



ISSUE 354 WANDONG/HEATHCOTE JUNCTION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER : DECEMBER 2025 ABN 17 022 858 565

Email—whatsnewswhj@gmail.com 700 copies

EDITOR - Allen Hall, 20 North Mountain Rd, Heathcote Junction 3758 Ph - 0413 832 411
Delivered to Wandong/Heathcote Junction/Wallan/Kilmore/Broadford/Whittlesea & Upper Plenty

Copy online at www.wandong.vic.au



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

AUSTRALIA DAY AT WANDONG

Everyone is invited to the Wandong Heathcote Junction Australia Day breakfast, flag raising and awards ceremony and free hot breakfast on Australia Day 2024. The event starts at 8am at the Wandong Public Hall in Rail Street, Wandong, and is sponsored by the Wandong Wallan Lions Club, the Wandong History Group, the Wandong Public Hall and the Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group.



VISIT THE WANDONG ROSE GARDEN AT THE WANDONG HEATHCOTE JUNCTION BUSHFIRE AND WAR MEMORIAL PARK to see hundreds of rose varieties in full bloom (see page 26). Cross the Epping Kilmore Road and enjoy coffee at Kemps Bakery or at Crumbs and Co. at Wandong Plaza.



An Invitation for You
WHAT!
A Family Carol Service

WHEN?
Christmas Eve
TIME?
7:30
WHERE?
St John's Anglican Church,
(behind the Primary School.)

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

Wandong - Heathcote Junction - why would you live anywhere else. Until February 2026, Allen Hall (editor)
NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: COPY & ADS 31 January 2026 DELIVERY from 11 February 2026
Printed by Newspaper House, Kilmore

THE NAME SAYS IT ALL IT2U

We come to you, support delivered in home or office



CALL US

0413 967 622 / 03 9028 8990



WEBSITE

WWW.IT2U.COM.AU

YOUR ONE-STOP TECH SOLUTION!

CONVENIENT SERVICES, WE COME TO YOU

BATTERY REPLACEMENT VIRUS & MALWARE REMOVAL HARDWARE UPGRADES DEVICE DIAGNOSTICS

24/7 EMERGENCY TECH SUPPORT PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE QUICK FIXES & FAST RESPONSE TIME

WINDOWS & MAC REPAIRS IPAD IPHONE SCREEN REPAIRS LAPTOP AND MAC SCREEN REPLACEMENT

CALL US

0413 967 622 / 03 9028 8990



WEBSITE

WWW.IT2U.COM.AU



0409 131 663

Wandong's very own Art school for children 6 years and up, teens, adults & disability students.

Teaching painting, drawing, clay, string art, wood burning, mosaic & more.

Visit our Facebook page for more information



@Three Brushes Studio

WANDONG-HEATHCOTE JUNCTION COMMUNITY GROUP

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



WEBSITE: In November the <www.wandong.vic.au> website received 1222 visits. If any business or group has noticed any content which needs to be corrected to their entry, please let us know. To add your business or group email: whatsnewswhj@gmail.com

We continue to clear rubbish from our town - these photos show loads of rubbish collected along the Epping Kilmore Road, Wandong and taken to the Wallan transfer station. The loads included a mattress, six tyres and 50 two litre oil bottles. 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.



THE WANDONG HEATHCOTE JUNCTION COMMUNITY GROUP WISHES EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS 2026



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

21 Dec Wes & Rhonda Cole B
29 Dec Alan & Fay Smith W
13 Jan Troy & Erika Lehmann-Kay WP
14 Jan Annemarie & Dean Hogan W
2 Feb Frank & Nadia Amoroso HJ
5 Feb Jarrod & Kate King Wallan
6 Feb Shaun & Stacey Petersen Tas
11 Feb Rob & Karen Dawson HJ
14 Feb Chris & Carol Ryan KE

GET "WHATS NEWS" BY EMAIL

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

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
mitchelbwalksgroup@gmail.com

for more information

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS (cont)

We wish the following people a very happy birthday

11 Feb	Damian Buggy	HJ
11 Feb	Danni George	HV
12 Feb	Brooke Colbert	W
13 Feb	Irene Bartlett	W
13 Feb	Dylan Hall	B
13 Feb	Guy Marstaeller	Wallan
13 Feb	Rhiannon Bausch	HJ
13 Feb	Chris Placel	W
14 Feb	Les Harrison	W
14 Feb	Ebony May McMahon	W

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

We wish the following people a very happy birthday

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



Wandong IGA

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

Open every day

8am-8pm

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

**See in store for many
great specials.**

Great Range of:

**Groceries
Meat
Produce
Deli
Dairy
Freezer
Liquor**

Wandong Licensed Supermarket
3272 Epping Kilmore Rd, Wandong

5787 1911

STILL LOOKING FOR A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

BUY A COPY OF GHOSTS, GOLD & A WHITE ELEPHANT

a history of Wandong - Heathcote Junction
and surrounds.

Over 600 copies have been sold and
only a limited number are still available
before a reprint is considered.

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

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

Cost \$50 plus \$10 postage.

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.

Missed out on Myers windows!

Then don't miss out on the cow shed in Bethlehem!

One of the disciples (a doctor) describes the event in Luke 2/7 Mary brought forth her first born Son and wrapping Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a cattle feed box as there was no room at the inn.

This is where the action is, this is where the wise men gathered to assure the crowd that this little baby was in fact the chosen one, the one that was already fulfilling the prophecy of the old textbooks! The changes brought about by these events have changed the world and have brought about untold improvements to our everyday life, many of which we have taken for granted.

I thought I would talk to Aunt Edith about this idea (you have met Aunt in earlier episodes.) She is the one who now comes to our workshop to share lunchtime with the scruffy staff. (By their request I might add!) Aunt is very astute in things ancient and ultra-modern, I can't remember the last time I won an argument with her no matter what the subject might have been. All the touchy subjects- footy, politics, religion, even potholes! I wanted to get her slant on the idea that we owe so much to Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ.

We have perhaps taken for granted the benefits and advances that the influences of the birth of Jesus has had on our everyday lives over 2000 odd years. I thought how much more sensible it would be to allow a more mature and knowledgeable mind to contribute to this discussion! So, enter Aunt Edith, "Aunt, in just a few words (there's a difficulty straight away if ever there was one.) could you list some changes that came about from that humble beginning when a Baby was born in a stable in Bethlehem so many years ago?" I'll let Aunt finalize the story; the ED will cut her off if she rambles on (He is more polite to Aunt than he is to me.)

Aunt, Almost every facet of our modern calendar, the law system, education, schooling, hospitals, law enforcement, celebrations, greetings, welfare, the sensible recognition and aid of the poor, those who were in slavery, the improvement of the lifestyle of women, the attention to working conditions of laborers and those in dangerous occupations, the improvement to children's care. These and many more changes were the direct result of an alteration in societies' attitude toward the downtrodden and unfortunate in our world. Obviously much more needs to be accomplished to continue to create a fair and non-greedy society but dramatic changes came about through Jesus subsequent examples and teaching.

Examples of the difference in the lives of those who decided to follow Jesus showed in the dramatic changes in His followers, tax collectors, fishermen and friends, these everyday folk became filled with the desire to tell their world that this event, this Baby born in such humble surrounds was in reality the One who the scriptures had already foretold of His birth circumstances, His purpose on earth and prophecy that amazingly was already coming to pass!

The change in lives today of hardened criminals, of those living ordinary lives, others who desperately look for an alternative to the mess they find the world has led them into, when they decide to follow the concepts of His teachings they are filled with a new confidence, a redirection for their lives, they rediscover a peace of mind never experienced before and often with a desire to tell others about their experiences, next time you say good-bye that is a shortened version of "God be with ye" also as in giddyay, good morning and goodnight! What brings these changes about! It's the power of the Baby in the cattle-shed over 2000 yrs ago!

As you enjoy this Christmas season spare a thought for the benefits that we enjoy following the miraculous birth, life and teaching and example of our Master, Leader, and our sure and hope for the future The Lord Jesus Christ.

We would like to wish our readers a very merry Christmas and a happy new year from Aunt, Charles, Merle and Allan. And a big shout out to ED for his unending patience. A.G.

Whittlesea Anglican Christ Church

We are located at
5-9 Wallan Rd, Whittlesea.
Phone: 9716 2042

Sunday service is at 10.30am

All are welcome to stay back for a cup of
coffee, tea, scones and biscuits.

Services to the Community:

Whittlesea Opportunity Shop
The Op shop is now on site at
5-9 Wallan Rd, Whittlesea.

Phone: 9716 2042

Open Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm,
Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm.



To equip and release people into their God given destiny

Meeting at 10.30am every Sunday
at the Freedom Care Building,
127c Northern Highway Kilmore Vic
— entrance on Willomavin Road

Enquiries to ;

Pastor Frantz Heinzelmann

Mobile: 0411 794 188

www.freedomcarechurch.org.au

All Welcome. Love to see you there



Phone Nathan 0419 585 773

Email info@allprotectsecurity.com.au

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



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

Recreational & Competition Gymnastics

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

Visit our website for more information

Birraleegymnastics.com.au

WANDONG AUSTRALIANA MOTEL - TAVERN - RESTAURANT BROADHURST LANE, WANDONG



- FULLY LICENSED • SMORGASBORD
- A LA CARTE • ACCOMMODATION

**ENQUIRIES AND
BOOKINGS:**
(03) 5787 1401

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
9.30 am - Approx. 1.30 pm**

email: Kilmoremensshed@gmail.com

The Kilmore & District Hospital



Rutledge Street, Kilmore Phone: (03) 5734 2000

**Urgent Care Centre
(Open 24/7 with Registered Nurses)**

Acute Ward (30 beds)

**Maternity (including antenatal classes
and dietician)**

Oncology

Surgical Procedures

District Nursing

Aged Care –

Dianella Hostel and

Caladenia Nursing Home Website:

www.kilmoredistricthospital.org.au



GARDEN SCENE WITH GAIL

Christmas 2025!'

We can be sure we are heading into the hottest part of the year but how good has the rain been, saving us time with not needing to water and the plants love the nitrogen that the rain provides. Nitrogen is so beneficial to a plant's growth, it promotes lush leafy growth, strong stems and it enhances the plants' ability to absorb other nutrients and resist stress. It's a good all-rounder. When we water, we need to add things that can assist in a similar way, isn't nature a time-saver. After the rain we've had we need to watch our plants if/when the weather becomes drier that can catch us off guard in a matter of days, hot winds, hot days, warm nights can happen so quickly, let's face it, we can and have done, had four seasons in one day. Plants in pots and hanging baskets will dry out quicker and if you are going away it might pay to ask a friend to water for you or upend a bottle of water into the pots, the soil will only absorb the water if it becomes dry. Saucers under pots are great or big trays that will take a few pots together and pop them out of the hot windy areas. Hanging baskets can be taken down and also popped into trays or in an old bath, they can dry out and be knocked around in the wind. Once a plant dries out it isn't easy for the roots to draw up moisture again, the important fibrous roots can shrivel not allowing a good supply of moisture and nutrients to the plant, and the plant struggles making it more vulnerable to heat stress and disease. Dried out soil can become hydrophobic, that is it resists moisture much like a new tea towel doesn't dry well until it has been washed, making our gardening harder to try and play catch up with the season. If you haven't netted your fruit trees it may be a good time to do so before the fruit gets much bigger and can be damaged or knocked off the tree by throwing the netting over and ensure they receive a consistent supply of water and fertiliser to be able to produce a good crop as with the veggie garden as well that may benefit from a liquid fertiliser instead being quick growing to maturity. As Summer progresses keep a look out for any wilting on new planting as these are susceptible to drying out due to their immature root system. Deep waterings are essential to encourage the roots deeper to minimize drying out, fertilise regularly and keep a good layer of mulch around the base of the plant. If you still need to prune, choose a cooler day and keep water up to the plant/s being pruned and follow up with an application of Seasol. Australian made, this product reduces stress in plants due to planting, drying out, climatic conditions etc however, if your plant is

waterlogged it will need to be raised up so it doesn't drown! Either dig it out and replant at a higher level, incorporating gypsum and well-rotted cow manure or try and raise it gradually by digging around the plant as deep as possible and 'underpin' all the way around, using a mix of Gypsum and well-rotted cow manure because the soil needs to be improved as well as the soil level of the plant. If we have similar weather as we had in November, it will be fantastic. Something unusual in the garden, a birdbath with a difference, use an old vase, clear glass or whatever you fancy and top it with a decorative dish that you can glue on to the base, it's your personal touch and it will look fantastic, and the birds will love the colours shimmering in the water. Have a beautiful festive season and stay safe.



Merry Christmas!

Gail Mains Kendrick
(your local Real Estate Agent)



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

**We understand that
retirement means you
finally get to focus on
living.... *save yourself
time and stress***



**Have your medication
PACKED and DELIVERED
FREE***

**CALL US ON
5787 1010**



***FOR FIRST THREE MONTHS. CONDITIONS APPLY.
PLEASE CALL OR SEE IN STORE FOR [DETAILS](#)**



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

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 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

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.



**THE WANDONG PUBLIC HALL COMMITTEE
WISHES EVERYONE A VERY HAPPY AND SAFE
FESTIVE SEASON**

Bridge works Wandong

1 December 2025 to 31 January

**JOHN
HOLLAND**

John Holland will continue works to prepare for the construction of a new bridge in Wandong during December 2025 and January 2026.

Work being done

- Excavation and non-destructive digging
- Construction of bridge column, abutments and supporting walls
- Crane mobilisation
- Steel girder delivery and assembly
- Roadworks and drainage construction alongside Epping-Kilmore Road
- Road construction on Broadford-Wandong Road
- Service investigations, surveys, utility relocation and drainage works.

What can I expect?

- Works 7am-6pm Monday to Friday and 7am-1pm Saturdays
- Round-the-clock works 7am Saturday 6 December to 11pm Sunday 7 December
- Single lane shuttle flow across the Broadford-Wandong bridge on Saturday 6 December
- Long-term temporary shuttle flow and traffic management on Epping-Kilmore Road and Broadford-Wandong Road
- Nearby residents may experience some noise and vibration.

Machinery used

Trucks, piling rigs, concrete pumps, excavators, pumps, rollers, non-destructive digging truck, 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

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@ihg.com.au


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

We are taking a break

John Holland will take a break from works between 19 December 2025 and 13 January 2026. Our pop-up at Country Soul Café will be unattended during the break. Members of the project will be on call during this time. If you have any enquiries, phone 1800 732 761.

☎ 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** 



Neighbourhood Watch

December 2025

Column

SOUTH MITCHELL

Help to Adjust to Social Media Bans

With new laws in Australia coming into effect from December 10, 2025, many popular social media platforms will no longer allow under-16s to hold accounts. While this may feel like a big change, there are constructive ways young people can adapt and stay socially connected — without losing touch altogether.

Why the law is changing

The goal of the law is to protect younger Australians from harmful design features in social media that can encourage excessive screen time or expose them to inappropriate content.

Importantly, the restrictions are not meant as a lifelong ban — they're more of a "delay until you're older" approach.

Under-16s won't get into trouble simply for having an account; instead, the responsibility lies with platforms to block or deactivate underage accounts and face penalties themselves if they fail to comply.

Here are some practical strategies for under-16s to handle this transition without feeling cut off:

Stay active on allowed apps — Many services aren't affected by the law, especially messaging apps, gaming platforms, educational or creative tools. These can still let you chat, play, collaborate or express yourself online.

Use new creative or supportive platforms — There are young-people friendly online spaces and forums (that remain allowed under the law) for creativity, discussion, support and learning. These can help you stay social while avoiding risks.

Use public content (without logging in) — For some platforms, even if you can't have an account, you can



still view public posts or videos. That lets you stay up-to-date with trends, content, or communities in a more passive way.

Explore offline or local activities — Use this as a chance to engage more in real-life friendships, hobbies, sports, arts, or local community groups. Offline connections can bring a different kind of balance and satisfaction.

Talk openly with friends and family — It's okay to feel upset or disconnected. Sharing how you feel helps. Families can make plans to hang out together, talk regularly, or find safe ways to socialise without relying on social media.

While losing access to social media can feel like missing out — especially if many friends are online — the change also offers a chance to build social, emotional and digital maturity before diving into the pressures of social media. It can also reduce exposure to harmful or distracting content and help create healthier balance between online and offline life.

Upcoming Events

South Mitchell is next General Meeting on 12 February, 2026, at 7pm 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>

Neighbourhood Watch would like to wish everyone a safe & happy Christmas and New Years.



Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other

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



Hi from the WHJSC Committee,

What's happening at the Reserve?

Summer has now started a little cool and unseasonal but the Heat is on the way with a cool start and with summer storms, please be aware any flooding due to spring storms can create flooding at Dry Creek through the Reserve. Also be aware of snakes through the Reserve as we have had several sightings.

Our summer sports are in progress with their programs and winding down for the Christmas break: Wandong Tennis, Kilmore Cricket, Standardbred Riding Club, Kilmore and District Adult Rider's Club, Wandong Primary School, Dog Club

What is our community up to down at the Reserve, a lot - Enjoy your Facility

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.

As 2025 draws to a close, the Reserve has continued to grow and develop and has become a great asset for our community to enjoy and a place to relax.

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

Our community, we need your help;

Especially as we enter the Christmas and New Year break

We need to stop any persons vandalizing our Reserve or any 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 in 2025. You can contact our booking officer on Darlene Gunter on 0418 312 762

Our Sports pavilion is open for meetings and small gatherings

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

1. - **Oval Bookings, Stadium bookings for all enquiries:**

- Mitchell Shire Council Recreation and Open Space unit
On: 5734 6200.

2. - **Community Centre and Sports Pavilion for all enquiries contact:**

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



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

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



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

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 

We need
your help
now more
than ever



DONATE today to support
your local hospital

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

Northern Health
Foundation 

**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**



PRETTY SALLY MITRE 10



WE HAVE ALL YOUR HIRE AND LANDSCAPING NEEDS!
96 HIGH STREET, WALLAN, VIC, 3756 PH: (03) 5783 2800



Put the sun to work

Switch to solar with help from Solar Victoria's
\$1,400 solar rebate and **interest-free loan**.



Apply today
solar.vic.gov.au

Eligibility criteria apply.



Solar
Victoria



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

>>> CNA FINALS



On Saturday 6th December, our club absolutely stole the show with three teams taking the court in their Grand Finals—and what a spectacle it was!

U11s – Wandong vs Wandong - You couldn't script a better matchup! Two Wandong teams battling it out in a fast, fiery contest where the ball flew end to end and every goal was earned. For the Shooting Stars, Indi worked tirelessly through the midcourt, Wynter was on point in goals, and Jude held a rock-solid back line. The Stars responded with their own brilliance—Lilly driving hard, Paige controlling the midcourt, and Sophie steady in the ring. The game stayed tight for the first half before the Shooting Stars pulled away in the third quarter, claiming an incredible underdog win 14–7. What a game from both teams!

U13s – Wandong vs Hurricanes -This match was electric from start to finish—fast, physical and evenly matched all the way. Natalie was a force in goals, Zoe and Annabelle were unstoppable in defence, and Aliyah dominated through the mid. Abby was outstanding, outrunning their Centre again and again.

The teams were locked at 28-28 at full time, sending the crowd into a nail-biting overtime. With composure and grit, Wandong surged ahead to take the win 33–30. An incredible effort!

What an unforgettable day for our players, coaches, families and supporters. We are so proud of every athlete who took the court and represented Wandong with heart, spirit and sportsmanship.



WANDONG NETBALL CLUB



CNA BEST AND FAIREST

15 Runner up Isabelle Carrington

U15 Best and Fairest Jasmine Bryant.

U13 Runner up Natalie King

U13 Best and Fairest Abby Welch

Best Finals Player Zoe Bell

Pictured right



>>> 2026 SPONSORS NEEDED

We're gearing up for an even bigger and better 2026 season — and we'd love for you to be part of our journey! 🤝💚

In 2025 we proudly had 87 registered members, and with strong growth already on the horizon, we're aiming even higher for 2026. As our club continues to expand, so does our need for amazing community partners to help support our players, programs and development.

Your sponsorship will make a HUGE impact. Funds raised will go directly towards:

- ✨ Replenishing and upgrading equipment for the season
 - ✨ Supporting our exciting plan to take every team to the Train Like A Vixen team days at the State Netball Centre — an unforgettable high-performance experience for our players
- By sponsoring the Wandong Netball Club, you're not just supporting a team — you're helping grow confidence, connection and community for young athletes across our region.

If you or your business would like to join us as a 2026 sponsor, we'd love to chat!

✉ Send us a message or email us to receive our sponsorship package.

Let's make 2026 our biggest year yet — together! 💚💙🤝

2026 SPONSORSHIP LEVELS		
PLATINUM	DIAMOND PACKAGE PLUS	\$5000
	*X-Large banner displayed at courts Acknowledgement at all events Logoon Match balls	
DIAMOND	GOLD PACKAGE PLUS	\$1,500
	*Large banner displayed at courts Logo on Coaches/Team Manager Jumpers	
GOLD	SILVER PACKAGE PLUS	\$1,000
	*Medium banner displayed at courts Recognition on socials	
SILVER	BRONZE PACKAGE PLUS	\$500
	Small banner displayed at courts year round	
BRONZE	PACKAGE INCLUDES	\$250
	Name/Logo displayed on wall during all home games Thankyou for supporting your local Netball Club in 2026 <small>*Banners increase in size for each package, they are not duplicated</small>	



>>> NETSETGO!

🎉 WOOLWORTHS NETSETGO REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN! 🎉

Get ready, little netball stars... it's time to join the fun! ✨

Our Woolworths NetSetGo program is officially open for all 5–10-year-olds, including our enthusiastic current U9s who are ready to keep building their skills!

NetSetGo is the perfect introduction to netball — a super fun program that teaches the basics through movement, games, teamwork and confidence-building. With our tiered Net & Set levels, every child can learn at their own pace in a friendly, supportive environment. 💚🏐

📅 PROGRAM DATES

Wednesdays, 4–5pm

From 4 Feb – 1 April 2026

📍 Wandong Netball Courts

💰 COST: \$99

Every registration includes a FREE Netball Victoria pack:

👕 T-shirt

🔑 Keyring

🏐 Ball

Whether you're completely new to netball or continuing from our U9s, this is the perfect way to learn, play and make great friends along the way. ✨

WANDONG NETBALL CLUB



>>> 2026 REGISTRATIONS

With our huge 2025 season now wrapped up, we're already looking ahead to welcoming families into an even bigger and better 2026!

Registrations for the 2026 Winter Season are NOW OPEN on Netball Connect.

Now it's your turn to be part of the action - Register now to receive an automatic 25% off bringing your Club fees down to just \$77!

Players must be turning 7 in 2026 to be eligible. Age groups: U9, U11, U13 & U16.

Interested in joining our Indoor teams at Craigieburn?

Email wandongregistrar@gmail.com to enquire.

Please note: these spots fill quickly and at this stage we are only accepting U11s for the upcoming season.

Let's make 2026 another incredible year for Wandong Netball Club! 💚🏐💚



>>> THANK YOU 2025 COACHES & TEAM MANAGERS!

As our 2025 netball year wraps up across Winter, CNA and Spring comps, we want to extend a HUGE thank you to every coach and team manager who gave their time, passion and energy to our players.

Our club simply wouldn't run without you — your dedication, encouragement and support mean the world to our athletes, families and the entire Wandong Netball community. 💚💚

KBNA WINTER COMP

U9 Green – Abby & Sarah
U9 White – Michelle & Court
U11 Green – Abbey, Mia & Amy
U11 White – Annette & Kate
U13 White – Jo & Kate
U15 Green – Sheree & Carly
U15 White – Jodie & Hayley

CNA COMP

U9 Comets – Court
U9 Stars – Kate
U11 – Amy
U11 Shooting Stars – Michelle
U13 – Amy & Kate
U15/17 – Kate

SPRING COMP

U9 Whirlwinds – Michelle & Court
U9 Firestorms – Jamie & Alicia
U11 Thunderbolts – Rochelle D & Rochelle M
U13 Stormbreakers – Jo & Rochelle D
U16 – Stu & Bec L & Rebecca Mc

To every single one of our 2025 coaches and managers — thank you.

Thank you for the early mornings, the planning, the sideline guidance, the patience, the cheers, and the heart you put into every session and game.

You have shaped this season, supported our players, and helped grow our club in all the best ways.

From all of us at Wandong Netball Club — we appreciate you! 💚💚🏐



🎄 Thank you and festive wishes 🎄

As we wind down into Christmas and to the end of 2025, Southern Cross Gold Consolidated (SXGC) sends warm festive wishes to the communities around us. We're proud to be part of this community and working with local residents, businesses and groups as we progress the Sunday Creek Project.

Thank you for your support, feedback and the many conversations that help guide our work. Our 2025's been our biggest on record and we've continued to expand our engagement reach to ensure our communities remain aware of our current and future plans. As our project has evolved we've shared the details of our activities through meetings, newsletters, letterbox drops, social media and drop ins. This year we:



Welcomed **24** new staff



Posted **62** updates on social media



Distributed **5** newsletters to over 350 people



Held **8** site tours with over **140** attendees



Worked with **120** local suppliers



Held **7** information drop in sessions



Held **4** meetings with our CRG

We're taking a break over Christmas from 22 Dec and will return on 2 January. We wish everyone a wonderful festive break and look forward to continuing to share our updates in the new year.

Exploration update

SXGC's application to construct an exploration tunnel at Sunday Creek has been approved. Notification of the approval was distributed to the Clonbinane, Waterford Park and Ryans Rise communities immediately with residents living close to the project site informed directly.

Secondary permits to meet environmental and construction standards are now being obtained.

Work has also begun on finalising processes to ensure the commitments made to minimise social and environmental impacts are delivered.

Surface construction works will commence in early 2026. Local contractor Lincoln's Earthmoving will prepare the site entrance roads, offices, workshop spaces and build water storage dams. The tunnel is expected to take 6-9 months to complete and will allow 24/7 underground drilling once constructed.

Surface drilling will continue during daytime hours.

Community feedback was incorporated into the tunnel's final design and impacts throughout construction and operation will be carefully monitored and managed.

The project will create jobs and our focus on sourcing local staff and contractors first will continue.

The approval still only allows exploration activities and does not permit mining. Any future mining license application requires a separate, comprehensive approval process.

Our community is encouraged to find information about the project including updated FAQs, fact sheets and the final site layout under the "Exploration tunnel" tab at southerncrossgoldcommunity.com.au.

We will keep residents informed before and during construction and will provide updates to the broader community through newsletters, social media, local media and its community website.

SXGC food drive supports our community

SXGC has been a proud supporter of local charity Love in Action for three years. The organisation provides food and essential items that go to families in need and are sourced mostly from the community itself.

Our food drive and donation this year was supported by staff and suppliers and we're so grateful for their generosity. Our contribution to this fantastic organisation will ensure Christmas cheer is spread to as many people in our local community as possible.



Festive cheer in the Mitchell Shire

SXGC was proud to join enthusiastic carollers when we once again sponsored this year's Community Bank Carols in Wallan's Hadfield Park.

This year's event was bigger and better than ever with the new venue in Wallan accommodating an increasingly popular local event.

Thank you to everyone who makes the Mitchell Shire's festive season one to look forward to each year.

New acoustic sheds manage noise

SXGC has recently installed two acoustic sheds on diamond drill rigs to further reduce the noise impacts of our surface drilling. The sheds are innovative world-first designs owned by our drilling contractor Deepcore Drilling that reduce sound emissions by 20 percent.

Deepcore Drilling designed and manufactured the sheds in Bendigo which have a green exterior to ensure they blend in with their surroundings.



November 2025 grant recipients

We're absolutely delighted to announce the winners of our second round of 2025 community grants! A huge congratulations to our winners and their projects:

- **Kilmore CFA:** Bum bags for fire medical responders
- **Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell:** Kilmore Busking Championships 2026
- **Wallan & District Community Group:** Food parcels to address food insecurity and increase social connection
- **Kilmore District Men's Shed:** Shelving to improve the functionality and safety of the storage area
- **Wandong History Group:** "Moments that matter" documentary about Wandong's past

Applications for our next round of funding will open in April 2026.



1800 717 638



community@southerncrossgold.com.au



www.southerncrossgoldcommunity.com.au

Southern Cross Gold Consolidated exploration tunnel has been approved

Southern Cross Gold Consolidated (SXGC) will continue to work closely with local communities after receiving approval from the Victorian Government to build an exploration tunnel at Sunday Creek.

Construction of the tunnel is expected to start in early 2026 after additional environmental permits are obtained. The tunnel is expected to take six to nine months to complete and will allow underground drilling 24 hours a day with surface drilling continuing during daytime hours.

Community feedback was incorporated into the tunnel's final design and impacts on neighbours, the wider community and the environment throughout the tunnel's construction and operation will be carefully monitored and managed.

The project will help create jobs for the local community while also providing opportunities for local contractors and suppliers. SXGC's focus on sourcing staff and businesses from the area will ensure continued support for local economic development.

The approval granted for the tunnel is limited to exploration activities only, enabling SXGC to accelerate geological and resource understanding at Sunday Creek. It does not authorise mining. Any future mining proposal would require a separate, rigorous licensing and approval process.

SXGC will keep residents informed before and during construction and will provide updates to the broader community through newsletters, social media, local media and its community website.

Further information about the project including updated FAQs, fact sheets and the final site layout under the "Exploration tunnel" tab at southerncrossgoldcommunity.com.au. SXGC welcomes questions or feedback any time on community@southerncrossgold.com.au or 1800 717 638.

WANDONG FIRE BRIGADE



Santa Visits

Have you seen the Santa countdown on our electric sign at the front of the fire station? Wandong Fire Brigade has once again 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 of 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 your 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 had a successful street corner meeting on the corner of Mount View road, Wandong in November with many residents coming to gain information on how best to prepare their families and properties.

Victorians are being urged to prepare for an increase in fire activity across large parts of the state this summer, according to the Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Summer. Having a fire plan with your family and reducing the vegetation around your home by mowing lawns and clearing gutters are some of the most important things you can do to prepare for the higher risk weather season.

Fire Restrictions now in!

Fire Restrictions in Mitchell Shire were declared from the 18th of November 2024 and will continue until 1st of May 2025 unless revoked earlier. 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

Training

Our firefighters have been busy participating in training recently, with a couple of members heading away for a weekend to complete their low structure fire training. All Wandong members have been actively preparing with their pre-season training.

Juniors

The Wandong Fire Brigade Juniors put on a brilliant display of skills and knowledge to family, friends and brigade members at the end of November in their of year presentation.

They turned up to a mock house fire that turned into a bushfire that then threatened the firefighters and required them to go into burn over mode. They demonstrated radio communications, hose bowling and hose lay, putting wet stuff on the red stuff, burn over drills, and then explained to the parents and friends what they have learnt about hose spray patterns, breathing apparatus, hydrants and more.

Huge thanks to our Junior leaders who do an amazing job and to our Juniors who are an awesome group of young people. Look forward to seeing you again next year.

Community Bank
Wallan, Kilmore and Broadford

WIN \$1,000

THANKS TO YOUR BANKING, WE'VE INVESTED OVER \$5,000,000 BACK INTO YOUR COMMUNITY.
NOW, WE'RE GIVING YOU A CHANCE TO WIN 1 OF 8 PRIZES!

FILL OUT THE FREE, 30 SECOND ENTRY FORM TO ENTER.

FREE ENTRY SCAN HERE



or visit www.norcenfs.com.au

NORCEN FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED

VIC only. 18+ only. Starts from A\$20.000. Ends 11/05/2015. Max 1 in each entry point. Some entries apply - see full T&Cs for details. Draw 10pm AEST 20/05/2015 High Street, Wallan VIC 3785. Winners published on the sponsor's social media pages by 20/05/2015. Max 1 participation. Entries will go to the bank's marketing team for processing. See full T&Cs for terms and conditions.

Part of your team

Community Bank
Wallan, Kilmore and Broadford
03 5783 2422

Bendigo Bank



**Independent
Manufacturer**

Kilmore Industrial
Estate,
123 Northern Hwy,
Kilmore, 3764

(03) 57 822 300

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



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



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



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

**Kitchens/
Bathrooms**

- Splash Backs
- Benchtops
- Cabinetry
- Wall Tiles
- Timber/Laminate
- Shower Bases
- Bathtubs
- Vanities

**Don't Replace,
Resurface!**

We can makeover your kitchen or
bathroom surfaces to look bright and
fresh again using our exclusive product

- ✓ No need for expensive retiling or replumbing, and no mess!
- ✓ A new kitchen or bathroom in days, not weeks
- ✓ Established family business for over 15 years
- ✓ New easy-to-clean surfaces

0407 421 292 www.superiorresurfacing.com.au

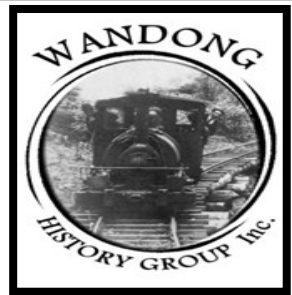
WANDONG HISTORY GROUP

A huge year for Wandong almost completed, hopefully this time next year we will back to normal, with a new bridge and waiting to see the first double stacked train go through.

The History Group were excited to learn that we were successful in attaining the grant from FRRR to produce two short history documentary films. This work will consume most of 2026 and we can't wait to get stuck in and get this project underway.

The history month (in November) event went off really well and were pleased with the numbers that came through the church and the interest shown. The display will be in place for a while so anyone who would like to come through can contact us and we can arrange a visit. Inland rail funded the event, and we are grateful for their sponsorship.

A small but dedicated team turned out for the Remembrance Day service, the day was awful and halfway through the ceremony the rain poured down. A quick reset under the gazebo allowed us to complete the ceremony and the sun returned for the morning tea after. Thanks to all those who turned up and helped out.



We will wind down for a few weeks take some time off with family and friends and come back in 2026 ready to go on our projects.

From all of us, we wish you and your families a safe and happy Christmas and let the new year bring great things to everyone.

Karen Christensen

President

Wandong History Group

wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com

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

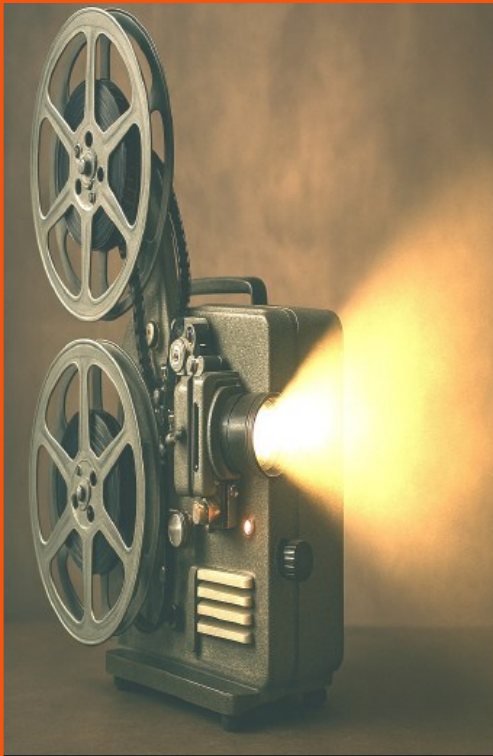
Snuffle mats for sale

The Snuffle Mat, is great mental stimulation for your pet.

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

Email: wandongite@hotmail.com





MEMORIES THAT MATTER

Thank you FRRR for
backing our community
project.

Proud to be supported by the
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal



The Wandong History Group are thrilled to announce we were successful in obtaining a FRRR grant to fund our Memories That Matter Documentary in 2026. Stay tuned for news on this exciting project. For more information email us: Wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com

STOP THE PRESS!

Southern Cross Gold Consolidated has generously provided us with additional funding toward making this film.

We are grateful to our wonderful sponsors of this project.

TIPS FOR ADULTS AT KIDS SPORT

1. **Keep it fun**
don't take it *too seriously*
It's not the world titles 
2. **Be enthusiastic**
but don't *scream* & *shout* instructions from the sideline 
3. **Emphasise trying hard**
not winning 
4. **Cheer & acknowledge**
good plays by *all players* 
5. **Accept decisions by officials**
they are human & *can make mistakes* 
6. **Let coaches do the coaching** 
7. **Always remember, volunteers run kids sport** 
8. **Understand, uphold and support your club's code of conduct** 
9. **Allow your child to play for themselves**
Let kids make the decisions on and off the field 
10. **Think before you speak**
Your words may harm others 

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.

CLONBINANE C.F.A.



Summer is here and so are our fire restrictions. Restrictions came into force for the Mitchell Shire Council on Monday 17th November and will remain in place until further notice.

Penalties for lighting fire illegally during Fire Danger Period and on Total Fire Ban days include large fines and possible imprisonment.

Head to the CFA website to find out more about your legal obligations during the Fire Danger period & days of Total Fire Ban.

During the Fire Danger Period it is important to know what the Fire Danger Rating is.

Fire Danger Ratings tell you how dangerous a fire could be if one started.

They are important because they help you decide what actions to take to protect yourself and others from bushfires and grassfires.

Fire danger ratings are shown in the same way across all of Australia, so whether you're at home or travelling, you will see the same rating system.

The new Fire Danger Ratings



Fire Danger Ratings will be issued on days when there is a fire risk.

Each fire danger rating will have a clear set of messages including the actions the community can take to reduce their risk.

Ratings are forecast using Bureau of Meteorology data for up to four days in advance, based on weather and other environmental conditions such as vegetation.

The rating is your trigger to take action to stay safe.

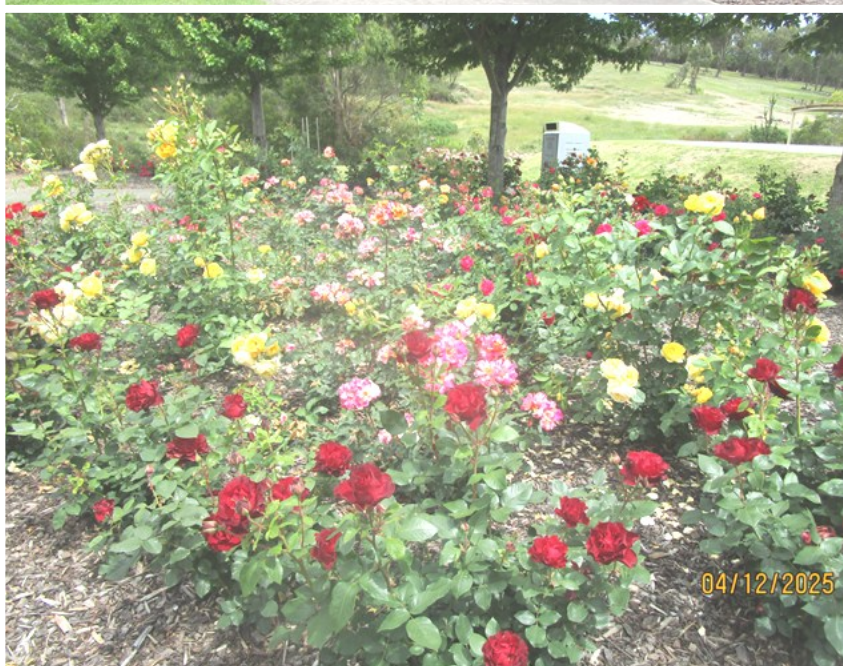
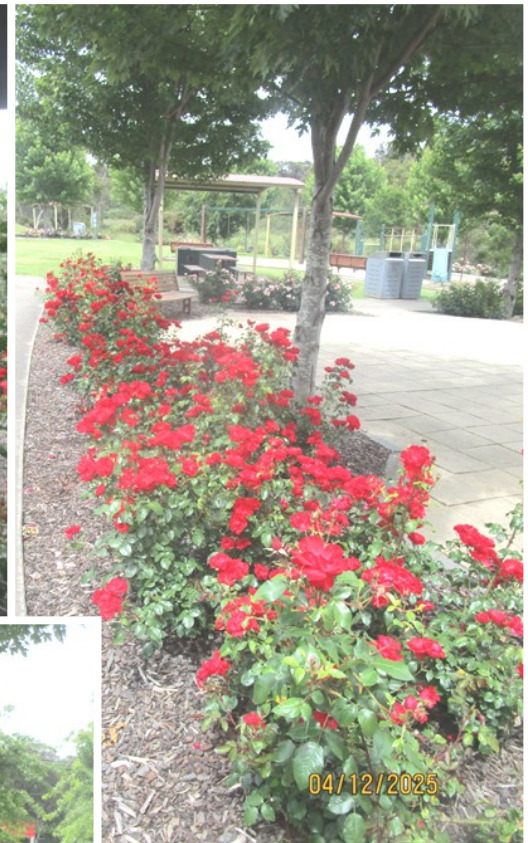
Fire Danger signs are located at the top of Spur Road, Broadford-Wandong Road (near Clonbinane Exit ramps) and the corner of Broadford-Wandong Road/Clonbinane Road. These signs are changed by our members and will also be updated on days of Total Fire Ban. Fire Danger Ratings can also be found on the CFA website or on the VicEmergency app.

Brigade activities

You may see our vehicles out on the roads on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings as our members continue to train for the fire season. If you wish to seek further information about property preparedness, please drop into the station at 10am on Sunday morning or contact us through our Facebook page. Santa Run – Santa will be in Waterford Park on Monday 22nd December, he will be travelling around the estate and will make his way to the reserve from 6pm.

From Clonbinane CFA
we wish everyone a safe and happy holidays

VISIT THE BEAUTIFUL WANDONG ROSE GARDEN





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

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL B HALLEY
PUBLICITY OFFICER

A visit to Geelong

The spring day held out according to the forecast when members of the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea ventured down the National Highway M80 to Geelong in mid-November.

The itinerary was to visit the Amazing Mill Markets and Moorabool Valley Chocolate with an included buffet meal at a selected hotel.

In 1824, explorers Hamilton Hume and William Hovell reached Corio Bay, the site of modern-day Geelong, after a long overland journey south. The M80 crosses Hovell Creek which reminded me that long ago, when it was just Geelong Road, I came across a Hume's Concrete truck crashed into the creek. So Hume and Hovell were reunited!

The Amazing Mill Markets lease space to hundreds of different stallholders, each location has a diverse range of wares and [new stallholders](#) are always welcome.

They advertise that there is invariably something for everyone who visits with vintage clothes, vintage furniture, memorabilia, art, glass, jewellery, books, antiques and collectables. This was found to be true, but the visitors were more "tyre kickers" than purchasers.

Nevertheless some were still exploring when it was time for the coach to take us for lunch. Interestingly the once prominent Ford factory near the luncheon venue has undergone some "badge engineering" and highly visible warehouses and outlet barns steal the limelight.

Moorabool Valley Chocolate began in May 2005, operating from a farmhouse kitchen built in the 1920s. That was soon outgrown, and a bedroom at the front of the house was converted into a commercial kitchen.

In 2011 the chocolatiers moved out of the shared kitchen into a dedicated chocolate preparation area. Chocolate moulding machines and an enrober were purchased. Later, a spinning machine to assist in making hollow figures such as Santa and Easter bunnies was installed.

Chocolate Enrobing is the process in which centers (such as pretzels, chips, or cookies) pass under a "waterfall" of chocolate and become blanketed in a smooth coating. Toppings and/or a drizzle can also be applied to the surface, resulting in a distinguished, delicious treat!

Visitors were able to see the operation and sample from a wide selection of what was being produced. An appropriate chocolate bar was *the Solid Ruby Chocolate Footprints Bar*.

At lunch President Marje and husband Kevin *advised* that the next day [14 November] was their Ruby Anniversary acknowledging fifty-five years of married bliss. The Mill Market offered much ruby enhanced jewellery, but we are unsure if either bought something for a surprise present!

The journey home allowed folks to reflect on the day and to get a clear view and understanding why the Western Ring Road is always congested in peak periods, and that many inferior drivers are regularly on the roads. Solid white lines are regularly crossed and indicators are for random use.

The last get-together for 2025 will be our December Christmas inspired meeting followed by the annual luncheon.



Written by
Michael Halley



WANDONG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Whole-School Camp Program 2025

Our students have recently enjoyed their 2025 school camps. Our Grade 3/4s were the first to head off, enjoying three days at Lady Northcote which included bike riding, making woodfired pizzas, canoeing, and yabbing. Our Foundation students had a ball at their very first school camp experience, travelling to Bounce for the day. The Grade 5/6s enjoyed their much-awaited surf camp at Anglesea, catching some waves in their surfing lesson, showing off their gnarly skateboarding skills, completing initiatives challenges and enjoying the famous night beach walk. Finally, our Grade 1/2s went off for their first overnight camp at Camp Weekaway, with some of the highlights including archery, laser tag and raft building. We are so grateful to all the teachers, Education Support staff and parent helpers who volunteered their own time to attend camp and to make these opportunities possible for our students. This camp program is such a special tradition at Wandong PS and we know that our students have made memories that will last a lifetime.



**Continued
Page 29**



WANDONG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Continued from Page 28

154th Birthday Fair

After many months of preparations, the Wandong PS 154th Birthday Fair was held on Friday 28th November. From laser tag, showbags, a climbing wall, netball drills, a petting zoo, live music performances to sideshow games - just to name a few - there was certainly something for everyone! We are so grateful to all of our amazing sponsors, community groups, vendors, teachers and parent volunteers for their contributions to make the Fair possible. A very special thank you goes to our amazing PAFA team, led by Steph Domino, for planning and coordinating this fantastic community event and fundraising opportunity for our school.

2026 Student Leadership Positions

We are proud to present our Student Leaders for 2026! Our Grade 5 applicants have been working hard on their leadership speeches, which they presented to their peers from Grades 3-6 before a student vote was conducted. The calibre of candidates this year was remarkable, and it was clear that a lot of thought and effort had gone into personalising speeches and rehearsing public speaking skills. We are so proud of every single student who put themselves forward for a position and showed incredible bravery when speaking in front of such a large group of people.

Congratulations to...

Jaclyn Mazurek and Giaan Jarvie - School Captains

Isla Domino and Grace Delovski - Student Representative Captains

Emelia Fenech and Jayde Hall - Wellbeing Captains

Indi Gibson and Michael Wilson - Learning Captains

Hunter Atkins and Paige Phillips - Pickett House Captains

Cooper Regan and Jacob McInnes - Lightwood House Captains

Max Markoski and Rachel Tomlinson - Arkell House Captains

Claire Hall and Brock Courts - Davern House Captains

Ethan Jones and Piper Phillips - Arts Captains

Jacob Clarke and Hunter Jones - STEM Captains

Matilda Browne and Charli Pryde - LOTE Auslan Captains

Ben Canals and Koray Tite - Library Captains

End of the Year Celebrations

We are looking forward to ending the 2025 school year with many special celebrations, including our whole-school assembly, our Pizza in the Park celebration for those students who reached 200 nights of Home Reading, and perhaps the most-anticipated of all, our whole-school adventure to Funfields! Our Grade 5/6s will be heading out on their huge Day Tour Trail Ride along the Rail Trail on the 5th of December - they will be riding from Tallarook to Trawool and then back again! This is a huge milestone for our senior students and teachers to cap off the term of Bike Ed training. Our Grade 6s are also eagerly preparing for their Graduation Celebration which will take place on the 17th of December. We are so proud of the Wandong Class of 2025 and wish our graduates all the best for their transition into high school.

Happy Holidays

As we head swiftly towards the end of the school year, we would like to wish everyone a safe and restful summer school holidays, full of fun with family and friends, delicious food, and lots of adventures out in the lovely weather. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and are looking forward to seeing our students again in 2026 for another year of amazing learning together!

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

Heralding Christmas

Attending a long-time friend and work colleagues' funeral service the Speaker Coordinator at the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea was more than overly impressed by the choir.

The memory was so impressive that it became obsessive to have the choir attend the Christmas meeting at Whittlesea and provide the traditional carolling session. Several exchanges and a visit by the musical director/conductor Birute Prasmutas, and assistant/accompanist Zita Prasmutas sealed the deal. And as they say 'the rest is history'!

The choir in 2025 had 24 singers with 13 taking part in the concert for the Probus Club at the Whittlesea Bowling Club. They all made their own arrangements to attend and brought their piano and traditional costumes.

The Bowls Club made special arrangements to provide a dressing room separate from the room allocated to the general meeting. Extra seating was also provided.

The Melbourne Lithuanian choir "Dainos Samburis" was formed in 1949 and is celebrating its seventy-sixth [76th] year. The choir is based at Lithuanian House in North Melbourne, and practices Tuesday evenings. [Translated the title is Song Gathering]

Each year the choir sings at the Lithuanian Independence Day concert around the 16th of February, Baltic Deportations to Siberia commemoration in June, National Day in July and a Baltic Concert in October (this year in Estonian House). The choir's annual concert is in November. This year it was entitled "Christmas with Samburis". There were only two years without a concert and that was during Covid lockdown.

Every second year the choir performs in the Song Festival during the Australian Lithuanian Arts Festival. The next festival will be held in Melbourne in 2026 between Christmas and the New Year.

Over the years the choir has performed for Lithuanian communities in all the capital cities of Australia (except Darwin), in the USA, Canada, New Zealand and Poland.

When Lithuania regained its independence, choir members travelled "home" to sing in the Lithuanian Song Festival in 1994, and have taken part in subsequent festivals held every four years, including 2024 when 9 choir members took part in the finale.

Resplendent in their traditional costumes the group moved into place with murmurs of excitement from the assembly. So the concert, that was not only unique but multi lingual commenced. Songs were delivered in Lithuanian, English and Latin and German.

It was interesting to watch audience members known to have musical talent absorb the presentations. Once the tune is obvious the lyrics, in any language, come to the fore.

The six songs presented covered the celebration of Christmas ideally. They were:-

- Christ is Born [Sveikas, Jezau, gimusis]
- Christmas Hallelujah
- Silent Night [Tyli naktis]
- Aussie Jingle Bells
- O Come, All Ye, Faithful [Ateikit dziaiaugsmingai]
- Child in a Manger [Gul siandiena]



The solemnity of Christmas can be delivered in any language, but to have it delivered in song by a dedicated professional choir is something that becomes ingrained in one's memory.

Conductor Birute led the renditions, interspersed with anecdotal stories of the choir members and the significance of the song they were rendering

The meeting came to an end with rousing applause. The members went their annual Christmas dinner and the visitors changed back into street attire made their way home to normal activities.

The opportunity to have an internationally acclaimed Choir donate their time to the Members of the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea should be recognised as something very special and is a good Christmas Gift for those who attended.



Carer Gateway – Managing your wellbeing during the festive season



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

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

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

Carer Gateway is here to support carers over the holiday season. If you need emergency respite over the Christmas period, please call Carer Gateway on 1800 422 737.

For more information and support, please reach out to the team at the Carer Gateway by calling 1800 422 737 or heading to the website <https://www.carergateway.gov.au/>

Until next time,

Jason



LIONS CLUB OF WANDONG – WALLAN INC.

PRESIDENT: SAM BEDI

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

Here we are, the last report of the year. This will be a busy month for us.

Christmas cakes are out at many outlets over Wandong, Wallan and Kilmore. We will also be at Wallan Market selling cakes if it doesn't get washed out again.

Super Sharyn has been out and about moving cake, mints and collection tins. She is a dynamo. We have a Bunnings BBQ this month and seven school presentations. These are certificate awards presented to the student nominated by their schools who exhibit good citizenship both at their school and in the community. Our club has been presenting these awards for many years and it is an activity for which we are proud. This year students will receive a certificate, store voucher and a bag of goodies designed to taste good and encourage trips to the dentist.

We are also preparing food hamper which will be presented to people in need through our local schools. There are 100 hampers to prepare and pack which will involve many hands on deck.

We have our final social meeting this month with a dinner at Hogans Hotel. This will be a great chance for us all to get together.

Sharyn has just come back from a stall outside of Fat Rat gun shop. She tried to buy a gun but they wouldn't sell her one. Between the rain, thunder and lightning it was a good day. Cake sales were slow but she made some good contacts.

Steve has managed to get a quote for the concrete for the new lions seat at the Lion's Park in Wandong. Unfortunately the council doesn't like the spot we picked. Steve will have to talk to the council.

Now what have my fellow Lion's been up to?

For some reason they are not talking to me. When Bill turned up with his arm in a sling, everyone thought that he had fallen off his bike. "Not so" says Bill. He has done something to his shoulder, it has nothing to do with his biking ability.

Steve was away on a biking trip complete with leather gear and not a pink dress in sight. However the pink stilettos must have been difficult to ride in. He is digging a pad at home to put in a new outdoor area. However he is a bit puzzled about Tania's request to make it six foot deep.

I need to acknowledge Elizabeth before I finish. I know that being married to me is a privilege, but she has been running around helping distribute the cakes and other things for the Lion's.

This will do for this year. Merry Christmas everyone.

Clyde, I never do anything wrong. 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.

Living With A 'Senior' Dog The life and times of 'Rumour'...!

I have had many canine companions transition from pup to middle age and then to Seniors. It can be a little sad to see them lose some of their vitality but then there are also the joys of living with a senior dog.



My girl Rumour: was born in my bedroom nearly 13 years ago. She was what I refer to as an 'old soul'. Even as a pup she seemed to take life fairly seriously and really had no interest in hanging out with children, instead she was always looking to work.

So we gave her what she needed... and that was a role to play in our life. In fact she had a Job... Which is what all dogs really seek to have ... a chance to work with their humans.



Rumour always tried her best. She learnt to adapt to whatever crazy thing I asked and never failed to put her best paw forward. She even began to see the benefit of hanging out with kids in class as she discovered they were quick to give food rewards when she 'taught them' how to perform tricks. The older she got - the more life experience she had - the more adaptable she became.

Rumours Role In Life: She travelled the countryside in our caravan, she went on visits to hospitals and aged care. She put up with crowds of kids and adults alike. She learnt to deal with strangers who needed to shower her with affection yet always concentrating when she performed. She loved to perform at the K9 Ninja Demos be it at the Royal Melb Show, Dog Lovers Festivals, Pet Expos or even the local school fete.

During group classes at our Dog Centre she volunteered to take on a role of mentor to many of the client dogs. She taught these dogs social skills so they could recognise boundaries and build good manners. At times we would see her stand her ground to deflect and defend the quieter personalities against overly boisterous dogs.

Rumour as my Teacher: She provided the opportunity to see first hand how dogs would use social skills within a pack. Increased my knowledge which then made me a better Trainer. I could then pay this forward so different dogs can learn to adapt to our human world and also help their human owners gain insight into what dogs need.



Rumour Semi-Retired: All good things must come to an end, now we see her age starting to catch up. Her hearing is failing, but at times we wonder if it might just be "selective deafness" or sometimes described as "doggy dementia".



She might take longer to respond and we often find her wandering around the garden in her own little world, so now I am glad she understands our sign language because once she makes eye contact she can see how to respond.

She still has her job and loves to teach kids tricks, but also earns the right to take a step back from the work. Rumour is now more content with a quick run around and then crash for a snooze on the couch or to bask in the sun.

Into the Future: Rumour first developed her social skills within our own small pack she then passed these skills to the litters she raised. We have her daughters and grand-daughters and even a great grand-son living with us who carry forward her skills into the future.



We have loved our journey with Rumour and are glad with the choices we made on her upbringing. A healthy natural diet and plenty of exercise means she is healthy in body. Then with good boundaries and life experience we have a dog who has Self-Control and Self-Confidence.

This has made her transition into her senior years fairly seamless.

Keeping your dog fit and agile throughout their life can reduce potential issues as they age.

SUDOKU

Answers
on page 36

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

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

THIS MONTHS QUIZ

Answer appears on Page 36 but no cheating!

- Who played JR Ewing in Dallas?
- In which country is Zurich located?
- In what city is the taj mahal?
- What colour is the flag of Greece?
- What distance is the Melbourne Cup race?
- Who originally sang "Hallelujah"?
- Apart from Earth, what were the planets named after?
- How did John Denver die?
- Where did golf originate?
- Who is 4th in line for the throne?
- How many balls are on a snooker table?
- When and where was the first ever Ashes test?
- Who owns the Sydney Opera House?
- Which river runs through Adelaide?
- How many books are in the bible?

Wandong
PHARMACY

MYKI RETAILER

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

ROB & LEONIE FERRIS

**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS
REC 3028**



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

**Phone 5782 1746
Mobile 0418 323 838**

Hello Readers,

As we approach the end of 2025, I can happily report that Wallan U3A has had another wonderful year of fun and a variety of activities to be enjoyed by our members.

Our timetable included activities such as ballroom dancing, tai chi, mahjong, trivia, Pilates, cooking, Italian and our latest "singing for fun" group.

As well as the above, our members enjoyed our monthly lunches, outings, talks by guest speakers, but most of all members connected with friends and enjoyed good times together.

Our final outing for the year was a visit to the Werribee Mansion built between 1874 and 1877 by Thomas and Andrew Chirnside. We toured the main bedrooms, the billiard room and the kitchen and enjoyed the many artworks on display throughout the mansion. We were extremely lucky with the weather as it was a spectacular spring day which made a walk round the Rose Garden even more enjoyable.

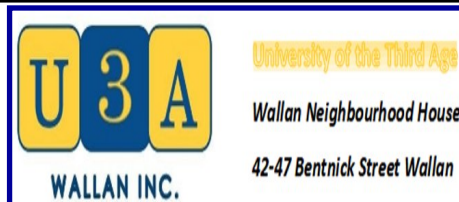
A big thank you to all our volunteers and committee members who have given their time so generously, their dedication is what makes Wallan U3A thrive and continue to flourish.

If you need further information on our activities and classes please contact John Lanphier on 0413 083 089 or look at our website.

In closing, I'd like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas, see you all again in 2026.

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

Congratulations to our section 1 singles team of Sean Dennis and Dylan Hall who were runner up in the MDTA Spring 2025 grand final.

Well done on a great season

Coaching is available at the club

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

I WISH ALL OUR PLAYERS, SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR, LISA.



Philman Excavations

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

- ★ Excavator
- ★ Bobcat
- ★ Truck and Trailer
- ★ Float Hire
- ★ **AUGER & ROCKBREAKER**

Supply and deliver crushed rock, sand and topsoil

Phil Mansfield

0418 532 969

OH&S and fully insured



ALL TOWING

Tilt Tray Tow Truck

ANYTHING MOVED

Cars Boats Caravans

OLD CARS REMOVED FREE

Competitive Rates

GOOD OLD FASHIONED Country Service

Aaron - 0425 832 466

A & J Metal Recyclers - ABN 67103013404

All Weather Training Facility - Heathcote Jct

(Established 1995)

Puppy School - Social Classes
Adult Classes - Trick Training
Behaviour Problems



Workshops
Dog Park Etiquette
Intro to Agility
Dock Diving
Cross Country

Alfoxton Dog Centre

www.alfoxton.com.au

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

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

Phone: Anne **0402 118929**

60 Junction Rd, Heathcote Junction, Vic

Alfoxton is a registered Domestic Animal Business - Mitchell Shire

Weather Report - Heathcote Junction/Wandong NOVEMBER 2025

Overall conditions for the month were slightly warmer, indicating the hopeful approach of summer. The usual high expected temperatures did not eventuate. Nocturnal temperatures were still cool.

Rainfall of 104.5 was a significant improvement over previous months. In the first half of the month 50 mls was recorded and 54.5 mls in the second half.

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

At the time of composing this, our supply dam Sunday Creek was recorded at 64% capacity as of the 2nd December, which is quite a drop since the end of October.

Stats

November 2025 - 104.5 mls

Previous year - 78.5 mls

Average prev 10 years - 66 mls

Total this year - 618.5 mls

Total prev year - 734 mls

December stats will be included in the first issue in the new year.

All the best for the month and to all, have a merry Christmas and all the best for the new year of 2026. 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 34)

1. Larry Hagman
2. Switzerland
3. Agra, India
4. Blue and white
5. 3200 metres
6. Leonard Cohen
7. Roman gods
8. Plane crash
9. 15th century Scotland
10. Prince Louis of Wales
11. Twenty two
12. 1877 in Melbourne
13. The Government of NSW
14. River Torrens
15. Sixty six

SUKODU solution

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



*Kilmore
&
District*

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

The end of the year seems to have arrived so fast and everyone is getting very busy. U3A classes are winding up for the year and individual groups are celebrating Christmas together and looking forward to next year. There will be five new classes starting in 2026, including Pickleball, Jazzminton, a new craft group, photography and a new class called Lifestyle.

Lifestyle will be meeting at the JJ Clancy community centre on a Monday evening 5pm to 6.30pm every week at J. J. Clancy. It will focus on how to maintain a healthy weight and will offer recipes and ideas to enjoy a healthy lifestyle. The new craft group is to encourage and support you in your chosen craft and it includes all types of craft. Members help and encourage each other over a cup of tea or coffee.

Jazzminton is a little like Badminton, played inside and using paddles to hit the Birdie through an opening in a special net. It will be run at the same time as Pickleball which will be outside in the breeze-way between buildings. These games keep you moving and encourage regular physical activity that's fun and sustainable. Countless studies have shown that paddle and racket sports are among the best for longevity, cardiovascular health, and mental well-being.

The combined ukulele and recorder classes had a concert on November 7th and the feedback from those who attended was very positive, in fact so good that the recorder group are going to do it again! They will be performing Christmas carols and hosting an afternoon tea on Friday December 12th at 1.00pm. This will also be an opportunity for anyone who wants to join the group to ask any questions and have a look at the range of instruments available.

Registration for U3A will be held at the JJ Clancy community hub at the footy ground off Kellys Lane on 16th January 2026 from 10.00 until 12.00. Come along and meet the convenors and learn about the classes on offer.

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

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Cheers, Amanda Oades

Kilmore Golf Club Inc.

The golfing program is over for the year with one last final held on Saturday 6th December.

Our Presentation Day was held on Saturday 13th December when we recognised all winners for the year including the Junior Girls who completed 24 weeks of instruction by Jess Boyce Kilmore & PGA member.

Kilmore GC has once again been successful in securing another Junior Scholarship grant for 2026.

The grant offers 24 golf clinics for girls 9-16 yr. with free coaching for one year. Participants receive a free cap, shirt and glove from Golf Australia. If your daughter/ granddaughter 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. Spaces are filling quickly.

Club Champions for the year were Sandy Wicking and John O'Neill. Well done to both players.

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 57321123 OR text 0437712973

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

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

The Kilmore Golf Club wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

See you all on the golf course.



Whittlesea Community Network

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



Merry Christmas Everyone! It's been an amazing year in no small way due to the amazing team of volunteers that work tirelessly at the House. Thank you all! We are closing on Thursday 18th December and will re-open on Tuesday 27th January, 2026. In the meantime head to www.wchi.com.au to check out what's happening in the New Year and to book online!

Visy Recycling

They don't call it "The Silly Season" for nothing! Our merry band of volunteers is still counting CANS AND BOTTLES over the break! We will be open as usual with our final day for 2025 being Saturday 20th December. We will re-open on Saturday 3rd January at 8am. Our regular hours for over the counter recycling are: 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 can be found at the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre on Tuesdays! Join the blokes for brunch each week (even during School Holidays):

First Tuesday for 2026 20th January 11.00am – Noon Still \$2.00 per person

Women's Lunch

First Lunch 19th February, 2026 11.30am – 1.00pm Gold Coin Donation

Boat Licence

Get on the water safely! Students from 12 years are eligible (you must be 16+ for PWC endorsement) Saturday 20th December 9.00am – 1.00pm \$150 per person

Online bookings only for 20th December.

Fix it Friday

Fix it Friday is now finished for 2025. Make a note to get real help from a real person and sleep better at night in 2026. 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.

Fix it Friday returns in 2026 on 27th February.

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



Go Warriors!

Our Town's Football Club

As the end of year fast approaches we would like to thank the committee, volunteers, sponsors and most importantly all the kids for their hard work this year. We hope everyone has a restful and safe festive season.

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.

AFL 9s has been postponed and will take place in the new year. Nine kids a team. Call Sean on 0407058754 for more information.

Preseason training is in full swing for the 14s and 16s.

We look forward to the new season and having another successful year on and off the field. Hoping the big man in the red suit finds puts something special under the tree for all our Warriors.

Go Warriors!

Registrations are now open!



Registration age limits

U9 01/01/2016 – 30/4/2018

U10 01/01/2015 – 31/12/2015

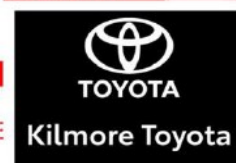
U12 01/01/2013 - 31/12/2014

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 Warriors 2025 SPONSORS



Wandong Junior Football Club

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