

Winchelsea Star

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winchelseastar.org.au

Lots of fun last Saturday! Lions Club Free Picnic for Winchelsea youngsters

More photos page 3



Sasha Gauntlett
peddling up
a smoothie

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FAIR

St Thomas Anglican Church
33 Barwon Terrace Winchelsea
7th March - 9am-3pm

- Car Boot Sale Site \$20
- Suitcase Site \$15
- Book Fair • Sausage Sizzle
- Devonshire Tea

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Linda Carter Story and Photos

The Lions Club picnic day for the kids was a great success.

Over 80 under twelves and their parents attended. Some of the attractions were, a fun farm, Torquay Lions Club train, thanks to Alan Osman. Lions chuck Wagon, Coffee Float, Face Painting, Crazy Hair thanks to Sue and the Girl Guides, the Hesse Smoothie Bike many thanks Kate and Maureen, CFA and SES, our Deputy Mayor Tony moonlighting as a DJ.

Each child received a free box of goodies containing a drink, bag of chips, bag of lollies, Kit Kat, small Lions cake and a free ticket

for a sausage in bread and an ice cream. The weather smiled on us although a bit humid. This was a first for the Lions Club whose purpose is to give back to the community and if successful could become an annual event.

Many thank to all those involved and for the kind donations. Kylie and Amanda at Cozy Crumb Cafe for the lollies, Bulla for the ice cream, IGA, Winchelsea SES and CFA, Hesse Health and a big thank you to Winchelsea Primary School and staff especially Jen who handled all the bookings.



Torquay Lions train



Girl guides



Face painting



Petting Zoo



Lions chuck wagon



Our Deputy Mayor moonlighting as a DJ



Maureen, Colleen and Kate



The Star's Advertising Manager making a smoothie



Raymond and Anne handing out goodie boxes



Winchelsea Pool makes a splash in first full summer season

Surf Coast Shire

Community members of all ages have flocked to Winchelsea's new pool during its first full summer. Vicswim and busy exercise classes, action-packed school carnivals, a spectacularly popular new splash park and a new temperature threshold for opening days rank among season highlights.

Season attendance since opening in late November has topped 7,000, with the highest single day attendance of 352 recorded on 29 December.

Surf Coast Shire Council fully funded \$8.9 million redevelopment of the Barwon Terrace pool site, including a new 25m pool, leisure pool, pavilion, plant room, shelters and splash park.

Deputy Mayor Tony Phelps said the big debut season attendance fittingly endorsed a new era for the much-loved community asset. "It has been wonderful to see so many people enjoying the pool, whether to just cool off, swim some laps, participate in the programs or relax and have fun with the family," Cr Phelps said.

"Thanks to Winchelsea community for supporting the opening season so strongly, and to Hesse Rural Health for having organised the water aerobics classes – they had to increase the frequency to meet demand. Water aerobics classes recorded 127 participants and swimming lessons recorded 1,495 participants.

"And the community called for a splash park during our consultation. Kids have certainly demonstrated how much they love that. What a hit it has proven to be!"

Colac Veterinary Clinic

Tom Loughnan

"For pet owners and farmers in and around Winchelsea, quality veterinary care is closer than you might think. Colac Vet Clinic - a full-service mixed practice with a team of seven experienced vets - has been serving the local community for decades, and runs a dedicated branch right here in town, bringing professional animal health services to our door.

The Winchelsea branch operates consultations twice a week: Mondays 2–5pm and Thursdays 12–2pm. Four of Colac Vet Clinic's vets rotate through the branch, ensuring familiar, consistent care for your animals without the need to travel to Colac for every visit.



Sally in our Winchelsea Branch with her dog Gus
But the service doesn't stop at the consulting room door. Following Thursday's consultations, the team heads out into the paddocks, conducting farm visits across Winchelsea district. Whether it's routine herd health, livestock emergencies, or production animal



Water aerobics in the Winchelsea Pool
Image: Hesse Rural Health

The pool was also booked for private sessions by community group including guides and scouts.

The 2025-26 summer season opened in late November and will close on 9 March at the end of the Labour Day long weekend.

Council introduced a 21-degree temperature threshold for the pool's opening hours in response to community feedback, allowing for staff hours to be reallocated for extended opening on hotter days, weekends and public holidays.

Attendance revenue is estimated to fund about half of the total operating costs of the pool.

care, local farmers have access to experienced large-animal veterinary support right on their doorstep.

Whilst bookings are required for consultations, locals are always welcome to come by and see Sally on reception during opening hours - to make an appointment, pop your pet on the scales for a quick weight check, or pick up worm and flea treatments.

For surgery, hospitalization or more involved medical workups, the Colac clinic is where the magic happens. The practice recently moved into a brand new, purpose-built facility - spacious, modern and thoughtfully designed with patient flow in mind. Separate waiting areas for dogs and cats make for a calmer, more comfortable experience, and the polished, professional environment reflects the high standard of care on offer. Importantly, the new building hasn't changed what makes Colac Vet Clinic special - that genuine country warmth and the relationships built with clients and their animals over many years remain very much at the heart of everything they do.

As a mixed practice, Colac Vet Clinic is equally at home treating a much-loved family pet as it is managing the health of a working farm. That breadth of expertise, backed by decades of experience and a wonderful new facility, is a genuine asset to our community.

If you haven't yet connected with the Winchelsea branch, the team would love to meet you and your animals. For appointments or enquiries, reach out to Colac Vet Clinic directly."



Winchelsea Branch
By Appointment:
Monday 2-5pm Thursday 11-3pm
40 Main Street Winchelsea
5232 1792 www.colacvet.com.au



Winchelsea Community Market

Sunday 1 March 2026

Alice Cloake

The crowd was light but consistent, much like the rain that kept us company at this weekend's market. Despite the drips there was a steady flow of market goers and plenty of stalls to keep us occupied.

Notably, the Men's Shed barbecue was taking in a roaring trade, having to dash out mid morning for more supplies, as was Bacús Beagh, a little but impressive bake stand that had everyone talking (more on them later).

It was great to see the usual sellers and a couple of new ones including a kids stall with 3D printed Pokemon Toys - they will be there at the next market too if you missed out!

I especially loved meeting and greeting all the beautiful dogs who come past for a Sunday stroll. Pictured is the gorgeous Irish Wolfhound Hermes, what a gorgeous boy!



Hermes, the Irish Wolfhound



Gotta catch 'em all, how cool are these 3D printed Pokemon balls!



Spotlight on Bacús Beagh

Newish to the Winchelsea Markets, E batch bake stand run by an Irish (Ciarán) and his Aussie wife.

"Bácús" I discovered via Google (pronounced baw-kooss) is the Irish word for bakery or bakehouse.

Ciarán has a fantastic story, originally a bricklayer, he started baking his Mum's Irish Soda Bread (fruit loaf) in COVID while living in Cork, he then tried his hand at a croissant, gradually building up his repertoire.

Now he's a legit baker with an impressive spread of delicacies and Winchelsea is lucky enough to benefit from Ciarán's passions.

I saw many people carrying a tray from Bacús Beagh, and heard many more people talking about them. At the stand you can choose from Lemon Tart's, Blondies, Salted Caramel Tarts, Hot Cross Bun's and so much more, but the most popular seemed to be the Salted Caramel Mini Bun (pictured).

Keep an eye out for them next month at the Easter Market and don't wait around to purchase your goods, I have a sneaky feeling they won't be struggling for a sale!



Salted Caramel Mini Bun from Bacús Beagh



Bacús Beagh small batch bakes.



BACK TO BACK 2026



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0428 403 784
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March 28th	August 29th
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June 27th	November 28th

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Have you thought about joining the local Movie Club?

Winchelsea Movie Club enters its ninth year of bringing affordable, entertaining movies monthly to the Globe theatre.

Membership is essential -

10 screenings annually - \$70 Conc \$65
5 screenings Autumn /Spring seasons
- \$40 Conc \$35

Movie List for 2026

19.2.2026 The Castle
19.3.2026 Tina
16.4.2026 One Life
21.5.2026 Roofman
18.6.2026 Gifted Hands
BREAK
20.8.2026 Rachael's Farm
17.9.2026 The Book Thief
15.10.2026 Mr Burton
19.11.2026 My Favorite Cake
10.12.26 Thelma

WHEN -

Movies will be shown third Thursday
of each month (except July) at 7.30
Come early.

WHERE -

The Globe Theatre
17-19 Willis Street Winchelsea
Opp Winchelsea Tavern (Top Pub)

Membership can be paid by CASH on the first night February 19th or by direct debit to bank account.

Enquiries re bank account details to email - movies@growingwinchelsea.com
Jenny 0409672054 Sue 0413487915

Further information about the Movie Club - www.growingwinchelsea.com





Zinaida Campion

To share your stories and inspire the community, please contact Zinaida. 0428 403 784 zinaidacampion@gmail.com

Winchelsea to shine during Surf Coast Arts Trail Weekend

Well hello Winchelsea! These are exciting times for the artistic development of our town. The other week I was privileged to attend the arts development meeting held at the Winchelsea Tavern, convened by Elaine Atkinson and attended by a number of artists and movers and shakers. The main purpose of the meeting was to plan for Winchelsea's involvement in the Surf Coast Arts Trail.

This organised approach will be a landmark achievement, putting our town and local artists well and truly on the map, and boosting our businesses through all the tourist traffic. I'm very excited and honoured to be a part of it!

Ciao!

By Elaine Atkinson

Winchelsea is set to take centre stage during this year's Surf Coast Arts Trail, with an exciting program of exhibitions, performances and community showcases designed to celebrate local talent and encourage visitors to extend their stay in the region. At a recent meeting of key stakeholders, a collaborative vision was confirmed to strengthen Winchelsea's contribution to the Arts Trail weekend in August – an event that attracts more than 15,000 participants across the shire, including many visitors from outside the region.

Showcasing Local Visual Artists

The Riverlee Artists Collective will stage a major exhibition at the historic Shire Hall, highlighting the depth and diversity of local artistic talent. The exhibition will provide a central hub for visitors to experience and purchase works by Winchelsea and district artists.

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



Premier Cultural Event at Barwon Park Mansion

A highlight of the program will be premier event at the Barwon Park Mansion, held in conjunction with the Gilson Family Indigenous Art Exhibition, on display from late April through to September. On Saturday 1 August 2026, the mansion will host a special Indigenous performance, complemented by curated food and wine experiences coordinated by Zinaida Campion, Rural Arts Victoria. This event will form part of the Winchelsea Music Season, creating a unique cultural experience that blends visual arts, performance, heritage and hospitality.

Arts Trail After Hours

Local performers will also take part in "Arts Trail After Hours", with a series of gigs across town venues, offering visitors the opportunity to enjoy music and entertainment beyond the gallery hours and further encouraging overnight stays.

Inspiring the Next Generation

The Winchelsea Primary School will play an important role in the Arts Trail, with students undertaking a themed arts project as part of their curriculum. Their work will be showcased during the weekend, celebrating young creativity and strengthening community involvement in the arts.

Building Cultural and Economic Impact

With thousands of visitors expected across the Surf Coast Shire, Winchelsea aims to capitalise on the increased visitation to support local artists, businesses and the broader community. The expanded program is designed not only to celebrate creativity, but also to boost tourism, hospitality and retail activity within the town.

Further program details and event times will be released in the lead up to the Arts Trail weekend.

To register your event <https://au.openforms.com/Form/df3b1784-e62b-44dc-9e4f-f48063a49a20?2026>



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You may be contacted by an independent researcher during February/March as part of the 2026 Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

The annual survey, commissioned by the state government, will ask for your perceptions of Council's performance.

Interviews are via phone and online. You'll be asked for basic demographic information, but not personal details such as name and address.

For more information please call 5261 0600.



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STEWART

15 Murrell Street, Winchelsea 5231 5400



Alice Cloake

This is a place for passionate foodies.

Here we celebrate local produce, seasonal ingredients, simple yet remarkable recipes we've tried, tested and loved.



If you have a recipe you'd like to share, a local product to shout out or a suggestion for an upcoming ingredient of the month - we'd love to hear from you.

Email editor@winchelsea.org.au.

MARCH

Ingredient of the Month

Zucchini



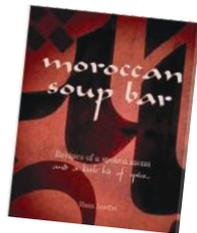
Zucchini's I find are quite a divisive vegetable. Despite what I would describe as a passive flavour profile, they seem to get a bad wrap. We are frequently in abundance of Zucchini's in our home - we get a fortnightly veggie box from Farmer's Pick (they deliver produce diverted from waste) and we can't choose what we get - so I've made it a bit of a mission to find ways to celebrate this vegetable and win over my partner, an avid Zucchini skeptic. I am pleased to report success in this area, so if you too are someone on the fence about this fantastic veggie, I dare you to try some of these recipes and see if I can't change your mind.

Recipes of the Week

7 Vegetable Couscous

One of my most used cookbooks on the shelf happens to be from one of my favourite places to eat out in Melbourne - **Moroccan Soup Bar**. A place of large tables and bright walls, mosaics and glass lanterns, you have two options when you dine there - the large banquette or the small. If you choose the large, you are encouraged to bring your own Tupperware container as you're sure to need it. The restaurant is vegetarian and I've never met an adult who's come out the other side with either a complaint or with any room left in their stomach. It's the culinary experience you dream of, homely, filling, and so incredibly delicious.

This recipe comes from their book **The Moroccan Soup Bar Recipes of a Spoken Menu and a Little Bit of Spice** by Hana Assafiri. It is the best recipe to use if you have a lot of veggies to use up, or you want to batch cook something wholesome that will carry you through the week. It can be served as a side to lamb or enjoyed on its own. We tend to think it's at its best on the second day. Don't be put off by the list of ingredients, I ad lib quite a bit when cooking this depending on what I have available.



Ingredients

- 2 red capsicums
- 1 green capsicum
- 2 large carrots
- 2 zucchinis
- 2 sweet potatoes

- 4 potatoes
- ½ small cabbage
- 2 medium eggplants
- 1 large onion
- 3 cloves garlic, mashed
- ½ bunch coriander
- ½ bunch parsley
- ⅓ cup olive oil
- 6 tomatoes, peeled
- 3 tbsp tomato paste
- 12 green olives coriander leaves, to garnish
- parsley leaves, to garnish
- ½ cup currants (optional)
- 1 tbsp brown sugar or honey (optional)

Spices

- 1 fresh chilli
- 1 tbsp smoked sweet paprika
- 1 tbsp ras al hanout (see recipe)
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp coriander
- ½ tsp turmeric salt, to taste
- ½ tsp cinnamon (optional)

Method

1. De-seed the capsicum, wash all the vegetables and chop into chunks, leaving aside the tomatoes.
2. In a pan over medium heat, sauté the onions, garlic, coriander, parsley and chilli in the olive oil.
3. Add the spices and sauté for a minute or two. Add tomatoes to the saucepan, stirring for about a minute.
4. Add the vegetables and toss until coated. Remember to put the harder vegetables in the pan first, and the softer vegetables, such as the cabbage, last.
5. In a bowl, mix the tomato paste with water until it's diluted enough to cover a quarter of the pan, or the bottom of a saucepan. Pour over the vegetables and mix. Add this mixture to a heavy based saucepan.
6. Add the olives and bring to the boil.
7. Once boiled, turn down to low heat for 45 minutes, occasionally tossing the contents and checking the liquid doesn't dry up. Taste for salt, adding more if required.
8. Serve on a bed of fluffy couscous.
9. Garnish with coriander and parsley leaves.

Hana's tip To include the optional ingredients, in a separate pan add the onions, currants, cinnamon, and brown sugar or honey. Sauté and allow to caramelize on low heat, until the currants are rehydrated and the flavours are integrated. These can then be added to the seven vegetables for a sweeter taste prior to turning down to a simmer.



The Otways Distillery is officially open in Birregurra!

Alice Cloake

I've been waiting for this moment for over a year, but Sal (owner of Otways Distillery) has been waiting for three and a half!

The Otways Distillery is officially open and serving up their house made spirits at 47 Main Street Birregurra.

Inside their doors is a welcoming space where you can pull up a seat for a knock off drink, book out a table for a group celebration or sulk into their cosy lounge room for a special occasion.

We should be beyond thrilled to neighbour the Distillery as it's sure to bring in its own crowds of custom. So let's raise a glass to Sal and all her hard work in bringing this fun space to life for us all to enjoy.

P.S. If you struggle with the choice, can I suggest the Dog Lovers Gin. A personal favourite, not just for its flavour profile, but also because a percentage of the bottle purchase goes towards One at a Time Pet Rescue



Fire Danger Period NOW

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

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

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

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

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

Find the rules at: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-permits/about-fire-permits>



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Community groups seek clarity on Bus Subsidy Program

Elaine Atkinson



Representatives from several local community organisations met on 24 February 2026 at the Senior Citizens Centre to discuss Council's recent response regarding the Bus Subsidy Program.

Attendees included representatives from Winchelsea & District Probus, Winchelsea Men's Shed, Winch House, and Winchelsea Senior Citizens. Members expressed disappointment at the outcome of Council's response, particularly in light of ongoing financial pressures faced by community groups when organising transport for outings and activities.

Concerns were raised about:

- The administrative complexity of the reimbursement process,
- The financial burden created by the requirement to pay commercial operators upfront,
- The high and increasing cost of bus hire.

The group has formally written to Council seeking clarification on:

- The annual program budget,
- Current expenditure levels,
- Reimbursement time frames,
- Whether funds may be exhausted before 30 June 2027, and
- The status of previously committed insurance and maintenance funding.



Maureen King, Lorraine Stubbs (Probus), Wendy Greaves, Ray King (Men's Shed), Front Margaret Reid, Heather Wainright (Probus)

Community organisations emphasised that access to affordable transport is essential in supporting social connection, inclusion, and wellbeing for local seniors and community members.

The groups look forward to constructive engagement with Council and will continue to keep the community informed of progress.

For further information, please contact:

Elaine Atkinson
Senior Citizens Centre
0458009616
eatkinson048@gmail.com



LANDCARE MONTHLY WORKING BEES ARE BACK.

Saturday March 7th 9am

Meet at Guye Reserve, Barwon Terrace

Held on the first Saturday each month for several years with most sessions at one of the two sites the group has cleared and planted over the past 25 years.

This month there will be the river water testing for the CCMA as a citizen science project plus weed removal along the riverbank. The picture shows the barrowful of weeds removed at the February working bee. Mostly blackberry, it is easy to remove when plants are small and the old farmers adage 'One year's seeding gives seven years weeding'.

All community members are welcome to come along and give a hand to help keep the riverbanks free of prickly invasive weeds such as blackberry, hawthorn and gorse.



Used with permission of Gary Clark, Swamp Cartoons
Cartoon Books available online: swamp.com.au

Winchelsea Star

This week's Edition

Editor Yvonne Stevens Designer Susan Corby

send your stories

news@winchelseastar.org.au

LOCAL NEWS and ARTICLES WELCOME

Email news@winchelseastar.org.au
or leave hard copy at IGA supermarket

News Deadline

5pm Fridays

4pm Sundays - hard copy left at IGA

6pm Sundays - sports results and
weekend events

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Next Production Coffee Meeting Sat 28 March 9am @ SWEET THYME All Welcome - come enjoy

production

Editors: Carrie Forgan, Yvonne Stevens, Judy Cameron

Advertising: Sasha Gauntlett, Neil McInnes

Design: Susan Corby, Tony Phelps

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Winchelsea Community House

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Cathy Cheadle

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Tony Phelps

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Sasha Gauntlett, Judy Cameron,
Yvonne Stevens, Carrie Forgan



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Winchelsea Star or Committee. The Winchelsea
Star reserves the right to edit or not publish any
article.
Vectors Freepik.com



Star Production Coffee Meeting

Saturday 28 February 2026

Attendance: Susan Corby, Alice Cloake, Judy Cameron,
Cathy Cheadle, Zinaida Campion
Apologies: Carrie Forgan, Cromwell Forganssen

Everyone was generally very pleased that Star is full of all the
many different things happening in Winchelsea lately.

Alice called in at the Men's Shed recently and was amazed at all
the different jobs they do. It would be good to get regular articles
about what's happening with them and also learn more about the
Community Garden they run. Alice to follow up.

Projects for the year:

Appearance of the cover – a suggestion to flag interesting
content in the issue on the cover

Banner needs a new look – a suggestion about modernizing
the font and swapping out the rabbit

Price - a suggestion to ask readers about increasing to \$2.
The price represents the value of the work put into it

Suggestions for articles:

Garden competition – many of the front gardens around town look
really nice and we could run a fun competition in Spring. There
could be different categories eg most colourful. Prizes could be
money or vouchers.

Kids' Corner – It would be great to have a special column for
children. Judy to follow up with School Principal about getting
content from the children.

International Women's Day - Zinaida is happy to attend and write
an article. Judy will follow up with the organiser Linnet.
Cathy will order a name tag for her to represent the Star at events
like these.

Zinaida asked for feedback for her Arts Rural column. Assured
how enjoyable her articles are each week. We agreed all the
columns are interesting and each one is different to the others.
The history column is well researched and very popular.

Zinaida also spoke about the upcoming Winchelsea Music
Season, a series of concerts between March and November in the
Globe Theatre. She mentioned the Globe would be improved by
having a piano, and carpet to improve acoustics. Star is happy to
promote the concerts. Zinaida will send Susan more information.

*Suggestion to move the meetings back to Sweet Thyme from
next month, as a lot of people pass through there on Saturdays
and we'd love them to join in our Star conversations. Everyone is
welcome and we really appreciate ideas and suggestions.*



Winchelsea Star COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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

WINCHELSEA OP SHOP

The Op Shop cannot accept donations of these articles at the moment; DVDs, CDs, books, hiking bags, backpacks, duffel bags, suitcases, and cases.

GARAGE SALE 48 ARMYTAGE ST

7 MARCH 9AM - 5PM

Building material, power tools, large ladies clothing, ladies shoes, outdoor rocking chairs, fridge, odd furniture, free stuff

RSL MEETINGS

RSL meetings will again be held at the back of the Eastern Reserve grandstand. Repairs have been completed so back to the old meeting place.

LARGE BAGS OF PINE CONES FOR FIRE PITS \$5

Winchelsea Lions Club
Contact Ray 0406 371 239

WINCHELSEA PICKLEBALL

Wednesdays 7pm at Winchelsea Leisure Time Centre! \$5 All equipment supplied
Wear suitable footwear
Lesley Mathison 0438 672 197

WINCHELSEA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the Society rooms (Hesse Street)
Wednesday March 11th, 1.30pm.
All welcome.
Margaret Reid, Secretary

WINCHELSEA TENNIS CLUB

JUNIOR COACHING
Mon 3.30pm \$10
with experienced coach Nicole Mullen

FOR SALE RAM

\$370.00 OBO
Contact Trevor 0410 165 346

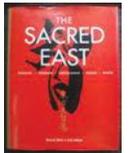
1ST MODEWARRE SCOUT GROUP

We have exciting programs for Joeys, Cubs and Scouts this year.
We have vacancies at Joey and Cub levels, and plenty of room at Scouts.
Group Leader Marie McPadden
0409 330 147

BOOKS FOR SALE

Best offer - funds to go to Wurdale CFA.
Contact Judy 5288 7005 to make offers and view the book before purchasing.

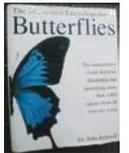
THE SACRED EAST
An illustrated guide to Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Shinto. Hard cover, 176 pages in good condition.



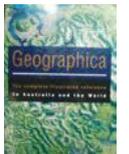
THE LIFE BRIAN by Monty. Includes the script and photographs from the movie. Soft cover, fair condition.



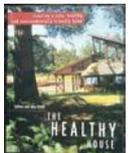
The Illustrated Encyclopedia of BUTTERFLIES. Hard cover, 288 pages in good condition



GEOGRAPHICA.
An illustrated atlas that includes detailed profiles and statistics for every country. Hard cover, 630 pages, fair condition



THE HEALTHY HOUSE
How to create a safe, health and environmentally friendly home. You can put a stop to pollution in your surroundings. Soft cover, 250 pages, good condition



Blaze Aid Volunteers needed

Out of the Ashes

BlazeAid was established in 2009 by Kevin and Rhonda Butler after the Black Saturday bushfires. They had approximately 3 kilometres of fencing burnt on their property, allowing hundreds of sheep to get out onto the roads, causing a traffic hazard and impeding fire trucks and other emergency service vehicles from continuing their response to the fires.

The repairs to their fences were expected to have taken the Butlers around 3 to 4 months, however, Kevin put an advert in the local paper requesting assistance. He had a wonderful response from the community, with around 25 volunteers

coming to help, and the fences were rebuilt within a week.

It was Rhonda's idea to pay the favour forward, saying, "We have had help, now let's give our neighbours a hand too."

Seen on Winchelsea CFA Facebook page
"So many people have often said, I wish there was something we could do to help with the fires. Well here is your chance to make a difference. BlazeAid are looking for people to help rebuild communities. They are very short on volunteers for the Gellibrand fires.

If you have the time please help. This is just as important as us putting the fire out."
Kaylene

Camp Address:

Echidna House and Kawarren Reserve
2 Kawarren East Road Kawarren 3249
Enquiries: Debbie Buttler 0418 990 267
Email: Gellibrand@blazeaid.com.au

VOLUNTEERS: Volunteers can register now. <https://blazeaid.com.au/register-volunteer-form>

Other camps urgently needing more volunteers are Longwood, Alexandra, Bullioh and Walwa.

Volunteers must bring their own camping/bedding.

Those with camp experience and/or fencing experience, especially team leaders, would be very helpful.

Anzac Day Commemorations 2026

Graham Kenafacke

The RSL would like the following information placed in the next available editions of the Star.

This year as part of our Anzac Day commemorations, the RSL has gained approval to place flags at the Winchelsea Cemetery on the graves/memorials of the veterans interred there.



To date, the RSL has identified approximately applicable 150 sites. It is intended that the flags will be placed the week preceding Anzac Day and removed during the week after.

We would ask the community to contact us if they have any relative interred at the cemetery that has served to ensure we have identified the veteran for inclusion in the project.

This commemoration is in addition to our normal ANZAC Day service on the 25th April, starting at 10.30 at the Winchelsea Memorial Grandstand, Eastern reserve followed by light refreshments at the Hub.

Graham Kenafacke, President. Winchelsea RSL
0448 339 003 1955grakena@gmail.com

Stitch it, don't ditch it

Winchelsea Craft Group

This week a quilt top was finished that has been approximately 10 years in the making.

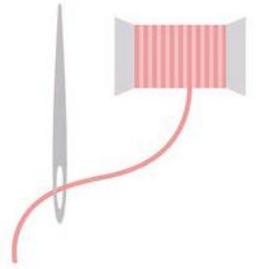
Kathleen Clyne, who passed away last year left a hexagon quilt unfinished, the Winchelsea Craft Group completed it this week and it's now on display at the Winchelsea Community House.

It is based on a pattern by Linda White who won The Victorian Quilter Challenge in 2011. Linda's quilt is shaped like a hexagon but Kathleen decided to square the quilt off, requiring a lot more hexagons and many more hours of work.

Each hexagon is 1/4" (6.35 millimetres) and the quilt contains approx. 21,500 hexagons, over 1,300 hours and 500,000 stitches.

The quilt will be on display for the next couple of weeks at the Winchelsea Community House, please call in (between 9 and 2 Monday to Friday) to see how beautiful it is.

Kathleen was very gifted in all forms of craft work and we have all benefited from her knowledge and also from her sewing machines and materials donated by her family for use by the community.



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Winchelsea
Community Market
First Sunday on the Month (except November)
Shire Hall
9am to 1pm

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

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

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

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**

PAPER RECYCLING

Paper depot rear of Senior Citizens Rooms
Harding Street
NEWSPAPERS MAGAZINES PHONE BOOKS

All money raised used for local community
4224 0226

Growing Winchelsea Inc

Report from first get together/meeting of the year

Secretary, Growing Winchelsea



Growing Winchelsea was absolutely delighted to welcome around 35 community members to our first gathering of the year at the beautiful Winchelsea Railway Station. Following our recent invitations in the Winchelsea Star, it was heartening to see such a strong turnout and especially lovely to meet a number of new residents. We extend a very warm welcome to you all and hope your time in Winchelsea is filled with connection, opportunity and the wonderful sense of belonging our town is known for.

The evening began with an informative tour hosted by our dedicated Stationeers group, who generously shared insights into the extensive work being undertaken to care for and enhance our much-loved station precinct. Their pride and commitment to preserving this important community asset was evident and greatly appreciated by all who attended.

We then gathered on the platform for an informal meeting, where Station Managers Gerard and Lizzie provided a comprehensive update on recent improvements. These include upgraded staff facilities and a refreshed kitchen area, enhancing comfort and functionality for the team who keep our station running smoothly.

They also announced that the Myki ticketing system will soon be installed on our platform. We sincerely thank Gerard and Lizzie for taking the time to attend and for their continued support of our community.

Turning to Growing Winchelsea business, Richard, Jane, Michelle and Perlita outlined our refreshed and contemporary meeting format. This new approach will place a strong focus on celebrating the people, places and groups that make Winchelsea such a vibrant and caring community, while continuing to advocate strongly on behalf of the township. Throughout the year, we will host informal chat sessions and networking opportunities to gather ideas and feedback directly from residents.

Our strategic framework centres on four key pillars: Liveability, Economy, Environment and Connectivity, which align closely with the seven key principles of the forthcoming Winchelsea Place



Plan. (to be ratified at the March council meeting). This year Surf Coast Shire will utilize the Place Plan to develop the most important document for Winchelsea, our Future Strategy Plan, a vital document guiding Winchelsea's growth toward a population of 18,500. Growing Winchelsea is committed to being actively involved in shaping that future.

Following the one-hour meeting, many stayed on for drinks, nibbles and warm conversation. We are thrilled to welcome three prospective committee members and around a dozen new general members, adding to our 150+ membership base.

Once our new committee members are inducted, we will introduce your new Growing Winchelsea committee, and announce our next meeting and as always, everyone is warmly invited to attend and be part of Winchelsea's exciting journey ahead.

Email: secretary@growingwinchelsea.com

Website: www.growingwinchelsea.com

ABN: 94 639 315 541



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history of winchelsea

Winchelsea Church of England School

The Church of England conducted the first Winchelsea school on 25th of September 1854 known as Common School No.659. The first teacher was James McDowell Conroy and another one of its earliest teachers was Robert Thomson.



John Thompson's private school in his Harding St home
Image Credit: Winchelsea and District Historical Society

Mr John Thompson opened a private school in his Harding St home, charging a fee of 1s 6d a week from 1858. His daughter taught as his assistant teacher. In 1862 the average attendance was 26 (16 boys, 10 girls). As attendance grew the Common school became the State School and operated in the Sunday School Hall at St. Thomas Anglican Church at Winchelsea from 1871-78 and in additional accommodation at 7s 6d a week in the Temperance Hall.



St Thomas Church of England Sunday School
Image Credit: Peter Stokes

In 1866 a 'Mutual Improvement Society' was started for adults looking to further their education by evening classes. In the Wesleyan Chapel 1868-79, Edward Carse opened an opposition school to that of the Church of England.

Early Head Teachers in the settlement were John Thompson 1858-66 and Martin Ball 1867, James Conroy 1871-74, and Thomas Barry 1875-85 who taught at the Common school. On Friday, July 19, the children attending; the common school, were entertained at a sumptuous feast of cake, tea, lollies and

fruit kindly provided by Mr. and Mrs. Austin, of Barwon Park. The Austins and their daughters attended the schoolhouse and the ladies arranged the feast. For many of the roughly 100 children present, this was the first time they had had as much cake as they could eat. The children and teachers heartily thanked Mrs. Austin, for providing not only this feast, but also their school building.

In 1872 A Royal commission on education led to the drawing up of the Education Act 1872. The Act required education be free, compulsory and secular across Australia. By this point the crown lands surrounding Winchelsea were open for selection. Selectors were poorer, often Celtic and Anglo-Celtic Small hold farmers, who chose and acquired small parcels of a subdivided tract of land for farming purposes. The term derived from "free selection before survey" of crown land in Australian colonies under land legislation introduced in the 1860s.

The Victorian Parliament passed Land Acts (known as selectors acts) in 1860, 1862 and 1869, which offered settlers land within defined agricultural areas. Settlers paid for half of an allotment on selection at a uniform price of £1 per acre and paid rent on the other half for usually 7 years. By the end of the period, to obtain title to the land, settlers would have had to pay the balance of the purchase price and make certain improvements. These acts were intended to encourage closer settlement, based on intensive agriculture, such as wheat-growing, rather than extensive agriculture, such as wool production. Selectors often came into conflict with squatters, who already occupied the land and often managed to circumvent the law.

With the selection of lands on the North-West of Winchelsea, Cr. William Stirling chose the block for use as a state school, on the site of the current Winchelsea Primary School. It has been suggested that William Stirling chose this block with a view that children who lived on the Wadawurrung side of the River would have to cross the bridge and pass his shop to get to school. I would suggest this is unlikely given that Cr. William Stirling was the son of James Stirling, who owned the pub, and the nephew of William Stirling who owned the shop.

The CoE school closed on 28th of February 1878 and was replaced by the State School, which will be the subject of future articles.



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 Uniting Church

0475 777 301

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

St John the Baptist Catholic Church

0404 598 558

Father Joseph Panackal
Harding St, Winchelsea 3241
Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist
@ 6pm Sat. Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28

St Thomas' Anglican Church

0448 687 588

Rev Christopher Duff
Barwon Tce, Winchelsea

Winchelsea Churches



Thought of the Week

“ Faith calls us to keep walking with God even when the outcome is unclear. It means believing He is guiding, protecting, and working behind the scenes for our good. We choose to trust His promises over our fears.”

Have a Blessed week.

John Bader
(Christian Pastoral Carer)

Community mourns the loss of beloved colleague Emma

Robyn Black



As many would know, our community recently lost a dear friend and workmate, Emma, on 16 February 2026. Emma was diagnosed with stage 4 melanoma in mid-2025. Her passing has left colleagues, friends, and customers deeply saddened. She was known as a quiet, softly spoken woman with a genuine love of life and dreams still waiting on her bucket list.

Melanoma remains one of Australia's most common cancers. Each year, more than 16,000 Australians are diagnosed, and despite improvements in treatment, the disease continues to claim lives. Health experts stress that early detection dramatically improves survival rates.

Emma's story is a heartbreaking reminder of the importance of regular skin checks. What can seem minor or easily postponed may prove critical.

Those who knew Emma remember her warmth, kindness, and gentle presence. She will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Her legacy now carries an important message: don't put off those skin checks.

Melanoma in Australia – Key Statistics

- New Cases: Over 16,000 to 18,000 new cases estimated annually (approximately one diagnosis every 30 minutes).
- Incidence: Roughly 1 in 17 Australians will be diagnosed with melanoma by age 85.
- Mortality: Approximately one person dies from melanoma every 6 hours in Australia.
- Gender Differences: Men have a higher risk (1 in 14) compared to women (1 in 22).
- Age Factor: While common in younger people (20–39), risk increases with age, particularly for males over 60.
- Survival: If detected early, the 5-year survival rate is over 90%.
- Cause: Around 95% of melanomas are caused by overexposure to UV radiation.

Psalm 2

*Why is it that dictators and governments
throughout the world
persist in persecuting
the people of God?
They may be divided in everything else,
but they unite in their endeavours
to free themselves from the restraints of religion.*

*Disconcerting as this is to me,
our great God laughs at their foolish efforts.
And His laughter will have the sound of fury
In the day He determines to act against them.
He will reveal to them who truly is Lord and King.*

*But to me, even in the midst of my consternation,
He speaks as a loving Father.
“You are My son and servant”, He says.
“Trust in Me, the destiny of the world
is in your hands.
You shall be the overcomer;
You shall frustrate their attempts to destroy you.”*

*So, wise up, you who sit in high places.
Begin serving the God you are trying to silence.
Bow your hearts in submission
before He crowns your heads with divine wrath.
Only those who rest in God's will
are really secure.*

“Psalms/Now” by Leslie F. Brandt
Helen Rolls, Winchelsea

Firewood collection areas open on Sunday March 1

DEECA

Victorians can collect free firewood for personal use from designated Forest Park firewood collection areas from Sunday 1 March.

The autumn firewood season ends on 30 June 2026, with collectors reminded that individual collection areas may close earlier if there is no more firewood available.

Forest Fire Management Victoria's website will publish maps showing available collection areas on Sunday March 1. Maps are updated throughout the season as collection areas open or close due to availability or access.

Forest Fire Management Vic Director Forest and Fire Operations Barwon South West, Scott Turner said FFMVic was working to establish new firewood collection areas for fire-affected communities. Mr Turner urges Victorians to collect wood safely. "Please respect road closures that remain in place for your safety and the safety of firefighters. I encourage collectors to check daily fire conditions and road closures before travelling to collection areas and only drive on formed roads and tracks.

"Please wear the right safety clothing, only use equipment you're trained in, including chainsaws, and be aware of the environment around you and the safety of yourself and others as trees may fall or drop limbs without warning.



"Within designated collection areas, collectors can collect and cut firewood that is on the ground due to natural fall or from forest and fire management works. Heavy penalties apply to anyone who cuts down a standing tree, living or dead."

Firewood can vary in size and may not be the same quality as the firewood sold by a commercial cutter. A wheelbarrow may be needed to transport firewood to vehicles and trailers as these cannot leave tracks.

People can collect a limit of two cubic metres per person per day and a maximum of 16 cubic metres per household per financial year.

Authorised Officers patrol state forests and can issue fines of more than \$814 to those caught breaking the firewood collection rules. If prosecuted in court more serious offending can result in maximum penalties of \$10,175 and/or 12 months in prison. Authorised Officers can also seize chainsaws, trailers, vehicles, and equipment that's used in the commission of offending.

Information and updates are available on www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood. Maps are available online from 1 March.

Community members can find out more about collecting firewood by calling 136 186. Suspected illegal firewood collection can be reported to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Prison industries providing bushfire relief

Victorian Government

Corrections Victoria Prison Industries are supplying livestock feed and on-ground assistance to communities hit hard by recent fires.

Langi Kal Kal Prison has delivered more than 60 hay bales to Stoneleigh for distribution to local farmers impacted by recent fires – with prisoners at the minimum security facility helping to grow, cut, rake and bale the hay onsite.

This follows a further 110 hay bales provided to communities affected by the Longwood fires, helping replenish critical livestock feed reserves after paddocks and stored fodder were destroyed.

Prisons across Victoria are also contributing to local recovery efforts:

- Loddon Prison is supporting Mount Alexander Shire Council with fire recovery work in Harcourt
- Beechworth Correctional Centre has offered help to local councils with re-fencing and timber clearing along the High Country Rail Trail
- Landmate crews from Langi Kal Kal have commenced building new fencing in the Ripon District to help farmers safely contain livestock.

The Landmate program – run in partnership between the Department of Justice and Community Safety and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action – operates across Langi Kal Kal, Tarrengower, Beechworth and Hopkins prisons.

Under the program, supervised prisoner crews give back to the local community, supporting environmental management projects, maintaining local recreation facilities and supporting disaster recovery projects.

Landmate crews within 100km of bushfire-affected areas will be on the ground providing recovery support over the next year.

Everyone is welcome, you don't have to be a member to attend, you can just come to have a look and see what it's all about

UPPER BARWON LANDCARE NETWORK

ANNUAL SOCIAL & PLANNING GATHERING

Hosted by - Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group

WHEN: Saturday 14 March 2026
TIME: 10 am - 12 noon
WHERE: Picnic table on NE bank of West Barwon River - access from Hennigan Crescent, (Kaanglang Rd), Forrest - follow signs
WEAR: Weather appropriate clothing and enclosed footwear
REGISTER: your attendance at the following link or scan QR code
<https://events.humanitix.com/upper-barwon-landcare-annual-social-and-planning-event>
RSVP: Wed 12 March
FAMILY FRIENDLY!

WHY: To bring the network community together to explore and gather future project ideas and find out how UBLN can best offer it's support to bring them to life
WHAT: Beginning with a short workshop aimed at identifying each individual Landcare Group's vision and needs for the year ahead.
 Then take a look at and hear about Gerangamete Forrest Landcare Group restoration site.
 Followed by picnic lunch
BRING: BYO picnic lunch to share including your own cups, plates, cutlery etc. & campchair/blanket
 Tea, coffee and water provided

What's on Weekly

MONDAY-FRIDAY

WINCHELSEA TOY LIBRARY

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

MONDAY-SATURDAY

WINCHELSEA HEALTH CLUB

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

MONDAY

SURF COAST SHIRE FIRE DANGER PERIOD

24/11/2025 - 01/05/2026

CO-WORKING AND STUDYING SPACE

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

MAINLY MUSIC

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

WINCHELSEA GIRL GUIDES



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

1ST MODDAWARRE SCOUT GROUP

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

VINYASA YOGA

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

TUESDAY



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

1ST MODDAWARRE SCOUT GROUP

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

WEDNESDAY

WINCHELSEA ZUMBA DANCE

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

WINCHELSEA MEN'S SHED

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

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

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

MOTHER GOOSE SONG AND RHYME

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

WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

STITCH IT, DON'T DITCH IT!

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

KIDS ART and CRAFT SESSIONS

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

MEL'S DANCE CENTRAL

Winchelsea Dance Classes
Pre-Schoolers - Adults
Wednesday afternoon/evenings
The Senior Citizens Club,
www.melsdancecentral.com.au

CWA WINCHELSEA

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



SES WINCHELSEA

7.30pm 132500
323 Mousley Dr, Winchelsea



THURSDAY

CHAT WITH YOUR COUNCILLOR

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

COWORKING AND STUDYING SPACE

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

JUMBLE SALE

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Hop into Easter at the Winchelsea Market!



Easter Bonnet Parade Sunday 5 April 2026

Dust off that old hat - or create a brand-new masterpiece - it's time to hop into the spirit of Easter at the Winchelsea Community Market!

To register your interest in the Easter Bonnet Parade,
please contact Elaine Atkinson,
Community Market Admin
on 0458009616 or email eatkinson048@gmail.com

*Bring your bonnet, bring your friends —
and let's make this Easter one to remember*

February/March 2026

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

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
(03) 5267 2028 (03) 5267 2028

MAT PILATES

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

WINCHELSEA MOVIE CLUB

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

FRIDAY

TAI CHI

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

Friday 13th March
Birregurra, 9am-1pm

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

A celebration of women's wisdom, creativity and connection through movement, rhythm, poetry, sound and art
events.humanitix.com/iwd-we-move-the-world

COMMUNITY FOODBANK

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

PHONICS WITH ROBOT REG

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

CHATTY CAFÉ

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

WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Friday 10am-3pm
Hesse St, Winchelsea

WINCHELSEA SENIOR CITIZENS

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

WINCHELSEA RSL

Back of the Eastern Reserve grandstand
Hesse St, Winchelsea
David Loone 0488 165 109

GEELONG REGIONAL LIBRARY (MOBILE) 2-5pm

Old Shire Hall, 28 Hesse Street
0408384331 (During scheduled stops)

TRIVIA NIGHT

Winchelsea Primary School Fundraiser
Friday 27 March 7pm \$30 head

SATURDAY

PARKRUN

8am Trebeck Reserve
Sussex St, Winchelsea
www.parkrun.com.au/trebeckreserve/

DIAMOND DOT

Senior Citizens Centre,
36 Harding Street Winchelsea
10 till 4 \$5 entry, \$10 includes lunch
Tracey 0427500649

WINCHELSEA LIONS CLUB IGA BBQs

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

WINCHELSEA LAND AND RIVERCARE

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

UPPER BARWON LANDCARE GROUP ANNUAL SOCIAL & PLANNING GATHERING

Saturday 14 March 2026 10-12pm
Hennigan Cres, Forrest
Ellen Whitten 0400 146 254

WINCHELSEA STAR PRODUCTION/COFFEE MEETING

9-11am (Last Sat monthly)
Sweet Thyme Cafe, Main Street
www.winchelseastar.org.au

WINCHELSEA CROCHET GROUP

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

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass 6pm each week
Harding St, Winchelsea 0404598558

WINCHELSEA COMMUNITY DINNER

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

SUNDAY

WINCHELSEA COMMUNITY MARKET

9-1pm, 1st Sunday monthly
Shire Hall car park, Main St Winch
growingwinchelsea.com/project/winchelsea-community-market/

EASTER BONNET PARADE

Sunday 5 April 2026
Winchelsea Community Market!
0458009616
eatkinson048@gmail.com

WINCHELSEA UNITING CHURCH

Service 9.30am each week
Hesse St, Winchelsea 0475 777 301
uca.winchelsea@gmail.com

ST THOMAS' ANGLICAN CHURCH

10am each week
Barwon Tce, Winchelsea
0477 672 042 stthomaswac@gmail.com

YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL IS GROWING



Growing confident young readers

78% of our Year 1s were at or above level in their Phonics Check (state average 58%)



Growing parent endorsement

71% Parent Endorsement in the 2025 Family Survey, up from 43% in 2023



Growing facilities

A new playground just completed, with a master plan currently being funded by State Government to increase capacity and improve buildings.



Growing community presence

Our big kids visit Hesse Rural Health fortnightly, visit the local kindergartens and are regular contributors to community events and the Winchelsea Star publication!





Winchelsea
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Winchelsea Primary teachers become qualified swimming instructors

Kelly Turner

In Winchelsea, we don't just see community, we build it

There are moments that define a town, that reveal its true character. At Winchelsea Community Bank, we had the privilege of witnessing one such moment late last year, and it's a story that deserves to be told.

The swimming program at Winchelsea Primary School, a cornerstone of our children's development, was on the brink of collapse. Without accredited instructors in the area and no budget to look elsewhere, our kids were about to lose the chance to learn a skill that could one day save their lives.

But in Winchelsea, we don't back down from a challenge. While many of us were enjoying a well-deserved holiday break, the school's Principal, Nick and a team of dedicated teachers made a choice. They chose our children. They chose our community. They spent their holidays in classes, becoming qualified swim instructors themselves.

This is more than just commitment. It's the embodiment of everything we at Winchelsea Community Bank stand for. It's leadership in its purest form and a powerful reminder of why local matters.

In regional Victoria, swimming isn't just a sport; it's a vital life skill. It's about water safety, building confidence, and giving our children the tools they need to thrive.

To the Principal and every teacher who went above and beyond, we don't just thank you, we celebrate you. You are the heart of this community, and your actions inspire us all.

At Winchelsea Community Bank, we are more than just a bank; we are part of the fabric of this town. We are incredibly proud to stand with a school that shows such unwavering dedication to its students. This is the power of community in action, and it's what makes Winchelsea a truly special place to live.



Photo credit Lisa Hicks

Welcoming Prep Families for 2027



Principal Tours for Families

8:45am at the school - please RSVP by phone or email

Families encouraged to come to one tour listed below

Tuesday, March 3rd
Monday, March 30th
Thursday, May 7th
Wednesday, May 27th
Friday, June 5th

Come 'n' Play Evenings for Families & Students

5pm-6pm at the school - no RSVP required

An opportunity for your child to come into our school and familiarise themselves with our classroom and staff

Families and students welcome to attend all of these sessions

Wednesday, February 18th
Tuesday, May 5th
Monday, August 3rd



Contact Bron & Jen in our office - we look forward to hearing from you!

winchelsea.ps@education.vic.gov.au
(03) 5267 2134

Enquiries welcomed from 27th Jan
Enrolment applications from 20th Apr

WINCHELSEA FACEBOOK

Community, Sports, Churches and Non-profits

Instructions: Click your cursor on these links to go straight to the Facebook page.

What's on in Winchelsea	https://www.facebook.com/WhatsoninWinchelsea
Winchelsea FREE	https://www.facebook.com/groups/winchelseefree
Winchelsea Community Information	https://www.facebook.com/groups/207538644446972
Winchelsea Classifieds 3241	https://www.facebook.com/groups/216942861684082
Winchelsea Lost and Found	https://www.facebook.com/groups/768187693217518
Winchelsea Op Shop	https://www.facebook.com/WinchelseaOpShop/
Winchelsea Shire Hall	https://www.facebook.com/WinchelseaShireHall
Winchelsea Community House	https://www.facebook.com/winchelseacommunityhouse
The Green Winchelsea Residents	https://www.facebook.com/groups/515322772623126
Growing Winchelsea Inc	https://www.facebook.com/growingwinch
Winchelsea Star	https://www.facebook.com/TheWinchelseaStar
Winchelsea Movie Club	https://www.facebook.com/winchelseamovies
Winchelsea Community Market	https://www.facebook.com/p/Winchelsea-Community-Market-61553215553346/
Winchelsea Land and River Care Group	https://www.facebook.com/envirowinchelsea/
Upper Barwon Landcare Network	https://www.facebook.com/UpperBarwonLandcare
Winchelsea & District Historical Society Inc	https://www.facebook.com/Winchelseaanddistricthistoricalsociety/
SCARS - Surf Coast Animal Rescue Service	https://www.facebook.com/groups/415211698950674
Winchelsea Gardeners	https://www.facebook.com/groups/779878518703025
Winchelsea Repertory Society Inc	https://www.facebook.com/winchrep/
Winchelsea Globe Theatre	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069385548559
Winchelsea Uniting Church	https://www.facebook.com/winchelseaunitingchurch
St Thomas' Anglican Church	https://www.facebook.com/StThomasWinchelsea
St John the Baptist Catholic Church	https://www.facebook.com/pages/Winchelsea-Catholic-Church/101775670163180
Winchelsea Mainly Music	https://www.facebook.com/groups/668500343953191/
Winchelsea Health Club	https://www.facebook.com/WinchelseaHealthClub
Winchelsea Playgroup (School terms only)	https://www.facebook.com/groups/551663435367031
Winchelsea Girl Guides	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064875362499
Winchelsea/Modewarre Scouts	https://www.facebook.com/1stModewarreScouts
Winchelsea Fire Brigade	https://www.facebook.com/winchelseafirebrigade/
Winchelsea SES	https://www.facebook.com/Winchses/
Country Women's Association - CWA Winchelsea	https://www.facebook.com/CWAWinchelsea/
Winchelsea Bowls Club	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063708876781
Winchelsea Blues Cricket Club	https://www.facebook.com/groups/8999049476/
Winchelsea Blues FC	https://www.facebook.com/WinchelseaFNC/
WYLD Winchelsea Youth Leisure and Drop in	https://www.facebook.com/groups/569737570027065/
Lions Club of Winchelsea	https://www.facebook.com/LionsWinchelsea
Winchelsea Probus	https://www.facebook.com/groups/893535194971083/
Winchelsea Golf Club	https://www.facebook.com/groups/1324943804676697/

Youth survey results are in: 1000+ young people help shape Surf Coast Shire's future

Surf Coast Shire

More than 1,000 young people aged 10 to 25 have helped shape the future of youth services and support across the Surf Coast Shire through Council's 2025 Youth Survey.

The results show young people value living on the Surf Coast, with 94% rating life in the region as good, great or amazing, 95% feeling positive about their future, and 77% saying they feel connected to their community.

Surf Coast Shire Mayor Cr Libby Stapleton said the strong response shows young people care deeply about their community. "Our young people have told us they love where they live and have a strong sense of belonging - that's something our whole community should be proud of," Mayor Stapleton said.

Despite this strong connection, the survey found many young people are uncertain about staying in the region long term. Among respondents aged 14 to 25, 37% didn't think they would still live, work or study locally in 10 years, with cost of living, housing affordability and limited study and employment opportunities identified as key factors.

Mayor Stapleton said the findings highlight challenges facing young people across regional communities. "Young people are telling us affordability and opportunity will shape whether they can

build their future here," she said. "We want the Surf Coast to be a place where young people can live, work, study and thrive - not a place they feel they have to leave."

- The top four personal challenges for those surveyed were mental health and wellbeing, social connectedness, school stress and academic pressure and family dynamics.
- The leading personal concern for females ages 14-25 was coping with stress, and for males of the same age it was body image.
- The top four community challenges were recreation and activities, environmental concerns, technology balance and transport and access.

When asked about their relationship with social media and screens, the most common response was "addictive" (30%), compared to the most common response of "healthy" (51%) when the same survey question was asked in 2021.

While most young people reported feeling safe at home and in their community, the survey highlighted differences in safety experiences. Only 9% of young women aged 14 to 25 said they always feel safe walking home at night, compared with 47% of young men.

Respondents aged 10 to 25 shared five themes on what would improve the Surf Coast Shire for young people:

- Recreation and sports infrastructure
- Social and entertainment venues
- Community connection and inclusion
- Accessibility and wellbeing
- Youth voice and agency

See the full youth survey results: surfcoast.vic.gov.au/youth.

Local youth Amplify takes the lead on Deans Marsh Festival main stage

Surf Coast Shire

Deans Marsh Festival goers can get set for a youth-led takeover of the main stage at the popular March event. The Lorne Amplify committee has curated the full program, showcasing an impressive line-up of local young talent. The stage will feature VET Music students and class bands from the region's two high schools.

The festival is taking place 10am to 3pm on Sunday 22 March at the Deans Marsh Recreation Reserve.

It's one of a series of local music events that the Lorne Amplify Committee organises each year, ranging from market performances to larger-scale gigs. Among its roughly 16 members is 17-year-old Frazey, who has grown up with music in her bones.

Raised in Aireys Inlet, she started singing in 2017 after picking up the guitar a year earlier. She had long admired the bands performing at the Aireys Music Festival – and through Amplify she's taken to the stage herself, twice. These days, Frazey is channeling that love into something bigger than her own performances.

Currently studying VET Music Performance, Frazey says Amplify has opened her eyes to everything that goes into putting on a show. "We pitch to venues to let us play and learn all the things

that go into running an event. It's student-led if we want it to be. There's support when we need it, but we usually choose to be really involved."

In November 2024, the committee ran a gig at the Lorne Theatre, headlined by Stella Donnelly alongside local school bands. "We organised advertising, stage management, ticketing, everything. It's such a good learning experience, and it's a really cool thing to do with your mates. We all just love seeing live music."



Behind the scenes, the committee meets regularly to throw around ideas. They debate whether to collaborate with more established acts and venues or run events themselves, all while keeping an eye on the budget.

For Frazey, one of the best parts is seeing months of work come to life. "It's really cool seeing all your months of work coming to fruition and seeing people enjoying it. You feel a part of something and like you're bringing joy to people."

"The best part about Amplify is that it's all about local young people initiating and running events designed for their peers, while they learn practical skills. We love seeing them take the lead and are here to support them," Cr Leon Walker said.

Find out more about Amplify committees and events in the Surf Coast Shire: surfcoast.vic.gov.au/youth.

PHONE DIRECTORY

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STS Accounting 5267 2673

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Lions 4224 0226

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Scouts 0409 330 147

COMMUNITY

Community House 5267 2028

Foodbank 0417 848 292

Mainly Music 0407 838 256

Men's Shed 0407 839 139

Playgroup 0432 019 944

RSL 0488 165 109

Senior Citizens 0427 672 263

Toy Library 5267 2028

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Vince Concreter 0412 840 704

Winchelsea Concreting 0438 235 237

DANCE

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DENTAL

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ELECTRICIAN

Green Lead Electrical 0467 097 101

EMERGENCY

Police 5267 2025

SES 132 500

ENTERTAINMENT

COPACC 5232 9418

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Winchelsea Medical 5292 8028

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Colac Hire 5232 1177

Tip Truck Hire 0412 840 704

LAWYER

Wightons Lawyers 5221 8777

MOWERS

All About Mowers 5267 2266

NURSERIES

Oz Trees Nursery 5233 6280

OSTEOPATHICS

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Winchelsea Osteo 5267 2948

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South-West Painting 0431 719 218

PLUMBERS

M&L Drayton 0428 520 142

M&B Wood 0418 319 357

Simco Plumbing 0400 643 976

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REAL ESTATE

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HF Richardson 5229 8017

SCHOOL

Primary School 5267 2134

SHIRE

Surfcoast Shire 5261 0600

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0428 672 704

Water in demand as drought tightens grip across Southern Australia

Rural Aid

While floods, bushfires, and cyclones have dominated recent headlines, drought remains a pressing concern for farming families across Australia. Rural Aid has received a surge in requests for assistance, particularly for household drinking water – a daily necessity that has become increasingly scarce on drought-affected properties. In 2026 alone, Rural Aid has received 231 requests for water tanks, highlighting the scale of the challenge.

Farmers across southern and eastern Australia are facing prolonged dry conditions. According to the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), January rainfall was well below average, ranking among the driest 10% of Januarys on record since 1900, across most of Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia, and large parts of Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and Queensland.

Victoria and New South Wales saw their lowest January rainfall totals since 2013 and 2014 respectively. Some water storages in the eastern and southern states have also declined by up to 50% compared to this time last year, adding to the daily challenges for farming families.

Looking ahead, rainfall is likely to be below average for much of the countries south, suggesting dry conditions may continue for farming families in these regions.

Rural Aid Chief Executive Officer John Warlters said, “For people in the city, it’s easy to take clean water from the tap for granted. But for hundreds of farming families in drought-affected regions, this simply isn’t the case. Access to reliable household water has become a daily challenge, and it affects every part of life on the farm.”

Rural Aid has been delivering water as on-farm stocks run low, providing household water to help manage daily routines and care for their families.

“Drought brings multiple pressures at once,” Mr Warlters said. “Even small support, like access to water tanks or wellbeing resources, can make a real difference.”

Rural Aid continues to provide practical assistance and wellbeing support to farmers affected by drought.

“Drought may not always make the headlines, but it hasn’t gone away,” Mr Warlters said. “We want farming families to know help is available and that Rural Aid is here to support them.”

Assistance is available now for farmers. Call 1300 327 624 or visit www.ruralaid.org.au. We’re here to help.

Lorne businesses hurting after extreme weather events

Surf Coast Shire

Businesses in Lorne are reporting serious economic impacts from the overlapping emergency events during January, with data showing a significant drop in expenditure.

The coastal township relies heavily on revenue from visitation during summer, with January traditionally its peak month of trade. However, card transaction data shows a major drop-off this year – with an average daily spend in Lorne between 1 and 15 January of \$386,000 dipping to \$172,000 for the latter half of the month, following the Great Ocean Road flooding.

Surf Coast Shire Council’s Economic Development team has surveyed 68 businesses in Lorne, with 31 per cent saying they had lost the equivalent of a month of income, and a further 47 per cent reporting loss of at least a week’s income. This feedback was consistent across retail, accommodation, hospitality and tourism-based businesses.

Business owners believed a large impact on Lorne visitation came from confusion about traffic impacts and the safety of the town. Of those surveyed, 83 per cent said media reporting about ‘fires, closures or risk’ had negatively affected their business.

For example, while the Great Ocean Road remained open into Lorne from 16 January onwards and businesses were operating as usual, reporting that ‘the Great Ocean Road is closed’ – due to its closure south of Lorne – created confusion and was seen as a deterrent for people to visit Lorne.

Survey respondents also attributed negative business impacts to:

- the 15 January flooding (89 per cent);
- fires in the Otways (77 per cent);
- evacuation advice for nearby towns (77 per cent); and
- Extreme fire danger ratings on various dates (72 per cent).

Only five per cent of respondents said there had been no negative impact on their business.

Councillor Leon Walker said business confidence in the town had also taken a hit, with more than half of respondents expecting lower-than-usual trade until Easter, and advance accommodation bookings down on previous years.

“We really want everyone to know that Lorne is open and the town is keen to welcome visitors,” Cr Walker said. “Locals rallied so strongly to help those impacted by the flooding – the best way for everyone to say ‘thanks’ is to visit Lorne and the surrounding towns soon.”

“It’s a beautiful place for a day trip, overnight stay or extended visit at any time of year. “If you can make it down in the coming weeks and beyond, the community would really appreciate your support.”

The survey data supports advocacy on behalf of local businesses and will enable Council to work with partners on a recovery program aimed at encouraging people back to Lorne.

Council and peak tourism body Great Ocean Road Regional Tourism are focusing on measures to support visitation for the remainder of the year, in an effort to help businesses recover some of the lost income.

Services & Activities In Winchelsea

<p>VLIN TRAIN SERVICES TO MELBOURNE: Mon - Fri 06.41 (coach) 08.07 11.10 14.04 16.58 19.21 Sat - Sun 08.27 10.27 14.04 16.58 19.17</p> <p>TO WARRNAMBOOL: Mon - Fri 08.58 11.51 14.46 17.28 (coach) 18.42 20.52 Sat - Sun 09.44 11.41 14.46 18.38 20.38</p>	<p>SURF COAST MOBILE LIBRARY Cnr Princes Highway & Hesse St, Fridays, 2pm-5pm</p> <p>Parked in Hesse Street (outside Shire Hall) Fridays 2:00 and 5:00pm unless it is a Public Holiday.</p>	<p>WINCHELSEA GIRL GUIDES  All girls 6yrs-15yrs Welcome! .Mondays 4.30pm-6pm (school terms) Catholic Church Hall, Harding St Winchelsea</p> <p><i>Fun, friendship, and adventure. Teamwork, leadership skills, achieve goals, improve communities and grow in confidence.</i></p> <p>3 FREE sessions to come along and try. Yvonne 0448 672 630 or Lily 0428 936 441</p>
<p> COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION</p> <p>7pm second Wednesday of month Winchelsea Senior Citizens' Hall 36 Harding Street Winchelsea</p>	<p>WINCHELSEA PLAYGROUP Every second Thursday 10am-12pm St Thomas Anglican Church Hall cnr Barwon Tce and Hopkins St, Winchelsea</p> <p>Contact: Danni Menzies 0432019944 winchelseaplaygroup@gmail.com Facebook - Winchelsea Playgroup 2019 New families welcome</p>	<p> 1ST MODDWARRE SCOUT GROUP</p> <p>Modewarre Hall</p> <p>Joey's 5-8yo 5-6pm (school term) Scouts 11-14yo 6:30-8:30pm (school term) Venturers -15-18yo are hosted by Torquay or Highton Units</p> <p>Contact: Marie McPadden 0409330147</p>
<p> Winchelsea and District COMBINED PROBUS CLUB</p> <p>Senior Citizens Rooms, New members always welcome. Enquiries Lorraine 0417 467 927</p>	<p>WINCHELSEA TRANSFER STATION 55 Cressy Road, Winchelsea</p> <p>Tuesday 2pm-4pm Saturday 1.30-3.30pm Thursday 2pm-4pm Sunday 9.30-12.30pm</p> <p>Closed Christmas Day, but open on other public holidays. www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/disposalsites</p>	<p>Join us. <i>A role for everyone</i></p> <p>Nationally accredited training to help our community. Pop in to meet your crew Wednesdays 7:30pm</p> <p> Winchelsea Unit 325 Mousley Drive 132 500</p>



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Rachel Boddington

Results 25/2/26 - Mid Week/Weekly Stableford

21 Players.

1st - Stephen Harvey (15) 34 points
 2nd - David "Fly" Lewis (21) 33 points
 3rd - Rod Batson (30) 32 points C/B
 BDL - Nick Stone 32 points C/B
 BDL - Cam Parke 32 points C/B
 BDL - Rob Wilson (19) 30 points C/B
 NTP (6th/15th) - Cam Parke

Results Saturday 28/2/26

Warren Stephenson Trophy

2026 Club Championships 3rd & Final Round

27 Players.

1st - Greg Batson 90-26-64
 2nd - Max Bubb 78-13-65
 3rd - Cam Parke 77-8-69 C/B
 BDL - Liz Alston (22) nett 69 C/B
 BDL - Tara Steward (15) nett 69 C/B
 BDL - Ken Stanseby 83-14-69 C/B
 BDL - Brent Kahle 75-6-69 C/B
 NTP (6th/15th) - Jake Dowsett
 NTP (8th/17th) - Matt Tench
 Golden Hole (2nd) - David Harvey
 Eagle (3rd) - Cam Parke
 F.I.S.H. (18th) - Cam Parke

2026 Club Championships - Results

Club Champion - Brent Kahle (6) 226
 Runner Up - Max Bubb (13) 243
 B Grade - Tom Shaw (16) 256
 Runner Up - Don Cuttler (14) 257
 C Grade - David "Fly" Lewis (22) 279
 Runner Up - Greg Batson (27) 283
 Ladies Club Champion - Tara Steward (15) 274
 Runner Up - Robyn Vesey (22) 281
 Congratulations to all who competed.

Special thanks to our Match Committee, Greens Committee and Bar Staff for the extra efforts put in to make these Championships such a great success.

Coming Up:

Wednesday 4th March - Weekly Stableford

Saturday 7th March - Match Play

Please register on the Golf Australia App or Bookatee to assist lining up competitive matches.

Memberships are now past due. Please be aware, unfinancial members will have their Golfink numbers suspended until paid. Any dramas, please contact the club secretary@winchelsea golf.com.au

First virtual fencing product approved for use

Victorian Government

The Halter's P5 electronic collar system is the first to be approved in Victoria for virtual fencing. This technology will help farmers to save on the cost of building and maintaining cattle fencing through smart, real-time technology.

Halter's P5 system features a collar connected to an app, allowing farmers to virtually fence, move and monitor wellbeing of their cows while receiving real-time insights into animal health and pasture conditions.

Farmers can virtually fence around waterways and sensitive land or vegetation, while still allowing native animals to access them, promoting faster pasture recovery, healthier riparian zones and reduced reliance on fertilizer.

This will create over 70 new jobs, working directly with cattle farmers to install this technology.

Approvals are reliant on accurate record keeping and reporting, use of approved technology, training provided by the manufacturer, maintaining physical boundary fences or barriers and ensuring collars are checked regularly.

Electronic collars for livestock species other than cattle can only be used when a scientific licence has been granted under the POCTA Act, and the use is approved by an Animal Ethics Committee

Can't wait to catch a carp at Colac?



Victorian Fisheries Authority

The free Catch a Carp Festival is back again, co-hosted by the Victorian Fisheries Authority and local radio station MIXX FM/3CS, providing some fun outdoors and learn more about how to catch and cook this pest fish species.

The festival is being held at Lake Colac on Sunday 12 April and will include educational activities and kids fishing clinics, a carp fishing competition and cooking demonstrations. It will feature food and coffee onsite, market stalls, cooking demonstrations, kids activities, fishing and outdoor swap meet and a live broadcast by MIXX FM/3CS.

Carp are a noxious aquatic pest in Victoria. There'll be commercial carp fishing throughout the day demonstrating how carp can be caught and removed without harming native species.

It's a great chance to support the local community, with a range of market stalls and the Lions Club Colac offering train rides for families around the event.

The family 'Catch a Carp' competition has great prizes and giveaways.

For more information about the event or to register for the free kids fishing clinics visit www.vfa.vic.gov.au/colaccarpfestival

Council on watch for drought impacts

Surf Coast Shire

Council will closely monitor the health of the agriculture sector in the Shire, with local farms expected to face a lengthy recovery from drought.

While Agriculture Victoria led the drought response during 2025, Council initiated a range of support measures to assist at a local level.

A report presented to Council during Tuesday night's meeting noted that, although rainfall late in the year had been beneficial, recovery may take 12 months to three years and will depend on consistent rainfall and good economic conditions.

Councillor Joel Grist said it was important for Council to be aware that the drought is not fully broken.

Council drought support measures during 2025 included:

- Freezing 2025-26 rates for farm land at 2024-25 levels.
- Delivering programs for farmers and rural businesses.
- Hosting resilience events, including Rural Roadshows and Positive Ageing Month activities.
- Promoting financial and mental health support opportunities via a surfcoast.vic.gov.au/drought.
- Advocating for abolishing the Vic Government's Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund levy.
- Reviewing and maintaining all emergency water access points.
- Participating in AgVic's South-West Drought Coordination Group.

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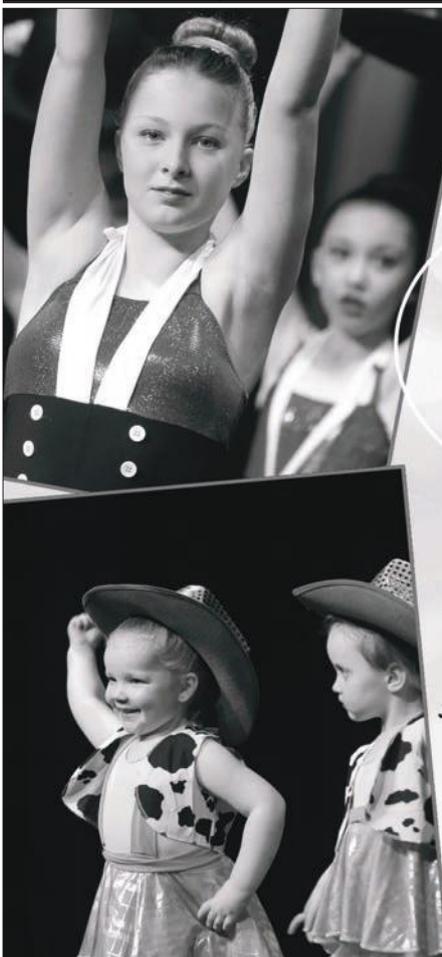
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GRANTS NOW OPEN

Open on 1 March
closes on 31 March

- **Community Initiative Grants up to \$5,000**
- **Natural Environment Grants up to \$8,000**

Scan the **QR code** to find out more or call grants team on **5261 0600** to discuss your idea and ask any questions.



surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Grants



Events Grant Program refreshed and ready for applications

Surf Coast Shire

Event organisers can apply for funding from the Surf Coast Events Grant Program 1-31 March, for Tourism Event grants and Boutique Creative/Special Focus Event grants for events 1 July 2026-30 June 2027, in the off-peak visitor season.

Council has made the process easier with guidelines split into two categories: Major and Special Event, and Community Event.

The Community Event grants will have two rounds:

- Apply 1-30 April 2026, for events between 1 July 2026-24 December 2026.
- Apply 1-31 October 2026, for events between 1 February 2027-30 June 2027.

To learn more about the grants program and to apply, visit surfcoastevents.com.au.

Apply for a Volunteer Grant \$1,000 - \$5,000 from the Federal Government!

Volunteer Grants support the work of community organisations that rely on volunteers by removing barriers to volunteering and promoting awareness of volunteering opportunities.

Grants between \$1000 and \$5000 will be available to assist eligible not-for-profit community organisations that rely on volunteers. Grants can be used to purchase communication or insurance items and/or purchase items for the main purpose of supporting volunteer cohorts and volunteer-run activities as specified in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

EOIs are now open; you have until Tuesday 07 April 5pm to submit your EOI form via email – dan.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au

Grant Guidelines:

<https://www.grants.gov.au/Fo/Show?FoUuid=0c963950-d2c0-48af-8f42-ac708865702c>

Expression of Interest forms:

https://dantehan.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/25-26_TehanD_Volunteer-Grants_Wannon_EOI-form.pdf

The 2025–26 Volunteer Grants will open for expressions of interest through Federal Members of Parliament (MP). Organisations are advised to read the Grant Opportunity Guidelines and contact their local Federal MP for details on how to submit an expression of interest.

Organisations nominated by their MP will be invited by the Department of Social Services to fill out an application form in May 2026.

Web Address: <https://www.communitygrants.gov.au/contact-us>

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Email: manager@winchhouse.org.au
 or call: 0352672028



Yoga & Mat Pilates in the Shire Hall



Mat Pilates 6.45pm Tuesdays

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

Wednesdays Yoga Flow 6.30pm

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

Thursdays Vinyasa Yoga 7pm

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

Casual Class: \$25 or 5 Class Pass: \$100

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Thursday Mornings 10.30 - 12.00
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Craft & Crochet Group
\$5 per person.
1pm, every second Saturday
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 Register your interest at
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Next session: Saturday 7th March

CHATTY CAFÉ
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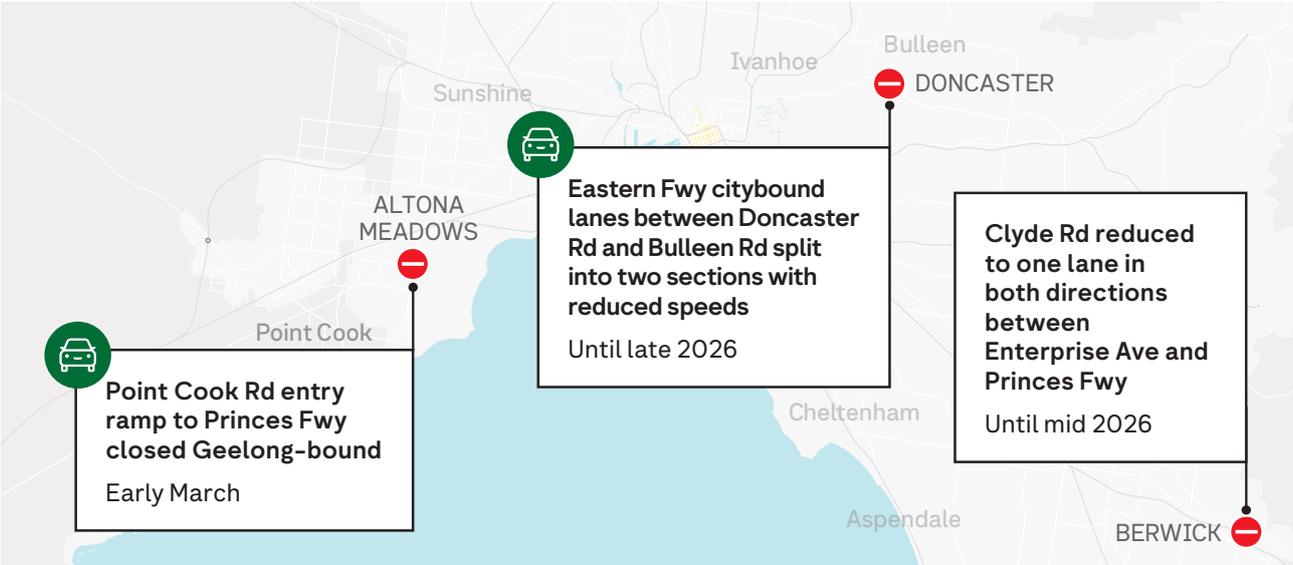


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Victoria’s Big Build works continue across the state with road disruptions on Clyde Road and the Eastern and Princes freeways. These works could impact your travel into Melbourne to attend the F1 Grand Prix or Moomba Festival.



Avoid delays and check before you travel at bigbuild.vic.gov.au



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Winchelsea Football Netball Club

Hopkins St, Winchelsea winchelseafc@hotmail.com

Blues News

Janet Fletcher

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



Winchelsea Tennis Club

Fletcher Allen



Section 15 Tennis Results

Saturday Superstars – Round 15: Finals Bound for Section 7!

Section 7 takes over the Saturday Superstars after locking in 1st place and punching their ticket to finals! Let's recap yesterday's action.

Section 7 Mixed – @ Wandana Heights TC

Up against the bottom team, our squad made a statement. Katrina & Josh started strong with a 6-2 win. Scott & Adri dropped the only set of the day, 6-4.

From there it was all Winch — Katrina & Adri 6-2, Scott & Josh 6-3.

Adri & Josh secured a 6-3 win, before Katrina & Scott finished in style, 6-1.

Final Score: 5 sets to 1, 34 games to 17

MVP: Katrina – only 5 games dropped all day!

FINALS LOCKED IN 1st Semi Final – 14 March
Winchelsea vs Drysdale @ Winchelsea TC



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Tony Phelps

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parkrun 104



Saturday 28 February 2026

Trebeck Reserve, Winchelsea
www.parkrun.com.au



28 participants completed the course through Trebeck Reserve this week. We had visitors from Warrandyte and Bentleigh.

Congratulations to Jordan Tartaglia who completed his personal best time for Trebeck Reserve.

Seven volunteers made the event possible. Thanks to Liz Bennett, Don Smith, Kate McInnes, Neil McInnes, Murray Bennett, Maureen Gunson and Kristen Czerkiewicz.

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.

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



DEFIBRILLATORS IN WINCHELSEA Accessible to the public 24 hours a day

Winchelsea Lions Club has compiled a list of public access defibrillators in Winchelsea.

If you know others, please contact Linda Carter 0439 817 263.

- **Ambulance Victoria** 33 Willis Street
- **Bendigo Bank** 11 Main Street
- **Globe Theatre (Side entrance)** 17 Willis Street
- **Hesse Rural Health** 8 Gosney Street
- **Men's Shed** 51 Hesse Street
- **Netball Courts** Eastern Reserve Hopkins St
- **Senior Citizens Club** 36 Harding Street
- **Uniting Church** 33 Hesse Street
- **Winchelsea Bowls Club** Hesse Street
- **Winchelsea Golf Club** 13 Anderson Street
- **Winchelsea Primary School** Main Street
- **Wurdale Memorial Hall** 220 Wurdale Road





Healthy, Wealthy and Wise Coastal Roadshow

**FREE
EVENT**

**Wednesday 18 March 2026
9am to 3pm**

ANGLESEA MEMORIAL HALL

FEATURING:

- 9.30am: Community Groups and Services Introductions
- 10.15am: Jules Haddock from The Anxious Bird
- 11am: SCAM Man AI presentation
- 12.30 - 2pm: Discussion Panel of Financial Experts



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TO REGISTER

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