

# Bridge Connection

Barfold, Baynton, Derrinal, Elphinstone, Glenhope, Heathcote,  
Kyneton, Langley, Mia Mia, Metcalfe, Redesdale, Sidonia, Sutton Grange.



Edition 58

October 2014

A community owned newspaper

## Mia Mia opera glory

By Kathy Hall

Mia Mia Opera's spring presentation upheld a tradition of excellent performances in the Mia Mia Hall with an evening performance on Sat-

urday 11 October and matinee on Sunday 12 October. A warm evening set the scene for operagoers to enjoy

pre-show drinks and canapés beside the Mechanics Institute.

The performances were a stunning success.

Sponsors of the opera for the third year were The Alice Amy McDonald Trust managed by Mia Mia residents, David and Lynne McDonald, who were delighted with the response.

David said the Trust helped develop young opera talent in Victoria and Italy.

"Lynne and I were very impressed with the calibre of performances by young singers from The Opera Studio Melbourne, and the range of music the performance highlighted.

Mia Mia community once again supported the opera, with a full house for the Saturday night performance and a good crowd on Sunday afternoon.

It was lovely to see the atmospheric and acoustic Mia Mia Hall used for music events, and to appreciate the tireless efforts of the Mia Mia Hall Committee and volunteers who organised and provided catering for the event.

Lynne McDonald said she was absolutely thrilled with

the quality and professionalism of the performances.

"Joy on the faces of the audience was so pleasing, not just for David and I, but for the performers," she said.

Howard Nathan introduced performers and their operatic pieces.

David McDonald announced the Travelling Scholarship winner Rada Tochalna.

Rada has qualifications from the Music Academy in Lviv in the Ukraine, has studied and performed in Europe, and has tertiary qualifications in piano, vocal studies, music, and economics.

She plans to use her scholarship to travel in Switzerland and audition for some of Europe's most prestigious opera companies.

Tamzyn Alexander won the Judge's Award, and the People's Choice award.

Manager of the Opera studio where the performers study, Matthew Nash, said the two concerts at Mia Mia were the culmination of weeks of hard work.

"It was a joy to perform in front of two such receptive and enthusiastic audiences.

"Energy in the Hall drove the performers to push themselves to a level of perform-



Travel scholarship winner Rada Tochalna.

Please see Page 10

# Redesdale Dinner and talk night on hospital

Redesdale community will hold its first Dinner plus Talk in the Redesdale Hall at 7pm on Friday 21 November.

Organisers hope this will be the first of many information evenings associat-

ed with a lovely three course dinner. BYO wine and beer. This time we will hear about the progress of the new Bendigo Hospital which is huge and will have implications for the health and services avail-

able to the whole area. It will also have an effect on local employment. Tickets are \$20 for members of the Redesdale and District Association and \$25 for non members.

Extremely reasonable for a social night with good food and information. Tickets are available at:- info@redesdale.net or by contacting Gloria 5425 3123 or Kathy 5425 3272.

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## Hanging Rock management plan

Macedon Ranges Council is working on an environmental management plan for Hanging Rock.

The plan will guide environmental and conservation works at the reserve, including the East Paddock.

Macedon Ranges Mayor Roger Jukes said the council was working with environment groups and other stakeholders to identify issues and opportunities at the site.

"The plan will help us establish a set of principles and an action plan that will focus on conserving and enhancing

the Rock's environmental values, whilst balancing the important role the site has to play as a recreation and tourist facility," he said.

Cr Jukes said the council would work with community user groups and relevant stakeholders to develop the draft plan before placing it on public exhibition in early 2015 for broader community input.

The plan is being funded by the Victorian Government.

Further information is available at:- [mrsc.vic.gov.au/hanging-rock](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/hanging-rock).

## Casserole lunch trial

A community based program pairing people who find it difficult to prepare regular meals with those who love to cook has been launched in the Macedon Ranges.

Casserole Club is a new website matching volunteer cooks with diners in the same area who would appreciate a home-cooked meal.

Macedon Ranges Council is one of three rural councils in Australia to pilot the program with the support of Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Government.

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# Citizenship Awards nominations open

Bendigo Mayor Barry Lyons has opened nominations for the 2015 City of Greater Bendigo Citizen and Young Citizen of the Year Awards.

Cr Lyons said the City wants residents who know of someone who goes above and beyond to help make Greater Bendigo better to nominate them for the city's premier award.

"This year we have made it easier to nominate.

"Just tell us in 250 words what makes your nominee an outstanding member of our community; how he or she is a role model for others to follow, and how the person has excelled or contributed to the Greater Bendigo community. "Nominations can be made online at:-

[www.bendigo.vic.gov.au](http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au) or by picking up a form which can be filled out and either posted or dropped back into the City offices before Friday 28 November.

"We have had some fantastic people named Citizen of the Year, including our current recipient, Gordon McKern, and our young citizen Skye Kinder.

"Nominating someone for the Greater Bendigo Citizen or Young Citizen of the Year Awards is a fantastic way to recognize the work and efforts of those citizens who make our community better," Cr Lyons said.

The mayor said many people made outstanding or selfless contributions to their communities by service, career, sporting, academic achievements, service to arts, culture, and environment.

He said there was no better way to acknowledge their contribution and efforts.

"It doesn't matter what part of Greater Bendigo you live in.

"I call on all residents to nominate someone who is making a difference and

deserves to be recognised through the award," said Cr Lyons.

Nominations close at 5pm on Friday 28 November 2014.

Winners will be announced in the week leading up to Australia Day Monday 26 January. Nominees for the Young Citizen of the Year

must be under 25 on Monday 26 January 2015.

Nomination forms are available at the City of Greater Bendigo offices and local libraries or can be made online from:-

[www.bendigo.vic.gov.au](http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au)  
Further information is available on 5434 6000.

## Rockers raise money for Redesdale

*By Simon Hills*

Profits from a Rock and Roll night held in the Redesdale Hall on Saturday 30 August have gone to the Redesdale Recreation Reserve precinct. The event was sold out, with more than 110 patrons enjoying a great night of Rock n Roll.

Entertainment began with some fine Blues played by new resident Ray, owner of the old Redesdale store, and his friend, Ken.

The fabulous Hubcats hit the stage at 8pm and the night was off and running; well, off and dancing.

The night was interspersed with wonderful brackets of Blues from Ray and Ken, three raffles, which raised more than \$800, and the usual tall stories and gossip, often part of chit chat in a happy and friendly crowd.

The Hubcats became better and better as the night went on, and they gave us plenty of really good old fashioned Rock n Roll.

The fund raiser was suggested by Redesdale General

Store proprietor Dino Tomisic who also acted as master of ceremonies.

Three groups, Redesdale and District Association (RaDA), Redesdale Hall Committee, and the Redesdale Recreation Reserve, provided support.

Our major Sponsors, Hardwick's Meats, Redesdale Roofing and Plumbing, Rowanston on the Track Winery, Shaver Shop in Bendigo, and Barfold Estate Winery enabled the event to happen.

Supporting sponsorship came from the Albion Hotel in Kyneton, AMCAL Pharmacy, Kyneton, Redesdale Rural Cafe, Knights' Granite Hills Winery, Country Cob Bakery, and Burke and Wills Winery.

Thanks also to the Hubcats who played at a greatly reduced rate for the night, and were happy to just keep on rockin'.

Most of all, thanks to those who supported the evening by attending.



**Dino and Jenny Tomisic at the Rock and Roll dance**

# Mia Mia's history book

Mia Mia's History Book is finished and available for orders.

The familiar sites and dirt roads of Mia Mia we drive today were populated by people who once lived, worked and died here.

The squatters, settlers, diggers, bushrangers, and farmers.

Their resilience, inventiveness and sense of community are mirrored in the lives of those living here today.

**By Kate Hicks**

This illustrated history of the district from its earliest days is the result of a community collaboration, bringing together historical reports and accounts, recorded personal stories and family in a tribute and celebration of the people and place of Mia Mia.

Lynne McDonald, Member of the book's editorial committee.

"The remnants of farms have been cut up for city folk Seeking fresh air and a beautiful view.

Do they know of the sweat and the tears and the laughter The toil and the pain that our pioneers went through?"

Extract from 'Beneath Lake Eppalock' by Essie Raeburn nee Campbell, one of several poems in the book.

The book has a hard colour cover; stitching rather than glue to hold it together for many years; and 320 pages of photographic quality paper for the many images

and 180,000 words.

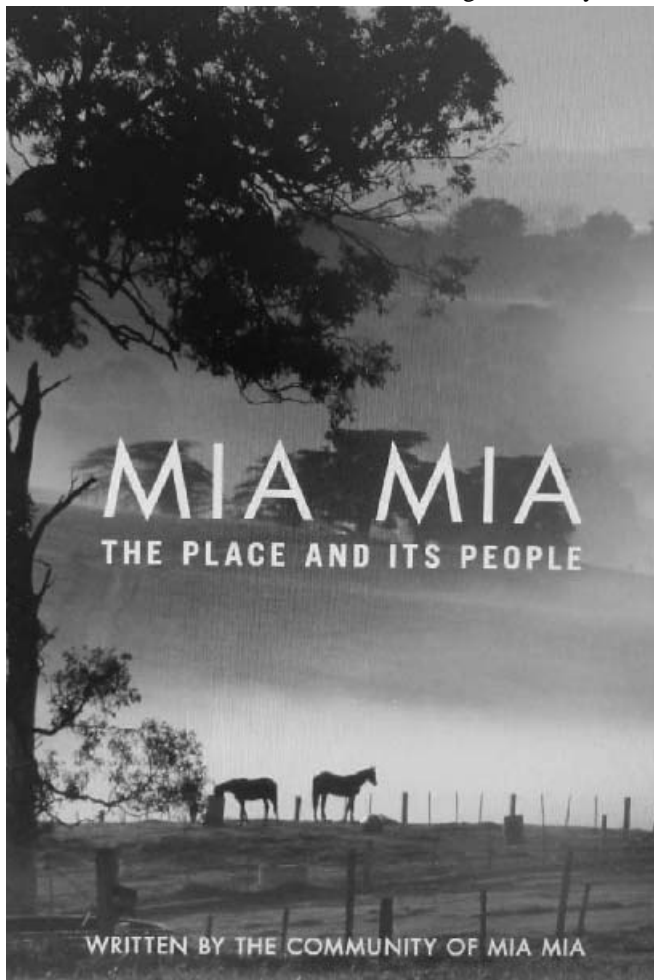
It includes many first hand accounts, including some from the earliest overlanders. The cover photograph is a beautiful Mia Mia sunrise captured by Mia Mia's Deb Agnew.

To ensure we print enough copies we invite you to register your interest in purchasing copies of this book.

Copies will be available by the end of November and we will advise of collection points to avoid postage costs. There will only be one print run.

We will have some preview pages of the book available for viewing at the Afternoon Tea after the Mia Mia Open Gardens on Sunday 2 November. You can request a copy of the book's Table of Contents, place your pre-print order, or request other details by emailing:-

miamiasocial@gmail.com, or call Kate on 0419 525 101.



## Pre print orders for Mia Mia history book

Pre-print orders for 'Mia Mia The Place and its People' placed on or before Thursday 6 November will earn a discount.

Cost will be \$40 each for one or two copies; three or more copies, \$35 each.

You can request a copy of the book's Table of Contents, place your pre-print order, or request other details by emailing:-

miamiasocial@gmail.com, or call Kate on 0419 525 101. Post-print orders after Thursday 6 November will be \$50 each.

Prices are plus postage.

All proceeds from sales go to the Mia Mia Mechanics' Institute.

## Sister Cities agreement symbolises unity

Macedon Ranges Shire and Tokai City Council, Japan have signed a Sister City Agreement to officially recognise the friendship enjoyed by both councils over the past 29 years.

Macedon Ranges Mayor

Roger Jukes, and Tokai City Mayor, Atsuo Suzuki, councillors, members of the Tokai City Council and Tokai International Association were present. The signing formalises the relationship between both councils and

launches a five year action plan to support cultural exchanges and education opportunities for young people. Art exchanges and trade missions will also provide development opportunities for artists and businesses.

# Mia Mia Sheep Dog Trials

The Mia Mia Muster will be held on Friday 28, Saturday 29, and Sunday 29 November.

Three days of sheep dog trialling in affiliation with the Victorian Working Sheep Dog Association, two days of yard dog trialling in affiliation with the Victorian Yard Utility and Farm Dog Association, and agility dog demonstrations.

Thanks to the Bendigo Obedience Dog Club, a dog high jump competition will be held on Saturday and Sunday.

There will also be a garage sale at the old fire shed to raise funds for the Mia Mia

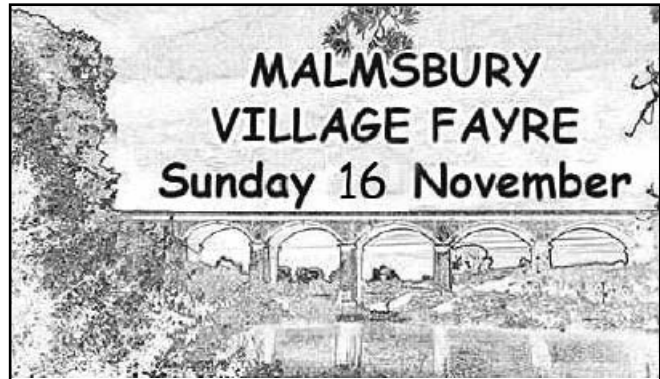
Rural Fire Brigade.

Although there will be a good show of both sheep dogs and some fairly crafty sheep over the weekend, the true meaning behind the naming of the Mia Mia Muster is gradually coming together.

The idea of a community muster is to bring everyone together to enjoy a variety of activities over a fun weekend.

Anyone who would like to become involved in any way is encouraged to do so.

Further information is available from Fiona or Dean on 5425 5574 or Grant and Wendy on 5425 5590.



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# Heathcote U3A activities 2014 Program

**Email – u3a.heathcote@gmail.com**

**Chair-Based Exercises.** All Fridays 10.30am in the Guide Hall. Coffee morning moved to first Friday thereafter. Convener Glenys Baldwin 5433 2925.

**Coffee Morning.** Moved to first Friday from Friday 1 August. Organiser Stephanie Bastock 5433 3649.

**Current Affairs discussion group.** Second Monday at 1.30pm. Convener Win Jeavons 5433 2887.

**French Conversation (Beginners).** 2nd Saturday 2.30pm. Convener Sally Heley 5433 5363.

**Garden Club.** Fourth Wednesday 1.30pm at Guide Hall. Convener Peter Baldwin 5433 2925.

**History Group. Third Thursday 10.30am at Guide Hall.** Convener Win Jeavons 5433 2887.

**Luncheon Club.** Third Friday. Convener Barbara Clement 5433 3278.

**Music Appreciation.** First Tuesday 2. 4pm at Guide Hall. Convener John McClure 5433 3269.

**Understanding Technology.** First Thursday 10.am at Guide Hall. Except for May due to the Art Show. Convener Peter Baldwin 54332925.

**Walk and Talk.** First and third Monday 10am. Meet at Guide Hall.

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# Focus on Campaspe

The November meeting of Caring for the Campaspe project coordinated by the North Central Catchment Management Authority will focus on the Campaspe River through the Redesdale area. The Victorian Government, funded project is guided by a 16 member Reference Group comprising of community members, Indigenous groups, local government, and Goulburn Murray Water representatives.

The four year project from 2012 to 2016 involves provision of fencing, weed control, and revegetation activities to landholders with Campaspe River frontage.

This aims to protect and improve the quality of riparian vegetation that has a direct influence on river environment health.

The group meets quarterly at different locations along the river, from Ashbourne in the south to Echuca in the north. November's meeting will involve a project update by Project Manager Angela Gladman and Catchment Restoration Officer Emma Wolters.

After a lunch provided by the

Redesdale Rural Café the group will visit properties close to Redesdale where such works have been completed by contractors Dja Dja Wurrung Enterprises.

Indigenous crew members will be able to explain to the group the challenges and successes of the fencing, weed control and revegetation works completed.

Further information is available from Angela Gladman at the North Central CMA on 5440 1825.

## Guide to living

The City of Greater Bendigo has launched an on-line 'Sustainable Living Guide', available on its website :-

www.bendigo.vic.gov.au  
Bendigo Mayor Barry Lyons said the guide was an important resource for residents, homeowners, and visitors and would assist in making manageable, positive changes towards living and working more sustainably.

"The guide has a local focus and we hope residents can learn more about sustainability," he said.

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Carolyn  
5425 3194

## State calisthenics championships coming to Bendigo next year

Bendigo will host six of the Callisthenics Victorian State Championship competitions over four days at the city's brand new Ulumbarra Theatre.

Nearly 700 competitors and officials; and family supporters will attend the four day event in October 2015.

Bendigo Council and Calisthenics Victoria promote the event extensively to raise the profile of this exciting sport in regional Victoria.

Calisthenics Victoria executive officer, Matthew Brown, is committed to growing and developing calisthenics.

He said the new Ulumbarra Theatre, scheduled for completion in early 2015, is a state of the art facility which will provide a competition

venue to be the envy of the calisthenics world.

"Bringing this event to a key regional centre like Bendigo provides us with the opportunity to raise the profile of calisthenics which is essential if we are to ensure all Victorian's get the opportunity to experience everything our great sport has to offer," Mr Brown said.

Bendigo Councillor Rod Fyffe said the City was excited to welcome the state titles to the Ulumbarra Theatre in 2015.

"We are committed to supporting and attracting major events," he said.

Further information about the championships is available at:-

[www.calisthenics.asn.au](http://www.calisthenics.asn.au)

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# Come to the Fayre



Musicians, family outings, fine weather, and community bonding promise to make the Malmsbury Fayre on Sunday 16 November a happy event.

Enormous effort has gone into making the fayre a day to remember.

The traditional fayre brings people from far and wide once a 'come to the fair' call goes out.

Noted musician, Andy Rigby, took on the challenge of performing, and organising the musical entertainment.

The Zingaro festival and the Klezmer-Gypsy-Balkan, (KGB) Band complemented by two gypsy orchestras from Melbourne, will present a rich program of Eastern European music all weekend.

This includes a whole day of amazing music at the Fayre on Sunday.

**Left: Andy Rigby**

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contact Helen 0417 312 098 or Sandra 5423 4225



# - family fun, music, eats, and drinks

Eastern European music comes with an A1 guarantee from Andy who says it is really infectious.

“People will not be able to stop their feet tapping because it is great for listening and even better for dancing.

Andy Rigby has been involved in presenting cultural and community events across Victoria since 1993 and has long term involvement with renowned events such as the Maldon Folk Festival and the Rose Gap Music Camp.

He is described as a Community Music Practitioner and acknowledged around Australia as a musician, teacher, and instrument maker.

He returned from Western Australia after playing, demonstrating, and making harps, to focus on the traditional Malmsbury event.

Andy has a wide range of skills, and knowledge of world music cultures, and in addition to harps he specialises in making and playing flutes and marimbas.

The marimbas will be at the Fayre on Sunday 16 November and visitors will be encouraged to try making music on the instrument.

The fayre provides a great opportunity to see these beautiful instruments, and to hear their music.

*Above: Phil Melgard and Andy Rigby just getting in tune for the fayre.*



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*From Page One*

*Operagoers looking forward to a special evening.*

ance resulting in truly communicating their stories, and in so doing, bringing opera to life. "Opportunities such as these are few and far between for young singers, and for that, we are truly grateful," he

said. Opportunities to hear such talent and witness such wonderful storytelling are few and far between for most country residents. Other sponsors include Redesdale Estate, and Ruperts

Ridge. Ruperts Ridge provided five star accommodation for the performers. Kinglake residents Alan and Christina Weiss loaned a historic piano. The Opera Studio is presenting Melbourne performances of Mozart's 'The Magic Flute' at the Athenaeum Theatre on November 6, 7, and 8. Further information is available at:- [www.getrudeopera.com.au](http://www.getrudeopera.com.au). Gertrude Opera is the performance arm of The Opera

Studio Melbourne. If you would like to become a Friend of The Opera Studio Melbourne, make a donation, or provide a scholarship for young singers; more information can be found at:- <http://www.theoperastudio.com.au/56/SUP-PORT+US> If you would like to be added to the list of people to be informed when the tickets become available for future performances, please contact:- [miamiasocial@gmail.com](mailto:miamiasocial@gmail.com).



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## Axedale family fun day

A family fun day will be held at the Axedale Tavern from noon to 4 pm on Sunday 2 November.

### Cootee afternoon

A coottee afternoon will be held in the Sutton Grange Hall at 1pm on Wednesday 12 November.

Competitions with many prizes to be won. Then socialising and afternoon tea. Further information is available on 5425 5551.

Cost is adults \$25, children \$10 with profits going to Righteous Pups Australia. Entertainment will include live music, jumping castle, games, competitions, raffles and more. Tickets available at the Axedale Tavern. Further information is available from Maddy on 0467 571 616, Tina 0450 698 039, or Wes 0402 355 387

## Why so many fires?

An estimated 82 per cent of fires in Australia are deliberately lit or caused by recklessness, and could have been prevented. These figures come from the Macedon Shire Council an area well aware of what bush and grass fires can do.

The council has asked residents to take special care during this summer and warned of more concentrated police activity in the fight against this scourge. Unmarked police vehicles will patrol high fire danger areas on high risk days.

## Please number houses

Bendigo Council has asked residents moving into new estates to clearly number their houses. Manager Environmental Health and Local Laws Susannah Milne said some basic necessities were sometimes forgotten in the excitement of moving into a new home.

“Please do not assume the developer of the estate will install the house numbers for you.

“It is a small cost to go to a

## Mia Mia Open Gardens and Afternoon Tea

Mia Mia Open Gardens and Afternoon Tea will be held on Sunday 2 November.

Gardens will be open from 1pm to 4 pm with afternoon tea in Mia Mia Hall from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm. Cost is \$10.

Gardens are at Rowanston on the Track at 2710 Burke and Wills Track, Glenhope, near the intersection with Watchbox Road and Anderson's Lane.

As well as its glorious garden, Rowanston has the added bonus of the Baynton Sidonia Landcare Native garden as you enter the prop-

erty.


The Bennett garden at 100 Burke and Wills Track, north of Rowanston, close to its intersection with the Heathcote Kyneton Road.

Ned Upton and Howard Nathan have crafted a special garden on their hillside property, overlooking the Mia Mia Central Business District. This garden is at 21 Cuvier Street and you get

there by turning into Cuvier Street a little south of the Burke and Wills Track intersection with the Heathcote Kyneton Road.

Head for the Mia Mia Hall where afternoon tea awaits you. Please book for the Open Gardens at [trybooking.com/108671](http://trybooking.com/108671) or call Kate on 0419 525 101.

All proceeds go to the Mia Mia Mechanics' Institute.



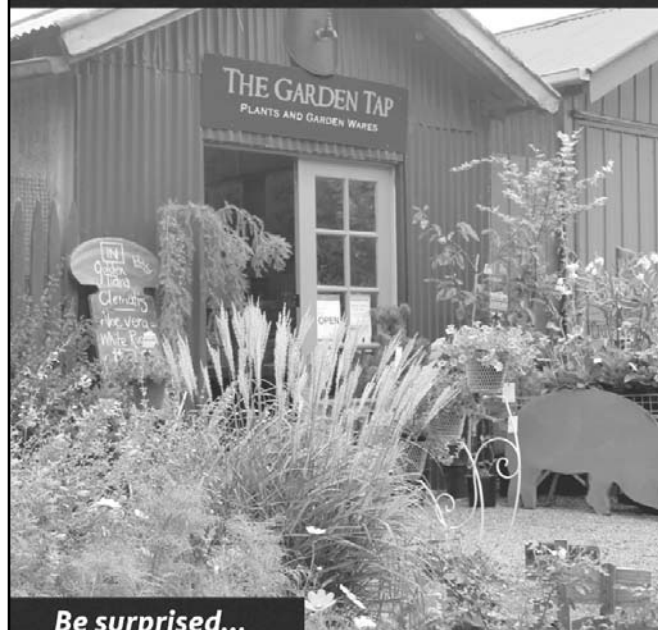
Federal Member for Bendigo  
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### Redesdale Website

[www.redesdale.net](http://www.redesdale.net)

[info@redesdale.net](mailto:info@redesdale.net)

0407 116 899.

All Day Breaky  
at  
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# Heathcote's rich cultures shine through

Valli Jelen in Heathcote-Health hostel says, "I am Lutheran", and she could be no other with her slightly accented speech and delicate manner, her tiny frame clothed in neat hat, floral blouse and immaculately pleated skirt by Heathcote's own Newsagency drycleaners.

Now embraced by Heathcote Uniting Church, Valli's composition "Bethlehem" was played for Christmas in July and her book, "Thorus and the Thornbush", a charming story of a prince, like a Grimm's folk tale but with her own interpretation, is selling in the Heathcote Visitor Information Centre.

By Louise Joy

The intersection of personality and culture is interesting. In a predominantly Anglo Celtic Heathcote, Vallie is an unassuming gentle reminder of another culture.

Married to an Australian, Vallie made her way with him to the gold fields region of Victoria. Friends from Westphalia migrated to Victoria leaving behind their family who entertained us one weekend in 1963.

The spoken German was so pure that by the end of a few days we could grasp full sentences, unlike visits to Swiss cousins whose language was incomprehensible to us after many visits.

We went to the Lutheran Church which felt unchanged since 1517 when Martin Luther broke from Rome.

Men and women in black were on opposite sides of the church and even outside they were in separate groups talking over weekly affairs.

The singing was magnificent and I was reminded of this weekend recently with the recommendation of John Eliot Gardner's 'Music in the Castle of Heaven'.

A Portrait of Johann Sebastian Bach" (Penguin

2014). Bach's Cantatas in the 1720s still referred to Martin Luther's hymns on occasion, still played in St Paul's Lutheran Church Station Street Box Hill attended by my son and daughters.

It is intriguing to me how we all carry such freight from our past lives and family connections just walking down the street in Heathcote. It is equally entrancing to meet people born and bred in the town, their funerals attracting large crowds celebrating the interlocking networks over generations.

## Community Christmas Lunch

Bendigo Mayor Barry Lyons said the All Seasons Hotel, Bendigo would host this year's Christmas Day Community Lunch.

Cr Lyons said lunch would be in the Conservatory on Christmas Day from noon to 2pm.

People can register for the lunch by contacting the Volunteer Resource Centre. Transport will be provided for guests who require it.

Cr Lyons thanked the All Seasons for supporting this year's event.

"Owners Tom and Jeanine have enthusiastically welcomed the opportunity to host this year's Community Christmas Lunch and the City of Greater Bendigo is looking forward to assisting them and their team in continuing this important tradition," Cr Lyons said.

"Already several organisations have offered support to ensure the lunch is a great success," he said. Jeanine said she was thrilled

the All Seasons was approached to host the lunch.

"We did not hesitate in taking part in this worthwhile event that involves many in our community.

We look forward to throwing open our doors and welcoming people to celebrate Christmas with us," she said.

## Church services

### Catholic Church.

St Laurence, Redesdale. Service at 11am on second Sunday each month.

### Uniting Church.

First Sunday. Barfold.  
Second Sunday. Metcalfe.  
Third Sunday. Mia Mia.  
Fourth Sunday. Sutton Grange.

All services at 11am. On the fifth Sunday the Uniting Churches combine with Kyneton for a 10am service at Kyneton.

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**Berni and Brett Campbell**  
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# Diary Dates

**Saturday 1 November.**

Newly formed Mia Mia cricket team first home game.

**Sunday 2 November.**

Mia Mia Open Gardens.

**Sunday 2 November.**

Axedale Family fun day.

**Thursday 6 November.**

Last day for discount orders of Mia Mia history book.

**Saturday 8 November.**

Garden workshop. Choosing the right plant for the Macedon Ranges. Facilitator - Simon Rickard. Details 9218 5455.

**Saturday 8 November.**

Rolling Stones at Hanging Rock.

**Wednesday 12 November.**

Coottee Day in Sutton Grange Hall. 5425 5551.

**Saturday 15 November.**

Klezmer - Gypsy - Balkan band; 'Footscray Gypsies' and 'Orkestra Glasso Bahalde' from Northcote at Malmsbury Hotel.

**Saturday 15 November.**

Pre-Christmas barbecue. 6pm at Redesdale Hall. RSVP to 5425 3194 by Wednesday 12 November.

**Sunday 16 November.**

Malmsbury Village Fayre.

**Friday 21 November.**

RaDA dinner and talk. Redesdale Hall

**Thursday 27 November.**

American Thanksgiving Day.

**Friday 28 November.**

Bendigo Citizenship awards nominations close.

**Saturday 29 November.**

Victorian election day.

**Saturday 29 November.**

Mia Mia Sheep and Dog Trials.

**Sunday 30 November.**

Mia Mia Sheep and Dog Trials.

**Wednesday 10 December.**

Early deadline for Bridge Connection.

**Thursday 25 December.**

Christmas Day Community Lunch. All Seasons Hotel. Noon to 2pm.

**2015**

**Monday 26 January.**

Australia Day.

**Saturday 28 February.**

The Rock'N'Roll Eagles at Hanging Rock.

**Sunday 8 March.**

Redesdale Bush Market. Stalls 0419 513 976 or 5425 3194.

# Editorial

## Why are we burning down our station?

Bush fires are part of the natural cycle of the Australian environment. But the number of fires is not. Macedon Council issued a warning on the dangers of grass fires and noted a sobering statistic; a shocking and frightening statistic, telling us deliberate behaviour and or recklessness started 82 per cent of fires last summer season.

These were preventable events, causing unforgettable tragedy and loss for some families; events started by people who committed unforgivable actions. Even murder.

The cost of losses from wild fires is high enough to place closed circuit cameras on all roads to monitor traffic in areas where fires have started without a recognised cause. Police would soon establish those responsible and those with such thoughts might desist rather than risk apprehension.

**Friday 3 April.** Good Friday.

**Monday 6 April.** Easter Monday.

**Sunday 25 July**

National Tree Week.

**October**

State calisthenics championships - Bendigo

**Tuesday 6 October.**

Elmore Field Day.

**Wednesday 7 October.**

Elmore Field Day.

**Thursday 8 October.**

Elmore Field Day.

**November.**

Redesdale Festival.

**Thursday 26 November.**

American Thanksgiving Day.

**2016**

**Tuesday 4 October.**

Elmore Field Day.

# Rainfall

## Mia Mia

**2013** 538.00

Jan 0.0

Feb 63.5 63.50

Mar 24.5 88.00

April 5.0 93.00

May 63.0 156.00

June 32.0 188.00

July 78.5 266.50

Aug 88.0 354.50

Sept 83.5 438.00

Oct 40.5 478.50

Nov 38.5 517.00

Dec 21.00 538.00

**2014**

Jan 8.00 08.00

Feb 1.00 09.00

Mar 51.5 60.50

April 72.5 133.00

May 77.50 210.50

June 59.5 270.00

July 61 331.00

August 7.5 338.50

Sept 52.5 391.00

## Redesdale

**2013** 514.90

Jan 00.00

Feb 54.0 54.00

Mar 28.5 82.50

April 4.7 87.20

May 24.3 111.50

June 65.0 176.50

July 63.0 239.50

Aug 94.0 333.50

Sept 79.0 412.50

Oct 32.9 455.40

Nov 50.5 505.90

Dec 9.00 514.90

**2014**

Jan 10.50 10.50

Feb 1.00 11.50

Mar 57.00 68.50

April 85.00 153.50

May 46.50 200.00

June 72.00 272.00

July 71.5 343.50

August 3.5 347.00

Sept 67.00 414.00

## Bridge Connection email addresses

bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com

bridgeconnection.secretary@gmail.com

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5425 5574

# Burning issues and Community Fireguard

John Wells is a group representative for a Community Fireguard group at Emu Creek near Strathfieldsaye which has 19 members in a rural community of farms and hobby farms.

John, a retired academic and CFA volunteer, said anyone could be involved in Community Fireguard.

"For us it started several years ago with a group of neighbours getting together and assembling a list of names, property, and telephone numbers in case of an emergency.

"We could then contact each other; most particularly about anything about fire," he said.

After the contact list was established John became aware of the Country Fire Authority (CFA) Community Fireguard Program.

He said he did not know a lot about it, but I tried to interest others.

"Neighbours here and there decided to give it a go in 2007 and after the 2009 fires there was a lot of interest, with the result that five more Community Fireguard groups formed in this area," he said.

Community Fireguard groups are usually much smaller than the one John is a member of at Emu Creek.

Each group often has less than 10 members because it represents only a portion of a locality, such as properties along a particular road, or a cluster of dwellings in a village.

I asked John what benefits were achieved by the Community through the program?

John rounded this point up

## Interview by Rob Chapman

by saying: "In general terms a better awareness of fire behavior and what fires can do, how best to prepare for them, and the requirements for preparing properties.

"Also for people preparing themselves to either leave or stay and fight and deal directly with fires.

"This is the major benefit; the other is that as a community we stay in touch much more, not only about Fireguard, but other things.

"We have also built better cooperation in our community.

"Once a group of residents decide to form a Community Fireguard group, the CFA can be contacted to send out a facilitator to run a series of four to six, one and a half hour long introductory information sessions.

"These cover the various aspects of fires and how to reduce the intensity and risk to both persons and property. "Also a street walk to conduct observations and discuss scenarios and carry out practical activities.

"The information sessions provide a forum to discuss fire related issues and provide helpful advice from experienced fire fighting people.

"Members can choose a time to best suit them for the sessions.

"Usually, once a Community Fireguard is established it may only meet once a year, perhaps in late winter or early spring.

"This is a maintenance meeting to address any fire related concerns or needs," he said.

John said Community Fire-

guard activities included neighbourhood working bees, street parties, property inspections of members own properties to show what fire mitigation measures they have installed or created.

One activity was a neighbourhood bonfire, providing opportunity to dispose of combustible vegetation waste, and to come prepared with protective clothing, rakes and extinguishers to experience close proximity fire management.

I asked John what benefits did Community Fireguard create for rural communities.

"The benefits are twofold, firstly strengthening a community through communication and cooperation, and secondly greater awareness of the situation and better preparedness and planning to make well informed decisions and act upon them".

Does Community Fireguard have similarities to Neighbourhood Watch?

"Yes, we are alerted to incidents of arson and what to watch out for, we had a situation of just that type some years ago and that person was apprehended and has been removed from the community.

"I believe Mia Mia and Redesdale had similar incidents last year," he said.

## Redesdale Website

[www.redesdale.net](http://www.redesdale.net)

[info@redesdale.net](mailto:info@redesdale.net)

5425 3272

and

0407 116 899.

Further information about Community Fireguard is available in the Loddon Mallee Region from CFA Community Education Coordinator Paul Tangey on 03 54302200; Fax 03 54422246; Redesdale Fire Prevention Officer Andrew Campbell on 03 54253153; or Rob Chapman, 03 54253258.

Or go to:-

[cfa.vic.gov.au/bushfire](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/bushfire).

## Redesdale Bush Market

Bookings for stalls at the Sunday 8 March 2015 Redesdale Hall Committee Bush Market are open.

More than 60 stalls will be available at \$20 each.

Contacts for stall bookings are Alwyn on 0419 513 976 or Carolyn 5425 3194.

Business sponsorships are also available.

**Clear  
Fire hazards  
Away**

**Do not leave  
children in cars  
unattended.  
Even for one  
minute.**

## Early December edition

We will publish an early December edition to allow for Christmas advertising and Christmas events. Deadline for the December issue is Wednesday 10 December.

# Rod Stewart return to Hanging Rock

International rock artist, Rod Stewart, will be in concert at Hanging Rock on Saturday 28 March 2015.

This will be a return visit for Rod Stewart and his team, highlighting Hanging Rock as a venue for international artists.

Macedon Ranges Mayor Roger Jukes said he was looking forward to welcoming Rod Stewart back to the Macedon Ranges.

“Rod’s first show at the rock was a huge success; people enjoyed it immensely, and his return for a second show suggests he did too,” Cr Jukes said.

Rod Stewart will top off a summer season of legendary acts at Hanging Rock, after performances by the Rolling Stones in November 2014 and The Eagles in February 2015.

Cr Jukes said it was a great way to end a summer of concerts at Hanging Rock.

“The calibre of these international acts really highlights what a world class live music

venue Hanging Rock is. “Each of the previous concerts provided a significant boost for the region, especially for accommodation providers, restaurants, shops, and cafes.

“Flow on benefits for the community and businesses after the two Bruce Springsteen concerts was estimated to be \$9.7 million. “So three concerts on different weekends is sure to be a boon for business, not to mention giving residents access to international acts and providing much needed promotion and income to Hanging Rock,” he said.

Bookings on:-  
www.frontiertouring.com

## First home game for Mia Mia cricket team

The newly formed Mia Mia Cricket team will play its first home game on Saturday 1 November.

# Animal welfare partnership

Macedon Ranges Shire Council has partnered with Edgar’s Mission, a local farm animal sanctuary, to raise awareness about animal welfare and responsible pet ownership.

Deputy Mayor and qualified dog obedience trainer, Graham Hackett, said the council was pleased to support the work of Edgar’s Mission. “It is important we take good care of our animals 365 days a year.

“This includes registering your dog or cat with the council and taking responsibility for their welfare.

“Supporting job creation in the shire is also a priority for the council.

“Edgar’s Mission is already contributing to our local economy, having created new full and part time positions since moving to the shire,” he said.

“Edgar’s Mission relocated to the Macedon Ranges earlier this year and is setting up a new home on 163 acres just outside Lancefield.

“Everyone can help raise awareness of animal welfare issues.

“Council looks forward to building a long term partnership with Edgar’s Mission for the wellbeing of all creatures great and small,” Cr Hackett said.

Cr Hackett encouraged dog and cat owners to ensure their registration and micro-chipping details were up to date.

Livestock and horse owners can also register a property identification code with the Department of Environment and Primary Industries, which is used to identify animals and contact owners

during an emergency such as bushfire or disease outbreak.

## Christmas community barbecue at Redesdale

A community barbecue will be held at the Redesdale Hall from 6pm on Saturday 15 November.

Meat and dessert will be provided, but please bring a salad, and drinks.

The barbecue is a pre-Christmas get together and opportunity for the Redesdale community to welcome newcomers to our town.

Please invite your neighbours.

RSVP by Wednesday 12 November to 5425 3194.

## Redesdale Hall community activities

**Saturday 15 November.**  
Redesdale Community Barbecue. 6pm.

**Friday 21 November.**  
RaDA Dinner and Talk.

**Saturday 29 November.**  
State Government. Election.

**Sunday 8 March.**  
Redesdale Bush Market.

## Sutton Grange Hall community activities

**Sunday 7 December.**  
6pm. Christmas tea. Details about BYO meals from Natalie 0419 799 987 or Jenny 0427 931 391.



# X plus atmosphere at Malmsbury Fayre

## Weekly community lunch

The beautiful Malmsbury Botanic Gardens, on the Old Calder Highway, complemented by the Colliban River, provide an ideal setting for the Malmsbury Village Fayre.

The fayre, set for Sunday 16 November, will be kick started with community events and music across the weekend.

Local teenager, Brennan Hamilton-Smith and his gypsy swing band 'Ghoul's Gambi' will feature.

Brenn's musical career has been nurtured and supported by local music camps, festivals such as Zingaro, and by his school music program.

It will be a special treat to see the talent of these young musicians.

Also featured at the Malmsbury Village Fayre will be roving musicians, The Banana Brothers, Phil Melgaard and Joseph Bromley, more locals from Malmsbury who are renowned in their own

right. They are highly entertaining and will provide a fun mobile contribution to the day's music.

If you haven't picked it up yet, Malmsbury is a hot bed of musical talent, much of which will be contributing to the fun and excitement of the fayre.

There will also be a tune swapping gathering at the Malmsbury Hotel on Saturday 15 November with lots of informal music, and 'jam sessions' throughout the fayre on Sunday.

The Malmsbury Village Fayre will provide visitors with a wonderful chance to taste wines, produce, and foods of the region in the beautiful and historic Malmsbury Botanic Gardens.

Children will be well catered for with lots of entertainment, dancing, face painting, creative and fun things for them to do.

The fayre is also a wonderful place to do your Christmas

shopping because more than 50 local producers will offer a perfect selection of gifts.

Food will have an Eastern European focus.

Visitors will be able to sit and relax in the gardens with freshly made felafels or Turkish gozleme and enjoy the live entertainment from a score of musicians.

The 2014 fayre is a real community event with participation from community groups of Malmsbury together with the local producers, artists, and musicians contributing on the day.

### Early

### December edition

We will publish an early December edition to allow for Christmas advertising and Christmas events.

Deadline for the December issue is Wednesday 10 December.

A weekly community lunch has been established in Kyneton offering people an opportunity to enjoy a tasty two course meal and meet others.

The lunches will be held at 12.30pm in the Kyneton Mechanics Institute every Wednesday during school terms, and attendees are asked to provide a small donation of \$3 to help cover costs.

The community lunch program is an initiative of Kyneton Community and Learning Centre and is supported by Macedon Ranges Council through grant funding and inkind support.

Cr John Connor said he encouraged all residents, particularly new residents, older residents, parents with young children or local employees, to participate.

Photographs published in Bridge Connection are available for sale - \$10 each pre paid to Bridge Connection  
Sent by email in jpg.  
bridgeconnection.treasurer@gmail.com

## Redesdale General Store



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