Your Weekly Community Newspaper

Since 1977

Vol 48 Ed 06 Tuesday 18 February winchelseastar.org.au



Children's Fair celebrates relaunch of Winch House Toy Library



A Men's only Health night with Mary O'Brien, the founder of 'Are you bogged mate' a movement aimed at helping connect country men with support services and break down the stigma associated with seeking help around mental health.

"After spending her whole life working in rural and remote Australia, Mary knows country blokes. She's worked with them, for them, and beside them and mostly importantly she knows how to talk to them. This unique perspective inspired the launch of Are you bogged mate?"

Join us for a moving conversation with Mary Tuesday 18th March 6.30-8.30pm and let's change the way we approach men's wellbeing.

FREE to attend. Nibbles and drinks provided.

Men only (this is at the request of the speaker for the benefit of the men attending)

Bookings ensure catering needs are met

This event is brought to you by The Vitality Movement by One Body Chiropractic supported by 'The Gentlemen of Geelong'.



Children's Fair at Winchelsea Community House

To celebrate the Re-Launch of the Winch House Toy Library The Winchelsea Shire hall hosted a Children's Fair last Friday afternoon, welcoming all local families to come and see activities and services available to the children of our town.

Youngsters enjoyed lots of free craft activities including badge making with Geelong Regional Library, Playdough fun with Meli, face painting by Artzzy Jazzy and Kids Kung-Fu with Evan from Sunny Gym. Phonics with Robot Reg, Winchelsea Occasional care, HMK Kindergarten, Winchelsea Playgroup, Maternal Child Health, Parent Pathways and One body Chiropractic were also at the Fair.

It was a wonderful afternoon of fun for kids, information for parents and carers and networking for our local community.



The Winchelsea Toy Library is open Mon-Friday 9am -

There is no subscription required, \$2 for 2 x toys for 2 weeks. Full Toy catalogue available on request at reception@ winchhouse.org.au.





Discover a rewarding and secure career as a Prison Officer.

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Yoga at the Winchelsea Shire Hall 8am Saturday Morning Flow With Lisa

Classes start Feb 8th



7pmTuesday evening Vinyasa With Kate

Classes start Feb 11th

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



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Planning underway for International Women's Day 2025

by Elaine Atkinson, Growing Winchelsea Secretary



Photo: from left Rhani Allen Shire Hall Coordinator, Winchelsea House; Bec Lane Director, The Opsside; Amanda Palmer Economic Development Officer, Surf Coast Shire; Michelle Stocks Executive Officer: Corangamite Financial Services; Kelly Turner Marketing, Community Bank; Elaine Atkinson Secretary Growing Winchelsea and Cinthya Sabillion, Proprietor La Caseta

SAVE THE DATE - Tuesday 18 March 2025 9.00 am - 11.30 am at the Hub in Winchelsea. Come and share in the celebration of International Women's Day (IWD) as we March Forward together.

The key theme for IWD 2025 is Accelerate Action - as individuals we can all take steps in our daily lives to positively impact women's advancement. We can call out stereotypes, challenge discrimination, question bias, celebrate women's success and so much more.

On Monday 2 December a dynamic group of women put their hand up to plan this event which will be possible, thanks to a Health and Wellbeing grant from the Surf Coast Shire and financial support from the Community Bank Winchelsea & District.

"This event is part of a broader project which will see the development of a Women's Business Network in Winchelsea, a collaboration between Growing Winchelsea, Winchelsea House, Country Women's Association, Community Bank and the Economic Development Unit of Surf Coast Shire," said John Tebbutt, President of Growing Winchelsea Inc.

"Access to social networks typically differs for men and for women. Usually, women have less access to networks due to pressures of balancing home, work and family. Networks are responsible for a large percentage of career progression and business growth, so limited access could be a barrier to women's opportunities. From personal experience I have seen the positive influence that business networks have on supporting the personal and professional development of women," said Elaine Atkinson, Secretary of Growing Winchelsea.

"Feel free to contact me via email at secretary@ growingwinchelsea or telephone me on 0458009616 if you want further information or just to chat about what is important to you as you look to return to the workforce, to grow your

business, progress in your career or develop your leadership potential. It's important that we, together develop a business network that meets the personal and professional needs of our local women". concludes Elaine.



Request for Tender Hospital Auxiliary Opportunity Shop - Redevelopment Works

Tender Number: A2025-02

Hesse Rural Health is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced Contractor to undertake redevelopment of a retail site in Winchelsea. The Works are to be completed in accordance with the directions provided in the Tender Conditions, including the Specification.

For a copy of the tender documents please visit https://www.tenders.vic.gov.au/tender/search/ searching in the 'Issued By' field under Hesse Rural Health. Submissions close 2:00PM, Thursday 6 March 2025.

Note: The lowest or any submission will not necessarily be accepted.



Winchelsea



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131 161



Nappy Change: Switching to modern cloth reusable nappies



Did you know that disposable nappies make up for about 10% of landfill bin contents in the Surf Coast Shire. Using modern cloth reusable nappies is only one fifth the cost of using disposable nappies!

About the workshop

Modern cloth reusable nappies are a great solution – you can save money, have a more comfortable bub and protect the environment.

Hear from Elana, owner of Cloth Nappy Workshops Melbourne, for a comprehensive introduction and Q&A about using modern cloth reusable nappies. Learn about the different nappy types, what set up you need, fitting, laundering and caring for your products.

FREE - All households joining the workshop will receive a free modern cloth reusable nappies two-pack* from Evia Collective valued at \$80! (*strictly one pack per household only).

Workshop details

DATE: Wednesday 26 February TIME: 7.30pm to 8.30pm Online through Zoom.

Zoom link will be sent prior to the workshop.

SPREAD THE WORD! LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE! REGISTER HERE



*Please note this event is for Surf Coast Shire residents only.

This workshop has been made possible thanks to the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) Kerbside Reform grant funding.

Find more information about modern cloth reusable nappies at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/reusablenappies



Winchelsea Community **Foodbank** Fridays, 12 - 2PM 30-32 Hesse Street Winchelsea

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



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Letters to the **Editor**

Dear Editors,

In her Science Report, (11 Feb 2025) Judy Cameron guotes from science writer Stephen Luntz who claims "The rate of ocean surface warming has quadrupled since satellite measurements began."

I would challenge Mr Luntz, Judy Cameron, or anyone else, to a public debate on the topic that carbon dioxide is the major cause of climate change, at a place and time of their choosing.

Sincerely Alan Barron, Grovedale

EDITOR NOTES:

from the USA National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere warms the planet, causing climate change. Human activities have raised the atmosphere's carbon dioxide content by 50% in less than 200 years. Carbon dioxide (CO2) is an important heat-trapping gas, also known as a greenhouse gas, that comes from the extraction and burning of fossil fuels (such as coal, oil, and natural gas), from wildfires, and natural processes like volcanic eruptions.

from Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

To maintain stable temperatures at the Earth's surface the incoming energy from the Sun must be balanced in the longer-term by an equal amount of heat radiated back to space. Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere absorb some of this re-radiated heat, which increases the temperature of the Earth's surface. ocean and atmosphere.

Carbon dioxide is one of several greenhouse gases. The other main ones are water vapour, methane and nitrous oxide. Together, these greenhouse gases create the greenhouse effect Increasing concentrations of

greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is causing surface temperatures to increase.

The atmosphere and oceans will continue to warm until enough extra heat can escape to space to allow the Earth to return to balance. Because increased levels of carbon dioxide and other long-lived greenhouse gases persist in the atmosphere for hundreds of years, further warming and sea-level rise will occur.

The carbon dioxide concentration today is much higher than the natural range of 172 to 300 ppm that existed for hundreds of thousands of years. In fact, carbon dioxide concentrations are now likely to be the highest they have been in at least the past 2 million years.

Scientists can tell what past greenhouse gas concentrations were by taking measurements of air trapped in Antarctic ice. These measurements show that for the past 800,000 years, carbon dioxide concentrations remained below 280

More detailed scientific information is available on the NASA and CSIRO websites.

To whom it may concern re Virtual Fencing

I began to read this article by mediamastersvic@bigpond.com about Dr Vernon's views on virtual fencing in this week's Winchelsea Star (Vol 48 ed 05), and was baffled. At no point was virtual fencing explained. To obtain more information, I visited your website where I found the same article, but it was just as useless.

Don't you think it would be a good idea to define your subject before waffling on about it, leaving the reader no wiser? This would have to be the first rule of article writing: explain to your readers what it is that you are writing about. We are not all dairy farmers or mind readers.

I have since looked it up on line, but articles should stand by themselves and not need readers to research the subject before continuing their reading.

Peter Mackinlay (Address not supplied)

Community Satisfaction Survey 2025

On Now











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

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

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





Connections are so important

Bec Lane is a business operations specialist with over 15 years of experience helping organisations plan, manage, and deliver key projects. With a background in event operations and an MBA behind her, she has worked across a range of industries, supporting business owners, consultants, and community-focused organisations to bring their ideas to life.

"Last year, my partner and I moved to Winchelsea in search of a more community-focused lifestyle and space for our young daughter. But like many working parents in the area, the limited access to childcare made traditional employment difficult. I wanted a way to continue using my skills and experience while working flexibly around family life," said Bec.

That's where The Ops Side began. Bec saw an opportunity to help business owners who were stretched too thin - people with big plans but not enough time or the right support to make them happen. Through her business, she steps in to help with the planning and delivery of key projects, improving how things run behind the scenes and ensuring that the essential work driving a business forward doesn't fall through the cracks.

Beyond just ticking off tasks, Bec brings structure, problem-solving, and practical know-how to complex business challenges. Whether it's managing stakeholder relationships, coordinating a major project, or creating the right processes to keep things running smoothly, she helps clients make real progress.



"Starting a business in a new town without an established network was a challenge, but more than that, it highlighted just how important connection is - not just in business, but in life. Adjusting from a large team environment to working solo in a new town - without familiar faces to turn to for advice or even just a coffee catch-up - made it easy to feel isolated, continues Bec.

"That's why events like the Winchelsea Women's Brunch matter. It's an opportunity to bring the women of our community together, no matter what stage of life they're in. Whether someone is running a business, balancing work and family, or figuring out their next step, having a space to meet, share, and connect makes all the

difference," says Bec.

As part of the organising committee, Bec hopes to help create exactly that - a welcoming space where local women step away from the day-to-day for a morning, connect, feel supported and have a bit of fun together.

"The event is proudly supported by the Community Bank, Winchelsea & District, Growing Winchelsea and the Surf Coast Shire. Following the event a local Women's Business Network will be formed and on the day we will be seeking feedback about the future personal and professional development needs of our local women. Come along and celebrate International Women's Day, registrations are now open," concludes Elaine Atkinson, "Secretary of Growing Winchelsea

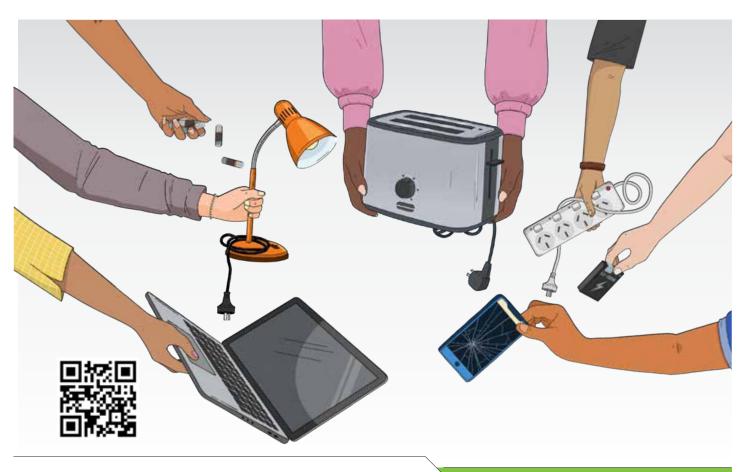


Small acts make a big impact.

E-waste cannot be put into any of your household bins.

E-waste is any item with a plug, battery or power cord that's no longer wanted. E-waste contains hazardous materials which can be harmful to the environment, but they also contain valuable resources that can be reused.

Visit surfcoast.vic.gov.au/e-waste to find out where to take your e-waste.











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

Phone: (03) 5267 2028 Email: manager@winchhouse.org.au

ABN: 48 932 340 254



Wednesday's at 2pm

During school terms For parents and caregivers with children of all ages. Sessions are led by Child and Family Health team members.

FREE, No bookings required.

Winchelsea Knitting Group

Thursday Mornings 10.30 - 12pm

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

Tai Chi

Friday Mornings 9.00am - 10.00am

In the Helen Verity Room, Winchelsea community house

\$10 per session

Chatty Cafe

Fridays 10.30pm - 12.30pm

"Sip, Chat, Share, Care"

Winchelsea Shire Hall

Everyone Welcome, Collection tin for donations.

Carers Corner

Friday February 28th 11am - 12pm

In the Winchelsea Shire Hall

All carers welcome.

Crochet Group

1.30pm in the Winchelsea Community Centre

Every Second Saturday

Next class February 22nd





MEN'S HEALTH MARCH 3RD, 6PM

Hosted by local Mental Health advocate

CHARLIE EARL **COME ALONG TO THE FIRST OF 3** WORKSHOPS

WITH GUEST SPEAKER, MEN'S MINDSET **COACH JEFF RIENIETS**

email: admin@richearth.love or call Richard on 0444513017









Winchelsea Star Production Meeting

Saturday 22 February 2025 9-10am

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

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

This Week's Winchelsea Star Editor - Judy Cameron Designer - Tony Phelps



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

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4pm Sundays - hard copy articles left at IGA6pm Sundays - sports results and weekend events

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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.



WANTED QUIET WORKING SPACE **WITH PIANO**

for music student. Several hours per week. Ph 52 672 987

FOR SALE

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

LIONS CLUB

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

WINCHELSEA PICKLEBALL

Winchelsea Leisure Time Centre Wed 7-830pm or Thurs10-11.30am. All equipment supplied. wear suitable footwear.

Winchelsea Star **COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

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

Lesley Mathison 0438 672 197

WINCHELSEA TENNIS CLUB

JUNIOR COACHING

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

SOCIAL **TWILIGHT TENNIS**

Monday evenings from 6.00pm. All Welcome!

CUBS AND JOEYS

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

WINCHELSEA GIRL GUIDES

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

Phone Yvonne 0448 672630



Social Bridge is played

EVERY TUESDAY NEW TIME 10 AM - 12 NOON

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE 36 Harding Street Winchelsea

New players always welcome

Flaine Atkinson 0458 009 616

A man's watch, it's beautiful, regretful sale, also a man's gold ring, \$300 for both, they are both special to myself as they were my ex partner's who died of cancer and I gave them to him. Very regretful sale also, a large picture of Dustin Martin and signed by him. \$300. Or \$500 the lot, "Richmond Fans" Ph 52 672 954.

WANTED TO BUY

ASAP an electric hot water system. Please contact 52 672 054.

Growing Our Regional Kinder Workforce

The Government is strengthening the early childhood education workforce to support more kinder places for children and better support for working families.

The latest round of the Certificate III Upskill Support Program has been launched with an expanded partnership with Deakin University - to help train more early childhood teachers particularly in regional and rural areas.

Applications are now open for the Certificate III Upskill Support Program, which will provide 400 places for educators looking to upskill to a Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care.

This includes \$7,000 in financial support that can be used for living expenses while studying and working. This year, half of the places are reserved for students in rural and regional Victoria - meaning students can study and work close to home. Deakin University is also offering online courses for early childhood education students who want to study while working. As part of Victoria's Early Childhood Tertiary Partnerships program, Deakin is one of several institutions providing tailored study options.

Scholarships of \$25,000 for bachelor's students and \$12,000 for graduate

diploma students are available through the Early Childhood Scholarships Program.

More than 200 places are available over two years, with priority access for applicants from selected rural and regional areas, including Ararat, Hindmarsh, Horsham, Southern Grampians, and Ballarat.

These initiatives will strengthen the early education workforce - meaning more kinder places for children and better support for working families.

Applications for the Certificate III Upskill Support Program close on 13 June, for more information visit vic.gov.au/ financial-support-study-and-work-earlychildhood#certificate-iii-upskill-supportprogram.



FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

2 March 2025

6 April 2025

4 May 2025

1 June 2025

HESSE

RURAL

WINCHELSEA HOSTEL AND NURSING HOME SOCIETY INC

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

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

BUSINESS

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

Carissa Brock | Secretary



Café La Hoot

have you tried 'owl' coffee?

1 willis st cafelahoot@gmail.com 0407 528 999

Barwon South West Ag News

Maintain ground cover to protect soils

Isolated dust storms recently are a reminder of how fragile some of our soils

They are also a good reminder there is still time to prevent this damage by de-stocking more vulnerable areas of the farm. While dust storms contain mostly mineral materials, they also contain significant quantities of organic matter, one of the most valuable components of our soils.

Leaving stock in a paddock for an extra couple of weeks to make use of remaining water supplies can be all it takes to expose the paddock to the risk of wind erosion.

Detection of avian influenza at Euroa poultry farm

Agriculture Victoria has confirmed the presence of avian influenza at a poultry property in northern Victoria, which has now been placed into quarantine.

Diagnostic testing performed by the CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness at Geelong confirmed high pathogenicity H7N8, which is different from the strains that impacted Victorian, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory poultry farms during 2024, which have been eradicated. The strain detected is also



different from the H5N1 avian influenza strain that is impacting the USA and other parts of the world.

Agriculture Victoria staff are on the ground to assist control, support the business and investigate further.

While cases among humans in direct contact with animals infected with highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses are possible, the current risk to the public remains low.

Consumers should not be concerned about eggs and poultry products from the supermarkets, they do not pose a risk and are safe to consume.

Poultry farmers, backyard flock and bird owners are urged to report any cases of unexplained bird deaths to the 24-hour Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 or to your local vet.

Fire preparedness: Have you got your emergency kit ready?

When a bushfire is likely to impact your property, staying to defend it or preparing to shelter in place can be extremely dangerous.

You must be mentally and physically fit, have all the necessary personal protective equipment, have an ample supply of food and water and an emergency and evacuation kit packed and ready to go.

Prepare an emergency and evacuation kit even if your plan is to leave early.

Recycled water boost for crop research and green spaces

New water recycling infrastructure in Horsham will help parks and gardens stay green and support Victoria's world class agricultural research thanks to support from the Victorian Government.

Minister for Water Gayle Tierney and Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence recently announced the completion of the \$11.8 million Horsham SmartWater and Integrated Water Management project including new water recycling infrastructure at the Horsham Wastewater Treatment Plant providing more recycled water to the region.

Aussie Household Battery Systems Grow By Almost One-Third

The interim update of the Climate Council's Momentum Monitor has found the number of household battery systems have grown 30% since 2023.

Climate Council Fellow and energy expert, Andrew Stock, said: "Batteries are having their moment. Latest numbers from the Climate Council's Momentum Monitor found the number of household battery systems have grown by almost a third since 2023. The Australian Energy Market Operator's findings that batteries powered Australians 91 percent more in the last quarter compared to the same time in 2023 demonstrate their impressive growth over the last twelve months.

"Batteries continue playing a meaningful role in our energy system, with grid-scale battery capacity increasing by 50

percent since this time last year. They have already provided power during periods of high demand, acting as a shock absorber, and a secure grid calls for more of them.

"As the closure date for coal-fired power stations inches closer, there's an urgent need to invest in the lowest cost, fastest replacement – renewable energy from wind and solar paired with storage, like batteries, to provide reliable renewable power 24/7. Renewable electricity generation in the main national grid is hitting record highs. Any excess solar and wind energy we can soak up will keep helping renewables power our homes and businesses around the clock, and see more Australians cash in on the benefits by reducing our reliance on grid power during the evening when electricity prices are more expensive."

Winchelsea Projects Update

FEBRUARY 2025



Former library repairs



Work is moving ahead to repair Winchelsea's historic former library building.

Council has engaged a contractor to underpin the south-east corner of the building and repair damaged plaster and brick work.

Council and the contractor will finalise the works program soon and share timelines with the community.

The former library was used by volunteers to provide visitor information services before its closure in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Cracking was discovered soon after, leading to the building's closure.





Pool redevelopment

Excitement is building for the opening of the \$8.9 million Winchelsea Pool redevelopment.

Contractors are completing finishing touches including landscaping.

A formal opening ceremony is scheduled for 27 February. Council is working hard to open the gates to the public days earlier but the timing will depend on progress of final commissioning works.

The opening day will be communicated via **surfcoast.vic.gov.au/WinchelseaPool**, and social media.

Pool entry will be free from the day gates open until a free family fun day on 2 March, 10am to 5pm, which will feature entertainment, sausage sizzle, fun activities, giveaways and games.

Council has fully funded the \$8.9 million redevelopment, which includes new 25m and leisure pools with heated water, pavilion, splash park, shelters, landscaping, barbecue and plant room.



Adventure Play Space

Completion of Winchelsea's Adventure Play Space is now scheduled for early March.

Landscaping of the site is almost complete including new stairs and accessible ramps. Installation of the playground equipment will start in coming weeks, along with laying of soft fall ground cover and planting of shrubs and trees

The Adventure Play Space adjoins the existing playground on Barwon Terrace and features will include a flying fox with wheelchair access and accessible seat, slide and elevated cubby pods.

surfcoast.vic.gov.au/winchprojects



Shares Available in your local **Community** Bank

Back in 2002 the second of two of the major banks closed its doors in Winchelsea leaving the town without any banking services at a time when the need for physical banking was very high. This meant that local people and businesses had to travel to either Geelong or Colac to do their banking, which often also resulted in people doing their shopping and buying other services outside of the township which had a huge impact on local businesses.

In response to the closure of the banks, a local steering committee was formed with an aim to establish a Community Bank branch, a locally owned branch bank branch which operates under franchise to the Bendigo Bank. This



involved demonstrating local demand by people pledging to move their bank accounts, and raising capital by people purchasing shares to establish a bank branch to get it up and running. This was successful and a locally owned a public company was established with local volunteer directors and local shareholders, and the Winchelsea & District Community bank branch was opened in 2003. The Community Bank branch was like no other bank branch, it was community owned not only providing banking services but also distributing its profits back to the local community groups and shareholders in the form of dividends.

> 22 years later, the **local Community** Bank company, Corangamite **Financial Services**

Ltd has grown to 3 branches in Winchelsea, Anglesea and Lorne, has 19 employees and 9 volunteer Directors (4 of whom started the original company), holds almost \$500m in banking business, returned over \$4.5m to the local community groups across the Surf Coast Shire.

You too can own shares in Corangamite Financial Services Ltd. There are approx. 500 locally connected shareholders, many of whom are the original investors from 22 years that have received annual dividends and are the foundation for all the good things that the Community Bank has done. These shares have been tightly held for many years but as time has passed some of our original shareholders are leaving their shareholdings as part of their legacy, creating opportunities for new community members to become owners and continue supporting the local Community Bank.

If you would like to become a Community Bank shareholder or would like further information contact us.

Drop and speak to one of our Managers at the Winchelsea, Anglesea or Lorne branches or call on 5267-3189 or visit the Investor & Shareholder pages on the Bank website https://www.bendigobank. com.au/branch/vic/community-bankwinchelsea-district/



WANTED Winchelsea Girl Guides needs girls

We welcome girls 6-15yrs.

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

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

Many of our girls were from Moriac so a Unit has been opened at Modewarre to cater for them. We also had 4 travelling up from the coast, and now they attend secondary school in Geelong so they have transferred to a Geelong Guide Unit.

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

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

Winchelsea Churches



St John's Catholic Church

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

St Thomas' Anglican Church

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

Winchelsea Uniting Church

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

Thought for the Week

"Doing nothing for others is the undoing

of one's self. We must be purposely kind and generous or we miss the best part of life's existence.

The heart that goes out of itself gets large and full of joy.

We do ourselves most good by doing something for others."

John Bader, Former U/C Accredited Lay Preacher

Reminder: Winchelsea pool reopening ceremony 27th February

Free admission from day gates open until end of family fun day on Sunday 2 March



The formal opening ceremony for the pool will be on Thursday 27 February and Surf Coast Shire Council is working hard to open gates to the community several days earlier, pending progress of final commissioning processes.

Council will confirm the open-to-thecommunity date via surfcoast.vic.gov. au/WinchelseaPool and social and other media during the next fortnight.

Admission will be free from the day gates open until close of a free gala family fun day on Sunday 2 March.

The redeveloped Barwon Terrace site features new 25m and leisure pools with heated water, pavilion, a splash park, shelters, landscaping, barbecue, water fountain and plant room.

The free family fun day will run from 10am to 5pm on 2 March, featuring entertainment, sausage sizzle, fun activities, giveaways and games.

The new pool season will run until 30 March, with gates open 3pm to 7pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 5pm on weekends.

The former pool was decommissioned in March 2023 having reached the end of its serviceable life.

Input from almost 300 people helped shape designs for the new pool, including addition of the splash park.

For more information visit surfcoast. vic.gov.au/WinchelseaPool.

Help With The Costs Of Camps And Excursions

The Victorian Government is helping families with back-to-school costs, delivering a new round of support for kids to go on camps and excursions – on top of the \$400 School Saving Bonus. The Camps, Sport and Excursions Fund makes sure every student – regardless of their background – gets the chance to go on camps and excursions with their friends.

Under the program, families with healthcare cards will be able to access \$154 for primary school children and \$256 for secondary school students. Families who have multiple children at the same school will be able to pool their allocated funding to use on one child or for one specific activity. This could help in situations where the costs for activities in a certain year level are higher than others.



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.

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Reminder To Prevent Children Being Locked In Hot Cars

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

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

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

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

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

RACV offers the following advice for motorists driving with children:

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

If a child is accidentally locked in the car:

- Call 13 11 11 for RACV Emergency Roadside Assistance.
- For life-threatening situations, call 000 immediately.
- Stay calm, but act fast.

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

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

Innovative Smoke Sensor Helping Winegrowers **During Bushfire**

A smoke sensor developed by La Trobe University researchers that has the potential to save hundreds of millions of dollars in lost wine production is in the process of being rolled out across the wine industry, with monitors now being used to track the impact of bushfires that have ravaged the Grampians.

Wine Industry Smoke Detectors (WISDs) - colloquially known as 'wizards' - track smoke events like bushfires and burn offs around vineyards and advise winegrowers whether it is likely to taint their grapes – and if they need to discard their season's harvest, or use winemaking techniques to remove the taint.



Data taken during trials of the sensor through the 2020 bushfires that devastated wine regions across Australia's east coast found that \$100-\$150 million worth of grapes were needlessly discarded over unfounded concerns they were

Professor Ian Porter, a researcher from the School of Agriculture, Biomedicine and Environment at La Trobe, leads the team that developed the WISDs and the risk model over the last decade. He said trials of their sensor in vineyards across south-eastern Australia had found that smoke did not taint wine grapes as much as viticulturalists believed.

He said this meant vineyards could avoid significant losses of grapes that winegrowers had previously believed were ruined.

"Growers think that all smoke causes smoke taint, but data collected by our team has for the first time globally linked the amount of fresh smoke needed in vineyards to smoke taint in the bottle. This has been the Holy Grail of research that's now being solved," he said.

"This sensor has the potential to save a heap of grapes they would usually throw away, which can be financially and emotionally devastating for winegrowers. It's one of the reasons we developed the WISDs."

Charging the Surf Coast and the Great Ocean Road

Surf Coast Shire

Surf Coast Shire Council has replaced the old 7kW single port electric vehicle (EV) charger in front of the Lorne Visitor Information Centre, with a 50kW dual port charger, providing a public charging station in the area.

Three more public EV charging stations will also be installed throughout the year, one each in Winchelsea, Aireys Inlet and Anglesea.

The Aireys Inlet charging station will be located in the car park of the Aireys Inlet Community Hall. Preliminary works are underway, and installation is expected by the middle of the year.

The Winchelsea charging station will be located in the old Winchelsea Library car park. Planning has commenced, but installation is not expected until later in the year.

The location for the Anglesea charging station is still to be confirmed.

"It's great to have this public EV charging station back up and running in Lorne", said Cr Leon Walker.

"With more visitors driving hybrid or electric vehicles, it is convenient they now have a public option to charge their vehicles in Lorne." "And once all of the EV chargers are installed it will mean visitors travelling through our area will have four more options for fast charging."

The charging stations will all be dual port 50kW fast chargers. Two-hour parking limits will apply to each charging parking bay.

The charging stations have been funded through the Victorian Government's Destination Charging Across Victoria program, establishing a public electric vehicle fast-charging network across Victoria.

Find out more information about the EV chargers installation at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/EVChargers



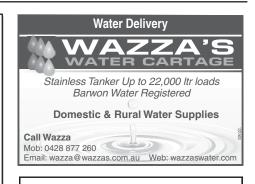
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Sustainable Approach To The 2025 Duck Hunting Season

Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos has announced the settings for the 2025 duck hunting season, determined by the science-based Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) model and the Wounding Reduction Action Plan.

This year is the first season the Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) model will be used to guide the daily bag limit in Victoria, with the modelling tailored to Victoria's unique conditions, habitats and species.

Recreational duck and quail hunting is a legitimate activity, and it matters to thousands of Victorians who love the great outdoors and regional businesses who benefit, but it needs to proceed safely and sustainably.

From this season, all new hunters seeking a license are required to do mandatory online knowledge training and testing - including Aboriginal cultural awareness training – as part of the Waterfowl Wounding Reduction Action Plan. All hunters renewing their licence from 2026 will also be required to complete this training.

The 2025 duck season will open on Wednesday, 19 March 2025 and close on Monday, 9 June 2025. The start time is 8:00am for the first five days of the season, after which hunting can start 30 minutes before sunrise.

The 2025 daily bag limit is nine ducks, and seven duck game species can be hunted. The blue-winged shoveler cannot be hunted this season, and the use of lead shot for quail hunting is also banned.

Further details about the 2025 season, including any wetland closures, will be regularly updated on the Game Management Authority (GMA) website at gma.vic.gov.au.

Councillor Update

by Cr Tony Phelps (Winchelsea Ward)

Nominate a Local Legend

The Shire is now looking for nominations for individuals or groups that you feel deserve recognition for their community work. Do you know someone? One of those people that



simply get on with volunteering their time & effort? The people or groups that make a genuine difference? You'll need their permission to nominate, so you might need to work on them a bit first, but it's good to give the guiet achievers a public "Great work, we love what you're doing". Even being nominated is rewarding, motivating and inspiring - let people know we appreciate what they do.

Winchelsea Pool Makeover

As you've probably seen, the new pool will be open for use any day now, with an official opening ceremony at 2pm on Thursday 27th February. There will also be a community party on Saturday 2nd March to celebrate a community asset originally built by local residents over 60 years ago. The Winchelsea Historical Society have occasionally published photos of the construction back in in the 1960s - needless to say, things are done a bit differently today!

2025/5 Budget and 4-Year Plan

As high-priority items for this group of Councillors to kick off 2025, the process for setting the budget for next financial year is under way plus your feedback for the major themes and directions over the next 4 years is being processed and summarised.

The draft budget is typically made available to the public possibly March but more likely April/May. You then have the option to comment on it and make formal submissions for adjustments. It's important to bear in mind (for Councillors as well as ratepayers) that the Surf Coast Shire budget is like a full box - if you want something put in, something else has to come out. It's going to be interesting to see where we go with it with this Council.

The next step for the 4-year plan is to assemble the panel of 45 Shire-wide volunteers chosen through a careful process to ensure appropriate representation, and over 3 and a bit Saturdays they will pull together all the survey results and produce some community-powered guidance for Councillors to then set the themes for the 4-Year Plan. It might sound like bureaucracy but that plan will have a big impact on decisions and budget allocations, because it will be the reference to decide priorities - priorities that the community at large has said are important.

Winchelsea Place Plan

With the 2015 version now expiring, it's time to put together a new masterplan for Winchelsea. This is going to be a significant project and focus for the Shire over the next 12-18 months. It's YOUR chance to influence where and how the town grows - and it IS going to grow, because it is the designated 'Growth zone' for the Shire. So keep track of those ideas of what should go where, how things should be done, what we're going to need. The forecast of 18,000 in 25 years' time may seem far-fetched, but you only need to consider what makes Winchelsea so attractive - train, hospital, school, shops, sports facilities, playgrounds, theatre, veggie gardens, Community House...



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
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.winchelseawildlifeshelter.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
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Winchelsea Health Club	facebook.com/WinchelseaHealthClub
Winchelsea Playgroup (School terms only)	facebook.com/groups/551663435367031
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6:45pm, 8:50pm

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



COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

7pm second Wednesday of month Winchelsea Senior Citizens' Hall



Winchelsea and District **COMBINED PROBUS CLUB**



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WINCHELSEA FLOODS



In 1852 the Barwon Bridge - which had stood the storms and floods of many years- stood a great deluge.

In 1880 very serious damage was done by the floods. The family of Mr Sidney Austin and all the servants had to be taken off by boat. Men were engaged all day in rescuing animals and they had a narrow escape of being swept away with the current. The stone bridge was put to a severe test during the flood. The three arches had almost blocked.

In 1909 torrential rains fell and large tracts of low lying country was submerged.

Two women - Mrs Ferry, wife of the manager of Barwon Park and a young girl named Gurrie - were drowned through the upsetting of a boat in which they were trying to escape. Mr Hall managed to reach land.

Many train lines were submerged and the Adelaide train was detained.

In 1915 heavy rain fell, 153 points falling in an hour, and 320 points in one and a half hours at Mr Biggs' farm.

In 1923 the Batson family were forced to leave Barwon Park. Considerable damage was done to the bridge when a steam lorry crashed into it and huge pieces of bluestone were torn out and fell into the depths below.

In 1953 army ducks were used to save many families from flood waters.

In 1995 emergency services and residents battled to save six homes along the Barwon River. But the efforts failed to overcome the raging torrent of the Barwon River entering the historic home of the Leak family in Kildean Rd. A metre of water gushed through the 147 year old bluestone home. The Barwon Hotel had floodwater almost to the back door. Many towns recorded double their average rainfall - Winchelsea 90mm.





WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Upper Barwon Landcare Network 2025 Social and Planning evening

The Upper Barwon Landcare Network invites all of our member groups and their members to a landcare gathering. This will be an opportunity for the Upper Barwon landcare community to come together socially to share experiences and enjoy an evening stroll along the Barwon River.

We will also have a chat about what the UBLN has planned for the coming year and provide the opportunity for input into the activities of the network.

The Winchelsea Land and Rivercare group will host us for this year's event and will lead a walk along the Barwon River in the Winchelsea township to showcase all the amazing things the group has achieved to restore the river environment.

All community members and their families welcome.

When: Friday 28th February

2025

Time: 6pm onwards

Where: Anglican church hall

27 Barwon Terrace

Winchelsea

What to bring: Bring a plate to share for a "Pot Luck" dinner (fridge and oven available) BYO drinks
Tea, Coffee and water

RSVP by Wednesday 26th February

Click the link or scan the QR code to register https://events.humanitix.com/upper-barwon-landcare-social-and-planning-evening



Contact Andrea on 0404 552 663 or andrea.upperbarwonlandcare@gmail.com



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Winchelsea Bowls Club



Julie Johnson

ALL WINCH BLUES BOWLS TEAMS STILL IN THE PREMIERSHIP HUNT.





Following a wonderful week of great bowling by all the players Midweek 1 and Saturday 1 straight through to Grand Final. Midweek 3 and Saturday 2 to Preliminary Finals.

PENNANT RESULTS

- Midweek Division 1 def Colac City at Cressy winning all rinks, 81/54 shots.
- Midweek Division 3 def Colac Lake at Cressy winning 2/3 rinks, 69/42 shots.
- Saturday Division 1 def Apollo Bay at Colac winning all rinks 113/80 shots.
- Saturday Division 2 were def by Lorne at Colac City winning 2/4 rinks, 79/81

This week it is your chance to meet the rinks of our two Midweek teams. Our first session of Come Try Bowls was very successful last Friday night and we look forward to a great attendance this coming Friday. Training sessions have been

well attended as has spectator attendance by Winch members and friends at the finals, all players appreciate your support.

For the two finals to come in the next week, may the bowls be with you!!









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Winchelsea and District



Building Community With Funding For Men's Sheds

Communities across Victoria are set to benefit from a major investment in local men's sheds, helping men learn valuable skills, stay connected and give back to their communities - thanks to a new round of funding from the Victorian Government.

29 men's sheds across Victoria will share in more than \$850,000 as part of the 2024-25 Men's Shed Funding Program.



Moriac Community Shed (Moriac Community Network) will receive \$48,221.77

Men's sheds are more than just a place to tinker, they're an important support network for men right across Victoria helping them to learn important skills from woodworking to home repairs, while providing a sense of purpose and community.

Minister for Carers and Volunteers Ros Spence said "Men's sheds are essential community spaces where men can forge friendships, share experiences and support each other in a safe and welcoming environment, as well as working on meaningful projects."



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Winchelsea Golf Club



Rachel Boddington

RESULTS

Saturday 15/2/25 Club Championship Wk1 Stroke 1st - Neil Hickman 79 (11) 68 2nd - Nick Stone 77 (9) 68 3rd - Ricky Sauni 76 (□ 68 NTP (2/11th) Tom Shaw GH (8th) David Lewis Jag the Joker now \$350

> Mens - Mid Week - Weekly Stableford 12/2/25 16 Players 1st - Neil Hickman (11) 35 points 2nd - Matt Beauchamp (12) 33 points BDL - Ken Rickard (25) 32 points C/B BDL - Nick Stone (9) 32 points C/B NTP (8/17th) - Ricky Sauni

Ladies - Wednesday Stroke and 1st RD Championships, 2nd part of 1st RD on Saturday. Winner: Lesley Mathison 109-42-67 R/Up: Tara Steward 88-16-72 Leaderboard will be up after Saturday



Come along and have a great round of golf with a fantastic group of people, we pride ourselves on being welcoming and enjoying all aspects of golf, both the game and social.



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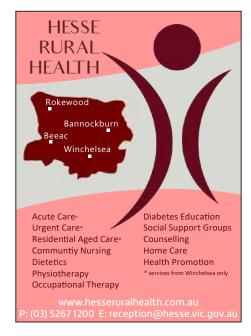
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parkrun 50



15 February 2025

43 participants completed the course through Trebeck Reserve this week. 7 people completed their Personal Best time for Trebeck Reserve. Congratulations to Jack O'Brien, Meg Royal, Nathan F, Mairead O'Brien, Brooke Robins, Amanda Worland and Bern Hassett. One Person completed their very first parkrun.

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

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

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

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

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.



Trebeck Reserve, Winchelsea



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

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

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

parkrun was conducted at around 500 locations across Australia this week





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(03) 5267 1200 or via email reception@hesse.vic.gov.au



DEFIBRILLATORS IN WINCHELSEA

Accessible to the public 24 hours a day

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.

> **Ambulance Victoria** 33 Willis Street

> > **Bendigo Bank** 11 Main Street

Globe Theatre (Side entrance) 17 Willis Steet

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 St,

Winchelsea Cemetery, McConachy St

Winchelsea Golf Club 13 Anderson Street

Winchelsea Primary School Main Street

Wurdale Memorial Hall 220 Wurdale Road

