

Winchelsea Star

Price \$1

Weekly Community News

Since 1977

Vol 49 Ed 11

Tuesday 24 March 2026

winchelseastar.org.au



Hop In Café Continues to Brew Connection at Hesse

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By Hesse Rural Health

Since opening its doors in October, the Hop In Café at Hesse Rural Health has quickly become a much-loved part of daily life for residents, staff and visitors alike.

What began as a new initiative to create more opportunities for social connection has already grown into a warm and welcoming hub, where people gather to enjoy a cuppa, share a story, and spend time together in a relaxed setting. The café has built on the excitement of its grand opening, with more people dropping in each week to experience its friendly atmosphere and homely feel.

For residents, the café has become an important social space. As Robyn Philp shared, "It's so nice for everyone to be able to mingle in one place." Bev McDonald echoed the sentiment, saying, "It's the one place we can all see each other and talk about things."

With the café now expanded beyond its initial resident-only stage, staff and visitors are also enjoying the space, further strengthening the sense of community across the organisation. The café offers a range of options including sandwiches, slices, and a variety of coffees and teas, with something to suit everyone. Residents are able to enjoy items free of charge, while all menu items are affordably priced for other customers.



The addition of outdoor seating in the garden area has further enhanced the experience, providing a peaceful setting for people to sit, relax and enjoy their refreshments in the fresh air.

Regular opening hours are now well established, with the café open:

- Monday afternoons from 1:30pm to 3:30pm
- Wednesday mornings from 9:30am to 11:30am
- Saturday afternoons from 1:30pm to 3:30pm

The space has also created valuable opportunities for staff to connect more closely with residents. Lifestyle Activities Assistant Neal Drinnan said the café has opened up new conversations, noting, "It's a great way for me to hear what they are all concerned about."

Importantly, the café would not have been possible without the generous support of the Winchelsea Community Op Shop, which provided substantial funding towards the project, including renovations and set-up costs.

Their contribution has helped create a welcoming and lasting space that will continue to benefit residents and the broader community.

While still evolving, the Hop In Café has already proven to be much more than just a place to grab a coffee. It has become a space for friendship and connection, a valued addition to life at Hesse Rural Health.

Volunteers are an important part of helping Hesse deliver many of its programs and services.

We are always on the lookout for people who may be interested in lending a hand – whether that's assisting with the running of the café or spending time engaging with residents in other meaningful ways.

If you're interested in volunteering with Hesse, please reach out to our lovely reception staff on 5267 1200 or email reception@hesse.vic.gov.au

WINCHELSEA MEN'S SHED

For the Community

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Every Wednesday from 9.30am
51 Hesse Street, Winchelsea

KINDLING/OFFCUTS \$7.00 bag

Pickup Wednesdays 9.30-2.30
For delivery, call Bill 0438 083 373

NESTING BOXES Birds/animals

NEED A JOB DONE?

Woodworking, Furniture Repairs
Call in Wednesdays to order

Ray Atkinson (Co-ordinator)
0407839139

winchmenshed@gmail.com

Animal registration renewals

We've sent pet owners letters or emails regarding animal registration renewals, which are due 10 April.

For further information on how registration fees help provide animal management services to our community visit

surfcoast.vic.gov.au/PetRegistration.

If you need to discuss alternative payment arrangements you can contact Council via

surfcoast.vic.gov.au/request or call

5261 0600.



Alice Cloake

This is a place for passionate foodies. Here we celebrate local produce, seasonal ingredients, simple yet remarkable recipes we've tried, tested and loved.



If you have a recipe you'd like to share, a local product to shout out or a suggestion for an upcoming ingredient of the month - we'd love to hear from you.

Email editor@winchelseastar.org.au.

LEMONY PRAWN PASTA WITH ZUCCHINI AND DILL

It's our last week of Zucchini recipes! I'd love to hear if anyone tried the ones shared? This week I wanted to share a little comfort recipe of my own that I cooked myself this weekend. I felt drawn to a half a kilo of prawn cutlets at the Torquay markets on Saturday and the warm weather just cemented my plans to make a lemony prawn pasta dish with fresh dill and zucchini.

This recipe is me just winging it honestly, so feel free to adlib right alongside if you choose to make yourself.

Ingredients

- 1 zucchini diced into half a centimetre cubes
- Chilli flakes (optional)
- 4 garlic cloves
- Half a kilo of prawn cutlets
- 1 lemon, zest and juice
- Fettuccine or spaghetti pasta
- Parmesan cheese
- Handful of dill, chopped



Method

1. Pop a pot of water on the stove to boil and cook your pasta per packet instructions, when draining keep half a cup of the pasta water for later.
2. Heat a little bit of oil over medium heat for a few minutes, add the zucchini, garlic and chilli flakes if using. Stir consistently for 5 minutes letting the zucchini cook but not brown. Keep the garlic and zucchini soft.
3. Add the lemon zest and stir.
4. Add the prawn cutlets and stir for a few minutes letting them get their colour.
5. Add the cooked pasta to the pan and pour over the lemon juice before stirring everything through.
6. Add pasta water as needed to avoid it drying out, maybe a dash or two.
7. Pour into a serving bowl, grate over parmesan and chopped dill stirring it through.
8. Add pepper and salt to taste and if needed a little drizzle of olive oil.

Spotlight on Two Good Cookbook

Many years ago I was given the Two Good cook book from my Mum, it was the first book published of what's now a series. Cooking from those pages was the time I'd ever used kecap manis and sambal oelek. We still think about and cook the hokkien noodle and steak dish that they were used for. I pulled it out last week to spark some new ideas about using eggplant, and sure enough found an incredible fried rice dish perfect for mid-week energy levels. For the first time since owning it, I took the time to read the foreword and was amazed to learn its incredible story for being.

The Two Good Cook Book by Two Good Co. supports a social enterprise that provides meals and employment to women in crisis. The book includes over 60 recipes from all sorts of places, including chef contributors Nigella Lawson, Neil Perry, Maggie Beer and my favourite, Yotam Ottolenghi. This book established the "buy one, give one" model, where every purchase helps provide meals for women in safe houses.

If you're on the hunt for fresh ideas in the kitchen or need to buy a gift for a food-loving friend can I suggest browsing the selection at twogood.com.au.





New Homes, Renovations, Extensions,
Bathrooms, Decks & Pergolas

0408 583 362
stephen@alfordbuilt.com.au



REGISTERED
Building Practitioner

Hop into Easter at the Winchelsea Market!

Easter Bonnet Parade
Sunday 5 April 2026

Dust off that old hat - or create a brand-new masterpiece - it's time to hop into the spirit of Easter at the Winchelsea Community Market!

To register your interest in the Easter Bonnet Parade, please contact Elaine Atkinson, Community Market Admin on 0458009616 or email eatkinson048@gmail.com

Bring your bonnet, bring your friends — and let's make this Easter one to remember at Winchelsea Community Market!"

Community Support Continues for Conquer the Corrugations

Conquer the Corrugations is once again incredibly grateful for the ongoing support of Hewitt & Whitty.

Now in their 4th year of support, Hewitt & Whitty continue to stand with both Conquer the Corrugations and The Blue Tree Project, helping raise awareness and support for mental health in our community.

This year, Hewitt & Whitty have kindly donated an Oz Pig fireplace, which will feature as a silent auction item.

Don't miss the chance to join the walk by signing up.

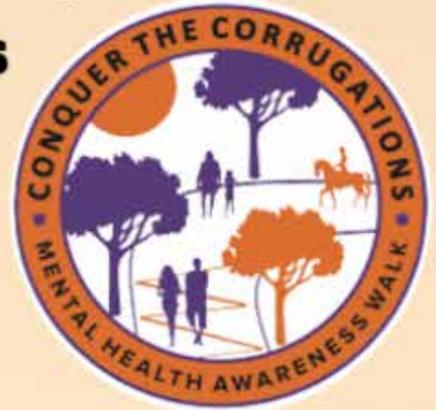
Events like this are made possible through the generosity of local supporters and the strength of our community.

Thank you to the team at Hewitt & Whitty!



Supporting mental health & breaking the stigma Conquer the Corrugations VICTORIA 2026

In support of those affected,
In honour of loved ones lost,
Together we walk as one.



Join us. Walk, Talk, Connect



Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th March, 2026

**Saturday-Inverleigh to Winchelsea
Sunday-Winchelsea return to Inverleigh**



**Walking for Change, Talking for Support-
You're not Alone**

Scan QR
code to
register &
for event
details

All fitness levels welcome, walk or hop on the bus!



A huge thank you to our generous supporters for making this event possible!



The skills you already have, can help you make a positive impact as a Prison Officer.

Discover a rewarding and secure career as a Prison Officer. Apply now and receive an \$8,000 sign on bonus.*



**Corrections
Victoria**

Hiring now

*Conditions apply.



Authorised by the Victorian Government,
1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



GRANTS NOW OPEN

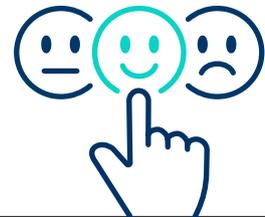
**Open on 1 March
closes on 31 March**

- **Community Initiative Grants up to \$5,000**
- **Natural Environment Grants up to \$8,000**

Scan the **QR code** to find out more or call grants team on **5261 0600** to discuss your idea and ask any questions.



Community Satisfaction Survey *On now*



You may be contacted by an independent researcher during February/March as part of the 2026 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

The annual survey, commissioned by the state government, will ask for your perceptions of Council's performance.

Interviews are via phone and online. You'll be asked for basic demographic information, but not personal details such as name and address.

For more information please call 5261 0600.

surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Grants





Winchelsea Star COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

email editor@winchelseastar.org.au or
leave a note at **Winchelsea IGA**

WINCHELSEA OP SHOP

The Op Shop cannot accept donations of these articles at the moment; DVDs, CDs, books, hiking bags, backpacks, duffle bags, suitcases, and cases.

PINE CONES FOR FIRE PITS \$5

Winchelsea Lions Club
Contact Ray 0406 371 239

WINCHELSEA PICKLEBALL

Wednesdays 7pm at Winchelsea Leisure Time Centre! \$5 All equipment supplied
Wear suitable footwear
Lesley Mathison 0438 672 197

WINCHELSEA TENNIS CLUB

JUNIOR COACHING
Mon 3.30pm \$10
with experienced coach Nicole Mullen

1ST MODEWARRE SCOUT GROUP

We have exciting programs for Joeys, Cubs and Scouts this year.
We have vacancies at Joey and Cub levels, and plenty of room at Scouts.
Group Leader Marie McPadden
0409 330 147

RAM FOR SALE

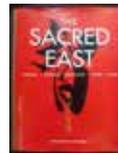
\$370.00 OBO
Contact Trevor 0410 165 346

BOOKS FOR SALE

Best offer - funds to go to Wurdale CFA.
Contact Judy 5288 7005 to make offers and view the book before purchasing.

THE SACRED EAST

An illustrated guide to Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Shinto. Hard cover, 176 pp good condition.



THE LIFE BRIAN by Monty. Includes the script and photographs from the movie. Soft cover, fair condition.

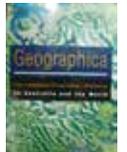


The Illustrated Encyclopedia of BUTTERFLIES. Hard cover, 288 pages in good condition



GEOGRAPHICA.

An illustrated atlas that includes detailed profiles and statistics for every country. Hard cover, 630 pages, fair condition



Hop into Easter at the Hidden Bunny Trail!

Elaine Atkinson

Sunday 5 April 2026

| 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Winchelsea Community Market

Families are invited to hop along to the Winchelsea Community Market on Sunday 5 April for a morning of Easter fun at the Hidden Bunny Trail!

From 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, kids can explore the market while searching for hidden bunnies along the trail. Follow the clues, discover the bunnies tucked around the stalls, and enjoy the excitement of a market adventure made just for children.

There's plenty happening for the whole family:

- Hidden Bunny Trail – Explore the market and see how many bunnies you can find!
- Colouring Corner – A quiet space for kids to relax and get creative.
- Storytime Under the Big Tree – Settle in for magical storytelling moments.
- Easter Bonnet Parade – Middyay – Bring your favourite Easter hat and join the colourful parade at 12:00 PM. The more creative, the better!
- Market Stalls & Treats – Browse local produce, handmade goods and delicious food.



It's the perfect way to celebrate Easter with the community. Bring the kids, meet friends, enjoy the fresh air and join in the fun as the market comes alive with laughter, creativity and a little bunny magic.

Event Details

What: Hidden Bunny Trail – Hop into Easter

When: Sunday 5 April 2026, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Where: Shire Hall, Winchelsea Community Market

Highlight: Easter Bonnet Parade at 12:00 PM

Who: Families and children of all ages welcome

*So grab your baskets, pop on your Easter bonnet,
and hop into Easter
at the Winchelsea Community Market!*



Are you ready? Let's NET SET GO!

Join Woolworths NetSetGo, Australia's leading netball program for kids aged 5 to 10. It's where netball begins but the fun never ends!



Why join?

- ★ Learn new skills in a fun, supportive environment
- ★ Make friends and build confidence
- ★ Smaller groups means more learning and more laughing
- ★ Age-dropped stages, which are welcoming of all experience levels - everyone can join!



Starts Thursday 24th April 4pm!

Find out more Shae 0409641550




WINCHELSEA MUSIC SEASON

Longing



Helen Ling *soprano*

Zinaida Campion *soprano*
David Stewart *piano*



Will perform a varied programme of soprano repertoire to commemorate the

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE

GLOBE THEATRE

As part of the first annual Winchelsea Music Season

Saturday 2nd May 5pm at the Globe Theatre
17 Willis St, Winchelsea, Victoria

Tickets at the door or via Trybooking
Adult \$50 Concession \$40 - School Students Free

For further information
0428 403 784
zinaidacampion@gmail.com

YOU ARE INVITED TO

WINCHELSEA COMMUNITY DINNERS

LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| February 28th | July 25th |
| March 28th | August 29th |
| April 25th | September 26th |
| May 30th | October 24th |
| June 27th | November 28th |

6.30PM HALL ON CORNER OF MERCER & HARDING STREETS

PRODUCE SWAP TABLE
CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES

PLEASE BRING FOOD TO SHARE IF YOU ARE ABLE
GOLD COIN DONATION AT DOOR
MORE INFO- JESS 0409536752




Have you thought about joining the local Movie Club?

Winchelsea Movie Club enters its ninth year of bringing affordable, entertaining movies monthly to the Globe theatre.

Membership is essential -
10 screenings annually - \$70 Conc \$65
5 screenings Autumn /Spring seasons - \$40 Conc \$35

Movie List for 2026

| | |
|------------|------------------|
| 19.2.2026 | The Castle |
| 19.3.2026 | Tina |
| 16.4.2026 | One Life |
| 21.5.2026 | Roofman |
| 18.6.2026 | Gifted Hands |
| BREAK | |
| 20.8.2026 | Rachael's Farm |
| 17.9.2026 | The Book Thief |
| 15.10.2026 | Mr Burton |
| 19.11.2026 | My Favorite Cake |
| 10.12.26 | Thelma |

WHEN -
Movies will be shown third Thursday of each month (except July) at 7.30
Come early.

WHERE -
The Globe Theatre
17-19 Willis Street Winchelsea
Opp Winchelsea Tavern (Top Pub)

Membership can be paid by CASH on the first night February 19th or by direct debit to bank account.
Enquiries re bank account details to email - movies@growingwinchelsea.com
Jenny 0409672054 Sue 0413487915
Further information about the Movie Club - www.growingwinchelsea.com





Zinaida Campion

Columnist's Thoughts: *We all love music, but how often do we stop to think how it was created? And what inspires a composer to put pen to paper? Here, local composer Michael Hannan answers some of these burning questions for us.*

Michael Hannan is very relevant right now, as his new piece Mary Magdalene, in which he sets a

To share your stories and inspire the community, please contact Zinaida. 0428 403 784 zinaidacampion@gmail.com

poem by local poet Rosemary Blake to music, will premiere at the Windfire Easter concert on March 29. Come and have a listen!

Ciao!

Sunday 29 March, 4:00pm Basilica of St Mary of the Angels, 136 Yarra St Geelong

Part 1 - continues next week

Interview with Geelong composer Michael Hannan

by Victoria Hay

Michael, I recently encountered your work when I performed two of your organ pieces, 'Grey Shrikethrush' and 'Australian Magpie – predawn song'. How did you come to compose them?

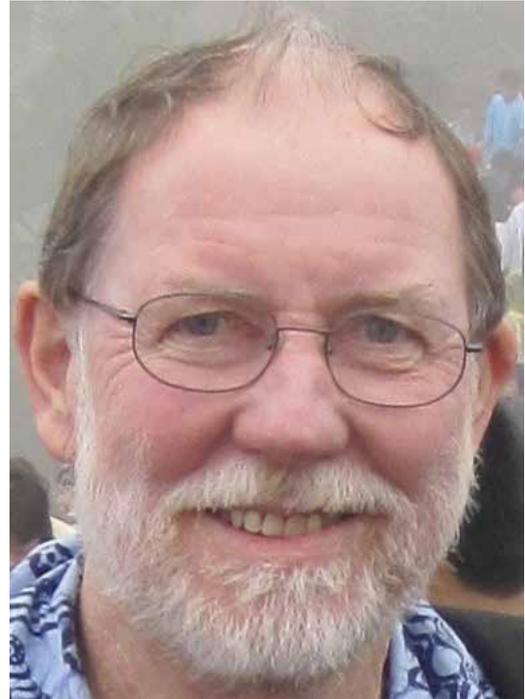
I am a member of Vox Angelica Geelong Chamber Choir. When Tom Healey, the conductor of this choir, was planning his program of choral works about birds for the opening concert of Geelong's 2025 Windfire Music Festival, he asked me if I would write two works for organ using birdsong melodies.

What's your interest in birdsong?

It's has been a major interest of mine since the mid 1980s. I'm fascinated by the sonic complexity of the songs, and even the screeches, of birds. I make recordings of birdsong and transcribe some of these into western musical notation for use in my compositions. I am a member of the Australian Wildlife Sound Recording Group and have issued quite a lot of my field recordings on its Audio Wings CD series. I wake up early every day and love listening to the dawn chorus, and identifying the bird species from their calls. When I lived in Northern NSW near the sub-tropical rainforests, I could regularly identify more than twenty birds in the dawn chorus.

How did birdsong first capture your attention?

In 1985 I moved from Sydney to Brisbane to take up a lectureship in composition and writing techniques at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music. One weekend, when I was composing at my piano in the Brisbane suburb of



Paddington, I heard this very loud, but very melodic call of a bird in my backyard. It was distracting me from my composing, but eventually I incorporated some of its phrases into my piece. After that I was hooked on the songs of this bird and eventually found out it that it was a Pied Butcherbird.

How has it inspired you and influenced your composing?

Birdsong is a major influence on my work, but not the only influence. I like to write music inspired by other composers, and play around with their musical styles. I also like to respond to poetry, particularly Japanese haiku. And I like to explore techniques of instruments and voices in an abstract way, creating music soundscapes.

But getting back to my birdsong influenced works, I use transcriptions of the bird recordings I've made and try to find harmonic and metrical frameworks that work with the pitches and rhythms of the birdsong. I've got an ongoing series for single-line instruments called "Birdsong Rhapsodies", where several sections of the music use my birdsong transcriptions and other sections develop the musical ideas of the birdsong in a free compositional way.

Zinaida Campion is a classical soprano, vocal coach, artist and model raised in Winchelsea. She is an alumna of VOYCE Victorian Opera, a Windfire Vocal Scholar, Co founder of Cecilia's Daughters, Vice President of Geelong Opera, Artistic Director of the Winchelsea Music Season, and founder of Rural Arts Victoria. A keen arts writer, she has a strong background in languages and a love of local history. She is dedicated to working with the local community, and has an all-consuming passion for promoting the arts in rural areas.



Winchelsea Star



Children's Easter DRAWING COMPETITION

Create a colourful Easter drawing

Hand in at the IGA by **5pm Friday 27 March 2026**

Write your name, age, and phone on the back of your artwork.

PRIZE

The winning artwork will appear on the

- ✓ **Front Cover of the Winchelsea Star AND**
- ✓ **A big chocolate Easter egg from the IGA**





What's on at Winch House

28 Hesse Street, Winchelsea Ph: 0352672028 Email: reception@winchhouse.org.au

Please come and see us at the Winchelsea Community House with your bill BEFORE March 27th and we will assist you with the

\$100 POWER SAVING BONUS

FOR ELIGIBLE CONCESSION CARD HOLDERS

NHVIC.ORG.AU/PSB 

Yoga & Mat Pilates in the Shire Hall

Mat Pilates 6.45pm Tuesdays
Wednesdays Yoga Flow 6.30pm
Thursdays Vinyasa Yoga 7pm

Casual Class: \$25 or
5 Class Pass: \$100

Email: shirehall@winchhouse.org.au or call: 0352672028

Stitch it,
Don't ditch it!

Wednesday's 9.30am - 2pm
During school terms*

Winchelsea Community House 'Star Room'

SEWING MACHINE & OVERLOCKER available.

TAI CHI

Friday Mornings
9am - 10am
in the Winchelsea Shire Hall

Originating in China, Tai Chi and Qigong (Chi Kung) is the practice of slow meditative physical exercise designed for relaxation, balance and health. Suitable for all abilities & ages.

Find us on facebook at: winchelsea tai chi group

Please call 03 52672028 or email reception@winchhouse.org.au to register. **\$10 Per Class**

WINCHELSEA KNITTING GROUP

Thursday Mornings 10.30 -12.00
Winchelsea community house.

All Welcome, Learn to knit or bring a project to work on while you enjoy a cuppa and a chat



NEED A QUIET PLACE TO WORK OR STUDY IN THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS?

WINCHELSEA COMMUNITY HOUSE AND THE SHIRE HALL REMAIN OPEN THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS WITH SEVERAL SPACES AVAILABLE FOR USE.

Email: manager@winchhouse.org.au or Call : 0352672028



Phonics with Robot Reg

9.30am Friday Mornings

Pre-School - 5 years

'A Fun, high energy class to introduce and teach phonics skills to kids'

Bookings at robotreg.com.au

Craft & Crochet Group

\$5 per person.

1pm, every second Saturday in the Winchelsea community house.

Next session: Saturday 18th April

reception@winchhouse.org.au



CHATTY CAFÉ

Friday's 10.30am - 12.30pm in the Shire Hall

"Sip, Chat, Share, Care"

Everyone Welcome

Gold coin donation.

Stitch It Don't Ditch It

by Winch House Craft Group

The Wednesday craft group has a variety of crafts going on each week, one of the members was finishing off a corner to corner baby blanket.

There is also an unfinished donated piece being worked on, this piece is worked using very fine thread and a tiny crochet hook, it's crocheted in four pieces to be joined making a large table cloth or bed topper.

There is a Saturday (fortnightly) crochet group meeting at Winch House if anyone would like to try their hand at this craft.

Remember there is a sewing machine and overlocker available for community use, you don't have to join the group to use these, just pop in on Wednesday 9am – 2pm or contact Winch House reception for a time that suits.



COME & PLAY NETBALL!
@ Winchelsea

- **Net-Set-Go**
Ages 5 - 10 years
- **Under 10s**
Born 2018
- **Under 11s**
Born 2017 - 2015
- **Under 13s**
Born 2014 - 2013
- **Under 15s**
Born 2012 - 2011
- **Under 17s**
Born 2010 - 2008

BLUES
WINCHELSEA F.C.

New & existing players welcome!

Junior Netball Coordinator
Shae - 0409 641 550

Fire Danger Period NOW

The Fire Danger Period is when CFA restricts the use of fire in the community. This is to help prevent fires from starting.

The Fire Danger Period is NOT the same thing as a Total Fire Ban.

Your local council or shire may have their own local laws about lighting fires. Contact your local council to find out what municipal local laws may be in place. Local laws may be in place all year

| Municipality | Start | End |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| SURF COAST | 24/11/2025 | 01/05/2026 |

If you need to use fire in the open air during the Fire Danger Period or on a day of Total Fire Ban you may require a permit.

Find the rules at: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-permits/about-fire-permits>

Councillor Catch-Up

by Tony Phelps, Winchelsea Ward Councillor

As the Councillor rep on the Positive Ageing committee (with volunteer seniors from each of the Shire's towns) and joining Cr Mike Bodsworth, it was great to see the Healthy Wealthy & Wise roadshow in Anglesea so well attended last week. A day of encouraging and interesting presentations alongside an expo of organisations and groups offering advice and things to do as we get older and pull back from a working life. Ageing positively is about staying active mentally and physically, being part of community, and continuing to contribute with experience and wisdom. From our youngest to our oldest, I'm seeing a growing trend to bring our communities back together as communities.

In Winchelsea this looks like all the activities at Winch House, the monthly community dinner, the market, Growing Winchelsea's projects like the Movie Club, the Mens Shed, the Lions, Probus, Golf, Bowls, Footy-Netball clubs, parkrun, karate... and many more. I can't recommend enough being a part of it whatever suits your current lifestyle. Mental health and physical health are directly connected to social inclusion and participation. Join in :)

In a couple of months, Mayor Libby Stapleton heads to the coming Australian Local Government Association meeting, where Surf Coast

Shire will be asking for a higher standard of mobile phone coverage. Imagine being in Lorne for an unexpected and unpredictable emergency on a summer weekend, and a phone network that's already choked even with normal traffic - those emergency messages won't get through to everyone, and you likely won't be able to phone out either. It's not acceptable. Anyone travelling to Melbourne on the train can experience what a service is like that is geared to 'average' rather than 'peak'. In 2026 Australia, we should expect a communications system that is up to the job.

Speaking of Melbourne, I went in for a session alongside Mayor Libby on health & wellbeing responsibilities for councils. It's a legislated requirement under Victoria's Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 to develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, at Surf Coast Shire it's integrated into the overall Council Plan (see surfcoast.vic.gov.au/councilplan). It helps understand local health issues, set priorities, and take action. Its purpose is to guide coordinated actions that improve community health and wellbeing through prevention-focused programs and policies. The session was a whole lot more fascinating than I expected, underlining that everything Council does has an end goal of "wellbeing". It's a positive way of looking at the world!

And to end on something positive, have you noticed all the work on the roads that's been happening? Gravel road resheeting & smoothing, filling in road edging, respraying/resealing tarmac... the roads teams have been busy. They always are, mind you, but the weather



has allowed a bit of catching up as the works last longer with the occasional moisture we've had. A reminder that not all roads are Council responsibility - look at Google Maps, if it's yellow it's State! As always, please report any potholes or other issues via the 'Lodge a Request' link on the surfcoast.vic.gov.au website.

Disclaimer:

The views and opinions expressed in this communication are my own and do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or views of Surf Coast Shire or its staff. They are offered in my capacity as an individual Councillor and should not be interpreted as representing the collective views of the Council or Shire.

GROUNDED FESTIVAL

The 2026 programme for GROUNDED, Australia's most useful, enjoyable and thought-provoking food and farming festival, has just been released.

Held in April over two days on an award-winning regenerative farm two hours from Melbourne, the packed programme features over 80 sessions, 70 speakers, 20 workshops, 20 stalls, local music and camping.

Founded in 2024 by Matthew Evans, best-selling author, chef, farmer and TV personality, the GROUNDED Festival brings farming and food experts together to explore better ways to manage biodiverse landscapes, grow nutritious food, improve sustainability and build healthier food systems.

International speakers join a stellar line up of Australian experts to deliver insights on everything from building healthy soil, how grazing can change the world, making a profit from climate-friendly farming, natural capital, food distribution and food as medicine.

The annual GROUNDED FESTIVAL is a collaborative, practical response to these challenges, building capacity and

taking a holistic approach to improving health and resilience for farmers, landscapes and communities.

Following successful festivals in Tasmania and Western Australia, in 2026, GROUNDED is partnering with the local Upper Barwon and Central Otway Landcare Networks and the Corangamite Catchment Authority to hold the festival at leading regenerative farm, Yan Yan Gurt West, in the Victorian Otway Ranges, two hours from Melbourne. The area is renowned for regenerative agroforestry, tourism, local hospitality and great food and wine.

More info and programme details at: groundedaustralia.com.au



WINCHELSEA CONCRETING

• Driveways • Sheds • Decorative Concrete • Raft Slabs

Robert Murphy

☎ 0438 235 237

✉ winchelseaconcreting@outlook.com

DownRyte Excavations



- Excavations
- Drilling and Piling
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Services & Activities In Winchelsea

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>VLINER TRAIN SERVICES TO MELBOURNE: Mon - Fri 06.41 (coach) 08.07 11.10 14.04 16.58 19.21 Sat - Sun 08.27 10.27 14.04 16.58 19.17</p> <p>TO WARRNAMBOOL: Mon - Fri 08.58 11.51 14.46 17.28 (coach) 18.42 20.52 Sat - Sun 09.44 11.41 14.46 18.38 20.38</p> | <p>SURF COAST MOBILE LIBRARY Cnr Princes Highway & Hesse St, Fridays, 2pm-5pm</p> <p>Parked in Hesse Street (outside Shire Hall) Fridays 2:00 and 5:00pm unless it is a Public Holiday.</p> | <p>WINCHELSEA GIRL GUIDES  All girls 6yrs-15yrs Welcome! ndays 4.30pm-6pm (school terms) Catholic Church Hall, Harding St Winchelsea</p> <p><i>Fun, friendship, and adventure. Teamwork, leadership skills, achieve goals, improve communities and grow in confidence.</i></p> <p>3 FREE sessions to come along and try. Yvonne 0448 672 630 or Lily 0428 936 441</p> |
| <p> COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION</p> <p>7pm second Wednesday of month Winchelsea Senior Citizens' Hall 36 Harding Street Winchelsea</p> | <p>WINCHELSEA PLAYGROUP Every second Thursday 10am-12pm St Thomas Anglican Church Hall cnr Barwon Tce and Hopkins St, Winchelsea</p> <p>Contact: Danni Menzies 0432019944 winchelseaplaygroup@gmail.com Facebook - Winchelsea Playgroup 2019 New families welcome</p> | <p> 1ST MODAWARRE SCOUT GROUP</p> <p>Modewarre Hall, Cape Otway Rd Mon-Cub Scouts 8-11yo 6:30-8pm (sch term) Tues-Joeys 5-8yo 5-6pm (sch term) Wed-Scouts 11-14yo 6:30-8:30pm (sch term) Venturers 15-18yo hosted by Torquay or Highton Units</p> <p>Marie McPadden 0409330147</p> |
| <p> Winchelsea and District COMBINED PROBUS CLUB</p> <p>Senior Citizens Rooms, New members always welcome. Enquiries Lorraine 0417 467 927</p> | <p>WINCHELSEA TRANSFER STATION 55 Cressy Road, Winchelsea</p> <p>Tuesday 2pm-4pm Saturday 1.30-3.30pm Thursday 2pm-4pm Sunday 9.30-12.30pm</p> <p>Closed Christmas Day, but open on other public holidays. www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/disposalsites</p> | <p>Join us. A role for everyone</p> <p>Nationally accredited training to help our community. Pop in to meet your crew Wednesdays 7:30pm</p> <p> Winchelsea Unit 325 Mosley Drive 132 500</p> |



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Winchelsea Uniting Church

0475 777 301
uca.winchelsea@gmail.com
Hesse St, Winchelsea 3241
Services 9.30am Sundays

St John the Baptist Catholic Church

0404 598 558
Father Joseph Panackal
Harding St, Winchelsea 3241
Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist
@ 6pm Sat. Mar.21, 28

St Thomas' Anglican Church

0448 687 588
Rev Christopher Duff
Barwon Tce, Winchelsea

Winchelsea Churches



Thought of the Week

"God does not preserve your life by
accident.

If you are still here, there is a purpose
attached to your days. Every breath is a
gift
and an assignment. You are meant to
live
with faith, not fear, and to speak about
what

God has done for you."

Have a Blessed week.

John Bader
(Christian Pastoral Carer)

Winchelsea Combined Churches

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS WALK

GOOD FRIDAY

3RD APRIL AT 10AM

In the grounds of

ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Harding Street Winchelsea



Hot Cross Buns
Tea and Coffee

In the Church Hall following
the walk.

(If it is raining we will gather
in the Church Hall)

Details: Lyn - 0400 649 652

Winchelsea Combined Churches - Working Together for God



Psalm 5

Can you hear, O God, what I have to say?

Do You feel something of what I feel this morning?

I know, O God, that You are grieved

by the selfishness of Your children.

The world You created seems to be falling apart.

Your creatures are living for themselves alone.

They are proud and self-sufficient.

They think they don't need You any longer.

I also know, O Lord, that I cannot exist

without the assurance of Your eternal love.

Thus I commit myself once more to You and Your purposes.

Help me to walk in Your path for my life.

Give me grace to overcome the many obstacles in the way.

The philosophies that come out of our world

bear little resemblance

to the truth You revealed to us.

They are subtle and seductive, and men are led astray

by forked tongues and suave soft-sell.

Enable us to recognize them for what they are:

shallow, superficial, ultimately destructive.

Those who follow You need not be dismayed.

They can sing and dance in the joy of their Lord.

You will continue to reveal Yourself to them

and care for them and work out Your purposes

In and through them.

"Psalms/ Now" by Leslie F. Brandt.

Winchelsea  **Star**

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Catholic 0404 598 558

Uniting 0475 777 301

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Probus 0417 467 927

Scouts 0409 330 147

COMMUNITY

Community House 5267 2028

Foodbank 0417 848 292

Mainly Music 0407 838 256

Men's Shed 0407 839 139

Playgroup 0432 019 944

RSL 0488 165 109

Senior Citizens 0427 672 263

Toy Library 5267 2028

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Unusual Requests Welcome

180 Barwon Terrace, Winchelsea

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Nominate An Unsung Hero In Your Community Now

Victoria's dedicated volunteers and the organisations they power deserve to be recognised.

Minister Spence is calling on Victorians to nominate the outstanding people and groups making a difference in their community.

Nominations are officially open for the 2026 Victorian Volunteering Awards.

The awards celebrate excellence across eight categories, including:

- Young Volunteer Award
- Volunteer Commitment Award
- Volunteer Leadership Award
- Volunteer Impact Award
- Inclusive Volunteering Award
- Volunteering Innovation Awards
- Volunteering Partnerships Award
- Grassroots Volunteering Award



The Volunteer of the Year, selected from the individual categories, will receive the Dame Elisabeth Murdoch Award and a \$10,000 donation to a not-for-profit of their choice.

Last year saw a total of 447 nominations, including Glenys Watts who was named Volunteer of the Year.

Glenys is a tireless advocate for Indigenous health, family violence prevention and culturally safe services.

For more than 30 years she's been pivotal in shaping resilient communities, including through her work establishing the Wirram Warrain Gathering Place and with Ngwala Willumbong.

Nominations close on Wednesday, 27 May.

For more information or to nominate visit volunteeringvictoria.org.au/awards.

Council Seeking More Participants In Cycling Data Trial

Surf Coast Shire Council is inviting more people to volunteer to take part in a cycling trial collecting real-time data that will help with future transport planning decisions in the region.

Local riders can apply to receive a smart light that they attach to their bike.

The smart light automatically collects anonymous data while riders travel along their normal routes.

This information will provide insights into how and where people ride, helping Council better understand cyclists' experiences on local roads.

Surf Coast Shire Council is partnering with See.Sense, IMOVE and TAC to bring this cutting edge technology to the community.

With a number of community members already registered to take part, Council is now looking for volunteers from these categories to fill gaps in demographics:

People who travel to and from school by bike, including students and their families, and teachers; and

Cyclists in Lorne, Aireys Inlet, Winchelsea, Moriac, and Deans Marsh.

Councillor Joel Grist said the trial provides an opportunity for riders to share information about their experiences on local roads.

"Cyclists know the local network better than anyone because they use it everyday," Cr Grist said.

"This trial lets riders share information about their journeys so Council can better understand where people are riding and what challenges they face on the road.

The data gathered will be used with other information, including crash statistics and road audit reports, in shaping safer cycling connections – helping Council work towards its aim of increasing active transport in the shire.

Interested cyclists can review the program details, including how data is collected, and register their interest at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/SmartBikeLightTrial.

A Thriving Future for Geelong: A Special Evening

What if our local economy was designed not just for growth, but for the wellbeing of people, place, and future generations?

You are invited to a special evening with Dr Katherine Trebeck, internationally recognised wellbeing economist and co-founder of the Wellbeing Economy Alliance.

It's an opportunity to hear directly from one of the world's leading voices on how we can reimagine our economy to better serve what truly matters.

Date: Wednesday 25 March

Time: 5.30–8.00pm

Location: Geelong West Town Hall, 153 Pakington St, Geelong West, 3218
Supper provided, with tea and coffee

A presentation followed by a panel will spark conversation about what a wellbeing economy really means and what it could look like in practice here in our region.

Register through the Geelong Sustainability website, Choose 'Get Involved' then 'Events'

geelongsustainability.org.au

Peter Shaw's Celebrated Anglesea Garden Sunnymeade Opens This April With Open Gardens Victoria

One of the Surf Coast's most admired private gardens will open to the public this April, when Open Gardens Victoria welcomes visitors to Sunnymeade, the Anglesea home garden of award-winning landscape designer Peter Shaw.



Sunnymeade is a much-loved Surf Coast garden that has been featured on Gardening Australia, Dream Gardens, Better Homes and Gardens, and The Design Files. Set among original twisted stringybarks (*Eucalyptus obliqua*), the garden reflects Peter and Simone Shaw's approach to relaxed coastal design and family-centred outdoor living.

The Shaws first discovered the block in 2000 while wandering past one Sunday afternoon with their young family. The house was later built at the back of the site so the mature stringybarks could remain undisturbed—trees that continue to shape the garden's character today.

"The twisted stringybarks create a sense of magic that influenced the garden on all levels," says Peter. "The garden design follows the natural twisting forms of the trees and weaves its way beneath them."

Close to the house, the planting is more structured, with clipped spheres of correas and westringias providing form and rhythm. Moving further into the garden, the design becomes looser and more playful. Sweeping drystone walls soften changes in level, gravel paths wind through naturalistic plantings, and a sculpted 'hilly' lawn invites visitors to settle in and enjoy the space.

The garden has evolved alongside the Shaw family over more than two decades. What began as a robust, drought-tolerant coastal garden designed for young children has

gradually become a creative outlet for experimentation with plants, textures, and seasonal colour.

"No garden is ever finished," Peter says. "It simply moves through its stages. Sunnymeade continues to evolve as our family and our ideas change."

Visitors can also explore the Sacred Garden, a remnant of the original bush block planted with indigenous species, along with vegetable beds, living screens, and sculptural planting that connects the house and landscape.

Before the weekend opening, Sunnymeade Twilight will take place on the Friday evening, offering a more intimate way to experience the garden as day turns to dusk. Visitors can wander the winding paths while subtle garden lighting begins to illuminate sculptural plantings, drystone walls and grassy mounds. Fire pits will be lit throughout the garden, creating warm gathering places as the evening settles in. Guests will enjoy a complimentary glass of wine, light food served informally as they explore, with curated music, and a small number of themed readings shared within the garden. Tickets for this twilight event are strictly limited.

Sunnymeade was the winner of the Victorian Landscape Awards – Plants in Landscape (2014).

Sunnymeade is located on the lands of the Wadawurrung people. Open Gardens Victoria wish to acknowledge the Traditional custodians of this land and we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.



Open Gardens Victoria (OGV) is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit organisation that promotes the benefits of gardens and gardening for all Victorians. We assist garden owners to open their private gardens to the public and organise gardening and horticulturally themed events. Our activities are funded by ticket sales, and each year a portion of our surplus is applied to grants under our Giving Program for horticultural projects in the fields of education, wellness, innovation, community and sustainability.

What's on Weekly

MONDAY-FRIDAY

WINCHELSEA TOY LIBRARY

9am-2pm (03) 5267 2028
Winch Community House,
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea

MONDAY-SATURDAY

WINCHELSEA HEALTH CLUB

Accessible - 24 hours
Eastern Reserve, 70 Hopkins St
5267 2336

MONDAY

SURF COAST SHIRE FIRE DANGER PERIOD

24/11/2025 - 01/05/2026

CO-WORKING AND STUDYING SPACE

Mon and Thurs 9am-2pm \$10
Winchelsea Community House
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea
(03) 5267 2028

MAINLY MUSIC

10-11am (school terms)
Interactive Music 0-4yrs
St Thomas' 25 Barwon Tce 0407838256

WINCHELSEA GIRL GUIDES

4.30pm-6pm (School term)
St John's, Mercer /Harding St
Yvonne Orchard 0448 672 630
Lily Dell Rennie 0428 936 441

1ST MODAWARRE SCOUT GROUP

Modewarre Hall, Cape Otway Rd
Mon-Cub Scouts 8-11yo 6:30-8pm (sch term)
Venturers 15-18yo hosted by
Torquay or Highton Units
Marie McPadden 0409330147

VINYASA YOGA

7pm \$25 Winchelsea Shire Hall,
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea
(03) 5267 2028

TUESDAY



Senior Citizens Centre,
36 Harding St, Winchelsea
Elaine Atkinson 0458 009 616

1ST MODAWARRE SCOUT GROUP

Modewarre Hall, Cape Otway Rd
Tues-Joeys 5-8yo 5-6pm (sch term)
Venturers 15-18yo hosted by
Torquay or Highton Units
Marie McPadden 0409330147

WEDNESDAY

WINCHELSEA ZUMBA DANCE

Combined Zumba Fitness and Gold class.
6:30-7:30pm @The Globe Theatre.
Simone Dunmore: 0468 375 036

WINCHELSEA MEN'S SHED

9.30am 51 Hesse St, Winchelsea
Ray Atkinson 0407839139
winchmenshed@gmail.com

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

Wednesdays 1- 3.00 pm
36 Harding St, Winchelsea
Jean Shinnars 52672263, 0427672263
jeanshinnars@gmail.com

MOTHER GOOSE SONG AND RHYME

2pm (School term) FREE
Winchelsea Community House,
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea

WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wednesday 1-4:pm, Friday 10am-3pm
Hesse St, Winchelsea

STITCH IT,

DON'T DITCH IT!

9.30-2pm Wednesdays
Winch Community House, Hesse St
SEWING MACHINE and
OVERLOCKER AVAILABLE
Gold Coin donation

KIDS ART and CRAFT SESSIONS

4-4.45pm fortnightly Age 5+
\$15 per session or \$60 term
Winchelsea Community House
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea 5267 2028

Winchelsea
Community Market
First Sunday on the Month (except November)
Shire Hall
9am to 1pm

Upcoming Dates:
Apr 5 Oct 4
May 3 Nov 8
Aug 2 Dec 6
Sep 6

Food, Produce, Coffee, Plants, Crafts
Homewares, Candles, Bags, Skincare
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Stallholders - Contact via Growing Winchelsea Inc Website
(Scroll Down to Market)

mainly music
est. 1992

Fun, Interactive music sessions for
pre-school children (0-4 y.o.) and
parents/caregivers

When: Mondays from 10 to 11 am
(runs during school terms)

Where: St Thomas' Hall
25 Barwon Tce.

To Enquire ring: 0407838256

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All money raised used
for local community
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March/April 2026

This is a recurring calendar. Please confirm event details with the organiser/venue if you'd like to attend.

To add an event to the calendar, please email news@winchelseastar.org.au

MEL'S DANCE CENTRAL

Winchelsea Dance Classes
Pre-Schoolers - Adults
Wednesday afternoon/evenings
The Senior Citizens Club,
www.melsdancecentral.com.au

CWA WINCHELSEA

7-8.30pm 2nd Wed monthly
Senior Citizens, Harding St
winchelsea.cwa@gmail.com



SES WINCHELSEA

7.30pm 132500
323 Mousley Dr, Winchelsea



1ST MODAWARRE SCOUT GROUP

Modewarre Hall, Cape Otway Rd
Wed-Scouts 11-14yo 6:30-8:30pm (sch term)
Venturers 15-18yo hosted by
Torquay or Highton Units
Marie McPadden 0409330147

THURSDAY

CHAT WITH YOUR COUNCILLOR Cr Tony Phelps

10am-12pm First Thursday of month
Winchelsea Shire Hall 28 Hesse St,

COWORKING AND STUDYING SPACE

9am-2pm \$10 5267 2028
Winch Community House, 28 Hesse St

WINCHELSEA PLAYGROUP

10am-12pm (School term) \$5
St Thomas Hall, 27 Barwon Tce
winchelseaplaygroup@gmail.com

WINCHELSEA PICKLEBALL

10-11.30am
Leisure Time Centre, Gosney St
Lesley Mathison 0438 672 197

WINCHELSEA KNITTING GROUP

10.30am-12pm FREE
Winchelsea Community House,
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea
(03) 5267 2028 (03) 5267 2028

MAT PILATES

6.45pm \$25 Winchelsea Shire Hall,
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea
(03) 5267 2028

WINCHELSEA MOVIE CLUB

7.30 (3rd Thurs each month)
Globe Theatre, Main St, Winchelsea
growingwinchelsea.com/project/winchelsea-movie-club/

FRIDAY

TAI CHI

9am-10am \$10 5267 2028
Winch Community House, 28 Hesse St

COMMUNITY FOODBANK

12-2pm
30 Hesse St, Winchelsea
0417 848 292

PHONICS WITH ROBOT REG

10.30am (1-3 yrs) 11.30am (3-5 yrs)
(School terms)
www.robotreg.com.au/pages/shae

CHATTY CAFÉ

10.30am-12.30pm, Winch Shire Hall,
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea
Gold Coin Donation 5267 2028

WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Friday 10am-3pm
Hesse St, Winchelsea

WINCHELSEA SENIOR CITIZENS

Fridays 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm
36 Harding Street, Winchelsea
Jean Shinnars 52672263, 0427672263
jeanshinnars@gmail.com

WINCHELSEA RSL

Back of the Eastern Reserve grandstand
Hesse St, Winchelsea
David Loone 0488 165 109

GEELONG REGIONAL LIBRARY

(MOBILE) 2-5pm
Old Shire Hall, 28 Hesse Street
0408384331 (During scheduled stops)

SATURDAY

PARKRUN

8am Trebeck Reserve
Sussex St, Winchelsea
www.parkrun.com.au/trebeckreserve/

DIAMOND DOT

Senior Citizens Centre,
36 Harding Street Winchelsea
10 till 4 \$5 entry, \$10 includes lunch
Tracey 0427500649

WINCHELSEA LIONS CLUB IGA BBQs

9 -12pm first Sat of month outside IGA.
Proceeds to IGA Community Chest.

WINCHELSEA LAND AND RIVERCARE

First Saturday of the month 9am
Meet at Guye Reserve, Barwon Terrace
Rod Atone 0428 549318
Stewart Mathison 0428 672054

SPEED SHEAR

Winchelsea FNC
2pm Saturday 11 April
Eastern Reserve

WINCHELSEA STAR PRODUCTION/COFFEE MEETING

9-11am (Last Sat monthly)
Sweet Thyme Cafe, Main Street
www.winchelseastar.org.au

WINCHELSEA CROCHET GROUP

1.30pm Every 2nd Saturday \$5
Winch Community House, 28 Hesse St,
Vee 0467 219 227

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass 6pm each week
Harding St, Winchelsea 0404598558

WINCHELSEA COMMUNITY DINNER

6.30pm last Sat monthly, except Nov/Dec
Hall, Harding St Winchelsea
Bring plate and gold coin donation if you can

SUNDAY

WINCHELSEA COMMUNITY MARKET

9-1pm, 1st Sunday monthly
Shire Hall car park, Main St Winch
growingwinchelsea.com/project/winchelsea-community-market/

EASTER BONNET PARADE

Sunday 5 April 2026
Winchelsea Community Market!
0458009616
eatkinson048@gmail.com

WINCHELSEA UNITING CHURCH

Service 9.30am each week
Hesse St, Winchelsea 0475 777 301
uca.winchelsea@gmail.com

ST THOMAS' ANGLICAN CHURCH

10am each week
Barwon Tce, Winchelsea
0477 672 042
stthomaswac@gmail.com

Groundbreaking Report On Women's Access To Sexual And Reproductive Healthcare In The Barwon South West

Women's Health and Wellbeing Barwon South West (WHWBSW) has launched a groundbreaking report into access gaps for women and gender diverse people seeking sexual and reproductive healthcare in the Barwon South West.

The report draws insights from surveys, focus groups and interviews with over 450 community members from across the region, as well as with healthcare providers in the sector.

"Access to safe, respectful and affordable care, including sexual and reproductive healthcare, is critical to women and gender diverse people living healthy, empowered lives. Unfortunately, this type of care is not always accessible in the Barwon South West," said Jodie Hill, CEO, WHWBSW.

It identifies barriers encountered by people when seeking care including limited access to menopause and perimenopause information; inadequate access to mental health support and physiotherapy during pregnancy and after the birth of a baby; and experiences of pain being dismissed or minimised by healthcare professionals.

"This report really centres the experiences of women and gender diverse people in our community. It also highlights the challenges faced by the wonderful healthcare professionals delivering care," said Ms Hill.

The report makes a series of recommendations for action by all levels of government and the healthcare sector.

"From both sides of the door includes a set of tangible actions needed to improve access to critical sexual and reproductive healthcare in the Barwon South West, and we will advocate with all levels of government, and the healthcare sector, to see those happen" said Ms Hill.



WOMEN'S HEALTH & WELLBEING
Barwon South West

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Thanks to Safewills partnership with Lifeline Direct, Lifeline supporters can access a free Will during charity will week, until March 30th 2026. Write a Will with Safewill to protect your loved ones, and put clear instructions in place for the people and causes you care about.

Lifeline exists to ensure that no person in Australia needs to face their darkest moment alone. They provide the crucial moments of connection that bring hope and save lives.

Locally, Lifeline's workforce of Crisis Supporters, most of whom are volunteers, provide connection through their 13 11 14 crisis lines to those in need 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Lifeline provides community training workshops focused on mental health awareness and suicide prevention, as well as specifically funded community led suicide prevention initiatives. Safewill is proud to partner with Lifeline to offer their incredible supporters the opportunity to write a bespoke Will for free until March 30th, 2026 (normally \$160).

A SMALL TASK THAT CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Lifeline supporters can write their Will for Free until March 30.



history of winchelsea

Winchelsea Train Station

Winchelsea Station around 1910



The first railway lines in Victoria were initiated by private companies. In 1854 the Melbourne and Hobson's Bay Railway Company commenced construction of the first railway line for freight and passengers from Flinders Street in Melbourne to Sandridge (Port Melbourne). Suburban Railways were formed to Windsor via Richmond to Hawthorn and to Essendon and Flemington Racecourse from North Melbourne in the 1850s and early 1860. The first regional service to Geelong was completed by the Geelong and Melbourne Railway Company in 1857. In 1872 construction began on the extension of the Geelong railway south to Winchelsea.

On November 1st 1876 the railway was opened for the first time as far as Winchelsea. To celebrate the occasion the people of Winchelsea were regaled with cakes, buns, tea and sweet meats. A sports meeting was held on Nov 24th to celebrate. Winchelsea Remained a railhead for a time and was the stepping off point for the Cobb & Co. Coaches to Lorne and the West.

From 1876 to 1890 the railway to Warrnambool was built in sections. Originally this section of the line consisted of 58 stations and sidings. The remains of some of these are still visible from the train today, notably at Moriac, Pirron Yallock, Pomborneit, Allansford, and the Geelong Racecourse, which closed during the 1970s and 1980s. In early days branch lines took trains from Moriac to Wensleydale, Birregurra to Forrest, Irrewarra to Cressy, Colac to Beech Forest, Colac to Alvie, Camperdown to Timboon, Terang to Mortlake, and Koroit to Hamilton. Winchelsea station was important on the line for its links to the Coalmine. Along the Warrnambool line and its branches trains carried wool, grains, sheep, cows pigs, potatoes, onions, and timber from the Otways. Notably, post was transported by rail in the early days, being much faster than the previous horse drawn mail coaches. Over the twentieth century, butter and cream became the main export by rail out of the Western District. Before trucks and the development of the highway, railway was key to moving freight through the colony, and later through the state of Victoria. Until 1890 Passenger services consisted of mixed trains with some goods wagons and some passenger wagons. These were slow due to trains needing to regularly stop to load

freight, so dedicated passenger services were run once Warrnambool station opened, with Winchelsea being a popular connecting stop for coaches to Lorne in the Summer.

Winchelsea Station has significance as a representative example of the "Creswick Style" of station building and reflects the importance of the growing rural settlement in the 1870s. The Victorian Boom styled building is a landmark structure in the town notably for its broadly projecting verandah over the platform supported by fluted cast iron columns with decorative capitals and curved, elongated brackets, polychrome brick wall construction, slate roof cladding, galvanised corrugated steel verandah roof cladding, eaves with decorative brackets, cream brick quoin work, window and door openings and the timber framed double hung windows and the bluestone retaining wall on the platform. Victorian Railway Department's Engineer in Chief, T. Higinbotham was responsible for the construction of Winchelsea Station with J. King, contractor. The station is representative of Winchelsea's status as an important growing colonial town, and as towns such as Winchelsea, Colac, Camperdown and Terang are rapidly growing today, it would be appropriate to see rail services return to the area to reflect the growing populations here, especially as the price of fuel is at an all-time high, making driving to the city increasingly expensive for regional people.



Mícheál P O'Dhonnabháin has lived in the Winchelsea area since 2010.

Michael completed a Bachelor in History and Anthropology and a Master of Cultural Heritage at Deakin University, then went on to complete a PhD at Federation University, focusing on colonial and European collections of Indigenous Australian Cultural Heritage. Michael lectured at Federation and Monash Universities, lecturing in World History, Folklore Studies, Indigenous Studies and literary studies. Michael has worked in museums and cultural collections across Victoria, and can usually be seen in and about Winchelsea with his wolfhound.

Winchelsea Star

This week's Edition
Editor Yvonne Stevens, Designer Tony Phelps

Next Production Coffee Meeting Sat 28 March
9am @ SWEET THYME All Welcome - come enjoy coffee!

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production

Editors: Carrie Forgan, Yvonne Stevens, Judy Cameron

Advertising: Sasha Gauntlett, Neil McInnes

Design: Susan Corby, Tony Phelps

Printed by: Cromwell Forganssen,
Winchelsea Community House

Website by: Winch Websites

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The Climate Report

Compiled by Judy Cameron

Why long term climate choices are hard to make – a philosopher explains

Author: Luke Elson, Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Reading

Extracted from: <https://theconversation.com/why-long-term-climate-choices-are-hard-to-make-a-philosopher-explains-277040>

A philosophical puzzle can help explain why some people and governments aren't acting quickly enough to tackle climate change.

The American philosopher Walter Sinnott-Armstrong argues that global warming is not "my fault". He imagines taking a gas-guzzling car for a drive for fun. The drive brings some pleasure and, in normal circumstances, causes no meaningful harm via the atmosphere. It's a drop in the ocean, some might say.

Decisions often hinge more on short-term benefits than longer-term problems.

Canadian philosopher Chrisoula Andreou and others have noticed the similarities between environmental damage and self-torture. Every day people are offered food, flights and air

conditioning in return for tiny increases in greenhouse gas levels. Each emission is negligible in isolation, but taken together they have awful consequences: agony and a wrecked climate.

The payoff is not just money. At present, some greenhouse gas emissions are essential to our lives. Much of our food, energy, flights and even medication currently rely on fossil fuels. Witness the surprisingly high emissions of gases commonly used in anaesthesia.

Overwhelm is real

Because our personal environmental footprints are negligible in a global context, many suggest climate change is a problem for governments, not citizens. Certainly, a government can determine health service policy, energy policy and so on.

But the challenge is bigger than that. The climate is so vast that even particular government policies can seemingly make no difference to the overarching crisis. This relates to us all in our role not as drivers (tempted to go for a drive) but as voters tempted to vote against fuel tax rises, for example.

As former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair wrote in a 2025 report by his thinktank, the Institute for Global Change: "In developed countries, voters feel they're being asked to make financial sacrifices and changes in lifestyle when they know that their impact on global emissions is minimal."

Many policies by themselves make no meaningful difference to the climate, but impose real sacrifices on citizens. If a small increase in British aviation taxes leads to fewer flights or even a regional airport closing, then some people will lose their jobs.

And even though air travel is one of the most carbon-intensive things most of us will ever do, one medium-sized country slightly reducing the number of flights in its territory will make negligible difference to the climate overall.

Much of the world has agreed to limit global warming. Doing this requires that we – both individual people and governments – need to endure some painful sacrifices, even when they appear to have individually negligible benefits.

Landcare Grants To Boost Outstanding Work Of Volunteers

Landcare groups and environmental volunteers are receiving more support to care for nature.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) is inviting applications for the Victorian Government Landcare Grants totaling \$3.55 million to fund projects making a difference to enhance and protect Victoria's great outdoors.

Landcare and environmental volunteer groups can apply for grants of up to \$20,000 for projects, and \$500 for support, from now until 23 April 2026.

Last year 509 Landcare and environmental groups across the state shared in \$3.56 million in grants, helping

fund on-ground works, community education and engagement activities, group development and small grants supporting administrative functions including insurance, incorporation and operational costs.

Recipients included:

- Friends of Mallee Conservation's project to develop a non-technical A4 identification guide and plain English key for Mallee Eucalypts. Assisting with the identification of both common and rare species and building awareness of the vegetation communities of north-west Victoria.
- Kiewa Catchment Landcare Group's Sowing the Seeds: Educating the Next Generation project, enabling growth of the involvement of young

people in Landcare and creating the next generation of Landcare leaders.

- Friends of Mallacoota to assist with the on-going effort to eradicate weeds from Gabo Island, a 154-hectare island off eastern Victoria

Grants are available to all Victorian Landcare and environmental volunteer groups, including Landcare and Friends groups, Conservation Management Networks, Committees of Management, Coastcare groups and Traditional Owner or Aboriginal groups and organisations working on Country.

For more information, visit environment.vic.gov.au/grants/victorian-landcare-grants





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Camping In Our Bushy

by Julia Holohan

We had our daughter, son in law with several of their friends and all their kids travelling from the suburbs of Ocean Grove to the wilds of our bush clearing to camp for the labour day long weekend.

They've been doing this for six years, continuing the tradition we started with some locals joining us in the 90s when our kids were in primary school.

It was heaps of fun then and still is now. A terrific way to introduce the kids to bush camping, if anything went wrong or you forgot something, you'd just trot back to the house for it. For this generation of campers its the ability to rough it but also be able to trot to The Store for a "real" coffee!

Tents, camp fire to cook by, sitting around to eat and then tell tall stories well into the deep dark depths of night. A torch will be found for a walk in the bush, spotlighting for wild life before it's lights out, snuggling into your sleeping bag falling off to sleep with the sounds of the bush mingling with the snorers, restless sleepers, zipping of tent flaps for a midnight wee before it's morning and you stumble from your tent bleary eyed but oh so happy.

Even covid couldn't keep these families away, making their



pilgrimage to our bush clearing when there was a lifting of the dreaded lock downs.

Their modern day tradition is for the mum's to have half a day kidless, then the dad's get a half day.

The dad's have done different activities; bike rides, the Yeodene tree top adventures etc.

The mum's always have a walk, some big ones to the coast, steep ones through bush, then other years it's a short amble down the road for a leisurely afternoon at Blake's vineyard, sitting out with a view over the vines and a bubbly or two.



The kids now, same as back in the 90s are off building cubbies, picking blackberries, rough riding their bikes and generally getting grubby.



The last day for this generation of campers is traditionally a dip in the dam. 2024 & 25 they missed out as the dam's water level was too low, this year it was doable but too cold, that leaves 2027 to resurrect this tradition and continue bush camping.



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Winchelsea Golf Club

Rachel Boddington

Results 18/3/26 - Mid Week/Weekly Stableford

15 Players. 1st - Nick Stone (8) 36 points
 2nd - Neil Hickman (11) 34 points
 BDL - Bill Spencer (15) 34 points C/B
 BDL - Rob Willson (19) 34 points C/B
 NTP (2nd/11th) - Evan Partridge

Ladies results - 18/3 and 21/3 First Round Quarterly Medal and putting comp

Winner Elizabeth Alston
 96-22-74
 R/Up: Rachel Boddington
 115-39-76 CB from Tara Stward and Alyssa Neeson
 Putts: Elizabeth Alston 27

Well done to Liz who was runner up in the 2 day Seniors event at Colac



Results Saturday 21/3/26 - Bernie Perry Trophy

31 Players.
 1st - Aaron Wight (19) 40 points
 2nd - Daryl Boddington (15) 39 points
 3rd - Don Cutler (13) 37 points
 4th - Neil Hickman (11) 35 points
 BDL - Greg Rigby
 BDL - Philip Crook
 BDL - David Lewis
 BDL - Evan Partridge
 BDL - Ken Stanesby
 NTP (6th/15th) - Don Cutler
 Golden Hole (17th) - Neil Hickman

Well done and welcome to Philip Crook who played his first competition this Saturday.

Wednesday 25th March - Weekly Stableford

Saturday 28th March - Stableford ARM

Sunday 29th March - Course Closed For Men's Pennant.
 Closure times posted on our Facebook page



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Winchelsea Osteopathic Clinic's Holistic Approach to Local Health

For over 20 years, Winchelsea Osteopathic Clinic (formally Moksha Project - Osteopath Haidee Benning) has been a cornerstone of the local healthcare landscape.

While many clinics focus solely on a specific symptom, the team here operates under a broader philosophy: looking at the whole body to enhance overall wellbeing and long-term mobility.

Osteopathy is often misunderstood as "just back cracking," but the reality is far more comprehensive. The clinic's practitioners utilize a sophisticated blend of traditional techniques and modern, evidence-based healthcare to get patients moving again.

A Personalized Path to Recovery

Every body is different, which is why treatments are designed to be hands-on and unhurried, typically running between 30 to 40 minutes. Depending on a patient's specific needs, an Osteopath might employ a variety of non-invasive therapies, including:

- Soft tissue work and stretching.
- Joint mobilization or manipulation.
- Exercise rehabilitation for sustainable, at-home progress.
- Dry needling

Specialist Care for Every Stage of Life

While the clinic is a go-to for common ailments like headaches, neck strain, and back pain, their expertise extends into specialized clinical areas.

Candice Honey has completed extra training in pain and pregnancy, specializing in the effective management of pelvic girdle pain (PGP).

Nick Balic has a special interest in sports injury diagnosis and rehabilitation, and works closely with the Winchelsea Football & Netball Club!

Andrew Tivendale is passionate about more than just adjustments—he champions the holistic approach, looking at how sleep, nutrition, and lifestyle impact your goals.

Whether you are preparing for surgery, rehabilitating afterward, or simply dealing with the general "aches and



pains" of daily life, the clinic provides a grounded, professional environment for healing.

"Our goal isn't just to treat the pain today, but to ensure our community stays mobile and healthy for the years to come."

To learn more about the specific expertise of each practitioner, visit the Winchelsea Osteopathic Clinic website for a full description of their specialties and services.

Bookings are easily made via our website, allowing patients to book at any time and find an appointment time that suits their needs. Our friendly receptionist, Kerrie-Anne, is available part time, and is happy to answer any questions you may have.

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Winchelsea Football Netball Club Inc

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Blues News

Janet Fletcher

SEASON 2026

Welcome everyone to Blue's News where the Football & Netball Season is almost upon us, with the Easter break looming and what a kick off it will be on Saturday 11th April - a home game against Werribee Centrals, please note a change of time for the Reserves and Senior football matches - 11am for the Reserves and 1pm for the Senior side, followed by the W.F.N.C. Inc presenting the Clubs "SPEED SHEAR". Hopefully you will have seen the posters around the town - in shop windows everywhere and the club is grateful to all those businesses who have supported the W.F.N.C. in their venture to provide an exciting event for the town and community.

There is a building of excitement surrounding the "SPEED SHEAR" with great numbers predicted from both those participating and those spectating not since pre covid has there been something of this scale and country nature presented for the Winchelsea & surrounding Community and the Winchelsea Football & Netball Club are hoping the whole township and surrounds get behind the "SPEED SHEAR" and we all have a great country and community night.

The action will kick off approx. 6pm. BBQ's will be operating around the oval, as will portable toilets, the Canteen will continue throughout the evening, and the Bar will have an additional outlet around the ground to keep traffic flowing smoothly.

Let's see the Eastern Reserve Football & Netball Ground have a night to remember!!

As well as the important date of April 11th, the Club has its Season Launch at the Mt. Moriac Hotel after a practice match during the afternoon on the 28th March. From 4pm onwards the Club invites Football, Netball & families to come together and celebrate what is expected to be a stellar season for the Club.

There will be a Season Launch Raffle (of course) and the W.F.N.C. wishes to thank those Sponsors who continue to support the Blues not only at the Season Launch but throughout the entire season - MAGUIRES BUTCHERS are generously donating the headline prize of a \$100 meat voucher, THE GARDEN OF EDEN's donation of a beautiful fruit & veg hamper, a wine & chocolate hamper from JFC, food vouchers from the FOXES DEN, plus merchandise from the Club, PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO ARE SUPPORTING US! Tickets will be \$2 each, 3 for \$5 or the very popular \$10 for 10.

The Winchelsea Blues are always looking to welcome new volunteers to become part of our sporting club, if interested please email Angus Leigh president@winchelseafnc.com.au or Clare Harper secretary@winchelseafnc.com.au, or just swing by the Club on a Thursday night to have a chat to one of our volunteers.

The Winchelsea Cricket Club A Grade side played off in their season Grand Final last weekend and the Football & Netball Club are hoping they can get the job done and bring home the Championship honours. GOOD LUCK!!

Foot note: word just in the Winchelsea Cricket Club has won the BPCAA2 FINAL.

Congratulations to everyone concerned at the WCC from the WFNC!!

GO BLUES!!

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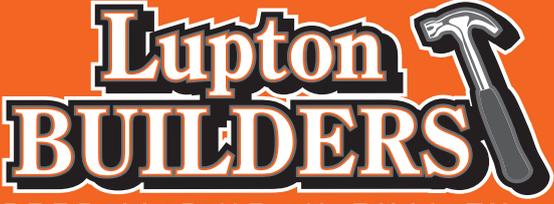
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Chat with your Councillor

Tony Phelps

1st Thursday of the month
10am-12pm
Winchelsea Shire Hall
co-working/study space



parkrun 107



Saturday 21 March 2026

Trebeck Reserve, Winchelsea
parkrun.com.au/trebeckreserve



20 participants completed the course through Trebeck reserve this week. There was one visitor from Queensland and we had two people complete their very first parkrun.

2 participants completed their personal best time for Trebeck Reserve. Congratulations to Sue Rawson and Alysha Hill.

8 volunteers made the event possible. Thanks to Kate McInnes, Neil McInnes, Murray Bennett, Alison Dean, Bert Pelgrim, Ian Wakeman, June Petrie, and Karen Richens.

Full details of this week's results can be found at

trebeckreserveparkrun.com.au/results or check out our Facebook page for more photos.

If you wish to join us any Saturday morning as a walker, runner or volunteer please complete the simple online registration at parkrun.com.au/register, this is free, only needs to be done once and can be used at any of the 5,000 plus parkrun events worldwide.

To volunteer please send an email to trebeckreserve@parkrun.com



DEFIBRILLATORS IN WINCHELSEA Accessible to the public 24 hours a day

Winchelsea Lions Club has compiled a list of public access defibrillators in Winchelsea.

If you know others, please contact Linda Carter 0439 817 263.

- **Ambulance Victoria** 33 Willis Street
- **Bendigo Bank** 11 Main Street
- **Globe Theatre (Side entrance)** 17 Willis Street
- **Hesse Rural Health** 8 Gosney Street
- **Men's Shed** 51 Hesse Street
- **Netball Courts** Eastern Reserve Hopkins St
- **Senior Citizens Club** 36 Harding Street
- **Uniting Church** 33 Hesse Street
- **Winchelsea Bowls Club** Hesse Street
- **Winchelsea Golf Club** 13 Anderson Street
- **Winchelsea Primary School** Main Street
- **Wurdale Memorial Hall** 220 Wurdale Road





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The Newest Eating Place In Town!

Michael Wood has opened his Palmer's Bar and Café and the team are ready to go!

Check out their Facebook page, Palmer's Winchelsea, for the food and drinks menu.

Open on Wed & Thurs 7am-3pm; Fri & Sat 7am-10pm and Sunday 10am-8pm.



L-R: Maggie the manager; daytime chef Robbie; Ella the front of house barista, and Michael the owner.

