



ISSUE 357 WANDONG/HEATHCOTE JUNCTION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER : APRIL 2026 ABN 17 022 858 565

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EDITOR - Allen Hall, 20 North Mountain Rd, Heathcote Junction 3758 Ph - 0413 832 411

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

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



## ANZAC Day 2026 at Wandong

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 all members of the community to join us on this important day.



### Wandong fire brigade celebrated 50 years of collecting for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

This year we collected \$9909.60!




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

Nothing was going to convince Inland Rail / John Holland that their traffic monitoring exercise was flawed and their intention to close Rail Street, Wandong for ten weeks is asking for traffic chaos at the Heathcote Junction crossing. The traffic queued on the Epping Kilmore Road will 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. They propose a temporary four car turning lane from the north and the current very short turning lane from the south. Traffic including Wandong, Whittlesea, Wallan, Broadford and Kilmore school buses on Rail Street 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. The Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group has tried to have the problems recognised and addressed to no avail.



**IF YOU MISS AN ISSUE OF "WHAT'S NEWS" go to website <[www.wandong.vic.au/local-news/whats-news](http://www.wandong.vic.au/local-news/whats-news)>**

**Wandong - Heathcote Junction - why would you live anywhere else. Until May 2026, Allen Hall (editor)**

**NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: COPY & ADS 2 May 2026 DELIVERY from 13 May 2026**

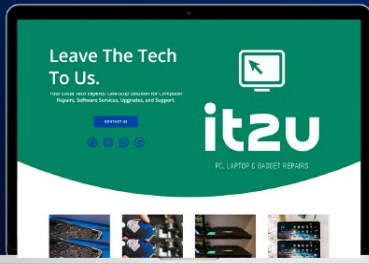
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## COME TO BEAR'S CASTLE!

**NEXT TOURS: SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:**



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Alone it's difficult — together, it's achievable.

foundation@nh.org.au

www.nhfoundation.org.au/fundraise-for-us

8405 2897



# What's Happening

## WANDONG OUTSIDE SCHOOL HOURS CARE



Service Phone Number:  
**0497 877 771**

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

### How to Enrol

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

### Operation Times

Before School Care 6:30am – 8:45am

After School Care 3:30pm - 6:30pm

Pupil Free Day 6:30am – 6:30pm

Holiday Program 6:30am – 6:30pm

## ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

3 May John & Noelene Pyle K  
4 May Mandy & Goran Coter W  
9 May Phillip & Maureen Buggy HJ  
16 May Brian & Rose Dove W  
17 May Neil & Chris Douthwaite HJ  
17 May Norm & Anne Rose K

## 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](mailto:whatsnewswhj@gmail.com)

Remember  
"Whats News" is also available on the website  
<[www.wandong.vic.au](http://www.wandong.vic.au)>

## COMMUNITY WEBSITES

[www.wandong.vic.au](http://www.wandong.vic.au)  
[www.upperplenty.com](http://www.upperplenty.com)

## Mitchell Bushwalking Group

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

Please contact:  
Mary 0428 479 469  
or Wayne 0451 519 734  
or email  
[mitchelwalksgroup@gmail.com](mailto:mitchelwalksgroup@gmail.com)

for more information

## 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 Apr | Natalie Hannemann  | W       |
| 21 Apr | Lucas Rhead        | HJ      |
| 21 Apr | Alan Knight        | W       |
| 22 Apr | Byrn Dickinson     | W       |
| 23 Apr | Charlie Kilroy     | W       |
| 24 Apr | Ali Maerstaeller   | B       |
| 24 Apr | Craig Johnson      | HJ      |
| 24 Apr | Luke Weller        | HJ      |
| 24 Apr | Taryn Kneebone     | W       |
| 24 Apr | Brian Cawthorne    | Wallan  |
| 25 Apr | Avril Thomas       | K       |
| 25 Apr | Ivan Kovacic       | WP      |
| 25 Apr | Rochelle Gough     | HJ      |
| 25 Apr | Joel Page          | CI      |
| 25 Apr | Phil Waite         | W       |
| 25 Apr | Jack Rayner        | Wallan  |
| 26 Apr | Glenn O'Brien      | W       |
| 27 Apr | Bob Brown          | HJ      |
| 27 Apr | Kane Chisholm      | HJ      |
| 28 Apr | Joanne Gedye       | HJ      |
| 28 Apr | Krystal Dickinson  | HJ      |
| 29 Apr | Amy Littlewood     | K       |
| 30 Apr | Isobel Mumberson   | HJ      |
| 1 May  | Jared Kelly        | HJ      |
| 1 May  | Jamie Marstaeller  | Wallan  |
| 5 May  | Keston Waldie      | W       |
| 5 May  | Kathryn Ryan       | KE      |
| 6 May  | Alastair MacDonald | W       |
| 7 May  | Norm Hulett        | HJ      |
| 7 May  | Mitchell Smith     | HJ      |
| 8 May  | Jessica Dickinson  | W       |
| 10 May | Jamie Champion     | HJ      |
| 11 May | Morgan Smith       | W       |
| 12 May | Gaye Georgelin     | HJ      |
| 12 May | Ken McDonald       | HJ      |
| 13 May | Phillip Buggy      | HJ      |
| 13 May | Di Vidal           | W       |
| 15 May | Erin Gough         | HJ      |
| 15 May | Ian Jarvie         | Dromana |
| 17 May | Jacqui Candy       | W       |
| 17 May | Aiden Bartolo      | UP      |
| 17 May | Daniel Kirwan      | W/sea   |



**MYKI RETAILER**



## THE SHACK IS BACK

The Upper Plenty Community Hall "THE SHACK" is open for hire. For information and bookings call Susan or Wayne on 0499 907 017



# Wandong IGA

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

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## **REMEMBERING:**

*(by Merle Croskell)*

### **HEATHER KIRBY CHRISTENSEN**

*Recently, St. Johns's Anglican Church Wandong was seen bulging at the seams.*

*Who was this lady being farewelled today?*

*Eldest daughter of former resident Lorna Christensen who attended Wandong Primary, local events. Sister to Christine, Judy, Di (Dinie) and Neale.*

*Played with cousins and school friends, celebrated Christmas concerts, birthdays together. Happily walking down to the local 'store' spending our monies wisely. Steam train drivers hanging out of their cabin waving us on. The simple, but rewarding days we spent together in our country surroundings.*

*Rest in peace Heather your battle is over!*

*To her devoted husband Ted, married in this small church we say Thank you for all that you did in love.*

## **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](mailto:membership.upmclg@gmail.com)

or Chris Cobern 0413855490

## Apparently, I'm not perfect.

According to a survey conducted by my wife I don't even get a look in! She found a Bible verse that says 'Be ye perfect' that's in Matthew in her Bible at least! (I'm not game to look it up!)

I just found a list the wife made up. (I think she is going to ask the neighbors for their opinion!) It starts off O.K. but gets a bit rough further on.

Are you—generous, friendly, have a barking dog, heavy drinker, dishonest, mows the neighbor's nature strip, a mad Collingwood supporter, plays loud music, has badly behaved kids, has good kids, parks anywhere, leaves rubbish bins out too long, churchy, helpful, won't return the mower, watches too much screen time, (optional answer here.)

When I look at this list, she's got me hook line and sinker! I will just have to look this up for myself. Perfect, steady on, hey, there it is in black and white in Matthew ch5 v 48. One thing I have to be thankful for is that my wife only read verse 48 if she had started a bit earlier in the chapter, I'd be in more strife than you could imagine.

By coincidence our minister is going through Matthew this month, so I bet that I won't go to sleep during the sermons in the next few weeks! (Mitchell Christian Fellowship Clonbinane. Next to the fire station at 11 o'clock.) Couldn't resist that.

I had a good think about being perfect, that's a tall order in this day and age surrounded by the daily distractions, I mean we're pretty busy with, work, home, family, but there it is in black and white and it took my wife to point out that only Jesus can be faultless, perfect and fault free. We are called to Grow Up in our Christian life to mature from our childlike attitude, to be prepared to carry the flag, to share the faith, to realize that he has no hands but ours to do His work. No voice but ours to tell the story of the good news of His life, teachings and the promise of eternal life.

It is Jesus alone that has set the example to for us to do His work on earth, then of course Paul wrote encouraging us to run with patience the race set before us looking unto Jesus the author, finisher and perfecter of our faith. Only then will we be responding to the call to perfection in Matthew ch5 v48.

A.G. Obviously, I'm not yet perfect. (Not by a country mile!)

### 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**



### 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,  
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— entrance on Willomavin Road

nquiries to ;  
Pastor Frantz Heinzelmann  
Mobile: 0411 794 188

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

All Welcome. Love to see you there



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## 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](mailto:margaretjakymczuk1@gmail.com)



Classes held at:  
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**Anyone wishing to join  
Kilmore District Mens Shed  
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**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](mailto:Kilmoremensshed@gmail.com)**

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Caladenia Nursing Home Website:  
[www.kilmoredistricthospital.org.au](http://www.kilmoredistricthospital.org.au)



# GARDEN SCENE WITH GAIL

How amazing has our Autumn been so far, rain, warm weather, more rain, sun. it's just beautiful and the grass is green and growing. But of course, we have the weeds and as we know they always grow faster than the plants but this year because of how soft the soil is with all the rain we've had the weeds come out really easy. This year I'm weeding and then putting cardboard down (whatever you do, do not use plastic to stop weeds, it sours the soil and makes it unhealthy for the root system of the plants) before the mulch which I'm piling on quite deep to hold the cardboard down when it's windy and to also ensure the cardboard is down close to the soil with no gaps under it to allow weeds to easily grow. Both the cardboard and the mulch break down to enhance the soil and helps cut down on the weeding. Fingers crossed. I'm really surprised how quickly I'm getting through the weeding, it's nearly, a pleasure, and the damp soil is so refreshing because it's been a long dry Summer and an uphill battle to keep the plants watered enough for them to survive. Seasol wetting agent has been amazing along with well-rotted cow manure, that can be used year-round and it won't harm native plants, use it on everything, it improves all soil types, adds organic matter to the soil and enriches it no end. Clay soil can be a challenge being wet and slippery in Winter and hard and cracking in Summer however, it's a great soil type to improve as it holds a lot of organic matter. In its common state, that is, its normal state it is very hard for root systems to access the organic matter in clay due to its structure, but when it's treated with Gypsum, fine white sand and well-rotted cow manure it is simply amazing. Worms get into it and help work the soil and the plants say thank you, producing healthier foliage, stronger root system and the ability to withstand mostly everything nature can throw at them, mostly! Clay is certainly easier to treat than a sandy soil that in a lot of cases allows water to flow through too quickly, a blend of sandy and clay is great. Some plants are better suited to sandy soils, like Western and South Australian plants, Kangaroo Paw, Sturts Desert Pea, some Grevilleas and Banksias, Coastal Rosemary, Waratah, Protea, Correa and Sheoak, heavy clay soils don't allow proper drainage for these plants. On the flip side some plants do better in a clay-based soil such as Callistemon, varieties of Acacia, some Grevilleas and indeed if your

soil is healthy and smells good, not sour, you're pretty safe but always check the preference of your chosen plant. As the second month of Autumn, April is a great time to check out the Autumn colours of deciduous plants, if not to grow yourself, take a drive around the area, Wandong is so pretty, and see the spectacular displays and mix of colours, red, yellow, orange, green, it's a lovely time of year and I wonder if you can resist picking up a deciduous plant for yourself? Crepe Myrtles are still in flower, they are so hardy and the red leaf varieties are equally stunning, well known for their lengthy flowering period. Some of our Camellias are budding, along with Daphne, ready to flower in late Autumn into Winter so if you are pruning take care not to prune any plants that have new little buds and it can be so easy to do when we're in the garden, sometimes we get so engrossed in what we're doing. *We love gardening!*



Have a fantastic April.

*Gail Mains Kendrick*

(Your local Agent in Real Estate)



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

"Letting the  
LIGHT Shine  
in the World"

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**Enquiries to:**  
**David Moran 5787 1738**

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CHURCH, WANDONG**

**WANDONG AVE, WANDONG**

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# Kilmore Golf Club Inc.



The recent rain has certainly been welcome. The course has greened up and looking great thanks to the continued efforts of the course volunteers.

There appear to be fewer corellas on the course now so maybe more will disappear within the next few weeks.

Winners for March include

- Ian Gray winning the John Carr cup after four rounds as well as the Monthly Medal play off
- Andrea Boland winner of the Saturday Aggregate Cup
- Cheryle Andersen winner John Ryan Rose Bowl
- Sunday pennant Handicap Division 1 team winning from Hidden Valley 3-2 and Division 3 team scoring a win 3-2 against Woodend.
- Tony McGregor and Jim Ioannidis won the Kilmore Cup 4BBB
- The winner of the Pat Johnstone Memorial Trophy sponsored by S. Wicking was Robyn McPherson. This is an aggregate stableford event for players with a handicap of 30 plus.
- Monthly Medal Bill Johnson & Sandy Wicking.
- Monthly Medal April for Ladies Helen Dennett

Keep in mind the Club is offering Social passes (pro rata) and Membership to new residents @ \$400 (pro rata) or those who have never been a member in the past.

Contact the Club – [info@kilmoregolfclub.com.au](mailto:info@kilmoregolfclub.com.au) OR for further information visit our Website; [kilmoregolfclub.com.au](http://kilmoregolfclub.com.au)

Phone 5782 1123

Kilmore Golf Club

## WANDONG-HEATHCOTE JUNCTION COMMUNITY GROUP

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



### A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS

Our Easter egg basket raffle was a great fund raiser for the WHJCG. All the funds raised by our raffles and Bunnings sausage sizzles, etc go toward our projects and town maintenance, the latest project being the rose arbour at the Wandong Memorial Park. The winners of the Easter basket raffle were:

Shane of Heathcote Junction, Mick (Kellys Lane Kilmore) and Megan (King William Drive Wallan).

### PROJECTS AND MAINTENANCE THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DONE YESTERDAY !!

- We have long advocated for the large open drain along the west side of the Epping Kilmore Road at the Wandong bushfire memorial car park to be placed underground and the car park rebuilt for easier use and to beautify an area that should be a show piece at a major entrance to Mitchell Shire. The toilets at this location are the most used in Mitchell Shire but often are left poorly cleaned and maintained. We recently viewed the latest plan but the project is not scheduled to commence until the 2027/2028 budget. There cannot be a more important project for Wandong and Mitchell Shire.
- The mesh fencing separating Rail Street and the railway reserve has been damaged in many points due to trees falling, vehicle accidents, etc but Mitchell Shire chooses to neglect the repair of this unsightly and dangerous problem.
- Footpaths on Rail Street and North Mountain Road are a disgrace. The concrete part on Rail Street has 35 panels with cracks and the North Mountain Road (section of the Say G'Day trail) has very little bitumen remaining.
- Mitchell Shire did commit to three monthly meetings to discuss local issues but as expected this has not happened.

### INLAND RAIL / JOHN HOLLAND AND THE REPLACEMENT BRIDGE

Despite advising the WHJCG and community that the project will not require the closing of Rail Street, they and Mitchell Shire will be doing just that for ten weeks. We have tried our best to highlight the huge chaos that will occur at the Heathcote Junction crossing but they will not listen to the locals and prefer to quote their traffic modelling that does not see any problem. Sorry everyone, we tried.

# Roadworks and Rail Street closure Wandong 28 March to 27 April 2026

**JOHN  
HOLLAND**

John Holland will continue works to construct the new Broadford-Wandong Road bridge during April. There will be a temporary closure of Rail Street during this time.

## Work being done

- Construction of new roundabout and road upgrades at the Broadford-Wandong Road and Rail Street intersection
- Roadwork upgrades to Heathcote Junction detour
- Bridge abutment works
- Utility relocation works
- Asphaltting, curbing, paving and roadworks
- Construction of temporary access road for residents alongside Broadford-Wandong Road.

## What can I expect?

- Works 7am-6pm Monday to Friday and 7am-1pm Saturdays
- Works 7am-6pm Saturday 28 March and Sunday 29 March
- Works 4am-7pm Monday 13 April
- Works 4am-7pm Monday 20 April
- Additional out-of-hours works between Monday 13 April and Monday 27 April, as required
- Nearby residents likely to be impacted by additional out-of-hours works will be notified ahead of time
- From mid-April single-lane shuttle flow vehicle traffic will move to the newly constructed Broadford-Wandong Road bridge
- From mid-April a section of Rail Street will temporarily close for approx. 10 weeks.

*A detour will be in place via Heathcote Junction*

- Reduced speeds and periods of short-term temporary single-lane shuttle flow on Epping-Kilmore Road
- Long-term temporary single-lane shuttle flow on Broadford-Wandong Road
- Refer to electronic signage for updates. Please allow additional travel time, follow all signage, detours, and traffic management. No pedestrian access in works area
- Nearby residents may experience some noise, lighting from light towers, 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

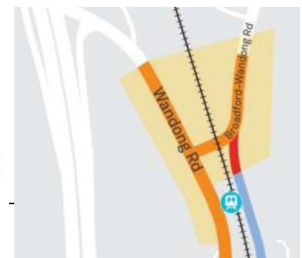
For any concerns phone 1800 732 761 or email [inlandrailvic@inlandrail.com.au](mailto:inlandrailvic@inlandrail.com.au)

If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please contact [B2ACommunity@ihq.com.au](mailto:B2ACommunity@ihq.com.au)

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


## Legend

-  Works area
-  Road closed
-  Traffic management
-  Vehicle detour
-  Wandong Station



☎ 1800 732 761    @ [inlandrailvic@inlandrail.com.au](mailto: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** 



## How to protect your small business

There are simple practical things you can do to prevent crime in your small business.

Crime costs businesses billions of dollars each year – whether that be through burglary, robbery, shoplifting, property damage, scams, employee theft, fraud or data breaches. It can be particularly devastating to a small business, who can lose customers, staff, precious assets and money, let alone the motivation to recover and move on.

We have prepared some cost-effective strategies you can take to protect your business from crime.

### Set up a security system

- Installing a monitored security system will not only help you and police in the event of a theft, it will also act as a deterrent for potential thieves;
- Make sure cameras are visible or display signs that tell customers that a security system is in place.

### Make sure the outside of your business protects the inside

- Make sure your business is visible. Use good exterior lighting;
- Install sensor lights in dark areas around the premises so they light up if someone approaches;
- Remove potential climbing aids like skip bins, trees or ladders near windows or roofs;
- Consider installing bollards across the front of your business to stop possible ram raids.

### Use your entries and exits

- Use electronic sensors to alert staff when someone enters or exits the business;
- Avoid placing large, solid items, like blinds, shelves or signage near the entry to keep the view of the entrance door and eliminate potential hiding spots for thieves.

### Work with staff to secure your business

- Provide staff with written procedures and train staff on security protocols;
- Ensure staff know what to do when closing the business prevent after-hours break-ins. Often thieves target businesses outside of trade hours, as there won't be people around.
- Educate staff in managing stock, customers and payments.

### Control access

- Make sure all doors and windows have strong, good quality locks, including skylights and access holes.
- Regular re-key locks and update any access codes.
- Keep track of which third parties, such as cleaners or contractors, have keys or access cards.



### Handle cash responsibly

- Put up signs telling people that cash is not kept on the premises. Avoid keeping large amounts of cash overnight.
- Regularly deposit cash at the bank, preferably during banking hours, and try and change up your routine to avoid banking during regular and predictable times.

### Reduce the temptation for thieves

- Lock expensive stock away in cabinets, or use electronic security tags;
- Display signage alerting potential thieves to security cameras, lack of cash and security tags.
- Make sure staff have a clear view of shelves and racks and regular move around the store.

### Get to know your business neighbours

- Engaging with your local business community can be a powerful preventive measure. When people come together as a community, they not only feel safer, they are safer.

For more information in regard to how to keep your business safe, visit <https://nhw.com.au>, and sign up for the 'How Safe is my Business' quiz available soon.

## Upcoming Events

### South Mitchell NHW General Meeting

We will be hosting our next meeting on 9 April, 2026, 7pm in the meeting room, at the Wandong Community Centre, LB Davern Reserve, Dry Creek Road, Wandong. Everyone is welcome!

**Hotlines:** **000** **Emergency**  
**131 444** **Police Assistance Line**

**Online Reporting: 1800 333 000** **Crime Stoppers**  
<https://www.police.vic.gov.au/palolr>



Neighbourhood Watch  
Let's watch out for each other

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**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  
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# WANDONG HISTORY GROUP

## Wandong Stadium is no more

After many years of advising the various councillors, council officers and anyone vaguely to do with council finally someone listened. The embarrassing mistake on the signage at LB Davern reserve has finally been fixed. We did offer to take a texta down and make the change but that would be seen as graffiti and we couldn't do that so now officially we can celebrate that Wandong now has a STADIUM!



While discussing the issue of the incorrect sign we also advised council of the state of the public toilets at the memorial park, door locks broken, toilet paper rolls broken and one completely missing and the cleaning that is so poorly done that after the cleaner leaves the toilets are just as bad as before they get there. Fortunately, a shire officer was witness to this so we are expecting to see a great improvement on the management of these facilities. Hopefully the locks will be fixed for ANZAC Day.

We also pointed out the growing piles of rubbish around the Plaza, bins are regularly overflowing, and yes there is more pressure on with the all the extra activity with inland Rail in town. We have asked the shire to have the bins emptied more often, lets see if that happens.

It would be great if more people could report issues to council, we were advised to go direct through the Mitchell Shire app to do so. There are growing piles of rubbish being dumped all about the place and it's a massive issue and all that rubbish finding its way into paddocks being ingested by farm animals can kill them in very quick time. The shire is catching up and fining people when they can but everyone needs to be on this to get our town cleaned up and a place we can be proud of again.

Don't forget ANZAC Day, any groups or organisations wishing to be part of the official wreath laying need to let me know ASAP.

Karen Christensen  
President, Wandong History Group  
Email: [wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com](mailto:wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com)

## NO PROJECT CREEP

The Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group has been assured by Inland Rail/John Holland that there is no plan to remove vegetation including large gum trees at Dry Creek, on the Wandong - Broadford Road, Wandong,



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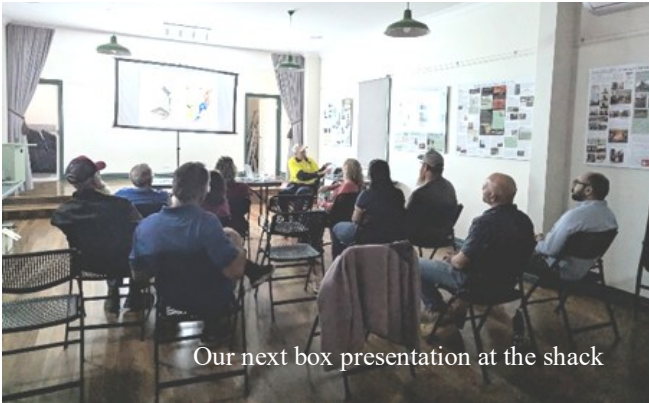


Upper Plenty  
Merri Catchments  
**Landcare**  
Group

## News and Events from the Upper Plenty Merri Catchments Landcare Group

At our last meeting we had a great turnout for the presentation from our Landcare Facilitator Chris Cobern about the role of installing artificial Nest Boxes at your home, or on private land and public reserves to support Native Wildlife that otherwise depend on hollows in trees which are often in short Supply.

The range of wildlife supported, such as gliders, possums, phascogales, microbats and a whole range of birdlife are catered for just by choosing the diameter and placement of the entry hole. This presentation was the first in a series activities and events where participants can build their own or buy a nest box, learn how and where to install if by hands on field work, monitor the box to see who is in residence and record the details.



Our next box presentation at the shack



Our stand at the March Scouts market day



Kreffts glider in next box



Next box view of our monitoring team

### We have other events coming up including:

**Weed control planning session to assist land managers responding to council notices or wanting help in learning about weed control options that work.**

**On Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> 9.30-11.30am at the Shack 1240 Whittlesea Wallan road, Upper Plenty.**

**Merri Creek Clean up at the corner of South Mountain Road and Epping Kilmore road Heathcote Junction.**

**Sponsored by Melbourne Water and run by the Merri Creek Management committee**

**On June 27<sup>th</sup>. Contact our Landcare group for registration and event details.**

**Animal pest control on your property. If you don't have the time, experience or resources to control those invasive animal pests like Deer, Foxes and Rabbits. Come along to our May meeting to learn about some options on how communities can work together to bring in specialists for FREE.**

**May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm at The Shack.**

**We will be at the Wallan Scout Market every other month for more information of what we do.**

**Our website will give details on what activities we are running or call our friendly secretary on 0412408048. [Secretary.upmclg@gmail.com](mailto:Secretary.upmclg@gmail.com) [www.upmclg@gmail.com](http://www.upmclg@gmail.com)**

# NEW CLASSROOMS OPEN

THANKS TO  
**Wandong Primary School Upgrade**

**Lauren Kathage** MP  
State Member for Yan Yean

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



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MEMBER FOR McEWEN

5716 3000 [robmitchell.com.au](http://robmitchell.com.au)

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

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# WANDONG FIRE BRIGADE



Wandong fire brigade celebrated 50 years (1976 - 2026) of collecting for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal this year. Over this time, we have collected over \$300,000 for this important cause. This year we collected \$9909.60! Thank you to all our collectors, and everybody who donated. It has been fun reminiscing over the old days when people threw coins from cars and we would pick them up from all over the ground. We would welcome any old photos or memorabilia that people find at home. Check out this pic on the right from the Good Friday Appeal from the early 1990s.



Our recent recruitment campaign was a huge success. Our aim was to gain five new firefighters by the end of March. We have had an amazing 12 community members sign up, nine wishing to train as firefighters, and three people volunteering to be support crew for the brigade! Training begins in April.

Fire restrictions were lifted 30th March 2026. Burning off is permitted, with Council by-laws to be followed. Fires should be registered with the Burn-Off line by calling 1800 668 511 Or online. With the end of daylight savings, it is important to Check your Smoke Alarms. A working smoke alarm saves lives.

**We are hosting a Trivia Night on Saturday 16th May, starting 6pm at the Wandong Community Centre and tickets are selling fast. Come along and enjoy a fantastic adult only night and support your local fire brigade. Tables are 10 people, \$20 per person. BYO food and drinks. There will be a door prize, competitions and a big raffle. See our image or the FB group for link to order tickets.**

*Wandong CFA Trivia Night*

**TICKET \$20**

**SATURDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026, AT 6PM  
WANDONG COMMUNITY CENTRE**

TABLES OF 10  
BYO FOOD & DRINKS (inc alcohol)  
LIMITED TICKETS  
GAMES, AUCTIONS, PRIZES

Hosted by your our own Wandong Fire Fighters, join us for a night of laughs & healthy competition! All proceeds go to the Wandong CFA!

# WANDONG PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Celebrating the end of Term One

We have finished off the first term of 2026 with many exciting events! We held a whole-school assembly, celebrating our special award winners for the term and showing our gratitude to Steph Domino, our outgoing PAFA President, who has invested an unbelievable amount of time and energy into creating amazing school events and fundraisers. We also held our Easter Bonnet Parade and much-anticipated Colour Run on the final day of term. We wish all our families a safe and happy Easter break – we hope you are able to spend time with your loved ones and eat lots of chocolate these school holidays.



## Author Visit – Tess Who Runs for Fun

We were so excited to have our very own Mr Gardiner return to school to share his new book, 'Tess Who Runs for Fun'. It was great to hear about the writing process and to see the special feature that our school makes in the story! We also loved getting to see Tess and Sharpie again and give them lots of pats as they visited each classroom.



## Welcome Osaka!

The Wandong PS family has officially welcomed Osaka – our new school wellbeing dog. She has joined us through Guide Dogs Victoria, made possible by a government funded program that supports the placement of wellbeing and therapy dogs in schools.

Programs like this recognise the powerful role animals can play in supporting student wellbeing, emotional regulation, confidence and connection at school.

After a long process of applying, planning and training, Osaka has officially arrived and begun getting to know her new home. We are looking forward to the positive impact Osaka will have for our students, staff and wider community. See photo page 19

Continued page 19

# WANDONG PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Maths Afternoon

We were lucky to have lots of special visitors come and join us in our classrooms for a fun Maths afternoon of games and brain-stretching challenges! We are grateful for the opportunity to share our curiosity and love of Maths with our families.



## National Young Leaders Conference

Our senior leadership group travelled by train into the city to attend the National Young Leaders Conference. The students were inspired by powerful speakers and showed outstanding leadership, pride and curiosity throughout the day.

We are so proud of how they represented our school, and we look forward to seeing them bring their learning from the day back into our school community!



## Foundation (Prep) Enrolments – 2027

**Key Dates**

- Applications Open**  
Start of Term 2 ( 20 April 2026)
- Applications Close**  
Friday 31 July 2026
- Outcome Notification**  
August 2026

**Ready to Enrol?**

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★ Enrol on time for a smooth start to school! ♥  
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## LIONS CLUB OF WANDONG – WALLAN INC.

PRESIDENT: SAM BEDI

PO Box 225  
WANDONG. VIC. 3758

I have to start this report with a serious complaint. The muffin that I entrusted to write the previous report got the post office wrong for my birthday presents. He directed them to Wallan instead of Wandong and subsequently they got lost. If you wish to redirect your contributions to the correct address it would be greatly appreciated. Make sure they come to me and not Elizabeth who has had a birthday since.

Have you seen our new seat in the Lions park at Wandong. It marks 50 years of lions and is pretty fancy. Some picky individuals, such as Allen Hall, complain that it is too far off the ground. What he doesn't know is that we plan to put a step ladder up to it.

Where would we be without a Biker Bill story? Our resident hoon Has purchased a new leather jacket from America. It is a Marlon Brando jacket would you believe. I think that he fancies himself as the godfather. Don't get in his way although Marie can still cut him down to size.

Sharyn the postie and her dog Greg have a good sideline in golf balls. They wander the golf course in the mornings waiting for some unsuspecting golfer to line up on the tee. Just as he lifts his club a four legged streak shoots out and disappears into the bushes. The players are leaving Kilmore golf course totally traumatised.

Our Treasurer Peter is doing well. Not only does he have a new house but his wife drives a Teslar. All our treasurers seem to do well. I thought of taking taking the job myself but I can't add up.

As reported last issue we have two new members, Peter and Robin. While I don't know them very well yet, I am sure that they will commit some misnomers that can be reported at a later date.

Steve and Tania are going to Tasmania for Easter. Because of the fuel crisis they have decided to swim. I hope that Steve doesn't plan on swimming in his pink stilettos, they will fill up with water.

The club has donated \$5000 to bushfire relief in the Longwood area. We have purchased \$250 vouchers that will be handed out to people Who need them. The zone chairperson for that region was presented with them this week. They will be distributed through the relief hub set up in that area. This is only a first instalment.

Sam is heading off to Bali for a birthday party, I hope that he behaves himself. I will have to question his family when he gets home.

As for me I of course do nothing wrong. The rumour being put out by my brother that I ran my tractor into the gate of the top paddock is greatly exaggerated. I barely touched it. If you have half an hour I will explain it to you.

By the time this comes out Easter will be over. I trust that you had a good break and that the Easter bunny was kind to you.

Catch you next time.

Clyde the champion Riley.

### PHOTO:

handing over vouchers to the zone chairperson of the North Victorian district to be distributed to bushfire victims in need.





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

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL B HALLEY  
PUBLICITY OFFICER

## Short River and Long Marriage

Members of the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea embarked on a visit to South Gippsland and Phillip Island for the first extended retreat of 2026.

They had arrived at [Wilsons Promontory National Park](#), and were commencing a short walk along the banks of Tidal River when it was announced that two members Rae and Ray Cordell had married sixty-five years ago to the day. This momentous Blue Sapphire occasion was noted at the time and more formally at the evening dinner venue.

Tidal River rises below Mount Latrobe, and flows into [Bass Strait](#). The river descends 367 metres over its six kilometre [course and is an unusually short river](#). [The first group enjoyed a stroll along the](#) river's edge before returning to the coach to continue the adventure.

Childhood memories were activated as the sounds of children on school camps enjoying kayaking came in loud and clear. The second group elected exploration of the coast and to outdo the other one member brought home two leeches on her leg. The flat beach was a contrast to the Strzelecki Ranges where we were the day before at Tarra-Bulga National Park. Known for its giant Mountain Ash trees, beautiful fern gullies and ancient myrtle beeches, Tarra Bulga has some of the best examples of original cool temperate rainforests.

A reflection on "modern" Victoria was made on the first day! Leaving Whittlesea at 7am we ventured into bumper to bumper slow peak hour suburbia. Once reaching the Freeway the extra lanes and managed speed limits reduced delays. Leaving the Freeway for country roads was interesting; for around forty kilometres going off the range toward Port Albert no other vehicle was sighted.

Port Albert was our first encampment and soon the relaxed atmosphere overtook the visitors. Here our dynamic tag-team Kirsten and Stewart Dickinson shone out with organising the accommodation and breakfasts. None of the available accommodations could take the full crowd so we were billeted in one of the three and provided with an individual breakfast pack. Whilst Stewart was managing visits and meals Kirsten prepared the continental breakfasts as ordered by each participant. She says she enjoyed the "once off" experience.

Wilson Promontory was the morning's exploratory with luncheon at Inverloch before visiting the State Coal Mine at Wonthaggi. It is a journey back in time at this unique attraction is the only historic coal mine experience in the southern hemisphere.

Operating from 1909 until 1968, the State Coal Mine produced almost 17 million tonnes of coal for Victoria's industries and railways. Start of the adventure was in the Visitor's Centre, watching a short film on the history of Wonthaggi and the State Coal Mine.

There is a village of restored buildings which give visitors indications of times gone by such as those in the old miner's cottage to learn more about the mining days in the museum. The well-known canary in the mine is brought to life as passing by the resident canaries to gain an insight into how creatures, both large and small, were vital to the running of the mine.

It is somewhat mind blowing to learn that the extensive underground network is estimated at nearly **5,000 kilometres (or roughly 3,100 miles) of tunnels**. As we left there on our way to Cowes on Phillip Island how safe to drive over them was a consideration.

Mostly it is the male miners that get mentioned but the saying "behind every successful man is a woman" becomes a truism when exploring the establishment of the Women's Auxiliary which started in 1934 during the five-month strike.

A number of other attractions were visited but none were more heart wrenching than the National Vietnam Veterans Museum (NVVM) founded by Vietnam Veterans to help other veterans cope better with their experiences both during the war and after their return to Australia.

Some of our members have very personal memories of the War and were acknowledged by our guide as we spent almost an hour in the facility. Our members are of the age that the Vietnam Conflict was part of their everyday lives between 1955 and 1975. It truly was an afternoon of reflection.

The last day came in with a change to rain and wind with reduced temperatures, but we were not overwhelmed. Some of the events planned were not possible due to weather conditions, or the facility being closed in the off-peak. One disappointment was at the Koala Conservation Reserve when a commitment made by one manager was overridden by the one on duty on the day of our visit.

We always learn something on these trips. This time it was the origin of a small village *The Gurdies* which takes its name from a pastoral run on the site known as The Hurdy Gurdy. 'Hirdie Girdie' is a Scottish term which refers to the wild and untamed land of the area.

But as usual, our Coach Captain Roger delivered us back to Whittlesea safe and sound and at the appointed time. He goes back to his day job whilst Stewart gets to work on the planned October second retreat. Kirsten our Newsletter editor will go back to her commitment as editor of our newsletter.



## WANDONG TENNIS CLUB

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or text Lisa on 0407 112 880.

Information is posted on our  
Facebook page.  
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Congratulations to our section 1 and section 2 junior teams who played in the recent BDJTA summer grand finals

Section 1 Wandong 5/30 defeated Hidden Valley 0/8

Congratulations to Riley McKendry and Jasmine Suban (pic right)

Jasmin received the Best Player award for section 1 without losing a set for the whole season. We'll done.



Section 2 Wallan 4/28  
defeated Wandong 1/19.  
Great season

Henry Mayr, Blake  
Seipolt, Kane Seipolt,  
and Seb Delovski  
(pictured left)

Coaching is available at  
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The L.B.Davern Reserve is full of activities for 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.

Junior Football and Netball Clubs are busy organizing their activities ready for the 2026 season. Registrations and preseason has started, watch out for them and please support our Junior Clubs. Wandong Tennis Club is in early planning process of their winter programs, juniors, and open and weeknight competition.

The Kilmore Adult Riders Group and Standard Bred Riding group are well into their programs down at the Reserves horse Arena area. When their programs are on please be aware that horses are in the area of the Reserves entrance to the Stadium, Oval and Tennis club. Please observe the cautions and speed limits in that area.

The Mitchell Agility Dog Club also continues to be busy with their programs but unfortunately due to the state of the Allan Ryan paddock they are using part or the oval before moving to the Kilmore Cricket Club facilities for their winter program.

**REMEMBER WHEN:**



Wandong Tennis Club Rooms-Black Saturday 2009  
Now the site of the Stadium



Wandong Tennis Club Rooms Pre Black Saturday.

**Dumping of Rubbish at the Reserve:**

It is unfortunate that our Reserve is targeted in rubbish dumping of unnecessary unwarranted rubbish, when our bins are provided for the Sporting Group activities and BBQ



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



**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



A different perspective from above:



Allan Ryan Paddock 2025

**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

**FRIENDS OF DISAPPOINTMENT**

Are you interested in the history, conservation and community of the Mount Disappointment State Forest and surrounding areas.

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<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.



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

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL B HALLEY  
PUBLICITY OFFICER

\*\*\*\*\*

## A load of rubbish

Keith Chessell, 50-year veteran of the packaging industry and one of the key members of the Australasian Institute of Packaging [AIP] Education Team was the guest presenter at the April meeting of the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea. Chessell a Life Member and Fellow of AIP was awarded the 2025 Distinguished Service award for his continued support of the packaging industry through excellence in technical advice, in particular, through the 12 months of work that he undertook as a volunteer supporting the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEWW) on the eight-person working group to develop the draft National Packaging Design Standard.

His presentation was very much interactive and was an all engaging session to enlighten the assembly about packaging of consumer goods, and the recycling of the protective materials. He got attention with his first graphic slide showing a waste recovery vehicle tipping its contents. The title was a load of Rubbish but Mr Chessell said it was really a load of Resources. He explained Packaging in its basic form with a listicle of Pees:-

- ◆ Preserve and protect
- ◆ Provide convenience
- ◆ Price effectiveness
- ◆ Present information
- ◆ Promote correct after use.

Responses from a question to the audience showed that many have difficulty opening consumer packages. Keith explained that AIP, in conjunction with Arthritis Australia, assisted companies to design their consumer packages to enable easy opening. The AIP has focus on assisting companies to design their packaging to reduce food waste by extending the shelf life, looking at portion packs and providing information to consumers to handle the product correctly.

FOGO stands for Food Organics and Garden Organics, a waste management service that collects household food scraps and garden waste in a green-lidded bin to be converted into compost or mulch, rather than going to landfill. It aims to reduce greenhouse gases by diverting organic waste from landfill and provide compost for agriculture and gardening.

But with 537 councils throughout Australia there is no national standard for what items should be placed in the yellow lidded recycling bin. This is very confusing for households and leads to contamination in recycling.

Soft plastic packaging has been controversial in respect to recycling. The REDcycle program, Australia's primary soft plastic recycling initiative, collapsed in November 2022 due to unsustainable stockpiling, a factory fire, and low market demand. Over 11,000 tonnes of soft plastic were found stored in warehouses instead of being recycled.

Since the collapse all of the stored material has been recycled and entered into the reuse chain.

The majority of soft plastic waste comes from food packaging and the major retailers of food have given a commitment to support recycling of soft plastics. But it is a two-way street! Consumers need to store the waste and return it to the store when next shopping. Six hundred and fifty Woolworths store now have seamless recycling programs and the other retailers are expected to update their availability.

Keith then held a forum and engaged members testing their knowledge of recycling and the different kerbside recycle bins.

The red, yellow, green and purple bins were shown on the screen and then everyday waste materials displayed for the members to give a decision. By and large the correct answers came through, but our COW showed up as a conundrum. It says to put lids from plastic bottles in the red bin which is not universally acceptable. Ten thousand five hundred tonnes of plastic caps national could end up in the rubbish bin with this approach. It's far better to empty your bottle (if it's not going to Container Deposit) crush it and replace the plastic cap. The recyclers can separate the caps and collect the plastic.

We were shown a detailed film of a Materials Resource Facility [MRF] where the contents of yellow bins collected at kerbside are processed. The separation of the comingled waste into reusable glass, steel, plastics and paper is quite a complex process.

The take-away advice was that the Numbers 1-7 on plastic packaging are identification numbers to identify the different types of plastic, there are not recycle logos. Keith said that only one, three and five indicate that they are acceptable in the Yellow lidded bin. The packaging and recycling industries support the Container Deposit scheme (CDS) and are likely to push for an increase of the refund to twenty cents.

Your taxes are being used by:-

- ◆ Australian Packaging Covenant. This is an industry-led packaging product stewardship scheme. The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) administers it.
- ◆ National Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Measure 2011 (external link) (NEPM). The state and territory governments have implemented this federal law. They have their own laws and arrangements to do this.

This will continue to improve our quality of life and with input from Keith Chessell and his confreres the real issues will be carefully addressed.

PHOTO: Keith Chessell FAIP



## Artificial Intelligence Invading the World of Dogs. !!!

Often families can be totally confused with how to find help with their pets. Once they would ask around with family or friends for some guidance but now it seems that the current generations resort to 'Dr Google' for information. However 'AI' has provided further complications, hence it can become so damn confusing that we don't know what is real or what is 'fake news'.....



Since around Feb 2025 AI seems to have taken over much of the online advertising. Now there is a large variety of sponsored training videos and On-line training programs offered on the social media world. These formats seem to present a quick easy solution to families for their dog problems. **But are they really going to help ?**

**On-Line Training Courses !....** Consider that there can now be many Trainers who themselves that might just have done some online course, then present themselves as Professionals. Perhaps based around some methodology or even 'science' training, however I often question whether many of these are just knowledgeable about how to use the internet for self-promotion. Sometimes there is a pre-packed online program which works like a 'franchise'.... That might be fine if you want someone to mow your lawn, but training your dog !!!! Honestly? do these trainers/promoters really have genuine real life experience about working with dogs and families ?

**Marketing Promotion !...** Another big presence that invades our online world is the push into the Marketing options, including the use of AI programs. We can be inundated by podcasts and blurbs designed to profit from this multi-million dollar market created by public demand. Plenty of short catch phrases thrown around that offer easy quick solutions to hook you in.

I see post after post on local community groups seeking recommendations for help with their dog. Suddenly you see 5, 6, 7 quick replies with one line captions thrown down (for example) "Go to (blah blah) the best in the business".. but these comments/recommendations can just be some online marketing guru who has clients who pay to have them control their online promotion... You can usually tell the difference between these and the genuine local recommendation because the accounts have little if any profile details and they pop up with some short generic comments. So consider, do these 'personal' recommendations really provide the help that you seek ?

***Don't get lost down the AI online Rabbit Hole .... Consider ....***

**Dogs are a living breathing organism - they CANNOT be programmed ...** Just like with many real life situations we encounter, you need to be hands on.... Eg. You cannot learn how to ride a horse, or learn judo... or even play tennis... ONLINE - No matter how good or easy the online format is presented - You actually have to get out there and be hands on. So if you need help... you need an Instructor to guide you who is **also** 'hands on' - who has developed skills working in many different scenarios and has years and years of practical training to fall back on.

**Dogs have individual personalities....** Same as with humans, and these different individuals can learn in different ways. This is why we must have flexibility in the way we teach. Not just for the benefit of the dog but for the handler as well. Again, if you have an instructor with experience they can offer different methods to suit you and your dog. Not all will suit you but they may still give you a fresh approach.



**There is NO MAGIC WAND...**

Regardless of the training style used with the human/dog team, the long term objective should always be the same - You need **your dog** to have **Self-Control** and also **Self-Confidence** and these elements need to be in **balance**.

**Alfoxton Tip:** Once you find the techniques that help, then you need to - **Practice, Practice, Practice.**

# SUDOKU

Answers  
on page 30

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

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

## THIS MONTHS QUIZ

Answer appears on Page 30 but no cheating!

1. How many Harry Potter movies are there?
2. How many litres are in 1 barrel of crude oil?
3. How many millions in a billion?
4. How many oil refineries are in Australia?
5. Who owns Marvel Stadium?
6. What year was the Melbourne Olympics?
7. What year was the moon landing?
8. Where is the big banana?
9. Where is Alcatraz?
10. What is the deepest ocean in the world?
11. What is the highest court in Australia?
12. Who first sang "Blue Bayou"?
13. Who wrote the poem "The Man From Snowy River"?
14. What is the largest mountain range in the world?

Sheree Tivendale  
Civil Celebrant  
0417 808 922

## MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL



### How to keep up to date with Council online:

- > Download the My Mitchell App
- > E-News direct to your inbox, sign up now
- > Follow us on socials
- > On our website [www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.mitchellshire.vic.gov.au)

### Not online?

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

Or, contact Mitchell Shire Council on 5734 6200.



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

< [www.mbug.org.au](http://www.mbug.org.au) >

or contact the Secretary,  
John on 5781 1604

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Mobile 0418 323 838

Hello Readers,

March, the first month of Autumn, has brought a renewed energy for learning new skills and reconnecting with friends. And although the world is in turmoil at the moment and our nerves may be rattled, we must remain positive, be grateful for what we have and perhaps try and be kinder to one another.

On to lighter things. We began the month with our AGM with the election of the committee to 2027, followed by our monthly meeting where we discussed up and coming events. We said goodbye to a long standing member Carole, who stepped aside due to other commitments, a great big thank you Carole, for your many years of service.

Our registration day saw a steady stream of current members renewing their memberships for another year, and it was pleasing to see a number of new members of the local community join our ranks at Wallan U3A.

The members who signed up last year for the government initiative "Equip for Life" program, participated in 2 consecutive sessions, where the emphasis and importance of physical activity was discussed. We were encouraged to aim for at least 30 minutes of physical activity per day, not only for our physicality but also for our mental well being. Physical activity could include walking, dancing, Pilates, T'ai Chi, gardening, weight training. Let's adopt the motto "Just do it".

Some of our members enjoyed an outing to the MCEC, to see the visually stunning Shen Yun performers dance in their colourful costumes, each dance telling a story of rich Chinese cultural heritage. Their athleticism was considered by all, as simply superb.

Our monthly trivia session was lively as usual, and the jackpot is growing steadily, as the answer to the final jackpot question eluded all our teams. Good luck next month .

We ended the month with lunch at the Lancefield Hotel.

As always, if you're reading this for the first time and want any information about our classes and activities, please contact John our President on 0413 083 089 for further details.

Till next time

Bye for now. 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

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Supply and deliver crushed rock, sand and topsoil

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**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](http://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  
 March 2026**

**The first month of autumn.  
 Plenty of lovely sunny days but  
 cooler nights. There were two  
 days of very heavy downpours  
 which contributed to our  
 monthly total.**

**The rainfall of 86.5 mls was very  
 welcome and hopefully helped  
 house tanks and some dams.**

**Our supply dam Sunday Creek  
 was recorded at 56 % capacity  
 as of 23rd March.**

**Stats**

**March 2026 - 86.5 mls  
 Previous year - 59 mls  
 Average prev 10 years - 50 mls  
 Total this year - 160 mls  
 Total prev year - 118.5 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 28)**

1. **Eight**
2. **159 litres**
3. **1,000 million**
4. **Two (Brisbane & Geelong)**
5. **The A.F.L.**
6. **1956**
7. **1969**
8. **Coffs Harbour**
9. **San Francisco Bay**
10. **Pacific Ocean**
11. **High Court of Australia**
12. **Roy Orbison**
13. **Banjo Patterson**
14. **The Andes**

**SUKODU solution**

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



*Kilmore  
&  
District*

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

The U3A Kilmore and District Inc. Annual General Meeting took place on 20 March 2026, with all agenda items addressed as per Association rules. The Special Resolution to amend Rule Part 5 / Item 3 / Item 55 (3) was unanimously approved and will be sent to Consumer Affairs Victoria for final approval.

The President provided a detailed summary, giving members an overview of our operations over the past year and emphasizing important activities, accomplishments, and current projects within the group. The Treasurer shared the 2025 financial report, noting that U3A Kilmore and District Inc. remains financially stable.

Thanks were extended to the outgoing Committee for dedicating their time and effort, which played a key role in ensuring a successful year.

We are pleased to announce the members of the 2026 Committee:

President: Mark Perrott

Vice President: Cheryl Spencer

Secretary: Elaine DeGabrielle

Treasurer: Christina Kinna

General Committee:

Deirdre Bolland, Shirley Goernhoeffer, Chris Hollingworth, and Steve Moir.

**Group News:** All groups have settled into steady routines, with strong participation from our new members, we have found that many of our members have joined in multiple groups reflecting continued enthusiasm and engagement across our program.

The Ukulele group continue to play monthly at both Dianella and Caladenia Nursing Homes; they also performed at the Kilmore Community Centre Cultural Awareness Day in March. A nice surprise is that Jazzminton has become popular enough to shift to weekly sessions; another bonus is the permanent Pickleball Court marking in the breezeway, this now provides members with a sheltered dedicated play area. The Lifestyle Group have settled in now and are meeting Monday evenings, some feedback is that it is going well, and Dawn's Memoir Writers got off to a slow start but have settled with three definite writers and one other casual who comes along when they can.

**Upcoming Events:** Our Members' Morning Tea will take place on Friday, 17 April at 10am. This is a wonderful opportunity for members to connect, chat, and enjoy refreshments in a welcoming environment. We're excited to see everyone and will provide more information about our guest speaker as the date gets closer. Please bring a plate to share and let either Mark or Elaine know if you'll be attending, or you can email us at [secretary@u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au](mailto:secretary@u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au).

Our membership is continuing to grow with new members continuing to join. 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. If you are interested in joining us, further details can be found by checking out the website at <https://u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au/> or contacting us at: [info@u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au](mailto:info@u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au)

## WANDONG PUBLIC HALL

The Wandong Public Hall built in 1902 is a very special place in our community. It has hosted many weddings, engagements, receptions, Art Shows, Australia Day Celebrations, birthdays, anniversary parties and many other events and even the occasional funeral service.



Our regular user groups are always keen to have more people joining them and they are listed below..

The 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 - 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



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

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL B HALLEY  
PUBLICITY OFFICER

## All among the wool!

On a cold March morning a group of Probus members, and friends boarded a coach at Whittlesea to visit a colder place to the west situated in the Great Dividing Range.

The destination was Creswick where the Creswick Woollen Mills tour and factory outlet was the planned activity followed by a luncheon at The American [Hotel].

Chef-de-mission Alessandra Testa, coach manager Alec and the tour guide Jason Carter took the chill off the day and provided an interesting and informative sojourn.

The pioneer white settlers were Henry, Charles and John Creswick, three brothers who started a large [sheep station](#) in 1842 and the town became Creswick. The population reached a peak of 25,000 during the gold rush.

Today, local industries include forestry, grazing and agriculture with a number of retained 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century historic buildings including the hotel where we lunched.

The overcast and chilly day improved as we arrived at Creswick Woollen Mills, a place filled with stories woven into every thread and history stitched into every blanket. Established by the founder, Paul Ryzowy back in 1947 it was a major new industry for the district. Many global innovations in the manufacture of wool fabrics were introduced by Mr Ryzowy.

Paul Ryzowy was born in 1912 in Poland, a country set in traditions. When he was 27 and studying in Warsaw with the shadows of war descending, Paul sought safety and refuge from the chaos. He left behind his home country and family embarking on a journey, aboard a cattle ship. After the war, Paul set his sights on Australia, and on October 1st, 1947 he established Creswick Woollen Mills, which was to become known for its commitment to quality and craftsmanship.

Starting with blankets made from recycled wool, Creswick Woollen Mills quickly adapted to new trends by embracing innovation and expanding its offerings. The introduction of electric blanket fabric in the 1950s marked a milestone. By the 1960s, Creswick Woollen Mills had become more than just a manufacturer. Paul Ryzowy was setting trends, providing fabric for blazers and skirts, and other unique creations.

Our tour guide Jason took the assembled visitors through the factory and explained the detail of each subset of graphic panorama that guides visitors from go to whoa. Whilst the Creswick mill no longer weaves fabric the original spinning and carting machinery is still able to be engaged if required.

There is much to see in the displays but one stand out was the world's longest picnic rug, measuring 100 meters long and weighing 120 kilograms. Other notable innovations are CFA fire blankets and world exclusive Alpaca Blankets. Natural fibres are blended with wool to produce magnificent garments

Mr Ryzowy, died in 2008 aged 96. He is a proven philanthropist having provided over 5,000 blankets to the cold and needy. His grandchildren are now following grandad's models and business ethics.

The secret to success is the commitment to using only natural fibres, each selected for its special qualities and unmatched comfort. The classic allure of Mother Nature's abundance is demonstrated in products, which combine the opulent softness of cashmere with the cosy warmth of alpaca

On display are sheep, goats and alpacas so visitors can see where the raw material originates and also understand that only fleeces are removed. From sheep's back to sleeper's back no animal dies. Unlike visiting a pork factory!

A bit like a well-known Scandinavian retailer the factory tour leads into the outlet shop without opportunity to escape. But the expansive display of manufactured goods kept guests busy until it was time to move on for lunch

Built in 1858, the days of gold and glory, the American Hotel stands today as a unique link with Victoria's gracious and colourful heritage! The American Hotel is renowned for its great food, excellent wines, romantic accommodation and gracious function rooms.

The service and food was exemplary which added to the enjoyment of the day. Shopping and nourishment took its toll on some travellers who nodded off on the journey back to Whittlesea.



NEW AUTHOR – BERNARD WEEKES

NEW BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

## William Russell – Captain Bushranger

A documented true story from Ireland to colonial Australia and Norfolk Island, reconstructed from court records, newspapers, and archival sources.

**William Russell was never meant to survive.**

**Sentenced to seven years transportation in 1834. Sentenced again in 1841 to life on Norfolk Island – in a penal system designed to break men – he endured punishment, exile, and years without hope. When release came in colonial Australia, it was not freedom, only distance. His name remained written down, his past never closed, the search was never abandoned.**

**This book traces William Russell’s life from convict to husband and father, as he and Sarah build a life lived carefully and always under threat. Troopers, records, and old accusations follow him across rivers, goldfields, and growing Australian towns. Survival depends not on heroics, but on restraint, patience, and knowing when to move on.**

**Remembered by some as “*Captain Bushranger*,” William never claimed the name. It was applied by others – a label that survived where much of the man’s own voice did not. This work returns to the records to examine the life behind the name.**

**Written by a sixth-generation descendant of William Russell, the book brings together history and family memory to illuminate the life of a man who lived in the shadows of Australia’s frontier era.**

**Based on historical records, with interpretation where the record falls silent.**

Paperback **AUD\$59.00** (free delivery Australia-wide)

Hardcover **AUD\$69.00** (free delivery Australia-wide)

Kindle **AUD\$11.99** (free delivery worldwide)

Own the documented story of William Russell.

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## Snuffle mats for sale

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

It can be used to reduce anxiety, slow down a fast eater or simply as a fun reward for your fur baby. Not only good for dogs, but cats and guinea pigs all love a snuffle mat.

My mats come in three sizes and are double knotted and thick, every mat hand made here in Wandong.

Email: [wandongite@hotmail.com](mailto:wandongite@hotmail.com)

Ph 0432 120 736



## Whittlesea Community Network

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



Happy Autumn Everyone! As the weather turns there's still lots of classes and plenty of activities to keep you interested, the current program can be picked up from the office or jump online [www.wchi.com.au](http://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 that Big Blokes will be cancelled on high fire risk days – please contact the office to confirm. 9716 3361

### Women's Lunch

April 23<sup>rd</sup> 11.30am – 1.00pm Gold Coin Donation

### Highlights for Autumn

First Aid – 13<sup>th</sup> May CPR \$85, Provide First Aid \$150

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

### Fix it Friday – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April

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.

Call us to register for assistance 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.

Over a month ago the Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group 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



The season is set to start on 19/4/26 .

We're all very excited to get things underway. The Ground has been marked with special thanks to our long time sponsor Lawlor and Loy land surveying. The grass is looking greener than ever and we have a heap of young players excited to take the field. The kids have been hard at work during the preseason and are looking sharp.

The Warriors took on Kilmore in practice matches last Sunday. For some of our kids it was their first game of football. From all accounts there were lots of smiles and a great day was had by all. Thanks to Kilmore for hosting the day.

Naming of teams will take place this week along with jumper presentations. Bring on another fun and successful season.

GO Warriors!



## Wandong Warriors 2025 SPONSORS

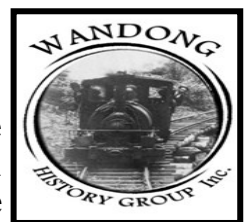


 Wandong Junior Football Club

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](mailto:wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com) PH: 0432 120 736