

THE NEW WOODEND STAR



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North Woodend, Hanging Rock, Carlsruhe, Cobaw.

AN INITIATIVE OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WOODEND

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A Monthly Community Periodical

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Volume Twelve No. 11

It's just a random act of kindness

Kate from Pets Haven was approached back in October by the crew from 'Random Acts of Kindness', a pilot program for Channel 9. They thought that owner of Pets Haven Trish Burke was more than worthy of a major surprise.

Kate was contacted by email and the plans began to develop. Over the next few weeks the surprise was set up. Yvonne Thorn and her husband were then asked for assistance as she was Pets Haven's shelter manager for some time.

The next few weeks were spent trying to stop Trish from doing things that would jeopardize the renovations and trying to set things up without her knowing. Amazingly no one spilled the beans and she didn't do anything to mess it up either!

For the initial surprise Scott Cam gave Trish a Toyota Townace branded up with the new Pets Haven logo. She was so shocked she didn't know what to say or do. It was very overwhelming for her! They said it was a "Random act of kindness" and that she deserved it. They had her sign the form for the van and they left, telling us they would let us know when it would air via email. Little did Trish know what was instore for the next week.

Scott and his team returned a few days later whilst Trish was on holiday to renovate the shop and shelter. With a team of tradesmen from Hire A Hubby and an army of local volunteers the rundown Pets Haven was transformed in to a sleek, clean and functional animal shop and shelter.

Once Trish was on a plane all the hard work began. It was all go for four days and had to be finished by Sunday morning 16th November.

There were around 12 Hire-A-Hubby's who worked solidly for hours and all their work and time was donated. So many people fostered the animals during this time which was an essential help. Local businesses also contributed in different ways.

There were around 15-20 volunteers every day ranging in age from 6 to 60 something! On the Sunday there were at least 70 people, all those who had worked hard during the week for Trish and Pets Haven. There were also some special past owners with their four-legged friends to greet Trish as well.

Everyone worked tirelessly through the four days and it was amazing how well everyone pulled together for such a wonderful woman and a great cause. Pets Haven is a special family and without the support of all the volunteers, foster carers, the local community and businesses it would not be the amazing place it is today.

by Kate Renouf

Here's Trish's response to what happened:

Finally I have five minutes to tell you all what an amazing surprise I received when I returned from holidays! It was Sunday morning 16th November, I was driving to work with Kate (Kate does all of our web site and has known about 'Random Acts of Kindness' for approximately 9 weeks!) Well, I was driving to work with Kate, once I drove into our car park I looked up and saw that we had a new sign with our new logo on it at Pets Haven, I turned to Kate and hugged her thinking that this was a surprise from her. As I continued driving into our car park a camera crew jumped out in front of me; "Oh my God!" was all I could think of! I obviously had met Scott Cam the previous week when he surprised me with their kind gesture of the van. Scott led me to the front of Pets Haven and showed me inside, I felt like a child at Christmas time, the shop was so clean, there was no mess, beautiful white shelving was installed, I was looking around with sheer excitement in my eyes. I wanted to run and touch everything! I then saw our new grooming room which blew me away. Scott then led me to the second half of our shelter, he showed me our new staff room, then he opened the door for to our new isolation room and I burst in to tears! Having a proper isolation room means so much to us. It was really hard trying not to cry but the shelter is where my heart is and seeing this room was so very overwhelming. Scott then showed me our new indoor pens, wow they are amazing, I was thinking this is just my dream!

Scott started telling me that he had spoken to my hero Mike Arms (<http://www.bestfriends.org/nomorehomelesspets/weeklyforum/biomarms.cfm>), who is president of the Helen Woodward Animal Centre/Best Friends org in America. Scott was saying how they consulted with Mike about the renovations; I told Scott how much I adore Mike and we had a little bit of chit chat about him. I told Scott that I was going to the USA in April so I could meet Mike Arms, Scott Cam then said: "Well Trish, how would you like to meet Mike Arms?" and Mike appeared (he was hiding in one of the



Trish at her surprise reveal surrounded by the camera crew

Continued page 2

inside dogs pens!) I can only explain the feeling of meeting Mike as sheer joy, can you imagine meeting your hero? Someone you admire and who inspires you? I felt like I was seeing an angel, I can honestly say when I saw Mike Arms I was sure that this was all a dream, I think Mike actually pinched me, telling me this was real! I keep thinking about this moment, meeting Mike and it makes me so happy, if I was never granted any other personal wish I think I would be happy. To me, Mike Arms is everything I want to be, I could never be as great as Mike but if I could be just a little like him, that would be wonderful. It's weird (Mike probably thinks I'm weird), but I miss him, I feel like calling him, hopping on a plane, this man is so wonderful, he has worked his entire life for animals, committed to creating a better world for them. So obviously you can tell Mike Arms was and is my everything!!!

After being introduced to the beautiful Mike Arms, I was shown the rest of the shelter, it was totally re ramped, we have shade sails over the kennels, pool fencing was put in, the entire back area was concreted, it looks wonderful and our dogs looked so happy. I am so grateful. Thank you just isn't a big enough word.

Then Scott opened up our new back gate which is attached to our new back fence! There was an amazing crowd of people, people who placed their heart and souls into changing Pets Haven forever. These beautiful people worked until 2.30am in the morning, they gave up so much just to help. There are so many people to thank I do not want to thank individuals for the fear of not mentioning someone. I have thanked all that were involved and I am going to have a BBQ within the next two weeks, to say thank you and kiss everyone again!

I am eternally grateful to Cornerbox, the company who researched Pets Haven and decided that we were going to be the recipients of their wonderful gifts. The people involved with this company are all warm,

friendly and wonderful. I have been given gifts for which saying thank you is just not good enough; I cannot express my gratitude and love towards these people enough. Thank you so very much.

So much happened behind the scenes, people were exhausted, given hard decisions to make, so much was going on, but no one gave up. I love you all and you are very special to me. We have created our Pets Haven family, thank you for coming into my life and sharing our dream. I am so lucky to have such wonderful people around me who sacrifice so much – thank you.

from Trish Burke
Pets Haven

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The New Woodend Star
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The Bank, 75 High Street, Woodend, Vic. 3442
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For people wishing to submit stories, articles, letters to the publication, simply place the information in the strategically placed drop-boxes. These are located at the Liquor Shop, Collier Office & Business Assist, The Bank @ 75 High Street and Woodend Newsagency.

Circulation: 3150 copies throughout Woodend and district


Disclaimer: The opinions and views expressed by the contributors are theirs alone, and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Committee of Management, or the Rotary Club of Woodend.

The Committee reserves the right to edit articles for length and clarity.

Committee: Barry Napthine, Ivor Johnson, Claudia Green, Irene O'Duffy, Joy Barker and Jane Watters.

Closing date for inclusion of articles for each issue is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Advertising available
For all bookings and artwork submission please contact Irene 5427 3092.
network to irene@woodendcopycentre.com.au

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ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE:
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Information for advertisers
Any accounts queries can be made to Joy on 5427 4089 during office hours.
Mail should be directed to: **New Woodend Star, C/- The Bank, 75 High Street, Woodend 3442.**
Drop boxes for articles are at: The Bank (75 High Street), Woodend Newsagent, Collier Office & Business Assist and Marks' Liquor Shop.
Copies of the publication will also be available.

Woodend Star Publication Dates for 2009

Feb	2nd February
March	2nd March
April	30th March
May	4th May
June	1st June
July	29th June
August	3rd August
September	31st August
October	28th September
November	26th October
Dec / Jan	30th November

Advertisers and contributors are reminded to book in by the 15th of the month with artwork to follow immediately. Changes to advertisements, new advertisements or cancellations should all be made by email or in writing.

Woodend Art Group

Once again the Woodend Art Group staged an Art Exhibition of admirable quality at their newly refurbished rooms at the Woodend Railway Station over the weekend of the 16th-18th of October. Visitors this year were lavish in their praise of the standard of works.

Our next public show will be of mainly unframed works at the Woodend Art Market on Sunday 21st December in the meeting room of the Community Centre.

What an opportunity to buy affordable presents for Christmas or birthdays.

Amanda Candusio, President



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Australian Red Cross, Woodend

On December 4th Red Cross Woodend will hold its final meeting for 2008. The meeting will be held at the home of the Secretary Mrs M. Vanblyenburgh at 10 Adams Close, Woodend. The afternoon will commence at 12 noon with a luncheon for members, supporters and friends. The Woodend unit would like to extend best wishes to all during Christmas and the New Year. For information contact Norma Proctor 5427 1260.

Submitted by Joan Podrazil & Peg Wilson.



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Thank you re Go Vap Orphanage

Deb Nettelbeck & Christine Withers would like to say a huge thank you to all who donated good quality vintage clothing and a special Thanks to the 55 women of the Macedon Ranges and beyond, who attended their Vintage Clothing Party held on Sat 22 Nov. The \$920 raised at this event will help provide much needed medical intervention for disadvantaged children at the Go Vap Orphanage, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

The International Women's Group is planning another fundraising event in Woodend for January 2009 to continue supporting the Go Vap Orphanage. If you would like further information regarding this event please contact Deb on 03 5429 5869 or 0438 309 711.

Check out the specials!

MRRAR (Macedon Ranges Rural Australians for Refugees) is holding its' annual BBQ in aid of the FOOD ACTION NETWORK of the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre, which provides food for families of asylum seekers who have no work rights or welfare support. By checking out the specials at the supermarket and just adding one or two cans of food to your shopping list will help these families. Items such as tinned fish, tomato paste, breakfast cereal, long life milk, canned chickpeas, are especially welcome. Stop at our BBQ outside Coles Supermarket. Enjoy a delicious sausage and pick up a Food Action Network Shopping List. See you there on Saturday 13th December, from 9 a.m.



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comment

Family & Children's Strategy Framework: Consultation Draft

Hard copies located at libraries, Council service centres, Neighbourhood Houses, kindergartens, Maternal & Child Health Centres, playgroups, toy libraries, primary schools... Alternatively, the document can be downloaded from Council's website: www.macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au, under "For Your Comment" on the home page.

Deadline for submissions is 19 December 2008. We look forward to receiving your feedback!

Council's Community Services Unit

All news items, articles and community news columns must be received by 15th of each month.



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A tribute to Bert and the green soldiers

It is not exactly a campfire that my dog and I encounter while walking along Sullivans Road in Woodend one fine morning.

The jovial group of four enjoying morning tea are burning gorse, and barely have time to pluck the pesky prickles from their behinds before it's on with the gloves and back to the shovels.

Every Thursday morning, usually around the time most of their neighbours are having breakfast, retired teacher Bert Dawson and other determined volunteers attack the invasive undergrowth threatening an area of Woodend where they hope to see more walkers enjoying the native plants and wildflowers.

Four years ago Bert, who had not long settled in Woodend, and his now deceased mate Arthur Howden, started clearing weeds from the railway reserve opposite the Woodend Transfer Station in Quarry Road.

"Despite being told by the (Macedon Ranges) Shire and Vic Track that we were trespassing, we persisted," says Bert.

More volunteers were recruited and eventually the group was granted legal access to work on the land. They also joined Woodend & Five Mile Creek Land Care, a move which helped them obtain funding from the Federal Government, Shire and Australia Post.

Over the past year I have silently applauded the work being done by these hitherto unknown soldiers.

It is humbling to learn that Bert, 63, spends up to 40 hours a week on Land Care activities. Others including farmer, Bob Sullivan, have been moved into action as their properties have felt the impact of weeds in addition to gorse such as broom, blackberry, holly, hawthorn, pine, ivy and periwinkle.

Danielle Thynne, a qualified ranger who has not been able to find a job in her field since moving to the Macedon Ranges, attends the working bees and weed awareness days whenever she can. She appreciates being able to show her children the wildflowers that would be strangled if it wasn't for Landcare.

Another member of Bert's green army is John Newell. He lives in Carlsruhe but his environmental conscience knows no geographic bounds.

The group is extending its work along Sullivans Road, with a view to completing a walking loop. About a dozen volunteers have Sullivans Rd, a bit of Bawden Rd and a large part of Quarry Rd covered.

More volunteers are needed to maintain land along Bawden Rd. Anyone willing to help would be supported with Land Care equipment and fundraising if necessary.

In this season of goodwill, it is timely to acknowledge the Berts and Bobs of the world who remind us what community is really about.

It's not just city born folks like me who get to see their neighbourhood differently by spending time with those who really are making a difference to the environment.

Whatever the extent to which we can lend a hand, may Christmas be bountiful for our Land Care volunteers and their New Year gorse-free!

For more details about Woodend & Five Mile Creek Land Care or to find out how you can help eradicate weeds and protect native flora, contact Bert Dawson on 54271520 or Stewart Olney on 54274615.

contributed by Nadine Hartnett

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Fundraising success for Cambodian Kids Foundation

This year's Cambodian Kids annual fundraiser was held on the 8th of November. With last years fundraiser being a huge success and welcoming of the foundation into the community we were sure that our 2008 fundraiser would be no exception. The night was a celebration to showcase the work that the foundation has been doing over the past 12 months, a night to show our generous community the difference they have made in Cambodia. It is this difference that we are able to make that allows Cambodian Kids not only to be a foundation, but a dream. A dream of hope and happiness.

The night featured the ever so witty Dean and Jerry, with their tasteful humor and crooning they were definitely a crowd pleaser that saw the crowd in hysterics. With the help of the hilarious duo the foundation were able to auction off many wonderful items, all kindly donated by Blue Orange Concepts, Schatzis Restaurant, Color Me Cooper, Heskett House, Talking Threads, Jack Cooper, Woodend Bakery, Sue Whittaker.

The night saw so much generosity, including a marvelous gesture from Rodney Legge when he donated an auction item that he had won to young Amy who had her heart set on the Essendon framed print. This was only to continue when the raffle winner Jan Sullivan kindly donated her raffle win back to the foundation.

Overall the night was a huge success that will allow the foundation to continue all its good work for the children of Cambodia. We would like to extend a thank you to all those

who attended the night and of course to our supporters who have made this night possible. Hope to see you all next year.

This Christmas the Cambodian Kids Foundation will be selling Christmas gift cards. At Color Me Cooper you can choose a child's name from the Christmas tree, make a \$15 donation, which provides a child with books, uniform and backpack for a whole year at school.

It is the perfect gift that brings a smile to all who receive both in Australia and Cambodia. Think of Cambodia's children this year when buying all your Christmas gifts.

Submitted by Jack Cooper

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A Christmas Carol Concert

7.30pm, December 13 at St Ambrose Church

Beata Lumina (St Ambrose Church Choir) invites you to join them in celebrating the true spirit of Christmas with a concert of favourite Christmas carols and hymns.

Refreshments provided afterwards. Families and children especially welcome. The concert starts at 7.30 pm and will run for approximately 1 hour.

The concert is free and all are welcome. Take a little time out of your busy life and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.



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Woodend Neighbourhood Centre

As you read this we are beginning to wind down, with no new courses this year. However our doors are open 5 days a week for a cuppa, a chat and more.

During January we are offering a condensed beginner computer course. Become familiar with computers in general, MS Word, Internet and Email over the period of a week – 15-20 Jan. Book now to secure a place.

Coming in 2009 we will have lots of old favourites plus new opportunities for body, mind and soul. Work ready classes will include QuickBooks, MYOB, Computers for Business skills, Integration Aide training plus a motivational course for women who want to get back into the workforce – building confidence, team work and work ready communication skills.

Make and keep your New Year resolutions in 2009! Our fitness classes include walking, cycling, Pilates, Belly Dance and Tai Chi so there is no excuse as some of these are FREE.

Social and hobby groups play a big part at the Neighbourhood Centre where the opportunity to attend a class, learn or share your skills and make friends is enjoyed by many people both young and old. We offer quilting sewing, drama, jewellery making and digital photography to name but a few. New in 2009 is a self defence class too.

Our complete term 1 2009 classes will be listed online by the end of December and our brochures will be in your letter boxes towards the end of January. For details call into 47 Forest St, visit www.wnci.websyte.com.au or ring 5427 1845.

The office will be closed from 19 December and will reopen Tuesday 27 January. We wish all our volunteers, visitors, students and staff a relaxing and enjoyable break and hope to see you all in 2009.

Sarah Campbell, Coordinator

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Woodend Senior Citizens

There will be no meeting or fun afternoon on the 5th of December, as that is the date of our Christmas Dinner, but on the 9th of December at 10:30am we are calling a special general meeting to finalise our bus trips. There will be Friday cards until the 19th of December and Bingo on Tuesdays until the 16th of December with Carpet bowls on the 9th and 16th of December. Then there is a break until January 9th 2009. That Friday, cards at 1:30pm and Bingo will be Tuesday the 13th of January 2009 all welcome back to Woodend Seniors.

Norma Richardson



New Members The Rotary Club of Woodend

Put something back into this great community and be part of a worldwide organisation that helps build goodwill and peace allowing ordinary people to achieve extraordinary things and bring about exceptional change in the world.

Contact Kai 5427 1029

Last-Minute Xmas Shopping?

Solution: Lions last Market for 2008! It will be in full swing on Sunday, 21st December, so don't miss this chance to grab a bargain for those difficult-to-choose-for people. You can also feel good that you're helping your own community, as money raised goes towards local projects.

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Trivia Buffs Buy Kinder a Boat

Woodend Kinder held a Trivia Night on Sat 8th November in the hope of raising \$3,500 to buy a wooden cubby boat for the Kindergarten playground. The night was a huge success with the final tally ensuring Kinder will definitely get its boat! Thanks to all who attended and joined in the fun – particularly those who dusted off their suits and frocks, donned a fascinator or hat and dressed for the Spring Racing Carnival theme. There were certainly some great fashions on the field!

Raising the money for the boat was an amazing community effort and many thanks must go to all the generous local individuals and businesses who supported the night through donations of goods or services including Woodend Health & Fitness, Pinky the Fairy, Steph Goss, the Hanging Rock Racing Club, Macedon Ranges Framing Service, Schatzi's, Ian Marks Liquor, Bunnings Warehouse,

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Finally, many thanks must also go to all the generous families at Kinder who donated items, ideas, energy and enthusiasm to the Trivia Night. Please keep your eyes posted on the Kinder to see the new cubby boat in place as soon as possible. Now all that is left to say is Ship Ahoy! (Does anyone remember how much a smidge is?)



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GALLERY/GARDEN**

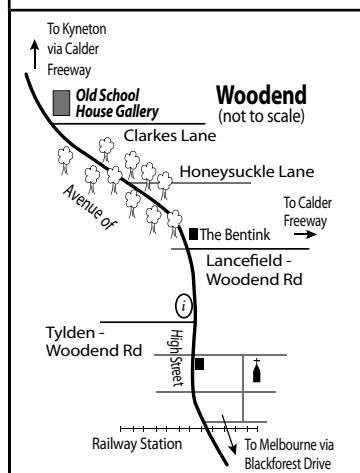
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3 CLARKES LANE NORTH WOODEND

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ARTISTS ON THE DAY



OPENED DAILY FROM SUN. 7th DEC. 10am - 5.30pm
ART SHOW CONCLUDED SUN. 14th DEC. 2008

PAINTING AS DOOR PRIZE

Carols A'Comin'!

Yes, once again Santa will arrive at the Community Centre on Sunday, 14th December for a stop-off in his busy schedule.

This year the Lions Carols by Candlelight* BBQ will start serving from 6pm, and again music will be provided by the Living Word Christian Church, Women of Note, Woodend Primary School and others. We are also pleased to welcome back the 'Tiny Tackers' and some of the older dancers.

The 'Kidzone' tent will be on site too, so parents can be sure their children have some activities to interest them under responsible adult supervision.

Candles, bangles & Lions Xmas Cakes will be on sale, and the SES will also make tea, coffee & cold soft drinks available.

So bring out your Xmas hats, chairs, jackets & rugs, & join us for a relaxed evening of song & Christmas joy.

Carols by Candlelight* sponsored by Macedon Ranges Shire, Lions & LWCC.



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As another year draws towards Christmas we take this opportunity to say thankyou, to the very many families, who have donated very large amounts of clean clothing, linen, crockery and glassware & other items. Our hard working volunteers have had a very busy year, sorting, pricing, and arranging in the shop all these goods and we are very appreciative of the communities help from far and wide.

We have made community donations to Cobaw, SES, CFA, Kyneton Secondary College chaplaincy fund. Our community give our sincere thanks to our willing helpers and we look forward to serving the community in fellowship.

Jean Lucas Secretary



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Great month for Woodend Children's Park!

The Woodend Children's Park committee has had a very successful month and is edging closer to being able to start construction!

Our fundraising efforts have received a huge boost thanks to the generosity of Merv and his staff at Sequoia. An incredible \$15,000 was raised during an auction night, making Sequoia a Gold Supporter of the park. Many Macedon Ranges businesses and individuals donated over 30 fantastic items, which local real estate agent Rick Lander auctioned off on the night. We are extremely grateful to the team at Sequoia, especially Julie and Louise, for organising this event. The night was a lot of fun, we are amazed and very appreciative of the generosity of the Macedon Ranges people. Thankyou to everyone involved in making this night such a success.

On Melbourne Cup day we held a bbq and raffle outside the Vic Hotel in which \$1300 was raised. Thankyou to everyone that bought a sausage or raffle ticket, this is all going directly towards the park. Special thanks to The Vic Hotel, Glenn's Country Meats, Bourkie's Bakehouse and Coles.

The WCP committee is also very pleased that more local businesses have generously donated to this great project including: Woodend's 'Tony's Practice', now a Silver Supporter.

'Riverwood Group', now a Bronze Supporter and, 'Fairhurst Conveyancing', also a Bronze Supporter.

The committee would like to thank the following people and businesses for their in-kind services as well;

- The Woodend Historical Society who's volunteers put in an enormous amount of time piecing together the history of the local area. They have proven invaluable to our project and site.
- The Woodend Neighbourhood House, who have always allowed us a comfortable room to hold meetings and presentations.
- University Meats
- The Vic Hotel, fantastic venue for our monthly general committee meetings.
- Dr. Vincent Clarke, for volunteering his skills and assistance for our Cultural Land Assessment.

We wouldn't be able to do what we do without their help and support.

The Woodend Children's Park have raised over \$265,000 thanks to this generous community and are edging closer to page 12

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being able to start construction. If you would like to join these amazing businesses in supporting the park, please call Kelly Clune on 0412 420 146.

There is still time to get your PAVER so please cut out your order form in this edition of the *New Woodend Star*, fill it out and send it in, you have until the 24th of December, so don't miss out!

We wish this great community a happy and safe Christmas, and New Year.

For more information on this project please see www.woodendweb.org/childrenspark or phone Kellie on 0419 535 062 or Jane on 0417 440 228.

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RSL Report

November is proving a very busy month for the club. Our building designer Andrew Mathieson and the contractor RADCO have finalised the work required to restore the RSL Hall truss roof. We anticipate work to commence in late November. Upon completion of RADCO's contract: electrical, plastering and repainting work will be undertaken: the committee is aiming to re-open before Christmas. This I am sure will be welcomed by all members.

Thank you to the adults and schoolchildren of Woodend and Newham for their support during the sale of Remembrance Day Poppies. This will assist the welfare work of the RSL.

The Remembrance Day service at the 5 mile creek memorial was well attended. The students from the three local primary schools and the Australian Army Cadets from Braemar College participated in the commemoration. Thank you to the staff and students for their support.

Members are reminded of our quarterly General Meeting at 7:30pm on December 3rd at the Neighbourhood House Woodend. By then, the present committee will be well into complying with the resolution of the majority of members to restore the RSL Hall. Now it is time for those who expressed this desire to be ready to participate in running the club for 2009. The General Meeting is an opportunity to plan the future course of the club. Restoring the roof has not solved the financial future of the RSL, but does give the 2009 committee a good foundation to secure the long term viability of the sub branch.

Eric Read Assistant Secretary

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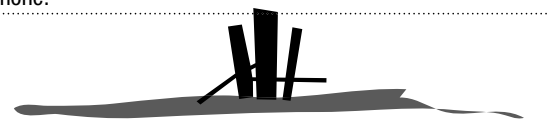
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November in the Woodend Permaculture Garden

November has seen a flurry of activity in the Woodend Permaculture Garden run by the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group. The warmer than usual spring weather has seen the early planting out of our summer vegetables. The tomatoes, capsicums, egg plants, pumpkins, cucumbers, beans and sweet corn have now joined the rest of the spring veggies in the garden.

The warmer weather has also seen the garlic, onions and potatoes growing in leaps and bounds – not to mention the grass and weeds!

Other jobs completed in the garden for November included; chook wire around the dwarf nectarines; feeding happy chooks with lots of curl grub delicacies; hilling up the potatoes; and of course watering and weeding. The chook taming was expertly handled by Noa Coates!

We were lucky to have Kerry Marsh from Natural Soil Solutions come by and demonstrate some soil and plant tests that revealed interesting results. While the soil electrical conductivity was very good at 50, the pH levels were too acidic at 5.5. Kerry also measured the sap from 2 plants using a Brix meter and found that they had low sugar levels, and therefore not at optimum health.

So over the next few months, we'll be digging in some high calcium lime to raise the pH back up to slightly acid (between 6 & 7), followed by a molasses spray. We'll also be spraying the veggies and fruit trees with a mixture of

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seaweed and fish emulsion, and making a liquid fertiliser with manure and comfrey.

We'd like to thank all the volunteers who have helped out at the recent Working Bees and Green Thumb Fridays - Kerry Marsh, Liz Hoare, Scott Boyle, Jean Dart, Kirsty Ross, John Randles, Tori Vincent, Greg and Noa Coates and Tania, Taylor and Faith Dam.

If you'd like to learn more about growing your own food the permaculture way, come along to a Green Thumb Fridays (10am - 12noon once a fortnight - contact Krista for dates on 0408 204 449) or a drop into a Working Bee, 1st Sunday of the month (10am - 12noon - contact Russell on 5427 2049).

We wish everyone a safe and happy time for the coming festive season.
Russell & Krista (Woodend Permaculture Garden Coordinators)

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Woodend Playgroup

The Woodend Playgroup has had a busy year with many new families joining playgroup. We will shortly finish the year with our annual Christmas party at Gilbert Gordon Oval with the highlight being Santa arriving on the back of the CFA Truck. Our Re enrolment Day for 2009 will be held on Thurs 11th Dec at Playgroup Forest St Woodend between 12-3pm, Payable on enrolling is 1st Term Fees of \$30 per family and the yearly 2009 Playgroup Victoria Family Membership of \$25 per family or early bird offer of \$23 per family. (Concessions also available) This membership offers a number of discounts and resources for parents. The Woodend Playgroup operates Monday to Friday and offers 3 sessions each day for all enrolment enquires call 54272583. We wish all our families a safe and happy Christmas. Playgroup will be closed on Thurs 24th Dec and reopening Monday 5th Jan 2009. Happy Holidays.

Woodend Playgroup President: Josie McLeish

RSL Women's Auxiliary

This month has been a very sad one with the passing of our Secretary, Pam Russell, who has been not only one of our girls for a very long time but also an affiliate member of the RSL sub branch. Pam will be very much missed by us all for her devotion to the RSL and our Auxiliary. Vale Pam.

On a brighter note our RSL Annual Christmas Dinner is to be held at the Woodend Golf Club on 6th of December, people are booking already, so if you wish to book a table, and not miss out, please contact Margaret on 5427 1226 or Betty on 5427 2225. Bookings are essential. Dinner costs \$25 per person. A giant raffle of goodies has been donated by the Woodend Traders and will be drawn on the night. Tickets are on sale at Coles. Please patronise our Annual Dinner, lots of fun and good food. Bar will be available. Our thanks to Woodend Golf Club who have given us unlimited support.

Progress on our RSL roof is coming along nicely. Work is to start very soon. Our Bill and volunteers are to be congratulated for their efforts and hopefully the problem will be fixed when this letter is out. Well done Bill and Boys.

Our Auxiliary are looking forward to a bright New Year back in our own Hall. The Auxiliary have no meeting in December and we always have a break over Christmas and New Year, resuming in February. We still need new members, so ladies if you have an hour or two a month to spare please contact us. You will be warmly welcomed.

Although this year has been somewhat stressful our team has done a wonderful job working to uphold our traditions to support our RSL under trying circumstances our thanks to the traders, clubs and other groups who have stood by us and helped in so many ways, truly shows the spirit of the Woodend people in times of other troubles. We Thank You all.

So as 2008 comes to a close, we would like to wish you one and all a very Merry Christmas and a bright, prosperous New Year.

submitted by Betty J. Barned.

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Congratulations Stephannie

The team at Woodend Copy Centre and Collier Office and Business Assist would like to congratulate their former staff member Stephannie Simpson who finished her legal studies this year and last month was sworn in as a lawyer at the Supreme Court. For three years Stephannie was a valuable staff member and we are all so proud of her achievements. She was a student at Sacred Heart College Kyneton. She is currently working as a Judge's Associate in the Supreme Court. Congratulations Stephannie from all of us!



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- 3 Quarterly RSL meeting at Neighbourhood House
- 4 Red Cross final meeting for 2008
- 5 Green Thumb Friday in the Woodend Permaculture Garden, 9-12am, 0407 686 289
- 6 Movies that Matter: Everything's Cool, 8pm at Woodend Neighbourhood House
- 6 RSL Christmas Dinner at Woodend Golf Club
- 6 Art Show at Old School House
- 9 Woodend Senior Clts Christmas Dinner
- 11 Woodend Playgroup re-enrolment day 12-3pm
- 12 Music Trivia Extravaganza at St Ambrose Hall 5427 1396
- 13 Beata Lumina concert, favourite Christmas carols & hymns 7.30 St Ambrose Church
- 14 Lions Carols by Candlelight in grounds of Community Centre 6pm
- 14 Carlsruhe Landcare info session at CFA 11am
- 19 Green Thumb Friday in Woodend Permaculture Garden, 9-12am, 0407 686 289
- 19 Deadline for Family & Children's Strategy Frameworks Consultation Draft
- 20 Lancefield & District Farmers' Market 9am
- 21 Summer Solstice with Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group
- 21 Woodend Art Market at Community Centre
- 21 Lions Market at Community Centre
- 24/25 Christmas church services - see red insert for details

January

- 26 Australia Day Celebrations at Old Court House

March

- 1 Gisborne Festival & Car Show, Dixon Field Gisborne

June

- 5-8 Woodend Winter Arts Festival, Queen's Birthday weekend



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Australian Breastfeeding Association, Heather 5427 2398	Panic & Anxiety Group, 5427 8256
Cobaw Thursday Walking Group 5427 3340	Parents & Carers of Children with Special Needs, Woodend Community Centre
Daylight Masonic Lodge, 5427 2480	Probus, 5427 2003
Friends of Macedon Ranges Library, Chris/Bill 5427 2469	R.S.L., Anslow Street 5427 3122
Garden Club 5422 6062 / 5427 3340	Red Cross, 5427 1260
Living Word Christian Church 5429 6327	Rotary Club of Woodend, meetings weekly at Vic Hotel Thursdays 6.45pm, Kai 5427 1029
Historical Society, Courthouse, 5427 2523	St. Mary's Guild, 11am, 4th Wednesday of month
Macedon Ranges & District Motor Club, 10 Webb Cres, New Gisborne 1st Wednesday each month 8pm	St. Mary's Street Stall, 9-12 noon outside Woodend Newsagency (2nd Sat of the month)
Macedon Ranges Animal Aid, Buffalo Sports Stadium, 5427 1752	Woodend & Five Mile Creek Landcare Group, Jo 5427 1909 or Doug 5427 0666, 3rd Tues Meeting, 4th Sunday Working Bee
Macedon Ranges Bridge Club, 5427 4440	Woodend Angling Club, RSL Hall, 5427 2395
Macedon Ranges Families of Children with Disabilities Support Group, 5427 3365	Woodend Art Group, Railway Station, 5422 6172 or 5427 1659
Macedon Ranges Residents Assc. 5427 1481 or 5427 2651	Woodend Business & Tourism Association, Cori 5427 3434, 2nd Tues of month (BATA)
Macedon Ranges Communicators (ITC), 5427 2669	Woodend Lions Club, Meetings 2nd/4th Wednesday each month, ph Maureen Dougherty 5427 4949
Macedon Ranges Photographic Society, 1st Tues of month, Ron Mathews 5427 3284	Woodend Model Railway Club, Buffalo Stadium
Macedon Ranges Social Club (activities for singles over 35) phone 9740 5517 or 9744 2697	Woodend Pony Club, 5427 2793
Neurological Support Group "Contacts", Woodend Community Centre	Woodend Senior Citizens Club, Comm. Centre
	Woodend SES Training Nights, Urquhart St
	Woodend Winter Arts Festival Inc., Jacky 5427 1560

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Woodend Business & Tourism Association news

On Tuesday 28th October 2008 the Woodend Business and Tourism Association held their annual general meeting at The Victoria Hotel in Woodend. It was a good night reflecting on what has been achieved throughout the year, and talk of this year's Woomba: Woodend Street Festival proving to shape up better than last year as it draws closer. The Trivia part of the night was a lot of fun!

There was a new committee elected, enthusiastic for the year ahead. The committee members are as:-

- President: Cori Felvus from Woodend Bakery
- Vic-President: Donna from Color Me Cooper
- Secretary: Maureen Wilson from Not Just Fudge
- Treasurer: Matthew Roulston from The Mortgage Gallery

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- Committee Members:
 - o Erin Downie from Collier Office and Business Assist
 - o Ian Cooper from Color Me Cooper
 - o Daniel Budije from Healthcare Assist
 - o John Connor from Scott's Petroleum
 There is a Christmas / New Year social being organised so please keep an eye out for the information as it becomes available.

St Andrew's Uniting Church welcomes you

Please join us for worship during Christmas at the following times: 24th December 7.30pm Carol Service at Tylden Uniting Church, followed by supper 25th December 9.00am Worship at Woodend Uniting Church 28th December - All are welcome to our usual worship times of 9am at Tylden, and 10.30am at Woodend.



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Workshop Title	Date	Time	Cost
Learn to Canvas Paint Well known Local artist will guide a group of 10 (max) Children in the art of Canvas Painting. For each child Paint, brushes, apron and Canvas will be supplied and will take home their work of art. (Recommended for children 5-12 yrs)	Tuesday 9 th December Tuesday 6 th January	4 to 5.30pm 4 to 5.30pm	\$ 17.50 per Child
Christmas Decorations -Make a Tree Ornament & Christmas Card -Make a sandart Decoration & Christmas gift box	Tuesday 2 nd December Saturday 6 th December	4 to 5.00pm 1pm - 2pm	\$ 10.00 per child per session
Cartooning workshop Children receive tuition from resident One plus One poster designer and "drawer" on the magic of Cartooning. Pens, paper Supplied (Recommended for children 5-12 yrs)	Saturday 20 th December Friday 9 th January	10 – 11am 2pm to 3pm	\$ 9.00 per child

Note: All Workshops require Parent/carer supervision - Full Café Menu available (Coffee and light refreshments)



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A great year for local libraries, says Friends of Macedon Ranges Libraries

At Friends of Macedon Ranges Libraries (FOMRL) Annual General Meeting on 20 November in the Woodend Library, President Sheila Drummond said “statistics show increased visits and borrowings at all the libraries in the Shire”. This is largely due to more funding from both State and Local government, and innovative programs. No doubt locals have noticed the changes at Woodend library since its major facelift, which also incorporated Council’s Customer Service Desk and extended opening hours – the new librarian Maria Wolfe looks forward to meeting more residents. In October the Romsey Hub opened, housing a wonderful new library which is managed by the Mitchell Shire on behalf of Macedon Ranges Shire Council. And in 2009 the Gisborne Library will have its turn

In addition to lobbying and representation, FORML raises funds, mainly through its Book Stalls at Woodend Market. These are used to provide some magazine subscriptions and sponsor library events – for example children’s author Elizabeth Honey during the Woodend Winter Arts Festival, a prize for the Poetry Slam heat, and gift book vouchers to thank retiring Woodend librarian Lesley Attard, and author Agnes Nieuwenhuizen for her important talk Tips and Top Titles to Encourage Teenagers to Read.

Guest speaker Carolyn Macvean, dynamic CEO of Goldfields Library Corporation, revealed the wealth of policy involved in choosing and buying the various library collections, and where the money comes from.

The Goldfields Library Corporation website has lots of information about its services at www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au - you can check extended opening hours and do many of your library transactions online too.

FOMRL invites new members to join and help our libraries make our communities better for all age groups. It only costs \$3, or \$5 per family a year - either sign up at your local library or contact Helen Scott, Secretary of FOMRL on 5427 4900.

The great Roman orator Cicero said “If you have a garden and a library, you have everything you need”.

On this note, stay tuned for a launch of a collection of books on sustainability purchased with \$1500 raised by the Rotary Club of Woodend.

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News from Newham

The Newham Community Planning Group had its first public meeting to review progress with the Community Plan on Thursday 13th November. Attended by over 55 members of the community, there was plenty of discussion about the proposed activity path from Woodend to Hanging Rock and Newham, the local primary school developments and the community plan in general.

The Hall Committee was also able to confirm that Council has approved the Planning Permit for the Hall Redevelopment which means that this exciting new project for Newham community can progress to the building stage from early 2009.

The Annual Newham Garden Club Plant sale on Saturday 15th November was a huge success with a large attendance and enthusiastic buying of plants and preserves and other delights. Funds raised from the sale go towards redevelopment of our Mechanics Hall

Newham Primary School has its Annual Fair and Market Day at the School on Saturday 22nd November from 10.00am to 3.00pm. This is an important event for the school and our community and we expect up to 40 stalls and other events to occur over the day with fun and entertainment for all ages.

Submitted by Hilary Roberts

Grandma's Christmas

There's a crash up the hall as a 7-year-old test drives new roller skates. They go well on the lino, but not so good on the carpet, and it's a tough lesson to learn at 5am on Christmas Morning.

A stellar performance at Barrells By Candlelight last night sees both parents reach for a Berocca, and beg for more sleep.

The five year old singing into the toy Karaoke machine at the end of the bed is eventually replaced by the dulcet tones of a church bell heralding Xmas mass. A lovely way to catch everybody you've not seen for a year – including the minister.

Family arrive from parts various, bearing gifts and food and trailing small children. The women head for the kitchen, the men to the verandah.

The lounge room hosts the unwrapping of a thousand gifts, and playing out a range of scenarios.

One sister in law has just been bestowed with a spectacular piece of jewellery; while another sits beside her nursing a cd voucher and a saucepan (thinking just for this moment she may have married the wrong brother!)

Secretly the men happily trade T Shirts, board shorts, key rings, and wallets.

The children are in heaven as the tinsel and wrapping pile higher, miniaturising the contents of a thousand parts made in China, requiring someone to scour the house for batteries and very small Phillips head screwdrivers.

The foreign brother in law who is an only child and not used to having salad at the Xmas table, emerges from the verandah to breast a table of 30, shaking in his shoes.

Over lunch, delicious insults are traded with skilfull timing, and childhood stories replayed. Tearfully included in the prayer is the one that is overseas, passed away, or just missing in action – last seen dressed as a reindeer at Barrells by Candlelight.

Half insane from the noise, Grandma thanks everybody for the talcum powder, pours herself another champagne and smiles at her large extended family, knowing this is perfect.

Merry Christmas, however mad it may be.

Submitted by Kathy Mexted

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Unique store opens in Romsey

Something very unique and different has been happening lately in the form of a very special and exciting business called *CUTTINGS. Culinary and Botanica*. Located at 120 Main Street in Romsey, *Cuttings.* is in a lovely old historic building, next to the town's beautiful stone fountain, under a lush canopy of stately old Elms. *Cuttings.* specialises in all that is unique and simple for the Home, Kitchen and Garden. Especially during the Christmas season, a visit to this beautiful store and its surrounds, is very special indeed.

Cuttings. Culinary and Botanica is open Tuesday through Sunday; 03 5429 3636.

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Carlsruhe Landcare Group – volunteers needed!

Landcare brings together members of a community, enabling them to do something positive and practical to protect and repair our local environment. Various works are carried out by volunteers on both private and public land, for the benefit of the whole community.

If you live in the Carlsruhe area and are interested in forming a Landcare group, an information session will be held at the Carlsruhe CFA station (located on Three Chain Road), at 11am on Sunday 14th December, 2008.

Presenters such as Lachlan Milne (Environment Resource Officer at Macedon Ranges Shire) will talk about how Landcare works and the benefits of being involved. There are no requirements to join Landcare, other than a love of the outdoors, an interest in the environment and plenty of enthusiasm!

For more information, or to register your attendance, call Sam on 5422 6663 or email carlsruhecpg@hotmail.com

Dance with a Star!



When Merrilyn was performing onstage internationally with classical ballet companies for over 15 years, a career in real estate was not on her mind. But the physical and mental demands of classical dance inevitably mean that dancers' careers are short. Merrilyn began her second career as a property consultant in her local Melbourne Bayside area of Sandringham and Brighton and over 12 years she developed a strong reputation for careful, diligent and thorough service to clients.

Merrilyn brings a great deal to real estate from her first career: discipline, attention to detail, persistence, in a word – dedication. She also has great warmth and an ability to deal graciously with a wide variety of people. As well as these personal assets, she has amassed 20 years' experience in real estate, both in Melbourne and locally.

Merrilyn and her husband bought land in the area in 1994, built a home and established a farm where they have pursued a serious interest in horses. She has been with Keatings for the past 8 years.

Merrilyn is a real people person.

She understands what selling and buying a home means to you, and she aims to make that experience as smooth and easy as possible.

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Fire Danger Period to be introduced

CFA Outer Metro Norwest Area is advising residents that the Fire Danger Period (FDP) for the municipalities of Wyndham, Melton, Macedon Ranges, Hume, Mitchell, Moorabool and Whittlesea is to commence on Monday 17 November 2008 and remain in force until 1 May 2009.

Two consecutive months of below average rainfall and warmer than average Spring temperatures informed CFAs decision on a mid-November start to the Fire Danger Period.

During the FDP, fires cannot be lit in the open air without a permit. CFA Manager Community Safety, James Fox, said people should become familiar with what restrictions apply.

“Some fires need a permit, and others are only allowed in specific conditions,” he said. “Fires to burn off grass, undergrowth or weeds must be accompanied by a permit—issued by the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer.

“Barbeques and fires for cooking and warmth, however, do not require a permit, but must be lit in properly constructed fireplaces, within limits of wind speed and clearance perimeter, and are to be supervised at all times,” he said.

“Illegal fires are often lit without consideration of weather conditions and do not have the required controls in place to manage the fire,” Mr Fox added.

Lighting a fire in the open without a permit is an offence and can bring a penalty of up to \$5,500 or 12 months imprisonment.

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The FDPs introduction will be publicised in local media, on the CFA website (www.cfa.vic.gov.au) and via roadside signage.

The FDP and Total Fire Ban is explained in more detail with the Can I or Can't I? brochure, downloadable from CFA's web site (www.cfa.vic.gov.au) or from your local CFA fire station.

For information on bushfire planning, call the Victorian Bushfire Information line on 1800 240 667 or visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au

In relation to permits, the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer for the Macedon Ranges Shire may be contacted by phoning 5422 0333 and details relating to permits can be found on Macedon Ranges Shire Council's website www.macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au

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Carlsruhe Community Action Plan gains Council endorsement

After nearly six months of community consultation and planning, the final copy of the Carlsruhe Community Action Plan was presented to the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, on Wednesday 22nd October, 2008.

Two committee members presented a summary of the Plan during the council's Ordinary General Meeting in Kyneton, with various other committee members also in attendance, as a show of support.

The motion to endorse the Plan was carried and the Carlsruhe committee has now begun working in earnest, to

ensure the Plan becomes a reality. Some funds have already been promised in next year's council budget, so it's full steam ahead!

For more information on the Plan, or to get involved, call Sam on 5422 6663 or email carlsruhecep@hotmai.com

... Watch this space for more exciting developments!



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Seasons Greetings

Dear friends

As another year draws to a close, we turn our attention to Christmas and spending precious time with friends and family.

Christmas is a time to reflect and give thanks for how lucky we are and to think of those in our community who are less fortunate than us.

There are many volunteer local emergency service organisations and community groups who give up their time all year round, and especially at Christmas to serve our community.

As many of us go away for our holidays, it is timely to remember the many volunteer organisations like the CFA and SES who will continue to support our communities by fighting fires, attending road crashes and generally responding to emergencies.

There are also many church and community groups who provide food and shelter and a listening ear to those in need of assistance especially over the Christmas period.

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers in our community who make the Macedon Ranges and Victoria a very special place to live.

I wish you and your family a very happy and safe Christmas, and I look forward to seeing in the new year.

Warm regards

Joanne Duncan MP

State Member for Macedon

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Learn lots at our **www.** **wonderful new website**

The Woodend Fire Brigade has recently launched our new website: www.woodendcfa.org

This fantastic community information site has been produced by a group headed by Woodend CFA member Martin Beaumont. The state-of-the-art website contains a great deal of information that is relevant to our community, especially during the current Fire Danger Period, including:

- The latest news from the Woodend CFA
- Forthcoming events
- Information on the Fire Danger Period (see below)
- History of the Woodend Fire brigade
- Bushfire Safety Information including Safety Plans, Pre-summer Clean Up, Preparing for Fire and Community Meetings
- Frequently Asked Questions including Fire Restrictions and Living in the Bush
- Links to key areas of interest to CFA and related websites including Current CFA Incidents, the latest Weather and Scanner frequencies
- CFA Press Releases, Photo Galleries and Woodend Star Articles
- Profiles on CFA members
- Information for prospective members of the brigade

The site will be updated on a regular basis, so make sure you put www.woodendcfa.org in your favourites or bookmarks and check it regularly all year round for the latest fire safety information.

Fire Danger Period is now in force – any burnoffs require a Council Permit

The Fire Danger Period came into force on November 17 and will remain until May 1, 2009 unless revoked earlier due to seasonal conditions. If the CFA is called to an illegal burnoff during the Fire Danger Period we must call the Police to the scene and serious charges and penalties may be incurred.

You can check the local laws via the internet (www.macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au) or visit your nearest Macedon Ranges council information centre, where the application forms are available.

Do you have a summer fire plan?

We live in an extremely high bushfire risk area and one of the most important things you need to prepare is a clear Bushfire Safety.

Bushfires are survivable, as long as individuals and communities take responsibility for their own fire safety. A well thought out bushfire plan should address all major issues. Make sure everyone in the household knows the plan and what their roles are.

Are you staying or going?

The first and most important decision you must make is to decide whether or not you plan to stay with your home. A

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home is far more likely to survive if able-bodied people are there during a bushfire, because they can quickly put out small outbreaks on or near the house. However, you must be properly prepared. The decision to evacuate is yours.

If you plan to go

... experience has shown that many residents receive little, if any, official warning of an approaching fire. Will you have time to leave the area safely? When will you go? Where will you go? What will you take? Who will you tell? What about your pets? Will you know in which direction the fire is travelling?

Don't leave too late

If you can see the fire it's probably too late to leave. You should not attempt to leave your home at the last minute, when radiant heat is at its peak. The vast majority of deaths in bushfire involve people caught in cars or on foot. Once the fire is close, visibility will be very poor and travel will be hazardous. Fallen trees, power lines, abandoned cars or even firefighting vehicles may block roads.

If you plan to stay – here are some important points:

- Do your family and friends know what you plan to do on the day?
- Safety of children, elderly, ill or handicapped members of the household, as well as pets and livestock.
- Can be safely defended? Is fuel reduction work properly maintained? Are water supplies sufficient?
- Is the structure sound, or are there many crevices where sparks can catch and ignite?
- Have flammable materials been removed from around the house – doormat, outdoor furniture, BBQ gas bottles, hanging baskets, etc.?
- Do you have basic fire-fighting equipment – clothing, buckets, hoses, etc.? Is it readily accessible and in good working order?
- How will you keep up with news of the fire's progress? Make sure you have a battery-powered radio.
- What will you do if children are at school? Check with your school to see what their plans are.

FREE 'Living in the Bush' Brochure

The CFA has produced an informative booklet that is available from the Woodend Fire Brigade. Or you can visit the Woodend CFA website and download a copy.

For further information contact Captain Mick Christie on 0419 870 601 or 1st Lieutenant Mike Dornau on 0409 093 935, call the Woodend CFA on 5427 2356, or visit the station in Urquhart Street.

The Woodend CFA is a volunteer emergency service, committed to Creating a Safer Community.

Submitted by 1st Lieutenant Mike Dornau, Woodend CFA

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We're swamped with design and printing at present so please book your work in before 5th December to guarantee completion before Christmas.

Thank you for your support throughout 2008

Irene, Jenn, Susan, Tristan, Myvanwy & Cerys
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Heritage Society News

From the Woodend & District Heritage Society

Our notice in the last New Woodend Star re. the collection of railway related books and magazines which we have had donated, received a quick response from several railway enthusiasts. We were really pleased to see this material going to people who appreciated it! As the Local & Family History Resource centre closes during December and January, our book sales will continue next year on the Sundays which coincide with the Woodend Market. Look at our board outside Coles for details nearer the time. If you are interested in unusual books, early editions and those relating to particular areas of interest, we recommend these sales to you.

This article from *The Woodend Star* January 24th 1920 continues our railway theme and captures the flavour of the times. One wonders what happened to this young man during the remainder of his life? I guess we will never know.

"A lad of sixteen years, and entitled by age to whatever privacy a Children's Court may be capable of according his conduct, fell into the hands of Constable Kierce at Woodend early last Monday afternoon on a charge of stealing 13s, the property of Mr. J. J. Keating, from the bookstall at the local railway station. When first accused of the theft he stoutly denied it, and told a circumstantial story to account for his trifling monetary possession, but he afterwards confessed to his guilt. Graduating at Fitzroy, of suburban notoriety, he had lately been sent to work for a Mallee farmer at Ouyen. The first charge against his labor was his railway fare, but before he had worked that out he longed to be back again in Fitzroy, and so, with 3/6 in his pocket, he quietly stole away. It was a long way to Fitzroy, but, in his own words, "a man would be a fool to pad the hoof when he could hop the rattler," and so, by transferring from one goods train to another and evading detection in doing so, he managed to reach Woodend, arriving here early last Sunday morning. He waited about for a suitable opportunity to continue his journey, and while looking into the window at the bookstall he saw some silver in a tin. There was a hole in the window, through which it was possible to manipulate the fastener. He thought he would take a shilling, but he stole the lot and when the money was missed, suspicion fell upon him and an endeavor was made to catch and detain him pending the return to the town of Constable Kierce, who was "out" on other business. The lad, however, proved to be fleet of foot, and won a long chase, that was pursued a second time, and when well in the lead, was observed to jump into one of a pair of drays coming towards the town. He stretched himself out in the bottom of the dray and though he had been unobserved by any of those who wished to capture him but one who had seen him waited until the dray came near and then "the game was up"

In due course the young traveler was handed over to Constable Kierce, and later in the day was brought before Mr. R. Cornish J.P. and remanded to appear at the Children's Court at Woodend on Monday next."

A very Happy Christmas and happy holidays to all our supporters and friends.

Submitted by Janet Hawkins

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Petanque Patter

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A great social opportunity with interaction with your community, some lively and challenging Petanque and of course our now famous Club BBQ.

All players new or experienced welcome.

Why not come this week so you can join in the Christmas Super gourmet BBQ break-up on Thursday 18th December 2008.

Special games & competitions and prizes for some fun with your Petanque. Yes all welcome but come the week before so we can be sure of numbers.

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Ruth Reid-Hobbs leads pupils from the Woodend Primary School in the 2005 Anzac parade. If you can help us with names, please leave details in the secure postage box at the Court House.

A look to the year ahead

Christmas and the New Year are fast looming, and this is my last opportunity before the holiday break to get a message out to the residents of Newham, Woodend and the region.

The Woodend Star must be thanked for providing me with the space for a regular message to the community. Over the past four years as councillor for Newham and surrounding areas, I have utilised this opportunity to pass on important information, alert the community as to upcoming events and link people in with the services and supports which are provided through Council.

One of my priorities in the regular submitted articles has always been to inform the community of what's happening in their Council.

There are still a number of projects which we as a community need to focus on in the next year or so.

Demographic information shows us solid population growth in the Shire – so we need to ensure we are planning well into the future to cater for an increasing number of residents and are in a position to meet their needs.

We need to ensure our education facilities are able to cater for our present child and youth population and the future needs which Victoria's current baby boom will lead to.

Good land management and the environment are important issues. Newham, Lancefield, Woodend and surrounding areas are part of a most liveable environment and we must ensure that it is sustainable for the future generations.

Have a happy and prosperous Christmas and New Year, come back safe and refreshed, and we can look to addressing the issues that matter to the residents of Newham, Woodend and surrounding areas.

Henry Bleeck.

Welcome to the Woodend Star

Kids Club

December Birthdays

3rd	Yani Dyer.....	Turns 8
4th	Lucy Marks.....	Turns 13
8th	Jake Saddington.....	Turns 12
15th	Liam Muir.....	Turns 6
17th	Caitlin Elliot.....	Turns 8
19th	Eleanor Middleton.....	Turns 9
20th	Demi Giddings.....	Turns 11
28th	Charlie Nickson.....	Turns 11
28th	Kieran Thompson.....	Turns 13
28th	Jessica Beverley.....	Turns 7
30th	Alannah J. Nugent.....	Turns 12
31st	Christopher Nugent.....	Turns 9

January Birthdays

4th	Casey Dzesa.....	Turns 7
13th	Brandon Groves.....	Turns 13
18th	Oliver Franzen.....	Turns 9
24th	Aaron Still.....	Turns 7
24th	Patrick Still.....	Turns 7
29th	Jack Dzesa.....	Turns 11
29th	Travis Timmermans.....	Turns 7

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Fill in your details below and place in the drop-boxes. Age limit is restricted to 13 years old and under.

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Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____



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(PS: We need your jokes and pictures! Please drop them in.)

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Interested in playing squash?

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You can play in competition or just play on our social night. It's a great way to get fit, meet people and enjoy a social club.

Call now and arrange a hit.

Contact Bill on 0488 348 898
from the Kyneton Squash Club to organise a hit.

Kyneton Squash Club news

Squash is a great way to get fit and to meet people. The Kyneton Squash Club is the last of 4 original squash clubs in the Macedon Ranges. Gone are the clubs of Romsey, Woodend and also Gisborne. Gone are also the courts at Woodend and Gisborne.

The Kyneton Squash Club is a small, but highly social club which operates out of the Kyneton Sporting Complex, located in Victoria St, Kyneton. The club has been active at the sporting complex since the complex was built in the 1970's and over the years has had many champion players such as Janet Barnard, Julie Harris, Neil Watts, Gary Morrison and Michael Archer just to name a few.

Ours is a club however which is not just about the great players. So called ordinary players make up our rank and file membership and while the game is perhaps played at a less skilful level, you will still find the club spirit which has kept the Kyneton Squash Club going when other squash clubs have fallen by the wayside.

The Kyneton Squash Club is always on the lookout for new players and encourages experienced players and those new to the game to come and have a hit in Kyneton. Currently the club operates one competition and also has a club practice night which is an ideal way for new players to have a hit, receive some instruction from more experienced players and to get a feel for the club.

The competition is held on a Thursday evening and those playing in the competition are provided with supper as part of their fees, which by the way are under \$10 per night. This fee also includes your insurance. The club practice night is held on a Tuesday night and for the cost of

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Layby for Christmas

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\$5 seniors and \$4 juniors, you get to have a hit with people of various standards between 7-9pm. The practice night is an ideal way to "give it a go" and see if you like it.

The player base in Kyneton comes from far and wide including players from Romsey, Woodend, Macedon, Gisborne, Malmsbury, Tylden etc. It also includes experienced players, new players and juniors with a mix of both male and female players. Players are allocated into teams based on ability and the matches are arranged against players of a similar standard. Some players car pool on competition night which helps keep their costs down and also gives them someone to chat to on the drive to Kyneton.

Anyone who is interested in a hit should feel free to call Club President Bill Hutcheson on 0488 348 898 and he will arrange to meet you at the courts and provide someone to give you a hit up. Who knows, you could be our next squash Club Champion.

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