



THE ROMSEY RAG



Issue No. 222

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

December 2004

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Thank You Jeni!

The team at the Romsey Rag would like to thank Jeni Clampit for an outstanding and continuous contribution to the publication of the Romsey Rag from its inception 20 years ago. Jeni has undertaken many roles with the Rag from typing, copy making (using old spirit copiers), collating, printing and most recently managing the advertising aspects of the Rag. As Jeni is about to retire from her job as office manager at Romsey Primary School, so too is she "retiring" from the Rag. With her goes a wealth of knowledge, experience and memories. The Rag team and the Romsey community are greatly indebted to Jeni for her continued support and contribution to our local newsletter. We wish her well in her retirement and will miss her greatly on the team.

A farewell function is planned for Jeni on Thursday February 10th 2005 from 4.00 pm in the Performing Arts Centre at Romsey Primary School. All members of the community who would like to officially say thank you and good luck to Jeni are invited to attend. Please indicate your attendance by phoning Romsey primary School on 5429 5099.

Everyone involved in the publication of the Romsey Rag would like to wish all our readers a very merry Christmas and a safe, peaceful and prosperous New Year.



Editorially Speaking

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

Layout and Design:
Robyn Moore

Advertising / Sponsorship:
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Ragamuffins Page:
Muff—Al Ashley
Storpy—Gayle O'Dwyer

Collation Team Co-ordinator:
Joan Sparkes—5429 5848

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

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

Articles can be sent via e-mail to: 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
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\$100 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

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COPY DEADLINES AND COLLATING DATES FOR ROMSYE RAG 2005

EDITION	CLOSING DATE FOR COPY	COLLATING DATE
February 2005	Friday January 21st	Thursday January 27th
March 2005	Friday February 18th	Thursday February 24th
April 2005	Friday March 18th	Thursday March 24th
May 2005	Friday April 22nd	Thursday April 28th
June 2005	Friday May 20th	Thursday May 26th
July 2005	Friday June 17th	Thursday June 23rd
August 2005	Friday July 22nd	Thursday July 28th
September 2005	Friday August 19th	Thursday August 25th
October 2005	Friday September 23rd	Thursday September 29th
November 2005	Friday October 21st	Thursday October 27th
December 2005	Friday November 18th	Thursday November 24th

Future Location of Council Offices

Council is seeking community feedback on nine options relating to the long-term location of its offices. As a minimum service level, a customer service facility would be retained in Kyneton, Woodend, Romsey and Gisborne. The options consider the cost, benefits and practicality relating to Council work groups being based in one central office, or two, three or four offices.

Have your say....The 'Office Space Review' document is available from Council service centres and Council's website.

You can give your feedback by phoning Stephen Mahon on 5422 0352, by email to stephen@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au

The status quo is one option; however, some of the emerging influences to be considered include:

- The need for a library in Romsey;
- The decision to build a depot in Woodend, which will result in some operational staff relocating from the Romsey office to the new depot;
- The lack of direct access to services in Gisborne, which is the Shire's largest township;
- The 2006 expiry of the lease on the Gisborne building currently occupied by Western Water. If Western Water were to vacate this building, Council would have little option but to relocate some of its offices to that site as it would be a difficult property to lease out;
- Doubt over the location of the proposed new Kyneton library. Some options consider the Kyneton library occupying the existing Council offices in Mollison Street.

Options that consider increasing Council's presence in Woodend, proposed that new offices would be built adjacent to the community centre and library.

None of the options propose to relocate the Gisborne or Woodend libraries.



NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting has been called for next **Tuesday night, November 30th at 7.00 pm at Romsey Primary School in the Performing Arts Centre** to ratify the constitution of the proposed Neighbourhood House for Romsey.

An interim committee of dedicated people has been working over the past 3 or 4 months to develop a proposal for a Neighbourhood (or Community) House in Romsey to provide a range of learning and leisure programs for the members of the Romsey community. This project has received very positive and encouraging support from local council and our state MP Joanne Duncan.

The next step is for the constitution drafted by the committee to be presented to the community for its approval and acceptance, and for the committee of management to be appointed. An application will then be made to Consumer Affairs for the incorporation of the Neighbourhood House. After that, a temporary location will be found to be able to commence some programs and activities in early 2005, while negotiations continue with council for a permanent home for our Neighbourhood House.

You can support this project by attending the public meeting next Tuesday night, and perhaps making some suggestions about the kinds of activities and programs you would like to have run at the Neighbourhood House.

Hope to see you there.



Rural Ambulance Victoria HOUSE NUMBERING SAVES LIVES

Rural Ambulance Victoria is encouraging residents to help emergency services by ensuring that houses can be visibly identified from the road.

"Lack of visible house identification is a major problem in many rural areas," said Romsey Branch Station Officer Olga Bartasek, "and valuable time is wasted when we and other emergency services are unable to locate an address."

"This is often due to the poor visibility of house numbers which may be too small to be seen from the road, particularly at night, or are placed in an obscure location."

Olga said shrubs or trees often obscured many house numbers.

"While this might not seem to be a significant problem, even a few minutes delay in an ambulance finding a property, can make the difference between life and death in an emergency."

"This problem can easily be resolved by the use of reflective numbers painted on a post at the front of the property, as the numbers are highlighted by the headlights of a vehicle making it easier for emergency services to locate the appropriate house."

"At night time, please ensure an outside light is operating and have a person stand at the gate or property entry to guide the ambulance to the patient."

"Ideally, all the numbers should be in a uniform location and at a uniform height, at the front of the property, by the road."

Olga said residents could have reflective numbering undertaken by a private contractor for a minimal cost.

"We urge the community to support the numbering system to help emergency services in helping you. It may be worth driving past your property yourself to see if the number is clearly and readily visible."

Olga said residents should be aware of their property number, or Vicroads or CFA map reference numbers.

"Providing this information assists emergency services in locating a property."

Media Information: Olga Bartasek, Station Officer, Rural Ambulance Victoria Romsey Branch – Ph. 5429 6993.

Romsey Lancefield Senior Citizens Club

Inc. A003543P

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.

Update Newsletter

Macedon Ranges Shire Council's *Update* newsletter (November 2004 issue) was distributed throughout the shire during the week of 23-26 November. This edition includes a fire preparedness feature page and the annual coupon for free entry to Hanging Rock. If you haven't received a copy of the newsletter with your mail, please telephone 5422 0310.



Musical Soiree

At Romsey Primary School we are privileged to have not only a performing arts program for students, but also a number of inspirational music tutors for our instrumental program. These instrumental students were showcased recently in a great night of musical entertainment at our annual musical soiree. Students displayed their great progress in flute and clarinet, violin, keyboard and trumpet. Playing as soloists, and in small and large ensembles it was evident that the hours of practice had really paid off. It was great to have such a large and appreciative audience of parents, grandparents and friends to appreciate and celebrate the work of these young musicians.



Junior Unit Excursion to Point Cook

All our Junior Unit students recently had an exciting day at the beach at Point Cook. Following some days of windy weather, the children were treated to a near perfect day for beachcombing and discovering the secrets of this fabulous environment. This experience was part of the students unit of work this term and gave a first hand dimension to the studies undertaken over the past weeks.

At the beach I saw a jellyfish. It was squishy. I saw a sea urchin. It was slimy. I saw a crab. It was tiny. I liked the crab the best. I liked the beach because it was fun building sand castles. I loved jumping across the rocks. I didn't like the smell there. It stunk. I did not like walking back from the beach because my feet were tired.

Nicholas 1/2JD

At the beach I saw a sea urchin - baby crabs. They were very smelly. I saw a dead squid, a colourful sea star, a lot of sea urchins and an octopus that was big and spectacular. The beach smell like a lot of dead things that had rotted and a lot of smelly seaweed.

Corey 1/2JD

Remembrance Day

At Romsey Primary School we continue to be privileged to have the support of many of our community organisations. The initiative of the Romsey RSL in holding an annual writing competition on the meaning of Remembrance Day or ANZAC Day helps our students focus on the real significance of these important dates each year. Additionally a number of our senior students this year were privileged to attend the special ceremony at the Romsey war memorial on November 11th. This simple, yet moving service was of great interest to our students who showed a great understanding of the significance of this date.

Remembrance Day

On the 11th of November on the 11th hour, 1918 World War 1 ended. That is why we now have Remembrance Day. On the 11th of November on the 11th hour Australians pause whatever their doing for two whole minutes in recognition of all the Australians who died in the war. 331, 781 Australians went to war and 59,512 never returned. Thousands were injured and lost limbs because of the terrible times they went through. Many young men went to war, most had girlfriends some had spouses and children. Many lied about their age and lots still didn't know what they wanted in life. Yet they still went and fought for our freedom which is what many countries don't have but we do because they succeeded, they had us. When the news reached Australia the streets lit up, everyone was celebrating and a few months later 272,269 Australians returned to be with their families. Many died in hospitals with injuries and disease but most stayed strong and lived to be Veterans and role models to us all.

Sarah Wood (First place winner)

Sovereign Hill Camp

Following our wonderful 5/6 adventure camp reported in last month's Romsey Rag, now it is the turn for our 3/4 students to have their turn for a special experience away from school. The 3/4 unit teachers have planned an action packed number of experiences, that will take our students back to the days of the gold rush. As with all our camps and excursions, this experience will complement the work done by students in class this term, and will give the children a much deeper understanding of the life of the miners and their communities during the 1850's.

End of Term

At times we hear the comment that at this time of the year we must be "winding down" towards the end of term- nothing could be further from the truth. In just the last few weeks left in school year 2004 we will be having our "Grade 6 graduation" with a special dinner for students, performances and presentations. This will be a very special occasion for these students to mark the completion of seven years of primary education. Additionally we are looking forward to special performances from junior classes, Garden Awards presentation, Junior School Council Melbourne excursion, student reports, end of year celebrations and lots more. By the time the holidays come along students, teachers and parents all deserve a well earned rest. The hard work put in by everyone throughout the year has made our school to be such a great learning environment for our students.

Barney Healy
Principal



Romsey Fire Brigade

Stay or Go

I visited an elderly couple in recent weeks to talk to them about living in country Victoria.

Having moved from the city they are a little apprehensive about the approaching summer.

Our discussions were centered on CFA's Stay or Go policy.

Briefly CFA suggests to those that are unwilling or unable to actively look after their house should leave early.

By early we mean before any fires have started. On bad days fires tend to start late morning to early afternoon.

To be well out of the area you should leave by 10:00am.

Unfortunately many tragedies have occurred where residents have made a late decision to leave and have been caught in the open or in their car.

The tragedy is made more poignant when, in nearly all cases, the house from which they fled was untouched."

People save houses and houses save people

There will be a possibility that a fire may start in a day that has not been identified as a day of high fire danger.

Therefore you must have a contingency and plan what you do to look after yourself.

That could be as simple as closing all the doors, windows and vents and wait for the fire to pass.

During any discussions it is possible to either frighten the resident totally or underplay the risk and lull them into a false sense of security.

They have heard stories of houses exploding; they have seen television footage of a wall of fire bearing down in a village. They have also seen photographs of a row of houses razed to the ground.

With these images in their mind, I agree that it is hard for them to accept the stay and protect concept. Our approach over the last 10 years through Bushfire Blitz and other programs is to provide as much information as is possible.

I know it is a much used cliché however knowledge is power.

The new program, Fire Safe Victoria, developed from the Bushfire Blitz program, will provide information on

- what constitutes a bad day
- when the fire comes
- after the fire has passed
- what steps you can take to protect your property
- what steps the local community can take to help one another.

Armed with all this information individual residents can make informed decisions.

Community Meetings

Community meetings will be held in the Black Range Road vicinity.

There will be more information in next month's issue


if you want more information please contact me at the Romsey Office on 5429 6951

Peter Moore
Brigade Support

ON DAYS OF HIGH BUSHFIRE RISK:

**IF YOU DECIDE TO LEAVE, LEAVE EARLY.
IF YOU DECIDE TO STAY, BE PREPARED.**

Remember to have your home ready with a full house of water before the fire starts to burn. If you are thinking of leaving, make that decision early in the day. It can be very dangerous to leave after a fire starts. Usually it is too late to get out. Have the fire if you decide to stay. Be well aware and prepared to behave your property. For more information on how to prepare the best possible bushfire plan call 1800 246 967 or visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au



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Lancefield Christmas Carnival

Rides, Food, Christmas Gift Market,
 Rock Climbing Wall, Community Information,
 Displays, Devotional teas, Father Christmas,
 Debra Byrne leading Carols by Candlelight,
A Night for Everyone

When: Friday 17th December
Where: High Street, Lancefield, along
the Crescent and at the Mechanics Hall
5.00pm onwards

For information phone 54202 307 or 5429 1214

A community event for
 Lancefield Primary School,
 Lancefield Neighbourhood House & Lancefield Youth Drop in Centre

With the support of Lancefield Hardware, St Marys Primary School
 Romsey/Lancefield Lions Club and Lancefield residents

ROMSEY LANCEFIELD RSL SUB BRANCH

Remembrance Day – Thursday November 11th.

The Hon. Fran Bailey, Member for McEwen attended Remembrance Day services at Romsey and Lancefield to unveil 2 new plaques which have been added to the cenotaph in each town. The new plaques which recognise the involvement of Australians in World War 2 and in all subsequent conflicts have been funded by a grant from the Department of Veteran Affairs. Councillors Henry Bleack and Heather Gee also attended together with groups of school children from each of the Lancefield and Romsey schools and a good representation of ex-service personnel.

Our essay writing competition at each of the primary schools has resulted in the following prize winners:

Lancefield Primary School

1st Prize Jess Powell
 2nd Prize Rohan Barr
 3rd Prize Damien Shipsides.

Lancefield St Mary's Primary School

1st Prize Georgia Storey
 2nd Prize Estelle Johnson
 3rd Prize Matthew Bowden

Romsey Primary School

1st Prize Sarah Wood
 2nd Prize Zach White
 3rd Prize Brittany Adams

We are grateful for the participation of the schools in our essay competition.

Our Poppy Appeal has been very successful again with approximately \$2,500 being collected and we acknowledge the continued support from our local community once again.

John Haslett (Pres.)0

Peter Mitchell



West Bourke Books Inc.

Peter has been a member of the West Bourke Books Inc committee since its inception when he wrote part of the Romsey Shire's first history book titled: "When Memory Turns the Key" that was released in 1992. This book sold over 2000 copies.

Peter has been working on the new West Bourke book titled: "Romsey: A Veritable Garden of Eden" for the past 7 years as a member of this committee. He has been involved in research, writing, interviewing of individuals and families and the collection of photographs, maps and documents related to the Romsey township and surrounding areas.

Peter is a fourth generation farmer of the Romsey district with his great grandfather settling here in Romsey in the 1850s. As well as farming, Peter has been a very active member of the community having served on many committees such as the Scouts, Romsey Primary School, the Lancefield Cemetery Trust, and the Romsey Golf and Bowls Clubs. Peter was a Romsey Shire Councillor for 10 years, and a Commissioner on the Romsey Lancefield Water Board and Romsey Sewerage Authority for 17 years. Peter is also a renowned sportsman in his own right and has collected several club championship honours over the years in both golf and lawn bowls.

The book launch will take place on Sunday 5 December 2004 at 2 pm in the Romsey Mechanics Hall in Main Street, Romsey; everyone is welcome.

International author and local Romsey resident John Marsden from the Tye Estate will launch the book on behalf of the West Bourke Books Inc. committee. John has over 30 titles to his name and has won acclaim both here and internationally for this thought provoking books for children and young adults.

In October 1998 THE AUSTRALIAN newspaper described John Marsden as 'the most popular author today in any literary field'.

Further enquiries about the Book launch please contact
WBB Secretary: Alan Jackson on 54 296 025



Romsey resident and author Peter Mitchell



Author John Marsden

TAMWORTH ON TOUR

-Award Winning Australian Country Artists playing in the Macedon Ranges -

What do you get for Christmas for the person that has everything or wants nothing?

The Kyneton Town Hall offers you an alternate option to undies and alarm clocks: tickets to see the best Country Music artists in the land performing together under the one roof!

This is your chance to see the best of the Tamworth Country Music Festival - and you don't even have to leave the Shire to do so. Tamworth on Tour is coming to the Kyneton Town Hall as a part of the 2005 professional touring season, brought to you by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Arts Victoria.

Four Golden Guitar winners are getting on the tour bus straight after their crowning glories in Tamworth and travelling to all parts of regional Australia. Join us at the Kyneton Town Hall at 8:30pm on Friday February 11th as we celebrate the best of Australian Country Music in the Macedon Ranges.

Tickets are \$32 full price and \$25 concession.

Tamworth on Tour - guaranteed to be better received than a 7 pack of Rio Briefs - and much more fun!

Please call Andrea on 1300 88 88 02 to purchase tickets.

A Showcase of the Stars, Songs and Stories from Australia's Country Music Festival

TOURING AUSTRALIA - 2005 -



BOLINDA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

As you read this last Bolinda News for the year, we will be very close to having our Christmas Concert for which we have all been working hard towards for most of this term. Singing, dancing, plays, instrumentals, props, costumes and lots of rehearsals have been the focus of the classes for the majority of the term. It will all come together in a wonderful concert to celebrate the end of another school year. "Busy Bolinda" has never been a more apt tag for us than at the present time.

Can you believe that this will be our final news 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".

Our Grade 456 Camp to Canberra was a wonderful experience for us all. A days travel via Albury, the submarines at Holbrook and the Dog on the Tuckerbox saw us in Canberra in time for tea and bed.

Day Two saw us off to Parliament House, the seat of our country's Government; the very moving War Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where the guide volunteered to me that our children were the most respectful group that he had ever spoken to at the Memorial, a lovely compliment to us; the National Art Gallery, where our guide was impressed with the children able to compare the different art styles to what they had seen earlier in the year at the Impressionists Exhibition in Melbourne; a very full first day!!

Day Three saw us at the Australian Institute of Sport at 8:30 in the morning for a full tour, including watching the 7 and 8 year old gymnasts who have been targeted for the 2012 Olympics, and we were also able to try out various sports in the interactive room.

Then for the highlight... off to our very good friend Jackie French's home for lunch where she had baked and iced two special wombat cakes for us, a tour of her gardens, exploring for gold in her creek, a story read by Jackie while having afternoon tea, then a book signing session for every book that she gave to each of our children as a special gift. This was truly a wonderful day for our children to always remember with such a wonderful friend of our school.

Day Four was to be another full on day with visits to the National Museum, Questacon, which is the Science Centre that has hands on activities to keep the children enthralled for hours if we had the time, and we were to go to Government House which only has tours for school groups. What a surprise was in store for us!!!

Midway through our tour of the Governor-General's residence, we were summoned back to the front of the building to form a Guard of Honour for His Excellency and Mrs Jeffery who were leaving for a visit to Newcastle. Both stopped to speak to many of the children and to ask questions. It was a wonderful experience to remember. An evening tour of the Telstra Tower was also a great experience to see the lights of Canberra at night.

Day Five saw us up early to pack and hit the long road back to Bolinda. Stops at the Truckers' Memorial in Tarcutta, the famous Ettamogah Pub and Wangaratta's McDonalds were the last before we arrived home safely after what was a magnificent experience to our Nation's Capital.

The Grade 3's couldn't miss out on a Camp, so two weeks later we were off for two nights to Treetops Camp in Riddells Creek. From there we went to Hanging Rock, the Insectarium at Woodend and tea and bowling in Melton. The next day we were off to Daylesford where we walked around the lake, tasted many varieties of mineral waters, went to the museum, visited the Lost Children's Monument, went to the Wombat Gardens and also Trentham Falls. A very busy day. Our last day was washed out for the morning where we were confined to barracks by rain and so caught up on our diary work. When the clouds parted, we were able to do some camp activities, we walked through the cemetery, packed up, cleaned up and back to school. A lovely first camp for these children who had a great time they will always remember.

A final Olympic moment happened when we had a lovely visit from Athens Olympic kayaker, Susan Tegg, who had kept us really informed during the Olympics with regular emails. Susan brought a suitcase full of all the different uniforms the athletes were given to show us and for the children to try on, lots of different Athens memorabilia and a variety of medals that she has won in different competitions during her career. The questions just kept on coming about her early years, training,

competitions, career outside kayaking, diet, Athens experiences and more plans. It was a wonderful insight into the life of an elite athlete and we were privileged to have the opportunity to learn from Susan.

Do you get the idea of how busy we have been at Bolinda and some of the fantastic experiences that the children have been able to enjoy??

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.

Over the holiday period we will have school families who have volunteered to look after our chooks and cat. It takes a special commitment to put the time aside each day to visit the school to feed and check on the animals, have a look at the buildings and walk around the grounds, just to make sure all is well. Thank you in anticipation to all families who will make this special effort, but these are just some of the things you do when you decide to become part of a small school community.

By the time you read this we will most likely have had our new 2005 Preps for an Orientation Day with their teacher in readiness for their new adventure next year. If you missed out but are still uncertain about your educational plans for 2005, 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, or better still, talk to any of our parents.

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

See photographs on page 9

DAY FOR ROMSEY CAR BUFFS



Vehicles are flagged off from Gisborne on the 2004 Grand Tour

Saturday 12th February 2005 will be a special day for car buffs. The Romsey Tennis Club with the support of the Romsey Primary School will be hosting morning tea for the 2005 RACV sponsored Macedon Ranges Grand Tour. For the third successive year, owners of cars and motor cycles older than 25 years are invited to join the Grand Tour in a fully catered tour of different sections of the Macedon Ranges. Commencing at 9.30 am, the expected 120 participants will be flagged off from Gisborne on two separate routes that show off some of the many highlights of the region. The Vintage Route will cater for the older vehicles or for people wanting a leisurely day out, while the Classic Route will provide a greater challenge in distance and terrain. Both routes will converge on the Romsey Primary School for morning tea, with participants progressively arriving from about 10.15 am. You will see Jags and MGs, Alvis and Chevs, Mustangs and Fords

and many others. The French make, Delage is celebrating its centenary in 2005 and there will be some very special and rare cars for you to see. Vehicles will randomly depart the school and continue the tour to lunch at Paramoor Farm, finally completing the tour at the Macedon Ranges and District Motor Club rooms in New Gisborne for afternoon tea. A special Gala Dinner is planned at the Cope-Williams Winery. The event is being run by an enthusiastic group of volunteers whose aim is to promote tourism in the Macedon Ranges. The RACV, Tourism Victoria and the Macedon Ranges Shire Council are the major sponsors of the event and other organizations are also providing support. The Grand Tour is timed to coincide on the weekend of the Macedon Ranges and District Motor Club's Picnic at Hanging on the Sunday, to create a **Weekend of Motoring Magnificence in the Macedon Ranges**. Your support at the Romsey Primary School will help the Tennis Club raise funds for its new court. Further information can be obtained by ringing 0419 552 892 or www.mrgt.com.au



Bolinda Primary News continued

Left: Bolinda Primary School visits the Governor-General's residence.

Below left: A visit to the home of children's author and television personality Jackie French during the recent Bolinda Primary School grade 4,5 and 6 camp.



Romsey Beauty Spot

Shop 2

112 Main St

Romsey

PH: 5429 5499





Dianna - Buyer/Sales Associate,
Glyn Champion - Owner/Buyer Ursula - Manager

EXCESSORIES

fashion accessories - shoes - homewares

12 High Street Lancefield PH 5429 2144
81B High Street Woodend PH 5427 3388

Open 7 days 10 am—5 pm
Extended Xmas hours

Excessories of Lancefield Comes To Woodend

After the successful opening of the Excessories boutique in Lancefield just a few months ago, it seemed an appropriate move to open a sister store in the gorgeous Tudor building on the corner of High and Anslow Streets, Woodend. Owner Lynne Champion, who also owns Fairways Guesthouse and Champion's Restaurant said 'the girls and I are having so much fun with our new venture and our Woodend/Macedon customers are enjoying the drive over to the Lancefield store and vice versa for a change of scenery, and to check out the goodies in the other store.'

Lynne, who returned to open the guesthouse after 13 years of retail stores in San Francisco, continues to travel to San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and the occasional Paris to bring back unique, exciting merchandise, and many one of a kind pieces.

Ursula, store manager, and Dianna buyer/sales associate round out the team and are neighbours on either side of the guesthouse. All three, are occasionally seen standing on the street corner discussing the day's business and quick chat meetings take place over the fence, or while working in the garden.

If you haven't checked out either store, pop in for a browse and get a 'friendly retail fix.' Specializing in fashion accessories, lots of shoes, homewares and gift items - the Excessories girls pride themselves on customer service and making sure that your experience is a fun one.



So it doesn't do what you bought it to do!
Don't kick it! Don't leave it idle in the study or the family room.

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POKIES UPDATE - figures given at the public meeting on 22.11.04

- The hotel is applying for a planning permit now. It has to separately apply to the Victorian Gaming Regulator for a permit to operate the machines. The Gaming Regulator has to consider community impact.
- The hotel wishes to install 50 poker machines. It has 25 parking spaces.
- The hotel licence can operate until 3am.
- Tattersalls says that each machine returns \$220 minimum clear profit each day ie. \$77,000 per week for 50. The actual take is much higher to include running costs.
- A Romsey staff member of a Kyneton employment agency said they had had no jobs resulting from the Kyneton pokies - there was only one position, a cashier.
- COUNCIL asked that people concerned CONTACT THEM - each person counts, more than a petition.

A QUESTION:

So much money goes into such machines each week. Where does it come from?

- Pensioners buying less food
- Cars and mowers not getting serviced
- Families not going out together
- Home improvements, gardening not done

CONTACT Council 1300 656 577 or Cr. Bleack(54227027) or Cr. Gee(54270675)



Romsey Uniting Church

25 Pohlman Street
Minister: Rev Alan Williams
25 William Street
Romsey 3434

Ph/Fax: 5429 5351
mobile:0408 380 962

What's News

It's hard to believe that it's December already. Where has the year gone? Yet, this year has been no different to any other, except for having an extra day for a Leap Year. Each week has seven days and each day has twenty-four hours.

So, why do we feel as though the year has raced by? I can think of a couple of reasons. One is that we are so busy that we scarcely have time to appreciate all that is happening to us and around us. Sure, we probably remember the Olympic Games and the federal election, but can we remember what we felt, the excitement, tension, disappointment, or whatever other emotion comes from living?

In a sense, that's the other reason time seems to fly - we are so wrapped up in our routines, the only way we can organise our busy lives, that we forget to live. Things happen automatically and regularly, and as long as they continue to do so, we will keep functioning and going on. But will we enjoy it?

I saw a poster the other day that said, "Don't get so busy making a living that you don't have time to make a life". The church is often accused of being a killjoy and party-pooper, but here are two quotes from Jesus recorded in the Bible:

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. (John 15:11)

The church should be about life and joy. Indeed, you could easily say that life is about joy and happiness. The fullness of life does not come from money and possessions, but from people and relationships. It is interacting with others, perhaps even competing with others, that brings joy to most people.

Celebrating achievement, friendship and love are the

things of life that bring joy. They are the fullness promised by God in the birth of a baby over 2000 years ago. As we celebrate this gift at Christmas, take the time to reflect on your life, and plan to enjoy 2005 as completely as possible.

Rev Alan Williams

On behalf of the Romsey Uniting Church, I wish everyone a safe, restful and joyful Christmas.

What's On

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 3 Dec | 3:45-5:00pm Third and Final Advent Workshop. |
| 5 Dec | 9:00am worship and Sunday School, including Holy Communion. |
| 12 Dec | 9:00am Sunday School Presentation. Come along and celebrate with the children as they wind up their year.
7:00pm Combined Churches Christmas Carols in the Romsey Mechanics' Hall. |
| 19 Dec | 9:30am worship at Romsey. This is the first of our combined services with Lancefield for the summer. |
| 24 Dec | 7:00pm Christmas Eve service at Romsey. |
| 25 Dec | 9:30am Christmas Day service at Lancefield. |
| 26 Dec | 9:30am worship at Lancefield. |
| 2 Jan | 9:30am worship at Romsey, including Holy Communion. |
| 9 Jan | 9:30am worship at Lancefield. |
| 16 Jan | 9:30am worship at Romsey. |
| 23 Jan | 9:30am worship at Lancefield. |
| 30 Jan | 9:00am worship recommences for 2005 |
| 6 Feb | 9:00am worship and Sunday School, including Holy Communion. This is the first Sunday School session for 2005. |

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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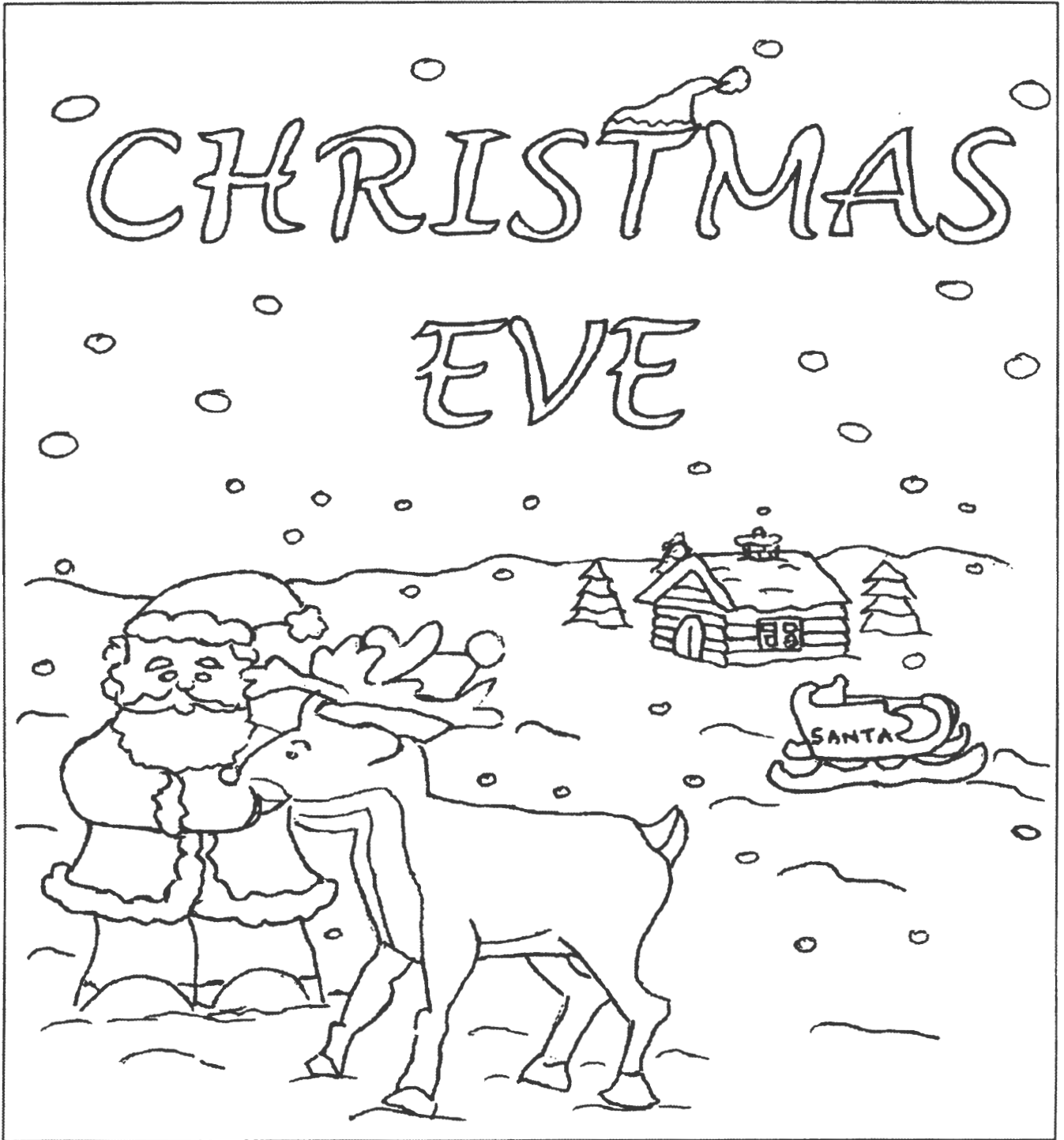
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*Wishing everybody a Merry Christmas and a
Happy and Prosperous New Year for 2005.*



Colouring Competition

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Send your entries to Muffi, @ Ragamuffins, Romsey Rag, C/- Romsey Primary School no later than 3.30pm Thursday 16th December 2004.

***** Christmas Word Search *****

Who will help Santa with his deliveries?

The words may be spelled horizontally, vertically, backwards, forwards, diagonally and some letters are used more than once. When all the words have been found, the left over letters will spell the name of Santa's helper.

E	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	E	V	E	ANGEL	MISTLETOE
C	A	R	O	L	S	R	U	J	R	D	S	BAUBLE	NOEL
H	H	E	L	B	U	A	B	O	E	O	T	BELLS	PARTY
O	L	R	T	U	R	K	E	Y	T	P	F	CAROLS	SANTA
L	L	L	I	S	T	N	H	T	T	G	I	CHRISTMAS	SLEIGH
L	E	H	N	S	T	U	F	F	I	N	G	EVE	STAR
Y	G	E	S	B	T	F	R	E	L	I	H	FUN	STOCKING
D	N	O	E	L	P	M	N	G	G	K	G	GAMES	STUFFING
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S	N	T	R	E	E	D	E	E	S	T	L	HOLLY	TREE
S	Y	O	T	S	T	A	R	R	H	S	S	JOY	TURKEY
												LIST	WISH

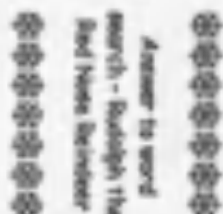
Answer at bottom left-hand side of page

Colouring Competition Terms and Conditions

The prizes for this competition will be awarded in three age groups. 5 and under, 6 to 8 and 9 to 12. The judges will be looking for neatness, the most eye catching, the sparkliest etc. The judge's decision will be final. 1st prize is the winner's choice of gift to the value of 5,000 points from the gift cabinet at Ramsey IGA, kindly donated by Ramsey IGA. First runner-up will receive a \$10 gift voucher kindly donated by Ramsey Post Office. Second runner-up will receive a \$10 gift voucher kindly donated by Ramsey Bargains.

Last date for entries is 3.30pm Thursday 16th December. Photocopies of entry forms will be accepted. Late entries cannot be accepted. The winners will be notified by mail and their names published in the January issue of Ragamuffins. Happy colouring!

Jokes



Q. Who rides a sleigh, gives out presents and has many faults?

A. Santa Flaws.

Q. Why does Rudolph have a red nose?

A. Because he's got a cold.

Q. What's black and red all over?

A. Santa falling down a chimney.

Answers to last month's pop quiz

1. The Black Eyed Peas. 2. Shannon Noll. 3. Is Over (When the War). 4. Take my Breath Away. 5. Avril Lavigne. 6. Everytime - Britney Spears, That Girl - Miranda Murphy, Learn to Fly - Shannon Noll, Sick and Tired - Anastasia. 7. Kayne Taylor

The Romsey Rag Business & Trade Directory

For advertising information please ring Jenn Clappitt on 5429 5099 (BH)

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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.

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November 28th

Plenty of bargains - pottery, crafts, plants, clothing, home-made cakes and preserves etc. If you wish to hire a stall or gain further information - contact Alan Bailey 0438 414 245

The Romsey Rag Business & Trade Directory

For advertising information please ring Jeni Clampitt on 5429 5099 (Bn)

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Also at:

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Word Maker

Using all the letters in the grid below, find the nine-letter word for the season. Now see how many other words of three or more letters you can find in the grid. In making a word, each letter can be used only once and every word must contain the centre letter.

C	S	I				
H	A	R				
M	T	S				

Answer at bottom of page

Letters to Santa

Dear Santa,
I hope you have a nice Christmas
For Christmas can I please have a ball.

Annabel

Dear Santa,
I hope you have a nice Christmas.
Thankyou for reading my letter.

Love from Jordan M

Dear Santa
Christmas is fun. I would like a cat.

Chloe

Dear Santa
I hope you have a nice Christmas. Can I
please have a white rabbit and can I have
some clothes. Thankyou for reading my
letter.

from Claire

Dear Santa
My name is Aaron. I like dinosaurs. Can I
have a dinosaur. I have been a good boy.

love Aaron

Dear Father Christmas,
Why do you have different names? Is it
cold at the North Pole? How is Rudolph?
This is my list. The Saddle Club Show
Jumping game, a karaoke machine and
some chocolate, My house hasn't got a
chimney but you can leave my presents by
the front door.

Thankyou from Kiara J

Dear Santa,
I hope you like your Christmas.
For Christmas can I please have a Barbie but get me
a different one.

Tina

Dear Santa,
I hope you like your Christmas. I love you. Christmas
is fun. I would like to have a football computer
Game that has Essendon and Tigers. An Essendon
Jumper, a spiderman toy, a toy Great White Shark, a
Toy hammerhead.

Daniel

Dear Santa,
I like you. I want you to bring me a Barbie.
From Zach
and Santa, I want a Barbie car.

Dear Santa,
I think I've been good but I fight with my sister.
Can I have a pony?

love from Charlotte

Dear Santa,
My daddy's grumpy. I broke my bike. Can you make
him a happy daddy and can I have a new bike? I
promise I won't break it.

Jamie

Dear Santa,
I want it to snow on Christmas Day so that I can make
a snowman. Can you make it snow?

Tracey

Word Maker Solution: Christmas

Word Fill-in solution : Baubles

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Have a safe and happy holiday everyone. See you next year, Muffi.

Romsey & Lancefield Districts Historical Society Inc.

INCORPORATED
1904**ROMSEY HISTORY BOOK LAUNCH:****2pm, 5th December, 2004.**

Heartiest congratulations to Peter Mitchell and the Book Committee for bringing years of dedicated work to fruition. It has not been an easy road (especially for Peter's wife Margaret!) but we thank you most sincerely for this valuable contribution towards preserving local history.

We look forward eagerly to seeing the finished product of your labours, at the Book Launch in the Mechanics Institute Hall, Romsey, 2pm on Sunday, 5th December, officially launched by famous local author, John Marsden. Well done, Peter and crew.

LANCEFIELD COURT HOUSE MUSEUM

Due to the above event, the Museum and Archives will NOT open on 5th December, nor in January, but will resume normal 1st Sunday opening in February, 2005. However, appointments can be made with Archivist, Robyn Miller, by phoning 5429 5552, or write P.O. Box 101, Lancefield, 3435.

Jean Clement, Hon. Secretary.



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

Friday 24th December, 2004
7:30 p.m.

Lions Park (by 5 mile Creek) ROMSEY
Candles & Song Books available

50 Free Christmas Hampers !!

Free Lullaby

Pre-Carol entertainment & games for the children



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 Email: info@lancefieldgolfclub.com.au; Website: www.lancefieldgolfclub.com.au

Saturday and Sunday Mixed Competition Results

17 October D.Taylor(31) 40; T.Hylland(9) 38
 30 October I.Bray(11) 40; C.Fisher(31) 38
 6 November competition cancelled
 13 November D.Ryan (8) 72; G. McDorman (13) 72
 20 November B.Courtney (19) 70; C.Lingard (10) 70

Tuesday Mixed Competition Results (Legends)

19 October A.Maloney(19) 38; R.Woods(23) 37
 26 October R.Walker(12) 69; J.Clough(12) 71
 2 November T.Allen(14) 39; R.Mau (9) 36
 9 November A.Maloney(19) 35; W.Ray(31) 35

The 'Grand Gala Day' held on 23rd October was a great success. Well over \$2000 was raised for the club. The year's free membership was won by Roger Sparke with a net score of 67 and the Last Man Standing Event (\$1000 cash) was won by Wayne Mee. The day went very smoothly with 76 players participating. A barbeque lunch complimented the draw with members and their guests enjoying a pleasant afternoon. A team from Avenel (Glenis Ranger, Kerry Peterson and Joyce White) took out the Ladies' Mt William Cup with a total of 77 Stableford points from Trentham (75 points) on a count back from Hidden Valley.

A grade winner: Colleen Smedley 33 points (Kilmore)
 B grade winner: Eleanor Barnes 30 points (Strathbogie)
 C grade winner: Norma Hazelbrooke 26 points (Gisborne)

The very windy, sultry conditions made scoring quite difficult hence the unusually low scores. It was wonderful to see 48 ladies from 16 different clubs at Lancefield playing in this event. The course was in excellent condition for the event thanks to David Brown and several volunteers. Carole Mee's efforts as leader of the social committee in the organisation of both these events, the Gala Day and the Mt William Cup, are to be commended.

There is an abundance of water on the course at present but with the heat of summer not far away the lush growth will soon disappear and the summer browning-off will begin.

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



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Kinder Korner

News from the Romsey Kindergarten Inc.

Hi there and welcome to Kinder Korner!

Getting orientated

New students for the 2005 school year recently visited the kindergarten for our annual Orientation Day.

Both three-year-old and four-year-old students visited in small groups and met with their new teachers and assistants.

Orientation Day is a chance for children to familiarize themselves with the kindergarten environment and aims to make the transition to kinder a bit easier for children.

It's a chance for them to take part in activities, get to know the children in their groups as well as their new teacher and to have a play in our playgrounds.

In 2005, all four-year-old groups are full but limited places are still available in the 2YO program.

Phone our enrolment officer, Karen Skehan, on 5429 6243, if you are interested in a place for 2005.

We are now taking enrolments for the 2006 school year.

Places 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.

Welcome, Liz

Orientation Day was for many parents their first opportunity to meet the kindergarten's new teacher, Elizabeth (Liz) Kelly.

Liz lives locally and is a career kindergarten teacher with a wealth of experience and expertise.

For the past seven years Liz has worked in Hume Council's Sunbury kindergartens, teaching both three-year-old and four-year-old kinder groups.

Liz also has experience working with children who are ill, have disabilities or special needs, as she worked at the Royal Children's Hospital for several years, organising a Therapeutic Play Program.

At Romsey, Liz will teach the two 4YO groups (Red & Blue Groups) in Unit 2 in 2005, assisted by Kay Fulcher and Catherine Tighe. In Unit 1, Jane Whelan will teach two 3YO groups (Purple, Green) and one 4YO group (Yellow), assisted by Chris Farrell and Catherine Tighe.

Screaming success

Thanks to all who were involved in the kinder's annual Trivia Night, held on Friday, October 22.

The Halloween themed trivia night raised about \$1500 for the kinder, an outstanding result.

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, Beta Electrical in Kilmore, Cleveland Winery in Lancefield, KFC Sunbury, Safeway Sunbury, ABS Australia, Bunnings in Taylors Lakes, Puffing Billy in Emerald and Erizo Australia (Romsey representative, Karen Skehan). A special thankyou to Chris White and Aaron Pyne, who donated signed sports guernseys for auction on the night, and to Anthony Guigley, who donated an Archicentre design report for auction.

School visits

The kinder's four year old students are continuing their special series of transition visits to Romsey Primary School.

These familiarisation visits allow the children to gather in their Prep grades for 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.



Farewell Anne

Kindergarten parents and friends gathered at the kinder on Friday, November 12, for a special farewell to our former teacher Anne Belchambers, 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, came along to the event to say thanks and goodbye.

Anne is now busy helping run her family's winery in Malmesbury and a new dell in Kyneton.

During the afternoon, Anne planted a tree in Unit 2, where she spent all of her years' service with the kinder, which is marked by a special plaque commemorating her dedication to the kinder over the years.

Thanks to Kerri Mewett for selecting the beautiful ornamental pear for the playground and all her

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.



Parish Priest:
Pastoral Associate:
School Principal:

St. Mary's Parish - Lancefield & Romsey

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

Fr. George O'Connor	Presbytery:	5429 2130
Sr. Frances Guinane	Convent:	5429 1582
Sr. Patricia Stone	School:	5429 1359

Parish website: www.users.bigpond.com/stmrlancefield

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 1582 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.

SVDP Drop-In:

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

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

PARISH MISSION

A stirring and challenging Mission has renewed the faith of our Parishioners and visitors from nearby parishes. Follow-up meetings will soon be announced.

SPECIAL EVENTS : December

Farewell to Sr. Patricia:

Sunday, 6th December

Commencing with 10.00 a.m. Mass in Romsey, followed by refreshments in the hall (BBQ). A chance to thank you to Sr. Patricia and the Josephite Sisters for 6 years of service in St. Mary's Primary School.

Ecumenical Carol Service:

Sunday, 12th December at 7.00 p.m. in the Romsey Mechanics Hall.

Christmas Mass Times:

Friday, 24th December: 7.00 p.m. Lancefield
Midnight Romsey

Saturday, 26th December: 9.00 a.m. Lancefield

A special thank you to Adrian Gatt for designing our new Parish website.

For more information, please contact the Presbytery on 5429 2130

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For further information please phone:

Chris White	5429 6096
Samantha Kaliszewski	5429 6858



News from Monegetta Ward

The year has disappeared and here we are thinking about whose turn it is to cook Christmas dinner! When I look back on the council year it seems to be full of planning meetings. Little wonder, as the push to live this side of Melbourne has increased, as prices have increased in Melbourne, Macedon Ranges is accessible and is a "sea change", without the sea change price.

It may seem that our planning department is stretched to the limit with this increase in planning referrals. However, after a period of adjustment the council now has a full compliment of planners, including strategic planners and an environmental planner. We are getting on top of the planning referral register and moving on with strategic planning by bedding down amendment C 21 with many changes, updating the Municipal Strategic Statement which introduces our planning scheme, completing development plan overlays for townships and finishing a Sustainability Framework. Our Macedon Ranges Habitat Quality and Conservation Significance Study recently won two Victorian planning awards and is in the running for National awards.

I know there are people who are worried about the impact of creeping subdivision on our township character and ambience. I cannot deny that this is happening. The answer is to have Development Plan overlays for the townships that preserve the rural township character.

I am often asked about our slashing programme at this time of the year. The slashing is done along roads designated as fire breaks. The primary firebreak roadsides are slashed or groomed to the fence line. The secondary firebreak roadsides are slashed near the road only. Contractors, supervised by the shire environment officer, do this work. Every effort is made to reduce the spread of weeds during this process.

I have all been saddened by road accidents this year. Please take care on the roads over the festive season. The new speed limits in townships are sometimes hard to remember. However, they are there for a reason.

It is with a sigh of relief that I can say the new toilet block in Romsey is finally open! Why is the building of toilet blocks such a saga? Ask the residents of Lancefield about toilets! The toilets in Darawell Guim are a mess, partially a result of vandalism. I wish the vandals realized just how expensive these things are and how hard it is to raise the money in the first place to build them in a place acceptable to all and designed to please everyone!

The new rose garden near the Romsey Memorial with its new plaques is showing a spring display. Have a walk down there and rest awhile on the new seats. Thank you to all those who contributed to this wonderful idea.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Riddells Creek Fire Brigade on their Centenary. Brigade member Terri Boydle has written the most interesting history of the Riddells Creek fire brigade. Her book is called, "Out of the Ashes" and would make a wonderful Christmas present!

Merry Christmas! Have a safe, happy and sharing Christmas!

Heather Gee, Monegetta Ward Councillor

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Congratulations Matt Little! AFL Selection Success

Former Romsey resident and primary school student Matt Little was selected by Hawthorn Football Club at the AFL draft on November 20th. 18 year old Matt has had an outstanding record in district football. He played with Romsey Under 9's right through to the Under 15's. He then moved schools and played with Rupertswood Under 16's, before joining the Calder Cannons Under 18's. This season he also played with Vic Metro and was the season's leading goal kicker, winning the TAC Cup. He now looks forward to success in the future in his AFL career. Matt would be known to many people in the Romsey area.

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0

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The Anglican Parish
of
Lancefield
and
Romsey



Acting Vicar: Rev. Laurie McIntyre
Phone: Trentham 5424 1648
Lancefield: 5429 1380
Mobile 0418 571 011

The Vicar is in the Parish Wednesday & Thursday at the Church Hall Office – Christ Church Lancefield.

Church Services:

Every Sunday 9am St. Paul's Romsey and 10.30am Christ Church Lancefield
Sunday School during Term time

Ladies Guilds:

Romsey: 1.30pm 2nd Thursday each month – Romsey Church Hall. Contact Doreen 5429 6060
Lancefield: 2nd Wednesday of each month after 10am Church Service in Christ Church Hall.
Contact Hilda 5429 1424.

Combined Christmas Lunch – 12noon Wednesday, December 8th, Church Hall Lancefield.

Men's Club:

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

Christmas Services are as follows:

Christmas Eve: Special children & family service : Lancefield 7pm.

Midnight Eucharist, Romsey. 11.30pm

Christmas Day: Holy Communion, Lancefield 9.30am.

Boxing Day: Sunday 26th, Romsey 9am – no service at Lancefield.

Please remember gifts of non-perishable food or presents for children for
Anglicare Christmas Appeal greatly appreciated.

Op Shop closed during December : Re-opening Mid January 2005.

**From The Revd Laurie McIntyre, Acting Vicar,
Lancefield/Romsey Anglican Church.**

I read recently that there are now two types of Christmas in Australia, the secular one and the religious one! I think this is great that there are now signs that this phenomenon of two forms Christmas is now being recognised!

The "secular" Christmas is a great gift from the Christian Church to the world. It provides a festival of celebration of family, friendship and fun. It was interesting to be in Japan a few years ago and find that a similar secular, non-Christian celebration was becoming popular there, with gift sharing and celebration of family and friends. I am sure that this idea is catching on more and more. People are joining in the fun of Christmas, with street parties and fabulous decorations competing for prizes. May the fun of secular Christmas continue! But not that it gets too far out of focus with big credit card and other debts haunting us for the rest of the year!

The Christian Christmas also calls us to celebrate with gifts of gratitude, with family re-unions, offers of friendship, the sharing of greetings and exchanges with those with whom we may have lost contact.

There is however a different basis for Christians. The time between now and Christmas is called **Advent**, a time which asks us to **prepare** for the coming of the Christ child. Advent reminds us that, central to the Christian faith is the message that God comes to earth in human form. Jesus, the Christ child, is the great gift of God who shows us what God is like and inspires us to give gifts to those around us.

An abstract "god" has always posed a problem for human

beings, hence the proliferation of carved idols and artistic representations seeking to explain what that "god" is really like.

Have you heard the story of the child drawing a picture of God? The teacher, when told what she was drawing, exclaimed, "But no-one knows what God is like". The child replied, "They soon will when, I've finished drawing him!" Christians believe that in the person of Jesus, born as a human being and living in this troubled and confusing world, we are shown what God is really like, in human terms which we can understand.

So Advent, like Lent is a time of forty days of preparation calling us to examine ourselves, our relationships with others and with God.

It is a sad reflection that there are often many marriage break-ups and family tragedies at Christmas. It is almost as though in the midst of all the fun and fellowship, that many find the reality of their lives is just too hard to take.

The world into which Jesus was born is incredibly like the world into which we have been born, especially if you look at the Middle East today. Mary must have had many anxious times as she cared for the Christ child, and sought to provide him with a home which was secure and stable in her world.

The challenge for us today is to examine again what Christmas is really about, and to see how we can enrich our own lives and the beautiful part of the world in which we live. How can we share with those in need? All churches are appealing for financial help for the disadvantaged and gifts for the needy. **What can you do to help?**

VALE MARION SPRING

4 - 2004

Marion Spring was the first born child of William Ernest Tom and Muriel Anne Ochiltree having three younger brothers Bill, James and Doug. She grew up on the family farm "Chintin Grange" attending the Springfield State School and later Penleigh Girl's School. In 1927 a disastrous fire swept the farm and it was sold to a Mr. & Mrs. Mellor. The Mellors built a new home, but by 1932 were unable to keep up the payments on the farm and it returned to the Tom family who gladly came home. At this time Marion's elder brother Bill left school in the middle of the year to help with the work as his father was not well. James and Doug also came back to the farm as they left school. Their father had died, so the three boys worked the farm for the family which included their elderly Uncle Jimmy, his wife Lily and daughter Jean. During World War 2, first Bill enlisted for service in the Army, and then Doug, firstly in the Air Force and then in the Army. James kept the farm going.

Marion married Bill Spring in 1941 as his second wife. Bill's first wife Venie Mitchell had died some years earlier leaving a small son George who then came back to live with his father and Marion. Marion and Bill had three children, an infant son who died at birth, then David and Elizabeth. Bill Spring was in partnership farming with his brother Jim on the corner of Ochiltree's Road and the Romsey-Lancefield Road. Bill also had another small farm of his own across the road where he and Marion spent their early married years. Eventually Bill and Marion purchased "Range View" in Ochiltree's Road and farmed there until their son David married and took over the farm. Marion and Bill then bought the home that Tom Reynolds had built in the Main Street, Romsey, and moved in with Murray and Wynie Clement as neighbours on one side and Josie and Lindsey Francis on the other side. Bill's brother Jim Spring and his wife Ellie lived just across the road.

Marion loved meeting and conversing with people. She was a most welcoming hostess and enjoyed outings. She had belonged to the Darraweit Guim Red Cross and then as a member of the Romsey Branch must have been a member of Red Cross for fifty years. She had just received her certificate celebrating her 50 years of membership of the Romsey Branch of the Country Women's Association of Victoria. Here Marion was always the willing worker and the one who brought the birthday posies to the meeting. She was a lovely friendly member.

Marion was born into the Presbyterian Church and remained a regular member of the Uniting Church congregation, also supporting the women's group of the church, first the Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union and then the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship where she again was always the willing worker.

When the Romsey Artists' Group was formed Marion was there as an original member as she enjoyed painting in oils and watercolour. She produced pictures that people wanted to own. When the Artists' group held Exhibitions her paintings always sold well and are treasured in many homes partly because of their appeal and also for the remembrance of the painter herself.

Marion loved being with people and so enjoyed the mornings of fun that Rose McCarthy arranged weekly at the Catholic Church Hall.

Marion nursed her husband Bill at home through a long illness until he died in 1983. She then lived alone welcoming visitors and enjoying the company of others until her frailty necessitated her going into care at The Elms in Gisborne, A.C. There she went on every available bus trip, and was visited by many faithful friends until she died aged 90 years. The family wish to thank those carers who looked after Marion so lovingly at this time.

Marion would have been the last surviving grandchild of James Tom and his wife Marion, who purchased "Chintin Grange" in 1859. She was probably also the last surviving great grandchild of Parson Tom who arrived in Australia with his wife Anne from Cornwall in 1823.

A large gathering gave Marion Spring a loving farewell from the Romsey Uniting Church on Tuesday 12th October 2004.



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ROMSEY/LANCEFIELD GUIDES

In 2004 Guides Australia has celebrated 93 years of helping girls and young women grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members.



The Wombat Guides visited the Fire Station in Lancefield in November. Graeme spoke to the guides about using a fire extinguisher, fire blanket etc for their emergency badge. Thank you to Graeme for an informative evening.

The following week the guides went to Romsey for a Where's Wally, where we followed clues by walking around town. Tania had organised the trail and set out the clues. And yes we did find Wally.

Some of the guides attended a practice Stradbroke Camp weekend in October. The guides refined some of their camping skills and learnt some new ones in preparation for the state camp.

Beth, Jasmine, Emma and Brittany packed up and were taken to the State Stradbroke Camp by Rita in early November. The guides were assessed on many aspects of guide camping: gas safety, campsite layout, flagpole, cooking, gadget making, knots, food hygiene, tents, kitchen shelter etc. The guides gained a gold pennant.

Well done.

The Platypus guides held a pets night. They brought along their pets and took them for a walk. The following week Platypus and Bilby guides joined together and held a campfire night in early November. The guides sang many songs that they knew and learnt some new ones.

Rita went to Phillip Island with some other leaders from our Region in late October. She attended the State Guide Conference. Various topics were discussed and very important decisions made for Guides Victoria at the weekend.

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

Bilby Guides (5 - 7 year olds) meet at 4.00 - 5.00pm

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

Wombat Guides (10 - 18 year olds) meet at 6.45 - 8.45pm

For any information regarding Guiding please contact:

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Councilor Henry Bleeck—Mount William Ward, Macedon Ranges Shire Council

YOUR COUNCIL IN THE YEAR AHEAD

Christmas and the New Year are fast looming, and this is my last opportunity before the holiday break to get a message out to the residents of Romsey and the Mount William Ward. The Romsey Rag must be thanked for providing me with the space for a regular message to the community.

Being your elected member of the Macedon Ranges Shire has been a steep learning curve, but I have quickly stepped up to the plate in strongly advocating for our residents and towns. There is a number of matters for us to focus on over the next year.

The road to Melbourne needs to be further upgraded, with passing lanes. While some significant work has been done on it this year, there is still the need for lanes to ease the peak period congestion. The condition of the main road in Romsey has become uneven and cracked, and needs to be repaired.

We need a secondary college at Romsey to cater for the growing youth populations of Romsey, Lancefield and Newham. Discussions I have had with the Department of Education & Training indicates that a college is not on the horizon, but I believe a college is justified and will continue to push.

Landcare and the environment are also important issues. I have met with the newly-formed Newham Landcare Group, and intend to work with it and other Landcare groups on ways to keep our rural areas healthy and productive. Romsey, Lancefield and surrounding areas are part of a most liveable environment and we must ensure that it is sustainable for future generations. We have to tread carefully in the debates between development and the environment to ensure that we can accommodate progress without significantly impacting on the factors which make Romsey and surrounds such a wonderful place to live.

These are just some of the matters which I will be tackling on your behalf over the next year.

Have a happy and prosperous Christmas and New Year, come back safe and refreshed, and together we can tackle the issues that matter to the residents of Romsey and surrounding areas.

Cr Henry Bleeck,
Mount William Ward.

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Tree Safety Works Plan 1

Five cypress trees in Station Street, Romsey (opposite the Romsey Primary School) will be removed following an arborist's assessment and several instances of limb failure over the last two years.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Parks Development Officer, Peter Jones said the trees are in severe decline and could cause major problems over the coming years. He said one tree had already died and been removed.

He said due to the proximity to the school, the trees would be removed during the Christmas/New Year school holidays to minimize the risk and disruption to both the contractors and those who use this area on school days.

"When the conditions are right, we will replace the trees with new plantings of suitable species," Mr Jones said.

For further information, telephone Peter Jones or Huw Walters in Council's Parks Unit 5428 1759.

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

Romsey Community Bank

NEXT STEP FOR OUR BANK

Independent legal advisers have been appointed for the final stages of the project to establish a Community Bank branch in Romsey. Lancefield & Romsey Community Financial Services Ltd deputy chair Maureen Wiltshire said David Rush from experienced legal firm Rennick & Geynor has been engaged to help the Board work through the necessary legal requirements leading up to the issuing of a prospectus.

"David Rush is experienced in this task having already helped a number of communities through the legal steps required to achieve their aim of establishing a Community Bank in their town or suburb," Mrs Wiltshire said. "Due diligence is a legal requirement to be carried out to ensure that Board members have fully explored the legal and financial position of the project, and is a formal step before a prospectus is prepared and issued. The prospectus is the legal document which formally sets out details of the project and the share offer and invites members of the community

to buy shares in the company which will run our bank."

Company Chairman Russell Pattinson said the Lancefield Community Bank - which would operate in partnership with Romsey - had recently passed \$40 million in business on its books, which gave great cause for optimism about success at Romsey. Mrs Wiltshire said during the pledge phase of the project over the past two years, around 300 local residents and businesses made commitments to take up \$425,000 worth of shares - the minimum capital which was assessed at the time as needed to open the doors.

A detailed business plan being developed will determine the amount of shares needed to be sold to provide sufficient capital - which will also be written into the prospectus. "A desire for a larger buffer of working capital means that we will be aiming to raise well over our minimum target," Mrs Wiltshire said. "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."

LANDCARE - WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT

John Blamey - Deep Creek Landcare Group

Most Australians would have heard some mention somewhere about Landcare. Many of those people think Landcare is all about planting trees; some think it is just for farmers. I see Landcare as an opportunity to engage the community in raising awareness of, protecting and enhancing their local environment. Landcare is one of Australia's more successful initiatives. Recently Mr. Jim Mosely, Deputing Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, visited Victoria to see for himself the successes enjoyed. He thought the secret of Landcare's success is that it stems from being a people's movement rather than a Government driven program. Mr. Mosely was positive that a similar movement would emerge in the USA.

So what do Landcarers actually do?

- § Learn about local plants and wildlife; recognise what to keep and what to get rid of.
- § Understand about water catchments and healthy streams; work to improve our local creeks. (We might even encourage the platypus to return).
- § Get to know neighbours by working together and talking about our environment.
- § Provide an official incorporated body to apply for grants for specific projects. (eg, heavy machinery for willow eradication and warren ripping).
- § Listen to invited experts talk on various environmental matters.
- § Attend working bees to do such things as help to clear weed infestations, plant trees, etc.
- § Importantly, have fun and get a sense of satisfaction.

What are some of the benefits of being a Landcare member?

- § Networking with local people who have experience in land management in your area.
- § Access to sessions on topics such as pest plants and animals, revegetation, grazing management, etc.
- § Access to important courses (some subsidised) such as Agricultural Chemical Use and Whole Farm Management.
- § Learn how to collect seed and propagate.
- § Learn what to plant and when and how to plant it.
- § Monthly newsletter and quarterly Landcare magazine.
- § Purchase of native/indigenous plants at cost.

What do you have to do to become a Landcarer?

Our local organisation is called Deep Creek Landcare Group. It covers the Lancefield and Romsey districts. We invite you to join us and become a member. Membership cost is \$20 yearly. We meet monthly (8pm, 2nd Monday of each month, (except January) in Lancefield at the Drop In Centre behind the Lancefield Mechanic's in ⁴ute. Simply turn up; you'll be most welcome.

Want more information?

Call John Blamey (President) on 5429 2011, or David Blicblau (Secretary) on 5429 5880.

UNIQUE MOMENTS PHOTOGRAPHY



SPECIAL OFFER
BOOKING FEE \$50.
 Includes hair, make-up,
 and Studio session fee.
 (Please note, booking fee does
 not include photographs)

Photo packages start at
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 Contact: Michelle
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SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

MODEL AND FASHION PORTFOLIOS

NEWBORNS AND INFANTS A PLEASURE

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Santa's Stocking Stuffers!

Big Kids - fiction

- * wife for Hire - Dianne Blacklock
- * Father Frank - Paul Burke
- * Hidden Talents - Erica James
- * Tales of the Otori - Lian Hearn
 (Across the nightingale floor/Grass for
 his pillow/Brilliance of the moon)
- * My Sister's Keeper - Jodi Picoult
- * The da Vinci Code - Dan Brown

Big Kids - non-fiction

- * Our woman in Kabul - Iris Makler
- * Eats, shoots & leaves - Lynne Truss
- * The Quilter's Block Bible - Celia Eddy
- * Rule #5 no sex on the bus - Brian
 Thacker
- * Shipwrecks: Australia's greatest
 maritime disasters - Evan McHugh
- * The white wine Diet - Carly Newman

Little Kids

- * Saving Francesca - Melina Marchetta
- * Black Taxi - James Moloney
- * One night - Margaret Wild
- * Belonging - Jeannie Baker
- * Stella by the Sea - Ruth Starke
- * The really, really high diving tower
 - David Metzenth

Merry Christmas to all & enjoy!

(From Mitchell Shire Library)

Romsey Tennis Club Inc.

PO Box 288 Romsey Vic 3434

President: Bev Beaumont 5429 6189

Secretary: Kaye McNamara 5429 5822

Treasurer: Sue Levars 5429 6871



The Romsey Tennis Club is hosting the morning tea leg of the Macedon Ranges Grand Tour on Saturday 12th February, 2005.

This will be held at the Romsey Primary School, and all members of the public are invited to come down to view these beautifully restored and maintained older cars that will be on display for about an hour and a half. (Further details are provided in the Romsey Rag)

Social Twilight Tennis

Monday Nights

From 8.30pm

For the over 18's

Come along for a hit and giggle, or organised matches if you prefer.

Everyone is welcome, just bring a racquet.

See you there.

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 5188

or Bev Davis - 5429 5954

Junior Saturday Tennis - Bev Davis - 5429 5954

or Mandy Green - 5429 5191

The Romsey Tennis Club would like to gratefully thank the local community for their support of our plight and fund-raising events this year. It has been a great result. We wish everyone a safe and happy festive season, with good times ahead in 2005.

ROMSEY FOOTBALL CLUB

The club has had its A.G.M. and a new Executive has been elected.

President Graeme Cuthbert 5429 5359

Vice President Bill Mcleod 5429 5384

Treasurer Russell Carroll 5429 6444

Secretary John Lynch 5429 5514

The club is currently recruiting senior and reserve players and officials.

We are also entering an under 18 team for 2005 and are seeking players and officials.

Persons interested in playing or acting in an official role, are requested to contact any of the above officials.

We expect another exciting season in 2005 and we look forward to the continued loyal support to further the community objectives of the club.

ROMSEY GOLF CLUB LAIDES REPORT

We are now in our summer season and invite any golfers, or those willing to have a try to come and join us at 9am at the Clubhouse for a 9.30 hit-off. Our last organised game for 2004 will be on 8th December and the first for 2005 will be on Wednesday 12th January for a game of Ambrose.

Beryl and Leila played in the field at Gisborne on 10th November, and were joined by Hilda and Darlene for a very informative afternoon at the Rules presentation at Gisborne. Perhaps it left us all with more questions than answers!

The year has flown by and Christmas approaches very quickly. We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and here is our recipe for the festive season.

Individual Plum Puddings

250g pitted prunes

200g pitted dates

250g raisins

100g glace ginger

500g mixed fruit soaked in rum (if desired)

250g melted butter

4 eggs lightly beaten

1/3 cup Marsala or other fortified wine

1 cup dark brown sugar

1 1/2 cups of plain flour

1/2 cup SR flour

2 teaspoons mixed spice

1/2 cup treacle

Extra 1/2 cup Marsala

Preheat oven to moderate 180C. Grease 12 teacups and cut 12 squares of foil and baking paper to cover each cup.

Finely chop pruned, dates, raisins, ginger and mixed fruit. Add cooled melted butter, eggs and Marsala and mix well. Add sugar and sifted dry ingredients and stir well with a wooden spoon until well combined. Spoon mixture evenly into each cup. Place a piece baking paper and foil over each cup and scrunch around the cup to secure. Place cups in a baking dish.

Pour enough boiling water to come a third of the way up the sides of the cups. Bake for 55 minutes. Remove from water and set aside to cool. When cool, un-mould and wrap well in plastic wrap and refrigerate until required.

To serve: Combine the treacle and extra Marsala. Place about a tablespoon of treacle mixture in each cup, return the puddings to the cups and cover with foil. Reheat in moderate oven for 5 minutes. Turn each pudding onto a serving plate, add a dollop of cream and enjoy.

