

Romsey Golf Club Ladies Report

The ladies have enjoyed a short break and some are now back playing. Just a reminder to everyone that we are hitting off at 8.30am on the Wednesday and Saturday to beat the heat. The Wednesday ladies are mainly only playing 12 holes at the moment but will get back into the swing of 18 holes soon.

Wednesday 21st February is our 'Bring a Friend Day' or 'Come and Try Golf Day'. Hit off for this day will be 9.30am so you can drop the children to school and come around to the clubrooms for a chat before golf. We will play a fun game and depending on the weather 9 or 12 holes and lunch will be provided afterwards. Please come along and give the game a go. We will share our clubs if you don't have your own. This is the perfect way to find if you may like the game and meet some new people.

The golf club is again entering a team in the Relay for Life and would appreciate any donations or sponsorship. Any new or interested lady golfer can ring Hilda Caly 54296538 or myself for information or come to the clubrooms (which we share with the Bowling Club) on a Wednesday morning before 8.30am.

Beryl Cole
54295411

COMING SOON TO THE MACEDON RANGES IN FEBRUARY.....

Macedon Ranges Grand Tour

Saturday, 10 February 2007

Experience the distinct style and sounds as over 150 vintage and classic cars wind their way around two separate routes through the Macedon Ranges and surrounds.

Flag off at 9.30am from Gisborne.

PHONE: 0419 552 892

EMAIL: info@mrgt.com.au

WEB: www.mrgt.com.au

Macedon Ranges & District Motor Club Annual Picnic at Hanging Rock

Sunday, 11 February 2007

The Macedon Ranges & District Motor Club's annual picnic day car display. A day not to be missed for enthusiasts of vintage, veteran and classic cars.

PHONE: 0418 341 415

EMAIL: jvangron@hotmail.com

WEB: www.mradmc.com.au

Film Night – Picnic at Hanging Rock

Saturday, 17 February 2007

The Peter Weir classic 'Picnic at Hanging Rock' on the big screen. Never has cinema been such a unique experience and a setting so apt. \$15 adults \$10 children at the gate on the night. Or \$13 adult and \$8 children if pre-purchased. Ticket sales hotline 1300 888 802.

LOCATION: Hanging Rock Reserve, South Rock Road, Woodend

CONTACT NAME: Anne Walsh

PHONE: 03 5429 9631

The Age Harvest Picnic at Hanging Rock

Sunday, 25 February 2007

An awe inspiring array of regional food and wine producers gathered at Hanging Rock in a day the whole family can enjoy!

LOCATION: Hanging Rock Reserve, South Road Road, Woodend

CONTACT NAME: Kirsty Rae

PHONE: 03 9555 0253

EMAIL: events@harvestpicnic.com.au

WEB: www.harvestpicnic.com.au

Romsey Roundup

Sunday, 25 February 2007

The inaugural Romsey rodeo features bull rides, saddle bronc, barrell race and Carnival. Activities for the kids, food and drink.

WEB: www.prorodeo.asn.au

LOCATION: Romsey Primary School

PHONE: 03 5429 5099

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THE ROMSEY RAG

Issue No. 245

2000 copies produced each month at Romsey Primary School as a service to our community and supported by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council

February 2006

THE FEBRUARY EDITION OF THE ROMSEY RAG IS PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY
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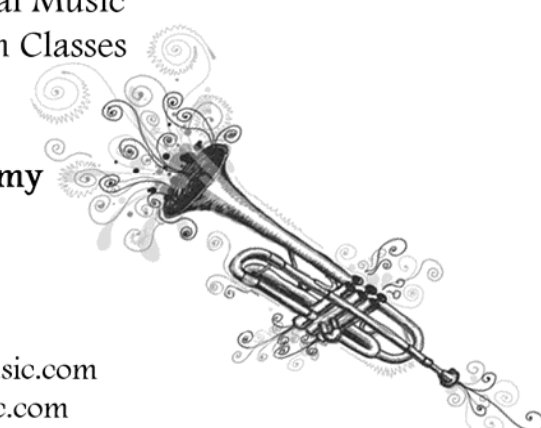
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The closing date for copy for the March Romsey Rag is Friday, February 16th

We cannot guarantee inclusion of copy received after this date.

Please email your copy to the Romsey Rag email address:

romseyrag@romseyps.vic.edu.au

When submitting graphics, please use a Jpeg format, as we cannot guarantee that we can open or print other formats. Also, ensure that text is in a format that can be edited.

NEW ADVERTISING RATES COME INTO EFFECT FIRST EDITION 2007

Editorially Speaking

Romsey Rag Editorial Committee:
Barney Healy, Robyn Moore

Layout and Design:
Robyn Moore, Anne Cappler

Printing:
Trish Gray, Robyn Moore

Advertising / Sponsorship:
Christie Brown—5429 5099 or Romsey Post Office

Collation Team Co-ordinator:
Joan Sparkes—5429 5848

Contributions:
Articles should be left at the Romsey Post Office (fax 5429 5134) or Romsey Primary School (fax 5429 5765) by 12 noon of the 21st of each month (or last business day prior to the 21st).

We prefer articles to be submitted electronically or on disc. Legible typed or handwritten items may be accepted. All material submitted for publication must be named and have contact details.

Articles can be sent via e-mail to:
romseyrag@romseyps.vic.edu.au

Please ensure that any text is sent as word documents and logos / photos are sent as .jpg files.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editorial Committee. All contributions remain the responsibility of the author.

Advertising:
Rates are GST inclusive.
Front page sponsorship:
\$130 per half page

Business card: \$25per issue
\$200 per year in Business Directory
Quarter page: \$50 per issue
Half page: \$100 per issue
Full page: \$180 per issue

Line ads: eg- For sale, births, deaths, marriages, engagements - \$10

For invoicing please include name & address details

Cheques must be made payable to Romsey Primary School Station Street, ROMSEY 3434

Distribution:
2000 copies delivered to the Romsey community at the commencement of each month.



Macedon Ranges Shire Council - Generous supporters of the Romsey Rag

Romsey Rag Publication Deadlines 2007

Edition	Closing date for copy	Collating date
March 2007	Friday February 16th	Thursday February 22nd
April 2007	Friday March 23rd	Thursday March 29th
May 2007	Friday April 20th	Thursday April 25th
June 2007	Friday May 18th	Thursday May 24th
July 2007	Friday June 22nd	Thursday June 28th
August 2007	Friday July 20th	Thursday July 26th
September 2007	Friday August 17th	Thursday August 23rd
October 2007	Friday September 21st	Thursday September 27th
November 2007	Friday October 19th	Thursday October 25th
December 2007	Friday November 23rd	Thursday November 29th

Romsey CFA Supports Gippsland Fire Effort North East and Gippsland Fires –

Fires were started by lightning in the North East of Victoria in early December and have burnt now for around 50 days. The Romsey Group of Fire Brigades has been sending crews and trucks to places like Mt Buller, Tatong, Tolmie, Swifts Creek, Heyfield and Mt Beauty. There have been more than 50 men and women on the back of trucks right through the Christmas and New Year period and even more behind the scenes.

We'd like to thank all the families and employers of the volunteers who were supportive of their efforts. It makes our jobs a whole lot easier.

Woodlands Park Fire -

The CFA had 50 fire trucks and two air attack water bombers, to control a large grass blaze in Greenvale on Tuesday January 16.

CFA Region 14, Acting Operations Manager, Rohan Luke, said thanks to a fast response by fire crews, the fire at the Woodlands Historic Park on the corner of Somerton and Section Roads, was brought under control quickly.

Romsey Group sent trucks and crews from Lancefield, Romsey, Springfield, Clarkefield and Bolinda/Monegeetta. It was a hot and tiring day with several fire fighters suffering from heat stress, but thankfully nothing serious.

Looking for Members –

Have you ever thought about joining the CFA? We're looking for new members and we'd love to have you along. Volunteering doesn't just mean fighting fires, We need people who can help with community education, communications, admin, catering and more! Guys and Gals over the age of 16 are welcome to join as full members and if you're aged between 11 – 15 you can join as a junior member. Training for new members will start in February.

If you are thinking about it but would like to know more, call Michelle Andrews on 0419 381 008 or 5429 6951, or drop in to the Romsey Fire Station on Stawell St, just behind the old courthouse.



Romsey Fire Brigade
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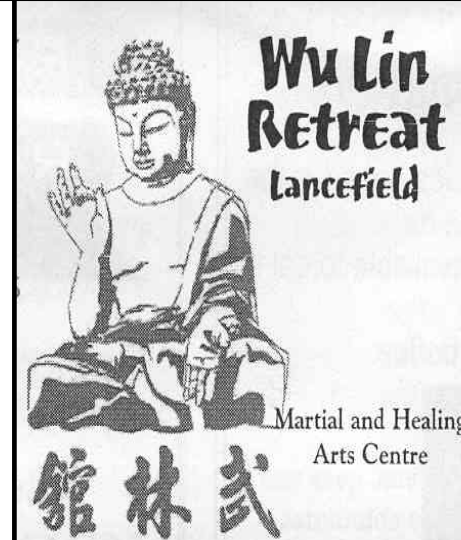
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Central Highlands Orienteering Club (CHOC)

Want to try Orienteering in your local environment? Then come to our Macedon Ranges Summer Series.

You have a choice of four runners courses and a power walkers course as well. Mass start at 7.00pm (be there by 6.30pm to give yourself time to get organized) Cost \$4 \$2 for juniors Bring all the family.

Contact – John 54261649

7th Feb Gisborne – opposite the Aquatic centre
14th Feb Macedon- Macedon Primary School Smith St. Macedon
21st Feb Sunbury – Lions Reserve Riddells Rd. Sunbury
28th Feb Woodend – Tourist Info. Centre Woodend

“Women and Children on Ash Wednesday

A public forum will be held at Jubilee Hall in Macedon on Sunday 18th February, to explore issues around women and children in bushfires, with a focus on the lessons we can learn from Ash Wednesday. The forum will run from 11am until 4pm, with lunch provided.

The aim of the forum is to tell the history of the Mt Macedon fires, meet the women who helped rebuild their families and the community after the devastation, learn from the experiences of mothers and children in bushfires and inspire bushfire preparations.

Women who were living in the Macedon and Mt Macedon area and raising children at the time of Ash Wednesday, are encouraged to come and share their experiences with women who are currently raising children in high bushfire risk areas.

The forum is the result of two grants, one from the State government “Women and Community Leaderships” grants scheme and the other from the Macedon Ranges Shire community grants scheme.

Bookings are requested for catering purpose. Childcare by arrangement.
Bookings and enquiries: Kate Lawrence 5426 1952”

Probus Club Romsey – Lancefield

Meetings of the Romsey – Lancefield Probus Club are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at St Mary's Church Hall, corner Main and Barry Streets, Romsey, at 10.00am. Probus is open to all retired and semi-retired people to enjoy a great social and friendly atmosphere.

Contact

Geoff Long (President) on 5429 6567 or Jeni Clampit (Secretary) on 5429 5480



FOR SALE

Fridge – Whirlpool frost free 420lt. \$130

Romsey: Ph. Mike 54 295092

Romsey Primary School News

At this time of the year we are looking forward to another exciting year at Romsey Primary School. We have over 50 new students starting at our school for this year, and with the class arrangements put in place have maintained class sizes to very manageable levels while continuing to provide a number of specialist programs. Our preps will be in classes of 20 students or less, and other junior years classes will have up to 22 students. This arrangement assists these students to have the best possible start when establishing the foundations of literacy and numeracy in their first years of school.



Exciting End of 2006

In the last weeks of term, Romsey Primary School continued to be a very busy place for staff, students and their families. A highlight of the year is our Year 6 graduation held in the last week of term. The evening started with a dinner for students and teachers followed by the formal part of the evening with families and friends of students invited to celebrate the completion of seven years of primary education and the approaching milestone of moving on to secondary college. Our Year 6 students take an active role in organising the evening. All graduating students are recognised individually. Significant roles and leaders such as our peer mediators, student councillors and school captains were also presented with certificates. Our School Captains also made an address reflecting on their challenging leadership role for the year. The evening concluded with the presentation of a number of special awards.

Another highlight for the year held in the last week of term was the Prep family picnic and concert. This was of lovely way for families and teachers to celebrate the outstanding achievements of these students in their first year of primary school.

Official opening of the Amphitheatre

In the second last week of term we held the official opening of the Romsey Primary School Amphitheatre. Students celebrated their achievements by performing an Aboriginal song and dance and also shared their learning with those who attended. We had a fantastic number of parents, students and staff, and also some very important guests, including Joanne Duncan MLA for Macedon Ranges, Anna Kelly from Arts Victoria, Councillors Henry Bleeck and Geoff Neil, as well as our very special artist Diane Thompson, who helped make this project such a success and the driving force behind the project, our visual arts teacher Amy Skinner. A huge thank you goes to everyone who helped throughout the project. Visitors to the school are encouraged to visit this lasting piece of artwork in our school grounds.

Student Council Excursion

As a reward for the work of Student Council our Student Councillors are taken to Melbourne to visit Parliament House. This is an excellent opportunity to see how government works. The guided tour took us into the Legislative Assembly where we saw Sabrina Raverty take Steve Brack's seat, Scott McMaster the speaker and Ben Noel who was celebrating his birthday, seated in the opposition area. The tour also included the Legislative Council, the Queen's Room and the library. The architecture is magnificent and the students were impressed with the extensive gold leaf, being valued at 3 million dollars.

After a quick lunch in the Fitzroy Gardens we went onto Cliffhanger to meet the challenge of rock climbing. Everyone enjoyed this with some students reaching the top of the 34 metre wall.

Overall Student Council has had a successful year representing the students. Council members have taken a number of suggestions to School Council and been excellent role models. During the year they have supported a number of different charities, raising a total of \$1,343 dollars, which includes their continued sponsorship of Fredrick.

Garden Awards Success

In the first week in December selected students, including a number of our gardening students, together with our school captains Ben Noel and Sabrina Raverty, attended the State Garden Awards Presentations at the Royal Botanic Gardens. Initially all students participated in a number of activities including bush dancing, plant craft, identifying and observing pond mini beasts, looking at plants under microscopes and a visit to the Children's Garden. In the afternoon the moment arrived for the announcement of the Garden Award winners for 2006. All presenters stressed that just to make it to this level was a great achievement. Romsey Primary School was presented with the plaque and voucher for being the Regional winner in this competition and then recognised with the "Pink Heath" Award for "continuous outstanding development of the school grounds." This is the second year in a row that Romsey Primary School has been recognised as a regional winner and received an additional state award. This is an outstanding achievement and everyone involved in maintaining and developing our outstanding school facilities should be congratulated on this accomplishment. All our students in attendance were great ambassadors for our school and its values. Especially pleasing was the care our older students took to look after and engage with the younger children.

Barney Healy
Principal

T.O.W.N.

Taking Off Weight Naturally

Meets every Tuesday evening at
St. Mary's Church Hall,
Main Street, Romsey
from 6.30—7.30 pm.

*Lose those extra kilos in a friendly,
Supportive atmosphere.
New members are always welcome.*

For further information
contact Debbie 5429 5456

Bungawitta Playgroup

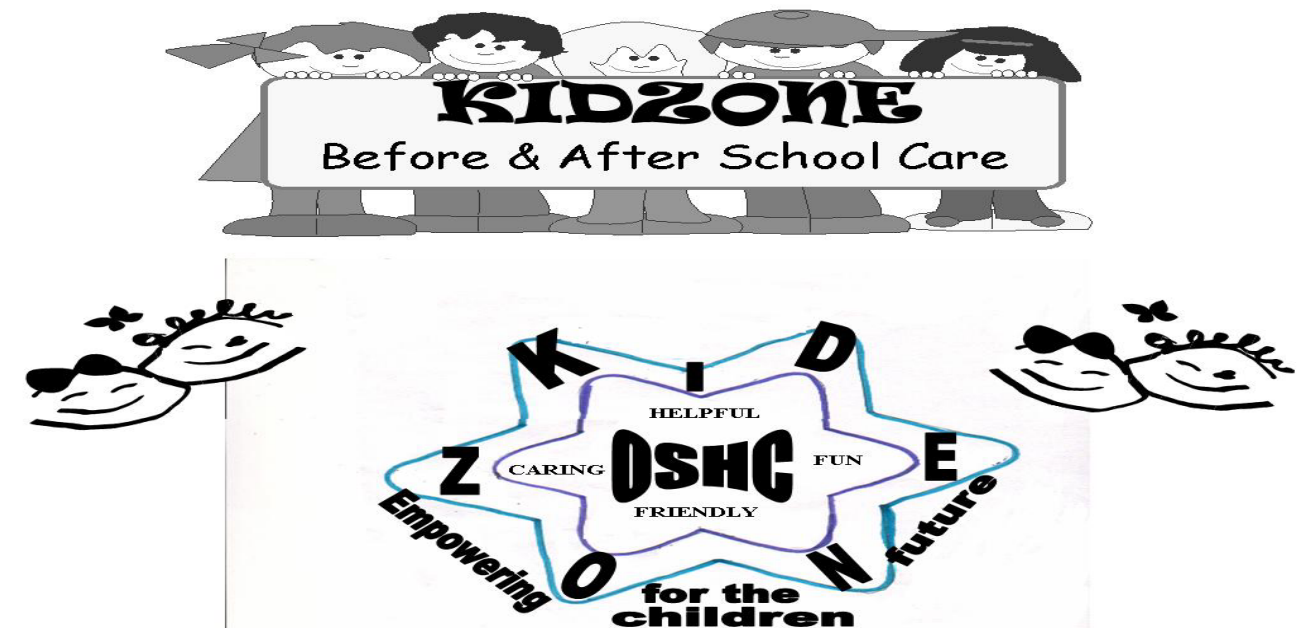
Join us!

For children newborn to 5 years
Monday 2.00-4.00
Tuesday 9.30-12.00
Tuesday 2.00-4.00
Wednesday 10.00-12.00
Thursday 9.30-12.00
Friday 10.00-12.00

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Children have fun playing with our fantastic equipment, doing craft, singing, dancing and a whole lot more!

For more details contact
Joanne 54295368
Adrienne 5429 3351
Anna 5429 6171

98 Main Street
Corner Palmer Street
Romsey 3434.



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 - When: 5 Days a Week 6:30am — 9:00am
3:30pm — 6:30pm
 - Where: 7 Mitchell Court Romsey
(Access through gate at rear of Primary School)

For further information & Registration Forms

Contact Program Coordinator: Elsie Parkinson Ph. (03) 5429 6327 Mob. 0422 860 486

CFA MEDIA NEWS

Host a Wildfire Safety Meeting



CFA Region 14 is inviting residents who live in bushfire-prone areas or those in adjoining urban interface where houses and grasslands meet to call the CFA if you would like to host a Wildfire Safety Meeting in your street. CFA Region 14 Community Safety Manager Mr James Fox said the meetings provide an opportunity to learn more about protecting and preparing your home and community in the event of a bushfire risk. "In the vent of a bushfire, your neighbour can become your best friend. These meetings provide an opportunity to build fire safety awareness networks within your community. You can meet your neighbours and come together to learn more about what you need to do to prepare adequately for the risk of a bushfire."

Mr fox said the CFA Wildfire Presenter gave a one hour presentation as to how to prepare for bushfire. He said that it was aimed as an overview from which residents could then take that knowledge and spend some time at home preparing a bushfire survival plan, preparing their home for the threat of bushfire and so on.

Mr Fox said the Wildfire Safety Presenter's session highlighted the risk of bushfire, how houses burn, how people die and practical solutions on how to survive bushfire.

You can host a Wildfire Safety Meeting by phoning CFA Community Education Co-Ordinator Glen Cockram on 03 8764 1400.

To find out more please:

- go to the CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au
- Phone the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667
- or go to the Department of Sustainability and Environment website www.dse.vic.gov.au



LANCEFIELD FRUIT SHED

Opening hours: Monday & Wednesday 9.00am—6.00pm
 Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9.00am—5.30pm
 Saturday 9.00am—1.00pm.

99% Australian grown produce, good quality, fresh from the market daily.

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Shop local & save!

Phone 5429 1969 Fax 5429 1167



Young People Needed for Youth Action Committees

Interested and motivated young people between the ages of 14-20 are invited to join the OurS Project Youth Action Committees currently established in Woodend, Gisborne, Romsey, Riddells Creek, Kyneton and Lancefield. Each of the Youth Action Committees works in partnership with Council, local businesses, service providers, interested community members and service groups in their local area to drive the development of a physical space for young people in each town and assist in creating a community culture that is welcoming and values the contribution that young people make, to both the local and broader community. The Youth Action Committees provide opportunities for young people to develop skills and gain confidence in areas such as community consultation, youth leadership, communication, conflict resolution, negotiation skills, organizational skills, media liaison, publicity and public speaking.

On Sunday 28 January and Monday 29 January 2007 all OurS Youth Action Committee members have the opportunity to attend a two-day Leadership Training Course, specifically designed to develop their skills critical to the OurS Project, but also incredibly important in everyday life. Participants will get to put their new skills into practice on the second day when they are faced with the 'Pinnacle of Terror' program, which involves participants completing six adventure activities that challenge participants both physically and mentally.

OurS Project Coordinator Annie Rowland said the OurS Project is going to be full of obstacles for these young people. "It is not an easy task attempting to improve outcomes for young people and develop something from nothing. I am hoping that the combination of the training and the 'Pinnacle' experience will put these young people in the best possible position to get the community on board and really create some tangible changes for young people in their local communities," she said. "It is the young people that will lead this program and we have some fantastically talented and committed young people involved in this project. Having said that, there's still time for other young people to get involved."

Adult volunteers are also sought to help mentor and support the Youth Action Committees. Anyone interested in volunteering their time to the OurS Project, either as a Youth Action Committee Member or an adult volunteer are encouraged to contact Annie Rowland, OurS Project Worker, telephone 5427 1997 or 0417 327 277.

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 Amanda Burley on 5429 6936

Ripper Reads

Greetings all and welcome back to 2007.

There will be some fantastic new things happening at all branches this year so keep a look out for these events, as some are on-going, or better still pop into one of the branches and pick up a flier that tells you what's on and where!

In the meantime enjoy these great little reads!

Cheers, Pauline

The Olive Sisters – Amanda Hampson

It is always so enjoyable to read a new author's first book and think, "That was a great read; I wonder when her next book will be published?" This was the case with Amanda Hampson's first novel, 'The Olive Sisters', which tells the stories of three generations of the one family, tales that weave their way together around the central feature of the olive grove. Just like olives, some of the characters are better developed than others, but overall the story is a quiet reflective piece about family life and secrets.

Even after all this time: a story of love, revolution and leaving Iran – Afschineh Latifi

In recent years it has become politically acceptable in Australia to rename refugees as either illegal immigrants or queue jumpers – as though there were actually migration procedures available in the totalitarian regimes from which they have fled. This clever misrepresentation of their situation diminishes their claims of asylum in the public's eyes.

However in this fascinating and, at times, heart-wrenching book Afschineh Latifi allows the reader a poignant insight into the reality of life after a fundamentalist revolution installs a dictator and his henchmen into power and the resulting harassment and fear of the majority of the population.

The author was just 10 in 1979 when the Shah fled the country of her birth, Iran, and the Ayatollah Khomeini seized power. She tells her family's remarkable story of heartbreak and resilience under such a harsh and repressive regime. Her father is unlawfully executed and her mother defies all the odds, not only to keep her family of four small children together for as long as possible, but to impress upon them both the importance of learning and the importance of helping others less fortunate. Given that two of the children became doctors and the other two lawyers she succeeded admirably. A remarkable book.

Tamar – Mal Peet

Never judge a book by its cover...well I grabbed this one because it had a photo of a Lancaster bomber on the front, thought it might appeal and it certainly did. Set in the present 1995 – 2005 in England and at the very end of the Second World War in Holland, it tells the story of Tamar, his operational name, who parachutes into occupied territory, falls in love with a Dutch girl and tries to unite the various resistance factions in his part of the country. Many years later he suggests to his son that his grand-daughter to be is called Tamar and it is left to her, as a teenager, to unravel the mystery of not only her grandfather's wartime secrets, but her own father's disappearance when she was five. A fascinating read that allows the reader to experience the 'famine winter' of 1944-45 and all its repercussions.

Great Community Opportunity!

Free Cooking Lessons!

Learn to cook quality cakes & biscuits using quality ingredients.

Lessons Commence:

Wednesday nights

14th Feb until 28th March



at
7pm



Venue: 7 Mitchell Crt Romsey

For further information

Contact: Pam - Ph. 5429 5523

- Free recipes and handy hints available
- All ingredients provided free
- Samples available to take home (no experience necessary)

Proudly Sponsored by The Romsey Chapter & Verse Group!

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

COME ALONG AND SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS ABOUT HEALTHY AGEING

- What is important to you that will assist you to remain healthy and active?
- What do you think contributes to positive ageing?
- What information would assist you?
- What happens in the community to support positive ageing?
- What other activities/programs could happen in the community to support positive ageing?

Discussion will be informal with refreshments.

DURATION: One Hour

DATE: Tuesday 15 February

PLACE: Woodend Neighbourhood Centre

TIME: 10.00am

Contact:

John Leopold 5421 1666

Lauren O'Neill 5422 2833

LANCEFIELD AND DISTRICT FARMERS MARKET 2007

JAN 27, FEB 24, MAR 24, APR 28, MAY 26, JUN 23,
JUL 28, AUG 25, SEP 22, OCT 27, NOV 24, DEC 15.

9am to 1pm – centre plantation – High Street

The Lancefield and District Farmers' Market continues to be an important event for the town in 2007 – this monthly market attracts many visitors to the town, predominantly from the wider Macedon Ranges area and Broadford/Kilmore areas, with a smaller percentage coming from Melbourne, Bendigo etc.



The Lancefield and District Farmers' Market is coordinated through the Lancefield Neighbourhood House, a community organisation situated in High Street, next to the Primary School – please come down and say hi if you are interested in being involved in the management of the market, it is always good to have an extra ear, pair of hands to keep the show rolling...

This year we welcome new vendors of organically produced vegetables, fruits and herbs – Tim and Deri-Anne Wyatt from Daylesford way and Ian Sullivan and Pat

DeMouliplied from Gisborne way (who started on the Backyard Produce table December)... Please come and support them as they establish themselves at our market and other Farmers' Markets across the region.

Attendees are encouraged to bring their own bags, baskets and trolleys. While most people are pretty good at remembering, it would be great to see everyone there contributing to a better environment. Plastic bags are made from a finite resource – oil products, are largely unnecessary and not really bio-degradable. They escape our waste systems easily and end up in waterways, causing death to aquatic life and birds and polluting the water. We sell re-useable, Australian made, calico bags at the market for \$4 ea. Come and grab one – near the BBQ, if you need on the day.



You may like to consider growing some produce for the market this year. We always welcome new producers of fresh vegetables and fruits, as these items are the most in demand from consumers to the market. People with small amounts of produce are encouraged to make use of the Backyard Produce space – come along and trade, and make a donation to the Neighbourhood House at the end of the day.

Buskers are welcome at the market – amplification can be problematic though, as we use a very narrow space in High Street, please come along and play if you wish, keeping in mind the other buskers on the day – space yourselves well and there should be no problems...



For more information on the market, please call Meggs Hannes-Paterson on 0407 860 320.

MACEDON RANGES BRIDGE CLUB

From a humble beginning of twelve players meeting once weekly to play Bridge, the Macedon Ranges Bridge Club has grown to a membership of 56 with sessions held Monday and Thursday afternoons and Tuesday evenings in Woodend. New players are always welcome and there are classes for beginners. More information can be obtained by ringing 5429 1569 or 9744 7816

Babies & Kids Market,

Saturday 3rd March 2007 from 9.00 am to 2.00 pm at the Ross Watt Children's Hall, Station Road, New Gisborne. New and pre-loved clothing and goods, crafts and children's toys, face painter, sausage sizzle, jumping castle. Stall Holders Wanted \$30.00 per stall. Contact Lainie Nitz 5428 1998 or Julie Gentles 5428 1687. Stalls selling fast.

NEW LIONS MEMBERS WANTED

The Lancefield-Romsey Lions Club would like to encourage people interested in community service to consider joining our organization. The Club has been in service in this area for over 30 years and has a long history of providing support and assistance to the community.

If you feel you would like to make a contribution, meet a group of friendly people, and feel more involved with your town, please give us a call.

For further information, please call John at 5429-5990.

Romsey Kindergarten Inc.

P.O. Box 84
ROMSEY, VIC. 3434
Phone: Unit 1 (03) 5429 5294
Unit 2 (03) 5429 6076



KINDER CORNER ROMSEY KINDERGARTEN NEWS

As I write this, the Kindergarten is quiet and still. play equipment has been packed away. The walls are bare of artwork. The office is quiet and the fridge is empty! It is summer holiday time.

But, by the time you receive this Romsey Rag, the kinder will have returned to the buzz and hum associated with the excitement of a new kinder year beginning. For some, it will be the whole new experience of kindergarten – children and parents new to kindergarten life. For others, it will be the beginning of their final kindergarten year before school. For all- children, parents and teachers- there will be the excitement and enthusiasm of a new year.

This year promises to be another busy one, with the Kinder playing its ongoing important role in the Romsey community.

The end of 2006 was a frenzy of activity, as is reported here!

Farewells Aplenty



On Thursday 14th November, the kinder farewelled two special members of its community who, between them, had served the kindergarten for close to 30 years. Viki Spedding, the bookkeeper, and Chris Farrell, Unit 1 assistant teacher, were guests

of honour at an afternoon tea to thank them for their many years of service. Past and present staff, parents and children attended, as did guests from the Romsey Primary School. It was a lovely afternoon, culminating in the unveiling of a commemorative plaque in recognition of their wonderful contributions.

Election Day Sausage Sizzle

On the day of the state election, 25th November, the Kindergarten ran a sausage sizzle outside the polling booth at the Romsey Primary School, spruiking tasty sausages to those waiting in long queues to vote. It is pleasing to re-

Emergency! Emergency!



Towards the end of term 4, the sounds of emergency sirens and sights of police and fire personnel were in abundance at the Kindergarten, as the children were visited by both our local police and CFA for some introductory chats and demonstrations of equipment. The children were very excited to investigate the fire truck and police car at close range! Many thanks to our local emergency service people who made the visits such a success!

Jenny Stillman, Committee of Management

port that we raised enough money for the teachers "science equipment wish list", which will be purchased for the beginning of term 1.

The 4 Year Olds Graduate



Wednesday 20th December 2006, saw the final kindergarten sessions for the 4 year old classes before they begin school life in 2007. Following their performance of lovely songs to their parents and special friends, they were presented with their Graduation Certificates. For many parents, this day marks the end of their association with the kindergarten and the beginning of a new era. For Chris Farrell, it was her final session in Unit 1 with Jane Whelan – and her final Christmas Tree dance performance which was something special!

Welcome to Natalie

In term 1, we welcome our new bookkeeper, Natalie Moreira, to the Romsey Kindergarten community. The bookkeeper's role in our business is a critical one, not only to "do the books" but also to often act as an interface between the parents and the kinder institution. We welcome Natalie and hope she enjoys her involvement with the kinder.

Web Site

One of the big objectives for 2007, is to organise a web site for the Romsey Kindergarten, to make us even more accessible to our immediate and more far flung community. It is also envisaged that, in addition to showcasing our service, we could strive to a more environmentally friendly status of using far less paper for newsletters and other publications! We are looking for assistance to get our web site up and running. If anyone with the appropriate IT skills is able to help, please contact Jenny Stillman on 0412-349849.



Time to think about

HEAVEN in 2007

February

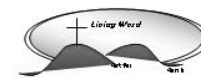
Focus

is:

Eternity



Sunday 10am & 6pm Meetings 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th Feb.



Living Word Christian Church ~ AOG

Ph. 5429 6327

Sunday Service Times:

10am @ 7 Mitchell Court Romsey

6pm @ Woodend Community Centre, Woodend

KIDZONE Before & After School Care Program

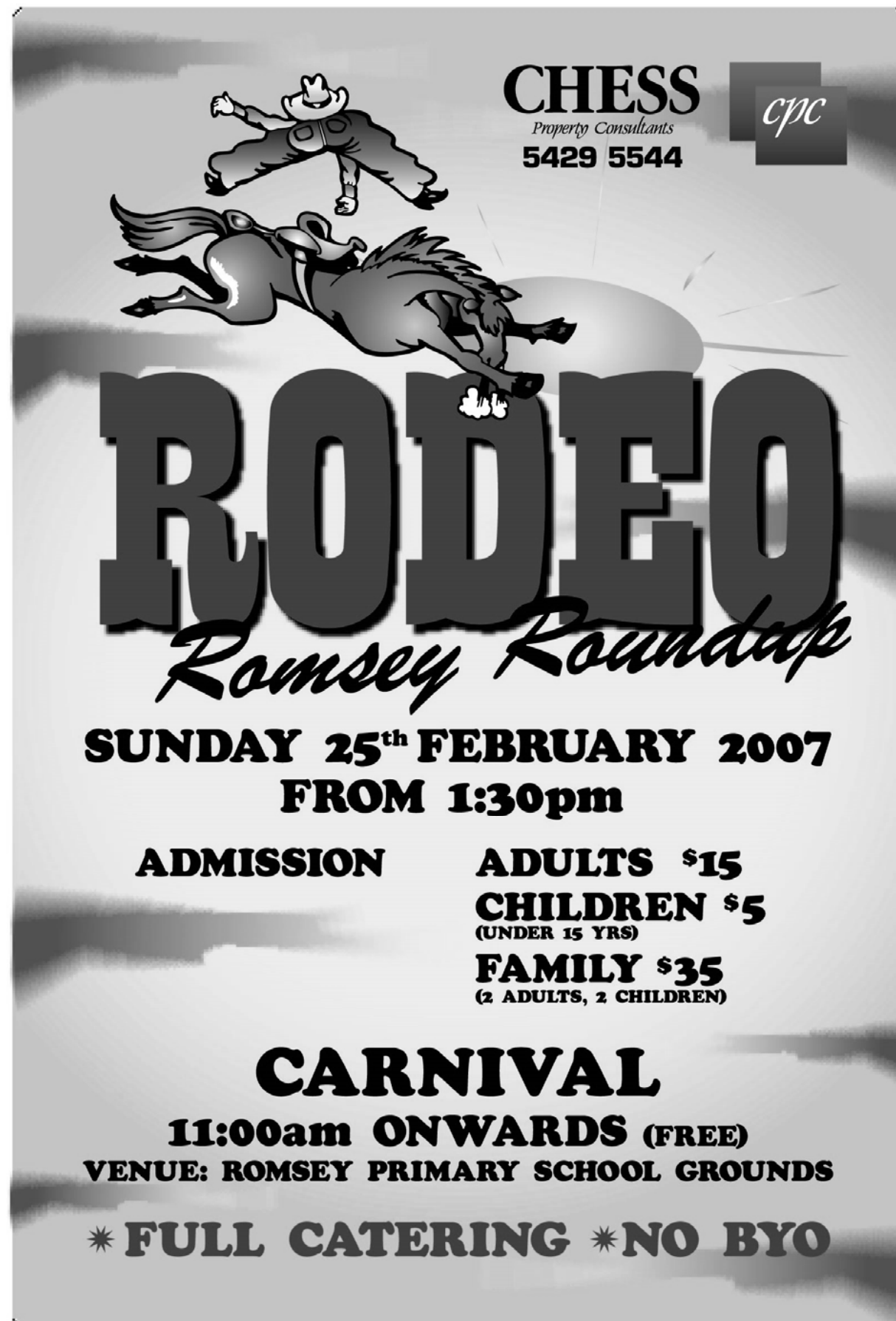
Elsie Parkinson Program Co-Ordinator Ph. 0422 860 486

Church bus available for hire for Community Groups.

**Weekly Life Groups, plus Men's,
Women's, Youth & Children's Groups**

Recommencing

Monday 5th February 2007



CHESS
Property Consultants
5429 5544

RODEO
Romsey Roundup

SUNDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2007
FROM 1:30pm

ADMISSION

ADULTS \$15
CHILDREN \$5 (UNDER 15 YRS)
FAMILY \$35 (2 ADULTS, 2 CHILDREN)

CARNIVAL
11:00am ONWARDS (FREE)
VENUE: ROMSEY PRIMARY SCHOOL GROUNDS

*** FULL CATERING * NO BYO**

Tickets can be pre-purchased at Romsey Primary School, Romsey Auto Care, Mitre 10 in Romsey, Romsey Newsagency, Romsey Post Office and O'Deas Auto Spares. All pre-purchased tickets will be eligible for one of many fabulous door prizes to be drawn throughout the day.



The Anglican Parish
of
Lancefield
and
Romsey



Rev. Leroy Coote
Vicar
Christ Church Lancefield with
St Paul's Romsey.
Ph. No. 5429-1680.

VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE – FEBRUARY 2007.

A happy New Year to all the readers of this magazine and I hope and pray that 2007 brings many blessings to you all. We have just celebrated Australia Day, the start day of our heritage. The day this land was founded. Many of our values, our laws and the ways we operate were not only based on the existing policies that were already set up in England, but were based on the church's teaching of Scripture.

For example, the basis for many of the values of our land was these words of Jesus, "Love your neighbour as yourself." From this, the purpose of how we were to live as a society was based on and, in many cases still is, if we were to look out for another as opposed to ourselves, this principle would be a great guide for living in 2007.

On top of this, the church founded many of our schools and other institutions. Ministers of the mainstream denominations set up these in order to provide those who came to Australia with everything they needed in order to live a quality life. In 2007, the basis of our laws is still the word of God, yet it is selected by few as a life choice. Our church believes that living the way the Bible teaches will provide a vibrant society and community, where people know and look out for another. In other words, provides a solid, stable community for all who live in it.

Let us all take on board the principle of caring for one another so that we can have a safer, friendlier and more caring community in the year 2007 thus getting us back to the values that our country was founded upon.

That was the View from the vicarage.

Yours faithfully.

Rev. Leroy Coote

Vicar

Christ Church Lancefield with St. Paul's Romsey.

Ph. No. 5429-1680.

COMING EVENTS.

AT CHRIST CHURCH LANCEFIELD – SUNDAY 4TH February AT 10:30AM – THE COMMISSIONING OUR NEW CURATE – THE REV. JEANNIE WOOLLARD.

SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY – 9.00AM – KIDS @ CHURCH COMMENCES AT ST. PAUL'S ROMSEY.

SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY – AT BOTH LANCEFIELD AND ROMSEY

IS THE FOLLOWING EVENT:

"LOOKING TO RENEW YOUR MARRIAGE VOWS!"

AFTER THE ROMANCE OF VALENTINE'S DAY – HERE'S A GREAT CHANCE FOR YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE TO RENEW YOUR MARRIAGE VOWS.

On Sunday 18th February 2007 at both of our services, is a chance for any couple who has been married to renew their marriage vows with many other couples.

We are hoping that this is a time where people strengthen their marriage to one another and celebrate it with wedding cake after the service.

We would love people to enter the spirit of the occasion by trying get into their wedding dresses (girls) and suits (guys). However, if they don't fit anymore, it doesn't matter as the important thing is at we renew our commitment to stay with one another 'til death us do part.

Children are welcome and they will have a special time where they make a small wedding item for Mum and Dad.

Each couple attending will be issued with a certificate of the renewal of their marriage in order to commemorate the occasion. The certificate acts as a symbol of the vows you have just renewed.

If you interested in coming, then please contact the Rev. Leroy Coote on 5429-1680 by Thursday 15th February so that we can prepare a personalised certificate for you.

Let us together celebrate the value of marriage on this day.

What's On At Kyneton Town Hall

Danny Bhoj - Comedy

Friday 9th of February 2007 8.00pm

Full \$29.90 Con \$26.90 Group 10+ \$26.90

the Town Hall (Kyneton Box Office) 1300 88 88 02

"Scotland's Danny Bhoj is impressive. His simple observations are delivered with hilarious punch lines and he creates a remarkable intimacy with his audience. A must-see." - The Age

In 2006 Danny Bhoj firmly established himself as one of the most popular international comedians touring the Australian festival circuit. From the Adelaide Fringe Festival, to CRACK-ER Comedy Festival Sydney, shows in Brisbane and the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Danny sold out his entire tour and played his largest venues to date. Now, following a hectic year Danny Bhoj returns to Australia in 2007 for his biggest tour yet, coinciding with the release of his first ever DVD.



"He skips from one hilarious story to the next with a footloose air of improvisation that makes the sell-out crowd feel this show is a one-off just for them." - The Sunday Age

Theatresports - Impro Challenge - Comedy

Saturday 3rd of March 2007 8.00pm

Full \$20 Con/Group 10 + \$15

the Town Hall (Kyneton Box Office) 1300 88 88 02

In the tradition of "Thank God You're Here", and "Whose Line is it Anyway?" comes the Impro Melbourne team with a huge night of Theatresports. Guaranteed side-splitting comedy for the whole family! Impro Melbourne's funniest improvisers create instant comedy using audience suggestions with hilarious and surprising results! You'll laugh 'til your face hurts. One show only!



A Local Man - Entertainment

Saturday 31st of March 2007 8.00pm

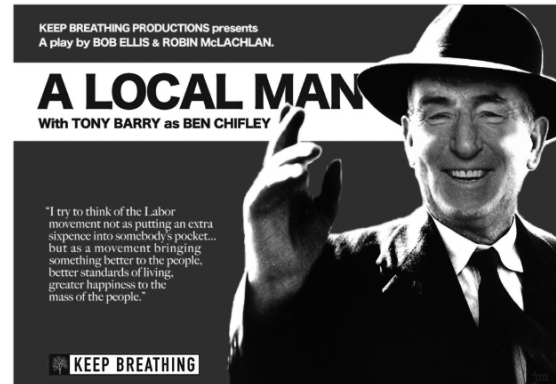
Full \$35 Con \$28 Stud \$25

the Town Hall (Kyneton Box Office) 1300 88 88 02

Ben Chifley has been called Australia's best-loved Prime Minister. His life story, from humble Buthurst engine driver to national leader, has become one of Australia's iconic legends. But what of the man behind the politician.

A Local Man is a poignant and powerful portrayal of a great Australian. Offering striking resonance for our current times, this heartfelt production will move those who remember and captivate those who never knew the enigmatic story of Ben Chifley.

Written by Bob Ellis and Robin McLachlan, and starring award winning actor Tony Barry, A Local Man is all - Australian drama at it's best.



COMING SOON TO YOUR TOWN HALL

YOUR PASSPORT FOR ENTERTAINMENT

<p>DANNY BHOJ THEATRESPORTS— IMPRO CHALLENGE</p> <p>A LOCAL MAN</p> <p>THE CRATE SHOW</p> <p>GINGER MIEK AT GALLIPOLI</p> <p>THE SHOEHORN SONATA</p> <p>ROSS NOBLE—FUZZY LOGIC</p> <p>ART'S BALL - MIKELANGELO AND THE BLACKSEA GENTLEMAN</p> <p>MORNING MUSICAL OKLAHOMA WIL ANDERSON</p>	<p>FRIDAY 9TH OF FEBRUARY 07 8.00PM</p> <p>SATURDAY 3RD OF MARCH 07 8.00PM</p> <p>SATURDAY 31ST OF MARCH 07 8.00PM</p> <p>SATURDAY 21ST OF APRIL 07 7.00PM</p> <p>FRIDAY 27TH OF APRIL 07 10.30AM & 1.30PM</p> <p>SATURDAY 5TH OF MAY 07 8.00PM</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 9TH OF MAY 07 8.00PM</p> <p>SATURDAY 19TH OF MAY 07 7.30PM</p> <p>FRIDAY 25TH OF MAY 07 11.30AM</p> <p>SATURDAY 30TH OF JUNE 07 8.00PM</p>
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Bookings : 1300 88 88 802

Romsey Uniting Church Pohlman Street, Romsey. 3434

Supply Minister Marion Latham Mobile: 0408 380 962

Marion is available for Pastoral Care on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Church Council Chairperson: Noel Shaw - 5429 5509

Secretary: Jeni Clampit - 5429 5480



You are most welcome to come to the Romsey Uniting Church Services and share in fellowship and worship....

News from the Romsey Uniting Church:

During the month of January we have had alternate combined services with Lancefield Uniting Church. This has been a very enjoyable time as we all come together to worship God and enjoy fellowship with friends from Lancefield. As from February 4th, 2007 our services will continue with the normal times.

Romsey 9am; Lancefield 10.30am.

The Turning of the Times

Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses. He sets the time for birth and the time for death, the time for planting and the time for pulling up, the time for killing and the time for healing, the time for pulling down and the time for building. (Ecclesiastes 3: 1-3)

Here you are, at the beginning of another year, poised between the past, which proved to be so potent with both pleasures and pains, and the emerging reality of a new year with all its threats and promises. You face this turning of the times with both terror and titillation.

You ask yourself whether it will be a good year or not, all the time knowing, deep down, that it will be both, complete with its share of birth and death, planting and harvesting, curing and killing, war and peace. The coming times will turn from one to the other, as always.

What tips your contemplation of this mixed potential to a positive view is knowing that it will all happen 'under heaven', with God in charge. He rules over the world with a benevolent eye. He has the power to turn the times in favour of those like you who belong to him, and he loves you enough to do so.

Under God it will be a good year.

Lord, as I step tentatively into this new year, help me to understand that, whatever it might bring, I am not alone but under the caring attention of your loving eyes. Amen.

("Assurance for each Day. Australian Devotions for a year". Richard Hauser, Qld.)

LANCEFIELD COTTAGE FLORIST & GIFTS

**SUMMER SALE
20% TO 50% OFF**

- CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS
- MANCHESTER
- JEWELLERY
- GIFTWARE
- CANDLES
- GARDEN ORNAMENTS

**OPEN 7 DAYS!
SALE ENDS FEBRUARY 28TH**



St. Mary's Parish - Lancefield & Romsey

27 Chauncey Street, Lancefield
Cnr. Main Street & Barry Road, Romsey

Parish Priest: Fr. George O'Connor
Pastoral Associate: Mrs. Joanne Reuther
School Principal: Mr. Anthony Falls

Presbytery: 5429 2130
Convent: 5429 1582
School: 5429 1359

Parish Website: www.users.bigpond.com/stmlancefield

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 7.00 p.m. Lancefield
1st, & 3rd Sunday of the month:
8.00 a.m. Lancefield and 10.00 a.m. Romsey
2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday of the month:
8.00 a.m. Romsey and 10.00 a.m. Lancefield

RECONCILIATION

After weekday Mass or by arrangement.

BAPTISMS

February, April, June, August, October, December.
For more information, please phone 5429 2130.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Anyone wishing to know about the Catholic faith is invited to contact Mrs. Reuther on 5429 1582 or 5429 2130.

REGULAR EVENTS

SVDP Drop-In: First Thursday of each month, 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., St. Mary's Church Hall, Romsey. All welcome to come for a game of cards/chat and free lunch.

Spiritual Guidance: Last Wednesday of each month at the Presbytery, 27 Chauncey Street, Lancefield. John Stuart, Councillor and Guide. Tel: 5429 2130 for more information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sacramental Program 2007:
Parents wanting their child/children to receive Sacraments (Reconciliation and Eucharist Grade 3; Confirmation Grade 6) for 2007 in St. Mary's Parish Lancefield/Romsey are asked to contact the Parish Secretary on 5429 2130. To complete enrolment there is a General Sacrament Meeting on **Wednesday, 7th February at 7.00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall, Romsey (adjacent to the Church). Due to the early start of the Program, no enrolments can be accepted after this date.

BINGO!!

Every Thursday evening
St. Mary's Church Hall at Romsey

Doors Open 7.00 p.m.	EYES DOWN 7.30 p.m.
30 games ... finishing 9.30 p.m.	
\$3.00 per book No entry fee	Canteen facilities Free tea and coffee

ART CLASSES RESUME AT BANKART GALLERY!


From Wednesday 30 January art classes will resume at 33 High Street Lancefield.

Children, Wed. Thurs. Fri. 4-5pm, 5pm - 6pm 5 week course - materials supplied (small fee applies)

Adults - Wed 7.30-8.30 pm or Saturday 2pm - 3pm - 5 week course. Other times by negotiation.

Cost \$75 x 5 weeks for children, \$100 x 5 weeks for adults.

Telephone 54 292 435 to book a place.



Fun, interactive music sessions for young children and their parents/caregivers

Children aged from birth to school age and their parents/caregivers join together for a fun, thirty minute music session, followed by morning tea and play time.

Venue: Living Word Christian Church
7 Mitchell Court, Romsey

Time: Wednesdays 10.00am - 11.30am
During school terms

Starting date: 7th February 2007

Cost: \$5.00 per family per session

Please let us know
you will be coming
Georgia Emonson 5429 5484

CHESS
Property Consultants



 Elizabeth Dormont Director Licensed Real Estate Agent	 Marion Keane Sales Consultant	 Fabian Phillips Sales Consultant
 Janet Bottams Office Manager	 Karen Sawyer Assistant Property Manager	 Debra Turner Reception


Specialising in Sales and Property Management in Romsey, Lancefield and Surrounding Areas. Professional and Friendly Service . Free no-obligation appraisal of your Property!

CHESS PROPERTY
102 Main Street, Romsey
Phone: (03) 5429 5544 Fax (03) 5429 6699

OPEN DAY—KIDS DESIGNER CLOTHING
(Osh-Kosh, Ka-Boosh, Gap, Nike, Adidas, Barbie & Many more)
Size 0000—Size 12 Boys and girls
50% off retail prices.

Thursday 15th February, 2007
11.00 am till 1.00pm
4 Bowkett Close, Romsey
First in best dressed—limited stock!

LINE DANCING
Classes begin again on Monday 19th February from 9.30 am at the Romsey Mechanics Hall. Beginners for the first half hour, intermediate dancing in the second half hour. Come along and have some fun. Enquiries to Carol on 5429 5590.



**MEETS SECOND MONDAY
LANCEFIELD HALL 8 pm**

ALL WELCOME

Contact:
John 5429 2011
David 5429 5880

DEEP CREEK LANDCARE
Covering Lancefield-Romsey Districts



Romsey Veterinary Surgery
Veterinary Surgeons,
Veterinary Physicians
& Veterinary Consultants


03 - 5429-5711
Veterinary Consulting Hours
Monday to Sunday 9 - 10.30 A.M.
Monday to Friday 4 - 6 P.M.

Please phone to make an appointment for a consultation.

Emergencies will be seen at any time
Office Hours


Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8.30 AM – 8 PM
Tuesday & Thursday 9AM – 6 PM
Saturday & Sunday 9 AM – 12.30 PM

80 Main Street, Romsey, 3434.
Fax 03 5429 6259



**Guitar Lessons
FREE!!**

10 week learn to play guitar course.
Absolutely free! Just bring a guitar & learn.
All ages and any standard welcome.

Begins Tuesday 20th Feb. 7:30 - 8:30pm
Where: Living Word Christian Church Hall
7 Mitchell Court Romsey
Contact: D. Morris 5429 5960 

Home Made Irish Cream recipe

2 eggs
1 can condensed milk
600ml bottle of cream
200ml whisky
3 tsp vanilla essence
3 tsp coconut essence
3-4 dessertspoons chocolate essence.

Combine all ingredients. Will make approx. 700ml plus a small bottle. If using an empty whisky bottle do not wash it before putting Irish Cream in. Keep refrigerated.
- Shirley Perkins



HOUSE NEWS

Romsey Community House Inc.
A Learning and Activity Centre
P.O.Box 418
Romsey, Vic 3434

The year has already begun with our first committee meeting on Wednesday night (January 24th) and the first community hub planning meeting for 2007 with the Macedon Ranges Shire Council. As the plans for the hub reach a stage of completion, we look forward to the next stage of the process—the conversion of the old shire offices and post office into a new community facility which will house our community house, along with the library, play group and other groups. This will be an exciting time, culminating in the anticipated opening of the facility some time in 2008.

Discussions with state government will continue this year to try to secure funding for some paid co-ordinator hours for our community house which would be a big boost to the running of our programs. In their election campaign the Bracks government promised a boost in funding for neighbourhood houses, so now we will see if there will be any money flowing into our community for this purpose.

For term 1 we are offering the following programs:

Drop In Craft Morning with Karyn:

Every Thursday 10.30 am—12.30 pm
CFA Headquarters, Stawell Street, Romsey. Bring along those unfinished craft projects., enjoy some company and a cuppa, and meet new people. This year we will feature a particular craft each few weeks, so come along to learn something new! (Venue may change at short notice with the fire season on).
Gold coin donation.

Yoga With Kym Oliver

Wednesdays 7.45—9.00pm at Romsey Primary School.
Cost: \$12 per session or \$100 per 10 week term.
For further information or bookings contact Kym Oliver on 54292134. Commences January 31, 2007.

Learn To Knit with Heather—weekly

Beginners Group Mondays 7—8 pm Begins Feb. 5
Intermediate group Tuesdays 7—8 pm Begins Feb, 6
Advanced Group Wednesdays 7—8 pm Begins Feb. 7
At Romsey Primary School— Cost \$10 for 5 lessons.
Contact Robyn on 0412 275 152

Writer's Group with Dee White—new members needed for a project we are planning. Please contact 0412 275 152 if you are interested in joining. Next meeting Monday 5th Feb. at 7.00pm at Romsey Primary School.

Relaxation / Meditation with Karen Ruggieri—gold coin donation. Each Thursday night in term 1, commencing Feb. 8th. Please contact 0412 275 152 if you are interested in joining this group.

Crop till you drop: Each third Saturday of the month beginning Feb. 18th for all you Memory Makers and Scrapbookers. Starts at 5.00pm, cost is \$15 per session and includes pizza or fish'n'chips for dinner. For further information contact Belinda Williams 54291693/ 0407 203 826 or Lesley Ashley 54295259 / 0409 419 119. Venue - Romsey Primary School.

Learn Smocking with Karyn Gottschling

5 weeks commencing Wednesday 28th February 10.00am—12 noon. Cost \$50 per person. Venue—CFA Headquarters.

Watch the Romsey Rag for details of these and other program ideas including:

Drought and Your Garden—1 session

Hair Magic—professional tricks to make your hair look great (1 session)

For details of these or to express interest contact Robyn on 0412 275 152

Payments for classes booked through the Community House need to be made at Romsey Primary School or mailed to Romsey Community House, P.O. Box 418, Romsey.
Where insufficient numbers are enrolled for a course to run, classes will be cancelled. Refunds will be made to participants.

For information please contact Robyn Moore on 5429 5099 (BH) or 0412 275 152 (AH).

If you have any suggestions for activities or programmes please contact the above numbers or write to us at P.O. Box 418, Romsey.

MACEDON RANGES TOURISM UPDATE



Tourism Update January 2007

Dear Industry Partner,

The final quarter of 2006 was very eventful and successful for the Tourism Development Team, especially with the recent announcement of our successful Australian Tourism Development Program (ATDP) funding of \$436,000!

The strategy behind the grant is called *Connecting People Places and Experiences* and will be used to boost tourism for the Macedon Ranges. The funding will encourage more tourists to visit our magnificent region and more importantly to spend money in our shops, eat in our restaurants and visit our attractions.

The rollout of this strategy aims to cement our existing product strengths, raise the awareness of Hanging Rock as one of Victoria's key natural attractions and allow

us to develop previously untapped markets such as Indigenous tourism. It will be delivered via 3 themed modules targeted at consumers within Victoria, interstate and international markets and will be delivered in a number of ways including signage, interpretive displays, advertising and marketing and promotional materials. As soon as the terms and conditions of the grant have been formalised we will be issuing more detailed information so stay tuned!

On a more personal note, I would like to wrap up 2006 by thanking Macedon Ranges Council staff: Brett, David, Trudy and Christine who work passionately and tirelessly for the good of tourism in the Macedon Ranges.

At times the efforts of the Tourism Unit staff are easily bypassed as 'what they get paid for' however the dedication and amount of personal time involved in this job should be applauded. Thanks also

to the Committee of Tourism Macedon Ranges Inc for their indulgence of my passion and to all the tourism and small business operators who support the Tourism Unit consistently.

I would like to take this opportunity also to wish everyone a safe and happy festive period and to 2007 being bigger and better for tourism in our gorgeous part of the world.

Kindest regards,

KYLIE LETHBRIDGE
Tourism Development Team Leader



Kylie Lethbridge wins national award!

Kylie Lethbridge, Tourism Development Team Leader, was a winner at the National Awards for Economic Development held at the Arts Centre in Melbourne on Thursday 16 November.

The awards are held annually by Economic Development Australia to recognise outstanding achievement and excellence in the area of Economic Development. The award ceremony was attended by more than 200 people from across Australia.

Kylie won the award for "Leadership" from an Employee within Local Government for her work in developing Tourism Macedon Ranges Inc. and for bringing together the Tourism Industry in our region. Kylie also represents Macedon Ranges on a number of external committees



The Hon. Fran Bailey, Macedon Ranges Council Staff, Tourism Macedon Ranges Inc members and stakeholders toast to the success of the recent ATDP grant application



Macedon Ranges Tourism Update

Landcare-related Events, Training & Resources Calendar #1 - 2007 (February-April)

Events Summary

No Frills (Free) National Riparian Research & Development Workshop - University of Melbourne
Over the Garden Fence and Far Away - Communities' Action on Weeds (Seminar) - Upwey
Practical Farming & Land Management Expo - Whittlesea

Training/Courses

Farm Chemical Users Course - Craigieburn
Healthy Pastures & Healthy Horses Course - Bulla

Applications Sought for Advisory Group

Better Bays and Waterways Stakeholder Advisory Group - applications close 9 February 2007

Awards

Premier's Sustainability Awards - close 14 February 2007
National Thiess River Prizes - close 30 March 2007
2007 Banksia Environmental Awards - close 8 May 2007

Landcare-related Resources

Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) - Environmental Events Calendar 2007
RipRap

No Frills (Free) National Riparian Research & Development Workshop

When: 14 February 2007
 Time: 9am-5pm

Where: University of Melbourne

Details: for those who missed out on Land and Water Australia's national Workshop series they are running this free, no frills workshop that will cover key research findings from the National Riparian Lands Research & Development Program. The workshop will also celebrate the launch of the new Principles for Riparian Lands Management book that brings together all the science developed through the Program over the past 13 years. The Program's Legacy CD-ROM will be discussed, as well as the new Design Guidelines for Reintroducing Wood to Australian Rivers.

Speakers include:

- Professor Ian Rutherford (flooding, erosion, catchment scale priority setting)
- Professor Peter M. Davies (in-stream temperature and ecological health)
- Dr Andrew Brooks (guidelines for reintroducing wood into Australian streams and rivers)
- Dr Phil Price (monitoring and evaluation, riparian widths)
- Dr Siwan Lovett (capacity building, effective communication, and the Program's legacy CD-ROM)

Registrations: online registrations close on 15 January 2007. Register online at <http://www.rivers.gov.au/research/workshop/> The cut-off for registrations will be 150 people or 15 January 2007. Once you register you will be notified by email with updates on agenda, accommodation options etc. Any problems registering please phone Bobbie Cowan on (02) 6022 4027.

Over the Garden Fence and Far Away - Communities' Action on Weeds (Seminar)

When: Thursday 19 April 2007

Time: 9am-12:30pm (lunch 12:30-1:30pm)

Where: Burrinja Community Centre and Gallery, Matson Road, Upwey (Melway 75 B12)

Details: this seminar which is presented by the Weed Society of Victoria looks at how communities can help themselves and also keep their areas weed free. There are presentations on a wide range of weed-related topics and some of the questions that will be addressed are: what are the problems that community groups

face attempting to clear an area of weeds, and what can they do to clean up a weedy area so that it does not become a sea of seedlings but an area of restored bush? What is a declared weed and how does that differ from the environmental weeds of bushland, and what are the weeds that require mapping and controlling?

Speakers include:

- Daniel Joubert (DPI)
- David Blair (Shire of Yarra Ranges)
- Trevor McIntosh (Parks Victoria)
- Graham Peterson (EcoRepair)
- John Weiss (DPI)
- Darcy Duggan (Consultant)
- Trish Grant (DPI)

Cost of registration: students-\$35, WSV members-\$40, Community Group members-\$40, all others-\$50. Fees include lunch, teas & proceedings, and the optional field trip to Dr Ken Lever-sha Reserve, Montrose (2-4:30pm).

More information & registration: please go to the following website link to download full program and registration form http://www.wsvic.org.au/w_functions.php#five or contact Ros Shepherd (Secretary - Weed Society of Victoria) tel/fax: 9576 2949 or email: secwssv@surf.net.au for more details.

Practical Farming & Land Management Expo

When: Saturday 21 April 2007

Time: 10am-2:30pm

Where: Whittlesea Agricultural Show Grounds

Cost: FREE

Details: the Practical Farming & Land Management Expo will be a great opportunity for rural property owners to learn more about farming and how to make the most productive and sustainable use of their land. Participants will learn, through a series of presentations, about pasture and drought management, working with neighbours, animal health, weed control, farm planning and where and how to get assistance to manage your land. Exhibitors include farm machinery, farm safety, fencing, weed control, pest animals, farm trees, fire safety and whole farm planning. More information: please contact Tim O'Donnell (WACMAC Landcare Coordinator) tel: 5962 5778, email: tim@mooramoor.org.au

Training/Courses

Farm Chemical Users Course

When: Saturday 17 March & Sunday 18 March 2007

Time: 9am-4pm

Where: Craigieburn (location to be confirmed)

Details: This course is for anyone involved in the storage, transport, handling and use of agricultural chemicals. On completion of this course, participants can apply for the Agricultural Chemical User Permit(A.C.U.P.) from the Department of Primary Industries, Victoria.

Cost: FREE. Preference given to landholders within Hume Council's area. Residents from other local government areas please contact Andrew Dawson (Hume Council) on tel: 9205 2465 or email: AndrewDa@hume.vic.gov.au

Bookings essential: please phone 9205 2473.

Healthy Pastures & Healthy Horses Course

When: Saturday 28 April 2007

Time: 9am-3pm (lunch provided)

Where: location: Bulla (location to be confirmed)

Details: Do you own a horse? Want better productive pastures? This course will address how to better manage pastures, including weed control and identification. A local veterinarian will address all your horse and other stock health concerns.

Cost: FREE. Preference given to landholders within Hume Council's area. Residents from other local government areas please contact Andrew Dawson (Hume Council) on tel: 9205 2465 or email: AndrewDa@hume.vic.gov.au

Bookings Essential: please phone 9205 2473.

Applications Sought for Advisory Group

Better Bays and Waterways Stakeholder Advisory Group - Applications for Membership Sought

Details: a Stakeholder Advisory Group is being established to provide opportunities for input into the development of the Better Bays and Waterways Plan, a collaborative project being led by Melbourne Water and EPA Victoria. The Better Bays and Waterways Plan will integrate current activity with new ideas to protect and improve water quality and support the long-term health of Port Phillip Bay, Western Port, and waterways in the PPW region.

Stakeholder Advisory Group: will be a forum that allows a broad set of stakeholders to discuss, share opinions, and make recommendations on, the development of the Better Bays and Waterways Plan. The Group will discuss water quality priority issues and threats, and how these might best be addressed. The Group will also discuss current projects addressing issues such as urban stormwater management, pollution monitoring, and agricultural land management practices.

Members of the Stakeholder Advisory Group: will be chosen to represent a diversity of backgrounds and views of the people and organisations in the region that have an impact on or interest in water quality, including local government, environment, industry, research and education sectors, and the broader community.

Membership: of the Group is voluntary and will be for an initial 12-month period with the possibility of extending beyond this timeframe if required. The group will meet 2-4 times per year.

Applications close: Friday 9 February 2007

More information: and a copy of the terms of reference, charter, criteria for membership selection and application requirements can be obtained by contacting 9821 4895. Or go to the following website link to download details about the Better Bays and Waterways Stakeholder Advisory Group and application information http://www.melbournwater.com.au/content/current_projects/better_bays_and_waterways/better_bays_and_waterways.asp

Awards

Premier's Sustainability Awards

Entries are now open for the Premier's Sustainability Awards 2007. The Premier's Sustainability Awards recognise and reward Victorian public sector agencies (inc. local government), businesses, communities and individuals that demonstrate outstanding leadership and contribute to a more sustainable future for our state. The Awards provide public recognition at the highest level in the state.

Entries close: 14 February 2007

More information: the Awards are being managed by the Banksia Foundation. Please contact Banksia on 9684 4667 or email: info@banksiafdn.com

National Thiess River Prizes

Nominations are sought for the National Thiess Riverprizes from organisations and community groups from across Australia that are engaged in best practice river and catchments management and environmental repair. The National Thiess Riverprizes are awarded each year during the International Riversymposium and recognise excellence in river management. The National Thiess Riverprize of AUD\$75,000 is funded by the International River-foundation, established to advocate the protection and restoration of the world rivers and waterways for future generations. The awards winners will be announced at an awards ceremony held during the International Riversymposium in Brisbane on 3-6 September 2007. Previous winners from Victoria include Merri Creek Management Committee (2002) and Goulburn Broken CMA (2001).

Nominations: are now open for both the International and National awards. Entry forms, guidelines, and judging criteria are available from the following website index.php?page=ThiessRiverprize
 Nominations close: 30 March 2007
 Enquiries: if you have any questions regarding entries in the Thiess Riverprizes or for any other general enquiries please contact Emily Smigrod (Riversymposium Event Coordinator) via email: emily@riverfestival.com.au or tel (07) 3034 8230.

2007 Banksia Environmental Awards

Entries are now open for the Banksia Environmental Awards 2007. This year's theme is Solutions Through Convergence. Is about merging technologies, resources, expertise and knowledge to make greater strides in preserving our environment and reducing the impact of climate change. Councils are encouraged to enter the Local Government Category, awarded for outstanding achievement by a local government authority in the development and implementation of environmentally sustainable initiatives. The Awards provide public recognition at the highest level nationally.

Entries close: 8 May 2007

More information: please contact the Banksia Foundation on tel: 9684 4667 or email: info@banksiafdn.com

Landcare-related Resources

Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) - Environmental Events Calendar 2007

Go to the following website link <http://www.deh.gov.au/events/index.html> to view the calendar of major environmental events for 2007. For example, World Wetlands Day is on 2 February 2007, go to <http://www.deh.gov.au/water/wetlands/day/index.html> for more details on this event.

RipRap (River and Riparian Management Newsletter)

RipRap is Land & Water Australia's River and Riparian Management Newsletter. This is a free quarterly newsletter that is based around a particular management theme and written in easily understood language to update policy makers, catchment groups and landholders on the most recent developments in riparian zone management. The newsletter provides information about new research, products and case studies, as well as a wrap up of what is happening around the nation in the area of riparian zone management. The latest issue (#31 - 2006) of RipRap can be viewed at <http://www.rivers.gov.au/publicat/riprap/riprap31.htm>

Information Compiled by:

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