

# Winchelsea Star

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Your Weekly Community Newspaper

Since 1977

Vol 48 Ed 25

Tuesday 1 July 2025

[winchelseastar.org.au](http://winchelseastar.org.au)

A large group of children and adults are gathered in a circle, cheering enthusiastically with their arms raised. They are wearing various casual clothing, including t-shirts, sweatshirts, and a beanie. The background is a solid blue wall.

## NetSetGo Rising Stars

(page 33)





# Winchelsea Guides Welcome Three New Guides

by Yvonne Orchard, Guide Leader

On Mon 23rd June, at a candle lit ceremony, the Winchelsea Guide Unit enrolled Guinevere Donovan, and Pippa & Taylor Hamilton, our 3 recruits who made their promise as Guides for the first time.

We also completed some of the challenges for our Guiding Badge which involved learning tracking signs, and playing games from other countries eg Papua New Guinea.

Next week we will be learning to cook our own dinner on an open fire. During the past few weeks we have learnt fire safety and learnt to use matches safely and lay a fire, and also cook simple things such as marshmallows and damper on a stick. Other parts of the Guiding Challenge have included erecting a flagpole, learning to tie simple knots, and attending the local ANZAC service, etc. Next term we will be completing challenges for the Outer Space Badge.

We are looking for girls aged 5-15yrs to join our Unit. We meet on Monday evenings at 4.30-6pm at St John's Catholic hall Harding St. We will commence the 3rd term on Mon 28th July. Any potential girls welcome to come and try for 3 free visits.

Contact Yvonne -ph. 0448 672 630 or Lily ph. 0428 936 441



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## Wurdale Fire Brigade Enhances Driveways and Parking with New Landscaping Project

by Tony Phelps, 2nd Lieutenant Wurdale CFA Brigade

The Wurdale Fire Brigade is proud to unveil a major improvement to the fire station's driveways and frontage, a project that not only enhances functionality but also improves the appearance and accessibility of the station. Thanks to the hard work of the brigade, the support of the local community, and the expertise of Greater Coastal Landscaping, the station's two driveways now feature smooth, flat integration with the road, additional parking spaces, and improved drainage to ensure long-term durability.

This transformative project was made possible through a combination of funding and support. Three-quarters of the cost was covered by a CFA Land and Building Services VESEP (Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program) Grant, a vital initiative that provides essential funding for improving emergency services infrastructure. The remaining one-third was funded through

the Wurdale Fire Brigade's own fundraising efforts, which were generously supported by the local community. The Brigade extends its sincerest thanks to everyone who contributed to making this project a reality.

The landscaping work was undertaken by Anthony Young of Greater Coastal Landscaping, whose skill and dedication have resulted in an exceptional outcome. The new driveways provide smooth and reliable access for fire trucks and other emergency vehicles, ensuring that the Brigade can respond promptly to incidents without delays caused by uneven or inadequate surfaces. The additional parking spaces will also make it easier for members to attend the station during emergencies and training sessions, while the improved drainage under the entire frontage eliminates the risk of water pooling and damage during heavy rain.

Outgoing Captain Rob Wright deserves special recognition for his leadership in arranging this project. Rob's vision and determination ensured the project moved forward, leaving a lasting legacy for the Brigade and the Wurdale community. As Captain, Rob prioritised the safety and efficiency of the Brigade, and this project is a testament to his commitment. The Brigade is incredibly grateful for his service and for pushing this important improvement through to completion before his tenure ended.

Treasurer Chris Trotter also played a critical role in the success of this initiative. Chris was responsible for managing the financial arrangements, including applying for and processing the VESEP grant and overseeing the Brigade's contribution of funds raised through community efforts. Her meticulous work ensured that every aspect of the financial process was handled smoothly, allowing the Brigade to focus on the practical side of the



project.

The Brigade would also like to thank the CFA for their continued support through the VESEP Grant Program, which provides essential funding for projects like this one. The program enables local emergency services to make critical upgrades to their facilities and equipment, ensuring they can continue to serve their communities effectively. The Wurdale Fire Brigade is proud to be part of a wider network of CFA Brigades that benefit from this important initiative.

Finally, the Wurdale Fire Brigade extends its deepest gratitude to the local community. Without the ongoing support of local residents, businesses, and donors, projects like this would not be possible. The funds raised through raffles, community events, and donations played a vital role in covering the Brigade's share of the costs, demonstrating once again the incredible generosity and commitment of the Wurdale community to their local fire service.

The results of this project are already evident. The station's new frontage not only looks professional and welcoming, but it also provides significant practical benefits that will serve the Brigade for years to come. Whether responding to emergencies, hosting training sessions, or welcoming visitors, the improved driveways and additional parking spaces enhance the Brigade's ability to function efficiently and safely.





# Community Bank Bus to Cease Following Shire Fleet Withdrawal

The Winchelsea Community Bank Bus, which has helped so many local groups get out and about over the past decade, will soon be retired following changes to the Surf Coast Shire's community transport program.

Back in 2014, the Community Bank purchased its first bus after recognising that transport was a major barrier for groups like the Winchelsea Primary School and other local community groups and organisations. Hiring a commercial bus from Geelong or Colac was often too expensive, meaning many

events and excursions simply couldn't happen. The Community Bank stepped in and funded a locally owned based bus so that the community could stay connected and mobile.

The Community Bank engaged the Surf Coast Shire to manage the bus as the logistics and costs associated with insurance and regulatory maintenance and coordinating bus services wasn't viable and could easily be adopted into the existing shire fleet.

Unfortunately, this arrangement is coming to an end as the Community Bus program is scheduled to cease in September 2025. The Shire has confirmed that its bus fleet has reached the end of its life and is no longer viable to maintain, particularly with rising insurance and compliance costs around volunteer drivers.

Although we're disappointed by the decision to wind down the program, we understand the challenges involved. The good news is that the Shire will now be

offering subsidies for groups to hire private buses during the transition period. More information about this will be available through their website and should help local clubs and organisations continue to organise transport when they need it.

While the Community Bank Bus won't be on the road anymore, the Community Bank remains committed to supporting Winchelsea and its surrounds. Local groups can still apply for help through our quarterly Community Investment Program, which continues to fund grassroots projects that make a difference.

A huge thanks to everyone who's used, driven or supported the Community Bank Bus over the years, you've helped make it something really special.

Enquiries: Kelly – Winchelsea Community Bank - Community Engagement Officer – 0459 997 102



## Change To Road Rule From 1st July

RACV is reminding Victorian motorists that from Tuesday 1 July 2025, they will be required to slow down to 40 kilometres per hour when passing incident response vehicles that display flashing lights of any colour.

The change, announced in April this year, has been welcomed by RACV and its roadside assistance team, following a two-year campaign to review Road Rule 79A.

RACV General Manager Automotive Services Makarla Cole urged motorists to be aware of the rule change so that they could create the safest environment possible for roadside and incident response workers.

"We're grateful that the Victorian State Government has made this change to improve the safety outcomes and working conditions of roadside and incident response workers," Ms Cole said.

Since 2017, Victorian motorists have been required to slow down to 40 kilometres per hour when passing stationary emergency services vehicles displaying red or blue flashing lights.

This rule has now been expanded to include:

- Accident towing vehicles
- Breakdown towing services
- Roadside assistance operators
- Peninsula Link Incident Response vehicles
- EastLink and Transurban Incident Response vehicles

"Now that we have had an important and much-needed update to 79A, it's up to Victorians to do their part and ensure these vital workers can do their jobs without fear of harm and get home to their families safely," Ms Cole said.

Non-compliance with the updated 79A rule may result in a maximum fine of \$961.





# Have Your Say On The Draft Council Plan, Which Sets The Strategic Direction Until 2029

Surf Coast Shire Council has released its draft Council Plan 2025-2029, which sets the strategic direction for the next four years, and is inviting the community to provide feedback.

The draft Council Plan identifies five themes, with a series of outcomes for each

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

The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, which is integrated into the draft Council Plan, includes the following priority areas:

- Increase Healthy Eating and Active Living
- Advance Gender Equity and Address Family Violence
- Improve Mental Health and Social Connection
- Reduce Harm from Alcohol and Vaping
- Tackle the Impacts of Climate Change on Health

The draft Council Plan has been informed by extensive community engagement, including a shire-wide survey and a community panel.

"Our Council Plan sets our direction, so it's really important that it's shaped by community views," Mayor Cr Mike Bodsworth said.

"I want to thank everyone who provided input via the Our Focus Our Future survey or other means. We received more than 1,000 community contributions, which was fantastic."

The survey, undertaken between November and February, revealed a highly engaged community with clear priorities and concerns in relation to the environment, cost of living, housing affordability, roads, health and wellbeing, and the management of tourism.

Earlier this year, a 43-member community panel was also appointed with participants selected at random

according to criteria of age, gender, location and housing tenure.

To achieve a representative sample of Surf Coast Shire communities within the panel, an expression of interest was run by the project consultants to ensure independence.

"We're so grateful to the 43 community panel members who came along to the sessions and shared their different perspectives, insights and advice. It was great to hear from a diverse range of voices," Mayor Bodsworth said.

The panel spent three Saturdays in March grappling with key dilemmas

facing Council and developed principles to help shape strategic plans and inform ongoing decision making.

"All of this community feedback together has informed the development of the draft Council Plan, and we're now asking people to review it to make sure it reflects community needs and aspirations," he said.

View the draft Council Plan, incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025-2029, and provide feedback by 10 August at [surfcoast.vic.gov.au/OurFocusOurFuture](https://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/OurFocusOurFuture)



## Have your say: Draft Council Plan 2025-2029

The draft Council Plan, incorporating the Health and Wellbeing Plan, sets out Surf Coast Shire Council's strategic direction for the next four years.

It has been informed by more than 1,000 community contributions and a community panel.

**View the draft plan and provide feedback by 10 August**  
[yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/OurFocusOurFuture](https://yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/OurFocusOurFuture).

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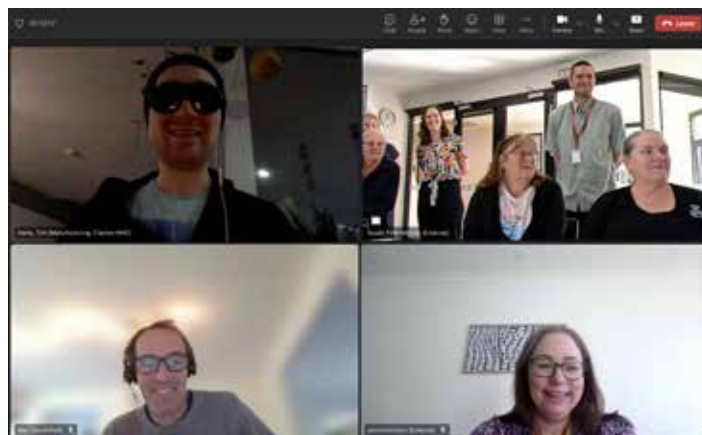
# Gnarwarre to the UN

by Tim Harte, Chair of Surf Coast Shire Council All Abilities Advisory Committee

The April and June 2025 meetings of the Surf Coast Shire Council's (SCSC) All Abilities Advisory Committee (AAAC) were held in a hybrid format to enable AAAC voluntary members the option of attending remotely if required. The AAAC advises Council on accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities and carers in the Council's programs, facilities and services. Some AAAC members joined the April meeting from further away than usual, with Tim Harte, AAAC Chair, joining the meeting from Berlin, Germany, at 1 am local time, to participate in the meeting.

Tim, a Gnarwarre resident, was in Berlin to attend the Global Disability Summit and Civil Society Forum. Tim joined the April AAAC meeting after the 1-day Civil Society Forum which brought together over 500 representatives from Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) from across the globe to call for bold, systemic change in global disability inclusion. The Forum reinforced the importance of embedding disability rights and lived-experience in local governance, such as the Surf Coast Shire Council's AAAC, ensuring grassroots leadership remains central to inclusive planning and service delivery.

Tim attended the Global Disability Summit through his voluntary roles as Independent Director for the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO), Executive Committee member of the Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC) and the Pacific Regional Representative for the UN affiliated Global Network of Young Persons with Disabilities (GNYPWD). Through Tim's role as Chair of the AAAC Tim is the youngest Chair of a government disability, access & inclusion committee in Australia and is a trailblazer at local, national and global levels in the youth disability space.

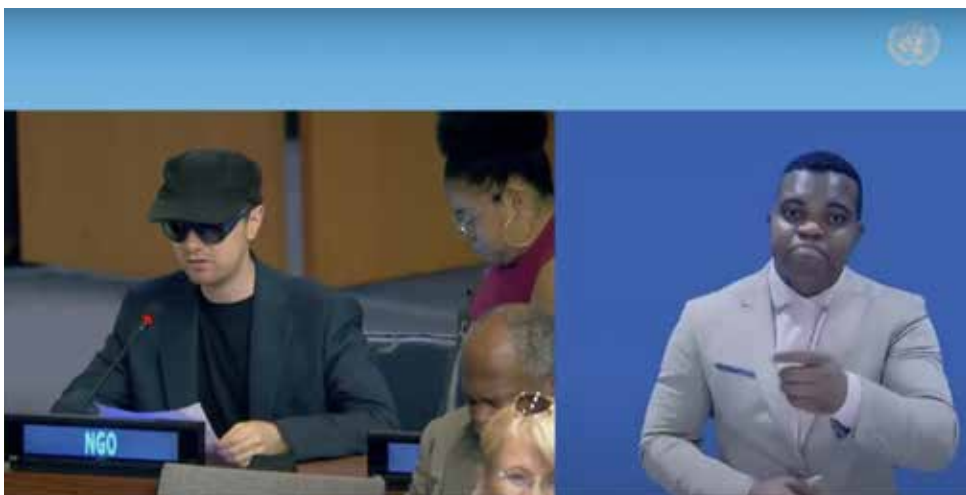


Clockwise from top left - Tim Harte (AAAC Chair); (left to right) - Rick Williams (AAAC member), Abby Ellery (SCSC Coordinator Aged Youth Access), Susan Firth-McCoy (SCSC Aged Youth and Access); Cheryl Middleton (AAAC member), Harry Menzies (SCSC Climate Action Team) and Penny Cilento (AAAC member); Jo Klemke (AAAC member) ; Alex Edwards (AAAC Deputy Chair)

Tim Harte - "What we do at Surf Coast Shire Council through the AAAC is proof that co-design and incorporating lived experience works, bringing that approach to the Global Disability Summit showed the world how governments cannot just lead on disability, access and inclusion but also save money in the long run through planning and infrastructure that caters for the full diversity of communities. Ensuring community facilities are accessible benefits everyone, from a person who uses a wheelchair, to a parent with a pram."

In June, Tim also joined and Chaired the AAAC meeting from New York during his trip to the 18th Conference of State Parties (COSP18) for the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) at United Nations Headquarters. The time difference for New York was not quite

as harsh as Berlin, with the AAAC meeting commencing at 8pm local time. While at the UN, Tim was honoured to deliver a three-minute speech on strengthening global governance for youth with disabilities, you can view the speech online at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0UIaOW8XH8>



Tim Harte (AAAC Chair) delivering a speech at the UN titled "Building a Transparent, Democratic, and Funded Global Youth Disability Network"



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# Winchelsea Community Market

First Sunday on the Month (except November)

## Shire Hall 9am to 1pm



**Upcoming Dates:**

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

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

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

## Winchelsea Market next Sunday

It's the first Sunday of the month coming up so come and support your Winchelsea Community Market this Sunday the 6th from 9am to 2pm.

Something for everyone!



Tony will be there selling the wonderful children's books written and illustrated by his late wife Conny Fechner. Conny was a former Primary School so she knew how to engage young ones.



Look out for Evgenia from Torquay with his organic cheeses and the best peanut butter.



For good beef buy from John 'direct from paddock to plate' Berry from Forrest.



John and Vincent from MK Fresh Seafoods from Colac will be there.







## SHOPPING AND A CUPPA AT WAURN PONDS SHOPPING CENTRE

for Winchelsea Seniors Card Holders

Do you find it difficult getting in and out of Geelong to do your shopping?

Would you like to meet and connect with other Winchelsea Seniors and do your shopping or have a cuppa?

More dates to come for July and August

Contact Jill on 0427 633 277 to book

**Pick up from your home** between 9am and 10am, leave Waurn Ponds at 1.30pm and **drop off at your home**. You will get a reminder call.

Vehicle: 12-seater Surf Coast Shire Council community bus so spots are limited!

Cost: Gold Coin Donation

*\*Must have a Seniors Card to be eligible.*

## WINCHELSEA MEN'S SHED

*For the Community*

### NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Every Wednesday from 9.30am  
51 Hesse Street, Winchelsea

### KINDLING/OFFCUTS \$7.00 bag

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

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# Winchelsea Star COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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

## PINE CONES FOR SALE

Winchelsea Lions Club  
has full bags of pine cones  
\$5 per bag.  
Raymond 0406 371 239.

## WINCHELSEA TENNIS CLUB JUNIOR COACHING

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

## RUNNING GROUP

Winchelsea has a small run group.  
It's more of a social run, jog and chat.  
We wait for slower runners and walk  
when one of us needs a rest.  
The aim is 10k with the option of  
8 or 5k it's up to you.  
To finish, a coffee at La Hoot.

**Sunday mornings 8am at La Hoot.**

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Pack of 4 logs \$5, small rolls \$2  
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## WINCHELSEA PICKLEBALL

Pickleball is back at Winchelsea! The  
Tennis Club are running this every  
Wednesday at 7:00PM at the Winchelsea  
Leisure Time Centre! Only \$5 a person  
All equipment supplied  
Wear suitable footwear  
Lesley Mathison 0438 672 197

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## WINCHELSEA OP SHOP

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Winchelsea and community.  
Opening hours Friday, Saturday and  
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## WINCHELSEA GIRL GUIDES Welcomes girls 6-15 yrs

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Guiding provides fun, friendship, and  
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3 FREE sessions to come along and try.

Yvonne Orchard ph 0448 672 630  
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## DEFIBRILLATOR MISSING

The newly installed Defibrillator  
outside the Netball change rooms has  
been missing for some weeks.  
If it could be replaced asap that would be  
great, no questions asked.  
These Defibrillators save lives

## XMAS IN JULY DIAMOND DOT DAY

Saturday 12th July  
Senior citizens rooms  
Harding street winchelsea

\$10 per head includes lunch and  
afternoon tea.

RSVP to tracey on 0427500649 or see  
her at the bakery.



Social Bridge is played  
**TUESDAYS 10 AM - 12 NOON**  
Senior Citizens Centre  
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 During school terms  
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**WINCHELSEA KNITTING GROUP**  
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**Winchelsea community house.**  
 All Welcome, Learn to knit or bring a project to work on while you enjoy a cuppa and a chat



**TAI CHI**  
 Friday Mornings in the Winchelsea Community house  
 9am - 10am  
**\$10 Per Class**



**Chatty Café**  
**Fridays 10.30am – 12.30pm**  
**"Sip, Chat, Share, Care"**  
 In the Shire Hall. All Welcome  
 Gold coin donation.



**Phonics with robot Reg**  
 Friday Mornings  
 Walkers – 3 yrs 10.15am  
 Pre-School 3 – 5yrs 11.15am  
 'A Fun, High energy class to Introduce and teach phonics skills'  
 Bookings at [robotreg.com.au/](http://robotreg.com.au/)

**Working or studying remotely and need a quiet place to focus?**  
 The Winchelsea Shire Hall is Open to the public Mondays & Thursdays 9am - 2pm as a community Co-Working & Study Space, including school holidays.  
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 Only \$10 casual rate, no subscription required. Customizable space, great Broadband internet, Coffee and Tea provided.

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 Register your interest at [reception@winchhouse.org.au](mailto:reception@winchhouse.org.au)  
**Next Class July 12th**





# Council Endorses 2025-26 Budget

Surf Coast Shire Council has finalised its 2025-26 Budget and 2025-29 Revenue and Rating Plan, introducing temporary measures aimed at easing the financial burden on drought-impacted farmers and commercial/industrial ratepayers.

Following consideration of community feedback regarding the Draft Budget and Draft Revenue and Rating Plan released in April, Council voted to:

- **Reduce the Farm Rate Land differential** from 75% to 64% for 2025-26, which will have the effect of freezing the average rates for farm land at 2024-25 levels; and
- **Reduce the Commercial/Industrial Rate Land differential** from 190% to 165% for 2025-26, which will contain the rate increase for these property types.

Mayor Mike Bodsworth said the changes were about recognising the challenging economic landscape being faced by farmers and other businesses.

"Farmers have had an extremely difficult year due to the drought, and freezing rates for farm land at 2024-25 levels is one step we can take to ease financial pressure," Mayor Bodsworth said.

"We also felt it was important to acknowledge that the drought has had flow-on impacts to other businesses in the shire, who were already feeling the effects of wider cost of living pressures.

"Adjusting the rating differential for commercial and industrial ratepayers is a way we can help in the short-term."

Since the release of the draft budget, Council's forecast income for 2025-26 has increased by \$125,000 thanks to higher-than-expected Victorian Government grants commission funding.

Council voted to allocate this funding toward:

- Additional resourcing in civil operations, to help maintain assets such as roads and footpaths to a high standard; and
- An extra \$10,000 to support community houses, increasing the annual allocation per community house from \$6,000 to \$8,000.

The final budget forecasts an operating result (Unallocated Cash Surplus) of \$2.1 million. This surplus will be essential in helping the Council fund the renewal of roads, buildings and other assets as they decline over the next 10 years.

Council has budgeted for a capital works program valued at \$52.65 million, taking into account existing multi-year projects and new projects for 2025-26.

This figure includes projects funded with the assistance of the state and federal governments such as the Wurdi Baierr Aquatic and Recreation Centre in Torquay.

The budget also details Council's commitments to core services such as open space, civil and road maintenance (with a total budget of more than \$14.3 million), waste and recycling services (\$13.06 million), early years (\$4.53 million), and local libraries (\$850,500 contribution to the Geelong Regional Library Corporation).

"The budget aims to support our community and set this region up to thrive in the years ahead," Mayor Bodsworth said. "There's a strong balance between financial sustainability and investment in facilities and services our community values highly.

The final budget is available to read in full on the Council website.

## BUDGET SNAPSHOT – KEY DETAILS, FACTS AND FIGURES

### Services:

Budget allocations for key services we will deliver to the community include:

- Open space, roads and civil infrastructure, and facilities maintenance: \$14.38 million
- Waste management and resource recovery: \$13.06 million
- Early years (kindergartens and occasional care): \$4.53 million
- Tourism support: \$1.75 million
- Children and families support: \$980,000
- Environment protection and care: \$981,000
- Arts and creative economy support: \$787,000

### Capital works highlights (new projects for 2025-26):

- A major irrigation and drainage upgrade to the oval at Spring Creek Recreation Reserve, Torquay (\$2.55 million)
- Upgrade of Gladman Street, Winchelsea to become a sealed road (\$757,064)
- Unsealed road renewals on Bamba-Aireys Inlet Road (\$386,000), Eagle Rock Parade in Aireys Inlet (\$97,000) and Pettavel Road in Freshwater Creek (\$152,000)
- Renewal of Cape Otway Road from Dysons Lane to Parish Lane, near Moriac (\$200,000)

### Assets:

- Sealed Road reseal program: \$1.6 million
- Hard court renewal: \$600,000
- Building renewal: \$800,000
- Playground equipment renewal: \$300,000
- Footpath renewal: \$255,000
- Drainage renewal: \$150,000
- Other shire wide renewal (e.g. active play, bike parks, bridges, skate parks and signage): \$530,000

By the end of the 2025-26 financial year, Council will be responsible for the upkeep of \$1.37 billion in property, infrastructure, plant and equipment.

Our annual asset renewal costs are expected to double over the next 10 years, from just over \$10 million now to more than \$21 million by 2034-35.

### Other funding allocations of note:

Christmas decorations and activations: \$87,000

'Branching Out' urban tree planting program: \$160,000

Support to Community Houses: \$41,700

Surf Coast Arts Trail: \$24,740

Winchelsea Place Plan: \$80,000

Winchelsea Pool: \$119,155 (operating costs for a season spanning 1 December 2025 to 9 March 2026)

Full details at:  
<https://jo.my/scs-budget-2025>

# Barwon Water Expanding Drought Support

Farmers in our region are experiencing dry conditions, with low on-farm water supplies. To help support those affected by dry conditions, untreated water is being offered for farmland properties and recycled water to farmers and community facilities who need it, under the Barwon Water Farm Drought Relief Program.

In the Colac region, access to untreated water will be available from the Colac Water Treatment Plant or Class B recycled water from the Colac Water Reclamation Plant. In the Geelong region, Class A recycled water will be available from Armstrong Creek. Untreated and Class A recycled water should be available now. Class B recycled water will be available from mid-July.

Access to the water is not restricted to

current Barwon Water customers or those within its service area – users from anywhere may apply to access the water. Untreated water will be provided at a discounted rate to farm customers. Class A and Class B recycled water will also be available at low or no cost. Those accessing the water will need to cover water carting costs.

Applications to use the water will ask for details around intended use, the type of land the water will be used on, nearby sensitive land areas, risk assessments and soil and nutrient management. Those approved to access untreated and recycled water through the program are responsible for the appropriate use, transport, storage and distribution of the water, which needs to be carefully managed in accordance with the EPA recycled water guidelines.

Barwon Water's Farm Drought Relief Program is being delivered alongside the Victorian Government's direct drought support and Agriculture Victoria's technical and decision-making support program.

Barwon Water's in-house contact centre



is ready to support any farmer in a discussion on payment assistance options and access to the new standpipes.

Farmers may also be interested in our WaterSmart Business program which offers grants and rebates for current farming customers. More information is available at [barwonwater.vic.gov.au/water-and-waste/saving-water](http://barwonwater.vic.gov.au/water-and-waste/saving-water)

The contact centre team can also assist farmers not currently connected to a Barwon Water service, with information on options such as setting up a supply by agreement. More information is available at [barwonwater.vic.gov.au/properties-and-development/property-connections/water-and-sewer-by-agreement](http://barwonwater.vic.gov.au/properties-and-development/property-connections/water-and-sewer-by-agreement)

Further requirement details and applications to access the untreated and recycled water can be found at [barwonwater.vic.gov.au/water-and-waste/barwon-water-drought-relief-program](http://barwonwater.vic.gov.au/water-and-waste/barwon-water-drought-relief-program)

This Week's Winchelsea Star

Editor - Yvonne Stevens  
Designer - Tony Phelps

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6pm Sundays - sports results and weekend events

**EDITOR 5273 0295**

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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.



# Dry Swamps And Dams Pose Toxic Weed Risk To Livestock

by Paul Beltz, Senior Veterinary Officer

The green pick available on swampy land or dried up billabongs and dams may seem a boon for producers during drought and difficult seasonal conditions. However, it's important to check for toxic weeds and plants in swampy areas before allowing stock access for grazing. There are many plants that grow where the land is usually wet and rarely dried out which could cause issues.

Toxic plants that might be found in these areas include dock, soursob, fat hen, lesser loosestrife and swamp grass. Many Dock (*Rumex* spp.) species such as swamp dock, curled dock and yellow dock, as well as

Fat Hen (*Chenopodium album*) and Soursob (*Oxalis pes-caprae*), cause nitrate and nitrite toxicity and hyperoxaluria or oxalate toxicity. Nitrate and nitrite toxicity can cause acute collapse and death once the nitrite binds to the haemoglobin in red blood cells, stopping the haemoglobin from carrying oxygen. The mucous membranes inside an affected animal's mouth may appear brown in colour due to this binding rather than the usual pink. There is no effective treatment for the condition. Oxalate binds calcium up in the blood causing acute low blood calcium and sudden death. Calcium is essential for muscles to work properly. Early signs of oxalate toxicity include a stiff gait, staggering, lying down progressing to coma and death. These weeds are not palatable so ensuring that stock are not put in hungry and have a wider forage area and supplementary feed available, will help to mitigate the risk. Keep a close eye on your livestock and avoid putting grazing pressure on the site.

Lesser loosestrife (*Lythrum hyssopifolia*) is a native plant that grows well in wet and damp soils, such as swampy areas and stubble after rain. Depending on how much is eaten the toxin causes severe liver damage and death, within 24 hours up to several days later.

Affected stock will seem depressed, lethargic and show abdominal discomfort before progressing to recumbency and death. Loosestrife is not usually palatable to stock, though if there is no alternative green pick it will be eaten. If there is a large amount in the area, it is unsafe to place stock on it as the toxicity builds up.

Swamp grass (*Glyceria maxima* - *Poa aquatica*) is an introduced, very tall grass that occurs around water bodies and wetlands. It carries a very high level of cyanide in the leaves. Due to the rapid effect of cyanide when ingested, poisoning causes acute collapse and death. Unlike nitrate and nitrite toxicity, the mucous membranes of the affected animals may appear bright pink, due to the body being unable to use the oxygen carried by the red blood cells. Swamp grass is unsafe as forage.

If you are putting stock onto a new area, thoroughly check for different species of plants, look at your records to see if anything happened last time it was used and ensure stock are not put on hungry which may cause them to forage indiscriminately. If your livestock show signs of weed toxicity, remove them from the area and contact your veterinarian or local Animal Health staff for advice. These services will be delivered in partnership with a range of technical experts, including farm business advisors, livestock nutritionists, soil, water and pasture specialists and veterinarians. The program provides tailored advice through one-on-one consultations, webinars, workshops, field days, and online tools and information. Farmers anywhere in Victoria can register now for a one-on-one farm advisory consultation, to take

stock and discuss the best way forward for their business. The consultation includes a session of up to 3 hours (face to face on farm or online) and follow-up call, to develop and implement a drought management action plan.

When registering for the program, participants can indicate their preferred consultant from an extensive list of experienced service providers. Find more information about available drought support at [agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought) or call 136 186.

## Soil needed to dig deeper into microbiome research

This World Microbiome Day, Agriculture Victoria is launching an expression of interest campaign to encourage farmers to donate soil samples to a National Soil Action Plan funded research project.

Funded by the Australian and Victorian governments, the 'Soil biodiversity across landscapes' project will seek to implement priority actions from the Plan under the National Soil Strategy.

Agriculture Victoria Principal Scientist Tim Sawbridge said he hoped to attract interest from at least 50 farmers statewide.

'We are looking at what microbiomes exist in soil and how they function across natural and farmed environments. A soil microbiome is a community of microbes, bacteria, invertebrates and other life forms that live within soil. To gain a deep understanding of their role in soil health, we're wanting a broad range of samples from various production zones and agricultural industries in Victoria,' he said.

AVR is working alongside the Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research (ARI) on the project to collect and analyse samples of soil from across the state. ARI has provided over 200 samples from public land, such as state forests and parks and reserves, to AVR for analysis. Samples are being taken at Agriculture Victoria's SmartFarms including over time at the existing DairySoils study\* at Ellinbank SmartFarm.

To express interest in participating in the project, farmers should email [soil.microbiome@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:soil.microbiome@agriculture.vic.gov.au) by 5 pm, Tuesday 30 September.

Soil samples will be taken from a single geo-location to a depth of 10 cm and 30 cm from a small area on the farm.

The soil structure, chemistry, botanical information and DNA will be analysed and barcoded for comparison with other samples in the dataset.

# SERVICES & ACTIVITIES IN WINCHELSEA

## VLINE TRAIN SERVICES

### TO MELBOURNE:

Mon - Fri 6.21(coach) 07.55, 11.10, 14.04, 16.58, 19.21

Sat - Sun 9:34, 14.04, 16.58 19.18

### TO WARRNAMBOOL:

Mon - Fri 8.58, 11.51, 14.46, 17.28 (coach), 18.43, 20.53

Sat - Sun 8:48, 11.41, 14.46, 20.38



## WINCHELSEA GIRL GUIDES

Our Unit meets at the Catholic Church Hall,  
Harding St Winchelsea each Monday 4.30pm-6pm

All girls 5yrs- 15yrs Welcome!

Contact Yvonne Orchard 0448 672 630

or Lily Del Rennie Ph. 0428 936 441



## COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

7pm second Wednesday of month  
Winchelsea Senior Citizens' Hall



## 1st Modda & 1st Winchelsea

### SCOUT GROUP

**Joeys:** Tuesdays of school term 5-6pm

**Cubs:** Mondays of school term 6:30-8pm

**Scouts:** Tuesdays of school term 6:30-8:30pm

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Contact Marie McPadden 0409 330147

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## Winchelsea and District COMBINED PROBUS CLUB



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## SURF COAST MOBILE LIBRARY

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## SOCIAL BRIDGE

Every Tuesday 10.30 am - 1.00 pm

Senior Citizens Centre

36 Harding Street Winchelsea

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Contact Elaine Atkinson 0458009616

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[www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/disposalsites](http://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/disposalsites)

## WINCHELSEA PLAYGROUP

Every second Thursday 10am-12pm

St Thomas Anglican Church Hall

cnr Barwon Tce and Hopkins St, Winchelsea

Contact: Danni Menzies 0432019944

[winchelseaplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:winchelseaplaygroup@gmail.com)

Facebook - Winchelsea Playgroup 2019

**New families welcome**



# Purpose Through Indra's Jewels

by Cromwell Hooper

for those who know through every fibre of their being that Spirituality is the Irresistible Force, and Science the Immovable Object, (i.e. and therefore will not be spending too much time visiting each the other from across the universes), then read no further, the following might be a complete waste of your time.

Consider Indra's Net, one of a vast number of spiritual models across times and cultures all explaining by their own peculiar idiom the notion of Interbeing.

In the ancient metaphor of Indra's Net, each being is understood through its metaphor of a luminous jewel, infinitely reflecting each the other. It's a cosmic web of interdependence where the whole is present in each part. When we view our lives through this lens, our purpose is no longer isolated; it becomes an act of luminous relationship.

## 1. Your Light Is Never Yours Alone

To "shine" isn't to glow in solitude—it's to reflect and be reflected. Every thought, intention and action is effectively a photon in a shared stream of light, seemingly touching others invisibly, but in reality, utterly

lighting them up. Our presence helps others see themselves more clearly, just as their clarity reveals aspects of us.

## 2. Reflection Is an Act of Compassion

When we act with kindness, presence, and awareness, we help the entire web become more coherent. These offerings need not be grand; small gestures echo infinitely when expressed

sincerely.

## 3. Clarity Is a Sacred Duty

The metaphor suggests that each jewel reflects clearly only when it is polished. This inner work—self-awareness, healing, and truthfulness—isn't just personal development. It's a sacred contribution. As we bring our inner and outer expressions into alignment, we offer more faithful reflections to others.

## 4. Misunderstanding Is a Mirror Too

When others reflect us unclearly, this may reveal places where our own expression lacks fidelity. Rather than feeling unseen, we can receive these moments as invitations—not to perform for others' approval, but to refine our authenticity.

5. **Discovering the Self as a Return**  
Every moment of genuine discovery may be less a novelty and more a homecoming. In reflecting the whole, we find that the truths we uncover are often truths we already carry, waiting to be remembered. Our journey spirals inward and outward at once.

## A Living Practice

To live with purpose in the spirit of Indra's Net might look like this:

- Polish your jewel: Cultivate inner clarity with patience and love.
- Reflect truthfully: Let your presence offer sincere, undistorted light.
- Reverberate kindness: Every compassionate act contributes to the whole.
- Trust the web: Even when unclear, the net is always working to bring things into harmony.

Purpose, then, isn't a single goal—it's a practice of luminous participation. You don't have to "become" something else. You already are a jewel. The work is simply to let yourself shine clearly, and to keep polishing with grace.

## \*Morning Reminder:\*

Today, I will polish my clarity, reflect with kindness, and trust the net to carry my light forward.

A single sincere spark is enough.



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## Winchelsea Osteopathic Clinic Has Moved!

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We're excited to announce that Winchelsea Osteopathic Clinic has officially moved to The Exchange, only a few doors down at 34 Main Street.

This isn't just a change of address; it's a significant step forward, allowing us to continue providing the same professional, high-quality care you've come to know and trust, but now in a beautiful, fresh new environment.

One of the most exciting aspects of our new location is the incredible opportunity to work alongside other health

practitioners. This collaborative approach will greatly benefit our clients, offering you a more integrated and holistic healthcare experience right here in Winchelsea.

We are open Monday to Friday, and to best meet your needs, we can offer appointments with both female and male practitioners.

We're also delighted to have Remedial Massage Therapist Kylie Emmett with us on the first Tuesday of every month.

For your convenience, all our contact details remain the same. You can still reach us through your usual channels, and our easy-to-use online booking system is readily available on our website at: <https://winchelseaosteopathicclinic.com.au>

We can't wait to welcome you to our new space at The Exchange!



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We'd love to see you!

## WINCHELSEA PLAYGROUP

Each Thursday during school terms.  
Come along between 10AM - 12PM.  
Check out our Facebook Page for more information about the happenings at each session.

Playgroup Leader - Danni Menzies  
Email: [winchelseaplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:winchelseaplaygroup@gmail.com)

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# What's on Weekly

## MONDAY-FRIDAY

### WINCHELSEA

#### COMMUNITY HOUSE

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

#### WINCHELSEA TOY LIBRARY

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

## 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

### MAINLY MUSIC

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

### JUNIOR

#### TENNIS COACHING

3.30pm \$10 (03) 5267 2667  
Tennis Club, Armytage St, Winchelsea

### GIRL GUIDES

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

### 1ST MODDA/1ST WINCHELSEA SCOUTS

**Cubs:** 6:30-8pm (School term)  
Modewarre Hall, Cape Otway Rd  
Marie McPadden 0409 330147

### VINYASA YOGA

7pm \$25  
Winchelsea Shire Hall, 28 Hesse St

## TUESDAY

### SOCIAL BRIDGE

10-12pm  
Senior Citizens Centre, 36 Harding St  
Elaine Atkinson 0458 009 616

### 1ST MODDA/1ST WINCHELSEA SCOUTS

**Joeys:** 5-6pm (School term)  
**Scouts:** 6:30-8:30pm (School term)  
Modewarre Hall, Cape Otway Rd  
Marie McPadden 0409 330147

## WEDNESDAY

### WINCH WALKERS

9:30-10.30am  
Mud Hut (Opposite La Hoot Cafe)  
Barwon Terrace, Winchelsea  
ralextender@hesse.vic.gov.au

### WINCHELSEA MEN'S SHED

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

### WINCHELSEA

#### SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

Wednesdays 1 00 pm- 3.00 pm  
36 Harding Street, Winchelsea  
Jean Shinnars 52672263, 0427672263  
jeanshinnars@gmail.com

### MOTHER GOOSE SONG AND RHYME

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

### WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wednesday 1-4:pm, Friday 10am-3pm  
Hesse St, Winchelsea  
www.facebook.com/  
Winchelseaanddistricthistoricalsociety

### MEL'S DANCE CENTRAL

Wed afternoons/evenings  
local dance school pre-school - teens  
location: winch senior citizens club  
www.melsdancecentral.com.au

### 1ST MODDA/1ST WINCHELSEA SCOUTS

**Venturers:** Wed Walton's Rd Venturer Den  
Marie McPadden 0409 330147

### CWA WINCHELSEA

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

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# JUNE/JULY

This is a recurring calendar. Please confirm event details with the organiser/venue if you'd like to attend.  
To add an event to the calendar, please email [news@winchelseastar.org.au](mailto:news@winchelseastar.org.au)

## THURSDAY

### COWORKING AND STUDYING SPACE

Mon and Thurs 9am-2pm \$10  
Winchelsea Community House,  
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea

### WINCHELSEA PLAYGROUP

10am-12pm (School term) \$5  
St Thomas Hall, 27 Barwon Terrace  
[winchelseaplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:winchelseaplaygroup@gmail.com)

### PICKLEBALL

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

### WINCHELSEA KNITTING GROUP

10.30am-12pm FREE  
Winchelsea Community House,  
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea

### WINCHELSEA

#### COMMUNITY FOODBANK

12-2pm 30 Hesse St, Winchelsea  
[healthpromotion@hesse.vic.gov.au](mailto:healthpromotion@hesse.vic.gov.au)  
0417 848 292

### MAT PILATES

7pm \$25  
Winchelsea Shire Hall, 28 Hesse St

### 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  
Winchelsea Community House,  
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea

### PHONICS WITH ROBOT REG

10.30am (1-3 years) 11.30am (3-5 years)  
(School terms)  
[www.robotreg.com.au/pages/shae](http://www.robotreg.com.au/pages/shae)

### CHATTY CAFÉ

10.30am-12.30pm DonationWinchelsea  
Shire Hall,  
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea

### WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Wednesday 1-4:pm, Friday 10am-3pm  
Hesse St, Winchelsea  
[www.facebook.com/Winchelseaanddistricthistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/Winchelseaanddistricthistoricalsociety)

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Fridays 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm  
36 Harding Street, Winchelsea  
Jean Shinnars 52672263, 0427672263  
[jeanshinnars@gmail.com](mailto:jeanshinnars@gmail.com)

### WINCHELSEA RSL

1-30pm 18 July,  
7.30 15 August,  
1.30 19 Sept, 17 Oct,  
7.30 21 Nov,  
12.00 19 Dec  
Winchelsea Men's Shed, Hesse St.  
David Loone 0488 165 109

### GEELONG REGIONAL LIBRARY (MOBILE)

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

### WYLD YOUTH MEETING 4 July

## SATURDAY

### TREBECK RESERVE PARKRUN

8am Trebeck Reserve  
Sussex St, Winchelsea  
[www.parkrun.com.au/trebeckreserve/](http://www.parkrun.com.au/trebeckreserve/)

### FLOW YOGA

8am, \$25  
Winchelsea Shire Hall,  
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea

### WINCHELSEA LAND AND RIVERCARE MONTHLY WORKING BEE

Saturday July 5 and August 2  
9am End of Dwyer St.  
Rod Stone 0428 549318  
Stewart Mathison 0428 672054

### WINCHELSEA STAR

#### PRODUCTION/COFFEE MEETING

10-11am (Last Sat each month)  
Sweet Thyme Cafe, Main Street  
[www.winchelseastar.org.au](http://www.winchelseastar.org.au) 5273 0295

### CROCHET GROUP

1.30pm 2nd Saturday each month \$5  
Winchelsea Community House,  
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea  
[reception@winchhouse.org.au](mailto:reception@winchhouse.org.au)

### ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass 5pm each week (Winter season)  
Harding St, Winchelsea 0404598558

### WINCHELSEA

#### COMMUNITY DINNER

6.30pm (Last Saturday each month)  
Hall, Harding St Winchelsea  
Bring plate & gold coin donation if you can

## SUNDAY

### RUNNING GROUP

8am Meet at La Hoot

### CHEESE MAKING WORKSHOP

24 August Shire Hall  
[shirehall@winchhouse.org.au](mailto:shirehall@winchhouse.org.au)  
52672028

### WINCHELSEA UNITING CHURCH

Service 9.30am each week  
Hesse St, Winchelsea  
0475 777 301 [uca.winchelsea@gmail.com](mailto:uca.winchelsea@gmail.com)

### WINCHELSEA COMMUNITY MARKET

9-1pm, 1st Sunday each month (except Nov)  
Shire Hall car park, Main Street  
[growingwinchelsea.com/project/winchelsea-community-market/](http://growingwinchelsea.com/project/winchelsea-community-market/)

### ST THOMAS' ANGLICAN CHURCH

10am each week Barwon Tce, Winchelsea  
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# Councillor Catch-Up

by Tony Phelps, Winchelsea Ward Councillor

Congratulations to Winchelsea Primary School for being awarded this year's \$10,000 Climate Emergency Grant with their project 'School for Climate: Regeneration and Climate Action in Regional Communities'. Equally, congratulations to all those who voted for this project to give it more than twice as much support as the other projects that were put forward – a lovely bit of support by the community for the school. I look forward to (literally!) seeing the fruits of this project as they learn to create sustainable gardens.

As indicated in past articles, the Winchelsea Place Plan aims to provide the Shire with guidance for the ongoing development and growth of the town. It is so important that those who live and work in and around the town put in your own thoughts and ideas. The survey and panel submissions have now closed, next month sees the panel get together over several sessions to thrash out to guide development of the plan. I'll be calling in too, it will be really interesting to see what comes up.

Have you seen the news about WYLD (the volunteer youth group, Winchelsea Youth Leisure Drop-in)? Great to see such a successful idea being revitalised, looking forward to seeing where the new people take it. Want to get involved? Contact Elaine via [secretary@growingwinchelsea.com](mailto:secretary@growingwinchelsea.com) or phone/text 0458 009 616. WYLD is an official 'auspice group' under the care of Winchelsea Community House.

The draft Road Management Plan (RMP) for the next 4 years up to 2029 is now out for you to review. For all those who want to see the Shire focus on roads more, this is THE document for

you to pay attention to (second only to the annual budget which funds it!). Winchelsea rated satisfaction with roads lower than any other town – so what would make things better? Section 1.2.1 is well worth noting in this regard ie. that the plan has to be achievable within available budget – spending more on roads means spending less somewhere else. It's also important to note that this RMP applies only to Council-managed roads within Surf Coast Shire.

To put the RMP into context, this isn't about upgrading roads to be sealed, it isn't about adding new footpaths – anything 'new' is separate. The RMP is about maintaining what's already there; defining what triggers a response, how long it should take, what the priorities are. Our roads are classified depending on the type (eg. sealed vs unsealed) and how busy they are (eg. primary vs secondary). You can see maps of how each road is classified at [surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Property/Roads/About-our-road-network](http://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Property/Roads/About-our-road-network) (and note that on Google Maps all the yellow roads are State/Federal responsibility). I encourage you to take a look to see if you have strong reasons to disagree with a classification.

Most of all, I encourage you to take a look at pages 28 & 29 which specify what defects Council is required to step in to fix, and the timeframe to do so.

Something to bear in mind is section 2.6.1 which outlines the responsibilities of road users, as defined by law. In essence, you need to drive to the conditions of the road, your vehicle, and yourself regardless of posted speed limit or type of road.

As always, don't forget to report ANY road issue you come across (on a Council road, of course) via the Shire's website and its Lodge A Request facility. It won't get fixed if the Shire doesn't know about it...

## Chat with your Councillor

Tony Phelps

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



## Submissions invited on draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029

The community is invited to have their say on Council's draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029.

You can view the plan and make a submission on Council's website at [surfcoast.vic.gov.au/RoadManagementPlanFeedback](http://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/RoadManagementPlanFeedback)

Submissions must be received by **5pm Friday 25 July 2025.**

For those without internet access submissions can be mailed to:

**Surf Coast Shire Council**  
**PO Box 350 Torquay, Victoria 3228**

The review of the Road Management Plan is required by the *Road Management Act 2004*.



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## Community feedback invited on draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029

Surf Coast Shire Council invites the community to share its feedback on the draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029, which outlines how Council will manage its road maintenance obligations and defines the responsibilities of road users.

The updated draft plan outlines several key changes:

- Improves inspection and response times for roads the community uses more frequently.
- Balances the need for timely responses with current budget and staffing constraints.
- Responds to increased claims by enhancing inspection routines and ensuring regular asset checks.
- Expands the plan to include inspections of previously excluded assets.

"This is a great opportunity for the community to have their say about the updated Road Management Plan," said Cr Paul Barker.

"We want to make sure the Road Management Plan reflects the needs and priorities of the community, and we can't do that without your input."

Council developed the draft plan after conducting an internal review of the Road Management Plan 2021-2025 considering:

- Findings from a review of unsealed road maintenance.
- Results from an evaluation of Council's Civil Operations Service levels.
- Benchmarking data from similar councils.
- Community requests related to road maintenance.
- Current staffing and financial resources.
- The Municipal Association of Victoria template used across all Victorian councils.

Council reviews and updates the Road Management Plan every four years, following each Council election, to ensure it reflects current needs and expectations.

"This plan directly affects how we respond to issues on our roads," said Cr Barker.

"By having your say now, you can help us improve the system for everyone."

Feedback for the draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029 will close on Friday 25 July.

To read the draft Road Management Plan 2025-2029 and have your say go to [surfcoast.vic.gov.au/RoadManagementPlanFeedback](http://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/RoadManagementPlanFeedback)

## Planting Day On Saturday

Saturday July 5<sup>th</sup>

Meet at 9am end of Dwyer St

First Saturday of the month has rolled around again with the opportunity for interested people to help with revegetating along the river. We usually work till 10.30 and then enjoy a coffee together.

Further details Rod 0428 549318 or Stewart 0428 672054



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Please contact the school if you have any questions or wish to forward your interest in the positions of Swim Instructors in this program.



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# Winchelsea Churches



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0475 777 301

uca.winchelsea@gmail.com

Hesse St, Winchelsea 3241

Services 9.30am Sundays

## St John the Baptist Catholic Church

0404598558

Father Joseph Panackal

Harding St, Winchelsea 3241

Winchelsea @ 5pm Sat. Jul. 5/12/19/26

Anakie – NO MASS

Meredith @ 9am Sun. Jul. 13, 27

Bannockburn @ 11am Sun. Jul. 6/13/20/27

Inverleigh @ 4pm Sun. JULY 20

## St Thomas' Anglican Church

0477 672 042

Rev Barbara Colliver

stthomaswac@gmail.com

Barwon Tce, Winchelsea

Service 10am Sundays

## Thought for the Week

"Pain and suffering can result from a world that is still unfinished and evolving.

In the beginning, God started to draw order out of chaos, but pockets of chaos remain.

Have patience with the incompleteness of the world, and it's creatures, including yourself.

**John Bader,  
Former U/C Accredited  
Lay Preacher**

# Bennett Reserve Landscape Upgrade Proposal

by Growing Winchelsea's 'Winchelsea Arboretum Trail Group'



Winchelsea Arboretum Trail Group has proposed upgrading of Bennett Reserve, aiming to help activate the space through tree planting and landscaping.

The proposal aligns with the group's vision for enhancing existing treed sites in the town, developing new treed sites and linking the sites via 'greenways'. The arboretum trail group is a sub-committee of Growing Winchelsea and the Bennett Reserve project is being led by Growing Winchelsea with project planning support from the Surf Coast Shire Council.

It follows the successful community led landscape upgrade of the reserve on the corner of Mercer and Barkly Streets. The community proposal for Bennett Reserve was lodged via Council's Community Project Proposal Portal ([surfcoast.vic.gov.au/CommunityProjects](http://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/CommunityProjects)) and then referred to the Community Project Development Program for further investigation support.

Arboretum trail group members met with Council officers in January 2025 and discussed ideas for 'light touch' landscape enhancement. Council arborists have now assessed existing trees on site and identified some in poor health that need to be removed and others to be remediated.

These works will take place late June / early July. Most of the existing trees will remain. A draft landscape plan will be developed proposing planting of new trees, identifying of native grasses that could be isolated for remediation and installation of one or two picnic tables to encourage people to spend time in the reserve. The working group will aim to share the draft plan with the community in September 2025. Winchelsea Arboretum Trail Group will then seek funding for the landscape upgrade works.

For further information about this project, please contact Growing Winchelsea via [secretary@growingwinchelsea.com](mailto:secretary@growingwinchelsea.com) or Nicky Angus, Community Project Development Officer, Surf Coast Shire Council via [info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au) or 5261 0600.



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## Community Satisfaction Survey Results Are In

Surf Coast Shire Council has received its results from the 2025 Victorian Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

Based on this year's responses, Council continues to rate higher than the statewide average and ahead of similar large rural councils in perceptions of overall performance and across almost all measures.

Council's overall performance score of 57 is the same as 2024, ranking ahead of the average rating of 50 for the large rural councils group, and 53 for all Victorian councils.

Waste management and customer service both received index scores of 70, rating as Council's highest performing individual areas – both well ahead of the state and group averages.

Surf Coast Shire also rated higher than the statewide and large rural council averages in the categories of overall direction, consultation and engagement, value for money, and community decisions.

Maintenance of unsealed roads (score of 46) and sealed roads (52) were rated higher than the averages for other council groups, however both rated lower than Surf Coast Shire's 2024 results.

The annual survey is commissioned by the Victorian Government, with all local governments in the state able to participate.

Independent phone surveys of 600 resident and non-resident Surf Coast Shire ratepayers were conducted earlier this year, with responses collated and analysed by JWS Research.

Australian-based call centre National Field Services made 18,388 calls to achieve the statistically valid sample of respondents.

Councillor Tony Phelps said the survey helps Council track its progress to determine areas for focus and improvement.

"Thank you to the community members who gave their time to complete the survey," Cr Phelps said.

"We aim to be a high performing Council, and this is a good way to get a snapshot of how our ratepayers think we're going.

"The responses suggest our performance is well ahead of the average Victorian council, but there's room to improve and we're still striving to get better.

"While it gives us good insight, it's important to note that this survey is one of several ways we evaluate our performance to decide our priority focus areas."

The full results are available to the community at; <https://jo.my/scs-satisfaction-survey-2025>

## Waurn Ponds Memorial Reserve Service

by Tom Welsh

The Waurn Ponds Memorial Reserve Committee is set to host its annual memorial service on Sunday July 6th, marking the 106th anniversary of the Avenue of Honour planting.

Located on the corner of Cochranes Road and Waurn Ponds Drive (Former Princess Hwy), the service will serve as remembrance of all Australians past and present who have served in the Australian Defence Forces.

Starting at 10:30am, the service will witness the participation of various local groups, including ADF cadets, the Geelong Memorial Brass Band, and the Geelong RSL Pipes and Drums.

Guest Speaker former Inverleigh RSL President and Teesdale Resident Mr Malcolm Johns will be among distinguished guests.

Before the service begins, veterans and ADF cadets will march into the Reserve.

Past and present Servicemen and Servicewomen are invited to participate in the march. Following the service light refreshments will be served at the Waurn Ponds Hall.

The plaques at the Memorial Reserve list the names of the Waurn Ponds servicemen and servicewomen including servicemen from the Winchelsea district.



# Local Artists On Show

by Irene Crusca

My partner and I were living in Terang and had been looking for a house together for a few years. We aimed to find a smallish but decent house on a generous block, with the prospect of creating a beautiful garden. After searching from Kyneton to Ballarat, we settled on Winchelsea—about halfway between Terang and Melbourne.

We moved on December 1, 2024, excited by the idea of living on a lifestyle farm with Highland cows, beautiful 360-degree views, and an abundance of quality sheds. I am an artist, so one of these sheds instantly became my studio. Another became storage for paintings I have made over more than forty years. However, the property also exceeded our expectations: the Barwon River borders it. We were enchanted by the River Red Gums, the meandering river, and frequent sightings of kangaroos, wallabies, platypus, and other elusive inhabitants.

My preferred medium is oil paint, and I am exploring further study in Italy to engage with the classical traditions of oil painting at a private academy in Florence. I work across a range of genres - portraiture, landscape and still life, which enable me to explore the themes of time and memory.

Soon, however, I will begin a new series based on the river that surrounds me. My partner has already begun restoring the riverbanks: clearing gorse, blackberry, box and kikuyu, and planting native trees and grasses, with advice from the local Landcare group.

Shortly after arriving, I was invited to join a group show in Geelong, featuring other artists from across the Western District. A few of us live on rural properties; others have moved from Melbourne or further afield. The exhibiting artists are Sandra Batten

(Barwon Downs), Chris Hoggard (Warncoort), Angela Baldwin (Kawarren Otway Ranges), Michele Caithness (Alvie), Jenny Grenfell (Colac), Julie Keating (Nalangil), Viv Wheeler (Colac), Alison McIntosh (Colac), Jan Stickland (Colac), Michele Kershaw (Gerangamete), Irene Crusca (Winchelsea), and Debbie Hill (Ballarat).

Perhaps the geographical isolation of regional Victoria encourages stronger connections between people. While a certain amount of solitude is needed for creativity to manifest, the need to connect — to be part of a community — is just as critical. The distances between us are significant; we often need to drive to meet up, which is why we chose the title *12 Down the Road*. Many of the artists have been inspired by the beauty around them – volcanic craters, the Otways, gardens and birds, the hinterland, shifting cloudscapes as well as light and memory.

This exhibition wouldn't exist without the huge efforts of Sandra Batten and Julie Keating, who work hard at connecting artists in the Western District through projects, exhibitions, and other gatherings.

As artists, we work across a range of media including oil painting, ceramics, printmaking, mixed media, textile art, sculpture, and installation.

*12 Down the Road* will be exhibited at Untether Gallery from 10.07.25 to 02.08.25.

Centrepont Arcade 5/132 Little Malop St, Geelong

[untethergallery.com.au](http://untethergallery.com.au)

All welcome to the official opening on Saturday, 12 July, from 1.30 to 3.30pm.



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# parkrun 69



**Saturday 28 June 2025**

On Saturday this week, we had 19 participants complete the parkrun course through Trebeck Reserve on a perfect morning for a walk or run. We had visitors from Inverloch. Congratulations to 3 of our parkrunners achieving the personal best, Michael Panckridge, Jack Steel and Kirsty Logan.

This event was made possible by the following volunteers: Elizabeth Bennett, Kate McInnes, Karen Richens, Shirley Dell, Don Smith, David Woodall and Helen Woodall. It takes a minimum of six people each week to safely conduct an enjoyable event. Please email [trebeckreserve@parkrun.com](mailto:trebeckreserve@parkrun.com) if you are able to volunteer some of your time. Tasks are simple, sociable, fun and very much appreciated.

Further details of this week's results can be found at [trebeckreserveparkrun.com.au/results](http://trebeckreserveparkrun.com.au/results) or check out our Facebook page for more photos and further information.

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](http://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.

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

**Trebeck Reserve, Winchelsea**





# WINCHELSEA FACEBOOK



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# Winchelsea Tennis Club

Fletcher Allen

## Thursday Night Match Recap Round 5 No Show? No Worries!

Highton "Mid Court Crisis" had a Crisis with filling in a team on Thursday night, so unfortunately had to text captain Fletch that due to an injury they had to forfeit. Hopefully these 2 sides can compete later in the season best wishes in your recovery for the highton captain.

No tennis, no recap – just our team chilling at home, probably smashing donuts instead of forehands.

Next week it's a real one – on the road to Lara to face the top dogs. Rest up, Winch legends. The real grind begins now



## New Policy To Help Protect Public Art Across Surf Coast Shire

A new policy will guide management, maintenance and protection of the hundreds of items of public art across Surf Coast Shire – from sculptures and murals to installations and exhibitions.

Surf Coast Shire Council resolved at its June meeting to adopt the Public Art Policy, which also sets guidelines for commissioning and acquisition of new works, and commits to protection of artist rights.

The policy was presented for Council's consideration following a period of community consultation which recorded strong support for its overall direction.

Cr Rebecca Bourke: "This new policy recognises the great value of public art in our shire, and its role in helping create sense of place, enhancing and invigorating public spaces and reflecting and helping to express our stories.

"An audit completed during 2024

identified 279 individual items of public art across our shire.

"The policy will provide a sustainable framework for the management and preservation of these existing public art assets and clear guidance on acquisition and approval of new works."

Public art is defined as including sculptures, installations, sound or music-based art excluding concerts, exhibitions in public spaces, murals, art incorporated into urban design, and projections and illuminated works.

The audit and policy were recommended for delivery under Council's Creative Places Strategy, which includes a vision for the establishment of a public art trail as a cultural tourism attraction for the shire.

The new policy aligns with principles in the National Standards for Museums and Galleries, the National Association for the Visual Arts Code of Practice, and the Copyright (Moral Rights) Amendments Act 2000.



## Winchelsea Op Shop Book Sale

by Cheryl Mawson

The Winchelsea Op Shop will be having their \$5 bag of books again ready for the School Holidays.

Sale will commence on Friday, July 4th, through until end of the holidays.

We have lots of good books so do not miss out on your winter reading.

Thanks to the community for your ongoing support to the shop once again.

*We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads.*

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## Winchelsea Football Netball Club Inc

Hopkins St, Winchelsea winchelseafnc@hotmail.com

# Junior Netball

Shae Callahan

### NetSetGo Wrap-Up: A Celebration of Skills, Fun and Future Stars!

As the final whistle approaches for our NetSetGo program next week, we're celebrating an incredible term of growth, learning and fun on the court. Our youngest netballers have come a long way — mastering everything from the basics of throwing and catching to understanding netball positions and even sharpening their goal-shooting skills.

To mark the end of the program, we'll be finishing up with a fun and friendly game play simulation. It's a great chance for our budding players to put all their hard work into action — and show off what they've learnt to their friends, families, and coaches.

Following the on-court action, the club will be putting on a team dinner for the participants from 5:30pm, with medal presentations to celebrate the efforts and achievements of every participant. We're incredibly proud of each child's commitment & progress - and can't wait to cheer them on!

Looking ahead, we're excited to see our new Under 10s team take the next step as they enter competition for the second half of the year. These rising stars are sure to bring energy, skill and sportsmanship to the court — and we know the community will be right behind them every step of the way.

### Resilient Juniors Show Grit in Tough Round Against East Geelong

It was a challenging week on the court for our junior netball teams, facing off against a strong and physical East Geelong outfit. While the scoreboard didn't fall in our favour, there was no shortage of heart, hustle, and determination across all age groups.

Our Under 13s fought hard in a fast-paced game, going down 44–20, showing glimpses of excellent teamwork and never backing down.

The Under 15s, a determined but inexperienced team still finding their feet, came up against a well-drilled opposition, with the final score 30–4. Despite the result, their effort and enthusiasm were unwavering, and every game brings valuable experience and growth.

In the Under 17s match, the girls held their own in a tight contest, eventually falling 26–17 after some promising passages of play.

Our Under 19s also battled it out right to the final whistle, going down 29–14, but showing plenty of leadership and resilience under pressure.

### U11s Shine in Dominant Win Over Newtown Black

Our Under 11s delivered a standout performance last Tuesday night, claiming a commanding 20–1 victory over Newtown Black! The team's energy, skill, and teamwork were on full display, with every player contributing to the well-deserved win.

It was a night to remember for our goal scorers — Helena led the charge with an impressive 9 goals, closely followed by Mackenzie with 6, Ivy adding 4, and new recruit Ruby slotting 1 goal for the team.

At the other end of the court, our defence was as tight as ever, shutting down Newtown's scoring opportunities and turning over possession with confidence. The combination of sharp passing, smart movement, and communication showed just how far this team has come.

It's clear that the hard work at training is paying off, and the improvements week to week are something the whole club is proud of. Keep it up, U11s — we can't wait to see what you do next!

While it wasn't our week in terms of results, these tough games are building the strength, teamwork and grit that will serve our players well as the season continues. The club is proud of the way each team represented themselves and supported one another.

We now shift our focus to next week's clash against Inverleigh — a new opportunity to regroup, reset, and bring that competitive spirit back to the court. Let's get around our juniors and keep building together!



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# Winchelsea Football Netball Club Inc

Hopkins St, Winchelsea winchelseafnc@hotmail.com

# Blues News

Janet Fletcher

## ROUND 11

### Winchelsea Blues vs Bell Post Hill Panthers.

### East Geelong Vs Winchelsea

Welcome to all readers of Blues News hoping this edition finds everyone keeping well and warm. Last Saturday had the Winchelsea Blues head to the Richmond Crescent Oval to meet East Geelong Eagles in beautiful cold clear Winter conditions.

#### RESERVES:

**East Geelong Eagles 7.3.45 defeated Winchelsea Blues 6.4.40.**

It was a scoring game of 2 halves with the Blues having a dismal start against the strong East side in both the first and second quarter, not managing to score at all in the second going into the half time break 1.1 to 6.2

After half time the Blues turned the game around to out play and out score the Eagles allowing East Geelong just the 1 point in the third quarter, and 1 goal in the last, finally going down by 5 points and rueing what might have been.

**GOALS:** Angus Leigh 3, Timothy Miles 1, Michael Bourdouvalis 1, Harry Evin 1.

**BEST:** Luke Foot, Michael Bourdouvalis, Bailey Kahle, Jack Milbourne, Zach Ross, Baxter Boddington.

#### SENIORS:

**East Geelong 16.13.109 defeated Winchelsea 7.5.47.**

The Blues stayed in touch with the powerful benchmark East Geelong side for the first half but were outclassed and out played after half time. Coach Ben Moloney again took to the field and was unfortunately taken to emergency with a knock to the throat. All hoping everything is ok for Ben, Jordan Huff winding back the clock kicking 4 and getting best on ground as well.

**GOALS:** Jordan Huff 4, Josh Freeman 1, Cameron Primmer 1, OllieMahncke.

**BEST:** Jordan Huff, Cass Parish, Caleb Brown, Jackson Timms, Rueben James, Thomas Rouget.

This week Round 12 the Winchelsea Football & Netball Club will host their country cousins Inverleigh meeting for the second time this season and the Blues will be wanting a repeat of the Reserve and Seniors wins in Round 1 on the Hawks home turf.

#### AUSKICK 2025:

NAB Winchelsea Auskick will wind up their season this Thursday and will play their half time match at Eastern Reserve before their Presentation Ceremony taking place in the Bendigo Bank Room on Saturday the 5th July,

Winchelsea Auskick has been very successful again this season with over 50 participants taking part. Parents and administrator Colleen are to be congratulated, building on numbers every year for the past 5 years.

We look forward to seeing family and friends to celebrate the Aus kickers taking to the main oval at half time of the Seniors game.

#### BLUE'S BISTRO:

This week's Menu will be Chicken Schnitzel / Parmi, Battered Flake and Curried Sausages. Served with either chips and salad or vegetables, optional gravy.

Members \$15

Non Members \$20

Dessert: \$5 – to be announced.

*Footnote - Ben is out of hospital suffering a fractured bone in his throat, no contact sport for at least 6 weeks and am thinking Spud Armstrong will be literally calling the shots at training for the next little while. Everyone wishes a speedy and complete recovery for Ben.*

## GO BLUES!!

## GROWING WINCHELSEA MEETING

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