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# Gisborne Gazette

serving the southern macedon ranges

APRIL 2023

## Queens of slice

Kara Chun and Bec O'Farrell worked with an enthusiastic group of parents to make more than 300 serves of zucchini slice for students and staff at Holy Cross Primary School in March.

The team used produce from the school veggie patch, fresh eggs from the school chickens and lots of love to make the tasty and healthy treats.

Read many more stories of amazing local volunteers and other doings inside this edition.

Picture: Holy Cross Primary School

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## From the Editor's desk

So often, the fun of doing something with other people is as much the being together as what you're actually doing. That's certainly the feeling I got when this month's cover photo arrived from Holy Cross Primary School with the beaming faces of Kara Chun and Bec O'Farrell, happily presenting a zucchini slice they made for the school community.

The photos of Maxine Barker dressed up with her cousin Becky at Sovereign Hill on this page, St Brigid's' students in their house colours at school cross country on page 26 and Wally's Mini-Diggers taking out Gisborne Bowling Club's Tuesday barefoot bowls competition on page 37 also exude that feeling.

It is this combination of camaraderie and shared activity that Gisborne Soccer Club highlights in its notice seeking a few more players for their 15 to 17-year-old girls' team on page 35.

To borrow a favourite word of our talented production editor Pip Butler, there are oodles of events on in April, and many are perfect to attend, explore or undertake with people you know, and/or are opportunities to meet like-minded locals.

### Events and festival

On top of events organised by the many community groups with reports in this edition, such as Macedon Ranges Phoenix Art and Craft Group and the Gallery art shows (details page 16), the Gisborne Singers' Mozart *Requiem* concert (page 17) and the term two activities at MRFEC (page 14), April is also the month of the Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival.

The festival offers a wide variety of events locally and around the shire, including a Pie and Tart Trail, e-bike and e-vehicle expos and the Edgy Veg vegetarian food competition at local eateries (details page 6). A handy list of local events is on page 39.

### Long partnership

Last but certainly not least, doing things together with the same people for a long time can be extra special and I send my congratulations to Erin and June Thornton who recently celebrated 70 years of marriage (story on page 38).

Happy reading,

Corinne Shaddock

Don't miss

## MACEDON FARMERS MARKET

SATURDAY 29 APRIL

MACEDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

9am - 1pm

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### OBITUARIES

To submit an obituary for publication, please email [bryanp2@bigpond.com](mailto:bryanp2@bigpond.com) or phone 0417 140 828. Please also provide a photograph for publication and restrict the article to about 250 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, Gisborne Medical Centre in Brantome Street, Coles and Foodworks supermarkets.

**Mt Macedon:** The Trading Post.

**Macedon:** Post Office and United Service Station on Black Forest Drive.

**New Gisborne:** Baringo Food & Wine, Station Road; Cafe at 3 Ladd Road, industrial estate.

**Riddells Creek:** Newsagency.

**Woodend:** Coles supermarket.

Supported by Macedon Ranges Shire Council

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

## A MINUTE WITH MAXINE

My cousin Becky has been visiting from the UK, so 'A Minute with Maxine' is a bit different this month.

Becky and I have been all over the place in the past three weeks and of course took a *Gazette* with us.

It started with us dressing up at Sovereign Hill.

Then came a visit to Jirrahlinga Dingo Conservation and Wildlife Education Centre in Chewton, where you can have a guided tour and interact with a wombat, dingo, emu, lizards and snakes.

In Ballarat Wildlife Park we were able to hand feed kangaroos and have a professional photo taken with a koala. And in Beechworth, we enjoyed a trip to the honey shop and the old court house museum.

Maxine Barker

Maxine and Becky  
at Sovereign Hill.



## Gisborne Olde Time Market

Sunday  
2 April

For more information, call 0431 563 566  
or go to [www.gisborneoldetimetmarket.org.au](http://www.gisborneoldetimetmarket.org.au)



## JPs available

Every Thursday 12 noon to 2pm  
at the GREAT (Gisborne Region Events Activities & Tourism) office, 23 Hamilton Street, Gisborne.



# Students help charity with World's Greatest Shave

Three Gisborne students participated in this year's World's Greatest Shave and cut their manes to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation and donate their hair to make wigs for people with cancer.



Hairdresser Angie prepares Evie's hair for the cut by braiding it.  
Pictures: Jane Robson

## Evie donates her long braid

Twelve-year-old Evelyn Robson from Gisborne is proud to have donated her super long hair (over 50cm worth) and to have raised more than \$1300 for the Leukaemia Foundation.

She wants other kids to know that you do not have to shave off all your hair to participate in "the shave" and would encourage anyone who is thinking about cutting their long hair to consider signing up to raise money for this super worthy cause.

"I have been growing my hair for a long time now so the cut was a big change,"

said Evie. "I was excited but pretty nervous before getting it cut – but it felt great to be doing it for such a good cause.

"I love my new short hair and would like to send a huge thank you to Angie at Anaste Hair and Beauty for the amazing cut. I love it."



A proud Evie after the chop.

## Oli offers locks for second time

Twelve-year-old Oliver Wotherspoon, in year 6 at Gisborne Primary, participated in the World's Greatest Shave four years ago, at age eight. He decided right after his first haircut for charity to do it again and the second time raise funds for the Leukemia Foundation and donate his hair for wigs.

Hairdresser Kaylene Maiuolo did the honours on 15 March at Colour my World in Aitken Street. Oli's fundraising goal was \$1500 and when the *Gazette* went to print he had raised \$1708.

Oli quite likes his shorter hairstyle and said it felt like he had no hair any more.



Oliver Wotherspoon with proud mum Melinda Corcoran (left) and hairdresser Kaylene Maiuolo. Pictures: Chris Fleming.

## Owen sacrifices his mullet

Seven-year-old Owen Damrow, a student at Macedon Primary School, participated in The World's Greatest Shave because he wanted to help people with blood cancer. He felt excited the week before his big haircut then "nervous, strange, happy and grateful" right before the actual shave.

Owen said getting a clean-shaven head was totally worth it because it is for such a good cause but now his head feels cold and he needs a beanie. Owen's goal was to raise \$500, however he ended up raising much more: \$885.

...and afterwards.

Pictures: Fiona Damrow.



Seven-year-old Owen Damrow with mullet before the shave....



## BOOK LAUNCH

### Memories of Ash Wednesday in the Macedon Ranges

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Ash Wednesday fire, the *Gisborne Gazette* has produced a book that features the stories of 63 individuals and families who survived the traumatic events of 16 February 1983. There is also a wealth of information gathered from reports published at the time.

This handsome book, edited by Bryan Power, is illustrated with many photographs, some of which were taken during the fire.

The book will be launched by Athol Guy, AO, at Jubilee Hall in Smith Street, Macedon, on Sunday 30 April beginning at 2pm.

Afternoon tea will be served. Copies of the book will be on sale at \$40.

Everyone is warmly invited to attend. We'd love to see readers there supporting this initiative.

Following the launch, copies of the book will be available for purchase at the Trading Post and the newsagencies at Macedon and Gisborne.

Copies can also be ordered online via email to [bryanp2@bigpond.com](mailto:bryanp2@bigpond.com). Postage cost is expected to be around \$9 or \$10.

Donations can still be made to shave participants on the World's Greatest Shave website, [theworldsgreatestshave.com](http://theworldsgreatestshave.com)

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## VALE: Jean Dixon

The *Gazette* notes with sadness that long-time Gisborne resident and community volunteer Jean Dixon, 91, passed away in the Royal Melbourne hospital on 12 March.

Jean was a member of the Red Cross singers (who regularly entertained residents of the Oaks) for 32 years and also of the Red Cross.

She was the wife of John (dec) and much-loved aunt and friend of many.



## Car boot sale

Woodend Lifestyle Carers Group, a dementia carers' group, is holding a car boot sale on Saturday 1 April, at Macgregor's Farm, 78 Old Lancefield Road, Woodend North (cnr Barkers Road), from 10am to 3pm.



If you are interested in participating on the sales side, call 0418 638 791 to book your spot.

## Local tree on national register

A eucalypt in the Mt Gisborne Bushland Reserve has been included on the National Trust's Significant Tree Register.

The tree has been assessed as between 200 and 300 years old.

The Friends of Mt Gisborne Bushland Reserve, who help care for the reserve and have long advocated for upgraded protections, said they hoped the listing would assist Macedon Ranges Shire Council in ensuring protections now in place were complied with.



*The tree on Mt Gisborne now on the register.*

# It's Autumn Festival time

From 1 to 30 April, a month-long program of curated trails and itineraries, foodie experiences, artisan workshops, autumn gardens, farmers markets and events is on offer across the shire.

Follow the Autumn Pie & Tart Trail, or vote for your favourite plant-based dish on the Macedon Ranges Edgy Veg Trail (see more on page 6). Wet your whistle on a variety of Tipple Trails, where you'll get a taste of local wine, craft beer, gin and cider served up in country pubs, distillery doors and breweries.

There will be much to see and do across the shire during autumn. To plan your itinerary, go to [visitmacedonranges.com/autumn-festival](http://visitmacedonranges.com/autumn-festival).

## Temporary traffic measures for April

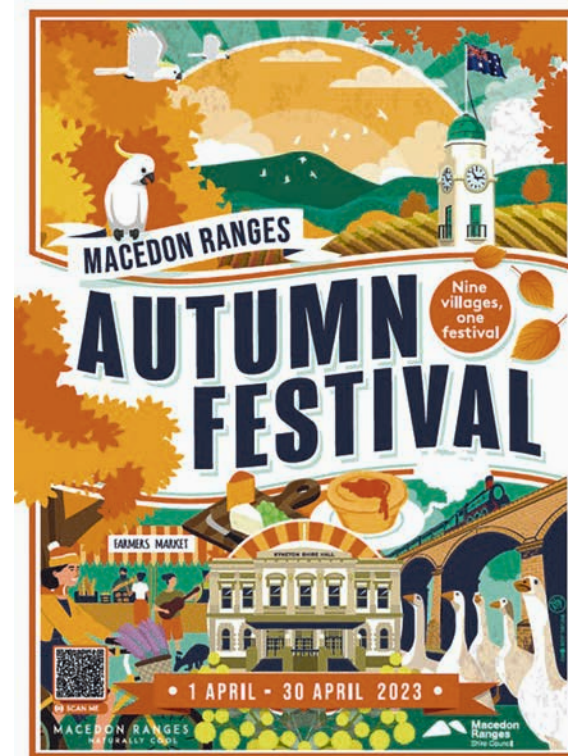
Traffic management measures and extra amenities will be in place throughout April to support residents and safely guide visitors eager to witness Macedon and Mt Macedon's stunning autumn leaf displays.

It is a common belief for many people and cultures that catching a falling autumn leaf will bring good luck.

The annual influx of visitors provides a welcome boost to local businesses, however, the council is equally committed to supporting residents' amenity during this busy period, to minimise disruption and protect the natural environment that makes the Macedon Ranges so special.

In collaboration with communities, authorities, local businesses and open gardens, temporary measures which will be in place from 9am to 5pm on weekends and public holidays from 1 to 30 April include:

- the closure of Honour Avenue to vehicle traffic between Mt Macedon Road and Waterfalls Road, to maintain traffic flow along Mt Macedon Road and ensure visitor safety
- dedicated visitor parking close to Honour Avenue and Centennial Park
- a hop-on, hop-off shuttle bus service (\$5 per adult) that will run from the visitor hub at Centennial Park to the open gardens, festival events, and Mt Macedon township
- additional amenities and a visitor information booth at Centennial Park
- speed reductions to 40kmh and "No U-turn" repeater signs along Mount Macedon Road, as well as



"no standing" signs on one side of Devonshire Lane.

The council will provide vehicle passes to support residents affected by road closures, while signs will also be available for residents to install on fences, advising visitors of private property (no access) and to keep driveways clear.

Visitors will also be encouraged to experience other activities in the shire throughout April as part of the autumn festival.

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council CEO, Bernie O'Sullivan, said the shire-wide festival was initially implemented to help entice the autumn visitors to explore other parts of the shire and support more community events and local businesses.

"The festival is now in its third year and has proven to be extremely successful in providing a boost to our local businesses and community," he said.

"In 2022, the festival contributed an estimated \$1.6 million to our visitor economy.

"I'd like to thank our community for supporting the event, and to reassure residents that we have taken feedback on board and implemented measures to better support this year's festivities."

Visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/autumn-leaves](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/autumn-leaves) for more information on the autumn leaves management plan, or visit [visitmacedonranges.com/autumn-festival](http://visitmacedonranges.com/autumn-festival) for general Autumn Festival information.

# Hamilton Street Vet

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# GARAGE SALE!

22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> April

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Happy students who have received \$5000 scholarships, with Vicki Hillyer and Sarah Barton of Gisborne Bendigo Bank.

## Eight students to have easier start to studies

Community Bank Gisborne & District was delighted to award eight tertiary scholarships to local youth in March.

Amali Andrews, Caleb Boag, Lachlan Casey, Amelia Graham, Natalie Port, Maya Russell, Abbey Vickery and Ruby Watts each received a \$5000 scholarship to help them start tertiary study this year. Maya Russell was also awarded a \$5000 bursary per year for her second and third years of tertiary study.

The students plan to put their scholarship funds towards technology and other study materials, accommodation, transport costs and course fees, and several said they would have more time to focus on their studies as they would need to work less.

The scholarship recipients completed secondary

school at Gisborne Secondary College, Braemar College and Salesian College Sunbury and will be studying a range of courses from arts, education, science and law to property and real estate and furniture design, in and around Melbourne.

The board and staff of Community Bank Gisborne & District wish Amali, Caleb, Lachlan, Amelia, Natalie, Abbey, Ruby and Maya all the best for their studies and hope the scholarships help them have a successful transition to and first year at college or university.

Branch manager Sarah Barton said that meeting the new branch scholarship students each year was a highlight of her year.

Community Bank Gisborne & District is the locally owned and operated branch of Bendigo Bank.

## Wyralla Reserve finally makes it to official opening

Opening ceremony Saturday 22 April, 11am, Wyralla Crescent, Gisborne.

The Wyralla Reserve Landscape Plan was initiated by the Friends of Wyralla Reserve Inc and it has taken many years to achieve this outcome. At last, the reserve is complete. All members of the community are invited to the opening ceremony.

This will be an opportunity to meet local councillors and the people who have worked to achieve a local park at the Wyralla Reserve. There will be a few brief speeches.

The Community Bank and the Macedon Ranges Shire Council both provided grants that allowed a landscape plan to be developed. Copies of the final landscape plan will be available. Those interested can learn about the various plant species that have been used in the reserve and see how the overall plan has been implemented.

Also available will be a list of birds seen on and around the reserve. There will be some colouring in for children and maybe even a prize.

Come to enjoy the fabulous views of the Macedon Ranges from the reserve. Come for the children to use the swings and slide. Come to enjoy the stone seating. There is easy access, with paths entering from Kurung Court and Wyralla Crescent.

We hope to see you at the opening ceremony.

*Friends of the Wyralla Reserve Inc.*



Wyralla Reserve.



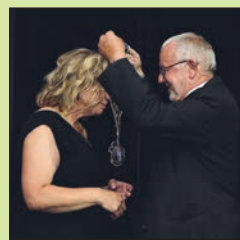
Kelly and John Scott at Kelly's induction as national president of Australian Funeral Directors Association Right: John presents the chain of office to Kelly.

## Scott family trailblazers

Congratulations to Kelly Scott, general manager of T J Scott & Son, well-known funeral directors in Gisborne, who was appointed national president of the Australian Funeral Directors Association in March for the next two years.

Kelly's father, John Scott, was national president from 2009 to 2011 and they are the first father-daughter to serve in this role.

Kelly said one of the main purposes of the association was to promote professional standards in the unregulated industry.



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## COUNCILLOR'S COLUMN

With Cr Dominic Bonanno

Hello All,

Autumn is upon us, and it is a beautiful time of the year around Gisborne and in the Macedon Ranges.

A reminder: there are many events around the shire as part of the Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival, which won top spot in the Festivals and Events category at the 2023 Victorian Tourism Awards and was awarded silver in the Festivals and Events category at the Australian Tourism Awards recently. I encourage you all to get out and about to support our local businesses or maybe enjoy the sights and sounds of our beautiful part of Australia.

It's great to see the much-needed stadium and sports oval at the Macedon Ranges Sports Complex in New Gisborne taking shape. I know a lot of families and kids in particular who are very excited to start using the facilities from early 2024.

Among the items discussed at our latest scheduled council meeting, I thought I'd highlight a few items of interest:

- Out for community consultation — and I encourage you to submit your thoughts (go to Have Your Say on the council website) — are the Draft Community Local Law 2023 and Draft Shire Wide Footpath Plan
- Approving a Small Project Grant to Gisborne Soccer Club for the installation of three-phase power at Dixon Field, to support the group to accommodate higher electrical loads and reduce OHS issues associated with the current power set-up. Other groups that use the space including the CFA/police will benefit from the project as well.
- Approving the preliminary designs of the Macedon Ranges Shared Trails (Woodend to Riddells Creek) Project: This is an exciting project (running through New Gisborne) that will deliver a 24-kilometre shared-use trail for cycling, walking and jogging along the rail corridor that will be off-road, where possible, and safe for all community members, encouraging low-volume cycling, walking and running.

As always, if you wish to contact me, you can reach me on 0419 829 867 or [dbonanno@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:dbonanno@mrsc.vic.gov.au).

Take care and see you around town!

## E-bikes and e-vehicles in Macedon Ranges



The Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group (MRSG) is holding events in April as part of

the Macedon Ranges Shire Council's growing Autumn Festival.

Held in conjunction with the Woodend Neighbourhood House, the first ever E-bike Expo on 1 April will host and showcase a range of e-bikes including Dutch Cargo bikes, Giant e-bikes courtesy of Woodend Cycles along with a variety of bikes owned by community members who will be there to share their experiences of living with an e-bike in the Macedon Ranges.

Alongside new e-bikes, REV Bikes will guide you through the process of converting your existing bike to an e-bike. REV specialise in installing top-quality e-bike kits to virtually any bike, building practical and personalised electric bikes to suit your riding style and to meet your individual needs.

If you have been exploring the transition to electric vehicles, then the Malmsbury Electric Vehicle Expo on 15 April is for you.

This expo will explore the pros and cons of moving to electric vehicles with a range of EV industry experts



David Budge has converted this classic Land Rover into an electric vehicle.

presenting on topics such as classic car conversions, preparing your home for an electric vehicle, and new EVs available in Australia in 2023.

There are lots of models to explore including a classic Land Rover that has been converted by guest presenter David Budge.

Bookings and more information can be found at [mrsg.org.au/slf](http://mrsg.org.au/slf).

Submitted by Nikki Barker on behalf of Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group

## 2023 Edgy Veg awards are on

Three Little Pigs, Corner Boutique Coffee Bar, Jolly Miller, Mr Macedon, Mt Macedon Trading Post, the Flying Pigeon, Grand Guru, Baringo Food & Wine Co and Canteena have all submitted dishes to this year's Edgy Veg Awards.

The Edgy Veg Awards encourage local eateries to put their plant-based cooking prowess front and centre during April.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to try new dishes, and to think about how their food choices



can make a difference to living sustainably.

The event will run during the Autumn Festival from 1 to 30 April, and cafe patrons can vote on every dish they try.

Voting is easy: each participating cafe will display the competition QR code that you can scan to rate your dish online. You can find out more about the Edgy Veg Awards from the website [veg.mrsg.org.au/edgy-veg-awards](http://veg.mrsg.org.au/edgy-veg-awards) or scan the QR code in this article.

The awards are an initiative of Veg Action of Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group and are funded by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council as part of its Sustainable Living Festival series.

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## Mary-Anne Thomas MP

LABOR MEMBER FOR MACEDON

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





## Stallholder Profile

## Riddell Fudge Factory

I would like to introduce the Riddell Fudge Factory as the Gisborne Olde Time Market stallholder for April. Their story is a credit to all involved.

The fudge factory was started by Kate and Leanne who are neighbours and long-term residents of Riddells Creek. Both have family members who were first responders and had been adversely affected by their work. Kate and Leanne knew they wanted to support first responders who live with PTSD and other mental health conditions that resulted from their service to the community and came up with the idea of making fudge.

The Riddell Fudge Factory was launched in March 2021 and together they began raising money for The Code 9 Foundation, with the aim of sponsoring the training of an assistance dog for a first responder in need.

For 18 months Kate and Leanne donated 100 per cent of their profits, raising an amazing \$36,000 and, with their Code 9 Larapinta trekking team, a whopping total of more than \$60,000.

They still enjoy making fudge and experimenting with new flavours. The Fudge Factory is now a small business,



Goodies on display at the Riddell Fudge Factory's market stall.

selling delicious home-made gourmet fudge at local markets in the Macedon Ranges, including the Riddell's Creek Farmers Market and the Gisborne Olde Time Market. Kate and Leanne continue to support the Code 9 foundation. If you would like to know more about Code 9

go [www.code9ptsd.org.au/](http://www.code9ptsd.org.au/).

Please come along and see the Riddells Creek Fudge Factory at our next market and show your support for a local business that has financially supported a very worthy charity.

*Karan, Gisborne Olde Time Market team*

## Restoration works on Bunjil Creek move ahead

The rehabilitation of Bunjil Creek in Gisborne is due for completion in June.



Bunjil Creek, which runs into Jacksons Creek, extends about 4.2km south from its origin at the summit of Mount Gisborne into the township.

Known first by locals as the east arm of Howey Creek and given an official name some years ago of the 'South Gisborne Drain', the waterway was officially renamed Bunjil Creek in 2018 by Melbourne Water.

An environmental management plan was developed for Bunjil and Howey Creeks in 2020.

Last year, the Department of Transport asked Macedon Ranges Shire Council to undertake the rehabilitation of Bunjil Creek between the bridge over Bunjil Creek (near the cemetery) and Jacksons Creek. A landscape plan was developed in collaboration with the Friends of Jacksons Creek, Gisborne Landcare, Melbourne Water, Regional Roads Victoria and the council.

The landscape plan defines areas for restoration, including weed control and revegetation, as well as proposed planting lists.

Environmental contractors have begun the on-ground works. Woody weeds will be removed in autumn (woody weeds can include trees such as willows). The planting of around 13,000 wildflowers, grasses, sedges and shrubs will take place in winter and is expected to finish up in June.

These rehabilitation works are funded by the State Government.

## SEEN AROUND TOWN

Sarah and Lukas at the virtual reality firefighting experience at the Macedon Fire Brigade fundraiser on 28 February. The brigade was pleased to raise in excess of \$23,000 on the day.



Works continue on the Macedon Ranges Regional Sports Precinct in New Gisborne, and the oval across the street from the stadium under construction showed its shape in March.



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## Voting now open for the Community Choice Awards

Nominations for the Telstra Macedon Ranges Community Choice Awards are in and it is now time to vote for the businesses you think go above and beyond in their day-to-day delivery of goods and services. The categories are Agribusiness and Primary Producers, Health and Wellbeing, Hospitality and Accommodation, Retail and Service, and Trades and Manufacturing. Voting closes at 5pm on Friday 2 June. To vote, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/community-choice](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/community-choice).

## Recycle right and win

Keep an eye out for your bins on recycling day. The council is thanking and rewarding households who make a big impact by sorting their waste correctly. If you receive a 'Kerby' bin mascot sticker on your bin between 1 April and 31 July, your household will automatically go into the lucky prize draw to win one of three \$100 gift card vouchers each month.

To learn more, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/four-bin-system](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/four-bin-system).

## Check out the Fungi Town Caravan

The Fungi Town Caravan is an interactive art installation on wheels that artist Kathy Holowko has been touring through the Macedon Ranges. The Fungi Town Caravan provides a tactile experience for people of all ages, and a chance to learn about environmental and community resilience.

Join Kathy for a fun and creative school holiday workshop. Kathy weaves environmental information into a fun and interactive workshop for children aged five and above.

A colourful caravan appears as a magical entry point to view a diorama of a forest floor with fungi as the main attraction. Children are introduced to the fascinating life of fungi in local forests, learning about the way they grow and their role in ecology. The workshop is followed by a hands-on activity of making fungi sculptures out of paper, tape and oil pastel.

Wednesday 12 April, 10am to 12 noon and 1pm to 3pm, Kyneton Town Hall; Thursday 13 April, 10am to 12 noon and 1pm to 3pm, Romsey Community Hub.

The caravan will also be at the Macedon Village Farmers Market on Saturday 29 April and the Riddells Creek Farmers Market on 2 May.

Tickets to the school holiday workshop are \$15. To register and to learn more, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/fungi-caravan](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/fungi-caravan).

## Cool-ER Changes — collaboration for climate change

Thank you to everyone who attended the council's Cool-ER Changes Launch at Kyneton on 2 March. Around 150 people attended the event, showing a col-

lective commitment to climate action in the Macedon Ranges. The Cool-ER Changes project will result in the council's inaugural Climate Emergency Response Plan, outlining our strategic approach to enacting our Declaration of Climate Emergency. A highlight of the night was the screening of *Bridging the Divide*, a short film with climate conversations between younger and older people, which can be viewed at [mrsc.vic.gov.au/BTD](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/BTD).



During March, the council also hosted the first two of six Cool-ER Changes workshops, which allowed conversations between community members, council representatives and local agencies. The next two workshops are:

**Workshop 3 – Post-Fossil Fuels:** Thursday 20 April, 6pm to 8.15pm, at the Gisborne Community Centre: From electric vehicles and sustainable transport to neighbourhood batteries and community owned renewables, what does a post-fossil fuel world look like in the Macedon Ranges?

**Workshop 4 – Health and Wellbeing:** Thursday 4 May, 6pm to 8.15pm, at the Romsey Hub: From future-proofing community sport to strengthening our mental health – prioritising physical health and wellbeing in a climate crisis.

A light vegetarian dinner will be provided at each workshop. For more information and to register, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/Cool-ER-Changes](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/Cool-ER-Changes).

## Climate change and health and wellbeing

The council has also developed two handy factsheets about health and wellbeing and climate change, plus conversation cards to use at home, school or work. For copies, email [environment@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:environment@mrsc.vic.gov.au).

## Sustainable House Kits for hire

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is pleased to partner with Goldfields Libraries to provide Sustainable House Kits. The kits allow people to conduct self-assessments of their homes and offer practical tips to help increase energy efficiency and lower the cost of bills. The kits include:

- Thermal camera – to identify draughts and heat/cooling-loss spots
- Power meter – to identify electricity usage of individual appliances
- Energy-saving thermometer – to build understanding of seasonal temperature comfort levels
- The Energy Freedom Homes handbook – a guide to home energy efficiency and reduction.

Kits can be borrowed via the Gisborne Library, using a library card. For information and availability, contact the library on 5428 3962 or visit [www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au](http://www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au).

## Environmental events

### 1 Creatures of the night – spotlight events

The biodiversity monitoring program includes surveying for night animals that are found by the roadsides within the council's biolink areas.

Five spotlight evenings will be held, starting at Bulengarook on 4 April at 7pm. Events will also be held on 6 April at Newham, 7pm; 11 April at Kyneton, 7pm; 13 April at Lauriston, 7pm; and 18 April at Riddells Creek, 7pm.

### 2 Bird walk for beginners – Gisborne

Thursday 20 April, 9am to 10am along Jacksons Creek, Gisborne.

Join bird enthusiast and Biodiversity Project Officer, Tanya Loos, along Jacksons Creek for an hour with the birds. Learn to identify the little birds and practise using the Birddata app to record sightings.

Monthly walks will be held on the third Thursday of each month.

To find out more about the above events and to register, visit [www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events](http://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events).

## Grant workshops coming soon

Workshops to support community groups interested in applying for funding through one of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council's grant programs will be held in April and May. If you are interested in finding out more about the Community Funding Scheme or the Small Project Grants programs, this is an opportunity not to be missed.

### Workshop dates

**Session 1:** Grant Information session, Wednesday 26 April, 10am-12 noon, Woodend Community Centre.

**Session 2:** Grant Information session, Wednesday 26 April, 6.30-7.30pm, online via Zoom.

**Session 3:** Troubleshooting Clinic, Wednesday 24 May, 10am-12 noon, Romsey Hub.

Attendees may bring in partly completed applications and seek support on any sections they may be struggling with.

These sessions will also cover how to use the Smarty Grants platform, as applications for all three grant programs are now through Smarty Grants. Please note, there have been a few updates to the Community Funding Scheme since the last round, so we recommend everyone interested in applying come along to at least one session.

Bookings are essential. For more information, call 5422 0333, email [grants@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:grants@mrsc.vic.gov.au) or visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/grants](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/grants).

## Connections for over-55s Pathways for Carers



A chance for carers of older people or people with a disability or mental illness to walk together and to learn more about the services and supports available. The walks are held in Kyneton.

The next dates are Fridays 14 April and 5 May. Meet at 9.45am at the rotunda in Kyneton Botanical Gardens (2 Campaspe Crescent). This is a free event. Registration is required. Contact Abbey on 5422 0262 or visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect).

### Board games and cards

Connect with like-minded individuals who are aged over 55, with casual rounds of cards and board games. Chess will be held next month, on Friday 26 May at the Gisborne Community Centre, or, if mah-jong is more your thing, come along on Friday 28 April to Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House from 10.30am to 12 noon. Play will be followed by light refreshments.

Registration is essential. Call Abbey on 5422 0262 or email [villageconnect@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:villageconnect@mrsc.vic.gov.au).

For more information about the above events and the Village Connect program, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/village-connect).



# Meet the Gisborne Renewable Energy Group

Let us introduce ourselves.

Gisborne Renewable Energy Group (GREG) is a group of volunteers formed out of a Macedon Ranges Shire Council community engagement program called Cool Changes.

We operate as part of the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group (MRSG) and with the full support of the council.

We are committed to encouraging Gisborne homes and businesses to save electricity costs, reduce fossil fuel emissions and increase energy self-sufficiency.

Our flagship project is a Gisborne Community Group Buy scheme for the supply and installation of such energy-saving devices as solar power (PV) systems, batteries, heat pumps and reverse cycle air conditioners.



We chose these technologies because, separately or in combination, they provide the best route towards a solar-driven, all-electric house and energy independence.

But choosing any solar product is a daunting process. How can anyone be sure of getting a competitively priced, high-quality product, professionally installed by a reputable company and with worthwhile warranties?

So, backed by expert knowledge from Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group's Renewable Energy Action Group and Mount Alexander's group-buy project, we invited 12 regional companies to submit proposals which would guarantee just that.

After an exhaustive evaluation process, EnviroGroup

(www.envirogroup.com.au) proved to us that they have successfully delivered similar programs in the past, and have the capacity to deliver high quality products at a reasonable price.

You can find out more detail about GREG, the Gisborne Community Group Buy project and the specimen prices offered by EnviroGroup on our web page (www.mrsg.org.au/greg).

Our first information night will be on Wednesday 26 April. The venue and time will be posted on the web page.

If you would like any information in the meantime, feel free to contact GREG's program leader, Stephen Pepper, on 0415 821 481 or via email to [stephen.pepper@mrsg.org.au](mailto:stephen.pepper@mrsg.org.au)



## MACEDON MUSINGS

With Belinda Carlton-Doney

Glorious autumn in Macedon! Trees and gardens doing their spectacular change-of-colour show. However, it's not just the gardens and trees that are undergoing change.

The Macedon Lounge has had a change also. Meet Vedant Tyagi...affectionately known to staff and customers as "Vee". He is the new owner of the Lounge. Vee took full ownership of the Lounge on 30 January.

Vee's parents must be really proud of this self-made 24-year-old. He started as a kitchen hand at the Lounge in July 2020. From there he worked his way up to cook, then manager. When the opportunity to buy the restaurant he loved came up, he jumped at the chance. All this while still completing his Masters in IT. That is a lot of pots to handle.

Hospitality is a good fit for Vee as he loves interacting with people, hearing their stories and the positive influence they bring. He expresses a dedicated loyalty to local patrons, as he firmly believes we are the ones supporting his business and success.

Vee is passionate about employing local youth, and places great value on investing in their training and development.



Vee – Proud new owner of the Macedon Lounge.

After Easter there are plans to make big changes in both the food and drinks menus. Over the next few months, pop in and view the exciting changes to decor, as Vee realises his vision for the restaurant and truly makes it his own.

Good luck, Vee. See you at the Lounge.



## CARING FOR THE PLANET

With Eliza Ransome

We are lucky to live in the Macedon Ranges, with the gorgeous landscape and variety of plants and wildlife here in our backyard.

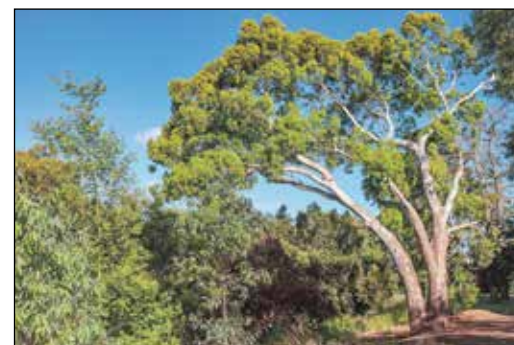
One of the most precious elements are the trees. Trees are so useful and some of us don't realise it. Trees provide oxygen and limit carbon in the atmosphere. They reduce pollution in the air and they also make great food and shelter for wildlife. Trees can minimise erosion and make sure the soil is healthy, and they can also increase rainfall. Trees are great!

Trees, however, are also used by humans for items such as paper and wood. All over the world forests are chopped down, and they take years to grow back. Luckily, when companies cut down the trees a few of them plant another one in its place or even two.

With more housing developments cropping up, many groups are thinking about the importance of maintaining our trees and how trees and plants can be incorporated into urban development such as ensuring parks and gardens are part of the development plan.

One thing you can do at home is plant your own trees, or if you don't have the space, plant pots. Encourage others to plant trees. Trees have a positive impact on our environment.

I hope you now look at something as simple as a tree in a different way. Let's work together to build a better environment.



Our trees need looking after.



## Macedon Seniors Club day out

Macedon Seniors Club had an enjoyable day out on Tuesday 14 March at the Ballarat Wildlife Park, followed by a lovely lunch at Ballarat RSL.

If you would like to join the group, which meets on Tuesdays, please call club president Wayne on 0431 055 975.



# AN AIRFORCE CAREER

In the Gazette's Anzac feature this year, former Air Force officer John Power is interviewed by Bryan Power (no relation)

As an officer with the Royal Australian Air Force, John Power served his country with pride and distinction in a career spanning 21 years.

John's postings saw a steady increase in his duties and responsibilities, highlighted by 13 months based at Phan Rang in Vietnam and two years on exchange with the USAF as part of the F111 program at Sacramento, California. Long service in many locations required the support of a solid personal partnership and this John always had with his marriage to Patricia (Trish) Guy.

John was born in Hampton, Victoria, in 1937. His father, also John, was a Supply Officer in the RAAF. At the start of WW2 John senior was posted to the Northern Territory in charge of a construction squadron building roads, airfields and camps. He met General Macarthur at the Batchelor Airfield when the plane bringing him from the Philippines was diverted there as Darwin was under air attack at the time.

John's earliest memory of his father was when he came back from the Northern Territory and boarded the Southern Aurora on his way to the UK where he stayed until the end of the war in Europe. On his return to Australia the family moved to South Australia where he was charged with closing down and selling off the RAAF wartime assets in that state. On his retirement, in 1948, John's father and mother Freda bought a farm at Mount Barker near Adelaide, running a dairy herd and a poultry business, two demanding enterprises that provided little down time.

Freda died when John was only 13, and with no siblings, he and his father created a closer bond. "My father taught me a lot," John recalled. Apart from the practical lessons John learned, his father's example as a voracious reader led John down the same path.

John left school at 15 to become a clerk at the Mount Barker Tannery, the biggest business in town. One day while out riding his motor bike he saw a girl wearing a red raincoat riding her bike. He stopped beside her and their conversation revealed that she had just finished school and was going to be looking for a job as a shorthand/typist. The following day John arranged for Trish Guy to have an interview at the tannery and the job was hers.

A close working relationship became a romance and they were married in 1960, when John was 22 and Trish 18. John became the accountant and assistant secretary at the tannery but after six years in the role found the prospect of doing the same job for the next 30 years not very appealing.

At this time an RAAF advertisement in the Adelaide papers offered the prospect of a multi-role career as an Equipment Officer in the RAAF. He applied, was successful and was enlisted with a commission and the rank of Pilot Officer. He was sent to the base at Edinburgh, South Australia, for orientation and then to Point Cook in Victoria for three months of basic training followed by another three months of Supply training at Tottenham.

Postings followed, starting with two years at No.2 Stores Depot at Regents Park NSW. This depot managed 650,000 line items which had just been uploaded onto the new RAAF electronic data processing (EDP)



John and Trish Power at home in Gisborne. In the background, in the painting by Amanda Goode (John and Trish's granddaughter) titled "Grandpa", John is on the tractor at their former 11-acre property.

system and for a time the manual and EDP systems ran side by side for over a year until they were reconciled. The next posting was to No.1 Control and Reporting Unit at Brookvale NSW, a radar station on the heights above Narrabeen that controlled the airspace of Newcastle, Sydney and Wollongong. John's responsibilities now covered barracks, buildings and ground maintenance both on base and for married quarters, catering and messes, transport, as well as procurement and warehousing.

In 1970 he was posted to a similar position in Phan Rang in Vietnam. This was a huge US Air Force base of 10,000 personnel, a mix of USAF units, Air National Guard units, US Army helicopter, ground forces, engineers plus civilian contractors and the South Korean White Horse Army Regiment. The Australian contribution was No.2 Squadron comprising 12 Canberra bombers commanded by Group Captain Jack Boast. The Americans provided fuel, rations, electricity, water and general maintenance and it was John's role to provide the Squadron with everything else.

A new responsibility was for the oversight of the Australian Civic Action Projects which were focused mainly on repairs and installation of irrigation systems with the aim of getting farmers back on their land. Squadron projects were the support of two local orphanages. Off-duty

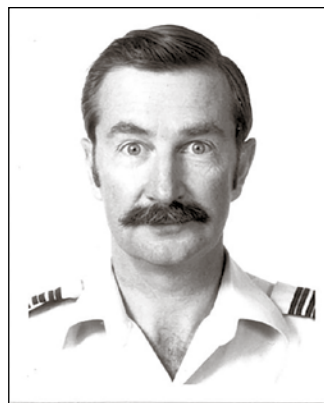
crew were able to help expand and maintain their facilities as well as spend time with the children. Two other jobs came along. When either the Ground Defence Officer or Accountant were off base, John was their responsible officer. The CO put John on two-night patrols so that he wouldn't be completely useless should things get nasty. Fortunately, that never happened. Up to October 1970 Phan Rang experienced the most mortar and rocket attacks of any other base in Vietnam. They mostly happened at night which meant spending time in bunkers – in retrospect more of a nuisance than dangerous.

John recalls that on going for a jog after work one day, he noticed a ski-boat and trailer which looked as if it had not been used for a while. On enquiring, he was told it had been swamped nearly a year before and hadn't been used since. The offer of a case of Australian beer for the boat was accepted, the beer exchanged and the boat parked in the 2 Sqn hangar that night. The Engineering Officer asked John what was he up to. The reply was he thought they might like to fix it up and go water skiing. It was back in the sea within the month.

That same hangar was the venue for the concert parties that visited from Australia and America and John remembers that they were always popular, especially those hosted by Bob Hope, the Australian Concert Party and the ABC Dance Band.

When the Australian Government ended the nation's involvement in the war, John was given the job of planning and implementing the return of all the RAAF equipment to Australia. This was completed in six weeks after the last operational flight.

The feeling among the Australians at Phan Rang was that the media in Australia were only interested in reporting the bad news from Vietnam and had not been prepared to give credit to those who did their duty professionally and with compassion for the ordinary Vietnamese. This negative reporting was also hard on the morale of the wives, girlfriends and parents of the personnel who had been sent there.



Flight Lieutenant John Power while based in Vietnam.

Post-Vietnam, John's postings were two years as an instructor at the Equipment Training Flight at Tottenham, Victoria, then two years in the Canberra EDP with responsibility for the integrity

of the Stock Record Files. Courses in system analysis and design and cobol programming resulted in another posting to produce the specifications for the next generation computer system, John's part being to deal with the management of repairable items.

One year later another posting came, this time to Sacramento, California, as the Weapons System Manager for the F111 Mark D operated by the USAF.

John remembers one incident that gained him a good deal of credit. One of the F111Ds crashed by going into a vertical dive that could not be corrected by the pilot. Fortunately, the crew were able to eject and land safely. A search of the crash site produced a small piece of metal that had dislodged from the trim mechanism



# AN AIRFORCE CAREER: JOHN POWER

of the rear stabiliser that showed damage not caused by the crash. This was confirmed by inspection of assemblies on other in-service F111s which showed early signs of wear that could quickly become catastrophic.

All F111s worldwide were immediately grounded so the pressure was on to quickly find the cause of the failure. Representatives from the designers, manufacturers and maintenance staffs were assembled. Over two long days John's team wrestled with the problem without success but that night, while in the shower, John had a Eureka moment. The next day his suggestion was accepted as worth further analysis and components were sent for testing at a specialist laboratory.

The report the following day concluded that the component needed to be redesigned and made in two parts, not three.

Back in Australia John worked in Finance with re-

sponsibility for the RAAF Supply appropriation numbers relating to spares, fuel, ammunition, postage, publications, motor vehicles and capital projects. A year as a student at the RAAF Staff College followed, which led to promotion to Wing Commander. Another year in Finance then a student again, this time for six months at the Joint Services Staff College, followed by 18 months at Operational Command then at Melbourne developing management systems. Finally, back to Canberra as Director of Supply Policy and Procedures before deciding to retire at the age of 49 with the rank of Group Captain (the air force equivalent of an army colonel).

He had enjoyed a fulfilling career in the service of the nation, working with talented and dedicated people who believed in the importance of what they were doing.

John soon found another career, this time with the State Electricity Commission of Victoria as materials

manager. Before long he was given the job of carrying out the government's directive to decommission the SEC, which required a lot of time in the La Trobe Valley negotiating with workers and their unions as he sold off the assets there.

Following that, John worked for some years as a consultant before finally retiring in 1995.

Some years previously he had attended a course at the Australian Counter Disaster College in Mount Macedon and was so impressed by the area that he and Trish decided to buy an 11-acre property in Gisborne. They soon became active members in the Gisborne community.

When John was asked about Anzac Day he commented on how solemnly it was observed, wherever he was posted. He humbly added that compared with what the servicemen of the two world wars had to endure, his contribution was much less onerous.

## New era for local RSL sub-branch



The recent Annual General Meeting of the Gisborne and Macedon Ranges RSL saw Robin Funston step down as president after 10 years as leader of the sub-branch.

A Life Member of the RSL, Robin has made an extraordinary contribution to our sub-branch, which he joined 50 years ago.

Members expressed their deep gratitude to Robin for his long and dedicated service. Robin will stay on this year as vice-president of the sub-branch.

With Anzac Day approaching on 25 April, Gisborne and Macedon Ranges RSL is now making preparations for the annual Veterans March and Commemoration Service which will, as usual, be held at the war memorial in Gisborne opposite the Community Centre in Hamilton Street.

The memorial service begins at 10am. Those who wish to place a wreath on the memorial should contact the RSL Secretary via email, to [admin@gmrrsl.com.au](mailto:admin@gmrrsl.com.au)

During April we will also be out and

about Gisborne and Riddells Creek selling badges and other RSL mementos in the lead up to Anzac Day. Money raised from this goes to RSL funds that support our veterans, past and present.

The RSL is an advocate for veterans and their families. It assists with various services and support to both veterans and their families in times of need or crisis. If you are a current or serving member and you need advice or help please don't hesitate to get in contact with RSL.

The Gisborne & Macedon Ranges RSL is a strong and successful RSL Sub Branch that has been part of this community for many decades. Meetings are held at the Gisborne Golf Club and every month we have a social get together at a welfare lunch. It would be great to have you join us.

*Darren Grevis-James, president*

*Outgoing Gisborne and Macedon Ranges RSL president Robin Funston (left) and new president Darren Grevis-James.*



## Dawn service at the Cross

The Mount Macedon Anzac Day Dawn Service at the Memorial Cross will this year feature the story of Jack Bullen, a 101-year-old veteran and Woodend resident, as well as the story of Allan Cameron Andison senior and junior.

The father and son both served in World War II. Their story will be introduced by the son of Allan Cameron Andison, Gary Andison, who is the long-serving bugler who plays the Last Post at the Mount Macedon Dawn Service and many other commemorative events in the shire.

Community members are warmly invited, however to ensure a safe and orderly event, private vehicles (including motorcycles and bicycles) are not permitted to travel to the Memorial Cross.

Access is via a free bus service which operates from Gisborne, Woodend, Sunbury, Kyneton, Riddells Creek, Lancefield and Romsey, with continuous shuttle buses from Tony Clarke Reserve at Macedon from 4.15am. The bus schedule and details on how to book a seat appear on page 40.



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**ANYTHING OLD & UNUSUAL**  
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**FISHING GEAR, TOYS, TINS,**  
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**GISBORNE**  
**CAB Co**

**ph: 5428 2444**  
**[gisbornecabs.com.au](http://gisbornecabs.com.au)**



## News from Community Bank Gisborne

March was another exciting month for Community Bank Gisborne with two major projects coming to fruition, and we thank all of our branch customers for helping make them happen by banking with Bendigo Bank at our branch.



First, the vehicle we donated to the Macedon Ranges L2P Program arrived in town and is already being used to help young learner drivers without access to a supervising driver or vehicle get the 120 hours of supervised driving they need to be able to sit for for their Ps.

Denise Sibenaler of Salvation Army Bendigo, who coordinates the Macedon Ranges L2P Program, is grateful for the vehicle donation and said it will save the program annual operating costs and provide certainty, and enable 150,000km of driving experience to young drivers over the coming years. Contact Denise on 0409 246 416 for more information about the program.

Next, we awarded \$5000 scholarships to eight local youth embarking on tertiary study this year (see page 5). Our tertiary scholarship program continues to grow



Gisborne Bendigo Bank's Vicky Hillyer and Macedon Ranges L2P Program coordinator Denise Sibenaler with the new L2P vehicle for Gisborne.

and our team is proud to have now supported 31 local students.

In April we are supporting the Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival, Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group's Sustainable Living Festivals and the Riddell District Football Netball League season, all of which offer events and activities for locals to get out and about in our beautiful area and connect.

Have an awesome April.

*Community Bank Gisborne (Bendigo Bank) team*

## Foodbank gives a big shout out to Players

It was a fantastic night out at Macedon's Mountview Theatre on Thursday 2 March as the Mount Players held a special performance of their latest production *The 39 Steps* as a fundraiser for the Gisborne Foodbank.



Thank you to the Mount Players and all those who attended the production who donated a ute full of food as well as \$1050 in cash donations and \$615 from ticket sales to the Gisborne Foodbank. We are so grateful to Macedon Ranges theatre community for their support.

The Gisborne Foodbank is open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am to 3pm. Please contact us on mobile 0492 850 520, email [info@gisbornefoodbank.org.au](mailto:info@gisbornefoodbank.org.au), drop in on Wednesday or Friday, message us via Facebook (@GisborneFoodbank), or visit our website, [www.gisbornefoodbank.org.au](http://www.gisbornefoodbank.org.au).

*Julie Ireland*

## Get your business rainbow ready this IDAHOBIT

Gisborne and Macedon businesses are invited to get rainbow ready in time for this year's IDAHOBIT celebrations by registering to receive a free 'Pride Pack'.

IDAHOBIT is marked each year on 17 May as the International Day Against LGBTIQ+ Discrimination (IDAHOBIT stands for International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia).

Included in the Pride Packs are a pride flag, a poster, information on IDAHOBIT, a pride lapel pin and pen and an IDAHOBIT decal for your business or organisation's window. Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health has joined Macedon Ranges Shire Council to encourage businesses to get creative with dressing up their windows with rainbows. Prizes include a \$1000 first prize voucher and \$500 second prize voucher to be used to engage the professional services of another Macedon Ranges business.

Businesses are also encouraged to register for the online 'Safe and Inclusive Spaces Workshop' which is on Wednesday 3 May, 7pm to 8.30pm – book your place at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/WelcomingSpaces2023](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WelcomingSpaces2023).

To register for a free pack go to: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/IDAHOBITPridePack](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IDAHOBITPridePack).

## St Paul's Op Shop Jottings

With our changeable weather, we have every season covered for clothing to suit you and your family's needs at the very affordable price of \$2 per item (\$1 for children). We always have a good supply of blankets for your fur babies too.

The shop has temporarily extended into a small room to offer you more books, clothes and miscellaneous items for sale. You can find this area open every day except Thursdays.

If you would like to donate to our charity, we would very much appreciate clean, useable items: Clothes that are washed, homewares that are not broken, crockery that is not worn or chipped, books that are not old, shoes that have hardly any wear. The idea is if you wouldn't give it to your friend, please don't donate it.

You can follow us on Facebook to get the early scoop on what's happening, just search for St. Paul's Op Shop.

This month we feature one of our newest volunteers, Dagmar, and ask her the probing question "why do you choose to volunteer?"



*Dagmar*

"I've always wanted to give back and be part of the community," she said.

"A friend who volunteers at St. Paul's suggested I visit the shop to see if it was right for me and here I am two years later, thoroughly enjoying it."

*Janine Sanders, Op Shop coordinator*

## 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.

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0416 289 898

[dan@smartpoolservices.com.au](mailto:dan@smartpoolservices.com.au)



## Gisborne Podiatry

SHERIDAN GILBERT- PODIATRIST

18 Brantome Street (inside Priceline)

Ph 1300 44 77 63 (1300 GISPOD)

Skin and Nail Problems, Nail Surgery, Diabetes Assessments, Sports Injuries, Orthotics and Footwear, Foot Pain, Foot Ulcers and Wounds, Childrens Feet



## GISBORNE TOY LIBRARY TALES

The Gisborne Toy Library thanks all attendees at this year's AGM held on 14 March and welcomes its newly elected committee for 2023.

Congratulations in particular go to Kimberley Norman and Melissa Lopez, the president and secretary (respectively) for another term. Melissa will also take over as publicity officer from Adam Lopez, who was reappointed as a general committee member for a third consecutive term.

The toy library also welcomes new member Ethalia Alekozoglou, who was elected both treasurer and



fundraising officer. The Gisborne Toy Library looks forward to continuing to be a presence in the Gisborne community for another year.

There are limited casual vacancies yet to be filled on the committee, so please be in touch if you are interested in joining as a general committee member at [gisbornetoylibrary@yahoo.com.au](mailto:gisbornetoylibrary@yahoo.com.au).

New library members are also always welcome to join at any time of the year; alternatively, trial memberships are also available for purchase.

*Adam Lopez, committee member*

## Macedon and Mount Macedon Community House update

The committee of management of Macedon and Mount Macedon Community House is excited to share our new logo. It was designed by Nikki Barker Monrose Design. We loved working with Nikki, who beautifully represented the landscape and colours of Macedon and Mt Macedon.



*Playgroup corner at the Community House.*

**AGM:** Monday 1 May 7:30pm at the Community House or via Zoom. The agenda includes the treasurer's report – statement of accounts for 2021 and 2022, committee report and election of office bearers.

Go to [www.mmmcommunityhouse.org](http://www.mmmcommunityhouse.org) to become a member or renew your membership. Please RSVP to attend the meeting at [hello@mmmcommunityhouse.org](mailto:hello@mmmcommunityhouse.org) or advise us if you would like to attend via Zoom, or would like us to email you a proxy voting form.

**Playgroup:** Wednesday morning sessions. If you would like to start your own group, please email [playgroup@mmmcommunityhouse.org](mailto:playgroup@mmmcommunityhouse.org).

**Introduction to Permaculture course:** Offered in partnership with Macedon Ranges Further Education Centre. Please register interest via MR FEC (call 5428 3799 or email [enquiries@mrfec.net.au](mailto:enquiries@mrfec.net.au)).

Proposed dates for 2023: Term 2: 1 May to 5 June;

Term 3: 20 August to 10 September; Term 4: 4 October to 8 November.

**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](mailto:hello@mmmcommunityhouse.org).

**Volunteer with us:** As we are run solely by passionate volunteers, we could really use your time and skills – either by joining the management committee or working groups. Please contact [hello@mmmcommunityhouse.org](mailto:hello@mmmcommunityhouse.org).

## Acting in the spirit of generosity



The Mount Players

The Mount Players strive to support a local charity in some way at many of their productions and Gisborne Foodbank was their choice during *The 39 Steps*. Thanks to the generosity of patrons and 50 per cent of ticket sales from our Thursday performance, we were ecstatic to raise \$1665.

A huge amount of food and toiletry donations were also collected across all performances and presented to Foodbank. Thanks to all of our patrons who made this fundraiser such a success.

For many years now the Players have also supported the Macedon CFA by collecting donations for programs at every show. At the recent CFA family day in Macedon on 24 February, we presented a cheque to them for \$1181.40. Another thank you to the generosity of patrons. It is fantastic to know we are part of a community that supports one another in this way.

Now in full rehearsal is this year's second production, *Buried Child*. This is an intense drama by Sam Shepard. It takes a macabre look at an American mid-western family with a terrible secret.



*Foodbank president Wally van Dort (left) accepts a cheque for \$1665 from Mount Players' president Craig Lenaine-Smith.*

The play brought its author the Pulitzer Prize for drama. Although dark in many respects, it is delivered with humour and pathos. Heavily atmospheric and challenging, the play will entrance its audience with questions of morality and its take on the disintegration of the American dream. There is hope, however, as the final moments of the play suggest salvation with a surprise ending. The season runs from 12 May to 28 May.

Book your tickets at [www.themountplayers.com](http://www.themountplayers.com) or call 5426 1892 for assistance.

See you at the theatre!

*Karen Hunt*

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### Why join a book club?

Connect with others and make new friends.

Share favourite books and authors with others who love reading.

Discover new writers and ideas.

Have some time out for yourself

There are more than 30 established clubs in towns across the Macedon Ranges, including Gisborne and Macedon.

### Book Club sets

Our Book Club bags are the ideal way to source several copies of the same book, all for free! Each bag contains 10 copies of a popular

book, with over 300 titles to choose from.

### Somewhere to meet

Our modern library has comfortable spaces for conversation and light refreshments during the day. Some groups meet in each other's homes or at local cafes.

### Finding new members

Get a group of friends together, or we can match you with a group. If your club is open to new participants, the library can put you in touch with members of the public interested in joining a new club.

### Want to know more?

Drop by the Library at 8 Hamilton Street in Gisborne, phone us on 5428 3962, or head to [ncgrl.vic.gov.au/bookclubs](http://ncgrl.vic.gov.au/bookclubs) for the full list of 300+ titles.

We can register new clubs on the spot with your library card (or other ID), all free.



Diane Barbie, Pam Barton, George Peart, Helen Thompson (on crutch), Michael O'Brien, Helen Nettleton, Stephen Halligan, Josephine Desira, Dianne Egan and Susan Denheld.

## New Probus committee elected

We started a new Probus year after our AGM on 2 March. There are many familiar faces on this year's committee as well as a couple of new ones.

George Peart, our outgoing president, said that this was a year of consolidation for the club after the previous two years of disruptions due to COVID. This meant we were again able to undertake many activities such as monthly meetings, trips and theatre outings and thus truly living up to the Probus Club motto of 'Fun, Friendship and Fellowship'.

We have a new president, Michael



O'Brien, as well as a new vice-president, Susan Denheld. The rest of the committee members are continuing in their positions for the year.

Members are looking forward to this month's trip to the Red Cliffs Reserve in Heathcote.

If you want to learn more about the Probus Club of Gisborne you are very welcome to join us on the first Thursday of the month in the Gisborne Community Centre at 10am. Our next meeting will be on 6 April. For further information you can contact our president, Michael O'Brien, on 0427 762 757. *Dianne Egan*



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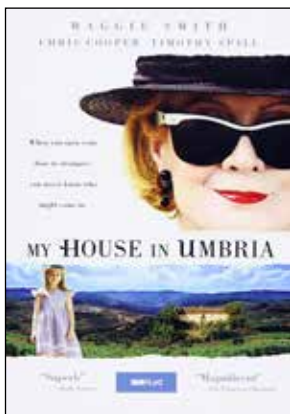




## Focus on rural Italy in film club's next title



The Macedon Ranges Film Society held a brief AGM prior to the March screening of the Irish film *The Quiet Girl*. Members noted and passed a healthy report from the treasurer, and the society has surpassed last year's membership numbers. More members are always welcome. Enquires can be made by emailing [mrfilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto:mrfilmsociety@gmail.com) or by visiting our website – [www.mrfilmsociety.org](http://www.mrfilmsociety.org).



The screening in April is set in rural Italy with the acclaimed film *My House in Umbria*, starring Dame Maggie Smith and Ronnie Barker.

The rich countryside of Umbria, Lazio and Tuscany provide sumptuous settings for the camera and the acting keeps the viewer engaged.

Our next meeting is on Friday 14 April at our 'home' in the Norma

Richardson Hall, Woodend. We gather at 7pm for 7.15pm and members may choose a beverage to enjoy during the film. Supper and wine are offered after the screening, providing an informal opportunity to discuss the film, the weather or any other matters of mutual interest.

The year's full program may be found on [www.mrfilmsociety.org](http://www.mrfilmsociety.org).

*Submitted by Neil Aplin*

## Variety of subjects at U3A



and learning activities.

One of our interesting courses starting in April is about China – what has led to its current role in world affairs? This course starts with the history and geography of that ancient country and how it has shaped its culture and thinking.

The second session deals with Maoist and Marxist policies to the revival of capitalism and the current leadership. There are continuing themes from the past which explain where China is now and what is likely to happen next. To find out more, enrol in this fascinating course.

Another activity is social golf, played at different courses around the shire. You can play either nine or 18 holes; experience level does not matter. It is fun rather than competitive. The cost should be around \$30 for 18 holes and \$20 for nine holes.

There are many other courses to choose from. Some courses offered are American history, poetry, French, film club, and history of propaganda.

Check out the U3A Kyneton website, [www.u3akyneton.org.au](http://www.u3akyneton.org.au), for more information or email [members@u3akyneton](mailto:members@u3akyneton) or call 0439 360 763. New members are always welcome.

If you need assistance, Roni will be pleased to help you to become one of our valued members.

*Submitted by Roni Taubman*

## Further news from Further Ed



Macedon Ranges Further Education Centre (MRFEC) offers over 40 courses with some new classes starting in

Term 2 and enrolments opening on 3 April. Classes will begin either in May or June.

Are you interested in documenting your family history and memoirs? Join a three-session workshop (Thursdays from 18 May to 1 June) on writing your family memoir with our experienced published author tutor.

Mums and daughters self defence will be offered on 31 May at 6.30pm for a minimum age of 14 years with the presence of a parent or guardian.

Sewing for beginners short courses and a new art and craft workshop are on offer, including the reemergence of collage as a popular art form.

Local artist Colleen Weste will be holding a workshop on creating a stunning silk scarf through dyeing techniques.

For those wanting to refresh or build their skills for returning to the workplace, there is a range of short courses covering Microsoft programs such as Excel all the way to small business skills in bookkeeping and Xero.

For more information go to the MRFC website, Facebook page or contact MRFC on 5428 3799 or email [enquiries@mrfec.net.au](mailto:enquiries@mrfec.net.au).

*Submitted by Monika Smyrek, centre manager*



*Watercolour class at MRFC.*



### MEMBER'S MESSAGE

With Mary-Anne Thomas, MP

Greetings to the Gisborne community.

The \$250 Power Saving Bonus is now open to all eligible households including those that received payments under previous rounds, by visiting the Victorian Energy Compare website ([compare.energy.vic.gov.au](http://compare.energy.vic.gov.au).) Applications for the payment can be

made through this website, where the best energy offers in your area can be quickly and easily found – potentially saving you hundreds of dollars.

My local electorate office team is available to assist with lodging applications at the office at Shop 14, Nexus Centre, 9 Goode Street, Gisborne, during business hours. If you visit the office for assistance, please make sure you bring your full electricity bill with you.

Since the current round of the Power Saving Bonus launched on 1 July 2022, more than 1.7 million households have received the cost of living support. Enjoy April, Gisborne.

## Qi Gong CLASSES

TUESDAYS 7PM

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**CRAFT CORNER** Mary-Beth O'Brien  
**Pattern designers and testers**

The 'Conversation and Crochet' group meets at 2.30pm on the first Monday of each month at Gisborne Library. Group numbers are increasing with beginners being provided with practical one-on-one help to embark on their crochet journey. All skill levels are welcome to this friendly, free and fun group.

Patience, an eye for detail and good concentration are key attributes for a pattern designer and tester. Expanding your repertoire into designing and pattern testing can be a conduit into a creative space requiring few additional resources, but holding endless possibilities and an additional income boost.

To design a pattern, let the ideas flow freely; inspiration comes from many sources, including popular creations that no one ever thought necessary to document, handed from one family member to another or friend to friend. The result is a marvellous draft of an original pattern. Time to move to pattern testing, an essential element of pattern design. Testing may take days, weeks or months to iron out any kinks before being given the all clear by the designer for release to a broader audience.

When you sit down to start your next project, give some thought to the pattern designer and the effort to perfect every row and every stitch you see before you. For many, these are indecipherable scrawls with unintelligible instructions, but to a crocheter this is where the magic begins.

## Oodles happening at The Gallery



Although The Gallery is always busy with exhibitions, April and May are extra busy. In April, members will be exploring autumn themes in their work, and we will host our inaugural Landscape Prize and exhibition. Artists from across the Macedon Ranges will display works that focus on aspects of landscape.

In April we will have painting, drawing, printmaking and textiles, and in May we will feature photography. The works promise to be exciting and thought provoking, and most will be for sale – a great chance to pick up an original work by a local artist. We will be asking visitors to vote for their favourite work, and the most popular works will be awarded people's choice awards. The first exhibition opens at 2pm on Saturday 8 April (Easter Saturday), with the second opening on Saturday May 6 at 2pm.

The Gallery is open Friday to Tuesday, 10am to 4pm. Contacts: Jo Hoyne on 0418 488 582 or Sue Anson on 0413 581 632.

Landscape art:  
 Textile by Colleen Weste (left) and photograph by Kirsty Traill.



Some of the art and craftworks on display at Phoenix's December show.

## Phoenix art show on 1 and 2 April



It is 40 years since the Ash Wednesday bushfires that decimated large parts of our area and affected many artists and crafters. In December of that year the Phoenix Art Group was started to give a place for members to share their art and motivate them to share their artistic goals.

Since then, our artists have been busy creating varied multimedia works including pottery, painting, papercraft, woodwork, glassware, jewellery, textiles such as spinning weaving, thread painting, and puppets.

Our latest exhibition is on Saturday 1 April from 10am-4pm and Sunday 2 April from 9am-3pm. The Sunday coincides with the Gisborne Market. The exhibition will be held in the Old Court House in Gisborne where you will have the chance to view all the varied artists' work and to buy a unique item at a reasonable price.

If you want to find out more about our history, work and the next exhibition you can visit our website. If you are interested in joining our group, please contact long-time member Kay Beale on 9744 2646.


Submitted by Di Egan



# Get your Flu Vaccine



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**OUR FLU VACCINE CREW**

**Our Flu Vaccine Crew will be ready to vaccinate you after Easter**

If you are not eligible for a Government Funded Influenza vaccine, Ranges Medical can still supply you with your vaccine, but it will incur a fee.

All flu vaccines are uploaded to the Australian Immunisation Register



# Singers present Mozart's Requiem

the  
*Singers*

The Gisborne Singers have had an influx of new and returning members and are practising hard for their first major concerts of the year. The epic Mozart *Requiem* will be performed at a new venue for us on Sunday 30 April, at St Mary's Anglican Church, Sunbury, at 2pm. A large auditorium has been added to the historic bluestone church.

The concert will be repeated at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church in Kyneton on Sunday 7 May at 2pm.

Our famous afternoon tea is back again but will only be available after the Kyneton concert due to tight time scheduling in Sunbury.



Tenor  
Michael  
Petrucelli,  
one of the  
solo artists.

In very exciting news, our four soloists from Symphonia Choralis (Beethoven's Ninth) held in Bendigo last year must have loved singing with us so much that they are all returning for the Mozart (Merlyn Quaife, Kristen Leich, Michael Petrucelli and Teddy Tahu Rhodes). An orchestra will make complete two amazing performances.

In other news, the Singers performed



Gisborne Singers perform at Relay for Life in Lancefield.

at the Lancefield Relay for Life on 4 March. In perfect weather and with a magnificent sunset as a backdrop, the choir was indelibly involved in the event with candle lighting and singing.

The choir always welcomes new members (although they are well on the way in the Mozart). No auditions are held and the ability to read music is advantageous but not essential. Choir practice night is Wednesday from 7:30pm to 10pm at the Gisborne Uniting Church, 23 Brantome Street, Gisborne.

Enquiries to [www.gisbornesingers.org.au](http://www.gisbornesingers.org.au) or phone 0408 156 263.

Alison Kinghorn

## Kyneton Town Hall Events

### Melbourne International Comedy Festival

#### Roadshow

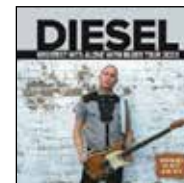
Friday 28 April, 7:30pm

Australia's biggest comedy festival is hitting the road for a 25th year. Featuring the best and brightest of the 2023 Melbourne International Comedy Festival in a show that's sure to leave the crowd laughing.



### Diesel: Greatest Hits Alone with the Blues Tour

7:30pm Sunday 30 April



An intimate two-set solo concert performance designed especially for theatres. "This show is arguably the most encompassing concert performance and song collection I've curated to date. It makes for an uplifting experience for both the audience and myself. I feel they are getting ALL of me with this one. I simply had to bring it to more towns. Like unfinished business but way more fun. The sing-a-longs are epic!" – Diesel.

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

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MACEDON FARMERS MARKET  
SAT. 29 APRIL



# Celebrating women, and running fast

## International Women's Day



On 8 March it was International Women's Day, which is when we celebrate women who have inspired us or made a difference in our lives. This year's theme was Embrace Equality.

A lot of classes made PowerPoints about women who inspired them or made a change in their lives.

The first International Women's Day was in 1909 in New York City on 28 February. Everyone should celebrate International Women's Day to show their respect for women.

*By Alice M, Year 6 Writers' Club*

## Run, Run, Run!

On 9 March, GPS cross-country took place for the grade threes to sixes, at Dixon Field. Everyone looked amazing, bright and fabulous in their house colours. The weather was on our side, as it was a warm and sunny day, perfect for running.

All the students were so pumped, determined and ready to run. Everyone was on the line and "boom" the gun went off and all anyone could hear was cheering for each house hoping to take home the trophy. Great job to all the houses.

*By Melia S and Bonnie F, Year 6 Writers' Club*

# Having a go at St Brigid's cross country



On Friday 17 March, we had St Brigid's whole-school cross-country. This was held at Dixon Field. The day saw all students very passionate for their house and some got dressed up in their team colours. Everyone had a go and gave 100 per cent effort.

The day began with the Senior and Middle students taking to the track; they each ran 3km and 2km respectively. These students were joined later in the day by the Junior and Prep children for some lapathon fun.

The whole school ran and walked as many laps as they could around the track. The more laps that were completed, the more points students scored for their house. It was awesome to see everyone have a go and giving it their best. Thanks to Mrs Glasson for her dedica-

tion in organising the day and ensuring all students were able to participate in some way.

## A message from house sports leaders

**Olly Barker (Brigid):** As Brigid Sports Leader, I hope everyone enjoyed the day and is proud of themselves and how many laps they completed.

**Parker Gillet (Patrick):** As Patrick Sports Leader, I am very proud of everybody who participated and gave it their best shot even if they didn't win.

**Annabel Willis (MacKillop):** As MacKillop Sports Leader, I am very proud of everyone for their great sportsmanship and having their best go.

**Charlie Kotlar (Ambrose):** As Ambrose Sports Leader, I am very happy that everyone in Ambrose gave it a shot and had a go; awesome work.



*St Brigid's students were happy to take part in the school cross-country day.*



**SUSTAINABLE LIVING FESTIVALS**  
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2023 MACEDON RANGES **EDGY VEG AWARDS**  
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A SEARCH FOR THE BEST PLANT BASED DISH IN THE RANGES

**WOODEND E-BIKE EXPO**  
WOODEND NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE  
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SATURDAY APRIL 1 2023

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**MALMSBURY ELECTRIC VEHICLE EXPO**  
MALMSBURY TOWN HALL  
10AM - 4PM  
SATURDAY APRIL 15 2023

# A host of activities afoot at Mount Macedon Primary

Hello everyone and welcome to this report of the goings-on of MMPS.

On 3 February we had our swimming carnival; everyone had a great time and Kulin House was very happy with their win.

It was a gorgeous day with beautiful weather and a not-so-freezing pool!

The Grade 6s received their leadership roles for this year and got their badges. They are all excited to make the most of 2023.

On 10 February we held our athletics carnival at Dixon Field in Gisborne. Everyone got a chance to demonstrate their track-and-field skills. Everyone did really well, and Mitchell House rose to the occasion with a wonderful (and very close) win.

Grade 4s are enjoying Bike Education; they say it's awesome. The Bike Ed program finishes with a ride from Maribyrnong to Williamstown.

This term we had an outdoor reading room built. It is a quiet space for students to spend recess and



*The new outdoor reading area at Mount Macedon Primary.*



lunch with a book. I'm sure there will be many students looking forward to spending time in it. It gives a space to students

who may not want to run around at break times.

We're all very much looking forward to all the wonderful things 2023 has in store and we cannot wait to share it all with you.



*Harriett Quinn*

*Harriett Quinn, school reporter*



# Horsing around at Holy Cross



Our children have had some incredible experiences so far this term.

Our Year 3 to 6 classes enjoyed a week of Aqua Aware sessions at the Gisborne Aquatic Centre and children and staff enjoyed some homemade zucchini slice, thanks to parent volunteers, who used produce from our school veggie patch and fresh eggs from our chickens.

We also had some very special visitors for Outdoor Ed classes. Three of our wonderful families generously donated their time and brought their much-loved ponies to school and all children had some first-hand experiences on how to care for ponies.

The classes were held in the Outdoor Ed shed where Michelle spoke to the children about safety when working with horses; for example, where to stand and how to approach a horse. They talked about how to care for a pony and saw a demonstration of cleaning a pony's hooves. The children then had time to get to know the ponies and groom them. The ponies looked very well loved by the end of each day.

They also had the opportunity to lead the ponies around the yard and some lucky children even learnt how to add nutrients to our veggie gardens straight from the ponies!



*Michelle and Emily Beven with Indi. The school is very grateful to the Beven family for sharing their knowledge, time and ponies with the children at Holy Cross.*

All children enjoyed spending time with these beautiful animals and we are very grateful to the volunteers who made the experience possible.

*Kellie McDonald*



*Indi is introduced to the Year 6 class.*



*A new hairstyle for Indi.*



## CAPTAIN'S RAP

with Harreson Watts



*Harreson Watts*

Last month you heard from Rue, one of our school captains for 2023. This month, it's me, the other school captain, keeping you in the loop with what's been happening at Gisborne Secondary College.

A little about me: I have been a student at Gisborne since Year 7; I have a keen interest in aviation and have my recreational pilot certificate, allowing me to pursue my passion for flying. This year I'm proud to represent the school as a College Captain, but also ambitious for the work ahead during my final school year, and excited like the rest of the cohort to receive our final, end-of-year results.

Elections were held early last month for the Student Representative Council. The SRC provides a great way for a student voice to be implemented across the school, and I'm excited to see all the fantastic ideas they come up with this year.

Year 7s completed their interviews for scholarships this year. Congratulations to all those who were successful.

In other news, work has started around the remodelling of one of our buildings, I-Block. Once the remodelling has been completed, it will serve as the new senior school centre. This building will provide an excellent learning environment for our Year 10-to-12 students.

Finally, as I write, Year 11s are gearing up for their big night: the Debutante Ball. This is a wonderful experience Gisborne Secondary College is able to provide Year 11 students, and is a lot of fun to take part in. They have been hard at work with lots of after-school practices over the last couple of months and it's exciting to see what they have managed to put together for their dance. Watch this space!

It is great to see amazing things happening around the school, with many more planned for the year.

## Schools gather to discuss the ins and outs of sustainability

Sustainability Victoria, through its ResourceSmart School program, put a call out in March for schools in the Macedon Ranges to meet to discuss sustainability. Of the 27 schools in the shire, 10 answered the call, with teachers and principals from Gisborne Primary School, Macedon Primary School, Montessori Gisborne, Riddells Creek Primary School, Newham Primary School, Sacred Heart College and Braemar College meeting at Gisborne Primary School.

Together with staff from Sustainability Victoria, Macedon Ranges Shire Council and sustainability educators, the cohort discussed free educational offerings in the shire, grants and funding opportunities as well as student voice and agency.



Gisborne Primary School teachers Anna and Giulia and Grade 6 student leaders presented on the school's work to reduce waste and improve biodiversity on the school grounds and in the wider community. The session finished with a tour of the school grounds lead by Melanie, the school's kitchen garden specialist.

Apologies were received from St Brigid's (Gisborne), St Mary's (Lancefield) and Heskett Primary School.

The event was successful and well received and plans are now underway to host a similar event in Term 2 at Newham Primary, this time showcasing the work of students in the area. For more information, and to be involved in the Term 2 event, please email [Debbie.Rovere@sustainability.vic.gov.au](mailto:Debbie.Rovere@sustainability.vic.gov.au).



*Melanie Matthews speaks to attendees at the ResourceSmart School network meeting in March.*





## Vet Talk The 'Golden Oldies' With Dr Caitlin Horwood



### Canine cognitive dysfunction syndrome

Canine cognitive dysfunction syndrome describes some of the problems with geriatric-onset behaviour changes in older dogs. It is a condition of serious concern to pet owners, and stems from progressive brain pathology, similar to people suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

Affected older dogs may become noticeably disoriented, anxious, exhibit changes in their sleep and activity cycle, or lose their previously established house-training habits, or their capacity to interact appropriately with other household pets.

It is important to get their general health checked out too, though, as some of these behaviour changes can also occur with medical problems such as diabetes or Cushing's syndrome, or even the pain and debilitation of osteoarthritis, or the gradual deterioration in sight and hearing with age.

#### The good news

If your dog does suffer from canine cognitive dysfunction, the good news is that there are options for help at hand. Some dogs respond well to taking



Bob, one of the 'Golden Oldies', loves the routine of his daily gentle exercise.

daily behaviour medications, others get benefit from a specific nutritional management plan, which may include nutraceuticals, antioxidants and essential fatty acids.

It is important to address their changing needs with behaviour retraining, environmental enrichment or simply reevaluating their predictable routines and interactions within the household so that they (and you) can get a good night's sleep!

## How to have a happy Easter with your dog



Our second month back saw another seven new members. Welcome to you all.

Easter is nearly upon us and while it is a time to celebrate with family – both pets and people – be careful of the dangers to dogs, such as chocolate.

Hot cross buns and Easter eggs are tasty Easter treats for humans, but they can be deadly to dogs.

The most important Easter treats your dog should avoid: Chocolate – contains theobromine, which is toxic to dogs – and raisins, sultanas, currants and grapes can cause fatal kidney failure in dogs.

What treats can you give your dog for Easter? Carob is reportedly safe as it does not contain theobromine. Yoghurt that is fruit, sugar, and lactose-free is safe for dogs.

Try the following for a tasty homemade dog treat for Easter.

**Ingredients:** 2 cups almond flour, 3/4 cup rolled oats, 1 cup raspberries, 1/2 cup unsweetened apple sauce, 3 tbs almond butter, 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon.

#### How to cook:

Preheat oven to 180°C. Line a cookie sheet with baking paper. In a large bowl add all the ingredients except the raspberries. If dough is too dry add water gradually until you can knead into a sticky ball. Gently fold in raspberries. If you use frozen ones, break them into smaller pieces and add them to the dough.

Remove dough from the bowl and roll on a floured surface. Using your cookie cutters, cut out the treats and place on lined cookie sheet.

Bake treats for 20 minutes or until they turn golden brown on the edges.

For information on our dog club, visit [www.macedonrangesdogclub.org.au](http://www.macedonrangesdogclub.org.au), our Facebook page, or email [info@macedonrangesdogclub.org.au](mailto:info@macedonrangesdogclub.org.au).

Carol, instructor/treasurer MRODC



There were surely happy memories of past pets when an animal farm visited the Oaks in March.

### Don't forget to register your pet

Council pet registration renewals are due by 10 April.

Pets found wandering unregistered and un-microchipped make it difficult for rangers to reunite them with their owners.

It is also the law. Cats and dogs must be registered with the council by three months of age.

The registration cost is much less than the fine.

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# SCOUTING



## New Gisborne (Church of Christ) Scouts report



So much going on in Scouting at New Gisborne. New Group Leader Russell 'Rusty' Barker and his leadership team are ensuring we get off to a good start with outdoor activities.

Work on finishing the Scout Hut project continues with extensive drainage activity. Donations for the fit-out of the hut made through Scout HQ are tax-deductible and most welcome. We're looking forward to the opening ceremonies.

The last weekend of February saw Venturers heading to Lardner Park near Warragul for their 'Anything Goes' camp, while Cub Scouts and Scouts headed the other way to Eumeralla Scout Camp for their annual Beach Camp. Much fun camping, canoeing and on the beach despite the rain.

Recognising Clean Up Australia Day,



*Cara and Poppy do their part in clean-up activities at the Gisborne Cemetery.*

our Cub Scouts did a great job cleaning up around the Gisborne Cemetery.

We meet on Wednesdays, 6.30-8pm, and Venturers on Fridays. Contact Group Leader Russell Barker on 0400 297 025 or russell@jeem.com.au to learn more.

*John Frearson*



*The Joeys and Cubs sailing (or sinking!) their cardboard boats.*

## Uh-oh... we're getting that sinking feeling again

One of the joys of being a Joey Leader is seeing a new five-year-old Joey scout transform from a shy, hesitant 'newbie' to a confident young person able to take a leading role in games and activities and make lots of friends in the process.

On the first camp away from home there are always a few anxious faces (parents, mostly!) and lost socks and toothbrushes, but watching the Joeys sit around a campfire, roasting marshmallows and telling funny stories after a day of fun-filled adventures makes me realise what a privilege it is to be a Joey Leader with such a great bunch of kids.

Some of the 1st Gisborne Joeys

joined the Cubs recently to attend a pre-Cuboree camp at Treetops at Riddells Creek. They participated in activities such as a low ropes course, archery and making boats out of cardboard. The weather was perfect and everyone involved had a great time.

For those who may not know, a Cuboree is a massive camp held over five days every three years. The Cubs camp out with their Leaders and engage in a range of challenging activities plus enjoy night-time entertainment. The next Cuboree will be at Gilwell Park, Gembrook, during the September school holidays.

*Carolyn Goode (Assistant Joey Leader)*



*New Gisborne Cub Scouts enjoyed canoeing on the Anglesea River.*



*Drainage works underway as the New Gisborne Scout Hut nears completion.*

## Guides study matters of environment



Gisborne Girl Guides are continuing to explore their local environment as they work on their Thinking Day sustainability activities and the Nature badge.

The girls also began working towards their Science badge and were given the challenge of creating a bridge using recycled materials and making a vehicle to test the strength of the bridge. Each patrol came up with a different design. Unfortunately, the designs had flaws but the girls came up with some potential solutions.

Guiding encourages girls to learn new skills as they work together on group projects, and inspires girls to move outside of their comfort zone and try new things.

Girls can do anything!

This month we are pleased to welcome Kaylee to our unit. If you are aged 7 to 12 and would like to try Guiding, phone Deb on 0409 542 619 for details. We meet on Thursday nights between 5 and 6:30pm.



*Tilly, Zara and Madison work on their bridge design using sticks, bark, fabric and tape. They made a train to test on the bridge.*

### What's the best thing about Switzerland?

I don't know, but the flag is a big plus.





# Hello from the Ramblers

There is a noticeable drying out in the bush at the moment, previously flooded water courses now dustbowl dry. It is amazing how quickly the terrain changes. The present worry must surely be the fire hazard of tall dry grass after the big wet spring we had.

The Forest Fire Management group have been busy of late trying to reduce the problem through a series of controlled burns. Although essential, they have impacted the Ramblers' activities, restricting access to some of our walks – no complaints though.

We did manage walks at Bullengarook, Mt Macedon, and Long Forest at Coimadai. One walk day was cancelled due to a total fire ban.

Detailed below is the Long Forrest walk at Coimadai. This is a great walk in a nature reserve on well-marked tracks. As it is a reserve, no dogs are permitted.

For details of our weekly walks, why not join our mailing list? There is no cost and details are emailed out each Wednesday. Contact Charles at [gisramblers@gmail.com](mailto:gisramblers@gmail.com).

## WALK

### Long Forest, Coimadai

Long Forest Nature Reserve, Coimadai.

Distance: Approx. 8km

Level: Medium

This is a great scenic walk, challenging in parts.

Good footwear (average runners are fine) and a hiking pole are recommended.

Varying width tracks, undulating through bushland with some rocky paths. The various tracks are well signposted, and navigation is easy.

As this is a nature reserve, no dogs are permitted.

#### Directions

From Gisborne, drive towards Bacchus Marsh and turn left onto Diggers Rest - Coimadai Road. After passing the Merrimu Reservoir, turn right into Long Forrest Road. Turn right into Canopus Circuit and look for the reserve entrance on the right.

Enter the reserve over the stile and follow the main track, passing the information shelter until reaching a signpost showing Long Point/Steep Track. Take the Long Point Track. This is a gradual downward track eventually reaching the Coimadai Creek. This is Long Point and the limit of the reserve. Backtrack about 100m until reaching the signpost for Coimadai Creek Trail. Follow this mainly single width sometimes rocky trail, until reaching the signpost indicating Coimadai Track to the left. If you find at this point that you have had enough, take this track to bring you back to the entrance, giving a loop walk of about 5km. If you are good to carry on, the more spectacular views are to come as you follow the creek trail. A further 1.5km of undulating track brings you down to the Happy Valley Track sign. To the right is Coimadai Creek. This is a scenic spot (see photo) to take a break and consider the return option.

Option 1 is to take the Happy Valley Track which leads to Long Forrest Road. Walking back to Canopus Circuit via Long Forrest Road is straightforward but long and boring (in my opinion) and has traffic noise.

Option 2 is to retrace your route back to the Coimadai Track sign and then follow this track back to the entrance. Retracing the 1.5km is my preference, as it gives a different perspective on the views.



A view in Long Forest Reserve. A download of the Ramblers' eight-kilometre route map is available on request via [gisramblers@gmail.com](mailto:gisramblers@gmail.com).



Enthusiastic bushwalking club members at the beginning of the Hovell trail at Lara. Picture: Martin Leitch.

## Following the trail of Hume and Hovell

We Gisborne bushwalkers have been offered a great range of meticulously planned walks in the great walking weather we have enjoyed lately.



At the very end of February, we were offered a pleasant 10-kilometre stroll at Lara, complete with an impressive history lesson by our leader Nigel about the European exploration and settlement of this area. The walk took 18 of us on the Hovell Creek Trail, following a small part of the epic journey of the explorers Hume and Hovell as they mapped a route, in 1824, from Sydney to the Victorian coast at Corio Bay.

We enjoyed morning tea on the boardwalk at

Limeburner's Bay and lunch at Serendip Wildlife Sanctuary, near the YouYangs, north of Lara. Thanks, Nigel, for the great day.

A walk planned for Sunbury Town Circuit had to be postponed due to hot weather...we look forward to catching up with this one.

Other walks for March included the more challenging Cherokee-to-Lion's Head climb, and return, offered by Elizabeth and Mark, and another, a little further afield in the beautiful Sherbrooke Forest, offered by Daniela. These walks will be described in the next *Gazette*.

Join us! Call Margot on 0438 260 792 or Gail on 0419 374 603. [www.gisbornebwc.org.au](http://www.gisbornebwc.org.au)

Margaret Muehlheim





Kieran Bolger ties a fly and Louis Bokor explains to a visitor at the Expo.

## Calder Fly Fishing Club mixes it with the big guns

In February, following the success of our Fly Fishing Expo at Woodend, Calder club members took part in the Victorian Fisheries Authority "Ultimate Fishing Expo" in Melbourne.

It was a credit to the club that, as a somewhat smaller regional fly fishing club based in Gisborne, it has now put its imprint firmly on the fly fishing scene.

Calder Fly Fishing members are drawn from the local Gisborne area, the broader Macedon Ranges and from a wider catchment mostly in the west of Metropolitan Melbourne.

The club has been thanked and recognised again for its input by Victorian Fisheries (the Expo hosted about 7000 visitors) and businesses that support fly fishing in the state.

In last month's *Gazette* we showed



off the interest of our club's younger members. Both our experienced and newer fly fishers had great success in March. Activity was focused on a currently (intended) very productive Goulburn River. Good catches were reported by those taking part in a club trip with several newer members being assisted by club members with flies to use and the best locations to start earnestly catching trout on fly.

If you would like to know more about the Calder Fly Fishing Association, please visit [www.calderflyfishing.com.au](http://www.calderflyfishing.com.au).

Louis Bokor

## Freewheeling with Ulysses club

There have been wedding bells within our local Ulysses group recently. These newlyweds were lucky enough to find true love, complete with the shared interest of riding motorcycles.

In one sense, they have travelled many miles together already. In another way, their journey has just begun. For love there is, and love there always will be. So, if you are looking for someone to snuggle up to this autumn, and warm the soles of your feet with by that giant flatscreen television, keep looking...!

In the meantime, come and join the Ulysses for an adventure. We accommodate a wide variety of riding styles and the members have accrued a wealth of life experience to share.

Our ride calendar is full of monthly Saturday lunch rides and Sunday trips, plus special annual events and Wednesday road rides. Here's a great chance to meet new friends with a common interest.



Macedon Ranges Ulysses newlyweds: Mark and Deb Freestone. Pictures: Matthew Dridan.

You'll find us wringing the last drops of vitamin D from the sun at the Saturday morning Tyre-Kick in Brantome Street, Gisborne, so be sure and say hello.

Check us out online at [www.mrub.org.au](http://www.mrub.org.au) or join us on Facebook for the latest news.

Matthew Dridan



Ken and Moira Hager.

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### Premiers' Reading Challenge

The Premiers' Reading Challenge is now open and this year's theme is 'wild about reading'.

The Premiers' Reading Challenge encourages students from early childhood to Year 10 to read a set number of books over the year depending on their Challenge level, with their reading efforts recorded online. Picture books, short stories, poems or non-fiction books in any language can be part of the Challenge. For more information, visit [vic.gov.au/premiers-reading-challenge](http://vic.gov.au/premiers-reading-challenge)





# SPORT IN PICTURES



Darcy Thomas bats for Gisborne, McIntyre Cup semi-final against Romsey, 18-19 March



Spencer Jones with the ball for Gisborne, McIntyre Cup semi-final against Romsey, 18-19 March



Gisborne Cricket Club McIntyre Cup team before their semi-final against Romsey on 18 and 19 March. In the qualifying final against Rupertswood the previous week, Riley Vernon (fifth from right) made 210 not out, the highest score in the club's 160-year history.



Gisborne netballers (in red tops) in action in a practice match against Melton at Gardiner Reserve on 18 March.





Kevin Jarrod, Gisborne – Division 3 bowls grand final v Diggers Rest, 14 March.



Flo Roche, Gisborne – Division 3 bowls grand final v Diggers Rest, 14 March.



Gisborne Division 3 grand final team, runners up to Diggers Rest, 14 March.



Gisborne Division 1 bowls grand final team, runners up to Kyneton, 14 March.



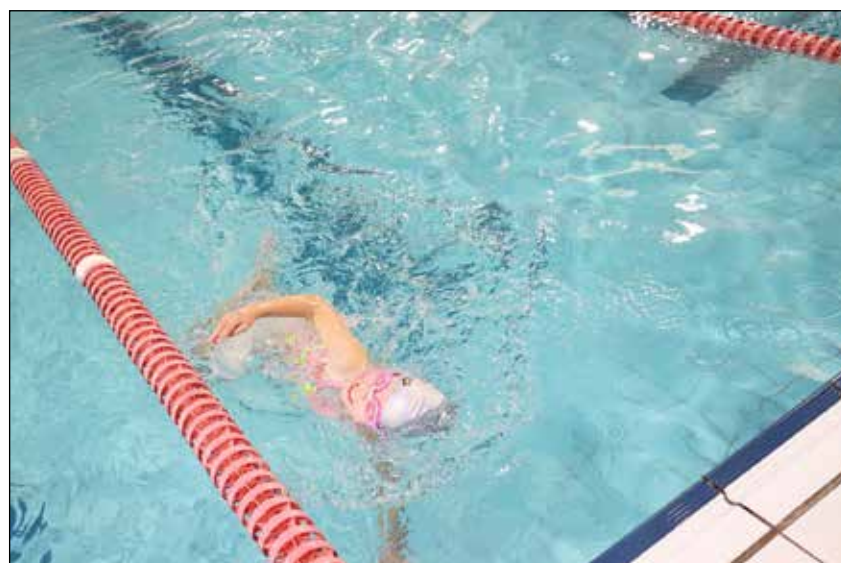
Gisborne Soccer Club Under 12 girls enjoy training at Dixon Field.



Swimmers gave it their all at a Gisborne Thunder training night at the Gisborne pool, Sunday 19 March.



*In a far-off ground (Rotorua, New Zealand), Debbie Fleming, of Mount Macedon, who played tennis in the Australasian Police and Emergency Services Games in March, acquaints some fellow players with the Gazette.*







## Macedon U18 Girls are premiers

The Macedon U18 girls put on a commanding display in the U18 grand final held at Tony Clarke oval on 5 March to win the GDCA competition defeating Bacchus Marsh 5/133 to 6/81 in their 20-over match.

Unbeaten all season, Macedon won the toss and batted. They immediately put pressure on Bacchus Marsh as the opening batters went on the attack, scoring at better than a run a ball, and the momentum was maintained all the way through the middle order and tail.

After 20 overs the score of 5/133 was always going to be tough for Bacchus Marsh. Highlights were fine innings by Bella Shaw with 38 runs from 28 balls, Iris Jayesh 24 runs from 20 balls and Ninna Harbinson with a beautifully compiled 20 runs from 20 balls.

The depth of the Macedon bowling attack has been a strength of the team all season and it was no different in the grand final. The opening bowlers, Eliza Patterson-Lade and Ninna Harbinson, bowled great line and length and kept the Bacchus Marsh openers under pressure with runs hard to come by. As soon as Bacchus Marsh worked to increase the run rate the wickets



Grand final winners: congratulations to the U18 Macedon Girls on a great season.

tumbled, with six falling in the space of 21 runs. Charli Large bowled magnificently, achieving her season best figures of 3/5 from three overs.

The presentation was presided over by GDCA Secretary Simon Ovenden who presented premiership medallions to the girls including the player of the match which was awarded to Macedon captain Bella Shaw.

Tim Shaw

## Busy times for petanque with tourneys and travel



Mt Macedon Petanque Club has started a busy couple of months with the club hosting Maldon in a "friendly" on 25 March.

Several players will travel to Adelaide for the Nationals at Easter time. Two weeks later, it's off to Halls Gap for the North and West Cup, followed by a trip to Camberwell for the Jolly Roger.

Then it will be time to start the inter-club competition, the Golden Boule, over winter.

This year two extra clubs have joined (Woodend Hanging Rock and the Avoca-based club Pyrenees). This makes a total of six teams in the competition.

So far this year, players have been to Penola for the reinstated Coonawarra Classic Clash (Rhonda Shears and June and Terry Hunter winning the Consolante). Rhonda then teamed up with Chris from St Kilda to win the Ballarat Doubles. Alison Kinghorn paired up with Ros from Mt Martha to place third in the Victorian Championship Doubles at Weird in Endeavor Hills (yes, a weird name!).

We are always keen to promote our sport. Wednesday playdays are held from 2-5pm at our grounds behind the Ampol Service Station in Gisborne. Coaching sessions are held from 1-2pm on the Wednesday falling on the same week as our Saturday sessions. Saturday



Alison Kinghorn (left) and Roslyn Allen at Weird.

playdays run from 10am-1pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays. For enquiries please go to our website: [mtmacedonpetanque.org](http://mtmacedonpetanque.org) and for updates visit our Facebook page.

Alison Kinghorn

## Close call to be ready for club titles



The SGTC Junior Club Championships were played on 26 February with a strong field of juniors registered.

At the same time the surface upgrade of two of the hard courts which was to be completed weeks before the event was delayed by days of rain and extreme temperatures. George and the crew from Idwala started at dawn most mornings to complete the works so the courts would be ready for play at the championships.

Love when a plan comes together! With the bright new surfaces bathed in sunshine, many sets were battled out on all courts. Congratulations to all players who participated. The junior club champions were Xavier Holt (boys) and Bailey Holt (girls). Coordinated by Brendan Lee and the club committee, the championships were a success. The club is very appreciative of our community partners who share a common vision with us in making our facility one for all to use. We also thank the club committee and its members for helping to make our facility so welcoming.

Keep up to date with events and UTR news by following our Facebook page or website, [www.sgtennis-club.com.au](http://www.sgtennis-club.com.au)

Gail Scott



Sam Goodwin (foreground) and Andres Cornejo play on the newly resurfaced courts.

## Dragons roar in finals



Gisborne Cricket Club has entered the finals series with lots of eventful cricket.

Our U18 and U15 girls both did really well in their semi finals but fell short, as did our U15B boys. The U15A boys were pipped in the grand final in a close one, however the U13A boys had a sensational win in their grand final.

Our Club South senior team and Club North senior team made their grand finals but could not get the job done in the big one.

Well done to all on their fantastic seasons.



Andrew Headberry

At time of writing our McIntyre Cup team was due to play Romsey in a semi-final after a convincing win over Rupertswood in the qualifying final. Riley Vernon made an outstanding 210 not out, which is the highest score in the club's 160-year history.

Andrew Headberry



## Golf gala and memorial event at Mt Macedon

Thanks as always to the *Gisborne Gazette* for its ongoing support of Mt Macedon Golf Club through their sponsorship of their recent Golf Gala. This event started in 2011 and has been an annual pairs event every year since; thanks also to Bryan Power who joined us to make the presentations.



Winners were John 'Shooter' Dawson (14) and Marcus 'RMC' Ward (13) with a combined team score of 48 points, from runners up Tony Carter (13) and Brian Collins (20) who returned with 46 points.

Kudos to the Romsey Golf Club crew of Mal Mottram, Pat Chisholm, Stephen Wilkins and Mitch Atlas who supported the event.

The 40th anniversary of the Ash Wednesday fires was once again remembered through our Memorial Three-Person Ambrose event.

Winners: Alex Fraser, Braydn Beattie (Gisborne GC) and Paul Conversano (Gisborne GC) who returned a nett 51.5. Runners Up: Nathan Fairley, Wayne Christie and Carolyn Doyle-nett 53. Gross Winners

Jarod Plowman, Brent Dryden (Gisborne GC) and Luke Rogan (Seymour GC) won on countback with 57.

*Walrus*



Marcus Ward, Gazette committee member Bryan Power who presented the trophy, and John Dawson.

With Carlos Alvarez recently nudging out Novak Djokovic as men's world No 1, and Iga Swiatek clinging on to her No 1 ranking despite some recent setbacks, it seems as good a time as any for tennis jokes (lame as they may be!).

**Why should you never marry a tennis player?**

Because to them, love means nothing.

**What time do tennis players go to bed?**  
Tennish.



Soccer club players Pip, Sally, Holly and Maddie.

## Celebrating girls in soccer

Gisborne Soccer Club welcomes girls of all age and skill levels.



Club president and former Melbourne Victory champion Carl Valeri said, "the MiniRoos Kick-Off program for 4-7-year-olds gives girls the opportunity to learn basic skills and rules of the game. From there we form competition teams usually from under 8s through to under 17s.

"With the success of the Matildas, and captain Sam Kerr often being recognised as one of the most influential women in Australian sport, the girls have so many women to inspire them in the game. Each year the number of girls registering to play at our club is growing and this year we are proud to have our first female coach, Naomi Juric, taking one of our under 11 boys' teams."

The success of women in football is proven at Gisborne with the club's Senior Women's team taking the title in the State League West 4 Championship in 2022.

Girls (and boys!) interested in playing with Gisborne SC can email [enquiries@gisbornesc.com](mailto:enquiries@gisbornesc.com).

### Seeking more girls

The club is actively seeking female players between the ages of 15 and 17, regardless of their skill level. We strongly encourage those who have never played soccer before to come along and give it a try.

Under 16/17s coach Maurice Gonzalez says the primary focus is on providing a fun and enjoyable experience while also helping players improve their game.

"Last year, our team had an incredible season and came very close to winning the title," he said. "This year, we're determined to go one step further, and we need your help to make that happen.

"As a coach, my main objective is to get the girls playing a team sport and learning to respect each other and the opposition.

"Our training sessions are held on Wednesdays



Older players Pip and Inaya, at rear, are good role models for (from left): Lila, Ava and Ines.

and Fridays from 5.45pm to 7pm at Dixon Field."

Maurice understands the vital role that team sports can play in shaping the leaders of tomorrow, particularly for young women. He has a proven track record of creating an inclusive and enjoyable atmosphere in every team he has coached.

Maurice has the ability to foster a positive team environment in which players learn to respect each other and their opponents.

If you're interested in joining the team, please contact the team manager, Kevin Hibbins, on 0419 113 540.



## Macedon Ranges Croquet Club news

Club president Noeline welcomed the Croquet Club members to our March meeting on International Women's Day (8 March). We would welcome more men to come and enjoy a game. The club mobile number is 0493 463 357.

Monday, Wednesday and Saturday are our playing days. Five new lady members have joined this season, which is wonderful.

The Northern District Croquet Association play-offs between Bendigo and Kyneton were played on our lovely courts.

We are very pleased that construction has begun on a new toilet block.

The club championships were played in February and, after a round robin between five players, Penny and Elizabeth played off on 8 March, with Penny now club champion for '22-23. Congratulations Penny!

The Regional Championships are to be played in Swan Hill with some of our members helping.

We had a successful visit from Year 9 students from Gisborne Secondary College. Both the students and our members thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We are looking forward to their return visit on 3 May. We do encourage younger people to come and enjoy this great game.

Our Easter raffle will be drawn on 1 April.

Fay Armstrong



Club members and Gisborne Secondary students enjoy a game of croquet.

## A great month for Gisborne Little Athletics Club

State Track and Field Carnival, Albert Park, Melbourne



Following a record number of our athletes qualifying in the State Track and Field Carnival, we had several finishing in the top 10 in their disciplines.

This was an incredible result for our members, who have dedicated a great deal of time to train and do their best. We are very proud that our club and athletes are achieving so well this year.

As we come to the finish of our summer season, we hold our Club Championships and Presentation evening on Friday 31 March at Dixon Field.

Our athletes will be presented with age-group medals and trophies which are representative of their achievements during the season, and the 2023 Club Champion will be announced. We have plenty of fun activities planned and we would welcome everyone to come and join us from 5pm.

Soon after the summer season closes, as a club we will be starting the cross-country season. We have set out all the running courses and have dedicated coaches and parent helpers assigned.

This will be a great time to get in touch with us to find out more. New members are always welcome.

Submitted by Drew Fisher

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Gisborne Bowling Club's Tuesday barefoot bowls winners, Wally's Mini-Diggers: Michael Monahagn, Jeff Waldran, Michelle Morrison (sponsor Gisborne Bendigo Bank), Darren Ponton and Shaun Cassidy.

Mount Macedon couple Chris and Debbie Fleming teamed up in mixed doubles tennis at the Australasian Police and Emergency Services Games in New Zealand in March, coming away with a bronze medal. Chris also won gold in men's doubles and bronze in singles.



## Visiting imam speaks of harmony in Barcham lecture

UNITING CHURCH



The late Peter Barcham would have been very pleased. On the occasion of the 13<sup>th</sup> annual lecture remembering Peter (the first principal of the Gisborne Secondary College) and his many contributions to the community, almost 100 people gathered in the Uniting Church at Gisborne.

This large audience had come to hear a not-so-common voice here, that of a leader of a Muslim community.

Imam Alaa Elzokm is the spiritual leader of the Heidelberg Heights mosque, and an imposing figure in both physical height and in the depth of his learning.

His chosen topic was "Common ground between Muslims and Christians in Australia".

The imam spoke of his childhood in Egypt, studying the Koran from the age of five, his much-loved Christian neighbour, and his arrival in Australia on Christmas Day 2015, admitting he knew little about this country except it was the land of kangaroos.

He spoke enthusiastically of his inclusion into this nation as one of its citizens and the opportunities he sees here for respect and reconciliation which can undermine bigotry and hate.



Imam Alaa Elzokm (at rear, right) and two visiting imams with Uniting Church Pastor Annette Buckley and church members Janet Wood and the Reverend Dr D'Arcy Wood.

He spoke soberly of the stain Islamist terrorism had brought to Muslims worldwide and, referencing the terrible event in Christchurch in 2019, of the fears of Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

He explained that the first mosques were established to promote reconciliation between warring tribes and so, today, in Australia, they hold open days for the community. And, of course, there's nothing quite like the sharing of good food to promote harmony.

The imam's own work connecting faith and community was recognised in 2021 with the Premier's Award for Community Harmony.

### Across

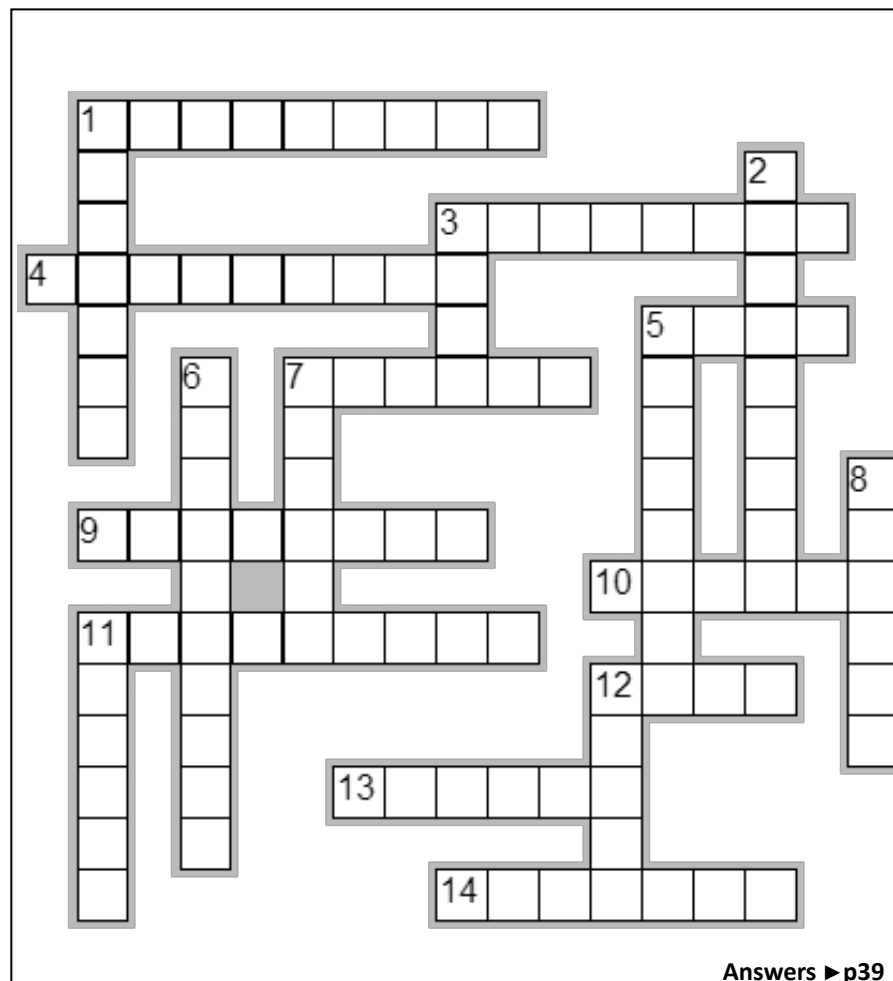
- An official appointed to investigate individuals' complaints against public authorities
- Notice of a person's death, especially in a newspaper
- A bones and muscles specialist
- Pearl Harbour is located on this Hawaiian island
- The oldest university in the English-speaking world
- What does the O in O.J. Simpson stand for?
- Pseudonym of Eric Arthur Blair
- A large body of people playing various musical instruments
- How many times does the Earth revolve around the sun per year?
- The capital city of Canada
- A geometric figure with eight sides

### Down

- Having a body mass index (BMI) equal to or greater than 30
- A home for children who cannot be cared for by their parents
- A US state that begins and ends with the letter 'O'
- The putting together of words which seem to contradict one another
- Knowing everything, having very extensive knowledge
- What colour is the black box in an airplane?
- A rectangular object with unequal adjacent sides
- Which word contains the combination of letters 'xyg'?
- Who was the last president of the USA to visit Australia?

## CROSSWORD Words starting with the letter 'O'

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



Answers ► p39

## QUIZ

- What is the capital city of Brazil?
- How many items are there in one gross?
- Who wrote the book *A Tale of Two Cities*?
- How many strings does a cello have?
- What is the chemical symbol for tungsten?
- The ancient Egyptian god Anubis had the head of a what?
- The Cornish Rex is a breed of which domestic animal?
- Who developed the first vaccine against polio?
- The album *Renaissance* was released in 2022 by which former lead singer of Destiny's Child?
- Proverbially, what do too many cooks spoil?

Answers ► p39



## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# Quilting up ready for winter giving



As the weather is getting colder, we are preparing for people needing warmth for sleeping.

The Presbyterian Church contributes quilts to the local and wider community for those in need, from new mums to older people needing a bit extra.

Our gifted quilts are distributed to our connected organisations who have direct links to people in need and are gifted with love and compassion.

In the past month, we provided 10 quilts to the Indigenous birthing unit at the Royal Women's Hospital. These quilts are in the colours of the Aboriginal flag as requested.

We will have a special sewing day later in the year where kits will be available to make these vibrant quilts.

We meet on the first and third Thursday of the month at the church hall from 9.30am to 3pm. Bring your craft project and machine, etc, and your lunch and come for an amount of time that suits you.

If you do not have a current project you would like to work on, we have quilt kits available to make gifted quilts. Even if you do not 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 and see whether we have something you would like to participate in.

We will be having a Quilt Show in October to show



*Quilt in the colours of the Aboriginal Flag donated to the Indigenous Birthing Unit at the Royal Women's Hospital.*

case our achievements and would like to include your efforts in the display. For information, please contact Glenys on 0424 383 016, Marsha on 0428 843 959 or Marion on 0448 887 657.

# Celebration of 70 years of marriage



Mount Macedon Uniting Church members June and Eric Thornton celebrated 70 years of marriage on 28 February at a family function with about 20 family members at Warrina Aged Care. June's bridesmaid, her sister, and Eric's groomsman brother also attended.

Our congregation sent flowers and an anniversary card signed by our people to congratulate them on this fantastic milestone. June and Eric have five sons and one daughter, 16 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. Formerly long-term residents of Riddells Creek and members of our congregation, both are now enjoying life at Warrina in New Gisborne.

Easter is nearly upon us. Special services will be held at the Mount Macedon Uniting Church on Good Friday at 9am and on Easter Sunday at 10.30am. We welcome visitors joining us at these services.

*Neil Tweddle, 5426 2045*



*Eric and June Thornton at their celebration.*

## UNITING CHURCH, GISBORNE

# It's official...

## ...April is absolutely the best time to be in the Macedon Ranges



Usually, the days fit English poet John Keats' description of autumn as the "season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" – except, of course, on those days that are unseasonably warm or unseasonably cold.

It is also a season when, while we are amazed at the Gondwana-like flora, it is okay also to love the colours of those magnificent trees brought from the northern hemisphere.

For Christians it's also the most dramatic season of our faith. Themes of birth, death and resurrection run through the liturgy. Honed over centuries, Easter words both challenge and reassure.

For Australians, Christians or otherwise, there is the challenge of rapidly increasing inequality. Insecurity in housing and income is the new virus.

For many First Nations people it is an old virus, one based on brutal dispossession. Local Deacon Meg Evans, one of the Uniting Church's ministerial team, tells it this way:

"I have spent some 25 years working with and living in First Nation communities with First Nation peoples in Papua New Guinea and mostly in north Queensland, with some experience in the Northern Territory.

"I have seen and felt first-hand the effects of dispossession and dislocation, of cultural and language destruction, of violence and alcohol abuse and of the experiences of powerlessness that this brings.

"I have walked and sat on the earth and listened and learned, felt the pain, experienced the guilt and wept with my indigenous family."

In response to the Uluru Statement from the Heart as well as many years of the interactions such as Meg experienced, the Uniting Church is committed to listening and respecting that call from First Nations people to be heard as Australia moves towards a referendum on the Voice to Parliament.

*Janet Wood*

## Gisborne Uniting Church Easter Services

Maunder Thursday – 7.30pm  
 Good Friday – 9.30am  
 Easter Day – 9.30am



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

### NORMAL WEEKEND SERVICES

Saturday 6pm – St Brigid's; Sunday 8am – St Ambrose; Sunday 9:30am – St Patrick's; Sunday 11am – St Brigid's.

2023 Sacrament bookings are now open for Holy Com-

munion for Year 4 and Confirmation for Year 6 students. Please email [gisborne@cam.org.au](mailto:gisborne@cam.org.au) for details.

### EASTER SERVICES

**Tenebrae – Wednesday 5 April, 6:15pm, followed by Communal Service of Forgiveness at 7pm – St Brigid's.**

**First Rite of Reconciliation – Thursday 6 April and Saturday 8 April, 9am – St Brigid's or as arranged.**

**Mass of the Lord's Supper – Thursday 6 April, 7pm – St Brigid's.**

**Good Friday Stations of the Cross – Friday 7 April, 10am – St Brigid's.**

**Good Friday Passion of the Lord – Friday 7 April, 3pm – St Brigid's.**

**Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass – Saturday 8 April, 7pm – St Brigid's.**

**Easter Sunday Mass – Sunday 9 April, 8am – St Ambrose; Easter Sunday Mass – Sunday 9 April, 9:30am – St Patrick's; Easter Sunday Mass – Sunday 9 April, 11am – St Brigid's.**

### St Vincent de Paul

A new chapter of St Vincent de Paul has recently been established in Gisborne. If you are in need of assistance, whether it be by way of food vouchers or perhaps furniture, please reach out to 1800 305 330.





# 100 YEARS AGO

## APRIL 1923

**Girl Guides – Training School at Government Cottage, Macedon.** The Girl Guide movement has been slowly but surely making itself felt throughout Australia. With a view to establishing it in Victoria, two expert Guides have come from England and, at Government Cottage, Macedon, during Easter Week, these two ladies conducted a training school, when some 40 guides and prospective guides made a study of the many branches which comprise the movement. "Pow-wows", physical drill, nature study, girl guide games, "stalking", tracking and signalling and woodcraft played an interesting part in the week's programme, so that the trainees were able to gain an insight into many important features of Girl Guide work. Each new Guide makes a threefold promise to do her best: 1. To do her duty to God and the King, 2. To help other people at all times, 3. To obey the Guide Law. The Guide Law is based on the code of honor used by the knights of old and corresponds closely to that of the Boy Scouts.

*Sunraysia Daily, April 13, 1923*

**Horticultural Show – Gisborne.** The Gisborne Horticultural Society held a successful show on Saturday, notwithstanding the very dry season. There was a creditable display of flowers, and the fruit exhibits were of a high order and numerous. A feature of the show was a display of pot-grown tuberous begonias made by Mr. Arthur Oakley of Gisborne. The fruit shown was very fine and the competition keen between the growers of Bacchus Marsh, Gisborne, Riddell and Macedon.

*The Argus, April 19, 1923*

**Water for Southern District.** The exceptionally dry season has caused a hitherto unknown water famine in many places south of the Dividing Ranges. Residents of some of these placed have combined in taking an interest in the possibility of water storages. Those in the districts of Melton, Toolern Vale, Diggers' Rest, Holden and surrounding places have formed a committee and have already visited certain storage sites at the headwaters of the Maribyrnong River, situated above Gisborne at positions known as "Waterloo" and "Little Scotland" [New Gisborne]. The probable outcome will be a thorough survey and report later on. These storages would have direct application to the requirements of Gisborne, Toolern Vale, Coughalt and districts north of Melton.

*The Argus, April 27, 1923*

**Football.** Woodend and Macedon football clubs have joined the Riddell District Association, the Trentham League with which they had been affiliated having disbanded.

*The Age, April 28, 1923*

**Minutes of Gisborne Shire Council – April 10.** T. Johnson applied for the use of electric light for a picture show one night a week from 7.45 to 10.30.

*Gisborne Gazette, April 13, 1923*



## WHAT'S ON REGULAR MEETINGS

New members always welcome

- ADULT RIDING CLUB (Gis)** 2nd Saturday of month IR Robertson Res  
**ADULT RIDING CLUB (Bullengarook)** 2nd Saturday Rec Reserve  
**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 0438 260 792 or 0419 610 811
- CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** last Wed of month MRH
- CAR CLUB** 1st Wednesday 8pm Steam Park, New Gisb
- CARERS GROUP (Mac Ranges)** 2nd & 4th Thurs, 1pm Woodend RSL 5420 7132 (Note: 4th Thurs carers only)
- COMMUNITY GARDEN** Wed 9am Church of Christ
- CROQUET CLUB** Mon, Wed & Sat 10am 0426 500 516, Noeline Richardson Dixon Field
- CWA GISBORNE** 2nd Monday 10am Gis Secondary College  
**CWA MACEDON** 3rd Tues 1pm & 7pm 662 Mt Macedon Rd
- DALY RESERVE WORKING BEE** 2nd Tues 9.30am Scout Hall, Daly Res
- FILM SOCIETY** 2nd Wed Woodend Neigh'hood House 5427 2323
- FLY FISHING CLUB** 4th Wed 7.30pm MRFEC Gisborne
- FOCUS CLUB** 2nd Fri 12 noon Goonawarra Golf Club, Sunbury
- FRIENDS of JACKSONS CREEK** working bees 3rd Sun 10-noon David Tunbridge 0415 534 477
- 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@junseikan.com.au
- MASONIC LODGE** 2nd Thurs 7pm Masonic Hall Aitken St
- MASTERS AFL** Wed 6.30pm Sankey Reserve
- MT MAC & DIST HORT SOC** 1st Tues 8pm Horticultural Hall
- MUFFINS 'N' MORE** 2nd Tues 10am-noon Uniting Church
- MUMS' GROUP** 2nd Mon 9.30-11.30am 49 Fisher St
- OBEDIENCE DOG CLUB** Sun 9am Riddells Rec Res
- PETANQUE** 2nd & 4th Sat 10am behind Caltex service station, Station Rd, Gisborne 0439 887 178
- PHOENIX ART & CRAFTS** Saturdays as required 0409 121 025
- 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 Senior Cits room, Gisborne Community Centre
- QUILTERS (Gisb)** Wed 7pm Room attached to Gisb Library
- RAMBLERS** Fridays 9.15am Tennis Club Dixon Field
- ROTARY (Gisborne)** First & third Tues 7pm Telegraph Hotel, email gisbornerotary@gmail.com for confirmation of venue
- ROTARY (Macedon Ranges)** 1st & 3rd Monday Baringo Food & Wine
- RUNNING GROUP** Tues & Thurs 6pm, Sun 8am Gis Aquatic Centre
- RSL** 1st Mon 2pm Gis Golf Club 5428 2233
- SENIOR CITS (Macedon)** Tues 11am Tony Clarke Res
- SPINNERS & FIBRE GROUP** Wed 12.30pm Rec Reserve Bullengarook
- SUPPORT AFTER SUICIDE** 2nd Monday each month, even if public holiday, 7 to 8.30pm Newham Mechanics Inst. (1292 Rochford Rd) E: peersupport@mrsppag.com.au
- 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 sddgome@patash.com.au

## WHAT ELSE IS ON



Date		Page
<b>APRIL</b>		
1-30	Autum Festival and temporary road closures	4
1	Genie workshop: Ryerson Index death records	20
1	Edgy Veg awards open	6
1	E-bike Expo in Woodend	6
1, 2	Phoenix art show at Old Court House	16
2	Gisborne Olde Time Market	2
3	MRFEC Term 2 class enrolments open	14
4	Creatures of the Night in Bullengarook	8
8	Opening of landscape art prize show at Gallery	16
15	Electric Vehicle Expo in Malmesbury	6
20	Post-Fossil Fuels workshop in Gisborne	8
20	Bird walk for Beginners in Gisborne	8
22	Official opening of Wyralla Reserve	5
25	Anzac memorial services	11
26	Gisborne Renewable Energy Group info night	9
26	Council grant information sessions	8
28	Melbourne Comedy Festival Roadshow in Kyneton	17
29	Macedon Village Farmers' Market	
29	Fungi Van at Macedon Village Farmers' Market	8
29, 30	CWA Creative Arts Exhibition in Lancefield	18
30	Gisborne Singers' Mozart <i>Requiem</i> in Sunbury	17
30	Edgy Veg awards close	6
30	Diesel at Kyneton Town Hall	17
<b>MAY</b>		
6	Opening of landscape photo show at Gallery	16
7	Gisborne Singers' Mozart <i>Requiem</i> in Kyneton	17

### Crossword answers

ACROSS		
11 Orchestra	3 Ohio	
1 Ombudsman	12 Once	5 Oxymoron
3 Obituary	13 Ottawa	6 Omniscient
4 Osteopath	14 Octagon	7 Orange
5 Oahu		8 Oblong
7 Oxford	<b>DOWN</b>	11 Oxygen
9 Oriental	1 Obesity	12 Obama
10 Orwell	2 Orphanage	

### Quiz answers

1 Brasilia	6 A jackal
2 144	7 Cat
3 Charles Dickens	8 Jonas Salk
4 Four	9 Beyonce
5 W	10 The broth

### Junior Quiz answers

1 Luigi	5 France	Food Company
2 H2O	6 One	8 Wellington
3 An elf	7 Sanitarium Health	9 The eye
4 24		10 Ed Sheeran

## Baringo Film Club

3pm Wednesday | 3pm and 7pm Saturday

### APRIL

- 5 to 8 ..... *Margrete: Queen of the North* (Danish historical drama)
- 12 to 15 ..... *French Dispatch* (French drama comedy)
- 19 to 22 ..... *Decision to Leave* (Korean romantic thriller)
- 26 to 29 ..... *Limelight* (Classic)

Membership is now closed.

[www.baringofilmclub.com](http://www.baringofilmclub.com)



*The Telegraph Hotel*  
SINCE 1852

**GEORGE TRIMMER BAND  
LIVE FROM 2:30**



# ANZAC DAY

**TUESDAY 25th APRIL  
10am OPEN**

**AFL LIVE FROM 3:15  
ON THE BIG SCREEN**



**YABBY RACES**



**TWO UP**

**SAUSAGE  
SIZZLE**



## MOUNT MACEDON ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

**TUESDAY 25TH APRIL AT 6AM  
AT THE MOUNT MACEDON MEMORIAL CROSS**

**ACCESS TO DAWN SERVICE VIA BUS ONLY  
(CAMERON DRIVE CLOSED)**

**Gisborne to Dawn Service:**

DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:15am	Gisborne Train Station	4:45am
5:10am	Gisborne Train Station	5:40am

**Woodend to Dawn Service:**

DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:30am	Woodend Train Station	4:50am
5:15am	Woodend Train Station	5:35am

**Lancefield & Romsey to Dawn Service:**

DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:45am	Lancefield Mechanics Hall	5:20am
5:00am	Romsey Community Hub	5:20am

Tony Clarke Recreation Reserve - Waterfalls Road, Macedon:

**FIRST BUS: 4.15am  
LAST BUS: 5.20am**

**+ On-Site  
Coffee Van!**

Buses from Tony Clarke Recreation Reserve in Macedon will operate as a continuous shuttle service.

**Kyneton to Dawn Service:**

DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:45am	Post Office	5:15am

**Riddells Creek to Dawn Service:**

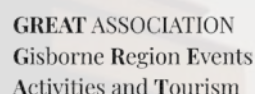
DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:15am	Riddells Creek Primary	4:45am

**Sunbury to Dawn Service:**

DEPART:	LOCATION:	ARRIVE:
4:50am	Sunbury Train Station	5:30am

**BOOKINGS FOR ALL BUS SERVICES ARE ESSENTIAL (EXCEPT FOR THE MACEDON BUS SERVICE)  
TO BOOK VISIT [WWW.ORGANSCOACHES.COM.AU](http://WWW.ORGANSCOACHES.COM.AU) OR PHONE 5422 1788**

*A GOLD COIN DONATION WOULD BE APPRECIATED*



For further information visit [www.mtmacedondawnservice.org](http://www.mtmacedondawnservice.org)