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Gisborne Gazette

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DECEMBER 2020 – JANUARY 2021

FREE

He's top dog

By Bryan Power

Graeme Wilson, at the age of 82, is about to resume his role as the top man in the Macedon Ranges. After a long winter break, Graeme is keen to move into his newly installed office with windows that give him magnificent 360-degree views over the shire.

Yes, you've probably guessed by now that Graeme is the fire watcher who keeps a vigilant eye from atop the 32-metre tower at the summit of Mount Macedon.

His workplace was upgraded last month with the cabin and access ladders replaced to improve the safety and comfort of the fire lookout observer.

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From the Editor's desk

I can't believe I am writing this for the December *Gazette*. What a year we've had!

This edition includes a number of end-of-year features including the *Gazette* Service Awards on page 16 and the *Gazette* Student Awards on page 26. In our centre spread, seven locals share some of their 2020 journey in a 'Celebrating resilience' feature. I sincerely thank the contributors for their openness in touching on challenges others will have faced this year, such as lack of motivation, feelings of isolation or being overwhelmed, and cyber bullying. I particularly like one of the 'average mums' highlights of this year – "seeing that if we work together as a family, community and country, we can do and achieve great things".

When the first lockdown hit in March, it looked for a moment like the *Gazette* might be a casualty. The April edition was printed in small number, only made available in central locations and the online version promoted. Thankfully, restrictions eased and our volunteer distributors were happy to resume letterbox delivery in May but with so many community groups forced to cease activity to help stop the spread of COVID-19, submissions fell dramatically in the months that followed.

Driven by the strong belief that a happy community newspaper was more vital in 2020 than ever before, we introduced full-page features, new columns, a crossword and reports on how the pandemic was affecting local lives. Most of our advertisers stuck with us and the *Gazette* stayed 40 pages all year. To embrace the more digital COVID-world, in June we restarted our Facebook page and in July a volunteer redesigned our website.

I estimate more than 250 South Ward residents contributed to the *Gazette* in some form this year. For all of you, great news: our green rag won Best Community Newspaper at the Community Newspaper of Victoria 2020 Awards in November! (Details at right). Thank you so much for supporting the paper during the pandemic. You have helped us make history.

Bushfire season is upon us and you will find tips for keeping your household and property safe on page 6. As the Council article says, being fire ready is everyone's responsibility. It is a comfort to know that Graeme Wilson, on this month's cover and the subject of Bryan Power's feature article, will keep a lookout for local fire activity but I think we all agree that the ideal summer is one without any fire events.

The festive season is around the corner. As you shop for Christmas gifts, try to shop locally as much as possible. We have a wide variety of shops and Christmas markets (see page 4) in the South Ward and across the Macedon Ranges that will especially appreciate your custom this year.

Finally, singing and large public gatherings are still restricted so usual December events such as carols and the Gisborne Festival will not take place, but smaller, private gatherings are permitted and present a perfect opportunity for a quality catch-up with family and friends, old and new. Our street is having a street party for the first time in years which I am very much looking forward to.

Happy reading, happy holidays and fingers crossed for a happier 2021!

Corinne

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Where you can find the Gazette

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Gisborne: Post Office, Village Shopping Centre, Priceline Chemist, Gisborne Medical Centre in Brantome Street, Puma Service Station, Coles and Foodworks supermarkets

Mt Macedon: The Trading Post
Macedon: Post Office and United Service Station on Black Forest Drive
New Gisborne: Cafe at 3 Ladd Road
Riddells Creek: Newsagency
Woodend: Coles supermarket

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www.gisbornegazette.org.au

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OBITUARIES

To submit an obituary for publication, please email elgrae@bigpond.com or phone 5428 2522. Please also provide a photograph for publication and restrict the article to about 250 words.

Gazette wins awards

On November 14 the *Gisborne Gazette* was named Best Community Newspaper at the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria 2020 Awards.

The judge commended the *Gazette* for its engaging stories, attractive cover photos, clever use of photos on internal pages, good layout throughout and good ad placement.

The paper was also runner-up in three other categories: Best Community Content, Best Editorial (a 'From the Editor' by Corinne Shaddock) and Best History Story ('The big O.D.' by Pip Butler, about Bullengarook's David O'Donnell).

The *Gazette* team was over the moon to learn the news and is still celebrating!

A MINUTE WITH MAXINE

Who would have thought earlier this year, we would be wearing masks to deliver the *Gazette* for the remainder of 2020?

I would like to thank the *Gazette* truck, bundle and delivery team who are Peter Barker, Moc Hoyne, Bob Bessner, Gary and Margot Sanders, Graeme Millar, Neil Anderson, Michael O'Brien, Fiona Mallia, Nick Haslinghouse, Graeme and Lois Coggin; a big thank you to you all.

To all the 75 valued distributors who deliver the paper in Gisborne, New Gisborne, Macedon and Mount Macedon and to the outer areas of the Macedon Ranges, thank you for your ongoing help and support during 2020.

Special thanks to Gillian Cafari, Barbara Boyd and Melissa Delavaris, Robyn and Lou Morsello, who agreed to fill in at short notice.

Thanks also go to Barb Pye and Chris Rhodes who deliver to the shops in Gisborne and to Dorothy Murray who delivers to the Riddells Creek Newsagency. Special thanks go to Di and Robert Barker who are retiring after 13 years of delivering the *Gazette* to Morningside Mews in Gisborne.

Certificates for reaching five years of distributing the *Gazette* have gone to Trish Bradshaw, Mary Anne Bruce, Victoria Fairbairn and David Johnstone, Robyn Johnston, Rachel Neely, and Gary and Margot Sanders. See photos on page 16. Congratulations and thank you.

I finish by saying that we are fortunate at the *Gazette* to have such a dedicated team of volunteers.

Until 2021, stay safe and well.
Maxine Barker

New respect for Darth



Now that we have all had to wear masks for a while, we should have more appreciation for people who have always had to wear them for work.

Mark Jackson, alias Darth Vader, welded in full sun while working on the new miniature train workshop at the Gisborne Steam Park on November 9 but didn't sweat the small stuff. See the full story on page 32.



The new Oaks aged care home planned for the corner of Hamilton and Neal Streets.

New Oaks plans go to council

Benetas/Macedon Ranges Health has submitted plans for the new Oaks aged care home to Council.

A few changes have been made in response to feedback to draft plans announced last year, including additional communal spaces and more accessible open spaces, and a move to larger wings as opposed to smaller apartments.

More information can be found at www.benetas.com.au/the-new-oaks and the plans are also available for viewing and comment via Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

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Big boost for 'tween' support

Macedon Ranges Health (MRH) is thrilled to announce the expansion of the MRH TWEENS Youth Clinic, made possible by a \$12,500 grant from the Gisborne & District Community Bank branch of Bendigo Bank.

TWEENS supports upper primary students with life challenges; be that transitioning to secondary school, anxiety with losses of friendships and schools or feeling overwhelmed by workloads.

It complements the approach of schools ensuring students are supported, nurtured and referred to mental health supports and a GP as required.

"This funding allows us to engage an additional four to five local primary schools and the planning is well underway," said Louise Beer, Community Health Nurse with the MRH TWEENS Program.

"We know that schools and students have had a challenging 2020 and we hope the broader reach of this program for grade 5/6 students will assist in navigating these challenges. This funding will target 2021 and set up strong networks for forthcoming years."



Community health nurse Louise Beer (left) and Steve Power of Macedon Ranges Health are presented with a cheque by Bendigo Bank branch manager Sarah Barton.

The MRH Youth Clinic for 12- to 25-year-olds has been operating for over 18 years, evolving to meet the changing needs of young people. This year has seen many changes and telehealth has proved a successful model for the Outreach Clinics at secondary schools and for maintaining contact with the service's weekly Youth Clinic clients.

\$30 million social housing build for Macedon Ranges

A minimum of \$30 million has been allocated to build affordable social housing in Macedon Ranges Shire over the next four years.

The Macedon Ranges has been identified as one of 21 priority areas across Victoria, and expressions of interest are being sought from the housing and building sectors.

The project was revealed in the State Budget on November 24. It is part of a statewide package expected to boost the state's social housing supply by 10 per cent and cost about \$5 billion over four years.

Of the new homes, 2,000 across the state will be for people with mental illness. A further 2,900 will be built to help low-to-moderate income earners live closer to where they work and provide options for private rental. The new homes will meet 7-star energy efficiency standards.

Loved up in lockdown

COVID-19 lockdowns did not get in the way of Mount Macedon residents Simon Roberts and Katie Hamer taking their next big leap – into married life.

With the regional travel restrictions lifted Simon and Katie dashed off for a quick climbing tour of Mount Arapiles followed by a hike along the Great Ocean Walk. To Katie's surprise, Simon added an impromptu stop at the picturesque Loch Ard Gorge to pop the question.

After a few moments of shock Katie happily accepted and the pair hurriedly called family and friends to share the news. With Katie originally from the United States of America and Simon from Western Australia, the Mount Macedon pair are ready to tackle their next challenge together, planning an international wedding in a COVID-normal world.



Simon Roberts and Katie Hamer celebrate their engagement on the Great Ocean Road.

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Gallery open for Christmas shopping

Hooray, The Gallery is open again in December, normal hours: Friday to Tuesday, 10am to 4pm. We are closed Wednesday and Thursday.

As this memorable year of COVID-19 draws to a close, the artists of The Gallery Mt Macedon encourage you to come in and see our lovely range of Christmas gifts. Something for everyone from \$5 to \$500. Why not give a unique handmade gift this Christmas and support your local artists?

As always we thank you for being our loyal customers and wish all a safe and healthy Christmas.

January event

In January the gallery is planning a fun weekend for all ages called Look Learn Create. Several workshops and demonstrations will be held over the weekend of January 23-24.

Due to COVID restrictions the program is yet to go to print but look for details on our website and Facebook or call in for a brochure. The venue is outside behind the gallery. Bookings for workshops are essential. The cost is \$20 including materials.

We thank the Bendigo Bank for their generous support to enable this to happen.

The Gallery will be closed on December 25-26 and New Year's Day. www.thegallerymtmacedon.com

Colleen Weste



The CWA ladies invite you to visit their pop-up stall on December 5.

CWA holds Christmas Pop-Up Stall

Following hot on the heels of the success of the CWA pop-up scone stalls in Kyneton, Woodend and at the Riddells Creek Farmers Market in October, the combined branches of the Country Women's Association of Victoria are busy baking and crafting for a Christmas Pop-Up Stall to be held at the CWA Macedon Hall, 662 Mount Macedon Road, from 1-5 pm on Saturday December 5.

The CWA's Christmas cakes and puddings, which can be collected from the stall, are available for pre-order at a cost of \$30 per kilo. Email cwacentralhighlandsgroup@gmail.com to order.



Putting a little magic back into Christmas this year, the Christmas Pop-Up Stall will feature a range of the CWA's home-baked goods including marmalade and jam, Christmas shortbread, gifts and decorations – everything homemade by local members.

The CWA Central Highlands Group consists of 12 branches and over 160 members across the Macedon Ranges and surrounding Central Highlands areas. Our local CWA branches are proud of our ongoing contribution supporting the needs of women, children and families in Victorian communities.

A bird in the hand...

This magpie almost came to grief when it fell into a bucket of water containing chicken manure ready to be poured onto the veggie garden.

It is not certain how long the magpie was in the bucket but when it was retrieved, it didn't look too good. It was immediately taken to a vet in Gisborne to be assessed and within

a short time it was in the hands of Lynda, a volunteer with the Macedon Ranges Wildlife Network.

Lynda returned the magpie within four days to the Gisborne address where the incident occurred and the bird was released to be with its family and friends once again. www.MRWN.org.au



Lynda ready to release the fortunate magpie.

Montessori Christmas market

Get your Christmas shopping done while enjoying a day out at Gisborne Montessori School's COVID-safe, family-friendly Christmas Market on Saturday December 5.

There will be over 60 stalls offering gifts, art and craft, homewares and treats. Stallholders from the Macedon Ranges will showcase their products and creations, providing an opportunity to support local businesses.

Musical performances will entertain while you browse the stalls or relax with a bite to eat. Children will enjoy face-painting and meeting the school's animals – Chip the alpaca and miniature donkeys Diego and Milo. There will also be a special appearance from Mrs Claus with photo opportunities.

The organisers will be implementing all appropriate health and safety measures to ensure the open-air event will be COVID-safe, such as physically spaced stalls and activities.

The school is delighted to host the event and strengthen connections within the broader community. The organising committee of school parents were encouraged to see enormous interest from stallholders.

The market presents a perfect opportunity to fundraise for the school, while supporting small businesses from the local area. It will run from 8am to 2pm at the school, 57 Barringo Road, New Gisborne. Parking will be available at the adjacent Netball Complex. For further details see www.gisbornemontessori.vic.edu.au.



Neeson movie films at Macedon

The movie *Blacklight*, starring Liam Neeson, was filming at Nursery Lake (The Res) in Macedon last month. The location was set up to resemble a trailer park in Maryland, US.

The film has been described as a thriller about "a troubled off-the-books fixer for the FBI tasked with pulling undercover agents out of dangerous situations", who finds himself caught up in a conspiracy that goes right to the top.

According to the *Midland Express*, the film's location manager said the reservoir would be the backdrop for a trailer park in the film's opening sequence.

"This is where our hero arrives to rescue someone from the caravan park who is in danger," he said.

Blacklight is using the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre as a studio as the Docklands Studios were already booked.



Set director Mark Williams directs the action on November 13. Inset: Liam Neeson during filming in Melbourne.



Scrappy boats and caravans populate the Res at Macedon as the set is designed as a down-and-out trailer park in the US.



Picture: Chris Fleming

Last hours of South Gisborne 'ring of steel'

Sergeant Steve Bax of Castle-maine Police was the officer in charge of the second-last shift at the South Gisborne checkpoint on Sunday November 8. Sergeant Bax said the checkpoint had been manned 24/7

by police officers from the Mac-edon Ranges and Loddon districts and they had been grateful for drivers' understanding of the need for the enforcement of travel restrictions during the worst of the pandemic.

Sgt Steve Bax waves through checked drivers.



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New council and mayor sworn in



South Ward councillors Rob Guthrie, Anne Moore and Dominic Bonanno after being sworn in on November 16.

A mix of returning, former and new councillors will form Macedon Ranges Shire Council for the next four years.

The new councillors were sworn in on November 16 at a ceremony that was livestreamed from Council's Gisborne Administration Centre. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the ceremony was attended by councillors and council staff only.

The new councillors for the South Ward are Dominic Bonanno, Rob

Guthrie and Anne Moore.

Councillors for the East Ward are Annette Death, Geoff Neil, Bill West and for the West Ward, Jennifer Anderson, Janet Pearce and Mark Ridgeway.

West Ward Councillor Jennifer Anderson was elected for a one-year term as mayor by the new council on Monday November 23. It is the fourth time Cr Anderson will serve as mayor. Councillors elected fellow

West Ward and first-time councillor Mark Ridgeway as deputy mayor for a one-year term.

The swearing in and subsequent meetings will be available at mrsc.vic.gov.au/livestream

For more information, see mrsc.vic.gov.au/councillors



Jennifer Anderson to serve as mayor.

New podcast series shares local stories

Macedon Ranges Shire Council recently launched the *In This Together* podcast.

The series will share stories from across the shire about adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic, and looking beyond it. It will look at what's changed, what's stayed the same, and how the community is sticking together and supporting each other.

The weekly podcast will focus on different topics, starting with the first release, Helping Hand, and address subjects including sustainability, staying connected, creativity in lockdown and more.

It will also feature interviews with a range of residents and information about Council initiatives that support the community.

A supplemental program, Humans of Macedon Ranges, will be published on the same podcast feed, interviewing residents with fascinating stories. They range from high-profile residents to hidden gems.

To find out more, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/podcasts

How well are you prepared for summer?

Do you have a bushfire survival plan? Understanding your level of risk is the first step in developing a bushfire survival plan.

Research shows that many people living in high-risk areas threatened by bushfire will leave it too late to make critical decisions, often leaving them with very few options. In high-risk areas, leaving early is your safest option, particularly on Code Red, Extreme or Severe fire danger days.

Things to consider

Where will you go?

What to pack in your emergency kit – does it include medicines, phone charger, pet or baby food?

What about your animals? Your plan should consider their welfare too.

Tips for staying safe

Take the time to prepare now.

Download the "Can I, Can't I" brochure from the CFA website, cfa.vic.gov.au to find out what you can and can't do during the fire danger period.



Prepare a bushfire survival plan using the Red Cross Rediplan template at redcross.org.au/prepare

Download the Vic Emergency app to your smartphone or tablet and use it to stay up to date with local fire danger ratings and total fire bans. You can also find us on Facebook. Search for 'Macedon Ranges Emergency Alerts' and 'like' our page. Our page focuses on helping you to prepare for and respond to an emergency in your town or region. It does not replace official emergency alerts from the CFA, Victoria Police or SES.

Remember, being fire ready is everyone's responsibility. Take the time to prepare yourself, your family, your animals and your property so we can all be safer this summer.

Campaign tackles gender-based violence

The Council is proud to support Respect Victoria to deliver its Respect Women: 'Call It Out' campaign. The campaign is part of the global 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which started on November 25 and runs to December 10.

Council encourages residents to follow the campaign on council's social media pages, talk with friends and loved ones, and share 16 Days posts.

Statistics show that one in four women have experienced violence by an intimate partner since the age of 15 (compared to one in 13 men).

For more information, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/Violence-Against-Women and the Respect Victoria website.

If you are experiencing or at risk of experiencing violence, help is available. You can access help 24/7 by calling Safe Steps on 1800 015 188 or by visiting safesteps.org.au

If you are male and worried your behaviour might be harming your partner or family members, call the Men's Referral Service on 1300 766 491 to speak to a specialist counsellor.

Win a cubby house for Christmas

During the shutdown we've been doing some community projects in our own sheds at home.

We started the year by raising over \$7,000 for Leukaemia Australia with a World's Greatest Shave event and we have finished off by building a cubby house – our 2020 Grand Finale Project complete with furniture, masterminded by Shedman Max with assistance from fellow Shedmen, to raise funds for the Gisborne Foodbank.

Thanks for the support of GREAT (Gisborne Region Events, Activities & Tourism) who have helped cover the cost of materials.

For your chance to win this cubby house for your children or grandchildren and to support this worthy community cause go to:

<https://a-cubby-house-for-christmas.raisely.com/>

Tickets are \$5. All proceeds go to the Gisborne Foodbank and we'll deliver and install within a 30-kilometre radius of Gisborne.

The cubby will be displayed on Saturdays and Sundays at various locations around Gisborne until December 13 and the winner will be drawn on the 18th.

Despite the extended shutdown, we've had an educational, interesting and eventful 2020 as we've all learnt how to use Zoom and telephone conference calls to keep in touch.

We've also learnt a lot about other members having parts of their histories featured in our magazine.

We'll be open again by the time you read this, and we wish you all a merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Make it a New Year's resolution to pop in and see us. The billy is boiling every Monday and Thursday from 9am to midday.

Before we close off for 2020, we'd like to congratulate the whole team at the *Gisborne Gazette* on winning the annual Community Newspaper Association of Victoria award for Best Community Paper. How lucky we all are to have this amazing local "good news" newspaper.

At The Shed we're even luckier because the *Gazette* is our major sponsor.



Shedmen Doug, Paul and project manager Max with the finished cubby.



Max and Terry in the early construction days.



Gunther, Roger and Max on assembly day.



BETTY'S BOOP
With Betty Doolan

Over the last three months of lockdown, wonderful things have happened to the residents at Gisborne Oaks. Whilst we were sad not to see our families and friends, we have been showered with gifts and beautiful letters from Rotary, Year 10 students from Gisborne Secondary College and many letters and drawings from children. Thank you to the lady who brought camellias to the home, it made a nice flower show.

On Halloween, residents sat along the inside of the windows and were dressed in witch hats to welcome the 'kindy kids'. They visited all dressed in little safety vests and hats, carrying signs with lovely messages; they ran from window to window holding them as high as they could.

Resident Hazel is still up in the air about Richmond winning the premiership and of course, the photo of the 1934 VFL Premiership Team when Richmond defeated South Melbourne – go Tigers!

Lindy from the Lifestyle Team showed us their magazine. The front page was a photo of the four seasons of Macedon; how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful area. It shows happy residents doing all sorts of things and a photo of our new chef, who is from Ireland. Residents are very lucky we have good chefs and kitchen staff and cleaners.

Lastly, I have tried several times to write the biggest thank you to the wonderful staff who have looked after us during this difficult time. These wonderful women and men worked double shifts, they dressed up, dyed their hair, had nail days, sock days, PJ days, and there were days when everyone wore the same colour.

May you all be blessed to have a safe and happy Christmas. See you in the New Year.

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Don't forget to slip, slop, slap this summer

It's hard to believe it's summer again after what seems to have been the longest year of our lives. I have pretty much not seen sun since last summer as we have been in lockdown most of this year.

The sun shining and the temperature rising sends us a timely reminder that it is important to be sun smart. Research by the Cancer Council of Victoria tells us that skin cancer kills nearly 2,000 Australians each year – more than the national road toll – and two in three people will be diagnosed with skin cancer by the age of 70.



By Julie Ireland

A regular article about general health

Ensure that you **slip** on sun-protective clothes, **slop** on SPF30 (or higher) sunscreen and **slap** on a hat (protecting your face, head, neck and ears). Stay in the shade during the middle of the day when the sun's UV levels are at their most dangerous, and wear sunglasses to protect your eyes. Check your skin regularly for any changing in shape, colour or size of spots and visit your doctor. Most skin cancer can be successfully treated if found early but can be deadly if left untreated.

It's time to get out and about, enjoy the sunshine and use the holiday season to recharge both physically and mentally and reconnect with our friends and family. Please be kind to others, but most importantly, be kind to yourselves. And slip, slop, slap!

BRAINBUSTERS QUIZ

1. Who was the first Australian to win Junior and Senior Iron Man titles in the same year?
2. In computing, what does RAM stand for?
3. Which former NZ Prime Minister declared "New Zealanders who leave to live in Australia raise the IQ of both countries"?
4. What does a phillumenist collect?
5. What is the name given to members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints?
6. From which film is "He's only a kid Harry. We can take him"?
7. Who was the last President (in office) of the US to visit Australia?
8. In 1965, who became the first Australian to swim across the English Channel?
9. What is the only country crossed by both the Equator and the Tropic of Capricorn?
10. What is the name given to the front of a ship?

Compiled by Graeme Millar. Answers page 39

On being content in any circumstance

Emerging from the year that it was, we have learned much more about ourselves than we might have otherwise. We saw what could frighten us and what could make us sad. We learned more about our frustrations and our default coping mechanisms. We realised how we could benefit from slowing down, or from focusing intently. Perhaps we felt more sharply than before what makes us happy and what gives meaning to our lives.

The power of purpose

Being happy is not the same as having meaning and purpose in life. Happiness relates to the philosophy of "hedonism" by which we seek to satisfy our drive for pleasure: to feel good, to have more, to be satiated. But time and again hedonic happiness turns out to be short-lived and consumerist by definition, as we get hungry again and our appetite turns to the "next best thing".

On the other hand, "eudemonic happiness" is an ongoing inner state that is about having a personal meaning in life. It usually involves values and purpose greater than one's own immediate needs and brings satisfaction from contributing and being part of something greater than oneself. In contrast to the drive for satisfaction, this kind of contentedness is ongoing and independent of external circumstances or hardship.

Good relationships keep us happier and healthier

The famous Harvard study of Adult Development is the longest and the most thorough longitudinal project, tracking over 80 years the lives of 724 Harvard men and disadvantaged inner-city folk. (Unfortunately, the female perspective is missing since at the time of the original cohort, Harvard only



Clinical psychologist Dr Biliana Ivanova writes about what many people may be feeling.

accepted male students.)

The findings are clear, unequivocal and universal to all walks of life. What matters most is not success, wealth, or recognition, but close trusting relationships, where there is reciprocity and care. Those who are more socially connected to family, friends and community are happier, physically healthier and live longer. And clearly this is not about hedonic drive, since good relationships require patience and giving and are sometimes hard work.

The power of authenticity

In an unusual project, a palliative care nurse, Bronnie Ware, recorded people's regrets and advice at the end of life. There were five common regrets offered as advice to the living:

I wish I'd had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.

I wish I didn't work so hard, and spent more time with my loved ones.

I wish I'd had the courage to express my feelings.

I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.

I wish that I had let myself be happier.

So, even though we all have our individual values and preferences, it appears that the common overarching factors that make life worth living for most involve purpose, relationships and authenticity. How to be oneself with others and have inner meaning while being part of the whole is a tricky but worthwhile direction to take. And what better time than Christmas to reflect and take a step forward!



Little helper

Charlie Hill, five in January, has been helping his grandmother, Mary Anne Bruce, deliver the Gazette for three years and has become an expert at the job. He finds it's much easier now that he's a bit taller.

Say goodbye to STIs

If you're sexually active, you can get a sexually transmissible infection (STI) – even if you practise safe sex most of the time. It's estimated that around one in every six people will get an STI in their lifetime. The good news is, most STIs are curable and all are treatable. But if left untreated, STI can have long-term effects on your body

You can break the chain of STI transmission by talking with a doctor, testing and treating, and looking after your sexual health and wellbeing. Any local health service with a GP is able to assist with an STI screening, including Macedon Ranges Health Youth Clinic. Call Louise on 5428 0300 for more information.

Health Talk

with Dr Umair Masood



Getting the most from appointments

A visit to the doctor can be a bit overwhelming for some. A little preparation before you visit can help to make the visit more productive.

Determine what you want from the appointment

You might be going for a routine checkup or you might have new concerning symptoms. You may need a new treatment plan or advice on medication. There may be a chronic condition you are being asked to follow up. Sometimes you may just want some reassurance.

Write a list

It is easy to forget to ask certain questions or mention certain symptoms. Write down the issues you have and want to discuss. Always put the most important issue at the top of the list and discuss this first. Feel free to give the doctor your list and they will go through it with you. The doctor will discuss with you what to address today and what may need more planning to address another day.

Make the right appointment

This is important so that you have the right amount of time with your doctor. You can make a standard 15-minute appointment or ask for a 30-minute appointment. You may need to have a procedure, an iron infusion, immunisation, a mental health plan or a chronic disease management plan done. It is best to ring the clinic and ask for the correct appointment. You will then get the right time with the doctor and it also allows your doctor to prepare for your consult.

Be honest

Any information you give your doctor will be useful and the more information they have, the easier it is to help you. Any information you impart is always kept confidential and your privacy will be maintained.

Data
If you have any data that may help, bring it along. This could be blood pressure readings, blood sugar measurements, weight, paperwork from a hospital admission or specialist letters. Any useful data will aid the doctor to make a better decision.

Medication

If you are new to the clinic or have been discharged from hospital recently, please take your medication list with you to the appointment. The name, dose of the tablet and how many times a day you are taking it is what is needed. This will prevent medication errors and aid in maintaining your medical conditions.

Ask questions

A consult with your doctor should be a two-way conversation. If you do not understand something, make sure you ask. You can always go home, think about it, and come back later to ask questions.

Continuity of care

There is a lot of evidence to suggest that seeing the same doctor or clinic provides for better medical outcomes. It would be best to attend the same clinic. You will then build up a comprehensive set of medical notes and data. This is extremely useful in making a diagnosis and your care will not be fragmented. You will also be able to build a relationship with the staff at the clinic. I always encourage patients to see two to three doctors within the same clinic. That way if one is away on holiday or is not working on a particular day, you will still have someone who knows you well and can address your issues.

Remembrance Day in Gisborne



Due to pandemic restrictions, RSL President Rob Funston, Gary Anderson (with bugle) and Carly Proctor commemorated the Armistice at the end of World War One in a private stand-to this year.



The private ceremony at the cenotaph on November 11, which Gazette photographer Chris Fleming was permitted to attend.

Saddled up for Remembrance Day at Gisborne Oaks

Residents at Gisborne Oaks were treated to a very special visitor on November 11 as part of a Remembrance Day service.

Darcy, the grandson of resident Brian Austen, arrived at Gisborne Oaks with his mum to be part of the service. The residents enjoyed the service and were absolutely delighted to see Darcy arrive on his horse.

Residents Mary Seikel, Grace Hay, Eunice Leach, Ron Mayger, Meryl Mackay, Joan Beever, Hazel Burgess, Isabel Russel and Dare Harrex were lucky enough to get up close and personal with the beautiful horse, giving them some much-needed interaction with the outside world now that restrictions are starting to ease.



The equine visit delighted residents.



Ron Mayger gets up close and personal with Darcy's horse.

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Location: Country Women's Association Hall, 662 Mt Macedon Road, Mount Macedon



View from the tower. Lucky Graeme has the ultimate corner office.



The old cabin is removed from the tower by a 60-tonne crane.

The major improvement of the upgrade is a newly designed ladder that provides easier and safer access for the fire watcher.

Graeme's top dog

The highest-placed worker in the Macedon Ranges

From page 1

Thanks to the wider, staged ladder way, Graeme will no longer need to wear a harness to climb the tower and the ascent will be much more pleasant during high winds that can exceed 100 kph at the summit. He will now enter the cabin via a door off a walkway instead of through the hatch in the floor of its predecessor and be more comfortable on hot summer days as it is fully insulated and airconditioned.

Graeme, who lives at Wallan with his wife Barbara, is on standby throughout the fire season to be called in whenever even the smallest likelihood of fire is expected. On Total Fire Ban days or when lightning is forecast, his shift may last as long as 12 hours.

He is an experienced fire watcher having spent 10 years in the job on the Mount Buck Tower near Orbost before starting on Mount Macedon in 2014. Prior to that he worked as a professional photographer with Kodak and then 10 years with the Army in 2nd Commando Company, followed by 17 years teaching photography courses at

TAFE. With his Steiner binoculars Graeme can spot smoke 100 kilometres away so he has the shire well covered. He is able to distinguish smoke from dust and can tell the nature of the fire from the colour of the smoke it produces.

On a table in the cabin he has a large map with the position of the tower as its central point and he is able to quickly establish a compass bearing by using one of the 360 degrees of the circumference that have been marked by a surveyor above the windows all around the cabin.

He contacts neighbouring towers and working together they can accurately triangulate the position of the fire.

He has four radios with different frequencies ranging from the CFA VicFire connection to a hand-held radio with which he can precisely direct individual CFA truck crews. Any sightings and subsequent action have to be carefully logged by Graeme. He also has to check in every hour with the Bendigo office of DELWP (Department of



Graeme Wilson

Environment Land Water and Planning) which administers the tower network.

Graeme experienced two lightning strikes on the Mount Buck tower but none on Mount Macedon. There is a tremendous flash and bang but the towers are very well earthed to handle the charge.

He once saw a tree "blown to matchsticks" by a lightning strike. If there is a lightning strike in the forest during a rain storm, Graeme will keep a careful eye on the area for the following week as the interior of the tree can smoulder and days later burst into flame as conditions become hotter and dryer. They call such trees "sleepers".

Graeme has also been privy to some interesting non-fire activity. From his Mount Buck tower he once followed the police pursuit of a stolen truck on his radio scanner. A thief had stolen a sand truck with an attached low loader carrying a bobcat from a Melbourne building site but did not realise that there was a GPS in the truck.

And during one off season some

young blokes climbed the tower, smashed a window and cut themselves while getting into the cabin. They left bloody fingerprints on beer cans as well as making the mistake of phoning their mates to boast of their exploit. Not long after, they were collected by the police with one given a jail sentence and the others hefty fines.

Some people would find the job of a fire watcher a very lonely one, but Graeme always finds something to do to keep his mind occupied.

He looks forward each year to seeing the local pair of wedge-tailed eagles soar above the tower with their latest fledgling.

The Mount Macedon Tower is part of a network of 72 strategically located fire towers that ensure maximum coverage of Victoria's parks and forests.

The fire watchers protect the community by providing early detection of bushfires, communication links and intelligence gathering on fire behaviour.

Replacement of the cabin cost \$250,000 and was funded by the Victorian Government's Reducing Bushfire Risk (RBR) initiative. ■



Proudly sponsored by the Rotary Club of Gisborne

COMMUNITY SERVICE



Brigade members recognised for dedication, selflessness and sacrifice

Eight members of the Gisborne Fire Brigade recently received a Bushfire Emergency Citation, a letter from the Premier of New South Wales and a certificate co-signed by the Premier and Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons for their efforts during last summer's bushfires in NSW.

The recipients are Group Officer Ian Hay, Lieutenant Bevan Moody, Tom Ruff, Doug Peart, Geoff Phegan, Dawn Whittall (critical incident peer support), Jordan Whitefield and Steve Bezzina.

The 2019-20 bushfires were the worst in the living memory of NSW. The catastrophic conditions impacted life, communities, property and the environment on an unprecedented scale.

The firefighters worked in various parts of the state undertaking a wide range of fire suppression and fire prevention activities.

Group Officer Ian Hay was deployed in early November 2019 as a strike team leader of five trucks that engaged in aggressive asset protection and fire suppression around the Glen Innes area.

Tom Ruff and Geoff Phegan were tasked with backburning operations on the Carrai East fire just north of Kempsey, assigned to the Cootamundra Rural Fire Service NSW truck and assisted with asset protection in the area.



Proud citation recipients: Bevan Moody, Jordan Whitefield, Tom Ruff, Ian Hay, Dawn Whittall, Steve Bezzina and Doug Peart. (Absent: Geoff Phegan)

Lt Bevan Moody and Jordan Whitefield were deployed as NSW entered a State of Emergency and flown in to Richmond Air Base. They undertook backburning operations to save the town of St Albans and engaged in asset protection fire suppression around the Colo Heights area.

Doug Peart and Steve Bezzina conducted backburning operations around the Braidwood area.

Dawn Whittall, who is qualified in peer support, provided critical incident stress management to firefighters and members of impacted communities in various parts of NSW including Grafton and Port Macquarie. *Bevan Moody*

Message from Gisborne CFA

It has been a challenging year, first with significant fires burning in the east of the state and then the onset of the coronavirus pandemic which initially meant uncertainty for everyone.

We have been restricted on how we would normally operate – no community activities such as school visits etc. But one thing did not change: with strict COVID-19 plans in place, we continued to provide our core service to the community.

Now that the restrictions are easing, we are working with our State Pandemic Team to work out the safest way to provide our Christmas Eve Santa run around the township of Gisborne – a tradition that has been running for close to 40 years. This day is important for both Gisborne families and our



brigade members. Keep an eye on our Facebook page 'Gisborne Fire Brigade – CFA' for updates.

With conditions and fuel loading starting to dry out in the Macedon Ranges, it is more important than ever to have a bushfire survival plan in place and to have your property well maintained. You can find tips and information on the CFA website.

We would like to thank Bryan Power for his amazing work on our 75th anniversary articles.

The Gisborne Fire Brigade would like to wish the Gisborne and wider community a very safe Merry Christmas and Happy New Year *Bevan Moody*

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CHRISTMAS MARKET

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Sponsor Lions Christmas cakes to support Foodbank

The Gisborne and District Lions Club is again providing the opportunity for families and/or individuals to sponsor Lions Christmas cakes to be included in the Gisborne Foodbank Christmas hampers.

These hampers will be provided to those in need in Gisborne and the surrounding area. The Lions Club will be providing 60 Christmas cakes to the Foodbank for this purpose.

The cost of the sponsorship equates to the cost of a Lions Christmas cake which is \$13 each. Sponsorship payments can be made via direct debit: Gisborne and District Lions Club Activity Account, BSB 633000 A/c No. 152262994.

Insert surname and initial in the description field.

Please consider being a sponsor of a Lions cake to help those in need at Christmas. All sponsors will be recognised on various forums including the Lions Facebook and website.

Lions Christmas cakes and puddings can also be acquired for your own enjoyment or to be provided as a gift at Christmas to family, friends, work colleagues, clients and/or customers. Orders can be placed at:



Wally van Dort, Lions Club member and Foodbank volunteer, and Helena Cyrulo, Lions member, seek sponsorship for Lions Christmas cakes.

www.trybooking.com/BLUPD

With 2020 having been such a challenging year due to the devastating effects of COVID-19, it is hoped that everyone can have a great festive season and a prosperous 2021.

Busy time of year for Gisborne Foodbank

Gisborne Foodbank welcomes donations for our Christmas hampers which we will be packing on December 14. If you would like to donate food items or small gifts for our hampers, you can drop them into the Foodbank or at one of our community drop points.

A big thank you to the Gisborne Men's Shed who have built a fantastic cubby house and are selling raffle tickets, with proceeds going directly to the Foodbank (see page 7). There's still time to buy your tickets before the winner is drawn on December 18. Please go to <https://a-cubby-house-for-christmas.raisely.com> to buy your raffle tickets.

The Foodbank will be closing for a few weeks over the holiday period. Our last day of operation will be Friday December 18 and we will reopen on Wednesday January 20. Please phone us on 0492 850 520 if you or anyone you know has any emergency food needs over the holidays. We can also be contacted via email (info@gisbornefoodbank.org.au) or via our Facebook page (@GisborneFoodbank) and website (www.gisbornefoodbank.org.au).

Thank you to everyone in our wonderful Macedon Ranges community for their support of the Foodbank. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Julie Ireland



Large print calendars still available

A few large print Vision Australia calendars are still left for sale at \$15 each.

Members of the Gisborne Friends of Vision Australia are advised that meetings and fundraising efforts are deferred until February next year when we are hopeful of returning to our normal agenda for the coming year. During this difficult year we have managed to raise \$1500 for Vision Australia.

We wish our members, the Gazette team and readers the compliments of the season and may 2021 bring us all good health and much joy.

Elaine Millar, Secretary, 5428 2522



Chaplaincy update

On behalf of the Gisborne Chaplain and committee, I would like to thank all of our supporters during this very tough year. There have been many challenges that we faced as a community, as businesses, as families and as individuals. Now that we are able to move about and begin to reconnect and rebuild, we as a committee are sincerely appreciative of the support that has enabled our Chaplain to continue to nurture our community members.

In the past months, the Flying Pigeon Restaurant offered two great dumpling workshops that helped raise funds and provided fun days which enabled catch-ups with others and new skills to be learnt, and we sincerely thank Stephanie for her generosity.

If you would like to make a donation to Chaplaincy our bank details are: Bendigo Bank BSB 633 000, Account 137805834.

To our great community we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Ann-Maree Starr, President, Gisborne Secondary College and Community Chaplaincy Committee

GREAT News

GISBORNE REGION EVENTS ACTIVITIES & TOURISM

Expressions of interest for Market Manager required

Gisborne Olde Time Market

Do you have a flair for arts and crafts and would be interested in working with a volunteer community organisation? Well, this is your chance to continue a longstanding tradition in managing the Gisborne Olde Time Market.

The Market has been a popular monthly event in Gisborne for over 30 years and the GREAT (Gisborne Region Events Activities & Tourism) Association has managed it since 2002.

The Market operates on the first Sunday of each month and is one of the largest markets in Victoria, attracting visitors and stallholders from all over Victoria.

If you can bring excellent organisational skills, you are people-oriented and have good computer skills (e.g. Outlook, Microsoft Word, Excel), we would love to hear from you. The position will require you to be available for administrative duties during the week (flexible hours) and attendance at the Market on Market days.

For further information, please contact: GREAT President, Moc Hoyne on 0419 502 710 or email mojomount2@gmail.com



Teachers from the Turiscai senior secondary school receive a laptop donated by Macadeon Ranges Friends of East Timor in October.

Timorese friendship group update

Macedon Ranges Friends of East Timor were disappointed not to be able to visit Timor this year due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Our friendship group currently sponsors seven Timorese students through their final three years of secondary school. Visiting the Turiscai community each year is invaluable as we are able to work with local community leaders first hand in order to best meet their needs. It allows us to speak with our sponsored high school students to review their progress, and to learn about their hopes for the future.

We were fortunate that a Timorese local who previously assisted us as an interpreter could make the three-hour drive to Turiscai and meet the local community on our behalf. They asked us to pass on their best wishes to the readers of the Gisborne Gazette and wish everyone a safe and joyous Christmas.

Our group conducted our AGM via Zoom and Fran Wigley was re-elected chairperson for the next year. The group looks forward to continuing our efforts on behalf of the Macedon Ranges community to support our Timorese friends in Turiscai. New members are warmly welcomed to come and join our friendship group. For further information, please contact mrfoet@bigpond.com



Grant received but annual fundraiser off at Macedon CFA

The Macedon Fire Brigade has been awarded a grant of \$3015 for the purchase of six breathing apparatus cylinders thanks to the generosity of the Gisborne Community Bank branch of Bendigo Bank. The equipment will arrive for the bushfire season and considerably enhance the brigade's capabilities in dealing with fires where there is a danger of noxious gases and heavy smoke such as in house and vehicle fires.



Due to the impact of COVID-19 the brigade has decided to cancel its Annual Fundraiser due to be held on February 27. The members feel that it would be inappropriate to fundraise at a time when many families and businesses within our community are suffering financial hardship and need time to recover.

If restrictions permit, and it is safe to do so, the Macedon Fire Brigade plans to host a barbecue and

Community Information Day on February 27 in lieu of the fundraiser. This would be in conjunction with activities for children which hopefully would include the petting zoo and some "firey"-like games similar to previous years and possibly a produce stall and raffle or two.

However, due to the uncertainty of the times and not knowing what restrictions might be in place in February, planning for such an event is not likely to be finalised until early January. We will keep you posted.

The brigade members would like to thank our community for its tremendous support for our annual fundraiser over the years, and the many businesses and individuals who have regularly donated the goods and services that have made this event such a success. We look forward to your renewed support in 2022.

Tom Royle



Community Bank volunteer director Corinne Shaddock presents Captain Ross Luke with the grant under the watchful eye of treasurer Tom Royle and firefighters Chris Potter and Robert Hyland.

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End of year round-up from Gisborne Genealogical Group

What a year this has been! Our group only managed to have one general meeting, held in February. That seems so long ago. The committee was finally able to hold a meeting in our rooms last month. Even though we were hidden behind masks it was nice to finally catch up with each other again. Optimistically, we have planned



transferred from this year's program. We also hope that next year we will be able to open our doors again each week to help researchers with their genealogical queries. Fingers crossed.

the program for 2021 with many of the meetings automatically

As this is the last *Gazette* for 2020 I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our loyal local sponsors. Their contribution helps towards the cost of producing our quarterly newsletter – *Genie-Allergy*. This year our magazine has been particularly important in keeping our members 'together'. Thank you to Kerry Trawn for the great job you

have done as editor.

On behalf of our president, Lorraine Greer, and the committee I would like to wish all Gisborne Genealogical Group members, and readers of the *Gazette*, a safe and very Happy Christmas with your loved ones. I'm sure everyone is hoping for a much better New Year!

Stay well.

Lyn Hall



MEMBER'S MESSAGE

With Mary-Anne Thomas

Wow – can you believe that it's December? 2020 has been a year like no other – and I'm very proud of how our community has come together and supported each other through the challenges we've all faced.

There is a fantastic energy around Gisborne – our cafes, restaurants and bars are full of loved ones, catching up for the first time in months.

I know that you'll all join me in sending a big thank you to the Victoria Police and ADF team who worked day and night on the South Gisborne checkpoint for months to keep our community safe.

You would have noticed that works are underway on the Station Road and Saunders Road upgrade in New Gisborne. Traffic conditions may change – please take care driving through the area and keep an eye out for any signs indicating changes in the traffic conditions. I'd recommend allowing some extra time for travel, especially in peak times. Thanks for your patience while we fix this dangerous intersection for our most vulnerable road users!

This summer holiday period is going to be extra special. I hope you will be able to relax and spend some special moments with friends and family.

As always, I encourage you to shop local for presents – and keep safe on the roads while out and about. May you all have a peaceful Christmas, and a very happy New Year.



Cloud phenomenon

Peter Barker snapped this picture of unusual mammatus storm clouds that filled the sky above Gisborne on November 15, amazing onlookers with their drooping pouches.

A message from the Probus committee

This year the Probus club has been similar to all clubs in that we have not been able to meet for most of the year. We were fortunate to have an AGM early in the year, but from then on only a few committee meetings have been possible.

Contact has been maintained with our members through newsletters, and many members have been keeping in touch personally by phone. We are very fortunate to live in such a close-knit community where there are many people looking out for others in so many ways.

Members of the Probus club are very aware and grateful for the efforts of those in the wider community who have lost jobs, taken on extra responsibilities



and have had to reinvent their everyday lives.

It is hoped that with the easing of restrictions we will all be able to visit more openly with family and friends and have a closer to normal Christmas. Although as a group we won't be having our usual Christmas lunch, we wish all members and the community at large a very happy and safe holiday season.

From Anne Ciesielski:

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the *Gazette* Probus Personalities during the year. It was a privilege and great pleasure to share your stories.

News from GisBus

The team at Gisbus wish all our passengers a joyous, safe and prosperous Christmas and New year.

2020 has brought many challenges upon us all so to start a new year COVID-normal is something for us all to look forward to.

COVID has impacted us at GisBus. Each day our drivers are required to sign a "Fit for Work" declaration, wear an approved face mask when carrying passengers and perform a daily cleaning schedule in line with our COVID-safe plan. Glen 20 has become a must in all vehicles and sanitary wipes have started to discolour all surfaces after continual cleaning.

During the holiday period Gisbus continues to run to our set timetables, however on public holidays no services will run.

Please also be advised that during rail shutdowns when coaches replace trains we attempt to run as close as practicable to our timetables and the Route 473 will continue to run as per the advertised timetable.

Roadworks on Station Road will potentially affect all GisBus runs to and from the station and we cannot guarantee arriving at the railway station at the advertised times. We recommend travellers plan for earlier trains and allow additional travel time. While we will

make every endeavour to meet all our timetabled commitments, unfortunately these potential delays are out of our control.

Please also consider V/Line "Hot Day Timetables" which are put in place when the temperature is expected to limit train travelling speed, affecting train arrival and departure times.



1300 447 287

CWA Macedon

Under unusual circumstances, we managed to have our AGM and elect Jan Ham as president, Carmen Consiglio as secretary, and Leslie Bonsac treasurer.

Congratulations to all. We can only hope that meetings will return to normal at some time next year.



Jenny Strang

As it is time to round off an unforgettable year, thoughts turn to Christmas, and as many may be contemplating reduced circumstances, this month's recipe can be given as a gift. It can be used to make fruit mince pies, or in winter makes a delicious dessert mixed with apples and baked as an apple pie. The sugar and brandy act as a preservative, but it is best stored in a cool dark place.

FRUIT MINCE PIES

300g sultanas, 300g currants, 300g chopped dates, 100g mixed peel, 100g glace fruit, 1 grated apple, rind and juice of 1 lemon, rind and juice of ½ orange, ½ teaspoon cinnamon, ½ teaspoon mixed spice, 500g brown sugar, make lemon and orange juice to measure 150ml with brandy.

Mix all ingredients well, and spoon into clean jars and seal. Liquid will be absorbed into the fruit.

A simple recipe for tart pastry is:

125g butter, ¼ cup sugar, 1¼ cups plain flour. Mix all ingredients well and roll out pastry. Line patty pan tray with pastry, cut out lids and place on filled pies. Dust with castor sugar, bake at 170C for 10 mins.

We wish all at *Gisborne Gazette* and all our readers a peaceful and joyous Christmas. Stay safe until we can all meet again in the coming year.

Jenny Strang



Gisborne Library NEWS

Extending opening hours

We know it has been frustrating that we've only been open limited hours, but we have to make sure our libraries are COVID-safe for our staff and customers.

With cleaning, contact tracing and quarantining of books for 72 hours once they're returned, we need more time behind the scenes to do this work. Thanks everyone for your understanding.

Some good news is that we can have up to 48 people in the library at any one time now so you can stay as long as you want.

We hope to get back to more 'normal' hours in the new year and be able to offer programs in the library as well; keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for updates.

For now, we are open Monday 10am-1pm, Tuesday 10am-4.30pm, Wednesday 1-5pm, Thursday 10am-12.30pm, 1.30-4.30pm (closed for lunch 12.30-1.30), Friday 1-5pm and Saturday 10am-12pm.

Christmas hours: we will close at 3pm on December 24 then open 10am-2pm on December 29 to 31. We will be closed Saturday January 2, then reopen with our COVID hours on Monday January 4.

What's on?

Our December/January program contains fabulous programs and coming events. Check it out at www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/events or pick up a copy in the library.

Also keep an eye out for our school holiday program.

Merry Christmas

We hope everyone has a fantastic Christmas and New Year period and that you get to spend it with your families. It's been a tough year for many and we're so grateful for all of your support throughout this time.

Take care, from Sara, Georgina, Georgia, Mandy and Rae



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SKIN + BODY

Proudly sponsored by Macedon Ranges Art Group, Phoenix Macedon Ranges Art & Craft, The Gallery Mt Macedon, The Gisborne Singers, Duneira, Licorice Allsorts, Macedon Music, The Mount Players and Australian Decorative & Fine Arts Society Central Victoria



Sponsor for 10 years – The Gallery. Collecting certificate is Patricia Danko.
Sponsor for 10 years – Gisborne Collision Centre. Pictured are Josh (left) and Alan Perry.
Sponsor for 10 years – The Gisborne Singers. Collecting certificate is Emily Shanahan.
Sponsor for 10 years – Bruce Ellis.
Sponsor for 10 years – The Mount Players. Collecting certificate are Karen Hunt and David Runnalls.

Gazette Service Awards



Sponsor for 10 years – St Brigid's Parish. Collecting certificate is Fr Vioth Santiago.



Reporter for 5 years – Louis Bokor.

Usually held in October, the annual Gazette reception had to be cancelled this year because of COVID-19 restrictions. The reception is an opportunity for the paper to thank all our volunteers and we are disappointed that it could not go ahead, particularly as there were many certificates to be awarded to long-serving

Regular Reporters – Five Years
 Peter Bishop – Gisborne Bush-walking Club; Louis Bokor – Calder Flyfishing Association; Faye Matthews – Gisborne Thunder Swimming Club.
Distributors - Five Years
 Trish Bradshaw, Mary Anne Bruce, Victoria Fairbairn and David Johnstone, Robyn Johnston, Rachel Neely, Gary and Margot Sanders.

members of the team. The certificates have been presented individually. Our warmest congratulations and thanks to these recipients as well as to all others who have supported the Gazette throughout 2020 as sponsors, advertisers, reporters, columnists and distributors.

Sponsors – Ten Years
 Scouting page: Bruce Ellis; Schools In: Gisborne Collision Centre; Arts page: Phoenix Macedon Ranges Art and Craft, The Gallery, The Gisborne Singers, Licorice Allsorts and The Mount Players; Churches' page: St Brigid's Parish and Faithworks-Manaaki.



Sponsor for 10 years – Licorice Allsorts. Collecting certificate is Megan Waddington.



Distributors for 5 years – David Johnstone and Victoria Fairbairn.



Reporter for 5 years – Peter Bishop.



Reporter for 5 years – Faye Matthews.



Distributors for 5 years – Gary and Margot Sanders.



Distributor for 5 years – Rachel Neely.

INTERVAL...



A poetic wrap-up from the Mount Players

We drew the curtains on that final scene
 But little did any of us know
 That when it ended and the stage swept clean
 It would be this year's only show.

Our 2020 season promised patrons we'd delight
 With drama, Shakespeare and song
 But alas our hopes went out with the lights
 This 'interval' has become painfully long.

A melodrama wasn't on this year's ticket
 With such a plot never conceived
 The star being a villain that is oh so wicked
 We've boo'd and hissed like you'd never believe!

Our Youth Theatre with its lively buzz
 Of inspiring young actors who dream
 Has not gathered here for many months
 This Villain is cruel it would seem.

We've put down tools, we built no set
 Our actors don't rehearse
 Scripts on hold with lines unlearned
 Our singers have no verse.

Our theatre ghosts must wonder what's wrong
 Why the 'interval' does not end
 They are missing the applause and encore of song
 And long to share an audience again.

But rest assured, we'll be back in style
 Our curtains and doors open wide
 You'll be greeted with a sherry and welcoming smile
 And we'll present you our shows with pride.

So stay strong and gather with family and friends
 Enjoy the Christmas season with zest
 We have so many plans for when this all ends
 We'll get back to what we do best!

By Karen Hunt



The younger Vivo group of the choir enjoys a Christmas song at the first live outdoor rehearsal.

Young Voices go live again

Young Voices of Macedon are excited to return to live rehearsals at the Norma Richardson Hall, Woodend, albeit outdoors and with strict social distancing in place for the time being.

Other wonderful news is that the choir was awarded a generous grant from Bendigo Bank Community branch to enable the production of quality promotional materials to help us rebuild our membership following the impact of COVID-19.

The good news continues. Our Cantabile group is participating in a huge virtual performance to raise funds for the Music Therapy program at the Westmead Children's Hospital, Sydney. Members are singing the *Ode to Joy* (in the Wiradjiri language) in a performance of the first section of the final movement of *Symphony No 9* by Beethoven. They are also taking part in a massed choral/orchestral performance of *O come all ye faithful*.

Some of our choristers, along with teacher Jess Demare, are presenting a session for the Riddells Creek festival at the end of November.

To end this troubled year the whole choir will perform (outdoors) a program of Christmas carols and songs to residents at the Bupa aged care residence in Woodend. And some of our choristers will be involved in a service of readings and carols at the Church of the Resurrection, Macedon.

Dianne Gome

Christmas awakenings

Carols are a special part of Christmas traditions. Two Gisborne Singers members share their favourite carols and talk about why they are special.

Kitty Skeen recalls: "There's one carol I was never a fan of, it just didn't call to me the way God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen and We Three Kings did. But my opinion on this particular carol changed in my first year with the Gisborne Singers. We sang for a Christmas service at St Paul's Kyneton, and our lovely chorister and Gazette editor sang the first verse solo, with a crisp, clear soprano. Now, *Once In Royal David's City* rates up among the best of them".



Meg Heymann shares: "The First Noel has always had special significance to me and my family. My mum was born on Christmas Day and named Noel to honour this occasion. Our extended family of choristers and musicians continue to sing *The First Noel* with our Noel in mind and mum's Christmas Carols book (inscribed with a greeting from 1935) is our song book."

To many people, Christmas is not complete without the *Hallelujah Chorus*. The choir is sharing the full recording of its hugely successful 2016 performance of Handel's *Messiah* via YouTube on Sunday December 6. Please join in to sing at 3pm with the following links:
 Part 1: <https://youtu.be/kxmk713Row4>
 Part 2: <https://youtu.be/5bFWJ7zuC10>

Next year, the choir hopes to restart live practices and is looking for new members (especially tenors and basses). If you're at all interested in joining the choir, please go to www.gisbornesingers.org.au

Alison Kinghorn



Join the Gisborne Singers in singing Handel's *Messiah* on December 6. Photo from a previous performance of the work in Kyneton.

GIG GUIDE

MACEDON RAILWAY HOTEL
 Friday Dec 4 – Tim Rogers & Davey Lane (two shows)
 Saturday Dec 5 – Duncan Phillips



Sun Dec 6 – Mick Thomas's Roving Commission (two shows)
 Fri Dec 11 – Ella Hooper (two shows)
 Sat Dec 12 – Kim Salmon
 Sat Dec 19 – Joe Camilleri
 See Facebook for booking details.

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Is it Christmas yet?

The Macedon Ranges Spinners and Fibre Group may not be gathering for the usual pre-Christmas celebration, but members will share their socially distanced Christmas preparations.

Photos of their Advent crafting will feature in the group's weekly email. Some ideas and patterns may spark others to join in the festive fun.

Reflecting on the past year – we have maintained a sense of belonging by endeavouring to keep in touch, despite not being able to physically meet. The

sharing of individual spinning, weaving and craft projects completed has helped encourage other members.



The group looks forward to

meeting again when restrictions ease.

Meanwhile we encourage all to check your stash of fabric, yarn and 'bling' to craft some Christmas cheer.

Heather Parry, 0400 805 921



A knitted nativity. This has taken Heather many years to assemble. There is always room for another crafted addition.

CWA Gisborne

Gisborne CWA had a very enjoyable picnic lunch in the park on Monday November 16 after COVID restrictions relaxed a little. It was so nice to catch up with friends we hadn't seen for a while, especially Sandra from Sunbury, and we were able to sing Happy Birthday to Veronica on her special day.

Helen Hallett, our craft coordinator, is encouraging us to have some items for the creative arts competition in April next year. As well as her own personal crafts she has made 30-plus face masks as a donation to the Foodbank.

Kay, our hard-working secretary, has collected 14 bags of all shapes and sizes filled with personal care products, donated by our members. They will be given to the Share the Dignity charity organisation to be offered to ladies who are homeless or at risk.

We hope to have another get together in December for our Christmas break-up. All members will be contacted as to a venue. We are doing away with our Kris Kringle this year and donating the money instead to Gisborne Foodbank.

Best wishes to everyone, after this difficult year, for a happy and healthy Christmas.

Christine Edwards



Christine Edwards



Photographers happy to get out as group once more



Catching a train.

Photo: John Spring

Members of the Macedon Ranges Photographic Society are excited to be out exploring local sites and appreciating each other's company in person again.

Although 2020 has been a year of online meetings, virtual competitions and video conferences, the group has started making up for lost time by getting out to local sites and attractions.

The first outing since lockdown 2.0 was to the Malmesbury Botanic Gardens. With the theme of 'Bridges', the focus was on the railway bridge and the pedestrian bridge over the ornamental lake. With timetables in hand, the group of photographers eagerly awaited the Bendigo and Melbourne trains to



add some extra interest in their images. Following social distancing guidelines meant group photos had to be taken with a wide angle lens.

The second outing was Mt Macedon Memorial Cross and surrounds. While we looked out for native flora and fauna, there were many opportunities to talk about camera settings and composition and to enjoy conversation about photography. It was wonderful to catch up in person and share stories.

For more information about MRPS, please visit www.macedon-ranges-photography.org.au or you can email questions to mrps@macedon-ranges-photography.org.au

Colleen Mahoney

How ready is your skin for Summer?

Regular skin checks are an important part of caring for your body all year round.

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OBITUARY

Albert George Fyfield 1937-2020

It would have been a worrying time in England during the war for young George and his family. George was born on March 29, 1937, was the second-youngest of six children to Elsie and Frederick Fyfield.

Following a fairly normal schooling George decided at age 15 to be an RAF apprentice and began his training at Halton, Buckinghamshire. He graduated in 1956 and was posted to Malaya at the time of its independence.

He returned to the UK in 1958 and was posted to a couple of bomber bases in Lincolnshire, with a few detachments to North Africa. During this time he met and married Dianne Bloor and they had three boys, Tom, Danny and Robert.

In 1963, George was posted to Cyprus with the UN Peacekeeping Force. George and the family

emigrated to Australia in 1968 and spent six months at the Broadmeadows Migrant Hostel before moving to their new home in Lalor. George worked for TAA and continued through TAA's transition to Australian Airlines and finally Qantas.

During this time George met Anne and they married in 1983 and soon after they moved to Mount Macedon.

On retirement, George worked for Jim's Mowing franchise for several years. George and Anne shared many wonderful trips together with their friends, both in Australia and overseas.

George was an ardent Manchester United supporter and his family would send him the "Pink Sports Paper" from Manchester every week during the soccer season.



George Fyfield

George absolutely loved being with the Gisborne Singers and always looked forward to rehearsals and performing at concerts. He also loved his 'acting career' with the Mount Players. He derived great pleasure dressing up and putting on a funny hat or just generally being weird! He performed in many productions and made lifetime friendships with a great number of people.

George was a much-loved member of the congregation at the Mount Macedon Uniting Church, where he played the organ and enjoyed the fellowship of the Men's Group.

In recent years George was a volunteer with the *Gisborne Gazette* and helped to distribute the *Gazette* to homes in the Macedon area.

He was a wonderful and loving husband, father and a grandfather to Ben, Natalie and Georgina.

George passed away on October 9, and a funeral service was held at the Uniting Church, Mount Macedon, on October 16.

Gisborne Lightning Guides



The members of Gisborne Lightning Guides have been able to meet face to face each week this term but only in an outside venue.

The girls have been able to work on their Nature badge as well as take on other activities such as natural boat creations to test in Jacksons Creek, walks along the creek to explore our environment,



Tayla and Alice show their pet rocks.

mapping skills and just spending time with each other.

If you would like to try Girl Guides please phone Deb on 0409 542 619 for further details. We meet 5 to 6.30pm on a Thursday night. Our current group ranges in age from 8 to 13.

Deb Fleming, Unit

Five summer family fun ideas

Summer is in full swing and now that we can get out and about, there is so much more to see and do. Here are a few ideas for a cool outing on those hot days, whether indoors or outdoors.



MACEDON RANGES MUMMA

with Kat Buttigieg

Go where the water is: There is nothing like a bushwalk where there is a lake or waterfall to cool the air. Head to Trentham Falls, the Cascades in Metcalfe, Stanley Park Waterfall in Macedon, Sanatorium Lake on Mount Macedon, Lake Daylesford, or Turpin Falls in Langley. Also Kyneton Community Park has a waterplay area that operates during summer.

Go to your local pool: Get your swimmers on and head to one of the Ranges' indoor or outdoor pools: Gisborne Aquatic Centre, Woodend outdoor pool, or the Kyneton Sports and Aquatic Centre. Ring ahead to see if you need to book your spot.

Cool down indoors: Escape the heat with an

outing to galleries or museums such as the Kyneton Museum, the Old Auction House in Kyneton, The Gallery in Mount Macedon.

Alternatively, head to your local library to borrow some books or lunch at a local cafe or winery. Check their Facebook pages or websites to see how they are operating before you visit.

Fruit hunting/picking: This is great family fun with a delicious incentive! Get your Christmas cherries at South Gisborne Cherry Farm, or venture out to Payne's Orchard or Naturipe in Bacchus Marsh for berry, apricot and peach picking after Christmas.

Grab an ice cream: Cool off with a delicious ice cream from Woodend Ice Cream Co in Woodend, GisDonuts in Gisborne or Augustus Gelatery in Sunbury. Yum!

Have a safe and happy holiday. I hope to see you around in our beautiful part of the world.

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Celebrating resilience



Sam Allen and Renee Ogier with their children.

Soccer player

SAM ALLEN

Sport, specifically football at Gisborne Soccer Club, is my main outlet. A young family and full-time work, where I teach in the city, doesn't leave much time for anything else but I throw everything I can into my commitment to the club, with the two training sessions and match at the weekend being highlights of the week.

It's incredibly fulfilling being a part of the community and environment promoted by the club, it's like having a second family. We're a fairly close-knit bunch with a positive focus, connected by our love of the game.

Not having that outlet this year has been really difficult and has provided some challenges, especially from a mental health perspective.

The lack of football meant my desire and motivation to maintain a positive fitness routine had dropped massively. This, combined with extra pressure from a work perspective created by having to teach remotely and decreased contact with the 'outside' world beyond my immediate family and students, led to a sense of societal withdrawal.

This was compounded by negative media influences which increased the desire to isolate. All of this had a negative impact on my mental state which it was important to address.

I was lucky in that I had lots of support from my wife who managed the demands of our children at home, so I was able to continue working. Also identifying some form of exercise to help break up the day and allow time to focus on something away from work was important.

For me that was trail running around Mt Macedon. Trail running has made running a little more interesting, running long distances over challenging terrain with some stunning views.

Whilst pre-season hasn't started just yet, we're hopeful that we'll be back on the pitch in December to get things going again. ■

It's been a tough year on many fronts but we've made it to December. Each of us has experienced 2020 differently and looking back on it now, or in the future, may well wonder 'How did I manage that?' Seven locals share their 2020 story and shine a light on the resilience our community has shown in this pandemic year.

Actor

SHANE JACOBSON

It's been a strange year, there's no doubt about that, and the entertainment industry that I work in has been hit incredibly hard by the pandemic. So too have many other industries and I think that's the key point – you can get through most things if you don't feel alone or unsupported. It's why the buzz sentence during COVID times has been "we are all in this together".

When you feel like it's you on your own and the world is against you, that's when it's hard to see the light. I became a victim of internet trolls this year after I did a TV commercial and for that reason want to shine a bit of a light on cyber bullying and trolls.

Here is some of what I wrote on my social media pages after a week of being trolled:

Since doing an ad just to say "wear a mask", myself and my dear friend Magda Szubanski have been abused, fat-shamed and threatened, for me mostly on Facebook aka Hatebook, the worst messages are direct messages that others can't see. Interestingly apparently I should stick to my day job: the funny thing is, being on TV was my day job until COVID.

Also apparently people don't like actors having an opinion (even though my opinion was just 'whack on a mask') yet all of those people yelling at me are filled with opinions and wholesale quantities of pure hate and yet apparently they all know more than me irrespective of what their day job is.

I'm completely ok with us all having different opinions btw, but the personal attacks and bullying that have come my way have disappointed me no end...

I didn't break into your house and yell at you to put [on a mask], I haven't gone onto your social media and yelled at you for your opinions being other than mine, I just did an ad. You got my attention because you yelled,



Shane Jacobson

but I will no longer turn to see who is yelling at me; I am just going to keep walking ahead with my family beside me.

So what have I learnt since the trolling incident? People told me that I shouldn't read the bad comments, "just ignore them", but the problem with social media is that there is no button you can press that says only show me the nice stuff; it's an all or nothing deal unfortunately.

My entertainment manager now looks after my social media so that my family and I no longer need to worry about the bad that exists online. We can't make the bad go away, but we can look the other way; and when you don't look, you can't hear them screaming at you and it's silent and peaceful.

I have discovered the spoon of love and support in a community is far greater than the pitchfork of hate and anger. The amount of support I received from total strangers after being trolled – over 60,000 messages of support vs 500-odd from angry trolls – made me realise I wasn't alone, and neither was Magda. We had a supportive community around us, just like I do in the Macedon Ranges.

In any community, you have to be careful. If you go into the wrong pub you can find nothing but drunk angry people looking for trouble, and the internet is no different.

I want people to know that in the houses around that pub are ordinary loving people who wish you no ill or harm and would be more than happy to offer you a cup of tea and some warmth...and who knows, maybe even a piece of cake. ■

Young professional

BRIDGET DOWNEY
Student Wellbeing, Gisborne Secondary College

What a year! Coronavirus came as a shock to us all, and the restrictions and lockdowns that followed were even harder to accept.

Living in a metro area, I was faced with restrictions and a harsh stage four lockdown for what seemed like an eternity. I'll admit, the concept of not leaving my home was hard to accept at first. I felt trapped within my own four walls (and there is only so much cleaning and renovating one can do to distract oneself!).

The total lack of control over my life made it hard to deal with at first.

However, I soon realised that it's OK to feel that way and accepted how I felt. The lockdown provided me with some quality 'me time' and allowed me to work on myself (because everyone has flaws, and that's OK too!).

I found time to embrace self-care, and created a new daily routine. And while I am still longing for the gym to open, I have accepted that this is my reality now. I can either fight it, or accept it and work with the challenges it provides me.

It is hard to maintain a positive outlook during times that are so uncertain and, of course, I still have moments when I wish things were normal, but this is our normal now. ■



Teacher

GAVIN WATERSON

I've been teaching at Gisborne Secondary College for 16 years. I chose to live in the Macedon Ranges because I wanted to belong to a community. I wanted to raise a family here, form lasting friendships, join sporting groups and help out at my local primary school.

Over the years, this place has been good to me; it has brought me great joy. But the past six months have been really hard.

My kids haven't been able to play sport or see their friends. I haven't been able to visit people when they needed my help. I've missed coaching and playing soccer. I've missed teaching in a classroom and having lunch in the staffroom. There have been many days when I've felt isolated, frustrated and overwhelmed.

But there have been positives too. I've been humbled by the graciousness and generosity of people in this community. In the early days of remote learning, my students were incredibly patient and understanding. Together, we sorted out the technology issues and found a way to make remote learning work. Friends and colleagues checked in with me on a regular basis to make sure I was OK. Their words of encouragement meant the world to me.

Although we are back at school again, I'm conscious of the fact that we still have a long way to go. We need to remember that many people are still struggling, emotionally, physically and financially.

The best thing about living in a community is that people look out for one another. Now is the time to remember that. In difficult times, small acts of kindness make an enormous difference in the lives of others. ■



Music therapist

EMILY SHANAHAN



There are many ways to describe it, but I will just say 2020 has been a TRICKY year! Some days were tougher than others, and the ups and downs seemed more frequent and more extreme than our usual household pace. Home schooling three kids while working from home was definitely challenging and felt a little like treading water some days, but there were positives too.

I am so impressed with how we have all managed to adapt to the constant changes this year, in basically every area of our lives.

As a music therapist, work completely changed for me with all face to face sessions cancelled at my centre. Some hours were lost and some transferred online. I was dubious about this initially—music and Zoom can be a struggle, but I have been amazed at what we have achieved despite not being in the same physical space. A speech pathologist and I have adapted our sessions for young children in ways we would never have considered before. We sing and dance, create humour from funny perspectives on Zoom, and involve siblings, pets, household objects, once even a dad from work.

My piano teaching shifted to Zoom in the last week of Term 1 and every single student and family embraced the new way of learning. It was a joy to teach people who listened so carefully to me (unlike my home schooling attempts) and I am so grateful to my students for making music a priority when just getting through the day was sometimes a challenge.

Living one day at a time and making time for things I love got me through 2020. Being able to spend time alone in my studio also helped. I am relieved that despite a LOT of time spent together, my family still enjoys each other's company. ■

Primary student

ERICA MIFSUD

A letter to my future self: I don't have a very good memory and even though this experience has been one to never forget, I know I will. It's 2020, our last year of primary school, and I was expecting it to be a blast. But it was no picnic; every day got crazier. Why? CORONA. Coronavirus struck after the bushfires in Australia. And that is when the world turned into a mega-rollercoaster.

'DeathTrap!!!' An exclusive way to.....
Brought to you by CoronaLand

A lot of people bought a one-way ticket in the DeathTrap which is super sad. And the tickets have not sold out. Some bought a two-way ticket which is still really bad because I know someone throughout the world could be suffering. I now see why some people don't like rollercoasters. Anyway, to protect Victoria, Daniel Andrews, or Danny A, conducted a lockdown. Now, if I had had three words to sum up remote learning I would say: boring, lonely, productive (sometimes when you are motivated). We went into remote learning twice: in term two for around nine weeks and the second time for ten weeks.

What helped me and everyone get through the pandemic? Family, succulents, teachers and the government. Something I found challenging was not being able to see my friends like I normally would. I don't feel comfortable talking in front of a camera. Also, being a leader and a Year 6 I wanted to do more for the school, and no one had a very good chance.

To further protect the population, we wore masks. Even though the fabric patterns are cool it is weird. It's like we hopped up on a spaceship and now we all live on a different planet.

When we're in Year 7 coronavirus might still be controlling our world. Nothing is normal but then, what is normal. What's scary is that every corner you turn a new danger might be lurking. No one knows what will happen next. So in conclusion, future self, 2020 has been extremely interesting. Who knows when the roller coaster will end. ■



Putting my feet up.

Your average mum...

...juggling two kids, a partner, an elderly mother, working and numerous pets.

Wow, what a crazy year 2020 has been. Who ever thought as we watched the devastation of the bushfires, storms and floods earlier in the year that we would find ourselves in a global pandemic a few months later?

We have all faced our own challenges this year. My 2020 included the added pressure of working in superannuation and insurance during a pandemic, remote schooling, my husband home all day and an elderly mother with health issues under my care. It was a real juggle, but I know I was luckier than many others. Some of the most memorable moments for me will be:

- extra time with my family and connecting with those who I thought needed extra support
- enjoying a cup of tea in bed in the morning, as I did not have to commute for work
- meeting pets and children, in that order, as they love popping their heads up on video calls
- wearing track suit pants and slippers to the office because nobody knows what you are wearing from the waist down
- knowing it is possible to go to the bathroom during a work meeting because you can take the meeting with you, but you MUST remember to turn off the camera and sound
- birthday celebrations lasting for weeks due to online shopping and postal delays
- taking advantage of IT connectivity issues to end a call/meeting early
- guilt-free cake with my takeaway coffee as it is more important than ever to support local businesses
- discovering algebra and trigonometry were much easier when I was at school
- seeing that if we work together as a family, community and country, we can do and achieve great things.

As restrictions ease and we return to work, school and play, hopefully we can reflect on this time as one that provided us with the opportunity to change, if even just a little. ■

JOKES AND RIDDLES

What did one plate say to the other plate?

Dinner is on me.

When you look for something, why is it always in the last place you look?

Because when you find it, you stop looking.

Why do French people like to eat snails?

Because they don't like fast food.

Did you hear about the two guys who stole a calendar?

They each got six months.

What is it called when a cat wins a dog show?

A cat-has-trophy.

Waiter! Waiter! This coffee tastes like soil.

Yes, sir, it was ground this morning.

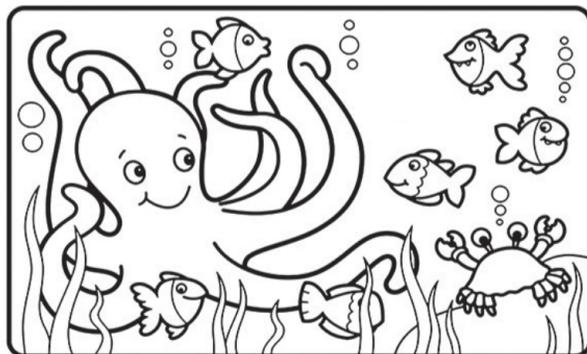
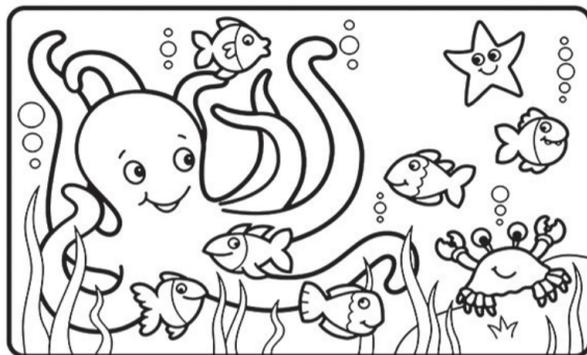
Why did the scarecrow get a pay rise?

Because he was outstanding in his field.

When is it bad luck to meet a black cat?

When you're a mouse.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



See if you can find 10 differences between the pictures.

QUIZ

- 1 Which Sydney landmark is nicknamed 'The Coat Hanger'?
- 2 Which animal is called 'The King of the Jungle'?
- 3 How many teeth does a healthy adult have including wisdom teeth?
- 4 Which vehicles are raced in the Tour de France?
- 5 Which is the highest mountain in the world?
- 6 What is the cube root of 125?
- 7 Which is the only Australian state capital city not named after a person?
- 8 What's a bowler credited with when no runs are scored off the over?
- 9 How many years are there in a century?
- 10 What is Japan's highest mountain?

Answers page 39

JOKES OF THE MONTH!

Why aren't koalas actual bears?

Because they don't meet the koalafications.

Halloween spookiness



Mackenzie, Olivia, Esha, Emily, Abigail, Billy and Blayde visit Melanie Burlat on October 31.

Playgroup extends paver fundraiser



The committee is thrilled to announce that our Engrave a Brick fundraiser has been extended to March 2021. This fundraiser will help fund the recently completed hall renovations.

For a donation of only \$60, your name or hand-drawn picture will be engraved onto a brick paver and permanently installed at the Ross Watt Children's Hall in New Gisborne proudly showing your support of New Gisborne Playgroup.

Double pavers are available for \$100, perfect for a larger family. And for local businesses there are a number of options starting at a donation of \$250. What a wonderful way to support Playgroup while leaving a permanent reminder of your family or business in our town.

The renovations included new toilets, including a wheelchair accessible cubicle. We also have a new storeroom and new carpet in the hall. The new facilities have proven a wonderful success!

For more information or to order your engraved brick, please contact us at newgisborneplaygroup@gmail.com

Kate Lamla



Playgroup members Tobias and Sebastian hold a sample engraved brick in front of Ross Watt Children's Hall.



An idea for more play space at school



Dear local government members, My name is Mackenzie from Gisborne Primary School and I am writing to you as we are really desperate for this request to become a loving reality for St Brigid's and Gisborne Primary Schools. The request is to open up Brantome Street as a play space for our schools.

We would love and want a netball or basketball court for Brantome Street because it will increase the number of children's smiles and happiness.

As Einstein said, "A calm and modest life brings more happiness."



Mackenzie Atkinson

Since we do have such little space left, we were thinking and wishing for a small grass area too because it will also help St Brigid's, since they only have concrete and barely any grass at all! Plus, St Brigid's really need a soft play space as it will decrease children getting hurt, injured or harmed.

Gisborne Primary would also love it because we have over 500 kids at our school and we need as much play space as possible. We would love to share and play in this space!

Mackenzie Atkinson, Year 4 Writers' Club



Origami experts Ethan Middlemast, Lachlan Bannister-Daly and Hamza Yamani.

New Gisborne Primary a hive of activity



Oaks Day

This year for Oaks Day the Year 6s dressed up as if they were going to the races, or a special day out. We had a parade with your partner describing your outfit in our classes so we could vote on who had the best outfit and who had the best description.

We used vivid vocabulary and detail to give the best descriptions possible. Mr West and Mr Kozak helped with the judging and the winners were awarded rosettes – in the school colours of course!

By Marnie and Ava



Angus with his solar car and mini-me.

Pirate Day

Aargh me hearties! On October 30 our whole school participated in Pirate Day, where we dressed like pirates and raised money for the Kids' Cancer Project. Everyone donated a gold coin to help fund research into childhood cancer.

All the students had so much fun and enjoyed the silly day. We had parades and the younger grades did pirate activities.

By Jemma and Franky

Solar cars

The Year 6s are making solar cars. We have been learning how circuits and solar panels work, and how electricity gets to our homes. With that knowledge we are designing our cars and get to race them! We'll be presenting a poster about solar panels and circuits.

During remote learning we had mini-me's (little wooden art figures) to keep us company at our tables. Now our mini-me's have come back to school with us and one mini-me in each solar car team has to go in the race.

By Angus

Buddies – recent lunch

There's nothing better than sitting down and having lunch with your buddies. Luckily, due to all these "doughnut days", we are now able to do this more. It's been a really tough year for the preps. Being their first year, they have missed out on a lot of interesting opportunities, so it's great when we can catch up and see the younger members of our school.

By Charlie

A folding Foodbank fundraiser

My name is Hamza and I attend Gisborne Montessori school. I wanted to fundraise for the poor and needy. At the time I did not know which organisation to raise money for.



I made an article and posted it for our school newsletter. However, as I was getting ready to sell origami, lockdown came. Fortunately, the virus outbreak settled in Victoria, and restrictions were eased. I could now go to school.

I started the fundraising straight away. After making my first sale, I thought I needed some help. Some of my friends wanted to help. Their names are Lachlan and Ethan. We started to work together, and we all thought it was great.

We then decided to raise the money for Foodbank. Foodbank is a not for profit organisation that helps source food for those in need. My mum does car pooling with a friend who helped me a lot. She is even thinking of organising an interview with a person from Foodbank. With the help of my family and friends we are selling our origami very well.

We will be selling our origami at our Fair on Saturday December 5 from 8am to 2pm. Please come along to support our endeavours to raise money for this worthy cause.

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Mount Macedon Primary School

The past few weeks have been action packed for the kids at Mount Macedon Primary School. It's that time of the year again, the big decision time of year.

The kids in Year 6 have been lucky enough to spend three days and two nights at Lake Dewar Lodge about 45 minutes away from Mount Macedon where they had heaps of fun paddle boarding, kayaking, geocaching, jetty jumping, zip lining, hut building, adventure tunnelling and kick biking.

It is also tradition at Mount Macedon Primary School for the Year 6s to rule the school for a day. On that day the Year 6s are the teachers and rulers of the school. This year the school will run a French day, when the students will cook French food and wear French clothes.



Dylan

The 1/2s have been researching the history of Australia and learning about life before the European settlers arrived.

Meanwhile the Foundation students have been working on PowerPoint presentations to present their work on how human activity affects the lives of sea creatures.

That is all for this month so until next year.

Dylan, school reporter



Class of 2020, Bullengarook Senior Secondary Campus of Sunbury and Macedon Ranges Specialist School.

Bullengarook wraps up a very different year

Another year has gone by at Bullengarook Secondary Campus and we can safely say we have never had one like it before!

First order of business is to congratulate our wonderful graduating class of 2020. These amazing young people demonstrated great resilience in thriving during remote and flexible learning as well as dealing with unexpected changes in timetables and activities.

On another positive note, we have just been handed the keys to our new multi-purpose building at

the front of the school. We now have the capacity to offer exciting new programs in our industrial kitchen as well as music and art spaces.

The students are particularly excited about the indoor sport facility where we can hold assemblies and a variety of sporting pursuits. The new office facilities provide a welcoming environment to visitors and all members of the school community. We are all looking forward to putting all of these great new spaces to use in 2021.

Garry Heald

St Brigids' Primary – a 2020 rewind



Remote learning was a challenge we had to overcome this year, but all the strong

kids at St Brigid's pushed through it. During remote learning everyone missed their friends, but everyone is happy to be back and seeing them again.

The Grade 6s went to Funfields! It was a really fun day and everyone got out of their comfort zone and

went on rides they normally wouldn't. Getting the chance to have a fun time was so special because so much of the year we were isolated from the world.

We had Confirmation this term which we spent weeks preparing for. It was great because we thought we weren't going to be able to do it, and it is a tradition that we look forward to.

We also had our swimming lessons which were



Eden

so much fun! They were held at the Gisborne Aquatic Centre. We were put into groups and tried lots of different strokes such as freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke. We also tried lots of different jumps and dives.

Thanks to everyone at St Brigid's for the whole fantastic year. The Grade 6s will miss the school as we go into year 7.

By Eden Fennessy

Sacred Heart College Kyneton

Learn. Care. Flourish.

Sacred Heart College wishes all in the Gisborne community and surrounds a peaceful and happy Christmas.

We congratulate our wonderful Year 12 students, the 'Class of 2020', on their achievements.

We are confident their results and selected pathways will lead the way to rewarding futures.



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GSC captains sign off for the year



As our year comes to an end and we close the schooling chapter of our lives, we have reflected as a core leadership group on what we have achieved. Throughout 2020 we have managed to have fortnightly meetings and our school captains Nicole and Kye made an Anzac Day video reciting poems from soldiers and nurses who have been to war.

By far the biggest thing we have achieved is managing to captain our school through a global pandemic, through lots of group calls with the younger year levels offering support and motivation to help them through these crazy times.

Next year as former captains we are hoping to achieve many things. Kye is hoping to study nursing while pursuing his acting career. Nicole is hoping to attend La Trobe

University to study primary school teaching while Sarah is looking at teaching in general at Victoria University. Josh wants to go to TAFE to study agriculture while working his part-time job.

As we wrap up our last article as captains we would really like to thank everyone for the opportunity presented to us this year. Yes, this year has been unpredictable and anything but normal, however as captains we have taken this in our stride and found it all the more rewarding.

We wish the captains of 2021 the best of luck



From left: Joshua Stephens, Nicole Steward, Kye Stanley and Sarah Asfar.

and to the class of 2020: "You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think". The big wide world awaits us so let's give it everything we have got!

Written by Nicole Steward and Kye Stanley (school captains) and Josh Stephens and Sarah Asfar (vice captains).



Lincoln Roberts and Georgia Waddington have been at the same schools since kindergarten.

Sacred Heart captains share longstanding link

Georgia Waddington and Lincoln Roberts were recently announced as Sacred Heart College Captains for next year

Both are thrilled about being selected and are looking forward to representing the school in the wider community.

The selection of Georgia and Lincoln is unique, as they have shared their educational journey since kindergarten. When asked about this connection, Lincoln said, "I think Georgia and I being close since our time at primary school (and also beforehand) has made us look forward to next year even more. During our time at Holy Cross, we were provided with many great leadership opportunities (special thanks to Mr Wenzel and Mrs McKenzie!). We're very much looking forward to what we can achieve together."

Georgia said she had always viewed leadership as an incredible learning opportunity, to further develop knowledge, skills and build relationships, adding, "I see being College Captain as one of these opportunities."

Given COVID restrictions, this year's selection process was a little different from usual. Rather than speaking at a whole college assembly, candidates filmed a three-minute presentation that was played to class groups.

A full list of the Sacred Heart College Senior Cabinet members for 2021 can be found on the news page of the College website, www.shckyneton.catholic.edu.au

Grads, check out special uni scholarships

The team at Community Bank Gisborne & District encourages 2020 secondary school graduates who plan to start university in 2021 to apply for scholarships of the Bendigo Bank network.

The scholarships aim to assist community-minded and academically motivated students who completed VCE in 2020 or 2019, have been offered a full-time place in a bachelor's degree course in 2021 and are experiencing challenging circumstances.

The largest scholarship available to local students is \$5000 per year. This bursary for up to three years is open to graduates in the Gisborne, Macedon and Riddells Creek area. It has been awarded to 13 students over the past seven years.

Living in regional Victoria, local graduates may also be eligible for a number of other Bendigo Bank scholarships.

Applications for scholarships are open now and close at the end of January. It's possible to start an application online and complete it once ATAR and



2020 scholarship recipients with a customer whose business helps make the program possible.

university offers are received.

For more information, visit bendigobank.com.au/ scholarships, email mrcepublicrelations@gmail.com or pop into the Gisborne Bendigo Bank branch at 11 Nexus Way, Gisborne.

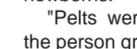
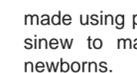
Remember: You've got to be in it to win it, so start your application today.

Holy Cross students embrace NAIDOC Week

The students at Holy Cross Primary School acknowledged and celebrated NAIDOC week this term. They immersed themselves in the history of NAIDOC and celebrated the achievements of Aboriginal peoples, past and present.

They explored the history of the land on which Holy Cross sits and participated in a range of events throughout the week.

Pictured are Siân and Maya Andrews sharing an item that is close to their hearts. Here is a piece Siân Andrews



wrote about her possum skin cloak:

"The possum cloak is distinct to South-Eastern Australian Aboriginal peoples. Possum skin cloaks were traditionally made using possum pelts and kangaroo sinew to make a receiving cloak for newborns.

"Pelts were added to the cloaks as the person grew and cloaks were usually

buried with the person. A cloak was inscribed with images of family, clan and tribe to imbue the wearer with belonging and connection.

"Today possum skin cloaking has been revitalised and is an important cultural practice that Aboriginal people use to maintain culture and express self-determination. Teaching young people these cultural practices is important to continuity of culture.



Siân and Maya Andrews display a possum skin cloak.

Siân Andrews

STUDENT Awards

The **Gazette** is pleased to announce its 2020 Student Awards. Each year two students are selected by their schools and receive a certificate and \$50. Congratulations to all recipients!

GISBORNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOLLY NELSON



Holly shows an admirable determination to make the most of every educational opportunity. She is deeply reflective as a learner, consistently recognising and applying the strategies that help her achieve personal best with a task. Holly adjusted extremely well between onsite and remote learning structures, staying motivated and sharing her positivity at every instance. Holly looks out for the wellbeing of others, staying true to our school's core value of 'Caring'.

KEIRA SIMPSON



Throughout the year Keira has been a caring and considerate classmate. She consistently demonstrates the school values each day, both within the classroom where she gives her personal best to all her work and to the extra leadership responsibilities she undertakes. As an Arts Leader, Keira has worked hard to develop a whole school playlist using student suggestions and has helped to lead teams in choosing graduation music. In the classroom she is a fantastic role model, shows respect to all staff and students and has shown resilience in a challenging year.

NEW GISBORNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NOAH STUART-HIGGS



Noah has excelled this year, showing a flair for creative writing, persistence in remote learning and aptitude in maths. He's a self-motivated and independent thinker who epitomises the core values of our school. Noah is quick to volunteer to help, showing kindness towards others and a wonderful sense of humour, which has kept us all uplifted through the challenges of this year.

ANGUS CRUMP



Angus is a diligent student at New Gisborne who participates actively in all of our classroom activities whether onsite or remotely. This year he has developed great leadership skills, sensitively using his knowledge and interest in electronics and cyberspace to help classmates navigate the infinite twists and turns of learning remotely. This has continued onsite, in particular assisting our school's digital assemblies.

HOLY CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL

BILLY HAYES



Billy's achievements in Year 6 were many. He excelled in all areas of his learning; he supported his community as school vice-captain and was a fantastic school leader to name but a few. These feats, however, were all secondary to Billy's exceptional character. Throughout the year, Billy fostered a culture of motivation and encouragement among his classmates making their year all the more positive and fun. "Go team!"

OLIVIA WHITING



Olivia has an outstanding zest for life. She never lets any challenges get in her way! Throughout the year, she breezed through remote learning and excelled in the opportunity to push herself further and learn more independently. She is a very caring, considerate and kind person to everyone she meets. She is excellent in her sporting achievements as well, and has been a great role model to her peers.

MACEDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

LILY BOOTH



Lily demonstrates strength, courage and resilience which are the foundations of a confident leader of the future. She is an inspiration to others by displaying a calm and approachable demeanour. Lily's academic achievements are always of a high standard. Lily's characteristics lead her to be an exceptional role model of the future.

CHLOE SMITTEN



Chloe is a change agent of the future. She has always been a leader for inclusivity in schools and local communities. She is highly creative and is an inspiration to her peers at Macedon Primary. Chloe's persistent approach towards learning makes her a diligent and successful class member.

ST BRIGID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

EDEN FENNESSY



Awarded for her commitment as St Brigid's *Gazette* reporter and her endeavours to maintain positive vibes throughout the school and community during remote learning and on return to school. Eden displays a commitment to all aspects of her learning and extends a caring empathetic manner to students throughout the school. Congratulations, Eden.

BOSTON BINNEY



Awarded for the dedication he shows towards his learning and willingness to help others. Boston takes on responsibility and displays a caring attitude towards all members of the St Brigid's community; staff, peers, and younger students. Boston is a quiet achiever and a Year 5 student who shows positive leadership skills. Thank you, Boston, for all your efforts this year.

MOUNT MACEDON PRIMARY SCHOOL

JAYME-LEE COBAIN



School Captain 2020. Jayme-lee has modelled extraordinary leadership in this difficult year. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that strong connections between the students were maintained, even during remote learning. Jayme-lee is a thoughtful, generous student who gives willingly of her time.

MIA WYLLIE



School Captain 2020. Mia has shown great leadership skills this year. She has gained in confidence and has modelled to all students the ability to step into a role and to manage it in a reflective, kind manner. She has represented our school and at all times we have been proud to have her do this.

MACEDON RANGES SPECIALIST SCHOOL

CINDY TREWIN



Cindy is one of the quiet achievers at our Secondary Campus. She always displays exemplary behaviour both inside and out of the classroom, setting a great example for our younger students. Cindy completes all

of her assigned tasks and helps her classmates when needed. I have no hesitation in nominating her for this award.

NICHOLAI LE



Nicholai has been at the Secondary Campus for 5 years now and during that time has been a model student. He is polite and well-mannered to staff and students and completes all of his work to a high standard. Nicholai is a keen basketballer who always gives 100 percent effort and is a great person to have on your team. Nicholai is greatly deserving of this award.

GISBORNE SECONDARY COLLEGE

NICOLE STEWARD



Nicole has served as school captain of 2020 and in that capacity she has demonstrated strong leadership to her year level and her school. During remote learning Nicole continued to carry out her duties, organising virtual events and even speaking at remote assemblies. Despite the difficult circumstances this year has presented, Nicole has shown great leadership.

MAX ROWLAND



Max has shown fantastic effort through a very tough year 7. Despite the seemingly constant interruptions to the year Max has had his hand up on every occasion, eager to participate in the State School Spectacular and school athletics – neither of which went ahead unfortunately – and in auditions for Mamma Mia in 2021. Max is a delight to work with and will always contribute constructively and thoughtfully to any discussion or group activity.



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SCOUTING



Macedon and Woodend Scouts merge

We're excited to announce that Scouting in our area is taking yet another leap forward with the merging of the 1st Macedon and 2nd Woodend Scout Groups.

Over the course of the pandemic our Cubs, Scouts and Venturers have shown the best of what youth have to offer. With outdoor hikes, learning vehicle mechanics and still achieving significant awards in each section, the new Macedon-Woodend Scout Group is off to a flying start.

With the beautiful natural surrounds of the Macedon Scout Hall to call home, our Group has brilliant opportunities to continue a highly adventurous, youth-driven program.

This is supported by a dedicated and highly skilled team of volunteer Leaders and adult helpers coming together from both Groups.

These local volunteers empower our young people to



Macedon-Woodend Scouts try a bit of mud therapy on camp.

get out to experience the world and help others, all while working towards qualifications to set them up for life after Scouting.

If you're interested in joining the Macedon-Woodend Scout Group, please visit <https://macedonwoodendscouts.com>

News from 1st Gisborne Scout Group

1st Gisborne has certainly been 'out and about' this term, even in the rain on some occasions! The youngest section of Scouts – the Joeys – had fun dressing up for Halloween, learnt how to help other people and played ball games...all in the parks and playing fields of Gisborne.

The Scouts took the opportunity to brush up on their nautical skills and went canoeing. They learnt how to 'Raft UP' – a skill to assist in communication, swapping seats, safety precautions and how to perform a rescue. The Mitchell Scout Unit went on a sunset/night hike around Conglomerate Gully (Riddells Creek), a chalk chase around Gisborne (in the rain!) and learnt about semaphore and Morse code.

Over the past few months, the Bundaleer Rover Unit has still been meeting online via Zoom, managing to adapt well to the changes by modifying their nights to get the most out of Rovers. Activities included games nights, trivia, knot-tying practice, science experiments, talent shows and movie nights.



Gisborne Scouts learn how to canoe safely.

Each and every Rover has done an amazing job in these tough circumstances and is looking forward to meeting at the hall once the restrictions ease off.

We have vacancies in all sections for 2021: Joeys 5-8 years, Cubs 8-11 years, Scouts 11-14 years, Venturers 15-18 years and Rovers 18-25 years. So come along and experience what Scouting has to offer. Enquiries to registrar@1stgisborne.com.au

Carolyn Goode

New Gisborne (Church of Christ) Scouts

We are excited to enjoy outdoor Scouting in Term 4. Each of our sections, Joeys, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers, have had their first outdoor COVID-compliant activities.

Still not the easiest of times, working within COVID rules, more than ever remembering our Law and Promise and living out our "love thy neighbour" obligations. We are very conscious of those who work so hard to lead us and keep us safe.

We're about to sign the contract to have our Scout Hut built in early 2021 hopefully in time for Founders Day, February 22, and getting very excited. We'd love to hear from you if you're interested in helping with funding for this exciting project. The Scout Hut will be central to the post-COVID rejuvenation of Scouting in and around the New Gisborne area. Donations are tax-deductible.

We are planning our annual Canoe Night for December 16 at Nursery Lake, Macedon. (Subject to COVID rules)

We've had a number of Joeys (ages 5-7) "go up" to Cub Scouts so we have a few vacancies.

Contact Group Leader Skipper (0450 922 787 john-frearson@mac.com) if you'd like to learn more about New Gisborne Scouting and the fun and challenges ahead with our Joeys, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers.

John Frearson



New Gisborne Cub Scouts enjoy getting back outdoors.

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Black Douglas, gold route bushranger

This edited article about the bushranger 'Black Douglas' has been extracted from the Kay Gibson and Marion Button (deceased) Research Collection, which was donated to the Gisborne & Mount Macedon Districts Historical Society.

Compiled by Robin Godfrey

Black Douglas has been described in various ways in accounts: as a 'mulatto' Indian ('mulatto' being an 18th-century term given, in the Indies, to those of mixed African-Indian parentage); as a tall and powerful African who had jumped ship; and as an ex-convict from Tasmania, an ex-fighting man who was also a drunken and disreputable blackguard.

Of all the robberies attributed to the Black Douglas, at least a few may have been committed by other black male perpetrators.

There were probably many different bushrangers and gangs who operated in the area, but Black Douglas was legendary. He was considered the scourge of the Black Forest and regularly held up teamsters between the Bush Inn (Gisborne) and Harpers Inn at Woodend.

[The bushranger's real name was most probably Charles Russell, but possibly Alexander Douglas.]

Michael Brady, from Gisborne at that time, related a story of gold diggers who encountered Black Douglas one evening.

"Bail-up – you're surrounded," came the loud haunting voice through the trees and darkness of the forest. The diggers, looking around through the mist, thought they saw figures amongst the trees and scrub and, having heard of the cut-throat nature of the gang, did as they were instructed. Black Douglas approached and lightened their load of hard-won prizes, telling them to remain still as his men had them surrounded. Sometime after his disappearance into the night, the diggers discovered that those surrounding them were actually hats on stumps using saplings as shotguns!

By the middle of the 1850s, the whole goldfields region was infested with bushrangers and the small police force was so greatly over-extended in its attempts to deal with them that many diggers took their own precautions.



S T Gill depiction of the Mount Alexander road through the Black Forest during the Gold Rush.

They banded into groups to form gold escorts to take their gold down to Melbourne.

Black Douglas and his men heard about one of these groups and planned an attack on them. They waited until the diggers had made camp before they galloped out of the bush, but they met unexpectedly strong resistance. Douglas and his men killed one digger and wounded three others but they could not make the party surrender. They turned away and made for another group of travelling diggers.

This second group was even better prepared for bushrangers. Each man carried a little of his gold on his person, but most of their nuggets were packed into chamois bags and hidden in four small compartments cut into the wooden axle of the dray which was loaded with their baggage and other gear. They covered the compartments with close-fitting lids and concealed them with clay plastered over the axle. Apart from taking these precautions, the diggers were well armed, and they welcomed Douglas and his men with a volley of shots from pistols and muskets. Foiled once again, the bushrangers retreated into the forest.

One successful digger who had fortunately sent his gold to Melbourne by escort was robbed on his way to Melbourne. He had very little money, but the robbers took it all except a few shillings. They also took his double-barrelled gun and gave him an old single-barrelled gun in exchange.

He took this to England as a curiosity, and sometime afterwards

a young friend, who was playing with it, tried to draw the charge, as he thought this should be done. The first thing he pulled out was part of a five-pound note. The gun was taken to a blacksmith, who unscrewed the breach and they took out notes to the amount of £150. Most likely the robbers had stolen the gun from some traveller who had taken this means of concealing his money.

Thieves were numerous on the goldfields, but sometimes natural justice prevailed. There was an instance of a man at White Hills near Bendigo, who had a horse which he valued at £150. He used to sleep with the bridle rein around his wrist so that any attempt to take the horse would rouse him from his slumbers. One morning he found that the rein had been cut and the horse stolen. About three months afterwards, he found the horse outside his tent with a new saddle on its back and 20 pound-weight of gold in the saddle bag. The horse, by some fortunate means, had found its way home to the rightful owner – the owner of the gold never turned up.

Black Douglas extended his range of operations beyond the Black Forest to the goldfields; he was arrested for theft of 40 or 50 ounces of gold from a digger and was tried at Ballarat in 1853. Douglas represented himself in court. He made an oration lasting almost an hour, describing his life graphically, and wound up by appealing to the judge to give him consideration, as he said he was only an uneducated and friendless

man, unaided by legal counsel.

In his summation, the judge declared, "You may be undefended and friendless, but you are a man of marked ability. Few barristers could have so ably and eloquently defended you. The sentence is 12 months at hard labour." Douglas had been standing between two policemen with guns and, as he was being removed, he recognised an acquaintance looking on. Douglas nodded, winked, pressed his tongue into his cheek and said with an air of triumph, "Only 12 months!"

In May 1855, Black Douglas, out of gaol but up to his old habits again, appeared in the Maryborough Court. The events leading up to this followed a robbery of a carrier, who later recognised Black Douglas as he went into a shanty beside a butcher's shop.

The diggers waited outside the shop until he came out and the carrier hit him with a butcher's cleaver. He and about six of his gang were taken in a cart pulled by a bullock to the Alma camp. They were accompanied by members of the Diggers Protection Association as well as about 200 diggers. As the criminals passed from the Alma diggings to the camp at Maryborough, they were met with loud cheers from the diggers.

A witness reported that Douglas's vest and shirt were torn to ribbons, revealing his distinctive yellow-coloured skin. On the following day, a charge was made against Douglas of feloniously entering a tent belonging to some Maoris and, as he was well-known to the Bench, he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment as a rogue and vagabond and conveyed to the Castlemaine Gaol.

After his release from the Castlemaine gaol in February of 1857, Douglas found his way to Beechworth where he spent most of his days drinking. He spent at least one short spell of three days in the Beechworth gaol for drunken and disorderly conduct. ■

According to sources which were not available at the time the article was written, Black Douglas died in Bendigo Gaol hospital in 1892. He is believed to have been born in Bristol, UK, in 1817, though some references suggest he could have been born in Philadelphia, US, later travelling to the UK.



Vet Talk

My own dog came inside from romping through the paddocks recently with a squinty eye. It reminded me to share a few simple hints of what to look out for to ensure your pet's vision is "20/20".

The eyelids

Dogs and cats have similar upper and lower eyelids to us, although they are rather more hairy. The eyelids blink and close to protect the eye and distribute the tear film. Our pets also have another internal "third eyelid" which appears as a white or pink hairless membrane which may protrude a little from underneath the lids. If it is red, inflamed or swollen it needs to be assessed by a vet - to check for irritation from grass-seeds, dirt, or trauma to the eye.

The tears

It is normal for our pets to have a little clear fluid around the eyes. The tear film, like ours, lubricates the eyes and flushes out minor irritants.

Unfortunately they sometimes collect debris from the environment, or form a goopy substance which sticks to the hair around the eyes... but if you can gently wipe it away with a soft damp cloth or saline, and the tears do not seem to be excessive or infected (green or yellow discharge), then that is acceptable.

The pupil

The central dark area in the eye should dilate to appear large and black in dim light.

Incidentally, if your pet is frightened or

Eye see



By local vet
 Dr Caitlin
 Horwood-Skelton

"adrenalised", this will also occur. In bright light, the pupil constricts, and appears much smaller, to allow less light in. In cats you see the oval pupil become a thin narrow slit, whereas in dogs it shrinks to a small black dot.

If you think your pet has a serious eye problem, check: Do the eyes look symmetrical? A sore eye often has a squinting eyelid, or red membranes, or excessive tears or discharge. It might or simply look "different" from the other eye. If in doubt, get it checked out.

As for my dog - he just needed the grass pollen wiped off his face, and a big sleep on the sofa. Happy Christmas 2020!



Next time you ogle your pets, check out their eye health.

The adventures of Max the dog, cont. Max gets a bodyguard



At the end of the driveway, we meet the newest addition to my entourage, my bodyguard, "Rocky".

He's a Great Dane and what an imposing sight he is; 55 kilograms of absolute

muscle. But that's how I roll. I'm famous now. Up there with Lassie, Slinky Dog from *Toy Story*, Frank the Pug from the *MIB* movies, and of course, my favourite, Eddie from *Fraser*. I love that guy! He has charisma!

I like my privacy now; sure, I still like to meet and greet the fans. I mean what dog doesn't like a pat, especially a belly rub. It's the price I pay for being a celebrity. However, if anyone gets in the way of my frolicking in the grass...look out; I turn into a diva!

My female dry-nose (her name is Julie), Rocky and his owner, Leah, from down the road, all walk behind me because I'm the leader of this pack. I'm the first one to take in the amazing smells of Mount Macedon and as a result, find out all the latest gossip in the area. Yep, you read that right. The chance to smell trees and clumps of grass provides me with important information, not to mention essential mental stimulation.

I can work out if there are any new dogs in town, their gender, as well as clues about their age and health status; "pee-mail" is fascinating. I get all the neighbourhood gossip in one big whiff.

We've made it to Tony Clarke Reserve. I love the soft grass on the oval. Jules has let me off the lead and I'm off! Come on, Rocky! Keep up big fella...it's time to roll in the grass. I've found a nice spot...it's like a big soft cushion...Ohhhh...it feels so good. Time for a slow, relaxed roll from side to side with my legs kicking up in the air, scratching my back and soaking up the sun. I'm loving life!

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FOR THE GREEN THUMBS

Gisborne Garden Club news

Dear Garden Club members and gardening enthusiasts, Summer is in the air; certainly the sun has that typical summer bite to it and I expect the watering of your pot plants will have started in earnest.

The roses have certainly benefited from the above-average rain so far and we are 'harvesting' blooms for our home decoration.

Native plants are also making a great show; the various callistemons and grevillea are out in full bloom and these can be pruned back after flowering to give a more compact shrub with even more flowers next summer.

So, you will be pleased to know that your club committee will be meeting at the start of December to look



Grevillea bipinnatifida, or grape grevillea

into formulating a program for 2021, on the expectation that COVID-19 restrictions will be eased further and thus allow the usual outside garden meetings to take place.

Though there is still a lot of uncertainty and it is most likely we will have to wear face masks when meeting in larger groups, we hope to send you good news soon.

Last but not least, if you can, put out some water for the

birds in your garden and consider crafting up a homemade gift for your friends this Christmas.

Cheers to all this Christmas season, stay well and stay safe.

Bernhard

Daly Nature Reserve news



All dressed up and work to do in Daly Reserve.

It's pleasing to report that the Reserve has produced the very best show of colourful native flowers this spring. Orchids, lilies and many others have been prolific, probably due to good spring rain.

If you and friends would like a new interest in 2021 please consider joining our monthly working bees. We care for the Nature Reserve by observing and photographing the native flora, weeding out invasive gorse and blackberries, but it's not all hard work. We have easy jobs too. Having said that, we did have a good workout in October, wheelbarrowing and raking new mulch onto the tracks.

We sign in at the scout hall ev-

ery second Tuesday each month at 9.30am (February to December, finishing at 11-ish with a cuppa and chat.

We've kept the wheels turning despite COVID-19 and hope 2021 will see us back to normal and re-establishing links with scouts and schools. Thanks go to all our supporting members, as well as friends who collect litter as they walk through the Reserve. We hope everyone can safely enjoy the festive season and the new year brings good news.

The next working bee is Tuesday December 9 at 9.30am; meet at the scout hall.

Enquiries to dalynaturereserve@gmail.com

Irene Perkin

REFLECTIONS

with Warwick McFadyen

Last month I planted the tomatoes for the summer. Two Rouge de Marmande, two Grosse Lisse and two cherry tomato plants. As per tomato growing folklore they were in the ground by the Melbourne Cup. It's a Melbourne thing, and it's nought to do with the horses and all to do with the weather.

In these southern climes, you really can't trust the weather to be at all settled into spring until spring is almost over. As one gardening website proffers for maximum growth and nurturing: "Low 20s, gentle breeze, nice tunes playing in the background – perfect."

However much I might love growing tomatoes I draw the line at setting up a stereo system in the vegetable patch. In any case, despite all the research on the theory of music helping tomato growth I can say without a shadow of a doubt a tomato would not grow faster or stronger listening to the southern delta blues or Frank Zappa. If it did rise, it might do so with a weary, troubled air and then shrivel or burst, proclaiming Damn right I got the blues! There might be more of a chance with Pachelbel's Fugue in D minor.

I am not an avid, or constant, gardener. Eight rows of corn and 10 batches of broccoli are not my thing. The tomatoes will do me. One year, however, they almost did me. Actually, it was one tomato, and one unknown creature of the night.

It had been a disastrous summer. My thumb refused to turn green. Every endeavour withered on the vine. Perhaps I killed them with not enough love, perhaps I killed them with too much love. But by summer's end, only one plant stood. On its body, one tomato.

Every day I checked on it, watered it, yes even talked to it. "Almost there, almost there my beauty. Keep going. I even hummed a bit of Bob Dylan to it (which some may say was not a good idea – some people are cruel). And then one night I was ready. The tomato was ready. Tomorrow I'm going to pick you, one and only tomato of my summer, and off I went to a contented sleep.

The next day dawned bright with what I thought would be horticultural vindication and gastronomical excitement. Until I saw my plant. I let out a groan/shriek/moan/guttural cry that caused the household to rush out and see that while I wasn't being stabbed to death by angry goblins, I was torn asunder. My tomato was ripped apart, gnawed to a shred of its magnificent red self. There was no calling card, saying thanks I've been waiting for that to ripen. I suspect a possum though I've no proof. The memory of my anguish still haunts my daughter.

But I persevere, for what can beat the taste of your own produce. As Neil Young sings, homegrown's all right by me. I expect he didn't have to deal with possums.

Gisborne Ramblers

At the time of writing, we still find ourselves restricted to an outside gathering of 10 people, but by the time you read this, hopefully, this will be possibly 40 plus. The Ramblers have still managed to plod on, keeping up our weekly walks (if in a limited manner!) We are so fortunate, to live in the Macedon Ranges where the bush is so convenient and accessible.

I have submitted another walk from the Ramblers walk program which you may care to try. This is an easy ramble, do not be put off by the fearsome name of 'Hells Hole Track' – The glory of this walk is the magnificent height of the trees to be seen along Zig Zag and Hemphills tracks which are part of this walk.

On behalf of the Ramblers, I would like to wish you all a safe and healthy Christmas and New year.

Some sage once reportedly said – 'May you live in interesting times' – many will think this is pertinent to 2020! Let's hope this does not carry through 2021.

Charles (gisramblers@gmail.com)

Seen around town



Test drilling began in early November for the proposed reshaping of the intersection of Kilmore and Melbourne Roads in Gisborne.

Summer storms already begin

Gisborne SES volunteers responded to multiple requests for assistance in November, including fallen trees on roadways and residential properties, roof damage to houses and, in one incident, an airborne trampoline.

In some cases, it took several hours to rehabilitate the area.

Our volunteers have worked long hours in harsh environmental weather conditions to mitigate the risks, and ensure the community remains safe.

Although trees add to our peaceful surroundings in the Macedon Ranges, they can create havoc when impacted by extreme and microburst weather events. It is imperative you take the time to have your trees assessed by the experts, especially if they are in close proximity to your house, shed or vehicle.

Di Dale, Gisborne SES



Candidates sought for 'young women in public affairs' award

Women aged 16-19 by April 1, 2021, living in a Zonta district/region, or who are citizens of a Zonta country, who demonstrate evidence of the following, are encouraged to apply: Commitment to volunteerism; Experience in local government, student or workplace leadership; Volunteer leadership achievements; Support for Zonta's mission of empowering women.



Visit zonta.org/YWPAAward to download an application form and send completed form to secretary@zontakyneton.org.au by March 1.

Local Walk No 8

MT MACEDON

A great bush walk with some spectacular trees in their heights. The track is wide and safe with no severe gradients. Views are restricted due to tree cover, but this cover provides good shelter from the elements.

Distance: 7km

Level: Easy

Directions: From Gisborne, drive up Mt Macedon Road towards the summit. Do not take the road to the Memorial Cross, rather the next turn right for Days/Sanitorium Lake picnic grounds. This is Barringo Road.

Drive along Barringo Road for 1.5km until a left turn indicates Sanitorium Lake. Park off road at this junction, the walk begins from here. Look for a gate opposite to the lake road indicating Zig Zag track. Follow the track downhill for about 1.3km, before reaching a turnoff for Hemphills track. (Zig Zag track transitions to the Moola track at this point). Walk along Hemphills track for approximately 1.5km, passing the right turn to Mt Towrong, before reaching a crossroads. Link tracks are to the left and right, and Hells Hole track is straight on.

Walk Hells Hole track until it ends in a junction after about 1.5km. You are now back at Barringo Road. Take the left fork to return to your car.



The start of Hells Hole track.



Gisborne Secondary College students Logan Morris and Tye Gruber enter into the spirit of Muck up day last month.

Muck up tradition

Logan Morris and Tye Gruber were spotted after Muck Up Day on October 30 before they changed back to their regular attire.

After such a disrupted year in which Year 12 students missed out on many final-year events and opportunities, it was great to see that this fun tradition could take place.

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What does Christmas mean to me?

To me Christmas means the end of a long school year and the celebration of a new one. I enjoy Christmas because I get time to hang out with friends and family. Sometimes we have friends over for a barbecue and other times we go up to my Nana and Pa's house in Wangaratta.

When we have friends over, we always play this fun game called Kubb where you set up wooden blocks and the other team has to try knock them over with a wooden stick. Whichever team knocks over all the enemy's blocks gets a shot at the king who sits in the middle.

I love playing this game. It increases your throwing accuracy and it's hilarious watching people's throwing techniques.



Kubb is a favourite at holiday barbecues.



YOUNG BEAT

with Asher Kroon



Asher's cat Xanthe puts up with the seasonal fuss of last year's Christmas.

When we go up to Wangaratta we always have a big party with all of our relatives, cousins, uncles, and aunts. It's extra fun when everyone gets in the pool at Nana's house and we all play pool games and chill. My sister and I usually stay for a week after the party.

Christmas time is fun in our family. We decorate our house and drive around Gisborne and New Gisborne looking at other people's decorated houses. You get to see some amazing designs just driving around town.

I just love all the food, the iconic Christmas smell everyone seems to know, and meeting family you haven't seen for ages. But after Christmas Day is when the most fun starts as that's when you get to relax and hang out with friends. Plus you can play with all your cool Christmas presents.

2020 hasn't turned out as anyone expected. I hope all of my readers have a safe and happy Christmas and improved 2021. Merry Christmas all.



It was a bit hot for David, atop the structure, wearing a welding mask to attach the frame securely to the containers, not to mention Mark, inset.

With the roof in place, the new workshop begins to take shape. If you would like more information on the group, contact Anthony on 0400 087 896.

It's happening at last

Now that a few of the members can work in the open at the Steam Park, it has not taken long for everyone to get busy, finishing the project that was interrupted back in March – the construction of a locomotive storage shed/workshop, funded by the Gisborne Community Bank branch of Bendigo Bank.

Currently the project is at the stage of installing the roof frame over the two shipping containers. Then a brick wall will be built in front of it all, with arched doorways to allow the trains to come in and out, Thomas the Tank fashion.

A transporter will be installed in front of the shed. This is a frame supporting a short length of track that can be raised and lowered mechanically and moved sideways from one doorway to the other. Some of the tracks inside the shed will be permanently raised, to enable members of the club to work on the engines.



The transporter allows them to raise the engines from ground level up to the level of the tracks inside the shed.

The trains will be stored in the two shipping containers and the space in the middle will be the workshop, which gives club members a great place to work together. Hence the urgency to get it all covered in, so the "real fun work" can begin!

There are a number of members who would like to store their engines at Gisborne. This also means there will be more trains available on Run days. The engines all have names and we find that youngsters "collect" rides, insisting on riding on Thomas, then Nellie, then Albert etc. All part of the fun.

At other Miniature Railways the kids (and their dads and granddads) really enjoy hanging over the fence, watching all the traffic going on in the yard in front of the engine shed.

Fly fishing for golden perch with a specialist

Cameron "Cam" McGregor is Head Guide at "River Escapes" based near Myrtleford and has been guiding for about 10 years. His background is in fisheries research, which he still practises, mainly involving native fish. He will soon be investigating the survival of remaining populations of Macquarie Perch in the Upper Murray River Catchment after the very damaging bushfires.



Cam's Zoom presentation to the Club was aimed at raising awareness and interest in native fish among fly fishers, particularly of golden perch also known as yellowbelly (*Macquaria ambigua*).

The science in his presentation was wide ranging describing the habitat, range and biology of this Australian fish. For example he described the use of microchemistry techniques to identify that the strontium stable isotope signature in the otolith (ear bone) of the Victorian fish proves they all came from hatchery fish from the Murrumbidgee River; but for hatcheries we would have lost them all in Victoria.

He thoroughly covered all the technical aspects of locating yellowbelly, flies to use, how to tie them, and



Cam's yellowbelly and fly.

fly fishing techniques. He stressed the high importance of using water temperature as an indicator of fish location and activity; 18deg C is the magic number for fish getting on the bite seriously in spring. He specified Victorian lakes and rivers carrying yellowbelly and the best times and seasons to fish for them.

If you'd like to know more about the Calder Fly Fishing Association please visit calderflyfishing.com.au

Louis Bokor

Bikes fill Brantome Street, Gisborne, on November 14 as friends catch up.



Picture Sylvia Behan



Picture: Rosy Pantelis

Ticket to ride as coronavirus rules ease

As the Beatles 1965 classic song says: we've "got a ticket to ride"!

With the easing of metropolitan and regional COVID-19 rules, the Macedon Ranges Ulysses Branch (MRUB) once again converged on Gisborne's Brantome Street precinct mid-November for the first of our "Covid normal" Saturday "tyre-kicks".

Over 35+ bikes and MRUB members from Gisborne and surrounding towns came together for the first time in many months. New bikes were examined, coffees were had, new members were welcomed and much happy catching-up took place; all within appropriate masking and distancing rules.

Top Tip: If you are thinking of connecting with our



Ulysses Branch, the weekly Saturday tyre-kick is a great opportunity. We are open for business and look forward to welcoming you!

The MRUB committee also held its first face-to-face meeting since lockdown, establishing arrangements for our casual ride calendar over the rest of 2020 ahead of a more comprehensive ride schedule for 2021.

So stay in touch and up to date by checking our regular catch-up events, social get-togethers and Ride Calendar at www.mrub.org.au; or join us for a chat and club news via Facebook. Keep safe and ride safely this festive season!

Cherry Cole



Booze bus will be around

Local police warn that with the lead-up to Christmas the booze bus will be around.

Don't drink and drive, and when you are behind the wheel, drive safely. Having made it to this point in a very difficult year, let's not cause ourselves any more trauma.



MACEDON MUSINGS

With Belinda Carlton-Doney

We started with fires, But who'd ever guess, That the year would continue, As a COVID hot mess!

Lights went up in windows, Teddys gracing the frames, Dogs clocked up the miles, So we owners stayed sane.

Parent took on home schooling, Zoom...still can't get it to run! Kids going stir crazy, Aaaargh...Maths, not so much fun!?

But great things still happened, Here's a few for example, 'Cause our spirits are strong, And our courage is ample!

ANZAC tributes continued, Candles glowed in driveways. Neighbours watched over each other, Strangers asked "You OK"?

Pricilla brought us Miss Foxx, And made gorgeous our tresses, While the Post Office crew, Battled postage excesses.

Raph started his shop, Selling masks to be worn, A generation now knowing, Only faces adorned.

The Lounge was opened, We loved pies from The Post, And Mr kept us caffeinated, When we needed it most.

Graham's Rose Mallee Shrub, Was a winner indeed, The Cats started a girls team, FoodBank helped those in need.

Lockdown had to be done, But what a great place to be, In a town such as this, With our friends and family.

Have a great and safe Christmas, I wish you sparkles and fun, And importantly...good health! For each and every-one!!

Well done Macedon. Santa will be very very welcome this year! Merry Christmas to you all.



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It's all in the family for Gisborne's Division 8 team of dads and their kids (mostly daughters), October 21.



Ed Oswin riding Bee at Macedon Pony Club on November 1.



Eliza Reid on Digger at Macedon Pony Club.



Peter Wellington bowls at Gisborne Bowling Club on November 21.



Andrew Dick plays for Macedon Section 2 on November 12 at Macedon Tennis Club.



Ian Guymer bowls for Macedon Division 1 v Lancefield on November 14.



Henry Reid, Austin Sartori and Sidney Matthews practise their soccer skills at Dixon Field on October 31.



Spencer Jones saves the ball for Gisborne in the McIntyre Cup Cricket v Woodend on November 14.



Jake Bevan bowls in Gisborne White v Gisborne Red on November 27. In one over he did a stumping and a caught and bowled.



Amalie Casselton tries out the hurdles at Gisborne Little Athletics on November 27.



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Slowly getting back to routine



This time last year we were planning events for 2020 and throwing around ideas that would bring the SGTC community together. The club's All Abilities program would celebrate 20 years and the SGTC 40 years.

We may not have celebrated these or played off in junior grand finals, continued any ladies, night comp or coaching, or got together for our weekly social hit, but we have come away from the COVID shutdown appreciating the quality of life we experience in the Macedon Ranges.

I would like to personally thank the SGTC committee for the extra load they took on which was required in keeping our community safe and up to date with all directions provided by Tennis Victoria and the council. As we slowly get back into competition, coaching and social tennis, please take a minute to read and follow the COVID regulations that will keep all members safe.

On your return you may notice some new or improved facilities at the club: The upgrade of courts 5 and 6 thanks to a Bendigo Bank community grant,



First season juniors Isaac, Sam, Mitchell and Sam hit the resurfaced courts on November 21.

member fundraising and our valued sponsor input; clubhouse window and door security upgrade and new sensor lights.

On behalf of the SGTC committee I wish our member community a festive time with family and friends over the Christmas and New Year break. May 2021 continue to grow our tennis community and see us remain a fun family environment for all.

Contact us on southgisborne.tc@gmail.com for 2021 programs.

Gail Scott

Back on track with bushwalkers



With following the restrictions on numbers in walking groups and by wearing masks (which makes uphill options less popular), and keeping all walkers at least 1.5 metres apart, we have all stayed safe and well. Congratulations everyone!

Our new-found freedom now allows up to 50 in a group (still with masks and distancing) and we are again enjoying much more social walks. We've enjoyed a walk of 11km circumnavigating Woodend, enjoying river views and quiet tracks and parks. There's one more walk in early December as well as our traditional Christmas walk and luncheon on December 13.

Some of our prospective walk leaders have been busy pre-walking some great hikes for 2021. The photo shows the Eureka Reef near Castlemaine, part of a walk that takes in some fascinating historical sites from this part of the gold mining era in Victoria. Why not join in with us next year?

As this strange year draws to a close, we wish



Walk here with the Bushwalkers next year...

everyone the very best greetings of the season, a wonderful time with friends and family, and a safe and healthy New Year 2021.

For more info call Pierre on 0417 515 468, Janeen on 0416 052 366, Nigel on 0437 715 972, or Ashley on 0490 133 656. Or check out our website: www.gisbornebwc.org.au.

Margaret Muehlheim

Secondary students learn lawn bowls

The Gisborne and District Bowling Club, as part of its community bowls program, and Gisborne Secondary College have partnered to provide lawn bowls sessions to around 200 Year 9 students.

Until mid-December the students are receiving tuition in lawn bowls in small groups from club members as part of their physical education program. The College is very appreciative of the six Bowling Club members who have volunteered their time to assist the students' development in the sport. All participants – students and club members – have been thoroughly enjoying



Jarrod Ainsworth and club tutor.



GSC students Bridget MacDonald-Meyer, Claire McKay, Emma Harry and Dacey Cole.

the experience and look forward to continuing this relationship in 2021.

A number of budding bowlers have been identified and it is hoped that they take up the sport as an extra-curricular activity in the future. The Bowling Club is planning to provide coaching lessons to those students who may be interested as an after-school activity.

News from Gisborne Cricket Club



Cricket is in full swing for the season, with a number of COVID measures in place to ensure safe play. The Gisborne Cricket Club has been boosted by a large number of new and returning players and will field eight senior teams this year (up from five last year). It is great to see the strong numbers and participation across all age groups at the club.

All games in all grades are one dayers this year due to COVID. Gisborne will start the year as favourites in the premier McIntyre Cup division but will have to work hard to defend the title won last season.

Andrew Headberry

Life membership

Christine Garvey was awarded life membership for her long-term outstanding service to the Macedon Tennis Club when the club held its first virtual AGM on November 23.



Christine Garvey displays her certificate.

Among other contributions, Christine has organised Monday Social Tennis for many years. The presentation took place via Zoom and the club thanks her husband John for magically providing Christine's certificate just at the right moment.

The current committee was re-elected.

In other club news, Junior and Thursday evening competitions have restarted and players are thrilled to be back on the court. The new lights on courts seven and eight were used for the first time for night competition on November 12 and the club thanks Community Bank Gisborne & District for its major investment in the project.

Tuesday Ladies and Saturday Open players look forward to their competitions restarting in 2021.

Summer squash comp begins in January

The summer squash mixed competitions start on Monday January 18 and Thursday January 21



at Kyneton Sports and Aquatic Centre from 7pm. Play one or both days...whichever suits you best.

We're a friendly bunch who enjoy the social side as much as the competitive stuff. Whether you're a beginner or an accomplished player, or (like most of us) somewhere in between, you'll get a warm welcome. Email macedonrangessquash@gmail.com or ring 0438 117 706 to play.

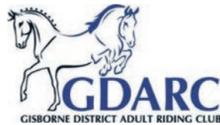
Visit www.macedonrangessquashclub.org.au or our Facebook page for more information.



Alesha Asciak demonstrates CPR to members.

Riders receive 'Call, Push, Shock' emergency training

Following the "ring of steel" being relaxed, Gisborne and District Adult Riding Club was delighted to welcome back members living in the designated metro-



politan area for their November rally. Members enjoyed show-jumping lessons with Sally Hudson and dressage lessons with Nicole McOwen.

A highlight of the day was the "Call, Push, Shock" training provided by member Alesha Asciak who is a paramedic. This valuable training is run by Ambulance Victoria and the Heart Foundation. Alesha showed members how to do CPR correctly and how to use the club's defibrillator.

Gisborne and District Adult Riders Club (GDARC) has recently amalgamated with Macedon Ranges Working Equitation Club. This will enable members to access the full range of activities covered by HR-CAV (Horse Riding Clubs Association of Victoria).

(Working equitation is an equestrian discipline which is intended to promote competition between traditional styles of riding used during fieldwork in various countries, and also to act as a showcase for traditional riding costumes and equipment. Working equitation became a competitive sport in 1996.)

The club's rally on November 28 offered working equitation classes with Trish Kruse, a member of the Three Phase Equitation committee of HR-CAV. Ruth Webb, an experienced and popular coach, provided jumping and poles classes.

(For readers new to equestrian terminology, three phase equitation involves three disciplines: dressage and two obstacle courses, one testing style and the other speed and accuracy.)

The next rally will be on December 12 with Cath Sfrégola providing dressage classes and Amanda Mitchell coaching showjumping and poles classes. All rallies are run under COVID-safe guidelines.

Gisborne and District Adult Riding Club welcomes riders of all levels. If you would like to join our club, more information is available on our website (www.gisbornedarc.com.au) or Facebook page (facebook.com/gisbornedarc).

Thunder's new leaders in place

Gisborne Thunder Swimming Club has appointed the new leadership group for the 20-21 season with the captains being Medbh Harkin and Lachlan Casey. The vice-captains are Tyler Theodore, Rose Avenell-Thompson and Ella Baas. The leadership team will be working closely with the club to create a fun atmosphere in and out of the pool.

The squad is training hard for the upcoming State Country Championships at Warragul in January. The monthly club nights are hopefully not too far off from returning. These are usually held on the second Saturday of each month and we'd love to see new faces around the pool deck.

The leadership group is working together to organise a Christmas party for the club to have a fun ending to the not so good year. The new team leaders are highly approachable and would love to hear any ideas for activities outside the pool that would make being a Thunder member even better.

It's been great to get back in the pool and see my teammates again. I wish everyone good luck for the rest of the season and hope to see you around.

Check out our information at www.gisborne-thunder.org

Ella, vice-captain



Gisborne Thunder's club captains for the 2020-21 season: Rose Avenell-Thompson, Ella Baas, Lachlan Casey, Medbh Harkin and Tyler Theodore.

Orienteering summer series has opened



The annual Macedon Ranges Summer Orienteering Series on Wednesday evenings started on November 25 at Ash Wednesday Park in Macedon.

The other pre-Christmas events are December 4 in Sunbury (82 Stewarts Lane), December 11 in Riddells Creek (meet at Riddells Creek Lions Park), and December 16 in Kyneton (meet at Barry Doyle Rotunda on Piper Street).

The series is a popular introduction to navigation sports for the family and for fitter people looking to add interest to their regular walk or training run.

The events take up to an hour (all in daylight) and use a map of each town.

One can participate individually or in a group in short, medium or long courses.

Power walkers have the added interest of a score

Two bowling teams in rare accomplishment

In the game of bowls, the highest score possible in pennant matches is eight shots, which means all of a team's eight bowls have beaten all of the opponents' eight bowls.

This does not occur very often, however during the 2019-20 season, two different Gisborne Bowling Club teams managed to accomplish this feat.

The first team to achieve this (in October 2019 against Kyneton), consisted of John Hunter, Brian Anderson, John Cowlishaw and David Wesney.

The second team (in February 2020 against Woodend) was Peter Wellington, Brian Carr, Dominic Varrese and Dennis Swainston.

To commemorate the accomplishment, Bowls Victoria provides special 8-shot pins for each of the players involved, however due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, they were unable to be awarded to the players until now.

The pins were finally awarded by the Central Highlands Bowling Division Chairman, Ian Ball, on November 14 prior to the commencement of the day's pennant matches.

Congratulations to all eight players on their great accomplishment.



The rare 8-shot pin



Sophie Taverna with Theo and Hayden Lebbink enjoy orienteering in Macedon on November 25.

course, in which control points are of different values.

The cost for adults is \$5, children \$3. Arrive after 6:30pm for a 7pm start. Length 3-8km. Beginners course and coaching are available.

More information at <https://centralhighlands.weebly.com/>

Petanque Club reunites after lockdown

Mt Macedon Petanque Club happily welcomed back its members on November 15. Some of the players live in the area that was subject to lockdown and they were really happy to be reunited with fellow members and to be back on the piste! A happy morning of COVID-safe petanque was held in glorious sunshine.

The club also held its AGM following play, with the returning committee looking optimistically toward the reinstatement of competitions next year.

Pending COVID developments, the club will host its annual triples tournament on January 24. Players from all over Victoria will compete. Local residents are more than welcome to come and watch



the tournament on the club's grounds behind the Caltex Service Station in Gisborne. There are always players and spectators who can answer any questions.

The club is keen to attract new members. Interested people can also drop by on the club's playdays. Playdays are held on the second and fourth Saturday of the month starting at 10am and finishing around 1pm. During daylight saving, midweek sessions are also held every Wednesday from 4pm to 6pm (weather permitting).

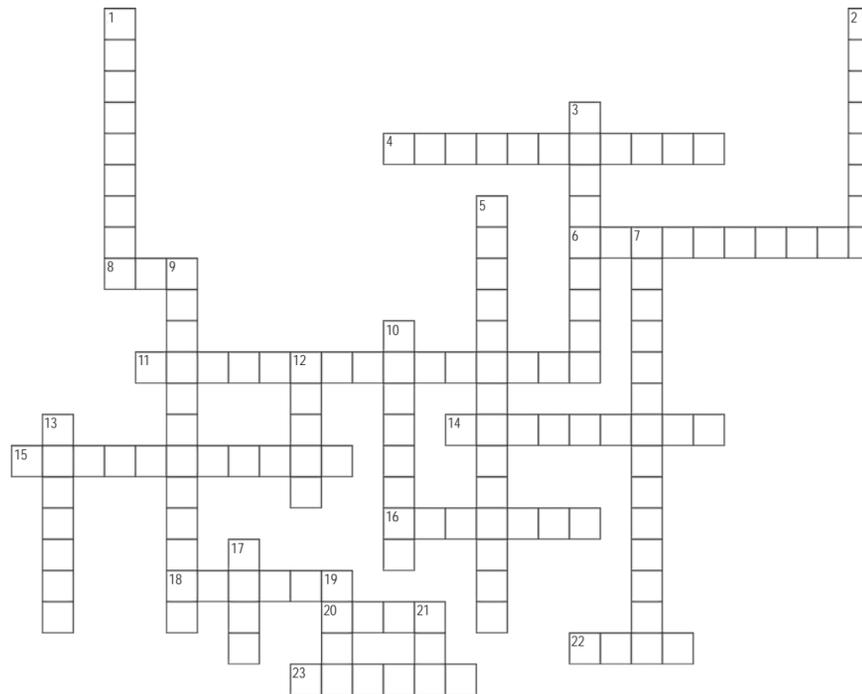
To register interest, please go to our website: mtmacedonpetanqueclub.weebly.com

Alison Kinghorn



Rhonda Shears (club secretary) and Peter Curtis were welcomed back to the petanque club after 'the ring of steel' was lifted.

CROSSWORD Past and present advertising slogans



Crossword compiled by Graeme Millar, formatted by Thomas Shaddock

Answers page 39

ACROSS

4. The better big bank
6. The Fresh Food People
8. Hungry little human beans
11. Don't leave home without it (Two words)
14. Live the dream
15. Not happy, Jan (Two words)
16. Good on ya Mum, the one (Two words)
18. Oh, What a Feeling
20. Good Different
22. Why pay more (Two words)
23. Have a break - Have a (Two words)

DOWN

1. I'm lovin' it
2. Lowest prices are just the beginning
3. Truly local and independent
5. Matter of fact, I've got it now (Two words)
7. Above and Beyond (Two words)
9. Can lives here (..... Bank)
10. It puts a rose in every cheek
12. Good things. Great value
13. Aussie kids are kids (Two words)
17. My Store
19. Lucky you're with
21. How the locals like it

Popular St John's stalwart

OBITUARY

Arthur James (Jim) Poyser
1942-2020

Jim was a Riddells Creek identifier and known for his friendliness and infectious laugh.

He was born in Geelong on August 24, 1942, to Arthur and Dorothy Poyser and had two brothers, Max and Norman, and a sister, Irene. Jim attended the Belmont and Roslyn Primary Schools and later the Geelong Junior Technical School.

Upon leaving school, Jim became an apprentice technician with the PMG's Dept and went on to become a qualified technician and supervisor at the North Melbourne Centre. He was employed with the PMG/Telecom for 33 years and in 1972 worked in Papua New Guinea.

Jim met Margaret Simpson at a pop concert at the Melbourne Town Hall in 1959 and in 1964 they married at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Port Melbourne. They settled in Avondale Heights where they lived for 30 years.

Jim was a well-respected colleague to his workmates at the North Melbourne Technical Installation Centre. He took early retirement in 1991 and four years later the family moved to Riddells Creek where he became an active member of the community. He volunteered with Neighbourhood House as a committee member and treasurer, volunteer at Charity's Secret Op Shop and helped on Saturday mornings at the butcher's shop.

Jim and Margaret became active members of St John's Anglican Church which included activities within the Gisborne parish; in particular he helped to organise the annual Spring Fair and for many years he was Parish treasurer. Jim studied and obtained a Certificate of Ministry which allowed him to become a Lay Reader and assist at the church altar.

Jim had many sporting interests which included golf and fishing and he was involved as a goal umpire for the Essendon District Football League, timekeeper with the Riddell Football Club and cricket umpire for the Metro League. His hobbies and interests included photography, electronic gadgets, 50s and 60s music, his beloved Geelong Cats and he especially loved food. When they dined out, he was always keen to inspect the menu!

Jim and Margaret had three children, Kerry in 1967, Jeffery in 1969 and Melinda in 1974, and 10 grandchildren: Brandon, Daniel, Shaun, Michael, Jordan, Sarah, Benjamin, Zachary, Jacob and Holly. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was always there for them all and willingly transported them to various functions whether early in the morning or late at night.

Jim was diagnosed with a rare kidney cancer in February 2019 and passed away on October 1 this year. A funeral service was held at St John's Church, Riddells Creek, on October 8.



Jim Poyser

Anglican Parish of Gisborne

It begins again.

It all started with the birth of a child. With the coming of the Christ-child, the Christmas story or Nativity of Jesus is remembered.



We don't know if it was on this day: it could have been as early as April. Like celebrating the birth of the Queen in June even though she was born in April, what is essential is not the date, but the fact that we remember.

Christmas is meaningful as we look back and look forward.

This year will be even more special as for many of us it will be the first opportunity to gather together after a long year of lockdown. Many grandparents will meet their new grandchildren for the first time. Gifts and hugs will be exchanged for the first time since March.

Our journey into lockdown began around the time the Church, nine months before Christmas, tells the story of God's gift to Mary. Now we gather to remember the birth of that child.

Celebrating this time may be more joyful than ever. It is almost that we are all being born again.

May the gift of this Christmas be one of a new start, and the year ahead a time of joy.

Fr Dennis

Christmas celebrations in the Anglican Parish of Gisborne: Too early to call but most likely:

Christmas Eve: Riddells Creek (outdoor picnic and communion) 5.30pm; Macedon (indoor or outdoor, weather permitting) 11.30pm

Christmas Day: Gisborne in the OLD St Paul's Hall at 9am

Check our website www.anglicanparishgisborne.org.au for details closer to December 21.



Harriet Millar helps put together Samaritan's Purse boxes.

Samaritan's Purse success

Supporters of this project which involves sending a Christmas box of gifts to needy children overseas will be pleased to know that during these perplexing times we still managed to fill seventy-five boxes, a great effort under the unusual circumstances we have experienced this year. Appreciation is extended to members of the church and community for their continued efforts.

Wishing everyone a happy, safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Elaine Millar, Convenor, St Paul's, Gisborne

Faithworks Christian Church

"Here's a bit of time-tested wisdom that will help get you the results you want in life: *become a good communicator.* Whether you lead in the church, the workplace, or the home, you must take the time to communicate clearly with people in order to succeed. One of the things virtually every employee wishes he or she had with superiors is better communication.

Sally Frame Kasaks, the former CEO of the Ann Taylor clothing store franchise, placed a new emphasis on quality products and on 'more and better communication with employees at all levels'. Within a year, sales rose over 30 per cent.

Other successful executives have seen the importance of relationship when it comes to business operations. Some have instructed their managers to change internal company strategy to emphasise three things:

(1) *Open doors.* Leadership becoming more accessible to employees.

(2) *Visibility.* Leadership spending a significant percentage of time 'just talking with people'.

(3) *Sharing information* through a daily newsletter and frequent open forums with employees.

No matter how great your vision may be, without the cooperation and commitment of those below you, your vision will never be fulfilled."

Paul, who was a great communicator, wrote, *'Teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.'*

Vision.org.au

Darren Farrugia

<http://faithworksc.com.au> or find us on Facebook

St Brigid's Parish

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Weekday Masses

December 22 – 5pm St Brigid's

Dec 23 – 9.15am St Brigid's

Dec 24 – 10am-3pm *Individual Reconciliation by appointment only*

Christmas Mass Timetable

Dec 24 – 7pm St Brigid's (carols 6.30pm); 9pm St Patrick's Macedon (carols 8.15pm); 11pm St Brigid's (carols 10.30pm)

* *Carols will be subject to COVID-19 current restrictions*

Dec 25 – 9am St Ambrose's Riddells Creek

Dec 25 – 10.30am St Brigid's

Dec 26 – 6pm St Brigid's

Dec 27– 8am St Ambrose's; 9.30am St Patrick's; 11am St Brigid's.

January 1 – 10am St Brigid's

**Please note if COVID-19 restrictions are still in place, please call the office to book in for masses on 5428 2591 or email gisborne@cam.org.au by December 17.*

Weekend Masses

Saturday – 6pm St Brigid's

Sunday – 8am St Ambrose's Riddells Creek; 9.30am St Patrick's Macedon; 11am St Brigid's Gisborne

Crib, carols and Christmas cake

Uniting Church

Over the next days it's likely the lass – or lad – on the supermarket checkout will cease urging you to have a great day and opt instead for wishing you a Merry Christmas.

This annual Feast of Christ has its own vocabulary and images. For most of us 'merry' is very much a December word, hardly used at any other time of the year.

As this year of challenging perils ends, it's an appropriately optimistic word. So even though not all arrangements for reopening our churches are known, the nativity scene has been taken from the store room, dusted off and the drapery of shepherds, wise men, Mary and Joseph ironed and eagerly placed to their best advantage.

To the list of regular volunteers have been added a troop of cleaners who will sanitise everything from door handles to pew seats.

What won't be sanitised is the Christmas story. In times of turmoil it's important to hear those old words which promise 'tidings of glad joy' to you'.

It's possible that our church cannot offer an open invitation to one and all to take part in our Christmas Eve service (7.30pm) nor on Christmas Day (9.30am).

Up to date advice is available from Bev Gilbertson on 0407 876 198 or on the church noticeboard (23 Brantome Street).

The usual pattern of gathering gifts for those in need has been interrupted but not the joy of giving. For times when groceries and other gifts can be left at the church, ring either Bev (as above) or Janet on 0407 888 725.

And may we sing, together or alone, of shepherds and angels, rich folk and poor, and the child in the manger. And enjoy a delicious slice of a treasure of the season, the Christmas cake.

Janet Wood

100 YEARS AGO
From the pages of the old Gisborne Gazette

DECEMBER 1920

Gisborne Mechanics' Bazaar The Gisborne Mechanics' Bazaar was opened on Friday last in the presence of a good attendance. Summer weather was experienced on the opening day, but on the Saturday afternoon and evening a misty rain tended to make things unpleasant for visitors from a distance. However, a thriving business was done on each day.

The effort was the outcome of a promise made by the ladies of the Gisborne Red Cross Society during the war period, when they had the use of the hall free for patriotic purposes. Realising that the Mechanics' committee was sacrificing a good deal of income by this action, the ladies in a quiet way pledged themselves, when peace arrived, to do something to raise funds to assist in having the hall renovated.

With the signing of peace, the committee began to move in the matter of having the hall put into order. The ladies immediately announced their intention of holding a bazaar. For many months they held weekly sewing meetings, as well as undertaking articles at home, and the magnificent array of dainty raiment and other useful articles displayed on the stalls was an eloquent testimony of the whole-hearted manner in which they must have worked. Friday and Saturday saw their promise redeemed in a fine practical manner, for as a result of the bazaar the ladies fully expect to hand to the committee a cheque for the amount of £300.

The Gisborne Red Cross ladies have every reason to be proud of the way in which they kept their promises, and if, when the hall has undergone the work of transformation, anything in the nature of a re-opening is arranged, they certainly should be honored guests on that occasion.

Local Notes

The committee of the Gisborne Soldiers' Memorial met on Thursday evening last week when general regret was expressed at the poor response to the appeal for funds. It was decided to allow the collectors to continue until the end of December, and a meeting will be held early in January to determine in what manner the amount subscribed shall be expended.

Macedon News

The children of the Macedon State School were given a treat last Friday afternoon. The teachers had erected a large Xmas tree and subscriptions had been received from the townspeople towards supply of toys etc. Every scholar received a present and a bag of lollies. A number of ladies were present, and the teachers were congratulated on the success of the afternoon's enjoyment for the kiddies.

WHAT'S ON REGULAR MEETINGS

New members always welcome

PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR GROUP REGARDING ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER

ADULT RIDING CLUB (Gis) 2nd Saturday I R 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
BRIDGE CLUB Mon 12.30, Tues 7.15, Thurs 12.30 St Mary's Church Hall, Woodend 5420 7595
BUSHWALKING CLUB Various locations Tel 5428 3490 or 5427 0888

CANASTA CLUB 1.30pm every Mon except first Mon of month
Parish centre (behind St Pauls Church, Gisborne)

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 Wed & Sat 10am Dixon Field
CWA GISBORNE 2nd Monday 10am Gis Secondary College
CWA MACEDON 3rd Tues 1pm & 7pm 662 Mt Macedon Rd

DAILY RESERVE WORKING BEE 2nd Tues 9.30am Scout Hall, Daly Res

FILM SOCIETY 2nd Wed Woodend Neighbourhood House 5427 2323
FLY FISHING CLUB 4th Wed 7.30pm MRFEC Gisborne
FOCUS CLUB 2nd Fri 12 noon Gisborne Golf Club
FRIENDS of JACKSONS CREEK Working bees 3rd Sun 10-noon

GARDEN CLUB 2nd Wed various venues 0424 038 474
GENEALOGY GROUP 4th Thurs 7.30 Family Hist Rm, Library
GIRL GUIDES Thursdays 5pm Gis Comm Hall
GISBORNE SINGERS Tues 7.30pm Holy Cross PS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY open Wed 10am-4pm Court House

JP'S SIGNING STATION Thursdays 1-3pm GREAT office Hamilton St

LIBRARY: TODDLERS' STORY TIME Mon 10.30am, Wed 10.30am

LIONS CLUB First Thursday of month 7.30pm 247 Station Rd

MARTIAL ARTS Thurs from 5.15pm St Brigid's Hall

MASONIC LODGE 2nd Thurs 7pm Masonic Hall Aitken St

MASTERS AFL Wed 6.30pm Sankey Reserve

MEN'S SHED BARBECUE Last Mon 12.30pm Lyell Street

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

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT 2nd Wed, 1pm Lancefield Bowling Club

PETANQUE 2nd & 4th Sat, 10am behind Caltex service station, Station Rd, Gisborne

PHOENIX ART & CRAFTS 1st Thursday phoenixmac.com

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOC 1st Tues & 2nd Mon 7pm Riddell's Creek Neighbourhood House

PONY CLUB Bullengarook 1st Sunday Rec Reserve

PONY CLUB Gisborne 1st Sunday Robertson Reserve

PROBUS 1st Thurs 10am Masonic Hall

QUILTERS (Gisb) Wed 7pm Room attached to Gisb Library

RAMBLERS Fridays 9.15am Tennis Club Dixon Field

ROTARY (Gisborne) Tues fortnightly, 6.45 for 7pm Wine O'Clock, 50 Aitken St (book 5428 4483 by 1pm Mon)

(Macedon Ranges) 1st & 3rd Monday Baringo Food & Wine

RUNNING GROUP Tues & Thurs 6pm, Sun 8am Gis Aquatic Centre

RSL 1st Mon 2pm Hall at 247 Station Rd 5428 2233

SENIOR CITS (Macedon) Tues 11am Tony Clarke Res

SPINNERS & FIBRE GROUP Wed 12 noon Rec Reserve Bullengarook

TABLE TENNIS Wed 7.30pm Tony Clarke Res, Macedon

THUNDER SWIMMING CLUB 2nd Sat 5pm Gisborne Aquatic Centre

TOY LIBRARY Every Sat 10-11am; first & third Wed, 8.45-9.30am, second & fourth Fri 9-10am 71 Robertson St

U3A Mondays 10.30am MRFEC

ULYSSES GROUP 3rd Tues 6pm Sunbury FC

VINTAGE MACHINERY Working bees 1st Sun of month, 8.30am at Steam Park; Meetings last Friday 7pm at Steam Park

WRITERS GROUP Last Sat of month 2-5pm Woodend N'hood House

WRITERS (Scribes & Scribblers) 2nd Tues 10am-12 Riddell N'hood House

YOUNG VOICES Thursdays 4.15-5.45pm Norma Richardson Hall, Buckland St, Woodend, 5426 4801 or sdggome@patash.com.au



GISBORNE GOSS

What a wag

The following message was seen on a whiteboard in the music department at Gisborne Secondary College.

March 23rd 2020
the day the music died
So buy buy me some
'Merican pie

For local musicians and lovers of live music, Don McLean's *American Pie* lyrics did ring true this year. Let's hope 2021 gives local artists the chance to make many people dance and be happy again for a while. Live music has restarted in limited ways at local venues. Our Gig Guide on page 17 lists shows coming up at Macedon Railway Hotel.

A resident wondered why a housing development which had been all go on Ferrier Road adjacent to New Gisborne Primary School has stalled.

It is believed that work has been delayed while a Cultural Heritage Management Plan is put in place. This usually means Aboriginal artefacts could be expected or have been discovered at the site and these must be appropriately and sensitively dealt with in conjunction with the Wurundjeri Corporation.

Benton's Plumbing Supplies on Robertson Road will be moving to a new, larger store in the Industrial Estate, at 31 Sauer Road, New Gisborne, in mid-December.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 4. Bendigo Bank | 1. McDonalds |
| 6. Woolworths | 2. Bunnings |
| 8. SPC | 3. Foodworks |
| 11. American Express | 5. Victoria Bitter |
| 14. Kathmandu | 7. Office National |
| 15. Not happy, Jan (two words) | 9. Commonwealth |
| 16. Tip Tops | 10. Vegemite |
| 18. Toyota | 12. Good things. Great value |
| 20. Aldi | 13. Weet Bix |
| 22. Bj-Lo | 17. Myer |
| 23. Kit Kat | 19. AAMI |
| | 21. IGA |

KIDS' QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Sydney Harbour Bridge | 6. Five |
| 2. Lion | 7. Perth |
| 3. 32 | 8. A maiden over |
| 4. Bicycles | 9. 100 |
| 5. Mt Everest | 10. Mount Fuji |

BRAINBUSTERS QUIZ ANSWERS

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Grant Kenny | 6. Home Alone |
| 2. Random Access Memory | 7. Barack Obama – 2014 |
| 3. Sir Robert Muldoon | 8. Linda McGill |
| 4. Matchboxes | 9. Brazil |
| 5. Mormons | 10. Bow |

Community Bank
Gisborne & District

Your town. Your bank.

Everything you need

We deliver the products and technology you'd expect from a big bank, plus the personal service you wouldn't.

And while we've grown into Australia's 5th biggest retail bank, our heartland remains firmly local. As does our focus. On you and the quality banking products you need.

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bendigobank.com.au



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EVERYTHING WE'RE DOING

IS KEEPING US ON TOP OF THIS VIRUS



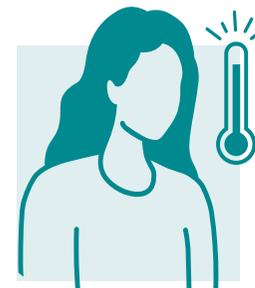
Keep our fitted face masks on when indoors, on public transport and when we can't keep our distance.



Keep catching up outdoors.



Keep washing our hands.



Keep getting tested if we have any symptoms.

STAY SAFE

STAY OPEN

Go to CORONAVIRUS.vic.gov.au

Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne

