



ISSUE 322 WANDONG/HEATHCOTE JUNCTION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER : FEBRUARY, 2023 ABN 17 022 858 565

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MEMBER 2023



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AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST FLAG RAISING AND LOCAL COMMUNITY AWARDS CEREMONY AT WANDONG

Thanks to the Wandong—Wallan Lions Club, COM Davern Reserve and Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group another great Australia Day breakfast, flag raising and local award ceremony was staged at Davern Reserve Wandong. Cr Louise Bannister presented this years local community award to the very deserving Wandong History Group. The Bendigo Bank sponsored the event and has done so for many years.



Pictured left is Cr Bannister presenting the community award to the Wandong History Grp President Karen Christensen and pictured right are the many volunteers who make the event possible.



"BACK TO WANDONG" LUNCHEON 2023

Sunday March 19th —12.30pm

Wandong Australiana Restaurant
Broadhurst Lane Wandong

Guest Speaker: Allen Christensen

Enjoy a delicious smorgasbord luncheon

Cost: \$38 per head

RSVP— March 12th — Di Vidal

Email: dyevidal@hotmail.com or Mobile: 0438 811318



IF YOU MISS AN ISSUE OF "WHATS NEWS" go to website <www.wandong.vic.au/local-news/whats-news>

Wandong - Heathcote Junction - why would you live anywhere else. Until March 2023, Allen Hall (editor)

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AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST and LOCAL AWARDS AT WANDONG HEATHCOTE JUNCTION

A total of 12 volunteers prepared and conducted the Australia Day breakfast. It was disappointing that this years crowd was down on previous years but it would appear people making it a long weekend, no individual award winner and the uncertainty about Australia Day may have had some impact this year.

Only one local community award was made this year and it was to the Wandong History Group. Cr Louise Bannister filled in at short notice for Cr Clark and she presented the award to Karen Christensen, President of the Wandong History Group. Cr David Lowe also attended.

A huge thank you to all our volunteers who make this event possible and to the Bendigo Community Bank for providing the budget to conduct our Australia Day breakfast, flag raising and local community award ceremony.

The Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group and the Wandong History Group took the opportunity to thank two of their biggest supporters, Ken Bausch and Jim Chatz who were presented with photos of Wandong 1900. Ken was unfortunately ill on the day so he was represented by his wife Sue.

WHJCG President David Moran (pictured right) was also given a gift to thank him for unrelenting service to the community.



Sponsored by



WANDONG CHRISTMAS CAROLS RETURNED WITH GREAT SUCCESS

After a two year hiatus due to COVID, the Wandong Christmas Carols returned with huge success on Sunday 18th December 2022. Cr David Lowe returned to once again open the carols, Barry Withers and Jeanette Kenney were comparses. Huge thanks to the Bendigo Bank for resuming sponsorship of the carols and thanks to the many volunteers who make the event the success it is. A audience of over 200

was entertained by the Wandong Primary School Choir, Joy of Life Church Youth Choir, the Tangent Choir, the Soul Voices Gospel Choir, Whiz Kids Violins ensemble, Mr Vivian Kenney and Mrs Alice Hall.



What's Happening

WANDONG OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE



Service Phone Number:

0497 877 771

Your service coordinator will be available during session times. TheirCare support is available during office hours if required on 1300 072 410

How to Enrol

Visit TheirCare website:

www.theircare.com.au

and click on 'Book Now' in the top right hand corner to register your child's details.

Operation Times

Before School Care 6:30am – 8:45am

After School Care 3:30pm - 6:30pm

Pupil Free Day 6:30am – 6:30pm

Holiday Program 6:30am – 6:30pm

ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

18 Feb Marj & Allan Knight W
21 Feb Karen & Alastair MacDonald W
7 Mar Gary & Judy Fairweather WP
10 Mar Olivia & Clive Allen HJ
10 Mar Frank & Bette Sartore W
11 Mar Pat & Lindi Leddin HJ
13 Mar Irene & Kevin Bartlett W

GAZEBOS AND CHAIRS FOR HIRE

For your next function why not hire a gazebo and chairs from the Wandong – Heathcote Junction Community Group.

For hire are:
two 6m X 3m gazebos,
a 3m X 3m gazebo
8 wooden trestles
and 50 outdoor chairs.

Call David on mobile
0409 164 660
to arrange hire.



MYKI RETAILER

COMMUNITY WEBSITES

www.wandong.vic.au

www.upperplenty.com

Mitchell Bushwalking Group

The group walks once a fortnight, with some evening walks during the summer months.

Please contact:

Mary 0428 479 469
or Wayne 0451 519 734

or email
mitchellwalksgroup@gmail.com

for more information



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

We wish the following people a very happy birthday

14 Feb	Les Harrison	W
14 Feb	Ebony May McMahon	W
16 Feb	Guy Batey	W
16 Feb	Caitlin Gough	HJ
16 Feb	Brent Candy	W
16 Feb	Lauren Saw	HV
17 Feb	Breeanna Thomas	B
17 Feb	Rosemary Hobson	HJ
18 Feb	Loren Page	C
20 Feb	Ashleigh Sannwald	HJ
21 Feb	Bianca Villanti	HJ
22 Feb	Jake Saw	HV
22 Feb	Hayley Mumberson	HJ
22 Feb	Eliza Renouf	C
24 Feb	David Bartolo	UP
24 Feb	Steve Kilroy	W
25 Feb	Daniel Hannemann	W
25 Feb	Lyn Thomas	B
27 Feb	Graeme Edwards	HJ
27 Feb	Jennifer Cocks	W
28 Feb	Carol McIntyre	KE
2 Mar	Simon Caeli	W
2 Mar	Heather Limbrick	B
3 Mar	Colin Williams	HJ
4 Mar	Rhiaanon Bradshaw	W
4 Mar	Heather Flannery	W
7 Mar	Kim Kyriacou	K
8 Mar	Blake Dennehy	W
8 Mar	Marilyn McNaughton	HJ
8 Mar	Tim Abela	HJ
8 Mar	Rodney Stone	HJ
10 Mar	Bree Chisholm	HJ
11 Mar	Steve Albert	HJ
12 Mar	James Stewart	W
12 Mar	Sharna Flannery	W
12 Mar	Jayden Rhead	HJ
13 Mar	Phillis McCarthy	HJ
13 Mar	Kylie Coad	W
14 Mar	Geoff McMahon	HJ
16 Mar	Lisa Kelly	HJ
16 Mar	Chris Waldie	W
17 Mar	Catherine Humphreys	W
17 Mar	Andrew Ryan	KE
17 Mar	Kylie Warburton	HJ
17 Mar	Abigail O-Sullivan	W



OKR 98.3 FM
More Music

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whatsnewswhj@gmail.com

Remember

"Whats News" is also available on the website
<www.wandong.vic.au>

Wandong Playgroup

New members are welcome at playgroup.

You can start anytime of the year.

Come along and check it out.

The first session is free and
then it's \$5 per family
plus payment of Playgroup Victoria
membership to cover insurance.

Playgroup is for parents, guardians,
grandparents and careers and their
0-5 year old children.

Come and look!

Anytime is a good time to start.

Every Tuesday (during school terms)

9.30am till 11.30am

At Wandong Community Centre,

LB Davern Reserve

Dry Creek Cres, WANDONG

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ABOUT PLAYGROUP CONTACT:

Andrea 0413 212 946



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your local store.*

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Great Range of:

Groceries

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Produce

Deli

Dairy

Freezer

Liquor

Wandong Licensed Supermarket
3272 Epping Kilmore Rd, Wandong

5787 1911

INTO THE ARENA

Welcome back readers, Allan Gray and Merle Croskell are combining for this issue for 2023.

This month we would like to discuss volunteering in our local areas.

The local paper on the front and second page displayed about the shortage of CFA and SES needing younger people to be trained a couple of weeks ago.

Our ever expanding communities where many suburban people have come to reside need to know that local volunteering is necessary bringing with them new, refreshing gifts and talents. Some of the older workers have played multiple roles, some needing to lessen their load of commitments.

Allan is very much into volunteering, and he is here to encourage you to jump into this arena. What arena is that you ask and is this why we have moved to a country area?

On our very doorstep : Scouting groups, men's and women's sheds, Lions club, Love in Action and similar groups, Salvo stores, St Vinnies, Freedom Care, Transition Village. We have heard of great needs, and we apologize if we haven't mentioned your charity or assistance. All aged residents need visiting reading, listening to some of their interesting life stories, just knowing that they haven't been forgotten, one being the Visitors Scheme. Local groups even needing sausage sizzlers, help cleaning up where they reside. Of course schools need volunteers, churches beneficial in assistance in various ways. Acting, singing to bring great joy into our lives that we all so desperately need.

Find yourself while helping others, your life can flourish out in the arena of life. Fred Hollows said "Caring for other people is what being human is all about." So, do you find yourself sitting in the stands,; but wanting to join the common crowd not criticising or judging out in the dust adding your blood and occasionally your tears to support and encourage the not yet comfortable, not yet housed, clothed or loved.

There is nothing more satisfying than helping another to regain the knowledge that they are a human being, a child of God.

God Bless, Allan and Merle.

SAVE WANDONGS HERITAGE LISTED ST MICHAELS CHURCH

Please help by donating your 5 cents in the collection tins at Kemps Bakery (Wandong) and Wandong Pharmacy



LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, WANDONG

WANDONG AVE, WANDONG
Enquires 9308 2452
Services: 8.30am
1on 1st & 3rd Sundays
ALL WELCOME

Whittlesea Anglican Church

Serving Whittlesea, Upper Plenty.
& surrounding areas

Christ Church: 9 Wallan Road, Whittlesea.
Vicar: Rev Ruwan Palapathwala 9014 0696

Web Site: www.christchurchwhittlesea.org

Weddings/Baptisms by appointment

Sunday Services: 10.15am. Incl kids program

Services to the Community:

Whittlesea Opportunity Shop 7 Laurel St
9716 3144 Open M-F 10-4 Sat 9.30-12.30

Christ Church Craft Group

Friday 10-2, Church Hall BYO craft - any type
we love to learn, Jenny 9715 1137

Anglican Care: quality provider aged services

www.anglicancare.com.au

Jobs at Anglican Care www.careerjet.com.au



To equip and release people into their God given destiny

Meeting at 10.30am every Sunday
at the Freedom Care Building,
127c Northern Highway Kilmore Vic
— entrance on Willomavin Road

Enquiries to ;

Pastor Frantz Heinzelmann

Mobile: 0411 794 188

www.freedomcarechurch.org.au

All Welcome. Love to see you there



Wandong District Church

**29 Wandong Ave,
Wandong**

**Services held at 5pm Sundays
ALL WELCOME**

Enquiries to:

Pastor Allan Laurens 5787 1020

Or David Moran 5787 1738

WANDONG MEDICAL CENTRE

Dr Hossein

Ph: (03) 5787-2277

Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm

AstraZeneca & Pfizer vaccines also available.

**3307 Epping - Kilmore Road
Wandong, Vic. 3758**

THE SHACK IS BACK

**The Upper Plenty Community
Hall "THE SHACK"
is open for hire.**

**For more information and
bookings call Susan or Wayne
on 5783 1456.**

**If not answered leave your name and
number and we will return the call.**

**WANDONG AUSTRALIANA
MOTEL - TAVERN - RESTAURANT
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•A LA CARTE•ACCOMMODATION
ENQUIRIES AND
BOOKINGS:
(03) 5787 1401**



**Anyone wishing to join
Kilmore District Mens Shed
Should contact
John Perrett 0418 288 024 or
Ron Hamilton 0481 268 471**

**Operating hours are
Tuesday and Thursday
9.30 am - Approx. 1.30 pm**

email: Kilmoremensshed@gmail.com

The Kilmore & District Hospital



Rutledge Street, Kilmore Phone: (03) 5734 2000

**Urgent Care Centre
(Open 24/7 with Registered Nurses)**

**Acute Ward (30 beds)
Maternity (including antenatal classes and
dietician)
Oncology
Surgical Procedures
District Nursing
Aged Care –
Dianella Hostel and
Caladenia Nursing Home Website:
www.kilmoredistricthospital.org.au**



MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL



How to keep up to date with Council online:

- > E-News direct to your inbox, sign up now
- > On our website www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

Not online?

- > Fortnightly Council Ad in the local newspaper
- > Monthly radio shows

Or, contact Mitchell Shire Council on 5734 6200.

GARDEN SCENE WITH GAIL

Hope everyone had a great Festive Season. Recent rain has been so good for our gardens, and it saves our tap water and brings Nitrogen to the soil and plants. Keep gardens, pots and hanging basket well-watered because even warm winds will dry out our soil and potting media. Hanging baskets and pots are notorious for drying out because they don't have extra soil around them as our plants do in the garden. Beautiful Hydrangeas are looking stunning with their big flower heads but they are very susceptible to drying out in warm conditions and in addition to watering them (including the foliage) you can pop a shade sail over them and secure it at their base to keep the intense heat from them. Umbrellas work well if you can stop them blowing away. If you water foliage of a night-time it may encourage powdery mildew, affecting Roses as well. Morning watering is ideal but not always do we have time of a morning. If you've mulched, fertilised and incorporated wetting agent around your plants and through your lawn you will really notice the difference it makes to your plant looking so good during the warm weather. Wetting agent is fantastic, it holds the moisture in to the soil and provides the soil with a buffer zone to help withstand the hot conditions. On a hot day, even if you've watered in the morning, try to water again late in the afternoon, once the sun has gone off the plants that you're watering. In windy conditions avoid sprinklers as you lose a lot of water being blown into the air. Leaves of some plants can become transparent when watered in the sun or if the heat of the day is still on them. This can reduce the plant's ability to absorb the sun, moisture and nutrients through their leaves, thus weakening the plant. Regular applications of Seasol will assist in reducing stress and shock in plants and lawns. If you need to prune try to wait until the hot weather is on the way out because plants can lose quite a lot of moisture through pruning, particularly if it's a large plant and / or the branches are wide in diameter. Sometimes during hot dry conditions, we see where we may have used different plants in certain areas. Tough, hardy plants such as varieties of Yucca, Agave, Sedum, good old Diosma with it's beautiful golden colour, Ceanothus – brilliant blue flowers in Spring, Geraniums and Pelargoniums that tend to slow the growth of grass underneath them, which is an added bonus, larger plants like Ornamental Pears, so hardy and what about Flax and the Nandina varieties,



amazing tough plants. If you are constantly watering and your plants aren't thriving and just existing, consider replanting with more suitable species but hold on, not yet. Just after the first rain in Autumn is an excellent time to transplant and, in the meantime, do some research on plants that you might consider, think of height at maturity, (overhead wires etc) growth rate, child friendly (not spikey) flower and foliage colour. If you need some advice or would like to see what the plants look like, visit a good quality nursery and ask their advice for planting conditions and plant requirements. When replanting enrich your soil again with well-rotted cow manure and if clayey, dig it over with fine white sand and gypsum as per instructions.

Have a fantastic February,
Gail Mains Kendrick (your local real estate agent)



WANDONG PUBLIC HALL

The Wandong Hall Committee is still in need of a secretary to function properly to manage the hall and meet the needs of or regular user groups and casual hirers. If you feel you may be able to be part of the committee in some small way please call Christine to discuss what the role entails.

Our regular user groups are always keen to have more people come along they are listed below:

Dance classes for pre-schoolers Tuesday and Thursday mornings during term time.

Contact Claire Bennett 0420 418 425

The Craft group attend every Monday, it's an informal group, bring along some lunch, and something to do if you feel like it. There is always someone on hand to help with crafty questions in the group and this has been our longest running group.

The Lightwood Flats book club meet monthly - contact is Annie Beaman Ph: 5787 1698

Wandong Country Knitters also meet monthly, contact is Coralee Souter. Ph: 0479 163 548

Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group hold a monthly meeting Ph: 0413 832 411

Wandong History Group Monthly meeting – Karen Christensen Ph: 0432 120 736

The hall is available for hire phone Christine for bookings on 0448604770. Christine has an answering service so please leave a message if she cannot answer the phone, she will respond to all enquiries promptly.

LIONS CLUB OF WANDONG - WALLAN INC.

President: Marilyn Moore
PO Box 225, Wandong, Vic. 3758



Welcome back to a new year. We haven't had many meetings over the last couple of months but we have been pretty active.

We reinstated our citizenship awards for year 6 students. These awards are for students who exhibit good citizenship within their school communities. We have been running these awards for a long time but they lapsed over covid. Didn't everything?

Our Christmas raffle was a great success. All the hampers were claimed and the recipients were pleased with their prizes. Again I would like to thank all the businesses that contributed to our prize pool. We will certainly run another one next festive season.

This year, through Sam at IGA and the generosity of his customers we were able to distribute 16 Christmas hampers to needy families via the Wandong primary school. Thanks Sam. The donation trolley is still active at IGA in Wandong and we welcome your contributions.

Cakes and puddings went well again this year and I believe that we sold out. Well done Hugh.

Barbeques. We have had a couple at Bunnings in Craigieburn and also did one at Kilmore racetrack. This was to promote country racing and we were invited to participate. It was a very hot day to be selling sausages but it was fun. Drinks and icy poles were easier. Peter's daughter Lara deserves a mention. She was acting as cashier and doing a sterling job. We even considered doubling her wages. What's double of nothing? It is good to be asked to participate in these events and shows that the club is well thought of and appreciated in our community.

We had a bbq afternoon at my home in January. It was a great success with eating and drinking and yabby catching and tractor rides. Nobody wanted to ride the scooter down the hill and they declined my offer of a demonstration. Bill and Marie Forbes grandchildren were yabbing in white shorts and socks. I'm not sure how their mother was going to get them clean again. Young Lara Van De Pavard out yabbied her parents and was a wiz on the tractor. A very successful afternoon

Bill Forbes has finally reached an agreement with his insurance company to rebuild his shed. They originally declined but he wore them down. They obviously had not come across a good bush lawyer before.

Steve and Tania are away in the Snowy Mountains. Poor Tania had to stay at home working her fingers to the bone while Steve wandered around the country taking photos of trains. He managed to have his train photos on the cover of railway digest two issues in a row. Well done Steve.

Tania managed to break her toe by kicking a stool while rushing around getting packed to meet Steve. Steve claims it wasn't his fault.

As for me. I have been my usual perfect self. I haven't fallen over or broken anything. I even used a ladder to take down the Christmas lights. Boy I am good.

Catch you next time.

Clyde Riley

FOR SALE:

TRADESMAN TRAILER

Solid built 6x4 trailer with butterfly doors and timber carry bars. Includes key start 8 kva generator.

Good tyres, ready to be used.

\$1,800 or near offer.

Wandong area

- Call David on 5787 1738



KILMORE GOLF CLUB



Welcome to all golfers for 2023. We look forward to seeing as many players as possible using the course which has been cleaned up after the heavy rains at the end of the year. The course has plenty of run for those who use that strategy and the fairways are green. Unfortunately, the corellas have just arrived so please be aware of this.

Competitions have commenced for Ladies and Men – Monthly Medals, putting competitions, Kilmore Cup, John Carr Cup and Pat Johnstone Trophy to be held over the next few weeks.

Junior Golf has also commenced. Nathan Roberts will once again hold lessons commencing Saturday 11th Feb. at 11.30 For further information see the mygolf website or contact Nathan 0405327427 or email nroberts@pgamember.org.au. Nathan also offers coaching for all players so to improve your game talk to Nathan.

Nathan will also be coaching 7 junior girls who won scholarships offered at Kilmore Golf Club. They will receive 24 free golf lessons, free membership of KGC, free t- shirt and cap and a bag tag.

The Annual Par 3 day sponsored by Kilmore Toyota will be held on Sunday March 5th. There are prizes for nearest the pin (\$200) Hole in one on the 2nd hole to win a new car and on the 7th \$1000 sponsored by Kingsgate Village. Entry is \$50 pp. Contact the golf club [-info@kilmoregolfclub.com.au](mailto:info@kilmoregolfclub.com.au) or 57821123 for further information.

Reminder that we are still offering voucher booklets at a cost of \$150. There are 10 vouchers in each book and they can be used at a time to suit you.

Our Function room is available for hire. Contact the Club via email- info@kilmoregolfclub.com.au for rates.



*Kilmore
&
District*

PO Box 550, Kilmore 3764

President: Elaine De Gabrielle

Secretary: Mark Perrott

Contact: info@u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au

Happy New Year and we wish you all good health, happiness and a wealth of enjoyable activities in which to participate as 2023 gets underway. Kilmore and district U3A members have not wasted any time reconvening with the darts group, indoor bowls and recorder ensemble getting off to a flying start. Detail of the finalised classes on offer will be posted on the website so keep an eye out at <https://u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au/>

This year we have lost the theatre group because of ongoing difficulties with last minute cancellations due to Covid, making it nigh on impossible to coordinate. We do, however have some new classes on offer; play reading, upholstery and possibly a ukulele singalong group being started. The Garden Group have their first gathering on February 9th with an afternoon exchanging plants, bulbs and other things garden related.

The recorder ensemble are planning to hold a concert later on this year in line with what they have done in previous years before Covid put a stop to indoor gatherings. They are already working on the music which will cover a wide range of genres including Baroque, Classical, traditional folk tunes and some more contemporary pieces. Other community music groups will also be invited to perform. Watch this space for details.

We are also looking forward to a change of venue. The social part of the JJ Clancy integrated community recreation hub is scheduled for completion at the end of March. The main social space is very large and the second smaller space will give some flexibility for smaller classes. It will be great to have all the classes at one place.

Registration day on January 10th was well attended with some new faces and many old members re-joining after having had a break due to Covid restrictions. We are hoping for a much better year as people become accustomed to the new normal and get out and about again. So if you are over 50 and no longer working full time, want to learn a new skill, join an age appropriate exercise class or just socialise with like-minded people why not join us?

Email us on info@u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au or write to PO Box 550, Kilmore, 3764 and we will be happy to help you out. Or if you have a skill you want to share, why not volunteer to take a class? It is a good way to give a bit back to the community and help people continue to learn. It can also be a lot of fun.

Cheers, Amanda Oades

WANDONG-HEATHCOTE JUNCTION COMMUNITY GROUP

P.O. Box 242, WANDONG 3758 Tel: 0413 832 411



WEBSITE

In December the <www.wandong.vic.au> website received 822 visits and in January it received 1012 visits. If any business or group has noticed any change which needs to be corrected to their entry, please let us know. To add your business or group email: whatsnewswhj@gmail.com.au

WANDONG CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped the WHJCG put on another successful Wandong Christmas Carols. Attendees reported that it was the best carols yet. Thank you to our main sponsor, the Bendigo Bank for funding the event for many years.



AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST AND CEREMONY

Thank you to the Wandong—Wallan Lions Club, COM Davern Reserve and our members for staging another great Australia Day breakfast, flag raising and award ceremony. Thank you Cr Louise Bannister for presenting this years local community award to the very deserving Wandong History Group. We also thank the Bendigo Bank, without its grant we could not have staged this years event.

The Community Group and the Wandong History Group took the opportunity to thank two of their biggest supporters, Ken Bausch and Jim Chatz who were presented with photos of Wandong 1900.

EASTER EGG BASKET RAFFLE

Tickets for the Community Groups annual Easter egg basket raffle are now on sale. Please support the raffle, all proceeds go to projects and facility maintenance in Wandong Heathcote Junction.

WANDONG MURAL CIRCA 1900

The Wandong mural circa 1900 commissioned by the WHJCG and painted by Mr Vivian Kenney should be installed soon at the Wandong Plaza.

MEETING WITH MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL

In response to letters exchanged with Mitchell Shire regarding all the maintenance problems in Wandong Heathcote Junction, the Shire has now agreed to meet members of the WHJCG to discuss the following list.

- REGULAR MEETINGS WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS
- HUME AND HOVELL MEMORIAL TO REPLACE ROTTEN WOODEN SCULPTURE
- FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE (CRACKED CEMENT PAVEMENT RAIL ST / BITUMEN NTH MTN RD)
- TOILET / BBQ CLEANING AND SCHEDULE (CAR PARK RUBBISH BIN TO BE REPLACED IN FEBRUARY)
- RUBBISH BIN OVERFLOWING
- BUSHFIRE MEMORIAL PARK CAR PARK (BITUMEN, BOLLARDS, DRAIN)
- GRASS CUTTING
- PIN OAKS VANDALISED
- PLAYGROUND UPGRADE AT MEMORIAL PARK
- THE MESH FENCE ALONG RAIL STREET / RAIL RESERVE
- BLOCKED DRAINS
- THE LAND AT THE CORNER OF RAIL STREET AND WANDONG AVE
- ARTC PROJECT - COUNCIL SUPPORT
- WANDONG AVE / RAIL ST DRAIN NON EXISTENT
- CLEAN OUT DRAINS AND GUTTERS IN RAIL STREET
- FIX SIGNAGE AT LB DAVERN RESERVE AND SAY G'DAY TRAIL
- MORE ROSES AT THE CIRCLE OF BUSHFIRE MEMORIAL PARK TO FILL IN GAPS
- GET VICTRACK TO REMOVE GRAFFITI FROM PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
- GET OWNER OF NEW FACTORIES AND THE STORAGE BUILDING TO REMOVE GRAFFITI



Launching Into the 2023 School Year:

Smooth transitions are an integral part of supporting a child to adjust to and make the most of a new situation. A new teacher and/or a new classroom is an exciting event, but can also lead to a child feeling overwhelmed with the many changes that are taking place around them. At Wandong Primary, at the beginning of the school year, all students in Foundation-Grade 6 participate in the Propel program. This program, developed by our school curriculum leaders and Student Wellbeing Leaders, aims to build a positive culture focused on a growth mindset and high expectations. It helps students understand structures and routines within their new classroom as well as whole school processes and positive acknowledgement systems. By investing time to build this culture, students are provided with opportunities to get to know one another and celebrate the strengths of their classmates. The Propel program supports children to feel confident in themselves as a learner and supported socially and emotionally in all contexts and spaces within the school.

Term One Inquiry:

Foundation, students will be exploring what it means to be a responsible pet owner. The key focus questions they will be investigating are: What are domesticated animals? How do animals help people? What needs do animals have and how do we care for them? Are animals that different to us?

The Grade One/Two cohort will be exploring how native Australian animals are unique to our country, as they don't live anywhere else on the planet. Students will unpack what native animals are, which animals are considered native to Australia and why, and the threats faced by these creatures.

Grade Three/Four students will be exploring the topic "Animals of the World". They will explore how animals in the rainforests, arctic, oceans, bush and savannahs depend on their environment and other animals around them to survive. We will investigate lifecycles, different ecosystems around the world, how animals are unique to these ecosystems and how animals depend on each other to survive.

Our Grade Five/Six cohort's driving question is 'How do animals adapt to survive in extreme environments?' Students will explore animal adaptations and why these happen. They will investigate what some of the most extreme environments are and how animals adapt to these. Students will research the physical conditions of the environment and how it impacts animals, as well as look more closely at which organisms live in extreme environments and what aids their survival.

2024 Families - Starting Ahead to Stay Ahead:

The first year of primary school is one of the most critical years in a child's education. During this time, children learn the foundational skills that they will need to become effective readers, writers and mathematicians. There is a strong link between children who succeed in Foundation and those who go on to excel in later years of primary school, and beyond. We want our students to have the best of everything right from the start. The best teachers, the best education and the best opportunities. We designed Launchpad to give our students the best chance to excel from the moment they walk through our doors.

Children enrolled for Foundation 2024, will be offered our onsite "Launchpad Learning for students". These onsite sessions will run in the second part of the year to provide another opportunity for your child to start ahead, to stay ahead. Contact Wandong PS to book.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE - BECOME A VOLUNTEER

If you are young, elderly, retired or working, please consider joining a community group and enjoy the rewards of volunteering. Join one of the community groups operating in Wandong Heathcote Junction.

Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group Inc: Call 0413 832 411

Wandong Wallan Lions Club: Call 0418 142 172

Wandong History Group: Call 0432 120 736

Wandong Fire Brigade



Wandong Fire Brigade thanks the community for their support and donations during 2022. We are motivated to continue our work in 2023 and look forward to your continued support.

Wandong Junior Fire Brigade is back and looking for more crew!

The Junior program will restart on Monday 13th February at the Wandong fire station from 6.30 – 8pm. We have spots available and looking to add to our junior crew. Kids from 11 to 16 years who live in Wandong, Heathcote Junction or Clonbinane are eligible. There is no cost involved. Contact Terry on 0413 644 319 for more details. Juniors will be completing their First Aid certificate in term 1.

Fire Restrictions

Fire Restrictions remain in place in the Mitchell Shire. No fires may be lit in the open air without a written permit issued by a Fire Prevention Officer of a public authority, the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer or the CFA District office. For more information see <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can/>

Fire Information in an Emergency

During an emergency, Wandong Fire Brigade is not always able to update their facebook page immediately as our admin are all volunteer firefighters, and their priority is to attend to the incident. Updates will be made as soon as practicable.

Check out these sources for official information during a fire or other emergency.

VicEmergency Incidents (<http://emergency.vic.gov.au/respond/>)

VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)

VicEmergency App

ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

CFA Facebook page ([facebook.com/cfavic](https://www.facebook.com/cfavic))

CFA Twitter (twitter.com/CFA_Updates)

Wandong Fire Brigade will soon be recruiting new firefighters!

Wandong Fire Brigade is a 100% volunteer brigade made up of people living in the Wandong / Heathcote Junction area. We will soon be looking for new people to join the brigade and train as firefighters.

All training is provided, and is nationally accredited. There is no financial expense to volunteers, just your time and commitment. Uniforms are provided and it is a great way to meet new people and form friendships, develop new skills and have greater involvement in your local community. Active members also have the opportunity to gain valuable transferable qualifications including first aid certificates and truck licenses. Follow our Facebook page, or watch out for the sign outside the fire station for when recruitment will begin.

Fire Equipment Maintenance

Installing and Maintaining your Fire Suppression Equipment is required under the Building Code of Australia. Trained Wandong Fire Brigade members volunteer their time to provide this service to the Community and in turn raise funds for the Brigade to purchase equipment that protects the Community. All servicing carried out is compliant with the required Australian Standards. Our Forward Command Vehicle and FEM trailer have been provided through the work of these volunteers, and local individuals and businesses utilising this important service. If you are in need of Fire extinguishers, hose reels, fire blankets or ongoing maintenance of your equipment contact John Simpson on 0421 319 203 to discuss your needs.

Training

Training has resumed on Wednesday nights starting at 7pm at the fire station. For more information contact Lt James Stephens on 0418 221 458.



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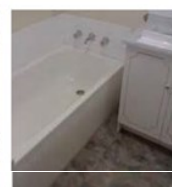
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Lauren Kathage MP

Labor Member for Yan Yean

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 3/14 Yan Yean Rd, Diamond Creek VIC 3089

 lauren.kathage@parliament.vic.gov.au  03 9432 9782

Authorised by L Kathage, Suite 3, 14 Yan Yean Road, Diamond Creek VIC 3089. Funded from Parliamentary budget.

HE'S HERE FOR US

Rob Mitchell MP
Member for McEwen

Rob.Mitchell.MP@aph.gov.au | 03 5716 3000

Authorised by R Mitchell ALP, 57-59 High St, Wallan.



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WHATS NEWS @ WANDONG NETBALL CLUB



2023 REGISTRATIONS

We hope that everyone in the community has enjoyed the sunshine and a break during the holiday season. Many parents, me included, have been busy getting kids ready for a new year of school. Hopefully all the kids are settling in, and parents are back in the swing of the early morning starts. As soon as school started so too did the interest in Netball, if you emailed the Club about 2023 registrations you should have now received a reply so check your inbox.

Registrations for our 2023 season will be live on the Netball Connect App in the coming weeks.

How to Register?

Netball Connect is simple and easy to use. Once you download the app, simply follow the registration prompts.

See the following webpage for a step-by-step guide to registering to play.

<https://vic.netball.com.au/players>



NetballConnect

We will send out a link as soon as registrations are open. Keep up to date on our NEW OFFICIAL Wandong Netball Club Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/wandongnetballclub>

The 2023 Season will officially commence on the 29th of April.

NetSetGo

In Term 4 the Club hosted a very successful NetSetGo program. 23 superstars attended the 11-week program. It was exciting to see just how much each child improved as the weeks went on.



Thank you to all the parents for bringing their children along and for participating in the parents' vs kids match. Thank you also to our amazing coaches Bec, Kara, both Jo's and Emma for making this program a success.

A special shout out to the following Under 11 players who came to help set up, pack up and assist the kids each week – you have made the Club very proud, well done to Amy, Dylan, Emma, Gabrielle, Isabelle, Natalie, Tyler and Zoe.

The 2023 NetSetGo program will run again in Term 4 this year.

PRESEASON TRAINING

Each year the Club runs preseason training to help the kids prepare for the upcoming season and this year is no exception. Preseason training will commence in March at the Wandong Netball Courts. More info to come once dates and times are confirmed.



VOLUNTEERING AT THE CLUB

A successful Club is only as strong as its volunteers and many hands makes light work.

We at the Wandong Netball Club are fortunate that each year we have fantastic people offering to help. The type of support provided by each person differs.

Coach

You might want to put an application in to Coach a team in 2023 – a very rewarding position.

Training expectations are once a week on an afternoon of your choosing, with an hour Saturday morning at the matches. Being a Coach keeps you fit and active as well as the opportunity to give back to the children in your local community.



Team Manager

What team could succeed without a Team Manager. You would attend training sessions and support the coach with drills and on court activities, you would delegate roles such as set up, scoring, timekeeper, BBQ etc with parents in your team and be a point of reference on game day for families.



Committee Member



Join our committee, we meet on the second Monday of every month at 7:30pm. You might have great fundraising ideas, be fantastic at organising events, or simply want to help the Club be the best it can be. Our main roles are all filled but we are always welcome new faces with fresh ideas.

BBQ Manager

Are you available on Saturday mornings? Our BBQ Manager would be responsible for setting up our BBQ in the mornings and getting the food cooking. This is a fun and social role that would suit a parent, a grandparent or a retiree in the community who has good people and money skills.

You would be supported by the Committee as well as a rotation of parents during games.

You would only be investing a few hours each Saturday at our home games but providing the Club with a valuable source of ongoing income to pay umpires etc throughout the season. No food experience necessary but is an advantage.



If you are interested in being a part of our 2023 season please email wandongnetball@gmail.com to register your interest. We look forward to opening registrations and getting the season started.

The Wandong Netball Club is a child safe club. For more info please visit

<https://www.playbytherules.net.au/online-courses>



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WANDONG JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Please contact the Club via email wandongjfc@gmail.com for further information.

Or, search our face book page or Team App page by typing "Team App Wandong Warriors".

AGE GROUPS SEASON 2023

The new ages groups will be under 9, under 10s, under 12s and under 14s

NEW PLAYERS WELCOME

We are recruiting new players, so feel free to come to training and keep on our Facebook page for further details details on season 2023 training and season dates.



SEASON 2023 PLAYERS WANTED!!

BOYS AND GIRLS WELCOME TO JOIN OUR
UNDER 9'S, UNDER 10'S, UNDER 12'S AND UNDER 14'S TEAMS!



REGISTRATION FEE ONLY \$50 PER PLAYER
INCLUDES REGISTRATION, PLAYING GUERNSEY
AND SHORTS!

JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR PRE SEASON TRAINING DATES:

THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY 4.30 – 5.30PM

THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY 4.30 – 5.30PM

THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 4.30 – 5.30PM

THURSDAY 2 MARCH 4.30 – 5.30PM

Training will then commence every Tuesday and Thursday starting 7 March at 4.30pm

JOIN OUR FAMILY FRIENDLY CLUB AND HAVE SOME FUN!!

LB DAVERN RESERVE, WANDONG

STUART FRASER PRESIDENT PH: 0403 571 960

Stay tuned with FaceBook and TeamApp to find out when we resume Tuesday's and Thursdays in March.

We look forward to seeing you all back for season 2023!



What's happening at the Reserve?

After a challenging 2022 year we were back in business for 2023, the Reserve has continued to grow and develop and has become a great asset for our community to enjoy and a place to relax.

In summary the L.B. Davern Reserve is open to all our community, so please come down and enjoy this great facility, join the various clubs, just walk along the Say G-Day trail, take the kids down to play on the play equipment or just play and exercise on the oval and use the exercise pod on the edge of the G-Day trail.



Tennis is back, Cricket, Dog Club, the Horse clubs, the Stadium, preschool, playgroup have returned.

It's good to see the Reserve returning back to life with our community back in supporting their groups and other activities enjoyed by those who participate.

Kilmore Cricket Club at the Reserve- Friday evenings, Saturday mornings and afternoons

Wandong Tennis Club-Saturday Morning Juniors, Afternoons Adult and Night Tennis Tuesday and Thursday.

The Broadford Senior Football club at present are training at the Reserve on a Monday and Wednesday

Year 2023 will see continued developments that will complement our sport groups and community. We are very lucky to have a Reserve that has character and bush ambiance atmosphere that complements our communities.



L.B. Davern Reserve Cricket @ Wandong

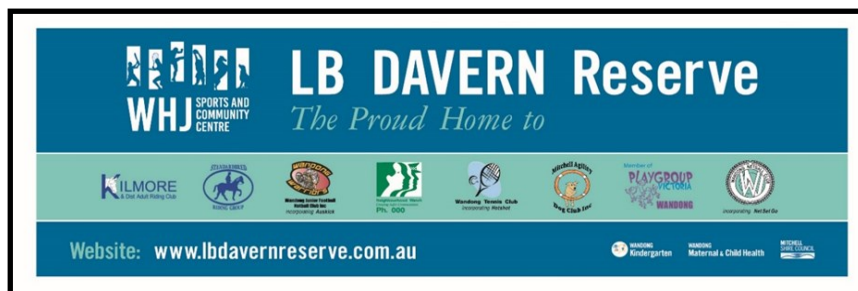
The Australia Day Breaky 2023

The Australia Day Breaky down at Community Centre at L.B Reserve was a great success and thank you to the Wandong/ Heathcote Junction Community Group and the Wandong/Wallan Lions Club for another successful Australia Day Breakfast.



Congratulations to the Wandong History Group for being presented with this year's participant of the Australia Day Wandong and Heathcote Junction Community Award.





L.B.Davern Reserve Wandong 2023 - We have come along way.



To our community, we need your help;

We need to catch any persons vandalizing our Reserve!!!!

If Residents notice anything out of the ordinary please contact the police on **000**

It is in our community interest that we all keep our Reserve safe for all to use!!

Please note:

Somebody or persons are filling up the Reserve bins with their own rubbish, the Reserve bins are provided for user groups and the community using the Reserve.

Our Community building is also a great asset to hold kids parties, family type events and private functions of all sorts. Please consider when planning a function.

Contact our booking officer

Darlene Gunter 0418 312 762.

Get in quick as bookings are coming in fast.

For all L.B.Davern Reserve Bookings to either:

-Oval Bookings, Stadium bookings and enquiries -
Mitchell Shire Council
Recreation and Open Space unit ph. 5734 6200.

-Community Centre and Sports Pavilion contact:
Darlene Gunter
Booking Officer for the WHJSCC
on 0418 312 762

Rob Telfer
President,
L.B.Davern Reserve Committee
12 Dry Creek Cres
P.O.Box 303, Wandong 3758
Mobile 0408 393 250



Darraweit Guim Primary School News



SCHOOL
VALUES
RESPECT
CARING
HONESTY
WILLING
TO LEARN

Hello from DGPS

We are really looking forward to our students getting back to school this week. After a very challenging term 4 of 2022 after the devastation of the floods, we are well rested and eager to begin the new school year – welcoming our new and returning families.

We are still currently working in the relocatable portables, but the re-instatement work has begun, and we expect to be back in our original buildings by the end of term 1. We would like to extend our thanks to the many offers to help in our flood recovery from the community. This has been much appreciated.

Pictured is our new playground equipment that has just been installed, ready for the students to enjoy.

Carol Booker
Principal

2023 TERM DATES

TERM 1: Tues 31st Jan – Thurs 6th April

TERM 2: Mon 24th, April – Fri 23rd, June

TERM 3: Mon 10th, July – Friday 15th, Sept

TERM 4: Mon 2nd, Oct – Wed 20th, Dec

ENROLMENTS

We are currently taking enrolments. We would love you to come along and see what we do.

*Please contact me,
Carol Booker - Principal, on 5789 1234
to arrange a tour and a chat.*

**ON 7TH OF FEBRUARY WE REMEMBERED THOSE LIVES LOST
DURING THE BLACK SATURDAY BUSHFIRES OF 2009**

So grass fires don't sound so scary?

Grass fires are deadly serious!

***They can move faster than you can run and these flames are 2 metres high.
CFA Volunteers are trained and ready for Summer, you should be ready too.***



THE COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF WHITTLESEA INC.
REGISTERED # A0041714F
Established 2001

MEDIA INFORMATION
MICHAEL B HALLEY PUBLICITY OFFICER

The Heir and the Spare

Bev Moss: - Public Speaker; Animal Activist; and Community Advocate who is a regular presenter at Probus Clubs sought out the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea to give her the podium and add to her club collection. She provided a prepared prelude under the banner *Buckingham Palace in my Underwear!*

So it came to pass that Ms Moss was the presenter at Whittlesea's February meeting. She explained that the banner was an attention grabber and that the correct subject was *My Decade of Adventure*. She also edited the summary of the meeting:-

[Quote]Bev a team of international social workers who were caring for theadep up he influx of unaccompanied minors coming from Eastern Europe and Africa. However, Bev's focus was to entertain us about how she spent her time in Dublin as an older woman when she was not at work. She was determined to make the most of her 12 month contract and wanted to immerse herself in the Irish culture. What better way to do this than have Irish Dancing lessons (Ceili) on Thursdays after work.

She also joined the Irish Australia Society which opened up more social opportunities for her – the most significant being an invitation to lunch with the famous and much loved Irish author Maeve Binchy. Maeve was a loquacious lunch guest who loved to entertain with her stories whilst the rest of the guests at the table enjoyed the wine.

Determined not to waste time Bev managed to be invited to a Royal Garden Party at Holyrood Palace House where she joined in with the 8000 guests in this wonderful setting with fabulous food and Scottish music. This Garden Party attracted much coverage in the English tabloids because the Prince of Wales was hosting it and his special guests were his son William at his first official function and Camilla about whom there was much speculation as to a future marital relationship.

Bev and a fellow guest, Marion, went over and spoke to Camilla after spotting her coming from the back of the house with a small group of minders. They had a short conversation with her before being surrounded by reporters who wanted to know what they discussed.

These were some of the social highlights of a wonderful year. Returning home she remained unsettled and found herself returning to Europe where she worked again in Social Care and also worked at Buckingham Palace in the summer taking visitors on Tours of Clarence House, the home of the late Queen Mother. This was a rewarding and educational experience that has stayed with her ever since. [Unquote]

So the oft used term to describe the ascension to the throne was valid on the day Bev Moss was in company of [then] Prince Charles the heir and Prince William the then spare.

Much of the static beauty and adornments of the Royal Palaces that Bev Moss visited were intertwined in the visual slides that she used to reinforce her proficient and sometimes humorous address.

In March the club's Annual General Meeting will be held and the day is dedicated to members to address issues and elect a new Committee. April and May presenters are already confirmed and will be advertised after the AGM.

**Pictured are Bev Moss and
incoming President Keith Miller**



Contacts at the Club

Andrew McCormack is Membership 0438 578 652

Cheryl Manicolo is Secretary 03 9715 1420

Email whittleseaprobus@hotmail.com



LINKING OUR HERITAGE:



<https://wandongheathcotejunctionhistory.com.au>



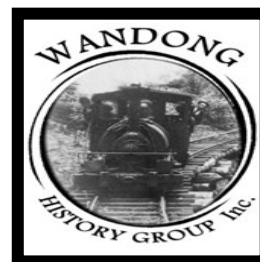
The Wandong History Group proudly announces the launch of our new website <https://wandongheathcotejunctionhistory.com.au>. Sponsored by the Ross Trust through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal's *Strengthening Rural Communities* program (FRRR), and the National Volunteers Community Week grant, the Wandong History Group has now joined the world wide web. Assisted by Paradigm 4 /Bloom Media website designers we have created an exciting website providing snippets on our settlement and industrial history as well as providing access to many of our unseen images. Our images along with our publications can be purchased through our website Shop, while new memberships to our Group can also be processed online.

Visit our site to read intriguing stories about those who made this town the thriving metropolis it once was. Growing from a small wood siding, Wandong developed into a bustling railway/timber town, complete with a two storey hotel, the Travellers' Rest, a Police Station, General Store and Post Office. Boasting several sawmills, wood turning and planing factory, seasoning works and a terra cotta lumber brick manufacturing plant, the town once accommodated workers from across the globe. Soon the town had three churches, a state school, mechanics institute/public hall as well as a Coffee Palace and Railway Restaurant. Open to the public on Tuesdays 10.00am-4.00pm we are located in the newly restored premises—St. Michael's Catholic Church, 11 Dry Creek Crescent, Wandong with an all ability ramp providing easy visitor access. Visit our website to keep in touch with upcoming events and exhibitions such as our annual History Month Exhibition in October.

Further Enquiries: wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com or contact us through our website

WANDONG HISTORY GROUP

From all of us at the History Group a big thank you for awarding our group the Australia Day local award. Our small group has worked hard to achieve the goals we have set, the registration and restoration of St Michaels church has been hard won but we believe having this important building protected is a legacy for the whole community for years to come.



Each year we try to bring to the community an event based around History month in October. Last year was exceptional as apart from our usual activities we also had the task of shifting back into the church and hosting an event for the families of the airmen lost on Mt Disappointment. We also held the long planned for Robertson family reunion which was a great day for all those who came along. This year we will consolidate our position at the church and soon start planning the year ahead.

ANZAC Day is the most important event on our calendar, each year we see more and more community involvement in this day and as the event gets bigger we would love a few more helpers on the day.

In a small community like ours there are many groups working to keep everything afloat, the footy club, netball, Lions and Community group just to name a few. In Wandong we punch far above our weight, there are few volunteers doing a power of work in this town and every group always needs more hands.

We are also celebrating the successful launch of our website,
wandongheathcotejunctionhistory.com.au

We have put many hours into loading information onto the site and are very pleased with the result. Please have a look and you can contact us through the website if you have questions for us.

We are looking for suggestions as to how Wandong should celebrate the anniversary of the Hume and Hovell expedition and we would like ideas to come from the community for this great event.

Stay safe everyone
Karen

wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com

wandongheathcotejunctionhistory.com.au

PH 0432 120 736

WANDONG TENNIS CLUB

Email: wandongtennisclub@hotmail.com
or text Lisa on 0407 112 880.

Information is posted on our
Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/wandongtennis



SOCIAL TENNIS AND BYO BBQ FOOD

1st Sunday of each month,
11am -2pm
at the Wandong Tennis Club



We encourage you to bring along some nibbles, finger food or something for the bbq, everything is there for you guys to use just bring what you want to eat and drink, of course you can just come for a hit as well.

Gold coin donation per person upon entry which will go back to the club.

This will be a regular thing on the first Sunday of every month, so if you can't make it this time, we will hopefully see you next month

No need to RSVP however it would be handy to know who's coming

Karl 0423 611 317

Well done to our section 1 singles team who won the spring grand final
Riley Roberts, Jady Quach and Sean Dennis

Hello again,

Last month we chatted about ways to look after your mental health, however it's also important for you to stay physically healthy, because being physically healthy can help to keep you mentally healthy.

To stay physically healthy, it's a good idea to follow a few simple do's and don'ts.

Do

- Eat well – eat a wide variety of foods, including fruit, vegetables, grains, meats or other proteins, and milk or other dairy products. You should also limit how much salt, sugar and fats you eat. The Australian Guide to Healthy Eating has tips on how to choose foods for good health <https://www.eatforhealth.gov.au/guidelines/australian-guide-healthy-eating>
- Sleep well – most adults need 7–9 hours of sleep each day, but carers can find this hard to get. The HealthDirect website has tips on how to get more sleep, and your doctor can also give you some advice <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/sleep>
- Exercise – there are many ways to exercise, from taking a regular walk to joining a gym. Some exercise every day is good, even if it is just taking the stairs instead of the lift, or standing instead of sitting down. The HealthDirect website has tips on how to get active <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/tips-for-getting-active>

Don't

- Smoke – if you're a smoker, one of the best things you can do for your health is quit. The Quit Now website, <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/smoking-and-tobacco/how-to-quit-smoking> has tips and tools to help you quit, or you can call the Quitline on [13 78 48](tel:137848)
- Drink too much or take drugs – alcohol and drugs can affect your physical and mental health, and can make it hard for you to give good care. Healthy adults should drink no more than 2 drinks a day. The Australian Government Department of Health website has information on how to manage your drinking <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/alcohol>

For more information and support, please reach out to the team at the Carer Gateway by calling 1800 422 737 or heading to the website <https://www.carergateway.gov.au/>

Until next time,
Jason



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[Birralegymnastics.com.au](https://www.birralegymnastics.com.au)

Clonbinane Rural Fire Brigade



The Current Fire Danger

After a significant wet 2022 with district total rainfalls up to 1200 mm, the follow up is substantial grasslands growth. The 30-year average rainfall is about 850 mm per year for the district.

The year has started dry with only 20 mm of rain in January. Dry conditions continue. Cured and dried grassland remain with long grass in many locations.

We have elevated grass fire risk. We can expect these conditions to continue. The risk is enhanced by electrical storm activities and irresponsible human activity. An example of an irresponsible human activity is driving a vehicle over long dry grass which can activate a fire from a hot exhaust pipe.

Your Fire Brigade's Activity

There have been several callouts to incidents in January including illegal burn offs, incidents on the freeway and grassfires.

Training

Training continues Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. We are pleased that our Clonbinane CFA Open Day resulted in new members joining the brigade.

Grass Fires Risk

Our district has a large amount of long cured dry grass now. This is both roadside and in paddocks. The risk of grassfires spreading is significant, especially as we move into February and March. Recent fires have been caused by people driving over long grass as well as tractors slashing or mowers at work.

You can minimise the risk by –

- Not driving over long grass
- Not cutting grass on days of higher fire danger, hot days and windy days.
- Cutting the grass early in the day before humidity decreases and before temperatures increase.
- Maintaining and regularly checking your mower/slasher
- Turning off electric fences in extreme fire weather
- Carrying a working fire extinguisher on your tractor
- Evaluating the risk of you causing a fire before you start.

Fire Season Emergency Preparedness Hints

1. Ensure your property can be easily identified at the front gate and is clearly visible at night and in smoky conditions. Property Identification signs (rural address road number) should be placed on the left side of the gate and not on the gate and should be clear of vegetation.
2. Before high-risk fire danger days ensure your vehicles have plenty of fuel and your fire pumps have a supply of fresh fuel. Remember that electricity is often cut when a fire approaches or on days of high wind.
3. Make sure all mobile phones have been fully charged and that a recharger is part of your "Get out and Go Kit".
4. On high-risk days discuss with your neighbours their fire plans and ensure that you have a 10-metre buffer between your home and any flammable vegetation or materials.
5. Have an emergency kit ready for evacuation that includes medication, important documents such as insurance papers, money, and clothes.
6. Ensure you have protective clothing and footwear handy that can be put on quickly if a situation arises.
7. Keep a checklist of all that needs to be done for your fire plan to be effective. Families should agree to stick to the plan to ensure the safest option for all family members.
8. Do not forget your pets and animals, include them in your plan including taking cages, food and leads for them.
9. Monitor the Vic Emergency App, ABC Radio/TV and the CFA website for the latest bushfire information.
10. Safety First, Leaving early is always the best option.
11. What is your trigger point for you and your family to decide to leave?
12. Check the Fire Danger Rating every day.

Please contact the brigade if you require any bushfire survival information or check out the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au

John Mahoney- Captain

**We understand that
retirement means you
finally get to focus on
living.... *save yourself
time and stress***



**Have your medication
PACKED and DELIVERED
FREE***

**CALL US ON
5787 1010**



***FOR FIRST THREE MONTHS. CONDITIONS APPLY.
PLEASE CALL OR SEE IN STORE FOR DETAILS**

SUDOKU

Answers on
page 29

Place the numbers 1-9 only once in each row, column & 3x3 block

		9		8		5		
	1							2
5			4	3		8		6
9		6			5			3
	5			7				
	4				8	1		9
		1	3					4
		4			9	6		
8	3			6				1

THIS MONTHS QUIZ

Answer appears on Page 29 but no cheating!

1. What was the name of Sri Lanka before 1972?
2. Which two Japanese cities were bombed in 1945?
3. In which country would you eat Haggis?
4. What type of animal is a Maine Coon?
5. Which year did WWII start?
6. Who directed the movie 'Psycho'?
7. Who sang 'I'm a Believer'?
8. What is the capital of Greece?
9. What is the rarest blood type?
10. Who invented the telephone?
11. Which year was the first landing on the moon?
12. Which grain is used to make flour?
13. Which river flows through Paris?
14. In which country was Rihanna born?
15. Which car manufacturer made the Beetle?

Kilmore/Wallan RSL Sub Branch

meets the last Thursday night of the month
and open every Wednesday 10am -12pm at
Kilmore Memorial Hall

Contact Rod Dally 0417 522 835
We have Pension and Welfare Officers
to help veterans in the area.

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL



How to keep up to date with Council online:

- > E-News direct to your inbox, sign up now
- > On our website www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au

Not online?

- > Fortnightly Council Ad in the local newspaper
- > Monthly radio shows

Or, contact Mitchell Shire Council on 5734 6200.

Justice of the Peace for Victoria

Sue Marstaeller

Mobile: 0438 871 520

*Sue is available to sign documents.
Phone for appointment.*

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Whittlesea Community Network

92a Church Street Whittlesea 3757
Ph: 03 9716 3361 Fax: 03 9716 3816
Email wchi@whittleseach.com.au



Happy New Year Everyone! Whittlesea Community House is back in full swing and we are hoping for a big start to the year! We have loads of things planned for you all – here are some things to get you started!

Community Meals

Big Blokes Brunch has already kicked off 2023 at the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre on Tuesdays! Join the blokes for brunch each week: Tuesdays 11.00am – Noon \$2.00 per person

Ladies Lunch -join the ladies who lunch each fortnight at the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre Thursday 16th February (special “Heart Matters” session) 11.30am – 1.00pm \$2.00

Catering for Community

As part of our ACFE program for 2023 we are looking for students to join our Catering for Community course. The course is FREE to eligible students and you will learn how to cook for a crowd as we cater for the fortnightly Ladies Lunch.

Thursdays 24th February, 16th & 30th March, 27th April, 11th & 25th May and 8th & 22nd June
9.00am – 1.00pm

Pop Up Fresh Food Market

Are you struggling with rising food costs? Join us for this one-off Fresh Food Market!
Friday 24th March 10am – 2pm FREE

Digital Literacy for Beginners

Tired of asking your kids and grand kids for help with technology? We can teach help!
Tuesdays for 8 weeks from 7th February 10.00am – 12.30pm \$20/concession FREE

Be the Office Pro

This course is specifically for ladies who are looking to upgrade their rusty MS Office skills!
Tuesdays from 14th February 9.30am – 12.30pm FREE

First Aid (CPR, Provide First Aid & Provide First Aid in an Emergency in an Education & Care Setting)
Online learning + face to face Saturday 18th February \$85/\$150/\$195

Tapping for Wellness

Join Lynette and discover this simple tool to promote calm, provide stress relief and address anxiety.
Join anytime. Wednesdays from 8th February 11am – 12 Noon First Session FREE \$50/\$40 per Term

Boat Licence

There's still time to get your licence while the weather is best for boating! You must be over 12 years to get your licence and PWC licence endorsements are only available to those 16+

Saturday 25th February 9am – 1pm \$130 per person

Saturday 25th March 9am – 1pm \$130 per person

Fix It Friday RETURNS!

Fix it Friday is back in 2023! Sweep your problems into a pile and bring them to our experts for real help that doesn't involve a queue or a call centre!

Meet experts from Whittlesea Community Connections, Social Worker, Espresso Legal, Uniting Financial Counselling, NDIS, Centrelink and Lift (Mental Health Program), Victoria Police, My Aged Care, No Interest Loan Scheme and heaps more!

Call 9716 3361 to register in advance, it's FREE
Friday 24th February 10am – 1.00pm

We can't wait to see all your smiling faces. A more comprehensive list of what is coming up at the House can be found on our website www.wchi.com.au or you can pick up a brochure from the House or call to book any of the above on 9716 3361. See you soon!

All Weather Training Facility - Heathcote Jct (Established 1995)

Puppy School - Social Classes
Adult Classes - Trick Training
Behaviour Problems



Workshops
Dog Park Etiquette
Intro to Agility
Dock Diving
Cross Country

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*Boarding Dogs / Cats -short and long term Farm Stays.
Dogs have large indoor/outdoor pens. Also big play paddocks
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FRIENDS OF DISAPPOINTMENT

Are you interested in the history,
conservation and community of the
Mount Disappointment State Forest and
surrounding areas.

Join "Friends of Disappointment" to share
history, photos and ideas.

[https://www.facebook.com/
mountdisappointmentclonbinane/](https://www.facebook.com/mountdisappointmentclonbinane/)

QUIZ ANSWERS (from page 27)

1. Ceylon
2. Hiroshima and Nagasaki
3. Scotland
4. A cat
5. 1939
6. Alfred Hitchcock
7. The Monkees
8. Athens
9. AB Negative
10. Alexander Graham Bell
11. 1969
12. Wheat
13. River Seine
14. Barbados
15. Volkswagen

Weather Report -

December 2022 – January 2023 Heathcote Junction/Wandong

December, the first month of summer initially indicated nice warm conditions and sunny dry weather. There were small variations in temperature with comfortable conditions for the rest of the month until pre Christmas. Weather conditions changed dramatically between Christmas and the new year with cooler temperatures.

Rainfall of 39.5mls was considerably less than the previous months. The first half of the month contributed 29.5mls to the total with the balance of 9 mls in the second half.

Stats - Rainfall

December 2022 -39.5 mls
Previous year - 20.5 mls
Average prev 10 years -42 mls
Total this year - 986.5 mls
Total prev year-961.5 mls

January 2023

The new year commenced with summer temperatures up to the 16th January and in that period we had occasional days in excess of over 30 degrees. A cooler change resulted in rain on two consecutive days of rainfall and these cooler conditions remained with us, still dry, until the end of the month which recorded 1.5 mls. Total rainfall of 19.5 mls which was considerably less than this time in previous year.

Stats - Rainfall

January 2023 - 19.5 mls
Previous year - 108 mls
Average prev 10 years -57 mls
Total this year - 19.5 mls
Total prev year-108 mls

**SUKODU
solution**

3	6	9	7	8	2	5	4	1
4	1	8	5	9	6	3	7	2
5	2	7	4	3	1	8	9	6
9	8	6	1	4	5	7	2	3
1	5	2	9	7	3	4	6	8
7	4	3	6	2	8	1	5	9
6	9	1	3	5	7	2	8	4
2	7	4	8	1	9	6	3	5
8	3	5	2	6	4	9	1	7

Puppy Development - The Importance of the First Year !

By Anne Zelvy's IACP-CDT

Puppies grow and develop very quickly - this is why their first year is so important. Looking at the stages of development then for every month in a puppies life is similar to a year for a human child...

Hence raising the family pet has many 'parallels' to raising a child but we MUST also remember that our dog is NOT a human, hence we need to work with our dogs in an appropriate manner that will suit and respect the dog. Understand each of the development stages means owners are better prepared and then can have a realistic expectation of their pet.



First Month, your pup senses are developing.... By the end of 4 weeks they can hear, talk and even stagger around, however they are extremely vulnerable. Just like a 12 month old child they are unable to feed themselves and need to have constant attention and supervision to keep them safe.

Two+ Months your pup has the ability to enjoy many new experiences. With luck the breeder has already imprinted positive experiences during the 3-10 week stage, which will help to set up pups for the experience of a new home. A 2 year old child is old enough to start staying over at Nanna's and spend time away from their siblings. Your pup is also seeing a different world but does need to have his family nearby to support him as he develops more confidence. He is also ready to learn many of the basics such as toilet training, sleeping in his own space and now responding to his name.

3 - 4 months, Pup is now a pre-schooler... They can follow basic instructions but when left to their own they often make bad choices. This is when you realise you shouldn't leave the dog alone indoors. They are easily bored and so can develop bad habits such as jumping on the furniture or pulling on curtains and even chewing cabinets. Many a 3yo child draws on walls and pulls stuff out of the fridge.

5-7 months we now have a kid who is streaming thru primary school.... Sometimes they seem enthusiastic about a new experience but then can also be easily frightened by the unknown.... Both of these responses in dogs will often mean they start barking in excitement or squeal as they encounter things they don't know. Pet parents need to guide but at the same time encourage, their charges to step outside their comfort zones to build their resilience to deal with life in a human world.

8 to 12-14 months old we are dealing with the pre teen / teenager. Sometimes shy and worried and other times can seem cocky and want to make their own rules. This is now when Pet Parents have to show patience and keep their emotions out of the equation....

Dogs DO NOT understand our human emotions ...!

"Humans can out-persevere any other mammal (Hence why we are on top of the food chain) - as long as we keep our emotions out of the equation".

Emotion only creates confusion and introduces a bad energy that will feed into your dogs behaviour - Instead you remain calm steady and even a bit detached and remember if your dog shows too much confidence and he has lost self control then really your dog is just **COCKY**... and like a human teenager, has to be reminded who is in charge... again I say, "The one who pays the bills, is the one who makes the rules"



Alfoxton Tip: We need to focus on our objective for the dog to build a balance between - Self Confidence & Self Control

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Puppy School - Social Skills - K9 Ninja - Trick Classes - Behaviour Issues

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Alfoxton Dog Centre



Neighbourhood Watch

Let's watch out for each other

South Mitchell

Water Safety

The holiday season should be a relaxing time spent on a holiday, maybe to the beach, but too often it ends in a tragedy.

Water safety at the beach starts with this basic advice:

- **Supervise** – non swimmers and children at all times;
- **Don't assume** – that the beach was safe in the past and therefore is safe now. Take the time to observe the surf conditions to identify any dangers;
- **Swim between the flags** – only swim at patrolled beaches, between the yellow & red flags;
- **Avoid alcohol** – if you are planning to swim; and
- **Teach** – your children or weaker swimmers what to do if they get into trouble. Remain calm, float and raise an arm to signal for help from the lifesaver or lifeguard.

Backyard Pools

Most people who drown in home pools fall in by accident. Children drown quickly and silently, often without making any noise or splashing. Young children are naturally curious and attracted to water, especially when pool toys are left in the water, but do not yet understand the concept of danger. To reduce the risk of drowning in your pool, we suggest:

- Install a fence – which is required by law for any pool or spa in excess of 30cm deep. These fences must comply with AS 1926.;
- Regularly maintain the fence, including the safety latch on the gate to ensure it is in good working order;
- Clear surrounding area – don't leave any items or equipment close to the pool fence that would enable a child to climb up and over the fence;
- Pack toys away – don't leave floating toys in the pool or a child may try to reach them;
- Tip out water – empty wading pools immediately after use; and
- Check your surroundings – when visiting other people, or new to a property, check whether the owners or neighbours have a pool, spa, pond, or other body of water. Being aware of the danger may prevent a disaster.

Water Safety at the Beach

The risk of drowning is often underestimated as beaches seem so idyllic from the sand dunes. 90% of beach fatalities will be rip related. A rip drags the water back away from the beach (shown by the red dye in the image on the right). The safest / calmest most enticing looking area along the beach may be a rip. A rip is usually the area devoid of wave activity. It may appear darker and deceptively calmer. It can sometimes appear milky or turbulent.

If you are caught in a rip - DO NOT PANIC. Go into floating mode and raise one arm as a distress signal. If you are a strong swimmer, and you can determine the direction of the rip, swim in the direction of the rip until you have cleared the strong current and then swim back to shore. You will NEVER be able to swim against the flow of the rip.



Hotlines:

000

Emergency

131 444

Police Assistance Line

1800 333 000

Crime Stoppers

Online Reporting: <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/palolr>

For more information visit:

<https://sites.google.com/view/south-mitchell-nhw/home>



www.facebook.com/southmitchell.nhw.inc

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