



ISSUE 351 WANDONG/HEATHCOTE JUNCTION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER : SEPTEMBER 2025 ABN 17 022 858 565

Email—whatsnewswhj@gmail.com 700 copies

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

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WANDONG WARRIORS UNDER 12 PREMIERS

On Sunday 7th September at Kings Park, Seymour the 2025 Shepparton Toyota Goulburn Murray Juniors Under 12s Southern Premiership was decided.

Congratulations to our Wandong Junior Football Club who won 8.3.51 against Broadford Junior Football Netball Club 2.2.14.

Best Players Wandong Warriors: Mack Thomas, Jirraky Hobba, Mason Sawyer, Kevin Zugaro, Travis Dawson, and Owen Stewart.

Goal Kickers Wandong Warriors: Mack Thomas (4), Mason Sawyer (1), Owen Stewart (1), Jackson Kilroy (1), and Declan Butterworth (1).

Best Players Broadford Roo's: Michael Stevenson, Seth Hooper, Taylor Currell, Eli Caldwell, and Bryce Robinson.

Goal Kickers Broadford Roo's: Hamilton Caldwell (1) & Seth Hooper (1).

Message from the President,
Sean O'Connell WJFC

What a game to remember! Our Under 12s left it all out on the field today and showed exactly what it means to play with courage, team-work, and heart. From the first bounce to the final siren, they fought for every contest, backed each other up, and never gave in.

This incredible group has worked so hard all season, and to see them crowned Premiers 2025 is a moment they—and all of us—will never forget.

Congratulations to every player, coach, and supporter who made this journey possible. A true team effort and a memory that will last a lifetime!



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

Wandong - Heathcote Junction - why would you live anywhere else. Until October 2025, Allen Hall (editor)
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'COME TO BEAR'S CASTLE!

NEXT TOURS: SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER 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:



NEW ROSE ARBOUR FOR THE WANDONG MEMORIAL PARK

The Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group has been busy again. On 20 August it finalised another project when a rose arbour was erected at the entrance to the Wandong Bushfire / War Memorial Park and the Wandong rose garden.

The arbour was first proposed by Mr Vivian Kenney. The design as agreed by the Community Group and Mitchell Shire was drafted by Carolyn Van der Ree and Daniel Kelly with Darcy of One Off Engineering, Kilmore were given the task of building and installing the arbour. A huge thanks to Diana and Graham Sargeant of Silkies Rose Farm for donating another fifty roses for the rose garden and this is in addition to the hundreds of roses initially donated when the Bushfire Park was built.

The cost of the project was sizeable for the Community Group and would not have been possible had it not had the support of Bunnings Craieburn sausage sizzles.



What's Happening

WANDONG OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE



Service Phone Number:

0497 877 771

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

How to Enrol

Visit TheirCare website: www.theircare.com.au and click on 'Book Now' in the top right hand corner to register your child's details.

Operation Times

Before School Care 6:30am – 8:45am

After School Care 3:30pm – 6:30pm

Pupil Free Day 6:30am – 6:30pm

Holiday Program 6:30am – 6:30pm

ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

20 Oct Mark & Chris Page C
29 Oct Peter & Rochelle Gough HJ
1 Nov Darren & Jodie McLennan 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

www.upperplenty.com

Mitchell Bushwalking Group

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

Please contact:

Mary 0428 479 469
or Wayne 0451 519 734

or email

mitchellwalksgroup@gmail.com

for more information

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

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



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

We wish the following
people a very happy
birthday

17 Sep	Kristian Weller	K
17 Sep	Nicole Burns	HJ
18 Sep	Robyn Beer	K
19 Sep	Caleb Walsh	HJ
21 Sep	Lisa Dennehy	HJ
21 Sep	Joel Lotherington	K
21 Sep	Joanne Brown	HJ
22 Sep	Lucy King	Wallan
23 Sep	Adrian King	K
23 Sep	Ray Candy	W
24 Sep	Aaron Thomas	B
25 Sep	Ann Marie Hogan	W
25 Sep	Emily Page	WP
25 Sep	Corey Stone	HJ
27 Sep	Marj Knight	W
28 Sep	Joelie Coter	W
30 Sep	Tye Duncan	HJ
1 Oct	James Dods	W
2 Oct	Frank Amoroso	HJ
3 Oct	Bette Sartore	W
3 Oct	Joshua Stone	HJ
6 Oct	Francesco Amoroso	HJ
6 Oct	Emelia Amoroso	HJ
8 Oct	John Simpson	HJ
8 Oct	Draga Kovacic	WP
9 Oct	Geoff Symons	HJ
9 Oct	Kerry Bellomo	HJ
9 Oct	Kate George	W
9 Oct	Steven Belfiore	HJ
10 Oct	Daniel Bellomo	HJ
11 Oct	Owen Philp	OG
11 Oct	Karen Telfer	W
11 Oct	Luke Smith	HJ
11 Oct	Anne Humphries	W
12 Oct	Emily McCarthy	HJ
12 Oct	Taylor Austin	HJ
12 Oct	Brandon Austin	HJ
12 Oct	Dylan Stone	HJ
13 Oct	Liz Symons	HJ
13 Oct	Thomas Gough	HJ
13 Oct	Dylan Cole	B
14 Oct	Abigail Delaney	W
14 Oct	Jenny Philp	OG
18 Oct	Jim Robson	W

Mitchell

Photography Club Inc

Visit our website

(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.



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how they like it!*

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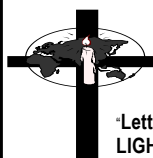
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5787 1911



LOCAL CHURCH NEWS



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

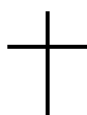
*Letting the
LIGHT Shine*

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

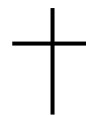
**Enquiries to:
David Moran 5787 1738**

ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, WANDONG

WANDONG AVE, WANDONG
Enquires 9308 2452



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



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
And website:**

[Http://www.upmclg.org.au](http://www.upmclg.org.au)

Membership enquiries:

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 book-
ings call Susan or Wayne on 0499 907 017
If not answered leave your name and number
and we will return the call.**

C'mon 'fess up!

It's confession time! Over the past few issues, I have been thoughtless and ignorant quoting Bible references to emphasize various points in my discussions. I assumed that Bibles would be front and centre of every bookshelf and library.

To rectify what may be a problem I have decided to offer free Bibles to any who wants to read up on passages of interest.

All you need to do to get a Bible delivered (no steak knives) just write to Box 379 Wallan 3756 and I will post out or deliver a Bible to your address. There will be no more correspondence with you unless requested.

While we are on the subject of confession let's have a look at what the Bible has to say about the subject. Somewhere the Bible says if we confess our wrongdoings, either it be in our thoughts, actions, plans, or designs, God will forgive our sins and separate them as far as the east is from the west (you can't ask for anything better than that.) Actually, the reference is found in Psalm chapter 103 verse 12. However, try to make time to read the whole chapter it's got some ripper insights, directions and word pictures of our loving, caring and forgiving God.

Furthermore, in Romans in the New Testament, we read that If God is for us who then can be against us, and it goes on to list an assortment of situations that cover most eventualities. This may not be directly connected with confession but is very helpful, powerful and strengthening in all our endeavors. I just came across the verse in Romans; it's chapter 8 verse 31.

Actually, if you look up Romans in the later part of the Bible, give yourself plenty of time because it is captivating to read what Paul is saying to the Roman church. Keep in mind that the Gospels and a majority of the New Testament was written by people who knew Jesus or in some cases were close mates and took notes of what they saw personally. (Could have followed the same footy team as Jesus)

There's a saying that confession is good for the soul, there is probably more to this than we mean when we flippantly use this expression, in the Bible there is a powerful verse that states in no uncertain terms that if we confess (there's that word again) our failings, our thoughtlessness and our rejection of His commandments He is faithful and can be trusted to forgive us our sins and to purify us, and to follow another well-known Bible passage in John 3.16. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that those who believe in Him will not perish but have everlasting life. WOW!

The Bible may appear at first sight to be not very inspiring in the opening chapters. (Keep in mind that this would be the Bible that Jesus used and quoted from.) Contained in the Old Testament are prophecies that have astounded, mystified and confounded many academics over the years. Foretelling, sometimes in minute detail, events that eventually took place to the surprise of the people of the time.

The New Testament is more the fulfilment of many of these early writings and the firsthand accounts of the events of the day. To search through the Bible first up, the New Testament may appear to be easier to follow, and maybe later, refer back to the older books for guidance, amazing prophesy, reference and earlier history.

A.G.

P.S. Don't forget Box 379. Wallan. Bibles but no steak knives!

Whittlesea Anglican Church

Serving Whittlesea, Upper Plenty.
& surrounding areas

Christ Church: 9 Wallan Road, Whittlesea.

Web Site: www.christchurchwhittlesea.org

Weddings/Baptisms by appointment

Sunday Services: 10.15am. Incl kids program

Services to the Community:

Whittlesea Opportunity Shop 7 Laurel St

9716 3144 Open M-F 10-4 Sat 9.30-12.30

Christ Church Craft Group

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

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Pastor Frantz Heinzelmann

Mobile: 0411 794 188

www.freedomcarechurch.org.au

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**ENQUIRIES AND
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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 in-house 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



**Anyone wishing to join
Kilmore District Mens Shed
Should contact**

**John Perrett 0418 288 024 or
Ron Hamilton 0481 268 471**

**Operating hours are
Tuesday and Thursday
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email: Kilmoremensshed@gmail.com

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Caladenia Nursing Home Website:

www.kilmoredistricthospital.org.au



GARDEN SCENE WITH GAIL

September, our first month of Spring and if the weather forecast is correct, we're due for a wet one. So, let's make the most of the moist conditions. If you haven't prepared the area around your plants to hold moisture, try to get it done now. Apply a wetting agent, lightly work in well-rotted cow manure and follow up with mulch. If the plants are on an incline you may need to build a 'dam' wall on the lower side acting as a catchment to hold any moisture giving it a chance to soak in before it runs off. Start fertilising your garden now if you haven't done so already, a pelletised type is good and can be applied every two months, it may take a couple of weeks to become active in the soil. If you are fertilising plants currently in flower, use a liquid fertiliser to get working straight away. Remember the bulbs, using a liquid fertiliser so they can readily take it into the bulb itself ready for next year's flowers. As Daphnes finish flowering you can take cuttings from them or peg layer to eventually grow a new plant that can be cut off from the main plant after a few months, once it shows new shoots. September is a lovely month as blossom appears on many plants, fruit trees will start to blossom in preparation for their work to produce a variety of fruit for us to enjoy. Ensure they are kept well-watered and fertilised to help them along and don't forget roses, they work hard as well producing many blooms from Spring right through to Autumn and if you prefer you can use a fertiliser specifically for roses. As you can for Citrus, Camilleas, natives, veggies and various other plants. If you have been thinking of adding a plant to your garden that is famous for its blossom, and now is the time to search for your favoured plant, consider Red Bud, various types will reward you with beautiful displays. Check out the Ornamental Pears as well, you can get them in a spreading form, all the way to a narrow grower that is used considerably in small spaces. Any plants that may have finished flowering can be pruned back and indeed prune hedges, topiary, etc before the heat of Summer kicks in. Try to maintain moisture levels in your soil at this time of the year with deep waterings if you need it, because if we have a dry Spring and soil becomes hydro-phobic it's an uphill battle to get it back to being super absorbent. Dry soil can resist moisture and allows it to flow away from the root system instead of soaking in around the plant and some plants, especially natives will not cope with extreme soil conditions. Keep in mind plants such as Kangaroo Paw, Agonis, some Grevilleas and various other natives, come from Western Australia where the soil is sand based, free flowing and they can be unfamiliar with



extreme changes in soil, temperate and rainfall. This is also a good time of the year to check out your hanging baskets and potted plants, top dress / replant any that are looking tired because good quality fresh potting mix will give them a new lease of life ready for Summer and they will have the ability to withstand varying temperatures a bit easier. Remember to line the inside of Terracotta pots with newspaper or cardboard before filling with potting mix to slow moisture loss through the pot. September is a great month to get heavy work done in the garden before the days heat up, such as paving and pathways and don't forget irrigation installation, fantastic for saving time.

Have a fantastic September,
Gail Mains Kendrick (Your Local Real Estate Agent)



WANDONG TENNIS CLUB

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

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



Our spring tennis season on a Tuesday and Thursday night has had a very wet start to the season.

Our junior section 2 made the semi finals but was beaten by a better team on the day. Well done boys.

Our Saturday senior team has made the grand final to be played at Seymour on Saturday 20th September. Good luck

Our Saturday summer season for both juniors and seniors will commence early October.

Coaching is available at the club

Please contact Karl on 0423 611 317 or kv.tennis@hotmail.com



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WANDONG HISTORY GROUP

In previous months I have outlined that there has been a problem with Mitchell Shire and our ANZAC Day service. It appears that the issue has been resolved although I am waiting for official confirmation from the shire. Let's hope no other group has to go through the stress we did in getting what should have been a simple issue resolved.

In an effort to help promote our town we recently applied for a grant to produce two short history documentaries on Wandong. We have just found out we were not successful with our application so will look to see if we can find another way to fund this.

We think this will be a great way for visitors and locals to learn about our history and the films will be on You Tube to reach the biggest possible audience. We will keep trying for grants to fund this project as we really want it to happen.

We were recently donated a commemorative port bottle from the country music festivals tenth anniversary, the bottle has made its way from Perth to us via Courtney Yates who picked the bottle up for us while on holiday, we really appreciate her help in getting it back to us.

We have also had a donation of a milk bottle from Number 2 Camp at MT Disappointment and thank Trevor Vienet for facilitating that donation.

Our AGM will be held on the 21st October at St Michaels church at 1.00pm all are welcome to attend.

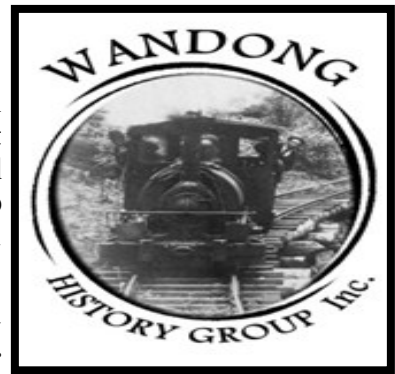
Karen Christensen

President

Wandong History Group

wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com

<https://wandongheathcotejunctionhistory.com.au>



WANDONG PUBLIC HALL

The Wandong Public Hall built in 1902 is a very special place in our community. It has hosted many weddings, engagements, 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 - 3rd Wednesday of the month Ph Louise 0409512526 contact [@ehssol.com](mailto:ehssol.com)

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.



Traffic changes and utility works

Wandong

1 to 30 September 2025

**JOHN
HOLLAND**

John Holland will undertake road realignment and utility relocation works in Wandong in preparation for the construction of the new bridge. These works require temporary long-term traffic management.

Work being done

- Installation of concrete barriers along Broadford-Wandong Road
- Construction of temporary access road parallel to Broadford-Wandong Road
- Construction of piling pads, and drainage works
- Roadworks to raise Epping-Kilmore Road
- Removal of redundant aerial cables and poles
- Service investigations, surveys and utility relocation
- Approved vegetation removal.

What can I expect?

- Works 7am-6pm Monday to Friday and 7am-1pm Saturdays
- Works 7am-6pm on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 September during 60-hour rail possession
- Temporary long-term shuttle flow and traffic management on Epping-Kilmore Road and Broadford-Wandong Road
- Traffic management and reduced road speeds
- Nearby residents may experience some noise and vibration.

Machinery used

Non-destructive digging truck, small truck mounted drill rigs, excavators, asphalt paver, tree grinder, mobile crane, grader, workers using hand tools, survey equipment and traffic management equipment.

How we're managing impacts

- Traffic management and reduced road speeds
- Access will be maintained to all properties

- Environmental controls will be in place
- An arborist and qualified wildlife handler will assess all trees before removal.

Cancellation or extension of works

Works can sometimes take longer than anticipated or be cancelled at short notice and rescheduled. Should this occur impacted residents will be notified.

For any concerns phone 1800 732 761 or email inlandrailvic@inlandrail.com.au

Thank you for your patience and cooperation while we carry out these works.

☎ 1800 732 761 @ inlandrailvic@inlandrail.com.au

✉ PO Box 217, Collins Street West, VIC 8007



Please call our free translation and interpreter service on 131 450 (24 hours a day) if English is your second language and you need help reading this document

**INLAND
RAIL**



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

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL B HALLEY
PUBLICITY OFFICER

On a wing and a prayer

The Melbourne Pigeon Society Inc. (MPS) is one of the oldest pigeon clubs in Australia [established in Victoria in 1913]. It was founded to encourage the breeding and exhibiting of all varieties of pigeons and to foster friendliness and good fellowship between fellow members and other breeders.

Mark Tung the current President of MPS gave of his time to visit the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea Inc. and give members a comprehensive overview of pigeons (Racing & Fancy) and the various activities of owners and club members. Mark is dedicated to the objectives of the Club and is renowned judge at the five annual shows. The most recent was the 37th Australian National Pigeon Society [ANPA] National Show, held at the new showgrounds in Ballarat from July 18 to July 20, 2025

He took up the pigeon hobby at 12 years old in the footsteps of his Grandfather and four years later became an individual racer at the age of 16. He has been involved with racing pigeons ever since, which started with the Western Pigeon Federation [WPF], which Mark is a Life Member and now for the last 15 years has been competing in the Victorian Homing Association [VHA] Established 1900 and is currently serving the position of Vice President, in its pinnacle the VHA had a membership of 600 members. The membership has now evolved into four separate organisations and the total membership has lessened, but is still vibrant.

Pigeons are born with an instinct to return to their home loft, but scientists believe it's more than just instinct. They seem to have a natural toolkit for finding their way. One major theory is that they can sense the Earth's magnetic field. It's thought that pigeons have tiny magnetic sensors in their beaks or brains that help them detect direction, almost like they have a compass built into their bodies.

To be a pigeon owner needs much dedication and self-discipline. Mark had been on his feet since before daylight, not only looking after his pigeons but also another passion of Greyhound racing. Pigeon lofts need to be cleaned twice a day and each day their diet varies. The training is a long-term commitment commencing with short "return home" practices which are extended until a competitive long distance is attempted.

Even with all these natural abilities, racing pigeons don't just wake up one day ready to fly hundreds of miles. They need practice. Owners usually start by letting them fly short distances, gradually building up to longer flights. This training helps the birds become familiar with different routes and conditions. The connection to their loft also plays a huge part. It's not just where they sleep – it's where they feel safe. The bond they form with their home gives them a strong reason to return.

The racing pigeon originated in Belgium and spread through England and Europe and then to the new world. But in recent times the westernised China has more or less taken control of premium breeding stock and prices as high as 1.8 million Euro[AUD \$3,218,580.00] attained for a female bird. Aggravating the situation is quarantine regulations. Up until three years ago Australian breeders were major importers of desired blood lines, but the avian flu outbreak meant a cessation and continuing constraints.

We learnt about the manner in which competitions are conducted and the distances that some routes cover. The VHA start races as far away as Berri in South Australia [530km], and Tasmania [640 km]. There is an Alice Springs to Adelaide event organised in South Australia.

Many slides showing the multitude of Pigeons that exist were shown. Including two Australian breeds the Australian Saddleback Tremblers and the Australian Performing Tumblers originating in 1860 but not recognised as a breed until the early 20th century.

Speciality follows exotic breeding and this is true with pigeons. Two Australian Veterinarians are world renowned. One mentioned was Dr Colin Walker OAM. Dr Walker has raced pigeons since 1969 and has won numerous racing events, He also breeds and shows exhibition pigeons and has had numerous national champions.

In 2000, he was inducted into the Victorian Homing Association (VHA) Hall of Fame for "For his contribution to the Association over a long period of time as Honorary Veterinarian. Further his contribution to the sport in general by removing myth and replacing it with proper health procedures and practices."

Time was on the wing [pun intended] and Mark was only able to gloss over the involvement of pigeons in World Wars. The Australian War Memorial [Pigeons in War](#) [Australian War Memorial](#) has magnificent detail of pigeons in wartime. Pigeons have also been awarded Dickin Medals the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross.

Mr Tung was presented with a small token of appreciation and resounding applause from the attentive audience.

The tenants of Probus are Fun and Friendship in Retirement. Make new friends, listen to interesting guest speakers, learn a new skill, and explore new interests and hobbies. Contact whittleseaprobust@hotmail.com or phone 0427 021 592

Photo: Mark Tung and Michael Halley VP of Probus





Neighbourhood Watch

September 2025

Column

SOUTH MITCHELL



Electric Powered Bikes

E-bikes have become a popular mode of transport, but what are the regulations, safety measures and penalties if you breach the rules.

Electric bikes (e-bikes) have become a popular mode of transport in Victoria, offering a convenient, eco-friendly way to travel around our shire. However, to ensure safety of riders and others on the road, it's important to understand the legal requirements and best practices associated with riding e-bike use in Victoria.

Legal Use of E-Bikes in Victoria

In Victoria, e-bikes are classified as bicycles with an electric motor that assist pedaling. The laws distinguish between different types of e-bikes based on their motor power and speed capabilities:

- **Pedelecs (pedal assist e-bikes)** are the most common type, where the motor activities only when you pedal, and assistance cuts out at 25 km/h.
- **Throttle e-bikes** are bikes which can be powered solely by a throttle without pedaling, but in Victoria, their use is more restricted and often classified separately.

Legal Requirements for E-Bikes In Victoria

Victoria has the following legal requirements:

- **Motor power & speed limits:** the e-bike must have a maximum motor power of 250 watts. The motor assistance must cut out when the bike reaches 25km/h.
- **Registration & licensing:** e-bikes that meet the above criteria are classified as bicycles and do not require registration, or licensing. Throttle e-bikes require registration, a license and must follow road rules.

- **Helmet laws:** helmets are mandatory for all e-bike riders
- **Age restrictions:** riders must be at **least 12 years** old to operate a pedelec e-bike, throttle e-bike riders need to be at **least 18 years** old to be licensed.
- **Paths and road use:** pedelec e-bikes can be ridden on shared paths, bike lanes and roads designated for bicycles.

Safety Advice for E-Bike Riders

Riders can significantly reduce the risk of injury by following these safety tips:

- **Wear a Helmet:** Helmets are mandatory
- **Be Aware of Surroundings:** Watch out for pedestrians, vehicles, cyclists, and road hazards.
- **Observe Traffic Rules:** Obey road signs, signals, and lane markings.
- **Keep Speed in Check:** avoid riding at speeds that increase risk, particularly in crowded environments.
- **Be visible:** wear bright clothing.
- **Use Lights:** At night or in low visibility conditions, ensure your e-bike has functioning front and rear lights.
- **Avoid Distractions:** Do not use mobile phones or headphones while riding.
- **Maintain Your E-Bike:** Regularly check brakes, tyres, lights and battery health to ensure it's in good working condition.

Penalties for Breaching E-Bike Rules

Victoria Police enforce these regulations strictly. Penalties for violating e-bike laws can include fines for riding an unregistered e-bike, demerit points or criminal charges such as reckless riding. For more information, refer to police.vic.gov.au.

Upcoming Events

South Mitchell NHW Annual General Meeting

South Mitchell is holding their Annual General Meeting on 11 September, 2025, 7pm at the Wandong Community Centre, LB Davern Reserve, Dry Creek Road, Wandong.

All positions are declared vacant and everyone is welcome!

Kilmore SES Open Boot Sale, Sat. 20 Sep. 2025

South Mitchell NHW is joining forces with Kilmore SES and running a BBQ and safe plate day at the SES Open Boot Sale on Saturday 20 September, from 8.30am to 1.30pm.

Hotlines:

000

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131 444

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Online Reporting: 1800 333 000 Crime Stoppers

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



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Let's watch out for each other

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

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Find the Flora!!!

A Challenge for our Locals..

Perhaps a big draw to live in Heathcote Junction/Wandong is our wonderful bush environment. It can be easy to take our forest for granted, after all there seems to be so many trees we can forget how each and every one can be special.

For anyone who loves the bush, then here is a **Challenge** Find the flora pictured - All of these plants are located around the streets or thru parkways in our area.

Look around when you are taking the kids to school or perhaps when walking the dog. You might spot some of these gems or perhaps just to pause and admire the terrific native plants we live with.....



2. Bet this tree hears gossip from the workers on breaks at the bridge work site.



Have
added hints to
help you track
these trees

by...Theresa Hugger
Flora locations
published next issue

1. Located down an Avenue - I imagine the owners of this fairly new home are very proud of this growing in their front garden....



3. Have parked under this tree whenever I've gone down for voting....!



4. Street trees can be an architectural delight, imagine how cool these will look like in 10 years. Hint: The founder of scouting would be very pleased...!



5. Our region is currently awash with yellow wattles. This is one of many that catches my eye when I drive down to the railway station...

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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



WATER MATTERS

Join us for National Water Week: 20-26 October 2025

National Water Week 2025 is a vibrant celebration of water, and we are proud to lead the way in engaging communities to understand its importance. Through a series of creative, hands-on events, we want to continue to help people value, understand, and use water wisely.



Free event - Let's Grow: Waterwise Gardens

This year's main event, **Let's Grow: Waterwise Gardens**, will be held on Wednesday 22 October, starting at 7pm at Eastbank in Shepparton. Landscape architect Louise Costa and native plant expert Cathy Olive will inspire residents to transform their yards into beautiful, waterwise outdoor spaces.

Book your seat early to attend the seminar in person and collect a free waterwise garden pack on the night, including our new gardening handbook. The seminar will also be livestreamed for anyone who can't make it to the event in person.

23 October: Register to join and support this year's **Water Night** challenge.

Join us in the national challenge to turn off all non-essential taps for five hours. Supported by Costa Georgiadis, Water Night reached over 4.2 million people in 2024. This year, we're inviting people to nominate their school, club or business to be recognised and celebrated for leading community waterwise action.



Find out more and register:
waternight.com.au



Scan to find out more and
book your seat, or visit:
riverlinksvenues.com.au

School kids take part in competition to design a toilet paper wrap.

We're engaging thousands of students to create a design for the wrap around toilet paper rolls. This year's competition reinforces 'Don't Flush It' and the 3Ps (what to flush) - pee, poo and paper, sparking creativity and awareness of wastewater processes. Winning designs will be shared across GWV platforms.

Every Drop Counts - Let's work together to save water.

We all need to take action to protect precious water supplies right across the region as we move into spring and summer.

Using water wisely not only help us maintain drinking water supply, it helps the environment and can also save you money.

You'll find tips for your home and garden, a water use calculator, and reminders about **Permanent Water Saving Rules**, which apply all year round.

Visit our Save Water webpage to help you understand your water use and find practical ways to reduce it.



Scan for tips to save drips, or visit:
gvwater.vic.gov.au/save-water



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24/7 Faults & Emergencies: 1800 454 500

Email: mail@gvwater.vic.gov.au



>>> CRAIGIEBURN COMP

In our second season as part of the Craigieburn Indoor Competition we entered 3 amazing teams.

Under 9s who played an incredibly strong game all season long, Under 11s and U13s who both made it all the way to the Grand Final! The U11 Grand Final was as close as could be. All players put in 100% effort and went down by just 1 goal in the dying seconds of the match. Maggie's Mighty 10 to Wandong Stars 9.

The U13s started strong and played consistent team focused netball. Dreamtime was just too strong on day, with the final scores 22 to 15. Congratulations to both teams on your commendable efforts. Congratulations to our Best and Fairest Winners - well deserved :)

U13 BEST & FAIREST - Abby Welch

U13 BEST & FAIREST RUNNER UP- Annabelle Robertson

>>> UNDER 9 ROUND ROBIN

On Saturday 23rd August, our U9 Wandong netballers took part in an incredible Round Robin carnival hosted by the Seymour Netball Club. A huge thank you to Seymour for putting on such a well-organised and fun day 🙌. We'd also like to give a massive shoutout to Val and Sage, our wonderful umpires, who dedicated their entire day to making sure every game ran smoothly – thank you for your time, effort, and support ❤️.

Both our Wandong U9 White and U9 Green teams were outstanding. The spirit, energy, enthusiasm, and teamwork shown by every player was amazing to watch. Our coaches Abby and Michelle, and team managers Sarah and Court, deserve big praise too – keeping the kids organised, moving between courts, and staying focused all day long was no small task. You were fantastic!

>>> WINTER COMPETITION

Another impressive season across all age groups this year. We are beyond proud of how our players have grown in confidence, skill, and teamwork — always playing with integrity, respect, and heart. The smiles on court every Saturday have been priceless, and a reminder of what makes this club so special.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to our incredible parents for your constant support, cheering, and sideline encouragement. To our amazing Coaches and Team Managers - thank you for the countless hours you've dedicated to helping our players learn, improve, and achieve their goals.

>>> WINTER COMP FINALS

We are thrilled to announce that for the first time in history (that we can recall) ALL KBNA finals divisions will be filled by **WANDONG TEAMS!!!**

Best of luck to **Under 11 White**, **Under 13 White** and **Under 15 White** who will play in the **GRAND FINAL** on Saturday the 13th of September! Join us at Seymour courts from 10am to cheer on the teams. Lets Go Wandong!



WANDONG NETBALL CLUB





Our Town's Football Club

The Warriors have done it again! Back to Back premiers in the Under 12's. Wandong came out firing in terrible conditions against Broadford who had had their measure all year. Wandong 8.3.51 def Broadford 2.2.14 For a full wrap of the game checkout our facebook page.



Wandong Warriors 2025 SPONSORS



Wandong Junior Football Club

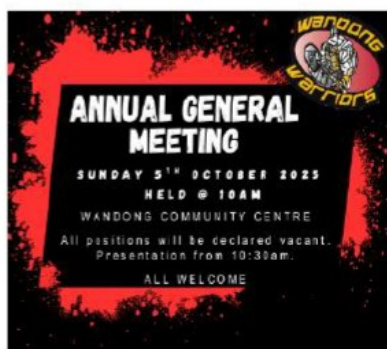
We would like to thank our sponsors; without their generosity our club would not exist.



Our Town's Football Club

Exciting week coming up with our Under 12s blasting their way into the grandfinal with a convincing win over Seymour in the Elimination final. The Warriors will take on Broadford on 7th of September at Kings Park in Seymour. Our Under10s will also compete in a Lightning Premiership Round Robin on the same day which is a great experience for our younger Warriors.

Although our 14s and 16s missed narrowly missed finals the season has been a success with connection and participation rates sky high. GO WARRIORS!



The Warriors putting the pressure on Seymour in the Elimination final. The football was hot all day just how finals football should be.

The Banner makers have been busy this month with 50 game celebrations almost every week.

A huge congratulations to Lachlan Calleja, Mason Sanderson, Lincoln Lieper and Thomas Lynn from the Under12s. Congratulations to Logan O'Connell from the Under10s. Huge achievement boys well done. Go Warriors!





Welcome to our August 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, or if you would like clarification around any aspect of our operations. Please reach out to us on the details on the next page.

Exploration update

Southern Cross Gold Consolidated (SXGC) has continued its exploration efforts with activities aimed at better understanding the local geology.

A key part of this work is our diamond drilling program, which is currently operating nine drill rigs on site. These rigs collect core samples from deep underground, providing important insights into the mineral potential of the area.

SXGC has invested in additional noise suppression measures including locally engineered acoustic panels. These panels will be installed around drill sites closest to residences to create a consistent sound buffer and reduce any impact from drilling operations.

In addition to drilling, the team will be collecting soil samples in spring to analyse surface materials.

Retention Licence RL006040, which expired in July, has been successfully renewed. SXGC submitted the renewal application to Resources Victoria before the expiry date, and it was approved in August for a further four years. Under the Mineral Resources Development Act, the licence continues while a renewal application is being assessed until a decision is made.

Exploration tunnel update

SXGC has formally submitted its application to the resources regulator to construct an exploration tunnel. The submission includes the relocation of the basement rock stockpile to avoid a recently identified cultural heritage zone. This adjustment moves the stockpile to the south, further reducing the potential for impact on nearby residents.

The application will be assessed by Resources Victoria, part of the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA). It will also be assessed by other government agencies including the EPA, Goulburn Murray Water and other environmental departments within DEECA.

We are committed to ensuring information and updates are regularly provided to our community on the tunnel's progress. We'll be sharing updates:

- On our Facebook and Instagram accounts.
- Via our community website.
- Over monthly emails. Please email community@southerncrossgold.com.au to be added to this new opt-in service.
- Via WhatsNews, Wandong's community newsletter.

Calling all local businesses

Are you a local business that would like to work with us? Our local first policy means we're always looking to work with local businesses. Register your services at southerncrossgoldcommunity.com.au/suppliers and we'll be in touch as opportunities arise.

Upper Plenty Merri Catchments Landcare Group



Building Homes for Wildlife: Landcare Workshop Constructs Nest Boxes

Members of the Upper Plenty Merri Catchments Landcare Group (UPMCLG), together with local residents and conservation enthusiasts, came together at local property Walwa Park for a hands on workshop to build nest boxes for native wildlife.

Led by the local Landcare Coordinator Chris Cobern, participants learnt practical skills in constructing sturdy, safe boxes designed to provide much needed shelter for ringtail possums, Brush tailed Phascogales Krefts (sugar) gliders and a range of bird species. These small, tree dwelling mammals and birds play an important role in local ecosystems and are important contributors to healthy bushland. Ringtail possums, primarily herbivores, consume fruits and seeds, aiding in plant regeneration. Krefts gliders and Phascogales, on the other hand, help control insect populations as their contribution to forest health. Both species also play a role in pollination as they move through their environment and are part of the predator to prey dynamics within these settings.

The specially designed nest boxes mimic the natural hollows found mainly in mature eucalypt trees, which can take more than a century to form. The loss of old hollow-bearing trees through land clearing, fire, and storm damage has left many populations vulnerable and today they often struggle to find natural nesting hollows due to habitat loss. By using natural timber and wildlife friendly construction methods, the boxes offer a long lasting, secure alternative shelter for the possums and gliders.

"The workshop was a fantastic way to combine conservation action with community spirit," said Chris Cobern, Landcare Coordinator. "By building these nest boxes, we're giving our wildlife a helping hand while also empowering people with the skills they need to take conservation into their own backyards." "We'd also like to recognise Bunnings Craigieburn for their donation of the timber and hardware used to make the boxes."

Following the morning's activities, participants enjoyed a shared lunch, providing time to connect, share stories, and discuss future conservation opportunities.

As part of the workshop, participants were able to take one nest box each home that they constructed to install them in suitable landscapes and private gardens. Additional nest boxes built during the workshop will be installed by the UPMCLG at their Dry Creek Restoration Project, and at other suitable bushland and private properties across the district. UPMCLG President David Markham said he would like to thank all the Landcare volunteers and participants for their enthusiasm and commitment to protecting our native species. "These workshops create safe havens for wildlife while fostering stronger community engagement in our local conservation efforts" he said.

For more information about upcoming events or how to get involved in our local Landcare activities, please contact us via our Facebook page, UPMCLG Landcare and our website www.upmclg.org.au



Sue Scheider and Bonnie Francis



Axel, John & Michelle

WORKS HAVE STARTED

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WANDONG FIRE BRIGADE



Awards Night

Wandong Fire Brigade celebrated its awards night on Saturday the 16th August at the Whittlesea Bowls Club. We celebrated the service of our members and recognised many achievements. Tony Scicluna, a member of the Clonbinane brigade, with significant involvement with Wandong for decades, was celebrated for the recent awarding of his Australian Fire Service Medal. Tony has played a part in training every Wandong brigade member at some point. Members of the outgoing executive committee were acknowledged including Yorin Miller (standing down from Captain), Sandra O'Connor (standing down from President), Michelle Kendrick (standing down from Treasurer), Jen Moore (standing down from Secretary), and Shane Moore (standing down from 3rd lieutenant).

Life Memberships to the Wandong Fire Brigade were awarded to Phil Buggy, Peter Gough, Denise King, Pat Leddin, Sandra O'Connor, John Simpson, and Tilly Tillbrook. Eligibility for Life Membership requires a minimum of 25 years of ongoing active service to the brigade that has advanced and promoted the work of the Wandong Fire Brigade. These are all worthy recipients, and we are so appreciative of their long term commitments to the community.

CFA Years of Service awards were presented to Rob Rau (10 year medal), Paul Brislin (20 year medal), Yvette Curlis (20 year medal), Yorin Miller (20 year medal) and Cindy Flannery (25 year medal). The Maurie Scanlon Award is voted for by brigade members and was presented to Kasey Styles. The Captain's Award was presented to Andrew Kunkel for doing many tasks that tend to go unnoticed, such as updating the fire danger signs and the flagpoles.

The Melbourne Firefighter StairClimb Challenge 2025

On Saturday 6th September, four members of the Wandong Fire Brigade took on the Melbourne Firefighter StairClimb Challenge. So proud of our crew for their commitment to fitness, mental health awareness, and fundraising. Pictured are Tom Alderson, Robert Bolletti, Jacob Styles, and Kasey Styles who joined 1000 firefighters to climb 28 flights of stairs of the Crown Hotel with a finish time between 4:54 and 8:29 minutes!

Crew would like to thank the following supporters, and all Community members who donated: Barry Plant, Angel's Financial, Crumbs & Coffee, Hunter & Co Collective, Melbourne Tractors, Click Displays, Wandong Pharmacy, TJA Landscapes, Drains for you, Styles Civil and Construction, Bee Kool Honey, and Stephanie Lucas. The Wandong Crew raised a massive \$9,405 towards the total \$1,100,000 raised this year! This money will go to Lifeline, the Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation, and 000 Foundation to improve support services, fund research, remove stigmas, and raise awareness of cancer and mental health issues, especially for those within the Emergency Service and Defence Communities.

Upcoming Open Day – Saturday 11th October. Save the Date.

Wandong Fire Brigade are opening up the fire station on Saturday 11th October to the Community. Drop in and enjoy a free snag, and activities for all. Stay tuned to the Facebook page for further details.



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CLONBINANE C.F.A.



Spring has finally arrived which means the fire season is not too far away.

According to the Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook we are likely to experience an early start to the fire season, with drought affected areas facing an increased risk.

Now is the time to.

- Cut back over hanging branches (no branches within 10m of buildings)
- Remove shrubs, plants and other flammable materials from the bottom of your trees
- Look for bark and dead branches hanging off your trees
- Keep shrubs and other plants pruned and away from your house
- Don't leave piles of green waste near your home (take it to the tip or, if you can burn off before restrictions come into force)

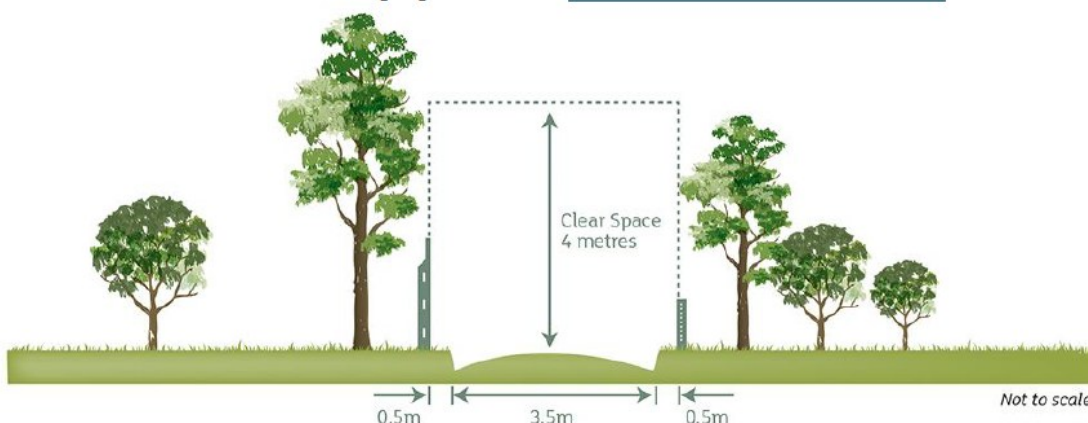


When preparing for summer you also need to consider whether a fire truck will have clear access to your property.

Did you know we need 3.5 metres for the width for our trucks? With an additional 0.5 metres clearance to pass through gates or to move past structures.

We also need 4 metres above to be clear of obstructions to avoid damage to our equipment and crews. How long is your driveway? Is there somewhere safe for us to turn around?

For more information on how to prepare head to www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare



Whilst we ask the community to prepare, we will also be doing the same. Members train on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights where we will put our skills to the test, check over access to our local water supplies (access to properties and water levels of dams) and provide community education.

Stay safe and be prepared.

Member for Yan Yean Lauren Kathage visited LB Davern Reserve on Thursday 21 August to see how the upgraded Wandong Community Centre is strengthening connections and opportunities for the local community.



Completed in late 2024, the \$800,000 project has delivered a range of improvements that have transformed the centre into a modern, functional and welcoming community hub.

The works included the installation of new male, female and accessible toilet facilities, a fully updated kitchen, and an expanded meeting room with additional storage space to better cater for the needs of local user groups.

The main hall now features acoustic treatments that make it more comfortable for meetings, performances and social gatherings, while upgraded heating and cooling ensure the centre can be used comfortably year-round. Accessibility and safety upgrades to parking, fencing, gates and surfaces have also made it easier for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the space.

The project was made possible thanks to \$720,000 from the Victorian Government, \$20,000 from the Wandong and Heathcote Junction Sports and Community Centre Committee of Management and \$60,000 from Mitchell Shire Council.

The project, which was completed in late 2024, included:

- new male, female and accessible toilets
- fully updated kitchen
- expanded meeting room with extra storage
- acoustic treatments in the main hall
- upgraded heating and cooling for year-round comfort
- improved accessibility and safety for parking, fencing, gates and surfaces.

Local groups are making the most of the modern, functional and welcoming space, with the upgrades creating more opportunities for events, activities and social connections.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23



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 through along the Say G'Day trail, take the kids down to play on the play equipment or just play and exercise on the oval.

Our Winter User Groups are approaching end of their season's programs and heading into finals. Congratulations to those teams that have reached finals or entering final programs and good luck in bringing home a Grand finalist Cup - you have done your clubs and community proud.

The L.B.Davern is full of life with our community supporting their groups and other activities enjoyed by those who participate.

Walking the dogs, kids in the playground, individuals/groups doing their fitness workouts, mums with the kids in the pram, riding bikes, playing football-, passing shots in netball, shooting hoops at the basketball ring, riding the horses, training dogs to behave, Wandong primary doing sporting activities on the Oval, Wallan basketball in the Stadium

Continued developments at the Reserve will complement our sport groups and community. We are very lucky to have a Reserve that has character and bush ambiance atmosphere that complements our communities. Local community enjoying upgraded Wandong Community Centre.



our community, we need your help;
We need to catch any persons vandalizing our Reserve!!!!

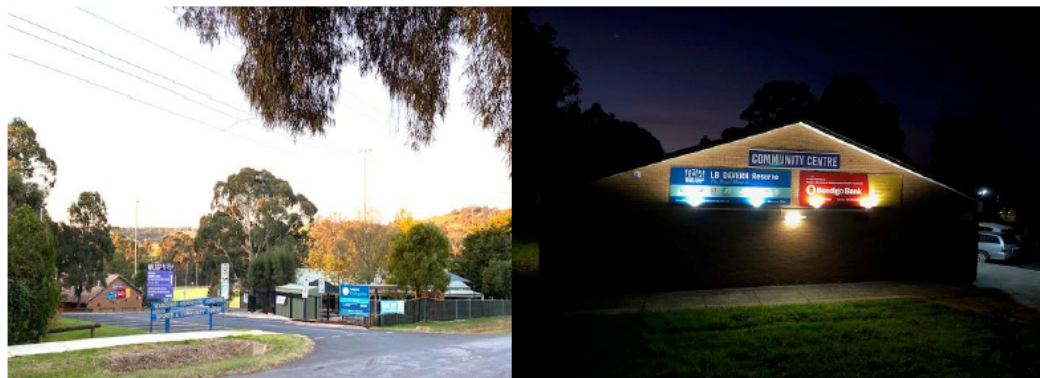
If Residents notice anything out of the ordinary please contact the police on
000

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

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 on Darlene Gunter on 0418 312 762. Get in quick as bookings are coming in fast.

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

1. - Oval Bookings, Stadium bookings and enquiries - Mitchell Shire Council Recreation and Open Space unit ph. 5734 6200.
2. -Community Centre and Sports Pavilion contact: Darlene Gunter
Booking Officer for the WHJSCC on 0418 312 762



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

WANDONG-HEATHCOTE JUNCTION COMMUNITY GROUP

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



WEBSITE: In August the <www.wandong.vic.au> website received 922 visits. If any business or group has noticed any content which needs to be corrected to their entry, please let us know. To add your business or group email: whatsnewswhj@gmail.com.au

Our representations to VicRoads regarding the lowering of the speed limit on the Epping Kilmore Road through Heathcote Junction has apparently been received favourably. We wait with anticipation.

Pickett Walk was affected by Inland Rail work to install a pipe from Rail Street to the Epping Kilmore Road. Most of the walk was closed for the work but much of it has reopened since. However the walk cannot be fully opened and regretfully will probably be closed for the duration of the project due to the unusable work area on Rail Street.

At very large expense to the WHJCG, and at the suggestion of Mr Vivian Kenney, we have installed a rose arbour at the entrance to the Wandong Bushfire / War Memorial Park and Wandong Rose Garden. To finish the project, we planted an additional fifty roses, all generously donated by Diana and Graham Sargent of Silkies Rose Farm.

We continue to clear rubbish from our town - it is a pity that we have to keep doing this with little help from the community. If only we had other residents with the same commitment to keep our town beautiful. Even collecting any rubbish around the street in front of your property would help - particularly on busy streets like Rail Street and North Mountain Road.

The Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group will not be holding the Wandong Christmas Carols this year and will review the event for 2026 and beyond. Reasons for the decision are declining attendance each year - last year we even introduced a robovac door prize drawn at the conclusion of the carols so the audience stayed to the end, the probable requirement to secure a Council permit unless we do not hold any outdoor activities such as the BBQ, the aging and unwell organisers - Vivian and Jeanette included are not able perform, the cost of the event including food, magic show, etc.

We are sorry to call a halt to this event after 15 years and hope that new blood will come forward in the future to resurrect the Wandong carols in 2026.

At a recent meeting with Mitchell Shire officers the following issues are some of those raised:

Bushfire Memorial Park Car Park (Bitumen, Bollards, Drain) Plans

RESPONSE: This is currently going through DTP approvals. These can take some time and DTP have recently requested further information to consider this.

Footpath maintenance

Concerns were raised about cracked concrete pavement (35 sections) on Rail Street and deteriorating bitumen on North Mountain Road.

RESPONSE: These works would require a significant investment and would need to be considered as part of Council's Annual Capital Works Program. The WHJCG is encouraged to submit a formal request

GOOD NEWS FOR CLONBINANE

The Buddhist community is delighted to share the good news that VCAT has approved the permit for the Buddhist Monastery. This is a big step forward and they truly couldn't have come this far without the support, encouragement, and kindness of Clonbinane residents. The Buddhist community is deeply grateful for the unwavering support throughout this process, and looks forward to continuing the goodwill we have built with you and the wider community

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/>

Kilmore/Wallan RSL Sub Branch

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

Contact: Graeme McSolvin - 0413 701 040

We have Compensation & Well-Being
Officers, please call for an appointment.

One Trick to Training is Training Tricks ..

The big reason to train your dog is to build engagement between members in your family pack. Success is generally better using a less 'formal' method instead of just trying to increase 'obedience'. After all, obedience is more about owners wanting dogs who will do as they are **ordered** but often this has little effect when a dog is under distractions. Another issue is that dogs and humans often become bored with a regimented style of training and then tend to give up.



Using some alternative training methods such as agility, scent work and herding will often have a dog far more engaged with their humans. But perhaps the most successful and definitely one of my favourite methods is with Trick Training. The reason for this :

Learning Is best when the animal AND the human is having fun.

There are many skills that are developed when using tricks as a teaching process and this can be broken down to what the Handler learns and how the Dog can benefit.

Handler Skills : The main problem with most Humans is they have a tendency to talk too much. So as the humans tend to ramble on and on this generally makes it difficult for the dog to understand what is actually required. Often the rushing is because the human doesn't really have a plan for what they want to achieve so have a tendency to hurry thru any tasks and the dog loses interest. Instead:

1. **SLOW THE PACE** - Teaching tricks is actually a way for the Handler to slow down the pace and then allow time for the dog to respond.
2. **CREATE THE STEPS** - Handler must break down the task into easy steps. This becomes easier for the dog to see what the human is asking. Then rewarding the dog for each of the step.
3. **TIMING** - Once the Handler learns to close their mouth and watch their dog, they can assess the dogs response and improve TIMING. They can reward each step and keep the dog keen to try more. Humans can then also see if the dog is getting confused so stop and give dog some time.

From the Dog's Point of View :

We must understand that a dog's brain does not process information in the same fashion as the human brain. A further complication is that different breeds of dogs work at different speeds.

e.g. The kelpie brain flicks from one thought to another at lightening speed, they see quick snapshots of a situation and move on to the next snapshot.... Kinda like having ADHD.... This can be very different to a Golden Retriever who is often slow to co-ordinate their actions together...

The human must be responsible to see the how their own dog processes information.

When teaching dogs we must introduce them to each new trick as a 'Concept' ... Remember a concept is something new that your dog might not have experience with. Here are two examples...

1. **BACK UP** - Dogs are four legged and generally used to just moving forward... their back legs follow their front legs so they don't really have to think about what their back end is doing.

e.g. When you watch a dog running it is common to see the dog turn sharply and their back legs can just slip out from under them. Also watch many dogs when they come to steps, they might seem

comfortable to travel UP but have more trouble with going DOWN. That is because going down steps requires the dog to have more co-ordination.



2. **SPIN** - Just like with humans, Dogs can be Left or Right 'handed' so they get comfortable with doing something one way but have trouble working the other. Teaching a dog to spin in both directions, helps to build both the dog and human's flexibility, physically and mentally.

Good luck and have Fun !

SUDOKU

Answers
on page 32

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

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

THIS MONTHS QUIZ

Answer appears on Page 32 but no cheating!

1. What is the oldest privately-owned theme park in the world?
2. What date is Independence Day held annually in the USA?
3. What is the largest State in area in the USA?
4. What is the capital of Brazil?
5. What is the largest city in Scotland?
6. What is the national animal of Canada?
7. How many stars are on the New Zealand flag?
8. How many wives did King Henry VIII have?
9. What do you call a group of fish?
10. Which planet has the most gravity?
11. Which actor played Jack Dawson in Titanic?
12. Which river runs through the Grand Canyon?
13. In which country was Adolph Hitler born?
14. John F. Kennedy was assassinated in which city?
15. What is a female donkey called?
16. In which country was Buddha born?

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL



How to keep up to date with Council online:

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

Not online?

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

Or, contact Mitchell Shire Council on 5734 6200.



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

< www.mbug.org.au >

or contact the Secretary,
John on 5781 1604

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Hello Readers,

As we age, taking care of our health is of prime importance, something which our health professionals stress upon us. Living a healthy lifestyle which includes both mind and body will go a long way to making our third age a fun age, a time for travel, hobbies and socialising with our friends.

With this in mind, at Wallan U3A we recently had a most informative presentation from "Equip for Life", a government funded initiative whose aim is to help older people stay fit, healthy and socially connected.

It was a real pleasure to see so many of our members attend this most important informative session, and following on from this we are pleased to announce that beginning in the New Year we will be holding six sessions of an hour and a half per session at which time, each topic will be discussed in more depth, which will lead us to a healthy lifestyle. At this point I would like to thank Nola our Events Coordinator for arranging this most important meeting.

Our monthly lunch was held at the Red Lion Hotel in Kilmore, another excellent choice by our Lunch Coordinator Carol. The menu was extensive and well priced, and the chips were to die for!

With Spring peeping round the corner, we've secured another gardening information presentation from Gail our gardening guru. Gail's last presentation was so popular we've asked her to come back again and give us some more gardening tips. Thank you Gail.

November will provide members with 2 fun events, the first being our Social where our members will dance the night away or simply enjoy the music and company. And let's not forget the many raffle prizes, all donated by our very generous local businesses.

Our second event for the month of November, will be a trip to The Werribee Mansion, where we will enjoy a guided tour followed by lunch and a walk in the beautiful gardens surrounding the mansion.

To any newcomers to the area, Wallan U3A is located in the Neighbourhood House, Bentinck Street Wallan, come down, pick up a timetable, we just may have an activity you might like to do.

For more information, contact our President - John Lanphier on 0413 083 089.

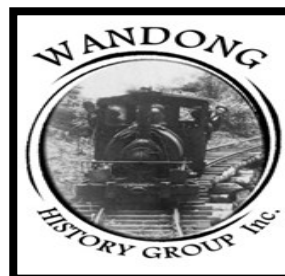
Bye till next time. John Lanphier



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Wandong History Group AGM will be held at our home at St Michaels Church, Dry Creek Crescent, Wandong at 1pm on Tuesday 21st October 2025.

ALL WELCOME Everyone interested in the historic Wandong Heathcote Junction township is encouraged to attend.



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Adult Classes - Trick Training
Behaviour Problems



Workshops
Dog Park Etiquette
Intro to Agility
Dock Diving
Cross Country

Alfoxton Dog Centre

www.alfoxton.com.au

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

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

Phone: Anne **0402 118929**

60 Junction Rd, Heathcote Junction, Vic

Alfoxton is a registered Domestic Animal Business - Mitchell Shire

Weather Report - Heathcote Junction/Wandong AUGUST 2025

In the overall picture of august, the last month of winter, the weather showed it's wintry variations. Some days warmer and pleasant, others quite cold in the diurnal period. On two occasions we had severe cold blasts with damaging winds to finish the winter season.

Rainfall was light with a total of 66 mls of which 20.5 mls was recorded in the first half of the month and 45.5 mls in the second half with the majority in the last seven days of the month. We are still below the August ten year average for this area.

As of the 15th August, our supply dam Sunday Creek was recorded at 60% capacity.

Stats

August 2025. - 66 mls
Previous year - 34 mls
Average prev 10 years - 70 mls
Total this year - 428 mls
Total prev year - 549 mls

All the best for the month
Norm Hulett

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

QUIZ ANSWERS (from page 30)

1. Melbourne's Luna Park
2. 4th July
3. Alaska
4. Brasilia
5. Glasgow
6. Beaver
7. Four
8. Six
9. School
10. Jupiter
11. Leonardo DiCaprio
12. Colorado River
13. Austria
14. Dallas
15. A jenny
16. Nepal

SUKODU solution

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



*Kilmore
&
District*

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

Spring seems to have well and truly sprung with an abundance of flowers blooming everywhere, much to the delight of gardeners. The gardening group remain as strong as ever and have some great venues to explore as the weather continues to warm. It has been nice to see a bit of rain though as we certainly needed it after the dry winter we have had.

Memberships are continuing to trickle in, which is very heartening as more people learn about our great organisation. If you have been thinking about joining, don't put it off any longer, we are a friendly, sociable group and there is a lot on offer; Group exercise classes, computer skills, book club, creative writing, music, darts, indoor bowls and much more. We have something for everyone.

The Tuesday Long lunch club continues to be extremely popular and it pays to book early as places fill very quickly. Our convenors do a great job of organising excellent venues, coordinating transport and getting some very good deals for members. It is a great way to catch up with friends and sample local fare. Check the website for further information.

The history of Kilmore group continues to be astounded by the wealth of knowledge held by convenor Liz. A recent session was on water troughs in the local community and the history associated with them. The group meet on the first Monday of each month from 1.30 till 3.00pm at the JJ Clancy Community hub. The presentations are usually screened with commentary by Liz, however they have recently incorporated a couple of bus trips to local points of interest, which have proved very popular.

The ukulele group are going from strength to strength. We started with four beginners learning simple chord shapes and three years on we are twenty plus people who together are a skilled performance group. We play at a number of community events and have regular monthly gigs at both the Caledonia rest home and Dianella hostel. We still run a beginner group so if anyone wants to join and have a go, just contact U3A.

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

Cheers, Amanda Oades

Kilmore Golf Club Inc.

Our Toyota Par 3 day which was to have been held in March will be held on Sunday 21st September. Places are filling fast with a limit of 110 players.

Book using Try Booking <https://www.trybooking.com/CYJXP>

OR

email: info@kilmoregolfclub.com.au

OR

phone 03 5782 1123.

Website: kilmoregolfclub.com.au for further information.

Reminder: NTP win \$200 OR Hole in One (7th) \$1000 OR Hole in one (12th) win a brand-new car from our sponsor Kilmore Toyota.

Entry \$50 pp, juniors \$25. Free BBQ, afternoon tea, drinks cart. No handicap required. Limited places. Carts are available but must be booked early

Competitions have started again for Board events with Carew Cup, Saturday Aggregate, Monthly Medals, Putting competitions.

The Ladies Tournament will be held on Thursday 18th September so the course will be closed until 2 pm.

Greens will be cored on Monday 29th September with the course closing again for at least 3 days. Check the Website for further information.

Social passes can be purchased now. \$300 for 12 months valid until Oct 2026. Contact the Club for further information



Whittlesea Community Network

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



Hello Spring! Time to learn something new, join a group or take up volunteering! Head to www.wchi.com.au to download the Semester 2 program!

Visy Recycling

It might be getting colder but our hardy team of volunteers is still counting CANS AND BOTTLES! Over the counter recycling is available Monday, Wednesday and Thursday each week 10am – 3pm and Saturdays from 8am – 4pm. Please note 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 (even during School Holidays):

Tuesdays 11.00am – Noon \$2.00 per person

Women's Lunch

Thursdays 9th & 23rd October 11.30am – 1.00pm Gold Coin Donation

Introduction to Geocaching

Geocaching is a real life treasure hunt that is suitable for all ages and abilities! This FREE workshop includes classroom time as well as an outing to try your new skills!

Sunday 19th October 10.30am – 1.30pm FREE

Op Shop Tours

The Op Shop Bus will be leaving from the House at 9am on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Saturdays of each month! Loads of new locations only \$20 per person.

11th October Lilydale, Warrandyte Bayswater

18th Edible Forest and Alowyn Gardens (\$60 pp includes all entry fees)

Pop Up Pre Loved Fashion Boutique RETURNS

Saturday 25th October 9.00am – 1.00pm Whittlesea Community Activity Centre

FREE ENTRY and FREE BARISTA COFFEE (you must bring your keep cup to be eligible)

Call the House for details, more routes and bookings or head online to book www.wchi.com.au

Boat Licence

Get on the water safely! Students from 12 years are eligible (you must be 16+ for PWC endorsement)

Saturday 4th October 9.00am – 1.00pm \$150 per person

Fix it Friday

Fix it Friday will return in on 19th September! Get real help from a real person and sleep better at night. Talk to us about problems that relate to legal matters, housing, finance, NDIS, My Aged Care, Centrelink, Fines, Mental Health as well as No Interest Loans and Police matters. The Victorian Ombudsman is also in attendance for all complaint matters related to government entities (eg councils, state government, Fines Victoria, VicRoads, Worksafe). We have free Barista made coffee to keep you fuelled up. Worried about something? Talk to us today on 9716 3361.

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 dogs and cats during office hours.

WANDONG HAS A NEW BOOK

THE BOOK IS TITLED :

“WANDONG HEATHCOTE JUNCTION - A RAILWAY HISTORY”

THE BOOK RETAILS FOR \$45 AND IS AVAILABLE ONLY BY PHONE ORDER

- CALL DAVID ON MOBILE 0409 164 660



WANDONG PRIMARY SCHOOL



Foundation 100 Days of School

Our amazing Foundation students have recently celebrated their first 100 days of school! This exciting milestone recognises the incredible growth, curiosity and resilience that has been shown by our youngest learners.



Book Week 2025 – “Book an Adventure”

Our Wandong PS families put their thinking hats on, dug through the dress-up and arts-and-craft boxes, and embraced the fun of Book Week with our annual Dress Up Parade. We always love seeing the smiles and excitement from students as they share their love for the book character they are representing. This year, students also had the opportunity to participate in a ‘Guess the Door’ competition, with doorways all over the school being carefully decorated by staff to represent some of our favourite adventurous stories. Thank you to everyone who joined in the fun and helped celebrate the joy of reading!



Grade 3/4 author visit – Lian Tanner

On 25th August, the Grade 3/4 cohort were lucky enough to get a visit from a real-life author, Lian Tanner, who travelled up from Tasmania to speak to us. Lian gave a very engaging and humorous presentation that included some collaborative creative writing, some tips about how to make story writing fun, and listening to some interactive excerpts from her novels. Levi T said, “I liked how it made us happy and laugh.” The students had lots of questions for Lian about what it’s like to be an author, and we hope that we may have some future authors of our own in the audience! Sadie M said, “I like how we made the beginning of a story together,” and Grace M enjoyed, “how she told us the most important part of creating a character is working out what their problem is”. We are very grateful to Mrs Hempel for organising this opportunity for our students.



COME & TRY *Badminton*



Inclusive and Fun with All Ages & Abilities Welcome!



Sunday 21st September 2025



10:00am – 12:00pm



RB Robson Stadium, 8 Bentinck Street, Wallan VIC 3756

Why Badminton?

Badminton is a sport for everyone - no matter your age, ability, or experience level! Whether you're young or young-at-heart, a total beginner or backyard champion, this FREE session is all about having fun in a friendly and inclusive environment. Our friendly coaches will be on hand to help.

What to Bring:

- Wear comfy clothes.
- Bring your runners.
- Come ready to have some fun!
- We'll provide all the equipment.
- No badminton experience needed.

Stick Around After the Fun!

Enjoy a bite to eat and share your thoughts on the day with fellow participants. A great chance to reflect, relax, and connect!

Questions?

Contact Sharna Faralla at Valley Sport on sharna@valleysport.net.au or 0421 039 733



SCAN ME!

to register or head to
<http://tiny.cc/badmintonwallan>

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