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- Jenni Parnis- Children's Guided Visualization
- Maryanne Azzopardi-Reiki, Crystal Healing & Spiritual Readings

Romsey Golf Club Ladies Report

Results for this month:

Wed. 24th October Par E. Scanlon

Wed. 31st October Stroke L. Robb

Wed. 7th November Canadian L. Beasley & B. Cole

On Wednesday 1st November Lorraine and I braved playing at Gisborne. We were drawn on the day with a lovely couple holidaying from Canada. Thankfully we were playing stableford, which meant if we were stuck in a bunker we could just move on to the next hole. The day was better than I anticipated and we enjoyed our day, but we will have to learn more about sand or direction before our next visit to Gisborne.

On Tuesday 20th November Lorraine and I played in the Goonawarra Tournament and Lorraine won the C Grade Net. The day was very hot and windy.

Thursday 22nd November was the Seymour Tournament and Lorraine continued her winning streak again winning the C Grade Net with a net 73.

The ladies held a clinic on Saturday November 24th which Beau was pleased to have juniors attend. Please watch shop windows for another possible clinic in December.

Apologies to regular readers who read this article just for the recipes, but despite requesting help with a Christmas recipe, I have been unable to find a suitable one. Thank you to friends who have shared their trusted recipes and allowed me to print them during the year. If any reader has a simple, tried and tested favourite recipe they are willing to share, please pass it on to me to help make my report easier.

Finally for the year we wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas, and hope Santa brings you all some golf clubs so you can join our club.

Beryl Cole
5429 5411.

Vale Jim Freestone

Devoted golf club member and groundskeeper extraordinaire Jim Freestone, who recently passed away, will be sadly missed at the club and in the Romsey community.

Sincere condolences are extended to John, Irene and family.

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THE ROMSEY RAG

Issue No. 255

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

December 2007

THE DECEMBER EDITION OF THE ROMSEY RAG IS PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY
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The closing date for copy for the February Romsey Rag is **Friday, January 25th, 2008.**

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.

Editorially Speaking

Romsey Rag Editorial Committee:
Barney Healy, Robyn Moore

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Robyn Moore, Anne Cappler

Printing:
Trish Gray, Robyn Moore

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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.

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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 2008

Edition	Closing date for copy	Collating date
February 2008	Friday January 25th	Thursday January 31st
March 2008	Friday February 22nd	Thursday February 28th
April 2008	Friday March 21st	Thursday March 27th
May 2008	Friday April 18th	Thursday April 24th
June 2008	Friday May 23rd	Thursday May 29th
July 2008	Friday June 20th	Thursday June 26th
August 2008	Friday July 25th	Thursday July 31st
September 2008	Friday August 22nd	Thursday August 28th
October 2008	Friday September 19th	Thursday September 25th
November 2008	Friday October 24th	Thursday October 30th
December 2008	Friday November 21st	Thursday November 27th

Dear Friends

As we come to the end of another busy year, our thoughts turn to the festive season and spending time with our family and friends.

With Christmas being the season for giving, it's a perfect time to celebrate Australian Giving Week being held from 3-9 December. Giving Week is an annual event when individuals and families are encouraged to make a difference in their community.

We are very fortunate in our community to have wonderful emergency organisations, service groups and churches who tirelessly contribute to our community all year round and especially at Christmas time.

As we holiday; our local CFA, SES and emergency organisations are protecting our homes and properties, and our service groups and churches are providing food, shelter and a listening ear to those less fortunate in our community.

Giving Week is an opportunity to say thank you to these groups and acknowledge the contribution they make by making a donation, purchasing Christmas presents from community groups or volunteering.

I wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas, and I look forward to seeing and hearing from you in the new year.

Kind regards
Joanne Duncan MP
State Member for Macedon

ROMSEY LIONS CLUB SUNDAY MARKET— 4th SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

The next Romsey Market will be held on
Sunday December

New stall holders are always welcome. Enquiries: 0438-414-245
Please note there is no market in January, June or July.

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Lancefield Romsey Lions Club

On Saturday November 17th Lancefield Romsey Lions Club had its annual Adventure Park outing, but at a new venue. This was a great fun day taking a bus load of primary school children to Bendigo Waterworld. Our first student pick-up was at 8 am at Lancefield Primary School and we continued from there to St Mary's Primary and then to Romsey Primary, followed by Bolinda and Clarkefield Primary Schools. By then we had a bus full of excited kids. When we got to Waterworld the students were all given ID tags to wear. We had our tables and BBQ area shown to us by the staff. The weather was fine and sunny. The kids took to the water and the giant slide with enthusiasm. They were able to go gold panning as well at this venue and many of the students took the opportunity and came home with some great finds. We had a BBQ lunch, with plenty of sausages to go round. After a small wait it was back to the water and the gold panning. There were staff at all of the pools and they stayed at their pool at all times, which I thought was really good to see. The kids packed up their belongings and were all given an icy pole. As we started to pack up to come home, the skies opened up and it poured. We left the park around 2 o'clock. We had sandwiches on the bus for anyone who was still hungry on the way back. We arrived back about 4pm. We did a



reverse dropping off of the students who then received a small bag of lollies. I would like to thank John McCarthy of Lancefield for providing us with the bus, as without his support each year these outings would not be possible.

Lion Julie Starec.

CAN YOU HELP?

Shire residents may have read the efforts by Mike Garnett to raise \$10,000 for the Romsey Medical Centre to enable the purchase of emergency resuscitation equipment. This is a vital item that will enable treatment of medical emergencies more rapidly and effectively. It is something that should give Romsey residents of all ages added confidence.

Mike will tackle the Sandakan Death March in August 2008 as a thank-you to those who have supported the cause. More than half the amount has been raised so far, and those who have not been approached but would like to contribute should please contact Mike on 54 295092 or email garnettm@bigpond.net.au

GUITAR LESSONS

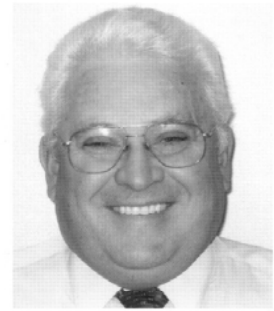
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Ripper Reads

Greetings all and welcome to the festive season when it's time for fun, sun and a great read! Here are few last minute suggestions to stuff into those stockings and pillowcases that pop up in December.

Enjoy!

Fiction:

- Underground—Andrew McGahan
- Dragon Man—Gary Disher
- The Book of Revelation—Rupert Thomson
- 20 Times a Lady—Karyn Bosnak
- Beautiful Lives—Lisa Unger
- My Lover's Lover—Maggie O'Farrell

Non-Fiction / Biographies:

- Letters to a Christian Nation—Sue Harris
- Marie Antoinette: The Journey—Anthea Fraser
- Red Haze: ANZACS in Vietnam—Leon Davidson
- Long Ride for a Pie—Tim Mullinar
- Wild Ride: The Rise & Fall of Cobb & Co.—Sam Everingham

Under 18's:

- Don't Call Me Ishmael—Michael Gerard Bruer
- Shadows in the Mirror—Cameron Nunn
- Annie to the rescue—Deborah Niland
- Dark Alchemy: Magical Tales from Masters to Modern Fantasy
- 1001 Pirate Things to Spot—Lloyd Jones

All libraries will be closed ONLY on the public holidays—December 25th and 26th and January 1st. If you're going holidays you're going to need a good book to read! The Summer Reading Club for children will be operating again at all branches, ring your local library to find out the details.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe 2008 from all the library staff

TOPSOIL AVAILABLE

The Cemetery has available for sale beautiful Romsey red top soil which has come from our Gazebo foundation works. There is 3-4 truckloads (30-40 cubic metres) still available at \$250 per truckload of 10 cubic metres. Delivery can be arranged. Money raised will go towards improvements planned for our Cemetery.

We have purchased the Gazebo and are awaiting completion of the dry stone retaining wall which will be part of the planned ashes repository. The first stage of our Lawn section has proven to be very popular with our community, a quarter of grave sites already sold.

ENQUIRIES FOR SOIL TO M.Taylor (Secretary) on 54 292085 or met.mwp@hotmail.net.au

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From Cr Henry Bleeck Number's up for roads and streets

The rural road numbering system is now in place across Victoria, so it's a good time to remind local residents of the benefits of having our property numbers prominently displayed. Around 150,000 rural properties across the State now have a unique rural address consisting of a rural road number, road name and rural district.

In the past decade local government has developed a plan to allocate and install rural road numbers, to name and signpost roads and to confirm rural districts, so that properties are easier to locate. Macedon Ranges Shire has been a key supporter of this plan. If you need to obtain or replace a number, you should apply to one of our service centres. It's important that your property – both rural homes and holdings and properties in the town – is clearly numbered and easy to identify, particularly by emergency services. Rural road numbers are allocated according to the national standard for rural addressing, which uses the distance of each property entrance from the start of the road.

So if your property is 870 metres from the start of the road, then your property number will be 87. The number is rounded down so that odd numbers are always on the left side and the even numbers on the right in the direction of the numbering. In an emergency, every second potentially counts. The distance-based rural road number will help emergency services estimate how far along the road they need to go – and prominent numbers on the property entrance will alert them when they arrive. Reflective property numbers also mean they can be readily seen at night.

And have a happy Christmas!

Christmas and the New Year are quickly looming on the radar, and this is my last opportunity before the holiday break to get a message out to the residents of Romsey and the region.

The Romsey Rag must be thanked for providing me with the space for a regular message to the community.

Whether you stay at home or head off on holidays, remember that the weather conditions have made for a potentially severe bushfire season. The bush and the countryside are tinder-dry, and water shortages won't help. Think about a fire plan now.

Have a happy and prosperous Christmas and New Year, come back safe and refreshed, and we can look to a productive 2008 in addressing the issues that matter to the residents of Romsey and surrounding areas.

Henry Bleeck.

Your Local Macedon Ranges Shire Councillor.
5422 7027



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Notice to Romsey Rag Trade Directory Advertisers

If you are intending to advertise in the Romsey Rag in 2008, you will be invoiced during early December. If we have not received confirmation of your advertisement and payment by the closing date of the first (February) edition for 2008 your advertisement will not be published. We have had to take this measure due to increasing production costs and the delay in receiving payment from some advertisers.

From the Romsey Rag Team

The Romsey Rag team would like to take this opportunity to wish all readers a very merry Christmas and a Happy new Year.

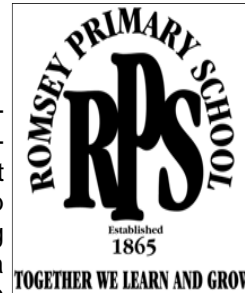
The first edition for 2008 will come out at the end of January, with the deadline for copy being Friday January 25th. We encourage all community groups and organisations to use the Rag to promote themselves and their events—free of charge to all not-for-profit organisations.

We would also like to hear from anyone who has a few minutes to spare each month to assist with the collating of the Rag—a task that increases as Romsey grows! And anyone with publishing and printing skills—or anyone willing to learn—would be a most valuable addition to our team.



Romsey Primary School News

Term four at Romsey Primary School is always a very busy time for staff, students and parents. During November our junior students had an excursion to the Botanic Gardens, our prep students travelled to Melbourne to the Arts centre for a show "Songs of the Sea" and our 5/6 students had a great time on camp. We have a number of special events coming up such as our Year 6 Graduation, Prep Concert, Music Soiree and other end of year celebrations. While all these special events are going on teachers are busy preparing end of year reports and getting ready for 2008. Listed here are a number of recent highlights from the many programs and activities undertaken at this time of the year.



Art Show

The Romsey Primary School Art Show was an outstanding success again this year. The students work was again of a very high standard; their work showing their talent and skill as well as an appreciation of a variety of styles and influences from which they drew their inspiration. The Art Show is a reflection of the outstanding Visual Art program at our school taken by Mrs Amy Green. Amy has been the driving force behind the introduction of an annual Art Show for our students; this has become another highlight on our school event's calendar each year.

Sports Award

Year 4 student Lauren Connell has been recognised in the 2007 Loddon Mallee Region Sports Awards. This is in recognition of Lauren's outstanding achievements this year in cross country, athletics and aerobics. Lauren is one of only eight individual primary age students recognised in these awards in the Loddon Mallee Region; this includes all schools from Gisborne to Mildura covering Bendigo, Swan Hill and Echuca. Lauren will be presented with her award on 4th December at a special function in Bendigo. Lauren was a member of the Victorian State Cross Country team and came 5th in the national titles in Perth; she was the first Victorian over the line in this event. She was a member of the school's aerobics team that competed and came 3rd in the National titles in Sydney. Lauren has also made it through to the State Athletics Championships in triple jump and 800 metres.

Free Fruit for Junior Students in 2008

For next year the school has successfully applied to be able to provide free fruit for each of our prep and junior students one day per week. This program is a Victorian State government initiative.

Water Saving Grant

The school has successfully applied for an additional Water Saving Grant. The site works for this project will be carried out early in 2008 and will include the installation of water tanks which will be connected to the toilets in the gym. This project complements other grants and programs that have installed devices to give restricted flow in all taps in the school. These strategies together should result in significant water savings over the coming years.

Transition throughout the school

This term we commenced an internal transition program for all students throughout the school. The aim of the program is to better prepare students for some of the tasks and activities they are likely to encounter in the next year of their schooling. This program has been implemented following feedback from parents in the annual survey. These weekly sessions will cover the core areas of English and Maths in the first two sessions. While at this stage students will be with a range of teachers and students, all children will have the opportunity to meet their teacher and fellow classmates for 2008 in the last week of term.

Special Awards & Presentations

On the Monday following Remembrance Day Romsey/ Lancefield RSL President Mr John Lynch attended our school assembly to announce the winners of the Senior Students' writing competition. This year's topic was centred on students' knowledge and understanding of the Kokoda Track. John was again impressed with the students' knowledge of the topic and their outstanding writing and presentation skills. The winners this year were Ashlee Wilson, Jessica Hoctor-Turner and Britney Carter. The school appreciates the ongoing support of the RSL for our students in sponsoring this annual writing event.

On the following Monday Mr. Jason Patterson from Romsey Mitre 10 presented the school with a voucher from his business as part of the Junior Landcare Grant. These funds will be used for gardening tools and equipment for our students. The school appreciates the ongoing support of the Mitre 10 in encouraging students to care for the environment through their sponsorship on this grant program.

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"Woomba"

Woodend Street Festival, shaping up to be a great success

In the past Woodend has held annual street festivals that have proven to be great for the community spirit as well as inviting tourists to see how wonderful our little town really is. This year after ten years, Woodend's street festival has returned and promises to be larger than ever before. The Street Festival committee have spent hours on preparing and inviting parties of interest that they believe will entice our local residents to come along as well as encouraging visitors to enjoy our local talents, entertainment and produce that will be on offer. With the support from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council and many others, the committee of 6 are proud to present to you the 2007 "Woomba Woodend Street Festival" on Saturday the 1st of December. It is looking to be a great family day out and a chance to do some Christmas shopping from stalls such as teddy bears, exquisite handmade jewellery, and local wines. There is a chance to win great prizes in the Woomba raffle in which tickets are available from local businesses that have generously donated prizes and will be drawn on the day of the festival. There is even a great competition for the local youngsters to decorate their bikes with tinsel, streamers and loads of colour, and enter themselves within three age groups U5, U8 & U13 with judges from the local Lion Club presenting the winners with a ribbon and a certificate. So bring the whole family down to the main street of Woodend on Saturday 1st of December to enjoy the Woomba Street Festival, listen to the local talents both busking and taking the stage, watch the 3:30pm Parade down the main street of Woodend and get back into that community spirit. On behalf of all the committee members, a big thank you to all those local businesses who have given the dedicated committee all the encouragement and support needed in the organisation of Woomba, the response towards participation has been overwhelming. Come down and support the community and let's see Woodend's annual street festival come back to life.

For further information please contact Erin or Alexia:
 (T): 5427 3092 (F): 54273209 (E):
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Australia Day Celebration



**Saturday
26th Jan
11am -1pm**

Romsey Skate Park

Flag Raising Ceremony
Council Message
Live Music, Sausage Sizzle,
Drinks, Food,
Games & Lots of Stalls
Balloons,
Colouring Competition for Children
& much, much more!

Ph. (03) 5429 6327
Everyone Welcome



Proudly sponsored by Macedon Ranges Shire Council & Living Word Christian Church



ROMSEY / LANCEFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS — Meet each Monday

Come and enjoy lunch, a game of cards, indoor bowls or just a chat with a very friendly group of people. Bus trips arranged each month. For details, please ring Rae Hooke on 5429 1602

Romsey Art and Craft Market

The first Romsey Art and Craft Market supporting the Romsey Community House. Wow what a buzz !!!!!

I know the market was only small and thankyou so much to our eight stall holders and the community who supported us on what could have been a disastrous day due to rain, but Sunday's market is our first and a taste of what's to come .The variety and craftsmanship was commendable
Thankyou to Belinda,Carole,Gerri,Carol,Georgina ,Cheryl,Natasha, Jane and Hayden



Sunday was the first of 6 markets held each year the dates for 2008 markets are:

- February 10th
- March the 30th
- May the 4th
- July 27th
- September 28th
- November the 16th

So makes sure you put the dates on your calendar and don't miss the next one!!!!
We are still calling for market stall holders so if you know of anyone or a friend who lives in the Macedon Ranges Shire ,Sunbury or Kilmore please pass this information on and contact Gillian at the Gillmay Arts Gallery 103 Main Street Romsey or phone 54293996 and leave your details. We will get back to you as soon as possible .
Thankyou yours sincerely Gillian Gorrie

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**ADVENT ACTIVITY DAY
FRIDAY DECEMBER 7TH**

Commencing at 3.45pm
At the Uniting Church Hall
Pohlman Street, Romsey


THIS IS A ONE DAY EVENT

The afternoon will include afternoon tea, Christmas songs, stories and activities for all primary school aged children.


The afternoon will commence at 3.45 pm and will finish with a bar-b-que at 5.30pm for everyone.

The cost is \$1.00

For further information please contact Jay Brooks on 5429 6163 or Sandra Strack on 5427 0472.



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Expiry Date: 30/01/2008

TREES ARE THE LUNGS OF THE WORLD CARING FOR TREES WITHIN YOUR GARDEN AND THE WIDER LANDSCAPE

By Kerri Mewett

Trees play an absolute crucial role within our Environment!! Trees produce our oxygen and they filter the atmosphere of pollutants. Therefore it is vital that we preserve the trees we have, maintain their health as well as plant more.

FACT 1. A trees root system can spread as wide as a tree is tall, often travelling much further in search of water and nutrients.

FACT 2. 80% of a trees root system are located within 1.5 metre from the ground surface

TREE HEALTH

Compaction: There are many daily occurrences which are detrimental to a trees health. Compaction is where the soil around a tree is worn to create a hard layer. This prevents moisture moving into the soil and results in water stress, also oxygen moving in and out of the soil is restricted.

Compaction is commonly caused by

- Vehicles being parked around trees
- Building and construction materials stored around trees
- Pedestrian traffic
- Sheep, cattle and horses grazing and camping around trees

Soil Capping: This is where soil is laid on top of the original soil level. Often 'left over' soil from earth works is spread around the base of trees. This added soil causes a cap which restricts water penetrating the soil and oxygen exchange. Soil built up around a trunk can cause rot. Soil Capping is frequently associated with

- Road works,
- building and construction
- earthworks, including dam building

Spreading soil around the base of trees is disastrous, and eventually leads the tree death.

Competition: In times of stress, remnant trees (naturally existing) can suffer from competition for water and nutrients from weedy species such as pine trees and willow trees.

Trenching: Digging trenches through a trees root system, often associated with,

- laying pipelines, cabling, (services) to a property
- footpath construction

Trenching cuts through roots systems (remember the majority of roots in the top 1.5 metres) greatly reducing the trees ability to access water and nutrients.

Nutrient Overloading: Commonly associated with Remnant and Native trees. This is where trees are 'poisoned' by nutrients. Australian trees do not like stock manure and septic runoff. This excess in nutrients will slowly poison and kill these trees. This often occurs with,

- sheep, cattle and horses camping under remnant gum trees
- gardeners mulching gum trees with stable waste
- septic and nutrient rich grey water directed near native trees

Physical Trunk Damage: The trunk of the tree is damaged by machinery or stock. This reduces the trees ability to move water and nutrients up to the canopy as well as be-

ing a site for disease to enter the tree. Typically the trunk damage results in poor growth, susceptibility to pest and disease attack and/or death. Trunk damage is often caused by

- mowers and whipper snippers
- tractors and machinery
- stock chewing / rubbing

PREVENTING IMPACTS ON TREE HEALTH

Preventing problems is far easier than trying to repair problems.

Prevent Compaction:

- Restrict vehicle and pedestrian access close to trees
- Fence off remnant trees to prevent stock access
- Fence off trees on building sites

Prevent Soil Capping:

- Never 'add' extra soil on top of existing soil level within the vicinity of trees

Prevent Competition:

- Remove/Kill Weedy species

Prevent Trenching:

- Wherever possible use drill or tunnel trenching techniques, this greatly reduces the damage to roots

Prevent Nutrient Overloading:

- Fence off remnant trees to restrict stock

Prevent Trunk Damage:

- Spray out around the trunk and mulch, to keep mowers and whipper snippers away from trunk
- fence out stock

COMPACTION REPAIR

If you have trees suffering from compaction (poor growth, dead wood in canopy, dropping limbs) you can try to combat this by

- removing what is causing compaction
- spray out any weeds or turf
- aerate using a turf/soil aerator
- give root zone a slow, deep water
- mulch root zone, usually from trunk to edge of canopy

SUMMARY

It is far easier to care for the trees we have by using common sense and following these simple steps. If you are having earthworks performed, make sure you consult with the operator and they understand what's to be expected when working around trees.

beanie kids Available at **ROMSEY NEWSPAPER**

"Beanie kids for Christmas. Great gift idea!"

GOOD PRICING

WE HAVE ALL YOUR STATIONERY AND INK CARTRIDGE REQUIREMENTS

Main St Romsey • Phone 5429 5361

Probus

Our self drive to Woodend in November to the Victoria Hotel for lunch was a rainy wet day after a few days of very hot weather. We had a wonderful meal and a few hours together as a small group, chatting and enjoying one another's company. A great few hours together was had by those who attended.

Last month we also had a self drive to Rupertswood Mansion in Sunbury, enjoying the beautiful old house and its stunning décor. It took us into an era of grandeur and of how the rich and famous lived in those times. Contact Jenni Clampit (Secretary) if you are interested in coming along to Probus on 54295480

Children's Music and Dance Program:

Now taking enrolments for 2008. Junior Movers & Shakers Music & Movement Program is specifically designed to ensure that children have stimulating positive experiences and interaction with others that foster self-esteem, social skills, confidence and knowledge. Activities include puppetry and musical storytelling, song and dance, musical games and instrument playing - with fun being the name of the game.

For ages 6 months-6yrs. **Inquiries: Evie 0403 243 057 or Karen**

0432 782 373.

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- Nutritious breakfasts and afternoon snacks.
- All areas of development catered for.
- CCB rebate approved.



For more information please contact:

Coordinator Elsie Parkinson 5429 6327 or 0422 860 486

LISA'S PET FEEDING SERVICES

Book now for upcoming Christmas Holidays and have your pet looked after in your own home.

No animal too big or too small.

Call today for a free quote

Instead of sending Fido to a Kennel, think about leaving him at home and arrange for Lisa to look after his/her needs. This service is available in the Romsey area and surrounding areas

by arrangement.

Please call Lisa on

0409 864 482

also

HOUSE CLEANING REASONABLE RATES

Are you too tired to do the following:-
Vacuuming, Dusting, Showers, Toilets,

Bench tops, Mopping of Floors etc.

Need a break then give Lisa a call on

0409 864 482

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

Mrs Pat Shannon (President) on 5429 6194 or Mrs Jeni Clampit (Secretary) on 5429 5480

Up and coming events for Probus:

December 19th End of Year break up at The Australian in Wandong.



Romsey Uniting Church Pohlman Street, Romsey. 3434

Minister Avril Hannah-Jones: 5429 5351 Mobile: 0408 380 962

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...

'BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE'
7.30pm, 23rd December, 2007.

The intent of this worship service is to provide space for those who may be grieving, hurting, lonely or simply not connected with the public joy of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

In coming together, we are free to share our pain and receive comfort from the surrounding community of faith.

This memorial service will be led by Avril Hannah-Jones.

Everyone is invited to come to this service, especially those who are sad, grieving for a loved one or just looking for some peace and joy during this festive season.

Special Days Commentary
December 24 – Christmas Eve

In many churches, Christmas Eve worshippers are the first to celebrate the birth of Christ, and the evening is observed as the start of the Season of Christmas. The tradition of celebrating special days the evening before comes from Judaism, where the day begins at sunset. This in turn comes from the creation story in Genesis 1, where "there was evening and there was morning" suggesting that the day begins with the evening, rather than at midnight.

However, many churches hold worship services at midnight, keeping with the Western tradition of the day beginning at that hour.

December 25 – Christmas Season Begins

This day marks the beginning of a 12-day festival for Christians in the West known as the Season of Christmas. December 25 marks the observed, though not the actual, day of Jesus' birth. The season lasts for 12 days until Epiphany which is on January 6. Because the Eastern Orthodox Church uses the Julian calendar, Christians in this tradition will celebrate the birth of Christ on January 7, 2008.

December 26 – Boxing Day (Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and the United Kingdom)

Some traditions believe this day got its name from the fact that it falls on the feast of St. Stephen, a day when the alms boxes in the churches were opened and the contents

distributed to the needy. Others say that it was a tradition on the day after Christmas for employers to give gifts to their servants. It is a day for remembering those who serve others, by giving them a gift or token of appreciation.

Seasons of the Spirit, Congregational Life
Advent*Christmas*Epiphany

Church Services conducted during December 2007 and January 2008

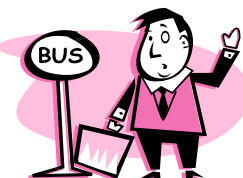
2nd	9.00am	Special All Age Service
9th	9.00am	Communion Service at Romsey Conducted by Dr Avril Hannah-Jones
16th	10.00am	Combined Worship Service at Romsey Conducted by the Worship Team
23rd	10.00am	Combined Worship Service at Lancefield Conducted by Dr Avril Hannah-Jones
23rd	7.30pm	Blue Christmas Service at Romsey Conducted by Dr Avril Hannah-Jones
24th	7.30pm	Christmas Eve Service at Riddells Creek And 9.30pm at Mt Macedon Conducted by Dr Avril Hannah-Jones
25th	10.00am	Christmas Day Service at Romsey Conducted by Dr Avril Hannah-Jones
30th	10.00am	Combined Worship Service at Romsey Conducted by the Worship Team
January		
6th	10.00am	Combined Worship Service at Lancefield Conducted by visiting Minister
13th	10.00am	Combined Worship Service at Lancefield Conducted by Dr Avril Hannah-Jones
20th	10.00am	Combined Worship Service at Romsey Conducted by the Worship Team
27th	10.0am	Combined Worship Service Conducted by Dr Avril Hannah-Jones

February—Services are back to normal times:
Romsey 9.00am Lancefield 10.30am

The congregation of the Romsey Uniting Church wish everyone in the community a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

"ATTENTION CITY COMMUTERS"

The Lancefield Romsey Commuter Bus offers a Mon-Fri return service direct to the CBD at the cheapest rate available in the shire. Currently **\$40.00 per week** for permanent travelers. Departs Lancefield General Store 6.35am, 3 pick up points in Romsey, arrives CBD 7.40am. Departs Cnr William & Latrobe Sts 5.20pm, arrives back in Romsey & Lancefield 6.30pm. Seats currently available. For more details ring Muir on 0354 255505



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Carols in the Park

Romsey Lions Park
by the 5 Mile Creek

Entertainment from 7:30pm
Carols from 8:30pm

Glo-Candles @ \$1.50ea
(Available for purchase on the night)

Sausage Sizzle, Lollies & Song Books

Pre-Carol Entertainment & Games for the Kids

Ph. (03) 5429 6327 for further details

**** Free Christmas Hampers ****

Friday 21st Dec



Presented by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council & Living Word Christian Church.



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

The kindergarten year is rapidly coming to a close. Christmas activity at kindergarten is building, and the children are excited. No doubt the teachers are getting excited, too, at the prospect of a long break.

On Monday 19th November, Romsey Kindergarten Inc. held its Annual General Meeting (AGM). Unfortunately, the guest speaker, Rene Silbermann, was unable to attend due to illness. Our Unit 1 teacher, Jane Whelan, stepped into the breach and spoke about "Late Bloomers". Our Unit 2 teacher, Liz Keily, delivered the Teacher's Report. The Shire was represented by Cr. Geoff Neil and Cr. Sandra McGregor. School principals from Hesketh, Lancefield and Romsey were also present. The election of a new committee was followed by the distribution of information for parents of the 2008 children and a sumptuous feast.

As a summary of 2007 at Romsey Kindergarten, the following Romsey Rag article is an extract from the President's Report to the AGM.

Romsey Kindergarten Is A Special Place

Kindergarten is a child's introduction to a social learning environment. For many parents, it is an introduction to a new community of people with whom the common denominator is their children. This place, as a double unit kindergarten facility is special, with a long-standing team of teaching staff and impressive facilities.

Kinder Profile In The Community (Local and Beyond)

We believe it is important to maintain and further develop the Kindergarten's profile in the community's consciousness. We want to continue to stress the importance of a specialized facility to provide early childhood education. Our initiatives with a public face have included the following:

- Open Day
- Universal Children's Week Presentation
- Goods and Services Auction
- Bunnings Sausage Sizzle
- Romsey Rag articles

- Romsey Business and Tourism Association (RBTA) membership

Liaison With Key Stakeholders

This Kindergarten has many "friends".

- Romsey Primary School
- Other Local Schools
- Local Businesses
- Maternal and Child Health Centre
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Grant Money

Concept Plan for a quality Playground Development

Money from the Shire Council (\$3050) is funding this project to construct a comprehensive concept plan for a staged development of the playground areas. Each stage will be an exciting stand-alone feature. Early consultation featured input from the teaching staff. Surveying work has been completed, with the Concept Plans being finished, hopefully, by the end of this year. Such a plan will facilitate obtaining corporate funding for the "big ticket items" of the development. We hope to have funds available to begin stage 1 next year. The effort of Cr. Geoff Neil is much appreciated in his assistance in presenting our case for grant money to Council.

Volunteer Small Equipment Grant (VSEG)

Committee applied for, and received, \$3000 from the Federal Government through its VSEG scheme which supports the work of volunteers in not-for-profit organizations. This money will provide for a lap-top computer and data projector to assist committee meetings (projection of information instead of photocopying) as well as a set of quality crockery for special events (AGM, Open Day, Mother's Day morning tea etc).

Web Site

Earlier this year, a then new Committee member, Shannon Lockens, had the idea to approach the Kilmore International School to see if any of

their Year 12 students may be interested in designing a web site for the Kindergarten as part of their community service work. As a result, we met Marcus and Dion who have, at no cost to the Kindergarten, organized a Romsey Kindergarten web site (romseykindergarten.com.au) on which general information, enrolment information, policies, newsletter articles, Romsey Rag articles and upcoming events can be displayed. We are very grateful for their professional assistance and wish them all the very best in life beyond secondary school.

Special In-House Events

- **Mother's Day Morning Tea** – for mums, nannas, grandmas and other special ladies.
- **Father's Night** – for Dads, granddads and other special people who may not often get a chance to come to kindergarten.
- **Special Persons Day** – for grandparents and other special people.
- **Art Week** – This was generously supported by Gillian Gorrie from the Gilmay Gallery and showcased laminated artwork from every kindergarten child in the foyer.

Information Transfer to the Community

Romsey Kindergarten is committed to providing information to the local community about the development and care of our children, in the form of guest speaker presentations:

Healthy Eating Presentation – This was a free event subsidized by the

Shire of Macedon Ranges as part of Universal Children's Week.

- Heather Gilbertson, paediatric dietitian, was the guest presenter on a subject we all should have an interest in for our children's sakes.

• **Open Day** – Rene Silbermann from Kathy Walker and Associates, early Childhood Consultancy, was our visiting guest speaker who spoke



Weekend Volunteer Staff

Do you like chatting with people? Are you a team player? Would you like to be part of the welcoming face of the Macedon Ranges?

The Tourism Unit of the Macedon Ranges Shire is seeking volunteers to staff the Visitor Information Centres located at Kyneton and Woodend. We have morning (9am – 1pm) and afternoon (1pm – 5pm) shifts available on Saturday and Sundays on the basis of one shift per fortnight. No experience necessary. As a valued member of our volunteer team you are supported in your role as Visitor Information Centre volunteer. We provide on-the-job training and you will be invited to join us on our monthly Local Learning Tours as we visit various parts of the region enjoying and sampling the wonderful attractions and services the Macedon Ranges has to offer. It's both fun and worthwhile and we would love you to join our team.

If this interests you please feel free to contact the Tourism Information Officers at the Macedon Ranges Shire Council – Trudy Shepherd or Christine Sullivan on Ph 5427 2033. We are looking forward to hearing from you

Australia Day Award



Living Word Christian Church
together with the
Macedon Ranges Shire Council
are sponsoring an Australian Day Celebration.

Saturday 26th January 2008
11am — 1pm

Romsey Skate Park
Main Rd Romsey

Members of the community
are welcome to nominate a
Community Group
for services to the Community.

Awards to be presented on Australia Day

Nominations close 18th January 2008

Please forward nominations to:
Australia Day Community Group Award
P.O. Box 164 Romsey 3434

For further information
Ph. (03) 5429 6327



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Wanted

For Romsey Roundup Rock Night 2008

Old farm machinery for display on
February 22nd 2008
Outside the Mechanics Hall
(On loan)

Please call Christie Brown
0423 819 159

(Tractor, chaff cutter, plough etc)

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For Sale

TURBO 400 TRANSMISSION	\$350
4 15" CSA WHEELS & RW TYRES (SUIT HOLDEN)	\$200
PAIR LAMBSWOOL COVERED STATESMAN DEVILLE FR SEATS	\$60
OR \$500 THE LOT	0413456044

Kinder Corner cont'd from page 8

about parenting issues. Unit 1's Jane Whelan also gave an insightful presentation.

Annual General Meeting – This is the second year of a guest speaker at our AGM. Last year's guest was Mr. John Marsden who spoke about language development in children.

Providing a Quality Kindergarten Program for Romsey's Children – The Teaching Staff

A Kindergarten's capacity to be progressive in its provision of a quality program for our pre-school program is highly dependent on the teaching staff. We are lucky to have a most experienced team at Romsey in Jane Whelan, Liz Keily, Catherine Tighe and Kay Fatcher. This year, the teachers have been given an increased opportunity for Professional Development which means they have undertaken ongoing education in many interesting areas. This year, Committee formulated Position Descriptions for the teaching staff in line with KPV (Kindergarten Parents Victoria) guidelines. Committee acknowledges that it has been a challenging year for them, also, as they adjust to the presence of more policy and process, all of which has been deemed necessary to run a kindergarten that is an example of best practice. Committee would like to thank them for their dedicated efforts throughout this year.

A Great Group of People

The ongoing functioning of this Kindergarten does not happen on its own. In addition to the teaching staff, Romsey Kindergarten depends on other individuals in order to deliver its service. Our Bookkeeper, Natalie Moreira, has nearly completed her first year with us, and has handled the challenge courageously! Leigh Ward, our cleaner, continues to be a wonderful asset to the Kindergarten and we thank her, too, for all of her hard work. The volunteer Committee of

Management has been, for me, a privilege to work with this year. The members make considerable personal sacrifice to be involved with the management and day-to-day running of this facility. I want to thank all of my fellow Committee members this year who have displayed grace and class under, sometimes, challenging expectations in this important community service.

The Way Forward

This Kindergarten is a so-called "Community Kindergarten", which means it depends totally on kinder community support to operate. Whether that support is on the Committee of Management or volunteering in other ways, it is vital. The recruitment for Committee is potentially a problem. Even getting the Kindergarten community to come along and support kinder initiatives has been challenging. The Goods and Services Auction was a case in point. Well supported by the local broader community (it was the single biggest fundraising effort ever), but pathetically attended by the 90 family kindergarten community.

The time has come for this community to seriously consider their commitment to a "Community Kindergarten". Committee set up a working party this year to evaluate *kindergarten management systems*, including our own, that of Council administered kindergartens and those kindergartens run by other cluster managers (such as Early Childhood Management Service). We are presenting and discussing the findings of this review in a forum to be held here on **Monday 3rd December at 7.30pm**. We encourage you all to attend this very important discussion.

For me, my time as President has been rewarding, challenging and educational (sometimes all at the same time!). I want to thank everyone who has assisted me this year for their wonderful efforts, and encourage the committee members of 2008 to main-

tain the current momentum at Romsey Kindergarten.

Jenny Stillman (0412-349849)
President
Committee of Management

**Events From 2008
at Romsey Kindergarten**





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. (summer time) Lancefield

6.00 p.m. (winter time) 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.

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

ADVENT REFLECTION/PRAYER DAY

"As Mary pondered all these things in her heart waiting for the birth of her child, so in Advent we are called to prepare for Christmas by pondering in our hearts the things that are happening in our lives."

Advent is a beautiful time in the Church's year – a time of preparation for the Feast of Christmas. You are invited to take some "time out" during these busy weeks to join with us for a quiet day of prayer, reflection and sharing.

Date: Wednesday, 5th December
Time: 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. (approx.)
Venue: St. Joseph's House, 20 Chauncey Street, Lancefield

Facilitator: John Stuart
Cost: \$5.00. BYO lunch to share. Tea and coffee provided.

RSVP: Joanne Reuther on 5429 1582 by Monday, 3rd December

RECONCILIATION:

Date: Wednesday, 19th December
Time: 7.30 p.m.
Venue: Romsey

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Monday, 24th December 7.00 p.m. Romsey
Midnight Lancefield

Tuesday, 25th December 9.00 a.m.
Romsey



ECUMENICAL CAROLS

Date: Sunday, 16th December
Time: 7.00 p.m.
Venue: Mechanics Hall, Romsey

2008 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Parents of children wishing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Eucharist (Grade 3) or Confirmation (Grade 6) in 2008 are asked to contact St Mary's Parish Secretary on 5429 2130 or Cheryl Walker at St Mary's School on 5429 1359. As the program is commencing very early in Term 1 2008 you are asked to indicate your intentions as soon as possible. There is a Sacramental meeting on Thursday, 7th February 2008 at 7p.m. in St Mary's Parish Hall, Romsey. All children are required to attend this meeting with their parents, as enrolments will be taken, dates will be given out and arrangements for Catechist lessons will be made. This will be the final date to enrol in St Mary's Sacramental Program.

ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Our school community is still buzzing after a very successful *Drive in movie night* which was held on Saturday 10th November. It was a great success. The weather was perfect and the fireworks were spectacular. It was a great chance for families to spend time with each other and the Lancefield community. Special thanks to the Parents & Friend's Committee who organised the night and to all the sponsors who contributed as well. They contributed with their advertising packages. The school choir put on a wonderful performance. Thanks to Mrs Clayton for all her work with the choir. Be sure to look out for the next St. Mary's Drive In & Fireworks night.

We will be holding a *Christmas Carols* evening starting at 7.00 p.m. on the 18th December at the Lancefield Park. Each grade will perform two carols with the Choir performing as well. The staff will also sing a carol or two. It will be a great way to help celebrate the birth of Jesus.

One of our students, Casey Adamson is going to represent Victoria at the *National Athletics Competition* which is to be held in Tasmania from 29th November to 2nd December. She will be competing in the High Jump and we wish her the best of luck.

On Tuesday, 13th November we held an Information Night for the parents of 2008 Prep students. There will be 22 students in Prep will 9 new families joining our school. We welcome the families to St Mary's.

If you drive past the front of the school you will notice some fantastic murals that the students have been working on. They are bright and colourful and look terrific!



BINGO

Every Thursday evening at St. Mary's Church Hall at Romsey
Doors Open 7.00 p.m. **EYES DOWN 7.30 p.m.**
30 games (2 sessions of 15 games) finishing around 9.45 p.m.
\$3.00 per 15 game book Canteen facilities
No entry fee Free tea and coffee
ROLLING JACKPOT GAME 30 – UP \$10 PER GAME



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

HOUSE NEWS

Programs for Term 4:

Art Classes: For Children and Adults:

Contact Gillian on 5429 3996 Wednesdays-Sundays

Art & Craft Market for Romsey

Expressions of interest are sought from local arts and crafts people to start a regular art and craft market in Romsey. It is anticipated that the first market will be held on November 18th. For information phone Gillian on 5429 3996

Yoga With Kym Oliver Wednesdays 7.00 pm at Romsey Primary School.

Cost: \$12 per session or \$100 per 10 week term. For further information or bookings contact Kym Oliver on 54292134.

Writer's Group with Dee White—new members welcome. Please contact 0412 275 152 if you are interested in joining. Meets once per month on the first Monday night at 7.00pm at Romsey Primary School.

Crop till you drop: Each third Saturday of the month 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

Drop In Craft Morning is back every Thursday from 10.30 at CFA Headquarters, Stawell Street, Romsey. Gold coin donation. Bring along an unfinished craft item, or a skill to share and enjoy the relaxed friendly atmosphere with a group of like-minded people. Or just come for a cuppa and a chat!

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.

For information, to express interest or suggest new activities please contact Robyn on 0412 275 152

What's happening at the Hub?

Building works remain well on target for completion in early 2008. A lot of "behind the scenes" activity is going on with several committees meeting regularly to monitor building progress, and to develop a management model for the facility once it is up and running. All the proposed user groups, including the community House, have representation on this committee.

The Romsey Community House committee recently put in two submissions to the state government for funding for co-ordinator hours, and for a grant for training volunteers to help with the operation of the House. We had mixed success with these submissions. We did receive a grant of over \$3000 for volunteer training, and plans will be developed for a volunteer training program after our Annual general Meeting in late October. We were not successful in obtaining on-going funding for paid co-ordinator hours. We are in dialogue at the moment with the local MP Joanne Duncan and the Department of Victorian Communities to find out why we were unsuccessful, and to explore whether there will be future opportunities to apply for funding for this purpose. We note that Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House were successful in their application for paid co-ordinator hours, so this offers us some hope that we may also be in the future.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on October 30th at Romsey Primary School. We are looking forward to welcoming new members on our committee, with many of our existing members indicating that they are willing to continue as committee members. This is a great opportunity to expand the membership of the committee, to make it more representative of the community we seek to serve. At our most recent committee meeting we discussed the specific tasks that now need to be undertaken to ensure the future growth and usefulness of the community house, and to this end we encourage people to attend our AGM and offer their talents, services and ideas.

ROMSEY NEWSPAPER

Available at **NEWSPOWER**

"Beanie kids for Christmas, Great gift idea!"

PLAN FOR NEXT YEAR 2008 DIARIES NOW IN STORE

Main St Romsey • Phone 5429 5361

Macedon Ranges Relay for Life

Motor Bike Charity Poker Run

We are looking for expressions of interest from you! The people of the Macedon Ranges to participate in a Motor Bike Poker Run and family fun day to be held in January 2008 with all proceeds going to Relay for Life.

If you, some of your friends or family own a motor bike and would love to take it out on a run for a good cause then let us know. Once we have a good idea on the number of people interested we will be able to organise the event to suit everyone wanting to participate.

For further details and to register your interest please contact **Peter Ormesher** on 0417 59 6621

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5429 1459
Mobile 0428 505 098

Selleck Agricultural & Earthmoving Services
Rick Selleck PO Box 238, Lancefield.
Phone 5429 1459 Mobile 0428 505 098

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

Corner Main Street and Palmer Street Romsey

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 or
Anna 5429 6171



Greetings from the Romsey Toy Library!

The Toy Library has just held its AGM for 2007 and celebrated a year of consolidation and achievement. The current committee executive – president Leanne Manton, secretary Anna Quigley and treasurer Marg Redmond – has agreed to stay on for a further year, which will greatly help streamline the process of the toy library's relocation to the new Romsey Community Hub early next year.

The President's report at the AGM reported the library had great success with grant applications – we received \$2717 from the Federal Government's fund to help volunteers, enabling us to buy a laptop, digital camera, software, storage containers and a portable first aid kit. A subsequent \$500 grant from the Macedon Ranges council will enable us to establish a party pack for hire which should generate some much-needed income. We made more than \$500 from our annual Bunnings sausage sizzle which should amply cover annual rent, insurance and Toy Libraries Victoria membership costs.

Membership numbers have been up and down but are steady and we look forward to increased membership when we have a better 'street presence' in the hub. The appeal for grandparents to join has been a success and we hope this will continue.

Leanne and Anna attended Romsey Community Hub planning meetings throughout the year and all is on track for the Toy Library's relocation, likely to be in March/April, 2008.

Stocktake has not been done for 2007 and this will be delayed until hub relocation so we can have a clearer idea of what new/replacement items are required and of our storage capacity.

A special thanks to all who have helped this year, especially Marg and Anna.

The Toy Library will close for 2007 on Saturday, December 15. Members, please remember ALL TOYS MUST BE RETURNED BY THIS DATE. Over the school holidays the committee has decided to add to the popular Leapster series, with another console and more games. These will be available for borrowing when the library reopens on February 2, 2008.

Don't forget, if you have any board games, educational toys or good quality large toys (i.e. Little Tikes cars) which your children have no further use for, please think of your local toy library! We especially need new board games, so if you have any tucked away in your cupboards which are hardly ever used or that your children have grown out of, we would love to receive them. The Toy Library's board games range desperately needs replenishing but we do not currently have the funds to buy new ones. Call Leanne Manton on 5429 6583 anytime and we'll come to you to pick up if you wish. Educational board games such as Junior Monopoly, Junior Scrabble, Boggle or strategy games such as Connect 4, Battleship or Trouble would be especially welcome.

Thanks to all who have helped with the toy library this year, especially our members who volunteer to open and run the library each Saturday – without you there would not be a toy library, thanks so much!

And a special thanks to the Romsey Rag for allowing the toy library the space each month to tell of its events and future plans – what a great community service you provide, it is very much appreciated. Don't worry if your set is missing a dice or a few bits – the toy library already has board games so your incomplete set could help us update our current collection if pieces are missing or worn.

Interested in joining our Toy Library?

All residents of the Romsey and also the Lancefield area, whether carers, parents or grandparents, are most welcome to join the library. All toys can be borrowed for two weeks at a time and this is a great way for parents, grandparents and carers to have a constant new source of amusement for children. With membership of the library just \$15 for six months and \$25 for a whole year, our fees are very affordable for everyone.

Call into St Mary's Hall (behind the Catholic Church) in Main Street, Romsey, on Saturday mornings from 10am-11.30am and you can view our range of toys and sign up!

I look forward to seeing you at the library!

Yours sincerely
LEANNE MANTON,
President,
Romsey Toy Library Inc. 2007/08

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Romsey Fire Brigade.

RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS NOW!

We still need people, especially those who are available to respond during the day. During the last fire season we had crews deployed at all the major fires. We were regularly providing crews for two tankers and a command vehicle, at the same time- a significant commitment from a brigade with less than thirty operational members! But even if you don't wish to commit to being an active firefighting member of the Brigade, we also have other roles available. You will be provided with all the necessary training and as you further enhance your skills on the job, you can expect to be supervised at any turnouts by an experienced mentor. You commit as much as you feel comfortable in doing. CFA is not just involved with fighting fires but also rescue operations, educational programs, community safety and many more local community activities. So does the hat fit? Which volunteer are you? A volunteer firefighter? Or maybe a volunteer secretary? You can choose to volunteer as an equipment assistant, a treasurer or one of the many other CFA volunteer roles. Give back to your community. Benefit from being part of Victoria's largest volunteer team. Meet new people, learn new skills and involve your whole family. If you think the hat fits, free-call **1800 232 636** or see the CFA website, www.cfa.vic.gov.au for information on how to join. Become a CFA volunteer today and make a difference.



You can also just come down to the Fire Station, Stawell Street, Romsey, from 9.00 am on any Sunday, meet some of the other members and have a look around. Telephone the Station on 54 296054, or contact us through the Brigade's new website: www.romseyfirebrigade.org.au

Remember, YOUR Brigade serves OUR Community through the generosity of its VOLUNTEERS. We rely on people like YOU in order for that service to continue.



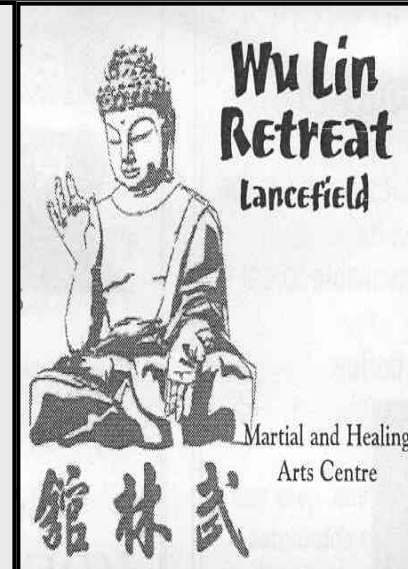
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Lancefield Christmas Carnival Saturday 15th December, 2007 6pm start.

Lancefield is set to share the Christmas spirit with everyone at its Christmas Carnival on the Saturday 15th December. The carnival is in its 5th year and once again High Street will be abuzz with festivities which will include rides, a petting zoo, vintage car displays, fun activities, a variety of stalls, plenty of food & great entertainment! Santa has let us know that he will be popping in for a visit too!! A highlight of the carnival is the free 'carols by torchlight' concert, which this year will be held in the Mechanics Institute Hall. Bring your family & friends, warm up those vocal chords and get ready for an evening of fun filled singing and fabulous entertainment! The sing-a-long carols will be accompanied by the Lancefield Singers and the Xmas Community Orchestra & there will also be a few special performances by local schools.

Carnival starts: 6pm

Santa visits: 6:15pm
Carols Concert: 7pm

For further information, please contact: Lancefield Neighbourhood House P: 5429 1214
E: lancefieldhouse@tpg.com.au



Romsey Region Business And Tourism Association

Christmas Decoration Competition

The Association invites you to join in their Christmas Competition. Simply by decorating Your home or Business in a Christmas theme.

Competition Categories will be

- Best decorated house 1st ,2nd and 3rd Prizes
- Best theme 1st prize
- Best illuminated window 1st prize
- Best decorated business inside and out

No entry form is required. Everyone who decorates their home or business is eligible and the best will win.

Entry is restricted to Romsey Region Only



