

Winchelsea Star

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Your Weekly Community Newspaper

Since 1977

Vol 46 Ed 9

Tuesday 14 March 2023

winchelseastar.org.au

Winchelsea Saturday Pennant Division 3 Team Win Grand Final by four shots

See page 3





It's a fact - singing is good for you

You are welcome to join in the singing group each Wednesday from 4.45pm until 6.00pm.

"Communal singing fosters wellbeing, builds social bonds - and feels awesome. What's not to love? (Julia Hollander - Why We Sing).

When you sing in a group, whether it's a large choir or a smaller group, the act of collective singing causes your body to release endorphins.


This hormone can help promote positive feelings, and even change your perception of pain.

We are a group of locals who bring our voice (of all shapes and sizes) to the beautiful Shire Hall each week to work with Kai, our leader, to make glorious sounds.



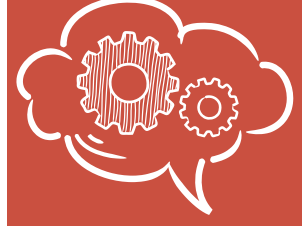
We welcome new comers, it costs \$5.

Just turn up.


GRANTS NOW OPEN



All three streams open on March 1 – close March 31

 <p>Community Initiative Grants up to \$5,000</p>	 <p>Natural Environment Grants up to \$5,000</p>	 <p>Business Collaboration Grants of \$2,000</p>
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To find out more: surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Community/Grants or scan the QR code or call our grants team on **5261 0600** to discuss your idea and ask any questions.



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Winchelsea Saturday Pennant Division 3 Team win Grand Final by four shots

WINCHELSEA BOWLS CLUB - By Kitty 'n Jack

After having what could be called a very successful season with 3 Pennant teams reaching the finals series, we finally win one of the flags in a closely contested match against Colac City on Saturday the 11th of March 2023.

Thanks to all the club members who have been involved in this fantastic achievement and the supporters who were there to cheer us on at Colac

Central Bowling green on the day. The support and encouragement from our Coach Rhys Jeffs has been consistent throughout the year and has obviously made a big difference to the performance of the club in Season 2022/23. May we only move forward over the next year with new players indicating their intentions to bowl with us into the future.

Upon returning to Winchelsea we were greeted with decorations in and around the club house and a BBQ enjoyed by

all present courtesy of Kim, Michelle and Neville who helped the players relax and enjoy the moment as Grand Final wins are wonderful but don't come along every day. Thankfully the bowls were with us!!

COMING UP

All men's events and some ladies events to be completed in preparation for our Presentation Night on Friday 31st of March please put names on sheets to indicate attendance at this event.

Knuckey Day on Sunday March 26th, 12.30 p.m. start, please bring a plate of arvo tea. This is a single entry event \$5 and a good chance to see if you would like to pursue the sport of lawn bowls as we have quite a few social members who have already recorded their interest in this day.

Tuesday, 14th March 2023 | 7:30 pm

Type Faster Productions presents:

NEWK - The John Newcombe Story
by Kieran Carroll & starring Damian Callinan



Sunday, 26th March 2023 | 2pm

Inventi Ensemble presents:

The Enchanted Forest

Tickets include a High Tea



Tickets online, at the Box Office or on 03 5232 2077.

Whats On

Diamond day

Saturday 1st April

11.30 till 4

\$5 entry

Senior Citizens Winchelsea

We are having hot cross buns for Easter and a pj day

So come along in your pjs for a bit of fun

Dont be shy, See you there

Winchelsea Hospital Auxiliary Op Shop Sale

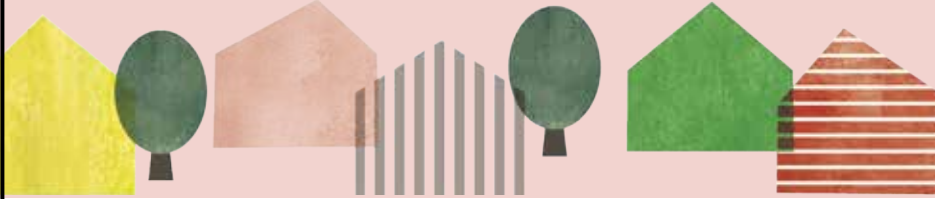
Commencing Friday 17th March

Half price shoes

Half price curtains



Aireys Inlet Affordable Housing Project Expression of Interest



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - OPEN NOW UNTIL 21 APRIL 12.00PM

Surf Coast Shire Council is running an Expression of Interest targeting Registered Housing Agencies for the transfer of management of four social housing units and the further development of social and affordable housing on vacant land at 2 Fraser Drive Aireys Inlet.

For more information on the Aireys Inlet Affordable Housing Project and the Expression of Interest process go to surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Housing

Or email info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au or phone **5261 0600**.



surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Housing



WINCHELSEA R.S.L

Winchelsea R.S.L invites you to attend R.S.L clubrooms
First Sunday of each Month
1pm - 3pm

To view the extensive records of local service men and women. Items of interest.

R.S.L clubrooms are located in
1914 - 1918 Memorial Grandstand
At Winchelsea Football Club
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Federal Funding to Support Stronger Communities

Round 8 of the Australian Government's Stronger Communities Programme (SCP) is now open, with \$22.7 million available to support community organisations and councils to deliver much needed local projects.

Funding of between \$2,500 and \$20,000 is available for not-for-profit community organisations and local governments to fund small capital projects that deliver social benefits and boost local community participation, including small-scale infrastructure upgrades, fit-outs and equipment purchases.

Each federal electorate will receive a capped amount of \$150,000 to fund up to 20 local projects.

In Round 8, the Government has included a requirement for local MPs to outline the project nomination process to enhance the transparency of the program.

Nominations are open from 8 February 2023 and close 26 April 2023. Successful grantees will be notified as soon as their grant is approved, allowing them to start their projects when ready.

Further information including grant guidelines, eligibility requirements and the application process are available at <https://business.gov.au/grants-and-programs/stronger-communities-programme-round-8>.

Letter to the Editor

Get Active Kids Voucher Program Now Open

Dear Editor

I know how important sport is for kids across Western Victoria. Joining a team means making friends, developing skills and (hopefully!) experiencing that winning feeling.

The Andrew's Labor Government has opened the latest round of the Get Active Kids Voucher Program, with vouchers of up to \$200 each available, to help with the cost of membership, registration fees, sports equipment and uniforms.

Families can also continue to claim reimbursement for expenses already incurred, as has been the case in previous rounds.

To be eligible, kids must be aged 18 years or under, a resident in Victoria, named on a current Australian Government Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card and also named on a valid Australian Government Medicare Card at the time of application.

A special consideration stream supports children living in care services, temporary or provisional visa holders and others in living in special circumstances.

The Get Active Kids Voucher Program is also supporting our local sport clubs and active recreation providers to broaden their membership by enabling more people to participate in organised sport by lowering financial barriers.

No matter what sport you play, the Get Active Kids Voucher Program will make it easier for families to get involved.

For more information about the program, including how to apply, visit <https://www.getactive.vic.gov.au/vouchers/>

Yours sincerely

Gayle Tierney MP
Member for Western Victoria



Proposed Discontinuance and Sale – Roadway between Smith and Warner Streets Winchelsea



Surf Coast Shire Council, acting in accordance with Clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the *Local Government Act 1989* proposes to discontinue the road reserve and sell the land, known as a pathway between Smith and Warner Streets Winchelsea (R1 on plan number PS027481) as shown on map below to an adjoining property owner.

Submission Process

In accordance with Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, submissions are invited on the discontinuance and sale.

All submissions received will be considered.

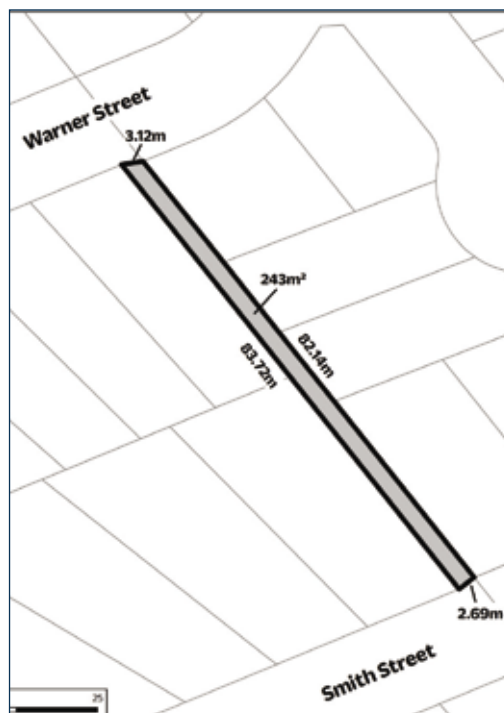
Submissions are to be addressed to:

Property Officer
Surf Coast Shire Council,
PO Box 350 Torquay 3228
or emailed to

info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au

Submissions on this matter must be received **by 7 April 2023**.

surfcoast.vic.gov.au





Community input to underpin next steps for Winchelsea mud hut shelter - Surf Coast Shire

Local representatives will help improve the design of the Winchelsea mud hut shelter replacement, before a proposal for the wider community to provide input on a preferred option.

Surf Coast Shire Council resolved at its February 2023 meeting for community members to be part of a new group that will develop options on improvements to the proposed design for the shelter. Options will be considered at the April 2023 Council meeting.

Councillor Heather Wellington thanked Winchelsea locals for their passion for this project, highlighted by a 137-signature petition. The petition - received by Council in December 2022 - stated the initial proposed mud hut shelter design did not reflect community aspirations, and requested improvements be made.

"We've heard the community loud and clear. I look forward to seeing community representatives work with officers to explore elements that will improve the proposed design including materials, cladding, colours and landscaping," Cr Wellington said.

"I know there has been a recent suggestion to retain and repair the mud hut rather than demolish it; and there has been another suggestion to build a replica of the original structure. The feasibility of these options is also being considered and will be presented to Council at our April meeting."

Pending Council's decision at the April meeting, community members will be invited to provide input on their preferred option.

Cr Wellington was pleased to see more community involvement in the project, including representatives being part of the new group to improve the design.

"This is a welcome additional step in the project, which has had setbacks along the way including COVID-19 interruptions, contractor unavailability, and the project recently being put on hold due to microbats breeding in the shelter. This required a zoologist assessment which included a recommendation on how to manage microbats during the construction stage."

The mud hut shelter was due for renewal in 2019-20, and was combined with the Barwon River Adventure Play Space project as it sits in the same precinct. The project was delayed at various stages which created longer than anticipated gaps between original consultation, feedback and the final concept design.

"When we received the petition, it was acknowledged that the communication and engagement process for this project was

unsuccessful," Cr Wellington said. "It is vital that Council understands community views through meaningful engagement. Council hopes that a community consensus can be achieved through the engagement process."

The proposed mud hut shelter renewal was due for installation in mid-January 2023. It is already under contract. Following a procurement process, a roof structure has been pre-fabricated and cannot be changed as Council would need to cancel the contract. This will be taken into consideration by the community representatives and officers as they explore improvement options.

The project is currently jointly funded by Council (\$135,000) and the Federal Government (\$50,000) through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. A time extension request to the Federal Government is needed.

Winchelsea
Community Market
Shire Hall
Dum - 1pm

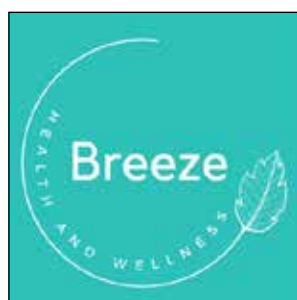
MARKET dates for 2023

1 st January	2 nd July
5 th February	6 th August
5 th March	3 rd September
2 nd April	8 th October
7 th May	5 th November
4 th June	3 rd December

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The sad reality of illegal firewood collection in Victoria

As many Victorians stock up their firewood supplies for winter, the Conservation Regulator is urging people to help save critical wildlife habitat and protect Aboriginal scarred trees by sourcing firewood responsibly.

Illegal firewood collectors have caused significant damage to parks, forests and reserves in recent years, with some areas like the Mansfield Swamp Wildlife Reserve in Northern Victoria losing an estimated 50 per cent of its old mature trees through timber theft.

Birds and reptiles as well as a range of native mammals, such as possums, gliders and bats, rely on hollows in both standing and fallen trees for habitat. The illegal collection of firewood, if made up of mature trees and limbs, also has potential to harm Aboriginal scarred trees. Once gone, an important piece of Aboriginal cultural heritage is lost forever.

Domestic firewood collection from public land is only available in designated areas during the autumn and spring firewood

collection seasons. During these times people can collect a maximum of two cubic metres of firewood per person per day and a maximum of 16 cubic metres of firewood per household per financial year. Only fallen timber without hollows can be collected.

This year the Conservation Regulator is targeting firewood theft with Forest Fire Management Victoria and Parks Victoria through Operation Hollows. Authorised Officers are educating the public about the rules and penalising thieves. Anyone caught breaking firewood collection rules can face on-the-spot-fines of \$740 under the Forests Act 1958 or a maximum penalty of \$9,246 and/or 1 year jail if the matter is taken to court.

Last year the Conservation Regulator laid 625 charges and issued 85 infringement notices and 16 official warnings for firewood offences, including cutting or taking fallen or felled trees, and disturbing, damaging or destroying wildlife habitat. Cases which resolved in the Magistrate Court system faced convictions, fines and had chainsaws and trailers forfeited and destroyed.

It is also important firewood collectors understand their obligations under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. All Aboriginal places, objects and Ancestral remains are protected in Victoria. It is an offence to harm Aboriginal heritage and substantial penalties apply.

If you think you have found a scarred tree or other Aboriginal cultural heritage, contact your relevant Registered Aboriginal Party (if one has been appointed) or First Peoples - State Relations on 1800 762 003.

For details of where firewood can be collected, visit: www.ffmpeg.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region.

More information about firewood collection rules can be found at: <https://www.vic.gov.au/collecting-firewood>.

The community can report the illegal cutting or removal of firewood anonymously by calling 136 186.

Financial assistance is available for people on low incomes who buy firewood for heating. <https://www.ffmpeg.vic.gov.au/firewood/energy-concession-and-support>.

Winchelsea Historical Society

Winchelsea Street Names

Warner Street

Bertie Warner died POW, John Warner died POW World War 2.

Scott McDonald
0423 413 829

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Jack



Bertie

New President for the RSL

The RSL Winchelsea sub-Branch is pleased to welcome a new President, Mr Graham Kenafacke, who was elected in late 2022.

Graham and Anita are relatively new residents and have settled into a heritage-listed house in Hesse St. Graham served with the Australian Army in the 1970's principally with the 1st Armoured Regiment Puckapunyal. This was a busy time for the Armoured Corps transitioning from Centurion tanks to the Leopard tank and Graham was a crewman on both vehicles. After leaving the military Graham joined Victoria Police and later became an OHS practitioner. He is also a new member of Winchelsea Lions (Star 21/2/23) and member of the Growing Winch Committee.

Graham takes over from Robin Mawson who was President from 2015 and following on in turn from our long standing President and Committee-man Kevin Bennett (dec).

The Mawson family have made a major contribution to our RSL for many years with Nancy, Christine and Robin's books 'Heroes of the Winchelsea District' Vols I & II. Tony (Alsop) and Robin have served on the Committee for several years and the involvement of the Geelong Military Re-enactment Group at our ceremonies has been due to Robin's involvement.

The RSL facilities at Eastern Reserve are planned to be upgraded and made more accessible to visitors by opening on the first Sunday of each month (Star 28/2/23). As usual the ANZAC Day service will be held here on Tuesday 25th April to which all are welcome.

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- New to our clinic, receive an Initial Consultation for \$49 (valued at \$120.)
- Lucky door prize: A free massage from: Brooks Massage Therapy!
- Wholesome food & tea including bliss balls, fruit cups, pastries, and herbal remedy tea
- Hand picked gifts for you; Palo santo, One Body drink holder, Essential oil roller blends, healing teas, stationary for the kids and much more.

Be sure to come in yourself or refer someone you care about that could benefit from better health.

Even if you don't have an appointment on this day, we would love it if you came in for a visit to check out our special space and take a gift home.



We are so excited to share this with our wonderful community.

One Body Chiropractic xx

Go online to onebodychiropractic.com.au to book or call the lovely Alana, Kerryn or Sophie to find out more.
Phone: 03 5267 2240



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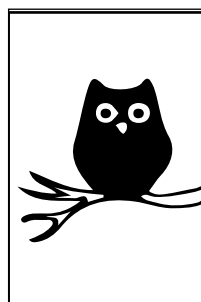
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Winchelsea Star

Articles are most welcome and must carry the name and address of the sender.

Weekly deadline is 5pm Friday.

Copy for sports results and weekend events is Sunday 6pm (4pm for hard-copy articles/results left at IGA) unless by prior arrangement.

Copy should be emailed to news@winchelseastar.org.au or left at IGA Supermarket.

The Winchelsea Star reserves the right to edit or not publish any article.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Winchelsea Star or its Committee.

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From neglected cow paddock to stunning contemporary garden, Cape Otway Farm opens to the public for the first time

Open Gardens Victoria will open Cape Otway Farm, a stunning modern take on the traditional rural garden, for the first time on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 March.

When purchased nearly 16 years ago by Olivia Tipler and Daryl Pelchen, the property was mostly windswept farmland used for cattle grazing, with only three or four established trees. One of the trees, a majestic old river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), played an integral role in the site selection of the house.

“The tree chose the location of the home,” says owner and architect Daryl Pelchen, who designed the family’s contemporary farmhouse to ensure it included a view of the gum tree.

One of the first garden projects for Olivia and Daryl was the planting of the avenue of lemon-scented gums along the driveway. Following this, a masterplan for the landscape was developed, determining the placement of the Norfolk Island pines, an orchard, the bosque of plane trees, and the oaks on the west side of the house. 20,000 indigenous trees and shrubs were also planted as windbreaks, providing a much-needed sense of seclusion to the wide open spaces

of the farm. Keeping it local, many of the windbreak trees were propagated on Olivia’s parent’s farm in the Otways.

Landscape architect Stephen Read was engaged seven years ago to complete the garden and create a human-scale environment around the home for the family to enjoy and relax.

Stephen’s first task was to finish the productive gardens, enclosing the orchard with a fence and bay tree hedge to protect it from the hot northerly winds. The vegetable garden was then completed, and a pollination garden was planted along the eastern edge of the vegetable patch.

“The obvious challenge for the garden is the wind; however, reliable irrigation water was also a challenge while the early parts of the garden were established. Making



use of available water was one of the driving factors for establishing the garden in stages, ensuring one section of the garden was drought-resistant before moving on to the next,” says Stephen.

To help the home settle into the landscape, a mass planting of the ornamental grass *Callamagrostis* ‘Karl Forester’ was made along the western side of the home. The forecourt garden includes six gigantic terracotta pots and a raised bed, along with interplanting of the gravel area. Hard landscaping with bluestone rocks forms a skirt around the architecture.

The glade on the home’s northern side was recently finished. The original masterplan called for an English-style glade, with silver birches planted early in preparation for the glade’s completion. Stephen soon realised that a traditional English glade would not work with the architecture or site conditions. Instead, he was inspired by the natural calcareous glades of the central United States. In place of flowering meadows, the calcareous glades typically have bedrock protruding through the forest floor, creating an open space with herbs, shrubs, and grasses growing between the rocks. These plants will eventually grow large enough to provide low screening and areas of seclusion in the garden.

Cape Otway Farm is located on the lands of the Wadawurrung people. Open Gardens Victoria wish to acknowledge the

Traditional custodians and we pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

ADDRESS:

Cape Otway Farm, 1300 Cape Otway Road, Modewarre Vic 3240

OPEN:

Saturday 18 March & Sunday 19 March
10.00am - 4.30pm

TICKETS:

Adults \$10, Students \$6, under 18 free
Tickets at the gate or via TryBooking

EXTRAS:

Morning and afternoon tea for sale
Plant sales

Garden tours at 11.30am & 2.30pm both days (with Stephen Read, Stephen Read Landscape Design)

For more information about open gardens and events, visit: www.opengardensvictoria.org.au

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.

Free Community Service Advertisements

Services and Activities in Winchelsea



TRAIN SERVICES

To Geelong

Mon - Fri

6:41 am, 7:59am, 11:34am,
2:01pm, 7:37pm

Sat and Sun

9:35am, 1:36pm, 7:18pm

To Warrnambool:

Mon - Fri

9:29am, 2:56pm, (to Colac
5:27pm), 6:45pm, 8:53pm

Sat and Sun

8:47am, 2:49pm, 8:37pm

Country Women's Association



7pm Second Wednesday of Month
Winchelsea Senior Citizens' Hall

Bus to the Hub

For reservations on the weekly bus
to the Eastern Reserve Hub,
please phone 52671202.

Surf Coast Mobile Library

Surf Coast Mobile Library
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Winchelsea SES

Meeting and training
2nd Wednesday

Training 4th Wednesday

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Winchelsea Playgroup

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Contact: Melissa 0456181268
Facebook - Winchelsea Playgroup 2019
New families welcome

Winchelsea Girl Guides

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All girls 5yrs- 15yrs Welcome!
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or Bonnie Stokes 0401 386 274

1st Modewarre and Winchelsea Scout Group

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Cubs: Mondays of school term 6:30-8pm
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Sherri Symons likes to spin a good yarn about working with wool.

Ms Symons grew up around sheep and has forged a successful career in the industry, but she laments that not everyone shares her enthusiasm for wool.

"I just love the fibre of wool," she says. "It's the most incredible fibre, no matter what micron it is. The properties of wool are incredible but they're under-appreciated by current society.

"If you buy a \$200 wool jumper, you've got that for the rest of your life. Sadly, in today's throwaway society people get a jumper and they're done with it before the season has even ended.

"I find that really disappointing."

A wool classer for nearly 15 years, Ms Symons has recently added teaching to her resume and is helping to deliver South West TAFE's new wool classing course starting in early March at Maroona near Ararat. Wool classing has taken her across all Australian states except Western Australia and she has also worked in New Zealand.

"Once you get into the industry and start wool classing, the number of incredible and amazing people you meet along the way is phenomenal," she said. "I've come across such a diverse range of people and learnt so much from being in the industry."

Now she's trying to inspire a new generation of wool classers.

"I wish there were more people wanting to go into the industry, especially young people because of the opportunities that are there," she said.

Demand is strong for wool classers and Ms Symons continues working in the profession while also teaching.

"I frequently get phone calls asking me to class but I have to tell them I'm now teaching the next generation of wool classers; I'm trying to get more people into the industry for them but on my holidays and weekends, I help friends and family out as much as I can and thoroughly enjoy it."



This ongoing practical experience assists her teaching work. "I'm a strong believer that you have to keep your finger in the game to relate to the people in the industry," she said.

Ms Symons grew up on a sheep and beef farm at Ellerslie and studied an Advanced Diploma in Rural Business Management at Glenormiston and completed South West TAFE's wool classing course.

"I wanted to go classing because I wanted to travel," she said. "I jumped into working in the industry and didn't leave."

She says the wool classing course is essential for anyone wanting to work in the field and it can be a pathway to new opportunities. "I've known many people who have gone from being a shed hand or a classer and now they're managing the farm.

"The course gives you the nitty gritty of what you need to be able to look at wool and class and grade it.

"If you consistently get good test results for a farmer, buyers are going to want to keep buying from that farmer."

Ms Symons says the industry is "screaming out" for wool classers.

"Wool classing can be for anybody but it helps to have some experience as a wool handler," she said.

"I absolutely love it. There are some things that make it difficult. I would love to have running water and a toilet located at every shed, but it's farm life and it's an incredible industry to be in to see a vast range of Australia."

South West TAFE is also planning courses in Mortlake and Hamilton later this year and may do a residential course at Glenormiston College in the future.

To find out more about the South West TAFE wool classing course, call 1300 648 911 or visit www.swtafe.edu.au

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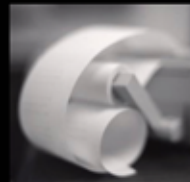
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Flying chance to fight Deadly Dieback

Agencies are working together to combat *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, a deadly plant pathogen that decimates habitat for threatened species throughout the Otways, such as the Southern Brown Bandicoot, Long-nosed Potoroo and Swamp Antechinus.

The disease is a plant pathogen that devastates native plant communities and the animal species that rely on them for habitat. It is microscopic and lives in the soil, water and plant material. It attacks roots, restricting the uptake of water and nutrients, killing the plant. Certain native species such as the iconic grass trees and banksias are particularly susceptible to the disease.

The Australian Government's Wild Otways Initiative aims to protect native wildlife from threatening processes, including *Phytophthora*. To slow the spread of the pathogen, an aerial flight took place to apply phosphite, a salt-like chemical, over critical habitat in the Otways. Phosphite works by boosting susceptible plants' defences against *Phytophthora*, inoculating sensitive heathlands against the pathogen. "We can protect large amounts of bushland fairly quickly and easily using aerial spraying" said Katrina Lovett, Regional Conservation Program Coordinator at Parks Victoria. Despite the efficiency and



effectiveness of phosphite application, "it's not our silver bullet, you need to repeatedly treat target sites as plants lose their immunity over time" she said.

"Once dieback is present it can't be eradicated but it can be controlled," said Jessica Miller, Environmental Programs Manager at the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority. "Applying phosphite to plants doesn't kill the disease, but what it does is boosts the plant's immunity. So, it's a little bit like an immunisation," she said. "We're working together to slow the spread of *Phytophthora* dieback in the Otways and this trial will give us a real insight into the effectiveness of aerial spraying across a large area" says Tim Miller, Wild Otways Project Officer from the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA).

To deliver this work, Barbara Wilson Pty Ltd is working in partnership with the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority, Parks Victoria, the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action and Field Air Group. The broader *Phytophthora* project is mapping the occurrence of the pathogen in the Otways, prioritising areas for protection and training agency staff, community groups and traditional owner groups in hygiene to prevent the spread of the disease.



Senior Ecologist Dr Mark Garkaklis said, "the disease is a biological bulldozer, these groves of grass trees are hundreds of years old, they are our old growth forests and once they are gone there is no going back".

This project is funded by the Australian Government.

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Inspectorate seized and surrendered animals at all-time high

In the second quarter of the 2022-23 financial year, 695 animals were seized by or surrendered to RSPCA Victoria's Inspectorate, the highest number ever reported for any quarter on record.

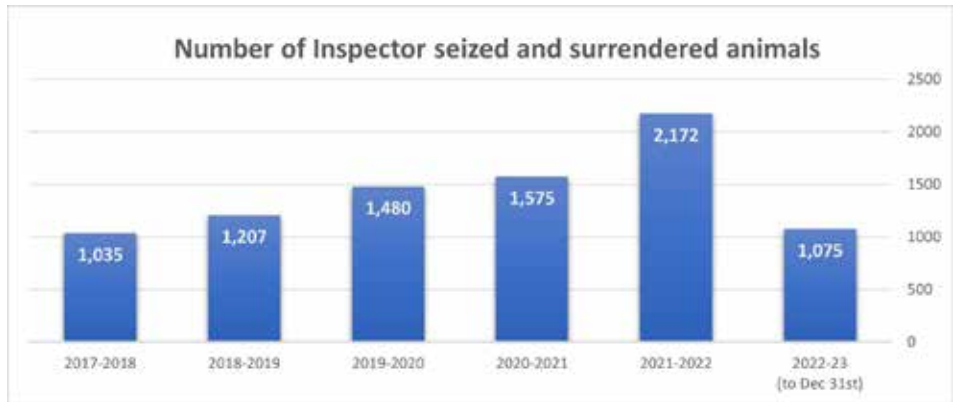
The total annual number of animals seized by or surrendered to RSPCA Victoria's Inspectorate has risen significantly every year for the past five years, more than doubling from 1,035 in 2017-18 to 2,172 in 2021-22.

RSPCA Victoria Chief Inspector Michael Stagg said animal cruelty exists across all geographic and social boundaries but in recent years there have been a number of contributing factors to the higher level of incoming Inspectorate seized and surrendered animals.

"In recent years the impact of COVID-19 and the rising cost of living may have contributed to the spiking numbers of Inspectorate seized and surrendered animals.

Between 2020 and 2022 alone the number of seizures and surrenders rose by 38% (597 cases).

Data from the 2021/22 financial year shows neglect continues to be the most common type of report received.



During the year RSPCA Victoria's Inspectorate responded to 10,577 cruelty reports, with neglect the basis for almost half (46%), meaning members of the community had reported knowledge of animals subjected to lack of food, water, shelter or veterinary care. Other types of neglect included poor husbandry, lack of appropriate hygiene and insufficient grooming, shearing and farriery for horses.

"Our recently released online, RSPCA Victoria interactive cruelty map illustrates the rates of animal cruelty in local government areas and across the state.

"We acknowledge that in addition to the rising cost of living, which may impact the ability of some to care for their pets, many Victorians adopted pets during the

pandemic, some as first-time pet owners who may still require information or support to help them understand how to best care for their animals.

It is important all pet owners understand the specific needs of their pets in terms of food, water, shelter, grooming and exercise," stated Mr Stagg.

RSPCA Victoria believes that prevention is best and wherever possible Inspectors support people to achieve good animal welfare but relies on the community to report animal cruelty.

Anyone with concerns for the welfare of an animal can lodge an official cruelty report by calling (03) 9224-2222 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Alternatively, reports can be lodged online via www.rspcavic.org



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Winchelsea Churches

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We do this on an occasional basis, because although our traditions are a little different, we know that those who follow Jesus are one in him.

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Otherwise worship at St Thomas continues at 10.00 am each Sunday morning. We would love to welcome you.

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St. John's, Winchelsea,
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Sacred Heart, Inverleigh,
Sun 4pm, Mar 19

St. Brigid, Anakie,
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St Joseph's, Meredith,
Sun 9am March 26

St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn,
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Thought for the Week

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School Swimming Program

Our students have just completed our annual 2-week intensive Swim and Survive program at the Winchelsea Pool. All our students have done a wonderful job of learning new skills, polishing stroke techniques, and developing survival skills. The program culminated in a big finale swimming carnival with many families in attendance. Eight senior students then chose to represent our school at the Sacred Heart Swimming Competition, with some exceptional results.

Congratulations to all these students for their swimming efforts and willingness to have a go.

With the completion of our swimming program, students will now jump straight back into our Athletics training in preparation for the Polwarth P-6 Athletics. Events that our P-6 students train for include high jump, long jump, triple jump, shotput, discus, hurdles, relays and running.

School Lawn Bowls

Many of our senior students will make the most of a range of sporting opportunities this year to represent our school at events. We have just attended a day at Colac Bowling Club by the lake, with 13 students competing in a division lawn bowls tournament. A big thank you to all the volunteers from the bowls club who ran the day. Our students had a great time competing and learning the rules and skills of lawn bowls.

“We really enjoyed learning about lawn bowls and taking on different roles in a team.” – Tully (School Captain)

This year, we also anticipate fielding teams for tennis, badminton, soccer, football, netball, basketball and cricket and we often join with fellow Polwarth schools; Beeac, Carlisle River & Alvie to ensure we have enough players. With all sporting events, our emphasis is on skill development, participation, and enjoyment rather than winning. It is great to see our school pride on display on the sporting field.

There are still lots of events coming up this term.

- Friday 10th March – School Captains at a Leadership Day
- Monday 20th March – Harmony Day Cultural Inclusion Celebration
- Thursday 23rd March – Polwarth Sports (Family event)
- Friday 24th March – Barwon Water Inquiry Excursion
- Tuesday 28th March – “Healthy Me” Day - AFL Footy Clinics & Healthy Food Incursion
- Thursday 6th April – Term 1 Ends & Monday 24th April – Term 2 Begins

Russell Taylor-Shaw - Principal

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Happy 20th Birthday Community Bank Surfcoast

To show our appreciation, we are celebrating our 20th birthday by seeking to fulfil the 'wish-lists' of our local not-for-profit groups and organisations by providing an extra \$200,000 back to our community.

When Wednesday 1 February - Sunday 30 April

Contact us via Facebook, in Branch, a Director, or our Community Engagement Advisor - Kelly 0459 997 102


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