



The Romsey Rag

Volume: 39 Edition: 1

FEBRUARY 2021



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Welcome to the February Edition

Well here we are in 2021! I hope you all managed to enjoy the festive season and Happy New Year to you all. I think we were all hoping with the new year, things would go back to normal, well while that might not be the case, we need to think positively that things will begin to improve in the coming months.

We were lucky to be able to continue with the Romsey Rag during 2020 and this was done with the support of the community groups, advertisers and you, our readers. We hope this will continue into 2021 and as ever, if you would like to see something new or have any feedback or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Just a reminder to ensure you are using the new email address for all correspondence:

email@theromseyrag.com.au

Please note articles should be restricted to **300-350 words** plus/minus a picture. Articles will be edited as required. The editorial committee reserve the right not to print inflammatory or unsuitable materials.

www.theromseyrag.com.au



the voice of the community

MEMBER 2021

The Romsey Rag is proud a member of the CNAV. It is the peak body representing not-for-profit community newspapers across Victoria.

WHAT'S ON in & around Romsey

16th Feb - Shrove Tuesday

21st Feb - RFL Charity Golf Day, Romsey Golf Club.

27th Feb - Relay For Life.

Romsey Police Station

Happy New Year Romsey locals and visitors alike, we hope you enjoyed whatever break you may have had over the Christmas period and are settling well into 2021.

Crime trends in the local area include a number of burglaries at farms and other rural properties which were reported over the December period. These incidents often included cars being stolen after the vehicle's keys were taken from inside the house. A 25-year-old male has been arrested and charged in relation to many of these burglaries and remains in custody. Despite this arrest, incidents of a similar nature have been reported more recently and such it is pertinent to consider crime prevention strategies. Please see website



www.police.vic.gov.au/farm-and-rural-safety

for such strategies and advice. Please also remember that even when parked at home in a rural space, vehicles should be locked with valuables removed and keys kept in a location less obvious than a key bowl or hook next to the front door.

We have mentioned incidents at Romsey Primary School in a previous article and unfortunately the school and surrounding areas have continued to be targeted by offenders, with recent incidents of damage, littering, lighting of small fires and general trespassing offences. We are committed to stamping out this behaviour at the school and throughout town and are currently working to identify those responsible and hold them to account. We ask again that any criminal behaviour, suspicious people or activity that you see or have seen, be reported to police.

Additionally, we have had some very warm weather over the last few weeks after attending a few incidents of fires being lit we would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that we are now well within the fire danger period and to be mindful of restrictions and what you can and can't do during the period and on total fire ban days. Please visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions for more information on this and be sure you have a fire plan ready.

Stay safe!

February In Your Garden - Melanie Kinsey

La Nina has certainly been a bonus for our gardens! It has been really interesting watching what has boomed in the garden and in a few cases, what has not liked having wet feet. It looks like I will lose my *Styandra glauca* the nodding blue lily and my *Eremophila calorhabsos* the red rod emu bush is looking decidedly wan. On the flip side the roses are still flowering madly, I haven't had to irrigate the lawn yet and many of the perennials have produced a huge number of flowers.

I planted a number of herbs in self watering troughs (Green Smart in case you were wondering) on the verandah and I've already harvested a large bunch of basil for pesto. I was given some seed for a slow-bolt coriander and I'm eager to see whether it is what it claims. The thyme, sage, chives and oregano are ready to harvest for drying or freezing and I've already divided the mint into two pots. The parsley however is the big let-down! I've never had parsley perform so poorly before! No tabouli just yet!

I took some photos of the yellow daisies in the front nature strip/drain and posted them on Instagram. Someone suggested that some of them might be the native murnong daisies! "How exciting!" I thought and checked around with a few experts before discovering to my dismay that I had a solid floral extravaganza of cat's ears and lesser hawkbit: both introduced weeds. Thanks to Lyn Hovey for telling me where I could see murnong in a planting in Wybejong Park in Riddells Creek so at least I am acquainted with the real thing now! You know that saying "if something seems too good to be true: it probably is" sadly that turned out to be the case this time!



Romsey Mechanics Institute



We would like to welcome all our regular and casual users back for a super 2021.

The final stage of our Audio/Visual project will be completed on January 28th when the motorised

screen, projector and associated wiring etc. are put in place. Once working, this system will allow the RMI to host film nights. Local clubs and community groups are welcome to discuss using these new A/V systems with the CoM. We hope these improvements will help local groups to hold a variety of events and to help raise funds.

Currently we are planning to hold our 2021 Antiques Fair on Saturday March 20th, this event will be subject to Covid-19 restrictions and while we are hopeful, only time will tell what eventuates. We will include more up-to-date information on the Antiques Fair in the March edition of the Romsey Rag

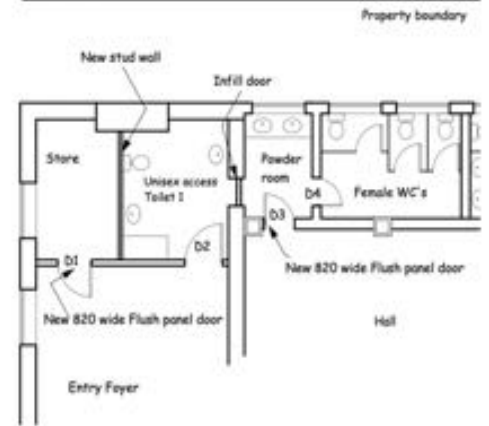
The toilet extension and refurbishment works are still in the Building Permit process. Once we obtain that permit we will begin works as soon as possible. Unfortunately these

works will mean that parts of the RMI will have to shut down on some days. We will work with our regular users so that they know about any closure well in advance.

Over the last few weeks we have noticed that some residents have been using the RMI bins to get rid of their waste, glass or other recyclables. It would be great if those people could please contact us before using the bins as we may have a function where all the bins are required. Also, if you do use our bins how about a donation to say "Thank You"? If this continues we will have to lock the bins

Just one of the metal fire screens left, if you are interested please call 0417 088 891.

Plans for stage 1 of the Toilet Works



www.romseymechanicsinstitute.com



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RANGES
PODIATRY



C.W.A 2021 STATE THEMES:

THEME :	Grow, Connect, Improve
Product/Resource :	Australian Indigenous Foods
Country of Study :	Botswana
Thanksgiving Fund :	Endometriosis Research through the Jean Hailes Medical Centre for Women
State Project :	CWA of Vic. Inc. IT and Systems Upgrade and Maintenance
Social Issues Focus :	Building communication skills in times of stress



CWA is *not just for older women*; it is for women of any age wanting to be involved in their local community and also be connected to a world-wide organisation of friendship and community care. We have a lot of fun and laughs while being creative and raising funds for community projects. CWA is a volunteer organisation.

Our friendly monthly meeting is on the 1st Wednesday of each month from 10.00 am to approx. 12.00 noon. Meetings are held in the supper room (side entrance) of the Romsey Mechanics Institute, Main Rd, Romsey. Examples of crafts we do are: knitting, sewing, crochet, cooking, beading, paper-craft.

Our Romsey Branch participates in various community activities, and we welcome new members. Come and join us! Membership is very affordable. For any further information please call:

President : Melva Beer
 Treasurer : Anne Barry
 Secretary: Wendy Foster
 M: 0409175 667 or
 Email: cwaromsey@gmail.com

Hope you all had a very happy Christmas with your families and friends. We ended the year quite busy. Our branch

breakup was lunch at Soltan Pepper, who again looked after us very well. Saturday 5th December saw some of our members man a table at our Group's pop-up Christmas stall, held at the CWA Macedon Hall. There were lots of Christmas craft items and preserves, jams etc. for sale. This was a great day with lots of people walking through. Our Branch held its first meeting of the year on Wednesday 6th January at the RMI Hall. It was lovely to catch up with everyone again and was great we could finally meet at the hall. Hopefully, this will continue. Along with our monthly meetings / craft days, our branch is hoping to hold a social day on the 3rd Thursday of the month. We should have details in the next issue. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 3rd February commencing 10am.

If you are thinking of joining us, please do as we would love to see new faces.

This month's recipe is –

Peppermint Slice

250gm Peppermint Chocolate, Chopped small
 250gm chocolate biscuits, crushed
 ½ tin condensed milk
 50gm butter, melted

Method – Mix all ingredients together and press into greased 18cm x 28cm tin.
 Refrigerate until set.



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And keeps us doing the things we love.

So even if your symptoms are mild,

or you've been tested before, every test helps.

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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





Romsey Region Business & Tourism Association (RRBATA)

Jenny Stillman
Phone: 0412 349849
Email: jennystillman@optusnet.com.au

The benefits of the Romsey Region Business and Tourism Association. Be a part of it!

Romsey Online Remember Don't forget, ANYONE CAN BE A REPORTER! Whether it is sporting results, photos, reports on events etc, the website is waiting for your "news".

Please ensure a note of consent from people featured in any photographs accompanies your submissions. Remember, the website is only as good as the information fed to it at info@romsey.org.au.

RRBATA Update

A Big 2021 Lies Ahead!

There is much to be excited about as we roll into 2021. Hopefully, the COVID-19 crisis period will continue to alleviate and a sense of optimism can begin to take hold in our business community.

RRBATA will continue to fiercely advocate for business and the visitor economy in the eastern corridor region of the Shire. RRBATA's Dinner and Breakfast events will be planned, along with Christmas in Romsey 2021. At the time of writing this, Council was making preliminary plans for a Shire-wide Autumn festival in April which, although probably modest this year due to lead-time constraints, will be something to build on in 2022.

New Signage

Many will have noticed the new tourism information boards and finger blade signage installed at the Lions' Park, Community Hub and Main Street precincts just before Christmas. This signage was funded through the Romsey Streetscape Project as a Council/community (RRBATA) partnership.

Christmas in Romsey 2020 – Round Up

Despite the COVID 19 challenges, Christmas in Romsey was again a great success with all elements (Lights and Decorations

competition, Main Street Christmas Trees display and Main Street Illuminations evenings all well received. A big thank you to the following:

- Tree delivery elves Mick, Natasha, Beryl, Shane and Abbey.
- All the wonderful volunteers on Main Street Christmas Tree Installation Day
- Paul and Leigh – for picking up and delivering generators
- Anne Collins, Peter O'Rourke and Kathy Lakey – Stripping and removing Main Street Christmas trees
- Newnham Earthmoving – for sponsorship of and removal and storage of the large community tree
- In Symmetry – for storing the small community trees
- Romsey Mowers – for supplying the cherry picker for decoration and stripping of the large community Christmas tree
- Romsey Hardware – for supplying Main Street Christmas Tree lights
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council – for providing tables and chairs for the Main Street Illuminations evenings.
- Bendigo Bank – for the significant sponsorship that enabled the festival.
- Cr Geoff Neil, Cr. Annette Death, Leanne Hammond (Bendigo Bank) and Ellen Milburn (Bendigo Bank) - Lights and Decorations Competition judges.

Western Water Smoking Out Cross Connections



Western Water is 'smoking' its sewer network to detect any cross-connections to their system, as part of its ongoing investment program.

Cross-connections exist when a pipe is incorrectly connected to the Western Water system, allowing stormwater to enter the sewer network.

This can cause major problems for their infrastructure and is particularly stressful to the system during periods of high rainfall where it can cause pipe blockages and sewer spills.

The innovative 'smoking' technology involves blowing non-toxic smoke into the network, which passes through sewer pipes before it eventually evaporates. If a pipe is cross-connected to the sewer network, the smoke escapes and becomes visible in the air, alerting Western Water to the incorrect connection.

"When we see white smoke seeping from gutters, rooftops or the ground, we know there's something wrong with the customer's connection and we need to investigate the area further," said Western Water's Chief Operating Officer, Graham Holt.

Western Water launched the program recently in Hopetoun and several cross-connections into their network were detected.

Since identifying the cross-connections, Western Water

has had more than a 90% success rate with rectifying them.

"The program has been really successful," said Mr Holt. "We understand that for most customers the cross-connection was unintentional and once they've been alerted to the situation, they've been really cooperative in working with us to fix the issue."

Following the successful launch of the program in Hopetoun, Western Water is expanding the program further across their service area, with the next inspections to occur in Maddingley, Bacchus Marsh.

"Our priority at Western Water is to deliver quality, reliable services to our customers. We're working with our customers to identify and fix cross-connections as it helps us keep our whole system working effectively," Mr Holt said.

Customers are advised to engage a licensed plumber if they suspect there are any issues with their connections.



Gather the People!

TGD Central Vic is a peer support group for Trans and Gender Diverse (TGD) folk living in Central Vic to come together, make connections and create a group that meets the needs of local people.

Early in 2020, Cobaw Community Health (Cobaw) received funding through Trans Gender Victoria's SPARK (Support for Peer-Support Activities that Revitalise Kinship) grant. The funding is aimed at increasing health and wellbeing outcomes for TGD Victorians by supporting the bright ideas of existing groups or the start-up of new groups.

In recognition of the community need for TGD peer support in Mount Alexander Shire, Cobaw has teamed up with CHIRP to support TGD community members across Central Vic to come together for an end of year celebration and for regular catch-ups moving forward into 2021. The plan is to rotate the venue between Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander shires and to explore opportunities for supported transport if there is a need.

'We are all very committed to supporting the TGD community across the life span,' said CLIP Project Worker, Belinda Brain. 'By collaborating with CHIRP we hope to better connect with our local TGD community and ultimately hand the reins over to community members if that is what they want'.

Whilst Cobaw and CHIRP will continue to be involved in the monthly organizing of TGD Central Vic, the direction, purpose and shape of the group will be driven by community members.

'Together we can raise awareness and increase the visibility of the TGD rural and regional experience within our local community' says Sherene Clow, Project Worker, CHIRP.

If you would like to find out more about TGD Central Vic, call Cobaw on 5421 1666 or email admin@cobaw.org.au, or CHIRP on 5479 1000 or email sclow@cdch.com.au.



**COBAW
Community Health**

Serving Macedon Ranges

**COBAW
Community Health**

By telephone:
1300 0 26229 (1300 0 COBAW)
or 03 5421 1666

By fax: 03 5422 2161

Email:
admin@cobaw.org.au

By mail:
PO Box 146,
Kyneton
Vic 3444

Opening Hours:
Monday-Friday 9:00am-
5:00pm

In person:
47 High Street, Kyneton

From Your Councillors

Dear Residents

A short note to let you know that your Councillors have been busy over the Christmas/New Year period. We are pushing ahead to have a bus shelter erected in Romsey at the intersection of Reynolds Dr and Melb. Road (service road) before May. An audit of school bus shelters across the Shire will be undertaken. Council staff have also inspected the picket fencing at Riddells Creek, regards repair and maintenance. Changing the timber pickets to either aluminium or recycled plastic is also being explored. More on this later. Due to Gov't COVID restrictions, we have minimum road maintenance crews on the job, therefore some potholes are taking a little longer to be filled. We are getting there irrespective of the slow progress.

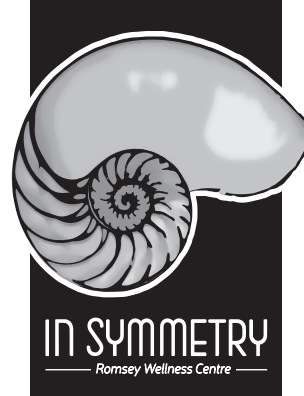
Efforts are being made to speak with the owner of the Romsey Hotel to ascertain his thoughts on the future of the premises. We would be seeking to have the pub operational again. Our fingers are crossed.

On the planning front, an application for a childcare facility and associated 23 lot subdivision has been lodged for Sutherlands Road, Riddells Creek. An Aged Care facility is mooted for Romsey on the corner of Melb. Road and Hutchinsons Lane. Also in the mix is a 168 lot subdivision just south of Romsey township.

We are looking forward to working with you in 2021.

Till next time.

Bill West 0400 025 455 bwest@mrsc.vic.gov.au
Geoff Neil 0419 244 776 gneil@mrsc.vic.gov.au
Annette Death 0427 956 117 adeath@mrsc.vic.gov.au



OUR PRACTITIONERS

Hannah Sutton
Jessica Jackman
Nicolette Truscott
Camille Scott
Margo Field
Jen Frankcombe-Campbell
Tara Brooks
Danielle Taranto

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120 Main St Romsey 3434 (03) 5429 3610
For online bookings - www.insymmetry.com.au





Romsey - Lancefield Probus

Welcome to Friendship

The Romsey/Lancefield Probus Club provides an opportunity for retirees or semi retired people to relax and enjoy the welcoming company of those at the same stage of life.

Our monthly meeting (4th Thursday of the month) is a chance to catch-up with new and old friends and hear interesting speakers on a wide variety of topics.

The next official meeting of the Romsey Lancefield Probus Club is on Thursday 25th February, 2021 at 10am in St. Mary's Catholic Church Hall, Main Street, Romsey.
Guest Speaker: Jenny Stillman, Ecotherapy Park.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 25th March, 2021.

Contact: President: Tony 0408536290;
Vice President: Allan 0408098428
Secretary: Jeni 5429 5480

Visit our WEB-Site: www.rlprobus.org.au



The Mount Players End Its Interval



With hopes high and fingers crossed The Players are now putting in place their plans for their 2021 season.

MEMBERSHIP - We remind everyone that 2021 membership was due on 1st January. More than ever, we need support on all levels to ensure we move forward after what we have experienced this past 12 months. Just \$30 plus \$10 each for extra family members provides wonderful value!

AGM – Monday 22nd Feb at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm.

PLAY READINGS – We plan to hold monthly play readings throughout 2021. A great opportunity to socialise and

listen to a play or if you are keen, read a part. Our first for the year is on Friday 12th Feb. at 7.00pm. - 'The Savages of Wirramai', an Australian play by Sandy Fairthorne.

PRODUCTIONS – Planning 3 for the season, our first in May (more details next month).

Registration for the AGM and Play Reading is mandatory as numbers will be limited. For full details on our AGM, Play Readings and Membership go to www.themountplayers.com

See you at the theatre.....finally.



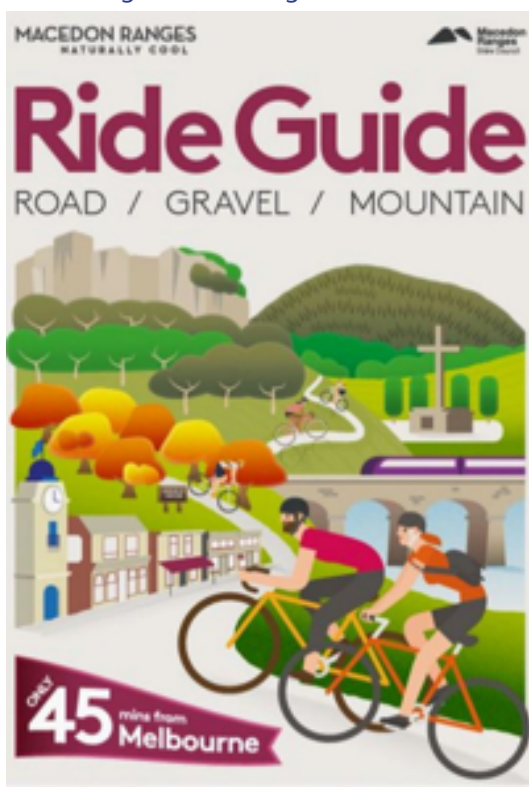
2021 Macedon Ranges Ride Guide

The new Macedon Ranges Ride Guide is out now, featuring 18 road, gravel and mountain bike routes to explore throughout the shire.

Get your copy and get on your bike!

It's more than 'just a ride' in the Macedon Ranges, it's an experience.

visitmacedonranges.com/ride-guide/



Get FIT Outdoors This Summer

Council, through the Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative is delivering programs and facilities that support people of all ages and abilities to use existing outdoor exercise equipment and open spaces — it's called the Free Inclusive Training Project (FIT).

Funding has already enabled Council to enhance the outdoor exercise stations in Gisborne, Romsey, Woodend and Kyneton. Additions such as water fountains, seats, bike stands, connecting paths, lighting and signs have been delivered to make these spaces more inclusive and accessible.

Free Inclusive Training (FIT) Programs – February and March 2021

Council will be holding **free** inclusive training programs at each of the four outdoor fitness stations located in Gisborne, Romsey, Woodend and Kyneton in February and March 2021.

The free classes will cater for all levels and abilities. The program will include COVID-safe sessions for young females, seniors, and anyone wanting to improve mental health by increasing physical fitness.

Online resources are also available to benefit community members of all ages, abilities and levels of fitness.

Keep an eye on our website for details about class times, locations, and fitness programs to help you get started.

What are you waiting for? Get more active for better wellbeing in 2021. Everyone is welcome!

For further information on the Free Inclusive Training (FIT) visit: mrsc.vic.gov.au/FIT

Cool Changes in Romsey and Lancefield

Cool Changes is Council's program for facilitating the development of local action plans to address climate change. The next round of the program will be delivered in Romsey and Lancefield.

The format is likely to involve a mix of community workshops and online engagement which will occur during the first half of 2021.

This is an exciting community-led program which provides residents with the opportunity to identify how they would like to address climate change at a local level for the Romsey and Lancefield townships and localities.

Regular updates will be provided on Council's website at <https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/Live-Work/Environment/Climate-Change#section-1>.

For further information, contact Silvana Predebon on phone 5421 9659, or email spredebon@mrsc.vic.gov.au.

Live4Life CREW – young people wanted to join the 2021 CREW!

Are you in Year 9 in 2021? Would you like to help support good mental health to other young people? Live4Life is looking for new CREW members to help run our 2021 Year 8 Program.

You'll learn some awesome skills and make lifelong friends!

For more information about how you can be involved in the Macedon Ranges group, get in touch with Loren at Youth Services on lpolzot@mrsc.vic.gov.au

For more information about the Live4Life program and what young people are doing across Victoria, go to www.live4life.org.au



Call Out to Artists to Lead Creative Recovery and Reconnect our Communities

We are looking to local artists, arts practitioners, art groups and arts organisations to submit their ideas to develop and deliver art projects, which awaken creativity, re-connect our community, and increase engagement in arts and culture.

There are three levels of funding available for projects ranging from \$3,000 to up to \$10,000. Expressions of interest open on Monday 1 February and close on Friday 28 February, project must be delivered by 30 June 2021.

For more information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/get-involved



Have Your Say on Strategic Waterway Plan

Waterways in the Macedon Ranges are highly valued for their significant landscape, recreation and environmental importance. Council manages multiple waterway reserves that provide valuable habitat and play an essential role in landscape connectivity.

Across 37 reserves in the Port Phillip and Westernport catchment, Council is developing a plan for environmental works along each waterway and identifying priority actions. The proposed works aim to improve water quality and habitat values through strategic weed management and revegetation.

Council is working in partnership with Melbourne Water to develop and implement the plan.

The Strategic Environmental Works Plan for Council managed waterways in the Port Phillip Westernport Catchment will enable Council to take a strategic approach to resource allocation and set a baseline for future monitoring and reporting. This work aligns with the Council Plan commitment to protect our natural environment which includes enhancing waterways and water quality.

All nearby residents and interested community members and organisations are invited to provide feedback on the draft plan.

Submissions are invited from 1–28 February 2021.

To find out more and have your say, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay, email environment@mrsc.vic.gov.au or call 5422 5333.





Back in the Game

Are you over 65 and want to be more active?

Join us for a free program of modified activity sessions, including table tennis, walking netball, ball skills, balloon volleyball, walking soccer and more.

10.30am – 12.00pm
Tuesday: Buffalo Sports Stadium, Woodend
Thursday: Romsey Recreation Centre

This project receives grant funding from the Australian Government through Sport Australia.



The Back in the Game program is ideal for physically inactive residents over 65 and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 50 years and older.



Aquatic & Leisure Centres

Romsey Recreation Centre
 Phone: 0418 992 556
 For further information and commencement dates visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/backinthegame

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS & OBSERVATIONS

- Monday 8th March Labour Day
- Friday 2nd April Good Friday
- Saturday 3rd April Easter Saturday
- Sunday 4th April Easter Sunday
- Monday 5th April Easter Monday
- Sunday 25th April ANZAC Day
- Monday 14th June Queens Birthday
- Subject to AFL schedule Friday before AFL Grand Final
- Tuesday 2nd November Melbourne Cup
- Saturday 25th December Christmas Day
- Sunday 26th December Boxing Day

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Goldfields
Library
Corporation

Library News

DIARY DATES:

1.6 Billion Ways to be Muslim until Monday 8 February

Photo Exhibition: 1.6 Billion Ways to be Muslim proudly displayed in the library space from the 18th of January until the 8th of February.

Library Lovers' Week Monday 8 February until Sunday 14 February

Celebrate your love of reading leading up to the 14th of February with a happy snap in our photo booth of you with your favourite book, library friend or staff member!

Summertime Fun

Bug Off Photography Challenge until the end of February

Join our all-ages digital photography challenge! Photograph spiders and insects busy about their everyday lives. Best images displayed in our Online Bug Off Gallery and prizes for most fascinating images.

Send entries to: programs@ncgrl.vic.gov.au

Storytime Sessions

Baby Rhyme Time, Pre-school Storytime and Toddler Time sessions are due to commence from Monday the 1st of February!

Please refer to our website – www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au, the Romsey Library Facebook page or phone us on 5429 3086 for more information and times.

Romsey Library

The Hub

98 Main Street

Romsey

Ph: 5429 3086

E: romsey@ncgrl.vic.gov.au

Opening Hours

Please refer to our website,

www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au

Facebook page or contact us

for information regarding

up-to-date opening hours in

February.

Beat the Heat at the Library this Summer

If you haven't set foot in a library recently, you might be surprised that modern libraries offer so much more than books! While there are still shelves upon shelves of reading materials, today's libraries are bustling community hubs, and a perfect place to escape the scorching summer heat.

Here are just a few things you can do at the Romsey Library.

Get comfy on the couches and read. Still a popular choice! Pick up a book, magazine, newspaper, eBook or audiobook and enjoy the hot summer days in air-conditioned comfort.

Watch or work. If you've got a laptop, smartphone or tablet, connect up to the free library Wi-Fi and catch up on a show or work or study free from the distractions at home.

Jump on a public computer. No device? No problem! We have free-to-use public computers. Browse the web, fill in an online form, play a game (child friendly!), our computers can do it all and our staff are on hand to help if you need assistance.

Get some tech help. At the library we offer one-on-one tech help to help you decipher your device. We can help you get started on the internet, borrow a digital book, shop online or fill in forms. Please speak to us if you would like to access this service.

Research your roots. Get started online via Ancestry or FindMyPast or come into the library to begin researching your family history. Library staff are on hand to help get you started.

Come along to Storytime. These popular sessions run each week during school terms and are a great way to introduce little kids to the fun of reading, dancing, singing and socialising. Storytimes are also a great opportunity to connect with other parents and make new friends.

The Dry.

Review by Rae.

Director: Robert Connolly. Producers: Bruna Papandrea, Jodi Matterson, Steve Hutensky

Finally, the highly anticipated release of the movie, *The Dry*, based on Jane Harper's outstanding first novel of the same name. I was so excited to finally watch the film and it did not disappoint. True to the Australian rural landscape, *The Dry* sees Federal Agent Aaron Falk, perfectly played by Eric Bana, return to his hometown after an absence of more than 20 years to attend the funeral of his childhood friend, Luke, who has allegedly killed his wife and child before taking his own life. At the insistence of Luke's parents and in the hope of proving Luke's innocence, Falk agrees to hang around and investigate. As he works alongside local police officer, Greg Raco (played by Keir O'Donnell), Falk must fight against the prejudice against him relating to the unsolved murder of 17-year-old Ellie Deacon (beautifully portrayed by BeBe Bettencourt), about which many of the townspeople suspect Falk is hiding something. I felt, overall, that the movie was an impressive interpretation of the book's text, which brought to life with accurate casting the characters from the book and which accurately set the scene of life in a rural Australian community.

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Romsey Lancefield Senior Citizens WELCOME BACK



We are pleased to announce that we will be starting our Monday lunches and get-togethers again at our Rooms at the rear of the Romsey Mechanics Institute on **Monday 8th of February**.

At this stage our monthly Bus Trips are still on hold but we will keep you informed as to when these trips will be going ahead again.

We look forward to catching up with everyone on Monday the 8th of February.



For further information please contact **Helen** on **0409 064 303** or **Rae** on **0408 338 759**.

Lancefield Relay For Life Receives Boost Ahead of February Event!



Local fundraisers have been buoyed to receive generous support from the local community despite a challenging year for many, in particular paying thanks to the Lancefield & Romsey Bendigo Bank branches for a generous grant of \$11,000 ahead of the Lancefield (Macedon Ranges) Relay For Life event in February 2021.

Captain of the Community Bank Carnival Team Jodie Dobbs said: "Having participated in the Lancefield Relay For Life since the event began in 2002, I know it to be an incredibly inclusive community event that supports an important cause. After such a tough year for so many, it will be so important to come together and support locals touched by cancer."

The event is planned to go ahead on Saturday 27th of February at the Lancefield Park, with locals of all ages encouraged to get a group of family, friends or colleagues together to form a team.

The event was fortunately able to go ahead in 2020 prior to COVID-19 restrictions being enforced, and following a tough year for all, the community spirit and support for the event hasn't wavered. The local Bendigo Bank branches acknowledged the power of the event to bring the community together to recognise and celebrate those affected by cancer during a time when the community need it more than ever, providing the grant through the Lancefield and Romsey Community Bank Branches Community Investment Program.

Relay For Life is a local fundraising movement that empowers communities to come together to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost and fight back against cancer. The event raises vital funds for Cancer Council Victoria's cancer research, prevention and support programs and is suitable for families and people of all ages.

To join the Lancefield Relay For Life event please phone 1300 65 65 85 or visit relayforlife.org.au.

What if being a good man just meant being a good human?

Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Trial Site is excited to announce the launch of a new study, **#the human code**. The study seeks to support boys and men in the Macedon Ranges break free from harmful gender stereotypes and improve the health of everyone in the community.

As part of the study, we are recruiting 1,000 people of all genders aged over 16 living in the Macedon Ranges, to complete a 20-minute survey on what it means to be a man.

If you live in the Macedon Ranges, we would like to hear from you. Complete the survey and you will go into the draw to win one of four \$500 Coles vouchers.

Visit www.orygen.org.au/thehumancode or scan the QR code to complete the survey.



If you need help now call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or text 0477 13 11 14 (6pm-midnight)





Cooking with Peter Russell-Clarke

Steak and Cherries

Ian and Dianne Rohde, my neighbours, dropped in a bag of bloody good-o cherries, which reminded me of Prince Charles and this recipe. But first, a little history -

The most famous cherry story is George Washington cutting down one of his dad's cherry trees. Another interesting story is of a chap called Lucullus. He was a Roman general who brought cherries into Europe. He would invite all his mates' home, fill their stomachs with cherries and cream then, to keep the whole lot chilled, he'd get his mates to lie tummy-down on a huge block of ice. Lucullus believed he invented cherry ice cream.

Anyway, cherries are full of fibre, vitamins A and C, they look

good, taste good and they are good. For instance, they are ripper to eat if you suffer from gout, as I told my mate Jodie!

Prince Charles drank Cherry Brandy when he was a Timbertop (after lights out). I talked about this recipe to His Royal Self. I told HRH the important thing about cooking cherries is **not** to cook them. You only warm them. That means you have to move pretty quickly. (And he's a bloody quick boy on or off his feet.)

PS. The Roman soldiers ate cherries as they marched along the Appian Way. They spat out the pips, which grew and their descendants are the cherry trees which still border that great road.

STEAK AND CHERRIES.

- 2 tablespoons butter;
- 6 thin slices eye fillet steak;
- Splash of Cherry Brandy;
- Freshly ground black pepper;
- 1 clove garlic, crushed;
- 2 cups pitted cherries;
- 3 tablespoons cream.

Melt the butter in the top of a chafing dish or a large heavy frying pan.

Drop in the thin slices of steak and cook for half a minute. Pop in a splash of Cherry Brandy, some freshly ground black pepper and the garlic. Then turn the steak over. All that should take you about another minute, which is all the steak needs on that side. Now toss in the cherries, move them around to warm and stir in the cream and the steak should be cooked.

DON'T OVERCOOK THE THIN STEAK.

Serve 2 pieces of steak (they're only small and thin) to each person with the cherries on top and a little sauce.

I don't worry about any vegetables with the steak but if you're worried the plate may look a little deserted, decorate with some raw baby spinach leaves.



Deep Creek Landcare Group

Covering Lancefield, Romsey and Monageeta Districts



Deep Creek Landcare ended 2020 with our annual end of year picnic in Lancefield Park. From February, our monthly meetings and working bees begin. Our meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 8:00 pm in the Lancefield Mechanics Hall. We are a small group and welcome likeminded souls to come and join us. Our philosophy aligns with 'think global, act local'. We can all help out by modifying our lifestyles, making appropriate consumer choices and by managing our homes and backyards in a sustainable, eco friendly way.

Trees, like all plants, use the energy of sunlight and through the process of photosynthesis take carbon dioxide from the air and water from the ground. In the process of converting it into wood they release oxygen into the air. The faster a plant grows the more carbon dioxide it will use up per second. The earth can also store carbon. In fact, the earth can store many times more carbon than the atmosphere. By composting vegetation (and food scraps) we can help this process and at the same time attract worms and increase microbiological

activity which will improve the soil.

February may be peak production time in the region for summer vegetables and fruit but it is also the time to plant seeds for many of the winter vegetables that do well here. I will be planting sprouting broccoli, cabbage, kohlrabi, cauliflower and several varieties of kale. I may even sneak in another row of carrots and beetroot.

At this time of the year limiting water use is also important for the environment. Plant choice and mulching are keys in this regard. Evenly water established vegetables like tomatoes every two or three days. While we are talking about water, please make the effort to have some fresh water in the backyard for our insect and feathered friends.

Annual Landcare membership is \$20 per family. You can follow us on facebook, contact our President, Phil Severs (0476 324 000) or attend our monthly meetings in the Lancefield Mechanics Hall.

Romsey Golf Club, Men's & Women's Reports

Park Lane, Romsey
PO Box 200, Romsey 3434

www.romseygolfclub.net
mail@romseygolfclub.net

President 0417 088 891
Secretary 0400 768 040



Our works to improve Romsey Park/golf course are now virtually finished, just a spot of cleaning up here and there. All told about 20 RGC members spent over 130 days assisting the professionals and to take care of smaller projects. Detailed weekly reports were provided to councillors and we have now acquitted the project. Our thanks to Mick McMahon – Lawn & Turf Maintenance, Cam Newnham – NewEarth Constructions, Mick Breen – Sunbury Water Pros and Greg Hobbs from Hobbs Trenching & Irrigation; all worked in well with our volunteers and did a professional job. Our thanks to the councillors for trusting RGC to organise and carry out these works. As time passes and areas of the park settle down the results of will be there for all to see.

Presentation Day Sat Dec 17th. Covid-19 Restriction meant reduced numbers ; we would like to thank the Bowls Club who agreed to use the outside area for that day. A special presentation was made to nine RGC members who had worked especially hard during the improvements, Bruce Robb, Clive Mensforth, John Freestone, Mal Mottram, Hugh Drummond, Steve Wilkins & Andrew Clement (Ron Walker absent). Thanks to "The Romsey Bottle-O" who sponsored this award.



A special "Thank-you" for efforts during our recent major works.

Covid-19 has again highlighted the problems for two clubs with rapidly growing memberships who have to share rooms. Members of both committee met to discuss this problem and the Golf Club agreed to begin play 90 mins earlier so that players from each club did not cross in the rooms. RGC will finish presentations etc by 3.45pm and then have 15 mins to sanitise tables, chairs, bar and toilets before the bowlers come into the rooms after 4.00pm

Subject to Covid-19 Restriction our Relay For Life Charity Golf Day will go ahead on Sun Feb 21st.

President's & Captains' Award; Hugh Drummond

The John Laing Shield; Ryan Davies (8) Vs Rob Rea (0) (To be played by Jan 21st)

All bookings at: <https://www.romseygolfclub.net> "BOOK NOW" button

For detailed reports on all results; <http://www.romseygolfclub.net/results/2020/>

Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club

A Great Christmas Celebration, now we're back on the piste.

The Club enjoyed a really great Christmas Celebration at the fun. Hanging Rock with a huge turnout of members, the weather was kind to us with a wonderfully balmy evening allowing us to play a few games of Petanque before descending upon the Hanging Rock Cafe for a most enjoyable Christmas Party. We didn't get a visit from Santa as he was busy packing up the sleigh and feeding the reindeer but we enjoyed some excellent food, good liquid refreshments, a lot of socialising and great fun.

Membership of the club continues to flourish with a swag of new faces joining in November and this looks like it will continue in the New Year with much interest being shown by potential members. Many of these new members are recently arrived residents in the area and are finding the Club an excellent means of meeting people and becoming part of the local community,



if you have just moved into the area why not come along and see what a wonderful game Petanque is, make some new friends and join

Social competition is now back in full swing at the Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club at both our Woodend and Hanging Rock terrains and we welcome everyone who would like to try this great sport to come along and give it try, we are sure you will enjoy it as much as we do. We play at the Old Racecourse in Woodend on Mondays and at Hanging Rock Reserve on Thursdays start time is 4:30pm at both venues and you don't need any kit or special equipment - just bring a smile, we provide everything else you need to try the game.

What is Petanque?

It's a funny French sport with an even funnier name, a bit like Bowls and Bocce but without a lot of those sport's formalities - and it's a lot more fun! It is played by all ages and people of all fitness levels, it can even be played in a wheelchair!

It's inexpensive to play, no fancy uniforms to buy, we provide free Club boules to use while you give the sport a try. Come and join the fun, we'd love you to.

For more information please contact us through:

john.pizzey@petanqueattherock.com.au

or visit our website

www.petanqueattherock.com.au



LANCEFIELD Juniors

Lancefield Junior Football & Netball Club

Lancefield Junior Girls Football Teams 2021

Be part
of history!
First girls teams
for the mighty
Lancefield
Tigers!

Announcing the introduction in 2021
Lancefield Junior Girls Football Teams

Lancefield Juniors Football Netball club is calling all girls interested in playing football
across all age groups 2021 teams.

Be part of history and sign up to be involved in the first girls teams
for the mighty Lancefield Tigers!

Lancefield Junior Football Netball club is committed to providing a safe family environment
for girls to participate in a fun social team sport. This is going to be a very exciting time!

Bring your girl friends along!
This girl can!

For more information please contact, Jacqui Green
billb@grangecc.com.au

**THIS
GIRL
CAN**



Colouring for the Kids



Lancefield Courthouse
55 Main Rd Lancefield VIC 3434

Romsey & Lancefield Districts Historical Society Inc.

<https://romseylancefieldhistorical.com.au/>

Email: lancefieldcourthouse@gmail.com
Postal: P.O.Box 101 Lancefield Vic 3435



Sidney Seymour Cottage property
20 Palmer Street Romsey VIC 3434

The Romsey and Lancefield Districts Historical Society Inc. was formed in April 1979. The Society endeavours to preserve all written and photographic items relating to The Shire of Romsey.

The Old Shire was a local Government area in Victoria, Australia. The Shire covered an area of 628 square kilometers and existed from 1862-1995.

Towns included: Benloch, Bolinda, Cherskeo, Chintia, Clarkefield, Darrawiet Gains, Kerrie, Lancefield, Monegetta, Mt William, Riddells Creek, Rochford, Romsey, Springfield and Tantarabos.

The area has a very rich history starting with the Aboriginal Greenstone Axe Quarry at Mt William as well as the Archaeological Mega Fauna site in the old swamp at the Lancefield Park.



Encourage Church

Romsey Office:
7 Mitchell Court Romsey
Ph (03) 5429 6327

office@encouragechurch.com.au
www.encouragechurch.com.au

At Encourage Church, we are all about people. God commands us to love one another and by this shall all men know that we are His. We hope to see you at one of our services or events soon.

Please follow us on social media or check our website for updates on our Sunday Services detail

Find us on Instagram and Facebook using the following @encouragechurchromsey



PASTOR'S PARABLES

Believing in God is a chance worth taking



To prove our capabilities in certain endeavours, we often need someone else to take a chance and believe in us. When given such a chance, we then have an opportunity to prove their faith in us was well founded.

The world's greatest intellects can neither prove nor disprove God's existence. It all comes down to personal belief. If we adamantly don't believe in something, we sceptically explain away all proof. We live in a world where seeing is believing; however, one of the greatest acts of trust we can show in another, is believing in them before the evidence is seen.

God does not coerce our free-will. Only those who step out in faith see the evidence of God working in their lives. This explains why many Christians have a strong faith; by believing they have seen – and once seen it is easy to believe. In a world of reason, it seems foolish to believe in something before seeing the evidence, but if we always disbelieve in God we inadvertently close the door on Him ever proving Himself. Give God a chance. God does reveal Himself through creation and His Word (the Bible), but if we wish for God to reveal Himself further in our life, we must choose to seek Him.

How do we start? The Bible states in John 10:9 that Jesus Christ is the door and by believing in Him we will receive everlasting life and an eternal relationship with God. (See Hebrews 11:6, 2 Corinthians 5:7)

2020 was NOT the year that most had anticipated. However, 2021 to many will be a year that is appreciated and valued and full of NEW HOPE more than ever. This year, why not reach for a new adventure, take a giant leap of faith and believe in Jesus Christ, just as you would like to have a fresh start and be believed in. It could be the most rewarding year of your whole life.

Don't rely on your mains water supply in a bushfire.

You could have low water pressure or no supply.



Stay safe and follow CFA advice.

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Call 1800 240 667

Find out more
www.westernwater.com.au/bushfires

Call 1300 650 422 SMS 0480 015 200



Make Sure Your Campfire Doesn't Become a Bushfire!

It's a great time to go camping, but don't let your campfire become a bushfire.

Remember these tips when setting up:

- ✔ Keep a clear area of 3 metres around the fire
- ✔ Ensure the fire is no bigger than 1sq metre
- ✔ Someone must be at the fire at all times and have the means to extinguish it
- ✔ The fire must be fully extinguished when the last person leaves

Make sure your campfire doesn't become a bushfire!
Visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/can for more info on what you can and can't do during the fire season.



MACEDON RANGES UNITING CHURCH PARTNERSHIP CONTACTS

Ministers: Pastor Annette Buckley Ph. 5429 5351 or 0457 608 539
Rev. Linda Young Ph. 0412 137 783

Office Phone: 5428 6920

Email: macedon.ranges.partnership@hotmail.com

Website: www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au

Members of the Uniting Church Macedon Ranges Partnership have been enjoying worship services via Video Link - see the website above.

On Sunday 17th January, 2021 The Macedon Ranges Uniting Church Partnership said goodbye to Rev. Peter Cannon at a service at the Kyneton Uniting Church. We wish Peter and his family all God's blessings in his next venture.

This year, 2021 is with us - Little children are starting school, getting used to a new environment without Mum there to turn to.

Students commencing Year 7 at Secondary School or beginning their University education. Then there are those facing the hurdle of finding a job after finishing their schooling.

There are a few anxious moments as we face and commence new adventures in our life. We all hope for a happy and peaceful year!!

But there is always the threat of Covid-19 rearing its ugly head and causing lockdowns and heart ache again and again.

And we also know that in reality there are always problems and worries along with the joyfulness and peace, this comes with life. - but perhaps if we can face life with a smile for those around us it will help all of us find the joy in life.

A genuine smile can be as good as a present for someone in need of love, hope or attention. Keep Smiling. Smiling as Therapy is the latest thing.

Next time you rush down the street, break your stride and find the time to smile at those you pass by.

A Smile is Universal. "Peace begins with a smile"

MASS ATTENDANCE AVAILABLE BY BOOKING ONLY

We are currently restricted to a maximum of 60 people at each Mass. Please contact the Secretary at lancefield@cam.org.au or by phone on 5429 2130 to reserve your place at the next available Mass.

Current Mass Times:

Sunday Mass

Sunday Mass will be celebrated at 9am and will alternate between Lancefield & Romsey. 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month in Romsey, 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays of the month in Lancefield.

Saturday Healing Mass

The Healing Mass will be celebrated at 10am in Romsey on the 1st Saturday of each month.

Baptisms

Baptisms are held at 2pm on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month. Please contact the office for the next available date.

Should a parishioner want to go to Reconciliation, please contact Fr. Martin directly at Woodend on 5427 2690 to book a time.

Please direct enquiries to the parish office on 5429 2130 or by email at lancefield@cam.org.au

For funeral arrangements, please contact Fr. Martin on 5427 2690 or by email at woodend@cam.org.au

WORSHIP FROM HOME – HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN MASS ONLINE

- St. Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne, daily Mass at 1pm, Sunday Mass 11am.
- Watch this at <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>
- Via facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicArchdioceseofMelbourne>
- The Archdiocese youtube channel at www.youtube.com/archmelb
- Mass for you at home is broadcast on network Ten on Sundays <https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>



The Uniting Church in Australia

Macedon Ranges Partnership

Romsey Congregation
25 Pohlman Street,
Romsey. 3434
(P.O. Box 264)

Chairperson
Mr. Noel Shaw
5429 5509

Secretary
Mrs. Jenifer Clampit
5429 5480

*Let the peace of Christ rule in
your hearts and homes.
Let the word of Christ dwell in
you richly.
God comes to us, each and
every one.
God bless you every day.*



St. Mary's Parish - Lancefield & Romsey

27-29 Chauncey St, Lancefield
& 85 Main Rd, Romsey

lancefield@cam.org.au

Parish Priest	Fr. Martin Fleming C/O Woodend Presbytery 5427 2690
Supply Priest	Fr. Daryl Montecillo C/O Woodend Presbytery 5427 2690
Parish Secretary	Mrs. Tammie Dalgleish 5429 2130
School Secretary	Ms. Julie McDougall 5429 1359
School Website	www.smlancefield.catholic.edu.au

NOTICE OF ROMSEY RAG A.G.M

The Romsey Rag Annual General Meeting will be taking place on:

MONDAY 15TH MARCH 2021

It will be held in the Supper Room at the Romsey Mechanics Institute starting at 7:30pm.

All members of the community are welcome to attend.

All positions will be up for nomination and voting, so if you would like to get involved this is your chance . Note all positions are voluntary, no payment will be made.

Each role has a defined job description and requires a few hours commitment each month.

If you would like to find out more please contact us via email with any questions you may have.

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Free space

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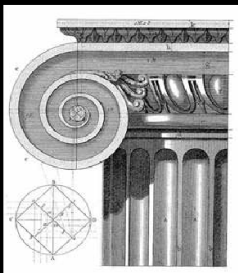
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Construction Has Begun! But Where Are YOU?



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Join Today!

\$5.00 Membership until the shed is built, and the full fee is determined by the members.

Send an email to: romseyms@gmail.com with the subject **RMS Membership**. Include your **Name**, Contact **Phone number**, and one of our overworked committee will get back to you ASAP.

The More Members we have the more clout we have when we apply for Grants



Don't travel to high risk areas on **Extreme Fire Danger Rating** days.

If you plan to travel through Victoria during fire season, it's important to check the Fire Danger Rating every day. If the rating is Extreme or above, avoid travelling to high risk bush or grassfire areas. It's safer to travel to cities or towns for the day.

How well do you know fire?



Plan. Act. Survive. Go to emergency.vic.gov.au

Romsey Golf Club Inc.

*13th Charity
Golf Day*

*Sun Feb, 21st 2021
The "Old Course"*

Four Player Ambrose



Proudly Sponsored By



Proceeds to "Puddle's Team"
in the 2021 Lancefield &
Macedon Ranges Relay For Life

9.30 am for 10.00 am hit-off

Entry Fee; \$100 per
team (\$25 pp). Inc Romsey
Golf Club Lunch – subject to
Covid-19 restrictions

Field limit - 22 teams.

Entries close;

Noon, Wed, February 17th
(Entry on the day if field permits)

Entries to: RGC Sec –
Ph; 0400 768 040 or

secretary@romseygolfclub.net

Join us in a fun day of golf for a very worthy cause.

Refreshments available throughout the day

Prizes; 1st, 2nd, Best Team Uniform & NTPs

Romsey Golf Club
Golf, the challenge of a lifetime