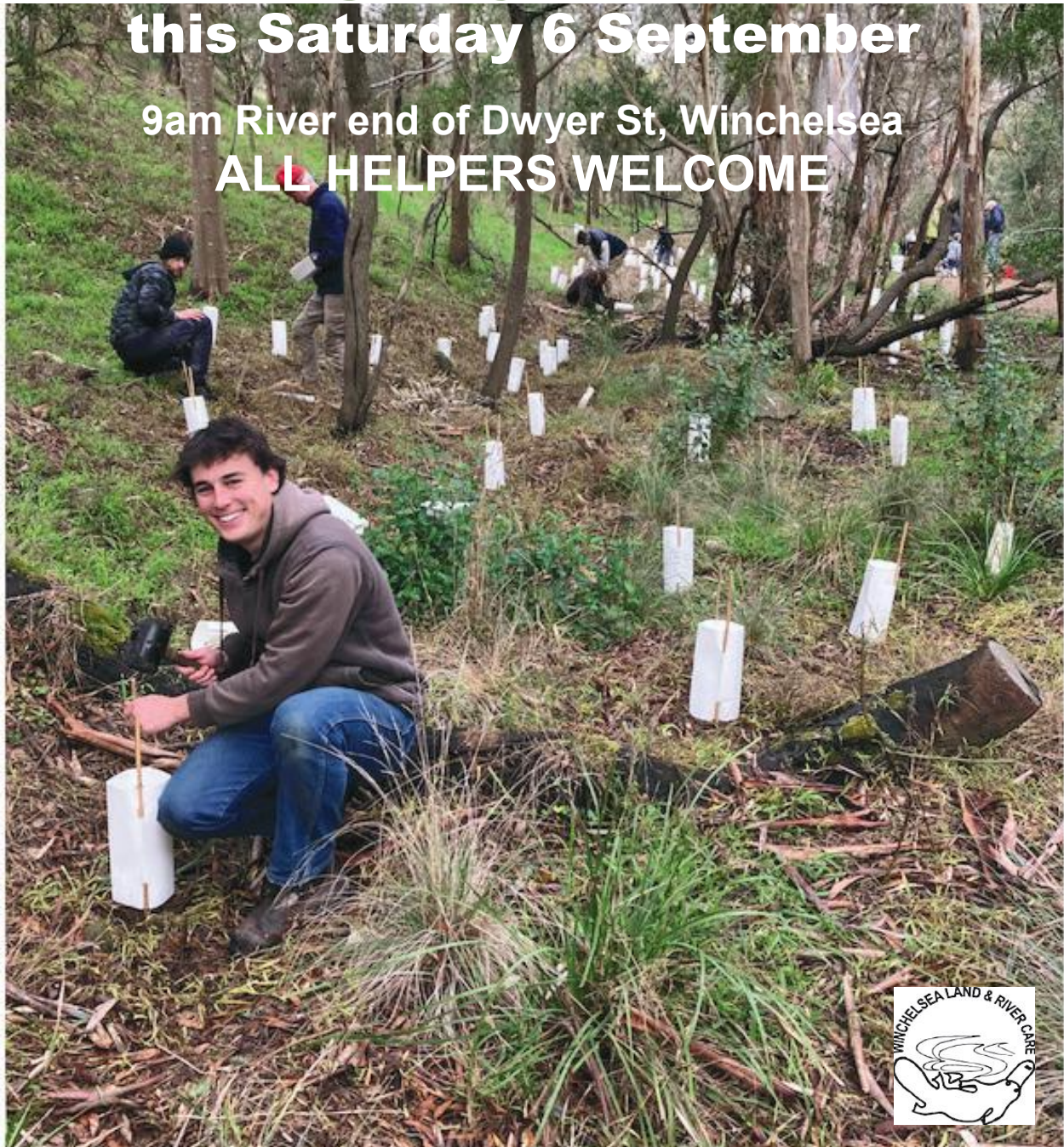


Planting Day at the River

this Saturday 6 September

9am River end of Dwyer St, Winchelsea

ALL HELPERS WELCOME



3



Future Event
4 Winchelsea Forum
- a great success!

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Cheesemaking
Workshop



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Elizabeth
Austin
Barwon Park



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What's On
in Winchelsea
September
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Winchelsea Community Bus

Community Bus

What's your opinion?

Should Winchelsea buy its own 8-12 seater bus to drive our locals, especially oldies, around, go to the football, school trips, concerts at Mt Duneed, The Hub on Thursday nights, Bowling Club trips, Probuss, shopping in Waurnd Ponds ?

What's your opinion? Write a Letter to the Editor

Email editor@winchelseastar.org.au or
give a handwritten note to the IGA

Be aware when driving on the Great Ocean Road - links are about to be upgraded

Victorian Government

The Government is ramping up vital upgrades to the Great Ocean Road's inland routes to ensure smoother and safer journeys. Rehabilitation and safety works are set to begin at five key sites, focusing on improving road conditions and enhancing safety on some of the iconic tourism route's key connecting roads. Once complete, local communities, business operators and visitors will enjoy safer, smoother and more-reliable travel.

Works will include the installation of electronic speed signs at the school in Deans Marsh, safety barriers on the Birregurra-Forrest Road and New Irrewillipi Road, and safety upgrades at the intersections of Princetown Road and Melrose Road in Princetown and Colac-Lavers Hill Road and Barongarook Road in Barongarook.



Reduced speeds and temporary lane closures will be in place and traffic controllers will guide traffic.

More information on the Great Ocean Road and Inland Routes Program is available at transport.vic.gov.au/news-and-resources/projects/great-ocean-road-and-inland-routes-upgrades.



Future Event 4 Winchelsea Forum – A resounding success

Elaine Atkinson

The Future Event 4 Winchelsea Forum has been hailed a wonderful success, drawing together residents, community groups, and local stakeholders to share their passion for making Winchelsea a hub of vibrant events and celebrations.

The forum generated an inspiring range of ideas. Community members suggested:

Food & Wine experiences such as paddock-to-plate dinners, a food truck festival, a “Longest Lunch” on the Bluestone Bridge, and rabbit-inspired menus.

Agricultural showcases featuring sheep shearing, wool sports, a Great Winchelsea Scone Bake-Off, terrier races, and farm-to-plate country life celebrations.

Arts, Music & Culture events including live music weekends, outdoor cinema, a biennale of arts and culture, opera at Barwon Park, and celebrations of Winchelsea’s own Marjorie Lawrence.

Heritage & History activities such as vintage machinery shows, heritage walks, ghost tours, historical re-enactments, and themed events at Barwon Park.

Family & Youth activities like a Trick or Treat Kidz Fest revival, kite festivals, community treasure hunts, Easter events, and a children’s festival.

Nature & Adventure ideas including river-themed festivals, hiking trails, a mountain bike ride from the Coalmine to the coast, and outdoor treasure hunts.

Markets & Makers events, building our community market more - seasonal markets, artisan showcases, Otway Harvest Trail celebrations, entertainment and dog shows.

Specialty events like a Winchelsea Wedding Expo, masquerade balls, comedy shows, and unique festival concepts such as a “Rabbit Festival.”

“Growing Winchelsea would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed, as well as acknowledge the generous support of our sponsors — Community Bank Winchelsea & District and the Winchelsea Lions — whose commitment made the forum possible,” said John Tebbutt, President of Growing Winchelsea.

A summary document capturing all ideas and discussions will be made available shortly. This will then inform the development of a Winchelsea Festival & Events Strategy, providing a roadmap for future activities that will bring the community together, support local businesses, and showcase Winchelsea as a destination.

“The energy and creativity shown at the forum confirmed that Winchelsea is ready and eager to make exciting events a reality”, concludes John.

For more information or to get involved contact Elaine Atkinson: secretary@growingwinchelsea.com

For updates visit www.growingwinchelsea.com



Nicole Crosby SE Field Days



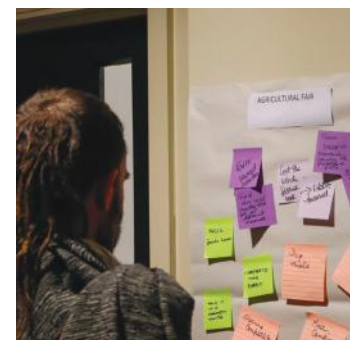
Colette Brennan, Barwon Park discussing ideas with John Hutton with June Rowe & Rob Davies



Elaine Atkinson, Team Leader Sally Richardson & Di Schulze Otway Harvest Trail, Rob Davies of Winchelsea Lions, Fraser Mc Cann of Community market, Kim Johnson CWA & Sue Ryan of Hesse Rural Health



Nick Keating
Winchelsea Primary School



Richard Lochie, Hypha Culture posting



Charlie (being Charlie with upside down banner)
Nicole & Lyn Crosby & Rob Cameron





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yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/PlacesAndSpaces

Survey closes 30 September 2025

surfcoast.vic.gov.au



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From Bees to Blizzards

Debbie Larkins

Local Mick Larkins will be swapping the bee suit for a snow suit when he heads down to Antarctica for 15 months in September.

Mick worked at the Wilkins Aerodrome in Antarctica for 6 months during the summer season of 2024/2025 and he will be heading back down as deputy aerodrome manager for summer/winter season 25/26.

"I have had a variety of jobs & this one was definitely on the bucket list," Mick says.

Wilkins Aerodrome is approximately 70km inland from Casey station. It serves as the Antarctic terminal for intercontinental air service.

"We will only get 12-15 flights per season due to weather. The majority of the time we only have two types of planes come in - an Airbus 319 bringing passengers (employees) and an Army C17 cargo plane with machinery and supplies."

Mick has a YouTube channel "Micks Madness" for you to follow where he will be posting pictures and videos of his experiences in Antarctica.



Winchelsea hosts a sold-out Cheesemaking Workshop

Alice Cloake

Sunday 24 August was a big day for cheese enthusiasts, as the much-anticipated cheesemaking course kicked off at the Shire Hall with host Barry Roberts.

Across two sessions, attendees learnt the basics of making Camembert, Danish Blue, Danish Feta, Halloumi, Cheddar, Mozzarella, and Cottage Cheese.

Donning pink, black, and blue hairnets, the budding cheesemakers attended to pots of curd and whey and made ritual trips back and forth to the snack table, which was kept well-stocked with pre-made cheese and crackers.

Tickets for both sessions had sold out over a month prior, and judging by the attentive audience and lively Q&A, it's safe to call the event a huge success.

Attendees left with bellies full, bags packed with the cheese of their labour, and brains brimming with new skills and "Barry-isms" — like this classic: "To make Mozzarella, you need white vinegar, and a chill pill."

On behalf of all attendees, a very big thanks to our host Barry and the Winch House for organising.



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Planting Day at the River this coming Saturday

Stewart Mathison

Saturday 6 September 6am-9am
River end of Dwyer St, Winchelsea
ALL HELPERS WELCOME.

We had a group of Trinity College VCAL helping with our revegetation last Friday and they planted over 300 tussocks in 2 hours which received rain over the weekend.

There are still over 300 plants to go of this year's order and our next planting day is this week



A Night of Trivia and Community Spirit

Robyn Black

The "Make a Million Memories Trivia Night" held at the Barwon Hotel has been hailed a huge success, bringing the community together for an evening of fun, laughter, and generosity.



The event drew a strong crowd, with a silent auction proving particularly popular. Thanks to the support of local businesses and friends who donated so generously, the night raised valuable funds while creating a wonderful atmosphere.

Special recognition goes to **Rob Cameron**, whose energy and humour as MC and quiz master kept the event lively and engaging.

Behind the scenes, **Michelle Stocks** and **Kylie Hawkins** worked tirelessly to ensure everything ran smoothly.

One of the most moving moments of the evening came when **Missy Holmes**, a breast cancer warrior, shared her story and bravely shaved her hair. In her own words: *"This time it's my choice."* Her courage and strength inspired all present and added deep meaning to the night.





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The Climate Report

Judy Cameron

Risks of climate crisis to Australia's economy and environment are 'intense and scary', unreleased government report says (from an article by Adam Morton Climate and environment editor Guardian Australia)

An unreleased Australian government report on the economic and environmental risks posed by the climate crisis is "intense and scary", and confronting even for those who work in the area, according to people familiar with the assessment.

The delayed report – the national climate risk assessment – includes modelling of future climate damage, estimates of the number of people who could be killed by worsening heatwaves and a mapping tool that forecasts flooding risk in suburbs across the continent.

Developed by the Australian Climate Service and the climate change department, it was delayed until after the May election along with other Labor climate documents, including a 2035 emissions reduction target and a climate adaptation plan. The government is expected to release them within weeks – the 2035 target is due by September – but dates have not been confirmed.

Sources who have seen drafts of the risk assessment said it included scenarios that showed the climate crisis would affect all Australians, including in ways that to date have been little discussed in political debate.

The analysis considered the climate impact on eight systems: defence and national security; the economy, trade and finance; First Nations values and knowledge; health and social support; infrastructure and built environments; the natural environment; primary industries and food and regional; and remote communities.

The results suggest that under some scenarios major systems – including electricity networks, transport routes, food production and supply, and the financial sector – could struggle to cope with rising temperatures and escalating extreme events.

One source, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the

sensitive nature of the report, said: "My sense is when people read it they have a newfound sense of where climate change will lead. It is intense and scary. Even for someone who has been focused on this and thinking long and hard about IPCC [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change] reports, it's confronting to read about the details and the severity of the impacts."

Another said: "People sometimes think things could get hotter, but it's far more complex than just saying 'it will get hot and people will have heatstroke.' There is not one system that is not hard hit by climate change in the future."

Beyond the impact on lives, livelihoods and nature, the analysis is expected to prompt debate about the cost to the federal budget, and the extent to which the commonwealth will need to take responsibility to pay for preparation and recovery. Extreme weather slowed economic growth early in 2025 and, according to the federal Treasury, cost the Australian economy \$2.2bn in the first half of the year.

The report is a major focus for institutional investors working out where to direct trillions of dollars. The executive director for policy at the Investor Group on Climate Change, Francesca Muskovic, said investors were already seeing physical climate damage and disruption to the economy, and were aware governments could not fund the response on their own.

Muskovic said the commonwealth was already spending \$1.6bn a year on disaster recovery, but budgeting only \$215m. "This is now a predictable recurring cost and we need to think about how we better invest in preventive, risk reduction measures that reduce the recovery cost down the track," she said.

One source familiar with the report said they did not mind that the report had been delayed if it meant the government responded to it well. "In 10 years' time, no one will remember whether it is out this month or next month if it's a good outcome," they said. "That's what matters for our kids."

Nature's Next Chapter

2025 John Paul Memorial Lecture

September 18, 2025 18:00

Mathouse Theatre (Beckett Theatre), 113 Sturt St, Southbank,
Entry Fee: In-person: \$20 (+\$5 booking fee); Livestream: free

THE URGENCY OF ENVIRONMENTAL STORYTELLING

The John Paul Memorial Lecture is made possible thanks to the continued support and generosity of the Paul Family Foundation.

So many of us can attribute our love of nature to environmental communication pioneers such as Sir David Attenborough, Dr Jane Goodall or Rachel Carson. Who is following in their footsteps to fly the flag for nature?

There is growing urgency to protect what's left of our ecosystems and biodiversity. How do we cut through, inspire and communicate this urgency – on a local and global scale?

And importantly, how does this translate to action on the ground?

For the 10th annual John Paul Memorial Lecture, we're delighted to invite you an evening of inspiration and wonder with three

of Victoria's most outstanding environmental storytellers.

We are thrilled to gather in-person for this special evening. As we appreciate not everyone can come to Melbourne, we are also pleased to livestream this event.

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<https://www.malthousetheatre.com.au/whats-on/hire-events/trust-for-nature-john-paul-memorial-lecture-2025>

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Designer - Susan Corby

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Saturday 27 Sept 9-11am
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Community Newspapers Association of Victoria Annual Awards 2025

The CNAV Annual Awards identify distinctive forms of newspaper writing and acknowledge the contribution that community papers make to the flow of information in local communities, and to the social wellbeing and sense of connectedness of people in those communities. The awards also acknowledge the wide range of print media skills among community newspaper producers and the diversity of publications across Victoria.

THANKYOU VERY MUCH Linda Carter, Sasha Gauntlett and Neil McInnes for submitting our entries for the 2025 Community Newspapers Association of Victoria Annual Awards.

Fingers crossed we win an Award this year for our excellent community newspaper Winchelsea Star!

Production Coffee Meeting, Saturday 30 August 2025

Thanks for coming everyone, we had a lively coffee meeting at La Hoot. Here's my summary of the discussion, as much as I can fit into the space available here. Come along to the next meeting, everyone welcome! Susan Corby

Present: Susan Corby, Cromwell Forganssen, Cerrie Forgan, Judy Cameron, Cathy Cheadle Apologies: Yvonne Stevens

- Discussions about various recent articles in the Star. The new advertisers' Directory was very much appreciated.
- The CNAV Awards were discussed.
- During our meeting, a Winchelsea local approached us about her Letter to the Editor expressing strong support for a community bus. She cannot drive, yet she would like to attend events around town and concerts at Mt Duneed. She would love a fully community-owned bus called The Blues Bus, referencing the names of local sports clubs.
- Another Surf Coast resident approached us raising the issue of Mental Health. He suggested that a community bus would enable lonely, isolated and disadvantaged to keep in social contact with others.
- The possibility of buying one of the Surf Coast Shire buses when they are sold soon was raised.
- A topical Winchelsea event was mooted – an annual Rabbit Race where people dress up in rabbit costumes and hold a race in Main Street at Easter time.
- It was requested to raise that Committee Meeting Minutes be mutually shared with the Production Meeting attendees, to notify of any decisions or policies decided on.

The Winchelsea Star

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committee

President: president@winchelseastar.org.au
Neil McInnes
Treasurer: treasurer@winchelseastar.org.au
Cathy Cheadle
Secretary: secretary@winchelseastar.org.au
Tony Phelps
Members: Mick O'Mara, Linda Carter, Susan Corby
Sasha Gauntlett, Judy Cameron,
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Next Saturday 6 September

10am-4pm

\$10 includes lunch

Snr Citizens Centre

36 Harding St, Winchelsea

33RD MEREDITH MUSIC FESTIVAL

Tickets to the The 33rd Annual Meredith Music Festival have now sold out. Went off like a frog in a sock.

Thanks to everyone who locked in, even if you lucked out.

Anyone still seeking tickets is invited to join Aunty's Waitlist via mmf.com.au. Aunty's Ticket Resale Service is the only authorised ticket resale facility.

Meredith is subject to a major event ticketing declaration under Part 9A of the Major Events Act 2009. This means it is an offence to sell, advertise or offer to resell a ticket for more than 10% above its face value purchase price.

SMALL RUNNING GROUP

Sunday mornings 8am at La Hoot.

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

ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

Sandy of Sandy's Pizza/Pasta/Desserts in Main St, Winchelsea is a competitive rower.

This year, as part of her training, she and her team The Corio Bay Cruisers are rowing 75kms along the Murray & Darling Rivers raising money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The event takes place on Saturday, September 13th and they would love if you could support them via sponsoring them at this link <https://rowathon-2025.Raiselysite.Com/sandy-locke>



BRIDGE
Social Bridge is played at
Senior Citizens Centre
36 Harding Street Winchelsea
New players always welcome
Elaine Atkinson 0458 009 616

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Pack of 4 logs \$5, small rolls \$2

Alan 0476 47522

WINCHELSEA PICKLEBALL

Pickleball is back! The Tennis Club is running this every Wednesday 7:00pm at the Winchelsea Leisure Time Centre! Only \$5 a person All equipment supplied

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



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Tuesday	2pm-4pm	Saturday	1.30-3.30pm
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that fall during their normal operating hours.
www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/disposalsites



WINCHELSEA GIRL GUIDES

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All girls 5yrs- 15yrs Welcome!
Contact Yvonne Orchard 0448 672 630
or Lily Del Rennie Ph. 0428 936 441



1st Modda & 1st Winchelsea SCOUT GROUP

Joeys: Tuesdays of school term 5-6pm
Cubs: Mondays of school term 6:30-8pm
Scouts: Tuesdays of school term 6:30-8:30pm
All at Modewarre Hall, Cape Otway Rd
Venturers: Wed at Walton's Rd Venturer Den
Contact Marie McPadden 0409 330147

BUS TO THE HUB



For reservations on the weekly bus
to the Eastern Reserve Hub,
please phone 52671202.

SURF COAST MOBILE LIBRARY

Hesse St, Fridays, 2pm-5pm
Surf Coast Mobile Library
parked in Hesse Street (outside Shire Hall)
Fridays 2:00 and 5:00pm unless it is a Public Holiday.

WINCHELSEA TAXI

0429 672 888 or 5267 2888
Wheelchair accessible
10 seater bus available.

WINCHELSEA PLAYGROUP

Every second Thursday 10am-12pm
St Thomas Anglican Church Hall
cnr Barwon Tce and Hopkins St, Winchelsea
Contact: Danni Menzies 0432019944
winchelseaplaygroup@gmail.com
Facebook - Winchelsea Playgroup 2019
New families welcome

history of winchelsea

Elizabeth Phillips-Harding Austin, Winchelsea's Greatest Philanthropist

History is abounding with stories of great men, and the name Thomas Austin is prolific in Winchelsea's local history. I would argue though, that it was Mrs. Austin who was the more significant Austin in Winchelsea, and moreover in the History of Victoria.

This is often the case in History, as women of the nineteenth century lived before the rise of feminism and their voices were often stifled by the men of their time.

One example of this is that Victorian Women often dropped their own name after marriage, and took on their husband's name. Elizabeth Phillips Austin (1821-1910) for instance, was Born Elizabeth Phillips-Harding. After her marriage to Thomas Austin she would have been referred to in her official business as Mrs. Thomas Austin. According to her official biography, she was known among her family as 'Aunt Tom'.

Bringing the stories of the great women of our history to the forefront of our cultural imagination is one important way to paint a fuller picture of who we are and where our culture comes from. The next few articles will focus on Elizabeth Phillips-Austin, pioneering Australian philanthropist and one of Winchelsea's most significant historical figures. Her legacy still impacts Victoria today.



Elizabeth Austin

Elizabeth was born in Somerset, England, on 14 August 1821 at Middle Chinnock, Somerset, England, fourth daughter of Robert Harding, yeoman farmer, and his wife Mary, née Phillips. Elizabeth sailed for Port Phillip in the Ward Chapman in 1841 with her brother William.

As a squatter, he took up land at Murdeduke Station outside of Winchelsea, being one of the few women to venture inland in the early 1840s. She married Thomas Austin on 14 August 1845 at St James's Church, Melbourne.



Barwon Park Area

The Austin family held many pastoral runs, Barwon Park being the headquarters. Although Thomas Austin was the founder of the Barwon Park run, he passed away shortly after the grand mansion was completed in 1871.

Elizabeth continued to live at the mansion, and made many contributions to Winchelsea, including being the patron of St Thomas Anglican church and funding its service to the community. Austin Street in Winchelsea was named after her.

Her contributions to society more generally have earned her notoriety as a prolific philanthropist. Her achievements in this area are great and many, and will be discussed in detail next week.

A fantastic book by Barry Lamb about Elizabeth Austin's life is available for sale at the Winchelsea and District Historical Society, which meets 10am - 3pm Friday and Wednesday 1pm - 4pm every week behind the old Shire Hall



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

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



Winchelsea Community House Inc. A6247K

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

Phone: (03) 5267 2028

Email: manager@winchhouse.org.au

ABN: 48 932 340 254

Yoga & Pilates in the Shire Hall

Mondays
7pm Vinyasa Yoga

Thursdays
6.30pm Mat Pilates

Saturdays
8.30am Yoga Flow

New to Yoga at the Shire Hall?
Sign up for Unlimited Classes
until the end of term for only \$100

Offer ends Sep 19th.

shirehall@winchhouse.org.au
03 52672028

KNITTING GROUP

Thursday Mornings 10.30 -12.00
Winchelsea community house.

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



Phonics with Robot Reg

Friday Mornings

Walkers – 2 years 10.15am

Pre-School 3 – 5years 11.15am

'A fun, High energy class to introduce
and teach Phonics Skills to Kids'

Bookings at robotreg.com.au



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](#)

Friday's

10.30am – 12.30pm

"Sip, Chat, Share, Care"

In the Winchelsea Shire Hall.
Everyone Welcome, Gold coin
donation.



WINCHELSEA ACRO

THURSDAY AFTERNOONS

5+ YEARS

3:45PM-4:30PM

WINCHELSEA SHIRE HALL

\$15 PER CHILD - CASH OR CARD AVAILABLE-
PAY AS YOU GO

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Contact Jacque - 0448046551 | [@jacquedancestudio](https://www.instagram.com/jacquedancestudio)

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WWCC

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FIRST AID & CPR



*'Community is much more than just
belonging to something; it's about
doing something together that
makes belonging matter'*

Craft & Crochet Group



\$5 per person.

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

Next Class, Sep 6th



Cromwell's Quirks #10

The value for rural communities in the study of Philosophy

Cromwell Forgasen

Study Something Worthwhile

There are many many definitions of Philosophy, but when it all boils down, I think we can safely say that it's the great thinkers' counsel we seek when existing methods are found to be so wanting as to demand the synthesis of new tools for new problems, when we need to think "out of the box" of empirical methods to make sense of or progress from what lies before us, and so on and so forth. For all the purported cutting-edge romance of the other disciplines, Philosophy works at the real coal-face where those same disciplines flounder when true innovation is the only solution.

So I wonder then why Children are often encouraged to make their study choices from the traditional STEM or Humanities streams only, often without consideration towards what might be argued the best of both worlds. STEM and Humanities disciplines afford us great strengths indeed, but the unique advantage of Philosophy is to simultaneously wield both. One could say that STEM disciplines lean on Philosophy's logical reasoning, problem-solving, analytical clarity and proof-based results, as demanded of scientists, architects and engineers. The Humanities are little different, exploring Philosophy's human agency, ethics, culture and history, and all appertaining to the experience of human and human-like systems, for whenever a deeper understanding of people and societies is the goal, for instance in policing, journalism, diplomacy, psychology, etc.

In addition to this bridging discipline, Philosophy has its own peculiar skills too, and while some may argue the value of deontology, semiotics and epistemology, the oft disregarded but vital aesthetics, the triple crown of semiotics, epistemology and axiology, and so on and so forth, when it comes to analysing the building blocks of meaning and value, some would venture Philosophy has delved even deeper than Quantum Physics, and posited most of the tools they required to even get started. "Triple fluencies" like this are few and far between, and hard to beat.

The National Graduate Surveys, (QILT), demonstrate no more than 1.5% of students embark on Philosophy majors, over 90% of whom graduate, of whom over 80% are gainfully employed within months of graduation, (rates rising over the following years). While as a demographic, they initially earn less than their main STEM and Humanities counterparts, they also have a propensity for taking on postgraduate studies in management, education, law and careers where steady well paying work can be sought, which over time and experience can surpass that of same counterparts. Speaking of demographics, employers the world 'round seek more than most other skills critical thinking and communication, arguably some of the primary symptoms of Philosophy study.

Educational institutions who have invested in "The Philosophy for Children Programme", and such like it, have witnessed demonstrably improved powers of reasoning, engagement in the classrooms, literacy, numeracy and even empathy. Regional school teachers in particular report marked improvements in listening to others, expressing ideas and creative thinking, all of which represent qualities for strengthening learning and community life, both vital for fostering thoughtful contributions for all of the rural sector's ever changing needs.

In Philosophy children and youth learn clear thinking, are

demanding to ask questions of greater moment and relevance, and are afforded an understanding of everyday issues from multiple viewpoints.

Philosophy engenders precision of analysis and rigour of logic. Philosophy also fosters a more reflective consideration of the weight of ethics and a deeper compassion for our myriad cultures. Students of such skills are known for their greater powers of discernment and adaptability.

Graduates of Philosophy share a greater propensity for living in or getting involved in rural Australia, bringing the public service, legal, accounting and teaching skills that sustain local communities with them. The qualities required of rural towns leaders, e.g. critical thinking, ethical engagement and the ability to reconcile differences to the pleasure and profit of all stakeholders, are extolled at length in the lecture theatres of Philosophy. "Philosophy Cafés" and other chatty groups of regional areas foster the resilience and civic engagement known to buoy people above the tides of change and the confidence to engage thoughtfully together when collective decisions are demanded of them.

The author finds it most interesting indeed that Philosophy has been so successfully branded as such an impractical pursuit, when even a cursory investigation like the one for this article suggests completely otherwise. In the U.K. and U.S., but particularly in Australia, Philosophy graduates complete their degrees, gain steady employment and make meaningful contributions to the society they choose to gang with, and here's the clincher, often more reliably so than their peers in either STEM or the Humanities. In terms of the especial needs of regional and rural communities, the skills of reasoning, dialogue, ethical awareness, cultural continuity and so on and so forth, are vital for building more resilient and stronger communities, i.e. not at all the luxuries of mispent youth.

So if our children showing interest in philosophy could be interpreted as a distraction from a more practically paved life, it might be worth bearing in mind that interpretation itself can be open to interpretation. We could just as easily consider the preparations for career, (and other complex elements of their unfurling lives), that Philosophy offers. Can we examine our own thoughts and justify why we might choose one interpretation over the other? Thoughtful and resilient people are what communities need and Philosophy seems to provide the goods, so why should it be someone else's kid? It may just be worth our time and effort for a deeper look into what Philosophy will afford them and their chosen communities. Short term and in the long run, Australian Philosophy graduates complete their courses, become gainfully employed, create meaningful contributions to the world around them and generally thrive.

Sometimes there's a reason why ideas are volleyed at us ad nauseum, (consider advertising for example, and how non-existent markets are generated for the benefits of others). While I'm not exactly suggesting we get paranoid along the lines of anti-Philosophy conspiracies, I do suggest we consider what benefits an all too pervasive "understanding" is keeping us from, for instance, Philosophy as rural development.

Food for thought, (References available on request),

Community input needed for Winchelsea Swimming Pool to be at its best

Haidee Benning

Part 2 of 4 weekly parts: An opinion piece on community involvement in the Winchelsea Swimming Pool project

It would be a shame after waiting 2 summer seasons for this new upgraded facility which has had over 8 million dollars invested in it, to end up with no real change in its day to day operation. It would be a shame for the people of Winchelsea and its surrounding hinterland region if Shire and Private Contractor management, limited budget allocations on “operational costs” and poor patronage rates prevent us from fully embracing the Pool as an asset and resource that meets its true potential.

For those of you who are newer to town and may be unfamiliar with its history, indulge me for a moment in painting a picture of yester-year. The pool opened in the early 1960s following 28 years, (that’s a long time), of advocacy and hard work from the community formed Pool Committee. As a kid growing up in the 70s and 80s, I recall it to be a summer icon. Back then a family excursion to the beach during summer was an occasional bonus not a daily event so the local pool became the social hub and our major recreational outlet.

The only other summer sport and leisure options I recall were that of the also community run Tennis, Hockey and Cricket club competitions whose attendees usually also ended up at the pool after their matches. Most kids in town learnt to swim in that pool, myself included. If your own parents didn’t teach you to swim, Billy Alford was always there with his tribe of water-babies and he was happy to lend a hand and offer his encouragement to boost a learner along in their confidence. And no, to my knowledge he wasn’t a Life Saving Victoria or Vicswim qualified teacher, he was just a dad, putting in quality time with his kids, a great man happy to help other kids too. It was a different era.

The pool open hours were sensible back in those days. If it was pouring with rain and freezing cold, it would be closed, but staying open late was the norm on hot summers days (of which there were many). This enabled the dads who were often working long hours harvesting crops and hay to meet up with their families and cool off with a dip and enjoy a relaxed social moment before donning their boots and tractor seats to do it all again at the crack of dawn (more likely pre-dawn) the very next day. Many townsfolk who worked out of town would not get back to Winchelsea until 5pm or 5.30pm so there was often an influx of patrons around this time of night with those trying to benefit from a quick swim and get some laps in to wash off the stresses of a busy work day before dusk.

Many of us who were around back then remember fondly, “ahhh those were the good old days”, the days when Lesley Berg and her community led committee ran the show with a huge heart, a welcoming smile, and a well stocked kiosk full of lollies (a \$1 bag would last you all day), 20 cent “Sunny Boy” icy poles, and hot chips with vinegar or tomato sauce (all the stuff that kids love!). Someone would inevitably arrive around 5pm with a bag or two

full of sausages and hamburgers to throw on the BBQ. Other families would group together for communal runs to the pizza and fish and chip shop. What evolved quite naturally and organically, without any fanfare, big deal or PR campaign, was a relaxed communal dinner beside the pool under a blazing bright pink, purple and orange sunset. A moment simply driven by hot and exhausted parents practical need to feed the kids quickly and get them in bed as early as possible once home. A fitting end to a long hot day, with friends, adults and kids alike, together in community, enjoying the beautiful sunset beside the ancient oak trees, river gums and Barwon River aside our towns humble but valued ‘water hole’. Years later in my 20s, I migrated to the coast, but we did much the same thing at the end of a long hot summers day, only this time, gathering at the beach, because we could (but more on that later).

In the 1990s, the Surf Coast Shire overtook the running of the pool. Since then, the open summer season has been from early December to the long weekend in March - approx 14 weeks. Its hours of operation has been from 12pm – 6pm, with no possibility of remaining open in hot weather after 6pm. During these years, the pool has also remained open, paying staff wages, even in bad weather where patronage has proven to be very low, resulting in increases in wasted expenditure on operational costs. Sadly, the bottom line focus becomes more about the dollar. Bureaucracy, budgets and expenditure often take importance ‘on paper’ over community value and wellbeing.

In published material on the Winchelsea Pool the Shire states; “The facility has been provided to the community at an average cost of \$131,000 per year for the past 5 years. Visits have averaged 7,150 per year over this time, therefore the average ‘cost per visit’ has been \$14.88 per visit. A revamped facility must provide a better operational performance”.

It is disappointing (but no surprise) that the Shire’s principle focus is always on the bottom dollar. Sadly, it may possibly be used to justify limiting the services and availability of a brand new venue which has just had over 8 million dollars spent on it. I believe our community is in great need of a more generous attitude. I would welcome councillors Joel Grist, Tony Phelps and Adrian Schonfelder’s comments and input on this. Are you in the room councillors when budget allocations to Winchelsea are being decided upon? How much advocacy have you pushed for increasing the “operational cost budget” to improve access and usage of this brand spanking new venue which is locked up for 38 out of 52 weeks a year?



Haidee Benning grew up in Winchelsea during the 70s and 80s riding horses, playing netball and swimming at the local pool. At 18 the pull of the sea called her to the coastal townships of Anglesea, Aireys Inlet and Torquay where she worked for the next 6 years not only in education and childcare but also in healthcare as a Remedial and Sports massage therapist.

As a long term Yoga and Qi Gong practitioner she has also recently included the healing art of Zen Thai Shiatsu Therapy to her practice. In 2024 Haidee had another opportunity to travel and she currently divides her time between Phnom Penh in Cambodia, and Winchelsea. When she is back in town, she still works at the local Osteopathic clinic and enjoys re-connecting with the local community, both in Winchelsea, along the Surfcoast and in Port Fairy.

Look back to last week’s Star for Haidee’s full biography



Winchelsea RSL Centenary Celebration Events

Graham Kenafacke, President Winchelsea RSL

The Winchelsea Returned & Services League (RSL) was established one hundred years ago. The 100th Anniversary Events will recognise those who have served and engage members of the local community.

Events

The Sub Branch will organise several commemorative events open to the public, to raise funds for veterans at Winchelsea Cemetery, for updating memorial displays and to acquire a projector for educational presentations.

FRIDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2025

SUPPER DANCE AT GLOBE THEATRE

Commencing 7 pm featuring the Windbreakers
Admission is \$10 per person; children under 16 enter free.
Contact Graham Kenafacke 0448 339 003 or
David Loone 0488 165 109

SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2025.

9.00 am to 3.00 pm

STATIC PLAYS INSIDE THE HUB AND OUTSIDE.

10.00 am

FIRING OF 25 POUNDER.

11.00 am

**SMALL COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY
TO REMEMBER THOSE KILLED IN WAR.**

1.00 pm

**DEMONSTRATION OF ANTI-TANK DRILL BY A 25-POUNDER
GUN CREW. ENCOMPASSING DESTRUCTION OF AN
ARMoured VEHICLE AND PYROTECHNICS.**

3.00 pm Finish

**LIONS BBQ, COFFEE VAN, CWA CAKE STALL DURING THE
DAY, AS WELL AS CLASSIC CAR/MOTORCYCLE GROUPS**

Gold coin donation appreciated



**SCHOOL
HOLIDAY
FUN
AT**



Sunday | 28 September | 2 pm

THE LIBRARIAN by Le Gros Orteil

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ADVENTURE FOR THE WHOLE
FAMILY!**



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Ticket \$16 | Concession \$15 | COPACC Members \$13**

Surf Coast Community Arts Calendar competition open

Surf Coast Shire

Entries are open for the 2026 Surf Coast Community Arts Calendar competition and Torquay artist Emily Wright assures local creatives that taking the time to make a submission can bring welcome rewards. She entered for the first time last year with no expectations but landed the prized front cover position as winner of the People's Choice award.

"It was very encouraging and a big confidence boost. It highlighted what my artwork itself was about, my love for our community was then supported by our community."

Submissions for the 2026 calendar competition are open to Surf Coast Shire artists via surfcoast.vic.gov.au/calendarcomp until 21 September in the categories Open 2D, Open 3D, Youth and Child.

All works will be displayed during a calendar exhibition at Anglesea Art Space during October.

A panel of judges will select one winning artwork for each of the calendar's 12 months, and the work to feature on the calendar cover will be decided by a people's choice popular vote carried out during the exhibition and online.

Each of the 13 selected artists will receive \$300 as well as valuable exposure during the exhibition and hanging in hundreds of homes and workplaces.



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

CO-WORKING & STUDYING SPACE

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

MAINLY MUSIC

Interactive Music 0-4yrs
10-11am (school terms)
St Thomas' 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 MODDA/1ST WINCH SCOUTS

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

VINYASA YOGA

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

TUESDAY



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



1ST MODDA/1ST WINCH SCOUTS

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

MESSY PLAY

Tuesday 2 Sept 11.15am -12.30pm
Winchelsea Shire Hall,
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea
Jacque 0448046551 - Rhani 03 52672028.

WEDNESDAY

WINCH WALKERS

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

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

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

MEL'S DANCE CENTRAL

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

Winchelsea Community Market

First Sunday on the Month (except November)



Shire Hall
9am to 1pm

Upcoming Dates:

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

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

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



Strength training and martial arts
for the whole family in Winchelsea

PERSONAL TRAINING STRENGTH CLASSES KIDS KUNG FU BOXING

0401417387
sunnygym.com.au
evan@sunnygym.com.au

*group classes only, excludes personal training.



Join a Winchelsea Community Kitchen

Learn

Cooking skills, budgeting and recipe's

Cook

With a small group on a regular basis

Share

A delicious meal cooked together

Scan the QR code to sign up



OR Contact Tess:
healthpromotion@hesse.vic.gov.au
0417 848 292



August/September

What's On

This is a recurring calendar. Please confirm details with the organiser/venue if you'd like to attend.

To add an event to the calendar, please email news@winchelseastar.org.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 Thursay of month
Winchelsea Shire Hall
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea

KIDS ACRO

Thursday 4 Sept 3.45pm – 4.30pm
Dance and gymnastics 5+
Winchelsea Shire Hall,
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea
Jacque 0448046551 - Rhani 03 52672028.

COWORKING & STUDYING SPACE

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

WINCHELSEA PLAYGROUP

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

WINCHELSEA PICKLEBALL

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

WINCHELSEA KNITTING GROUP

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

COMMUNITY FOODBANK

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

MAT PILATES

6.30pm \$25
Winchelsea Shire Hall,
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea

WINCHELSEA MOVIE CLUB

7.30 (3rd Thurs each month)
17 September The Old Oak
Globe Theatre, Main St, Winchelsea
growingwinchelsea.com/project/winchelsea-movie-club/

ZUMBA DANCE

Combined Zumba and Gold class
6:30pm-7:30pm @The Globe Theatre.
Simone Dunmore: 0468 375 036
zumbawithsimone09@gmail.com

FRIDAY

TAI CHI

9am-10am \$10
Winchelsea Community House,
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea



WINCHELSEA RSL

100 year anniversary.

FRIDAY 12 SEPT
• Supper dance at Globe Theatre
SATURDAY 13 SEPT 9.00-3.00 pm
• Static displays at the Hub.
• Firing of 25 pounder.
• Remembrance Ceremony.
• Demonstration of anti-tank drill by 25-pounder gun crew, encompassing destruction of armoured vehicle and pyrotechnics

PHONICS WITH ROBOT REG

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

CHATTY CAFÉ

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

WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Friday 10am-3pm
Hesse St, Winchelsea

BIRREGURRA PLANTING DAY

Fri 26 Sept
9.30-11.00 Meet near River

Chat with your Councillor

Tony Phelps

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

WANT TO JOIN PROBUS?

Enjoy fellowship with other members
Enjoy trips & outings
Listen to guest speakers



Contact Lorraine
0417 467 927



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

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



All welcome
No eligibility requirements



What's on Weekly

WINCHELSEA SENIOR CITIZENS

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

WINCHELSEA RSL

1.30 19 Sept, 17 Oct,
7.30 21 Nov, 12.00 19 Dec
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/

FLOW YOGA

8.30am, \$25
Winchelsea Shire Hall,
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea

WINCHELSEA LAND AND RIVERCARE

MONTHLY WORKING BEE

9am End of Dwyer St.
Rod Stone 0428 549318
Stewart Mathison 0428 672054



Landcare
Victor a

WINCHELSEA STAR PRODUCTION/COFFEE MEETING

9-10am (Last Sat monthly)
La Hoot Cafe, Main Street
www.winchelseastar.org.au
5273 0295

DIAMOND DOT DAY

Next Saturday 6 September
10am-4pm
\$10 includes lunch
Snr Citizens Centre
36 Harding Street, Winchelsea

WINCHELSEA CROCHET GROUP

1.30pm Every 2nd Saturday \$5
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Planning has commenced. If anyone would like to assist or join the planning committee please reach out to us via secretary@growingwinchelsea.com

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MORE UPDATES COMING SOON, STAY TUNED!

JACQUE'S DANCE STUDIO HAS ARRIVED IN WINCHELSEA!

Jacque has just launched a fun and friendly dance session for pre-schoolers in the Shire Hall on Tuesday Mornings. Her classes are all about fun and enjoying music and movement. More classes starting soon!

Tuesday 2nd September **MESSY PLAY SENSORY** session from 11.15am -12.30pm (After the morning dance class)

Thursday the 4th of September 3.45pm – 4.30pm **KIDS ACRO** – A combination of dance and gymnastics that builds balance, coordination, strength and agility. AGES 5 +



Jacque is a Diploma qualified Early Years Educator with WWCC, First Aid and CPR training.

If you'd like to register your child for current sessions or you're interested in a Dance, Acro or Sensory Messy Play session for a different age group or day/time. Get in touch with Jacque on 0448046551 or Rhani 03 52672028.

Urgent action needed to address shocking rates of suicide among homeless youth

Australians for Mental Health

New data from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has revealed the scale of children leaving violence and neglect, and seeking support from specialised homelessness services without a parent or guardian. The heartbreaking statistics show 13,300 children sought help from specialist homelessness services in the past year alone.

And for those who were already homeless when they sought help, 77% remained homeless after seeking that support.

"Homeless children, who are often leaving domestic violence and abuse are not getting the help they need. It's completely unacceptable," Australians for Mental Health Executive Director Chris Gambian said. "Having a stable and secure home is critical for mental wellbeing, especially during developmental years," he said.

Hundreds of children who have come into contact with homelessness services in the past decade, including in family groups, have died.

"The leading cause of death for the 520 children who died in the decade to 2023 was suicide. Australia cannot accept children dying because they are situations they have no control over," Chris Gambian said.

"Mental health is influenced by so many factors, and this data demonstrates just how important the role is for other departments to play in order to address mental ill-health in Australia. We need more arms of government to be accountable for our mental wellbeing, because the homelessness crisis heavily affects mental health," he said.

“This will save lives”- secure your curtain and blind cords

Kidsafe Victoria

Kidsafe Victoria is urging Australians to keep children safe from one of the most preventable household hazards - unsecured curtain and blind cords.

From 1 December this year, corded internal window coverings in residential rental properties must have an anchor installed to secure or tension the cords, preventing them from forming a loose loop.

Since 2001, at least 21 Australian children have died after becoming entangled in curtains or blind cords. Young children under the age of five are at highest risk because cords can form a loop around their neck, causing strangulation. Incidents often happen silently and within seconds.

The updated safety regulation was a coroner's recommendation following the tragic death of 3-year-old Lincoln in 2020, who became entangled in a blind cord in a Melbourne rental property.

To help tenants and landlords, free safety kits to secure curtain and blind cords are available to Victorian households. The initiative addresses a significant safety gap: renters often cannot make permanent alterations to properties without landlord approval, leaving cords unsecured.

Making these kits widely available means reaching households who may not even be aware of the hazard - let alone have the time, money or ability to source and install them. For many families, especially those juggling work, childcare and tight

budgets, the reality is that safety upgrades can slip down the priority list because they are not visible risks until tragedy strikes.

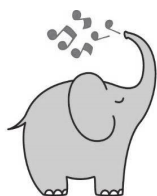
Sarah Sexton, CEO of Kidsafe Victoria, said recent criticism of the initiative on Melbourne radio station 3AW's Drive show misses the point that this is a simple, low-cost measure that can save children's lives.

“Curtain and blind cord strangulation is 100% preventable. These safety attachments take minutes to install, cost very little, and could mean the difference between life and death for a child. Being able to access these for free removes the barriers of cost and access.” Ms Sexton said.

Kidsafe Victoria recommends the following simple yet effective actions to help ensure your curtain and blind cords are safe:

- Check all rooms in your house for blinds or curtains with long cords that are loose or looped. Includes cords that are within children's reach at floor level or near furniture they can climb on.
- Secure loose or looped cords with curtain and blind cord safety kits – these can be ordered from the Consumer Affairs Vic website free or purchased at your hardware store.
- Do not put furniture such as cots, beds, highchairs, playpens, couches, chairs, tables or bookshelves near a window where children can reach the blind or curtain cord.
- When installing new blinds and curtains, make sure you or the installer secures any loose or looped cords immediately.

Kidsafe Victoria is calling for all Victorians - homeowners, landlords, tenants and property managers - to take immediate action to secure curtain and blind cords, and to support initiatives that remove barriers for those most at risk.



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Millions accessing savings tool

Victorian Government

The Savings Finder tool has been accessed more than 2.6 million times since its launch in August 2022, offering 98 quick and simple way to access savings, discounts and cost-of-living relief.

Accessed through the Service Victoria app or website, answer a few simple questions about age, living situation and interests to find out which of the 98 current available savings you are eligible for across energy, utilities, health, education, transport, recreation and leisure.

One of the services includes the ability to search for unclaimed money through the State Revenue Office, with more than \$200 million waiting to be claimed. Further discounts include free dental for Victorian public-school students, free zoo visits for children under the age of 16, free fishing licences for veterans and seniors, and new veteran and senior digital concession cards.

For more information on Savings Finder or to download the app, visit service.vic.gov.au/savings-finder **HEATING UPGRADES DRIVE BIG SAVINGS FOR FAMILIES**

Victorian Energy Upgrades (VEU)

Victorian Government

Victorian families are slashing their power bills by upgrading to energy-efficient heating and cooling thanks to the VEU program.

More than 41,000 households have accessed discounted heating and cooling upgrades in 2025, saving up to \$5,530 on upgrading appliances and more than \$1,000 on their annual energy bill.

So far this year more than 18,000 households have upgraded their inefficient gas water heating to electric, saving them up to \$330 off their energy bills annually.

Hot water systems are one of the most popular upgrades, with up to \$2,030 available off the cost of installing a locally made energy-efficient hot water system when you combine a Solar Victoria rebate and a Victorian Energy Upgrades discount.

A new all-electric home with solar can save up to \$1,820 a year on energy bills. An existing home can save around \$2,000 annually by going all-electric with solar.

For more information, visit energy.vic.gov.au/victorian-energy-upgrades

Your staff can now ignore your calls – and other new 2025 laws every small business must know

Burke Mangan Lawyers

Australian small business employees will have the legal right to ignore work calls, emails and messages outside their contracted hours – unless the contact is deemed 'reasonable.' Similar rights have been available to employees in large organisations since 26 August 2024.

The Right to Disconnect is already making headlines, with Queensland school teacher Michelle Martin suing her former employer Cairns Rudolf Steiner School for nearly \$800,000 in damages over after-hours contact.

"Cases like this show the law isn't just a symbolic change – there's real legal and financial risk for employers who get it wrong," says Lyndon Burke, founding partner at Burke Mangan Lawyers – a firm that specialises in employment law. "If you haven't updated your policies and trained your managers, you could be next."

Why It Matters for Small Business

- While big corporates often have HR teams to handle compliance, smaller operators face the same legal obligations – with fewer resources to manage the risks.
- "The law doesn't care if you have five employees or 5,000," says Burke. "If you breach these new rules, the penalties and reputational damage can be devastating."
- Proactive compliance isn't just about avoiding fines – it's also good for business, he says. "Getting this right builds trust with your staff, reduces turnover and protects your brand," he says. "It's not just a legal requirement, it's a competitive advantage."
- If employers action against employees who exercise the right to disconnect they could be exposed to claims for damages, penalties and potentially penalties for award breaches.

Other 2025 Workplace Law Changes SMEs Need to Know

The Right to Disconnect is just one of several major employment law changes in 2025 that could catch small business owners off guard, says Burke. These include:

1. **Wage Theft Is Now a Criminal Offence** (From 1 January 2025) Intentionally underpaying staff is now a crime, carrying potential jail time for individuals and multi-million-dollar fines for companies. "This isn't just about dodgy operators. Even payroll mistakes can lead to significant penalties – and in some cases, criminal liability," says Burke.
2. **Superannuation Increase to 12%** (From 1 July 2025) The compulsory super guarantee rate has recently risen from 11.5% to 12%, increasing payroll costs for all employers. "Small business owners need to factor this into their budgets now," says Burke. "It's not just an extra 0.5% — it can have a real cashflow impact, especially if you have a large casual workforce."
3. **Award Classification and Pay Rate Updates** (From 1 January 2025) Modern award changes have introduced new entry-level classifications and pay rates across multiple sectors. "Misclassification is one of the biggest compliance risks," Burke says. "Even a minor error can trigger back-pay obligations and fines."

How SMEs Can Stay Compliant in 2025

Burke says SMEs should take these immediate steps:

- Review your policies and contracts – especially regarding after-hours contact.
- Audit your payroll and timekeeping systems – to ensure correct pay rates and entitlements.
- Update your budgets – to account for higher super contributions from July.
- Train managers and supervisors – on the new Right to Disconnect obligations and respectful communication.
- Seek advice early – before the Fair Work Ombudsman, Fair Work Commission, a Federal Court or a tribunal gets involved.

"A quick review with an employment lawyer now can save you thousands in fines and legal costs later," says Burke. "The days of informal, 'she'll be right' approaches to HR are over."

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Creek to Deakin's Waurin Ponds campus. The six-kilometre pipeline will deliver 100 million litres of recycled water each year to irrigate sports and recreation fields at the campus and reduce drinking water use by 60%.

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Blues News

Janet Fletcher

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Belmont Lions Vs Winchelsea Blues at St. Albans

Belmont Lions 2.5.17 defeated by Winchelsea Blues 5.4.34

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2nd qtr Winchelsea 4.1. to Belmont 1.4
3rd qtr Winchelsea 5.2 to Belmont 1.5
4th qtr Winchelsea 5.4 34 to Belmont 2.2.17

Last Sunday a huge contingent of supporters flocked to the St. Albans football ground to see the Blues make history having made the first Final since becoming part of the Geelong & District Football League in 2002. This Elimination Finals appearance has been 25 years in the making and to cap off with a win was just a fantastic result.

Winchelsea won the toss and kicked with the aid of a strong cross wind and started the game in a very positive way in the very windy conditions kicking the first goal within minutes of the opening bounce. Three strong marks from Declan Chibnall set the tone for the Blues and there was great solid work from the rest of the backline to create severe pressure on the Belmont Lions, resulting in a few nervous fumbles and over runs of the ball.

The first quarter saw the scoreboard looking good for the Blues but the week before the Blues had kicked the first 4 goals and couldn't go on with it. That wasn't the case last Sunday. Scoring was hard to come by for both sides in the next 3 quarters with both sides defending strongly, but it was the Blues who hung on for a well deserved win. The game was truly a team effort one of which both players and Coaching Staff can be pleased and proud of, everyone stepping up a notch and giving it their all.

History made with the Winchelsea Blues Reserve side making their first Finals appearance since joining the Geelong & District Football Netball League in 2002.



To Belmont's credit they kept having a real crack right up until the Final Siren, but the day belonged to the Winchelsea Blues with the team song being sung loud and proud to a huge crowd of supporters.

For those amongst the crowd who couldn't be on the field there was plenty of heartache as well as pride and the joy of the win. The win was for everyone who has pulled on the boots at all sorts of different times to keep the Reserves up and about. Baily and Paris making the journey, which was great to see, travelling not easy at this stage of the game for Nugget – the Club wishes him well I what may be a long recovery.

GOALS:

Hard to come by but all were timely and celebrated -
Tom Kennedy 2, Sam Creighton 1, Angus Leigh 1

BEST:

A real team effort from the Reserves, Declan's marking early on, a couple of run down chases by Noah took the Lions by surprise, how quick?? Jackson Timms showing what he's made of. The defence worked hard all match.

BEST:

Sam Creighton, Aaron Cooke, Zach Ross, Declan Chibnall, Noah Harvy.

This Sunday will see the Reserves play finals again at St. Albans. Winchelsea Blues vs North Geelong at 12pm.

GO BLUES !!!

THE BLUE'S BISTRO:

The Blues Bistro will be operating as usual this week.

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- **Minor Capital Works**
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- **Health and Wellbeing**
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parkrun 78



Saturday 30 August 2025

Trebeck Reserve, Winchelsea



Neil McInnes

Twenty two parkrunners walked or ran the course through Trebeck Reserve this week in chilly weather conditions. We had visitors from Melbourne. Two people recorded a Personal Best time. Congratulations to Mark Dobson and Hayden Smith.

This event was made possible by the following volunteers: Neil McInnes, Liz Bennett, Dianna Vesey, Kristen Czerkiewicz, Ann Jones, Don Smith and Kate McInnes

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

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

We are in need of a Tailwalker and Barcode Scanner for this coming Saturday. They are simple but essential tasks.

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

Winchelsea Primary School Report

Tom Harper, Juhkobi Simpson and Clae Hipolito

Let's explore Winchelsea Primary School - School Number 2015

Winchelsea Primary School was founded in 1854 by the Church of England. This school was closed and a new one was opened on the current site on the 1st of March in 1878. In 1964 it became a Higher Elementary School before closing the secondary part of the school in 1984.

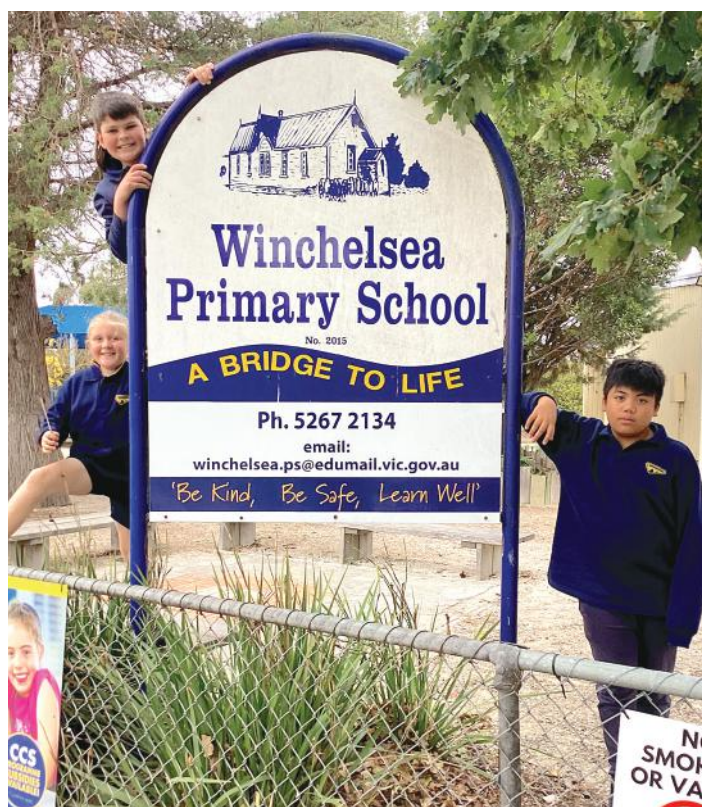
In 1978 the community came together to celebrate the centenary of the our school.

There currently are about 145 students, 2 lizards and 20 staff members at Winchelsea Primary School. It's between Gosney Street and Princes Highway.

Winchelsea Primary School has been given money to plan for a refurbishment. We hope the possums are removed and the creaking doors are fixed.

The amazing values in Winchelsea Primary School are to Be Safe, Be Kind, Learn Well and Respect Our School. Our current principal of Winchelsea Primary School Mr Keating.

Winchelsea Primary School has two lizards and we are currently fundraising to get a new playground. There is lots to do at Winchelsea Primary School with fun things like Art, PE, Performing Arts and Kitchen Garden. We also do lots of learning, sometimes that is fun too.

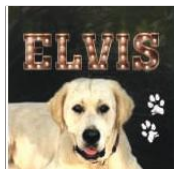


Straight from the snout: Elvis reports for koalas

Australian Koala Foundation

The Australian Koala Foundation's (AKF) most pawsome ambassador, Elvis the Koala-dog, is putting out the call to join this year's Save the Koala Month in September.

This year's initiative, **30 Days and 30 Ways to Help Our Favourite Fluffy Friends**, is a month-long challenge to inspire kids and communities to step up as Koala Heroes — while having a whole lot of fun along the way.



G'day legends! It's me — Elvis, the official ambassador for the AKF and your number one furry fan of all things Koala," says Elvis. "Between chasing cheeky birds and staring down the chooks, I've been working on something important — helping you get ready for the Koala Challenge

HOW IT WORKS

Over 30 days, classrooms, families, and groups can do creative, hands-on activities — from tree planting and cake stalls to Koala Karaoke. Each week focuses on a different way to help Koalas:

- **Week 1: Awareness & Education** Koala facts, art competitions, writing letters to MPs, and games to spark curiosity.
- **Week 2: Helping Koala Homes** Plant native trees, go on bushwalks, and set up donation boxes in local cafés or schools.
- **Week 3: Keep Koalas Safe** PJ parties, Koala quiz nights, and spreading the word about keeping pets leashed near bushland.
- **Week 4: Koala Heroes in Action** Crafts from recycled goodies, dress-up days, Koala Karaoke, and pledging long-term support for wildlife.

Then, when you've nailed all 30 challenges... it's time to throw your own Koala celebration! Gather your friends, family, or classmates, show off your Koala spirit, and celebrate all the amazing ways you've helped our favourite fluffy friends.

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/770786371589798>



Winchelsea Tennis Club

Fletcher Allen

Thursday Theatrics Grand Final – Down but Proud

Our Winch night crew hit the big stage last night in the Section 5 one last time in the grand final against the mighty Highton Flyers – drama guaranteed.

Fletch and fill-in Lachlan set the tone with a 6-3 win, while Kar-“Slick” forgot the slick part (0-6). Lachlan and Karthik battled hard but went down 3-6, before Fletch went full demolition mode with a 6-0.

All tied up heading into the last two sets ... then the wheels fell off. Michelle and Karthik lost 0-6 and Matt had to retire. Final score: Flyers 4 sets to 2 (27 games to 17).

Sure, not the fairy-tale ending, but what a season. Congratulations to Highton for the win and Massive thanks to Fletch, Matt, Karthik, Adri, Michelle and super-sub Lachlan for putting Winch tennis back on the map. Spoiler: this definitely isn't the last you've heard of me.



L-R Lachlan Stammers, Karthik Mohan,
Michelle Sawyer, Fletcher Allen

Absent: Matt Allen, Adrienne Minchinton

Opening of the Winchelsea Barwon River Adventure Play Space

Surf Coast Shire

Surf Coast Shire Council Mayor Mike Bodsworth was joined by Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney for formal opening of Winchelsea's new Adventure Play Space on Friday.

Community members attended the opening and heard that local primary school children had helped contribute design ideas for the Barwon Terrace playground, adjoining the new Winchelsea Pool and gathering space shelter.

The space includes treehouse pods, a flying fox with accessible seat, slides and rock-climbing wall.

Council contributed \$750,000 to the project and appreciates \$250,000 funding from the Victorian Government through Sport and Recreation Victoria.



L-R Cr Tony Phelps, Cr Adrian Schonfelder, Mayor Mike Bodsworth, Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney and Cr Joel Grist.

Green Links Birregurra Planting Day



The Upper Barwon Landcare Network and Birregurra Landcare Group...

Supported by the CCMA and DEECA



Invite you to join the community in helping to plant and guard 500 native trees, shrubs and grasses to revegetate the Barwon River in Birregurra township, with an aim to strengthen our connection with our local waterway in an urban/town setting.

This revegetation project is supported by the Victorian Government through the Green Links Program



What to bring

- Weather appropriate clothing and water bottle
- Hammer or mallet
- Gloves

What to expect

- Ground prep. already done !
- Option to plant on flat ground and/or spots on the riverbank for the adventurous
- Morning tea provided

Join Us

Date: Friday Sept 26, 2025

Time: 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: Meet near river, parking along Barwon Street (gravel), a safe distance away from Birregurra-Deans Marsh Road





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Junior Netball

Shae Callahan



Under 10s

AMY DAVIS
PHOTOGRAPHY



**Under 10s
Player of
the Match
Peyton**

AMY DAVIS
PHOTOGRAPHY

Expressions of Interest

Summer Netball with Winchelsea!

As the winter season starts to wind down, we're already looking ahead to the AFL Barwon Midweek Summer Netball Competition – a fantastic opportunity for players to step up into new age groups, gain valuable experience, and continue developing their skills over the off-season.

We're excited to announce expressions of interest are now open for the competition, from October to March (with a break over the school holidays). By registering your interest now, we can begin planning teams early.

Games will be played at Kardinia Park and other venues across Geelong.

Game Nights & Age Groups

- Under 11s (born 2017–2015) Tuesday evenings
- Under 13s (born 2014–2013) Friday evenings
- Under 15s (born 2012–2011) Friday evenings
- Under 17s (born 2010–2008) Tuesday evenings

Whether your child is a current player, new to the game, or part of our Rising Stars program, summer netball is a great way to learn, grow, and enjoy time on the court with friends in a fun and supportive environment.

Register your interest now!

Please message your current team group chat or contact Shae 0409 641 550 to secure your spot.

Let's make it another exciting summer of netball for Winchelsea!



Under 10s

AMY DAVIS
PHOTOGRAPHY





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51 Hesse Street

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Eastern Reserve Hopkins St

Senior Citizens Club
36 Harding Street

Uniting Church
33 Hesse Street

Winchelsea Bowls Club
Hesse St,

Winchelsea Cemetery
McConachy St

Winchelsea Golf Club
13 Anderson Street

Winchelsea Primary School
Main Street

Wurdale Memorial Hall
220 Wurdale Road

