Your Weekly Community Newspaper

Since 1977

Vol 48 Ed 07 Tuesday 25 February winchelseastar.org.au





Join us for a moving conversation with Mary
Tuesday 18th March 6.30-8.30pm at the
Winchelsea Shire Hall
-- let's change the way we approach men's
wellbeing.

FREE to attend.

Nibbles and drinks provided.

Men only (this is at the request of the speaker for the benefit of the men attending)

Bookings ensure catering needs are met

Bookings:

Via QR Code

Email:

vitality@onebodychiropractic.com.au

Phone: 5267 2240

Alternatively, come visit One Body Chiropractic and book via reception.





Winchelsea Community Dinner

Celebrating the essence of community

Mark your calendars for March 29, as Winchelsea gears up for an unforgettable evening of connection and celebration at the Community Dinner. This event is more than just a meal; it's a chance to weave the fabric of our community tighter, one story at a time.

Picture this: the sun setting over our charming town, the air buzzing with laughter and the aroma of home-cooked dishes. Long-time residents share tales of Winchelsea's past, while newcomers bring fresh energy and excitement. It's a night where generations meet, and everyone, young and old, finds a place at the table.

The venue for this heartwarming gathering is St John the Baptist Catholic Church Hall, accessible via Harding Street. To keep the spirit of community alive, we're asking for a gold coin donation at the door to help cover costs and to give thanks to our gracious hosts.

Here's the twist – the dinner is a potluck! We invite you to bring your favourite dish, whether it's a family recipe or a local favourite or even something bought from your favourite store. Imagine the variety of flavours, each dish telling its own story, crafted with love by your neighbours. It's a culinary adventure that promises to delight your taste buds and spark conversations.

Long tables will be set up, creating a cozy, communal atmosphere. This setup encourages everyone to mingle, share stories, and make new friends. It's a perfect opportunity to break the ice and build connections that last beyond the evenina.

To join this celebration of community spirit, simply RSVP on the event's Facebook page, by using the QR code below. Feel free to call or text if you don't use Facebook. Keep an eye out for more details in the shop windows of local businesses.

Don't miss out on this chance to be part of something special. The Winchelsea Community Dinner is set to become a beloved tradition, celebrating the essence of our town - its people.

If you have any questions, reach out via the Facebook page (scan the QR code for quick access) or contact Jess on 0409 536 752. We're also looking for sponsors and volunteers to make this and future events a success.

We can't wait to see you there, sharing in the laughter, the stories, and the delicious food that make Winchelsea such a wonderful place to call home.



LET US KNOW YOU'RE COMING

FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE:

fb.com/events/1268149947601233 (easy version - jo.my/wcd-2025-mar)

PHONE:

Jess on 0409 536 752

EMAIL:

winchelseacommunitydinner@gmail. com



Helping Local Sporting Clubs To Get More People Involved

Grassroots sports clubs are the heartbeat of so many local communities, and the Victorian Government is backing them to be even better with a new round of grants to upskill staff and volunteers.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence announced applications are open for the Sporting Club Grants Program - with a focus on upskilling volunteers so that they can continue playing a vital role at their local clubs.

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for clubs to improve the skills and knowledge of volunteers, coaches and officials, as well as grants of up to \$4,000 to help clubs deliver new programs to the community.

Clubs can also apply for grants of up to \$1,000 to purchase uniforms and equipment, and \$750 travel grants are also available to participate in competitions away from home.

The program is backed by the Regional Community Sport Development Fund that is delivering infrastructure upgrades as well as the Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund to help more regional Victorians get active and be part of their local sporting club.

Applications for this round close 27 March 2025. For more information and to apply visit sport.vic.gov.au.



Visitors to Winchelsea

John Egan from Geelong and his Maltese-cross companions Rosie and Mindie sometimes visit Winchelsea for an adventure but their favourite place is the dog beach at Torquay where they can run off lead.



The cockatoos are back in town to feast on the seed pods on the street trees and causing angst among the shop keepers having to continually sweep their pavement area.





Kade and partner Jade (who was shopping on the IGA when photo taken), with poodle-crossed Monty and Lashes, are from WA and touring Australia. Kade said Winchelsea is a great place to stop and stock up on supplies and easy to walk around everywhere. They were enjoying the free-camping beside the Barwon River particularly because dogs are welcome there.

However they had to move their van due to flooding beneath them due apparently due to a mishap above them at the pool construction. It was very squelchy under the grass in the background where their van was parked. Next stop Tasmania via Geelong to catch the Spirit of Tasmania.





Request for Tender Hospital Auxiliary Opportunity Shop - Redevelopment Works

Tender Number: A2025-02

Hesse Rural Health is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced Contractor to undertake redevelopment of a retail site in Winchelsea. The Works are to be completed in accordance with the directions provided in the Tender Conditions, including the Specification.

For a copy of the tender documents please visit https://www.tenders.vic.gov.au/tender/search/ searching in the 'Issued By' field under Hesse Rural Health. Submissions close 2:00PM, Thursday 6 March 2025.

Note: The lowest or any submission will not necessarily be accepted.

Big Build Effects for Western Victoria

The Government is continuing works across Victoria's Big Build this autumn.

Critical testing is underway on the Metro Tunnel Project on weekends. Work will get underway to take down the tower crane that built the outbound tunnel portal. Drivers are reminded inbound ramp closures are set to begin until late March between Grieve Parade and the West Gate Bridge, and inbound traffic will continue to be reduced to three lanes. The inbound entry ramps on Millers Road and Grieve Parade, as well as the Williamstown Road exit ramp, will be closed. Also in Melbourne's west, works will take place across weekends on the M80 freeway in March to integrate the West Gate Tunnel into the existing freeway network.

In regional Victoria, coaches will replace trains on the Geelong and Warrnambool lines for part of the journey for two weeks from the 31 March while crews upgrade level crossings on the Geelong Line and work begins on a stabling upgrade at Warrnambool Station.

To find out more and to check before you travel, visit bigbuild. vic.gov.au/map.

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

Discover a rewarding and secure career as a Prison Officer. Apply now at Western Plains Correctional Centre, Lara, and receive an \$8,000 sign on bonus*



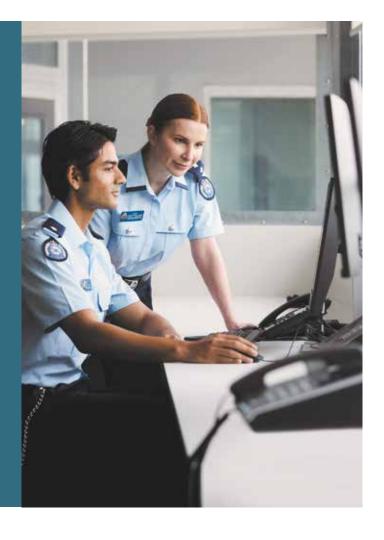
Corrections Victoria

Hiring now

*Conditions apply.



Authorised by the Victorian Government, l Treasury Place, Melbourne



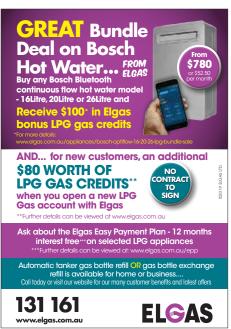
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Call Richard today! 044 451 3017





WANTED Winchelsea Girl Guides needs girls

We welcome girls 6-15yrs.

We meet Mondays 4.30 pm-6pm at St John's Catholic Church Winchelsea during school term.

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

Many of our girls were from Moriac so a Unit has been opened at Modewarre to cater for them. We also had 4 travelling up from the coast, and now they attend secondary school in Geelong so they have transferred to a Geelong Guide Unit.

If interested, girls can attend 2 free sessions. girls are welcome to come along and try.

Enquires contact

Yvonne Orchard ph 0448 672 630 or Lily Dell Rennie ph 0428 936 441



Colac Otway Performing Arts & Cultural Centre 95-97 Gellibrand Street, Colac VIC 3250

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2025



Saturday | 8 March | 6:30 pm

Bold, Besharam, and Brilliantly Funny — Comedy Like You've Never Seen!

Laugh your heart out to an award-winning besharam (shameless) lineup of Indian, Sri Lankan and South Asian comedians living in Australia. After sold out shows at Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Edinburgh Fringe & Sydney Comedy Festival, Brown Women Comedy is heading to Colac. No topic is too taboo.

From growing up brown in Australia,

being bisexual to getting disowned thrice,

these women won't be holding back on turning traditional

family expectations into comedy gold.

All tickets include a 3-course meal prepared by Shivaya's Diner!

BOOK NOW: copacc.com.au | Box Office | QR code Ticket \$80 | Concession \$72 | COPACC Member \$64



healthpromotion@hesse.vic.gov.au

0417 848 292



Michelle Stocks has a passion for Winchelsea

Michelle Stocks, a well known community member has worked tirelessly over many years to support the development of Winchelsea.

"My family moved here when I was in Grade 5. I attended the local consolidated school until year 9 and travelled to school in Geelong to complete my secondary schooling, studying, as many girls did, secretarial studies which led me to my first job in the office at Goold College on a scholarship for twelve months," said Michelle.

Michelle married local Michael Stocks, had daughter Ash and son Adam and purchased a house when interest rates were at an all time high of 17.5%. Taking whatever work was available locally, often working evenings and weekends with the support of Michael, family and friends for child care while the children were young.

Then started a 30 year involvement with Hesse Rural Health progressing from casual kitchen and cleaning work to administration and payroll. Michelle went on to become a Board member of Hesse Rural Health for nine years and is now Executive Officer with Corangamite Financial Services, our local Community Bank.

"I have been fortunate to have a great supportive family. Growing up in a small community meant you were involved in everything the kids were involved in. Being part of the community gave you support and encouragement, but I found

I needed to know more which led me to undertaking the Surf Coast Shires Casurina Program and a Community Leadership Program with the Committee for Geelong. It was a great opportunity to extend my knowledge and confidence to take on more leadership roles. I am a current Board Director on the APCO Foundation - which is all about spreading kindness to community organisations and individuals who find themselves in a crisis situation, we have assisted so many groups and families to get through the toughest of times.

Michelle encourages anyone who gets the opportunity to participate in a Leadership Program to give it a go and consider how you can contribute to the local community.

A local Women's Business Network will be a catalyst for promotion of a range of information, training and advice.

"Many women quietly work behind the scenes, women need to know how we can promote ourselves, our businesses and community. If we don't have access to information, advice or resources how can we promote each other? All too often women don't stand up and shout about themselves. I urge women to come and celebrate International Women's Day and put their hand up to be a part of an exciting new initiative for Winchelsea, the formation of a Business Network," continues Michelle.



"The event being held on Tuesday 18 March 2025 is proudly supported by the Community Bank, Winchelsea & District, Growing Winchelsea and the Surf Coast Shire.

We are keen to hear what you are looking for in a business network, what are your training and development needs so come along and celebrate International Women's Day with us," concludes Michelle Stocks.



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Lions Club Visit From District Governor

Story and photos Linda Carter

Winchelsea Lions Club hosted a dinner last week at the Hub to welcome our District Governor elect Sue Eyton and her husband Rob.

Sue has just returned from a convention in Chicago where there were 700 incoming District Governors present.

The Club was very proud to bestow the Melvin Jones Fellowship on our treasurer David Yandell. David is currently undergoing some health problems so the award was accepted on his behalf by his sons Nick and Michael. We all wish you well David. David is the mainstay of our paper collection project and has been responsible along with many other helpers in bringing in over \$50,000 for our club to distribute among the community.

The Melvin Jones Fellowship Award is a way of recognising a Lion or member of the public who have made a significant contribution to Lionism.

We were also proud to induct our new member Rob Davies who was introduced by his sponsor Paul Sorenson. Rob is a former member of Winchelsea Leos Club so is no stranger to the Lions Family. Welcome Rob.

A great evening , many thanks to Janet and her footy club team for a delicious meal and the cricket club guys for manning the bar.

Lions have a busy calendar coming up so look out for us around the town.





Nick and Michael Yandell accepting the Melvin Jones Fellowship on behalf of their father David





DG elect Sue Eyton with new member Rob Davies and his sponsor Paul Sorenson

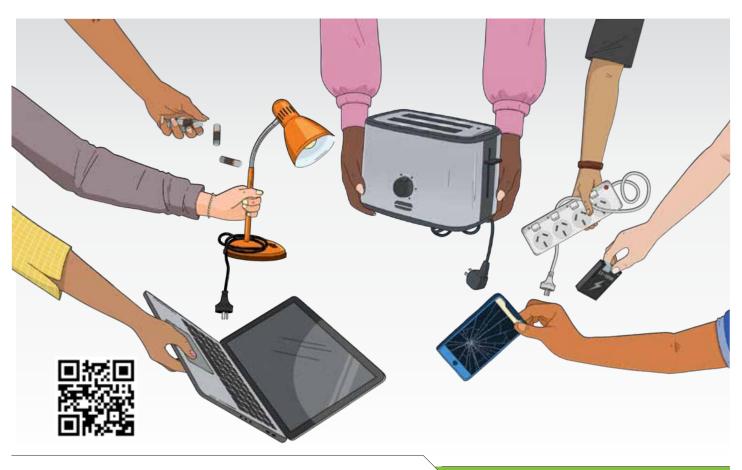


Small acts make a big impact.

E-waste cannot be put into any of your household bins.

E-waste is any item with a plug, battery or power cord that's no longer wanted. E-waste contains hazardous materials which can be harmful to the environment, but they also contain valuable resources that can be reused.

Visit surfcoast.vic.gov.au/e-waste to find out where to take your e-waste.











Winchelsea Community House Inc. A6247K

28 Hesse Street, PO BOX 75, WINCHELSEA, Vic. 3241

Phone: (03) 5267 2028 Email: manager@winchhouse.org.au

ABN: 48 932 340 254

Co Working/Study Space

Mondays & Thursdays 9am - 2pm \$10 per day no subscription required.

Need to work or study remotely but not from your home office? The Shire Hall is a quiet space with ample options for work, study and meetings.

Vinyasa Yoga

Tuesday evenings at 7pm 11th of Feb - 25th March

Join Kate for pose alignment, pranayama (breath work), meditation, yoga philosophy, and mindful movement. Learn something new in every class and deepen your connection to yoga.

\$23 per class.

Mother Goose Song & Rhyme

Every Wednesday at 2pm

During school terms For parents and caregivers with children of all ages.

Sessions are led by Child and Family Health team members.

FREE, No bookings required just come along and

Winchelsea Knitting Group

Thursday Mornings 10.30 - 12pm

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

Tai Chi

Friday Mornings, from Feb 7th 9.00am - 10.00am

In the Helen Verity Room, Winchelsea community house

\$10 per session

Chatty Café

Fridays 10.30pm - 12.30pm

"Sip, Chat, Share, Care"

Winchelsea Shire Hall

Everyone Welcome, Collection tin for donations.

Carers Corner

Friday February 28th

11am - 12pm

Connect with other Carers in the community

Winchelsea Shire Hall

Phonics with robot Reg

Friday Mornings Walkers - 3 yrs 10.15 **Pre-School 3 – 5yrs 11.15**

'A Fun, High energy class to Introduce and teach phonics skills'

Bookings at robotreg.com.au/

Flow Yoga

Saturday mornings at 8am 8th of Feb - 29th March

An inclusive, all abilities class. Build strength, clarity and bliss as you move through a dynamic whole body experience. A playful, powerful class that leaves you feeling refreshed and uplifted. \$23 per class.

Crochet Group

1.30pm in the Winchelsea Community Centre

Every Second Saturday

Next class March 8th

\$5 per class

The Winchelsea Community House aims to provide a space to connect with others in our community through a wide range of programs and activities. There are many opportunities to learn new skills or further develop existing ones for fun, for your resume or for your confidence and mental health.





Winchelsea Star Production Meeting

Saturday 29 March 2025 9-10am

Everyone is invited to come along to a monthly meeting - with coffee of course - on the last Saturday of each month @ Sweet Thyme, Winchelsea.

Your comments or suggestions, feedback, ideas for stories or coming events are welcome - or simply to say Hi!

This Week's Winchelsea Star Editor - Judy Cameron Designer - Tony Phelps



send your stories

news@winchelseastar.org.au

LOCAL NEWS and ARTICLES WELCOME

Include name and address of the sender Email news@winchelseastar.org.au Leave hard copy at IGA Supermarket

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4pm Sundays - hard copy articles left at IGA6pm Sundays - sports results and weekend events

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Advertising: Sasha Gauntlett, Neil McInnes

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Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Winchelsea Star or Committee. The Winchelsea Star reserves the right to edit or not publish any article.



WINCHELSEA TENNIS CLUB

JUNIOR COACHING

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

SOCIAL **TWILIGHT TENNIS**

Monday evenings from 6.00pm. All Welcome!

CUBS AND JOEYS

For more information, or to get involved, contact Marie McPadden - 0409330147 or mcpadden630@bigpond.com

LIONS CLUB

Winchelsea Star COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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

Environmentally friendly compressed paper bricks for your fire. Save on the rising cost of wood. Pack 4 bricks \$5 - Roll small rolls \$2 Contact Alan 0476 475 422

WINCHELSEA **PICKLEBALL**

Winchelsea Leisure Time Centre Wed 7-830pm or Thurs10-11.30am. All equipment supplied, wear suitable footwear.

Lesley Mathison 0438 672 197

FOR SALE

A man's watch, it's beautiful, regretful sale, also a man's gold ring, \$300 for both, they are both special to myself as they were my ex partner's who died of cancer and I gave them to him. Very regretful sale also, a large picture of Dustin Martin and signed by him. \$300. Or \$500 the lot. "Richmond Fans" Ph 52 672 954.



Social Bridge is played

EVERY TUESDAY NEW TIME 10 AM - 12 NOON SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE 36 Harding Street Winchelsea

New players always welcome

Elaine Atkinson 0458 009 616

WANTED TO BUY

ASAP an electric hot water system. Please contact 52 672 054.









FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

2 March 2025

6 April 2025

4 May 2025

1 June 2025

Celebrate International Women's Day across the shire

A grassroots discussion led by a gender-based violence author and advocate, an exhibition showcasing female artists, and a community-led networking event – Surf Coast Shire Council invites people to celebrate 2025 International Women's Day (IWD) in various ways.

TEDx Talk speaker and author Jane Gilmore is the guest speaker at a free event on Wednesday 5 March at Council Chambers in Torquay at 10.30am. Jane will share her important work towards gender equality, headlined by her decade-long FixedIt campaign which continues to change how media reports on men's violence against women.

"Jane has made an incredible difference throughout her career," Cr Liz Pattison said. "I'm looking forward to being in a room with people from across our communities, gaining insights and sharing ideas on how we can advance gender equality in Surf Coast Shire."

The Torquay event – which aligns with this year's IWD theme 'accelerate action' – includes question time and a shared lunch.

Council will play a supporting role in International Women's Day events in Anglesea and Winchelsea.

Community members are invited to attend the Resilience exhibition at Anglesea Art Space from 19 February to 9 March. Featuring solely women artists, the exhibition explores personal and significant topics, highlighting the challenges and strength of resilient women in everyday life.

The exhibition – which will be launched on Friday 21 February at 6pm – is open Thursdays to Mondays between 10am and 4pm. An art therapy workshop for women is being held alongside the exhibition.

Meanwhile, Growing Winchelsea will utilise a Council grant to help deliver an event for women in business, part of a broader project to develop a women's business network in Winchelsea.

More than 60 businesswomen are expected to come together on 18 March at the Winchelsea and District Women's Brunch to share information and advice, increase community connections and build business success.

"It's fantastic to see the community taking the lead on International Women's Day events across the shire, and no doubt there will be plenty more that people can attend throughout March," Cr Pattison said. "They all support our goal to foster a thriving, connected, healthy community."

For more information on the IWD events including booking details, visit surfcoast.vic.gov.au/IWD or call 5261 0600.



Winchelsea Market this **Sunday March 2 from** 9am-1pm.

You can meet one of these stall holders!

Ian Bigmore with his Dads Shed stand full of wonderful memorabilia. Find him on an outside stall.



And Ian's wife Bev will be inside the Shire Hall with her wonderful handmade cards, etc. Bev is also famous for being one of the CWA ladies who cooked rabbits on the the ABC show 'Fat the Invaders' filmed at Barwon Park.

The Bigmores have lived in Winchelsea for six years and love the rural feel and community spirit. Although moving from Torquay they do miss the sea on their doorstep.





Letter to the **Editor**

Dear Editor,

I write today re the column misleadingly headed 'Sustainable Approach to the 2025 Duck Hunting Season', a piece of writing that was clearly issued by the Victorian government's propaganda department.

According to recent research by the University of NSW, waterbird numbers on the east coast of Australia have almost halved in the last 12 months, due to a lack of rainfall decimating breeding habitats. Given these most concerning survey results, permitting a shooting season at all, much less giving it a full three months AND allowing a daily slaughter of nine birds per shooter is clearly nothing short of reckless and highly irresponsible.

As well, as if that wasn't bad enough, we also have the serious threat of bird flu looming on our doorstep, with a third poultry farm in Victoria becoming infected recently. Allowing the 'recreational' slaughter of native birds while simultaneously spending millions of dollars on attempting to protect wildlife in the event of a bird flu pandemic is decidedly counterintuitive.

Apart from the fact that less than 1% of the community participates in the 'recreational' killing of waterbirds, 97.9% of them men, how is it remotely democratic when both the major parties in Victoria are bipartisan in their support of duck hunting despite the fact that more than two thirds of Victorians are opposed to it and want it banned? And why should millions of dollars of our taxes be spent every year to support such an abhorrent pursuit that most of us want relegated to the history books? The PFAS and lead levels in the ducks often makes them unfit to eat anyway, so it appears to be merely the joy of killing that is the main motivation.

The major parties, both at a state level and federally demonstrate over and over again that they are merely a tag-team duopoly, both of which work for powerful individuals and groups rather than for their constituents. When either major party is in power, we have an oligarchy where democracy is merely an illusion - small progressive parties and Independents are desperately needed to break up the current decidedly anti-democratic duopoly system.

Mary Cotter, Winchelsea



Café La Hoot

you tried coffee?

1 willis st cefelehoot@gmeil.com 0407 528 999



Upper Barwon Landcare Network 2025 Social and Planning evening

The Upper Barwon Landcare Network invites all of our member groups and their members to a landcare gathering. This will be an opportunity for the Upper Barwon landcare community to come together socially to share experiences and enjoy an evening stroll along the Barwon River.

We will also have a chat about what the UBLN has planned for the coming year and provide the opportunity for input into the activities of the network.

The Winchelsea Land and Rivercare group will host us for this year's event and will lead a walk along the Barwon River in the Winchelsea township to showcase all the amazing things the group has achieved to restore the river environment.

All community members and their families welcome.

When: Friday 28th February

2025

Time: 6pm onwards

Where: Anglican church hall

27 Barwon Terrace

Winchelsea

What to bring: Bring a plate to share for a "Pot Luck" dinner (fridge and oven available) BYO drinks Tea, Coffee and water

RSVP by Wednesday 26th February

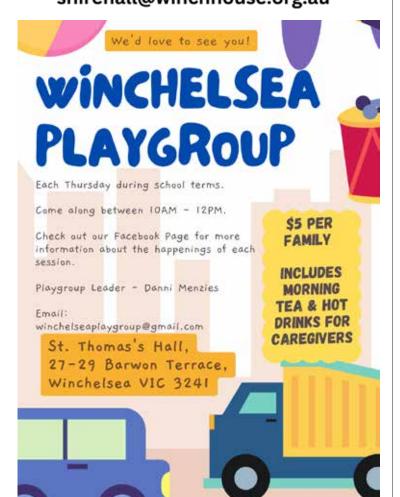
Click the link or scan the QR code to register https://events.humanitix.com/upper-barwon-landcare-social-and-planning-evening



Contact Andrea on 0404 552 663 or andrea.upperbarwonlandcare@gmail.com







Drink Driving Penalties You May Not Know

Drink driving remains one of the most significant contributors to Victoria's road toll. According to the Victorian Government, since 2023 around one in five drivers who lost their lives on Victorian roads had a blood alcohol concentration of 0.05 or above.

The Victorian Government introduced new penalties for drink drivers on 17 October 2024. Under the new law, those convicted of a drink driving offence must drive with a blood alcohol content of zero for at least three years.

Many drivers are not aware that in Victoria every drink driving offender will:

- have to pay a heavy fine
- lose their licence
- need to complete a behaviour change program
- have to get an alcohol interlock installed in their vehicle
- drive with a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of zero for three years after successfully completing their court-mandated Alcohol Interlock Program.

"While most Victorians do the right thing, drink driving continues to be one of the Fatal Five risks and alcohol greatly increases the chance of being involved in a crash," said James Williams, RACV Head of Policy.

"The new minimum penalties introduced in 2024 send a clear message to motorists that driving after drinking alcohol is just not worth the risk.

"Drink driving offences may also result in vehicle impoundment or, for serious cases, possible imprisonment. The exact penalties will depend on a range of factors, including BAC level, age and licence type."

Mr Williams also noted that re-offenders may face heavier penalties than first-time offenders.

"Drivers found with a BAC over zero during the mandated three-year period will also be considered re-offenders and will have to start the process again, including a licence disqualification period, interlock condition, and three-year zero BAC driving condition," Mr Williams said.

"There are many factors that can impact BAC readings, such as your age, sex, weight, fatigue levels and tolerance to alcohol.

"The safest way to know for sure that you are under the legal drinking limit is to not drive if you drink. Select a designated driver, look up public transport options, or book a taxi or Uber home."

For more information on the drink driving minimum penalties visit racv.com.au

Winchelsea Churches



St John's Catholic Church

Father Joseph Panackal 0404598558 Harding St, Winchelsea 3241

MASS TIMES

Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist @ 6pm Sat. MAR. 1, 8, 22, 29

Anakie - St. Brigid @ 9am Sun. MAR. 2, 30

Meredith – St. Joseph @ 9am Sun. MAR. 9, 16, 23 Bannockburn – St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. MAR. 2, 9, 23, 30 Inverleigh – Sacred Heart – NO MASS

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH 150 TH ANNIVERSARY MASS SUNDAY MARCH 16th 11AM @ MEREDITH ALL WELCOME

St Thomas' Anglican Church

Rev'd Phil Jacobson 0477 672 042 stthomaswac@gmail.com Barwon Tce, Winchelsea

Service 10am

Winchelsea Uniting Church

0475 777 301 uca.winchelsea@gmail.com Hesse St, Winchelsea 3241

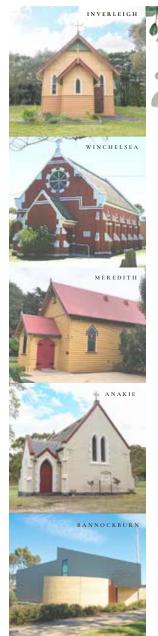
Services 9.30am Sundays

Thought for the Week

"All that we are is the result of what we have thought; it is founded on our thoughts, it is made up of our thoughts.

If a person speaks or acts with pure thought, happiness follows them like a shadow that never leaves them."

John Bader, Former U/C Accredited Lay Preacher





ST JOSEPH'S PARISH

ANNIVERSARY MASS

CELEBRANT:

ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLI

SUNDAY MARCH MEREDITH
16

28 LAWLER STREET MEREDITH







Short History of Meredith Parish

Father Smythe celebrated the first mass of the district at the home of Mr John Campion in 1853.

The Catholic Parish of Meredith was established in March 1875, under the care of Father James Hegarty.

The District of Meredith, until the late 1850's was included in the Parish of St Mary's Geelong. It was later transferred to and served from Ballarat. In 1874, when Ballarat was created a separate diocese from Melbourne, Meredith and Elaine were transferred back to Geelong, and arrangements were made to form a parish between Geelong and Ballarat.

In March 1875, the Parish of Meredith, comprising Meredith, Elaine, Lethbridge, Anakie, Darriwil and

Steiglitz was established. Although Steiglitz was a much larger population, Meredith was chosen as the Parish Centre because of its convenience to travel, being situated on the main road and the railway line between the growing towns of Ballarat and Geelong. Lal Lal was added to the parish in 1909. The Steiglitz church closed in 1928; Darriwil in 1950; Lal Lal in 1960; Lethbridge in 2012 and Elaine in 2013. Bannockburn and Inverleigh transferred from the Winchelsea Parish to the Meredith Parish in 1998 and Winchelsea was welcomed in 2004.

The parish now comprises: St Joseph's, Meredith St. Mary MacKillop, Bannockburn St. Brigid's, Anakie Sacred Heart, Inverleigh St John the Baptist, Winchelsea



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DEVELOP grant expands artistic horizons

Glowing achievements during 2024 attest to artist Fiona McDonald's ability to develop her work and inspirations, with a little impetus from a Surf Coast Shire Council creative grants program.

Fiona is a Torquay-based multidisciplinary artist with a passionate focus on combining use of ceramics and felted wool.

While more than a decade as an artist had provided many achievements and exhibition highlights, a successful application for one of Council's DEVELOP creative exploration grants in 2023 helped open new horizons.

The annual DEVELOP program aims to support creative exploration by individuals or groups, allowing successful participants to pursue directions, ideas and concepts.

"My DEVELOP grant assisted me with the purchase of a piece of equipment and materials - a slab roller and porcelain - enabling me to deepen my practice and increase the size of my works through consistent testing of the clay," Fiona said.

"Using clay as a 3D medium, it allowed me to test larger pieces for use in sculptural works later in the year."

And accolades duly followed, with Fiona exhibiting as a finalist in the National Emerging Art Prize, Fisher's Ghost Ceramic Award, North Queensland Ceramic Award and Deakin Small Sculpture Award.

Her work also featured in the Brunswick Street Gallery small works art prize exhibition, Torquay Hoop Gallery's Tangibility of Time and Memory exhibition and in Geelong's Yarra Street Window Gallery.

"Through this grant I was able to further develop my ideas around time and memory," Fiona said.

"I created sculptural works that I exhibited at the Lightbox in Torquay and consequently at the Hoop Gallery, as well as the fortyfivedownstairs gallery and the Brunswick Street Gallery in Melbourne.

"I have also had works selected for a number of awards.

"Receiving the grant was a fabulous step towards achieving all of this as it allowed me to continue to explore my themes."

Council's 2025 DEVELOP creative grants program is open for applications until 3 March via surfcoast. vic.gov.au/DEVELOP.

Cr Libby Stapleton said individuals can apply for

grants of up to \$3,000, and not-for-profit creative groups can apply for up to \$5,000.

"These grants can be invaluable in helping artists pursue ideas or methods which might always have been just out of reach," Cr Stapleton said.

"We encourage emerging, mid-career and established artists to take the positive step and apply for a DEVELOP grant which might bring new horizons into view."

Fiona McDonald said even the DEVELOP application process was productive.

"It really does help clarify what it is you want to achieve as an artist," Fiona said.

"I would wholeheartedly recommend to anyone tempted to apply to do it.

"It is an amazing grant to receive both financially and to feel that you are seen as a creative, which is so lovely – a warm embrace!"



Artist Fiona McDonald Photo: Fiona Hamilton

Looking Back: Mick O'Mara

At the last Winch Star production meeting it was proposed the Star run a series of articles under the title of "Looking Back." It is anticipated Winchelsea residents will write these articles.

Perhaps the article may be on your family history from many generations ago. For example, the first of my mother's ancestors arrived in Tasmania in 1830, (called Van Diemen's Land then). Because that ancestor was a convict there are heaps of legal documents available for perusal.

Another approach could be, What brought you to Winchelsea?

In my case it was an amazing series of coincidences and flukes. But, how could we not take up a beautiful stone house on 5 acres, with a Barwon River frontage, for even in those days, an amazingly low price?

Personal experiences would be acceptable under this plan. A personal experience that I would write about is the majesty of doing the Melbourne to Hobart yacht race. After rounding Maatsuyker Island you run with the South-westerly for Tassie's East coast. We were doing 25 knots. Unbelievable! The seas were going half way up South East Cape which is about 60 metres high. Again, unbelievable!

Another personal experience I could write on is the terror of owning a 1927 model Willys Overland Whippet. It would drive

ok but stopping it was a real problem. It had what was called mechanical brakes. They didn't work! They may have been effective in the horse and dray days but not in the 1950's. To stop it you would grab the steering wheel, wedge yourself against the seat and put maximum pressure on the foot that was trying to push the brake pedal through the floor. You, usually, gradually, come to a halt. I was going through this procedure one day, to obey a red light, when the screws popped out of the timber steering wheel! The Whippet mounted the footpath and came to rest against a fence. Luckily no one was hurt. I gave the Whippet to my brother who lived at Maryborough where they didn't have traffic lights at that time.

We all have family histories and interesting experiences. How about sharing them with the Winch community?



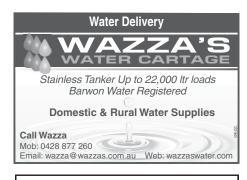
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Didn't vote in the 2024 local council elections?

Close to 530,000 Victorians who appear to have failed to vote in the October 2024 local council elections will have an opportunity to explain why when they receive an 'Apparent failure to vote notice' in the coming days.

Electoral Commissioner Sven Bluemmel says the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) is urging people who receive a notice to respond with a detailed explanation, as the VEC is required to issue a fine of \$99 if a person fails to respond in writing within 28 days.

'An 'Apparent failure to vote notice' is not a fine - it's a chance to explain why you appear not to have voted,' Mr Bluemmel said.

'If you respond to the notice in writing with a valid reason and evidence, you are much more likely to be excused.

'Completing and sending the notice back to us within the 28-day timeframe gives us a chance to consider your explanation and whether you can be excused.'

Voting in local council elections is compulsory in Victoria if you were enrolled to vote.

Voters are encouraged to sign up to receive VEC VoterAlert updates to receive reminders about future state and local council elections at: vec.vic.gov.au/ VoterAlert

An election's turnout figure does not represent the number of 'Apparent failure to vote notices' issued for failing to vote. Non-voters who have already lodged reasons for not voting with the VEC (such as people who were travelling and completed an Away from Victoria form) will not receive a notice. Importantly, many of those who respond to the notice and provide a valid reason for failing to vote are not issued an infringement.

Compulsory voting enforcement in Victoria comprises 3 phases:

- Apparent failure to vote notice. This notice requires people who appear not to have voted to provide a detailed explanation for their apparent failure to vote. There is no infringement attached to this notice and recipients have 28 days to respond in writing.
- **Infringement notice**. This notice will be sent to people who do not respond to the notice, or who do not provide a valid and sufficient excuse for failing to vote. An infringement (a fine of \$99) is attached to this notice, with 35 days to respond in writing.
- Penalty reminder notice. This notice is sent to people who do not respond to the infringement notice. A penalty reminder fee is added to the original penalty amount and recipients have 28 days to respond. If at the completion of the penalty reminder stage the non-voter has not paid the infringement (and any penalty reminder fee), their details may be provided to the Director, Fines Victoria for further enforcement action.

Anyone issued with an infringement by the VEC who is experiencing financial hardship is encouraged to make contact with us.

Calls For Help Go Unanswered

With more than 40 per cent of our country's young people under the age of 16 being exposed to family and domestic violence, Safe Steps has launched Unanswered Calls – a short documentary that highlights the plight of this group of vulnerable Australians.

In Unanswered Calls, two young people bravely share their lived experience of family and domestic violence. Their stories are accompanied by insights and commentary from leading industry experts and community safety champions.

Dr Tobin said that this is not just a film - it's a wake-up call needing to be urgently answered.

"Our system still largely views children as extensions of their protective parent in family violence situations, and young Australians are telling us it's unclear where to find support that's relevant to them. Young people are in critical stages of cognitive, emotional and social development, making them particularly vulnerable to the effects of trauma. If not addressed, this can become intergenerational trauma."

Safe Steps is calling for a dedicated, national response that works with young people to co-design a future where they have the supports they need, at the time and in the places they need it particularly on the digital platforms they use.

Safe Steps is Victoria's only 24/7 family violence crisis response service, delivering support and pathways to safety for people experiencing domestic and family violence in the state. Safe Steps provides information, safety planning and risk assessment, and access to crisis accommodation. It also delivers part of the national 1800 RESPECT support service. Safe Steps makes and takes over 130,000 calls every year – which can be up to 400 calls a day - to assist people fleeing family or domestic violence. Last year, Safe Steps provided 33,000 nights of secure accommodation for people who were not safe to go home.



WINCHELSEA FACEBOOK Non-profit community Groups and Pages



What's on in Winchelsea	facebook.com/WhatsoninWinchelsea
Winchelsea FREE	facebook.com/groups/winchelseafree
Winchelsea Community Information	facebook.com/groups/207538644446972
Winchelsea Classifieds 3241	facebook.com/groups/216942861684082
Winchelsea Lost and Found	facebook.com/groups/768187693217518
Winchelsea Op Shop	facebook.com/HospitalAuxiliaryOpShopWinchelsea
Winchelsea Shire Hall	facebook.com/WinchelseaShireHall
Winchelsea Community House	facebook.com/winchelseacommunityhouse
The Green Winchelsea Residents	facebook.com/groups/515322772623126
Growing Winchelsea Inc	facebook.com/growingwinch
Winchelsea Star	facebook.com/TheWinchelseaStar
Winchelsea Movie Club	facebook.com/winchelseamovies
Winchelsea Community Market	facebook.com/100083362387611
Winchelsea Land and River Care Group	facebook.com/envirowinchelsea/
Upper Barwon Landcare Network	facebook.com/UpperBarwonLandcare
Winchelsea & District Historical Society Inc	facebook.com/Winchelseaanddistricthistoricalsociety/
Winchelsea Wildlife Shelter	www.winchelseawildlifeshelter.com/
SCARS - Surf Coast Animal Rescue Service	facebook.com/groups/415211698950674
Winchelsea Gardeners	facebook.com/groups/779878518703025
Winchelsea & District Historical Society	facebook.com/Winchelseaanddistricthistoricalsociety/
Winchelsea Repertory Society Inc	facebook.com/winchrep/
Winchelsea Globe Theatre	facebook.com/Winchelsea-Globe Theatre-164790897641678
Winchelsea Uniting Church	facebook.com/winchelseaunitingchurch
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St John the Baptist Catholic Church	facebook.com/pages/Winchelsea-Catholic-Church/101775670163180
Winchelsea Mainly Music	facebook.com/groups/668500343953191/
Winchelsea Health Club	facebook.com/WinchelseaHealthClub
Winchelsea Playgroup (School terms only)	facebook.com/groups/551663435367031
Winchelsea Girl Guides	www.guidesvic.org.au/
Winchelsea/Modewarre Scouts	facebook.com/1stModewarreScouts
Winchelsea Fire Brigade	facebook.com/winchelseafirebrigade/
Winchelsea SES	facebook.com/groups/WinchSES
Country Women's Association - CWA Winchelsea	facebook.com/pg/CWAWinchelsea/
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Winchelsea Blues FC	facebook.com/WinchelseaFNC/
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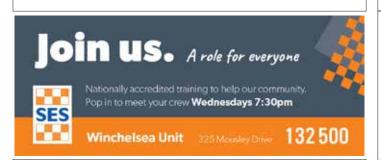
6:45pm, 8:50pm

Sat - Sun 8:47am, 2:46pm, 8:34pm



COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

7pm second Wednesday of month Winchelsea Senior Citizens' Hall



Winchelsea and District **COMBINED PROBUS CLUB**



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The Winchelsea Golf Club was established in the 1930's on the site of the former Winchelsea Turf Club. The Club is nestled between the banks of the Barwon River on the road to Lorne. An old disused bluestone quarry offers an unusual challenge to golfers. Bluestone was quarried from the site in the 1800's and was one of several outcrops in the area. Large basalt boulders frame the green.

The par three second hole demands a challenging shot over tall trees off through a gap to the Western District's most picturesque green.

The nine-hole course used sand scrapes since it was opened in 1933 and later were converted to grass greens.

The new greens were officially opened in 1990.

Mrs Margaret Axon became the first president in 1963.

Winchelsea is a small club, with a big reputation for hospitality, and new members are always welcome. It is situated on the Deans Marsh road 30-40 minutes drive from the Otway Ranges and 30 minutes from Geelong and Colac.





WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Spot and report: Protect Victoria from harmful weeds this summer

Enjoying Victoria's beautiful outdoors this summer? You can help protect it by stopping three harmful weeds: water hyacinth, salvinia, and alligator weed.

These state prohibited weeds kill fish and frogs, threaten native plants, block waterways, pipes and drains, and – in the case of alligator weed – even risk human health.

Growing, trading or sharing these weeds is illegal in Victoria.

Water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes) – one of the world's worst water weeds, water hyacinth blocks sunlight and clogs waterways. It kills fish and frogs and helps mosquitoes breed. Birds and floods can spread seeds and plants to nearby rivers and lakes, where it's hard and costly to control.

Look for its glossy green leaves and purple-blue flowers.

Salvinia (Salvinia molesta) – Salvinia spreads quickly, infesting rivers, dams, lakes, and irrigation channels, harming farms and waterways. Its floating leaves have a hairy surface, and its submerged leaves look like roots.

Small fragments from ponds or aquariums can spread this weed.

Alligator weed (Alternanthera philoxeroides) – Alligator weed grows on land and in water, blocking irrigation systems and contaminating pastures. It has bright green leaves in pairs and small white flowers on stalks.



Though it looks like edible greens, it is unsafe to eat.

Alligator weed is banned in Victoria, and health experts warn that eating it could cause health issues.

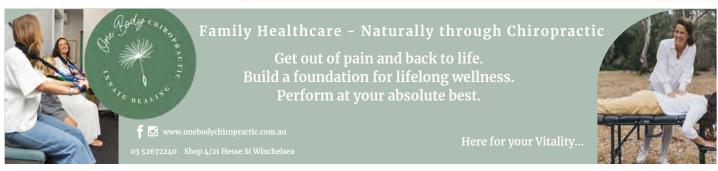
Spot and report these weeds – free removal available in Victoria.

What to do – If you think you've seen one of these weeds, contact Agriculture Victoria:

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Email weed.spotters@agriculture. vic.gov.au





Winchelsea Pool opens to a new era, built on a big-

hearted volunteer past

Winchelsea's \$8.9 million new pool will open to the community with free admission from 10am tomorrow Saturday 22 February. An official opening ceremony will be on 27 February and community members will celebrate the new era at a free family fun day on 2 March.

Long-time former manager Lesley Berg and pool committee president Mick O'Mara reflect on its central role in the life of the town:

Leslev refers to Winchelsea Pool as her baby, so she is excited about its rebirth as a sparkling community asset.

Lesley saw generations of locals come and go while managing the pool for the best part of 18 years from the late 1970s, and grew deep appreciation of how much it means to people.

"I always think the pool is a hub of a community really because the whole family can go down and enjoy it, all at once," she says. "It's a big asset to the town."

The community-built and much-loved Winchelsea pool provided summer fun and respite for 60 years, until the end of its working life.

Now, following \$8.9 million redevelopment fully funded by Surf Coast Shire Council, it is set to open for many more decades in a new era for the town. Gates will open to the community with free admission from 10am on Saturday 22 February.

The redevelopment includes new 25m and leisure pools with heated water. splash park, pavilion, shelters, landscaping, barbecue and plant room.

"I think it's wonderful," Lesley says.

Lesley shared the manager role with the late Barb Holmes for several years.

She also taught Austswim and served as community pool committee secretarytreasurer for many years - numbering in a long and distinguished line of bighearted, community-focused people who kept the pool running for the greater good.

"We had lots of fun times, and at that stage we had a committee of management and had to raise the funds to run the pool so we had cabaret balls and all those sorts of things," Lesley says.

"We would have a working bee to get the pool ready for the start of the season and have 35 volunteers there. It was terrific. Countless volunteer hours and immeasurable volunteer energy accounted for upkeep of the grounds and buildings across decades, and tasks like annual emptying and cleaning of the pool."



Lesley Berg & Mick O'Mara Lions Club volunteers led fund-raising and organising for building of the pool and accompanying assets.

Community stalwart Mick O'Mara was installed as an early president of the pool committee not long after having arrived in town as a teacher and been sent along to the annual meeting by his principal.

"They called for nominations for president and said what about you Mick," he says. "I couldn't think of any reason why not, so I became president for



Original pool construction Photo: Winchelsea Historical Society

maybe eight years."

He succeeded Jack Schroeter, who was also a mainstay with the Lions Club, and was eventually succeeded by Jack's son Harry.

Mick says the pool has proven an immeasurable asset for Winchelsea.

"There were very few pools in small country towns at that stage," he says. "It's so great for kids and families, and I'm very much an advocate for teaching kids to swim as soon as you possibly

"It was one of the drivers in us shifting to Winchelsea all those years ago. When we drove around having a look at the town - oh it's got a pool!"

Lesley and Mick will be among guests of honour at the official opening of the new pool on 27 February.

Community members will come together to celebrate the start of the new era at a free family fun day from 10am to 5pm on 2 March.

Admission to the pool will be free from 10am Saturday until the family day. Find out more at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/ WinchelseaPool

Original pool opening Photo: Winchelsea Historical Society



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Community **Satisfaction Survey 2025**

On Now











Random phone interviews with 600 Surf Coast Shire ratepayers are taking place until mid-March for the Local Government **Community Satisfaction** Survey.

The annual survey which takes about seven minutes to complete provides us with feedback to help understand community perceptions about council, and identify improvement opportunities.

The Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey is carried out by the Victorian Government.





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Winchelsea Golf Club

Rachel Boddington

RESULTS

Ladies - Mid Week Stroke Competition 19/2/25

Stroke Round - 2nd round of Club Championships Winner: Di Bartel 88-22-66 R/Up: Ann Davis 111-39-73 NTP: Di Bartel

Results: Mens - Mid Week Stableford 19/2/25

1st - Andrew MacDonald (27) 41pts 2nd - Geoff Morgan (24) 39pts

NTP (6/15th) - Denis Chappell



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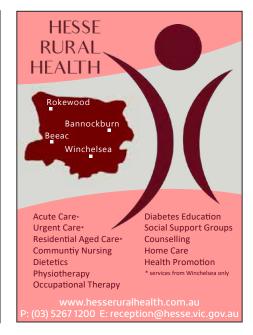
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parkrun 51



22 February 2025

54 participants completed the course through Trebeck Reserve this week in warm conditions. Two people enjoyed their very first parkrun with 5 people recording their Personal Best time for Trebeck Reserve. Congratulations to Amanda Worland, Kristen Lieshout, Rob Davies, Anthony Keogh and Alette Rennie.

We had visitors from Lake Wallace and Bannockburn Bush.

This event was made possible by the following volunteers: Ann Morsby * Don Smith *Lily Del-Rennie* Murray Bennett * Neil McInnes*Matt Horner*Kate McInnes*Leanne Dillon.

Next Saturday Is the first birthday of Trebeck Reserve parkrun. There is a rumor that will be Florentines and Muffins to celebrate. All welcome.

Further details of this week's results can be found at trebeckreserveparkrun.com.au/ results



Please check out our Facebook page for today's photos and further information.

It takes a minimum of six people each week to safely conduct an enjoyable event. Please email trebeckreserve@parkrun.com if you are able to volunteer some of your time. Tasks are simple, sociable, fun and very much appreciated.

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.

Well behaved dogs on a short hand held leash are welcome (no waist harnesses please)

You do not need to be a runner, wear fancy Lycra or the latest high-tech shoes. Around one third of participants walk the course.

parkrun was conducted at around 500 locations across Australia this week.





Trebeck Reserve, Winchelsea





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Winchelsea Station 122N 5505-P92J 72202**|**|6850 Since 1977

DEFIBRILLATORS IN WINCHELSEA

Accessible to the public 24 hours a day

The Winchelsea Lions Club has compiled a list of public access defibrillators in Winchelsea. If anyone knows any others with 24 hour public access, please let Linda Carter know 0439 817 263.

> **Ambulance Victoria** 33 Willis Street

> > **Bendigo Bank** 11 Main Street

Globe Theatre (Side entrance) 17 Willis Steet

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 St,

Winchelsea Cemetery, McConachy St

Winchelsea Golf Club 13 Anderson Street

Winchelsea Primary School Main Street

Wurdale Memorial Hall 220 Wurdale Road

