



“WHAT’S NEWS”

ISSUE 356 WANDONG/HEATHCOTE JUNCTION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER : MARCH 2026 ABN 17 022 858 565

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

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

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY 2026

THE WANDONG HEATHCOTE JUNCTION COMMUNITY GROUP THANKS THE 16 VOLUNTEERS WHO CLEARED 24 BAGS OF RUBBISH FROM THE FREEWAY RAMP AND EPPING KILMORE ROAD ON CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY.

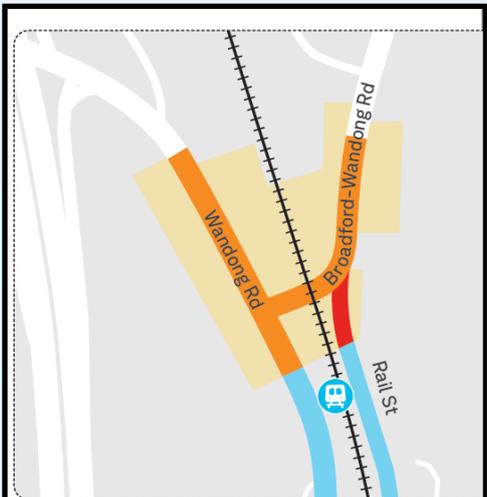


JOHN HOLLAND WANTS TO CLOSE RAIL STREET WANDONG FOR 8 TO 10 WEEKS IN MID APRIL FOR INLAND RAIL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT WORKS

The closure OF Rail Street would be contrary to earlier advice and agreement that Rail Street would be kept open to traffic during the project. If closure was permitted the pressure on Heathcote Junction and the rail crossing would be unmanageable particularly at school times. The traffic queued on the Epping Kilmore Road would be dangerous and blocking through traffic at most times and could stretch for a kilometer when the booms are down for trains that can be slow and as long as two kilometers. There is no turning lane from the north and very short turning lane from the south. The same applies on Rail Street where traffic could extend from the school (and new child care) to the rail crossing and beyond. It will be impossible for emergency vehicles to negotiate this disaster.

Rail Street is a Mitchell Shire Council street but no advice or consultation with the community has occurred so it is presumed John Holland had not consulted Mitchell Shire.

The Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group has asked Mitchell Shire to investigate.



Legend

- Road closed
- Works area
- Traffic management
- Detour
- R Wandong Railway Station

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 April 2026, Allen Hall (editor)
NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: COPY & ADS 4 April 2026 DELIVERY from 15 April 2026

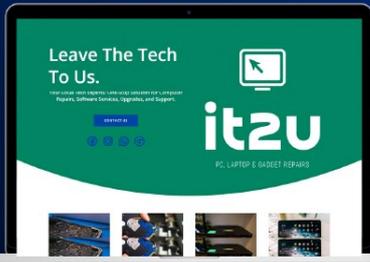
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0409 131 663

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

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COME TO BEAR'S CASTLE!

**NEXT TOURS: SUNDAY 3rd MAY
2026**

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

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

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

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

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

Bear's Castle, Yan Yean:



JOIN THE WANDONG FIRE BRIGADE *We need you!*



**We need 5 x new members by the end of March.
Could you be one of them?**

Seeking enthusiastic, team-oriented, community-minded individuals to join our operations.

Message us on Facebook to express your interest

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

13 Mar Irene & Kevin Bartlett W
23 Mar Adam & Sharon Saw HV
30 Mar Kerry & Chris Bellomo HJ
30 Mar Jenny & Graeme McSolvin W
25 Apr David & Sandra Bartolo W

GET "WHATS NEWS" BY EMAIL

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

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

COMMUNITY WEBSITES

www.wandong.vic.au
www.upperplenty.com

Mitchell Bushwalking Group

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

Please contact:
Mary 0428 479 469
or Wayne 0451 519 734
or email
mitchelwalksgroup@gmail.com

for more information

HIRE THE WANDONG PUBLIC HALL

To hire the hall contact Christine for bookings or other information on 0448 604 770.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

We wish the following people a very happy birthday

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



MYKI RETAILER



THE SHACK IS BACK

The Upper Plenty Community Hall
"THE SHACK"
is open for hire.

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Donald Trump to visit Wandong!

It will come as a surprise to many residents that very soon we are to be honoured by a visit by the President of the United States of America, Mr Donald Trump. The President has accepted an invitation to open the new railway bridge at Wandong.

A Mr Clyde Riley, (Well known in the Wandong area for various reasons.) was successful in bribing (convincing) the President to do the honours and open the new bridge.

(It is rumoured that some precious minerals have been uncovered whilst tunnelling for the foundations and some have suggested that that may be the real reason for the surprise visit!)

Donny, (Only close friends are allowed to call him that,) was encouraged to visit when he found out that there was an Uncle Sam's I.G.A. general store already firmly established in Wandong and believe it or not further down the road was the Magpie and Trump hotel! Donny commented that just by levelling out a bit of hilly ground out the back he could put in a landing strip for Air Force One and on APRIL THE FIRST he could fly in, open the bridge, and fly out on the one day! (I heard some say that would not be soon enough.)

Truthfully yours. A.G.

P.S. Don't fool around, tickets for the 'April the First' bridge opening (In aid of Mr Clyde Riley's retirement fund.) will be on sale at the bridge site from Monday.

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

Mummy why is the man hanging on that tree?

This question overheard recently asked by a five-year-old as she saw an advertisement for an Easter church service! Now there's an opportunity for an 'ask your father' answer! How to satisfy a question such as this would depend on the questioner's maturity and ability to carry on a serious discussion.

An answer could be just as brief as 'It's just something that churchy people do at this time of the year sweetie, let's get some more easter eggs!' Or the answer might be the chance to breach a subject that has long been avoided until the right time came along!

In my humble opinion 'right times' do not come along often and should be grabbed firmly before they are lost for ever in our busy lives! Are we ready to talk about the story that the Man on the tree was an historical figure who with His followers went about showing us how to love each other, to learn right from wrong, telling stories to show how we should treat each other, He healed many sick people and was finally put to death for upsetting the ruling authorities. He was crucified, suffering unbelievable pain and agony dying slowly with after having been beaten and a crown of thorns forced on His head to mock Him. The Bible tells us that this Man on the tree and the events leading up to His crucifixion, were foretold hundreds of years before and that this man is Jesus the Son of God, dying for our wrongdoings in a most horrific manner. In addition, He who was completely without blemish took it on Himself to die in our place so that those who believe in Him are promised eternal life. He said that He is going to prepare a place for us that where He is, we will also be! Obviously, a wise parent will be able to tell the story in a manner acceptable to suit the loved one in question. But wait there's more, Jesus said when I go to my Father I will not leave you to battle on your own, I will arrange a 'Comforter' to help you know the right decisions to make, a guide to living a life pleasing to God, a way to cope with life's difficult situations. A support to fall back on at times of overwhelming stress. Many times, in the Bible such as in Matthew Ch 11 v 28 we read- Come unto Me all you that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find peace for your soul!

Mummy is the man dead? Wow! Now, there's a 'wait till your dad gets home one' if ever I've heard it. Is the Man dead? Yes, the Man did die on the cross, but the difference is that, as predicted hundreds of years ago, He rose to life again and went to heaven where he sits at the right hand of His Father God. That Man is Jesus Christ who died to save us from the penalty of our wrongdoings. The bible doesn't mince words, in Galatians Ch 6 v 7 we read. God is not mocked, for what a man sows that shall he also reap! And in Romans Ch 3 v 27 all of us have done wrong and fallen short of the glory of God. Revelations Ch 20 v15 says if anyone is not found in the book of life they will be in real trouble.

The prophets foretold of His resurrection, history tells us of the resurrection, and the change in His followers at the time shows us that something world-changing had taken place because the Man on the tree was no longer there! Then comes the proof, the dramatic change in the lives of those who over the years have decided to follow the Man who suffered and died on the tree. The inexplicable power of the Comforter that Jesus promised to leave with us. Watch the thousands of His followers who demonstrate amazing powers to write, preach, heal, comfort and have convinced so many to follow in His footsteps!

We are glad that the tree is now empty. Yes, little one, the Man on the tree did die but has risen to be with His Father in Heaven and made a promise to those who go to live with Him that He will wipe away their tears, that death, pain and suffering will be no more and we will see the big picture and have our questions answered. (These are the reasons to celebrate the Easter season)

A.G. (enquirer)

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
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Phone: 9716 2042
Open Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm,
Saturday 9.30am to 12.30pm.



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nquiries to ;
Pastor Frantz Heinzelmann
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Probus Club of Kilmore District Inc

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

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

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

Enquiries to: Margaret Jakymczuk
Mobile: 0412 335 657
Email: margaretjakymczuk1@gmail.com



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Ron Hamilton 0481 268 471

Operating hours are
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9.30 am - Approx. 1.30 pm

email: Kilmoremensshed@gmail.com

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Dianella Hostel and
Caladenia Nursing Home Website:
www.kilmoredistricthospital.org.au



GARDEN SCENE WITH GAIL

It's already March and haven't we had some lovely rain, finely, there's even some green growth pushing through the parched ground. I've been using the Seasol wetting agent a lot, facilitating the absorption of moisture to the plants' roots and it lessens water runoff which is fantastic to aid in keeping soil where it needs to be, not cascading down an embankment or any decline. Even though we are going into a cooler time of year it is imperative that all our plants receive the most moisture that they can. It can be difficult in the cooler months because we can assume 'oh well, it's cooler so I don't need to water as much' and we get caught out, plants suffer, and come the warmer months, they are already stressing and then we have to play 'catch up'. Even a heavy dew can help, certainly it does on plants with larger leaves, last Winter was dry and it's taken the two most recent heavy downpours to fill dams, tanks etc. Water is liquid gold and that may mean we might need to rethink the way we garden and the plants we use. Watering at night, except for roses is more effective and deeper waterings is better for the plants to encourage deep root systems. Improve the quality of the soil by weeding and top dressing with well-rotted cow manure, mushroom compost is okay however, it is slightly alkaline which will affect acid loving plants, and it may contain more salt than preferred. Well-rotted cow manure can be used on basically everything, within moderation, and never pile it or anything directly around the base of plants. Mulch is really beneficial; it can keep the hot drying conditions away from plants roots as well as keep the soil a little warmer around the base of the plant during the colder months. With the soil quality improved you can get to pruning any plants that have gone a bit crazy and if the ground is dry, water before pruning and apply an application of Seasol, the tonic not the wetting agent before and after pruning. Autumn flowering plants can be pruned directly after flowering and before they push new growth. As the weather cools it can be a good time to move plants that are not suited to the position they're in, whether it be too hot or cold, too smaller of a space for them to grow well or you prefer their foliage colour or habit somewhere else. Prepare the new hole first with all the goodies and move by digging at their drip line a third of the way around until you've reached all the way around, this may take a week. This reduces stress on the plant by each section repairing the roots before you cut the next section, use Seasol before you dig and let it soak in well and then after you have dug. Autumn is a fantastic season with deciduous plants changing colour in preparation of dropping their leaves ready for their Winter sleep and you don't want to miss out on that display. Wandong looks amazing during Autumn as does Lancefield, Gisborne, Kyneton, Mt Macedon and many other areas. If you haven't got room for a large tree such as an Oak, Ash, Horse Chestnut or Elm go for a Red Bud, Chinese Pistachio, Maple, Cotinus, Crepe Myrtle, there are so many to choose from it's like a smorgasbord of plants for a smaller garden.



*Have a marvellous March.
Gail Mains Kendrick
(your local real estate agent)*



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

“Letting the
LIGHT Shine
in the World”

Services held at 5pm Sundays
ALL WELCOME

**Enquiries to:
David Moran 5787 1738**

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CHURCH, WANDONG**
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on 1st & 3rd Sundays
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***FOR FIRST THREE MONTHS. CONDITIONS APPLY.
PLEASE CALL OR SEE IN STORE FOR **DETAILS****

Bridge and pavement works Wandong

1 March to 31 March 2026

**JOHN
HOLLAND**

John Holland will continue works to construct the new Broadford-Wandong Road bridge during March. There will be roadworks and changes to traffic conditions during this time.

Work being done

- Bridge abutment works
- Asphaltting, pavement and roadworks
- Relocation of utilities and drainage works
- Construction of temporary access road for residents alongside Wandong Road.

What can I expect?

- Works 7am-6pm Monday to Friday and 7am-1pm Saturdays
- Long-term temporary single lane shuttle flow on Epping-Kilmore Road
- Traffic management on Broadford-Wandong Road
- Nearby residents may experience some noise and vibration.

Machinery used

Cranes, trucks, piling rigs, concrete pumps, excavators, pumps and rollers. Workers using hand tools and traffic management equipment.

How we're managing impacts

- Traffic management and reduced road speeds
- Residential property access maintained
- Environmental controls are in place.

Cancellation or extension of works

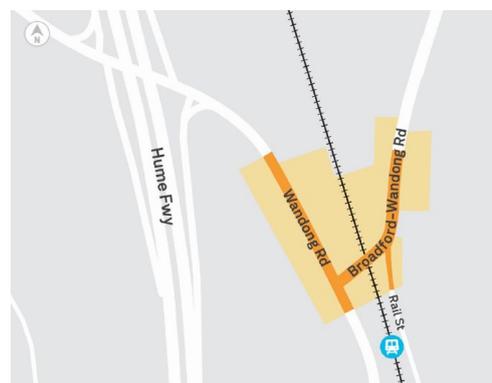
Works can sometimes take longer than anticipated or be cancelled at short notice and rescheduled. Should this occur, impacted residents will be notified.

Talk to the team

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

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

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



Wandong bridge installed

Scan the QR code to check out the photos from this significant milestone.



☎ 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**



Mobile Porting & Sim Swap Frauds

Mobile porting fraud is where scammers — often criminals gain control of a person's identity by having their mobile number ported to another device. This gives criminals access to the person's personal information and finances.

Your mobile phone has lots of information about you, including your banking information. Scammers transfer mobile services from one provider to another to steal your identity and your money. This is called **mobile porting fraud**.

Scammers may also contact your existing provider and ask to swap the sim card so they can take over your service and steal your money. This is called **sim swap fraud**.

Once a scammer gains remote access to your device, they can control your screen and access any files located or any apps you may have open. Warning signs it might be a scam:

- You can't log in to your computer or mobile, your email, social media and other online accounts;
- You don't receive expected payments into your bank account such as Centrelink payments;
- Your phone loses service and goes into SOS mode;
- Your services are disconnected or suspended for no reason;
- New icons appear on your computer screen;
- Usual activity in your accounts;
- Files on your device have been moved or deleted; or
- Pop-up boxes start appear on your screen.

Your service provider must follow rules to protect you from scammers. They must verify your identity before transferring your phone, mobile or internet service.

Never give your personal information to someone who calls you out of the blue.

If you want to transfer your phone or internet services, make sure you contact the service by finding the business' phone number independently. If you're not comfortable with a conversation or

aren't sure who you're dealing with, simply hang up the phone. If a caller asks for your birth date or address, they might be trying to trick you into entering into a contract, or they may be a scammer. If that happens, hang up.

Protect yourself by:

- Use multi-factor authentication;
- Always keep your computer security up to date with anti-virus and anti-spyware software from a reputable source;
- Avoid using public computers or WiFi hotspots;
- Choose passwords yourself. Avoid AI generated passwords & saving them to your phone or computer;
- Do not open attachments, click on links or open social media messages unless you know & trust the sender;
- Keep personal information secure and be mindful when posting on social media; and
- Do not use software that auto-completes online forms.

If you think you've been scammed, or had your identity stolen:

- Contact your bank immediately
- Seek support from services like IDCARE
- Report scams to scamwatch.gov.au

Refer to ACCC or Scamwatch for more information. Visit:

<https://www.accc.gov.au/consumers/stay-protected/unauthorised-transfer-of-phone-or-internet-services>

How Safe are AI Generated Passwords?

Security experts have started to evaluate the outputs of AI generated passwords which AI tools such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, etc, which appear complex but are actually highly predictable and crackable. Sky News broke the story on 18 February, 2026, and several tech experts have verified that they often display similar characters and digits.

We recommend you create your own complex password using upper & lower case letters, special characters and numerals. Refer to Sky New Article on <https://news.sky.com/story/are-you-using-an-ai-generated-password-it-might-be-time-to-change-it-13508611>.

South Mitchell NHW General Meeting

Our next meeting will be on 12 March, 2026, at 7pm at the Wandong Community Centre meeting room, LB Davern Reserve, Dry Creek Rd, Wandong. Everyone is welcome.

Hotlines:

000

131 444

1800 333 000

Emergency

Police Assistance Line

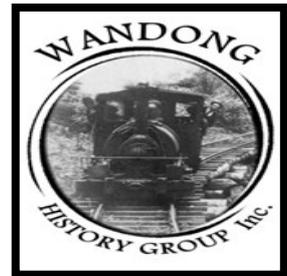
Crime Stoppers

Online Reporting:

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



WANDONG HISTORY GROUP



Great to see some good rain at last, the garden around the church has perked up, it doesn't take much to get things going again but the plants were suffering for a while.

We were to host U3A from Kilmore for a history tour of the town but had to cancel due to wet weather, never thought that was going to happen but we will reschedule and get them out when the weather is more favourable.

We have yet to meet with council regarding ANZAC Day so not sure if we will be running this event this year, but keep an eye out we will try to let everyone know where its at after the meeting with council regarding the permit. We also need more help with the event which is another issue that may prevent us running it in future. It's a lot of work and without help there are just too few of us to do it. Common for all groups I know but we have asked for help in the past and had no response.,

We are waiting on a grant announcement for our major project for the year, fingers crossed for that as it will make a good project magnificent if we can get it.

Given the construction around town at the moment this image of the old, old bridge and the current bridge is timely, won't be long now and we will have another monster bridge in place.

Karen Christensen
President
Wandong History Group

wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com

<https://wandongheathcotejunctionhistory.com.au>



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PROJECT CREEP ???

The Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group has asked whoever is responsible at Inland Rail /John Holland to confirm that following what appears to be a decision to remove vegetation at Dry Creek, Wandong, it does not include the established trees shown in the photo. There appears to be some project creep and we hope they can allay our fears that this is not the case.





Upper Plenty
Merri Catchments
Landcare
Group

Citizens Become Scientists for a Day

The Upper Plenty Merri Catchments Landcare Group (UPMCLG) hosted its second annual WaterWatch Day on Sunday 7th December, inviting citizens to step into the shoes of environmental scientists. The purpose of the day is to help our understanding of creek health by assessing aquatic macro invertebrate populations. Participants learn how to recognise and sort their specimens into like categories (Order level, in

taxonomy terms), and the presence and absence of different species and their numbers is then used to assess creek health.

Under the guidance of experienced WaterWatch Education Officer Trevor Hausler, volunteers examined aquatic macro invertebrates in stream samples from a local wetlands (which one was it again?) and Bruces Creek, an upper tributary of the Plenty River, learning how to sort and identify different species. The activity wasn't just fun, it provided valuable insights into the health of the local creek.

An enthusiastic cohort of 11 citizen scientists (CS) from MCMC WaterWatch ensured plenty of hands and eyes were on hand for the activity. As active participants in a mission of environmental care, WaterWatch CS volunteers in WaterWatch activities and stream health assessments. Merri Creek Management Committee Coordinator of Citizen Science and Waterway Education Julia Cirillo said "It was inspiring to see our volunteers so engaged with the creek and its creatures. By working together, we're not only helping to monitor the ecological health of our waterways but also building a lasting sense of stewardship."

By recording the presence, absence, and abundance of tiny water dwelling creatures, participants helped build a clearer picture of the ecosystem's condition. UPMCLG President David Markham said the day not only strengthens community knowledge of creek health but also inspires people to care for their environment.

"People love discovering what lives beneath the surface," said UPMCLG Secretary Michael Watson. "It's hands-on science that shows them how important these waterways are." Michael is passionate about local waterways and is looking to form a WaterWatch Group to more closely monitor and improve our catchments health. And you don't have to be local to be in it! Anyone interested in being part of a newly formed UPMCLG WaterWatch group is asked to contact UPMCLG Secretary Michael Watson at either our website www.upmclg.org.au, or via our Facebook page.

The Landcare Group plans to continue the tradition annually, combining education, community spirit, and environmental stewardship.



Photos are of the group and the site for collection. The person at the creek photo is Trevor Hausler, waterwatch trainer. The creek is Bruces Creek Upper Plenty





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State Member for Yan Yean

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lauren.kathage@parliament.vic.gov.au

03 9432 9782

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



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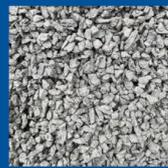


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>>> 2026 WINTER COMP

Our teams for the upcoming KBNA Winter Competition are filling fast and excitement is building!

We currently have limited spots available, so now is the perfect time to register and secure your place on the court before teams are finalised.

We have teams planned for 9 & Under, 11 & Under, 13 & Under and 16 & Under, and we'd love to see you join us for a fun and exciting season of netball.

Don't miss your chance to play, learn new skills, make great friends and be part of a fantastic club community — register now before spots fill up! 🤝❤️

WANDONG NETBALL CLUB



>>> BUNNINGS BBQ



Our first fundraiser for the year is just around the corner — our much-loved Annual Bunnings BBQ! 🔥 Join us on Sunday 22nd March at Craigieburn Bunnings as we fire up the grill for our biggest fundraiser of the year. This event plays a huge role in supporting our players and helping keep our club strong, and we'd love the whole community to get behind it. We're calling on our wonderful netball families to lend a hand on the day — whether that's manning the stall, cooking on the BBQ, serving customers, or donating items like snags and bread. Every little bit helps and makes a big difference. If you're able to assist in any way, please reach out to the Club — we'd love your support to make this year's BBQ our best one yet! 🍖❤️

>>> PRE SEASON TRAINING



- 📍 Location: Wandong Netball Courts
- 📅 Starting March 11th - April 1st

- Pre-Season Training Sessions: Wednesdays weekly
- 🌟 U9 / U11 – 4:30pm–5:30pm
 - 🌟 U13 / U16 – 5:00pm–6:30pm

We encourage ALL players intending to play in the Winter season to attend!

Winter season is coming... and it's time to get moving! 💪🔥 Our Winter Pre-Season Training is just around the corner and we can't wait to see everyone back on the courts.

Pre-season is the perfect chance to build fitness, sharpen skills and reconnect with teammates before Round 1, helping players start the season feeling fit, strong and confident.

Let's hit the court, work hard, have fun and make 2026 our strongest season yet! 🌟🤝❤️

>>> MERCHANDISE



Club merchandise is now available to order, including training tops and supporter gear for the upcoming season. Order early to make sure your items arrive in time for Round 1 and you're ready to represent Wandong in style! ❤️

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WANDONG PRIMARY SCHOOL Welcome back to school for 2026!

We are excited to be back again for another year of amazing learning together! We have had a great start to the 2026 school year, welcoming in our new Foundation cohort and enjoying our newly opened learning and working spaces. Further improvement works are still underway, and we are looking forward to having more new learning and play spaces completed throughout the year.



It is always busy at Wandong PS, and the start of the year is no exception! Our Grade 5/6 cohort was lucky enough to get to enjoy a water safety course run by Lifesaving Victoria, and had a great day in the pool learning vital skills and having fun doing it!



At the beginning of the new term, we celebrated our incoming Student Leaders with our annual Badge Ceremony. We officially recognised our Grade 6 Leadership Team, who were chosen at the end of last year, and there was much excitement for the announcement of the 2026 SRC representatives, who were chosen by their peers to represent each class from Grades 1-6. Our SRC will take on the responsibility of sharing ideas, representing student voice, and helping to create a positive and inclusive school culture. The Student Leaders were presented with their new badges in front of the school and families, and having been wearing them with pride ever since. We are looking forward to seeing their amazing contributions to our school community this year!



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

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL B HALLEY
PUBLICITY OFFICER

Silver Anniversary Year

2026 is momentous for the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea as it is twenty- five years since it was formed. The Silver Anniversary will be marked with a special event to be held on 15 May at Whittlesea Bowls Club.

But Monday 2 March was the day when the Management Committee to carry the Club through the next twelve months was elected by the members attending the Annual General Meeting

There were two members of the current committee retiring after several years of commitment to the proactive functioning of the club.

The incoming President was inducted by Rita Miller a past executive who was appointed returning officer for the day. The incumbent took the Oath of Office and accepted the required paraphernalia.

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

The executive positions filled were:-

- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Meet and Greet
- Dining out
- Long tours
- Day Trips
- Welfare and Membership
- Hospitality
- Speakers
- Newsletter
- Delivery of newsletters
- Publicity

2026 is even more historic because the governing body *Probus South Pacific* has been in operation for fifty-years. A parent and child celebrating the same birth date will generally be reported as something special. Gold and Silver are both precious metals that have stood the test of time.

Since the first Probus Club formed in Australia in 1976, Probus has grown into a vibrant network of social clubs spanning across all states and territories of Australia, supporting more than 90,000 members across 1,300 clubs.

At its heart, Probus is about connection and community. Probus was created to ensure people had a place to connect, form friendships and enjoy life beyond work,

Research consistently shows that strong social connections are closely linked to improved mental health, wellbeing and quality of life as people age. Studies have found that staying socially connected can reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation, which are increasingly recognised as key challenges for older Australians.

Whittlesea Probus meets on the first Monday of the months February to December and welcomes inquiries from eligible persons who are retired or not in full time employment.

Accompanying photograph shows the assembled 2026 Management Committee



Group photo:

Back row L-R:

**Stewart Dickison, Kirsten Dickinson,
Alessandra Testa, Teresa Carlin,
Carolyn Thorn, Kevin, Roma Harris.**

Front row L-R:

**Michel Halley, Marje, Mary Wood,
Cheryl Ewert, Kaylene McKay.**

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Inland Rail

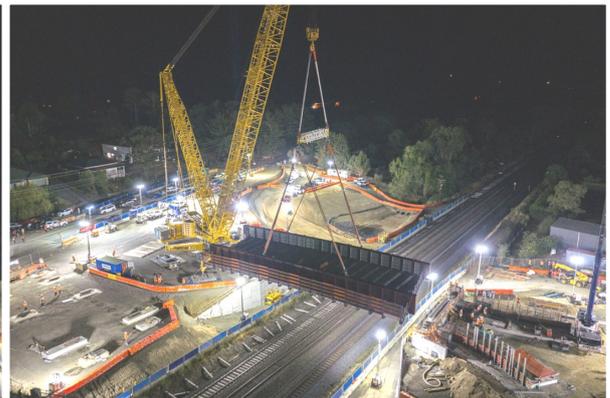
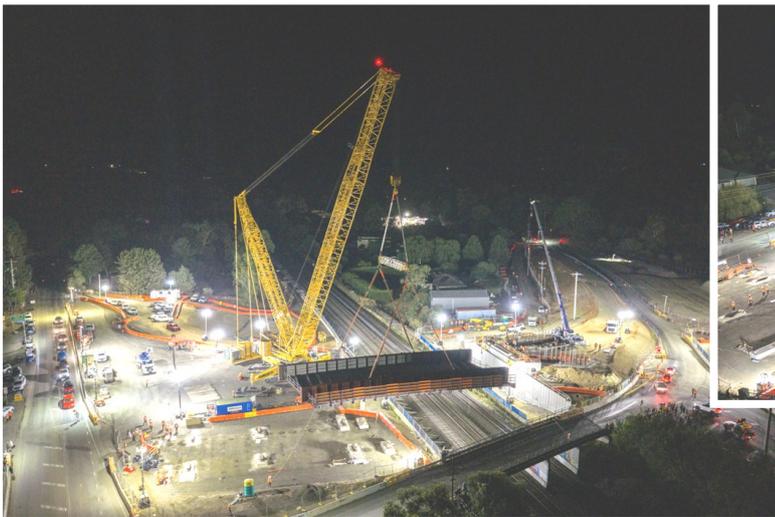
has lifted the new Broadford-Wandong Road bridge into place at Wandong, marking a significant milestone for the Beveridge to Albury (B2A) project.

Inland Rail installed the new higher bridge to allow sufficient clearance for double-stacked freight trains to use the line.

Prefabricated in Adelaide and assembled onsite, the new bridge is 35m long, 14.5m wide and made up of 41 main and cross girders.

Weighing approximately 246 tonnes, the entire bridge was lifted into place by a 600-tonne mobile crawler crane. The existing Broadford-Wandong Road bridge will be demolished once the new bridge is open to traffic later this year.

The successful installation of the bridge is a significant milestone for Inland Rail on the path to completing the Beveridge to Parkes sections by 2027.



INLAND RAIL PROGRESS AT WANDONG



Darraweit Primary School

Hello from the staff and students at Darraweit Guim Primary School!
We have enjoyed a fantastic start to the year and are looking forward to sharing some of the highlights with our local community over the year.

We were delighted to welcome ten Foundation students, bringing our total enrolment to 55.

At the end of 2025, we farewelled Mr Boxall, whose contribution to our school community has been significant and deeply appreciated. At the same time, we were pleased to welcome two new staff members to our team: Mr Ross and Ms Wong. Both have already settled in beautifully and are making a positive impact on our students and school life.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the year to come and the many opportunities it will bring. We look forward to strengthening partnerships with our local community, celebrating student learning and achievements, and continuing to provide rich learning experiences both in and beyond the classroom.



2027 ENROLMENTS

We are conducting tours for prospective students for 2027.

We would love you to come along and see what we do.

Please contact me, Carol Booker - Principal, on 5789 1234 to arrange a personal tour



JOIN THE WANDONG FIRE BRIGADE DROP-IN SESSIONS

Curious about volunteering?

Come along for a chat, meet the team, and learn more.
No pressure. No obligation. Just information.

 DROP IN ON ONE OF THESE DATES:

- ★ Thursday 12 March 1:30pm – 3:00pm
- ★ Monday 16 March 10:30am – 12:00pm
- ★ Thursday 19 March 7:00pm – 8:30pm
- ★ Saturday 21 March 10:30am – 12:00pm

 Wandong Fire Station

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Come have a friendly chat. We'd love to meet you.

 wandong.sec@cfa.vic.gov.au

 Or message us on Facebook

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WANDONG FIRE BRIGADE



The Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal

Wandong Fire Brigade has been a longtime supporter of the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. This will be the 50th year on record that we have tin rattled for them! If you have any photos of the brigade from years gone by we would love to see them. We will be collecting on Epping-Kilmore Road Wandong and at the Wandong Plaza, and encourage you to drop by and say hi and drop in your coins. Good Friday is on the 3rd of April, at the beginning of the school holidays, so we are hoping for some good traffic coming through and donating to this worthy cause.

Wandong Fire Brigade need 5 new firefighters by the end of March!

The brigade is responding to more turn-outs each year, and we need to increase our firefighter numbers. We are holding information sessions at the Wandong fire station for locals to find out what is involved in becoming a member. We are particularly interested in talking to locals who are students, shift workers, or available during the day, but all interested people are welcome and invited to have a chat.

Curious about what it would be like to join Wandong Fire Brigade as a volunteer? Wondering if fire-fighting could be your thing? Drop in to the fire station on Rail St during the times below and find out. Wandong fire brigade members will be there to assist with questions, process applications and give you a tour of the station and equipment. Children are welcome.

🔥 Thursday 12th March 1.30pm - 3.00pm

🔥 Monday 16th March 10.30am - 12.00pm

🔥 Thursday 19th March 7.00pm - 8.30pm

🔥 Saturday 21st March 10.30am - 12.00pm

Wandong firefighters must live within the Wandong or Heathcote Junction area. All uniform and training is provided, and no prior experience is required. Register an Expression of Interest at the CFA website or send us a message on our Facebook page.

Change your Clock. Check your Smoke Alarms.

Daylight Savings ends Sunday 5th April, and it is the perfect reminder to check your smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are compulsory in all Victorian homes. Residential tenants are responsible for regularly cleaning and testing smoke alarms in their homes and to report any faults to the landlord or agent. 10-year lithium battery smoke alarms are now available. All smoke alarms should be tested monthly and vacuumed yearly. If you have a 9-volt smoke alarm, this is the time to replace the battery. After 10 years, replace smoke alarms regardless of the type.

Wandong Fire Brigade offers a service to vulnerable community members to install 10-year lithium battery smoke alarms. If you, or someone you know, could benefit please contact Yvette on 0417545228.

Wandong Fire Brigade Juniors

The juniors have started back and are learning (or revising) which equipment is carried on the fire trucks and how it is used at incidents. This year will be interesting with a few juniors graduating to seniors, and some new kids starting.

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.

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

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

Junior Football and Netball Clubs are busy organizing their registration days and preseason has started, watch out for them and please support our Junior Clubs. Keep an eye on Auskick as their registration and season is coming soon. Netball is busy with their Net Set Go Program on Mondays after school.

Kilmore Cricket Club is-at the Reserve-, both Senior, Junior and the female teams, Saturday mornings and afternoons. Wallan Junior Football Club are pre training at the Reserve due to works on their oval.

Please be cautious around the Reserve at present due to various sighting of snakes being reported.

Also as the Reserve is busy with activities just a reminder to all when driving in to be cautious and the speed limit is 10 kilometres

Dry Creek through the Reserve:



As we are at present having seasonal summer storms, please be vigilant when walking on the Say G-Day trail through the Reserve as Dry Creek will flood at any time.



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



Remember When: L.B Davern Reserve History

The Reserve as we see it today is the result of past land use. From 1880 to 1890 a horse-drawn tramway ran through the reserve up to Mt Disappointment forest where logging camps were serviced. All physical recognition of this era has disappeared over time with the exception of the walking track that lies where the tramway track once existed. The closure of sawmills in State Forests during the early 1900s saw the Reserve's future take another turn. Following the tramway's closure, the area became a popular local meeting point to play sport. It was only a matter of time until the Reserve was officially declared a Recreational Reserve in 1933.

Shire of Kilmore

Wednesday December 20th 1933

Public Meeting was convened for the purpose of creating a Committee of Management to the Wandong Recreation Reserve.

The Committee of Management was approved and confirmed at the Shire of Kilmore meeting held on Wednesday, 7th February 1934.

The Reserve was original known by the Shire of Kilmore as Wandong Park.

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

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



The Community Centre is open for bookings, enquire now
Our Community building

Is also a great asset to hold Kids parties, family type events and private functions of all sorts, please consider when planning a function. You can contact our booking officer.

Darlene Gunter on 0418 312 762

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

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

-Community Centre and Sports Pavilion contact:

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

L.B.Davern Reserve Committee

Rob Telfer

President

L.B.Davern Reserve Committee

12 Dry Creek Cres

P.O.Box 303, Wandong 3758

0408 393 250



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LIONS CLUB OF WANDONG – WALLAN INC.

PRESIDENT: SAM BEDI

PO Box 225
WANDONG. VIC. 3758

Our February Dinner meeting was held at San Marco's in Wallan on Tuesday 11th. Sixteen people attended including the District Governor David and his Wife Amanda and two prospective new members in Peter and his Wife Robin, who have confirmed they will join. Peter and Robin were encouraged to join, liking the Club's principals and Community involvement. District Governor David presented some Awards to a number of Members present, with some to be presented later to those who were unable to attend the Meeting.

David, assisted by his Wife, gave nice address that focused on Unity and Social Interaction, to create a friendly environment for Members, attract new Members, and shape our Club for a productive and positive future.

San Marco restaurant did a great job serving up some excellent fare, seeing everyone leaving well fed and happy. It was disappointing not having Clyde and Elizabeth present, and the management were a little upset that they had placed a "High Chair" at the head of the table in readiness for him only to have him not appear.

The drawn out 50th Anniversary Seat project has taken a leap forward thanks to "President Sam" securing the services of a local Concreter who laid the slab to mount the seat at Wandong. Commissioning of the seat is not far off now.

It is probably appropriate to mention that sometimes community related events are not all out in the public's sight. A lot of effort has gone into things like Hampers and Student Presentations etc and credit goes to those involved in these "behind the scenes" activities.

The Rylie's have taken delivery of their new vehicle much to their pleasure. However, Clyde's excitement was short lived when Elizabeth made it clear to Clyde he wouldn't be driving it. Speaking of Clyde, his Birthday is coming up next week and he'd like to remind all his friends and fans that presents can be left at the Wallan Newsagents. Because he struggles with arithmetic, he would prefer fifty or one hundred dollar notes for simplicity and convenience. We wish him luck with his request.

Not a great amount more to report so I'll leave it here.
Take care
Steve.

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



Saturday juniors summer season has almost completed with finals starting 21/3 Good luck to all teams.

Tuesday night and Thursday night autumn seasons have now started.
Good luck to all teams.

Coaching is available at the club. Please contact Karl on 0423611317
Or kv.tennis@hotmail.com

Regards, Lisa



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.

Discipline or Punishment....

Understand the Difference....

In our human society we categorise hitting or smacking as a form of 'Aggression'. But have we gone too far down this positive track...? - Have we now got to a point where we have lost the ability to understand how to respect others?



Now - it is not that I am condoning violence but the problem

is, that when Humans feel they are in situations they cannot control they often resort to confrontational behaviours. This can lead to highly charged emotional reactions that just create further confusion.

With this article we are talking about working with our dogs, but the similar principal applies when teaching our children how to fit and adapt in our community.

Discipline & Punishment might appear to be similar, but actually have very different meanings!

DISCIPLINE - Is when you set clear boundaries for behaviour and follow thru when needed.

If the dog crosses the boundary then the Authority Figure (YOU) should step in and block the behaviour - UNTIL the dog stops and withdraws from the action... Behaviour stops, then you stop... then just go back to what you were doing and ignore the dog.... (do not praise the dog for stopping, this will just distract and prevents the dog for seeing the mistakes).

If the dog then breaks the boundary **again** the Authority Figure once again steps in to block the behaviour and again you stop when the dogs stops and withdraws from the action. The dog starts to see a pattern, hence will diminish this behaviour. We **do not** need to reward normal behaviour we just want it to become 'the norm'.

Example: Dog barks – you growl using enough energy that distracts the dog to stop barking – once the dog is quiet, then immediately lower your energy and even turn away and ignore dog... now wait to see what the dog's next choice is... Hopefully he will remain quiet or even walk away, if dog starts barking then repeat the Block.

PUNISHMENT - Use of physical/mental restraints incorrectly when your dog breaks boundaries.

This might sound similar to the previous definition, however, the big difference is; that should verbal or physical restraints **CONTINUE** when the dog attempts to withdraw from the action then you have now fallen into the category of Punishment.

Example: Dog Barks – you growl, chastise - then dog moves away and becomes quiet - however you keep yelling, threatening, shaking your fist. The dog cannot see what is wrong, hence dog becomes confused, then your dog is likely to cower or become hyper erratic. The dog cannot see the pattern to know how to do what you want.... so he keeps repeating the same mistakes over and over again....

DON'T BE AFRAID TO TRY ! - Many families are scared to enforce discipline so they become confused and frustrated. Then human emotions come into play... "The bloody dog won't do what he's told!" "... Whereas the reality is..... 'The bloody dog can't see what you want!' So, although you think your dog is being an idiot ... he is really just being a dog... SO you need to take a big breath and **BLOCK** the unwanted behaviour, if dog stops the unwanted action then you stop and **BREATH OUT** to release your emotional tension. Then Repeat if needed..... AND as often as needed.

Nobody chooses to hurt their dog either physically or mentally. But if we are honest with ourselves, most people are afraid that the animal will become upset and **NO LONGER LOVE THEM**, so often humans just **DO NOTHING** which means there is no consequences for the unwanted behaviour, hence this action **WILL** be repeated...

Well some good news – The love your dog shows is a dog love, which is different to a human love. Dogs actually show love by showing respect. Remember, human love is varied and fickle whereas animals show love in an uncomplicated and honest fashion. Actually, what a dog finds really cool is to live with humans who understands dogs.....

Alfoxton Tip:

When a dog can "PROFIT" from a behaviour then this will continue..... BUT....

If a dog DOES NOT PROFIT ... then the behaviour will diminish.



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SUDOKU

Answers
on page 28

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

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

THIS MONTHS QUIZ

Answer appears on Page 28 but no cheating!

1. What is the world's oldest currency still in use today?
2. What is the most common surname in USA?
3. What company was originally called "Cadabra"?
4. Where is Disney's European theme park?
5. Which film features the song "My Heart Will Go On"?
6. Which U.S. city is the birthplace of jazz?
7. Which novel has the island of Neverland?
8. Which fruit has seeds on the outside?
9. What color do you get when you mix blue and yellow?
10. Which continent has the most people?
11. What does Hakuna Matata mean?
12. What is the capital of India?
13. In which sport is the term 'love' used?
14. What is the national sport of Canada?
15. What is Australia's oldest chocolate bar?

Sheree Tivendale
Civil Celebrant
0417 808 922

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< www.mbug.org.au >

or contact the Secretary,
John on 5781 1604

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Hello Readers,

As we farewell February, I'd like to briefly summarise the classes and events that our Wallan U3A members had access to during the month.

We began February with our monthly committee meeting, which was well attended by our enthusiastic members. We tossed around ideas for future lunch outings and the annual promotion at Wellington Square amongst other things.

A committed group of members attended the first two sessions of the government initiative "Equip4Life" which focussed on the benefits of healthy nutrition and the importance it plays in reducing the risk of diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

Our weekly Mahjong, Pilates and Tai Chi classes are always popular as is Ballroom Dancing and Singing, the Trivia session was lively and spirited.

Over twenty members attended the Morning Melodies at Kilmore Trackside where we were very happy to be waited on by great staff, where we danced, joined in the singing and simply enjoyed the companionship of others.

A group of members made their way into Melbourne for the Michael Jackson Stage Show. The month was rounded out by a trip to Gaffney's Bakery for lunch at Heathcote, followed by a walk to the Pink Cliffs.

As we welcome March, a further two sessions of "Equip4Life" begin the month. On this occasion, the sessions will focus on the importance of physical activity and the impact it has in reducing the risks of diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

An excursion is also planned to the MCG Sports Museum which should be very appealing to our sporting enthusiasts.

Other classes continue as normal.

If you are reading this newsletter for the first time, are new to the area, are lonely, bored, or wanting to make some new friends please give us a try. Pick up a timetable of our classes and activities at the Wallan Neighbourhood House or ring our President John on 0413 083 089 for further information.

Till next time
John Lanphier



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

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.foxton.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 February 2026

February produced a variety of weather for the last month of summer. Hot days, warm nights, windy and on some days still cool.

Rainfall of 67 mls was gratefully received. In the first half of the month, 9.5 mls was recorded, 57.5 mls late in the last half of the month.

Our supply dam Sunday Creek was recorded at 42% capacity as of the 25th February.

Stats

February 2026 - 104.5 mls
Previous year - 16.5 mls
Average prev 10 years - 20 mls
Total this year - 73.5 mls
Total prev year - 59.5 mls

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 26)

1. Pound sterling
2. Smith
3. Amazon
4. Paris, France
5. Titanic
6. New Orleans
7. Peter Pan
8. Strawberry
9. Green
10. Asia
11. No worries
12. New Delhi
13. Tennis
14. Ice hockey
15. Cherry ripe

SUKODU solution

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



**Kilmore
&
District**

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

Hello again, let me start with some Important Announcements:

1 Notice of Annual General Meeting

The U3A Kilmore and District Inc. will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Friday, 20th March 2026 at 10:00am sharp at JJ Clancy Pavilion, Kellys Lane, Kilmore.

The business of the Meeting is to confirm the Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting, receive the President Annual Report and the Treasurers Financial Statements and consider Special Resolutions (*in accordance with Part 7 of the Act*).

Following these presentations, all Management Committee positions will become vacant, and nominations for these positions will be called. Several current Committee Members have expressed their intention to renominate for their positions. New Committee Members are warmly encouraged to join. If you are interested in nominating for the Committee, nomination forms will be available on the day. Each nomination requires both a nominee and a seconder. Morning Tea will be provided for attendees after the close of the Annual General Meeting (*Members are requested to please bring a plate*).

2 Change of Access to JJ Clancy Pavilion

Due to car park construction between the tennis and netball courts, vehicle access via Clarke Street is closed. Please use Kellys Lane for entry. On busy days, park around the oval or near the ticket box, and leave bays near the building for people with disabilities.

Now that's out of the way...Most of our groups resumed in February with strong participation across all activities, this highlights the vibrant community spirit at U3A Kilmore and District Inc.

The Pickleball group held their first games at Hidden Valley Resort Pickleball Courts on the 19th February, the weather was perfect for outdoor activities, and the word is they all might have been a bit puffed out but everyone enjoyed themselves and wanted to continue playing when their time was up.

The Jazzminton group also held its first session on 19th February, which saw a great uptake—many participants attended, and the session was filled with fun and laughter, reflecting the group's lively spirit and enthusiasm. With both Pickleball and Jazzminton kicking off successfully, their members are looking forward to more engaging activities throughout the year.

U3A Kilmore History group were given a guided bus tour of Wandong, hosted by the Wandong Family History Group, on the 2nd and 9th of March. The group members were looking forward to exploring Wandong's history and visiting its historical sites.

For details on joining, visit u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au or email info@u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au.
Christina

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

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

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

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

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



Whittlesea Community Network

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



We have hit the ground running! Lots of new classes and plenty of old favourites, the current program can be picked up from the office or jump online www.wchi.com.au to check out what's happening and to book online!

Visy Recycling

NEW OPENING HOURS! Our merry band of volunteers is still counting CANS AND BOTTLES! Over the counter recycling is available TUESDAY, Wednesday and Thursday each week 10am – 3pm and Saturdays from 8am – 4pm. Please note we are **not open on Public Holidays**. Unfortunately, we must also close when we reach our bin capacity – it's a good idea to visit us as early in the day as you can. 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):

Tuesdays 11.00am – Noon \$2.00 per person

*Please note Big Blokes will be cancelled on high fire risk days – contact the office to confirm. 9716 3361

Women's Lunch March 12th and 26th 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 14th March 9.00am – 1.00pm \$150 per person

Term 1 Highlights

First Aid – 13th May CPR \$85, Provide First Aid \$150

Paint and Sip returns with a new tutor – Saturday 30th May - \$30 per person

Airplant Workshop – Thursday 28th May - FREE

Fix it Friday – Friday 27th March – Bring your Bill session

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

This month we are hosting a “Bring Your Bill” session with the Energy Assistance Program team. If you have a massive gas bill or an electricity account that is off the chart we can help! Get a better deal, get a concession back dated or apply for an energy relief grant. Call us to register 9716 3361.

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

The Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group has asked Mitchell Shire Council to investigate the cause of damage to the mesh fence between Rail Street and the railway reserve at Heathcote Junction. Mitchell Shire will probably refer it to VicTrack but the fence responsibility was handed to Mitchell Shire years ago so we have asked Mitchell Shire to repair it.



Our Town's Football Club



Pre-Season training is now in full swing with all Warrior teams back on the field. The committee has been busy behind the scenes ensuring we have another fun and successful year.

The club has had many new players across all age groups register. We are looking forward to you having a great year with us at the club. Big shout out to our youngest Warriors who will pull the boots on for the very first time.

Unfortunately, our numbers in the 16's were not quite there this year. We will not be entering a team for the 2026 season. We wish our eldest Warriors every success with their football careers moving forward and remind them, once a Warrior always a Warrior! Go Warriors!



Wandong Warriors 2025 SPONSORS

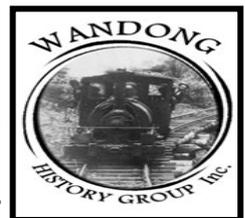


 Wandong Junior Football Club

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

ANZAC Day 2026: Wandong History Group

As this edition is printed, we are busy preparing for ANZAC Day. This year marks the 11th anniversary of the Wandong Heathcote Junction Memorial. The service will commence at 12:30 pm, followed by a gold coin donation sausage sizzle. We invite members of the community to join us on this important day. Anyone wishing to lay a wreath and be included in the program, please advise as soon as possible, as the program will be printed soon. Hope to see you all on ANZAC Day.



Karen. Email: wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com PH: 0432 120 736