



ISSUE 345 WANDONG/HEATHCOTE JUNCTION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER : MARCH 2025 ABN 17 022 858 565  
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 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  
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"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.

## MITCHELL SHIRE - SWORN TO SECRECY

On Wednesday 26th February, members of the Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group and the Wandong History Group met with officers from A.R.T.C., John Holand Constructions and the Mitchell Shire Council to comment on the latest plans. At all opportunities over the past three years, and particularly responding at ARTC consultation sessions, the WHJCG and WHG have asked for the footpath from Rail Street to the Wandong Broadford Road be kept on the west side of these streets.

This can be achieved by going under the proposed new road bridge but the latest plans still have a footpath around the roundabout with access by pedestrian crossings on Rail Street and the Wandong Broadford Road. It is bad enough that ARTC and John Holland are not listening to the community but we find Mitchell Shire in its secret meetings with them have also not taken into account the community wishes and the best outcome for Wandong. One might assume Mitchell Shire was there to communicate with and advocate for the community but according to Mitchell Shire officers at the meeting this was not possible because it had been, wait for it, "SWORN TO SECRECY". Unbelievable.



Another task taken on by the Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group was to paint the furniture in the Wandong Bushfire Memorial Park and the Travellers Rest gazebo at the railway station car park because Mitchell Shire has advised "it is now policy to not paint or stain this furniture and it will now be left to become a raw timber state".

PHOTOS: One of the seats before and after:



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 5 APRIL 2025 DELIVERY from 16 APRIL 2025**  
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# WANDONG-HEATHCOTE JUNCTION COMMUNITY GROUP

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



**WEBSITE:** In February the <www.wandong.vic.au> website received 1,211 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, four weeks ago 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. A discussion with a Mitchell Shire Officer some weeks ago presented some concerns when some important aspects of the plan seemed to be overlooked.

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 appears to have been selected. If that is the case the WHJCG will pursue other avenues to implement a history based artwork on Pickett Walk.



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.

We wrote to Mitchell Shire asking for the trees overhanging the mesh fence on Rail Street be cut before they fall on and further damage the fence and block traffic on Rail Street. The expected handball response from Mitchell Shire gave responsibility to VicTrack because the trees are on the Victrack side of the fence. However as the fence belongs to Mitchell Shire and the tree branches extend over the fence you would think Mitchell Shire would at least cut these branches to the fence line before they become a problem. As in the photo a limb has already fallen on the fence and roadside.



Clean up Australia day was on Sunday 2nd March 2025. We thank the 17 volunteers, including eight from the Kilmore Scouts, for the great effort in cleaning rubbish from Wandong Plaza, Rail Street, the Epping Kilmore Road, the Wandong Broadford Road and the freeway interchange ramps. We are very grateful for their help but do wish we had more local volunteers from the community so even more could be done.

The WHJCG, Wandong History Group has had a meeting with ARTC, John Holland and Mitchell Shire officers regarding the rail bridge project, Pickett Walk, etc. We are not happy about the footpath proposed to go around the east side of the roundabout and including two pedestrian crossings, instead of remaining on the west side of the road and going under the bridge. ARTC and John Holland have agreed to have the responsible engineer meet with us to advise the rationale behind its decision. We are running another BBQ for ARTC on Saturday 15th March where they will answer any questions about the project.



# 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

10 Mar Olivia & Clive Allen HJ  
 10 Mar Frank & Bette Sartore W  
 11 Mar Pat & Lindi Leddin HJ  
 13 Mar Irene & Kevin Bartlett W  
 23 Mar Adam & Sharon Saw HV  
 20 Mar Kerry & Chris Bellomo OG  
 30 Mar Jenny & Graeme McSolvin W

## GAZEBOS AND CHAIRS FOR HIRE

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

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

Call David on mobile  
0409 164 660  
to arrange hire.

## 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  
[mitchelwalksgroup@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelwalksgroup@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

13 Mar	Phylis McCarrhy	HJ
13 Mar	Kylie Coad	W
14 Mar	Geoff McMahon	HJ
16 Mar	Lisa Kelly	HJ
16 Mar	Chris Waldie	W
17 Mar	Catherine Humphries	W
17 Mar	Andrew Ryan	KE
17 Mar	Kylie Warburton	HJ
17 Mar	Abigail O'Sullivan	W
19 Mar	Jackson Kilroy	HJ
20 Mar	Mark Seeley	HJ
20 Mar	Margie Sanders	B
21 Mar	Ben Marshall	HJ
22 Mar	Helen McMahon	HJ
22 Mar	Steven Burns	HJ
22 Mar	Kim Tierney	UP
22 Mar	Kaitlin Dodds	W
23 Mar	Jenny Sannweld	HJ
24 Mar	Sandy Brown	HJ
24 Mar	Emma Ryan	KE
24 Mar	Mark Shingles	W
26 Mar	Brad Candy	W
26 Mar	Galen Sartore	W
27 Mar	Kayla O'Sullivan	W
28 Mar	Jason Harrington	HJ
28 Mar	Gerard Hibbert	W
29 Mar	Hayley Seeley	HJ
29 Mar	Joshua Walsh	HJ
30 Mar	Greg Gibbs	W
30 Mar	Chris Bellomo	OG
31 Mar	Nicholas Villanti	HJ
3 Apr	Sarah Hanson	W
3 Apr	Mia Albert	HJ
4 Apr	Lachlan Hardwick	Wallan
5 Apr	Don McNaughton	HJ
6 Apr	Kaylah Sanders	HJ
7 Apr	Travis Symons	HJ
7 Apr	Lyn Gutterson	W
9 Apr	Jared Plumbe	CI
10 Apr	Lachlan Gough	HJ
11 Apr	Abby Maree Miller	W
12 Apr	Katherine Kovacic	WP
13 Apr	Georgia Shingles	W
14 Apr	Simone Burns	HJ
14 Apr	Jason Watson	Y
15 Apr	Kelsey Batey	W
15 Apr	Chris Ryan	KE
16 Apr	Neil Douthwaite	HJ
16 Apr	Vincent Hutchison	HJ
16 Apr	Shelby Reeves	W
16 Apr	Georgia Limbrick	B

## GET "WHATS NEWS" BY EMAIL

If you would like to receive "Whats News" by email each month, send your name and mail 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)>

## Maybe we have thrown out the Bible with the bathwater! Part 1

Somebody was once heard to say that it's a pity the Bible has to do with religion otherwise it would be compulsory study material in more schools and colleges! Probably the most important collection of writings in literature history, yet it is hardly mentioned in any modern school study lists. The concepts, ideas, suggestions and examples in the books seem to have the answer to a complete list of our present problems and concerns.

In no other writings do we find such insight, understanding, support and direction for living in our present times. Where indeed do we find encouragement like 'Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you. not the type of peace the world offers' let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid.' How about that? There's some modern insight! Not as the world dishes up, hey! found much peace by watching T.V. or reading the papers lately? kids how about any nightmares after playing some of those games that the experts assure us that they have no lasting influence on our behaviour.

How about a world in which last nights rape, house break-ins or assaults did not happen? A world where your kids could still play in the park till late! A place where wars between countries, families and neighbours did not start through selfish demands, where bullying was not heard of, where disagreements were settled amicably. Too much to expect! O.K. but what a vision, what a concept to aim for, if not in our public life but to aim for in our private aspirations.

Because of the way the community is now interpreting privacy laws, freedom laws and some strange politically correct suggestions I would grab a Bible while they can be still obtained legally and look for a road map through the confusion. They say health, wealth and sleep have to be interrupted to be appreciated, so better not wait till owning a Bible is also threatened!

To quote John Blanchard (author of "Does God Believe in Atheists") the Bible has a great deal to say about marriage, alcoholism, substance abuse, stress and depression, it gives direction about family life, business management, social justice, pointing the way to love, joy, peace, patience (road rage) gentleness and self-control. That will do for now!

Paul McCartney wrote over 100 songs a commendable effort on his part! Inspired no doubt by his observations of life as he experienced it and now the subject of much discussion by his followers. Would it perhaps be interesting to have a fleeting glance at the Bible a collection of writings (arguably the best-selling book ever) which inspired a song writer like Charles Wesley co-founder of the Methodist church to write over 5000 hymns! Come on now! surely that deserves some enquiry, some admiration, some study. Hey! if we were to spend a small amount of the time reading a chapter or two of the Bible that we spend reading the sports pages of the daily newspaper we might discover some insights that might help our family particularly in these stressful times. Careful now it can become addictive! Incidentally, there are twice as many words in Saturday's newspaper as in the New Testament!

Many have been discouraged when opening the Bible at the first page to discover a fair amount of history (helpful for correction, guidance or prophecy) but not as riveting as the footy or Home and Away! (Keep in mind that it's the Old Testament that Jesus quoted from in his brief career!)

Some of the earlier parts of the Bible may need parental guidance but things were different in earlier times. Zipp forward about 2/3rds through the books and find lots of stories, insights, warnings and astute observations into modern life.

Hello! Hello! I've been cut off, dumped or more politely asked to finish this article next month! I can't complain, really, I've been getting away with overlong scripts quite a bit lately! A.G. (mildly grumpy.)

CONTINUED - PART 2 IN APRIL "WHATS NEWS"

### Whittlesea Anglican Church

Serving Whittlesea, Upper Plenty.  
& surrounding areas

**Christ Church:** 9 Wallan Road, Whittlesea.

**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)



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— entrance on Willomavin Road

Enquiries to ;

Pastor Frantz Heinzelmann

Mobile: 0411 794 188

[www.freedomcarechurch.org.au](http://www.freedomcarechurch.org.au)

All Welcome. Love to see you there



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## LOCAL CHURCH NEWS



***Wandong District Church***  
**29 Wandong Ave,  
Wandong**

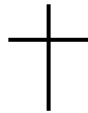
Letting the  
LIGHT Shine

**Services held at 5pm Sundays  
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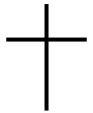
**Enquiries to:  
David Moran 5787 1738**

## ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, WANDONG

WANDONG AVE, WANDONG  
Enquires 9308 2452



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



## 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

## 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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Ron Hamilton 0481 268 471**

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# GARDEN SCENE WITH GAIL

Well, it's March again and we are now into Autumn. Summer was quite harsh, and it was an uphill battle to keep our plants watered, and we hoped they would survive the hot drying winds, very low rainfall and the battle we have with wildlife eating the plants because they're hungry for feed. Autumn is a really lovely time of year, (and it will be better when the rain comes), not only can we sleep easier with cooler weather, but we can get out into the garden and get some much-needed work done. Cooler weather enables us to prune any plants that are a bit leggy, overshadowing other plants, needing a tidy up and/ to get rid of damaged branches. If it hasn't rained when you want to prune ensure you have watered and applied Seasol to the plant in question, this will reduce stress to the plant particularly moisture loss from the branches that are cut. Be aware that if you have Autumn flowering plants such as Camellias you will need to wait until they have finished flowering to prune however, Spring flowering Camellias can be pruned but don't leave it late in Autumn to do so as it may interfere with their flowering. A good rule of thumb is to prune after flowering, just before plants push new growth. Weeds can be removed now and even though it is only Autumn this is an excellent time to prepare garden beds and around the base of plants for absorption of moisture via watering or that much needed rain. It's all about ensuring our gardens can successfully use every drop of water they get to maintain strong growth. As you weed, apply a wetting agent and if you use the liquid Seasol wetting agent (brown bottle), ensure it doesn't get onto the foliage. This will assist in moisture being absorbed by the soil, top dress with well-rotted cow manure and follow up with mulch. If you have soapy water this can be applied to the soil as well to help any moisture, be able to penetrate into the soil but take care what soap you are using and the amount in the water as too much may be harmful. Some soils may be extremely hard after the Summer we have just experienced. If your soil is not absorbing water you may need to break the top crust of the soil very lightly to allow the water to seep in, taking care not to dig too deep around plants as this may damage the roots of the plants and encourage suckers to develop, keeping in mind there are some plants that are shallow rooted, such as Azaleas, Rhododendrons and Camellias. Apply Gypsum in addition to the wetting agent and well-rotted cow manure and water in well. Some of the deciduous plants are colouring and dropping their leaves, they are stressed, and this is their way of coping with dry weather. Take note that their branches are still supple, and they don't start to crinkle lengthways, this indicates that the plant is really suffering, and it hasn't had enough moisture. If this happens the plant will require some TLC, soak it really well and follow up with a weekly solution of Seasol. Be diligent and have a fantastic March.



*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.

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

Happy Cat Yoga - Tuesday evenings 7 to 8 pm Ph Hannah 0468 397 426

CPR Training - 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month Ph Louise 0409512526 contact @[ehssol.com](mailto:ehssol.com)

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 Bedi

PO Box 225, Wandong Vic 3758



Ok, I'm back again. Steve can't do this one because he is off on the drag circuit this time in the west. I hope that he gets the fuel right this time. Perhaps he could try a bit of each type. Tania is flying out to meet him and hopefully keep him on the straight and narrow.

It is now the end of February, almost Christmas again. Did anyone else notice that Aldi had hot cross buns on sale on boxing day?

The club is up and running at full throttle again. We had our first Bunnings last weekend and it was very busy. We have some new members to induct soon and lots of plans for the year. We are still supporting families through the schools and Sam has his finger on the pulse of things. I don't have any stories about Sam but his wife has promised me some.

I wasn't available to help with Australia Day at Wandong this year but Sanunda filled the breach. He was the egg and bacon man and he filled my shoes admirably although there were some dispersion's cast about my fishing ability I believe. This was probably from a jealous David Moran.

Some doubts were cast on my fishing ability by the previous author. He is a very unreliable source. It is a well known fact that I always catch bigger and better fish than she who must be obeyed. Also I didn't have any great disasters and stayed on my own two feet and didn't visit a medical clinic once. It is quite trying having to scotch these unfounded rumours.

Bill is our resident bikie hoon. He roars up the highway at breakneck speed daring the police to catch him. Imagine then his horror when he backed his motor home out of the carport into his bike. It took Marie hours to calm him down. I'm not sure that he will ever be the same again.

Now Elizabeth, who never does anything wrong was rummaging through the pantry and dropped a jar of pickled beetroot onto the kitchen floor. What a mess! Red juice everywhere mixed up with broken glass. It was quite spectacular and took a lot of cleaning up. I suppose it was my fault, I should never have grown such red beetroot.

Our esteemed treasurer has moved into a new home. It is always interesting how our treasurers do ok for themselves. Anyway Peter had planted new grass in his yard looked after it and watered it regularly and was generally pleased with himself. Imagine his dismay when the ducks discovered it. It is a source of great amusement to his family who delight in the sight of a grown man running around the yard at a flock of innocent ducks.

I just need to mention that next week is my birthday. Presents can be left at Wandong post office. Catch you next time. Clyde.

## Philman Excavations

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# CLONBINANE C.F.A.



Summer may have officially ended but our Fire Danger Period (FDP) is far from over. Until significant rainfall has occurred our Fire Danger Period will continue (No official end date has been determined) which means that we all must remain vigilant when it comes to fires.

Whilst we are trained to fight fires it is everyone's responsibility to help prevent them from occurring. Since the FDP commenced in November until the end of February Clonbinane CFA has responded to 35 incidents.

Some of these incidents were started by angle grinders and welders. The use of this equipment is BANNED on days of Total Fire Ban, and there are significant measures to be followed on other days.

If possible, leave these types of works until the middle of winter when it should be safer.

If caught completing hot work and not following the guidelines you can face heavy penalties including fines of up to \$47,421 and potentially up to two years in jail whilst also being legally and financially responsible for any damage your hot work started.

There are also legal requirements for the declared Fire Danger Period with restrictions and guidelines on the use of;  
BBQ's, Chainsaws, Lawn Mowers, Grass Trimmers, Driving of vehicles in vegetation, Campfires, Wildlife Scare Guns etc

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the Can I Can't I brochure on the CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)



## Wandong Playgroup

New members are welcome at playgroup.

You can start anytime of the year.

Come along and check it out.

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

Playgroup is for parents, guardians, grandparents and carers 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:

Briony Schaeffer 0413 828 175

## 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.

## 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/mountdisappointmentclonbnane/>

# 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)

A few more weeks until our summer finals begin.  
Looks like all our teams will be competing.  
Our autumn night tennis competitions are well underway.

Coaching is available at the club  
Please contact Karl on 0423 611 317  
or [kv.tennis@hotmail.com](mailto:kv.tennis@hotmail.com)

 KV Tennis  
2h · 🌐

Who wants me to bring back an evening cardio tennis ? Happy to if there is enough interest  
Let me know and happy hitting



Please the club know if you are interested  
[wandongtennisclub@hotmail.com](mailto:wandongtennisclub@hotmail.com)  
Or Lisa 0407 112 880

## COME TO BEAR'S CASTLE!

**NEXT TOURS: SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY**  
**2025**

**Bus tours are conducted biannually during**  
**Autumn & Spring through the Whittlesea Courthouse**  
**Association**

**ENQUIRIES: JOAN TERRELL 0412 907 937**  
**pte40164@bigpond.net.au**

**Bookings essential (limited seats available)**  
**Tours leave the Courthouse at 10.00 am & 2.00 pm sharp**

**COST \$40.00 adults \$25 kids- refreshments included. (2 - 2 ½ hour, tours)**  
**Tours unsuitable for children under the age of 10 years**

**See inside the historical site & visit the**  
**Yan Yean Reserve's, historical 'Caretaker's Cottage'**

**Bear's Castle, Yan Yean:**



# WANDONG PRIMARY SCHOOL



## 2025 STUDENT LEADERSHIP

We celebrated the start of the school year with a whole-school assembly, where we presented leadership badges to the Grade 6 students who have been chosen by their peers as their school leaders for 2025, as well as the SRC representatives that were elected to represent each class from Grades 1-6.

We would like to acknowledge all students across the school who showed courage and determination by nominating themselves for a leadership role and standing in front of their to present a speech to explain why they thought they would be a good candidate. We are lucky to have a school community that is full of so many potential leaders, and hope that you all feel proud of yourselves for your efforts.



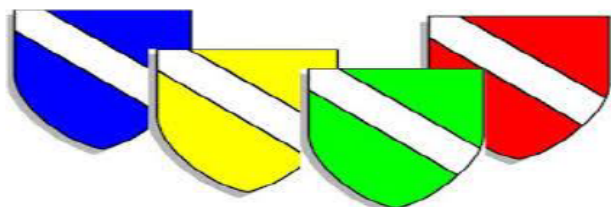
# 2025 WANDONG SCHOOL LEADERS



## STUDENT VOICE

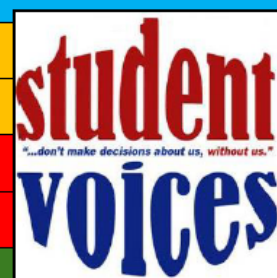


<b>School Captain</b>	Olivia Langdon
<b>School Captain</b>	Kevin Zugaro
<b>Student Representative Captain</b>	Annabelle Robertson
<b>Student Representative Captain</b>	Alyssa Smith
<b>Wellbeing Captain</b>	Mackenzie Gomez
<b>Wellbeing Captain</b>	Charlie Keyes
<b>Learning Captain</b>	Kasim Nassir
<b>Learning Captain</b>	Penny Donohue



## HOUSE LEADERS

<b>Pickett House Captain</b>	Ava Crawford
<b>Pickett House Captain</b>	Max Healey
<b>Lightwood House Captain</b>	Lincoln Leiper
<b>Lightwood House Captain</b>	Mason Sawyer
<b>Arkell House Captain</b>	Aurora Wollington
<b>Arkell House Captain</b>	Mason Sanderson
<b>Davern House Captain</b>	Emily Marks
<b>Davern House Captain</b>	Jai McIlvain



## SPECIALIST LEADERS



<b>Arts Captains</b>	Alayna Plumbe-King and Bonnie Cachia
<b>STEM Captains</b>	Heidi Coombs-Welsh and Isabella Vongvixay
<b>LOTE – Auslan Captains</b>	Quinn Harrison and Ava Keenan
<b>Library Captains</b>	Kane Seipolt and Darcy Bichard

**Is your child starting school in 2026? Please ensure you have emailed [wandong.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:wandong.ps@education.vic.gov.au) or call the office on 57871232 to book in for one of these sessions. Please note - this is a parent ONLY session.**

# WANDONG PRIMARY SCHOOL



## “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 2026, 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.



## “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.

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## TOURING WANDONG

Monday, February 24, 2025 | 6:00 pm

Monday, March 17, 2025 | 6:00 pm

Tuesday, March 25, 2025 | 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 57871232 to book one of these sessions.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

Foundation 2026 Enrolment applications accepted from  
Tuesday, April 22, 2025 (First day of Term Two)

Foundation 2026 Enrolment applications due  
no later than Friday, July 25, 2025

Foundation 2026 Enrolment applications confirmed  
by Friday, August 8, 2025

Special evening session for those with a submitted application -  
“LAUNCHPAD PROGRAM FOR PARENTS”

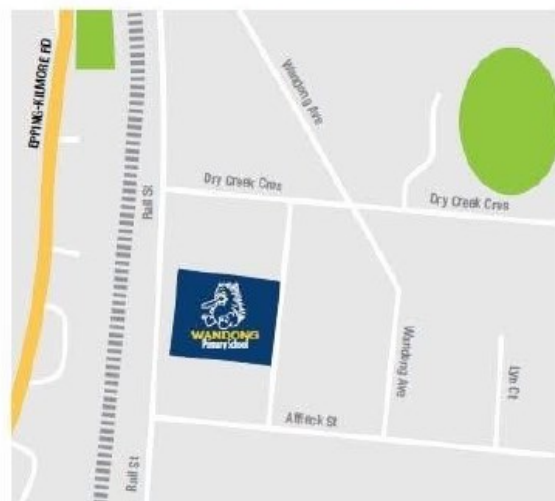
Monday, August 18, 2025 | 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm

Academic school preparedness presented  
by **Steph Pollock** - Assistant Principal



“We make a difference”

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Rail Street, PO Box 402, Wandong Victoria 3758

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[www.wandongps.vic.edu.au](http://www.wandongps.vic.edu.au)



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



**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.**

**The next opportunity for residents to view the latest Inland Rail / John Holland plan and to make comments is at the Wandong I.G.A. on Saturday 15th March between 9.30am and 1pm. A free sausage sizzle will be available and the WHJCG will be selling its Easter Egg basket raffle tickets.**





Welcome to our February 2025 update, where we share details of our recent exploration and community engagement activities. We welcome hearing from you at any time with questions or feedback. Please reach out to us on the contact details that can be found on the next page.

## A change in name

Southern Cross Gold has merged with Mawson Gold Ltd of Canada to become Southern Cross Gold Consolidated (SXGC) Ltd, now dual-listed on the Australian Securities Exchange and Toronto Venture Exchange. While this Canadian listing broadens our access to global investors and expertise, our focus remains firmly in Victoria.

Most importantly, nothing changes on the ground. You'll see the same familiar faces with our existing local team leading our exploration activities.

We remain deeply committed to our community and we look forward to continuing this strong local presence and investment.

## Working with Traditional Owners

SXGC continues to proactively engage with the Traditional Owners of the Sunday Creek area, the Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLaWC).

We regularly work with TLaWC and ensure they provide important feedback into areas of our operations.

TLaWC recently joined us on site at the Sunday Creek Project to undertake a voluntary cultural heritage clearance. The clearances are undertaken ahead of exploration activity to ensure cultural heritage features in the area are identified and protected.

As our operations evolve, we look forward to finding new ways of working together.



*TLaWC's Cultural Heritage team*

## Managing wombat mange

Did you know our wombat neighbours can suffer from mange? The skin disease is caused by parasitic mites and without treatment, mange is always fatal.

SCGC is working with volunteer-lead organisation Mange Management to assist affected wombats on our land. We're using the burrow flap method which delivers medication to the wombat's back as they enter and exit their burrows. Once a wombat is treated we continue to monitor their health.

If you'd like to contact Mange Management to support our local wombat population, visit [www.managemangement.org.au](http://www.managemangement.org.au).



## Exploration update

SXGC has continued its exploration efforts with diamond drill rigs, currently collecting core samples from deep underground.

In addition to drilling, SXGC has installed seven groundwater monitoring bores. These bores will help gather important data on water levels and quality, ensuring that environmental factors are carefully managed throughout the project. Monitoring groundwater is an essential step in responsible exploration and will help protect water resources.

The team has also conducted a geophysical induced polarisation (IP) survey and a soil sampling program has been carried out to analyse surface materials.

SXGC remains committed to keeping the community informed as exploration continues. These activities will help guide future work and ensure that any potential development is carried out responsibly and with careful consideration of the local environment.

## About soil sampling

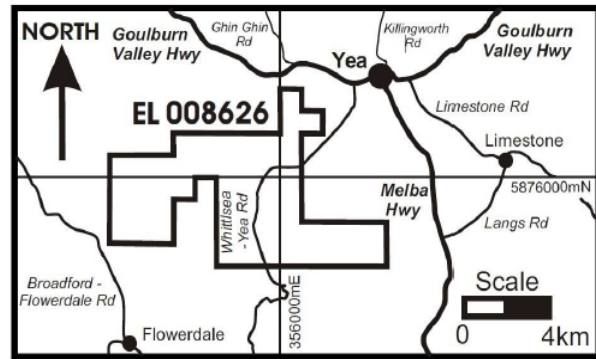


Before drill rigs move into an area we sample the soil to understand the distribution of gold, antimony and other related minerals on the surface. It's a fast and low impact method of testing over a large area, causing minimal physical disturbance.

Our team first clears an area of 50cm x 50cm before digging a 40cm x 40cm hole and taking a 10-20cm soil sample. The small hole is then backfilled, and debris spread back over disturbed area. Each soil sample will be approximately 200-300g, or up to 3kg if the sample requires sieving back on site.

Our geologists use this information to infer what is happening below the surface and use it to plan our next drilling activities.

## Yea exploration license application



SXGC recently applied for an exploration license EL008626 (shown above) southwest of Yea to allow us to explore for gold and antimony. This application is currently being considered by Earth Resources Regulation, the state government's regulator of exploration.

If the license is granted, an initial low impact exploration phase will commence. Low impact exploration activities can include geological mapping, soil and rock samples and geophysical surveys.

All SXGC's exploration activities adhere to, and are governed by, the Victorian Government's *Code of Practice for Mineral Exploration* or are subject to approval of an exploration work plan.

## Kilmore District Hospital garden party

We recently joined dozens of other local stall holders and entertainers to raise important funds at Kilmore District Hospital's garden party.

The intermittent rain certainly didn't dampen attendees' spirits as they enjoyed food stalls, live music and had broken teddies mended at the teddy bear hospital.



It was a pleasure to share updates of our operations in the beautiful rose garden and speak to so many locals about our work. Thank you to the hospital for continuing to provide such quality care to our community.



1800 717 638



community@southerncrossgold.com.au



www.southerncrossgoldcommunity.com.au

# CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY - WANDONG - HEATHCOTE JUNCTION 2025

In the preceding weeks to Clean Up Australia Day, the Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group advertised extensively asking the community to help clean rubbish from the Wandong Heathcote Junction streets. On Sunday 2nd March nine residents including five WHJCG members attended. We are very thankful to the Kilmore Scouts which added to our numbers by eight. They did a great job cleaning rubbish from the Wandong Plaza garden strip and on the free-way ramps. Several trailer loads of general rubbish, tyres, furniture and more were taken to the Wallan transfer station. A big thank you to Tim Yendall for the loan of his trailer for the day.



**THANK YOU  
TO OUR  
VOLUNTEERS**



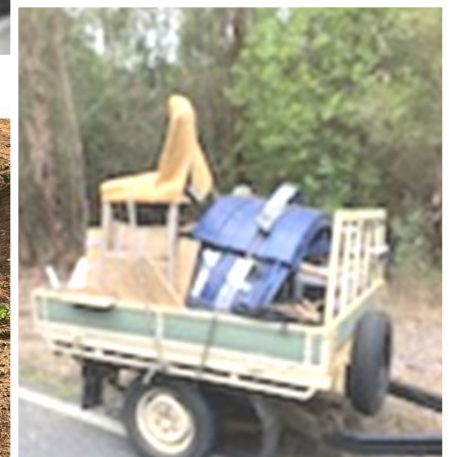
# CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY - WANDONG - HEATHCOTE JUNCTION 2025



Mitchell Shire and Vicroads were asked to remove the dumped pile of rubbish at the southern entrance to Wandong on the Epping Kilmore Road. It was in the too hard basket despite being a blight on our town and Mitchell Shire, so the WHJCG cleaned it up on Clean Up Australia Day.

We also thank the Northern Ranges 4wd Club members who got together for their 2nd clean up Australia Day event. Before and after photos below:

They were able to clear three large cage trailers of rubbish from Mount Disappointment. Great event arranged by their president Brenton Myers.



Hi from the WHJSC Committee,

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

Tennis is on, Kilmore Cricket is in finals mode, Dog Club, and the Horse Clubs, the Stadium activities-Basketball, preschool and Wandong Primary Sport Activities 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.

Wallan Junior Football Club are pre training at the Reserve due to works on their oval.

Please be cautious around the Reserve at present due to various siting 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

**Improvements at the Reserve:**

Our Allan Ryan Paddock in parts has had some much loved top up of soil and levelling out which will be much loved by the Mitchell Agility Dog Club. A big thank you to the Mitchell Shire.



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



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





**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!!**

**Remember When :**



**Wandong Juniors Change Rooms/Clubrooms/training Oval 2010**



**LEFT: Dry Creek flooded in 2011, the juniors could not train, The oval was being redeveloped and the Wandong Juniors trained across the creek.**

**The Community Centre is open for bookings:**

**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

**Chairs For Sale:**  
 The Reserve Committee has up to 80 stackable chairs for sale at \$5.00 each.  
 If you are interested please contact Rob Telfer on 0408 393 250





## LB DAVERN Reserve

*The Proud Home to*

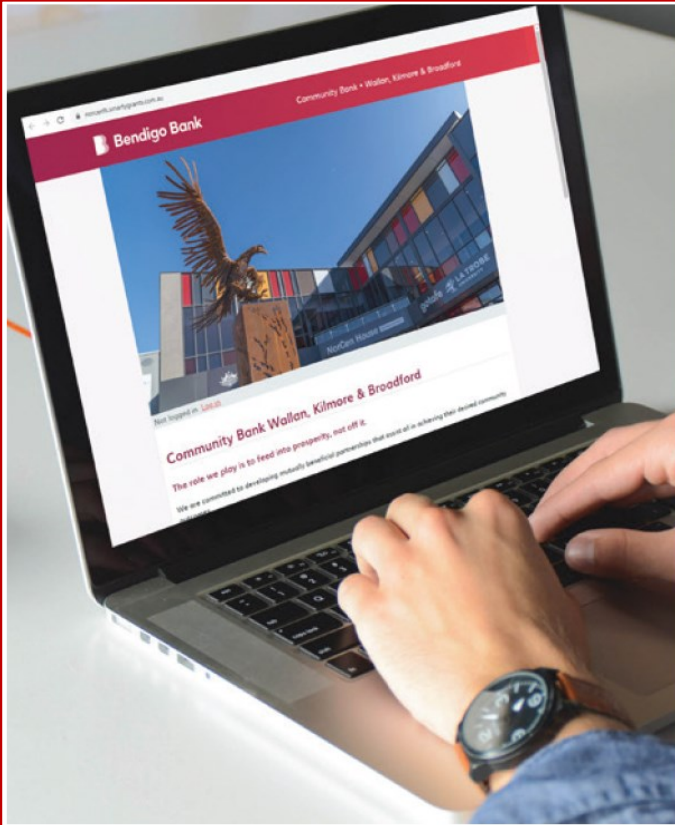








Website: [www.lbdavernreserve.com.au](http://www.lbdavernreserve.com.au)



## 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

**B Bendigo Bank**

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## MODERNISE YOUR KITCHEN OR BATHROOM...

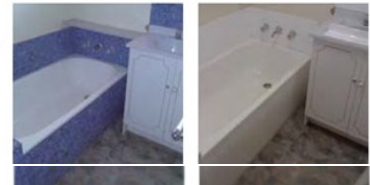
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hassle and  
expense of  
replacing!*

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## Our Town's Football Club

It's official the warriors have an under 16s team again. Not since 2018 have we fielded a team and its safe to say that we're very proud. A massive effort from committee, players, coaching staff and parents alike. We look forward to the boys continuing their footy journey as Warriors, growing as players and young men. We also have some exciting news on the Sponsorship front in the coming weeks. GO WARRIORS!



Kingo having a look at one outside 50.

We would also like to welcome back

Corey Finger U9's Coach

Nick Tully U10's Coach

### 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

### Weekly Training Times

Tuesdays and Thursdays

U12 4.30pm

U14 5.00pm

U16 5.30pm

Sessions 1hour in duration

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



Go Warriors!

Wandong Junior Football Club

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

### Wandong Warriors 2024 SPONSORS



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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

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# Helping Carers



with **acts of kindness**

01

## Prepare a meal

Cook or deliver a simple meal to ease their load.

02

## Offer a break

Step in to care for a few hours to offer some respite.

03

## Show your appreciation

A thoughtful message acknowledging their hard work can boost the spirits!

04

## Share info on free support

Carer Gateway offers FREE support and services to help carers. Carers can call 1800 422 737 (Mon-Fri, 8am-5pm) to learn more.



*We encourage everyone to take a moment to reach out and show your support to the carers in your life. They may be looking after someone with disability, a medical condition, mental illness, or who is frail due to age. Caring for someone can be tough, so let's spread some kindness and appreciation today and every day!*

*If you, or someone you know is a carer, there is free support and services to help make life easier. Call 1800 422 737 between 8am and 5pm, Monday – Friday or visit [CarerGateway.gov.au](http://CarerGateway.gov.au) to learn more.*

Many thanks, Jason

## GHOSTS, GOLD & A WHITE ELEPHANT

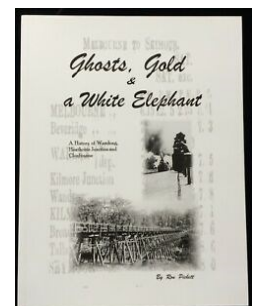
a history of Wandong - Heathcote Junction and surrounds.

Over 550 copies have been sold and only a limited number are still available before a reprint is considered.

Until sold out, copies will be available for \$50 at the Wandong Post Office / Newsagency or order your copy by mail by emailing:

<[Wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com](mailto:Wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com)>

Cost \$50 plus \$10 postage.





## The Blue Lotus Water Garden

In Egyptian mythology, the Blue Lotus played a significant role in creation myths. The flower's daily cycle of opening with the sun and closing at dusk made it a symbol of the sun's journey, tying it to the solar deities Ra and Horus. This association with the sun and creation cemented the flower's spiritual importance. Despite its common name, the blue lotus is not a true lotus like the *Nelumbo* species.

The day tour organiser Alessandra Testa, of the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea organised a tour to the Blue Lotus Water Garden at Yarra Junction. Released to wander and explore the members were soon spread around the 14 acres of water features. There are many ponds, waterfalls and fountains surpassed by two large lakes that are the drawcards.

Cochrane Lake named after visionary Geoff, who followed his dream and set up the Lotus Farm, is the largest lake in the garden holding over 11 million litres of water. It stretches 250m long and contains over 70 varieties of waterlily flowers creating a carpet of colour across the lakes surface. The lake also features a 225m walk through its middle, with 11 bridges including the famous Red Arched Bridge.

A feature of the display is the prized collection of Claude Monet's original waterlilies that he planted in his garden at Giverny in France. The famed painting is replicated in real life!

The gardens surrounding the lake also contain a plethora of perennial flowers and shade giving banana and Cocos palms. Often native water birds such as Giant Egrets, Water Hens, Spoon Bills, a platypus and numerous ducks are seen foraging for food or building nests.

Featured attractions include:

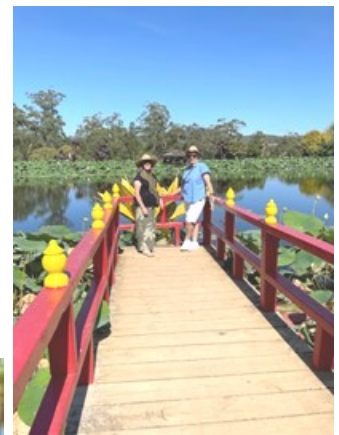
- ◆ The Giant Amazon Waterlilies,
- ◆ Kakadu Lagoon Native Waterlily display,
- ◆ Tropical World complex,
- ◆ Lotus Wetlands, Golden Lotus display,

By far and away the Giant Amazon waterlily will remain in visitors' memories and perhaps even in nightmares. Nightmares may be exacerbated for those who visited *carnivorous kingdom!*

The Victoria Cruziana is native to the subtropical regions of South America. It produces very large lily pads that reach 1.4 – 1.8 metres in diameter. So big, they can hold the weight of a child or small adult. The leaves (lily pads) feature a smooth green top with high sides. However, the underside of leaves and stalks are covered in large razor-sharp spines that can seriously injure a human! Management does not allow visitors to touch these plants.

After corralling the coach load of hungry members, Alessandra took us to the Bistro at the Upper Yarra RSL where a choice of roast lamb or grilled fish was served. Only the one desert was available but none were refused.

Time came to load up and meander through the upper and middle Yarra regions until the King-lake turn arrived and Whittlesea was soon reached. Folks headed to their homes for the weekend and were to reassemble on Monday 3 March 2025 for the Annual General meeting.



**PHOTOS:**  
**Cochrane Lake**  
**Group at entrance**  
**Red Arched Bridge**  
**Giant Amazon Waterlilies**

## Micro-Management ... Bad for Kids, Bad for Dogs....

by Anne Zelvys IACP-CDT

Many of us may have even been guilty of Micro-Management at some time or other. We see this in many and varied situations. Often a workplace environment, at the school drop off and particularly at family events like weddings. When this over-management happens with our kids or dogs we can refer to this as Helicopter Parenting and is perhaps one of the worst parenting traits, as the child/dog have their mental growth stunted.

**Helicopter Parenting** often starts out with the humans thinking they are trying to make the best of a bad situation, but it easily becomes our habit of dealing with many events. Consider the scenario we often see at the supermarket; Some kid whinging/nagging and the mum keeps apologising to the kid, "*It's okay dear we won't be long*", or "*Settle down darling*", or worse, they hand the kid a chocolate to keep him quiet, but lolly finished and kid starts again. Makes you want to scream " **BAD PARENT** " (you don't as it's not your business).

As a Trainer, that is how I feel every time I go to a Vet Clinic or a Dog Park... I see dogs *Excited, Anxious, Shrinking back, Lunging, Jumping on Furniture....* and owners holding the dog on a short lead, patting the dog trying to calm the dog... "*It's okay we won't be long - Sit, Sit, mummy's here*" etc... using nervous worried tones. It makes me want to yell - " **BAD HUMAN** " ... (but I don't as it's not my business...)

The problem with micro-managing is that if you fall into that trap, you will feel the need to compensate for the entire life of the dog. In truth, the parent's job is to teach the dog and kids how to cope with the big world out there. Now at this point, I will stop talking about human children as I have no desire to lecture on parenting and just talk about how to change things for your dog. So, start early and set your dog up for the rest of their life.

**Instinctive Response** - It is important to understand that when a dog is under stress they will resort to Fight or Flight... at this point this is NOT a teaching situation, instead we need to manage the situation (**not micro-manage**) and wait until dog can settle and things calm down. This means we need to build the dog's life experience to cope with a broad range of situations.

*Common Example* often seen at the Vets, perhaps the dog is very nervous and the stress level is heightened, particularly if the staff crowd and rush the dog during treatment. Food won't connect with the dog's brain. Trying to force food onto a dog under these situations, just creates more confusion and again dog can distrust your ability to guide him to a safe conclusion..... "BAD HUMAN".....



**To help change our dog behaviours we need to show we are confident.**

**First - Stop patting the dog in an attempt to calm !** When you take your dog out in public the dog needs to see that his 'parent' is calm and happy. Trying to reassure a dog when he is nervous is *madness*... they are a dog - they don't understand your human words... Instead they interpret that YOU are worried and scared and this makes the situation worse. They don't feel you can be relied on to help or guide them because you seem scared and they can interpret that you might run away any minute.... You are being ..... "BAD HUMAN".

**Second - Stop trying to bribe the dog with food !** Trying to distract the dog with food/toy will NOT solve the immediate problem. The dog is already overwhelmed by the situation and can mentally shut down - they cannot think ... but the human keeps trying to push food in the dog's mouth because they read somewhere we must use rewards to teach our dog... However this is not a teaching situation, this is a dog just trying to cope with the here and now and hence is fixating on the problem in front of them.

**Third - Stop trying to verbally explain to the dog !** Humans love to prattle usually in an attempt to re-assure dogs but really the human is just trying to re-assure themselves. Honestly the dog doesn't understand WHAT on earth you are saying and all that chatter becomes *white noise* which again confuses the situation. Worse still your chatter also starts to make the humans around you feel more stressed, which the dog feels and reacts to.

**Next - Change the story !** - Consider the Vet Clinic example... Instead of the anticipation of stress, lets change the narrative for the dog : *Take the dog into the vet clinic perhaps every week, not for a consult, just in the waiting room. Perhaps weigh them on the scales, 3-4 minutes and leave, then go for a walk or run in the park so dog has a great time. After 4-5 visits dog and human have reduced the anticipation that a clinic is a stress place. Then reduce the frequency to fortnightly and by the third month you should see new behaviours form.*

**Your dog's behaviour is a reflection on you..!!**

**So the way you behave will determine how the dog behaves.**

**If you want to have a great dog then set a good example and don't be a ... "BAD HUMAN"**

# SUDOKU

Answers on page 31

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

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

## CAN YOU ANSWER THESE AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP QUESTIONS?

(ANSWERS on page 31)

- On Anzac Day, we remember
  - all Australians who have fought & died in wars.
  - creation of an independent Australian nation.
  - the arrival of the First Fleet from Great Britain.
- What are the colours of the Australian Aboriginal Flag?
  - Black, red and yellow
  - Green, white and black
  - Blue, white and green
- Which is correct in Australian law?
  - Men and women have equal rights.
  - Men have more rights than women.
  - Women have more rights than men.
- When did the separate colonies join together to become the Australian nation?
  - 1601.
  - 1901.
  - 2001.
- Who can deliver a Welcome to Country?
  - Anyone that lives on the land.
  - An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander custodian of the land.
  - A Master of Ceremonies at an event on the land
- Which of the following is true?
  - Australian citizens can get Australian passports.
  - Permanent residents can get an Australian passport.
  - Australia citizens need a visa to enter Australia.
- When did European settlement start?
  - When gold was discovered in Australia
  - When the first 11 convict ships arrived from Great Britain
  - When Captain Arthur Phillip arrived from Great Britain

## 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

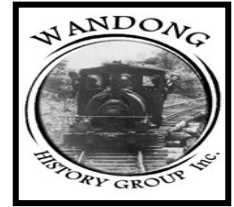
**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS  
REC 3028**



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- \*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**

# WANDONG HISTORY GROUP



The group were pleased to host members of other local historical organisations to view the collection of maps donated to us by Peter and Pauline Bourke. A chance meeting at Bunnings resulted in the maps being donated to us after the old offices of Skehans were cleaned out and many boxes of old records trawled through.

After some sorting of the maps which varied greatly in condition, from very old fragile maps on hessian and linen to more modern paper maps the area covered included as far away as Alexandra, Eildon, and others closer to home, Kilmore, Wallan etc there were over 100 maps in the collection.

We expect that as we get to have a more in depth look at what is in the collection we can decide on the best outcome for the maps, for now we have stored them as per the advice of the people at Archival Survival.

We have met with ARTC twice regarding the new bridge at Wandong, we now have a plan of what the design will be and by the time this goes to print they will have conducted more community consultation.

There is an opportunity for a public artwork to be included in the redevelopment and we have given ARTC an idea of an artwork commemorating the journey of Hume and Hovell who as we know came through our town on their journey. We hope the community can get behind this project so this time we get an installation that we want not something that the shire chooses as the last disastrous so-called consultation process resulted in.

This project will mean a lot of disruption and inconvenience for everyone, and it will go on for some time, however ARTC have spent a considerable time in Wandong and will be here prior to work starting so the time for objections and being able to influence the project will soon be over.

The history group and Heritage Victoria will be watching with interest as any artefacts found during the works must be reported, work must stop until HV give permission for work to recommence. We know there are artefacts there having seen them for ourselves so it will be very surprising if nothing is found by the contractors.

Don't forget to check out our website - [wandongheathcotejunctionhsitory.com.au](http://wandongheathcotejunctionhsitory.com.au)

Karen Christensen  
President

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE - BECOME A VOLUNTEER

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

Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group Inc: Call 0413 832 411

Wandong Wallan Lions Club: Call 0418 142 172

Wandong History Group: Call 0432 120 736

## 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)



# Neighbourhood Watch

Let's watch out for each other

## South Mitchell

### Farm Security in the Spotlight

**Farm security has recently come into the spotlight with an increase of stock and farm equipment theft.**

Farm security can be harder to achieve with neighbours spaced further apart and the perimeter of your properties can be quite extensive. However, it is for this reason, and the recent increase in crimes related to farms, we have come up with a list of hints to keep you and your farm safer:

- Fences are physical barriers and they need to be maintained. We recommend fences and a solid gate, however, hedging or even old immovable farm equipment can be used as a barrier for unauthorised entry to your property.
- Gates should be installed to all fence openings and can even be automated to operate remotely. This gives the farmer the ability to screen persons coming onto your property.
- Security systems - can be installed to monitor farm buildings and the perimeter of your property. These can be solar powered and the signal sent back to your phones.
- Signs - can deter criminals. At the very least they should state 'No Trespassing' although ones that advertise your CCTV cameras are even better.
- Lights - keep your property, especially around entry points and farm buildings, well lit. Better still, make them motion detection lights. Criminals don't want to be seen and this is still one of the best deterrents.
- Security tags - your more expensive, vehicles or treasured pieces of farm equipment can be fitted with a concealed GPS tracking tag. This can help your items be found and returned to you.



- Record - of all of your farm assets - this includes all machinery, vehicles, tools and stock. Records can be in the form of photographs or written records specifying the manufacturer, model type and any other distinguishing details; and
- Mark your equipment, quad bikes and tools with an engraver in a discreet place using a 'V' + your licence number.

We have shown you some of the things you can do around your farm to make it safer, but the best forms of defence can be getting to know your neighbours, know their vehicles and know when there are criminals casing your farms. Farms can be isolated but keeping an eye on each others farm can be one of the best ways for everyone to stay safe.

### 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 March, 2025, 7pm at the Wandong Community Centre, LB Davern Reserve, Wandong.

**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)

**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

**Alfoxtan Dog Centre**

[www.alfoxton.com.au](http://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**

Alfoxtan is a registered Domestic Animal Business - Mitchell Shire

**St John's Church, Wandong  
Easter Services**

**Good Friday 18th April  
2PM**

**Stations of the Cross service.  
Followed by a cuppa and  
hot cross buns.**

**Easter Sunday 20th April  
9AM Communion service  
Followed by morning tea  
and an Easter egg hunt.**

**Everyone welcome**

**Alfoxtan Dog Centre**  
[www.alfoxton.com.au](http://www.alfoxton.com.au)  
**0402 118 929**

**Weather Report -  
Heathcote Junction/Wandong  
FEBRUARY 2025**

The weather for February followed the previous month being hot and windy. We were fortunate to avoid many of the storms that affected other parts of the state.

The lack of rainfall of 16.5mls for the month was low which was also consistent with previous months. The only reading for the supply dam, Sunday Creek at the time of this report was 78% recorded on the 5th February.

**Stats**

February 2025. - 16.5 mls  
Previous year - 22.5 mls  
Average prev 10 years - 20 mls  
Total this year - 57.5 mls  
Total prev year - 193 mls

**All the best for the month  
Norm Hulett**



**MYKI RETAILER**

**QUIZ ANSWERS (from page 28)**

- 1.a
- 2.a
- 3.a
- 4.b
- 5.b
- 6.a
- 7.b

**SUKODU  
solution**

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



*Kilmore  
&  
District*

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

All our classes have now commenced and memberships are still trickling in from both new members and those renewing memberships. It is never too late to join and for a very reasonable \$35, you have full access to all our groups. There are exercise groups, social groups, creative classes and music groups.

A new group that has commenced this year is "Learning the basics of Bridge", a popular game which is difficult to master but well worth the effort to learn. Many communities have a Bridge club, including Kilmore, and the class is designed to offer tuition so people have the confidence to join a club. They meet at the JJ Clancy reserve on a Monday morning from 10.00am until 11.30am. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Alex on 0468 321 728 for more information. They could do with a few more members.

Our Creative Writing group commenced for the year on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> February, and will continue to meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 9:30am until around 11:30am. The assignment set for the first session was based on where you were, what you can remember and what you were doing when the following memorable events took place: JFK's assassination, the first manned lunar landing, the death of Princess Diana, and the attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York.

The ukulele group are back in full swing with a number of new members and we are back at our regular gigs at Caledonia and Dianella, being supported by the residents on percussion and joining in the singalong. We have been asked to perform again at the community garden open day to be held on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Here's hoping the weather is a little kinder this year, as we got soaked last time, although it was great fun and the baked potatoes were a big hit.

Remember the AGM is due Friday March 21st and you are welcome to attend, meet the committee and learn a little about the group and how we operate. Another event worth attending will be a Morning Tea on Friday April 11th with a presentation about Online Banking Safety given by Bendigo Bank.

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,

Once again you'll all agree this year is flying by at breakneck speed, March already!

For us at Wallan U3A our days have been so busy. All our classes are now in full swing and we've been making plans for future activities.

On Thursday, Feb 20th we had our annual membership drive at Wellington Square Shopping Centre where our members handed out our activity and timetable sheets.

Some members of the public we spoke to expressed a desire to make new friends and or learn something new, while surprisingly, others had never heard of U3A and what the name represented.

We hope that our explanations and enthusiasm prompts a flood of new members. Our registration day is on Friday, March 14 between 10am to 1pm at the Wallan Neighbourhood House, we hope to see many of YOU.

Our first major outing for the year was on Feb 28 to Puffing Billy, a trip we were all looking forward to. (A report in next month's issue)

Further, on Saturday March 22 we've invited members to visit the Immigration Museum where we will see a recreation of the repair of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

Our AGM was held on March 3, when our committee discussed future activities such as the first of our biannual socials scheduled for May.

Please feel free to come to our Registration Day, where you can meet some of our tutors and discuss current classes and activities and perhaps even suggest some new ones.

Contact John Lanphier, President - U3A Wallan Inc on 0413 083 089 for more information.

That's all for now, till next time, Bye, John Lanphier







Hello! Welcome to Autumn! With cooler days afoot it's time to try something new!

### **Register for Whittlesea Township Fresh Food Co-Op**

Yes folks you heard correctly! We are setting up a fresh food co-op in Whittlesea and you are invited to join! Membership will be charged annually and a box of fresh, locally produced goodies (in 2 sizes - full or half box) will be yours for a weekly fee! Members will also be eligible for free workshops, local discounts and more! Register today for updates and information email [karenm@whittleseach.com.au](mailto:karenm@whittleseach.com.au) or call the office 9716 3361.

### **Visy Recycling**

It might be getting cooler but it's still 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> March 11.30am – 1pm Gold Coin Donation

### **Blacksmithing for Beginners Workshop**

The boys are back with another beginners workshop. Come and have a go (bring your muscles – swinging a hammer for 4 hours is tiring)!

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 9.00am – 1.00pm \$115.00 per person.

### **Machining for Beginners**

This is the perfect course for the handyperson, hobbyist or tradie!

Tuesdays for 7 weeks from 29<sup>th</sup> April 6.00pm – 9.00pm \$290 per person

### **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

### **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, routes and bookings or head online to book [www.wchi.com.au](http://www.wchi.com.au)

### **Fix It Friday – 28<sup>th</sup> March**

Fix it Friday continues in 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! We will even get you a Barista made coffee if you have to wait! 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, After Hours Mental Health Nurse, 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.

# Kilmore Golf Club Inc.

The March Monthly Medal was won by Mario Maddalena who also won the January Monthly Medal in a play off from 4 others. A good start for the year for Mario. As mentioned previously Jill Banon won the February Monthly Medal and the Pat Johnstone Memorial Trophy.



Due to the unprecedented damage on a number of greens by corellas our Par 3 day has been rescheduled until Sunday Sept 21<sup>st</sup> 2025 and likewise the Men's Kilmore Cup. All Pennant matches rostered at Kilmore will be held at other venues for this year.

The committee thank all golf players for being patient and understanding about the corella problem. There have been huge flocks descending on the green's morning and night and non-lethal devices are being used in an effort to move them on.

There will be two pennant teams playing Sundays and two Midweek. Both competitions are due to start in a couple of weeks. Competitions within the DDGA district has commenced with a team heading to Alexandra, two teams to Hidden Valley and a team will be heading to Kyneton for the Irish Stableford event.

## New fixtures

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

Sunday: Social Golf.

All events are listed on our Website.



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

Written by Michael Halley  
- Publicity Officer

The Annual General Meeting of the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea was held on Monday 3 March 2025 at the Whittlesea Bowls Club.

The final official function of the 2024 President Cheryl Manicolo was to induct Jeanette Caffryn who had been waiting for her appointment for several months, but third party technical faults had caused the delay.

President Cheryl Manicolo then stood down and Sue Sims a past President took the chair and formally inducted Greg Eddy as the 2025 President. Greg took the oath of office and proudly showed off the official chain of command.

The nominees for executive positions were unopposed by the assembled members and their appointments were confirmed after they jointly took the oath of office.

## 2025 Committee

- ◆ **President Greg Eddy**
- ◆ **Vice-President Marje Gillson**
- ◆ **Secretary Mary Wood**
- ◆ **Treasurer Cheryl Manicolo**
- ◆ **Meet and Greet Beryl Lucas**
- ◆ **Dining out Marje Gillson**
- ◆ **Long tours Stewart Dickinson**
- ◆ **Day Trips Alessandra Testa**
- ◆ **Welfare and Membership Glenda Vincent**
- ◆ **Hospitality Kaylene McKay**
- ◆ **Speakers Teresa Carlin**
- ◆ **Assistant Hospitality Therese Hirschi**
- ◆ **Newsletter Elaine Eddy**
- ◆ **Deliver Newsletters Roma Harris**
- ◆ **Publicity Michael Halley**



The first meeting under President Greg's command will be on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> of March when Captain Jorgen Berg will tell members about his Antarctic experience as part of Denmark's involvement.

# Darraweit Guim Primary School News



## POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

	RESPECT	RESPONSIBILITY	CARING
<b>ALWAYS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are inclusive.</li> <li>We ask permission to use other's items.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We keep our bodies to ourselves.</li> <li>We place rubbish in the bin.</li> <li>We use equipment for its intended purpose.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We share.</li> <li>We use our manners and kind words.</li> </ul>
<b>INSIDE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We use an appropriate voice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We seek permission to leave the room.</li> <li>We walk.</li> <li>We follow classroom expectations.</li> </ul>	
<b>OUTSIDE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We sit at the tables.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We determine and play by the rules.</li> <li>We play appropriate games.</li> <li>We stay in bounds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We leave nature in nature.</li> </ul>



We welcomed back our wonderful families and introduced our newbies, all looking relaxed and refreshed, ready to face a new school year.

We are growing!! We started this year with an enrolment of 50 amazing young people, all with their own uniqueness. We look forward to watching them develop both academically and socially.

Alongside our core subjects we offer our students AUSLAN, Kitchen-Garden, STEM, Art, P.E. and Music.



Our school leaders run our assemblies on Friday afternoons, where we share exemplary student work and recognise our students who demonstrate our school values of Responsibility, Respect & Caring.

### 2025 & 2026 ENROLMENTS

We are taking enrolments for 2025 and conducting tours for prospective students for 2026.



We would love you to come along and see what we do.  
Please contact me, Carol Booker - Principal, on 5789 1234 to arrange a personal tour

## 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

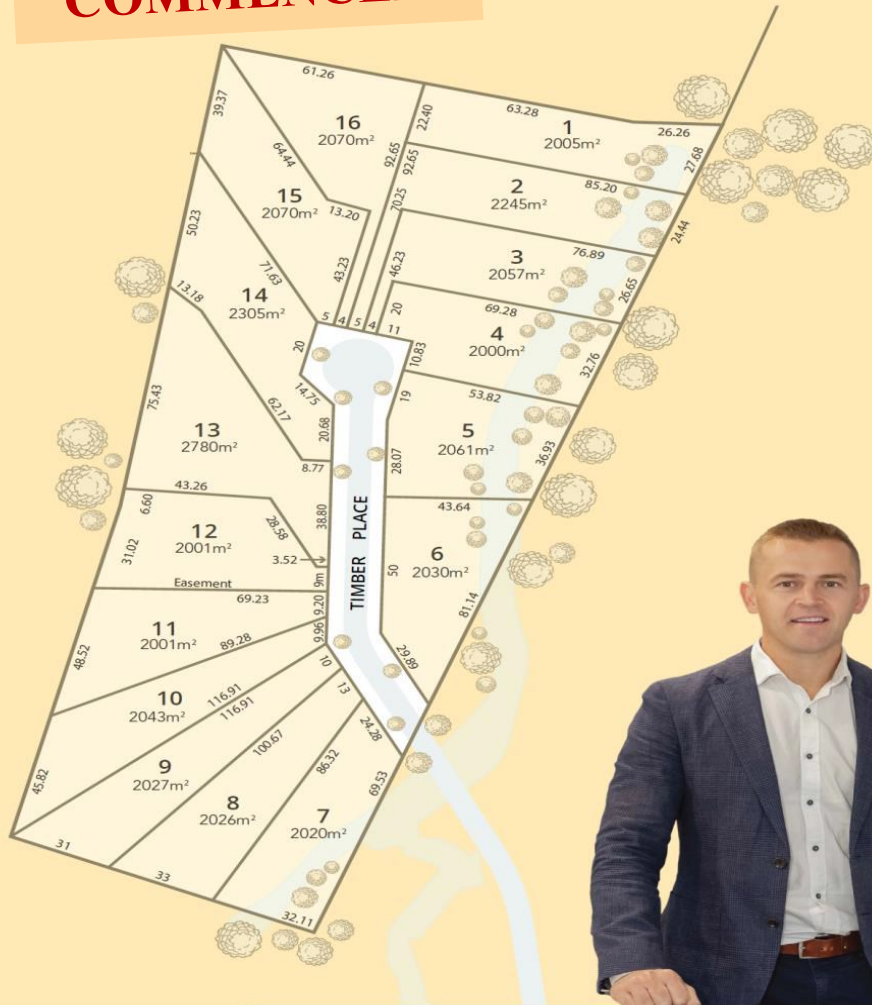


# THORSEN

## Timber place

— H A L F A C R E S —

**CONSTRUCTION  
COMMENCED**



**From \$495,000**

Contact - Ashley Thorsen 0433 311 100

Sandy Hart 0425 855 040

**THORSEN**

Shop 5 /11-13 Sydney Street, Kilmore