

Winchelsea Star

Price \$1

Your Weekly Community Newspaper

Since 1977

Vol 47 Ed 46

Tuesday 26 November 2024

winchelseastar.org.au

Open Studios Weekend



Laurel McLennan and Janet Brown

Gherang artists welcome you to their Open Studios Weekend

Gherang neighbours, Laurel McLennan, water colour artist, and Janet Brown, botanical printer, are looking forward to welcoming visitors to their art studios on Karamarra Road on the weekend Saturday 30 November / Sunday 1 December.

Laurel is a member of Winchelsea's Riverlee Artist Group and regularly participates in the SurfCoast Arts Trail. Her visitors enjoy seeing her paintings at Shrek Gallery, named in honour of her Scottish Highland bull. 'This is another opportunity to introduce my work to new and returning visitors. I am constantly inspired by our rural setting for my painting. Opening the studio is a way of welcoming summer.'

Janet creates her botanical work on the farm at Dalmarra Studio, and calls herself 'The Leaf Whisperer'. 'Laurel and I think it's great to open our studios on the same weekend. Although our work is entirely different, both of us are inspired by our stunning environment. My emphasis is on our local plants. I love boiling and bubbling my ecodyed creations. It's an alchemy that creates beautiful work on natural fibres. I'm looking forward to showing visitors the creative results of this process, which is steeped in history.'

10am - 4pm Saturday 30 November

10am - 4pm Sunday 1 December

Shrek Gallery: 60 Karamarra Rd Gherang

Dalmarra Studio: 92 Karamarra Rd Gherang

Contact Janet: 0402 249192



Bowls club sports lighting project

Example of a similar scale lighting project. Image: Webb Australia

Work on Winchelsea Bowls Club's sports lighting project is scheduled to start in January and be complete by mid-March 2024.

The community-initiated project is progressing well, with a tender set to be awarded for installation of the 100 lux LED lighting on four new 13.5-metre towers.

The lighting will meet relevant sport lighting standards and Bowls Australia guidelines for night competition, greatly expanding the club's capacity to cater for a growing population and provide greater accessibility.

The lights will be able to be dimmed for non-competition activities such as night training and social bowls.

The LED system will minimise glare for bowlers and minimise light spill to surrounding areas.

Winchelsea Bowls Club is contributing \$37,539 to the project, with the Victorian Government contributing \$112,618 via the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund.

Surf Coast Shire Council is managing the project delivery.

Club officials approached Council with the project concept in November 2022 via Council's online community project proposal portal.

Council's Community Project Development Program led a project working group including club board members and a representative from Bowls Australia through a detailed investigation process including consultation with specialist lighting company Webb Australia.

Visit Council's Community Development Program page via surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Community/Community-Services/Community-project-proposals



surfcoast.vic.gov.au/winchprojects



Annual Lions Club Christmas Raffle

The annual Winchelsea Lions Club Christmas Raffle is on! \$2 per ticket to support your community.

Three Food Voucher prizes have been donated by the IGA. 1st \$300 - 2nd \$200 - 3rd \$100

Tickets sellers* will be outside the IGA from 10am to 2pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays until 14 December.
The winners will be drawn at noon that day.

*They will also have their famous Lions Club Christmas cakes for sale - \$20 for the large ones, \$16 the small, plus Christmas puddings for \$16.



John and Linda Carter selling outside the IGA last Saturday in 30-something degree heat
(where would we be without our volunteers?)



Winchelsea Community Foodbank

Fridays, 12 - 2PM

30-32 Hesse Street Winchelsea



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



GROWING WINCHELSEA INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS

WHEN: SATURDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2024
6:00PM TO 9:00PM
AT: WINCHELSEA PRIMARY SCHOOL OVAL*
BRING A CHAIR, BLANKET AND PICNIC
(*IF RAINING, EVENT WILL MOVE TO THE LTC, BLANKETS ONLY)
GOLD COIN DONATION
FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE





La Caseta Community Dinner

AT THE WINCHELSEA SHIRE HALL
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29TH 5.30PM - 9PM

WELCOME DRINK ON ARRIVAL, TASTY HONDURAN APPETISERS
AND MAIN DISH OF YOUR CHOICE!

ADULTS \$40 KIDS \$15

BOOK YOUR SEAT AT THE TABLE

LACASETA.COM.AU/MARKETS
OR EMAIL SHIREHALL@WINCHHOUSE.ORG.AU

Menu

ADULTS

BEEF CHILLI CON CARNE NACHOS, GF

with sour cream, guacamole and pickled onions. DF option available.

BBQ JACKFRUIT NACHOS, GF, Vegetarian or Vegan

with coleslaw, pickled onions, coriander and mayo dressing.

CHIPOTLE CHICKEN BURRITO

with Sour cream, chilli oil, pickled onions and guacamole.

BRAISED BLACK BEAN BURRITO, Vegetarian or Vegan

Side of sour cream (coconut yogurt for vegan option) Chilli oil, pickled onions & guacamole.

KIDS

CHEESE QUESADILLA

Side of Sour cream or Guacamole.

HONDURAN VEGGIE RICE, GF, DF, Vegan

Music

Food

Drinks

Kids Table

Pinata

Limbo

Community



Help shape Surf Coast Shire Council's priorities for the next four years

What do you think Council should focus on for the next four years?

Surf Coast Shire Council is keen to hear your views to help it develop its new Council Plan, which will set the strategic direction for 2025-2029. Have your

say by taking Council's *Our Focus Our Future* survey at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/OurFocusOurFuture. The survey is open until 3 February 2025.

Your feedback will help set Council priorities and you'll go into the draw to win one of eight \$100 vouchers for wonderful local businesses across the shire.

Mayor Cr Mike Bodsworth urged people to take the survey and have their say on Council's direction.

"We're really keen to understand community priorities and how we can balance this with Council maintaining a sustainable financial position." Talking to locals, I know many have strong views on Council priorities, so this is your chance to contribute your ideas and help shape where you live."

"We'd love to hear from as many people as possible from all ages, backgrounds and experiences. The Council Plan will be our guiding document over the next four years so we want to make sure it directly reflects the views and hopes of our community."

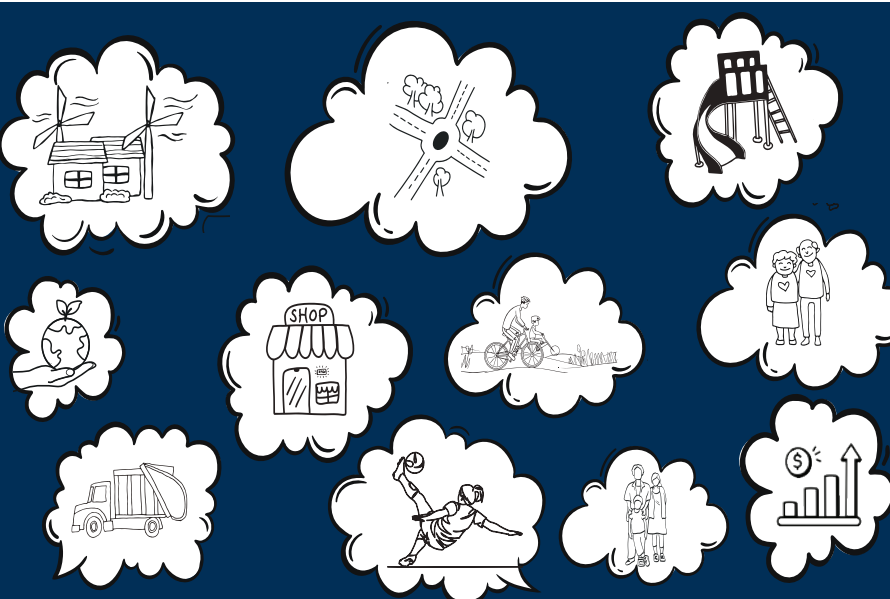
"Importantly, Council will also need to focus on financial sustainability. We want to better understand community priorities so we can provide the best value and most needed services."

There will be a series of pop up sessions where people can learn more. You can find a full list on Council's website.

A panel of community members will also be established to give advice to Council on the Council Plan. This will involve 45 local people who will be randomly selected, based on the demographic profile of the shire, to be part of the community panel. Thousands of people across the shire will receive a letter in the post inviting them to apply to join the panel, so keep an eye out in your letterbox.

The Council Plan and Health Wellbeing Plan will guide how Council determines its priorities and makes decisions, including how its annual budget is shaped.

These plans will help ensure people have access to the services they need most; environmental values are enhanced and protected and people are empowered to lead meaningful lives.



What matters most to you?

Your feedback will help shape Surf Coast Shire Council's strategic priorities for the next four years. Together, it's our focus, our future.

We'd love to hear from you.

Have your say by taking our survey at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/OurFocusOurFuture.

Survey closes 3 February 2025.



Help shape where you live.



OUR FOCUS OUR FUTURE



Surf Coast Shire Council election

Declaration of results



The following candidates were elected to Surf Coast Shire Council at the general election held in October 2024:

Otway Range Ward

STAPLETON, Libby (1st elected)

WALKER, Leon (2nd elected)

BODSWORTH, Mike (3rd elected)

Torquay Ward

PATTISON, Liz (1st elected)

BOURKE, Rebecca (2nd elected)

BARKER, Paul (3rd elected)

Winchelsea Ward

GRIST, Joel (1st elected)

PHELPS, Tony (2nd elected)

SCHONFELDER, Adrian Dwight (3rd elected)

Further details about the results are available at vec.vic.gov.au

Richard Trigg

Election Manager

8 November 2024

vec.vic.gov.au | 131 832 | @electionsvic



Authorised by S. Bluemmel, Electoral Commissioner, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria.



The skills you already have, can help you make a positive impact as a Prison Officer.

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Corrections Victoria

Hiring now

*Conditions apply.



Authorised by the Victorian Government,
1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



WINCH HOUSE AGM

Conquer the Corrugations

Report 2023/24

Charlie Earl & Robyn Black

The weekend of April 12th and 13th saw an enthusiastic group of Conquerors set off to walk and talk as they made their way to Inverleigh. This year's event saw 187 participants take part across the weekend.

To ensure there are no financial barriers we aim to continue to run conquer the Corrugations as a free event. The continued support of Winchelsea IGA and Bendigo Bank allows this to happen. Ashwani and his family very generously donate food and drinks for this event and financial funding from Bendigo Bank covers items such as insurance. Colleen Trehwella and Robyn Black prepare and cook up the fabulous food.

Once again, the Inverleigh and Winchelsea Lions Club members performed an amazing job of setting up the rest stops with seating and providing refreshments. Hesse Rural Health kindly supplied trained staff, a tent and massage table for participants to receive a well deserved massage. Hesse has now joined forces with Conquer and we welcome them onboard.

Toilet block is supplied by Geelong and Coast Hire and transported and cleaned by Deb and Mark Menheere. Shower block supplied by Bellgrove Hire and transported by Charlie Earl. The bus, that allows all participants to safely complete the walk, is driven by Mick Stocks and Jason Gambino. Bus fuel is donated by Eblock Transport.

We also have Public Speakers attend the event allowing them to share their stories and knowledge. From Let's Talk Colac, Kirsty Oborn, openly discussed her mental health journey and the information and support Let's Talk offers. Little Emma from Darwin spoke of her struggles with mental health and the positive impact Conquer the Corrugations has had. A staff member from Hesse Rural Health spoke of the assistance and support available within Winchelsea for people dealing with mental health concerns.

As you have seen, it takes many kind and generous people, to allow an event like Conquer the Corrugations to be successful. The Conquer teams are very grateful to everyone for their contribution.



Winchelsea Youth Leisure Drop-In

Report 2023/2024

Monique Jacques & Robyn Black

The WYLD group has not been consistently active over the past 12 months due to the lack of volunteer support available to regularly run the group.

The group has some funding but requires a team of dedicated people that would be able to be available after hours to run activities and events for youth. If anyone is interested please contact the Community House so we can try and get this group back as a regular event.

Our young people in the Winchelsea community need this group to be active and consistent, and we are eager to grow, support and meet these needs.



Keep plastic out of your food and garden organics bin.

Plastic items (like packaging, fruit stickers and plant pots) won't break down with your food and garden scraps. They are difficult to remove and can contaminate the compost made from your scraps.

Only food scraps and garden clippings belong in your green FOGO* bin. Use AS4736 certified compostable bags to collect your food scraps. Pick up a free roll from the Council office or waste disposal facilities.

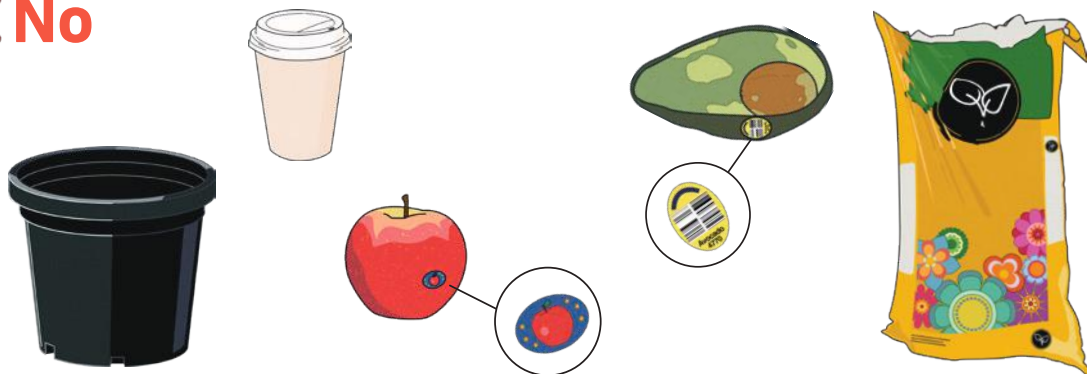
Never use plastic or bioplastic bags in your FOGO bin.

Find out more: surfcoast.vic.gov.au/FOGO

✓ Yes



✗ No



* Food Organics & Garden Organics





Winchelsea Star COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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

SANDYZ NEW TRADING HOURS

**Thursday, Fridays
and Saturdays**

Now open earlier for lunch
from 11.30am.
Close at 8.00pm
Sundays open from 3.00pm
now that we are open for lunches

DIAMOND DOT

Last Diamond Day for this year will
be Saturday 7 December at the
Senior Citizens rooms Harding Street
Winchelsea We will have a Kris Kringle.

\$5 for the day.

For a hot lunch, it will an extra \$10.

Please ring Tracey 0427500649 if
coming for lunch or see me at the
bakery. We need numbers by
4 December please.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

WINCHELSEA OP SHOP

Winchelsea Op Shop will be closing
accepting donations after Saturday
November 30th .

We will be closing for our Xmas break
from Monday 16th December and
re opening on Friday January 3rd when
we will start to accept donations again.



WANTED: A ROLL OF LUCERNE GREEN HAY

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Deborah Hick

WANTED: AGISTMENT

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Short or long-term (preferred)
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Save on the rising cost of wood.
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Contact Alan 0476 475 422

WINCHELSEA PICKLEBALL

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

WINCHELSEA TENNIS CLUB

JUNIOR COACHING

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

SOCIAL TWILIGHT TENNIS

Monday evenings from 6.00pm.
All Welcome!

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Social Bridge is played

EVERY TUESDAY

10.30 AM-1.00 PM

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

36 Harding Street Winchelsea

New players always welcome

Elaine Atkinson 0458 009 616



FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

	5 January 2025
	2 February 2025
1 Dec 2024	2 March 2025
	6 April 2025
	4 May 2025
	1 June 2025

WINCHELSEA GIRL GUIDES

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

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

Phone Yvonne 0448 672630



THE
WINCHELSEA STAR
ORGANISATION INC.

Winchelsea
Star



Winchelsea Star Coffee Meeting

THIS SATURDAY 30 NOV

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

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

Next Winchelsea Star Production Meeting

Saturday 30 November 2024 9 - 10am

@ Sweet Thyme, Winchelsea

This Week's Star

Editor - Judy Cameron

Designer - Susan Corby



2024 Conference Community Newspaper Association Victoria

A month has gone by already after the annual October CNAV Conference in Bendigo. It was good to get together with many of our members, new and old.

The awards presentation was interesting, some made in person by the judges, while other judges sent video presentations. It was pleasing to hear the constructive comments from the judges.

send your stories

news@winchelseastar.org.au

LOCAL NEWS and ARTICLES WELCOME

Include name and address of the sender

Email news@winchelseastar.org.au

Leave hard copy at IGA Supermarket

DEADLINE 5pm Fridays

4pm Sundays - hard copy articles left at IGA

6pm Sundays - sports results and weekend events

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production

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





Get fire ready for the fire danger period starting Monday 25 November

Surf Coast Shire

The Fire Danger Period in the Surf Coast Shire will start at 1am on Monday 25 November.

Council will start its annual roadside slashing program this week to reduce fire fuel loads around the shire.

Roadside slashing will start in the hinterland and move from the northern part of the shire to the south. Works are expected to take three to four weeks, depending on the weather, finishing in time for Christmas the busy summer season.

"Reducing the fire danger risk is so important and it's great to see these works getting underway" said Cr Tony Phelps. "We all need to do as much preparation as we can as we're facing an increased risk due to a very dry winter and above average temperatures. The fire danger is here now and we need to be prepared."

The roadside slashing program helps to prevent fire risk by: Reducing the potential for roadside ignition from cars/trailers/ machinery pulling over.

Reducing the radiant heat the grass produces when on fire, helping to reduce the potential size and risk of the fire. Reducing the risk of fires burning upwards and igniting trees.

During winter the Lorne community came together with Council's Fire Prevention Officers for the winter fuel reduction program. This program aims to manage fuel loads in a targeted town and complements fire break and fire reduction burns undertaken

by Forest Fire Management Victoria and Parks Victoria. Over 200 properties in Lorne worked with Council officers to reduce vegetation around their homes and buildings. At the same time Council officers cleared road reserves adjacent to 110 homes and created over 300 cubic meters of mulch.

"Thanks to the Lorne community for the great work they have done already with the winter fuel reduction program," Mr Phelps said. "It's great to see how committed locals are to being prepared and doing what they can, no matter the season."

"There is still time to be fire ready and if you need advice on preparing your property, Council's fire prevention officers are available to come and conduct a free inspection," he said. "It's so important that everyone cleans up around their property, has a fire plan in place and keeps informed via the Vic Emergency app or listening to ABC radio."

Property inspections have started for compliance with fire prevention measures, such as vegetation management and grass slashing. Properties that are considered a fire hazard are issued with a fire prevention notice and the owner is required to undertake the prescribed works. Failing to act on a fire prevention notice may result in fines.

Find out more information about being fire ready at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/fireready

Making Victorian rentals safer

Victorian State Government

The Victorian Government is making rental properties safer by requiring smoke alarm, gas and electrical safety checks for all residential rental properties.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Gabrielle Williams announced new reforms requiring rental providers to conduct smoke alarm checks every 12 months, and gas and electrical safety checks every two years, for all rentals – no matter when the lease started.

The reforms will also ensure that the residential rental provider or the provider's agent must immediately arrange for urgent repairs to be carried out on faulty smoke alarms.

To learn more about rental minimum standards and safety checks visit consumer.vic.gov.au/renting.

Detox Your Home event recycles 3,000kg of toxic chemicals

Surf Coast Shire

Another successful Detox Your Home event held in October saw almost three tonnes of unwanted toxic chemicals collected. This included a highly toxic Schedule X chemical that required special handling for safe disposal due to the risk it posed to site workers.

The Detox Your Home chemist identified the Schedule X pesticide, which was used to fumigate rabbit warrens but is being phased out as an approved chemical in Australia. The chemical was safely wrapped and placed in an air-tight container ready for transport to the processing facility.

More common household and garden chemicals were among the 2,908kg of chemicals collected, including:

- 1,361kg of flammable liquids (petrol, diesel, kerosene, methylated spirits, citronella, hand sanitiser etc).
- 545kg of weed killer, insect sprays, rose dust, ant rid, mosquito coils, rat poison etc.
- 181kg of aerosol cans of paint, insect spray, and solvents.
- 51kg of photographic chemicals.
- 68kg of mystery chemicals, such as liquids and powders stored in unmarked bottles and tins.
- The most unusual items dropped off were several jars of preserved laboratory specimens in formaldehyde from a former veterinary practice.

"Thank you to the community for supporting this event and bringing in your chemicals to be safely disposed of", said Cr Liz Pattison. "And thank you to Sustainability Victoria for running the event. I know these events take a lot of work to put on, so it's nice to see so many people playing their part to keep these chemicals out of the waste stream and our waterways."

All the chemicals were taken to a processing facility in Melbourne. A team of chemists sorted them into the appropriate recovery or disposal pathways. Acids are then neutralised, flammable liquids are reused as a blended fuel, and chemically inactive liquids are treated.

For information on how to safely dispose of a range of household items, visit surfcoast.vic.gov.au/otherwaste or download SCRRApp, the Surf Coast Rubbish and Recycling App that includes an A-Z recycling and waste guide.



mainly music
est. 1990

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

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

Where: St Thomas' Hall
25 Barwon Tce.

To Enquire ring: **0407838256**



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**AT THE WINCHELSEA SHIRE HALL
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 29TH 5.30PM - 9PM**

**WELCOME DRINK ON ARRIVAL, TASTY HONDURAN APPETISERS
AND MAIN DISH OF YOUR CHOICE!
ADULTS \$40 KIDS \$15**

ONE WEEK LEFT TO BOOK YOUR SEATS!

**LACASETA.COM.AU/MARKETS
OR EMAIL SHIREHALL@WINCHHOUSE.ORG.AU**

Menu

ADULTS

BEEF CHILLI CON CARNE NACHOS, GF
with sour cream, guacamole and pickled onions. DF option available.

BBQ JACKFRUIT NACHOS, GF, Vegetarian or Vegan
with coleslaw, pickled onions, coriander and mayo dressing.

CHIPOTLE CHICKEN BURRITO
with Sour cream, chilli oil, pickled onions and guacamole.

BRAISED BLACK BEAN BURRITO, Vegetarian or Vegan
Side of sour cream (coconut yogurt for vegan option) Chilli oil, pickled onions & guacamole.

KIDS

CHEESE QUESADILLA
Side of Sour cream or Guacamole.

HONDURAN VEGGIE RICE, GF, DF, Vegan

Music

Food

Drinks

Kids Table

Pinata

Limbo

Community

Always wanted to learn to learn to Knit?

WINCHELSEA KNITTING GROUP

Thursday Mornings

10.30 – 12pm

FREE Community group.

All welcome, come along and learn to knit or bring a project to work on whilst enjoying a cuppa and a chat.

Winchelsea Community House

CHATTY CAFÉ

“Sip, Chat, Share, Care”

Every Friday 10.30am – 12.30pm

Winchelsea Shire Hall

FREE, Everyone Welcome.

Collection tin for donations.

Carers Corner

Come along, connect with other carers, have a cuppa and a chat, and share useful resources.

29th Nov

11.00am – 12 noon

At the Winchelsea Shire Hall
Collection tin for donations.

Tai Chi

Friday Mornings 9.00am – 10.00am

In the Helen Verity Room,
Winchelsea community house

\$10 per session

Crochet Group

Every Second Saturday

1.30pm in the Winchelsea Community
Centre

Next Group 16th Nov

\$5 per class

Book your spot at reception@winchhouse.org.au

WE NEED YOU!



**EVENTS
GARDENING
CHILDCARE**

**VOLUNTEER at Winch House and/or
the Shire Hall, GET INVOLVED, in your community,
LEARN NEW SKILLS, MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

**The Winchelsea Community House aims to provide a space to connect with others in our
community through a wide range of programs and activities.**

**There are many opportunities to learn new skills or further develop existing ones for fun, for your
resume or for your confidence and mental health.**



WINCHELSEA FACEBOOK

Non-profit community Groups and Pages



What's on in Winchelsea	facebook.com/WhatsoninWinchelsea
Winchelsea FREE	facebook.com/groups/winchelseafree
Winchelsea Community Information	facebook.com/groups/207538644446972
Winchelsea Classifieds 3241	facebook.com/groups/216942861684082
Winchelsea Lost and Found	facebook.com/groups/768187693217518
Winchelsea Op Shop	facebook.com/HospitalAuxiliaryOpShopWinchelsea
Winchelsea Shire Hall	facebook.com/WinchelseaShireHall
Winchelsea Community House	facebook.com/winchelseacommunityhouse
Winchelsea Coronavirus Community Support Group	facebook.com/groups/2676957719207927/
The Green Winchelsea Residents	facebook.com/groups/515322772623126
Growing Winchelsea Inc	facebook.com/growingwinch
Winchelsea Star	facebook.com/TheWinchelseaStar
Winchelsea Movie Club	facebook.com/winchelseamovies
Winchelsea Community Market	facebook.com/100083362387611
Winchelsea Land and River Care Group	facebook.com/envirowinchelsea/
Upper Barwon Landcare Network	facebook.com/UpperBarwonLandcare
Winchelsea & District Historical Society Inc	facebook.com/Winchelseaanddistricthistoricalsociety/
Winchelsea Wildlife Shelter	www.winchelseawildlifeshester.com/
SCARS - Surf Coast Animal Rescue Service	facebook.com/groups/415211698950674
Winchelsea Gardeners	facebook.com/groups/779878518703025
Winchelsea & District Historical Society	facebook.com/Winchelseaanddistricthistoricalsociety/
Winchelsea Repertory Society Inc	facebook.com/winchrep/
Winchelsea Globe Theatre	facebook.com/Winchelsea-Globe Theatre-164790897641678
Winchelsea Uniting Church	facebook.com/winchelseaunitingchurch
St Thomas' Anglican Church	facebook.com/StThomasWinchelsea
St John the Baptist Catholic Church	facebook.com/pages/Winchelsea-Catholic-Church/101775670163180
Winchelsea Mainly Music	facebook.com/groups/668500343953191/
Winchelsea Health Club	facebook.com/WinchelseaHealthClub
Winchelsea Playgroup (School terms only)	facebook.com/groups/551663435367031
Winchelsea Girl Guides	www.guidesvic.org.au/
Winchelsea/Modewarre Scouts	facebook.com/1stModewarreScouts
Winchelsea Fire Brigade	facebook.com/winchelseafirebrigade/
Winchelsea SES	facebook.com/groups/WinchSES
Country Women's Association - CWA Winchelsea	facebook.com/pg/CWAWinchelsea/
Winchelsea Bowls Club	facebook.com/Winchelsea-Bowls-Club-533783333344345/
Winchelsea Blues Cricket Club	facebook.com/groups/8999049476/
Winchelsea Blues FC	facebook.com/WinchelseaFNC/
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Winchelsea Golf Club	facebook.com/winchelseagc/ facebook.com/groups/1324943804676697

Winchelsea Churches



St John's Catholic Church

Father Joseph Panackal
0404598558

Harding St, Winchelsea 3241
Mass times have been changed to 6pm
whilst daylight savings are on.
Every Saturday night.

St Thomas' Anglican Church

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

Winchelsea Uniting Church

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

Thought for the Week

"The suffering and agonizing moments through which I have passed over the last few years have also drawn me closer to God. More than ever before I am convinced of the reality of a personal God."

John Bader,
Former U/C Accredited
Lay Preacher

New financial scheme for Victims of crime

Victorian State Government

The Victorian Government is better supporting victims of crime, making it easier to get financial assistance and have their trauma recognised through the new online Financial Assistance Scheme.

The online scheme can be accessed in the privacy of someone's home and will replace the courts-based Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal – helping to minimise further trauma for victims, as they no longer having to attend court or face perpetrators.

Victims of crime will be able to receive up to \$60,000, with some eligible for up to an additional \$25,000.

Victims of crime will also be able to receive a recognition statement from the state – acknowledging the effects of the crime and expressing condolences.

Application timeframes have been extended from two to three years, or for sexual offences or family violence cases to 10 years.

For further information on the new scheme and to apply visit victimsofcrime.vic.gov.au.

Shearers call for labour hire licensing system to stop exploitation

AWU

Shearers will continue to work for poverty wages in unsafe shearing sheds across the country until the Commonwealth

Government imposes a licensing regime on all labour hire companies operating in regional Australia the union which represents shearers, the Australian Workers' Union, said today.

A new resolution passed at the AWU's National Conference held in Perth calls on the federal government to step in with a new national licensing and enforcement body after widespread reports of labour exploitation in shearing sheds across the country.

The new regulation body would hold the powers to ensure licensing and registration but also have powers of enforcement.

The AWU was formed by unionised shearers in Ballarat in 1886, and it was shearers who formed the political arm of the labour movement, the Australian Labor Party, in Queensland in 1892.

Ross Kenna, lead organiser with the AWU Victorian Branch's Country Team says shearers of the 1800s would be ashamed to see what's happening in shearing sheds in 2024.

"The AWU was born fighting for shearers, and we're not backing down now," said Mr Kenna. "It's disgraceful that some of the same exploitative attitudes that we saw prevailing in the 1890s have reemerged in 2024. Today we are once again seeing young shearers working for poverty wages in unsafe conditions. A national licensing system for shearing contractors is a must if we want to protect our workers' rights and safety.

"There's no reason that the regulation of this industry should lag every other industry in the country.

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6:45pm, 8:50pm
Sat - Sun 8:47am, 2:46pm, 8:34pm



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Winchelsea Senior Citizens' Hall



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or Emily LaPorte Phone 0476 719 381



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Cubs: Mondays of school term 6:30-8pm
Scouts: Tuesdays of school term 6:30-8:30pm
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Every second Thursday 10am-12pm
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cnr Barwon Tce and Hopkins St, Winchelsea
Contact: Danni Menzies 0432019944
winchelseaplaygroup@gmail.com
Facebook - Winchelsea Playgroup 2019
New families welcome

SEC projects give power and profit back to the people

Victorian State Government

The State Electricity Commission (SEC) is back for good – and its second investment is locked in.

Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for the State Electricity Commission Lily D’Ambrosio have announced the SEC will invest \$370 million to build the SEC Renewable Energy Park – a massive solar farm and battery in Horsham. It will be the first 100 per cent government-owned energy generator in Victoria since the Liberal Party privatised the state’s energy system.

The battery will soak up cheap solar while the sun is shining and deploy it later in the day to push down electricity prices. The battery storage will also allow more renewable generation to come online by storing power until it’s ready to be fed into the grid during high demand.

The local community will directly benefit from the profits from the projects. The SEC will set up a community benefits fund and will work with the community to invest \$42,000 a year back into the local area during the project’s construction, and a further \$70,000 every year once the project is operational.

The SEC Renewable Energy Park will come online in 2027 and will be used to provide cheap, 100 per cent renewable electricity to Victorian Government schools, hospitals and offices.

Once operational, all profits made by the SEC will be reinvested back into renewable energy projects – growing the state’s battery storage, wind and solar farms – and putting power back in the hands of Victorians.

Bridging the gap: how social engagement can protect against dementia

Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing

Despite increases in digital connectivity, the world is getting lonelier and more socially isolated.

In Australia, approximately one in three people feel lonely some, if not all of the time, up from one in four since before COVID-19. Older adults and those in regional and remote areas are particularly at risk, which can lead to health complications.

One of the key health risks of poor social connections is dementia, the second leading cause of death in Australia. The World Health Organisation says that loneliness and social isolation increase the risk of developing dementia by a whopping 50%.

To combat this issue, researchers at UNSW Sydney’s Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing have launched an online study addressing the role of social engagement in maintaining brain function and wellbeing: *Maintaining Social Engagement*.

This world-first research, led by social health expert and Clinical Psychologist Dr Suraj Samtani, aims to provide support and activities for people over 55 with memory concerns to stay socially engaged – all via videocalls – and with enormous potential benefits. “Evidence suggests that being socially active reduces risk of dementia by half,” says Dr Samtani. “This is even after taking into account all other risk factors for dementia.”

1 in 3 Australians over the age of 65 live in rural and remote areas. According to the 2023 Ending Loneliness Together Report, 35% of those people are lonely. These communities face challenges accessing services and experience geographic and resource barriers against social activities, all of which have negative health consequences.

Dr Samtani says it is important to note the difference between social isolation and loneliness. “Being socially isolated is the physical state of having less interactions with other people. Loneliness is the emotional state of feeling disconnected from the people around us and feeling the need for more rewarding social connections,” he says.

According to Dr Samtani, the health risks of social isolation and loneliness are comparable to excessive drinking and daily smoking. “Loneliness is as bad for our health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Being lonely can increase your risk of getting dementia by 26%,” says Dr Samtani.

Conversely, according to the longest happiness study ever conducted, social connectivity can delay the start of physical health conditions by 10-15 years. The Harvard-led study found that our relationships with people have a powerful influence on health, and that close relationships are the key to maintaining happiness throughout our lives.

Winchelsea Men’s Shed



For The Community
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Sandra Jones

"Originally of 20,000 acres, Wormbete embraced fertile lands, heavily timbered, from the foothills of the Otways extending north along the Wormbete Creek to the Barwon River, five miles from Winchelsea". (The Herald 9/9/1937)

Wormbete was established in 1837 by Henry Hopkins, a successful business director and merchant of Hobart. The homestead is set in delightful surroundings.

Rafters in the roof were hewn from timber on the estate and bluestone and sandstone quarried on the property were used to construct the homestead.

Family history was woven in the branches of the old oak tree, grown from an acorn plucked by Sir John Franklin, while Governor of Tasmania, and given to John Rout Hopkins.

Much of their furnishings were lost in transit. Two oils of Napoleon III and Eugenie Imperatrice were sent to Tasmania as a gift by the Armytage family, but were lost to the family.

The Hopkins and Armytage families were well known in the area. There is a legend that in the time of Queen Elizabeth, the Hopkins were buccaneers.

It was James I who granted the coat of arms to Samuel Hopkins, merchant of London. The crest is that of a burning castle.



Henry Hopkins c1860s
*Allport Library and
Museum of Fine Arts*



John Rout Hopkins c1890
State Library of Victoria

In the 17th century, during the reign of William III, Hopkins and Bond were money lenders of London Bond Street. We have an interesting letter in our rooms from a descendant re these two families.

John Rout Hopkins, the eldest son of Henry, took over the place in 1850, it passed to his son Walter, and later to his sons Henry and John.

Portions of the property have been sold from time to time - including to Alan Bond - but finally was divided among the Hopkins family of 2000 acres.

The property is of great significance to the Winchelsea district.

WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Looking Ahead

Jumpleads

We hope you've had a terrific year so far & that you + yours are gearing up for some fun, rest & relaxation over the coming summer

Here's what's on the horizon for 2025

We'll continue collaborating with communities, creatives, councils, government agencies, not for profits & businesses to support local initiatives & positive change

With work across:

- Education & awareness campaigns in sustainability, preparedness & community resilience
- Leadership development with a focus on young people
- Support for artists & creative industries to grow & generate new opportunities
- Providing community engagement services to increase participation, inform local strategies & develop solutions

Reflections on 2024

It's been an inspiring year filled with connection & contribution, reflected in a prolific project output & some great outcomes:

- Delivering 6 key projects across Victoria
- Implementing 10 in person events
- Facilitating 12 online community development events
- Attracting 600+ participants
- Informing community via 260 subscriptions to practical resources
- Including 40+ partners within our projects
- Reaching 260,000 people via various communications
- And we've sparked hundreds of new conversations & connections across Australia!



Electric Homes Program Ends 30 November

With just two weeks left to register for the Electric Homes Program, this is your last chance to take advantage of the special pricing and extended warranties we've put together with local trusted suppliers.

The program has so far helped hundreds of households, like yours, increase home comfort and reduce energy bills with all-electric solutions and energy efficient products and services, so jump on board before it's too late.

The Program Includes:

- Solar and Batteries
- Hot Water Heat Pumps
- Heating and Cooling Systems
- Draught Proofing
- Home Energy Audits
- Home Insulation
- Electric Vehicle Chargers
- Induction Cooktop Installation

Register your interest through the website:
geelong sustainability.org.au

We'd love to see you!

WINCHELSEA PLAYGROUP

Each Thursday during school terms.
Come along between 10AM - 12PM.

Check out our Facebook Page for more information about the happenings of each session.

Playgroup Leader - Danni Menzies

Email: winchelseaplaygroup@gmail.com

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Don't fall for this trick that led to 600 per cent increase in fraudulent activities!

Seniors Discount Club

In the digital age, where convenience and speed often take precedence over caution, it's no surprise that cybercriminals find increasingly cunning ways to trick us into doing their dirty work.

According to a recent study by Gen, the cybersecurity powerhouse behind several apps, the latest trend in online fraud, known as 'Scam Yourself' attacks, has seen a staggering 600 per cent increase.

This alarming rise in self-inflicted cybercrime is a wake-up call for all of us, especially for those over 60 who may not be as tech-savvy as younger generations.

So, what exactly is a 'Scam Yourself' attack? It's a form of social engineering where scammers manipulate individuals into downloading malware onto their own devices.

They trick users into believing they're performing a necessary action, such as updating software or fixing a computer issue, when, in reality, they're installing harmful programs that can steal personal information, corrupt files, or even lock them out of their systems.

You might see a popup while browsing, urging you to update your software.

Be wary of these notifications, especially if they don't come from your browser or operating system's official settings menu.

Stay vigilant.

BEK'S SECOND HAND HIRING COMING SOON

Re-purposing second-hand dresses that need new (temporary) homes. With over 30 dresses available from sizes 8-16 for hire, Bek's second-hand hiring is open by appointment only. The appointment includes tea and coffee and trying on as many dresses as you like. A variety of colors and different types of dresses such as sequined dresses, baggy smock dresses, and evening dresses for special events.

When you hire a dress from 'Bek's Hiring Boutique,' a percentage goes to Winchelsea Wildlife Shelter, which can help with a variety of things, especially feeding the animals at the shelter. My dress boutique is mostly second-hand, as I love re-purposing beautiful items of clothing.



I started a few short sewing courses, and a 9-month design course in 2022, so naturally, I started my second-hand hiring business. Especially in Winchelsea with little shopping opportunities. I also care deeply about sustainability. By offering a service where people can rent beautiful dresses for their special occasions, I help reduce the demand for new clothing production, which has a significant environmental impact. Plus, it gives everyone a chance to wear something stunning without a big price tag.

Every piece of clothing that is repurposed or reused means less textile waste in landfills. It's a small but impactful way to contribute to a more sustainable future. Plus, with the variety of dresses I have of any size, all females can feel and look beautiful.

Victorian State Government First festival chosen for pill testing trial

The first of ten festival events to take part in the Government's pill testing trial has been announced by Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Mental Health Ingrid Stitt. It will be available to 35,000 festival goers at *Beyond The Valley*, a four-day event in the Golden Plains Shire from 28 December until 1 January 2025.

They also announced the pill testing service will be led by Youth Support and Advocacy Service, in partnership with The Loop Australia and Harm Reduction Victoria.

The service will be completely confidential, and world-leading technology will test the make-up of most pills, capsules, powders, crystals, or liquids and identify harmful chemicals that can lead to death.

It will be staffed by a multidisciplinary team of experts that will test substances, and provide confidential health information to help people at the festival make better, safer decisions.

The pill testing service will allow real-time surveillance and rapid alerts, and increase our ability to detect new drugs on our streets.

A fixed pill testing site will also be established and open by mid-2025 in inner Melbourne, close to nightlife and public transport.

The trial follows the recent passing of the Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Amendment (Pill Testing) Bill 2024, which made Victoria the first jurisdiction in Australia to have dedicated legislation to support pill testing.

The Department of Health will also work with major events to develop a Safer Music Festivals Framework, helping organisers understand their responsibilities in keeping patrons safe.

Victorian State Government More fee-free TAFE construction and housing courses for Victoria

The Federal and Victorian Governments are supporting thousands of Victorians to access free training for a rewarding career in construction – with the announcement of more than 5,000 Fee-Free TAFE places in construction and housing sector courses.

The Federal Government is contributing \$22.2 million in funding, partnering up with the State Government to address critical skills shortages.

From January 2025, 5,200 new Fee-Free TAFE places will be available to Victorians, including up to 1,300 pre-apprenticeship places.

These Fee Free TAFE places will provide cost of living relief for thousands of Victorians to train in the housing and construction sector.

Victorians have voted with their feet with 91,200 enrolments in Fee-Free TAFE courses, over 11,400 enrolments were in the Construction sector.

The announcement comes as more than 508,000 Australians have enrolled in Fee-Free TAFE since its launch with 35,000 enrolments in the construction places across the country.

Joeys and Cubs have fun at Eumeralla Scout Camp

Marie McPadden, 1st Modewarre Scouts

Our Joey and Cub Camp was last weekend – the one that had heat, wind and rain – but that didn't deter us from having a great time.

The Joeys and Cubs arrived at Eumeralla Scout Camp 1pm on Saturday, and quickly got down to tackling the obstacles on the 'Mooch Trail', where they climbed, jumped, wobbled and balanced across a trail of 12 obstacles. Once conquered, it was time to wander down to our campsite and set up camp. The eating shelter and kitchen were erected first, so we could have some shade and organise afternoon tea. Then the Joeys and their parents set up their tents, while the Cubs built survival shelters from rope and black plastic. After another afternoon tea, everyone went off to conquer Challenge Valley, a Scout level obstacle course.



Emmett

Bush games were invented and played whilst our bbq dinner was cooked. Our

camping space was a big clearing, which, given the weather, made snake spotting easier. It also meant we could have a very small fire to cook our dessert. Each Joey and Cub found a stick to cook their marshmallows on and then squished them between 2 chocolate topped digestive biscuits, melting the chocolate, creating a Smore.



It eventually cooled down enough to go to bed, although sleep for some Cubs didn't kick in for quite some time!

We were up around 6am on Sunday. The heat had gone, but rain was threatening.

After a good breakfast of cereal and pancakes, everyone pitched in to pack up camp. We all then went up to the initiative course which is based on team challenges. Again – climbing, pushing, pulling, wobbling, zipping, swinging – all great fun. The Joeys went home straight after morning tea, while the Cubs prepared for a hike from camp out to Point Addis. Fortunately, the rain mostly held off and they enjoyed their hike through the bush out onto and along the Point Addis beach.

While we were at Eumeralla, four of our Scouts and a Leader headed off to Elmore for the annual Statewide Gilweroo activity camp for Scout aged members. The weather here was rougher with heat, wild wind and forecast thunder storms. The Scouts enjoyed the weekend and met the challenges the weather brought.

Our Group has had a busy 2024, with a huge variety of activities at all levels. Thanks go to our volunteer Leaders, helpers and committee members for their fantastic support.

For more information,
or to get involved, contact
Marie McPadden – 0409330147 or
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and the young boy eating in the photo
is

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Celebrating Victoria's very own healthcare heroes

Victoria's dedicated healthcare workers and volunteers have been recognised for their passion and dedication for helping Victorians at the annual Victorian Public Healthcare Awards.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas and Minister for Mental Health Ingrid Stitt have announced the winners of this year's awards – acknowledging the care, compassion and outstanding contributions being across Victoria's world class health system.

The awards shine a spotlight on the dedicated nurses, midwives, doctors, allied health workers, volunteers and organisations who change and save Victorian lives every day.

Each year, professionals working in the sector are invited to be judges, including previous award winners and those with specific experience or expertise.

DPVHealth took out the coveted Premier's Primary Healthcare Service of the Year Award for their services across Melbourne's northern suburbs, including mental health, children's, disability and aged care support.

Great Ocean Health won the Premier's Small Health Service of the Year Award, nominated for their approach to patient care at their Lorne and Apollo Bay campuses.

The Premier's Large Health Service of the Year Award went to Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, who have been providing specialist cancer care to Victorians for more than 70 years.

For excellence in Aboriginal health and wellbeing, The Beautiful Shawl Project came out on top, which works with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to design shawls to provide coverage during breast screens that is both culturally safe and empowering.

Across the 19 general categories, the awards celebrate innovative solutions which align with the Allan Labor Government's healthcare priorities, including care closer to home, mental health support, and care for key community groups, such as women's and Aboriginal health and wellbeing as well as LGBTIQ+ Victorians.

A complete list of this year's finalists and winners can be found at health.vic.gov.au/victorian-public-healthcare-awards.

Victorian State Government

Improving access to justice for all Victorians

Community legal services will be supported to continue their vital frontline work responding to vulnerable Victorians thanks to funding from the Victorian Government.

Attorney-General Jaclyn Symes has congratulated 23 community organisations who will share in a record investment of \$12 million from the Victorian Legal Services Board (VLSB) grants program.

The grants will help fund projects that aim to support some of the most vulnerable people in our community. These include Aboriginal communities, young people and victims of family violence.

Since 2007, the VLSB grant program has funded innovative projects supporting people with complex legal problems who struggle to access the legal help they need.

For more information on the grants program, visit www.lsb.vic.gov.au.

Victorian Electoral Commission

Reforms to Victoria's electoral laws needed to meet the growing challenges of elections

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) has today published its response to Parliament's Electoral Matters Committee (EMC) report on the conduct of the 2022 state election and calls on the Victorian government to enact significant reforms to the state's electoral laws.

In its response, the VEC supports many of the EMC's recommendations and agrees with their findings that change is needed to address the growing challenges facing election service delivery.

Electoral Commissioner Sven Bluemmel called for a holistic review of Victoria's electoral laws. 'As elections become more complex, it is crucial that our legislative framework also evolves. A modernised system will ensure our elections continue to be free, fair, secure, and representative of all voters,' Mr Bluemmel said.

'I urge the Government to adopt the recommendations from the Electoral Matters Committee and those put forward by the VEC to create a suite of reforms that will strengthen the state's electoral system,' Mr Bluemmel added.

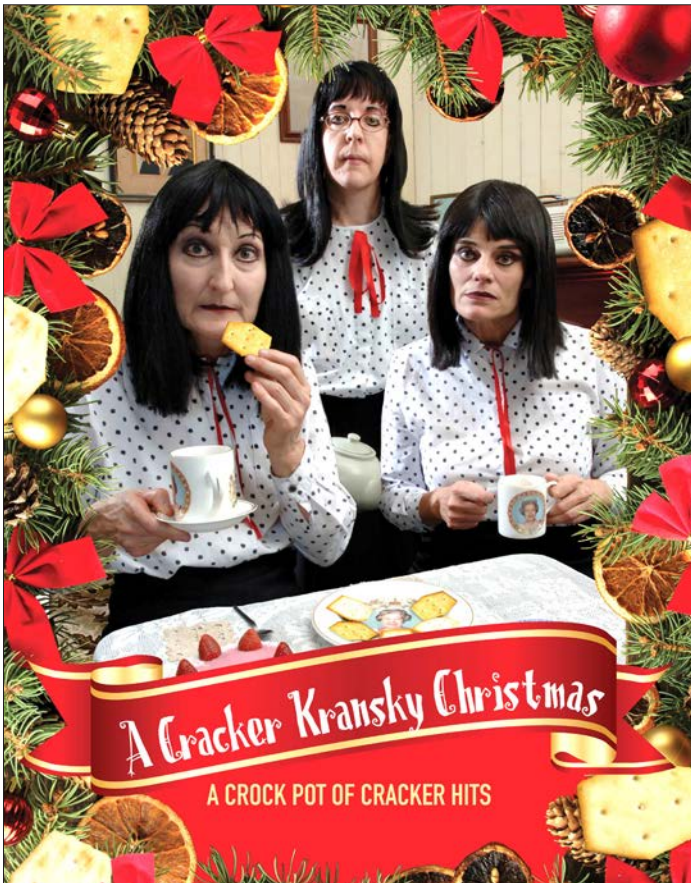
Key recommendations the VEC supports include:

- changing the election timeline to alleviate pressure points and account for the growing complexity and scale of Victorian elections
- implementing additional measures to protect the safety of all participants at election venues
- adding safeguards to protect against mis- and disinformation
- taking legislative action in response to social media companies ignoring requests from the VEC to remove inaccurate material about the electoral process from their platforms
- developing a legally enforceable code of conduct for candidates and campaigners
- expanding the use of electronic roll mark-off across the state
- reporting on how the VEC is responding to lessons learned about ballot paper shortages during the last election
- extending access to telephone assisted voting.

The Electoral Commissioner also called for consideration of the financial impact when introducing new activities.

'Our response also looks at the resourcing impact of the EMC's recommendations, as elections are not immune from rising costs, and we have included a review of the budgetary impacts of each recommendation in our response,' Mr Bluemmel said.

A copy of the VEC's response to the EMC's report on its inquiry into the conduct of the 2022 state election is available on the website at vec.vic.gov.au/EMC-response-2022-election



Crock Pot of Cracker Hits

**Pack your mince pies and Christmas spirits –
The Kransky Sisters are bringing the party back to town!**

Travelling down in the trusty Morris from their hometown of Esk, the sisters are eager to share their unravelling stories along with home spun renditions of popular songs, deftly banged out on their wondrously odd-ball menagerie of instruments.

From Britney Spears to The Spice Girls, M to AC/DC, and carols like you've never heard them before, a night with this delightfully twisted trio will more than fill your Christmas stockings.

Lost love, home remedies, an old radio, and scrub turkeys, ... the sisters share with you their adventures and misadventures alike. Complete with Tuba, toilet brush, pot, shaker and saw, reed keyboard and old guitar, this off-the-wall Christmas experience is not to be missed.

Age recommendation: 8 to 108

Review quotes:

- "One 'helluva' cracker of a show!" Australian Arts Review
- "... still one of the kookiest of Christmas parties you are ever likely to experience..." Blue Curtains Brisbane
- "... the secret to the Kransky's success is the absolute comic and musical talents of their alter egos, Annie Lee, Christine Johnston and Carolyn Johns." Stage Whispers

See them at

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Colac Otway Performing Arts & Cultural Centre

Warrnambool. 5 December. 2024

Lighthouse Theatre



Wendy Greaves becomes a Fellow Certified Practising Account FCPA

Wendy Greaves, Winchelsea Community House Manager, became a Fellow Certified Practising Accountant (FCPA) on November 15.

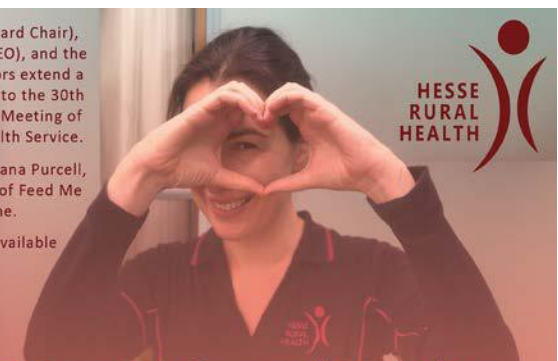
Wendy has been a member of the profession for 38 years.

This is the highest membership level through CPA Australia and means she is recognised as an expert in the field. FCPAs are renowned worldwide as having gained unparalleled experience in the field of accounting and finance.

Ian Whiting (Board Chair), Carissa Brock (CEO), and the Board of Directors extend a warm invitation to the 30th Annual General Meeting of Hesse Rural Health Service.

Guest speaker: Lana Purcell, Founder & CEO of Feed Me Bellarine.

Livestream available



2024 Annual General Meeting

DEC 11
AT 7.00PM

The Hub
70 Hopkins St, Winchelsea 3241
RSVP 9th Dec
(03) 5267 1200 or
reception@hesse.vic.gov.au

100 million reasons to travel around regional Victoria

Victorians are continuing to reap the benefits from the Victorian Government's regional fare cap, saving passengers nearly \$100 million since public transport fares were capped at the same price as the daily metro fare.

Minister for Public and Active Transport Gabrielle Williams today announced more than 37 million trips had been taken on regional trains and coaches since the fare cap commenced.

Passengers across the state have embraced farer fares, with V/Line recording its busiest day on the network last month – with 92,000 trips taken in Victoria on just one day.

To help meet increased demand, 88 new and extended weekend services will be added to the Geelong Line from December – delivering 20 minute all day frequencies between Melbourne and Waurin Ponds seven days a week.

The updated timetable, which will come into effect on Sunday, 1 December, will make services between Melbourne and Geelong the fastest and most frequent rail connection between two cities in Australia.

Passengers on the Warrnambool Line are currently enjoying the benefits of a fourth weekend service which was introduced earlier this month and VLocity trains hitting the network for the first time – delivering more modern, reliable and accessible journeys.

To learn more about regional public transport services, visit vline.com.au

Victorian State Government

Victorians to have their say on women's public artwork

The Victorian Government is calling on Victorians to help decide which women's stories they would like to see celebrated through up to six new public artworks across the state.

Minister for Women Natalie Hutchins is calling on Victorians to vote for which six stories should be told through the next round of the Victorian Women's Public Art Program.

The chosen public artworks will be funded as part of the \$1.2 million Government Community Support Fund's investment into the second round of the Victorian Women's Public Art Program.

Fewer than two per cent of close to 600 statues in Melbourne's public spaces currently represent women.

The Victorian Women's Public Art Program is addressing the underrepresentation of women artists and women in public art, along with gender stereotypes about women's achievements.

Victorians can visit Engage Victoria to see all 13 of the women's stories shortlisted by an expert panel convened by McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery.

Artworks chosen by the panel were narrowed down from a competitive pool of applications received earlier this year.

Feedback received through Engage Victoria, and advice from the expert panel, will be used to inform the Minister Hutchins' final decision. She said "As we can only choose six, I hope by opening the decision-making process to the public we can expose even more people to the stories of inspiring Victorian women who all deserve to be celebrated and remembered."

To find out more about the 13 women's stories and have your say, visit engage.vic.gov.au/womens-public-art-program.

Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare

The Centre joins call for national foster care support

The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare (the Centre) is celebrating the launch of Parliamentary Friends of Foster Carers and Children in Foster Care in Canberra today, highlighting the challenges faced by 45,000 children and young people in out-of-home care across Australia.

As the peak for child and family services in Victoria and Tasmania, the Centre has campaigned for Commonwealth support for foster carers, joining the recently created National Foster Care Sustainability Group's campaign for national support services for children and carers.

"Nationally we see a steep decline in the number of people going through the accreditation process to become foster carers, yet the demand for homes remains constant.

"Improving access to healthcare, providing therapeutic supports to children and young people, reducing the financial pressure on foster carers, and creating equitable workplace entitlements, will encourage more Australian to become foster carers and sustain the carers who are already doing an incredible job," says The Centre's CEO Deb Tsorbaris

Alongside the National Foster Care Sustainability Group, the Centre is advocating for three critical reforms:

Prioritised access to Medical and Therapeutic Support, through the introduction of a card system that ensures all children in care have better access and financial supports to essential medical, therapeutic, and developmental services.

Reducing Financial Pressure on Foster Carers, by raising the ATO tax-free threshold for foster carers, easing financial pressures and enabling higher carer allowances without tax burdens.

More Equitable Leave for Foster Carers, by adjusting the National Employment Standards to help foster carers in paid employment to start or continue fostering. Foster carers fulfil a parenting-type role but are not currently afforded the same supports. Extending these benefits to foster carers ensures an equitable home experience for children.

"Giving children loving homes with foster carers who provide stability and kindness during a very vulnerable time is vital. We know the value of foster carers is more than just economic returns. Living in a foster care home greatly improves the lives of children and their families and is important in helping to repair families and get children home," she says.

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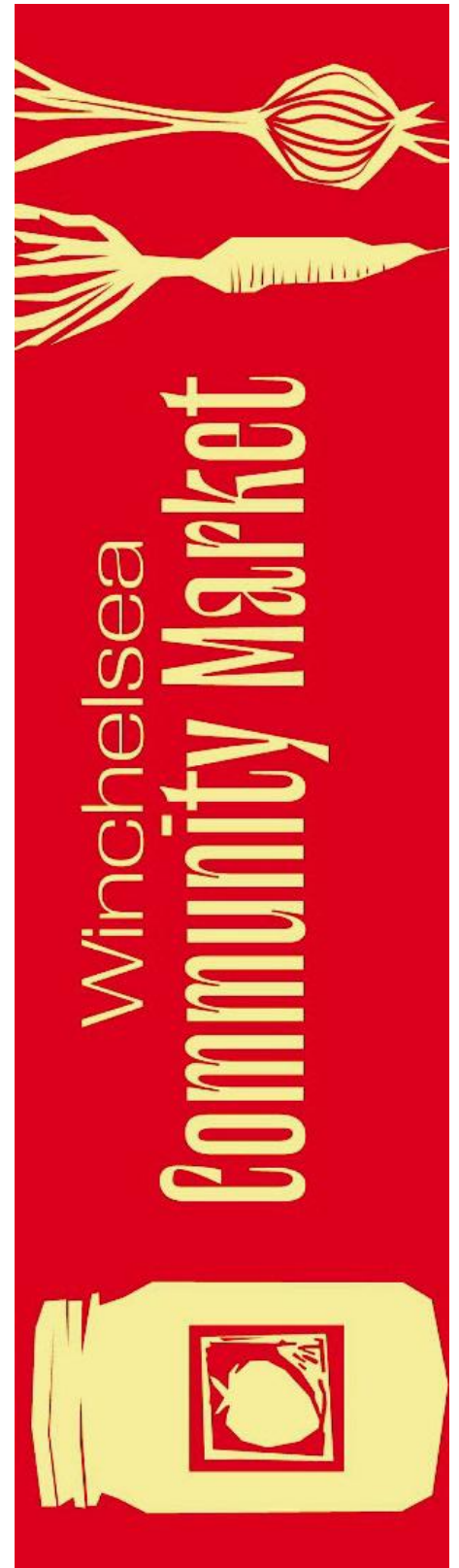
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The Climate Report

Judy Cameron

Over the past week, more than 450 researchers gathered in Hobart for the inaugural Australian Antarctic Research Conference — the first such event in more than a decade. Early career researchers have issued a joint statement titled, Making Antarctica Cool Again.

The statement warns of the potential dire consequences of global sea level rise caused by melting ice sheets.

"Nowhere on Earth is there a greater cause of uncertainty in sea level rise projections than from East Antarctica, in Australia's backyard," the statement says.

"The East Antarctic ice sheet alone holds enough water to raise global sea levels by approximately 50 metres if completely melted.

"Global warming induced shifts observed in the region are immense.

"Recent research has shown record low sea ice, extreme heatwaves exceeding 40 degrees Celsius above average temperatures, and increased instability around key ice shelves."

The statement says societies need to urgently "bend the carbon curve" by reducing greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible.

"Runaway ice loss causing rapid and catastrophic sea level rise is possible within our lifetime," it says.

"Whether such irreversible tipping points have already passed is unknown."

SOURCE: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-11-22/researchers-warn-of-possible-catastrophic-sea-level-rise/104626804?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR3gOzfFumqv14HRSQpLG71nGcGtXJf8COj90jm6MdHus5Vr8R_ZHVnhLSU_aem_S62Twwl04uUkjRvAx5b22w

The Australian Government has committed an additional \$50 million to deal with the impact of climate change. It was announced at the United Nations climate summit in Azerbaijan.

Australia is one of the key parties in Baku, co-chairing negotiations on how much rich countries — who are the biggest polluters — should pay poor countries to cope with climate change.

"Creating a fund for this purpose has always been a politically very fraught issue and the fact that money is slowly trickling in and that Australia is among the top 10 providers of funding into that facility globally is certainly a positive step and one that will be received positively in the Pacific region in particular," said Professor Frank Jotzo, the head of energy at the Institute for Climate, Energy and Disaster Solutions at the Australian National University.

But Dave Sweeney from the Australian Conservation Foundation said that while Australia was taking a leading role on moving to renewable energy domestically, it was not reducing fossil fuel exports, a major contributor to global emissions.

"On a fossil front and emissions front, the impact and the emissions are far too much. Australia is massive exporter of fossil fuels. Australian exports are driving climate chaos around the world.

"(\$50 million) is a gold coin per Australian. It's 2 bucks per Aussie and \$50 million is nowhere near commensurate with the scale of the issue or what's needed abroad, particularly in the Pacific and First Nation Indigenous Australia."

SOURCE: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-11-20/australia-50-million-commitment-deal-with-climate-change/104622454>



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My journey: From personal tragedy to business triumph

The story behind our taxi services

Stan Smith

In 2000, my life took an unexpected turn when I experienced a workplace accident that left me unable to continue driving interstate trucks. This incident forced me to reevaluate my career and consider new avenues for supporting myself. Six years later, in 2006, fate presented an opportunity that would change not only my life but also the lives of many others in my community.

One cold, wet day as I was leaving the doctor's office, I encountered Lorrain Bird, a 90-year-old lady struggling to make her way home in the rain. This sight sparked an idea: what if I could provide a small taxi service in Winchelsea, a town with no other transport options for those in need? The thought of helping people regain their independence and mobility motivated me to take the plunge.

For the first 18 months, I operated the taxi service with a single vehicle. During this time, I met a woman who used a wheelchair and lived out of town. Realizing the need for accessible transport, I purchased my first maxi van equipped with a wheelchair lift. This move marked the beginning of a more inclusive service aimed at accommodating all members of the community.

In 2011, I was approached by the owners of Bannockburn Taxis Service. After lengthy discussions and considering offers from Geelong Taxis, which only wanted to handle trips to Geelong and not local jobs, I decided to buy the entire Bannockburn Service. My decision was driven by a commitment to ensuring that the elderly and those dependent on taxis for community access were not neglected.

By December 2012, Great Ocean Taxis Service was on the brink of closing due to the ill health of its previous owners. I took over Great Ocean Road Taxis Service, determined to keep the essential transport service alive. At this stage, my phone was constantly ringing with bookings for weekly shopping trips, day programs, doctor's appointments, and trips to Tullamarine Airport. The demand was overwhelming, and I found myself questioning the wisdom of expanding so rapidly. The sleepless

nights, driving, and managing phone calls for three businesses took a toll on me. In 2013, Colac Taxis Service went into receivership, leaving the town without a taxi service, particularly for those with disabilities. My drive to fill this gap and provide necessary transport services strengthened my resolve.

In 2014, 13 Cabs approached me with a proposal to start a branch in Geelong. They offered to handle all my bookings, which seemed like a great idea. This partnership allowed me to focus more on running the business and less on the day-to-day operations of driving and booking. Combining the Geelong service with my other operations seemed to be the perfect solution.

For eight years, 13 Cabs managed my fleet of cars and maxi vans. However, relying on independent drivers gradually eroded the personal touch that had been the hallmark of my services. The personal connections with customers and the satisfaction of providing dependable, individualized service were being lost.

In 2020, our company underwent a significant transformation with a name change to Surfcoast Taxis. Since then, we have been proud to expand our fleet to 14 vehicles, including five Maxis vans, all equipped with wheelchair accessibility. This expansion reflects our commitment to providing inclusive and reliable transportation services to our community.

We are excited to announce that our call center operations are now managed by Southern Communications Network in Hobart. This partnership has allowed us to regain the personal touch in our customer service. The experienced team at Southern Communications Network handles all our bookings and dispatches them directly to our drivers, ensuring a seamless and efficient process.

Our call center also manages various accounts, including NDIS, Veteran Affairs, TAC, and more. When you make your first booking with Surfcoast Taxis, your details are securely stored in our database,

simplifying future bookings and enhancing your overall experience with us.

Introducing Our New Booking App Manage Your Bookings with Ease

We are excited to announce the launch of our new app, SMARTHAIL designed to provide you with more booking options and greater convenience. This innovative app can be downloaded to your smartphone, allowing you to manage your bookings effortlessly, track your taxi in real-time, and even process payments, should you choose to do so.

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- Download the app from the App Store or Google Play.
- Create an account or log in with your existing credentials.
- Start managing your bookings, tracking your taxis, and making payments with ease.

We hope that our new app enhances your overall experience and provides you with the flexibility and control you need. Thank you for choosing our service, and we look forward to serving you better through this exciting new platform.

At Surfcoast Taxis, we pride ourselves on our team of carefully handpicked drivers. Each driver is not only skilled but also dedicated to providing caring and professional service. This commitment to excellence ensures that we continue to deliver personalized service to our customers while covering the Surfcoast, Golden Plains, and Greater Geelong areas.





With our expanded fleet, dedicated call centre, and exceptional drivers, Surfcoast Taxis is well-equipped to meet the transportation needs of our community. We look forward to serving you and making your journey with us a pleasant and memorable one.

Reflecting on this journey, I am proud of what has been achieved. From a single idea sparked by a rainy encounter, my business has grown to serve multiple communities, providing essential transport services and ensuring accessibility for all. Despite the challenges and sleepless nights, the mission to help people regain their independence and maintain their connection to the community remains at the heart of everything we do.

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As we move forward, the goal is to balance growth with the personal service that our customers have come to rely on. By learning from past experiences and continuously adapting, I am confident that we can maintain the essence of our service while expanding our reach and impact.

My story is one of resilience, adaptability, and a steadfast commitment to community service. It is a testament to the difference one person can make when they see a

need and take action to address it. As we continue this journey, my hope is to inspire others to find their own ways to contribute positively to their communities, no matter the challenges they face.

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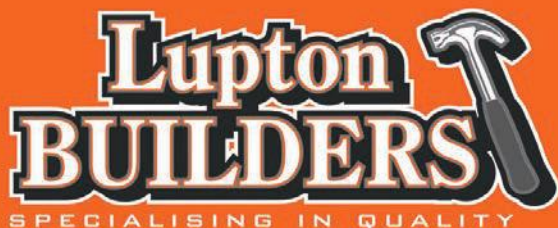
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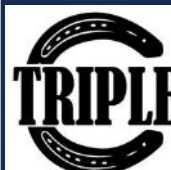
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23 November 2024

Trebeck Reserve, Winchelsea



Neil McInnes

34 participants completed the course through Trebeck Reserve in hot conditions this week. 2 people completed their first ever parkrun. We had visitors from Echuca-Moama and Berwick Springs.

Three people recorded their personal best time for Trebeck Reserve. Congratulations to Catherine MacGregor, Angela Hurren and Kingsley Gould. Well done everyone who walked, ran or volunteered.

This event was made possible by the following volunteers: Don Smith * Kate McInnes * Ann Morsby * David Woodall * Helen Woodall * Kristen Czerkiewicz.

Further details of this week's results can be found at trebeckreserveparkrun.com.au/results. Please check out our Facebook page for today's photos and further information.

It takes a minimum of six people each week to safely conduct an enjoyable event. Please email trebeckreserve@parkrun.com if you are able to volunteer some of your time. Tasks are simple, sociable, fun and very much appreciated.

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

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

You do not need to be a runner, wear fancy Lycra or the latest high-tech shoes. Around one third of participants walk the course. parkrun was conducted at 495 locations across Australia this week.

Victorian State Government

Great Outdoors Taskforce consultation opens

The Victorian Government want more people to get out and explore the great outdoors, with the opening of consultation by the Great Outdoors Taskforce.

The State Government established the Great Outdoors Taskforce earlier this year, to consult with the Victorian community and provide recommendations to government on the management of state forests in Gippsland, East Gippsland and the North East.

This is a landmark opportunity to open up 1.8 million hectares of Victoria's native forests that were formerly used for native timber harvesting, with new opportunities for recreation and tourism, while also ensuring we protect the things Victorians love about the bush.

The Great Outdoors Taskforce will ensure options for future uses and care of the forest are explored, including protecting the

unique things that Victorians love most about the environment while also maximising recreational opportunities.

The Taskforce will not be making any recommendation for large-scale changes to land tenure.

There is already so much to explore in Victoria, with Free Camping this summer, 31 new and 60 upgraded campgrounds, as well as 155 upgraded four-wheel drive tracks, and 16 walking tracks totalling 31 kilometres recently completed as part of a \$106.6 million investment in Victoria's Great Outdoors.

The consultation is open until 12 January 2025, to have your say visit engage.vic.gov.au/the-future-of-state-forests.

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The Winchelsea Lions Club has compiled a list of public access defibrillators in Winchelsea. If anyone knows any others with 24 hour public access, please let Linda Carter know 0439 817 263.

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33 Willis Street

Bendigo Bank

11 Main Street

Side Entrance, Globe Theatre

17 Willis Street

Hesse Rural Health

8 Gosney Street

Men's Shed

51 Hesse Street

Netball Courts

Eastern Reserve Hopkins St

Senior Citizens

36 Harding Street

Uniting Church

33 Hesse Street

Winchelsea Bowls Club

Hesse St,

Winchelsea Golf Club

13 Anderson Street

Winchelsea Primary School,

Main Street

Wurdale Memorial Hall

220 Wurdale Road

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

