

Winchelsea Star

Price \$1

Weekly Winchelsea News

Since 1977

Vol 49 Ed 17

Tuesday 5 May 2026

winchelseastar.org.au

Winchelsea's Newest Girl Guide



Yvonne Orchard and
new guide Gemma Healy
(Photo by Katie Healy)

Guide News

Guides commenced the term making ANZAC biscuits and we had a Promise ceremony for Gemma Healy who has joined our Unit.

We also welcomed our new District Manager, Susan Wilson and also Lyn Redding who taught the girls how to make necklaces for Mother's day.

On ANZAC day the guides attended the local RSL Service and this week they will be participating in an ANZAC Experience wide game.

We welcome girls 5-15years and meet on most Mondays during term.

Inquires contact Yvonne ph 0448 672 630



L-R Savannah McDonald and Gemma Healy making necklaces



L-R Leader Yvonne Orchard, Gemma Healy and Savannah McDonald

Accepting Enrolments for Prep 2027



Principal Tours for Families

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

Thursday, May 7th
Wednesday, May 27th
Friday, June 5th

Come 'n' Play Evenings for Families & Students

4:30pm-5:30pm at the school - no RSVP required
An opportunity for your child to come into our school and familiarise themselves with our classroom and staff
Families and students welcome to attend all of these sessions

Tuesday, May 5th
Monday, August 3rd



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

winchelsea.ps@education.vic.gov.au
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Introducing... Mirnee Electrical Solutions



Name / Business Name

Mirnee Electrical Solutions

When did you start trading?

We started trading in 2021.

Why did you decide to start your business?

I've grown up around small business, with both of my parents running their own. It's always been something I wanted to pursue from a young age.

Why did you choose to run your business in Winchelsea?

I've lived in Winchelsea my whole life, so it was a natural place to start. Early on, most of my work came from people I already knew, and as the town has grown, so has the opportunity to meet new people and build new relationships. Now that I have my own family here, many of our clients have become close friends, which is one of the best parts of working in a small community.

What are some challenges you've encountered?

Starting a business during COVID meant navigating a lot of uncertainty early on. In a way, that's been a positive, as it taught me to adapt quickly. The industry is always evolving with new technology, so staying up to date and continuing to learn is a constant challenge.

What do you wish you had known before you started?

No one has all the answers, especially in business. Asking questions, seeking advice, and learning from others is incredibly valuable. You never know when that knowledge will come in handy.

What type of education helped you to open/run/manage your business?

Working with a business coach has been a big help. I check in regularly, and having someone to challenge my thinking and offer guidance has made a real difference. I'd recommend it to any business owner looking to grow or start out.

How many employees do you have?

We have a team of seven, including myself.

Describe a typical day in your business

Most of my time is spent in the office managing quoting, invoicing, sales, and coordinating the team. The guys on site are highly skilled, so a big part of my role is supporting them, offering guidance when needed, and making sure everything runs smoothly. It's definitely shifted more towards management than when I first started.

Best thing about Winchelsea?

The community. It's a small, welcoming town that continues to grow, but still holds onto that strong sense of connection. Watching it evolve over the years has been really special.

One thing you would change in Winchelsea?

As the town grows, I'd love to see more infrastructure and local services keep pace. Things like more local businesses, better facilities, and opportunities that mean people don't have to travel as much. It would make an already great place even better to live and work.





National 18-24 MAY 2026
Volunteer
 YOUR YEAR TO VOLUNTEER **Week**

ANNOUNCING OUR 2026 SURF COAST SHIRE LOCAL LEGENDS

Community Commitment Award

- Greg Parker
- Steve Findlay
- Dean Walton
- Larissa Sichivitsa
- Jodi Morgan
- Cheryl Reif
- Doug Elsum
- Doug Stirling
- Steve Christou

Community Impact Award

- Sarah Gross and Cass Mackenzie
- Matty Lawrence
- Robert Lytzki
- Robert Sneddon
- George Carman
- Barry Davidson
- Daniel Blunt

Group Volunteer Excellence Award

- Lorne Community Flood Responders
- Anglesea Art House Volunteers
- Anglesea Community House Committee Of Management

Community Inclusion

- Tori's Place Café Volunteers

THANK YOU TO OUR SURF COAST SHIRE VOLUNTEERS

LOCAL LEGENDS AWARD CELEBRATION

Thursday 21 May, 10am-12pm
Council Chambers, 1 Merrijig Drive, Torquay.

Join us at the 2026 Surf Coast Shire Local Legends Award Ceremony! Listen to the inspiring stories of award recipients, celebrate their contributions and connect over lunch.

EVERYONE WELCOME.

Winchelsea Sustainability Conversation and Coffee

Wednesday 20 May, 10.30-11.30am
Winchelsea Shire Hall, Winchelsea.

Join us to celebrate Winchelsea volunteers and hear about inspiring ways to increase sustainability in your community programs at the Winchelsea Shire Hall.

Lorne Volunteer Afternoon Tea

Thursday 21 May, 2.30-3.30pm
Lorne Historical Society, 16 Mountjoy Parade, Lorne

Lorne Community Volunteers are invited to afternoon tea at the newly refurbished Lorne Historical Society. Join us to celebrate the Lorne Community, volunteering, and to reflect on a huge year of resilience and connection.

Anglesea Community Celebration

Friday 22 May, 10am-12pm
Anglesea Bowling Club, 15 Cameron Road, Anglesea

Volunteers from Anglesea and Surrounds are invited to attend a FREE community event at Anglesea Bowls Club. A fun bowling tournament between volunteer groups, morning tea, and a chance to connect as a community is planned.

Volunteer Thank you Drinks & Nibbles & Recognition Wall

Friday 5 June, 5pm-6pm
Deans Marsh Hall, 10 Pennyroyal Valley Road, Deans Marsh.

Before Community Dinner (no bookings required)

For further information on all events, scan the **QR code** or visit surfcoast.vic.gov.au/volunteerweek, email bdixon@surfcoast.vic.gov.au or call 5261 0600.

We are committed to making this event accessible and inclusive. If you require any support or adjustments to participate, please let us know when you RSVP.



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

Alice Cloake



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

Email editor@winchelseastar.org.au.

May is dedicated to one of my most favourite vegetables - carrot. What I love about carrots is their versatility and longevity. Fresh they can be grated into salads and dipped into hummus, they can be steamed, roasted, baked, fried in honey, added to a stew, a curry, a stir fry. That and they are remarkable at keeping fresh for weeks on end. If there is any ingredient you can count on always being in my fridge, it's a carrot. So allow me to share with you my favourite recipes and as always, please feel free to share yours.

RECIPE: SPICED CARROT SOUP

Our first recipe is Spiced Carrot Soup, fantastic if you've got an over order of carrots to use up and really delicious for lunch.

INGREDIENTS

- 40ml coconut oil
- 1 red onion, thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1.2kg carrots, coarsely grated
- 1 tablespoon ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons smoked paprika
- 2 lemons, juiced and zest finely grated
- 1.4 litres filtered water
- 20ml apple cider vinegar, or to taste
- 300g sheep's milk yoghurt
- Fresh mint, coriander and flat-leaf parsley - all coarsely chopped
- Extra virgin olive oil, to serve



METHOD

Heat the coconut oil in a large saucepan over a medium heat, add the onion and garlic and stir for about 3 minutes, or until tender.

Add the carrots, spices and lemon zest, stirring occasionally until the carrot softens, then season to taste. Add the filtered water and bring to the boil, reduce heat to medium and simmer until flavours combine (about 10 minutes).

Remove from heat, add the yoghurt and lemon juice and process with a hand-held blender until smooth. Serve hot, dolloped with extra yoghurt, scattered with herbs and drizzled with extra-virgin olive oil.



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Zinaida Campion

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



Longing a huge success!

The Globe Theatre was glowing on Saturday night as the Winchelsea Music Season opened to a hall filled with locals, visitors, and a wonderful sense of anticipation. From the first notes of Longing, the audience settled into that rare, breath-held quiet that only live performance can create. By the final chord, the applause was long, warm, and rapturous — the kind that tells you the room has been changed by what it heard.

A special moment of the evening was the signing of the Artists' Ledger, marking the first entries in what will become a treasured tradition. Signing it in the Marjorie Lawrence room added an extra if connection between our heritage and our future.

whole night. Also special thanks to Patty George for her precise and nimble work as page turner, and Rob Davies for sound and lighting support.

Between us, Helen and I managed two splendid gown changes, each one met with delighted murmurs from the audience. Several people said they might dress up for the next concert, which is exactly the kind of joyful momentum we hoped the Season would spark. There is something wonderfully uplifting about seeing Winchelsea embrace a little glamour.

The volunteers, without whom Longing would have been impossible, worked their quiet magic. By the time I emerged from backstage after the final bow, the hall was already spotless — chairs stacked, programs gathered. It was as if a team of benevolent spirits had swept through. Their generosity is the backbone of this Season, and they deserve every ounce of gratitude.

The CWA provided a Splendiferous supper — truly deserving of the capital S — though Helen, David and I barely tasted a crumb. The congratulations came so thick and fast that every time we lifted a fork, someone appeared with another warm word, another hug, and another "You must do this again!"



Musing on the power of love (Barcarolle) L-R Helen Ling, Zinaida Campion

Behind the scenes, the evening had its own drama. I lost my opening speech and had to wing it, but I think I got the most important points covered! I had better luck with the closing speech as I still had my cue cards. Helen Ling and I had performed the repertoire in previous concerts, but the true hero was pianist David Stewart, who learnt the entire program fresh after stepping into the role at the last minute. His calm, steady musicianship held the

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

Flower Duet L-R Zinaida Campion, Helen Ling



It was the best kind of interruption.

We were honoured to have Cr Adrian Schonfelder with us, speaking warmly about the importance of the arts in regional communities. And a heartfelt thank you goes to writer Janet Brown, who first alerted me to the Globe's centenary and helped shape the story we celebrated.

Photographer Phil Thomson captured the evening beautifully, and more of his images will appear in next week's issue, so stay alert! With such a luminous beginning, the future of the Winchelsea Music Season feels very bright indeed.



Congratulations from Cr Adrian Schonfelder, L-R David Stewart, Zinaida Campion, Helen Ling, Cr Schonfelder



Winchelsea Community Op Shop

Mother's Day Sunday the 10th of May

The Op shop has a range of gifts to suit:

- Jewellery
- Scarves and hats
- Toiletries
- Gift bags for packaging

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The Ripple Effect

Madame Butterfly

A space for the issues that start small but matter deeply—because in every community, even the quietest ripple can create real change.

Winchelsea Town Sign

Last week, we asked a simple question: what does a town sign actually do?

This week, it's probably worth asking something slightly less comfortable.

Are we making the most of what we already have?

Because in Winchelsea, it's not a question of starting from nothing.

We have the Gateway Sculptures that mark our entrances — thoughtful pieces representing sunrise and dusk. We have town signage that identifies who we are. And we have something uniquely ours in the Twinkle Trees — a community-driven display that brings colour, creativity and identity into the town each Christmas.

Individually, these are all positives.

But do they add up to a clear message for someone arriving here for the first time?

Or do they pass by as separate pieces, each telling only part of the story?

For visitors — especially those stopping briefly on their way to the coast — there's a very small window to capture attention. A few seconds to create interest. A moment to suggest that this is somewhere worth more than just a quick stop.

If that moment isn't clear, it's easy to miss.

That's not a criticism — it's a common challenge. Many towns have good elements in place, but without connection, those elements don't reach their full potential.

And connection doesn't necessarily mean more infrastructure.

Often, it's about visibility. Placement. Consistency. Making sure the story you're telling can be seen and understood in the moment it matters.

Because when it is, something shifts.

People notice.

People pause.

People remember.

And for a town like Winchelsea — sitting at the gateway to one of the most visited regions in the country — that moment is an opportunity.

The question is whether we're fully using it.

We've started the ripple — whether it leads to change, or disappears, is now up to us.

STITCH IT DON'T DITCH IT

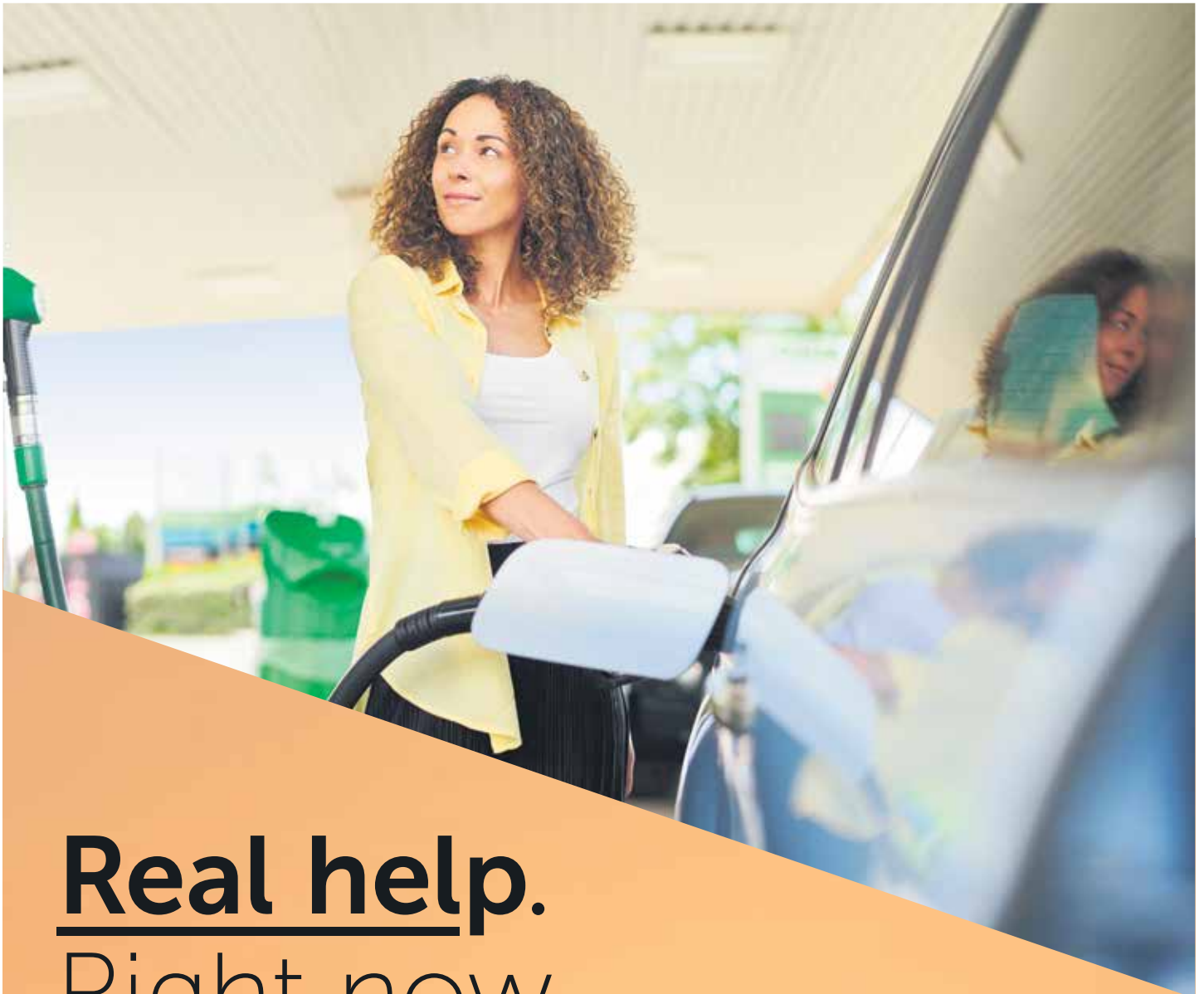
We were asked to repair a much loved cuddly back pack this week which we did using a new donated zip and cotton.

The repair was not as easy as we first thought it would be but we worked it out, and while it's not 'as good as new' we are sure the owner will be very happy to have it back and be able to store treasures in it once more.

Winch House Craft Group

Wednesdays 9am to 2pm





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1st Modewarre Scout Group News



Marie McPadden OAM, Group Leader
mcpadden630@bigpond.com

1st Modewarre Scouts Art Night

Young people and cans of spray paint sounds like a dangerous combination, but last week was just the opposite. Our Scouts were taken through various different techniques of spray painting using stencils and layering to produce some great artwork.

They started with the Scout emblem which has different coloured outer sections representing the 5 age Sections – Joeys – tan; Cubs – yellow; Scouts – Green; Venturers – Maroon; Rovers – red. Each Scout used a box cutter to carefully cut out a section of the stencil, and then they lay it on paper and sprayed their first colour. By swapping their stencils, each of them completed spraying the whole emblem with different colours.

This was very much a learning activity – getting the pressure and distance from the paper right to avoid overspray and bleeding took a bit of trial and error. The next stencil was a beetle, which had some tricky pieces to manage whilst cutting, eg the eyes had to have bridges to the outer area left intact, otherwise they would fall out of the stencil. The finished results were an improvement on the first session as the Scouts adjusted their techniques.



At this stage, we all had a good chat about the difference between spray can art and graffiti. Many of the Scouts had visited Hosier Lane in Melbourne or the North Geelong Power Station, so readily acknowledged the skills exhibited there against the senseless tagging elsewhere. I was able to tell the Scouts about that day seeing a huge crew of workers and machinery painting over the graffiti mess on the Waurrn Ponds sound barriers.

The final piece of work was multi layered. The Scouts cut out 4 planets and placed them over a patch of colour they had sprayed onto their paper. The whole sheet was then sprayed with black paint. Different colours were used to shake and splatter stars and comets onto the black. When the planet circles were removed, a wondrous night sky was revealed!

We also took the opportunity to spray 1st Modewarre on our recently acquired eskies. Most of gear is named, so that it is easily identifiable when we do larger, joint activities such as District camp or Jamboree.

This night was run by Amelia, a Modewarre Rover, who has done spray painting classes. Amelia has just begun a Bachelor of Fine Arts Course – Gold and Silver Smithing course at RMIT, so we appreciate her taking time to share her skills with the Scouts.

Winchelsea Primary School

Wheely Wednesdays continue to be a huge hit at our school. Most Wednesdays we see well over fifty bikes/scooters here on-site. It may be worthwhile for families to consider labelling bikes/scooters and helmets – we are starting to see some helmet double-ups. Students are welcome to ride their bikes and scooters at recess and lunch breaks. Our staff are implementing strict traffic controls (I saw arrows painted on the courtyard this week) to manage safety.



The Upcoming Term

There are quite a few upcoming activities this term. Some highlights include:

- Do it for Dolly Day - Wear blue & BBQ (Thurs 30th April)
- SSA Athletics for our Grade 3-6 students (Tue, 5th May)
- Mothers Day celebration (Thu, 7th May)
- Preps visit the local police station (Thu, 14th May)
- Education Week (week of 18th May)
- Grade 6 visits to Hesse Health begin
- Grade 5/6 campers are off to Melbourne in the week of 10th June
- A Green 'n' Gold Day (Fri, 26th June) – this is a new event.



Student Free Day Next Friday

Our teachers are headed to Colac to see literacy specialist Emina McLean, who will be presenting on effective instruction in writing. The school has partnered with Emina for the last few years to implement effective instruction in reading.

Winchelsea Star AGM

The Winchelsea Star 2026 Annual General Meeting is to be held as follows:

- Date: Thursday 21 May 2026
- Time: 7pm
- Venue: Winchelsea Community House

The agenda is as follows;

- (a) to confirm the minutes of the previous annual general meeting;
- (b) to receive and consider—
 - (i) the annual report of the Committee on the activities of the Association during the preceding financial year; and
 - (ii) the financial statements of the Association for the preceding financial year submitted by the Committee in accordance with Part 7 of the Act;
- (c) to elect the members of the Committee;
- (d) to determine the process for setting the amounts (if any) of the annual subscription and joining fee.

You are warmly invited to come along.



Winchelsea Star

This week's Edition

Editor Judy Cameron, Designer Tony Phelps

send your stories

news@winchelseastar.org.au

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**Next Production Coffee Meeting Sat 30 May
9am @ MUD HUT All Welcome!**

production

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committee

President: president@winchelseastar.org.au
Neil McInnes
Treasurer: treasurer@winchelseastar.org.au
Cathy Cheadle
Secretary: secretary@winchelseastar.org.au
Tony Phelps
Members: Mick O'Mara, Linda Carter, Susan Corby
Sasha Gauntlett, Judy Cameron,
Yvonne Stevens, Cerrie Forgan



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Community Invited To Have Your Say On Council Policies

Surf Coast Shire Council is inviting community feedback on two draft policies, aimed at providing clearer guidance and aligning with current practices.

As part of Council's regular policy review schedule, the Infrastructure Special Rates and Charges Scheme Policy and Strategic Asset Management Policy have been reviewed to ensure they remain relevant, transparent and consistent with legislative requirements.

Surf Coast Shire Councillor Joel Grist said regular policy reviews were essential to maintaining strong and contemporary decision-making framework.

"Reviewing our policies regularly helps to ensure they remain practical, transparent and aligned with how we deliver services today," said Cr Grist.

"We encourage community members to have a look at the proposed updates and share their feedback."

Draft Infrastructure Special Rates and Charges Scheme Policy

The Infrastructure Special Rates and Charges Scheme Policy outlines how Council may fund infrastructure projects such as footpaths, drainage or road sealing works through contributions from benefitting property owners.

Key updates include:

- Streamlining the previous management procedure into clearer policy guidance.
- Introducing an early assessment step for community-initiated proposals.
- Improving clarity and consistency of wording.
- Adding a Resident Agreement process as an alternative to the Special Charge Scheme.

The Resident Agreement option provides:

- Voluntary participation versus mandatory participation.
- Flexible financial contributions between property owners.
- A more adaptable process not governed by the Local Government Act.

Draft Strategic Asset Management Policy

The Strategic Asset Management Policy outlines Council's approach to managing community assets throughout their lifecycle. It guides how Council plans, maintains, renews and eventually replaces or disposes of assets to ensure they continue to meet community needs.

The policy applies to all physical assets owned or managed by Council, such as roads, paths, bridges, community buildings, playgrounds and sporting facilities.

Both draft policies are now open for feedback and close on Wednesday 27 May 2026.

Find the draft Infrastructure Special Rates and Charges Scheme policy at yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Special-Charge-Scheme-Survey

Find the draft Strategic Asset Management Policy at yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/strategic-asset-management-policy-review

All feedback will be considered before Council considers adopting the two policies later this year.

Is your nature strip fire hydrant accessible?

Surf Coast Shire Council and fire agencies are encouraging residents to help ensure local firefighting hydrants are accessible and ready for action in the event of a fire.

Recent examples of nature strip hydrants grown over with grass or plants, buried under dirt or inaccessible under parked cars or trailers have prompted this important community safety message.

"If there's a fire in your neighbourhood, you're going to want firefighting units to be able to connect with water quickly," Councillor Paul Barker said.

"That means being able to find hydrants easily and tap into them without having to waste precious time searching, digging around or knocking on doors asking for vehicles to be shifted.

"Council maintains hydrants across the shire but residents have a vital role in helping.

"We have been disappointed to hear of some aggressive behaviour by residents towards our hydrant contractor.

"We acknowledge that some residents might have a particular sense of ownership for their nature strips and care for their appearance, but we ask everyone to please respect the important maintenance being carried out by keeping hydrants clear and accessible."

CFA Torquay Fire Brigade Captain Murray Middleton echoed the maintenance call.



Torquay Fire Brigade members testing hydrants; Front, Lieutenant Justin Resuggan, rear from left Member Sigy Minkevicius, Firefighter Neil Grenfell, Firefighter Tony Horsham

"Access to the hydrant plugs is critical to our response times and how effective we can be in an emergency," Captain Middleton said.

"Every second lost searching for a hydrant or accessing a hydrant could be the difference between saving a house or a life.

"We'd really love our communities to recognise when they have a hydrant in front of their house and to help us maintain them. Keep them clear of dirt and grass and plants, keep the marker posts in the ground and most importantly don't park your car over them."

A residential fire hydrant is generally located within a nature strip and is identified by white marker post.

Blue reflectors and white painted diamonds on sealed roads also help fire services identify them at night.

People can find more information on helping maintain fire hydrants via surfcoast.vic.gov.au/FireReady

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The Climate Report

Compiled by Judy Cameron

Rain Is Coming To Antarctica – Here's How It Will Change The Frozen Continent

By Bethan Davies, Professor of Glaciology, Newcastle University

Rain is rare in Antarctica. Scientists doing fieldwork there dress for cold and glare, not wet weather – duvet jackets, snow trousers, goggles and sunscreen. Planes land on gravel runways which are rarely icy, since there is no precipitation to freeze. Historic huts remain well preserved in the dry air.

But this is beginning to change.

Rain is already falling more frequently on the narrow and mountainous Antarctic Peninsula, the northernmost finger of the continent pointing towards South America. Already the warmest part of Antarctica, the Peninsula is warming faster than the rest of the continent, and far faster than the global average. It provides an advanced sign of what coastal Antarctica – especially the fragile West Antarctic Ice Sheet – may experience in the coming decades.

I recently led a team of scientists looking at how the Antarctic Peninsula will change this century under three scenarios: high, medium and low greenhouse gas emissions. We found that, as the peninsula warms, precipitation will rise slightly – and will increasingly fall as rain rather than snow. As days above 0°C become more common, this rainfall will fundamentally change the peninsula.

When heat and rain arrive together

Extreme weather is already causing disruption. A heatwave in February 2020 brought temperatures of 18.6°C to the northern peninsula – T-shirt weather, for almost the first time in recorded Antarctic history – while the “ice shelf” surface alongside melted at a record pace.

The peninsula extends from West Antarctica towards South America. USGS / wiki, CC BY-SA

Atmospheric rivers – long, thin corridors of warm, moist air that start at warmer latitudes – are playing a growing role. In February 2022, one resulted in record surface melt. Another, in July 2023, brought rainfall and temperatures of +2.7°C to the peninsula in the depths of winter. These events are happening

more often, delivering rain and melt to regions where neither had been observed before.

What rain does to snow and ice

Snow does not like rain. On the Antarctic Peninsula, rain brings heat and melts and washes away snow, stripping glaciers of their nourishment. Meltwater can also reach the bed of the glacier, lubricating its base and making glaciers slide faster. This increases iceberg calving and the rate of glacier mass loss into the ocean.

On floating ice shelves, rain compacts the snow that has fallen on the surface, meaning water starts forming ponds. This ponded meltwater then warms, as it is less reflective than the surrounding snow and ice, and can melt downwards through the ice shelf to the ocean below, weakening the ice and causing more icebergs to break off.

This can destabilise the ice shelf. Meltwater ponding has been implicated in the collapse of the Larsen A and B ice shelves in the early 2000s.

Sea ice is vulnerable too. Rain reduces snow cover and surface reflectivity, making the ice melt faster. Loss of sea ice also weakens the natural buffers that dampen ocean waves and help prevent the ends of glaciers snapping off and becoming icebergs. It also means less habitat for algae and krill, and reduces breeding platforms for penguins and seals.

Ecosystems under stress

A rainier climate will have a series of ecological impacts. Water can flood penguin nest sites. Penguins evolved in a polar desert and aren't adapted for rain. Their chicks' fluffy feathers are not waterproof, so heavy rain drenches them, sometimes leading to hypothermia and death.

Together with a warming ocean, decreased sea ice and decreased krill, this pressure will affect penguins across the continent. Iconic Antarctic species such as ice-dependent Adélie and



Built to keep out ice and snow – not liquid water. Photo: vladsilver / shutterstock

chinstrap penguins are at risk of being replaced as more adaptable gentoo penguins expand southwards.

Rainfall also alters life on smaller scales. When it strips away snow cover, it disrupts snow algae – microscopic plants that contribute to Antarctic land ecosystems. These algae feed microbes and tiny invertebrates and can darken the snow surface, increasing solar absorption and accelerating melt.

Snow normally insulates the ground, buffering temperature swings and protecting the organisms underneath. Exposed surfaces face harsher, more variable conditions. At the same time, warming seas may make it easier for invasive marine species such as certain mussels or crabs to colonise the area.

The Antarctic Peninsula is already undergoing rapid change. If global warming moves towards 2°C or 3°C this century, extreme weather, rainfall and surface melt will intensify. Damage to ecosystems, infrastructure, glaciers and heritage sites could be severe and potentially irreversible.

Rain, once a rarity in Antarctica, is becoming a force capable of reshaping life on the peninsula. Limiting warming to below 1.5°C won't prevent these changes entirely. But it could slow how quickly rainfall transforms the frozen continent.

Full story: <https://theconversation.com/rain-is-coming-to-antarctica-heres-how-it-will-change-the-frozen-continent-276140>

Community feedback invited on Draft Council Budget

Surf Coast Shire Council's Draft 2026-27 Budget is set to be released for community feedback on Wednesday morning.

The budget has been developed in a challenging economic environment, as Council seeks to maintain service levels and valued community facilities in the face of continued rising costs.

It has a strong focus on maintenance and renewal of public assets such as roads, pathways and public open spaces, including:

- \$21.21 million total investment in roads, taking in civil maintenance and repairs, renewal projects and road safety upgrades across the shire.
- An extra \$109,000 investment towards improved turf management on sports fields.
- An extra \$50,000 to expand the annual dust suppression program for unsealed roads.

Newly funded road projects for 2026-27 include:

- Barwon Terrace, Winchelsea (\$1.34 million upgrade)
- Bambra-Boonah Road, Bambra (\$276,000 unsealed road renewal)
- Ervins Road, Mount Moriac (\$209,000 unsealed road renewal)
- O'Donohue Road, Anglesea (\$115,000 sealed road renewal)

These projects form part of a \$48.8 million multi-year capital projects investment, which also includes:

- replacement of the synthetic Parwan Soccer Pitch at Torquay's Banyul-Warri Fields (\$1.87 million);
- refurbishment of the Australian National Surfing Museum (\$1.5 million);
- completion of the Wurdi Baierr Aquatic and Recreation Centre in Torquay; and
- repair of the Pollocksford Road bridge in Gnarwarre.

Council's capital projects are funded through a mix of direct Council investment (including borrowings) and external funding sources, such as state and federal government grants.

Funding has also been included in the budget to help the environment and

adapt to the changing climate, generate economic activity, or support valued cultural and community services, such as:

- \$873,857 Geelong Regional Library Corporation contribution for library services in Surf Coast Shire (up \$23,357 from \$850,500 in 2025-26);
- \$300,000 for technical investigation and design of a Resource Recovery Centre in Torquay;
- \$160,000 for year three of Council's 'Branching Out' public tree planting project;
- \$150,000 allocation towards Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism;
- \$63,000 to operate the Anglesea Art Space; and
- a new \$10,000 annual public art restoration allocation.

The draft budget factors in a total average rate rise of 2.75 per cent, which is in line with the Victorian Government's cap.

Recognising the challenging business environment, a second year of temporary rate relief for farms and commercial/industrial land has been included in the form of reduced rating differentials for these property types. (Further information is included in 'key facts and figures' below.)

Reflecting the need to operate efficiently to maximise ratepayer value, the budget has incorporated \$331,000 in new operational savings.

This takes Council's accumulated ongoing operational savings for the past three financial years to \$3.67 million.

It is important to note that the draft budget has been created using 'business as usual' scenarios.

As the global fuel crisis develops and the impacts become clearer, it may be necessary to adjust the final budget accordingly. Any changes will be communicated with the community.

Mayor Libby Stapleton invited the community to read the budget and provide feedback during the submission period.

"We feel this is a considered budget that balances the immediate needs of the community with long-term financial sustainability, and will position us to meet our current and future demands," Mayor Stapleton said.

"It features investment in the services we know our community values, and places a high priority on renewal and maintenance of public assets such as community buildings, roads, paths and recreation facilities. At the same time, it will also help us work towards our goals of being an environmental leader, supporting community wellbeing, and generating economic activity in the shire.

"This is a draft budget and we will consider all community feedback, so please take the opportunity to have your say."

Submissions open 9am Wednesday 29 April via yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/budget26-27 and will close at 10am on Monday 25 May.

The 2026-27 Council Budget is the first delivered under the Council Plan 2025-29, and has been shaped by the plan's strategic directions of:

- Assets and Infrastructure
- Climate and Environmental Leadership
- Community Wellbeing
- High Performing Council, and
- Sustainable Communities.

DRAFT COUNCIL BUDGET 2026-27 – KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

Rates

Rates are Council's main source of revenue.

The draft budget proposes a total average rate rise of 2.75 per cent.

This is in line with Victorian Government cap, and is important in helping cover the rising cost of delivering Council services and projects.

Continued temporary relief for farms and commercial/industrial land

Last year, in recognition of the drought and difficult business environment, Council lowered the rating differential for farmland and commercial property, as a temporary relief measure.

Council has decided to maintain those lowered differentials for another year, providing savings for these ratepayers.

continues P.17

(The 'rating differential' is the percentage used to calculate how much each property category contributes to overall rates.)

The Farm Rate Land differential will stay at 64 per cent (remaining down from 75 per cent in 2024-25) and Commercial/Industrial Rate Land will stay at 165 per cent (down from 190 per cent in 2024-25).

The aim of continuing these reductions is to help ease financial pressure on commercial, industrial, and farming ratepayers for a further year, recognising the impacts of drought and reduced visitation caused by extreme weather events during January.

NOTE: These measures do not necessarily result in a reduction in rates for these property types, but provide a lower increase than would be the case via a return to the 2024-25 differentials.

Waste Service Charge:

The proposed charges for 2026-27 are:

- Urban waste service charge: \$533 (up 3.5 per cent)
- Rural waste service charge: \$519 (up 6.1 per cent)

The waste service charge does not sit within the rate cap.

It covers the rising costs of kerbside collections, waste disposal and recyclable material processing, public litter management, and the operation of Council's resource recovery centres and the Anglesea landfill.

In setting these charges for 2026-27, Council has factored in:

- The significant upcoming cost of the closure and rehabilitation of the Anglesea landfill (estimated at \$12.6 million); and
- Continued annual increases in the Victorian Government's EPA waste levy, which has risen more than 163 per cent since 2019-20.

Council is progressively aligning the Urban and Rural waste services charges, which is why the Rural charge is proposed to increase more than the Urban charge.

Capital works spend:

- Total: \$41.73 million in 2026-27
- Newly funded projects: \$20.48 million
- Multi-year projects continuing or

projects carried forward from 2025-26: \$21.25 million

Our capital works budget includes projects funded partly or entirely via external sources such as state and federal government grants.

Capital works expenditure by category includes:

- Buildings \$16.99 million
- Bridges \$1.28 million
- Drainage and sewerage \$1.79 million
- Footpaths and cycleways \$1.02 million
- Parks, open spaces and streetscapes \$687,000
- Recreation, leisure and communities \$4.32 million
- Roads \$11.08 million
- Waste management \$546,000

Asset Renewal Program:

Asset renewal budget by category includes:

- Active Play items \$150,000
- Bridges \$100,000
- Buildings \$850,000
- Drainage \$150,000
- Facility signage \$30,000
- Fencing \$200,000
- Footpaths \$500,000
- Park furniture \$100,000
- Playgrounds \$200,000
- Sealed roads \$2.2 million
- Skate parks \$300,000
- Unsealed roads \$1.04 million

By the end of the 2026-27 financial year, Council will be responsible for the upkeep of \$1.58 billion in assets, taking in property, infrastructure, plant and equipment.

Other noteworthy funding allocations:

- \$33,000 Christmas decorations and activations shire-wide
- \$27,000 Major event support for the Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race (including the Lorne to Torquay Surf Coast Classic)
- \$240,000 Municipal Emergency Management Program with Colac

Otway and Corangamite Shires

- \$170,000 Torquay Town Centre and Baines Crescent precinct revitalisation planning
- \$100,000 Winchelsea Structure Plan
- \$98,000 Design of a Duffields Road upgrade
- \$41,700 to support Community Houses shire-wide
- \$66,377 Life Saving Victoria contribution for professional patrols on Surf Coast beaches
- \$24,740 Surf Coast Arts Trail
- \$148,600 Community Grants
- \$242,000 Solar and Energy Transition Program
- \$30,000 to create a Biodiversity Strategy

Budgeted result (Cash Surplus/Deficit): \$1.7m deficit

This forecast deficit has been planned for in advance and will be accommodated via savings from our Future Cash Fund Reserve, set aside for this purpose.

The planned deficit is largely driven by an increasing investment in renewing Council's growing and ageing asset base for the community.

Council's 10-year financial plan also forecasts cash deficits in the following three financial years, until 2029-30, which will all be accommodated via the Future Cash Fund.

This trend will reverse in the latter stages of the 10-year financial plan and Council will return to delivering cash surpluses, as the cash available for allocation grows at a higher rate than the asset renewal allocation.

Borrowings: up to \$6 million

Council is budgeting for up to \$6 million in new borrowings, taking total borrowings to \$11.9 million by the end of the financial year.

This new borrowing has been forecast as part of the funding strategy for the Wurdri Baierr Aquatic and Recreation Centre in Torquay.

Council's debt level remains manageable and well within the local government prudential guidelines.

Debt is forecast to reduce back to \$5.6 million by 2029-30.

continues P.18

Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund levy:

Councils must collect the Victorian Government's Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund Levy via rates notices.

Council passes this levy directly to the Victorian Government, in full, to fund emergency and volunteer services.

Hardship:

Council's Hardship Policy is in place to support ratepayers experiencing financial pressures.

Those experiencing hardship are encouraged to reach out for a confidential discussion by calling 03 5261 0600.

More information: surfcoast.vic.gov.au/paymenthelp.

Fees and charges:

All fees and charges have been listed in the draft budget for the community's review.

Council has sought to minimise fee and charge increases wherever possible, but some areas have had larger increases to recoup the rising cost of delivering these services.

Fees of note with higher increases:

- Place of Public Entertainment permits for commercial events – up between 25 per cent and 50 per cent, depending on size of event. (With these changes, the service will remain heavily subsidised based on benchmarking.)

- Cat and dog registrations – up 8.9 per cent from \$79 to \$86 for a desexed animal and up 5.3 per cent from \$237 to \$249.50 for a non-desexed animal. These increases are due to a doubling in the Victorian Government's mandatory Animal Levy.

Proposed new fees and charges of note:

- Commercial hire of new Torquay hockey pitch – ranging from \$56 to \$90 depending on type of group and use of lights.
- New categories for hire of sportsgrounds with use of lights – \$59 or \$79.50 depending on type of group.
- Hire of Connewarre Oval transitioning from the Community Asset Committee to Council – hire fees from \$44.50 to \$79.50 depending on group type and use of lights.
- New waste disposal fees specific to caravans, couches and lounge chairs, and solar panels.
- New \$15 fee for late pick up at our occasional care services.

How the community can make a submission:

Online: yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/budget26-27

Write to:
Chief Executive Officer
Surf Coast Shire Council
PO Box 350
Torquay Vic 3228

Submissions must be received by 10am on Monday 25 May 2026.

Anyone making a submission can request to present to Council at a hearing of submissions, which (if required) will take place online at 6pm on Tuesday 2 June 2026.

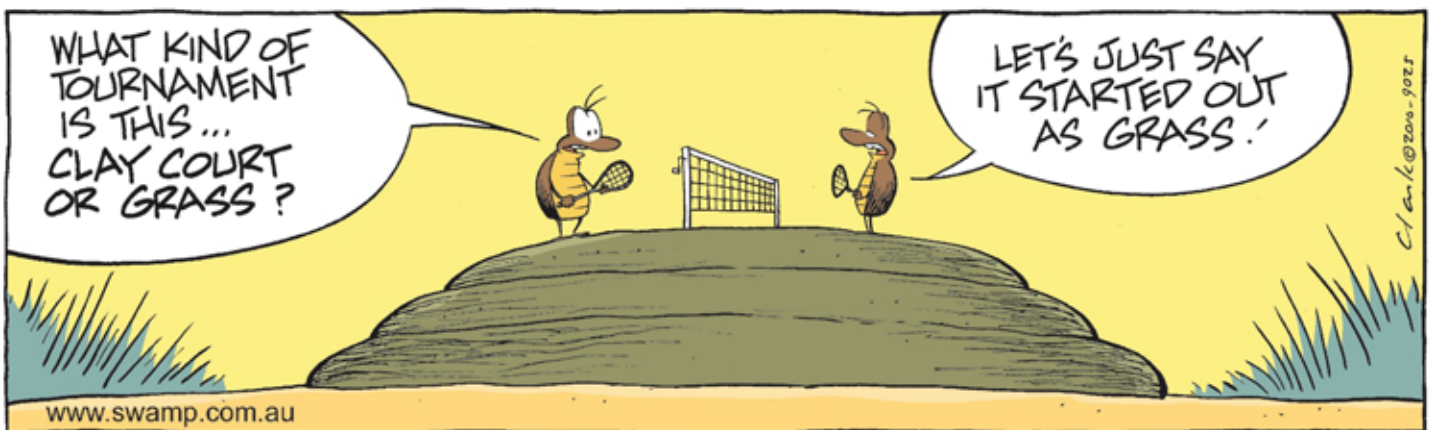
Those who would prefer to view a printed copy of the draft budget can find one at:

- Anglesea Community House: 5 McMillan Street
- Council office in Torquay: 1 Merrijig Drive
- Lorne Visitor Information Centre: 15 Mountjoy Parade
- Winchelsea Shire Hall: 28 Hesse Street

Community members can also call 5261 0600 to arrange a relevant section posted.

Key dates

- **29 April 2026** Draft 2026-27 Budget released for community feedback at 9am
- **25 May 2026** Submissions close at 10am
- **2 June 2026** Online hearing of submissions at 6pm (if required)
- **23 June 2026** Council to consider final 2026-27 Budget



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Cartoon Books available online: swamp.com.au

history of winchelsea

Robert Gosney's House – 59 Main Street

The Gosney family, and particularly Robert Gosney (1847-1911) contributed much to community life in early Winchelsea. Robert was the Shire Rate Collector and later Shire Secretary. He was born on 16 December 1846, in City Road St Matthew, Middlesex, England, United Kingdom. His father was James Russ Gosney and his mother was Phoebe Vowles. Robert married Mary Eliza Trigg in 1873, in Victoria, Australia. They were the parents of at least 8 sons and 2 daughters. Their Son Corporal Arthur John Gosney Served in Gallipoli and France and was Killed in Action on 9/8/1918 He is buried at Heath Cemetery, Picardie, France. Arthur would also have lived in this house growing up.

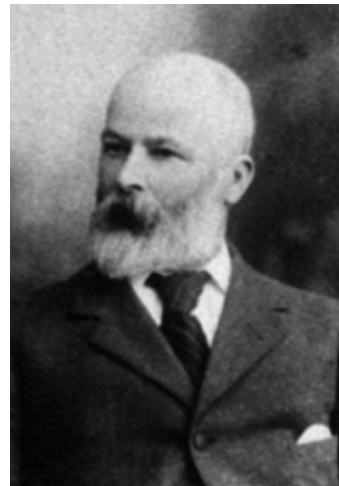
Robert held several positions in the Winchelsea community in the late 19th and early 20th centuries including Secretary to the Public Library, correspondent to the Winchelsea State School and Grand Master of the Ancient Independent Order of Oddfellows in Victoria, a role also held by William Stirling who we explored here in previous articles, among other notable Winchelsea founding names. Robert Gosney was in the original Winchelsea Cricket team. He died on 17 December 1911, in Winchelsea, Victoria, Australia, at the age of 65, and was buried in Geelong. Robert left £2624 to his widow and children.

James Gosney, probably a relative of Robert, also lived in Winchelsea in the 1860s was the local undertaker, and played in the Winchelsea Brass Band. Gosney Street, where Hesse Rural Health and the local school are today, was named after the Gosney family, whose descendants have always lived in Winchelsea and are still here today. Meme Gosney married into the Levey family, who bought the General Store from Findon Murrell.

The Gosney's family home was at 59 Main Street. The home has local significance for its associations with the Gosney family. Possibly built in c.1869-70, with additions in c.1885 and again in c.1890-91, the dwelling is an early example of a Victorian style, the early alterations probably reflecting the growth in the Gosney family in the late 19th century. Overall, the dwelling appears to be in fair condition and although altered from the original design, the early additions also contribute to the significance of the place.



The dwelling demonstrates a number of original and early design qualities of a Victorian style. From the street, the passer-by can see how the West side of the building, featuring a gable roof, tripartite window with a curved hood above, and the decorative timber bargeboards and turned timber finial and pendant was clearly added later (c.1890-91), than the original 1860s building. Possibly the most notable thing about the building today is its interesting paint work on the western extension.



Robert Gosney.
Image credit Familysearch.org



Arthur John Gosney.
Image Credit Winchelsea RSL



Robert Gosney c.1860s on the original Winchelsea Cricket Team. Image Credit Winchelsea and District Historical Society.



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

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

What's on Weekly

MONDAY-FRIDAY

WINCHELSEA TOY LIBRARY

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

MONDAY-SATURDAY

WINCHELSEA HEALTH CLUB

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

MONDAY

CO-WORKING AND STUDYING SPACE

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

MAINLY MUSIC

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

WINCHELSEA GIRL GUIDES

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

1ST MODAWARRE SCOUT GROUP

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

VINYASA YOGA

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

TUESDAY



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

1ST MODAWARRE SCOUT GROUP

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

WEDNESDAY

WINCHELSEA ZUMBA DANCE

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

WINCHELSEA MEN'S SHED

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

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

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

MOTHER GOOSE SONG AND RHYME

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

WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

STITCH IT, DON'T DITCH IT!

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

KIDS ART and CRAFT SESSIONS

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

JUMBLE SALE

BARRABOOL HILLS UNITING CHURCH

1135 BARRABOOL ROAD
(corner Andersons Road)
BARRABOOL

SATURDAY 16th MAY 2026
1-4PM

COME AND CHECK US OUT

FOR MORE INFO
0418 518 260



Winchelsea
Community
Foodbank

Fridays, 12 - 2PM
30-32 Hesse Street Winchelsea

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

All welcome
No eligibility requirements



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

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

*Where: St Thomas' Hall
25 Barwon Tce.*

To Enquire ring: 0407838256

April/May 2026

This is a recurring calendar.
Please confirm event details with the organiser/venue.
To add an event to the calendar,
please email news@winchelseastar.org.au

MEL'S DANCE CENTRAL

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

CWA WINCHELSEA

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



SES WINCHELSEA

7.30pm 132500
323 Mousley Dr, Winchelsea



1ST MODEWARRE SCOUT GROUP

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

THURSDAY

CHAT WITH YOUR COUNCILLOR Cr Tony Phelps

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

COWORKING AND STUDYING SPACE

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

WINCHELSEA PLAYGROUP

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

WINCHELSEA PICKLEBALL

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

WINCHELSEA KNITTING GROUP

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

MAT PILATES

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

WINCHELSEA MOVIE CLUB

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

FRIDAY

TAI CHI

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

COMMUNITY FOODBANK

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

PHONICS WITH ROBOT REG

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

CHATTY CAFÉ

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

WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Friday 10am-3pm
Hesse St, Winchelsea

WINCHELSEA SENIOR CITIZENS

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

GEELONG REGIONAL LIBRARY

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

SATURDAY

PARKRUN

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

DIAMOND DOT

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

WINCHELSEA LIONS CLUB IGA BBQs

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

WINCHELSEA LAND AND RIVERCARE

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

WINCHELSEA STAR PRODUCTION/COFFEE MEETING

9-11am (Last Sat monthly)
MUD HUT near the River
www.winchelseastar.org.au

WINCHELSEA CROCHET GROUP

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

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass 5pm each week
Harding St, Winchelsea 0404598558

WINCHELSEA COMMUNITY DINNER

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

SUNDAY

WINCHELSEA COMMUNITY MARKET

9-1pm, 1st Sunday monthly
Shire Hall car park, Main St Winch
[growingwinchelsea.com/project/
winchelsea-community-market/](http://growingwinchelsea.com/project/winchelsea-community-market/)

WINCHELSEA UNITING CHURCH

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

ST THOMAS' ANGLICAN CHURCH

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



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worpelsam@yahoo.com.au

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Thought of the Week

"God sees beyond actions,
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You cannot pretend with him.
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and trust that He will reward
what is done with the right motives."

Have a Blessed week.

John Bader
(Christian Pastoral Carer)

Psalm 11

Confidence in the Lord

I trust in the Lord for safety.

How foolish of you to say to me,

"Fly away like a bird to the mountains,

because the wicked have drawn their bows and aimed their arrows

to shoot from the shadows at good people.

There is nothing a good person can do

when everything falls apart."

The Lord is in his holy temple;

he has his throne in heaven.

He watches people everywhere

and knows what they are doing.

He examines the good and the wicked alike;

the lawless he hates with all his heart.

He sends down flaming coals and burning sulfur on the wicked;

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The Lord is righteous and loves good deeds;

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Growing Winchelsea Committee Members

Introducing Perlita Purcell

Growing Winchelsea Inc is delighted to welcome a new committee member whose energy, warmth, and genuine love for the community already align with our values - meet Perlita Purcell.

Originally from Bayside Melbourne, Perlita made the move to Winchelsea in 2020. What began as a change of scenery quickly became something much stronger. It didn't take long for her to feel at home here, drawn to Winchelsea by the strong sense of connection and the way people in the town truly show up for one another. That spirit of support and belonging is what influenced the decision to become a permanent resident and it's what continues to make Winchelsea such a special place in her life.

Perlita brings a strong commitment to community involvement and creating opportunities for others. Alongside her newfound role with the Growing Winchelsea Committee, she is also an active member of the Community Market Committee. In both roles she manages social media, helping to keep locals informed, engaged, and connected with what's happening around town.

Beyond her volunteer work, Perlita runs her own domestic cleaning business - 'Pursue Perfection'. Through that business she's built great connections with people across the district, becoming a familiar and friendly presence in many households and a valued part of everyday community life.

When not working or volunteering, Perlita enjoys spending time with her horse 'Beau', and expressing her creativity through her second small business, 'Wick and Steel'. Whether it's crafting, connecting, or contributing, we marvel at her enthusiasm, care and a 'let's get the job done' attitude.

Looking ahead, Perlita is passionate about Winchelsea's future. She hopes to see the town continue to grow while preserving its welcoming, close-knit feel. She is particularly keen to support local businesses, create more opportunities for young people, and help foster a vibrant community where everyone feels connected and proud to call Winchelsea home.

With her positive outlook and commitment, Perlita is a wonderful addition to the Growing Winchelsea Committee. We're already seeing a hugely valuable impact around town.

For Pursue Perfection Cleaning and Wick & Steel enquiries you can contact Perlita by email at pursueperfection@outlook.com or phone 0417 553 929.

There has never been a better time to get involved, share ideas, and play a part in building a community that reflects the values, creativity, and care of the people who call it home. Join Perlita and the Growing Winchelsea team on this exciting journey. The Growing Winchelsea Committee is commencing



a future planning phase. With current and new members, we're reviewing our role and how best we can serve our community.

If you're up for the many discussions, we would love to hear from you. To meet Perlita and the team of Growing Winchelseamembers, please email secretary@growingwinchelsea.com

Growing Winchelsea Inc. is an advocacy and leadership group which facilitates and promotes community, business and tourism development throughout the Winchelsea Ward of the Surf Coast Shire. Growing Winchelsea Inc. is a group of volunteer leaders who help provide the Winchelsea community with a united voice.

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OPEN DAY

On behalf of our school community, we warmly welcome new families to our annual Open Day.

To celebrate Education Week, our school and classrooms will be open from 9:00am to 11:30am. Visitors are invited to observe learning, ask questions and join in classroom activities. We encourage families to stay for the full session.

This is a great opportunity to experience Deans Marsh Primary School and see what makes our school unique.

If you are unable to attend, please contact the Principal to arrange another visit.

WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY 2026

deansmarshps.vic.edu.au 52 363 264



Please join us for our
Rainbow Flag Raising Ceremony
 and morning tea

Monday 11 May, 10am-11.30am

Community invited to support IDAHOBIT 2026

Surf Coast Shire Council will celebrate IDAHOBIT 2026 with a flag raising ceremony and community morning tea, recognising the importance of inclusion, respect and equality for LGBTQIA+ people.

As part of Council's adopted awareness raising events calendar, community members are invited to a flag raising ceremony outside Surf Coast Shire Council office followed by a morning tea.

The rainbow flag raising ceremony and morning tea will be held:

Date: Monday 11 May

Time: 10am – 11.30am

Where: Surf Coast Shire Council office, 1 Merrijig Drive, Torquay

Guest speaker Rueben Whyte will share his experience in creating safe space for LGBTQIA+ young people and what it means to be an ally.

Council flies the rainbow flag in accordance with its flag policy and events calendar for the entire month of May in recognition of IDAHOBIT.

Find more information and to register for the morning tea (for catering purposes) go to surfcoast.vic.gov.au/IDAHOBIT



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Blues News

Janet Fletcher

Welcome to the Round 4 Blue's News wash up where the Blues hosted East Geelong at Eastern Reserve in very warm conditions for this time of the year – the spectators loving the conditions, the Footballers & Netballers not so much.

There was a big crowd in attendance for the fourth home game in a row, the BBQ over at the Netball Courts proving popular and the Canteen had a busy day!

RESERVES:

Winchelsea Blues 6.15.51 def East Geelong Eagles 5.6.36

There is a lot of support for the thought that this has been the first Reserves win over East Geelong since Winchelsea joined the Geelong & District Football League, even if not the case they clearly have been few & far between & so the Reserve side can be really proud of the win last Saturday.

It was a tight affair all game with the Blues getting off to a good start leading 2.6.18 to the Eagles solitary 1 point, however the tables were turned in the second with the Blues being held goal less and East Geelong piling on 3 goals 4 points. It was a very even third quarter that saw the Eagles hang on to the lead going into the last break by a slender 3 points. Winchelsea took control of the scoreboard in the final quarter albeit with inaccurate kicking with 2 goals 6 points whilst holding the opposition scoreless to take the 4 points by the margin of 15. Well Done Blues !!

Apologies to Blake Gardam for the typo in last weeks Blues News, Blake again features in both Goal scorers and Best

Players so best we get the spelling right...

GOALS: Sean Thompson 2, Lachlan Carver 2, Tom Kennedy 1, Blake Gardam 1 .

BEST: Ryan Williams, Jackson Smith, Jack Milbourne, Lachlan Carver, Joss Church, Blake Gardam.

SENIORS:

Winchelsea Blues 9.8.62 were def by East Geelong Eagles 17.15.117

East Geelong Eagles are always a big challenge whether it be at home or an away match and the Blues were very aware of this going into Round 4 of the 2026 season.

A fairly even tussle during the First Quarter, the Second Quarter saw the Eagles surge ahead to have a handy lead going into the third. Just minutes before half time saw a heavy collision involving the Blues player Harry Nagle who wears the number 21. There was a good 10 minutes wait before Harry was stretcher lifted from the ground to a waiting ambulance. A late up date regarding Harry is that he may have been allowed to leave hospital late Saturday night. Harry is a very popular member of the Senior playing list and all at the W.F.N.C. wish him well & look forward to seeing him soon.

The Blues won on the scoreboard in the Third Quarter but at the end of the match East Geelong had a convincing win over Winchelsea – pointing that there is still plenty of work to be done to be able to match and defeat the high end of the ladder.

Cameron Primer being the only multiple

goal kicker for the game, our best 6 putting in a solid 4 quarters including Captain, Jordan Huff.

GOALS: Cameron Primmer 2, Indi Parish 1, Cassidy Parish 1, Jordan Gould 1, Bailey Mumberson 1, Sam Adams 1, Cooper Mumberson 1, Rory Baulch 1.

BEST: Fin Parish, Jordan Huff, Aaron Cooke, Lachie Gemmill, Jack Sampi, Callum Nankervis.

This week sees the Blues travel to INVERLEIGH to do battle for the Bendigo Bank initiative the COMMUNITY CUP.

The Senior Football sides will also have the TONY HILL SHIELD played for the great man who represented both Clubs so very well. Good luck to both clubs!

THE BLUE'S BISTRO:

This week the Blue's Bistro has on offer its menu of

ROAST BEEF
CHICKEN CARBONARA
SEA FOOD BASKETS
Dessrt:
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Junior Blues have chicken Nuggets & Chips, Fish & Chips - \$ 5
Fish & Chips - 2 pieces of fish \$8

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Budget Boost From Housing Young People In Need

New modelling by Equity Economics finds that fixing a structural policy flaw that locks young people out of social housing would more than pay for itself within four years, before generating hundreds of million of dollars in economic benefit over the longer term.

The Homelessness Australia-commissioned analysis models the fiscal impact of providing community housing to 1,000 young people on Youth Allowance who are unable to live at home safely.

The modelling finds the fix pays for itself inside a single Budget cycle:

- costing \$21.6 million to house per 1,000 young people over four years
- recouping \$30.2 million in

Commonwealth savings over the same period (income tax, income support, health, family violence)

- recouping a further \$65 million in state and territory savings, and
- generating long-term economic benefit of \$681 million per 1,000 young people housed.

This would change the lives of vulnerable young people trapped in homelessness and tick the boxes identified by the Treasurer this week as priorities for the Budget:

- addressing the intergenerational housing inequity experienced by young Australians,
- driving up young people's productivity and employment

participation,

- delivering targeted cost of living assistance to a vulnerable group, and
- generating budget savings.

The modelling reinforces the Home Time Youth Housing Coalition's calls to end the "Youth Housing Penalty" blocking access to social housing for highly vulnerable homeless young people at the coming Budget. Currently, a young person on Youth Allowance pays \$86.52 a week in rent, compared with \$186.33 for someone on the Age Pension. That 54 per cent reduction in revenue makes young people financially unviable tenants for community housing providers.






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Safer Speeds Rolling Out In Anglesea, Aireys Inlet, Fairhaven And Moggs Creek

Surf Coast Shire Council has begun works to lower speed limits on local roads in Aireys Inlet, Moggs Creek and Fairhaven, with Anglesea to follow, after a speed review in 2025.

The changes will see speed limits reduced to 40 km/h and 30 km/h on selected local roads, helping to create safer environments for all road users, including drivers, cyclists, pedestrians and local wildlife.

Surf Coast Shire Councillor Leon Walker said the rollout marks an important step towards improving road safety across these coastal communities.

“We know that lower speeds make a real difference when it comes to road safety,” said Cr Walker.

“It reduces the likelihood and severity of crashes and helps create streets that feel safer and more accessible for everyone, whether you’re walking, riding or driving.”

The 2025 speed review combined community feedback with a detailed technical assessment undertaken by an independent consultant, ensuring the updated speed limits reflect both local knowledge and best practice road safety principles. The Great Ocean Road was not part of this speed review.

Cr Walker said the changes aligned with Council’s broader goals to support safer, more connected communities.

“This works supports our Council Plan objective to deliver safe, active transport networks that better connect our communities,” he said.

“Making it easier and safer for people to move around their local area is a key part of building healthy, liveable towns.”

Works have started in Aireys Inlet, Fairhaven and Moggs Creek and then move to Anglesea. Works are expected to be completed in early May.

This project is supported by funding from Department of Transport and Planning.

For more information about the 2025 speed review go to surfcoast.vic.gov.au/SpeedReview2025

Lesser Loosestrife Toxicity Kills Cattle

by Liz Hancock, District Veterinary Officer, Warrnambool

Most producers would agree that 2025 was a challenging year for feeding livestock. With limited pasture availability, many animals were grazed in unusual locations and on unconventional forage sources.

It’s often in years like this that unusual disease events occur - as was the case for one unfortunate south west dairy farmer who experienced suspected lesser loosestrife toxicity.

In autumn 2025, after the afternoon milking, the farmer placed 120 mixed-age dairy cattle onto the only green feed available - a dried-up swamp. This area was usually underwater and had never previously been grazed.



The following morning, when the farmer went to collect the cattle, he found 12 animals dead.

The remaining cattle ranged from slow and trembling to apparently normal. The herd was immediately moved to a known safe paddock and provided with ad-lib hay and lick blocks, and local veterinarians were called.

Despite prompt veterinary treatment, the affected animals failed to respond as expected. With no improvement seen, the Victoria District Veterinary Officer (DVO) was contacted, and a Significant Disease Investigation was opened.

The local DVO and an Animal Health Officer (AHO) attended the property promptly. Necropsies were performed, blood samples collected, and epidemiological information gathered, including identification of plant species

present in the swamp.

A local agronomist confirmed the presence of lesser loosestrife (*Lythrum hyssopifolia*), an annual spreading herb commonly found in damp or seasonally flooded areas such as swamps.

The plant has small, narrow leaves resembling rosemary, and produces pink, blue, or purple flowers, although flowers were no longer present at the time.

Samples were taken to the AgriBio laboratory in Melbourne for urgent analysis. The following day, results confirmed lesser loosestrife toxicity.

In total, 70 of the 120 cattle died, most within the first 24 hours of exposure.



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parkrun 113



Saturday 2 May 2026

Trebeck Reserve, Winchelsea
parkrun.com.au/trebeckreserve

21 participants completed the course through Trebeck reserve this week in perfect conditions. We had visitors from Laylor. Two people completed their very first parkrun.

7 volunteers made this event possible. Thanks to Kate McInnes, Neil McInnes, Mark Sostheim, Don Smith, Liz Bennett, Murray Bennett and Paula Wilson who was visiting from Laylor.

Full details of this week's results can be found at trebeckreserveparkrun.com.au/results or check out our Facebook page for more photos.

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

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



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Winchelsea Golf Club



Rachel Boddington

Wednesday 29th April - Weekly Stableford

17 Players.

- 1st - Geoff Morgan (21) 40 points
- 2nd - Denis Chappell (19) 38 points
- BDL - Rod Batson (29) 37 points
- BDL - Andrew MacDonald (25) 36 points
- NTP (8th/17th) - Stephen Cole

Coming up:

Wednesday 6th May - Weekly Stableford & Ladies 'Jess Budge' round 3

Saturday 9th May - Greg Drayton Memorial 4BBB Board Event Grab a partner.

Sunday 24th May until Sunday 31st of May - Club Championships - Email WGC for our entry form

Wednesday 29th April - Ladies results

2nd RD Silverspoon, Stableford

- Winner: Mary Parish 39 pts
- R/Up: Di Bartel 37 Pts
- 9 Hole Comp: Ann Davis 22 pts
- NTP (2nd/11th) - Di Bartel

Saturday 2/5/26 Men's Quarterly Medal & Stroke Competition

20 Players.

- 1st - Liz Alston (23) Nett 65 C/B
- 2nd - Di Bartel (21) Nett 65 C/B
- 3rd - Rod Batson 95-28-67
- BDL - David "Fly" Lewis 89-19-70 C/B
- BDL - Tara Steward (16) Nett 70 C/B
- BDL - Evan Partridge 92-21-71

Quarterly Medal Winner - Rod Batson

- NTP (2nd/11th) - Philip Crook
- Golden Hole (6th) - Cam Parke

Upcoming Competitions. 2026

DATE	DAY	EVENT
APRIL 29	WEDNESDAY	Weekly Stableford Ladies, Stroke, Putting
MAY 02	SATURDAY	Quarterly Medal Stroke (Board Event)
MAY 06	WEDNESDAY	Weekly Stableford Ladies, Stableford, Jess Budge RD 3
MAY 09	SATURDAY	Greg Drayton 4BBB (Board Event)
MAY 13	WEDNESDAY	Weekly Stableford Ladies, Quarterly Medal Stroke, Putting
MAY 16	SATURDAY	Mike Saran Trophy - Par Ladies Quarterly Medal Stroke, Putting A.M.
MAY 20	WEDNESDAY	Weekly Stableford Ladies, Stableford Silver Spoon Rd 3
MAY 23	SATURDAY	Working Bee from 8.30am, BBQ after 12pm tee off, A.M.
MAY 24	SUNDAY	First Day of WGC Open Week, Junior Open
MAY 31	SUNDAY	Last Day of WGC Open Week, Mixed Pinehurst

COURSE CLOSED FOR EVENTS:
 May 11th - Cops and Robbers Social Club
 May 22nd - 8.30am to 12pm - Working Bee
 May 24th - Junior Open Event
 May 25th Ladies Open Event
 May 27th - 4BBB Open Event
 May 29th - Ambrose Open Event
 May 30th - 27 hole Open Event
 May 31st - Mixed Pinehurst Open Event

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Winchelsea Football Netball Club Inc

Hopkins St, Winchelsea winchelseafnc@hotmail.com



Netball

Angie Mawson

A grade cemented themselves as the 2026 team to watch on Saturday after beating East Geelong by 3 goals in a thriller. With netball like we haven't seen in winch for many years displaying defensive structure, set plays and full court strength. Maggie Lind was instrumental in the teams second half turn around leading and directing with poise and passion.

Meg Royal fed the ever improving Grace Pullen with precision who coupled nicely with youngster Layla Pretorius 17, and again Monet Drew also 17, held her own in this strong side.

Winchelsea happily sit on top of the A grade ladder - however we are keeping it one week at a time. There's still so much to learn and it's only early.



Thankyou!

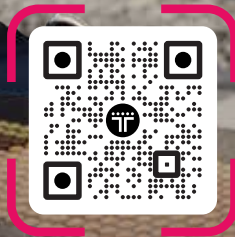
A massive thank you to our Under 13s netballers and their dads for running a very successful BBQ at the grounds this weekend.

It was fantastic to see such great support from families, and even better to have some of the Under 12 footballers step in to lend a hand while the girls were playing. A true community effort that didn't go unnoticed—well done to everyone involved!



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Winchelsea Football Netball Club Inc

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Junior Netball

Shae Callahan

Under 11s

The Winchelsea Under 11s took on East Geelong this weekend and showed some really encouraging signs across the game. It was fantastic to see every player have the opportunity to contribute, with great teamwork and support evident all over the court.

The girls worked hard from start to finish, consistently backing each other up and applying the skills they've been focusing on at training. There was strong movement through the court, improved decision-making, and a real sense of determination in every contest.

Most pleasing was the way the team continues to grow in confidence each week. Their willingness to learn, support one another, and keep putting in the effort is setting a great foundation for the rest of the season. They are certainly heading in the right direction.



Under 13s

A fantastic step forward for the Winchelsea Under 13s this weekend, with plenty of improvement shown across the court.

The girls did a great job implementing what they've been working on at training, particularly with their ability to transition the ball down the court with

more confidence and control. It was really pleasing to see their hard work starting to come together in game situations.

A great team effort all round—well done to everyone involved!



Under 15s

The Winchelsea Under 15s faced a strong and well-structured East Geelong side this week, going down 3–43 in a tough contest.

While the scoreboard didn't fall their way, the girls showed great resilience, continuing to work hard and stick to the areas of focus from training. There were some really positive passages of play throughout the game, with encouraging signs in their movement and teamwork.

Most importantly, their effort never dropped, and their understanding of the game continues to improve each week. The group is building steadily, and their persistence and willingness to learn will hold them in good stead as the season progresses.

Under 19s

The Winchelsea 19&U side had a tough outing this week, with a slow start seeing them playing from behind for much of the game.

Despite the result, it was great to see several 15&U players step up, and they held their own well against older opposition, showing confidence and composure.

While it wasn't the team's best performance, there's no doubt this group is capable of much more. With their potential and determination, they'll be looking to bounce back strongly in the weeks ahead.



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- Uniting Church 33 Hesse Street
- Winchelsea Bowls Club Hesse Street
- Winchelsea Golf Club 13 Anderson Street
- Winchelsea Primary School Main Street
- Wurdale Memorial Hall 220 Wurdale Road

