

The Romsey Rag

February Edition 1998

1100 copies produced each Month at Romsey Primary School as a service to our Country Community,
in the Heart of Victoria.

Sponsored this month by "*Hothlyn Drive Children's Centre Craigieburn*"

Hothlyn Drive Children's Centre Craigieburn

Long Day

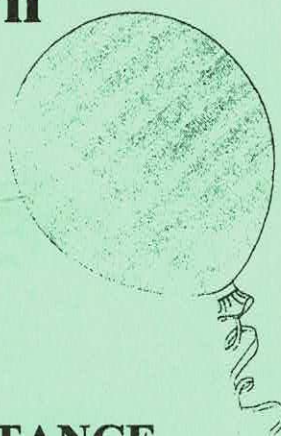
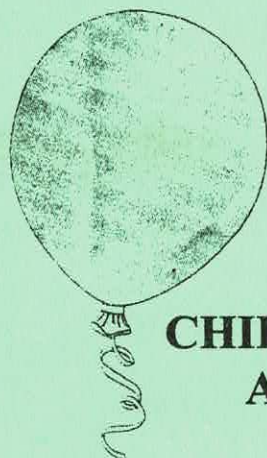
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ROMSEY AND LANCEFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

(Situated behind Mechanics Hall, Main Street, Romsey)

We would like to announce that we will be having an OPEN DAY on Monday, February, 23rd.

Come along if you are male or female and 55 years of age or over and enjoy

Afternoon Tea - free of charge and play a game of carpet bowls,
a friendly game of cards or a quiet chat.

If you like what you see you are welcome to join us each Monday from 10 am - 3 pm
for a fee of \$2 per year! A 3-Course meal can be provided for \$3.50.

We have been in existence for 28 years and our rooms have been refurbished over the past year.
Last - but by no means least - we run a bus trip on the first Wednesday of each month for our members -
cost varies each trip.

Enquiries to Margaret French (Secretary) on 54296 377
or Marie Snowball (President) on 54295 536.

ROMSEY-LANCEFIELD LIONS CLUB

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Christmas Carnival and Raffle. Winners were - 1st Ken Notman, 2nd Anne Phelan and third D. Paterson.

Our congratulations to the combined churches who hosted Carol By Candlelight. Thanks to all the students who participated in the Essay Competition "Good Drugs - Bad Drugs" - the high standard of entries made it very difficult to select the winners who were - Lancefield Primary, Bonnie Hanlon, St. Mary's Heleni Holgate and Romsey Primary Erin Moore.

We would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous 1998 - new member and general enquires can be made to Pat Sullivan on 54295 486.

For Sale

Brush Cutter

- Eager Beaver Mc Culloch Engine
 - Line trimming head
 - Light to handle
 - Good condition
- \$50

Ride on lawn mower

- 5Hp engine
 - 26 inch cutting deck
 - 6 selectable Speeds
 - Very good condition
- \$850

Ph. Steven (03) 5429 5027

You can be whatever type of person you choose to be. Your habits, your behaviours, your responses, are all your choice.



ROMSEY FIRE BRIGADE

(Fire Calls Only 5429 5333)



ROMSEY FIRE BRIGADE

(Fire Calls Only 5429 5333)

Fortunately at the time of compiling this report we have had no major fires in our area.

The Brigade has been active in supporting Brigades in other Districts and States. From the 3-6 December, Romsey Tanker One, with 3 Romsey members and 7 members from the Romsey and District Fire Brigades Group (1 Lancefield, 1 Bolinda-Monegetta, 2 Clarkefield, 2 Wildwood and 1 Darraweit Guim were in New South Wales at Lithgow assisting with Fire Fighting (it was not a holiday as it has been suggested.) In January we have assisted at fires at Wandong, Darraweit Guim, Springfield and Monegetta.

Thursday 28/1/98 was a proud day for the Brigade when it received its first CFA Supplier Pumper (DYNA type 3 Pumper.) Our Brigades own Pumper (EX MFB) which has served the Romsey Community since 1991 has been sold to the New South Wales Rural Fire Service and will be stationed at Grafton.

The Romsey Art Group will be holding its 18th Annual Art Show on the weekend 21st & 22nd February at the Romsey mechanics Hall. This group has been a strong support of the Brigade over many years, so please support the Art Show.

If you require any information or advice on Fire Prevention, please do not hesitate to contact the Brigade. New members are always welcome, please drop in on Sunday mornings 9am onwards or contact Brigade Captain Ron Cole 5429 5411 AH or Secretary Tony Barnes 5429 5649.

C.F.A. CREATING A SAFER COMMUNITY

**Kid Zone
IS COMING**

ROMSEY LIVING WORD A.O.G. CHURCH

Church Service Times: Sunday morning 10:00am, Evening 7:00pm.

Saturday Evening service monthly.

Where: Lot 7 Mitchell Crt Romsey.

Phone: 5429 6327. A.H. 5429 5381.

Senior Pastor: Marilyn Hunter.

FAMILY CAMP!!!!
FAMILY CAMP FAMILY CAMP
***** ALL WELCOME *****
LABOUR DAY LONG WEEKEND
GREAT PLACE, GREAT PRICE,
GREAT FOOD, LOADS OF FUN
POOL, BOATS ADVENTURE WALKS
*** MORE ** MORE ** MORE ***
TOO GOOD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MISS
DONT DELAY GIVE PHONE NOW!
CHRISTINE 5429 5600.

C.V.B.C BIBLE COLLEGE ROMSEY CAMPUS

Central Victoria Bible College

Night Bible college commences early February.
Open to anyone interested in furthering their Biblical studies or to increase their knowledge of the Bible. Classes are Tuesday and Wednesday Night and continue a full semester. Subjects offered are Marriage and Family (How to really Love Your Teenager), Fundamental Dogma (Overview of basic Biblical truths), Cults (understanding how cults twist and misuse the Bible) and Hermeneutics (Understand and revolutionise the way you read the Bible).
To register and for details phone above numbers a.s.a.p.



CAMP Gurumbene Family Camp

\$20 per day per
Person

\$15 Preschoolers



Ensuites in
Dormitories

-Archery -Orienteering -Indoor
Games -Swimming -Canoeing,
Boating -Tennis, Volleyball -Rope
course

Contact Christine on 54 295 600

Labour Day W/E

A NIGHT IN THE PARK

MUSIC & BBQ
6:00pm

ENTERTAINMENT
Fun for the family

Time: 7:00pm Start
Date: 21.2.'98
Place: Romsey Lions Park
Sponsored by Romsey Living Word

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS:

Training Days organised by Local Area Co-Ordinator, Mrs. Dallas Jefferson from Maryborough will be held on Mondays 9th and 16th February, 9.30am - 3pm at St. Paul's Anglican Church Hall, Main Street, Romsey, for any interested R.E. teachers to up date their skills or for any committed local Christian residents who would like to join our teaching team in Romsey and/or Lancefield. At least 2 extra teachers are needed at both schools. Further details from either Rev. Paul Wood, 5429 1380 or Mrs. Helen Clement 5429 5317. Teaching Aids and copies of all the syllabus books will be on display and/or for sale.

ROMSEY RED CROSS UNIT:

Happy New year to all Romsey Rag readers and hopefully the remaining weeks of summer will be free of fire disasters and storm damage. Red Cross personnel are appealing for clothing, bedding, furniture etc., to assist with evacuees from the floods at Katherine in Northern Territory. For local donations, please contact either Mrs. Leeanne Eames 5429 5658 or Mrs. Helen Clement 5429 5317.

Our first meeting for 1998 will be a planning meeting for our Red Cross calling in March. Due to lack of volunteers to call in 1997 we were unable to visit families to request donations and our income for Red Cross locally was an all time low amount - hence we need **more** members with **more** time and **more** energy to collect **more** donations to help Red Cross to help others. The meeting is to be held on Friday 27th February at 1.30pm at the home of Mrs. Marion Spring, 68 Main Street, Romsey, and any intending new members will be made very welcome. Our Regional President, Mrs. Marie Hoban from Darraweit Guim Unit will attend this important meeting. Mrs. Marion Spring is our only Foundation member and still one of our most valuable members, but we are all getting older and slower so **new3 younger energetic members are urgently needed!!**

Please phone either our Secretary, Mrs. Gwenda Allen 5428 5117 or Mrs. Leeanne Eames 5429 5658.

A GRATEFUL TRIBUTE TO A LOVED PET:

We all know the saying that "Dogs are mans best friend", but Helen Clements loved West Highland White Terrier was everyone's best friend! Named "Wee Lassie" after her mother - was affectionately known as 'Lass' to her friends and like her owner were very saddened when 'Lass' died suddenly at Romsey Veterinary Clinic on Sunday 4th January, 1998, after 9¼ years of unconditional devotion to the Clement Clan at "Bank Glen" Springfield. Lass is very sadly missed but very fondly remembered. Her recent friend and play mate Isabella "Bella" to her friends is like Helen in that she is sad too. Bella can obviously smell Lass everywhere but can't find her! Bella "like Lady and the Tramp" was rescued by Seymour Animal Aid members where "Bella" and her sister "Tinkerbelle Bradley" of Jinker Way, Romsey plus four other brothers and sisters were found abandoned on Seymour tip with 2 poor little pups not surviving.

My good friend and caring helper Maree Wheaten is helping me create a Fairy Garden around Wee Lassies grave and the grave of the original Clement Westie Duff (McDuff) who also died at the Romsey Veterinary Clinic when Lass was only 4 months old - good friends for only a short time together.

My grandchildren and friends children including my 3 loved god-children Louise, Jane and Emily Gosden, the daughters of Wayne and Wendy Gosden whose dogs "Bonnie" a Westie the original Gosden pet prior to their current Springer Spaniel "Woody" were good friends of the "Bank Glen" dogs and enjoyed farm holidays at Springfield with them. Pets are special - just ask any R.S.P.C.A. or Animal Aid Volunteer.

Wee Lassie Clement 29.9.88 - 4.1.98.

BOLINDA PRIMARY SCHOOL FEBRUARY NEWS

Hello once again to all of our Romsey Rag readers, as we start off again into an exciting and challenging new year at Bolinda. We welcomed 10 new families to our school community this year and have already a lovely morning tea for all families to get to know each other. A family BBQ will also be held one night after school. We trust that all these new families will have a long and happy association with us at Bolinda.

Two information sessions have also been held for new parents to get a better insight in to how best they can help their children both at home and at school. Our long awaited new room is on site and nearly ready for the 17 children in Mrs. Batty's Grade 1-3 to take possession. The new Preps have settled in really well with Mrs. Cooke in the Grade P-1 class of 14. My class of

20 children in Grade 3-6 have settled into the Bolinda Hall as we await the new room to be refurbished.

We welcome Ms. Hartmann to Bolinda to take up the specialist position of Music and Art teacher.

Mrs. Fraser will continue to assist in my class 4 days a week and Mrs. Cain is also welcomed to Bolinda to assist Mrs. Batty 5 mornings a week. Our French program will be further expanded this year under the continued leadership of Madam Smyrk.

We also have a lovely new addition to our famous 'Birds on Bolinda' enclosure. Cuddles, the silky hen is already producing for us and is feeling quite at home with Henny, Penny, Sparkles and Specks.

I look forward to sharing our experiences with you each month during the year. Until next month, bye for now.

Keith Jenkins - Principal. 54 285 317

ROMSEY UNITING CHURCH:

Our Christmas greetings for the December 1997 Romsey Rag to all readers, seemed to be lost prior to publication so hopefully Christmas/New Year was a happy time for the majority of local residents. Every Year seems to be a mixture of ups and downs for most communities and while we enjoy the ups, we help each other through the downs. Our advent Workshops held after school for four Thursdays prior to Christmas were very well supported each week with increasing numbers of primary school aged children and their parents attending to assist.

The Ecumenical Christmas Carol evening service held in our Romsey Church on Sunday, 21st December was very well attended and was a particularly inspirational service shared by a very appreciative congregation. Special thanks to Stephen Holgate who acted as musical director for weekly evening practices and to our organist Mrs. Roma Clement who despite being unwell continued in her commitment and we especially thank her for sharing her time and talent.

Both congregations at Lancefield and Romsey were sad to farewell our very popular relieving Minister, Rev. Bert Dellosa, his wife Nenet and their delightful family of six children when they were Inducted into the Ballarat North Parish on January 22nd. Sixteen members from Lancefield/Romsey Parish travelled on John Green's Community Bus to share that evening with the Ballarat congregations. Thankyou specially to David Allen who transported all his electronic musical equipment to Ballarat after work to share his talent and love of music with a very large appreciative congregation. A sincere vote of thanks to our other David - David Strack who gave up his time to capably drive the bus for us - to and fro.

Many meetings have been held during recent months in an effort to compile our Parish Profile in preparation for our search for a replacement Minister to be appointed to our parish. We very much appreciate the time and effort put into this task by the members elected to do this for us on our behalf.

Congratulations to both Jeni Clampit and Noel Shaw on receiving, at the special Australia Day Assembly at Romsey Primary School on Monday this week, Special Citizens of the Year Award for their services given so freely over many years to our local community. Jeni has been a very cheerful and capable secretary at Romsey Primary School and when in doubt all staff members including the Principal and students and their parents too all ask Jeni for advice. From the inception of the Romsey Rag Jeni has been involved in the typing, along with other members of the community, and she has been Editor and Joint Editor of our Church Newsletter for many years. Jeni's lovely musical singing voice is appreciated at choir practice and in our worship services. Congratulations Jeni on a well deserved award!

Congratulations also to Noel Shaw another quiet achiever. A local boy who attended Romsey Primary School with his brother Gary and sister Joy (Newton) all 3 children of their proud parents Cliff and the late Lil Shaw. Noel attended Kyneton High School then graduated in Teaching at Melbourne University, teaching at Broadford High School, where he and his wife Val lived when they were first married. When Noel was appointed to teach at Sunbury High School they built a home in Wrixon Street, Romsey and rented the old Presbyterian Manse in Main Street, Romsey, whilst their home was being built. (The old Manse was sold with the land to the Education Department and was moved to a similar west facing site in Tylden). Noel is the Chairman of our Elders Council, a very long serving Sunday School Teacher, and has for many years since he first came to Romsey been a very diligent Honorary Secretary of the Romsey Mechanics Hall Committee spending countless hours checking the hall and its equipment before and after functions. Each Sunday for many years Romsey Uniting Church has been warm despite early morning wintry services thanks to Noel in his unassuming manner remembering to switch on the heating an hour prior to the service. Congratulations Noel and our sincere thanks to you and Val from us all.

Dates of forth-coming annual meetings and services are listed in our newsletter "Our Good News" which has just this week been published for February with many dates listed to be noted in diaries.

Our first U.C.A.F. and Guild Meeting for 1998 will be held in the Church Hall, Pohlman Street, on Wednesday 11th February, at 1.30pm when plans for our years syllabus will be discussed and our Favourite Hymns will be shared and sung. New members will be most welcome to join us!

Our thoughts and prayers to all who are sad or ill and may God bless you all with his love and strength. We ask a blessing on all students and their parents and teachers, may God keep you all safe.

For Pastoral Care, please contact either Noel Shaw 5429 5509 or Robert Clement 5429 5225 who will contact a Relieving Minister.

Weekly Worship Services resume at 9am after this coming Sunday 8th February when a Parish Service will be held at 10am in Romsey followed by an importing Parish Meeting.

Sunday School classes re commence on Sunday 8th February at 9am and weekly after that date.

May Gods Blessings be with all Romsey Rag readers during 1998.

Helen Clement.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE : 1998:

This year's service planned by a Committee in Madagascar will be held on Friday, 6th March at Romsey Uniting Church with the time of the service and optional Bible Study to be decided at a Planning Meeting on Thursday, 12th February at 12.30pm in Romsey Uniting Church Hall. Two representatives from each local Church Group in Romsey or Lancefield are invited to contribute at this meeting. The Theme of this years World Day of Prayer Service and also the Youth Service for the same date is "Who Is My Neighbour?" All interested community members are welcome to attend the Planning Meeting and/or the Service on 6th March. Further details on notice boards or from Helen Clement 5429 5317.

Home & Garden Service

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 - * Edging
 - * Gutter Cleaning
 - * Rubbish Removal
 - * Handyman
 - * Welding
 - * House Cleaning
- For friendly,
reliable service
at reasonable rates*
- Contact Phillip & Mary
(03) 5429 1672



ROMSEY

LINE DANCING CLASSES FOR 1998
 MONDAY: (ADVANCED) 7.30 - 9.30
 TUESDAY (BEGINNERS) 7.00 - 8.00
 (INTERMEDIATE) 8.00 - 9.00

Enquires can be made to either
 Carol 54295590 or Jenny 54295808
 Look forward to seeing you all

Piano

Children & adults
Enquire now!

Tuition in piano, theory &
composing.

Enquiries: Stephen Holgate
M.Ed., B.Mus., Dip. Teaching.
Romsey 54295907

Urgently Required!!!!!!

Family Day Care Child Care Providers required
 to work in their own homes within the Romsey township.

For Further details call:
Cobaw Family Day Care
54223011

CENTRAL FLOWERS KILMORE

*Personal deliveries to
Lancefield and Romsey areas and
Worldwide through our Global Service.*

Open 7 days

63 Sydney Street, Kilmore, 3765. Ph. (03) 5782 1330
(next to Kemp's Bakery)

ROMSEY MECHANICS HALL

SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY... 7.30 PM

SUNDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 10AM TO 3 PM



ART SHOW

THE ROMSEY ART GROUP
 PRESENTS

AN EXHIBITION AND SALE OF THEIR WORK
 PROCEEDS TO THE ROMSEY FIRE BRIGADE



REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

ADMISSION: SATURDAY EVENING \$18.00 DOUBLE
 SUNDAY BY DONATION.

RIDDELLS CREEK TOY LIBRARY

Riddells Creek Toy Library (Main Rd. Riddells Creek) has now opened after the Christmas break with new toys and games etc, now adding to our large range of toys.

We currently have vacancies for new members and invite anyone wishing to join to come in during opening times, or call Nora on 5428 7181 for more information.

Open: Monday 11am - 12.30pm
 Friday 3.45pm - 5pm.

St. Mary's Catholic Parish - Lancefield/ Romsey

Fr. George O'Connor: 54 292130; Sr. Patricia (School): 54 291359; Sr. Frances (Convent): 54 291582.

<u>Mass times</u>			
Sat.	10am	Romsey	
	7.30pm (vigil)	Lancefield	
Sundays of the month	1st & 3rd	2nd, 4th & 5th	
	8am	Lancefield	Romsey
	10am	Romsey	Lancefield
Daily masses: as advertised in the weekly bulletin.			
Reconciliation (Confession): 11am Saturday or by arrangement.			

PRAYER LIFE

- Rosary recited before weekday Masses and before Sat. night Mass.
- 'Holy Name of Jesus' Prayer Group: Monday, 7.30pm Romsey Church Hall. Contact: Merle De Silva 54 295 672. If you would like to request prayers for family or individual needs please write clearly, no names necessary, to: The Holy Name Of Jesus Prayer Group, 57 Metcalfe Drive, Romsey.
- Christian Meditation (silent prayer) St. Mary's Church, Romsey, Monday, 7.30-8.30 pm. Phone: Stephen 54 295 907

STRESS MANAGEMENT

Lisa Delaney from Cobaw Community Health will be speaking on **Stress Management**

on
Wednesday March 4 and 18
from 10.30am - 12.30pm at St. Mary's Presbytery.
Please phone Presbytery for details.

DROP-IN CENTRE

Every **first Thursday** of the month
5 March **coffee morning/afternoons** are held at St. Mary's Church Hall, Romsey.
10.30 am start. The St. Vincent de Paul Conference of Lancefield/Romsey offer a table of goods for sale, card games etc. Come & have a browse & chat, you will be most welcome!

For transport call the Presbytery 54 292 130

RETROUVAILLE

This program is based on a similar program developed in France. It is specifically designed for partners whose marriage is in difficulty, whether this may be in lack of communication, boredom, loss of interest, conflict, separation, hurt and anger, or any of the issues that may be present which create disagreement.

Retrouvaille is run by couples trained in this field. It has a high rate of success in saving marriages. The next program will be held from March 13th-15th.

For confidential enquiries 9703 2724

'Know, then, O beautiful soul, that you are the image of God,' writes St. Ambrose.

'Know that you are the Glory of God (1 Cor 11:7)

From: Veritatis Splendor
Encyclical letter of John Paul II

FOR SALE - Pine Chopping Block - drawer and shelf underneath on castors - very heavy - \$100 - Phone 54296 377

FOR SALE....Wardrobes three pieces with matching bedside tables \$300 lot. Ladies 26" Mountain Bike 10 speed \$200; Exercise bike \$100; Amway Water Purifier \$80; Baby Change Tables \$10 each. Kirby Vacuum Cleaner (whole set) some parts not used - bought at \$2,200 sell \$1,200. Two cars for sale (Morris and Toyota) best offer....Phone 54295 600.

Romsey Primary School News

February 1998

Our Romsey School Community again nominated two well known citizens who had raised their whole families in Romsey, as recipients of the honor bestowed on them at the first Monday school assembly. Although our current pupils may not all be familiar with **Mr. Noel Shaw**, adults in the township would recognise this quiet achiever for the way in which, over many years he has consistently provided a helping hand with community projects, especially in relation to the Mechanics Institute and the Uniting Church where he is an Elder and has been a Sunday School teacher. Many of our young people would recognise him as the recently retired Vice Principal of Sunbury Secondary College, where he taught for 23 years. Noel was also acting Principal at Gisborne Secondary College for a short period. Noel grew up in Romsey and together with his wife Val, raised their three children in the township. Noel's support, initiative and willing co-operation with community events over a life time in our township were the reasons that supported his nomination as "**Romsey Primary School Community Citizen of the Year 1998.**" (Thankyou to readers of the Romsey Rag for these nominations). This honor was also shared with **Mrs Jeni Clampit**, known to many through her role as School Office Secretary. Jeni has been actively involved in assisting the school with secretarial and library work for more than 16 years. Her typing, and publishing skills have been associated with the Romsey Rag since its inception and more recently the Car Club magazine "Motor Mouth". Her five children all of whom are now grown up, have attended Romsey Primary School and have been associated with the sporting clubs in the township. Our two proud citizens were presented with framed certificates by the School Council President, Cr Stephen Hendy and pupils presented bunches of Australian wild flowers at the conclusion of the **school's Australia Day ceremony.**

During the assembly some of our young pupils read the thoughts that they had written regarding "**What Australia means to Me.**" Some of these year 3/4 students have been requested to read their statements just before lunch at the **Constitutional Convention** in Woodend on the 21st Feb. Congratulations!

This year has again commenced very smoothly with a number of compliments being passed on the way the school environment was presented after such a dry hot summer vacation. My thanks for this go to our cleaners, Mrs Skinner and Mrs Gayle Rodda, as well as Luke & Steve Westbury. For the work in the gardens and grounds thanks is extended to Ian Wilkins, Cr Greg Brown and Cr Peter Brooks and those who assisted with watering. Thankyou all most sincerely for your efforts and time.

Our school wide "**Science Fair**" held last Monday highlighted Science in the curriculum, with a special professional development session after school for all staff, and plenty of interest based, question raising activities for children at all year levels. We are particularly pleased to have had Ron Fink and Leo Wels conduct these fascinating sessions for us. It proved to be a highly worthwhile day. I am sure that they will become a real catalyst to further enhance our investigation of science topics throughout the year.

School Council Elections will be held on March 18th. Notices placed at the front of the school give advance notice regarding the calling for nominations and that nominations close on March 4th at 4pm. Additional information is available from the school office and in current newsletters. We are indebted to those staff and parent members who provide this voluntary service to the School Community. March will certainly be a very busy month. Verification of our school's triennial review is planned for the 19th and the **School Carnival** has many committed parents and friends working towards a successful event on Friday 20th March. The School Community certainly rolled up and enjoyed the carnival atmosphere, food, stalls and activities last year. It should be a "not to be missed" activity on your calendar and we would love to see you at the School on that Friday evening.

Dental therapists have already visited the school in preparation for the visit of the **School Dental Van** at the beginning of term 2. There are major changes to the system this year and if you have not already received your information booklet please call into the school office. The form and reply paid envelope at the back must be returned directly to the dental service by the 20th Feb together with your exemption Health card number or the \$25 charge which covers all inspections and treatments. As there are only four sites for the van this year, pupils from local schools will be visiting Romsey for their treatment.

Prep children have also taken home their information envelopes relating to the **School Medical Service** and the visit of the school nurse. If parents have medical or other concerns that they wish to discuss with the school nurse, they are urged to see Jeni at the school office for a referral form and an appointment time. The School Nurse will be addressing a special open meeting of the parents' club at a date yet to be set. Please watch the school newsletter for details. Such meeting are particularly useful in learning more about children and the support you can receive and behavioural & medical symptoms that you can observe.

Curriculum & information evenings are organised and will be completed before the end of February. These informative evening sessions directed at the parents of children in the four different units throughout the school, can set a tone and a good level of partnership and understanding between parents and staff members. If you have any queries these are the ideal opportunities to raise them.

Our Year 5/6 Unit are commencing their session on the 12th Feb., with an invitation to the parents to come along with their picnic teas and share a social time at 6.45 prior to the formal discussions at 7.30pm. On Monday evening 16th Feb the **Year 1/2 Unit** commence their discussions in the classrooms at 7.30pm and will conclude with a plenary session of general questions and answers at approximately 8.30pm. **Year 3/4 Unit** teachers invite parents to their meeting on the 17th Feb at 7.30pm and the **Prep Teachers** are expecting a large group of parents to discuss the expectations held for their children at 7.30pm on Feb 25th.

If you have any queries regarding the school or its programs please do not hesitate to contact me at the school on 54 295 099. "**Together we can really Learn and Grow.**"

Trevor Turnham - Principal.



AGED or have a DISABILITY PLAN NOW to SURVIVE a BUSHFIRE

If you are aged or have a disability it is essential you know what you are going to do on high fire risk days.

- DECIDE NOW IF YOU WILL LEAVE OR STAY WITH YOUR HOME**
- DON'T WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO EVACUATE YOU - there is no guarantee anyone will be able to evacuate you in a fire.**
- THE SAFEST TIME TO LEAVE IS BEFORE A FIRE STARTS - most lives are lost in unplanned, last minute evacuations.**
- LEAVE BY 10AM ON TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS - if you decide to go - don't wait for a fire to start.**
- CONSIDER VISITING FRIENDS OR FAMILY IN TOWN ON TOTAL FIRE BAN DAYS.**
- LET YOUR NEIGHBOURS OR FRIENDS KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING IF YOU DECIDE TO LEAVE YOUR HOME.**
- PLAN NOW what you'll take & what to do with your pets.**
- IF YOU DECIDE TO STAY MAKE SURE YOU ARE FULLY PREPARED.**

Get a copy of "Bushfire Survival Plan Workbook" from
- Bendigo CFA 5443 7444
- Macedon Ranges Shire Community Services 5427 8222
- or call your local CFA for advice.

BE PREPARED FOR A FIRE & SURVIVE

The Romsey Artists are holding their annual art show in the Romsey Mechanics Hall on the weekend of the 21st and 22nd of February. Over the past 18 years proceeds from the exhibition have gone to the local fire brigade, providing much needed equipment. The show will be opened by Josie Francis from Tickawarra Framing Gallery. The art group meet every Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. and new members are most welcome.

ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE.....Please take all copy and advertising for the "Rag" to the Romsey Post Office or the Romsey Primary School where you will be issued a receipt. All enquiries re advertising should be made to Margaret Howatson on 54295 724 after hours, these can also be faxed to Margaret on the same number - after hours please.
All copy to be in by 4.00p.m. on the Thursday before the first Friday of the month! - of course, the earlier you can have it in the better it is for us to organise without having a frantic rush at the close of copy. Thank you for your co-operation.
The Editorial Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Anne at Romsey Secretarial Service for her assistance over the last year - Anne has decided to close her business in Romsey and we wish her all the very best for the future.

Romsey Gardens

Bed and Breakfast

Quality en suite accommodation with separate entrances
Queen or twin suites available, set in two acres of gardens.

Internet access available in your suite!

Access the world from your own suite, or hosts Brian and Judy will provide a guided tour with individual tuition. Spoil yourself with some gracious living whilst getting yourself up to speed on the superhighway.

Call for a brochure. 10 Garden Place, Romsey

Visit our Home Page on:

<http://www.kyneton.net.au/romsey>

e-mail: compact@kyneton.net.au

Phone: 03 5429 5337 Fax 03 5429 6152

Romsey Safety House

Our small but dedicated committee would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to all our Safety house holders and Commercial businesses, for without your participation this program would not be operating. We also would like to make welcome 2 new safety house holders being Shaun+ Michelle Maslen and Geoff+Dos Keating-THANKS AGAIN we are happy to have you both with the safety house program. If any person that lives in Romsey would like to join the program please contact our committee and we can arrange an interview and explain more in detail what is required to become a Safety house. Contact Michael Lane on 54296506, Anne Hendricksen-54296426 Rhonda Wilkins-54295842 or Margaret Brown-54295443.

JJS ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE REPAIRS



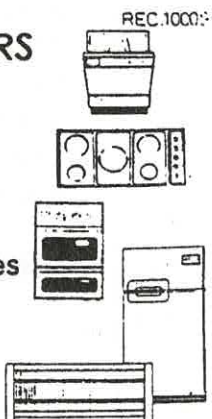
Hot Water Service

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Dishwashers, Heaters

Fridge, Freezers



Ph: 5429 5006 Mob. 015 533 345

Have Your Say!

CITIZENS and RIGHTS

The Macedon Ranges Shire is hosting a Constitutional Convention to discuss this important subject on Saturday the 21st of March.

Why don't you register to attend so that you can have your say.

☎ Lisa Speers Macedon Ranges Shire 54220320

☎ Stephen Angus 54296122

SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT GROUP

Sunspec support group and the Macedon Ranges Community Care will be holding a series of information sessions for parents and carers of children with special needs.

The first of these sessions will be held on Monday February 16th from 12.30 to 2.30 at the Woodend Community Centre, cnr. of Woodend High St. and Forrest Rd. Woodend.

Alan Taylor from COBAW Community Health Services will give a talk about COBAW's Early Intervention Program, commencing this year. This program is aimed at assisting children with disabilities and developmental delay challenges between the ages of 0 to 6.

Sunspec believes that parents and carers need as much help and information about services and resources available for families with children with additional needs from birth to adulthood.

Woodend has been chosen as the venue for these sessions to help make Sunspec more accessible to parents and carers living within the Macedon Ranges Shire. The service can assist with support, information and referral to parents and carers.

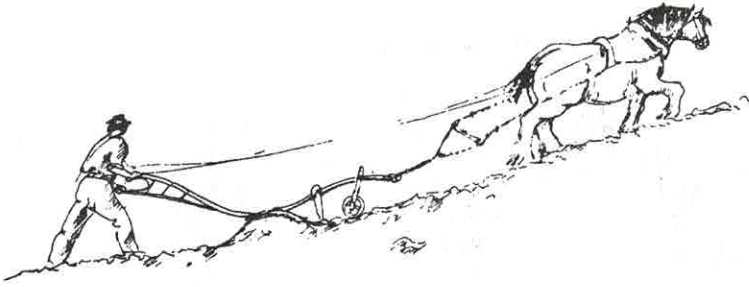
If you would like to attend or need more information please contact Lesley Ford on 9740 5155 or Tina Fratta on 5429 5201

And this for comfort thou must know:
Times that are ill won't still be so;
Clouds will not ever pour down rain;
A sullen day will clear again.

Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

Romsey & Lancefield Districts Historical Society Inc.

P.O. Box 11,
ROMSEY, 3434.



PROGRAM FOR NEW YEAR

Many interesting activities are available for those interested in history during the coming year. At the local level the historical society will commence to record the holdings of archival material on the computer received last year through the YMCA Project Recycle. This will be recorded through a program specially worked out by the Woodend Heritage Society, and any assistance with this large task would be greatly appreciated. The brochure detailing several of the historic sites in Romsey and Lancefield will be completed, and plaques to mark some of these will be finalised. During the last year members were selected by chance to present a short talk on a topic in which they were interested at the next meeting. This proved to be very successful, and promoted discussion on a variety of subjects.

Local historical societies are affiliated with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria and their members are welcome, and encouraged to attend lectures, excursions and functions organised by the RHSV. Meetings are held at the Royal Mint, 280 William Street, Melbourne, at 5.15 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month, with occasional ones at 1.00 p.m. on the first Tuesday. The Past President of the RHSV, Western Bate, attended the end of year gathering of the Romsey & Lancefield Historical Society and outlined some ideas to promote and co-ordinate historical interest throughout Victoria. The theme chosen is "Family" in its many forms and aspects, and the resulting exhibitions will be used during the conference of the International Committee of Museums to show delegates who we are as Victorian Australians. The conference will be held in Melbourne in October, and it is hoped that a tour of the Macedon Ranges may be arranged for some of the overseas delegates.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at Seymour Cottage on Tuesday, 24 February, at 8.00 p.m.. All members are requested to attend this important meeting, and a very warm welcome will be given to anyone else interested in the history of our area.

ROMSEY SECRETARIAL SERVICE

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Vicar Romsey & Lancefield
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ROMSEY RAG PUBLISHING

Readers of the Romsey Rag are reminded that contributions should only be left at the

POST OFFICE or ROMSEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

before the 1st Friday of each month.

The cut off date for the **March 1998 Romsey Rag Thursday, 5th March, 5pm.** Thankyou for your continued support and co-operation We appreciate good typewritten material with approximately half inch margins and clear copy wherever possible. *The Editors..*

If you are available to help with collating or distribution please notify the Romsey Primary School office

ROMSEY CENTRAL HOPPING CENTRE

The Owners and Tenants of the Romsey Central Shopping Centre support community organisations and charities and welcome the opportunity to help out where possible.

We ask that all organisations adhere to the following

1. If you are interested in conducting any activities at the Centre, you must phone the Centre Manager, Prowse Real Estate Pty.Ltd., on **03 9867 6677** to book a day.
2. Only one activity will be allowed on any one day.

Thankyou for your co-operation.

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If you wish to hire a stall or wish further information - contact Russell Neyland (03) 5429 5620.

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Take time to work, for it is the price of success

Take time to think, it is the source of strength.

Take time to play, it is the secret of youth.

Take time to read, it is the seed of wisdom.

Take time to be friendly, for it brings happiness.

Take time to dream, for it will carry you to the stars.

Take time to love, it is the joy of life.

Take time to be content, it is the music of the soul.

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Floral Arrangement - March 17 - 18th

Crochet - March 17th - 18th

Day and Evening Classes

For details please phone -

Joy on 54270 319 or Merry on 0353810636

C.F.A AUXILLIARY

The C.F.A. are once again sponsoring the Romsey Art Show on February 21st. This very social evening is open to everyone. A light supper of sandwiches, fruit wine, tea, coffee and slices will be available while you view the local artists work. Meet up with friends and perhaps buy your favourite painting. The doors of the Romsey Mechanics Hall will open at 7.30pm.

Price \$8.00 per person Pre paid to B.Cole at the Post Office or P.O. Box 66, Romsey.

\$9.00 per person on the night.

On Sunday 22nd the Exhibition will be open from 10am - 4pm.

Anyone able to help on the Saturday morning and/or donate a plate of slices for the evening will be very much appreciated.

The Auxiliary have been involved with others in our district to set down a format to enable us to help one another in the case of a large fire.

We have also made ourselves known to the new Red Cross Co-ordinator for our area, Dorothy Morgan, who along with Betty McDonnell has the enormous task of organising relief, housing, catering etc. on a much larger scale. She has our list of volunteers which I collated a couple of years ago. If anyone wishes to add their name to either our own catering roster and/or the Red Cross Volunteer roster for Disasters please let me know after February 15th.

May I take this opportunity of thanking all those who support our catering roster. Please do not be offended if we never get called upon. We are counting ourselves lucky!! But fingers are still crossed. Next Auxiliary meeting 23rd February, 1998. All Welcome. Helen Watts : Secretary 03 5429 5250



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ROTARY began in Chicago in 1905. International headquarters is in Evanston, Illinois, where 29 different languages are spoken.

If you have questions about ROTARY, speak to a Rotarian — He wears the Rotary badge.

The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Lancefield & St Paul's Romsey

Your local Anglican Church is always pleased to welcome new people especially with children. Our main services have a Sunday School, the children spend half the time in the service and spend half the time in Sunday school. During the week we have a children's club. We seek to practice hospitality, encourage community, establish integrity relationships. Our focus is on biblical teaching and on sharing in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

We are very happy to help those who wish to do an introductory course to explain the basics of our faith. Visitors, explorers, newcomers are most welcome.

Sunday Services

9am Family Communion :St Paul's, Romsey.

10:30am Family Communion: Christ church, Lancefield.
(both services have Sunday School)

Wednesday 10am Communion Christ Church, Lancefield.

Wednesday 6pm - 7pm CEBS/GFS kids club in Romsey church hall

Vicar: Paul Wood,
33 Chauncey Street
Lancefield, Victoria, 3435
Telephone (03) 54291380

Our Children's Club - CEBS & GFS

As we begin our new year new children are most welcome. The Club caters for boys and girls from 7 years to 16 years of age, the bulk of the children being 9 - 11. We meet on Wednesdays from 6pm to 7:30pm, we also include outings and camps and rallies with other church groups. If you are interested finding out more please talk to Rick or Sandy Warfield ph. 54295101

Please feel free to ring anytime for any pastoral or religious concerns.
Vicar: Paul Wood,

BUNGAWITTA PLAYGROUP ROMSEY

PLAYGROUP IS FOR PARENTS AND PRE SCHOOL CHILDREN TO GET TOGETHER AND MEET NEW FRIENDS. PLAYGROUP IS HELD MONDAY THROUGH TO FRIDAY FROM 10.00AM TO 12.00PM. FEES ARE \$25.00 PER FAMILY PER TERM (ATTENDANCE 1 DAY PER WEEK). IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES OR WISH TO COME ALONG PLEASE CONTACT JOANNE PARUS ON 54296129 OR PAULA NICOL ON 54296603. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON AT PLAYGROUP.

PLAYGROUP IS IN NEED OF A FRIDGE

SHOULD ANY ONE HAVE A FRIDGE THAT IS GOING CHEAP OR CAN BE DONATED TO PLAYGROUP CAN YOU PLEASE CONTACT JOANNE PARUS ON 54296129.

MONSTER CAR BOOT SALE

BUNGAWITTA PLAYGROUP ROMSEY WILL BE HOLDING A CAR BOOT SALE ON THE 15TH MARCH, 1998 AT 10.00AM (\$5.00 PER CAR). TO BOOK YOUR SPOT CONTACT JAN MCMINN ON 54295563 AS BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL. DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO DO A SPRING CLEAN AND MAKE SOME MONEY IN THE PROCESS.

Two roads diverged into a wood, and I —
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Robert Frost (1875-1963)

When you have to make a choice and you don't
make it, that itself is a choice.

William James (1842-1910)
American psychologist and philosopher

LANCEFIELD-ROMSEY LIONS CLUB INC.

President: Pat Sullivan 54295 486
Secretary: Werner Ladzik 54291 573
Treasurer: Shane O'Brien 54295 100
Sunday Market Co-coordinator:
Russell Neyland 54295 620
P.O. Box 10, Romsey, 3434



The Lions Club are seeking expressions of interest from community groups in the Lancefield-Romsey area. We are looking for someone to take over the operation of the take-away food stall at the Romsey Sunday Market normally operated by the Lions Club. The club would be able to hire our BBQ trailer (\$50 per day) and trestle tables (\$5 per day) to any group that would require them. The site fee of \$10 would apply also.

Any groups interested should write to the club at the above address and state that they agree to abide by the following stipulation's.

That the group running the Food Stall would have a sign stating which group are operating the stall and to what purposes the funds will be used.

That all foodstuff will be prepared and cooked in an appropriate hygienic manner.

That the group would abide by the Sunday Market Regulations as set down by the Lions Club.

That the group would sell the following:

- Egg and Bacon Sandwiches
- Hamburgers with assorted extras
- Sausages in bread
- Cold soft drinks

That they would not sell any items currently for sale by the only other take away food outlet at the market, namely Hot Dogs, Dim Sims, Tea & Coffee.

Copies of the Sunday Market Regulations can be obtained from the Lions Club upon groups expressing interest in writing or picked up at the February Market on 22nd at the BBQ Stall.

The Lions Club will decide which group has the best combination of worthiness and preparedness to operate the stall. The period of operation will be from the March Market through to December (excluding the months that start with "J" as usual). No correspondence will be entered into as to the result.

Volleyball

Adult Players required
Season commences early March
Contact Tracey Young 54 295035
Competition will be held on
Wednesday and Friday nights.



Your friend is the man who knows all about you,
and still likes you.

Elbert Hubbard (1856-1915)



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20TH MARCH
1998**

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THE ROMSEY-LANCEFIELD & DISTRICT AMBULANCE AUXILIARY

We are pleased to announce that the above Auxiliary was formed on 9th December, 1997, completely under the auspices of Ambulance Service Victoria - North-Western Region based in Bendigo.

A submission is at present with the Government to fund an ambulance and station to be sited in Romsey. We are hopeful that we will know the decision of this submission around June, 1998 with the idea that our ambulance will be a reality not too long after that! The Auxiliary's role in this is to raise funds to equip the ambulance with all the latest equipment and the general upkeep of the station.

The office bearers elected at the above-mentioned meeting are:-

Chairman	:	Cr. Geoff Neil
Vice-Chairman	:	Mr. Peter Leake
Hon. Secretary	:	Mrs. Margaret Howatson
Hon. Treasurer	:	Mrs. Beryl Cole

Local residents who attended the above meeting were:-

Des Johns, Geoff Skinner, David Strack, Mr. & Mrs. Long, Mrs Liz Leake, Val Mustow, Trish Gleeson, Merrill O'Rourke, Carol Wilguicki, Dave Quarrell, Grace Jackson, Paddy Sullivan and Russell Neyland - and they are now members of the auxiliary.

If you wish to be a member (you do not need to attend the meetings - just assist when possible) - please contact any of the above members.

Many thanks to the Shire of Macedon Ranges for supplying the venue for our meetings (Romsey Service Centre) and assistance in kind (printing, stationery, etc.) to the value of \$1,000 to get us up and running.

Our first fundraiser and "let the people know we exist" function was at the Christmas Fair hosted by the Romsey-Lancefield Lions Club on 20th December when an ambulance was in attendance. Many residents and their children had a close-up look inside the ambulance and thanks to all who put money in our tins.

We hope you will all get behind this very necessary life-saving service and look forward to your continued support.

For more information please write to me c/o P.O. Box 293, Romsey, 3434 or telephone 54295 724 after hours only.

Margaret Howatson,
Hon. Secretary.

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THANK YOU -

TO OUR PARISH PRIEST AND TO ALL OUR FRIENDS OF ST. MARY'S PARISH.....

Merle and Errol DeSilva, and their children Jeffrey, Sandra and David - would like to express their deep and grateful appreciation for all the prayers, affectionate support, visits and gifts which were showered upon us during the time of pain and grief of my sister Norma's illness in the Intensive Care Unit and her sudden death on Wednesday, 14th January, 1998. The wonderful support we received helped keep us strong at a time when we were being drained emotionally and physically.

Thank you for all the cards, fax and phone calls, and thank you to those who were able to attend the Mass at Good Shepherd Church, her funeral at Bulla and join us at her home to celebrate the gift of her life on earth.

I know no one will object to special thanks being made to Gwen DeCarolis and Mary Campbell for the tremendous help they so generously provided by taking care of heating and setting out the vast amounts of food provided by caring relatives and friends, making numerous cups of tea and coffee, washing and clearing away - this left the family free to talk to people and exchange memories of Norma with each other. Thank you too to our neighbours Noelle and Geoffrey, for taking care of our animals and our mail during this time, when we had to stay in Melbourne to be near my sister.

Thank you and God Bless to you and your families.

Merle DeSilva.

LIONESS CLUB OF ROMSEY

We would like to thank all those people who supported us over the past couple of months by buying our Lions Christmas Cakes. The money raised from all of our sales and raffles goes to support local and worthy causes and our next fund raiser will be a cake stall in March - donations to the Cord Blood Bank.

ROMSEY WOMENS GOLF

The Romsey Ladies are all happy to be back at golf with their children back at school!

We only play 12 holes during January and February. An invitation is extended to all the mothers who have their children off to school, and would like to come and try golf. We are playing Ambrose on Wednesday 25th February, a good game for beginners. Drop in at the Club House as soon as you have dropped your children at school, no clubs needed.

Junior Golf - is played on Mondays 4-5.15p.m. Cost \$1. Turn up at Club House. Boys and Girls all welcome!

Enquires to Leila Beasley on 54295 525.

CASINO TRIP.....SUNDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY - BUS LEAVING CLUB HOUSE AT 9.15A.M. RETURNING 4.30P.M.

Cost \$10 - Lunch provided free - no need to play the pokies! - but \$4 voucher with \$4 spent!

R.S.V.P. Roger Baker on 54295 186 or Mary Campbell on 54295 629.

ROMSEY BOWLING CLUB

Hi Ho, Hi HO, its back to bowls we go!!

The Ladies, although just missing the finals, finished the season on a high note beating Meltgon with all rinks up. Lets hope that's a good sign for the future. Congratulations to Marj Davis on her Club Championship win - and to Marj and Rena Moore who play off in the State Pairs during this week. Ladies President Helen Seymour will chaperone Marj and Rena to give them a winning chance on the day - we trust they bring home the bacon.....

Men's pennant teams have their focus right on the finals. Weith results going in the First's favour they have snuck into the four. Our Thirds Just keep getting better.....they had a great win over Sunbury by one shot last game.....

second on the ladder presently and in a good position to win the flag!

Congratulations to Ken Newnham who was the victor over Norm Thompson in the Mens Club Championship - congratulations Ken.

Until next month which will hopefully bring news about the finals - good bowling to everyone.

David (Narrow) Parrot - Publicity Officer.

LANCEFIELD-ROMSEY LIONS MARKET - SUNDAY 22ND FEBRUARY.....

ROMSEY CALISTHENICS COLLEGE

All classes for 1998 will resume on Wednesday, 4th February. Separate groups catering for all ages starting at 3-1/2 years onwards. If you would like your daughter to be involved in a team doing exercise, dance, singing and gymnastics - bring her along!

For more information on times and location please ring Chris Crow on 54295 792 or Carol Bradley on 54295 958.

Come along and join in the fun!

BUSINESS AND TRADE DIRECTORY

For Advertising Information please ring Margaret Howatson 5429 5724

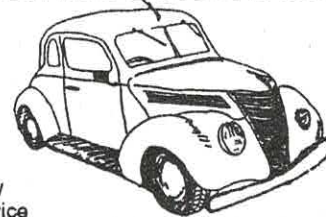
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LANCEFIELD/ROMSEY CEBs/GFS Kids Club

(an Anglican Ministry)

Meets Wednesday nights 6-7.30pm (Term Times)

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\$1.00 per child per night

Welcomes Boys and Girls, 6 years and over.

Enquiries - Contact Sandy Warfield : 5429 5101

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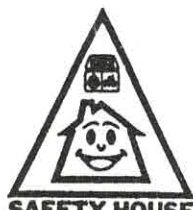
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If you're worried,
Knock on a Safety House door.
They'll help you and call the Police.
So always look out for
the Safety House Signs.



Macedon Ranges Theatre Youth Project

Project Co-ordinator • Amber O Shea • 139 High St Woodend • 54 274 050

The Macedon Ranges Theatre - a community Theatre group that supports locally written and produced performance, have recently received funds from the Arts 21 Regional Arts Fund to co-ordinate a Youth Theatre project.

The project will include two skills development programs in early 1998 culminating in a youth theatre production later in the year.

The first workshop program will consist of 10 workshops facilitated by people working in the Theatre industry.

The second workshop program will consist of 10 drama workshops designed to provide participants with the skills to write, produce and perform their own performance.

The first workshop will commence in mid February on term weekends.

Bookings are essential and can be made by contacting the Project Co ordinator on 54 274 050.

local vocal blokes community arts project

The Vocal Locals - a local writers group in association with Arts Woodend and the Macedon Ranges Shire, will facilitate a mens discussion and writers group that will publish an anthology of male experience written and edited by both experienced and inexperienced local writers.

The project outcome will be a book of prose, short stories and poetry by men in the Central Victorian region and will be published and later sold through out Victoria.

The book will be an innovative and entertaining study of the male experience in this region and will raise public awareness of male issues and concerns.

The '*Local Vocal Blokes Project*' is currently establishing the writers and discussion group and would like to invite your members to participate. As part of the writers and discussion group we will explore stories, mens issues, develop ideas for poetry, prose and short stories, workshop the work produce, collate and present a collection of work for publication of an anthology of stories.

The '*Local Vocal Blokes Project*' will encourage expression both through discussion and writing from a male perspective without the pressure of being politicly correct.

A project introduction meeting will be held at the Keatings Hotel on Tuesday February the 17th at 8pm. This meeting will be held in preparation of the commencement of the discussion/ writing workshops and will better inform you as to the project process and allow for the discussion of a time, day and venue that best suits the group.

We will be happy to provide you with more information about the program.

yours sincerely

Amber O Shea
Project Co-ordinator

BUSINESS AND TRADE DIRECTORY

For Advertising Information please ring Margaret Howatson 5429 5724

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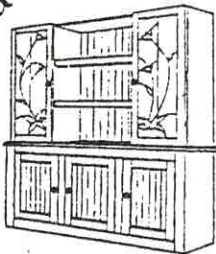
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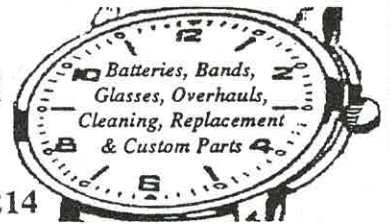
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COUNCIL NEWS - MONEGETTA WARD

Welcome to 1998. Good news to start the year. The Shire has signed an agreement with Westar (distributor) to commence the process of the supply of natural gas to our townships. Westar will conduct the market research, and forecast, on the demand for natural gas. Based on the information obtained from the research, they will carry out the design, and estimate the cost of installation, of the gas pipeline network and meters required. A business proposal will then be developed and they will seek approval of the proposal from the Board of Directors of Westar. This proposal will be subjected to approval by the government authorities, which will ensure the proposal complies with relevant regulatory requirements. Westar will undertake to obtain the approval of its proposal from the appropriate government authorities. Kinetik Energy (retailer) will be responsible for the sale and services of gas supply to the customers. Westar will be seeking Kinetik Energy's input to the feasibility study and the drafting of the business proposal.

At the December meeting, Council voted to amend Local Law No. 4 relating to the consumption and possession (in open containers) of alcohol in public places (townships). The amended local law takes effect from the 1st March, that is, no person is permitted to consume alcohol or possess an open container of alcohol within town boundaries unless in exempt areas. The 1996 census figures have indicated that the former Romsey Shire maintained an annual population growth rate of 2.5% (8779 compared to 7794 in 1991). The most significant population drop was in Kyneton which suffered a 2.4% population decrease (8409 to 7384). Some 'experts' have speculated that if the trend continues, then by 2011 the Romsey sector of this Shire will have the majority of the population on a former Shire basis. The next census is in 2001.

Council holds \$295,000 compensation funds from the Ash Wednesday fires in reserve. These funds are the balance (i.e. after legal fees deducted) that is left from the former Gisborne Shire lawsuit against the S.E.C. Initially (Commissioners), these funds were to be expended in the former Gisborne Shire but after some debate Council has determined that the money will go to additional fire prevention works, over the next five years, across the entire Shire.

On the 29th of January, Councillors had a tour of inspection of the former Romsey Shire. Areas viewed included the Main Street of Romsey (speed limit, pedestrian access and potential site for ambulance station), Romsey Stadium (new timber floor), open drain network, future Darraweit Guim oval, tennis courts and road construction in progress, Clarkefield Hall and Boggy Gate Road area (future construction?), Heaths Lane, Riddells Creek Stadium, future supermarket site and Main Street/Station Street intersection, finishing the day with a look at the old Kerrie School and hall.

Finally, I have been assured that by the end of this financial year footpaths will be constructed in the Collier Close Reserve and Robb Drive (between Main Road and Harvest Close) and kerb and channel works in Railway Crescent, Romsey. Tenders will be let shortly.

Till next time.

(Cr.) Geoff NEIL

phone/fax 5429 6785

mrcc.file

January Meeting

This month marked the first meeting of the new year and a problem solving session was held, which happily, there were no computer problems during the Christmas - New Year break.

One member brought in one of their new acquisitions for all to view: the Microsoft SideWinder Joystick.

Another member donated some new titles to the Club's growing list of games that are available for members to

FUTURE MEETINGS

Third Sunday of each month
Feb 15, Mar 15 and Apr 19
2:00 p.m. at BUNGAWITTA (old
primary school) in ROMSEY
Bring a plate for afternoon tea
Call Deb Burge 5428 6977
or Stuart McMinn 5429 5563

for details



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borrow. For more information, please contact Deb Burge during business hours on 5428 6977.

As usual our meetings are open to all members of the general public and entry is FREE! Both experienced computer users and first timers will be able to gather the latest information on both the current and future technology.

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by 27th February, 1998.

Applicant should explain in 300 words or less, why this opportunity would suit them, and they can also include a Resume if available and some personal information of their hobbies/interests etc.

Romsey and Lancefield Christian Fellowship.

1998 is in full swing, for some this may mean trying to stick to a new year resolution and possibly hopes of a bright and prosperous future. For others it maybe quite a different story. In any case we are quickly approaching the end of the century and more significantly the end of the millennium. One wonders given the increasing problems that the world faces how the next century might conclude. Not an issue for many of us but rather for our children.

As the years progress, (the bible tells us that) the return of Jesus Christ the Messiah draws nearer, and with it the beginning of a completely new age. In light of this the issues at hand may not be economic growth and survival of the planet, but rather the amending of our lives with the awareness that we are held accountable for our

actions. Possibly our new year resolution should be to forgive and love our neighbour, and trust in God for our lives and provision in these troubled times.

“More accurately that we should invite into our lives the one who holds the key to and is eternal life.”

The return of **Jesus Christ the “Son of God”** places new emphasis on our vision of the future its implications and our responsibilities.

Our prayer for the community is this, “that God will lead each one to Him, that they may find eternal life and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

We invite you to our Sunday morning service, held at 10,00 am in the Romsey Mechanics hall.

We welcome your enquiries to Geoff Holland (Minister) on 03 54295673 or Graham Mau on 03 54291488. or write to, Romsey Lancefield Christian Fellowship. P.O. Box 92 Romsey, 3434.

A lot of successful people are risk-takers. Unless you're willing to do that...to have a go, fail miserably, and have another go, success won't happen.

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Mark Twain (1835-1910)
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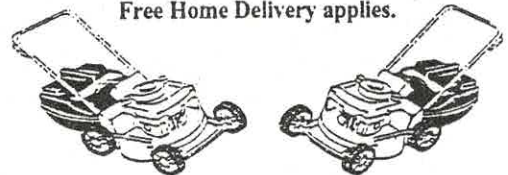
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