

# Bridge Connection

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



Edition 63

March 2015

A community owned newspaper

## Harley riders made Paul's day

Australia Day 2015 was the best for 90 year old Paul Sageischek.

Paul's day began when his wife, Betty, said 'out of bed' at 7.30am so they could attend the Australia Day breakfast at Mia Mia.

Betty said: "On our way home to Redesdale, after a very enjoyable breakfast, we stopped outside the Redesdale Rural Cafe for morning tea.

Paul noticed motorbikes, his earlier love, when seven or eight riders from the Geelong Harley Club appeared.

He couldn't wait to get over to them, soak up the sight, and chat with the owners.

They set him up with a jacket from Paula, and a helmet.

Paul was then given a joy ride and was in Seventh Heaven.

What a great bunch of people.

A few days later photos of the event arrived in an airmail envelope with a Christmas stamp.

To add to our enjoyment we were told the Geelong Harley Club visited Echuca each Australia Day weekend and they hoped to meet us same place same time next year.

It is on our bucket list, provided Paul hasn't kicked it.

Paul owned his first bike in Austria.

He came to Australia in 1952.

Paul soon had work and saved thirty pounds (\$60 dollars).

One Friday after work he was looking in a bike shop in Elizabeth Street, Melbourne thinking he would buy a second hand bike.

However, the shop assistant suggested



**Above: Paul Sageischek, right, with Geelong Harley Club member. Below: Betty and Paul Sageischek**

he had more than enough to buy a new BMW.

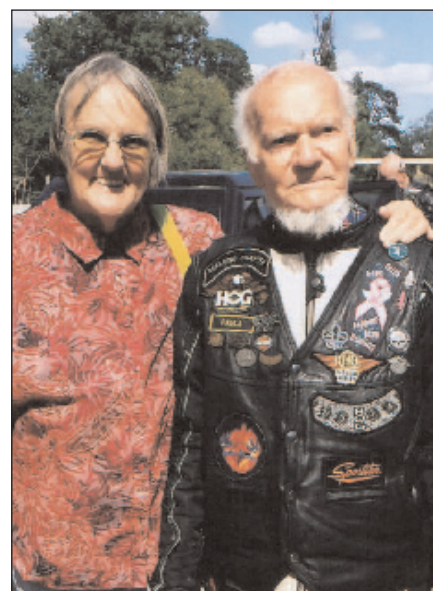
He was told to return on Saturday morning and the bike would be registered and ready to go.

He was able to keep ten pounds for petrol.

Paul had a wonderful ride sightseeing through Gippsland and in 1961 he and his bike sailed for Peru.

He rode solo through South and Central America to the United States, and on to Canada, from where he was deported back to Australia, a story for another time.

Paul has told me, during our 50 years together, of his many adventures," Betty said.



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## Big turnout to Redesdale's annual market day

Organisers said up to 1500 people attended the annual Redesdale Bush Market on the Sunday of Labour Day weekend.

Patrons enjoyed the sunny conditions during the enjoyable and successful day run by the Redesdale Hall Committee. The market was sponsored by 'Mark Weragoda Signs', the 'Rural Cafe', 'Redesdale Roofing and Plumbing' and 'Hardwicks Meats'.

Bendigo and District Concert Band delighted the crowds with a diverse range of music, while an animal farm, jumping castle, and face painting kept the young entertained.

A special attraction this year was the display of historic vehicles from the Kyneton Vehicle Appreciation Society.

The display was joined by some passing enthusiasts who dropped in for a chat.

Food ranged from a barbecue lunch, pizza, salads, icecream and coffee, through to a Devonshire tea, which was served in the all foyer; all of which proved very popular.

There was a wide range of stalls offering something for everyone; many of the stallholders returning each year to enjoy the special atmosphere.

The Redesdale Fire Brigade was present with raffles. This year the brigade volunteers were proud to offer market-goers photographs of their children taken on 'Tanker 2', the newest addition to the Brigade.

The hall committee would like to thank all who attended and contributed to make this such a successful day.

"The sponsors, Bendigo and District Concert Band, the various children's entertainment, Kyneton Vehicle Appreciation Society, stallholders, volunteers, and of course the public who came to enjoy the market on the day.

"A special thank you must go to the various media outlets who continue to help us with the promotion of the market each year, including the 'Bridge Connection'.

"Committee members greatly appreciate this support." the committee said.

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# Redesdale Post Office upgrade to fully electronic



*Connected to the world for all matters, Jenny is ready to help.*

Redesdale Post Office is fully electronic.

Proprietors, Jenny and Dino said customers would now be able to do more at their local Post Office.

Business can be processed instantly, including City Link passes, phone recharging, electronic parcel labelling, banking with most major institutions, postage tracking, sending money orders, and faxing. They said this meant no more time wasting in travelling to the major Post Offices and having to wait in line.

"We look forward to seeing you and being able to serve you better," they said.



## Greylight Olde Time Dance

The fourth annual 'Greylight Olde Time Dance' will be held from 1.30pm to 4pm on Tuesday 12 May at the Kyneton Town Hall. More than 100 older residents are expected to enjoy dancing or just listening to the music. Even if you don't dance, this is a wonderful social occasion; a chance to catch up with old friends and make new ones. The 'Greylight' Dance is a police-initiated event, held in partnership with Macedon Ranges Council. Light refreshments will be provided and you are encouraged to book early as numbers are limited. Transport will be available, but must be booked. Bookings close at 4pm on Monday 4 May. Contact Stephanie Harper on 5422 0258 or email [sharper@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:sharper@mrsc.vic.gov.au)

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**Principal - Mr Joseph Sebire**

Phone - 5425 3155; Email - [redesdale.mia.mia.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:redesdale.mia.mia.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)

Website—<http://www.redesmiaps.vic.edu.au>

## Clean Up Australia Day Swimming Lessons

We participated in Clean Up Australia Day in February. All students donned their gloves and rubbish bags to clean up around the school. We headed down the main street to the General Store. On the way back and cleaned up around the hall and oval. We found the most rubbish near the toilet block at the hall.

This term we completed swimming lessons at Kyneton Swimming Pool. We travelled by bus for 6 days of lessons. All students improved the confidence in the water as well as survival and rescuing techniques.



**Cooking**  
Making Egg and Bacon pies with eggs from our chooks.



**Spelling**  
Students investigating all the double o words. We found that double o makes at least 7 different sounds. The biggest word with double o was Woolloomooloo with 4 double o's!



# Scooters, friendships, and freedom

*By Louise Joy*

My 88 year old friend Shirley is the Queen of Heathcote, waving graciously from her electric scooter in High Street, Heathcote.

We have been told High Street is the longest main street, not only in Victoria or Australia, but the Southern Hemisphere. Probably in the world.

Shirley is supreme as she negotiates pedestrians, tables, and other scooters.

The bikies from Echuca and Melbourne huddle in the shadows of the scooters; more to the square inch than anywhere in Victoria or the Southern Hemisphere so the story goes.

My 88 year old friend Joyce

in Melbourne told me her children stopped her driving after a minor bingle in her car.

She was so shocked she could not say anything and felt she was sitting at home waiting to die.

One friend takes her to Probus, and another takes her shopping, but she cannot do those spontaneous outings.

I told Joyce about Shirley and the friendships she has made from her scooter.

Before we had finished talking of the scooter's supremacy, Joyce was almost out the door to buy one.

Now Joyce will be the new Queen of Oakleigh thanks to the Queen of Heathcote.



*Above right: Shirley Hobley is ready for High Street, Heathcote.*

## Annual cricket challenge at Redesdale

The annual Redesdale versus Axe Creek cricket challenge match will be held at the Agnes Mumford Reserve, Redesdale on Saturday 18 April.

Play starts at 11am.

A barbecue lunch and drinks will be on sale at the ground. Further information is available from Rod Gibson on 0418 130 206.

## Twilight markets

Kyneton will hold a twilight market from 1pm to 7pm on Saturday 4 April.

Woodend's Twilighth market will be from 1pm to 7pm on Saturday 11 April.

## Church services

### Catholic Church.

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

### Uniting Church.

First Sunday.

Barfold.

Second Sunday.

Metcalf.

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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# Heathcote Lions to host Harold Baigent Memorial Art Exhibition

Heathcote Lions Club will host the official opening of the 2015 Harold Baigent Memorial Art Exhibition at 7pm on Friday 1 May.

This annual event will be held in the Heathcote Senior Citizens', and Guide Halls, in the historic High Street precinct.

The late Harold Baigent founded the Heathcote Art

Show in 1988.

Harold, known as 'Baige', was noted in theatrical circles as an actor, producer, and director.

He was also renowned for his art work and lived his life entertaining, teaching, and contributing to the arts and culture of his community.

He lived the last 20 years of

his life in Heathcote.

Highlights of the art show will be the \$500 Lions Club of Heathcote Best in Show Award, the \$350 Great Ideas awards and gifts Acquisition Award, the \$250 Judges' Highly Commended/LCH Inc. Award, and a People's Choice Award. Primary Schools will also be represented with the judges awarding the Excellence Award to an outstanding junior artist.

For those wishing to exhibit at this signature Heathcote event, further information is available from Lorraine Speirs 5433 2237, or Chris Cail 5439 7654.

Please join the Lions Club members and exhibiting artists for wine and cheese at the opening on Friday 1

May. Admission is \$10.

Or drop in during the week-end to view the work of local and regional artists.

Showing times are:- 10am to 4pm on Saturday 2 May and Sunday 3 May. Entry is by gold coin donation.

## Heathcote Market

Heathcote Region Farmers Market will be held from 9am to 1pm on Saturday 18 April.

A wide variety of locally grown fresh seasonal foods will be on sale.

Further information is available from Sherrie Coote on 0417 598 460 or email: zuheros@bigpond.com

Venue: Barrack Reserve Park High Street, Heathcote.

### SUPPORTING YOUR COMMUNITY

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## Heathcote U3A

President Sally Heley.  
5433 5363

Secretary Barbara Clement.  
5433 3278.

P.O.Box 758, Heathcote, 3523

[u3a.heathcote@gmail.com](mailto:u3a.heathcote@gmail.com)

## Monthly activities

Book Group; Beginners Conversation French; Beginners Recorder; Chair Based Exercises; Current Affairs Discussion Group; Garden Club; History Group; Lunch Club; Music Appreciation; Science and Technology; Theatre Group; Walk and Talk.

Monthly coffee mornings are held at a local café or at the Guide Hall if we have a Guest Speaker

The U3A newsletter is available at the council offices, or the Library.

## Bridge Connection Inc.

Management Committee.

President;	Mary Bennett	03 5425 5551
Secretary;	Regina Bennett	03 5425 5402
	<a href="mailto:bridgeconnection.secretary@gmail.com">bridgeconnection.secretary@gmail.com</a>	
Treasurer;	Terry McKenzie	03 5425 3262
	<a href="mailto:bridgeconnection.treasurer@gmail.com">bridgeconnection.treasurer@gmail.com</a>	

**Advertising:- Callum Jones 5425 5574**

[bridgeconnection.advertising@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeconnection.advertising@gmail.com)

**Editorial:-**

[bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com)  
Hard copy to Box 13, Redesdale, 3444.

### Distribution

1000 printed copies of Bridge Connection are circulated in the Mia Mia Redesdale Region, taking in Barfold, Baynton, Derrinal, Elphinstone, Glenhope, Heathcote, Kyneton, Langley, Metcalfe, Sidonia, Sutton Grange.

Founders Berni and Brett Campbell.

# April chance to burn off

Macedon Ranges Manager of Community Safety, Anne-Louise Lindner, said people with 4000 square metre (one acre) blocks could burn off during April without a permit. The official fire danger period ends on Monday 30 March. This provides a chance for residents to clean up after recent storms.

Ms Lindner said people may require a permit to burn off on larger blocks.

"A permit is required for burns of more than 10 cubic metres on land up to 10 acres and more than 100 cubic metres on land over 10 acres. "Landowners should check the local law for the full list of restrictions."

She said residents on less than one acre may have dry, fine fuels, such as leaves and twigs because of the storms.

"This is also a good time to burn off any woody weeds such as gorse and blackberry.

"These weeds need to be disposed of on site, and burning is the easiest way to do this," said Ms Lindner.

"You must be burning off dry fuels for fire prevention purposes only.

"Please consider neighbours by ensuring your burn off is not causing a nuisance.

"Most importantly, burn-offs must be monitored for at least seven days to ensure they are fully extinguished," Ms Lindner said.

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# Redesdale Hall market a draw card



The annual Redesdale Hall Bush Market drew a steady stream of visitors to the town for the Labour Day Weekend Sunday.

Plenty of stalls provided a wide range of items for sale. Patrons saw, and many bought, old pieces of farming equipment and machinery from yesteryear; popular these days for garden art and wall hangings.

For the contemporary minded some cleverly made art pieces tempted the buyers. Local grown and made, high quality produce was prominent and popular.



## Redesdale Hall activities

**Sunday 12 April.** 1pm.  
Redesdale Hall Aft-ernoon Tea Dance.

**Tuesday 14 April.** 3pm.  
Redesdale Hall Com-mittee AGM.

**Tuesday 14 April.** 7pm.  
Redesdale Recreation Reserve Committee monthly Meeting.

**Saturday 30 May;** Saturday 13 June; Saturday 20 June; Saturday 27 June, and Saturday 11 July. Redesdale Revellers productions.

*Top: Firebrigade volunteers, Lindsay Booker, left, and Brian Paterson, spent the day selling raffle tickets. Centre left: Pauline Judd, left, and Gay Shannon, worked on the cake stall. Right: Dinah Finn from Tooborac Hotel and Brewery found plenty of customers for the local ale.*

*Page 9:- Top left: Pam Brajevic, from Barfold Olives, offered a top class local product at the market.*

*Top right: Mia Mia cactus farmer, Bryan Pickup, from*

*the Cuvier Street Cactus Farm, presented a large variety of succulents for sale, plus free advice about dry weather gardening. Bottom left: Clare Wardell, and Ian Wardell, came to the market with an impres-*

*sive display of metal crafts. They are on 0418 511 694. Bottom right: Trish Maxwell, and Geoff Maxwell from the Mildura Region were in Redesdale visiting friends.*

*More pictures on page 10.*



## District produce featured at Redesdale Hall Market





## Market Sponsor was a top supporter



**Redesdale Roofing and Plumbing supported the market with a stand. From left: Debbie Knight, Brett Furness, Michelle Furness, and Peter Monkhouse. Try them on 0456 721 075**



**Ron Kruse of Fosterville had a strong stand selling cards and artworks made by he and wife, Fiona. Contact Ron and Fiona for personalised cards on 0412 025 483**

## Quilt project will create a historic keepsake

Redesdale and Mia Mia residents have been discussing the creation of a commemorative wall hanging (or quilt) to celebrate the 150 year anniversary of the Redesdale Bridge.

A meeting on Thursday 26 March is expected to move the project forward.

It is envisaged the work will

hang at the Redesdale Hall, Mia Mia Hall, and the School, on a rotational basis. Many similar quilts have been borrowed by district Town Halls, and various exhibitions. Communities, both here and abroad, have united groups and used residents' skills to create permanent reminders and celebra-

tions of special events, through quilting. In January 2018 the bridge between Redesdale and Mia Mia will be 150 years old, and already plans are being made to celebrate the milestone.

The photographs, at left, are of a quilt made at a school in England for its 400 year anniversary.

It is worth viewing them on the website ([redesdale.net](http://redesdale.net) and go to Bridge Connection) to see the beautiful colours. This quilt was a joint effort between the school and its community.

Suggestions are to create a Redesdale panel, Mia Mia panel, and a Redesdale Primary School panel.

Planning the project will involve setting up a project team, involving artists in design, deciding on time frames, and working groups. Further information is available from the Redesdale and District Association on 5425 3272 or 0407 116 899.



## Concern about European Wasp activity

Macedon Council Manager of Community Safety, Anne-Louise Lindner, said concerns were being expressed about the incidence of European Wasps.

Ms Lindner said residents should not disturb wasp nests or try to destroy them, but should call a pest controller, or ring the council on 5422 0333.

"Generally, wasps will only sting if they are provoked or defending their nest.

"They are attracted to moving objects, so to help prevent stings, do not swat or annoy wasps.

"To minimise the risk of stings, pour cans of drink into a glass, or if you must drink from a can, use a straw.

"Check before eating food.

"They are also attracted to compost heaps, bins, uncovered pet food, and swimming pools," she said.



## Farmers' markets

**Woodend Community Farmers' Market.** Saturday 4 April.  
Corner High and Forest Streets, Woodend.  
Sharon Kittson **0487 444 090**.

**Kyneton Farmers' Market.** Saturday 11 April.  
St Pauls Park, Piper Street, Kyneton.  
Veronica Manifold **5422 1025**.

**Riddells Creek Farmers' Market.** Saturday 18 April.  
Riddells Creek Primary School, Riddells Creek.  
Amanda Johnson **0419 523 324**.

**Lancefield and District Farmers' Market.** Saturday 25 April.  
Centre Plantation, High Street, Lancefield.  
Meggs Hannes **0407 860 320**. The market will start later at 9.30am,  
due Anzac Day. One minute of silence will be observed.

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# Cannakkale Gallipoli, a place, lest we forget

Sutton Grange will remember its war hero's with four wonderful events

Anzac Day, Saturday 25 April, marks 100 years since the Gallipoli landings and is our nation's annual commemorative day for acknowl-

edging and remembering those who served, not only in World War One, but in conflicts and operations throughout the last century.

The Sutton Grange Community will commemorate this anniversary with four very special events

over a month period.

The community has invited people from the broader district to be part of the celebration.

Do you know who the men and woman on the Sutton Grange memorial are? Where did they live? Where did they serve? What backgrounds did they come from?

This history was shared during a moving service at the memorial on Sunday 22 March.

On Saturday 18 April at 8pm the Sutton Grange Hall will be alive with a performance from acclaimed storyteller Jan 'Yarn' Wositzky, founder and member of the Bushwakers Band.

Cannakkale Gallipoli. Lest We Forget tells the tale from both sides and includes Turkish and Australian poetry, song and story, side by side. Comments from the recent performance at the Newstead Live Festival were 'fantastic ... brought a tear to my eye ... very moving ... thank you ... brilliant ... excellent, great use of hats ... thank you .. brilliant ... a stunning production.'

Tickets are \$20, including supper. Seats can be reserved by calling Natalie on 0419 799 987.

For the fourth year, a Sutton Grange Anzac Day ceremony will be held at the memorial at 11am. This moving ceremony has been increasing in attendance numbers each year and the community will again welcome the RSL and a guest speaker.

Morning tea will be shared at the community hall afterwards.

A Remembrance Day ceremony will also be held at the Sutton Grange Memorial at 10.30am on Wednesday 11 November.

## Rock heritage

Hanging Rock Reserve will be listed on the Victorian Heritage Register.

This provides special protection to Hanging Rock Reserve, but not the East Paddock which adjoins the Reserve.

Macedon Mayor Jenifer Anderson said the decision recognised Hanging Rock's important place in Victorian culture.

### KYNETON DENTAL

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# Diary

**Friday 3 April.** Good Friday.

**Sunday 5 April.**

Daylight Saving ends.

**Monday 6 April.** Easter Monday.

**Sunday 12 April.**

Gisborne Aquathon. Details 5422 0333.

**Saturday 18 April.**

Australian DrillDance championships.

Bendigo Sports Centre.

**Saturday 18 April.**

11am. Redesdale v Axedale cricket challenge match at Agnes Mumford Reserve, Redesdale.

**Sunday 19 April.**

Australian DrillDance championships.

Bendigo Sports Centre.

**Wednesday 27 to Saturday 30 May.**

State CWA conference, Bendigo.

**Sunday 25 July**

National Tree Week.

**Wednesday 19 to Sunday 23 August.**

Inaugural Bendigo International Squash Championships.

**September 2015 (12 days)**

National Gymnastics festival - Bendigo.

**October**

State calisthenics championships - Bendigo

**Tuesday 6 October.**

Elmore Field Day.

**Wednesday 7 October.**

Elmore Field Day.

**Thursday 8 October.**

Elmore Field Day.

**Saturday 10 October.**

Victorian Netball State Titles - Bendigo.

**Sunday 11 October.**

Victorian Netball State Titles. Bendigo.

**Thursday 29 October**

**to Saturday 31 October.**

Redesdale Rocks Festival.

**Friday 30 October.**

Redesdale Art Show.

**Thursday 26 November.**

American Thanksgiving Day.

**2016**

**Saturday 23 January.**

Redesdale Bridge 148th birthday celebration.

**September 2016 (12 days)**

National Gymnastics festival - Bendigo.

**Tuesday 4 October.**

Elmore Field Day.

# Dates

**Tuesday 4 October.**

Elmore Field Day.

**Wednesday 5 October.**

Elmore Field Day.

**Thursday 6 October.**

Elmore Field Day.

**Thursday 24 November.**

American Thanksgiving Day.

**2018**

**Thursday 23 January.**

Redesdale Bridge 150th birthday celebration.

## Desexing vouchers available

Discount dog and cat desexing vouchers are available from the City of Greater Bendigo.

Up to 150 vouchers for dog and cat desexing will save pet owners \$40 on a pet desexing operation.

They are issued on a first come first served basis from the city's Lyttleton Terrace and Heathcote offices.

The voucher must be used by Wednesday 17 June 2015 and can be redeemed from Bendigo Animal Hospital; White Hills Animal Hospital; Passionate Vetcare on Eaglehawk Road; McIvor Road Veterinary Centre; Myvet Strathfieldsaye; and Kangaroo Flat Veterinary Clinic.

The clinics will also contribute a further 10 per cent off the fee.

City Manager Parking and Animal Services Neville Zimmer said pet owners must renew their animal's registration with the city before it expires on Saturday 11 April 2015.

"Pet owners will receive 66 per cent discount on the full cost of registering dogs and cats if they are desexed," he said.

Please support Cystic Fibrosis research

[www.cysticfibrosis.org.au](http://www.cysticfibrosis.org.au)

Cystic Fibrosis Victoria 03 9686 1811

## Bridge Connection email addresses

[bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com)

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[bridgeconnection.advertising@gmail.com](mailto:bridgeconnection.advertising@gmail.com)

# Rainfall

## Mia Mia

**2013** 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

Oct 23.00 414.00

Nov 38.5 452.50

Dec 5.5 458.00

**2015**

Jan 55.5 55.5

Feb 30.5 86.00

## Redesdale

**2013** 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

Oct 22.00 434.00

Nov 42.5 476.5

Dec 18.5 495.00

**2015**

Jan 76.50 76.5

Feb 28.00 104.00

For Advertising in  
Bridge  
Connection  
Please call  
Callum on  
5425 5574

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

# Sharing birthdays can be fun



## Redesdale Website

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

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

## Clear Fire hazards Away

## Public Notice

### The Redesdale Recreation Reserve Committee

**Bore water availability at the Agnes Mudford Reserve, Redesdale, as from Wednesday 1 July 2015.**

The public bore will be locked and available to residents between 9am and noon on Sundays. As advised by Goulburn-Murray Water the drought relief bores were drilled for drought relief and emergency D & S supplies.

Once the drought finished the public could still access the bore for emergency D&S supplies. It appears a lot of people access the bore for their ongoing D&S needs and are not making any long term plans for water supply.

Further details to be published in future editions of the Bridge Connection

At a recent local gathering, five pairs of people shared the same birthdays, but not the same year of birth.

Jock Macrae and Jo Smith-Sargent share a December birthday. Behind them, Kevin Foley and Robyn Abramowski share a September date. Centre, are Lisa Campbell and Evelyn Mac-

tier, who share the same April birthday, while Craig Mahoney and Chris Gillies share the same date in February. Gloria Pocock and Mike Abramowski have the same birthday in September. Two other pairs of people were sharing the same birthday at the same party, but didn't make the photograph.

## Cricket Match

**Redesdale vs Axe Creek  
Saturday 18 April from 11am  
At the Agnes Mumford Reserve**

### Redesdale

Please come and support your local team

BBQ lunch and drinks  
for sale

BYO seating and umbrellas  
Enquiries: Rod Gibson  
0418 130 206





## Please take care in school zones

Macedon Council and police asked motorists to be more careful in school zones.

Council is working with police because of an increase in complaints regarding drivers not obeying the 40 kmh speed zone, incidents of motorists either failing to stop or taking off early at children's crossings, dropping off and picking up children, and double parking.

Officer in Charge of the Highway Patrol, Sergeant Geoff Neil, said drivers were required to stop at children's crossings when a stop sign

was displayed or a pedestrian stepped onto the crossing.

"Drivers need to expect the unexpected, particularly from younger children who do not possess the same level of safety awareness as older students," he said.

Council manages 19 school crossings across the shire, and employs 34 school crossing supervisors.

Council Director of Assets and Operations Dale Thornton asked motorists to appreciate the hard work of crossing supervisors and respect their commitment.

## LOUISE SMITH FINE ART

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(ABC Radio)

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Price includes supper



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# The April salary packaging

In last year's Budget, the Government introduced a two per cent 'debt tax' on high income earners - the temporary budget repair levy.

Unlike many other announced Budget changes, the debt tax bill passed Parliament in record time - 12 sitting days with no amendments.

While the debt tax itself only directly affects those with

taxable income above \$180,000, there are a number of other tax changes included in with the debt tax that affect everyone else. To prevent high income earners planning around the debt tax, the Government increased the Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) rate from 47 per cent to 49 per cent from Wednesday 1

**By Cara Hall CA Dip. FP**

April 2015 - bringing it in line with the top marginal tax rate.

Like the debt tax, the FBT rate change is temporary, with the tax scheduled to reduce back to 47 per cent on Saturday 1 April 2017.

The gross up rate for reportable fringe benefits also increases from Wednesday 1 April 2015 by 2.1463 per

cent for type one, and 1.9608 per cent for type two; type two is used for employee payment summaries.

**What does this all mean?**

In general, the FBT rate change will make providing employee benefits more expensive and potentially less attractive over the next few years.

For those with sal-

ary packaging arrangements in place, it is important to review the details of those arrangements and ensure they still achieve the intended goals.

**For employers:** Review all salary packaging arrangements and any expenses where you have a large FBT exposure.

You may even seek to pass on the FBT rate increase to cover the additional tax payable based on current FBT packaging arrangements.

**For employees:** It is essential to understand how these rate changes impact on

you. Changes to income and fringe benefits tax over the years have made salary packaging less effective in general, and in some scenarios, you might be worse off.

Employers may also seek to pass on the FBT rate increase which will increase the amount you are sacrificing and reduce the effectiveness of the packaging. If you receive family tax benefits or other assistance payments from the Government, it is essential to review salary packaging arrangements as the changes may have a direct impact on any benefits you receive.

This is because fringe benefits reported on your payment summary are taken into account for a number of family benefit income tests.

The FBT gross up rate used to calculate these reportable fringe benefits has increased and as a result, the reportable fringe benefits on your payment summary will also increase.

**Not-for-profit entities:** The FBT rate change will generally not affect not-for-profit entities and other tax exempt entities because the annual maximum value of the capped FBT exemption has also gone up - so employees of these entities should be no worse off than before the FBT rate change.

[cara@rsdadvisors.com.au](mailto:cara@rsdadvisors.com.au)  
5445 4200

**Why a tax on high income earners will disadvantage many with salary packaging agreements.**

**Where does this leave you?**

## 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](mailto:bridgeconnection.treasurer@gmail.com)

## Redesdale General Store



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- \* Takeaway food.
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- \* LP Gas
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