

Gisborne Gazette

serving the southern macedon ranges

MARCH 2024 FREE

Happy winner of health scholarship

The recipient of the new 2024 Neal Street Medical Clinic Health Scholarship is Lily Reid.

This exceptional 17-year-old student is set to receive a \$5000 scholarship to assist her academic pursuits at university level.

Having recently completed her secondary education at Gisborne Secondary College, Lily is poised to begin her bachelor's degree in nursing at La Trobe University in Bendigo in March. Following the successful completion of her nursing degree, she aspires to pursue further studies in medicine as a postgraduate student at Melbourne University's rural school in Shepparton.

Lily's profound dedication to advancing rural health initiatives has been a driving force behind her decision to pursue her academic endeavours in regional Victoria, reflecting her commitment to making a meaningful impact in communities like ours.



Former GSC student Lily Reid is starting a bachelor's degree in nursing this month.



Preps' first day
photographic feature ► pages 20-21



DOUBLE GLAZING

IN YOUR EXISTING TIMBER WINDOWS

macedonrangesglass.com.au

Your Local Glaziers for Over 50 Years

Gisborne
☎ 03 5428 2899

Kyneton
☎ 03 5422 1724





From the Editor's desk

This month's front page features Lily Reid, a deserving recipient of the 2024 Neal Street Medical Clinic's Health Scholarship. Our congratulations and best wishes to Lily as she takes the first steps in her chosen career. Congratulations also to all at the clinic for creating this scholarship. In doing so they join the Gisborne & District Community Bank in providing substantial financial assistance to talented and dedicated young local people who will make their mark in the world.

March is usually the most pleasant month of the year – not too hot and not too cold. Thus, many organisations choose to run their events in March and you will see from the What's On list on page 5 that this month is crammed with events and activities for you and your families to enjoy.

Our annual double-page spread of the preps' first day (see pages 20-21) is always a source of delight. By now they will be settling into their school routine with the help of their teachers and Year 6 buddies. I was told that one keen little prep woke his parents at 3am, asking them to make his breakfast so he would not be late for school.

Speaking of schools, you will find on page 14 a tribute to David Butler who has recently retired after teaching at Gisborne Secondary College for 38 years. As you will see, David has made a great contribution to the lives of hundreds of young people, especially those who struggled to fully engage with school. We wish David a long and happy retirement. We also salute all of the teachers in our excellent local schools and thank them for their efforts with our children every day.

Peter and Eddie Gardiner are Gisborne icons and I am delighted to announce that they will be contributing a story each month about life in Gisborne in the 1940s and beyond. The first of their tales is on page 8. I'm sure you are going to enjoy Peter's story of his time as a pupil at St Brigid's.

The Vernon brothers are in blistering form with the bat as Gisborne heads to the cricket finals. Check out their story on page 4 and, better still, get down to watch them in action on a Saturday afternoon.

Bryan Power

Gazette at Large

Graham Carter catches up with the Gazette's news on Bruny Island.



Gisborne Gazette
PO Box 9, Gisborne 3437
Web www.gisbornegazette.org.au



Circulation 8000

Gazette Team



Editor: Bryan Power
gisbornegazetteeditor@gmail.com
0409 422 492



Production
Pip Butler 0439 816 278 pbutlerhistory@gmail.com
Adam Lopez



Photographer
Chris Fleming
0417 322 944



Distribution Manager
Maxine Barker 0438 711 138
maxineandpeter@bigpond.com



Advertising
Maxine Barker 0438 711 138
gisbornegazetteadvertising@gmail.com

Distributors: Proudly distributed to letterboxes in Gisborne, New Gisborne, Macedon, Mt Macedon, South Gisborne and Bullengarook by more than 100 volunteers.

Available online

DEADLINES FOR COPY AND ADVERTISING

ISSUE	MONTH	DEADLINE	DISTRIBUTION
194	April	20 March	2 April
195	May	17 April	30 April
196	June	15 May	28 May

DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in the *Gazette* are not necessarily those of the *Gazette* or its management committee unless acknowledged as such. No endorsement of products or services is implied by the listing of advertisers or sponsors. While every effort is taken in printing contributions accurately, the *Gisborne Gazette* takes no responsibility for errors.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Copies of the *Gazette* are posted to subscribers each month. For an annual subscription to cover postage, send your cheque for \$29.70 to the *Gisborne Gazette*, PO Box 9, Gisborne 3437 or you can deposit online. Please contact Maxine on 0438 711 138.

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.

MINUTE WITH MAXINE

Lynda Wenzel has been delivering the *Gazette* in Macedon for five years.

Lynda was born in Melbourne and has one brother. While working at an advertising agency for 13 years, she met Stefan and they were married at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Elsternwick in 1974.

In 1980, after a 2½-year self-build at weekends, travelling from North Caulfield, they moved into their Macedon home where they raised their son and daughter.

Lynda worked at the Mt Macedon Hotel part-time and was 'headhunted' to go the Macedon Hotel, where she worked part-time for 10 years. She also worked part time at Drusilla for three years and there she became proficient in making white sauce for lasagna!

Lynda worked full-time for 16 years at the Department of Infrastructure in Melbourne (which later be-



Lynda enjoys a treat at the Windsor.

came Public Transport Victoria), and retired in 2018.

There was only so much gardening and walking she could do, so in 2019, she called into the GREAT Centre to volunteer and worked alongside the Gisborne Olde Time Market manager and was on the committee too.

She has three grandchildren, Piper, Lachlan, and Patrick.

The photo was taken at the Windsor Hotel in Melbourne, where she had 'high tea' which was a Christmas present from the family.

Maxine Barker



Gisborne Olde Time Market
Sun 7 April 9am – 2pm

For Market information call
0431 563 566 or go to
www.gisborneoldetimetmarket.org.au

Dance school prepares for dream trip to US

Excitement is building at Gisborne Dance Academy as owner and director Sarah Morton gears up to lead a troupe of 31 dancers on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the United States in April.

With performances lined up for the Disneyland Main Street Parade and showcases at Disneyland Resorts and Universal Studios, the trip promises to be an unforgettable adventure for the dancers and their supporters.

Sarah said their road to Disneyland was built on countless dedicated hours of rehearsals. Under her guidance, the dancers had been perfecting their routines to ensure they were ready for the international stage. From intricate choreography to vibrant costumes, every detail has been planned meticulously.

The highlight of the trip, Sarah

said, would be the street parade at Disneyland, but the the two performances at Disneyland and Universal Studios would be a testament to the skill and dedication of the dancers and an opportunity to immerse themselves in the entertainment industry.

For many, this trip represents the culmination of years of hard work and dedication.

"As we prepare to embark on this journey, the dancers of Gisborne Dance Academy are ready to take the world by storm and make our mark on the international stage!" Sarah said.

To stay updated as the dance troupe prepares for their adventure, you can like and follow their Instagram @gdagisbornedanceacademy, and Facebook @gisbornedanceacademy accounts.



Gisborne Dance Academy dancers.

Women take on daunting challenge for Oxfam

Three women from the Macedon Ranges are taking on the challenge of a lifetime to raise money for international charity Oxfam.

Kylie Williams, Carli Watson and Candice Jentsch will walk 100 kilometres on March 1-2 in the Dandenong Ranges along with other teams from around the state.

They will start on Friday morning and have 40 hours to complete the 100km, walking through the night and into the next day. A support team of family and friends will be on hand to meet them at designated points with meals, water, changes of clothes and encouragement to help get them through this enormous challenge.

The team has been training hard over the past few months, with their peak training walk in mid-February taking around 18 hours.

So far they have raised more than \$3000, but would love to get more support from the community. The link for people to donate is trailwalker.oxfam.org.au/donate then search for 'Lyrebirds'.



Kylie Williams, Candice Jentsch and Carli Watson on a training walk at Mount Macedon.

Music Festival back on 23 March

Don't forget the Macedon Ranges Music Festival is back at Hanging Rock on Saturday 23 March, 1pm-10pm. With a lineup fronted by Mahalia Barnes and The Soul Mates, this is a rare opportunity to witness live music in this forum as the sun sets behind the Rock. The one-day festival only releases 1000 tickets and promises to be a sell-out.



Also in the lineup will be some of Australia's finest musical outfits including local favourite Taylor Sheridan, contemporary folk singer Alana Wilkinson, 'Afrodelik' band, Immy Owusu and more. The event caters for young and old with kids' activities including a jumping castle and face-painting. For the adults, there will be a bar stocked with local wine, beer, cider and a pop-up gin bar from New Gisborne-based Mountain Distilling as well as a range of food trucks and stalls.

The 100% volunteer-run event raises money for the locally founded Cambodian Kids Foundation, with all proceeds supporting grassroots community development projects in rural Cambodia. Tickets are now on sale with first-release adult tickets from \$40 and kids under 5 free. For tickets go to www.macedonrangesmusicfestival.org.

Jimmy O'Hare, festival director

STATEWIDE SHARPENING SERVICES

Your Sharpening Services

Wide range of sharpening services to residential and commercial properties

Affordable Pricing Anytime Service
Qualified Experts

Location: Macedon Ranges

Call 0409 411 619

Knife sharpening from \$5
statewidesharpeningservices.com.au

REFRESH, REVITALISE + RENEW

- Anti-Ageing Facials + Peels
- Micro Needling
- Microdermabrasion
- LED Light Therapy
- Cosmetic Injectables
- Waxing
- Manicures + Pedicures
- Massages

5428 8800
3/31 Brantome St, Gisborne
www.thespa.com.au

THE SPA
SKIN + BODY

smart pool services

Mobile pool and spa service



- Over 20 years' experience servicing pools and spas in the area.
- Maintenance, pumps, filters, chlorinators, controllers, blankets.
- Specialising in water and energy efficient technologies.

Call Daniel
0416 289 898
dan@smartpoolservices.com.au

Champion cricketers lead the way

Gisborne senior cricketers Jarryd and Riley Vernon are in great form as Gisborne, undefeated, heads towards the McIntyre Cup finals.

Gisborne senior cricketers Jarryd and Riley Vernon are in great form as Gisborne, undefeated, heads towards the McIntyre Cup finals.

On the consecutive Saturdays of February 10 and 17, the brothers amassed a huge number of runs with Jarryd scoring 103 not out and 79 while Riley made 95 and 118. A total of 375 runs for two batsmen over two playing days must surely be a record.

Jarryd and Riley were taught the cricket basics by their father Brett who played with Gisborne Fourths until he injured his shoulder. Brett coached both boys in their junior years and set up their backyard shed with a net and a bowling machine and the boys spent countless hours hitting cricket balls there. "Dad became vice-president of the club and Mum was the junior co-ordinator. They've always been very supportive of us and the club," the brothers agreed.

As they made their way through the junior ranks at Gisborne it was evident the boys had the talent, keenness and determination to reach high levels in the sport they loved. They also played footy with Gisborne but hung up their boots eventually to concentrate on cricket.

From Juniors Jarryd went to Melton to play Sub-District cricket. At that time he won an Under 18 state championship batting at the MCG. He later played Sub-District with Spotswood for two years. Riley graduated to Premier cricket, playing at Richmond and Essendon and later for two years with Jarryd at Spotswood. At Richmond Riley was coached by Shannon Young whom he holds in awe as a mentor and a great influence in developing his game.

Eventually the travelling to Melbourne to train and play became too wearing and they have happily joined



Jarryd and Riley resume their partnership after the tea break on 17 February.

forces again back at Gisborne over the past four years.

Jarryd and Riley are both employed locally. They are glaziers and work in their father's business, Macedon Ranges Glass.

Gisborne has won four of the McIntyre Cup premierships over the past seven seasons. In that time Jarryd has played in five grand finals and captained the premiership team three times. He has been club champion five times. Last season he scored 835 runs, the highest total ever by a player in the history of the Gisborne & District Cricket Association. As a result he won the Association's highest honour, the Kevin Sullivan Medal.

Both Jarryd and Riley have had experience in the UK. Riley played for Tong Park Esholt Cricket Club and Jarryd for the Broad Oak Cricket Club in the Hudders-



A strong cricketing family: Jarryd, father Brett and Riley Vernon.

field League. "The playing conditions were very different so it was a good experience. However, the players were not too keen on training," laughed Jarryd. "They preferred to have a beer on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons rather than train." Riley went to India through an Academy run by Shannon Young and enjoyed his time there immensely. "I loved it. It is a completely different world there," he said.

Jarryd and his partner Stacey have bought a home in Gisborne and their 18 months old daughter Daisy is already showing signs that she will be a handy sports-woman one day. Jarryd, now 29, is happily settled in Gisborne and will continue to play for the club he loves.

Riley at 22 has many years of great cricket ahead of him and, asked about his future, he replied, "I love playing for Gisborne, but we'll see how we go."

The immediate concerns, however, are the finals and the brothers are determined to be a part of another premiership-winning team.

Bryan Power



Crown Cabs

Servicing Gisborne & Woodend for 18 years.

Book your next trip with us to enjoy reliable transportation tailored to your needs. Our experienced drivers provide a safe, comfortable journey, from pick-up to return. Call now to book your ride & travel with confidence. Choose us for DVA, TAC, Worksafe & NDIS trips.

Catch a Cab.... Catch a Crown

Bookings: **1300 12 13 14**

www.crowncabs.com.au



Expert family law advice and support in the Macedon ranges.

SERVICE AREAS

Pre-Separation Advice
Amicable Separation
Divorce
Property Division

Parenting Arrangements
Binding Financial
Agreements
Collaborative Practice

☎ 03 9070 9856

reception@romermaud.com.au
romermaud.com.au

CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING

INSTANT PHOTO PRINTING

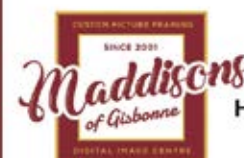
LARGE FORMAT PRINTING

Our Services:

- Custom Picture Framing
- Ready Made Frames
- Canvas Stretching
- Glass Repair
- Digital Imaging
- Photo Printing
- Large Format Printing
- Canvas Printing
- Photo Restoration
- Scanning
- And More



FAMILY OWNED
AND OPERATED,
LOCAL BUSINESS,
AUSTRALIAN MADE
IN STORE.



1/37 Hamilton St Gisborne
Phone: 5428 2526
www.maddisons.co
Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am-5:00pm
Sat 9:30am-1pm
closed Sun

Seen AROUND TOWN



The footpath and gutters between the library and the old courthouse in Hamilton Street are being replaced.



The foundation for the new football oval at the New Gisborne sporting complex has been laid.

Work on the new basketball stadium at New Gisborne is moving along, though delayed by frequent wet weather.



MEMBER'S MESSAGE

With Mary-Anne Thomas MP

Hello Gisborne community,

This month I am keen for you to have your say about two important issues – the Inquiry into Women's Pain and the Gisborne bus network.

Research shows that women generally experience more recurrent pain, more severe pain, and longer-lasting pain. To better support women's health-care, the Victorian Government invites you to enter a submission so that we can understand your experience and help us improve patient care.

Submissions are open until March 12. To have your say, visit health.vic.gov.au/inquiry-into-womens-pain.

The State Government is working to improve the Gisborne bus network and wants to hear your feedback on proposed plans. Visit engage.vic.gov.au/gisborne-bus by March 12 to have your say.

Have a great March!



The Latino Circus is in town

For the first time ever, Latino Circus has come to Gisborne.

Set up at Webb Crescent in New Gisborne, the circus will perform on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until 17 March.

There will also be a morning show on Labour Day, March 11.

Ready to entertain are clown Jojo and ringmistress Allannah Le Du.

WHAT'S ON

DATE	PAGE
MARCH	
2 DNA testing workshop	18
3 <i>Climate Changers</i> movie screening	25
3 Clean up Australia day	22
4 Peter Barcham Lecture	7
5 Suicide prevention action group forum	10
8 International Women's Day at Kyneton	13
8 International Women's Day lunch at Trentham	11
8 Women's health workshop at MR FEC	9
9-11 Woodend Art Show	27
10 Last performance of Mount Players' <i>Wild</i>	17
12 Defibrillator demonstration	6
13 <i>The Barbie Movie</i> screens at the library	18
13 Curious kids' program at the library	18
14 Author talk: Helen Elliot at the library	18
14 Community grants drop-in session	12
14 Women's pain; Gisborne bus submissions due	5
16 Free Enviro Energy Expo	29
16 Mental health first aid workshop at MR FEC	9
16-17 Autumn Flower and Produce Show	22
16 Performance of the <i>Odyssey</i>	16
17 Macedon Bowl and Spit Roast event	29
23-24 Open Studios	15
23 Rotary Easter Egg Hunt	23
23 Macedon Ranges Music Festival, Hanging Rock	3
24 Gorse control demonstration day	12
29–April 1 Open Garden at Viewfield	27
29–April 2 Open Garden at Duneira	22

ART SHOW

WORKS BY CAROL HORMAN

Saturday 23rd March

10am to 4pm at

522 Couangalt Rd GISBORNE SOUTH

Complimentary refreshments

Contact gchorman@bigpond.com

30% of all sales on the day will be donated to the Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group



34A Aitken Street Gisborne Phone: +61 3 5428 3220
Gisborne Vic 3437 Facsimile: +62 3 5426 3606
Australia E: info@jumbucksheepskin.com.au
ABN 17 007 050 875 www.jumbucksheepskin.com.au



chiropractic, massage & more

Open Mon - Fri 7:30am - 7:30pm

Saturdays 10am - 3pm

60-30min appointments

All Health Funds accepted

9A Hamilton Street Gisborne ☎ 0493 389 548

Garden Fair gives back

Late last year, Brigid Robertson and Kevin Edwards from Bolobek Garden Fair presented a cheque donation to the Macedon and Mount Macedon Community House to contribute to the open space landscape project that is currently underway.

At least five local community-based organisations and one national charity will benefit from the most recent Garden Lovers Fair held at Bolobek in Macedon in October last year.

While the main beneficiary of the fair's proceeds was the Macedon and Mt Macedon Horticultural Society, special mention must be made of the Gisborne SES, whose members have been running the car parking at the Fair brilliantly for more than 10 years.

Other significant volunteer contributions were made by the Macedon and Mt Macedon Community House, the Maggie Beer Foundation, the Macedon and Mt Macedon Landcare Group, the Mt Macedon ANZAC Dawn Service Committee and the Mt Macedon Carols by Candlelight Committee as well as the local Scouts.



Macedon and Mt Macedon Community House committee members Kate McKernin, Dean Michael, Andrew Williams, Samara Hodson, Siobhan Murphy, Jacinta Cloney and Karen Goltz, and (far right) Bolobek Garden Fair representatives Brigid Robertson and Kevin Edwards.

The fair organising committee remains committed to ensuring that any profits raised from future Garden Lovers Fairs are reinvested back into the Macedon Ranges Community to ensure continued delivery of important programs and projects and to support

services that benefit residents and the community more broadly.

This year's fair will be held at Bolobek on 5 and 6 October.

Lock it into the diary!

Macedon CWA news



At our February meeting our generous members brought lots of Easter goodies to make up into our raffle baskets. We will be selling raffle tickets on the veranda of Mt Macedon Realty (near the Post Office) at various times leading up to Easter. Stop by for a chat and be sure to buy some tickets if you see us there. You will be very popular with your children or grandchildren if you happen to buy a winning ticket.

In February a modern heating/cooling system was installed at our hall, thanks to the generous help of the Community Bank. This is the most recent upgrade to the hall which has now been painted, new blinds installed and landscaping completed. It all makes for a comfortable, welcoming venue that is available for hire. Please call us if you would like to view the hall and our hall manager will be delighted to show you through and answer your queries.

We will welcome you at Macedon CWA. You don't have to be a good cook or crafts person. Call Anne Fyfield on 5426 2210 for more details.

When minutes count. You can learn how to use defibrillator too

Thanks to the generosity of a bequest from the late Betty and Noel Hemphill, the Gisborne Uniting Church congregation has purchased a defibrillator. Now the task is to learn when and how to use it and when not to.

On Tuesday March 12 from 10am to 12 noon, the public is invited to join us at a demonstration provided by a qualified instructor from Ambulance Victoria. The session aims to turn us from anxious spectators to trained helpers in cases of cardiac arrest. We will also learn to identify medical conditions which can make it inadvisable to use the device and how to use CPR instead. It is quite a challenge.

We are amazed at the advances made in recent



The defib session will be on 12 March.

years in ways which help our survival and owe it to researchers, clinicians and emergency workers and to others in our community to know what we should and can do.

This demonstration will take place in the hall of the Uniting Church, 26 Brantome St (opposite the Village Shopping Centre).

The rooms next door to the hall house the local Foodbank. The work there also helps people to survive the stresses caused particularly by

the rise in the cost of daily living. Three meals a day is surely a human right.

You're invited to be part of these two challenges – learning and giving – in 2024.

Janet Wood

MACEDON GARDENING

Revitalise Your Garden

Expert Pruning, Design, Landscaping, Planting, Mowing, Weeding.

Reliable, 17 years local experience. Fully Insured.

Ian and Melanie Matthews and Trained Staff

0402 46 46 00

GISBORNE CAB Co

ph: 5428 2444
gisbornecabs.com.au

Gisborne/Macedon Ranges Plumber

- Renovations
- Maintenance Plumbing
- Gutter Cleaning
- Blocked Drains

0406 171 986
sam@plumberman.net.au
www.Plumberman.net.au

Scouts lead way for Australia Day celebration



Scouts from 1st Gisborne and 1st New Gisborne led by Group Leaders Tash Oliver and Russell Barker took the lead in Gisborne's Australia Day celebrations on January 27. More than 30 scouts and their leaders joined the national tribute in a flag break and anthem ceremony. The scouts presented gifts to the speakers, and were among the many young folk who participated in a "Gold Nugget" hunt.

Russell Barker, Group Leader, 1st New Gisborne Scouts, gave a keynote address. Russell spoke of the scouting movement fostering personal growth and awareness of community service that went beyond the traditional confines of educational curricula.

South Ward councillor Rob Guthrie was the guest of honour, and addressed the gathering with some key thoughts about Australia Day and the council's actions in closing the gap with the indigenous community. Rob spoke about the council's Reconciliation Action Plan 2021 and consultations with registered Aboriginal parties and Reconciliation Australia. He gave a snapshot of the happenings at the council's Citizenship and Community Awards evening held on January 25.

The host for the event, Gisborne Region Events Activities and Tourism Association (GREAT), welcomed the attendance of eight Order of Australia recipients,



Bullengarook CFA brigade members expertly handle the barbecue.

acknowledging their contributions to the nation.

GREAT wrestled with the selection of the day for the event, knowing a lot of community feeling did not favour January 26. GREAT is committed to reflecting the Gisborne community's views on the date and an inclusive program, and will consult widely for the 2025 event.

Following the formal ceremony, volunteer singers led renditions of traditional Australian songs; Phyllis Boyd OAM presented a brief history of the Gisborne township, and the Bullengarook CFA provided a well-received cooked brunch.

GREAT expresses its thanks to the contributors and participants in the event.

Graham Dickinson, convenor

From little things...



Judging by the theme of many current projects, the flavour of the month at the Shed is ... cheese!

Buying timber with a large enough cross-section to make a cheese platter or cutting board can prove very expensive. A much cheaper way is to join smaller pieces, usually offcuts, which also creates some amazing effects of colour and texture.

It's best to have the final design in mind before starting the joinery process. The finished product is limited only by our imagination (and carpentry skills). Such an approach certainly takes a lot longer but the result can be unique, especially if it is finished off with a pattern carved using our computer-driven 3D router.

Even if you have no intention of becoming a Shedman, why not drop in and see what's involved in creating these works of art. We can give you a guided tour any Monday, Wednesday or Thursday morning and could even make you a cuppa.



A selection of joinery.

What's on at Macedon and Mt Macedon Community House

Barista Training Course In partnership with Macedon Ranges Further Education, **Tuesdays March 12 and 19, 4.30-8pm.** Cost \$65 Standard, \$50 concession. Please call MRFE for enquiries on 5428 3799.

Canasta Club Wednesdays 2-5pm

New players welcome. Gold coin for tea and coffee.

Community Choir March 14 and 28 at 7.30pm.

Please contact Corinne at corinneshaddock@gmail.com to register your interest.

Permaculture Group – 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 Mondays and Wednesdays 10.30-12.30

New families are welcome to join our free playgroups thanks to the support of Shared Table.

Please email playgroup@mmmcommunityhouse.org

Pregnancy Yoga Wednesdays 6.30-7.30pm



For more information and to discuss prerequisites, please contact Loris at loriscassar@gmail.com.

Sit and Sew Craft Group Fridays 10am-12 noon

Bring your own sewing, knitting or craft project to the community house and meet like-minded locals.

Over 55's Yoga Wednesdays 6.30- 7.30pm

For more information and to discuss prerequisites, please contact Loris at loriscassar@gmail.com.

Library Drop in and Co-working space Fridays

10am-1pm Our Community Street Library is open every Friday. No membership required, just drop by

and browse our shelves for a book to borrow. You can also bring work from home as we are now connected to the NBN. Gold coin donation for tea and coffee.

House Hire

Please contact us if you wish to hire the house for your community activity, classes, meetings or kids party at hello@mmmcommunityhouse.org

Sponsorship Drive

The committee works hard to generate funds to maintain the Community House and deliver programs and projects. While we have secured a small amount of recurrent funding from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council and receive income through house hire, we are now calling out to local businesses and philanthropies to participate in our Sponsorship Drive. Please email hello@mmmcommunityhouse.org to request a copy of our sponsorship booklet and we can make a time with you to discuss areas of support needed.

Joanne McFadyen
Professional Travel Advisor



'We come to you'

Let's meet to discuss your travel plans!
Contact me on t: 1300 365 688 (ext 672)

m: 0407 432 520

e: jmcfadyen@mtatravel.com.au

FIND OUT MORE

www.mtatravel.com.au/jmcfadyen

Caddick Designs

Local experts, tailored Building Design
& solution focused Town Planning,
for over 35 years.

WWW.CADDICKDESIGNS.COM.AU

03 5428 1853

REGISTERED BUILDING PRACTITIONER



Residential Building Design;

- ◇ New Houses,
- ◇ Renovations/Extensions,
- ◇ Multi-Dwelling Developments

Commercial & Public Building Design

Town Planning Approvals

Building Approvals

Energy Ratings

BAL Report (Bushfire Attack Level)

Gisborne Uniting Church



14th Peter Barcham Lecture

Christian but not spiritual?

We welcome you to join us for a thought-provoking evening with Rev Dr Geoff Thompson, Assoc. Prof. Pilgrim College, University of Divinity



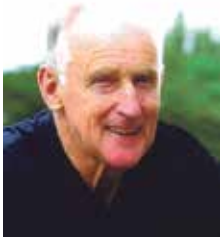
Geoff will explore the questions and the challenges which the contemporary interest in spirituality puts to us.

●Where: Gisborne Uniting Church, 23 Brantome Street, Gisborne ●When: March 4th, 7:30pm–8:30pm.

Entry free. Followed by a light supper.

●Contact: Neil on 0408 378 722

Tales of Old Gisborne



Peter Gardiner recalls his days at St Brigid's school

St Brigid's school in the 1940s was a one-roomed school where all the classes were educated by one lady school teacher, Miss Mary Ellen Slattery.

She was born and grew up in Gisborne and was the sister of Frank Slattery who ran the taxi service with a vehicle known as "The to and from". (Frank's story will be told in a later edition of the *Gazette*.)

When I started at St Brigid's, Miss Slattery had already been teaching there as the only teacher for over 50 years. As I remember, she always wore a big cardigan, carried an armful of books and the school keys on a large ring. They were big keys — 15 centimetres long. Miss Slattery would open up the school and ring a large handbell. The whole school of 12-15 pupils would line up and shuffle inside.

We sat at long wooden desks — four children in a row. Along the front wall there were four large blackboards. Miss Slattery sat at a large single desk which gave her an excellent view of the room.

She taught from Grade 1 to Grade VIII. The subjects, perhaps not as varied as today, comprised English Literature and Grammar, Arithmetic, Geography, History, with Religion in pride of place.

Every day at 12 o'clock the school would pray a traditional prayer called the Angelus. At precisely 12 o'clock a pupil would ring a pattern of peals on the outside church bell whilst the school recited the prayer.

The school was very like an extended family. Everyone knew everyone and Miss Slattery was treated with a great deal of respect because of her age and her position. This, no doubt, helped her to impart a very thorough education to her charges.

Throughout my years at St Brigids, Australia was at war, with World War 2 raging, but at St Brigids our peaceful life went on as usual. In 1945 the war finished and Miss Slattery, who was now 74, became quite ill. She had taught at St Brigid's for 57 years.

St Brigid's closed at the end of 1945 and the handful of children moved across to Gisborne Primary School. Instead of saying the Angelus each day we now saluted the flag on Monday mornings.

St Brigid's was to remain closed until it reopened as



St Brigid pupils in 1942: Rear: Ernie Dickman, Pearl Dickman, Eileen Duggan, Veronica Morrison, Jim Morton.

Seated: Janet Walsh, Monica Keily, Joan Connaughton, Patsy O'Donoghue*, Maurene Verdon*.

Front: Alec Gardiner, Arthur Dickman, Leo Duggan, Peter Gardiner

*These two girls were sent up from Melbourne during the war. They were related to the owner of the Victoria Hotel.

a convent school in 1950. The old school building was demolished in 1984.

Not only were my brother Alec and I educated at St Brigid's but my late son Bernie and two daughters Chris and Sam were also educated there and later my granddaughter Alix enjoyed the same privilege.

(My brother Eddie and sister Imelda were too young to attend St Brigid's before it closed in 1945.)

I count my family very fortunate to have had such a long involvement with such a wonderful institution.



▲ This picture is poor quality but it is the only known picture of Miss Slattery, as she stands behind her students in the doorway of the first St Brigid's building. Mary Slattery taught at St Brigid's for 57 years.

◀ The old St Brigid's building, demolished in 1984.



Grave of Mary Slattery and siblings in Gisborne Cemetery.



CWA year kicks off with lunch and trivia quiz

We enjoyed a shared lunch and a trivia quiz after our first meeting for the year in February. The meeting itself took a little longer than usual with so much to catch up on for the new year.

Margaret, Kay and Judy learnt a lot from their introductory day at Umina for branch officials and their interesting day was passed on to us.

We had the honour of presenting 10-year badges and certificates to Christine Thompson and Cheryl Liddy, who have both been keen knitters and sewers with items for the Creative Arts and stalls.

We also said goodbye to Fay DeLai, who has decided to retire while she's ahead after winning the best over-eighties aggregate at the Creative Arts for the past three years. Fay has been involved with CWA in Gisborne for close to 30 years and we can always visit her at the Oaks if she is not too busy with all the activities available to her there that she is looking forward to.

Osija informed us of a few details about our country of study for the year, Romania. The country is surrounded by five others and is now an EU and NATO member. It has a coastline on the Black Sea which boasts ports and resorts. The capital is Bucharest and the flag colours are blue, yellow and red.

A big thank you to Allison



Fay DeLai: retiring.



Cheryl Liddy (left) and Christine Thompson with CWA Gisborne president Margaret Domsic.

and her son Matthew for printing up our syllabus this year, which was a job well done. We also have a new Facebook page under CWA Gisborne Day Branch and an Instagram account.

Our March meeting is on Monday March 4, 10am, at Gisborne Secondary College.

Coffee, Craft and Chat will be on March 18 at the same venue.

Christine Edwards

Rotary golf day proves big success

The Rotary Gisborne Annual Golf Day was held with great success on Friday February 2. One hundred and eight players tried their golfing prowess with some succeeding and winning prizes, others not so good but able to take home prizes in the big raffle on the day.

The Rotary Club would like to acknowledge and thank our major sponsors TJ Scott & Son and Gisborne Self Storage. Also huge thanks to our many donors of prizes for the raffle. All the funds raised will support Rotary community and humanitarian projects.

The next big day is our third annual Easter Fun Day to be held on Saturday, March 23, with registrations and



entry at 9am and many activities on offer. As always there will be the Easter egg hunts, egg painting, egg and spoon races and the Easter Bunny for great photo opportunities. Once again the Parkland Animal petting zoo will be there as well as the CFA, SES and police to show off their vehicles.

We look forward to a great roll-up for this not-for-profit community event.

Lyn Robinson

Macedon Ranges Volunteer Expo ► page 32

Boost your mental health and wellbeing

As we head towards the end of term 1 at Macedon Ranges Further Education Centre, we have a range of courses on offer to boost mental health and wellbeing. Get crafty at our Thursday drop-in social craft group or pamper yourself at our MindSpa.

Courses coming in March:

Women's Health Workshop

Friday March 8, 10am – 11am

For International Women's Day we have partnered with Gisborne Health Essentials to present an empowering talk on navigating perimenopause and menopause with grace. Harnessing the power of diet and lifestyle to sail through this transformative phase. Presented by the local renowned Naturopaths.

Craft, Cookies and a Cuppa

Every Thursday March 15 – 28, 9.30am – 11.30am

This group has been created to provide a social space for those who would like to work on their craft project over morning tea and good conversation. Bring along whichever current project you are working on. Each drop-



in session costs \$10. Pay on the day at the office.

Mental Health First Aid

Saturday March 16, 10am – 4pm

Completion of this course allows you to become an accredited mental health first aider and provide support and assistance in your workplace or community.

MindSpa

Sunday March 24, 1pm – 4pm

Treat yourself to some seriously good down time with three hours of self-care at this MindSpa session. You will be guided through various relaxation exercises, guided meditations and self-pampering activities to help you experience deep rest and relaxation.

For more information on courses and online enrolment, please visit our website www.mrfec.net.au.



Clinic Hours

Monday - Thursday 8:00am to 6:30pm

Friday 8:00am - 5:30pm

Saturdays/Sundays 9:00am to 3:00pm

On-call GP available after hours for existing patients.

Flu Vaccination Clinics are now available.

General Practitioners

Dr Kulbir Gill

Dr Heena Choksey

Dr Carlie Di Camillo

Dr Robert Hetzel

Dr Rashida Moiz

Dr Fareesa Zaman

Dr Janani Kannan

Dr Stephen Newton

Dr Ruba Jaber

Dr My-Huong San

Dr Kasey Hogg

Dr Tim Phillips

Dr James Owen

Dr Sean McGrath

Dr Min Kim

Dr Sobia Siddiqi

Dr Hina Bhatti

Dr Ghada Alsaraf

Dr Peter Bakhoum

Dr Noor Mohammed

Other Services

Children 15 years and under, and aged care patients with a Blue Concession Card are bulk billed by all doctors, except on weekends.

Visiting Services/Allied Health

We have a broad range of specialist and allied health services available. Please see our website for further information.

16 Brantome Street

Gisborne VIC 3437

03 5428 3355

info@gisbornemedical.com.au

www.gisbornemedical.com.au



Gisborne Gazette

To advertise in the Gazette, contact our

Advertising Coordinator

on 0438 711 138 or email

gisbornegazetteadvertising@gmail.com

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



Bushwalking club finding hidden gems

We are lucky to live so close to such a diverse range of hiking options without having to travel too far. Gisborne Bushwalking Club often finds hidden gems thanks to our great walk leaders and their thirst to find new trails.

Our first sunrise walk in Woodend was wet and gloomy but 24 walkers set out and thoroughly enjoyed this township walk with lots of chatter and interesting scenery along Five Mile Creek, ending with a great meal at that local where family and friends joined us.

Our first walk for February was at Leonard's Hill where 20 walkers explored beautiful, forested tracks to the Rocklyn Ashram where we were welcomed for lunch and an insight into the retreat, and a look at their magnificent gardens and productive veggie patch.

Then we continued past the former Wombat Rail Station and the rail trail which was dismantled between 1953 and '86. The bush was vibrant and green with lots of birds and other wildlife.

Babbington Hill, Lyonsville, was another adventure for the month. Thirteen walkers took off along the Quartz Track past the picturesque Bullarto Reservoir and through the Wombat State Forest. This area is still recovering from the 2021 major storm but is rejuvenating



Leonard's Hill walk along the old Wombat railway track.

well with the recent rainfall and sunny weather.

If you would like to give bushwalking a try you can join us as a casual participant for \$5 (insurance coverage) and see if it's for you. For details about the club, please contact Deborah on 0400 693 111 or Gail on 0419 374 603. Our website is www.gisbornebwc.org.

Deborah

Help improve mental health in our community



The Macedon Ranges Suicide Prevention Action Group (MRSPAG) is putting out a call

to action for passionate people to join forces with us to help improve mental health and emotional wellbeing in the Macedon Ranges community.

Our group is committed to addressing the impact of suicide in our community. If you would like to learn more, and maybe consider joining us, please come along to our community forum.

Date: Tuesday 5 March, 6.30pm–8pm (followed by the group's AGM), at the Woodend Community Centre, corner High Street and Forest Street, Woodend.

The forum will be an opportunity to hear about work that is being done by locals for locals to improve community mental health, and to meet and talk with others who are interested in these issues. There will be time to mingle and chat over refreshments.

Who is MRSPAG?

We are a group of committed volunteers and service providers from across the shire. Our ultimate aim is to reduce the number of deaths by suicide in the Macedon Ranges. We have been around for almost 10 years and several of us have lived experience of losing a loved one to suicide, or of experiencing our own mental health crises or helping loved ones with theirs.

We strive to raise community awareness about suicide and reduce stigma, through local and social media and community events.

We provide peer support for people bereaved by suicide, through monthly group meetings where people are free to come and go as they need.

We offer and promote training to help people recognise signs that someone is struggling with their mental health, be confident to talk with them, and support them to stay safe.

We bring together service providers and work with them to advocate for better services for our community.

We're on the lookout for more volunteers who can help us with this important work. Whether you can offer one-off help or longer-term help, we would love to hear from you.

Please come along to the forum, or if you would like to get in touch directly, contact us at info@mrspag.com.au.

Hello from the Ramblers



Another month on and here we are at summer's end. At the time of writing (mid-February) the paddocks and bush are still green, no 40-degree days and none of those searing northerly winds.

So far this has been a great time for bushwalking, comfortable temperatures and dry days — this cannot last, the weather gods must be plotting their revenge!

Before Christmas, the ramblers walked the Anderson Mill trail from the Firth Park camp ground. This is an easy walk to the remains of the mill's sawdust heap. Amazingly, after being closed for over 100 years, no weeds invade the heap. It is really worth a visit.

The walk is generally a 'there and back' type walk, but the ramblers enlarge it to a longer loop walk. I have not described the walk as the complexity increases with the loop return, but details will be sent out if requested.

Even if you are not into walking, the camp ground is well worth a trip. There are some special trees in the area — a giant American redwood among others. A picturesque lake sets the place off.

Details of our weekly walks are emailed out if you care to join the mailing list; there is no cost or obligation. You can walk with the group on Fridays or solo at your preference.

Charles (gisramblers@gmail.com)

BOUND Macedon Ranges

Looking to buy or sell this autumn? We're right here.

Agents also servicing Castlemaine | Daylesford & Hepburn Shire | Sunbury | Toorak | South Yarra | Prahran | Windsor | Albert Park | Port Melbourne

(DAMIEN WALDER)

0439 391 569

(PAUL BOHAN)

0413 594 224

(LYNNE PAYNE)

0479 068 228

(RHYS NUTTALL)

0438 383 221



Scan the QR Code to visit our website:
boundrealestate.com.au



BETTY'S BOOP

With Betty Doolan

Residents at Gisborne Oaks have had another busy month: I must tell you about it.

On Chinese New Year (this year is the Year of the Dragon), there were several dragons hanging on the wall and a great dragon hanging from the dining room ceiling while all the residents enjoyed a Chinese meal.

It was a beautiful day and we were able to sit outside in the garden and enjoy the performance of the Police Band, who were all wearing kilts. When the bagpipes started playing it was toe-tapping time. A big thankyou to the band for giving us a very happy afternoon.

Then it was all that jazz! Residents were all smiles when the jazz band started playing and a lovely young girl began singing all the lovely old songs.

We also had 'Party Time at the Beach'. A plastic wall surrounded the windows looking like sand and sea and we were given a lovely plate of food. While we munched away two gents played and sang.

The most important day of the year was Australia Day and there were lots of flags. We had a barbecue lunch then watched the cricket on the big TV, naturally barracking for Australia. The big TV makes you feel as though you are there.

Elvis was in the building with a beautiful white satin cape. Elvis has a way of throwing his cape around his shoulders to show the scarlet satin underneath. The ladies were quite envious of this lovely material.

I had a lovely visit from my daughter Judith. We had beautiful crepes and strawberries for Shrove Tuesday.

We are staying hot or cold. Whatever is our weather doing this summer!

Betty

Lions providing free skin cancer checks



Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world and Lions Clubs in Victoria and southern NSW are doing something practical about reducing that level and its impact on families.

The incorporated charity the Lions V Districts Cancer Foundation, has put a Skin Check Awareness Unit on the road, following excellent financial support from generous public and private supporters, and Lions Clubs, including a \$2000 contribution from the Gisborne and District Lions Club.

The skin check unit is an air-conditioned van which has three fully equipped checking rooms, an entry

foyer, as well as a disabled entry lift. The unit will be visiting Woodend during April. It will provide a free skin checking service to local people and will be operated by fully trained, certificated and professionally supervised volunteers. Early detection of skin lesions potentially saves lives. Following the skin check, visitors will be issued with a referral to their GP if there are any suspect spots or lesions.

To express an interest in a free skin cancer check, local and surrounding residents should provide name and contact details at Hardy's UFS Chemist, Brantome Street, Gisborne, or email secretary@gisbornedistrict.lions.gisnet.net.au.

International Women's Day charity lunch

An International Women's Day charity lunch will be held at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Trentham on Friday March 8. The historic hotel will host a three-course lunch with drinks including a cocktail on arrival. The event will feature guest speakers and live music from the Castlemaine Chamber Orchestra. Proceeds will be going to Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health's Family Services and Housing Support programs which provide support to women and children experiencing family violence in the Macedon Ranges and Sunbury.

Tickets are available for via www.events.humanitix.com/international-women-s-day-charity-lunch-the-cosmopolitan-hotel.

Scottish Country Dancing

The Macedon Ranges Scottish Country Dancing Group meets every Thursday afternoon from 1 to 3pm at Buffalo Stadium, Woodend. The dancing involves social country dancing, not the highland dancing many people think of. We dance in sets, learning different steps and formations — no special clothes needed, just soft flat shoes. We are a friendly group having fun and keeping fit at the same time. You don't need to bring a partner, just a smile and sense of fun.

Contact Meg on 5427 1100 or Linda on 0408 476 317.

Unravelling crochet

with Mary-Beth O'Brien

Crochet is a global phenomenon. A resilient craft, it is a satisfying and economical hobby able to be enjoyed through all seasons of the year.

I am excited to announce that this year, Melbourne hosts the Crochet Guild of Australia conference from June 27 to 29 in Parkville. I mention this as the national conference draws crocheters from interstate and overseas with an international speaker giving the keynote address. A variety of workshop sessions are planned and trade stalls available for those attending. If you are inspired, there are volunteer opportunities; you need only apply. For further information refer to the website Crochetguildaustralia.org.au.

'Crochet and Conversation' held the first meeting of 2024 at the Gisborne Library with new participants attending from as far afield as Bendigo. Meetings are on the first Monday of the month from 2.30 to 3.30pm and open to all skill levels. Disabled parking is available.

Bring along your current project and best friend to fulfil a new year's resolution and try something different while making new friends. The Crochet and Conversation group is participating in the Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival with an installation to reflect our community. Those who crochet are very welcome to become a part of this project by joining the group or emailing me at mbo Briengisbornegazette@gmail.com




rangesmedical
182 Station Road, New Gisborne

2024 is the year for better health!
Talk to your GP about a
Care Plan or Health Assessment

Call 8373 5420 to make your appointment



SAINT MARY MEDICAL CENTRE

Dr Demyana Ayoub
& associates 



Podiatrist
Sarah Mullins



Audiologist
Bloom Hearing



Diabetic Educator
Ann Bush



Dorevitch
Pathology

CONTACT US

03 5420 7014
After hours: 0491 141 010

51 Brantome St, Gisborne

Update on damaged Jackson Creek footbridge

Negotiations with the council's insurers regarding the footbridge that connects the Botanic Gardens to Dixon Field were completed in January. The council can begin planning for the necessary repairs in the next few months. The bridge was damaged in floods over a year ago.

However, the council will still need to obtain legislative and other approvals involving the water catchment and planning authorities, followed by a procurement process. Consequently, it will take some time before any visible on-site activity takes place.

Have your say through new online engagement hub

The council has launched a new online hub to enable a clearer, more engaging way of informing and obtaining feedback from the community. People will be able to view current public consultations and have their say in new ways through the new Your Say hub, which has the capacity to host surveys, interactive maps, Q&As, forums and more.

The Chief Executive Officer, Bernie O'Sullivan, said it was integral to hear from the community to help tailor the projects, policies and services the council delivered. "We have subject matter experts here at Council who work hard to develop initiatives relevant to their field, but two-way conversation is essential to make sure we're hitting the mark," he said. "Council is committed to genuine consultation and closing the loop with the community. This new online engagement hub — together with the new staff guidelines — will support that commitment. I encourage residents to continue taking the time to review public consultations and provide feedback." Visit yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au to view current consultations, provide feedback and sign up to receive tailored alerts about future consultations as they are listed.

Community grants to open soon

The council's Community Funding Scheme and Events and Festivals Grant Program will open again in May. To support community groups interested in applying, the council is holding a Q&A drop-in session at the Woodend Community Centre on Thursday March 14 from 10.30am to 12 noon.

For community groups with an idea for a project or event, this will be an opportunity to chat with council officers and get ideas and advice to support the application. Bookings are essential.

For information and to find out about other opportunities for grants and support, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/grants or email grants@mrsc.vic.gov.au.

Dance classes available for children

Dance classes are held at the Gisborne Community Centre in Hamilton Street.

Tiny Tackers classes are for pre-schoolers aged 2-5 years and include ballet, tap and jazz (2-year-olds ballet and jazz only, in 30-minute classes. 3-5-year-olds, one hour classes).

Studio2 MIX dance classes are for school-aged students from 6-12 years with a mix of ballet, tap and jazz in the one-hour class.

Studio2 Hip Hop classes and **Tap** dance classes are held on Thursday afternoons for children aged 8-12 years and 13-18 years.

For class times and information visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/dance.

Staying Strong for over-50s

The council runs a number of low-to-moderate intensity group circuit classes for men and women 50+ years of age at Gisborne Fitness Centre.

Staying Strong is a circuit-based class designed to improve muscular strength, aerobic fitness, flexibility, balance and coordination in a safe and social environment. Experienced instructors provide exercises that cater for a range of exercise abilities.

For further details or to discuss your suitability for the program, contact the centre or visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/leisure.

Designing for Resilience webinar

March 5, 7 - 8.30pm, online

Are you considering a new build or renovation? Come along to this webinar to find out some ways to increase your home's resilience to climate change and save you money on your energy bills.

To register or sign up for the monthly Environment eNews, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events.

Special gorse control demonstration day

Sunday, March 24, 10am-12pm, Kyneton

The Victorian Gorse Taskforce, together with Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Pipers Creek Landcare, bring you practical information and demonstrations of best-practice gorse removal. Come along to learn more about grants and to chat with local contractors and environmental representatives.

To register, visit www.trybooking.com/COXDW.

Sports precinct intersection works to start this month

Work will soon get underway to upgrade the intersection of Barringo and Hamilton roads in New Gisborne, improving access and safety around the Macedon Ranges Regional Sports Precinct. Expected to be completed by July — subject to weather and ground conditions — the works will see a realigned intersection with a new roundabout to replace the current intersection.

A signalled pedestrian crossing will be installed to the west of the intersection in Hamilton Road and a zebra crossing along a raised platform to the north in Barringo Road. The intersection design was informed and refined with extensive consultation with nearby landowners and the broader community in 2021, when close to 75 per cent of 200 survey respondents said they preferred a roundabout over alternative signalised options.

There was hope of an early opening of the stadium at the hub, however the higher-than-average rainfall between November and January has resulted in the opening date returning to July this year. Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/MRRSP for more information and project updates.

Join us for International Women's Day

The council is proud to celebrate International Women's Day, exploring this year's theme 'Count Her In. Invest in Women. Accelerate Progress' with a special evening at Kyneton Town Hall on Friday, March 8.

An incredible panel featuring Taungurung elder Aunty Joanne Honeysett, Shamila Gopalan (chief commercial officer from Sisterworks), Miranda Johnson-Jones and Laura Crozier (hosts of the *Growing Up Clueless* podcast) and Mary Attard (deputy-director of Her Place Museum in East Melbourne), will explore the achievements, challenges and strengths of women's economic empowerment

through their experiences.

The event also features the opening of the *Unmasked* exhibition, celebrating nursing and midwifery in Victoria, and pop-up stalls with ethically made products created by women from migrant, refugee and asylum-seeker backgrounds.

Bookings are essential for this free event. People of all genders are welcome. To register visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/IWD

A table will also be available to showcase women-owned businesses in the Macedon Ranges. To be included, contact Melissa Telford via MTelford@mrsc.vic.gov.au.

Pool to temporarily close in April

The Gisborne Aquatic Centre is set to temporarily close during the April school holidays for upgrades and facility maintenance that will benefit all users. These essential works, occurring

between April 2 and 14, will include upgrades to the air circulation systems and building management system and software, and replacement of the sand filters.



With Cr Christine Walker

COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN

I'm honoured to serve as Gisborne's new councillor following Anne Moore's resignation. Local government directly impacts our daily lives, so I take this community role very seriously. My longstanding interest in local issues and amenity drives my enthusiasm to help shape our community.

In my short time so far, I've been impressed by the passion and commitment of fellow councillors, staff, and community members. Community members take a vital role in running and participating in activities like theatre, sport, scouts, gardens, local history and so many more — all of which enrich our lives. This vibrant effort makes Gisborne (and surrounds) a special place to live.

The community engagement and submissions on budgets, plans and consultations shows local people care deeply about our future. These submissions express a wide range of views and they are carefully considered by councillors. Wherever possible I encourage you to provide feedback to the council and councillors. Council has recently launched a new online hub at

www.yoursay.mrsc.vic.gov.au for specific consultations. Otherwise, send a short email to cwalker@mrsc.vic.gov.au.

Of interest for some may be the recent State Government initiative to increase housing availability. Rules on secondary dwellings have been relaxed on lots of over 300 square metres. Now planning permits are often not required for a second residence under 60sq.m. in size and with basic amenities. This is not a subdivision of land, but the addition of a dwelling on an existing block. Building permits still apply to ensure building standards are met. Contact planning for details.

Council is currently working on an extraordinarily wide range of activities, delivering new facilities and providing a range of ongoing services. In the current economic climate budget pressures are real, and council is facing tight constraints. Rate rises are limited by the rate cap that is typically below the CPI.

I welcome your questions, ideas, and involvement as we work to foster a supportive, thriving and changing community.

Probus Club of Gisborne off to Trentham East

Our first outing for 2024 was to the Pig and Whistle Hotel in Trentham East. Thirty-six members, partners and friends enjoyed a lovely country-style pub menu lunch in the lovely historic 1887 hotel.

This gave us all a chance to socialise in a relaxed and comfortable environment after the summer break.

Our Probus Club follows the Probus motto of fun, friendship and fellowship by providing senior members of the community with opportunities to stay engaged, connected and active with like-minded

people. This is through meetings, interest groups, outings such as that described above, yearly tours, and by inviting interesting guest speakers to



our meetings.

We will be holding the AGM at our next general meeting on March 7, followed by a catered lunch to give members a chance to socialise with the new club leaders who will be steering the club in 2024.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month in the Gisborne Community Centre Hall (old Senior Citizens Room) at 10am.

If you would like to experience being a member of the club, you are welcome to join us at our next meeting on March 7.

You can contact our president, Michael O'Brien, on 0427 762 757 for further information.

Dianne Egan



The Pig and Whistle hosted 36 Probus members.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

3 and 4 year old kindergarten registrations for 2025 now open

Give your child the best start to their learning journey at one of Council's 8 kindergartens in the Macedon Ranges.

Our kindergartens have highly qualified and experienced early childhood Teachers and Educators and, with their beautiful natural features and outdoor play areas, are rich in nature-based and creative learning experiences.

For more information on when your child is eligible to start kindergarten, and guidance on making an informed decision about when is best to start, go to mrsc.vic.gov.au/kindergarten

Register online by 31 May 2024
Visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/kinder-rego or call our Enrolment Officer on (03) 5422 0239

After 38 years of educating young people with love and humour, beloved teacher retires

David Butler began teaching at Gisborne Secondary College in 1986. He taught Geography and SOSE (study of society and environment) for over 20 years, and worked in PE before moving into VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning) now known as VM (Vocational Major).

He has worked tirelessly (especially on his days off) organising and providing students with hands-on projects to keep them interested in learning. Over the past 15 years he taught Work Related Skills and Personal Development. This allowed him to develop a creative curriculum. This included the design, development, and ongoing structural improvements to the edible garden. Students planted and maintained the vegetable beds along with espaliered fruit trees for many years. In recent times, produce has been donated to the Gisborne Foodbank.

David was instrumental in introducing VCAL students to Food Technology so they could learn to cook fresh produce. He guided students as they provided labour in building gabion baskets (square wire frames filled with rocks or soils), fencing, planting garden beds, preparing the area for lawn and paths. He also ensured students gained qualifications in many courses including first aid, food handling, barista skills, responsible serving of alcohol and more.

David further provided life skills for students through excursions to the Salvation Army – Big Picture, Asylum Seekers Resource Centre and Scope where students had opportunities to



David Butler wields the shears in the college's vegetable garden.

engage with and learn about challenges faced by others.

During COVID he continued educating students about the importance of good health, including exercise

and gardening. He provided packets of seeds for students and bikes where needed. David gained funding through a TAC grant to buy new bikes, and with further personal purchases collected

enough second-hand bikes and equipment to run cycling skills sessions for the VCAL students and they then used their skills to engage with primary schools to compete in the Bike Education Challenge for many years at Bendigo.

He has inspired many students over the years, especially working with those students who many others had given up on.

His understanding and empathy have ensured that he has been able to deliver programs to his students and develop lifelong positive relationships. His unbelievable patience was always evident – whether it be when the boys buried the tools in the garden or dug a hole over one metre deep when he had asked for one 200mm deep, or when they continued to cut the timber short even after repeated words of “measure twice, cut once” — he just bought more timber or cement! He was undeterred.

Many students now meet him in the area and ask for a selfie, while they chew the fat on perhaps one of the many camps to Phillip Island making penguin nesting boxes, riding ebikes through the Grampians, rock climbing at the Arapiles, surfing at Woolamai or skiing at Falls Creek.

They fondly recall the amazing opportunities they were always given and the wicked sense of humour on display! They recall the fruit chews, hot chips and drinks used to keep spirits up and work output high.

Great work David.

ADVERTISEMENT

HE'S HERE FOR US

Rob.Mitchell.MP@aph.gov.au | 5716 3000

Rob Mitchell MP
MEMBER FOR McEWEN



Australian Labor

Authorised by Rob Mitchell MP, 57-59 High St, Wollan.



Legal Advice made easy

- All Areas of Family Law
- Divorce
- Child Arrangements
- Asset Division
- Wills & Estates
- Probates
- Deceased Estates
- Power of Attorney

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

PICTURE FRAMING

- HAND PAINTED SIGNS
- GOLD LEAF WORK
- CUSTOM FRAMING
- FLEET BRANDING
- PRINTED APPAREL



magnumsigns.com.au

Family Owned & Operated - Locals Supporting Locals



A piece by Carolyn Pain.

Open Studios Macedon invites visitors

In 2024 Macedon-area artists will again open their studios to the public on the weekend of 23-24 March. This is the first of two events and is being held slightly earlier than in previous years.



The 11 artists will welcome visitors to their studios set in their late summer, early autumn gardens, sharing their particular artistic expressions, processes and working environments, including pottery, painting, drawing, jewellery, textiles and printmaking. There will also be a display at Top of the Range Tearooms on the summit of Mount Macedon.

The studios are within a short distance of each other and are marked on a map in the brochure and online on Instagram. Experience the Macedon area with its beautiful gardens, and combine art with food at nearby cafes.

Brochures will be available at The Gallery Mt Macedon and the Trading Post, as well as at cafes and businesses in the area.

We are on Instagram: @openstudiosmacedon

Sue Anson, 0413 581 632

'Skyfish' – whimsical art at the Gallery



During March, a number of whimsical pastel works on paper by Lara Le Reveur will be displayed in the focus room of the Gallery, Mount Macedon.

Since the early 2000s, Lara has been drawn to a repeating motif that she calls a *Skyfish*. It represents her love of ridiculous humour, connections between people, and the ethereal.

Nobody looks back at the challenging times of the COVID19 pandemic with any sort of fondness, except maybe for Lara, who was living in Germany at the time. COVID time provided an opportunity for Lara to connect electronically much more regularly with her people at home.

Lara shared some of her lockdown sketches on social media and set herself her own lockdown art challenge, which was to sketch a themed Skyfish every day for a month using a limited palette. Nobody was more surprised than Lara when she completed her own challenge; indeed, she continued sketching and completed over 100 sketches during the next year, now dubbed 'The Hamburg Sketches'. She intends to develop the concepts within the sketches further in sculpture and paint.



Delight – Greet the Dawn

Already a multidisciplinary artist and craftsperson, Lara's exhibition marks the very beginning of clarity stemming from intuition. Curated by staunch supporter of the arts in the Macedon Ranges, Nadine Hartnet, this collection aims to engage and bring a smile to many faces.

On the last day of the exhibition, Sunday 31 March, beginning at 2pm, Lara will discuss her work.

The Gallery is open every Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm at 684 Mount Macedon Road, Mount Macedon.

Sue Anson, 0413 581 632

Singers to perform at Relay for Life

The next performance for the Gisborne Singers will be at the Cancer Council's Relay for Life in Lancefield. The choir has been performing at the Lancefield Relay for 11 years. Members look forward to supporting this event and relish the challenges of singing on the back of a truck with little lighting and in all types of weather.

The candlelight ceremony, as evening falls, is a highlight of proceedings. Being a time of reflection, the relay walkers stop walking to celebrate the lives of cancer survivors, and remember those who have lost their lives to cancer. Poems are read and school children sing.

Three special candles are then lit, representing the past, present and future, followed by a rendition of *Amazing Grace* performed by the Gisborne Singers. It



is a very moving experience for everybody. After a minute's silence, the choir entertains the walkers with a number of their favourite pieces.

The Gisborne Singers are also practising for their first major concert this year, *A Classical Celebration*. The dates and venues may be open to change, so check our website for updates. The program features some magnificent ceremonial music that is taken care of so well by the classical genre.

Rehearsals are held from 7:30 to 10pm on Wednesdays at the Uniting Church in Gisborne. New members welcome. Enquiries: www.gisborne.harmonysite.com or phone 0408 156 263.

Gisborne Podiatry



Sheridan – Podiatrist

18 Brantome Street (inside Priceline)

Ph 1300 44 77 63

• HICAPS • NDIS • DVA • HOMECARE PACKAGES •
 Subsidised treatment available for eligible clients. Call to enquire.



KENNEDYS ACCOUNTANTS

0418 566 635

PROUDLY SPONSORING

MACEDON RANGES
 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE
 AWARDS 2024

Children's picture book honours Australia's wartime animals

Fiona White, author and teacher at New Gisborne Primary School, still remembers the moment she discovered the role of animals in war — thousands of animals performing lifesaving roles went largely unrecognised for decades.

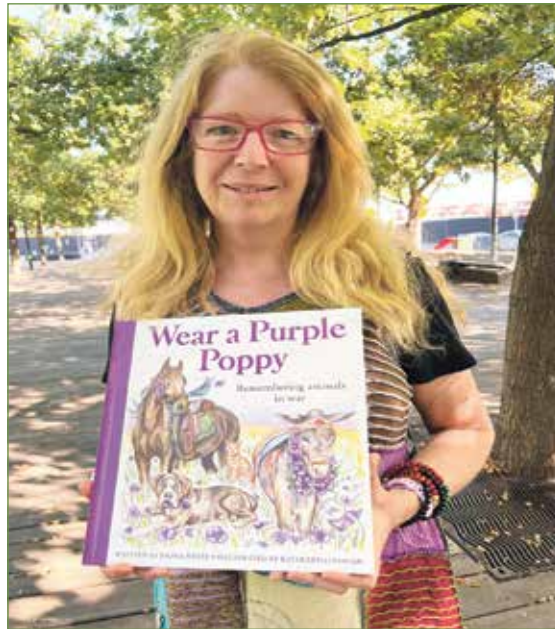
In 2019, the Australian Parliament declared February 24 each year War Animal Day, also known as Purple Poppy Day.

It's a day to pause, wear a purple poppy, and pay tribute to the many animals that served alongside soldiers.

It was an emotional discovery for Ms White, who has always had animals and lives with her rescue dog, Artie. She realised that, though many primary school children had read stories about individual animals in war, few were aware of the purple poppy's collective acknowledgement and tribute to all the animals who have served and been lost in war and peacetime.

"With all our technological advances, many people have forgotten that animals once did the heavy lifting in war, and very few of them came home," Ms White says.

Published by Hachette Australia and beautifully illustrated by Kathleen O'Hagan, *Wear a Purple Poppy* combines a poetic tribute and nonfiction text



Fiona White with her book *Wear a Purple Poppy*.

explaining the roles of the different animals. *Wear a Purple Poppy* is available at www.hachette.com.au and can be found in bookshops.

The 'Odyssey' performance to assist refugees

Trentham storyteller of 15 years, Peter Fernon, will next month perform one of the great poetic epics of antiquity, Homer's *Odyssey*. It tells the story of the Greek hero Odysseus, King of Ithaca, and his 10-year journey home through Africa and southern Europe after 10 years of fighting in the Trojan war.



Peter Fernon in performance.

Peter himself has journeyed from journalism, to teaching, then acting and singing to performance poetry. He has produced some of his own theatre and done shadow puppetry.

The *Odyssey* is an apt choice by Peter to perform as a fundraiser for refugees — hosted by the Macedon Ranges Rural Australians for Refugees — as it enables the audience to reflect on the refugees' epic journeys endured to reach our shores. Unfortunately, their journeys are yet to end. Storytelling enables the audience to go on a journey of understanding, something that is sorely missing when it comes to our understanding of refugees forced to flee for their lives.

Odyssey, presented by Peter Fernon, is being staged on Saturday March 16 at Norma Richardson Hall, Woodend. Doors open at 7.30 for an 8pm start. Tickets/donations at the door. Proceeds go to the Macedon Ranges Rural Australians for Refugees. All welcome.

The Mount Players
presents

Wild

written by Mike Bartlett
directed by George Benca
23rd February - 10th March 2024

Tickets: www.themountplayers.com or 5426 1892
Venue: The Mountview Theatre, 56 Smith St, Macedon
By arrangement with Origin Theatrical

First Choice Care Solutions
People Centred Care

- Locally owned and operated providing services to client in the Macedon Ranges, Hume, Mt Alexander, Hepburn and surrounds
- We are able to provide support services to both aged care and NDIS participants.
- 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
Office based in New Gisborne but we come to you with Covid safe measures.
Follow us on Facebook

'A helping hand in life'

**GISBORNE
FOODBANK**

OPEN
Wednesdays
and
Fridays,
10am to
3pm

Enquiries:
0492 850 520
gisborneccf@gmail.com

Quilting journey leads to Japan

Rhonda Irving talks about quilting and her road to Yokohama

My quilting journey started in 2000 when my sister and I visited the Patchwork Café in Macedon. I said to her that I wanted to learn patchwork one day and she replied, "you're already 50 so you had better get on with it!" I enrolled in an evening class for 12 weeks which resulted in my first quilt, a sampler quilt. I have made many quilts, trying new techniques, different colour combinations, following patterns and designing my own. The quilts have been given to family, friends and charities. I love making nursery quilts.

For one friend with many great-grandchildren, I am up to my ninth nursery quilt — only one has been pink!

My 'Nearly Insane' quilt was started in 2013 as a 'block of the month' with Kilmore Quilters Inc. Four blocks were completed each month for 24 months, a total of 98 blocks. The pattern is from a book of the same name by Liz Lois based on a quilt made in 1870s' Pennsylvania.

This was an intricate and challenging pattern — one of the six-inch blocks has 229 pieces, a second 180 pieces and a third 152 pieces — you can understand why it was called 'Nearly Insane'. I completed the zig-zag red and white borders during COVID 19 lockdowns. It was superbly quilted by professional quilter Jenny Gibson of Nansew Quilting in Kilmore.

I was pleased when this quilt won a Viewer's Choice Award at the Kilmore Quilt Show in October 2022. I was encouraged to enter it into Victorian Quilters Inc Showcase 2023, where it won a statewide award for Excellence in Piecing. It also was awarded first in Mainly Pieced Two Person, Amateur/Professional category.

I was then invited by the Japanese Quilt Society to exhibit my quilt at the World Quilt Festival 2023 in Yokohama. I was thrilled to receive this invitation.



Quilt called 'Nearly Insane' on display in Yokohama.

The quilt seemed to be very well received. I loved the stunning Japanese fabrics and visited Nippori Fabric Town three times, and squeezed as much fabric as I could into my suitcase.

Mary Kelly of Patch 'n' Quilt in Prince Street, Gisborne, runs classes. Quite a few Gisborne patchworkers travel to Kilmore Quilters each month. It is also a very good place to start for those who would like to learn.

Mount Players happenings



The Mount Players

Our first production for the year opened on February 23 and is being directed by Lancefield local George Benca. This is George's debut role with the Mount Players and he is very excited to bring to life this dark comedy, *Wild*, by Mike Bartlett. George is an accomplished actor and director with over 30 years' experience in the Victorian community theatre scene. First appearing with Powderkeg Players in the 1980s, he has since appeared on stage with several theatre companies including Williamstown, Adelphi, Encore, Malvern, STAG, Peridot and Eltham.

In recent years he has directed plays at Eltham, Essendon and STAG (Strathmore) theatre companies. Interestingly, it is also the first time all three actors are treading the boards at the Mountview Theatre!

Wild runs until March 10 so there is still time to check out our website for full details and tickets at www.themountplayers.com or call 5426 1892.

Our second production for 2024 is *Looped*, a comedy by Matthew Lombardo. It is now in rehearsal and will open on May 10 — lots more about that one next month (or read about it on our website).

All in all, the theatre is buzzing so we look forward to welcoming you at the Mountview Theatre to enjoy a great show, complimentary sherry on arrival, tea/coffee and biscuits at interval and a well-stocked bar,

See you at the theatre!

Karen Hunt

George Benca directs the cast of *Wild*.



Photo - Karlana Santamarra

nixon financial services pty ltd

corporate authorised representative

SINCE 1973
FINANCIAL SERVICES
YOU CAN TRUST

SECURING YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

Financial Planning
Pre-retirement strategies
Superannuation
Investment Advice
Pensions
Centrelink Advice
Aged Care Financial Advice
SMSF

Contact us on:

Gisborne - (03) 5428 0123
Sunbury - (03) 9744 2400
Melbourne - 0438 286 789

www.nixonfs.com.au

info@nixonfs.com.au



Bob Nixon



Joel Plowman



Sharon Tee

Nixon Financial Services Pty Ltd is a Corporate Authorised Representative of Sentry Advice Pty Ltd AFSL 227748

Barbie coming to Gisborne Library

The Big Summer Read for children at Gisborne Library had over 100 entries returned and some very happy prize winners. It was lovely to see children joining in the reading challenges and sharing the things that families like to do together over summer.

In February, Jelena Dokic took part in an inspiring and powerful discussion about her books *Fearless* and *Unbreakable* with 90 enthralled people. The library has the books available for reserve.

With autumn coming soon, Goldfields Library has many interesting programs in a seasonal brochure with a range of author talks, movies, crafts and children's programs. At Gisborne Library, Crochet and Conversation is on the first Monday of the month, *The Barbie Movie* (M) screens on Wednesday, March 13 at 1pm, and successful author Helen Elliot will be chatting about her book *Eleven Letters to You* on March 14 at 2pm.

The Bendigo Discovery Centre will be



Jelena Dokic with Olivia Evans, Rae Good and librarian Sara Shaw (far right) at Jelena's author talk in Gisborne.

coming to Wednesday Storytime session on March 13 at 10.30 to present the STEM Curious Kids program.

The public kitchen is proving to be

very popular, with library users able to heat food and make a hot drink when using the library's fast WIFI for working or studying.

Find out about DNA testing at Genology workshop



Have you had your DNA tested, or are you not sure which company

to go with? What do you do after you get your results? Do you understand what they mean? These are some of the questions Gisborne Genealogy Group member Julie Dworak will answer at our first workshop for the year on Saturday, March 2, to be held at 10am in the Family History Room. Come along if you are interested. (Free for GGG members, \$10 for non-members) This year the Gisborne Genealogical Group intends to form a special interest group on DNA. Contact Julie on 0400 099 159 if you are interested in joining, or would like to know more.

Our next general meeting on Thursday March 28 will be our AGM. A new Committee will be elected, reports read, Certificates presented and the Member of the Year announced –who will it be this year?

The AGM will be followed by a discussion on 'Family Traits – where have they come from?'

Our meetings are held in the Family History Room, adjoining the Gisborne Library at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Our outing to the Police Museum has been deferred to Friday, April 5. Contact

Mary on 5428 3887 to book a place.

The Family History Room is open for research each Tuesday from 10am to 1pm, and Thursdays 2pm to 5pm.

Check our website for further details on upcoming events: www.ggg.org.au



Lyn Hall

Lyn Hall, president



The Ranges captured in print

The society recently held an exhibition at the Gisborne Village Shopping Centre showcasing the Macedon Ranges.

The Ranges in Focus image display was extended by a further three weeks, which allowed photos from our previous Magnificent Macedon Ranges exhibition to be viewed again.

We have received wonderful feedback about the exhibition. The variety and quality of the images are a reminder of how beautiful our backyard is.

In case you missed the exhibition,



The photo club's exhibition has moved from the shopping centre but may be still seen on a digital projection at the Bendigo Bank until mid-March.

the club has set up a digital projection of the images at the Community Bank (Bendigo Bank) in Gisborne for a month from February 19.

If you are interested in finding out more about our group, we invite you to attend a couple of meetings, to see if the club is a good fit, before paying

for membership.

The society meets on the first Tuesday of the month, followed by the next Monday at Dromkeen, 1012 Kilmore Rd, Riddells Creek. Social chats start at 7pm with the meeting beginning at 7.30pm. Please visit www.macedon-ranges-photography.org.au.

Sue Steward

REDUCE YOUR POWER BILL BY UP TO 75%

We have sourced quality renewable products and trusted installation partners for a community group-buy project designed to reduce our region's dependence on the electricity grid, reduce our impact on the climate, all while **saving money!**



For more information or to register your interest visit: mrsq.org.au/greg



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



PODIATRY

Do you have fungal nails?



We can help you

Shop 12, 13 Goode Street, Gisborne (behind McDonalds) Call us for an appointment P: 1300 650 293



Ellis Rowan, extraordinary flower recorder

By Phyllis Boyd OAM

Marian Ellis Ryan, known as Ellis, was born in Melbourne in 1848, the oldest daughter of Charles Ryan and Marion Cotton, who was the daughter of eminent artist and ornithologist John Cotton.

In 1873 Ellis married Captain Frederic Charles Rowan, a British Army officer serving in New Zealand, whom she met when he was on leave in Melbourne. During the long, lonely days on the New Zealand outpost, Rowan spent her time collecting the strange wild flowers and she set to work to draw or paint them.

Though she had begun to paint as a child, she never had any formal teaching, but her interests and talent may have been inherited from her maternal grandfather, who had written a book, *Songbirds of Great Britain* in which he had illustrated beautifully.

Rowan was a perfectionist and was often dissatisfied with her work, but her husband, who was an amateur botanist and a severe critic, urged her to pursue her interests. She worked long hours and was soon rewarded with a gold medal for paintings she sent to the International Exhibition in Sydney.

In 1878, Frederic Rowan joined the newly formed Electricity and Power Company of Victoria and the Rowans moved to South Yarra. They had one son whom they named Eric, always known as Puck.

Rowan was troubled by domesticity and the social life in Melbourne that interfered with her art work. She painted every moment she could find and loved to travel whenever possible, painting the wildflowers of Australia.

Ellis Rowan's work was the star attraction at the opening of Melbourne's Exhibition Building in 1880. Her splendid four-leafed screen consisted of arrangements of the native flowers of Victoria, New South Wales and New Zealand. She also exhibited 10 framed groups of Australian wildflower panels with lilies and other flowers. This entry won a highly controversial gold medal.



Ellis Rowan sits for a portrait.

Her work was often the target of criticism from other artists, who did not consider her flower paintings as 'real art', as they could not be classified as landscape or portraiture. Rowan went on to win a medal at the 1883 Calcutta International Exhibition, a gold medal in Amsterdam and a bronze at the London International in 1884.

In 1890-91, Rowan, having been troubled by the cold winter, travelled with her son to the coast near Brisbane to regain her strength. When Puck returned to boarding school in Victoria, Rowan continued further north to the Torres Strait, journeying inland alone to remote parts of the country in search of wild flowers. Notwithstanding heat, insects, malaria fever, crocodiles, great discomfort, her fragile build and unsuitable feminine apparel, Rowan was undaunted. She did not tell her husband of her great discomforts, and painted incessantly. Soon after her return to Melbourne, her husband contracted pneumonia and died very suddenly.

Following Frederic's death, Ellis returned to Mount Macedon to stay with her family at 'Derriweit Heights' where



One of Ellis Rowan's wildflower paintings.

she continued to paint and expose the variety and richness of Australian flora to the world. She took her paintings to Ferdinand von Mueller at the Botanical Gardens for identification of the plants and he was most impressed with the accuracy and detail of her work.

She began travelling again and revisited New Zealand before travelling to England in 1895 where she stayed with her sister Ada, wife of Lord Charles Scott. A successful exhibition was held in London and Rowan took some paintings to Windsor Castle at the invitation of Queen Victoria. From England, Ellis went to the United States, staying there for 10 years. In 1897 she was advised of the death of her son who was then in South Africa.

While in the US, Rowan illustrated three books on American wild flowers and trees by naturalist Alice Lounsberry. She returned to Australia in 1906. Her energy continued and she sailed to Western Australia to paint desert flowers, travelling through the outback by bullock wagon and donkey cart.

In 1916, at the age of 68, Rowan set out on one of her last great adventures

to paint the flowers of Papua New Guinea. She returned the following year, determined to find and paint the bird of paradise. From Madang, she was rowed up the Ramu River by tribesmen and then carried in to the Bismark Ranges in a hammock. On this occasion, Rowan painted 45 of the 52 known species of the birds of paradise.

She received several commissions from the Royal Worcester Porcelain Company of England to produce wild flower and bird of paradise paintings and their archives record some of the loveliest services made from paintings by the talented Ellis Rowan, including a magnificent series of plates done from her paintings of birds of paradise from 1916 to 1918.

In March 1920, Rowan made a grand gesture to the Australian people by hiring the Fine Arts Gallery at Anthony Horden's store in Sydney where she put up for exhibition and sale 1000 of her paintings, excluding the birds of paradise, for prices ranging from 10 guineas to 125 guineas. The Government was urged to buy this priceless collection, but offered only £2000, being just £2 per picture.

The remarkably adventurous, talented and energetic Ellis Rowan, nee Ryan, died from malaria in 1922 and is buried with many of her family members in the Macedon Cemetery.

A great number of her paintings are held in the National Library in Canberra, having been bought by the Commonwealth Government in 1923 from her sister Blanche, her sole executor, for £5000, while many other works are in galleries around the world and in private family collections.

The Mount Macedon Horticultural Society is looking for financial support towards a bronze statue of Ellis Rowan to be erected at Mount Macedon and hope to have a street renamed in her honour, matching those that are named for her sisters, namely Blanche Parade and Mabel Crescent, and Ryans Parade is also named in memory of the family.

The big first step



Eva, Zali and Allison Milsom

Zane, Cruse and Xavier (Prep), with Cindy-Ann and Kevin

Zoe (Prep) with sister Isla and parents Vanessa and Michael, flanked by grandparents Peter and Mirjana (and faithful Labrador)

What a day, as preps began their journey of learning at the local primary schools in February. Best of luck to all!



Bronte, Scout, Kate and Nick Austin

GISBORNE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Francis (Prep) and Ryan arrive with Aleisha and Daniel



Prep Harry Georgiou is taken to school by his family Michael and Lucy (left), Ivy and Arthur, and Christine Georgiou



Ceneva Cullia arrived for her first day with Vittoria, Romeo, Lauren and Frank



GLOBAL VILLAGE LEARNING

A slimy frog jumping up Jarli's arm is great fun for him and for Leo looking on as well, at Global Village Learning (formerly Gisborne Montessori).



Daniel and Courtney Ogle with Sebastian at Holy Cross

HOLY CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL



George arrived with sister Tilly and parents Chris and Shannon Ingleton on his first day



Braegan and Chris Taylor with Maxwell

NEW GISBORNE PRIMARY



ST BRIGID'S

St Brigid's Preps are excited about their adventure



Imogen Langhorne with Matilda, Eloise, Anthony and Narelle



Franklin with Melinda and Marion



Louise, Estee, Clio and Eugenie



Cleo and Daisy with Andrew

MACEDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Suzanne, Lenny and Ben with Emma the dog on the first day at Macedon



WILLOWBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL



Natasha and Skye on day one at Willowbank



Preps Edward and Jack with Simon and Bec and Tom and Carly



Hasan and Rashida



Hamish biked to school with Chris and Alison



Freyja Mockunas came with Mum Ash and sisters Evie and Oona

MT MACEDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Photos kindly taken by Chris Fleming and Bryan Power Available for purchase at Maddison's, Hamilton Street, Gisborne



FOR THE GREEN THUMBS

Garden Club visits Kyneton



What do you do on a beautiful warm, cloudless January day? You visit the Kyneton Botanic Gardens and sit under the magnificent trees set in lawn sloping down to the Campaspe River.

Seventeen of the trees have been listed as significant by the National Trust including the endangered Chilean wine palm. We are so lucky to have these gardens so close and to also have volunteers helping to preserve them for future generations. Planning for the gardens started in 1858.

The Garden Club's 2024 program has been circulated to members. It will be a very interesting year with two or three events listed which are different from most other years. We hope members enjoy them all. The committee is already working on next year's program so if you have any gardens or activities you think might be of interest, please do not hesitate to let us know.

If you would like to join the Garden Club, please phone Jeanette on 5420 7303.



The Dutch elm avenue from Duniera's entrance.

Duniera gardens open at Easter

The grand gardens of Duniera Estate will be open to the public over the Easter long weekend.

Established in 1874, this 38-acre (15ha) early hill station provides visitors with a glimpse into the era of colonial settlement on Mt Macedon by people of wealth during the 1870s. This was the era of the plant hunters when the owners of these grand estates collected rare and exotic plants from all over the world. The sheer scale of the garden and the extravagance and enthusiasm of its owners in collecting unusual plants has resulted in one of the most significant botanical gardens in Australia.

Take time to explore the old picking garden which is now known as the Secret Garden, and the Labyrinth surrounded in masses of sedums in full flower, or wander up through the orchards and meet our resident llamas.

The garden will be open from Good Friday until Easter Tuesday (five days) 10am to 4pm, Officer Lane, Mt Macedon. Entry fee is \$12. Children under 16 free.

Dogs on leads are welcome. Visit our web-site: dunieraestate.com.au. Enquiries: 5426 1490.

UL Daly Nature Reserve Public Garden

This historic garden forms part of UL Daly Nature Reserve. It is open to the public and shares conservation zoning with the rest of the reserve.

Please respect the privacy of the adjacent homes, which are privately owned.



'Eblana', home and surgery of Dr Daly on the southwest corner Alken and Howey Streets, circa 1900. Courtesy Bill O'Donnell



Mr Ulick Lord Daly MBE (1891-1976)

Doctor Ulick Arthur William Daly (1853-1933)

Irish born Dr U.A.W. Daly built this homestead and raised his family here in the early 1900s. He conducted his medical practice from this address with the phone number 1.

The kitchen garden would have played an integral part in the Daly family life and records show their generosity of donating fruits, vegetables and flowers to local charities. The heritage-listed fruit trees have survived over a century and still produce good fruit. The younger fruit trees are grafted from the originals. The rose gardens reflect the Doctor's highly regarded expertise in rose growing. The gardens would have been watered from the well on the property.

Mr Ulick Lord Daly MBE (1891-1976)

The doctor's son, Mr U.L. Daly, inherited the property and continued the family tradition of involvement in local affairs. He was a Shire Councillor for 27 years and a recipient of the Member of the British Empire for services to the community. An early conservationist, he recognised the importance of native flora and fauna on this site. Mr U.L. Daly had the forethought to arrange for his garden and native bushland to be kept open to the public for passive enjoyment in perpetuity after his death.

The community remains grateful to U.L. Daly in whose honour this reserve is named.

Additional information can also be obtained from the Gisborne & Mount Macedon Districts Historical Society Inc.



Disappointing news for Daly Nature Reserve

Ten years ago, an environment management plan was drawn up by the shire council for UL Daly Nature Reserve in Gisborne.

Interpretive signs were an important action in the plan. Three signs were installed but, sadly, the sign describing the garden as open to the public and giving other information has been destroyed.

The sign drew attention to the late Dr UL Daly who negotiated for the whole reserve to become a public asset.

Nevertheless, readers do not have to miss out on the sign's content, reproduced here for your benefit.

Our diary: Working bees are held on the second Tuesday each month, 9.30-11am.

Clean Up Australia: Sunday 3 March, 9am-11am. Enquiries to dalynaturereserve@gmail.com.

Flower and produce show returns to Mount Macedon



More than a century of horticultural history returns to Mount Macedon on March 16-17 with the annual Autumn Flower and Produce Show.

The show is open to all residents in the Macedon Ranges, with no charge for entries. Entries from children are especially welcome, with separate categories available for different age groups.

This year the Autumn Flower and Produce Show will be held in the Horticultural Society's Hall at 583 Mt Macedon Road, Mt Macedon, where it co-locates with the Mt Macedon Golf Club. Visitors are welcome on Saturday afternoon, and on Sunday when Devonshire teas will be available.



A winning selection of entries from a previous show.

The Mt Macedon & District Horticultural Society was formed in 1922 and has held autumn shows almost every year since.

However, the spirit of the show dates back even earlier with a competitive show held to show off flowers and produce from many grand gardens in the area, several of which had teams of gardeners employed full-time.

While those times have gone, there are many large and small gardens in Mt Macedon and surrounding towns where owners continue the tradition of growing a wide range of flowers, plants and produce.

The full list of categories, together details for entering, can be found at mountmacedonhorticulture.org.au or on the society's Facebook page.



KIDS' QUIZ

- 1 Basmati, Jasmine, and Arborio are all types of which grain?
- 2 According to the fairy tale, what did Cinderella's fairy godmother use to make her coach for the ball?
- 3 Beginning with the letter "E", what does the Periodic Table list?
- 4 Deciduous trees lose what every year?
- 5 Nocturnal animals are active during what part of the day?
- 6 Which car maker uses the catch phrase "Zoom, zoom." in its advertising?
- 7 Which word can mean a large Asian country and a piece of porcelain crockery?
- 8 Kodiak, brown, and black, are species of which large animal?
- 9 A tandem bicycle usually has how many seats?
- 10 What is the 20th letter of the alphabet?

Answers page 39

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



Drawing by Eliza Ransome

Can you find 10 differences between the pictures?



Jacksons Creek Reserve (behind Coles)
Registration and Activities Open 10 am

\$5 per child

3 Age Groups: Under 5 years 5 - 8 years 9 - 12 years

All funds raised go to Community Projects

Egg Hunts
Animal Petting Farm
Easter Egg Painting
Egg & Spoon Races
Primary School Colouring Competition display
Photos with the Easter Bunny
Food & Drinks



The busy team from St Brigid's who did the cut and paste of this edition of the Gazette: Oscar, Audrey, Grace, Lucius, Summer and Henry.

JOKES & RIDDLES

Why aren't they making lamp posts any longer?
Because they're long enough already.

What happened when the snake caught a cold?
She added viper nose.

I don't need to buy a pocket calculator because I know how many pockets I've got.

How many teenagers does it take to change a light bulb?
Two. One to change it and one to take the selfie.

What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common?
Their middle name.

Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I've lost my memory?
When did this happen?
When did what happen?

I'm so old I can remember when emojis were called hieroglyphics.

What is a cat with eight sides?
An octopuss.



Vibrant start to school year at Holy Cross



As the new school year kicks off, Holy Cross Year 6 leaders have seamlessly embraced their roles as buddies, extending a warm and enthusiastic welcome to the Preps. Their early display of leadership is commendable, and we eagerly anticipate the growth of these connections.

Our Year 4 to 6 students dove into the school year with a series of enriching activities. The Gisborne Aquatic Centre played host to our young swimmers, who not only honed their basic strokes but also acquired essential life-saving skills, including swimming in clothing and rescuing simulated injured swimmers.

A big thank you to the Aquatic Centre staff for making this such a positive and educational experience for our children.

Meanwhile, the Prep to Year 3 students eagerly await their turn for swimming lessons next term.

Young Leaders' Day

Adding to the dynamic start, our school captains attended the National Young Leaders' Day at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre on 16 February, where they gained insights from high-profile Australians about their leadership journeys. Bryson Klein, Jane Bunn, Anastasia Woolmer and Melissa Barbieri left a lasting impression on our captains, who will share their experiences and newfound ideas at the upcoming assembly.

The school community came together for a 'Welcome' picnic, with the Parents and Friends Association once again organising a barbecue that was much appreciated by everyone.

It has been a lovely start to the year and we are excited to see the enthusiasm and engagement continue throughout the year.



Meteorologist Jane Bunn signed a copy of her book at the Leadership Day.



Holy Cross school captains, Alex War, Ethan Spiteri, Charlotte Lloyd and Rose Lye with Australian Ninja Warrior Bryson Klein.

Starting the year at Global Village Learning (formerly Montessori)

Our year has started off with some works around the grounds to ensure the most is made of our learning spaces, both indoors and outdoors. Our entire community has been out and about to familiarise themselves with what's happened and what is to come.

Our upcoming working bees are a great opportunity to know more about what we would like to establish and to get to know one another a little better. In saying that, we have welcomed



many families (both young people and guides) across our learning hubs and it has been a pleasure getting to know these families and support transitions.

To begin our 2024 learning cycles we have looked at a range of opportunities for our young people to work inside their interests or with the intention of sparking new interests and ideas. Our young people have had the opportunity

to explore and extend on various arts and sewing, music and drama, circus and coding, gaming and walking (just to name a few), as well as core literacy and numeracy development.

We are looking forward to Edventure Week. This will be an opportunity to further work with our community and come together to be a part of incursions and excursions with fun but intentional learning outcomes for all those participating, young and old.

Bec, GVL Guide



Welcome to the first Captain's Rap for 2024



Louisa Cawood

I am thrilled to have this opportunity to keep you informed about all the events that we have planned for this year. Since you'll be hearing from me a bit during the

year, let me introduce myself a little: I love the idea of travelling to different countries, I was born overseas in South Africa, and I strongly dislike spiders and meerkats.

This year I hope to implement more positivity and school spirit throughout GSC with the help of Tyler Jarris our other College Captain and the rest of the amazing student leadership team.

So far, the year has kicked off with a smashing start with the 'Apollo24 Study Camp' at Portsea providing a fun way to introduce the Year 12s to a great year ahead. The three days were overflowing with interactive activities such as fantastic lectures and workshops, swimming at the beach, and a variety of team-building activities involving childhood favourites such as the egg and spoon race, musical chairs, tiggy, and everyone's favourite 'Just Dance'. By the end of the trip we had built new friendships and have become more united as a cohort.

Back at school we welcomed the new Year 7s who came back from their own adventure at Funfields at our first whole school assembly for the year. Both staff and students are excited to move back to their new learning spaces in the recent opening of the refurbished B-block. Various year level information sessions about the year ahead have already taken place, with Tyler and myself having the privilege to speak at a few of them so far.

The whole school is excited about our upcoming school events such as our school production, *The Addams Family*, with auditions for lead roles having taken place last year and ensemble auditions earlier this month, and the school swimming sports which will be over by the time this edition is published.

The school is buzzing with energy; I can't wait to see what we can accomplish this year!

St Brigid's students get to GRIPs with leadership challenges



St Brigid's Year 6s went into the city on 12 February to go to the GRIP (Growing Responsible Independent People) Student Leadership Conference.

We took a bus from the New Gisborne station to Southern Cross. We had to leave at 7.30am so most of us would have woken up about 6am.

From Southern Cross station we walked through Melbourne to GRIP. When we arrived we were given booklets to fill out, which were completely full by the end.

GRIP taught us how everyone can step forward and lead by using their talents, helping when needed, trying something new, and making friends with others. We learnt many other things like making leadership sacrifices, and not only having ideas for our school, but how to put them in motion and not forget about them.

We had chances to go up on stage and try to solve trivia questions and play some games.

We got breaks in between sessions and got to play 'Loud Noises' in which we played games like 'Is it cake?', miming, and 'song or not song?'. We all basically were



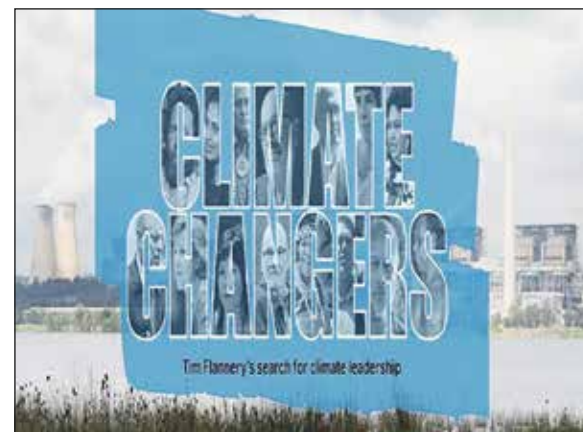
St Brigid's Year 6 students ham it up in Melbourne.

screaming answers (even when we were miming!) while we played.

On the way back we took an actual train but not before melting in the heat. But our amazing teachers saved us and got us icy poles.

We all feel more confident and knowledgeable about being leaders and had a great time at GRIP.

Year 6 Student Elony Barker



Free screening of Tim Flannery's film in Malmesbury.

'Climate Changers' movie screening

Come along to this free community event, an inspiring documentary and panel discussion at the Malmesbury Town Hall. Hear from locals who are taking action. Discuss the things each of us can do to combat climate change. Supper provided. Free entry. All welcome!

Climate Changers follows Tim Flannery's search for leadership on climate change. Where are the leaders who will drive change? How might they succeed where others have failed? Flannery poses these questions as he meets global leaders from the corridors of power and front lines of climate change.

Sunday 3 March, 6pm-8pm Malmesbury Town Hall.

Accommodation Vacancy

Gisborne

Support Independent Living (SIL)

Brand New - Ready for moving in



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.

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.



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

Meet the new school leaders for 2024



Gisborne Primary captains Mitch, Rubi, Maya and Remi.



Bullengarook campus principal Brendan Nolan with captains Chelsea Aquilina and Joshua Ayres.



Holy Cross captains Rose, Charlotte, Alex and Ethan.

This month we introduce the captains of Gisborne Primary School, Bullengarook Specialist School, Holy Cross and St Brigid's Primary Schools.

Next month we will feature New Gisborne, Macedon, Mt Macedon and Willowbank Primary Schools.



St Brigid's captains Henry, Oscar, Summer and Elsie with principal Mel Daly.

ADVERTISEMENT



Mary-Anne Thomas MP
LABOR MEMBER FOR MACEDON
DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

A: Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne, VIC 3437

P: 5428 2138 E: mary-anne.thomas@parliament.vic.gov.au

MaryAnneMacedon @MaryAnneThomas maryannethomasmp



Authorised by MA Thomas, Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne

What's selling at St Paul's Op Shop

This month St Paul's Op Shop was fortunate to receive a bulk lot of new designer belts and men's hats.

Unusual items that came in included a promotional life-size costume which looks like a big red happy bouncy ball and a large-pendulum wall hanging clock. Later this month, look out for our AFL merchandise table which will include guernseys, footy cards, books and much more.

This month we ask Judy about her time volunteering with us.

"My name is Judy and I have been working in the Op Shop for over 10 years now and I love meeting all the customers that come in. Some call in as they travel

through the town from over 100km away and we get a few interstate visitors; we obviously have a reputation as being well worth a visit.

We have wonderful bargains that visitors love to get, from clothing and shoes to ornaments and crockery.

*Hope to see you soon,
Judy."*

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 all the info you need to visit us and the scoop on what's happening in the shop.

*Janine Sanders
coordinator*



Vicki Hawken visits Monday playgroup at the Community House.

Big thanks to Shared Table

Macedon and Mt Macedon Community House recently welcomed Vicki Hawken from Shared Table to their Monday playgroup to thank the group for help that enabled the Community House to offer its playgroups free of charge.

Vicki explained, "The main purpose of Shared Table is to support families and individuals in need as well as various community groups in the Macedon Ranges.

"We recognise the current financial strain on young families and the importance of the Community House as a hub to bring people together in a friendly, supportive

OPEN GARDEN

Viewfield garden at 651 Mount Macedon Road will be open all four days of the Easter weekend and each weekend in April. Entry is \$10 per person, children free. BYO picnic and enjoy the garden.

environment. Shared Table is a registered not-for-profit organisation run entirely by volunteers.

"Our main fundraising stream is opening the garden at Viewfield over autumn with 100% of gate takings going to Shared Table."

Community House playgroups are held on Monday and Wednesdays from 10am to 12 noon and offer an inclusive and welcome space. For enquiries, email playgroup@mmmcommunityhouse.org.

Woodend Lions Art Show: a celebration of talent

Mark the calendar for the Woodend Lions Art Show, a three-day show taking place from 9 to 11 March at St Ambrose Hall in Woodend. This event will feature a diverse array of artworks from both established and emerging local artists.

Art enthusiasts will have an opportunity to acquire pieces across various mediums including oils, watercolours, photography and pottery. With an impressive 265 entries last year, this year's show is poised to be an even greater spectacle.

If you are an artist eager to showcase your talents, the deadline for entries is approaching. Submit your entry form by Friday March 1. Entry forms can be found at woodendlions.org.au/art-show. There will be winners in seven categories, including the highly coveted "Best in Show," along with two junior prizes, recognising the emerging talents of young artists.

The entry fee is a gold coin donation. All profits generated from the show will be dedicated to funding community projects.



GISBORNE GOSS

The Telstra upgrading of 4G and bringing new 5G connectivity to its Macedon mobile site that was due to start on 12 February has been rescheduled to begin on 4 March.

In the latest round of the State Government's sporting club grants, Holy Cross United Netball Club has received funding for new balls and whistles, Gisborne Giants Football Netball Club for a committee education program and Macedon Ranges Tennis Association for a volunteers and structure workshop.

A new takeaway shop called 'Gisburgers' is due to open on Hamilton Street in the next month or so.

Chiropractor William Randich has joined the team at Total Body Health Gisborne in Hamilton Street.

Recognising and rewarding volunteer leadership

The Zonta Club of Kyneton announces that applications are now open for the 2024 Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs awards program. This Zonta International program encourages the young women of today to become the leaders of tomorrow.



The successful applicant will receive an award of \$400 from the Zonta Club and will then be nominated for a District 23 Award, valued at \$US5000.

Applicants should be aged between 16 and 19 years on 1 April 2024, and studying at a secondary school, college or university. Applicants are asked to reflect on their own voluntary commitment to their school and to their community, and on issues that limit the empowerment of women in Australia and around the world.

Applications are due by 8 March. Please contact secretary@zontakyneton.org.au for an application form or telephone 0417 541 371 for further information.

Woodend Art Group

The Woodend Art Group holds classes and workshops in the studios in the Woodend Railway Station complex.

We also have Social Tuesday where members and interested people can come along in the morning, have a coffee and paint together in a social environment.

For further information speak with the president, Colin Robinson, on 0407 426 252.



VET TALK

With Dr Caitlin Horwood

Honey's hormones play havoc



Beautiful border collie Honey found herself feeling very flat over the weekend when her hormones started playing havoc with her health. Honey was suffering from pyometra, a life-threatening infection of the uterus.

In older female dogs who have not been desexed, the hormone variations of the normal heat cycle cause the uterus lining to gradually change, sometimes resulting in thickening and cyst formation. Unfortunately, this provides a perfect fluid environment in which the bacteria E. coli can grow, as they find their way up into the reproductive tract.

The result for Honey was her uterus became overwhelmed with pus and bacteria, creating toxins which enter the bloodstream, making her a very sick dog.

Of course, these emergencies only seem to happen on the weekend, so it

was a trip to the city for Honey, spending a couple of nights with veterinary care, on IV fluids, and a big surgery to remove her infected uterus. Happily, she's recovering on the farm now — ovariectomy complete, pyometra gone — and back to doing the things she loves best.

Why she got pyometra: Unlucky. She had previously had to delay her routine desexing due to other medical conditions. **How to avoid pyometra in your female dog:** Early desexing.



Honey recovers at home.

Keeping dogs cool on hot days

The first induction of the year for Macedon Ranges Obedience Dog Club saw a very hot Sunday and lots of white cabbage butterflies. Seventeen new pups braved the early morning heat.



clean, fresh water available.

As we move into March the weather will be cooling down, but remember that we can still get several hot days between now and Easter and dogs' feet are not designed to walk on hot surfaces.

Walking your dog during the heat of the day can cause severe burns to paw pads which will be very painful for your pup. So how to tell a surface is too hot? Take the five-second test — If it's too hot for your hands, it's too hot for paws.

Dogs lose heat through panting and only sweat through their paws.

They are at high risk of heatstroke, so make sure they have constant access to shade and ensure there is always cold,

Some other tips include not running or cycling with your dog when it's hot, and heading out in the early morning or late evening when it is cooler; using sunscreen on ear tips and nose to prevent sunburn, making frozen treats using fruit such as berries and watermelon, putting ice blocks in their drinking water and setting up a sprinkler or paddling pool — in the shade of course — to entertain and keep them cool.

For information on joining, see our website at www.macedonrangesdogclub.org.au

Induction is the first Sunday of the month and once you have done your online member registration you will be contacted by email with your induction date and time.



Carol
Instructor/Treasurer
MRODC

THE WHAT DAY IS IT BIT

Victoria's bathing experiences are a short trip from home, but light years from the real world. Don't be alarmed by that strange feeling – that's just your stress melting away.

Unwind at revitalising places like Alba Thermal Springs & Spa.

VISITVICTORIA.COM

VICTORIA EVERY BIT DIFFERENT

Landcare impressions of Mount Gisborne

By Ammie Jackson, Landcare facilitator

In early February I met members of the Friends of Mount Gisborne Bushland Reserve for a tour of the reserve and to learn about the history of the friends group and the work they have been involved in.

Despite being summer, the vegetation was lush and green. The group is photographing and making GPS records of the many flora species.

The reserve and the mountain itself is a dormant volcano with unique basalt lava flow formations. From a geological and geomorphological perspective it is highly significant.

I was interested to learn that the vegetation type is scoria cone woodland and that this is the only site of its kind in the Port Philip and Westernport catchment. I thought back to my experiences of restoring vegetation on other scoria cones in the Corangamite catchment, on sites such as Red Rock at Alvie, Mount Elephant, Mount Noorat, Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf. All those sites are highly significant in their own right and have all been subject to severe degradation since European arrival. Many of these sites had been completely cleared of all native vegetation, grazed by stock, planted with introduced species and even quarried for scoria.

I couldn't help comparing Mount Gisborne with Mount Leura and Mount Sugarloaf Reserves. The early conservation work began there in the 1990s with the removal of pines and cypress and revegetation of indigenous species by volunteers and school groups. No native trees remained, so no natural regeneration was ever going to occur. Historical photographs were used to determine the species selection, and 25 years later the sites are wonderful re-created scoria cone woodlands.

Looking at Mount Gisborne and its values, it is clear to see that the Friends group started from a different base and had much more to work with. In terms of environmental restoration, my observation is that nature is doing it herself; there is ample recruitment of eucalypts and wattles. Large old trees and an intact canopy layer provide habitat for a diversity of bird species that will deposit more seed. With that continues the spread of weed seed (via animals, wind and vehicles), so there will always be weed maintenance work to do.

Like many reserves, Mt Gisborne Bushland Reserve exists today and is protected because of the dedication and perseverance of local nature lovers: ordinary people who took notice of the beauty in their area many



Ammie Jackson (second from left) with Friends of Mt Gisborne committee members Jayne (president), Rhys and Amanda.



Kangaroos on the walking track in Mt Gisborne Bushland Reserve.

years ago, who volunteered their time and energy to see it properly protected and looked after. It is only through interacting with natural places that we fall in love with them. And it's only when you feel connected and love a place enough that you will work to protect it. Now, more than ever, it's so important to have wild and natural places like Mount Gisborne and people such as members of Landcare and friends of groups to help facilitate that nature connection in others who haven't yet found it.

■ If anyone is interested in knowing more about the reserve or joining the Friends group, you can email friendsofmountgisborne@gmail.com or gisbornelandcare@gmail.com.

Residents encouraged to grow veggies on their nature strip

Macedon Ranges residents are being invited to take part in a pilot project to transform their nature strip into a productive space.

Five households will receive support in the form of vouchers for gardening tools, plants and seeds, to start a small vegetable patch at the front of their house. They will also receive information on what can be planted to comply with council policies, and how to grow and maintain the plants.

Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health is partnering with Macedon Ranges Shire Council on this initiative which will help to inform the council's future review of its policy around verge gardening.

Mayor Annette Death said it was important that people understood their responsibilities — but also opportunities like this — that came with maintaining nature strips.

"Not everyone is aware that it is generally the responsibility of property owners to maintain their nature strips, but with that responsibility comes potential planting or landscaping opportunities through our Nature Strip Landscaping Policy," she said. "There are many benefits of verge gardening, so we are keen to use the Veg on the Verge pilot project to help guide future decision-making around this topic."

The current nature strip policy allows plantings that are low water use and low maintenance, and there is a list of vegetables that are suitable.

If you are interested in being part of Veg on the Verge and receiving assistance in making a small vegetable garden on your nature strip, contact Kylie Stafford on 5421 1666, email healthpromotion@scchc.org.au or go to www.sunburycobaw.org.au/veg-on-the-verge.



Free Enviro Energy Expo

Come along to this free event to learn energy solutions for your home, your pocket and the planet.

Hear expert speakers Dan Cass and Tamara Dimatina, join panel discussions, visit the stalls, check out the displays and watch your kids enjoy fun activities.

Where: Riddells Creek Primary School

When: Saturday 16 March 12 noon – 4.30pm

Enquiries to 5428 7836 or email coordinator@riddellscreeknh.com.au



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

You could experience low pressure or no supply.

Make sure you've got enough drinking water in your emergency kit for everyone in your household.

Please visit our website for more information.

gww.com.au/bushfires

Phone 13 44 99

Translation & Interpreter Service 13 14 50



Of books, bugs, and 'racing' Melbourne streets

In keeping with the theme 'Books, Books ... Glorious Books' the Joeys visited the Gisborne Library and were entertained by a great story-teller librarian who read an interesting selection of books which captured the Joeys' attention. Then they got to make weird and wonderful treehouses out of Lego and finished off the night making Chinese New Year decorations — certainly a fun way to start the year.

On 12 February, our Joeys joined with Joeys from 1st New Gisborne and Woodend Scout Group and had lots of fun looking for water bugs in Jackson Creek. Besides getting very wet, they found lots of interesting bugs to examine with a magnifying glass before putting them back in the creek.

The Cubs began the term with a night at TreeTops in Riddells Creek, testing

their skills in archery, bush golf and low-ropes. They also had an orienteering evening around the scout hall.

On 11 February, Scouts attended the district 'Amazing Race' around Melbourne. This was a scavenger hunt around the Melbourne CBD. They caught the early train from Gisborne to Southern Cross, then worked their way between Flagstaff and Treasury Gardens finding answers to a number of questions. The questions took them to Vic Market, the Old Melbourne Gaol, the State Library and Fed Square/Flinders Street. They finished at Treasury Gardens. Lots of fun for all!

If you are interested in joining Scouts, either as a Leader or a Scout, please email us at info@1stgisborne.com.au for more information.

Carolyn Goode (Joey Leader)



1st Gisborne Joeys search for water bugs in Jackson Creek.

Scouting news at New Gisborne



Assistant Group Leader Cathy presents Joey Leader "Kangaroo" with her Gilwell Wood Badge Scarf. Right: 1st New Gisborne Joeys enjoy 'pass the bucket' as part of their water activities.



Scouts at New Gisborne (Church of Christ) Scouts offers great programs, challenges and opportunities for young people aged from 5 to 18 — all with trained and enthusiastic adult leaders.

Opening night for 2024 on 7 February marked the beginning of our 11th year of Scouting. Soon we will have presented our 125th young Scout with their New Gisborne scarf. We have great memories from our first 10 years and much fun and challenges to look forward to in the years ahead

We are all looking forward to our combined sections camp at Rowallan Scout Camp (near Riddell) at month's end. Always fun to see all the members of the Group coming together for activities and evenings around the campfire (fire

restrictions permitting.)

Our Joey section (ages 5-8) began the year with birthday celebrations and by joining in the Group's traditional water fight activities.

Next comes a "Going Up' ceremony, with some Joeys moving into the Cub Scout Section.

We have some vacancies in our Joey sections and new members are welcome. Our Joey Leader "Kanga" received her hard-earned and highly esteemed Wood Badge and is always happy to see new faces coming along on a Wednesday night to have a look.

We are looking forward to council approval to widen our activities centred on

our wonderful new scout hut. Donations to fit out the hut are welcome and tax-deductible.

We meet Wednesdays from 6.30 to 8pm; Venturers on Fridays.

Children are always welcome to come along and try out Scouting.

Contact our Group Leader Russell Barker on 0400 297 025 or russell@jeem.com.au to learn more.

For Venturers, call Tracey on 0407 098 032.

What is Girl Guides?



Scouting was started by Robert Baden Powell in England around 1908 and girls wanted to join, hence the formation of Girl Guides as an all-female group of girls and adult leaders who wanted to undertake similar activities. Guides began in Victoria over 110 years ago.

The focus of Guiding is to develop skills based on four principles: Practical, People, Physical and Self, while having lots of fun and engaging with other girls.

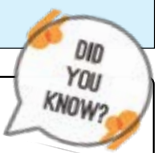


Deb Fleming

If you are aged 7 to 12 and would like to try out Guides, go to the Girl Guides Victoria website — www.guidesvic.org.au — and register an expression of interest or phone Deb on

0409 542 619.

The unit meets on Thursday nights between 5 and 6.30pm at the hall in Daly Reserve, Howey Street, Gisborne.



The first Girl Guides president was Agnes

Baden Powell, sister of the Scouts founder, Robert Baden Powell.

News and opportunities from Community Bank Gisborne



Congratulations to the Gisborne CFA junior running team who at the time of writing are second on the ladder — a huge achievement in their first competition season. We are pleased we could support their success with a grant for uniforms and transport.

We were delighted to see many happy riders competing in the new, all-weather arena at IR Robertson Reserve on February 18, a major project to which the Community Bank contributed \$30,000 last year. Well done to all involved in the project.

If your community group is big on ideas but short of funding, our Autumn 2024 Community Investment round is open this month (March). Pop into the branch at 11 Nexus Way or email mrcepublicrelations@gmail.com for details.

We are sponsoring a lot of activities this month and encourage the community to take advantage of them.

If you're a local artist – practising and dreaming — enter the 2024 portrait prize at the Gallery Mt Macedon. Entries close March 27.

If you're a local businessperson, enter the shire business awards. Self-nominations close March 15.



The Gisborne CFA junior running team benefitted from a grant from Community Bank Gisborne & District.

If you like live music and a great day out, get to the Macedon Ranges Music Festival on March 23.

If you missed seeing the Macedon Ranges Photographic Society's exhibition in Gisborne Village Shopping Centre, call into our branch to see the digital display. The images look amazing on the large screen.

Finally, our operation is growing and we are currently recruiting for two part-time roles: Book-keeper and Board/CEO Support (each 6-8 hours per week). Visit our Facebook page or Ethical Jobs for details. Applications close March 15. Big thanks to our customers who make our grants, sponsorships and local employment possible!

The team at Community Bank Gisborne and District (Bendigo Bank)

1st Gisborne Scouts

1st Gisborne Scouts in Melbourne ready for a scavenger hunt around the CBD.



Welcome to autumn in Macedon

The Macedon Bowling Club is holding a Mega Bowl and Spit Roast event on Sunday March 17, starting at noon. Come along for some bowling and social fun. To book a spot please contact Paul Ritchie on 0488 996748 or Gregg Kennedy on 0417 364 787 for more information.

The Produce Swap outside the Post Office on the first and third Saturdays of the month has been very well received. Come along between 9.30 and 10.30am and swap your produce. You never know what you might get in return.

Congratulations to Vanida and Craig on the safe arrival of their new son, Jude. Jude is a little brother to Archie and Charlotte.

The Macedon Fire Brigade held a successful event on 24 February. Good weather brought out a great crowd on the day. There were plenty of activities for everyone, with a significant amount of money raised to support the brigade.

Macedon Ranges Open Studios is happening on the weekend of March 23 and 24. Eleven artists will be exhibiting. This is a great opportunity to meet the artists and explore some beautiful studios and artworks. For more information look up [openstudiosmacedon](https://www.instagram.com/openstudiosmacedon) on Instagram.

Ten millimetres of rain had fallen for the month of February at the time of writing, nine of which fell during the storm on 13 February. Strong winds brought down trees and power lines, cutting power to Macedon for quite a few hours. There was a lot of debris left on roads and in gardens.

The House Choir at the Macedon and Mt Macedon Community House has returned. Everyone is invited to come along at 7.30pm on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. This is not a serious choir, just a chance to have a singalong and enjoy a social event. For more information call Grainne on 0423 769 643.

There's a feeling of autumn in the air. Keep an eye out for the trees changing colour.

If you have anything you would like mentioned in our column please pop in and see us.

The team at Macedon Post Office

DON'T GET CAUGHT

with Russell Barker



Russell Barker

My Dad taught me a life skill when I was a teenager looking for a car. I have remembered this life skill, and have applied it almost every time I am faced with making a decision that involves money leaving my wallet and going to someone else.

Here it is: "An offer made for today only, is not a genuine offer!"

Think about it, if someone says you can have

this today only for \$99, what possible reason could exist to cost a different amount tomorrow?

Scammers who call you on the phone use this trick all the time; they say things like "this needs to be sorted out now, it can't wait until tomorrow."

Don't be tempted to take up an offer that has a time limit on it or a sense of urgency attached to it. Ask the person for their direct phone number and name to call them back. Then DON'T call them back. Check with the company they are calling from (the bank, the tax office etc) and see if they know about the problem. I can guarantee

you they will tell you to not call that number back, and to ignore them.

We live in a time where all mobile phones have a display that tells you the number calling you and if that number is in your phone directory it will tell you WHO is calling. Use that feature to decide to NOT answer an unknown number. If it is urgent, that person will leave a message or find another way to contact you.

To avoid being caught, don't answer a call from an unknown number and don't be tempted with great offers that expire in a short time.

Memorable trip for fly fishing club members as NZ mecca calls



Mitch Siddle and I (Will Healy), Calder Fly Fishing Association

club members, embarked on a two-week trip to what many would consider to be the mecca of fly fishing — New Zealand's South Island. Rivers like the Mataura, for example, are renowned as legendary dry fly rivers.

Our trip coincided with Mitch's birthday which turned out to be an ordinary day of showers.

After much perseverance we two were gifted with a period of sun which allowed Mitch to "polaroid" (the use of polarised sunglasses to cut glare and see into the water) an above-average brown trout. Armed without a net and with me, Will, on the opposite bank, Mitch cast a Blow-fly (a dry fly pattern) to a fish which ate it without hesitation.

Needing assistance landing the fish in the strong river currents, Mitch called for me and my net. After a few very tense moments, Mitch had the fish in the net. This 7lb (about 3.2kg) fish would be the biggest for the trip and a brilliant way to celebrate his own birthday.

If you would like to know more about the Calder Fly Fishing Association, please visit www.calderflyfishing.com.au.



Mitch and his Southland brown trout.

or www.facebook.com/calderflyfishing, or www.instagram.com/calderflyfishing.

Will Healy

Youth leadership scholarships open

Community Bank Gisborne & District will be offering scholarships to local 14-17-year-olds to attend the Magic Moments Youth Leadership and Business Summit in Sydney during the July school holidays.

The five-day residential camp includes inspirational speakers, personal development workshops and team-building activities.

Applications open in March. Please email mrcepublicrelations@gmail.com for more information or to apply.

Bookkeeper and Board/CEO Support openings



Macedon Ranges Community Enterprises Ltd is the operator of Community Bank Gisborne & District;

franchise of Bendigo Bank. We have been in operation for over 15 years, and have contributed over \$2 million to clubs, groups, and charitable causes across the Macedon Ranges.

We operate via a volunteer board and are currently looking to expand our small dedicated paid staff under the direction of a Chief Executive Officer. Skills required include:

Bookkeeper — 6-8 hours per week.

Board and CEO Support — 6-8 hours per week. Tasks would include scheduling of meetings, compilation and distribution of agenda and attachments, minute taking, and general governance and administrative duties.

Potentially one candidate may be able to undertake both roles. As these are expansion roles, we are looking to recruit on a casual basis for an initial term of six months, and then review. Remuneration will be negotiated based on level of experience.

Candidates will need to be able to work remotely, and the Board and CEO Support role will also attend board meetings after normal business hours; prior experience, flexibility and the ability to work with limited supervision are therefore essential.

Applicants should forward their most recent CV and a cover letter to our CEO, Jo Irwin, at eo@mrce.com.au, by March 15.

QUIZ

- 1 Which was the first manned mission to orbit the Moon?
- 2 At what speed were the old 10-inch Shellac records designed to be played?
- 3 A "Tintype" is an early form of what?
- 4 Which painter had the surname van Rijn?
- 5 What is ophidiophobia?
- 6 In which modern-day country were the Incas an ancient civilization?
- 7 In which NSW town did Ned Kelly write his famous letter, known by the same name, justifying his actions?
- 8 How many bonus points do you get when you use all seven letter tiles in Scrabble?
- 9 In total, how many star "points" are there on the Australian flag?
- 10 Which element on the Periodic Table has the symbol "Y"?

Answers page 39

Have you thought about volunteering? If YES, please join us for the

MACEDON RANGES COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER EXPO

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:
Come along to see the volunteering opportunities there are in the community

COMMUNITY GROUPS:
Come along to showcase the amazing work you can do for our community

SATURDAY MARCH 16
11:00 am - 2:00 pm
WOODEND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Come and learn about the services that can help you!



Sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Gisborne, Kyneton, Macedon Ranges and Woodend

For more information, contact MRVOLUNTEEREXPO@GMAIL.COM

A man hands a flat-eather a frisbee and says: "I found your basketball."



I was playing chess with a mate and he said: "let's make this more interesting." So we stopped playing chess.



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

AROUND THE GROUNDS



Pickleball action at Macedon

Pickleball is a court game that is becoming increasingly popular in Australia and around the world. Its rules are simple and it's an easy game to learn to play compared with other court games such as tennis, badminton or squash.

Two sessions are run weekly at Tony Clark Stadium: Mondays from 6.30pm and Wednesdays from 10.15am.

People of all ages are welcome to come along to give it a try. All equipment is provided. The cost for each session is \$10. For enquiries, call David on 0419 589 425.

Pickleball in play at Tony Clark Reserve, Macedon.



*Back Row: Coach Wayne, Charlotte, Caitlin, Ella, Zoe, Angus, Ava, coach Emily.
Front: Mitchell and Max.*

Swim club performs at Victorian Country Championships

Gisborne Thunder Swimming were once again well-represented at the Victorian Long Course Country Championships held at Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre in Traralgon in late January.

Gisborne Thunder had eight swimmers qualify and compete to represent our club.

Ella Baas, Caitlin Greed, Zoe Kucic, Charlotte Matthews, Angus Sharpe, Ava Hager, Max Dremel, and Mitchell Clarke swam in numerous events and relays over the weekend and collectively achieved 18 personal best times.

Mitchell swam at his first 'countries' for Gisborne

Thunder and placed third in the 50-metre breaststroke with a time of 42.63, an outstanding achievement! Congratulations to all our swimmers.

If you are interested in competing in some fun and friendly competition, please enquire about our monthly club nights held on the first Saturday of each month at the Gisborne Aquatic Centre.

The next one will be held on Saturday March 9 from 5.45pm. The only requirement is that you must be able to swim 25 metres. If you want to know more, please direct enquires to president@gisbornethunder.org.

Charlotte Matthews, club captain

Lawns renovated thanks to Community Bank

Macedon Ranges Croquet Club

With huge thanks to a \$4500 Community Bank (Bendigo Bank) grant, the Croquet Club's lawns were refurbished over Christmas and New Year. This generosity allowed our club to upgrade the condition of the courts which had seriously degraded over time.

As can be imagined, it is really important that the courts are level and free of hollows or bumps if players have any chance of sending a ball to where they want it to be.

Our members resumed play in mid-January and are delighted with the outcome of the work done. The break while this work was undertaken also allowed a 'new' secondhand kitchen to be installed with the help of the members of the Gisborne Men's Shed.

The club is now looking very good and anyone interested in this great game is invited to come down any-time on Monday, Wednesday or Saturday mornings to see for themselves.

Lyn Robinson



Club members enjoy the refurbished lawns.



IR Robertson Reserve users, councillors and Community Bank Gisborne director Mal Carter at the all-weather arena at the opening on 18 February.

Riding clubs open new arena

The new arena at the IR Robertson Reserve in South Gisborne was officially opened on 18 February. This was the culmination of hard work, dedication, and the unwavering support of our community.

The IR Robertson Reserve management committee and the three clubs using the reserve as their home — Gisborne Pony Club, Gisborne & District Adult Riding Club and the Melbourne Show Jumping Club — welcomed the deputy mayor of Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Janet Pearce, and local councillors Christine Walker and Dominic Bonnano to the opening.

Also warmly welcomed was Mal Carter, chair of the major sponsor, Community Bank Gisborne & District, whose generous donation of \$30,000 played a pivotal role in making this dream a reality. We also thank our

club sponsors for their assistance in funding the arena.

The journey to this point has been a collective effort, with the three clubs pooling their resources, using savings, income, fundraising and in-kind support to raise an impressive \$70,000.

The three riding clubs sincerely thank John Maynard and James Lang for their work in supervising and managing this huge project.

This new arena will not only provide adequate space for training but will also serve as a venue for large competitions, accommodating dressage, show jumping, and working equitation events. With four dressage arenas, two show jumping arenas, and a warm-up area on sand, the IR Robertson Reserve becomes a premium equestrian centre.

Arena picture ►page 37

Petanque club member makes Australian team selection



Mount Macedon Petanque Club is delighted to announce that Rhonda Shears has been selected in the Australian Senior (Plus 60s) team to compete against New Zealand in the annual Trans-Tasman tournament in March. The venue alternates between Australia and New Zealand and this year will be held in Subiaco, in Perth, WA.

It will be Rhonda's first time representing Australia and is a credit to her playing ability. The club wishes her well in the tournament.

The senior team consists of six female and six male players and the tournament involves doubles and triples games (some games are same gender and some are mixed). There is also an open team competing.

New Zealand have been the dominant team in recent years so here's hoping Australia can get up this time. Rhonda, who also happens to be the Mt Macedon Petanque Club secretary, finished second in the recent singles tournament for Northwest players held at Ballarat.

Some of our club members are getting out competing every weekend, barring hot weather cancellation of events. The remainder are enjoying playing at our playdays on our picturesque home ground.

Anyone interested in learning more about this



Rhonda Shears in action.

unique game that anyone can play, drop by to our club grounds behind the Ampol Service Station in Gisborne. Playdays are held every Wednesday at the new time of 3-6pm and Saturdays from 10am to 1pm on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month.

For enquiries please go to our website, mtmacedonpetanque.org, and for updates visit our Facebook page.

Alison Kinghorn

Latest news from Macedon Cricket Club

This season has seen our club move up in grade for all our senior men's teams. The firsts are in the McIntyre division for the first time in over 10 years and it has been great for the club and the development of our younger group.



We have been extremely competitive in most of our games and only narrowly lost to the league leaders a couple of games back. We have fielded eight players 17 years old or younger and provided them valuable games in the region's top division.

Their progression, growth and confidence has grown, and this will hold us in good stead for the future.

Our second and third teams are both going very strongly with both currently sitting in the top four and looking very strong in their grades with a fantastic mix of youth and experience.

The boys and girls playing for the Macedon juniors are impressing at local and representative level with 14 of our girls and boys representing their association in respective tournaments in January.

We have seen some terrific individual performances so far this season with Anthony Grobler, Ethan Raynor and Lueder DePodolinsky all making 100s at the local level. Similarly, we have also seen three of our teenagers playing premier cricket this year in the Dowling Shield and open age women's.

All of our junior sides are well placed at the upper end of the ladder with opportunities to compete in finals come March.

The club held its major social event, the annual trivia night, on 10 February at the Tony Clarke social rooms, and it was a great night for all there.

Many thanks to sponsors who supported the night.

Strong return for Dragons women's cricket



Senior women's cricket is well and truly back at the Gisborne Cricket Club with a successful start-up season in the GDCA senior women's competition. With great leadership from new coach Brianna Woodburn and support from key people at the club, the women's team had a fantastic season.

The team had a good blend of experienced players and some of our junior stars who have progressed through the Dragons' program. Although not quite making the finals this year, the season was a real success and the club has a solid foundation to build on in future years.

There was also a special 10-year reunion of the Dragons' last women's premiership team which provided our current players with a good link to the strong history of the club's women's team.

The Dragons Under 15 and Under 18 girls' teams are set to play in the finals.

Junior girls scholarship to start at Gisborne Golf Club



Back, (L-R): Women's co-captain Sharon Kemp, Claire Byham, Callum Wilkinson, committee member Roberta Henry. Front: Charlotte D'crus, Charlotte Collins, Summer Connors, Mackenzie Hay.

A great junior golfing program is about to start at the Gisborne Golf Club.

The club has obtained funding through the Australian Golf Foundation to support scholarships for five junior girls this year.

The scholarships are part of a national campaign to get more girls paying golf.

The program is designed for girls who have had some experience of the game and have a desire to improve and continue their golf.

Golf is one of the few world sports where the handicap system and course design removes gender inequality. The handicap system means everyone is equal on the golf course.

At Gisborne, they will receive coaching throughout



the year from resident PGA professional Callum Wilkinson to improve their golf skills, obtain a Golf Australia handicap, and play in club competitions. Each girl receives club membership with full playing rights, along with access to all club and practice facilities, including a driving range membership.

Participants will enjoy celebrations each term and the end of the year to mark their progress, and to foster friendships within the group and support their continuing love of playing golf.

The early enthusiasm of the first group of junior girls is contagious. They are all looking forward to an exciting year.



Happy participants in the International Day of People With Disability tennis day at South Gisborne.

Great summer of tennis at South Gisborne



South Gisborne Tennis Club, Tennis Vic and the Spark team provided many opportunities for our members and friends to participate in tennis activities throughout December and January. Internally, the International Day of People with Disability tennis day was a huge success with representatives attending from Blind Sports Victoria, Tennis Vic, SMRSS and Distinctive Options. Spark coaching and volunteers put players through their paces in many "have a go" experiences. Participation was high.

The Hot Shots kids got to play at Melbourne Park during the Australian Open and Trishna was lucky enough to flip the coin for Coco Gauff and Anna Schmiedlova!

A group from the All Abilities program also graced the AO and thoroughly enjoyed their experiences. On men's finals day, Thomas and Alexander accompanied by Kristen were invitees to play on court 11 with Tennis Vic and Blind Sports Victoria's other participants. What a blast they had! I believe the words "I play like Rafa!" were shouted more than once.



Trishna performed the coin toss for Anna Schmiedlova and Coco Gauff at the Australian Open.

Some of our juniors played in regional tournaments and are keen to continue on their tennis journey.

It's finals time for MRTA juniors/seniors. All the best to competing teams in the finals. Teams are being finalised for the winter season. Contact a team captain if you are interested in playing.

A date to go onto your calendars for all you budding tennis champions: On Sunday 24 March the club and Spark tennis are hosting a doubles tournament. Members and non-members very welcome. 32 teams and \$\$ to the winners. For all details of this event and upcoming events, follow us via the club website www.sgtenniscub.com.au.

Gail Scott

Giants nab spot in sports hub in New Gisborne



The Gisborne Giants Football Netball Club (GGFNC) is full steam ahead in preparation for the 2024 season and beyond.

The committee hit the ground running in back in November and officially launched the season in February.

Gisborne Giants is delighted to announce that Macedon Ranges Shire Council has confirmed the club as the lead winter tenant of the new Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct. This is a major milestone to support plans for full senior affiliation in the RDFNL for 2025 that will now start to take shape.



The club has some exciting developments underway as we enter season 2024. Our inaugural junior girls' program is underway with Pete Elliot as coach. Skills and 'come and try' sessions are being held at Sankey Reserve on Wednesdays from 5-6pm. The club is committed to developing a program that assists girls of all abilities to learn and develop their football skills.

For the first time in the Giants' short history, an Indigenous round is planned to run parallel with the AFL's Sir Doug Nichols round. We look forward to working with local indigenous community members to make the day successful.

Our netball program continues to expand with the introduction of U9s and D grade senior netball, along with the record numbers from U11 to U17.

The junior football sides have begun pre-season skills sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Bullengarook, with strong numbers in attendance. Our U19.5s side is back in pre-season training after making last year's grand final, led by Mark McKenzie as coach. As we prepare for full senior affiliation in 2025, the search for senior coaches will begin in the coming months.

Brad Gauci
Gisborne Giants president



SPORT IN PICTURES



Riley Vernon cuts a ball in his innings of 118 against Sunbury Kangaroos.



Georgia Weir, Girls U18, drives through the covers v Wallan.



A congratulatory hug from brother Jarryd as Riley Vernon reaches his century.



Girls cricket: T. Arthur of Gisborne bats against Lancefield.



Gisborne's Will Mackay drives through off against Sunbury Kangaroos.



◀▼Men's cricket, Gisborne▶



SPORT IN PICTURES



The Macedon Ranges Basketball Association 16.1 girls' team holds a training session at Tony Clarke stadium in February in preparation for the Victorian Junior Basketball season starting on March 8.



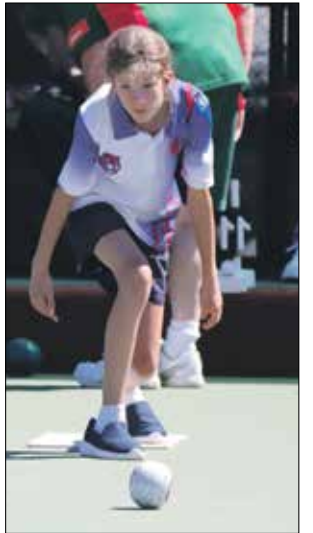
Girls futsal in play at Macedon in February.



Men's soccer, Gisborne v Mitchell Valley, at Dixon Fieldm, Gisborne.



Gisborne, Regional Bowls champs. From left: Helen Cyrulo, Dorothy Evans and Teresa Wylie.



Thirteen-year-old Amelia Larkin bowls for Macedon against Gisborne.



Pictures by Chris Fleming.
The pictures may be ordered at minimal cost from Maddison's of Gisborne, 1/27 Hamilton Street, Gisborne.

Official opening day of the new arena at IR Robertson Reserve on Couangalt Road, South Gisborne, on 18 February.

Easter at Mount Macedon Uniting Church



The Easter long weekend is maybe anticipated more than most: four blissful, work-free days (for most!), often with the last of the warm weather, to relax and de-stress.

But Easter is more than a long weekend; it is a time to gather and reflect on a message that is at the heart of our faith — Christ crucified and risen again.

As we celebrate Easter, may we dare to hope, as we recall once more Christ's message of love and peace for all the world.

Mount Macedon Uniting Church offers an opportunity for people in the wider community to come and hear the Easter message.

Our services are on Good Friday at 9am and Easter Sunday at 10.30am. Everyone welcome!

Celebrating reopening after Ash Wednesday

After Easter, on Sunday afternoon April 7 at 2.30pm, we will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the reopening of our church after the Ash Wednesday bushfires.

Forty years ago, over 500 people attended the celebration. We gratefully remember the massive efforts of so many who made it happen in just 14 months.

Rev Dr D'Arcy Wood will officiate and the Moderator-elect of the Uniting Church in Victoria/Tasmania, Rev Salesi Faupula, will preach.

We wish to contact as many people, or their families, as possible who contributed to the rebuilding, through planning, building, donations of furnishings and/or money.

If you are one of these people, or know of someone, please contact me by phone or at nettel@inet.net.au.

Neil Tweddle
5426 2045



Come and check out the craft group, have a coffee and see if you would like to take part.

Presbyterian craft group back for 2024



St Andrew's Presbyterian Church's craft group has recommenced for 2024 on the first and third Thursdays and last Saturday of the month, starting at 9.30am until approximately 3pm.

Come when you can and go when you must. Bring your craft project and machine etc and your lunch for the amount of time that suits you.

If you do not have a current project to work on, we have kits available to make gifted quilts. Even if you don't sew, we encourage other crafts and have people willing to assist and teach a new skill if you choose.

We welcome you to come and "check us out", have a coffee and a chat to see if you would like to participate.

For information, please contact Marsha on 0428 843 959 or Marion on 0448 887 657.



St Brigid's Parish Gisborne – incorporating St Ambrose Riddells Creek and St Patrick's Macedon
 Parish Priest: Fr. Vincent Nguyen

St Patrick's Day Mass

Sunday 17 March at 9.30pm
 Healing Mass

The next Healing Mass will be celebrated in St Brigid's CHurch on Friday 22 March at 10am

Easter Mass schedule

27 March, 6.15pm - Tenebrae and Communal Service of Forgiveness

28 March, 9am - First Rite of Reconciliation
 7pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper

29 March, 10am - Stations of the Cross
 3pm - Passion of the Lord

30 March, 9am - First Rite of Reconciliation
 7pm - Easter Vigil

31 March, 8am - Easter Mass at St Ambrose Riddells Creek

9.30am - Easter Mass at St Patricks Macedon

11am - Easter Mass at St Brigid's Gisborne.



A scene at Carols by Candlelight in December at John Aitken Reserve.

A thank you for carols, and a new event coming up

Presented by the Voice of Gladness, the Carols by Candlelight event in Aitken Street last year was a great success with a large audience attending. The children enjoyed the free show bags, pony rides and petting zoo.

The main artist, Albert Mataafa, who is a true bel canto, delighted all ages as he performed many arias. The sweet-sounding harmony between Albert and Stephanie Barnes (guest singer from the House of The Rock) was the highlight of the evening in their performance of *The Prayer*.

The seven supporting singers along with the budding musicians added to the ambience of the evening. The Nativity story was beautifully interwoven throughout the musical. The birth of Christ was shared with the Gisborne community for the third year.

The mouthwatering vegan ice-cream and the Indian food truck were well received with people coming back for more. Voice of Gladness acknowledges with gratitude all the wonderful singers, musicians, actors and the many people working behind the scenes. Lastly a big thank you to our sponsors.

A new production presented by the Voice of Gladness, *Calvary* – a story contemplating the life, the death and resurrection of the Messiah – will be a free community event this month.

Children's activities will be available to entertain the little ones. Food trucks will be on site or BYO picnic dinner. All are invited to join us on Friday March 22 from 6pm till 9pm at John Aitken Reserve, Gisborne.

All enquiries to 0425 781 581.



**100
YEARS AGO**

From the pages of the old *Gisborne Gazette*

MARCH 1924

Gisborne News and Notes. Inebriates and dipsomaniacs visiting Gisborne had better avoid tanglefoot and obfuscating beverages while hanging about the town, for Constable H. Kettle is determined to rid the place of such nuisance. Two such gentry recently fell into the meshes of his net and had to spend the night in durance vile. One arrested a fortnight ago was fined ten shillings, and the other, a staggering, bearded wild man of the woods looking fellow, was on Tuesday morning discharged by Mr G.F. Swinburne, J.P., to admit of his going to work on a threshing machine. Both men gave ridiculously fictitious names when arrested. Mr. Swinburne obviously thought they would be of more benefit to the community by being at honest work in the country, than by being pampered on black bread and hominy in the Melbourne Gaol, and we agree with him.

Gisborne Gazette, 7 March 1924

Naval Visitors. Quite a stir occurred at the Gisborne railway station on Wednesday morning, on the arrival of the special train carrying members of the British Fleet on a trip to Bendigo. The station was gaily decorated with bunting by Mr. King, the station master, and there was a large attendance of district residents and the scholars from the New Gisborne State School, attended in charge of the head master, Mr. Hall. The reception was very warm and Cr. J.A. Beattie, on behalf of the Shire Council and residents, extended a welcome to the officers and men.

Gisborne Gazette, 21 March 1924

Gisborne Golf Club. An important meeting was held last Wednesday for the purpose of considering the establishment of a first-class golf course at Gisborne, and to thus materially assist the movement recently initiated to advance the claims of Gisborne as one of Victoria's most picturesque country towns. The well-known golf professional W.L. Spicer submitted a report on the possibilities together with an estimate of cost of completion and maintenance at £600.

Sunbury News, 22 March 1924

Gisborne Horticultural Show – A Record Success. The Gisborne Horticultural Show on Saturday was one of the most successful ever held in the district. Entries totalled 625 and the exhibits in all classes were uniformly good. The vegetables and farm produce competition was very keen and maize up to a foot high was shown, while some of the potatoes weighed over 2 lbs. The fruit, needlework and educational exhibits received much attention and the resources of the district were further demonstrated by fine samples of granite, large deposits of which exist here.

Weekly Times (Melb), 29 March 1924



**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

CROCHET & CONVERSATIONS 1st Mon 2.30pm Gisborne Library

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 MR FEC 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@juseikan.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

OBDIANCE DOG CLUB Sun 9am Riddells Rec Res

PETANQUE 2nd & 4th Sat 10am behind Ampol 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

Grants to support women and girls in sport

State Government grants of up to \$10,000 are available to support community sport and recreation clubs or organisations to increase participation, build capability, promote gender equity and support the professional development of women and girls playing, volunteering and working in community sport.

In this round of the program there is also a strong focus on supporting club or organisation initiatives that encourage the equitable inclusion of women and girls from all backgrounds and experiences.

The program is part of an initiative called Change Our Game, working to make sport more accessible, increasing local participation and providing opportunities for all Victorians to be leaders in their local sporting community.

Applications for this program close at 5pm on Monday 4 March. For more information about Change Our Game programs, visit changeourgame.vic.gov.au.

Changes to Black Forest Drive

Works are taking place along Black Forest Drive between Quarry Road and Mount Macedon Road.

The works include reducing the lanes to one lane in each direction to allow for dedicated bike lanes, a painted centre median to provide space for right-turn lanes and pedestrian refuges, installation of rumble strips, and road resealing.

The State Government allocated \$6 million in the 2021-22 Budget for safety improvements on Black Forest Drive. Works are expected to be completed in the second half of this year, weather permitting.

For more information, visit the Regional Roads Victoria website www.regionalroads.vic.gov.au and search Black Forest Drive.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Apollo 8
2. 78 RPM (revolutions per minute)
3. Photograph
4. Rembrandt
5. Irrational fear of snakes
6. Peru
7. Jerilderie
8. 50
9. 40
10. Yttrium

KIDS' QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Rice
2. A pumpkin
3. The Elements
4. Their leaves
5. At night
6. Mazda
7. China
8. Bear
9. Two
10. T

Baringo Film Club

Screening times: 3pm Wednesday
7pm Friday, 3pm Saturday

Date	Film
March 6 to 10	As Good as it Gets (1997)
March 13 to 23	Funny Cow (2023)
March 20 to 23	EGO The Michael Gudinsky Story
March 27 to 30	Haunting in Venice (2023)

Membership is now closed. We are trialling Friday evening screenings at 7pm. Hot snacks available in the adjacent restaurant prior.

www.baringofilmclub.com



Drug driving? The consequences will blow your mind.

Police are conducting drug tests across Victoria, which helps to keep our roads safe. Being caught with illicit drugs in your system could result in a minimum fine of \$577 and possible licence suspension. Drug driving? Chances are you will be caught. Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

TAC 



Time for a home loan health check!

With the current cost of living, there's never been a better time to review your home loan.

We'll look at your rate, term, repayments, and equity, giving your loan a full check-up to make sure it's still right for you and your current needs.

Enquire online at [bendigobank.com.au/healthcheck](https://www.bendigobank.com.au/healthcheck) or call your nearest branch on 5420 7210.

 **Community Bank · Gisborne & District**
11 Nexus Way, Gisborne



 **Bendigo Bank**

*Source: Roy Morgan Single Source Australia, May 2023. All loans are subject to the bank's normal lending criteria. Fees, charges, terms and conditions apply. Please consider your situation and read the Terms and Conditions, available online at www.bendigobank.com.au or upon request from any Bendigo Bank branch, before making a decision. Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178 AFSL 237879 (1676698-1734981) (05/22) OUT_35198944, 20/02/2024