
THE ROMSEY RAG

Issue No. 221

1750 copies produced each month at Romsey Primary School as a service to our community
and supported by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council

November 2004

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ROMSEY NEIGHBOUR HOOD HOUSE UPDATE:

Following a recent meeting of interested people, an interim committee has been formed to oversee the formation and incorporation of the Romsey Neighbourhood House. It is hoped that this exciting community venture will be operational early in 2005. For the process to go forward, a public meeting will be held to present the proposal for the Neighbourhood House and to move towards incorporation. This will involve the ratification of a constitution for the Neighbourhood House, so that an application can be lodged for incorporation, to become a legal entity.

The next meeting of the interim committee in late October will finalise a draft constitution for presentation and acceptance at a public meeting in November. Other business on the agenda will include identifying at least temporary premises from which to run the Neighbourhood House, and identifying short term and longer term activity programs to be conducted at the House, to suit community needs. To this end it would be great if members of our community could start feeding its ideas for future programs to the interim committee. A good point of contact at present is through Barney Healy at Romsey Primary School on 5429 5099.

To date we have had very positive and encouraging support from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council for this project and anticipate that this will be on-going. What we need now is an indication of the level of support from the Romsey community, so we would urge as many people as possible to attend our public meeting on November 30th. For full details of this meeting please see page 15 of this edition of the Romsey Rag.

Editorially Speaking

Romsey Rag Editorial Committee:
Barney Healy, Joni Clampit, Robyn Moore

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Stormy—Gaele O'Dwyer

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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.pa@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
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Quarter page: \$45 per issue
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Line ads: eg- For sale, births, deaths, marriages, engagements - \$7.50
Cheques must be made payable to Romsey Primary School

Distribution:
1750 copies delivered to the Romsey community at the commencement of each month.

THANKYOU

Thankyou to Geoff Parks and family for his appreciative letter (Romsey Rag October edition) to the Romsey community for their support. His delightful family were very "ear" to care for! Those church groups Geoff mentioned, who were so quick and caring in their response, were as follows (with the person who acted as a liaison; indeed, many other parishioners contributed cheerfully): Romsey Living Word Church (Diane Parkinson), St. Mary's Parish (Sister Frances), Lennoxfield & Romsey Anglican Church (Glenice Mitchell) and Romsey Uniting Church (Helen Clement). And to Geoff, Jesse, Skye, Shyring, Maty, Ciara and Harley - no family could have been easier to love and feel compassion for. We applaud your bravery as you face life without a beloved wife and mother and we greatly admire the way you cherish her memory and work so beautifully together as a family. It has been a privilege to share with you. God bless! Ruth Green (Salvation Army)

THANK YOU

On behalf of all Mobile library users from Romsey and other areas I would like to say a huge thank you to Pauline and all the crew from the bookmobile who have provided such a wonderful service over many years to our community. In the 20 something years that I have lived in Romsey I have been a regular user of this service and I have appreciated the friendly, efficient and courteous manner of all the staff associated with the bookmobile. I have also appreciated the great variety of reading and other materials on offer in such a small space. I will miss you, as I am sure will many other residents in our community. I hope you will continue to provide Ripper Reads for the Romsey Rag—you have certainly broadened my reading tastes through these entertaining and informative reviews.



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EDITION CLOSING DATE FOR COLLABORATING DATE
COPY

December

Friday November 19th

Thursday November 25th

Romsey Community Bank

OUR ROMSEY BANK - HEADING INTO THE FINAL PHASE

The Romsey community is gearing up for the final effort to get the town's own Community Bank across the line and open its doors for business. Romsey Steering Committee chair Maureen Wiltshire said the call would soon be going out to the community to bring in the capital needed to establish and operate the Bank.

"I have had numerous conversations with residents and business owners around Romsey who are quite excited with the news that the Bendigo Bank has given the green light to the final stage of the project, which will enable us to 'bank-proof' our town and ensure that our financial future is in our own hands," Mrs Wiltshire said. "Members of the Steering Committee and Board members of Lancefield & Romsey Community Financial Services Ltd are now working hard towards achieving the final phase, which would enable us to join 136 other communities across Australia - including Lancefield - and open the doors some time in the first half of next year."

During the pledge phase of the project over the past two years, around 300 local residents and businesses made pledges to take up \$425,000 worth of shares.

"The \$425,000 was the minimum capital which we assessed was needed at the time to open the doors," Mrs Wiltshire said. "The independent feasibility study carried out earlier this year identified that Romsey residents also wanted an automatic teller machine incorporated in the Bank.

A detailed business plan now being finalised will determine the amount of shares needed to be sold to provide sufficient capital.

"An ATM and a desire for a larger buffer of working capital means that we will be aiming to raise well over our minimum target. This will ensure that the residents who pledged will be able to purchase extra shares, and that other residents and businesses will also be able to get in and be part of our own Community Bank," Mrs Wiltshire said.

Lancefield & Romsey Community Financial Services chair Russell Patinson said he expected the prospectus - the formal legal document which needed to be drawn up and issued to enable people to buy shares - would be available early next year. "There will then be a strong promotional campaign to ensure all residents are aware of the opportunity to be part of history and own their own Bank," he said. "If Romsey residents and businesses fully subscribe to the value of shares (which will be listed in the prospectus), we WILL be in a position to open our second branch in Romsey.

"Members of the community pledged \$425,000 towards the Bank, and when the prospectus is issued we will be asking those people to forward those cheques to us to buy shares in the company and ensure our vision of a Bank in Romsey becomes a reality. "Converting their 'pledges into shares ensures that the residents of the district truly do become owners of our Community Bank and our future," Mr Patinson said.

Romsey Recreation Centre

Exciting new programs

- Wild Action Animal Show (Sunday Nov 7th)
- Aussie Hoops (Introduces to Basketball)
- Keyboard Lessons
(Carol Giers Plaster/ Music Teacher and Performance coach)
- Strength Training for Mature adults.
(This Program targets adults +50 for strength and healthier living.)

- Mixed Netball (Register your team now!)
- Men's Volleyball (Wednesday nights)

Programs on offer

- Guitar Lessons (Instructor Toby Swidlow)
- Pilates (Instructors Susan Dwyer & Elise Watts)
- Yoga (Instructor Jayne Hope-Williams)
- Jnr Netball
- Senior Netball
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For details contact Nick Kypros
Romsey Recreation Centre
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Aerobics Team National Win

The Romsey Primary School Junior Aerobics team recently earned the honour of competing in the National Schools' Aerobics Competition in Sydney. After coming third in the State championships, the girls practiced hard with their teachers, Leanne Lyons and Karen Baker, along with parent aerobics instructor and motivator Heather Livermore. In the State championships the girls were competing against teams from over 150 schools, this was a

very credible performance considering that this is the first year the school has had an aerobics program.

The school undertook serious fundraising to enable the students to get to the national competitions, but the big day finally came around and our four girls- Amy Baker, Mikala Beeche, Stephanie Kozak and Sabrina Raverty were all very excited and ready for an eventful competition. Clearly the many hours of practice had paid off. The girls performed splendidly and achieved second placing to earn silver medals, finishing .125 of 1 point behind the outright winners. Hopefully this is the start of even bigger and better things to come. Next year the school plans to expand this program to include more competing teams, and will continue to promote the weekly school based aerobics program - building healthy, fit and active students ready to fully participate in the many sport and Physical Education opportunities available to students at the school.



Garden Awards

Recently the school was notified of further recognition in the School Garden Awards- this time with an Achievement Award. The school has been the recipient of an award for each of the past four years. This is a very positive reflection of the hard work put in by parents, teachers and students to provide the very best environment and facilities for our students.

School Camps

Our years 5 & 6 students have just returned from a four day camp at Alpine Ash near Healesville. Students were able to visit the Healesville Sanctuary and have a special lesson from the sanctuary educational staff on the first day of the camp. The remainder of the time was spent at the camp venue with students experiencing a number of adventure and cooperative activities. Highlights were the amazing flying fox and "possum glider." Evening activities included night walks and our very own "Romsey Idol." The year 3 & 4 students' camp to Sovereign Hill will take place later in November.



Bike Education

Our year 4 students have undertaken the "Bike Ed" course on safe bicycle riding over the first weeks of this term. All bikes were checked for readiness and safety prior to the commencement of the course. A strong focus throughout the program is on safe, controlled riding. Road rules and defensively sharing the road with other vehicles is emphasized throughout the series of lessons. The recent donation of two bicycles by the Romsey/Lancefield R.C. Club meant that no student was excluded for the lack of a suitable bicycle.

Chinese Ribbon Dancer

All our students were entertained recently by a "Chinese Ribbon Dancer." This performer combined acrobatic skills with balance, movement and dance. Students and teachers were invited to try out some of the tricks demonstrated with some success and some very entertaining and surprising results. Most of all, we were all entranced by the skill and artistry on display. The school has a strong "Studies of Asia" focus that includes a number of visiting artists throughout the year giving our students a greater understanding and appreciation of a number of the cultures of our near neighbours.



Water Watch

Our senior students have become involved in an ongoing project to monitor the presence of small life forms in Romsey's Five Mile Creek. Recording the occurrence of small life forms, students are able to make scientific judgments on the water quality in the creek. Recording this data will become a long term project with follow up visits planned for the future as a picture of the health of this waterway is built over time.

Barney Healy

COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA INC.

ROMSEY BRANCH

Valerie Marion Spring

It is with great sadness that we advise of the passing of one of our older members, Mrs. Marion Spring. Marion has been a member of the Romsey CWA for over 50 years. She has contributed in many different ways over these years with great dignity and in the gentlest ladylike manner. Marion loved to paint and always had artwork to enter in our handcraft exhibitions and also with the Romsey Art Show.



For many years she was our flower lady; with her lovely garden she always had flowers for new members and member's birthdays.

She will be sadly missed by us all, and we especially know Mrs. Jean Tom – who was her sister-in-law, will miss her most of all.

Our Annual General Meeting is to be held on Thursday 11th November in the Supper Room of the Mechanics Institute, Main Road, Romsey at 1.00pm.

Our General Meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 10.00am in the Supper Room and anyone interested in coming along will be made very welcome. Any enquiries can be made to Elaine Baldwin on 5429 6063.

Our open craft days will continue on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the Mechanics Institute at 10.00am until December and then commence again in February next year. These have been most successful and are open to anyone that wishes to come.

Joan Strawbridge – Secretary.

**ROMSEY UNITING CHURCH
CHILDREN'S ADVENT WORKSHOP 2004**

It is that time of the year and our preparation for the 2004 Advent Workshop is well underway. Our committed organisers have come up with some new and exciting activities which we know the children thoroughly enjoy.

As in the past, this popular workshop is open to all pre-school and primary school children and is a fun program designed to help them discover the true meaning of Christmas. Each session (there are 3 in all) will see the children enjoying Christmas stories, learning some new, and not so new, Christmas songs and taking part in fun filled craft activities. A light afternoon tea is also provided for the participants.

Details of this year's workshop are:

Dates: Friday 19th, 26th November and 3rd December.

Time: 3.45- 5.00pm

Venue: Romsey Uniting Church, Pohlman Street, Romsey
(Opposite rear of Lions Park)

Cost: \$1.00 per child per session

If you would like to know more about the workshop, or if you are interested in registering your child/children, please phone any one of the following contacts: Carol Toy 5429 5160; Heather Turnham 5429 5413; Sharon Williams 5429 6546

Parents are more than welcome to stay with their child/children if they wish.



CONGRATULATIONS TO TERRI GAY

A former pupil of Romsey Primary School and Gisborne Secondary College, Terri Gay has become a member of the Golden Key Honour Society at Ballarat University. She was presented with her award on October 17th. To achieve this award Terri was in the top 15% of her year level. The Golden Key Society is a world-wide organisation. Congratulations Terri!

**The Anglican Parish
of Lancefield and Romsey**

OP SHOP

St. Paul's Church Hall, Romsey.

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Friday 12.30 – 4.30pm

Saturday 10.00am—1.00pm.

Clothes, Linen, Toys,
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We are happy to accept items for the Op Shop but we are unable to accept electrical goods, children's bike helmets and baby car capsules.

Because of storage space we cannot take furniture.

**Special during the month of November:
\$5 bag sale of clothing only
Bag supplied*

Op Shop is closed during December. re-opening in Mid January 2005.

Thank you for all donations received.

National WEED BUSTERS Week - 16th to 24th October

GARDEN ESCAPEES AND THE CONSERVATION CRISIS

By Kerri Mewett

Deep Creek Landcare Group

Garden Escapees are plants which, as described, escape the confines of the garden and invade natural bushland. These plants are technically named ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS. Environmental Weeds pose a huge and tragic threat to our already vulnerable bushland by invasion. These plants take over bush by smothering, such as Ivy, Bridal Creeper and Blue Periwinkle or by out competing for space, such as Cape Broom and English Broom, Holly, Cotoneaster, African Boxthorn, Privet – broad leafed, Cherry Laurel, and Hawthorn

Once an Environmental Weed species becomes established within the bush it quickly competes for resources with bushland plants. Water, nutrients and light and space are stolen by the weed and the native plants die, or become stressed which makes them susceptible to insect attack and drought etc and eventually die out.

The smothering effect which many Environmental weeds produce prevents bushland plants from regenerating new plants and prevents smaller bush plants from being able to grow.

Larger weed species such as trees and shrubs shade out the understorey bush plants and change the natural light conditions, again killing out understorey bush species.

HOW DO ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS SPREAD ?

The answer is humans. People plant these garden escapees within vulnerable landscapes such as the Macedon Ranges and the escape occurs next.

Environmental Weeds are spread by:

Birds Wind

Animals Water

Vehicles / Machinery

Dumping of garden rubbish

Vegetatively, by simply growing over the back fence

You will notice that Environmental Weed plants produce many many seeds. Consider Holly, Capebroom, Hawthorn, Radiata Pine, and Desert Ash. Often the seeds are inside fleshy fruits which are eaten by birds and deposited out the other end at a different location.

WHERE DO ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS COME FROM?

Lets just consider Victoria for a moment. The reference 'Environmental Weed Invasion in Victoria (1992) by Carr, Yugovic and Robinson states that there are

- 534 plant species from overseas
- 28 Australian native plant species from outside Victoria
- 22 Victorian native plant species outside their pre- European distribution

Of course these figures are increasing every year with the introduction and distribution of new plants from overseas. As noted, Environmental Weeds don't necessarily come from overseas, there are some Australian native species which can become weeds when grown outside their natural areas. The Cootamundra Wattle naturally occurs in a small area of New South Wales where it is an important part of the bush landscape, however in Victoria it has turned into a destructive weed taking over sections of bush. A Victorian native plant which is causing huge problems is the Sweet Pittosporum. This tree naturally occurs in East Gippsland but when out of that area turns into a rampant invader

WHAT TO DO - OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

As gardeners and landscape managers we must be responsible for the plants we place within our landscape. We need to be aware of ENVIRONMENTAL WEEDS AND THE DEVASTATING EFFECT THEY ARE HAVING ON OUR BUSHLAND AND CONSEQUENTLY OUR NATIVE ANIMALS

We need to choose safe plants which won't spread. Unfortunately, approximately 43% of Victorian Environmental Weed plants can be purchased commercially, local markets are another source. These plants are readily produced because they grow so easily. The nursery industry has become more aware, however there are still many species such as Cape Broom (*Genista monspessulana*), Privet, *Polygala myrtifolia*, Bluebell Creeper (*Sollya hetrophylla*), Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*), Cherry Laurel (*Prunus lauroserasus*), to name a few which are commonly available.

Whether you live in or out of town within the Macedon Ranges, we must be mindful of our choice of plants.

INDIGENOUS PLANTS TO THE MACEDON RANGES ARE AN OBVIOUS CHOICE. These plants are local to the area and adapted to suit weather conditions and soil types.

CONTROL

If you have known Environmental Weed plants in your garden remove them and dispose of responsibly. At least, you should prevent them from setting seed, eg, cut off *Agapanthus* flower heads before they dry out.

If you see weed species growing in the bush or along roadsides, remove or kill them. If you are not sure you are target-

ing a weed or an indigenous plant, have it properly identified. Control is often a daunting task. Could you form a 'frir 's' group to spread the load.

THE BEST FORM OF CONTROL IS PREVENTION. DO NOT USE WEEDY SPECIES.

There are hundreds of safe plants available. Why not try a different type of plant which could have similar qualities but is not a weedy species.

If you are aware of this environmental problem but your friends and family are not, educate them of this issue and they can then spread the message to their friends.

Scientists in the field of Environmental Weeds consider these plants "**The Greatest Global Environmental Conservation Crisis we face**".

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council has published a small handbook on weed of Central Victoria which describes some Environmental Weeds.

However, due to the sensitive natural environment of the Macedon Ranges there needs to be more resources committed to educating and advising residents and plant growers and retailers about this important conservation issue. Alternative plant choice advice and weed control support should be available. Council land must also be cleaned up to prevent further spread of weed species into bushland and privately owned land and to set a responsible example of Environmental Weed Control and awareness.

HELP !!!

Feel you need help?

Contact:

- your local Landcare group / Coordinator
- your local Environmental Office
- the Dept. of Sustainability and Environment (have they changed names recently?)
- CRC Weed Management Systems
- Dept. of Natural Resources
- Victorian Dept. of Primary Industries
- your local indigenous nursery

REFERENCES

Environmental Weed Invasion in Victoria (1992)G.W.Carr, J.V. Yugovic &K.E. Robinson. Dept. of Conservation and Environment.

Environmental Weeds a Field Guide for SE Australia (2001) Kate Blood, CRC Weed Management Systems.

Bush Invaders of South-Eastern Australia (2001) Muyt, A.



The Anglican Parish
of
Lancefield
and
Romsey



Jesus on riches.

Jesus was talking to a crowd of people one day. A questioner asked for Jesus' help to settle an argument with his brother about his inheritance. Jesus refused to be drawn into that discussion ...but he went on to tell one of his famous parables...an "earthly story with a heavenly meaning." (St Luke's Gospel, Chapter 12, verses 13 - 31)

The parable was about a rich man who didn't have enough storage for all the produce from his crops. His solution? Pull down his barns and build bigger ones! Then, he thought, I will be able to retire, relax and settle down. Jesus' story related that during the night his life would come to an end...and; "Then," asked Jesus, "Who would get the benefit of all his labour?" You cannot take it with you was the clear message.

This reminds me of a saying on one of my desk calendars. "What makes God laugh?" Answer? "Tell him your plans for tomorrow!"

This sounds a bit smart and cynical, but from my experience, there have been many occasions when people have been deeply involved in planning their futures without even a thought of the possibility of not seeing their plans fulfilled, and those who are left behind wonder what to do. They may profit but they may also inherit great problems! Often the least likely person benefits from those unfulfilled plans.

Now I am sure the point being made by Jesus was not that we should not bother about tomorrow's responsibilities, like house insurance or children's well-being and education and so on, or that we should not make proper plans for retirement. Of course we need to be responsible.

The point of Jesus' story is for those who think of nothing else than accumulating wealth, and believing that wealth itself will bring security. Too many of us live as though we believe we will be here forever, and we make no provision for our spiritual well-being. It has often been said to me that there is no guarantee about "eternal" life, or God's Kingdom, or heaven or whatever you like to call it, but when the "crunch" comes it is often a different story.

An atheist once said to me, "So what happens if, when you die, all the stuff you have preached about is not true? What will happen to you then?" I said in reply, "If it is not true, I have lost nothing, but I have had a great deal of help and encouragement and fellowship on my life's journey. The other side of that question," I said, "is what happens if when you die, what I have believed is true, you will have missed out on both accounts!"

So I suppose, what comes from Jesus' story is a challenge for us all to take stock of the "wealth" of our beliefs, and the benefits from them, as well as the benefits from our other wealth in the bank balance.

Laurie McIntyre, Vicar, Anglican parish of Lancefield/Romsey.

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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 - 7.30pm, meeting from 7.30pm.

For more details contact:
Belinda Mitchell 5429 6740
Judy Van Den Heuvel 5429 8882

Romsey Lancefield Guides

Are you 5 or 6 years old?

The Bilby Guides have planned a craft night next Monday, (1st November is a holiday for Guides,) then they are having a combined Camp Fire night with the Platypus Guides. Later in the month there will be a night to finish various projects, followed by a "Girls Night". At the start of December we have planned a Mud and Water night! (Let's hope for some warm weather!) So there are lots of fun activities for the girls to have a go at and make new friends as well.

The Bilby Guides need some new members. You don't have to be at school to go to Guides. You might still be at kinder, but you would be welcome to come along to Guides on a Monday night to see what we do. Several of our Bilby girls have turned 7 and are going up to Platypus Guides at the end of this year, so we are keen to increase our numbers before the end of the year. If you have any questions ring Joey (Lisa Gentry) on 5429 6637 for more detailed information.

In both November and December we are going to attend activities organized for the Black Forest Region. It is always great fun getting together as a Region to share an activity on a grand scale. Later this month there will be a BIG campfire sing-a-long night in Sunbury. This provides a chance to sing traditional and International Guide songs, and lots of action songs and silly songs too.

Early in December we have a Region "Mystery" trip to Melbourne organized. We will all meet at Sunbury railway station to catch a train to Melbourne and find our way to a Mystery destination! Who knows where we will end up.

The Platypus Guides have a cooking night coming up. They are going to cook their own dinner for the evening on open fires, and hopefully for the leaders too. Then they have planned a night to make Christmas cards which will be given later on to the residence of Karinya in Lancefield. This is part of their Service work in the Community.

The Wombat Guides have planned a visit to the Lancefield C.F.A. to learn about how the station operates and the importance of this emergency service in the community. They have also planned a Where is Wally walk around Romsey one evening. This helps the girls to get to know their town and tests their observation skills.

Guiding provides all manner of activities with opportunities for the girls to develop leadership and citizenship skills whilst having loads of fun.

For any information about Guides and Guiding you can see us on Lancefield online - www.lancefield.org.au - Or ring any of the leaders.

Bilby Guides (5-7 year olds) meet at 4.15 - 5.15pm

Platypus Guides (7-11 year olds) meet 5.15 - 6.45pm

Wombat Guides (10-18 year olds) meet 7.00 - 8.45pm

Lisa Gentry 5429 6637; Rita Vandervalk 5429 1996; Carolyn Adkinson 5781 0728.



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"THINK About It - TALK
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Romsey United Church

25 Puhlman Street
Minister: Rev Alan Williams
25 William Street
Romsey J434

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What's News

One of my favourite films is 'The Princess Bride.' At one point in the film, one of the characters declares, 'Life is pain, Princess. Anyone who tells you otherwise is selling something.'

The pain of life can take many forms. The pain of disappointment is, perhaps, one of the more universal forms. We all have disappointments in our lives. On Melbourne Cup day, there will be many disappointed jockeys, trainers, owners and punters. Not everyone can win, so someone, or several someones, needs to miss out.

That may seem to be a trivial example, although it may not be for those involved. Another example is the disappointment of being turned down for a job. Or for the fiftieth job. And there are countless other situations that are real and everyday.

So, disappointment is a daily reality in the world today. We may not face it personally each day, but we are bound to come into contact with others who are confronting the pain it causes. At least, I am in my job!

What do you say to someone when they have had their hopes and dreams dashed, at least in their own eyes?

Even if it is a temporary setback, or yet another setback, the person involved is likely to be in pain.

Quite simply, there is no magic formula of the right words to say to make everything better, no matter how much we might wish it were otherwise. Words of consolation can even add to the pain.

Everyone is different and every experience is unique. No matter how much we might try to empathise, we can never truly understand what someone else is feeling.

In times like these, I try to find a way forward. Rather than striving, often in vain, to find a positive in the present, we can cling to hope in the future. Of course, that requires a belief that there is a better future. And that, I believe is what life is about.

The world is a scary place. Since September 11, 2001, the threat of terrorism has become more real for many people.

Growing up, I remember the tension of the Cold War, the every present worry of a nuclear holocaust. Yet life goes on. Billions of people face up to each new day in the belief that it won't be their last. That gives them some sort of hope and, hopefully, some sort of purpose. The cycle of day and night, the turning of the seasons, the rain and the sun – for me, these are all signs of order and planning. No matter what the source, they give me hope that it is not all in vain. Sure, there are disappointments along the way, but they are not the final word.

Rev Alan Williams

What's On

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 7 Nov | 9:00am worship and Sunday School, including Holy Communion. |
| 10 Nov | 1:30pm UCAF meets in the church hall for their AGM. All welcome. |
| 14 Nov | 9:00am worship and Sunday School. |
| 19 Nov | 3:45-5:00pm Advent Workshop for primary school children (with activities for their younger brothers and sisters). The time begins with a drink and snack, and finishes with a craft activity. Cost is \$1 per child per week. If you've never been before, come along and find out what it's all about! (Hint: it's something to do with getting ready for Christmas). |
| 21 Nov | 9:00am worship and Sunday School. |
| 26 Nov | 3:45-5:00pm Second Advent Workshop |
| 28 Nov | 9:00am worship and Sunday School. |
| 3 Dec | 3:45-5:00pm Third and Final Advent Workshop. |
| 5 Dec | 9:00am worship and Sunday School, including Holy Communion. |

Advance Notice

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 12 Dec | 7:00pm Combined Churches Christmas Carols in the Romsey Mechanics' Hall. |
|--------|--|

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.

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welcome

Romsey Forum

Romsey has many active community groups, but also many new residents who do not always know where or how to make contact, or what groups may be of interest to them. A one-off forum has been organised for Monday November 29th to bring all relevant community groups together to:

- Share information and bring together ideas
- Enable a local directory of community groups ... be put together for residents
- Share ideas of successes, difficulties and problems.

This meeting was suggested by Sue Kirgard, and will be jointly hosted by the Romsey Lancefield Rotary Club and the Lions Club of Lancefield-Romsey. At this stage it is intended to be a once-only meeting, but if it was felt to be useful it may be held on annual basis. Councillors Heather Gee and Henry Bleeck and a representative from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council Community Services Department have been invited to attend. Invitations have also been sent out to many local groups and organisations.

Date: Monday November 29th 2004

Time: 7.30 pm

Venue: Mechanics Institute Hall
Main Street
Romsey

Buttlejork Artists Exhibition

"Dromkeen" 1012 Kilmore Road, Riddells Creek
November 26th, 27th, 28th, 2004

An opportunity to experience the world of artists in a unique setting

Held over the weekend of the 26th, 27th, 28th November in the beautiful home and gardens of Dromkeen. Historic home of art and literature set amongst magnificent pines and peacocks.

The exhibition will feature current works from artists of the Buttlejork group. The works will include both traditional and contemporary pieces in painting, ceramics, sculpture, textiles, wood and more.

Buttlejork is a group of artists working within the Macedon Ranges and was formed in 1976. Each of the 20 members has highly individual styles and work in a variety of medium, which contributes to a wonderfully unique and diverse annual exhibition. Visitors attending this year's exhibition can view this exciting and vibrant display of unique artwork, and perhaps purchase something special. Visitors will also have the opportunity to meander through the beautiful gardens. Refreshments will be available throughout the weekend.

The exhibition will be officially opened on Friday 26th November at 7.30pm by Karen Martin —

Cultural Services Team Leader, Macedon Ranges.

The public is welcome to attend. Entrance is free and refreshments will be provided.

Throughout the remainder of the weekend — Admission \$2.00 (children free) — Open Saturday & Sunday 10am-4pm.

For further information please contact Dave Maxwell or John Beasley (Bus. 9218 3330)



**BUTLEJORK ARTISTS
AT
DROMKEEN**

EXHIBITION & SALE

**SCULPTURE
CERAMICS
PAINTING
TEXTILES
WOOD**

(Opening by Karen Martin OSMC)
Friday 26 November 2004
7.30pm - 9.30pm

Dromkeen Collection Art Gallery
1012 Kilmore Road, Riddells Creek
27 - 28 November
10am - 4pm
Dromkeen Site

Romsey Lancefield Senior Citizens Club

Inc. A005642P

If you are 55 years of age or over (male or female) and would like to join a happy and friendly group of people—look no further than the seniors rooms situated at the rear of the Mechanics Hall in Main Street, Romsey.

For a yearly joining fee of \$2 you can play carpet bowls, cards or just chat. We are there every Monday from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm. There is also a coach trip organised on the first Wednesday of each month. Transport can be provided and you will be made most welcome.

Ring Rae Hooke (Sec)
on 5429 1602.

Yale: Grace Rackham (Horsburgh)

died Kymeton Hospital 30th September, 2004.

In accordance with Grace's wishes, there was a private cremation.

Grace was a very gracious lady, beautifully dressed, but always a very private person.

Grace has lived in Romsey for approximately 20 years. Grace and her husband Ray bought their home in Romsey, but unfortunately Ray died before they moved here.

Grace was very much involved with the Anglican parish of Romsey/Lancefield through her work with the guilds, church cleaning and flowers, fund raising for the parish and the wider Anglican Church, also her love and care for her friends. She was a member of the Romsey/Lancefield Historical Society.

Grace was a great traveller. A few trips to England to visit her friends there and many thousands of miles around Australia, again visiting her friends.

Some from when she was nursing. Last year she actually took a bus tour to the north of Australia. Grace enjoyed driving.

When her only child, Susanne, died at a young age, 13 years ago, she drove her grandson Andrew and granddaughter Miffy to various places each week until they were able to drive themselves.

Although Rev. Laurie only got to know Grace in the last month or two, she appreciated his weekly visits to her. The last being Thursday morning, (30th September).

We will miss Grace very much in our own special friendship we each had with her.

God bless Grace.

Condolences to Grace's son in law Robert, and Grandchildren Andrew and Mylanwy.

Ragamuffins

Trapped at the Horror School 2

The Return of Mrs Snowdoodle Part 2

Flashback, written by Patricia JJ

It had been a year since you defeated your teacher. Now somewhere, somehow she was still alive. The principal announced that tomorrow Mrs Snowdoodle will be coming back. You're in the gym. Ding, ding the bell goes. Everyone gets up to leave but the door is locked...



Kids start to wail, "I wanna go home!" "I'm missing forty training." "I have a date." You look around. "Where's Mrs Snowdoodle?" you questioned the person next to you. "I don't know. She left us, deserted us, she chickened away," assumed Colonel Swift, your best mate.

Unexpectedly Mrs Snowdoodle appeared before your eyes. She was a monster again. People began to scream louder. "It's the killer of Notre Dame," Hal Redwood said (He's the class clown).

Mrs Snowdoodle runt outside. You just realized that she could walk through walls. "Well now I'm convinced," you say to yourself. "Everyone be quiet." A hush came over the class as Mrs Snowdoodle screams. Everyone says, "who are you?"

"I'm ya teacher. Now listen. Everyone can go home alive if the one who tried to kill me last year comes forward."

Will you come forward? Will you live to see tomorrow?
Find out in the next issue of Ragamuffins

**Send your ideas, jokes, stories etc to
Muff, c/- Ramsey Primary School.**

Jokes Unlimited

●●●●●●●●●●

Q Why isn't your nose twelve inches long?
A Because then it would be a foot.

Q When are your eyes not eyes?
A When the wind makes them water.

Q What looks empty when full?
A A balloon.

Q What gets wetter the more it dries?
A A towel

Q What has teeth but no mouth?
A A comb

Q What sort of meat do Karate experts prefer?
A Chops

Q What did the dentist say when his wife baked a cake?
A "Can I do the filling?"

Q How much do used batteries cost?
A Nothing, they're free of charge

Q What do you get if you feed chillies to a poodle?
A A hot dog

Pop Quiz

1. Who sings "Let's Get it Started"?
2. Who sings "Learn to Fly"?
3. Complete the title of this song "When the War _____"
4. What song made famous in the movie Top Gun, has been released by Jessica Simpson?
5. Who sings "My Happy Ending"?
6. How many song titles are in the following sentence and name the artists who sing them. *Everytime that girl and I learn to fly we feel sick and tired.*
7. Who sings "Heartbreaker"?

Answers will be in the December issue of Ragamuffins

Grandpa is Lost at the Zoo

By Chris & Bryon, grade 6

Chapter 1

"Hey, hey kids," yelled Krusty. "We are about to announce the winner. eh, I mean winner. The winner is Scumbag. Oops, I mean Spongebob Squarepants! You've won a day at the Condo Zoo Hitchhiker Ville."

"Hooray!" cried Spongebob. "I'm going to take my grandpa."

Chapter 2

"ZZZZzzzz, what the..." screamed Grandpa. "Oh, it's you."

"Get up Grandpa. We're going to the zoo," exclaimed Spongebob.

"Why?" asked Grandpa.

"I won a competition," said Spongebob.

Chapter 3

"Come on Grandpa," cried Spongebob. "I want to see the monkeys."

"I'm a going to see the it," exclaimed Grandpa.

"Fine, then be like that," yelled Spongebob.

Chapter 4

"Grandpa, where are you?" cried Spongebob.

"What," shouted Grandpa in the distance.

"Say Fujilly," cried crazy elephant Max.

"Ow, that hurt. Where am I?"

"Dude, you're at the Condo Zoo in Hitchhiker Ville," exclaimed Krusty.

"Where is Spongebob?" cried Grandpa.

"Spongebob is here?"

"Yes he is at the monkeys."

"Oh, get the news group over here. How do I look?"

Krusty.

"Fine," replied Grandpa.

Chapter 5

"Here goes nothing," cried Krusty.

"Hey! What's the news reporters doing here?" cried Grandpa.

"RUM!" screamed Krusty. "They're after you I think."

"Dum bu te do bong fa," cried Spongebob. "Excuse me for singing."

"It's ok," explained a loud crazy elephant called Max. "BOOF"

"AHH!" cried Grandpa.

"I am Bob Wire. Who are you?"

"I'm Grandpa. I am trying to find my grandson Spongebob."

"Grandpa?"

"Spongebob? I missed you. Where have you been?" cried Grandpa.

"At the monkeys."

"Why?" cried Spongebob.

"I was just wondering what a day I had. Next time I'm not coming."

"Okay."

The End

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For advertising information please ring Jeni Clapp on 5429 5099 (B4)

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Kinder Korner

ews from the Romsey Kindergarten Inc.

Hi there and welcome to Kinder Korner!

Come for a cuppa

Everyone in the community is welcome to visit the kinder on Friday, November 12, at 3.30pm, to have a cuppa with our former teacher Anne Bellchambers, who recently left the kinder after 13 years' service. Many children whom Anne has taught over the years, many now in their final years of high school, might likee to attend this event due to the special after-school time. Come along and have a chat with Anne and wish her well in her future endeavours, running her family's winery in Malmsbury and deli in Kyneton. So come along and have afternoon tea with us and a chat with Anne: everyone is welcome.

A sizzling success

On polling day, October 9, the kinder took advantage of all the people convening in the one place to vote to hold a fund-raising sausage sizzle.

Within just a few hours the committee raised \$300, which is a great effort. Thanks to all those who helped in setting up, cooking, selling and packing up - it was a great effort all around.

Special thanks to Romsey Primary School principal Barney Healy for allowing the kinder to run its sausage sizzle on the school grounds, and for the generous local businesses who provided us with the means - thanks to Peter at the Romsey butcher's, Macedon Ranges Meat Specialist, for the sausages; Romsey IGA for the onions and drinks and Romsey Supermarket for the bread and sauce.

Boo! It's the Trivia Night

At the time of going to press, the committee was making final arrangements for the kinder's annual Trivia Night, held on Friday, October 22.

The Hallowe'en themed trivia night was expected to raise at least \$1000 to help the committee improve the kinder's playground equipment.

A big thanks to all the businesses which helped the kinder with donations of vouchers and items to use in raffles on the night and as prizes. The businesses include Romsey Beauty Spot, Glen Erin Vineyard Retreat, The Bay Tree coffee shop in Romsey, Romsey Bargains, Australia Post in Romsey, Betta Electrical in Kilmore, Cleveland Winery in Lancefield, KFC Sunbury, Safeway Sunbury, ABS Australia, Bunnings in Taylors Lakes, Puffing Billy in Emerald and Enjo Australia (Romsey representative, Karen Skehan).

Get a family photo for just \$12

The kinder is offering framed 10"x13" (25cmx33cm) colour family or child portraits for just \$12 in its next fundraiser (normal price: \$85). You do not have to be a kinder parent to book a portrait; this fundraiser is open to all in the community. The portraits will be taken at the kinder on Saturday, November 13, by a professional photographer from Choice Photographics. To book a sitting time, phone Loretta on 5429

416. Character portraits for children and adults can also be taken, so bring along your musical instruments, sporting gear etc if you wish. Portraits are a great gift for Christmas, so

get yours taken and help the kinder at the same time - the whole \$12 cost for the family portrait goes to the kinder.

Enrolments

Enrolments for both 3YO and 4YO groups for 2005 closed on September 30. All four-year-old groups are full but limited places are still available in the 3YO program. Phone our enrolment officer, Karen Skehan, on 5429 6243, if you are interested in a place for 2005.

We are now organising groups for next year and parents will be notified by mail of the details. Orientation Day this year will be on Thursday, November 25. There will be no normal kinder that day for current students.

We are now taking enrolments for the 2006 school year. Forms are available at the kindergarten. A \$5 booking fee and proof of your child's age will be required.

Please note both of these requirements must be met before the enrolment is officially recorded.

While you can enrol your child for 2006 any time up until September 30 next year, it is advisable to register your interest as early as possible to avoid a possible waiting list.

Three-year-olds at Romsey Kindergarten undertake two sessions a week of two hours each and four-year-olds come to the kinder for four sessions a week, each of three hours' duration.

If you have a question about enrolments, contact the kinder on 5429 5294, our enrolment officer, Karen Skehan, on 5429 6243, or the assistant enrolment officer, Melissa Sharp, on 5429 5061.

School visits

The four year old children are continuing their special series of school visits to Romsey Primary School.

These familiarisation visits began in August and carry on into fourth term and allow the children to meet with a Prep grade and do an hour of special activities.

Whether the children are going to Romsey Primary School or elsewhere, these visits familiarise them with a school environment and can make the transition to school just that little bit easier.

Any questions?

Anyone who has any questions about the kinder or our activities is welcome to contact me on 5429 6583. The Romsey kinder is a non-profit organisation run by a volunteer committee. We keep the kinder operating and manage to pay all of our staff and running costs out of kinder fees, which is always a challenge!

Until next time,

LEANNE MANTON

President

Romsey Kindergarten Committee 2004.

3 year Old Kinder 2005

Limited places are available at Romsey Kindergarten in the three-year-old program for the 2005 school year. Enquiries to Enrolment Officer Karen Skehan on 5429 6243.

Romsey & Lancefield Districts Historical Society Inc.


 P.O. Box 11
 Romsey, Vic.
Romsey Lancefield Districts
Historical Society Inc.

Farewell. Dr. Lindsay & Mrs. Josie Francis – the whole district salutes two wonderful members as they leave Romsey after more than fifty years of service to the community. They will be much missed, but we wish them good health and happiness at Phillip Island. "Well done, thou good and faithful servants."

A Big Thankyou to our tireless Archivist, Mrs. Robyn Miller who puts in many hours each week, working on our Archives and on family history enquiries. The Museum and Archives are open to the public on the 1st Sunday each month, or by appointment. Telephone: 5429 5652.

A.G.M. – Tuesday 23rd November, 7.30pm.

If you are interested in local history, why not come along to historic Seymour Cottage, Palmer Street, Romsey, for our A.G.M., or on fourth Tuesday of each month next year at the same venue. Visitors are most welcome.

Christmas Party

Usually held first Sunday in December, but if the long-awaited Romsey History Book Launch, is on this date at the Romsey Mechanics Institute, our break-up may be altered. Happy Christmas anyway!
Enquiries to Secretary, 5429 6522.

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Jim Stynes



Is coming to
Kyneton to speak on
Men's Health Issues

Cobaw Community Health Service and
Macedon Ranges Shire Council Present
A FREE

MEN ONLY health evening

Guest speakers

Jim Stynes and Dr. Ken Baddeley

Monday 8th Nov

6.15 pm registration

Kyneton Town Hall

Light Supper Provided

This evening has been proudly sponsored by

Kyneton Bowling Club
Kyneton M.U.

Macedon Ranges
Shire Council

Cobaw
Community
Health
Service



Ripper Reads from the Mitchell Library & Information Service.

Mitchell Mobile Library...one more time!

Don't forget that at the end of October the Mobile Library will be 'retiring' from active service and that a new branch library will be opening at Vislan shortly afterwards (for Shine of Mitchell residents) and that the Shine of Macedon Ranges has plans underway for provision of a library service in Romsey. On behalf of the Mobile drivers and crew over the years I would just like to say thank you to all the borrowers who have made use of this wonderful service and made our days and evenings by coming to visit, borrow books and have a chat. We will miss the camaraderie, but not the rainy nights, and look forward to saying farewell to as many of you as possible before the end of October. Drop in and say bye! In the meantime enjoy the latest offering of Ripper Reads.

Ciao for now - Pauline Roberts

Alibey Dip - Carl Hiaasen

Hiaasen's latest novel once again deals with the wanton destruction of his beloved Florida Everglades. This time though the initial murder doesn't quite achieve the desired result and the murderer becomes the target of revenge and retribution by his 'murdered' wife, nothing too serious just enough to make him fairly uncomfortable and start to doubt his sanity. His 'boss' a ruthless agribusiness tycoon decides that Chaz Perrone has become a liability and also takes steps to deal with him which include saddling him with a bodyguard come babysitter who has a bullet up his bum, a predilection for morphine patches and resembles a gorilla with all his body hair. Typical Hiaasen - fast moving with a bit of romance, humour and some environmental education thrown in.

The Middle-aged Mountaineer - Jim Curran

Jim Curran has been climbing all his life and making films about other people's climbing exploits for most of his professional career. However in the British summer of 2000...a decided to try something different - cycling from the

extreme north of the country, Muckle Flugga in the Shetlands all the way down to Land's End in Cornwall. He also managed to tackle a few new climbs and some old favourites on the way. However this is more than a travel book of a middle-aged, overweight, post mid-life crisis male, it is also a reflection on the friends, famous people and sometimes both, that he has climbed with, filmed and shared his life with over the years. At times the narrative can be navel-gazing, but at others it gives the reader an insight into why these crazy, climbing people want to hang by their fingertips, cling on with their toenails and thoroughly enjoy the experience.

The Artemis Fowl Files - Eoin Colfer

Eoin Colfer is the author of the highly popular anti-hero Artemis Fowl. So far there have been three books about his villainous exploits - *Artemis Fowl*, *Artemis Fowl - the Arco Incident*, *Artemis Fowl - the Eternity Code* - and all have been great, fast-paced reads. This latest title is an interesting amalgam of puzzles, games and a couple of short stories that fill in a few gaps about the main characters, such as how Capt. Holly Short was accepted as the first female elf into Recon. If you have enjoyed reading the series so far then this book will add to your reading pleasure.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting for the presentation and acceptance of the Constitution of the proposed Romsey Neighbourhood House will be held

on

Tuesday November 30th
at Romsey Primary School
Commencing at 7.00 pm.

All members of the community
are invited to attend.

Romsey Lancefield RSL Sub Branch Remembrance Day Thursday November 11th, 2004

The Sub Branch is planning a service at the Romsey cenotaph on Thursday November 11th at 10.45am to commemorate Remembrance Day. We also plan to dedicate 2 new plaques on the cenotaph which recognize Australian involvement in World War 2 and in all subsequent conflicts. These plaques will also be an addition to the cenotaph in Lancefield which will be dedicated at a later date. The Department of Veterans Affairs has entirely funded the addition of these new plaques. This service will also be an opportunity to dedicate the 3 new rose garden plantations and seating in the vicinity of the Romsey cenotaph.

The rose gardens have been established in a joint venture between Macedon Ranges Shire Council and a group of local supporters led by RSL member Mike Garnett.

Our Sub Branch is once again conducting essay competitions at the 3 primary schools in Lancefield and Romsey to coincide with Remembrance Day, the essay topic to be "What Remembrance Day means to me." Prizes for the competition winners will be book gift vouchers provided by Aescopa Atic book shop in Kyneton and we are grateful for their involvement once again.

The annual Poppy Appeal will be conducted in the week leading up to Remembrance Day. Our volunteers will be selling in both Romsey and Lancefield and we look to the continued support of this Appeal by the local communities.

John Haslett (President)

St. Mary's fete



B.Q. WHEN: Sunday 14th November, 2004

Hot Potatoes

Game Station

B.Q. TIME: 11.00 am - 3.00 pm

RIDES: Wristbands can be purchased for \$20.00 this includes free entry into the Reptile Zoo.

Pre-Paid wristbands can be purchased until 3.00pm on Wednesday the 10th November 2004. On the day of the Fete wristbands will be \$25.00. All rides will cost \$5.00 if you don't have a wrist band.

Wild Action
Reptile Zoo

GOES TO

YOU

Don't miss the Wild Action Zoo, Featuring Crocodiles, Pythons, Lizards etc.

Entry is included in the price of the wrist band. If you do not have a wrist band entry will be \$5.00 for anyone over the age of 2. Adults accompanying children will have free entry. You will have the opportunity to have your photo taken with your favourite reptile for only \$5.00. So don't miss out.



Should you wish to purchase wristbands please forward payment and slip below into office by Wednesday 10th November, 2004.

SURNAME:..... **PHONE:**.....

CHILD 1:..... **CHILD 2:**.....

CHILD 3:..... **CHILD 4:**.....

Please note pre-paid wristbands will be handed out to the children on Friday the 12th November between 2.00pm to 3.00pm **AT YOUR OWN RISK**. Parents are most welcome to collect.



Wild Action
Reptile Zoo

Wild Action
Reptile Zoo

Wild Action
Reptile Zoo

ENERGY'S COMING – AND IT'S A GAS!

The announcement that Romsey and Lancefield's households will be connected to the natural gas grid is wonderful news for our towns and residents. One of the issues I campaigned on leading up to the August by-election was the gas connection, and I'm pleased that we got a result so quickly. There was a quiet confidence in the area that Romsey would be connected as part of the State Government's wider commitment to bringing natural gas to country towns, but I thought we might have had a fight on our hands before achieving our vision for Lancefield.

As soon as I was elected I liaised with Council officers on the gas issue to ensure that we had been given the best possible chance to get the nod of approval from the State Government. I was satisfied that the Council officers had been thorough and diligent, and Romsey and Lancefield were winners when the announcement was made. Both towns will benefit from the provision of this clean, relatively cheap, environmentally-friendly source of energy.

The timetable indicates that it will be three to four years before the Macedon Ranges Shire towns are connected. There will be two "gates" off the high pressure pipelines – one of them in the east of the Shire, and Romsey and

Cr Henry Bleack – Mt William Ward

Lancefield will have enough pressure to meet all foreseeable future needs.

Planning and environmental works will get under way shortly, and I will work to ensure that this work is expedited through the Council. Plumbers will be busy in the towns, as we expect that the household connections and pipelines will need to be installed and ready before the mains come through to minimise the backlog of work.

Residents will need to have their appliances converted for the changeover from bottled gas to natural gas. Many people with older ovens, hot water systems and other appliances will take the opportunity to buy new ones. I urge them to look at the energy rating when choosing their new model and purchase the most environmentally-friendly ones.

Gas is a clean and environmentally friendly energy source. Many local households – mine included – enjoy the warmth and cosiness of an open fire or wood heater. We can all continue to enjoy the benefits of our renewable energy source firewood, but can also further help the environment by connecting to the gas.

**WILD ACTION
IS COMING!**

*Pat a possum, talk to a parrot,
touch lizards, turtles and frogs.
smuggle up to a python snake or
cuddle a baby salt-water crocodile!*

ROMBEY REC. CENTRE
Sunday 7th November 2004

9.30 - 10.30 am
10.45 - 11.45 am
12 noon - 1 pm

For info & bookings: **54295637**
0407305232

Cost: \$ **10**

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Five Mile Creek Association - Romsey

Recently two members of the Five Mile Creek Association went to a training day in Gisborne, arranged by Melbourne Waterwatch, to learn how to do water quality monitoring. People from other groups around the Shire also attended the training. A water quality testing kit has been made available for these groups to use.

A few weeks later, the trainer from Melbourne Water, Leigh Mitchell, came to Romsey to help us establish testing sites and do the first testing. While doing an initial survey of the creek a significant 'pollution event' was found. This was initially thought to be paint but was later established to be a large quantity brick dust from brick cutting operations on a building site. The Shire and the EPA were involved in the cleanup and investigation. The report back from the EPA was that the contractor concerned was to be charged.

This event highlights the responsibility of all of us not to let contaminants from our properties into the creek. Water from storm water drains feed directly into the creek. So please:

Find out where your gully trap leads into. It may lead into the storm water drain, and not into the sewer line

Think about where the paint from your paint brushes goes as you are washing them and what about the weed killer as you rinse your sprayer. Please don't tip it into the gutter or down the gully trap, unless you know definitely that it is connected to the sewer.

Jay Brooks -

Committee member Five Mile Creek Association - Romsey

The Anglican Parish of Lancefield & Romsey

Acting Vicar: Rev. Laurie McIntyre

Phone: Terntam 5424 1648;

Lancefield 5429 1380; Mobile 0418 571 011

The Vicar is in the Parish on Wednesday and Thursday at the Church Hall Office—Christ Church Lancefield.

YOUTH EVENTS BEING PLANNED.
SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING TERM TIME.

Church Services: Every Sunday 9am, St. Pauls, Romsey; 10.30am, Christ Church Lancefield.

Ladies Guilds: Romsey 2nd Thursday each month. Next meeting Church Hall Romsey, 1.30pm. Contact Do-reen 5429 6060

Lancefield 2nd Wednesday each month after 10am church service at Christ Church
Contact Hilda 5429 1424

Men's Club

The Anglican Men's Society meets 2nd Thursday each month, 8pm at 5 Jinker Way, Romsey.
Contact John Whiteman 5429 6900

November 21st, Patronal Festival Christ Church Lancefield, 3pm. Service celebrating 140 years of Anglican Ministry in this area. Former Vicars and Locums have been invited. Everyone is most welcome to come along.

Annual General Meeting on Sunday 28th November at St. Paul's Romsey following a Church Service at 10am.

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St. Mary's Parish - Lancefield & Romsey

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

Parish Priest:	Fr. George O'Connor	Presbytery:	5429 2130
Pastoral Associate:	Sr. Frances Guinane	Convent:	5429 1562
School Principal:	Sr. Patricia Stone	School:	5429 1309

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 7.00 p.m. Lancefield

1st & 3rd Sunday of the month:

8.00 a.m. Lancefield and 10.00 a.m. Romsey

2nd, 4th & 6th Sunday of the month:

8.00 a.m. Romsey and 10.00 a.m. Lancefield

Reconciliation:

After weekday Mass or by arrangement.

Baptisms:

February, April, June, August, October, December.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults):

Anyone wishing to know about the Catholic faith is invited to contact Sr. Frances on 5429 1562 or 5429 2130.

Men's Breakfast:

Once a term, Saturday morning Mass in Lancefield followed by a hearty breakfast.

Tel: 5429 2130 for more information.

REGULAR EVENTS

Christian Meditation Group:

Monday, 8.00 p.m., St. Mary's Church, Romsey. Tel: 5429 5907 for more information.

SVOP Drop-in:

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

Songs of Worship & Praise:

Third Sunday of each month, 9.30 a.m. (½ an hour before 10.00 a.m. Mass), St. Mary's Church, Romsey.

Spiritual Guidance:

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

SPECIAL EVENTS : November

St. Mary's School Fete

Sunday, 14th November 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.

Macedon Ranges Spirituality in The Pub

"Spirituality and religion - where do they meet? Who needs them?"

When: Tuesday, 16th November

Where: Leadlight Room, Holgate's Brewhouse (Keatings Hotel), 79 High Street, Woodend.

Speakers: Marion De Sousa (Lectures in Youth Spirituality, ACU Ballarat) and RoseMarie Prosser (Yorta Theological Union, Melbourne)

Times:

6.30 p.m. onwards: meal (this is optional, however bookings are essential - 5427 2510).

8.00 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.: each speaker presents a brief point of view.

8.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.: opportunity for conversation and to ask questions of the speakers.

Entry: No door charge but a collection will be taken up to cover expenses.

For more information on S.I.P., please contact Margaret Holgate on 5429 5907.

Bus Shopping Tour

Our last major fundraiser for the year.

Saturday, 20th November. Visiting 13 outlets.

Only \$28.00 per person (includes a two course meal).

Leaving Lancefield 7.00 a.m., Romsey 7.10 a.m. and Manegetta 7.15 a.m. For bookings and enquiries please contact Sandra on 5429 6157 or Genny on 5428 5475.

Casino Trip

The next Casino trip will be on **Saturday, 27th November.** \$10.00 per person (includes buffet meal). For bookings and enquiries please contact Rose on 5429 5270.

Lancefield Golf Club Inc

34 Huddle Road, Lancefield Vic 3435

Correspondence to: PO Box 89 Lancefield Vic 3435

Clubhouse Phone: 5429 1922

Secretary Phone: 5429 2079

Email: info@lancefieldgolfclub.com.au

Website: www.lancefieldgolfclub.com.au

Saturday and Sunday Mixed Competition Results

18 September	B. Lockers (6) 67; L. Hunter (21) 70
19 September	P. Gornie (14) 42; K. Lambert (7) 41
25 September	G. Duddendge (8) 37; P. Gornie (13) 37
26 September	P. Howden (29) 74; G. Hecker (8) 74
2 October	T. Allen (14) 68; G. Haynes (12) 70
3 October	P. Gornie (13) 41; G. McGormen (13) 38
9 October	C. Lingard (10) 68; P. Giles (0) 68
10 October	B. Lockers (6) 38; K. Lambert (7) 37
16 October	G. Winwood (17) 65; J. Taylor (25) 67

Wednesday Mixed Competition Results (Legends)

21 September	R. Mau (9) 35; C. Lingard (13) 34
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26 September P. Brackley (21) 67; J. Clough (12) 68

5 October P. Gornie (13) 38; W. Ray (31) 35

12 October P. McGill (10) 36; A. Maloney (20) 35

October-November is a busy time at Lancefield. The Annual Gala Day on the 23 October, the Mt William Cup on the 18th November and the Club Championships commencing on the 13th November are our major events. The Mt William Cup is the only women's event for the year. We are hoping for good weather. It is a stableford, team and individual event. Entry forms have been mailed to all local clubs. The club is doing its best to encourage women to join and play. At present a small group of women play fairly regularly on Wednesdays, hitting off at 9.30 am. All our competitions are mixed, Tuesdays (9 am), Saturdays (12.30), and Sundays (12.30). For further information on Wednesday golf, contact Di Brennan (5429 2254).

Enquires for memberships, clinics and social group bookings to Secretary, Steve Draper (5429 2079) or access our website www.lancefieldgolfclub.com.au

BOLINDA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

We had a wonderful and very successful 12th Spring Fair. This was a great day out for the family and we sincerely thank the communities of Romsey and Riddells Creek for your continued support of our little school. The school is also so very appreciative to our major sponsor, **Frost's Sawmill and Building Supplies of Monegeetta**, and of course all the support given from local businesses and groups who also are a great source of support each year. You all know how hard it is for schools to work for the fundraising dollar every year and your support is very much appreciated.

I would also like to acknowledge our Fundraising Committee for such a terrific effort in organizing the whole event. It is a 12 month task and so much planning has to go into getting the Fair together. Then with all our parents pulling together to assist on the day in so many different areas, it was a great team effort, all for the betterment of our school grounds and in turn all for the sake of our children.

Last year at the Spring Fair we had a wonderful display of scarecrows as a family project and this year the family project was "a **Decorated Wheelbarrow with a Spring Theme**". A wonderful display of wheelbarrows was presented demonstrating many weird and wonderful ideas. This truly was a great way for families to work together on a family project, and the barrows were very well received by all the spectators.

The Bolinda Hall was a picture of daffodils, Spring flowers, arts and crafts and children's entries with prizes given to all categories. If you missed the Fair this year, you have to make an extra effort to make it next year.

Following on from 1984 Los Angeles Olympic kayaker, Martin Ralph, who spoke to our children, we also had one of our Grandfathers, Bruce Dickson, tell of his rowing exploits at the 1956 Melbourne Games and to show us his memorabilia. Mrs. Sands then told us of her Father's wrestling experiences at the 1952 Helsinki Games and showed the children his Olympic collection. How lucky our children were to have these guests share their memories and memorabilia with us. Six of our children have also had replies from Athens Olympians thanking them for their support while in Athens. This was also a great thrill to receive actual written cards from some of the Australian athletes.

Our three school cluster of Clarkefield, Darraweit and Bolinda had a terrific Mini-Olympic Athletics Sports Day. All the children were split into six different countries, we

had a march past, a torch and children said the Olympic Oath in both French and English. All children took part in the spirit of the Olympics and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

The State Finals of the Primary Schools Chess Competition were held recently in Melbourne and our team competed against 22 other Regional winners. We competed against State schools, private and religious schools, some of which have chess as a curriculum subject, some have over 300 chess players at their school and some also had their specialist chess coach in attendance on the day. It was a very tough and strong competition. We did not win, and finished in the lower half, but the experience of competing at this level was a great learning experience that our children will benefit from enormously.

Three of our children went to the District Finals of the Ozspell competition in Bendigo where one got through to the fourth round. All learnt from the harrowing experience of having to perform in front of an audience, but represented themselves and Bolinda with great distinction.

The Prep-1-2's had a lovely experience of sampling international foods as part of their International Day. Every child brought along a plate of food with an international flavour to share with their class and it was a delight to see them all experimenting with foods they had not tried before. A truly great experience for them.

The whole school was invited to visit Riddells Creek Primary School to witness their fantastic Starburst Extravaganza highlighting their wonderful work in the Arts and Music areas. What a fabulous afternoon we had - thank you RCPS.

Do you get the idea of how busy we have been at Bolinda and some of the fantastic experiences the children have been able to enjoy?? Next month I will tell you of some of the great things we did on our Canberra Camp in the Nation's Capital.

You will be reading this as Term 4 is well under way, I won't tell you how many sleeps until Christmas!! Many parents are still considering their educational options for 2005. You should be close to making a very important decision.

Perhaps a **Bolinda Educational Experience** is what you are looking for?

We would welcome anyone who wants a 'cuppa' and a chat about what we at Bolinda can offer you and your children, or better still, talk to any of our parents.

Cheerio for now.

Keith Jenkins - Principal - 5428 6317

FOR SALE

Valcan Hot Shot Mains Pressure gas water heater 135L. \$350.00

ROMSEY WALKING GROUP

An invitation is extended to all to join the Romsey walking Group any Tuesday morning. We meet at the Laundromat at 9.15 am. For further information contact Leonie Armistead on 5429 6414.

Romsey Beauty Spot

Shop 2

112 Main St

Romsey

PH: 5429 5499



Romsey Tennis Club Inc.

PO Box 288 Romsey Vic 3434

President: Bev Beaumont 5429 6189

Secretary: Kaye McNamara 5429 5622

Treasurer: Sue Lawars 5429 6671

"Save Our Courts"

Several significant events have recently put the replacement of our 3 drought ravaged courts within reach.

Firstly our clearing sale was an enormous success. Thank you to the Romsey community for supporting this fundraiser. All up, through donations, commissions, and food and drink sales, we have raised over \$3,000. We are giving serious consideration to making this an annual event, so please save all your unwanted goods for next year's bigger and better clearing sale.

Special thanks go to Greg and Bronwyn Dwyer, and John Robson/Landmark Dwyer, Kyrleton for their wonderful generosity and giving of their time and support. Also to Rod and Joy Dyer for allowing our club the use of their property - an extremely generous gesture. We thank all members who helped out on the day and especially to Ray Matthews for weeks of work!



Secondly, Fran Bailey, our newly re-elected Federal member of parliament has promised us a grant of \$15,000 to help our cause. Thanks Fran.

Third, we set up at Romsey Primary School, our local polling booth, on Election Day. We sold raffle tickets and sold off the last stocks in our recent chocolate drive earning several hundred dollars.

Lastly, after much effort in putting together a great case, we have submitted a very detailed application to the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, for a grant from the State Government. If this application is successful, we may have our 3 courts replaced with low maintenance synthetic grass courts by Christmas 2005.

Saturday Morning Juniors

On Saturday 9th of October, our summer season got under-



way. We are absolutely thrilled to be fielding 6 teams this summer, giving 30 local children the opportunity to participate in the fun and fitness of tennis.

Any interested players can still join a team. Please contact Bev Davis 5429 5654 or Mandy Green on 5429 5191

Saturday Afternoon Seniors

Two teams are playing in the summer competition, which also hit off on the afternoon of Saturday 9th of October.

If you would like to join a team, please contact Darlene - 5429 5186 or Bev Davis - 5429 5654.

Used Clothing Collection Fundraiser

Thank-you to the community for the masses of filled red bags for the Salvation Army Appeal. Mandy has finalised this fundraiser now and has delivered the goods.

Mid-week Ladies Competition

The summer competition continues, with three teams enjoying Tuesday morning tennis and a chat over lunch afterwards. We are always in need of extra players so if you would like to know more, please call Bev Davis on 5429 5654 or Bev Beaumont on 5429 6189.

Thursday Morning Social Tennis

Starting time is 10:30 am, and anyone is most welcome to join in for an enjoyable social hit. Bring along a friend too if you wish. Please phone 5429 5525 for more information.

Friday Night Social Tennis

Everyone is welcome to join us for a social gathering and hit at the courts from about 4.45pm for a hit, a yak (and a sausage, beginning in November), so come along too.

A great practice hit for the juniors before their Saturday matches.

Social Twilight Tennis

We are starting Social Twilight Tennis for anyone over 18 on Monday Nights, beginning on Monday 8th November from 6pm. There will be informal matches organised on the night amongst those who attend. At this stage with only 2 useable courts, a more formal tournament is not viable.

Anyone is welcome to come, and please ring Darlene on 5429 5186 or Bev Beaumont on 5429 6189 to register your interest or for more information.

Otherwise just show up to the courts on the night with tennis racquet in hand.

Club Contacts

Club-coach - Brett Rees - 5429 6716.

Social Tennis - Thursday Morning at 10.30am - phone 5429 5525

Family Social Tennis - Friday from 4.30pm.

Mid-week Ladies - Bev Beaumont - 5429 6189

Senior Saturday Tennis - Darlene - 5429 5186 or Bev Davis - 5429 5654

Junior Saturday Tennis - Bev Davis - 5429 5654 or Mandy Green - 5429 5191

MOBILE LIBRARY BOOK RETURNS

The Mobile Library will cease operations at the end of October 2004.

In November you may return any items borrowed at the following locations:

Lancefield: Hardware store

Romsey: Macedon Ranges Shire Offices

Riddell's Creek: Poulton's Garage

The return boxes at these locations will be emptied twice weekly for the month of November.

Each primary school previously visited by the Mobile Library will have a weekly collection of returned material.

The Wallan Library is scheduled to open at the end of November. Your Mitchell Shire library card is still valid for use at the Wallan, Kilmore, Seymour and Broadford Libraries, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Borrowers are reminded that as a condition of State Government funding for public libraries every resident of Victoria is eligible for free membership to any public library in the state.

For further information please contact Sue McNamara at Kilmore Library on 5762 1322.



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VALE: James Lindsay Cuthbertson -

"Gentleman Jim" as he was known far and wide, died peacefully at Castlemaine Hospital at the grand old age of 93 years. Jim loved life, he loved people and was friends to all. Even in advancing years Jim would regularly visit those who were less fortunate than himself.

He had a remarkable brain and memory and wonderful sharp wit which remained with him till the end. Jim spoke ill of no man and always made allowances for those who may have fallen by the way.

He was always young at heart and specially loved by young people who adored him especially his grandchildren.

He was a man who never swore and was never heard to raise his voice, (only occasionally when training his sheep dog Ross).

His early years were spent in Ballarat area where he farmed and milked cows. Later on an opportunity presented itself and he was offered a job at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories at Woodend where he became Manager. Things went smoothly under Jim's control and he was extremely well respected by all who worked under him.

He retired to Romsey some thirty years ago where he and his wife fitted in perfectly with the community and became loved by all.

He was a wonderful sportsman in his early days where he excelled in tennis, football, running, was a wonderful horseman and belonged to the Oaklands Hunt Club for many years.

In later years he played bowls and excelled at that too, winning many trophies. He was Club Champion at Woodend and twice at Romsey. He also won Champion Pairs and Champion Fours with the Central Highlands District. He also won "The Massey Ferguson Fours which included all of 'Victoria and the Riverina'.

Jim was a winner of many other awards too numerous to mention. He bowled until a few months ago and was selected to play in Romsey's 'Division One' team at the age of 91 years (a remarkable achievement). He played all sport in a most gracious manner.

Jim will be greatly missed by all and rightfully earned the name of **"Gentleman Jim"**

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

THE END OF AN ERA

Romsey Primary School office manager Mrs Jeni Clampit is planning to retire early in 2005. This will bring to an end a long career at the school which began in the early 1980's. During that time Jeni has been many things to many people—her job involves not only the management of the business, financial, secretarial and personnel aspects of the school, but tasks as diverse as chief fixer of the photocopier; catcher of stray dogs; provider of first aid; minder of children anxious and fretting over parents who are delayed picking them up at the end of the day; finder of spare clothing when little "accidents" happen; cleaner – up of messes and spills and so it goes on.

When Jeni retires she will take with her not only a wealth of memories, but also a wealth of knowledge and skills. She will be hard to replace.

Anyone who has attended the Romsey Primary School in the past 20 or so years will know Jeni, as will their parents. Because she is so well known, and has made an inestimable contribution to the school and the school community, there will be an opportunity for all members of the Romsey community to say thank you, well done and farewell to Jeni early in the new school year in 2005. The details of this event, to be held at the school, will be published in the next edition of the Romsey Rag, and we hope that as many people as possible will take this chance to acknowledge Jeni's efforts one last time.

FREEMASONRY RIDDELLS CREEK LODGE

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KEN BALDWIN 5429 6063

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News from the Romsey Public Recreation Reserve

The Committee of Management is currently undertaking a number of projects in the park. We have removed a large section of the hawthorn hedge on the Wallan Rd. boundary in preparation for a new fence. We are erecting a post and rail fence from the main entrance to the scout hall and the bowling club garage. The rest of the fence will be a standard wire farm fence.

There has been some concern that the hawthorn hedge was removed illegally. The committee wishes to assure the people of Romsey that this is not so. The park is subject to a council heritage overlay but this does not include the hawthorn hedges. We have sought advice from the Department of Sustainability and Environment on this issue and they have assured us that we are permitted to remove the hawthorn hedges.

We are also installing concrete pipes in the open culvert just inside the entrance to the park. The pipes will be covered and become a grassed area. Recently, we have had large loads of topsoil delivered to the park. This soil is being spread over exposed tree roots and is also being used to form garden beds near the park entrance. The garden beds will be planted with native plants indigenous

to the area.

For some time the committee has been aware of the lack of sporting facilities in Romsey. We have resolved to set aside an area of the park for a soccer oval and a hockey ground and we are calling for expressions of interest from groups wishing to form a local soccer and hockey club. Please contact the secretary for further information. We have also had initial discussions with the Romsey/Lancefield Little Athletics regarding the possibility of providing a track on the park. Unfortunately, because of available space, it appears doubtful that we will be able to provide an area large enough for the track. We will, however, continue to investigate this possibility.

We are still having problems with people dumping tree branches, garden cuttings, lawn clippings, etc in the park. Not only is dumping of rubbish of any kind in the park illegal, it also creates a fire and snake risk for people using the park. We have applied to the council for a permit to once again burn this large pile of rubbish.

The Committee of Management
P.O. Box 16, Romsey 3434
Ph: 5429 6985

ROMSEY FOOTBALL CLUB INC**Annual General Meeting****Monday, 8th November 2004****At Romsey Football Club Rooms****Start: 7.00pm****All Welcome****Romsey Golf Club
Ladies Report**

At our recent Annual meeting we had a change of President with all other office bearers remaining the same. Congratulations to Hilda for taking on the role of president. Thankyou to Shirley who has been our president for the last few years. We will miss your expertise, but will train Hilda in the role.

Leila and Beryl entered the Woodend tournament on 13/10/04 and both came home with a trophy. Leila won a nearest to the pin, while Beryl won A grade handicap.

The winter competition has been completed and the summer comp starts in November. This year due to demand we are also running a 12 hole comp as well as the 18 hole competition. If any lady feels she would like to join us please come along and have a hit with us. We meet at 9am in the club-rooms in Park Lane. Summer is a great time to start golf, as the weather is sometimes more pleasant and the summer run is often encouraging.

This months recipe.**Sea Dream Slice (no bake)**

250 gm crushed biscuits

30z brown sugar

1 cup sultanas

2 ½ oz butter

2 tsp. vanilla

1 ½ lbs cocoa

1dsp milk

Cream butter and sugar well, add crushed biscuits, cocoa then sultanas & vanilla.

Mix well add milk and form into long rolls, cover with coconut.

Chill, until firm, cut into slices.

Beryl Cole 54295411

HORSE RIDING INSTRUCTION

(Qualifications BHSAL, AHSE)

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On YOUR Horse

Contact Helen Shaw

5429 5772

Mobile: 0413 278 120

**ROMSEY GYMNASTIC CLUB'S
CONTINUED SUCCESS**

Once again the Romsey Gymnastic Club is finishing off another extremely strong competition season by the majority of its gymnasts.

After the re-opening of the club (based at Romsey Primary School) in May 2003 after a 5 year period where the club had been closed, the new management of the club are thrilled with the wonderful success the gymnasts have achieved. In both the National stream competitions and the recreational 'Gymstar' stream competitions for children training fewer hours, the medals just keep on coming.

After 2003 with the club's Gymstar teams winning every competition entered at every level, the club looks on target to again achieve similar results with wins so far in 2004 with every team at every level with the exception of one team who placed 2nd. They have competed at Moonee Valley, Footscray, Melton and Gisborne. In the next few weeks they will also compete at Ballarat, Eltham and another competition at Footscray. Head coach Janine Anderson is confident that the teams will again compete well.

In the tougher National division so far this year, the girls level one team entered and won their first competition, a Judges Invitational held at Melton where they outclassed teams from Melton and Sunbury. More success followed with a team gold floor medal at Waverly.

The boys National level one team placed 4th in the State at the State Pennant Finals held in June this year and were placed 2nd in the state on both the vault and pommel apparatus and 3rd on rings. Bringing home quite a few medals. Recently both the girls and boys National teams entered a huge competition at Donvale (800 gymnasts from 10 levels over 3 days) to raise funds for the 'Make A Wish Foundation'. Both teams came out victorious winning gold medals and pennants which are now proudly displayed at the Gym. In addition, the club had 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th and 14th individual rankings. Another great effort!

The club and its members keep going from strength to strength with most classes filled to capacity and waiting lists for next year for it's Kindergym program. A worthwhile effort considering the club is only open 2 days each week with the kids training lower hours than most other clubs in the state!!

Inquiries for next year can be directed to Janine Anderson on 9744 3401.

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