

THE NEW WOODEND STAR



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North Woodend, Hanging Rock, Carlsruhe, Cobaw.

AN INITIATIVE OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WOODEND

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A Monthly Community Periodical

First Publication 1997

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Macedon Ranges Australia Day Awards

Every year on behalf of the National Australia Day Council, Macedon Ranges Council celebrates the vital contributions made by members of the community. The Macedon Ranges Shire Australia Day awards were held at the Kyneton Town Hall with local residents amongst those to receive awards. The Community Achievement Award was presented to Jane Walduck and Kellie Duff for making an extraordinary contribution to the Woodend community through their dedication towards establishing the Woodend Children's Park.

They worked tirelessly to raise awareness of and funds for the Woodend Children's Park and encouraged the local community to participate in the project and comment on the design of the park.

They didn't do this by themselves, however, without their vision and belief in the concept, this project would not have been completed within the time frame and to such a high standard.

The end result is testament to Jane and Kellie's commitment and driving passion. Congratulations to you both.



Jane Walduck & Kelly Duff, pictured here at the opening of The Woodend Children's Park,

Also at the awards ceremony, the Community Event of the Year Award was given to the Woodend Children's Park Opening.

The Woodend Children's Park is the result of many years of hard work by locally-based group, Woodend Children's Park Incorporated, along with support from local businesses and residents who had a vision to create a playground that inspires creativity, adventure and enjoyment in play.

More than 100 people attended the official opening of the Park in October 2009.

The Opening was a celebration of community - how the community rallied to support the venture and how the

community embraced the idea of the Park.

Not only were the committee members, members of parliament, Councillors and Council Staff involved, but local students and artists were invited to enrich the experience with performance and participation.

It was fabulous to see this hard working group receive some recognition from the broader community for their commitment and hard work.

The 23rd Annual Picnic at Hanging Rock

The Picnic at Hanging Rock is run by the Macedon Ranges and District Motor Club Inc as an Annual event on the second Sunday in February. It started out as a very small gathering to allow club members and their friends an opportunity to get together to enjoy each other's company and their motoring interests over a picnic lunch.

Today, the event is open to all enthusiasts and the range and number of vehicles on display has made the Picnic the largest single day event in Victoria's motoring calendar, and one of the biggest across the nation. There are usually over 2500 vehicles on display at the Hanging Rock Reserve.

The club aims to maintain a family friendly focus for the day by providing a wide range of entertainment opportunities for children as well as a range of displays and of course the extensive collection of vehicles for the adults.

Entry is \$20 per car, and \$5 for motorcycles and pedestrians.

Entertainment for children all day and food and refreshments available for purchase.

For more information, visit www.picnicathangingrock.com.au

Harvest Picnic at Hanging Rock

28th February, Hanging Rock Reserve

The Age Harvest Picnic at Hanging Rock is a celebration of Victorian food and wine. Over 100 small food and wine producers from all around Victoria gather to sample, sell and showcase their delicious array of goods against the magnificent backdrop of Hanging Rock. Taste exotic barbecue flavours, magnificent regional wines, unusual cheeses, the finest preserves, full flavoured ice-cream and a great variety of delicious small goods.

Along with exhibiting an amazing array of fine food and wine, The Age Harvest Picnic at Hanging Rock will feature cooking demonstrations by a number of well known chefs, live music all day and free children's activities. Bring a picnic blanket and relax with friends under the gum trees. You can even make a weekend of it with so many great places to stay in the area.

For more information visit: www.harvestpicnic.com.au



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For people wishing to submit articles 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.

EMAIL articles preferred: sales@collierooffice.com.au

Circulation: 3190 copies throughout Woodend and district.

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Committee: Barry Naphine, Ivor Johnson, Claudia Green, Brendan Watters, Alexia Downie, Joy Barker & Jane Watters

Closing date for inclusion of articles or advertising for each issue is the 15th of the month prior to publication Information for advertisers

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Accounts queries can be made to Joy on 5427 4089 during office hours or nws@johnson.com.au

Mail should be directed to: New Woodend Star, C/- The Bank, 75 High Street, Woodend 3442.

Woodend Star Publication Dates for 2010

Feb	1st February	July	28th June
Mar	29th February	August	1st August
Apr	29th March	September	30th August
May	3rd May	October	27th September
June	31st May	November	25th October
	Dec/Jan	29th November	

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Relay For Life motivates

As teams gear up for the 2010 Lancefield-Macedon Ranges Relay For Life over the weekend of February 27-28, it is worthwhile contemplating what motivates participants.

“The Relay does not just help us remember those who have died from cancer. It allows us to celebrate those who have fought and survived cancer. It allows us to think about those who are currently fighting cancer and gives us many reasons to raise money to find a cure. It also gives the Macedon Ranges Community a chance to gather together and rally against Cancer.”

“The motto of the Relay is what inspires us to participate each year, ‘Celebrate, Remember, Fight Back!’”

“The fundraising associated with the Relay provides much needed funds for research and other programs, but it is the Relay itself that is the important focus. Sometimes, I think, this focus is lost whilst working on the fundraising, but when you arrive at the Lancefield Park on the Saturday to set up the team tent the enormity of the event comes flooding back to you. A wonderful celebration of life and remembrance of those who are no longer with us.”

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

Around 40 teams are expected to add to the regional fundraising effort of more than \$700,000 since the Relay started at Lancefield in 2003.

It costs \$15 per person to register (including 2010 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.

Many participants camp overnight and live entertainment and catering are provided.



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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.

If you would like to support Relay For Life but are unable to participate at Lancefield Park please contact Nadine Hartnett on 54271571, 0439 399 838 or email: nhartnet@bigpond.net.au



Fun Car Rally for Cancer Council

Gather your sweetheart, friends, neighbours and extended family for some good old-fashioned fun this Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14.

All you need is a reliable vehicle, a sense of adventure and sharp observation skills to join a Fun Family Car Rally to raise funds for the Cancer Council Victoria.

Lancefield-Macedon Ranges Relay For Life team, Teddy's Angels, is hoping for a strong turnout to boost their efforts towards cancer research, education, advocacy and support services.

Registration for the rally will be at Buffalo Stadium, Woodend between 10am and 10.45am. Cost is \$20 per vehicle. Follow the clues along a relaxed route to a mystery destination, as you're challenged to pay special attention to your journey.

The cost will include a sausage sizzle and soft drinks. BYO picnic, rug and chair and relax. There will be children's games, raffles and prizes. Stay for as little or as long as you like. The drive will take around 90 minutes, with success judged on your navigation and observation prowess. IT IS NOT A RACE. The rally is suitable for all ages and the afternoon's activities will finish by 5pm. Pre-registration and details: Nadine or Rob 5427 1571, 0439 399 838.

Time to rock!

And for a different pace, another Relay For Life fundraiser is being held in Lancefield on the afternoon of February 14. Trip the light fantastic with old time dance band, Bits & Pieces, at the Lancefield Mechanics Hall from 1.30pm to 5pm. Afternoon tea will be served.

If you are not up to dancing, the music is great to listen to and the energetic dancers are sure to entertain.

Tickets are \$10 per person and available at the door. All proceeds go towards the Cliffy Young Shufflers team fundraising for the Cancer council Victoria.

For further details or bookings contact Bill Badger on 5429 5280.

Woodend Winter Arts Festival program launch

Each year in March, a special concert will be held to celebrate the launch of the WWAFF 2010 Festival Program. The printed program is released to the public via this concert. Tickets to the events in June become available after this concert.

Accademia Arcadia, Victoria's foremost baroque orchestra, will present Glorious baroque concertos! The program includes Vivaldi's opus 3 no. 8, a minor, and no. 11, d minor, Handel's Organ concerto opus 4 no. 1, g minor, Vivaldi's d minor concerto for 2 violins, cello and orchestra, and J S Bach and more! Featuring Paul Wright, violin and John O'Donnell, organ.

The concert will be held on Thursday 18th March at 8pm St Ambrose Catholic Church Woodend. Tickets available at door from 7:15pm. Cost \$20 full price and \$15 concession (pensioner, student, unemployed). There is no need to book your tickets. Visit www.woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au

Woodend Rainfall Report 2010

Each month we add the rainfall details and the year to date total. Our rainfall report shows, **2005, 2006 2007 2008 2009 and 2010** 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.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
January	47.4	49.8	83.5	17.1	0.0		Jan
February	72.2	53.1	27.4	22.1	0.0		Feb
March	5.8	20.6	35.7	25.4	32.3		Mar
April	18.8	46.4	20.2	20.4	38.6		April
May	13.6	58.8	95.7	43.7	32.5		May
June	116.7	36.0	105.1	88.7	56.0		June
July	76.9	91.6	83.3	112.5	91.9		July
August	125.0	30.8	34.8	52.2	104.8		Aug
Sept	55.2	50.6	49.8	42.0*	50.2		Sept
Oct	49.8	5.2	12.1	13.0*	44.9		Oct
Nov	72.4	13.0	91.0	67.2			Nov
Dec	40.0	31.0	101.2	96.0*			Dec
YTD:	720.6	693.8	486.9	739.8	600.3		YTD

Reminder: We are now on Stage 3A water restrictions.

We'll update the 2009 figures & total as well as this years rainfall in the next issue.

Figures for 2008 include information from a different location indicated by *. This has resulted in a slightly different total than the official BOM totals.

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WOODEND LIONS CLUB ANNUAL



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MARCH 2010

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 Monday 8th 9am - 4pm

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You're standing there in your jeans and elastic sided boots. At the edge of the swimming pool, you lean over, over, over. As far as you can go, while staying anchored to the edge. It's hot, and your feet sweat in your woollen sox. Swimming lessons are over, and it's time to go home.

Come on. Get out of the pool. Come on darling. Time to go home. Hop out now, love. It's time to go. You have to hop out. We've got to go home. Daddy's waiting. The puppy dog is hungry and needs his dinner. All the kids are going home. It's time for us to go. The pool is closing soon.

I haven't got time for this, Princess. The lady said you have to get out of the pool. Didn't you lady? "S'cuse me Madam, could you please ask my child to get out of the pool?" See? The lady's getting cranky. Oh oh. I think the policeman's coming! Quick. Let's go! You know I can't come in and get you, because I'm dressed like a mountain climber, not a swimmer.

GET-OUT-NOW! RIGHT NOW! (Oh no. Is anybody watching?)

I'll give you a jelly bean. Two jelly beans? OK. If you come over here and hop out and get dry and get your bags and get in the car then we'll buy a new fairy dress, a castle and a pony. I'll paint the house pink. We'll have fairy bread for tea. Quick, let's go before the toy shop shuts. (Shaking of towel, spread wide, ready to wrap around child). All right. We're going now. Bye. I'm taking the other kids to Disneyland, and you're going to miss out because you stayed in the pool. Yes. That's it. We're off to Disneyland right now. Are you coming? Hellooo Mickey. Hellooooo Minnie. Please?

Oh My Gosh! Aliens! I think there's aliens coming to swim in the pool!

How come they never believe anything we say any more?

Submitted by Kathy Mexted



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Sustainable Living Festival in the Macedon Ranges

The Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group (MRSG) is holding a Sustainable Living Festival during February, at the Woodend Community Hub and gardens at the rear of 47 Forest Street Woodend.

MRSG has acted on encouragement by the Sustainable Living Foundation, who have, in recent years, hosted a Melbourne based Sustainable Living Festival at Federation Square.

The Macedon Ranges Sustainable Living Festival will emphasise that sustainability starts in our personal lives. "Sustainability at all levels of our lives will be the theme of our Sustainable Living events in February", Mr Hansford said.

Some planned events include weekend tours of sustainable new and retrofitted houses, a bicycle maintenance workshop which will incur a small fee, various stalls showcasing wind, solar PV, solar water heating, energy audits, electric cars, organic food and local produce. Workshops and experiential stalls will include massage, yoga, meditation and other mind/body healing modalities.

Tours of the MRSG community permaculture garden will include advice on permaculture, instruction on how to raise and care for chooks and prune fruit trees and lots of other activities. Many locals will be involved as volunteers to ensure the festival goes smoothly.

Saturday events will culminate with a BYO picnic/BBQ in the grounds of the Woodend Community Hub gardens with live music from 5.00 pm.

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Further information is available by contacting MRSG on 5427 2151 or either of the following websites, www.woodendweb.org/mrsg/index.html or www.festival.slf.org.au

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ANZAC Day 2010 Hidden Heroes

Were you hiding a hero at Christmas?

We want your heroes to 'talk' to us on ANZAC Day.

At the ANZAC Day Dawn Service on Mt Macedon we tell tall stories of ordinary Australians doing extraordinary deeds in the service of their country. The stories we tell (or our high school students tell) are stories that touch the hearts and heads of up to 3000 people who make the pre-dawn pilgrimage 'up the Mount' each ANZAC day. True we are reminded of the real and terrible human costs of war – for everyone. But buried deep within many of those stories are implicit challenges to learn new and different ways of resolving conflict – ways that are more effective and pay more regard for the value of human life.

Where do they come from - these stories?

They come from diaries, note books, poetry and letters home written by Australians at 'The Front' or after they come home from all wars and war-like military deployments in which Australians have been involved since Federation. Or they come from local newspaper items, photo-stories, museum, historical and heritage societies around the Macedon Ranges and country Victoria.

Often they come from bottom drawers, bookshelf backs and biscuit tins in homes like yours, passed down through generations in families like yours.

If you have stories of hidden heroes at home our committee would like to consider them for telling at the Mt Macedon Dawn Service on ANZAC Day.

Why not make a copy, scan it in and email it to me?

Or call me and I'll give you an address you can post to.

Submitted by Dr Frank Donovan, Chairperson, Mt Macedon ANZAC Dawn Service Committee.

Email: donovan@impulse.net.au Tel; 5427 2217.

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WOODEND RSL January 2010 Report

I will use this report to review progress at the RSL in the last 12 months. Early in 2009 we completed the restoration of the main Hall and resumed trading at the bar. In May we received a grant from the Department of Veteran Affairs to completely modernise our Kitchen, this was operational by September with the participation of local tradesmen and as usual considerable volunteer effort. This willingness to help is one of the many good features of our Club. Then our tireless Women's Auxiliary introduced the monthly Friday night evening Dinner, this has proved to be a great success.

The result of the upgrading of our facilities has resulted in private functions now being regularly held at the Club, with a positive effect on our financial position. The RSL ended our financial year on the 31 December in a good financial position and will be able to not only continue to improve facilities but offer more to our members in 2010. Speaking personally I would love the Club to be more involved in Woodend's community activities in the future.

During the past year our Welfare Officer Barry Meldrum has helped many of our Veteran members deal with a large variety of situations. Last year we had a total of 54 members, This year we are already well on the way to beating that figure with a pleasing number of new members to the RSL.

All members are reminded that our Annual General Meeting will be held at the clubrooms on the 3 March 2010 commencing at 7.30pm. Please attend as this is your opportunity to shape the future of your Club. Only financial members can vote for the election of committee members and the present committee would welcome new committee members.

Submitted by Eric Read Secretary/ Treasurer



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Woodend Rotary Club

Helping Haiti

On Saturday 23th January Woodend Rotary Club hosted a sausage sizzle to raise funds for the deployment of Shelter Boxes to assist with provision of clean water and shelter for those devastated by the earthquake. The collections for Shelterbox for Haiti currently stand at \$3,356.35, made up of an anonymous donation of \$2,000 plus \$1,356.35 collected at Coles Supermarket. Woodend Rotary Club will continue fundraising at Australia day celebrations.

submitted by Eb Friedrich

Council Approves Woodend Neighbourhood Safer Place

At its Ordinary Council Meeting 16 December 2009, Macedon Ranges Shire Council approved Buffalo Sports Stadium at Woodend Racecourse Reserve as a designated Neighbourhood Safer Place.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council Mayor, Cr Rob Guthrie said Neighbourhood Safer Places are intended to be places of last resort.

“Neighbourhood Safer Places may provide some sanctuary from the life threatening effects of a bushfire in the event of failure of a person’s primary bushfire plan,” he said.

The Woodend Township Protection Plan has been amended to include the Neighbourhood Safer Place at Buffalo Sports Stadium and signage has been erected on site.

David Allen, CFA Manager Community Safety Region 14 said “the CFA is pleased that Council has endorsed Buffalo Stadium as a Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP), but we would like to remind all residents that NSPs are only places of last resort.”

“The basic premise of an NSP is that it may provide some protection from radiant heat, which is the biggest killer during bushfire.”

“But it should not be the first, second or third option—going to a Neighbourhood Safer Place is an option of last resort only when all other plans have failed,” he said.



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Always make backups of your data at least once a month, when your computer fails, you won't lose your valuable holiday photos or business documents. We strongly suggest backing up to a USB thumb drive, as DVD's and CD's slowly degrade over time, quickly if left in sunlight, and are easy to render unreadable if scratched. USB Thumb drives last a hundred years, can be re-written to a thousand times and aren't damaged by heat, sunlight or scratches.

Woodend Playgroup News

The Woodend Playgroup is now taking enrolments for 2010. 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. Term Fees are \$30 per family and the yearly 2010 Playgroup Victoria Membership of \$25 per family, which offers a number of great resources and discounts (concessions also available).

The 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.

The Playgroup is a self funded organisation that relies on our members fees and fundraising to continue to operate.

We greatly appreciate all the support we have received from many local businesses throughout 2009.

Thank you to Sign Obsession for installing our new brightly colored signs recently with funds received from the MRSC Community Funding Scheme.

The AGM Meeting will be held on Monday 15th Feb at 8pm at Woodend Playgroup Forest St, Woodend.

Submitted by: Josie McLeish President Woodend Playgroup

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Macedon Ranges Bridge Club

We often hear the phrase “use it or lose it”. In our youth and early adulthood this term is sometimes raised in the context of physical health. As we grow older it is equally – if not more – important to exercise our mental health, and one way to give the grey matter a bit of a stimulus is to play a ‘mind’ game like contract bridge.

On the face of it – and to the uninitiated – bridge may seem a relatively simple trick-taking card game, but as all who get hooked on bridge soon find out there is much more – to such an extent that many of us are still tearing our hair out (actually or metaphorically) after many years of playing bridge.

Bridge developed from whist at the turn of the last century to become one of the most popular, and certainly most challenging, card games today. It comprises two stages, first in the bidding where players compete to decide on a

contract to make a certain number of tricks, and second in the actual card play attempting to gain those tricks.

Bridge is a game where two players form a partnership and compete against another pair. Played socially it takes the form of what is usually referred to as rubber bridge, where the players just shuffle a conventional deck of cards between hands.

Played more formally in a club environment the play is often conducted in the form of duplicate sessions where about 24-27 ‘computer-dealt’ decks of cards are used and played by all of the players without further shuffling – so scoring on a given deck of cards is simply a matter of ranking pair performance amongst all pairs. It is also great fun, but can get serious – a famous 1929 game ended with an irate wife allegedly shooting her husband for what she considered a careless bid and poor play (she was eventually acquitted of murder and subsequently received a very handsome payout on her dead husband’s life insurance policy, as explained in www.blakjak.demon.co.uk/bennett.htm).

The Macedon Ranges Bridge Club (MRBC) meets regularly in Woodend (but loaded pistols must be left at the door!). Sessions on Monday at 12.30 pm and Tuesday at 7.30 pm are conducted under the rules of the Australian Bridge Federation and points are awarded to the best performers. Both these sessions are held weekly at the Woodend Community Centre Hall. Thursday play commencing at 12.30 pm at the Woodend Tennis Club rooms, is purely social and far more relaxed.

The MRBC plays host to many keen players across the state for its Congress on the last Sunday in September each year, and encourages and supports its own club members who play in congresses at other venues. Also, at least once a year we offer lessons for beginners over an 8-week period on Tuesday evening, and also occasionally run short refresher classes.

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The MRBC has around 70 members of whom 50 or so play very regularly. It runs its bridge playing sessions in a very friendly atmosphere and always welcomes visitors and new players. If you would like to know more about bridge and your local bridge club please contact the secretary, Peter Wells on 5427 4440, or the president, Rex Fox on 5424 1569. You can also find out more about our activities by visiting the MRBC website, www.mrbc.asn.au

submitted by Peter Wells

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Mary MacKillop Experience

My family first experienced Mary MacKillop in 1999 and it was profound. My son Jack became very ill quite suddenly while he was in grade two at our local parish school. This was in itself life changing but the manner in which Mary MacKillop engaged us was even more so. Jack was struck down with a neurological illness and there was no cure! The disease over ran my beautiful eight year old boy leaving him paralysed and compromised in every way, I didn't understand how this could have happened to him nor why. Things went from bad to worse when a short time later Jack was also diagnosed with cancer and developed epilepsy. Life as our family knew it had ended; it was as if someone had turned out the light.

Of course God has a way of throwing up challenges unexpectedly and it is in the way we respond to such challenges that takes us out of our comfort zone. In our situation with a child who was dying it required reaching out, not only into the unknown and unexplored spaces of the heart, mind and soul, but also in to the real world where faith and the Spirit can be found in every day community. This was the place where Mary MacKillop embraced me as a desperate and frightened woman living in the real world. Anyone who knows Mary will also know that once she has your attention there is no going back and who can refuse such a woman? I think Mary wanted something from me and I had to follow her.

With the assistance of the wider faith community including St Ambrose and Sacred Heart College, we asked Blessed Mary MacKillop to intercede for us on Jack's behalf and we petitioned her for healing. It was clear that Jack needed a miracle because medicine could not save him. As a group we never knew what the outcome would be, only that there was a road to walk and we were prepared to walk it, the task made easier with Mary's presence and she has walked many a difficult road. This was a spiritual journey where very deep bonds were forged and the experience we shared, which was "divine", has changed all of us. Healing was granted. There is no sign of the illness, no more MRIs, no chemo, that part of our lives is over. As far as Jack's neurologist is concerned "he is healed, healed, healed". Today ten years later Jack is a Queen's Scout and a vibrant young man whom I am sure will recount his own personal journey with us in the future.

Mary MacKillop inspired me to step outside the boundaries of normal everyday life as a witness to faith and to find salvation. It is my pleasure to be part of the testimony to her goodness and the road towards her canonisation.

by Sharon Simpson

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Upcoming Events & Meetings

February

- 6/7 Sustainable Living Festival
- 6 Duneira — Concerts
- 6 Hanging Rock Film Night
- 13 Opera at the Rock
- 14 Picnic at Hanging Rock
- 14 Valentines Day
- 15 Woodend Playgroup AGM
- 21 Lions Village Market
- 27/28 Relay For Life Lancefield Macedon Ranges
- 27 Ross Noble "Things"
- 28 Harvest Picnic at Hanging Rock

March

- 3 RSL AGM
- 7/8/9 Lions Art Show
- 13 Newham Sustainable Festival
- 18 WAAF Launch Concert St Ambrose church 8.00 pm. Tix at door.
- 21 Lions Village Market
- 21 Camp out at Hanging Rock Reserve
- 27 Vauderville X, Kyneton Town Hall

April

- 17 St Ambrose Fete
- 18 Lions Village Market
- 22 "Divas" Kyneton Town Hall
- 25 ANZAC day

May

- 7 "Anything Goes" Kyneton Town Hall
- 14 Zulya & The Children Of The Underground. Malmsbury Hall
- 16 Lions Village Market
- 22 Arts Ball, Kyneton Town Hall

June

- 11/14 Woodend Winter Arts Festival
- 18 Wombat Stew Kyneton Town Hall

July

- 9 Mario Lanza Story
- 14 Johnny Cash Tribute Show
- 17 Fox. Kyneton Town Hall

Community groups are invited to submit their event dates to be included in this listing

PLEASE SEND US YOUR FUTURE DATES

COMMUNITY GROUPS CONTACT DETAILS

Alcoholics Anonymous Friday night, Cobaw Community Centre 0409 131 144
 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
 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 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 Robyn Roberts 5427 1342
 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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5427 2314
- BP Woodend*
5427 2248
- Target Country*
5427 4366
- Macedon Ranges Travel Services*
5427 4777
- Kosmac & Clemens: optometrists*
5427 4577
- Woodend Cycles*
5427 2662
- Salvation Army Family Store*
5427 4421
- Loose Change Bargains*
5427 4466
- Bodywise Underwear*
1300 66 17 66
- Australia Post*
5427 2600
- Inner Artist*
5427 4455
- The Spa Beauty Therapy Centre*
5427 3322
- HIGH STREET SHOPS**
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5427 2210
- RT Edgar Real Estate*
5427 1222
- Woodend Bakery Cafe*
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Home among the gum trees.

It is 43 degrees the day we arrive.

I don't care; in fact, I hardly notice the oppressive heat in my excitement. Nothing can blanket my delight at being back in the bush after an adulthood of urban living.

Like many city refugees before us, the open road to salvation leads inland, away from the coast and into the country. To where paddocks, trees and sheds replace houses all in a row and wood-chipped parks with electronic toilets.

Our new home is literally among the gum trees. There are no plum trees, but it does have a verandah and more than a few kangaroos.

The house is surprisingly cool when I open the door. Outside, the magpies gargle lazily in the canopy above. The only other sound is the hum of a single car on a distant hill.

I marvel at the space and the stillness. And my good fortune.

A week later and all that joy is gone; obliterated by the knowledge of what a bushfire is capable of.

My forester husband is gone too, leaving one morning before dawn to join the fire fight.

The six-year old son quietly asks where his dad is. His three year old sister follows up with, "when are we going home?"

It wasn't meant to be like this.

We joked about living on a gravel road and having to drive to town when we needed a carrot. We thought our biggest problem would be enduring the cold winters, not the 'widow-makers' flanking the driveway.

Driving into town I feel a homesickness I haven't felt

since I was sent to boarding school. The three year-old nails it when she announces at kinder: "I just want to go home", before dissolving into tears.

Home. Where's that? It's been 30 years since I left the dusty, one pub town where everyone knew my name.

I start to wonder whether nostalgia has cast a rosier-than-reality glow over my memories of growing up in the bush?

Have I forgotten the little girl's vigil at the window, waiting for her own father to come home from a bushfire? Anxiously willing the ute's headlights to sweep up the driveway, signaling his safe return.

And what about the burden having chooks, a dog and a pony is when it is time for a holiday? Not to mention the car travel, the lack of water in the tank and the insidious creep of the salt demon across our once fertile paddocks.

The best bit was growing up in a place where you were free to roam and explore the wide open spaces out of the sight of the grown-ups. Where you could take risks and head off on the horse or the motorbike after solemnly promising: "Cross my heart I'll be home before it's dark."

I remind myself this is what I've come in search of.

I want my kids to understand that not all families can afford a new car. And that it is OK if your mobile phone drops out because that makes it more likely people will drop in and talk face to face.

I want them to know who runs the newsagent, what "CFA" stands for and to realise the local coppers do more than chase bad guys.

Mostly, I want them to grow up with a sense of place that extends beyond their own backyard. Where they too, are recognised in the street.

Do these "places" still exist in rural Australia? Are there communities strong enough to survive and even prosper in the face of fires and floods and drought?

The answers come to me in the main street. The moment a local woman stops me with a hand on my arm and asks me if I am OK.

Concerned I am new to town, alone with two young children and a hastily drawn up fire plan; this woman gives me her phone number, address and directions on how to find her house before instructing me gently to call her if I need anything.

It takes all my willpower not to weep with gratitude.

I struggle to regain my composure as she walks away. Yet the suffocating homesickness lifts as I realise I am right where I want to be.

I'm back in the country where people notice tired newcomers and reach out to strangers.

I'm home.

By Sue Peacock

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Woodend Auxiliary Kyneton District Health Service

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The members of the Woodend Auxiliary have been raising funds for our hospital for over 40 years. In recent times, as numbers have fallen and members have aged, we have given up doing lunches, Dutch Auctions, Tupperware demonstrations, and other functions that involve physical work.

However the old reliable raffle still serves us well. We can sit in Coles supermarket and tap into the terrific community spirit of this town by selling raffle tickets at \$1 each.

The prizes are donated – a Christmas hamper, a Mother's Day basket, a Father's Day box. It doesn't matter what the prize is. The tickets sell, and the donations flow in, and after three weeks or so we've raised between \$900 and \$1100 (on average).

Last December the total was over \$1300. This was added to when we had a morning at the hospital itself, with a "trade table" as well as the raffle.

Jams and chutneys, shortbreads and boiled fruit cakes, covered coat hangers and handmade Christmas decorations – staff, patients, and visitors bought them, to a total of nearly \$400.

As a result, the Auxiliary, under the leadership of President, Mrs Marjorie Wilton, is donating to the hospital a machine for measuring pulse, temperature, and blood oxygen levels of patients. It costs nearly \$3300, with the balance made up from our reserves.

Sitting at a table in Coles supermarket can be really good for the community.

As a result of this, and moneys raised previously by the Auxiliary, we are able to pay for the purchase of a 'pulsimeter', a machine which measures a patient's pulse, temperature, and blood oxygen levels. Better care for you and your family is our aim!

Thankyou, Woodend.

The Auxiliary's first meeting for this year will be on Thursday February 11, at the RSL Hall.

Submitted by Jo Clancy, Secretary

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Male Vocalist Wanted

Local musical trio, Kaleidoscope, are seeking a male vocalist to complete their SATB quartet. Having recently performed at the Palais in Hepburn Springs and the opening of the Woodend Childrens' Park, they are looking for a talented male vocalist (pref. bass). Good musicianship required. Expressions of interest 0438 340 408.

Magnetic Websites

Martin Beaumont

PHONE 03 5427 4478

MOBILE 0414 274 988

HTTP www.magneticwebsites.com.au

EMAIL martin@magneticwebsites.com.au

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Community funding up for grabs in Macedon Ranges

Macedon Ranges' natural gas distributor SP AusNet is pleased to announce applications are now open for its \$15,000 Community Development Fund.

SP AusNet Gas Operations Support Manager Rob McDougall said all Macedon Ranges community groups were invited to apply for the Community Development Fund, with the aim of providing local groups the opportunity to realise their grassroots community project ideas.

"SP AusNet is committed to building stronger relationships with the communities in which it operates, as demonstrated through the establishment of this fund," Mr McDougall said.

"Community groups can receive up to a maximum of \$5,000 for their project, with a total of \$15,000 available overall, which is dedicated to be spent in the Macedon Ranges Shire." "We ask all groups to think about how this fund can be best used to support projects that are community-driven and led," Mr McDougall said.

SP AusNet's Community Development Fund is now open, with applications due by Sunday 28 February 2010.

Entries will be assessed according to selection criteria by a committee made up of SP AusNet and Macedon Ranges Shire Council representatives. The selection criteria are published on SP AusNet's website at www.sp-ausnet.com.au.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council Mayor, Cr Rob Guthrie said he was pleased to be able to partner with SP AusNet on the fund, which will greatly benefit the Macedon Ranges community.

"In these challenging financial times, SP AusNet's generous fund provides a great opportunity for our local groups to receive some much-deserved funds," Cr Guthrie said.

"We're also very pleased that Macedon Ranges Shire Council representatives are on the committee and will therefore be involved in the selection of fund recipients," Cr Guthrie said.

Fund recipients for SP AusNet's Community Development Fund will be announced in late March.

This is the first time SP AusNet has offered its Community Development Fund to community groups located within its gas distribution network, located in western Victoria.

The application form and further information is now available at Macedon Ranges Shire Council offices in Gisborne, Kyneton, Romsey and Woodend or applicants can download a copy from SP AusNet's website at www.sp-ausnet.com.au.



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Duneira hosts first concert in February

Dr Jacqueline Ogeil, WWAF Artistic Director, recently accepted the position of Director of Duneira, the late Stewart Stoneman's magnificent property in Mt Macedon.

Mr Stoneman had a vision for this property. Informed by the great Huntington Collection in California, he sought to create a set of experiences through music, art, books and his glorious garden that would inspire the people of this region and beyond.

Jacky will be designing new cultural and artistic activities to be held on the property at Officer Lane, Mt Macedon.

The first of a series of concerts begins on Saturday February 6th with a one-hour recital by visiting Italian harpsichordist, Michele Benuzzi. So popular has this event been that the initial 2.30 pm concert has already been sold out. However, a repeat performance will now be held at 4.30 pm.

The program, Passion and Delicacy, features works by Platti (1700-1762), Paradies (1707-1791) and D. Scarlatti (1685-1757). Seating is limited, so booking is essential. Tickets are \$35 and \$25 concession (unemployed/students/pensioners). This event is supported by the Italian Institute of Culture. For information contact Jacky on 03 5426 1490.

If you are interested in news and special events at Duneira, you are invited to add your name to a special Duneira email list. Don't miss your chance to see this beautiful property and enjoy the many things that will be offered this year. Phone Jacky on 03 5426 1490 or email: srstoneman@bigpond.com with your email address details. Visit the Duneira website at www.duneira.com.au

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A New Leaves Special Occasion.....

Children's Picture Book Author Claire Saxby will be reading her new book at New Leaves in March.

Watch this space for dates and details, or pop into New Leaves to hear more.

Cnr Anslow & Collier Sts, Woodend
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Thank you to our sponsors

The Living Word Christian Church Community held a Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 23rd December at the Woodend Community Centre. Thank you to our sponsors. Please support them as they support our activities Blue Orange Concepts, Coles Supermarket, Country Cob Bakery, Gisborne Pharmacy, Gisborne Priceline Pharmacy, Living Word Christian Church, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Mitre 10, Romsey Pharmacy, Safeway Supermarket, Shatzi's Restaurant St Ambrose Parish, Terry White Pharmacy, Woodend Fruit Market.

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Newham Sustainability Expo

David Holmgren to headline Newham Expo

Permaculture pioneer David Holmgren has been announced as the headline speaker at the Newham Sustainability Expo planned for Saturday March 13. Author of several books, David Holmgren is the leading commentator on permaculture, the design system he helped create. He toured in 2006 with US peak oil campaigner, Richard Heinberg and has made numerous appearances on ABC television and radio.

Holmgren heads an impressive list of speakers and exhibitors. The brainchild of well-known local beekeeper Jim Sansom, the Expo has assembled a program of eight major speakers. It will feature practical demonstrations and a wide range of informative displays.

An all-day event organisers are predicting more than 500 people to attend, the Expo will utilise both the recently refurbished Hall and newly rebuilt Primary School. Jim Sansom is enthusiastic about the practical outcomes of staging an event like this. 'We want to give everyone who comes something they can take home and apply easily and usefully. It's all about providing practical solutions. How you can reduce your fuel bills, or lower your energy consumption.'

It's also about accessing local resources, and the Expo has a unique offering, The 20km Lunch – a menu prepared from quality produce sourced within 20km of the town. 'It's great idea that takes advantage of the region's plentiful resources, and a practical demonstration of the easy availability of "low food miles" produce', says Jim.

The Expo will be formally opened at 12 noon on Saturday 13 March by the Victorian Commissioner for Sustainability, Dr. Kate Auty.

For further information, you can contact Jim Sansom on 0427 290 012.

Newham News

Garage Sale

Newham Mechanics Institute is again holding its famous Garage Sale on Saturday, 27th March 2010, 9.00am - 3.30pm BBQ sausages and refreshments will be available.

Donation of clean, high-quality goods are welcomed These can be delivered to the Hall on 21st March Sunday 9am - 3pm and Friday 26th March between 11am-5pm or by contacting Val 5427 0387 or Fran 5427 0661.

Woodend Neighbourhood Centre

Our first program for 2010 is now out and we are offering many interesting new opportunities as well as our regular classes. If you haven't received a copy please let us know or view it on our website www.wnci.websyte.com.au.

If you are planning study with a view to returning to the workforce then Skills for Getting that Job could be the start you need. Other educational courses include Certificate IV in Training and Assessment, Office computer skills for Business, Confidence Building and the Course in Education Integration Support.

If you fancy trying something new then how about lino printing, creative writing, quilting & stitching, numerology, card making, guitar lessons, mosaic, professional makeup application, crystal bead jewellery, Spanish language, French conversation, digital photography, drama for children, youth metal workshops, meditation and basic car maintenance.

If the environment is of interest to you how about Save the Plant & Save Money – which looks at the many ways you can minimise your impact on the environment, or introduction to permaculture.

Our computer classes are popular and we offer beginner classes, advanced Word Processing and Excel, plus an introduction to Blogging. We have received funding through the Telstra Connected Seniors and are offering free classes in internet, email, online shopping and mobile phones.

Many of us start the New Year with the aim of becoming fitter – what better way than to join one of our many local classes in belly dance, Tai Chi & Qi gong, Yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi & gentle exercise for seniors, walking or cycling.

On days of Code Red (catastrophic) Fire Danger the Woodend Neighbourhood Centre will be closed. On days of Extreme and Severe Fire Danger warnings there may be some disruption to services and classes due to the fire plans of individual staff, tutors and volunteers. We will do our best to keep disruptions and closures to a minimum, however safety of everyone who attends our Centre is important to us. If you are unsure whether to attend a class or not, please call the Centre prior to your class.

Please contact the office at 47 Forest St, or ring 5427 1845 for bookings or further information. The Neighbourhood Centre is there for the local community and will only grow and develop if you let us know what you would like to see or take part in.

submitted by Sarah Campbell Coordinator

Woodend Red Cross

On Thursday February 4th 2010 the Woodend Red Cross unit will hold their first meeting of the year in the SES bulding at 1:30pm. As many members as possible are requested to attend for the discussion of the years activities. Red Cross calling will take place in March as usual.

The winners of the Christmas raffle were 1st price: C Pace (red "C" 51) and 2nd price: J Staib (red "B" 34).

New members are always welcome. Any enquiries please contact Mrs N Proctor 5427 1260.

Submitted by J Podrazil and P Wilson.

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Make sure your bunker is no sand trap

A couple of people raised their eyebrows when we mentioned our decision to have a wildfire bunker. “You see, I don’t think they are necessarily a sensible idea” was one comment. So this got me thinking.....how is it that folk can come at this issue with the memory of the recent fires still fresh, yet arrive at such different positions?

Instead of spending the \$12,000 we did in October, in order to have a box under ground that friend John thinks is not a sensible idea, all we would have to do is make sure we are not here. That sounds easy. But where would be safe? And how safe is it getting there? Helen & I would be arguing about staying or going as the threat hove to in our front yard. We can’t know the precise circumstances that might lead to a personal emergency. You can’t control the uncontrollable. Helen is adamant that she will stay and fight a fire. There is a lot of emotional and financial investment at stake here and I understand how she feels. I know I am a worrier. No bad thing in this context. Perhaps I visualise things more than she does. Helen though can focus on the what she is doing to the total exclusion of everything else; her garden means all no matter what... so she will not leave.

The only way around this tension, and we discussed it throughout the winter, is to have a safer place than the wooden house, where we could both retreat together. A bunker it is then, but what is a safe bunker? Design one myself, or check out Google? I did both things, and whilst I could have built a larger space for the same cost as buying “off the peg”, I could not source a suitable door. Discussions with various manufacturers brought out the key issues. As there isn’t an Australian Standard to refer to, asking questions and reflecting on the answers becomes very important. Your life might depend on it! What one manufacturer sees as a crucial issue, another hasn’t really given much thought to. So “buyer beware!” As with all things, if you decide to install a bunker don’t buy the first one you inspect. The design issues are several, but in our view a safe bunker should at least have these things:

- Masonry construction, buried under 30 cms of soil. That way it will remain cooler.
- An airtight and smoke proof door designed to resist very high outside temperature. A thermometer in the door that is reliable.
- Inlet & exhaust ventilation dampers that can be locked shut. Keep the smoke out. Fire victims who have died

Joanne Duncan
STATE MEMBER FOR MACEDON **MP**

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in their bunkers have usually been asphyxiated, we understand. We think the door and vent design is most important.

- Safe access and egress for grandma too.
- Careful siting of the bunker. Not too close to the house because radiant heat would stop us getting out to fight a house on fire. Not too far away because after Feb 7th a couple were found dead between house and bunker, overwhelmed by radiant heat. So agreeing when to go to the bunker remains essential coordination between us. We have agreed we should be in there early – and when one says enough both run for it.
- A tactile link between house and bunker. Smoke, embers, it’s pitch black. Can you reach the bunker in time without stumbling around? We are going to build a fence that will guide us there.

We understand only one manufacturer has submitted their product for certification. We are told that certification means the product is likely to meet a standard when one is written. Presumably designs that get certification (and we gather this is imminent in the case of the one we have installed) would form a basis for that standard.

The State Government’s Interim Regulations require a building surveyor certify the placement and installation of bunkers. However I have heard that the Institute of Surveyors has advised its members not to certify, thereby avoiding taking responsibility for the work. Who would blame them in these circumstances? Let’s hope this bureaucratic tangle gets resolved effectively and fast. In the meantime I can say that I feel more secure and freed of anxiety. It’s also helpful when the time comes to sell. “Lovely house, includes in-ground wine cellar...”

If anyone wants to talk about this some more call me on 0429 844 800.

Submitted by Ian Scott



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What does the Woodend CFA siren signal?

The Woodend CFA siren is normally sounded for three reasons – testing, call to a meeting and an alert that we are turning out to an incident.

When you hear the siren at 10.30am on a Sunday morning, that is part of our weekly testing procedures.

When you hear it at 8pm on the first Wednesday of the month, it is to signal that the official brigade monthly meeting is about to start.

At other times, the siren is sounded as a safety alert to the nearby community that the brigade is turning out to an incident.

Unfortunately, in recent months people have been calling the Woodend CFA when the siren has been sounded asking ‘what is going on?’ We ask that you please do not call the station at this time, as we are very busy with the incident. The best way to find out ‘what is going on’, is to visit the CFA website and view the ‘Current Incident Summary’.

Burning off can now burn a hole in your pocket

The annual fire restrictions have now been in place in the region since November, and burning off is totally prohibited during the Fire Danger Period - unless you have a special permit (see below). The CFA has ‘Zero Tolerance’ instructions to strictly enforce the laws in regard to this offence. Police will be called to every incident, even if it is

only a small one.

The most dangerous part of the fire season

History shows that the bulk of grass and bush fires occur in February and March. On February 7, it will be the anniversary of the tragic Black Saturday fires, and on February 16 it will be 27 years since the devastating Ash Wednesday bushfires.

What are the fire restrictions?

Many people mistakenly believe that fire restrictions only come into effect on Total Fire Bans. However, restrictions are in place until the end of April (unless stated otherwise).

Under fire restrictions, a permit is required to burn off and this is issued by the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer of Macedon Ranges Shire.

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


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

The Can I or Can't I? brochure, available from the CFA website, features the differences between Fire Restrictions and Total Fire Ban days.


PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE

This is the main slogan that CFA will use this summer to provide information to the community. Here is a list of the priority safety messages:

- All of Victoria is at risk of bushfire, including communities near bush, grassland and the coast. Even suburban homes can be destroyed by bushfires.
- Visitors and tourists travelling in forests, bush, grassland or coastal areas need to have high awareness of their surrounds and know how to protect themselves
- The risk of bushfire increases with hot, dry and windy weather. Be aware of daily conditions, understand the fire danger ratings and activate your bushfire survival plan accordingly.



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- The only sure way to survive a bushfire is to be well away from the threat.
- Staying to defend a house involves the risk of death, injury and emotional trauma.
- Only those who have a Bushfire Survival Plan and are physically capable and mentally prepared should consider staying to defend their home.
- On a Code Red (catastrophic) Fire Danger day, the safest option is to leave early in the morning or the night before.
- On an Extreme Fire Danger day the safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area and your Bushfire Survival Plan is to leave. Only stay if your home is well prepared, well constructed and you can actively defend it.
- On a Severe Fire Danger day the safest option is to leave early in the day if you live in a bushfire prone area. Only stay if your home is well prepared and you can actively defend it.
- Children, the elderly and vulnerable should leave at the beginning of a day with a declared fire danger rating of severe or extreme, and early in the morning or the night before when conditions are predicted to be Code Red (catastrophic).
- Leaving as a fire approaches is extremely dangerous and could be fatal.
- Bushfires kill. Individuals must make their own choices and take responsibility for their decisions and actions before and during the fire season.
- A written Bushfire Survival Plan is essential and should be practised regularly.
- You should not rely on a fire truck to protect your home.
- Fires can threaten lives and property within minutes of starting; you may not receive an official warning.
- Actively monitor warnings and your surroundings. Watch for smoke and other signs of fire activity.
- Not all homes can be defended from bushfire.
- Defendable space is an area around your home where

- you have modified the vegetation and removed most of the flammable materials to reduce a bushfire's intensity.
- A defendable space could reduce the risk involved in defending your home.
- A defendable space could increase your home's chance of surviving a bushfire if you choose not to stay to defend.
- Working out if you have enough defendable space is a critical part of deciding your Bushfire Survival Plan.
- You must be physically capable and mentally prepared to stay to actively defend.

Bushfires are frightening. There will be incredible noise, Smoke, embers, flame and poor visibility.

Household Bushfire Self Assessment Tool

This will help you identify the six steps required to create a defendable home, including a defendable space calculator. You'll find it at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or phone 1800 240 667 for a copy.

For further information contact Captain Mick Christie on 0419 870 601 or 1st Lieutenant Mike Dornau on 0409 093 935. Or call the Woodend CFA on 5427 2356, visit the station in Urquhart Street or our website: 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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“A Letter of Thanks to the Quarry Road/Bawden Road Work Group and Woodend Landcare

To Residents of Woodend

I would like to draw to your attention the work of this team of volunteers who have been controlling weeds, enhancing native vegetation and reducing fire hazards along Bawden Road, Quarry Road and the Rail line in Woodend. The team has been working weekly for most of the last 3 years and have transformed this area from an unsightly mess of weeds and rubbish into a beautiful bushland setting for enjoyment of residents as well as maintaining biodiversity. As a gateway to the town for rail users, and as well as the many visitors to the Woodend Transfer station, this well managed area reflects very positively on the care and passion local residents have for their town.

It is also worth noting that this project demonstrates that fuel hazard reduction and protection of biodiversity and native vegetation are not incompatible activities for much of the Macedon Ranges Shire. In most areas fuel hazard is caused by woody weeds. This project has significantly reduced fuel loads along Quarry Road, Bawden Road and the Rail line for the benefit of the whole town.



While the Council provides funds for basic materials such as herbicide and fuel for equipment, the work completed by this group can be valued in the \$10s of thousands of dollars per year at contractor rates.

Bert Dawson and his team, with the support of Woodend Landcare have plugged away at this project with little recognition. Their reward has been the satisfaction of the outcome of their work, and the friendly relationships between neighbours that have developed. Because of the great benefits to Woodend and the shire as a whole, maybe some contact with this group or even just a walk along these roadsides to see their achievements would help give some well deserved recognition of their work and help provide motivation to continue.

While there are clear benefits from volunteer projects like this for the community and the environment, the long term maintenance requires continued support. Amidst the real of concern over fuel loads on public land, here is a working method that achieves positive outcomes over a range of issues, but it needs solid and consistent support from both the community and Council to be ongoing. This really is a game worth playing.”

Submitted by Jo Clancy



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Cancer and Natural Therapy Foundation

The Cancer and Natural Therapy Foundation, established in 1993, is a non-profit, registered charity organisation. Its aim is to self empower people through active participation by assisting them in acquiring knowledge and understanding of a wide range of natural therapies to enable them to make ‘informed choices.’ The Foundation endorses an integrative approach to health where both natural therapies and conventional treatments are equally respected according to individuals’ choices.

The Foundation provides the following services and resources: information and referral, resource library, professional counselling, guest speaker program, support groups, reiki healing, ifas treatment, ear candling, quarterly newsletter, self help workshops and educational films. Weekly Support Groups:

Health Awareness Support Group

Offering meditation, reiki healing and general discussion on natural therapies and preventative medicine. Tues 7.30-9.30pm.

Self Empowerment and Healing Support Group

For “confidence building” and “positive living” Thurs 10-11.30am

Health Workshops and Film Nights for February 2010

Vegetarian Indian Cooking Workshop For Health with Anthony Santa-Maria. Sat 20th Feb or Thurs 25th Feb. 10am-3.30pm Cost: \$55 (\$45 CNTF members)

Incl 3 course lunch and recipes. Bookings necessary

What is Reiki? DVD viewing and film discussion

Provides an introduction into the art of Reiki.

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Simply Health turns 1!

Woodend Simply Health is Celebrating its 1st Birthday!

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This year there will be many new exciting products and services available including Bowen Therapy & Anti-Ageing Facials. New products for 2010 include Sanctum Certified Organic Skin, Body & Men's range, Bee Cleaning Products with N.Z. Environmental Health Accreditation, Etiko Certified Fairtrade Sports Balls, Springfield's Essential Oil Blends, Premium Japanese & Tibetan Incense and Windhorse Prayer Flags, Egyptian red tea and Organix Organic Bulk Dog Food.

We are also hoping to add natural joint supplements for pets soon!

Our Music range has now grown to include CDs for Relaxation, Baby Sleep, Animal Calm & Healing, locally made CDs for Guided Meditation and a collection of beautiful Harp music.

Bowen Therapy & Anti-Ageing Facials will be available from late Jan. More information is available in store.

I would like to thank all my valued customers for their support over the last year. Also a BIG thank you to Jennifer Mcdonell for her guidance and generosity!

Alissa, Simply Health

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Macedon Ranges Wellness and Longevity Group

Community Weight Loss Challenge

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Also free Resources Group Meeting on the 1st Sunday of the month, 1 pm–4pm. This is open to all clients and friends. We will discuss ideas for what is working and will present information and techniques that are designed to keep you focused and successfully achieving what you want. Supporting yourself is the most important investment you can make.

For Bookings or further information

– Jennifer 0419 878 836.

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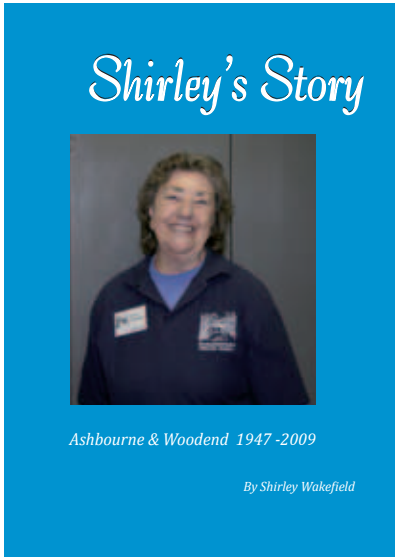
Heritage Society News

After a well deserved rest, our volunteers will be back at the L. & F.H. R.C. on Wed. 3rd February. Why not make a note to call in one Wednesday and see us in action at the old Court House in Forest Street, Woodend. We will be more than happy to show you our beautifully restored old building and our modern state of the art facilities.

Most people associate the Heritage Society with the search for, and preservation of, historical records and their indexing for researchers. This is indeed, an important part of our work, but making a record of present day life is just as

important. The release just before Christmas of "Shirley's Story" was an example of this focus, and we were thrilled that Shirley Wakefield's story of life in Ashbourne and Woodend during the period from the end of the Second World War until the present obviously captured the interest of so many people. Originally serialized in "Heritage News," it developed something of a cult following among our members. It is now available as an illustrated book for all to enjoy. Copies can be purchased from the Centre on Wednesdays and the Macedon Ranges Dry Cleaners for \$12. A cheque to the W&DHS PO Box 124, Woodend, 3442 plus \$3 pp will also secure you a copy.

Submitted by Janet Hawkins



Shirley's Story

Ashbourne & Woodend 1947-2009

By Shirley Wakefield

Woodend R.S.L Women's Auxiliary

Well Christmas and New Year Festivities are over and we hope that all our readers had a wonderful time.

The Annual R.S.L Christmas Dinner held in December was fully booked out and a lovely dinner with all the trimmings was enjoyed by all. The Wheelbarrow and 3 hampers raffle was well patronised. 1st prize of the barrow was Stella, 2nd J Fleming, 3rd Zoe Richardson, 4th Mr Chandler, 5th Gwen Travis. Our thanks to all who participated. Also a big thank you to Steven of Woodend Pharmacy for allowing us to sell tickets outside the Pharmacy.

The following night our Auxiliary catered for a party and thanks to our girls and especially our caterer Donna for their excellent help. It was a great night. Don't forget that the RSL hall is available for all functions. The Hall was booked for a Wedding in early January and we have more parties to come.

Usually the Auxiliary take a few weeks off at the end of the year and resume in February. Not so this year; we have been very busy organising Australia Day Community BBQ & Fun Day to be held at the RSL. We applied for and received a grant from the Macedon Ranges Council and as this is our very first effort for Australia Day. We thank the Council for their generosity and can only hope we can do them proud.

Submitted by Betty J. Barned Secretary. Woodend RSL Womens Auxiliary

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Space is still available in the Trades Section Great exposure at just \$30 per issue. Call Alexia for further information 5427 3092

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

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SPORTS NEWS

Squash News

With the current squash competition nearly an end in Romsey, now is the time to register your interest in playing. Why not work off that Christmas pud and all those wines and ales consumed?

Squash in Romsey is a social event with competitions being run on Tuesdays and Thursday evenings. Supper is provided as part of the competition, so stay around and have a chat after the game. It's a great way to meet other locals, especially if you are new to the area. And for all those old squashies, dust off your racquet and get out there again, you are never too old to get back into it.

In the last few months that we have been running the competition we have gone from strength to strength doubling our numbers. There is always room for more players though so give Bill a call on 0488 348 898 to arrange a hit and perhaps register for the next competition.



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Woomba thanks you

The 2009 WOOMBA Committee would like to thank all that made this year's festival a success. As with most community groups, this event would not be possible without their support. Out thanks goes to: Barker Trailers, Langley and Mc Kimmie Chartered Accountants, Woodend Pharmacy, Bodywise Underwear, Woodend Cycles, Color me Cooper, Saving Grace, Collier Office & Business Assist, Annie Rowland and Woodend Youth Music Collective, Meta Massage, Highland FM 100.7, Not Just Fudge, Woodend Bakery Cafe, Bella – the cut & colour salon, A Few Good Words – Nadine Hartnett, Fairhurst Conveyancing, Campaspe House, Stockdale & Leggo Real Estate, Raine & Horne Real Estate, R. T. Edgar Real Estate, Sassy, Bourkie's Bakehouse, Graham Glasson Pro Electronics, Riverwood Group, Cr Helen Relph, Carasmatic, Coles Supermarket, Walker's Transport, 19th Hole Centre, Rotary Club of Woodend, Woodend Children's Park for use of BBQ facilities, Sign Obsession, Elliott Midland News, The Bentinck, and the many individual volunteers including: Julie Wilson-Annan, Nathan, Amanda and Liam McFadden, Lisa & Kevin Thomas, David & Wendy Millward, Peter & Anne Lane, Ian & Dawn Fairweather, Ngaire & Eddie Scholtz, and the many local businesses that gave donations.

Submitted by the Committee of Woomba

Welcome to the Woodend Star Kids Club February Birthdays

6 th	Jayden Bullard	Turns 12
12 th	Kellie Ingleton	Turns 10
16 th	Alice Bills	Turns 11
17 th	Tyler Daniel Sturt	Turns 9
17 th	Kathleen McQuade	Turns 13
20 th	Joseph Hebb	Turns 8
22 nd	Luke McVicar	Turns 11
23 rd	Jane K. McLeish	Turns 12
25 th	Sam Hayward	Turns 12
25 th	Malachi Anderson	Turns 8
28 th	Paige McMillan	Turns 13

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: _____

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