



ISSUE 344 WANDONG/HEATHCOTE JUNCTION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER : FEBRUARY 2025 ABN 17 022 858 565

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

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## AUSTRALIA DAY AT WANDONG

Over 80 residents attended the Wandong Heathcote Junction Australia Day 2025 flag raising and awards ceremony and enjoyed a free hot breakfast .

Federal Member for McEwen Rob Mitchell gave a speech on Australia Day and three Mitchell Shire Councillors Bob Humm, Timothy Hanson and Riley Evans joined him to make the local Australia Day Award presentation to another local champion, Mr Pat Leddin (see page 19).



26/01/2025 09:38

RESIDENTS, PLEASE JOIN THE WANDONG HEATHCOTE JUNCTION COMMUNITY GROUP ON SUNDAY 2ND MARCH TO CLEAN UP THE RUBBISH AROUND OUR STREETS

LET'S CLEAN UP

2025

## AUSTRALIA

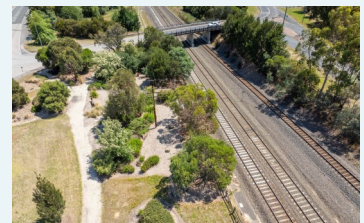


JOIN OUR **BIGGEST EVER CLEAN UP** SUNDAY 2 MARCH

PLEASE MEET US AT THE WANDONG RAILWAY STATION CAR PARK AT 9AM. GLOVES, SAFETY VESTS AND WATER PROVIDED. THE CLEAN UP WILL CONCLUDE AT 12 NOON WITH A LIGHT LUNCH. ENQUIRIES - CALL ALLEN 0413 832 411

## INLAND RAIL - INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR WANDONG RESIDENTS:

Inland Rail and John Holland (contractor) representatives will be in Wandong for several sessions during March to display and discuss the proposed plan for the new road bridge over the railway lines on the Wandong—Broadford Road. See page 27 for details.



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

Wandong - Heathcote Junction - why would you live anywhere else. Until March 2025, Allen Hall (editor)  
**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: COPY & ADS 1 MARCH 2025 DELIVERY from 12 MARCH 2025**

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# WANDONG FIRE BRIGADE



## February Weather Outlook

CFA has urged Victorians living in high-risk bushfire areas to finalise their bushfire survival plans ahead of a prolonged heatwave set to impact the state in February 2025. Temperatures are forecast to reach the high 30s and low 40s across Victoria with the chance of dry thunderstorms and lightning. The community is urged to prepare ahead of the expected heightened fire conditions. Each household should have a Fire plan and update it annually, or as required. Fire Planner is an online tool that helps you create a safety plan in the event of a fire. It takes around 10 minutes to complete. [www.fireplanner.vic.gov.au](http://www.fireplanner.vic.gov.au)

## Australia Day Community Award presented to Pat Leddin

Congratulations to Pat Leddin for receiving the Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation on Australia Day 2025 for his dedicated service to the Clonbinane and Wandong community.

Pat has shown dedication to the local community for over 30 years, offering service to the Kilmore SES, Wandong CFA, and the Kilmore Wallan RSL. We are proud to know and work alongside Pat, and celebrate this recognition. Pat has an easygoing nature, is level headed and has a common sense approach to problem solving. We are fortunate to have him as a member of the brigade and our local community.

Pat has made a lasting impact as a member of the Wandong CFA, where he has volunteered as a fire-fighter for over 37 years. Not only did he help build the kitchen in the old fire brigade building, but he also took on vital roles such as organizing the Good Friday Appeal, assisting with fire equipment maintenance, and becoming a qualified Staging Area Manager. Since 2009, Pat has represented volunteers as a delegate for Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV), the organisation that represents the voice of CFA volunteers and advocates on their behalf.

One of Pat's most significant achievements came during the 2009 Black Saturday Fires. Despite his own house being impacted, Pat continued to work tirelessly, saving homes and properties in his community. For his efforts, Pat was awarded the National Emergency Medal in 2014. Alongside his close friend and colleague John, affectionately known as "Bill and Ben," Pat worked through the aftermath of the fires heading out in the Wandong Quick Attack vehicle each day for the next few weeks, continuing to extinguish fires that reignited. They were pretty keen on using Class A foam, a surfactant that creates a bubble blanket that helps the water to stay in contact with fuels and reduce reignition. The brigade had to order extra supplies of Class A foam just to keep their vehicle stocked. The extra supplies of foam were a small price to pay for the invaluable work that they did.

Pat has been an active member of the Wallan/Kilmore RSL since 2015 and has been involved in selling poppies and ANZAC day badges raising funds to support veterans and their families.

In 1982, Pat joined the SES, where he served for 32 years, taking on various leadership roles, including Section Leader and Trainer. He trained in critical areas such as road rescue, cliff rescue, flood rescue, and working from heights. Pat was also the Kilmore SES trainer, alongside his mate John, for nearly a decade. His commitment to the SES was recognized in 2001 with the prestigious National Medal, and again in 2009 with the first clasp to the National Medal, awarded for his distinguished service. The National Medal is Australia's most awarded civilian medal. It recognises long and diligent service by members that risk their lives or safety to protect or assist the community.

Pat Leddin's decades of service and his selfless dedication to the safety and well-being of the community are a shining example of what it means to be a true volunteer. We are proud that Pat has been recognised for his outstanding contributions. Thank you, Pat, for your unwavering commitment to your community and your exemplary service.



# 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](http://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

11 Feb	Rob & Karen Dawson	HJ
14 Feb	Chris & Carol Ryan	KE
18 Feb	Marj & Allan Knight	W
21 Feb	Karen & Alastair McDonald	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

## 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](http://www.wandong.vic.au)  
[www.upperplenty.com](http://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](mailto:mitchellwalksgroup@gmail.com)

for more information

## Mitchell Photography Club Inc

Visit our website  
([www.mitchellphoto.org](http://www.mitchellphoto.org))  
and click on "About Us"

meets third Wednesday of  
the month  
(except January) at 7:30pm

Broadford Community Centre

Contact Sarah 0438 847 577  
for more information.



## BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

We wish the following  
people a very happy

### birthday

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
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	Rhiannon 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	Phylis McCarrhy	HJ
13 Mar	Kylie Coad	W

## GET "WHATS NEWS" BY EMAIL

If you would like to receive "Whats News" by email each month, send your name and email details to :  
[whatsnewswhj@gmail.com](mailto:whatsnewswhj@gmail.com)

Remember  
"Whats News" is also  
available on the website  
<[www.wandong.vic.au](http://www.wandong.vic.au)>

## PASTOR ALLAN LAURENS

Pastor Al needs to be acknowledged, remembering him in his ever witnessing, unfailing faith, supporting, encouraging, prayerfully covering many. He has recently been released from his suffering here on earth going home to Glory for his reward.

This was the interview in 2020 with Pastor Al when he shared with us how he became a humbled believer, seeing the miracles of God in his life. Over the last 20 years in Wandong District Church he shared how this building was miraculously purchased from Wandong CFA for only \$800. The impacts he has seen in this time through the children's ministry Kids Club where he has seen parents lives changed and enriched because of these children attending.

He continued to say there are two forces in operation. Good that helps you cope bringing in honour and wholesome ways, the other is an evil force bringing in anger, uncertainty and no love. More than ever marriage vows without God are very sad. With all the pressures today we need to put our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. God is there in every situation if only we call out to Him. He loves everybody! So we have a choice to which force we let rule in our lives.

*Proverbs 16 vere 4 : Everything the Lord has made for its own purpose, even the wicked according to their role for the day of evil.*

This is where he then shared how he became a humbled believer. Through his wife Ruth praying for him, believing for change, to be healed he called out in his constant pain after smashing his back some 35 years ago. Continuing to work, with great difficulty, braced up, he called out to the Lord Jesus Christ. A white barrier appeared before his eyes, followed by his back clunking into place and being able to work properly once again. God was also calling him into the ministry. For the next four and a half years of studying (with a learning disability) he continued on and completed the course. Glory to His Wonderful Name!

He then humbly concluded by saying that it was only by God's grace that has seen him through.

We are thinking, thanking, praying for the grieving and remembering this man of God who impacted our lives in various ways.



## LOCAL CHURCH NEWS

### 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](http://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](http://www.anglicancare.com.au)
  - Jobs at Anglican Care [www.careerjet.com.au](http://www.careerjet.com.au)



### Wandong District Church 29 Wandong Ave, Wandong

Letting the  
LIGHT Shine

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

**Enquiries to:  
David Moran 5787 1738**

## ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, WANDONG

WANDONG AVE, WANDONG  
Enquires 9308 2452

Services: 8.30am  
on 1st & 3rd Sundays  
ALL WELCOME



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Pastor Frantz Heinzelmann  
Mobile: 0411 794 188  
[www.freedomcarechurch.org.au](http://www.freedomcarechurch.org.au)  
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**5787 1911**

## 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 on the third Wednesday of the month at 6.30pm at "The Shack"  
1240 Wallan road, Upper Plenty 3756.

**ALL WELCOME**

See our facebook page:

Upper Plenty Merri Catchments Landcare Group

Membership enquiries:

[membership.upmclg@gmail.com](mailto:membership.upmclg@gmail.com)

or Chris Cobern 0413855490

## 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/>

## THE SHACK IS BACK

The Upper Plenty Community Hall  
**"THE SHACK"**

is open for hire. For 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.

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Northern Health Foundation



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**Anyone wishing to join  
Kilmore District Mens Shed  
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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](mailto:Kilmoremensshed@gmail.com)**

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# GARDEN SCENE WITH GAIL

Happy New Year to all & what a warm start to the year. Crazy with the North Eastern states experiencing flooding in areas. We are struggling to keep our gardens hydrated in this heat and hot winds will only make it worse, plants loose moisture through their leaves in addition to the soil at their base drying out. Hydrangeas are very susceptible to drying out in these 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, effecting Roses as well. In this weather I bet you're glad you've mulched, fertilised and incorporated wetting agent around our plants and over our lawn. Wetting agent is fantastic it holds the moisture in 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 and evaporating. Leaves of some plants can become transparent when watered in the sun or if the heat of the day is still on them, Gardenias for example. 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 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 Public Hall built in 1902 is a very special place in our community. It has hosted many engagements, weddings, receptions, Art Shows, Australia Day Celebrations, birthdays, anniversary parties and many other events and even the occasional funeral service.

We continue to make improvements at the hall and have just laid 80 more rolls of buffalo grass on the second tier. We have also planted over 40 correas on the tier adjacent to Rail Street. Thanks Linda Martin-Chew and Ruth Laurens for providing the mulch. The floor in the hall has also been sanded and resurfaced making a huge improvement.

Our regular user groups are always keen to have more people joining them and they are listed below..

The Craft Group meet every Monday, it's an informal group, bring along some lunch and an activity. There is always someone to help with crafty questions.

The Lightwood Flats Book Club meet monthly - contact is Christine Cram Ph : 0458 238 270

Wandong Country Knitters meet monthly- contact is Coralee Souter Ph: 0479 163 548

Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group meet monthly Ph: 0413 832 411

We are always in need of new members from the community who would like to assist in the care of the hall - ENQUIRIES to Christine 0448 604 770.

To hire the hall please contact Christine for bookings or other information on 0448 604 770. Please leave a message or text for Christine to follow up.

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# LIONS CLUB OF WANDONG - WALLAN INC.

President; Sam Singh

PO Box 225, Wandong Vic 3758



Hello all. January has passed and there is very little to report on our Club's activities this month. I think the "heatwave like" conditions have kept most of us subdued. Our last event was a BBQ in Kilmore for the Christmas Carols on the 14th December. Our sausages proved popular with quite a few customers returning for seconds. We had some much-appreciated involvement from some of our newer Members, along with help from some "prospective" new Members. It was very satisfying seeing the eagerness of the newcomers, and the fun we all had whilst doing the job. We look forward to taking part in the Carols again next year.

Our President Sam put together fifty food hampers, made up from various donations, which were distributed to three Schools to be forwarded to selected people in need.

Our Club participates in a "Community Services Award" plan. Awards were given to seven student recipients from local schools. They received the Awards and gift hampers for services to the community above and beyond their educational achievements. All designed to encourage community involvement for our younger members of society.

On behalf of our Members, I hope everybody is off to a happy and healthy start to 2025. Tan and I had nothing planned for New Years Eve. Clyde and Elizabeth contacted us to see what we were doing suggesting they would come and visit us to see in the New Year. So, we contacted some of our fellow Members and a few friends to see if they would join us with the result being a fantastic night and a bedtime of about 2am. Proof that an "Impromptu " get together can be a good get together.

Cliff and Di were on a Cruise and consequently couldn't accept our invite. However, they were in the right place at the right time, beside the Harbour Bridge that night for the Sydney New Years Eve fireworks.

We are still having our unofficial Friday night meal/get together, and the number of attendees is usually around 12 to 16 people. This is where all the indiscretions are revealed in readiness for the next issue of "What's News".

And this time it's a confession by me. Leaving for Queensland in my DIESEL Ford Ranger, I fueled up to go. After putting over one hundred and fifty dollars' worth of fuel in, I looked to see it was 91 octane PETROL! I had to leave the vehicle at the service station overnight, get it moved to a local mechanic by the RACV, on a flatbed truck to be drained and flushed. Pay the mechanic, then back to the servo for another expensive refill and a day late on my departure. It shows that even the hyperintelligent can err.

What do you think of a man, who after a few wines, decides to refill his glass, only to be told by someone near him that he just filled up his stubby holder. With that, Clyde was advised that he'd had enough wine! Clyde and Elizabeth are away fishing, so we are bracing ourselves for the tall stories and/or disasters that the trip included. And I'm sure that if for once, Clyde caught a bigger fish than Elizabeth, we will never hear the end of it.

Ok, stay safe all until next time.  
Steve.

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# CLONBINANE C.F.A.



We are part way through the fire season without major incidents occurring in our local area. This may mean that people may start to drop their guard when it comes to fires and being prepared. Now is the time to review your fire plan or if you don't have one, it's time to create one.

You should consider the following when making or reviewing your fire plan.

## Should I leave early?

Leaving early is the safest option to protect yourself and your family.

This means leaving the area before there are any signs of a fire – you may consider leaving on certain fire danger rating days

By leaving early you are avoiding panic, being trapped, making the wrong choices and risking serious injury or death.

## Defending Your Property

Planning to stay and defend is a big decision.

By staying and defending your property to are putting yourself and your family at serious risk of death or injury from uncontrollable fires on Extreme and Catastrophic fire danger days.

Most homes in bushfire risk areas are not designed for Catastrophic conditions and we cannot guarantee that we will be able to get a fire truck to you.

For more information about defending your property please visit the CFA website [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au) – the information provided on this page can help decide whether you are capable of defending your property or not, you can also find information about the risks and preparations involved to defend your property.

## How to plan

All family members should be involved in making your fire plan, as each member may have different needs that need to be considered.

Information and templates can be found at [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au) in the Fire Ready Kit.

1. Which Fire Danger Rating is your trigger to leave?
2. Will you leave early that morning or the night before?
3. Where will you go?
4. What route will you take – and what is your alternative in the event that a fire is already in the area?
5. What will you take with you?
6. What do you need to organise for your pets or livestock?
7. Who do you need to keep informed of your movements?
8. Is there anyone outside your household who you need to help or check up on?
9. How will you stay informed about warnings and updates?
10. What will you do if there is a fire in the area and you cannot leave?

Remember to decide who will do what as part of your plan.

## Your destination and journey

Where will you go when you leave? It's up to you to decide on a suitable place to go when you leave early on a fire risk day. Things to consider include going to areas that are low risk such as, visiting a friend/family's house or community facilities such as libraries, shopping centres, swimming pools or cinemas.

Communicate with family and friends about how you'll know when to leave and where to go to stay safe. If you rely on others for care and support, your only safe option on serious fire risk days is to leave early – never wait to receive a warning.

## Why write down your plan?

Writing down you plan and having it accessible to all family members is important as you may not be able to think clearly if you're surrounded by smoke, heat and flames.

If you do not already have a plan in place the CFA have a template that can be used [bushfire planning template – Leaving early \(PDF 2.6MB\)](#) – this can be found on the CFA website.

## Share your bushfire plan

Bushfires can cause a lot of stress to neighbours and loved ones especially if they do not know where you are, or what your plans are in an emergency.

It is best to share your plan with family, friends and neighbours.

Summer is not over yet nor is our fire danger period which means that we must remain prepared.

Remember, any bushfire plan – written or not – is better than no plan.



# WANDONG NETBALL CLUB



## >>> WHAT HAVE YOU MISSED?

The Club ended the year on a high with 2 of our Under 13 players being recognised and awarded with **League Best and Fairest** for season 2024.

### Isabelle Leiper - Under 13 Green

Issy has been playing with the Club for the past 3 years and can switch between any on court position with ease.

A natural born player who loves to run and has the desire to push herself to the limit each and every week.

### Natalie King - Under 13 White

Nat has been playing with the Club since she could throw the ball. She is an on court leader and plays with a consistently high level of determination. Nat has been recognised as the Runner up Best and Fairest for the past 2 year, finally tipping the scales and taking out the main award.

Congratulations to you both, very well deserved, We are so proud of you both.



## >>> CRAIGIEBURN INDOOR COMP FINALISTS



Our Under 9s had a brilliant season, outscoring their opponents week in week out and playing with true Wandong integrity. Well done Wandong Comets! Our Under 13 Stars made it to the Grand Final!

While they didn't come away with the win on the day, everyone so was impressed with their skills, attitude and adaptability.

Congrats to Amy, Kate and their Stars, cant wait to see what you do this coming season.

## >>> NETSETGO

The future stars of the Club took on our annual 10 week NetSetGo program in Term 4 of 2024.

The group took on tasks to enhance and improve their skills in the areas of Attack, Defence, Shooting, Movement, Strategies and Ball Handling. The group finished the program taking on their parents in a friendly match and showing off their new found skills. Congratulations to all of our players. We look forward to welcoming you to the Club.



### SEASON 2025 WINTER REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN!

Our Winter registrations are now open in Netball Connect.

Existing families will know the drill.

For new players, please download the Netball Connect App, create a profile for yourself (parent) and follow the prompts to register a player.

You will need to search postcode 3758 and select Wandong Netball Club.

To access our Early Bird discount please register by the 7th March.



### PRE-SEASON TRAINING GET COURT FIT



Every year we start our season off with Pre-season training.

These sessions are designed to allow potential new players to get a feel for training as well as prepare our existing players to start the season off on the right foot.

Our sessions will run for an hour each working on overall fitness, skills and team building.

**When:** Wednesdays 4:30 - 5:30pm  
Starting March 5th

**Where:** The Wandong Netball Courts,  
LB Davern Reserve

**Who:** All prospective 2025 players

**What:** Bring runners, drink bottle, hat, sunscreen & snacks + any relevant medication

### SEEKING 2025 SPONSORS

The Wandong Netball Club is seeking interest from our Community to help support our teams.

Last year we had over 60 players join us in playing Netball in our small town. Our sponsors play a vital role in the ongoing operations of the Club and ensure that we can provide the best equipment, training facilities, clinics and coaching teams possible.

If you run a business, small or large, or are a local wanting to give back to your community we would love to hear from you.

Please email [wandongnetball@gmail.com](mailto:wandongnetball@gmail.com) & request our sponsorship package options.



# New kerbside bins start in March!

Your new kerbside collection service begins in March. To learn about what goes in each bin visit our A to Z guide on our website or App.

For your bin collection calendar, download the **My Mitchell App** or visit: [mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/waste](http://mitchellshire.vic.gov.au/waste)



Weekly

Fortnightly

Fortnightly

Monthly



Sustainability Victoria



## 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:**

# WANDONG "COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB" STARTING SOON

- SINGERS
- MUSICIANS
- LISTENERS
- SINGALONGS

PHONE:

VIVIAN C. KENNEY  
680 O'GRADY'S RD  
WANDONG

• 0413 156 204

ENQUIRIES:

9AM TO 9PM MOST DAYS

ALL INVITED  
REGULAR  
GET TOGETHERS



## 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](mailto:wandongite@hotmail.com)

Ph 0432 120 736



# WANDONG HEATHCOTE JUNCTION HAS A NEW BOOK

## THE BOOK IS TITLED : “WANDONG HEATHCOTE JUNCTION - A RAILWAY HISTORY”

THIS LIMITED EDITION BOOK HAS BEEN WRITTEN TO PROVIDE READERS WITH DETAIL OF RAILWAY SERVICES THAT PASSED THROUGH WANDONG FOR OVER 100 YEARS.

IT IS HARD COVER AND ILLUSTRATED WITH MANY HISTORIC AND MODERN DAY PHOTOS.

THE BOOK IS THE RESULT OF MANY YEARS OF RESEARCH AND CONTENT COMPILATION BY THE AUTHOR, DAVID MORAN.

THE BOOK RETAILS FOR \$45 AND IS AVAILABLE ONLY BY PHONE ORDER  
- CALL DAVID ON MOBILE 0409 164 660



## WANDONG TENNIS CLUB

Email: [wandongtennisclub@hotmail.com](mailto:wandongtennisclub@hotmail.com)  
or text Lisa on 0407 112 880.

Information is posted on our Facebook page.

[www.facebook.com/wandongtennis](http://www.facebook.com/wandongtennis)

Congratulations to our section 2 doubles and singles teams who were runners up in the MDTA Spring 2024 competition.

Well done to our Tuesday night section 2 team  
Andrew Brooks Lisa Kelly Sean Dennis and Dylan Hall

Well done to our Thursday night section 2 team  
Jared Plumbe and Dylan Hall

Coaching is available at the club

Please contact Karl on 0423 611 317 or [kv.tennis@hotmail.com](mailto:kv.tennis@hotmail.com)





# Neighbourhood Watch

Let's watch out for each other

## South Mitchell

### Motor Vehicle Theft is on the rise

**Motor vehicle theft is on the rise, highlighting the need for Victorians to be vigilant about their home and car security.**

Motor vehicle theft has reached a ten year high in Victoria, with 22,964 cars stolen in the year ending 30 June 2024 according to Crime Statistics Victoria: an increase of almost 37 per cent from the previous year. Of those cars, 5,624 were taken from the grounds of a private dwelling, while 6,948 cars were stolen from a street or footpath. Neighbourhood Watch has researched why this trend is going up.

Older models can be hot-wired but there are fewer of the pre-2000 cars on the road now-a-days. The majority of the cars are later model cars and they are stolen using their own keys. Thieves look for keys left in the car, or located conveniently in the house and they use these keys to steal the car before you even realise they have entered the house.

What can you do to prevent this from happening?

NHW has come up with some simple steps:

- Avoid leaving your keys on a side table, on your dining table, kitchen bench, etc or hook near the door;
- Avoid leaving your keys or remote control to your garage in your vehicle;
- Lock your door into your garage from your house. It sounds simple, and will help prevent easy access to your house if the garage is penetrated;
- Even if you are home - LOCK the doors! Thieves are brazen and will enter even if you are home; and
- Remove all your valuables from your vehicles. Many incidents of theft are avoidable if people just remember to take phones, cash, tools, etc. out of the car!!

**Hotlines:**

**000**  
**131 444**  
**1800 333 000**

**Emergency**

**Police Assistance Line**  
**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](https://www.facebook.com/southmitchell.nhw.inc)

email: [newsletters.smnhw@gmail.com](mailto:newsletters.smnhw@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Events

**Kilmore Safe Plate Day, Kilmore SES, 10am to 2pm**

South Mitchell NHW is joining Kilmore SES with their open day on 15 March, 2025, between 10 and 2pm. We will be running a safe plate day and fitting anti-theft screws for everyone for just a small donation or a gold coin.

**South Mitchell NHW General Meeting**

We will welcome back our volunteer members on 13 February, 2025, 7pm at the Wandong Community Centre, LB Davern Reserve, Dry Creek Road, Wandong. Everyone is welcome to join us for a chat or to express their local concerns!

# Wandong Community Christmas Carols

The 2024 carols were held at the recently renovated Wandong Community Centre. Over 200 attended and appreciated carols sung by the Wandong Primary School Choir, the Joy of Life Church Choir, the Whiz Kids violin ensemble, the Tangent Choir and Vivian Kenney and friends. The many children in attendance were captivated by the Magic Show, face painting and Santa provided by the Wandong CFA. The Christmas raffle (3 prizes) were won by Di Vidal (Wandong), Bridget of Bundoors and Carol of Wallan. The lucky winner of the Robovac cleaner was Gabrielle Bennett of Wandong.

**A huge thanks to our sponsor, the Bendigo Community Bank.**



# Where carers can find support



Sargoon,  
carer to his  
daughter.

**A carer is someone who looks after a family member or friend with disability, a medical condition, mental illness, or someone who is frail due to age.**

**If you are a carer, you can get help and support through Carer Gateway.**

## **What is Carer Gateway?**

Carer Gateway provides in-person, phone and online services and support to Australia's 2.65 million unpaid carers.

Carer Gateway has many services that can help you with any daily challenges, emotional and financial stresses that you may experience in your role as a carer.



## How do I use Carer Gateway services?

You can talk to a Carer Gateway service provider by calling **1800 422 737** Monday to Friday between 8am and 5pm. Carer Gateway staff will talk through what you need and help you to find services and support. If you want to talk with someone in your language, you can phone the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450**. The Translating and Interpreting Service provides access to interpreters who speak more than 160 languages. The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Carer Gateway also has a national website ([carergateway.gov.au](http://carergateway.gov.au)) that has online services and information to support you as a carer.

## Carer Gateway provides many services, including:



### Coaching

If you want to learn new ways to manage stress and improve your wellbeing, the self-guided coaching courses on the Carer Gateway website can help you.



### Counselling

If you are feeling stressed, anxious, sad or frustrated, a professional counsellor can talk through your worries and help you. You can talk one-on-one, in-person with a professional counsellor in your area or on the phone in the comfort of your own home. If you want to talk with someone in your language, you can phone the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450.



### Respite care

'Respite' or 'respite care' is when someone else takes care of the person you care for. You might need emergency respite care if you suddenly find you can't provide care, for example if you are ill or injured. You can also plan respite care so that you can have a break. To arrange emergency respite care, or planned respite care, call Carer Gateway on 1800 422 737 to talk about options in your area.

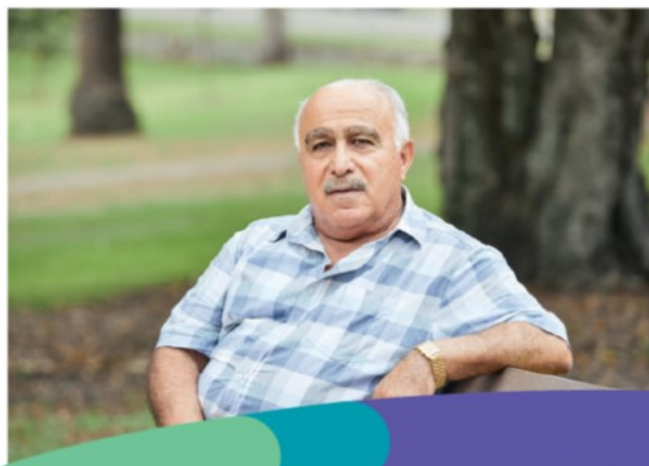


### Connect with other carers

If you feel alone or want to get advice from other carers, Carer Gateway can help you meet with people in similar caring situations to share your stories, knowledge and experience. You can meet local carers in-person and share advice and learn from each other in a safe space. The Carer Gateway website also provides an online forum that you can join and become part of a supportive online community with other carers.

**'A significant amount of time and energy goes into caring for someone, but you also need to take time for yourself.'**

Sargoon, carer to his daughter.



### Online skills courses

You can learn new skills through short interactive online courses on the Carer Gateway website. The courses will help you in your caring role and provide information on how to take care of your own wellbeing, deal with stress and legal issues.



### Financial support

As a carer, you may be able to get financial help. There are two financial support packages available to eligible carers through Carer Gateway. You may be able to get funding to buy a one-off practical support in the form of equipment or an item to assist you in your caring role. You may also be able to get funding for a range of ongoing practical supports, such as planned respite or transport, provided over a twelve-month period.

## How do I contact Carer Gateway?

Carer Gateway offers a national website at [www.carergateway.gov.au](http://www.carergateway.gov.au) or you can phone **1800 422 737** Monday to Friday between 8am and 5pm.

**carergateway.gov.au**

Connecting carers to  support services

# Kilmore Distict Hospital is having a

## GARDEN PARTY

Join us in supporting our community hospital.

FEBRUARY 16 2025

9AM - 2PM

KILMORE HOSPITAL

1 ANDERSON RD, KILMORE

- Devonshire tea
- Live music
- Market stalls
- Jumping castle
- Face painting
- Sausage sizzle
- and much, much more.

All proceeds will go to Kilmore District Hospital to raise money for life saving equipment and services.

## THE FOOTPATH IS ON THE WRONG SIDE

The Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group has requested ARTC to ensure the footpath proposed for the eastern side of the Wandong Broadford Road / Rail Street be relocated to the western side of the road by going under the bridge thus eliminating two pedestrian crossings and a footpath that will get little or no use if on the eastern side.

**RESIDENTS IN WANDONG HEATHCOTE JUNCTION ARE URGED TO HAVE A SAY ABOUT THE ARTC PROPOSED NEW BRIDGE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE**



## AUSTRALIA DAY AT WANDONG

Over 80 residents attended the Wandong Australia Day breakfast and ceremony. Federal Member for McEwen Rob Mitchell spoke about Australia Day and Mitchell Shire Councillors Timothy Hanson, Bob Humm and Riley Evans made the community award presentation to Pat Leddin - see page 19. The Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group, Wandong Wallan Lions Club, Wandong History Group and the COM Wandong Public Hall sponsors the event.



## **WANDONG HONOURS PAT LEDDIN ON AUSTRALIA DAY 2025**

### **Award Presentation for Pat Leddin**

It is with great honour that we present this award to Pat Leddin, whose unwavering dedication and commitment to the community over the past 30-plus years has made a profound impact. Pat's service with the SES, CFA, RSL, and the local community reflects his lifelong commitment to helping others.

Pat and his wife Lindi moved to Wandong around 1980, where they built their first mudbrick home. It was here that they raised their three children, who, as young ones, started their lives in bedrooms located in the pantry of that very house. Pat reached out to community groups shortly after and has been volunteering in the community ever since.

Pat has been an active member of the Wallan/Kilmore RSL and has been involved in selling poppies and ANZAC day badges raising funds to support veterans and their families. Pat has also attended remembrance ceremonies at Wandong Primary, so that the next generation understand our history.

In 1982, Pat joined the SES, where he served for 32 years, taking on various leadership roles, including Section Leader and Trainer. He trained in critical areas such as road rescue, cliff rescue, flood rescue, and working from heights. Pat was also the Kilmore SES trainer, alongside his mate John Simpson, for nearly a decade. His commitment to the SES was recognized in 2001 with the prestigious National Medal, and again in 2009 with the first clasp to the National Medal, awarded for his distinguished service. The National Medal is Australia's most awarded civilian medal. It recognises long and diligent service by members that risk their lives or safety to protect or assist the community.

One memorable rescue with Pat involved a challenging climb at Murchison Falls. Pat and John, after descending a long distance to assist, were told to wait until morning to continue. Instead, they tied off their harnesses mid-air and spent the night suspended, catching sleep when they could. This story is a testament to Pat's courage, resourcefulness, and dedication to his team and his mission.

Pat's approach to volunteer work is characterized by his easy-going nature, level-headed decision-making, and common-sense approach to problem-solving. His colleagues recall an incident in Flowerdale when a higher-ranking officer tried to offer navigation advice over the radio. Pat, ever the pragmatist, simply responded, "Sorry, I can't understand you. The radio is breaking up," and continued on his way. Such moments capture Pat's no-nonsense attitude and his commitment to getting the job done, no matter what.

For Pat, time is of the essence. He lived up the mountain, and from receiving an SES call, it would take him just seven minutes to reach John's place, where he'd jump into the SES vehicle—sometimes in just his socks and jocks—and finish getting dressed on the way to the incident. This efficiency and dedication to the cause exemplify the commitment Pat has shown throughout his service.

Pat also made a lasting impact as a member of the Wandong CFA, where he has volunteered as a fire-fighter for over 37 years. Not only did he help build the kitchen in the old fire brigade building, but he also took on vital roles such as organizing the Good Friday Appeal, assisting with fire equipment maintenance, and becoming a qualified Staging Area Manager. Since 2009, Pat has represented volunteers as a delegate for Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV), the organisation that represents the voice of CFA volunteers and advocates on their behalf.

One of Pat's most significant achievements came during the 2009 Black Saturday Fires. Despite his own house being impacted, Pat continued to work tirelessly, saving homes and properties in his community.

For his efforts during this catastrophic event, Pat was awarded the National Emergency Medal in 2014. Alongside his close friend and colleague John, affectionately known as "Bill and Ben," Pat worked through the aftermath of the fires heading out in the Wandong Quick Attack vehicle each day for the next few weeks, continuing to extinguish fires that reignited. They were pretty keen on using Class A foam, a surfactant that creates a bubble blanket that helps the water to stay in contact with fuels and reduce reignition. The brigade had to order extra supplies of Class A foam just to keep their vehicle stocked. The extra supplies of foam were a small price to pay for the invaluable work that they did.

Pat Leddin's decades of service and his selfless dedication to the safety and well-being of the community are a shining example of what it means to be a true volunteer. We are proud to recognize him today for his outstanding contributions, and it is with deep gratitude and admiration that we present this award to Pat Leddin. Thank you, Pat, for your unwavering commitment to your community and your exemplary service.



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 G-Day trail, take the kids down to play on the play equipment or just play and exercise on the oval.

Tennis is on, cricket is on and finals not too far away, Dog Club, and the Horse Clubs, the stadium activities— basketball, preschool and Wandong Primary are all operating.

Junior Football and Netball Clubs are busy organizing their Registration days and preseason has started, watch out for them and please support our Junior Clubs. Keep an eye on Auskick as their registration and season coming soon.

Kilmore Cricket Club are at the Reserve-, both Senior, Junior and the Female teams, Saturday Mornings and Afternoons.

Please be cautious around the Reserve at present due to various sitting of snakes being reported. Also as the Reserve is busy with activities just a reminder to all when driving in to be cautious and the speed limit is 10 kilometres.



**ABOVE: The Mitchell Agility Dog Club at the Allan Ryan Paddock**

**LEFT: Aerial view of our great facility at L.B.Davern Reserve**



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 straight away.

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



**LEFT: How things have changed - 2000**



**RIGHT: Entoucas Courts Wandong Tennis 2010**



Road way to the Stadium -2000



Music Festival 2009 @ L.B.Davern



Country Music Festival @ L.B Davern Reserve 2009

**LB DAVERN Reserve**  
*The Proud Home to*

Website: [www.lbdavernreserve.com.au](http://www.lbdavernreserve.com.au)

We're Back: The Community Centre is open for bookings - enquire now

**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. You can contact our booking officer.

**Darlene Gunter on 0418 312 762**

**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

**L.B.Davern Reserve Committee**

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



## VALE BARRY COAD

- we thank his daughter Michelle for the following eulogy she recited at Barry's funeral. Whats News would also like to put on record that Barry also served the Wandong community forming a youth club, and a member on the Wandong Public Hall and Davern Reserve grounds committees in the 1980's. We express our deepest sympathy to his wife Lois and family at this sad time.

### EULOGY:

Barry James Coad was born December 23, 1941 to Parents Roy & Alice, survived by his siblings Rosemary, Carmel, Tom, Pauline and Aileen. He grew up in Broadmeadows and went to a Catholic school in the city that he hated, his first job was on the rail service at about 18 years of age.

He met his wife Lois when he was 18 and she was only 15, they married 3 years later in 1963. Children arrived shortly after with John in 1965, Michelle in 1966, they then moved to Wandong in 1968, Danny born in 1970, Kylie born in 1974. Many grandchildren followed, 12 in total and 8 great grandchildren.

Dad built the house in Wandong with the help of his father & friends, The family lived in the first half while he built the rest. Dad was always in his shed down the back tinkering away at something or another. He'd whistle as he worked.

Dad put together a local youth group in the town in the early 70's to give the kids a safe place to meet and have fun. The local kids loved him and he loved them, when an accident took the life of two of the kids Dad lost his whistle.

Dad had a real fear of spiders and when we were kids Kylie and I shared a room, one time there was a huntsman spider on the ceiling above the bunk bed so Dad thought he'd knock it out and put it outside, so he put a pellet of silver foil in the slug gun and shot it. Well it turned out that the spider had a thousand legs not eight because we were finding them all over the bedroom for days afterwards.

Dad worked at the shire as a grader driver for many years, until he started his own business in crane and machinery hire.

Dad and Mum bought a houseboat in the early 90's, this was to give the family somewhere to holiday together. It was really important to dad that the family got along and stayed together.

My late partner Dave loved going up and helping Dad with the renovations of the house boat he'd come home and give us a run down on the tools that had been thrown into the Murray River that time after one of Dads fits of anger, it was always amusing to hear. He was the swariest person you could ever meet and it seem we may have picked up some of these habits. Not that you'd notice. The house boat days were some of our best times spent together.

Dad loved to fish and he spent an absolute fortune on boats, rods, lures and bait but never seemed to catch anything Mum must have had the patience of a saint she just let him do his thing, he didn't know how to sit still, he always needed a project to keep his mind and hands active, he was edging the garden the day he died.

He always had animals of every kind, goats, a cow, genuine fowls, ducks, chickens and dogs but never cats. He was breeding New Zealand meat rabbits for some time, Kylie was young and would name the rabbits as her pets, names like fluffy and cottontail, when she'd go to see them, they'd be gone but that night we would have fluffy stew or Kentucky fried cottontail, she eventually stopped naming her meals.

Dad loved his vegetable garden, just like his father before him. On the day he died he'd spent his time in his vegetable garden. He was wearing his Grumpy old man T-Shirt. Dad loved the color orange and you'll see it here today as a tribute to him, he never said out loud that he like orange but looking back over the years it was in plain sight if you looked closely enough.

He passed in his chair with mum beside him, it was sudden and there was no fear, it's how we would want all our loved ones to go. We are a strong united family and this has been evident in how we've banded together throughout this sad time; this is something instilled into us by both Mum and Dad. I'm grateful for many things, my dad was one of them. It was a good end to a good day at the end of a good life. Who could ask for more?





## Our Town's Football Club

We hope everyone has had a safe and restful Christmas break. As we roll into February there is a real air of excitement and positivity as the prospect of a U16s team is a big possibility for the coming season. Training for all age groups will start back this week as we prepare for the upcoming season. We are still accepting players (especially U16s). So come on down and have a run. BE A WARRIOR!

### Weekly Training Times

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of February

U12 4.30pm

U14 5.00pm

U16 5.30pm

Sessions 1hour in duration

U9 & U10 to begin 4.30 Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of March every Thursday



Flying Finn turning on the after-burners down the wing



### Registration age limits

U9 01/01/2016 – 30/4/2018

U10 01/01/2015 – 31/12/2015

U12 01/01/2013 - 31/12/2014

U14 01/01/2011- 31/12/2012

U16 01/01/2009- 31/12/2010

Scan the QR code and become a Warrior in 2025

Wandong Junior Football Club

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

### Wandong Warriors 2024 SPONSORS

The grid of sponsors includes: BARRYPLANT, Multipipe, Mitchell Shire Plumbing Pty Ltd, gmi paving, STYLES CIVIL AND CONSTRUCTION, KEMP'S BAKERY, Wandong PHARMACY, STEFF Engineering, MRM, AFT TIPPER HAULAGE, TOYOTA Kilmore Toyota, FIRST RATE PLUMBING, Southern Star Advisory, CPC Interiors metal fabrication, JBL CATERING, Wobblers, Northern Rural Fencing, KILMORE CARWASH, LAWLOR AND LOY VIC, Bakers Delight, THOMAS FAMILY TREE SERVICES, WHEEL HOUSE BIKES, Bendigo Bank, IGA WANDONG, Costanzo Automotive Repairs, and VICTORY MEATS. A small photo of Lauren Kathage MP is also present.



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Craigieburn | Wallan | Kilmore & Surrounding Areas

# 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**.



T27, 14 Alliance Avenue,

Mernda Town Centre, Mernda 3754

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

www.mousedetailing.com

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## HE'S HERE FOR US

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MEMBER FOR MCEWEN

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# WATER MATTERS

SUMMER 2025

ISSUE #1

Water Whispers is an insight into everything the 135,000 people who live in the 54 towns we service should know and an opportunity to share some of our initiatives through a partnership with community newsletters



Every drop counts.  
Be water wise.

It's everyone's responsibility to use water wisely. Together, we can save a lot. Always follow the Permanent Water Saving Rules, they're designed to help you save water every day.

- 1 FOUNTAINS AND WATER FEATURES  
Most recyclable water
- 2 VEHICLES CAN BE CLEANED ANY TIME USING A BUCKET  
Or with a water-free hose with a trigger nozzle
- 3 SPRINKLERS AND WATERING SYSTEMS  
Can only be used between 6pm and 3am
- 4 USE A BROOM OR A BLOWER TO CLEAN HARD SURFACES  
Like pathways, decks, concrete or driveways
- 5 LEAK FREE HOSES CAN BE USED AT ANY TIME  
But they must be fitted with a trigger nozzle



Did you know that there are Permanent Water Saving Rules are in place 365 days of the year?

These are common sense rules for people to apply at home. They help us all save water.

As we come into a higher water usage period, it makes sense to be water wise.

You can find the Permanent Water Saving Rules, along with lots of water saving tips on the GVW website - [Every Drop Counts](#) | [Goulburn Valley Water](#)

## WATER CALCULATOR

If you are numbers person and want to know how to save water, our water calculator is something that may appeal.

In five minutes you can get an answer on how much water you use in the bathroom, laundry, and kitchen, along with the garden and outdoors.

The Every Drop Counts page on the GVW website features the calculator and more tips to save drips - [Every Drop Counts](#) | [Goulburn Valley Water](#)

Water calculator for home & garden



## CHOOSE TAP WITH OUR HYDRATIONS STATIONS

Summer brings with it more time outdoors, whether its walking the dog in the park or exercising at the local sports ground.

These activities can be thirsty work in warmer months, and its handy to know where hydration stations are located in public spaces.

There are 74 hydration stations across our service area, so all you need is your water bottle and one will generally be within walking

distance in your nearest town. You can find a full list of their locations on the GVW website - [Choose Tap](#) | [Goulburn Valley Water](#)



### WELCOME

This calculator estimates metered water consumption for single residential houses based on your answers to questions regarding water use in and around the home.

It should take you less than five minutes to complete.

[Begin](#)

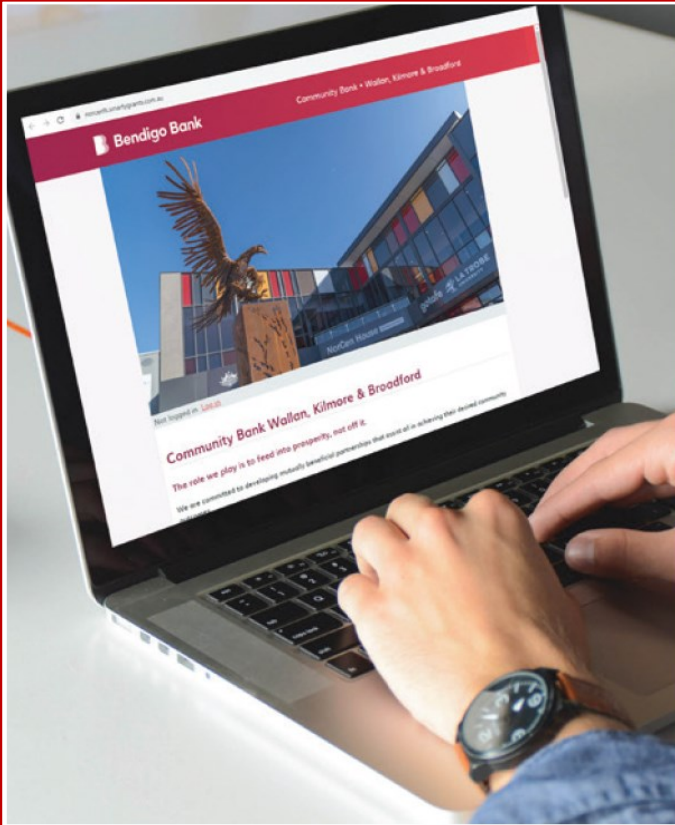


### REGISTER FOR SMS DELIVERY

We encourage you to register or update your mobile number so we can send important information via SMS.

This will ensure we can reach you with key information about service outages, issues and billing.

You can update your details on your own GV WATER portal (register if you don't have one) [my.gvwater.vic.gov.au](http://my.gvwater.vic.gov.au) or call our Retail Customers and Billing team on 1300 360 007.



## Introducing the online Community Impact Hub.

Apply online for your next community Grant or Sponsorship

Find all you need to know about applying for a Grant or Sponsorship on the Community Impact Hub.

[norcenfs.smartygrants.com.au](http://norcenfs.smartygrants.com.au)

**Next round closes  
March 29**

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

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Community Bank  
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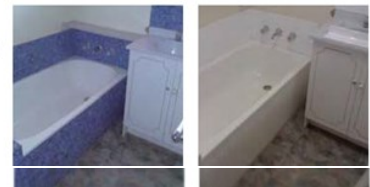
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## **INLAND RAIL - INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR WANDONG RESIDENTS**

### **Sharing the latest Wandong design (Hamish Pink — Inland Rail)**

We know the community is eager to understand how Inland Rail is being delivered in Wandong. That's why we're excited to share the latest design for the Broadford-Wandong Road bridge which incorporates your feedback.

We're replacing the bridge with a new higher bridge to allow sufficient clearance for double-stacked freight trains.

You've told us safety, connectivity, visual amenity and enhancing Pickett Walk is important to you and we've improved the design to deliver these outcomes.

Between 24 February and 23 March, we'll be sharing the design and listening to your feedback.

### **Talk to the team**

You can meet our team including subject matter experts and our construction partner John Holland at the below locations:

### **Outside Crumbs and Co, Wandong Plaza Shop 7/3272 Epping-Kilmore Rd**

Mondays: 10 February and 3, 17 and 24 March, 10am-1pm

Saturdays: 1 and 15 March, community barbeque 10am-1pm

### **Magpie and Stump Hotel, 3313 Epping-Kilmore Rd, Wandong**

Friday 7 March, 5.30-7.30pm

### **Wandong Primary School (Outside St Michael's Church, 11 Dry Creek Crescent)**

Thursday 13 March, 2.30-4pm



## **IT IS COMING.....**

After more than four years of promises and government procrastination, the ARTC along with the constructors, the John Holland Group say that they are at last ready to unveil their plans for what they are going to do to replace the Broadford Rd bridge. These works are planned to begin in July/August this year.

On Saturday the 1st of March, and Saturday the 15th of March they will be putting on a FREE sausage sizzle and unveiling the final working plans of the bridge and surrounding areas for public display.

Although it is too late to get major changes implemented, this will be your opportunity to have your say, and maybe come up with some minor suggestions regarding the landscaping, road speeds and such. We will also find out what roads will be closed and for what duration, and how long we will have to put up with all the dust, heavy truck traffic, and noise disrupting the northern end of Rail Street.

This is a major project that will take more than twelve months to complete with at least three hundred thousand cubic meters of soil needed to be transported in by road (that is better than 7,000 truck loads) to build the roundabout, ramps, and other structures that will be needed.

This is your town, and we will all be affected so come along and have a free BBQ sausage and find out just what they are planning to do in our town....

**DAVID MORAN**

**PRESIDENT, WANDONG HEATHCOTE JUNCTION COMMUNITY GROUP.**

# SUDOKU

Answers on page 31

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

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

## THIS MONTHS QUIZ

Answer appears on Page 31 but no cheating!

- 1) Which country owns the Suez Canal?
- 2) What was the former name of Iran?
- 3) What country has the longest coastline?
- 4) What is the oldest city in Australia?
- 5) How many states in the U.S.A.?
- 6) Who wrote Treasure Island?
- 7) Who is third in line to the British throne?
- 8) What is the name of the Flintstones pet dinosaur?
- 9) How many billions in a trillion?
- 10) How many cards in a standard deck?
- 11) How many actors have played James Bond?
- 12) How many time zones in Australia?
- 13) Which country has won the most Davis Cups?
- 14) What were Titanic's sister ships?

## 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](http://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.



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

< [www.mbug.org.au](http://www.mbug.org.au) >

or contact the Secretary, John on 5781 1604

## ROB & LEONIE FERRIS

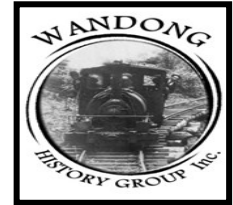
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# WANDONG HISTORY GROUP



2025 will be a year of celebration as we mark the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the construction of Wandong/Heathcote Junction's War Memorial as well as engaging with the ARTC Inland Rail project as we bring new ideas for restoring our wonderful Pickett Walk.

As part of the ARTC Reference Committee, the Wandong History Group Inc. are committed to ensuring that our heritage is acknowledged and protected. Residents will soon begin to see preparatory activities commence along with associated road works however we can only campaign so much on your behalf and need your input on the impact these works may have on your town.

Consultation matters – it seems however that our views on the planned sculpture replacement opposite the Magpie & Stump Hotel have been ignored by Council. The Council survey asked residents for their input into the design of the sculpture and what heritage themes were important. Resoundly residents favoured a sculpture that reflected our timber/rail history however despite the survey results, Council have made an executive decision to instead provide a sculpture of three echidnas. We all appreciate our native animals however our history is one shaped by the timber getting industry and associated tramways as well as the introduction of the rail. Consultation Matters – The Wandong History Group Inc. has been at the forefront on all major projects affecting our town, where needed we make submissions on behalf of our community; we participate in various advisory committees and reference groups and diligently publish articles on our history on our website:

<https://wandongheathcotejunctionhistorygroup.com.au>

Despite our heavy load we continue to advocate for the community on all things affecting our heritage as well as the impacts development has on our town. It seems there is a need for louder voices and more active participation, if you would like to help shape our town into the future, help direct what matters most about our heritage, come join us as we begin to have an input into our favoured walking space – Pickett Walk.

## HISTORIC MAP DISPLAY

In 2024 Peter & Pauline Bourke of Peter Bourke Legal of Kilmore kindly donated a collection of historic maps to our Group. Our Group will hold an invitation only display of the maps on 14<sup>th</sup> February. Local Councillors, historical societies have been invited to attend this display following which our Group will donate the various maps to our neighbouring societies. With over 100 maps, some in poor condition, we feel the best option is to distribute them to the most appropriate organisation. The maps include both Parish and Cadastral maps dating from 1857 through to 1977. The maps provide opportunities to chart allotment ownership over time and we trust those in attendance will appreciate this gesture.

2025 will also be a year of consolidation, with dwindling membership, lack of dedicated volunteers, our Committee has been forced to downscale its activities. The year ahead will see a heavy involvement in the Inland Rail project, Anzac Day, Remembrance Day, possibly a History Week event in October and a continued support to the Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group events on a reduced level. Our fundraising efforts have been curtailed somewhat with us relying more on grants for our needs.

## LOVE LOCAL HISTORY

If you love your town, love our history then come along and join our small dedicated team. There is plenty to research about, collating archives, generally helping record stories or even pulling a few weeds out at the Church. Give us a call we welcome everyone.

Lynne Dore  
Secretary

<https://wandongheathcotejunctionhistory.com.au>

email: [wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com](mailto:wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com)

## Probus Club of Kilmore District Inc

Are you retired, semi retired or simply looking for new friendships and activities?  
Kilmore Probus are looking for new members and you would be most welcome.

Our meetings include guest speakers and inhouse fun. Activities include weekly morning teas supporting local businesses and fortnightly/monthly lunches.

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Monday of each month (except December) at Trackside, East Street Kilmore at 10.15am. Come and join us.

Enquiries to: Margaret Jakymczuk

Mobile: 0412 335 657

Email: [margaretjakymczuk1@gmail.com](mailto:margaretjakymczuk1@gmail.com)

# 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 1,456 visits and in January it received 2387 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](mailto:whatsnewswhj@gmail.com.au)

After years of campaigning Mitchell Shire for the revamp of the Wandong bushfire park car park, we have been advised that the plan will be produced within six weeks. Hopefully we will get a say in the design and it will be displayed to the community for comment.

Mitchell Shire has received 12 submissions for a replacement artwork in the Lions Park adjacent to the Wandong railway station car park. We were involved in the evaluations and a decision will be announced shortly with a view of the project being completed by May 2025. The WHJCG and the Wandong History Group, have favoured the submissions that display our history, but a more contemporary artwork may have been selected. If that is the case the WHJCG will pursue other avenues to implement a history based artwork on Pickett Walk.



The Wandong Community Carols returned to the Community Centre at Davern Reserve following its \$800,000 renovation. Another great carols proceeded by a free sausage sizzle, magic show and face painting, We thank the Wandong CFA for providing Santa on the Wandong fire truck. We thank all the choirs and our main sponsor, the Bendigo Community Bank. See page 15 for photos and raffle winners.



We have written to Mitchell Shire asking why some of our healthy trees have been removed while the trees overhanging the mesh fence on Rail Street remain and sooner than later will fall on and further damage the fence and block traffic on Rail Street.



The grate for the drain in Rail Street around the corner from Affleck Street continues to cause a problem. It is regularly blocked with mud, leaves, etc causing water to cross Rail Street at road level. Despite asking Mitchell Shire to fix the problem, the only time that the mud, etc is removed from the grate is when the WHJCG removes it.

Clean up Australia day is on Sunday 2nd March 2025. We would appreciate help from the community to help clean rubbish from our roadsides. We meet at the Wandong railway station car park at 9am and conclude with a light lunch at 12 noon. Vests, gloves and water is provided but volunteers should bring a hat and use sunscreen. Children are welcome and will be asked to clean areas without vehicles but they do need to be accompanied by an adult.



The Australia Day 2025 breakfast and ceremony was sponsored by the WHJCG, the Wandong History Group, Wandong Wallan Lions and the COM Wandong Public Hall and was very well attended. Congratulations to our community award winner Pat Leddin and thank you to Rob Mitchell MP, and Councillors Humm, Hanson and Evans for their support.

The WHJCG has had discussions with ARTC and contractor John Holland representatives regarding the rail bridge project, Pickett Walk, etc and we will do the sausage sizzle for ARTC and Saturdays 1st and 15th March when ARTC and John Holland will display the project plan to the community. See page 27 for further information.

## VALE PASTOR ALAN LAURENS

The Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group members were saddened to learn of the death of Pastor Alan Laurens. Pastor Laurens was not a well man for many years but it was still distressing to hear of his passing. Our sincere condolences are extended to his wife Ruth and the family.

**All Weather Training Facility - Heathcote Jct**  
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Behaviour Problems



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Intro to Agility  
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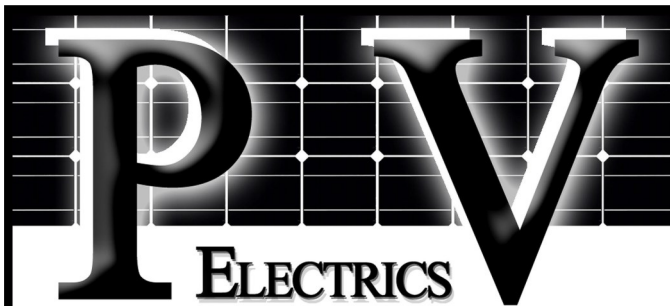
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**Weather Report -  
Heathcote Junction/Wandong  
DECEMBER 2024**

In the first half of the month, the weather was comfortable. In the second half, the temperatures increased considerably but still comfortable which is consistent for the summer season.

Rainfall was sparse with 33 mls recorded in the first week and the rest was late in the second half.

**Stats - Rainfall**

December 2024 - 36 mls  
Previous year - 76 mls  
Average prev 10 years - 43 mls  
Total this year - 770 mls  
Total prev year - 675 mls

**JANUARY 2025**

January showed up to be a typical summer month with temperatures fluctuating between very hot days and some pleasant days. There was nothing of note in our area in extreme conditions.

Out supply dam was recorded at 86 % on the 15th January which bides well for the rest of the season.

**Stats - Rainfall**

January 2025 - 43 mls  
Previous year - 171 mls  
Average prev 10 years - 68 mls  
Total this year - 43 mls  
Total prev year - 171 mls

**QUIZ ANSWERS (from page 28)**

- 1) Egypt
- 2) Persia
- 3) Canada
- 4) Sydney (1788)
- 5) 50 states
- 6) Robert Louis Stevenson
- 7) Princess Charlotte
- 8) Dino
- 9) 1,000 billions
- 10) 52 cards
- 11) Nine
- 12) Three
- 13) U.S.A.
- 14) Olympic and Britannic

**SUKODU  
solution**

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



*Kilmore  
&  
District*

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

We hope you all had a Happy Christmas and we wish you the best for 2025. Welcome to all our new Members and it is great to see so many of the old hands re-joining. The class convenors did a great job setting up for enrolment day on 17<sup>th</sup> January and most classes have now resumed. We look forward to seeing some new faces and to welcome back our regular class members.

Two dates for your calendar are Friday March 21st for our Annual General Meeting and a Morning Tea on Friday April 11th with a presentation about Online Banking Safety given by Bendigo Bank. The recorder group are planning a concert for some time in October and the shared morning tea with Wallan will again be scheduled to coincide with Seniors Week. It will be a busy year.

Trivia classes have resumed for 2025 and are held every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at J. J. Clancy reserve from 1pm to 2pm. Our small group welcomes anyone who wishes to join in. There are no hard questions and no silly answers. We are amazed at the knowledge we didn't know we possessed and welcome learning new things we should have already known. There around 10 sets of 10 questions each week, pen and paper are supplied so you only need to bring along a good sense of humour for all the guessed answers.

Exercise Classes are held every Monday at 10am Come and join our classes each week to keep mobile and active. This year we have over 50 new Chair Yoga classes to add to our Gentle and Cardio workouts. Chair Yoga will now be every 2nd week. So come along and enjoy the experience. We meet at J. J. Clancy reserve and the class is enjoying the lovely facilities and the view through the large glass frontage onto the oval and surrounding trees.

The Luncheon group will continue again in 2025. There are some lovely venues planned, great meals and a day's outing that includes a lunch of chatting, meeting new friends, fun and laughter. Details are on the website.

U3A is open to people over 50 who are no longer working full time and is a fun and cost effective way to learn new skills, to meet like-minded people and to socialise. Check out the website at <https://u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au/> or contact us at [info@u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au](mailto:info@u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au)

Cheers, Amanda Oades

Hello Readers, I hope you've all had a wonderful Christmas and have begun 2025 healthy, refreshed and excited about the coming year.

I'll first take you back momentarily to my last article before Christmas, in which I described our Wallan U3A Christmas lunch at the Moonee Valley Racecourse. Well, unfortunately for our members it didn't turn out that way.

We piled onto our coach at the appointed time and with great excitement took off. However, unbeknownst to us, a small grass fire had started on the Hume Freeway and all south bound traffic was being diverted. The journey from Wallan to Beveridge was approximately one and a quarter hours!!!! Phew, you can imagine the frustration we felt. The coach didn't have a toilet as well.

Our very calm luncheon co-ordinator Carole, rang Moonee Valley Racecourse and cancelled our booking, then rang the Magpie & Stump Hotel in Wandong, who very generously welcomed us for lunch. A big, thank you to the Magpie & Stump for their hospitality.

In conclusion, I'd like to advise that most of our classes and activities have now commenced and that we have an excursion on Puffing Billy coming up at the end of February.

Also readers, please look out for us at the Wellington Square Shopping Centre, Wallan, where we will once again be carrying out our annual membership drive on February 20th, between 10am and 1pm.

Hope to see many of you there. Please contact John Lanphier on 0413 083 089 for more information regarding U3A Wallan and its activities. Bye for now. John Lanphier - President, U3A Wallan Inc.



University of the Third Age  
Wallan Neighbourhood House  
42-47 Bentnick Street Wallan



# Whittlesea Community Network

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



Hello! Happy New Year! We hope you all had a fabulous festive season, summer holiday break. The new program is now available via our website [www.wchi.com.au](http://www.wchi.com.au) where you can book online. Feel free to drop in a grab one at the House or call us on 9716 3361.

## Visy Recycling

It's BBQ season so SAVE THOSE CANS AND BOTTLES! Over the counter recycling is available Monday, Wednesday and Thursday each week 10am - 3pm and Saturdays from 8am - 4pm. Please note that the program will operate even while the House is closed we are not open on Public Holidays.

Got some time on your hands and looking for an easy and regular volunteering role (perhaps to meet your Centrelink obligations). Look no further! Our recycling team is seeking volunteers for regular shifts call 9716 3361 to discuss.

Are you a group or club? Did you know that you can register as a donation partner and receive the 10 cent return on recyclable items as a donation from the community? Go to <https://cdsvic.org.au/donation-partner-registration>.

## Community Meals

Big Blokes Brunch are back at the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre on Tuesdays! Join the blokes for brunch each week:

Tuesdays 11.00am - Noon \$2.00 per person

### Women's Lunch

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February 11.30am - 1pm Gold Coin Donation

We are trying out Meditation on 13<sup>th</sup> February and Chair Yoga on 27<sup>th</sup> February both classes will soon be available at the House as part of our regular program!

## Save the date - Pop Up Recycle Boutique - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Join us at the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre in Laurel Street for this special event! Stalls full of pre loved clothing, upcycled fashion, accessories, shoes and more! Bring your keep cup for a FREE Barista coffee!

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 9am - 1pm FREE

## White Card

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 9am - 4pm \$150

## Op Shop Tours are BACK!

The Op Shop Bus will be leaving from the House at 9am on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of each month during Semester 1! Loads of new locations only \$20 per person. Call the House for details and bookings or head online to book [www.wchi.com.au](http://www.wchi.com.au)

## Fix It Friday returns first session for 2025 Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February

Fix it Friday is back for 2025! 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, The Office of the Victorian Ombudsman, Social Worker, Whittlesea Community Legal Service, Uniting Financial Counselling, NDIS, Centrelink and Neami National (Mental Health Program), Victoria Police, My Aged Care, No Interest Loan Scheme, Haven Homesafe, and heaps more!

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

Pop in during open hours for a cuppa Mon - Thurs 10am - 3pm. Food relief pantry packs are available during office hours or visit our community pantry 7 days a week open all hours (out the front of the House - 92A Church St). Pet food relief is also available for dog and cat food during office hours.

## PLEASE 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, and Wandong Broadford 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.

# Kilmore Golf Club Inc.

February is the start of the golfing calendar for Kilmore Golf Club with men and women playing for the Monthly Medal.

The Monthly Medal winner for the ladies was Jill Banon 67 nett, while there was a tie for the medal between five men who scored 69 which means all five will be competing in the March Medal.

## There were two grades for the Men

A grade winner – John Roberts

B Grade winner Mario Maddalena

Events for February include: Ladies- Pat Johnstone Trophy, Men- Kilmore Cup(4BBB)

## New fixtures include:

Friday Twilight Stableford 9 holes Mixed 4pm. No handicap required

Sunday: Social Golf.

All events are listed on our Website.

The corellas have returned in greater numbers and are doing untold damage on 7 greens. Members have been moving them on at twilight with the aim of disturbing their feeding patterns but each morning there is the constant job of filling in holes on the greens. This is taking its toll on members morale so if you know of a solution other than shooting please contact the Club.

[info@kilmoregolfclub.com.au](mailto:info@kilmoregolfclub.com.au)



## WANDONG HEATHCOTE JUNCTION - RUBBISH COLLECTION DATES 2025

For residents who find it hard to read the Mitchell Shire calendars for rubbish collection, local resident John Milligan has compiled the following bin collection by dates.

March 4:	Green top bin. Red top bin.
March 11:	Green top bin. Yellow top bin.
March 18:	Green top bin. Red top bin. PURPLE top bin.
March 25:	Green top bin. Yellow top bin.
April 1:	Green top bin. Red top bin.
April 8:	Green top bin. Yellow top bin.
April 15:	Green top bin. Red top bin. PURPLE top bin.
April 22:	Green top bin. Yellow top bin.
April 29:	Green top bin. Red top bin.
May 6:	Green top bin. Yellow top bin.
May 13:	Green top bin. Red top bin. PURPLE top bin.
May 20:	Green top bin. Yellow top bin.
May 27:	Green top bin. Red top bin.
June 3:	Green top bin. Yellow top bin.
June 10:	Green top bin. Red top bin. PURPLE top bin.
June 17:	Green top bin. Yellow top bin.
June 24:	Green top bin. Red top bin.
July 1:	Green top bin. Yellow top bin.
July 8:	Green top bin. Red top bin. PURPLE top bin.
July 15:	Green top bin. Yellow top bin.
July 22:	Green top bin. Red top bin.
July 29:	Green top bin. Yellow top bin.
Aug 5:	Green top bin. Red top bin. PURPLE top bin.
Aug 12:	Green top bin. Yellow top bin.
Aug 19:	Green top bin. Red top bin.
Aug 26:	Green top bin. Yellow top bin.
Sep 2:	Green top bin. Red top bin. PURPLE top bin.
Sep 9:	Green top bin. Yellow top bin.
Sep 16:	Green top bin. Red top bin.
Sep 23:	Green top bin. Yellow top bin.
Sep 30:	Green top bin. Red top bin. PURPLE top bin.
Oct 7:	Green top bin. Yellow top bin.
Oct 14:	Green top bin. Red top bin.
Oct 21:	Green top bin. Yellow top bin.
Oct 28:	Green top bin. Red top bin. PURPLE top bin.



THE COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF WHITTLESEA INC.  
REGISTERED # A0041714F  
Established 2001  
MEDIA INFORMATION  
MICHAEL B HALLEY PUBLICITY OFFICER

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## Dollars and sense

The advertising for the start of the 2025 meetings at The Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea stated: -

“Ryan James, an authorised financial advisor that grew up in Whittlesea will be presenting his most useful retirement tips & tricks. This will include topics such as:

- ◆ how to maximize your age pension
- ◆ new superannuation rules & changes to legislation that impact retirees
- ◆ estate planning guidance”

Ryan is a director and Principal Financial adviser at Sonder Advisory Group. He embarked on his journey into financial planning in 2019 with the National Australia Bank/MLC Limited, later transitioning to a boutique advisory firm, before joining Sonder in 2024.

Before financial planning, Ryan managed his own business, *“The Battery Doctor”* a thriving family-owned automotive battery venture. He was fully charged when he fronted the podium and remained so for his presentation. The address was entitled **Retirement Ready** and with visual slides and commentary Ryan gave a wealth of information.

The opening comment that needs keeping in mind was that in the financial arena the landscape is always changing. After a disclaimer advising that details to be delivered were of a general nature the focus was to empower everyone to make decisions about their own financial landscape.

He explained the two basic government assistances available for Australian citizens over 67 years of age. The Commonwealth Seniors Health Card [CHSC] gives health services benefits and possibly some state concessions. The Age Pension gives more benefits and income but is subject to quite stringent asset and income tests. Also mentioned was the Low Income Health Card.

Strategies to reduce assets and become eligible for some pension income were covered in much detail. In summary, you can gift up to \$10K pa, prepay expenses such as travel and purchase a lifetime annuity.

Annuities generate income and have tax benefits. A \$100,000 investment into a lifetime annuity will only count as a \$60,000 asset immediately (\$3,120 per year instant increase to pension). This is because only 60% of the value of the annuity is assessable.

Superannuation is a **savings system for workplace pensions in retirement**. It involves money earned by an employee being placed into an investment fund to be made legally available to members upon retirement. Ryan explained the tax benefits of superannuation and the opportunities that people up to age 75 can capitalise upon.

Under the *nom di plume* **Hidden Death Tax** Mr James explained the pit falls and opportunities. If an adult beneficiary that is non-dependant from a will gets superannuation money the ATO will take 15% plus 2% Medicare levy. This can be handled differently but it is highly recommended that legal and financial advice is obtained.

The final message was the Bucket Strategy;-

The Retirement Bucket Strategy is a popular approach for managing finances during retirement. It involves dividing retirement assets into three distinct buckets: short-term, intermediate-term, and long-term. Here's how it works:

1. Cash bucket: Holds cash needed for expenses in the next year or two.
2. Defence bucket: For money needed in the next two to five years.
3. Growth bucket: Money invested for long term



The attentive audience gave Mr James an acclamation, whilst the Speaker Co-ordinator Teresa Carlin gave him a token gift. Ryan had difficulty making an exit as folks sought his advice. The information showed how using people with sense you can save dollars and cents,

Right: Ryan James  
Left: The audience

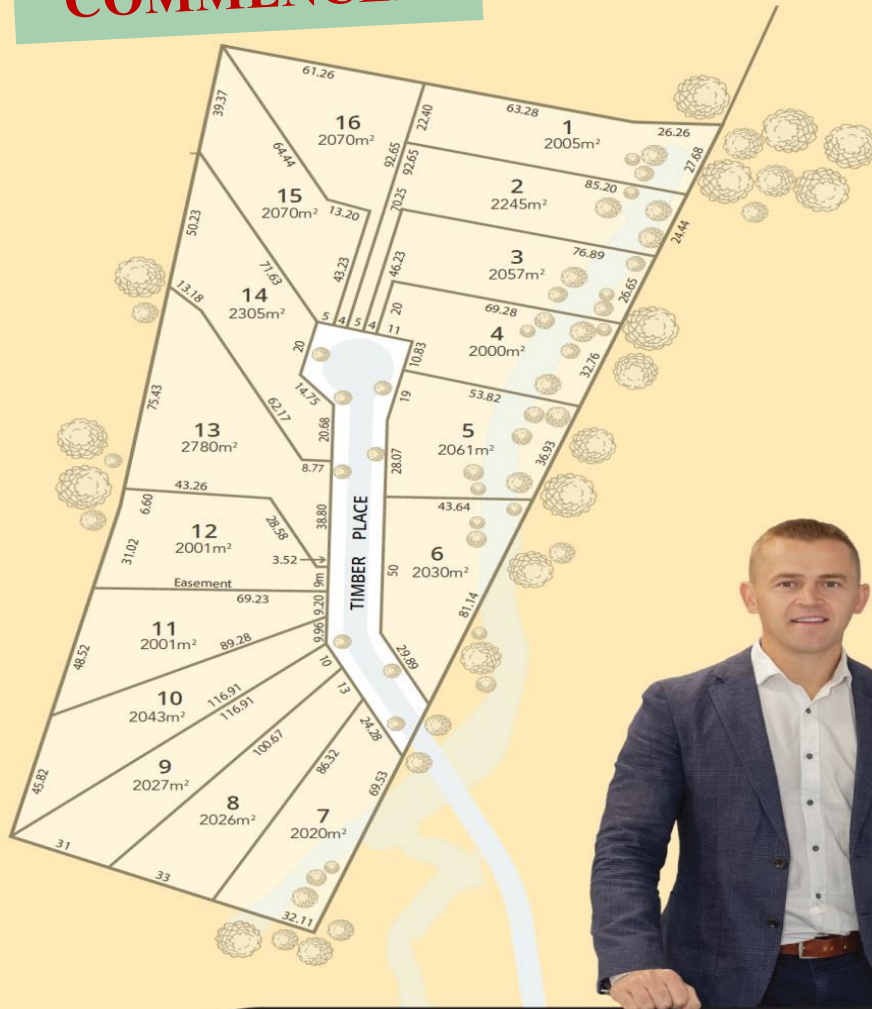


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