



ISSUE 332 WANDONG/HEATHCOTE JUNCTION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER : DECEMBER, 2023 ABN 17 022 858 565

Email—whatsnewswhj@gmail.com 700 copies

EDITOR - Allen Hall, 20 North Mountain Rd, Heathcote Junction 3758 Ph - 0413 832 411

Delivered to Wandong/Heathcote Junction/Wallan/Kilmore/Broadford/Whittlesea & Upper Plenty

Copy online at www.wandong.vic.au



"What's News" is produced as a non - profit newsletter for the Wandong / Heathcote Junction Community. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editors. Publication of Advertisements should not be taken as endorsements of products. Letters to the editors are always welcome, but will only be considered for publication with authentic names and addresses available for publication. Although every care is taken in preparing "What's News" the editors cannot accept any responsibilities or liabilities for errors or omissions.



A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM "WHATS NEWS" AND THE WANDONG HEATHCOTE JUNCTION COMMUNITY GROUP

WANDONG COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CAROLS SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER AT THE WANDONG PUBLIC HALL

The event will start at 4.30pm with a free sausage sizzle and fun activities for the kids including a magic show, face painting, free giveaways and Santa Claus. The best carols in Mitchell Shire commence at 6.30pm. Due to renovations at the Community Centre, Davern Reserve, the carols will be held at the Wandong Public Hall.



The event has been free for several years thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Bendigo Community Bank and this year also by the Mitchell Shire Council and the Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group.

2024 AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST, LOCAL AWARDS AND FLAG RAISING CEREMONY AT WANDONG

Everyone is welcome to attend the annual Australia Day breakfast at Wandong. The event is sponsored by the Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group, the Wandong History Group, the Wandong Wallan Lions Club and the Wandong Public Hall. A hot breakfast is provided commencing 8am followed by local award presentations and flag raising ceremony.



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 February 2024, Allen Hall (editor)
NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: COPY & ADS 3 February 2024 DELIVERY from 14 February 2024

Printed by Newspaper House, Kilmore



Respite

Stay 14 days

Pay for 7*



Live your best life with us.

Located in the heart of Whittlesea, Sunlight has all the charm of a rural setting, with the benefits of easy access to local shops and services.

Sunlight offers luxury accommodation, dining and relaxation options, a state-of-the-art gym and hydrotherapy pool, putting green, bowling green, virtual reality cinema, and an on-site medical centre - giving you and your family peace of mind. Each person has individual needs during their journey into aged care. For this reason, we offer respite care as an alternative or transition to full-time residential care.

The innovative range of facilities and services at Sunlight include:

- On-site medical centre
- Spacious private rooms with adjoining ensuites
- Specially designed dementia support environment
- Registered nurses on-duty 24-hours a day
- State-of-the-art gymnasium
- Putting green & bowling green
- Sports bar & virtual reality cinema
- On-staff physiotherapists, dietitians & podiatrists
- Hydrotherapy pool
- Fully-equipped café
- Hairdressing salon
- An exciting series of social activities

To book a respite stay, call 132 TLC | Offer ends March 31, 2024*

TLC Aged Care - Sunlight | 43 Laurel Street | Whittlesea VIC 3757

*T&Cs apply. Visit tlcsunlight.com.au/services/respite-care

WANDONG HISTORY GROUP



Seems like I just finished last year's December Whats News and here we are again, this year has rocketed by us. The group has had a great year, our web site is getting plenty of hits and we have had some interesting visitors throughout the year. The church is pretty much done now and a massive thanks to Liz and Geoff for their donation of the water tank, and also to Jim who helped install the required plumbing. We have planted new correas along the front and they take a fair bit of

watering with the cypress trees competing for water so hopefully we will be able to get these new plants established over summer now we will have water.

Don't forget the mega Christmas raffle, we will be selling tickets at the IGA and Wellington square, the prizes are fantastic this year, something for everyone, so make sure you get a ticket or two. It will be drawn at the community Christmas carols which will be held at the Public Hall this year. On behalf of the Wandong History Gorup Committee Id like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and all the best for 2024

Stay safe everyone.

Karen

www.wandongheathcotejunctionhistory.com.au

wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com

PH 0432120736



Scan the code to go to our website.

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

15 Dec John & Denise Simpson HJ
21 Dec Wes & Rhonda Cole B
29 Dec Alan & Fay Smith W
13 Jan Troy & Elisa Lehmann Kay WP
14 Jan Annemarie & Dean Hogan W
2 Feb Frank & Nadia Amoroso HJ
5 Feb Jarrod & Kate King Wallan
6 Feb Shaun & Stacey Petersen Tas
11 Feb Rob & Karen Dawson HJ

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.

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

Birthdays continued:

6 Feb Jan Batey W
8 Feb Jodie Williams WP
8 Feb Sean Dennis HJ
8 Feb John Dennis HJ
8 Feb Jodie McLennan W
10 Feb Alison Stone HJ
11 Feb Damian Buggy HJ
11 Feb Danni George W
12 Feb Brooke Colbert W
13 Feb Irene Bartlett W
13 Feb Dylan Hall B
13 Feb Guy Marstaeller HJ
13 Feb Rhiannon Bausch HJ
13 Feb Chris Placek W

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

We wish the following people a very happy

birthday

13 Dec	Shane Georgelin	HJ
14 Dec	Megan Drenth	HJ
14 Dec	Jake Gedy	HJ
14 Dec	Mary Cawthorne	Wallan
16 Dec	Kim Marstaeller	Wallan
16 Dec	Lucas Bartolo	UP
17 Dec	Peter Waldie	W
18 Dec	Neil Batey	W
18 Dec	Alison Plumbe	C
21 Dec	Emma Beckett	W
21 Dec	Dean Jarvie	Dromana
22 Dec	Tenille Mounsey	K
23 Dec	Ian Marstaeller	HJ
23 Dec	Janice Poorter	HJ
24 Dec	Bailey Dennehy	HJ
24 Dec	Donna Draper	Wallan
25 Dec	Rhonda Kemp	W
25 Dec	Jayden Duncan	HJ
25 Dec	Jake Barlow	HJ
26 Dec	Denise Limbrick	B
27 Dec	Glenda Goodison	HJ
29 Dec	Sarah Warburton	HJ
30 Dec	Cindy Woods	K
31 Dec	Janine Hobson Buck	HJ
2 Jan	Leonora Bennett	HJ
3 Jan	Sophie Hall	B
4 Jan	Ashleigh Stone	HJ
4 Jan	Vicki Albert	HJ
5 Jan	Kathy Lawrence	K
5 Jan	Nicholas Page	CI
7 Jan	Denise King	HJ
10 Jan	Maree Fletcher	HJ
11 Jan	Matt Hardwick	Wallan
11 Jan	Damian Hardwick	K
11 Jan	Lachlan King	Wallan
15 Jan	Corey Dennehy	HJ
16 Jan	Kate Renouf	CI
17 Jan	Darren Symons	HJ
17 Jan	Lynton Kemp	W
17 Jan	Peter Amoroso	HJ
18 Jan	Ben Dawson	HJ
18 Jan	Dale Hanson	HJ
19 Jan	Hazel Carter	HJ
20 Jan	Steven George	W
20 Jan	Darren McLennan	W
21 Jan	Annie Beaman	HJ
21 Jan	John Perrett	K
21 Jan	Callan Armitage	W
22 Jan	Amanda Lee	K
23 Jan	Kerry Challenger	Craig
24 Jan	Sue Marstaeller	HJ
24 Jan	Nerissa Philp	OG
25 Jan	Adam MacDonald	W
25 Jan	Emily Fryer	K
26 Jan	Marita Murray	HJ
26 Jan	Caroline Farrugia	Wallan
26 Jan	Samuel Shingles	W
26 Jan	Kylie Shingles	W
27 Jan	Norm Beaman	HJ
29 Jan	Jason Harrington	HJ
30 Jan	Caroline Hutchison	HJ
31 Jan	Hayley Hanson	W
31 Jan	Julie Thompson	HJ
31 Jan	Jemma Wightman	W
1 Feb	Matt O'Connor	HJ
2 Feb	Jenny McSolvin	W
2 Feb	Deegan Belfiore	HJ
3 Feb	Travis Bausch	HJ
4 Feb	Colin Burns	HJ
4 Feb	Dylan Bradshaw	W
5 Feb	Toby Smith	HJ
6 Feb	Stacey Petersen	Wallan
6 Feb	Michael Hibbert	W

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 0499 907 017

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

TAKE YOUR RUBBISH HOME

The Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group continues to remove rubbish from Wandong streets, the Epping Kilmore Road, the Wandong Hume Freeway ramps, the Wandong Broadford Road and recently from O'Gradys Road. Much of the rubbish is thrown from vehicles passing through Wandong but there is also rubbish that can only be from our residents. To those people we can only appeal to them to look after our beautiful town and take your rubbish home.



ALL TOWING

Tilt Tray Tow Truck

ANYTHING MOVED

Cars Boats Caravans

OLD CARS REMOVED FREE

Competitive Rates

GOOD OLD FASHIONED Country Service

Aaron - 0425 832 466

A & J Metal Recyclers - ABN 67103013404

Philman Excavations

House and Shed Sites, Driveways,
Horse Arenas, Retaining Walls

★ Excavator

★ Bobcat

★ Truck and Trailer

★ Float Hire

★ **AUGER & ROCKBREAKER**

Supply and deliver crushed rock, sand and topsoil

Phil Mansfield

0418 532 969, 5781 1501 ah

OH&S and fully insured

*It's all about locals and
how they like it!*



Wandong IGA

Open every day

8am-8pm

***Come on in and support
your local store.***

See in store for many
great specials.

Great Range of:

Groceries

Meat

Produce

Deli

Dairy

Freezer

Liquor

Wandong Licensed Supermarket
3272 Epping Kilmore Rd, Wandong

5787 1911



LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

Gift of God

Once again, the Christ time is here where we can be given opportunities and choices amongst foreigners, neighbours, family and friends around the world, including them more in our lives trying to bring out the better part of ourselves.

Freely we can openly celebrate in this way throughout our Southland. All different races were sent to this nation, living together despite our differences. Holding on to the promise over this continent, a long, long time ago. Our Christian heritage not just being brought to our minds over the Christmas and Easter seasons; but always knowing His unconditional love brings goodwill to ALL people. So, to you this free gift is offered if you would accept Jesus into your heart today.

This poem Allan has written for us:

Christmas 0001

*Is there only room in the barn again?
Is there no room at the inn?
Is there no room among the clutter?
Can we hear above the din?*

Are we really all that busy to fit our Saviour in?

*We should be ready for forgiveness
And we will make room for love
And always welcome grace of course
From our Saviour up above*

*We'll take down that "House Full" sign outside
Please no longer stay apart
But be a guest of honour
At the Inn of our own heart!*

Ephesians 2 verses 8 -9

For it is by grace, God's remarkable compassion and favour drawing you to Christ that you have been saved, actually delivered from judgement and given eternal life through faith. And this salvation is not of your own efforts, but it is the undeserved gracious gift of God.

It is certainly food for thought as we eat our pudd and other treats.

From Allan and Merle, enjoy the true meaning this Christmas, see you in 2024 and in your mercy, God be with us all.

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

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, WANDONG

WANDONG AVE, WANDONG
Enquires 9308 2452
Services: 8.30am
Ion 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**

"Letting the
LIGHT Shine
in the World"

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

Enquiries to:

Pastor Allan Laurens 5787 1020

Or David Moran 5787 1738



Find us on
Facebook

Phone Nathan 0419 585 773

Email info@allprotectsecurity.com.au

- Intruder Alarm Systems
- CCTV Cameras
- Intercom
- Access Control
- Data & Networking
- Home Automation & Audio Visual

WANDONG AUSTRALIANA

MOTEL - TAVERN - RESTAURANT
BROADHURST LANE, WANDONG



- FULLY LICENSED • SMORGASBORD
 - 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**



WANDONG TENNIS CLUB

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

Good luck to our teams who are playing finals over the next few weeks.
Section 2 Blue and Section 3 Red.
Autumn night tennis will commence in February. If interested please let the club know.
Saturday seniors and juniors will take a break over the school holidays and will start up again in February.
Who is going to the Australian Open?

Coaching is available at the club for all ages.
Please contact Karl on 0423 611 317 or kv.tennis@hotmail.com

Information is posted on our
Facebook page.
www.facebook.com/wandongtennis



GARDEN SCENE WITH GAIL

Well, Christmas is only a couple of weeks away. Santa is getting ready as are his reindeers, and the elves, putting the finishing touches to everything. Mrs Claus will be cleaning up after another long year and finally getting a chance to perhaps tend her indoor garden? Our gardens will be bursting into the Summer with glorious colours and the weeds will be charging ahead outgrowing everything however, if you can get the weeds under control before the drying conditions take over you will be amply rewarded. How amazing, a weed free garden, is it even possible? As they peep through pull them out, roots and all and if you can do this weekly you may be able to stay on top of it? Follow up with a good layer of mulch and apply around the base of your established trees and plants. This barrier will be so beneficial as the weather warms up to maintain a cool root system, less stress on the plants and a healthier soil. Our fruit trees have flowered and are now producing their little fruit that will quickly become big enough to pick, pears, plums and apples and lots of varieties as well. Jonathon Apples were so popular but now, they appear hard to locate, a small apple, great for lunch boxes. Netting trees is a popular practice but now we need to be very aware that we are using an approved hole size to eliminate trapping smaller birds in the netting. Even though we've had recent rain, it won't take long for the soil to dry so keep in mind as the weather warms up, our plants will experience drier conditions and some plants may have difficulty getting used to variations in weather, (in particular, varieties of natives). As we progress into drier conditions ensure they are watered in a balanced way because extreme variations in moisture availability can greatly affect plants. Deep watering's are preferable to encourage the root system to go deeper into the soil thus, decreasing evaporation of moisture around the surface roots. Natives from Western Australia can find it difficult in our Victorian soils particularly in the areas where the soil is clay based, given that WA is predominantly a sandy soil, ideal for Protea, Waratah, Adenanthos, Leuca-

dendron, Agonis, Kangaroo Paw and some Grevillea. Of course, these plants grow here however, it is important to prepare your garden to help these plants settle in well by incorporating well-rotted cow manure and Gypsum, good organic additives that assist in grouping the clay into minuscule particles which allows water, air, and nutrients deep down into the soil to assist in keeping the roots healthy. Untreated clay can form a pan surface if you like, that can be impenetrable, and this stops all the goodies from getting to the roots of the plant and don't forget to mulch, this is essential for retaining moisture around the root system. Have a lovely Christmas.

Gail Mains Kendrick
(your local Real Estate Agent)



WANDONG-HEATHCOTE JUNCTION COMMUNITY GROUP

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



WEBSITE: In November the <www.wandong.vic.au> website received 1222 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

The WHJCG has for many years implored Mitchell Shire to place the drain between the Bushfire Memorial car park and the Epping Kilmore Road underground, remove the bollards and seal the car park to make it the showpiece it should be as a major entrance to Mitchell Shire. The toilets at this location are the most used in Mitchell Shire but the Council chooses to prioritise lesser deserving projects. We are told numbers of requests hold much weight when deciding projects so we ask the WHJ community to get on board and sign our petition or better still lodge a request to Mitchell Shire.

**THE MEMBERS OF THE WANDONG HEATHCOTE JUNCTION
COMMUNITY GROUP THANKS EVERYONE FOR THEIR SUPPORT
DURING 2023 AND WISHES YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A TERRIFIC 2024.**

WANDONG NETBALL CLUB



NETSETGO

Our 2023 Net Set Go program commenced early in October. We have seen 25 eager and potential future players join our ranks. It has been a joy to watch each and every one of the kids learn and grow as players and create a connection with their teammates and Coaches alike.

We look forward to many of you starting your Netball career in 2024.

Thank you to Coaches, Bec, Tiff and Jo for looking after the program this year. We appreciate the time and effort you have all put in. Congratulations to all our NetSetGo-ers for completing the program.

2024 REGISTRATIONS

With 5 full teams representing the Club in the Spring/Summer competition, we now cast our minds into what we hope will be a wonderful 2024.

The Wandong Netball Club participates in the Kilmore & Broadford Netball Association (KBNA) competition. This is a junior competition with age groups 9 & Under (modified rules), 11 & Under, 13 & Under and 16 & Under. Most years the club has enough players to field multiple teams in various age groups.

The Club also hosts an all-ages pre-season training program in Term 1 each year prior to the announcement of teams and team training. This gives potential players the opportunity to enhance their skills and knowledge of the game prior to the season start and has been very popular with players.

Games are played from 9am Saturday mornings in terms 2 & 3, with approximately 14 rounds, typically excluding long weekends and school holidays.

Teams play in various locations within the Mitchell Shire, with home games being played here at L.B. Davern Reserve Netball Courts. Other locations include Broadford, Kilmore, Pyalong, Seymour and St Pats.

Our aim is to help all participants experience personal achievements in terms of competence, enhanced self-esteem, social cooperation and skill development in a fun and safe environment.

The season culminates in a KBNA 9 & Under round robin and finals series for the older age groups.

If you have a child interested in playing Netball in 2024 with a Date of Birth between 2017 and 2008, please get in touch via email or our socials.

2023 MAJOR SPONSOR



A huge shout-out to Bendigo Bank's Community Branches in Wallan, Kilmore, and Broadford for their unwavering commitment to local communities! 🙌 Their support enables us to empower the next generation of netball stars and strengthen the fabric of our community.



2023 TEAM SPONSORS



We would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to the following businesses for their support during our 2013 season. This essential support plays a significant role in the success of our team and the entire club.



Brownes Plumbing for their generous sponsorship of our Under 9's Green team during the 2023 season.

We would like to recognise the Browne family, the committed individuals behind Browne's Plumbing with a big shoutout to cousins Jaide and Matilda who actively play for the club. We are grateful to Browne's Plumbing for their investment in our aspiring athletes and for fostering the growth and progress of Wandong Netball Club.

DG Earthworks for their generous sponsorship of our Under 9 White team for the 2023 season.

We would like to recognise Dan Louis, the owner and operator of DG Earthworks, a local Wandong business for his contribution to the Club.

Our heartfelt thanks to DG Earthworks for backing our young athletes and helping to foster the development and progress of Wandong Netball Club.



GMH Paving for their generous sponsorship of our Under 11 White team for the 2023 season.

We would also like to recognize Grant & Jo, the committed individuals behind GMH Paving, and extend a special mention to Tyler and Danika who are active players at the club and Hunter who is part of our Net Set Go program.

Thank you, GMH Paving, for supporting our young athletes and aiding in the growth and progress of Wandong Netball Club.

Fit for Change Business Consulting for their generous sponsorship of our Under 13 White team during the 2023 season.

We cannot thank Chris and his family enough, not just for sponsoring one of our teams but for their ongoing commitment to the Club.

Chris for coaching our Under 16s Team; His wife Jo coaching the Under 9 Green Team; and his 3 children all playing for the club.....his oldest daughter, Chloe, even umpires for us, making this family a top contributor and asset to the Club



WANDONG
SELF STORAGE

Wandong Self Storage for their generous sponsorship of our Under 13 Green team during the 2023 season.

We'd like to acknowledge Bec & Jason, the dedicated individuals behind Wandong Self Storage, and give a special shout-out to Isabelle, an enthusiastic player at the club, and Lincoln who is always helping out.

G-Man Security for their generous sponsorship of our Under 16's Green team for the 2023 season.

We'd also like to acknowledge the Downey family, who are the dedicated individuals behind G'Man Security.

A special shoutout goes to Kate and Emma, who actively play for the club and Rachel who is part of our committee.



Thank you to each one of our Sponsors. This year you have helped the Club and put a smile on the faces of our players.

Your generous support means the world to us. Thank you.

If you are interested in sponsoring our Club in 2024 please email wandongnetball@gmail.com and register your interest.

We are the Wandong Netball Club would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a ***safe and merry Christmas.***



LIONS CLUB OF WANDONG - WALLAN INC.

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



Ok. This is the last report for the year and the first thing I have to do is refute some of the nonsense reported by my stand in.

First, the only reason that I fainted in Yeppoon was to enable my sister, the crabby old matron, to get a look inside the Yeppoon hospital. As for the dancing it was first class and worthy of a Las Vegas contract. Speaking of dancing I was disappointed that our prime minister went to the Cook Islands without inviting me. All the delegates at the South Pacific Forum have missed out on a wonderful cultural experience.

Now back to the Lions. It has been a good year for us. The numbers are slowly growing and were getting back into the community. We have cakes and mints in many outlets in the three towns and they are going well. Steve, when he is not insulting me, is still collecting goods for our Christmas hampers and the raffle looks like being a greater success than last year.

Marilyn's knitting group is still clicking away and we still have to sort and pack the spectacles. As we haven't set a new date it will have to wait until next year now. The contribution trolley at IGA is still filling up and we are going to expand the food boxes to include other schools. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed.

We have a new website with lots of information about the club and also an online shop where you can purchase Lions cakes and mints and hopefully in the future autographed photos of me. They should sell like hotcakes.

This site is www.wandongwallanlions.com.au It is amazing how clever these teenagers are.

Steve related his lack of welding skills in the last report. We have now decided to buy him a couple of tubes of gorilla glue and some masking tape. It will hold things together better than paint Steve.

Bill wore his best suit to the district governors visit because he is a very important person. He was elevated to the title of Lions Monarch for being a lion for more than forty years. Well done Bill. We now call him King Billy. Marie still refuses to curtsy when he walks into the room. Further on Bill, his doctor told him to eat more red meat. He has hatched a plan to soak his chicken and fish in red wine. He may even extend this to chips.

Our Sam is a tricky customer. He talked his brother into going with him to our last Bunnings. When he got there, there and was no sign of Sam. He had no intention of turning up. Not very reliable our Sam.

This might almost be enough. I am not as verbose as Steve. The three youngsters Daniel, Peter and Sam deserve a special mention. They have revitalised us and dragged the geriatrics along with them. Tania a brilliant secretary and her offside Steve, I don't know how to weld, Munro work hard for the cause.

Finally I need to acknowledge all those in the community who have supported us through the year. Thank you. Have a great Christmas and New Year and we will catch up again soon.

Clyde Riley.

Upper Plenty Merri Catchments Landcare Group

We provide support for land management issues such as weed, pest and erosion control. Also improving soil and biodiversity by providing advice, support, and grant funding.

We meet the third Wednesday of the month 6.30pm at "The Shack" 1240 Wallan road Upper Plenty 3756. Guest speakers every 2nd meet. All welcome.



See our facebook page: Upper Plenty Merri Catchments Landcare Group

Membership enquiries membership.upmclg@gmail.com or Chris Cobern 0413855490

We particularly need new members from the Heathcote Junction area. Our approximate borders are North Mountain road down to Janna road. To the west the border is Merri creek and to the east is Mount Disappointment State forest. Members don't need to live within the borders but our activities are largely in that area.

Wandong Fire Brigade

Wandong Fire Brigade members wish you all safe and happy holidays!



Santa will be travelling the town on Christmas Eve!

We are excited to announce that Santa will be visiting the streets of Wandong and Heathcote Junction on Christmas Eve this year from around 2.30pm until 6pm. We are heading out a little earlier than usual so our helpers can get home to their families.

Santa is available for Christmas Home Visits in December.

Do you have a Christmas party coming up? Wandong Fire Brigade is back again taking bookings to have Santa visit your home on the fire truck! Donations appreciated.

For bookings, please contact Heath on 0419 359 374 or wandongsanta@gmail.com. The only time we do not take bookings is Christmas Eve – Santa is doing his tour of the town that day!

Have you seen the Sign?

We recently installed an electronic sign at the front of the fire station that allows us to update the community. Local weather will be posted in addition to messages and information on local issues. Let us know what you think on the Facebook page.

Wandong New Recruits

Four new members completed their General Firefighter course in October, and all have their uniforms and have turned out to incidents on the fire truck. A good crew who are integrating well into the brigade, and they are looking forward to showing their skills on the fireground.

Smoke alarms for Vulnerable Community Members.

Only Working smoke alarms save lives. Do you know someone in the community who needs assistance?

New smoke alarms that have a 10-year lifespan ensure families can feel the highest level of security. Working smoke alarms are your best defense against preventable residential fires, especially during the night, when people lose their sense of smell. These new alarms provide the security of knowing you and your family are protected, while ensuring you're not interrupted every year with a nagging smoke alarm.

Wandong Fire Brigade are participating in a program assisting older or vulnerable members of the community to have 10-year smoke alarms installed in their homes, at no cost to them. If you need assistance with having working smoking alarms installed in your home, please call 0419 472 579 (bh) or 5735 3114 (bh) or contact us via our Facebook page.

The Fire Season has been declared for Mitchell Shire

The Fire Danger Period was declared on 00.01 of 27th December 2023 and will continue until 1st May 2024, unless revoked earlier. You can not light a fire in the open air without written permit from CFA or a Municipal Fire Prevention Officer. If we attend an illegal burn during this time the police will be called and fines will be issued. For information on what is allowed during the Fire Danger period and on Total Fire Ban days see

<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can/>

Get Your Property and Family Ready NOW

It is so important to prepare your property before and during the Fire Season, and perform regular maintenance.

Write your Fire Plan and let everybody in the family know. What is your trigger to leave? What will you do on Extreme days? What will you do on Catastrophic days? What will you take when you evacuate? Where will you go? For information check out the CFA website. www.cfa.vic.gov.au



Classes held at:
R.B Robson stadium
Wallan, 3756

Recreational & Competition Gymnastics

- Morning classes from crawling to 5years
- Afternoon classes from 5 years to adult
- Classes available Monday – Wednesday
- Trial class available for first time members

Visit our website for more information

Birraaleegymnastics.com.au



BONNIEVIEW WINDOW CLEANING

Residential, Commercial, Builders

Over 25 years experience

David
0448 564 414

**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**

Wandong Primary School



2024 WANDONG SCHOOL LEADERS



STUDENT VOICE



School Captain	Deegan Fearn
School Captain	Hollie Tolevski
Student Representative Captain	Poppy Tempini
Student Representative Captain	Sebastian Delovski
Student Representative Captain	Zara Delaney



HOUSE LEADERS

Pickett House Captain	Harry Snepvangers
Pickett House Captain	Kiara Scattolin
Lightwood House Captain	Holly Roberts
Lightwood House Captain	Lexus Nunn
Arkell House Captain	Travis Dawson
Arkell House Captain	Aliyah Harrison
Davern House Captain	Tahni Saunders
Davern House Captain	Madison Hall



School Captains 2024

Choosing these very worthy students was a genuinely difficult decision, simply because we were very much spoilt for choice! The unsuccessful applicants now have the opportunity to nominate for a range of other leadership positions which will be determined in upcoming weeks. Congratulations again to our captains – we are certain they will lead with passion and commitment and be excellent role models for all other students in the school.

Touring Wandong

Is your child starting school in 2025? Please save the dates below into your 2024 calendar.

“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 2025, 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.

Get your diary out. So many Key Dates:

- Dec 18th – Monday – School Fete – 3:30pm – 7pm
- Dec 19th – Tuesday – Funfields – End of Year Pool Party
- Dec 20th – Wednesday – Last Day of Term – 1:30pm Dismissal
- Jan 30th – Tuesday – First Day Term 1, 2024 – Grades 1 – 6 Students
- Feb 2nd – Friday – First Day Term 1, 2024 – Foundation Students
- Feb 19th – Monday- School Photo Day – Whole School
- Feb 26th – Monday – Foundation 2025 Touring Wandong – 6pm

TOURING WANDONG

Monday, February 26, 2024 | 6.00 pm
Monday, March 18, 2024 | 6.00 pm
Tuesday, March 26, 2024 | 10.00 am

Please note: each of the sessions commence with a short presentation by the Principal, teaching staff and student leaders, with a short school tour. Please ensure that you phone the office on 51871232 to book one of these sessions.

IMPORTANT DATES:
Foundation 2025 Enrolment applications accepted from Monday, April 15, 2024
(First day of Term Two)
Foundation 2025 Enrolment applications due no later than Friday, July 26, 2024
Foundation 2025 Enrolment applications confirmed by Friday, August 9, 2024

Special evening session for those with a submitted application –
“LAUNCHPAD PROGRAM FOR PARENTS”
Monday, August 19, 2024 | 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm
Academic school preparedness presented by Steph Pollock – Assistant Principal

Lauren Kathage MP

Labor Member for Yan Yean

For help with State Government issues such as housing, roads, transport or education, please phone my office on **9432 9782**.



📍 3/14 Yan Yean Rd, Diamond Creek VIC 3089

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

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.



Australian Labor

www.mousedetailing.com

MOUSE DETAILING

Mobile Car Detailing Services

Call Karen
0412 489 033

Expos Available



HOME

TIMBER AND HARDWARE

GO WHERE THE TRADIES GO

PRETTY SALLY HOME & GARDEN
96 High St. Wallan PH: 5783 2800

WALLAN EQUIPMENT HIRE

HOME
TIMBER AND HARDWARE
GO WHERE THE TRADIES GO

PRETTY SALLY HOME & GARDEN
96 High St. Wallan PH: 5783 2800





Stop kidding yourself. If you drink, don't drive.

Thinking about driving after a couple of drinks? Think again.
If you blow .05 or over, you could face serious penalties,
including fines, losing your licence, getting an interlock installed
in your car and having to blow zero for three years.



WANDONG WARRIORS

JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

CLUB UPDATE

This month the new committee is working hard behind the scenes to ensure that the upcoming season is filled with fun and success for all involved. Come along and get involved in a great family club.

Recent Drainage works at L.B Davern are scheduled to be finished by the end of the year and we look forward to better playing conditions on the ground throughout the season.

2024 SPONSORSHIP

Sponsors play a huge role in getting kids on the field and providing the essential equipment needed for them to remain competitive.

We have a wide range of Sponsorship opportunities for businesses to support the club and enable the kids to keep playing football. These options range from signage around the ground to sponsoring a home game round. Get in touch with the club and become a Warrior.

UNDER 16 PLAYERS WANTED!!

Are you looking at playing for season 2024.

We are looking for any expressions of interest to join the U16 Warriors.

Expression of interest can be emailed to wandongjfc@gmail.com

REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN

Our Football club is looking for players in all age groups. So come and give footy a go!

Registrations have opened in the following age groups U9,U10,U12,U14 and U16.

Follow the link to register directly on Player HQ <https://www.playhq.com/afl/register/23a393>

PRE-SEASON TRAINING

U12 and U14's Pre-season training commenced on Thursday 30th November.

U12's 4.00pm - 5.00pm

U14's 4.30pm – 5.30pm

The coaches are looking forward to seeing you all there.

U9's and U10's Training will begin in the new year.

Please email the club for all enquiries: wandongjfc@gmail.com

For all up-to-date news regarding pre-season, coach allocation etc. Please follow us on Facebook.



Wandong Junior Football Club

We would like to thank our current sponsors, without their generosity our club would not exist.



Thanks to our main sponsors:



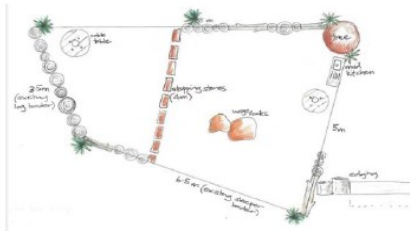
Darraweit Guim Primary School News



Hello from DGPS

This month we are looking forward to a number of celebration days to finish off a wonderful year- the annual concert, graduation, funfields (for our year 6's) and a family day at the Wacky Splash Water Park in Nagambie.

Our sandpit has been completed and the students love it!!!! What will our 2024 leaders project be??



The school community would like to wish all the readers, who follow our articles, a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year.

RESPECT

CARING

HONESTY

WILLING TO LEARN

We're here for you, Monday to Friday

Your local team at GMCU Kilmore is here to help you reach your financial goals. Visit or call us today to find out how we can help you.

📍 76a Sydney Street, Kilmore

☎ (03) 5781 1221

🌐 gmcu.com.au

gmcu.

Banking with purpose.



Goulburn Murray Credit Union Co-operative Limited ABN 87 087 651 509 AFSL/Australian Credit Licence No. 241364.



When you bank with us,
profits go into the community.
Over **\$4,200,000** into
our community so far.

Across Australia, Community Bank
branches have invested \$292 million
to help their communities thrive.

A bank giving back sounds unusual.
For us, it's business as usual.

COMMUNITY BANK
MODEL



You bank
with us.



Your community
shares in the bank's
income.



Your community
decides what local
projects to support.



Good things
happen in your
community.

**Over \$4.2 Million
back into
community**



Wallan Community Bank - 5783 2422
Kilmore Community Bank - 5781 0066
Broadford Community Bank - 5454 1233

Bendigo Bank

Community Bank
Wallan, Kilmore and Broadford



**Independent
Manufacturer**

Kilmore Industrial
Estate,
123 Northern Hwy,
Kilmore, 3764

(03) 57 822 300

www.shedcity.com.au
sales@shedcity.com.au



Farm sheds, Machinery sheds,
Barns, Garages, Carports,
Garden Sheds,
Paddock shelters,
Stables, Aviaries.



For all your Steel
Roofing, guttering,
Wall Cladding,
flashing needs
made right here in
Kilmore.



**MODERNISE YOUR
KITCHEN OR
BATHROOM...**

*without the
hassle and
expense of
replacing!*

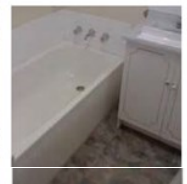
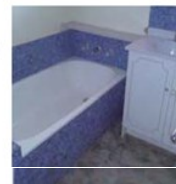
**Superior
Resurfacing,**

the resurfacing
specialists, can
makeover your
kitchen or
bathroom surfaces
to look bright and
fresh again using
our exclusive
polyglass product.



BEFORE!

AFTER!



BEFORE!

AFTER!

**You could save up to 70% on
replacement and renovation costs!**



CALL NOW!

0407 421 292

Email: info@superiorresurfacing.com.au



For more information visit our website
www.superiorresurfacing.com.au

**FIRE
SAFETY
VISITS**



FREE Smoke Alarm Installation

**Vulnerable residents
Mitchell Shire and Murrindindi Shire areas**

72% of fatal house fires start in the bedroom and occur while a person is sleeping

Do you have working smoke alarms in your home?

CFA is offering to install free smoke alarms powered with a 10 year lithium battery in the homes of people who:

- are older and/or less mobile
- live with a disability
- experiencing social or financial disadvantage
- are living at higher risk from house fire

If you would like to have additional smoke alarms installed in your home or some general home fire safety advice, please get in touch with our team today.

If you do not have working smoke alarms in your home, you are risking your life and the lives of your loved ones.

You will not hear a fire or smell the smoke while you are sleeping and by the time it reaches you, it will be too late.

By law, all homes are required to have working smoke alarms in living areas, but CFA also recommends having them installed in bedrooms.

Learn about Home Fire Safety &
Smoke Alarms
cfa.vic.gov.au/homefire



Scan me

**Mitchell and Murrindindi Shire Areas
Contact us to book a free visit**

T: 5735 3114 (BH)

M: 0419 472 579 (BH)

Email: d12commed@cfa.vic.gov.au

Snuffle mats for sale

The Snuffle Mat, is great mental stimulation for your pet. It can be used to reduce anxiety, slow down a fast eater or simply as a fun reward for your fur baby. Not only good for dogs, but cats and guinea pigs all love a snuffle mat. My mats come in three sizes and are double knotted and thick, every mat hand made here in Wandong.

Email: wandongite@hotmail.com

Ph 0432 120 736





It has not been a good start to Spring with cool weather and spring storms to rev up later this month throughout Wandong and Heathcote Junction. Please be aware any flooding due to spring storms can create flooding with Dry Creek through the Reserve. Also be aware of snakes through the Reserve as we have had several sightings.

Our Oval drainage project is well under way and the refurbishments of the Community Centre is Commenced at long last.

Our summer sports are in progress with their programs but winding down for the Christmas break. Wandong Tennis, Kilmore Cricket-(disrupted at present due to the works on the Oval), Standardbred Riding Club, Kilmore and District Adult Rider's Club
Wandong Primary- recreational activities disrupted due to the works on the Oval

What is our community up to down at the Reserve:

Walking the dogs, kids in the playground, individuals/groups doing their fitness workouts, mums with the kids in the pram, riding bikes, playing kick to kick football, passing shots in netball shooting hoops at the basketball ring, riding the horses, training dogs to behave, Wandong primary doing their sporting activities on the Oval, Wallan basketball in the Stadium, Having a hit of tennis
Doing a round of activities at the newly installed exercise pod

Continued developments at the Reserve will complement our sport groups and community. We are lucky to have a Reserve that has character and bush ambiance atmosphere that complements our communities.

As 2023 draws to a close, the Reserve has continued to grow and develop and has become a great asset for our community to enjoy and a place to relax.

Looking forward to the following projects to be complete in 2024

Redevelopment of the Community Centre completion around June 2024

Drainage project for the Reserves Oval-Oval to reopen in Mid-January 2024

L.B.Davern Reserve Projects update:

Project 1:Redevelopment of the Community centre.

Wandong Community Centre Revitalisation

Revitalise the centre to contemporary standards by reconfiguring and upgrading the internal floor plan, which will create a versatile, multi-purpose centre for shared community use. This project is an \$800.000+ project. The Redevelopment of the Community centre at the Reserve is now at construction stage with the building now fenced off to the community. Due to the project the Reserve committee will not be taking any bookings for the centre from December through to June 2024.

Community Centre 2023 before the project commences



Pre Redevelopment of the Community Centre
Community Centre 2023 before the Revitalization project commences



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Project 2: Drainage improvement at the Oval.

This successful funding agreement is part of the Country Football Netball Program. State Government will be contributing \$195,000 to the \$260,000 LB Davern Drainage Upgrade project with Council contributing the remaining \$65,000. The project will see the installation of lateral drainage to eliminate the current ponding/flooding of water in key sections of the oval and a reshape of both goal square areas. This project is nearly completed and is ahead of schedule, completion of project December 2023 and to reopen to the community mid-January 2024.



If anybody in our community would like to share any photos of History of L.B Davern Reserve for us to share on what's News please send to kooraw@bigpond.com

Contact our booking officer Darlene Gunter 0418 31 762. 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

Please Note:

Unfortunately the Community Centre is not open for bookings until the Refurbishments of the Centre is completed April 2024

**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!!**

From all us at the L.B.Davern Reserve we wish you a great Christmas and Happy but safe New Year.

Just a reminder the Christmas Carols are at the Wandong Public Hall, Rail St Wandong.



**And Australia Day Breaky will be
at the Wandong Public Hall.**



Unfortunately these events will not be at The Reserve due to revitalization works of the community centre. Please check local information for venues.

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



Neighbourhood Watch

Let's watch out for each other

South Mitchell

Tips to enjoy a safe summer



If you're heading off for a well-deserved summer break, give yourself some extra peace of mind by being safety and security conscious before you leave and are out on the road.

Summer is almost here, and you're all set for that well-deserved vacation. Whether you're hitting the road in a caravan, jetting off to a beach resort or going camping by the river, it is crucial that you take a few simple precautions to keep yourself and your family safe while you're away.

We suggest:

1. Don't tell Facebook what you are doing

It is very easy on community Facebook pages to drop bits of information about where you live – like your nearest cross-road, or your neighbour's name. Wait until you are back to share your holiday snaps and make sure your social media accounts and/or posts are set to private.

2. Secure your caravan

If you're heading off on a caravan adventure, start with the basics. Keep the caravan locked at all times. When parking at the caravan park, reverse it for added security. This makes it harder for any would-be thief to hitch and tow it away. Also, remember to lock your car, especially at beachside locations.

3. Prepare your home

Before you set off, take steps to secure your home. Set timers on lights, making it seem like someone is home even when you're miles away. Ensure all doors, windows and gates are locked tight, providing an extra layer of protection. Don't forget to register your 'Absence from Residence' form with Victoria Police for added patrols past your house.

4. Ask your neighbours to keep watch

Enlist the help of trustworthy neighbours. Ask them to collect your mail, putting out your bins and keep an eye on your property. A little vigilance goes a long way in deterring potential intruders.

5. Use smart technology

For an extra layer of security, think about installing a video doorbell or a sensor light camera that connects to a mobile app. This way, you can keep an eye on your property remotely, and receive notifications if there's someone at your property. If any suspicious activity is detected, report it promptly to Triple Zero (000).

6. Stay bushfire and flood aware

If you're travelling within Victoria or interstate, stay informed about any fires or other emergencies in or near the area you are visiting. If you're in Victoria, Download the VicEmergency app. If you're travelling to other states, download the corresponding app for that State.

To lodge your Absence from Residence form, visit: <https://service.vic.gov.au/find-services/housing-and-property/register-your-absence-from-residence>

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

email: newsletters.smnhw@gmail.com



PO Box 550, Kilmore 3764
President: Elaine De Gabrielle
Secretary: Mark Perrott
Contact: info@u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au

Christmas is nearly upon us and we have now vacated the premises at Sydney St and most classes have wound up for the year bar a couple of upcoming Christmas functions. The convenors held their last meeting of the year on December 1st at the new JJ Clancy pavilion to have a tour of the facility and plan classes for 2024. It is an impressive space that will lend itself well to our needs, with two function rooms that can be opened up into a single large space, plenty of storage and a kitchen and board room. The outdoor space is still a work in progress but we are confident it will be ready when we resume in 2024.

The convenors reported on their respective class progress throughout the year and with a few minor changes, all current classes will again be offered in 2024. The Sudoku group have got so adept at solving difficult puzzles that they have effectively done themselves out of a class. Next year, they will expand to include other card games and board games, as well as helping novice Sudoku players with techniques to solve the number puzzles.

The recorder ensemble finished the year with a concert held at the John Taylor room. Attendance was down a bit on previous events however the enthusiastic audience thoroughly enjoyed the musical performances. Recorder group Kandis played a selection of classical, jazz, modern and traditional folk tunes which showcased the versatility of the instrument. Ukulele group Uki led a singalong session with much audience participation, finishing with Aussie Jingle Bells accompanied by a volunteer with a beer bottle rattle providing the bells, much to everyone's amusement. Musical duo Mark and Mary were a major hit, performing a couple of Celtic tunes on guitar and violin followed by some original songs.

Just a reminder that registration day for 2024 will be held at the new pavilion at the JJ Clancy Reserve, Kelly's Lane, Kilmore on 19th January from 10am to 12 midday. U3A is open to people over 50 who are no longer working full time so if you want to get involved, come along on the day and sign up for some classes. New members are always welcome and it is very affordable. For more information, please contact us at info@u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au. The website will be updated when the 2024 classes have been finalised.

We wish you a safe and enjoyable Christmas and hope to see you next year.
Cheers, Amanda Oades

A Message for McEwen

As we approach the end of the 2023, I wanted to take a moment to send my warmest wishes to each and every one of you in our vibrant and resilient community. Merry Christmas!

When reflecting on the year gone by, I am filled with gratitude for my role as your representative.

Our shared commitment to supporting one another and working together to overcome challenges and make improvements to our world truly sets our community apart.

My staff and I feel like we have spent plenty of time over the last couple of years in Wandong, thanks to it being the location of Prepoll for the Federal election and the Voice Referendum and it has been great to catch up with plenty of locals.

It has also been great to congratulate local community groups such as the Wandong Heathcote Junction Sports and Community Centre for their successful Volunteer Grant application to furnish the rooms with new chairs and tables. It is always great to see local volunteers like Rob Telfer and his team for the amazing work they do.

The unity of this community makes McEwen a wonderful place to call home and has inspired me as your representative. The countless stories of kindness, generosity, and selflessness that I have witnessed throughout our electorate are a testament to the exceptional people who make up our community.

As we gather with loved ones to celebrate the joy of the season, let us also take a moment to appreciate the bonds we share and the collective resilience that has seen us through the highs and lows of the past year. Your dedication to each other and the well-being of our community has not gone unnoticed.

May this Christmas be filled with joy, warmth, and the company of loved ones. Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Here's to a fantastic 2024 filled with continued collaboration, prosperity, and the shared spirit that makes McEwen truly special. Warm regards

Rob Mitchell MP
Member for McEwen

SUDOKU

Answers on
page 26

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

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

THIS MONTHS QUIZ

Answer appears on Page 26 but no cheating!

WHAT COLOUR IS IT?

1. What colour is a polar bears skin?
2. What colour is an emerald?
3. What colour is a jaffa?
4. What colour is a zebras skin?
5. What colour is the black box on a plane?
6. What colour represents death?
7. What colour is centre of an archery target?
8. What colour is the French flag?
9. What colour is the hulk?
10. What colour is the Queen Elizabeth rose?
11. What is the most popular colour in the world?
12. What colour is the opposite of red?
13. What colour is Mickey Mouse shoes?
14. What colour does Melbourne Storm wear?

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.

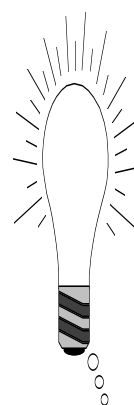
Justice of the Peace for Victoria

Sue Marstaeller

Mobile: 0438 871 520

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

ROB & LEONIE FERRIS ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS REC 3028



- *Light & power points
- *Security systems
- *Underground Mains
- *Stove & hot water repairs
- *New houses & rewires
- *Safety switches & smoke detectors
- *Commercial & Industrial
- *Austel Licensed phone points

Phone 5782 1746
Mobile 0418 323 838

Carer Gateway – Managing your wellbeing during the festive season



We all know that the festive season can be an incredibly stressful time, however for Australia's 2.7 million unpaid carers, the added pressure of caring for a loved one makes the festive season a little more challenging.

So what can you do to manage your wellbeing during this time?

1. **Don't be too hard on yourself** – both you and the person you care for deserve a break. If you are exhausted you will struggle to cope and perhaps have no enjoyment yourself.
2. **Keep it simple** – don't set unrealistic expectations and stretch yourself too thin. Routines are good, familiarity is reassuring, and by sticking to regular mealtimes you can reduce some of the pressure.
3. **It is OK to change your plans** – if your instincts tell you that plans are no longer appropriate, then it is ok to change your mind. If you think the person you care for will be unsettled, give yourself permission to cancel or shorten your plans to fit the situation.
4. **Ask for help** – we often struggle to ask for help and try to be all things to everybody. Remember that you too are important, so delegate tasks, get some rest and say no to things as appropriate to ease some of the stress.
5. **Be Positive** – it's likely that something over the festive season will go wrong. In fact it is almost inevitable. Try not to panic, keep it in perspective, stay positive and try not to let it disrupt your plans.
6. **Self care** – find time to do the things you enjoy and that allow you to reset and focus on yourself for a little while. This may be going for a walk, reading or enjoying a bath.
7. **Eat well** – It's tough to eat well during the festive season, there are so many things to tempt us away from a healthy diet. Whilst it is ok to enjoy the food and treats on offer, remember to maintain a balanced diet. Eating healthy foods helps to keep you energized, and combined with getting both sleep and rest, can help you cope with the extra stress of the season.
8. **Plan ahead** – remember that many shops and services are either closed or have limited hours over the festive season. Make sure you are organized to ensure you have enough medications and other supplies as needed.
9. **Enjoy yourself!** – whilst not everything may go as planned, there will also be times across the festive season that are meaningful and bring you joy. Embrace these as they happen.

If you need emergency respite over the Christmas period, please call Carer Gateway on 1800 422 737.

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

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

Alfoxton Dog Centre

www.alfoxton.com.au

*Boarding Dogs / Cats - short and long term Farm Stays.
Dogs have large indoor/outdoor pens. Also big play paddocks
where your dog has room to get out and burn off their energy.*

*Cats and little Dogs get to hang out in fully enclosed and heated
Mud Brick Cattery*

Phone: Anne **0402 118929**

60 Junction Rd, Heathcote Junction, Vic

Alfoxton is a registered Domestic Animal Business - Mitchell Shire

Weather Report - November 2023

Heathcote Junction/Wandong

The last month of spring and in the last week or so we experienced what the season can bring, and the rain was gratefully received. Rainfall of 60mls consisted of the majority falling in the last half of the month with the exception of two days in the first half.

Our supply dam, Sunday Creek was still holding 99% as of 20th November.

Stats

November 2023	-	60 mls
Previous year	-	110.5 mls
Average prev 10 years	-	63 mls
Total this year	-	598 mls
Total prev year	-	947 mls

To all, have a merry Christmas and all the best for the new year.

Norm Hulett

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/>



For information about coming MBUG rides, check out the website at

< www.mbug.org.au >
or contact the Secretary,
John on 5781 1604

QUIZ ANSWERS (from page 24)

1. Black
2. Green
3. Red
4. Black
5. Orange
6. Black
7. Yellow
8. Blue, white and red
9. Green
10. Pink
11. Blue
12. Green
13. Yellow
14. Purple

SUKODU
solution

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

Whittlesea Community Network

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



Where did the year go? It feels like the silly season has snuck up on us this year! Everything you need to know about what is going on at the House can be found on our website www.wchi.com.au (where you can book directly) or call us on 9716 3361.

We know times are tough, don't forget that there is help at hand in your local community. Our community pantry is accessible 7 days a week and after hours and is located out the front of the House at 92A Church St. We can also assist you with pantry packs and free pet food if you stop by the office during office hours Monday - Thursday 10am - 3pm. Don't forget Foodshare happens each week Tuesdays and Wednesdays behind the Uniting Church, Fir Street, Whittlesea from 11,00am - 2.00pm.

Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme comes to Whittlesea Community House

We are pleased to announce that we are ready to accept approved containers for a 10 cent return! Visit www.cdsvic.org.au for a full list of eligible containers and instructions on how to download the app for our region. You can receive your 10 cents in cash, through the app to a bank account or you can nominate organisations to receive your 10 cents as a donation! Start collecting your cans and bottles NOW. Open Mon/Wednesday/Thursday 10am - 3pm or Saturdays 8am - 4pm. ****Please note that the program will be closed from Thursday 21st December and will re-open on Monday 8th January 2024.**

Big Blokes Brunch

Join the blokes for brunch each week at Whittlesea Community Activity Centre:

Tuesdays	11.00am - Noon	\$2.00 per person
----------	----------------	-------------------

Boat Licence

Saturday 9 th December	9am - 1pm	\$140 per person
-----------------------------------	-----------	------------------

Saturday 6 th January, 2024	9am - 1pm	\$140 per person
--	-----------	------------------

Students from 12 years+ (students under 16 years are not eligible for PWC endorsement)

First Aid (CPR, Provide First Aid & Provide First Aid in an Emergency in an Education & Care Setting)

Online learning + face to face	Saturday 17 th February, 2024	\$85/\$150/\$195
--------------------------------	--	------------------

Fix It Friday

Fix it Friday will wind up for the year on Friday 15th December. Don't wait until the new year to tackle that problem! Come and see our experts for real help that doesn't involve a queue or a call centre!

Meet experts from Whittlesea Community Connections, Social Worker, Whittlesea Community Legal Service, Uniting Financial Counselling, NDIS (Brotherhood of St Laurence), Centrelink, Victoria Police, My Aged Care, No Interest Loan Scheme, Naemi National mental health support, Haven Homesafe, Gamblers Help and heaps more!

Call 9716 3361 to register in advance, it's **FREE**

Friday 15 th December	10am - 1.00pm
----------------------------------	---------------

Whittlesea Community House will close for the Christmas break on **Wednesday 20th December and will re-open on Monday 29th January, 2024.** We would like to wish all of you a happy and save festive season and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

\$\$\$ of Owning a Dog...



A recent newspaper article reported that the average family is now likely to spend \$74,000 over the life of a dog. Enough to buy an Audi car. This might seem hard to believe until we actually look at the figures.

The purchase price is the **minor cost** of owning a dog. But consider the options; Families can be guiled into 'Adopt Don't Shop' - but there are limited pups available in rescue and the outlay is still +\$1,200 as well as passing their scrutiny. A Google Search, finds slick websites from Commercial Breeders selling random pups at \$3,000-\$10,000..

Alternatively, if your heart is set on a Pedigree pup from a Registered Breeder this could cost \$4,000-\$6,000 with likely a 6-9 months wait (But at least these pups have gone thru with required health checks).



Remember, no matter where you source your puppy from - the ongoing costs can often be the same.

Puppy Paraphernalia : So now to a Pet Store to buy the basics. A soft fluffy bed, collar, lead, harness and some toys (because everything looks so cute!) In shock you have just spent +\$300. At home a few weeks later you walk in to what looks like a crime scene with a headless plastic chicken, the bed torn to pieces and stuffing spread around the lounge room. So back to the store to buy a tougher bed, an 'Indestructible' Kong plus a wire crate - that's another +\$300, AND you also now need a new phone charger, a TV remote and new shoes.

Medical : Monthly products such as Flea/Tick/Worm treatments are \$40/month. As a new pet owner you worry about emergencies that could have vet fees of \$2,000 and escalate upwards, so now take Pet Insurance at \$40/month for basic cover or \$80/month for deluxe and this still doesn't cover everything that can go wrong.

Grooming : If you thought it was expensive going to a hairdresser you are in for a shock. A simple wash & Dry for a small breed can be \$60. Perhaps you thought buying a Non-Shedding breed was a great idea but then find out that every 6 weeks they need to be clipped and manicured which costs upward of \$160 a time.

Feeding : Surely it is just as simple as chuck some kibble in a bowl...**NO.. NO.. NO..???** Do you buy the 12 kg of breed specific @ \$160 OR the growing puppy @ \$145. Perhaps your dog has sensitive skin or allergies so he needs a special blend at nearly twice the price of others. With many breeds 12 kg might only last one month.

Training : You attend Puppy Pre-School for \$200. 5 weeks later your clever puppy will SIT, DROP, STAY (for a treat) and you both graduate with a lovely Certificate... But a few months later.... *not so cute anymore !!* ..Your wondering how to stop the biting, stealing and destroying EVERYTHING! - You hope he will "grow out of it" OR If Dr. Google can't solve your problems, you try the local obedience club, but your dog is very silly or reactive and you can't cope with the class environment. You try private lessons hoping the Professional Dog Trainer can wave their magic wand at \$100-\$200 a session. Perhaps in desperation you send the young offender for a 21 day board and train program, at \$2,500. Seems great but 3 weeks later dog has reverted to old habits.

Day Care and Boarding : If you decide to use a Doggy Day Care to burn up his energy you are up for \$60 a day and of course Boarding or Pet Sitting is still \$40-50 per day. So even just a two weeks holiday is \$600.

It All Adds Up : Consider the first year - if you follow random advice, you could spend \$2,500 on food, \$1,500 on Grooming, \$1,500 on crates, bedding, toys etc, \$500 for vaccinations, \$1,300 parasite treatments and Insurance, \$800 for desexing, \$800 on training, \$600 on Boarding and perhaps \$1,000 on replacing items destroyed like shoes or phone chargers. Your new pup may have cost you over \$10,000 and this doesn't include what you paid for the dog....

Phew!.... aren't you glad you didn't get two puppies....?

Ways To Save : Owning a dog doesn't have to break the bank.... Instead you need to Budget.

In the first year pups cost more; they may be more likely to have an injury or health problems, so perhaps Insurance works for that first year. If you start training early your pup can have good manners thus avoid many of the pitfalls... Learn how to groom your own dog... Research to find what parasite control you really need...

Look at natural ways to feed the dog instead of using dubious processed food.

Commercial Companies are very good at trying to guilt you into paying for expensive products. They have gone out of the way to convince you to spend. But is this item needed or is what they promote even the best option...?

Remember the prime concern for a Company is to make a profit.

Your prime concern should be to do the best for you and all the family, including the dog.



Merry Xmas to All Local Dogs and Owners

Anne Zelvy's IACP-CDT



Kilmore Golf Club Inc.



KGC held its AGM on Friday 24th Nov with 30 members in attendance.

Rod Williams was elected Captain to join other Committee members – Cheryle Andersen (Lady Captain), Molly Bell, Greg Campbell, Rod Campbell, Helen Dennett, Di Dixon, Duncan Griffiths, Tracie Hedditch, Bea Lay.

Saturday 25th Nov. was the Final of the Match play Championship with Jim Ioannidis winning from Nick Wogan

Presentation Day were held on Saturday 9th December following an early 8.30 Shotgun start.

Presentations commenced at 1.00pm. Attending were the four Scholarship girls who completed Junior Girls Scholarship Program for 2023.

KGC has once again been successful in gaining another grant from the Australian Golf Foundation. Applications are now open to any girl aged between 9 – 16n who would like to have 24 free golf lessons, a free shirt, cap, golf glove and membership to KGC for 12 months. For further information contact Bea Lay 0437712973 or info@kilmoregolfclub.com.au or the Website.

Reminder of our Friday 9-hole competition- Stableford available to be played any day of the week.

At the end of your round place your score cards in the container provided in the Honesty Box. Cost \$5 ea. Check the windows to see which nine holes will be used. Contact the club shop for more details on 57821123 or info@kilmoregolfclub.com.au

The date for the Annual Toyota Par 3 Classic 2024 will be Sunday March 3rd. Keep this day free as places fill up quickly. The cut off number is 108 players. This event is open to anyone with/without a handicap and a chance to win prizes on every hole for NTP or a car of \$1000

Enquiries for the use of our Function Room continues to be info@kilmoregolfclub.com.au or 57821123.

KGC wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Safe New Year and we hope to see you on our course which is managed so well by our volunteers.

WANDONG PUBLIC HALL

If you have an interest in the Hall and it being part of Wandong's Heritage we are looking for new Committee Members or a Community Representative to help with the care, use and it's upkeep now and into the future.

On Sunday 17th December we will be hosting the 2023 Wandong Community Carols. Come along to a free BBQ at 4.30pm and childrens entertainment until 6pm. The carols commence at 6.30pm and conclude at 8.30pm.

We will also be hosting the local Australia Day community breakfast and awards on 26th January. We have partnered with the Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group, the Wandong Wallan Lions Club and the Wandong History Group to finance and operate this event at the hall as a annual event. Come along for a free hot breakfast, flag raising and awards.

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 Christine Cram Ph: 0458 238 270
- 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

The hall is available for hire phone Christine for bookings on 0448 604770.

Christine has an answering service so please leave a message if she cannot answer the phone, she will respond promptly.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a great 2024.





THE COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF WHITTLESEA INC.

REGISTERED # A0041714F

Established 2001

MEDIA INFORMATION

MICHAEL B HALLEY PUBLICITY OFFICER

Contacts at the Club

Glenda Vincent: Membership 0431 517 008

Cheryl Manicolo: Secretary 03 9715 1420

Email whittleseaprobus@hotmail.com

Here We Come A-Carolling

Christmas Carols associate with the northern winter solstice and the date of Christ's birth. Carols were originally pagan songs in the pre-Christian era to celebrate the solstice, but over the centuries have evolved to modern day usage.

One source claims there are nearly 10,000 songs about or for Christmas. Since the average song runs approximately 3.5 minutes, it means you would have to sing Christmas songs 24/7 from December 1 to December 24 to sing them all.

At the December meeting of the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea thirty youngsters from St Mary's Catholic Primary School (pictured opposite) came and sang a selection of Carols and Christmas songs that suited the audience and the sentiment. They managed to give renditions of nine from the ten thousand, but time was limited and they selected songs they felt appropriate.

Many hymns and carols are centuries old and reflect times past. Our presenters caught the audience attention immediately when the enlightened us about dashing through the bush in a rusty Holden Ute. The medley delivered messages about sought after gifts, the tradition of the Christian Christmas, and the iconic Silent Night.

After a rounding applause and three hoorays, the girls and their teachers returned to the classroom to study other subjects. Teresa Carlin the speaker coordinator gave Angelo Iacopino the team leader a token of appreciation and individual gifts to the children and his two assistants.

The December meeting always has a finale with a Christmas inspired dinner. This year the venue was at the Magpie & Stump Hotel at nearby Wandong. The fare was roast turkey and ham with vegetables and cranberry sauce. Deserts were a choice of Christmas pudding or Pavlova. Folks also had an opportunity to win a prize in the free raffle. The onset of summer was a catalyst for some to stay indoors and yarn until the temperature receded. Others braved the conditions and went about their lead up to Christmas.

Probus is a Community Service Activity of Rotary Clubs. Probus is an association of retired and semi-retired people who join together in clubs, the basic purpose of which is to provide regular opportunities for them to keep their minds active, expand their interests and to enjoy the fellowship of new friends.

A number of new members joined Whittlesea in 2023 and may not be aware of the Rotary umbilical cord. The 2024 program will commence Monday 5 February and Michael Hall the Rotary President will be the guest presenter to enlighten members about Rotary and its overarching association with Probus. Michael is a well-known business leader and raconteur.

There will be no presenter in March when the Annual General Meeting of Members takes place. Beyond that some exciting topics and presenters are well advanced in the planning stage.

Written by Michael Halley

Reviewed by Angelo Iacopino

SIGN THE PETITION

The Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group has long advocated for the large open drain along the west side of the Epping Kilmore Road at the Wandong bushfire memorial car park to be placed underground to enable easier use of the car park. The bollards along the roadside should be removed to enable angle parking from the road. This busy car park constantly needs repairs to fix huge holes that develop (see photo). The car park (or at least the entry) could have been sealed for the cost of the constant repairs. This is the busiest roadside toilet stop in Mitchell Shire and continues to be ignored. Please sign the petition located in Kemps Bakery. The petition will form part of our next submission to the Mitchell Shire budget.







Your local team.

Nutrien Harcourts Kilmore.

It's an ideal time for sellers! The local property market is strong and we have achieved excellent sale results for a range of properties in recent weeks. Nutrien Harcourts Kilmore combine a global network and innovative marketing techniques with our local expertise throughout the **Mitchell Shire**, **Macedon Ranges** and surrounding regions. Speak to us to find out what your property may be worth in the current market and how many buyers we have ready to purchase it today.

Ph: 5782 0400

kilmore.nutrienharcourts.com.au

Nutrien Harcourts