

THE NEW WOODEND STAR



Circulation of 3190 throughout
Woodend postal district, Newham, Hesketh, Ashbourne,
North Woodend, Hanging Rock, Carlsruhe, Cobaw.

AN INITIATIVE OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF WOODEND

October 2010

A Monthly Community Periodical

First Publication 1997

Volume Fourteen No.9

Flint Hill Garden Opening

Under the auspices of Australia's Open Garden Scheme, one of Victoria's most beautiful and stately private gardens, *Flint Hill*, is to be open to the public on the weekend of 23-24th October. The proceeds of the day will benefit Australia's Open Garden Scheme and Very Special Kids (www.vsk.org.au).

The garden, which belongs to Sir Roderick Carnegie, is rarely open to the public, but for two days visitors will be able to enjoy this remarkable garden. The last time it was opened was in the autumn of 2002 and this time a spring opening makes its own magic in this lovely garden.



The 14 acre garden is the realisation of a grand vision. It was started in 1920 by Mr Harold Brookes, a prominent business man and member of the well-known Victorian family. The Edwardian style house is surrounded by wide lawns leading to woodland where advanced specimens of oaks, birch, maples, beech and conifers shelter rhododendrons and azaleas. A series of linked ponds and streams adds the refreshing sound of trickling water to the songs of a myriad of little birds.

As an added attraction, the famous Gisborne Singers will be performing in the Garden on Sunday afternoon.

Well-known garden designer, author, broadcaster and speaker, Michael McCoy will be on hand in the garden on Saturday afternoon.

Flint Hill is at 65 Romsey Road Woodend and it will be sign-posted on the freeway and the Old Calder Highway.

The garden will be open each day from 10am to 4.30pm. Entry \$10 per head; children under 18 free. Light refreshments will be available for purchase.

Contact: Arthur Boyd 041 989 7721.



Very Special Kids comes to Woodend

Hopefully, before the year is out, the first sod will be turned on an exciting new project in Woodend. Very Special Kids, a unique Victorian based organisation which currently supports more than 850 families through the experience of caring for children with life-threatening illnesses, from diagnosis through to recovery or bereavement, is establishing a host farm in Old Lancefield Road on a wonderful 26 hectare site, which has been donated to Very Special Kids. They will eventually build up to four specially designed cottages and a barn to give families a break in a relaxed and peaceful rural environment, away from the day to day routine and demands of constant care. To be known simply as 'Very Special Kids Glen Osmond Farm' families will be able to relax and enjoy this very beautiful property, and find pleasure in the many other attractions Woodend and the Macedon Ranges have to offer.

Janet and Bernie Hawkins who for a number of years, operated 'Glen Osmond' as a Hampshire Down Sheep Stud, said they are extremely excited the project will soon be underway. *"It has been a dream of ours for many years that this magnificent property should be kept as a farm and in so doing, bring something special to families who are living with such uncertainty in their lives. The stress on the parents and the brothers and sisters and extended family of a child who may not reach adulthood, is enormous. We are confident that the local community will want to reach out to these families so that even if their stay is short, for that time at least, some of the pressures of their situation will be lessened."*



David Agnew, CEO of Very Special Kids said *"the gift of 'Glen Osmond Farm' is an amazing act of generosity. For years to come it will provide families who are facing what must be one of life's greatest challenges, caring for a child with a life-threatening illness, with the chance of a short break in a very beautiful part of*

continued on page 2