

# Winchelsea Star

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**Elaine Atkinson, Co-ordinator** was delighted with the community spirit clearly evident in Winchelsea's Christmas celebrations this year.

She said, "From the excitement of the Hidden Elf on the Shelf, to the glow of Twinkle Trees on Main Street, the buzz of the Christmas Market and the much-loved Lions Club Christmas Lights, this year's Christmas celebrations 'Winchelsea Sparkles' showed what can be achieved when the community comes together."

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## Winchelsea Christmas Sports 1878

Mícheál P O'Dhonnabháin

While Christmas is an ancient tradition, it looked very different 150 years ago.

On Christmas Day 1878, 1000 people gathered to witness the Winchelsea Christmas Sports. The sports consisted of both Horse Racing and Track and Field Athletics with Winchelsea locals competing. Many of the names of the competitors and owners of horses can still be found in Winchelsea today. See if you can find your family name in the details below.

Mr A. McDonald and Mr Clayton oversaw races including hurdles and 250 yards. The games included horse racing including Mr Orchard's Rosebud, aged 1; Mr Pincott's Millie, and Mr McCallum's Phillis; both aged 4 yrs. Other horses who appeared were Little Dick and Maid of the Mount; Mr Townsend's Young Deceiver, aged 5 yrs and Mr Brearley's Sebastapol, aged 2; Dick Turpin; Deceiver, Mr McLeod's Black Prince, aged 1; Mr Donohue's Nelly Sullivan, aged 3; Mr Gladman's Maid of Murdeduke, 4 yrs; Mr Coogan's Waterwitch, aged 3; Fraud, Millie, Spider, Lily, Pastime, Barwon, Blacksmith's Dream and Mr Hurst's Dick. Thomas Austin of Barwon Park had two horses running including Jack's the Lad.

Trotters included H. A. and Jack. Reports said that the Trot event for this day was one of the most exciting trots that had taken place for a considerable time, H. A., the favourite, losing a lot of ground the first mile, and Sebastopol leading to within 5 yards of the winning-post. Reports said that the Allage Stake was the best race of the day. There was also a Pony Race for horses 12½ hands and under.

After a full day of Horse racing, the Athletic Sports events were held and some excellent races ensued.

The MAIDEN PLATE, 100 yards, included sixteen runners. First Heat W. Craig, 1st; H. Halkyard, 2nd. Second Heat E. Burke, 1st; E. Austin, 2nd. Final Craig, 1st; Burke, 2nd.

HANDICAP HURDLE RACE, 250 Yards. H. M. Lawrence, 5 yds, 1st; J. Meredith, scr., 2nd; J. Mahon, 12 yds, 3rd. An easy win for Lawrence.

RUNNING HIGH JUMP, LONG JUMP, and HOP, STEP, and JUMP. Burke, Boddington, and Lawrence were the only competitors. Boddington won the High Jump, at 5ft. lin.; Lawrence the Long Jump, at 17ft. 4in.; and Boddington won the Hop, Step, and Jump by 10 inches, clearing 39ft. 10in. Burke jumped fairly, but evidently the company was too good.

HANDICAP FLAT RACE, 200 Yards. Fourteen runners. First Heat Craig, 7yds, 1st; Meredith, scr. and E. Burke. 8 yds, tie, 2nd. Second Heat Austin, 8 yds, and Stephenson, 10 yds, tie. Final won by Meredith by 3 yds ; Craig, 2nd; Stephenson, 3rd. A BOYS' RACE closed the programme.

In the evening there were Race Balls held at the Shire Hall and Temperance Hall, being well filled with dancing and refreshments all through the night and into the next morning until sunrise. It was estimated that £15 was raised by the event, which was carried over to fund the event for the following year.

Sporting events are still at the heart of Winchelsea's culture, and they bring our community together.

Wishing you all a Safe and Happy Christmas and or Holiday Season, whatever you celebrate and however you spend it.





# Hospital care without the hospital walls

## Hesse Rural Health

Hesse Rural Health's Hospital in the Home program helps locals recover at home

More local residents are now able to receive hospital-level care in the comfort of their own homes, thanks to the growing Hospital in the Home (HITH) service delivered by Hesse Rural Health's Community Nursing team.

Over the past year, Hesse has seen a strong increase in referrals from neighbouring hospitals, with HITH becoming a well-established alternative to staying in hospital. The program allows patients to receive acute care at home or another suitable local setting, while still being admitted to hospital and remaining under the care of their hospital doctor.

Research shows that recovering at home can lead to better outcomes, with fewer complications such as infection, delirium and confusion. For many people, it also means less disruption and a more comfortable recovery experience.

Hesse's community nurses provide HITH care for a wide range of acute and sub-acute needs, either in patients' homes or at Community Health Centres in Winchelsea, Bannockburn, Rokewood and Beeac. Care commonly includes intravenous treatments such as antibiotics and hydration, complex wound care, and support before and after surgery. In the last financial year alone, the team delivered 940 hours of HITH care – an increase of 213% compared to the previous year.

The service operates in partnership with larger health services, particularly Barwon Health and Colac Area Health, which refer patients living in the Hesse region. While the admitting hospital



Two of the dedicated nursing staff from Hesse Rural Health ready for action

continues to oversee clinical care, Hesse's nurses provide the day-to-day support, working closely with hospital HITH teams. Over the past year, the service supported 56 patients, with care plans tailored to individual needs – some requiring daily visits, while others needed less frequent support until they were ready for discharge.

Strong collaboration with partner hospitals has also helped build local expertise. Recently, Hesse nurses took part in "buddy shifts" at Barwon Health, strengthening skills and improving coordination of care for patients across the region.

For patients, the benefits of Hospital in the Home are clear. Being cared for at home offers greater comfort, privacy and independence, while reducing the risk of hospital-acquired infections and the stress of long hospital stays. For rural families in particular, HITH also means less travel and a lighter burden on carers – making high-quality care more accessible close to home.

## Modewarre Scout Group Christmas breakup and a glimpse of next year's activities

### Marie McPadden, Group Leader

Modewarre Scout Group finished 2025 Scouting Year with a night at the new Winch Pool on 8 December. The facility is great, the weather was pleasant and the sausages and slushies were well received. Every member received a 2025 Xmas Scout badge, a few lollies, a mini mars bar, plus a number of award badges earned during the year.

We will start up again in 2026 in the first full week of school. Cubs will return on Monday, 2 February, then Joeys and Scouts will be back on Tuesday 3 February. We will be in the Hall for the first week back. The Leaders have planned some great activities for the next 2 terms, many of them outside on the water or in the bush. While we are based at the Modewarre Hall, but we may not be there a lot in term 1.

Joeys meet on Tuesdays from 5-6pm and is for girls and boys aged 5-8 years. As we have 3 Joeys moving up to Cubs soon, we will have a few vacancies for new members. Our first term will include environmental activities, a trip to Queenscliff, snorkelling practice, fire safety and cooking, and a short hike.

Cubs meet on Mondays from 6:30-8pm, and is for girls and boys aged 8-11 years. We have a couple of vacancies. In September, Victoria will hold a State wide Cub Camp called a Cuboree, so we will be working towards improving our camping skills, as well as canoeing, snorkelling and hiking, and doing another sheep poo night. We have a camp planned for March.



Joey adventure to Ceres maze

Scouts meet on Tuesday nights from 6:30-8:30pm. Currently, we have a small group of keen boys, so have room for a number of new members – both girls and boys. The Scouts will be focusing on pioneering, canoeing, orienteering and camping activities, with a bike ride towards the end of term. There's a camp planned for February, and they will join the District Adventure Day in March.

If your child is interested in trying Joeys, Cubs or Scouts, please contact me for more information ([mcpadden630@bigpond.com](mailto:mcpadden630@bigpond.com)). Your child can attend 2 free sessions without commitment.

If you would like to come on board as a Leader or Adult Helper, please also contact me. We would love to have you!



## Hidden Elf Christmas Trail brings joy, community spirit and business buzz to Winchelsea

Elaine Atkinson

The Hidden Elf Christmas Trail has wrapped up for another year, spreading festive cheer, laughter and community connection across Winchelsea.

More than 150 Elf Hunter passports were handed out during the trail, with families eagerly searching for the hidden elves throughout participating local businesses. Prize announcements were made on Sunday 21 December, with the weather doing little to dampen spirits, as winners were drawn in the rain.

All completed passports were placed into the official competition barrel, proudly crafted by Bill Walters from the Men's Shed, adding a wonderful local touch to the event. From the draw, six lucky participants each received double movie passes.



Local businesses spoke very positively about the initiative, noting that many Elf Hunters were visiting their premises for the very first time. While children loved the excitement of finding the elves, businesses also benefited from increased foot traffic and a renewed sense of connection with local families, expressing strong support for the trail continuing in the future.

A huge congratulations and thank you go to Michelle Stocks and Kylie Hawkins, whose hard work and enthusiasm brought this exciting project to life. Their efforts helped create a fun, inclusive event that showcased the welcoming nature of Winchelsea's business community.

While over 150 passports were handed out, not all were returned. This likely reflects families who were unable to complete the trail choosing not to submit incomplete passports — something the organisers will consider when planning next year's event.

As for the elves — they've now disappeared, but not without a promise. They loved the community spirit, felt warmly welcomed by local businesses, and have already said they'll be back again next year!

Growing Winchelsea sincerely thanks our major sponsor, Winchelsea Star together with the Community Bank Winchelsea & District and staff for their active promotion, together with the Men's Shed for making the competition barrel. Their combined efforts made this wonderful community initiative possible.

Well done, Winchelsea, for embracing such a joyful event and making Christmas even more magical for local families.

## Community shines at Carols by the Barwon despite a stormy start

Elaine Atkinson

Despite the inclement weather, 'Carols by the Barwon' was a joyful affair

The Winchelsea community came together on Saturday 6 December 2025 for Carols by the Barwon, transforming a blustery, rain-threatened afternoon into a joyful night of music, food and festive spirit.

Set-up began at 1:30 pm with vital assistance from the **SES, Winchelsea Lions**, and the **Carols Planning Committee**. Despite darkening skies, strong winds and a burst of rain at 3 pm, the decision was made to proceed — and by 5 pm the skies had cleared, welcoming families arriving with blankets, prams, chairs and festive excitement.

Food vans lined the Bluestone Bridge, offering a diverse range of cuisines. After a slow start, trade surged from 5:30 pm, with many vendors selling out thanks to the strong community turnout.

Entertainment commenced at 6 pm with delightful performances from **Mainly Music**, followed by the energetic **Mel's Dance Troupe, Winchelsea Primary School** with their charming rendition of *I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas*, and the **Girl Guides**. Local carollers then led the crowd through much-loved Christmas classics, managing well despite breezy conditions and enthusiastic children.

The **Colac City Band** continued the festive atmosphere — until the sound of a siren signalled the arrival of the night's most anticipated guest. **Santa**, travelling aboard an SES truck, was instantly surrounded by excited children eager to greet him, creating a magical and memorable finale.

The Carols Committee extends heartfelt thanks to the **SES** and **Winchelsea Lions** for their support with set-up and pack-down, and to the many sponsors whose generosity made the event possible. Special appreciation goes to **Winchelsea Concreting, Winchelsea Tavern, Barwon Water** and **One Body Chiropractic** for funding the evening's entertainment, and to **Winchelsea Wholefoods, The Vault, Terry White Chemist** and **Winchelsea Tavern** for donating prizes. Also those businesses who supported in the lead up and at the event - Hayeswinckle, Nogueira Photography, IGA Pharmacy, Community House, Men's Shed, Community Bank Winchelsea & District and Growing Winchelsea.

A special thank-you goes to **Winchelsea Star**, our major sponsor, and to **Surf Coast Shire** for their ongoing support and financial commitment in helping make Christmas in Winchelsea a time to sparkle.

Elaine Atkinson

Carols Planning Committee member + promotions

Other members include:

Rob Davies + MC on the night

Megan Morris + Site Manager

Elizabeth Bennett + Volunteer Coordinator

Judy Staples + Entertainment Coordinator

Kim Johnson + Stallholder Coordinator

Yvonne Orchard, past organiser providing advice





# Carols by the Barwon

*Nothing says Christmas like a song shared with the whole town*



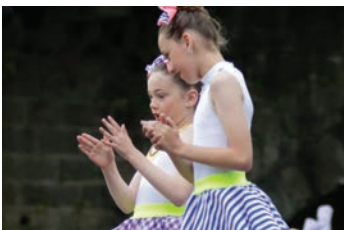
Saturday 6 December 2025



6pm Carol Singing



Winchelsea Lions Park by the River





## Christmas spirit lives on as Winchelsea begins planning for Christmas 2026

Elaine Atkinson

Christmas in Winchelsea 2025, a collaborative project by Growing Winchelsea, may have come to a close, but the community spirit behind it is still shining brightly

From the excitement of the Hidden Elf on the Shelf, to the glow of Twinkle Trees on Main Street, the buzz of the Christmas Market and the much-loved Lions Club Christmas Lights, this year's celebrations once again showed what can be achieved when the community comes together.



With that spirit in mind, planning is now beginning for Christmas in Winchelsea 2026, and the community is being invited to help shape what comes next.

An online community survey will be open from 20 January to 2 February 2026, giving residents, businesses and visitors the opportunity to share what they enjoyed most in 2025, suggest improvements, and put forward new ideas for the future.

Already, ideas are starting to emerge — including the possibility of a Santa photo experience at the Christmas Market, complete with a special Santa letterbox where children could post their letters directly to Santa. It's the kind of simple, joyful idea that reflects the heart of Christmas in Winchelsea and the creativity of the local community.

"Christmas 2025 was a true community effort," Elaine Atkinson, Coordinator said. "It was built on volunteers, local groups, businesses and families all contributing in their own way. We're keen to build on that energy and keep the celebrations fresh, fun and welcoming for everyone."

As part of the next stage, a small, hands-on Christmas Committee will be formed to help guide the planning and delivery of Christmas 2026. The committee will focus on practical involvement and creative input, supporting activities such as the Hidden Elf on the Shelf, Twinkle Trees on Main, the Christmas Market and the Christmas Lights, in collaboration with existing groups.

A short public summary outlining key feedback themes and recommendations will be shared with the community in March, ensuring transparency and keeping everyone informed as planning moves forward.

Community members are encouraged to take part in the survey, share their ideas and consider getting involved in helping make Christmas in Winchelsea 2026 even more magical.

More information and to have your say, through a survey link will be out soon.

## And the award for 'Most Creative' goes to ... 'All about Mowers'

Elaine Atkinson

All About Mowers & Chainsaws sparkle with creativity at Twinkle Trees on Main

Christmas spirit was alive and buzzing at All About Mowers & Chainsaws, as the local business proudly took home the Most Creative Award at this year's Twinkle Trees on Main.

All About Mowers & Chainsaws went above and beyond to showcase what they do best—creativity, teamwork, and community connection. Their Twinkle Trees entry turned heads and warmed hearts, becoming the heaviest tree in the event, cleverly constructed using spare parts that reflect their business. From old cogs and chains to mechanical components, each team member contributed something unique, making the display a true collaborative masterpiece.

The business also enthusiastically took part in the Hidden Elf on Shelf Christmas Trail, welcoming families into the store as they searched for their elf. Many visitors commented they had never been inside the business before, highlighting the value of this initiative in introducing new faces to local shops.

At All About Mowers & Chainsaws, customers find an extensive range of mowers, trimmers, chainsaws, pumps, pressure washers, generators, spare parts, Senix battery tools and much more. There is a convenient pickup and delivery service, ensuring customers get the right equipment for the job with ease and confidence.



Kellie & Andrew of All About Mowers  
with Victoria Hastings of The Vault, sponsor of the award

A heartfelt thank you goes to Victoria Hastings of The Vault for providing the gift hamper as part of the entertainment & Prize sponsorship package. The Vault – Hastings Ostrich Farm & Australian Gift shop has a large range of Australian goods from local suppliers to complement its wide range of ostrich products.

A huge thanks also to our major sponsor Winchelsea Star, along with Community Bank Winchelsea and District and the Men's Shed, in collaboration with Growing Winchelsea whose support helped make Twinkle Trees on Main such a wonderful success for the whole community.





# Family BBQ & Community Celebration

*The perfect way to end a sparkling Winchelsea Christmas*



Sunday 21 December 2025



1pm BBQ, 2pm Awards



Mud Hut, 4 Barwon Terrace





## Outstanding Effort Kenty's!

Elaine Atkinson

### Kenty's Bakery recognised for Outstanding Effort at Twinkle Trees on Main

Kenty's Bakery has been awarded the Outstanding Effort award as part of the Twinkle Trees on Main celebrations in Winchelsea, recognising their creativity, enthusiasm, and commitment to the local community.



Kenty's Team

with Aaron from Winchelsea Tavern, sponsor of the award. The award was proudly presented by sponsor Winchelsea Tavern, with Kenty's receiving two bottles of wine in recognition of their outstanding contribution. The Twinkle Tree display, designed by Isobel, stood out for its creativity and festive spirit and was widely admired throughout the event.

Kenty's Bakery is a much-loved local business, employing five part-time bakers and ten part time serving staff. Having operated in Winchelsea for 10 years, the business reflects both the town's increasing population and the strong support of the local community.

As part of their wide product range, Kenty's Bakery is particularly well regarded for the quality of its yeast-based products, which have become a favourite among many local customers. Kenty's Bakery has built a loyal customer base and is widely regarded as a cornerstone of the Winchelsea shopping strip.

Kenty's Bakery also enthusiastically participated in the Elf on the Shelf, thoroughly enjoying the interaction it created with families and children throughout the festive period. The team provided positive feedback on the initiative and suggested that, in future years, Elf on the Shelf passports could be made available at all participating businesses, rather than only at the Community bank, to further increase accessibility and engagement across the town.

Their involvement once again highlighted Kenty's Bakery's strong community focus and willingness to support initiatives that bring people together and enhance the Christmas experience in Winchelsea.

The Winchelsea Tavern deserves strong local support. Patrick Agius and his team stepped up for the Winchelsea community. Their generous sponsorship for Twinkle Trees on Main and Carols by the Barwon, was greatly appreciated and the Hotel provides a welcoming space where locals and visitors can come together.

Locals are encouraged to support the Hotel by dropping in for a meal, enjoying their popular pizza menu, or catching up with friends over a drink. By supporting the Winchelsea Tavern, you are supporting a business that gives back, invests in local events, and helps keep community traditions alive.

## Winchelsea Lions Club Christmas Lights Competition – Prize Announcement

Elaine Atkinson

The Winchelsea Lions Club is delighted to announce the winners of the 2025 Christmas Lights Competition, celebrating the wonderful festive spirit shown across the town.

Judging was described as both difficult and very enjoyable, with an impressive number of homes taking part. Judges noted that the standard was extremely high this year, and while the judging criteria clearly guided the final decisions, the third prize was decided by just one point on "WOW factor."

**First Prize (\$250) was awarded to DARREN BURGESS of 10 Jordyn Close.** Jordyn Close truly shone, with several homes in the street decorated, creating a standout festive display and a destination for Christmas light viewers.

**Second Prize (\$100) went to JULIE AND BARRY ALLEN of 8 Olney Street,** whose creative and eye-catching display impressed judges with its detail and presentation.

**Third Prize (\$50) was awarded to HEATHER EDWARDS of 6A Stephenson Street,** narrowly edging out Darrell Lefevre of 9 Warner Street in a very close contest.

The judges commented on the remarkable number of decorated homes throughout Winchelsea, highlighting the strong sense of community spirit and the enthusiasm shown by residents to participate and help make the town sparkle during the festive season.



The Winchelsea Lions Club congratulates all the winners and sincerely commends every entrant for their amazing efforts. Your displays brought joy to residents and visitors alike and showcased the best of Winchelsea's community spirit.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our major sponsor, the Winchelsea Star, for their generous support in making this competition possible.

Well done, Winchelsea — you have truly done yourselves proud and spread so much Christmas cheer.







Zinaida Campion

To share your stories and inspire the community, please contact Zinaida. 0428 403 784 [zinaidacampion@gmail.com](mailto:zinaidacampion@gmail.com)

## Marvellous Mediaeval: meet the remarkable locals keeping tradition alive

Happy new year everyone! I feel that for me personally, 2025 was a year of growth, and that includes growing pains! All very necessary in the long run, but don't you hate the discomfort in the moment! Well that's life, and while we're looking forward to a bright future, today we will take a journey back in time via music, to mediaeval Ireland. Our guest artist this week is the remarkable and very well known local, Mícheál P O'Dhonnabháin. You will know him as the author of the History of Winchelsea column, or if you're a public transport person, as the Vline conductor with the lovely outgoing personality! He's also a remarkable scholar with intimidating credentials.

It's a shame I missed the festival as it sounds remarkable, but maybe this year. I'll hand over to our expert on the subject.

Ciao!

The first annual Geelong Medieval Festival was held on November 29th-30th at the Geelong Showgrounds for two days of medieval combat, craft, witchcraft, jousting music fire dancing and food. Stallholders came from all over, Australia demonstrating woodwork, leathercraft, chain mail armour and jewellery as well as painters, and other visual arts and crafts including locally made smallgoods and alcohols such as meads, gins and jerky. The Jousting display featured some of the most successful jousts in the world who took time out of their busy international schedules to ride at Geelong. Re-enactment and combat groups included Geelong Crusaders Re-enactment Society Inc.; The Eastway Vikings; Barwon Academy of Arms; Ancient Roman Re-Enactors Victoria, and the Geelong Swordcraft LARP group, who kindly shared their space with the Celt of the Colony as a base for our instruments and gear between roving sets.

The festival featured a number of musicians, including Octave the Bard; Aljamia Art and Celts of the Colony.

Celts of The Colony are an up-and-coming Celtic folk act local to Winchelsea, Geelong and Ballarat, focusing on music in the Irish (Gaelic) language built around multi-part vocal harmonies and traditional instruments. We consist of Ceilidh Mckinna-Robertson on Celtic flute, vocals and percussion, Micháel O'Dhonnabháin



on Guitar, Mandolin, Banjo, Bouzouki, percussion and vocals and Martin Scuffins on fiddle. Celts of the colony are passionate about the traditional Sean Nos singing of Ireland and Scotland and we are dedicated to preserving the use of the languages of Irish (Gaeilge) and Scottish Gaelic, through music and song. Our influences are Clannad, Altan, Anuna, ye vagabonds, Caladh Nua, Niamh Parsons, and Capercaillie.

We formed in Early 2024 when Micháel was commissioned by the City of Ballarat to play an outdoor gig for the Ballarat Marathon. Micháel had performed a series of online lectures for the 'Love Ballarat' event during the covid lockdowns featuring histories of Celts in the colony and featuring colonial Celtic and rebel songs. The City asked him to return in May 2024 to perform live to a public Audience, so Micháel contacted Ceilidh to bring her flute and voice to the ensemble. Together we played a mix of colonial folk songs and drinking songs such as 10,000 miles away and Black Velvet Band mixed with traditional Celtic session tunes from our background playing sessions together. Michael had always admired Ceilidh's music as one of the only other people in the area who sings in Irish. When we were called back by the city to perform for Christmas 2024 in Ballarat's main street, we recruited Martin Scuffins, who we had played with in sessions and worked with at Sovereign Hill. Martin has an incredible talent for restoring antique fiddles and a great working knowledge of the music theory behind the Celtic tunes. We performed a selection of traditional Christmas songs in Celtic Style, including Oíche chiúin, the Irish language translation of Silent night, with a selection of Celtic tunes. From there we pooled together all the Irish Language songs that we already knew and performed, and developed a folio of Gaeilge/ Gaelic music. Micháel is trying hard to learn to speak the Irish language through online resources and personal contacts.

We are looking to play more folk and Celtic festivals in the coming years and we look forward to doing small gigs in pubs, churches and community venues. Even though we have many years of experience between us playing in Celtic folk sessions and other Celtic bands, and have a wealth of Celtic folksongs in our repertoire, we are always working on expanding our repertoire of songs in the Celtic Languages. As people of Celtic heritage who are geographically removed from our ancestral homelands, we believe that it is important to keep the language and culture of our ancestors alive. The revolutionary, educator and saviour of the Irish language said "Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam". "A country without a language is a country without a soul."

**Zinaida Campion** is a classical soprano, vocal coach, artist and model raised in Winchelsea. She is an alumna of VOYCE Victorian Opera, a Windfire Vocal Scholar, and Co President of Geelong City Opera. She has a strong background in languages, a love of local history, and an all-consuming passion for promoting the arts in rural areas.

# The Winchelsea Health Club welcomes newcomers to take the fitness challenge

Surf Coast Shire

Darren Burgess describes the members at Winchelsea Health Club as 'a little fitness family'.

As the club's Health and Wellbeing Team Leader, Darren aims to create a community of people supporting each other to achieve greater health and fitness.

Never is this more evident than during the now annual 'Daz's Deadly December Challenge,' where participants test themselves by completing a series of exercises against the clock on the Eastern Reserve oval.

Introduced three years ago at the suggestion of members as a way of staying motivated to train through the final months of the year, Daz's challenge continues to grow.

"It's a good way to get members going outside their comfort zones, and doing things they wouldn't normally do in their training sessions, plus it helps bring out their competitiveness," Darren said.

"You've got to make it that bit harder each year, but not that tough that you won't get members participating."

The 2025 edition saw 11 health club members sweating through a 30-metre tractor tyre drag, 40-metre tractor tyre carry, two laps of the oval, 10 slam ball throws, 30-metre bear crawl, 100 bench hops, push-ups (20 for women, 40 for men), and a mystery exercise revealed only on the day: a 50-metre sack hop.

The kicker: in between each exercise, participants had to complete 10 burpees and 10 pull-ups on the oval's boundary fence.

The fastest members completed the challenge in around 22 minutes, but everyone left feeling like a winner and celebrated together with a BBQ afterwards.

"For the majority, it was just about proving to themselves that they could complete it – it wasn't about getting the fastest time or finishing in the top three," Darren said.

A Winchelsea resident for 27 years ("almost a local," in his own words) and health club member for 12, Darren has held his team leader position for the past three-and-a-half years.

He appreciates the support of local businesses who donated prize vouchers for the challenge, and the Winchelsea Star as major sponsor, funding participants' tops as a memento of their efforts.

While he's determined to keep growing the December challenge, the focus for now is on building the health club community and helping more people feel fitter and healthier in 2026.

"It's never too late to start your fitness journey," Darren said.

"Come and join our little fitness family at the Winchelsea Health Club."

Councillor [TBC] said the Winchelsea Health Club is an important way for Council to support community wellbeing.

"Through our Health and Wellbeing Plan we aim to increase active living in the community," Cr [TBC] said.

"The Winchelsea Health Club provides a fantastic supportive environment for anyone looking to improve their fitness, and Darren's

December challenge is one of many ways the staff keep members motivated and on track towards their goals."

The Council-run Winchelsea Health Club at Eastern Reserve offers personal training, group fitness, and personalised gym programs. It's accessible to members 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For information about joining, call 5267 2336.



Daz running



Tyre Carry

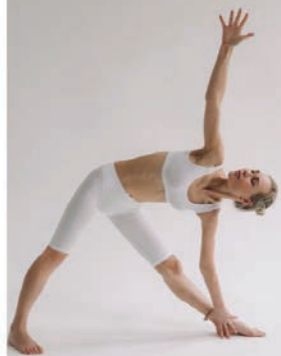






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**Phone:** (03) 5267 2028 **Email:** [manager@winchhouse.org.au](mailto:manager@winchhouse.org.au)  
**ABN:** 48 932 340 254

## 2026 Yoga & Mat Pilates in the Winchelsea Shire Hall



### Mat Pilates 6.45pm Tuesdays

Pilates original style, on the Mat. Guided movement that supports strength and postural alignment, with a strong focus on building core, balance and flexibility. Move with intention, build resilience, and feel stronger in your body.

### Yoga Flow 6.30pm Wednesdays

Inclusive, all levels of experience are welcome and encouraged. You will not be limited by age, shape or by being a beginner. Lisa invites you to unlock the ancient wisdom stored in your being. Build strength, clarity and bliss as you move through a dynamic whole body experience. Expect a playful, powerful class that leaves you feeling refreshed.

### Vinyasa Yoga 7pm Thursdays

Kate offers dynamic vinyasa-style class with a strong focus on core strength and balance building. Each session weaves together pranayama (breathwork), meditation, yoga philosophy, and mindful movement. Students can expect to learn something new in every class, enhancing their practice and deepening their connection to yoga.

For more information please contact the Winchelsea community house on 03 52672028 or email [shirehall@winchhouse.org.au](mailto:shirehall@winchhouse.org.au)

. Grace .

## A Heart Centred Yoga Immersion

@ Winchelsea Shire Hall

*Saturday February 7th 9.30am - 11.30am*

**Pranayama Vinyasa Yin Nidra**

**Slip into a moving meditation as we journey gently into the heart space.**

All levels of experience from absolute beginners to experienced practitioners are warmly welcomed and supported in our friendly environment. Recommended for 12yo and above. Please BYO mat and cushion if possible. This gathering is offered via donation. Places are limited and registration is essential.

Starts Back Feb 6<sup>th</sup>

## TAI CHI


Friday Mornings

Winchelsea Community house

9am - 10am

\$10 Per Class

Originating in China, Tai Chi and Qigong (Chi Kung) is the practice of slow meditative physical exercise designed for relaxation, balance and health suitable for all ages.

 [Winchelsea Tai Chi](#)

## Chatty Café

Returning Friday's 10.30am  
 - 12.30pm from Jan 16<sup>th</sup>.



"Sip, Chat, Share,  
 Care"

Winchelsea Shire Hall.  
 Everyone Welcome,  
 Gold coin donation.



Flexible  
 Affordable  
 Nurturing  
 Fun



03 52 672028  
[reception@winchhouse.org.au](mailto:reception@winchhouse.org.au)

Places now available in 2026  
 for children over 3 years!



## WINCHELSEA KNITTING GROUP

Thursday Mornings 10.30 -12.00  
 Winchelsea community house.

Returning 5th Feb, 2026

All Welcome, Learn to knit or bring a project to work on while you enjoy a cuppa and a chat



**2 x Toys for 2 weeks - \$2**

No Subscription required.



Mon - Fri 9-2 at Winch House

## Craft & Crochet Group



\$5 per person.

1pm, every second Saturday  
 in the Winchelsea community house.

Returning Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026

[reception@winchhouse.org.au](mailto:reception@winchhouse.org.au)

## Stitch it, Don't ditch it!

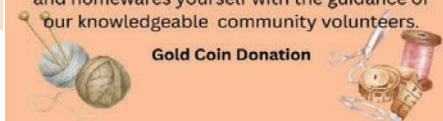
Wednesday's from 4<sup>th</sup> of Feb 2026  
 2pm - 4pm

Winchelsea Community House 'Star Room'

SEWING MACHINE & OVERLOCKER available.

Bring along a craft project you'd like help with, learn to sew, knit, crochet or repair clothing and homewares yourself with the guidance of our knowledgeable community volunteers.

Gold Coin Donation



Please take some time to fill out the community survey and share your ideas for Winch House in 2026!

Enter the link into your browser to complete the survey:

<https://forms.gle/EnrxZVTMfEPEG8ap9>



## A 'berry' good time in the Holohan garden

Julia Holohan

With the beginning of the summer heat our soil is drying out quickly, losing that lovely to work with pliability, the gentle crumbling of the soil as you turn it, dig a spot for a seedling to grow and pull the weeds. It is now fast becoming hard and dry, non compliant and always asking for moisture.

We had a good start to the season with some nice November rains to top up our water tanks, allowing us to generously water the garden along with the warming sun, our garden was happy.

The veggie seedlings have prospered, we've started picking and using our zucchini, carrots, spring onions, leafy greens, garlic, basil and other herbs. Delicious!

We've had a bonzer crop of berries this season with heaps of boysenberries and brambleberries. Just soooo moorish, it's difficult to stop picking and eating with scratched hands and wrists from their vicious thorns, our hands, lips and chins, stained red like blood from their juice. Such a treat!

Being protected from those marauding birds, they're covered in that new small holed netting. This makes it difficult to see the berries. We realised this the first year we used it when we thought they hadn't fruited, pulling back the netting, the bushes had been full of fruit which were dried and useless!

The strawberries haven't produced well, we will probably need to dig them up and move them for a better crop next season. For now it's too hot, we'll move them in winter when they're dormant.

I like to use old metal colanders to pick and keep the berries in the fridge. The colanders are placed on a plate which allows the berry juice to drain through the colanders holes, helping to keep the berries fresh and stop them going mouldy too soon. I often wonder what they do with the shop bought ones which don't seem to have the juice content.

We make some jam, mainly to give to friends and family as we're not big jam eaters ourselves. What we don't eat fresh or share with family and friends are frozen.



The raspberries, like the boysenberry and brambles have been big and flavoursome and with less thorns!

Like our little tomatoes, the berries are placed in a single layer on biscuit trays and frozen. Once frozen, they're put in a plastic bag and kept in the freezer, more berries can be added to the biscuit trays, frozen then added to the plastic bag. This allows you to pour out what you need and stops them from freezing into a solid lump.

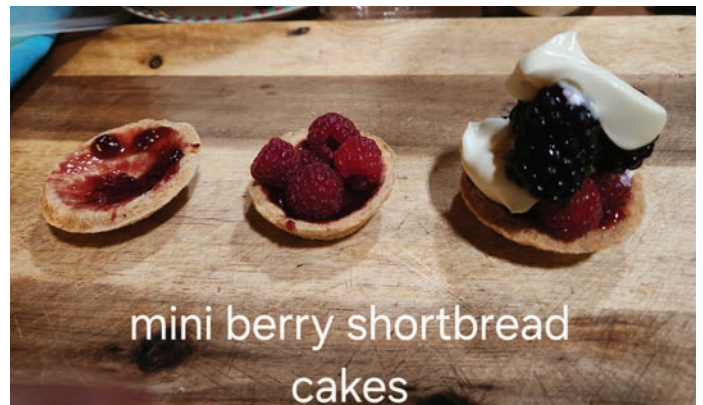
### Berry Shortbread Cases

170 gm sifted flour  
60 gm ground almonds  
(or 30g almond and 30g ground hazelnuts)  
2 pinches cinnamon  
125 gm sugar  
125 gm butter  
1 beaten egg  
A little milk

Mix flour, almond and sugar. Rub in butter.

Add beaten egg. If needed add a little milk. Knead into a ball, roll out on a floured board. Cut into circles to fit greased patty tin. Bake in 170° oven about 15 minutes.

Spread each case with berry jam, cover with whipped cream, top with fresh berries. If desired, pop more cream on top of berries.



What we do like is berry shortbread cakes. Little individual ones with a smear of berry jam, loads of berries and lashings of cream. The shortbread cases can be cooked in advance, I use pattypan tins, once cooked, they'll keep in an air tight container for several weeks. Taking out how ever many I need, loading them up with a generous smear of berry jam, a big dollop of cream, top with berries, (the ones from the freezer work well, they don't take long to thaw), and then, maybe another dollop of cream. Mmmm Mmmm. Recipe below, if you want to try.

Next will be, the wonderful and far easier to pick thornless blackberries, they're starting to ripen now. They're big, black, juicy and delicious, we're looking forward to eating them and picking them without the thorns scratching us.

The black currants, also thornless, are also starting to change colour from green to their shiny deep dark purple / black, robustly bursting with their pert, sour taste that I love. Any excess are either frozen and some I'll steep in brandy to make cassis. Cassis is a French blackcurrant liqueur, easy to make and even better to sip.

Looking eagerly ahead will be the Everbearer raspberries, an autumn raspberry. I can't wait, they all make this time of the year a "berry" good time!



# Cooks Corner

This is a place for passionate foodies. Here we celebrate local produce, seasonal ingredients, simple yet remarkable recipes we've tried, tested and loved. If you have a recipe you'd like to share, a local product to shout out or a suggestion for an upcoming ingredient of the month - we'd love to hear from you. Email [editor@winchelsea.org.au](mailto:editor@winchelsea.org.au).

Submitted by Alice Cloake

**JAN Ingredient of the month: Tomato**

## Pasta alla Checca

From *The Four Seasons of Pasta*

by Nancy Harmon Jenkins and Sara Jenkins



### Ingredients (serves 6)

2 to 3 pounds very ripe tomatoes, coarsely chopped  
2 or 3 garlic cloves, finely chopped  
1 medium red onion, halved and sliced very fine (optional)  
Sea salt  
1/3 to 1/2 cup extra-virgin olive oil  
1 teaspoon to 1 tablespoon aged wine vinegar, more or less as needed  
Freshly ground black pepper if you wish  
Handful of basil leaves, slivered, plus a few whole small leaves for garnish  
About 1 pound (500 grams) spaghetti, tonnarelli, pasta alla chitarra, or other long, skinny pasta

### Method

Combine the tomatoes, garlic, and onion (if using) with a good sprinkle of salt and toss in a bowl. Add 1/3 cup oil and toss again.

Taste and add just a little vinegar to give a touch of acid to the "sauce." Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and set aside at room temperature for at least an hour before serving.

Bring 6 quarts of water to a rolling boil in a large pot. Add salt and the pasta and cook following the directions on page 33, until al dente.

Taste the tomatoes once more and adjust the seasoning, adding pepper and a bit more vinegar, if you wish. Be sure there's enough salt- salt really brings out the flavor of raw tomatoes, so if it tastes a little bland, add a pinch more. Stir in the slivered basil.

When the pasta is al dente, drain and immediately turn it into a warm serving bowl. Cover with the tomato sauce, garnish with basil leaves, and serve immediately.

### About the recipe:

This is a classic summertime dish from Rome. The authors suggest making it with a mix of different coloured tomatoes if you can get your hands on them and recommend preparing them at least an hour ahead of time, letting them sit covered to absorb the other flavours. I made it with the Otway Pasta Company Dried Spaghetti bought from Winchelsea Wholefoods.



**SPOTLIGHT LOCAL PRODUCT:**  
Otway Pasta Company Dried Spaghetti.  
Buy it from Winchelsea Wholefoods.

## Chicken Management

Peter Groves



Those readers who have taken on my suggestion of taking on backyard chickens will benefit from some management tips from me on doing so.

It would help to know more about feeding and how the bird's digestion system works. When the bird feeds, everything goes into their crop which is a sack below the neck and above the wings. The food then passes through the giblets which is a muscular sac-like organ that combined with small pebbles and bits of gravel crushes the food, hence digestion begins.

It is very important that all birds have access to pebbles and gravel for this reason. Shell grit is also part of the food chain needed for the development of strong shelled eggs. You can gather these pebbles and shell grit on Clifton Springs Beach. This material can be scattered on the floor of the coop. The full crop can be felt on the bird late in the day before the bird goes to roost for the night.



### Feeding

Layer pellets work very well to ensure regular egg supply and birds will enjoy a couple of handfuls of wholegrain later in the day and this will attract birds into their house for the night. I recommend Golden Cob and Baristock layer pellets as suitable products. These can be sourced from most farm supply businesses.

### Nesting:

Like we humans the birds need privacy when going to sit. A roofed box with a hole in the side makes a suitable nesting space and a lift-up lid is a bonus. The nest should be lined with soft barley straw.



# The Climate Report

Compiled by Judy Cameron

ABC News 30 Dec:

*"a monsoon trough has extended across the north-west ... parts of north-west Queensland have recorded close to their average annual rainfall in the past week alone."*

Weekly Times 8 Jan:

*"Estimated stock losses above 24,000 in Queensland and 794km of fencing affected"*

The Australian Jan 9:

*"Seven years on from a once-in-a-century flood event, northwest Queensland graziers are confronting, once again, their worst nightmare"*

Yahoo News Jan 9:

*"Livestock flood losses set to triple as cyclone looms"*

The Guardian Jan 11: *"At least 119 structures are believed to have been destroyed in bushfires across Victoria and more than 300,000 hectares of bushland burned as the state continues to battle blazes"*

## 'Profound impacts': record ocean heat is intensifying climate disasters

by Damian Carrington Environment editor, The Guardian

- More than 90% of the heat trapped by humanity's carbon pollution is taken up by the oceans. This makes ocean heat one of the starkest indicators of the relentless march of the climate crisis, which will only end when emissions fall to zero ...
- This extra heat makes the hurricanes and typhoons hitting coastal communities more intense, causes heavier downpours of rain and greater flooding, and results in longer marine heatwaves, which decimate life in the seas ... "Each year the planet is warming – setting a new record has become a broken record," said Prof John Abraham at the University of St Thomas in Minnesota, US, and part of the team that produced the new data... to determine the heat content of the top 2,000 metres of the oceans, where most of the heat is absorbed.
- The analysis, published in the journal Advances in

Atmospheric Sciences, used temperature data collected by a range of instruments across the oceans and collated by three independent teams.

- The amount of heat taken up by the ocean is colossal, equivalent to more than 200 times the total amount of electricity used by humans across the world.
- "The biggest climate uncertainty is what humans decide to do. Together, we can reduce emissions and help safeguard a future climate where humans can thrive," said Abraham.

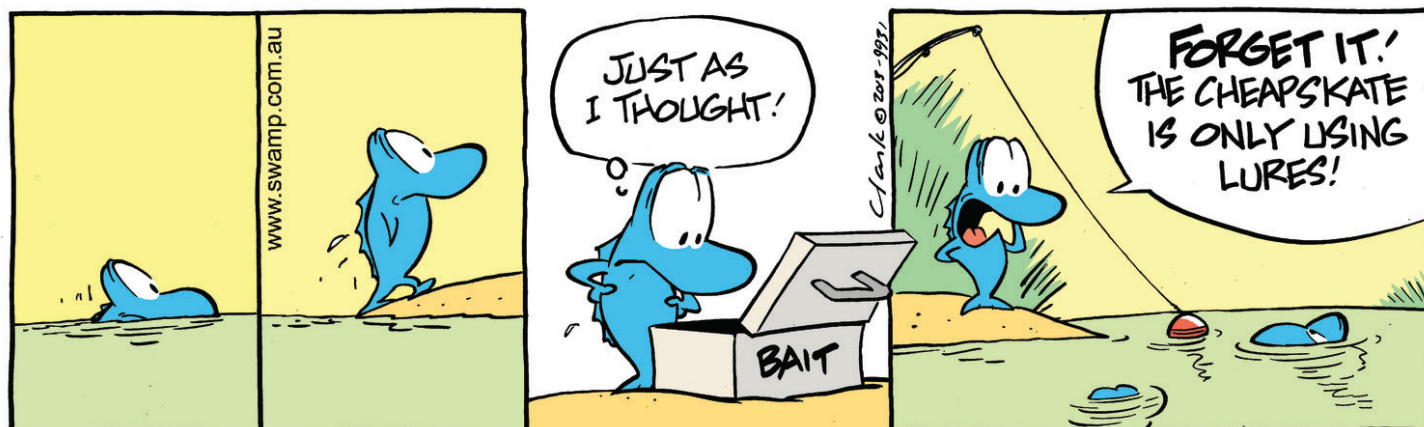
See full story: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/jan/09/profound-impacts-record-ocean-heat-intensifying-climate-disasters>

## As a climate scientist, I know heatwaves in Australia will only get worse.

By Sarah Perkins-Kirkpatrick in The Guardian

- We cannot talk about such an extreme heatwave without talking about the health impacts. I want to be very clear here: extreme heat kills. In fact, extreme heat kills more Australians than all other natural hazards combined...
- The link between heatwaves and climate change is very clear – as the global average temperature climbs, so too will the frequency, duration and intensity of heatwaves, even if the global average temperature increases by just 1 or 2C ...
- In terms of how climate change drives extreme weather, the physical link between global average temperature and heatwaves are among the most well-studied and well-understood in the world...
- Reaching net zero emissions – whenever that might be – would offer some hope. By stabilising atmospheric greenhouse gases from anthropogenic sources, global average temperature might stabilise.

Full story: <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2026/jan/09/as-a-climate-scientist-i-know-heatwaves-in-australia-will-only-get-worse-we-need-to-start-preparing-now>



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Gary Clark, Swamp Cartoons

Books available online: [swamp.com.au](http://swamp.com.au)



## Are you interested in pollinators? If so, this course may be just for you

### When Bee Foundation

The Online Pollinator Stewardship Program is a practical, hands-on course with participants learning online and working on real-world projects on pollinator identification and monitoring, habitat creation, managed and wild pollination services and pollination impact.

The program has been adapted from a successful US program and co-designed with Australian scientists and Indigenous co-creators to suit local landscapes and communities. It is offered by the When Bee Foundation, and CEO Fiona Chambers says "Participants will gain a deeper understanding of pollinators and acquire the skills to adopt climate-smart, sustainable agricultural and land management practices.

The program features 8 online modules and weekly live virtual tutorials. It includes an Indigenous module on knowledge and practices related to pollinator conservation.

Participants will complete either a sustainability project, such as developing or restoring pollinator habitats, or an education project, to raise awareness of threats to pollinators and encourage community action.

A pilot program is being run from February 4 to March 31. Valued at \$500, the subsidised program will cost \$129 and graduates will receive a Certificate as a Certified Pollinator Steward. After this, the Program will be open to the public at a fee from May 6.

The Program is supported by the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program under the Natural Heritage Trust. Find out more at [www.whenbeefoundation.org.au/online-pollinator-stewardship-program](http://www.whenbeefoundation.org.au/online-pollinator-stewardship-program)

## Latest information on the Fairhaven Landslip

### Surf Coast Shire

Council has received the geotechnical report that confirms the slope on the Great Ocean Road west of the Painkalac Creek Bridge has experienced movement back to at least 1975, and shows the crack in the slope predates recent vegetation removal.

Council is investigating three potential remediation options, the cost of which may be around \$3 million and researching funding opportunities from government to support the project.

Acting CEO, Chris Pike, thanked the community for their patience and said, "It's great to finally get clarity on the cause of the slip. The embankment's structure is complex which makes it challenging to implement a safe, long-term fix. A summary of the report will be published on Council's website, and will include the remediation options.

The report identified three primary contributions to the landslip:

- Subsurface soil conditions reducing natural stability of the slope.
- Trapped groundwater pushing up pressure and weakening the slope.
- Surface flows from rainfall and stormwater discharged from upstream properties affecting soil strength and stability.

Geotechnical consultants continue to monitor the area, including the properties above the landslip, and to date there has been no ground movement above the visible cracks.

The complex nature of the issues means it is now unlikely any on-ground works will take place before late 2026 at the earliest.

## Keeping the lights on into the future in regional areas

### RE-Alliance

The not-for-profit RE-Alliance has welcomed the release of the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) draft Integrated System Plan (ISP) 2026. Its National Director Andrew Bray, said it is the most comprehensive pathway to energy security by 2050. "This is a national roadmap for how we're going to keep the lights on as Australia's ageing coal fired power stations retire."

The draft ISP outlines five key points that will have an impact on rural and regional communities:

- We continue to need large scale wind, solar and hydro projects as well as household solar and batteries and new transmission lines to connect it all together.
- New transmission infrastructure is critical to keep Australia's lights on.
- There is a growing role that everyday Australians will play through the increase of household solar, batteries, virtual power plants and utilising electric vehicle battery storage in the home.
- AEMO is listening and has made it clear that regional communities deserve better engagement and that this is the joint responsibility of industry and governments.
- The ISP has a few scenarios, one is an 'accelerated transition' scenario aligned with actions required to limit global heating below 1.5C, but that's not reflected in the 'step change' scenario the draft ISP is currently built on.

AEMO's draft ISP is open for consultation until 13 February 2026 and will be finalised by June 2026.

## New Pollocksford Bridge deck design concept submitted

### Surf Coast Shire

Surf Coast Shire Council has received the concept design for the replacement of the Pollocksford Road Bridge deck. It proposes a heavier replacement deck, which may pose a potential risk to the existing bluestone piers, or columns, supporting the bridge. The piers form part of the bridge's original construction and are significant elements due to its historical significance as one of the earliest bridges constructed over the Barwon River.

To manage this risk and ensure that the increased load doesn't cause the piers to move, Council is engaging specialist bridge engineers.

Acting CEO, Chris Pike thanked the community for their patience and apologised that the closure and repair works are taking much longer than expected. "Work is taking place behind the scenes to make sure this is done thoroughly and properly," said Mr Pike.

Once advice is received from the engineers, Council will open the project to tender. "The bridge is expected to remain closed throughout 2026. We're sorry for the extended closure and appreciate the community's understanding while we take the time to get this right."

Mr Pike acknowledged that projects of this nature are not typically undertaken by Council, making specialist bridge engineer advice essential to ensure the works are completed safely, and the structural and heritage integrity of the bridge is maintained.

Find further information about the Pollocksford Road Bridge at [surfcoast.vic.gov.au/PollocksfordRoadBridge](http://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/PollocksfordRoadBridge)



# Winchelsea Star

**This week's Edition**  
Editor Cerrie Forgan  
Designer Susan Corby

**Next Production Coffee Meeting**  
**Sat 31 January 9am @ La Hoot**  
All Welcome - come enjoy a coffee!

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news@winchelseastar.org.au

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5pm Fridays

4pm Sundays - hard copy left at IGA

6pm Sundays - sports results and  
weekend events

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article.

## Fire Danger Period NOW

Country Fire Authority

The Fire Danger Period is when CFA restricts the use of fire in the community.  
This is to help prevent fires from starting.

**The Fire Danger Period is NOT the same thing as a Total Fire Ban.**

Your local council or shire may have their own local laws about lighting fires. Contact your local council to find out what municipal local laws may be in place. Local laws may be in place all year

Municipality	Start	End
SURF COAST	24/11/2025	01/05/2026

If you need to use fire in the open air during the Fire Danger Period or on a day of Total Fire Ban you may require a permit.



# Immediate bushfire relief now available

## Victorian Farmers Federation

VFF activates Disaster Relief Fund to help devastated bushfire impacted farmers

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has activated its Disaster Relief Fund (DRF) to provide immediate, farmer-led support to producers impacted by the catastrophic bushfires burning across Victoria.

With a State of Disaster declared across 18 local government areas, more than 300,000 hectares burnt, and farmers reporting devastating losses of livestock, homes, equipment and fodder, the VFF is calling on all Australians to support the recovery by donating and lending a helping hand to the Fund.

VFF Vice-President Peter Star, who has been on the ground leading a CFA strike team responding to the Walwa fire in Victoria's north-west said the impacts being felt by farming communities are enormous.

"I've seen firsthand the devastation these fires are causing to farming families across Victoria."

"Farmers have lost everything, from homes, sheds, fencing, livestock, and the fodder they need to keep their animals alive. The scale of what we're dealing with is devastating and we're still in the middle of it."

"The VFF Disaster Relief Fund exists precisely for moments like this. It allows us to get funds directly into the hands of affected farmers quickly, without the red tape."

"Those wishing to lend a helping hand can donate to the VFF's Disaster Relief Fund. Donations are 100 per cent tax deductible and go directly to those impacted by the fires with every dollar donated going towards helping farming families get back on their feet," Mr Star said.

The VFF Disaster Relief Fund is a registered charity and funds raised will provide grants to farmers who have suffered loss, supporting the replacement of fencing, infrastructure, fodder and equipment, as well as meeting basic household needs.

Donations can be made online at [www.vff.org.au/donations](http://www.vff.org.au/donations) or by cheque made out to 'VFF Disaster Relief Fund' to the Victorian Farmers Federation, 24 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000.

"To those who are in a position to help, please consider donating to the VFF Disaster Relief Fund. No matter how large or small, every single cent will help farmers get through these shocking bushfires," Mr Star said.

# Support for fire-affected communities

## Victorian State Government

Both State and Federal governments have contributed to a support package for fire affected Victorians

The State and Federal Governments are standing with Victorians who have been affected by the devastating fires that have torn through so much of the state.

The Prime Minister and Premier visited emergency services on the ground in Central Victoria today to announce an initial \$19.5 million support package for bushfire affected Victorians - jointly funded under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

We know that there's been huge losses of livestock, crops and other agricultural businesses across Victoria. The Federal and State Governments will establish a \$10 million emergency support program to help distribute fodder to those farmers who need it.

When disaster hits, one of the most important things people need is a roof over their head. The Governments will provide \$1.5 million to coordinate emergency accommodation options for people who have nowhere else to go and have had to seek shelter in hotels, serviced apartments and other temporary places.

To address and reduce the trauma that so many have been through with these fires, \$1 million will fund experts in disaster recovery mental health support to provide group counselling sessions so communities can better support one another and navigate their recovery together.

We will also set up the Recovery Support Program – one single point of help so people who've lost so much don't have to deal with government red tape. \$5 million in funding will ensure case support workers will be available for affected Victorians to help them navigate matters like housing, legal and financial support and practical help like accessing payments and grants.

A further \$2 million will establish a recovery hotline, providing access to general information and help to navigate recovery services like the emergency accommodation.

The package builds on the Personal Hardship Assistance Program payments which have been activated for those who've had to evacuate their homes and need immediate things like food and medicine. Assistance under the program includes a one-off payment of \$680 per adult and \$340 per child, up to a maximum of \$2,380 per eligible family.

More support will come as further impact assessments are done when it is safe to do so. For more information on relief and recovery visit the VicEmergency website.





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## Comfortable driving tips

One Body Chiropractic

Helpful driving tips for happier bodies

"WHAT CAN I DO  
WHEN I HAVE TO DRIVE A LOT?"  
I get asked this question A LOT..

Hi its Dr. Emily here!  
My go to's for when you are driving.

BECAUSE WE ALL HAVE TO DO IT ...  
IT'S PART OF MODERN LIFE, ISN'T IT?  
AND HOLIDAY TIME SOMETIMES!

We all know how much better we feel when we are moving around more, when we are relaxed, not slumped, tense, or sitting behind the wheel for hours on end. Right?

BUT THAT'S NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE.

The little things we do on a daily basis to help (or hinder) ADD UP.  
Either for health or pain and sickness.

**Tattoo these into your brain!**

1. Tilt your rear vision mirror up so you have to be up tall in the seat at the start of the day AND at the end.
2. At a red light, push your head back into your headrest (this creates natural traction and lengthening). Or, if driving in the country, do it for a song or two.
3. (Here's a pro-tip for the LADIES! Do what I do and take those claw clips or buns out! They push you forward!)
4. Put your seat to 90 degrees. Make sure you aren't sinking back into your chair, like a camping chair, soft couch, or racing car style seat.
5. Have your knees at equal height to your hips, or lower. Don't have your knees higher than your hips. This puts too much strain on your lower back and causes you to then slump forward

BONUS TIP! A rolled-up jumper in your lower back can be great here too!

There's LOADS of little things you can do to help yourself in general IT'S ALL ABOUT BEING WHOLISTIC.

Happy Holidays and HAPPIER DRIVING!

From The Team at One Body Chiropractic,  
Here for you in 2026  
21 Hesse St Winchelsea

## Family ties ...

### Sidney and Hannah Collins

Nicky Berg

Sidney and Hannah Collins were my grandparents.

Sidney grew up at Ombersley with his mother and grandparents, where they had run the Ombersley Post Office until 1918 moving to Winchelsea to live. His education was at Mirnee Primary School and, after leaving school, he worked as a farmhand. He was a very good horseman, breaking in many horses through the years until the 1950's.

In 1959 Sidney won the first garbage contract from the Shire of Winchelsea for eight pence per bin per week. He also had a dairy farm, delivering milk around Winchelsea for many years until pasteurised milk became compulsory.

Hannah Walker lived with her parents at Gnarwarre and attended Gnarwarre Primary School. After leaving school, she worked at Inglewood Park, Inverleigh as a domestic servant. When Hannah was around 17 or 18, she and her sister Ellen worked in Geelong. Later, she worked as a senior waitress at Erskine guest house in Lorne until she married.

Sidney and Hannah married at St Thomas' Church, Winchelsea in November 1929 raising a family of 13 children, 5 boys and 8 girls: firstly in Winchelsea, then at "Stoneleigh" just out of Winchelsea before purchasing a 3-bedroom cottage in Harding Street, Winchelsea. The cottage and willow tree are still there today.

There was an outbuilding on the property, that in later years was known as the 'bachelors' quarter', it was where the Collins boys slept. It has often been said amongst the Collins children that there was always more than Sidney, Hannah and their 13 children throughout the house.

As the family grew, some families moved but each December we gather at the Modewarre Hall for a shared lunch, this year we had over 80 descendants. It is a little bit loud, a little bit crazy with a whole lot of love sharing stories of joy & sadness and antics of the year, along with some from the yesteryear.

A recent count of the 'Collins' family tree includes 47 grandchildren, 94 great grandchildren and 67 great great grandchildren.

Over the generations, the Collins' have attended the Winchelsea Higher Elementary School (Winchelsea Primary School), played football, basketball, netball & cricket with the Winchelsea Blues, tennis with the Winchelsea Tennis Club, been members of the Winchelsea Gun Club, Winchelsea Repertory Society, Winchelsea Leo's Club, Winchelsea Swimming Pool to name a few.

We are fortunate to have Aunties Eva, Marj and Ivy, Uncle John and mum Lesley residents of Winchelsea, with Uncles Mick and Jim and Aunt Gladys living out of town but returning to visit as often as they can.



Café La Hoot

have you tried  
'owl' coffee?

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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  
Winch Community House,  
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea

## MONDAY-SATURDAY

### WINCHELSEA HEALTH CLUB

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

## MONDAY

### SURF COAST SHIRE FIRE DANGER PERIOD

24/11/2025 - 01/05/2026

### CO-WORKING & STUDYING SPACE

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

### MAINLY MUSIC

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

### WINCHELSEA GIRL GUIDES



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

### 1ST MODDAWARRE SCOUT GROUP

Cub Scouts 6:30-8pm (school term)  
Modewarre Hall, Cape Otway Rd,  
Marie McPadden 0409330147

### VINYASA YOGA

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

## TUESDAY



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

### 1ST MODDAWARRE SCOUT GROUP

Joeys 5-6pm (School Term)  
Scouts 6:30-8:30pm (School Term)  
Marie McPadden 0409330147

## WEDNESDAY

### WINCHELSEA ZUMBA DANCE

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

### WINCHELSEA MEN'S SHED

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

### SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

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

### MOTHER GOOSE SONG & RHYME

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

### WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

### STITCH IT, DON'T DITCH IT!

2-4pm Wednesdays  
Winch Community House, Hesse St  
SEWING MACHINE & OVERLOCKER  
AVAILABLE  
Gold Coin donation

### KIDS ART & CRAFT SESSIONS

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

### MEL'S DANCE CENTRAL

Afternoons/evenings Pre-school - teens  
Winch Senior Citizens Club  
www.melsdancecentral.com.au

### CWA WINCHELSEA

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



### SES WINCHELSEA

7.30pm 132500  
323 Mousley Dr, Winchelsea



## THURSDAY

### CHAT WITH YOUR COUNCILLOR

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

### 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

### NESTING BOXES Birds/animals

### NEED A JOB DONE?

Woodworking, Furniture Repairs  
Call in Wednesdays to order

Ray Atkinson (Co-ordinator)  
0407839139  
winchmenshed@gmail.com

## 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 Growling Winchelsea Inc Website

# January/February 2026

## What's On

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)

### COWORKING & STUDYING SPACE

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

### WINCHELSEA PLAYGROUP

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

### WINCHELSEA PICKLEBALL

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

### WINCHELSEA KNITTING GROUP

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

### MAT PILATES

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

### WINCHELSEA MOVIE CLUB

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

## FRIDAY

### TAI CHI

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

### COMMUNITY FOODBANK

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

### PHONICS WITH ROBOT REG

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

### CHATTY CAFÉ



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

### WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Friday 10am-3pm  
Hesse St, Winchelsea

### WINCHELSEA SENIOR CITIZENS

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

### WINCHELSEA RSL

Winchelsea Men's Shed,  
Hesse St, Winchelsea  
David Loone 0488 165 109

### GEELONG REGIONAL LIBRARY

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

## SATURDAY

### PARKRUN



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

### WINCHELSEA LIONS CLUB IGA BBQs

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

### WINCHELSEA LAND AND RIVERCARE

#### Citizen Scientists Working Bee

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

### WINCHELSEA STAR PRODUCTION/COFFEE MEETING

9-11am (Last Sat monthly)  
La Hoot Cafe, Main Street  
[www.winchelseastar.org.au](http://www.winchelseastar.org.au)

### WINCHELSEA CROCHET GROUP

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

### ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass 6pm each week  
Harding St, Winchelsea 0404598558

### WINCHELSEA COMMUNITY DINNER

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

## SUNDAY



### WINCHELSEA COMMUNITY MARKET

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

### WINCHELSEA UNITING CHURCH

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

## PAPER RECYCLING

Paper depot rear of  
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25 Barwon Tce.

To Enquire ring: **0407838256**



# Winchelsea Churches



## Winchelsea Uniting Church

0475 777 301

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

## St John the Baptist Catholic Church

0404 598 558

Father Joseph Panackal  
Harding St, Winchelsea 3241  
Mass @ 6pm Sat. Jan. 17, 24, 31

## St Thomas' Anglican Church

0448 687 588

Rev Christopher Duff  
Barwon Tce, Winchelsea  
Service 10am Sundays

## Funeral Notice VICKI REILLY

The funeral service  
for our beloved mum,  
Vicki Reilly,  
will be held on  
Wednesday 14 January 2026  
at 11:00am  
at the Winchelsea Cemetery  
205 McConachy St, Winchelsea.

This will be a burial service.

Following the service,  
family and friends  
are warmly invited to join us  
at the Winchelsea Hotel (Top Pub)  
for some food and refreshments.

Dress code:  
A touch of purple or  
something with butterflies,  
in honour of Mum.

Kerry Reilly

## Knuckey's Winchelsea Ph: 5267 2011

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- CONCRETE**
- \* **CONCRETE CUTTING**
- & REMOVAL**

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# Five steps to combat Anti-Semitism and keep people safe

Victorian State Government

In the wake of the anti-Semitic terrorist attack in Bondi that claimed 15 innocent lives, and amid a shocking rise in racist and anti-Semitic incidents over the last two years, Victoria's focus is clear: doing whatever we can to prevent extremism, combat anti-Semitism, and keep our state safe, strong, proud and united.

The Premier has released Victoria's strategy for preventing violent extremism and outlined five short and long-term steps to combat anti-Semitism and protect public safety, including stronger rules for hate speech, protests and weapons, and a community-based approach to stop violent political extremism early.

It builds on the Australian-first anti-hate reforms Victoria delivered over the last year, including the nation's strongest anti-vilification laws, banning terrorist flags in public, protecting people who are worshipping, and a social cohesion 'values commitment' that organisations must sign to receive and keep government grants.

The attack in Bondi was an attack on Jews, and in turn, an attack on Australia's way of life. Combating anti-Semitism is about protecting Jewish Victorians and supporting our whole society. These protections in the law belong to every Victorian, and they will keep everyone safe, whoever they pray to, whoever they are.

## Step 1

### Stronger hate speech laws with social media companies on notice

Victoria's anti-vilification laws introduced this year are Australia's strongest. They include both a criminal regime to penalise the worst conduct, and a civil scheme for individuals and organisations to seek redress in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) if they feel they have been vilified by someone's words or actions.

We will take further action – online. Under Victoria's civil anti-vilification scheme, which starts in 2026, the author or speaker of a vilifying statement generally needs to be identifiable. This could protect cowards who hide behind anonymous profiles to spread hate and stoke fear.

Victoria will spearhead new laws to hold social media companies and their anonymous users to account. They could mean if the owner of a social media account can't be identified, then the platform could be liable for a civil claim determination – which could include high financial penalties and demands to remove the offending content.

As well as established social media platforms, this reform could also cover chat forums including comment sections on newspaper websites. Major platforms could also be compelled to provide identifying details. We will commission a respected jurist to examine the options for change within the constitutional framework.

Victoria will also fast-track the implementation of our civil anti-vilification scheme to the earliest possible date allowing for recruitment and training of new staff. The civil scheme will now commence in April 2026, not mid-year.

As a further step, we will bring these laws back to Parliament in 2026 to remove the requirement that the Director of Public Prosecutions consent to police prosecutions for criminal vilification. This restores the framework originally proposed in the Bill before it was amended in the Legislative Council.

## Step 2

### Calm on our streets following acts of terror

We will introduce new special police powers to allow the Chief Commissioner of Police to stop or move on a public protest within a certain time following a designated terrorist event – similar to targeted new laws proposed in NSW.

Our Government defends the right to protest and we won't allow a return of undemocratic laws that aim to reduce the power of workers. But community safety must be paramount, especially when tensions are high. That's why we introduced offences to protect people who are worshipping. That's why we'll take further action.



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Victorian laws and systems are different to those in New South Wales, so the intent will be the same, but the legislative approach won't. The Solicitor-General will examine the appropriate pathway for Victoria to deliver this change. Their work will be completed in January 2026.

### Step 3

#### Playing our part to toughen Australia's gun laws

After leading the world for three decades, Australia cannot become complacent on guns. At National Cabinet, Victoria alongside other states committed to strengthen gun laws and develop options to limit open-ended firearms licencing, allow the additional use of criminal intelligence to underpin firearms licencing – and more.

We will commission a review by former Victoria Police Chief Commissioner Mr Ken Lay AO APM. Mr Lay will look at Victoria's current laws, the proposed New South Wales legislation, and consult with Victoria Police and community groups to support the national approach and bring our gun laws up to date with the risks of today.

### Step 4

#### Taking a prevention approach to stop political extremism early

Violent political extremists are people motivated by far-right, far-left, political, religious or other ideological beliefs who justify violence as a means for change.

Victoria will appoint a Commissioner to implement the state's new Strategy for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism 2025-28 and drive a new community-led focus to stop hate at the source.

Released today, our evidence-based strategy found that community initiatives – such as outreach and education programs to support schools, clubs and places of worship – are the bedrock to prevent the emergence of all kinds of violent political extremism.

Above all, the new Commissioner will ensure a community prevention approach is in place alongside traditional targeted interventions to combat extremism. That means stronger partnerships with community groups and services, and new programs that reduce division and support cohesion.

The strategy sets out evidence-based goals to guide the Government's approach over the next three years and identifies 31 key drivers and vulnerabilities leading to radicalisation. To read the strategy, visit [vic.gov.au/victorian-government-efforts-prevent-and-counter-violent-extremism](https://vic.gov.au/victorian-government-efforts-prevent-and-counter-violent-extremism).

### Step 5

#### Taking long-term accountability for the pathway to normal

Anti-Semitism is the oldest and most pervasive form of extremism, and we fight it with firm anti-hate principles and laws, recognition of Jewish life and culture, and a profound commitment to education and prevention.

We will maintain that fight both through our actions, and by working with the Jewish community in practical forums we have established, such as the Local Escalation and Help group (LEAH).

Our ultimate long-term goal is a return to a sense of normality for members of Victoria's Jewish community. They deserve to live their lives in peace and dignity without having to constantly defend their family, identity, dress, homes, businesses, schools and shules from the harassment and violence that has spiralled since 2023.

Victoria will convene a council of eminent Victorians to develop a set of big, simple and measurable long-term goals. These goals will guide the long-term work of government, community and the private sector on the 'pathway to normal'. Government will be accountable to meeting the goals – we must track them regularly, proudly and publicly.

Victoria is also implementing the recommendations of the Special Envoy's Plan to Combat Anti-Semitism. We adopted the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism, mandated Holocaust teaching in government schools, progressed significant law reform addressing anti-Semitism, are funding VEOHRC to help workplaces fight hate, and more.

We will go further. Victoria commits to working with the state's cultural institutions to educate them about anti-Semitism and establish agreed guidelines for festivals and arts organisations to respond to anti-Semitic incidents.

With this commitment, Victoria is delivering all the Special Envoy's recommendations and actions relevant to states.

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29 Main St, Winchelsea



# Winchelsea Star COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

email [editor@winchelseastar.org.au](mailto:editor@winchelseastar.org.au) or

leave a note at **Winchelsea IGA**



## WANTED: UKULELES

Winch House is looking for unwanted ukuleles to support a coming course "Intro to Ukulele".

If you have an unloved Uke at home and wish to donate it, pls drop off at Winch House or ph 0408502611 to arrange collection.

*Thank you*

## WINCHELSEA TENNIS CLUB

JUNIOR COACHING

Mon 3.30pm

with experienced Nicole Mullen \$10

## WINCHELSEA PICKLEBALL

The Tennis Club runs Pickleball every Wednesday 7pm at the Winchelsea Leisure Time Centre!

Only \$5 a person

All equipment supplied

Wear suitable footwear

Lesley Mathison 0438 672 197

## WINCHELSEA LIONS CLUB

Large bags of pine cones for fire pits \$5

Contact Ray 0406 371 239

## 1ST MODEWARRE SCOUT GROUP

We have exciting programs planned for Joeys, Cubs & Scouts this year.

We have a few vacancies at Joey & Cub levels, and plenty of room at Scouts.

Group Leader Marie McPadden  
0409 330 147

**Experienced GARDENER  
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Season's Greetings  
from the committee and friends of  
**Winchelsea Arboretum Trail**



To our partners, supporters, colleagues, mentors and friends, we wish you a wonderful holiday season and every good wish for happiness, joy and good health in 2026.

Naida C Hutton,  
Winchelsea Arboretum Trail

Jim & Alison Lidgerwood are moving to Colac and having a huge

# YARD SALE

Saturday 17th January  
9AM - 1PM

185 Wormbete Station Road, Wurdiboluc  
(Above Reservoir, Cape Otway Road)

Items include:  
-Household & kitchen items  
-Antiques & vintage pieces & furniture  
-Horse rugs & riding gear  
-Plants & pots & garden equipment  
-Kids games/toys  
-Bunnies/chooks  
-Farm equipment  
-Shed items  
-Fridge/freezer

and many more quality things...

\$ CASH ONLY \$  
No early callers please.



# BUSINESS PHONE DIRECTORY

## **ACCOUNTANT**

STS Accounting 5267 2673

## **AGRICULTURAL**

Southern Grain 5267 2351

## **ANTIQUES**

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## **AUTOMOTIVES**

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Winchelsea Auto 5267 3001

## **BANK**

Bendigo Bank 5267 3189

## **BUILDERS**

Alford Built 0408 583 362

Lupton Builders 0438 840 104

MGT Building 0409 433 687

## **CAFE**

Café La Hoot 0407 528 999

## **CHIROPRACTOR**

One Body 5267 2240

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## Consider using an Urgent Care Clinic rather than Emergency Department

### Victorian State Government

Open seven days a week, Urgent Care Clinics (UCCs) accept both walk-ins and bookings. They are staffed by GPs and nurses who can treat urgent, but not life-threatening conditions such as sprains, broken bones, cuts, and mild infections.

The Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) and Nurse-on-Call are also available – providing free advice, care and treatment sooner. The VVED offers an all-hours free service where patients can get care from video emergency nurses and doctors online, freeing up Triple Zero and emergency departments for emergency cases. While Nurse-on-Call also offers 24/7 care, with registered nurses providing immediate, expert advice.

800 pharmacies also participate in Chemist Care Now helping people avoid an unnecessary trip to the doctor for conditions like uncomplicated UTIs or mild skin conditions.

For urgent (but not life-threatening) care,

- Geelong Medicare Urgent Care Clinic (Belmont)
- Barwon Health North Urgent Care (Norlane);
- Colac Area Health Urgent Care Centre

Victorians should call Triple Zero in emergencies, but non-urgent cases may be directed to alternative care.

For more information on Victoria's Urgent Care Services, please visit [betterhealth.vic.gov.au/urgent-care-services](https://betterhealth.vic.gov.au/urgent-care-services).

## Help stop the spread of cryptosporidiosis this summer

### Department of Health, Victorian State Government

Take simple steps to reduce the spread of cryptosporidiosis, a type of gastroenteritis. Cases typically peak in warmer months, with outbreaks associated with public swimming pools, contaminated water supplies and childcare centres..

Cryptosporidiosis is a parasitic infection that can cause watery diarrhoea and stomach cramps lasting several weeks. People with weakened immune systems are at greater risk of prolonged illness.

Deputy CHO Christian McGrath says simple precautions can prevent outbreaks, particularly when using public swimming pools. "Staying out of the water for 2 weeks after diarrhoea is one of the most effective ways to stop cryptosporidiosis spreading."

Cryptosporidiosis is highly resistant to normal chlorine levels, which means even well-maintained pools can be affected.

"If you or your child develop symptoms, speak to your doctor and avoid swimming until you're fully recovered. Small steps help keep our pools clean and prevent outbreaks."

Five simple steps to help keep the water clean:

- Do not swim for two weeks after diarrhoea stops if you have had cryptosporidiosis or diarrhoea
- Shower and wash with soap, especially your bottom, before swimming
- Wash your hands with soap after going to the toilet or changing a nappy
- Change nappies in nappy change areas only
- Avoid swallowing pool water

## Do you know the symptoms of heat stroke? It can be a killer in hot weather

### Judy Cameron

**Heat is Australia's 'silent killer'. By Donna Lu in The Guardian**

Full story: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2026/jan/07/extreme-heat-symptoms-heatstroke-exhaustion-australia>

- Heatwaves have been described as a "silent killer" because they do not leave the same large-scale visible scars as bushfires and floods.
- People suffering heatstroke can have core body temperatures above 40.5C and may show confusion, reduced alertness and have red, hot dry skin that no longer produces sweat.
- "Heatwaves have caused the most hospitalisations related to extreme weather over the last decade, and the risk of hospitalisation increases with age," says Dr Michael Wright, President of the RACGP.

### How to stay cool and prevent heat stress

Wright's advice is "drink plenty of water, try to stay indoors if possible during the peak UV hours 11am - 3pm, and check in on friends and family". Older people, babies, and people with chronic illness or who are pregnant or breastfeeding are more susceptible to the effects of extreme heat.

Authorities suggest staying well hydrated – drink 6 to 8 glasses of water a day, and avoiding alcoholic, hot or sugary drinks. Urine that is a "clear to light straw colour" is a good guide you're drinking enough.

The heat people actually experience can far exceed the forecast – because the BOM measures temperature in the shade. Depending on the surface you're standing on, it could be up to 10C hotter.

## Winchelsea Osteopathic Clinic supporting local bowlers

### Winchelsea Osteopathic Clinic

Winchelsea Osteopathic Clinic is proud to support the Winchelsea Bowls Club. As part of the sponsorship, all club members are eligible for \$10 off their first two visits to the clinic simply by showing proof of membership.

While bowls is a low-impact sport, fantastic for keeping physically active, it still places repeated demands on the body. Many bowlers experience common issues such as lower back stiffness, shoulder and elbow strain, hip and knee pain.

Osteopathic treatment can help bowlers remain confident in their bodies by improving joint movement, reducing muscular tension, and supporting better body mechanics. Treatment is complemented by personalised exercise and mobility advice to help players maintain strength, balance, and flexibility on and off the green.



Winchelsea Osteopathic Clinic remains committed to supporting the health, wellbeing, and longevity of our local sporting community.

For enquiries or bookings, contact the clinic at 5267 2948 or visit [winchelseaosteopathicclinic.com.au](https://winchelseaosteopathicclinic.com.au).



# Victoria's pets suffering in dangerous hot weather

RSPCA

## A timely warning from the RSPCA

RSPCA Victoria is calling on all pet owners to protect their animals during this scorching weather, with 20 reports made to the RSPCA Inspectorate before midday from concerned community members about pets allegedly left without access to shelter or water.

RSPCA Victoria Chief Inspector Michelle Green said restricting an animal's access to water and shelter is potentially deadly.

"High temperatures can be deadly to pets who are vulnerable, but extreme temperatures like this week are dangerous for all animals," Chief Inspector Green said.

"Before midday today, we had already received 20 heat related reports including for animals allegedly without access to water or shelter in 40C temperatures which is a potential death sentence to these pets and completely unacceptable.

"Heat stroke is a cruel and extended form of suffering and should never be taken lightly, and all pet owners must understand their responsibilities to their animals and take appropriate steps to protect their welfare throughout summer. There is no excuse for neglecting your animal in these dangerous conditions and we will be investigating these reports.

"Please never leave your animal in a car on a day like today, even just a couple of minutes can be fatal – call the police on 000 for an urgent response to these situations."

Heatwaves, hot cars, and burning footpaths, are just some of the things to watch out for in these conditions

RSPCA Victoria Director of Veterinary Services Dr Melissa Meehan said the hot weather on pets poses a serious risk. "Hot and extreme weather conditions this week will pose a serious risk to animal health," Dr Meehan said.

"Heat stroke can develop rapidly and may be life-threatening, with common warning signs including excessive panting, vomiting or diarrhea, and unusually bright or very pale gums. If you notice these symptoms in your pet or are concerned about their immediate wellbeing, seek veterinary advice immediately.

"Even after the sun goes down and temperatures drop, pets can still be at risk, as heat retained in footpaths and concrete can create hazardous ground-level temperatures.

"All of your animals must have continuous access to shade, fresh drinking water and adequate ventilation to help cool themselves.

"We also recommend bringing any young, senior, unwell, and small animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, and birds indoors during periods of extreme heat.

"Hot surfaces can also cause burns to paw pads, so make sure you check the temperature of footpaths with the back of your hand as a simple precaution - If it feels too hot for you, it is too hot for them."

RSPCA Victoria's guide to a Pet-Safe Summer is available online with helpful tips and pointers to ensure pet safety this summer.

## Ross River virus a threat to travellers in Gippsland area

Department of Health, Victorian State Government

### Increased risk of Ross River virus

Holiday makers and residents in Gippsland are urged to protect themselves from mosquito bites following recent detections of Ross River virus in Wellington and East Gippsland in recent weeks.

Ross River virus spreads through the bite of infected mosquitoes. While many people do not develop symptoms, some experience fever, joint pain and swelling, muscle aches, fatigue or rash. Symptoms can last for weeks or months. There is no vaccine or specific treatment for Ross River virus. Preventing mosquito bites is the most effective way to reduce the risk of infection.

Simple precautions can reduce the risk of infection. People travelling are advised to wear long, loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing, use mosquito repellent containing picaridin or DEET on exposed skin, and limit time outdoors particularly at dawn and dusk. Pack repellent before leaving home, as stocks may be limited in small towns.

Holiday makers should ensure accommodation, caravans and tents have intact mosquito screens, use mosquito coils and camp away from the edge of rivers/lakes, where mosquitoes breed.

Anyone who develops symptoms consistent with Ross River virus infection should seek advice from their GP.

More information is available on the Better Health Channel at <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/ross-river-virus-disease>

## Rural Aid welcomes new partnership with WFI Insurance

Rural Aid

WFI Insurance has forged a partnership with Rural Aid, one of Australia's leading independent rural charities committed to safeguarding farming and rural communities before, during and after disasters.

The partnership builds on a relationship formed earlier this year when WFI donated \$250,000 to Rural Aid to bolster its critical relief efforts for farmers impacted by catastrophic flooding in Western Queensland.

WFI Insurance Executive General Manager Damien Gallagher said, "Having seen first-hand the meaningful difference Rural Aid made to communities across Western Queensland, we are delighted to establish a partnership to support their work. Our organisations share the same values and an aligned purpose – to make your world a safer place."

WFI's network of more than 100 authorised representatives and sales representatives, live and work within rural and regional Australia, supporting agricultural communities and helping farmers protect the things that matter most.

Through the impacts of a changing climate, Australia continues to see increases in the severity and frequency of extreme weather events, with new regions anticipated to be impacted by natural disasters in the future.

## Over ten thousand apprentices qualified in 2025

Victorian State Government

More than 10,000 Victorian apprentices completed their training in 2025 and are now job-ready with in-demand skills.

A trade paper is a certificate awarded to those who successfully complete a recognised apprenticeship in Victoria, along with relevant formal training through a TAFE or registered training organisation.

Carpenters, electricians and plumbers make up more than half the number of workers to receive their trade papers – ensuring Victoria has the skilled workers needed to deliver homes, projects and services.

The Government is supporting apprentices to navigate work, training and personal challenges so they can complete their qualification and obtain their trade paper.

Apprentices and trainees can access free counselling through the Apprentice Employee Assistance Program, which provides confidential short-term support for mental health and personal issues, difficult workplace situations and financial concerns.

Support is also available through the Apprentice Support Officer (ASO) program. ASOs provide in-person support to apprentices both on campus and in the workplace.

The Apprentice Helpdesk – which has already taken 1,500 calls since launching in June – is available for apprentices to learn about the full range of support on offer.

The helpdesk is a free phone and online service staffed by specially trained case support officers who provide information, practical guidance and referrals. The helpdesk can be contacted on 1300 311 820.

## Victorian Electoral Commission examines impact of proposed changes to electoral laws

Victorian Electoral Commission

State electoral laws under review

Following the recent introduction of the Electoral Amendment Bill 2025, the VEC is reviewing the impact of the legislation on state elections. The Bill includes reforms to election timelines and processes, nominated entities, party registration requirements, authorisation requirements and other areas.

Electoral Commissioner Sven Bluemmel said, “It is critical that any legislative reforms do not undermine the trust and participation of all Victorians in their elections or the independence of the VEC.”

With preparations already underway for the next state election in less than 12 months' time, Mr Bluemmel said it may be challenging to implement some of the changes in 2026. ‘We will analyse what this Bill means for the work we do,’ he said.

The Bill can be viewed at [www.legislation.vic.gov.au/bills/electoral-amendment-bill-2025](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/bills/electoral-amendment-bill-2025)

### About the VEC

The VEC is an independent and impartial body responsible for holding state and local council elections. We work to promote public confidence in the democratic process and ensure its integrity by:

- maintaining the register of Victorian electors (the electoral roll)
- promoting public awareness and understanding of electoral issues
- supporting the Electoral Boundaries Commission
- administering Victoria's political funding and donations disclosure rules.

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# The Federal government must stand up for the Australian dairy industry in trade talks

## Australian Dairy Industry Council

The Australian Dairy Industry Council (ADIC) is warning an unbalanced Australia-European Union Free Trade Agreement (Australia-EU FTA) will irreparably damage the nation's dairy industry, undermining farmers, processors and regional communities.

The warning comes as China has imposed provisional tariffs of up to 42.7 per cent on dairy products imported from the European Union (EU), highlighting the willingness of major economies to protect their domestic industries from subsidised imports.

ADIC Chair Ben Bennett said China's move was a stark reminder that the EU prioritises protection of its own farmers within a highly subsidised agricultural trading system.

"Australia cannot afford to give away its domestic industries and sensitive trade areas for ink on a page and a government announcement opportunity," Mr Bennett said. "The Australian dairy industry stood behind the government walking away from an agreement with the EU in October 2023.

"We believe that no deal is better than a poor deal, and this view has strengthened as local conditions have continued to worsen. If Australian negotiators concede to the EU on critical issues such as market access, dairy tariff liberalisation and geographical indications without meaningful return, the damage to our dairy industry will be irreversible."

The EU dairy industry has the largest offensive interest in the nation's bilateral trade and floods the Australian domestic market with more than 71,000 tonnes of subsidised dairy product each year (AU\$740 million) – compared to just 1,600 tonnes that Australia exports to the EU (AU\$55 million).

ADIC Vice-Chair John Williams said the figures demonstrate why Australia must not weaken protections for its domestic market. "Australian dairy is world-class, but our domestic competitiveness is eroded by increased imports and an uneven global playing

field. Opening the door to subsidised EU dairy without reciprocal outcomes would push more Australian-made products off supermarket shelves."

China's provisional duties – between 21.9 and 42.7 per cent – target milk, cheese and other dairy and reflect concerns that subsidised EU exports can harm domestic industries. "China's actions show that even large trading partners will defend their dairy industries when faced with unfair competition," Mr Bennett said.

"Protecting Australian dairy was about more than trade volumes. Every litre of Australian milk and every locally made cheese, yoghurt or butter represents regional jobs, economic value and national food security," he said. "Trade agreements must strengthen Australian dairy – not accelerate a shift towards imported product at the expense of local farmers and processors."

Australia's dairy sector has operated for decades in a highly competitive global market. But the EU's agricultural policies provide direct support to European farmers, allowing subsidised dairy products to be exported into markets like Australia – a competitive advantage Australian farmers do not receive.

"Australians want to choose Aussie dairy, but government policy must back that choice," Mr Bennett said.

### ADIC calls on the Federal Government to:

- **Ensure any Australia-EU FTA delivers genuinely reciprocal market access for Australian dairy exports.**
- **Protect the Australian domestic market from a surge of subsidised EU dairy imports.**
- **Reject any proposals that remove safeguards without equivalent concessions for Australian dairy producers.**

"We stand ready to work with government to ensure the Australian dairy sector is appropriately represented in the finalisation of any trade negotiations with the EU," Mr Bennett said.

---

## 11 days till Lizzie The Musical opens in Geelong

### Theatre of the Damned

What a woman Lizzie must have been. Come along and enjoy the Musical

LIZZIE the Musical opens on January 16th 2026, A First for any amateur theatre company in Australia and another First for Geelong.

Why come see Lizzie ?

Lizzie is an Amazing piece of Theatre and is based on a True Crime. @followers @topfans

Lizzie Andrew Borden was an American woman who was tried and acquitted of the August 4, 1892, axe murders of her father and stepmother in Fall River, Massachusetts. No one else was charged in the murders and, despite ostracism from other residents, Borden spent the remainder of her life in Fall River.

More reasons : LIZZIE IS ONLY \$38.50 PER TICKET AND NOT \$50-\$60 LIKE OTHER SIMILAR AMATEUR THEATRE PRODUCTIONS !!!

We have a full bar at prices way less than your average theatre!!!

LIZZIE has swung her axe in over 100 Productions in 11 countries across 4 continents in 7 languages and has been honored with dozens of awards including 8 Best Musical Awards and she's still swinging!

LIZZIE is four women fronting a six-piece rock band.

LIZZIE is Rage! Sex! Betrayal! BLOODY MURDER!

LIZZIE is American mythology set to a blistering rock score with a sound owing less to Sondheim and Andrew Lloyd Webber than to Bikini Kill, the Runaways, and Heart.

THE MUSIC IS TO DIE FOR!!!!




You can sit in a theatre and watch reruns of shows over and over again, or you can come along to Theatre of the Damned and watch shows that are always a FIRST for Geelong.

Yes we perform in Belmont High Performing Art Centre but this company is a totally separate entity and is a stand alone Theatre Company who will not do Vanilla Theatre. We take the risk to bring you something DIFFERENT.

Come along and experience our KILLER production of LIZZIE from 16th til the 24th of January 2026 "FOR 6 PERFORMANCES ONLY" Come and join our DAMNED FAMILY.

Hit the Trybooking ticket link <https://www.trybooking.com/DFGZT> You won't be sorry, UNLIKE MR and MRS BORDEN

## Services & Activities In Winchelsea

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 <b>COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION</b> 7pm second Wednesday of month Winchelsea Senior Citizens' Hall 36 Harding Street Winchelsea	<b>WINCHELSEA PLAYGROUP</b> Every second Thursday 10am-12pm St Thomas Anglican Church Hall cnr Barwon Tce and Hopkins St, Winchelsea Contact: Danni Menzies 0432019944 winchelseaplaygroup@gmail.com Facebook - Winchelsea Playgroup 2019 <b>New families welcome</b>	 <b>1ST MODDAWARRE SCOUT GROUP</b> Modewarre Hall Joeys 5-8yo 5-6pm (school term) Scouts 11-14yo 6:30-8:30pm (school term) Venturers -15-18yo are hosted by Torquay or Highton Units <b>Contact: Marie McPadden 0409330147</b>
 Winchelsea and District <b>COMBINED PROBIS CLUB</b> Senior Citizens Rooms, New members always welcome. Enquiries Lorraine 0417 467 927	<b>WINCHELSEA TRANSFER STATION</b> <b>55 Cressy Road, Winchelsea</b> Tuesday 2pm-4pm Saturday 1.30-3.30pm Thursday 2pm-4pm Sunday 9.30-12.30pm Closed Christmas Day, but open on other public holidays. www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/disposalsites	 <b>Join us. A role for everyone</b> Nationally accredited training to help our community. Pop in to meet your crew <b>Wednesdays 7:30pm</b> <b>Winchelsea Unit</b> 325 Mousley Drive <b>132 500</b>

## Help protect 30% of nature across the world by 2030

### Trust for Nature

#### Trust for Nature works hard to protect biodiversity

"We are in the midst of a biodiversity crisis. The land that countless species depend on is becoming less liveable, and vital habitats are being lost forever. In this critical moment, protecting biodiversity on private land is not just important — it is essential.

We are proud of our contribution to Australia's efforts to reach our global target of protecting 30% of land for nature by 2030. But we only have 5 years to get there, so there's plenty of work to be done."

**Andrew Brookes, Chair, Trust for Nature**

Restoring and protecting nature is big, ongoing work. Yet person by person, hectare by hectare, we are creating change that lasts for generations. And this summer, you can be part of that journey.

When you donate, you're doing more than giving—you're helping protect Victoria's biodiversity for the future. You are helping

safeguard more land forever through conservation covenants and reserves which in turn contributes to global targets to protect at least 30% of our lands and waterways for conservation by 2030. Your donation means helping Australia – and the world – reach these important 30 by 30 targets as part of the Global Biodiversity Framework. That is a real, tangible impact for the health of our planet, which you are a part of.

Your support will safeguard more land forever through conservation covenants, empower landholders with tailored education and stewardship programs, and expand our conservation community by welcoming thousands of new Land for Wildlife members. You'll put boots on the ground to restore ecosystems, protect endangered species, and share best-practice knowledge so every landholder has the tools to care for nature.

Together, we can create a connected network of healthy habitats across Victoria—places where Powerful Owls soar, River Red Gums stand tall, and biodiversity flourishes. Catherine and Clive's property near Gariwerd, the Grampians, is proof of what's possible. Once struggling, it's now a thriving biodiversity hotspot, home to threatened species and centuries-old trees. Thanks to a conservation covenant, their hard work will protect nature forever.

This transformation doesn't happen by accident. It takes expertise, dedication—and your support. Please give your urgently needed donation today and help protect Victoria's landscapes for generations to come.

Donate now to protect Victoria's habitats  
[www.trustfornature.org.au](http://www.trustfornature.org.au)





# Continuing the Pilk Purriyn Truth-Telling Journey on 26 January

Holly Earl, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation

Come and help celebrate Pilk Purriyn this January

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners invite the Surf Coast Shire community and visitors to join them in a profound experience of deep listening at the Pilk Purriyn (sunrise) event in Torquay on 26 January, 2026. Now in its fourth year, this special gathering offers a meaningful opportunity to connect with Country and Culture.

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation (WTOAC) will continue to lead the event upholding Cultural responsibilities and protocols, and look forward to collaborating on the event proceedings with the broader First Nations community living on Wadawurrung Country.

The 2026 event will include Welcome to Country, Smoking and dance ceremonies, as well as singing by Wadawurrung Traditional Owners and others from the First Nations community.

Truth-telling is at the heart of this event, which helps deepen awareness of the enduring grief, loss, and harm caused by colonisation. The event will start at 5.30am before the new day dawns on Warri Dja (Sea Country) at Cosy Corner in Torquay.

From the first event in 2023, crowds have been drawn to the truth telling, connection, and quiet contemplation of Pilk Purriyn. January 26, 2025, saw thousands of allies and the First Nations community gather at Cosy Corner for a tangible expression of their support for reconciliation and a shared future, together.

The evolution of Pilk Purriyn has cemented its role in the collective hearts of the Surf Coast community. People of all ages and backgrounds are invited to come together in quiet, compassionate reflection.

## About Pilk Purriyn

Pilk Purriyn means "sunrise" in the Language of Wadawurrung People, the Traditional Owners and First People of the land where this event takes place, at Cosy Corner Beach, Torquay.

This event is held at sunrise to symbolise the dawning of a new era of understanding and healing between all people in the community.

Pilk Purriyn is a unique opportunity for people to gather, reflect, acknowledge the history of our nation, and to deeply listen.

Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation is again presenting Pilk Purriyn with the support of Surf Coast Shire Council and the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.

Organisers are encouraging people to register for the free 2026 event via [surfcoast.vic.gov.au/PilkPurriyn](https://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/PilkPurriyn) to help gauge numbers and enable sharing of updates.

Wadawurrung Traditional Owner and WTOAC Co-Chief Executive Officer, Sarah Eccles:

*"January 26 is a difficult day for many in our Mob - but Pilk Purriyn is changing that. Each year, more people join us on Warri Dja (Coastal Country) at sunrise to listen, reflect, and walk together toward healing. These gathering counters what January 26 has long represented and creates space for real healing and reconciliation. Seeing the community embrace this new way of recognising the day gives us hope for the future."*



Sarah Eccles (WTOAC Co-CEO) Bek Devlin (WTOAC Co-CEO)  
Mayor Libby Stapleton (Surf Coast Shire Council)  
and Jordie Campbell (Event MC)

*Image supplied by Wadawurrung Traditional Owners  
Aboriginal Corporation*

*"Deep appreciation to Surf Coast Shire Council and Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority for supporting us since this event was first held in 2023 – Nyatne (thank you)."*

Surf Coast Shire Council Mayor Libby Stapleton:

*"Pilk Purriyn has become such a profound and meaningful event for our community. Council is proud to respectfully support Wadawurrung Traditional Owners and the wider First Nations Community in their truth-telling, which helps deepen understanding of the immeasurable hurt and loss felt by First Nations people on 26 January. The event aligns so well with Council's statement of commitment to reconciliation and the work we have been doing for many years. Deep listening and understanding are at the heart of reconciliation journeys, and we encourage people from across our region to again witness and absorb Pilk Purriyn with open hearts."*

Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority Chief Executive Officer Christine Ferguson

*"Pilk Purriyn has established itself as an important annual event that has real meaning for the community, and we are proud to be involved. I would encourage people to get down and take part to see first hand the power of deep listening."*

## Additional Information

Organisers are committed to ensuring Pilk Purriyn is as accessible as possible, while honouring the cultural significance and natural beauty of the outdoor setting. Those who may find the terrain or low-light conditions challenging are encouraged to arrive early and bring a support person if needed.

People with additional access or support needs are encouraged to contact organisers directly at [pilk-purriyn@surfcoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:pilk-purriyn@surfcoast.vic.gov.au). People can find more information, including event FAQs via [surfcoast.vic.gov.au/PilkPurriyn](https://surfcoast.vic.gov.au/PilkPurriyn).



# history of winchelsea

## Winchelsea's Denominational Schools

### Tensions existed between state and private schools in the 1870's

There was significant conflict in early Winchelsea between Common schools, which were equivalent of modern state or public schools and denominational schools, which were the equivalent of Church schools. Private schools also existed such as that run by John Thompson on Harding St as mentioned in the last article. Edward Carse set up a Church school in the Wesleyan Chapel from 1868-70 in competition to the common school in the St Thomas Sunday School.

By 1871, the state of school affairs in the township of Winchelsea had become a serious issue. In May 1871 the school committee dismissed Mr. Carse, owing to an ultimatum from the Board of Education that if the school building was not repaired and upgraded for the almost 100 students regularly attending there, that their funding would be withdrawn.



Wesleyan Chapel School, 1868 - 1870

*Image credit Winchelsea and District Historical Society*

In July a meeting was held in the Barwon Hotel. The Shire President, Mr. John Rout Hopkins, featured here in previous articles, refused the use of the Shire Hall as a school room. Cr. William Stirling, as a Member of the School Committee, led a deputation of nearly all the parents of the children at the school, but was refused permission by Mr Hopkins to introduce the deputation. Their aim was to request the reinstatement of Mr Carse as teacher.

Mr George Anderson, Dr. Meyler, and Mr William Stirling collected subscriptions to repair the old schoolhouse and retain Mr Carse as teacher. The community were disgusted that Mr Carse had got notice to leave the school premises on the very day the money, £25, had been paid.

In September, Dr. Meyler and Mr Carse conducted classes at the Mutual Improvement Society, a type of public adult education.

A public meeting was held at the Barwon Hotel to receive the report of the Provisional Vested School Committee, who had petitioned the Board of Education to build the State School in Winchelsea. The Board requested the appointment of a local committee, the



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

Michael completed a Bachelor in History and Anthropology and a Master of Cultural Heritage at Deakin University, then went on to complete a PhD at Federation University, focusing on colonial and European collections of Indigenous Australian Cultural Heritage.

Michael lectured at Federation and Monash Universities, lecturing in World History, Folklore Studies, Indigenous Studies and literary studies. Michael has worked in museums and cultural collections across Victoria, and can usually be seen in and about Winchelsea with his wolfhound.

selection of a site for the proposed school, the assurance of a certain amount of funds being collected, and the preparing of a plan of proposed building.

Mr William Stirling remarked upon the re-opening of the church school, and the great apparent desire of the people to obtain education for their children, for many more children attended school now than previous to the disagreement between the public and the church School Committee. Mr. Stirling, Mr Marony, and the rest of the committee still maintained that even with the reopening of the Church School, a state school was still necessary.

The Winchelsea Council and The Board of Education favoured a Committee which represented all denominations equally. Mr Carse was then asked if he would undertake to open a State school under the Board of Education. He said that in small communities, such as Winchelsea, he considered public schools preferable to denominational. Mr John Stirling, Dr. Meyler, George Anderson, James Gosney, Angus McIntyre, George Lee, John Kiegan, and James Darling formed a provisional committee for the foundation of the state school.

Mr Carse was known for holding annual end-of-year events where the children paraded through the streets of Winchelsea in carriages with banners and fanfare from the townsfolk to his paddock in Tutegong. On arrival at the ground a sumptuous dinner provided and the children, parents and friends of the school engaged in games - cricket, quoits, goose in the ring, and many others. Fruit was distributed amongst the company during the afternoon, and about 6 o'clock all sat down to tea and cake. Amongst other attractions were instrumental music and dances on the green.

In February 1872 the Winchelsea Popular Reading Committee presented to Mr. Carse a handsomely bound and beautifully illustrated volume of Tennyson's poems with an inscription acknowledging his services as their secretary, signed by Rev H. B. Giles, Chairman. The Rev. Giles had great pleasure in testifying to the earnestness and untiring energy of Mr Carse, and he felt that the success of the readings was thanks to him. The money owned by the Reading Committee was donated to the Church of England and Presbyterian Sunday schools £1 each, and the remainder was used to purchase of books for the Winchelsea Public Library.





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