

Thanks, guys! Winchelsea shoppers always linger a little longer when you are in town



Shoppers were entertained in the village outside Cozy Crumb Café last Friday by trio Mick from Colac playing the banjo, and Torquay residents Geoff (harmonica) and Herc (guitar). They meet in Winchelsea as it is a good central point to have a jam session. The friends don't have a regular schedule so have called their group 'Ad Hoc'!

They play and sing jolly songs including Blues, Bluegrass and Country and Western genres. If you would like to hire them (for weddings, parties, anything!) call Mick Fenton on 0418 521 519.

Thanks men, see you next time you are in town!

Story and photo Judy Cameron

CONTENTS

20 January 2026

COVER

Ad Hoc band at Cozy Crumb Cafe

FEATURES

Happy Birthday Phyllis Clissold 100	Cindy Longley	3
Cooks Corner	Alice Cloake	13

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thankyou from Emily, Elaine Atkinson, Julie Johnson, Tara Quinn, Alice Cloake	2
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WINCHELSEA SPARKLES

People's Choice Winner Twinkle Trees	Elaine Atkinson	4
Community Survey	Elaine Atkinson	4
Christmas Market and Carol	Elaine Atkinson	5

SPORTS & EXERCISE

Daz's Deadly Challenge	Tara Quinn	7
Winchelsea Golf Club	Rachel Boddington	29
Winchelsea Bowls Club	Julie Johnson	31
Blues News	Janet Fletcher	33
Trebeck Parkrun	Neil McInnes	35

HISTORY & CULTURE

The Winchelsea Brass Band	M. O'Dhonnabháin	8
---------------------------	------------------	---

THE ARTS

ArtsRural - Music Library at the Globe	Zinaida Campion	9
--	-----------------	---

THE ENVIRONMENT

Garden Misadventures	Julia Holohan	12
Rediscovery 'extinct' Qld plant	University of NSW	12
The Climate Report	Judy Cameron	14
Keep the Moorabool River running	Corangamite CMA	15
'Look Over the Farm Gate' program	Vic & Fed Gov	15
Fixxing bush-fire affected roads	Vic & Fed Gov	15
\$100 million services	Vic & Fed Gov	16
Financial and mental health support	Vic & Fed Gov	17
Assistance after flash floods	Vic & Fed Gov	21
Lorne Flood Relief Centre closed	Vic & Fed Gov	21
Savings, Smarts and Sources	Barwon Water	29

HEALTH & WELL BEING

Dementia-friendly grants	Dementia Australia	12
Getting care at the chemist	Vic Government	25
'New to Type 2 Diabetes' program	Hesse Health	25

FUN

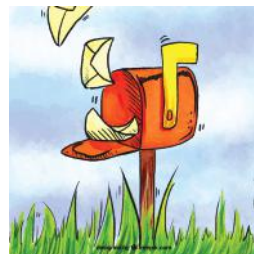
Cartoon	Gary Clark	13
---------	------------	----

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

What's On Jan/Feb 2026	18
Community Noticeboard	22
Services & Activities in Winchelsea	24
Business Phone Directory	26

CHURCHES

Church Services	23
Thought of the Week	John Bader 23



Letters to the Editor

Thank you for your support in 2025

Hello

A big thank you to from the team at Women's Health and Wellbeing Barwon South West for your support in covering issues of women's health, gender equality and the prevention of violence against women.

We look forward to working with you in 2026!

Emily

Women's Health and Wellbeing Barwon South West

Hi,

Thanks for the wonderful feature you did on Christmas 2025 - your support is greatly appreciated.

Warm Regards

Elaine Atkinson

Hi all

Thanks for all you do and I hope everyone got well deserved break.

Cheers

Julie Johnson

Winchelsea Bowls

A huge thank you goes to The Star for its continued support and sponsorship.

Tara Quin

Winchelsea Health Club

Hello!

Thanks so much for publishing the first week of 'Cooks Corner' last week.

Alice Cloake



Congratulations! Phyllis Clissold ^{100th}

Cindy Longley

Congratulations to Phyllis Clissold, who celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by family and friends at Hesse Rural Health on 17 December.

Phyllis and her family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Graeme for the delightful drive around Winchelsea in his beautiful car, and to the exceptional staff at Hesse Rural Health, who consistently go above and beyond to make each day such an enjoyable one.



What a lovely smile from our latest octogenarian, Phyllis, who turned 100 on December 17th, 2025

WINCHELSEA LIONS CLUB
In conjunction with
Winchelsea Primary School

Are holding a
FREE PICNIC

At Winchelsea Primary School Grounds
SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2026
12 - 3PM

For all children under 12 who reside in 3241
Must be accompanied by a responsible adult
This is a free picnic but you must have a ticket to receive your food

Enquiries: Alan 0476 475 422

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WETLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL TASKFORCE Assisted by the Australian Government through the National Australia Day Council

CAR PARKING AVAILABLE & ACCESSIBLE WETLAND CENTRE



People's Choice Award Winner announced for Twinkle Trees on Main

Elaine Atkinson

Guess who won the 'People's Choice Award' for the best decorated of our Christmas trees? Harvey Kirk, of course

Winchelsea's Twinkle Trees on Main has crowned its People's Choice Award winner, with local favourite Harvey Kirk taking out the title for his vibrant Pokémon-themed tree.

A total of 357 people cast their votes, with Harvey's creative display proving the favourite among visitors, community members and travellers alike. Many took the time to provide positive feedback, praising the imagination, colour and joy the trees brought to Main Street throughout the festive season.



Winner 'People's Choice Award' Harvey Kirk and sponsor Terry White Chemist Winchelsea

Harvey was thrilled to receive the People's Choice Award Gift Hamper, generously donated by Terry White Chemist Winchelsea. A trusted local pharmacy, Terry White Chemist has supported the Winchelsea community for many years, providing reliable health services with a personal touch. For many locals, they are more than just a pharmacy – they are caring friends who know you by name.

In a light-hearted moment that captured the spirit of the project, Harvey shared that he learned something new along the way. "I didn't even know what the word 'hamper' meant until I won one," he said, clearly delighted by the experience. With the encouragement of his family, Harvey's excitement has sparked curiosity about what creative ideas might emerge next year.

The Twinkle Trees initiative was made possible through a \$900 grant from Community Bank Winchelsea & District, whose ongoing support of local projects continues to strengthen community connection. Sincere thanks are also extended to the Winchelsea Men's Shed, whose members crafted the trees and helped turn a simple idea into a festive street scape feature.

This year's project was delivered in collaboration with Growing Winchelsea, and the benefits have extended well beyond the decorations themselves. Feedback has already been received from families who did not participate this year but are eager to be involved next year, with many already planning themes and ideas. The Twinkle Trees can now be collected by participants who have been invited to collect and store their tree and begin thinking about what new and creative designs they might use in 2026.

There are also exciting plans to extend Twinkle Trees next year, with hopes of lining even more of Main Street. Ideas are already flowing. "What's your thinking about next year's tree?" said Elaine Atkinson. "I'm thinking about an angel."

With strong community support, growing interest, and plenty of imagination, Twinkle Trees on Main is shaping up to become a much-loved Winchelsea tradition for years to come.

For additional information or to offer help contact:

Elaine Atkinson
0458009616 eatkinson048@gmail

Community Survey underway - Help us shape Christmas in Winchelsea 2026

Elaine Atkinson

The Christmas in Winchelsea 2025 Community Survey has been posted online, inviting residents to share their feedback and ideas to help shape future celebrations.

The survey focuses on what the community enjoyed about Christmas in Winchelsea 2025, what could be improved, and what new ideas or initiatives people would like to see introduced in 2026. Feedback will directly guide planning by a small but dedicated group of local volunteers.

"Christmas in Winchelsea has been built by the community, for the community," said Elaine Atkinson, Coordinator. "We're a small but committed band of helpers, and community feedback will help us focus our efforts on what matters most."

The survey gives community members the opportunity to:

- Reflect on what worked well in Christmas 2025
- Suggest improvements or new ideas for 2026
- Indicate interest in helping or supporting future activities

The survey is open now and will close on **2 February 2026**. It takes only a few minutes to complete.

Complete the survey here: <https://forms.gle/f64SWKta3FgQFGGB8>

All responses will help ensure Christmas in Winchelsea 2026 continues to reflect local values, creativity, community involvement and build on the strong community spirit that was reflected in 2025.

For more information contact

Elaine Atkinson
0458009616 eatkinson048@gmail.com



'Winchelsea Sparkles' Christmas posters



Christmas Market and Carols by the Barwon deliver community spirit and strong support for local vendors

Elaine Atkinson

New planning starts for Christmas 2026 after a very successful Christmas market and Carols night last year

The recent Christmas Market and Carols celebration, a collaboration with Growing Winchelsea, proved to be a resounding success, highlighting the strength, creativity and generosity of our local community.



2 favourite mugs dpots



Rocks Manda Anstee

Despite a chilly and rainy Carols evening, spirits remained high, and by market day the weather cleared beautifully, welcoming families and visitors to enjoy the festivities. Food vendors in particular reported outstanding results at both events, with many selling out early — a clear sign of strong community support and engagement.

A special highlight was the **Hidden Elf on the Shelf** activity, which delighted **50 participating children**, adding a sense of magic and adventure for families. Well-known performer **Finbar** kept crowds entertained with his guitar, creating a warm and joyful atmosphere throughout the day.

Stallholders provided overwhelmingly positive feedback, praising:

- Strong community turnout
- Effective promotion
- Quality entertainment
- A family-friendly environment that adds real value to a community market



Float'N'Cafe Bert



Honesticks Woodturner

These elements together reinforced the idea that a successful market is not just about shopping, but about connection, experience and celebration.

Looking ahead to 2026

Planning is already underway for 2026, including the development of a structured entertainment calendar to further enhance market days.

We also take this opportunity to farewell **Fraser McCann** and **Jack Henderson**, whose commitment to market set-up and pack-down has been invaluable. Their departure leaves a significant gap, and we are now looking to **develop a roster over the next 12 months** to help relieve pressure on volunteers. If you are willing to help, we would absolutely love to hear from you.

Celebrating More Than Stallholders

Christmas also highlighted that while variety of stallholders is important, **how we display and celebrate seasonal events matters** just as much. A wonderful idea has been proposed to include **Santa for photos**, complete with a **mailbox** and a **Santa's Cave** — a potential collaborative project for the **Men's Shed** and **local artists**.

What's coming up

There is plenty in the pipeline, including:

- An **Easter** celebration
- A possible **Market** at a different venue on **Melbourne Cup** weekend, aligning with the **Riverlee Collective's** art exhibition
- Growing connections with the **Surf Coast Arts Trail** (1-2 August) and the **Otway Harvest Trail**

All of this supports our broader goal: to grow the market sustainably, strengthen partnerships, and continue building a vibrant community hub.

Why Supporting Your Local Market Matters

Supporting a local market:

- Strengthens the local economy
- Supports small businesses and artisans
 - Builds community connections
- Creates family-friendly experiences
- Encourages creativity, culture and local pride

Next Market

Sunday 1 February 2026 - 9 am - 1 pm, Shire Hall

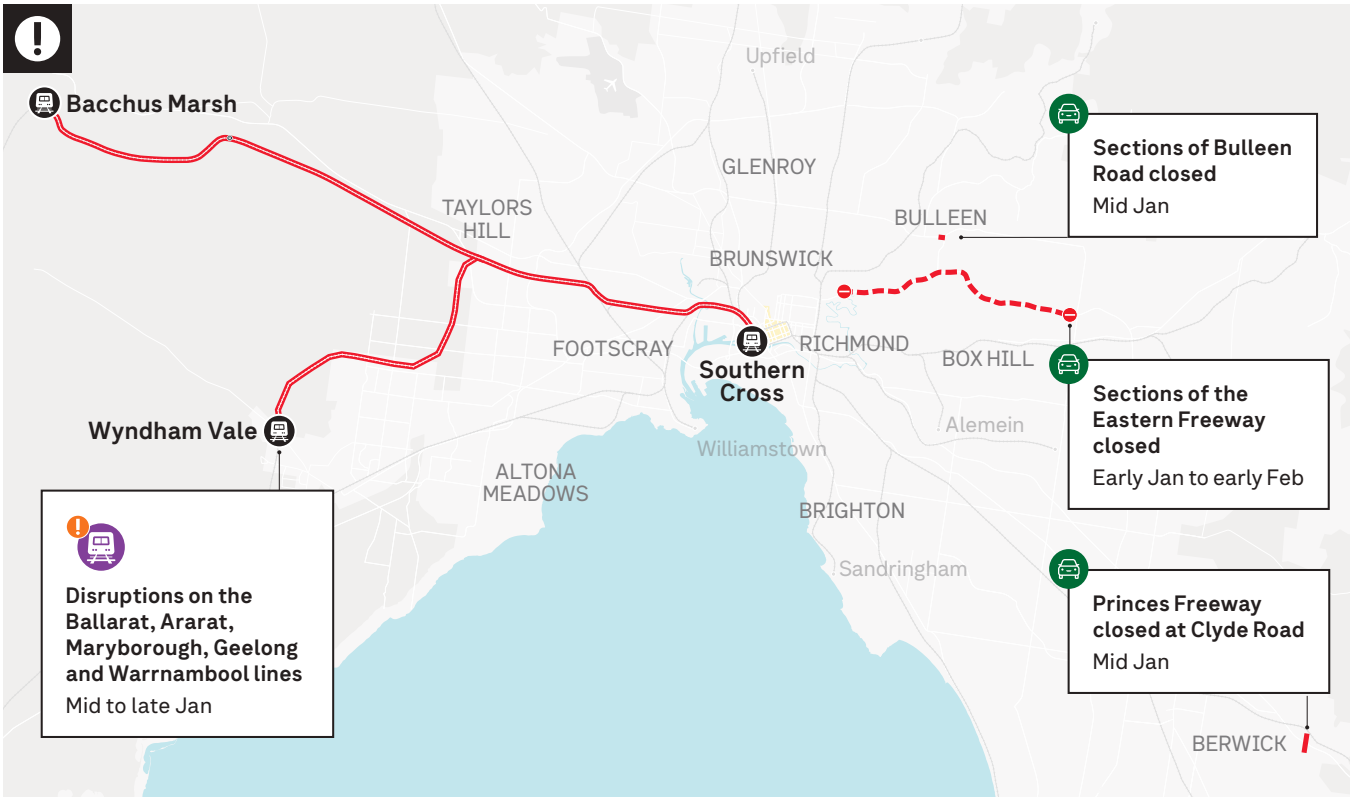
Come along, bring your family and friends, and support your local market.

For more information or to offer help contact Elaine Atkinson 0458009616, email eatkinson048@gmail.com





Victoria's Big Build works continue across the state with train disruptions on the Ballarat, Ararat, Maryborough, Geelong and Warrnambool lines and road disruptions on the Eastern and Princes freeways. These works could impact your journey into Melbourne to attend the Australian Open.



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



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



'Daz's Deadly Challenge' was conducted with much mirth, much effort and a sausage sizzle for all

Tara Quin

Despite landing in the January edition of the Winchelsea Star, Daz's Deadly December Challenge was very much worth the wait.

Held on a warm December morning at the Winchelsea Football Oval, the third running of the Challenge delivered everything it promised — grit, laughs, a few face-plants, and a strong sense of community spirit. Eleven brave competitors took on the course, cheered on by a solid crowd of family, friends and curious onlookers who gathered to watch the action unfold.

The heat added an extra layer of difficulty, but that didn't stop local paramedic Jai from storming home to take out the men's title with an impressive time of 21 minutes 38 seconds. Last year's champion Matt followed in second place on 25:17, with Dylan hot on his heels just seconds later in 25:39 — proof that every rep really did count.

In the women's event, gym trainer Nat crossed the line first but was ineligible for an official placing. That opened the door for Cherie, who claimed a well-earned win in 26:24 after weeks of consistent training and regular attendance at Thursday night course sessions. Second place went to Angie, who tackled the challenge without ever practising the course and still clocked a rapid 28:41. Alicia rounded out the podium in 32:01, with the remaining competitors all finishing within minutes of the top three.

True to Burgo tradition, the Challenge included a mystery exercise revealed only on the day — a 50-metre sack jump using repurposed horse feed bags. What followed was a mix of hops, wiggles, stumbles and laughter, with several competitors discovering that "jumping" quickly became more of a creative shuffle.

To get into the spirit of the day, organisers and helpers donned commando-style headbands and face paint, while Daz proudly watched every competitor dig deep and give it their all.

Awards were presented by Neil, President of The Star, before everyone gathered to enjoy a well-earned sausage sizzle cooked by Shane and Pauline. One person less enthusiastic about post-race festivities was Tom, who completed the course while recovering from influenza and was understandably worse for wear at the finish line. After missing out last year due to injury, he was determined to compete — though, according to partner Gretta, skipping breakfast and training probably wasn't his smartest move. There's always next year, Tom.

With proud competitors wearing their event T-shirts and plenty of smiles all round, the Challenge once again proved why it's become a much-loved local event. A huge thank you goes to The Star for its continued support and sponsorship, along with all prize sponsors who helped make the day a success.

Daz has already started planning the next edition — which can only mean bigger ideas and tougher surprises ahead.

Bring on 2026.



history of winchelsea

Musical Magicians: the Winchelsea Brass Band

For so long Winchelsea had its very own brass band

On the 20th Aug, 1863 a bandstand was erected outside the Barwon Hotel, which was to become the home stage of the Winchelsea Brass Band.

By 1864 the band was a central feature of most public events and gatherings in the township of Winchelsea.

The day the Austin Family returned from England to Barwon Park, an enormous public celebration including a parade was held to welcome them home. The entire town was decorated with streamers, garlands and bunting. Games and other events were held throughout the day. The Winchelsea brass band were driven to the Lady of the Lake Hotel by Mr William Stirling junior, the carriage being decorated with evergreens and lively coloured bunting.



Construction of the current rotunda outside the Barwon Hotel
Image courtesy of Winchelsea and District Historical Society

At the end of the cricket season of 1864, a luncheon 'of a most royal character' was held attended by the local cricket clubs hosted by George Armytage, Esq. and George Beale, Esq.

The Winchelsea brass band provided some excellent music, the musicians having been driven to the ground in Stirling's leviathan horse-drawn four-wheeler.

In July of 1864 they played as an "impromptu Orchestra" at the "House Warming" of Hardyman's Winchelsea Hotel, which was across the road from Murrel's Store.

The Geelong Advertiser described the band as "Musical Magicians", reporting that the graceful dancing of all the ladies was particularly admired, and the music throughout was of a "most dance-provoking nature".

The band also officially performed at the event described in an earlier article where the community gathered in 1864 to present gifts and celebrate the contributions of Rev. Tanner, and again later that year to farewell Rev. Tanner's departure.

On Christmas morning of 1864 the band visited every home in Winchelsea serenading residents with traditional Christmas Carols before retiring to their own homes to celebrate with their families.

The band existed well into the twentieth century, with a large fundraiser being held in 1920 to raise funds for the band. Locals provided wheat, Oats, and other local produce to be sold as part of the fundraiser.

Harry Schroeter led the band, who raised £70 for the band. Mrs. H. E. Warner 'and Misses Orchard and Read had charge of the supper arrangements. Mr. McEvitt hosted the event assisted by Messrs. J. S. Mathison, W Boddington, Ed. Hole and A. Anderson.

In 1998, the local community erected the Rotunda outside the Barwon Hotel, somewhere near the site of the 1863 bandstand.



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

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





Zinaida Campion

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

Music Library at the Globe Theatre

CELEBRATING THE PAST, SHAPING THE FUTURE: A musical archive in the Globe Theatre

My dear readers, the people of Winchelsea and surrounds,

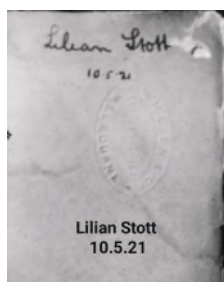


Globe Theatre

I have an exciting proposal to put to the community. The centenary of our beloved Globe Theatre offers a rare moment: a chance not only to celebrate a beloved local landmark rich in our history, but to imagine what its next hundred years could hold.

Anniversaries invite reflection, but they also invite renewal. The combination of two large donations of historic music scores and the 100th birthday of the theatre has been the catalyst for a new and exciting project taking shape in my mind. A way that we can honour the remarkable musicians of the past, while inspiring future generations.

I would like to propose the establishment of a dedicated music archive within the Globe Theatre, beginning with a remarkable foundation: the personal music scores of sopranos Lillian Stott and Tess McGair.



Lillian Stott performed alongside Dame Nellie Melba, and while she never achieved Melba's level of fame, she is still well remembered. Allister Cox, conductor of the Geelong Chorale, donated me a beautifully curated box of her music scores, all with her name and dates inscribed in faded ink. Just touching those letters, dating back over 100 years, gave me such a rush of emotion. As a soprano and an Australian, the weight of the legacy left me speechless.

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



Less is known of Tess McGair, save that she was a Geelong local, and appears to have had a healthy teaching practice in the region. It seems her heyday was circa 1960s, where I found her name listed in a 1969 performance with Burnside Symphony Orchestra in Adelaide. The repertoire for the concert included works by Donizetti, Rossini, and Mozart, some of my own staple repertoire. Exciting to imagine that we might have similar voices! This is corroborated by her music, now in my possession. She was also a bel canto soprano. She worked with Theatre Aotearoa in NZ, and even sang for the Pope! Credit for the donation goes to Justin Gummer, who saved many of the old books by having them rebound.

These two women, each in her own way, contributed to the musical fabric of our region. Their scores—marked with breath notes, phrasing decisions, interpretive markings, and the subtle fingerprints of a singer's lived experience—are more than paper. They are artefacts of artistry, discipline, and the long tradition of vocal excellence that has passed through this part of Victoria, often unnoticed, and all but forgotten.

The idea is simple, but its potential is rich. I propose to make these scores accessible to the public by housing them in the Globe Theatre, on indefinite loan. The first two collections would only be the beginning, as I am seeking to expand the library by hunting down historic music scores and preserving them for posterity by creating a living archive: a place where the musical histories of Australian performers can be preserved, studied, and appreciated. The long-term vision is to expand the collection to the point where it becomes an attraction to the region, putting Winchelsea on the arts map.



Marjorie Lawrence

This proposal also carries a special resonance because of the theatre's connection to one of Australia's most extraordinary operatic figures: Marjorie Lawrence. Born in Deans Marsh, spending her teen years in Winchelsea, Lawrence rose from rural beginnings to become one of the great Wagnerian sopranos of the twentieth century.

Marjorie's career took her to Paris, the Metropolitan Opera, and opera houses across Europe and the United States. She sang Brünnhilde with a fearlessness that became legendary. She broke barriers for Australian singers abroad, but she never forgot she was a Winch girl. And even after contracting polio at the height of her career, she continued to perform, teach, and inspire. Let's make Marj proud!

Establishing a music library in the Globe Theatre—an institution that has stood for a century as a gathering place for performance—would be a fitting way to honour the artistic lineage that connects singers like Stott, McGair, and Lawrence.

The Globe Theatre itself is an ideal home for such a project. As it celebrates its hundredth year, the building stands as a testament to the endurance of community arts spaces. Generations have passed through its doors to watch plays, concerts, film screenings, and community events. Housing an archive would give the theatre a new dimension that complements its existing activities and strengthens its identity as a cultural hub.

Of course, for this vision to become reality, it will require more than enthusiasm—it will require permission. The Globe Theatre is managed by the Surf Coast Shire, and any new use of the space must be approved through the appropriate channels. That's why community backing is not just helpful—it's essential. A groundswell of local support will demonstrate that this is not a private project, but a shared aspiration. The more voices that

speak in favour of the idea, the more likely it is to gain the formal support it needs.

The library could begin modestly—a single display cabinet, with the initial collection of scores properly archived. Over time, as more materials are donated, the collection could grow into a small museum for singers, students, historians, and anyone with an interest in the performing arts. Talks could be built around the collection. Visiting musicians could explore the markings of singers who came before them. Young performers could be connected to the region's artistic heritage.

In this centenary year, the Globe Theatre has an opportunity to celebrate not only its past but its future. A music library built from the personal collections of past singers would be a gift to the next generation—a reminder that the arts thrive when communities choose to preserve and share their stories. It would honour the memory of Lillian Stott and Tess McGair, and many others, acknowledge the towering legacy of Marjorie Lawrence, and create a space where the voices of the past can continue to resonate.

I offer this idea to the community with the hope that it sparks conversation and support. If we can demonstrate to the Surf Coast Shire that this is a project the community truly wants—the Globe Theatre could begin a new chapter: one that celebrates the singers who shaped our history and inspires those who will shape our future.

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 28 Hesse Street, PO BOX 75, WINCHELSEA, Vic. 3241
Phone: (03) 5267 2028 **Email:** manager@winchhouse.org.au
ABN: 48 932 340 254

Yoga & Mat Pilates
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 Term 1 Starts Thursday Jan 29th



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reception@winchhouse.org.au

**Places now available in 2026
 for children over 3 years!**



WINCHELSEA KNITTING GROUP

Thursday Mornings 10.30 -12.00
Winchelsea community house.

Returning Thursday 5th Feb, 2026

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



CHATTY CAFÉ

Friday's 10.30am – 12.30pm from Feb 16th.



"Sip, Chat, Share, Care"

Winchelsea Shire Hall.

Everyone Welcome,

Gold coin donation.

TAI CHI

Friday Mornings
 Winchelsea Community house
 9am - 10am
 \$10 Per Class

Originating in China, Tai Chi and Qigong (Chi Kung) is the practice of slow meditative physical exercise designed for relaxation, balance and health suitable for all ages.



[Winchelsea Tai Chi](https://www.facebook.com/WinchelseaTaiChi)

Returning Feb 6th

*Stitch it,
 Don't ditch it!*

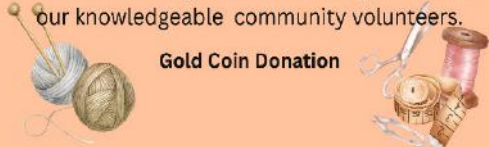
Wednesday's from 4th of Feb 2026
 2pm - 4pm

Winchelsea Community House 'Star Room'

SEWING MACHINE & OVERLOCKER available.

Bring along a craft project you'd like help with, learn to sew, knit, crochet or repair clothing and homewares yourself with the guidance of our knowledgeable community volunteers.

Gold Coin Donation



Craft & Crochet Group



\$5 per person.

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

Register your interest at
reception@winchhouse.org.au

Returning Saturday 24th Jan 2026

Please take some time to fill out the community survey and share your ideas for Winch House in 2026! Enter the link into your browser to complete the survey:

<https://forms.gle/EnrxZVTMfEPEG8ap9>

Garden Misadventures

Julia Holohan

If you have ever owned chooks, you can probably relate this story

What a week of weather and mishaps in my garden this last week!

As I was diligently picking our bountiful crop of berries, my neglect of the black currants sent them to wrack and near ruin in the blasting heat and wind last week.



I was so looking forward to their generous crop but most of them turned to dried currants whether they stayed on the bush or were blown to the ground. Luckily, I managed to salvage some for a few feeds.

Usually on days of intense heat and wind I would cover them with an old sheet, pegging it too the bush or ground to protect them. I reckon, even if I had, the strong winds would have blown the sheet off and I'd be in the same situation. This makes me feel a little less guilty.

The other attack came from our chooks, they are usually pretty well behaved so long as we don't leave any gates leading to the garden open.



We plant butternut pumpkins in the veggie garden, but the beautiful big Queensland blues take up far too much room with their mammoth rambling. I thought I'd hit upon a great idea to remedy this.

Last autumn I had laboriously raked, gathered and piled the leaves into a row along the outside of our house yard fence, leaving them to Spring when they were well composted. I'd seen this idea on Gardening Australia some time ago and thought I'd give it a go.

This side of the fence happens to be in the chooks foraging paddock when we let them out of their run to forage after they've laid their eggs.

This must seem like a stupid place, and it was, but I felt confident the chooks wouldn't get into it with the fence I had erected around the leaves and once established the pumpkins could ramble all they liked and my fence could be removed.

This had worked well, the chooks haven't tried or shown any interest in it all those months since establishing this patch, until I planted out my pumpkin seedlings. The chooks weeded their way in, scratched up a storm, relished the worms etc they gobbled down and now there's only one sick looking seedling left!

Aaaagh, how could they, after all that time ... of course they could and they did and it was a stupid idea, especially as I'm not a very good fencer!

I don't want to waste the composted leaves so I've sown some more seeds in tubes, they'll be very late but I'll cross my fingers. While I wait for them to sprout, I hope Paul will help me erect a better fence and I'll give it another go. But, maybe only one more go and then, if that doesn't work, I'll try and find a different spot well away from the chooks domain next year.

Citizen science rediscovers 'extinct' Queensland plant after 58 years

University of NSW

Citizen Scientist platform 'iNaturalist' aids in citizen scientist identifying "extinct" shrub

A plant species presumed extinct in the wild has been rediscovered in northern Queensland—thanks to a sharp-eyed observer, a smartphone camera, and the citizen science platform iNaturalist.

Researchers report the rediscovery of *Ptilotus senarius* (Amaranthaceae), a small, slender shrub that hadn't been recorded since 1967 and was presumed extinct.

In June 2025, horticulturalist and bird bander Aaron Bean uploaded photos of an unusual plant to iNaturalist while working on private property in the Gilbert River region of Queensland. The identification was then confirmed from a new specimen collected from the property.

The authors say the rediscovery highlights the growing power of iNaturalist for conservation and biodiversity science, particularly its ability to capture observations from hard-to-reach places, publish them instantly, and connect them with expert identifiers worldwide.

Community grants available to boost dementia-friendly initiatives

Dementia Australia

Applications are open for Community Engagement grants up to \$10,000 for projects that support the community to become dementia-friendly.

"This year we have a focus on people living with young onset dementia and young carers," Professor Buchanan said. "There are 29,000 people living with young onset dementia in Australia."

Priority will be given to projects:

- that support individuals with young onset dementia and/or younger carers
- which consult and collaborate with people impacted by dementia, bring together local partnerships and meet the needs of diverse communities
- that work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, culturally and linguistically diverse, and regional and remote communities.

Applications close on 16 February 2026. Visit dementia.org.au/get-involved/dementia-friendly-communities/community-engagement-program-grants

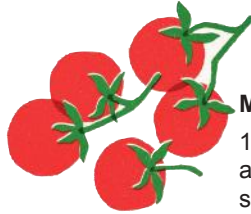
Cooks Corner

Alice Cloake

This is a place for passionate foodies. Here we celebrate local produce, seasonal ingredients, simple yet remarkable recipes we've tried, tested and loved. If you have a recipe you'd like to share, a local product to shout out or a suggestion for an upcoming ingredient of the month - we'd love to hear from you. Email editor@winchelseastar.org.au.



January Ingredient of the Month Tomato



Recipe of the Week Beef Tomato Carpaccio with Spring Onion and Ginger Salsa

From *Simple* by Yotam Ottolenghi



Ingredients (Serves four as a side)

2cm piece of ginger, peeled and roughly chopped (10g)
3 spring onions, very finely sliced (45g)
40ml sunflower oil (or other mild oil)
2 tsp good-quality sherry vinegar
400g beef tomatoes (about 2, depending on size), sliced 2mm thick
¼ green chilli, deseeded and finely chopped
1½ tbsp finely shredded coriander
1 tbsp olive oil flaked sea salt

Method

1. Put the ginger and ½ teaspoon of flaked salt into a pestle and mortar and crush to a fine paste. Transfer to a bowl with the spring onions and stir to combine.
2. Put the oil into a small pan and place on a low heat until just warm: you don't want it to heat too much. Pour over the spring onions and add 1 teaspoon of vinegar. Stir together and set aside.
3. Lay the tomatoes on a large platter, with the slices slightly overlapping. Season with ½ teaspoon of flaked salt and drizzle over the remaining teaspoon of vinegar. Spoon the spring onion and ginger salsa evenly over the tomatoes (or use your hands to better effect), scatter over the chilli and coriander and finish with the olive oil.

About the recipe

As with everything that comes from the mind of Ottolenghi, you have to try it before you knock it. This is a simple, refreshing side dish that perfectly heroes our ingredient of the month - tomato. Ottolenghi suggests making double the salsa to use over future dishes of roast chicken or avocado, it will keep in the fridge for up to 5 days. Once assembled, this dish will also keep in the fridge for up to 6 hours, but bring back to room temperature before serving.

SPOTLIGHT LOCAL PRODUCT

Relish from Sweet Thyme

The jury is out on whether I'm a regular at Sweet Thyme for their Sausage Rolls or their relish accompaniment. Given we're all about tomatoes this month, it would be remiss of me to not call it out. If you haven't tried it yet, put it on your to-do.



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



The Climate Report

Compiled by Judy Cameron

The Guardian Jan 14

Human activity helped make 2025 third-hottest year on record, experts say

Bill McGuire, an emeritus professor of climate hazards at University College London said "To all intents and purposes, the 1.5C limit is now dead in the water. Whichever way you look at it, dangerous climate breakdown has arrived, but with little sign that the world is prepared or even paying serious attention."

See full story:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/jan/14/human-activity-helped-make-2025-third-hottest-year-on-record-experts-say>

9 News Jan 16

- Widespread Damage: Almost 300 homes destroyed and over 1000 structures damaged across Victoria, with major fires still burning in Gippsland, Mallacoota, Longwood, and Walwa.
- Ongoing Threats: Eight watch and act warnings remain; flash flooding did not stop the Otways fire. Authorities caution that "contained" fires still pose risks.
- Future Fire Danger: Heightened fire risk expected on Jan 23-24, with below-average rainfall and warmer-than-average conditions predicted for coming month

ABC News Jan 16

How climate change is making extreme rainfall events like the Great Ocean Road flooding more frequent and intense

In the space of just hours, communities along Victoria's Great Ocean Road saw their roads turned to rivers, and watched in horror as cars and caravans were swept out to sea.

The deluge smashed daily rain records in the region, with some stations recording 180 millimetres in just six hours ...

In general, there has actually been a decrease in the frequency of floods overall, which experts believe is due to increasingly long dry periods between big downpours. In other words, when the rain falls, more of it is getting soaked up by the landscape.

But again, the data shows it's the most extreme flood events that are getting bigger, as opposed to flood events across the board ...

Conrad Wasko from the University of Sydney, who specialises in extreme rainfall and flooding, said this was because the state of the landscape mattered less in the big floods.

"So [in] the rarest events, the most extreme events ... it is so much rain that it just doesn't matter what the soil conditions are

like," he said. "You know that catchment is going to get all wet and it'll flood."

This is leading to a "worst-of-both-worlds" scenario in which the small floods that help fill water supplies decline, while large flood events that pose a risk to life and infrastructure are becoming more common, according to researchers.

See full story and more explanations here:

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-01-16/victoria-floods-climate-change-and-extreme-rainfall/106237516?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=abc_newsmail_am-pm_sfmc&utm_term=&utm_id=2687735&sfmc_id=90734011

ABC News Jan 17

Facing 'a new enemy'

Fire scientist Professor David Bowman, Director of the Fire Centre at the University of Tasmania, says

- the Australian fire landscape is fundamentally changing ... these conditions create some of the world's most dangerous fire behaviour; preceding wet conditions, followed by dryness and topped off with a heatwave and strong winds.
- "You can achieve these maximally destructive fires that are moving so fast and releasing the energy so quickly ... There are stories of [them] outrunning vehicles."
- Bowman says scientists have stopped being reluctant to say climate change is making disastrous fires like these worse. "The temperatures are higher. When you have high temperatures, you change the atmosphere. The atmosphere can dry landscapes faster. It can wet landscapes faster."
- Because these fires have become so fast and are hard to outrun, we need to find a way to stay ... Some places, for example, should have mandated fire shelters, not dissimilar to cyclone shelters. "So rather than relying on mass evacuation, people can go to a very close personal fire shelter, fire bunker, or a community safe space." ... "We're going to have to see these uncontrolled fires as the sort of the southern equivalent of cyclones ..."

See full story:

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-01-17/natimuk-fire-shows-new-climate-driven-faster-kind-of-bushfire/106225970?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=abc_newsmail_am-pm_sfmc&utm_term=&utm_id=2688155&sfmc_id=90734011

Respect the flow – keep the Moorabool River running

Corangamite CMA

Please do not impede the Dolly's Creek Road culvert flow!

People blocking a culvert at Dolly's Creek Road crossing on the Moorabool River have contributed to severe flow stress in the lower reaches of the river around Batesford and Meredith.

This blockage exacerbates impacts of the recent hot, dry conditions and makes it very difficult for fish, platypus and other animals that rely on this water to survive.



Dolly's Creek Road culvert
Dec 2023



Dolly's Creek Road culvert
blockage

The Moorabool River is one of the most flow-stressed rivers in Victoria. The construction of reservoirs, water extraction, and a significant number of farm dams in the catchment are all other contributing factors.

The lowest reach of the river surrounding Batesford and Meredith is extremely vulnerable to cease-to-flow events, this is when the river stops flowing completely. These events can lead to poor water quality and impact native plants and animals that rely on river flows.

Jake van Dam, Project Officer of Estuaries and Environmental Water at Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CMA), said that we all play a part in protecting flow, "It's up to all of us to look after our beautiful, life-giving Moorabool River and an easy way for everyone to do this is to respect the flow," he said.

"One of the ways we support the health of our rivers and wetlands is through water for the environment - water set aside in storages that is released into rivers and wetlands to support the plants and animals that live, feed and breed in them."



Moorabool River upstream of Dolly's Creek Road

"When people prevent flow from moving from one point to another on the Moorabool River, they are blocking both the natural flows, which are very low right now, and water for the environment."

Under state legislation, interfering with water flow in a river can result in fines of up to \$244,000 and or imprisonment for up to 10 years.

Government Bushfire Funding

'Look Over the Farm Gate' community events program

In response to the bushfires and ongoing drought, a new round of applications for the Look Over the Farm Gate community events program has opened..

The Look Over the Farm Gate program offers grants of up to \$5,000 for events and activities that support mental health and wellbeing of farmers and farming communities.

Acting Director Agriculture Services Aimee McCutcheon said the program helps local organisations to deliver events for their community who are doing it tough and has been extremely popular across the state.

'We have seen a range of fantastic events coming through, from BBQs to film screenings, guest speakers, to sporting activities – all focused on meeting the needs of local communities,' Mrs McCutcheon said.

Applications for this new round of Look Over the Farm Gate funding will remain open until the allocated funding has been exhausted or until 30 June 2026. Find out more and apply via the National Centre for Farmer Health website.

For more information on bushfire support, visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/bushfires or call 136 186.

Fixing bushfire-affected roads

Almost \$82 million has been announced to restore and repair state roads and public transport infrastructure damaged by the January 2026 Victorian bushfires. Up to \$44 million is for emergency works which funded by the Federal and State Governments. The Federal Government will fund a further \$37 million.

We've seen a significant impact not only on the road surfaces but also critical roadside and safety infrastructure including barriers, signage and vegetation as well as the strain to roads from heavy machinery used for tree clearing on the roads.

Crews will be out repairing wire rope and guard rails, cleaning up trees and debris, making sure signage remains intact and undertaking road repairs, supporting local economies and businesses, which rely on safe and accessible roads.

The Federal and State Governments are committed to ensuring bushfire-affected Victorians have the support they need to recover from these devastating bushfires. Information about recovery support is available now on the Emergency Recovery Victoria website: vic.gov.au/january-2026-victorian-bushfires



\$100 million dollars to be set aside for services for fire affected individuals and communities

The Federal and State Governments will deliver close to \$100 million in additional support for the recovery of communities and businesses across Victoria devastated by bushfires. The expanded support package is jointly funded by the Federal and State Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). It builds upon previously announced support and responds directly to needs identified by affected communities as they start their recovery.

Community Recovery Officers and Hubs

These Governments are investing more than \$15 million to establish Community Recovery Officers and Recovery Hubs across bushfire affected areas.

Recovery Hubs will be a one-stop shop for residents to access services and information from government and community organisations. Dedicated Community Recovery Officers will work within councils to identify community needs, develop tailored programs, and provide on-the-ground support to help locals rebuild.

Councils will receive between \$450,000 and \$1.3 million to employ recovery staff and deliver local programs, while community organisations can apply for grants of up to \$75,000 for locally led initiatives.

Prolonged Power Outage Payments

Eligible households who have been without power for seven or more days within a two-week period will receive \$2,380 per week for up to three weeks, helping families manage during this challenging time.

Applications can be made through electricity distribution businesses, with full details available at energy.vic.gov.au/about-energy/safety/power-outages.

Primary Producer Recovery Grants

An initial \$40 million in grants of up to \$75,000 will be provided to eligible primary producers, to help cover the costs of clean-up and reinstating their enterprises.

Funding can be used for essential recovery activities such as disposing of livestock, rebuilding or replacing damaged on-farm infrastructure and restoring operations.

Grants will open as soon as possible and will be delivered by Rural Finance. Information on eligibility and how to apply will be available at ruralfinance.com.au.

Concessional Loans for Primary Producers

Loans of up to \$250,000 will be available for producers who have suffered significant damage to assets, while loans of up to \$100,000 will support those experiencing a major loss of income.

This assistance will further help cover essential costs such as repairing or replacing damaged equipment, rebuilding infrastructure, purchasing livestock and meeting working capital expenses like wages, rent and fodder.

Applications will open as soon as possible and will be delivered by Rural Finance. Information on eligibility and how to apply will be available at ruralfinance.com.au.

Council Support Fund

Almost \$12 million will be delivered through the Council Support Fund to kickstart clean-up and repairs to local public spaces like parks, footy ovals, community centres, playgrounds and sporting fields – helping communities reconnect.

We know the scale of this disaster is overwhelming for small and rural councils. This Fund boosts their capacity to lead recovery efforts and make decisions that reflect local needs, ensuring support goes where it's needed most.

The Fund will be active for two years, giving councils the time they need for clean-up and reconstruction. Councils will receive up to \$750,000 depending on the scale of impacts, providing tailored support for rebuilding communities.

Financial Counselling

Specialist counsellors will help individuals and families access recovery grants, manage insurance claims, replace essential items and deal with debts through payment plans and fee waivers. They will also provide advocacy with insurers and creditors and connect people to legal support.

The funding will boost the Victorian Farmers Federation's Financial Capability Support Program, giving primary producers tailored financial advice. By providing early support and clear recovery pathways, this program will reduce stress and help communities recover faster.

Previous support

This builds on the jointly-funded recovery support already announced – including help to dispose of waste, emergency funding to deliver fodder to communities and assistance with emergency accommodation.

Victorians can call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 for information about payments and recovery programs. Additional assistance, including emergency relief payments and Guaranteed Service Level electricity bill credits, remains available for eligible households.

Emergency relief payments remain available for eligible Victorians who have had their homes destroyed by the fires, or who were required to evacuate due to emergency warnings. To find out more, please visit an Emergency Relief Centre or call VicEmergency on 1800 226 226.



Financial and mental health support for farmers

Victorian State Government

The Federal and State Governments are delivering further support to Victorians affected by the devastating fires, helping communities begin the long road to recovery.

The latest support package for bushfire-affected communities – including vital financial and mental health support for our farmers has been announced.

Building on the funding announced under the joint Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements and the initial Personal Hardship Assistance Program payments, further funding will be delivered to eligible Victorians who have tragically lost their homes in the fires.

The Federal and State Governments are making assistance payments of up to \$52,250 available to eligible uninsured households so they can re-establish their principal place of residence.

For our farmers facing uncertainty following the loss of crops and livestock, the State Government is also making sure they have the vital mental health and wellbeing support they need to reduce trauma and help them get back on their feet, expanding existing programs in place for primary producers and farming communities.

This includes free, confidential wellbeing support alongside financial and business counselling via the Rural Financial Counselling Service.

Initially appointed as part of the drought response, the wellbeing counsellors will be available to visit bushfire-affected producers and their families at their property or over the phone.

The package will also bring forward the start date of the State Government's 'Look Over the Farm Gate' program, administered

by the National Centre for Farmer Health to support farming communities experiencing stress.

Now available from this Friday, 16 January 2026 to meet the immediate needs of those affected by the bushfires, it will provide grants of up to \$5,000 for events and activities that support mental health and wellbeing so they can navigate their recovery as a community.

We know how distressed people are about their animals – that's why the Victorian Government is making it easier for farmers to check on their livestock while still ensuring they remain safe from the dangers of fire-affected land.

Landholders concerned about livestock welfare can now put in a request directly via Agriculture Victoria (on 1800 226 226) who will work with the Fire Incident Controller to assess the request and determine the earliest and safest way to get access.

Victoria is at its best when we unite to support those who need it most. That's why the Victorian Government is launching the 2026 Victorian Bushfire Appeal – making it easier for people wanting to know where they can generously donate to fire-affected communities.

These donations will cover immediate and longer-term assistance, and programs identified by communities as priorities for their area. This work is done in collaboration with local organisations and charities to ensure the most vulnerable are supported.

100 per cent of donations will go to fire affected communities, and the Government is covering all the administrative costs associated with getting this funding out to where it's needed, as quickly as possible.

Donations are open online now.

Fire Danger Period NOW

Country Fire Authority

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

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

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

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

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



What's on Weekly

MONDAY-FRIDAY

WINCHELSEA COMMUNITY HOUSE

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

WINCHELSEA TOY LIBRARY

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

MONDAY-SATURDAY

WINCHELSEA HEALTH CLUB

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

MONDAY

SURF COAST SHIRE FIRE DANGER PERIOD

24/11/2025 - 01/05/2026

CO-WORKING & STUDYING SPACE

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

MAINLY MUSIC

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

WINCHELSEA GIRL GUIDES



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

1ST MODDAWARRE SCOUT GROUP

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

VINYASA YOGA

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

TUESDAY



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

1ST MODDAWARRE SCOUT GROUP

Joey's 5-6pm (School Term)
Scouts 6:30-8:30pm (School Term)
Marie McPadden 0409330147

WEDNESDAY

WINCHELSEA ZUMBA DANCE

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

WINCHELSEA MEN'S SHED

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

SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE

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

MOTHER GOOSE SONG & RHYME

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

WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

STITCH IT, DON'T DITCH IT!

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

KIDS ART & CRAFT SESSIONS

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

MEL'S DANCE CENTRAL

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

CWA WINCHELSEA

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



SES WINCHELSEA

7.30pm 132500
323 Mousley Dr, Winchelsea



THURSDAY

CHAT WITH YOUR COUNCILLOR

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

WINCHELSEA MEN'S SHED

For the Community

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Every Wednesday from 9.30am
51 Hesse Street, Winchelsea

KINDLING/OFFCUTS \$7.00 bag

Pickup Wednesdays 9.30-2.30
For delivery, call Bill 0438 083 373

NESTING BOXES Birds/animals

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Woodworking, Furniture Repairs
Call in Wednesdays to order

Ray Atkinson (Co-ordinator)
0407839139
winchmenshed@gmail.com

Winchelsea Community Market

First Sunday on the Month (except November)

Shire Hall
9am to 1pm



Upcoming Dates:

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

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

Stallholders - Contact via: Growing Winchelsea Inc Website

January/February 2026

What's On

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

COWORKING & STUDYING SPACE

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

WINCHELSEA PLAYGROUP

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

WINCHELSEA PICKLEBALL

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

WINCHELSEA KNITTING GROUP

10.30am-12pm FREE
Winchelsea Community House,
28 Hesse St, Winchelsea
(03) 5267 2028 (03) 5267 2028

MAT PILATES

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

WINCHELSEA MOVIE CLUB

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

FRIDAY

TAI CHI

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

COMMUNITY FOODBANK

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

PHONICS WITH ROBOT REG

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

CHATTY CAFÉ



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

WINCHELSEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Friday 10am-3pm
Hesse St, Winchelsea

WINCHELSEA SENIOR CITIZENS

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

WINCHELSEA RSL

Winchelsea Men's Shed,
Hesse St, Winchelsea
David Loone 0488 165 109

GEELONG REGIONAL LIBRARY

(MOBILE) 2-5pm
Old Shire Hall, 28 Hesse Street
0408384331 (During scheduled stops)

SATURDAY

PARKRUN



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

WINCHELSEA LIONS CLUB IGA BBQs

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

WINCHELSEA LAND AND RIVERCARE

Citizen Scientists Working Bee

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

WINCHELSEA STAR PRODUCTION/COFFEE MEETING

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

WINCHELSEA CROCHET GROUP

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

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass 6pm each week
Harding St, Winchelsea 0404598558

WINCHELSEA COMMUNITY DINNER

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

SUNDAY



WINCHELSEA COMMUNITY MARKET

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

WINCHELSEA UNITING CHURCH

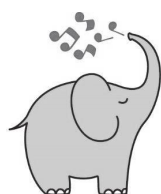
Service 9.30am each week
Hesse St, Winchelsea 0475 777 301
uca.winchelsea@gmail.com

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Disaster assistance available after flash floods

Victorian State Government

The Federal and State Governments are activating disaster assistance for Surf Coast and Colac Otways shires following flash flooding that occurred on Thursday 15 January 2026.

The disaster assistance is being delivered under the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Support is being provided to councils for the establishment and running of emergency relief centres. Multiple relief centres were stood up in the Surf Coast and Colac Otway shires immediately after the flash flooding, with more than 200 people accessing the relief centre in Lorne in the first two hours.

Funding for emergency accommodation, restoration of essential public assets and counter disaster operations is also included.

Personal Hardship Assistance Program payments have also been activated for those who've had to evacuate their homes and need immediate things like food and medicine. Assistance under the program includes a one-off payment of \$680 per adult and \$340 per child, up to a maximum of \$2,380 per eligible family.

Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) will continue to work with Surf Coast and Colac Otway councils to understand any further assistance they need.

Information about relief available for people impacted by the flash flooding is available on the VicEmergency website at emergency.vic.gov.au/relief

Information on disaster assistance is available on the Australian Government's website at disasterassist.gov.au or call VicEmergency on 1800 226 226.

The Lorne Emergency Relief Centre is now closed, but ongoing support is still available

Victorian State Government

Council's emergency relief centre at Stribling Reserve in Lorne has now been closed. Council staff made contact with all people registered with the centre on Friday afternoon, and all had made alternative accommodation arrangements or returned home. This meant the centre was wound up on Friday evening.

A Community Information Point has now been established at the Lorne Visitor Information Centre. Council staff will be available at the visitor information centre until 5pm Saturday to provide information or assistance to the community as needed.

For people who have been impacted and not yet registered with Council, please visit our dedicated webpage or call the Lorne Visitor Information Centre on 1300 891 152.

Arrangements beyond Saturday will be determined based on community need.

Disposal of flood debris

Council is waiving fees for individuals bringing flood-related debris to waste transfer stations.

- Lorne Transfer Station is open 9am-4pm Saturday and 2-5pm Sunday.
- Anglesea Transfer Station is open 9am-4pm daily.

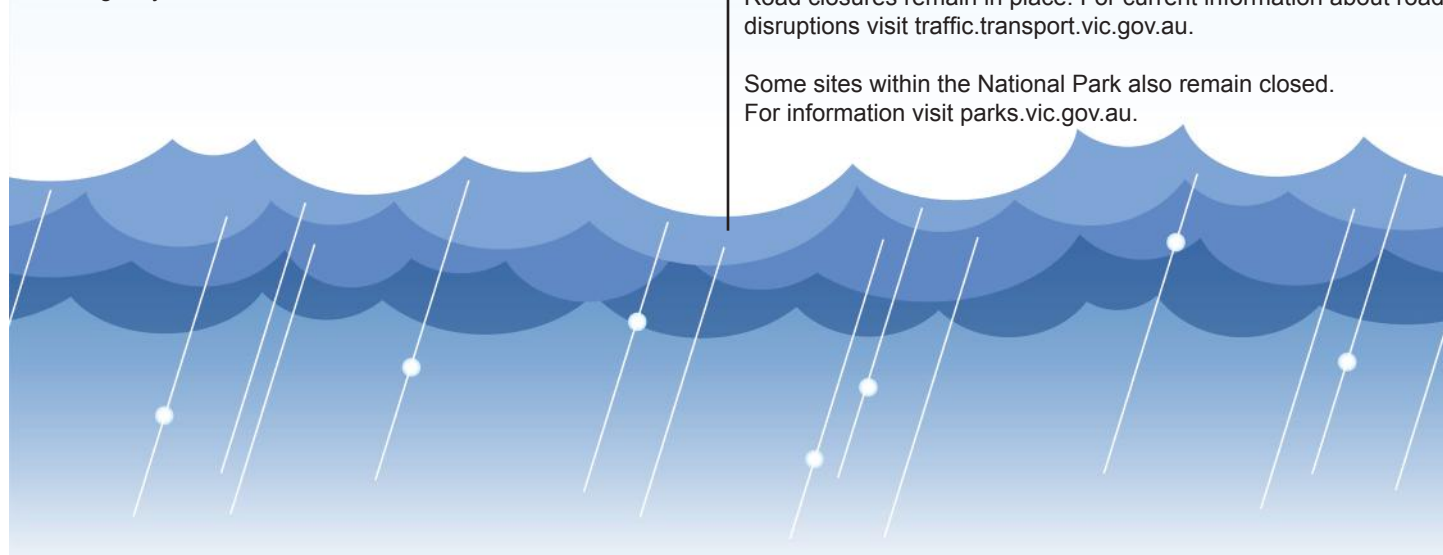
Council's operations teams spent Friday inspecting trees and infrastructure in and around Lorne and making temporary repairs. This work continues.

Our dedicated webpage will continue to provide updates about Council's emergency response to the incident, as well as links to other resources for the community: surfcoast.vic.gov.au/lorneflood.

The community is urged to stay informed via the VicEmergency app or website, which includes a section containing relief and recovery advice for the Great Ocean Road flood event.

Road closures remain in place. For current information about road disruptions visit traffic.transport.vic.gov.au.

Some sites within the National Park also remain closed. For information visit parks.vic.gov.au.





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Winchelsea Star

This week's Edition

Editor Cerrie Forgan Designer Susan Corby

Next Production Coffee Meeting Sat 31 January
9am @ La Hoot All Welcome - come enjoy a coffee!

send your stories

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Father Joseph Panackal
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Service 10am Sundays



Thought of the Week

Proverbs 3: 5-8

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

It will be healing to your flesh
and refreshment to your bones."

Have a Blessed week.

John Bader
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Affordable and convenient care for women will be strengthened, with two new hormonal contraceptives options – the injectable depot and the vaginal ring – available for resupply, without needing a prescription.

Later next year women experiencing menopause will benefit, with pharmacists able to provide a resupply of hormone replacement therapy (HRT) without a prescription.

In the next two years, Chemist Care Now will include 22 treatments for common health conditions, with pharmacists able to undertake short-form training to deliver each new service.

It builds on the existing program which currently offers treatment for uncomplicated urinary tract infections, skin conditions such as shingles, travel vaccines including hepatitis A and B, and the resupply of the contraceptive pill.

Following a successful pilot, the State Government made Chemist Care Now permanent earlier this year.

To find a participating pharmacy, please visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au/about-chemist-care-now.



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Winchelsea Golf Club

Rachel Boddington

RESULTS 14/1/25 - MID WEEK/WEEKLY STABLEFORD 19 PLAYERS.

1st - Greg Batson (28) 40 points
 2nd - David Harvey (17) 38 points
 3rd - Andrew MacDonald (27) 37 points
 BDL - Andrew Ellery (28) 36 points C/B
 BDL - Rob Wilson (22) 36 points C/B
 BDL - Geoff Morgan (22) 36 points C/B
 NTP (2nd/11th) - Andrew MacDonald

RESULTS 14/1/25 - MID WEEK - LADIES RESULTS STABLEFORD

Winner: Robyn Vesey 41 pts
 R/Up: Carol Stanesby 40 pts
 Jackpot NTP

RESULTS SATURDAY 17/1/26 STABLEFORD 19 PLAYERS.

1st - Tara Steward (17) 39 points
 2nd - Evan Partridge (22) 37 points
 3rd - Denis Chappell (18) 36 points
 BDL - Dale Morgan (13) 35 points
 BDL - Andrew Ellery (28) 35 points C/B
 BDL - Stephen Cole (12) 34 points
 NTP (6th/15th) - Greg Rigby
 Golden Hole (8th) - Tara Steward

COMING UP:

Wednesday 21st January - Weekly Stableford
 Saturday 24th January - **2 Person Ambrose** - Grab a partner
 Saturday 31st January - **Opening of the Greens - Mixed Pinehurst** - A board event where at least 1 person must be a member of WGC No partner? All good, there will be a men's Stableford event, too.



Savings, Smarts and Sources

Barwon Water

We've managed to avoid water restrictions during an extremely dry period by focusing on savings, smarts and sources – supporting customers to save water, investing in smart, large-scale ways to prevent leaks and use water wisely, and exploring alternative water sources.

To support local storages, Geelong customers are receiving water via the Greater Melbourne water grid and the Anglesea borefield. An upgrade to the Melbourne to Geelong Pipeline has expanded its capacity from 16 billion to 22 billion litres per year. This year, the pipeline helped Geelong avoid water restrictions at the end of winter.

During summer, water use is at its highest and rainfall is at its lowest. Household water use can increase by around 25%, putting extra demand on water storages.

There are plenty of ways you can help save water: run a full load of laundry. Save 10 litres of water each wash.

- take shorter showers. Aim for 4 minutes and save 27 litres of water every shower.
- hit the half flush and save 3 litres per flush.
- go easy with the hose, use a trigger nozzle and save thousands of litres of water.
- brush teeth with the tap off and save 5 litres of water every minute.
- use the sprinkler after 6pm or before 10am to avoid water loss to evaporation.
- clean hard surfaces with a broom, not a hose and save thousands of litres of water.

Remember Permanent Water Saving Rules are in place every day of the year and are the same right across Victoria.



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Winchelsea Bowls Club

Julie Johnson



Midweek Pennant commenced on Tuesday the 6th of January in hot conditions and Saturday on the 17th of January in very windy conditions. Winchelsea had a great new year kick start on the three Pennant Days, winning 7/8 matches and drawing the other.

MIDWEEK RESULTS

Although we had an unusual number of replacements due to people still being on holidays both teams were reasonably successful.

Round 10

Division 1 drew with Central away, 63 shots all.

Division 3 def City at home winning all rinks, 64 shots to 48 shots.

Round 11

Division 1 def Colac away winning 2/3 rinks and drawing the other, 70/58 shots.

Division 3 def Camperdown Magpies away winning all rinks, 66/49 shots.

SATURDAY RESULTS

Round 11

Winchelsea 1 A def Colac Central at home winning 3/4 rinks, 97/74 shots.

Winchelsea 1 B def Simpson away winning 3/4 rinks, 83/82 shots.

Winchelsea 4 def Cobden away winning 2/3 rinks, 67/49 shots.

Winchelsea 5 def Birregurra at home winning both rinks, 66/49 shots.

LADDER POSITIONS

Midweek both teams in 1st position.

Saturday 1 A 1st, 1 B 6th, 4 1st, 5 3rd. In great positions for finals with 3 games to play.

AROUND THE GREEN

Just prior to the Christmas break the **Club Singles**

Championships finals were held followed by a break up BBQ at the club. Pip Ward defeated Erin Baulch and Rhys Jeffs defeated Max Heaton-Harris. They were two very entertaining and lengthy matches with lots of spectators present, congratulations to all players. Pip and Rhys will play in the 1st Round of the Champion of Champions at Colac Bowls Club on the 18th January and if successful will progress through the rounds to the second day on 25th January.



Tournament winners Jason Armstrong, Matt Brewer, Denis Delany, Paul Stanley with Club President Andrew Doyle and Tournament Director Peter McConachy.

The **Open 4's Tournament** went ahead on the 10th January despite many reservations on the Friday night. The Tournament sponsored by Charles Stewart with support from the Bendigo Bank congratulated the overall winners a combined team from Camperdown Magpies and Terang. We thank our many helpers and workers who helped to make this day successful and run as smoothly as possible in the ordinary conditions.

Winchelsea Bowls Club would also like to acknowledge the very harrowing weeks of loss for Victorian communities and acknowledge the fantastic work of all Emergency services. There will no doubt be a fundraiser at Colac greens organized and well attended by the bowling communities in the future.

Let's continue our wonderful beginning and may the bowls be with you!!



Club Champions Rhys Jeffs, Pip Ward



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Winchelsea Football Netball Club Inc

Hopkins St, Winchelsea winchelseafnc@hotmail.com

Blues News

Janet Fletcher

Happy New Year to all Club sponsors, players, supporters and volunteers and what a special year 2026 is for the Football & Netball Club! The Winchelsea Football Club was established in 1876 and so this year marks the 150th year birthday celebration.

150 years of different Leagues, jumper style, colours and designs, 2 World Wars and latterly Covid epidemic interruptions, along with all the trials and tribulations that are involved in the running of a small country Football & Netball Club, despite all this, here we are – the Mighty Blues standing stronger than ever to face what the next 150 years may thrust upon us.

Who are the Winchelsea Blues ??

Past and present players, parents of past and present Junior players, all the Club's supporters, our social members, our fabulous volunteers, including Junior Trainers, and Murray Bennett, also including many parents who stood up as Coaches for both Football & Netball, committee members past and present, Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, the Club's esteemed Life Members and our loyal sponsors, old and new, this is who we are – one Club united to continue to be proud of who we are and what we are trying to achieve.

We are all part of the Winchelsea Blues.

POSITION VACANT, W.F.N.C. CANTEEN

The Winchelsea Football & Netball Club
is looking for a Manager/s for the 2026 Season,
to oversee our Canteen on home game days.
This is a paid position.

9 HOME GAMES ~ Rounds 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 11, 14, 16, & 18.
Rounds 2, 3, & potentially 4 will be Twilight games.

A roster will be in place for Footballers and Netballers, and Catering team to assist.

Preparing and operating Canteen duties will include:

- Knowledge and operation of a deep fryer and being familiar with the part it plays on game days is especially important.
- Foods include chips, dim sims, potato cakes, chiko rolls, chicken schnitzels.
- Assembling of ham/chicken salad rolls.
- Monitoring of pies, pasties and sausage rolls in a pie warmer.
- Hot dogs, steamed dim sims, gravy for chips and gravy, beef and gravy rolls.
- Chicken schnitzel burgers.

All ordering will be done with consultation,
no front of house required, no money handling required.

All interested enquiries
Janet Fletcher 0400 783 408



2026 will see many celebratory milestones and tributes to past players, Presidents, volunteers and long-time sponsors who have been there for the Winnie Blues through thick and thin.

To kick start the celebrations Jason Nogueira Photography has produced a unique Calendar for 2026 to commemorate the Club's 150th year. These can be purchased for \$25 through the Club's online shop winchelseafnc.sportsclique.com.au.

STOCKS OF THESE ARE LIMITED – please place your order quickly as so not to miss out!!

GO BLUES!!

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DAY**

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parkrun 98



Saturday 17 January 2026

Trebeck Reserve, Winchelsea
www.parkrun.com.au

Thirty eight parkrunners walked or ran the course through Trebeck Reserve this week in very windy conditions. There were seven volunteers and we had visitors from Bannockburn, Wallaby Track and Perth.

Congratulations to Paul Atwell who ran a Personal Best time.

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

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

Check out our Facebook page for more photos.

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

To volunteer please email to trebeckreserve@parkrun.com



DEFIBRILLATORS IN WINCHELSEA

Accessible to the public 24 hours a day

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

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



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