

“WHAT’S NEWS”



ISSUE 353 WANDONG/HEATHCOTE JUNCTION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER : NOVEMBER 2025 ABN 17 022 858 565

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

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THE BRIDGE STARTS TO TAKE SHAPE AT WANDONG

The new rail bridge on the Wandong Broadford Road at Wandong is progressing with massive groundworks and pylon structures. Residents, particularly those facing lengthy delays when stopped at traffic lights on the Broadford Road, are experiencing frustration and regretfully are facing this for many more months. Traffic during Wandong Primary School opening and closing times is a real challenge but the project was always expected to cause pain before the gain. Local groups are in regular conversation with Inland Rail and John Holland representatives regarding the current work and regarding the end result including landscaping.



Vale Helen McMahon

“Whats News” joins the Wandong Fire Brigade and Wandong Primary School to express much sadness with the passing of Helen McMahon. Helen made an enormous and inspiring contribution to the Wandong Heathcote Junction township as Secretary of the Wandong Fire Brigade for 19 years and business manager at Wandong Primary School for 21 years. Our sincere condolences to husband Geoff and sons Adrian and Ben.



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 December, 2025, Allen Hall (editor)
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His Love Banner



Carols

14th December 2025 at 7pm
Wandong Public Hall
Corner of Rail Street and
Wandong Avenue
Free event

Wandong Primary School – Friday 28th November

JOIN US FOR OUR

154TH BIRTHDAY FAIR

FRIDAY
28TH NOVEMBER
3.30 - 7PM

FREE
ENTRY

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What's Happening

WANDONG OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE



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How to Enrol

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

Operation Times

Before School Care	6:30am – 8:45am
After School Care	3:30pm - 6:30pm
Pupil Free Day	6:30am – 6:30pm
Holiday Program	6:30am – 6:30pm

ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

18 Nov Shane & Gaye Georgelin HJ
18 Nov Avril & Lee Thomas K
28 Nov Peter & Heather Waldie W
30 Nov Kath & Vlado Kovacic WP
5 Dec Paul & Tara Duncan HJ
6 Dec Rosemary & Rob Hobson HJ
15 Dec John & Denise Simpson HJ

GET "WHAT'S NEWS" BY EMAIL

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

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

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
mitchelwalksgroup@gmail.com

for more information



MYKI RETAILER

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



We wish the following people a very happy birthday

16 Nov	Adam Georgelin	HJ
17 Nov	Ros Hulett	HJ
19 Nov	Allison Henske	W
19 Nov	Lesley Clarke	HJ
20 Nov	Marie Edwards	HJ
20 Nov	Lewis Lotherington	K
20 Nov	Christine Gordon	W
22 Nov	Richard Zimbardi	K
24 Nov	Gerard Goodison	HJ
24 Nov	Jamie Smith	W
25 Nov	Lyn Morley	K
25 Nov	Timothy Armitage	W
26 Nov	Kate MacDonald	W
26 Nov	Lynette Warburton	HJ
27 Nov	Kaye Weller	HJ
28 Nov	Jessica Ford	W
28 Nov	Tayla Albert	HJ
28 Nov	Jasleen Hall	B
2 Dec	Mark Ford	W
4 Dec	Jarrold King	Wallan
4 Dec	John Pyle	K
4 Dec	Shelley Jackson	B
4 Dec	Shelley Kilroy	W
8 Dec	Kristy Plumbe	C
9 Dec	Mandy Cotter	HJ
9 Dec	Oliver Duncan	HJ
10 Dec	Amy Batey	W
11 Dec	John Tilbrook	W
11 Dec	Kylie Plumbe	C
11 Dec	Ida Zimbardi	K
12 Dec	Gemma Leech	HJ
13 Dec	Shane Georgelin	HJ
14 Dec	Megan Drenth	HJ
14 Dec	Jake Gedye	HJ
14 Dec	Mary Cawthorne	Wallan
15 Dec	Kim Marstaeller	Wallan
16 Dec	Lucas Bartolo	UP
17 Dec	Peter Waldie	W
18 Dec	Neil Batey	W
18 Dec	Alison Plumbe	C

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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“THE SHACK”

*The Upper Plenty
Community Hall*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**MONDAY 24TH NOVEMBER
2025 at 7.00pm**

Corner Clarkes Road and
Wallan - Whittlesea Road,
UPPER PLENTY

ALL WELCOME

For information
call Susan or Wayne

0499 907 017

**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.

ARE YOU GOING TO THE GAME?

Soccer has been in the news of late and football seems to be with us constantly. They are both sports where each individual must give a good account of themselves or be dropped from the team. In life we learn or should learn that we are responsible to those around us for the things we do or fail to do. We are either part of the problem or part of the cure.

As responsible people we are not just playing the game to gain brownie points for ourselves but that we might share with others love in action. To support others in day-to-day activities, showing kindness and hope to those who may find the game of life overwhelming at times. We read in the Bible that one day we will see the greatest event that has ever appeared in heaven or earth. In sporting terms, it will be far bigger than the Olympics, Soccer championships and the Footy grand final all rolled into one. The Bible promises at that day those folk that have followed the gospel, who have played by the rules, who have run the race, who have kept the faith, these folk will be first in the queue at the turnstiles. Jesus said no person can enter the gates unless he believes that Jesus is the Son of the living God, John 3/16. Jesus said I want to be your coach. In slightly irreverent terms He has kicked the golden goal, He knows which side we are on and what colours we are wearing, He knows who we barrack for. Jesus said there is no other way to be with him on final day. In no uncertain terms He said, "I am the way the truth and the life." Have we upset the umpire this week, told untruths, been envious, hurtful or dishonest. We might have to appear before the tribunal, no need for video evidence, by the rules we stand convicted, we need a representative, an advocate an intercessor. Paul says Jesus ever lives to make intercession for us. "He has suffered to release us." Jesus said that if the Son has set you free you will be free indeed.

Sometimes the opposition threatens to overcome us, decisions, school, bills, jobs, children. Sometimes the other team looks formidable, Romans rescues us, in Romans 8/31 Paul says if God be for us who then can be against us?

Jesus said that all who come to Him, believe in Him and follow His ways will have everlasting life. He also said that He has gone to prepare a place for us that we will be with Him for eternity. So much to look forward to!

The promises of the Bible about everlasting life are mind boggling—We will know as we are known (Does that mean that we will have all knowledge, that the big picture of the universe will be available, that we will no longer have to tune in to Mr Attenborough to learn about the amazing creation of insects, birds, flowers, the human brain and the universe.) that pain and suffering will be no more! (maybe that the discussions about electric cars will be settled by then!)

Don't leave it until it is too late. Jesus said don't deal with scalpers or those with false promises, with idols or distractive alternatives. Jesus has paid dearly for your ticket He wants to enter your name in the book of life, He wants to say to you personally "Welcome my good and faithful servant enter thou into the everlasting joy of the Lord."

(See you at the game!) A.G.

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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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
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www.kilmoredistricthospital.org.au

GARDEN SCENE WITH GAIL

Oh, my goodness, how about that rain in late October, wasn't it amazing and what a time saver, we didn't need to water for a couple of days and the nitrogen that it brings with it greens everything up so well. And you can hear how excited I am, the ground is softer for pulling out weeds, it's nearly an enjoyable job, Mother Nature seems to know when we really need her and while it was raining, I started my second lot of fertilising, saves me watering it in, and what else does a gardener do when it's raining..... November is an amazing month in our gardens, hopefully not too hot so we can get some pruning done. Camellias, indeed, any flowering plant that has finished flowering can be pruned; it keeps them compact and encourages new growth. Great time for getting those hedges and topiary, looking fantastic and as roses come into bloom, take the flowers inside to spread their perfume, it's like a mini prune to push more flowers. If aphids are present on the new buds, you can wipe them off with your fingers or spray with soapy water from the dishes or washing (check the soap content first), or a garlic solution or plant garlic / society garlic amongst your roses. Tiny birds in our garden love aphids as do Lady Birds / beetles, so if you prefer, let nature help. Morning watering for roses is preferable than evening to avoid powdery mildew. Irises are looking spectacular now and the variety of colours is so good, and they look great in a vase to give height coupled with shorter stemmed flowers at the front. To enhance further flowering pull or cut off the dead flowers. November, like October is a good month to follow up with a wetting agent around the base of your plants before the heat starts. We need to be assured that any moisture is getting to the roots of the plants, and this will pay dividends as Summer progresses and don't forget to mulch, it's invaluable to maintain cool, porous roots that can keep absorbing moisture to enhance the plant. Remember shallow rooting plants will display signs of stress quicker. If you're lucky enough to have a lawn, top dress it with a lawn fertiliser, (higher in Nitrogen), perhaps a weed and feed. If the soil is clay based, incorporate fine white sand and Gypsum and apply it every couple of months, preferably after it has rained and then water in well. If your lawn is on an incline you may need to aerate the area to assist in absorption. Less stress on your plants/lawn, the better. November is a great time to regenerate potted plants and hanging baskets that are looking a bit sad, before the heat. Best done in the shade, water well and apply Seasol then gently, without taking all the soil away from the roots, lift the plant ball out of the existing potting media, place it in a Seasol solution. After emptying the old potting mix into a container/bucket, pop fresh potting mix into the same pot or basket and place the plant back into its home. Water well and then follow up with the Seasol solution. Use the old potting media to fill any holes made by bunnies etc. If the weather is too warm wait for a cooler day or do it in the early morning, again, in the shade, and keep the plants in the shade, out of winds, until they have recovered from any shock. If you are potting back into a Terracotta, concrete and/or unglazed pot, you will need to refresh the paper / cardboard lining the inside of the pot before you refill with fresh potting media. This insulation stops the sun, warm weather drawing moisture away from the roots and literally drying the roots through the porous pot. We've got lots to do, and don't we love it.



Have a fantastic November.
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Upper Plenty
Merri Catchments
Landcare
Group

Below are some of the demonstrations and activities planned in the coming months. Our program below is subject to change & updated on our new website. For details about times, costs (if any many of our activities are free) and booking and further information, go to:

www.upmclg.org.au

Saturday 8th November Agricultural Chemical users Course (ACUP) 1 day

Sunday 9th November ACUP 1080 and PAP animal control endorsement 1 day

Wednesday 19th November Our AGM at the Shack 6.30pm. Starting with a guest presenter.

Sunday 7th December Waterwatch (waterway health) family activity

Wednesday 18th February Pest animal control info session (Deer Rabbit Fox)

Wednesday 18th March Weed ID and control info session

Sunday 26th July National tree day planting

TBA 2026 Next box building installation and Monitoring

TBA 2026 Wildflower walks

TBA community working bees tree planting

TBA Spot lighting Mt Disappointment State forest

TBA Market stall at Wallan and Whittlesea Markets

TBA Guest presenters at our monthly meetings

We meet every third Wednesday at 6.30pm at the Shack Upper Plenty. All welcome.

Contact the Secretary: Michael Watson 0412408048 secretary.upmclg@gmail.com

WANDONG PUBLIC HALL

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Hall at 5pm on Wednesday 22nd October, 2025.

The following committee was elected for 2025/2026.

President: Christine Gordon
Vice President: Allen Hall
Secretary: Linda Martin-Chew
Treasurer: David Moran



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

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.

Bridge works, Wandong 1 to 30 November 2025

**JOHN
HOLLAND**

John Holland will continue works to prepare for construction of a new bridge in Wandong during November. There will be long-term temporary traffic changes in place during this time.

Work being done

- Excavation and piling works
- Construction of bridge column and supporting bridge walls
- Bridge abutment and retaining wall works
- Material deliveries and concrete pours
- Drainage and asphaltting works
- Roadworks alongside Epping-Kilmore Road
- Service investigations, surveys and utility relocation
- Approved vegetation removal.

What can I expect?

- Works 7am-6pm Monday to Friday and 7am-1pm Saturdays
- Long-term temporary shuttle flow and traffic management on Epping-Kilmore Road and Broadford-Wandong Road
- Minor traffic delays, allow additional travel time
- Nearby residents may experience some noise and vibration.

Machinery used

Trucks, piling rigs, concrete pumps, excavators, asphalt paver, tree grinder, mobile crane, and grader. Workers using hand tools 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

If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please contact B2ACommunity@ihq.com.au

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

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RAIL**



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

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL B HALLEY
PUBLICITY OFFICER

Australian War Graves

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day signifies the annual Remembrance Day that marks the armistice signed on 11 November 1918 to bring the First World War to a close. When planning the November meeting of the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea the convenor of meeting presenters thought it appropriate to acknowledge those who gave their lives in defence of our country. An approach was made to Office of Australian War Graves (Department of Veterans' Affairs) and the response was positive to the extreme.

On Monday 3 November 2025 Sheena Lambie Assistant Director, Official Commemoration and Information Services, and Samuel Convey Acting State Operations Manager – Victoria attended the meeting and made a memorable presentation.

Quote:-Australia has been committed to the Commemoration of our war dead since the First World War. Founded out of the Imperial (now Commonwealth) War Graves Commission (CWGC), the Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) was established in 1975 and afforded its statutory status under the War Graves Act 1980. The Second World War saw an increase in the volume and complexity of the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) and, to ensure the commemoration of casualties was appropriately managed, the CWGC created the then Anzac Agency, designed to undertake the CWGC's work in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

By the 1960s, much of the Anzac Agency's work was, beyond the Commission's remit, especially regarding the commemoration of 'post-war' dead, where Australia's eligibility rules and practices differed from those of the CWGC. Accordingly, the Anzac Agency was replaced in 1975 by the OAWG. The OAWG continues to maintain CWGC cemeteries in Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands as the agent of the CWGC in these regions. The OAWG is also responsible for the Australian Governments program of official commemoration, extending to all conflicts beyond the two world wars and recognising those who have died as a result of their service.

The Office of Australia War Graves upholds this commitment today, caring for the commemorations of more than 356,000 Australian service men and women and veterans in over 2,300 sites of commemoration throughout Australia.

The Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) is responsible for the care and maintenance of official war cemeteries and war graves. The Office of Australian War Graves, also provides and maintains, in perpetuity, official commemorations for eligible Australian service personnel who died during, or as a result of, their war or operational service, in military cemeteries, civil cemeteries, ashes placements, or at a Garden of Remembrance.

As an agent of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Office of Australian War Graves undertakes the care and maintenance of war cemeteries, war plots and individual graves of Commonwealth service personnel who died during the Two World Wars throughout Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.”:- Unquote

The presenters showed an extreme of professionalism, both in verbal and graphic statements. Members were more than ordinarily attentive and posed a number of questions.

Australia wide there is a team of staff members who manage the planting, pruning and landscaping of the gardens in, official War Cemeteries grave plots and Gardens of Remembrance throughout Australia

The extent of Sam Convey's bailiwick was detailed in one of the many photographic images. His territory expands as far as Hay NSW and covers seventeen [17] sites.

The meeting came to a close with the presenters being thanked on behalf of the members. Some remained to continue discussion with Sheena and Sam.

The Office of Australian War Graves clearly comprises of a most dedicated specialised and ethical staff.

Compiled by Michael Halley



LEFT:
Michael Halley,
Sam Convey,
Teresa Carlin
Sheena Lambie

RIGHT:
Springvale War Cemetery



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Bushfire Preparation

If you live in the regional areas, you need to be aware of the possibility of bushfires and how to prepare for them.

Fires can occur where the suburbs meet the bush, particularly if you have grassy paddocks or bushland nearby. NOW is the time to make a fire plan with your family and get your house and property fire ready.

Fine fuels, such as thin branches, twigs and leaves, ignite quickly and burn easily. These can be carried by the wind and can end up long distances ahead of a fire. Heavy fuels such as branches, trees and logs, take longer to ignite but will burn for longer and they create an extremely hot fire.

These are our tips to help you prepare:

- Clean out your gutters, roofs, and downpipes to remove leaves and clear around the base of trees;
- Keep your lawns short and well-watered;
- Maintain your garden by removing weeds, pruning bushes and trees, especially under windows;
- Keep your garden beds moist using non-flammable ground covers such as pebbles, sand or rocks. Decomposed mulch is safer than a new mulch unless kept wetted down;
- Store flammable and combustible materials, such as wood piles and rubbish, away from your house;
- Remove flammable items, such as boxes & excess furniture, from decks and verandahs; and
- Cut back branches within 10 metres of buildings.



Victoria Police

Mitchell PSA Neighbourhood Policing Forum
(Incorporating Strathbogie Local Government Area)

VICTORIA POLICE

The Victoria Police Neighbourhood Policing Forum welcomes local services and community members to talk with police about what issues are important in your community.

The forum will explore topics including:

- Current crime trends and crime prevention
- Young people
- Family violence
- Road policing
- Drugs and drug related crime.

The Neighbourhood Policing Forum will be run by a Victoria Police panel and questions will be taken from the audience throughout the event.

Registration is a must. Please scan the QR code or visit: <https://MitchellNHP.eventbrite.com>

A Microsoft TEAMS link will be made available via email to all registered attendees on the day of the event.

Online Event details

Date:
13th November 2025

Time:
6:00pm – 8:00pm



A SAFE VICTORIA

Upcoming Events

South Mitchell is next General Meeting on 13 November, 2025, at 8pm at the Wandong Community Centre, LB Davern Reserve, Dry Creek Road, Wandong. Everyone is welcome!

Hotlines:

000
131 444 **Emergency**
1800 333 000 **Police Assistance Line**
Crime Stoppers

Online Reporting:

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

The Victoria Police Neighbourhood Policing Forum will be held on 13 November, 2025, from 6pm to 8pm, and will be held online. Register your interest in attending by using the QR code above.



GROUP AREA: SOUTH MITCHELL

Phone: 0419 531 610

Email: newsletters.smnhw@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/southmitchell.nhw.inc

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

ABN: 48 947 471 718

Inc. No. A0105968T

Registered Charity

www.nhw.com.au | www.facebook.com/nhw.vic

Find the Flora!!!

November Challenge for our Locals..

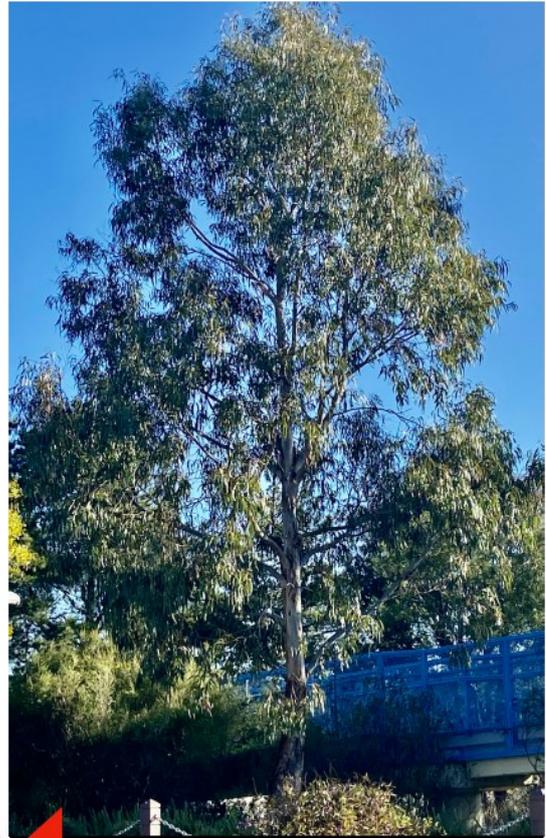
Locations - Oct Challenge... How did you go....???

1. This young tree opposite 5 Baden Drive will hopefully achieve majestic status in the future.
2. Anyone with kids surely remembers this beauty next to the kindergarten in Davern Reserve
3. Although not a native, Phitinia's grows well here without being a weed. south side of Nth Mount Rd.
4. One of natures sculptures can be found in a front garden on Nth Mountain Rd
5. This group of gums thoughtfully planted 20 years ago by the family on the cnr of Glenburnie/Junction Rd.



by... Theresa Hugger
locations published
next issue

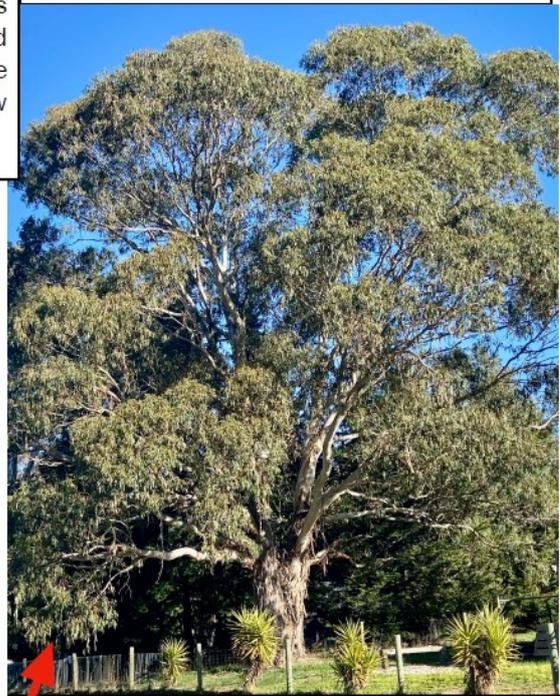
1. Our walkways offer a selection of native flora ... this group of wattles will age and then die, but in the meantime they provide support for new gums to emerge.



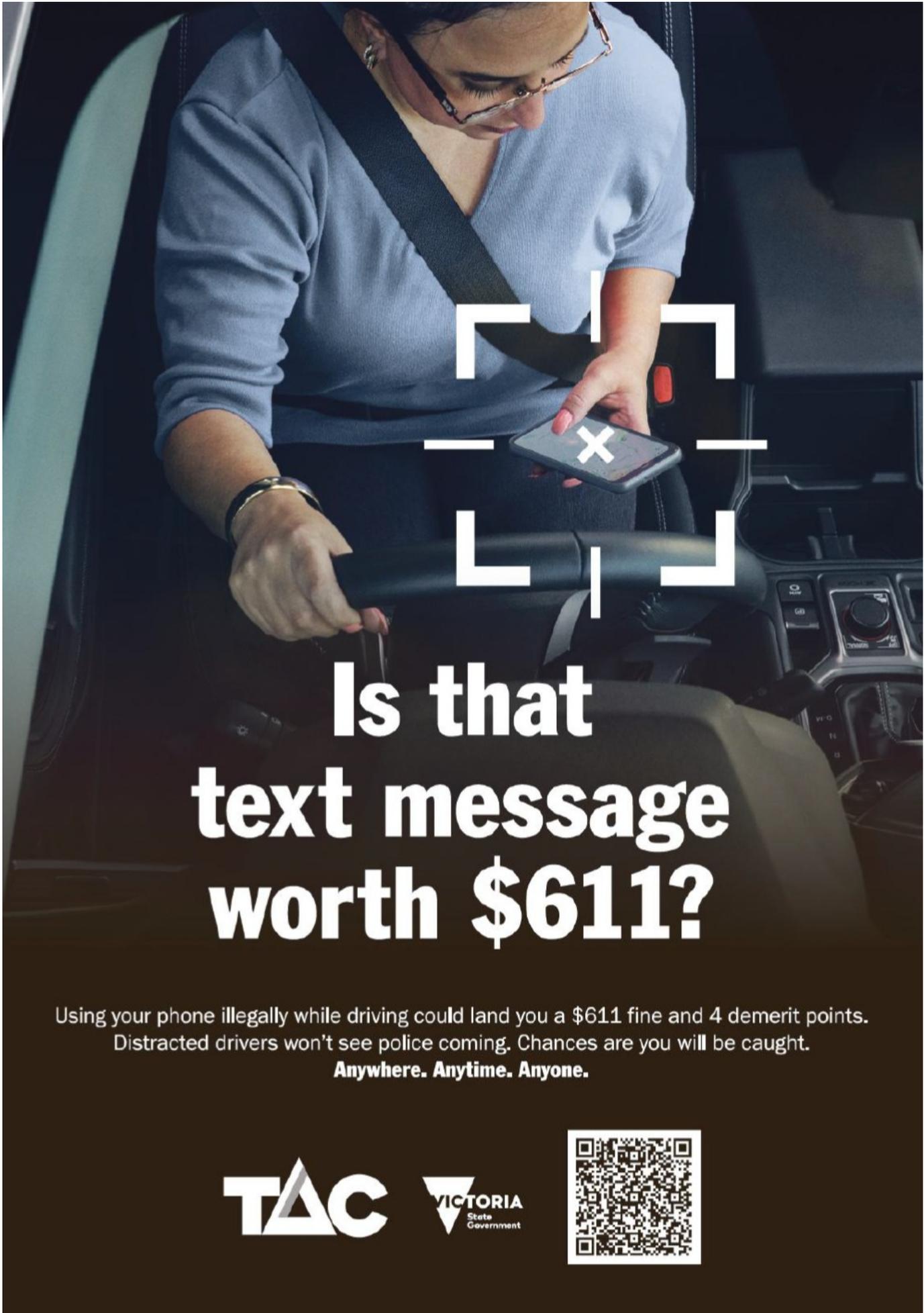
2. All the clues are in this photo to where this beauty resides....



3. This somewhat 'Plain Jane' that most residents drive past everyday..... largely ignored when commuters move from cars to the station



4. When the adult riders are waiting for class they can look across to admire this old gum who has spent decades providing homes for our native wildlife.



Is that text message worth \$611?

Using your phone illegally while driving could land you a \$611 fine and 4 demerit points.
Distracted drivers won't see police coming. Chances are you will be caught.
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TAC

VICTORIA
State
Government



STEELWORKS COMPLETE

ON THE Wandong Primary School Upgrade



Lauren Kathage MP
Member for **Yan Yean**

- Shop T27, 14 Alliance Avenue, Mernda VIC 3754
- lauren.kathage@parliament.vic.gov.au
- 03 9432 9782

Authorised by L. Kathage, T27, 14 Alliance Avenue, Mernda VIC 3754

SCAN ME 

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Online www.nhfoundation.org.au Northern Health Foundation
Phone (03) 8405 2897

HE'S HERE FOR US



ROB MITCHELL MP
MEMBER FOR McEWEN

5716 3000 robmitchell.com.au

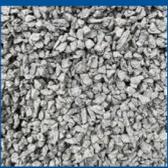
Authorised Rob Mitchell MP, Australian Labor Party, 67-69 High St, Wallan.

WALLAN EQUIPMENT HIRE







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WANDONG FIRE BRIGADE



**Vale, Helen McMahon,
22/03/1947 - 25/10/2025**

The Brigade were heartbroken to hear of the passing of Helen McMahon (Wandong Fire Brigade Secretary 2002 - 2021) in October after a short illness.

Helen was an integral member of the Wandong Fire Brigade, joining in 1998, and holding the role of secretary for over 19 years. However, most CFA and community members will have known Helen through her generous and elaborate catering. Helen was the head chef and organiser for the bus shopping tours and the Wandong Country Music festival. She packed thousands of lolly bags for Santa over the years, and fed hundreds of volunteers across Black Saturday and the weeks following.

Helen McMahon was a generous, diligent, and welcoming woman, and firm enough to keep the brigade executive team in check.

Helen is also well known for her many years of working in the front office of the Wandong Primary School. Helen was the school business manager from 1987 - 2008 and saw some of our firefighters throughout their primary education.

Our love and thoughts are with Geoff, Adrian, Ben, and their families.

Santa Visits

Wandong Fire Brigade are excited to have been asked to escort Santa on a tour of Wandong and Heathcote Junction on Christmas Eve! Check out our Facebook page for more information, and times as we get closer to the big day. We are taking bookings for Santa visits on the fire truck between the 1st and 23rd December. To make a booking please contact us on wandongsanta@gmail.com with your preferred dates and times, your address, the number of children to visit and a contact name and phone number. Donations are appreciated for this service.

Fire Season

Victoria is one of the most fire-prone areas in the world. All Victorians need to know how to plan for and respond to fire. We held a street corner meeting on Morphett Rise, Wandong, earlier this month, where residents gained information on how best to prepare their families and properties for the fire season. Let us know if you would like an information session close to your property. It is a great way to get the neighbours together and talk about specific risks and strengths that each area has.

Fire Restrictions

CFA fire restrictions have begun to be instated across the State. Restrictions will be brought into effect in **November** in the Mitchell Shire, date to be confirmed. The Fire Danger Period is when CFA restricts the use of fire in the community. This is to help prevent fires from starting. During the Fire Danger Period you cannot burn off unless you have a permit or comply with certain requirements. Find out what you can or can't do during the declared **Fire Danger Period**, and on days of **Total Fire Ban** at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions/can-i-or-cant-i





Welcome to our November 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 Ltd (SXGC) has continued its exploration efforts with activities aimed at better understanding the local geology.

Nine diamond drill rigs have been operating across the Sunday Creek project site which are collecting core samples from deep underground and will provide valuable insights into the mineral potential of the area.

An additional drill rig was mobilised to site at the end of October, taking the number of drill rigs to 10. This new drill rig will predominantly be working on regional drilling outside the main drill area.

In addition to drilling, the team is recommencing a soil sampling program at the end of October which will analyse surface materials. This will involve collecting surface soil for analysis at a laboratory for indicator minerals pointing to where mineralisation may be present underground.

A geophysical survey using surface recorders and real-time satellite data collection will take place in November as a trial for a non-invasive exploration method over the main Sunday Creek area.

Exploration tunnel update

SXGC is awaiting the government's decision on our application to construct an exploration tunnel. The application is being 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 will ensure information and updates are provided to our community on the tunnel's progress via:

- Our community newsletters
- Letters distributed via letterbox drop to residents
- Our Facebook and Instagram accounts
- Our community website
- Over monthly emails. Please email community@southerncrossgold.com.au to be added to this new opt-in service
- WhatsNews, Wandong's community newsletter

Win big whilst giving back

We've teamed up with our amazing contractors to donate a Flight Centre voucher to Wallan Primary School's 154th birthday fundraiser – what a milestone!

To be in the running to win a share of over \$10k worth of prizes, head to rafflelink.com.au/wpsbigbirthday.

A huge thanks to Onsite Laboratory Services, Deep Core Drilling and Star West drilling for their support.

Grants program now open

Our second round of 2025 grants is now open, and we're pleased to announce our grant amount has increased to \$600 per grant.

Each round we award five grants to groups or organisations that are making a positive and lasting difference to the community around us.

We've now operated the community grants program for a year and are grateful to everyone who's applied and made the program such a wonderful success.

If you are part of a group or organisation that has a project that would benefit from funding, visit www.southerncrossgoldcommunity.com.au/community/grants-program for more information and to apply by 25 November 2025.



Maintaining our land

Our dedicated Land Manager, Jonna McLean, continues to responsibly and sustainably maintain and care for our farmland. Just some of the areas we've been focused on are:

- Willow tree removal along our Sunday Creek property boundary. Willow trees are considered serious environmental pests and are classified as Weeds of National Significance.
- Fencing is being renewed along our boundary lines, pictured above, with 10km completed so far.
- A dam has been renovated which will have helicopter access for firefighting, as well as a dedicated firefighting tank.

If any of our neighbours need to speak to us about property maintenance issues, please contact us on the details below.



1800 717 638



community@southerncrossgold.com.au



www.southerncrossgoldcommunity.com.au



Site tour – 24 November

Our site tours continue to be a wonderful way for us to connect to our local community and showcase our exploration activities in action, including the proposed tunnel's site.

This year we've held seven tours and welcomed over 120 attendees on site, with more planned for 2026. The last tour for 2025 will be held on 24 November from 5:15pm-7:15pm. Tickets are free but registration is essential. Secure your place by 21 November at southerncrossgoldcommunity.com.au/community/tours. We look forward to holding more tours in 2026.

Supporting local legends

We love shining a spotlight on the local legends that help keep our operations running smoothly!

A shout out to the team at Kilmore's Good Year for keeping our team safe with their amazing services. The roads around our Sunday Creek project can put our vehicles to the test, so we're thankful to Mick and his staff for supplying and fitting quality 4x4 tyres.

Mick also popped in to provide training to our team on how to inspect and maintain tyres to extend their life and improve safety. Thanks Mick for continuing to look after us so well!



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

With the new season fast approaching the club is busy behind the scenes ensuring we have another successful year.

Registrations are now open in all age groups for the 2026 season. So, get in fast to ensure your child can be a Warrior in the new year.

In mean time the club will be hosting a new format of football competition in the coming weeks. AFL 9s. Nine kids a team. Boys and girls, fast paced, skill based and limited contact. Check the clubs facebook page or call Sean on 0407058754 for more information.

We look forward to the new season and having another successful year on and off the field.



Registrations are now open!

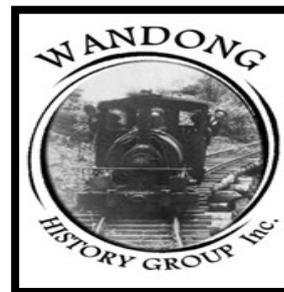


Registration age limits

- 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 2026

WANDONG HISTORY GROUP



This month is all about our History Month event. Most history month events happen in October but as we are integrating with the school fete, we have delayed our display a little.

The school fete will be held on the 28th of November from 3.30-7.00pm and we will be opening the church with a display of memories of what was before, centred around the works area for the new bridge. We are looking back on what was in that affected area over time, who lived there and what they did, and what it looked like. There will be photos of then and now for comparison. We will also have a display of school memorabilia.

The school will be using part of the church yard for some of the fete activities so we encourage all to come and have a look at what we will have on display.

Both this event '**Capturing Memories**' and '**Projecting Our History**' display material have been funded by the Inland Rail Corporation and Southern Cross Gold grant programs. Come and see images of Wandong's historic sites on our new Projector Screen and walk amongst the Then and Now *Capturing Memories* display.

Capturing Memories of Wandong



Aerial view before the major works commenced.

Karen Christensen

President

Wandong History Group

wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com

<https://wandongheathcotejunction.history.com.au>

Projecting Our History



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





WANDONG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Walk for a Court

Our 'Walk for a Court' fundraiser for our new basketball court came to an exciting conclusion on the 25th October, when our brave team completed their long-awaited 43km walking challenge! This commitment involved a 3:45am wakeup call, over 67000 steps and 12 hours of hiking along the varied terrain of the Mornington Peninsula. We are so proud of the team who took on the challenge and put their bodies on the line to help raise money to improve our school – Georgia, Ms Calandra, Mr Callick, Ms Pollock, Mrs Morrow, Mrs Woods, Mrs Hoy and Ms Pike. We are also so grateful to our school community for their support in collecting their spare change over the last few weeks to donate to the cause.



Grandparents & Special Visitors Afternoon

On the 23rd October, our school welcomed Grandparents and Special Visitors into our classrooms for a celebration of learning. Our visitors participated in a range of activities across the school, from celebrating Writing achievements and completing interviews about what school was like when our visitors attended, to joining in the fun of learning to ride a bike in PE. Thank you to all our visitors for making this afternoon so special and fun for our students!



WANDONG HAS A NEW BOOK 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





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

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL B HALLEY
PUBLICITY OFFICER

Deceleration at Frogs Hollow

Frogs Hollow is a locality in New South Wales. It is located on the Princes Highway, 13 km south of Bega and 19 km north of Merimbula. It is home to Majestic Motorhomes, Frogs Hollow Airfield, a Go-kart track, but nothing else except farmland.

With this utterance from the coach driver Roger *"I think I have done an alternator belt"* and the sound of the motor shutting down Frogs Hollow entered the history of the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea. We were on a seven day excursion to Canberra and had overnighted at Lakes Entrance and Eden.

In the exact place where our delay commenced the road authority was undertaking road maintenance and single lane transit was in place so attending to the coach repair was just that much more difficult. But unflappable Roger set about solving the problem. His first aid required major surgery so local mechanics attended and after attention the coach was declared fit for purpose.

We continued on our way to Canberra. The unplanned stop gave passengers a chance to reflect on the past two days which included a boat tour of Lakes Entrance, the McKenzie River Rainforest Walk, the Eden Whale Museum and Batehaven Bay. Daylight saving meant that we still arrived at our destination with a sunlight greeting! Relaxed and well fed we headed for day one in Canberra. The Mount Ainslie Lookout, the Australians War Memorial and the National Museum of Australia, both gave us private guided tours.

Very memorable was the proactivity of our host at the War memorial, Michael Dowsett a Volunteer Guide! He took us to Panel Number 72 where he announced that the name of Benjamin Duffy was inscribed.

Benjamin was a native of Whittlesea and was killed on 3 July 1916 in France at aged 23. He is buried at Brewery Orchard Cemetery in Calais. The inscription on his headstone reads *"I heard the voice of Jesus say come unto me and rest"*. Some of our members had vivid memories of the Duffy family and nodded as Michael related Benjamin's family details and his early life.

Feelings of sadness stayed with many but as the afternoon at the National Museum of Australia unfolded joy took precedence, particular those who took a trip back to earlier times and visited the Mr Squiggle and Friends Tour.

Next day we visited the much vaunted Canberra Floriade where folks found their own way around the extensive grounds and the many opportunities to purchase from a myriad of traders.

The theme for Floriade 2025 is "Science and Nature", transforming Commonwealth Park into a dynamic space of discovery and learning. The garden bed designs will draw inspiration from the most recognised scientific fields of physics, chemistry, astronomy, biology and botany, embodying the excitement and adventure of experimentation and pursuit of new ideas.

We picked [Windows to the World](#) weekend. Sixteen embassies hosted pop-up displays, offering visitors a sneak peek into the cultures and experiences featured in the upcoming program.

Visitors could enjoy traditional performances, sample authentic food and drinks, and explore exhibits featuring traditional clothing and cultural displays. Highly popular was the aptly named Turkish Delight supplied by the attendants at the Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye.

Visits and private tours at Old and New Parliament House were also organised and gave those who attended shining examples of "your taxes at work"! The guides were excellent and we all left with an understanding of what our elected representatives do to keep Australia ticking over.

Our last day in Canberra was a visit to the Canberra Carillon, but cold wind and an overcast day detracted a bit. It was a gift from Britain to mark Canberra's 50th birthday. The carillon houses 57 bronze bells, weighting a total of 32,000kg, which are played from a specially designed keyboard.

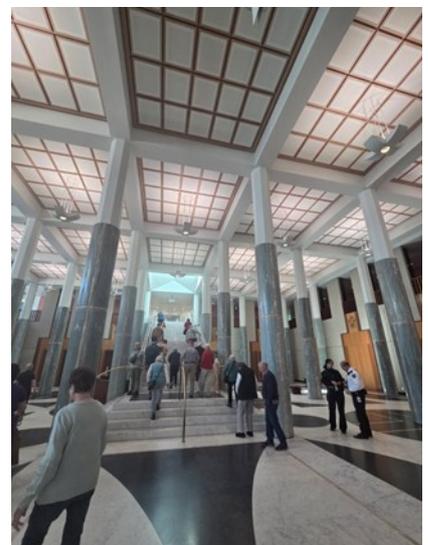
Local and visiting carillonists present recitals at the National Carillon throughout the year. These performances feature a wide range of musical styles from original compositions written specifically for the carillon, to

popular song arrangements and improvisation. The carillon often marks special occasions and is frequently included as part of broader public events.



LEFT: Group photo
RIGHT: Probus invades Parliament

(Continued Page 21)





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

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL B HALLEY
PUBLICITY OFFICER

In the same area are three poignant memorials. The [National Police Memorial](#), the Australian *Merchant Navy Seamen's Memorial*. Both of these acknowledge those who gave their lives for their country most in highly tragic circumstances. The sinking of the Hospital Ship Centaur is just one example of “man’s inhumanity to man”

One new memorial noted was The National Site of Recognition for Thalidomide Survivors and their Families acknowledges the thalidomide tragedy in Australia. It serves as a lasting reminder to all Australians that the lessons of the tragedy must never be forgotten.

With each carrying personal recollections of our Canberra excursion we travelled home with a short break at Gundagai and Beechworth where luncheon was the main focus. This trip was the first organised by Stewart Dickinson [assisted by Kirsten] who took on the mantle at the last Annual General Meeting. No grumbles were heard which gives him carte blanche to organise the next!

Benjamin Duffy

A coach load of members of The Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea recently took a seven day excursion to Canberra and visited the National War Memorial amongst other attractions.

Very memorable is the proactivity of our host at the War memorial, Michael Dowsett a Volunteer Guide! He took us to Panel Number 72 where he announced that the name of *Benjamin Duffy* was inscribed. He handed over notes he had collated.

Benjamin was a native of Whittlesea and was killed on 3 July 1916 in France at aged 23. He is buried at Brewery Orchard Cemetery in France. [Bois-Grenier is a village 3 kilometres south of Armentieres]

The inscription on his headstone reads “*I heard the voice of Jesus say come unto me and rest*”.

Some of the members had vivid memories of the Duffy family and nodded as Michael related Benjamin’s family details and his early life. He was the sixth of ten children of James and Margaret and lived in Beech Street.

Ben’s family was very close and his mother and siblings were very involved in the local Anglican Church. Three of his brothers became Ministers of Religion.

Ben joined the Victorian Railways as a Porter. In 1908 at aged 14 Ben had been awarded a Certificate because he had never missed a day in all his years at school.

In July 1915 he joined the Australian Infantry Forces [AIF].Pte Duffy embarked from Melbourne aboard HMAV Nestor [His Majesty’s Australian Transports] on 11 October 1915. He was killed in action on 3 July 1916 in France.

His internment took place under the control of Rev J L Cole Chaplin of the 14th Infantry Battalion and he was placed at rest as noted above.

Brewery Orchard Cemetery contains 339 Commonwealth burials of the First World War. There are also four Second World War burials and five German war graves.





Landcare Grows Connections at the Wallan Community Market

The Upper Plenty Merri Catchments Landcare Group brought a fresh burst of green to the Wallan Community Market last month, setting up an energetic stall to introduce more locals to their work and raise funds for local environmental projects.

Throughout the morning, volunteers shared stories about the group's wide ranging efforts in activities ranging from creek restoration and weed control to native habitat planting and citizen science programs, and encouraged visitors to get involved in future activities.

To support ongoing projects, the group sold locally grown native plants and protective plant guards, which proved popular with residents keen to attract native wildlife and to add resilient, attractive indigenous species to their gardens.

Information about upcoming Landcare events and opportunities to participate was also available at the stall. Locals were invited to join in activities such as planting days, citizen science monitoring, and hands-on workshops aimed at improving the health of local creeks and habitats.

The Landcare team expressed appreciation to the Wallan Community Market organisers and fellow stallholders for their warm welcome and support. The day was a great success in building connections, raising awareness, and generating funds to keep Landcares local environmental projects thriving.



Citizen Science Grant Boosts Local Environmental Monitoring

The Upper Plenty Merri Catchments Landcare Group has also received a major boost with the announcement of a new Citizen Science Grant. This funding will expand the group's hands-on environmental projects and hopefully engage more local residents, especially families and children, in caring for the local landscape..

The grant will support the purchase of monitoring equipment, educational materials, and the delivery of community work-

shops that teach practical environmental skills. These initiatives will help residents better understand and assess the health of local ecosystems, with the data collected contributing to regional biodiversity and waterway monitoring.

The new funding builds on the group's longstanding work in the Upper Plenty and Merri Creek catchments, where volunteers continue to restore native vegetation, improve creek health, and enhance local biodiversity. It also recognises the strong community spirit and environmental stewardship that have long been hallmarks of the region.



Community members interested in getting involved in upcoming activities can find more information by visiting the Upper Plenty Merri Catchments Landcare Group on Facebook or at www.upmclg.org.au and What's News Wandong





An Australian Government Initiative



Holstep
Health



Support for Young Carers

Approximately 1 in 10 carers are under the age of 25, however many don't identify themselves as a young carer. This may be because family members, teachers and other service providers may not be familiar with the signs of being a young carer.

If you are aged 25 or under and care for someone, you may be a young carer.

Being a young carer can have a number of different challenges.

- You might find it hard to find the services and help you need to look after the person you care for.
- You might find it hard to do well at, or get to, school when you look after someone else.
- You might find it hard to make or keep friends, or to go out and socialize or have the time to do things that interest you.

Young carers often take on a range of different responsibilities, such as:

- shopping, cooking, cleaning, washing and household chores
- specific care tasks such as assisting with mobility, grooming, bathing, toileting
- support and monitoring of the family members needs
- managing financial issues – property maintenance, paying bills, banking
- care for other siblings in the family
- liaising with service providers and health care professionals e.g. making appointments, discussing treatments and medications
- interpreting for family members where English is a second language, and
- looking after siblings who have a disability if a parent is unable to look after them because of their own health issues.

All young carers should be able to enjoy life and to reach their potential. Help for young carers is available through the Carer Gateway. Our dedicated young carer worker is ready to help.

For more information visit the Carer Gateway website www.carergateway.gov.au or call 1800 422 737

Until next time.

Jason

WANDONG-HEATHCOTE JUNCTION COMMUNITY GROUP

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



WEBSITE: In September the <www.wandong.vic.au> website received 805 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

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 regrettably will probably be closed for the duration of the project due to the unusable work area on Rail Street.

We continue to clear rubbish from our town - we beg residents with the same commitment to keep our town beautiful. Even collecting any rubbish around the street in front of your property would help.



LIONS CLUB OF WANDONG – WALLAN INC.

PRESIDENT: SAM BEDI

**PO Box 225
WANDONG. VIC. 3758**

It's now November and time for another report. I hope that you are all thinking about my Christmas present. Money will be acceptable.

Some Christmas cakes have been delivered and will be distributed next week. We will also be at the next two Wallan markets. There is also a Bunnings coming up. IGA in Wandong is preparing the Christmas hampers and we are getting ready for the citizen awards at the primary schools. This is something we have done for many years. Awards are given to year six students, nominated by their teachers for exhibiting good citizenship with their peers, the school and the community in general. These awards are well supported by the schools.

Now for our members. I for one have done no wrong despite my wife accusing me of being so drunk that I couldn't walk to the car. I don't remember that.

President Sam was seen working in the shop on three separate occasions. This must be a record. He was so worn out that he had to take some leave. I asked his wife Shadiya if he ever did anything silly. She just rolled her eyes.

Biker Bill is in the news again he has joined the Ulysses bike club and goes every where with them although I am not sure that they are not trying to drive away from him. He was following a member on a red bike. This bike turned off and Bill followed it, unfortunately this was the wrong red bike. He may have collected a speeding ticket. He was driving in a 40k zone and didn't quite slow down. Can you imagine his dismay to find a police car at the other end. This is what happens if you are a tearaway.

Steve is away again doing drag. I am not sure what outfit he is wearing this time but I am sure it will be spectacular. Tania gets quite jealous. He has much better outfits than her.

Lion Marilyn who hasn't be great lately has just had her licence renewed. If you are out and about in Wallan and Kilmore just be aware of the increased danger. She is a tough bird our Marilyn .

Now for Cliff. He, Diane and Shaz with others went for a boat ride along the Murray. I believe a lot of shenanigans went on although the details are vague. I also believe that there was a chance of a Russian invasion. What occurs on the river stays on the river. Isn't that so Cliff ?

Anyway this will do for now. One day I might have some Lions activities to report.

Meanwhile I will continue to behave impeccably and please don't pay any attention to unfounded rumours.

See you.

Clyde Riley.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR RUBBISH HOME

The Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group continues to remove rubbish from Wandong streets, the Epping Kilmore Road, the Wandong Hume Freeway ramps, and Wandong Broadford Road.

Much of the rubbish is thrown from vehicles passing through Wandong but there is also rubbish that can only be from our residents. To those people we can only appeal to them to look after our beautiful town and take your rubbish home.

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.

Best Of Breed - Forget about the show ring, consider the family dog...

When owners contact the Centre they usually seek help with problems that they encounter when their dog is perhaps 8-12 months old. I get told all the varied stories and I hear their frustration. It is important to empathise without judgement but my job is to sort thru the information and help find a workable solution for the family.

Truth is, the problems experienced are rarely the fault of the dog... after all... **“ The Dog is Just Being a Dog ”**

Humans can easily let their emotions override commonsense when making life decisions. So perhaps the breed or personality of dog selected does not meet your expectations. So here let's review some of the common reasons given regarding their choice of dog....

1. I grew up with (heeler/labrador/GSD/insert breed here) when I was a kid and they were great dogs.

Yes they might have been great dogs ... but you were a kid... chances are your parents had to deal with the dog so you were unaware of the problems and frustrations they might have dealt with - In the first 12-24 months of your dog's life there were probably many times your parents wanting to send the dog away to "live on a farm". Also go back a couple of decades lifestyles were different. As a kid you might have had a big backyard to play with siblings and a few times a week you would grab your bike and dog and meet neighbourhood kids to play. Sometimes it would be to the park or perhaps street cricket. This allowed the dog and kids to burn off energy and then chill out.

2. I owned a (cattle dog/kelpie/etc) when I started a family and he was excellent with children so when he passed we got another, but this little b@st@rd just keeps biting and nipping the kids

You were likely single when you got this dog and in the first couple of years you might even have taken him to work with you. By the time he was 3-4 years you met your future partner and they loved him too - Dog went everywhere, on camping holidays and to the local footy match. By the time you brought home a baby your dog was mature and experienced in life, he knew this addition was Mum/Dad's special person and there were boundaries. At 14 yo he passed away, you miss him dearly and want your kids to grow up with these memories so you get another dog.... just the same... BUT... it is NOT the same. Your priorities are different... your lifestyle is different.... Now your young dog is sitting home alone in a small backyard with NO stimulus and NO purpose so he becomes "a pain in the ass teenager"... the adults, kids and dog cannot seem to find it how to get along.



3. Love the look of (Staffy/bulldog/husky/etc) they are sooo tough, but now destroying my home.... !

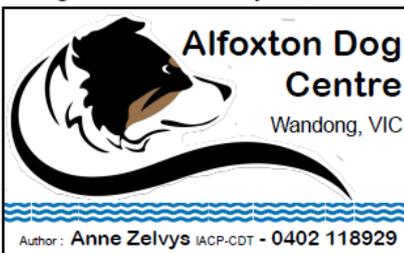
Choosing a dog because of the look is very common and sometimes this is the good base to start your selection. However, consider anyone you know who has *prioritised looks over function* and they probably have had situations where they bought a completely inappropriate car; or signed up for a gym membership they never use; or worse still, eventually stuck dealing with an expensive and messy divorce.

4. I want a small companion (frenchie/dacshund/oodle), they're sooo cute but are reactive / suffer anxiety....



Congratulations you wanted a little friend to look cute and sit on your lap.... But find this little alien is a fussy eater, so you find yourself spending your holiday savings at the vet clinic, dealing with the little doggies tummy or skin ailments. But holidays are likely the last thing on your mind when you have a dog who can't/won't settle anywhere without having you at their beck and call. You might feel a small dog has small behaviour problems... Wrong !... the problems can just be different... perhaps when visitors arrive you find yourself making excuses for this hound who is barking and growling at those who invade their carefully structure world. Well at least you feel loved !... *but secretly, you wish you had a cat.*

So how do we move forward with our pets...? Most breeds can become a great family pet but breed traits should be also be a consideration when sorting out issues - Often people feel they have tried everything; dog is relegated to the backyard; tried obedience training; bark collars, even ignored the issues in the hope the dog will just mature. However if your dog is still driving you nuts you need help and as soon as possible Not from any online course or 'positive training guru' but from an *experienced hands on* behavioural trainer. Talk on the phone and grill each to see if they can offer a common sense approach for you to understand what you are trying to achieve.. plus always be prepared to learn from life and consider carefully with future choices:



“ Best of Breed will suit YOUR family and YOUR current lifestyle “

SUDOKU

Answers
on page 32

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

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

THIS MONTHS QUIZ

Answer appears on Page 32 but no cheating!

1. What's the oldest continuous sporting event in the USA?
2. How many title deeds does a game of Monopoly include?
3. What eye colour is most common worldwide?
4. What USA city is known as the "Windy City"?
5. What star sign is symbolized by a pair of scales?
6. What is the national flower of Japan?
7. Who is the most decorated Olympian in Olympic history?
8. Which famous musician was nicknamed "Satchmo"?
9. Paper invented by Egyptians was called:
10. Which gas do plants absorb from the atmosphere?
11. What is the only mammal capable of true flight?
12. What country is known as the "Emerald Isle"?
13. How many edges does a cube have?
14. What is the capital of Indonesia?
15. What is a group of owls called?
16. Which cartoon character lives in Jellystone Park?

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,

This month we had another very informative gardening presentation from our gardening guru Gail, who focused on techniques for maintaining a healthy and flourishing garden as we come into the Spring and Summer Seasons.

Gail brought with her, some of her own potted plants and discussed propagation techniques for succulents and other garden plants. Thank you again Gail, for your time and sharing your knowledge with us.

During this year's Seniors month of October, the Mitchell Shire once again provided us with loads of entertainment where we were able to sing, dance, eat and generally make merry.

At the Morning Melodie's in four locations within the Shire, we were entertained by the ever popular "Horizon Duo" and at the Annual Country Concert, we were treated to a tribute show to Johnny Cash and June Carter by the duo "Get Rhythm". It was fantastic to see a number of people up dancing. These events are a wonderful opportunity for social connection and celebration. We are already looking forward to next year's events.

If you enjoy dancing (ballroom, line dancing, jive, disco) our Wallan U3A is once again holding our ever popular social on Friday 7th November. We hope to see many of our members and friends attend this fun night.

Looking forward to other activities in November, we have an excursion planned to the Werribee Mansion on November 28th. Where we will be taking a guided tour of the stately mansion, followed by lunch in the cafe and a walk in the beautiful gardens. On this occasion a bus will transport us to and fro, thank you Nola and Susie for your work in planning and organising this much anticipated event.

If you need any further information on U3A Wallan's classes and activities, please look at our website or contact our President John on 0413 083 089.

That's all for this time, Bye for now

John Lanphier

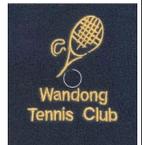


WANDONG TENNIS CLUB

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

Information is posted on our Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/wandongtennis



Our spring night season is almost completed with all teams looking to compete in finals. Good luck everyone

Our Saturday senior and junior season has now started. Good luck for the season

Coaching is available at the club

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

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Phone: Anne **0402 118929**

60 Junction Rd, Heathcote Junction, Vic

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

October was still cool with limited
sunshine. The nocturnal temperatures
were cold and the diurnal temperatures
remained in the low to mid teens.

Rainfall was very light in the first half of
the month with 11 mls recorded over five
days. The second half of which 38 mls
was mostly comprising of 28.5 mls
on the 25th and 26th.

The conditions to date appear to be
reasonably normal for spring.

Our supply dam Sunday Creek was at
76% capacity as of the 27th October..

Stats

October 2025 - 49 mls

Previous year - 57.5 mls

Average prev 10 years - 88 mls

Total this year - 514 mls

Total prev year - 658.5 mls

All the best for the month, Norm

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. The Kentucky Derby
2. 28
3. Brown
4. Chicago
5. Libra
6. Cherry blossom
7. Michael Phelps
8. Louis Armstrong
9. Papyrus
10. Carbon dioxide
11. Bat
12. Ireland
13. Twelve
14. Jakarta
15. Parliament
16. Yogi Bear

SUKODU solution

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



*Kilmore
&
District*

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

The committee have received a request to consider forming a "Pickleball" group and are seeking expressions of interest to determine the feasibility of establishing this group. Pickleball is a racket sport played indoors or outdoors by two or four players using smooth paddles to hit a perforated plastic ball over a 34-inch (0.86 m) net.

The game shares similarities with tennis and table tennis, but uses unique paddles, balls, scoring, and court markings, often on a badminton-sized court. (For size comparison you could fit 4 pickle ball courts on a standard tennis court). Each side of the net features a 7-foot non-volley zone (the "kitchen") where volleys are not allowed.

Pickleball is very popular among seniors worldwide because it involves less running than many other sports, reduces fall risk, and provides good cardiovascular exercise. If this sparks your interest and you would like to express your interest in joining the group please email info@u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au or ring Cheryl Spencer on 0408 171 033

October was a busy month for the ukulele group, who performed at the Morning Melodies seniors month gigs, the usual nursing home singalongs and the Kilmore Community House Halloween celebration for the local children. The recorder group also ran their concert programme for the residents at Dianella as a warm up for the combined concert to be held at the JJ Clancy facility on November 7th. We have checked out the acoustics in the main space and it should be a great sounding concert. Come along and join us at 1.00pm for a fun musical afternoon and some light refreshments to be provided by the committee.

The Creative Writing group have turned their focus to memoir writing. People have many different reasons for writing a memoir, one of which is to preserve details of stories that would otherwise be forgotten. It is a sad fact that much of the knowledge, ideas and lived experiences of our own parents and grandparents had been lost because, historically, families rarely talked about their lives to their children. I am finding in my own extended family that the young adults are asking more questions about where they come from as they get older and have children of their own.

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.

November is the start of many events at our course starting with the Championships for all men followed by the Kilmore Melbourne Cup Ambrose event, Spring Cup, Jean Walder Bowl, Kilmore Bowl, Kilmore Open event (4BBB & Men's Open) A busy time.



Winners of the Monthly Medals for October were Jim Ioannidis & Sophie Banon. The Medal of Medalists for the Ladies will be finalised at the end of November.

The Club has applied for a further Junior Girls Scholarship. These grants over the last 4 years have allowed the Club to offer 24 golf clinics for girls 9-16 y.o. with free coaching for one year. Participants receive a free cap and shirt and glove from Golf Australia. If your daughter/ grand daughter is interested contact the Club on 57832 1123 or email: info@kilmoregolfclub.com.au Further information can be found on our website: kilmoregolfclub.com.au

The warmer weather may encourage more players on the course especially with the start of Daylight saving so the following information may give you some options or ideas for a Christmas present.

Green Fees: Weekday Green fees \$25 Weekend \$30

Carts \$40 which must be pre-booked. Contact the Club Ph: 03 5732 1123 OR text 0437 712 973

Competitions are played Wednesday & Saturday. Shotgun start @ 9.30 am

Social passes can be purchased now. \$300 for 12 months valid until October 2026.

Pro rata rates available

New membership or Distance Membership (40Km) \$400 p.a. Pro rata rates available

Information can be viewed on our website

Contact the Club for further information:

Email: info@kilmoregolfclub.com.au OR Ph : 03 5782 1123

Whittlesea Community Network

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



Is it just me or are we speeding towards the end of the year! There's still time to learn something new, join a group or take up volunteering! Head to www.wchi.com.au to check out what's happening and to book online!

Visy Recycling

BBQ season has officially started and 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

**Special Event – Movember Quiz 18th November with guest Quiz Master local MP Rob Mitchell

Women's Lunch

Thursdays 13th & 27th November 11.30am – 1.00pm Gold Coin Donation

Walking Group is BACK

Join us for a walk each week on Wednesdays between 10am – 11am (and for a cuppa afterwards). Dogs and prams are welcome and best of all its FREE!

Op Shop Tours

Saturday 15th November Nurseries and Open Gardens \$20 per person

Saturday 6th December Vic and South Melbourne Markets \$20 per person

Boat Licence

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

Saturdays 6th OR 20th December 9.00am – 1.00pm \$150 per person

Fix it Friday

Fix it Friday will return in on 28th November! 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.

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

Spring has not had a good start, with a cool starts and frosty mornings, spring storms are to rev up later this month throughout Wandong and Heathcote Junction. Please be aware flooding of Dry Creek throughout the Reserve can occur with the unpredictable spring storms, so take care when using the Say G'Day Trail. Also be aware of snakes through the Reserve as we have had several sightings already.

The summer sports are now progressing their programs:

Mitchell Agility Dog Club, Wandong Tennis, Kilmore Cricket-Friday Nights and Saturday, Standardbred Riding Club, Kilmore and District Adult Rider's Club, Wandong Primary- recreational activities, Auskick- AFL Goulburn Murray program, Wandong Netball Club-Training.

What is our community up to down at the Reserve, a lot at present but once the weather becomes warmer more activities will come and the following activities will see the community.

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

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

Graffiti at the L.B.Davern Reserve

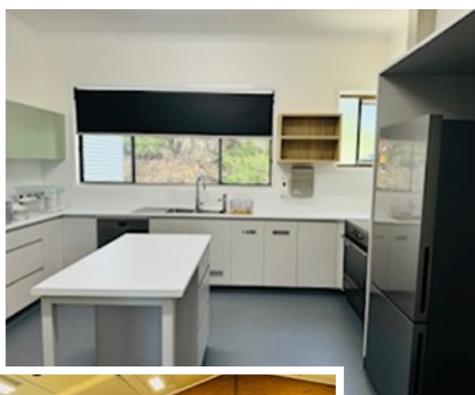
It was disappointing that back in October the L.B.Davern Reserve was hit with graffiti. The Stadium was hit and thank you to our community in advising the Committee and the Graffiti has been removed quickly.

Our community, we need your help; We need to catch any persons vandalizing our Reserve!!!! Or suspicious activities occurring.

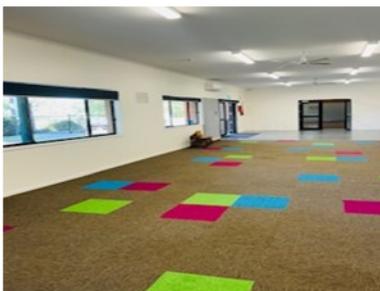


If Residents notice anything out of the ordinary please contact the police on 000 It is in our community interest that we all keep our Reserve safe for all to use !!

Our Community building is 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



Our Sports pavilion is open for meetings and small gatherings



Continued Page 36



For L.B.Davern Reserve Bookings to either:

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

- Community Centre and Sports Pavilion contact:

Darlene Gunter- Booking Officer for the WHJSCC on 0418 312 762



**Rob Telfer, President, L.B.Davern Reserve Committee
12 Dry Creek Crescent, (P.O.Box 303), Wandong 3758**