

THE NEW WOODEND STAR



Circulation of 3150 throughout
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North Woodend, Hanging Rock, Carlsruhe, Cobaw.

AN INITIATIVE OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WOODEND

February 2009

A Monthly Community Periodical

First Publication 1997

Volume Thirteen No. 1

Woodend Township Saved

Several weeks ago I wrote my monthly article for the Woodend Star (you'll see it later in this edition) focusing on the dangers the actual township of Woodend faces in a bushfire. It is somewhat ironic that a few days later that nearly became a reality.

On Thursday January 22, it was a total fire ban so the Woodend CFA had emergency volunteers on stand-by at the station. Around 2pm we were called out to a grass fire near Chambers Road, which was attended by Woodend Car and two tankers. The fire burnt around one acre and was quickly contained. Woodend Car and Tanker 1 returned to station, while Woodend Tanker 2 remained on scene to monitor the situation.

A short time later all hell broke loose. We were paged to a new fire in the vicinity of Harpers Road. Woodend Car and T1 immediately turned out, while T2 went direct to the fire from the above location.

On route Woodend Car (Captain Mick Christie, George Keyes and Andrew Price) saw the extent of the smoke and immediately called to 'Make Tankers 5', which means that he wanted five tankers to turn out (three in addition to the two from Woodend). As Captain Christie got closer and saw the extent of the fire in the horrible windy conditions this was quickly upgraded to 'Make Tankers 10' and then 'Make Tankers 20'.

To get a better view they drove through paddocks off Harpers Road towards the fire front which was down in the valley along the Campaspe River. Just as they reached the hill overlooking the valley, the fire front roared up in front of them with a flame wall over 3 metres high.

The car quickly returned in the direction of Harpers Road just as Woodend Tanker 1 (Steve Emmins, Rhys Lade, Richard Price, Geoff Wells, Rhys Hartney) and Tanker 2 (Keith Beman, Mike Dornau, Steve Rumble, Mick Bobic, Stewart McKinnon, Amber Smeenk) arrived on scene along with Tankers from Tylden, Newham, Macedon and Heskett-Kerrie.

We drove into the paddock splitting the trucks to both sides of the fire front to flank the fire before it reached Harpers Road. Unfortunately the wind was gusting so strongly, that twice the flames turned and literally washed over our trucks. We turned away to re-form for another attack.

The flames headed quickly towards Harpers Road and actually crossed the road, heading towards the Woodend Township. Fortunately more tankers had arrived by this stage, and we were able to pull up the fire some 100 metres before the railway line ... the town wasn't far away. If you drive down Harpers Road now, you can see a large green oat field that fortunately stopped the spread of the fire and narrowed the fire front to a much smaller spread that was much easier to hit and contain.

At the height of the fire there were nearly 60 CFA trucks battling the fire (that's over 300 people including Incident Control personnel) along with a large fleet of DSE vehicles and staff, three water-dropping helicopters, a CFA observing chopper and other aircraft.



Elsie, an Erickson Air-Crane visited Woodend to help with the fire response

Crews worked right through the night to contain and extinguish the fire at the Harpers Road front and in the valley along the Campaspe River.

The following morning we were able to survey the extent of the scene which had burnt nearly 200 hectares of grass, scrub and gum forest. Four strike teams and DSE crews worked solidly all day Friday and Friday night to continue to extinguish the fire.

On Saturday two crews from Woodend, along with crews from Heskett-Kerrie, Gisborne and Bullengarook continued the blacking out process.

With 40 degree temperatures predicted for the week of Australia Day, two Woodend crews and Woodend Car, directed by Group Officer Brad Jepsen spent Australia Day morning back on the fire ground. We had also called in a Firebird helicopter, through Regional Officer Rohan Luke, with heat sensing technology (some of you may have seen it hovering around the fire area on that Monday morning) and this amazing machine was able to detect a further dozen hot spots that we were unable to detect from the ground. The crews remained on ground to continue blacking out.

As I write this article, we sit well-prepared and with fingers crossed for the week ahead. See page 3 for community meeting details.



Australia Day in Woodend ... see page 3 and page 30 for details

Facing a hot dry summer on the land

Over the past few years with the worsening drought situation, there have been many attempts to support our farming communities throughout Victoria. During the last 2 years the Macedon Ranges Group of the Christian Business Men Australia (CBMA), have been active in this area, with the help of the local community. This small group of men have been collecting and distributing hay to needy farmers. Following the disastrous fires in the Grampians two years ago, they were able to gather, transport and distribute over 60 tonnes of hay into the area. The CBMA was able to co-ordinate some weekends when people from Macedon Ranges and from Melbourne were able to go to the Grampians and take on fencing and other work to help farmers recover from the effects of the bushfires. Convenor Bob Evans said, "We are grateful to all those who have donated hay, who helped with transport and who contributed the money to allow the purchase of more hay. It needs to be understood that the Group cannot meet every need, which is impossible, but by meeting some immediate concerns, it is hoped that that this will provide some measure of hope for those at risk in this time."

Hay has been delivered in areas of need from Wycheproof to Rockbank as well as the Grampians. The drought is still affecting farming communities, and the CBMA is hoping to maintain a stock of hay to meet the needs as they arise in the future. Contact Bob Evans on 5427 0784, if you can assist with donations of hay or other ways to meet the ongoing situation.

The New Woodend Star

An initiative of the Rotary Club of Woodend Inc.
The Bank, 75 High Street, Woodend, Vic. 3442
ABN 32 685 225 161 No. A0021518E

Layout & printing by Woodend Copy Centre

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.

Work to irene@woodendcopycentre.com.au

This newsletter is supported by



ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE:

Unless specific dates are given for inclusion - all advertisements will be placed and charged for until notified otherwise IN WRITING.

Woodend Rainfall Report 2008

Each month we add the rainfall details and the year to date total. Our rainfall report shows 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 comparisons. Please note that your own rainfall readings may not exactly match these. These readings are the official BOM readings and have been taken in the same location in Woodend for many decades. All measurements are in millimetres.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
January	21.2	47.4	49.8	83.5	17.1	Jan
February	6.2	72.2	53.1	27.4	22.1	Feb
March	19.0	5.8	20.6	35.7	25.4	Mar
April	41.2	18.8	46.4	20.2	20.4	April
May	39.3	13.6	58.8	95.7	43.7	May
June	98.0	116.7	36.0	105.1	88.7	June
July	93.8	76.9	91.6	83.3	112.5	July
August	76.1	125.0	30.8	34.8	52.2	August
Sept	31.7	55.2	50.6	49.8		Sept
Oct	38.9	49.8	5.2	12.1		Oct
Nov	111.0	72.4	13.0	91.0	67.2	Nov
Dec	144.2	40.0	31.0	101.2		Dec
YTD:	720.6	693.8	486.9	739.8		YTD

**Reminder: We are now on Stage 3A water restrictions.
Incomplete figures for 2008**

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

Advertising Rates for 2009

New advertising rates per month from 1/1/09

All rates include GST & are priced per month.

Business card (55mm x 90mm)	\$41 inc GST
Trade Page	\$27 inc GST
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Full page (190mm x 277mm).....	\$280 inc GST
Insert (of your printed brochure).....	\$180 inc GST

Advertisers: Please note - it is in your interest to book and pay for a year in advance, as a 10% discount applies to any full year pre-paid booking.

This now includes to Trade Page & Eating Out sections.

Any existing pre-paid ads will revert to the new rate on completion of the pre-paid period.

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

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.

Australia Day in Woodend

Australia Day celebrations in Woodend included a morning tea hosted by the Rotary Club and Heritage Society of Woodend. A large crowd was on hand to enjoy great weather and festivities which including the Heritage Society unveiling new plaques along the heritage walk. The Rotary Club also presented local business people with Certificates of Appreciation for ongoing support of the club. The Rotary Club of Woodend also made a very special presentation to Mr Ivor Johnson for his extensive contribution to the Rotary club and community of Woodend. Ivor was a founding member of the Rotary club 22 years ago, a past president and continues to assist with the production of the New Woodend Star community newspaper. Ivor was presented with his award by Rotary President Gordon Whyte.



A star returns: guitar recital

The Woodend Winter Arts Festival committee is delighted to have international award-winner Aleksandr Tsiboulski return to Woodend next month to perform at the launch of the Festival program.



Aleksandr has previously performed in Woodend, giving concerts at both the 2005 and 2006 festivals, where audiences experienced his flawless and passionate performances.

Since his last visit to Woodend, Aleksandr has gone on to win First Prize in numerous international competitions, including the 2006 Tokyo International Guitar Competition and the 2007 Southwest Guitar Competition (San Antonio, Texas).

He will present a program of music by John Dowland, Joan Tower, Isaac Albeniz, Manuel Ponce and Leo Brouwer.

The concert will be held on Friday 27th March at 8.00 pm, at St Ambrose Church, Woodend. Tickets \$15 / \$10 at the door.

For info visit www.woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au. Don't forget to check the website in coming months for important reminders about tickets and accommodation.

Woodend Visitor Information Centre

High Street Woodend

Ph 1800 244 711

Community Fire Safety Meeting

WOODEND CFA STATION

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8 AT 11AM

We have naturally had a lot of enquiries following this recent fire, as we are all snapped back to the reality of the dangers that are right on our doorstep. So the Woodend CFA has arranged for a special Community Information Meeting at the Woodend CFA station on Sunday February 8 in Urquhart Street starting at 11am.

The session will include a debrief on the Harpers Road Fire and a special CFA presentation on Fire Safety Preparation and protection. Woodend CFA officers and members will also be present to answer any questions. All are welcome.

Submitted by 1st Lieutenant Mike Dornau

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Lancefield—Macedon Ranges Relay for Life – February 28

Friends, families and workmates are gearing up for the 7th Lancefield-Macedon Ranges Relay For Life on the weekend of February 28–March 1. They are joining participants across the world who are this year being encouraged to “Celebrate, Remember and Fight Back”.



The overnight event brings teams together to raise funds for The Cancer Council of Victoria to direct towards cancer research, education, advocacy and support services. It is also an occasion to remember those who lost their battles with cancer and others trying to beat the disease. Just as importantly, it is a weekend to celebrate the survivors and acknowledge their carers as well as others supporting people undergoing cancer treatment.

And it is not too late to register for the regional Relay, which will again be held at Lancefield Park.

Around 40 teams are expected at Lancefield and will add to the regional event's fundraising effort of more than \$500,000 since the Relay started locally in 2003.

It costs \$15 per person to register (including 2009 official Relay shirt) and people of all ages and abilities are welcome. The Relay is not a race but teams are challenged to keep their relay batons moving around the oval from Saturday afternoon until Sunday morning.

Those who have attended past Relays recall having a memorable, moving and rewarding experience. Highlights of the weekend include a Survivors & Carers lap, candle ceremony and the release of white balloons to commemorate loved ones who have died from cancer and others trying to beat the disease.

Many participants camp overnight and live entertainment, catering and other free services including massage are provided.

Teams and individuals can register for the Relay and find out more details online at www.relayforlife.org.au by following the prompts to Lancefield. Alternatively, contact Melissa McCarthy on 0438 831 427 or tmac31@bigpond.net.au. Registrations are preferable as soon as possible but will be accepted at Lancefield Park prior to the event's start. A Team Captains Information Night will be held on Tuesday, February 3 for all new and existing participants. ***If you would like to support Relay For Life but are unable to participate at Lancefield Park look out for fundraisers being held by local teams.***

Sunday, February 8: Cliff Young Shufflers/Musos Old Time Dance at Lancefield Mechanics Hall, 1-5pm. \$10 includes afternoon tea and live band Bits & Pieces.

Sunday, February 15: Woodend Bears Fun Family Car Rally. \$25 per vehicle. Contact Nadine on 5427 1571 or 0439 399 838.



Magnetic Websites

Martin Beaumont

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MOBILE 0414 274 988

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Farewell Gladys Drew who passed away on 22nd December, 2008. Gladys was one of our most popular helpers, who had a cheery greeting for all customers, people on bus tours or local friends. Gladys loved our op shop, we were truly blessed to have her friendship and Gladys will be sadly missed.

Jean Lucas, Secretary

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Policeman at the heart of the community

Popular policeman and community activist Roger Barr is the 2009 Macedon Ranges Citizen of the Year.

Roger was a founding committee member of the Lancefield-Macedon Ranges Relay For Life and, until this year, was an instrumental organiser of the annual event, which has raised more than \$500,000 for cancer research, education, advocacy and support in six years.

A humble recipient of this year's award, he has worked on numerous committees over the past 14 years, particularly those striving to improve the lives of youths in the Lancefield area.

"I have found working with our young people particularly rewarding. Whether it be with the Junior Football Club, the Tennis Club, building a BMX track, fighting to get a skate park, or helping to run the Drop In Centre, it has all given me a great appreciation of our youth," said Roger, who was overseas with his wife Karen and two children when the Citizen of the Year was announced at the shire's Australia Day breakfast at Mount Macedon.

He said he was honored to receive the award and accepted it "on behalf of all the people" with whom he has worked on community projects.

Chair manager of the Lancefield-Macedon Ranges Relay For Life, Ken Wiltshire, applauded the shire's decision to recognise Roger's enormous contribution to the Lancefield community in particular.

By Nadine Hartnett, freelance writer
Publicity Officer for the Lancefield-Macedon Ranges Relay For Life.

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All donations to reach Tony's Practice by Monday 9th Feb. Please deliver to 12 Anslow Street, Woodend. Phone queries welcome: 5427 4344.

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Woodend RSL news

Being on the Woodend RSL Committee at present is like a Bridegroom waiting at the Church for the arrival of the Bride! Our Hall has a new ceiling, lighting, fans and all the walls and woodwork repainted. The toilets have been upgraded and the repainting of the exterior is well underway, as is new storm water drainage. All that remains is to complete the roof reconstruction. We are very confident this will occur in the near future.

Several people have asked whether on reopening the bar will have kegs on tap, the answer is Yes and No – makes me sound like a politician! The cool room has been serviced and kegs will be on tap hopefully before ANZAC Day; but at first due to financial constraints we will have bottled beer, wines, spirits and soft drinks on sale.

Mentioning ANZAC Day – for our morning Commemoration Service, a sub-committee has been formed, led by myself, to hold the Service at the Woodend RSL. President Reg Till will be our representative on the Mount Macedon Dawn Service Committee. The first 2009 meeting is on the 5th Feb at the Woodend Neighbourhood House at 3pm. This meeting was called by the 2008 Chair Dr Frank Donovan.

Our committee is submitting an application to the Department of Veteran Affairs to give the kitchen a makeover and provide tea making facilities in the main hall. Keep your fingers crossed as this is an important part of the club restoration.

The 2009 Annual General Meeting will be held at the hall on 11th March at 7.30pm, please make a special effort to attend.

The club will be open in the meeting room on Mondays and Fridays from 9.00am to 12.00md, pop in for a chat and a tea or coffee, welfare discussions and memberships.

Eric Read, Treasurer

WOODEND Proud to be Pokie-free

Woodend Red Cross

The next meeting of the Woodend Red Cross will be held at the SES in Urquhart Street at 1.30pm on 5th Feb 09.

We appeal to as many members as possible to attend, as we have to discuss fundraising activities and ideas for the activities will be welcome. We are always looking for new members to help us, any enquiries to Norma Proctor 5427 1260 or Jan Sheppard 5427 4293.

Submitted by J & P W Podrazil

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Do you live outside the *New Woodend Star* distribution area? be sure to receive your copy every month by subscribing. A yearly subscription of 11 issues is just \$27.50. Post to *New Woodend Star, C/- The Bank, 75 High Street, Woodend 3442.*

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All advertising and articles to be submitted by the 15th of each month

The Home Produce Exchange (Woodend District)

The Home Produce Exchange is a gathering of local home gardeners, (supported by the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group) who want to share, learn and encourage growing food at home.

The kinds of things we exchange include:-

- Surplus home-grown herbs, fruit, vegetables
- Seedlings and propagated cuttings
- Seeds you have saved
- Recipes, advice and services
- Compost and compost worms
- Manure and mulch
- Chooks and eggs
- Unwanted garden tools and hardware

We meet regularly to swap our garden produce and to share tips about growing food. We hope to nurture a love of home-grown food while encouraging people to eat local produce in the right season. We aim to minimize the environmental impact of consuming food from outside our local area which in turn will reduce the use of fossil fuels, greenhouse gases and pollution. Growing your own food also means that your food can be pesticide free and organic!

When? First Saturday of every month except June, July, August. Setup time is from 10 to 10.30 and exchange produce time from 10.30 to 11.30, at the Woodend Community Permaculture Garden. Enter via side gate of the Neighborhood House, 47 Forest Street, Woodend. Contact Kristina Nelson (krisnelson@aapt.net.au or 0448 355 535)

Submitted by Kristina Nelson

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Motor Club's Annual Picnic at Hanging Rock

The Macedon Ranges and District Motor Club will be staging its 22nd Annual Picnic at Hanging Rock on Sunday 8th February 2009.

The event is primarily for the showing of Vintage, Veteran, Classic and 'special interest' vehicles along with Roadsters and Motorcycles.

The 21st Annual Picnic in February 2008 attracted more than 2500 entrants as well as more than 10,000 people.

The Picnic includes a number of free displays and attractions suitable for all ages, including miniature steam train rides, Rocker Cover Races, games for children, an animal farm as well as a range of presentations from our sponsors. The major sponsor for the 2009 event is LSV (Lumley Special Vehicles).

The event takes place at the world famous Hanging Rock Reserve near Woodend, approximately 50 minutes north of Melbourne. Apart from the excellent display of vehicles, visitors are able to climb the 'Rock', as well as enjoy a family picnic and great day out.

This year one of the club member's cars – a 1936 Ford Roadster – has been selected as the Event Presentation Vehicle and will be on display near the main stage.

Display vehicle entry remains at \$20 per vehicle and \$5 for motorcycles with North and South gates opening at 7:30am. General parking is via the East gate commencing at 8am - entry is \$20 for cars and \$5 a head for pedestrians and buses. All entry fees are payable at the gates. Traffic Wardens, representatives of Victoria Police and road signs are in place to assist with directions.

For more information please contact the Club's Hanging Rock Coordinator on 0419 393 023 or email graham.williams00@gmail.com. The latest information and updates are available at the club's website <http://www.mradmc.com>.

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Shelter Boxes deployed in PNG

Just before Christmas, Woodend-based paramedic & local Rotarian, Eb Friedrich, was asked on behalf of the Global Rotary Disaster Response Charity, *Shelter Box*, to deploy to the Papua New Guinea province of New Ireland to assess the damage from a major tidal surge.

On the 8th December, severe sea swells hit a number of Pacific island countries including PNG, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Kiribati and the Federated States of Micronesia. The tidal surge was the result of the confluence of large storm swells, high rainfall, a period of naturally occurring king tides and the moon's perigee on the 13th December (closest orbital position to earth).

In PNG, at its peak, the tidal surge saw 75,000 people affected with most temporarily displaced from their homes. The worst affected areas were the Sepik region of mainland PNG including Wewak, and New Ireland where some 7000 people were estimated to be displaced. A total of 2000 homes were reported damaged or destroyed. Some 118 people were evacuated from Tench Island to Emirau Island in the New Ireland province – 2/3 of their island being underwater.

Eb was selected last year as one of 3 Australians to join an international group of 14 to undergo a challenging training course in the UK to become a Shelter Box Disaster Response Team Member (SRT). The UK based Rotary charity organisation uniquely provides "shelter in a box", a large box which contains all the necessities for survival immediately following a disaster. A purpose built tent designed to house up to 10 people, stoves, cooking utensils, special blankets & ground sheets, tools and water purification systems – everything needed to survive except food. In a disaster, shelter & clean water are the first survival requirements. (The Woodend Rotary club through the generous support of the Woodend community aims to purchase at least 1 shelter Box, at a cost of \$1200, each year).

SRT members undergo extensive & amazing disaster management training involving the military & civilian agencies, and include dealing with bureaucracy, customs, logistics, corruption, cultural diversity, and inherent dangers. An SRT has to be completely self sufficient & resourceful in the immediate aftermath of a disaster situation and must be ready to be deployed often with as little as 24 hours notice. This requires an understanding employer. No other aid agency offers what Shelter Box offers.

Since his training, Eb has been asked to deploy to floods in Nepal & earthquakes in Pakistan, but was unable to go due to work commitments. Fortunately when the call came to go to PNG, Eb had 5 days off and the Ambulance Service very kindly allowed an extra 5 shifts off.

Eb was initially asked to deploy on his own because of his familiarity with PNG, with 3 other SRTs on standby if required. However given this was his first deployment and tasked to assess

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an area of thousands of square kilometres in a very remote region, the question arises of "where do you start".

The weather was very hot and humid with frequent tropical downpours. A cold shower made little difference in the humidity. On my arrival, I was fortunate enough to view the unloading of AusAid supplies from a RAAF C130 Hercules.

Many of the islands are only just above water in normal circumstances. Tench Island – the worst affected, is just 1 metre above sea level and 40 nm from the nearest larger island of Emirau to which these islanders were evacuated.

It was not just the homes destroyed or damaged, as the sea water contaminated fresh water wells and destroyed vegetable gardens. Inland pooling of water also created ideal mosquito breeding areas. This meant relocation entailed possibly several months duration before they could return to rebuild.

Eb Friedrich is a MICA Paramedic based at Woodend branch and International director of the Woodend Rotary Club. Eb has a strong interest in international aid & disaster response and remote area medicine. Eb is a frequent traveller to PNG and is organising another 3 ½ week Kokoda track walk in July/August 2010 including visits to Tufi region of Oro province & the famous Mt Hagen show. Spots are currently available. Contact 0438 537 139.

Submitted by Woodend Rotary

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Council showerhead exchange

Western Water has set up local exchange points for residents to access free, new, water-efficient showerheads from their closest council service centre.

Western Water Managing Director John Wilkinson said Macedon Ranges customers in the Western Water region would now be able to pick up their new units and drop off the old ones locally, rather than coming to Sunbury to make their water-smart exchanges.

“New exchange points have been set up at Gisborne, Romsey and Woodend service centres of Macedon Ranges Council,” he said.

“And Sunbury will remain an exchange point for many people living in and around this town.”

He said residents wanting to take up the summer '09 offer to exchange old models for a new water-smart showerhead needed to first contact Western Water to register for a new

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unit. Western Water customers will then be given special authorisation to swap over old showerheads at the council service centre of their choice.

“A water-smart showerhead can save at least five litres of good water every minute, compared to older style models,” Mr Wilkinson said.

“This saves at least 20 litres of water per four-minute shower and is one of the first places in the home where significant water savings can be made.”

“It is vital that the whole community gets behind summer water savings. December was deceptively mild but the New Year started our hottest, driest and most dangerous season of the year.

“Over the next few months, everyone needs to be on high alert against water waste around their homes and gardens.

“This one simple measure, combined with cutting back on the amount of time we spend under the shower, can save about 10 per cent of the water used around homes,” Mr Wilkinson said.

Showerhead exchange points are now open at:

Western Water: 36 Macedon Street, Sunbury. 8.30am – 4.30pm, Monday – Friday.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council:

- Gisborne Administration Centre, 40 Robertson Street, Gisborne. 9.30am – 5pm, Monday – Friday.
- Romsey Service Centre, 96-100 Main Street, Romsey. 9.30am – 5pm, Monday – Friday.
- Woodend Service Centre, Cnr High & Forest Streets, Woodend. 9.30am – 5pm, Monday – Friday.

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Macedon Ranges to benefit from \$7.3 million tourism spend

Tourism operators in the towns and villages of Macedon Ranges shire are set to become big winners over the next three years, following an announcement by the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, Tim Holding, of a major marketing campaign to lure more big spending interstate visitors to regional Victoria.

Under the strategy, more than \$16 million will be spent marketing every region in Victoria including a \$7.3 million advertising campaign highlighting spa and wellness experiences in Daylesford and its surrounding villages.

A further aspect of the Campaign is to develop an awareness of Victoria's Villages as a unique Tourism experience. A number of Villages in the Daylesford Macedon Ranges region will be featured to demonstrate the character, style and tourist potential of regional Victoria.

"Tourism is one of the most important industries for towns and cities right across Victoria, helping to boost local economies and creating thousands of jobs in local areas," Mr Holding said.

"Our research indicates that there is an opportunity for Victoria to capitalise on the increased demand from



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baby boomers for day spas, boutique accommodation and outstanding food and wine experiences," he went on to say.

"Daylesford is the perfect vehicle through which to promote the diverse experiences we have in regional Victoria and attract more visitors from around Australia."

Speaking after the launch, Graham Jasper, Acting Chairman of the Daylesford Macedon Ranges Campaign Committee (the body working with Tourism Victoria to market tourism in this region), welcomed the vote of confidence shown in the region to Hero the next phase of the Jigsaw campaign.

"We are confident in the quality of the product in this region and look forward to working with our tourism operators and Tourism Victoria to strengthen the attractiveness of Victoria to the local, interstate and international visitors through a focus on our Region," he said.

He pointed out that while Daylesford will be the "hero" town in the marketing campaign, all other tourism-oriented towns in the region will benefit – after all, they are all "just a stone's throw away" and tourists are sure to take advantage of the proximity of all our villages to visit, shop, stay and eat.

The campaign will commence in July 2009 and run for 3 years.

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Give us your dates for 2009!

Community groups are reminded to plan your dates in advance and give us the details to include in our calendar each month. It makes sense so that the different community groups can ensure that their events don't clash with others!

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Templeton's has great spaces. Once you go through the front door, you could be forgiven for thinking that you've walked into a different building. The interior belies the modest exterior and has a range of great spaces ... whether an intimate table for two, a booth for six or a room for thirty-plus people.

The restaurant aims to be family-friendly with well-priced meals and children's menus. The many spaces make it ideal for a family gathering with the kids.

Harry and Monica have chosen a menu to make use of great flavours, with choices to tempt everyone's palate. Plenty of options for sizes, tastes and special needs too.

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News from Newham

Happy New Year to everyone and especially to the folk at Newham who have worked so hard to raise our \$30,000 to match funding. We have achieved that aim and then some, which is in no small way due to Jenny Waugh, Fran Spain and the Garden Club ladies – they raised \$6,500 on the sale of plants and cups of tea in November, what a mighty, mighty effort and the Newham Hall says thankyou to all of them.

We have been granted our Planning permit from Council and the Building permit is in the process of going to Council as we speak. By the time of publication tenders will have been called for and by the end of February we hope it will be “full steam ahead” which leads us to inform everyone that the Newham Hall is not available for hiring until completion of Works, which at this point would be about October or at least that is what the plan is!

So, with a bit of luck and a fair wind behind us our 2 years of work and preparation will stand us in good stead. We wish the Building Control Group of Nick Massie [for MRSC] Ian Miller, Roger Rugless and Sally Staback [for the Hall] good luck.

To all those people who are too numerous to name here but will all get an invite to the big opening – thankyou! Not just our local friends, but the wider community for their support, the Shire and those Government Departments [Kim, Megan and Dave] who have made this all possible and helped us so much and to Joanne Duncan who has backed us all the way at Government level.

We also thank Geoff Neill, Sandra McGregor and Henry Bleek for their unending support in Council. Our ride, so far, has been very easy thanks to them and also to Steve Mahon at MRSC. We hope to see our old Councillors at the big opening party!

I hope everyone has a happy, healthy and succesful year.
by Sally Staback

Lachlan Fleming

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Woodend RSL womens auxiliary

As this is my first newsletter for 2009, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas.

Our Auxiliary have had our usual break for Christmas and the New Year but are all fired up for the year ahead. Hopefully we will again be back at our RSL very soon. We believe that the time for re-opening is getting closer.

The Auxiliary would like to thank most sincerely the Woodend Golf Club for their ongoing support in allowing us to use their premises for our dinners and especially for our annual Christmas Dinner and Giant Raffle. We cannot thank them enough. The results of the raffles are as follows

1st Prize Mrs Norma Richardson

2nd Prize The Howden Family

3rd Prize Mrs Wilson

Our thanks go to all our supporters, better luck next time!

We also wish to thank the Woodend Bowling Club who have accommodated our usual clientele and for their support.

Our thoughts go out to the “sickies”, particularly Barbara who had a very serious operation, Stella, Marie, Margaret W, Bridget and Lola. Hopefully you are all now on the mend and we will see you back with us soon.

Our Auxiliary are looking for new members. So if there are any ladies of any age out there who would like to join our happy group, please contact me on 5427 2225. You will be made most welcome. Our next meeting will be in February, all members will be advised of the time and date by letter. Anyone wishing to become a member, please contact me and I will notify you also.

We have a very busy year ahead and before we know it, it will be Anzac Day. This is when it's all hands on desk and new ones would be appreciated, new ideas are also welcome to help support our RSL.
Betty Barned Assistant Secretary

Joanne Duncan
STATE MEMBER FOR MACEDON **MP**

Friends,
At the heart of good governance is honesty & accountability, as well as an understanding of the issues confronting the whole of society. If you have any concerns you wish to raise, please do so.

Feel free to call me on:
5428 2138



Take care in school zones

Dear friends

I hope you have had a refreshing and relaxing holiday season with family and friends, and are looking forward to going back to work and school for another year.

With students returning to school and some children starting school for the first time, we all need to be mindful of driving safely near schools and sticking to the speed limit in school zones. Children are our most vulnerable road users and they can be unpredictable in traffic. The speed limit is reduced in school speed zones to ensure students are safe going to and from school.

For parents who have children starting school for the first time, you may be eligible to receive the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). This allowance provides financial assistance to low-income families to help with education costs. Applications for the EMA close on 27 February, and more information is available from your school.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family all the best for 2009.

Warm regards

Joanne Duncan MP

State Member for Macedon

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Woodend Art Group

With the holidays nearly over, the Woodend Art Group is gearing up for another term full of interesting classes and workshops. We continue our folio club for young budding artists aged between 7 and 14 years, an oil painting class, a general drawing class incorporating many media, portrait groups, plein air painting group and two life drawing groups. A further life drawing session is being organised to benefit year 11 & 12 Art students to assist their folios in Term two. The workshops will be on Portrait and Tissue Paper Collage. Thriving artists and novices are all welcome to come and join in the fun. Enquiries Amanda Candusio 5423 5144 or Pamela Simmons 5427 1659.



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Woodend Playgroup

The Woodend Playgroup is now taking enrolments for 2009. New members are always welcome, so if you have just moved to the area or become a new parent, playgroup is a great place to meet other parents to share your stories with. Term Fees are \$30 per family and the yearly 2009 Playgroup Victoria Membership of \$25 per family which offers a number of great resources and discounts (concessions also available).

The Woodend Playgroup operates Monday to Friday and offers 3 sessions each day 9am to 11am, 11am to 1pm, 1pm to 3pm. Each session has children of similar ages in them, for enrolments call 5427 2583.

A huge Thank you to the following local businesses who donated items to our Christmas Raffle: Collier Office & Business Assist, Blue Orange Concepts, Ian Marks, Glenn's Country Meats, Warner Jewellers, Kerri's Bundle of Bears, Zappa-do, Sweet Ideas, Schatzi's, Chicken Shop, E'clips Hairdressers, Top Shop, Excessories, Carasmatic, Holgates Brewery, Goldfields Trains Maldon.

The raffle winners were: 1st Prize: Heather Steele; 2nd Prize: A. Benny; 3rd Prize: June Gladman; 4th Prize: June Gladman; 5th Prize: Sharon Georges; 6th Prize: Jamie Williamson; 7th Prize: Tanya; 8th Prize: Jacqui Soto.

All the funds raised from our raffle will help fund the upgrade of our cubby house and toddler play area.

The AGM Meeting will be held on Monday 16th Feb at 8pm at Woodend Playgroup Forest St

Submitted by: Josie McLeish President

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

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THANK YOU

Stan Perkins & Kay Brabham would like to thank all the people who made their Art Show a great success.

We are happy to announce that over \$500.00 was raised in donations for the Woodend Childrens Park.

The winner of the Door Prize was Mrs. Sharon Bergman from Brighton.

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2009 Woodend Autumn Carnival

Hosted by St Ambrose School & Parish, Sat 28 March

This year's carnival will be held on Saturday 28 March at St Ambrose Parish School, Templeton St, Woodend. The carnival will once again be packed full of great attractions, amusements, and fabulous stalls but with the added excitement of Easter festivities.

There will be carnival rides for all ages with the return of an old favourite, Fantasy Island and the exciting addition of a new ride for teenagers, 'the Hurricane', as well a jumping castle, carousel and trackless train for the little ones.

Entertainment will include a wide range of local talent, with musicians, entertainers and the return of the exciting 'Woodend Idol', showcasing the best local young talent.

There will be a great array of stalls, among them the ever popular plants stall, trash & treasure, show bags and cakes stall.

The SES along with the Victorian Police will be in attendance and emergency vehicles and equipment will be available for viewing.

We will also be holding our annual pet show and once again be visited by those cute and cuddly animals from Edgar's mission.

To stave off those pangs of hunger, there will be a delicious range of food on offer including a mouth watering BBQ, freshly cooked Dutch pancakes, the ever popular fairy floss and our carnival café will be serving delicious homemade cakes, pies and devonshire teas.

There promises to be something for everyone at this years Easter themed carnival and to top it all off an Easter Egg Hunt will be held for the children. The carnival will be open from 9 am to 4 pm with rides commencing from 9.30 am and running till 3.30 pm. What better way to enjoy a Saturday in autumn than to come down to the Carnival and be part of a wonderful community event.

All queries regarding the Carnival should be directed to St Ambrose School on 5427 1285 or Anne-Louise Lindner on 5427 3056.

Submitted by Yvette Rowland, Publicity Coordinator, St Ambrose School Carnival Committee

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Vicki Cronin



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"Thirty five years YOGA service to the Ranges Community"

It's our 21st birthday and we are going to rock!

The Harvest Picnic is one of the longest running Food and Wine Festivals in Victoria. It is operated by the not-for-profit Harvest Picnic Foundation.

Join us on Sunday 22nd February to celebrate this momentous milestone.

Great Entertainment

Karen Martini celebrity chef, restaurateur and TV presenter will be joining us in the Cooking Demonstration marquee. Karen's food has a distinctly Mediterranean influence. Discover her passion for fresh herbs, fennel, coriander seeds, cumin, garlic, cheeses, olives, anchovies and virgin olive oil.

Paul Wilson, executive chef at the Botanical and the Half Moon and author of the acclaimed cookbook "The Botanical, Inside the Iconic Brasserie", will be showcasing his recipes with sustainable fish and seafood cookery.

Justin Wise from The Press Club will be demonstrating why he was the 2009 Young Chef (The Age Good Food Guide) in the Cooking Marquee.

Iconic rocker Darryl Braithwaite, one of the country's premier performers with a career spanning more than 30 years will spearhead the line up at The Rock this year.

Also joining us for the first time will be the African Drumming ensemble. Orchestrated specifically for families, this will be an interactive gig with drumming and dancing to the individual West African music and culture.

The Best of Victoria

We will be showcasing the best boutique food and wine that Victoria has to offer. Taste exotic barbecue flavours, magnificent regional wines, unusual cheeses, the finest preserves, full flavoured ice-cream and a great variety of delicious smallgoods. Sample delicious freshly caught calamari served in sauces from Bangerz. Try and resist the handcrafted chocolates from Colliers using the finest Swiss Couverture. Find gold with honey and gluten free beers - naturally preservative free from Goldfields Honey. Send your taste buds on a wild frenzy with Dukkah made from Australian bush herb and spice blends from Gourmet Morsels.

Free activities for children include an animal farm, and painting workshops.

Tickets to the 2008 The Age Harvest Picnic at Hanging Rock are now on sale! Call 1300 235 849 or visit our site at www.harvestpicnic.com.au to purchase.

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

Woodend Senior Citizens

There will be a general meeting on the 7th of February at 10:30 am, cards at 1:30pm. The first fun afternoon is at 1:30pm on 7th of February. Carpet bowls on Friday mornings at 10:30am along with cards in the afternoons at 1:30pm. Tuesday afternoons is Bingo. All seniors are welcome come and join in.

GREAT Grand Tour Launched

The 2009 GREAT Macedon Ranges Grand tour was launched last week in Gisborne. President of the organising committee for the 2009 event, Andrew Fletcher explained at the launch the interesting name. "The major sponsor of our event is the Gisborne Region Events Activities and Tourism Association, (GREAT) which is responsible for an extraordinary amount of good work in the Gisborne region". "The GREAT association runs the famous Gisborne Sunday Market, which is reputed to be the second largest in Victoria". "Apart from the surplus funds going to local community groups we aim to stimulate return visits to the region as well as retail and accommodation turnover. The prospect of dropping 300-400 people into the region on Saturday April 4 should account for some significant economic advantage," Fletcher stated, "anecdotally these

folks are spenders. On previous tours individual retailers have reported significant expenditure by participants".

The Grand Tour is an opportunity for lovers of old cars and good food and wine to combine both interests. One of the sponsors of the event Hanging Rock Winery reputedly won the leading sparkling wine producers in the area.

The event is open to the owners of cars and motorcycles 25 years or older to participate in a fully catered tour of the Macedon Ranges. The length of the tour is about 240 kilometres with two routes, one for older vehicles and the other for more modern classics.

The organisers expect in excess of 150 vehicles to participate in the 2009 grand tour. To run on the last day of daylight savings, Saturday April 4th, participants will be treated to the full range of experiences that the region has to offer; farmer's markets, wineries, cafes, beautiful gardens, spectacular countryside and smooth, traffic free roads.

The aim of the Grand Tour organisers is to make the event a pleasant drive in the country with the added benefits of the local knowledge and great company amongst a diverse collection of old cars. The entry fee includes a substantial Morning Tea, lunch and dinner. For those with more time there are a variety of accommodation packages including Dinner on the Friday night before the event, featuring a well known motoring identity as guest speaker.

More information is available on the web www.macedonrangesgrandtour.com.au, email macedon.grandtour@gmail.com, or phone 03 5428 5197. The organisers are also planning a "show and shine" event for the following day Sunday 5 April which would be held in conjunction with and adjacent to The Olde Time Market Site in Gisborne.

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Kyneton District Health Service

Woodend Auxiliary News

Our Christmas raffle was very well supported, and raised just on \$1000. Thanks to all who bought tickets.

The first prize went to "Deb" of Kyneton, who was very pleased with the beautiful Russell Hobbs kitchen appliances. Second was the "Constable T Bear" doll and "Stewart" of Woodend was only too happy to give it to - no, not a grandchild, but his daughter who is a member of the police force!

It was rewarding for us as we sold tickets to hear so many appreciative comments about our local hospital.

For members of the Auxiliary, the first meeting is on Thursday February 12th, at St Ambrose supper room, at 1.30 pm. We need to map out our fundraising program for the year, so come prepared with lots of ideas, people! New members would be welcomed with open arms, to join in a worthwhile cause and to have fun and companionship while you're doing it.

Please phone Jo on 5427 1909.

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Farewell to Fr Tony White

Fr Tony White and his wife Robyn Gunther have accepted a position at St Paul's Anglican Church in Kyneton. Fortunately for the Woodend community, Fr Tony formerly of St Mary's parish isn't going too far! Still in the process of moving to the Kyneton parish, we will miss seeing Tony and Robyn going for their morning walks with Mungo, but I am sure that we will see them in Woodend from time to time.

Tony and Robyn have contributed a great deal to the local community and the local ecumenical efforts of the Christian churches of Woodend and surrounds. I have enjoyed being on the Churches 'R' Us committee, and value their friendship.

We will miss Tony popping in weekly to collect his printing, his stories and banter!



All the best from Irene, Jenn and everyone at Woodend Copy Centre.

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Sam Luxemburg is a local psychologist who has lived in the area for the past fifteen years. He has worked as a counsellor for twenty-five years, has practices in Woodend and Melbourne, and runs his own training college. He loves working with people and believes that “everyone can become a better communicator”.

Sam’s approach to counselling is person-centred: this is based on empathy (not sympathy), mutual respect, and how to relate authentically. Learning is developed through practise in a safe and supportive setting. We use “real” play rather than role-play.

For more information on Sam and his counselling and training work, visit www.luxcollege.com.au or call Sam on 0428 270 401. You can also hear Sam on Highlands FM (100.7 MHz) on Tuesday mornings at 9 am with “Psychology on Air”.

For course bookings, call the Woodend Neighbourhood Centre on 5427 1845. Cost is \$120, \$20 concession.

Submitted by Sam Luxemburg



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FOMRL to visit Dromkeen

Dromkeen, a graceful nineteenth-century homestead classified by the National Trust, and accredited through Museums Australia - Victoria, is situated in the small township of Riddells Creek. It is the home of the Dromkeen Children’s Literature Collection, a unique collection of original artwork, manuscripts and other pre-publication material from Australian children’s books.

FOMRL has organized a guided tour of the gallery rooms and a chance to picnic in the gardens on Tuesday 3 March 2009 from 11am. Please bring a picnic lunch, tea and coffee provided. Cost \$10 For bookings ring Val on 5427 2763. Let her know if you need a lift or can provide one.

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Upcoming Events & Meetings

February

- 5 Red Cross meeting 1.30 pm
- 7 Woodend Senior Citizens meeting
- 7 Home Produce Exchange 10 am
Neighbourhood House
- 8 Community Fire Safety meeting
11am Woodend CFA Station
- 8 Macedon Ranges & District
Car Club 22nd Annual Picnic at
Hanging Rock
- 12 Kyneton District Health, Woodend
Auxiliary meeting
- 14 Happy Valentine's Day
- 14 Film night: Picnic at Hanging Rock,
out at the HR reserve ph 5421
1468 or 1300 88 88 02
- 22 The Age Harvest Picnic at Hanging
Rock
- 28 Lancefield Relay for Life

March

- 1 Gisborne Festival & Car Show,
Dixon Field Gisborne
- 7 Home Produce Exchange 10 am
Neighbourhood House
- 7-9 Lions Club Art Show TBC
- 9 Labour Day Public Holiday
- 11 RSL AGM 7.30 pm
- 13 World's Longest Lunch at Hanging
Rock phone 5421 9638
- 27 WWAF Launch concert
Aleksandr Tsiboulski 8pm
St Ambrose Church \$15/\$10
- 28 St Ambrose Carnival

April

- 4 GREAT Grand Tour
- 5 Daylight Savings ends 3am
- 10 Good Friday
- 12 Easter Sunday
- 13 Easter Monday
- 25 ANZAC Day

June

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

October

- 4 Daylight Savings starts 2am
- 14 National Ride to Work Day www.
bv.com.au

COMMUNITY GROUPS CONTACT DETAILS

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

When did the baby grow up, and how did it slip away?

Does the transformation begin when the bottle or breast is replaced by a plastic spoon, and your fruit bowl fills with bananas for mashing?

Is it when you can leave the house for an afternoon without a nappy bag? They now just shout "MUMMY. TOILET" when you're half way to town.

Is it when those big eyes peer at you across the top of the table on which the nose is resting, because they have rejected the high chair and insist on sitting in a big chair like everybody else?

Is it when they no longer need to stand on a stool to clean their teeth? Or they demand to speak on the phone to daddy, grandma, the plumber and the Indian telemarketer?

Perhaps when the squealing "Hello Mummyyy" is replaced by a smiling "Hi Mum", and they stop clutching your leg while you're trying to cook.

Maybe it's when the outstretched arms no longer beg for you to cradle them because they're scared of the dog/moth/ant. Or they snuggle into your shoulder without covering you in mashed food. You dare wear white again!

The scamper becomes a run, the baby curls are in the photo album, and you lovingly run your fingers through their hair, not so much to put them to sleep like you always have, but now scouring for the rotten head lice.

Instead of drawing on the walls, bedspread, chairs, your about-to-be-lodged tax return or the carpet, they use the paper.

Sadly, I think it's when their greatest pride and joy is their new school uniform, bought a size too big so they can grow into it. They think it's the most beautiful thing they've ever seen.

You cry your eyes out – because not only is baby off to school, but you're now in the car twice a day doing the school run, and you've just lost your best excuse for a messy house and an afternoon sleep!

Good luck to all the Preppies this year...and their mothers.

Submitted by Kathy Mexted



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News from Dey Krahorn & Aziza School

and the work of Cambodian Kids Foundation

Just over a week ago Jack Cooper and his mum Donna sent an article to the *New Woodend Star* regarding the fight to save the township of Dey Krahorn and the Aziza School. The township was due to be demolished by developers for high-rise developments and luxury apartments. Jack was hopeful that the families and children would be able to save the school for about a year, or relocate it to a safe area. A couple of days later we received an email from Donna advising that not only had the village been demolished, but the survival of the school was unsure.

Here is an extract from Donna's email:

"I just want you all to know that we lost the fight. All the houses at Dey Krahorn were demolished this morning. We were in the countryside looking at a new school site when we were called back by frantic children. Many of our children lost their homes we have so many children homeless we don't know what to do. And as if that was not bad enough, we then had to fight for the safety of the school. They were just going to board it up. Not only is it school to 120 children it is also a home to 8 children. And it has many family's belongings in it.

About seven of us (foreigners) including Jack and many AZIZA children risked everything to save that school. We fought with every thing we had. They then got a huge fence and started to push us back and squash us into the wall. The whole thing was one of the most scariest situations I have ever been in. I wasn't scared for myself – the adrenalin was pumping and I believed in what I was fighting for. But Jack and those beautiful children were fighting right beside me and that was the scary part. You see this is not Australia and they don't care about stuff like LIVES.

We have friends in hospital, families sleeping on the roadside and families scattered in guest houses all over Phnom Penh.

The school is safe, but we are not sure for how long. And that's what its all about, showing those kids that we will fight for them, and we do love them.

This is an emergency situation and Cambodian Kids are funding as much as we can. But our money is limited and I ask everyone to send this to a friend and tell everyone. If everyone could just make a small donation it would make all the difference. It is costing us US\$9 a day for each room at the guest house and we have many homeless friends. Just \$10 dropped into Color Me Cooper will keep our friends safe for a while till we can sort something else out.


For more information call into Color Me Cooper or visit www.cambodiankids.com





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Woodend Neighbourhood Centre

We hope you have had an enjoyable summer break and look forward to an interesting 2009.

This year we have several new opportunities for you as well as many firm favourites. With this hot weather around are you confident what to do in a bush fire? If not come along to 2 sessions by CFA member Kate Lawrence and understand how you can be better prepared – 14 & 18 February.

The New Year is a time when we think about getting fitter, slimmer and more active so take a look at our many exercise classes including Tai Chi for seniors, Walking, Pilates, Cycling, Yoga and Belly Dance. We also have a Mother and Daughter Makeover which will be fun afternoon of skincare, makeup and more.

New this term is an evasive self defence class for adults. This will teach the skills of getting away from a potential or actual assailant with an emphasis on techniques that do not induce pain.

We have many educational classes being delivered by Bendigo TAFE. So if you want to learn Basic Coffee Preparation, Responsible Service of Alcohol or Food Hygiene there is a course for you here. We are also running Construction Induction – the minimum qualification for people wishing to work on a building site – it covers Occupational Health and Safety relating to worksites and ensures you are able to work safely.

First aid and CPR refreshers are available every term and we now have an integrated Anaphylaxis and Paediatric first aid course especially for parents, and those of you working with children.

Regular classes include both beginner and advanced computers, basic and advanced Word & Excel, Internet and Email, digital photography, counselling, wire jewellery making, mosaic, French conversation, creative writing and our popular quilting classes. We also have fused glass jewellery and acting for adults as well as children's drama. Don't miss the chance to learn how to make a wood-fired oven which is suitable for pizza's and so much more.

Full details of all these classes and more can be found on our web site www.wnci.websyte.com.au or call us on 5427 1845. If nothing here tempts you please call in to the Woodend Neighbourhood Centre at 47 Forest Street to tell us what you would like to try. New tutors and volunteers are always welcome. We hope to see you soon.

Sarah Campbell
Coordinator



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Thank you from St. Mary's Parish

St Mary's Parish held a successful Christmas Fete in December. Winners of raffle tickets: 1st prize: C Hogan of Woodend; 2nd prize: Emily Atkins and 3rd prize Betty Saville of Woodend.

Thanks to Woodend Primary School and St Ambrose Primary School who donated paper for colouring comp.

Thanks to The SES & Woodend scouts for loan of tents; Les McGowan for loan of his truck, Shane Bartley and Connally's Real Estate for signs and many local businesses that sponsored the Fete with goodies to auction.

Regular business card advertisements (90mm x 55mm) are \$41 inc GST per month - book & pay 11 months and get 10% off.

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Pollyphonics Choir

starts back on Feb 5th

Looking for new members, especially tenors!

Thursday's 7.30-9.30

Woodend Community Centre

Please contact Polly for details

www.woodendweb.org/pollyphonics

phone 5423 2848

Music Trivia extravaganza hosted by Pollyphonics Choir

I've lived in the Ranges for around 20 years. Just when you're starting to think you know a place, along comes a phenomenon to 'rattle your tree' so to speak. I'm not referring to a change of council, or a new swimming pool or an unusual rain event, I'm talking about the Pollyphonics, a 40 odd strong mixed choir started in May by charismatic choir leader Polly Christie. Polly has been running a string of wonderful choirs in Melbourne for many years so when she moved to Malmsbury with her partner, Harpist and Luthier Andy Rigby, Polly sourced a rehearsal space (the council rooms in Woodend) put out a few flyers and was mobbed by an intrepid bunch of locals needing a good sing. No one was disappointed. Polly is a masterful choir leader. A hard task master, but you know when you are in the hands of someone who has no doubt you'll get the hang of singing four part harmonies and complex rhythms and pushes quietly just to the point. Even the blokes turned up, lots of them!

The other thing that was very obvious about Polly is that she was very pregnant. All us old hand parents who've seen our lives turned completely topsy-turvy feared the new arrival, 'Sylvie' just might bring an abrupt end to our weekly singing fix. Not so! After a short break we were back into it. (Sylvie will be

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Booklet – Weeds of Central Victoria

A new edition of the booklet Your Guide to the Weeds of Central Victoria has been developed in partnership with the Mt Alexander and Mitchell Shires. The booklet has been printed as part of the 'Tackling Weeds on Private Land' program which was funded by Council and the Department of Primary Industry.

For a copy of the booklet please visit your local Macedon Ranges Shire Council Customer Service Centre or contact Lachlan Milne directly on 5421 9659.

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gurgling in four-part harmony before she talks.) So when Polly turned up with the idea of a public performance followed by a music trivia evening, 240 locals crowded into St Ambrose Hall brought picnic hampers and settled in for some serious fun. The event was held as a fundraiser for local needy families over Xmas and around \$4000 dollars were raised from the door take & raffles of goods generously donated by local business.

After sharing a meal we were treated to a fine performance from the Pollyphonics. All decked out in red and purple, they were the highlight of the night. This is a choir Woodend can be very proud of. The repertoire ranged from spirituals to modern popular works like Under the Milky Way, to a rousing African piece with complex rhythms and harmonies. The choir didn't miss a beat. They'll be giving veteran choirs a run for their money in no time.

The rest of the night was interesting? Just how do you manage a music trivia night with 240 people in St. Ambrose Hall? Comedienne Genevieve Messenger recruited a little team of spotters. Questions were asked, arms and bodies flailed, glasses chinked, whistles blew, laughter erupted and by some strange unfathomable alchemy winners emerged. But it was not about winning or loosing. This was about a wonderful community getting behind a great idea and surpassing wildest expectations.

Review by Richard Weis

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Have your say on the Strategic Direction of our Economy

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is developing its 10-year Economic Development Strategy and the first step in this process is to get feedback from the business community across the Shire.

A survey is being distributed to local business owners, asking them to provide Council with information about their businesses to assist with the development of new business strategies.

The information will allow Council to understand more precisely the make up of home-based businesses as opposed to those operating in business premises; to understand employment trends, training needs, infrastructure demand and also to understand the markets that provide the most opportunity for local job creation.

The survey will be distributed to local businesses and will also be available on Council's website. To download a copy, log-on to www.macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au and click on the 'For Your Comment' link on the noticeboard.

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Completed surveys should be returned by Friday, 6 February 2009, however late submissions will be accepted until Friday 13 February 2009.

Data provided will be held in the strictest confidence and will only be used for the purposes of developing a strategy to support the business community.

For further information or to request a copy of the survey contact Lyn Newberry on 5421 9616 or email l.newberry@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au



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Contact Kai 5427 1029



Woodend township in great danger

This is not meant to be a scare tactic, it is actually the truth. As you know, we live in one of the most dangerous fire prone regions in the world. However, it came to our attention in our recent series of Community Fire Safety meetings that many people believe that it is only people who live on larger properties who are in danger if there is a bush fire in the area.

They believed that because they live in the township of Woodend, they are not in danger. This is far from the truth. EVERY property in the Woodend and surrounding areas is in danger if there is a bushfire.

Embers are not selective

There are three major ways that property can be damaged or destroyed during a bushfire: ember attack, radiant heat and then direct flame contact. Ember attack occurs when burning leaves and bark are thrown up into the air and then blown by the wind ahead of the actual fire front. In the case of a major fire these embers can actually travel several kilometres ahead of the fire front, dropping to the ground with the potential to start new spot fires before the major fire actually arrives.

Of course, if you live in the township you have greater protection from the spread of the fire in terms of radiant heat and direct flame contact because of the natural barriers and a lower amount of surrounding fuel.

However, embers are still a significant danger. They are not just going to land on larger bush or farm blocks. If the fire is near a township these embers are going to land wherever they want.

They will land on your grass, they will land in your gutters, they will land on timber decking, they will land near leaves that gather in corners around your house, they can land near woodpiles.

So, if you live in the township you still need to undertake some basic protection measures.

- Clean up around your house
- Everyone needs a fire plan
- Are you staying or going?
- If you plan to go
- Don't leave too late

Fire Danger Period is now in force – even in the township

The official 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.

Once again, this isn't restricted to burning off on larger properties, it applies to everyone in the region – including the township. If you burn a small pile of leaves on your property or start a fire in an incinerator exactly the same restrictions apply, and the CFA and Police will be called.

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.


Visit the Woodend CFA website

The Woodend Fire Brigade has recently launched our new website: www.woodendcfa.org. The website contains a great deal of information that is relevant to our community, especially during the current Fire Danger Period.

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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Community grants announced

Local community groups will again benefit from this year's round of volunteer grants announced by member for McEwen Fran Bailey.

Fran said community organisations had been eligible to apply for up to \$5000 to purchase small equipment items and contribute to reimbursing fuel costs incurred by volunteers in carrying out their voluntary work.

"Our local volunteers make a positive and unselfish contribution to our communities by giving up their valuable time to help others," Fran said.

"Whether \$1000 or \$5000, many of our local groups continue to be assisted under the program that started in 2003."

Among local grant recipients this year are:

- Gisborne Little Athletics \$2205
- Gisborne Toy Library \$4880
- Lancefield Bowling Club Inc \$2900
- Lancefield Fire Brigade \$2020
- Lancefield Football Club \$1750
- Lancefield Junior Football Club \$2500
- Lancefield Tennis Club Inc \$2160
- Macedon Netball Club Inc \$4500
- Macedon Pony Club Inc \$1792
- Riddells Creek Landcare \$4380
- Romsey and District Fire Brigades Group \$3300
- Romsey and Lancefield Districts Historical Society \$3300
- Romsey Fire Brigade \$1850
- Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club Inc \$3730
- Woodend Sustainable Living Community Park Inc \$2795

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Renovation Rescue

In 2005 renovations started on a 19 century old farm house. From internal to external painting & roofing, stumping and damp coursing and of course new furniture, this house was to be lived in once again.

Now the house was coming to completion the resident mentioned she wanted the original chain mesh fence out the front of the property gone and replaced with pillars, steel panels and gates to replace the old tired fencing. Measurements and quotes were exchanged and the job was to be started.

Taking down the only small fence the house had ever known made the house look insecure and vulnerable. The fence was soon up and secured with a set of double gates with Italian scrolls.

The resident was beside herself when she arrived home from work to see the house she had lived in for years completed, and as she says "It just makes the house" and she was right. The house the yard had never looked better. Even when she is standing outside her house with no make-up on and a floppy sun hat people ask her who brought the old house. She replies "I did, again."

With the gates, fencing and new security doors now completed there are still times when we are made to stand out the front of the house and watch the gates open and shut and the new security doors open and shut.

The house is now complete.

Payment was finalised and I was gone in a flash.

It was my mother-in-law's, you see.

(Automated gates would be the go, but it's good exercise for her. Maybe next Christmas.)

Ben McKee, BVM Metalcraft

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Heritage Society News

For the eighth year in succession, the Heritage Society organized Australia Day celebrations for the district. Great support was provided by the Woodend Lions, the SES, the 1st Woodend Scouts, the folk group "Cameron's Ceilidh", our piper, Andrew Bell, the Kyneton Municipal Band, the Woodend Rotary Club and our own members.

In perfect weather conditions we gathered under the gum trees at our new venue – the Family Heritage Walk parkland area which runs between Earnshaw Street and the Creek. The flag pole that once stood outside the Newham and Woodend Shire Offices in High Street now stands among the gum trees in this lovely shaded area. Many thanks to those in the Shire who supported our request to create this new venue, especially Bernie Massman for arranging the relocation of the flagpole and Peter Jones and his staff who set up seats and rocks to create an idyllic setting for an outdoor gathering.

If you were unable to attend Australia Day, do walk down the Family Heritage Walk which commences at the back of the Court House, cross over Earnshaw Street and continue down the path to discover this beautiful area. We hope that other groups will also use it for other outdoor occasions. To see the five new plaques and trees which were dedicated after the Australia Day ceremonies, turn right when the path reaches the creek pathway.

We will be using the new flag pole area for our first Heritage Society meeting of the year which we will be held



on Tuesday evening 24th February. This will take place between 5 and 8 pm and will be a BYO picnic. Cars can be left in Earnshaw Street, (entry off Margery Crescent near the Skate board area). To add to the interest of this informal gathering, we ask those attending to bring some small item that has some interesting or unusual connection with the district and during the evening, to take a moment to tell us about it. We will record these accounts so the information can be added to the collection. Non-members are most welcome to join us, so why not pack up a picnic, bring a chair, and come along!

When Jane Holth began researching for information about local blacksmiths she had no idea just how many she would find! At the back of her book "Forging History – a history of blacksmiths in the Woodend and Newham area" seventy-one are listed as having once worked in the district and we suspect that there are probably even more which could be added to the list. Although we advertised for people who had knowledge of blacksmiths to pass on their information, we know from past experience that now that this small book has been published, even more information will come to light. Research of this nature tends to be never ending! The booklet sells for just \$10, is illustrated by Joycelyn Moreland, and is available from the Macedon Ranges Dry Cleaners in Anslow Street. It can also be collected from the Court House on a Wednesday when the Local & Family History Resource Centre is open, or posted to you if you send \$13 to PO Box 124, Woodend.




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Consumption blows out as summer's first hot spell puts water target in perspective

Melbourne's water industry has issued a dire warning to residents to cut back on their water usage as the first hot spell of summer sent consumption levels skyrocketing to 239 litres per person per day.

Western Water Managing Director John Wilkinson warned the region's householders of the inevitable consequences of not staying at or below the target 155 litres per person per day.

"It is an absolute imperative we keep our water use within the Stage 3a restrictions target otherwise reservoir levels will drop to the trigger-point where there will be no alternative except to bring in more stringent restrictions," Mr Wilkinson said.

"And this could well happen again soon — Melbourne's reservoirs, on which we are all dependent, are well below last year and we are just at the very start of another long, hot, dry summer. Householders use 85% of the water in Western Water's systems," he said.

"It gets back to the four-minute shower, which saves 60 litres of water compared to the average seven-minute shower. With a water-efficient showerhead, a further 11 litres per minute can be saved.

"And when you consider that watering the garden with a hand-held hose can use up to 600 litres in just half an hour, this will blow out one day's consumption target for a small household, without even counting shower, toilet and kitchen water use," Mr Wilkinson said.

"This week has given us a very disturbing insight into our capacity to stay on target when the going gets tough."

Mr Wilkinson said Western Water wrote to all its non-residential customers this week urging greater involvement by the commercial/industrial sector in the metropolitan-wide Target 155 campaign.

"The Target 155 Campaign has been broadened to embrace the non-residential sector in a parallel Support Target 155 Campaign. They have been invited to register with the Support 155 Campaign, which will entitle them to access water audit and business adaption programs and resources and it also broadens the residential showerhead exchange into the commercial sector. This way, venues with shower facilities, such as local gyms and sporting clubs, will be able to exchange multiple showerhead units and upgrade the water efficiency of their premises."

Mr Wilkinson said people must manage their own water use more closely both at home and at work as the hot months of summer settle in.

"If we don't stay on target and restrictions go back to Stage 4 levels again, there will be no watering outside allowed at all," he warned.

Mr Wilkinson urged people to start taking up the State Government's water tank rebate offer and the other rebates and help available to cut consumption and put sustainable systems in place for years to come.

"Summer is a time to prepare for rains in autumn and winter, to make sure systems are in place and working well to maximise the water efficiency of homes and gardens. Even though there is not much rain in the short term forecast ahead, if people put systems in place, they will be able to develop gardens to withstand drought and climate change," he said.

Submitted by Western Water

Welcome to the Woodend Star Kids Club February Birthdays

2 nd	Joanna Gladwin Hunt	Turns 13
6 th	Jayden Bullard	Turns 11
6 th	Curtis Barclay	Turns 13
11 th	James Simpson	Turns 13
12 th	Kellie Ingleton	Turns 10
15 th	Laim Chattington.....	Turns 13
16 th	Alice Bills	Turns 10
17 th	Tyler Daniel Sturt.....	Turns 8
17 th	Kathleen McQuade.....	Turns 12
20 th	Joseph Hebb.....	Turns 7
22 nd	Luke McVicar.....	Turns 10
23 rd	Jane K. McLeish	Turns 11
25 th	Sam Hayward	Turns 11
25 th	Malachi Anderson	Turns 7
27 th	Daniel Hare.....	Turns 13
28 th	Paige McMillan	Turns 12

JOIN THE WOODEND STAR KIDS CLUB

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

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Age: _____

Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Happy Birthday Everyone!

You can collect your birthday surprise by visiting Collier Office & Business Assist in the Woodend shopping centre — but you must come in yourself!

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

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SPORTS NEWS

Woodend Sports Stadium

Keep your New Years Resolution

New Aerobics Class Wednesday Night 6.30pm
– 7.30pm

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Tuesday morning drop the kids at School and come down for an hour of Aerobics 9.30 am – 10.30 am.

Casual \$8.50, mature age \$6.50, casual 10 and 20 Pass Cards available.

Call the Buffalo Stadium Woodend on 5427 3411 for more information.



Tennis Trivia Night

The Woodend Tennis Club is holding a Trivia Night at the clubrooms behind the Community Hub and Skate park on March 14.

Prepaid tickets cost \$20 and bookings are being taken for tables of up to 10 people. BYO supper and drinks.

The fun will start at 7pm and include general trivia, games and prizes. Proceeds will be put towards funding new court surfaces. For more details and bookings contact Cath on 5427 3422; Trudy 5427 3542; or Jane 5427 2590.

Anyone interested in playing social tennis on Sundays just needs to go along to the club at 4pm. Depending on numbers there will be mixed, men's and women's round robin matches. Junior players and younger kids welcome.

Enquiries: Nadine 54271571

Midweek women's competition starts on Tuesday, February 10. Beginners, returning, rusty & emergency players welcome. Contact Kellie on 5427 1857.

Wickets, balls and widows!

The season is now well under way with our four senior teams battling out what is the closest season for many a long year. Many games have been decided by small margins and with several washouts most teams are in contention for the finals mid way through the season. The WCC McIntyre cup team is battling along with many players that have recently graduated from junior ranks to senior, so it may be not until 2010/11 our Sesquicentennial year until finals are in the frame for the WCC firsts. By the time the Woodend Star comes out the season will be decided for many of the teams.

The WCC will be celebrating the involvement of women in cricket on the 7th February by hosting all of the mums of juniors, wives of seniors and girlfriends of all those in between from 2.30pm. Those females who are playing, BAD LUCK! Cost will be very reasonable with food, drinks and activities to keep the fun going all day. Tickets will be available at the door but we do ask that if you are attending you email Jamie at walkdale@bigpond.com your intention to attend for catering purposes. A meal will also be available that evening at the WCC usual reasonable prices.

Our Woodend Junior teams in U12, U14 and U16 are developing some great skills under their coaches and several of the older age groups will be well and truly in finals calculations come March. Many thanks to the coaches of the Junior teams; Wayne Warner, Ray Else, Rob Eastley, Adrian Chew, Ronan Hume, Paul Saddington and Jamie Walker for all of their work in the season so far. The U12's Green and Gold will play each other in the last game of the season on the 5th of March in a twilight match at the Gilbert Gordon Oval from 4.45pm, all parents are welcome and a BBQ will be in operation.

Don't forget that Milo Cricket, co-ordinated by Leanne Hume resumes on Sunday mornings at the Gilbert Gordon Oval from 10.30am. Thanks Leanne and Debbie Chew from the WCC Committee.

Darren Berry, former Victorian Wicket Keeper will be our guest on the 21st February at the Gilbert Gordon Club rooms. Prices will be set to encourage seniors and juniors to attend.

Check out the results and progress of the juniors and seniors and WCC events on the woodendcc.cricketvictoria.com.au

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