

THE NEW WOODEND STAR



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North Woodend, Hanging Rock, Carlsruhe, Cobaw.

AN INITIATIVE OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WOODEND

April 2009

A Monthly Community Periodical

First Publication 1997

Volume Thirteen No. 3

Country Fair & Vintage Tractor Pull at Tylden

SATURDAY 9TH MAY – 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

The Annual Tylden Primary School Fair and Vintage Tractor Pull is on again and is proving to be more exciting and successful each year. It is a day out that can be enjoyed by all and has something to offer for everyone, not to mention that it also falls the day before Mothers Day, so a fantastic opportunity to buy that something special for Mum – plants, crafts, produce and more!

Tylden itself is a small rural community situated 10 kilometres south of Kyneton, 13 kilometres west of Woodend and 34 kilometres east of Daylesford. There are currently 117 children enrolled at the school, many of which are from farming backgrounds. The town does not have the many businesses that the surrounding towns have but community support and recognition exceeds beyond the Macedon Ranges. Most of the funds raised will go towards the ever growing costs of upgrading computers, sporting equipment etc. for the school whilst a percentage will also go towards the setting up of a fully equipped kitchen for the kids where they will learn wonderful culinary skills in a hands on kitchen environment as part of their curriculum – a fantastic initiative to not only develop their skills but also to encourage healthy eating habits from the vegetable garden to the kitchen! The Fair and Vintage Tractor Pull is the main fundraiser for the school. Stalls selling wonderful fresh local produce, scrumptious cakes and homemade jams are only a few of what is on offer.

The SES will be on display and demonstrating the “Jaws of Life” which is always a big hit with all ages and Manny the Clown will be performing endless magic and creating wonderful “balloon shapes” throughout the day - entertaining the kids while the parents relax! There is also a fabulous Silent Auction with a fantastic range of wares.

And ... it wouldn't be a true Country Fair if the Vintage Tractors were not on show displaying their great gusto of strength. The tough “1959 Super Seventy Chamberlain” tractor is always there pulling the 8 ton sled the required 100 metres and the Vintage Hay Baler displaying how the hay was made all those years ago. Other tractors might include a “Farmall H”, “1945 LA Case” or “E27N Fordson”. There will also be a display of local historical/sports cars.

Wrist Bands will be on sale prior to the day only, at \$25 per band giving endless rides on the Probungee Trampolines, Adventure Jumping Castles, Petrol Powered Jeeps and Trackless Train. The Bands can be purchased via the school and collected on the day. For enquiries about the Country Fair or purchase of Wrist Bands, please call the school on 5424 8244 or if regarding the Vintage Tractor Pull please contact Ross on (0428) 176 996.

Submitted by Megan Atherton

ANZAC Community Commemoration at the Cross

Residents of the Macedon Ranges area are invited to the 2009 ANZAC dawn service at the Mt Macedon Memorial Cross.

Chairperson of the organizing committee, Dr Frank Donovan, said the service has the reputation of being among the most spectacular settings of the hundreds of community services around the state that day.

“I would specially invite those who have not previously joined us, to come along this year and experience the early rays of the sun rise over the Dandenongs and lighting up the Mt Macedon cross”, he said. “Combined with the reflective contributions made by the participating young people of the area, and the moving traditional symbolism of the ceremony, it is a very special experience for those who get there.”

In recent years up to three thousand people have gathered at the Cross for the 45 minute ceremony, and for many it is an event not to be missed. But Dr Donovan said the organizing committee would love to see new faces from the many families moving into the area participate in the service as well. If family members wish to lay a wreath in honour of a relative they should arrive early to be able to access the wreath laying area and bring their wreath forward after the official party.

Dr Donovan reminded those interested in attending to rug up, bring a torch, and try to be in place at the Cross by 5.40am. Those driving should car-pool where possible, park in one of the SES designated areas off Cameron Drive and catch one of the shuttle buses to the Cross – no later than 5.40am. Expect delays, respect our SES & CFA volunteers and BE EARLY!

A free bus service will again operate from the Woodend RSL – leaving at 4.15 and 4.30 am. Bookings can be made from Monday 20 April – Friday 24 April from 12noon to 5pm on 5427 2316.

Cheers for Charles

The New Woodend Star wishes to acknowledge the valued support Charles Williams has given to *The New Woodend Star* over many years. Early in March, Charles and his wife Lois moved from Woodend to a retirement village in Kilsyth.

Charles was always amongst the first volunteers to turn up each month at the Saturday morning delivery folding sessions. In addition, Charles spent hours inserting advertising material to save time on Saturday morning.

Charles cheerfully went about his tasks, and was always ready to inspire others to contribute a bit more when the pace slowed. All of us at *The New Woodend Star* wish Charles and Lois the very best for their move to Kilsyth, and hope that they are able to occasionally visit their friends back in Woodend.

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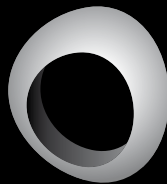
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An initiative of the Rotary Club of Woodend Inc.
The Bank, 75 High Street, Woodend, Vic. 3442
ABN 32 685 225 161 No. A0021518E

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.

Artwork 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.**

Kyneton District Health Service

Woodend Auxiliary

Auxiliary members will be sitting in Coles for three weeks in April/May, selling tickets in our Mother's Day raffle. So generous have our people been that there are THREE prizes, yet the price remains an incredibly low \$1.00 per ticket. We're looking forward to the usual terrific response from the public to raise money for our local hospital.

We're also thinking about a function for fun as well as fund-raising, probably in June/July, just as we're all feeling the winter blues start to hit.

Fiona Makin

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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
Quarter page (90mm x 134mm)	\$90 inc GST
Half page (90mm x 277mm)	\$160 inc GST
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

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.

Flamenco, fireworks & a right royal festival

The 2009 Woodend Winter Arts Festival over the Queen's Birthday Weekend (June 5-8) promises something special for everyone.

Launched on March 27 with a concert at St Ambrose Church by international award-winning classical guitarist Aleksandr Tsiboulski, this year's festival represents a diverse mix of classical and contemporary musical performances by talented and distinguished artists.

Complementing the outstanding music program are literary sessions and discussions, with several free events and performances especially for children and families.

Among the acclaimed artists set to perform are harpist Alice Giles, pianists Christine Giles and En Pei Lin, violinist Anne Harvey-Nagl, and cellist Li-Wei Qin. Highlights include the Flamenco Crew musicians and dancers, Playschool personality Alex Papps and the Scotch College Orchestra in *Tubby the Tuba* at Braemar College, a drumming workshop and concert by Wadaiko Rindo, and an all-Handel performance including *Music for the Royal Fireworks*, to be followed by a fireworks display.

Organisers hope several free events will help broaden the festival's appeal. Library sessions are planned by children's author Lee Fox and young adult writer Simone Howell, and ex-Seekers member Athol Guy will give a 90-minute retrospective about his career in music, advertising and politics in a talk at the Victoria Hotel, *Follow Your Dreams*. Another event back by popular demand will be a lecture by Kyneton's famed silversmiths, the Flynn brothers.

"The Woodend Winter Arts Festival is an opportunity to welcome people into our beautiful town to enjoy great cultural works in a relaxed setting," said Festival Founder and Artistic Director, Dr Jacqueline Ogeil. "Each year, the festival has doubled its audience, and these days our total attendances are more than the population of Woodend itself!"

Writers Arnold Zable, Don Watson and Catherine Deveny will talk candidly about their work, while *Botanical Riches* will be discussed by Richard Aitken and Michael McCoy.

There will be a special series of fine art lectures, *The Cultural Pavlova*, with leading arts intellectuals Dr David Hansen, Felicity St John-Moore and Caroline Williams Mora; and an exhibition *Art in Clay* by the Macedon Ranges Potters.

More details at www.woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au



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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	2009	
January	21.2	47.4	49.8	83.5	17.1	0.0	Jan
February	6.2	72.2	53.1	27.4	22.1	0.0	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		Aug
Sept	31.7	55.2	50.6	49.8	42.0*		Sept
Oct	38.9	49.8	5.2	12.1	13.0*		Oct
Nov	111.0	72.4	13.0	91.0	67.2		Nov
Dec	144.2	40.0	31.0	101.2	96.0*		Dec
YTD:	720.6	693.8	486.9	739.8	600.3	0.00	YTD

Reminder: We are now on Stage 3A water restrictions.
 Figures for 2008 include information from a different location indicated by *. This has resulted in a slightly different total than the official BOM totals.

**There was no rain in
January or February 2009.**

Woodend District Netball Club

The Woodend District Netball Club Winter season will commence on Saturday, 2nd May 2009. Games will be played from 9:00 am each Saturday during Terms 2 and 3 on the indoor court at Buffalo Stadium. Our competition is open to girls and boys aged between 7 and 18 and new players are most welcome! Instruction will be provided if required and we also offer training to all players on Wednesday afternoons.

Registrations are being taken at the Buffalo Stadium outdoor courts each Friday after school until April 3. Final registrations must be completed and paid for in full by the Winter Registration session, which will be 4.30 - 5.30 pm on Thursday, 23rd April at Buffalo Stadium. No registrations will be accepted without VNA fees being paid.

We also require parents to help with running our competition. Please contact a member of the committee if you are able to help in any way.

For further information, please contact Rhonda Scanlon (5227 1174), Rachel Crook (5427 2908) or Wendy Lawrence (5427 1697).

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Ecumenical Bushfire Service

On Tuesday February 24th an ecumenical service was held in St Ambrose, Woodend, for the community to reflect upon the devastation caused by the recent bushfires. The service commemorated all those who perished in the fires, supported those who suffered loss and honoured all those who served as volunteers and professional personnel.

The service was highlighted by readings, music and the lighting of tapers from the Easter Candle and placing them in a bowl of sand in remembrance. Uniforms representing Police, Ambulance, SES and the Fire Brigade services were laid on the steps of the altar for people to reflect on the men and women who worked tirelessly to aid others in distress.

The evening had many poignant and beautiful moments but I think everyone was touched by Bev Juriansz's dignified Gospel reflection, having lost personal friends in the destruction and still standing up to share herself within the community of Woodend.

An friendly cup of tea followed which was appreciated by all.

Submitted by Sharon Simpson

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Woodend RSL

The Club held a very well attended Annual General Meeting on the 11th March. President Reg Till was re-elected for another year, he will lead the team who will help refurbish the clubrooms. Whilst we appreciate this vote of confidence, members must realise that for us to be an effective and vibrant organisation, new blood will be needed next year.

With the club now fully functioning, the Committee will again look at our long term financial future. The clubrooms are available for hire for functions. Barry Meldrum has really taken hold of our most important role of Welfare and I urge any members who feel they need help or advice to contact him on 5427 1162 or visit the club any Tuesday morning from 9-12. This year will see our Anzac Day commemoration held at the RSL Hall following the Anzac Day March, starting at 11.15am from High Street service road, near Brooke Street; all are welcome to attend.

Eric Read, Secretary



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Woodend Senior Citizens

On Friday 3rd April we will hold our General Meeting at 10.30am, and then at 11am, we have a guest speaker from the Commonwealth Care Line. All Woodend Seniors are welcome to hear our guest speaker Joan, who will speak on all areas of care that senior people can be helped with.

Every other Friday morning at 10.30am we have carpet bowls for those who enjoy playing them. On the first Friday of each month (3rd of April) we have a fun afternoon and each Friday at 1.30pm we play cards. Bingo is played every Tuesday at 1.30pm. All Seniors of Woodend are always welcome to participate in our social activities.

Woodend Senior Citizens celebrated their 42nd birthday on the 6th March. This celebration was a great success and thanks to all who put this event together.

Submitted by Norma Richardson

Kirsty Nuttall

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Find yourself in Church this Easter

The churches of Woodend invite you to join them in this most sacred Christian celebration. You are most welcome at any Woodend church this Easter.

St Andrew's Uniting Church, Forest Street

5th:	Palm Sunday	9.00am combined at Tylden
9th:	Maundy Thursday	7.30pm Tylden
10th:	Good Friday	9.00am Woodend UC
12th:	Easter Sunday	9.00 am Tylden
12th:	Easter Sunday	10.30am Woodend UC

St Mary's Anglican Church, High Street

5th:	Palm Sunday	10.30 am St Mary's
8th:	Holy Wednesday	10.00 am St Mary's
9th:	Maundy Thursday	7.30 pm St Mary's, Eucharist
10th:	Good Friday	11.30 am St Mary's
12th:	Easter Day	10.30 am St Mary's

St Ambrose Catholic Church, Templeton Street

5th:	Palm Sunday	10.00 am Mass
9th:	Holy Thursday	7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
10th:	Good Friday	10.30 am Ecumenical Stations of the Cross
10th:	Good Friday	3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
11th:	Holy Saturday	7.30 pm Vigil Mass
12th:	Easter Sunday	10.00 am Mass

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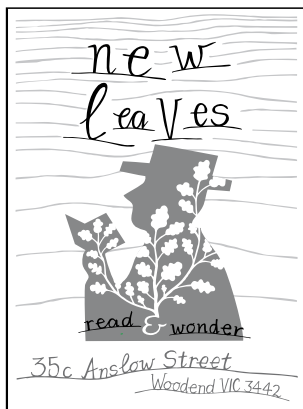
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Relay for Life – Thank You!

Collier's Crew participated in the Lancefield–Macedon Ranges Relay for Life at Lancefield on 28th February, to raise funds for The Cancer Council of Victoria. Our team raised \$1720 for the event, whilst the combined total for the event was around \$110,000.

Thanks to all who helped us in our fundraising efforts and we look forward to next year.

Submitted by Erin Downie, Collier Office & Business Assist



Mid-Autumn Evening Sale

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Woodend RSL Women's Auxiliary

The Woodend RSL Women's Auxiliary Annual General Meeting was held on 13th March and the new committee for 2009 are as follows:

President: Margaret Russell, Vice President: Helen Wright, 2nd Vice President: Barbara Skinner, Secretary: Betty Barned, Treasurer: Diane Russell and Delegate: Margaret Russell.

Mr Bill Gilchrist, Vice President RSL was the Election Officer and congratulated the new committee, wishing them well for the coming year and offering support from RSL members whenever needed.

Work in our newly renovated RSL is almost completed and the kitchen will have a new look; the toilets have new tiling and the new ceiling in the hall is well worth the long wait. Our grateful thanks go to the menfolk who have done a marvellous job with their voluntary working bees. The RSL as a whole has much to be proud of and shows just what can be achieved no matter what hurdles we have to overcome. We can now look to a prosperous future.

Our Auxiliary have outlined a number of fundraising events for 2009 and our meeting was most progressive with new ideas for fundraising. We have already had Blooms Fashion in March.

On Anzac Day we will again cater for the Gunfire Breakfast which will be held at 7am at the RSL Hall. Our own service will follow, then we will provide Morning tea. This is our busiest day of the year and we are so glad to finally be back in our own premises. A Dutch Auction is to be held on April 30th. Once again we thank the many traders and clubs who have assisted us so well during last year; your generosity will never be forgotten.

Over the coming months, we have some very entertaining and unusual fundraisers. So be prepared folks and keep an eye on the local papers for forthcoming events.

Please note that the meeting times for the Auxiliary have changed from Saturdays to Friday afternoons at 4pm at the RSL Hall. Also the Auxiliary would welcome new members with new ideas for fundraising etc. Please come along and meet us, you will be made most welcome. Contact numbers are 5427 2225 or 5427 1226.

Submitted by Betty Barned, Secretary Auxiliary

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Woodend and Five Mile Creek Landcare Group

Work is continuing on our various projects around the town. The terrible season, driest and hottest on record, has caused many problems, but at least we haven't suffered a devastating fire.

- Five Mile Creek – As Autumn progresses, we'll be looking to do quite a bit of weeding and clearing, hoping to be able to do more planting in Spring. Peter Jones and Ken Farmer from the Council have organized for some spraying to be done, and we'll also be looking for their help with "grooming" some of the bigger areas. This means using a fairly big mulcher to cut gorse, broom, and other weeds into a very fine layer, so that it will be killed, and the regrowth easier to spray before planting. We would like to get the two Primary Schools involved in planting as we have done in other years
- Slaty Creek Reserve. David's group appears to have lost quite a few of the plants they put in in October last year, but they'll get going again as soon as there's some rain, to replace as many as possible. That's the way it is when you're dealing with living things – you pick yourself up, and start over again.
- On Bawden Rd and Sullivans Rd, which are really two projects, Bert and the various locals who have "adopted" a site, are getting back into the swing of cutting and painting (with herbicide) as many as possible of the weeds along the rail and road reserves. They have just received a grant from Parks Victoria to help with this.
- Also in Bert's domain, the Quarry Rd rail and road reserve work is progressing. We're waiting for VicTrack to grant a license to extend the area the group can work on. So far the application has been with them for more than four months – it was supposed to be finalized in seven weeks. That's bureaucracy!

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- Speaking about “adopting” a site – the response to our request for people who use or live near the Creek, in last month’s “Star”, was rather disappointing. Only a couple came forward. We feel sure there are many others who could spare a total of about two days work, spread over the whole year. to help us help the Creek. Perhaps now the weather has cooled a little, some may feel more like helping.
- Don’t forget our working bees, fourth Sunday every month. On April 26 we’ll be at Ruby McKenzie Park for general maintenance of the area. Usual start time of 9.30 a.m., wear suitable clothes (you might choose to wear your own gloves), and a good morning tea is always available.
- We trialled an evening working bee in Feb, with some success. Among those who came along were some young people who are working for their Eagle Scout qualification. They were good workers, under the supervision of Rose Moait. Many thanks to them. We will think about this type of event again for next summer.

Phone Jo on 54271909 for information about activities, etc.

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## Woodend Neighbourhood Centre

We held our AGM during March and thank the outgoing Committee of Management for their commitment and dedication to the Centre. I also welcome our new Committee of Management and hope they enjoy their new roles within the Woodend Neighbourhood Centre.

We are about to break for Easter, during which there are a number of school holiday activities for children and teenagers. Glass fused jewellery or platters, juggling, print making pillowcases, jewellery making, Internet Café, polymer clay bead making and embroidery cushions are activities we have on offer. Call the Centre for full details. Bookings essential.

We are again offering a number of courses designed to assist people with employment and this there are opportunities in:

- Integration Aide training
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- How to make a Wood fired oven
- Drama for children

We will continue our wide range of exercise classes, computer training for all abilities and digital camera classes. For full details of these and other opportunities for everyone within our community please visit [www.wnci.websyte.com.au](http://www.wnci.websyte.com.au) or call in at 47 Forest St, Woodend.

Sarah Campbell, Coordinator, 5427 1845



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## Macedon Ranges Shire Draft Natural Environment Strategy

### Now on Public Exhibition

At the Council meeting on Wednesday, 25th February 2009 Council approved the Draft Natural Environment Strategy 2009 for the purpose of public exhibition.

The draft Natural Environment Strategy 2009 is now available for public comment. Significant actions included in the strategy include the following:

- Improvements to water quality by reducing litter in our streams.
- Developing and enhancing reserves in public ownership.
- Working with private land owners to protect and enhance the environmental value of the land.
- Development of an Environmental Brand to assist with promotion and marketing actions under the strategy.
- Use of geographical areas called Landscape Units to identify the unique attributes of different topographical areas in the Shire and to develop management guidelines to protect and enhance those assets.
- Further development of the Sustainability Framework to ensure environmental considerations are embedded in Council's service delivery and policy development.
- A targeted Grants program in partnership with State Government agencies to protect biodiversity values on private land.
- A proposal to investigate options for the Barrm Birrm land (Riddell Ranges Estate, Shone and Shultz subdivision).

Copies of this document are available on request by contacting Council Customer Service Centres on (03) 5422 0333 or the document can be viewed and downloaded from the Council website: [www.macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au](http://www.macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au)

A Public Comment feedback form is available from the website or can be completed online. Feedback welcome via:

- Letter addressed to Natural Environment Strategy Comments, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, PO Box 151, Kyneton 3444.
- Email [msrc@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au](mailto:msrc@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au). Please include 'Natural Environment Strategy' in the subject line.
- Phone (03) 5422 0333

The strategy is on public exhibition until Tuesday, 7th April 2009. Feedback will be collated and reported to Council together with the revised Draft Strategy for consideration by Council in May 2009. For further information please contact: Barry Whelan, Manager Environmental Services on 5421 9657 or Lachlan Milne, Environment Resource Officer on 5421 9659.

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## Community Buffet Luncheon – Thursday 7 May

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The luncheon, to be held on **Thursday 7 May** from 12.30pm, will be catered for by the College's Hospitality Department and includes a two course meal and non-alcoholic beverage for \$22 per person.

Numbers are limited so early bookings are recommended and can be made via College Reception – 5427 2500. Tables of 8 are available so why not organise a group of friends, enjoy this lunch and support a great cause.



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## Response to Bushfire Threat

Dear Patient,

Brooke St. Medical Centre was recently closed on days of **extreme fire danger risk** and will do so again if risk is assessed to be unacceptably high.

This decision was not taken lightly. We seek to balance our duty to provide health care for the community and the duty not to put the safety of patients and staff at risk. Health care cannot be provided adequately when safety is compromised.

The fire danger conditions that we have recently faced are unprecedented. Given that the Forest Fire Danger Index<sup>1</sup> was “extreme” we have an obligation to address that risk rather than simply hope that nothing happens. Added to the extreme fire danger risk was the fact that there was a large active fire in the near proximity (live embers from the Daylesford fire were found in Woodend and Macedon) as well as a person/persons attempting to light fires in Bawden Road at the foot of the mountain and later in Carlshurue. These multiple risks could not be ignored.

As providers of care to the community, we have an obligation to refrain from offering service in potentially unsafe circumstances. If we operate “as usual” and only close the practice when fire directly threatens, it is then too late to evacuate people safely. Remaining open may encourage people to assume that it is safe to travel in and out of the centre - this potentially could put individuals at risk.

As employers, we also have an obligation to ensure the safety of our staff. The decision to “leave early or be prepared to stay and defend” is a choice each member of the community must be free to make, given their own personal circumstances. This includes staff of BSMC. Many staff have family members depending on them – we wish to enable staff to protect their dependents. Many live in high risk bush areas – they need the same opportunities as the rest of the community to evacuate. A number of our staff commute from Melbourne - we do not wish to draw people away from a low risk to a high risk area.

**After attending to their own personal safety, staff may volunteer to provide service from a less risky environment. We thank the Kyneton District Health Service for accommodating a Brooke St. GP on Tuesday 3 March – this allowed us to provide an alternative service for Brooke St. patients with urgent needs. We hope to be able to provide an alternative service should circumstances like these arise again.**

The structure, site and nature of Brooke St. Medical Centre does **not** invite a stay and defend approach. Woodend itself is a high risk community given its close proximity to the mountain and highly wooded areas. The Shire does not offer refuge or an emergency relief centre in Woodend, and its website advises that “leaving early means leaving by 10am”.

We will continue to use “good management” rather than “good luck” to guide us and hope you understand the spirit in which we make these decisions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alison Killoh,    Dr. Peter Ferguson,    Dr. Richard Bills  
Directors, Brooke St. Medical Centre

---

<sup>1</sup> The Bureau of Meteorology posts predicted Forest Fire Danger Index on its website – until such time as there is expert advice regarding a superior measure of risk, BSMC will use this index to evaluation risk and guide our decisions.

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## Joanne Duncan

STATE MEMBER FOR MACEDON **MP**

**Friends,**  
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Feel free to call me on:  
**5428 2138**



### Building to protect against fire

In responding to the recent devastating bushfires, the State Government is putting in place new building standards to ensure new homes are better protected against bushfires in the future.

Victoria is the first state to introduce the new Australian building standard which is a year before it is due to be introduced nationally.

The recent fires have rewritten the rules about bushfires, registering a heat of more than 1200 degrees Celsius and wind speeds of more than 120km/h.

This new standard is being introduced now to ensure new and replacement homes, additions and alterations are designed, constructed and located with greater fire protection.

The new standards do not dictate the design of a new house or the type of construction materials. Home builders will still get to choose, it's just that fire protection must be included in the design.

We all know that there is no guarantee that any building will survive a fire on every occasion, due to the unpredictable nature and behaviour of fires. However, houses built to the new standard will be better protected against fire events in the future.

The new standard does not require homeowners to retrofit houses. However, if you are thinking about making changes to your house to protect it against fire, it is recommended that you consult a fire safety engineer in the first instance.

The Victorian Building Commission has produced *A Guide to building in Victoria* after the bushfires to explain the new standards which is available from my office, or by telephoning the Bushfire Building Advice Line on 1300 360 320 or visiting: [www.buildingcommission.com.au](http://www.buildingcommission.com.au)

*Warm regards*  
**Joanne Duncan MP**  
State Member for Macedon

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## Macedon Ranges Art Group Inc.

Following on from the success of previous exhibitions the Macedon Ranges Art Group is now preparing for its Autumn Art Show to be held in Gisborne on the 2nd and 3rd May, 2009. MRAG President, Karin Bowler said "The Autumn months are stunning in the Macedon Ranges and it is a time that greatly inspires local artists to draw on the rich Autumn colours to produce works of art in oils, watercolours, acrylics and pastels".

Exhibits include framed paintings in the traditional style of landscapes, still-life paintings, portraits and contemporary works as well as an extensive range of painted porcelain, pottery, jewellery, glassware, hand painted silk scarves and sculpture.

Unframed works are also available to purchase at bargain prices.

As with previous years the exhibition will feature a "Meet the Artist" segment providing visitors with an opportunity to discuss the various exhibits with the artists while enjoying some light refreshments and a glass of wine.

Ms Bowler went on add "The Art Group is now in its 13th year and the high quality of the art work reflects the experience and dedication of the members. We are also expanding with a number of new members providing fresh new works and a greater variety of styles. We are anticipating a very successful exhibition and would like to remind people that profits from our shows are donated to the Country Fire Authority to assist them with the wonderful work they do in protecting our communities".

"This is a great opportunity to meet local artists and purchase quality original art at great prices while also supporting our local CFA".

The Exhibition will be held at the Masonic Hall, corner Aitken & Fisher Streets, Gisborne. Opening hours are 9am to 5pm each day and the "Meet the Artist" session will be held between 2-4pm on Saturday May 2nd. Free admission.

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### Too many rabbits

The cycle of life can be confusing for a child, and the conversation begins before breakfast with two little girls peering down at a mousetrap. "I don't think it's dead, because it's still got its eyes open".

The other child, clutching her favourite copy of Beatrix Potter's Tale of Miss Moppett, and obviously forgetting the pain of having stepped into a mouse trap yesterday, innocently followed up with "Mum, I'll be kind to the little mouse. I love him".

Once said Mouse was relocated, the conversation continued on the way to school. "We shoot rabbits don't we mum".

The taken aback response was "well. Some of us do, love".

"But we don't shoot bunnies do we?" "Mmm. What's the difference between a rabbit and a bunny?" "I love Bunnies". "OK. Well – definitely not the Easter Bunny, and he'll be here soon".

Not distracted by the thought of chocolate, she continued "Dad got a fox once didn't he?" "Yes, I think so". "How come?" "Because the foxes eat the little lambs, and they're not native to Australia, and there's too many of them, and ..."

"Can foxes climb trees?" "No". "And they don't come in the house at night do they?" "No. Nothing comes in at night" (except the ants and the mice, and hopefully not the snake that was outside the bedroom door – and didn't get shot, by the way. Perhaps he could start pulling his weight and intercept a few vermin).

Where did foxes come from?

"They came from England on a boat, with the rabbits and the gorse and hawthorne I suppose ..."

"Did they come on the boat in a box?"

Now, suddenly I am the man in the ad, and I wish I had a Google button on the steering wheel as I imagine two of everything – were they slushing around down there in the bottom of the boat for 6 months or was everybody tagged and labelled and sitting up straight?

"... Oh look, we're here. Have a good day sweetheart. Perhaps you could ask Mrs Geisler..."

**Happy Easter Everyone**

Submitted by Kathy Mexted

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Further information at [www.mtmacedonhort.org.au/events](http://www.mtmacedonhort.org.au/events)

## Rural Women in a Changing Climate Event

As part of the Victorian Government's strategy to support the needs of women in rural and regional areas, the Rural Women, Drought and Climate Change initiative was established in the five regional areas of Victoria, including the Loddon Mallee Region.

The purpose of this initiative is to facilitate opportunities for rural women from across the region to meet and share information about local activities and approaches, and develop supportive networks to deal with drought and climate change.

These Gatherings will be an opportunity to meet women from within your local area, and to share ideas and views about what action we can take. In these difficult days following the Victorian bushfires, it is more important than ever that we come together to provide support to each other.

The gathering will be held Tuesday March 31st, 5.30pm to 7.30pm at Woodend Meeting Room, Cnr Forest and High St, Woodend

- Meet other women from the Macedon Ranges Shire area
  - Discuss drought and climate change from a rural women's perspective
  - Share ideas and views about what action we can take.
- RSVP: Glenda Childs, Women's Health Loddon Mallee  
Tel: 5443 0233 Email: Glenda.Childs@whlm.org.au



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## News from Newham

Jim Sansom has been very prompt with signs at the front of the Mechanics Institute as to what is happening [thanks to Jim] and the current one says "we are on our way" – and we are too!!

We are so excited – two and half years of hard work by a lot of people is finally coming to fruition. We are even starting to plan for our re-opening in November with the help of Steve Mahon from the Shire (and Newham resident) Fran Spain, Jenny Waugh, Val Sutton and Sally Stabback. The invitation list will be very long as so many people have contributed and supported us.

The demolition was done by Karl Haas of Melbourne Demolition, Alan Morton from Morton Dunn Architects in Ballarat has been asked to supervise the works along with Nick Massie from the Shire (Projects Engineer and Newham resident) and the building contract has gone to Adrian Walsh of Banjora Building Services in Kyneton.

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Our concrete tank has been donated to the Newham CFA and Karl Haas has donated the sale of the corrugated tank to the Hall – thank you so much – this is a very generous gesture from him.

Building has now started. We have decided to put up solar panels which feed into the grid which will help with paying of our utility bills particularly in winter. People can look forward to a hall which will be warm and comfortable with indoor toilet services and a good kitchen planned for the future and for caterers to use when individuals, families or clubs wish to hire the Hall. We have also provided for a shower for such times as there are emergency workers in our area.

The work for the new tennis court is well in hand with Hilary Roberts leading the way on this. Community Planning have started to acquire funding for this project which will be located at the school.

Landcare had a successful BBQ night at Penny and Hilary Roberts to welcome new Newham-ites – it is nice to see old friends and meet new and catch up in general.

Newham Primary School has now become a building site, construction has started on the new school and is expected to finish in September. This is exciting for our community, and our children, as the new facilities will allow them to undertake a range of activities in a much improved environment. Enrolments at Newham Primary have increased to 60 (up from 41 last year) due to an enormous amount of work by the Principal Caroline Robb and her Staff – congratulations to you all – we appreciate what you have done.

Tell you what, folks – "Newham – the Place to be"!

Submitted by Sally Stabback

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Training starts on Monday 27 April (during school hours). Call Stephanie Michelsen 0423 773 904 or stephanie.michelsen@origintraining.com.au for bookings and further information. Training held at the Woodend Neighbourhood Centre.

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## Telling the truth

By now most people will have heard of the Al Gore Movie *An Inconvenient Truth*. Many will also know that Al Gore has helped train an army of presenters who work with local communities to help popularise the need for action. Yet despite the publicity around Climate Change and the extreme danger of losing control of our climate, global warming continues apace.

The next feature at Movies that Matter traces the efforts of seven Al Gore trained presenters and the impacts that they have had on local communities. Movies that Matter, presented at the Woodend Neighbourhood House every Thursday of the month has attempted to explore sustainability issues – food, energy, fuels, waste, planning, credit and the role of corporations and government.

The Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group is attempting to catalyse a local response to climate change through the development of a permaculture garden, through the Home food exchange and through a raft of interesting and informative speakers as well as local renewable energy initiatives and social events including Movies that Matter.

On 2nd April the 3rd series of Movies that Matter will conclude. Movies that Matter has attracted good audiences over an 18 month period and provided an opportunity for those interested in sustainability issues to learn how they can be part of the change and to meet with other concerned citizens.

Movies that Matter convener and MRSG president, Peter Hansford looks forward to a good crowd at the next showing. “*Telling the Truth* is an important film. Sponsored by the Australian Conservation Foundation it provides a modern day Australian context to the climate change challenge.”

A new series of Movies that Matter will commence in May.

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## The boat is here!

"Skallywag" is the new wooden boat installed since last December at the Woodend Kinder playground. The name represents the first letters of its great staff (Steph, Kaye, Ann & Linda) and the children simply love it.

The 2008 Committee was able to order the boat straight away after the Trivia Night which was not only a great night but also proved a phenomenal success reaching their main goal.... The Wooden Boat.

So, on behalf of the 2008 Committee we would like to say THANKS to all the businesses, families and individuals who supported kinder through donations of goods or services. Your donations ensured we had plenty to offer in prizes and for auction on the night.

Submitted by:  
Nelly Molina, Publicity Officer



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## Carlsruhe Community Corner

### *A site for all Carlsruhe Community Members*

The Carlsruhe Community Action Planning Group wishes to notify all those interested that the Action Plan is in the process of being printed and will be distributed to all those who expressed interest in receiving the information as soon as it is available. If anyone else is interested in receiving the information please contact the group on 5422 6663.

A meeting was held in March which provided members of the Community with information on providing Solar Power to the area. Paul Blackman from Solar Shop was in attendance and presented the information. Approximately 20 community members attended. Anyone in Carlsruhe and surrounding areas interested in getting information on this solar energy project can email Mary Ellen Stannard on [j.stannard@bigpond.com](mailto:j.stannard@bigpond.com) or phone on 5422 2321.

The CFA turns 50 this year and a dinner will be held on Saturday 25th July. More information will appear closer to the event.

A Landcare Group has been formed and a Committee elected. The Committee is now in the process of formally setting up the Landcare Group.

The Cemetery Trust has issued two warnings to people planning to visit the Cemetery. (i) There is an on-going problem with rabbits undermining some graves, so be careful to watch for holes around the graves. (ii) There have been a lot of snakes sighted so please be careful.

Any Carlsruhe resident wishing to place information in Carlsruhe Community Corner contact Margaret Glen on 5422 3559 or for April and May contact Sam Fisher on 5422 6663.

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## Upcoming Events & Meetings

### March

- 31 Woodend Heritage Society meeting
- 31 Rural Women in a Changing Climate Event

### April

- 3 Woodend Senior Cits meeting
- 4 GREAT Grand Tour
- 5 Daylight Savings ends 3am
- 5 MAD ride www.mbtc.org.au
- 6 Carlsruhe Landcare meet 7.30
- 8 Carlsruhe Community Planning Group 7.30 pm at Carlsruhe CFA
- 10 Good Friday
- 11 Kyneton High School 1960s reunion Bendigo
- 12 Easter Sunday
- 13 Easter Monday
- 18 Junior Golf Clinic at Woodend at 9.20 am
- 18-19 Artanica @ Sefton & Durrol open garden, Mt Macedon
- 25 ANZAC Day Dawn Service and Woodend RSL Service
- 26 Landcare working bee at Ruby McKenzie Park 9.30 am

### May

- 2 Winter Netball Season commences
- 2-3 Autumn Art Show in Gisborne
- 4 Carlsruhe Landcare meet 7.30
- 6 Carlsruhe Community Planning Group 7.30 pm at Carlsruhe CFA
- 7 Community Buffet Luncheon at Braemar College 5427 2500
- 9 Country Fair & Vintage Tractor Pull at Tylden Primary School

### June

- 1 Carlsruhe Landcare meet 7.30
- 3 Carlsruhe Community Planning Group 7.30 pm at Carlsruhe CFA
- 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

PLEASE SEND US YOUR FUTURE DATES

### COMMUNITY GROUPS CONTACT DETAILS

Australian Breastfeeding Association,  
Heather 5427 2398  
Cobaw Thursday Walking Group 5427 3340  
Daylight Masonic Lodge, 5427 2480  
1st Woodend Scout Group, 5427 3788 Sarah  
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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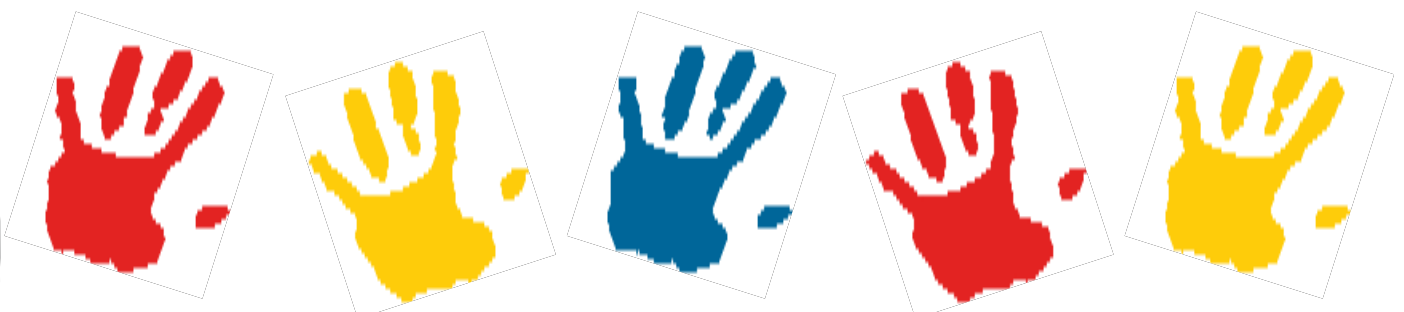
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## A fantastic effort by local volunteers

As everyone well knows, it has been a horrendous start to the year in terms of fires in our area, starting with the Harpers Road Fire in Woodend in late January. The fire on that hot and windy Thursday and the subsequent weeks involved the efforts of every brigade in the Mt Macedon region (and many from beyond), and more than 40 members of the Woodend CFA alone were involved in the immediate fire fight, blacking out and patrols over the next two weeks.

### *Black Saturday & beyond*

Just 2 weeks after Woodend and neighbouring brigade volunteers fought the fire that threatened Woodend, we were involved in Strike Teams that spent nearly a whole week in the Whittlesea/Wallan/Kinglake area. The strike teams involved vehicles from Woodend, Newham, Heskett-Kerrie, Gisborne, Macedon, Mt Macedon, Bulengarook and Riddells Creek (the eight brigades in the Mt Macedon region) working 24/7 on a range of tasks. 27 individual volunteers from the Woodend Brigade alone gave up their time to work in dangerous conditions, each on a 12 hour shift, with some members going two or three times.

What is a Strike Team? You've probably seen them on TV when 5 or 6 trucks head off together behind a lead vehicle – that's a group of about 30 firefighters.

### *First into Kinglake*

Woodend Captain Mick Christie led the first strike team into Kinglake on the night of that tragic Black Saturday. Having already spent since 9am at our Woodend Fire Station, with around 30 volunteers on stand-by.

He was given the task of escorting much-needed doctors, paramedics and ambulances into Kinglake in the darkness, surrounded by burning and fallen trees and powerlines. In fact, the road was impassable, so he commandeered a backhoe to clear the path for the convoy to proceed. On the way, they passed many of the burnt out cars that you would have also seen on television. And those doctors and ambulances were so badly needed.

They then moved on to their next task ... searching for survivors, in the dark!

### *Local brigades continue to be involved*

Over the next few days our Strike Teams were deployed to go into areas that CFA/Police/Ambulances had been unable to get into since Saturday and people unable to get out – using bulldozers to clear the roads – huge trees and powerlines blocking the way – looking for survivors and deceased.

I was part of a Strike Team that went up on the Monday, and we saw the full extent in daylight. Let me paint a picture ... imagine driving down a long country road for 5km – houses on either side of the road totally



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destroyed – we went along one stretch just like some of our own roads in our area and counted 68 houses all gone - and that was in just one area.

The heat was so intense that even the ground burned - to a white powder – there was just nothing left. However, there was one event to change the mood – as we drove along a narrow track to get to a remote property (it was also gone) a lyre bird jumped in front of us – I have never seen one in the wild before and it was beautiful in the midst of all the disaster surrounding us.

Mt Macedon Region Group Officer, and Woodend CFA member Brad Jepsen commented that: “They did a fantastic job in all facets of the fight. In particular the early days around Kinglake where members were heavily involved in the search roles after the initial main fire fight. That’s a totally different emotional strain on top of the physical one you experience at a major fire front”.

### *On our doorstep in Daylesford*

Yet another Total Fire Ban Day with strong winds, just over two weeks later, resulted in another major fire breaking out in the Muskvale area just south of Daylesford. Once again Strike Teams from the Mt Macedon region were at the forefront of the fire attack and defence. And, once again, Woodend was strongly represented with another 20 plus members volunteering for duty during both the day and night in the following days.

### *It all adds up!*

When you add up all of the time and effort during this period, the CFA Brigades in the Mt Macedon Group did a magnificent job. The combined number of members who volunteered to attend all of the above fires is approaching 100 and together they clocked up around 5,000 man-hours in both day and night shifts. We are also extremely grateful to the self-employed and to the employers who allowed their staff time off to perform their important duties.

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From our Woodend Brigade alone we had nearly 50 members who were heavily involved in a wide range of activities. In fact, the total of number of CFA volunteers involved from our region totalled more than 200 when you consider all of the behind-the-scenes work including all of the important management and support roles.

**And there was more on the local front!**

Whilst all of this was going on around us, there were still a wide range of incidents around town that kept the Brigade busy. These included motor vehicle accidents, a number of grass and scrub fires, and the major fire that destroyed an old weatherboard house on Forest Street on a recent Saturday night. Well done team!


**Woodend CFA – you can help too!**

While Woodend CFA members have given a great deal of their own time and effort to fight all of the above fires and incidents, you too can play a vital role – simply by supporting your local CFA. Whilst the CFA provides a number of our vehicles, the Brigade actually funds more than half of our fleet of fire fighting vehicles. At the moment the Woodend Brigade is actually working towards


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**Woodend Red Cross – Thank You!**

The members of Woodend Red Cross wish to thank all those who have supported us in our Bush Fire Fundraising efforts. Our next meeting will be at the SES building on Thursday 2nd of April 2009. A street stall will be held outside the newsagency on Saturday the 4th of April.

Submitted by J Podrazil and P Wilson

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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, visit the station in Urquhart Street or our website: [www.woodendcfa.org](http://www.woodendcfa.org).

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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## Woodend Playgroup – Come and Join in the Fun!

As a new year starts Woodend playgroup has openings for new members and would love to welcome new Mums or Mums who are new to the area. Dads and carers are also more than welcome to come in and join the fun.

Playgroup offers a safe and friendly environment for pre-school children aged 0–5 to interact with other kids their age. Playgroup provides many age appropriate toys, play equipment as well as many different arts and crafts to amuse your kids for hours. Not to mention making friends that they will know for years to come.

Woodend Playgroup offers parents and carers a space to meet other local parents and share your experiences of parenting or a chance just to have a chat with other grown ups! It is a fantastic way to get out of the house and socialise within the community, while your kids are having fun.

Playgroup operates 5 days a week with 3 sessions a day. Mornings: 9–11am; Midday: 11am–1pm and Afternoon: 1–3pm. Each session has children of similar ages. There are even a few sessions that are available for friends to start up their own groups.

There is a small yearly membership to Playgroup Australia, which also covers insurance and access to other offers via Playgroup Australia and a small fee each term.

For any enquires call Woodend Playgroup on 5427 2583 or call Enrolments Officer, Nicole, on 5427 4812. You are also more than welcome to drop in to the centre during any session and meet other members who are more than willing to assist you with any enquiry you have.

We are located at Forest St, Woodend, next to the Woodend Neighbourhood Centre and Cobaw Community Health. So come on along and join in the fun at Woodend Playgroup. We look forward to meeting you and your family and welcoming you into our Playgroup. Woodend Playgroup Publicity Jess Maude

## Our new PJs are real stars



We now have new winter sleepwear for mums and bubs just in time for the coming cooler weather.

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## It's a MAD ride

Don't forget the Melbourne Autumn Day ride on April 5th ... about 1500 cyclists visiting our region and cycling from Woodend to Lancefield at back. Visit [www.mbtc.org.au](http://www.mbtc.org.au) for more information or for entry details.

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# Heritage Society News

The tragedy of the Feb. 7th fires will be something few of us will ever forget. For those of us who lived through the 1983 fires that decimated our own district, it also brought back some terrifying memories. No doubt, over the last few weeks we have all been questioning our own fire plans, particularly thinking about what measures we would take to protect our property and what degree of personal risk we would take to protect our homes and the things that are precious to us. Just what would be our priorities? For many it would be firstly our families, secondly our pets and our animals and thirdly items such as photographs and other items that record important and memorable times in our lives.

At the Local & Family History Resource Centre we have made every effort to secure the safety of the records of this district, should they be threatened by fire. We are fortunate that as buildings go, the Court House is of a solid construction. Standing on several rows of solid bluestone, it should stand up well in a grass fire situation – given that CFA assistance was available. To achieve this support which we believe would be essential, we have tried to make sure that the importance of this building and in particular its contents, is widely known and appreciated by our CFA volunteers. The records we hold are stored in a special “fire Proof room” which was built when we put on our first extension in 1997. Constructed without windows and with a metal plated door, all storage units are of metal construction. When we added a further and much larger extension in 2006, although primarily a work area, again we made every effort to make the building secure from any conceivable disaster.

But we are realistic. For all these measures, there really is no such thing as a fire proof room or building. One only has to recall the fire that swept through Windsor castle – and that is a sturdy building! – to realize that given certain circumstances, anything will burn. Of course, this was the lesson that was brought home with such tragic results on Black Saturday.

If the worst happened and Woodend, including our Centre, were to be destroyed, we would still retain much of our history. Every record that is described and indexed on a computer would be safe, as external drives held as far away as Melbourne, are constantly backed up with the entire collection. What might be lost of course, are some of the archival items, the actual items that we have copied and indexed.

Having painted this rather dismal picture, this is a plea to all members of the community to consider depositing any precious records that relate to this district at the L&FHC. Given the measures we have taken these records will be much much safer than tucked away under beds in cardboard boxes or at the back of cupboards. Again, if you have completed your own family history – and you will know what a time consuming task that has been – make sure that backup copies are given to other family members who live outside the district and that a copy is deposited in our ‘safe’ storage area. No matter when you arrived here, you are now part of our history! If you are still holding original records that relate to distinct organizations or families, please deposit them at the Centre. We will not only make every effort to make sure that they remain

intact but will sort and index them and record them so that they can be of use now and in the future.

Finally, probably most people have heard that the Marysville Historical Society lost its entire archive when an attempt was made to move it to a

# Welcome to the Woodend Star Kids Club April Birthdays

|      |                           |          |
|------|---------------------------|----------|
| 2nd  | Pip Southey.....          | Turns 8  |
| 7th  | Matthew Cations .....     | Turns 13 |
| 7th  | Cooper Ormerod .....      | Turns 8  |
| 11th | Scarlett Southey.....     | Turns 10 |
| 11th | Simon Ross.....           | Turns 11 |
| 11th | Alisha M Sturt.....       | Turns 12 |
| 12th | Grace Elliot.....         | Turns 13 |
| 13th | Thomas Dale.....          | Turns 4  |
| 13th | Burry Smith .....         | Turns 13 |
| 14th | Jack Hayward.....         | Turns 10 |
| 18th | Emilee Tia Anderson ..... | Turns 12 |
| 21th | Luelle Tanner.....        | Turns 13 |
| 22th | Jordan Deleeuw .....      | Turns 10 |
| 24th | Meghan Norman .....       | Turns 7  |
| 27th | Kaleb P. Gabauer .....    | Turns 12 |
| 29th | Brandon Lee Gabauer.....  | Turns 10 |
| 29th | Jayne Plant .....         | Turns 13 |

## Happy Birthday Everyone!

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**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.)



**WOODEND & DISTRICT  
PODIATRY**

**John F. Shapland**  
Resident Practitioner

Reg. Department Veteran's Affairs

**5427 2064**  
Business and After Hours

1895 Mt. Macedon Rd., Woodend

private home for safe keeping. If you have photographs or other records pertaining to Marysville, we are collecting them to pass on at a suitable time. They can be dropped in to the court house on a Wednesday, posted to the W&DHS, PO 124, Woodend, 3442 or left in our (so far) secure mail box on the Court House verandah.

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## Autumn mists harsh reality of water crisis

Welcome as autumn showers have been across Victoria, Western Water is urging customers to continue to upgrade their home and garden water systems in the face of the region's serious and ongoing water shortfalls.

Managing Director John Wilkinson said January and February had been the driest months on record in the Melton and Gisborne regions.

"Welcome rain in December certainly boosted Melbourne catchments at the time and gave gardens a great start to summer," he said.

"But January and February were certainly extreme and the hottest and driest two months of any summer period over the past record-breaking 10 years."

Mr Wilkinson again urged town residents throughout the Western Water region to stick to the Stage 3a water restrictions and really focus on the Target 155 campaign challenge of matching or beating the aim of 155 litres per person per day.

"Targets were exceeded during the critical and extreme weather events we suffered over the past two months and the start to this year has really taken the shine off those December downpours," he said.

"We now have until November to really tackle the causes of our consumption blow-outs, of which garden watering has been a major contributor.

"This is something every gardener needs to tackle at the household level so we can avoid more stringent restrictions next summer and, more importantly, so we face up to the realities of a changing and drier climate."

Mr Wilkinson urged Western Water customers to investigate the many different water saving rebates available to them, particularly State and Federal rebates for rainwater and greywater recycling tanks and collection systems.

"The Victorian Government is also offering householders rebates for garden mulch and wetting agents, rain sensors for automatic watering systems, rainwater diverters to garden ponds and swimming pools, trigger nozzles for hoses and garden tap timers, as well as temporary greywater diverters," he said.

The Federal Government has also implemented a rebate scheme for householders with eligible rainwater tanks and greywater systems purchased after 30 January, 2009. Applications are being accepted now.

For information, go to [westernwater.com.au](http://westernwater.com.au) or contact Western Water on 1300 650 422.

# S P O R T S N E W S

## Woodend Golf Club

Are you interested in golf? Join the **free Junior Golf Clinic** on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 9.20am.

You're invited to attend a 2-hour clinic for boys and girls aged 9-12 years. Training aids provided: clubs/balls/tees. Mums and dads are very welcome.

For more information contact Mick: 5427 1355 or Beau 5426 1572



Submitted by Veronica Sullivan

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## \$500 for local Brigades from Petanque Premiership

The Newham and Woodend Brigades will get \$250 each from the Woodend Hanging Rock Petanque Club following its Lightning Premiership.

"As part of the community we like to support our local Brigades" said Ken Helmore, Club President as he announced the results of the Lightning Premiership.

Winners: David Shennen & Waldeck Chaba-Jaroskinski

Runners Up: Helen Cottew & Hugh Cohen

"A great fun night with 32 players participating with an exciting final watched over with enthusiastic support by the players".

Thursday night petanque at the Rock continues until our finale on 02 April 2009.

Submitted by Chinka Steel

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