

Gisborne Gazette

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DECEMBER 2023 FREE

Local leader Australian of the Year for Victoria

Gisborne's Janine Mohamed has been named Australian of the Year 2024 for Victoria.

Describing herself as a "purveyor of people", Janine said it was "shocking and exciting" to be announced the winner from the field of very impressive finalists at the awards ceremony on 14 November in Melbourne.

A proud Narungga Kurna woman raised on a mission in South Australia, Janine has had a career in Aboriginal health and is passionate about improving healthcare and opportunities for indigenous Australians, and for indigenous expertise and participation to be valued in Australia's healthcare system.

She is a keen believer in the importance and power of embedding 'cultural safety' knowledge and practice in individuals and workplaces across Australia and encourages everyone to be aware of their subconscious assumptions about others.

full story ► page 3



Janine Mohamed after the Victorian Australian of the Year awards in Melbourne. Picture: Salty Dingo.

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From the Editor's desk

Congratulations to Gisborne resident Janine Mohamed on being named Australian of the Year for Victoria! What an achievement and recognition of her leadership and impact to create a brighter future for Indigenous Australians. I only discovered Janine's important work and the fact that she lived here very recently, and look forward to learning more about it.

When I spoke to Janine, she described Gisborne as "small enough and big enough" and I think it is an apt description. Just look at how many different community groups we have. Yet how connected many are – within themselves, and with others. Or how often you see familiar faces when you go to the shops or a local event, and also many you don't know. I think this duality is something to be valued and hope it will continue well into the future.

In this last edition for 2023, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the *Gazette* this year – club and school reporters, columnists, feature writers, advertisers, distributors, people who sent in community news, students who helped lay out an edition, people who provided feedback on the paper, people who sent us photos of the *Gazette* in far-flung places, and many others.

Special thanks to the *Gazette* committee (Pip Butler, Bryan Power, Maxine Barker, Patsy Smith, Dorothy Murray and Deb Fleming) and Chris Fleming who have worked so hard to bring 11 editions to you this year, and to Adam Lopez and Ethalia Alekozoglou for proofreading the *Gazette* during production. Thank you for your time, energy and dedication to make the paper such a valued source of local news.

I wish you all, and our regular readers, a great end to 2023 and start to 2024, and hope you have many opportunities before the next *Gazette* comes out (on 30 January) to appreciate the small and big things that make the Gisborne area so special.

Happy reading,
Corinne Shaddock

Gazette at Large



Deb Curran recently went to India to do a Vipassana Meditation course in Varanasi and came home via Agra. A Taj Mahal pic was too obvious, so she sent us this photo of the *Gazette* at the Red Fort in Agra, which goes back to the 16th century.

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OBITUARIES

To submit an obituary for publication, please email bryanp2@bigpond.com. Please also provide a photograph for publication and restrict the article to about 250-300 words.

Where you can find the Gazette

If you do not receive the *Gazette* in your letter box, you can collect a copy at:

Gisborne: Post Office, Village Shopping Centre, Priceline Chemist, Hardy's UFS Pharmacy, Gisborne Medical Centre in Brantome Street, Coles and Foodworks supermarkets
Mt Macedon: The Trading Post

Macedon: Post Office, United Service Station on Black Forest Drive
New Gisborne: Baringo Food & Wine, Station Road; Cafe at 3 Ladd Road
Riddells Creek: Newsagency
Woodend: Coles supermarket

The *Gisborne Gazette* acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work. We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community, and pay respect to elders past, present and emerging.



John and Shirley Cross are presented with a certificate for 10 years' service as distributors by *Gazette* committee president Maxine Barker.

Gazette reception

Many *Gazette* reporters, distributors and other contributors attended the annual reception given in appreciation of their service in November. Five, 10 and 15-year certificates were awarded and special mention was made of the young writers who contribute to the *Gazette*.



Elaine Miller with editor Corinne Shaddock. Elaine was presented with concert tickets for her *Vision Australia* history article which was highly commended in the *Community Newspaper* awards.

Local named Australian of the Year for Victoria

◀ from page 1

Indigenous healthcare pioneer Janine Mohamed was named as Victoria's 2024 Australian of the Year in November. Janine, a proud Narungga Kurna woman, has dedicated her life to fighting racism and improving health outcomes for Australia's Indigenous communities.

She has spent the past five years as CEO of the Lowitja Institute, an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led community health research organisation based in Melbourne. Before that, she was CEO of the Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives.

Janine, 49, moved to Gisborne a few years ago with her husband Justin Mohamed, drawn by the region's diversity and natural beauty and the sense of community. Gisborne was "small enough and big enough".

She said she loves country life and eating her own eggs.

"Macedon Ranges – [it] felt right to be on that country; my spirit and soul told me it was definitely the place for me," she said.

Her early life in the mission in South Australia inspired her to pursue a career in healthcare.

"I saw the amazing work of healthcare professionals, but I also saw the devastating work of health professionals and the missed opportunities," she said.



Janine Mohamed is presented with the honour by Victorian Lieutenant-Governor James Angus.



Janine speaks after receiving the award. Pictures supplied

She has worked for 25 years in nursing, health policy and Indigenous health and wellbeing research.

She said her work has involved celebrating excellence in her community, but also has required her to talk about the "tough stuff", including racism.

Janine paid tribute to her children, who she said

were a driving force behind her work.

"What that means for me as an individual, is that they don't have to continue this work," she said.

"That they get to do whatever they want, and they have real options, and the world is their oyster and they're valued in it."

Don't miss Emergency Services Community Expo

Sunday 3 December

Jacksons Creek Reserve (Gisborne Adventure Playground)

The Gisborne CFA Brigade is hosting an Emergency Services and Community Showcase to provide a unique opportunity for our community to meet their emergency services groups.

Visitors can browse the state-of-the-art equipment/appliances and learn about community resilience, with a range of community information stands available to assist.

All our local emergency services will be in attendance as we collaborate in this fantastic community event, with a sausage sizzle hosted by our local Rotary Club.

We look forward to seeing you on the day.

Di Dale, CFA Gisborne



FIRE DANGER PERIOD
The Fire Danger period for the Macedon Ranges has been declared from 27 November to 1 May 2024. For more information see ▶ page 5

New councillor sworn in

Christine Walker has been declared the successful candidate to fill the Macedon Ranges Shire Council south ward vacancy caused by the resignation of Cr Anne Moore.



Christine Walker

A VEC-led online count-back took place, with all formal south ward votes from the 2020 council election redistributed to the candidates who were unsuccessful in 2020. Christine was sworn in on 22 November.

Christine has had a career as a social and market researcher for large corporations and in consulting roles. She has lived overseas and in Sydney for short periods for work.

Her family moved to the Macedon Ranges about 12 years ago and live in Mount Macedon.

Christmas Late Night Shopping
1 December 5.30 – 8pm

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GISBORNE GOSS

• Congratulations to Gisborne Primary School students Melia Sheppard, Felicity McHugh, Mikayla Allen and Adele McKibbin for winning first place in the Virtual Maths Games on 30 October, competing against 56 schools from across Victoria.



From left: Felicity McHugh, Melia Sheppard, Adele McKibbin and Mikayla Allen.

• Congratulations to Eloise Rodda and Torie Skrijel of Gisborne Football Netball Club for being selected for the Bendigo Strikers' inaugural 23 and Under Squad which will participate in the Victorian Netball League competition in 2024.

• To the delight of residents affected by extended road closures, Brooking Road between McGeorge and Tasman Roads and the roundabout at Sheedy Road have reopened to traffic.



• Congratulations to Shanleigh Meldrum, above, a Gisborne SES volunteer and disability advocate who is improving the awareness of deaf, hard of hearing and blind youth needs in regional Victoria, for being inducted in the Victorian Women's Honour Roll 2023 in October. The Women's Honour Roll is a State Government initiative to celebrate ways in which women have made a lasting contribution to the state, and has been in place since 2001.

• A planning permit has been sought for a childcare centre with 80 child spaces to be built on Tasman Road.

• The former GREAT/Gazette premises in Hamilton Street is to be taken over by a masseur from Sunbury.

• Gisborne will soon have another Indian dining option with Naan's restaurant set to open in Aitken Street.

Gisborne Olde Time Christmas Market

Sun 3 Dec 9am - 2pm

For Market information call 0431 563 566 or go to



www.gisborneoldetimemarket.org.au



Young reporters Rue Kelly, who has just finished at Gisborne Secondary College, and Eliza Ransome, Year 7, were welcome attendees at the Gazette volunteers' reception in November.

Nearest sites taking container deposits

Victoria's container deposit scheme started on 1 November. The scheme gives a 10-cent refund for every eligible can, carton and bottle returned to a designated refund point.

The closest refund points to Gisborne are in Sunbury, at HomeCo Rosenthal (90 Vineyard Road) and the Sunbury Reverse Vending Bulk Depot (Unit 3, 57-59 Horne Street). For further details, go to www.cdsvic.org.au.

NB Do not crush items to be recycled as the machines need to read the barcode.



Local author in indie book award



Warwick McFadyen

Local journalist and author Warwick McFadyen has been honoured with an international book prize.

The Best Indie Book Award, which is an international literary awards contest recognising independently published authors, was awarded to Warwick in the 'Grief and Loss' category for his book of short essays and poetry, *The Ocean*, written after the death of his 21-year-old son in 2019. It is a book, Warwick says, that he would have given his life not to have needed to write, but he was very honoured to have received the award.

Warwick works at *The Age* and also writes for various online outlets, and contributes a periodic 'Reflections' column to the *Gazette*. *The Ocean* is available online at Amazon.com.au at \$24.90.



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Go Renewable Energy Group (GREG) is proudly supported by the Bendigo Bank and Macedon Ranges Shire Council. We are a project of the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group

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FIRE SEASON

Long Fire Danger Period declared

The council urges residents to prepare for an increased likelihood of warmer and drier conditions over summer, with the CFA declaring the Fire Danger Period for the Macedon Ranges from 27 November to 1 May 2024 (unless otherwise advised). During the Fire Danger Period, no fire may be lit in the open air without a permit.

The council is focused on working with the community to collectively reduce the shire's fire risk, including selective roadside slashing across council-managed roads to reduce the likelihood of fires starting from hot vehicle exhausts or collisions.

The council's fire prevention officers are also conducting property inspections to check for fire hazards and issue Fire Prevention Notices where appropriate.



Residents are reminded of the importance of being prepared for fires, and to ensure their properties are maintained and to have minimal flammable fuels such as stockpiles of green waste and foliage in gutters.

Free green waste disposal is available at the council's transfer stations in Woodend, Kyneton and Romsey. Resources for the fire danger period:

Preparing for fire and heat: mrsc.vic.gov.au/fire-heat.

Fire Danger Ratings and the Fire Danger Period: cfa.vic.gov.au.

Applying for a permit: firepermits.vic.gov.au

For the latest information on current incidents and alerts, see emergency.vic.gov.au.

A practical guide to fire preparedness

A new book about how to be fully prepared for fire in the Macedon Ranges has just been published.

Written by 27-year CFA veteran and former Gisborne optometrist Bruce Dudon, the book, titled *Leave Early. And If You Can't...?* is a highly practical guide to being as prepared as anyone can be in the event that they are unable to leave their property when fire threatens, or have chosen to stay and fight.

From details on fire-safe planting around the house, through the type of clothing to have ready, how to use everyday garden tools if caught by fire or ember attack, hose types, tank equipment, to matters such as fire behaviour, people's thought processes, and mental recovery after a fire.

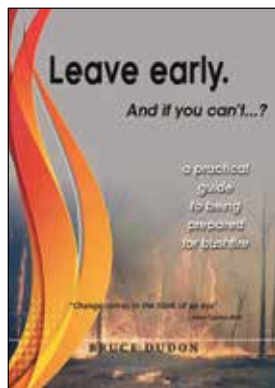
The book gets readers thinking about unexpected issues. For example: Suppose there are three catastrophic fire days over summer and you leave each time, and

nothing happens. Will you leave the next time? What happens if you planned to leave but left it too late and a tree has fallen across the only way out? What about children? How involved should they be in fire prevention activities or, in the worst-case scenario, fire fighting?

These are important questions to think about, and just a few of the many matters covered in the book.

The well researched and practical information is provided in an easy to follow format, and includes a fire plan template.

Mt Macedon CFA holds copies of the book and it is available at local retail outlets such as Macedon Post Office, the Trading Post in Mount Macedon, Woodend Bookshop, or direct from Bruce via brucedudon9@gmail.com. It is also available online. The price is \$25.



The cover of Bruce Dudon's fire guide.

POLICE BEAT

with Acting Snr Sgt Mark Street
Gisborne

The festive season is upon us, and this is a timely reminder to everyone to make good decisions, particularly when it comes to attending Christmas break-ups. Make sure you have a plan to get home, whether this is the year you become the designated driver or deciding not to have that last drink.

As the road toll on Victorian roads has reached the highest levels in more than a decade, police will be out in numbers, focusing on drink/drug driving and speed. This is a deadly combination, especially with the current state of our regional roads, so don't be surprised if you are pulled over and requested to provide a Preliminary Breath Test (PBT).

The Fire Season is also upon us, and we are officially in an El Nino weather pattern which comes with less than average rainfall.

The Fire Danger Period in the Macedon Ranges started on 27 November, and now any open-lit fire within the Macedon Ranges Shire without a permit will result in a court appearance for the person(s) responsible.

'You light it, you own it.' Police won't be issuing warnings and the consequences to life and property will not be ignored.

If there are any questions or concerns in relation to this, please jump on the CFA website which will explain everything.

Recently we have had an increase in residential burglaries from new homes under construction and also increased thefts from motor vehicles as there are still some residents who may not be locking their cars or houses. During the Christmas break a lot of us travel to the beach or visit family/friends elsewhere and so this is a timely reminder to consider registering your absence with an online report via the VicPol website, advising your local station, letting your neighbours know and also ensuring you 'Lock it before you leave it'.

Lastly, to all, please stay safe, drive carefully and enjoy the festive season with your family and friends.

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Ad sizes and prices are also listed on our website, www.gisbornegazette.org.au



A Monster Truck which will be one of the major attractions at the Bendigo Bank Lions Gisborne Festival on 8 December.

Gisborne Festival promises huge fun



The major attractions in the Gisborne Festival parade and on Gardiner Reserve this year will be a Monster Truck, Monster Dragon and the Bendigo Chinese Lions.

The Gisborne Festival is a free community event to be held on Friday 8 December from 4.30pm to 9.30pm on Gardiner Reserve. There will be free activities for children and a large range of food and market stalls.

The free activities will include face painting, hair braiding and sparkles, henna tattoos, hands-on reptiles, miniature trains and a jumping castle.

Other key attractions will be live music by local group GSM and local musician Craig Lloyd, carnival rides and a magnificent fireworks display at the end of the night.

The Gisborne and District Lions Club, which coordinates this major event, is looking forward to a large turnout to see the parade, which will include a large range of community groups, and to participate in the various activities on Gardiner Reserve.

The Lions Club recently welcomed Vicki Thornton as a new member. Lions District Governor Max Ford and 2nd Vice-District Governor Samantha Wu were special guests at the event. The District Governor stated that he was impressed by the broad range of activities undertaken by the Lions Club in our local community, and the level of support provided to those in need.

Russell Walker OAM

Shop locally this Christmas

The end of the year is upon us and it is the perfect time to support the local community and businesses.

There are many benefits of shopping locally. The stores are conveniently close so you can do your Christmas shopping anytime. The quality of products and services is brilliant and it is easy to make enquiries if you have any questions or concerns.

Shopping online with local businesses means you should receive your purchase sooner than if ordering from interstate or overseas. Strolling local streets is much more pleasant than tackling the crowds of huge shopping centres, the overwhelm of hundreds of stores in one place and navigating multi-level car parks.

And, by supporting local businesses, you keep money in our beautiful community.

Macedon Ranges Mumma relaunched its Shop Local Keyring Initiative this year to remind locals of all the amazing options available in our shire. Buy a Macedon Ranges Mumma keyring from Maddisons of Gisborne and save when you show it at participating stores in Gisborne and elsewhere in the Macedon Ranges.

Viewfield Community Christmas Party

Sunday 10 December: Viewfield garden will throw open the gates to Macedon Ranges residents on Sunday 10 December, 3-7pm, for a free Community Christmas Party.

Rarely open to the public, Viewfield is a 10-acre (4ha) private garden featuring majestic European trees, powerful eucalypts, stunning vistas, a children's fairy garden, a fruit forest, a working glasshouse, ever-changing perennial gardens and Turritable Creek running through shady fern glades.

Christmas Party visitors are invited to bring their own picnics and drinks to celebrate with friends and family. There will be a kids' treasure hunt, artist stalls, sausage sizzle, Christmas bake sale, and Santa will arrive on a fire truck. Entry is free.

Owners Vicki and Les Hawken are looking forward to sharing their garden with the community for this annual tradition.

"Normally we only open the garden over autumn to raise funds for Shared Table," said Vicki. "There is a rich heritage of open gardens in Mount Macedon and it gives us great joy to share the garden for this family celebration."

Viewfield is at 651 Mount Macedon Road, Mount Macedon. For further information, visit www.viewfieldgarden.com.au.



CWA Christmas fair, December 2



CWA Central Highlands Christmas Fair, Dec 2.

CWA Hall, 662 Mt Macedon Road, Mt Macedon, 10am to 3pm.



Carols by Candlelight events

Gisborne Community Carols by Candlelight

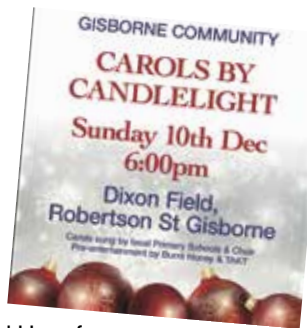
Sunday 10 December at 6.30pm, Dixon Field, Gisborne.

Pre-entertainment by Burnt Honey and TAKT will begin at 6pm.

There will be a sausage sizzle, ice cream and coffee van, candles and glow sticks for sale. Come along and listen to the choirs from the local primary schools and join in the singing of carols with the Carols by Candlelight Choir.

Come and see who will be awarded the Local Hero for services to our community over many years. We look forward to seeing you there.

Gisborne Community Carols Committee



Whether you like to join in or just sit back and listen to the music with friends and family, there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy local Christmas carols this month.

Macedon and Mount Macedon Carols by Candlelight

Wednesday 13 December at Tony Clarke Reserve, Macedon.

Music starts 5.30pm. Local primary school choir and other performers, Santa visit, sausage sizzle, coffee, ice cream van.



Gisborne Carols by Candlelight

Saturday 2 December in the grounds of Holy Cross Primary School, New Gisborne.

Kids' activities, food park, market stalls, music, carols and fireworks. Activities 2pm to 7pm, carols 7.30pm, fireworks 8.55pm. Entry: gold coin donation.

St Brigid's Carols in the Hall

Sunday 17 December. 5.30pm, St Brigid's School Hall. Includes Open Mic.

Musicians are welcome to participate (contact Kevin or Gerard to book a spot on the Mic on 5426 1354 or email thatvideoguyaus@outlook.com).



All welcome – bring a plate to share!

Carols by Candlelight presented by the Voice of Gladness

Friday 15 December, 6-10pm at John Aitken Reserve, Gisborne.

Free family event. Live entertainment. Free children's activities. BYO picnic dinner or purchase from the visiting food vans.

Non-denominational. Everyone is welcome.

For enquiries, contact Louise on 0425 781 581.



Glen Junor Community Open Day



Join us on
Sunday 10th of December
10 am - 2 pm

Our ambition is to create one of the healthiest, happiest and most sustainable communities in the world right here in Gisborne, with a connection to the enriched and enhanced local landscape that we all care about.

Our Open Day is a chance to share our vision, show you around, hear what you think, but most importantly, just relax and have a fun day with family, friends and neighbours.

Our idea of fun? for the kids: pony rides, face painting, balloon animals and Santa in his CFA Firetruck. For the big kids: music, coffee, gelateria, sausage sizzle.

For more information about Glen Junor, take a look at our Facebook page and website for plenty of information on our vision for Gisborne and Glen Junor. Hope to see you there!

Trent and Chrissy McCamley

Scan the QR code to find out more about Glen Junor on our website.



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Shop Local Keyring Initiative: Support local businesses and save!

Buy a keyring for just \$20 and save when you shop locally and show it at these businesses:

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Buy a keyring online at www.macedonrangesmumma.com or at Maddisons of Gisborne or Laser Blanks in Romsey. Do you have a local business and want to join the initiative? Get in touch via k.b.uttidge@macdonrangesmumma.com

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www.macedonrangesmumma.com



Gisborne Foodbank will be closed for 3 weeks from December 23 to allow our dedicated volunteers a short break.

Reopening Wednesday 17 January.

Open Wednesdays and Fridays 10am to 3pm

Enquiries: 0492 850 520
Email: gisborneccf@gmail.com

Environmental protector will be missed

Gisborne will be losing one of its most dedicated volunteers when David Tunbridge moves to McLean in northern New South Wales in February.

As leader of the Friends of Jackson Creek, David has attracted a loyal group of supporters who join him each month for a Sunday morning working bee to clean up and provide improvements to the picturesque stream that flows through the heart of Gisborne.

Having decided to move from Wyndham Vale in 1998, David was intent on locating a town with an abundance of deciduous trees. He found that in Gisborne and while walking along Aitken Street and hearing the sound of an umpire's whistle from Gardiner's Reserve, he knew this was the sort of country town he wanted to live in.

That feeling was reinforced when he bought the ideal block of land perched above Jackson Creek. Soon after arriving he saw a notice at the shopping centre seeking people to form a group to care for the creek; he volunteered and within a couple of years he became the leader. Under his stewardship the Friends have attracted over \$120,000 in grants to remove weed trees, plant native flora, build a bridge, paint over graffiti, construct pathways and install signs.

"I see the creek environs and associated path and recreational park network as the link to community health and interaction with others," David said. "It is a natural asset for the locals and visitors to embrace."

David grew up in Ballarat, the town that, as he says, "creates cold and exports it to the rest of Victoria". It was, however, also the place where his love of deciduous trees was born. His father Geoff, a long-time



David Tunbridge, with Lex and Ned, contemplates his beloved Jackson Creek.

teacher at Ballarat Grammar and member of the mighty Melbourne football team captained by Ron Barassi in the 1950s, encouraged his five children to seek their best paths and David found his in the police force.

He started cadet training in what had been the Savoy Plaza Hotel in Spencer Street and went on to postings in Sunshine then Laverton before promotion to sergeant at the Spencer Street West Station.

As a police officer he was always more concerned with giving people a hand up and his best memories come from mentoring the many new Police Academy graduates who are initially sent to Spencer Street before

being transferred to city and regional stations. "Talk, communicate, verbalise, be nice" – these are my messages to them," David said. "Keep in touch with victims and let them know that we're still looking out for you," is another of his mantras.

David never aspired to join any specialist squads. General police work and the camaraderie with colleagues have made his career a rewarding one.

This generous-natured approach to life is well reflected in David's commitment to the Gisborne community through his work with the Friends as well as his being a distributor of the *Gisborne Gazette* which he has done from the inception of the paper in 2006. He was also a committee member for the Gisborne Festival for a few years and a member of the 'Heated Swimming Pool for Gisborne' fund-raising campaign.

Just prior to his retirement last year, David had the pleasure of working for a time with his daughter Dayna who had been posted to Spencer Street as a detective.

His new home is on the banks of the mighty Clarence River so I'm sure that improvements are in store for it when David and his partner Therese head to McLean in February.

On behalf of the Gisborne community whom he has served so generously for 25 years, the *Gazette* thanks David and wishes him a long and happy life in his new home in the warmth up north.

Footnote. David will be running his final working bee behind the service station in Station Road from 10am on Sunday 21 January. Join him to say farewell and to enjoy the generous morning tea for which he has become renowned.

Bryan Power





182 Station Road, New Gisborne





Dr Ashvin Arul



Dr Anne Peterson



Dr Jacques de Groot



Dr Bronwyn Edmunds



Dr Pritinsh Singh



Dr Tanya Katz



Dr Ahmed Al-Obaidi



Dr Rhian Pickard



Dr Geetha Sundaram



Dr Kerry McGlynn

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WISHING EVERYONE
A MERRY AND JOYFUL
Christmas

Christmas Hours
 Saturday 23rd December - Normal Hours (8.30am - 12pm)
 Monday 25th December - Closed
 Tuesday 26th December - Closed
 Wednesday 27th December - 8.30am - 5pm
 Thursday 28th December - 8.30am - 5pm
 Friday 29th December - 8.30am - 5pm
 Saturday 30th December - Closed
 Monday 1st January - Closed
 Tuesday 2nd January - Normal Hours (8.30am - 5pm)



Macedon & Mt Macedon Community House

ACTIVITIES

Energy Efficiency in the Home Information Morning
– 2 December 9am to 12.30pm

Join us for an introductory session designed for people wishing to reduce their carbon footprint and to take the first steps towards fully electrifying their home. Hear about practical steps to improve sustainability in the home and have your questions about electric vehicles answered.



NEW Canasta Club – Tuesday 2pm to 5pm

New players welcome to drop in; \$3 for tea and coffee.

Community Choir – Alternate Thursdays 7.30pm

Please contact Dean on deanmichael21@outlook.com to register your interest.

Permies at the House

Check out our Facebook page Permies @ the House to find out about permaculture activities such as produce swaps, book clubs and more.

Playgroup – Monday and Wednesday 10.30am to 12.30pm. Now free.

New families are welcome to join our free playgroups on Monday and Wednesday mornings thanks to the support of local philanthropy. Email playgroup@mmmcommunityhouse.org.

Pregnancy Yoga – Wednesday 1.30pm to 2.30pm

For more information and to discuss pre-requisite requirements, contact Loris at loriscassar@gmail.com.

Sit and Sew Craft Group – Thursday 10am to noon

Bring your own sewing, knitting or craft project and

Opportunities available

Macedon and Mt Macedon Community House is seeking enthusiastic people to join our team and we are able to provide voluntary work for eligible Services Australia job seekers. Email hello@mmmcommunityhouse.org

Superstar admin assistant: Two hours per week to assist with responding to emails and digital filing.

Social media marvel: One hour per week, updating our socials and promoting activities.

Booking officer extraordinaire: Two hours per week to respond to house hire enquiries via email, meet and greet new hirers and update our calendar.

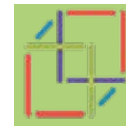
Volunteer coordinator: Seeking someone with experience in coordinating volunteers and providing necessary training and induction.

Committee of management: Seeking people with board of management experience and leadership in the community sector; those with financial or business acumen and experience as a committee or company secretary; experienced committee members to update and maintain policies and procedures. We will be offering governance training for all committee members in early 2024.

meet creative, like-minded locals.

Library drop in and co-working space – Friday 10am to 1pm

Our library is open every Friday. You can also bring work from home as we are now connected to the NBN. Gold coin donation for tea and coffee.



Goldfields
Libraries

Lots on at Gisborne Library

We wish our library patrons and the wider community a happy and safe Christmas. Thanks to all of you, we have had a great year and are busier than ever!

The BIG Summer Read is back

1 December 2023 – 31 January 2024

Summer is the perfect time for children to indulge in books and stories and read for pleasure! Join in the BIG Summer Read for your chance to win some great prizes including book vouchers and gift cards. There are two ways to participate – online or on paper. Online registrations are now open; paper booklets will be available from the library in early December.

For more information, visit www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/bigsummerread.

Free IT help for seniors

Need help navigating the ever-changing digital world? Access free one-on-one training and support at your local library.

Drop in or give us a call on 5428 3962. Tell us what you would like to know about or learn, and we'll make an appointment for you.

Supported by the State Government of Victoria Digital Literacy for Seniors program.

Summer Program

We've got some exciting things happening throughout summer. Keep an eye on our website, Facebook page and in the library for what's coming up. Some highlights include Stig Wemyss, Minecraft, and movies for kids during the school holidays, and for adults we have Jelena Dokic, movies, crochet and conversation, and Library Lover's Day craft activities.

For more info and to book, head to our website at www.goldfieldslibraries.com/gisborne-events.

Christmas hours

The Gisborne Library will be closed on 25 and 26 December, open 10am to 5pm on 27, 28 and 29 December and closed on 1 January 2024.

We will resume our normal hours of operation starting from Tuesday, 2 January 2024.

Sara Shaw

A year of growth in further education

Reflecting on the past year, Macedon Ranges Further Education Centre (MRFEC) celebrates the rich diversity within its business, embracing the number of individuals who have graced its doors this year.

Introducing new activities and courses, such as Card Making, Silk Scarves and Qi Gong, the centre has resonated strongly with residents, while continuing to run 'old faithfuls' such as Pastels and Watercolour Classes.

The centre has witnessed remarkable growth in its popular classes such as Pottery and Floristry, consistently reaching full capacity despite the continuous expansion of both day and night classes.

Furthering its community outreach, MRFEC expanded



its Neighbourhood House sessions, welcoming newcomers through initiatives

such as Scone Time and a Carer's Walking Group.

The doors are always open here at MRFEC, and we welcome new residents to the centre who are keen to learn a new skill or hobby, or would just like to sit and have a cuppa and a chat.

We are looking forward to 2024 and having our courses return in Term 1. Enrolments will be open from 11am 17 January 2024. Please visit www.mrfec.net.au for more information.

Rebecca Harris, centre manager



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VIEW FROM THE STALLS Michelle, of the 'shampoo bars'



This month the Market stallholder in profile is Michelle who has the 'shampoo bars' stall at the Gisborne Olde Time Market. Michelle produces her own soaps, shampoos, face washers, jewellery and many other products using natural ingredients.

Michelle stated that growing up, her father made their family soap from animal fat. He also taught her to grow food without using chemicals and to know what was in the products they used and ate. Michelle's grandmother taught her to knit and sew.

A forced career change saw Michelle turn to using these skills and reconnecting with these significant influences in her early life.

Michelle likes using and working with natural fibres and products and likes to know what is in them. She renders her own tallow from local butchers' waste to make soap and body products and uses local craft brewery waste beet in soap and shampoo bars.

Bio-dynamic wheat and lavender grown without chemicals are used in heat packs and certified organic oils in soap, shampoo and shave bars. Michelle also makes reusable tea bags from hemp muslin, pendants from pre-loved jewellery and warm slippers from yarn she has salvaged from op shops.

Michelle is rightly proud that she uses all natural ingredients in all her products and enjoys sharing the purity of her crafts with our market visitors.

Come along on the first Sunday of each month and visit Michelle's stall and purchase some of her very pure



Michelle in her stall at the Gisborne Olde Time Market.

and organic products. Michelle's stall is in the side road on Aitken Street, just down from the entrance to the football ground.

Karan, Market Committee

Community supporters celebrate a year back in service

The Gisborne Conference of St Vincent de Paul Society recently celebrated its first birthday of serving the Macedon Ranges community again. The Conference re-formed in 2022 after a hiatus of six years and commenced serving the community in November of that year.

Gisborne Conference president Neville Spiers said it has been a busy year getting the word out to those families and individuals experiencing hardship.

A recent survey by the Victorian Council of Social Services (VCOSS) indicated 9.3% of Macedon Ranges residents are living on or below the poverty line.

Mr Spiers said the Gisborne group is expecting an increased demand in their services with inflation and interest rates on the rise, biting into household spending.



Some of the hard-working Gisborne Conference volunteers celebrate their first birthday.



If you, your family or friends are experiencing hardship and need assistance, please contact the St Vincent de Paul support line on **1800 305 330**.

Anybody who can volunteer an hour or two per week to help those less fortunate in the Macedon Ranges community will be welcomed into the Gisborne Conference. Please contact the St Vincent de Paul Society of Victoria on 9895 5800 to get involved.



We know it's nearly Christmas because the 'bear on the swing' in Mount Macedon Road is decked out in Christmas gear.

The recent Macedon Primary School fete was a great success with perfect weather and a large crowd in attendance.

Recent and upcoming wedding bells for two Macedon families. Congratulations and best wishes to the Darby family with Matt and Georgia and the Davis family with Claire and Brady.

Long-time Macedon resident Lorna Brooks passed away in October. Lorna was 92 and was well known for her beautiful artworks. Condolences to Lorna's family.

Tennis finals are in full swing with four Macedon Tuesday Ladies teams making the finals. Three unfortunately were knocked out in the semis, but Macedon Jaguars are in the grand final against Woodend Gold on 28 November (after the *Gazette* goes to print). Good luck!

After a long wait, we will be welcoming our new police officer to town in early December.

Macedon Fire Brigade will be conducting a Fire Safety Essentials Session at the Macedon Fire Station on Saturday 2 December at 10am.

Carols by Candlelight will be held at Tony Clarke Reserve on Wednesday 13 December and is sure to be a fun night as usual.

Santa is visiting Macedon and will be outside the Post Office at 1pm on Friday 22 December. He will be very busy as he will also be perched in the back of the fire truck on Christmas Eve (Sunday) driving around the streets of Macedon from 2pm. Letters to Santa can be left at the Macedon Post Office in the special Santa Post Box. Please make sure you leave a return address as Santa will be doing individual replies.

Don't forget to shop local this Christmas and support all our wonderful local businesses. We wish everyone a merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

Anne and the team at Macedon Post Office

Craft Corner with Mary-Beth O'Brien

With Christmas around the corner, here are some awesome free websites/applications to add to your crochet repertoire these holidays.

Yarn buddy

A free application to map all your crochet projects. Details such as hook size, wool type, pattern choice and row count can all be recorded. Included is a nifty tab to catalogue your yarn stash; such as wool weight, length and brand. .

Ravelry

This free website is a treasure trove for crocheters and crafters alike. With a global following, Ravelry is considered one of the few websites uniquely developed with crafters in mind.

Stash2Go2 – free application

An extension of the Ravelry website in application format. Allowing personalisation of projects on a mobile device. It does take time, though, to enter all the information.



Council health and wellbeing programs

Staying strong – strength training sessions for over-50s

Low-to-moderate intensity group circuit classes for men and women 50+ years of age at Gisborne Fitness Centre. Class is designed to improve muscular strength, aerobic fitness, flexibility, balance and coordination in a safe and social environment. Experienced instructors provide exercises that cater to a range of exercise abilities.

For details, contact Gisborne Fitness Centre or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/leisure

Village Connect for over-55s Village coffee gathering



Sparkle up with a touch of tinsel to gather, meet and keep connected with other like-minded individuals over the age of 55. Join Village Connect for some complimentary coffee and cake at our last village coffee gathering for this year.

Thursday 14 December, 11am to 12 noon at Dromkeen Gallery, Riddells Creek. Seating is limited, so bookings are essential.

Call the Village Connect team on 5422 0333 or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect.

New mental health support for young people

A new support service for young people has been made available thanks to funding from the Community Bank Gisborne and District.



The free counselling service is open to young people aged 12 to 25 years living in the Macedon Ranges and offers the option of meeting with a counsellor at a location that suits the young person.

Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health has employed a new mental health outreach worker who is engaging with schools and families and helping young people work through matters affecting their wellbeing such as relationship challenges, identity issues, grief and health concerns.



Outreach worker Danielle Bell (right) with Sarah Barton from the Community Bank.

“We hope to reduce the barriers for local young people accessing mental health support,” says Danielle Bell at Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health. “We can help with anxiety, depression or any stressful life event that is impacting your ability to attend school, work, or affecting the enjoyment of your usual day-to-day activities.”

Danielle comes to the role with a social work background and has had a number of youth support roles including in foster care, crisis accommodation, schools and in the prison sector.

“We know how hard it can be to take that first step towards seeking help,” says Danielle.

“Cost and waiting lists can be a barrier as well as

finding a counsellor that you can see discreetly at a place and a time that suits you.”

If you or someone you know would benefit from this service, call 5421 1666 Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, or email intake.kyneton@scchc.org.au. No GP referral or mental health plan is required.

If you are in a crisis situation and need to speak to someone urgently, you can find a list of contact numbers at www.sunburycobaw.org.au/crisis-contact-details.

Macedon Ranges Health closes youth service

Macedon Ranges Health/Benetas has closed its youth clinic in Gisborne. The clinic ran for many years under the dedicated management of Dr Alison Bailey, Dr Casey Hogg, nurse Louise Beer, and volunteers.

Care Finder

A new service is being offered to help Macedon Ranges residents with the Federal Government's My Aged Care assessment process as well as help them find aged care services and other useful community supports. It provides people with local, personalised, face-to-face support.

Care Finder is available to people aged over 65 years and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 50 years and over, and people who are experiencing difficulties accessing supports.

For more information, contact Geri Gardner on 0417 949 162 or email geri.gardner@scchc.org.au.

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BETTY'S BOOP

With Betty Doolan

Residents of Gisborne Oaks made 'Halloween' masks for a visit from Kindy kids. As the residents sat outside in the courtyard waiting, they heard the kids coming. They sang their songs, waved, and with lovely smiles moved among the residents, swapping their delightful drawings for an attractive mask. A big thank-you to these delightful children and their teachers.

Over the month of November, all the weekly events have taken place, such as exercise, church, movies, quizzes, craft (this is a new one), coffee and chat, pampering, riddles, poetry, bingo and cooking. Then there are the entertainers, or just having a cuppa and watching TV. So residents' days are full.

Plus there were racing carnival activities. Some of the ladies had been making lovely paper flowers every colour of the rainbow. The Life Enhancement girls put the flowers on headbands or made beautiful colourful fascinators.

Lunch with a very special menu of pan-seared salmon (I have never eaten this before, I was rapt) was held in a beautifully decorated room with the residents wearing the lovely fascinators. The room was bright and happy.

Melbourne Cup Day was for the drawing of the many sweeps. The sign was out, "Come dressed in your best for Ladies' Day". Hats were certainly there, magnificent in size and colour, then there was Fashions on the Field, followed by a very nice High Tea.

Early the next day, everything was being done for the big Masquerade Ball. Ladies were pampered, nails painted, hair set and curled, then it was time for all residents to go to the ball wearing beautiful masks coloured with feathers and sparkles, and dance to the music of the band.

Our Remembrance Day service was wonderful. Our veterans Brian West and Hendry Beekman cried as they laid wreaths. They stood so tall and straight and saluted when the National Anthem was played. All who could stand did. I had the honour of saying the opening prayer. Lest we forget.



Some of the building team with the Cubby.

Cubby makers don't put a foot wrong

As 2023 rushes to a close, just a reminder about the Men's Shed Christmas Cubby House Raffle.

As in previous years, all proceeds go to the Gisborne Foodbank. All ticket sales are online and it's as easy as using the accompanying QR code. You could give it a try right now.

For dates and supermarket locations of the Cubby House display, see the Gisborne Men's Shed or Foodbank Facebook pages.



You can witness the raffle draw on Monday, 18 December at 11am at the Shed (10 Lyell Street). For the lucky winner, we'll deliver and install the cubby on an easily accessed level site, within a 30km radius of Gisborne.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our regular readers.

The Shed is open every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday morning except for public holidays. Pop in and see if we could fit into your 2024 plan.

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Prospective volunteers – we’ll be out and about

In February, Council staff will be visiting markets and libraries to invite community members to volunteer with the Aged Care Volunteer Visitors Scheme.

The scheme, funded by the Federal Government, aims to tackle social isolation and loneliness in older people. As people get older, it can get harder to socialise or keep in contact with family and friends. Volunteers are matched with an older person with whom they share a passion or interest, for regular visits.

The program started in July and now has a waiting list of keen older residents looking for a volunteer visitor. Could you be one?

Keep us in mind for next year, and come and meet us in February to find out how you can become involved with this rewarding program.

To find out more before then, visit www.mrsc.vic.gov.au and follow the prompts through About-Council/Careers-Jobs/Volunteer/Aged-Care-Volunteer-Visitors-Scheme, contact the council on 5422 0333 or email volunteervisiting@mrsc.vic.gov.au.



Christmas bin collection changes

If your normal bin collection day is Monday (Christmas Day, 25 December), your bin will be collected on Tuesday 26 December.

If your normal bin collection day falls between Tuesday 26 December and Friday 29 December, please put your bin out as usual and leave it out until collected (this will likely be delayed by one day including a Saturday collection).

Collections will not be affected on all other public holidays and will resume as normal from Monday 1 January.

Waste reduction over the holiday season

It’s that time of the year again! The holiday season is upon us and the council would like to remind the community of the recycling options available in the shire.

Remember to: • flatten cardboard boxes before putting them in the recycling bin; • scrunch up foil into a small ball before putting it in the recycling bin; • take the lids off glass bottles and jars before putting them in the glass bin.

Excess cardboard, polystyrene, e-waste and textiles can be recycled at resource recovery facilities (the tip) free.



Nominations open for Business Excellence Awards

Local businesses are encouraged to enter the 2024 Macedon Ranges Business Excellence Awards.

Mayor Annette Death said the awards were a great opportunity for businesses in the Macedon Ranges to get the word out about the amazing work they were doing.

“Our local businesses play such a pivotal role in our community, supporting our local economy by providing local products, services and opportunities for employment,” she said.

Businesses have until 15 March to submit a nomination.

The categories are Excellence in: Agribusiness and Food Manufacturing; Manufacturing, Trades, Retail and Innovation; Health, Wellness and Care; Professional Services; Tourism and Visitor Experience.

There are also the Small and Thriving Award; Young Achiever Award; Champion of Social, Environmental or Sustainability Principles; Young Achiever Award; Business Resilience and Adaptability; People’s Choice Award; and Business of the Year.

For information on how to submit a nomination or register for the mentoring session, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/business-awards.

Merry membership – Christmas gift give-away

Get into the holiday spirit with this Christmas promotion available at Gisborne aquatic and leisure centres.

From 4 to 22 December, when you buy a swim, gym, gym/swim, or aqua aerobics membership, you’ll receive a special gift from us.

Pick a gift from our Santa sack brimming with goodies! Offerings include upfront membership extensions, a four-week free direct debit membership period, merchandise, personal training, group fitness sessions, a 20 per cent discount on a membership purchase for a friend – to name a few.

You can secure your membership at Gisborne Fitness Centre and Gisborne Aquatic Centre. Terms and conditions apply.

For information contact the centres: Gisborne Fitness Centre, telephone 5428 3318, email gfc@mrsc.vic.gov.au. Gisborne Aquatic Centre: telephone 5421 1452, email gac@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Mulch and compost

If you are looking to spruce up your garden over summer, free self-loaded mulch is available at all resource recovery facilities (formerly known as ‘transfer stations’). If you’re looking for a bit more than a trailer load, mulch and compost can be ordered at any resource recovery facility. (Please note mulch delivery orders made after 19 December may be delayed by up to three weeks).

For information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/mulch

Road works update

Preparations are underway for works to reconstruct a key section of sealed road in New Gisborne that connects to Riddells Creek. Hamilton Road will be upgraded from the Kilmore Road intersection to the intersection at 526 Hamilton Road, with works to include 1.8km of road reconstruction, safety improvements to the Hamilton-Kilmore Road intersection approach, including line marking and signs, and roadside drainage improvements.

The project is in the procurement stage, with works expected to get underway in early 2024. Minor delays are expected for road users during the works, which are funded as part of the 2023-24 Capital Works Program.

BOUND Macedon Ranges

LOT 01 LOT 02

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A man special to Gisborne honoured



A large number of family and friends of the late Graeme Millar OAM JP gathered

on 12 November to dedicate a memorial in his honour.

The committee of the GREAT Association – Gisborne Region Events Activities and Tourism – recently erected a new table and bench seating at the smaller barbecue in John Aitken Reserve in memory of Graeme. A plaque attached to one end of the table records his dedicated service to the community.

Many tales of Graeme's unwavering dedication to community were told on the day, exactly one year after he passed away. There were also tales of his love of singing in his barbershop quartet, and his love of a good joke. He was known by many as 'Mr Gisborne', and more detail of his life of service can be found in the December 2022 *Gisborne Gazette*, available online at gisbornegazette.org.au.



Family members of the late Graeme Millar OAM at the picnic table dedicated to his extraordinary community service to Gisborne. From left: Robert Hamilton, Hugh, Harriet, Rohan and Freya Millar, Carolyn Hamilton, Heather and Elaine Millar.

On a personal note, this is my last article, as I have stepped down as president of GREAT. My thanks to our committee and members for their hard work over the past 12 months. *Rick Arden, former president Gisborne Region Events Activities and Tourism (GREAT)*

St Paul's Op Shop Jottings

Christmas goodies continue to be rolled out this month with some beautiful gift ideas. Quite a lot are new and very budget friendly, such as Christmas dinner sets, glassware sets and lots of Kris Kringle ideas.

As we wrap up another year, I would like to wish our customers and volunteers a safe and happy holiday season. Our last day of trading will be Saturday 16 December and we reopen Tuesday 30 January.

This month we talk to Keith about his time with us. "I have been a volunteer at St Paul's Op Shop for over nine years," he says. "I value the opportunity to assist the church and the community in a practical way."

"It's also good to share in this work with other members of the team whose company I enjoy. I check and prepare men's clothing for sale. I especially enjoy repairing donations so they can be sold and not have to go to landfill."



Volunteer Keith

If you would like to follow us on Facebook, just search St Paul's Op Shop, like and follow our page and you'll get the scoop on what's happening in the shop.

Janine Sanders, coordinator

Foodbank thanks community for support

With Christmas just around the corner, it is time to reflect on the way the Macedon Ranges community has enabled the Gisborne Foodbank to continue to help those in need, and as president, I would like to offer our thanks on behalf of everyone at the Foodbank.

We thank all those, be it individuals, families or local organisations, whose efforts, small or large, through either donations of money or food items (either at our drop points such as Coles and Foodworks, or by visiting the Foodbank) have helped to ensure the viability of the Foodbank.

To the many schools that have run food donation drives, thank you.

Thank you to the Gisborne Men's Shed, whose members have again made a wonderful cubby house to be raffled off, with all proceeds going to the Foodbank.

An organisation such as the Foodbank cannot run without a team of wonderful volunteers, who have this year once again selflessly given of their time, and whose collective efforts have had a significant



impact on those who find themselves in need of our services. We cannot thank you enough. It is your efforts and your cheerfulness each week that help ensure that our clients feel comfortable when collecting food.

A big thank you also to the Gisborne Uniting Church which continues to allow us to operate from its premises.

We thank you all and hope that we can all continue to support the Gisborne Foodbank as we work towards minimising food insecurity in our local area. Thank you for caring, and our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Please note that even volunteers need a break to recharge their batteries and spend time with their families. The Foodbank will be closed from Saturday 23 December and will reopen on Wednesday 17 January.

*Wally Van Dort
president, Gisborne Community Care Foodbank*

Good news and celebrations from Community Bank



November was another busy month for Community Bank Gisborne.

Our 15th birthday celebrations continued, and we enjoyed catching up with community members over cake at our spring grant night and a branch morning tea.

We were pleased to see Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health fill their new Macedon Ranges mental health youth outreach role, which the bank is funding, and we wish Danielle Bell every success in the role. Anyone interested in the free service for local 12-25-year-olds should contact Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health.

Continuing our profit-for-purpose mission, we awarded 37 new grants and sponsorships at our Spring 2023 Community Investment Evening on 13 November. Groups receiving funding included Gisborne CFA, the Gisborne Singers, Gisborne Football Netball Club, Gisborne Bowling Club, Gisborne Little Athletics Club, 1st Gisborne Scouts, Gisborne and Macedon Carols by Candlelight, Friends of Daly Nature Reserve, Macedon Ranges Croquet Club, Macedon Ranges Bowling Club, Macedon Ranges Photographic Society, Macedon and Mount Macedon Landcare Group, The Gallery Mt



New board Chair David Gunn cuts the cake at the morning tea celebrating 15 years of the Community Bank in Gisborne. Picture Rebecca Thorpe

Macedon and the Mt Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service Committee. A \$5000 grant to guarantee Gisborne Community Connector Jane Williams' role at Gisborne Foodbank until the end of 2024 was also announced.

Our early tertiary scholarships have opened, and we encourage local youth starting university or TAFE in 2024 to apply for a \$5000 scholarship. See page 30 for details.

Finally, we extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who has partnered with us this year to make Gisborne and surrounds an even better place to live, work and play, especially our customers whose banking at Community Bank Gisborne & District has made these many community investments possible.

Sizzling events help fund life-changing experiences

Gisborne Rotary has some busy events in the next few weeks and the club welcomes anyone who would like to see us in action to come along.



Our first community outing will be hosting a sausage sizzle at the Emergency Services Expo at Jackson Creek Reserve on Sunday 3 December. We will then once again have our sausage sizzle trailer at the Gisborne Festival on Gardiner Oval on Friday 8 December.

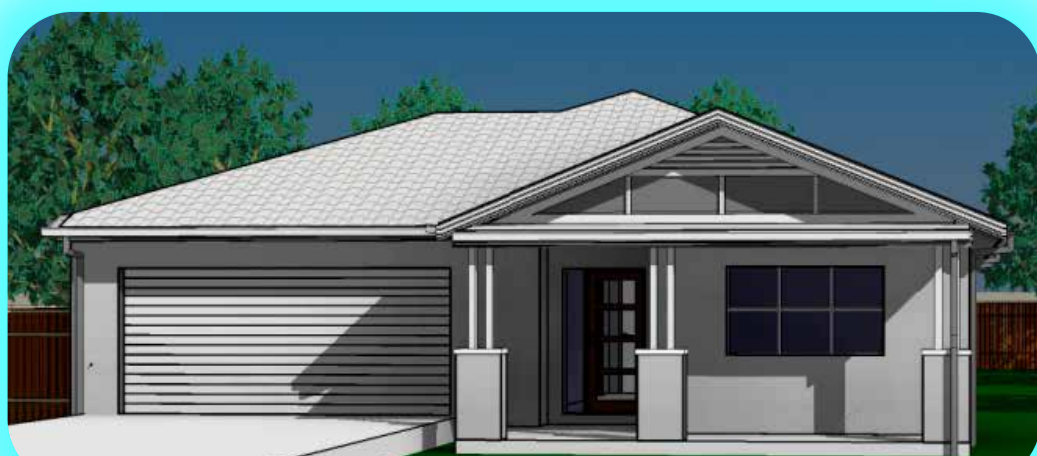
In the meantime, we will be making our annual visit to the Oaks Residential facility with gifts for those residents who have no family to visit them over Christmas.

We will also be farewelling our outbound exchange student, Bianca Shoebridge, as she heads off to Brazil for 12 months of exciting experiences, learning about the culture and learning to speak Portuguese. Our inbound exchange student, Ronja Ollig, will be going to Queensland for Christmas then enjoying a road trip back to Gisborne via the east coast. If anyone is interested in learning more about Rotary Youth Exchanges, please contact Lyn Robinson on 0407 777 344.

Please remember to mark your diaries and get your team together for our annual golf day on 2 February which will raise funds for various community programs. You can book at trybooking.com/1149240. Lyn Robinson

Accommodation Vacancy

Gisborne



Support Independent Living (SIL) Brand New - Ready for move in late 2023

The house is in close proximity to Gisborne Town.

Current Support Model: The house will offer support staff 24 hours, 7 days a week and overnight (sleepover) to meet residents' individual needs.



SIL services are provided by Holistic Futures support staff and the house is suitable for participants who have no access needs. This property is not an SDA property.

This is a New SIL – there are currently three vacancies in this house.

This house has:

- 4 bedrooms (one will be for Support Worker)
- Built-in robes in each bedroom
- 2 bathrooms
- Double garage
- Large dining and living areas
- Large new kitchen
- Large outdoor area
- Internet

Holistic Futures will work closely with you and your family and carers to establish a Supported Independent Living quote for you.

If this house is not for you, however you are still wanting to explore other housing options, please

reach out for a chat as we also have other SIL options throughout Victoria.



To register your interest please email or phone
CONTACT US TODAY: 0490 065 296
info@holisticfutures.com.au

December at the Gallery



The Gallery Mt Macedon has, yet again, a wonderful selection of Christmas gift ideas to suit everyone and their pockets. These are all made by local artists so come in and shop locally.

In December the Gallery will have its Christmas display in the Focus Room. This promises to be rich with beautiful craft and art, as you have come to expect at the Gallery. For your convenience, we are extending our opening hours on 16, 17, 22 and 23 December from 10am to 5pm.

Over the year, there has been a variety of exhibitions including abstract photography, ceramics and wildlife paintings. The seasons were acknowledged with autumn and spring displays in the Focus Room as well as the Winter Art to Wear parade at Jubilee Hall. In April and May, the winners of non-photographic and photographic landscape prizes were announced.



Some of the beautiful pieces on display at the Gallery.

We are looking forward to next year's portrait competitions: April – non-photographic, May – photographic. Look out for entry details early next year.

All the members of our arts collective thank you for your support throughout the year. We send

you the very best season's greetings.

The Gallery is at 684 Mount Macedon Road, Mount Macedon (behind the Trading Post cafe) and is open 10am to 4pm Friday to Tuesday; extended opening to 5pm on 16, 17, 22, and 23 December.

The Gallery will be closed 25 and 26 December and New Year's Day, 1 January.

Sue Anson, 0413 581 632



Exhibition coordinator John Spring at the site of the photo exhibition. Picture: Paul Fletcher

Six-week photo exhibition in Gisborne



The Macedon Ranges Photographic Society is excited to announce the 'Ranges in Focus' photography print and digital image projection exhibition. This six-week exhibition of club members' Macedon region photography has been made possible by a grant from Community Bank Gisborne & District.

The exhibition will be staged in Shop 27 (former jewellery shop) in Gisborne Village Shopping Arcade. It will open Sunday 17 December and continue to Sunday 28 January while the arcade is open to the public.

The prints and digital projection will be on the inside of the glass shopfront and only viewable from the adjacent food court and corridors. The images will be available for the public to purchase via the club's website. See the QR code links at the exhibition.

The Macedon Ranges Photographic Society welcomes new members. The club generally meets on the first Tuesday of the month (except December and January), followed by the next Monday at Dromkeen in Riddells Creek. Social chats start at 7pm with the meeting beginning at 7.30pm. Please visit www.macedon-ranges-photography.org.au.

John Spring

Phoenix 40th anniversary exhibition and sale

Saturday 2 December, 10am-4pm, Sunday 3 December, 9am-2pm
Old Gisborne Courthouse, 4 Hamilton Street

The Phoenix Macedon Ranges Art and Craft Group was formed after the 1983 Ash Wednesday bushfires which decimated parts of the Macedon Ranges and affected many local artists and craftspeople.

We are a multimedia group with current members producing a wide range of work including pottery, painting, papercraft, woodwork, glassware jewellery, and textiles such as spinning, weaving, thread painting and puppets.

At the exhibition you will have the chance to view original works made locally by our various artists and to purchase a one-of-a-kind item at a reasonable price for your family and friends this Christmas season.

Past members are asked to contact us and join us in our celebrations. If you are interested in joining the group, you can contact longtime member Kay Beale on 9744 2646, or visit us online at www.phoenixmrac.com or facebook.com/phoenixmrac.

Dianne Egan



Don't miss this special anniversary exhibition.

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Macedon Ranges
Summer holidays
*Creative Writing
Workshops & Competition*

Workshops are for children aged 8 to 14 years old and are a \$50 investment for 2 hours. All materials are provided. Dates and times are to be announced but will be in the week starting 15 January.

Poetry Basics: Students will undertake hands on activities which will have them explore haiku, odes, limericks, pantouns and more. They will receive examples and templates, look at common literary techniques used in poetry and leave with a folio of works, of which they could submit several into the Summer Writing Competition.

Short Story Editing: Students are encouraged to bring their work in progress or completed short story to refine, shape and polish with the option to submit to the Summer Writing Competition due in on 27 January 2024.

Email kbuttigieg@macedonrangeswriters.com to register your interest.



Poetry and Short Story Competition:
Opens November 27th, closes January 27th and is open to Grades 3 to 8. Entry is FREE. Scan the QR Code to view the Terms and Conditions and entry form.



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Level 1, 45 Hamilton Street, Gisborne
P: (03) 5428 8711 www.mrfl.com.au



Choristers get ready for Christmas with the Gisborne Singers.

Singers give voice to next year's plans

the
Gisborne
Singers

After a successful year, culminating with *Christmas with The Gisborne Singers* on 2 December, the choir will take a well-earned break and return

for practice on Wednesday, 7 February.

The first planned performance for the new year is *A Classical Celebration* on Sunday 28 April at Our Lady of the Rosary, Kyneton, and Sunday 5 May at St Mary's Anglican Church in Sunbury.

The program includes:

Handel *Zadok the Priest* HWV 258 (6'), Mozart *Exultate, jubilate* K. 165 (15'), Mozart *Laudate Dominum from Vesperae Solennes de Confessore* K. 339 (5'), Haydn *Te Deum, Hob. XXIII:2c* (9') and Mozart *Regina Coeli, K. 108* (17').

The next major performance of 2024 will be the

second running of *Symphonia Choralis* – a collaboration between the Gisborne Singers and Bendigo Symphony Orchestra, this time featuring Mahler's *Symphony No. 2 in C minor, "Resurrection"*. The performance will be held at the Ulumbarra Theatre in Bendigo in November.

The final concert of the year will be *A Gisborne Singers Christmas* held on Saturday, 7 December at Our Lady of the Rosary in Kyneton.

If you're a singer and are interested in joining our choir, February is a good time to come along. We rehearse 7.30-10pm on Wednesdays at the Gisborne Uniting Church in Brantome Street, Gisborne. The ability to read music, although helpful, is not essential, and all voice ranges are welcome.

Enquiries: www.gisborne.harmonysite.com or phone 0408 156 263.

Alison Kinghorn

KYNETON TOWN HALL

Ross Wilson & the Peaceniks 4pm, Sunday 11 February

Ross Wilson is hitting the road with his all-star band the Peaceniks in February to celebrate over 50 years of hits including

all the Daddy Cool and Mondo Rock favourites and more.

To buy tickets, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/buytickets or call 1300 888 802 (10am-4pm, weekdays).

Book early!



Mount Players wind up year with great success



The Mount Players

Our final production for 2023, *Peter Pan – A Musical Adventure*, has been a resounding success, playing 16 sell-out shows. This production was the epitome of community theatre with almost everyone who put their hand up

to be involved catered for. It has been a wonderful opportunity to showcase the young talent we have in this area. Backed, of course, by the unseen heroes working so hard behind the scenes – our scenic artists, set builders, lighting designers, costume designers and makers, plus everyone who helped backstage and front of house.

Without their efforts, none of this would have been possible. And thank you, of course, to everyone who attended. We truly appreciate your support.

Mount Players Youth Theatre students will perform for parents/carers and friends on Saturday 9 December, a chance to showcase the progress they have made as performers this year. If you or someone you know would like to be involved with the Mount Players Youth Theatre, we invite you to go to our website www.themountplayers.com for full details on enrolling for Term 1 in 2024.

Our first show for 2024, *Wild* by Mike Bartlett, directed by George Benca, is a dark comedy that explores the unexpected, bewildering and life-changing consequences of challenging the status quo at a global level.

Last week, Andrew was that guy with his girl lunching at KFC discussing their plans for the future. Today, he's in Moscow, in an undisclosed hotel room, on the run and at risk of assassination. The season runs from 23 February to 10 March. Tickets via our website.

The Mount Players send out a huge thanks to everyone who comes to our shows and, of course, to our wonderful sponsors, for their ongoing support.

We wish you all a peaceful, safe and happy Christmas season with friends and family.

See you at the theatre in 2024!

Karen Hunt

Thank You

Unfortunately, due to changed business circumstances, I finished at the Vet Clinic without the opportunity to say my farewells.

To the **nurses**, I am forever grateful for your dedication and support.

To the **people** who entrusted your animals into my care - **thank you** for this privilege.

To the **pets** who warm our hearts, I wish you good health.

Kindness, love, and best wishes to all my patients and my community,
I'll see you around town!

Caitlin

caitlinthetvet@gmail.com





Fontainebleau, Mount Macedon, c1920s, showing later addition for guest house accommodation.

McCubbin and Fontainebleau

Renowned artist Frederick McCubbin bought the property the family named Fontainebleau at Mount Macedon in 1901.

By Phyllis Boyd OAM

Frederick McCubbin was born on 21 February 1855 on the premises of his father's bakery in West Melbourne, the son of Alexander and Anne who had emigrated to Australia in 1852.

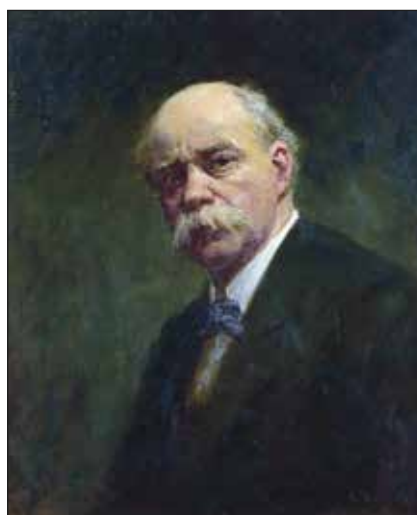
McCubbin found school studies difficult, so left formal schooling at the age of 14. He had a love of drawing and was encouraged by his mother to attend evening classes at the Artisans' School of Design in Carlton from 1867 until 1870. He was then invited to attend the new National Gallery of Victorian Art School from 1871 where he remained a student for the next 15 years. He worked very long hours starting in the early hours of the mornings driving his father's baker's cart, serving as an apprentice coach builder during the day and attending his drawing classes for two hours each evening.

Following the sudden death of his father in 1878, McCubbin assisted his mother to manage the bakery and look after her and his siblings.

In 1885, McCubbin and some of his artist friends established an artist's camp at Box Hill, which led to several similar camps being established throughout Australia – the nucleus of the Heidelberg School. These artists loved living and working in the bush, often capturing on canvas the beautiful gum trees, creeks, sunrises and sunsets, tents and campfires, usually featuring figures of men, women and children.

A few years after McCubbin's marriage to Annie Moriarty at Richmond in 1889, at which artist Tom Roberts was his best man, Annie contracted a severe case of bronchitis and pneumonia and on medical advice to holiday in 'clean mountain air of Mount Macedon', they rented a small cottage at Woodend for a few weeks. It was at this time that they discovered an old-fashioned English-style cottage with a red gabled roof and attic windows, set on four acres (1.5ha) on the western slopes of Mount Macedon, known as 'Dillon's summer residence'. They bought the property for 500 pounds in 1901, calling it "Fontainebleau" after a forest near Paris where the landscape painters of the French Barbizon school had worked.

The purchase of this property was a significant event in the life of McCubbin for not only was it the only home that his



Frederick McCubbin

family ever owned, but the surrounding bushland provided him with much of the inspiration for some of his most memorable and best-loved works.

Fontainebleau was too far for McCubbin to travel daily to his work at the National Gallery of Victoria, so he, together with his mother, resided at the Rose of Australia Hotel in Bourke Street that his sisters managed during the week, returning to his family at Mount Macedon each weekend and on vacations from the gallery. He travelled

by train to Woodend, then a wagonette to the Braemar corner, and walked the last section, often met by his children who would run down the road to greet him, to find what presents he had hidden in his Gladstone bag.

In 1904, Frederick McCubbin produced *The Pioneer*, one of the greatest paintings of the Heidelberg School period, painted in the bush just a short distance from his cottage on Mount Macedon. This set of three panels, known as a triptych, was so huge that he had to dig large trenches in the garden to accommodate the panels.

Following the Ash Wednesday bushfires in 1983 that damaged some of the garden and nearby bushland, these trenches were again visible in the garden of Fontainebleau.

The first panel of the tryptic depicts a free selector and his wife selecting a small acreage of bushland, while the second panel depicts the settled landscape, the land having been 'tamed' with the contented selector providing wood to warm his recently built cottage and his wife with baby in her arms.

In the third panel, considerable time has passed, a vibrant city is shown in the distance, while a youth has discovered a grave in the bush.

The Pioneer has a theme of

McCubbin and Fontainebleau

continued from previous page

melancholy and toil, ending in quiet optimism. Frederick had a high respect for women who accompanied settlers in to the bush, featuring them as central figures in many of his works. He once wrote: "Woman is the great civilising agent of nature!"

Many have claimed that their relatives were models in his works, but research appears to confirm that a local gardener, Patrick Watson, was the model in the first and third panels, the young child was his brother's son Jimmy Watson and Annie, Frederick's wife, modelled as the free selector's wife on both the first and third panels. James Edward, a professional house painter, featured in the second panel.

The small cottage seen in the second panel stood on the neighboring property of William McGregor's, known as "Ard Choille", where wild areas were an inspiration for McCubbin, providing him with a wonderful array of subject matter for his paintings.

From 1905 the family rented a city residence in South Yarra and although much of their time was spent there, the McCubbins retained Fontainebleau,



McCubbin's triptych 'The Pioneer'.



Fontainebleau sadly dilapidated in 2015. Picture Volker Janssen

making regular visits to their mountain retreat. It was here that McCubbin could paint at leisure, inspired by the local scenery of blue green wattles and the tangled undergrowth with rays of sunshine filtering through the bush.

The Mount Macedon years were happy times for the McCubbin family, often surrounded by students who would pitch their tents in the gardens during summer months where they could

sit with their drawing master – "The Prof" as McCubbin was affectionally known – discussing art techniques. The environment of Mount Macedon inspired both the renowned artist and his students, who produced many paintings of a consistently high standard.

McCubbin's health began to deteriorate from 1916 due to severe attacks of asthma and another bout in 1917 was complicated by pneumonia.

At the age of 62, Frederick McCubbin died on 20 December 1917 at South Yarra.

After McCubbin's death the family moved back to Fontainebleau and his widow added two accommodation wings. The property ran as a guest house for some time.

It was in a very poor state when last photographed in 2015, although it is believed to have a manager in place.

Remembrance Day observed by many



The annual Remembrance Day service was observed on 11 November at the Gisborne cenotaph with about 100 attendees at the commemoration to those who have died in the many wars and peace-keeping operations involving Australian, New Zealand and other Commonwealth servicemen and women.

The Gisborne & Macedon Ranges RSL Sub-Branch later in the day also laid a wreath at the Mount Macedon Cross.

News from Gisborne & Macedon Ranges RSL

As we come to the end of the year, I am pleased to report that it has been both a busy and productive 2023 for our sub-branch.

As well as the good attendance at Remembrance Day last month, our Anzac Day service in April attracted a large attendance with a record number of wreaths laid by community organisations and individuals.

The annual Red Poppy badge sales were most successful, thanks to the generous support of the local community. And we again thank all those businesses around Gisborne, Macedon and Riddells Creek that

allowed us to sell our badges on their premises. Funds raised go to our RSL welfare fund which assists veterans in need of support.

The sub-branch will be in recess over Christmas and during the January holiday period. We will resume our activities in February.

On behalf of the executive and members of our sub-branch, we wish the community, and those serving in the Australian Defence Force, a very merry Christmas and happy new year.

Darren Grevis-James, president

For the first time in several years, a wreath-laying ceremony took place at the Mt Macedon Memorial Cross on Remembrance Day (November 11). The event was coordinated by Frank Donovan and wreaths were laid by Gisborne & Macedon Ranges RSL, Woodend RSL, Mt Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service committee and others.

Top: Wreaths are laid at the Mt Macedon Memorial Cross.

At the Gisborne Remembrance Day service are, from left: Darren Grevis-James (RSL sub-branch president), Bronte Daniel and Lieutenant Craig Daniel of the RAN.



Genies end another good year



The last function for the Gisborne Genealogical Group for 2023 will be our

Christmas Dinner on Friday 1 December.

The Family History Room, adjoining the Gisborne Library, will be open on Tuesdays 10am-1pm and Thursdays 2pm-5pm until 21 December. We will then close to give volunteers a break. The Family History Room will reopen on 1 February.

My thanks to the many members who have assisted me during the past year, especially all the volunteers who have freely given so much time to help the public with research queries. Thank you to our local sponsors for your support during the year. It is much appreciated.

Congratulations to all connected with the production of the *Gisborne Gazette* – a wonderful community newspaper.

On behalf of the Genealogy Group, I wish all our readers a happy Christmas. If you are going away, travel safe.

Until 2024, happy researching!

Lyn Hall, president

Don't get caught!

Spotting a scam, with Russell Barker



Russell Barker

Our lives are controlled by pin numbers and passwords, and we all love to hate them. The secret to keeping on top of your passwords is having a strong password that you won't forget, and one that is difficult for hackers to guess. Creating a strong password is crucial in safeguarding your online accounts and sensitive information from unauthorised access.

Here are some tips to help you craft a robust and secure password:

Length and complexity: Aim for a password that is at least 12 characters long. Include a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters (such as !, @, #, \$, %, etc.). Avoid using easily guessable information like birthdays, names, or common words.

Avoid dictionary words: Consider creating a passphrase by combining unrelated words or a phrase that only makes sense to you. For instance, "PurpleTree\$Jumping123#Cloud9" is a strong passphrase.

Unique passwords for each account: If at all possible, do not use the same password across multiple accounts. If one account gets compromised, using unique passwords ensures that other accounts remain safe.

Avoid personal information: Refrain from including personal information such as your name, username, or common phrases associated with you in your password.

NEVER save your passwords on your devices: Although convenient, if you take up the offer from your device to "remember login credentials", when that device is compromised in a hack, all your important logins are lost to a hacker in the blink of an eye.

Avoid sharing or storing passwords unsafely: Never share your passwords with anyone and avoid storing them in easily accessible places, like sticky notes or files on your devices. If you have your own 'book of secrets', do not leave that sitting next to your computer, or in the drawer next to the computer: keep it somewhere safe, and away from the computer.

My personal favourite method is to use a phrase from your past, perhaps your childhood address, or the hospital you were born in, or the suburb where you grew up, include some numbers (not your birthdate), and include the name of the service you are accessing with that password. Then you can use this formula to create many complex passwords that are different, yet similar. Some examples are 36McDonaldDrive[FACEBOOK], 36McDonaldDrive[COMSEC] and 36McDonald Drive[NAB]; these include numbers, special characters and upper and lower-case letters. If the phrase is from your past that is unlikely to exist on computer systems, then this is very safe.

Creating a strong and unique password is a fundamental step in protecting your online security. By following these guidelines and maintaining good password hygiene, you can significantly reduce the risk of unauthorised access to your accounts and sensitive information.

News from Gisborne CWA



It was hard to believe the streets, houses and businesses of Rochester were under water 12 months ago, when all was bathed in sunshine on the day 16 of our members visited after a two-hour train journey.

Hopefully we left a few dollars behind after being shown around by the local CWA ladies, enjoying morning tea from the patchwork shop or bakery, and having lunch at the Shamrock Hotel.

It was disturbing to hear stories of thefts from houses still being refurbished after the flood and the problems some people are having getting back to their homes.

The sports museum and painted silos are well worth a visit, and we all had an enjoyable day.

Gisborne Primary School was very happy to receive aprons, art smocks and pencil cases diligently sewn by Allison, Cheryl, Osija and Helen Hallett.

We welcomed state vice-president Peg Higginbottom to our last meeting to preside over our AGM. She was able to present Helen Ryvitch with her 10-year badge and certificate. Helen has been very active in the past few years with two stints as our president and the state creative arts chairperson and has had great success with her quilting.

Hope to see you all at our Christmas stall at Macedon CWA Hall on Saturday 2 December, or our meeting at the Stadium, Gisborne Secondary College, on Monday 11 December. This will be followed by lunch at the Vic Tavern.



Christine Edwards

Christine Edward



A group of Gisborne ladies at a Rochester painted silo.

Macedon CWA Christmas Fair and more

Macedon CWA branch had a busy weekend in early November. We ran the tea rooms and had a cake stall in the lovely Duneira Gardens at the Bluebell Festival. It was a pleasure to meet so many garden lovers when they paused for refreshments. Thank you to Pip at Duneira for inviting us to their celebration of spring.

December fundraising includes the Christmas Pop-Up Fair at the CWA Hall in Mount Macedon on Saturday 2 December. Other branches in the Central Highlands Group will be attending.

We will be selling a variety of home-made goods for the festive season. There will be the traditional cakes, puddings, shortbread etc, as well as jams, preserves and other baked treats. Also, there will be home-made items which could make good "teacher's gifts" or stocking/hamper fillers. Hopefully we will see lots of faces – old and new – on the day.



As our last fundraiser for the year we will be catering a Christmas break-up for another organisation. Then we enjoy our own Christmas breakup followed by a little down time to catch up with family and friends over the festive season.

We have some very good news. We have received a grant from the Community Bank Gisborne & District for an upgrade of our heating and cooling at the hall. This will top off the interior decorating already completed and makes the hall a more modern venue to hire for a special event. A big thankyou to all involved at the bank in Gisborne for making this possible.

We at Macedon CWA send all our best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and safe and happy 2024.

We would welcome you at Macedon CWA – call me, Anne Fyfield, on 5426 2210 for more details.



MEMBER'S MESSAGE

With Mary-Anne Thomas MP

Hello Gisborne community,
By the time you read this message we will be well into the Christmas and New Year holiday season. I hope that you can enjoy some rest and relaxation with family and friends at this time.

It has been a great privilege for me to represent the Macedon electorate during 2023. From when

I became your local member in 2014, one of the greatest aspects of my role is spending time out in our local community. Thank you for engaging with me and my team during this past year.

My thanks go to every single kindergarten and school, sporting club, RSL and veterans' group, community and church group, volunteers such as the CFA and SES, and local businesses for your work in our community throughout the year.

Great communities are about conversations and taking care of each other, and I look forward to much more of both in the year ahead.

See you soon!



The heat is on, and there are snakes in the long grass. Believe me, I have personally experienced them this month.

If your dog is bitten by a snake, please stay calm, and be aware of the gravity of the situation.

In Gisborne and surrounds, we mainly encounter tiger or brown snake bites. The same as for humans, the first thing to do in the case of a definite snake bite is immediate immobilisation – don't let your dog run around. Confine them on a lead or in the car, and call the emergency centre to let them know you're coming – snake bites usually require a 24-hour facility.

The benefit of venom-detection kits can be lifesaving. Different venoms cause two main issues: neurotoxins and coagulants. The neurotoxins create a paralysis of the muscles, including dysfunction of respiration, hence some dogs will require a specialist ventilator for several days.

The coagulant toxins and muscle toxins result in bleeding, muscle damage, and kidney failure. These dogs will often need multiple antivenom vials, and several days in hospital on a drip, so it is important to know what you are in for in terms of costs, and intensive care.

My conclusion is that prevention is better than cure.

Be aware of the environment, keep your dog on a lead in long grass, and let the snake know you are



Caitlin's dog Bud (above), exploring the long grass, found a tiger snake.

The snake was caught and relocated away from harm.

coming – give it time to get away, and avoid a bite in the first place.

**24/7 Emergency Veterinary Services
Advanced Vetcare in Kensington, tel 9092 0400
Animal Referral Hospital, Essendon Fields, tel 9379 0700.**

Many new members at dog club



Our last induction for the year saw 20 new members. Our next induction will be Sunday 4 February. See our website. www.macedonrangesdogclub.org.au, on becoming a member in the new year.

I can't believe Christmas is almost here. What a great year it has been for us, with many new members.

Each year we have an interclub trial, called the Rocky Shield, between Melton Obedience Dog Club and Macedon Ranges Obedience Dog Club. The day was beautiful, Riddells Creek put on a fine weather display for us. We had about 45 entrants in classes 1 to 4. Unfortunately for us, Melton took the Rocky Shield home with them; we will try to win it back next year.

Lastly, from our family at MRODC to yours, merry Christmas. We'll be back in 2024. For information on the club, visit our website, Facebook page, or email info@macedonrangesdogclub.org.au.

Remember: a dog is for life, not just Christmas.

Carol, instructor/treasurer



Jack and his dog Buddy make a clean sweep at the Rocky Shield.

Want a rewarding, flexible job looking after our local community?

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Macedon Ranges
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- We have the capacity to welcome new clients.
- Here to support you to live your best life and achieve your goals by providing the services you require.
- Workers are all experienced, reference and police checked and we work with you to determine workers that are the best fit possible.
- If we can be of any assistance please contact us for a no obligation chat.

P: 0447 400 001 E: admin@firstchoicecaresolutions.com.au
www.firstchoicecaresolutions.com.au

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'A helping hand in life'



FOR THE GREEN THUMBS

Brief wrap-up of year at Daly Nature Reserve



Daly Nature Reserve friends group has had a very successful year which began with a presentation at the Macedon Ranges Australia Day awards under the category of Healthy People, Healthy Environment. Our group was seen to be contributing to community wellbeing by providing a social and environmentally friendly interest for volunteers.

Members regularly collect litter and the group took part in Clean Up Australia Day.

The twice-yearly nature walks for students of Gisborne Primary School were enjoyed, as well as an educational bird ID walk guided by a member of the council environment team. The 1st Gisborne Scouts invited us to conduct a walk and talk in the reserve as well.

Every three months photographic monitoring is done which shows seasonal changes.

The accompanying photo is the popular Australian bottle brush callistemon, a hardy shrub for the garden which also makes a bird-loving hedge. Bring the red variety indoors to provide the traditional red and green for Christmas.

Please consider joining our working bees in 2024, they are held every second Tuesday each month, 9.30 to 11am, except in January. Tools are provided; no work too strenuous.

We thank all our supporters and hope everyone enjoys a happy and safe festive season.

Enquiries to dalynaturereserve@gmail.com

Friends of Daly Nature Reserve



Bottle brush (callistemon).

Nature Guide on grasses

Macedon Ranges Shire Council's fifth Nature Guide – The Grasses of Central Victoria – is available. It is an easy reference guide for beginners to use in the farm paddock or local bushland reserve. The guide includes over 50 local species. Copies are available at council offices or to download at mrsc.vic.ov.au/grass-guide.

Gisborne garden inspires Gisborne Garden Club



Forty-five members visited a fellow member's garden in Gisborne on 8 November, a beautiful spring day, and were treated to an equally beautiful garden.

From front to back the acre garden (around half a hectare) was a vista of colour and variety, provided by multiple species of trees, shrubs and perennials.

A circular driveway at the front enclosed shade trees under-planted with a burst of colour, which set the scene for the lush perennial border across the front of the house, equally colourful

At the back of the home, a shady veranda offered stunning views over the large garden and its array of plantings, too many to list, creating a fantastic colour palette. Paved pathways offered easy access for closer inspection and enjoyment of such an interesting and peaceful setting.

To enable the renovation and development of the garden, the present owners, of just four and a half years, needed to remove 20 large conifer stumps along the back fence line and also cope with the difficulties of establishing planting around several large gum trees.

It would be fair to say that everyone left after an enjoyable time with some inspiration, possibly even a cutting or two, and all were very appreciative of the efforts achieved by the owners in creating such a pleasant space.

Gisborne Garden Club meets on the second Wednesday of the month between 1pm and 3pm at various venues.

For further information, call Jeannette on 5420 7303.

Jeannette Andrewartha

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Summer calendar notes

Council events over summer: Horses and sustainable grazing, field activity (21 January); Grazing and farming discussion group, field activity (9 February); Local farmers on small properties, webinar (13 February); Rascally rabbits, workshop (17 and 18 February); Reducing the wildlife road toll community forum, workshop (23 February). For information and to register, go to www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events.

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KIDS' QUIZ

- 1 In sport, what do the letters MCG stand for?
- 2 In which year did Queen Elizabeth II die?
- 3 Beginning with 'C', what is an irrational fear of confined spaces called?
- 4 Which cartoon character first appeared in *Steamboat Willie* in 1928?
- 5 Baby, Scary, Sporty, Ginger, and Posh were all members of which girl band?
- 6 Which star is the closest to Earth?
- 7 In which Australian state would you find the opal mining town of Coober Pedy?
- 8 Which Australian actor played Wolverine in the 2000 movie *X-Men*?
- 9 How many items are there in one score?

Answers page 39

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



Artwork by Eliza Ransome

Can you find 10 differences between the pictures?

Summer writing competition for kids

Do you like to write? Are you looking for a creative project to do over the summer holidays?

Local writer Kat Buttigieg is running a creative writing competition for young local writers from year 3 to year 8 (in 2023).

Entry is free and there are cash and voucher prizes to be won.

Local writers and poets will judge the entries.

For more information, go to www.katbuttigieg.com.au/.

Entries close on 27 January.

CARING FOR THE PLANET

with Eliza Ransome



Eliza Ransome

Hello and welcome to my latest article. Today I will be talking about food wastage (for example, when you throw out an old banana or some flour that has been sitting at the back of your pantry gathering dust for years on end!).

Throwing food away is not only a waste of your money, it also contributes to climate change. Did you know that one third of all food produced is wasted?

That's a whopping number, and a number that could feed hungry people in the world.

How does throwing out some old bits of food even affect climate change? Well, transporting, eating and making food all produce greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases will add to climate change.

So how can you help make a change? First, you can plan your meals: Planning meals means buying fewer unnecessary items. Second, you can also use a compost heap or compost bin. This will break down some of your food scraps, such as most fruit and vegetables, coffee grounds, crushed eggshells, etc, into compost that can then be used in the garden.

Lastly, you can use your freezer more to freeze things that might have a close use-by date, but you still want in the future.

Thank you for taking the time to read this article. Hopefully by reducing food waste we can not only save money but also help our planet.

Softball success



Gisborne Primary School softball team ready to compete in the state softball competition on 27 November. (L-R) Back row: Lyla Claxton, Gracie Di Marco, Ruby Dunn, Sarah Mathers, Amalie Casselton, Bonnie Finnigan. Front: Abbey Wellington, Adele McKibbin, Isla McCabe, Mikayla Allen. As the competition was the day after this edition went to print, hopefully they did well! Many Gisborne Primary students have competed at the regional level of sports this year, including in football, netball and athletics. Two students will be competing in an upcoming regional golf tournament as well.



Wrapping up the year at Mt Macedon



Hello everyone and welcome to the final update of the year from Mount Macedon Primary School.

The year 6s held a car wash to pay for their bomber jackets (back design by Caitlyn K). We ran two sessions, one in the afternoon and one in the morning. We ran five-minute washes and usually did the cars in pairs. In the afternoon, when we had our break, we soaked each other in soap and water. The extra money will go towards the year 6 graduation.

The year 5/6s finished the I Am Mindful program and will be able to use the strategies so that we can calm down and deal with stress. The program showed us how to cope in level red situations (high stress situations) and we have many exercises for calming down which we can use in our on-the-go bags.



Harriet Quinn

The grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 went to orienteering and the weather was lovely. Everyone had fun as well as trying their best. Some of us went into the bush surrounding the area. Even though everyone was tired from the walk back up, I'd say it was awesome. We all had an amazing time.

Harriet Quinn, school reporter

► Benny (Grade 1) emerges from the hoop tunnel.



▼ Logan makes it through the slime pool sprayed with foam by Nicole.



Colour fun at Willowbank Primary School



In a burst of vibrant tones, Willowbank Primary School hosted its much-anticipated Colour Fun Run on Friday 17 November, marking the perfect conclusion to an exciting week. Organised by the school Parents' Club, the event saw students navigating a thrilling course adorned with obstacles that included a slippery slime bath, a challenging tyre course and a tunnel crawl.

Adding to the excitement were eager parent volunteers who enthusiastically showered the runners with an array of colours, creating a kaleidoscopic spectacle throughout the run.

Community spirit soared as the Bullengarook Country Fire Authority (CFA) joined the festivities, ensuring participants stayed refreshingly wet with bursts from their fire truck.

The school oval became a canvas of joy and laughter as students embraced the challenge, overcoming each obstacle with gusto.

As the colours settled and the laughter echoed, anticipation for next year's event bubbled among the participants. Willowbank Primary School's Colour Fun Run has undoubtedly become a cherished tradition, promising even more excitement and surprises in the years to come.

Brett Sinnett

New Gisborne Primary students love school camp



Marcelle in the giant swing harness.

Jax:

The Year Twos from New Gisborne Primary School went on their first camp to Lady Northcote Camp in Bacchus Marsh. It was a two-day camp with one overnight stay and we participated in four activities.

Isla:

My favourite activity was the giant swing. It was amazing. I loved going high. It was like I was flying in the air! We each had a harness so that we could not fall out of the swing and get hurt. My group pulled a rope to get me as high up as I was comfortable. Whoosh! I went when I pulled the rope towards my face to let go and started swinging.

Audrey:

I really enjoyed the orienteering. We had to find clues to figure out a word problem. We walked around the whole camp to find checkpoints and write the clues down. It was a race; we lost but that didn't stop me from having fun.

Cody:

I loved canoeing! We had to wear a helmet and a life jacket. We used paddles to move the canoes across the dam. I kept getting so scared! When the activity finished, I could not get back, so the instructor had to help me get my canoe back to shore.



Ilona:

I loved yabbying. The instructor showed us how to catch them. We caught only three but all of them were little and cute. I nearly caught a big one, but it was too fast! It was so much fun.

Dorothy:

All in all, I was relieved when we got home because I was so tired, but I wish we could have stayed for a few more days.



Canoeing.

Gisborne students help on many fronts

Going blue for diabetes

The whole of GPS turned blue on 17 November by wearing blue clothes for world diabetes day. Every student brought a gold coin donation to put towards children suffering from type 1 diabetes. The money that is raised by the school and its students will be put forward to JDRF, a not-for-profit organisation that is dedicated to making a world possible without type 1 diabetes. 11,000 school-aged Aussie children live with type 1 diabetes and it is a problem all over the world. The money raised will go to a brighter future for not only children suffering diabetes but also their families.

By Remy W, Year 5 Writers' Club



of caring, by making these cards for people who might not get any Christmas wishes this year. It was quite a shock to some of the kids that some people may not have any family to visit them, or they may not get any cards at Christmas time.

There were students from all different year levels having so much fun making these lovely cards. Students could decorate their cards with stamps, textas and coloured pencils. All of the students put so much care and affection into these amazingly decorated cards and had a great time doing this. It will definitely put a big smile on all the faces of the residents at the nursing home.

Alice M, Year 6 Writers' Club

Kris Kringle alternative

During November, the healthy achievement leaders at Gisborne Primary School organised a competition to see which class could bring the most donations to help the Gisborne Foodbank. We have been collecting Christmas food, and other non-perishable food items.

We are more than glad to say that many of our students donated not just one thing, but several bags full! We are also making Christmas hampers with special Christmas treats and children's books as we think everyone deserves something under the tree. Our students are very happy to help all the families in need this Christmas.

Indi C and Isabelle L, Year 6 Writers' Club

Native learning space under development

Work has begun on some exciting outdoor spaces here at Global Village Learning and while we have eagerly watched and participated in their creation, it has fuelled a passion in many members of our community for more beautiful, useful and meaningful spaces around the grounds.

In saying that, we are thrilled to share that our Sustainability and Environmental Committee has secured a grant from the Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants for a new and exciting project. Our project, the Australian Bush Food and Medicinal Plants Growing and Learning Space, aims to create an outdoor classroom planted with Australian species traditionally used as food and medicine by First Nations people.

This space will promote biodiversity, conservation, and environmental stewardship, and will be available to the local community. We'll use our \$4996 grant to design and construct the garden, source native plant species, and develop educational resources. The space will also provide habitat and food for native fauna, raising awareness of animal conservation issues.

We're excited to create a sustainable, educational, and culturally appropriate resource that celebrates First Nations culture. We are one of only 123 recipients of this grant, and we are eager to start this journey.

Submitted by Shiloh – Cycle 3 Young person and Sustainability member.



Activities abound at Holy Cross

It's hard to believe that another year is drawing to a close. We have had so many engaging and exciting things happening at our school that I can scarcely believe that we managed to fit everything in.

Overnight camps, Colour Run, excursions, incursions and everything in between. In the midst of it all, the children have been at the centre of everything, they are the reason we exist as a community and I am proud of all they have achieved



throughout the year.

The school community has been focused on creating opportunities for children to experience such activities as aviation projects, participating in a choir, caring for our chooks, planting and harvesting veggies, being authors, solving challenging tasks in numeracy, reading interesting and thought-provoking material. We have also

had our Prep-Year Two children deeply immersed in discovery, with much effort going into creating beautiful spaces for children to play and explore ideas.

As our Year 6 children prepare for their high school journey, we wish them well. We know that each child will bring something special to their next school community, just as they have done in their years at Holy Cross.

Aoife McCarthy, Principal



Aidan Fitzpatrick, Jordan Gauci, Patrick McNulty and Austin Wilkes organised sports activities for the children to play at the fund-raising social justice market.



Learn. Care.

flourish



Merry Christmas

Sacred Heart College wishes all in the Gisborne Community and surrounds a peaceful and joyous Christmas.

Congratulations Class of 2023

We congratulate our wonderful Year 12 students, the 'Class of 2023', on their achievements. We are confident their results and selected pathways will lead the way to rewarding futures.

SCHOOL LEADERS



School captains Grace Hyatt and James Meldrum with some of their many friends: Eva, Lexie, Evie, Atticus, Freya and Hunter.

Fun year for captains at Macedon

In the conclusion of his school leader series for the year, Bryan Power talks to captains at Macedon Primary School.

Grace Hyatt and James Meldrum agree that their fondest memory of 2023 will be that it was the year that they were the captains at Macedon Primary.

"It has been a great experience. Everyone knows your name and they say 'hi'," said James. "It's been fun all through the year," added Grace with a huge smile.

"Standing up in front of the school, running the assemblies and being good role models is what we've really enjoyed," they agreed.

"At assemblies we make the Acknowledgement

of Country, present awards, give reminders and talk about upcoming events. We go to classes and the pupils give us ideas and we put them on our agenda. Our Principal, Mr Forrest, and Mr Bortolot, our Year 6 Transition Coordinator, are our mentors. Our teachers are really nice and supportive too."

"We've encouraged students to be involved in the fete. Lots of kids have entered stuff. The annual billy cart races are coming up on 7 December and the teams (some with goofy names) will race their carts around the oval. This is going to be a huge event and we want lots of people to come."

"My team is Princess Express," laughed Grace; "Mine is Titanic," added James.

Next year Grace will be at Sacred Heart College Kyneton while James will join his brother at Assumption College. Let's hope they find as many happy faces in their new schools as I saw at Macedon Primary today.



CAPTAIN'S RAP

with Harreson Watts



Harreson Watts

With the final weeks of the year upon us, many students have been exceptionally busy over the past few weeks. The Year 12s have completed all their exams, and wait in anticipation for the morning of December 11, when all their hard work throughout the year will be displayed with their final study scores and ATAR. Despite the pressure that is placed on these numbers, I want to remind everyone these results do not define individuals; it is only a number to represent how well they performed with all the stress and anxiety of this year. I congratulate all the Year 12s for their efforts this year, and hope their final results are everything they wanted to achieve.

Year 11s and 10s have completed their step-up programs into their new classes for next year. For the Year 11s, this provides insight into the hard work and commitment that is needed for Year 12, while the Year 10s received their first taste of the VCE curriculum, starting their first of four units for their subjects.

In junior school, the Year 9s have had their final offsite day as part of the RAID (Respect, Achievement, Innovation and Diversity) program – an excursion to the Melton Wave Pool. Year 9s studying the science elective subject also had the opportunity to visit the Victorian Space Science Education Centre, attending the 'Mission to Mars' exhibition. Year 8s were lucky to have a Digital Thumbprint incursion, which taught students about how to be safe and secure in our online world.

Excitingly, the I-block building works have now been completed, and classes have been held in the newly refurbished and updated building. I-block will now serve as the Senior School centre for the school, with Year 10, 11 and 12 classes being conducted in this space. Building works are now being started to update the interior of B-block, as well as the demolition of the administration building.

This month, Year 7-9 students will conduct their step-up programs, just as the Year 11s and 10s did last month. While this is taking place, future Year 7s of Gisborne Secondary will have their Orientation Day at the College and their first experience of secondary school life. This is both exciting and daunting, but extremely rewarding and beneficial for students.

The Annual College Awards Night is also being held later this month, where the amazing and hard work of students is acknowledged and celebrated.

Sadly, this will be my last article this year. Writing these pieces for the *Gazette*, sharing with the Gisborne community the great things happening at Gisborne Secondary College, has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience, and one I will miss. Thank you all for reading throughout this year, and I wish all staff and students the best into 2024!

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Mary-Anne Thomas MP

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GAZETTE STUDENT AWARDS

Each of these students, selected by their school in recognition of their activities and attributes throughout the year, receives a \$100 award from the Gazette.

NEW GISBORNE



Juniper Culley

Juniper participates enthusiastically in all classroom activities. She aims high and always strives to complete tasks to an exceptional ability, achieving excellent results in all areas of the curriculum, especially in writing. Juniper's passion for reading is also to be commended, her enthusiasm for books is contagious and inspirational. Congratulations, Juniper!



Darcy Rodda

Darcy is an enthusiastic and resilient student who applies himself to all learning opportunities. He is quick to support his classmates, is a wonderful role model to others and has participated in many extracurricular sporting events. He has excelled as a house captain this year and always strives to achieve his personal best in all areas. Congratulations, Darcy!

GISBORNE PRIMARY



Ava Harry

Ava is a kind, caring, generous student who always tries her personal best in everything that she does. Ava has been a part of our Writers' Club for three years, producing quality pieces of writing for the Gisborne Gazette, the school newsletter and a range of writing competitions.

Ava is respectful and considerate to all members of our school community and is always willing to go above and beyond. She has excelled in her role as sports captain this year, demonstrating strong leadership skills such as organisation, problem solving and creativity.



Ethan Weller

Ethan is a quiet achiever who always pushes himself to learn and improve. He has been a part of the Maths Olympiad team this year achieving excellent results. Ethan joined our Writers' Club in Year 4 and has been an extremely valuable member, giving feedback to others and participating in all activities with enthusiasm. Ethan can always be relied upon as a helper to adults and students alike and he is always supportive of his peers and other students in the yard.

GISBORNE SECONDARY



Rue Kelly

Rue Kelly has exemplified the qualities expected of a School Captain. She took a lead role in tours for prospective families, has spoken at various information/welcome evenings providing positive and informative views of Gisborne Secondary College and has represented the college with pride at various events. Her leadership to the captains team has been exceptional, all while completing her VCE including a university subject.



Harreson Watts

Harreson Watts has been a strong leader to the captain team and role model to the student body. He has spoken at whole-school assemblies, college information events and represented the college in the community with pride. He showed leadership via engagement in whole-staff meetings, ensuring a positive impact for future students in determining how positive student behaviour should be recognised.

ST BRIGID'S



Luke Buttigieg

Luke Buttigieg is a resilient and creative student who goes above and beyond for his fellow classmates and our St Brigid's community. This can be seen in his fundraising efforts for our whole school project and the way in which he led his group to raise close to \$1000 by selling baked goods and raffle tickets. Luke is the first person to take on a challenge and extend himself in all areas of learning, and this year he has done this in mathematics, his passion and area of strength, and also in his reading and writing skills. Luke has been a tremendous asset to St Brigid's, and his bubbly, enthusiastic and supportive vibes will be missed when he starts high school next year!



Olivia Bischof

Olivia Bischof is a thoughtful and inclusive student who has had a fabulous year full of sporting achievements as well as beginning at St Brigid's in her final year of primary school which could have been seen as a challenge. However, Olivia did this with ease, building connections with her peers and teachers as well as being an important member of team sports. Olivia made it through to regionals in individual sporting events where her athletic abilities and her excellent sportsmanship were on full display. She has been an awesome asset to St Brigid's, and we have loved having her generous and supportive energy in our school this year.

BULLENGAROOK



Deegan Vella

Deegan is one of year 11 students who loves basketball and enjoys taking part in games across the week. Deegan always applies himself during each task and is a great contributor to the school cafe program and is always polite and helpful.



Ella Ullrich

Ella is one of our Year 10 students who has a great sense of humour and a passion for UNO, and loves to involve others. Ella tries her best at all times and works incredibly hard to achieve amazing outcomes and is respectful and thoughtful towards others.

MACEDON PRIMARY



Jayden Miles

Widely known for his exceptional kindness and thoughtful nature, Jayden Miles has shown himself to be a leader who ensures everyone feels included and welcome at our school. As one of the Environmental Captains, he took charge of improving our approach to waste at school and educating younger students about environmental responsibility. Jayden is extremely considerate and consistently uses his initiative to help in the classroom. His calm demeanour and presence set him above the rest. We are proud of Jayden's achievements and celebrate with him as this year's recipient of the *Gazette* award.



Eva Kime

Eva Kime has approached her final year of primary school with dedication and diligence. She is recognised for her exceptional resilience, thoughtfulness and unwavering commitment to upholding the school values of Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Creativity and Teamwork. Eva's dedication shone in her efforts during the Writers Festival and 5/6 Trade Fair, where she worked tirelessly to craft a saleable product and compelling advertisement, as well as supporting the efforts of her peers. Her ability to collaborate with anyone demonstrates the embodiment of teamwork. Eva's positive attitude and kindness make her a true role model and a deserving recipient of this year's award.

WILLOWBANK



Coco LeBrocque

Coco LeBrocque (Grade 6) has been selected for this award for her outstanding leadership at Willowbank Primary School in 2023. Coco is an excellent role model to our younger students and always conducts herself in a manner consistent with our school values. Coco has also excelled in Performing Arts and public speaking and has even started her own organic food small business.



Miller Johnson

Miller Johnson (Grade 1) has been chosen for his overall approach to learning and school life at Willowbank Primary School. In his second year of school, Miller exhibits a mature and inclusive demeanour beyond his years. He actively seeks opportunities to help others and approaches all learning with a growth mindset and determination to achieve excellence.

HOLY CROSS



Mishayla Butcher

Mishayla Butcher has worked incredibly hard all year. With a bright, sparkling personality and an easy-going, optimistic nature, she has proven to be a stellar role model for her peers and community. The embodiment of 'Growth mindset', Mishayla meets challenges head-on, and her determined, proactive attitude toward learning will undoubtedly lead her to great success in the future. Congratulations on receiving this award, Mishayla, very well deserved!



Sam Smith

Sam Smith has been a welcoming, positive, kind-hearted, resilient and fun member of year 6 this year. Sam has been a very well-liked and supportive classmate to all. His attitude towards his learning, friendships and general school life was exemplary. Sam has been a keen sports participant, a collaborative worker in class, and has been prepared to step outside of his comfort zone when learning new things. Congratulations, Sam!

MT MACEDON



Pasco Thompson-Aylward

Congratulations to Pasco Thompson-Aylward, our outstanding ICT Leader for 2023! Within his role, Pasco has taken the time to help all year levels with any ICT issues and helped run a number of ICT activities for the younger grades. With enthusiasm, Pasco has demonstrated an understanding of how being a true leader requires going above and beyond what might be expected of him. Well done Pasco!



Harriet Quinn

Congratulations to Harriet Quinn, our School Reporter, on receiving the *Gisborne Gazette* Student Award, having made impactful contributions to both the school newsletter and the *Gazette*. Her creative and engaging writing style effectively shared the exciting things happening at Mt Macedon Primary School with the wider community and showcased her talent for entertaining storytelling. Well done Harriet!

Congratulations to all!



1st New Gisborne troop officially opens new Scout Hut

It's been a busy few weeks at 1st New Gisborne Scouts. No sooner were the Cub Scouts home from the Cuboree then they were off to a combined camp with the Scouts at Noonameena. A Saturday afternoon visit from the Joeys made the camp complete.

The campers arrived back at the church just in time for a barbecue and the formal opening of our wonderful new Scout Hut.

Attending the opening were mayor Annette Death, councillors Rob Guthrie and Dominic Bonanno, federal MP Rob Mitchell and state MP Mary-Anne Thomas. Following addresses by the mayor and MPs, the focus moved to the hut. Mary-Anne Thomas was aided by four of our Joey Scouts, Lauren, Aoife, Reiltin and Maddie, as she cut the ribbon.

Also attending were representatives from the foundational Hut supporters: Community Bank Gisborne

and District, the GREAT Association, the Scout Group committee, Scouts Victoria and the Churches of Christ Vic/Tas. Their support was vital and paved the way for further grants from the State and Commonwealth. All very much appreciated.

Once council approval is received, we will begin the task of fitting out the hut so it can be used fully for week-night meetings.

We meet Wednesdays, 6.30-8pm, and Venturers Fridays.

Contact Group Leader Russell Barker 0400 297 025 or russell@jeem.com.au to learn more. For Venturers, call Tracey 0407 098 032.

We currently have some vacancies in our Joey Scout unit (ages 5-7). Please call Heather ("Kanga") on 0409 253 778.

John Frearson



Tilly, Tayla and Alice were delighted to be awarded Gold in the Beginnes level of the Rainbows Fish Cup.

Golden Guides



I am very excited to report that the Lightning Bolt Patrol of Tayla, Tilly and Alice were awarded a Gold certificate at the River Region Rainbow

Fish Patrol camp. They faced several challenges over the weekend and despite a flagpole falling over and having problems with the gas cooker, they managed to achieve a good score. They also joined in JOTA (Jamboree of the Air), learnt about using Morse code to communicate, and participated in a noisy campfire singalong.

Three very tired girls and an even more tired leader headed home proud of what they had achieved at their first camping attempt.

For the River Region breakup the girls have been invited to try canoeing. Tayla has also chosen to participate in the Ropes activities at Camels Hump.

Some of our older girls have decided not to continue in 2024 so I have vacancies for new girls to try out Guides in 2024. The minimum age is seven years. Enquiries can be made to me, Deb, on 0409 542 619 or through the Girl Guide website. The unit meets on Thursday nights between 5 and 6.30pm at the Hall in Daly Reserve.



Deb Fleming

Deb Fleming



Local federal MP Rob Mitchell presents a set of flags for the Scout Hut to Scout Group Leader Rusty.



Local state MP Mary-Anne Thomas and Joeys Lauren, Aoife, Reiltin and Maddie, cut the ribbon to formally open the Scout Hut.

News from 1st Gisborne Scout Group on a raft of activities

This term has flown by, it is hard to believe that in a few short weeks Christmas will be upon us. The Joeys have been getting into the spirit of Christmas by practising Christmas Carols (and some other weird and wonderful songs, like 'Have you ever seen a chicken come to tea?') for their concert for the residents of the the Oaks Nursing Home. It is always a delight to see the smiles on the residents' faces as they watch the concert and chat with the Joeys afterwards.

Scouts from 1st Gisborne recently joined other scouts from across Victoria to participate in the Cohen Shield. This is a patrol activity in which they compete in different outdoor adventure skills and special interest areas. Activities include bushwalking, bushcraft, cooking, scouting skills and first aid. Our Scouts did very well, getting one Gold and one Bronze – well done!

If you were driving past McDonald's a few weeks ago, you might have done a double take because a group of

Venturers, all dressed up in their evening attire, held a formal candlelit dinner outside Macca's. Just one of the fun activities Venturers get up to!

Some Venturers and other members of 1st Gisborne attended the Community Bank grant presentations on 13 November. 1st Gisborne received a grant for a Lifepak CR2 portable defibrillator. This can be taken on hikes and camps and is a great piece of equipment to have in the event of cardiac arrest, though we hope never to have to use it.

1st Gisborne is currently looking for leaders for all sections of scouting (Joeys 5-7 years, Cubs 8-10 years, Scouts 11-14 years and Venturers 15-17 years).

If you have an interest in supporting the growth and development of young people, then we would love to hear from you. Please contact registrar@1stgisborne.com.au or call 0466 546 121.

Carolyn Goode (Joey Leader)



1st Gisborne Scouts practice their archery skills at the Cohen Shield.

Bushwalkers moving in interesting places

Every year Bushwalking Victoria hosts the Federation Walks weekend. As it was based in Trentham, members of the Gisborne Bushwalking Club assisted by leading walks and helping out where necessary. The walks were enjoyed by all participants and the club volunteers did a great job.

Kalimna Park was the venue for a spring walk to see the spectacular display of wildflowers and a fleeting view of the rare Eltham copper butterfly. One walker threatened to demand her money back if we failed to see one. A bit of fun, as all our walks are free!

Ballarat was the destination for a social history walk visiting some of the many memorials, wonderful statuary and learning many historical facts of the city and how it survived to become the beautiful one it is today. As leader Janeen grew up there, she had many interesting tidbits to share.



A walk at Warrandyte, led by Hendy, followed the Yarra River through this delightful countryside. An interesting feature was an old tunnel that was constructed to assist the goldminers. It was later revealed that on earlier walks, club members had canoed down this diversion.

Our December Christmas walk and lunch will finalise a most productive year. For the first time, the club will be introducing walks in January subject to weather conditions.

For details about the Gisborne Bushwalking Club, please contact Deborah on 0400 693 111, or Gail on 0419 374 603. Our website is www.gisbornebwc.org.au.

Janeen Edward



Top: the goldminers' tunnel on the Yarra at Warrandyte.

Above: Bushwalkers Debra, Helga, Pierre, Hendy and Margaret.

WALK

Norton Road
New Gisborne/Macdon

An open walk on wide dirt roads with good views over farmland and countryside.

Distance: 5.1km

Level: Easy

Directions: From Gisborne, drive to Mount Macedon Road. After passing under the railway bridge, Norton Road is the first turn on the left. Park at the electrical substation and begin the walk up Norton Road.

Along the road great views are afforded to Mt Macedon before reaching Norton Road Reserve. This bushland reserve is well worth a visit and contains a well-filled dam with a central island, although it takes a little exploring to find.

Continue along Norton Road until a right turn into Crombie Road. Follow Crombie Road before turning right into Wimbledon Avenue (do not be put off by the 'No Through Road' sign – this only applies to vehicles). At the end of the avenue, turn left into Dunn Street and follow it until it appears to end as a driveway to a private property.

Follow the line of power poles along a wide, grassed corridor towards the tree line, exiting onto Mount Macedon Road through a small pedestrian gate in the fence. Turn right on a walking track along the fence line, returning to your car at Norton Road.

If you find the walk up Norton Road a little tedious or busy, an option is to walk along the railway service track (a little uneven) or a single width bush track between the service track and Norton Road. Neither of these options offers the views from Norton Road and the entry to the reserve may be missed.

Hello from the Ramblers

First, we would like to wish all readers a safe and happy Christmas, hoping to find you well and healthy in the new year.

It has been another steady month for the group, the highlight being a 7km walk around the Bald Hill Reserve near Kyneton on a beautiful day.

If you are near Kyneton over the holidays and fancy a great walk, visit Bald Hill Reserve, and if you are still keen for more, travel a further 20 minutes by car to the Blackhill Reserve. You will not be disappointed with either.

Hope to be back in the new year, best wishes.

Charles (gisramblers@gmail.com)

Outdoor pool season

Macedon Ranges' two outdoor pools (at Woodend and Lancefield) will be open for summer from Saturday 2 December until Monday 11 March.

Opening hours at both pools are temperature-based: December and January (closed Christmas Day) – 26° and over: open 12 noon to 6pm. 25° and under: closed. Further details via www.mrsc.vic.gov.au



Mae

36b Aitken Street, Gisborne

Phone : 03 8652 8492

Carefully curated gifts, perfect for someone special this Christmas.

Phil's epic Kirimati fishing trip



Member Phil Malkiewicz spent an exciting week in Kirimati (pronounced Karismas, ie Christmas Island), part of Kiribati (Kiribas), the local rendition of Gilberts (the former Gilbert and Ellis Islands colony) in the Pacific.

Lodging on the island with his Wilderness Fly Fishing hosts, he was able to fish for tropical bonefish and giant trevally on lagoon and flats. A challenging and learning experience. Once hooked with a "Crazy Charlie" fly with a strip strike, these fishies fight and stream your line out vigorously.

As mentioned in our last report, fly fishing has been found to have a positive impact on mental health, but this would take it to another level!

Phil gave us a thorough, interesting, and memorable presentation on his trip, complete with some great images, at our October general meeting. A typical member's comment: "Thanks for all the valuable info last night Phil. I can't wait to get there."

If you'd like to know more about the Calder Fly Fishing Association, please visit www.calderflyfishing.com.au or look up our Calder Fly Fishing Association Facebook page.

Louis Bokor



Phil Malkiewicz with a nice bonefish.



Probus Club of Gisborne at Emu Bay Lavendar Farm.



In September 32 members, partners and friends enjoyed a six-day bus tour to Kangaroo Island. Every day was filled with new experiences.

Our first night was spent in Mount Gambier; on the way, we visited Barwon Park mansion and had lunch in Warrnambool. We then travelled via Murray Bridge to Cape Jervis, catching the ferry to Kangaroo Island.

Our three days there were filled with terrific adventures including a tour of the sea lions at Sea Bay, Remarkable Rocks, Cape Du Couedic Lighthouse and Admirals Arch as well as Clifford's Honey Farm, Emu

Ridge eucalyptus distillery and Emu Bay Lavendar Farm. It was a fantastic way to resume our club tours after three years.

The Gisborne Probus Club would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday season and to thank everyone for their support throughout 2023.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month in the Gisborne Community Centre Hall (old Senior Citizens Room) at 10am. If you want to experience being a member of our club, you are welcome to join us at the next meeting on 1 February. You can contact our president, Michael O'Brien on 0427 762 757, for further information.

Dianne Egan



Chloe, Sophie, Charli and Maisie on Halloween.

Halloween capers



This character was spotted up a tree in Gisborne.



Henry, Will and Josh.



COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN

With Cr Dominic Bonanno

Hello all.

December is always a special time for me and my family and I'm sure for many others in our community.

It is a time that brings families and friends together to share special moments and make memories. I will always remember my mum's big smile when we were all together around a table full of Italian food (a lot of food!) at Christmas time. I lost my mother four years ago and I miss her every day, but it makes me reflect about how lucky I was about two things:

How much food (some of it homegrown) we had available: I wish to thank all the volunteers at the Gisborne Foodbank, and if you do have extra food this December, please consider donating so people less fortunate can have a meal; and being surrounded by a loving family: If you (or someone you know) has lost someone you love recently, please reach out to talk to someone and share your thoughts and feelings; a

problem shared is a problem halved.

Among many items the council is progressing, I thought I'd highlight two items: **Gisborne Futures Project** – The draft Gisborne Futures Structure Plan was endorsed for community consultation at the August council meeting and community submissions closed on 13 November. Thank you to everyone who submitted and provided their thoughts and opinions.

Skate and BMX Strategy – very exciting to see this progress, and I know the kids of Gisborne and the wider Macedon Ranges cannot wait for upgrades to our skating and BMX facilities.

I wish to acknowledge and thank Cr Anne Moore for her commitment, passion, and contribution to our community over the past three years with me on the council and I wish her all the best in the future.

A warm welcome to our new South Ward Councillor, Christine Walker. I look forward to working with you for the remaining 12 months of our term.

I wish all a merry Christmas and happy new year, and I hope to see you at the Gisborne Festival.

As always, if you wish to contact me, you can reach me on 0419 829 867 or dbonanno@mrcs.vic.gov.au.

Take care and see you around town!

Bank scholarships open for 2024

Local residents are encouraged to apply for Community Bank Gisborne & District's 2024 youth and adult scholarships which are open now.



Early Tertiary Scholarships of \$5000 will be available to support local youth beginning a bachelor's degree and TAFE study in 2024. University

starters need to have completed VCE in 2023 or 2022. TAFE starters need to have completed a minimum of Year 10 in 2023 and left secondary school. For scholarship details and online applications, go to www.bit.ly/2024earlytertiary and search for 'Gisborne'. Applications close on 31 January.

The bank will also offer a scholarship to one resident of Gisborne and surrounds who is accepted into the 2024 Loddon Murray Community Leadership Program. This is a part-time personal development course to develop and connect community leaders in the region. For details and to apply, visit www.leadlm.org.au/lmclp.

The board and staff of Community Bank Gisborne & District are proud to encourage lifelong learning in Gisborne and surrounds.



Proudly sponsored by Rob Mitchell
Federal Member for McEwen 1300 701 966



Gisborne tees off for breast cancer trials

In the last week of October 120 golfers and supporters came together for the Gisborne Golf Club Pink Lunch event, to raise money for breast cancer trials and to commemorate two very special members, the late John and Maureen Kennedy.



The weather did not disappoint with three seasons in four hours, including a hailstorm in the last 10 minutes, blanketing the course in a majestic white layer of hailstones.

Winners of the Maureen Kennedy Trophy on the day were the beautiful and luckiest wife in the world, Anisa Hogan, and her playing partner, Jenny Buttigieg, who is also pretty lucky.

Bernie Handke and Richard Flett won the John Kennedy Trophy and Marianne Stoettrup and Paul Treloar took out the mixed pair.

The day raised \$2000 and heartfelt thanks goes out to the volunteers, organisers and the sponsors including the major sponsor Community Bank Gisborne and District – Bendigo Bank.

In other news, the driving range roof has now been installed to allow members of the community to come down and smack a bucket of balls come rain, hail or shine. However, if it's one of those shine days, why not hit a bucket to warm up and then go and play nine holes among the kangaroos?



Suzanne Velk putts across the hail-covered fourth green as Marg Ivory and Frank Mills watch on at the Tee Off for Breast Cancer Trials Golf and Pink Lunch day.



Winners of the Maureen Kennedy Trophy: Anisa Hogan and Jenny Buttigieg with daughters of the late Maureen Kennedy, Bernadette Kennedy and Marita Saville.

It's been a busy month on the mount course



The past month has been challenging and exciting for 'Our Hidden Treasure on the Mount', with multiple events being staged.

November commenced with the midweek Mug o' the Month Stableford competition being won by Peter Semmens.

Next was our Open weekend with a Saturday 2-person Ambrose followed by the 27 hole Open.

With a score of 60, Saturday's gross winners were Chris Milverton and Matt Willis while the nett winners, with a score of 59.25, were Carolyn and Mick Doyle.

The Sunday Open was well supported by both members and visitors from 13 other golf clubs.

Cam Pascoe from Huntingdale Golf Club, total 100 (1 under), was crowned our Open Champion. Other winners were:

27-Hole Nett: Patrick Doyle, nett 96

A Grade: Ed Carracher, 105 (Euroa Golf Club)

A Grade Nett: Mick Doyle, 97

B Grade: Mark Burrage, 119

B Grade Nett: Kevin Taylor, 96.5

The pairs matchplay final was a tight contest with a 2 and 1 victory to the Matt Willis/Sean Smyth pairing over Bruce Fraser/Greg Mighall.

The last Saturday of the month was our annual 'Doing It For Jarrod' Charity Challenge. The previous three years have raised over \$13,000, all of which goes to



27 Hole Open Champion Cam Pascoe with nett winner Patrick Doyle.

Challenge, who support children with cancer. Jarrod Lyall was the ambassador for this charity as he had battled cancer throughout his life and MMGC continues to support his legacy through this event.

The inaugural Drummond Golf Tri-series Stableford event between MMGC, Romsey GC and Lancefield GC saw a five-point win to Lancefield over MMGC with Romsey GC third. Individual winners were Carolyn Doyle 36 points and Peter Davies 39 points.

Walrus

Women's cricket is back and firing



The Gisborne Cricket Club has started up a women's team after several years without one.

The successful junior girls' program has built over the past few years to the stage where a senior women's team made sense. Thanks to Loren Ward and Jim Hynes and a few others for their fantastic work with our junior girls' program.

The Dragons women's team is back in business this season with new coach Brianna Woodburn doing a great job. It is a welcoming and fun environment for players of all ages and abilities. The team is thriving and the club is looking to expand to two teams next season.

Andrew Headberry



Ladies netball

Tuesday ladies netball in Gisborne, 22 November.



Croquet Club members are delighted their damaged courts are about to be upgraded.

Court resurfacing ready to go ahead



MACEDON RANGES CROQUET CLUB

Macedon Ranges Croquet Club members were delighted when the Community Bank Gisborne and District recently granted us \$4750 towards much-needed upgrading of our court surfaces.

They have been slowly degrading over the past few years and the extreme weather in winter last year did not help. The courts were waterlogged for several months.

The resurfacing project will get underway in December immediately after the club winds down for Christmas. The job entails aerating, topdressing and laser levelling.

The courts will remain closed until mid-January to allow the lawn to recover enough for regular use.

All members are really looking forward to playing on much improved courts and we are very grateful to the Community Bank for its support.

Lyn Robinson

Summer events at South Gisborne



It has been an ace year at the South Gisborne Tennis Club.

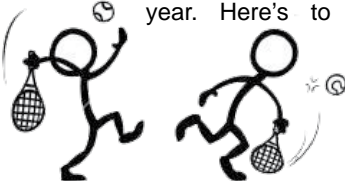
We have the annual club championship event coming up, which is an open event for all members who wish to participate.

The event is a fantastic way for club members to gather annually for a great day of tennis, socialising and good food.

The club is doing an Australian Open School Holiday clinic in the second week of January. The summer of tennis is just around the corner and the best players in the world will be playing in Melbourne. If you would like to know more information about the clinic, call us on 0466 227 958.

Thank you to our amazing community for a great year. Here's to many more great moments in 2024.

Mario Matejcek



School Orienteering

School Orienteering was held at Tony Clarke Reserve, Macedon, on 3 November with students from many local schools participating.

Roxy W and Riley C of Gisborne Primary School's Year 5 Writers' Club provided this report of the day:

On Friday 3 November, Gisborne Primary School's year 3-6 students went to Macedon for orienteering. Once we got off the bus, we sat down on the oval and a teacher presented how the day was going to work. There were 21 maps, each with a different level of difficulty to choose from. Each group got a map with numbers and letters which marked what flag it was. Each flag had a specific pattern on it that you had to stamp so you couldn't cheat. The tracks took you up to the pine forest then back down to the other side of the reserve. Everyone had a great day.

Club coach off to Thailand

Mt Macedon Petanque Club coach Lindsay Kinghorn was selected as coach of the Australian Junior Petanque team to compete at the Women and Junior World Championship in Bangkok, Thailand, in November.

The junior team consisted of one player from Victoria, one from NSW and two from Western Australia. Not all of the players had met each other before the tournament, so the task of building teamwork and bonding the team for the event was a challenging one. At the time of going to press, the results were not available.

Lindsay is a Petanque Federation of Australia accredited coach and last coached the Australian Junior Team in 2009, when they came third in the President's Cup in Tunisia.

Regional and metropolitan club competitions have been happening most weekends in November, with club members travelling to compete.

If you are interested in learning more about our unique game, drop by the club grounds behind the Ampol Service Station in Gisborne. Playdays are held every Wednesday at the new time of 3-6pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. For enquiries please go to mtmacedonpetanque.org, and for updates, visit our Facebook page.

Alison Kinghorn



Lindsay Kinghorn set to go to Thailand.

PODIATRY

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Mr Lumberjack

RIDERS IN ACTION at MACEDON PONY CLUB



Hazel sits tall on Elmo on November 4.



Sophie Wall makes a splash with Lexi, November 5.



Audrey Bishop takes Sunny over a jump, November 5.



Thomas mounts Ruby, November 4.

These riders were snapped at the Macedon Pony Club, Barringo Recreation Reserve, on 4 and 5 November.

The club started in 1973 at a site on the corner of Black Forest Drive and McBean Avenue and in later years relocated to its current grounds at the Barringo Recreation Reserve.

A leader in advancing women's cricket

As we celebrate the achievements of the current Australian women's cricket team, women's world title netballers and the emergence of the Matildas in soccer, it is important to recognise earlier coaches as well, who in part paved the way for these achievements.

The success of the current Australian women's cricket team as an exemplar built on the foundations laid by past state and national teams, and the coaches who led those teams. These earlier teams played a vital role in the initial development of women's cricket in Australia and to some degree overseas.

I would like to comment in particular on the influence of one of the earlier coaches, namely Peter Bakker, and his outstanding contributions to women's sport generally, and in particularly, women's cricket.

As the head coach of the Australian women's cricket team (1985/1987-1994), Peter developed a tradition of excellence which took various teams to new levels of professionalism and performance at a time when sponsorship and resources were not as available as they are today. He was instrumental in team successes over many years. He led the team to numerous victories and championships, including the ICC Women's World Cup in 1988. His exceptional coaching abilities and leadership not only helped the team achieve their goals but also inspired the players to be the best versions of themselves.

Peter provided guidance and support to the teams he coached, helping them improve their skills and techniques. His dedication to the sport and his passion for coaching have had a positive impact on various teams resulting in several notable achievements.



1993 Australian Women's World Cup Cricket Team photo at the Bradman Museum in Bowral.

Testimony to this are Peter's 25 years of continuous involvement in women's cricket, serving as club coach in Preston and Essendon between 1979 and 1989; Victorian coach between 1982 and 1987; Australian coach in 1985 and between 1987-1994; World Cup winner in 1988; and Australian selector between 1994 and 2004.

From 1987, Peter was an accredited level 3 cricket coach, working tirelessly to build positive community attitudes regarding women in sport generally, being also involved in netball and softball as a coach and administrator, in a time when resources were limited and women cricket players were still considered amateur, thus needing to balance their sporting participation with professional jobs. He facilitated media training for players to deal with interviews and related public appear-

ances and introduced strength and conditioning fitness programs tailored specifically to cricket. This is where I first became associated with his cricket and other sport coaching prowess.

Working with the Woodend Cricket Club at both senior and junior coaching level (1985 to 1987), Peter was responsible for the enhancement of community and club level cricket introducing and then progressing a number of girls through junior to senior ranks. Clea Smith is just one example who became an Australian player.

Other national players whose careers he presided over included Chris Matthews, current CEO of the WACA, and Anne Mitchell, a highly successful women's cricket administrator, with whom he worked in his coaching programs. During the 10 years of his tenure as national coach, Peter worked closely with Marg Jennings, who was the chair of the Australian team selection committee, and is a life member for her services to cricket.

Through his then business contacts, Peter facilitated sponsorship support for Nepalese women's cricket.

Peter's commitment to sport, his excellent coaching abilities, and his positive influence on players made him an invaluable asset to any team. He has been an inspiration to many aspiring coaches and players, and his contributions to the world of women's cricket are truly commendable. Such was his service to sports overall, Peter was awarded an Australian Medal for the year 2000 in commemoration of this service.

Peter Bakker and family are long-term Gisborne residents and prior to that lived at Woodend, where Peter was school principal for many years.

Dr Ken Hawkins



SPORT IN PICTURES



Whether it be engaging with maps and coordinates, or figuring out how much higher you might be able to set the bar and still leave some space next jump, orienteers Pat and Brian O'Callaghan (left), Isabella Howley at Little Athletics, and family orienteers Claire Sauro and Paul Rye with Lilly and Adeline Sauro-Rye, engage mind and body in their sports.



Daniel Martin bats for Gisborne seconds v Woodend in the McIntyre Cup, 4 November.



Gisborne v Sunbury, 184 November.



Michael Kays bats for Gisborne against Hanging Rock, 5 November.



Gisborne's Michael Rowe prepares the next bowl v Broadford on 4 November.



Robyn Wesley in Gisborne v Diggers Rest on 4 November.



Mark Graton, Division 3 Macedon v Gisborne, on 11 November.



Gisborne's Aaron McLean ends his run v Rupertswood, 11 November.



Yuka Pannam and Asha Taylor practise at Macedon Tennis Club.



Twilight netball, the Goonies v Gisborne Spark, 16 November.



Twilight netball, Hurricanes v Shooting Stars, 16 November.



**Oooph...
hit in the
ribs, but
not in the
sticks**

It looks like a bruising encounter for Kristian Savage, playing for Gisborne seconds v Rupertswood on 11 November. The ball fell then safely on the ground, so his wicket was safe.



Tuesday Ladies Netball, Gisborne 2, 22 November.



Twilight netball, Built Different v Saints, 16 November.

The critical role of community-based fundraising

Through years of work to fund a scout hut for 1st New Gisborne Scout Group, John Frearson came to appreciate even more how important the wider community, and community groups, are in achieving success.

Those of us fortunate enough to live in the Macedon Ranges, and in particular Gisborne and surrounds, know what wonderful interlinkages we have in our community. Again and again over the decades, on joining a new group – whether it be church, school community, sporting club or a street full of new neighbours – you come across people you knew before from some other grouping.

So, it should not be a surprise that when there are needs in the community, these interlinkages come into play. We have seen this coming together at its best in the aftermath of bushfires. But for the less traumatic times the community interlinkages are still important.

The recent construction and opening of the 1st New Gisborne (Church of Christ) Scout Group's wonderful new Scout Hut has brought very much to mind the amazing work done by our various community funding groups.

The Scout Hut project began with a simple vision, initial fundraising by the scout group committee and approval by the church oversight team to allocate a portion of the Saunders Road Church of Christ property for Scout activities. Scouts were a key part of the Church of Christ community outreach activities.

Then came the critical role of local community funding. New Gisborne Scouts' initial fundraising centred on support from the Gisborne Market, where for several years we helped with the bins and traffic signs and a number of, now-traditional, Bunnings barbecues in Sunbury. Both these activities are a wonderful way to get started with fundraising and the support was very much appreciated.

But to get full funding for the Scout Hut, the prospect of some heavy lifting in terms of grants was vital. And it is in this area that the wonderful community groups such as the Gisborne Community Bank and the Gisborne Region Events and Tourism Association (GREAT) came to the fore. Not just because they were generous and expeditious in their grants once the scout group had made presentations and applications, but from the very start, with framing the vision of the project, we had known of the wonderful support for worthwhile local projects these two key groups were renowned for.

It is in this interlinkage of community needs and community funding that the wonder of our local area is evident.

The provision of foundational support of significant magnitude at the start of community development projects and activities is absolutely critical.



John Frearson speaks at the official opening of the 1st New Gisborne Scout Hut.

The fact that local community groups can rely on a fair hearing of their case for foundational support by the key funding groups is an asset beyond price. It allows the myriad committees that are the engine room of so much community activity to have definite hopes that their project will have at least a good chance of local funding by bodies such as GREAT and the Community Bank that are as local in the activities and outlook as are the applicants.

In the case of the New Gisborne Scout Hut, the foundational support by the Community Bank and GREAT was the catalyst for significant further support from Scouts Victoria, the Churches of Christ Vic/Tas and several private donors. And that added funding was itself critical in crystallising a significant further round of funding from the state and federal governments.

We live in a wonderful community. And one of the wonders is the fact that local community groups can rely on community funding support from groups such as GREAT and the Community Bank who derive the support for their own activities from the very same communities.

Wonderful and rewarding interlinkages indeed.

A message from federal member

As we approach the end of 2023, I send my warmest wishes to each and every one of you.

Reflecting on the year gone by, I am filled with gratitude for my role as your representative. Our shared commitment to supporting one another and working together to overcome challenges and make improvements to our world truly sets our community apart.

I was proud to showcase Gisborne with a visit to the Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct when I recently hosted the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, Kristy McBain. I explained the history behind the precinct and the dedication shown by locals to see this community-driven project come to fruition.

This year has also seen us able to congratulate 1st New Gisborne Scouts and the Gisborne Soccer Club for successful Stronger Communities Grant applications, to fund a trailer shelter and an updated commercial kitchen, respectively.

Visiting Gisborne Golf Club, where I provided the club with new Australian flags, I saw the amazing work they are doing encouraging the community to visit the course, not just for golf but for nature walks and wildlife sightings.

I must also thank this publication, the *Gisborne Gazette*, for the kind invitation to attend their annual reception to acknowledge sponsors, distributors and contributors this year. It was a wonderful evening and really showed the connection the *Gazette* has with its community.

As we gather with loved ones to celebrate the joy of the season, let us also take a moment to appreciate the bonds we share and the collective resilience that has seen us through the past year. Your dedication to each other and the wellbeing of our community has not gone unnoticed.

Wishing you and your families a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Rob Mitchell, Member for McEwen

Twilight netball fun



At first glance readers might think 'Hang on a minute, that doesn't look fair...' but it is OK, this is twilight netball, featuring teams the Usual Chaos v the Big Dawys. And the usual chaos and fun ensued in this year's competition, run by Macedon Ranges Netball Association.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

ST BRIGID'S PARISH

Sunday 17 December, 5.30pm – Parish Hall: Christmas Carols

Wednesday 20 December, 7pm – St Brigid's Church: Communal Service of Forgiveness (followed by individual reconciliation for those who choose it)

Saturday 23 December, 6pm – St Brigid's Church: fourth Sunday of Advent Mass

Sunday 24 December, 11am – St Brigid's Church: fourth Sunday of Advent Mass

Sunday 24 December, 7pm – St Brigid's School: Christmas Vigil Mass

Sunday 24 December, 9pm – St Patrick's Church: Christmas Vigil Mass (Christmas Carols from 8.15pm)

Sunday 24 December, 11pm – St Brigid's Church: Christmas Eve Night Mass (Christmas Carols from 10.30pm)

Monday 25 December, 9am – St Ambrose Church: Christmas Day Mass

Monday 25 December, 10.30am – St Brigid's Church: Christmas Day Mass

Monday 1 January, 10am – St Brigid's Church: Feast of Mary, Mother of God



ANGLICAN PARISH OF GISBORNE

Sunday 24 December:
 10am St Paul's, Gisborne
 5pm St John's, Riddells Creek (outside)
 11 for 11.30pm Church of the Resurrection, Macedon.

Christmas Day: 9am St Paul's, Gisborne.



MOUNT MACEDON UNITING CHURCH

Sunday 24 December (Christmas Eve), 7pm: Service of carols and lessons.

Christmas Day service: 9am



GISBORNE UNITING CHURCH

Services on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day will begin at 9.30am.

QUIZ

- Which is the first three-digit prime number?
- Which city was the capital of West Germany?
- What is the floral emblem of Victoria?
- Who invented dynamite?
- In the old currency, how many shillings equalled one Guinea?
- Who directed the movie *Jaws*?
- How many years are there in a sesquicentenary?
- Which album did Michael Jackson release in 1987?
- In which human joint would you find the trapezium bone?
- According to Google, which is the most popular ice cream flavour in the world?

Answers page 39

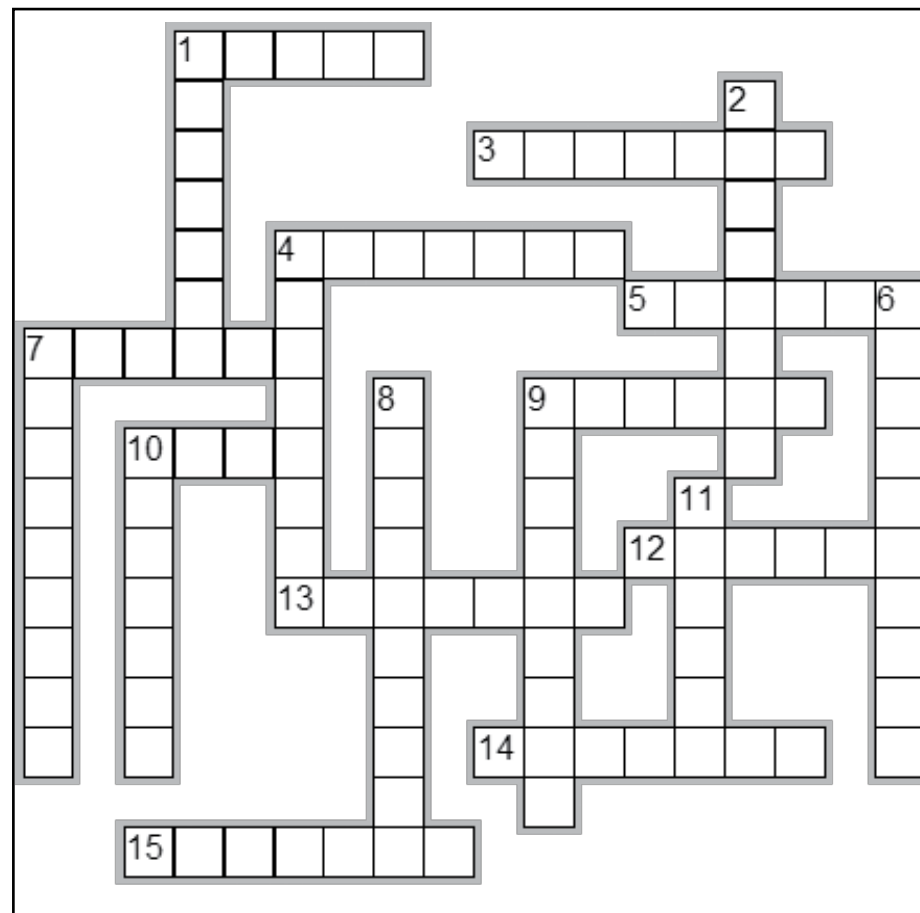
CROSSWORD

Words starting with the letter 'W'

Questions compiled by the late Graeme Millar and his daughter Heather.

ACROSS

- A jockey named Harry who lived in Gisborne and rode Think Big twice in the Melbourne Cup
- He said, "well may we say 'God save the Queen', because nothing will save the Governor-General"
- A rich person
- Capital city of Poland
- These brothers made the first successful flight in 1903
- An opening in a wall
- The Fremantle Doctor
- Australia's third Prime Minister
- Speak very softly
- Small town west of Ouyen
- This town is home to the Holgate Brewhouse



DOWN

- A marriage ceremony
- Napoleon was defeated here in 1815
- Remove or take away
- USA state named after a president
- This Victorian town sits opposite Corowa NSW on the Murray River
- Capital city of New Zealand
- The day after Tuesday
- A man whose wife has died and who has not remarried
- Walk with short swaying steps

Answers page 39

The hopes and fears



As we enter the Christmas season, choosing carols becomes a priority.

Talking with one of my communities, I asked what we would like to share with people this year. The overwhelming response was one of 'hope'.

In the carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, this remarkable phrase is at the end of the first verse: "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."

It matters not when we celebrate Christmas, as the calendar most of us use only came into being in 1582. It is a time to remember and celebrate all the good things that we have enjoyed.

Most churches will begin their 12 days of Christmas from Christmas Eve, through to 6 January.

The birth of a boy in a small town in Judah is remembered, not because it is the date, but because it is a holy day, a holiday.

It is a time to take stock of the year that has been and look forward to the year that is to come.

May you find some peace and let any fears be gone as you celebrate. May you also celebrate in hope for the coming year.

*Fr Dennis Webster
Anglican Parish of Gisborne*



St Brigid's Parish Gisborne – incorporating St Ambrose Riddells Creek and St Patrick's Macedon

Normal weekend services

Saturday, 6pm St Brigid's Gisborne
Sunday, 8am St Ambrose Riddells Creek
Sunday, 9:30am St Patrick's Macedon
Sunday, 11am St Brigid's Gisborne
Everyone is welcome!

Welcome

We recently welcomed Fr Vincent Nguyen to the parish.

2024 Sacrament Registration Evening

A registration evening will be held on Tuesday 5 December at 5:30pm in St Brigid's Church for all families not attending the parish schools who have children eligible to receive a Sacrament in 2024.

Reconciliation available to Year 3 and above, Holy Communion available to Year 4 and above and Confirmation available to Year 6 and above.

Sacrament fee for 2024 is \$100.

Baptism details required for registration.

Parish office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9am to 5pm. Enquiries to: gisborne@cam.org.au or 5428 2591. Website: pol.org.au/gisborne.



Mount Macedon Uniting Church ready for services.

Christmas Eve carols on the Mount



The annual Christmas service of carols and lessons at Mount Macedon Uniting Church will be held at 7pm on Christmas eve, Sunday 24 December. This has been a tradition for many years, except for 2020 during the COVID pandemic, and is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

Everyone is welcome to join us for a joyful start to Christmas festivities. We will not hold a morning service that day.

Our Christmas Day service will be at 9am. This is a short celebration of the birth of Christ.

As we reflect on the year in our community, we particularly remember the wonderful 40th anniversary commemoration of the Ash Wednesday bushfires and the overflowing attendance of locals and visitors from far and wide. It was clear that this tragic event was remembered by many people. Next April, we will hold a celebration of the reopening of the rebuilt Mount Macedon Uniting Church following its destruction on Ash Wednesday.

We thank the many *Gisborne Gazette* volunteers for their wonderful support across the year. The *Gazette* is a great little community newspaper. It has news from so many groups, unlike any other I have seen. The *Gazette* is an asset, and we appreciate the dedicated group who produce it each month.

We wish the *Gazette* team and readers a blessed Christmas and hope to see many of them at our Christmas services. We look forward to a safe and productive New Year for the community.

Neil Tweddle, 5426 2045



**Christmas service times
listed on page 37**

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree



By now, most families will have resolved the debate over when to put up their Christmas tree.

Until the 20th century, it was an exciting activity saved for Christmas Eve; the tree to be taken down 12 days later. Now that Christmas has, largely, lost its traditional moorings, this excitement is supposed to stretch out for weeks.

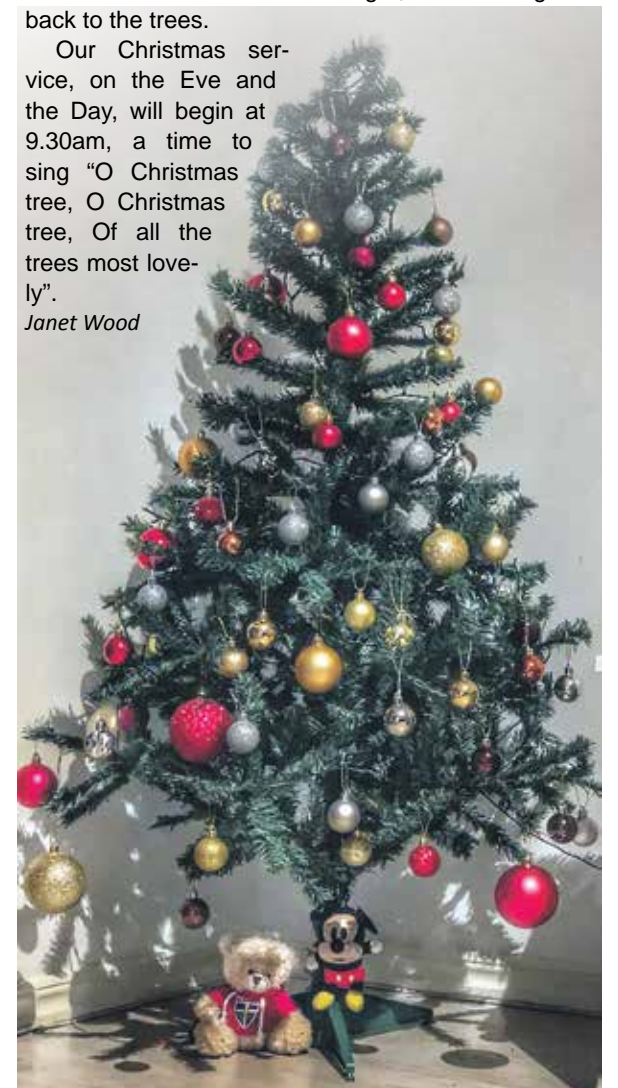
There has also been the loss of the central story that gives its name to the festival. It belongs to the Christ child. Perhaps with the current awareness of the terrible cost borne by babies and children when adults go to war, the Bethlehem baby will bring new meaning. It is a time to remember that one of the titles given to Jesus was Prince of Peace.

Perhaps also we can look to give more than we receive. Is the pile of presents wrapped for just one child necessary? Many of us remember when a small child ignored the so-well-chosen presents and opted to spend the day playing in a cardboard box.

This can be a time when our love of the Christmas tree can extend to a love for the trees around us. Members of the Gisborne Uniting congregation have committed themselves to 'adopt' a tree. It might be in their back yard, or on the nature strip or in the local park. We plan to look to the health of our chosen trees as a (very) small contribution to caring for our planet. As we are warned of heat and drought, it is time to give back to the trees.

Our Christmas service, on the Eve and the Day, will begin at 9.30am, a time to sing "O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, Of all the trees most lovingly".

Janet Wood



More than a repository of sparkles and gifts.



100 YEARS AGO

DECEMBER 1923

Beautiful Gardens at Macedon. On Saturday Nov. 10, members of the Nurserymen and Seedsmen's Association, accompanied by their wives or lady relatives, at the invitation of the president Mr. James Railton, spent an enjoyable day amongst the beautiful gardens of Macedon. There are experts who admire and others who condemn the elm as a street tree. The admiration of the former would be increased and opposition of the latter weakened or dispersed after viewing the magnificent avenue of these trees at Gisborne. Tall, spreading and shapely, with foliage of a pure-green colour, forming a graceful canopy to modify the glare and heat of the summer sun, yet high enough to procure a sense of spaciousness with Mount Macedon in the distance, the ideals for a street tree are amply satisfied.

The Australasian, 1 December 1923

Gisborne School Notes. To mark the opening of the remodelled school next year, the senior scholars decided during the week to purchase a watercolour painting of Anzac Cove and hang it in the senior room. To this end, each scholar promised to pay threepence per week for six weeks. Not to be outdone, the juniors followed suit by expressing a desire to obtain a picture for their room. The one chosen is "Simpson and his Donkey". Both these pictures are included in a series of war pictures entitled "From Anzac to the Armistice".

Gisborne Gazette, 14 December 1923

Gisborne Shire Notes. The Postal authorities require lopping of trees in New Gisborne from Ferrier Road to the Railway Station. The Department to be advised that Council preferred to have lopping done by an experienced man (under supervision) – costs to be charged to the Department. It was also agreed to ask the Department to consider the question of putting wires underground at New Gisborne to save cutting trees.

Gisborne Gazette, 14 December 1923

Upper Macedon News. A start has been made to fence the newly-acquired Brougham Road. Now that our councillors are on the job and possess the power of acquiring ground for road purposes, the ratepayers here would like to see them connect Devonshire Lane to Alton Road. At the present time, these roads are only about a quarter of a mile apart. But to get to any of the houses on Alton Road from Devonshire Lane by road, it means an unnecessary journey of about three miles. No doubt this road would be costly but as it would open up the two roads, it would be a great boon to tourists, tradesmen and cab proprietors, and all rate payers situated in that area.

Gisborne Gazette, 21 December 1923



WHAT'S ON REGULAR MEETINGS

New members always welcome

ADULT RIDING CLUB (Gis)	2nd Saturday	I R Robertson Res
ADULT RIDING CLUB (Bullengarook)	2nd Saturday	Rec Reserve
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB	3rd Saturday 10am	Woodend RSL www.mrarc.org.au
ANGLING CLUB	2nd Wed 8pm	Railway Hotel Macedon
BOTANIC GARDENS working bee	every Thurs 9.30am-10.30am	
BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP	1st & 3rd Tues 10.30am	Gisborne Golf Club
BRIDGE CLUB	Mon 12.30, Tues 7.15, Thurs 12.30	St Mary's Church Hall, Woodend 5420 7595
BUSHWALKING CLUB	Various locations	secretary@gisbornebwc.org.au
CANCER SUPPORT GROUP	last Wed of month	Gisborne Golf Club
CAR CLUB	1st Wednesday 8pm	Steam Park, New Gisb
CARERS GROUP (Mac Ranges)	2nd & 4th Thurs, 1pm	Woodend RSL 5420 7132 (Note: 4th Thurs carers only)
COMMUNITY GARDEN	Wed 9am	Church of Christ
CROQUET CLUB	Wed & Sat 10am	Dixon Field
CWA GISBORNE	2nd Monday 10am	Gis Secondary College
CWA MACEDON	3rd Tues 1pm & 7pm	662 Mt Macedon Rd
DALY RESERVE WORKING BEE	2nd Tues 9.30am	Scout Hall, Daly Res
FILM SOCIETY	2nd Wed Woodend Neigh'hood House	5427 2323
FLY FISHING CLUB	4th Wed 7.30pm	MRFEC Gisborne
FOCUS CLUB	2nd Fri 12 noon	Gisborne Golf Club
FRIENDS OF JACKSONS CREEK working bees	3rd Sun 10-noon	
GARDEN CLUB	2nd Wed various venues	0424 038 474
GENEALOGY GROUP	4th Thurs 7.30	Family Hist Rm, Library
GIRL GUIDES	Thursdays 5pm	Gis Scout Hall
GISBORNE SINGERS	Wed 7.30pm	Gisborne Uniting Church
HISTORICAL SOCIETY	open Wed 10am-4pm	Court House
LIBRARY: TODDLERS' STORY TIME	Mon 10.30am, Wed 10.30am	
LIONS CLUB (Gisborne)	First Thurs of month, 7.30pm	247 Station Rd
MARTIAL ARTS	Thurs from 6pm	St Brigid's Hall; gisborne@jungeikan.com.au
MASONIC LODGE	2nd Thurs 7pm	Masonic Hall Aitken St
MASTERS AFL	Wed 6.30pm	Sankey Reserve
MUFFINS 'N' MORE	2nd Tues 10am-noon	Uniting Church
MUMS GROUP	2nd Mon 9.30-11.30am	49 Fisher St
OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB	Sun 9am	Riddells Rec Res
PETANQUE	2nd & 4th Sat 10am	behind Caltex service station, Station Rd, Gisborne 0439 887 178
PHOENIX ART & CRAFTS	1st Thursday	phoenixmrac.com
PHOTOGRAPHIC SOC	1st Tues & 2nd Mon 7pm	Dromkeen, Riddells Ck
PONY CLUB Bullengarook	1st Sunday	Rec Reserve
PONY CLUB Gisborne	1st Sunday	Robertson Reserve
PROBUS	1st Thurs 10am	Mechanics Inst.
QUILTERS (Gisb)	Wed 7pm	Room attached to Gisb Library
RAMBLERS	Fridays 9.15am	Tennis Club Dixon Field
ROTARY (Gisborne)	1st & 3rd Tues 7pm	Telegraph Hotel (email gisbornerotary@gmail.com for confirmation of venue)
ROTARY (Macedon Ranges)	1st Tuesday, 6.30 dinner, 7.45 meeting	Baringo Food & Wine rotarymacedonranges@gmail.com
RUNNING GROUP	Tues & Thurs 6pm, Sun 8am	Gis Aquatic Centre
RSL	1st Mon 1.30pm	Gis Golf Club 5428 2233
SENIOR CITS (Macedon)	Tues 11am	Tony Clarke Res
SPINNERS & FIBRE GROUP	Wed 12 noon	Rec Reserve Bullengarook
SUPPORT AFTER SUICIDE	2nd Mon each month, even if public holiday, 7-8.30pm	Newham Mechanics Inst (1292 Rochford Rd)
TABLE TENNIS	Wed 7.30pm	Tony Clarke Res, Macedon
THUNDER SWIMMING CLUB	2nd Sat 5pm	Gisborne Aquatic Centre
TOY LIBRARY	Every Tues 9.30-10.30am; Sat 9.30-11am	71 Robertson St
ULYSSES GROUP	3rd Tues 6pm	Sunbury FC
VINTAGE MACHINERY	Working bees 1st Sun of month, 8.30am at Steam Park; meetings last Friday of month, 7pm at Steam Park	
WRITERS GROUP	Last Sat of month 2-5pm	Woodend N'hood House
WRITERS (Scribes & Scribblers)	2nd Tues 10am-12	Riddell N'hood House
YOUNG VOICES	Thursdays 4.15-5.45pm	Norma Richardson Hall, Buckland St, Woodend, 5426 4801 or sdggome@patash.com.au

WHAT ELSE IS ON

DATE		PAGE
DECEMBER		
2	Fire Safety Essentials session in Macedon	10
2	CWA Christmas Fair	6
2	Carols by Candlelight in New Gisborne	7
2	Energy Efficiency in the Home session	9
2	Gisborne Singers' Christmas concert	17
2,3	Phoenix Art & Craft show	16
3	Gisborne Olde Time Market	4
3	Emergency Services Expo in Gisborne	3
8	Gisborne Festival	6
10	Viewfield Community Christmas Party	6
10	Carols by Candlelight at Dixon Field	7
13	Macedon & Mt Macedon Carols	7
14	Over 55s coffee in Riddell	11
15	Carols at John Aitken Reserve	7
17	Photo exhibition opens in Gisborne	16
17	St Brigid's Carols in the Hall	7
17	MRFEC Term 1 enrolments open	9
18	Men's Shed cubby raffle draw	12
21	Friends of Jackson Creek working bee	8
23	Gisborne Foodbank closes for break	14
January		
17	Gisborne Foodbank reopens	14

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS		DOWN	
1.	White	1.	Wedding
3.	Whitlam	2.	Waterloo
4.	Wealthy	4.	Withdraw
5.	Warsaw	6.	Washington
7.	Wright	7.	Wahgunyah
9.	Window	8.	Wellington
10.	Wind	9.	Wednesday
12.	Watson	10.	Widower
13.	Whisper	11.	Waddle
14.	Walpeup		
15.	Woodend		

QUIZ ANSWERS

1.	101	6.	Steven Spielberg
2.	Bonn	7.	150
3.	The pink heath	8.	Bad
4.	Alfred Nobel	9.	The wrist
5.	21	10.	Vanilla

KIDS' QUIZ ANSWERS

1.	Melbourne Cricket Ground	6.	The Sun
2.	2022	7.	South Australia
3.	Claustrophobia	8.	Hugh Jackman
4.	Mickey Mouse	9.	20
5.	The Spice Girls		

Baringo Film Club

Screening times: 3pm Wednesday
3pm and 7pm Saturday

Date	Film
December 6 to 9 The Playground (French/Drama)
Dec 13 to 16 TBA (Licence pending)
Dec 20 Love Actually (Christmas/Romantic/Comedy)

JANUARY

Jan 17 to 20 My Old School (Doc/UK)
Jan 24 to 27 Other People's Children (French/Drama)
Jan 31 to Feb 3 Women Talking (Drama/Thriller)

NB Membership subscriptions will open early January.
Please refer to the Baringo Film Club website for details.

www.baringofilmclub.com

Stop kidding yourself. If you drink, don't drive.



Thinking about driving after a couple of drinks? Think again. If you blow .05 or over, you could face serious penalties, including fines, losing your licence, getting an interlock installed in your car and having to blow zero for three years.



MACEDON RANGES BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2024



Nominate your business

The self-nomination period for the Josh's Rainbow Eggs Macedon Ranges Business Excellence Awards 2024 is now open!

We want you to tell us how great your business is and about your wonderful customer service, innovation, products and professionalism. So dust off your business plan and start your nomination by Friday 15 March. You then have until 24 April to complete it.

We are running a face-to-face mentoring session on Wednesday 31 January at the Macedon and Mount Macedon Community House, 47 Victoria Street Macedon from 6pm-7.30pm. This is an opportunity to discover ways to make improvements to your submission and give your business the best chance possible. Please RSVP to businessawards@mrsc.vic.gov.au by Friday 26 January.

Find out more at mrsc.vic.gov.au/business-awards



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