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Your Weekly Community Newspaper

Since 1977

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Tuesday 30 April 2024

winchelseastar.org.au



Storytime with Mary from Geelong Regional Libraries Corporation

Family Day at Birregurra, hosted by Barwon Water,
celebrating the Sustainable Community Program



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Men's and Ladies'

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Jill Evans

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What a wonderful ANZAC Day,
that you, our wonderful community,
made very special

Chris Alsop Secretary Winchelsea RSL

The GMRG made this year's Anzac Day an experience for all, adding that unique element of the era of World War II.

The Winchelsea RSL hosted the service with the help of so many. Refreshments were provided by the football and netball ladies, giving all who attended a lovely morning tea and time to look around the displays and enjoy the great company.

The Winchelsea RSL always tries to find a speaker of interest or with an important story to tell, for the service.

This year our speaker was Mr. Dennis Godfrey, the grandson of Arthur Harry Langham Godfrey (1896-1942), army officer and auctioneer.

On 11 January 1915 he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force winning both promotion and medals for bravery. During the period between the wars, he seems to



Brigadier General Arthur Godfrey
The most senior A.I.F. officer
killed in action at El Alamein

have had a relationship with Winchelsea and was a member of the Winchelsea RSL. Perhaps he was here as a stock and station agent and auctioneer.

In WWII he commanded the 24th Brigade, he was at Tobruk; in Syria and then to Egypt to help block Axis forces advancing towards Cairo. The battle of El Alamein was a turning point, during the war, Godfrey directed the brigade's operations.

This was until the evening of 1 November 1942, when a direct hit took out his headquarters. He was seriously wounded in the abdomen, and on 4 November 1942 he died and was buried in El Alamein war cemetery.

His wife, daughter and three sons survived him. He was a fine commander, clear and incisive. Godfrey was the most senior A.I.F. officer killed in action at El Alamein.

Our war memorial is full of names, it is not just a list, each has a story. When you go for a walk, have a look for Brigadier General Arthur Godfrey and his sons remembered here. He was the highest-ranking Australian officer killed in action. Not to be forgotten.

Lest we forget.

Barongarook Gardens (Colac) VIC

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Yes! YOU can write for the Star

We want the Star to inform, engage, inspire, and interest the residents of Winchelsea and surrounds. And we need your writings to get there.

The Star has no actual reporters or designated writers - we publish what you send us. If you have some news, an opinion, an interest or perspective, or a story - we'd love you to send it in for publication.

The Star loves to hear anything of direct interest to the Winchelsea community. The more local content we can put in, the better!

How much can I write?

You can write just one article. You can start a new column about something you're interested in. You can send us a series of articles on a theme. What would **you** write about?

Your article can spread over 1 or 2 pages (approx 850 words) or you can write longer pieces and split them across multiple editions.

Add a photo or two, an article title and author's name (preferably).

Can you publish my photos?

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You have liability when publishing an image, so be sure you own the image or have written approval to use it. It is easy for copyright owners to find stolen images online, where the Star can be found.

Legalities

Our Editors will not approve anything libellous (ie. when a false statement is published in written form and does harm to a victim). The Star is a community newspaper - 'for' and 'against' opinions on contentious topics are welcome, but attacking individuals or groups is not.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Simply email editor@winchelseastar.org.au



parkrun 8

Trebeck Reserve, Winchelsea Saturday 27 April 2024

This week 41 people and 15 dogs completed the course through Trebeck Reserve.

Six people completed their personal best time and we had one first time parkrunner. Well done everyone who walked, ran or volunteered. We had visitors from Westerfold, Point Cook, Diamond Creek, Lalor and two from Townsville

This event was made possible by the following volunteers.
Simone FITZGERALD * Liz BENNETT * Murray AISBETT *
Amanda WORLAND * Kate McINNES * Mick O'MARA
* Karen RICHES

A summary of this week's results can be found at trebeckreserveparkrun.com.au/results Check out our Facebook page for today's photos and further information.

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

If you wish to join us any Saturday morning as a walker, runner or volunteer please complete the simple online registration at



parkrun.com.au/register. This only needs to be done once and can be used worldwide.

parkrun was conducted at 486 locations across Australia this week





Twenty seconds is all it takes!

KidsafeVictoria

Kidsafe Victoria issues bath safety alert amid alarming drowning statistics

Kidsafe Victoria has issued a warning about the dangers of leaving children unattended in the bath after new data showed it as the equal leading location for toddler drowning.

The data – released in the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia's National Drowning Report – shows that of the 16 toddler drowning incidents that occurred in Australia in 2022-23, 25% happened in a bath or spa bath, the same number as in swimming pools.

Bathtubs and spa baths were also the equal leading location for drowning deaths of children aged 5-14 years, accounting for almost a third of drowning deaths in this age group.

Jason Chambers, General Manager of Kidsafe Victoria, said the figures highlighted the drowning hazards that everyday items around the home can pose for toddlers.

"Toddlers can drown in as little as a few centimetres of water. While baths don't hold as much water as a pool and don't have rips or currents like the beach, they still pose a serious drowning hazard for toddlers," Mr Chambers said.

A number of bath drowning incidents occur when an adult isn't in the bathroom to supervise. Research conducted by The Royal Life Saving Society of Australia, UNSW Medicine, and James Cook University found that household chores were the most common distraction leading to lapses in supervision of children around water.

"Twenty seconds is all it takes for a toddler to drown. While chores such as checking on dinner, taking out the rubbish or putting the washing out might all seem like quick tasks, they all take longer than 20 seconds. If you have to leave the bathroom, even for a short period of time, it's safest to always take the kids with you", said Mr Chambers.

Dr Hannah Calverley, Manager – Research and Evaluation with Life Saving Victoria, highlighted the importance of actively supervising children in the bath at all times to help keep them safe. "Supervision is the most important thing adults can do to help keep children safe in and around water. Active and constant adult supervision means always having an adult within arm's reach, with no distractions", said Dr Calverley.

There are simple things parents and carers can do to help keep their children safe at bath time, including:

- Making sure an adult is always supervising within arm's reach. It's not safe to leave older children to supervise younger ones in the bath.
- While baby bath aids can be convenient, it's important to remember that they are not safety devices and aren't designed to prevent drownings.
- Ignore distractions such as the phone, cooking dinner, or hanging the washing out. If you need to leave the bathroom, take your child with you.
- Have everything you need for bath time close by (e.g. towel and clothes).
- Fill the bath with just enough water to let you wet your child with your hands.
- When you finish, empty all the water out of the bath, remove the plug and place it out of reach.
- Keep the bathroom door closed so that children can't get in on their own.

Free Kidsafe bath safety resources

To help keep children safe during bath time, Kidsafe Victoria has developed a new digital bath safety flyer with hints and tips for parents and carers. Translated versions are also available in Chinese (traditional and simplified language), Punjabi, Hindi, Arabic, and Vietnamese, and can be downloaded for free from the Kidsafe Victoria website.



Winchelsea Playgroup presents ...

Musical Playgroup Session

in collaboration with Hey Dee Ho Geelong



10AM
Friday 3rd May
2024



St Thomas's Church Hall

Session is suitable for babies through to preschoolers
\$10 per family to attend
limited tickets available
Sessions runs for approximately 45 minutes.
Bring water bottle and own snack.

Mums Day Out

WINCHELSEA PLAYGROUP FUNDRAISER

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Sunday May 19th 2024
2PM - 5PM
\$70 per ticket

This includes all art supplies & afternoon tea
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All proceeds go towards new resources for
the Winchelsea Community Playgroup.

Limited tickets available
Scan QR Code to purchase




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Playgroup Leader - Danni Menzies
Email: winchelseaplaygroup@gmail.com
St. Thomas's Hall,
27-29 Barwon Terrace,
Winchelsea VIC 3241

TERM TWO DATES:
18TH APRIL
2ND MAY
16TH MAY
30TH MAY
13TH JUNE
27TH JUNE

Scan to be part of our Facebook Group






Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

Police are out there to keep you safe. If you still choose to take risks while driving and break the road rules, chances are you will be caught.





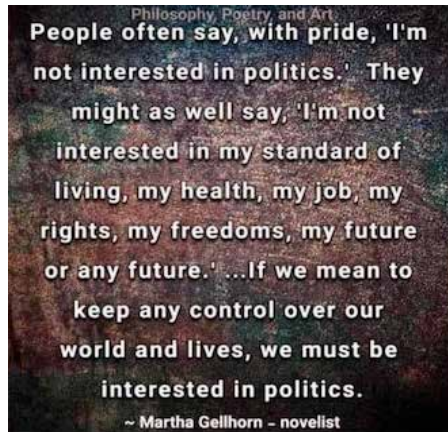
The Climate Report

Judy Cameron

Facts about the climate emergency from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

The science of climate change is well established:

- Climate change is real and human activities are the main cause. (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - IPCC)
- The concentration of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere is directly linked to the average global temperature on Earth. (IPCC)
- The concentration has been rising steadily, and mean global temperatures along with it, since the time of the Industrial Revolution. (IPCC)
- The most abundant greenhouse gas, accounting for about two-thirds of greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide (CO₂), is largely the product of burning fossil fuels. (IPCC)
- Methane, the primary component of natural gas, is responsible for more than 25% of the warming we are experiencing today. It is a powerful pollutant with a global warming potential over 80 times greater than CO₂ during the 20 years after it is released into the atmosphere. (Methane Emissions fact sheet, UNEP)



Scanning the internet I came across an Opinion piece in the Los Angeles Times from September 2017. It ponders why there was a lack of real alarm about the climate emergency.

While the science requires a fair amount of explanation, the enormity of the effects will become indisputable at a future date. But economic interests keep us from change.

The writer opines

"Against all the forces that encourage confusion, indecision, and delay, one institution bears the ultimate responsibility for educating the public and sounding the alarm: the media. However, reporting on climate remains lamentably uneven and incomplete."

Every reputable news venue should be providing ongoing coverage of climate science, its implications for our way of life, and a thorough discussion of the pathways out of our predicament."

Are we humans, whose technology has transformed our planet, incapable of recognizing an existential threat and moving quickly enough to avert catastrophe?

The planet is facing multiple crises. Recently, we've seen the hottest years in history; wildfires sweeping across continents; an increase in the frequency and intensity of rainfall events and river flooding; more frequent and faster developing droughts; record levels of food insecurity; escalating biodiversity loss; melting of the ice caps leading to sea-level rises; shrinking of the glaciers feeding important Asian rivers - and a widening gap between rich and poor.

How can we reverse these alarming trends?

With trillions of dollars stimulus we can transition away from fossil fuels to clean infrastructure and industries that create millions of jobs, overcome deep social inequalities and create a thriving economy. It will cost us MUCH more not to do it.

All this takes is political will!

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Blues News

Janet Fletcher

Welcome to the ANZAC week of Football & Netball in the G.D.F.N.L. where the Winchelsea Blues travelled to the Viva Energy Oval last Saturday to meet the Corio Devils in Round 4.

ANZAC Day is an emotional day for many in our town community and our sporting communities, and the W.F.N.C. was privileged to cater for the Winchelsea's R.S.L.'s morning tea after the service held at Eastern Reserve last Thursday.

The legacy of ANZAC Day left by those who served and stood up in the face of insurmountable odds all those years ago and those who are still serving their great country is measured by when we are able to run out freely on to the football fields and our netball courts and play our games and continue with our great way of life here in Australia and New Zealand.

It is a privilege to be able to cater for that special morning tea after the memories have been remembered and recounted and tears have been shed at the last post.

There was a huge number turn out to honour the day and after the ceremony up in the rooms many cups of tea, Anzac biscuits, sandwiches, cakes and slices were enjoyed in a noisy happy atmosphere by all ages from babies, teenagers to the much older attendees. Many thanks go to all who provided and helped on the day – can't do it without you!

LEST WE FORGET

RESERVES:

Winchelsea Blues 10.20.80 defeated Corio Devils 2.6.18

The Reserves kicked off at the usual time of 12pm last Saturday in great weather for the many spectators that attended the game, probably a little warm to be actually running around kicking the footy, wind conditions were close to perfect. The Blues led all match and would/could have won by a far greater measure had they brought their goal kicking boots with them, 2 goals 9 in the first quarter to 1 goal 1 from the Devils. By three quarter time the Blues had kicked 6 goals 17 points. 10 goals, 20 points all up.

Angus Leigh brought the right boots and kicked 3, Will Smith and Shane O'Connell also finding the big sticks with 2 goals apiece – well done!

The Reserves are sitting with 2 wins and 2 losses and are looking to play in the Finals series that they missed out on by such a narrow margin last season.

GOALS:

Angus Leigh 3, Will Smith 2, Shane O'Connell 2, Dylan Spong 1, Shaun Morris 1, Alex Winzer 1.

BEST:

Archie Howard, Bailey Kahle, Will Smith, Shane O'Connell, Matthew Dykes, Luke Foot.

SENIORS:

Winchelsea Blues 16.14.110 defeated Corio Devils 12.11.83.

The warm, still, Autumn conditions prevailed for the Senior match at 2pm and the Blues got off to a good start in the first quarter, kicking 3.6 to Corio's 1.2. and although ahead on the scoreboard the Blues were certainly not having it all their own way. It was an entertaining game of football with the Devils always hanging in there with that presence that they could take over the game at various times, but the Blues were good enough to hold them out and take their first 4 points for the season.

There will be plenty of sore bodies after Round 4, downside to the win was injury to Caleb Brown (shoulder).

Tom and Tav had their kicking boots on with Tom booting 6 and Tavae not far behind with 5.

Must make mention of the beautiful condition of the oval at Corio Sporting Community Club last Saturday.

Losses of 7, 9 and 11 points in the first 3 Rounds playing quality opposition while not ideal, is hardly disaster either, the first win on the board will create confidence which will be needed when travelling to Werribee Centrals next week.

GOALS:

Tom Moloney 6, Tavae Sauni 5, Fin Parish 2, Jack Symmons 1, Fin Kersopp-Cole 1, Aaron Cooke 1.

BEST:

Tavae Sauni, Lachie Gemill, Caleb Brown, Fin Parish, Tom Moloney, Fin Kersopp-Cole.

BLUE'S BISTRO:

This Thursday night's menu will be

CHICKEN CARBONARA
PORCUPINE BALLS
SEAFOOD BASKETS

All served with salad/vegetables/chips/gravy

Members \$15 Non member \$20

Complimentary Tea and Coffee are still available.

CHICKEN NUGGETS & CHIPS & GRAVY/SAUCE \$5

DESSERT: \$5

ICE CREAM /TOPPING /SPRINKLES \$2

The heaters are sure to be on this week and the Bar will be open from 6pm.

RECYCLE 4CHANGE:

The Recycle 4 Change programme is up and running – please look for the tubs and specially marked bins to put cans and glass stubbies into. Please try not to crush the cans as it can have an effect on being able to read the Bar Code to receive the 10 cents.

Thank you to all those taking this on board.

GO BLUES!!

Winchelsea Churches



St John's Catholic Church

Father Joseph Panackal
0404598558
Harding St, Winchelsea 3241
MASS TIMES
5pm Sat. May 4, 11, 18, 25

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

Often through the passing days we feel deep down inside, unspoken thoughts of thankfulness and fond, admiring pride.

But words can say so little when the heart is overflowing, and often those we love the most just have no way of knowing. The many things the heart conceals and never can impart, for words seem so inadequate to express what's in the heart."

John Bader,
Former U/C Accredited
Lay Preacher

The lovely connection between the Austin family (of Barwon Mansion fame), and St Thomas' Anglican Church

Rev'd Phil Jacobson

Nearly every Winchelsea local would know that nestled in our picturesque town stands the magnificent Barwon Park mansion, a testament to the vision and legacy of the Austin family.

If anyone delves into the history of this grand estate, they can quickly see the deep connection that exists between the Austins and St. Thomas Anglican Church, reflecting not only the family's deep faith but also their commitment to the community.

Most locals are already aware of the relationship between the Austin family and St. Thomas Anglican Church, but this journey, tracing its origins, development, and enduring significance is worth another quick look.

The story of the Austin family's association with Barwon Park dates back to the mid-19th century when Thomas Austin, a prominent pastoralist and entrepreneur, acquired the land on which the mansion stands today. Thomas Austin's success in the wool industry enabled him to commission the construction of Barwon Park, a grand Victorian Italianate mansion, in 1869. The estate's sprawling grounds, and magnificent interiors stood as a testament to the Austins' wealth and social standing within the region.

Central to the Austin family's identity was their deep-rooted faith and commitment to philanthropy. As devout Anglicans, they played an active role in the religious life of the Winchelsea community, with St. Thomas Anglican Church serving as a focal point for their religious and charitable endeavours. The Austins' contributions to the church went beyond financial support; they were actively involved in its governance and participated in various initiatives aimed at supporting the local community.

The architectural grandeur of Barwon Park mirrored the Austins' reverence for tradition and beauty, reflecting the grandeur of their faith. The mansion's intricate design, decorated with ornate decorations and luxurious furnishings, served as a testimony to the family's refined taste and commitment to excellence.

Similarly, St. Thomas Anglican Church, with its neo-Gothic architecture and serene ambiance, provided a sacred space for spiritual reflection and worship, drawing the Austin family and the community closer together in their shared devotion.

The Austin family's relationship with St. Thomas Anglican Church was characterized by a shared set of values centred on faith, family, and community. They played an active role in the church's activities, attending services regularly and participating in parish events. Moreover, the Austins' philanthropic endeavours extended to the wider community, with donations and support provided to various charitable causes, including education, healthcare, and social welfare.

Despite the passage of time, the bond between the Austin family and St. Thomas Anglican Church remains strong, enduring through generations and leaving an indelible mark on the Winchelsea community. Today, both Barwon Park and St. Thomas Anglican Church stand as symbols of the Austins' enduring legacy, serving as reminders of their faith, generosity, and commitment to the improvement of society. Their story serves as an inspiration to future generations, highlighting the importance of faith, community, and philanthropy in shaping a brighter future for all.

The relationship between the Austin family of Barwon Park and St. Thomas Anglican Church in Winchelsea is a witness to the enduring power of faith, family, and community. Through their shared values and commitment to philanthropy, the Austins left an indelible mark on the landscape of Winchelsea, enriching the lives of countless individuals and cementing their legacy for generations to come, and reminding us of the profound impact that individuals and families can have when guided by principles of compassion, integrity, and service to others.

Don't forget we're meeting in the church hall at the moment until the church floor can be replaced. It's working out well, and the chairs are more comfortable! The time remains at 10.00am and you'd be more than welcome to come along if you would like to. For more information please ring 0419 322 385.

Council endorses draft 2024-25 budget for submissions

With a strong focus on delivering core services and investing in key facilities, Surf Coast Shire Council's draft 2024-25 Budget has been endorsed for submissions.

The draft budget features an ambitious \$52.4m capital expenditure program, \$11m of which is on new projects including a Great Ocean Road bike route from Duffields Road to Strathmore Drive in Jan Juc (\$489,410). The remaining \$41.4m is ongoing capital works, headlined by two exciting facilities: Winchelsea Pool and Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre.

Torquay Skate Park and playgrounds at Moriac's Newling Reserve, Jan Juc's Bob Pettitt Reserve and Torquay's Ocean Acres are just a handful of Council's community assets and facilities that will be renewed through a total \$19.6m.

"From parks to playgrounds to pools, facilities like these are loved by so many and are wonderful places to foster community connections," Mayor Liz Pattison said.

Mayor Pattison highlighted the budget's focus on local roads and footpaths. "More than \$13m will help make it easier and safer for people to move in and around their communities," she said. "As well as important sealed and unsealed road renewal across the shire, Coombes Road will be widened from Ghazepoore Road to Messmate Road (\$2.2m) and numerous footpaths will be upgraded, such as Moggs Creek's Boolooral Reserve, Anglesea's Paringa Nature Reserve, and Willis Street in Winchelsea."

There is \$862,000 for local initiatives to deliver Council's climate emergency response. "As a carbon-neutral organisation, we'll add to the 316kW of solar and 64kWh of battery storage installed on Council facilities, further reducing emissions and our energy costs," the Mayor said.

"We'll also assess resilient relief centres to support the community in emergencies (\$35,000) and roll out the inaugural year of the Growing Our Urban Forest program (\$190,000), which will adapt townships to help withstand the changing climate through tree planting and canopy cover."

The draft budget includes a proposed rate increase of 2.75% – complying with the rate cap set by the Victorian Government. Rate revenue is the major source of funding for core services and key facilities in the 2024-25 draft budget, to support the community now and into the future.

The waste service charge funds kerbside collections, waste disposal, recyclable material processing, local resource recovery centres, and Anglesea Landfill. The charge for rural garbage collection will increase by \$34 to \$461. It is gradually being aligned to the urban garbage charge (\$495 in 2024-25).

"We understand that many residents are experiencing financial pressures. If you are, please reach out to Council as there are rates payment plans available," Mayor Pattison said. "Any introduction or increase to fees and charges is to ensure they are closer to the true cost of providing facilities, services and programs, and that they are consistent across the shire."

A net surplus of \$8.8m is forecast for 2024-25. This is a forecast increase of \$18.2 million compared to 2023-24, driven by the

transition of parcels of public land to Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority in 2023-24 and an increase in government grants.

"Inflation has been rising much faster than Council's revenue base and much higher than the 2.75% Victorian rate cap set for 2024-25," Mayor Pattison said.

"It's good that \$540,000 of savings have been generated to support the challenge of the gap between our revenue and inflation."

Submissions on the draft budget are welcome until 10am on Monday 20 May. View the draft 2024-25 budget online via yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/budget, in-person at Council office (1 Merrijig Drive, Torquay), or call Council on 5261 0600 to arrange a hard copy to be posted.

Make a submission:

- Online via yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/budget
- By writing to: Chief Executive Officer, Surf Coast Shire Council, PO Box 350 Torquay VIC 3228

Submissions will help inform Council when it considers adoption of the final 2024-25 budget at the Council meeting on Tuesday 25 June 2024.

New members on Surf Coast Shire All Abilities Advisory Committee

Surf Coast Shire Council has welcomed five new members to its All Abilities Advisory Committee.

The voluntary committee advises Council on improving access and inclusion for people with disability, helping to ensure that people regardless of abilities can take part in community life and access services they need.

The new committee members are:

- Carole Morrow of Torquay
- Cheryl Middleton of Bellbrae
- Jo Klemke of Armstrong Creek
- Liz Conning of Jan Juc
- Penny Cilento of Torquay.

"We welcome each of our new members and look forward to them helping us to continue working towards a more inclusive Surf Coast Shire," Deputy Mayor and AAAC Council representative Mike Bodsworth said.

"We have important work ahead continuing to provide input on facilities and programs across the shire. We especially look forward to hearing advice from our committee members as plans for the Surf Coast Aquatic and Health Centre come together.

"On behalf of the committee and wider shire community I thank our outgoing committee members Mark Modra, Thomas Byrnes and particularly Caroline Maplesdon and Richard Porter for their great contributions and achievements. By the time of their final meeting in June, Caroline will have devoted 22 years to the AAAC, including time as chair, and Richard 19 years, including time as deputy chair. They have made such profound contributions, making a difference in voluntary roles."

Birregurra community and Barwon Water celebrate water savings Cover Story

Barwon Water recently hosted a family day to celebrate the achievements of the Birregurra Sustainable Communities Program.

Families came together to enjoy free entertainment, morning tea and activities at the Birregurra Mechanics Hall.

The community event highlighted the success of the water-saving program, which has saved 38 million litres of water and reduced customer bills by \$81,000, since it was established in 2020.

General Manager Customers, Community and Strategy, Laura Kendall said it was a fun and interactive session focusing on the value of water. "Educating and engaging children in sustainable water practices sets the groundwork for future generations to be more water-wise."

There was crafting of take-home water cycles, and painting pots for water efficient plants, supplied by genU. There was also the opportunity for selfies with Barwon Water's 'Drop' mascot and story time, provided by Geelong Regional Libraries Corporation's mobile library.

"Children are quick to learn about where water comes from and why saving water matters. We know that they will share their water literacy knowledge with family members and help to grow understanding of water challenges and solutions."

"Our customers and community across the wider region have told us that they want a secure water future where our rivers flow, our foods grow, and our impact is low. To help create that future, we're having conversations with people of all ages about the value of water."

Laura Kendall said that the Sustainable Communities program will remain a priority for Barwon Water with greater focus on community engagement.

"Not only was it fun for the kids, but the event was also a great opportunity to hear from parents and guardians about what they would like to see happening with sustainability and water efficiency in the Birregurra area."

"In 2020, as part of the Sustainable Communities program, around 400 digital meters were installed in Birregurra. Since then, Barwon Water has collaborated with the local community, providing real-time consumption data to customers, identifying and repairing over 90 leaks, and launching a Living Laboratory to test water-efficient showerheads and a sustainable garden program."

A community working group has championed the Sustainable Communities program since its inception in 2020. "We're now putting out a call for new members of the community working group to join and help shape future local initiatives and projects." The community working group provided feedback that they wanted more engagement with young people.

"This family day was the first of a series of planned activities to address the feedback we received," Ms Kendall said.

For more information about the working group and the broader program visit www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birregurra. As well as the Sustainable Communities program, Barwon Water

is also upgrading Birregurra's water supply via a new pipeline that will connect it to Colac's water supply system.

The project is due to be completed by mid-2024. For more information about the upgrade, visit www.yoursay.barwonwater.vic.gov.au/birre-upgrade.

Second stage of East Barwon Willow Removal Project adding fishways to improve river health

Barwon Water

Fishways to improve river health for next stage of East Barwon willow removal and restoration project

Barwon Water's East Barwon willow removal and restoration project reached a milestone recently with the installation of two fishway control structures in the river to help improve fish migration.

In these new fishways, rocks have been used to stabilise the streambed and assist fish to move through this local stretch of river.

General Manager Planning, Delivery & Environment Seamus Butcher said the new East Barwon fishways are another step forward in the restoration efforts along the East Barwon River to improve stream health and reduce flooding.

The second stage of the project, which began in November last year, follows the successful completion of the first stage in 2022, which focused on the first 3.5 kilometre stretch of the river on Barwon Water-managed land near Forrest.

The project is remediating and stabilising the streambed and banks while removing willow trees downstream of the Wurdee Boluc Inlet Channel on the remaining 500 metres of Barwon Water managed land.

Seamus Butcher said the protection of the Wurdee Boluc Inlet Channel embankment and onstream monitoring assets will improve water flows, water quality, waterway health, and flood mitigation. "The construction of two fishways, and a new stable meandering stream channel, will be essential to maintaining the flow path after the willows have been removed. This will support waterway health into the future."

"Through careful planning and timing of the project works we've minimised downstream impacts. An extensive environmental management plan has included the installation of silt curtains, sediment controls, weed management, and safeguards to preserve restoration."

"We'll be keeping a close watch on the restored reach of the river with regular inspections and maintenance. This includes the revegetation of riparian buffers with native shrubs, grasses, and trees, scheduled for planting in coming months."

For more information, visit Barwon Water's website.

VALE Jenny Bower



Helen Rolls

It was a privilege to know Jenny Bowker and she enriched all our lives.

Jenny was born in India in 1944. She later moved with her family to the UK where she trained as a nurse in London. Jenny met her husband Bill Bowker in Australia and they had two children Matt and Kezia.

The family ran the family property 'Kangaroobie' at Princetown, an award winning school camp on the Great Ocean Road. Sadly Bill died in 2000.

Jenny arrived in Winchelsea in 2004 like a breath of fresh air into our community and St Thomas's Anglican Church. She was a committed and regular attendee each Sunday and was a vibrant member of the church.

She helped organize Mother's and Father's Day breakfasts and found amazing speakers. She started the tradition of singing Christmas Carols around the town and at Chelsea Lodge. A KYB (Know Your Bible) group enjoyed meeting in her home weekly with lunch to follow.

Jenny an international traveller was always fascinated with different cultures and countries and she packed in as much travel as possible with her family. She squeezed in one last trip to India on the cusp of the COVID lockdown!

Jenny was always generous and hospitable and she loved helping others in need. She created a beautiful home and garden and shared it with many with Open Garden days, church bbq's, Lifeline and Melbourne Cup Days! Her many friends loved her and she was always inclusive bringing others into her friends orbit.

Jenny celebrated her 80th birthday in style in her wonderful garden in January. Her family and her 6 grandchildren meant the world to her and she dearly loved them all.

She left us the legacy of knowing the important things in life 'Family, Friends and Faith in God'. As a Christian she faced the end of her remarkable life with courage, peace and joy and she died peacefully on the 14th April.

Jenny's Memorial Service was conducted by Rev Wendy Gravolin and beamed around the world. It was a lovely sunny autumn day held in Jenny's beautiful garden setting. It was a memorable and moving occasion giving thanks for Jenny and celebrating her amazing life. Jenny will be sadly missed by us all.

We extend our loving sympathy to Matt and Kezia and their families.



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cb Lesley Mathison
NTP: 6/15th Carol Stanesby

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Midweek Comp
Wednesday 17 April
Ken Rickard (26) 36 pts
Doug McLennan (25) 36 pts
NTP: 6th/15th
Doug McLennan

Midweek Comp

Wednesday 24 April
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Doug McLennan (25) 35 pts
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Denis Chappell

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Winchelsea Classifieds 3241	facebook.com/groups/216942861684082
Winchelsea Lost and Found	facebook.com/groups/768187693217518
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Winchelsea Shire Hall	facebook.com/WinchelseaShireHall
Winchelsea Community House	facebook.com/winchelseacommunityhouse
Winchelsea Coronavirus Community Support Group	facebook.com/groups/2676957719207927/
The Green Winchelsea Residents	facebook.com/groups/515322772623126
Growing Winchelsea Inc	facebook.com/growingwinch
Winchelsea Star	facebook.com/TheWinchelseaStar
Winchelsea Movie Club	facebook.com/winchelseamovies
Winchelsea Community Market	facebook.com/100083362387611
Winchelsea Land and River Care Group	facebook.com/envirowinchelsea/
Upper Barwon Landcare Network	facebook.com/UpperBarwonLandcare
Winchelsea & District Historical Society Inc	facebook.com/Winchelseaanddistricthistoricalsociety/
Winchelsea Wildlife Shelter	www.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
Winchelsea Uniting Church	facebook.com/winchelseaunitingchurch
St Thomas' Anglican Church	facebook.com/StThomasWinchelsea
St John the Baptist Catholic Church	facebook.com/pages/Winchelsea-Catholic-Church/101775670163180
Winchelsea Mainly Music	facebook.com/groups/668500343953191/
Winchelsea Health Club	facebook.com/WinchelseaHealthClub
Winchelsea Playgroup School terms only. Contact Danni 0432 019 944	facebook.com/groups/551663435367031
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Winchelsea/Modewarre Scouts	facebook.com/1stModewarreScouts
Winchelsea Fire Brigade	facebook.com/winchelseafirebrigade/
Winchelsea SES	facebook.com/groups/WinchSES
Country Women's Association - CWA Winchelsea	facebook.com/pg/CWAWinchelsea/
Winchelsea Bowls Club	facebook.com/Winchelsea-Bowls-Club-533783333344345/
Winchelsea Blues Cricket Club	facebook.com/groups/8999049476/
Winchelsea Blues FC	facebook.com/WinchelseaFNC/
WYLD Winchelsea Youth Leisure and Drop in	facebook.com/groups/569737570027065/
Lions Club of Winchelsea	facebook.com/LionsWinchelsea
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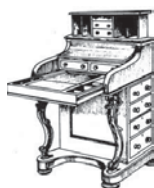
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Bags of Kindling/timber offcuts are available for pick up from the Men's Shed on Wednesday's from 9.30 to 2.30.

If you need a delivery made you can call Bill on 0438 083 373. The price for a bag of kindling is now \$7.00 (up from \$5.00).

Nesting Boxes

Bird or animal nesting boxes are available from The Men's Shed.

These can be made to order.

Call in on any Wednesday to have a chat.



VFF proposes Innovative capital expenditure program ahead of State Budget

Victorian Farmers Federation

The Victorian Farmers Federation has proposed an innovative capital expenditure fund for farmers ahead of next month's Victorian State Budget.

VFF President Emma Germano said the proposal was tabled to Victorian Treasurer, Tim Pallas and would help boost the industry's current \$19.6b dollar food and fibre economic export contribution. "Victoria is the powerhouse of Australian agriculture, indirectly employing more than 150,000 people, pouring billions into the economy and Australia's largest exporter of food and fibre products."

"There's no doubt that despite our economic heavy lifting and rank as one of the state's biggest employers, the agriculture industry has been short-changed on investment from the government for years. We can do more with forward thinking investment and an innovative capital expenditure fund for farmers. It aims at enabling improvements in agriculture sector productivity, safety, resilience and climate change adaptation," Ms Germano said.

The fund would provide grants and low interest loans to eligible farmers to undertake on farm capital investments and improve supply chains. Grants offered under the fund could be invested in:

- Capital projects to improve farm productivity, including new production equipment, upgrades and supply chain logistics;
- Improvements in farm safety (for example, removing hazards, OHS training);
- Projects which reduce greenhouse emissions and promote better environmental outcomes.

Administration of the fund would be undertaken by Agriculture Victoria in consultation with the VFF and industry representatives and other government departments.

Ms Germano added the idea was in a range of ideas submitted to the Victorian Government to rebalance the ledger to ensure fairness and appropriate support for rural and regional Victorians. "As a minimum, we've asked for funding to fix our rural roads mess, strengthen our biosecurity safety net and build government departmental capability to ensure the brakes aren't applied on the growth of our industry."

"The Victorian agriculture industry outranks international education and manufacturing when it comes to export earnings. There's no better way to rebuild our economy and jumpstart productivity than investing in agriculture. We're well aware of the

government's debt woes, however smartly investing in the growth of Victoria's agriculture industry is one of the best ways to get us back in the black," Ms Germano said.

New Chair for Horse Traceability Taskforce

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action



Victorian biosecurity specialist and former Queensland Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Ron Glanville will lead the National Horse Traceability Implementation Taskforce as its new Chair.

The newly established Taskforce will focus on implementing a national horse traceability system, continuing the work of the National Horse Traceability Working Group which provided final recommendations to Australia's Agriculture Ministers in 2022.

The proposed National Horse Traceability System will assist in responding to future biosecurity incidents and natural disasters involving horses, donkey and mules.

Endorsed as Chair by the National Biosecurity Committee, Dr Glanville will lead the Taskforce which includes a diverse committee of 17 members who have an interest or expertise in animal health, biosecurity or traceability. He has extensive experience in responding to biosecurity incidents, including the 2007 equine influenza outbreak. He said a national horse traceability system would bring significant benefits, particularly during outbreak or emergency situations.

"I am looking forward to working with representatives of Australia's horse industry to progress the introduction of the National Horse Traceability System," he said. "Having seen the impact of diseases such as equine influenza and Hendra on the horse industry, I understand the important role that traceability plays in the containment of endemic and exotic diseases."

"Thanks go to the National Horse Traceability Working Group, under the exemplary leadership of Chair Stuart McLean, for developing a strong foundation that the Taskforce will work from." The National Horse Traceability Implementation Taskforce is being supported by Agriculture Victoria as it's Secretariat. The first meeting will take place later this month.

For more information visit the Agriculture Victoria website (<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/horses/horse-traceability>).

Statewide action plan to save lives and reduce drug harm

People struggling with chronic addiction deserve the best care and the best chance, wherever they live. That's why the Government is launching a Statewide Action Plan to save lives, reduce drug harms and give more people the care they need – in the Melbourne CBD and across Victoria.

As part of the \$95.11 million Statewide Action Plan, the Government is responding to all the recommendations of the Lay Report, delivering on all but one of them and providing more support for services in the suburbs and regions.

The Government has always chosen a health-led approach to reduce drug harms. After establishing Victoria's first medically supervised injecting room in North Richmond, it supported the establishment of a second supervised injecting service in the CBD and began the detailed search for an appropriate location.

The Government has been unable to identify a suitable site that balances the needs of people who use drugs with the needs of the broader CBD community, so a second supervised injecting service won't proceed.

Drug harms touch every community – with around 90 per cent of overdose deaths involving heroin occurring outside the City of Melbourne. This is a statewide problem, and it calls for a statewide solution that also provides for Victoria's suburbs and regional centres and boosts services in areas where it's harder to access care.

The Statewide Action Plan does just that, starting with a much-needed increase in services of the most effective treatment option available to mitigate the problems that stem from opioid dependence: pharmacotherapy is a life-changing medical treatment, but it's hard to access in many suburban and regional areas – and in some locations, availability is going backwards.

The Government will invest \$8.4 million in pharmacotherapy in up to 30 locations targeting areas of high-demand or looming service gaps, allowing up to 1,500 more Victorians to access treatment.

Naloxone is a 'miracle' overdose reversal medicine – and under the statewide plan, 20 Naloxone vending machines will be trialled alongside existing needle exchanges so this safe medication can be more easily accessed at any time of day to help people in a life-or-death emergency.

The plan also trials a 'Never Use Alone' overdose helpline which will provide anonymous care and advice – reducing overdose risk and ensuring emergency services can respond faster if needed.

Currently, cohealth provides street outreach across the CBD. The plan continues and expands these teams and funds a trial of street outreach services in two new locations outside the CBD, to support more Victorians.

The plan also sees the appointment of Victoria's first Chief Addiction Adviser and starts Victoria's first statewide strategy to address drug harms over the long-term.

The Government will partner with cohealth to establish the new Community Health Hub, whose teams will offer help and medical care for anyone who walks through its doors at 244 Flinders St. The Hub will wraparound health and social support services and provide comprehensive case management for the most vulnerable people when it opens in 2026. It will also host a Victorian-first hydromorphone treatment trial for select participants – diverting people from the illicit drug market and giving hope and care to the seriously addicted.

Research shows that participants of hydromorphone therapy experience high rates of retention in treatment, with sustained reductions in the use of illicit heroin and other drugs plus marked health and social improvements, including reductions in criminal activity.

Beyond the Hub, the plan also delivers wraparound services at the Salvation Army centre at 69 Bourke St – providing medical, nursing and mental health supports.

The plan also expands community outreach in the CBD – boosting the cohealth street teams who identify people in need and connect them to services, while working with businesses and improving public amenity.

As part of a health-led approach to addressing drug harms in the city, multiple agencies, health providers and community will come together in a CBD Reference Group to coordinate local response.

The plan starts today. The Victorian Health Building Authority will immediately initiate design and procurement work for 244 Flinders St, and cohealth will scale up outreach services in the CBD now, with new locations to roll out after July 1. Work also starts today on changes required to support the Naloxone dispensing program.

Development of the Helpline, the enhanced case management model, and the broader governance, engagement, and strategy initiatives will start from July 1. The community pharmacotherapy grant program will open in 2024.

The Statewide Action Plan is a \$95 million investment in the health and wellbeing of Victorians that will save lives in the CBD, suburbs and regions – and it builds on services available at the existing Medically Supervised Injecting Room, which is an ongoing service that's open to those who need it.

The Government has also responded to the review conducted by Mr John Ryan of the existing Medically Supervised Injecting Room. From 1 July, North Richmond Community Health will enhance their current services at the facility in partnership with St Vincent's, Access Health and Community, and Your Community Health.

The reports handed down by Mr Ken Lay AO APM and Mr John Ryan can be viewed at www.health.vic.gov.au

Schools have a win in this year's budget

Schools across Victoria will undergo a maintenance blitz on essential works and repairs, to ensure students have safe and modern learning spaces, thanks to the State Government.

The next round of Planned Maintenance Program funding will be delivered to 40 schools to carry out works like fixing roofs and windows, replacing old fixtures, resurfacing floors and painting.

The \$11.2 million investment is spread across primary, secondary and specialist schools in Melbourne and across regional Victoria – with a total of \$103.5 million allocated to the Planned Maintenance Program as part of the Victorian Budget 2023/24, to ensure all Victorian schools are well maintained.

Works are determined by a rolling evaluation process, that constantly examines the facilities at schools across the state, providing up-to-date information on the condition of every school so maintenance funding is directed where it's needed most.

Another \$146,000 has been allocated to the Bushfire Preparedness (Vegetation) Program to assist six additional schools for vegetation clearance and related activities to reduce the risk of harm from a bushfire.

Over the past nine years, the State Government has invested more than \$14.9 billion in Victoria's education infrastructure, with the school building boom creating more than 21,200 jobs in construction and other industries.

The State is also getting on with the job of building new schools in communities that need them most, with 75 new schools opened between 2019 and 2024, and another 14 in planning or construction.

For more information on the grants and a list of schools included, visit schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/planned-maintenance-program

Are you entitled to any of this unclaimed money?

The Government is encouraging the thousands of Victorians who are eligible for a surprise windfall to search the State Revenue Office's register and apply for their share of the unclaimed money.

Every year millions of dollars end up in the Victorian Unclaimed Money Register – with substantial funds to be claimed across Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Greater Geelong has the most unclaimed money – with more than 33,000 entitlements valued at over \$4.3 million, followed by Ballarat (more than 14,000 entitlements, \$1.8 million), Greater Bendigo (13,000, \$1.8 million),

Latrobe (13,000, \$1.5 million), Greater Shepparton (9,000, \$1.2 million) and Mildura (7,000, \$1 million).

In metropolitan Melbourne, the City of Melbourne is the council area with the most unclaimed money – more than 67,000 entitlements worth over \$17.7 million – followed by Boroondara (\$9.8 million), Stonnington (\$6.9 million) and Whitehorse (\$6.6 million).

The State Revenue Office Victoria holds records of money that remains unclaimed after 12 months in Victoria from sources including share dividends, salaries and wages, rents and bonds, debentures and interest, proceeds from sales, and Tattersalls, Intralot and Tabcorp winnings and prizes.

To claim owed monies, visit sro.vic.gov.au/unclaimedmoney and search the register using a personal or company name and address.

Celebrating Victoria's leaders in medical research

Victoria's best and brightest medical researchers have been recognised at the 2023-24 Premier's Awards for Health and Medical Research.

Awards were presented to winners across five categories, showcasing and celebrating the world-leading research driven by emerging researchers across the state.

Dr Rongbin Xu from Monash University took out the prestigious Premier's Excellence Award while also winning the Public Health Researcher Award for his research on the health and epigenetic impacts of climate change. Dr Xu's research identified health problems, vulnerable populations and novel genes impacted by heat, bushfire smoke and greenspace to inform targeted medical and public health interventions.

Other award category winners include Ms Joanne Luke (Aboriginal Researcher Award), Dr Sarah Garnish (Basic Science Researcher Award), Dr Laura Ross (Clinical Researcher Award), and Dr Rob Mitchell (Health Services Researcher Award).

The Awards were established by the Government in 1995 in partnership with the Australian Society for Medical Research to recognise the outstanding work of early career researchers.

The State Government's investment in medical research is making sure we cement Victoria's status as a world leader in cutting-edge health and medical research.

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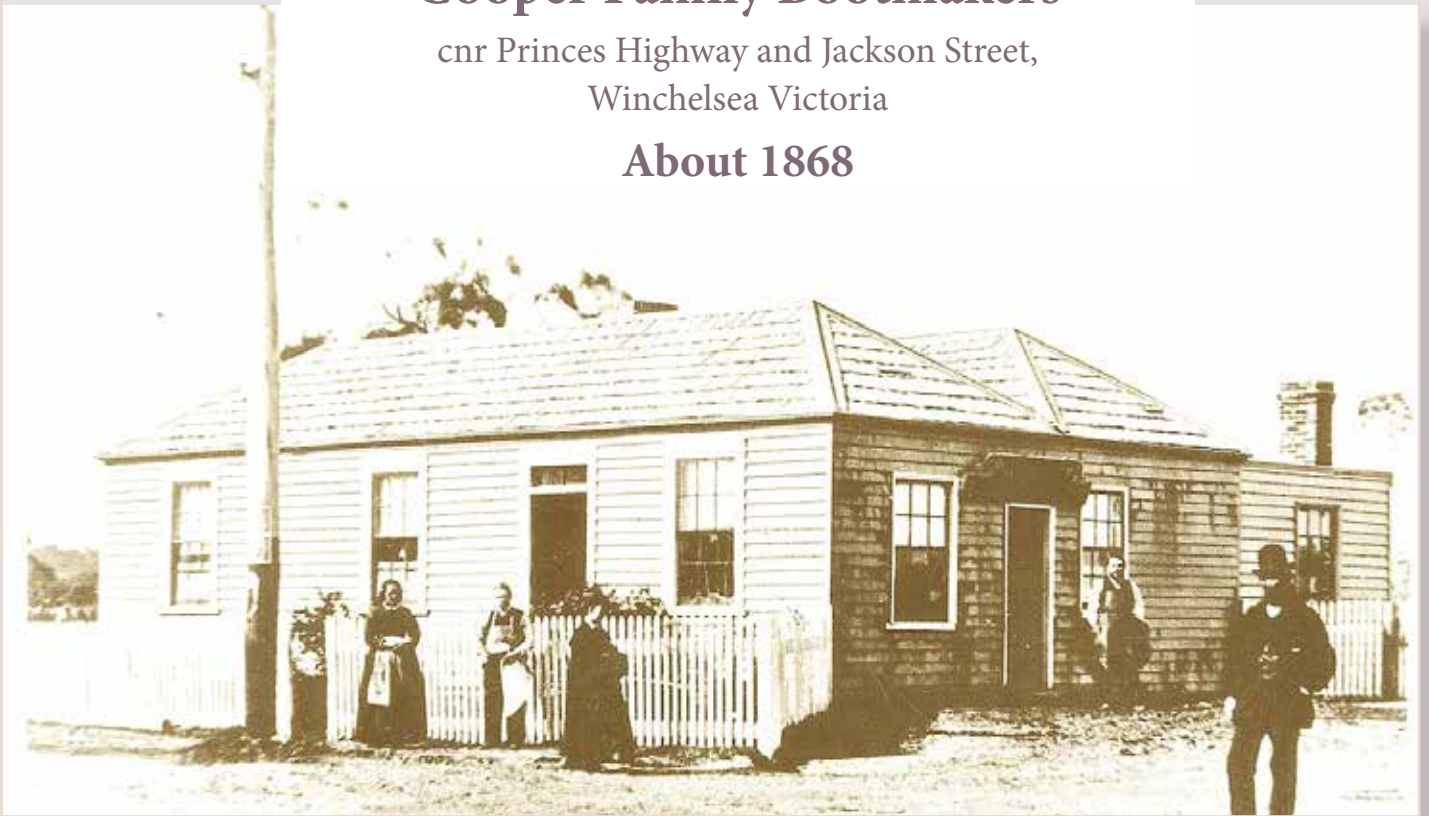
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Sandra Jones

The Cooper family included Joshua Snr, son of Daniel and Janet, who apparently managed one of the Austin properties and then became a bootmaker.

He was followed by his son in the bootmaking trade and was frequently visited by his father Leslie Atkins and grandmother during the 1920's.

It was often spoken of them getting punctures in the old T Model from tacks from Joshua's business!

Marjorie Lawrence always visited Joshua and his sister Addie Richmond when she returned to Winchelsea.




Winchelsea ~ Star

APOLOGY

The 'Winchelsea Star' would like to sincerely apologise to both the Loone family and Linda Carter for a wrongly attributed article on page 4, Tuesday 23rd April issue of the 'Star'.

This article had been submitted in good faith by the Loone family, not, as was indicated, by Linda Carter.

Again the team at the 'Star' can only apologise for any distress this has caused to either the Loone family or Linda.



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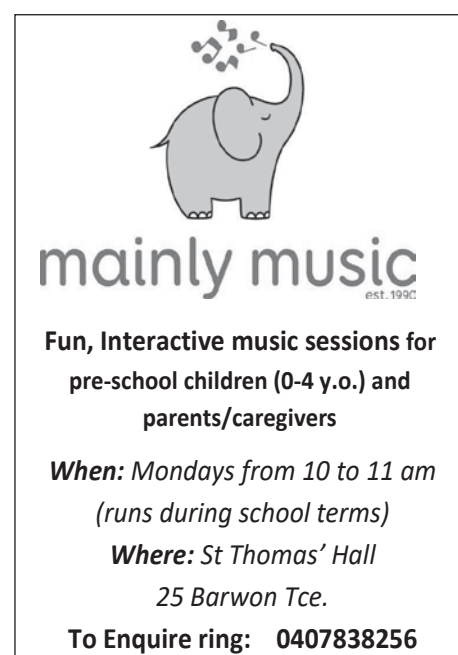
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www.winchhouse.org.au

Email: reception@winchhouse.org.au

Term 2, 2024

Singing Group

When: Wednesday afternoons 4.45pm-6pm

Next: Wednesday 1 May, 2024

Winchelsea Shire Hall Space

Cost \$7.50 per session Under 16 free

Bookings: reception@winchhouse.org.au

Crochet Group

When: Alternate Saturday afternoons

1.30 Winchelsea Community House Space

\$5 per session

Next Session Saturday 4 May, 2024

Chatty Cafe

When: Friday mornings 10.30am-12 noon
(during school terms).

Next Session: Friday 3 May, 2024

Winchelsea Shire Hall Space

No bookings required.

We will have our Chatty Café Volunteers
present to welcome you.

Knitting Group

When: Thursday mornings 10.30-12 noon
(during school terms)

Next Session: Thursday 2 May, 2024

Come along and learn to knit or bring your
knitting project and come and chat with others.
Winchelsea Community House Space

Tai Chi

When: Friday mornings 9.00am-10.00am

(during school terms)

\$10 per session

Next Session Friday 3 May, 2024

Be Connected

(Free Building Digital Skills program)

When: Friday mornings

11.30am drop in sessions (FREE)

Connect with others to explore the world of
Digital literacy

Sound Healing

When Wednesday 8 May, 2024

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Please call Vicki on 0400 149 749

Gentle Movement

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Next Session: Monday 6 May, 2024 at 1pm

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Gluten Free Bread Making

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Further information coming soon

Expressions of Interest winchhouse.org.au

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