

Romsey Golf Club Women's Report

The club members would like to invite everyone along to our twilight golf evenings. See the flier in the rag for more details. They will be fun evenings. Denise and Kath have both had both their cataracts removed and it is great to have Denise back playing. Although Kath can see well she is still not back playing as she has also had her second knee done. She is progressing really well and will no doubt be burning up the fairways before Christmas.

Wednesday 16/10/13 was the women's AGM so we only played 9 holes. The fairways having just been mown were in top condition and made hitting the ball easy. I was the winner 49-11.5-37.5

The executive committee remains the same with Lorraine as captain, Kath –President. Elaine –Handicapper and me still doing the rag write ups. 17/10/13 Lorraine and I braved the gale force winds, (buggies were being blown over) rain and hail at Woodend. It was far too windy for umbrellas until the hail started then they went up for protection. It was a small field but to everyone's credit we all finished the day, but it was a relief to get back inside the clubrooms and enjoy lunch in warmth.

Friday 18th October I had the pleasure of caddying for Wendy and Elaine who were playing in the state final of the Doris Chambers Cup at Goonawarra. Weather was fine but cool and course in good condition. With Foursomes being a difficult game they combined well on many holes and finished 6th overall which was pleasing. Tuesday 22nd with more poor weather forecast Lorraine and Wendy played in the Trentham tournament. Luckily the forecast was wrong and it wasn't a bad day. In fact it was a very good day for Lorraine who won the Harry Barton Perpetual Trophy, with the best Nett score of the day 101/31/70. She also won the C grade handicap and of course winners are grinders so she won the raffle as well. Congratulations Lorraine.

Wednesday 23rd Lorraine didn't continue her good play and I was the winner of the October Monthly Medal at Romsey. Meanwhile Jan and Denise were playing in the 4BBB at Trentham. They had an enjoyable day with good company and managed to stay dry although there were a few showers.

Thursday 28/10/13 Lorraine and I played in the Yea tournament. Again the wet weather gear was on and off during the round and the wind continued. We were amused by the signage on their new on course toilet. "Free Drop Zone." Scores were pretty ordi-

nary. Monday 28th October I played in the state final of the Silverspoon at Spring Valley. Weather was kind to us with only a couple of light showers for the morning field. Course was a delight to play on except for the couple of bunkers that gobbled up my ball. Thanks to my great caddy who knows my game and just handed the right club and kept me on track. I finished equal third in the morning field with 35 stableford points.

30/10 the Romsey ladies had a fun game of Texas Ambrose (a made up game) and Wendy and I won with 49pts for 13 holes. On the way to Marysville on the 31 October, we had a discussion about which way the rivers flow and where the Great Dividing Range starts and finishes. Wendy, Elaine and I played in the tournament and a nameless person tested the direction of the river and sent 5 balls to Buxton. Marysville is always a testing course and placement is required, and sometimes laying up when approaching the river which was flowing –no need to look for wet balls. I won a raffle prize so not a wasted day. We played Stableford at Romsey on the 6th November and the course was in good condition but the scores didn't reflect this. 13/11 Burke and Wills was on the syllabus, a favourite game of ours but we weren't brave enough to face the cold wet windy day so had cups of tea and discussion on everything.

Recipe for this month

Marshmallow Brownie

200 g Butter	2/3 cup plain flour
200g Dark Choc chopped	1 tsp baking powder
1 cup caster sugar	4 eggs lightly beaten
2 tbsp. cocoa powder	handful marshmallows

Preheat oven to 180 C. Line 22cm square backing tin with baking paper. Melt the butter and most of the chocolate in a bowl set over a pan of barely simmering water.

Place sugar, cocoa powder, flour and baking powder in a bowl and stir to combine. Add eggs and butter and chocolate mix, and stir until combined. Fold through the remaining chopped chocolate and marshmallows.

Pour brownie batter into prepared tin and bake for 35 - 40 mins. Leave to cool slightly in tin, then turn brownies out onto a wire rack.

When cool, cut brownies into squares. For an indulgent twist, serve with ice-cream if desired.
Beryl Cole 54295411

THE ROMSEY RAG

Issue No. 321 2070 copies produced each month at Romsey Primary School as a service to our community and proudly supported by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council

December 2013

THE DECEMBER EDITION OF THE ROMSEY RAG IS PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY
- The Romsey Rag Team Supporting Christmas In Our Community -



Macedon Ranges Christmas Toy Shop

In past years the Combined Churches of the Macedon Ranges have organised a Christmas "Toy Shop" for families living in the shire who might struggle to afford a Christmas gift for their child. Each year we assist over 100 local families, or over 250

children. As with each year, we anticipate the need to be even greater.

The Toy Shop relies completely on the generosity of our community, to donate gifts to stock the shop. Families are referred to us by local support and welfare agencies and are given a personal invite to attend the shop and pick out toys for their children. As we rely on donated goods, there is no cost to the families for these gifts. We also offer gift wrapping and a cafe style space to enjoy free tea and coffee and home baked goodies.

For families who are facing challenging times, Christmas can become an incredibly stressful, lonely and sad season. Unable to participate in many of the traditions that our culture has come to know as "normal" these families can feel even more isolated and marginalised.

The Toy Shop gives struggling families the opportunity to enjoy what most people take for granted – to choose something special for their child and be able to give it to them on Christmas morning. Many of these families would otherwise be unable to give their child a gift on Christmas morning, and many of these children would miss out on the joy of opening a gift that is just for them. For our community, the Toy Shop is a fantastic opportunity for local people to embrace the true Christmas spirit, and reach out in generosity and love to those in their own community who are facing a tough time. Whether you are an individual or a business,

you can get into the Christmas spirit and give some joy to local people who really need it.

The toy shop relies 100% on the goodwill and generosity of our community. We need your donations to make this important initiative possible. We require donations of toys for boys and girls aged 0-18. Gifts need to be new and valued around \$20. We also welcome donations of books, plush toys and smaller items that would be suitable as stocking fillers. We particularly fall short in gifts, books and stocking fillers for older children each year.

How to Donate:

- The Uniting Church and Target Woodend are again running "Operation Santa" and have kindly agreed to donate all gifts to the Toy Shop. Members of the public can donate by leaving a gift at the tree located in Target Country Woodend.
- Donations will also be received at the offices of Cobaw Community Health in Kyneton and Woodend
- Contact Georgina Harvey (0404442891) directly to arrange pick up of donations

Donations of both gifts and money will be gratefully received. All financial donations will only be used to purchase toys to stock the shop. Gifts need to be received by Monday 16th December to allow time for sorting and setting up of the toy shop.
All Enquiries: Georgina Harvey (0404442891).



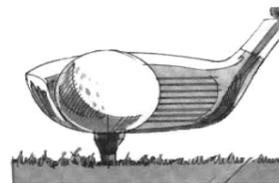
Western Water is preparing for the fire season

However, we cannot guarantee water pressure or an uninterrupted water supply in the event of a bushfire.

It's important to have an independent water supply.



Romsey Golf Club Twilight chook run Friday evenings



Invites members and non members
Commencing Friday 6th December

Weekly nine holes of golf, hitting off from 4.30 – 6.30pm
Golf and Sausage Sizzle \$5.
Refreshments available
Clubs and buggies available
Handicap and knowledge of golf not required

Further information contact:
Phone 0400 768 040 Elaine
Email: romseygolf@gmail.com

Community Carols

Sunday 15th December

The Combined Churches of Romsey & Lancefield invite you to celebrate Christmas at the annual Community Carols event.

Come and enjoy a BBQ, fun activities, singing and supper.

6pm – BBQ

7pm – Carols & family fun activities followed by Supper @ Romsey Mechanics Hall
Everyone welcome.

For further details Phone Encourage Church Office 5429 6327



Community Christmas Fun Day

Saturday 7th December, 2013

12.00 – 4.30 pm

at the

Macedon Ranges Masonic Lodge

73 Main Road, Romsey

ALL AGES WELCOME

FREE ADMISSION

Lots of Activities and Free Drinks for Kids

In association with

**The Bendigo Bank - Lancefield and Romsey,
The Lancefield Motorcycle Run and**

The closing date for copy for the February 2014 edition of the Rag is December 15th. 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

We require submissions to be in Word document format, and for graphics to be in Jpeg format, as we cannot guarantee that we can open or print other formats.

Please also ensure that you have permission to use photographs of people included with your article.

THE ROMSEY RAG IS PROUDLY PRODUCED AT ROMSEY PRIMARY SCHOOL AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE

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Articles should be left at the Romsey Post Office (fax 5429 5134) or Romsey Primary School (fax 5429 5765) by 12 on the 15th of the month.

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: \$150

Business card: \$30 per issue

\$240 per year in Business Directory

Quarter page: \$60 per issue

Half page: \$110 per issue

Full page: \$200 per issue

Line ads: e.g.- For sale, births, deaths, marriages, engagements - \$15

For invoicing please include name & address details

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

Distribution:

2070 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 2014

Edition	Closing Date for Copy	Collating Date
February 2014	Wednesday January 15th	Thursday January 30th
March 2014	Saturday February 15th	Thursday February 27th
April 2014	Saturday March 15th	Thursday March 27th
May 2014	Tuesday April 15th	Thursday April 24th
June 2014	Thursday May 15th	Thursday May 29th
July 2014	Sunday June 15th	Thursday June 26th
August 2014	Tuesday July 15th	Thursday July 31st
September 2014	Friday August 15th	Thursday August 28th
October 2014	Monday September 15th	Thursday September 25th
November 2014	Wednesday October 15th	Thursday October 30th
December 2014	Saturday November 15th	Thursday November 27th

Please note: There is no edition of the Romsey Rag in January

What would the December Rag be without Shirley's recipe for Home Made Irish Cream?

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.

Cheers!



The Romsey Rag team extends best wishes and seasons greetings to all our readers in the Romsey and wider community. May you all have a wonderful time with family and friends over the festive season.



“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.

Only \$45.00 per week for permanent travelers.

We also cater for casual & adhoc travelers.

Departs Lancefield General Store 6.35am, & Romsey Hotel 6.40am, arrives CBD 7.40am
Departs Cnr William & Latrobe Sts 5.20pm, arrives back in Romsey 6.20pm & Lancefield 6.25pm

Seats currently available.

Please contact **Maree Lawson 54292027**



Students support Cobaw's Learner Driver Program

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

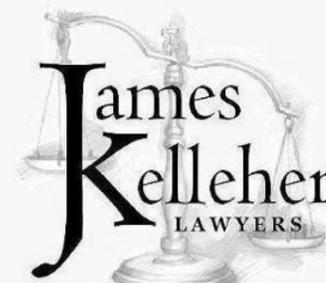


The dinner on Friday 13 September was organised by Sacred Heart's VCAL students as part of their Certificate III studies in Events and catering was prepared and served by VET Certificate II Hospitality students. The evening also entailed a silent auction with proceeds donated to L2P, and entertainment by local musicians Taylor Sheridan and Charlotte McKinnon.

"The L2P program relies on the additional support from the community. The funds generated from this event will contribute towards providing professional lessons for young drivers prior to heading out on the roads with an L2P volunteer," stated L2P Project Officer David Norris. "It's great to see the young people at Sacred Heart College supporting other young people in their community to get their licence."

Thanks to Sacred Heart College for supporting this vital program and in turn the community. The L2P Program is a Victorian Government road safety initiative that aims to help drivers under 21 who do not have access to a car or supervisor, to gain the on-road experience they need to prepare for solo driving. The program uses a mixture of professional lessons and driving sessions with volunteer supervisors to help the learners. You can help a young person to get their car license, by donating to the L2P program. Donations will pay for additional driver training sessions and ensure as many young people as possible get to safely enjoy the freedom and opportunity that comes with a car license. To make a donation, please visit

<http://www.givenow.com.au/macedonrangesl2p>



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Little School makes a big Splash!

Proving once again that big things happen in small places, this term the students from Heskett Primary School took part in a whole school swimming program, making an almighty splash at Kyneton's indoor pool. With big smiles, laughter and a lot of enthusiasm each child participated in a range of Aqua Aware aquatic activities, targeting swim and survive statewide levels. Lessons rotated between water safety, swimming strokes, survival techniques, as well as rescue and emergency procedures; all whilst under the watchful eyes of qualified AUSTSWIM instructors. The water experience came at an ideal time in preparation of the warmer weather to come, but also for the activities available on the whole school camp, which the Heskett students are eagerly awaiting at the end of the year. By taking part in the swimming lessons it provides the staff at the school with a fresh insight into the abilities of each individual child, before taking them to the pool whilst they are away. Recognising swimming as an important skill for life, the staff at Heskett drove the students themselves, at no extra cost, to ensure every student's participation. Now an annual event at Heskett, the students are now looking forward to next year's program, keeping safe and happy at any age around water.

Photo: Students from Heskett Primary School taking one last dip.



How should Council communicate with you?

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

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

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

- A six month gym/swim membership at Council's fitness and aquatic centres;
- A double annual season pass to shows at the Kyneton Town Hall; or
- A tablet device (your choice of iPad or Galaxy).* You can complete the survey in one of two ways:
- **Online** via www.surveymonkey.com/s/MRSC-Comms, or if you have a smart phone, you can scan the QR code below
- **In person** at a Council service centre, library, leisure centre, kindergarten or maternal & child health centre. For locations and hours, call 5422 0333.

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

Community Farmers Markets

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

THIS CHRISTMAS, SUPPORT A LOCAL PRODUCER...

Our local farmers' markets are fantastic places to shop anytime, but when Christmas comes around we encourage you to spend local on some high quality ingredients for your special meal & purchase delicious & handmade goods for your loved ones Christmas stockings...
 Pasture grazed meats - beef, pork, Christmas hams, organic turkey, goat, lamb & chicken. Organic & spray free vegetables. Fine regional wines. Handmade cheeses. Smallgoods & snacks. Taste the difference when you buy fresh & local! (All markets have a different range, call market managers to check selection at each market on the numbers above.)
 Gift ideas include; award winning Macedon Ranges, Heathcote & Sunbury region wines, fresh pressed extra virgin olive oils, preserves with flavour, cordials, cut flowers, rare plants, hand knits, quality honey, sweet treats, skin care items, essential oils & more.
 Macedon Ranges Farmers' Markets host many local farmers & producers each week in our region. Show your support - ditch the factory farmed, mass produced, chemical laden items & try hosting an 'ethical' Christmas this year.

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



**Merry Christmas
Everybody!**

Christmas Eve Service @ Encourage Church @ 7:30pm
 7 Mitchell Court Romsey Ph 5429 6327

FREE Christmas Gift Wrapping
 A Community Service

bring your gifts along and stay for a cuppa
 while gifts wrapped or drop off and pick up later in the day.

3 big days of wrapping from 10am—2pm available at the following venues:
 Mon 16th Dec @ 19th Hole Shopping Centre High Street Woodend
 Tues 17th Dec @ Encourage Church 7 Mitchell Court Romsey
 Wed 18th Dec at Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House Main Rd Riddells Creek

**Want to do something really memorable around
Valentines Day 2014?**

An opportunity is being created for you to renew your Wedding vows
 during a special Sunday morning Service in Romsey on February 16th

If interested please contact Encourage Church TODAY!




**Kynton Community and Learning Centre Inc.
through
Macedon Ranges**

No Interest Loan Scheme

Offers loans to eligible applicants for a range of loan purposes with No interest, No fees, No charges and easy repayments.

Are you having trouble with a household appliance and need it replaced?

Would a computer help you or your family in their studies?

Are you wanting to study but don't have the finances for the fees?

Does your home or car need to be repaired?

Plus you could be eligible for Home Energy Saver Scheme subsidies for eligible energy efficient appliances of up to \$800 when purchased with the assistance of a No Interest loan.

We are a non-profit community organisation that has operated in the Shire for 5 years and within Australia for 30 years. The loans enable a person who lives in the Macedon Shire and is on a low income (Centrelink Cardholder) to access a loan for the purchase of such things as household items and services, medical equipment or even course fees.

If you think this can make your life easier (applicants must fit basic criteria), then give us a call on 54223433.



ROMSEY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS



School Art Show

The Annual Art Show transformed the school gymnasium into a beautiful art gallery. This year there was a large attendance of families, grandparents and friends. Some of the art work included prep self-portraits, wire sculptures, teddies and their quilts, pigs on wire, colourful masks, framed collages of trees and intricate paper collages of people's faces. Special thanks to local artist Debbie Daks and Miriam Osmelak who had the difficult job of judging each section. They had many complimentary comments about the students' work. Also thank you to IGA for their generous donation of a set of coloured pencils to the winner from each class.



A large selection of work was entered into the Kyneton Agricultural Show with students winning numerous awards. The quality of the work was validated by the school being awarded the Outstanding School Exhibit for 2013. Thank you to Nicole Laity for coordinating our participation in the show.



Remembrance Day

On Remembrance Day we were pleased to welcome John Lynch from the RSL to our assembly. He announced the winners of the annual RSL essay competition. Students in years 5 and 6 were required to research and write an essay about the Australian Light Horse and their involvement in World War 1. Congratulations to Brandi Beltrame and Emily Williams and Jemma Denman for their success in this competition. The School Council President, Lynda Grierson, Assistant Principal Mrs Emond and I accompanied our School Captains, Keeley Rankin and Callum Grierson along with other 5/6 Student Councillors to the ceremony at Lancefield Cenotaph. During the ceremony Keeley Rankin represented the school by reading a special prayer. After the ceremony we drove back to Romsey and met at the Avenue of Honour for the unveiling of 2 plaques to commemorate particular battles. This is a project of the Rotary Club of Romsey Lancefield and their vision is to have plaques all the way along the walking track. One plaque unveiled commemorates Kokoda New Guinea and the other El Alamein in Africa. The Rotary Club is encouraging local schools to sponsor a plaque for 2014 and we are keen to support this project.

Year 4 Camp

Recently our year 4s had a fantastic time at Lady Northcote Camp near Bacchus Marsh. Activities included canoeing, yabbing, archery, giant swing, hut building and bush cooking. During the camp students were asked to demonstrate the You Can Do It keys of 'Getting Along', 'Persistence', 'Organisation', 'Confidence' and 'Resilience'

Sporting Opportunities

During term 4 students practised orienteering skills and a selection of year 5/6 students went to Hanging Rock for the district competition. Our school did well coming 6th out of 15 different schools. The track was from 2-3 kilometres and most students finished the course in less than an hour. There were many obstacles to encounter and students followed a numbered map with a slip of paper that gave clues to where to find the markers. Our school is pleased to offer all year 5/6 students golf clinics by professional Tony Collier. The two sessions teach students the grip, swing and some fundamentals of the game. Tony follows this up with additional lessons supported by the Romsey Golf Club. This is a great chance for students to explore different sporting choices in the local community.



Romsey winners in Play

Shantelle Grant, Romsey resident and her Romsey Play Connect playgroup, this year had their exceptional efforts recognised at the inaugural Playgroup Victoria awards ceremony which was held at the Arts Centre Melbourne on Thursday 14th November and MC'd by comedian Dave O'Neil.

Romsey Play Connect supports children with autism and families from across the Macedon Ranges and surrounding areas and currently have 18 registered families. They meet each Friday at the Romsey Hub. "Often this playgroup is the first place families feel safe to come to socially with their children because of their children's unusual behaviours and or lack of play skills with their typically developing peers" explains Shantelle Grant. "I just try to help parents feel good about themselves and their children in a safe and accepting environment for a few hours each week". The Minister for Children & Early Childhood Development Wendy Lovell, presented the award to the Facilitator, Shantelle Grant for her outstanding work building a vibrant and supportive group where both children with autism and their families feel welcomed and supported and are provided with useful information. "We know that playgroups can break the isolation often felt by parents and lay down the foundations for the future development of children." Said Minister Lovell

"Shantelle is an inspirational woman who passionately advocates for children and families and has been a dynamic force in educating our community about the impact of autism, which currently directly affects 1 in 100 people" explained Marcia Collins, Education Adviser with Cobaw Community Health Service." She really deserves enormous credit for this award"

For more information about Play connect please call 54211680



Barefoot Bowls Christmas Family Day

This month the Romsey Region Women's Network would like to kick off the festive season by extending an invitation to all members and their families for a relaxing Sunday afternoon on the bowling green. No prior experience is necessary, basic coaching is provided. Just bring some flat-soled shoes (runners or thongs) or bare feet, and your sense of humour!

Where: - Lancefield Lawn Bowling Club, Lancefield Park Recreation Reserve, Chauncey Street.

Date: - Sunday 1st December 2013

Time: - 12pm to 4pm

Cost: - Adult - \$15 / Kids - FREE

Food: - BYO picnic hamper, BBQ facilities available

Licensed bar on premises - basic alcoholic beverages and soft drinks available at bar prices.

Please note this facility is NOT BYO

RSVP: by 30th November to info@rrwn.org.au.

Payment required with confirmation of acceptance.

If you are wondering what the RRWN is about, we are a group that aspires to connect local women in our rural communities in a warm and welcoming environment in which they can exchange ideas, share about their lives and have some laughs. It's a great way to meet new people in the local area, tap into the wealth of knowledge local women have to offer and not only network in a business/professional sense but meet like-minded women and form new friendships. We will resume gatherings to the usual 3rd Thursday of each month at 7pm in January, the venue has yet to be decided. You are under no obligation to pay the membership fee the first night unless you decide there is something you will benefit from joining our gatherings. Follow us on Facebook - 'Romsey Region Women's Network Inc. (RRWN)' - to keep yourself updated on our upcoming events and any other useful local information that we hear on the grapevine! If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us. **Enquiries:** - Romsey Region Women's Network Inc. 111 Main Street, Romsey VIC 3434

Email: info@rrwn.com.au

Facebook.com/Romsey Region Women's Network Inc. (RRWN)

Annual Membership: - \$20

Tracey (President) - 0416 497 623 / Natasha (Secretary) - 0421 289 137 / Fran (Treasurer) - 0427 825 989

FOR SALE
Fisher & Paykel fridge for sale.
A 369L upside-down fridge/freezer, white,
in excellent condition. \$200
Please phone Warren on: 0439 429 036

Thank You

On behalf of the Romsey community a huge thank you is extended to the volunteers who keep the Romsey Rag ticking over each month. It is an enormous task and you all do it so willingly. Your efforts are much appreciated.

From a regular reader (name and address supplied).

Ray Dowell
Electrician/Solar Designer & Installer

Po Box 357
ROMSEY VIC 3434
M 0409 537 255
F 5429 6181
dowellelectrical@internode.on.net

Rec 23015

Christmas Blessings To All

from

On Eagles Wings

128 Main Street Romsey

We thank You for your support throughout the year

Anna and Nick



Macedon Ranges Masonic Lodge
73 Main St,
Romsey VIC 3434
Contact us at:
Ph: 5428 5418 or 5429 6354
email: muddy27@bigpond.com

Macedon Ranges Masonic Lodge
Meets 1st Thursday except January
Installation - June

ALL BRETHERN WELCOME



DEEP CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

Covering Lancefield - Romsey Districts

Season Greetings from Landcare

2013 has been another busy year with the additional plantings at previous projects.

A grant from Western Water for the purchase of endangered dianella planted at Doggett's Bridge in January. Continuing the plantings at Sheehan's Crossing, the new planting for the Macedon Ranges Council on Three Chain Road and National Tree Day.

Three information nights were held for the community and were well attended.

The Lancefield Show was a wonderful day with 3 shows from Chris Humphrey of Wild Action Zoo. Chris brought with him a wonderful array of native animals - lace monitor, Tasmanian echidna, swamp wallaby, koala, kookaburra and dingo to name a few. Safe to say a number of adults and children thoroughly enjoyed the show. 900 plants were given to members of the community along with literature regarding plants and weeds. If you are interested in Landcare and wish to attend a meeting, the meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at the Lancefield Mechanics Hall - drop in centre at 8.00pm.

There is no December meeting and the 1st meeting for 2014 will be the 10th February 2014.

President Robin 0428 315 846.

HESKET PRIMARY SCHOOL JUMPS TO VICTORY

Hesket Primary School students jumped their way to victory winning the prestigious Perpetual Shield in the 2013 Victorian Jump Rope for Heart Demonstration Team Competition at the State Netball and Hockey Centre, Parkville, in November. Students from the small school were declared winners of the state competition, which brings together 100 of Victoria's best Jump Rope for Heart skippers. They competed in individual, partner and group routines, tallying the highest number of points to bring home the state title.

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

Hesket Primary School students have been showcasing their skipping skills for 21 years as part of the Heart Foundation Jump Rope for Heart program. Hesket Primary School skipping coach Jan Crebbin said this latest victory adds to a long list of highlights that the Jump Rope for Heart program has given her students.

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

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



HORSE AGISTMENT AVAILABLE
at
THE MONEGETTA EQUESTRIAN CENTRE,
77 BLACK RANGE ROAD MONEGETTA

Great facilities for both horse and rider on this 160 acre property. Ridden horses preferred.

Contact Trish Thomas on 0409 349 567.

Tai Chi Classes

Saturdays at 11am.

Beginners are most welcome at any time.

Passive exercise & meditation for all ages

that offer balance of mind & body for health, vitality and wellbeing.

Come and try a complimentary class.

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go to coming events/programs.



St. Mary's Parish - Lancefield & Romsey
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Parish Priest: Fr. Arnold Heredia
Pastoral Associate: Mrs. Joanne Reuther
School Principal: Mr. Anthony Falls

Presbytery: 5429 2130
Presbytery: 5429 2130
St. Mary's Primary: 5429 1359

MASS TIMES

Saturday:
6.00 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

Saturdays 9.45am Romsey & 5.45pm Lancefield.

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.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2014

Parents of children not attending St. Mary's Parish School wishing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (grade 3), Eucharist (grades 4 & 5), Confirmation (grade 6) in 2014, are asked to contact Joanne Reuther, the Pastoral Associate, at St. Mary's presbytery on 54292130 by Friday 28th February 2014.

BINGO

Every Thursday evening
St. Mary's Church Hall at Romsey
Doors Open 7.00 p.m. EYES DOWN 7.30 p.m.
\$3.00 per 15 game book No entry fee
Canteen facilities Free tea and coffee

St Marys Primary School

Carols Night

Our Carols night will now be held on the 18th of December. A big thank you to Mrs Joan Drago who is spending Wednesdays at school organizing the Carols night. School Board AGM – 13th November Last night we welcomed Sophie Banon and Natalie Cleve onto the School Education Board. Thank you to Andrew Memmolo and Trinton Smith for their efforts.

Remembrance Day

On Monday the 11th the year 5/6 students attended the Remembrance day service held at the Cenotaph in Lancefield. Emily and James Phillips spoke about the "Unknown Soldier" that former P.M Paul Keating brought back to Australia 20 years ago.



At assembly in the morning John Horan from the Romsey/Lancefield R.S.L presented Emily Phillips, Kate O'Sullivan and Shannon Faria with awards for their writing about the 'Australian Light horse'.

**Macedon Ranges Cycling Club
Cycling Club Xmas function**

Simon Gillett of the Amy Gillett Foundation, Guest speaker at Cycling Club Christmas function Cycle Safety is top of mind at the Macedon Ranges Cycling Club and it will be delighted to welcome Simon Gillett of the Amy Gillett Foundation as guest speaker at its end of year Christmas celebration. The Club extends an open invitation to the community to join members at its Xmas celebration and fundraiser at the Albion Hotel, Kyneton, on Friday 13 December 2013 at 7.00pm. Guests will have the chance to win a premier entry ticket to the 2014 Amy Gillett Gran Fondo event as well as other fabulous door prizes generously donated by local business. Families are most welcome; the ticket cost is \$15.00 for children and \$45.00 for adults which includes meal and door prizes entry. Bookings are essential and can be arranged by contacting the club secretary Chris Karopoulos on 0404854100. The Club appreciates the importance of kids learning safe cycling skills as well as having fun on the bike. Two junior training clinics are planned to be run by the Club before Christmas at the Kyneton velodrome. Track bikes are supplied by the Club and the cost per child is a modest \$5.00 plus the cost of insurance through membership of Cycling Victoria or Bicycle Network Victoria. The Club would love to see lots of local kids attend the clinics. Contact the club secretary for dates and to register your child.



**New members are welcome.
Contact Max on 54291729**

**TAC Funds Major Cycle Safety Campaign
in Macedon Ranges**

Road Safe Central Vic and Bike Safe Macedon Ranges are set to launch a major on road summer safety campaign aimed at raising awareness by drivers to watch out for cyclists on the road and pass them with care. This campaign is funded by a community grant from the TAC. Drivers can expect to see large bill boards throughout The Ranges urging motorists to pass cyclists with care. President of Bike Safe Macedon Ranges, Margaret Douglas explains: "This campaign is about education and awareness, commonsense and respect; it is targeted at both motorists and cyclists, they both are legitimate road users but the cyclist is more vulnerable. We want both to get home safely to their families. We are beholden to Road Safe Central Vic for partnering with us in this campaign, which is a first for the Macedon Ranges, and are most grateful to the TAC for recognizing the importance of this safety initiative and for providing the funds to make the campaign a reality in our beautiful region." Simple messages will be promoted to motorists to allow sufficient safe space when overtaking cyclists including driving with courtesy and cyclists will be reminded of their obligations to comply with relevant road rules and to ride with commonsense and courtesy towards motorists. Waiting until it is safe before passing a cyclist takes just a few seconds out of a driver's day, those few patient seconds could save a life. The campaign is fully supported by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council. Submitted by Margaret Douglas President Bike Safe Macedon Ranges



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Bookings are now open for front page sponsorship of the Romsey Rag for 2014. Please call 5429 5099 to book your front page. Note: We do not produce a Romsey Rag in January.

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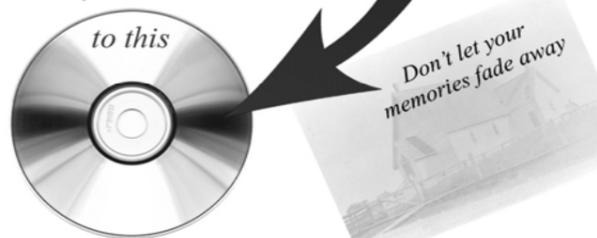


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Secretary: Jeni Clampit 5429 5480

**Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday
of each month at 10am in St.Mary's church hall
Main Street, Romsey.**

Persons who are interested in this club and wishing to have more information please contact the President or Secretary at the above phone numbers.

Christmas Breakup

Our Christmas Breakup will be on
Wednesday 18th December at the
'Australiana' at Wandong

We really enjoy Christmas at the "Australiana",
they have a beautiful meal in lovely surroundings.

Meetings in 2014.

We will be having a get together lunch at 12noon
at the Hanging Rock Café on
Wednesday, 15th January.

Our first meeting for 2014 will be on
Thursday 27th February at 10am

Are you interested in Membership??

If you are retired, or close to retiring, come along and join us and learn more about what Probus can offer you to assist you in staying active.

Please come along and join us and see if our Club might offer you something extra.

We meet once a month and we deal with the normal matters of a club, like correspondence, treasury, and discuss the last outing we had enjoyed, and most important, where we are going to next month, a short tour, a long tour, a lunch somewhere.

Our monthly meeting always finishes with morning tea, which is usually followed by a guest speaker with an interesting topic. We do not have meetings in December and January.

Some members enjoy 'Ten Pin Bowling' each fortnight at Wattergardens (*definitely non-serious*) followed by lunch at a nearby hotel or club.

We also enjoy a monthly musical/film afternoon at a members home and Friday coffee mornings at a local café.

All we want to achieve is a day of enjoyment and friendship.

Please come and have a look at what we do and who we are.

Please check out our website for information about the Romsey & Lancefield Probus Club rprobus.org.au



APPLY NOW FOR ANZAC AT GALLIPOLI

AUSTRALIANS wanting to attend the 2015 ANZAC Day commemorations in Gallipoli can now apply for a place. Member for McEwen, Rob Mitchell said a ballot was being held to allocate places for 8000 Australians, 200 New Zealanders and 500 official representatives of all countries involved in the Gallipoli campaign for the milestone commemorations.

"The 100th anniversary of the landing of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps at Gallipoli will be a very significant commemorative occasion for the people of both nations," Mr Mitchell said. "To ensure Australians and New Zealanders can attend as safely, securely and comfortably as possible, a fair, open and transparent ballot is being held to allocate places for the official ANZAC Day commemorations at Gallipoli in 2015."

Of the places for Australians, 2000 will be available for special representatives such as direct descendants, the veteran community and secondary school students and their chaperones. The remaining 6000 passes will be open to all Australians.

Mr Mitchell said widows of Australian World War 1 veterans do not need to apply and will be contacted by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Applicants must be Australian citizens or permanent residents and at least 18 on or before 25 April 2015. Ballots close on January 31, 2014 with results announced in March 2014.

"I encourage people across the McEwen electorate who would like to be present at Gallipoli in 2015 to take up this wonderful opportunity to be part of one of the most significant commemorations of our lifetime," Mr Mitchell said.

For more details about the commemorations and the ballot, visit www.gallipoli2015.dva.gov.au or phone Mr Mitchell's office on 5783 4880. For paper application forms phone Ticketek on 1300 364 002.

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News from the Lancefield Men's Shed

The Men's Shed continues to be very busy with many members attending for wood-working on Tuesdays and social gathering on Wednesdays.

Attendance at the Lancefield Show proved to be very valuable as the prizes for the major raffle to raise funds for equipment for the shed were on display. The tickets have been selling very well and the first prize of a very versatile folding bench and table garden setting, was very popular. (See attached photograph)

The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 18th December at the Lancefield Men's Shed at 12 noon. Winners will be notified.

If you like the setting, the Men's Shed will be happy to take orders. Part of the operation of the Shed is to work on community projects.

The current project in action is constructing Christmas reindeer.



ROMSEY MECHANICS INSTITUTE



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rmibookings@gmail.com
secretaryrmi@gmail.com

Christmas Carols

This month at the Romsey Mechanics Institute there will be the Romsey and Lancefield Community Christmas Carols. It will be held on **Sunday December 15th**. There will be face painting and cup cake decorating for the kids, and Community Carols followed by Supper. Activities start at 6pm with the Carols beginning around 7.00 pm. The communities of Romsey and Lancefield are more than welcome to join in this Christmas activity.

Over December/January the RMI CoM will be hoping to finalise the purchase and installation of the new external doors as well as works to remove damaged vinyl tiles from the floor of the Supper Room. Once the tiles have been taken up we will have the floor resurfaced.

We would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

The CoM strongly believes that we are here to serve the needs of the communities of Romsey and surrounding districts, so if you have a function coming up please consider the RMI.

Bookings and inquiries can be made at: **0458 726 106**.

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"Be still and know that I am God" Psalm 46:10
"I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
 John 8:12

So claimed Jesus, Son of God. God in the flesh, whose birth as the Babe of Bethlehem over 2000 years ago we are about to celebrate and whose return in glory we await expectantly. John the Baptist said of Him that "He, Who was the true Light, was coming into the world." John 1:9. Why did He come? To reveal to us the true nature of God, the wonder of His holiness, greatness, love and what manner of persons we are in our sinful fallen natures. He came to die for our sins which separate us from God, granting us forgiveness and transforming us into His likeness; to have the LIGHT OF LIFE.

So as the busyness of these coming days come upon us, let us take some time out and follow the Psalmist's words, "Be still and know that I am God. May we take time out in quietness and think on Jesus, the Saviour, and rejoicing, embrace Him anew in our hearts and minds.

"O, may we keep and ponder in our mind, God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind, Trace we the Babe, Who has retrieved our loss, from His poor manger to His bitter cross, Tread in His steps, assisted by His grace, Till our first heavenly state again takes place." J Byrom

November In Retrospect. The AMS (Anglican Men's Society) met and remembered our Fallen in past and present wars, especially, the Army Chaplains, whose service of 100 years officially was spoken of.

Romsey Guild, following the AGM, now has a new President: Mrs Betty Dansey (Lancefield) and a new Secretary: Mrs Glenice Mitchell (Romsey).

The Healing Service on the third Sunday of each month brings blessings to those who attend. The Church AGM was held and as we go into a new year we thank all our office bearers and others who keep our Church running smoothly.

We praise and thank God for His blessings and the faithful and wise ministry of our vicar, Rev Bill Carroll. We welcomed into

our Church membership, Emelia, who was baptized, and pray that she will be "God's faithful soldier and servant until her life's end."

DIARY - DECEMBER 2013

Please start collecting Christmas gifts for Anglicare - for children and teenagers, unwrapped. Donations of gift wrapping paper welcome

Service Times for Sun 1st December:

9.00am, ST PAUL'S ROMSEY
 10.30am, Holy Communion - CHRIST CHURCH LANCEFIELD

Saturday, 7th PARISH STREET STALL - Outside IGA, Romsey. Cakes..Gifts..Plants etc.

RAFFLE. 1st prize: Barbie Doll Car; 2nd Prize: Coffee Maker; 3rd Prize: Quality Toaster. Tickets @\$2 each

Thurs 12th - 12 noon: GUILD CHRISTMAS LUNCH at 58 Ewing Drive. Small plate to share.

- 8pm: AMS Christmas Carols and Supper - 69 High St. Lancefield.

Sunday 15th COMBINED CHURCHES CHRISTMAS CAROLS - Romsey Mechanics Inst, 6pm onwards - Kids' games & BBQ, then Carols

Tues 24th CHRISTMAS EVE. Midnight Service, 11.30pm - CHRIST CHURCH Lancefield.

Wed 25th CHRISTMAS DAY 10am - ST PAUL'S ROMSEY

Sun 29th Services at: 9am - St Paul's Romsey; 10.30am - Christ Church Lancefield.

NOTE SERVICE TIMES: 8.45am Prayers, 9am Holy Communion - St Paul's Romsey

10.15am Prayers, 10.30am Holy Communion - Christ Church Lancefield.

AND WE HAVE BEHELD HIS GLORY, THE GLORY OF THE ONE AND ONLY, FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH." John 1:14b

May God, our Heavenly Father, richly bless our Community this Christmas and throughout the New Year 2014.

Minister: Rev W Carroll - 0427 918607, Office 5429 1380,

INSTANT TAX WRITE-OFF TO STOP SOON

SMALL business and sole traders are being urged to act quickly if they are to benefit from Labor's instant tax write-off.

Member for McEwen, Rob Mitchell, said the instant tax write-off for business related assets and for motor vehicles introduced by Labor in 2012/13 will no longer be available from 1 January 2014.

"Labor introduced the instant tax write-off to help small businesses and sole traders with their cash flow but Tony Abbott has now introduced a Bill to Parliament that will scrap them as of 1 January next year. "Labor's laws allowed for the immediate write-off of each asset costing less than \$6500, but under Tony Abbott that will reduce to just \$1000. Labor's laws also allowed small businesses to claim up to \$5000 as an immediate deduction for new or used motor vehicles that cost \$6500 or more but Tony Abbott will scrap this special deduction for motor vehicles from next year.

Mr Mitchell urged small businesses and sole traders to seek urgent advice from their accountants.



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Romsey Golf Club – Men's Report <http://romseygolfclub.net>

Saturday November 16th - Semi Finals - John Laing Shield/Stableford

Apart from an inconsistently gusting northerly wind conditions seemed excellent for golf. Verdant fairways and true greens had both John Laing semi-finalists and the stableford field looking forward to a top round and the strong possibility of posting a good score. However, whilst the edges of every fairway had been neatened by at least three cuts of the rough mower, there were some areas of long rough not too far passed these cuts. A number of players found this longer grass and many paid a severe price for their wayward shots. Despite the generally good conditions scoring proved difficult. The day's results were; **John Laing Shield Semi-finals**; Les Gaunt (7) **D** Pat Chisholm (15) W/O and Steve Poulton (32) **D** Tony Freeman (21) 3/1 **Stableford**; Winner John Laing (24) 35 pts from Neil Jarman (14) 33 pts **NTPs**; 15 - Les Gaunt.

Saturday November 9th - Quarter Finals John Laing Shield/Stroke

Players assembled under dark and brooding skies with a gusting wind moving from the south to the west. The skies darkened during the first few holes and rain began to fall, fortunately this only lasted for about 15 minutes before the day brightened and a little sun poked through. However, the clouds returned, jumpers and coats came back out and the field knuckled down for a tough afternoon. The changing wind forced players to think carefully before pulling a club from the bag and also had many questioning themselves as to just how much allowance needed to be made when hitting into or across the wind. The course was again in top condition with lush fairways and a generally very even cover on the greens.

Stroke results; Winner; Adrian Poulton 104/26/78 **John Laing Shield results**; Steve Poulton **D** Peter Scanlon 2/1, Les Gaunt **D** John Laing 2 up, Anthony Freeman **D** Dave Richardson 8/7 & Pat Chisholm **D** Anthony Lakey 2/1 **NTPs** 16 - Les Gaunt **Saturday November 2nd - 2nd Qualifying Rd 2013 John Laing Shield - Stableford**

Who could have asked for better conditions to chase a golf ball around the park? The sun was shining, the air was still, the fairways were in top condition and all but one of the greens were much improved. The greens, in their present condition challenge the player to aim straight at the hole, once they settle down and the "curve" returns putting will be far more demanding. Despite the generally benign conditions a few golfers decided, surprisingly early on, that the relaxing walk, the fresh air and retaining some sanity was far more important than the score on a small piece of card. Later in the round a strong westerly wind blew up making it very difficult to score points over the final few holes. The day's results were;

Winner; Neil Jarman (14) - 37 pts from Steve Poulton (32) 36 pts **NTPs**; 15 - Pat Chisholm & 16 - Steve Poulton **Rd 1** of the John Laing Shield will be; Steve Poulton **Vs** Peter Scanlon. Les Gaunt **Vs** John Laing. Dave Richardson **Vs** Anthony Freeman & Anthony Lakey **Vs** Pat Chisholm.

Saturday October 26th - Monthly Medal, Stroke & Putts

Players teed off in the October Monthly Medal on a generally sunny afternoon with a steady south-westerly wind. Rain during the week and many heavy dews had made the fairways a little softer however there was still reasonable bounce and run giving good value for shots. For the first time in many weeks the wind hardly effected the field. Again, whilst the greens were progressing well they continued to test the patience of all golfers. In a few weeks most should be back to their best condition for some time. A number of players had a run of good holes during the round before falling back to the field and really only one golfer was able to maintain the all important consistency required to prevail. With the new GolfAus handicapping system being activated in January all players had to score shots, putts and their stableford points for each hole. Whilst this proved confusing for some it was good practise for all stroke rounds from 2014 onwards. On another beautiful but challenging day the results were;

Winner and October Medalist; Pat Chisholm - 89/16/73 (continuing his recent excellent form) from Chris vanDerVliet - 99/24/76 **Least Putts**; John Laing 26

NTPs; 15 - Bob Dwyer (At 86 the oldest registered cricketer in Vic) and 16 - Mal Mottram

Saturday October 19th - 1st Qualifying Round 2013 John Laing Shield - Stableford

The course was in top condition (a tribute to the club's many volunteers), the sun was shining and all looked good for a great round however, as has been the case over the last few weeks, the northerly wind sprang up and played havoc for much of the afternoon. The greens had recovered well but the sun and wind dried them out so that approach shots that landed and stuck early just bounced off later in the round. Despite the challenges of the day all players were more than happy to be enjoying the afternoon in the wonderful environment of Romsey Park. The day's results were;

Winner; Pat Chisholm (16) - 37 pts on a c/b from Les Gaunt (6) with Steve Poulton (32) - 36 pts.

Women's winner; Sharon Carroll (36) - 34 pts **NTPs**; 15 - Steve Poulton.

The **6th Relay For Life**, four-person Ambrose will be held at Romsey Golf Club on Sunday February 23rd. This event raises funds for cancer research so why not put together a team to see if your mob can take the title from last year's winners; Romsey IGA.

Nine holes of **Night Golf** (Chicken Run) will begin on Friday December 6th. Tee-off will be from 4.30 pm. \$5.00 for golf and sausage sizzle, everyone is welcome. We have sets of clubs and buggies available. For more information;

0400 768 040 or Email – romseygolf@gmail.com

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James Kelleher Lawyers celebrates 30 years in Romsey.

Maureen Wiltshire celebrated the occasion with family, friends, business colleagues and clients in the Newnham Rooms at Romsey on Wednesday 23rd October 2013.

Russell Pattinson, long time Lancefield resident, gave a humorous introductory address speaking of the four F's which describe Maureen; Family, (Ph)Filanthropy, Firm and Friendship. Maureen was joined by her staff Kirsteen Milne, solicitor and Kerry, Andrea and Elizabeth, James Kelleher Lawyers' experienced administrative assistants. Maureen responded, "Tonight I would like to thank each and every one of you who had helped me to get to 30 years and let us celebrate together. 'At James Kelleher Lawyers we like to think we are always working for the right outcomes' said Maureen." Maureen said "I am passionate about James Kelleher Lawyers and the Romsey/Lancefield community. I love the challenges of private practice and the autonomy of my own business and I particularly love working in the community."

Maureen told the assembled audience a few humorous stories about herself and her staff. She also told the audience the history of the name James Kelleher which was Maureen's father's name and the business name she still operates under.

There was an interesting display of historical memorabilia including photos of the construction of the Romsey office.

Maureen said "I am delighted to see Bronwyn Wilston here tonight as she was my first staff member and was with James Kelleher Lawyers from 1983 to 1997".

The evening concluded with Maureen's two year old grandson, Reuben, singing Happy Birthday.



Russell & Maralane
Pattinson



Grandson Reuben



Ron Cole, Rod Browning
and Allan Joynson enjoy
the evening.



Ken Wiltshire serving drinks to
John Lynch and Bill and Pat
Badger



Bronwyn Wilson, Lyn
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Stevens catching up.



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Are you fire ready?

Bushfire seasonal outlook

A recent report from the CFA has indicated that the 2013–2014 bushfire season is likely to be average to above average in much of Victoria. High flammability is expected around the Wombat Forest due to the significant underlying dryness and the residual effects of prolonged bursts of heat from last summer. If you live in a high-risk bushfire area, you are encouraged to attend your local Fire Ready Victoria meeting to find out more about current and projected conditions, and get advice on bushfire preparation and survival. Visit the CFA website at cfa.vic.gov.au to find out about a meeting happening in a town near you. If you belong to a community group or club, you can contact the CFA on 1800 735 202 to arrange a tailored fire safety session for your members.

Do you have a bushfire survival plan?

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

You should consider:

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

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

Tips for staying safe this summer

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

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

Don't forget to search for *Macedon Ranges Emergency Alerts* on Facebook and "like" our page. This Council-managed page provides tips on preparing for and responding to an emergency in your town or region, such as fire, flood or heatwave. It does not replace official emergency alerts from the CFA, Victoria Police or SES. Remember, being fire ready is everyone's responsibility, so make sure you take the time to prepare yourself, your family, your animals and your property so that you can stay safe this summer.



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PRICES FOR ROMSEY LANCEFIELD AREA

1/2 tonne \$160*

1 tonne \$300*

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*Prices include Delivery

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PAINT THE TOWN PURPLE IN JANUARY FOR CANCER AWARENESS

Businesses in Romsey and Lancefield are being encouraged to decorate their shop windows from Monday, January 20 until Friday January 24 to highlight the Lancefield/Macedon Ranges Relay For Life in March.

Windows will be awash with the event's symbolic purple, displaying cherished shirts and collectables from years past and a host of informative posters.

"Please encourage and support these businesses by way of a purchase, donation to the Cancer Council Victoria, donation to the Relay For Life teams nominated by the businesses, or even by noticing and encouraging the effort taken on their display," said event chairman Ken Wiltshire.

Winners will be announced at the Relay For Life committee's Lancefield Farmers Market stall on January 25. Prizes for the best dressed windows have been donated by Black Range Business Group, Lancefield Mercury & Romsey Rag.

Team and individual registrations will be taken at the January market. There will be more information about the event as well as Cancer Council Sun Smart items for purchase.

Anyone who would like to walk but has not found a team yet is urged to talk to a committee member. Joining a team is a great opportunity to meet people who share a commitment to fighting back against cancer.

The 2014 Lancefield/Macedon Ranges Relay for Life event will be held on the weekend of March 1-2. The event would not be possible without the assistance of committed volunteers. Those able to assist during the weekend can register their interest at <http://www.relayforlife.org.au/> or speak to a committee member at the market stall.

The event recently received a much appreciated financial boost from the Lancefield & Romsey Community Bendigo Bank, which has donated \$2000.



Get healthy and active this summer

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

Summer intensive Learn to Swim program

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

Week 1, 6-10 January

Week 2, 13-17 January

Week 3, 20-24 January

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

Outdoor pools open for summer

The Woodend and Lancefield Outdoor Pools are set to open on Saturday November 30. The outdoor pools operate on a temperature policy and will only open if the weather (as per the Bureau of Meteorology forecast at 4.30pm the day prior) is forecast to be above 24 degrees.

For more detailed information on the operating hours, the temperature policy and prices, please visit mrc.vic.gov.au/leisure.

Gym and swim membership specials

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

Offer 1 – 25% off all 12 month memberships

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

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



Romsey Playgroup Inc.

Romsey Community Hub,
Main Street, Romsey

Merry Christmas to our wonderful Romsey and district Community – From all our littlest members of Romsey Playgroup!!!!

Romsey Playgroup would like to sincerely thank the following people and/or groups who have supported us in 2013:

Lancefield & Romsey Community Bank :
loan of EFTPOS machine, Grant Success 2012 – Part Contribution of Shade Sail
Blooming Stockfeed: Donation of mulch
Goldfields Regional Library - Romsey: Donation of old books
Lancefield / Romsey RSL: letter of support when applying for grants
Lancefield Community House : Auspice Letter
Macedon Ranges Shire Council: grant success (Inside/Outside Play) ,
Romsey Community Hub: Facilities management
Romsey Fresh Wholesale: Donation of plants for vegetable garden
Romsey IGA: Support during sausage sizzle
Romsey Online: Advertising for Romsey Playgroup
Romsey Rag; Advertising for Romsey Playgroup
Romsey Neighborhood House: Support during cake stall on garage sale day
Romsey Mitre10:Support of veggie garden project
Romsey Primary School: letter of support when applying for grants



Romsey Toy Library: Support of Christmas Party
SP AusNet: grant success
Telstra: grant Success
Tom Watson: Donation of sausages for 2012 Christmas Party
Puppy Love: Replacement of sand pit cover
Playgroup Victoria: Ongoing Support

JANUARY OPENING HOURS

Playgroup will be open to members on:

Wednesday 8th Jan 2014

9.30am -11.30am

Wednesday 15th Jan 2014,

9.30 am -11.30am

Wednesday 22nd Jan 2014,

9.30 am -11.30am 9.30 am -11.30am

\$5.00 per family per session!!

Playgroup is located at the back of the Romsey Community Hub. A car park is located to the left of the building and side access is available for entry into the Playgroup Facility. Remember to bring a hat and a piece of fruit to share during snack time. Sunscreen is located at the centre and also plenty of water. But bring a drink bottle so it can be refilled. If you would like to enquire further, request a brochure or enrol for playgroup please do not hesitate to contact the following committee members or email romseyplaygroup:

Email romseyplaygroup@gmail.com

President: Leighann Moon 0405 507 805

Treasurer: Rana Scott 0439 529 533

Macedon Ranges Physiotherapy

Ben Gidley

NEW PHYSIO NOW AVAILABLE

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Romsey Medical Centre

99 Main Street

Phone: 5429 5254

Lancefield Country Practice

17 High Street

Phone: 5429 1362



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www.macedonrangesphysio.com
e: macedonrangesphysio@hotmail.com

ROMSEY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sat 30th November 2013

3.00pm - 8.00pm

Romsey Mechanics Hall

MUSIC, FOOD & FUN FOR ALL AGES

Local & Regional Artists

Sonus Is Sound - 3 piece Rock & Jazz Group

Lizanne Richards
Sarah Wilkinson
Jarrod Shaw
Australia Road
Watch out for Wombats
Lancefield Larrakins
Cobaw Ridge
Peter Murphy

ENTRY
\$10 Adults
\$5 U16
\$20 family (2A, 2C)

OPEN MIC
5-6pm
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Saturday – 9am – 3pm
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BIOLAGE

84 MAIN STREET, ROMSEY
PH: 5429 5300

C.W.A Romsey Branch

A drunk staggers into a Catholic Church, enters a confessional booth, sits down, but says nothing.

The Priest coughs a few times to get his attention but the drunk continues to sit there.

Finally, the Priest pounds three times on the wall.

The drunk mumbles, "Ain't no use knockin, there's no paper on this side either!"

An Irishman who had a little too much to drink is driving home from the city one night and, of course, his car is weaving violently all over the road.

A cop pulls him over.

"So," says the cop to the driver, "Where have ya been?"

"Why, I've been to the pub of course," slurs the drunk.

"Well," says the cop, "it looks like you've had quite a few to drink this evening."

"I did all right," the drunk says with a smile.

"Did you know," says the cop, standing straight and folding his arms across his chest, "that a few intersections back, your wife fell out of your car?"

"Oh, thank heavens for telling me," sighs the drunk,

"For a minute there, I thought I'd gone deaf."

CWA is almost over for 2013. Our last meeting was held mid-November and planning is under way for our Christmas break-up. At our Annual General Meeting on the last day of October, our President was re-elected for a second term, along with our Secretary willing to take on the responsibilities for yet another term. The Treasurer's position is up for grabs and we hope to resolve this soon. We were delighted that one of our newest members has taken on the positions of Magazine Officer and International Officer. Sadly both of these positions became vacant on the passing of a member and the other lady not enjoying the best of health at this time.

Our Craft Day in November was spent making cookery aprons for the Bolinda Primary School. Ladies were invited to the Oak's Day function at Macedon CWA Hall, and two ladies sat and demonstrated knitting and embroidery at Seymour Cottage on their open day. Much interest was taken in these two crafts by the many visitors, with one lady, hopefully, coming to a future meeting.

We meet on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Mechanics Institute. Further details can be obtained from our Secretary, Val, on 5429 2311.

On behalf of the Romsey Branch of the Country Women's Association, I wish all readers an enjoyable, safe and healthy Christmas.



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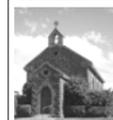
Ring Omar for a quote on 0428 156 487

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 54291602.



Romsey Uniting Church

Pohlman Street, Romsey. 3434 Supply Minister Rev. Max Woolcock

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:

On Sunday 17th November a service was conducted for the Blessing of the Emergency Services. It was a beautiful sunny day and representatives from the CFA, SES, Red Cross RediSupport, VCC, Ambulance, Police and the Macedon Ranges Shire Emergency Management were present. The Romsey Uniting Church hosted this event and we all had a lovely afternoon tea afterwards.

Romsey and Lancefield Uniting Churches will have combined services from 1st December, 2013, to the end of January, 2014, as printed below.

"Happy Christmas and a safe and peaceful New Year from all at the Romsey Uniting Church."

The Night before Christmas

(a slightly different version of the famous Christmas poem)

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the town,
St. Joseph was searching, walking up roads and down;
Our Lady was waiting, so meek and so mild,
while Joseph was seeking a place for the Child;
The census had brought them to Bethlehem town;
but there was no lodging, no room to be found.
When even the innkeeper sent them away,
Joseph was wondering, where they would stay;
He thought of the stables in the side of the hills,
Let's go there, said Mary, it's silent and still;
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,
made pathways of light for their tired feet to go;
And there in a manger, on a cradle of hay,
Our Saviour was born on that first Christmas Day!
The Father was watching in heaven above,
He sent for his angels, his couriers of love;
More rapid than eagles God's bright angels came;
Rejoicing and eager as each heard their name;
"Come Angels, Come Cherubs, Come Seraphs,
Come Raphael, Come all Hosts of heaven,
come Michael & Gabriel;
Now fly to the earth, where my poor people live,
announce the glad tiding my Son comes to give;
The Shepherds were watching their flocks on this night,
and saw in the heavens an unearthly light;
The Angels assured them, they'd nothing to fear,

Hospital Welcomes Record Number at AGM

The Kyneton District Health Service (KDHS) which administers the Kyneton hospital held its annual general meeting last night and was glad to see so many residents in attendance. KDHS Board President Graham Jasper said it was a lively meeting but welcomed the chance to try and put to rest many concerns local residents have following a protest campaign.

"There's no doubt there were some at the meeting who booed and had an agenda to follow but in the main the people who genuinely wanted information were able to hear another side of the story," said Mr Jasper. "We were able to dispel the myth of no doctors at the hospital as we have 42 doctors accredited to work at the hospital and 8 doctors on an emergency roster for urgent care consults."

There was a call for Mr Jasper to resign based on a petition that claimed to have 2,500 signatures requesting that action.

"The petition only represents 6 per cent of the people we potentially treat and was not independently audited so we don't know how many repeat or fake signatures are there. The petition has been a personal vendetta and is a fizzer because my term as President ends in 4 weeks. My term as a board member ends mid next year so I was never seeking to go beyond December," said Mr Jasper.

"The protestors have never really engaged properly with me or the KDHS and preferred to wage a media campaign. We are always happy to clarify any genuine concerns from people directly. While we would love the hospital to be all things to all people it cannot be. It is funded and mandated by the state Government to provide certain services and a certain level of care and we do that very well."

For more details contact Graham Jasper on 0411 449 158.

It's Christmas they said, the Saviour is here!

They hastened to find him, and stood at the door,
till Mary invited them in to adore;

He was swaddled in cloths from his head to his feet,
never had the Shepherds seen a baby so sweet!

He spoke not a word, but the shepherds all knew,
He was telling them secrets and blessing them too;

Then softly they left him, The Babe in the hay,
and rejoiced with great joy on that first Christmas day;

Mary heard them exclaim as they walked down the hill
Glory to God in the Highest, Peace to all and good will!

Services and activities during December 2013 & January 2014.

1st 10am Advent 1. Combined Service at Lancefield
conducted by the Worship Team

8th 10am Advent 2. Combined Service at Romsey
conducted by Rev. Max Woolcock

15th 10am Advent 3. Combined Service at Lancefield
conducted by Alastair Davidson

** Combined Carol Service at the Romsey Mechanics Institute,
commencing with a BBQ at 6pm followed by the Carol Service
at 7pm.

22nd 10am Advent 4. Combined Service at Romsey
conducted by Rev. Max Woolcock

**7.30pm Blue Christmas Service at Romsey

24th 7.30pm Christmas Eve Service at Romsey
conducted by Worship Team

25th 9.30am Christmas Day Service at Lancefield conducted
by Rev. Max Woolcock

29th 10.30am 5th Sunday Combined Service at Lancefield
conducted by Rev. Max Woolcock

January 2014

5th 10.am Epiphany - Combined Service at Romsey con-
ducted by the Worship Team

12th 10.am. Baptism of Jesus – Holy Communion
Combined Service at Lancefield conducted by Rev. Max
Woolcock

19th 10am. Combined Service at Romsey
conducted by Visiting Preacher

26th 10am. Australia Day – Combined Service at Lancefield
conducted by Rev Max Woolcock.



Join us to create
a stable and resilient local economy:

MACEDON RANGES COMMUNITY EXCHANGE NEWS

www.mrce.net.au

This month the Macedon Ranges Community Exchange will hold its second market day - a day for members, prospective members and interested members of the community to get together and trade items, discuss service proposals, advertise and find out more. The market will run from **10 - 11am on Sunday 8th December - Piper Street - Campaspe Park - KYNETON** (on the left as you head out of town towards Malmsbury).

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

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

Meggs Hannes
Coordinator of

Lancefield District & Woodend Community Farmers' Markets
(Follow us on Facebook by clicking these links)
Macedon Ranges Community Exchange administrator

Dear Friends

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

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

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

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

Thank you to everyone that has made this job an absolute pleasure. May I also wish you a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year, and I will see you around Romsey 2014.

Warm regards

JOANNE DUNCAN MP
STATE MEMBER FOR MACEDON

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Romsey Golf Club Inc. Charity Golf Day Four Player Am- brose



Proceeds to the 2014 Lancefield & Macedon
Ranges Relay For Life

Sunday Feb. 23rd 2014

9.30 am for 10.00 am hit off

Many novelty & fun events during the
round.

Entry Fee: \$80 per team (\$20 pp)
(Includes traditional Romsey Golf Club Lunch)

Field limit of 21 teams
Entries to: Tony Freeman: Ph: 0414 296 918
Jan Harver: Ph: 0402 905 982
Entries close 19th February
(Entries also accepted on the day if field permits)
Refreshments available throughout the day

Romsey Golf Club
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Romsey Region Business and Tourism Association (RRBATA) UPDATE

Christmas Greetings



This year seems to have been the year of the never ending Federal election campaign! RRBATA facilitated the McEwen electorate to meet their candidates by organising The Great McEwen Debate in August. This was a most successful event which demonstrated RRBATA's ongoing commitment to its community.

Currently, planning is underway for Light Up The Sky 2014, which will again be underpinned by the "Shop Local" and "Support Local Business so it may Support Community" mantras.

Once again, RRBATA will be providing the Christmas tree window direction at the Romsey Community Hub.

RRBATA, on behalf of all business and tourism entities in the Romsey region, wishes you all a Merry Christmas with a Safe, Prosperous and (especially) Happy New Year in 2014.

Annual General Meeting

The 2013 Annual General Meeting for the **Romsey Region Business and Tourism Association Incorporated** will be held on Monday 2nd December 2013, commencing at 7.30pm at the Romsey Community Hub. The election of office bearers and committee for 2014 and presentation of the 2012-2013 Financial Statement will be conducted. **Members and Guests WELCOME.**

Enquiries: Joanne Hagan (Secretary) ph. 0432 320553, Email: hages10@optusnet.com.au

Romsey Online

And don't forget, **ANYONE CAN BE A REPORTER!** Whether it is sporting results, photos, reports on events etc, the website is waiting for your "news". Please ensure a note of consent from people featured in any photographs accompanies your submissions. Remember, the website is only as good as the information fed to it at info@romsey.org.au.

Membership Enquiries: Joanne Hagan (Secretary)

Phone: 0432 320 553

Email: hages10@optusnet.com.au

Central Highlands and Goldfields health services geared up for a busy summer

Central Highlands and Goldfields region hospitals, ambulance branches and health agencies are prepared for emergencies that may arise over summer, Health Minister David Davis said today.

Launching the updated *State Health Emergency Response Plan (SHERP)*, Mr Davis said health professionals and agencies would work with other emergency services agencies to ensure the Central Highlands and Goldfields region was covered for emergency health management, relief and recovery. "In light of recent floods and fires, this updated plan sets out the arrangements to co-ordinate the health response to emergencies in the state, including mass casualty incidents, complex trauma events, mass gatherings and other incidents impacting the health of Victorians," Mr Davis said.

"It is crucial that everyone working in Victoria's emergency management sector – particularly the health sector – reads and is familiar with this latest edition."

The SHERP covers the pre-hospital and hospital response, describes the principles, command and coordination arrangements and outlines the roles and responsibilities of all involved for a health emergency response.

The revisions in this edition include a new section on the role of the community in emergency medical response.

"Given that community members are often the first on scene in medical or other emergencies, advice on the best ways to prepare and act during an emergency will help save lives," Mr Davis said.

"Citizens with little formal medical training can make an enormous difference in a medical emergency."

"The latest edition of the SHERP offers preparation advice for community members – suggesting that all community members learn first aid and invest in a first-aid kit."

The SHERP also acknowledges the importance of psychosocial support for people affected by emergency and disaster situations which is why, for the first time, the Chief Psychiatrist in noted in the SHERP and can become involved in the response, if and as needed.

"I am confident that this plan will give Victorians every confidence that in the event of major fires or other emergencies this summer, they will have full support," Mr Davis said.

The *State Health Emergency Response Plan* is a sub plan of the *State Emergency Response Plan*.



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.....WISHES THE ROMSEY COMMUNITY AND BEYOND
A HAPPY AND SAFE FESTIVE SEASON....



Welcome to the neighbourhood!!!

At the AGM held on the 12th of November a motion to change the name from Romsey Community House to Romsey Neighbourhood house was unanimously and warmly welcomed.

In 2014 Romsey Neighbourhood House looks forward to working with the Romsey Community through volunteerism and Community partnerships. Eager to make this happen are the present members of the newly elected committee:

PRESIDENT: Sharyne Ede

VICE PRESIDENT: Peter Quinn

SECRETARY / TREASURER: Allan Irvine

GENERAL MEMBERS: Eileen French, Mary Hogarth, Dianne Irvine and Vivian Philpot

WATCHOUT for the delivery of the
**TERM ONE 2014
PROGRAM**
or pick one up at the
DROP IN ROOM
And mark your diary with
Neighbourhood House events and
activities not to be missed.

NEW PROGRAM: Fridays at 7:30pm at the House is a terrific **"SOCIAL ART GROUP"**. If art is your thing contact Dot 54296040 (gold coin donation).

JANUARY YOGA: Tuesdays the 14th, 21st and 28th with Leisa Kirk 0408 934656.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: Slow and steady walking group.

Jars for Jam..mmmmm

Many of us clean our jars and pop them in the recycle bin BUT why not drop them into the house so that when it comes to that harvesting time of year we will have Jars aplenty! Let us know if you have any other sustainable and ethical ideas?????



Guess who's turning **10** in 2014?

???

Bolinda & Monegetta News

**WE'RE CELEBRATING OUR HALL'S
100th CHRISTMAS!!**

AND THE WEATHER

291pts (73mm) of rain for October continues the welcome Spring rains and the big smiles from the people on the land continue. What a season for roses! Though they seem to grow well in all conditions, a spring such as this one has them performing to perfection and we can understand why they are called the Queen of Flowers. There is nothing quite like the glorious charm of a rose flower - whether it's a single, miniature, wonderfully lush multi-petalled, old world or anything-in-between bloom - they are a winner. Take into account the unbelievable range of colours, from pristine and delicate to outright brazen; add the senses-delight of perfumes from the simplicity of the teas through every fruity, tangy, spicy, sweet, heady, you-name-it flavour, and you have the perfect, heaven-sent garden treasure. Enjoy yours - or if you don't or can't grow them, enjoy a neighbour's. Guaranteed to lift the lowest spirits!

HALL COMMITTEE: It's the quiet time of the year for us and we're enjoying the break. Work continues on our kitchen upgrade and we're looking forward to the new, re-vamped result.

HISTORY: From the Minute Book.

Thought I'd look to see if there were any Christmas references in the old Minute Book. The first was in 1920 on the 23rd of December. So close to Christmas, surely there was something special to plan or discuss? Well, *Minutes of previous meeting were moved; Correspondence seen to (only 2 items - quotes for painting the Hall) then some motions* 1. That Mr Pugh's tender for 47pound 10 shillings for painting the Hall be accepted. 2. That Secretary meet Mr Pugh re sparrows getting under roof. 3. That name and date of erection of Hall be painted on the front of the building; letters for name to be 6 inch and for date to be three inches. 4. A picket fence be erected in front of the Hall and that Secretary get cost from Mr Pugh. Fence to be 4ft 6in high. And that was it! There doesn't seem to be much reason to call a meeting so close to Christmas - it is not surprising that only 6 turned up! Mr Pugh would be busy though!

BOLINDA HALL (Melways 610 J9: cnr Mullaly's and Melb-Lancefield Road): Don't forget our community hall is available for hire at very cheap rates. We want to see it used. That's why it was built! Great for adult or children's parties with lots of safe outdoor space available. Excellent for corporate functions, with data projection available.

BOL-DARRA (Bolinda-Darraweit)

GARDEN CLUB: We have an interesting impromptu session at the Hall each month, before we head off on our garden adventure. It is great when we bring along something we love - a flower, seedpod - or a problem - bugs, or queries. Flowers last time included Roses, Billy Buttons, Sweet Peas; always wonderful to delight over those and maybe put our names down for seeds, etc. Queries are a challenge, though! Last time we had questions about non-flowering wisteria (we settled on time for that one); Clematis (plant as deep as possible and put a rock over roots, so they stay out of the sun) and Peonies (take your chance here: some say plant with crowns high to get frost and even add a block of ice if no frosts; other expert nursery advice says plant deep, there you go, but either way, they are heavy feeders). We might not solve much, but we enjoy the suggestions. One member has been growing Snapdragons from cuttings; I didn't know you could do that! I think the best thing about our little group is that there are no experts, so we don't have to be embarrassed about the questions we ask. We had a delightful time at Mary and Ian's last month. The garden was looking superb with roses and lavenders in particular and we enjoyed strolling around the lovely dam area (admiring Ian's 'moat' to protect his beloved birds) and enjoying the fascinating beds with a lovely range of plantings. The formal front rose bed, with its superb clipped lavenders, is a delight. Other beds have a range of small trees, roses, camellias, etc, underplanted with some interesting perennials and bulbs, which set off some lovely statuary. The range of roses gives an interesting insight into the revival of 'old world' and her-

itage roses (that incomparable Sombrieu!) and many David Austins. And what a host Mary was! When the first member looked enviously at a plant, Mary went off and got secateurs and some bags. That's the sort of guide we like! She came up a winner too, when she set up a wonderfully scrumptious afternoon tea! This month, we had to change our day to fit in with Future Farms Arabian Studs open day, on the 30th of November. It was a wonderful day for the family and a chance to see world class performances from world class horses. Remember, you are always welcome to join us. We meet at Bolinda Hall at 1:30 for a chat and brief discussion session and then we move off on our garden visit about 2:00. (Phone us first, if you haven't been before; we occasionally have earlier starts).

PEOPLE OF THE MONTH This month we've got one of those great local people - generally fairly quiet and unassuming, but a treasure in the community. Kevin Ryan was born in the Pyalong area, the eldest of 7 boys! Mum, Patricia, kept trying for a girl - she had the name chosen, Kathleen (her sister Kathleen had named her daughter Patricia!) but it wasn't to be. So next time your children/grandchildren are playing up, imagine life with 7 boys. They tried every steep hill and wore out many billy carts; loved playing along the Mollison Creek - building stick bridges across to marooned 'islands' when it was in flood!! Kevin went to Pyalong State School, then to Sacred Heart, Seymour and St Vincent's College, Bendigo. They rode/raced bikes 2 miles to the bus stop; parents didn't drive kids to school then! Kevin's parents bought farms for each of those boys. What an achievement. Dad would take profits from one farm to build up the finance for the next brothers' farms. Merino wethers were the backbone (Dad reckoned, "What was the use of cropping machinery to sit in the shed for 11 and a half months of the year?") and wool got to 1 pound (money) for 1 pound (weight) when it was used for military uniforms during the Korean War. When Kevin was married his farm produced 2 bales of wool, plus ewes and lambs; later in the 80's Dad and all the boys produced 500 bales. Nowadays, Kevin is still at Bolinda Park, Darraweit, usually hosting a few stray weekenders, dining from a spit powered craftily by batteries...Always helping out where needed ('Christian help/self satisfaction') including Darraweit activities, Red Cross, Landcare, CFA...if he can lend a hand, he's there. Oh - and innovative - see the wonderful waterbirds he makes from scrap metal and rocks.

Cheerio from Bolinda & Monegetta

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O PIG!

125 years ago, the village of Newham, which nestles in the shadow of Hanging Rock, was the home to a bacon factory, an early settlement industry. In recognition of this achievement and to honour Newham's little pig mascot, Chin Chin, who lives on the stone wall outside the Newham General Store, the Newham Mechanic's Institute successfully applied for a community grant from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council for a Sculptural Pig Project. 10 fibreglass almost life size pigs will be manufactured and decorated by local artists of note, community groups and pupils of local schools. All ten pigs will be displayed in strategic locations around Newham, where for a month before the culmination at a Pig Festival on Saturday 22 March 2014 at the Newham Mechanic's Institute (next to Wesley Park bang in the centre of Newham) and at the Newham Primary School, the local community and visitors will vote to select three pigs to be placed permanently around the village. Other pigs will be offered for sale by silent auction at the Festival and there will also be local produce stalls, various arts and crafts, information booths, live music, and food and wine available at the Festival and at the Newham General Store. Keep Saturday 22 March 2014 free for a visit to Newham to celebrate all things Pig and marvel at some beautifully decorated sculptures. Who knows, you might be inspired by the legend of Chin Chin and be one of the lucky ones who takes home for display, to the marvel of your neighbours, one of the magnificently decorated, almost life size pigs.