THE NEW WOODEND STAR

Circulation of 3500 throughout
Woodend postal district, Newham, Hesket, Ashbourne,
North Woodend, Hanging Rock, Carlsruhe, Cobaw.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & *HAPPY NEW YEAR*

AN INITIATIVE OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WOODEND

December 2013 | A Monthly Community Periodical | First Published 1997 | Volume Seventeen No 11



Carols by Candlelight

Sunday 8th December

Australia is the home of Carols by Candlelight, a tradition started by radio announcer Norman Banks Melbourne's 3KZ in 1937. After Banks saw a woman listening to carols alone by candlelight, he decided to do something to relieve the loneliness and isolation some feel during the holidays. He announced a community carol singing, for anyone who wanted to join in. The concept has grown in popularity over the years and the recorded program is now broadcast the world over.

Proudly hosted by the Lions Club of Woodend, join us on Sunday 8th December and kick start the festive season with a program of traditional carols and Christmas songs.

This evening is sure to delight- especially when the main man himself- Santa comes to visit! Join together with your community for this fantastic evening which will be sure to get everyone in the festive spirit.

A free community event, the evening kicks off with a sausage sizzle commencing at 5.30pm, carols starting at 6.30pm at Buffalo Stadium, Forest Street Woodend. Paddle pops, candles and refreshments will be available throughout the evening to purchase.



Letters to Santa

Santa loves to get letters and drawings from children.

December is a busy time for Santa and his elves so the Lions Club of Woodend has offered to help.

Letters to Santa can be sent to PO Box 25 Woodend 3442.

Please enclose a self addressed envelope, so Santa can send a personalized return letter.

Submitted by Linda Healy, Sec. Woodend Lions

WOODEND PLAYGROUP inc

Best in state!

Woodend Playgroup is delighted to announce that it has been awarded the inaugural 'Playgroup of the Year' award by Playgroup Victoria, in addition to winning the Community Playgroup of the Year (5+ sessions) category.

In a unanimous decision, the judging panel determined that Woodend Playgroup's energetic approach to raising its community profile, which has led to an increase of over 140 per cent in enrolments this year alone, was an outstanding example of how Playgroups can help families connect within the community.



Woodend Playgroup mascot, 'Woody', poses with the Playgroup Victoria awards for Community Playgroup of the Year and 2013 Playgroup of the Year.

In addition, its active communication, commitment to further improving its Forest Street facility and its engagement with members through initiatives such as Bush Playgroup, which encourages parents and carers to explore the Macedon Ranges, all contributed to the result.

"It is an absolute privilege and an honour to have been recognised by Playgroup Victoria for this prestigious award, particularly given the calibre of the finalists who all do such wonderful work in their respective communities," said Faye Cormick, President of the Woodend Playgroup Committee.

"We are absolutely thrilled that Playgroup Victoria has acknowledged the effort we have gone to this year to make Woodend Playgroup a great place for our members to meet and connect."

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for their encouragement and feedback, the wider Woodend community who are so supportive of the work that we do and, of course, the team of dedicated volunteer mums on the committee who work tirelessly to make

continued on page 2



The New Woodend Star

An initiative of the Rotary Club of Woodend Inc.
The Bank, 75 High Street, Woodend, Vic. 3442
ABN 32 685 225 161 No. A0021518E

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Committee: Barry Napthine, Ivor Johnson, Claudia Green, Brendan Watters, Alexia Downie, Sue Macklin & Jane Watters

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Booking form available from The New Wooded Star website, go to: www.newwoodendstar.org.au. Please send completed forms to Alexia Downie via sales@collieroffice.com.au. Accounts queries can be made to Sue via nws@johnsonwoodend.com.au or on 5427 4089. Mail should be directed to: New Woodend Star, C/- The Bank, 75 High Street, Woodend 3442.

All bookings, artwork & content must be received by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

New Woodend Star 2014 Publication Dates

February	February 3	July	June 30
March	March 3	August	July 28
April	March 31	September	September 1
May	May 5	October	September 29
June	June 2	November	October 27
	December	December 1	

Changes to advertisements, new advertisements or cancellations must all be made by email or in writing. All advertisements will be placed and charged for until notified otherwise.

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Woodend Playgroup continued

Woodend Playgroup a great place for our kids to take their first steps towards a lifetime of learning and development," added Faye.

Woodend Playgroup's trophies from the awards ceremony will be proudly on display at its Christmas cake stall on Saturday 7 December in front of the Newsagency. Come along and say hello!

"On a final note, we wish all our members, volunteers and the greater Woodend community all the best for the festive season and a safe and prosperous New Year," added Faye.

Words and photo submitted by Laurissa Mailler

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY EVENT

Emergency Services Summer Safety Community Forum

You are invited to a very special public event organised by the Macedon Ranges very own community radio station 100.7 Highlands FM. This is a rare opportunity to listen to a panel of experts from the CFA, SES, Police, Macedon Ranges Shire and Landcare to discuss key issues in regards to Summer Safety and Emergency Management Planning. You will also have the chance to ask questions. The event will be broadcast as a community feature on Highlands FM. All are most welcome. Join us at Woodend Community Centre on Tuesday December 10 from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Submitted by Mike Dornau, 100.7 Highlands FM

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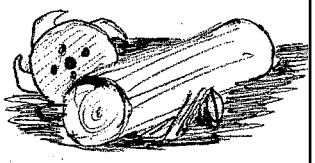
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Come one- come all! Woodend's grand Christmas Festival is on Saturday 7th December.

Featuring Buskers, Roaming Entertainers, Stalls and our famous Horse & Carriage rides.

Our local businesses will be offering instore specials on the day, making it a great opportunity to purchase your Christmas presents early and enjoy a fun filled day in Woodend. A great day out for the whole family.

Submitted by Woodend Business and Tourism Association









Stalls, entertainers and carriage rides, - fun for all

Woodend Rainfall Report 2013

Each month we add the rainfall details and the year to date total. Our rainfall report shows **2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 2012 and 2013** comparisons. Please note that your own rainfall readings may not exactly match these.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	
January	17.1	0.08*	54*	227.5	31	3.9	Jan
February	22.1	2.5*	71.5*	115.0	133	97.4	Feb
March	25.4	42.5*	121*	35	84	53	Mar
April	20.4	51*	45	63.5	35.5	20.5	April
May	43.7	30.5*	39	73.5	54.4	47.2	May
June	88.7	66.5*	98.5	69	126.8	147.8	June
July	112.5	76.5*	87.5	82.5	102	101.8	July
August	52.2	107.5*	148.5	56	113.7	116.4	Aug
September	42.0*	88.5*	97	98.5	54.6	85	Sept
October	13.0*	46*	154.5	86	39	75.6	Oct
November	67.2	99*	193	82	31.4		Nov
December	96.0*	60*	93	120	21.4		Dec
YTD:	***600.3***	***670.5***	***1202.5***	***1108.5***	***826.8***	***748.6 mm***	

For the year **to date at 31.10.2013** there was rainfall of **748.6 mm**

1 inch = 25.4 mm therefore the total year to date is 29.47 inches

Best in the state!

The New Woodend Star wins "Best Community Content" at state conference.

The New Woodend Star was in attendance at the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria's conference and Awards, hosted in Frankston.

With delegates from over 60 community papers coming together to review, learn and improve community journalism, the event culminated with the annual awards and dinner. Over 80 entries were received across 6 categories for this years awards.

The committee is thrilled to announce that The New Woodend Star took out the top honour of "Best Community Content".

The judging team commented "The positive tone in its articles is impressive and really sells the town. This reflects the wide community participation... especially as all content is written and submitted by local folk." "Look closely at the small items in this community-owned paper and find rich content."

It is a real thrill to receive this award, made all the more significant because it recognises the strength and involvement of this community- every one of The New Woodend Star's articles are written by the community, and thus- the uniqueness and diversity of our towns groups, clubs, associations and citizens is reflected throughout this paper.

To all the writer's, and the greater community, the committee of The New Woodend Star thanks you; and hopes you take as much joy in this award as we do.

Submitted by The New Woodend Star Committee



WE'RE STILL GROWING!

This month's edition is a massive **44** pages! We've come a long way since the first edition in 1997 of just 12 pages.



Thank you and Merry Christmas from Claudia, Barry, Sue, Brendan, Jane, Ivor and Alexia - The New Woodend Star Committee.

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Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group

The Summer Sessions

@ The Woodend Community Permaculture Garden

Following the success of The Spring Sessions, the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group are pleased to announce The Summer Sessions! The two free sessions will highlight useful and edible perennial plants for the veggie garden and provide some fantastic advice for engaging children in the garden.



Local young gardener, Banjo Ford, taking a break to brush up on his fruit tree knowledge.

Held in the Woodend Community Permaculture Garden on Saturday 7th December 2013, the Summer Sessions shall feature:

- 9.00 am: Perennial Plants In The Veggie Garden with Fleur Tysoe, Local Permaculture Gardening Expert. Perennial plants, such as rhubarb and globe artichokes, are great because they don't have to be replanted each year. Fleur will fill us in on useful perennials that enjoy the Woodend climate and provide some tips for extending the life of your annual plants. She has kept a capsicum plant growing in her greenhouse for 3 years!
- 9.30 am: Top Tips For Engaging Kids In The Garden with Brent Tonkin, Kitchen Garden Coordinator at Candlebark School. With the summer holidays just around the corner, it's the perfect time to get the kids outside and into the garden. They'll love getting their hands dirty and, with some of Brent's great suggestions, they'll be having so much fun they won't even know they're helping!
- 10 am: Home Produce Exchange and Morning Tea Bring along your excess home produce to swap with others. Swappable items include vegetables, fruit, seedlings, eggs, manure, bread, jams, chutneys, worm juice and much more!

The garden is located behind the Neighbourhood House, at 47 Forest Street. For more information and to register call Krista on 0408 204 449 or email kristafish@hotmail.com.

Words and photo submitted by Krista Patterson-Majoor.

A Sustainable Christmas

My family would laugh if they saw what I was writing here. Way back in the 1980's I gave them all a string bag for Christmas such was my awareness of sustainability back then. Now it is commonsense to take your reusable, non plastic bags to go shopping especially at Christmas time when multiple items are bought.

I put wrappings and cards and any other recyclables into the recycle bin. The reusable pieces are carefully folded and put away for next year (and used again if I can find them). I don't use wrapping paper - I reuse the brown paper bags with handles. I put my own decoration on them to make them look more festive. If I have time I make my own cards from recycled paper with a Christmas motive. A handmade gift is something special.

As for presents I may give 'nothing new'– by finding things in second hand goods shops or a donation for a woman to be able to start a small business would be a lasting gift for all concerned.

To learn more about the subject of sustainability, The Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group will be presenting its Sustainable Living Festival next year on February 8, 2014. 10am – 4pm. Applications are now open for individuals, businesses and community organisations to participate in this festival as exhibitors and presenters. MRSG would also like to hear from anyone interested in joining the 30-40 volunteers who help the festival become a reality. Please contact Alastair on 0412 178 408. You will find lots of cost saving, sustainable ideas from up to 50 exhibitors, interesting speakers, hot food and great music.

Submitted by Nea Gyorffy

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Woodend RSL Report

Firstly, I must thank the local community and businesses for their co-operation and generosity during the 2013 Poppy Appeal. Woodend raised a total amount of $5413, which far exceeds last year. This money will be greatly appreciated by our needy veterans and their families across Australia. Well done and thank you to all.

The Woodend RSL Women's Auxiliary has started their annual Christmas Hamper Raffle and this also, is proving to be much larger than in previous years. Our Ladies would like to thank the local traders for their donations to the raffle. There are a total of eight hampers to be won this year and these will be drawn on our Dinner Night on 21st December. Tickets go on sale from 2nd December.

Local band 'The Wood 'ol Boys' will be holding another Blues night at the RSL Hall, on the 6th December. This follows their last two appearances here, when they had the place a rockin'. The band starts at 7.00pm and food is available as are refreshments.

Our final Dinner Night for this year is on 21st of December. Dinner will be served from 6.00pm and the entertainment is by The Decades. A cover charge of $5.00 on entry will buy you a chance in our Lucky Door prize. The Christmas Raffle will also be drawn on the night.

Join or renew your RSL membership by 31st December 2013 and go into the draw to win a Gold Service trip for two on the Indian Pacific. Contact RSL for details.

Submitted by Barry Meldrum, President

Woodend Rotary at work!

"It has been a hectic but promising half year," says President Les Eastcott who took over the reins in June this year. "The club is looking forward to the completion of the Rotary Community Exercise Track in the very near future. After nearly five years of planning and implementation, completion of the final phase will certainly come as a relief to those involved in the project."

Recently Woodend Rotary held its annual Halloween sausage sizzle and over 600 locals attended! "This event just gets bigger every year," said Les.

However, the club is not resting on its laurels. Community Services Director Stuart Bonnington said, "We have several exciting events in the pipeline."

Discussions have been held between Rotary and a Men's Shed Committee in the hope of establishing this very worthwhile community facility here in Woodend in the not too distant future.

A Vintage Motorcycle Event is planned for Saturday 5th April 2014 and several motorcycle clubs have promised their support with Woodend BATA also being involved. Stuart said, "This will be a first for the town of Woodend and will certainly give a boost to the traders if we have a large attendance."

Rotary hopes to support the Woodend Youth Festival planned for August 2014.

So watch this space for more news on these events in the New Year! The Rotary Club of Woodend wishes everyone a safe and Happy Christmas.

Submitted by Brendan Watters

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This Christmas, support a local producer...

Our local farmers' markets are fantastic places to shop anytime, but when Christmas comes around we encourage you to spend local on some high quality ingredients for your special meal & purchase delicious & handmade goods for your loved ones Christmas stockings...

Pasture grazed meats - beef, pork, Christmas hams, organic turkey, goat, lamb & chicken. Organic & spray free vegetables. Fine regional wines. Handmade cheeses. Smallgoods & snacks. Taste the difference when you buy fresh & local!

Gift ideas include; award winning Macedon Ranges, Heathcote & Sunbury region wines, fresh pressed extra virgin olive oils, preserves with flavour, cordials, cut flowers, rare plants, hand knits, quality honey, sweet treats, skin care items, essential oils & more.

Macedon Ranges Farmers' Markets host many local farmers & producers each week in our region. Show your support - ditch the factory farmed, mass produced chemical laden items & try hosting an 'ethical' Christmas this year.

Woodend Community Farmers' Market - 7th December - 0407 860 320
Riddells Creek Farmers' Market (Special twilight market) - 13th December (Friday night 5-8pm) - 0419 523 324
Kyneton Farmers' Market - 14th December - 54 221 025
Lancefield & District Farmers' Market - 21st December - 0407 860 320

Submitted by Meggs Hannes

Bullseye at 1st Woodend

On a beautiful sunny day the Tuckonie Scout Troop (1st Woodend) had great fun learning about archery with the Chewton Bowmen. After being kitted out with all the necessary equipment, the keen scouts were provided with expert instruction on the safe use of bows and then were set the challenge of shooting balloons. We have many sharp shooters as there were bullseyes and bursting balloons aplenty!



After the day's archery the scouts and the club members shared a barbeque lunch together. All up an enjoyable day of fun amongst friends new and old. A special thankyou to the Chewton Bowmen (and woman) who gave their time so our scouts could have a unique experience.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of our community for their ongoing support of 1st Woodend Scout Group, and also wish everyone a merry Christmas and safe and happy New Year.

Enquiries regarding 1st Woodend Joeys (6-7 years), Cubs (8-10 years), Scouts (11-14 years), Venturers (15-17 years), Rovers (18-25 years) and Adult Leadership opportunities please contact Dr Roger Neill (0434 562 299).

Submitted by Leisa Macartney

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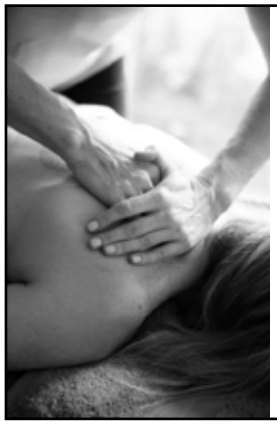
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"Juliana took on a case a lot of solicitors wouldn't have. Juliana listens, gives honest advice and got a good result." K.B. Bendigo May 2013



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Muscles Move Bones!

The thing to remember about this is that stiff and sore muscles definitely do not move bones anywhere near as efficiently and as well as soft, strong, supple muscles.

Submitted by Sharon Velo

Equine Tension Release Therapist

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Christmas Services at our local Churches

Celebrate Christmas at any of our local churches: They will be most welcoming

St Andrews Uniting Parish

- Christmas Eve Carols 7.30pm Tylden Uniting Church
- Christmas Day Worship 9.30am Woodend Uniting Church

Encourage Church

- 24th December 7.30pm at 7 Mitchell Court Romsey

St Ambrose Catholic Church

- Sunday 15th, Christmas Carols Service, 5pm
- Wednesday 18th, Parish Reconciliation Service, 7.30pm
- Tuesday 24th, Mass 6.30 pm, Carols 9.00 pm, Mass 10.00pm
- Wednesday 25th December, Mass 9.00 am

St Mary's Anglican Church

- Sunday 22nd St George Trentham, Advent Carols 9am
- Christmas Eve - 6pm Crib & Carol Service, 10pm Christmas Communion
- Christmas Day 9am Christmas Communion, St George
- Christmas Day 10.30am Christmas Communion, St Mary's

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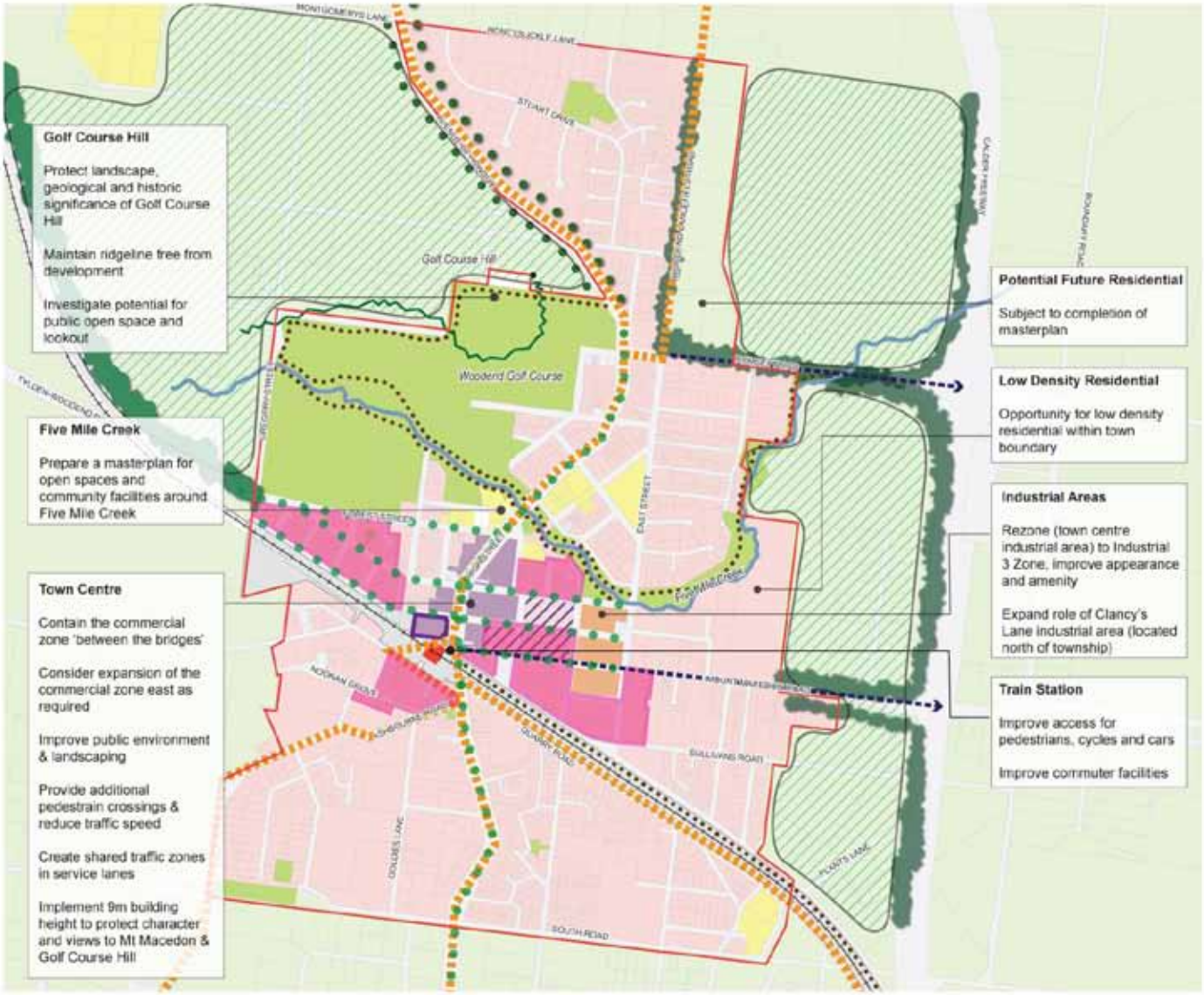
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Draft Woodend Town Structure Plan—Strategic Framework Map

For the full colour map with legend, visit www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/woodend-structure-plan



The draft plan is also available to inspect at each of Council's service centres at Woodend, Gisborne, Romsey and Kyneton.

Written submissions in response to the draft plan are being accepted until 10 December via strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au or post to PO Box 151, Kyneton VIC 3444.

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Woodend Town Plan released for comment

Council has released the draft Woodend Town Structure Plan and is inviting residents, landowners and government agencies to inspect the draft plan and submit comments by 10 December 2013.

The following is an excerpt from the plan's vision statement describing how future development will be managed in Woodend to 2036: "In the future Woodend will continue to be a town with:

- A distinctive village feel, where growth is managed and there is a clear town boundary.
- A sense of vibrancy; a town that provides jobs and services for local people, and opportunities for recreation.
- A strong connection to its highly valued landscape features and surrounding natural environment…"

The framework map to the left shows key strategic directions that will achieve the vision for Woodend to 2036.

The plan includes a neighbourhood character study, with guidelines for the seven identified 'character types' to ensure that future development respects features valued by the community.

The preparation of the draft plan has involved extensive consultation with residents, landowners, community groups and government agencies. Feedback received has helped to shape the plan.

The plan is available to inspect at each of Council's service centres at Woodend, Gisborne, Romsey and Kyneton and on Council's website www.mrsc.vic.gov.au-woodend-structure-plan.

Council is inviting written submissions until 10 December 2013. Submissions should be addressed to the Manager, Strategic Planning and Environment, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, PO Box 151, Kyneton VIC 3444 or emailed to strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au.

If you have any questions, please email mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au or call 5421 9660.

Gibert Gordan Oval

Council is also seeking community input into the draft Gilbert Gordon Oval Master Plan. The draft plan will guide the future development of the reserve and can be viewed at mrsc.vic.gov.au. Alternatively a hard copy is available for viewing at Council's Woodend service centre. Community input is invited until 24 January 2014 and any feedback or questions can be directed to 5421 1466 or mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au.

Submitted by G. Gamble, Communications and Public Relations Coordinator, Macedon Ranges Shire Council



Macedon Ranges Shire Council

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woodend wine store

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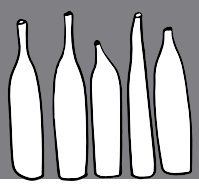
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75 HIGH ST WOODEND

Students support Cobaw's Learner Driver Program

Sacred Heart College VCAL recently supported the Cobaw Community Health L2P Learner Driver Program donating all proceeds from their black tie dinner.



The dinner on Friday 13 September was organised by Sacred Heart's VCAL students as part of their Certificate III studies in Events and catering was prepared and served by VET Certificate II Hospitality students.

The evening also entailed a silent auction with proceeds donated to L2P, and entertainment by local musicians Taylor Sheridan and Charlotte McKinnon.

"The L2P program relies on the additional support from the community. The funds generated from this event will contribute towards providing professional lessons for young drivers prior to heading out on the roads with an L2P volunteer," stated L2P Project Officer David Norris.

"It's great to see the young people at Sacred Heart College supporting other young people in their community to get their licence."

Thanks to Sacred Heart College for supporting this vital program and in turn the community.

The L2P Program is a Victorian Government road safety initiative that aims to help drivers under 21 who do not have access to a car or supervisor, to gain the on-road experience they need to prepare for solo driving. The program uses a mixture of professional lessons and driving sessions with volunteer supervisors to help the learners.

You can help a young person to get their car license, by donating to the L2P program. Donations will pay for additional driver training sessions and ensure as many young people as possible get to safely enjoy the freedom and opportunity that comes with a car license.

To make a donation, please visit www.givenow.com.au/macedonrangesl2p

Submitted by Amity Bradford , Cobaw Community Health



Highbury *etc.*

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Changes for Bodywise

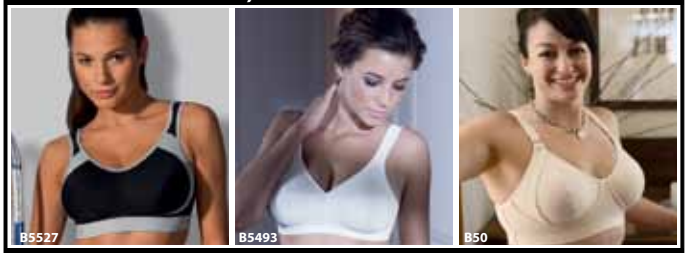
Bodywise Underwear is relocating. From 2/12/13, Bodywise will be office-based and no longer in a showroom. Your favourite bras and briefs can be ordered by phone, mail order or internet. Owners Jennifer and Irene are looking forward to a more flexible work-home life balance while still supporting their loyal customers. Simply phone through your order on 1300 66 17 66 to discuss options, or mail to PO Box 804, Woodend, or by web www.bodywise.com.au. Office hours 9 to 3 Monday to Friday.

Submitted by I O'Duffy

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Get healthy and active this summer

Take advantage of the warmer weather and make use of Council's pools, fitness and aquatic centres this summer to get healthy and active!

Summer intensive Learn to Swim program

Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre and Gisborne Aquatic Centre will be offering intensive swimming lessons over the summer. These half hour lessons are run over 5 days and are designed for children who need to improve their technique and to develop their skills further. These lessons are suitable for children aged 3 and up and cater to all swimming levels and abilities. The dates are: Week 1, 6-10 January, Week 2, 13-17 January and Week 3, 20-24 January.

The cost of the five day program is $71 and bookings are essential, please contact the Learn to Swim administrator on 5421 1477 (Kyneton) or 5421 1452 (Gisborne).

Outdoor pool open for summer

The Woodend outdoor pool will open from Saturday 30 November based on the following forecasts for Melbourne:

- Under 24 degrees – CLOSED
- 24-26 degrees: 3.30pm – 6pm (*opens 1.30pm during school holidays)
- 27-30 degrees: 11am – 6pm
- Over 30 degrees – Pool may stay open later depending on patronage numbers.

The above parameters are based on Council's Temperature Based Operating Policy. This policy, along with entry fee information, is available at www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/leisure.

On Code Red Days, the Woodend pool will be closed, as per Council's emergency management procedures.

Gym and swim membership specials

Get fit and save money this summer with one of our special membership offers available until 24 December at Gisborne Fitness Centre, Gisborne Aquatic Centre and Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre.

Offer 1 – 25% off all 12 month memberships

Offer 2 – buy any 3 month membership and get the 4th month free

Conditions apply, for more information please contact Council on 5422 0333 and ask to be put through to the relevant centre.

Submitted by G. Gamble, Communications and Public Relations Coordinator, Macedon Ranges Shire Council I

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Woodend Landcare

MRIMAG

Macedon Ranges Indian Myna Action Group

Our Indian Myna trapping program has begun in earnest. Members have made 60 traps, and our busiest period this year yielded 121 birds from just 17 traps. We have trappers now in Woodend, Gisborne and Kyneton.

It's almost impossible not to notice the Indian Myna. You'll see them in thuggish groups on the ground, resting on power lines and prowling shops and schools. They are assertive and aggressive. They take over nest boxes and displace native birds and animals, particularly hollow-nesting species. Mynas are capable of evicting large birds such as Kookaburras and Rosellas from their nests. Indian Mynas are native to the Indian sub-continent and were introduced to Australia in the 1860s to control insect pests. They are now one of the 100 most invading species in the world.



While enticing Mynas to our traps is easy enough, our job is made that much harder when the birds have easy access to other food in the neighbourhood. You can help us to stop the invasion:

- Stop leaving birdseed out for native birds as soon as you see Mynas at your feeder or in the garden. They will quickly dominate.
- Feed pets inside, or put pet food inside during the day.
- Clean up spills and leftovers.
- Feed chooks in a secure pen so Mynas can't get to the food.

And of course, if you'd like to take part in our trapping program, please drop us a line at woodendlandcare@gmail.com or call Ron on 0407 661 129.

Submitted by Kate Daniel

Truck & Bobcat Hire



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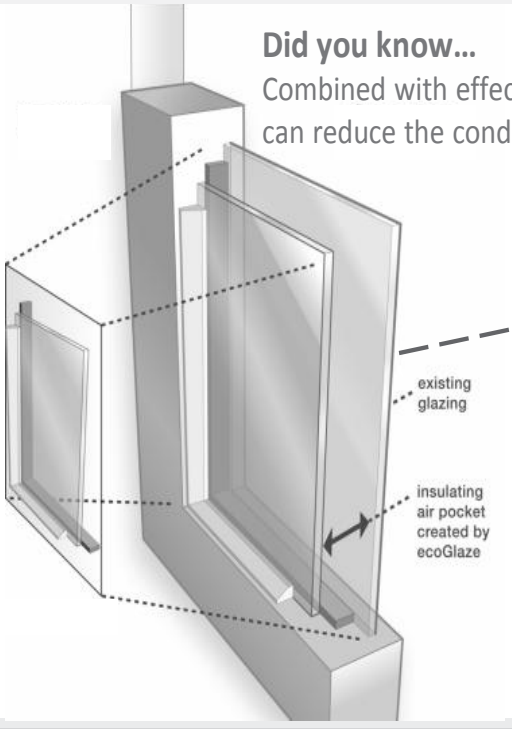
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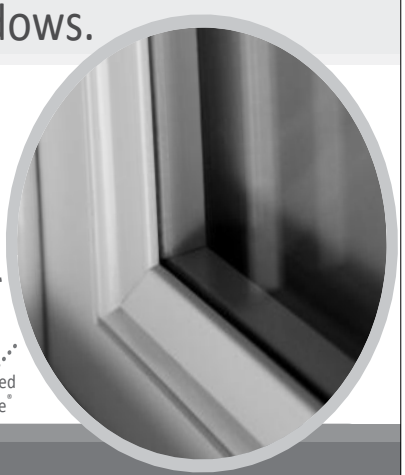


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Christmas

God created humans in his own image, according to his own likeness; male and female he created them. And God observed them closely, these magnificent creatures he had made, they were his masterwork. God watched them laughing and weeping, falling asleep and falling in love, writing poems, getting dressed, eating and drinking, making music and playing cricket – and God loved it, right down to their little finger.

And God said, let us go down among them, let us become one of them. God wanted to move into their community. God wanted to know what it would be like to be a real living breathing human being. And God wanted them to see what he was really like. God wanted them to see his glory and his love for them with their own eyes.

But what sort of human should God become? That was a difficult one. So God considered all the different aspects of human life, trying each one, the way we try on many pairs of shoes until we find the perfect fit.

And then all of a sudden, God remembered exactly what he had in mind.

Those little creatures – the man cubs – the ones with scuffed up knees, and dirty faces, the ones full of spirit, full of life ready to explore, the ones who dig up worms to see how they taste, the ones who fart and burp and make terrible noises, and leave their mothers disgusted with their behaviour. As God watched them, God was smiling and laughing: for this was exactly what he wanted. A human who would stoop down and get dirty, someone unafraid to get involved in all of those messy situations of life.

And so it was that on that Christmas morning so long ago that God, the master of the universe, became a baby boy.

Merry Christmas.

Rev. Andrew Gall, Minister of Gisborne, Tylden and Woodend Uniting Churches.

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VICTORIA POLICE

Local Police targeting impaired drivers

Local police will be out in force over the coming weeks in support of the state wide road policing initiative, Operation RAID (Remove All Impaired Drivers). Operation RAID will see increased emphasis on breath testing of drivers in the lead up to the holiday period. Operation RAID, which runs from 15 November to 8 December, will involve substantial increases in the amount of random breath testing and random drug testing on local roads. Local Area Commander, Inspector Ryan Irwin, warned drivers that the amount of testing is set to double in coming weeks. "We know this is a high risk time on our roads and we will be making every effort to ensure that people get to enjoy Christmas with their loved ones".

"If people want to consume alcohol as part of their work Christmas functions or other social events they need to drink responsibly and in safe levels. Plan ahead to make sure you have a designated driver or access to some other form of transport such as taxis, courtesy buses or public transport to ensure you don't risk your safety or that of other road users." Inspector Irwin said.

Inspector Irwin also urged drivers to remember that the penalty for using a mobile phone while driving will increase as of 25 November.

continued on page 13



continued from page 13

Victoria Police continued

The new penalty for this offence will be a fine of $433 (up from $289) and an increase in demerit points from 3 to 4 points.

"Distraction has emerged as one of biggest safety risks on our roads and the new penalties reflect that government recognise this. We will be strictly enforcing this offence and drivers who seek to take risks need to know they have more to lose if they are found offending," Inspector Irwin said.

Police will be conducting further high profile road policing Operations over the summer period including:

- Operation Break Up: 9 to 22 December – A state-wide pre-Christmas operation with focus on alcohol.
- Operation Crossroads: 23 December to 3 January – A national operation with particular focus on alcohol, drugs, speed, fatigue and distraction and holiday driving.
- Operation Fresh Start: 4 to 5 January 2012 – A state-wide post-Christmas operation focused around holiday driving.

Submitted by Victoria Police, Macedon Ranges Police Service Area

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Marriage Celebrant



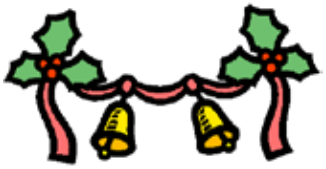
Patsy Buckland m: 0437 179 078
www.allmarriagecelebrations.com
Located in Woodend

Merry Christmas
from Riverwood Group

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy, safe and prosperous New Year from the team at Riverwood Group

Our office will be closed from Tuesday 24 December, reopening Monday 6th January 2014.

We look forward to assisting you with your Business Services, Taxation, Superannuation and Business Planning requirements in the New Year.



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Accountants, Advisors & Planners
111 High Street Woodend
2/19 Bourke Street Kilmore
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www.riverwoodgroup.com.au
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RIVERWOOD GROUP



Seasons Greetings

Wishing you a safe and fantastic festive season and a very happy new year for 2014!

I look forward to continuing to being of assistance to you in 2014 for any State Government issues and queries. Please feel free to drop in to my new office in Woodend.

Amanda Millar MP
Member of Legislative Council for Northern Victoria
80 High Street Woodend
Tel: 5427 2444
Email: amanda.millar@parliament.vic.gov.au



Woodend SES

As the festive season fast approaches, it's a good time to reflect on the year that's been for the Woodend's SES Unit and members.

Job Stats

This calendar year has seen the Woodend Unit called to over 210 calls for assistance (121 this financial year). This has been quite varied from road crash rescues, storm and wind damage, floods, searches for missing persons, assisting the ambulance service with casualty handling and many others.

Membership and Training

Membership has steadily increased with 26 active members and an average of 4 per month enquiring about joining.

With training every Monday night along with additional training over weekends, this is a big commitment but we're still averaging 15 members to each weekly session which is a great refection on the dedication of the members.

Fundraising

In late 2012, due to a vehicle safety recall, the Unit was forced to take one rapid response vehicle off the road permanently. This has left us down a vehicle for the entire year which has proved challenging at times whilst we began the massive fundraising campaign to replace this vehicle.

After a lot of research, we decided on a Mercedes Benz Sprinter (in a light truck configuration). The challenge was raising the $153,000 needed to purchase it!

But undaunted, through the Woodend Star as well as various PR events, members raised $85,000 in 6 months!





And in October, we were notified that we were successful in obtaining a State Government grant of $100,000 towards the truck! This is an amazing effort and a huge thank you is due to everyone who assisted with donations.

What's in store for 2014?

First and foremost, the purchase and set up of the new truck is well underway with it due sometime in mid-2014.

With the funds raised, this will give us the opportunity to explore the changeover of another vehicle which is close to its service life limit.

We need to continue the momentum with recruitment and training to meet the increased demand for our services and we need to continue to foster good working relationships with the other emergency services around our entire response area.

Interested in joining us?

Go to www.ses.vic.gov.au, call 5427 2932 or visit the station in Urquhart Street on Monday evenings.

Submitted by L Dam, Woodend SES



Summertime blues for Woodend

This summer in Woodend promises to be an exciting one for all who love goodtime live music and dancing. After all, who really doesn't?

The Woodend RSL and Holgates Brewhouse have had regular bands on Fridays and Sundays respectively over the past two months with great turnouts and wonderful local live music. Many locals have expressed their joy at the Woodend musical drought being broken. We're gonna raise a fuss and we're gonna raise a holler this summer to celebrate.

Most people are not aware of the depth of local musical talent in our region, but now you will all get a chance to find out for yourselves. Catch The Forty Thieves at Holgates every second Sunday of the month and also The Wood Ol' Boys (Blues Brothers pun intended) strut their funky rockin' blues at the Woodend RSL on the first Friday of every month. The Wood Ol' Boys are also tipped to play alternate Sundays at Holgates from January. The Wood Ol' Boys were the highlight of the Hesket CFA fundraiser held in November as well as having over 200 people rocking Cammeray Waters at the Wombat 24.

So this is your chance to see the boys at the biggest Woodend stomp of the year!

The Wood Ol' Boys play the RSL on December 6th doors open at 7pm. 3 Hours of blues, Great food and cheap drinks at the bar. $5 entry, kids free and welcome, book a table by calling 5427 3122

Submitted by Craig Madden



Are you fire ready?

Bushfire seasonal outlook

A recent report from the CFA has indicated that the 2013–2014 bushfire season is likely to be average to above average in much of Victoria. High flammability is expected around the Wombat Forest due to the significant underlying dryness and the residual effects of prolonged bursts of heat from last summer.

If you live in a high-risk bushfire area, you are encouraged to attend your local Fire Ready Victoria meeting to find out more about current and projected conditions, and get advice on bushfire preparation and survival. Visit the CFA website at cfa.vic.gov.au to find out about a meeting happening in a town near you. If you belong to a community group or club, you can contact the CFA on 1800 735 202 to arrange a tailored fire safety session for your members.

Do you have a bushfire survival plan?

Understanding your level of risk is the first step in developing your bushfire survival plan. Research shows that many people living in high-risk areas that are threatened by bushfire will leave it too late to make critical decisions, often leaving them with very few safe options. In high-risk areas, leaving early is your safest option, particularly on Code Red, Extreme and Severe fire danger days.

You should consider:

- Where will you go?
- Have you packed an emergency kit?
- What about your animals? Like people, animals can be extremely traumatised in the event of a disaster, so make sure your plan includes the welfare of your pets and livestock.

To help you to prepare your property and household in the event of an emergency call into a Council service centre and pick up a free Community Emergency Preparation Planner.

Tips for staying safe this summer

To ensure you have a safe and enjoyable time this summer, take the time to prepare now by:

- Downloading the "Can I, Can't I" brochure from the CFA website, cfa.vic.gov.au, to find out what you can and can't do during the fire danger period
- Preparing a bushfire survival plan
- Attending your local Fire Read meeting
- Downloading the CFA's Fire Ready app from the CFA website to your smartphone or tablet device and use it to stay up-to-date with local Fire Danger Ratings and Total Fire Bans

Don't forget to search for Macedon Ranges Emergency Alerts on Facebook and "like" our page. This Council-managed page provides tips on preparing for and responding to an emergency in your town or region, such as fire, flood or heatwave. It does not replace official emergency alerts from the CFA, Victoria Police or SES.

Remember, being fire ready is everyone's responsibility, so make sure you take the time to prepare yourself, your family, your animals and your property so that you can stay safe this summer.

Submitted by G Gamble, Communications and Public Relations Coordinator, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 7

Ceviche of scallops
Eye fillet of beef with horseradish and a potato galette
Cherry soup with almond madeleines and sour cream
icecream

Saturday, December 14

Moules marinières
Ballotine of chicken with Lyonnaise sausage
Cherry frangipane with Kirsch icecream

Saturday, December 21

Corn blini with cured salmon
and creme frâiche
Rack of lamb with ratatouille
Michael Staedtlanders' Cherry clafoutis

Saturday, December 28

Chicken liver pâté with cornichon
Seared breast of duck with walnuts and figs
Pot de créme with macerated cherries

NEW YEARS EVE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Goat cheese cappalletti in tomato broth
Cotechino with lentils and mustard fruit
Eye fillet of beef and marsala jus
Boschetto al Tartufo
Hazelnut and caramel semifreddo with poached white peaches

HOLIDAY HOURS

CLOSED
December 23, 24, 25, 26
Wedensday, January 1
OPEN
Friday, December 27

JANUARY HOURS

Monday - Saturday
8.30 - 4pm

P.S. Coming in 2014 -
SUNDAY ROASTS
with all the fixings.
The 3rd Sunday of each month in 2014!

We wish to give thanks to our staff for a fabulous year at Colenso. We cannot do the work without them and we are grateful for their ways. Andrew, Carl, Emerson, Gurpreet, James, Jack, Matt, Mikhaela & Sebastian.
We have also had a delightful time discovering new producers and suppliers and thank them for the work they do which takes nerves of steel and a tenacious pact with nature.
We also thank you. Thank you for reading this ad, Thank you for hanging it on your fridge. Thank you for joining us throughout the year.
We continue to make little changes and improvements that will keep Colenso a buoyant little spot of intrigue for years to come.
Our best wishes to you all for the holidays and the year ahead.
Hal & Kathryn

COLENSO

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Ph.5427 2007

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SINGLES NIGHT with DJ
December 7

XMAS BASH - STRAIGHT SHOOTERS - Classic Pub Rock
December 21

2014
AUSTRALIA DAY
KINGS OF OZ - Classic Aussie Rock
January 25

Closed from 23rd December till 2nd January

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facebook: Macedon Railway Hotel

The Village Larder Saturday Night Menu

To Start or Share

Sea Salt and Sesame Crisp Bread $7

Spiced Almonds $7

Warm marinated Mt Zero Olives $7

Coffin Bay Oysters with Native Finger Lime
½ Dozen $18
1 Dozen $29

Melon with thinly sliced16 month aged Parma Ham, Green Olive, Orange and Walnut Salsa $12.5

Broth of Porcini, roasted Garlic and Chicken Tortellini $12.5

Spiced Cauliflower Fritters ~ Green Chilli, Nigella & Sesame Seeds, Coriander & crispy fried Shallots $12.5

Share Plate ~ Labneh Cheese with Hazelnut Dukkah $25
Chickpea Fries
Garlic rubbed Pide Bread
Roasted Red Pepper & Tomato Salad
Mt Zero Olives

Mains

Warm Salad of Burrata Cheese, lightly pickled Organic Carrots, toasted Almonds, Tarragon & wild Figs with Sea Salt and Sesame Crisp Bread $25

Golden baked Brooke Trout with a Moroccan style Potato, Green Olive & Roasted Pepper Salsa $32

Oven roasted Chicken with Tallegio Arancini, crispy Chorizo & Green Pea Salad $27

Grilled dry aged Scotch, roasted Beetroot & Radicchio Salad with Pomegranate Dressing & 'Tarwin' Blue Cheese Sauce $29

Sides

Rosemary Salted Potatoes with Garlic Aioli $6

Chickpea Fries $6

Green Salad $6

Cheese

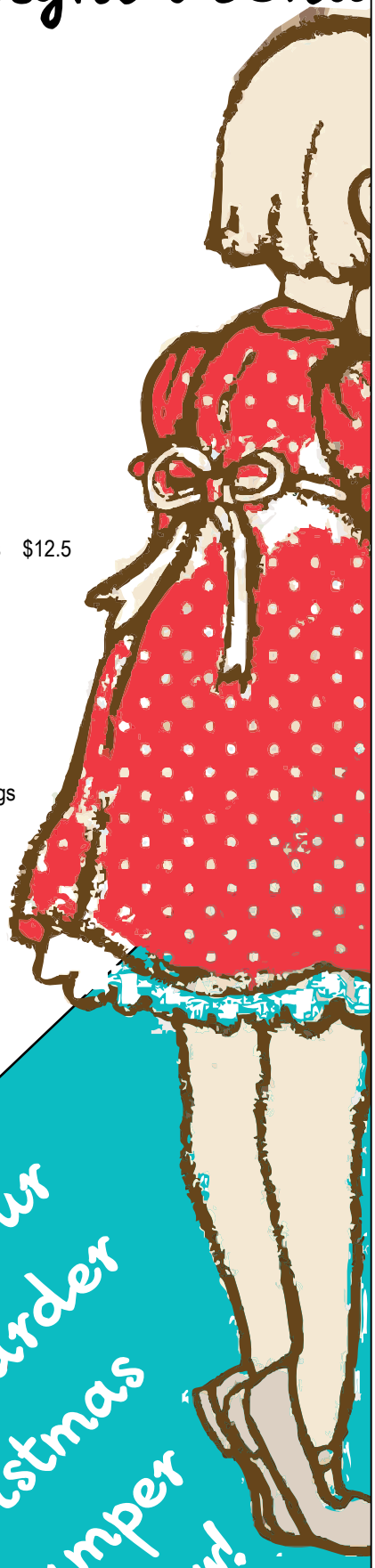
~ Conquerant Camembert with wild dried Figs, poached dried Apple, Oat Biscuits $13
~ Berry's Creek 'Tarwin' Blue with Strawberries, Apples, toasted Walnuts, Oat Biscuits $13

Desserts

Honey poached Pears with Rice Pudding Ice Cream, Saffron Fairy Floss, Sugar Cigar $13

Lemon Curd Profiterole, Rhubarb & Pistachio Praline $13

Baked Golden Syrup Dumplings with Vanilla Bean Ice Cream $11



Order your Village Larder Christmas Hamper now!

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Your Hands Can Help You Talk

Woodend Paediatric Speech Pathology Services

Let's face it - most of us chat a lot, whether over coffee, over a neighbour's fence or over the dinner table at the end of the day.

But, have you ever noticed how much you use hand gestures, facial expression and body language when chatting with a friend? I once caught sight of myself in a shop window and thought I'd missed my calling as an air traffic controller waving the planes in on the deck of an aircraft carrier.

I shouldn't have been surprised as about 60 per cent of our 'social communication' is exchanged non-verbally through the use of body language, facial expression and hand gesture, in conjunction with speech.

As speech pathologists we have been harnessing the power of hand gestures for decades to help children with communication difficulties to develop speech.

Key Word Sign is a particular technique that we use at Woodend Paediatric Speech Pathology Services. It uses simplified hand shapes and movements together with words to develop speech.

Key Word Sign is different to signing used by the deaf community in that 'speech' must be used by the carer when he or she models the signs to the child, and only the key words in a message are signed.

There are 4 main reasons for using signing:

- to help a child understand what is being said;
- an interim step if speech is slow to develop;
- a way of supplementing speech attempts;
- an alternative to speech if no speech develops.

Speech pathologists at Woodend Paediatric Speech Pathology Services can assess, advise and assist parents and carers concerned with their child's ability to communicate. Key Word Sign is just one specialized area of early intervention that has been proven to reduce frustration and positively encourage the development of spoken language.

Other speech and language areas that the speech pathologists at Woodend Paediatric Speech Pathology Services can assist you with include; articulation/phonological disorders (speech intelligibility), receptive language skills (understanding of language), expressive language skills (grammar, sentence structure, vocabulary), prereading and early literacy skills, stuttering, voice disorders, and social language/pragmatic skills.

For more information contact Woodend Paediatric Speech Pathology Services, 81G High Street, Woodend on 5427 3309

Writtin by Sarah Timms, Speech Pathologist, Submitted by Rhonda Hill (Speech Pathologist)

Woodend
Paediatric Speech Pathology Services



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RECOGNISING WOODEND'S STAR volunteers

Andrew and Julie Wilson-Annan
Volunteers with CFA, Great Place Woodend, Woodend Children's Park and Woodend Neighbourhood House.

Andrew and Julie came from the United Kingdom to Melbourne in 1999. Julie had received a fellowship to work as a cancer medical researcher at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Parkville. Originally their plan was to stay for three years on a working holiday. During their first year they decided to apply for permanent residency and began looking for a place to call home. They moved to Woodend during 2002, and their two daughters Olivia and Charlotte were born in 2003 and 2004.



In their very first week of living in Woodend they attended a Community Fireguard Meeting. Both are happy to admit they knew very little about fire danger, had never heard of Ash Wednesday, and were relatively oblivious to the fire risks faced by a community like Woodend. Andrew joined the CFA before the meeting had ended and Julie also joined as a fire-fighter 12 months later. Over the years Julie and Andrew have shared their CFA call out duties as a partnership. One would attend a fire while the other stayed home with the girls. Many strong bonds have been created over the years of hard work, and long hours spent together with their CFA colleagues. Julie says the other CFA members "are like a family to us". One of our Woodend vehicles was the first CFA vehicle to enter Kinglake after the Black Saturday bushfires had passed through. Andrew was deployed in this vehicle and the images of that day have obviously left an indelible mark on his character. With the support of his then employer, ANZ Bank, Andrew had the opportunity to work as a volunteer on the redraft of the Economic Development Plan for Murrindindi Shire Council that included Kinglake and Marysville. Andrew says this was a cathartic experience which allowed him to come to terms with his emotions regarding Black Saturday; "I needed to really do something to help those communities".

Discussions with friends about the process of re-building the Kinglake and Marysville communities, led Andrew to give a lot of thought to the potential resilience of Woodend under similar circumstances. These discussions became part of the foundation of the organisation Great Place Woodend. This organisation aims to protect and enhance the community values of Woodend; and provide critical communication and co-ordinate links

continued on page 22



continued from page 21

Volunteer profile- Andrew & Julie Wilson Annan

between government, business, and community stake holders. (FaceBook "Great Place Woodend" to learn more infomation.) Andrew has also participated in the prestigious Williamson Community Leadership Program run by Leadership Victoria. Applications for this year-long programme are highly competitive and provide an innovative learning and networking opportunity, which has continued to inspire Andrew in his volunteer work.

Julie's volunteer work has also seen her serve on the Woodend Playgroup Committee. She became a much admired and valued fundraising, event manager and committee member of the Woodend Children's Park group; raising funds for the CFA & Cambodian Kids; and has also served as a long term Board Member of the Woodend Neighbourhood House. During a recent change of management, Julie stepped in to the Neighbourhood House co-ordinators role for 12 months, and was instrumental in updating and re-focusing the policies and procedures for this important community facility. Julie says she gets a wonderful sense of community from volunteering with all these organisations, but her work with the CFA is also motivated by somewhat selfish factors. "What I mostly get back from it is the element of personal challenge. I had always had intellectual challenges in my life, but this was physically challenging, and I also had to overcome my fears".

The commitment of Andrew and Julie to the community life of Woodend is truly remarkable. Individually they are, accomplished, dedicated and well respected individuals; and together they make a dynamic team. The organisations they play integral roles in will continue to make profound and long term positive change for our community.

"Woodend Connections – Volunteer Network" is an initiative of the Woodend Neighbourhood House. If you are interested in volunteering in Woodend, or would like your organisation to be involved, contact Lisa Richards or Janet Pearce on 5427 1845 or www.woodendnh.org.au .

PS. Did you know the Woodend Fire Station is not air-conditioned? Julie told me a story of waiting at the station on a 40 degree plus day. Dressed ready for action, the only way our fire-fighters could escape the heat was to spread out flat on the concrete floor of the empty truck bay. If you would like to support our local CFA you can contact them at: Woodend CFA, Urquhart Street, Woodend or www.woodendcfa.org.

Written by Marion Coulson.

In conjunction with Woodend Neighbourhood House, The New Woodend Star will feature some of the wonderful volunteers who contribute so much to our community.
If you would like to highlight the actions of a volunteer you know - email sales@collieroffice.com.au for more information.



Life & Fork
inspire learn share

Pop Up Christmas Cooking Classes

Be prepared to leave with recipes, new friends and full bellies.
@ $40 per person 7.00 – 9.00pm

5th December

Duck and Christmas Essentials
Ethic p: 5427 1998

19th December

Seafood at your table
Colliban Food Store Trentham
p: 5424 1774

Kids Wow Parents With Three-Course Feast



Local children proudly showed off their expanding culinary skills on November 16th at a Christmas lunch cooked for their parents in Woodend.

Following a year of in-depth classes with Erica Crowther of Life and Fork Cooking School, they were well and truly prepared to triumph in the kitchen for this special finale to their term of learning.

"Parents were truly amazed at the knowledge and understanding the children developed over the term," said Erica. "We believe children can and want to learn real skills—from how to use a knife properly to cooking the perfect steak and complex dishes; from understanding the science behind various cooking methods to incorporating history, mathematics, literacy & languages in the kitchen."

With canapés offered to their parents on arrival, followed by a three-course meal consisting of beetroot carpaccio with feta and walnut dressing, beef wellington and lemon tart, the Christmas finale offered the chance for families to really see and celebrate what their children had been learning.

Passing on her passion for food, Erica offers classes that are fun, confidence building, innovative and affordable. Through extensive travel and expertise gained over 25 years—it's easy to see how her pupils have been inspired into the family kitchen outside of her classroom.

"The most rewarding feedback I get is that the children are taking on cooking for the family on a regular basis," said Erica. "I believe it is really important to set our children up with the skills to cook affordable, nutritious and delicious meals for life."

Erica offers classes for children, adults, experts and novices through Life and Fork Cooking School and Woodend Neighbourhood House. She also offers a personal chef service. You can find more information and contact details at www.lifeandforkcookingschool.com.au. Subscribe to her quarterly newsletter for information about upcoming classes, special offers and a recipe focusing on local seasonal produce.

t: Erica 0458440733 | e: erica@lifeandforkcookingschool.com.au | w: lifeandforkcookingschool.com.au

After nearly 7 years, it's time for Zappa-do to zip!

It was way back in 2007 that I made the dramatic lifestyle change to stop being a primary school teacher and become the owner of a store in beautiful Woodend. Since then I have transformed Zappa-do into a bustling 'baby and you' business. It has evolved into a delightful gift shop for mothers, babies and toddlers … but it's time for me to call it a day and retire.



The sad news is that we are closing, but the good news is that I have to clear out everything in store by the end of December. Absolutely everything will be on sale for HALF PRICE – 50% off children's clothes and pajamas, babywear, toys, hand cream, knitting wool and patterns, ladies nighties and more. Some oddments will be even less than half price. I am also selling all fittings and furniture at half price as well. So, this is a fantastic chance for you to pick up a great value Christmas gift or just a real bargain.

I look back on my lovely customers and their growing children with a smile. Though I will miss your visits and chats (love that about Woodend), I'm looking forward to the freedom of retirement, and yet another change of lifestyle. You are all invited to help me clear out the shop (everything at half price) or just pop in to say hello or Merry Christmas.

Anne at Zappa-do

ZAPPA-DO
HALF PRICE
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EVERYTHING



We are clearing out everything in store at Half Price in December. ALL stock and fittings are on sale … until sold out. A perfect chance for a great value Christmas gift or a fantastic bargain. Everything must go - don't miss out!

ALL STOCK ON SALE
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Shop 3/87 High Street, Woodend • Telephone 5427 1270

Activities at Buffalo Sports Stadium

Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Buffalo Sports Stadium would like to wish our patrons and association groups a very safe and Happy Christmas. Coming up in Term 4:

Kindergym Christmas Fun day

Friday 6 December, from 10.30am–11.30am, $9.20 per child. This is our last Kindergym class for 2013. Come along dressed in your favourite Christmas hat, it will be a fun filled hour, there will be a jumping castle, face painting, craft, entertainment by Pass the Parcel. Bookings not required, we would love to see you there. Classes start back Friday 7 February 2014.

Dance classes

Tiny Tackers/Studio 2 Mix , Hip Hop and Tap classes are currently preparing for their end of year concert to be held Wednesday 4 December 2013 at the Kyneton Town Hall. This will be a fantastic night. Enrolments are now open for 2014. Be quick as classes are filling fast.

Janes Gentle Exercise class

Tuesday morning from 10.30-11.30am, $5.70 per person. Come along, meet new friends and enjoy the benefits of gentle exercise.

We wish our volleyball and netball teams good luck coming up to the finals. Grand finals will take place in the first week of December at Buffalo Sports Stadium.

Boot Camp

For indoor boot camp fitness classes, call 5427 3411. Class days are Monday and Friday morning, 9.30am–10.30am.

Look out for details of our Circus school holiday program to be held in January, depending on numbers.

Submitted by G Gamble, Communications and Public Relations Coordinator, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Macedon Ranges Family Law

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Dec 2013 / Jan 2014

45 – 49 years: are you at risk?

Many people in this age range have a number of risk factors for chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, depression etc.

Medicare allows a once off health assessment for people aged 45 - 49 when they have one or more risk factors such as:

- Overweight or poor eating
- Limited or no exercise
- Smoking
- A family history of chronic disease
- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol etc.

Unfortunately, many people who are 45 – 49 already have one or more risk factors. The 45 health assessment can often help catch things early.

Give yourself a Christmas present - call reception and ask to be booked with an Allied Health team member and have your appointment linked to the doctor of your choice.

Fire risk policy

Brooke Street Medical Centre has a policy to keep its patients and staff as safe as possible.

For this reason, on "Code Red" days, the Practice will close.

The Practice shuts automatically on Code Red days - not Total Fire Ban days.

We urge all our patients to have a fire safety plan which should be activated early.

On Code RED
fire risk days
the Practice will be closed

A message will be left on our phone 5427 1002 regarding service contact details for urgent needs during our closure.

Outside of our normal business hours contact
After hours GP Helpline - tel. 1800 022 222

Always call 000 in a medical emergency



Christmas & New Year opening hours

Monday 23 Dec	9.00am – 8.00pm
Tuesday 24 Dec	9.00am - 5.00pm
Wednesday 25 Dec	**closed**
Thursday 26 Dec	9.00am-12.00 midday
Friday 27 Dec	9.00am - 5.30pm
Saturday 28 Dec	9.00am - 1.00pm
Sunday 29 Dec	9.00am - 1.00pm
Monday 30 Dec	9.00am – 5.30pm
Tuesday 31 Dec	9.00am - 5.00pm
Wednesday 1 Jan	**closed**
Thursday 2nd - Friday 10th January:	
Midweek	9.00am - 5.30pm
Weekend	9.00am – 1.00pm
From Monday 13 Jan	**usual business hours**

When the Practice is closed call:
After hours GP Helpline - tel. 1800 022 222
In a medical emergency
call an ambulance on **000**

We wish you & your family a safe and happy Christmas & New Year.



Brooke St. Medical Centre – tel. (03) 5427 1002

After hours GP Helpline - tel. 1800 022 222

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Genuine enquiries welcome via email
info@greenbeanmachine.com.au

Merry Christmas from Woodend Library

Woodend Library has again enjoyed a very busy year. We have increased our membership and loans, and offered a range of programs and activities. Highlights for the year include, of course, our Warm-up Woodend yarn-bombing of the town in cooperation with Macedon Ranges Shire and our wonderful band of volunteers, Children's Book Week shenanigans with Narelle Stone's 'Quirky Tales', our first and very successful adult author talk with Barbara Gaskell-Denvil, our book club information sessions, and our current celebrations commemorating 50 years of Dr Who.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our staff, volunteers, and Friends of the Macedon Ranges Libraries. Lulu and Susie would like to thank the community for your continued support. Our thanks and best wishes also go out to the Macedon Ranges Shire Customer Service Team at Woodend.

Christmas at Woodend Library promises to be a joyous occasion. Come and borrow from our display of Christmas books, magazines, and picture books.

Enjoy Christmas Craft @ Woodend Library with Virginia on 7 December. 10am: 3-5 year olds, 11am: school-aged children. bookings essential: phone 5427 2074, or see us in the library.

Christmas Craft @ Woodend Library will coincide with the Woodend Farmers' Market outside the library and the Woodend Traders' Christmas festival in the main street.

During January, Woodend Library will host holiday program activities for primary school aged children. Please check our website for details closer to the time.

Please note that Rhyme Time, Toddler Time and Story Time will finish up in the week beginning 9 December.

Woodend Library will close early on Christmas Eve and re-open for business on Wednesday 2 January, 2014.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Woodend Library! We look forward to another busy year!

Submitted by Susie Prestney,Woodend Library Manager

Woodend Red Cross

The next meeting of the Woodend Branch of Red Cross will be held on Thursday 5th December at 12 noon at 10 Adam Close Woodend. We will commence with our Christmas lunch and the meeting will follow. All new members are welcome. Enquiries to 5427 1742.

Submitted by Pauline Brown for Melissa Hocking

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Braemar College students to tackle Everest

A rewarding alternative to Schoolies

On 24 November, a group of 32 Braemar College students, staff and Old Collegians set off to Nepal, aiming to conquer Everest Base Camp.

Designed to offer an alternative to Schoolies, the trip is also part of Braemar College's Community Service Program, and involves three days of voluntary work at a local school. Students will undertake a series of hard physical tasks to improve conditions for the sixty students and five staff at Shree Pema Chholing Primary School.

The group from Braemar College plans to level the rough ground to make it safer for the children to play on. They will also build a rock wall around the school to prevent cows, goats and other animals from wandering into the grounds, and disrupting the school day. To build the compound wall, the students will have to bring stones from the main trail, some distance away.

Instigator of the Nepal trip is teacher Nicola Stevens, who came up with the idea after students expressed an interest in finding an alternative to Schoolies.

Ms Stevens believes the trip will, "Give students challenges to overcome that will set them up with the skills and confidence to face future difficulties in their own lives." She said, "After students have conquered these challenges, they will feel equipped to face anything."

Braemar College Principal Mr Russell Deer said, "We are pleased to offer this trip to students as part of the Community Service focus at Braemar which aims to build resilience, independence and compassion through helping others. This is a unique opportunity to assist a remote community in need. It's also a memorable way for students to finish their education."

George Hillary, grandson of Sir Edmund Hillary, is one of the Braemar Old Collegians accompanying the group. This year marks the 60th anniversary of Sir Edmund's climb to the summit of Mount Everest, and George will provide personal insights into his grandfather's achievements.

The group from Braemar College has been training rigorously in preparation for the Nepal trip, which has been organised by adventure travel company World Expeditions. Students have raised $3,200 for Shree Pema Chholing Primary School in Nepal.

Submitted by D. Hobbs for Braemar College





Woodend Primary School

Woodend Primary School has had a very successful 2013 and is looking forward to even bigger and better things in 2014. The school enrolment for 2014 is expected to remain similar to this year with just under 400 students – 58 of those being new Prep students. Our exiting Grade 6 students are heading off to a variety of secondary colleges, including Gisborne, Kyneton, Sacred Heart and Braemar. We wish those students all the very best with their secondary education and anticipate great things from many of them in the future.

The school has just about completed the refurbishment works around the basketball court. The entire retaining wall has been replaced and we have used concrete as a surface for the court rather than asphalt. Sealing and line marking of the court still remains to be done but should be finished shortly.





We have also refurbished the front entry to the school and started tidying up the garden beds around the school – an ongoing job considering Woodend's climate!

Projects for 2014 include spending approximately $300,000 on maintenance work. This will include repainting some of the buildings, repairing windows, roofing and guttering, and replacing carpets and ceiling panels in many areas. Externally, the School Council is hoping to complete some additional grounds improvements by creating some 'natural' play areas for the students – staying away from powder-coated metal play equipment and focusing on sculptured earth, large pipes and rock features.

From an educational perspective the school will be looking at introducing aspects of Visible Learning (based on the work of John Hattie), a school-wide spelling program (Soundwaves) and using a teacher-led research grant to assess the viability of introducing a well-being program such as Positive Psychology. Additionally, we'll be expanding our ICT program with the use of two class sets of iPads and extending the use of netbooks down to the 2/3 area. All in all, a busy and exciting year ahead!

The staff, students and parents of Woodend Primary School would like to wish the Woodend community all the very best for the upcoming festive season and extend a sincere 'thank you' to everyone for their support over the years.

Submitted by Andy Kozak, Principal

Hesket Primary School jumps to victory

Hesket Primary School students jumped their way to victory winning the prestigious Perpetual Shield in the 2013 Victorian Jump Rope for Heart Demonstration Team Competition at the State Netball and Hockey Centre, Parkville, in November.

Students from the small school were declared winners of the state competition, which brings together 100 of Victoria's best Jump Rope for Heart skippers. They competed in individual, partner and group routines, tallying the highest number of points to bring home the state title.



"We congratulate students from Hesket Primary School whose spectacular skipping performances make them the winners of the 2013 Jump Rope for Heart Demonstration Team Competition," Heart Foundation (Victoria) CEO, Diana Heggie said.

Hesket Primary School students have been showcasing their skipping skills for 21 years as part of the Heart Foundation Jump Rope for Heart program.

Hesket Primary School skipping coach Jan Crebbin said this latest victory adds to a long list of highlights that the Jump Rope for Heart program has given her students.

This year's competition held extra significance with the Jump Rope for Heart program celebrating 30 years of helping Australian children keep active, while raising important funds to help the Heart Foundation fight heart disease.

"Skipping is a fun way for children to keep fit and healthy. The Jump Rope for Heart program has immediate benefits for children's confidence, strength, coordination and teamwork skills and is a fun way for them to learn about the importance of being active and for understanding their overall heart health," Ms Heggie added.

* Turn to page 29 for more form Hesket Primary School

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cut out this calendar & stick on your fridge!

This page is proudly sponsored by the *19th HOLE SHOPPING CENTRE*

December

6	Kindergym Christmas Fun Day
7	WBATA Christmas Festival
7	Summer Sessions @ Woodend Community Permaculture
7	Woodend Farmers Market
7-8	Mount Macedon Peonies Festival
10	Emergency Services Summer safety forum
14	Duneira Christmas carols in the garden with Ensemble Gombert 5pm. BYO picnic rug.
16	Last day for drop off for Christmas Toy Shop
21	Woodend RSL Dinner & major raffle draw
24	Christmas Eve
25	Christmas Day

January

1	New Years Day 2014
15	Submissions due for The New Woodend Star
26	Australia Day

February

8	Sustainable Living Festival - Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group
15	Submissions due for The New Woodend Star
28	Kyneton Music Festival & Beard Fest, Till March 2
15	Submissions due for The New Woodend Star

March

1& 2	Lancefield & Macedon Ranges Relay for Life
15	Woodend Autumn Carnival – hosted by St Ambrose School and Parish
15	Submissions due for The New Woodend Star
16	Kyneton Aquathon
23	Woodend & District Heritage Society – Dedication Ceremony

April

13	Gisborne Aquathon
15	Submissions due for The New Woodend Star

August

3	Woodend Children's Festival



COMMUNITY GROUPS CONTACT DETAILS

Alcoholics Anonymous, Friday night, Cobaw Community Centre, 0409 131 144
Australian Breastfeeding Association, Heather, 5427 2398
Cobaw Thursday Walking Group 5427 3340
Daylight Masonic Lodge, 5427 2480
1st Woodend Scout Group, 5427 2848, Leisa 0429 331 695
Friends of Macedon Ranges Library, Sheila/Don 5427 3644
Garden Club, 5422 6062 / 5427 3340
Kyneton Municipal Band, Doug, 0411 420 113
Lancefield-Macedon Ranges, Relay For Life, Kathy 0419 644 688
Living Word Christian Church, 5429 6327
Historical Society, Courthouse, 5427 2523
Macedon Ranges Art Trail Nadine 0439 399 838
Macedon Ranges & District Motor Club, 10 Webb Cres, New Gisborne 1st Wednesday each month 8pm
Macedon Ranges Amateur Radio Club Graeme 0418 838 300
Macedon Ranges Animal Aid, Buffalo Sports Stadium, 5427 1752
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club, 5427 1884
Macedon Ranges Families of Children with Disabilities Support Group, 5427 3365
Macedon Ranges Residents Assc., 5427 1481 or 5427 2651
Macedon Ranges Photographic Society, Ron Mathews, 5427 3284
Parent Support 4 LD,- Kerrie 0414 432 158
Probus, 5427 2003
R.S.L., Anslow Street, 5427 3122
Red Cross, 5427 1260
Rotary Club of Woodend, meetings weekly at Vic Hotel Thursdays 6.45pm, Brendan 5422 6442
St. Mary's Guild, 11am, 4th Wednesday of month
St. Mary's Street Stall, 9-12 noon outside Woodend Newsagency (2nd Sat of the month)
Woodend Art Group, Railway Station, 5427 1659
Woodend Business & Tourism Group woodendtraders@gmail.com
Woodend Landcare: Meetings and weekend working bees - Jo 5427 1909 Thursday Crew - morning - Stewart 5427 4615
Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club, Hanging Rock Reserve, 5420 7595
Woodend Lions Club, Meetings 2nd/4th Wednesday each month, Barry McDonald, 5427 1272
Woodend Neighbourhood House, 47 Forest St, 5427 1845
Woodend Playgroup 0467 093 878
Woodend Pony Club, 5427 2793
Woodend Senior Citizens Club, Comm. Centre
Woodend SES Training Nights Monday, Urquhart St
Woodend Tennis Club Laura 0408 881 763
Woodend Winter Arts Festival Inc., info@wwaf.org.au

19th Hole Shopping Centre

Ian Marks Liquor
8554 0540

Blue Orange Concepts: homeware
5427 4500

Woodend Pizza & Pasta
5427 3777

Coles Supermarket
5427 2377

Collier Office & Business Assist and Woodend Copy Centre
5427 3092

Pets Haven
5427 3603

Mitre-10 Woodend Hardware
5427 2314

BP Woodend
5427 2248

Target Country
5427 4366

Macedon Ranges Travel Services
5427 4777

Kosmac & Clemens: optometrists
5427 4577

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Salvation Army Family Store
5427 4421

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5427 4466

Bodywise Underwear
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5427 2600

Feeling Framed
5427 4455

The Spa Beauty Therapy Centre
5427 3322

HIGH STREET SHOPS

Color Me Cooper
5427 1454

Chelleon For Hair
5427 3246

RT Edgar Real Estate
5427 1222

Woodend Bakery Cafe
5427 3434

Little School makes a big Splash!

Proving once again that big things happen in small places, this term the students from Hesket Primary School took part in a whole school swimming program, making an almighty splash at Kyneton's indoor pool.

With big smiles, laughter and a lot of enthusiasm each child participated in a range of Aqua Aware aquatic activities, targeting swim and survive statewide levels. Lessons rotated between water safety, swimming strokes, survival techniques, as well as rescue and emergency procedures; all whilst under the watchful eyes of qualified AUSTSWIM instructors.

The water experience came at an ideal time in preparation of the warmer weather to come, but also for the activities available on the whole school camp, which the Hesket students are eagerly awaiting at the end of the year. By taking part in the swimming lessons it provides the staff at the school with a fresh insight into the abilities of each individual child, before taking them to the pool whilst they are away.

Recognising swimming as an important skill for life, the staff at Hesket drove the students themselves, at no extra cost, to ensure every student's participation.

Now an annual event at Hesket, the students are now looking forward to next year's program, keeping safe and happy at any age around water.



Students from Hesket Primary School taking one last dip.

Submitted by Cliff Palmer, Hesket Primary School

Thanks Bradley's!

Macedon Ranges Shire Council would like to formally thank Bradleys Curtains + Blinds of Woodend for their generous donation of three blinds for the Woodend Kindergarten. These blinds are a wonderful contribution to our kindergarten and will benefit both children and staff for many years to come.

We really appreciate the support our kindergartens receive from local businesses and look forward to the opportunity to work with Bradleys Curtains again in the future.

Submitted by G Gamble, Communications and Public Relations Coordinator, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

ZIPTRAK
Panel Blinds
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The New Woodend Star will be back in the new year with all your local news and events.
Our first edition will be distributed on February 3, 2014.

Merry Christmas from the staff at Alissa Kate.
We hope you all have a safe and happy new year

Welcome Steph

Beauty Therapist, Waxing Specialist.

We would love to introduce our newest family member Steph. Steph is an experienced beauty therapist whose favourite treatments to perform are waxing, spray tans, pedicures and facials. So to welcome Steph we thought we would offer some special promotions.

New Teen Girl Skincare Range

100% Natural ingredients that help keep the skin clear from blemishes and breakouts.
Did you know the 70% of teen acne can be preventable.
Ture Girl is affordable, nothing over $23.

True Girl Facial

$30 min for $30 save $9



Pedi Peel Deal

Massaging spa pedicure chair, exfoliating foot peel, cuticle work, relaxing foot massage, nails shaped and long lasting gel polish.

Only $45 save $65

Don't like people touching your feet but want smooth skin.
Home care packs available now!

Spray Tan Special

5 Spray Tans $100 Save $75

You can use them your self or get 5 of your friends together to come in on the same day and pay $20 each.

minx bronzing & cosmetics

20% Off Waxing

For the month of November there will be 20% off waxing with Steph only. These appointments will fill fast as Steph is a waxing specialist.
Steph will be available Mondays, Thursday nights and Saturdays

Not sure what to get that special person for christmas?

We have done the hard work for you.
We have special gift packs and gift vouchers already made up, ready for under the christmas tree our in the christmas stocking.

There are only be limited packages available as the suppliers have sold out so be quick.

True Teen Girl Facial	Mini Make Over	Colour Me Over	Nail Shape and Paint	Pedicure and Manicure
Skin Analysis 30 min Facial $29 save $10	Blow Wave Eye brow shape Make up application $75 save $56	Gloss Colour, Style cut and Blow wave $99 save $90	Nails filed, painted and hand massage $15 save $10	Nails filed, cuticle work, salt scrub, massage and nail paint. $65 save $40

Buy one gift voucher, get one for yourself absolutely FREE!

SPECIAL! Alissa Kate gift vouchers are the number 1 present for all ladies who want to look and feel absolutely gorgeous (what woman doesn't want this!)
Its the easy, ideal gift for mums, sisters, friends, and work mates.
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*conditions apply. Only 27 Free Vouchers Available, so call NOW!

Hurry book now only limited appointments available now for Christmas.

5427 3822

15/130 High Street, Woodend alissa@alissakatesalon.com www.beauty-salon-woodend.com.au

Woodend Halloween 2013

Once again this year the Rotary club of Woodend hosted a community Halloween event. The annual event is in its fourth year and the attendance and support from the community has grown each year. Held at the Woodend Children Park a huge crowd of 600 strong attended this very popular event.



The trick or treat system of modern Halloween is now common all over the world. Over recent years there have been a growing number of Woodend businesses and local children who have made an effort to participate in the modern Halloween theme.

Woodend Rotary feels that this activity offers a safe environment for families to attend and engage in the spirit of the modern interpretation of Halloween. A large proportion of the crowd, of all ages, were in costume for a night of fun.

Woodend Rotary members were kept busy providing a free sausage sizzle and lolly bags for all children and also had support from some local businesses.

New Wrap Costume Hire provided free popcorn and fairy floss which was very popular with the children, as well as a



treasure hunt with prizes. Blackbird cakes generously donated a special themed 'Egyptian mummy' cake to share. The event was also supported by Coles, Bourkies Bakery and Hardwick's meat, with the Green Bean Coffee machine on site to pep up the parents.





The positive feedback, smiles and laughter are reason Woodend Rotary way of thanking those members of the community who support our various activities throughout the year. The event has grown each year and Woodend Rotary keeps building its support. Next year Halloween falls on a Friday night so an even bigger crowd is expected.

Photos: 1 & 2) Kids loved the opportunity to dress up for the occasion
(3) Mummy cake, kindly donated by Sharon Frantz of Blackbird Cakes
(4) Sue from New Wrap Costume Hire kindly donated popcorn & fairy floss.

Photos and words submitted by Grant Hocking

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Business Challenge!

The old adage. "you will never please all of the people all of the time" is so true.

Woodend BATA is a classic example. The group is small and voluntary with very limited funds. The small committee over many years has spent unpaid hours trying to present attractions to promote Woodend as the place to be.

Currently there are approximately 45 financial members of BATA. The arithmetic is easy. That equates to $4500 plus a $500 donation means a grand sum of plus minus $5000 for a Christmas promotion ! The events planned to take place on Saturday 7th December will be attractive and spectacular. The $5000 does not go far .

More funds more spectacular and attractive events.

There are of course many more than just 45 beneficial businesses in the village. Some committee members are now retiring. They have worked tirelessly for Woodend and will be hugely missed. Woodend BATA needs new members, new committee members, new ideas. The cost is tiny. The results could be huge. Please give participation, consideration. Another old saying is "it is more effective to be working inside the tent rather than outside being critical". Please rejoin. After year end the next promotion is planned for Saturday 5th April 2014.

Please get involved. Contact Stuart Bonnington on 0407 862 745



Dear Friends

You may have read in the local papers that it is my intention to retire from the Victorian Parliament at the next State election in November 2014.

It has been a privilege to serve and represent the Macedon electorate and before that the electorate of Gisborne.

This is a decision that I have not taken lightly and I confess I have mixed feelings about leaving a job I love, one that I never dreamed I would have the opportunity to do. But I believe after 15 years the time will be right at the next election to retire.

We have many unsung heroes in our community and I have had the good fortune of being able to meet and work with many of you, on projects big and small, to make a positive difference for our local area. I will continue to work hard for you to serve the Macedon electorate up until the election next November

Thank you to everyone that has made this job an absolute pleasure.

May I also wish you a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year, and I will see you around Woodend in 2014.

Warm regards

Joanne Duncan MP, State Member For Macedon

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JOANNE DUNCAN MP
MEMBER FOR MACEDON



As your local Member of Parliament I am keen to listen to any concerns or ideas you may have.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for assistance on any State Government matter.

Warm regards,
Joanne Duncan

Shop 14/9 Goode St, Gisborne VIC 3437
P: 5428 2138 **F:** 5428 2919 **E:** joanne.duncan@parliament.vic.gov.au
www.joanneduncan.com.au

Authorised by J Duncan, Shop 14/9 Goode St, Gisborne

ART in the Woods

Geri Walsh



Geri Walsh's art is inspired by an ever changing pool of ideas and observations. Most recently her work has featured flame throwers and acrobats, as the circus has both captivated her imagination and served as the theme for an exhibition last year.



Bitten by the creative bug "ever since I can remember", Geri completed a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the Victoria College of the Arts in 2003, majoring in printmaking.

Etching and drawing were her early passions but her preference over the past several years has been painting in acrylics.

Geri grew up in Southern California, and then lived in Papua New Guinea and Northern California before moving to Victoria in the early 1980s, settling in Glen Iris before coming to Woodend.

Married to Pete with three children and one grandchild, she likes painting her family.

Among her many influences are the Impressionists, Freud and Brack.

ART in the Woods features Woodend residents participating in the 2013 Macedon Ranges Art Trail. All studios are open year round by appointment. Pick up a brochure at the Woodend Visitor Information Centre or download a copy for locations and information at: visitmacedonranges.com/arts-culture

macedon ranges ART TRAIL

Submitted by Nadine Hartnett

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WOODEND NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Woodend Neighbourhood House

Community Needs Assessment

We are continuing our survey in the streets, shops and schools. Look out for a survey link at the station so commuters can have a say. It's available on the Woodend Neighbourhood House Website through a link on our front page. We are also able to come to groups and local community events: we want to hear your opinions in order to develop a clear picture of how to best serve this community. We really want to know what our community needs their neighbourhood house to provide. Tell us your thoughts and ideas.

If you have a group or community event you think we should attend, wish to participate in the survey or require further information, please contact Anthea Bartholomeusz or Jill Scanlon at the Woodend Neighbourhood House on 5427 1845. We look forward to talking with many of you over the next two months.

Woodend Workshop Community Shed

It seems that great minds think alike (well sort of) and while the neighbourhood house has been working with community members on the Woodend Workshop Working Group to establish a community shed, where all interested community members could access the under croft space for woodworking or other handy-craft and messy arts courses, establish groups and have casual use, we were also thinking to assist with the development of a Men's Shed within this structure.

Instead there have been developments on the Men's Shed for Woodend from a group of men connected to each other and their community through a range of groups and activities. The Woodend Rotary have decided to partner with the recently established and incorporated group, led by Stewart Olney, the inaugural Woodend Men's Shed Committee Chairman. The Committee believes that the shed will be an excellent means of promoting men's health and wellbeing and a great asset to Woodend. They have quite a few interested men, a fair bit of equipment and a will to succeed and now they are looking for a suitable interim venue and hope to secure funding to build (or renovate) a fit for purpose building in the future. If you are interested in being part of the Men's Shed then please contact Stewart on 0409 762 724 or stewolney06@bigpond.com to register your interest or let them know about a venue that could work for now.

If you would like to be part of the group helping to establish the Woodend Workshop Community Shed at the House then contact Jill Scanlon on 5427 1845 of coordinator@woodendnh.org.au and get into your community.

Submitted by Jill Scanlon - Coordinator



Christmas at St Mary's

Christmas is a time to celebrate so, if you're in Woodend for Christmas please join the congregation at St Mary's Anglican Church with your family and friends. We look forward to welcoming you to our little bluestone church on the hill at 15 Buckland Street.

Christmas service times

Christmas Eve 6pm Crib Service and 10pm Christmas Communion,Christmas Day 10.30am Christmas Communion

Donate to Macedon Ranges toy shop

Throughout December The Anglican Parish of Woodend is collecting gifts to give to the Macedon Ranges Toy Shop. This organisation supports struggling families in our community. Please bring unwrapped presents to any of our services during December.

For more information visit www.woodendanglican.org.au or find us on Facebook Woodend Anglican.

Submitted by Angela Van Dam Communications Officer
0409 373 010 woodendanglican@gmail.com

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- **Personal Nursing and Home Care**
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encourage CHURCH

Encourage Church

As Christmas carols fill the air with joy and merriment, As the chime of church bells echo all around, and prayers reach out to God, Remember ... Faith makes all things possible, Hope makes all things work, Love makes all things beautiful, May your heart be lifted in praise this Christmas for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the joy He brings to our lives. Have a wonderful Christmas and a Blessed New Year from all at Encourage Church Romsey, Woodend and Riddells Creek.

Christmas Eve Service

Encourage Church at 7:30pm, 7 Mitchell Court Romsey Ph 5429 6327.

FREE Christmas Gift Wrapping

A Community Service - bring your gifts along and stay for a cuppa whilst your gifts are wrapped or drop off and pick up later in the day. 3 big days of wrapping from 10am-2pm available at the following venues: 19th Hole Shopping Centre (near Target) High Street Woodend- Monday16th December, Encourage Church, 7 Mitchell Court Romsey - Tuesday 11th December and Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House, Main Rd Riddells Creek, Wednesday 18th December.

Want to do something really memorable around Valentine's Day 2014?

An opportunity is being created for you to renew your Wedding vows during a special Sunday morning Service in Romsey on February 16th. If interested please contact Encourage Church today! Office: 7 Mitchell Court Romsey, call 5429 6327, or encouragechurch@iprimus.com.au

Submitted by D Eddy, Encourage Church

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Food donations for Refugees



Rural Australians for Refugees (R.A.R) donate food (non-perishable) on a regular basis to the Asylum Resource Centre in North Melbourne. The Woodend R.A.R has just donated $740 in cash and $1500 of food to this organisation.

We thank all the people who donate food on a regular basis to this organisation and would like to encourage many more to do so. Food can be dropped off at the Anglican Church in Woodend or at Collier Office & Business Assist.

Foods needed include:

Breakfast cereal *(not sugary),* dry biscuits, coffee, tea, long life milk, dried fruit, fruit juice, rice, couscous, polenta, semolina, pasta, pasta sauce, tomato paste, noodles, dried red lentils, falafel mix, olive oil, sauces *(e.g. soy, fish),* pastes *(e.g. chilli, curry),* honey & jam, peanut butter, muesli bars *(or other healthy snacks suitable for taking to school)* nuts, tahini, coconut milk, spices, herbs tinned fish *(e.g. salmon, tuna, sardines),* tinned fruit *(preferably in juice not syrup),* tinned vegetables *(e.g. corn, peas, tomatoes)* tinned beans *(preferably not baked beans)*

Submitted by Ann Johns

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Cancer and Natural Therapy Foundation

– What's on in December, 2013

The Cancer and Natural Therapy Foundation is a non-profit, registered charity organisation aimed at assisting people in accessing information and resources in the area of natural therapies and expanding health care options to enable them to make informed choices. The Foundation offers a holistic and integrative approach to health care and wellbeing, respecting peoples right of choice.

The Foundation provides the following services and resources: information and referral, resource library, professional counselling, guest speaker program, support groups, reiki healing, ifas treatment, ear candling, quarterly newsletter, self-help workshops and educational films.

Weekly Support Groups:

- Health Awareness Support Group

Offering meditation, reiki healing, massage (by appointment only) and general discussion on natural therapies and preventative medicine. Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm.

- Self-Empowerment and Healing Support Group

For confidence building and positive living. Thursdays 10–11.30am.

The Cancer and Natural Therapy Foundation would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Held at Neighborhood House and Community Centre, See website for details: www.cancernaturaltherapyfoundation.org

Submitted by Sue de Jonge, Cancer and Natural Therapy Foundation

the bentinck OF WOODEND

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 13 December from 6.00pm

Friday night drinks with Live Music

Shared platters available from the Bar
A la carte restaurant open for dinner
Availability strictly limited. Reservations essential.

December Christmas Functions

Treat your team to something a little bit special this Christmas at The Bentinck.

We are the perfect location for your end of year dinner or break up celebration.

Availability strictly limited. Reservations essential.

8 Carlisle Street, Woodend
p:(03) 5427 2944 w: bentinck.com.au

CONFERENCES WEDDINGS EVENTS

Christmas Beauty

with Ramai Skin & Body Care

It's that time of year again! Can you believe Christmas is only a few short weeks away?

Ramai Skin & Body Care is open 7 days a week with extended hours to cater for all your Christmas beauty needs. Spoil yourself and indulge in one of Ramai's signature treatments to prepare you for the busy festive season!

Need an amazing gift for someone you love? Ramai offer gift vouchers so you can be sure you're giving the ideal present. Tailor a gift voucher with treatments to suit your loved one perfectly, or buy a voucher for a specified amount. Either way, your gift will be exactly what they need.

Samantha would like to take this opportunity to wish all her wonderful clients a safe and joyous holiday season. It's been another fabulous year for Ramai Skin & Body Care and next year promises to be even better, with new staff, gorgeous products and world class service.

Call Sam now to book your next appointment so you can look and feel your best this Christmas.

Happy Holidays!

Christmas trading hours Monday to Friday 9am till 9:30pm, Saturday and Sundays 9am till 8:30pm.

Submitted by Kristine Kennedy

Ramai
Skin & Body Care

Samantha Moore
0438 062 143

Extended Christmas Hours
Monday to Friday 9am till 9:30pm
Saturday & Sunday 9am till 8:30pm



Waxing/Tinting
Manicures & Pedicures
Spray Tan
Massage and Facials

www.facebook.com/RamaiSkinBodyCare

Trainee Beauty Therapist Required



Welcome to the Woodend Star

Kids Club

December Birthdays

3rd	Yani Dyer	Turns 13
11th	Claire Crawford	Turns 8
15th	Liam Muir	Turns 11
17th	Caitlin Elliot	Turns 13
28th	Jessica Beverley	Turns 12
29th	Daniel Takos	Turns 8
31st	Gabriel Takos	Turns 10
31st	Tessa Forbes	Turns 10

January Birthdays

4th	Casey Dzesa	Turns 12
4th	Hannah Cooper	Turns 13
24th	Aaron Still	Turns 12
24th	Patrick Still	Turns 12
29th	Travis Timmermans	Turns 12
30th	Noah Murphy Turns	1

Happy Birthday Everyone!

JOIN THE WOODEND STAR KIDS CLUB
Fill in your details below and mail to P.O. Box 387 Woodend
Age limit is 13 years old. Must be a resident of the 3442 postcode

Full name:_____

Address:_____

Date of Birth:_____ Age:_____

Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian
Signature:_____

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Woodend Cemetery Trust

As with most self funded community groups, the Woodend Cemetery has to be responsible with its financial management. To aid in the maintenance and management of the cemetery, we have adopted a policy to remove temporary name pegs after twelve months.

This reduces many hidden costs which add up over time which affects our ability to undertake other activities to maintain the cemetery into the future.

I'd also like to thank all those who have volunteered their time during the last twelve months to aid the maintenance and management of the cemetery. If anyone would like to volunteer to help us, you would be welcome.

If you would like to know more about rehabilitation and restoration works being undertaken at the Cemetery, please contact the Trust on 0417 011 300 or via our website – woodendcemetery.org.au We are happy to discuss with you the improvements planned for the future.

Submitted by Philip Johnson, Chairman, on behalf of the Woodend Cemetery Trust



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How should Council communicate with you?

Council is inviting residents, ratepayers and businesses of the Macedon Ranges to complete a 5-10 minute survey about your information needs and communication preferences.

For example, do you prefer to find out about Council services and activities in your local newspaper, or on our website; are you most interested in Council planning matters, or recreational activities?

By sharing this information with us, you will go in the draw to win a choice of:

- A six month gym/swim membership at Council's fitness and aquatic centres;
- A double annual season pass to shows at the Kyneton Town Hall; or
- A tablet device (your choice of iPad or Galaxy).*

You can complete the survey in one of two ways:

- Online via www.surveymonkey.com/s/MRSC-Comms.
- In person at a Council service centre, library, leisure centre, kindergarten or maternal & child health centre. For locations and hours, call 5422 0333.

The survey closes on Friday 13 December 2013. If you have any questions about this survey, please call Council on 5422 0333.

*Terms and conditions apply for the prize draw.

Submitted by G Gamble, Communications and Public Relations Coordinator, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

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03 9629 9223

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TAC funds Cycle Safety Campaign

Drivers are the focus of a new summer campaign aimed at keeping cyclists in the Macedon Ranges safe.

Road Safe Central Victoria and Bike Safe Macedon Ranges are set to launch a major on-road summer campaign which asks drivers to watch out for cyclists on the road and pass them with care. This campaign is funded by a community grant from the TAC.

Drivers can expect to see large billboards throughout The Ranges urging motorists to pass cyclists with care.

President of Bike Safe Macedon Ranges, Margaret Douglas explains: "This campaign is about education and awareness, commonsense and respect; it is targeted at both motorists and cyclists, they both are legitimate road users but the cyclist is more vulnerable. We want both to get home safely to their families'.

We are beholden to Road Safe Central Victoria for partnering with us in this campaign, which is a first for the Macedon Ranges, and are most grateful to the TAC for recognizing the importance of this safety initiative and for providing the funds to make the campaign a reality in our beautiful region."

Simple messages will be promoted to motorists to allow sufficient safe space when overtaking cyclists, including driving with courtesy.

Cyclists will be reminded of their obligations to comply with relevant road rules and to ride with commonsense and courtesy towards motorists.

"Waiting until it is safe before passing a cyclist takes just a few seconds out of a driver's day, those few patient seconds could save a life," Mrs Douglas said.

The campaign is fully supported by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

Submitted by Margaret Douglas, President, Bike Safe Macedon Ranges, 0407 759 860.

Macedon Ranges Community Exchange

This month the Macedon Ranges Community Exchange will hold its second market day - a day for members, prospective members & interested members of the community to get together & trade items, discuss service proposals, advertise & find out more.

The market will run from 10 - 11am on Sunday 8th December - Piper Street - Campaspe Park - Kyneton (on the left as you head out of town towards Malmsbury).

It may just be the place to find something special for your friends & family for the festive season.

Phone Linda 0421999228 or check out our website www.mrce.net.au for more details regarding the community exchange & just how it can change the way you trade in the local area. Find local offerings of goods, services, hire & more. There's even a 'wanted' section for people to seek out help or things that they are looking for.

Submitted by Meggs Hannes

Fun in the Sun

As we approach summer, we can look forward to getting out and enjoying the sunshine with our pets. But it can also be a time to keep a close eye on your pets.

- With the dryer weather we see more and more grass seeds. These seeds may enter the nose, get between the eye and eyelids, be found between the toes, or make their way into the gums, ears, toes, or other parts of an animal's body.
- Snakes are also an issue at this time of year. As the weather warms up, snakes become more active and your pet is more likely to come into contact with them.
- With hot weather there can be the danger of heat stroke. Pets are prone to becoming over heated. Heat stroke is a dangerous condition where the body temperature rises to such a degree that organ damage may occur. To help avoid this, don't leave your pets locked in a hot house or car, provide plenty of shade and cold water and try to avoid exercising your pets during the hottest part of the day.
- Summer food also can pose problems for animals. While we like nothing better than a serve of onions from the BBQ or a slice of plum pudding after Christmas dinner, many foods which are fine for people pose threats to animals. Dried fruit in Christmas cakes and puddings, fat from the Christmas ham, chocolate and onions from the BBQ are all no-no's. As are all the usuals such as cooked bones.

The best way to avoid problems this summer is if in doubt, don't feed it to your pets.

Submitted by Anita Gaerth, Veterinary Nurse, Tony's Practice



Find the New Woodend Star online!

www.newwoodendstar.org.au



The Fire Danger Period Is Not Far Away!

The CFA is about to commence its Fire Ready Victoria Campaign sharing vital messages about the dangers of bushfires and what you should do on a high fire risk day. The aim is to reach residents, especially those in high risk areas (Woodend is in the Top 52) and ensure they have ample information from which to make an informed decision in the event of a bush or grassfire.

See you at the Woodend Village Market

The Woodend CFA will be organising a special display at the Woodend Village Market on Sunday December 15 and January 19. Members of the Brigade will be there if you need information or have any questions, and we'll also have lots of free brochures and reference material … as well as free give-aways for the kids. Please drop by and say Hi!

We will also be holding one of regular FRV meetings at the Woodend Fire Brigade at some stage in January – please check local papers for date and time, or check our website for details. Or you can drop into the Woodend CFA any Sunday morning.

Fire Danger Period - any burnoffs will require a Council Permit

The Fire Danger Period will soon came into force. Keep an eye on local newspapers for the official starting date.

Once the restrictions are in place, you will be forbidden to conduct a burn-off in any form, unless you have an official permit from the Macedon Ranges Shire.

If the CFA is called to an illegal burnoff during the Fire Danger Period we must call the Police to the scene and serious charges and penalties may be incurred. In fact, lighting a fire in the open without a permit is an offence and can bring a heavy fine or 12 months imprisonment.

Your last chance to burn off!

- All burn-offs should be registered with the VicFire Burn-off notification line on 1800 668 511.
- The Can I or Can't I? brochure, available from the CFA website, features the differences between Fire Restrictions and Total Fire Ban days.
- CFA's On the Land: Agricultural Fire Management Guidelines provides practical fire management advice for people living and working on rural properties. To view and/or download the guidelines, go to www.cfa.vic.gov.au.

If you are unclear about your specific circumstances, you can check the local laws via the internet (www.macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au) or visit your nearest Macedon Ranges council information centre, where the application forms are available.

For further information contact Captain Mick Christie on 0419 870 601 or 1st Lieutenant Mike Dornau on 0409 093 935. On Sundays call the Woodend CFA on 5427 2356 or visit the station in Urquhart Street. Or you can visit our website: www.woodendcfa.org.

The Woodend CFA is a volunteer emergency service, committed to Creating a Safer Community.

Submitted by 1st Lieutenant Mike Dornau, Woodend CFA

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Heritage News

"Oh, the "pubs!" Who shall describe them? Three or four of them had each a "hall of delight", fitted with a stage and drop curtain at one end, and a disreputable piano or fiddler. The delights were further provided by a staff of artists and artistes, who took care not to be at all too refined for their audiences. Imagine, if you can, four of these halls, crammed to suffocation with a howling mob of lusty men, each one apparently trying to make more noise and tobacco smoke than his fellow, and who were kept well supplied with the vilest spirituous concoctions conceivable, the reeking air almost thick enough with smoke and blasphemy to float an egg. Such was Woodend at that time".

So wrote A.B. Original in the Letters to the Editor columns of the Woodend Star, August 28 1897 recalling local pub life in the 1860's. It is this delightful quote which sets the tone for our latest publication "Time Gentleman Please." by Jannyse Williams with illustrations by Joycelyn Moreland.

Following several years of extensive research, Jannyse has given us much more than a record of buildings and licensees. With her eye for detail and ability to search out the odd and the unusual, we now have a wonderful and entertaining history of our district, which will slip down as easily as the ale which positively seeps from its pages. Joycelyn's drawings are art works in their own right, something which we are confident many will want to purchase and frame. If only all history books were so enjoyable!

Now in the hands of the printers this beautifully produced book will be an ideal Christmas present. As soon as they are available, copies will be available from Collier Office and Business Assist or from our High Street Stalls on Sundays 15th and 22nd December when Jannyse and Joycelyn will be signing copies.

Seasons greetings to all our friends and supporters. The Local & Family History Resource Centre will reopen on the first Wednesday in February. Visitors and researchers are always welcome.

Submitted by Janet Hawkins



SPORTSNEWS

Woodend Golf Club

PGA Golf Professional coaches, Matthew Duncan and Laurie Chew are pleased to host a golf program to introduce new Ladies to the game of golf at the picturesque course at Woodend Golf Club.

Commencing on February 12th 2014, our structured 5 week Ladies program is designed to teach Ladies all the skills required to be able to play golf regularly and to have fun amongst friends in a social and active environment. The Ladies program will run on a Wednesday from 1.30pm to 2.30pm each week followed by coffee and afternoon tea in the clubhouse to socialise and discuss the session.

We also have Ladies golf clubs for you to use at first so that you are using the right equipment to help you to get the most enjoyment and potential out of your golf.

Golf is a great form of exercise, and is an extremely good sport to be active and to socialise amongst new and old friends. This can all be enjoyed in the idyllic surroundings of the Woodend Golf Club, one of the oldest clubs in Australia and a fantastic natural setting to play golf. Professional golf coaches will make golf a fun and enjoyable experience each week

For enquires or bookings please call Matthew 5428 2698 or Laurie 0431 137 145 or Cheryl Garner on 5427 1455 for more information.

Submitted by Veronica Sullivan.



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SPORTSNEWS

Woodend summer basketball shooting hoops

The Macedon Ranges Basketball Association (MRBA) has bounced into its Summer Season with nine competitions up and running, as well as our All Abilities session continuing on Sunday.

Over 200 people are now playing this great sport competitively in Woodend and every one of them knows how fortunate we are to have such quality facilities in town, with such a highly committed and supportive basketball community.

Aussie Hoops for kids

This season, the MRBA introduced the terrific Aussie Hoops program from Basketball Country Victoria. Aussie Hoops is for primary school aged players and each of the 45 children who registered will now receive their own basketball, reversible training singlet and carry bag. Woodend's young Aussie Hoops players today could well be Australia's basketball Olympians of the future!

Under 19 Mixed competition

We have introduced a new mixed, social basketball competition for Under 19s and it looks like it's really great fun for all involved. Rules have been slightly modified and games are played on Wednesday nights. We'd love a few more people – especially girls - to join the mixed competition so, if you're under 19 and interested in playing, please call Jane on 0407 808 467.

Women wanted

Our Sunday night Women's competition is looking for new players to boost their numbers. Did you know that basketball has been called the ultimate cross training activity; it's definitely a fantastic, and very social, way to improve your fitness. Beginners are always welcome – why don't you bring along a friend for a free trial game? Call Lisa on 0418 108 282 for more information.

Woodend Hawks playing in Sunbury

This season we have five junior teams playing as Woodend Hawks in the much larger Sunbury basketball competition. There is one Under 12 Boys team, two Under 12 Girls teams and two Under 10 Boys teams. The teams are really doing us proud, and all the players look terrific in their new blue and yellow uniforms. We wish them all the best for the season. Go Woodend Hawks!

Want to know more?

New players in all basketball competitions are always welcome at the MRBA, including beginners. If you are interested in finding out more about playing basketball in Woodend, please visit our website www.macedonranges.basketball.net.au for a full schedule of all competitions as well as coordinator contact details and online registration and payment information.

Submitted by N Cooper

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM LANGLEY MCKIMMIE

Management and Staff wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Safe and Prosperous New Year

Our office will be closed from Friday 20 December 2013 and re-opens on Monday 6 January 2014

We look forward to assisting you with your Business Services, Taxation, Superannuation and Audit needs in the New Year



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Hawks Start To Fly Towards 2014

Here we are -just a few weeks 'til Santa arrives - and the girls and guys from the Woodend Hesket Football Netball Club (Hawks) have begun an enthusiastic pre-season training.

It was a sight for sore eyes when on Monday night, at Gilbert Gordon Oval, 20 + girls and 40 + guys hit their straps in an effort to get an edge on their competition in season 2014.

"The call to arms for our, *'Strength In Numbers Campaign'* was kicked off with great success" said incoming President Stuart Braddy.

2014 is going to be something special with the introduction of our very first U/18 Netball Team. The WHFNC would like to invite to our club any young ladies that wish to be part of our Inaugural Team.

Netball coaches needed

Any Mum, Dad, sister or brother who would like to take charge of our young girls in a coaching capacity please contact the Club's Netball Coordinator, Jess King on 0435 336 861 or jessicascanlonking@gmail.com.

Join the Hawks

Our Club is looking for more Netballers and Footballers so if you have the desire to give it your all and take the Hawks to new heights then come down to pre-season training, get involved and discover a warm, friendly, and active young club.

Your support

One of the goals of the WFHNC is to provide a sporting environment for our children to continue to build on the strong foundations provided by both the Woodend Junior Football and Netball Clubs. We would therefore encourage, you, as the local Woodend community and all businesses to support the Hawks and give many of our young people an opportunity to further develop their skills, continue to enjoy being part of this club and to strive for success within the RDFL.

Submitted by Dale Stacey

Funding secured to upgrade netball courts

Woodend District Netball Cub is excited to announce that they were successful in obtaining funding to upgrade the outdoor netball courts at Buffalo Stadium.

Minister Hugh Delahunty announced the funding on Tuesday 22nd October at a presentation at the courts. The funding is through the Community Facility Funding Program and the State Government Contribution is $59,000.

The works include lighting upgrade to netball & basketball standards, repair courts and resurfacing, new multipurpose goals, drainage works and connecting path works to stadium south east access door. All works will upgrade the courts to current compliant standards. It is expected that the works will commence in mid 2014.

This is very exciting as this funding is highly sought after and competitive between sporting groups and towns. The committee would like to sincerely thank Kellie Duff for all her passion and hard work in securing this funding.

Santa to visit netballers on December 6

The last night of summer competition before the Christmas break will be on Friday 6 December. There will be a special visit from Santa for all the young netballers at about 4.30pm and there will be a sausage sizzle for players that night. Come down and join in the fun. You never know you might see a future Diamonds netball player starting out their career.

For any enquiries about the club please contact Anne-Louise Lindner on 0437 662 220 or Claire Green on 0434 484 585

Submitted by Anne-Louise Lindner



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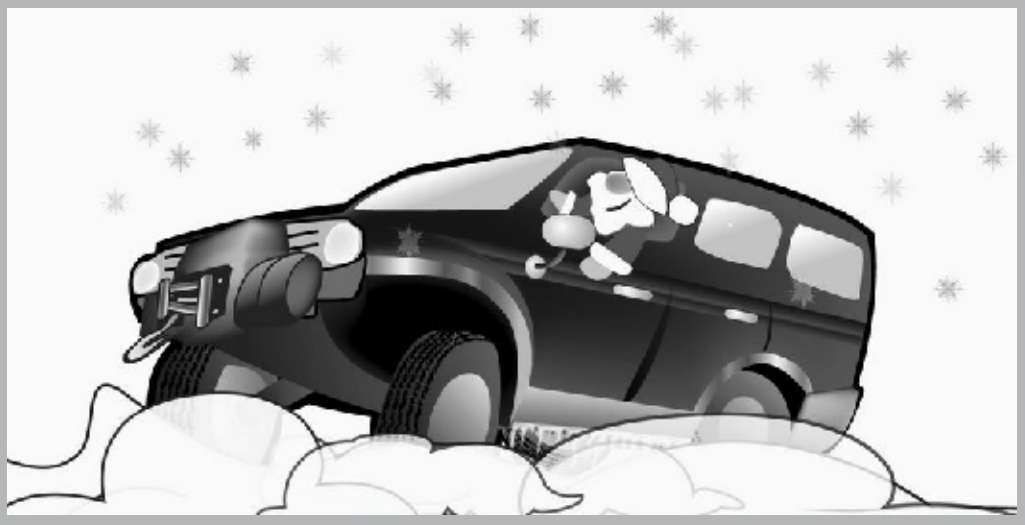
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