



ISSUE 360 WANDONG/HEATHCOTE JUNCTION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER : JULY 2026 ABN 17 022 858 565

Email—whatsnewswhj@gmail.com 700 copies

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

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

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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.

PLEASE HELP KEEP "WHATS NEWS" OPERATIONAL

Whats News is the product of the Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group and is the avenue for all Mitchell Shire businesses and groups to inform readers of activities and to advertise functions and events.

Due to unexpected circumstances the editor may no longer be able to continue in the role and as it would be a pity to let Whats News lapse he seeks a community minded person to take on the publication.

Please register your interest on 0413 832 411

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 August 2026, Allen Hall (editor)

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: COPY & ADS 1 August 2026 DELIVERY from 12 August 2026

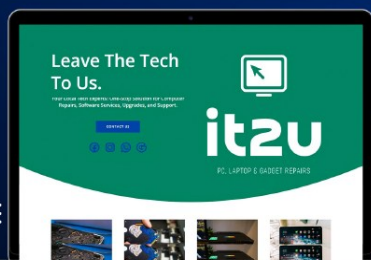
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How to Enrol

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

Operation Times

Before School Care 6:30am – 8:45am

After School Care 3:30pm – 6:30pm

Pupil Free Day 6:30am – 6:30pm

Holiday Program 6:30am – 6:30pm

"THE SHACK"

The Upper Plenty
Community Hall
is open for hire.

For information and bookings call Susan or Wayne on 0499 907 017

If not answered leave your name and number and we will return the call.

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
mitchellwalksgroup@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

16 Jul	Noelene Pyle	K
16 Jul	Olivia Allen	HJ
18 Jul	Michael Mason	W
18 Jul	Andrew Fletcher	HJ
19 Jul	Kayla Johnson	HJ
19 Jul	Nicholas Rhead	HJ
21 Jul	Dale Dwyer	Wallan
22 Jul	Steven Barnes	HJ
22 Jul	Brian Dove	W
23 Jul	Hayley Day	UP
24 Jul	Bianca Gardiner	B
25 Jul	Brok Wightman	W
26 Jul	Cathy Bellomo	HJ
27 Jul	Vicki Seeley	HJ
27 Jul	Jessica Barnes	HJ
27 Jul	Sarah Dwyer	Wallan
29 Jul	Amelia Kovacic	WP
29 Jul	Ben McMahon	B
30 Jul	Eilidh Murray	HJ
30 Jul	Steven McCarthy	HJ
30 Jul	Jake Duncan	HJ
31 Jul	Dawn McCormack	HJ
3 Aug	Jessica Kelly	HJ
3 Aug	Jenny Mifsud	W
4 Aug	Mick Lawrence	K
4 Aug	Ben Dodds	W
4 Aug	Terry Swanwick	HJ
5 Aug	Erin Hanson	W
5 Aug	Casey Johnstone	W
6 Aug	Kaey Georgelin	HJ
7 Aug	Brett Smith	W
7 Aug	Nicole Marshall	HJ
7 Aug	Robyn Robinson	HJ
7 Aug	Holly Ellison	W
8 Aug	Karen MacDonald	W
8 Aug	Brian Smith	W
8 Aug	Craig Stewart	W
9 Aug	Graham Robinson	HJ
9 Aug	Joseph Bellomo	HJ
9 Aug	Helen Stewart	B
9 Aug	Jaymi McLennan	W
10 Aug	Robyn Likos	HJ
12 Aug	Gail Plumbe	C
13 Aug	Joanne Waldie	W
14 Aug	Helen Stewart	W
14 Aug	Kate King	Wallan
15 Aug	Ken Bausch	HJ
15 Aug	Eileen Gray	HJ
16 Aug	Andrew Lawrence	K

Wandong
PHARMACY

MYKI RETAILER

myki

An old hymn, even when the Titanic was sinking
was played by musicians
- NEARER MY GOD TO THEE.

PRAYING THE LORDS PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Our Father in heaven, may Your name be
honoured in our Victorian and Australian
Parliaments.

May Your kingdom come to our Parliaments
and may your will be done there just as it is
done in heaven.

Give our Parliaments wisdom each day and
forgive them their sins, just as we have forgiven
them any sins against us.

And don't let them yield to temptation, but
deliver them from the evil one

May Your kingdom, power and glory always
be in our Parliament. Amen.

PRAYER BLESSING

Please bless our Australian Parliament.

We bless you that you may have prosperity
that reaches the people of Victoria, Australia.

We bless you that you may defend the just
cause of the needy, and fortitude to crush the
oppressors.

We bless each leader with good health and
family peace.

We bless them with enduring peace and stability
and a well-founded and lasting moral order.

We bless you with a spirit of honour, may you
consider every life as precious.

May you be a helper to the helpless, may the
Lord protect you from the snares of the devil.

May the people of Victoria and everyone
residing in Australia blossom in unity and
understanding praising God, giving glory to
Him across this land of Australia.

Don't let Australia sink!

*Psalm 46 : 10 Be still and know that I am
God. He has it all in hand.*



, During the 2009 fires, Freedom
Church initiated a Non for profit
company and Named it
FREEDOM CARE INC.

www.freedomcare.org.au

We are constantly looking for
volunteers - please contact us
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Wandong District Church
**29 Wandong Ave,
Wandong**

Services held at 5pm Sundays

ALL WELCOME

**Enquiries to:
David Moran
5787 1738**

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:

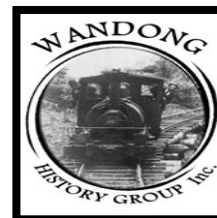
[Http://www.upmclg.org.au](http://www.upmclg.org.au)

Membership enquiries:

membership.upmclg@gmail.com

or Chris Cobern 0413855490

WANDONG HISTORY GROUP



And still the works continue, despite ARTC telling us that the Rail St Road closure would be six to eight weeks her we are facing yet another month of closure. The queuing at the Heathcote Junction crossing has been pretty bad and dangerous, there's just not enough room on the western side for many to cars, and as a warning to everyone, I came across there with the boom gates down as a piece of machinery went flying through, the gates lifted, the lights went off so assume all clear, when another large machine came through so fast the boom gates did not deploy in time. So be very careful there, a dangerous intersection at the best of times but now so much more.

Great to hear the steam train go through again this weekend, I tried to get a photo of the first one under the new bridge but didn't get a very good one so would love one if someone has a decent photo of it. I got the last one under the old bridge so it would be great to have the pair.

We are working on a major project that at this stage we can't give out all the information on yet but stay tuned, all will be revealed soon.

Stay warm everyone, Happy winter!

Karen Christensen

President

Wandong History Group

wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com

WANDONG TENNIS CLUB

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

Information is posted on our
Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/wandongtennis



Our Spring night seasons will commence in August. If you are interested in playing please let Lisa know 0407112880

Saturday Winter juniors and seniors has now commenced. Good luck for the season

All members should have received an email regarding their membership. If you didn't receive one please contact Lisa 0407112880

Coaching is available at the club. Please contact Karl on 0423 611 317

Or kv.tennis@hotmail.com



WANDONG PUBLIC HALL

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



The Victorian State Election pre polling will occupy the hall full time from late October until late November.

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

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.



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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
5-9 Wallan Rd, Whittlesea.

Phone: 9716 2042

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

MITCHELL

Photography Club Inc

Visit our website (www.mitchellphoto.org)
and click on "About Us"

Meets third Wednesday of the month
(except January) at 7:30pm
Broadford Community Centre

Contact Sarah 0438 847 577
for more information.

Probus Club of Kilmore District Inc

Are you retired, semi retired or simply looking
for new friendships and activities?

Kilmore Probus are looking for new members
and you would be most welcome.

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

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

Enquiries to: Margaret Jakymczuk

Mobile: 0412 335 657

Email: margaretjakymczuk1@gmail.com



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

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

**Operating hours are
Tuesday and Thursday
9.30 am - Approx. 1.30 pm**

email: Kilmoremensshed@gmail.com

The Kilmore & District Hospital



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District Nursing

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Dianella Hostel and

Caladenia Nursing Home Website:

www.kilmoredistricthospital.org.au



GARDEN SCENE WITH GAIL

How about the rain we're getting, it's amazing and given we may have an El Nino this coming Summer, I tend to savour all this water, but it's been heaps! The wet weather puts a hold on a few of our garden jobs, but it gives us a chance to service our mowers and sharpen our pruning tools ready for rose pruning, hedges, topiary and azaleas and camellias as they finish flowering. And after pruning, apply a solution of Seasol to lessen the shock of the haircut, it will also promote new growth and hopefully the new growth has a chance to harden off before we get any frosts. Weeding, of course is our biggest headache, the weeds grow quicker than our plants and they get such a head start and harder to get out once they are established, but at least in the wet weather they are easier to pull out. Sheep sorrel (common name) is a real pain, and it germinates at this time of the year with such tiny flowers that are really hard to see. The leaves are similar in shape to an arrowhead, and it has an extensive rhizomatous root system allowing it to pop up anywhere. Flower/seed, distribution by wind, animals, humans etc make this a real survivor and because of its resilience it's a real chore to get rid of particularly when it's mixed in with flowers, bushes and/or ground covers and given the inability to dig it out in close proximity to our plants it's the type of weed that just keeps on giving and it may take several attempts to get on top of it. The good thing is that if you have Sheep sorrel in your lawn or other broad leaf weeds you can apply 'Weed & Feed', it's a fertiliser that is great for bladed grass however, on broad leaf weeds it settles on the broad leaves and the sheer accumulation of the product on the leaf burns the surface, killing the weed. Not suitable amongst your plants. Weed removal is certainly easier while the soil is softer and if we can keep on top of it with feeding, treating the soil and mulching it will be a much easier task as the warmer months progress. July can be a busy month apart from weeding, there are fruit trees to prune, if we haven't already done so and our beautiful roses. Prune your fruit trees to an outward node, maintaining a vase shape, remove any dead or damaged branches or any that are crossing over other branches and if possible, keep the tree low enough to access the fruit easier without climbing too high up a ladder. If you have a plant that is not as healthy as it should be, take care to clean your pruning tools really well before you use on the other plants. July is the month to apply Sulphate of Potash to our fruit trees, roses, or any Spring/Summer flowering plants. If you have a plant that pushes lots of foliage but very few flowers, it may be low in Sulphate of Potash. First application can be done now, repeat in three weeks and again in another three weeks. Ensure that it is watered in well so it can be absorbed by the root system and here's where if our soil is drier than it should be our plant/s will suffer. If our plants are unable to absorb nutrients, moisture etc and nitrogen from the rain they are behind the eight ball already. Soil quality needs to be right otherwise our plants can't thrive. When it comes to pruning roses, I usually



wait until the end of July to mid-August, hopefully to avoid frost damage to the new growth. It is really what works for you, the area you are in, the amount of frost you get or don't get, and the time frame your plants start to throw new buds? It is the same for pruning hedges, weeping plants or reshaping plants. 'Bare rooted' plants are available now but always buy from a reputable supplier to ensure, come Spring, foliage will appear, and you won't be disappointed. When planting, prune the roots lightly and submerge into a solution of Seasol and use that solution on the plant after you have watered in well. Check out deciduous plants/trees now, they are well worth including in your garden if you have the room, beautiful Autumn colours, and great microclimate plants as in lovely shade trees in Summer and they let in the Winter sun. Have a lovely month.

Bye for now!

Gail Mains Kendrick (your local real estate agent)



Snuffle mats for sale

Email: wandongite@hotmail.com

Ph 0432 120 736

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.

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Kilmore Golf Club Inc.



Monthly Medal. Ladies had a playoff with Robyn McPherson being successful. Due to low numbers The Men did not award a Monthly Medal

Unfortunately, the Gordan Howell Bowl which was to have been held on Thursday 18th June had to be rescheduled to Thursday Sept 24th.

Certainly, the cold wet weather has upset events being held at the course. In fact, the course has been closed for the past 10 days. Hopefully, the course will dry out enough to hold a few events.

Australian Sports Foundation.

Kilmore Golf Club has registered with this fundraising platform. It is a not for profit organisation helping sporting clubs achieve their goals. Our goal is to upgrade our irrigation system and individuals, businesses are welcome to donate. Any donations over \$2 are tax deductible. Information available; asf.org/campaigns and follow the prompts.

GolfNow.com

Players can now book tee times at Kilmore GC using this booking platform to ensure you can secure a time to play your game of golf. There are a range of times available except Wed & Sat when times open at 2.00pm after competitions.

Recycling Golf Balls

KGC has a bin to collect old golf balls which are sent back to the factory to be recycled into materials for roads or outdoor furniture. It is in the golf shop. If the shop is closed leave donations near door of the golf shop.

Kilmore Golf Club now has a visiting PGA professional Bryan Wearne who visits the club on Fridays and Sunday. His contact number to arrange lessons is 0407844500. He will also be holding "Come & Try days" as well as Free clinics for Ladies. Keep an eye on Facebook for further information.

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 OR for further information visit our Website; kilmoregolfclub.com.au
Phone 5782 1123

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Road closures and roadworks

Wandong

1 to 31 July 2026

**JOHN
HOLLAND**

John Holland will continue works on the new roundabout at the Broadford-Wandong Road and Rail Street intersection in July. These works will require temporary overnight road closures, traffic changes and round-the-clock works.

Work being done

- Ongoing roundabout construction at the Broadford-Wandong Road and Rail Street intersection
- Asphaltting, tie-in and line marking on Broadford-Wandong Road bridge, Broadford-Wandong Road, Rail Street and Epping-Kilmore Road
- Construction of access roads
- Installation of drainage and public lighting
- Landscaping.

What can I expect?

- Works 7am-6pm Monday to Friday and 7am-1pm Saturdays
- Round-the-clock works from Monday 13 July to Saturday 25 July
- Sections of Epping-Kilmore Road, Broadford-Wandong Road bridge and Broadford-Wandong Road will be temporarily closed overnight from 8pm-6am to complete asphaltting and line marking works:
Monday 13 July - Saturday 18 July
Tuesday 21 July - Saturday 25 July
- *Closures will be staged and will not occur at the same time on Epping-Kilmore Road and Broadford-Wandong Road. Closure maps, detour maps and additional information to be provided closer to works commencing*

- Please refer to electronic signage for up-to-date traffic changes and any road closure details, allow additional travel time, and follow all detour signage and traffic management
- Continued temporary closure of a section of Rail Street until late July
A detour is in place via Heathcote Junction
- Temporary short-term single-lane shuttle flow on Epping-Kilmore Road, Broadford-Wandong Road bridge and Broadford-Wandong Road
- No pedestrian access in works area
- Nearby residents may experience some noise and vibration.

Machinery used

Cranes, trucks, 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 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 updated.

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@jhg.com.au

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

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

✉ PO Box 217, Collins Street West, VIC 8007



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

**INLAND
RAIL**

WANDONG PRIMARY SCHOOL



End of Term 2

It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through the school year! After another busy term, we hope that all our students and families are staying warm and dry these school holidays as they enjoy some extra time to rest, recharge, and maybe even have some adventures!

Grade 5/6 Interschool Sports

At the end of term, our Grade 5/6 students enjoyed a day out at Kilmore, where they were competing in the Winter Interschool Sports. It was great to see the teamwork and enthusiasm on display by the students, especially in the chilly weather.



St John's First Aid Incursion

We were very lucky to have St John's come and visit our school to deliver free first aid sessions to each class across the school. Students learned about DRSABCD, what they should do if they need to get help for someone, and also explored some different ways to provide first aid for cuts and grazes.

Some of our students also participated in St John's new snake bite education module, which is aimed at helping students in regional areas learn how to stay safe and respond with confidence in an emergency.



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LIONS CLUB OF WANDONG — WALLAN INC.

President; Sam Bedi

PO Box 225, Wandong Vic 3758



I wasn't going to put in a report this month because we are supposed to be having a month off but a few things have happened so this will do. It might be fairly short.

Firstly we have had some birthdays. Marie Forbes was the first. I think she was twenty one. Marie and Bill brought a very nice cake to our Friday gathering. Yolanda and Steve were next. They were born on the same day in the same hospital, in the same ward five years apart. It is the longest gestation of twins in human history. I am not sure which one came first.

Sam was approached by one of the local schools to help out a struggling family and he made up a hamper on behalf of the club. I am sure that it was greatly appreciated.

Elizabeth and I celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary. Boy she is lucky. Expensive Diamond earrings and my undying devotion as well as letters from the King, the Governor General, the Prime Minister, the Premier and assorted others. We had a lunch at Hogan's where everyone came to offer sympathy to madam. I have to thank our daughter Sarah for the effort that she put into it. It was a great occasion. I have one grievous complaint however. Steve made up a medal for Elizabeth but not for me. When I raised this matter with Bill he reckons that the answer should be self evident. I am not sure what he meant.

Speaking of Bill He was supposed to go to a show and shine meeting with Steve But showed up at the wrong town. There was Bill hooning up and down the main street of Broadford while everyone else was at Lancefield. I am not sure that it wasn't deliberate on Steve's part. He is reluctant to be associated with a bloke who wears a Marlon Brando jacket.

Cliff is worth a mention. He couldn't get his split system to operate so he called in an expert who charged \$220 to change the batteries in his remote, The most expensive battery change you could imagine. I would have done it for \$200.

Haven't we had some rain. I saw a bloke with a boat in the Merri Creek loading up an assortment of animals. I think that I read a story similar to this some time ago.

Anyway I think this is enough waffle for now. I will catch you all next time.

Clyde Riley



ABOVE:

Circa 1966 - the figurines on top of the wedding cake - Oh sorry its actually Elizabeth and Clyde on their wedding day.

LEFT:

Who said it wouldn't last - fast forward 60 years and Elizabeth and Clyde celebrate 60 years of marriage with lunch at Hogans Hotel, Wallan.





THE COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF WHITTLESEA INC.

REGISTERED # A0041714F

Established 2001

MEDIA INFORMATION

MICHAEL B HALLEY PUBLICITY OFFICER

Two Hills and a Gully

The town of Kinglake was named after British historian Alexander William Kinglake and has had a colourful and often warm history. It is a short drive up the Great Dividing Range from Whittlesea, the home of the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea. The proactive short-tours manager Alessandra Testa organised a visit to the Kinglake Heritage Centre.

Deidre Hawkins of the Kinglake Historical Society offered members an opportunity to visit the centre and absorb an overview of Kinglake and its history. Deidre is a long-time friend of many Probus members and had provided an introduction to the town and its history when her comprehensive story was told at the August 2025 meeting.

C. W. McCall's song 'Convoy' was appropriate as the interested Probus members car-pooled to make the visit, the ten cars navigated the highly potholed road, but all completed the round trip safely.

The Kinglake History is graphically covered in the Heritage Centre and members of the committee gave of their time to serve a delicious morning tea and answer questions. It was notable that many of the Whittlesea folks had previously lived in the Kinglake environs and had been school mates with our hosts.

Jim Brown, a retired schoolteacher, recalled one of the visitors' now adult sons as past primary school students. The Kinglake district stretches for about sixteen kilometres along the ridge from west to east which necessitates three schools.

Gold was discovered in 1861 on Mount Slide to the east of the locality at an area which became known as Mountain Rush. A Mountain Rush Post Office opened on 7 May 1862, but closed in January 1863 as the miners moved to other locations. Kinglake Township was established in 1879 and the Post Office opened on 14 May 1883. There were actually two other post offices in the district.

The current post service is conducted as part of a local shop as is the focus these days by Australia Post and the Government. But the post office building erected in 1914 has survived better than many other parts of Kinglake. It was possibly once the smallest Post Office in Australia and has survived three devastating bushfires.

The rip-it-down gang from Australia Post surrendered ownership to the Historical Society and it was moved to the Heritage Centre Grounds in 2023. It took volunteers until May this year to refurbish and furnish the building. A telephonist switchboard was purchased in South Australia to authenticate the Post Office.

Many photographs and stories of the schools and other establishments are laid out for visitors to view and admire. Football and other sporting efforts, together with remembrance of locals who enlisted in two World Wars reinforce the comradeship of what has always been a small community.

Many photographs of early settlers' homes and properties were shown, reinforcing the "pioneering spirit" of the Gold Miners, Raspberry Growers, Timber Cutters and later Potato Farmers.

Timber was hauled on a privately-built timber railroad down the mountain to Whittlesea railhead. These timber railroads were common and necessary to allow transport of heavy loads throughout the State as populations increased and building expanded. The motive power was a horse [or bullock] team.

Fires have been a major part of Kinglake History but the recent history is still a sensitive subject and will not be elaborated upon except to mention! Kinglake's history about fires is true and unembellished.

Visitors can decide to view the specific area dedicated to the memory of the Black Saturday bushfires that killed 173 people in Victoria, 47 in the Kinglake area alone. Another 414 people were injured. More than 450,000 hectares had burned and 3,500 buildings, including more than 500 houses in Kinglake, were destroyed.

The Kinglake Historical Society welcomes inquiries and visitors to the Heritage Centre – contact

kinglakehistoricalsociety@gmail.com

The program time table took over and, although the morning tea was still digesting, the visitors moved to the Songbird Café and Larder and enjoyed sumptuous meals from an extensive menu. Some even partook in desserts! A straw poll of members indicated a more than enjoyable repast from friendly and efficient staff.

All good things come to an end so folk's memories were packed into their transport to savour on the way home and beyond.



*Written
by
Michael
Halley*



WANDONG-HEATHCOTE JUNCTION COMMUNITY GROUP

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



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



For many years the Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group has asked Mitchell Shire to renovate the car park at the Wandong Bushfire / War Memorial Park but at this time the budget is not listed until 2027/2028. This public park and toilet stop is the busiest in Mitchell Shire but the car park remains the worst in Mitchell Shire. The continual holes at the entrance to the car park are reported to the Shire which normally fills the holes promptly.

Much damage to the mesh fencing on Rail Street is caused by falling trees. Recently one tree was cut at the fence line but despite continual requests from the Wandong Heathcote Junction Community Group there are several more trees leaning at 45 degrees that will fall on the fence and even on Rail Street itself.



Would you believe this photo is the drainage grate at the corner of Rail and Affleck Streets. Mud and rubbish regularly covers the grate and despite notifying Mitchell Shire it is only cleared by the Community Group. With the drain blocked water runs down Rail Street but this does not seem to be a Shire priority.

For 22 years the Community Group has had a great relationship with the management of Wandong Plaza always through consultation and always with both our best interests for the Plaza, but also the Wandong Heathcote Junction community which the Community Group represents in so many ways and to so many departments and organisations. Our members regularly visited the Plaza after 8pm at night when the car park is empty and spend hours to shovel and sweep up all the dirt and rubbish between the concourse and the car tyre barriers. We sprayed weeds that accumulate at the edge of the concourse and clean rubbish around the Plaza including the four rubbish bins inside and out. The WHJCG recently raised a issue with Alpine Petroleum which lead to Alpine terminating our 22 year relationship

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On the 28th June our Landcare group together with The Merri Creek Management Committee (MCMC) and some local families gathered to do a litter cleanup on the Merri Creek Reserve at the corner of South Mountain Road and the Epping Kilmore road, which is the border of Heathcote Junction and Upper Plenty.

Julia Crillo from MCMC started with an introduction to Merri Creek and where it travels until it joins the Yarra River. Also identifying safety hazards and distributing safety equipment and collection bags. Litter from various sources are a big problem and part of the exercise is to sort the litter after and enter the information is entered into a database to help determine strategies for reducing litter in future. We collected nearly 100kg of rubbish between 22 participants in the morning and followed by morning tea of cakes and hot drinks.

It was great to see this small reserve supporting local remnant vegetation and wildlife and the support from the local community along South Mountain Road. is an important part of preserving and restoring Merri Creek and the local amenity of the area.

So, thanks to Melbourne Water for funding Julia's participation in preparing and running the event, MCMC for their continuing advocacy for improving the health of Merri Creek and for running the campaign for the Wallan Wallan Regional Park . <https://wallanwallanrp.org.au/> Also to Michell Shire Council for permission to run the activity and the local families who are taking pride in the area they live and coming out on the day to help.

We plan on running more activities in this area such as weed control and planting locally native species, installing and monitoring nest boxes and recording the birds and other wildlife. If you want to be involved, check out our FB group <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100087151585037> or website <http://www.upmclg.org.au>



If anything above is of interest contact us at secretary.upmclg@gmail.com our FB page Upper Plenty Merri Catchments Landcare group or www.upmclg.org.au. We also attend the Wallan Scout Market every second month. We have our meetings at "The Shack" every 3rd Wednesday at 6.30pm

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@WandongJuniorFootballClub



<https://wandong-junior-football-club.square.site/>

WANDONG WARRIORS SPONSORS



Our Town's Football Club

It has been a big month at the club. Winter is here and with it - wet weather. This hasn't stopped the kids from getting out there and giving their all. Our under 14s produced one of the matches of the season. Narrowly clenching a hard-fought win from the Shep Swans. Fantastic seeing the Warriors really coming together and playing for each other through 4 quarters of football.

We have had team pizza nights, which are always a massive hit with the kids. A special thanks to Dilip and Kilmore Pizza house.

The spirit of football round was also held earlier this month. This is a round where we celebrate good sportsmanship and team players. Congratulations to all the worthy recipients.

Our U14s Captain Fionn was also selected in this years Goulburn Murray Rep Team. Always a hard worker, we're sure he will do the club proud.

GO WARRIORS!



New merch has landed



<http://wandong-junior-football-club.square.site/>



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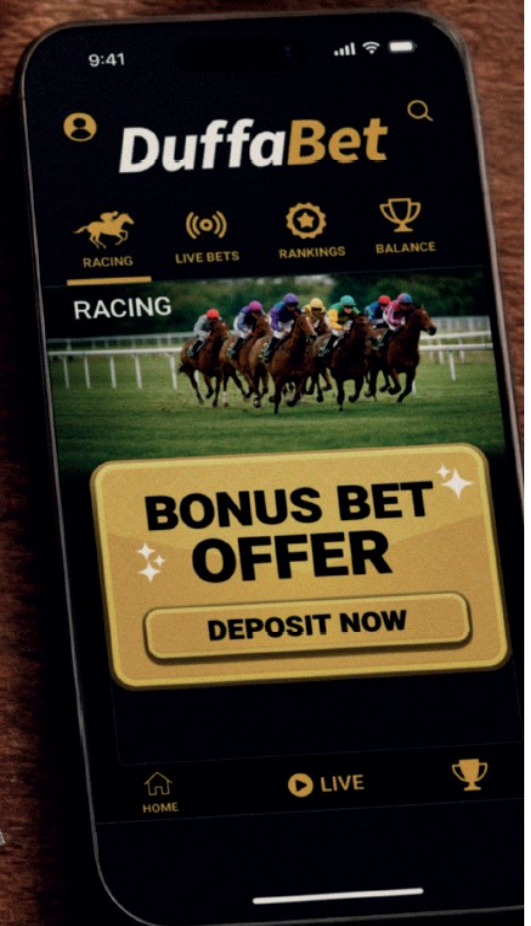
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The L.B.Davern Reserve is open to all our community, so please come down and enjoy this great facility, join the various clubs, just walk through along the G-Day trail, take the kids down to play on the play equipment or just play and exercise on the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

Winter has certainly arrived and with the foggy, wet and soggy conditions be cautious of the wet trails

throughout the reserve. Don't let the cold weather stop you from coming down to the Reserve to enjoy on what there is to offer. Dry Creek has been in flood late June /early July.



It's good to see the Reserve full of life with our community back in supporting their groups and other activities enjoyed by those who participate.

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

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

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

L.B.Davern Reserve Projects update: Shade Structure @ Courts 5 & 6 and 3 & 4 Is now a completed project

The L.B.Davern Reserve was successful in the Tidy Towns Fund Grant for the purpose of providing Shelter at Courts 5 & 6. This shelter is double sided and will also provide seating and shelter for courts 3 & 4. This project was successful through the support of the combination from Bendigo Bank, L.B.Davern Committee, Wandong Netball Club and Wandong Tennis Club.



Security at the Reserve:

The Mitchell Shire has installed Security cameras throughout the Reserve to cover all activities. All buildings and entrances to the Reserve are now 24 hour security surveillance.



Rubbish Dumping at the Reserve:

Now that we have Security at the Reserve we may find out who is dumping their rubbish at the Reserve!!



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

Keep our Reserve Safe

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

000

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





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Website: www.lbdavernreserve.com.au

Wandong Community Centre



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

Rob Telfer

President, L.B.Davern Reserve Committee

12 Dry Creek Cres

P.O.Box 303, Wandong 3758

0408 393 250



Kilmore/Wallan RSL Sub Branch

meets the last Thursday night of the month and open every Wednesday 10am -12pm at Kilmore Memorial Hall
Contact: Rodney (Rod) Dally
rod.dally76@gmail.com

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

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/>

The Benefits of “Crate Training”

Whenever the subject of Crate Training is brought up, you often hear varied opinions. Some can be very judgemental sprouting the idea “how terrible I would NEVER put my baby in a cage!”.... Other times you hear people state how they have the dog in the crate for much of the time and they take dogs out regularly to exercise, toilet, train. This often becomes very confusing for owners - I will try and help you work thru some of this *white noise* and the cliché terminology out there.



1. **“Time Out”** - Often advised when the dog is being naughty or hyperactive - e.g. place the naughty dog in the crate, once he settles down then you can let him out.
2. **“Toilet Training”** - leave the dog in the crate then out every couple of hours to go to the toilet.
3. **“Safe Place”** - Create this as comfort zone, or even to control the dog so he understands that the human will provide structure to his life. Even touted as a remedy to avoid *separation anxiety*.

1. Unfortunately dogs do not really understand the concept of **“Time Out”**. Dog just sees that you have locked him in a space but he doesn't know why? So he doesn't see the consequence that running around having “zoomies” means getting locked in a crate. However, this can be a useful *management tool* to give the humans “time out from the dog”.
2. Crates can definitely help manage **toilet training**. Unfortunately it requires constant supervision by the human. e.g You keep taking the dog out hoping he needs to toilet, but he just wants to play, so you put him back in and perhaps you see he has peed in the crate. Hence benefits can be blurred to the dog plus this level of management is not always feasible.
3. It is great for a dog to see the crate as **personal space**, much like a child with their bedroom. However this should not be used to take total control over any another life form, otherwise you risk negative impacts to the bond you hope to build. In our world today with both pets and children, *Helicopter Parenting* or *Micro-Managing* are definitely creating social problems.

The reality is that teaching your dog to deal with a crate does have some really useful benefits, especially during the first 2 years of life. I tend to call this **“Crate to Wait”**.

Safety : Dogs need to understand that they have to wait so that they fit in with the world around them. Babies learn very early on to sleep/wait in their cot or playpen... This may be considered a form of cage by some that want only to fixate on the concept of *gentle parenting*.... However the safety issues need to be considered. e.g. Parent goes to have a shower the baby is safe in this space... Renovations are being done in the house and we don't want to risk little kids underfoot.

Convenience : There are times you need your dog to deal with different scenarios. Consider the family wants to take the dog on a camping trip or even travel around Australia in a caravan; Perhaps you rent an AirBnB; or you might have visitors and some of them don't like dogs.

Health Aspect : Consider the situation if your dog has an injury.... you can contain the dog for a short time or even extended periods - e.g. My dog River has just had a Crucial Ligament Operation and needs 6 weeks of containment. Luckily for us she is also accepting of the crate. This is not her desired situation and we cannot explain the details to her but she will put up with this inconvenience and this will allow time for her to heal.



Alfoxton Tip:
*Try to practice this skill
so your dog accepts and
will just **WAIT**.....
This is a sign your dog
has **Self Control** - A
great skill for both dogs
and humans alike.*



SUDOKU

Answers
on page 27

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

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

THIS MONTHS QUIZ

Answer appears on Page 27 but no cheating!

1. Which country ruled India prior to it's independence in 1947?
2. Where did Captain James Cook die?
3. What is the world's largest retailer in 2026?
4. What art form is described as "decorative handwriting"?
5. What city is known as "The Eternal City"?
6. What mountain range separates Europe and Asia?
7. In what decade was the internet created?
8. In which country was Elon Musk born?
9. What color are Mickey Mouse's shoes?
10. Which director made Jaws and E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial?
11. Which singer is known as the "Queen of Soul"?
12. Which author created Sherlock Holmes?
13. Which animal sleeps standing up and can't vomit?
14. What's the chemical symbol for gold?
15. What does USB stand for?

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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

Not online?

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

Or, contact Mitchell Shire Council on 5734 6200.



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< www.mbug.org.au >

or contact the Secretary,
John on 5781 1604

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Hello Readers,

I know, I'm stating the obvious when I say we are now in the throes of a typical cold, blustery and wet Melbourne winter. However, let's not allow ourselves to slip into hibernation for the next few months, instead, let's live each day to its fullest by enjoying precious time with our families and continuing to maintain valuable connections with our friends.

I'm excited to reveal we have a new activity, beginners line dancing classes, which commenced on June 29th. This is a collaboration between Wallan U3A and the Wallan Neighbourhood House and is open to all members of the community at absolutely no charge. The weekly sessions are being held in the Wallan Neighbourhood House on Monday afternoons between 1.30 and 2.30pm.

While I'm on the subject of dancing, I'd like to remind the community Wallan U3A hold weekly ballroom dancing lessons on Tuesday afternoons between 1 and 3pm. Dancing of any kind has been proven to be an enjoyable way to exercise, improve one's balance, strengthen muscles and exercise both our minds as well as our bodies in a fun and enjoyable way.

If dancing just isn't for you, how about joining us for a sing along on Tuesday afternoons between 3 and 4pm. Singing is such an invaluable activity as we age, as it can help to lift our spirits, encourages deep breathing, enhances our memory and helps to build self confidence and above all else, is just so much fun, our repertoire currently includes songs from the 60s, 70s, and 80s.

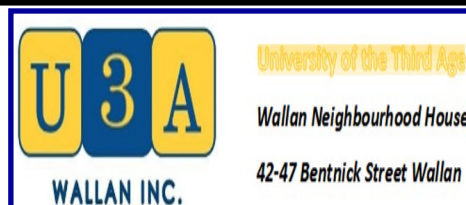
Another fun activity on these cold wintry days is our monthly trivia on the 3rd Friday of each month hosted by our quizmaster John. The sessions are quite spirited with each team aiming to win the day, particularly the final jackpot question which has a cash prize for the winning team.

Once again I say, let's not allow the cold weather dampen our spirits, instead let's enjoy every moment. Timetables of all activities at Wallan U3A are available at the Neighbourhood House, we hope to see you soon.

For further information please contact our President - John Lanphier on 0413 083 089.

That's all for now, 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

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Weather Report

Heathcote Junction/Wandong

June 2026

It was certainly noticeably cooler this month. There have been very few sunny days, some foggy mornings and a bit of rain which kept it wet under foot.

Rainfall was recorded on 17 days of the month and the total of 141.5 mls was the highest since 2021 where 177.5 mls of rainfall was recorded.

Our supply dam Sunday Creek was recorded at 42% capacity as of 15th June - the same time last year, it held 40%.

Stats

June 2026 - 141.5 mls
Previous year - 84 mls
Average prev 10 years - 77 mls
Total this year - 416 mls
Total prev year - 251 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 25)

1. Britain
2. Hawaii
3. Walmart
4. Calligraphy
5. Rome
6. The Ural Mountains
7. 1960's
8. South Africa
9. Yellow
10. Steven Spielberg
11. Aretha Franklin
12. Arthur Conan Doyle
13. Horse
14. Au
15. Universal Serial Bus

SUKODU solution

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



**Kilmore
&
District**

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

This month, we're delighted to showcase our outstanding Computer Classes.

U3A Kilmore offers classes each Thursday to help those of us who are retired and semi-retired build confidence with their computers (and iPads and Android Tablets) so they can stay independent and get stuff done.

Many essential services - bless their little hearts - are pushing us away from friendly face-to-face services and instead are trying to get us online: Commonwealth Government (Centrelink, Tax, Health, Disability etc), State Government (VicRoads, Seniors card, Certificates etc), Banks, Super, Insurance, Energy, Water, and so on ad nauseum. That's fine if you or your partner are confident doing all this stuff on a computer. But how would you get on if you had to manage all the necessities yourself using a computer or tablet to access services or send and receive emails?

Steve at U3A Kilmore runs three 90-minute classes each Thursday that can help build your confidence using a computer to manage your online life and do other things that may (or may not) interest you.

The first class is for absolute beginners who have seldom used a computer, or are not confident they could get online and manage what they need to do. If mouse, keyboard, click, email, or website are a foreign language for you then this is the class. Everyone is welcome and Steve will patiently repeat explanations as many times as necessary, and will try to answer all questions - there is no such thing as a "dumb" question!

The second class is for people with some computer skills who want more confidence or who want to learn how to manage and use information and photos on their computers to create documents or spreadsheets, to manage their photos, or do other little jobs. After reinforcing the basics, this class completes small projects such as a formatted letter, a planning spreadsheet, a process to organise photos, and so on.

The third class is for people who are largely self-sufficient and who want a quiet environment with access to assistance to work on their own projects. Various members research ancestors, collate and organise photos, create spreadsheets to organise budgets, homes and clubs, and one person is creating a software app.

After the U3A annual membership fee is paid 22 of the 23 courses and activities are free and convened by U3A volunteers. Have a gander at our list of courses at www.u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au. If you can't get online, find someone who can help you to look at the website, or contact us by email at info@u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au or call 0436 331 395.



PROBUS CLUB of WALLAN

Meets 2nd Wednesday of the month except January, at 10.30 am at Hogan Hotel in the backroom near the back door.

For semi to retired people. We have bus trips, mystery tours, guest speakers, lunches and morning tea every Friday between 10am to 12pm. in the same room. For information ring Leigh on 0409 199 654 or email: leigh.gascoigne@bigpond.com





Neighbourhood Watch

Column

SOUTH MITCHELL

July 2026

How to Prevent Car Theft

Learn how to prevent car theft with our practical tips from protecting your fob to selecting a safer place to park your vehicle.

Motor vehicle theft has hit record highs in Victoria, with the Crime Statistics Agency reporting 31,579 offences in the year ending 31 March, 2026; a 1.3 per cent increase on the previous year.

Fortunately, there are plenty of simple steps you can take to reduce your risk of the vehicle being stolen.

1. Parking should always be in a locked garage if possible. But if not possible, park in well-lit location, near CCTV cameras, or a busy area, such as near entrances at shopping centres and train stations. Avoid leaving your car parked in isolated areas for long periods.
2. ALWAYS lock your vehicle. Unlocked vehicles are never safe, even if you only leave it unattended for a minute.
3. Check that all your windows & your sunroof, if you have one, are fully closed. These items left open can void your insurance and be forced to gain entry.
4. Car keys must NOT be left in the car, near the front door, where they can be seen from a window, or left unattended when you are out and about.
5. Modern vehicles have keyless fobs, which leaves owner at risk of relay theft. Car thieves can copy a push-start vehicle's signal using RFID signal cloning devices. This can be overcome by a signal-blocking pouch or box.
6. A steering wheel lock is a highly visible layer of protection which is a proven deterrent against opportunistic thieves.
7. Consider fitting an OBD port lock to deter thieves who connect to the on-board diagnostics to override the car's computer to start the vehicle.
8. Remove all of your valuables. This includes mobile phones, other electronic devices, handbags, sunglasses, sporting equipment, tradie tools and even shopping bags. If you can't remove them, secure them by storing them in your boot.
9. Secure your number plates. This can be done by fitting anti-theft one way screws available across all Mitchell Shire Police stations and libraries for just a gold coin donation. South Mitchell Neighbourhood Watch group will be running events in Beveridge, Wallan and Kilmore and fitting these screws for you.

More information can be found at: racv.com.au.



Accidental Proximity to Myki

The upgraded Myki ticket gates have highly sensitive Near Field Communication (NFC) sensors. Commuters have reported being charged simply by walking past a reader or dragging a handbag or purse too close to a sensor.

How to Protect Yourself and Stop Accidental Scans:

- Always take your plastic myki or credit card completely out of your wallet before tapping;
- Use a RFID credit card sleeve to prevent skimming;
- If you do not want your phone to automatically pay for trips, open your phone's wallet settings and disable "Express Transit" or "Express Pay"; and
- Regularly monitor your bank account.

If you spot an accidental charge from a gate you just walked past, contact Transport Victoria to request a refund.

Upcoming Events

Coolheads Young Driver Program - Wallan

Wed. 12 June, 2026, at 6.40 - 9.00pm at Wallan Secondary College Auditorium, 100 Duke St, Wallan.

South Mitchell NHW General Meeting

Thur. 13 June, 2026, at 7pm at the meeting room in Wandong Community Centre, Dry Creek Road, Wandong.

Hotlines:

Emergency: 000

Crime Stoppers

Online Reporting:

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

Police Assistance Line: 131 444

1800 333 000

ABN:

48 947 471 718

Inc. No.

A0105968T

Registered Charity



Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other

GROUP AREA: SOUTH MITCHELL

Phone: 0419 531 610

Email: newsletters.smnhw@gmail.com

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

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

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

Whittlesea Community Network

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



Brrrrrr! Can you believe we are half way through the year? Our Semester 2 Brochure is out and full of new things to keep the winter blues at bay. Come into the office and grab a copy or download it from the website www.wchi.com.au

Visy Recycling

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>

Whittlesea Fresh Food Co-Op

We are pleased to announce that we are embarking on an expansion program for the Food Co-Op! Stay tuned for more information on locations across the region! Meanwhile, prices are going through the roof and our boxes are GREAT value. Locally sourced, straight from the farm produce with minimal freight cost means savings for you! Membership is just \$10 and you can find out more on the website www.wchi.com.au

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

Women's Lunch – Please RSVP

July 16th & 30th 11.30am – 1.00pm Gold Coin Donation

NEW NEW NEW

FREE TAX HELP returns from July 24th appointments will be available on selected Fridays through to October. Call the office for a suitable time. To be eligible you must earn less than \$75K per year, no ABNs or trusts.

Uke Muster – Save the date!

The Uke Muster will roll back into town on Saturday 29th August at 9.30am. Join us for a full day of all things Ukulele! Register now and receive updates as they happen check the website

<https://www.socialplanet.com.au/request/guest/activity?id=48333> It's fun, it's FREE and everyone is welcome.

Op Shop Tours Returning in July!

Jump on the bus with us and snap up a bargain. These tours sell FAST! \$25 per person bus leaves from the House at 9am sharp and returns around 4pm

15th August Lilydale, Warrandyte and beyond

19th September City Fringe

17th October Victoria and South Melbourne Markets

Fix it Friday – Friday 24th July

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). NEW Fixers from Mortgage Stress and Tenancy Assistance Advocacy have recently joined us. 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.



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

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL B HALLEY
PUBLICITY OFFICER

Sans Golden Arches

In the times when take away food entailed taking your saucepan to the local Chinese café to fill; a young bride brought her husband and week old daughter to Forest Street Whittlesea.

So began a sixty year connection with Whittlesea by the Hocking Family. Matriarch Sandra was the guest presenter at the July meeting of the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea. [Her title was *My Life*.] She still lives in the house that her late husband Ted built, and has the same neighbours who are also members of Probus.

Having moved from Preston then and outer Melbourne suburb the country lifestyle came as somewhat a shock. She walked along the unmade side of the road to the shopping centre in Church Street only to find that the butcher was closed for lunch. Things have deteriorated since then when there were two grocery stores, but have also improved as the nearest doctor and dentist was quite a distance away.

Sandra accepted the lunch time siestas but was irked by not having a footpath between home and the shops. *"So I did what I have always done. I complained to the right people, loudly and persistently, until something was done about it. We got our footpath. I have never once taken it for granted."*

Sandra and her young neighbours settled down to make the best of their new lives. And make the best of it they have! Over the years Sandra joined every committee that needed a member. School councils, local associations, community groups — if something needed organising or improving her hand was quickly raised. Half a century of membership of the Country Women's Association is also on her CV. The Hocking children were recognised as being Sandra's and given the same respect as mum.

Luckily, the statute of limitations has expired or the young Sandra would have an outstanding arrests warrant. The local SP bookmaker lived in her Father's street and he ran a light from their house to the back lane behind so he could have a light on Thursday nights when the trots were being run, so he could take the bets. Two pounds [\$2.00] was agreed as payment for Sandra being light-keeper [or cockatoo].

When Ted retired they became "grey nomads" and had many interstate trips to the normal and some exotic places. After the sadness of Ted's death abated Sandra became an international jet-setter.

- ♦ A three month trip around England, Ireland and Europe.
- ♦ In 2010 to Canada and the US. In Alaska she rode a bike down a mountain. I
- ♦ 2012 was a big one went to Antarctica. Flew to Peru first and saw the famous Nazca Lines and Machu Picchu, then to Bolivia and Lake Titicaca. From Buenos Aires travelled south to Ushuaia, Argentina.
- ♦ Boarded a Russian vessel with Australian tour guides. We crossed the Drake Passage to the Antarctica Peninsula. It was very rough overnight and many were seasick. *"It was a wonderful trip and I am glad I did it before I got too old"*

Also made it to Scandinavia, Scotland, Singapore, New Zealand and Cape York.

In a prepared statement Sandra advised. [Quote]"The Uniting Church in Whittlesea had for several years supported a school and orphanage in Zambia, in a town named Kitwe. Three other women and I wished to go and see what our money had built and to see the children at the school. We left in September 2016 for two weeks. We saw the school and the home for girls and their babies. All the money we had sent over the years had been administered well. We were made so welcome and thanked over and over again for our faithfulness in supporting the children.

Unfortunately on our last day I stepped into a ditch and badly broke my ankle. I spent a month in a hospital in South Africa and was flown home in October. I had many operations on my leg, but I did not have to have it amputated. I thank God for our wonderful doctors. It took some time, and more determination than I care to admit, but I got there."

[Unquote"] Time overtook Sandra's resume but even those who though they knew her learned something about a most interesting lady. The saying "still waters run deep" mainly fits Sandra Hocking unless it is to do with Plane Trees or footpaths. She was given a token of appreciation to mark a very interesting presentation.

Composed by Michael Halley





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