

THE ROMSEY RAG

Issue No. 211

1650 copies produced each month at Romsey Primary School as a service to our community

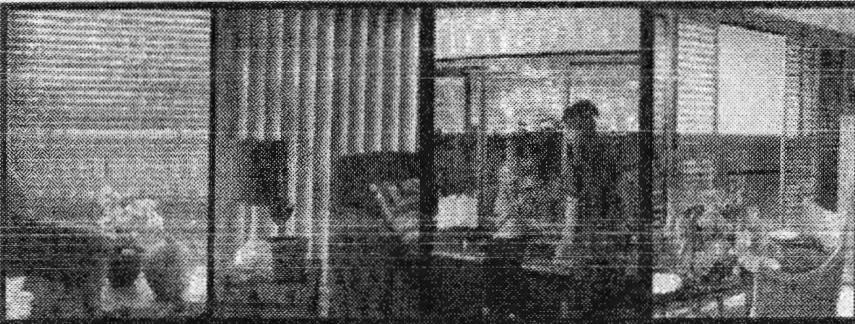
December 2003

THE DECEMBER EDITION OF THE ROMSEY RAG IS PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY
-CHAMPION BLINDS -

NEED BLINDS ?

Here's 7 Reasons Why YOU should call your local Champion Blinds

1. You will be working with Russell Holmes, a **friendly local** business owner, who knows your area
2. You will receive **expert advice & attention to detail**
3. You can take advantage of the **complimentary in home presentation**. You can choose your blinds & colors and know exactly how it **looks in your home** - *before you buy it*. This means you won't be making any 'color' mistakes or waste you time running around.
4. You will be able to choose from the **excellent range**. Plus all our finest quality blinds are at value for money prices.
5. **On time delivery & installation**
6. **Written guarantees** for 6 and 9 years
7. Free Measure and quote



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CALL OUR 24/7 CUSTOMER
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1300 66 00 00

Just a few words about myself and my company. My name is Russell Holmes. My address is 48 Hirsts Lane, Lancefield. I have lived in the area for 8 years with my wife and 4 sons (2 teenage, 2 preschool). My wife works part-time at the Romsey Vets as their dog groomer, and full time at our alpaca farm (Jigaru Alpaca Stud). My company is called Champion Blinds and is in its third year of operation. I sell all types of blinds for indoors and outdoors. With seven years experience in the industry, I should be able to solve any blind requirements. My office number is 1300 660000, mobile 0412 404 692 or home 5429 2158.

CHRISTMAS HOUSE DECORATION COMPETITION

The Romsey Region Business and Tourism Association, invites the Romsey Community to enter our Christmas competition simply by decorating your home in a Christmas theme. Local traders are sponsoring the competition and donating some great prizes.

The categories of the competition are.

1. Best decorated house 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes.
2. Best theme 1st prize.
3. Best-illuminated window 1st.

Proudly sponsoring the competition are.

- . Romsey Supa IGA
- . Romsey Automotive Electrical Services
- . Connally's Real Estate
- . Tom O'Deas Auto Spares
- . Forbes Automotive Centre
- . Romsey Mitre10

Decorations to be displayed from the 1st December

Competition judged 15th & 16th December
Winners announced and notified 17th December

Entry forms can be obtained from competition sponsors.

So let's get into the festive spirit and out do the wonderful display we had in 2002.
Ron Cole
Secretary

The team that brings you the Romsey Rag each month would like to take this opportunity to wish the people of Romsey and surrounding areas a safe and Merry Christmas, and a happy and prosperous New Year



Editorially Speaking

Romsey Rag Editorial Committee:
Barney Healy, Rosie Beeche, Robyn Moore

Layout and Design:
Robyn Moore

Advertising /Sponsorship:
Jeni Clampit—5429 5099 or Romsey Post Office

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Joan Sparkes—5429 5848

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

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

Articles can be sent via e-mail to:
romsey.ps@edumail.vic.gov.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: \$115 per half page

Business card: \$20 per issue
\$190 per year in Business Directory

Quarter page: \$45 per issue

Half page: \$90 per issue

Full page: \$180 per issue

Line ads: eg- For sale, births, deaths, marriages, engagements - \$7.50.

Cheques must be made payable to Romsey Primary School

Distribution:

1650 copies delivered to the Romsey community at the commencement of each month.

Delivered Meals Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to become a part of the Delivered Meals Program which provide meals to older persons in Macedon Ranges municipality. Meals are delivered in Kyneton, Gisborne, Woodend, Macedon Romsey and Lancefield.

Volunteers are asked how often they would like to deliver meals each month and on what days. Volunteers are sent a monthly roster well in advance so any changes can be made.

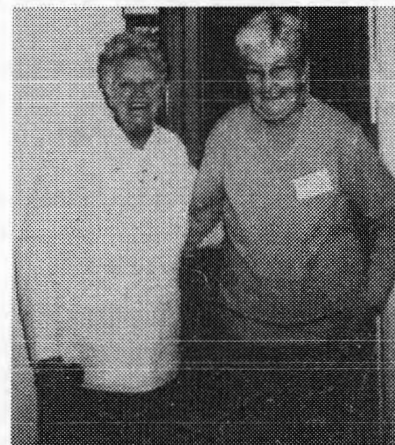
Volunteers are offered a petrol voucher to help with the cost of using their own cars. We also have volunteers who do not drive but are matched with another volunteer who do the deliveries together. Meals delivery takes approximately an hour and begin around 11.45am.

Our current volunteers enjoy the contact with the elderly people who receive the meals and are a valued greatly by their community.

We currently are looking for volunteers particularly in Kyneton Romsey and Lancefield areas. If you would like to find our more information about being a Volunteer for the Meals Delivery Service contact Christine at Macedon Shire Council on 542 78256.

Pictured at right:

Norma Richardson and Dot Martinson
Delivering meals in Woodend



ROMSEY RAG PUBLICATION DATES FOR 2004

EDITION	CLOSING DATE FOR COPY	COLLATING DATE
February	Wednesday January 21st	Thursday January 29th
March	Friday February 20th	Thursday February 28th
April	Friday March 19th	Thursday March 25th
May	Wednesday April 21st	Thursday April 29th
June	Friday May 21st	Thursday May 27th
July	Monday June 21st	Thursday June 24th
August	Wednesday July 21st	Thursday July 29th
September	Friday August 20th	Thursday August 26th
October	Tuesday September 21st	Thursday September 30th
November	Thursday October 21st	Thursday October 28th
December	Friday November 19th	Thursday November 25th

ROMSEY-LANCEFIELD AMBULANCE AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary is having a stand at the Lancefield Christmas Fair to be held on Friday, 19th December from 6p.m. till around 9.30p.m. We will have a fully equipped ambulance on display along with our new Transport/Emergency Response Vehicle which was donated to our Romsey Station through funds from the Lancefield Hospital. Show Bags and giveaways will be handed out on the night.

Our final fundraiser of the year is catering at the Dog Show to be held on 28th and 29th December at the Lancefield Park - 9 am until about 3pm. This is just a great day out - bring the kids and let them see the variety of dogs on display and get them a hamburger or snag or Dim Sim, etc., and of course a drink! Hope to see you there. Admission is free!

SO NOW THAT I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION.....

After much consideration, Sam and I have bitten the bullet and decided to re-locate up to Tocumwal - we have had a van there for the last few years and just love the climate and the Murray, so now is the time.

We will miss Romsey and the people very much and the talk of uprooting brings back all the memories of what has been my "Romsey Experience".

It all started back in 1980 when we lived in Riddells Creek. Sam saw an ad for a typist in the Rates Office at the Romsey Shire - I was driving up and down to North Melbourne every day and the travelling was getting to me - so phoned, got an interview and early one morning headed up to Romsey (which I had only ever passed through on the way to somewhere else!) and had to ask the Lolly Pop Lady where the Shire Office was! Lynn Moss was that Lolly Pop Lady who was standing at the wee bridge opposite the old Infant Welfare Centre and Laing's Garden Centre at the time! I will never forget Lynn for her kindness that morning, she must have thought I was a city slicker! But being the lovely lady she was sent me back up the street to my interview in the Council Chamber! Couple of days later Rose McCarthy phoned to tell me Mr. Carne had confirmed I had got the job - and so it all started - me and Romsey! So I worked with the staff at the Shire, a great bunch and Kaylene Cruise (who started at the same time as I did) is my best friend to this day! But, after a couple of trips back to Scotland, Sam and I settled in Romsey and just in time as in September, 1988 I took ill and needed a Heart-Lung Transplant - only being able to have that done at the time in London. Well, the people of Romsey came to the fore and rallied around. We were members of the Bowling Club and they just supported Sam and I all the way - I had about 10 Aussie Mums and the same num-

ber of Grandads all sharing the load. Rose McCarthy started a Fund to help meet the cost of the trip to London and the generosity of locals at that time was what kept Sam and I going. This is around the time that Trevor Turnham was looking for helpers with the Romsey Rag and with an old golf ball typewriter from the Shire I would help Jeni Clampit type the Romsey Rag from the end of my bed with the oxygen tube stuck up me nose! (And thank you to Ken Paterson at Mitre 10 for keeping the oxygen supply up!). Mr. Esmore took over the Transplant Unit at the Alfred a year or so later which meant I could have my transplant in Melbourne. Dr. Paul Carter and the rest of the doctors and staff at the Romsey Medical Centre kept me as well as was possible - and so started the long wait for organs. We were called down three times but sent home again but the op went ahead on the fourth call (three and a half years later!) and really life just changed overnight - our own wee miracle! 21 days later I went home to my Romsey and three months later opened the Romsey Book Exchange and Secretarial Service - which got bigger than Myers and took over my life! So when I was offered a job at the Medical Centre, I jumped at it and stopped working seven days a week! Around that time I was at the starting gate of the Rotary and the Business Association so life was indeed very hectic. Around that time I was also asked to become secretary of the Lancefield Hospital Committee which was in the process of winding up the hospital and that has just come to conclusion in the past few weeks, with funds from the sale being distributed within the community.

Romsey, in the meantime, is getting bigger and bigger and we start to try and secure an ambulance station from government funds - that was to take us seven years but we did it! Sam says I smile like a Cheshire Cat every time I pass it! And then came along the Centenary of Federation in 2001 and my being Secretary of the most dedicated committee you would ever care to work on and hence the Bike Track! It is just magnificent, a monument to what the community can do when they put their mind to it, and will be there all the way to Lancefield and back for generations to come.

So that's my "Romsey Experience" over the past 20 years or so - many memories, many friends and many laughs! But it is time to slow down and smell the roses as it were, or at Toc smell the gum leaves!!!

But as that Great Scot once said - "We're no awa to bide awa, we'll aye come back and see ye!"

Margaret and Sam Howatson

THE AUSTRALIAN ORGAN DONOR REGISTRY

Registration forms from the Romsey Medical Centre
or
Via the Red Cross donation service - "Life Gift"
by ringing
(03) 9349 2278 or Freecall on 1800 777 203

**"THINK About It - TALK About It -
TELL your family!"**

St Vincent de Paul Op Shop

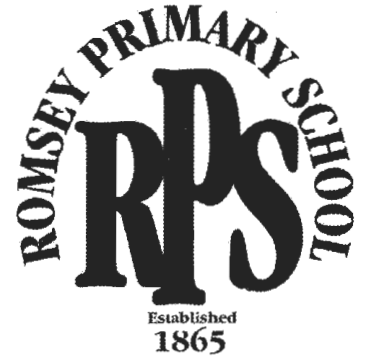
**Open every Thursday
at The G.F. Shehan-
Memorial Stall
Between 10.30 am and
12.30pm**

**Come along and get a
bargain.**

Romsey Primary School News

Bad Hair Day

Our Junior School Council organised a whole school "Bad Hair Day" recently to raise funds for Frederick, our sponsored child in Kenya, Africa. This was a fun day with students and staff alike joining in to raise money for this good cause. Our Junior School Councillors came up with the idea of sponsoring a child, and it's great to have our relatively very well off children thinking of others who do not have the many advantages we enjoy in Australia. Through the Bad Hair Day enough money was raised to bring the total up to cover the sponsorship for a full year.



Land for Wildlife

The school was recently assessed as a suitable site for "Land for Wildlife." Over the past few years we have commenced work on creating corridors of native vegetation around the perimeter of the school grounds, as well as developing special habitats such as the "Honeyeater Haven" and the frog pond areas. By inclusion with the "Land for Wildlife," the school can access a range of support material applicable to classroom programs, as well as receive a site report that gives us further ideas for planting and habitat development.

Prep students transition to school

Our prep students for 2004 are well underway for a smooth start for the commencement of the new school year. There have already been a number of orientation visits for these youngsters as they explore the playground and get the feel of the school and its layout. Following a further parent information session last week, our 2004 preps will be having two further sessions this term with their teacher for next year. At this stage our focus has been on getting the new preps to school on the first day, happy and eager to start on this new adventure. Further support for the students and their families will be offered next year as we develop individual learning goals for all students, and we hold further information sessions for parents giving greater detail on the school program for the year.

Remembrance Day – our students remember

We had many outstanding pieces of writing by our students for the RSL sponsored "What is Remembrance Day?" writing competition. The school appreciates the ongoing support of the Romsey-Lancefield RSL for the school and our students.

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is a day of freedom, a day of honour, a day of sadness. The Australian men who fought with bravery, and the men that died we thank and honour.

We remember those men who died for our freedom.

On this day the 11th of the 11th the men fought and brought home victory.

As I stand in silence I think about all the families who lost a precious family member, all the pain the families went through, so I buy a poppy to help those families. In my heart I'm so thankful that Australian men gave up their lives for my freedom.

By Angela John
1st prize winner

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is on the 11th of November. We stay silent remembering people who fought in war and sadly the ones who died. In the eleventh hour of that day we think of the brave people who died for our country. We also buy poppies to remember those brave people. We remember the AN-ZACS who went to Gallipoli. It would have been hard for our Australian soldiers. Many lives were lost in that terrible war. If it wasn't for those brave people Australia would be lost. The nurses were a big help too. They aided the ones in need. If it weren't for them many more lives would have been lost. Our soldiers won medals after the war which I think they really deserved. They saved our country and gave us hope for the future.

By Sean McNamara
2nd prize winner.

Remember

Remember the Aussies that fought in the war.

Remember the Aussies that died for you. Remember they fought day and night. Remember they fought through dark and light.

We have a day to remember them by
But that's not enough for the men that died.

So now take a minute of your time
To remember the souls that died in war.

By Merrin King
3rd prize winner.

Soiree- Music Performance

Our instrumental students held a musical Soiree evening last Thursday evening. The school facilitates instrumental tuition for keyboard, strings and woodwind. This is in addition to the music program for all students, thorough regular classroom music and performing arts lessons. The standard of performance was again most impressive, showing what a great depth of talent we have in Romsey with these young musicians.

Fire Restrictions, Summer 2003/2004

Good rains over the past few weeks have delayed the decision to introduce fire restrictions into the area however by the time the next issue of the newsletter is published the restrictions will be in place. The Macedon Ranges Shire Council has erected a number of sign across the district that will proclaim the introduction of fire restrictions. Keep you eye open for the changes.

At the moment our best guess is that restrictions will be in place by Christmas. It is **your responsibility** to check if restrictions are in place **before** you light a fire. Ignorance is no excuse. CFA produces a **Can I, Can't I** pamphlet that sets out what can and can't be done during the Fire Danger Period. Contact the brigade or CFA for a copy.



Do you really need to burn?

The Council has introduced some restrictions on burning in the open outside the fire danger period. If you must burn contact the Shire on 1300 123 456 to ensure you are not exposing yourself to prosecution. Burning is a very dangerous occupation. Changes in the wind strength and direction can quickly turn a small fire into a runaway beast that cannot and will not be contained. History has shown that even to most careful of people can loose a burn-off.

If you must burn create a small pile and burn that then slowly add to the pile as it burns away. Burning a large pile may be quicker but it greatly increases: the heat and sparks that could carry the fire outside your control lines.

If you must burn choose a day that is cool with little or no wind. If it is warm then burn in the evening when the temperature drops and the wind slows down.

If you must burn you must have a water supply handy, you must be in attendance at all times. If you need to leave the fire it should be completely extinguished.

Don't burn, Recycle.

To reduce the need to burn the Shire has announced free green waste disposal. For further details of the program contact the shire on 1300 123 456.

10 things you can do before summer

1. Develop you summer Fire Plan
2. Talk to your neighbours about their plan
3. Attend a Bushfire Blitz or Community Meeting, if there isn't one scheduled in your area go to the one nearest or ask for one in your street (ring Peter Moore 0409 407 725)
4. Make sure the fire truck has access to your property
5. Make sure you haven't covered the Fire Hydrant that may be outside your house
6. Trim branches that overhang the house
7. Remove dead branches and twigs that accumulate in and under shrubs.
8. Keep the grass cut
9. Have a special paddock that has been eaten out as a shelter for you livestock.
10. Consider creating you own Community Fire Guard group (Contact Glen Cockram on 9747 6014 or Peter Moore on 0409 407 725 for more information).

Free Fire Safety Key Tags

The first 10 people to contact me will receive a fire safety key holder. Be the first to ring 0409 407 725, leave your name and address and one will be delivered.

Grass Slashing

***Prepare for the fire danger period**

10 ft Heavy Duty Slasher
100hp Tractor

Large or small blocks

Clean up and rubbish removal also



Phone Rick Selleck—Lancefield
5429 1459
Mobile 0428 505 098

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

Enjoy Five Mile Creek over Christmas

A small group celebrated the hard work over the year with an end of year barbeque. Peter Jones of Macedon Council Parks came to meet the workers and look at the creek with us.

ENJOY THE CREEK in the holiday time. The grass is short, there's a firm pathway, shady trees and two picnic tables - and there's still water in the creek.

February 7th (Saturday) - for your diary

Carol Frank-Mas, a Melbourne landscape architect, set out the native planting along Five Mile Creek eleven years ago. Carol lives at Pipers Creek now, and is coming to walk up the creek with us and see the difference. Put it in your diary... come along and talk to Carol.

Earthworks Underway

Bulldozers and trucks are making the 'retardation basin' south of the creek. There will be a grass area like that on the north side between the creek and the new housing estate. It's a 'basin' to catch water rushing into the creek in a 100 year flood ... but it's also more space for trees and bushes - a little forest.

Shame ... Neighbourhood Watch for Couzens Lane

Small trees planted along the creek near Couzens Lane have disappeared Shame on us, as it has to be a Romsey person who knew they had been planted. PLEASE ... If your house looks toward Couzens Lane, could you notice cars or lights which stop anywhere near the creek through the evening. Let someone know ... even the police.

Ridermowers - where are they? ...

High and low, there's not a one to be seen yet! There's some long grass in bends of the creek bank - not many, but it would look much nicer if they were clear. The Council is getting better and better about mowing, but it takes time. Ring 5429 5283 if you can help.

Seeking a Treasurer

The treasurer is moving ... our planning group needs someone who doesn't mind working with figures; it's not big business, so we hope you can help. Ring Jess on 5429 5907

THANKYOU

To the CFA (& a few others) for a great work burning the rubbish heaps

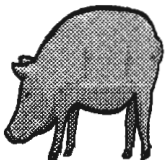
To Lindsay and Newnham's Earthmoving who have pushed the small and large heaps to safe places to burn

(Council have no alternative to burning for such quantities of debris. Thankfully it will be much less from now on - the tolerance of those who would rather it be chipped is appreciated)

To ALL those who provided meat, salads or munchies for the end of year bbq.

Send your ideas or questions to:

Jess Holgate 5429 5907 Sue Kirkegard 5429 5283 John
Nichols 5429 6475 Jay Brooks 5429 6163
Andrew Sheil & Peta Gale 5429 6168



LANCEFIELD FARMERS MARKET

Don't forget the Lancefield Farmer's Market is on the fourth Saturday morning of each month.

There is a huge range of fresh local produce and lots more available!



ROMSEY LANCEFIELD GUIDES

Despite there being only one month left this year, we still have some exciting activities planned for this month. All the Guides in the Black Forest Region will take part in a Scavenger Hunt in Kyneton early in December. There will be a long list of challenging places to walk to and information to collect on the day. The Guides are being encouraged to collect sponsorship from family and friends for this event, the money going to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, an organisation to which many millions of girls belong, and which has celebrated its 75th birthday this year.

The Wombat Guides have recently had a "beach" night, where they wore their favourite beach gear, and ate fish and chips whilst sitting on their beach towels. The next week they cooked dinner at Lancefield Park on a camp stove, followed the next week by a "Where's Wally" walk around Lancefield.

The Platypus Guides have recently welcomed Lucy who has transferred from Gisborne Guides. It's great to have a new member in our unit. They recently held a sleepover with the theme of "fairies". The girls cooked a lovely dinner over open fires, dressed up as fairies, and read fairy stories with a large toadstool as a focal point.

To finish the year they will be singing Christmas Carols to the residents of Karinya and giving each resident a homemade Christmas Card. To celebrate the end of the year we are having a combined Wombat and Platypus Guides BBQ, to which all their families will be invited, at Lancefield Park.

Guides start up again on Monday 2nd February, 2004.

Have you seen us on Lancefield online? - www.lancefield.org.au

The Platypus Guides (7-10 year olds) meet at 5.00 - 6.30pm

The Wombat Guides (10-16 year olds) meet at 6.45 - 8.45pm.

For any information regarding Guiding please contact:

Rita Vandervalk 5429 1996 or Carolyn Atkinson 5781 0728



From The Mitchell Library

Santa's Wish List

(Great reads for the summer holidays)



FICTION:

Across the Nightingale Floor—Lian Hearn
 Second Glance—Jodi Picoult
 To the Nines—Janet Evanovich
 The Survivor's Club—Lisa Gardner
 Saigon Tea—Graham Reilly
 Precious Time—Erica James
 Spin the Bottle—Monica McInerney
 The Nanny Diaries—Kraus & McLaughlin
 Wife for Hire—Dianne Blacklock

CHILDREN / TEENS:

Cinderella's Bum—Nicholas Allen
 The Wish List—Eoin Colfer
 Hoot—Carl Hiaasen
 Diary of a Wombat—Jackie French and Bruce Whatley
 Saving Francesca—Melina Marchetta
 Little Humpty—Wild & James
 Tom Jones Saves the World—Steven Herrick
 Painted Love Letters—Catherine Bateson
 Swords of Quentaris—Paul Collins
 In Flanders Fields—Jorgensen & Harrison-Lever

NON-FICTION AND BIOGRAPHIES

The Vincibles—Gideon Haigh
 The Complete Aussie Backyard Book
 A Woman's Education—Jill Kerr Conway
 My Story (trilogy) - Dave Pelzer
 Straight Face : The Autobiography—Nigel Hawthorne
 Almost French : A New Life in Paris—Sarah Turnbull
 Play On (trilogy) - John Harms
 Bill Bryson's African Diary—Bill Bryson
 It's My Party and I'll Knit if I want To—Sharon Aris
 Little Girls Lost—Helen Reads



R.A.C.V. ★★★★★ RATED

IN THE
 MACEDON RANGES
 100 Crooked Road
 Romsey, 3434.

Ph. (03) 5429 5901
 Mobile: 0413 470 221

Kym & Ray Raverty

Romsey Bowling Club

Not a lot of news this time. The Men's section on Saturdays has had Ladies filling in to make up the numbers, with the men doing likewise for the Ladies on Tuesdays. With a couple of washouts for both sections early in the season, things have got away to a slow start. On Thursday 20th November, the Ladies held a very successful tournament; "The Ida Shaw Triples". This tournament is run annually in honour of the late Ida Shaw, a well loved and respected foundation member, whose daughter Rena Moore is a current member of our club. Rena and her sisters Verna and Thelma, kindly donate the trophies. We were also fortunate enough to receive sponsorship from T.J. Scott & Son Funeral Directors. These gestures are greatly appreciated.

Doss Keating
 Publicity 5429 6277

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At One with Nature

LANDSCAPING

- Stone walls
- Retaining walls
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- Garden design

Shaun Hunter Ph: 0428 327 507

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96 Yamaha TRX 850, 12mths reg ,
 excellent condition,
 \$5,200.00
 Ph 03 54296216

BOLINDA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Can you believe that this will be our final item for the year? No doubt you are all saying, "where did it go?" As teachers working with children, we know that life is never dull, every child is an individual, every day brings another challenge, and the year truly does fly when you're "having fun" together. Really, we do all "learn from every experience".

By the time you read this we will have had our new 2004 Preps for an Orientation Day with their new teachers in readiness for their new adventure next year. If you missed out but are still considering your options for 2004, feel free to drop in for a chat at any time, have a look at Bolinda and talk to us about what we can do for your child.

Grade 5's will be going to Gisborne Secondary College for an Introduction Day shortly and of course the Grade 6's time at Bolinda is quickly running out as they prepare for a new phase of their lives at secondary school. We shall miss them, they have been a terrific group, but they are ready for their new challenge and we wish them every success for the future.

It is very pleasing to tell you that our school performed very well in the statewide AIM Testing involving Grade 3 and Grade 5 children. In Grade 3, nearly all children performed at or above the Statewide average in maths, spelling and reading. In Grade 5, all children were at or above the state average in maths and the majority were above the state average in spelling and reading.

Our Children's Fundraising Committee is organizing a lunch time disco to raise money to support "Secret Life of Us" actor Samuel Johnson, who recently rode a unicycle from Sydney to Melbourne to help raise money for "Kids with Cancer". The awareness of our children to the presence of cancer in our society and how it can also affect children is a reality that our children are able to cope with, and as they are developing their sense of community and belonging, they want to be able to help in their small way.

Our Camp to Phillip Island was a great success and the children learnt a lot from what they saw and from also living and sharing together for three days. Our Camping Program is a popular fixture with the children, and what the children learn from their experiences cannot be measured.

We will have also participated in the Kanga 8's Cricket Competition in Melbourne by the time you read this news. All the children have been very enthusiastic since we had a clinic run by Cricket Victoria at school. Skills have improved and we hope to be competitive and have a good time against some of the Melbourne schools. We really don't miss out on very much just because we are a little smaller.

Well, that's some of the Bolinda news for this month – I hope you have enjoyed keeping up with our news and activities throughout the year. Sincere best wishes to all our readers for a very happy and safe Christmas Season - cheerio for now.

Keith Jenkins - Principal - 5428 5317

ROMSEY LICENSED **POST OFFICE**

OFFERS THE FOLLOWING **SERVICES:**

BILL PAYING
FAX SERVICE
PHOTOCOPYING
LAMINATING
OPTUS PRE-PAID PHONE CARDS
TELSTRA PHONEAWAY
TELSTRA PRE-PAID PHONE CARDS
PASSPORT APPLICATIONS
OFFICE STATIONERY
CITILINK DAY PASSES
COMPUTER DISKS
COMMONWEALTH
NATIONAL &
GIROPOST BANKING



Take Off Weight Naturally

T.O.W.N. Clubs of Victoria

If you have a weight problem, we might be able to help you.

TOWN CLUBS OF VICTORIA is a voluntary organisation to encourage weight loss through weekly meetings which include weigh-in and group therapy. Members are encouraged to adopt a healthy controlled eating style and take up suitable exercise – no artificial methods are permitted.

TOWN CLUBS OF VICTORIA provide a non-expensive, encouraging environment that raises your self-esteem as you work towards, and then maintain, your goal weight.

Meetings are held weekly at St. Mary's Parish Hall, Romsey, Tuesday nights; weigh-in from 7 – 7.20pm, meeting from 7.30pm.

For more details contact:
Belinda Mitchell 5429 6740
Judy Van Den Heuvel 5429 5692

Farewell Margaret Howatson

The Romsey Rag team would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Margaret Howatson for her many years of dedicated contribution to the Romsey Rag and to the Romsey community in general. For many of the community facilities and projects that have been achieved in our town we owe a debt of gratitude to Margaret. Without her enthusiasm and drive they simply would not have happened—her “fingers have been in many pies” indeed!

We would like to wish Margaret and husband Sam all the best for the future in Tocumwal—and again, thank you Margaret. Romsey will miss you!



Above: Margaret Howatson (circled) with the members of the Am-bulance Auxilliary.

SCOTT'S GENERAL MAINTENANCE SERVICE

TREE TRIMMING OR REMOVAL,
NEW FENCING AND REPAIRS, GUTTERS CLEANED,
RUBBISH REMOVAL, PAINTING, GARDENING, GENERAL
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*Merry Christmas to all,
and a very Happy and Safe New Year.*

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SUNDAY SERVICES: St. Paul's, Romsey 9.00 am

Christ Church, Lancefield 10.30 am

Sunday School at Lancefield each Sunday during term time.

Wednesday: Christ Church, Lancefield 10.00 am

No services from 17/12/03—28/01/04. Commencing again in February.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH TIMES:

Christingle Children's Special Service 7.00 pm December 24th Lancefield

Christmas Eve Service 11.30pm December 24th Lancefield

Christmas Day Service 9.00 am December 25th Romsey

ALL MOST WELCOME

All Churches Combined Christmas Carols Sunday December 14th—7.00 pm in the Romsey Mechanics Hall.

ANGLICAN STREET STALL—SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH FROM 9.00AM

Outside Romsey IGA. Lots of Christmas goodies.

Lancefield/Romsey Combined Christmas Luncheon of Guilds at Lancefield Church Hall on Thursday December 11th—12 o'clock.

OP SHOP is closed during December. Re-opening Friday January 23, 2004.

IN ANOTHER ROMSEY VEGETABLE GARDEN

Inspired by the writer on this subject in the November issue, I would like to add a few comments from my experience over the last 75 years in growing vegies and other plants. Since my childhood at Nathalia in the Goulburn Valley in the 1920's when my father, an ex-market gardener from the Melbourne south-eastern area, grew vegetable, fruit trees and grapevines for our own use, I have followed his teachings and developed many of my own ideas supplemented by those learned from professional market gardeners at Dandenong in the early 1930s and practised at Newport in the 1950s before starting again at Tullamarine in 1960 and again in moving to Romsey in 1978.

It was at Newport that I became interested in competing at flower shows and importing seeds from overseas while a member of the Royal Horticultural Society, England, and completing a four year part time course in horticulture at Burnley and joining the newly formed Society For Growing Australian Plants (now Australian Plants Society APS).

On moving Romsey after abandoning my Tullamarine Plant Farm following the reservation of its site for the Western Ringroad, I soon established a vegetable garden containing 22 raised beds about 4 metres by 2 metres of which about 15 were used each year, allowing a rest of 1 or 2 years of each bed after about 3 years of alternating crops, with the application of compost make from crop residues, tree trimmings and kitchen waste – after feeding crows and mynahs!

Although my tool collection includes 134 shovels as well a spades, rakes and hoes, I have only limited use for hand tools, all beds being cultivated by rotary hoe. Beds are then levelled with a homemade grader to obtain uniformity, all sowings and transplantings being recorded on cards. Watering has been done with 18mm handheld hoses eliminating run-off on a sloping block and fertiliser obtained for Pivot in 50 kg bags every 5 to 10 years.

Diseases are rare and controlled by spraying with copper and other sprays and weeds on paths with use of REGA knap-sacks bought at clearing sales for almost nothing, with small bucket and one hand sprayers, for small jobs, like white butterflies on cabbages, using appropriate materials. Aphids are easily controlled with Clensel or other safe sprays. Fruit trees receive more intensive treatment.

Because of the current watering restrictions which limit the use of hoses to unsuitable times ie. Twice in one 24 hour period with a 2 day gap to the next, I am confining my efforts to 3 beds of potatoes and 2 x 25 year old asparagus beds and neglecting most of my ornamental garden, many of my 17 outside taps now disused.

Seeds and cutting of ornamental plants are available at various times free of charge to residents and schools.

C. L. WHELLER

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TOTALLY NATURAL BEAUTY THER-
APY
& NAIL STUDIO**

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(behind Kontek Real Estate)
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**For all your beauty
& nail treatments**

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*15min Solarium 10 sessions \$70

Open Mon 22 Dec
Tues 23 Dec
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*Suzanne would like to thank all her clients for
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Christmas cheer to all and "Have a safe Xmas"*

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Bookings for this space
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Tel 5429 5049

Email romseyps@edumail.vic.gov.au

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Thank you.



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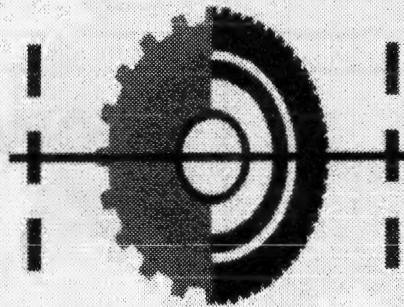
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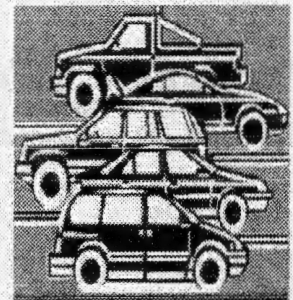
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Box 342, Essendon, 3040

Also at:

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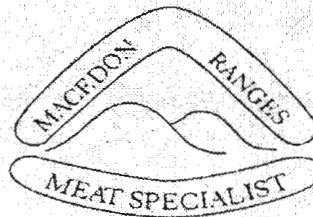
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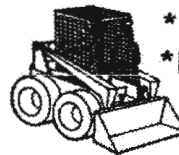
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To all local organisations wishing to hold a stall within the shopping centre complex - please telephone 9846 7225 to make a booking, as only one stall on any one day is allowed.

To all advertisers in the Romsey Rag Trade Directory:

If you require alterations to your advertisement please provide a new business card with your new details. Business cards that have been scanned in to this directory cannot be altered by the compilers of this paper.

Thankyou.



Together with
**Living Word
Christian Church,
Romsey**

Would like to extend
Christmas Greetings to all
the Community.

You are warmly invited to join us for our
Christmas Eve

Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 24th December, 2003

7:30 p.m.

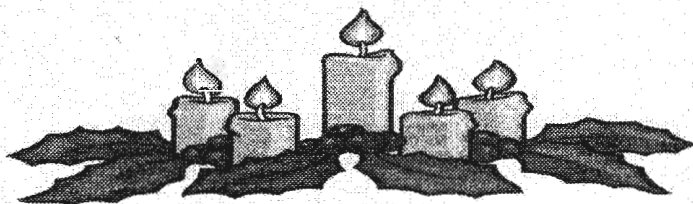
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Glow-Candles & Glow-Bracelets
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Free Sausage Sizzle, Lollies, Admission & Song Books

Pre-Carol entertainment & games for the children

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Jesus is the reason for the season

“PRODUCT EXPO”

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Main Street Romsey
on Tuesday 30th March 2004,
12 Noon.

Entry \$6.

Organised by St. Paul's Guild,
Romsey



*Are you tired of staying home, trying to entertain the kids?

*Would you like some adult company and conversation?

COME AND JOIN THE PLAYGROUP

Lots of fun to be had by all, no matter what your age!

Session Times:

Monday 9.30am – 12.00 noon
News Mums and young bubs
(0 – 12mths)
(siblings welcome)

Tuesday & Thursday
9.30am – 12.00 noon
All welcome

We have weekly planned activities including: Art & Craft
Cooking
Music & Movement
Gym Activities

Safe, hygienic and fun play areas both indoors and out
Mother's (and or Father's) nights
Group Outings
Term break up parties
Group morning tea (everyone brings a treat to share). More than welcome to stay for lunch if you wish (who can resist hot chips)
Low term fees

Come and see for yourself or to find out more call
Julie 5429 5442 or
Belinda 5429 1963

Kinder Korner

News from the Romsey Kindergarten Inc.

Hi there and welcome once more to Kinder Korner! The Romsey Kindergarten children are thrilled that their new playground units have been installed. With the recent sunny weather, the units have had a lot of use and have proven very popular with the children.



The committee has been very busy this year fundraising to pay for the units, which cost in excess of \$11,000 which is a lot of money for a small kindergarten to find in a short time. Our most recent fundraiser was our Trivia Night on Friday, November 14, which proved to be a great success and raised more than \$1000 for the kindergarten.

The theme of the Trivia Night was "black & white" and many of the people who came along went to great effort with their costumes.

Some dressed as angels and some came as hospitality staff; there were people in formal wear, and we also had a group of brides and grooms with a twist (the blokes were the brides and the girls wore the tuxedos). Another group dressed as batgirls from the batcave, complete with batmobile. Everyone really got into the spirit of the night, which was great fun and ably commanded by our Trivia Night host Mark Spedding.

As well as a raffle, there was a spinning wheel where four crayfish were the most sought after top prizes.

The kinder has a long list of sponsors and helpers to thank for making the night such a great success.

These include: Glen Erin Vineyard Retreat, Essjais, the



Romsey/Lancefield Lions Club, Romsey Primary School, Romsey Foodworks Supermarket, Romsey Mowers, the Romsey scout group, ABS Australia, Westway Airconditioning, Gisborne PC World, Dave Newman, Mark & Viki Spedding, Russell & Leanne Manton, Drew Neideck & Ro O'Dwyer, Amanda & Dean Burley, Helen Richardson, Raelene Mottram, Louise Conlan, Jeanette White, Narelle & Al Lever, Jenny Stillman, Adrian O'Brien, Rachael Cartwright, Jane Whelan, Chris Farrell and everyone else who lent a hand – our heartfelt thanks.

Orientation Day

On November 12 & 13 the kinder held its Orientation Days for the 2004 school year.

Children attending both 3YO and 4YO kinder met in their new groups for an hour of activities.

The 2004 school year will begin with a full kinder: three four-year-old kinder groups and two three-year-old kinder groups. All children who applied for a place were accommodated.

Any enrolment enquiries should be directed to our enrolment officer, Karen Skehan, on 5429 6243.

Anyone who has any inquiries about the kindergarten or our activities is welcome to contact me on 5429 6936.

Until next time,
AMANDA BURLEY
President

Romsey Kindergarten Committee.



Probus Club Romsey – Lancefield

Meetings of the Romsey – Lancefield Probus Club are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at St Mary's Church Hall, corner Main and Barry Streets, Romsey, at 10.00am.

Probus is open to all retired and semi-retired people to enjoy a great social and friendly atmosphere.

Contact

Robert Barry (President) on 5428 5194
Dorothy Hayes (Secretary) on 5429 1225



STREET STALL



ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN
CHURCH

Saturday 6th December, 2003

**Outside I.G.A. Supermarket
From 9.00 am**

Many Christmas Goodies

Macedon Ranges Shire Council Update Newsletter

Council's Update newsletter (November 2003 issue) was distributed throughout the Shire during the week of 18-21 November. If you haven't receive a copy of the newsletter with your mail, please contact any of Council's Service Centres or telephone 5422 0310.

ANNA'S NAILS

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ROMSEY BRANCH CWA

Romsey Branch of the Country Women's Association of Victoria has had a regular monthly Craft Day now for about 20 months. To the Craft Day we welcome both members and non-members. If you just want to learn a new skill, or you are a very skilled craft worker, every one is welcome. We meet at 10am. In the supper room of the Romsey Mechanics Institute on the third Tuesday of the month, providing our own lunch. Tea, coffee and Biscuits are available. There is a charge of \$3 per person, which covers the hire of the Hall. We finish our craft about 2-2.3-pm.



Shirley Jones, the Branch Craft Leader willingly shares her knowledge and experience in a range of crafts. However, all attending are encouraged to share their special skills with each other. So that we could expand our work, Shirley suggested that the Branch apply to the Shire for one of the community grants they were making available. We were delighted when we were allocated \$500. This money will be used to buy specialised craft equipment, and to enable the group to benefit from some specialised tuition. At our November Craft day we will be asking those attending for their suggestions for the 2004 program. We are always interested in new people attending and welcome new concepts and interests. Ring Shirley Jones 5428 6280.

Shirley Jones and Elaine Baldwin, the newly elected President of the Branch, will be attending a function to accept the cheque at the Shire on Friday 5th December. We thank the Macedon Ranges Shire most sincerely for this support.

Members will be presenting the Romsey Artists Annual Exhibition of their years work in the Romsey Mechanics Institute on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of February, 2004. The exhibition will open on the evening of Friday the 27th, at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available for the opening night from Joan Strawbridge, ph 5428 7022. The exhibition will then be open from 10am – 4pm Saturday 28th, and 10am – 3.30pm, Sunday 29th. The artists meet regularly in Romsey every Tuesday morning the Old Court House in Stawell Street. This annual display of their achievements over the year is well worth a visit. Most of the art will be for sale. The Romsey Branch will have a stall with goods for sale and will also be supplying refreshments.

Jean Tom
Acting Secretary

THANK YOU
To all the volunteers
who produce the
Romsey Rag each
month. Merry Christ-
mas to you all.

Fairways Guesthouse
Champion's
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Lynne Champion

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Tel: (03) 5429 1903

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www.fairwaysguesthouse.com.au

Rotary Club of Romsey Lancefield Awards Night

Romsey Lancefield Rotary Club held their annual Workplace Excellence Awards night on October 22nd to recognise achievements by local members of the community. Local residents who have excelled in the workplace were formally recognised at a dinner at Romsey's Essjais Restaurant, attended by award winners, their sponsors, family and friends.

The awards are split into categories each year, and nominations for 2003 were received from both Romsey and Lancefield. Rotary Club president Bruce Knight presented winners with a certificate to remember their achievements, and a wine glass.

Owners of Essjais Restaurant received a special vote of thanks for providing a meeting place for the Rotary Club for their weekly meetings, after the club lost its premises at the beginning of the year.

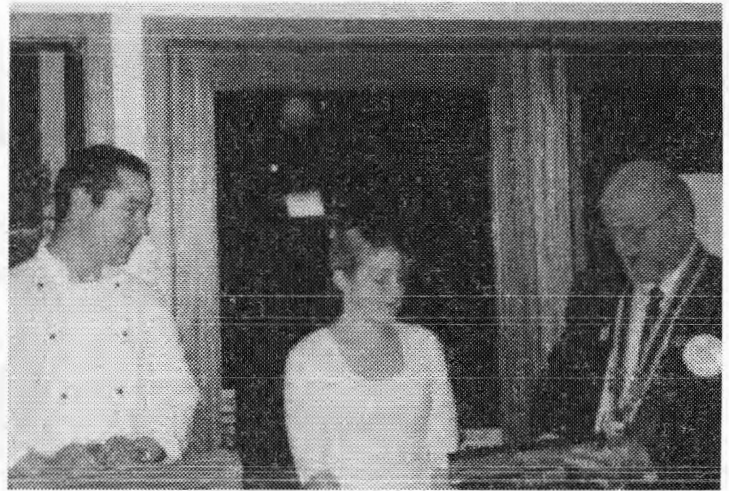
The four winners and their sponsors for 2003 were:

Michelle Coon , volunteer & carer	The Old Crow Trading Post
Glenn Marshall "outstanding "postie"	Romsey Post Office
Daniel Bamford , senior apprentice	Curly Flat Vineyard
Gemma Porter , junior apprentice	Essjais restaurant

Glenn's sponsors convinced him he was out celebrating a birthday, and he was taken totally by surprised when the real reason for his visit became apparent. Well done Allan and Wendy!



Daniel Bamford with sponsor Phil Moraghan



Gemma Porter with her sponsor Steven Tann



Michelle Coon receiving her award



Glenn Marshall of Romsey PO

NEWS FROM THE BARGAIN BOX

St. John's Anglican Op Shop, Riddells Creek.
Greetings to you all from the volunteers at the Bargain Box in our last message to you this year.

The shop will be closed from Saturday 20th December, look for us again toward the end of January 2004, we may not be open but we will be busy during that time.

We plan to rearrange the shop fittings once again, (you can't say we're boring!).

Thank you for all the support, which seems to be stronger than ever, for which we are extremely grateful.

We hope you have a truly wonderful Christmas filled with peace and joy.

Until next year, take care.

Chris.

Christmas Carols in the Park.

Our annual Christmas Carols Service will be held on Friday 19th December in the Lake Park, Riddells Creek beginning at 8pm sharp.

Come earlier, find a spot down at the rotunda, and have a picnic tea.

Bring a rug or chair, mozzie spray, candle or light, friends and relations to sing carols, old and new.

We will be accompanied by Sunday Night Live Band and singers.

Take care your children are always in your sight because there is water in the creek (at the moment), the lake is deep and trains do run at all hours.

(Wet weather plan – St. John's Church, Melvins Road).

Any enquiries to Chris 5428 6526.

Gisborne Secondary College

Chaplaincy Committee

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the local communities for supporting our fundraising events during 2003.

We especially thank the businesses in Gisborne, Romsey and Lancefield, giving generously to support our annual Progressive Dinner, the Trivia Night and Cinema Night.

It is difficult to find new and interesting ways to raise money which appeals to everyone.

The ongoing fundraising takes a lot of energy from a few people, but when events are well supported, it makes all the work worthwhile.

Our cause certainly is worthwhile. In today's climate, some young people need the guidance and strength a Chaplain can impart.

God Bless your Christmas.

Committee members, GSC Chaplaincy.

FOR HIRE **ROMSEY MECHANICS** **INSTITUTE**

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AAAT rating ****

Quality ensuite accommodation.

Separate entrances.

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Set in extensive private gardens.

Spoil yourself with some gracious living

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For full details and photographs visit our

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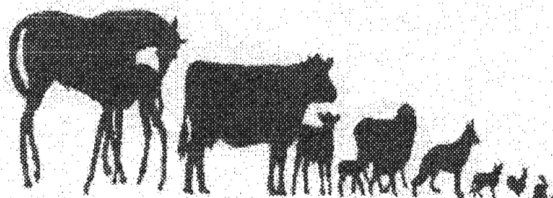
News Announcement

We are pleased to announce that we are now offering a complete

Dog Clipping and Grooming Service.

A "Do it Yourself" **Hydrobath** and dog washing area has also been installed and is available for hire if you prefer to wash and groom your own dog.

Phone **Romsey Veterinary Surgery** on
5429 5711



St. Mary's Catholic Parish Lancefield-Romsey



Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil 7.00p.m. Lancefield
1st, 3rd Sunday 8.00a.m. Lancefield
10.00a.m. Romsey
2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday
8.00a.m. Romsey
10.00a.m. Lancefield

Advent / Christmas Liturgies

Parish Reconciliation – Preparing the heart for Christmas

Tuesday, 9th December: St. Mary's Church, Lancefield: 7.30pm

Ecumenical Carol Service

Sunday, 14th December: Mechanics Hall Romsey: 7.00pm

Christmas Eve: Family Mass

Wednesday, 24th December: St. Mary's Church, Romsey: 7.30pm

Midnight Mass: St. Mary's Church, Lancefield

Christmas Day

Thursday, 25th December: St. Mary's Church Romsey: 9.00am

Baptism:

To arrange Baptism please ring the Presbytery on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays.

Prayer Times

Meditation Group: Mondays 8pm St. Mary's Church Romsey

Charismatic Prayer Group: Tuesdays at 11am at 57 Metcalfe Drive, Romsey

Fr. George O'Connor	529 2130
Convent	5429 1582
St. Mary's School	5429 1359

FREEMASONRY RIDDELLS CREEK LODGE

MEETS AT THE ROMSEY MASONIC CENTRE,
MAIN STREET
1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH.
FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CONTACT RON JACKSON – 5429 6354
KEN BALDWIN – 5429 6063

SOCIAL TENNIS AT THE ROMSEY TENNIS COURTS

Have fun - get fit! Come for a hit or a set or two....
Beginners welcome!
10.00 am THURSDAYS
More information ring: 5429 5525

Lancefield & Romsey Community Financial Services Ltd

ABN 44 093 517 714

ROMSEY TOPS \$400,000 TARGET IN PUSH FOR OUR BANK

The Romsey community has rallied magnificently in our bid to establish our own Romsey Community Bank branch. Romsey Community Bank Steering Committee chair Maureen Wiltshire said the warning last month that a Community Bank would not just happen, but that Romsey residents had to demonstrate that they really wanted it, seemed to have been the catalyst to a late run of pledges.

"In July we had 126 local residents who had put their hands up to be counted, and \$310,000 in pledges," Mrs Wiltshire said. "At that stage, we looked to be a long way from our target of \$400,000. But the community responded in great Romsey fashion to the stage where we've exceeded the initial target. At last count 247 local residents and businesses have pledged \$425,300 towards the Bank, and more pledges are still coming in."

Mrs Wiltshire said senior Bendigo Bank staff met with the Romsey Steering Committee members and the Lancefield & Romsey Community Financial Services Ltd Board after the target was reached in November, and gave approval for the next step – an independent feasibility study. "However, everyone must recognise that the feasibility study is just the next step in the project to open our own Romsey Community Bank branch, and does not guarantee that it will go ahead," she said. "Feasibility questionnaires will be mailed to every household in Romsey and surrounding areas in late January or early February. These confidential surveys will ask people whether they would be prepared to transfer their investments, deposit accounts, overdrafts and loans across to a Romsey Community Bank branch, and it is vital that as many people as possible respond."

The individual questionnaire information will be confidential, and will be available only to the consultants in assessing the viability of the bank and preparing the business plan. If our community members can demonstrate that we will bring in enough business to make a Romsey branch a viable financial proposition, we will have gone a long way towards convincing Bendigo Bank we are able to take the final step and open for business.

"If we don't get our survey questionnaires in, we may lose our chance to have our own branch and to 'bank-proof' Romsey for the future. A successful feasibility study is one of the remaining key steps we need to take before we can choose premises, hire local staff and open our doors for business."

Mrs Wiltshire said a Romsey branch would be owned by the pledgors and other local people buying shares in Lancefield & Romsey Community Financial Services Ltd, the company which already owns and operates the Lancefield branch. She said pledges were still open, and urged residents who had not already come 'on board' to fill out a form and be part of the group who were working to make the local branch happen, and to further demonstrate to Bendigo Bank the level of support.

Lancefield & Romsey Community Financial Services chair Russell Pattinson said he was delighted that the Romsey Community had risen to the challenge of reaching the pledge target – particularly the surge in support over the past three months. "Everyone can be proud of their efforts in getting behind the push to open a Bank branch," he said. "I would especially like to acknowledge the incredible work performed by the Romsey Steering Committee. They have done and continue to do a wonderful job for their community."

A Community Bank branch operates as a full branch of Bendigo Bank, with the same range of products and services as those provided by any of Bendigo's branches.

Paeonies of Romseywood

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Jan and Bill White
"Romseywood", Choristons Road, Romsey Vic 3434
Phone 03 5427 0260, Fax 03 5427 0594
email: romseywood@oprosenet.com.au

Lancefield Golf Club Inc

34 Heddle Road, Lancefield Vic 3435

Correspondence to PO Box 89 Lancefield Vic 3435

Clubhouse Phone: 5429 1922

Secretary Phone: 5429 2079

Email: lancefieldgolfclub@hotmail.comWebsite: www.lancefieldgolfclub.com.au**Saturday and Sunday Mixed Competition Results**

25 October D. Dennett (21) 66; R. Walker (13) 69

26 October R. Mau (9) 69; K. Lambert (7) 73

Monthly Medal

1 November M. Stokes (12) 65; S. Draper (15) 75

9 November K. Fagan (17) 37

Club Championships8 November, **Round 1:****A grade:** C. Hanson (11) 66; **B grade:** R. Draper (17) 68;**C grade:** J. Kairns (22) 7015 November, **Round 2:****A grade:** R. Mau (9) 68; **B grade:** T. Passlow (16) 69;**C grade:** D. Dennett (19) 69**Tuesday Mixed Competition Results**

21 October B. Salathiel (7) 40; K. Lambert (7) 35

28 October **Legends Trophy:** K. Lambert 81, 74

4 November C. Daniel (14) 35; S. Climas (13) 35

11 November S. Draper (15) 41; R. Mau (9) 39

Thursday Twilight golf – 10 holes

13 November C. Buttler (7) 36

The Club Championships have one week to run as these results go to press. At present the grass is growing as fast as it is cut. Staff and volunteers are working hard to keep it in control. The recent Gala Day (free golf and barbeque) for residents of Macedon Ranges Shire was poorly attended but the weather was particularly unkind. Several lady members have taken advantage of low cost group clinics given by Kyneton Professional Paul Powell. Twilight golf (10 holes) has started. All are welcome. Hit off time is **5.30 pm Thursday evenings**. The Lancefield Open Ambrose Event is open to all comers on Sunday 7th December. Entry forms are currently available at the clubhouse or phone Barry Brennan on 5429 2254. Green fee players are always welcome (\$15 all day). Lancefield remains the undiscovered golf course with no waiting times midweek or weekends. So give it a try even on Saturdays when most Melbourne public courses clubs are closed to green fee players, Lancefield welcomes all comers.

Enquires for memberships, clinics and social groupbookings to **Secretary, Steve Draper**

(5429 2079) or access our website

www.lancefieldgolfclub.com.au**FREE TOYS**

Are you tired of spending hundreds of dollars on toys, only to see your children not play with them after 2 weeks?

Now here's a fantastic alternative!!

Come and join the **Romsey Toy Library** from only \$25.00 per year and take home an endless supply of toys, games and puzzles for the whole year.

This is a fantastic way to please your children, where they can come and select any toy they want and change them as often as they like.

We have everything from ride on cars, play kitchens, train sets, puzzles, games and sporting sets. New toys are added regularly.

Phone Kerry on 5429 6609 to find out how easy it is to join.

Your children will absolutely love it.

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Romsey Primary School Girls Summer Dress Uniform

1 x 14, 1 x 12, 1 x 10, 5 x 8 \$4.00

Phone – Sharon 5429 5743

Romsey Ladies Golf Report

The club Presentation Night was held on the 25th October at the Clarkefield Stables. The cold wet night was an experience some people enjoyed more than others.

At presentation night the club presented an aerial photograph of the golf course and surrounds to John Laing in appreciation of all the work he has done for the club over many years. John was a little concerned about where he and Wendy would find room to hang the photo, but he was thankful for the gift and I'm sure he has found just the right spot for it.

Congratulations to Shirley who had a win at Mt Macedon and good luck to Marg who is leading player of the year in the district with only two more tournaments to go.

As our official season has finished we are now playing twelve holes social golf on Wednesdays and would love any interested ladies or men to join us.

Recipe for this month

Salmon Roll

250 gm Philly cheese
1x440gm can pink salmon
2 finely chopped spring onions
1 cup finely chopped parsley

Mix together cheese salmon & spring onion

Spread on aluminium foil until 2cm thick

Refrigerate 1 hour

Sprinkle over half the parsley

Roll up like a swiss roll

Roll in remainder of parsley to coat.

As this is the end of the year again (even if I'm not ready for it) It is time to wish all the readers Merry Christmas and a Safe Healthy 2004.

Beryl Cole
54295411

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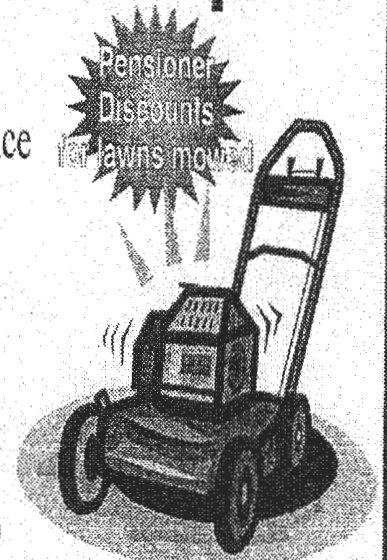
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Romsey Lancefield RSL Sub Branch

The Sub Branch has just recently concluded an essay competition for senior students at 3 local Primary Schools. The competition was timed to coincide with Remembrance Day on November 11th and the essay topic was "What is Remembrance Day?" The overall standard of essays received made for difficult but interesting judging and awarding of prizes to the best 3 essays at each school.

Prizes were awarded as follows:

Lancefield St.Marys School

1. Terry Showler
2. Daniel Ravanello
3. Tim Francis

Romsey Primary School

1. Angela John
2. Sean McNamara
3. Merrin King

Lancefield Primary School

1. Rebecca Wilson-Hawe
2. Warrick Deveson
3. Lauren Fraser

Congratulations to all prize winners and well done to all those who contributed to the competition. Each prize winner has been presented with a Certificate and a gift voucher from Aesop's Attic book shop in Kyneton.

We thank everyone involved in staging the competition and the co-operation from all schools was just great and we trust we may be able to stage a similar competition in future years.

Our Annual Poppy Appeal has raised in excess of \$1800.00 and we once again thank the residents of Lancefield and Romsey for their continued patronage.

John Haslett – President.

Romsey Uniting Church

25 Pohlman Street

Minister: Rev Alan Williams
25 William Street
Ph/Fax: 5429 5351
Romsey 3434
mobile: 0408 380 962

What's News

December is a time of endings. The year is coming to an end. There are end of year break-ups at work and in many community or sporting groups. There are end of year concerts and presentations. Some people are leaving school, or moving to a different school, or simply moving. Everyone is looking forward to a holiday, and most are trying hard not to think too much about starting again in the New Year. However, in the church, December is a time of beginning. Christmas may be at the end of the year, but it marks a beginning. The Christian story begins with a baby, with a birth that we celebrate at Christmas. So just as our tax or financial year is different to a calendar year, so is the church year. The Church year begins with four weeks of preparing for Christmas. Christmas doesn't just happen, as I'm sure most people realise. There needs to be planning, preparing, getting ready, so that we can (hopefully) enjoy whatever celebration we have planned.

So, too, the Bible stories of Jesus' birth don't just begin with the birth. There is preparation, not just for the birth, but for the life to be lived and the message that is to be brought. In addition to planning and preparing, there is also context. For some people, this Christmas may be lonely and difficult, being the first Christmas without a loved one. With violence and conflict continuing to hang over our world, some people may find it hard to celebrate too much.

In effect, this is the context for the Christmas story. Jesus came into a world of pain, struggle, grief and violence. You may argue that if nothing's changed, then what did he do? To do so would be to miss the point.

The message of Jesus, and Christmas, and the church, is that there is another way of living, another way of being human that is full of hope. By faith, I can face the difficulties of life and this world with optimism. As I watch the nightly news, I'm glad for this hope, and give thanks to God.

Rev Alan Williams

On behalf of the Romsey Uniting Church, I would like to wish

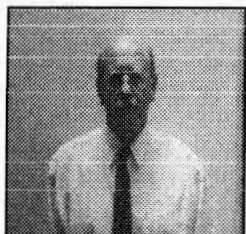
everyone a safe and enjoyable Christmas holiday period, and a fulfilling 2004.

What's On

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 5 Dec | 3:45-5:15pm Advent Workshop for primary and pre-school children. Please note that this is a Friday (not Thursday as in previous years), and that there is a charge of \$1 per child per week towards expenses. |
| 7 Dec | 10:30am worship and Sunday School, including Holy Communion. |
| 12 Dec | 3:45-5:15pm The last Advent Workshop for this year, for primary and pre-school children. |
| 14 Dec | 9:00am Sunday School Christmas presentation,.
7:00pm Combined Churches Christmas Carols at the Romsey Mechanic's Hall. |
| 21 Dec | <u>9:30am</u> worship at <u>Romsey</u> . This is the beginning of our combined services for Summer. |
| 24 Dec | <u>7:00pm</u> Christmas Eve service at <u>Lancefield</u> . |
| 25 Dec | <u>9:30am</u> Christmas service at <u>Romsey</u> . |
| 28 Dec | <u>9:30am</u> worship at <u>Lancefield</u> . |
| 4 Jan | <u>9:30am</u> worship at <u>Romsey</u> , including Holy Communion. |
| 11 Jan | <u>9:30am</u> worship at <u>Lancefield</u> . |
| 18 Jan | <u>9:30am</u> worship at <u>Romsey</u> . |
| 25 Jan | <u>9:30am</u> worship at <u>Lancefield</u> . This is the last of our combined services for Summer. |
| 1 Feb | <u>9:00am</u> worship, including Holy Communion. |

You are most welcome to come along to any of these events and share in our life together.

If you have any questions about the Christian faith or the church, please feel free to ask Rev Alan.



Mel Leece-Roberts
0409 537 235

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Lancefield-Romsey Little Athletics Centre 127

Why Choose Little Athletics? Because we offer fitness, fun, family involvement, skill development, cross training for other sports, social opportunities, and much more. Children don't need any prior skills, just enthusiasm.

We welcome athletes with disabilities and invite any interested athletes and their families to come along and see what we do. If needed, we can modify the competition program to suit individual needs and simply ask that you let us know when you visit us, so that we can ensure your child gets the most out of participating in athletics at our Centre.

Age Groups: Children can start as soon as they turn five because we cater for age groups from Under 6 through to Under 16 (Interaths)

Interested in joining? Lancefield-Romsey is a family orientated Centre located in Park Lane, Romsey, and we would certainly welcome new members for season 2003-2004. The Track & Field season runs until the start of April, so if you haven't joined yet, come along. Due to lack of numbers, in winter, we offer only Cross country training although athletes can enter any number of competition events run at other Centres, including the Cross Country Championships. Simply come along to one of our competition days to join up. Do try and arrive early (by 9am) so that there is time to complete all the necessary documents before the events start. Future competition dates are listed below. Parents registering children who are new to our Centre should bring along the child's proof of age as we need to sight this as part of processing new registrations.

What equipment or clothing do you need? Most children already have suitable clothing to compete in such as shorts, t-shirt, runners, and a tracksuit for cooler days. We do like to encourage our athletes to wear a hat and sunscreen and carry a drink-bottle to all events. Uniform is optional if competing only at our Centre but if you do wish to purchase uniform, limited stock is available for purchase from the Centre.

Mini Calendar of Events – Track & Field Season

November 2003

SAT 22 Normal Competition
SAT 29 Normal Competition

December 2003

SAT 06 Normal Competition
SAT 13 Novelty Day (fun events) – parents... don't forget to throw on the trackies today as you will be competing against your children in a battle for some self-respect! And teams... We will also be running our annual Lap For Kids which is a fundraiser for the Royal Childrens Hospital... please remember to bring along your gold coin donation to support this very worthy cause.
SUN 14 Interclub Competition versus Kilmore Little Athletics Centre (at Kilmore LAC venue)

Christmas Break: After the break, we will return on 31st January for competition, although we do have a special training day on Monday 26th January for our athletes who have entered the Region Track & Field Championships in February.

Want to know more? Please contact our Centre Secretary on 54296089 (after hours on weeknights between 7.30pm and 9pm only)...or by email to Srizar@bigpond.com

Latest news:

- Run with the Stars: VLAA and Harness Racing Victoria are running special promotional days where Little Athletes can compete in between the horse racing events at selected meets. The athletes represent their Centre and compete in uniform against athletes from other Centres in various distance handicap races, depending on their age. The top three place-getters in each respective final receives a medal and the winner of each age section will compete at Moonee Valley Harness

Racing Club on the selected day for the State Final. All children who attend these selected meets can enter great competitions for bikes, and other give-aways, and it is a fun day out for families. Well done to all our participants who took part at the Kilmore event in October and to our new members, the Wilkinsons from Romsey, who took part in the Maryborough event in November. Thanks to you all and we hope it was an enjoyable day for you all.

- A number of our athletes competed as school representatives at the U12-U16 All Schools Track & Field Championships at Olympic Park on November 1st & 2nd 2003. U14 Boy Daniel Martin (Assumption College) came 6th in his Long Jump, unfortunately missing out on a place in the 100m final, but did well with a 3rd in the High Jump and a fabulous finish in the 90m Hurdles final to take home the gold medal. U15 Boy Michael Graham (Kyneton Secondary) took part in Discus and Shotput, but didn't throw his pb in either, and despite a respectable throw of over 30metres in Javelin, did not get a medal place, but came home with a silver medal for Hammer Throw. U16 Boy Scott Martin (Assumption College) did well to make the finals of the 100m and 200m sprints, and finished a respectable 5th in the LJ. Matthew Blair (Kyneton Secondary) did well in his hurdles events with a Silver medal in the 200m Hurdles, a Bronze medal in the 100m Hurdles, a 5th in Triple Jump and a 4th in Long Jump. U16 Girl Colleen Graham (Kyneton Secondary) was disappointed to not throw her pb and ended up with a 5th in Shotput and 6th in Discus. Despite the windy weather making competing even harder for all the athletes, we are very proud of their efforts and all their performances, no matter where they finished. Well done to you all.
- Our teams competition is underway and all four teams are vying for the honour of being named Team of the Year. We still have a few bandannas for sale in the team colours of red, blue, green and yellow and these are \$2 each, with all proceeds going to CanTeen. CanTeen do fantastic work and are a great support for kids who have cancer... please be generous and buy a bandanna or two to support Canteen and wear your team colours.
- Well done to Matt Blair and Colleen Graham who represented their schools at the VSSSA State Track & Field Finals at Olympic Park. It was a terrible day, with the field areas immersed in water, and the track not much better. Colleen finished with a respectable 4th in Discus and 5th in Shotput and Matthew also with a respectable 5th in his Sprint Hurdles.
- Our Athlete of the Week awards are underway and each week selected athletes are rewarded with vouchers from our sponsors KFC (Bacchus Marsh & Sunbury) and McDonalds in Sunbury. Athletes are chosen based on their efforts from the week before. Check the Macedon Ranges edition of the Leader newspaper for results of this which are usually printed in the Sports Results section.
- When any of our athletes achieve something at school or in sport, let us know about it so we can provide recognition via our newsletters, etc. Similarly, if you have information you feel may be of interest to our athletes and the families, you are more than welcome to send it in (preferably via email to Srizar@bigpond.com) for inclusion in our next newsletter.