APRIL

Friday 5 (evening) Live & Local @ Lancefield
 Saturday 6 (afternoon) Lancefield Heritage Walk – Then and Now
 Sunday 7 (evening) Kyneton Paranormal investigation
 Monday 8 (evening) Landcare meeting

LANCEFIELD HERITAGE WALK – THEN AND NOW

Following Live and Local, The Lancefield Mechanics' Institute invite you to join us for a walk to discover a sense of our township's history. We will look at various buildings and sites, uncover their history and be introduced to some characters and identities along the way.

When: Saturday 6 April.

2 – 4.30 (including afternoon tea at end of walk)

Where: Meet outside the Foyer entrance of the Mechanics' Institute, The Crescent, Lancefield

Cost: \$20 per person which includes afternoon tea

Bookings: Trybooking – numbers limited

For enquiries regarding events, classes or booking for all or part of the hall complex please contact our Booking Officer at lancefieldhall@gmail.com or mobile 0437 313 564.

Bronwyn Wilson

Lancefield Mechanics' Institute Committee of Management

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FANCY A FOXTROT?



Join the Lancefield Old Time Dance Group

Did you know that every Tuesday afternoon, you can indulge yourself at the Lancefield Mechanics' Institute and Waltz your way through the afternoon? Yes, Old Time Dancing is held on a Tuesday from 12.30 to 4 pm. Afternoon tea is served at 2.30 pm. For Members of this group, entry is \$5 and for non-members it is \$7.

A small group of dancing lovers set up this group a few years ago. Enthusiasts come from far and near – Kilmore and Kyneton, Malmsbury and Macedon and other nearby towns. As Gayle Morgan, Secretary says - 'come and enjoy a weekly Waltz'.

For enquiries contact Gayle on 0409 521 199.

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FRIENDS OF LANCEFIELD PARK

Thank you to the Friends of Lancefield Park who got together on February 8. It was a pleasant afternoon in Lancefield, just perfect for a little work and a fair bit of talking – both very important! In between chatting, our group of five friends managed to get to some much-needed jobs, which included weeding around the playground, removing elm suckers from Park Lane fence and raising the tree canopy along north east corner, and along the start of Park Lane boundary fence. A big shout out to Rachel, Joe, Zack, Robert, Kathryn and Syd for all the work and stories.

CANTEEN UPGRADE

In 2023 we were very lucky to have applied successfully for two grants to upgrade the canteen in the Laurie Green Pavilion. The first was from the MRSC Community Funding Scheme and the second was the Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey.

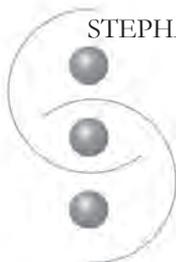
After extensive consultation with representatives from the key user groups of the canteen, John Breese, one of the Lancefield Park's newest volunteer CoM members,



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COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANTS OPENING SOON

Council's Community Funding Scheme and Events and Festivals Grant Program will open again in May. To support community groups interested in applying, Council is holding a Q&A drop-in session at the Woodend Community Centre on Thursday 14 March from 10:30am-12pm. If you are a community group with an idea for a project or event, this will be an opportunity to chat with Council officers and get ideas and advice to support your application. Bookings are essential.

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/grants or email grants@mrsc.vic.gov.au for information and to find out about other opportunities for grants and support.

COUNCIL TO CONDUCT ASSET ASSESSMENTS

Infrastructure asset condition assessments are regularly performed to align with Council's Asset Plan and capital works programs, to ensure services are provided to the community to meet functional, safety and amenity standards.

Council has recently engaged an independent contractor to assess our Open Space and Recreation infrastructure assets. The assessment will commence in March and is expected to be completed by the end of May 2024.

Assets to be inspected include sports grounds, kindergarten play areas, playgrounds, parks and gardens. During the assessments, the contractor may be seen taking photos in our public spaces, measuring and taking notes electronically about each asset.

For information contact Kylie Park, Coordinator Asset Management on 5422 0333.

prepared plans and has been working with local tradies to coordinate this exciting project. We have engaged local community minded tradies with good reputations to undertake the work: Andrew Smith (North Vic Maintenance), Bruce Ferguson (Builder) and Simon Choate (Greenwood Electrical Group). Work started in late February and (fingers crossed) will be completed ready for the beginning of the football season!

It is a tight timeline, but the team shall be pulling out all stops and working together to make it happen. See attached photo of Simon Choate, John Breeze and Andrew Smith on the morning the work began.

LANCEFIELD PARK MASTER PLAN

Late in 2023 Simon Leisure began the preparation for our new master plan. They undertook a comprehensive review of Lancefield Park facilities and buildings, met with the Committee of Management, coordinated workshops for all the user groups and held a community drop-in session. Then in February Simon Leisure presented the CoM with two reports; an Issues and Opportunities Report and a Building Condition Report.

The reports consolidated all research carried out during the engagement processes, along with demographic data and various other information. The reports will be analysed and considered by the CoM and form the basis for a draft master plan. If you would like more information about the master plan, please contact the CoM by email: lancefieldpark@hotmail.com or call the Chairperson or Secretary for further information.

Kathryn Lewis – Chairperson. PH: 0476 114 811
William (Bill) Balcam – Secretary. PH: 0411 195 501

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COME AND JOIN US!

The Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group (MRSPAG) is putting out a call to action for passionate people in our community to join forces with us, to help improve mental health and emotional wellbeing in the Macedon Ranges community.

Our group is committed to addressing the impact of suicide in our community. If you'd like to learn more, and maybe consider joining us, please come along to our community forum on Tuesday March 5 from 6:30 pm – 8 pm (followed by the MRSPAG AGM) in the Woodend Community Centre, High St & Forest St, 117 High St, Woodend.

The forum will be an opportunity to hear about work that's being done by locals for locals to improve community mental health, and to meet and talk with others who are interested in these issues. There will be time to mingle and chat over refreshments.

WHAT IS MRSPAG?

We're a group of committed volunteers and service providers from across the Shire. Our aim is to reduce the number of deaths by suicide in the Macedon Ranges. We've been around for almost ten years, and several of us have lived experience

of losing a loved one to suicide, experiencing our own mental health crises or helping loved ones with theirs. Today, with the support of Macedon Ranges Shire Council and other partners, MRSPAG is involved in a range of important activities.

We strive to raise community awareness about suicide and reduce stigma, through local and social media, community events such as our annual Suicide Prevention Walk, and partnerships with other community groups and service providers.

We provide peer support for people bereaved by suicide, through monthly group meetings where people are free to come and go as they need. We offer and promote training to help people recognise signs that someone is struggling with their mental health, be confident to talk with them, and support them to stay safe. We bring together service providers and work with them on a range of important programs and projects. Together we are advocating for better services for our community.

We're on the lookout for more volunteers who can help us with this important work. Whether you can offer one-off help or longer-term help, we'd love to hear from you.

Please come along to our forum, or please contact us at info@mrspag.com.au if you'd like to get in touch directly.

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Wednesday 20 March 6pm

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The course covers water safety and gives you a pass in the Marine Safety Test which you then take to Vic Roads to pay for your license. 12 years old is minimum. Covers PWC for over 16 year olds.

FEED IT Forward

Our Monthly Community Lunch
 27th March 12:30pm
 Lancefield Mechanics Hall
 \$5
 Everyone is welcome

For more information about any of our activities and to make bookings:

Phone the House: 54291214
 Or visit the website:
lancefield.neighbourhoodhouse.org

Our Mission is to contribute to a happy, healthy and connected community.

We would love to hear your ideas on how we can best do this.

Whole Town Garage and Car Boot Sale

Saturday, April 20

Maps available from 8am for \$5 at the Lancefield Mens Shed
 76 High Street Lancefield
 BBQ Breakfast/Lunch available

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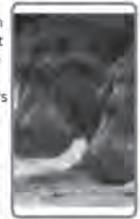
9am - 3pm
 \$69/
 \$64 conc



Share Ride
 FRIDAY 26 APRIL

WERRIBEE ZOO

9am - 3.30pm
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 \$46 entry fee
 \$34.50 conc.
 \$41.50 seniors



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Yoga	Art Classes	Boomerang Bags	Postural Alignment	Bike Riding	Yoga
Postural Alignment	Postural Alignment				Mind, Body & Soul Awareness

MR DOGS

THE FIRST INDUCTION FOR THE YEAR

The first Induction for the year saw a very hot Sunday and lots of white cabbage butterflies. Seventeen new pups braved the early morning heat. February is over, and the weather will be cooling down. Just remember that we can still get several hot days between now and Easter (which comes early this year), and dog's feet are not designed to walk on hot surfaces.

Walking your dog during the heat of the day can cause severe burns to paw pads which will be very painful for your pup. So how to tell if the surface is too hot? Take the 5-second test - If it's too hot for your hands, it's too hot for paws!

Dogs lose heat through panting and only sweat through their paws... they are at high risk of heatstroke so make sure they have constant access to shade and ensure there is always cold, clean, fresh water available.

Some other tips include not running or cycling with your dog when it's hot, and heading out in the early morning or late evening when it's cooler. Use sunscreen on ear tips and nose to prevent sunburn, make frozen treats using fruit like berries and watermelon, put ice blocks in their drinking water and set up a sprinkler or paddling pool, in the shade of course, to entertain and keep them cool.

See our website at www.macedonrangesdogclub.org.au for information on joining. Induction is the first Sunday of the month and once you have done your online member registration you will be contacted by email with your induction date and time.

Take care, be safe and keep your dogs cool in the hot weather.

Carol
Instructor/Treasurer MRODC

MACEDON RANGES MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Macedon Ranges Music Festival will return to the region's most renowned live music site at Hanging Rock on Saturday 23 March. With a line up fronted by Australian music royalty in Mahalia Barnes & The Soul Mates, this is a rare opportunity to witness live music in its most intimate form as the sun sets behind the Rock. The one-day festival only releases 1,000 tickets and promises to be another sell-out in 2024 with first release tickets now on sale.

Also on the lineup will be some of Australia's finest musical outfits including local favourite Taylor Sheridan, contemporary folk singer Alana Wilkinson, 'Afrodelik' band Immy Owusu and more. The all-ages event caters for young and old with kids activities including a jumping castle and face-painting. For the adults, there will be a bar stocked with local wine, beer, cider and a pop-up gin bar from Gisborne-based Mountain Distilling as well as a range of food trucks and stalls. Best of all, the 100% volunteer-run event raises money for the locally-founded Cambodian Kids Foundation with all proceeds from MRMF donated to support grassroots community development projects in rural Cambodia.

Tickets are now on sale with first release adult tickets from just \$40 and kids under 5 free.

EVENT DETAILS:

2024 Macedon Ranges Music Festival Saturday 23 March 1pm-10pm, Hanging Rock East Paddock, Adults from \$40, kids under 5 free.

Visit www.macedonrangesmusicfestival.org for more info and tickets.



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HAVE YOUR SAY THROUGH NEW ONLINE ENGAGEMENT HUB

Council has launched a new online hub to enable a clearer, more engaging way of informing and obtaining valuable feedback from the community on key Council policies or initiatives. People will be able to view current public consultations and have their say in new ways through the new Your Say hub, which has the capacity to host surveys, interactive maps, Q&As, forums and more.

The launch of Your Say supports a strategic priority in the Council Plan 2021-2031 to ‘Enhance customer experience through the transformation of our services, to ensure they are easy to access and provide user-friendly experiences’. It also supports a specific Council Plan action also set to be completed this financial year, with new Community Engagement Guidelines under development to better guide Council staff in undertaking effective, relevant, and transparent community consultation. Chief Executive Officer, Bernie O’Sullivan, said it was integral to hear from the community to help tailor the projects, policies and services Council delivers. “We have subject matter experts here at Council who work hard to develop initiatives relevant to their field, but two-way conversation is essential to make sure we’re hitting the mark,” he said. “Council is committed to genuine consultation and closing the loop with the community. This new online engagement hub – together with the new staff guidelines – will support that commitment. I encourage residents to continue taking the time to review

public consultations and provide feedback.”

A number of draft policies or initiatives endorsed by Council for public consultation late last year invite feedback from 5 February, including the Romsey Skatepark designs – proposed designs for a new skatepark that would feature a large bowl, a quarter pipe, pump track and a series of hips and corners. Funding of \$550,000 has already been committed by the Victorian Government towards construction, while Council allocated \$20,000 towards initial planning works in the Budget 2023/24. Another project is the Draft Complaint and Unreasonable Behaviour Policy – this policy outlines how Council will manage complaints and unreasonable behaviour and provides clear guidance for both the complainant and Council. Other projects include the Draft Special Charge Scheme Policy – this policy applies to Special Charge Scheme (SCS) infrastructure projects such as resident-funded upgrading of roads and drainage; and the Draft Fair Access Policy – this policy supports Council in the identification and removal of systemic factors contributing to gender inequality relating to the availability of quality community sports infrastructure at times that are suitable. Visit yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au to view current consultations, provide feedback and sign up to receive tailored alerts about future consultations as they are listed.

DESIGNING FOR RESILIENCE

Join this webinar on 5 March, 7-8.30pm to find out some ways to increase your homes resilience to climate change and save you money on your energy bills.

Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events to register for events or sign up for the monthly Environment eNews.

LANCEFIELD AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

AGM Wednesday March 13, 7pm at the Lancefield Neighbourhood House.

Contact Hugh 0418 697 721or get in touch via Facebook

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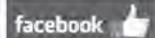
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BATS - THE QUIET ACHIEVERS

Recently, while painting 20 nest boxes for bats, constructed for Landcare by Lancefield Men's Shed, I started thinking about bats and the importance of the nest boxes.

There are over 1400 species of bats in the world and more than 80 in Australia. They are a fascinating yet poorly understood group of our native mammal fauna. This is especially the case for the small insect-eating bats, often called microbats, which are rarely seen. Of the 23 insectivorous bat species in Victoria, 15 use tree hollows whilst only three use caves as roosting and breeding sites. Habitat destruction has affected bats, especially the forest dependent species, so that now some species are restricted to large areas of native vegetation. Bats are also vulnerable to cats when they fly low to the ground and although a number of species are rare, no extinction of bats has been recorded in Victoria. Retaining living or dead trees with hollows is important and in areas lacking sufficient natural hollows, nest boxes, specifically designed for bats can be installed. Bats return to the same place each night and will often return to the same roost after being gone for months or even years. Planting up areas to provide roosts will help in the long term and planting under-storey and ground cover plants will benefit bats that forage below the tree canopy.

Bats are flying mammals and give birth to young that suckle milk from their mothers. Our microbats enter torpor from May to September, then breed from October to December and generally have one or two pups. To us, microbats seem to be silent, but they are actually very noisy – it is just that their calls are pitched too high for us to hear. Most are equipped with an echo-location system that allows them to navigate and capture prey in complete darkness. Study of bat echo-location has led to many technological advances including navigational radar and medical scanners.

Microbats are hard to see, they can be as small as 3 grams and they are most active at night as they search for food. Dusk is a good time to spot them feeding as they are silhouetted against the sky. Also, they can be spotted in trees, rock crevices, barns and rooftops. Insectivorous bats



play an important role in maintaining the health of the rural environment as they consume up to half their body weight in insects each night. They are a natural pest controller, which reduces the dependence of farmers on harmful chemicals.

Disturbance during torpor can have a significant impact on the ability of bats to survive. It is also very important that untrained people never handle bats and that if a dead one is found on your property it should not be handled directly, but placed in a secure, leak proof container by scooping it up with a spade or something similar. Bats can carry a disease called Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV) which is related to the rabies virus and is transmissible to humans. ABLV is transmitted by the saliva of infected bats, usually through bites or scratches. Symptoms can appear within days, or up to several years after exposure. Early symptoms are flu-like and can include headache, fever, weakness and fatigue. The illness progresses rapidly to paralysis, delirium, convulsions and death, usually within a week or two of symptom onset. There is no current cure.

If a bat comes into your house open the doors and windows, switch off the lights and fans and wait for it to find its way out. If bats have got into your roof and you want them to leave the best technique is: during the day, tape a strip of plastic (like table cloth plastic sold by the metre at Spotlight) over the top of the hole so that it hangs down like a flap above the exit hole. Exiting bats can drop down out of the exit. After they have gone, ensure that all potential entry points are sealed.

Deep Creek Landcare Group has nesting boxes for bats, birds and phascogales for sale from \$30. We also have Myna bird traps to lend out. Annual Landcare membership is \$20 per family. You can follow us on Facebook, contact our President, Phil Severs (0476 324 000), catch us at the Lancefield Farmers' Market or attend our monthly meetings in the Lancefield Mechanics Hall. We would love to see you!





NURSES, MEDICINE AND CARING IN THE MACEDON RANGES

The Kyneton Museum will be producing an exhibition celebrating nursing and midwifery, medicine and caring in the Macedon Ranges. In collaboration with historical societies in the Macedon Shire, the exhibition at the Kyneton Museum will be officially opened on Wednesday May 8 from 3-5 pm. The exhibition will be open to the public on Friday May 10 and will remain open until Sunday 15 September. One focus of the exhibition will be nurses who worked in the various private and Bush Hospitals that existed in many of our local townships – such as Woodend, Gisborne and of course Lancefield.



In 1919 an Emergency Hospital was established in the former Commercial Hotel, Main Road, Lancefield (now the Lancefield Guesthouse) to isolate patients with the Spanish Flu.

Three local nurses – Mrs Murphy, Miss Doggett and Miss Walsh, all acting in a voluntary capacity – cared for all the Influenza patients. In total, 102 Lancefield residents died of Spanish Flu.

In 1921 Sister Maria Lockwood converted the Emergency Hospital into a private hospital, Warrawee. She ran the hospital until 1936 when Sister Barnes took over. When Sister Barnes died in 1954 it became the successful and well-patronised Lancefield Bush Nursing Hospital until it closed in 1989.

If you or a family member worked as a nurse or midwife in Lancefield, Romsey or surrounding townships, the Historical Society would love to hear from you. We are currently gathering photographs and memorabilia – letters, badges, uniforms, etc. – for this exhibition. Please contact Shirley Kishere on 0402 248 540 if you have anything you think could be used in this exhibition.

Fay Woodhouse





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or call our Enrolment Officer on (03) 5422 0239





To say that LPS has had a great start to the year really is an understatement. All the processes and procedures put in place via our School Wide Positive Behaviour and Start Right program, along with consistent approaches to teaching and learning across the school are really paying off. Our new Preps have settled in so well, slowly learning all about school life. After a couple of weeks, they certainly are getting a little weary so Wednesdays off during February are hugely beneficial which also allows teachers the time to conduct baseline assessments and get to know parents and carers better.

Our 2024 Year 6 Team are off and running. During weekly meetings, the Year 6 Team are creating ways of working together protocols, organising upcoming events, practicing for assembly and school tours and creating lists of tasks and responsibilities and who is doing what and when. We really look forward to seeing this group of students grow in confidence and leadership throughout 2024. Our Year 6

Team and Student Council students will be heading off to the Melbourne Convention Centre on Tuesday March 12 to attend the "Lead and Dream - Student Leadership Day".

I am sure you have noticed the work taking place to prepare for the arrival of the new Lancefield Kinder. This is very exciting, and it won't be long before the kinder is ready for action. When the kinder building arrives, there will be no access to parking along Park Street near the school for at least three days however we will keep the school community informed regarding dates.

A huge thank you to our wonderful Lancefield Community and visitors who frequent the Lancefield Bakery. Many of you have left small donations over the holiday period and we are pleased to let you know that these funds are enabling us to provide a special Healthy Whole School Breakfast coming up later in Term 1. A very special thanks to Dina and Sally Soper for organising this for LPS.

FRIENDS OF DEEP CREEK

It was great weather on Australia Day for the annual race event at Hanging Rock with a near capacity crowd. Something new this year was the 2400m Deep Creek Cup race sponsored by Friends of Deep Creek. This race was won by Dubai Moon. Congratulations to jockey Aaron Lynch and the owners.

Ern Green, representing Friends of Deep Creek explained that there are many racehorse owners and breeders along the Deep Creek Valley. Consideration had been given for staging a local race, but they have been pleased with the decision to instead sponsor a race in this iconic race day at Hanging Rock.

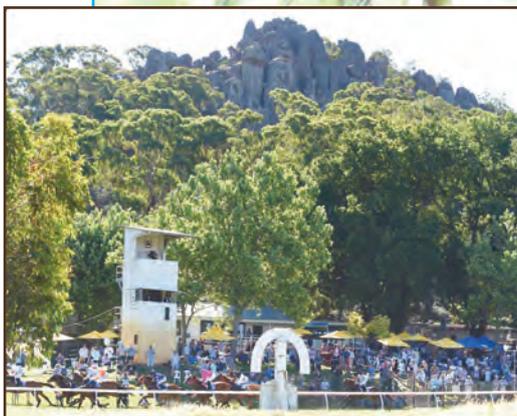
Deep Creek begins just North of Hanging Rock, passing Lancefield, Romsey, Monegeetta, Bolinda, Chintin, Darraweit Guim, Wildwood, Bulla, and eventually helps form Maribyrnong River with Jackson Creek.

Friends of Deep Creek celebrate and seek to protect this pristine creek and riparian habitat. They also manage Victorian Creeks & Rivers Facebook Page to help support others in this cause within Victoria. Friends of Deep Creek particularly thank farmers along the Deep Creek, Jan Ravnholt, Randall Gerkins, Martin West and Ern Green for their support of this inaugural Deep Creek Cup.

While supporters come from different districts, it seems the love of their creek unites them in their cause.



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A WILD TIME



George Benca directing his cast of Wild

Karlana Santamaria

Our first production for the year opened on 23 February and is being directed by Lancefield local, George Benca. This is George's debut role with The Mount Players, and he is very excited to bring to life this dark comedy, *Wild* by Mike Bartlett.

George is an accomplished actor and director with over 30 years' experience in the Victorian Community Theatre scene. First appearing with Powderkeg Players in the 1980s, he has since appeared on stage with several theatre companies including Williamstown, Adelphi, Encore, Malvern, STAG, Peridot and Eltham.

In recent years he has directed plays at Eltham, Essendon and STAG (Strathmore) theatre companies.

WILD runs until 10 March so still time to check out our

website for full details and tickets at www.themountplayers.com or call 5426 1892.

Our second production for 2024, *Looped*, a comedy by Matthew Lombardo, is now in rehearsal and will open on 10 May – lots more about that one next month (or read about it on our website).

All in all, the theatre is buzzing so we look forward to welcoming you into The Mountview Theatre to enjoy a great show, complimentary sherry on arrival, tea/coffee and biscuits at interval and a well-stocked bar.

See you at the theatre!

Karen Hunt

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MAINTAINING TRADITION

The Marist Brothers came to Kyneton on Sunday, July 25 1926, and commenced teaching the next day. Teaching commenced at St Mary's School where a large classroom was placed at the Brothers' disposal. Later their permanent building was constructed at the corner of Powlett and Hutton Streets. (This building is still standing and occupied).

To commemorate the Brothers' arrival, a 21st Birthday celebration was held at Kyneton on August 2-3 1947, when 150 past students gathered from many parts of Victoria at a reunion dinner, and later formed the Old Boys Association.

The association continues as part of the fabric of Kyneton, and each year holds an annual reunion. On Sunday January 28 the seventy-seventh event came to pass when forty-three members and their families attended a luncheon at the Shamrock Hotel. More than a dozen apologies were recorded which indicates that past pupils of the school maintain an interest.

With the passing of seven and a half decades, the original one hundred and fifty attendees is an unattainable attendance target. Those originals identified as deceased are included in the association website on the Honour Roll, which numbers close to four hundred.

The last year the brothers taught at Kyneton was 1967. Brother Kevin Hoare and Brother Peter Howes along with the late Brother Arnold [Leo McVeigh] saw out the final couple of years. Brother Kevin, now living at Bendigo, again came to the luncheon and was busy networking.

The meals provided by the hotel catering staff were generous and delicious as indicated by only empty plates being taken back to the kitchen. Formalities of the day were limited with a short address by President Roly Sandilands and a memorial address covering the six members whose



deaths had been advised since our last assembly.

COVID markedly affected the fund-raising activities of the Old Boys Association. Community support has continued despite meagre resources. A raffle with a thousand-dollar value is again being conducted and will be drawn at the annual fishing excursion to Torrumbarry Weir Holiday Park on March 16.

Unfortunately, all records of the school were lost after the closure, and determining the names of past pupils is a difficult task. Readers are encouraged to check the Deceased Old Boys list on the Honour Board (on our website) and provide any information that is not included.

The centenary of the Marist Brothers coming to Kyneton will be commemorated in July 2026 after next year's reunion which will be on Sunday 26 January. The Management Committee will consider if something special can be done for the momentous occasion.

Michael B Halley
Kyneton Marist Brothers Old Boys Association Secretary



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OPEN STUDIOS MACEDON 2024

In 2024 Macedon area artists will again open their studios to the public on the weekend, March 23 - 24. This is the first of two events and is being held slightly earlier than previous years.

The eleven artists will welcome visitors to their studios set in their late Summer, early Autumn gardens, sharing their artistic expressions, processes and working environments, including pottery, painting, drawing, jewellery, textiles and printmaking. There is also a display at Top of the Range Tearooms on the summit of Mount Macedon.

The studios are within a short distance from each other and are marked on a map in the brochure and online on Instagram. Experience Macedon area with its late Summer, early Autumn gardens, and combine art with food at nearby cafes.

Brochures will be at The Gallery, Mt Macedon and Mt Macedon Trading Post, Mt Macedon as well as in local cafes and businesses in the area.

We are on Instagram: @openstudiosmacedon

Sue Anson
0413 581 632

ACTIVE KIDS SPORTS PROGRAM

Learn correct sporting techniques and skills to develop confidence and knowledge of sport. Children use a range of equipment from soccer, netball, hockey, basketball and more. Children learn skills for catching, rolling and throwing in a relaxed, fun environment. Sessions are held from 10–10:45am on Wednesday mornings at Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend for children aged 3–5 years. Parent/guardian participation is required.

KINDAGYM

Held in the stadium, this program is based on developing motor skills, confidence, balance and social skills. Kindagym is a structured class with free play options for children to explore the array of equipment on display. Parent/guardian participation is required. Sessions are held on Fridays at Buffalo Sports Stadium in Woodend:

10–10:45am for 1–3-year-olds

11am–11:45am for 4–5-year-olds

Both programs are casual, no need to book. Call 5427 3411 or email buffalo@mrsc.vic.gov.au for more class cost and information.



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ZONTA

RECOGNISING AND REWARDING VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

The Zonta Club of Kyneton is pleased to announce that applications are now open for the 2024 Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs awards program. This prestigious Zonta International program encourages the young women of today to become the leaders of tomorrow.

The successful applicant will receive an award of \$400 from the Zonta Club of Kyneton and will then be nominated for a District 23 Award, valued at US\$5,000.

Applicants should be aged between 16 and 19 years on 1 April 2024, and studying at a secondary school, college or university. Applicants are asked to reflect on their

own voluntary commitment to their school and to their community, and on the issues that limit the empowerment of women in Australia and around the world.

Applications are due by March 8. Please contact secretary@zontakyneton.org.au for an application form or telephone 0417 541 371 for further information.

Zonta International is a leading global organisation of individuals working together to build a better world for women and girls. The YWPA award is one of the many programs for women and girls that are sponsored by Zonta International.

WOODEND HANGING ROCK PETANQUE CLUB

PLAYING PETANQUE OUT AT HANGING ROCK ... IN THE RAIN

Well, the Petanque world continues on over the summer season, if that is, what we can call a summer! With a mixture of weather varying day to day, on a Thursday at the end of January, we had a huge downpour. That didn't stop an enthusiastic group playing Petanque out at Hanging Rock in the rain! A revised game was played from our shelter and then a friendly BBQ was prepared by a few members and enjoyed by the hardy group.

The next week was a beautiful evening and once again, out at Hanging Rock, it was a perfect evening for playing Petanque. Surrounded by rosellas and kangaroos, 24 members gathered for our 'Teams Night' as a part of The Hanging Rock Challenge. Good competitive play was pursued with Shane Wellington, Shirley Marshall and Ed Lowe (pictured) taking top spot !

Recently, our Mayor Jennifer Anderson and councillors Annette Death and Bill West joined us at The Rock to join in our games and for us to demonstrate the low impact we have on the surrounding environment. Last Sunday was the Community Day at Cleveland Winery in Lancefield. Another perfect sunny day, where we joined in the family day picnickers, had a few games of Petanque and enjoyed all that local traders and the wineries had to offer.

Another month of fun and socialising, playing our favourite game of Petanque.

Join us Mondays 2pm at the Old Racecourse Woodend and on Thursdays at Hanging Rock at 4pm, with dinner included.

Ring Louise for enquiries on 0438302218

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A NUMBER OF TRIPS PLANNED

The Romsey/Lancefield Probus Club is for active retirees 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 Lancefield Corner Store where members meet for a chat and a bit of fun.

The February Meeting was a success followed by a great lunch at the 1860 in Romsey. Forty club members attended the lunch, which was a record for us. Nice to see so many members supporting the new local venue. The AGM in March will elect the new committee members and to add a bit of interest one of our members will be running a trivia competition. After the AGM we are booked into

Holgate's Brewery in Woodend for lunch.

For this year we are looking at a number of trips including East Gippsland/Lakes Entrance in May, a 1-day bus trip in August, the South Island of NZ in October and a Canberra and Snowy Mountains Trip. These all depend on numbers and hopefully it will be another very successful year. Locally we are looking into day trips to the Morning Melodies in Kyneton and the Gallery at Bendigo with lunch at a nearby venue. We will continue to invite a range of guest speakers to each monthly meeting to inform and entertain the members.

We are a friendly, welcoming group from diverse backgrounds with a variety of interests and we'd love to meet you! Feel free to attend a meeting as a visitor.

Phone: President: Noreen 0401 579 180 Secretary: Betty 0409359048 www.rlprobus.org.au

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[MaryAnneMacedon](https://www.facebook.com/MaryAnneMacedon) [maryannethomasmp](https://www.instagram.com/maryannethomasmp)

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TRUFFLES FROM DOUBLE OAKS

Local fans of Double Oaks Wines will be interested to hear that the first truffle season is progressing well. Travis and Kristy Chehab's five-acre truffière is planted with the Winter Black truffle (*Tuber melanosporum*, also known as the Perigord truffle) on their French Oak trees. The black truffles have an intense flavour and aroma which is amplified by the cool climate of the Macedon Ranges.

Double Oaks began their truffière in 2016 after extensive soil and bedding works. The acidic soils of Lancefield meant they had to apply 220 tonnes of agricultural lime to raise the pH from 5.0 to 8.0. Earthworks, fencing and irrigation over the first few years meant they could plant their 912 oak trees in 2019. During winter, truffles can be found with the aid of a trustworthy canine and their latest four-legged acquisition was purchased recently in preparation for their first harvest. Speaking to Kristy a week or so again, I was told to watch out for their truffle hunts. I can't wait!

Fay Woodhouse

ROMSEY LANCEFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS

JOIN OUR FIRST BUS TRIP

Our first bus trip for the year will be on Tuesday March 5.

We are off to the Kerrisdale Mountain Railway, a narrow-gauge tourist railway with views over the Upper Goulburn Valley. Cost will be \$50 and includes a 2-course lunch. Pickups in Romsey (out the front of the Mechanics' Institute) and Lancefield (out the front of the Post Office).

After Kerrisdale, our next trip will be to the Great Stupa in Bendigo on May 7.

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

For further information please contact Helen on 0409 064 303.

Hope to see you soon.

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5429 2130. Parish Priest: Father Martin Fleming C/- Woodend Presbytery 5427 2690. Assistant Priest: Father Brian Muling C/- Lancefield Presbytery

WELCOME FATHER BRIAN MULING

We are delighted to announce that Father Brian Muling has been appointed as an Assistant Priest to the parishes of St. Mary's Lancefield & Romsey and St. Ambrose Woodend. Father Brian will reside in the Lancefield Presbytery and is very excited to get to know his new parish and community members.

SUNDAY MASS

Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 9am and will alternate between Lancefield and Romsey.

First and third Sunday of the month in Romsey; and second, fourth and fifth Sunday of the month in Lancefield.

EASTER MASSES

Wednesday March 20 - 7pm - Lenten Reconciliation – Romsey

Wednesday March 27 – 7:30pm – Lenten Reconciliation – Woodend

Thursday March 28 – 7pm Holy Thursday – Romsey

Friday March 29 – 3pm Passion of the Lord – Romsey

Saturday March 30 – 7pm Easter Vigil – Lancefield

Sunday March 31 – 9am Easter Sunday Mass – Lancefield

SATURDAY HEALING MASS

The Healing Mass will be celebrated at 10am in Romsey on the first Saturday of each month.

BAPTISMS

Baptisms are held on the second and fourth Sunday of the month. Please contact the office for the next available date.

SACRAMENTS - 2024

Bookings are now open for parish children to register for all Sacraments due in 2024. Reconciliation is available to Year 3 and above, Holy Communion is available to Year 4 and above and Confirmation is available to Yr 6 and above in 2024. Please contact the office if you would like to register your child.

Should a parishioner want to go to Reconciliation, please contact Father Martin directly at Woodend or Father Brian directly at Lancefield to make arrangement.

For funeral arrangements, please contact Father Martin on 5427 2690 or by email at woodend@cam.org.au or Father Brian by email at lancefield@cam.org.au or on 5429 2130.

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EASTERN MACEDON RANGES BUSINESS AND TOURISM ASSOCIATION INC (EMRBATA)

PLANS FOR ROMSEY AND LANCEFIELD

EMRBATA will be busy this year as it continues to advocate for the eastern corridor of the Macedon Ranges on behalf of its members and engage with the broader community. As such, a number of initiatives will be taking place:

Promotion of the Autumn Festival, particularly the activities in the Eastern Macedon Ranges engaging our member businesses such as the Pie and Tart Trail, the Tipple Trail, the Live and Local Music Series (Saturday 21 April, Romsey Mechanics' Institute).

Development of Town Centre Activation Plans for Romsey and Lancefield (with business and community involvement) in April (as part. These plans (made possible by State Government funding obtained by EMRBATA) will be highly achievable (predominantly in the short and medium term), action-focused and will identify each town's unique selling points and town vision.

Ongoing advocacy for funding to complete the implementation of the Five Mile Creek Masterplan (<https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/About-Council/Our-Council/Strategies-Plans/Romsey-Five-Mile-Creek-Master-Plan>). This wonderful masterplan for a potentially great community and visitor nature space asset was adopted by Council and has only been partially realised.

Stakeholder Engagement with Tourism Macedon Ranges Inc (as a board member), Macedon Ranges Shire

Council, Daylesford Macedon Tourism and Government representatives as required to advocate for Eastern Macedon Ranges businesses and related issues.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Despite challenging economic times, there are still funding opportunities to enhance and highlight our eastern corridor assets. At the time of writing, two State Government funding opportunities – Tiny Towns Fund and Enabling Tourism Fund - are open to support asset/project development. EMRBATA is hopeful that groups which manage some of our great visitor and community assets are able to successfully apply for this funding. In addition, the Bendigo Bank Community Investment Program and Council's Community Funding Scheme. These can make a great difference.

CHRISTMAS IN ROMSEY - VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers are need to assist with planning and rollout. In particular, assistance is needed with coordinating the Lights and Decorations Competition, recruitment of Sponsorship, overseeing of permit applications, marketing, equipment hire (especially for Community Carols) etc. Please contact Jenny (contact@easternmacedonranges.au) or phone 0411 700464.



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THE LANCEFIELD LODGE

A HIDDEN HOME AWAY FROM HOME GEM

I sat down to find out more from Peter Cassidy and Danielle Crawford about their adventures restoring the Lancefield Lodge and welcoming increasing numbers of patrons, both local and far-flung, to their corner of the Macedon Ranges.

In one of those wonderful accidents of timing, P & D took over the Lodge in December 2019 just as the world closed down. This was a blessing in disguise, as it gave them time to restore the somewhat dilapidated Lodge, ready for customers when we were all able to socialise again. With plenty of blood, sweat and tears between them, all aspects of the buildings, facilities and business were lovingly restored over the next few years

As an essential service, they were able to stay open for accommodation and also chose to stay open to the public when they could throughout the on and off lockdowns, enabling them to keep their chef on JobKeeper for the duration, all the while observing the ever-changing rules: only ten people on the property/ten people inside, fifteen outside/etc. etc. They wanted to give the locals a place to go in a stressful time and this group of clientele have continued into the present as regular customers.

With backgrounds in various forms of sales and networking – Peter with a degree in marketing, Danielle having run beauty salons for twenty years, after her degree in Applied Science (Phys Ed) - both Peter and Danielle wanted to do “something in food”; and being accomplished networkers themselves it followed that they were naturals to set up a venue for others to meet – they report that many friendships have been forged at the Lodge over recent years, with locals and visitors returning to the welcome they receive here.

As the Lodge is a handy drive from Melbourne, many returning guests come back because of its proximity to the city, and ease of access – quicker than driving from one side of the Melbourne suburbs to the other!

People often come for special occasions – from quiet dinners for a couple from Melbourne on Valentine’s Day, or small groups; to weddings, engagement parties and conferences. They have many return groups, from

professional conferences to craft groups, which speaks volumes about their service and hospitality. As Lancefield is a central location, being almost smack in the middle of Victoria, word-of-mouth is the way in which most guests discover the Lodge, coming from all over the Shire as well as further afield – with food from a menu that changes seasonally. Look out for the Autumn menu coming out in two weeks, mid-March. As the weather gets cooler, quaffing mulled wine by the cosy fire in the bar is an inviting idea.

P & D pride themselves on the “wine bar feel” and the food on offer reflects this – confit duck, for example, and some very snazzy desserts (speaking as a snazzy dessert fan). The bar and table service is low-key and attentive, and if you are having a meeting in one room, the sound system can be isolated from the general ambience in the bar and other dining areas.

Packages are offered which can include tours to local wineries – two in the morning, lunch at the Lost Watering Hole in Lancefield, two more wineries in the afternoon; or perhaps a jaunt to Hanging Rock, always a fascinating place for visitors and locals alike. Ninety percent of the over 150+ wines on their extensive wine list are produced in the Macedon Ranges, with other Victorian wines also available, and local wines are supplied in each room’s mini-bar.

The Lodge is once again participating this year in the Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival Pie and Tart trail running from Friday April 5 to Sunday April 28. Last year their pie was called Shanks for Coming; this year it’s One Spoilt Shepherd: slow cooked lamb shoulder shepherd’s pie topped with garlic mash, and served with roasted heirloom carrots and minted pea smash. Yum. Can’t wait to taste that!

Facilities are also an attraction, with a games room suitable for children through to adults - a TV, table tennis, board games and foosball. Outside facilities include a glorious swimming pool, BBQ and gazebo area for alfresco dining, a sauna and a tennis court. As well as the popular bar area, the restaurant is perfect for groups and intimate gatherings, and the large function space is perfect for conferences and larger parties and events.

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Peter and Danielle say that people return because of the flexibility, and their acclaimed ability to work together with guests – the “old school” touch is appreciated more and more these days, as so much in life is automated and de-personalised, and the personal touch keeps people coming back for more.

Another attraction is outdoor movie screening and live music, with talented local musicians, of whom there are many in the Macedon Ranges. New Year’s Eve last December was a fantastic night enjoyed by 100 guests. In the future, Peter says when the new bar area in the function room is finished, there will be more flexibility to screen movies inside or out, and not be so much at the mercy of our famously capricious climate.

Long lunches have also been hosted, a perfect way to

spend an afternoon with friends and loved ones – six themed courses, with ingredients supplied, as ever, and as much as possible, from local growers and suppliers. Their Cape Grim and Black Onyx beef are from further afield, but top quality and GMO-free, which is so important these days. Being part of the community is central to Peter and Danielle’s intention at the Lancefield Lodge, so come along – or come back - and enjoy their unique brand of hospitality.

Elsie’s Diner and Bar is open for dinner and drinks Wednesday and Thursday 5pm – 10pm, Friday and Saturday 5pm – 11pm.

Enquiries for parties celebrations and conferences welcome – (03) 5429 1777.

Beth Child

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COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM FOR EVENTS - OPEN NOW

When you partner with us, good things happen. Your organisation gets sponsorship, and your banking helps support the community. We love supporting local events that bring our community together and encourage visitation to our local area. Over the years, we've provided grants for big and small events for sporting clubs, our Neighbourhood Houses, Historical Society, and plenty more.

We've sponsored our local Swap Meets, the Annual EMRBATA Business Breakfasts, the Lancefield Agricultural Show, the Christmas in Romsey Festival, the Lancefield Relay for Life, the Romsey Market and let's not forget the recent Lancefield Cricket Club Pink Stumps event.

Applications for sponsorship of local events opens March 1 and will close at midnight Sunday 31 March. Go to our new online platform communitybanklancefieldromsey.smartygrants.com.au to submit applications. To discuss your application, please email cip@lrcfsl.com.au or contact Lauren Harrison on 0418 456 112 during business hours.



Tanae Bannan

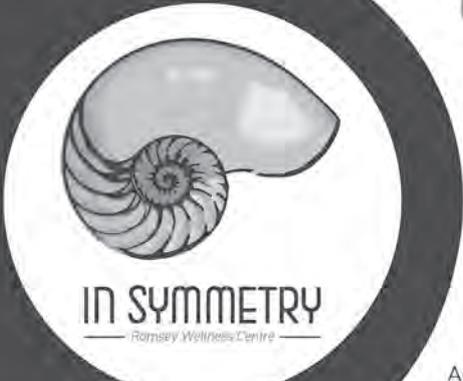
Don't forget to follow us on Facebook to be kept up to date on our Community Investment Program.

RDFNL SPONSORSHIP

Once again, Community Bank Lancefield and Romsey are major sponsors of the Riddell District Football Netball League (RDFNL) in conjunction with Community Bank Gisborne & District. This year is set to be another exciting season for both Lancefield and Romsey, with the Romsey Football Netball Club's 150 Year anniversary and Lancefield Football Netball Club fielding a team in the Senior Women's Football Competition. Plus,

let's not forget the electronic scoreboards installed last year at both Romsey and Lancefield, as part of our Community Investment Program. In other exciting news, our very own Customer Service Officer, Tanae Bannan, coach of the LFNC Under 19 Netballers has been selected as one of the RDFNL's Interleague Netball Coaches.

Bring on Season 2024!



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THE TRUTH

What is the truth? According to the Oxford Dictionary, truth is that which is true, real, or actual. One of the dangers we have as a society is that we let society define what truth is. It then becomes a majority rule, or the most powerful deciding the truth (remind anyone of the 'Ministry of Truth' in George Orwell's novel '1984'?). When society's values and truth change over time, it means that the 'truth' of today, will not be the 'truth' of tomorrow, therefore the 'truth' of today is not 'truth'.

Hmmm, so what can we rely on to be the truth?

To be truth, it must be unchanging. If you want the best example of unchanging, that is God. "For I am the Lord, I do not change" (Malachi 3:6). That includes Jesus: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). It was Jesus who said about himself: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

With Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday this month, the truth is that Jesus did die on the cross, He did rise from the dead (Google "resurrection Lee Strobel") and He did it all for you!

If you want to discuss *The Truth*, join us for one of our services at 10am each Sunday at 7 Mitchell Court in Romsey. Particularly if you want to visit on Resurrection Sunday (31 March) or talk about the truth of origins when Creation Ministries visit on 24 March.

IYENGAR YOGA

Yoga gives the energy to lead life fully with enjoyment On Saturday January 20, a yoga workshop was held at the Lancefield Mechanics' Institute Annex. Lancefield's newest yoga teacher, Esther Tomsic-Pavlis was joined by two yoga colleagues, Jo Jett and Flora Karanikos, both from Melbourne. Jo is a qualified teacher and Flora, like Esther, is completing her teacher-training course. As part of their final examination to become Iyengar teachers, the trainee teachers must demonstrate and teach a beginner's class – and that was what they were workshoping.

Iyengar Yoga is a style of yoga devised by an Indian yoga master, BKS Iyengar more than 50 years ago. He taught in London and gradually his individual style began to be taught all over the world. It first came to Australia in the early 1990s (I attended my first Iyengar Yoga class in Carlton in 1991) As the author of *Yoga the Iyengar Way* states: 'Yoga gives the energy to lead life fully with enjoyment.' In Australia today, many styles of yoga are taught; Iyengar is but one of them. While the more classic styles of yoga (Gita, Sivananda, Satchidananda) can be gentle and relaxing, Iyengar is dynamic and energetic. Esther's classes in the Mechanics' Institute Annex will now be on Wednesday evenings from 5-6 pm. The first class was held on 7 February and will continue until 28 March 13. The cost per class is \$15 – and please bring a mat if you have one. Contact Esther on 0421 783 742.

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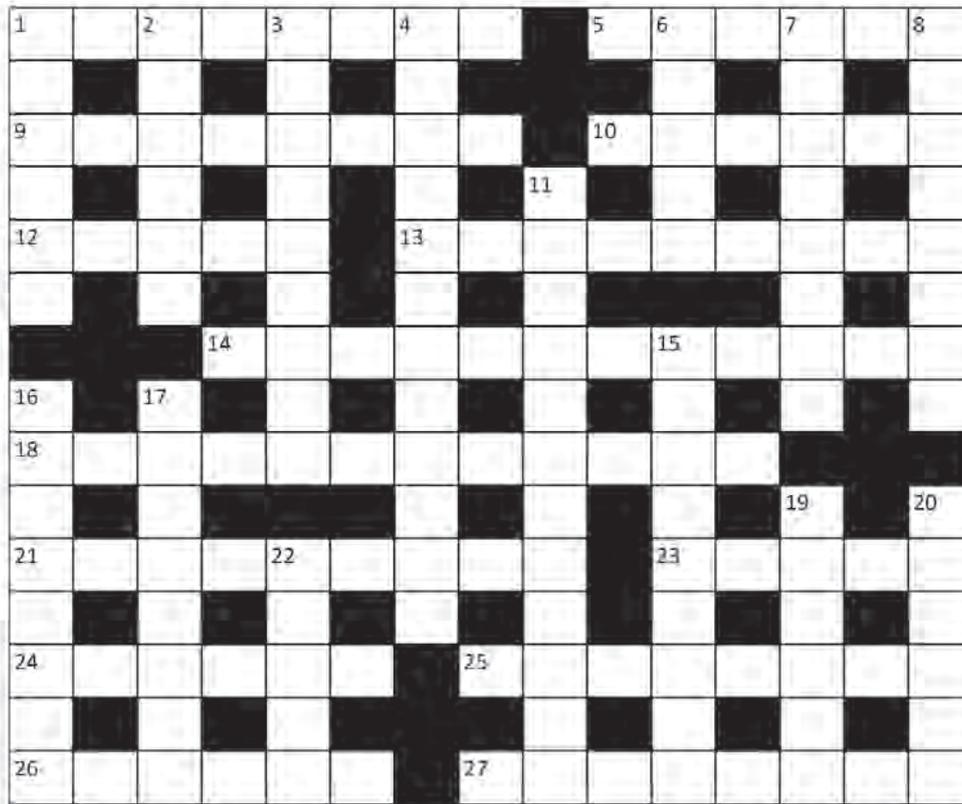
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ACROSS

- 1 Courageous in literature and leaders in reality (8)
- 5 Southern camps set up for mischievous children (6)
- 9 Apartment or a whole building of them (8)
- 10 Unskilled work is all I ask from men I allow to do it. (6)
- 12 Tiler foolishly caused the fire to be started again (5)
- 13 Very noticeably, my lenient approach works (9)
- 14 Fiction with no AI to start could tell you something (12)
- 18 There could be an opening when it's first shown (4,8)
- 21 Reported a view of flowering shrub (3,6)
- 23 Push into a river boat (5)
- 24 Massaged we hear is required. (6)
- 25 You could see something in it but how far? (8)
- 26 Used for arranging or betting and there's even a solar version!
(6)
- 27 Cane toed with spelling mistake makes an amusing story (8)

DOWN

- 1 Provides meals from crates (6)
- 2 Control ones are usually flat, but they can be curved (6)
- 3 Arty promo may be appropriate for service group (4,6)
- 4 They may be here but probably aren't staying (3-9)
- 6 Crinkly fabric can be thin, flat and edible! (5)
- 7 Provide the necessities to keep well-serviced (8)
- 8 Soul without nothing - lying and spoiling (8)
- 11 I take on half vile fictional grouping for strong criticism (12)
- 15 Cobra with a tic could be very flexible (9)
- 16 Offends faces alternative after 40% of after (8)
- 17 Second rate ladders produce flexible containers (8)
- 19 No port? Get some - quickly! (6)
- 20 Erase something - there's even a button for it!
- 22 Old fashioned magistrate opens real East End variety
entertainment (5)

Answers page 40

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INAUGURAL LANCEFIELD FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB BALL DROP

Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of excitement and impact at our upcoming Ball Drop Event on May 4.

In the heart of the quaint town of Lancefield nestled between rolling hills, there lies a small club with big dreams. The Lancefield Football Netball Club is determined to make a difference. They've embarked on a mission to uplift their community in a unique way – through a fundraising Ball Drop Event.

As whispers spread throughout the town, excitement builds. The club members tirelessly prepare, ensuring every detail is perfect for the grand occasion. The anticipation is palpable as locals eagerly purchase tickets, knowing that their contribution will support many locals to participate in sport. The Lancefield Football Netball Club this year is supporting four football teams and five netball teams, including under 19s for both and a newly-formed women's football team and D Grade netball team enabling even more locals an opportunity to participate. Every year this small but mighty club, which competes against far larger clubs, relies on the generosity of local and surrounding businesses and people to donate to the club, to enable them to provide the necessary resources to the players for the season.

This year, the Club has decided to mix it up and hold

a Ball Drop Event! The Club is asking community groups to be involved on the day with stalls, information, and fun activities. Of course, football and netball will be on display for all to watch in anticipation for the big Ball Drop.

Thanks to Kyneton Crane Hire, the purchased balls will hover above the Lancefield Park Oval, in a net, at the completion of the senior football game. After a dramatic countdown the balls will be released, and hundreds of mini yellow footballs will fall to the ground. As the last ball finds its resting place, the community will wait with anticipation to see which numbered ball is closest to the pin!

So, gather your friends, family, and neighbours for an experience like no other. Held at Lancefield Park on May 4, this event promises thrills, laughter, and the opportunity to support meaningful causes.

Don't miss out on this chance to be part of something truly special. Join us for our Ball Drop Event and let's make a difference together. Grab your tickets today and prepare for an afternoon filled with fun, philanthropy, and community spirit. See you there.

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LANCEFIELD TENNIS CLUB

A HIT OF TENNIS

Teams came from Gisborne, Riddell and Macedon to play in Lancefield Tennis Club's mixed doubles round-robin tournament on Saturday 20 January.

After some very close tennis, particularly the semi-finals, Jason Webster and Cathy Spratling edged out Clint Grubler and Liz O'Connell 10-8 in a tie breaker; and Rohan Barr and Kim Alfred bumped past Erik and Rhonda Franks 7-5. Undefeated on the day, Rohan and Kim took home the Lancefield Hotel sponsored prizes. Following play, we all shared afternoon tea.

In the daylight savings months, Lancefield Tennis Club runs a social hit open to everyone 6:30 Mondays (weather permitting) - put on some runners and come and have a go.

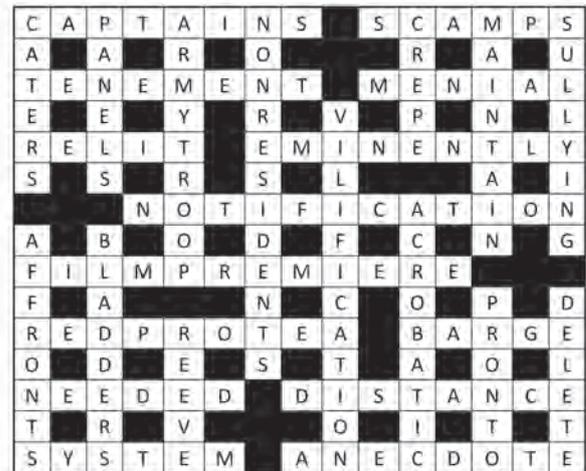
For anyone who wants a hit of tennis, the courts at the back of the pool are open to the public.

Peter Liersch

RUN THE ROCK

Join us for Run the Rock at Hanging Rock on April 20. Run one of your chosen distances of either 22K, 13.5K, 5K or a Kids 2K and experience the unique and natural scenery at one of Victoria's most iconic landmarks. You will be running alongside the native wildlife while you push yourself towards an outstanding achievement. There will be live music, a BBQ, games for kids, as well as food trucks and drinks waiting at the finish line for you to celebrate your run. Start Time is at 7am. Check our webpage for more information and to enter.

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VEG ON THE VERGE

Are you interested in establishing a small vegetable patch on your nature strip? Macedon Ranges residents are being invited to take part in a pilot project to transform their verges into a productive and colourful space that is sure to be a feature of the neighbourhood.

Five lucky households will receive support to start their garden bed with access to information and resources as well as free locally-sourced seedlings, equipment and one-on-one guidance and advice.

Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health is partnering with Healthy Loddon Campaspe and Macedon Ranges Shire Council on this exciting health and horticulture initiative which will help to inform Council's future review of their policy around verge gardening.

"Edible verge gardens are good for the environment, encourage people to be active and enjoy the outdoors plus they can help families incorporate more fresh produce into their diets," says Kylie Stafford from Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health who is coordinating the project in conjunction with Healthy Loddon Campaspe. "They can also help reduce the family food budget and promote a sense of community providing an opportunity for people to engage with their neighbours." Macedon Ranges Shire Council Mayor Annette Death said it was important that people understood their responsibilities – but also opportunities like this – that come with maintaining nature strips.

"Not everyone is aware that it is generally the



responsibility of property owners to maintain their nature strips, but with that responsibility comes potential planting or landscaping opportunities through our Nature Strip Landscaping Policy," she said. "There are so many benefits of verge gardening, so we are keen to use the Veg on the Verge pilot project to help guide future decision-making around this topic."

Contact Kylie Stafford on 5421 1666, email healthpromotion@scchc.org.au or go to www.sunburycobaw.org.au/veg-on-the-verge if you are interested in being part of Veg on the Verge.



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