



Some wonderful work done by
our face painter Troy at the
Lions Club Kids Party

More photos page 23

Lacey and Logan

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Easter Bonnet Parade to brighten Winchelsea Community Market

Elaine Atkinson



The Winchelsea Community Market is inviting the whole community to embrace the joy of Easter with a charming Easter Bonnet Parade, to be held at midday on Sunday 5 April 2026 - if you don't wish to register just come along with your prized hat!

As part of the market's Easter celebrations, residents of all ages are encouraged to take part. Whether it's an old favourite hat lovingly refreshed, or a newly created Easter masterpiece adorned with flowers, ribbons or bunnies, the parade is all about creativity, connection and fun.

The Easter Bonnet Parade is a chance for families, friends and neighbours to come together and celebrate in a light-hearted and colourful way. From toddlers to grandparents, everyone is welcome to join in and share their Easter spirit.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, market stallholders will decorate their stalls for the occasion, creating a vibrant Easter village feel throughout the market. Children can also enjoy the excitement of spotting hidden bunnies around the grounds.

If you are wishing to take part in the parade are invited to register their interest contact Elaine Atkinson, Community Market Admin, eatkinson048@gmail.com 0458009616.

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International Women's Day

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Saturday Feb 28th saw the first of this year's community dinners. Guests were welcomed by smells of freshly cooked home made meals and beautiful flowers. There was once again a wide selection of meals on offer from chicken rissoles, pasta dishes, mexican dishes, salads, lamb tagine, drumsticks and fritters to delicious apple crumble and apple slice with ice cream and custard for dessert.

A few new faces were welcomed which is always lovely to see. It was such a delight to look around and see happy smiling faces enjoying the wide variety of food and immersing themselves in various topics of conversation. Discussions around unknown family history connections, childhood connections, old neighbourhoods, peoples occupations and an insight to their jobs was particularly interesting, local schools, kindergarten and childcare options and experiences with these and how people manage the juggle of parenting, work and other responsibilities, people spoke of having wonderful neighbours and Winchelsea being a supportive community, they also spoke of what they grow in their gardens and of what they like about our community and

town. It really is fascinating to hear and be apart of such a diverse range of conversations.

We were treated to beautiful piano playing by a talented young lady and the kids enjoyed some activities that were set up. There was also a produce table which offered fresh herbs, corn, spring onions, silver beet, zucchini and flowers people could swap or make a donation.

For many, having such a variety of meals on offer gives them the chance to try new foods and there is something innate about people coming together to share a meal. If you've ever thought about coming along we have the community dinner on the last Saturday evening of every month and we would love to see you.

A big thankyou to Alison, Tahlia and Eva for flower donations and arrangements, Winchelsea Star (seed funding), Kenty's Bakery (dinner rolls) and St John the Baptist Church (low cost venue) as well as all the amazing volunteers who generously give their time to advertise and set up and organise this wonderful event!



Conquer the Corrugations 2026 welcomes new major Supporter

Colleen Trehella

Preparations are underway for this year's Conquer the Corrugations, returning on 28–29 March 2026, and organisers are excited to welcome a new major supporter to the event.

The Winchelsea Op Shop has joined as a key supporter for 2026, and the team behind the event has extended a heartfelt thank you for their hard work and commitment to the local community.

Conquer the Corrugations continues to grow each year, bringing people together not only for the challenge, but for an important cause. The event raises awareness and support for mental health, encouraging open conversations and helping to break the stigma that still surrounds it.

Participants of all abilities are encouraged to sign up and join the event, take on the corrugations, and be part of a community effort to make a difference.



With the support of local businesses like the Winchelsea Op Shop and the passion of participants, Conquer the Corrugations continues to strengthen its mission of supporting mental health and community wellbeing.

Registrations are now open for the 28–29 March event

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>



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Winchelsea Men's Shed

Alice Cloake

Every Wednesday from morning until lunch the Winchelsea Men's Shed turns into a hive of activity. Sanders and circular saws roar into action. Projects are mounted on work benches. Locals stop by to drop off or pick-up.

Regular readers will know the productivity of our Winchelsea Men's Shed by their advertisements, selling bags of kindling and bird houses, or perhaps by their regularly held Sausage Sizzle at the monthly markets.

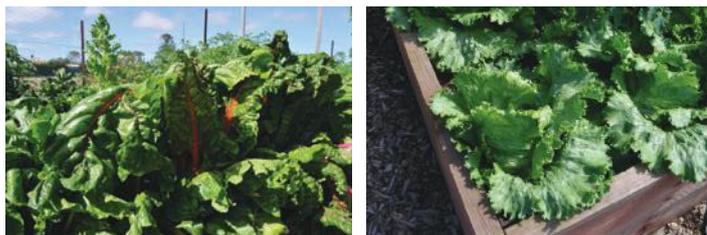
But there's a lot more that goes on inside that Shed and outside in their community garden that we'll aim to spotlight in coming issues of The Star.

This week at the Men's Shed there was celebration for their new Thicknesser. For the uninitiated (like myself) a Thicknesser is a woodworking machine used to trim boards to a consistent thickness throughout their length. Also in discussion were the new shelves being worked on for the Kindergarten.



Men's Shed Community Garden

Outside in the Men's Shed Garden, Clyde walked me through the beds bursting at the seams with greenery and gave me the lowdown on what was ready to pick and importantly, how to pick it. A reminder that the Men's Shed Community Garden operates by donations. There's a red box by the gate for your donation before or after you pick. When picking, remember to treat the garden like your own, pick responsibly and mindfully and when in doubt - Google the best way to pick to avoid ruining the plant.



Ready to pick right now is Rhubarb, Lettuce, Silverbeet, Beans, Rainbow Chard and if you spend a little time looking through the prickly stems, maybe a Zucchini or two.



If you've never cooked with a Silverbeet or Rainbow Chard before can I suggest you start with a Spanakopita (Greek Savory Greens Pie) or any kind of pastry, cheese and greens recipe like a Borek or Filo Pie. Now's the perfect time for it!

Silverbeet and Rainbow Chard can both be cut at the stem with the knives provided - it's important you take the stem and not just the leaf.



For Rhubarbs, don't cut, pull from the base.



For beans, make sure you support the plant! Take just the bean, not the whole bush

WINCHELSEA MEN'S SHED

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

6.30PM HALL ON CORNER OF
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Zinaida Campion *soprano*
David Stewart *piano*

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100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
GLOBE THEATRE

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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



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

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)

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

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

I swear everyone, yesterday was Christmas and I dyed my hair red (it's faded to copper now, but definitely still there), and I blink and talk has already turned to Easter! At least with Music at the Basilica, we'll be honouring the season very fittingly with a beautiful program of sacred music written purely

for women's voices. Once again, I have the honour to be soprano soloist, and have been rehearsing very hard, believe me! Frank De Rosso always chooses lovely pieces for my solos, and this Easter's, Nulla In Mundo Pax Sincera by Vivaldi is no exception. It has it all, slow lament, pithy recitative, fiery aria, triumphant Alleluia. The choral pieces are all incredibly beautiful too, my personal favourite the serene The Lord is my Shepherd.

Holding a Windfire scholarship has had a huge impact on me as an artist, as has the wonderful community there. As I look forward to once again performing under the baton of the incredible Tom Healy, I encourage you all to come and be lost for a while in the magic of a Windfire concert, and walk away that much more enriched.

Ciao!

Windfire Easter Concert

By Jane Bashiruddin

Sunday 29 March, 4pm
at the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels, Geelong

WINDFIRE and VOX ANGELICA GEELONG CHAMBER CHOIR

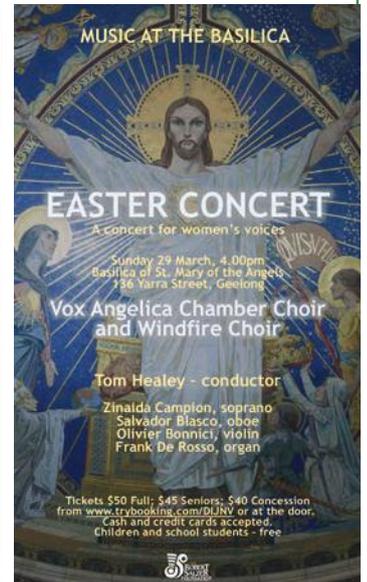
Conductor – Tom Healey, with Zinaida Campion, soprano,
Salvador Blasco, oboe Olivier Bonnici, violin and
Frank De Rosso, organ

Audiences will be treated to the luminous beauty of women's voices in a special Easter concert presented by Music at the Basilica. This long-envisioned project from Artistic Director Frank De Rosso brings together exquisite choral and instrumental works in a program shaped by devotion, hope and transcendence. At the heart of the afternoon is a celebration of repertoire written especially for upper voices. The women of the Windfire Choir and the Vox Angelica Geelong Chamber Choir,

The program travels in themes of shadows in the first half, to light in the second half, beginning with Carlotta Ferrari's *Pueri Hebraorum*, sung from the shadows of the ambulatory of the Basilica. Gradually moving out of the shadows, the choir will present two deeply expressive sacred works by Josef Rheinberger: the tender *Salve Regina* and the profound *Missa Sincere in Memoriam, Op. 187*. Rheinberger's music glows with warmth and sincerity, weaving melodic lines with rich harmonies that float seemingly effortlessly through the Basilica.

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, and Co President of Geelong City Opera. She has a strong background in languages, a love of local history, and an all-consuming passion for promoting the arts in rural areas.

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



Leading into light at the front of the Basilica, the choir will perform Franz Schubert's beloved *Psalm 23 – The Lord is my Shepherd*, a pastoral gem of serene lyricism, and Dan Forrest's exhilarating *Psalm 8 (Adonai, Adonenu)*, a contemporary setting that captures both wonder and reverence in music of rhythmic vitality.

A highlight of the concert will be the premiere of *Mary Magdalene*, commissioned especially by Music at the Basilica, to be sung at this concert. Composed by Michael Hannan with words by Geelong poet Rosemary Blake, this new work promises to be a moving reflection on one of the most compelling figures of the Easter story. Through this collaboration of local artistic voices, the concert embraces both tradition and living creativity.

Complementing the choral repertoire is a selection of instrumental and solo works that enrich the Easter theme. Albinoni's Oboe Concerto in D minor performed by Salvador Blasco, offers elegance and expressive depth, while *Nulla in mundo pax sincera* by Vivaldi will be sung by soprano Zinaida Campion, its radiant lines capturing the longing for true peace. Conductor Tom Healey steps forward as soloist in two songs by Samuel Barber and Ralph Vaughn Williams respectively, bringing intimate reflection to the program's rich palette.

The instrumental colours continue with *Salve Regina*, a compelling work for violin and organ by Naji Hakim, performed by violinist Olivier Bonnici and Frank De Rosso at the organ.

Another highlight will be Gustav Holt's *Ave Maria* for eight-part women's voices - serene and finely balanced work, written for two choirs that interweave in gentle, flowing lines. Its transparent textures and restrained harmonies create a sense of quiet devotion, making it a particularly moving addition to a program for upper voices.

This Easter gathering is more than a concert; it is an invitation to experience music that uplifts, consoles and inspires. In the soaring acoustics of the Basilica, voices and instruments will unite in a tapestry of sound that speaks to faith, renewal and the enduring power of beauty.



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For more information please call 5261 0600.



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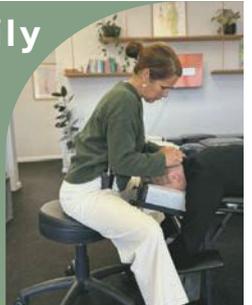


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Alice Cloake

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

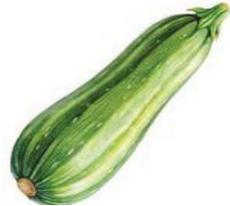


If you have a recipe you'd like to share, a local product to shout out or a suggestion for an upcoming ingredient of the month - we'd love to hear from you.

Email editor@winchelsea.org.au.

MARCH Ingredient of the Month

Zucchini



We're talking about zucchinis this month and how timely given the enormous one Clyde helped me pick at the Men's Shed Community Garden on Wednesday. Admittedly, zucchinis are the type of vegetable I tend to hide. Grated into a San Choi Bau or diced for a stir fry. Ottolenghi has changed my mind on this, offering recipes in his 'Simple' cookbook that hero the vegetable. The one included in this week's Star is what I'll be making this long weekend.



Recipe of the Week

Crushed Courgettes (Zucchini)

Recommended as a side for lamb or chicken. This dish can be made up to 1 day in advance, up to the point of the herbs and lemon being added. Keep in the fridge and add the herbs and lemon just before serving.

Ingredients (serves four)

- 3 large courgettes (zucchini), cut in half lengthways, then into 6cm pieces (850g)
- 1 tsp dried mint.
- 5g picked thyme leaves
- 70ml olive oil
- 1 whole head of garlic, separated into unpeeled cloves
- 2 tbsp chopped mint leaves
- 1½ tbsp chopped dill
- 1 tbsp lemon juice salt and black pepper

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C fan.
2. Place the courgettes (zucchini) in a bowl with the dried mint, thyme, oil, ¼ teaspoon of salt and some black pepper. Mix, then transfer to a medium baking dish: you want the courgettes to form a single layer, cut side up and sitting slightly overlapping. Bake for 15 minutes, then add the garlic cloves and bake for another 15 minutes, until the courgettes have softened and taken on some colour.
3. Transfer everything to a colander (set over a bowl or the sink), pressing the courgettes so that they start to release some of their liquid. Set aside to cool for at least 30 minutes, discarding the liquid released.
4. Transfer the contents of the colander to a mixing bowl and squeeze the garlic cloves out of their skins (which can then be discarded).
5. Mash everything together with a fork: if the skin of the courgettes is still a little tough, just use a knife to roughly chop them. Stir in the mint leaves, dill and lemon juice and serve.



'Wiser drivers' stay safe on the roads for longer

Surf Coast Shire

A group of 18 Winchelsea community members are now wiser drivers after completing a refresher course on safe driving habits and road rules.

The popular 'Wiser Driver' program, delivered in a partnership between Council, ACCESS Health and Community and VicRoads, aims to give people over the age of 65 increased confidence to continue driving safely.

Local resident Elizabeth Bennett said having grandchildren going through the process to obtain their Learner permit was a motivator to sign up for the recent Winchelsea course. "It's a different era now, so I needed to brush up on the rules," she said. "You think you know it, but do you? I was keen to participate and learn."

Elizabeth is one of 400 people to have completed courses within the shire over the past five years.

Delivered over four informal and friendly two-hour sessions, the Wiser Driver program covers:

- Tips for safe driving
- Changes in vehicle technology
- Recent changes to road rules
- Tips for reducing fuel costs and buying a car
- How to handle road rage and avoid fatigue
- Advice about assessing your own driving skills and getting input from others
- Aids for older drivers



Elizabeth, who has been driving over 50 years, feels safer and more aware on the road. "You learn as you're driving and adjust to changes, but it was good to go through things and learn how you could be safer.. "I'd thoroughly recommend it."

Deputy Mayor Tony Phelps said Council aims to help older community members live healthy and connected lives. "Our goal is for Surf Coast Shire residents to age positively by staying independent, active and engaged for as long as possible. Transport is an issue of concern to many older residents and the Wiser Driver program is one way we're trying to make a difference.

Council delivers three to four Wiser Driver courses each year. Funded by VicRoads and Council, there is no cost to participants. The next course is in Torquay during May.

For more information: visit surfcoast.vic.gov.au/positiveageing or call 5261 0600.

Winchelsea SES Family FUNdraiser Day!

Saturday 21st of March, 10am 3pm
325 Mousley Rd, Winchelsea.

HIGHLIGHTS: FREE Entry.

- SES Rescue truck tours
- FREE SES merchandise
- Bake sale
- Coffee Van
- Cheap magazine sale
- Meet Paddy Platypus!
- Kids lucky dip
- Sausage Sizzle

Don't Miss our MEGA Raffle



Your generosity will help us raise funds towards a much-needed extension of our building.



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Drawn at the Family FUNdraiser Day

21st March
2:00PM

Purchase tickets at our Family FUNdraiser Day or from one of our friendly Winchelsea SES Members!

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- P & L Maguire
- Kenty's Bakery
- Breeze Health & Wellness
- Sweet Thyme Café
- Terry White Chemmart Winchelsea



Safer Communities - Together





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.

RSL MEETINGS

RSL meetings will again be held at the back of the Eastern Reserve grandstand. Repairs have been completed so back to the old meeting place.

LARGE BAGS OF PINE CONES FOR FIRE PITS

\$5

Winchelsea Lions Club
Contact Ray 0406 371 239



Monday

1st Modewarre Scout Group
Cub Scouts (8-11yo) 6:30-8pm
(school term)
Modewarre Hall, Cape Otway Rd
Marie McPadden 0409330147

Tuesday

1st Modewarre Scout Group
Joeys (5-8yo) 5-6pm (school term)
Modewarre Hall, Cape Otway Rd
Marie McPadden 0409330147

Wednesday

1st Modewarre Scout Group
Scouts (11-14yo) 6:30-8:30pm
(school term)
Modewarre Hall, Cape Otway Rd
Marie McPadden 0409330147

WINCHELSEA PICKLEBALL

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

WINCHELSEA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING**
At the Society rooms (Hesse Street)
Wednesday March 11th, 1.30pm.

All welcome.
Margaret Reid, Secretary

WINCHELSEA TENNIS CLUB

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

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\$100.00
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Group but no longer needed.
Money will be donated to the Winchelsea
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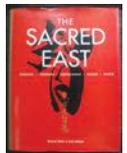
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and view the book before purchasing.

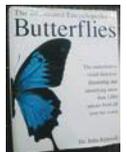
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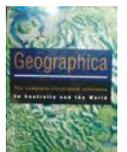
THE LIFE BRIAN by
Monty. Includes the
script and photographs
from the movie. Soft
cover, fair condition.



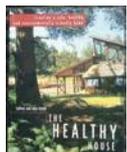
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BUTTERFLIES. Hard
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HOUSE How to create
a safe, health and
environmentally friendly
home. You can put
a stop to pollution in
your surroundings. Soft
cover, 250 ages, good
condition



Winchelsea Star

This week's Edition

Editor Yvonne Stevens Designer Susan Corby

send your stories

news@winchelseastar.org.au

**LOCAL NEWS and ARTICLES
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News Deadline

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4pm Sundays - hard copy left at IGA

6pm Sundays - sports results and
weekend events

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

production

Editors: Cerrie Forgan, Yvonne Stevens, Judy Cameron

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article.
Vectors Freepik.com

Cucumber Summers

Peter Groves

Hot summer days are the time to consider growing cucumbers and even the end of summer can yield a reasonable crop.

While on this subject, did you know that chewing slices of them will neutralise the heat generated by eating chilli in hot Asian dishes?

I recommend the Lebanese variety for the best result. They grow well as climbers which makes for a convenient way of finding and picking the fruits. I suggest planting beside some concrete reinforcing mesh.

Excellent seedlings for cucumbers can be sourced from most nurseries and farmers' markets and a favourite of mine is the Drysdale Market. The seller has well developed and strong seedlings of all varieties with good back up advice



Drysdale Market

Grants open for volunteer community groups

Dan Tehan, Member for Wannon

The Volunteer Grants program help organisations upgrade essential equipment, deliver important projects and training, and support initiatives that promote and grow volunteering.

Mr Tehan said "Volunteers give their time generously to keep our communities connected and thriving. This program is about backing them and ensuring they have the resources they need."

Grants of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 are available to assist eligible community organisations in supporting the valuable work of their volunteers.

Expressions of interest close 5.00pm on Monday, 30 March 2026.

For more information and to apply, contact Mr Tehan's office 1300 131 692 or visit dantehan.com.au.

Friends of the Barwon clean up the Barwon River at Ceres again

Friends of the Barwon

At our third annual Clean Up Australia Day event, volunteers young and less young rolled up their sleeves, braved the weather and collected a staggering haul of litter and dumped rubbish from beside the mighty Barwon River in Ceres.

An entire skip bin was filled to the brim with the kind of plastic sheeting and bottles and tarpaulins and odds and ends that can break down and get washed into the waterway, causing real harm to river critters. Beside the skip bin, a head-high pile of hard rubbish included beach chairs, more than 15 tyres, a busted barbecue and most of the inside of a car!

We are so proud of the crew that turned up. Among them was a seasoned paddler who pulled a kayak-ful of plastic from the river banks, and two City of Greater Geelong councillors who hauled their weight in rubbish, worked up a sweat, and even discovered a family of Blue-Tongue Lizards under a pile of waste (who were gently re-homed).

Thanks to City of Greater Geelong waste team, Cleanaway,- Clean Up Australia Day, and all who came and chipped in.



Free volunteer training:

Building confidence to support our community to get off gas

This is a great opportunity to learn practical skills for having meaningful, respectful conversations about electrification and the transition away from gas, something many people in our community are curious (and sometimes confused) about right now.

You'll learn:

- What people in our community currently think about gas and electrification.
- How to have constructive conversations, even when people see things differently.
- How to listen for concerns and respond in helpful, grounded ways.
- A simple conversation tool that helps open up deeper discussions.

This training will be offered to us by Environment Victoria, a great organisation to learn from with decades of experience in this area.

Where: Cloverdale Community Centre, 167-169 Purnell Rd, Corio

Date: Saturday 14 March

Time: 9.30am-12.00pm

Places are limited to keep the session interactive.



Used with permission of Gary Clark, Swamp Cartoons
Cartoon Books available online: swamp.com.au

Anzac Day Commemorations 2026

Graham Kenafacke



This year as part of our Anzac Day commemorations, the RSL has gained approval to place flags at the Winchelsea Cemetery on the graves/memorials of the veterans interred there.

We would ask the community to contact us if they have any relative interred at the cemetery that has served to ensure we have identified the veteran for inclusion in the project.

This commemoration is in addition to our normal ANZAC Day service on the 25th April, starting at 10.30 at the Winchelsea Memorial Grandstand, Eastern reserve followed by light refreshments at the Hub.

Graham Kenafacke, President.
Winchelsea RSL
0448 339 003 1955
grakena@gmail.com



Blood Moon over Winchelsea

Image taken from Jason Nogueira's driveway at 10:25pm 3 March 2026



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

Upcoming Dates:
July 6th Nov 9th (2nd Sunday)
August 3rd Dec 7th
Sept 7th Jan 4th
Oct 5th Feb 1st

Food, Produce, Coffee, Plants, Crafts
Homewares, Candles, Bags, Skincare
Jewellery, Soap + Baby Goods

Stallholders - Contact via Growing Winchelsea Inc Website
(Scroll Down to Market)

mainly music est. 1990

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**

PAPER RECYCLING

Paper depot rear of Senior Citizens Rooms
Harding Street
NEWSPAPERS
MAGAZINES
PHONE BOOKS

All money raised used for local community
4224 0226

history of winchelsea

Winchelsea Cricket Club

The Winchelsea Cricket Club, formed in 1858 is one of the oldest sporting clubs in Victoria and currently competes in the Bellarine Peninsula Cricket Association.

In 1858, the Cricket Pavilion and associated fences about the Cricket Grounds were constructed by funds raised from Club memberships. Mr William Stirling, the keeper of the Barwon Inn, also contributed twenty-two pounds for the improvement of the grounds. Stirling was the first Secretary and Treasurer of the Cricket Club.



Arthur Hopkins



George Armytage 11

Arthur Hopkins of the Murdeduke station was the first President of the Club as well as being a member of the Winchelsea Roads Board and the Winchelsea Shire Council. The first Captain of the team was George Armytage II of Ingleby station, Winchelsea. His brother Frederick was also Captain within the first few years. George was the second Chairman of the Winchelsea Roads Board and first President of the Winchelsea Shire Council.

In 1862 Martin Kennedy Gullen, who was regarded as one of the best Cricketers in the Western District joined the Winchelsea Cricket Club. He played in Geelong against the English Eleven and won a Gold Albert and locket for his bowling. He was also a champion vaulter and considered an all-round athlete. He married Margaret Stirling in Winchelsea, and they became the publicans of the Barwon Hotel. Gullen funded the Winchelsea Club and other clubs about the district.

Clubs came together from Colac, Birregurra, Winchelsea, Moriac and Geelong to play matches in Winchelsea.

At the end of the cricket season of 1864, a luncheon 'of a most royal character' was held attended by the local cricket clubs hosted by Arthur Hopkins, Esq, at his home at Murdeduke. All members of the club were invited that all friends were welcome. The tables literally creaked and groaned beneath the weight of the luxuries. George Armytage, Esq. presided, George Beale, Esq. acting as Vice. The President and his lady were praised by all cricketers, their wives and children.



Martin Gullen

The first football match was played on the Winchelsea Cricket ground on September 1st, 1876, against Inverleigh. The Winchelsea Football Club was founded later that year.

The Winchelsea Cricket Club is still going strong today and represents an important institution in our local culture and community.

A book by Pauline Partridge, life member of the Winchelsea Cricket Club about the extensive history of the club and its significance in the local community, is in the collection at the Winchelsea and District Historical Society.



Micheál 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.



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Probus AGM

Story and photos Linda Carter

Winchelsea Probus Club held their AGM for 2026 last Monday. Cr Tony Phelps kindly chaired the meeting for us and the committee was re elected almost as last year except we welcome new treasurer Sandra Bennett, unfortunately 2 positions still remain vacant.

Our Probus Club promotes friendship, fellowship and fun. We aim to have an interesting speaker at each meeting and one outing a month. Although this has become increasingly more difficult since the Shire decided to get rid of the community buses.

We can still do short local trips by car pooling. This month we are visiting the privately owned MG car museum in Belmont, followed by lunch at the Geelong RSL.

We always welcome new members.

If you are interested in joining us please come along to one of our meetings on the first Monday of the month, 10 am at the Senior Citizens Rooms, Harding St, or contact our Secretary Lorraine on 0417 467 927.

We would love to see you.



Fairer and safer healthcare for more Victorians

Victorian Government

The Victorian Parliament has passed the Health Safeguards for People Born with Variations in Sex Characteristics Bill 2025. The Minister for Health said the new regulations strengthen protections and rights for Victorians born with variations in sex characteristics.

Some people born with variations in sex characteristics that do not fit typical definitions or understandings of male or female bodies have experienced very serious and lasting consequences from treatment performed on them without their informed consent.

This Bill ends that practice in Victoria. It means the most vulnerable – typically infants and children – do not receive medical interventions that permanently change their bodies until they are old enough to consent.

Urgent treatments required to save a life or prevent serious harm will continue without delay.

Parents will have access to more information and support. This will enable better healthcare outcomes and support informed decision making. People born with variations in sex characteristics and their families also get access to peer and psychosocial support.

Victoria will be first state and second jurisdiction in Australia to enshrine these safeguards into law.

The Bill has been developed through extensive consultation with the community and clinical, legal and human rights experts since 2021.

Diabetes Education



Our service covers all aspects of Diabetes education and care including:

What We Do

- Understanding diabetes & management options
- Medication management
- Food choices
- Exercise and movement
- Registration with the National Diabetes Services
- Monitoring of blood glucose levels including a trial of continuous glucose monitoring using a sensor
- Scheme to access subsidised test strips etc.

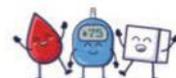
Who We See

Appointments are available to see the diabetes team at Hesse Rural Health for people with:

- Pre-diabetes
- Type 1 diabetes
- Type 2 diabetes
- Gestational diabetes
- People caring for someone with diabetes

Where to access our services

- Individual consultations at community health centres
- Individual home visits
- Group diabetes sessions



For more info: 03 5267 1200 | communityintake@hesse.vic.gov.au

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. 7, 14, 21, 28

St Thomas' Anglican Church

0448 687 588
Rev Christopher Duff
Barwon Tce, Winchelsea

Winchelsea Churches



Thought of the Week

“Walking in the light is about choosing to live openly and honestly with God. It brings real connection, and it reminds us that Jesus keeps cleansing us as we walk with Him, not because His grace covers us.”
Have a Blessed week.

John Bader
(Christian Pastoral Carer)



World Day of Prayer 2026
Focus on **Nigeria**



Service Date	Friday 13th March
Location	St Thomas' Anglican Church
Address	27 – 29 Barwon Terrace, Winchelsea
Time	1.30pm (Afternoon tea to follow)
Contact	Maureen 0409 484 229

Psalm 3

*O God, the obstacles that confront me today are so many!
And, even as they press in upon me,
there are people about me
who laugh at my childlike dependence on You.
They claim that my faith is futile,
That God is not interested in my petty problems.*

*But, God, You have surrounded me with Your love.
You envelop me with concern
and undergird me with grace.
When I reach out for You,
You are close enough to hear and to respond.*

*Whether I am awake or asleep,
You are near to me and will watch over me.
I do not have to be afraid
of these problems that assail me.
The conflicts of my life will not separate me from You.*

*I constantly seek Your deliverance
from all that hurts or hinders.
You are able to rid my life of everything
that may threaten my relationship to You.
You will in Your own good time set me free
from every human fault and frailty.
But even while I seek Your ultimate deliverance,
help me to sense Your presence and power
In the midst of my many conflicts.*

“Psalms/Now” by Leslie F. Brandt
Helen Rolls, Winchelsea

E-scooter and e-bike injuries surge over 900%

Kidsafe

New data from the Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit reveals a dramatic surge in incidents. In 2024/25, 719 Vic children 2-18 presented to emergency departments due to e-scooter and e-bike injuries - a 67% and 61% increase on the previous year. Over the past five years, emergency department presentations linked to e-scooters have surged by 1572%, and e-bike injuries by 917%.

Alarming, nearly half of e-scooter injuries involve children aged 10-14 - despite Vic law prohibiting riders under 16. E-bike injuries are most common among teenagers 15-18, and boys account for the majority - 71% e-scooter injuries and 87% e-bike injuries.

For clinicians, the severity of injuries is deeply concerning. Dr Adam West, Director of Paediatric Emergency Medicine at Monash Health, said "Almost 300 children have been treated in our emergency departments in the last five years for injuries related to e-bike and e-scooter incidents. More than 80% of the patients were male, and the average age of the children was 13.

Under Vic law, children under 16 are not permitted to ride e-scooters. Helmets are mandatory, speeds capped at 20km/h, and riders cannot use footpaths. Yet many families remain unaware of the legal requirements.

Kidsafe Victoria is calling for improved regulation of high-powered and non-compliant devices entering Victoria, point-of-sale safety warnings, and restrictions on marketing that depicts riders who appear under 16 using adult-class scooters.

The message is clear: check the law before you buy, ensure helmets are properly fitted, and understand that devices marketed with youth-friendly branding may not be legal or safe for children to use.

National Kidsafe Day will be marked across Victoria on 5 March, with a focus on preventing serious injuries before they become lifelong tragedies.

Stitch It, Don't Ditch It

Winch House Craft Group

We have changed the hours for Stitch it Don't Ditch It to 9.30am - 2pm on Wednesdays, but if you need to use the sewing machine or overlocker at a different time please contact the reception at Winch House.

We had some repairs being made on a pair of pants recently, the elastic was replaced and the hems altered giving them a new lease of life for a few more years.

There has been a steady stream of people in to look at Kathleen's hexagon quilt top, please call in to see it (the photo doesn't do it justice), it's doubtful you'll ever see anything like it again - there wouldn't be many people who would have the patience!



Julie



Kathleen's Quilt



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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

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 Shidders 52672263, 0427672263
jeansidders@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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Society rooms (Hesse Street)
Wednesday March 11th, 1.30pm.

STITCH IT, DON'T DITCH IT!

9.30-2pm Wednesdays
Winch Community House, Hesse St
SEWING MACHINE and
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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

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

JUMBLE SALE

BARRABOOL HILLS UNITING CHURCH

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21ST MARCH 2026

2-4PM

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FOR MORE INFO

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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!"

TUESDAY



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

1ST MODAWARRE SCOUT GROUP

Modewarre Hall, Cape Otway Rd
Tues-Joey's 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

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

THURSDAY

CHAT WITH YOUR COUNCILLOR

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

Friday 13th March
Birregurra, 9am-1pm

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

A celebration of women's wisdom, creativity and connection through movement, rhythm, poetry, sound and art
events.humanitix.com/iwd-we-move-the-world

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)

TRIVIA NIGHT

Winchelsea Primary School Fundraiser
Friday 27 March 7pm \$30 head

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

UPPER BARWON LANDCARE GROUP SOCIAL & PLANNING GATHERING

Saturday 14 March 2026 10-12pm
Hennigan Cres, Forrest
Ellen Whitten 0400 146 254

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

Winchelsea Occasional Care

Wendy Graves

This week we took delivery of our newly made locker unit which was made by the Winchelsea Men's Shed. The lockers will make it much easier to store the children's bags and belongings rather than the hooks we used to have. A huge thank you to all the members of the men's shed for making this for us and delivering it to the room.



Cassie Melhuish and Tina Farmer

We also have been super busy this week laying 5 metres of softfall in the outdoor playground. A big thank you to our staff Tina Farmer, Cassie Melhuish and Wendy Greaves together with volunteers Nathan Melhuish and Kevin Dixon for shovelling, wheelbarrowing and raking the new bark into the playground on what turned out to be quite a warm afternoon.

So much goes on behind the scenes of our Occasional Care service so we wanted to share this little bit with you all.

Welcoming Prep Families for 2027



Principal Tours for Families

8:45am at the school - please RSVP by phone or email
Families encouraged to come to one tour listed below

- Tuesday, March 3rd
- Monday, March 30th
- Thursday, May 7th
- Wednesday, May 27th
- Friday, June 5th

Come 'n' Play Evenings for Families & Students

5pm-6pm at the school - no RSVP required
An opportunity for your child to come into our school and familiarise themselves with our classroom and staff
Families and students welcome to attend all of these sessions

- Wednesday, February 18th
- Tuesday, May 5th
- Monday, August 3rd



Contact Bron & Jen in our office - we look forward to hearing from you!

winchelsea.ps@education.vic.gov.au
(03) 5267 2134

Enquiries welcomed from 27th Jan
Enrolment applications from 20th Apr

Measles cases rise in Victoria

DHHS

Victorians are urged to make sure they are vaccinated against measles, with Victoria experiencing an increased risk of the highly infectious disease that can cause serious illness.

Measles has recently spread among people who have not travelled overseas or visited known exposure sites – so vaccination is more important than ever.

The Department of Health has procured thousands of vaccines for local public health units to roll out local initiatives so more people can get vaccinated for free.

Victorian Chief Health Officer Dr Caroline McElnay said there had been 17 notified cases of measles in Victoria this year and vaccination was the best protection. “We are working with local public health units to make sure all eligible Victorians know how they can access the free vaccine, “

We urge Victorians to make sure they have had two doses of the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, which is required for immunity.”

The MMR vaccine is widely available at GPs, community pharmacies, Aboriginal Health Services and some local councils. A Medicare card is not required to get this free vaccine.

Free measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccines are available to adults born during or after 1966 who haven't had two doses of the vaccine or are unsure of their vaccination status. Many adults aged 20–59 years may have only had one dose of the MMR vaccine in line with Australian childhood vaccination schedules at the time.

Children are eligible for the free vaccine through under the National Immunisation Program. It is routinely administered at 12 months and 18 months. Parents can check a child's vaccination status by using the Australian Immunisation Register.

Victorians travelling overseas are reminded that cases of measles are rising around the world including popular travel destinations such as Indonesia (including Bali), Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Pakistan and India.

“Victorians heading overseas should make sure their routine vaccinations, including measles, are up to date at least two weeks before departure,” Dr McElnay said.

“Vaccination against measles is safe, effective, and free – and the best way for you and your family to avoid serious illness.”

Infants in Victoria are also eligible for an additional measles vaccine from six months of age if they are travelling overseas, which is six months earlier than routinely scheduled.

Symptoms of measles include fever, cough, sore or red eyes, runny nose, feeling generally unwell, followed by a red rash. Anyone experiencing symptoms should seek medical advice immediately.

For more information about the measles outbreak in Victoria, including exposure sites, visit www.health.vic.gov.au/health-alerts.

Some of the wonderful work done by our face painter Troy at the Lions Kids Party

Linda Carter



Sophie Justin



Wren Armstrong



Lion Maureen

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Growing confident young readers

78% of our Year 1s were at or above level in their Phonics Check (state average 58%)



Growing parent endorsement

71% Parent Endorsement in the 2025 Family Survey, up from 43% in 2023



Growing facilities

A new playground just completed, with a master plan currently being funded by State Government to increase capacity and improve buildings.



Growing community presence

Our big kids visit Hesse Rural Health fortnightly, visit the local kindergartens and are regular contributors to community events and the Winchelsea Star publication!



Council Plan 2025–2029: Strong progress at half-year mark

Surf Coast Shire Council

Surf Coast Shire Council is delivering strong early progress on its Council Plan 2025–2029, with most Year 1 initiatives on track and six already completed at the halfway point of the first financial year.

Of the 43 key initiatives identified for 2025–26:

- 6 initiatives have been completed
- 33 initiatives are on track
- 4 initiatives are being monitored

The four initiatives being monitored relate to road and transport projects, investigation of additional revenue opportunities, design work for the Anglesea Community Health and Housing project, and tourist bus management along the Great Ocean Road.

Completed initiatives include

- delivery of the Community Grants Program,
- finalisation of the Social Infrastructure Plan,
- construction of a new synthetic hockey facility in Torquay,
- delivery of the annual Surf Coast Arts Trail,
- development of a Service Review Policy and
- support for Anglesea community plan.

Mayor Cr Libby Stapleton said “Our Council Plan isn’t a document that’s just filed away on a shelf, it guides most of what we do, and these Action Plan progress reports will help keep us on track and accountable over its four-year life span,” she said.

A full-year Council Plan Action Plan report will be presented at the end of the financial year, including performance against strategic indicators across each Strategic Direction. Read the report in full at www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/CouncilPlan.

Moriac’s new garden beds

Surf Coast Shire

Moriac Community Network oversaw construction of the three raised self-watering beds beside the town’s men’s and women’s shed after having secured a \$3,000 Quick Response Grant from Surf Coast Shire Council.



Project spokesman Gavern Carnes said, “We’ve grown strawberries, snow peas, lettuces, we planted some marigolds, we’ve got lots of tomatoes coming on at the moment ... silver beet, broccoli, cabbages, basil and some sage.

Gavern said applying for a community grant had been a ‘no brainer’ for working group members and now they hope to further spread the word that the beds are available for community use at 570 Cape Otway Road.

Council’s next round of community grants closes 31 March. “Details are available via our Council grants web page. People can seek guidance on eligibility criteria and completing applications from Council officers.”

Councillor Catch-Up

by Tony Phelps, Winchelsea Ward Councillor

I'd like to start by congratulating the Winchelsea Lions Club for the Free Picnic they ran a couple of Saturdays ago - it was a grey day but the rain held off, and while there was certainly room for plenty more kids & families, lots of kids enjoyed the face-painting, hair-tinting, petting zoo, train rides, smoothie bike, snags, fire-truck, SES truck (with lots of gadgets!), goodie box, ice-cream... so much good stuff. A stellar example of a community event bringing families together for a low-cost day of fun and entertainment. My thanks to Winch House for the use of the community PA system.



Last week, Winchelsea Probus held its AGM and I was honoured to be invited as the returning officer to oversee the election of new office-bearers. Probus is all about friendship and connection, and they're always welcoming to new members - regular trips out & about, speakers, social events are on offer. They've packed a lot in over the last year! Contact Lorraine on 0417 467 927.

More ideas for community events you might be interested in? Each month there's a community dinner (Facebook @winchelseacomunitydinner), a movie at the Globe Theatre (Facebook @winchelseamovies), community market 1st Sunday... The Winchelsea Star is the place to keep up with what's happening, and don't forget it's free to subscribe to the emailed version.

The Winchelsea Place Plan has been put to the working group for final ratification, in a meeting at the Shire Hall. This document (see yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/WPP) feeds into the technical Structure Plan that Shire town planners will work on to create a guide for town development over the next couple of decades. I'm very much looking forward to what comes out in terms of where things like residential, commercial, retail, interconnections and more will be put as Winchelsea heads towards a population of 5 figures. Hopefully towards the end of this year/early next year, although another working group will get to provide feedback along the way. Expressions of Interest will be called-for soon.

This time of year, much of Council's focus is on building next year's budget. Local government in general is experiencing significant financial pressure from a range of causes, and Surf Coast Shire is no different. Look out for the draft budget coming out in April for your feedback.

Finally, it was great to see all the interested people rock up to Growing Winchelsea's first meeting of the year, held at the Winchelsea train station. With new committee members, new general members, and a change in style, they look to be powering ahead to continue the volunteer group's important local advocacy and project work.

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.



The Climate Report

Compiled by Judy Cameron

El Niño could fuel extreme weather and raise temperatures to record highs this year, but how sure can we be that it will return?

Source: <https://www.euronews.com/2026/03/03/normal-was-left-in-the-dust-el-nino-may-return-this-year-and-make-the-planet-even-hotter>

Fears that global temperatures will hit record highs have started to grow, as experts warn El Niño may form later this year.

According to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), there is a 50 to 60 per cent chance of El Niño developing during the July to September period and beyond, while the transition from La Niña to ENSO-neutral is expected in February-April at a 60 per cent likelihood.

However, NOAA warns that model uncertainty remains “considerable” as forecasts this early in the year tend to have a lower accuracy.

What are El Niño and La Niña?

El Niño and La Niña are two opposing climate conditions in the Pacific Ocean that affect the weather across the globe. Trade winds in the Pacific tend to blow from east to west, pushing warm surface waters towards the western Pacific.

El Niño, which is Spanish for ‘the boy’, occurs when these winds weaken or reverse, making the waters in the eastern Pacific warmer than normal.

In La Niña (the girl) periods, the east-to-west trade winds become stronger, pushing warm waters further west towards the coasts of Australia and south-east Asia. This causes cold water to ‘upwell’ or rise from the depths of the ocean, making sea surface temperatures cooler on average, particularly in the Americas.

El Niño occurs irregularly, roughly every two to seven years, and typically lasts for about a year, but can go on for longer. It is often followed by La Niña.

What impact does El Niño have on the weather?

“El Niño tends to suppress rainfall over most tropical land,” says Kieran Hunt, a climate scientist at the National Centre for Atmospheric Science in the UK.

“This means, all other things being equal, that the Asian, African and South American monsoons tend to be drier than usual. It is also associated with increased rainfall and occasional flooding in the southern United States, Peru, Argentina, southern Europe, Kenya and Uganda.”

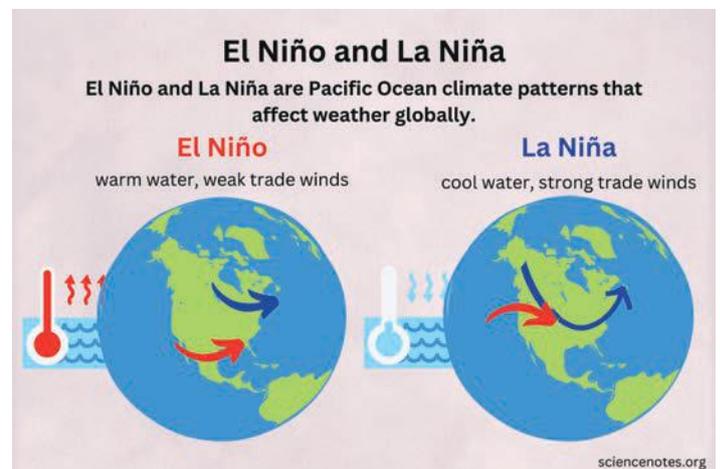
El Niño can also intensify heatwaves in the tropics, which is why El Niño years are often among the warmest on record. Some meteorologists predict that a typical El Niño event tends to cause a temporary 0.1-0.2% increase in the global mean temperature.

This is not as significant as temperature rises fuelled by human-made climate change, which has increased the global surface temperature by approximately 1.3- 1.5% compared to pre-industrial levels.

Redefining El Niño

For 75 years when meteorologists calculated El Niños and La Niñas, it was based on the difference in temperature in three tropical Pacific regions compared to normal.

An El Niño was 0.5 degrees Celsius warmer than normal and La Niña was cooler than normal by the same amount - which was based on 30-year averages.



However, as heat-trapping gases continue to bake the planet, what scientists consider ‘normal’ is continually changing. It’s why, starting last month, NOAA has created a new index that compares temperatures to the rest of the Earth’s tropics.

Recently the difference between the old and new methods has been as much as half a degree Celsius, and “that’s enough to have an impact,” says Nat Johnson, a meteorologist at NOAA’s Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Lab.

This will likely mean a few more La Niñas and fewer El Niños than in the old system, Johnson adds.

“When El Niño develops, we’re likely to set a new global temperature record,” says Jennifer Francis of the Woodwell Climate Research Center.

“‘Normal’ was left in the dust decades ago. And with this much heat in the system, everyone should buckle up for the extreme weather it will fuel.”

Services & Activities In Winchelsea

<p>VLIN 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! .Mondays 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-Joey's 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 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. <i>A role for everyone</i></p> <p>Nationally accredited training to help our community. Pop in to meet your crew Wednesdays 7:30pm</p> <p> Winchelsea Unit 325 Mousley Drive 132 500</p>



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Winchelsea Golf Club



Rachel Boddington

**Results 4/3/26 -
Mid Week/Weekly Stableford
16 Players**

1st - Rod Batson (30) 33 points C/B
2nd - Neil Hickman (11) 33 points C/B
BDL - Cam Parke (8) 32 points
BDL - Ken Stanesby (14) 31 points
NTP (2nd/11th) - Ken Stanesby

**Ladies Results 4/3/26
1st RD Silverspoon
Putting Competition**

Winner: Carol Stanesby 102-31-71
R/Up: Ann Davis 114-42-72
Puts: Sue Cuthbert 29

**Results Saturday 7th March
Matchplay (1v1)
14 Players**

David "Fly" Lewis def Evan Partridge 1 Up
David Harvey def Ken Stanesby 2/1
Denis Chappell def Geoff Morgan 1 Up
Max Bubb def Nick Stone 3/2
Cam Parke def Neil Hickman 2 Up

Bill Spencer vs Dale Morgan Halved
Rod Batson vs Greg Batson Halved
NTP (2nd/11th) Max Bubb
Golden Hole (6th) Denis Chappell

Congratulations to David "Fly" Lewis on taking out Jag the Joker!

Coming up:

Wednesday 11th March
Weekly Stableford

Wednesday 11th March
Ladies Stableford, Jess Budge Round 2

Saturday 14th March
Monthly Medal - Stroke

The Golf Lab are in town next Tuesday 17th for a "Come and Try" day. Check our Socials and Website for more information. There are only 10 spaces for both Juniors and Ladies.

A memorial for Winchelsea Golf Club Life Member, Norm Boddington will be held this coming Tuesday 10th, between 1 and 5pm, at the Winchelsea Bowls Club.



**GIRLS DAY OUT?
THERE'S GOLF
FOR THAT.**

Women's Come & Try Golf at Winchelsea Golf Club on **17th March, 5pm**. A relaxed beginner session with no cost (\$0). Clubs provided, or bring your own if you have them. A fun and social way to try golf with The Golf Lab PGA Professionals.

Scan to find a program



golf.com.au/get-into-golf



**WANT A GAME FOR LIFE?
THERE'S GOLF FOR THAT.**

The Golf Lab PGA Professionals are hosting a Junior Come & Try Golf Day at Winchelsea Golf Club on **17th March at 4pm**. This fun, beginner-friendly session is a great way for kids to be introduced to golf through games, simple coaching, and skill-based activities in a relaxed environment. There is no cost (\$0) to attend. Clubs will be provided, however juniors are welcome to bring their own clubs if they have them. A perfect opportunity to come and try golf with friends and build confidence in a supportive setting. **Ages 5 - 12 years old**



Scan to find a program



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How Sascha was reunited with her owners after six kilometre adventure

Surf Coast Shire

Four-year-old Vizsla Sascha and her pal Rudi enjoy exploring their home paddocks on long walks together. But when she decided to bolt while still on the lead on a Saturday evening at the Bellbrae farm, her owners feared the worst.

"My husband lost grasp on her lead," owner Glenys said. "The dogs saw their chance and off they went.

"I drove around the farm looking. A couple of hours later Rudi showed up, but no Sascha. I drove around the farm again and still no sign of her. I called

and called for her, hoping she was still nearby. I was very concerned that a snake had bitten her."



When Glenys started to think that Sascha might be injured, Surf Coast Shire Council ranger Paul drove up with Sascha in the back of his wagon.

Some people about 6km away had seen both dogs. Rudi ran off and came home, but they caught Sascha and called the Ranger."

Council's Ranger Services was able to

reunite Sascha with her owners because she was registered and microchipped. Council's annual animal registration renewal notices will be distributed in March. All dogs and cats over three months old who live in the Surf Coast Shire must be registered.

Learn more via surfcoast.vic.gov.au/PetRegistration.



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Or visit our website: www.winchmc.com.au

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Winchelsea Bowls Club

Julie Johnson



Back row Andrew Doyle Club president who accepted the emergency medal for Lyndsay Warner, Ross Erwin, Geoff Orchard, Col Williams, David Littler, Helen Davie, Graeme Lloyd, Bryan Jones.
Front row Liz O' Brien, Pam Mawson, Marie Drayton, Heather Wainewright, Angie Littler.

Winchelsea Midweek Division 3 - Convincing Grand Final Victory

On Tuesday 3 March our Division 3 team had plenty of support to watch them compete in good conditions under the Dome at Colac. They continued what has been excellent form throughout the pennant season securing a well deserved win and the fantastic achievement of remaining unbeaten throughout the year. Final score, Winchelsea all rinks 72 shots, City 35 shots. Congratulations to all players!

Following the win by Division 3, Division 1 took to the green in what was a very tight match until the final 4 ends. Camperdown Magpies retained their composure and earned their first Midweek Division 1 final as a newly combined club with a lot of depth this year. Well done to the Magpies!

Saturday 28 December in good conditions Division 4 were the first up under the Dome in a very closely contested contest against Colac. The final score was very tight with Colac 65 shots, Winchelsea 61 shots. It was most unfortunate for this team that they had to play with 3 substitutes on this day from Division 5, as unfortunately illness can strike at any time. Everyone gave their all and it was a wonderful contest under the circumstances. Terrific effort to everyone concerned throughout the year!

At around 2.20 p.m. our Division 1 A Saturday team took to the green and at 80 ends were looking well in control with an 18 shot lead over Colac. However, in the final 10 ends Colac really pulled it all together and certainly celebrated a good win over a side who had been on the top of the ladder all season. Obviously it was not what the Winchelsea players and spectators would have wished for but Colac spurred on by a multitude of spectators were able to use that energy and they finished off in fine form. Final score Colac 102 shots Winchelsea 86 shots.

It was for Winchelsea a magnificent effort to have 4 sides in Grand Finals and Coach Rhys Jeffs and our players need to all be congratulated for their commitment to training and teamwork throughout the season. Next year will be a new challenge for us all as we are joining the Geelong Playing Region which has been a work in progress throughout the year. The competition is stronger and the opportunities to compete in Regional Events broader and also to field more teams at a variety of levels will give more players the chance to play bowls.

AROUND THE GREEN

Our Barefoot Bowls 4 week program was a wonderful success with a full house basically every week. We thank the Winchelsea community for getting behind this and we know that we have some people who want to follow this through in social bowls. Hopefully more new playing members in the future. Thanks to all the Winch bowling community for their assistance and hard work to run a great and worthwhile program.

While the final Club events are being completed, there are still many tournaments around and the Victorian Open to come shortly.

Winter Social Bowls usually commences of a Saturday afternoon post Easter and there may be a night Tournament here coming up in the next couple of months.

The winners of the Club events will be announced after Presentation Night which is scheduled for Friday 10 April.

For all those who will be continuing over the off season to keep their form and the social side alive, may the bowls be with you!!

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Winchelsea Football Netball Club Inc

Hopkins St, Winchelsea winchelseafnc@hotmail.com

Junior Netball

Shae Callahan

U10s Match Report – Winch Minis

Another fantastic effort from our Winch Minis this week, coming away with a 5–1 win in what was a much tougher game than the previous rounds. The girls showed great determination, teamwork, and resilience on court to keep pushing through against strong opposition.

Over the past four weeks of grading, the performances from this team have been nothing short of incredible. Each week the girls have continued to improve, working hard for each other and showing real growth in their skills and confidence. It's been amazing to watch their development as a team!

Player of the Week: Peyton

A huge congratulations to Peyton, who scored one goal and showed fantastic effort throughout the game. Even better to see was her confidence starting to come back, which made a big difference in her performance. We're all very proud of her progress!

Well done girls – keep up the great work and teamwork!

NetSetGo

Registrations are now open for Woolworths NetSetGo at Winchelsea — the perfect first step into netball for young players.

NetSetGo is designed for children aged 5–10 and focuses on fun, confidence, and building skills through games and teamwork.

Age groups:

- Net (5–6 yrs): learning basic movement, catching and throwing
- Set (7–8 yrs): developing skills and simple game play
- Go (9–10 yrs): preparing for junior competition netball

A great way to get active, make friends, and fall in love with netball.

Winter season

Winchelsea Netball Club is currently seeking players for our Under 11s, Under 13s and Under 15s junior teams for the upcoming season.

Our club prides itself on creating a supportive and friendly environment where players of all abilities are encouraged to learn, grow and enjoy their netball. With quality coaching and a strong focus on teamwork and development, our junior program helps players build confidence, improve their skills and make great friendships along the way.

We warmly welcome both new and existing families to be part of the Winchelsea Netball Club community.

Registrations are now open, and we would love to see some new faces join our teams this season. If your child is interested in playing netball and being part of a fantastic local club, now is the perfect time to get involved.



Contact Junior Netball Coordinator Shae on 0409 641 550 for more details.

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

New & existing players welcome!

Junior Netball Coordinator
Shae – 0409 641 550

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
- ★ Aged-based stages, which are welcoming of all experience levels - everyone can join!

Starts Thursday
24th April 4pm!

Find out more Shae 0409641550

Woolworths **NET SET GO!**



What's on at Winch House

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

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

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Bring along a craft project you'd like help with,
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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



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

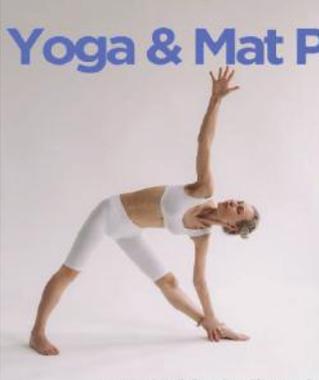
Please call 03 52672028 or email reception@winchhouse.org.au to register. **\$10 Per Class**



Yoga & Mat Pilates in the Shire Hall

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

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**Craft & Croche
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\$5 per person.

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

Next session: Saturday 21st

reception@winchhouse.org.au




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Saturday 21st March
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Full First Aid Training \$170 8.30am - 2.30pm
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 HLTAID009
 Provide Cardiopulmonary resuscitation

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




Winchelsea Football Netball Club

Hopkins St, Winchelsea winchelseafnc@hotmail.com

Blues News

Janet Fletcher

Winchelsea FNC
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 @ 2PM



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Winchelsea Tennis Club

Fletcher Allen

WINTER SEASON 2026
JUNIOR AND SENIOR
REGISTRATIONS

REGISTER BY THE
31ST OF MARCH



INFORMATION ON
COMPETITIONS ON
OUR WEBSITE!

This week we are promoting the registrations for next winter season!

The time for Winter 2026 Tennis is here!

Whether you're returning for another big season or picking up a racquet for the first time competitively, winter 2026 is going to be huge for Winchelsea Tennis Club.

- Juniors: Starting at 8,9 or 10AM Saturday Mornings
- Seniors: Starting at 1PM on Saturday Afternoons

Registrations close at the end of March/Early April!

To register Text Fletcher on 0491 106 788



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Tony Phelps

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Saturday 7 March 2026

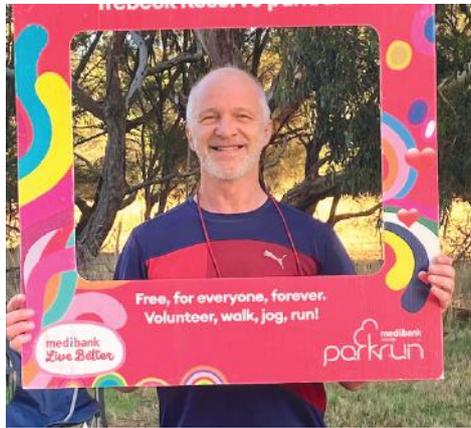
Trebeck Reserve, Winchelsea
www.parkrun.com.au



This week we had 26 participants completed the course through Trebeck Reserve this week in centremeter perfect conditions.

We had visitors from Stuckey and Altona in Melbourne also more locally in Torquay.

Our first finisher smashed it in 17 minutes and 27 seconds. He was very excited as it's the first time he has placed first!!



However you can run, walk, roll or even volunteer in parkrun.

We are very grateful to our seven volunteer who made the event possible.

Thanks to Liz Bennett, Marley Smith, Georgie Thomson, Murray Bennett, Kristen Czerkiewicz, Don Smith and Ian Wakeman.

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.

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- **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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closes on 31 March

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- **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.



surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Grants



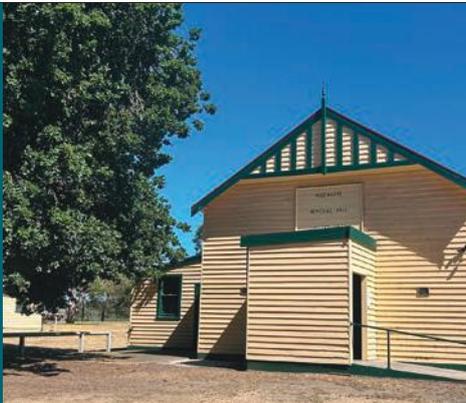
Winchelsea
Star

ISSN 2202-6851



9 772202 685002

Surf Coast Shire
Council will hold its
March Council
meeting at Modewarre
Memorial Hall on
Tuesday 24 March.



The venue will be open from 5.30pm, offering an opportunity to chat with councillors. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be provided.

The Council meeting will commence at 6pm.

An agenda will be published online at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings on the Thursday prior to the meeting.

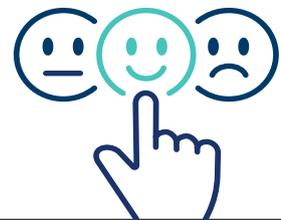
People can view the meeting via live streaming, which has captions, at <https://webcast.surfcoast.vic.gov.au>.

Live streaming issues may arise at this venue. People will be able to access a recording of the meeting on our website the following day. The recording has captions and a transcript available.

 **Modewarre Memorial Hall – 910 Cape Otway Road, Modewarre.**



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.

