



ISSUE 363 WANDONG/HEATHCOTE JUNCTION MONTHLY NEWSLETTER : OCTOBER 2026 ABN 17 022 858 565

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

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RESIDENTS BEMUSED WITH THE RIGHT OF WAY DECISIONS

Residents have brought to the attention of "Whats News" the anomaly and probably illegal road directions currently in place when turning over the new railway bridge from the Epping Kilmore Road. Currently traffic from the south on the Epping Kilmore Road are given preference to turn over the bridge before traffic from the north forced to give way. All other similar "T" intersections, including the crossing at Heathcote Junction, have traffic from the south given preference over traffic turning right over the crossing when travelling from the south. Traffic from the north are met with give way road markings but traffic from the south can often be seen waiting for them to proceed first as normal everywhere and unaware they have the been given the abnormal right of way and contrary to Victorian road rules. Hopefully the Shire will address this with Vicroads to rectify the problem.



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 November 2026, Allen Hall (editor)

NEXT ISSUE DEADLINE: COPY & ADS 31 October 2026 DELIVERY from 11 November 2026

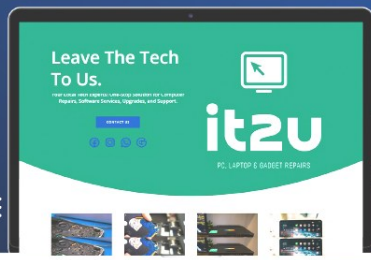
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What's Happening

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How to Enrol

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

Operation Times

Before School Care 6:30am – 8:45am

After School Care 3:30pm – 6:30pm

Pupil Free Day 6:30am – 6:30pm

Holiday Program 6:30am – 6:30pm

ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS

20 Oct Mark & Chris Page C
29 Oct Peter & Rochelle Gough HJ
1 Nov Darren & Jodie McLennan W
6 Nov Philip & Lisa Kelly HJ
11 Nov Lisa & Adam Dennehy HJ
14 Nov Kathy & Mick Lawrence 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

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

18 Oct	Jim Robson	W
20 Oct	Glenda Watson	W
20 Oct	Rob Dawson	HJ
23 Oct	Gerard Buggy	HJ
23 Oct	Mollie Colbert	W
23 Oct	Elisa Lehmann-Kay	WP
24 Oct	Kara Chisholm	HJ
24 Oct	Ella Stewart	W
26 Oct	Carolyn Morris	W
27 Oct	Joshua Lancaster	W
27 Oct	Candice Lancaster	W
27 Oct	Jake McLennan	W
29 Oct	Tennaia Knight	W
29 Oct	Katie McNamara	HJ
31 Oct	Tony Allen	Qld
31 Oct	Bill Candy	W
1 Nov	Chris Page	C
1 Nov	Adrian Zimbardi	K
2 Nov	Daniel Bartlett	W
2 Nov	David Limbrick	B
3 Nov	Jarrad Weller	HJ
3 Nov	David Claxton	Wallan
6 Nov	Sharon Saw	HV
6 Nov	Lisa Candy	W
8 Nov	Karen Dawson	HJ
8 Nov	Jay Kneebone	W
10 Nov	Kevin Bartlett	W
11 Nov	Len Poorter	HJ
11 Nov	Jenny Amoroso	HJ
11 Nov	Robyn Hannemann	W
12 Nov	Tamara Smith	W
12 Nov	Rhonda McDermott	W
13 Nov	Debra Claxton	Wallan
14 Nov	Mark Sannweld	HJ
15 Nov	Louise Buggy	HJ
16 Nov	Adam Georgelin	HJ

"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.

Idol thoughts!

I've been thinking about what controls my life, who do I model my decisions on, what standards I have adopted over the years, who do I answer to when I have time to reflect on my busy life? What I have idolized in my life. Gosh looking back now I wonder how I've avoided youth detention or worse! Some situations I was lucky to escape from and others I have been fortunate to adopt a more acceptable behavior.

What is it that governs our way of life as we make our way in these ever-changing circumstances we all experience? This all was triggered by a visit from Aunt Edith. You've met Edith previously; she started dropping in to the workshop for work to be done on her Vanguard and now is welcome in the lunchroom by our rough-looking staff. Aunt has been around longer than I and has a view of life that I find refreshing in today's busy life.

With typical candidness during one of our intense discussions, she came out with "idols," she continued, "idols, that's what we model our main beliefs on these days, whether we recognize it or not." I must admit I had not thought about things that way before.

We seem to have to fit in or we feel uncomfortable in today's society. (What is your favorite whatever?)

Pop songs, bands, footballers, film stars, smart phones, media outlets, good times, parties, gambling, drugs, alcohol, TV programs, cars, etc. Are some of these things our idols?

In my innocence I ventured "Aunt?" "What's wrong with following my favorite footy team (who incidentally lost last week) I like to watch films made by some special actors, I hum along to some pop tunes, and I must confess that I can't leave home without my phone these days."

Aunt was listening very patiently up to date, but I knew from earlier discussions that there was more to come. Listen very carefully young man! (I knew from that tone that I had better pay attention). "There is nothing inherently wrong with having other things to be involved with, things that help you enjoy yourself and make life comfortable and more productive, providing they do not become the main interest in your life."

I could sense that Aunt was about to quote from her rule book (The Bible) an idol is anything or person that we rely on for our happiness and sense of wellbeing, anything that becomes our god, our pleasure source, our idol! Who do we turn to when things go pear-shaped, where do we go to regain our peace of mind, our main aim for our sense of satisfaction, what we look up to in our daily living, maybe our idols?"

"Whew! Steady on Aunt that's a lot to digest all at once. Where does the Bible comment on that? Come on now, you probably know it off by heart! Break it to me gently! Give me a 'Rule Book' reference I'll look it up tonight! "How's this for starters"? Exodus ch20 v 3. God said, "you shall have no other gods before me." Wow! Anything that competes for my attention or demands more of my time, finances or desires may already have become an idol. Not an inanimate object carved out of stone or metal as in olden times but distractions even more relevant in today's multichoice society."

"Aunt! I'm guilty as charged" Without realizing it I must admit that it is easy to allow many distractions cramming into my life under the heading of being too busy. It's a good cover-up excuse that I often use. It's probably the reason for me disregarding Exodus Ch20v3.

"Aunt I need to re-examine my "idols" to see how they look now in the light of our discussion. I realize that some of my idols are not looking as attractive and obviously I have a fair amount of rearranging in my life to even get close to Exodus Ch 20 v 3. Let alone Matthew ch6v33!

A.G. (Under re-assessment.)

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David Moran
5787 1738**

GARDEN SCENE WITH GAIL

October already and haven't we had good weather, a little rain, a little sun, such good growing conditions. As or if the rain eases off and the weather becomes quite dry, we need to be on it quickly because as soil dries out it can become hydrophobic and watering won't penetrate. It is a good idea to mimic the weather pattern, if possible, that is we don't want the rain to ease off to nearly nothing and all of a sudden, we start watering! Regular rainfall should be imitated, when needed, even after the rain has lessened, soaking waterings are preferable. The health of plants is certainly affected by many things, and one is the inconsistencies of water consumption, particularly natives. If there has been an abundance of water their root systems may well adapt, if over a short time frame, the water becomes minimal, there is not enough time or ability to adjust their requirements and the ability to withstand very low water levels. We can help them adjust over a longer period as they learn to cope with variations in available water. The reverse is also true and sometimes it's harder for plants to adjust if the weather is suddenly very wet. The root system is not conditioned to a large intake of water and the plants '*turn their toes up*', so to speak. Apart from water intake, there are many things to do in October. As plants put on lots of new growth our climbing plants are taking off with new shoots gaining quite a height. Before they get out of control secure them to the structure that they are planted against using those great little plant clips that allow for growth, they open as the stems get thicker. Prune any plants that have finished flowering such as Daphne and Camellia, and any hedges that have any wayward growth. Good to get pruning under control before the weather heats up. Fuchsias may need a tidy up to assist them in pushing new flowers, maybe repot if they have outgrown their hanging baskets or pots or freshen up the potting mix then liquid fertilise, any plants that are due to flower or are flowering. With the nights warming up, keep in mind not to water roses of a night, morning waterings are preferable so as not to encourage Powdery Mildew. As our bulbs die down give them some TLC, a solution of Seasol and



Powerfeed every week or so until they wilt to ground level. This will be taken down into the bulb and stored until next flowering season, it gives them a boost. Don't forget fruit trees, they are blossoming now so ensure they are kept well feed and watered to ensure consistency in flower and fruit growth. A lack of moisture when it's hot can cause stress and this can result in less flowers therefore less fruit. They will be working hard over the next few months, and they deserve all the goodies. Even if we don't use the fruit, the birds will appreciate it especially if we have a harsh Summer. Now is a great time to aerate your lawn and use a '*Weed n Feed*' to eliminate weeds and give the grass roots a good start into the warmer months. The deeper the grass roots can get into the soil, the more resistance to the hot weather and if you have concerns with the soil structure of your lawn, top dress with well-rotted cow manure and water in well. Keep your mower on a high setting if you can so as not to expose new growth to the hot months ahead.

Have a wonderful month.

Gail Mains Kendrick (Your Local Real Estate Agent)



WHERE CAN I GET "WHATS NEWS"?

- WANDONG - POST OFFICE AND I.G.A.
- WALLAN - ENTRANCES TO WELLINGTON SQUARE
- KILMORE - ENTRANCE TO KILMORE VILLAGE SHIRE LIBRARY
- BROADFORD - BROADFORD KILMORE BAKERY
- BROADFORD CORNER FISH AND CHIPS
- UPPER PLENTY - STOKES ORCHARD
- WHITTLESEA - WHITTLESEA CHICKEN BARN

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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.



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,
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Probus Club of Kilmore District Inc

Are you retired, semi
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bus are looking for
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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.

Email: probuskilmore@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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**Dianella Hostel and
Caladenia Nursing Home Website:
www.kilmoredistricthospital.org.au**



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

WRITTEN BY MICHAEL B HALLEY
PUBLICITY OFFICER

Capital Q on waitlist

At the October meeting of the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea the topic was slated to be organ and tissue transplants. The speaker organiser Teresa Carlin reached out to DonateLife Victoria to make a presentation. It came to pass that a person waiting for a transplant volunteered to tell their real story.

Most people have a feeling of frustration when they have to queue for service. Our guest presenter forty-three year old Kayne Brewster has been queuing since the day he was born. But his capital Q is now, as he is on the waitlist for a heart transplant. Kayne gave his story in unison with his wife Alyx, who were a formidable duo!

Kayne was born with Tricuspid atresia and had his first surgery when he was two and a half days old and was in and out of hospital throughout his childhood. At three years of age, he had open heart surgery.

Since, he has achieved much, having held full-time jobs until recently and with Alyx produced two children, six-year-old Wyatt and Lily who is three. The children are aware that daddy is a special person and basically understand what it means and how to cope.

The family were enjoying a holiday over Easter this year [2026] when one morning they were alerted that there was a possibility of a suitable heart for Kayne. In preparation, he was told not to eat or drink anything until he received a further update.

Unfortunately, the transplant could not go ahead for Kayne because another person on the waitlist was deemed in greater need. While disappointed, Kayne said the fact that someone else now has a better life is gratifying.

In 2025, 1,438 Australians received a life-saving organ transplant, thanks to the generosity of 557 deceased organ donors. However, there are currently around 2,000 Australians on the waitlist for an organ transplant, like Kayne, and another 14,000 people on dialysis for kidney failure – many who could benefit from a kidney transplant.

Very few people can become an organ donor when they die – only around 2% of people who die in Australian hospitals meet the criteria required to be an organ donor. To be an organ donor you need to die in a hospital, usually on a ventilator in Intensive Care, as your organs need to be working well to be transplanted.

Four out of 5 Australians support organ donation, but only 1 in 3 are registered.

Kayne says, with only a small number of potential donors, it is important to not only register as an organ and tissue donor but also tell your family that you want to be a donor. Consideration of organ and tissue donation comes at an intensely emotional time for families, so when donation is a possibility, it helps when families know if their loved one wanted to be a donor.

Around 8 in 10 families say yes to donation when you are registered, but this drops to 4 in 10 when they don't know what you want.

DonateLife has around 260 dedicated donation specialist nurses, doctors and support staff covering around 95 hospitals across Australia.

There are many myths about donation and you can read them online here: <https://www.donatelife.gov.au/all-about-donation/myths-about-donation>

The one that has closer reference to Probians is:

- ◆ Myth: I'm too old to be an organ and tissue donor.
- ◆ Fact: Age is not a barrier – people over 80 have become organ and tissue donors.

It was one of the most interesting programs, made even more so by the dynamic duo Kayne and Alyx who gave of their valuable family time to inform the assembly their story and a comprehensive overview of DonateLife.

A number of questions were clearly addressed and a round of applause brought the presentation to an end. A token of appreciation was given and we are on the list to be told when Kayne gets his new heart.

It only takes one minute to register as an organ and tissue donor at [donatelife.gov.au](https://www.donatelife.gov.au) or through your Medicare account. Or call 1800 777 203 (Services Australia).

You could be the reason someone like Kayne gets a second chance at life.

Photo: Kayne and Alyx



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LIONS CLUB OF WANDONG – WALLAN INC.

PRESIDENT: SAM BEDI

PO Box 225

It's October. Haven't we had some rain this week. We had to light the fire today. We had the fire going for several days.

What have we been doing. There was a Bunnings that went well. However it was on grand final day and people tended to go home in the afternoon to watch Kylie and the afternoon was a bit dead. Speaking of Kylie I must tell you about my brother who was staying with us. A short way through her performance he declared that it was boring and went out to clean the shed. He did return for the football.

We have another Bunnings bbq in November and the shire bbq was postponed because of the weather. It will happen later this month. Wallan gateway food bank have asked us for help with their fridge. They look after over sixty families. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

Cakes will be out soon. Sam our wonderful president has some on sale at IGA in Wandong. If you mention my name he will probably add a surcharge. Mints are still difficult to get hold of.

OK let me tell you of some of our other activities. My Elizabeth took her car to the car wash in Kilmore. After it had started it was discovered that the sunroof was partially open. I must state that this was not my fault. Anyway water started to drip into the car thankfully on the drivers side. Without knowing how to close the offending roof the driver got quite wet. The passenger fortunately did not. After pressing various buttons we finally managed to stem the flow. I still maintain that if she had organised this properly we could have washed the car inside and out.

Bill and Marie had a wedding anniversary and some of us went to Hogans for lunch. Steve got changed out of his work jeans, put them back on and came out complete with holes and paint stains. I know that Tania should dress him.

Speaking of Bill he has joined an outlaw bikey gang the Ulysses bike club. He has swapped his Marlon Brando jacket for a Ulysses jacket complete with brass studs. Never the less he is still a wimp refusing to go riding because it was raining.

Brian Dove has a new computer, He killed the last one. Unfortunately he doesn't know how to use it. I am going to get him a slate and a piece of chalk.

This might do for now. If you meet any of my fellow Lions don't believe anything they say about me. It's all lies.

Catch you next time.

Clyde the champion Riley.

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.

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WANDONG HISTORY GROUP



Work continues editing our documentary, this is a huge process that is taking many hours of dedicated work by our filmmakers. In the meantime, we are busy preparing for the launch event on the 11th and 12th of December.

The Inland Rail project is nearing completion and finally the town is starting to look decent again. It will be interesting to see when the first double stacked trains actually make it through Wandong, probably a long way off I imagine.

The Kilmore Historical Society has a new initiative that I think worth mentioning here. They are compiling information of farms and farming families within the shire, in an effort to preserve the farming history that is rapidly being swallowed up by housing. At this stage they are compiling files on the families and farms that will be held by them and perhaps in the future be put together in some sort of accessible manner. I think it's a great idea to capture this important history before its lost forever, I'm sure most people living in these new estates don't really think of what was on the land before they came along.

Contact the kilmorehistoricalsociety@gmail.com to be part of this fantastic collection.

The Wandong History groups AGM will be held on the 14th October at St Michaels Church, at 1.00pm. All welcome to attend.

Karen Christensen

President

Wandong History Group

wandonghistorygroup4@gmail.com

<https://wandongheathcotejunctionhistory.com.au>

We have set up a Go fund me to help us fund our documentary project, if you would like to be part of this project you can donate here. <https://gofund.me/f151ea4df>

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

PROBUS CLUB of WALLAN

Wallan Probus meets 2nd Wednesday of the month except January, at 10.30am at Hogans 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

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"The Hidden Hero"

A Tribute to James Blackburn

170 years ago, a great engineer gave Melbourne the design for the healthy clean water we drink every day.

Yet hardly anyone knows his name.

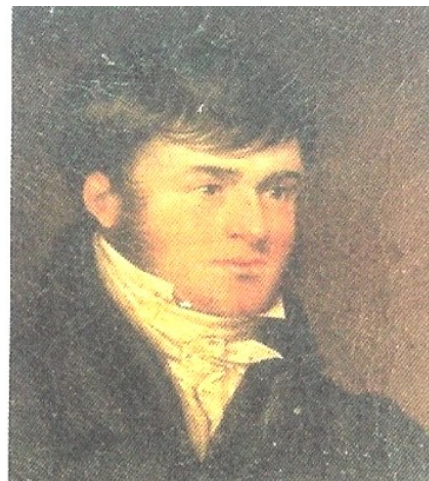
Join the Friends of Yan Yean Reservoir as they present this inspirational and nostalgic story.

Date : Saturday 31st October at 2pm.

Where : Caretakers Cottage, Yan Yean Reservoir.

Admission \$20 (Discount for groups) includes refreshments.

*Bookings Essential : Sue 0414 526 407
: Cheryl 0409 014 327*



WANDONG TENNIS CLUB

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

Information is posted on our
Facebook page.
www.facebook.com/wandongtennis



Congratulations to our Section 1 junior team who won the recent BDJTA grand final

Well done Riley McKendry and Seb Delovski.

Riley also received the Best Player award for Section 1

Summer junior season started on Saturday October 10th.

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



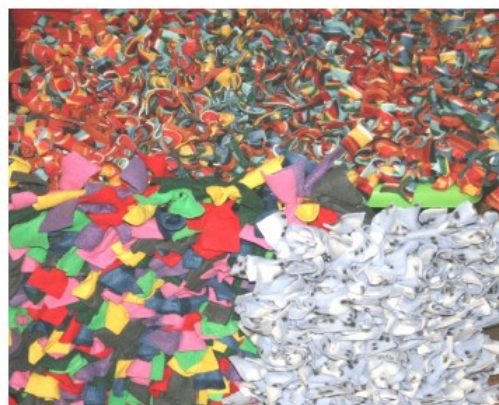
Snuffle mats for sale

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

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

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

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WANDONG FIRE BRIGADE



Santa Visits

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

Wandong Fire Brigade Open Day

Wandong Fire Brigade are opening up the doors of the fire station to the community on Saturday 24 October 2026. Come visit, enjoy the sausage sizzle, tour the station, learn more about what we do, and find out how to prepare and protect your property this fire season.

New Recruits

The General Firefighter Practical Assessment was held at Wandong on September 12th, with 12 recruits from Beveridge, Broadford, Wandong and Yarck brigades completing their qualification. We have 9 recruits at Wandong, all eagerly waiting for their first turn-out. The weather was beautiful, and they got to demonstrate all the skills that they have been working on over the past few months.

Fire Season

Victoria is one of the most fire-prone areas in the world. All Victorians need to know how to plan for and respond to fire. There are local street corner meetings to be held in the next few weeks. Watch our Facebook page for details. It is a great opportunity to chat to locals and for all residents to gain information on how best to prepare their families and properties.

Fire Restrictions

CFA fire restrictions have begun to be instated across the State. Restrictions will be brought into effect in November in the Mitchell Shire, date to be confirmed. The Fire Danger Period is when CFA restricts the use of fire in the community. This is to help prevent fires from starting.

During the Fire Danger Period you cannot burn off unless you have a permit or comply with certain requirements.

Find out what you can or can't do during the declared Fire Danger Period, and on days of Total Fire Ban at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions/can-i-or-cant-i

Training

Wandong crews recently travelled up to the CFA Wangaratta Training Ground to participate in a training exercise along with members from Wallan and Beveridge Brigades. It was a great day, with members using fire extinguishers, pumping water from a static supply, and participating in exercises including a car fire in the carport, and a service station fire. Big thanks to Dyson Bus Lines for donating a bus and driver, and to the District 12 Volunteer Instructors for all their work.



NEW LIGHTING TOWERS

COMING TO
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Reserve**



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

T27, 14 Alliance Avenue, Mernda VIC 3754

lauren.kathage@parliament.vic.gov.au

03 9432 9782

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Authorised Rob Mitchell MP Australian Labor Party, 57-59 High St Wallan

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EQUIPMENT
HIRE**

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Spring planting for Wandong and Heathcote Junction district

October is the month the hills around Wandong and Heathcote Junction forgive you. The frosts are mostly done, the clay is still damp from winter, and there are six or seven weeks before the first real heat. Anything planted now gets its roots down before summer asks the hard questions. Here is what to put in, drawn from a year of our own orders across Victoria.

What Victorians actually planted

Between 1 September 2025 and 31 August 2026, 61.6 per cent of the plants we sent to Victorian gardens were Australian natives, the highest share of any state. The quality Victorian gardeners asked for more than any other was low maintenance. The most ordered plant in the state was compact yellow buttons, a silver leaved native daisy that flowers for most of the year, followed by the cut leaf daisies in pink and mauve, then lilly pilly for hedges and native tussock grass for the gaps. Pots and containers were the most common use, mass planting second. Bee and butterfly friendly plants turned up in more than a thousand Victorian orders. It is a very practical list, and it suits this district well.

Four things to plant this month

Native daisies along the sunny edges. Yellow buttons and cut leaf daisies take frost, dry summers and poor soil, and they are the cheapest colour you will ever buy. Plant them in groups of five or more, water them through their first summer, then forget them apart from a trim after flowering.

Tussock grass on the slopes. *Poa labillardierei* is the local grass of the ranges north of Melbourne. It holds a bank, copes with clay, feeds the small birds and needs one cut a year in late winter. Plant it where the mower cannot go.

A hedge that minds itself. Lilly pilly was the most ordered plant in the country last year. The compact forms make a dense screen, take a hard prune and feed the birds. Where frost pockets are severe, coastal rosemary does the same job at waist height and is almost impossible to kill. Keep any hedge well clear of the house walls in a bushfire area. One tree for the long run. A deciduous ornamental pear, a crabapple or a native frangipani planted now will have a full season of growth before next winter. Dig a hole twice the width of the pot, no deeper, and stake it loosely for the first year only.

The local rules

Plant into the clay, not on top of it. Loosen the soil to a spade's depth around the hole and mix the dug clay with compost rather than filling the hole with potting mix, which turns into a bucket that drowns the roots.

Water deeply and seldom. A long soak twice a week in the first summer beats a sprinkle every evening, and it teaches the roots to go down where the clay stays cool.

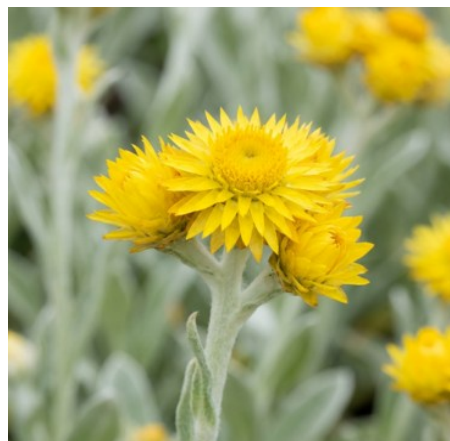
Mulch, but leave a gap. A hand's width of bare soil around each stem stops collar rot, and a patch of open ground in a sunny corner gives the native bees somewhere to nest.

Think about fire. Close to the house, choose plants with moist, low oil leaves such as lilly pilly, coastal rosemary and saltbush, keep them spaced, and leave the eucalypts and tea trees for the far side of the block. Buy small. Tubestock planted in October will usually catch an advanced plant put in at the same time within two seasons, and it costs a fraction as much, which matters when you are planting a whole slope.

Where to read more

The figures above come from our study What Australia Planted 2025-26, free to read at nurserynearme.com.au/blogs/blog/what-australia-planted-2025-26, and there is a care guide for every plant named here among the more than 300 free guides at nurserynearme.com.au/blogs/blog.

Isaac Olson is a director of Nursery Near Me, an Australian online nursery that delivers plants, trees and hedging to Victoria and every other mainland state. nurserynearme.com.au



Community Bank
Wallan, Kilmore and Broadford
03 5783 2422

B Bendigo Bank



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Here for the locals

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supporting the Wandong
community.

>>> WINTER PRESENTATION

What a way to officially wrap up our 2026 Winter Season! On Sunday 13 September, our Wandong Netball family came together for our End of Season Presentation Day, celebrating not only the achievements of our players on court, but the people, milestones and memories that made 2026 such a special season for our club. From our youngest 9&Under players right through to our graduating 16&Under players, it was wonderful to have everyone together one final time to recognise an incredible year of netball.

🏆 2026 WANDONG CLUB AWARD WINNERS

☀️ Coaches Award

9&Under White — Evelyn Carbis
 9&Under Green — Alba Roberts
 11&Under White — Ava Costanzo
 11&Under Green — Stella Clark
 13&Under White — Bailee Garner
 16&Under White — Ruby Sawyer
 16&Under Green — Charlie Graham

❤️ Best Sportsmanship Award

11&Under White — Mya Colley
 11&Under Green — Leah Pretorius
 13&Under White — Paige Phillips
 16&Under White — Ava Marshall
 16&Under Green — Madison Hall

🏆 Best & Fairest Runner-Up

11&Under White — Wynter Irons
 11&Under Green — Indi Bishop-Duck
 13&Under White — Piper Phillips
 16&Under White — Georgia Hazelton
 16&Under Green — Natalie King

🏆 Best & Fairest

11&Under White — Mya Colley
 11&Under Green — McKenzie Bishop-Duck & Chelsea Zugaro
 13&Under White — Jude Whelan
 16&Under White — Lacey Hazelton
 16&Under Green — Abby Welch

Congratulations to every one of our award winners! We are incredibly proud of the way you represented your teams and Wandong Netball Club throughout 2026. ❤️💚🏐

WANDONG
NETBALL CLUB

CONTINUED PAGE 19

>>> CLUB LEGACY AWARDS

♥ Introducing the Wandong Legacy Award Presentation Day also marked the beginning of a very special new Wandong tradition — our Legacy Award.

The Legacy Award recognises long-serving Wandong players who have given a minimum of five years to our club, either as a player or through a combination of playing, coaching and umpiring.

Importantly, this isn't simply a graduation award. It is recognition of players who have genuinely grown up as part of Wandong Netball and have helped shape our club along the way.

Their names and Legacy numbers will forever form part of Wandong Netball Club history. ♥



We were incredibly proud to recognise our first 14 Wandong Legacy recipients:

- #1 Grace Hannemann
- #2 Alyssa Duffy
- #3 Justine Nastevski
- #4 Lacey Fogliaro
- #5 Abigail Delaney
- #6 Heidi Hannemann
- #7 Kate Downey
- #8 Abby Miller
- #9 Scarlett Louis
- #10 Lucy King
- #11 Abbey Mathieson
- #12 Abby Carland
- #13 Tayla Curtis
- #14 Mia Welch

>>> NETFIT CLINIC

What a way to finish the school holidays! Wandong was thrilled to host a NETFIT Netball Clinic at our courts on Monday 28 September, giving local players a full day of netball, skills, activities and fun with the NETFIT coaches.

Thanks to our NETFIT grant, Wandong players were able to attend the clinic at 50% off the normal ticket price, making a fantastic development opportunity even more accessible to our families.

It was wonderful to be able to bring an experience like this directly to our home courts and give our players another opportunity to learn, challenge themselves and enjoy their netball.

>>> NET SET GO

🏐 Term 4

Our youngest netballers are getting ready to hit the court too, with NetSetGO returning to Wandong in Term 4!

The eight-week program begins on Wednesday 21 October and runs through until 9 December, from 5:00pm–6:00pm, with players arriving from 4:45pm for sign-in.

NetSetGO is all about introducing kids to netball in a fun, supportive environment while developing their basic skills, confidence, teamwork and love of the game.

E: wandongregistrar@gmail.com for more details



WANDONG NETBALL CLUB



>>> TOURNAMENT TIME

★ Our Wandong Academy & Development Program is getting ready to take the next exciting step, with tournament netball on the calendar!

Our Academy teams will have opportunities to test themselves against teams from outside our regular competitions, experience different styles of netball and put everything they have been working on at training into practice. We have Parkville, Waverley, Casey and Darebin among the tournaments ahead, and we're looking forward to seeing our players represent Wandong on court.

>>> SPRING COMPETITION

Spring Netball is almost here, and we're getting ready to enter seven Wandong teams into the upcoming Kilmore Spring Competition, kicking off in the first week back of Term 4!

We're really excited to see our players taking on new challenges, building their skills and enjoying another season of netball together.

We're also looking forward to welcoming many new players and families into the Wandong Netball Club for the first time this Spring. 💚💚

Seven teams, plenty of new faces and lots of netball ahead — we can't wait to get started! 🏐💫

This Spring, Wandong will be represented by the following teams....



>>> 50 GAMES OF KBNA

This year we also began formally tracking games played for Wandong, and we were excited to recognise eight players who reached the incredible milestone of 50 games for our club playing in the KBNA Winter comp during 2026.

From next season, our milestone celebrations will become even bigger, with players reaching significant game milestones having the opportunity to run through the Wandong banner before their milestone game.

Another new tradition we can't wait to see grow!

Congratulations to Abby Carland, Natalie King, Madison Hall, Mya Colley, Piper Phillips, Indi Gibson, Chelsea Zugaro and Paige Phillips.

Well done!



>>> CLUB GRADUATES 🎓



As another season comes to an end, we also say a very special farewell to nine players who have reached the end of their junior playing journey with Wandong Netball Club.

For many of these players, Wandong has been part of their lives for years. We've watched them grow from young netballers finding their feet on court into confident young people who have represented our club with pride. 💚💚

To our 2026 Club Graduates — thank you for the games, the friendships, the laughs and the memories you have created along the way.

Abby Miller, Alyssa Duffy, Lucy King, Scarlett Louis, Sage Brymer, Isa Tanti, Tayla Curtis, Abby Carland and Mia Welch.

Once a Wandong player, always part of Wandong. 💚🏐



Neighbourhood Watch

Column

SOUTH MITCHELL

October 2026

Halloween Trick or Treat Safety

October is Halloween! It's not surprising that Halloween is gaining popularity in Australia. Kids love dressing up and who doesn't love eating the treats! But, Halloween night can also be dangerous.

Plan the decorating of your house so all your plans don't go up in a puff of smoke:

- Plan your decorations around your home to keep everything bright and safe. Stairs and paths should always be kept clear;
- Avoid Halloween decorations can also be unsafe if you overload powerboards, use frayed or bare wires, or have decorations with unsecured button batteries. Don't assume new decorations are in perfect condition;
- Use basic safety practices when installing overhead decorations. Never fit lighting to dry trees or shrubs; and
- Secure your pets on the night.

Make sure you follow our safety tips so your children enjoy your trick or treating:

- Plan your costumes so that they fit well and don't drape on the ground. This will help you avoid trips or falls;
- Instead of using a face mask which restricts your vision, use a non-toxic hypoallergenic make-up;
- We recommend using a bright & reflective bag to increase your visibility;
- Plan your route on the night to avoid crossing busy roads. Use road safety rules to cross roads & avoid distractions;
- Stay in groups. Young children should always be accompanied by a responsible person; and
- Save the treats until you get home. Always inspect them carefully before enjoying them.

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

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

Victoria Police

Mitchell Neighbourhood Policing Forum



VICTORIA POLICE

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

The forum will explore topics including:

- Current crime trends (incl. Retail theft) and crime prevention
- Family violence
- Young people
- Road policing
- Drugs and drug related crime.

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

Registration is a must. Please scan the QR code or visit:

[Mitchell PSA NHP - Eventbrite](#)

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

Online event details

Date:
Wednesday 14th October 2026

Time:
11am – 1pm



Scan here to register your attendance



OUR VALUES



COMPASSION



RESPECT



INTEGRITY



PROFESSIONALISM



COURAGE

Upcoming Events

South Mitchell NHW Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting is coming up this October 8, 2026, at 7pm in the meeting room, at the Community Centre, LB Davern Reserve, Dry Creek Rd, Wandong. All positions are declared vacant and everyone is welcome.

Crime Prevention Week - Sat. 17 Oct. 2026

Crime Prevention Week is this October and we will be attending the Craigieburn Bunnings store on Saturday 17 October, 2026. We are hosting an information table and we will have our range of security products, including Faraday pouches, credit card sleeves, personal alarms, UV pens, etc. available on this day. Visit our Facebook page for more details.



Neighbourhood Watch
Let's watch out for each other

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THE COMBINED PROBUS CLUB OF WHITTLESEA INC.

REGISTERED # A0041714F

Established 2001

MEDIA INFORMATION

MICHAEL B HALLEY PUBLICITY OFFICER

Along memory lane

Pregnant with enthusiasm a group of the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea members and friends set out on a planned visit to Port Stephens on the Central Coast of NSW. Other places were visited but they are not mentioned in chronological order!

Probus' provides opportunities for retirees and semi-retirees to come together, make new friends and enjoy a wide range of activities. Probian's are at the age where memories abound, but some fade overtime. Excursions to other places add to the memory base and can also renew something long forgotten.

Day one was only as far as Gundagai with stop offs at Ned Kelly Museum and Homestead at Glenrowan and Holbrook Submarine Museum.

The Ned Kelly History Museum and Homestead offers the visitor a window into the past. The Museum is set out in an easy to follow format with genuine artefacts, articles and original photos from the Kelly era of early 1840s.

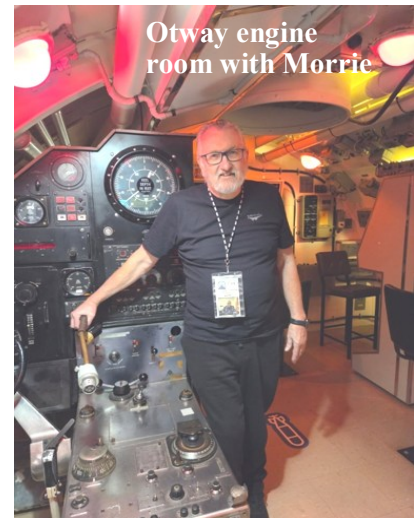
There is an exact replica of the Kelly's Homestead that was originally located at Greta West with items that belonged to the Kelly's and have been donated from the family. Douglas Stoneman the curator was most informative but our time available left a lot to his own memory.

At Holbrook Submarine Museum Morrie the curator told us how the HMAS Otway's final resting spot came to be in Holbrook; and all about the brave young Submariner whose exploits during the First World War earned him the honour of having a town named after him. A hologram shows the full story of how the submarine came to reside in Holbrook.

The Museum houses an amazing display of photos and submarine memorabilia including authentic submarine escape suits, a torpedo and even a genuine Jolly Roger flag.

Next day was an early start and a long journey to Pacific Blue Resort at Port Stephens with a short stop-over at the Big Merino at Goulburn. Day three was both on land and water.

Looking for a lunch stop at Bowral we came across Tulip Time and spent an hour or so.. More than 80,000 tulip bulbs and annuals are planted in Corbett Gardens creating fields of blooms and spectacular floral patterns. There are also market stalls, an art exhibition, live music and a floral-inspired workshop program..



TIN CITY located at Stockton Beach is a camp made up of a community of homeless men in the late 1920's during the Great Depression. The shacks are governed by a one hundred year lease signed in 1920 under longstanding squatters' settlement, and the shacks are not owned but are privately occupied and passed down to family and friends.

We were transported there along the beach in four wheel drive vehicles but brought back over the sand dunes which are a memory hard to forget. After relaxing for a while we took a return ferry trip to Tea Gardens. The excitement was accompanying dolphins and a breaching whale which only a few saw.

We passed under The Singing Bridge a 304m pre-stressed re-enforced concrete structure spans the stunning Myall River and is famous for its haunting tunes when the northerly wind blows, as well as the perching pelicans.

A hidden memory came to the fore as we passed a fingerboard for Masonite Road. Masonite will resonate with "handy-man" Probian's who renovated their homes in the fifties and sixties. Whilst thinking about that, what about Laminex an "associate" of Masonite? Remember the excitement of a shiny new kitchen setting?

The next day we went to Brooklyn and took the Postman's Cruise on the Hawkesbury River. Once upon a time letters were delivered twice a day but now it is every second day except via the Riverboat Postman which gives special customer service.

The Riverboat Postman operates weekdays, delivering mail, food and goods to villages nestled between bush and water, many of which are inaccessible by road. It has remained unchanged for more than a century, a delightful dance between the boat and the river folk. Each stop offers a glimpse into a simpler, slow-paced life. At every stop, the ritual is different. Some communities have mailboxes by the shore, while others send a designated collector to gather everyone's mail.

We were shown the rusted remains of the HMAS Parramatta, Australia's first warship commissioned into the Commonwealth Naval Forces in World War I. It ended its days as a humble coal hauler before being towed to its final resting place.

CONTINUED PAGE 23



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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

On our way home we took a tour of the CBD of Newcastle and found that like many cities they have reinstated trams for public transport. Trams were scrapped in 1950, but have returned as Light Rail serving 6 stations.

You cannot visit the Hunter Valley without visiting a winery or two. We did that! The first tasting was both wine and olives. As they say both are acquired tastes! Some loved the olive tasting and others spat them all out. The last wine tasting on that day was led by a very confident vineyard owner who had us all tasting 5 wines within an hour and going home in a very happy mood.



Roger our coach manager
and Michael Halley



Hunter Valley Gardens

Hunter Valley Gardens has become one of the most significant display gardens in the southern hemisphere. Eight kilometres of walking paths wind their way through 14 hectares of gardens which include over 6000 trees, 600,000 shrubs and over 1 million ground cover plants, man-made waterfalls, statues imported from around the world, murals designed and painted by local artists and much more. The 10 individually themed gardens showcase gardens from around the world utilising both native and exotic varieties of plants.

Port Stephens Koala Sanctuary operated by Port Stephens Council was our start of the day for breakfast and a most informative guided tour. The site covers eight hectares and exists to rescue and treat

injured wild koalas. Each patient has its own enclosure and the guide explains their health status.

We learnt about the population of NSW koalas and how the colonies have different diets and how important it is to have the correct eucalyptus leaves. Members of the volunteer staff travel to specific areas to collect the correct leaves. There is a private Koala Hospital next door and both organisations work in unison.

Being AFL grand final day the afternoon some members stayed at our accommodation but a select group took the trip to Dungog over the Great Dividing Range via Barrington Tops. Many English styled buildings still exist. The IGA building erected in 1896 has a 1920 façade.

Nostalgia was at the forefront as Saturday afternoon closing remains and the 108 year old James Theatre that commenced to show silent pictures still operates. Remember kerbside petrol bowlers? Although prohibited in NSW seventy-three years and eight days before our visit one remains as a silent sentinel of times past. Petrol was roughly 7.5 to 8 cents a litre.



Scenic Railway at Katoomba



Group photo at Euroa

We headed for home via the Blue Mountains to visit Katoomba Scenic World clutching prepaid tickets only to arrive in fog and rain. But being intrepid souls we made the best of a bad lot. The Scenic Railway is in the Guinness Book of World Records for the steepest passenger railway in the world - it still holds the record!

We overnighted at Yass and next day headed for home with a lunch break at Albury and group photo at Euroa.

One last nostalgic reminder! We saw a Holden Sandman in traffic. Many relationships were formed or lost in the Sandman at Drive In theatres.

The on time arrival at Whittlesea allowed the contingent to collect their luggage and memories and return to normal



As the weather starts warming up, at long last more and more of the community are coming down to the reserve to utilize this great facility we have in our community.

What is our community up to down at the Reserve:

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.

The summer user groups are in planning mode and ready to commence their prospective season, they may have already started.

Mitchell Agility Dog Club, Junior Tennis /Saturday Afternoon Tennis, Night Tennis, Standardbred Riding Club, Kilmore and District Adult Rider's Club, Cricket, School Sports

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



Website: www.lbdavernreserve.com.au



L.B.Davern Reserve Committee of Management

A.G.M

Thursday October 15th 2026 at 7.00pm,

Followed by General Meeting at 7.30pm

Community Centre

L.B.Davern Reserve Dry Creek Crescent, Wandong

**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!!





Remember When:



Pre Sports Pavilion-2000



Original tennis club rooms 2000



FAR LEFT:
Wandong Junior
Football Club
Change Rooms
2010

LEFT:
Wandong Tennis
Club Rooms after
Black Saturday
2009

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**

Temporary road closures and traffic changes in Wandong

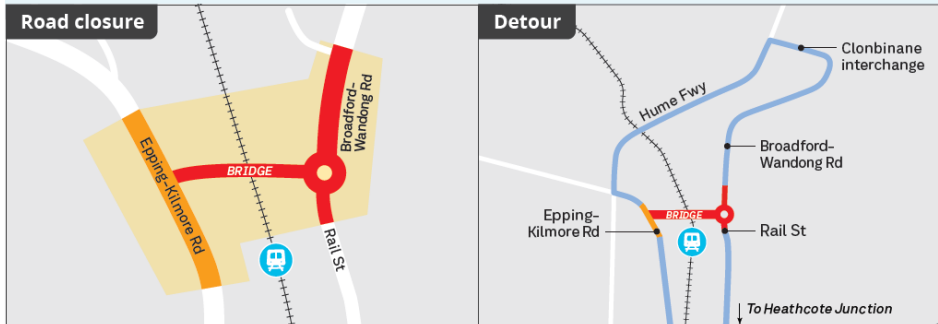
14 – 28 October

There will be temporary road closures and traffic changes in Wandong while we complete asphaltting and line-marking works. Works will be staged to minimise the impact to the community.

 Wandong Station
  Road closed
  Traffic management
  Works area
  Vehicle detour

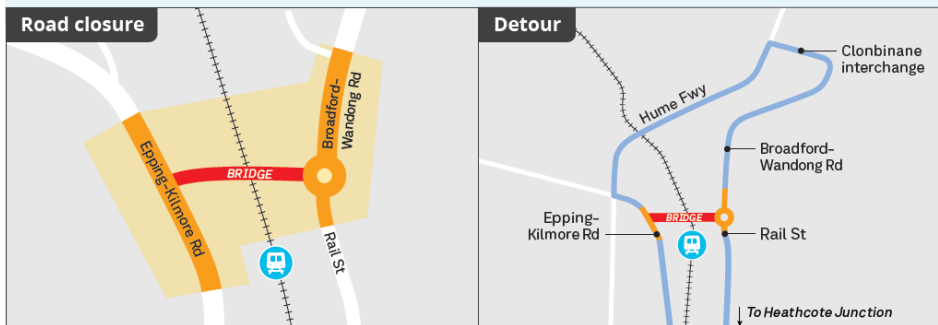
Broadford-Wandong Road, Broadford-Wandong Road bridge and Rail Street closure.

Detour via Hume Freeway Clonbinane interchange or via Heathcote Junction.

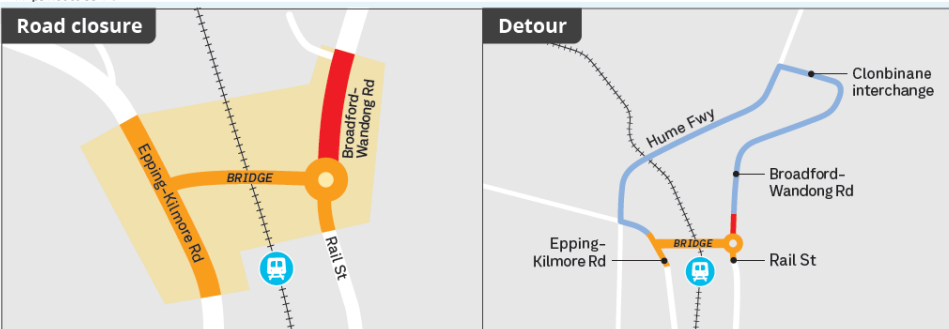


Broadford-Wandong Road bridge closure.

Detour via Hume Freeway Clonbinane interchange or via Heathcote Junction.

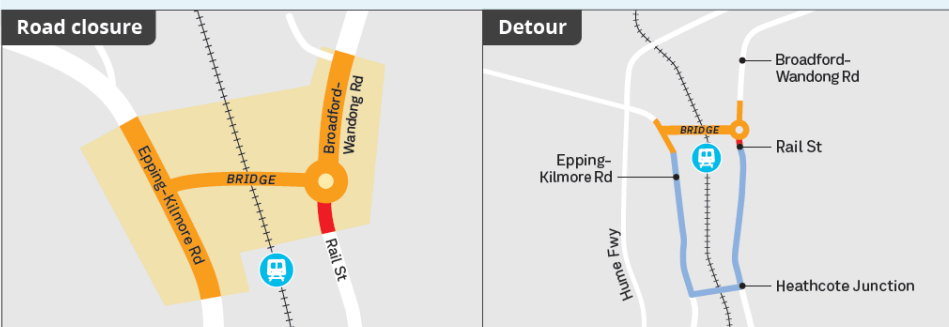


* Maps not to scale.



Rail Street closure.

Detour via Heathcote Junction.



WANDONG-HEATHCOTE JUNCTION COMMUNITY GROUP

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



Over four 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. Well, we are pleased to report that the holes in the mesh fence have been repaired either by Mitchell Shire, Victrack or their contractor. We would still like to see the trees overhanging the fence cut back to the fence line before they also fall on the fence and Rail Street.



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 and should be a showpiece at a major entrance to the Shire but the car park remains the worst in Mitchell Shire.

The grate at the corner of Rail and Affleck Streets is blocked regularly causing water to flow down Rail Street. Clearing the blockage largely falls on the Community Group as the Shire ignores the problem and has no solution.

FAR RIGHT
The drain is blocked

RIGHT:
The WHJCG clears the drain.



Many other requests to Mitchell Shire get ignored.

Some include 35 broken cement sections of the footpath on Rail Street.

Weeds overtaking the footpath on North Mountain Road. The footpath is a section of the Say G'Day trail and urgently needs to be resealed.

WE ARE SORRY FOR THE DIRTY STATE OF WANDONG PLAZA. 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 filthy state of the rubbish bins are a blight on the Plaza and our town. The WHJCG recently raised a issue with Alpine Petroleum which lead to Alpine terminating our 22 year relationship. It is very disappointing watching the cleanliness of the Plaza disappearing before our very eyes.

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**

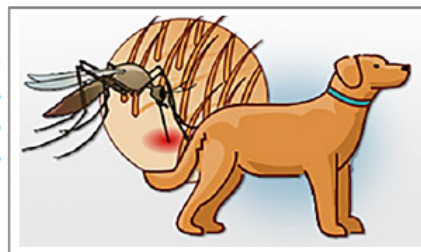


Learning About ... Heartworms ... (*Not your normal dog worms.....!*)

It is important to understand Heart Worm is very different type of worm to the Intestinal / gut parasites... This is a parasite that attacks the **blood stream NOT the gut...**

I had never heard much about heart worm until the 80's when it was first thought to be a problem for dog owners in places like Florida. Hence climates that are hot and humid could pose a bigger threat, but to the dog fraternity here in Australia it never really came up in discussions.

Preventative Treatment was developed in the 80's and we started to see some scary looking posters depicting pictures of dog hearts infected with worms... But it became confusing as to whether there is always a need in Australia to use these toxins or perhaps instead this was designed to convince us to buy products. So perhaps it is worth understanding the problem Heartworm presents, so consider instead...



How Is Heartworm Transmitted ?

Normally **gut worms** can be passed from dog to dog via their droppings. However transmission is very different when it comes to heart worm.

- Worm larvae (microfilariae) is transmitted via **mozzies** which are normally found only in hot humid climates, therefore perhaps many regions of Australia are not really considered high risk.
- A mosquito has to bite an **infected dog** then travel and bite another dog to deposit the microfilariae into the new dogs bloodstream.
- The temperature then needs to remain above 14 degrees Celsius for the majority of the time for the microfilariae to continue to survive/develop in the mozzie. Basically in colder weather microfilariae dies.
- Heart Worm preventatives do not actually prevent mosquitoes from infecting your dog with the larvae. Instead preventatives kill different stages of heart worm larvae that already have infected your dog.
- Most Heart Worm preventatives contain Ivermectin which can be problematic for many dogs, particularly with any of the herding breeds.
- Vet recommendations over the years have been inconsistent - Initially in the 80's vets would insist on dogs having a blood test prior to being given any products. By 2000's the products became available over the counter in pet stores and so anyone could treat dogs with these at whim.
- Studies regarding product safety are inconsistent. Initially we assumed the Industry conducted safety studies, but around 2019, the FDA requested the Drug Companies provide the studies to show the safety of their products. In 2021 this request was not forthcoming, so the FDA funded independent collection of statistics on animals showing negative effects (including deaths) linked to the drugs in their products. This did highlight some red flags and I personally lack confidence in the process.
- There is a group called hemopet.org They independently conduct testing and 'study the studies' of many dog related issues, then in 2022 they issued a statement to advise owners that the residuals of these toxins are stored in the pets animal fats. Which can then be found in the dogs hair.
- Heart worm treatment can be potentially **toxic** to some dog's and can cause serious complications, such as life-threatening blood clots to the dog's lungs among other issues. Treatment requires multiple visits to veterinarian, bloodwork, x-rays, hospitalisation, and a series of injections with Immiticide.

It is important to note these monthly tablets are actually little doses of toxins. There are concerns that some dogs will have bad reactions over time. Some of these reactions can include skin issues, tremors and even fits. Recent studies have shown the residuals of these products accumulate in the fat cells.



The Good News - A Host's immune response can affect the presence of circulating microfilariae. This means that dogs with functional immune systems aren't good hosts for heart worms and other parasites. The mosquito larvae (microfilaria) can be destroyed by the immune system before they develop into adult heart worms.

Alfoxton Tip: Over the last 30+ years I have never used any Heart Worm treatment for my own dogs. At this time I DO NOT recommend HeartWorm treatment, especially for Aussies.

SUDOKU

Answers
on page 31

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

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

THIS MONTHS QUIZ

Answer appears on Page 31 but no cheating!

- Where did Captain James Cook die?
- Which planet shares its name with a chemical element?
- Which planet has over 145 known moons?
- What is Bluey's dad's name?
- What is the name of Harry Potter's school?
- Which city was the first modern Olympic Games held?
- Which Olympic sport is played with brooms and stones?
- What don't Invertebrates have?
- What are male turkeys called?
- Who was the first member of The Beatles to be married?
- How many days does the Earth take to orbit the Sun?
- What is the tiny dot above the letters i and j called?
- Which country invented French fries?
- Which mammal lays eggs?

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

Not online?

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

Or, contact Mitchell Shire Council on 5734 6200.



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

< www.mbug.org.au >

or contact the Secretary,
John on 5781 1604

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Hello Readers,

It seems to me, that this past month of September has flown by faster than a speeding bullet, and while it's true that we have still experienced some miserably cold weather, the smell of spring is in the air, the blossoming plants are a pleasure to behold, and the sunny skies surely gladden our hearts.



Our Wallan U3A members have had a very busy and enjoyable month, beginning with a very informative and interesting talk by a local historian, who enlightened us to the little known facts of the existence of the internment camps, in the Mt Disappointment State Forest area near Wandong, during WW2 .

Only civilian males were interned there, whose jobs included wood cutting and other forestry duties. The internees lived and worked in relatively relaxed surroundings, were allowed to move about freely, but had an evening curfew to which they had to adhere.

Our singing group enjoyed the company of the Kilmore U3A ukulele team on 2 occasions, at which time we practiced a number of songs for the upcoming Seniors Week, at which we will perform together and independently .

The event will be held at the JJ Clancy Reserve on Friday, October 9th commencing at 10am. The morning will include trivia sessions, singing and refreshments. Looking forward to seeing many of you there.

Our monthly lunch in August was at the Open House Cafe in Wallan, where we enjoyed a variety of delicious and well priced meals. Our September lunch was held at Hogans Hotel in Wallan, where I think we had a record number of members in attendance, once again, delicious food at affordable prices. The venue for next month is The Rose Cafe in Kilmore.

Our Pilates class is delighted to have our tutor, Tatiana, back from overseas. A trip which kept her away for quite some time. We're all so glad to have you back home Tatiana.

The trivia jackpot keeps growing higher and higher, and is well over \$200 at last count, it'll be a real bonus to the winning team the day they manage to answer it correctly. We salute you John, for the great effort you put into producing each monthly trivia session.

Just a heads up about our upcoming social, on November 6th at the Wallan Neighbourhood House from 6pm onwards. We are looking forward to dancing to music provided by local celebrity Noel Pearson, and listening to Noel's dulcet tones as he sings many favourite and familiar tunes. As usual, pizzas, tea and coffee will be provided and we ask attendees to bring a small dessert to share. Thank you Suzie, for organising the many raffle prizes for the night. The cost of entry is \$10 per person. Looking forward to seeing many of you attend.

For further information on our U3A Wallan classes & activities, please call John on 0413 083 089.

That's all for now. Bye till next time, Tina C

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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Horse Arenas, Retaining Walls

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★ Truck and Trailer ★ Float Hire

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A & J Metal Recyclers - ABN 67103013404

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(Established 1995)

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Adult Classes - Trick Training
Behaviour Problems



Workshops
Dog Park Etiquette
Intro to Agility
Dock Diving
Cross Country

Alfoxton Dog Centre

www.alfoxton.com.au

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

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Phone: Anne **0402 118929**

60 Junction Rd, Heathcote Junction, Vic

Alfoxton is a registered Domestic Animal Business - Mitchell Shire

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 29)

1. Hawaii
2. Mercury
3. Saturn
4. Bandit
5. Hogwarts School
6. Athens
7. Curling
8. A backbone
9. Gobblers
10. John Lennon
11. 365
12. A tittle
13. Belgium
14. Platypus

Weather Report

Heathcote Junction/Wandong September 2026

Spring has arrived and it is evident
in the gardens and extra family
activities. We have had a few more
warmer days, cool to cold nights
and very little rain.

Rain fell on only seven days
of the month.

Our supply dam Sunday Creek was
recorded at 80% on the 16th September
which is up from the same time last
year of 68% capacity.

Rainfall stats

September - 23.5 mls

Previous year - 37 mls

Average prev 10 years - 49 mls

Total this year - 645 mls

Total prev year - 467 mls

SUKODU solution

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



**Kilmore
&
District**

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

Can you believe we're already halfway through spring? The current wet spell might make it feel otherwise, but it's lovely to see so many beautiful spring blooms. As the days grow longer, it is a wonderful time to get out and about, enjoy the warmer weather and take part in the many activities on offer through U3A Kilmore and District.

Our Gardening and Luncheon Groups remain highly active, organising regular outings throughout the Shire. The convenors of both groups invest considerable effort in providing members with a diverse range of experiences. Each group offers members an opportunity to connect with others and share common interests, while the Gardening Group also facilitates the exchange of knowledge, plants, and seeds. Through these activities, members are encouraged to remain engaged, active and connected within the wider community, with plenty of opportunities to enjoy shared interests and make new friends. These groups are just two of the many ways U3A provides a welcoming and enriching experience for its members.

October brings us the Victorian Seniors Festival with lots of events happening throughout the state and not to forget the Seniors Card Holders nine days of free travel on public transport from 3rd to 11th October.

The Combined Kilmore U3A and Wallan U3A Members' Seniors Morning Tea will be held at the JJ Clancy Community Hub, Kellys Lane, Kilmore, on 9 October from 10 am. The event will feature the ever-popular general and music trivia competitions, followed by performances from the Kilmore Ukulele Group and the Wallan Choir. Everyone is then invited to enjoy a morning tea together. Although bringing a plate is not compulsory, guests are welcome to bring a favourite treat or something delicious to share.

Mitchell Shire Senior Festival Events are open to all and are being held on

22nd October – Broadford Hall 10am - Country Concert (bookings required).

27th October - Kilmore Soldiers Memorial Hall – 10.30am Morning Melodies

28th October - Greater Beveridge Community Centre – 10am - Morning Melodies

What is U3A you might ask!

U3A (University of the Third Age) is a community organisation that encourages lifelong learning, friendship and active ageing for people, particularly those over 50 who are no longer working full time. It offers a variety of classes, activities, interest groups and social opportunities in a friendly, welcoming environment, where members can learn new skills, share knowledge and stay socially connected.

In a nutshell: Learn, connect, share and enjoy life at every age! If you would like more information on what U3A Kilmore and District has on offer, please contact us at: info@u3akilmoreanddistrict.com.au or mobile 0436 331 395.

Till next time, Christina

WANDONG PUBLIC HALL

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



The Victorian State Election pre polling will occupy the hall full time from 30th October until 6th December. 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

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 2nd September with the following committee elected:

Christine Gordon (President), Allen Hall (Vice President), Linda Martin-Chew (Secretary) and David Moran (Treasurer).

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

Whittlesea Community Network

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



Spring has well and truly sprung! It's the perfect time to try something new! Call the office to book or you can head to the website and book online www.wchi.com.au

SAVE THE DATE

We have some exciting FREE events coming up in October so now is a great time to pop them on your calendar:

Bring your Bills Day – Friday 23rd October, 10am – 1pm

Got problems paying an energy bill? Not sure if you are on the best deal for you? It's time to do a review! Call us to make an appointment to sit with an expert and review your energy spend.

Call 9716 3361

Mobility Scooter Information Session – Friday 16th October 1.30pm at the Community Activity Centre. Thinking about getting a mobility scooter? Don't do anything until you speak to the experts!

Meditation for Mental Health

13th, 20th and 27th October and 10th November 11am – 12 Noon

Join us for gentle guided meditation for FREE at Whittlesea Community Activity Centre

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 Boxes are \$20 each 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

October 8th and 22nd 11.30am – 1.00pm Gold Coin Donation

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

Boat Licence

Get on the water safely! Students from 12 years are eligible (you must be 16+ for PWC endorsement) 17th October 9.00am – 1.00pm \$150 per person. 7th November 9.00am – 1.00pm \$150 per person

Fix it Friday – Friday 23rd October

Fix it Friday returns! 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, 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.

Kilmore Golf Club Inc.



Monthly Medal. This months Ladies winner was Helen Dennett with a score of 73
The 10th Annual Toyota Par 3 day was a huge success with 108 players registered. No one drove home in a new car and no one is \$1000 richer. The weather was perfect for golf so no excuses could be used at all. It was a busy day for the organisers but so nice to see a room full of happy players.

The Gordon Howell Bowl was held on Thursday Sept 24th after rescheduling from July due to poor weather and course conditions. Kilmore won the event followed by Lancefield on a countback. Sixty-five players entered the competition which was played on the short course

A Junior event was held at Kilmore on Sunday 27th with 42 young players taking part. There were parents from Gippsland, Benalla and Torquay

Australian Sports Foundation.

This campaign is still open for all to contribute to support Kilmore Golf Club. Last week a pipe burst costing the Club over \$2000 to repair. This used up our volunteers' time doing repairs when they were really needed on the course to catch up with course maintenance and keeping up with the spring growth. The pipes are old and need replacing and this costs money which is hard to find in such a small volunteer golf club. So, any amount of contribution will be most welcome. If we all work together great things can happen. You don't have to be a member to contribute and assist your local golf club.

Paying for your round of golf. There are now **4 ways to pay** for your round of golf. Now that the weather is getting warmer and the days longer there may be some incentive to get out and play a round of golf.

- The usual one is to pay cash using the Honesty box situated at the front of the golf
- The second way is to pay using direct debit (instructions on the window of the golf shop)
- QR code -also with instructions on the golf shop window
- GolfNow.com Book tee times 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
- Green fees are: \$25 weekdays & \$30 weekend for 9/18 holes

The course was closed from Monday 5th Oct – 9th due to coring

Don't forget our visiting **PGA professional Bryan Wearne** His contact number to arrange lessons is 0407844500

St John's Anglican Church, Wandong,

dedicated its new Memorial Garden on 22 June 2026. A beautiful bench has been generously donated by the Bayly family in loving memory of Michael Bayly. This peaceful space within the church grounds offers a place for quiet reflection, remembrance and prayer.

The Memorial Garden is now open to all members of the community who wish to rest the ashes of their loved ones in a sacred and peaceful place, or simply spend some quiet time reflecting, remembering and praying.

We warmly invite members of our local community to visit the garden, spend a moment in quietness, and find a place of peace, comfort and hope.





Our Town's Football Club

After another successful year coming to an end, we conducted our Annual general meeting. A new committee was installed with some new faces. The meeting was followed by our End of year presentation day. Hard work by the kids and adults was celebrated and plenty of trophies were awarded. Dodgem cars were a huge hit for both kids and parents alike. Proving you're never too old to ride the Dodgems.

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

Go Warriors!





WANDONG WARRIORS
JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

JOIN OUR TEAM

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



GREAT PEOPLE



REAL IMPACT



STRONGER TOGETHER

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

COACHES • MANAGERS • MEDICS

LET'S BUILD THE FUTURE TOGETHER!
GO WARRIORS!



WJFC EST. 2007

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LEADER Caravans



Sean O'Connell
0407 772 145



wandongjfc@gmail.com

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