

Winchelsea Star

Price \$1

Your Weekly Community Newspaper

Since 1977

Vol 48 Ed 04

Tuesday 4 February

winchelseastar.org.au



**At the Winchelsea
Community Market
last Sunday**



Back: Luke, Audrey, Ashleigh Front: Adelyn

The Chapmans love living in Winchelsea, Luke, a painter, said it is a nice quiet place to come home to after working in Geelong. Adelyn starts Kinder this year.



Changes for your kerbside FOGO bin

Council's compost contractor has made some changes to the items you can put in your kerbside FOGO bin.

These items are no longer accepted in your FOGO bin:



pet poo

(even inside 100% compostable bags)

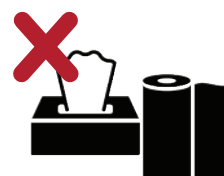


kitty litter

(even litter made from recycled paper or wood)



teabags



tissues

and large amounts of paper towel

Put pet poo, kitty litter, teabags, tissues and large amounts of paper towel in your landfill bin (red lid).



paper

e.g. shredded paper, paper bags, office paper, wrapping



cardboard

e.g. boxes

Clean paper, cardboard boxes and packaging goes in your recycling bin (yellow lid).

Never put bags of rubbish or plastic bags in your FOGO bin.



surfcoast.vic.gov.au/FOGO



The SES are recruiting - they need you!

Judy Cameron

The Winchelsea Team were at the Sunday Market this weekend explaining how joining their team of volunteers can give individuals skills and satisfaction while supporting the community.

I asked some of them why they joined and continue to serve.

KERRI: I had often thought about it. So, when my kids left home, I decided it was time to step out of my comfort zone, by joining the SES! I'm so glad I did!

ANGE: I wanted to challenge myself. I have always been involved in my community like the kinder and school so this is another way to contribute usefully.

JOSH: I lost my son in a car accident. I know what it is like to have the police knock on the door with bad news. I hope my skills attending accidents with the SES can prevent other families from experiencing this trauma.

HEATH: was actually recruited by the team here at a previous Sunday Market. I had a back injury that was making me lazy and I thought lots of other people are out there volunteering to help others and so should I.

TERRY: I was retired and looking for ways to give back to the community. The SES keeps me fit and active and meeting new people. The Winchelsea Team are a great bunch to work with, a close knit unit.

VICSES provides emergency assistance to thousands of Victorians every year. Our volunteers are the backbone of our organisation, and come from all walks' of life, ages and backgrounds.

You will find our volunteers assisting their local communities throughout Victoria in rural, regional and metropolitan locations, on the front line, in emergency planning and strategy centres, and providing education to help community members understand what to do when an emergency strikes. We respond to our communities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year.

To volunteer for VICSES, applicants first go through a selection and screening process to ensure they understand the role and can meet the time & fitness commitments required for training and performing volunteer duties.

Full training is provided. Each of our volunteers receives accredited, recognised training as part of their role, ranging from first aid, general rescue, chainsaw operations, community education, media training, and much more.

Winchelsea SES are currently recruiting volunteer members in operational positions including: road crash rescue, storm damage and chainsaw operators.

Lots more information or to sign up, see the SESVIC website www.ses.vic.gov.au/join-us/volunteer-opportunities



L-R: Josh, Ange, Terry, Heath and Kerri



David explaining the amazing amount of equipment the SES Rescue truck carries



The children loved being allowed to set the siren going!



Support for Victorians facing rental and mortgage stress

Victorian State Government

The Victorian Government is supporting Victorians doing it tough by expanding access to financial counselling services.

Financial counsellors provide a range of supports to help people get their finances back on track, including working out payment plans and negotiating with creditors and insurers.

The grants will support tailored responses including in health settings and First Nations communities through Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and provide support for primary producers and small businesses in Western and Northern Victoria.

Speak with someone

Call us for **FREE** advice on how to manage your debts.

1800 007 007

Call weekdays 9:30am – 4:30pm

Chat weekdays 9:00am – 8:00pm



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Call Richard today! ☎ 044 451 3017 ✉ Lightravels@gmail.com

Yoga at the Winchelsea Shire Hall
8am Saturday Morning Flow
 With Lisa
 Classes start Feb 8th



7pm Tuesday evening Vinyasa
 With Kate
 Classes start Feb 11th

\$20 per class when you sign up for the term. Come into Winch House or email shirehall@winchhouse.org.au to book your spot.



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3 Days with BlazeAid

Tony Phelps

The Grampians continue to burn, with the dryness and the hot weather making it very difficult to finally stamp out the bushfire. Although mostly inside the National Park, a significant area of the 76,000 hectares burnt into farmland, and in the process destroyed kilometres of fencing. As a result of that, cows, sheep and pasture were left unconstrained, mixing together and in the case of livestock roaming away into neighbouring properties or the Park.

This is where BlazeAid steps in, to remove the ruined fencing and then rebuild new fences. The aim is to rebuild the boundary fencing so that the farmers can at least retrieve and contain their own livestock. BlazeAid is an amazing volunteer-powered organisation, and I spent 3 days in their Willaura camp as one of those volunteers.



Crossing over the burnt out mountain pass



Planning with the farmer

BlazeAid is about so much more than simply replacing damaged fences. As you can imagine, when a disaster happens people can be distressed, not know where to start, and feel helpless in the face of so much needing to be done. BlazeAid's purpose is to relieve the poverty, suffering, distress, misfortune, destitution or helplessness experienced by survivors of bushfires and other natural disasters. The small crew I was a part of definitely witnessed this, and the relief and thankfulness that followed fixing essential fences.



Preparing to run out multiple wire strands



Wire strands tensioned and clipped

I won't lie, it was very hard work. The day starts at 6:15am for breakfast, at which we also make our own packed lunch and stack it in our designated crew's eski. Then there's a briefing, which includes safety information (eg. don't wander off, and NO using tractors or quad-bikes). By 7:30am we're in the BlazeAid utes & 4-wheel-drives, each with a trailer of equipment, and on the way to our designated location. We spend all day there, doing whatever is necessary and following the farmer's preferences for how they like the fence constructed. I learnt a LOT about the various types of fences and even how the same type can be put together in different ways. It is very physical work, out in the open and the weather (my last day it was full sun and 34 degrees!). Around 3-4pm we head home, have a shower and a brief rest, and then dinner is put on at 6pm. At around 7pm, everyone has a debrief - each crew leader recounts what was achieved,

welcomed, important notices are announced. It is such a friendly and light-humoured way of doing things.

While I was there, Chelsea Bunz and Dutch Cafe Poffertjes food vans drove up from Warrnambool to offer BlazeAid food for 60 people for free. The following evening, the Sikh Volunteers drove up from Melbourne to do the same thing. All of them packed up and drove back home after they'd fed us all. Fabulous generosity and community spirit. Many companies and organisations support BlazeAid with in-kind, free or cheap supplies and services.

The Willaura camp was situated at the footy ground, using their kitchen and the communal space for tables and chairs. Everyone camps there, preferably in their own swag, tent or caravan although there are some 'pods' - packable small rooms with just a bed. One of the interesting aspects about BlazeAid is that backpackers with working visas who have to work 88 days in Australia before they are free to head off as tourists can have their time at BlazeAid count towards the 88 days. Similarly, they are registered with CentreLink for volunteers to meet their job-search requirements (minimum 2 weeks though).



L-R, me with Kylie (BlazeAid), Melissa (BlazeAid CEO) & John (camp organiser)



The Sikh volunteers preparing dinner

I would say we had about 60% grey nomads, 20% backpackers, and 20% volunteers like myself offering a few days of assistance in between normal working life. It was a highly diverse mix of people of all sorts of ages, professions, & experience, male & female. Each person is free to choose to do fencing or help at the camp. Each day all available fencers are allocated to a team which is allocated to a farmer who directs the team to what's needed first.

I came back tired with sore muscles, a very useful education in fencing, and a massive sense of satisfaction after seeing a few kilometres of new fencing put up where previously there was none. We did well, as did all the teams. It was quite amazing how much distance we could cover in a day - my phone telling me I walked over 10km, up and down stringing things out and attaching clips and whacking in posts.



A sheep-proof fence completed


If you get the chance, it's an experience and a contribution that I highly recommend. blazeaid.com.au



NEW CLASSES!

SUNNY GYM
WINCHELSEA

Intro Deal: \$35 for 2 weeks!

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
AM:			6:30am Strength		6:30am Strength 9:30am Parents 10:30am Qi Gong
PM:	4:30pm Kids KungFu 6:30pm Boxing	5pm Kids KungFu		6:30pm Boxing	

for more info visit: sunnygym.com.au

Winchelsea Community Foodbank

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



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


Community Satisfaction Survey 2025
On Now



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

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

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



GREAT Bundle Deal on Bosch Hot Water... FROM ELGAS

Buy any Bosch Bluetooth continuous flow hot water model - 16Litre, 20Litre or 26Litre and **Receive \$100* in Elgas bonus LPG gas credits**

*For more details: www.elgas.com.au/appliances/bosch-apflow-16-20-26-lpg-bundle-sale

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ELGAS

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SUNNY GYM
GYM BUT JOYFUL

Strength, Mindfulness and Martial Arts in Winchelsea

Boxing Kids Kung Fu Group Exercise Personal Training Qi Gong

NEW!

sunnygym.com.au

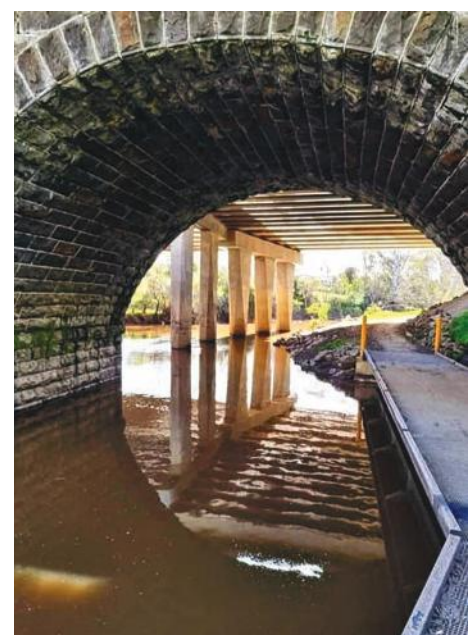
NATURAL GAS CONNECTIONS

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- GAS FITTERS
- GAS CONVERTERS
- CARBON MONOXIDE TESTING

MARK 0428 520 142



Winchelsea Mud Hut Community Cob Wall

Alison Dean

Comments from Winchelsea Locals in response to the proposed “carport design” that was to replace the mud hut, were along the lines of it has no character and has no wind and rain protection. These comments lead to a re-design that of the “carport design” into what it is today and a part of that design is for Winchelsea community to build cob/ mud walls within the structure, connecting us to the space and once again making this shelter “our mud hut”.

This week, we held our first meetings with Mud Fun, a community cob wall facilitating company that are working with us to build our mud walls. Winchelsea Primary School and other surrounding schools have scheduled to attend to help build the wall. The most important component for the wall building is FUN, ensuring a memorable event for all. Stomping is powered by rhythmic music beats that drive the activity and it certainly is a fun experience that all involved will have treasured memories from forever. Winchelsea’s own Nick Daromb from Krazy Koala, will be attending along the way to drive some of the beats. Many other groups like the Modewarre Scouts, Mens Shed, Lions Club, the Winchelsea Community House and Bendigo Bank are looking to support the event, which will take place 1 – 9 March 2025. We also have a team of leaders helping run the event including Charlie Earl, Leah Nicholls, David Stewart and myself, with much support from Growing Winchelsea Secretary Elaine Atkinson, Sue Fletcher, Mike Tucker, Jenny Murray-Jones and Neil Mciness.

So lovely connecting with Winchelsea Community through our mud wall building. The more the merrier. Please don’t feel that you need to over-commit to be involved. Even coming for one hour will be help enough to make it all happen. **See you there.**



Scout bridge over the Barwon

Marie McPadden



The Scouts are well ahead of the Shire's plan to build a bridge over the Barwon River behind the pool.

About 5 years ago, we assembled the materials – spars, ropes, square pieces of timber scavenged from somewhere because they'd come in handy – and built a trestle type bridge alongside the ford. It was a credit to the Troop, sturdy enough to handle repeated crossings of show-off athletic Scouts and clumsy once-only Leader scrambles.

If Surf Coast Shire is interested, we could do it again for the benefit of the town.

Scouts starts up again very soon for both GIRLS and boys. Joeys runs on Tuesdays from 5-6pm for 5-8 year olds, Cubs on Mondays from 8-11yos, and Scouts on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30pm for 11-15yos. We have room in all levels.

The scouting program offers children age appropriate activities with a large outdoor, adventure component supporting individual development and interests.

We may not build bridges this year, but we have plans for bike rides, hikes, camps, archery, cooking, campcraft, canoeing and lots more. Our local Scout camp, Eumeralla, is just down at Anglesea and we'll be heading there for some weekend adventures.

Please contact Group Leader Marie McPadden for more information and to organise a free 2 week trial.
Email mcpadden630@bigpond.com or text 0409330147.





Winchelsea Community House Inc. A6247K
28 Hesse Street, PO BOX 75, WINCHELSEA, Vic. 3241
Phone: (03) 5267 2028 **Email:** manager@winchhouse.org.au
ABN: 48 932 340 254

Vinyasa Yoga

Tuesday evenings at 7pm

11th of Feb – 25th March

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

\$20 per class when you book for 7 week term.

Mother Goose Song & Rhyme

Every Wednesday at 2pm

During school terms

For parents and caregivers with children of all ages.

Sessions are led by Child and Family Health team members.

FREE, No bookings required just come along and

Winchelsea Knitting Group

Thursday Mornings from Feb 6th

10.30 – 12pm

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

Tai Chi

Friday Mornings, from Feb 7th

9.00am – 10.00am

In the Helen Verity Room,
Winchelsea community house

\$10 per session

Chatty Cafe

Fridays 10.30pm – 12.30pm

"Sip, Chat, Share, Care"

Winchelsea Shire Hall

Everyone Welcome, Collection tin for donations.



FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES

FACEPAINTING

BY ARTZZY JAZZY

KIDS KUNG FU

WITH EVAN FROM SUNNY GYM

BADGE MAKING

WITH THE GEELONG REGIONAL
LIBRARY

TOY LIBRARY DISPLAY

& MUCH MORE!



**FRIDAY 7TH FEB
2PM - 5PM**



WINCHELSEA SHIRE HALL

Flow Yoga

Saturday mornings at 8am

8th of Feb – 25th March

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

\$20 per class when you book for the 8 week term.

Crochet Group

1.30pm in the Winchelsea Community Centre

Every Second Saturday

Next class February 8th

\$5 per class

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



THE
WINCHELSEA STAR
ORGANISATION INC.

Winchelsea
Star



CORRECTION

To avoid any confusion Sam Inglis did not receive the OBE (Order of the British Empire) A very prestigious award appointed by His Majesty.
dWhat he did receive was the OBE (Over Bloody Eighty) award from the Lions Club for turning eighty!!!!!! Apologies for any confusion.

Winchelsea Star Production Meeting

Saturday 22 February 2025

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

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



This Week's Winchelsea Star

Editor - Judy Cameron

Designer - Susan Corby

send your stories
news@winchelseastar.org.au

LOCAL NEWS and ARTICLES WELCOME

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

DEADLINE 5pm Fridays

4pm Sundays - hard copy articles left at IGA

6pm Sundays - sports results and weekend events

ADVERTISING

advertising@winchelseastar.org.au 0408 102 802

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facebook.com/TheWinchelseaStar

production

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



Winchelsea Star COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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

FOR SALE

2 x Whipper Snippers \$25 each
1 x Lawn Mower \$25
1x Small Generator \$50
1x Pentax Digital camera \$150 - paid
\$700 (7.0 megapixels, 5x optical zoom)
OR \$200 FOR THE LOT.
Contact: 52672954

WINCHELSEA OP SHOP

On Friday January 3 we will start to
accept donations again.

LIONS CLUB

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

WINCHELSEA PICKLEBALL

Winchelsea Leisure Time Centre
Wed 7-830pm or Thurs 10-11.30am.
All equipment supplied,
wear suitable footwear.
Lesley Mathison 0438 672 197

WINCHELSEA TENNIS CLUB

JUNIOR COACHING

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

SOCIAL TWILIGHT TENNIS

Monday evenings from 6.00pm.
All Welcome!

CUBS AND JOEYS

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

WINCHELSEA GIRL GUIDES

Are you interested in joining an
enthusiastic, self-motivated team
working with girls, 5-15 years?

Winchelsea Guides are seeking female
adult volunteers. Help us provide a
stimulating program giving leadership
development opportunities for girls, as
well as providing fun and friendship.

Phone Yvonne 0448 672630



Social Bridge is played

EVERY TUESDAY

NEW TIME 10 AM - 12 NOON

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

36 Harding Street Winchelsea

New players always welcome

Elaine Atkinson 0458 009 616

DIAMOND DOT

Next Diamond Dot day
Saturday February 8 11am till 4pm,
Senior Citizens Rooms, Harding St.
\$5.00 entry.

Afternoon tea supplied,
New stock available for sale.
See you there.

FOR SALE - SINGLE BED

Comes with mattress.
New wooden
underlay and mattress protector
No stains on mattress
\$50 pick up winchelsea
Ph Tracey 0427500649



ZUMBA DANCE WITH SIMONE

Zumba Fitness
& Gold classes available
@ Winchelsea's Globe Theatre
Mondays & Wednesdays
6:30pm-7:30pm
\$15 per class or
\$25 for two sessions.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN!
Simone Dunmore – 0468 375 036 or
ZumbawithSimone09@gmail.com

Winchelsea
Community Market

Shire Hall
9am - 1pm



FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

2 March 2025
6 April 2025
4 May 2025
1 June 2025



BEAR
4 Year Old
Retired
Greyhound
FREE
To
Good Home

Bear is a very friendly
and easy going male dog.
He is vaccinated (up to June 2025),
desexed and has a dental clearance.
Bear has no fleas
and is regularly wormed.
Pet Exchange Register: Source number:
EE271567
Microchip Number: 956000010897457
Les 0439 103 606

Winchelsea Churches



St John's Catholic Church

Father Joseph Panackal
0404598558
Harding St, Winchelsea 3241
MASS TIMES
6pm Sat. Winchelsea
FEB. 1, 8, 15, 22

St Thomas' Anglican Church

Rev'd Phil Jacobson
0477 672 042
stthomaswac@gmail.com
Barwon Tce, Winchelsea
Service 10am

Winchelsea Uniting Church

0475 777 301
uca.winchelsea@gmail.com
Hesse St, Winchelsea 3241
Services 9.30am Sundays

Thought for the Week

"Live all you can:
it's a mistake not to.

It doesn't matter what you do
in particular,

so long as you have
had your life.

If you haven't had that,
what have you had.

Think about it
and have a blessed week."

John Bader,
Former U/C Accredited
Lay Preacher

We are one community - and together, we can accomplish amazing things

Phil Jacobson

Recent posts on the Winchelsea Facebook page indicates that Winchelsea is changing. Whilst still a small community, it's becoming more diverse and sometimes we forget how diverse and unique each individual within this community really is. Whether we're farmers, teachers, retirees, or artists, families seeking a better lifestyle or people wanting to move from the busyness of the city, our differences make us who we are - and they make us stronger.

At St Thomas' we spoke about this recently one Sunday morning when one of St Paul's letters popped up. His bottom line was about "unity in diversity" and what he was saying actually connects with life in our community today. It was surprising how relevant this, nearly, 3000-year-old letter is to us today! In his letter, Paul uses the image of the body to describe how the church community (or any community for that matter) should function. He reminded the people that, just as a body, has many parts, all those parts form one body. This is not a bad picture of how we, as individuals, come together to make something greater than ourselves.

In our community, we have many different people - some are farmers, some take care of the kids, some keep our traditions alive, and others bring fresh ideas. But everyone plays a vital role in the health and strength of the "whole." Just like in a human body, where each part is necessary, from head to toe, every person has something special to offer.

One of the most key lessons in Paul's letter is about embracing our differences. Paul rightly says that the eye can't say to the hand, 'I don't need you!'

In our community, we might not always agree on everything, or have the same abilities or interests, but that's OK! It's precisely those differences that make us unique and valuable to one another. We don't need to all be the same to work well together. Whether someone is a proficient carpenter or a creative cook, a quiet listener, or a visionary leader, we each contribute in ways that make our community richer and more alive.

Paul then hit home when he said that we're all connected in this one body, pointing out that if one part suffers, every part suffers with it. This is important. Our well-being is tied to one another, and we should support each other through life's ups and downs. It's not just about what one person can do - it's about how we all come together to encourage each other. Paul then reminds us that each person has been given specific abilities to help the community, but it's easy to overlook our own gifts, especially if we don't think they're as "flashy" or obvious as someone else's. But every gift - whether it's teaching, supporting, lending a hand, or organizing an event - is vital. It's not about who's more talented but about using what they have to serve and contribute. Just like each part of the body has a purpose, every member of the community has a special role to play.

Paul then gets to the nitty gritty of his message. His letter isn't some boring 'he begat and he begat ...' Instead, it encourages us to recognize that when we work together, we accomplish far more than we could ever do alone. Winchelsea might not have the same resources as Geelong, but we have something that those bigger places can't match - a sense of belonging and the ability to support one another. Paul's message reminds us that we're stronger when we work in agreement, just as the body works best when all its parts work together.

As we continue to move forward in this community, let's remember the benefit of 'unity in diversity' that Paul speaks about. We don't have to be alike to be effective. In fact, it's our differences that make us stronger. Let's continue to celebrate each person's unique gifts and talents, encourage one another up in times of need, and work together toward the common good. When we do this, we're not just building a better community; we're creating a place where everyone truly belongs.

So next time you see someone doing something different from what you do, remember the message Paul's message, we are one body - and together, we can accomplish amazing things.

Letter to the Editor

Winchelsea Library Service

Is anyone else getting frustrated with our ever-dwindling Library Service? For the last 18 months or more we have endured a variety of vehicles appearing on a Friday afternoon with a somewhat limited array of books, DVD's and magazines to borrow. This year we have only had the option to request books online or by telephoning a library and hop that they come on that week's small transit van - no browsing available. It appears that the large mobile bus we have had for over ten years is nearing the end of its life. Does this also mean the end of a library service to Winchelsea along with seven other small towns in the area.

Are the other option that may be considered?

What can we as a community do to ensure a quality, reliable library service? I have emailed the Geelong Regional Library; the Winchelsea Ward Councillors and the Surf Coast Shire and am waiting replies. More people asking question and voicing their concerns may help to raise the profile of an essential service many take for granted.

Helen Davie.

WANTED Winchelsea Girl Guides needs girls

We welcome girls 6-15yrs.

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

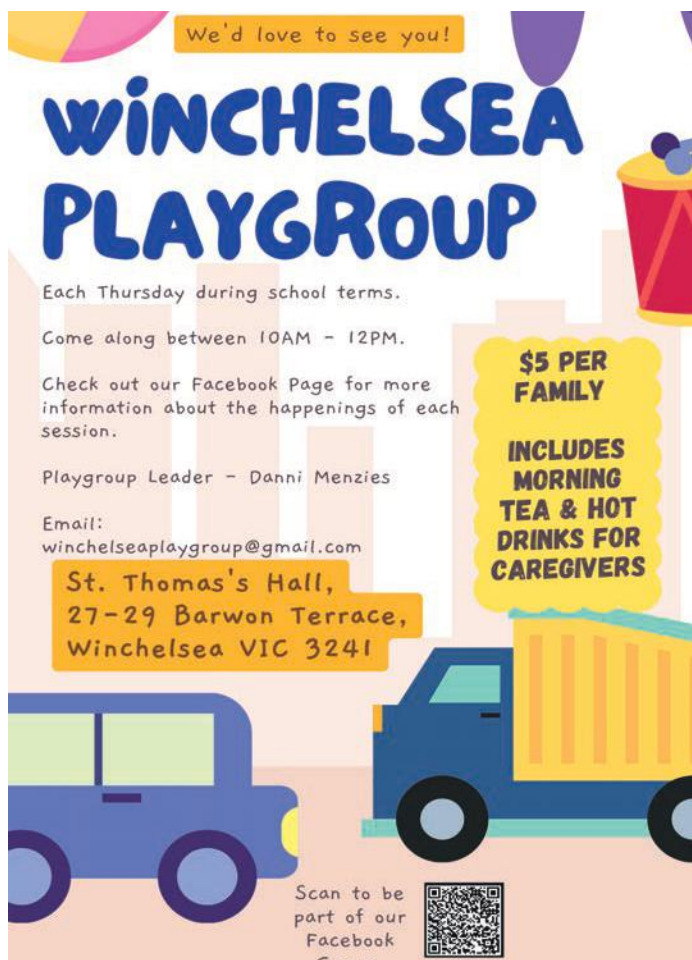
Guiding provides fun, friendship, and adventure.
Developing teamwork, and leadership skills,
whilst girls achieve goals, improve communities
and grow in confidence.

Many of our girls were from Moriac
so a Unit has been opened at Modewarre to cater for them.

We also had 4 travelling up from the coast,
and now they attend secondary school in Geelong
so they have transferred to a Geelong Guide Unit.

**If interested, girls can attend 2 free sessions.
We commence on Mon 3 Feb,
girls are welcome to come along and try.**

Enquiries contact Yvonne Orchard ph 0448 672 630
Or Lily Dell Rennie ph 0428 936 441



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 of each
session.

Playgroup Leader - Danni Menzies


Email:
winchelseaplaygroup@gmail.com

St. Thomas's Hall,
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Isla new top name for girls but Oliver reigns supreme for boys

Victorian State Government

Isla has been crowned the most popular baby name for girls for the first time in Victoria, while Oliver has nabbed an 11-year winning streak as the most popular boys' name.

Minister for Government Services Natalie Hutchins visited the Royal Women's Hospital to release the Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Victoria lists of the top 100 popular baby names for boys and girls in 2024.

Isla came in ahead of Charlotte, Amelia and Mia, taking the prime spot for the first time since it entered the top 100 most popular baby names in 2008.

Oliver has reserved the top seat since 2014, followed by Noah and Henry for two consecutive years.

Oliver is competing to break the all-time record for most popular boys' name, but will need to stay on top for another 13 years. John holds the longest running top baby name for boys, clocking an impressive 23 years from 1929 to 1951.

In 2024, 79,239 births were registered in Victoria, including 389 Islas and 570 Olivers.

Parents are encouraged within the first 60 days to register their baby's name and can do so easily online with the Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

**For the full list of popular baby names visit
bdm.vic.gov.au/names.**



The Little Climate Report

Judy Cameron

What's driving north Queensland's deadly, record-breaking floods?

Steve Turton, Adjunct Professor of Environmental Geography, CQUniversity writing in *The Conversation*.

Over the 48 hours to Sunday, there were reports of up to 1 metre of rainfall in parts of northeast Queensland. ... The atmospheric factors behind these floods are very similar to recent floods in the region – and climate change is no doubt playing a role ...

The main drivers behind these events include warming of the atmosphere. For every 1°C of warming, the atmosphere

holds 7% more water vapour. Recent research suggests this figure could be even higher for short duration rainfall.

Hotter oceans hold more energy, meaning they can also amplify the global water cycle when atmospheric conditions are suitable. This year, sea surface temperatures in the northwest Coral Sea are 1-2°C above average. Ocean temperatures have risen because of a lack of cloud cover and rain last month. In northwestern Australia, this has given rise to an intensifying marine heatwave.

Read the full story <https://theconversation.com/whats-driving-north-queenslands-deadly-record-breaking-floods-248847>

WINCHELSEA HOSTEL AND NURSING HOME SOCIETY INC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2023/2024 Annual General Meeting for the General Public will be held at the Old Winchelsea Shire Hall on Monday 24th February, 2025 at 7pm.

Please contact Hesse on (03) 5267 1200 or reception@hesse.vic.gov.au to confirm your attendance.

BUSINESS

1. To confirm the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting and the Meeting of Members on 10 February 2025.
2. To receive the report of the Committee of Management and the audited Statements of Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2024.
3. To approve the amendment of the Association's Statement of Purposes.
4. To approve the transfer of all Association assets and land to Hesse Rural Health.
5. To appoint the Victorian Auditor General's Office as auditor.
6. To elect officers of the Association and members of the Committee.

Carissa Brock | Secretary



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2025 is here, and it's set to be a defining year for both climate and our community. With this in mind, we're excited to invite you to our first Climate Connect event of the year, and our first-ever community dinner, hosted in partnership with Common Ground Project.

**Seeds of Strength Community Dinner:
Community and Food Resilience for a Changing Climate.**

When: 6.00 - 8.30pm, Tuesday 25 February
Where: Common Ground Project,
675 Anglesea Road, Freshwater Creek

BOOK NOW

We're bringing our community together for an evening of connection, inspiration and incredible food. This is an opportunity to explore how we can build resilience in our communities and food systems amidst the challenges of a changing climate.

Over a delicious shared meal prepared by the amazing team at Common Ground Project, we'll hear from two inspiring speakers: Dr Rebecca Lindberg: An expert in food security sharing strategies for creating sustainable, localised and resilience food networks.

Sam Suendermann: A leader in community resilience highlighting the power of strong, connected communities to face climate challenges together.

This dinner is about more than just a meal—it's about coming together to share knowledge and strengthen local resilience. Whether you come with friends, family or on your own, you'll find a warm welcome at our shared tables as we connect and learn together.

As part of the National Sustainability Festival, this event highlights practical solutions to the climate crisis and inspires action moving forward.

Bookings are essential - book now!

Our partner: Common Ground Project:
Common Ground Project is a regenerative farm and social enterprise committed to food security and fair access to locally grown and healthy food. Through workshops, training and community collaboration, they're creating meaningful social change rooted in connection to land, food and community.

We're excited to partner with them to bring this incredible event to life and celebrate the strength of community.

Catching conditions early with expanded newborn screening

Victorian State Government

Victorian newborns will now be screened for an additional rare and serious genetic disorder to ensure babies get the treatment and care they need sooner.

Acting Minister for Health Ingrid Stitt has announced that testing for galactosaemia will be included in Victoria's newborn bloodspot screening program run by the Victorian Clinical Genetics Services.

Commonly referred to as the 'heel prick test', the newborn bloodspot screening program helps parents get their children early treatment for rare health conditions.

This latest addition sees the screening program test for a total 32 conditions. It is offered to parents of all newborns within their first 72 hours of life, at no cost.

Galactosaemia is a rare genetic condition that prevents the body from metabolising galactose, a type of sugar found in milk and dairy products. The most serious form occurs in approximately one in 50,000 babies and can cause life-threatening liver disease, infections, and cataracts if not diagnosed soon after birth.

Through screening, affected babies will be detected and treated early. Treatment consists of restricting dietary galactose, including replacing dairy milk with lactose-free formulas.

Newborn bloodspot screening began in Victoria in 1966, with more than 3.6 million babies screened to date. One in 1,000 are found to have a rare but serious condition such as congenital hypothyroidism and cystic fibrosis.

More information on the program is available at betterhealth.vic.gov.au.

World Heritage bid for Victorian Goldfields

Victorian State Government

Victoria's Goldfields – home to the most extensive and best-surviving goldrush landscapes in the world – has been added to Australia's World Heritage Tentative List.

This is the first formal step on the path to World Heritage status, celebrating the extraordinary history, culture, and heritage of Victoria's goldrush era.

From hard rock open cut mines at Castlemaine to the Victorian era buildings of Bendigo, the region is considered the most extensive and best surviving goldrush landscape in the world.

Covering more than 20 per cent of the state's landmass, the Goldfields bears the imprint of hundreds of thousands of migrants who took part in successive gold rushes from 1851 onwards.

The Goldfields continue to shine as a cornerstone of Victoria's identity, with diverse gold mining infrastructure, vibrant townships, and enduring cultural markers of First Nations communities, including the Dja Dja Wurrung and Gunaikurnai peoples.

This region already welcomes millions of tourists each year, contributing over \$1.8 billion to Victoria's regional economy. Gaining World Heritage status is expected to boost tourism even further, attracting an additional 2.2 million visitors within ten years of being listed.

The project has been a partnership between the Federal and State Government, First Nations groups, 15 local councils and other organisations, who will now continue to work together to develop the nomination and begin the World Heritage process.

1 February 2025

Trebeck Reserve, Winchelsea

Neil McInnes

70 participants completed the course through Trebeck Reserve this week in perfect running conditions. 12 people completed their Personal Best time for Trebeck Reserve. Congratulations to Shannon Ebeling, Martin Haydon, Peter French, Carole Ruiters, Gerald, Fitzpatrick, Mary Harrison, Fiona Fitzpatrick, Ged Sweeney, Gabby Sanders, Anthony Keogh, Lily Del-Rennie and Alette Rennie. One Person completed their very first parkrun.

We had visitors from Eastern Gardens, Werribee, Balyang Sanctuary and Hamilton.

This event was made possible by the following volunteers: Helen Woodall * Ann Morsby * Ann Jones* Don Smith * Kristen Czerkiewicz *Vanice Barker * Murray Bennett * Neil McInnes.

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

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

if you are able to volunteer some of your time. Tasks are simple, sociable, fun and very much appreciated.

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

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

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

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



Harmony of Boundaries

A mural with much meaning

Hesse Rural Health



If you've found yourself walking past or going into Hesse Rural Health's main building on Gosney Street at any point in the past year, you would have noticed a captivating mural of mixed media just off to the left of the main doors.

The captivating artwork installation was designed by esteemed Worimi Artist, Gerard Black. Commissioned for Hesse, this piece is a testament to the profound connection between the land, water and skies that cover the area Hesse serves. At its core, this installation pays homage to the ancestral custodianship of two distinct traditional owner groups, the Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar. Each brushstroke and carving in the piece were made with a reverence of the resilience and adaptability of the native species.

The flowing water, the central essence of the piece, symbolizes the dynamic boundary between the Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar territories. It embodies the life-giving force that binds these two nations, offering sustenance, vitality and a sense of continuity.

The flora and fauna depicted within the artwork mirror the indigenous biodiversity seen in the large region Hesse serves, that is significant to Wadawurrung country and Eastern Maar lands. The connection to nature is integral to the ethos of Hesse, where the environment is recognised as a vital factor in the holistic well-being of patients.

The rising sun on Wadawurrung (in the top right corner) signifies not only the dawn of a new day but also the promise of renewal and growth. Conversely, the setting sun over Eastern Maar (in the bottom left corner) ushers in the night, revealing the tapestry

of stars that illuminate the sky. This celestial cycle is a reminder of the enduring presence of ancestors and creators, a connection that transcends time and place.

Above the lands and waters, the wedge-tail eagle soars, a symbol of strength and vision, while the cockatoos dance in a chorus, representing the vibrancy and communal spirit of the land. Their watchful gaze from the skies is a constant, reminding all who pass through the Hesse service area of the ever-present connection to the land, water and sky.

Harmony of Boundaries is more than an artwork. It is a living embodiment of the spirit that defines Hesse Rural Health. It serves as a testament to the enduring relationship between humanity and the natural world; reminding all who interact with it of their place within this greater tapestry of existence.

This artwork was commissioned by Hesse Rural Health as a way for us to deepen our reconciliation efforts and actively partner with First Nations communities to improve care and health outcomes. As a health service, we take our responsibility to all our consumers seriously, in particular those who have faced systemic discrimination and not been given the same opportunities for optimal health. This artwork is just a small way to communicate to the community that we are a safe space for everyone.

If you haven't yet noticed or taken the time to properly behold the mural out the front of the main building on Gosney Street, we recommend all take a small amount of time out of their day to admire and consider the elements of the artwork.





First Landcare working bee for 2025

Stewart Mathison

February 1st was also the first Saturday of the month so Winchelsea Landcare held the first of their regular working bees for 2025.

The citizen science program of testing the condition of the river water monthly was carried out plus some plant watering by the group members pictured.

The 2024 planting on the river at the end of Dwyer St was hard work due to the dry conditions and as we all know the lack of rain is very evident everywhere. At an earlier inspection we were pleasantly surprised to find that over 75% of the plants are still growing so decision was made to give the plants some irrigation.

Wurdale fire brigade supplied a clever pump that floated on the river and 100 metres of hose which was used to water most of the planting from last year.



If you would like to help do things to improve our environment in Winchelsea come along to the regular first Saturday of the month working bees run by Winchelsea Land and Rivercare. Details available from the secretary Rod Stone 0428 549318

Stronger Communities Programme Round 9 – now open!

Grants of between \$2,500 and \$20,000 are available for eligible organisations to deliver infrastructure that encourages and supports participation in local initiatives, enhances community engagement, and contributes to creating vibrant and sustainable communities.

The grant amount for small capital projects is up to 100% of eligible project costs, except for local governing bodies where grant funding will be up to 50% of eligible projects costs. The maximum total cost of the project cannot exceed \$50,000.

The application process:

- Read the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and make sure that your organisation and project are eligible.
- Complete and return the Expression of Interest Form with supporting documentation to dan.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au before 5pm Friday 7 February 2025.

- Following a panel process, selected organisations will then progress to stage 2 and be invited to submit a full application for the funding round through an online portal between 14 February 2025 and 28 March 2025.

A local Committee has been established to review each application. To check your organisation's eligibility and for further information about the program please refer to the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

Key Dates:

- EOI submissions close: 5.00pm Friday 14 February 2025.
- Full application period: 14 February 2025 – 28 March 2025.

For further information go to www.dantehan.com.au, email dan.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au or call 1300 131 692.



Winchelsea Community Market

Judy Cameron



L-R: Jack, Henry and Heath Wynhoven, Madison, Luke, Shannon, Sophie and Caitlyn Justin. The Justin family love living in Winchelsea with the small community and easy access to Gee-elong. Madison and Sophie couldn't wait to get back to school and they are all waiting impatiently for the opening of the pool!

Surf Coast Shire team at the market

A team from Surf Coast Shire were at the Winchelsea Market to encourage ratepayers to complete the "Our Focus Our Future" survey - which finished on Sunday.

The survey is to give input to the Council's strategic priorities for the next four years. We can now look forward to the outcome.



L-R: Rochelle Harding, Cr Joel Grist, Nick Guyett, Mark Macgugan



Recognise our unsung heroes

Local Legends Awards nominations open Surf Coast Shire

Surf Coast Shire Council is calling for nominations for its 2025 Local Legends Awards, seeking to recognise and celebrate unsung heroes who are making positive differences in our community.

The 2025 awards introduce four categories for nominations: Community Commitment and Community Impact awards for individuals, and Community Inclusion and Volunteer Excellence awards for groups.

Cr Paul Barker encouraged people to get nominations in before the **15 March deadline**. "Local legends contribute around us every day in countless, unrecognised and often selfless ways, helping our community in a variety of ways," Cr Barker said. "Their contributions are significant and our Local Legends program seeks to celebrate them in fitting way. Each of the four awards categories aim to provide a fitting tribute to each of our nominated Local Legends.

"People of all ages can be nominated, and we hope to see nominations of people from all walks of life.

"Help us acknowledge and celebrate a community contributor you know by nominating them as a Local Legend."

Nominations are open 1 February to 15 March. People can find category details and make nominations via surfcoast.vic.gov.au/LocalLegends. People can also phone 5261 0600, or visit Council's civic building at 1 Merrijig Drive, Torquay.

CATEGORIES FOR INDIVIDUALS:

- Community Commitment Category. Pays tribute to dedicated and passionate individuals with a sustained and substantial record of commitment to people, a community, group, organisation, or cause in the Surf Coast Shire.
- Community Impact Category. Celebrates people whose community contributions have made a remarkable difference for people, a community, group, organisation, or cause in Surf Coast Shire. This can include people who are innovators, leaders, pioneers or whose contributions have helped improve outcomes or supported important changes.

CATEGORIES FOR GROUPS:

- Community Inclusion Category. Celebrates diversity and inclusion in community programs to enhance support for people, a community, group, or cause in Surf Coast Shire.
- Volunteer Excellence Category. Recognises a community group, organisation or committee which shows overall excellence in the way it contributes to the community, organises, and creates impact for a chosen cause.

Local Legends will be named, and all nominees celebrated, during a Council event in May celebrating National Volunteer Week. Local Legends will also be celebrated through Council's communication channels including website, print and social media.

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International Women's Day

Elaine Atkinson, Secretary - Growing Winchelsea

Kelly Turner considers herself lucky

Many community members of Winchelsea have met Kelly Turner, Community Engagement Advisor with the Bendigo Bank Lorne - but do you know the woman behind that smile?

Kelly lights up when she speaks about her role with the bank. "I love to invest in the community and feel very, very lucky to be able to make the community smile," said Kelly who has worked in various roles at the bank for over 10 years starting as a part time Bank Teller at the Anglesea branch while her 3 kids were young.

"In 2015 I transferred to Lorne and dabbled in social media, which led to my current marketing role. In 2024 Winchelsea received Heart Safe Town for 2024 from Ambulance Victoria following the Community Bank's push to increase heart defibrillators," says Kelly who played a key role in the project.

Kelly is an independent woman raising her 3 kids alone following a divorce where she hit rock bottom, but through her own tenacity, with family support did a 360 degree turnaround leading her to where she is today.

"The support of other women in those early days, giving me the opportunity to share my story, receive business and personal advice from like minded women would have been valuable. I am pleased to be part of a group of dynamic women interested in celebrating International Women's Day. I encourage women to come to our planned brunch on Tuesday 18 March 2025 and provide input into the formation of a Winchelsea Women's Business Network," continues Kelly.

Mentoring is a great way to provide guidance, support, and insights needed to achieve personal goals, and help to build confidence and self-esteem. Kelly has been fortunate to also



have the informal mentoring support of Rob Cameron who guided her in her current role, always ringing and offering welcome advice.

"Informal mentoring is a natural progression for members of business networks so feel free to contact Elaine Atkinson via email at secretary@growingwinchelsea or telephone her on 0458009616

if you want further information or just to chat about what is important to you as you look to return to the workforce, to grow your business, progress in your career or develop your leadership potential. It's important that we, together develop a business network that meets the personal and professional needs of our local women," concludes Kelly.



Kelly Turner
Community Engagement Advisor with
Corangamite Financial Services Ltd
(Community Bank Winchelsea & District)

Pill testing at four more festivals

Victorian State Government

The Victorian Government's mobile pill testing trial continues – giving more Victorian festival goers access to this life-saving service.

Pill testing was introduced following a spike in drug harm last year, with nine people critically unwell at Hardmission Festival – all experiencing life-threatening hyperthermia after using high potency MDMA in a hot and humid environment, and one death related to a suspected overdose also occurred at Pitch Music and Arts Festival.

The service is completely free and confidential and is staffed by an experienced team of experts who not only test substances with world-leading technology, but also provide confidential health information to help people make safer, more informed decisions.

The announcement of the final four events for this festival season follows the highly successful launch of Victoria's first mobile pill testing service in December at the Beyond the Valley.

More than 700 people used the service – the majority in their late teens or early twenties – and staff tested more than 600 samples – or about one in 50 festival goers.

But it's not just about the analytical results. Pill testing is about changing people's behaviour by giving them access to the information they are asking for.

For more than 70 per cent of patrons who used the service at Beyond the Valley, it was the first time they had ever had an open, judgment-free discussion about drug and alcohol safety with a health professional. These conversations are at the heart of the service's harm reduction focus – and they're already working.

Nearly 40 per cent of patrons said they would use a smaller amount of their drugs following their discussion with a healthcare worker at the service, while one in six people intended to discard their drugs after having them tested.

A significant number of festival goers were also interested in understanding the interaction of recreational drugs with mental health conditions and prescription medications, particularly antidepressants – many did not know that recreational drugs can interact dangerously with prescribed medications.

Operated by The Loop and Harm Reduction Victoria, in partnership with Youth Support and Advocacy Service –Victoria's pill testing service uses state of the art mobile testing equipment with capacity to conduct up to 30 tests an hour, more than any other pill testing service in Australia.



WINCHELSEA FACEBOOK

Non-profit community Groups and Pages



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The state of our roads

Statements from two candidates in the forthcoming Federal Government election

Dyson calls for roads funding transparency

Alex Dyson, Independent candidate for Wannon

ALEX Dyson, Independent candidate for Wannon, is calling for greater transparency in roads funding and a register showing comparative figures each federal electorate receives.

"We need greater transparency when it comes to roads funding," he said. "We deserve to know where the money goes – and that our communities can drive on safe and reliable roads."

Mr Dyson's call follows data released by the Australian Automobile Association (AAA) which showed that Australia's road safety crisis is worsening with the national road toll increasing in each of the past four years: a situation not seen since 1966, or before the introduction of compulsory seatbelts.

There has also been a series of bad accidents in Victoria's south west in recent months.

1,300 people died on Australian roads in 2024 (up from 1,258 in 2023) in Australia's worst annual result since 2012.

The AAA implores politicians to act now to reduce road deaths, urging them to use a globally recognised road-quality assessment system as a tool to guide smarter road investment decisions.

Mr Dyson concurred with the report and said for too long, Wannon had missed out on serious funding from both major parties and state and federal governments.

"I hear the same frustration everywhere I go: our roads are terrible: unsafe, poorly maintained, and not fit for purpose.

"Locals are losing money in vehicle maintenance in a time of a cost of living crisis.

"Parents worry about their children driving on crumbling roads filled with potholes and tourism operators say visitors avoid the region because of the poor road conditions.

"While billions of dollars are spent on roads in other electorates, our roads are getting worse. We are sick of being overlooked by both major parties.

"If elected, I'll push for a national register of how much road funding each electorate receives, to ensure funding is allocated based on need, not party-politics. "Too many promises of road funding have been broken," he said.

Road safety task made more difficult under Labor

Dan Tehan, Federal Member for Wannon

The latest monthly statistical report of the Bureau of Infrastructure and Transport Research Economics shows a deadly December on Australian roads.

113 people lost their lives in December, 6.8 per cent higher than the average for December over the previous five years.

The 2024 calendar year saw a total of 1,300 lives lost on Australian roads, a 3.3 per cent increase on 2023.

Australia's road toll continues to track in the wrong direction, with the annual fatality rate per 100,000 head of population now sitting at 4.8, well over double the National Road Safety target of 2.0.

Shadow Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Tony Pasin MP said the continual rise in road fatalities reiterates the need for national leadership on the road safety crisis facing the nation.

"The data tells a tragic story unfolding on our roads. Monthly figures continue to tell us that we are well off track to achieving National Road Safety Strategy targets," Mr Pasin said.

"We need better insight into what's happening on our roads and why to ensure that road safety initiatives and infrastructure funding is being directed where it is needed to address the road safety crisis that has been unfolding on Australian roads," Mr Pasin said.

Unfortunately, the road safety task is being made more difficult by the Albanese Government's decision to cancel, cut, and delay more than \$27.9 billion in infrastructure funding over its first two years in government.

Member for Wannon Dan Tehan said that roads throughout Wannon aren't receiving the maintenance and upgrades they need and the impacts of Federal Government funding cuts are being felt by road users firsthand.

"Road users in Wannon have been raising serious concerns about the local road network, particularly about the Princes Highway and the Glenelg Highway.

LAUNCH OF THE LIBERAL PARTY CAMPAIGN FOR WANNON

Sunday 2 February 2025

The Hon Tony Abbott AC

12.30pm, Colac Bowling Club, 4 Armstrong Street, Colac

Contact: Sandie Gustus M | 0408 564 232

The Hon Tony Abbott AC and Dan Tehan MP, Member for Wannon, will be available to speak to the media following the launch of the Liberal Party campaign for Wannon.

WINCHELSEA RACECOURSE



The Sport of Kings was first introduced when the Winchelsea, Inverleigh and Murgheboluc United Races were held in 1865 in a paddock on the main Inverleigh road still known as Racecourse Paddock (on Thomas Austin's estate).

Thomas was known as "the Father of the Victorian Turf". He owned many race horses, including Melbourne Cup winner 'Banker'.

Two special and two ordinary trains brought seven hundred people from Melbourne and Geelong. Five hundred were brought from Colac and Camperdown to Winchelsea.

Three thousand gathered but the attendance gradually declined.

A fire destroyed the first grandstand built by Mr. A. Richmond Sr. in 1882. The next stand was built by his son George Richmond.

The last race-meeting was held around 1931.

The race course was on the site of the Golf Club, with the Grandstand and "straight" along Richmond's Lane.

The revival of the Winchelsea Picnic Races was held at Barwon Park in 1996. Race proceeds were used to offset kitchen renovations. Unfortunately the races were not continued. Barwon Park is now owned by the National Trust.

Sandra Jones



At the races

Phil Craig, Neil Craig, Meme Gosney, John Caldow

Ada Richmond, Bill Higgins, Dorrie Gosney,

Ivan Craig, Clare Richmond, Mr Stewart, John Caldow Snr.

WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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RACV reminder to prevent children being locked in hot cars

RACV

To prevent children being locked in hot cars, RACV is appealing to all parents and carers to adopt safe behaviours this summer.

In 2024, RACV received 653 calls from parents and carers seeking help to free children accidentally locked in vehicles.

RACV General Manager Automotive Services Makarla Cole warned that cabin temperatures can climb rapidly, reaching over 70 degrees Celsius in just minutes if the outside temperature is 30 degrees Celsius.

"Children are more vulnerable to heat, dehydration, and heatstroke, making it essential to be cautious and act quickly if a potentially dangerous accident has happened," Ms Cole said.

"It's also important to note that our pets and furry friends share that same vulnerability."

RACV offers this advice for motorists driving with children:

- Ensure windows are open before placing children in the car to prevent auto-locking, then close them once driving.
- Never let children play with keys.
- Minimise distractions when loading the car.
- Keep keys secure with a lanyard or clip.
- If a child is accidentally locked in the car:

Call 13 11 11

for RACV Emergency Roadside Assistance.

**Call 000 immediately
for life-threatening situations
STAY CALM, BUT ACT FAST.**



RACV Emergency Roadside Assistance are trained to prioritise call in which children and pets are in danger.

"RACV Emergency Roadside Assistance are trained to prioritise calls in which children and pets are in danger above all else. We will attend as quickly as possible, regardless of whether you are a RACV Member or not. RACV is here for all Victorians when it comes to emergencies," said Ms Cole.

For more information, visit RACV's child safety webpage.

Since 1903, RACV has been one of Australia's most trusted brands and is the largest member organisation in Victoria. RACV is proud to provide exceptional experiences for our members and customers through a range of products and services across motoring and mobility, home, energy and leisure. These include emergency roadside assistance, motor insurance, home insurance, home trades and an increasing range of options in the cleaner energy space, such as RACV Solar. We have 10 clubs and resorts across Australia and offer a range of domestic and international holiday packages, tours and cruises from our trusted travel partners.



Back to school: Safety tips to protect kids on the roads

As children return to school this week, Kidsafe Victoria is urging parents, carers and drivers to prioritise child safety on the roads and take extra precautions to keep kids safe.

The warning comes after a horror end to the 2024 school year. In October, a car crashed through a fence into the playground of Auburn South Primary School, killing 11-year-old Jack Davey and injuring four others. The next month, a truck crashed into the playground of Macedon Ranges Montessori Pre-School in Riddells Creek, leading to the death of speech pathologist Eleanor Bryant.

According to TAC data, 56 children aged 5-15 lost their lives on Victorian roads 2014 - 2024. Most fatalities occurred during peak school commute hours:

8-10 am: 10 passengers, 9 pedestrians, 1 cyclist
2-4 pm: 10 passengers, 8 pedestrians, 1 cyclist
4-6 pm: 12 passengers, 6 pedestrians, 5 cyclists

Of these, 24 fatalities occurred in Melbourne and 32 in rural Victoria, highlighting the need for vigilance across the state. Kidsafe Victoria has released their free Safe School Run guide for parents addressing key safety concerns when leaving home, on the road and at the school gates.

Morning and afternoon rush: A key danger zone

Driveways can be hazardous during the morning rush to school and at the end of the day when families return home. Children are unpredictable and quick, increasing their risk of injury.

Reversing cameras and sensors are valuable, but can't replace physically checking your surroundings," said Ms Sexton. "72 percent of low-speed runovers occur when the vehicle is moving forward, not reversing."

Children under 12 should sit in the back seat. Injury risk for children aged 12 and under is double in the front seat, regardless of the type of restraint used.

Children should be properly secured in their car seats every time they travel and parents and carers must double-check that seat belts and child restraints are correctly fastened.

School zones: Slow down and stay alert

Reduced speed limits will be in force around schools during drop-off and pick-up times. Pay close attention to school zone signs and always use designated drop-off and pick-up areas to ensure a safe environment for all children.

The dangers of leaving children in cars

Leaving children unattended in a vehicle can have fatal consequences.

Parents and carers can download the Safe School Run guide at the Kidsafe Victoria website.

Winchelsea Men's Shed



For The Community

Men's Shed Kindling/Offcuts
Bags of Kindling/timber offcuts are available for pick up from the Men's Shed on Wednesday's from 9.30 to 2.30.

If you need a delivery made you can call Bill on 0438 083 373. The price for a bag of kindling is now \$7.00 (up from \$5.00).

Nesting Boxes

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These can be made to order.

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Winchelsea Shire Hall Community Feedback Survey and the year ahead

Thank you to all the members of our community that participated in the survey that we ran last year requesting feedback about the use of the Shire Hall.

As most long term Winchelsea Locals are aware in 2019 The Shire Hall ceased to operate as the long running tea rooms where many locals and visitors enjoyed regular coffee tea and cake.

Due to an increase in costs the Tea Rooms could no longer keep running as the Surf Coast Shire sought out a replacement private enterprise to run in the Hall. Before a new business could complete negotiations and begin trading at the Hall the Covid 19 pandemic struck and all plans to operate out of the hall ceased.

In 2022 the Surf Coast Shire agreed to hand management of the Shire Hall over to the Winchelsea Community House to be run as a space for our community. This has been part of a 3 year plan to see the Hall reach a self-sustaining level of use by Winchelsea community groups and members of the public.

The current arrangement is up for review in June of this year as we continue to increase use of the Hall for varying different activities and events.

Below is an excerpt from the survey indication what Community members would like to see more of happening at the Hall. In response to the survey results we have introduced a Saturday

morning Yoga Class and in the process of confirming an additional evening class during the week.

Mother Goose song and rhyme starts next Wednesday the 29th of January and Library story time sessions will also be starting in the Hall very soon.

The Winchelsea children's fair on the 7th of February is a wonderful opportunity for Parents and care givers to learn about many of the wonderful children's activities and services already available to them in the hall and externally.

The Hall will host a second Re-Loved Market on March 23rd open to all second hand and recycled goods, not just clothing.

Although the community house and Shire Hall run in the Surf Coast Shire we are not funded to run subsidised programs as some other community and neighbourhood houses are. We can only continue to offer new events and activities with the support and participation of the community.

If you have further feedback, an event idea, want to run a class, workshop or want to collaborate to start a program at the Hall, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Rhani at shirehall@winchhouse.org.au or give us a call at the Community House on 03 52672028.

Regional Victorians call for cancellation of native bird shoot

Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting

Documents obtained via FOI show hundreds of pages of draft hunting regulations affecting critical aspects of animal welfare, sustainability, public safety and amenity, were released for public comment on July 1 of 2024, providing the absolute minimum 28 days for public feedback.

Document dates show that within just three days of public consultation closing- in which over 5500 submissions were received, the government executive had compiled final policy recommendations for the Minister's approval.

The documents show advice from government departments to the Minister was to:

- Remove the Blue-winged shoveler (BWS) from the hunt list based on its threatened species status
- Ban electronic callers for duck shooting , (as well as quail shooting) based on the "fair chase" principle.

Within a day of receiving the recommendations, the Minister had signed off, at the same time, over-ruling the advice to ban electronic callers for duck shooting and remove the BWS from the kill list.

Now with just weeks remaining until the prescribed native bird hunting season starts, there is still no move by the government to keep to its commitment of implementing mandatory hunter education and training before the 2025 duck and quail shooting. Neither is there any move to reduce the hundreds of thousands of hectares of public wetland area currently available to hunters.



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7pm second Wednesday of month
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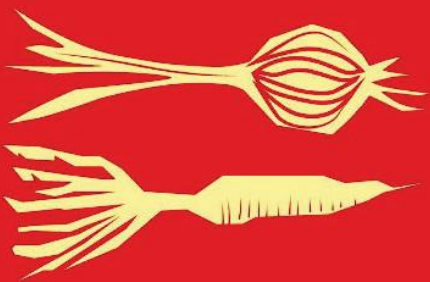
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RESULTS

Wednesday 29th Jan

Ladies 9 Hole Stableford

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R/Up: Tara Steward 15 pts

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Elizabeth Alston 54 pts

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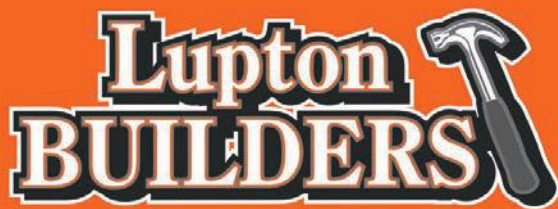
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- CARPORTS
- BATHROOMS
- EXTENSIONS
- DECKS
- VERANDAS
- WINDOW REPLACEMENTS
- RENOVATIONS
- PERGOLAS
- RE-CLADS

LEIGH LUPTON
0438 840 104

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EST. 1977

HESSE
RURAL
HEALTH

Volunteers Required

Volunteers are one of Hesse's greatest assets, playing a vital role to enhance the quality of Hesse services & client experiences.



- Bus Driver
- Outings Assistant
- Resident Visitor
- Events & Activities Assistant
- Group Wheelchair Walkers
- Appointment Escort
- Social Support Activities
- Gardening - Winchelsea
- Hospital Auxiliary Member
- Consumer Advisory Committee
- Marketing & Fundraising Committee

For more information please contact Hesse on
(03) 5267 1200 or via email reception@hesse.vic.gov.au

