

Winchelsea Star

Price \$1

Your Weekly Community Newspaper

Since 1977

Vol 48 Ed 12

Tuesday 1 April 2025

winchelseastar.org.au

**What has
Winchelsea
primary school
teacher Leah
been up to?
Find out Page 3!**



WaterSmart Washing Machine Rebate Program now open

Do you need to replace your old inefficient top loading washing machine? If so, Barwon Water will rebate you \$100 or \$200 and you'll save water, energy and money by upgrading your old top loading washing machine to an efficient front-loader.

A rebate of \$200 is available to eligible residential customers that replace their top loading washing machine with a new eligible front loading washing machine with a purchase price of \$700 or over.

A rebate of \$100 is available to eligible residential customers that replace their top loading washing machine with a new eligible washing front loading machine with a purchase price of under \$700.

On top of the rebate, you could be saving around 26 kilolitres of water or \$62 a year off your Barwon Water bills and up to \$107 a year in energy costs (based on 8kg machine and one warm water load a day).

For eligibility details and more information visit: - www.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/water-and-waste/saving-water/watersmart-washing-machine-rebates



EcoConnect Surf Coast: Empowering local action

Are you passionate about the environment? Are you keen to connect with other like-minded community members and to create positive change? Do you have an environmental project idea but not sure how to get it started and funded?

Join us for a night of community connection, inspiration and to launch the 2025 Climate Emergency grants and new Library of Things grants.

What to expect:

- Nibbles and networking with passionate locals and community groups.
- Inspiring stories of recent environmental projects across Surf Coast.
- Launch of Council's Climate Emergency and Library of Things grants.

Date: Wednesday 2 April

Where: Common Ground Project, 675 Anglesea Road, Freshwater Creek

Time: 6pm to 7.30pm

Provisions: Light refreshments (food and drinks) provided.

Cost: FREE but bookings essential.

Book at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/EcoConnectLaunch



Supporting Our Students With Four-Legged Friends

There's about to be more four-legged friends at schools across Victoria as part of a State Government program to give students the wellbeing and mental health support they need.

101 schools across Victoria will receive a grant as part of the Animal-assisted Wellbeing and Engagement Program.

The schools will each share more than \$1.7 million to implement new or expand existing animal-assisted wellbeing and engagement programs.

The initiative aims to help students build confidence and social connections, enhance empathy and strengthen emotional regulation.

Existing animal-assisted wellbeing and engagement programs in schools are already delivering these benefits and helping students to engage in learning more effectively, leading to improved attendance.

Most of the programs support students through activities involving dogs and horses which are trained to work alongside their handlers.

At some schools, students are improving literacy skills by reading books to dogs, others are building confidence and trust by working with horses.

Some schools have a support animal trained to work at their school under the care of a certified handler, while other schools work with certified external providers to tailor weekly wellbeing and engagement activities for students.

The State Government is investing \$4.8 million over three years to ensure more students can benefit from animal-assisted wellbeing and engagement programs at their school and prioritising services for students with disability and additional needs.

Round two grant applications will open to schools in Term 2.





Leah's Epic Bunting

by Alison Dean

Marcelle Renkin wrote in Winchelsea Community Cob Wall Report "Local community member, community cob wall leader and teacher at Winchelsea PS, Leah Nicholls, coordinated a community art piece in the form of a bunting. The bunting was made of 140 individually decorated, winchelsea children's art pieces, which she volunteered to sew

together to make the bunting. The bunting also involved the winchelsea kinder kids, with Alicia Merchant helping with the kinder kids creations. Overall creating a bunting for decorating the site to attract participants and to create a sense of community celebration."

I know this has been a very special creation for all the kids at Winchelsea primary and winchelsea kindergarten. I

have even see kids taking their parents to see their artworks.

I want to extend a very big thankyou to her from all the community for such an amazing effort on her part.

The bunting will be taken down in the next weeks, stored and brought out to signify other community gatherings and celebrations.



Plans For Winchelsea Community House To Continue Managing Shire Hall



Surf Coast Shire Council will seek to enter into an agreement with the Winchelsea Community House to continue managing the Winchelsea Shire Hall for the next two years.

Council officers will also commence negotiations to continue delivering its Child and Family Health Services, from the hall and community house.

The proposed plan is an evolution of the current arrangement which has been in place following a Council resolution in 2021.

Under the proposed agreement, Council would pay the Winchelsea Community House an annual management fee, which reduces over the two years recognising that room hire income is increasing.

The Council decision considered the importance of this building to the Winchelsea community whilst balancing that this management model is quite unique for Council owned buildings.

In 2027 Council will transition to a model where the Winchelsea Community House has the option to manage the Winchelsea Shire Hall without Council paying a management fee. If this is not suitable, Council would manage and book the hall to user groups.

This model reduces and concludes Council's contribution

which is a more consistent approach to managing community facilities across the shire.

Cr Adrian Schonfelder said the Winchelsea Shire Hall held great significance for many locals, who were keen for it to be the heart of the town.

"It's been wonderful to see lots of people regularly popping in and out of the hall. There's a wide range of activities on offer and it's great to see the community embracing it with hire rates steadily increasing over the past two years," he said.

"So we're pleased to enter into further negotiations with Winchelsea Community House to continue their role managing the hall over the next two years."

"We look forward to working together to support the transition of the hall into the community house service offerings in the longer term, which is more in line with the way many other Council owned facilities are managed," Cr Schonfelder said.

"There are many benefits of co-locating Council's Child and Family Health Services within the Winchelsea Community House alongside other key community services for families so we absolutely want to see these benefits continue."



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VICSES Winchelsea Unit to host Open Night

Community members are invited to attend a VICSES Winchelsea Unit Open Night on Wednesday 2 April. Pop in and chat with volunteers at 325 Mousley Drive between 7.30pm and 9pm.



Council To Gift Land In Winchelsea To Local Vicses Unit

Surf Coast Shire Council will gift excess vacant land in Winchelsea to the Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES), to continue to support the volunteer-based organisation.

Council approved the transfer of 2504m² of land at 325 Mousley Drive, Winchelsea to the local VICSES Winchelsea Unit at the July 2024 Council meeting.

Fronting the Princes Highway, the VICSES Winchelsea Unit has been based at their current site – now gifted to them by Council – for the past decade.

Councillor Tony Phelps was pleased that VICSES had recently signed an agreement with Council, marking a key milestone in the process.

“It will help the VICSES Winchelsea Unit and the invaluable emergency response work volunteers carry out in the community to help keep people safe.”

VICSES Winchelsea Unit Controller, Kris Jeffery said: “Our VICSES volunteers play an important role in keeping our local Winchelsea community safe, and it’s critical we have the right infrastructure to better serve this community.”

“Our volunteers are pleased with this result, and we thank Council for their generosity.”

Council also approved to sell a separate portion of excess land adjoining the site through a public process. It is expected to be placed on the market in the coming months, following improvements including grass cutting and removing soil mounds.

“It’s 1.47 hectares of land. Given Council doesn’t need it, it makes sense to move it on,” Cr Phelps said.

“The sale of the excess land will result in additional income for Council and create the potential for better use of the land.”

Council invited submissions on the gifting and the sale of land over a four-week period in mid-2024. No submissions were received.



COPACC
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INDONESIAN DAY featuring DALANG SUMARDI

Saturday | 12 April | 1PM



Celebrate Indonesian Culture with this special school holiday program!

Join us from 1pm in our Public Foyer for a performance by Phil Gray and his students from Elliminyt Primary School, followed by special guest performer Eki.

From 2pm, COPACC & Cultural Infusion present Dalang (Master) Shadow Puppeteer Sumardi.
A truly magical experience!

BOOK NOW: copacc.com.au | Box Office | 03 5232 9418 (#2)
Ticket \$16 | Concession \$15 | COPACC Member \$13



Local CFA Helping At Avalon

by Tony Phelps

Winchelsea and Wurdale CFA members filled a few shifts at the Avalon Air Show, providing fire service support behind the airport's own Airport Rescue Fire service and the Fire Rescue Victoria crews. 5 CFA tankers were situated on the far side of the runway - getting a bit of

action when the Wall Of Fire was set off on Saturday and long grass at either end and the middle of the runway caught fire. The flames were quickly extinguished though, with no risk to public/participants.

Mixed crews from across the Geelong and CFA District 7 region are put together each show, in attendance throughout the 5 days (2 trade days and 3 public days).

Generally speaking, the airport firefighters handle aircraft issues, the professional Geelong firefighters handle expo & food-truck issues, and the CFA volunteers are backup if needed and/or grass fires in the paddocks on the other side of the runway. Issues with military aircraft are handled by the RAAF. Each to their own speciality!



CFA crews had a deafeningly close view of the Avalon Air Show displays!

Winchelsea Taxis is now Surfcoast Taxis

Our fleet of vehicles are growing to all late models and we are covering an extended area including Winchelsea, Colac, Bannockburn, Inverleigh, Great Ocean Road and Geelong.

We have a fleet of 10 seater Maxi Vans, all with capacity to carry wheelchairs.

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**A big “Well Done” to all
participants and helpers in this
year’s ‘Conquer the Corrugations’**



29 March 2025

Trebeck Reserve, Winchelsea



On an overcast and mild morning 32 participants completed the parkrun course through Trebeck Reserve this week.

We had visitors from Nuriootpa, Bacchus Marsh, Torquay and Berwick.

Congratulations to 4 of our parkrunners achieving the personal best, Peter French, Ian Edwards, Michael Panchridge, Bernadette Gibson, and a big welcome to Sarah Wallace for doing her very first parkrun.

This event was made possible by the following volunteers: Ann Morsby, David Woodall, Don Smith, Liz Bennett, Helen Woodall, Kate Mcinnes, Nathan F, Murray Bennett, Neil Mcinnes.

It takes a minimum of six people each week to safely conduct an enjoyable event.

Please email trebeckreserve@parkrun.com if you are able to volunteer some of your time. Tasks are simple, sociable, fun and very much appreciated.

Further details of this week's results can be found at trebeckreserveparkrun.com.au/results or check out our Facebook page for more photos and further information, see facebook.com/profile.php?id=61556785364477



What's Afoot at Council

by Councillor Tony Phelps

It has been, apparently as usual for a new Council term, a very busy couple of months. The draft budget. The new 4-year plan. Presentations on diverse shire services, responsibilities and activities. Council meetings & events. Emails (always), talking to & meeting with people. I thought I'd pass on a few significant items.

Last Tuesday saw the March Council Meeting held over in Lorne, with half an hour beforehand to mingle and chat. (By the way, the next 'away' Council meeting will be in Winchelsea in August, so if you want to join us in person please come along!).

One important decision was about the Winchelsea Shire Hall, with the existing 3-year activation agreement coming to and end in June and what happens next. Having been Chair of the Winch House Committee up until the end of last year, I was advised that due to potential conflict of interest it would best if I stepped out while this item was discussed and voted on – which is what I did, reluctantly but with acknowledgement that Councillor integrity is important to public perception. My thanks to Cr Schonfelder

to taking up the item and speaking so well about the need to continue for another 2 years with a revised agreement (given the Covid hangover and issues with heating that interfered with the first 2 years). It is extremely important for the Winchelsea community to realise that this gives just 2 years to formulate and activate a model that will keep the Shire Hall open to the public after Shire funding stops. It really is over to you.

Another item was a decision to phase out the fleet of small community buses. They are ageing and generally a decade old or more, and due for replacement. In addition, new regulations and driver requirements arising from the Hunter Valley bus tragedy a few years ago are going to make it all a bit harder. So not only over \$400,000 for new buses but also more difficulty in finding drivers. With declining use of these buses, Council has decided to sell them off and use some of the proceeds to subsidise the use of commercial buses for the next 2 years instead. I would like to think there may be some alternative and/or innovative way of helping those in the community who find transport difficult – let's face it, public transport isn't great in our region. Your ideas are very welcome.

For Shire non-profit organisations, it was pleasing to see the return of the Surf

Coast Grant Finder. It offers a free subscription to the Grant Guru email notification tool which is designed to streamline the grant finding process for community groups. Select the types of grants to hear about and an email advises of new matches. It's a great tool for finding funding. Find out more at grantguru.com/au/surfcoast – there are ALL sorts of grants available.

Did you know it is Shire policy that a plaque or memorial for a deceased person will not be considered for 3 years following the passing of that person, to allow for a historical perspective to be developed? Cr Grist followed up on a knockback to a plaque being arranged for a Winchelsea community stalwart, and it transpired that the State has defined principles around this – although the Shire's own policy exceeds the State's 2-year delay. We look forward to this policy coming up for review in due course.

There's a lot more on the boil. Don't forget, if there's an issue you want the Shire to fix, report it via the website ("Lodge a request" on the home page surfcoast.vic.gov.au).



Vitality Tip from One Body Chiropractic!

by Dr Emily McDonald, Chiropractor

5 important things you may not know about your lower spine

1. Movement in the lower part of your spine...or lack of will affect how well your bowels work eg diarrhoea / bloating / constipation. It may even cause frequent urination and sex organ dysfunction (like erectile and menstrual/reproductive)
2. If you are sitting in camping chairs, soft couches or bucket-type car seats where your knees are higher than your hips you will be putting unnecessary strain on your lower back.
3. Sleeping on your stomach will twist your lower back all night and fuel preexisting problems or create new ones
4. Your lower back problem can often be coming from your neck not moving well. We are not a bag of parts we are a whole spine connected, one area is not separate to another.
5. If your lower back is really really sore, gentle movement (usually walking) is better for it than rest, movement brings life to the body (Of course, consult your Chiro too)



Winchelsea Star

Your Weekly Community Newspaper

Since 1977



This Week's Winchelsea Star

Editor - Cerrie Forgan
Designer - Tony Phelps

THE WINCHELSEA STAR

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

ALL WELCOME

DATE
15 APRIL 2025

TIME
AT 7 PM

PLACE
WINCH HOUSE
(HELEN VERITY ROOM)

RSVP
secretary@winchelseastar.org.au

Winchelsea Star

Winchelsea Star Production Meeting @ Coffee Saturday 26 April 2025 9-10am

Winch locals are invited to come along to a coffee meeting on the last Saturday of each month @ Sweet Thyme, Winchelsea. Your comments or suggestions, feedback, ideas for stories or coming events are welcome - or simply to say Hi!

send your stories
news@winchelseastar.org.au

LOCAL NEWS and ARTICLES WELCOME

Include name and address of the sender
Email news@winchelseastar.org.au
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DEADLINE 5pm Fridays

4pm Sundays - hard copy articles left at IGA
6pm Sundays - sports results and weekend events

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production

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Winchelsea Churches



Winchelsea Uniting Church

0475 777 301

uca.winchelsea@gmail.com

Hesse St, Winchelsea 3241

Services 9.30am Sundays

St John the Baptist Catholic Church

Father Joseph Panackal 0404598558

Harding St, Winchelsea 3241

WEEKLY MASS

6pm Sat.

April 5, 12, 26 and 9am on 20th

EASTER CEREMONIES

Reconciliation: Winch Sat April 12 5pm

Palm Sunday: Winch Sat April 12 6pm

Holy Thursday: Meredith April 17 7pm

Good Friday: Bannockburn April 18

Ecumenical Walk of Witness 10.30

The Lord's Passion 3pm

Easter Vigil: Meredith Sat April 19 8pm

Easter Sunday: Winch Sun April 20 9am

St Thomas' Anglican Church

Rev'd Phil Jacobson 0477 672 042

stthomaswac@gmail.com

Barwon Tce, Winchelsea

Service 10a

Thought for the Week

Seven thinks to Keep in Mind:

Go after dreams, not people.

Love yourself and the rest will follow.

Never lose your sense of wonder.

You are capable of more

than you know. No regrets in life.

Just lessons learned. Your only limit is you.

Life goes by in the blink of an eye.

So live life.

Have a Blessed week.

**John Bader,
Former U/C Accredited
Lay Preacher**

come find your awesome

BIRREGURRA AUSKICK CENTRE

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Winchelsea Harvest's

GARDENERS MEET & PRODUCE SWAP

SECOND SUNDAY EACH MONTH

SUNDAY MARCH 5TH

9-10AM

WHAT TO SWAP

HOME-GROWN PRODUCE,
COMPOST SUPPLIES, BAKED GOODS,
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JUNIOR COACHING

Mondays from 3.30pm
with experienced Nicole Mullen, \$10

SOCIAL TWILIGHT TENNIS

Monday evenings from 6.00pm.
All Welcome!

RUNNING GROUP

Did you know Winchelsea has a small run group? We all start our watches but we're not worried about personal best. Its more of a social run, jog and chat. We wait for slower runners and walk when one of us needs a rest.

The aim is 10k with the option of 8 or 5k it's up to you. To finish off we have a coffee at La Hoot.

**Join us each Sunday morning 8am
Meet at La Hoot.**

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Lesley Mathison 0438 672 197

CUBS AND JOEYS

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contact Marie McPadden – 0409330147
or mcpadden630@bigpond.com

WINCHELSEA GIRL GUIDES WELCOMES GIRLS 6-15 YRS

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adventure. Developing teamwork, and
leadership skills, whilst girls achieve
goals, improve communities
and grow in confidence.

If interested, girls can attend
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or Lily Dell Rennie ph 0428 936 441

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A series of undenominational gospel
meetings will be held in the Harding St.
Senior Citizens Hall WINCHELSEA
Each Sunday 2.30 - 3.30 pm.

Commencing 23rd March and
continuing until May 11 except April 20
Joan 0491 971 957 Mella 0418 605 676

DIAMOND DOT DAY SATURDAY 5 APRIL

11.00-400pm

Senior Citizens, Harding St Winchelsea
\$10 entry incl lunch, afternoon tea
Diamond dot is like doing a painting but
you use beads instead of paint. We do
have a few kits for sale.

New members welcome - See you there
Tracey 0427500649



BRIDGE

Social Bridge is played
TUESDAYS 10 AM - 12 NOON

Senior Citizens Centre
36 Harding Street Winchelsea

New players always welcome
Elaine Atkinson 0458 009 616

Winchelsea Star CLASSIFIED ADS

email editor@winchelseastar.org.au or
leave at Winchelsea IGA
Notices removed after 2 weeks



WINCHELSEA OP SHOP SALE.

All books, games and puzzles
will be 1/2 price for the next 2
weeks.

Dont miss out on this sale.

WINCHELSEA & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday April 9, 2025 at 1.30pm
in the Historical Society Centre,
Hesse Street, Winchelsea
Margaret Reid, Secretary
Posted 25/3/25

GARAGE SALE

Saturday April 5th, 20 McDonald Drive,
9am-3pm, Large variety of goods.



Winchelsea Community House Inc. A6247K
 28 Hesse Street, PO BOX 75, WINCHELSEA, Vic. 3241
Phone: (03) 5267 2028 **Email:** manager@winchhouse.org.au
ABN: 48 932 340 254

Vinyasa Yoga

Tuesday evenings at 7pm
\$20 Class Deal!

Join Kate for pose alignment, pranayama, meditation, yoga philosophy & mindful movement.

Mother Goose Song & Rhyme

Every Wednesday at 2pm

During school terms

For parents and caregivers with children of all ages. **FREE**, No bookings required just come along and join in!

Tai Chi

Friday Mornings, 9.00am – 10.00am

In the Helen Verity Room,
 Winchelsea community house
\$10 per session

Winchelsea Knitting Group

Thursday Mornings 10.30 – 12pm

All welcome, Learn to knit or bring a project to work on whilst enjoying a cuppa and a chat at Winchelsea Community House.

Chatty Café

Fridays 10.30pm – 12.30pm

"Sip, Chat, Share, Care"

In the Winchelsea Shire Hall. Everyone Welcome,
 Collection tin for donations.

Flow Yoga

Saturday mornings at 8am \$20 Class Deal!

An inclusive, all abilities class. Build strength, clarity and bliss as you move through a dynamic whole body experience. A playful, powerful class that leaves you feeling refreshed and uplifted.

Crochet Group

1.30pm in the Winchelsea Community Centre

Every Second Saturday, Next class April 5th

\$5 per class

Book your spot at reception@winchhouse.org.au

ATTENTION

ALL MEN OF WINCHELSEA AND DISTRICT!

Join us for the next

MEN'S HEALTH MONDAY

With Men's mindset coach Jeff Rieniets.

Lets continue to better understand our behaviors and the subconscious ways they are created in our lives. The men's mindset talk continues as we deep dive into subconscious filters that influence our thoughts, words, and focus. Come along and learn to create awareness and gain strategies that will transform your life for the better.

\$5
AT THE DOOR

6pm Monday 7th of April

in the Winchelsea Shire Hall.



For more information or to sponsor ongoing mens health events please email admin@richearthlove or call Richard on 0444513017

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Mon - Fri 9-2 at Winch House

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Winter Uniforms Next On School Saving Bonus Shopping List

The State Government's School Saving Bonus is providing cost of living relief to hundreds of thousands of families, who have so far saved more than \$150 million on the costs of school essentials.

But for families who haven't had a chance to use their bonus, time is running out to buy uniforms or textbooks.

Families are encouraged to use their \$400 School Saving Bonus to purchase winter school uniforms before the cold weather sets in.

More than 700,000 transactions have been processed since the Bonus was launched in November, with families saving more than \$60 million on uniforms, \$58 million on camps and excursions, and \$31.8 million on textbooks.

While most families have drawn on their School Saving Bonus in part or in full, around 30 per cent of bonuses remain untouched – ready to be used by families ahead of winter.

The next few months are the last chance to use the \$400 School Saving Bonus to purchase uniforms or textbooks, either through approved suppliers or at second-hand uniform and textbook shops run by schools.

Any money unspent by 30 June will automatically transfer to a family's school account, with parents able to use these remaining funds on school activities like camps, sports or excursions.

Non-government school families who have a healthcare or concession card are

also eligible to receive the bonus. These schools decide how to allocate the bonus to best accommodate their families and students.

The School Saving Bonus builds on many State Government programs easing the cost-of-living, including free school dental checkups, the Glasses for Kids program, and Breakfast Clubs dishing up more than 53 million meals since 2016.

For more information about the School Saving Bonus, visit vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus.



Apollo Bay Area To Enter Stage 2 Water Restrictions On Monday 7 April

Apollo Bay, Marengo and Skenes Creek will enter stage 2 water restrictions on Monday 7 April. This is in response to dry conditions, with the area experiencing its third driest October-to-January period in the past 50 years.

Water storages are sitting at their lowest level since 2016, below 40% compared to 99% at the same time last year.

Barwon Water will support the Apollo Bay community to understand the changes over the coming weeks by:

- Holding a series of community pop-ups to answer questions
- Distributing posters, fact-sheets and information in the area
- Providing detailed information on the Barwon Water website about what you can and can't do in stage 2 water restrictions
- Messaging customers in the Apollo Bay region
- Ensuring their customer centre has extra information for people who call with questions

Stage 2 restrictions are aimed at best managing storage levels and ensuring the wider community is using water efficiently and wisely.

Barwon Water will continue to closely monitor storages, usage trends and rainfall forecasts, with an eye to lifting restrictions as soon as possible.



WINCHELSEA BOWLS CLUB



On 26/2/1962 a public meeting was held in the Shire Hall with many interested people deciding to form the Winchelsea Bowls Club.

On 18/1/1965 a list of names was compiled, and the secretary was instructed to print and post an invitation to all local people who had helped construct the green.

It was moved at the next meeting that three rooms from behind the doctor's residence be moved to the bowling club site. This building was then moved to the Netball Club.

The present building was moved 1970-1971 from camp at Gerange-Anglesea Power Station.

To start the club financially they took out debentures amongst the members.

They paid for lights the first year to play Pennant at night and recently put in new overhead lights for future use.

In 2008 the club installed a synthetic green due to continued water restrictions.

The initial uniform was an approved R.V.B.A tie, white or tan rubber soled and heel-less shoe and the approved Association blazer - navy blue with club colours on top of pocket and navy blue hat band with the club name in white letters was used. Ladies wore a white dress 15" from the ground with white or flesh stockings, white cardigan and shoes, a white hat, navy hat band with a white or navy handbag.

Winchelsea was very well represented at league level and still is. There are many life members and many premierships have been won.



WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Hesse Street Cnr Princes Highway, Winchelsea 3241

OPENING HOURS

Wednesdays 1 - 4pm, Fridays 10 - 3pm



Put cardboard cartons in your recycling bin.

Cardboard cartons from long-life milk, ice cream, custard, and juice can now be recycled in your yellow-lid bin.

Empty & scrape out all cartons. Remove any small plastic lids from milk and juice cartons and put them in your landfill bin (red lid).

A small act makes a big impact.

Find out more: surfcoast.vic.gov.au/recycling





Invitation to our 3rd webinar in the series
A Nature Positive Future for the Barwon River System

UNDERGROUND WATERWAYS: WHY SHOULD WE CARE ABOUT GROUNDWATER? WEBINAR



Save the date:
'Why Should We Care About Groundwater' Webinar
Thursday 3rd April - 1:00 - 2:00pm

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Fridays, 12 - 2PM

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Food relief for our community.

For more info, contact Tess
healthpromotion@hesse.vic.gov.au
0417 848 292



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For the Community

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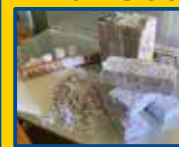
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The Climate Report

Judy Cameron

Climate emergency: 2025 declared international year of glaciers

I would recommend a forum being organised by the Colac Climate Action Team on Wednesday, 16th April @ 6pm in the Colac Otway Performing Arts & Cultural Centre, 95 - 97 Gellibrand Street.

Greg Mullins AO AFSM is an Australian firefighter. He is a former Commissioner of Fire and Rescue New South Wales, a Climate Councillor with the Climate Council and a founding member of Emergency Leaders for Climate Action.

Over five decades he watched as weather patterns and natural disaster risks changed, seeing bushfires becoming bigger, hotter and more destructive. He talked to scientists and weighed their evidence with his experience, coming to the realisation that man-made global warming was setting the stage for a deadly firestorm. In early 2019 he tried to warn the government that a Black Summer was imminent so that adequate preparations could be made. . .

But when he and former fire chiefs from across the country tried to meet with politicians to sound an urgent warning, they were ignored.

"As each of the states and territories in Australia, their fire seasons heat up and start early, they won't be able to share trucks, people, incident-management personnel, so it's going to be harder and harder to fight these fires and we need a national response to this. It's up to the retired fire chiefs who are unconstrained to tell it like it is and say this is really dangerous," he said.

"People are at risk, we need a game changer in how we deal with these catastrophes because they're going to get worse and worse."

Other speakers are;

Jo Dodds, Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action. "I have seen for myself that climate change is not a future threat, or something happening only in

Antarctica or Kiribati. It is happening NOW, to my communities and others who face similar threats now, not just in the traditional fire seasons, but all year round."

Any government that knows what we have been through and continues to suggest that there's no need for urgent action should be held directly responsible for the next fire. It is their job to ensure the safety of our communities, their job to represent OUR interests against those of the fossil fuel industries that are driving the majority of the climate destruction. Any government which does not prioritise the people, our homes and livelihoods, our food production and livestock, any government that ignores our security

from the biggest threat our communities will ever face, should be held accountable."

Cam Walker, Australian Firefighters for Climate Action. "Firefighters are on the frontline of climate change. We see the impacts of fire seasons that are longer and more intense. Fire behaviour is changing, and changing for the worse. This is our workplace, and it is becoming more and more unsafe"

Kirsten Diprose, Storyteller|Board Director|Podcaster| Farmer. "My passion is telling the stories of rural people. This has led me to create the Rural Podcasting Co, a service to help rural people tell their own story."

Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action

Emergency Leaders for Climate Action

Hotter,
Drier,
Riskier:

Bushfire in the Colac-Otway Region

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

DATE

LOCATION

EXPERTS, EMERGENCY SERVICES, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

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COLAC OTWAY PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

GREG MULLINS

Emergency Leaders for Climate Action and Former Commissioner of Fire & Rescue NSW

JO DODDS

Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action

CAM WALKER

Australian Firefighters Climate Alliance

KIRSTEN DIPROSE

Journalist and podcaster

PLUS all candidates for Wannon invited

RSVP

bit.ly/colacforum

Authorised by Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action, 298 Vimy Ridge Rd Chinnock, 2550 NSW

Winchelsea Star 1 April 2025 19



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The Green Winchelsea Residents	facebook.com/groups/515322772623126
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Winchelsea Community Market	facebook.com/100083362387611
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Council To Offer Bus Hire Subsidy For Eligible Groups

Surf Coast Shire Council will offer bus hire subsidies to eligible community groups and organisations from September 2025 until June 2027.

The subsidy will be introduced as part of Council's decision to transition from its current bus hire model, which is declining in use, carries substantial risk, and is not cost effective.

The new subsidy model will provide community groups with a safer, more accessible and more efficient way to hire a bus. It will also enable access to a wider variety of vehicles to meet community need.

A community bus trial found bookings for the buses continue to decline despite a wide-reaching promotional campaign last year. Bus trips decreased by 18.5% from 151 trips in 2022, to 123 trips in 2024. This is on the back of community groups accessing other vehicles, including some groups purchasing their own.

In making the decision, Council considered the significant increased cost to ratepayers to operate the community buses. It's estimated the new model will save more than \$1.4m in renewal and operating costs in Council's long-term projections.

The fleet is made up of four 12-seaters (in Anglesea, Lorne, Torquay and Winchelsea). The Winchelsea Bendigo Community Bank owns a 28-seater bus that Council books to the community.

Council's four 12-seater buses are due for replacement, and do not meet accessibility requirements. They carry significant risk, safety, financial, and insurance requirements, which are difficult for both Council and community users to meet.



"The fleet of four buses will be sold to help fund the new subsidy model, and fleet management costs will be re-allocated to support community groups hire other buses," Council's General Manager Community Life Damian Waight said.

"We acknowledge the decision to discontinue the fleet might be an adjustment for some groups, so we're committed to helping them transition smoothly over the next two years.

"This will include eligible groups and organisations being able to apply for a subsidy for commercial bus hire fees."

The subsidy will be available from September 2025 and will end on 30 June 2027.

Eligible priority groups – such as older people and people with a disability – will receive a 100% subsidy for each booking, totalling a maximum \$1,500 each financial year.

All other community groups – including community groups, sports clubs and schools – are eligible for a subsidy of 50% towards the value of each booking, with a maximum \$250 per claim and totalling a maximum \$750 each financial year.

A booking form will open on Council's website from August 2025. Community groups will also be able to check their eligibility on the website, or by calling Council on 5261 0600.

The booking webpage will be promoted to the community before it goes live.

Council also decided at its March Council meeting to transition the Winchelsea 28-seater back to Bendigo Community Bank.

Don't Cross The Line – Treat Workers With Respect

The State Government is putting work-related aggression and violence in the spotlight with a new campaign asking the community to not cross the line, and to stop and reflect before tempers rise.

'Don't cross the line' – a fresh campaign from WorkSafe Victoria – calls on everyday Victorians to consider the toll on workers who may experience yelling, swearing and hostility as part of their day to day work.

The campaign will run on TV, radio, social media, print and feature in workplaces – focusing on the cumulative

impact of these forms of aggression.

The campaign comes as WorkSafe data reveals almost 1,000 workers were seriously injured – including 316 workers who suffered mental injuries – because of suspected work-related aggression or violence incidents last year.

Alarmingly, 100 of the victims were young workers aged under 25, including several teenagers. Claims were made from workers across a range of industries including retail, transport, health care and social assistance, education and training and emergency services.

The campaign portrays situations where community members may feel frustrated and tempers boil over – such as when transport is delayed, there's a mix-up

with an order, or a long queue.

Each scenario highlights the fact that workers in public-facing roles may face multiple acts of aggression in a single day – and encourages members of the community to stop, think and act better in the moment.

Employers have a responsibility to protect workers from hazards, including having systems in place to prevent aggression and violence in the workplace as well as for reporting and responding to incidents that do happen.

Any worker who has concerns about the controls in place in their workplace to manage the risks can contact WorkSafe's advisory service on 1800 136 089. For more information visit worksafe.vic.gov.au/dontcrosstheline.

SERVICES & ACTIVITIES IN WINCHELSEA

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WINCHELSEA GIRL GUIDES

Our Unit meets at the Catholic Church Hall,
Harding St Winchelsea each Monday 4.30pm-6pm
All girls 5yrs- 15yrs Welcome!
Contact Yvonne Orchard 0448 672 630
or Lily Del Rennie Ph. 0428 936 441



COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

7pm second Wednesday of month
Winchelsea Senior Citizens' Hall



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Joeys: Tuesdays of school term 5-6pm
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Netball News



Shae Callahan

Pre-Season Matches Provide Valuable Preparation for Senior and Junior Teams

Over the past two weekends, our senior grades, Under 19s, and Under 17s have had the opportunity to compete in practice matches against Colac Imperials and St Mary's. These matches have provided an excellent chance for both coaches and players to assess team dynamics, build connections, and refine skills ahead of the upcoming season.

We are excited to welcome several new senior players to the club, bringing fresh talent and experience to our ranks. Additionally, a number of junior players are making the transition to senior selection, an important milestone in their development. Their commitment and determination have been evident, and we look forward to seeing them thrive at the next level.

These pre-season hit-outs have been invaluable in helping teams establish their structures and prepare for the challenges ahead. With the season fast approaching, the club is in a strong position, and we are eager to see our teams in action when competition officially begins.

Thank you to Colac Imperials and St Mary's for the competitive and well-contested matches, and to our players, coaches, and supporters for their ongoing commitment. We look forward to an exciting season ahead.



Under 11's Netball Players Needed

Our Under 11's netball team had a fantastic undefeated summer season, and with half the team now moving up to Under 13's, we are looking for new players to join us.

If you have a child born in 2014 or 2015 who is interested in playing netball, now is the perfect time to get involved. Our supportive coaches and welcoming team are excited to meet new players and help them develop their skills, no netball experience needed.

Competition Details

Location: Kardinia Park

Game Day: Tuesday evenings

Why Join? This graded competition is an excellent opportunity for young players to build confidence and improve their netball skills in a positive and encouraging environment.

NetSetGo – Registrations Now Open

For younger players born between 2016 and 2019, our NetSetGo program provides a fun introduction to netball. This program focuses on basic ball-handling and netball skills in a structured, game-based setting designed to help children build confidence and make new friends.

Register now: NetSetGo Registration link
<https://jo.my/winchelseanetball>

We look forward to welcoming new players and families to our netball community.





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Winchelsea Football Netball Club Inc

Blues News



Janet Fletcher

Welcome to Blue's News for Season 2025, the opening round of which takes the Winchelsea Blues on the road to Inverleigh, to do battle for "The Community Cup" an initiative of the Bendigo Bank to showcase the rivalry between the 2 sides with both Football and Netball being involved.

The Blue's Senior and Reserve side are keen to get the season started with their new Coaches. The Reserves will be prepared by Jarred Messenger this year, and it would be great to see the Ressies get into that final 5 this season and play some footy at St. Albans having come so close over the last few seasons.

The Seniors have put in a hard (& hot) preseason and are raring to go under their new Coach Ben Moloney. Club Sponsors, volunteers, committee and supporters all wish both teams the very best of luck!

SOCIAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Social Memberships will be available on this Thursday evening from 5.30 on wards, these will remain at \$40 and will still feature a complimentary main meal from the Blue's Bistro with meals at Member Prices of \$15, a smaller meal at \$12 from there on during the season.

THE BLUE'S BISTRO:

The Blue's Bistro re opens this Thursday evening and the Club volunteers look forward to seeing new and familiar faces back at the Hub at Eastern Reserve from 6pm.

This week we return with 3 firm favourites being -

- Chicken Schnitzel / Parmi
- Mrs. Wilson's Famous Meatloaf and Flathead Tails.

All served with either salad and chips or vegetables as well as the Blue's Bistros very popular gravy.

Main meal prices remain the same despite cost of living issues.

- Non members meal \$20
- Members meal \$15
- Small Members \$12
- Desserts remain also at \$5
- Chicken Nuggets and Chips with gravy or tomato sauce for the kids. Still only \$5
- Ice cream with chocolate, strawberry or caramel topping – sprinkles are available. Still only \$2

Our fabulous Volunteers will be doing their best to have everything up and running smoothly on the first night back, however if someone happens to be running late from their day job we cannot dock their pay and just have to do the best we can!!

Please Note: the time for running around and playing is when the children are outside.

There are to be no football boots or balls of any type to be brought into the Bendigo Bank room please, as a matter of courtesy to the patrons there enjoying their meal.

Thank you for your understanding with this.

GO BLUES!!

CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations to Winchelsea Cricket Club's James & Jacinta Stephenson on the safe arrival of their beautiful little girl – Harper.



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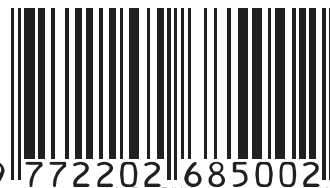
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