

BRIDGE CONNECTION COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

ISSUE NO. 72 March 2016

FREE



For the Mia Mia- Redesdale Region including:

- Heathcote • Derrinal • Glenhope • Baynton • Sidonia
- Barfold • Langley • Sutton Grange • Elphinstone • Kyneton

Monthly News in Heathcote:

Congratulations to the 2016 Heathcote & District Community Bank Tertiary Scholarship recipient Callum Jones. The board, staff, shareholders and community wish you all the best in your future studies.

See pages 3 & 16

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Introducing the Redesdale Hall Committee

These ladies are the heart and soul of Redesdale. They are the ones who prepare the food for all the major events in town; from feeding hungry fire-fighters, to catering for weddings, charity teas, dances and the Redesdale Revellers. Recently they donated one thousand dollars to sponsor the Bridge Connection, so we are very grateful to these generous ladies. This money covers the printing of a large edition such as this one.

They are (from L to R, back row) Carolyn-Anne Boyd, Janette Johnson, Yvonne McGrath, Gloria Pocock, and (L to R, sitting) Gay Shannon, Alwyn Charville, Sue Newnham, and Dorothea Kriewaldt. Absent on the day was Norma Barker. Take a bow, ladies!



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BIRD QUIZ with NIGEL HARLAND



In the last edition of 2015 there was a picture of a swallow (or martin) feeding a moth to a fledgling. That gave me the thought of running a bird identification quiz each month. This does not mean identifying birds that live on the tip of Cape York, but those you can find in your backyard. I have a number of photos of such birds in our area; so each month you will find a Bird Quiz in the colour section of the Paper – it seemed a bit hard to put them in the black and white pages!

Once you have identified the bird, send your answer to the Editor. I'm not sure if there will be a prize or just the honour of seeing your name in print. In the next edition I will give the answer, together with a few comments on that particular bird. Some birds will be easy and some more difficult. In this way I hope to spread a little more knowledge of our avian friends. The adjoining picture is the first in our series, so it's now over to you.

Nigel



FUNDRAISER FOR KILEY HOBBS

Kiley, who lives in Woodend is severely disabled with Friedreich's Ataxia. There is to be a fundraising effort for her 35th birthday on March 18th and the family are looking for donations through "gofundme". Please contact Joshua on 0435 330 838 for more details or go directly to: gofundme.com/KileyHobbs
More details about Kiley's story in the next edition.



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EDITORIAL

There has been so much happening over the summer that this edition is bursting at the seams. We are very proud of Callum who has been working with us on the Bridge Connection, but has also been busy elsewhere! (See below, front page and page 16).

We have a new regular "bird quiz" (page 2) from Mount Alexander resident Nigel Harland. We all love our local birdlife. Send your answers in to us! This edition has the conclusion of the long-running Middlevale mystery (page 10). We would love another serial if there are any budding authors out there! Recently we asked if there were any gardening enthusiasts who would like to contribute to a gardening page and we have two offerings for your enjoyment on page 15 where we will be running a regular "Garden Patch" section. We expect many more offerings!

The article about the life of Nancy Begg is very moving - as is her poem about her love of Redesdale. We think this should be put to music so that it can become our local anthem. Musicians please?

Don't forget to pre-order your book about Redesdale (page 7) which will be launched at the opening of the next Redesdale Festival.

Last - but certainly not least - we would like to acknowledge and thank Lyn Ingles of Blue Pencil Publishing, who has put in hours of voluntary work improving our advertisements and giving advice about layout. We hope you will notice the difference. Thank you, Lyn.

We hope you enjoy this large edition - please keep the adverts and articles coming - and let's have a bumper year!



**Kathy Hall
and
Regina Bennett
Co-editors**

bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com
ph: 0407 116 899



Callum Jones (centre) receives his scholarship from Heathcote and District Community Bank.

Left: Hannah Thomson (Heathcote District Financial Services - secretary), right: Michael Prowse (Branch Manager).



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Carolyn (03) 5425 3194 for more information.

Redesdale Hall Activities:

- 1st Monday monthly, 4.15pm, Bridge Connection Committee meeting
- 2nd Tuesday monthly, 1pm - Hall Comm. Meetings.
- 2nd Tuesday monthly, 7 pm - Rec. Reserve Meetings.

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Commercial sized roaster available for hire from the Redesdale and District Association.

\$75 for members and \$100 for non-members.

(Free hire to Hall, Rec. Reserve Committee, and CFA)

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Australia Day Speech

Mia Mia Hall 2016



My name is John Frederiksen . We own and operate Rowanston Winery just up the road on the Burke & Wills Track. Marilyn and I have been at Rowanston for the past 13 years. We have two sons, one granddaughter, one dog, four chooks and some Angus cows. We have both worked off the farm/winery until the last 5 years. Marilyn has worked in Education for all her working life. I have worked in the car industry, youth and health sectors for the past 40 years.

Life goes on!
It's easy to say life goes on but I believe it is a silly saying as life does go on but only if we do something to make life go on – improve our lives and our community in some way.

This Australia Day I want to talk about how here at Mia Mia and its surrounds – this quiet little community, life not only goes on but how this small community plays its own important role in improving and enriching lives.

White Australia began in 1787. Aboriginal Australians were here for some 50,000 years before that - give or take a few thousand years. Burke and Wills came to Mia Mia in 1860 on their search to find rich farming land and an inland sea etc. Their diaries tell us that when Michael O'Hara Burke bought some meat at Musty's Butcher shop at Musty's Bridge in Lancefield, he told the young apprentice butcher that the expedition committee in Melbourne would pay the bill. When Mr Musty was told about the unpaid bill he was not impressed so he got on his horse and chased the expedition. Two days ride later he fronted Burke here at Mia Mia and Burke paid the bill in cash. An example of people doing things - not just letting life roll by. Its also worth noting that this expedition, backed by wealthy entrepreneurs cost more than the first landing on the moon.

The Duigan brothers who lived at Spring Plains had for years been making box kites and jumping off the Pohlman Creek escarpment attempting to fly. John Duigan from Spring Plains station went to London to become an electrical engineer. When he came home with a picture post card of the Wright Brothers plane he set about with his brother to construct and fly the first Aussie made plane. In 1908 the Duigan brothers made and flew their first Australian made aeroplane in Australia here at Mia Mia.

Life moved on but only with a push from the brothers. I wonder what they would think

about the air above Mia Mia being a major national route into Melbourne Airport. Planes line up here above us every day to land in a north - south approach.

What about what's happening here and now in Mia Mia? Well there are extraordinary things happening here every day. Life not only goes on but it is being pushed on by extraordinary people.

This Mia Mia Hall and our local Fire Station as well as the Mia Mia Reserve all exist because local identities keep doing more than their share of nudging life along.

- Wendy and Grant: ex school teachers by day & extraordinary caterers by night.
- The large band of cooks, cleaners and do anything workers who turn up to every event and put in extraordinary amounts of time to ensure the many annual events at these community venues are a success.
- Ned and Howard ex publican and ex judge - The old guys on the hill: giving not only time to the community but substantial cash.
- Ned: sitting on a 10hp lawn mower mowing the oval for many years. An oval is 440 meters around and a mower is about one meter across. You do the maths how long it takes.
- Kate and a dedicated committee who produced and published a comprehensive history of Mia Mia and district.
- The fire brigade under captain Anthony Ryan has 48 plus active members people getting on and doing things. People getting on and doing things.

T
here are also extraordinary young people in Mia Mia. Many of them went to school here up on the hill behind us or to the Redesdale / Mia Mia School.

- The Bennett girls are studying medicine and science
- Tom and Rachel Bourke have completed Law and Accountancy degrees.
- Matthew Ryan is close to completing a plumbing apprenticeship
- Seamus McKenna is now a carpenter
- Gary is close to finishing a Diesel Mechanic apprenticeship.

The reason I have picked out these guys to mention is that they have all worked at Rowanston on the Track Winery - picking grapes, helping with pruning & doing all sorts of jobs. They are a living example of people getting on with their lives and improving their lives. They are a credit to themselves, their families and the community of Mia Mia. These are just the young people we have had a bit to do with – I am sure there are others.

Not only have these young people improved their own lives but they participate in community life. Mia Mia has a new cricket team, which is third on the ladder after only 18 months in the competition - due to the efforts of the McKenna boys and others. Ned now has had to get the mower out more often!

- The McDonald family: major sponsors of the Mia Mia opera: world-class opera singers come to this hall and sing to a packed house. The McDonalds also give a scholarship to the best singer of the night. There are only a handful of opportunities like this across Australia. Pretty amazing

- Andrew and Heather from the Burke and Wills Winery hold a series of folk concerts at their winery and across central Victoria each year. They have international folk singers come to Mia Mia to sing play and music to hundreds of followers. Some of these international artists stay at our Rowanston B&B and have become part of our family.

Christine Alston - a North American folk singing star - up with Bob Dylan level - who performed at a Burke and Wills concert helped me commission a new washing machine. She said she owned the same washer back in the USA and got ours going in no time. Once again people getting on with life - and enriching our lives in the process. Heather, Anton, Annette and Hayley who live in our district have artistic talents and skills which have been well recognised outside our community.

Local farmers producing high quality food from the 1860's to now – at Rowanston 12 ton of cheese was produced each year in the 1860's and today local farmers are producing and exporting high quality beef, wool, lamb and pork . . . as well as wine!

There are a lot of negative things happening in our world with refugees having to leave their homes, drug addiction, homelessness and corruption but it seems to me that in every little town we don't always notice or acknowledge all the day-to-day good things that are happening.

I am an optimist. I see lots of positive things out weighing the negatives. I am not an ostrich with my head in the sand. I lived and worked in NZ for a short time in the early 1990's and in the USA in the middle 1990s.

When I worked in the USA I was shocked at the low level of wages, the amount of homeless people and the amount of working folk who lived poor in trailer homes. This is not to say they were unhappy - far from it. They believe they have a good standard of living – but it was quite a different standard to ours.

In comparison, Australia has a great health system and a great education system. We pay our workers fair wages and provide good working conditions. We leave the countries where I have worked and lived in far behind.

Australia didn't get this status though by sitting on its hands. Australia has become a great place to live because we get on and do things to make it better. It is through the positive actions of small communities like Mia Mia that community and nationhood continues to change and improve.

Congratulations Mia Mia. You may be small but by the measure of your heart and your actions you are a giant.



Peter O'Sullivan raises the flag at the start of Australia Day proceedings in Mia Mia 2016.

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Nancy Begg was born on the 4th May 1928, daughter of Mildred Marian and Ronald Heathcote Begg, sister to Betty and stepsister to Norma in Melbourne.

Nancy spent the first 18 years of her happy life living on Coliban Estate in Redesdale, where her father worked as an overseer and manager of the merino property. It was her enduring love of Redesdale and the Australian bush began and remained steadfast throughout her life.

At the age of 8, Nancy went to Sutton Grange Primary School where she was later to be honoured with the words of 'most promising student ever taught by Mr Cox'. Nancy rode 6 miles each way on her black pony Nimity Bell only to return each day to teach Betty whose horsemanship skills were sadly lacking. It was during these war years that Nancy became infamous for stopping the Australian Army when a flapping canvas on a truck spooked her horse one morning on her way to school. Nancy didn't fall off, but a young soldier held her pony steady while the truck passed safely by. Later, Nancy and Betty both travelled to school by horse drawn cart. It was at school Nancy's love of poetry began with her first poems published in Sunbeam in The Sun and the Bobby Bear Club in The Age. Later, Nancy entered a poetry competition in The Australian Journal and won a correspondence course in journalism.

One year after fleeing the 1945 bush fires at Coliban Estate, the family moved to a property in North Redesdale. During this time, Nancy played the organ for the North Redesdale Presbyterian Church. Nancy was largely self-taught, with some help from Grandma when she visited from Melbourne. It was here Nancy celebrated her 21st birthday.

When the family moved to Barbower in Green-

hill, a long friendship with the Rowan family began. During this time, Nancy started work at the Kyneton Hospital. She bought the family house, Carn Brae, at 42 Mollison Street, Kyneton. In later years, she pulled this down and rebuilt the home she dearly loved and lived in until moving to Ray M. Begg in 2009.

Nancy's life was motivated by her admirable sense of community and charity. She attended Government House to receive her medal for 50 years of service to the Red Cross in Kyneton. In true humility, Nancy believed she was unworthy of such an honour. Nancy was a Life Governor of the Kyneton Hospital Auxiliary. She belonged to the Uniting Church afternoon fellowship, Metcalfe Senior Citizens, worked in the church op shop weekly, and despite her dislike of cooking she baked for countless cake stalls, sold raffle tickets and longed to do a lot more. The list of charities she donated to was remarkable.

Nancy loved classical music, singing at church and playing the piano accordion. She enjoyed hearing her poems read on the Geoffrey McComas Sunday radio program in the 1960s and on John Reid's Poets Corner on the ABC in the 1970s and 80s. Nancy was a keen member of the Kyneton Writers' Group and U3A. Her love of gardening was rewarded when she won Best Small Garden during the early years of the Kyneton Daffodil Festival. Nancy loved cats although she never had one of her own. Her overseas trips included New Zealand and the UK and Europe in 1985. Nancy joined the Kyneton Croquet Club where she spent many happy days playing golf croquet with her loyal friends Ann and Kevin. On visitor days, Sue Fiona and Emma tried their own hands at croquet, gaining a new respect for the large balls and narrow hoops.

But it is the Christmas, Easter and school holidays in Kyneton that the family treasure most. Ray would drive his wife Betty and daughters Marian and Sue, to Kyneton for a week during the May and September school holidays, before he returned to Melbourne to work. Betty and the girls had picnics down by the river at the back of the hospital while Nancy worked. When Nancy finished, the girls would race down the hospital corridor to meet her and vie for their turn at pushing the trolley. They were simple days, the best days, where we walked everywhere, used our imagination and had fun. Later when Sue married, she took her daughters Fiona and Emma to Kyneton every holiday and the magic endured as history repeated itself. Nancy loved every minute we were there and we loved every minute with her.

Now Nancy lives on not only in our memories, but her spirit lives on for everyone in her poetry. Her talent for writing produced 3 books published locally; The Shining Hour, Reflections for Leisure and Reminiscing. Altogether she wrote hundreds of poems and short stories. Many were published in periodicals including Women's Mirror in Sydney, Free Expression,

a metrical verse publication in India, and of course the local Kyneton Guardian. Nancy explored wide topics leaving the reader in awe of her insight and wisdom.

Nancy's pleasure in helping others was never more apparent than when she received late calls for grammar advice when Sue or Fiona were trying to complete university or school assignments. Her name belongs too on those excellence marks and degree. Nancy always loved her crosswords and somehow made those cryptic clues look easy.

Sue laments – "I just wish you were here to help me write this now, as I'm sure I have commas in the wrong place."

In later years at Ray M. Begg, Nancy's pen was tired but we can forgive her for that. Nancy spent almost seven years at Ray M. Begg nursing home. She loved playing bowls, games of Scrabble and enjoyed fellowship with her friends Doreen, Pat and Netta. She loved looking out of the window at the old house across the road that reminded her of Carn Brae. The family is forever grateful for the wonderful care Nancy received at the nursing home in recent weeks. She was home and in the best place. The smile Nancy gave the nurses told us she felt the same.

Nancy lived a true Christian life, which we can all look up to.

This poem, written by Nancy, was recited at her funeral. What an amazing find for Redesdale.

If there is anybody out there who can write music, with the permission of the family, we can't help thinking that this would be a great anthem for the school, with a modification of the last two lines.

Editors

HOME TOWN

My home town is not the place where I live
Although it is pleasant and fair,
But memories belong where childhood was spent
And my heart will ever be there.

Redesdale is calling over the miles And I
follow the road once again,
Through an entrance of pine trees, guarding
the way
Where the wind sings a haunting refrain.

Set mid the dreaming valleys and hills
And patterned by fence of stone,
This is my hometown, where I belong And
always will call it my own.

Redesdale, my home town is calling to me
Wistfully over the miles,
And my heart would respond, but alas! I
remain
A forever reluctant exile.

Nancy Begg

A BOOK ABOUT REDESDALE

A History of Redesdale by Ken James and Noel Davis will be launched at the Redesdale Festival on the Melbourne Cup weekend this year. The launch is on Friday 28 October at the Redesdale Hall at 6.30 pm. The book is thermal bound, around 550 pages in length and made up of 27 chapters, 14 appendices, a surname index, and lots of photos, stories and local colour. The book price is \$35 + \$14 per copy if post-ed. Copies will be available for sale at the launch.

Why not pre-order and pre-pay now to ensure you get a copy as numbers are limited. Pre-purchased copies can be picked up at the launch. Copies sent via Australia Post will be mailed after the launch.

PRE- LAUNCH ORDER FORM-

Send to: Ken James, 18 Lofty Avenue, Camberwell, Vic 3124 (knjames47@gmail.com)

I wish to purchase _____ copy/copies of A History of Redesdale

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WHAT'S ON in the HEATHCOTE REGION March 2016

Saturday 5 March 2016

Bush Market – 8am-1:30pm contact on 0400 675 995 for stall bookings. Venue: Barrack Reserve High St Heathcote

Sunday 13 March 2016

Redesdale Bush Market- 9am- 2pm Something for everyone. A wide selection of stalls plus music, children's entertainment including an Animal Farm and Jumping Castle, BBQ lunch and lots more! Facebook 'Redesdale Bush Market 2016' Enquiries Alwyn 0419 513 976 or Carolyn 5425 3194. Venue: Agnes Mudford Reserve, 2631 Kyneton-Heathcote Rd, Redesdale.

Friday 18 March 2016

El Rocio Spanish Festival- More detail later

Saturday 19 March 2016

El Rocio Spanish Festival- More detail later
Reds & Blues- Pizza's from 12midday. Music by "Hey Gringo" from 1:30pm- 5pm
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Venue: Idavue Estate Northern Highway Heathcote



Sunday 20 March 2016

El Rocio Spanish Festival- More details later

Heathcote Golf Club PGA Legends Pro-Am- AM or PM Shot-gun Start. Men's & Ladies' Individual Stableford event. Entry Fee- \$44 (Morning Field) / \$55 (Afternoon Field). Email: Bryan Wearne: btwearne@netcon.net.au or phone Bryan on 0407 844 500. Spectator free admission for the whole day. Come along and watch the Legends of Australian gol.
Venue: Heathcote Golf Club Patterson St Heathcote

Saturday 30 April 2016

Groovin the Moo Festival in Bendigo- Time: 9:00am -10:00pm. Once again Groovin the Moo is coming to Bendigo in 2016 and is set to be bigger and better than ever.

PLEASE NOTE: Accommodation in Bendigo will be extremely limited for Saturday 30th April.

It is advised to book early. www.bendigotourism.com or phone: 1800 813 513. There is accommodation in Heathcote and a bus service will operate from Heathcote to Bendigo for \$25 return (book on 1800 813 513). Venue: Prince of Wales Showground- Bendigo.

Steph Ryan MP Member for Euroa

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03 5762 2100

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Kangaroo survey welcome but not a silver bullet

Member for Euroa and Deputy Leader of The Nationals Steph Ryan says a survey to identify where motorists are hitting kangaroos is a positive step forward.

But Ms Ryan is calling on the government to take meaningful action to address the kangaroo population, which she has described as 'out of control'.

The survey will use GPS technology to log the location of dead kangaroos and wombats to pinpoint where wildlife is a hazard to motorists.

"The government's decision to initiate this trial in response to my calls for urgent action on the number of car accidents resulting from kangaroos is welcome, but much more needs to be done.

"I'm pleased Labor has finally acknowledged there is a problem in regional Victoria, but in truth we don't need more statistics to tell us that there is a major problem in our area.

"I'm certain that the trial, if undertaken properly, will bear out the anecdotal evidence from local motorists who do everything they can to avoid driving at dawn and dusk when kangaroos are most active.

"Areas like the Northern Hwy around Heathcote, the Hume Fwy and the Murchison-Rushworth Rd where I narrowly missed two kangaroos last week are a real concern.

"VicRoads could talk to local residents and do a simple review of insurance claims to pinpoint some of these locations," Ms Ryan said.

Ms Ryan said Labor needed to issue more permits to control kangaroo numbers and strategically fence major roads to reduce the risk of fatal accidents.

The previous Coalition Government implemented a trial that allowed legally harvested kangaroo carcasses to be processed for pet food, instead of being buried and left to rot.

"The trial is due to expire at the end of March and Labor still hasn't said whether or not it will make it permanent to ensure kangaroos harvested under permits are not wasted," Ms Ryan said.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Friday 12 February 2016

Dear Editor,

Many families in drought-stricken areas were relying on free kindergarten this year to help them balance the household budget.

That's because Premier Daniel Andrews had promised 10 drought-affected areas of Victoria there would be "no kinder fees, for anyone sending their kids to kinder" this year.

So it was a stressful surprise when they were told by the government that the free kinder program would actually be means-tested and they would need to meet strict eligibility criteria.

In Parliament I asked the Premier to explain why he was breaking his promise to these families.

The government quickly back-flipped, removing the eligibility criteria and issuing a press release saying kinder would again be free in those drought-affected areas.

This is a win for our rural families – but it shouldn't have needed Daniel Andrews to be shamed on the floor of Parliament to deliver his promise.

If it wasn't for the Coalition raising this on behalf of the many families who contacted us, parents would still be subjected to means-testing to get the free kinder promised to them.

Daniel Andrews should now do the right thing and apologise to kindergartens and families for the stress he's caused them.

Regards,

Peter Walsh

Leader of The Nationals
Deputy Leader of the Coalition
Shadow Minister for Water

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NBN in MIA MIA and REDESDALE

Lisa Chesters has been busy on behalf of the federal electorate of Bendigo, with regard to the appalling state of most people's internet connectivity. Recently she said, "The Bendigo electorate is in a telecommunications crisis and this Government has failed to deliver on their pre-election promise of NBN to every Australian by 2016".

In a letter (February 4th 2016) to Senator Mitch Fifield, Minister for Communications, Ms Chesters wrote:
"This week in 2015 the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal overturned planning approval for an NBN tower on Mt Camel. This decision meant NBN towers already built in Eppalock, Ladys Pass, Goornong and Huntly North were unable to be turned on as scheduled. A year later, and residents impacted by this delay are still waiting for the NBN."

Later in the letter she writes:
"The Bendigo electorate is in a telecommunication crisis. In my electorate I am watching a big gap develop between those with internet access and those without. As more of our everyday lives move online, a lack of reliable and affordable internet access is creating disadvantage and inequity".

On Tuesday, Feb 16th, Ms Chesters met with Redesdale and District residents (see page 18) regarding their internet and telephone services. There is no doubt Ms Chesters is on our case!

Quote of the month:

The surest way to corrupt a youth is to instruct him to hold in higher esteem those who think alike than those who think differently.

Friedrich Nietzsche

LANGLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL IS GROWING



Langley Primary School is growing! Our small rural school, just north of Kyneton has an enrolment now of 39 students, with 3 fully operational classrooms – a Prep/One, a Two/Three and a Four/Five/Six. Our community welcomes our new staff member and Prep/One teacher, Ms. Stacey Michell and her new Prep students, Oliver, Mirijam, Hayden, Oliver, Tavin, Archer, Jessica and Gwen. Have a fantastic year everyone!!



Federal Member for Bendigo

LISA CHESTERS MP

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New La Trobe engineering degree in Bendigo

In mid February, local manufacturers and stakeholders were briefed by Pro-Vice Chancellor for the College of Science, Health and Engineering, Prof. Graham Scaffer, on a new engineering program at the La Trobe University Department of Engineering Industry Breakfast.

In an Australian first, this degree will guarantee all Bendigo students a six-month work placement via their Work Integrated Learning Program that includes a \$10,000 tax free scholarship.

Federal member for Bendigo, Lisa Chesters, said, "Bendigo and Central Victoria has a proud engineering and manufacturing history that goes back over 100 years". She said, "It is a great example of what can be achieved when local industry works with a local university to develop and ultimately deliver the skilled professionals companies need." In a barbed message to the current federal government Ms Chesters said, "Labour has a positive plan for more graduates and sustainable university funding...there's a lot of talk in Canberra about innovation, STEM and the need to be agile. Bendigo can be really proud that we are doing it and not just talking about it."

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Riddle in Middlevale

Episode 7

CONCLUSION

by Finley Carraway



"Never again! Never!" Melissa is adamant that she will never drink again so long as she lives. Jim is the epitome of restraint. Both of them know it is untrue. They sit there, in a little cafe in the middle of town staring at each other. Jim stares at Melissa as she scans the street. She really is his best friend, the only person who has stuck with him even through his sacking and the disappearance of the ram. He is vaguely aware that she doesn't have a boyfriend and then stops himself. She's a mate, no, surely not.

"It's a pretty big scandal if it's true!" Mel ponders out loud.

"I dunno what else it can be, Mel."

Jim is really struck by her now, but also struck by the realisation, perhaps brought on by this friend from his city life, that here is his chance at a new start to his career. He has a story now and it really is somewhat sensational, especially considering that the local constabulary is involved. A point he is acutely aware of and that makes him considerably nervous. He just needs a conclusion.

"I reckon it makes sense, crazy as it seems, Jim."

"Yeah, but will he buy it?"

"It is a logical idea..."

An hour or so later, having left Melissa for whatever it was she was going to do for the day before returning to Melbourne; Jim is in his room at Vicky's place, which is still absent of Vicky. A knock at the door and Jim knows somehow that it's Sergeant Eldridge, who seems to have bought the idea that Jim himself is not directly involved with either the disappearance of the ram, nor the absence of his own daughter. Jim is mildly pleased with this but, in his heart, is also shaken by the thought that if there is not a good result here soon, he too might join these disappearances and no one would ask questions. Perhaps he'd watched too many episodes of *The Sopranos*. Perhaps the good sergeant isn't like that. Perhaps he is... Jim answers the door.

"Jim Stevens?" A uniformed junior constable asks whilst staring through Jim as if he wasn't even there.

"Yes."

"Please come with me."

Jim is not impressed. What the hell is this? He grabs his reporter's camera bag and follows the constable to the car and gets in.

After an hour of staring at the unyielding grey table, he starts to imagine the table as the real interrogator, that the table itself will extract answers, that all these people are just pawns in a frightening truth-uncovering machine.

Sergeant Eldridge walks into the room. Jim starts to feel unwell, vaguely he can taste the previous nights drinks still and he's feeling woozy in this claustrophobic room, no, faint... in fact he's...

"Hello! Jim! James Stevens!"

There's a woman, she's putting something towards his face and he's getting it now but...

Someone is slapping his face lightly. Jim

suddenly is aware of his surroundings. He becomes aware of the flickering flouro lights, the relentless desk. A voice.

"Jesus, Jim!" Sergeant Eldridge says.

"Ahh umm, Sergeant, what happened?"

"Seems you fainted"

Jim comes to. He feels faint indeed. But his mind is turning. Somehow it make sense, and the truth of it all dawns on him just as fast as he realises he's not really sick at all, that all this was just a nervous reaction, and perhaps something to do with a few too many the night before. He resolves to make good notes of this. Here he is, Jim Stevens, the photographer who never could get the story, suddenly in a story, a crisis no less, and he had it. It was his. All he needed was the conclusion. He was basically there.

"Sorry Sergeant, bit woozy after last night but all's good now."

"Few drinks last night with the Smith's cousin?"

"Yep, but don't get any strange ideas, me and Melissa are old friends and I never even knew about her connections up here."

"So it seems. You get stranger and stranger Stevens, but somehow I'm warming to you."

"Thank you?"

"So, Jim, I think we need to talk. You were mumbling about something about Vicky when you passed out there."

"Ah, really?"

Jim thinks about it. He realises that he has understood this problem earlier than anyone else. The key is the psychology of a person who relishes, no, obsesses over, helping a victim. To be the hero to the damsel. And yet he doesn't really know why he knows that. Perhaps its an old passage of text he read once. Or wasn't Melissa into psychological reporting or something? Probably Melissa. But something has clicked, and it's a very unfortunate thing.

"You know Vicky took me in after you got all worried about me and Prospero and the ram, Sergeant?"

"Yes, wait, you and her didn't..."

Jim can see the pulse in Eldrige's neck and he knows that's not a good sign.

"Look, forget that stuff Sergeant. I think we're both going to regret it."

"What are you saying, Stevens?"

"You need to find your daughter, Sergeant."

"You know something and you're coming with me. Right now!" Eldridge grabs Jim by the arm and marches him out the door and towards the station carpark. Jim tries to ask what's going on but Eldridge is unconcerned and none of the constabulary dare ask him any different. Jim is going with Sergeant Eldridge to help with his enquiries, right now.

Just as Sergeant Eldridge is leading Jim to a police divvy van in the tired light of the afternoon, a shout comes from the police station. A junior constable rushes across the gravel carpark to the Sergeant.

"Sergeant, it's Mr. Prospero!" she shouts, "he's had a heart attack! He's in emergency now!"

The divvy van lurches around a corner so fast it makes Jim feel a little sick. "Yikes, Sergeant, give it a break will you?" Jim exclaims to no effect. Jim is somewhat confused, why would the sergeant be so concerned?

"We are going to see Mr. Prospero, to see if he knows anything, christ, he could die!" The sergeant cries.

Just then, the police radio crackles and a voice from the station becomes clear: "Sergeant Eldridge, Sergeant Eldridge?"

Eldridge picks up the two-way and speaks, "Yes, Eldridge here, over."

"Word from the hospital, Mr. Prospero will be ok, it was only minor, they're keeping him for observation but it looks like he'll be fine."

"Thank you, Constable."

The car slows considerably, and Jim heaves a sigh of relief. That was scary, not just out of concern for Prospero, but also because Jim was never good at roller coasters, let alone high speed police chases.

Eldridge pulls over. Momentarily they breathe collective sighs of relief. Jim is distressed, but knows that he has to keep his nerve, the sergeant is still baying for blood.

A moment later, Eldridge turns to him, "Right, time to talk. What is it that you know?"

Jim recollects the entirety of events in his mind. His drive to Middlevale, his first encounter with the sergeant, the drive up to Prospero's. The old man singing after his ram, the cheeky but condescending manner of Vicky with him. The disinterest she really showed about the disappearance of the ram but her interest in looking after the distressed old man. Her jealousy about his probable prize with that ram. He ponders if he could possibly be right. It's a big call, but then the one little detail he had overlooked comes to his mind. The one thing that no one had noticed but that, in hindsight, was key.

"Sergeant, you're not going to like this."

"Tell me!"

"You know Prospero has those two dogs?"

"Oh yes, great pups those, so loyal."

"Yes, and they were ok with me, after introductions though, not before."

"That makes sense, bloody loud when disturbed and aggressive!"

"Yeah well you know how I was staying there that night? My first night"

"Yes."

"Well the dogs never woke me."

Jim can see that Eldridge is going over the implications of this, and just as he does this, he can see the blood draining from his face.

"The dogs knew the thief." Eldridge says calmly as it dawns on him.

"I hate to ask, but do you have any properties or cabins anywhere out of town?"

Eldridge is sliding into his seat now, shrinking like weeks old fruit. Jim sees this and can hardly bare to force the logic to its conclusion.

"We have a cabin around the other side of the lake. Old run down thing, I haven't been for ages. About half an hour from here."

"Can I suggest we go and check it out?"

Eldridge gulps hard, and, with an angry look in his eye is about to lash out, but then realises he has to do this. His entire life in law enforcement forces his hand. It is what he has to do. He puts the divvy van that he'd taken from the station back into gear and does a U-Turn, headed down the road and out of town.

Towards destiny.

Thirty minutes later Jim and Sergeant Eldridge are crackling up an old driveway towards a cabin by the lake. Jim has his camera out and Eldridge hasn't even noticed. As they approach the cabin, a car comes into view beside the old weatherboard. It's Vicky's. They pull up near the cabin, Eldridge sounds the car's horn. Several moments later, Vicky emerges, looking rough. She approaches the car, and, seeing it is a police car, bursts into tears. When Sergeant Eldridge emerges from the vehicle, she runs up tearful and apologetic to him and leaps into his arms, hugging him. Jim grabs a couple of photos.

"Vicky! What have you done?" Eldridge asks, mournfully.

"I took him, Dad. I couldn't stand it any longer with that old crazy bastard! I was just going to keep him here till after the show!"

Sergeant Eldridge hugs his daughter and they both weep together.

"OK sweetie, where is he then?"

"Just in a pen beside the house."

Jim hears this and goes to look, leaving the two of them to sort this all out. He walks carefully, camera in hand, raised to his face most of the time actually, ready. And there, as he turns the corner, is the most spectacular ram you'd ever want to see. It's Dante alright! Jim takes photos, many of them.

Shortly after, with Dante occupying the part of the van usually reserved for miscreants, Jim drives Vicky's car, following the divvy van with Eldridge and his daughter back to town. It's clear Vicky's likely to be charged with theft, but there's the matter of what old Prospero thinks, who, it has been said, is generous in spirit, especially now that his prize ram is back in time for the show. After a little grooming, Jim gets proper photographs of Dante. Mission complete.

TWO WEEKS LATER.

"This is wonderful Jim! Who'd have thought

a prize ram could have such a secret background? I don't care what the stupid sports department said about you, this is a great story, and the photographs! Yes!" Melinda Rikers, the Features Editor of the very same newspaper Jim used to work for, beams excitedly.

"Thank you, Melinda!"

"Oh Jim, this is what we look for! Genuine interest stories told well!" She pauses and appraises Jim for a moment, gleaming with pride and some sort of admiration that frankly Jim doesn't quite understand. She continues, "Your reputation was for getting in the way of the story Jim; but it seems that was always the best way to go! Welcome to serious journalism, Jim!"

Jim staggers, amazed and proud, out of Ms Rikers' office, stumbling straight into Melissa's arms, and she kisses him passionately while the office looks on in gleaming support. Things have turned out pretty darned well for Jim Stevens, in the end.

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Families in the Macedon Ranges Shire are set to benefit from a \$44,500 grant that will support the establishment of a new program that focuses on improving engagement between young parents and maternal and child health services across the shire. For more information, contact 5422 0281 or ask your local Maternal and Child Health Centre.

REDESDALE HALL ACTIVITIES

Sun 13th March 9am to 2pm Bush Market

Sun 10th April 1pm Tea Dance

Sun 25th Sept 1pm Tea Dance

The logo for The Albion Kyneton, featuring a circular emblem with a stylized 'A' and the words "The ALBION KYNETON" below it.

The ALBION

KYNETON

*Come and enjoy the experience
that is The Albion Kyneton*

A photograph of the exterior of The Albion Kyneton building, a two-story stone structure with a covered veranda and arched windows.

The Albion offers a fine selection of local wines and famous beers on tap. Local produce from the Macedon Region is carefully prepared for classic Italian dinners.

Children are catered for with a special menu just for their discerning palates.

The Albion is ideal for functions or parties. and offers indoor restaurant and outdoor courtyard dining.

Hours of Operation:
7 Days a Week 12noon till Late
• **Lunch** 12noon to 2pm • **Dinner** 6pm to 9pm

Phone for bookings (03) 5422 2066
Email drinkanddine@thealbionkyneton.com.au
1 Mollison Street, Kyneton Vic 3444
www.thealbionkyneton.com.au

SUBSCRIPTION APPLICATION

If you are unable to receive a free delivery of the Bridge Connection, you can subscribe for \$25 per year and it will be posted to you.

Please fill out this form and send it to:

The Treasurer, Bridge Connection, PO Box 13, Redesdale, Victoria. 3444

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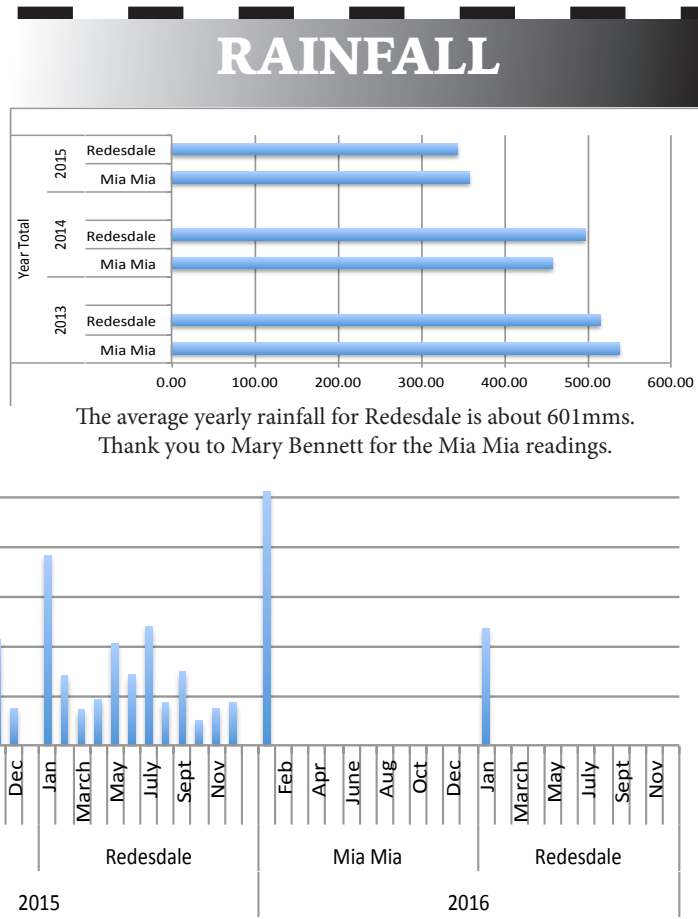
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Your Health!

with

Dr Tim

How many times as children or even as adults, are we told to drink more water! Have you ever stopped to think about why this is?

Well the fact is that our bodies are largely just that, water! Around about 60% by weight depending on things like age, gender and general health.

Indeed water is the very essence of life - the search for extra-terrestrial life on Mars has concentrated on finding water as it is considered so essential for supporting life. And being such an important part of our bodies it has to be well regulated to keep the internal chemistry constant as well as to remove toxins - this job falls largely to the kidneys - the quiet achievers of your collection of body organs. Bear a thought then on World Kidney Day on March 10 for your kidneys, because they are essential to your good health.

This comes as a surprise to many, but such is the amazing cleansing power of the kidneys that even with as little as 20% of functioning kidney tissue many people still feel quite well. So there is little warning to severe kidney failure unless we check the function of the kidneys regularly. Commonly, this is done through a simple measurement of urea and creatinine in a blood test but as I'm sure you can imagine, there are plenty of other more complicated ways for clever doctors to assess kidney function.

Kidney disease is a common problem affecting approximately one in 10 adults in Australia. If you have other health problems including diabetes, high blood pressure, heart problems, obesity, if you smoke or are over the age of 60 or are Aboriginal or Torres Straight Islander or have a history of previous kidney conditions then you are at risk of chronic kidney disease, and might like to discuss this further with your GP.

In any case, raise a glass (of water of course) to the tireless job your kidneys do to keep you clean on the inside !

Your Health!
Dr Tim

(Dr Tim Stobie, 5422 1397)



Redesdale Recreational Reserve Committee Inc

Attention

Community notice

As of the 31st March 2016 the bore water filling station will be LOCKED.

To access water, follow the instructions as per the sign located at the bore filling station.

***Access available on
Sunday's between 9am-12 noon***

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MICA GRANGE OPERA

US countertenor Nicholas Tamagna will make his Australian debut in March as Akhnaten in the Philip Glass opera Akhnaten. Australia's Sally Wilson sings Nefertiti, Akhnaten's wife and queen. Sally sang the role in Berlin. The acclaimed Consort of Melbourne is the choir. Producer and singer Michael Gillies Smith is staging an outdoor concert performance of the opera at Mount Alexander, Central Victoria, on March 19 and 20, the March Equinox. The performances will take place at Mica Grange Garden, a 40 hectare property on the slopes of Mount Alexander with views stretching across Sutton Grange Valley.

Mica Grange is one of Victoria's most picturesque and celebrated properties, its garden appearing among a select group of Australian gardens in the 2014 edition of Australian Country Gardens, the 2014 June edition of the Royal Horticulture Society of Victoria gazette and September 2015s Australian Country magazine. The event coincides with Mica Grange's Autumn Open Garden and Sculpture Exhibition, showcasing creative works from leading Victorian sculptors.

MICA GRANGE

**OPEN GARDEN
SCULPTURE EXHIBITION**

15 artists over 60 exhibits
Open each weekend from
March 12 to April 10
10 am to 4 pm, incl. Labour Day
and Easter (Closed Good Friday).
Group bookings available
during weekdays.

Entry \$5 - Morning/afternoon tea -
Garden art - Preserves - Plants available

373 Faraday-Sutton Grange Road,
Sutton Grange

For more visit www.micagrangecommunity.com.au
or phone (03) 5474-8262

"One of the stars of this show is the location, the slopes of Mount Alexander, with breathtaking views across the sky and landscape," said Michael.

The March Equinox is a special time of the year. Earth is in balance with the sun. Day and night are of equal length in all parts of the world. The March Equinox has been celebrated by many cultures for thousands of years. It is recognised by UNESCO and the UN as part of the world's Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

What: Philip Glass opera Akhnaten

When: Saturday March 19 and Sunday March 20, 5pm (performance finishes 7pm, includes a 20-minute interval)

Where: Mica Grange Garden, Mount Alexander, Sutton Grange, 373 Faraday-Sutton Grange Road

Tickets: Standard (on the lawn, bring picnic rug or folding chair): \$85/\$75 concession Premium (table and chairs for 2, 4 or more, table service, limited numbers) \$125/\$115 concession.

Bookings: www.trybooking.com

Labor axes popular Regional Living Expo

The popular Regional Living Expo has been axed by the Labor Government.

Member for Euroa and Deputy Leader of the Nationals Steph Ryan said Labor's Agriculture Minister Jaala Pulford would not answer questions about the future of the Expo in Parliament last week, but then rolled out a press release on the eve of Christmas saying it had been axed.

Local member, Steph Ryan said, "The Regional Living Expo has been a valuable way for councils to showcase their communities to people in the city, to attract new residents and families.

"Melbourne is bursting at the seams and we have so much to offer in regional Victoria, so the Expo was a great way to encourage people to make a tree or sea change.

"Yet again this government has shown its contempt for rural and regional Victoria, with the Regional Living Expo joining the long list of axed programs including the Regional Growth Fund and the Country Roads and Bridges Program," Ms Ryan said.

The Bridge: GARDEN PATCH

Emergency wards at local hospitals are full of Redesdalians and MiaMians all suffering from heat exhaustion and extreme anger attacks. Not to mention the plants, many of which have now passed their expiry dates.

We have seldom endured a summer like the one now passing. Wild heat variations, uncertain and occasionally violent rainfalls, bouts of heavenly rage with spectacular thunderstorms and son et lumiere shows. Gardening in our district has been like living with an adolescent drug addicted grandchild.

Despite all this, some of us and portions of our gardens have survived. So let us see what has lived through this season and what not to try to grow ever again.

Bury the exotics and deliver the last rites to all azaleas and camellias. Don't bother with hydrangeas or lupins. Save yourself from further grief and anger by never planting a petunia or ranunculi ever again. In short abandon the English Home Counties and confess to your spouse or partner that you cannot make the house in our area look like a Kentish garden or Sislehurst. Give up the Vita Sackville West and Harold Nicolson clobber and opt for sunscreen and boots.

Despite some of the locals dancing naked in the moonlight and baying at new found planets, steadfast rain will not come from that or even prayer. We will just have to adapt to climate change and more extreme conditions more often. So what did survive and will you have enough energy in July and August to plant again? Australian shrubs and some trees have done surprisingly well. First to mention on the ladder of suc-

cess is Eucalyptus melliodora, aka yellow box (see picture). The silver green leaves of the immature plant are attractive enough and later will come the brownish bark and nuts which will send our bees and birds into a hallucinatic frenzy.

A sturdy survivor is the dreaded Plumbago, all three colours, insipid blue, dazzling blue and funereal white have all flourished with a minimum of water. It is easily grown from a root stock, so from an established plant just dig up some roots cuttings and plant in a shallow grave-like arrangement and micturate thereupon occasionally. But not until at least April.

For Anzac Day I suggest scattering some hollyhock seeds in open ground near the backdoor, some of the old stock still have viable seed pods which can be harvested, but otherwise cheap packets can be had and those seeds not used mixed with your morning museli or weetbix.



Your gardening correspondent,
William 'Digger' Spade

Hello fellow gardening enthusiasts,

Lady Sapphire Bombay here, writing to you from my little patch at Mia Mia Manor. Well, its certainly been a long hard stretch for the garden this summer, but when isn't it?

I'm pleased to say that most seem to have survived. However, plantings that were put in 15 to 20 years ago e.g. daisies and the odd English plant, are on their last legs. Out they go!

If its native and tough, in they go in Autumn. Now I know that a budleia is not everyone's cup of tea, but they are tough as boots, and give a good show all summer. My hedge is a testament to that, having been there for at least ten years. It looked a bit woody last year, so I had Mr Thorn, my gardener, give it a chop down to its socks. Guess what? Came back better than ever.

Another great success has been the tubs of Canna Lillies, all along the back of the house. Have tried them in the ground, but they need too much water, and my soil is not really that great, even with all the composting and mulching. Thorn came up with a great idea, as he works at a winery nearby; half wine barrels are perfect for Cannas, as they retain water very well, or you can use any water retaining tubs. When finished in late Autumn, just chop them to the ground and subdivide for other pots next season.

I tend to propagate a lot of my plants in my hot house. Vegemite 'dip' is great for cuttings and much cheaper than powders.

On top of my little hot house, I have a large all weather clock. Very handy after a hard days work in the garden, because it tells me when its "Drinkies" time, which is now 5pm.

Mother's ruin, a G&T.

Happy horticultural conquests til next time.

LB



Midland is on the move!

Kyneton Midland Irrigation is relocating. Come and visit our new store opening Tuesday, March 15 just down the road at **10 Hoyle Court, Kyneton.**

\$20⁺

Present this ad to receive \$20 off your purchase at our new store*

New location, same great service.

10 Hoyle Court, Kyneton 3444 (Opening March 15)

Ph: 03 5422 0000 • www.midlandirrigation.com.au

*Conditions apply

CAMP OUT



Get back to nature at Hanging Rock's annual camp out ! Pack your tent, sleeping bag and pillow and get set for a camping experience like no other, as Macedon Ranges Council hosts the annual Hanging Rock Camp Out on Saturday 2 April.

Open for one night only to a limited number of campers, be transfixed by the mystery and magic of Hanging Rock under the moonlight.

The local SES are providing a barbecue dinner for a small fee, and with your cooking taken care of, you're free to join the guided night walk exploring the reserve's flora and fauna.

For those that prefer to sit back with family and friends and soak up the atmosphere, expect a dazzling array of stars on a clear night.

Zip up your tent for a good night's sleep, and wake on Sunday morning to birdsong and breakfast provided by the SES for a small fee.

Campers can set up from 4pm on Saturday 2 April, and must be packed up by 11am on Sunday 3 April. Campers are welcome to arrive earlier and stay later, but camps must be set up and packed up during the designated times.

Bookings are essential, with a limited number of places available on a first in, first served basis. Book online at mrsc.vic.gov.au/CampOut and for information phone Council's Recreation team on 5421 1468.

Camping fees are \$21 per adult, \$12.50 per child and \$54 per family. School and organised groups are also welcome to attend. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.



**TEA DANCE
SUNDAY
APRIL 10th**



REDESDALE HALL

REDESDALE FESTIVAL

Would you like to be part of the planning for this year's festival?
Come to a meeting at the Redesdale Hotel
at 7pm on Thursday March 3rd and find out what it's all about.



Get the facts on weeds: workshop and booklet

Do you know the difference between a noxious, environmental and agricultural weed?

Macedon Ranges Shire Council's free new booklet, Weeds of Central Victoria, is designed to help residents and landowners within the municipality to identify weeds in the area and offer appropriate solutions on how to treat them.

Produced in partnership with Mitchell Shire Council, Mount Alexander Shire Council and South West Goulburn Landcare Network, the booklet catalogues over 60 weeds, providing information on different control techniques for each weed as well as encouraging integrated weed management.

The handy guide also contains information on common or potentially harmful weeds.

Council's Director, Planning and Environment Sophie Segafredo said managing weeds is an important environmental issue, and one Council is committed to tackling head-on.

"Weeds pose a serious threat to local agriculture, local economies and our native plants and animals", she said.

"We have a range of initiatives and programs in place that are actioned through the shire to address the issue of noxious weeds, and this valuable new booklet is one of them. It's free, well-illustrated and informative—and aims to give us all the tools to tackle weeds together."

The Weeds of Central Victoria booklet is available online at mrsc.vic.gov.au/weeds, or you can pick up a hard copy at Council customer service centres in Gisborne, Kyneton, Woodend and Romsey.

Weeds 101 Workshop

Council's Environment team will run a free workshop for residents and landowners on weeds on Saturday 5 March from 10am-1pm in Newham.

Held at the Newham Mechanics Institute at 1292 Rochford Road, the two-hour workshop will cover topics including weed identification, weed control techniques, weed management and more.

To find out more or to book, contact Council's Environment team on 5421 9660 or environment@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Travels to Greenland

In September 2015 Rod and I were lucky enough to travel to some cool regions on a cruise that first took us to Ireland, then Iceland and thence on to this strange and huge island of ice they call Greenland.

Although it lies off the North American continent, Greenland is an autonomous Danish territory and its currency is the krone. It is about 80% covered in ice. Most of its small population lives along the ice-free, fjord-lined coast, particularly in the southwest. Its northerly position, largely above the Arctic Circle, results in natural phenomena such as summer's midnight sun and winter's Northern Lights. We were lucky enough to witness the lights one night from the back deck. A luminous turquoise light waved around the sky like a flag in slow motion. Greenland has been inhabited off and on for at least the last 4,500 years by Arctic peoples whose forebears migrated there from what is now Canada.



The vikings settled the southern tip in about 800 AD. We visited an archeological site where a viking village had been recreated. Norsemen settled the uninhabited southern part of Greenland, beginning in the 10th century, and Inuit peoples arrived in the 13th century.

The ice sheet which covers this, the largest non-continental island in the world, is between 2 and 3 kilometers thick. That is hard to get your head around! If the Greenland ice sheet were to melt away completely, the world's sea level would rise by more than 7 meters...and it is melting.

The people in Qaortoq were very welcoming. I wish I had taken the Bridge Connection for these girls to hold up for the Bridge Abroad competition.



Its lovely to travel but its good to be home and warm!

Kathy Hall

Most of the people earn their living fishing, whaling or sealing although tourism and connection to the world through the internet is giving them more options.



Get the tools you need to help teens in crisis

Do you want to learn how to help young people?

Fully accredited Youth Mental Health First Aid courses are available to parents, guardians and teachers in the Macedon Ranges who are interested in learning how to assist young people experiencing mental health problems.

This award-winning course teaches adults first aid skills to give initial help to young people who are in a mental health crisis situation or in the early stages of a mental illness. The 14-hour course covers topics such as anxiety, depression, psychosis, alcohol abuse and other drug issues and eating disorders.

The program of dates for 2016's Youth Mental Health First Aid courses are below:

Dates:	2, 9, 16 and 23 March, 6pm–9.30pm
Where:	Leadlight Room, Holgates, High Street, Woodend
Dates:	7 and 14 May, 9am–4.30pm
Where:	Romsey Community Hub, 96–100 Main Street, Romsey
Dates:	13, 20, 27 July and 3 August, 6pm–9.30pm
Where:	Leadlight Room, Holgates, High Street, Woodend
Dates:	13 and 20 August, 9am–4.30pm
Where:	Gisborne Administration Centre, 40 Robertson Street
Dates:	5, 12, 19 and 26 October, 6pm–9.30pm
Where:	Newman Room, Kyneton Town Hall, 129 Mollison Street

FARMERS' MARKETS

Woodend Community Farmers' Market
Sat March 5th
Cnr High & Forest Streets, Woodend
0487 444 090 Sharon Kittson

Daylesford Farmer's Market
Sat March 5th
Daylesford Primary School
03 5664 0096 Peter Arnold

Kyneton Farmers' Market
Sat March 12th
St Pauls Park, Piper Street, Kyneton
54 221 025 Veronica Manifold

Riddells Creek Farmers' Market
Sat March 19th
Riddells Creek Primary School, Riddells Creek
0408 254 626 Ali Bant

Heathcote Region Farmers' Market
Sat March 19th
Barrack Reserve, High Street, Heathcote
Sherrie Coote 0417 598 460

Lancefield & District Farmers' Market
Sat March 19th
Centre Plantation, High Street, Lancefield
0407 860 320 Meggs Hannes

Maldon Market
Sun March 13th
www.maldonncc.org.au/ifv

The Great Victorian Bike Ride 2015

The Great Victorian Bike Ride 2015 passed through Redesdale on Saturday, 5th December in what proved to be some very hot conditions. The 3,500 participants had the choice of a three day option and a ten day option, camping in various towns on their way around Victoria. The Rural Cafe in Redesdale was perfectly positioned to tempt the riders with cold drinks and icecreams as they made it to the top of the steep hill, after passing through the Redesdale Bridge from Heathcote on their way to Sutton Grange.

Pictured are a father and son team from Altona; six year old Thomas Hicks and his father Chris, who rode with Thomas' uncle and his two Cousins aged eight and twelve. Thomas was one of the youngest who was peddling a bike. There were a few other younger children who were on in a trailer or in a baby seat getting pulled.

Chris writes that he was very proud of Thomas, admitting that he did have concerns taking on the ride as the days were 90km, 70km and 60 km. He says that Thomas peddled well; stating there were times that Chris wanted to pull up on a large hill for a rest, but that Thomas was keen not to stop and gave his father the push he needed to keep going. It has to be said that it was quite an outstanding achievement by all who rode in this gruelling event in such hot conditions, let alone a determined young man from Altona named Thomas Hicks. Congratulations to all participants!

Carolyn-Anne Boyd



Council proposes target for reducing greenhouse emissions

A 25% reduction in greenhouse emissions is one of the key objectives proposed in Council's draft environment strategy, which will be released for public comment next week.

"We want to lead the way with our response to climate change, which is why we're aiming to reduce Council's emissions by 25%" said Mayor, Cr Graham Hackett.

"The draft strategy also contains actions for biodiversity, catchment management and resource management. It will guide and build on Council's environmental programs and support the great work already happening across the community for a better environmental future."

The new environment strategy will set out how Council and the community can work together to protect and enhance our unique environment. It will underpin Council's policy development, decision making and activities which impact on our environment and local communities. It will also foster environmentally sustainable and responsible behaviour to reduce our collective environmental footprint.

The draft strategy takes into account public feedback during the consultation period in 2015. It will be on public exhibition from 23 February to 24 March and community feedback is invited via written submissions or a short online survey.

Council encourages residents to view the draft strategy and complete the survey at mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay or via hard copy at Council's service centres.

LISA CHESTERS AND NBN

On Tuesday 16 February, Federal Member for Bendigo Lisa Chesters MP, co-hosted a Community Meeting with the Redesdale residents to discuss telecommunications issues facing locals.

"Central Victoria is in a telecommunications crisis. Each and every day people across the Bendigo electorate contact me to voice their frustration and disappointment with internet service and mobile coverage issues. This year, I have committed to talk to as many communities as possible to find out about the particular communications problems experienced across the electorate," said Ms Chesters.

"What I am seeing is an increasing digital divide between metropolitan areas and rural and regional areas. As more of our everyday lives moves online, areas without internet and mobile access are increasingly disadvantaged."

Whilst there are some common issues across the electorate, Ms Chesters has found that some communities have unique problems.



Kath Hall and Lisa Chesters at the Redesdale meeting.

"Each community has its own story to tell on this issue and it is important I hear these stories so I can raise them in Parliament."

Currently some Redesdale residents have access to fixed wireless NBN, although some complaints about drop outs were raised at the meeting.

The lack of adequate mobile phone coverage was also certainly a significant area of concern for local residents.

"Local people know their region and can readily identify where the shadows and black spots are. Ideas about solutions for some of the communications issues in Redesdale were put forward at the meeting and I am keen to explore these possibilities further with both NBN Co and Telstra," Ms Chesters said.

"I will now raise the issues discussed at the Redesdale Community Meeting with the Minister for Communications, NBN Co and Telstra. I also encourage local communities to continue to be proactive – write to local Councils and State MPs, get a petition going and keep sending your stories through to me."

If you would like to contact Lisa Chesters about a communications issue or experience, please phone 5443 9055, email lisa.chesters.mp@aph.gov.au or mail to PO Box 338, Bendigo 3552.

IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO ORGANISE A PETITION OR PRESSURE GROUP - PLEASE CALL KATHY ON 0407 116 899

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF A FINE AND UNASSUMING MAN

Russel Evans passed away on December 17th 2015 at the young age of 63. He spent most of his life in Brighton, Melbourne, and began sailing when he was 6 years old.

Those who knew Russel in Redesdale would have been largely unaware of his spectacular success as a sailor. Nor would they know that in yachting circles he was simply known as "Budgie"! He was an unassuming man and never boasted of his considerable achievements. For example, he crewed Challenge 12, a challenger in the 1983 famous Americas Cup. He was a sought-after crew member on many Sydney-Hobart races over the years.

Every year, a helicopter would land on the Redesdale Reserve especially to take Russel to the Bendigo Cup as the owner, a friend of Russel's, had horses racing there and Russel was essential to the enjoyment of the day!

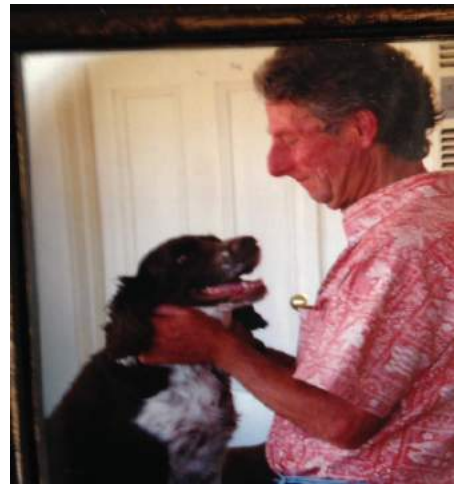
Russel and Deidre moved to their Rocklands property in North Redesdale Road in 2006. At first they thought to use the property as a weekenders but after Russel's retirement a couple of years later, they moved here full time.

Russel became a committed and valued member of the CFA and later secretary of the Redesdale Recreation Reserve Committee.

Unfortunately, Russel became ill 18 months ago and underwent a great deal of difficult treatment with Deidre constantly at his side.

The Royal Brighton Yacht Club hosted a celebration of Russel's life on Friday 12th February. Four hundred people attended, and a friend organised a double fly past in front of the yacht club. Members of the Redesdale CFA attended (see picture) as did a number of old and new friends.

Russel was a quiet, kind man who will be sorely missed by his friends, family and yachting fraternity.



Russel and Lucinda



Attending the Celebration at the Royal Brighton Yacht Club

Top picture: Shane McGrath, Andrew Campbell, Yvonne McGrath, Jimmy Boyd, Carolyn Boyd, Deidre Hankinson, Lindsay Booker.

REDESDALE PRECINCT

During early 2015, following a community meeting, a number of "Key Communicators" were appointed to work with the City of Greater Bendigo contracted organisation (Community Leadership, Loddon Murray Inc.) to produce a feasibility study into the possibility of achieving the goals outlined in the current Redesdale Community Plan (Revised 2013).

The feasibility study was released in July 2015 and made a number of recommendations. The document can be viewed on the redesdale.net website and there is also a link to it on the Bridge Connection Facebook page.

In short, the study recommended that the following recommendation be pursued:

"Implement the improvement plans for the Reserve including additional facilities for emergency services and tourists, and redevelop the existing Hall space to incorporate a private multipurpose room, compliant kitchen and toilets, storage facilities and internet connection. (Estimated investment of \$550,000.)"

The Feasibility Study and its recommendations was then presented to the Councillors by Key Communicators, on December 9th, the delay being largely due to a change in the State Government. The presentation was successful and at their meeting in mid December, the Councillors voted to endorse the Feasibility Study and its recommendations.

The large amount of money needed required to fulfill these recommendations will be sought through State, Local and other grant bodies. In order to present a case to continue along this path a business case must be produced. The next step in this process is to seek a contractor, through tender, to produce a business case document.

All these processes take time and it is extremely frustrating to those who really want to get on with the job of improving the Hall and its surroundings.

The term "precinct" was coined by the author of the Feasibility Study, Kerry Anderson, as she wished to emphasise the fact that Redesdale lies at a crossroads to many places and that other communities utilise Redesdale's facilities because they are of a generous size.

The process continues and updates will be communicated when there is any more news. This could be an exciting year for Redesdale.

Kath Hall



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Mr S. R. W. Hills appointed Redesdale hatchery supervisor

8 December 1916 -

A reporter stopped by Campaspe Valley farm to chat with Mr Simon Hills who has been appointed egg supervisor at the Campaspe Valley farm. Pictured here, Simon attentively watches over a batch of Guinea fowl eggs.

New to the task, he is the first to admit he isn't entirely au fait with the fine art of poultry raising and admitted to a somewhat

queer aversion to feathers in his past, but has taken to his duties with great enthusiasm and aplomb.

Each morning at precisely 0900 hrs Hills, chick crumbs at the ready, checks in on the condition of the fowl eggs and reports daily to the manager, Ms. H. Wilson, of any developments. The latest report is that,

"nothing has happened yet"

Granted, the eggs are predicted to hatch tomorrow to which Mr. Hills quipped gaily, "I am quite sure not to get a wink of sleep tonight" such is the anticipation of the appearance of these beautiful little Numididae.

At 1700 hrs he and Ms. Wilson will retire for well earned refreshments.



CONGRATULATIONS to OUR CALLUM!

Once again the Heathcote and District Community Bank has awarded a scholarship to a young community member to assist them in undertaking tertiary education.

Congratulations to Callum Jones from Mia Mia who is the 2016 winner. The scholarship is funded by profits earned by the Community Bank from its operations in providing full service banking to Heathcote and district. Those profits fund a large variety of activities in Heathcote each year, but Barry Cail, Chairman of the Bank, said 'there is no more important thing we can do with our community grant money than help a young person further their education. The selection committee, headed by Simon Osicka looked for a person who had already demonstrated a level of achievement and a commitment to their local community. "We believe Callum fitted these criteria admirably and are very pleased to award him the scholarship"

Simon said .

"The cost of tertiary education puts rural students at a disadvantage as they often have to relocate or commute. Callum, through his excellent ATAR result, has the opportunity to advance his passion for electronics by doing his chosen course at RMIT. Callum through his efforts in the local area, including the Mia Mia Muster, also demonstrated a level of community involvement we were looking for."

Callum completed year 12 in 2015 at Kynton Secondary College and has enrolled with RMIT in Melbourne to complete an Engineering degree specialising in electronics and communication engineering. The scholarship will assist in covering the expenses faced when attending tertiary education away from home and is designed to make the earlier years easier."

(Callum has also been assisting with advertising in the Bridge Connection - Editors)



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Immerse yourself in
Japanese culture and learn
more about our Sister City
at one of the many events
being held from 16-18 March.



Details: mrsc.vic.gov.au/cultural-diversity
Phone: 5422 0333

Parliament House opens its doors 6 March 2016

Member for Euroa and Deputy Leader of The Nationals Steph Ryan has invited residents of the Euroa electorate to visit Parliament House for its annual Open Day on Sunday 6 March 2016.

Ms Ryan said the day offered visitors the chance to explore areas of Parliament House not usually open to the public.

"Visitors can sit in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council chambers as well as visit the Parliamentary library," Ms Ryan said.

"They can see the committee room, the Speaker's and members' offices and have lunch in the parliamentary gardens.

"There will also be a special opportunity to enjoy morning or afternoon tea in the Member's Dining Room, something not many get to do."

Ms Ryan said this year's open day celebrates the 160th anniversary of the Victorian Parliament.

"This is a great opportunity for Victorians to see their Parliament, tour the beautiful building and grounds and gain an appreciation of what goes on inside," Ms Ryan said.

"Entry is free and there will be exhibits from all departments.

"I encourage anyone who is interested to come make the most of the day."

Baynton Sidonia Landcare Group's Seminar on Grasslands

A fascinating and well attended seminar about local native grass species, organised by the Baynton Sidonia Landcare Group, took place on Sunday November 22, 2015 in the Baynton Hall. It was titled "Remnant Local Grasslands: their composition and finding them" and was presented by botanist Paul Foreman.

Paul spoke about his research into the pre settlement landscape, which would have included sparsely treed areas of grassland, as well as forest. He had samples of many different grasses, some of which he distributed to everyone in the room. He explained how to identify them by getting the participants to literally break down each grass sample into its separate parts and examine them.

Paul emphasised the importance of being able to identify remnant indigenous grass species that could be conserved, and being able to identify introduced species, so they may be able to be controlled or discouraged. There are useful identification aids online (the ausgrass2 website, the Australian Virtual Herbarium, and The Flora of Victoria online were mentioned) and the Herbarium in the Royal Botanic Gardens in Melbourne can sometimes help (for a fee).

Paul also provided practical advice on collecting grass seeds, preparing ground for planting them, and ways to encourage native grasses and discourage weeds (or too many trees) from taking over.

The seminar then moved outside into the Baynton Hall parking enclosure, which had kindly been left unmown, and Paul identified indigenous and introduced grasses.

After a delicious lunch the participants drove a short distance to explore a remnant of grassland on a roadside area, and the differences to the paddock beside it.

It was a pleasure to attend such a well presented and well organised event, and to learn more about the importance of grasslands as part of conservation planning.

Catriona Prictor

Stampin' Up!® Classes to start at the Redesdale Hall



Welcome to 2016. This year is going to be the beginning of an exciting year for crafters. Available is the annual Catalogue, the new seasonal 'Occasions' Catalogue as well as the mini 'Sale-A-Brations' Catalogue, featuring lots of wonderful deals eg: During 'Sale-A-Brations' you can become a demonstrator for just \$169.00 and choose \$60 more of FREE products for your Starter Kit and for every \$90 you spend, you get one FREE product. It's the perfect time to purchase products you've had your eye on! These offers are for a limited-time only until 31st March so don't miss out!

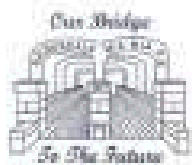


Now that 2016 has started and school has returned so has Jenny's workshops at the Redesdale Hall. You can visit Jenny's website for further information or receive notification via a mail drop. Keep in mind that bookings are essential due to limited seating. More exciting news, on the 13th March 2016, Redesdale will once again host it's annual Bush Market. Jenny is thrilled and delighted as an Independent Stampin' Up!(R) Demonstrator to take the opportunity to display her very first card stall, featuring a range of cards for you to purchase as well as demonstrating some techniques using the Stampin' Up!(R) products. Also, she will be covering an Easter display too. On the day, you will have the chance to enter a draw simply by leaving your details with Jenny. The winner will receive a beautiful stamp set from the 'Sale-A-Brations' Catalogue and she will be more than happy to answer any questions you might have. So come along and be sure to look out for Jenny's stall.

Jenny Tomisic
2609 Main Road, Redesdale 3444
ph: 54253154,
website: [http://jenzstampingfunhouse.](http://jenzstampingfunhouse.stampinup.net)
stampinup.net
facebook: jenz stamping funhouse



Participants in the grassland seminar



Redesdale-Mia Mia Primary School

Respect, Responsibility and Resilience

Principal - Joe Sebire

Phone - 5425 3155; Email - redesdale.mia.mia.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Swimming

At the start of term the school went to Kyneton for swimming where the children learnt safety skills in and around the water. They also enjoyed the day they wore their PJs into the water. The grade 5/6 children also went to Eppalock to do 'Open Course Water' with Surf Lifesaving Victoria.



Welcome

We welcome Skye to our school. She is our new 'prep'. We welcome her and her family to the school. We also welcome Ms McNielly to our school. "Bu Mac" will be here on Tuesdays to teach the children Indonesian.



Kitchen to Garden

This year the school is doing a 'kitchen to garden' program which involves making new garden beds and planting. The children will cook produce from the garden every second week. We would like donations and volunteers to help this program.



Leaders 2016

At the start of the year the grade six children wrote a speech about how they could be good leaders of the school. Everyone in the school voted on who their school leaders for 2016 would be. Congratulations Luca and Chelsea!



Term 1 Theme is "Who Are We?"

We are investigating our family history and cultures of the world.

Redesdale Recreational Reserve Committee Inc

Chairman's Monthly Report

February-2016

Hi Redesdalians,

Well 2015 has passed us by and here we are already into 2016. We can now look forward to exciting times ahead with the tenure of the committee ending on the 12th March and the new committee elected on the 2nd February at the Tri-Annual General Meeting. The new committee members are: Chairman: Les Pocock, Secretary: Lindsay Booker, Treasurer: Simon Hills, General Members: Rod Gibson, Michael Abramowski, Emma Simpson, Andrew Campbell, Gary Prendergast and Ronn Taylor. The Committee on behalf of the community, would like to thank the retiring members for their tireless efforts; thank you to Yvonne McGrath, Sue Newnham, Carolyn Boyd and Tasman Johnson. We wish you all the best for the future.

To start the year, you will have noticed the bench seats have finally been installed, and don't they look good? Thanks to CoGB. You will have also noticed in passing, members working on the fence on the Lyall-Kyneton Rd corner, this should give drivers better vision at the corner with the fence line at 45 degrees and some scrubs removed.

Work will begin shortly on the pavilion as we now have a building permit. Progress will be slow as the committee decides how we will raise the funds to complete it in stages. We invite members of the community to contribute ideas and suggestions for raising funds.

We have a number of projects which we hope to achieve over the next three years that will make Redesdale a great place to live in and enjoy.

You will have seen the notice regarding the bore water access (see page 13). I encourage those who have not made provision to collect water to do so as it will be locked on the 31st March. This is something we are forced to do by law.

In closing, I would like to say how excited the committee is about the next three years and thank those members of the community who have commented and encouraged us over the last twelve months. Til this time next month - keep smiling.

Les Pocock. Chairman. Redesdale Recreational Reserve Committee



Above: Residents attend the tri-annual meeting of the Reserve Committee.

Right: Andrew Plant (CoGB) chairs the meeting, Committee chairman Les Pocock and Lindsay Booker, secretary of the Reserve Committee.



CHERRY AND BRIAN TIE THE KNOT

Cherry Carter and Brian Lauder married at Mia Mia Uniting Church on December 5th last year. They held their reception at the Redesdale Hall. Cherry said, "We have known each other for just over ten years and decided it was time to 'tie the knot'. The proposal was in the Knowsley State Forest whilst collecting firewood. Brian produced a gorgeous engagement ring - so romantic! Locals joined friends and family from far and wide to celebrate our day and all agreed Redesdale was a real gem - a peaceful and serene place to make our future together. The reception in the hall was well catered for by the hall committee and the band played till midnight. The day was everything we wished for."



Send us a picture of your very special pet and a few words to describe him or her and why you love your pet so much. You will be in the running for a special prize (to the value of \$100) at the end of next year. Good luck!



Above: Sandra Aitken of Barfold Estate has sent this great picture of Tino. Always ready for a game or a chase. Cute huh?

Right: Benjamin, Simon and Holly Hills' very handsome boy. They miss him very much.

Right: "The Three Amigos on a Rock". Rob and Mike Abramowski's little angels. Glendene, Redesdale.



Connor Munro with his new puppy Murphy, named after the Western Bulldogs' Captain, Robert Murphy!

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Barfold treats all to a Robbie Burns Feast



It was a special night at Barfold Estate recently when the boys decided to "frock up" for the 257th anniversary of Robert Burns' birthday. Attendees were greeted by the pipers and the sound of bagpipes added a touch of grandeur to the district as guests arrived for the Robbie Burns birthday dinner on the 23rd January.

Robert Burns was Scotland's most famous poet and his birthday is celebrated around the world with traditional Scottish fare – haggis, neaps, and tatties washed down with a great selection of highland malt whisky, of course!

Those who weren't all that keen on traditional Scottish fare were not left out however – there was a fantastic four-course meal prepared by local chef Roland Schaedle. "It was a Scottish inspired dinner designed to complement the Haggis and featured some of our superb local lamb and Australian salmon followed by a traditional dessert called Topsy Laird" said Mr

Schaedle. "I have been cooking for Burns Night for several years now so have spent a long time searching out the best suppliers in Victoria for traditional haggis and there is always a lot of discussion with the organizers, Brian Paterson and Chris Simpson, both Scots, to ensure we are preparing a real Scottish meal. The food is served with some of the fine wines from our local vineyards and it is a fun event to cook for".

This event is steeped in ancient traditions such as the piping in of the haggis, the reading of poetry and what Burns Night would be complete without some great Scottish ballads?

Guests were treated to many Scottish tunes played by talented pipers, Ian Stewart from Melbourne and Greg Parker from Kyneton. Diners were also treated to some Australian tunes on the bagpipes which added a quirky touch to the evening's entertainment! The organizers would like to thank Roland Schaedle, Coliban Valley Wines, Rowanston on the Track winery and Barfold Estate for their

continued on next page

Redesdale Bush Market

Sunday 13th March 2016

Agnes Mudford Reserve,

2631 Kyneton - Heathcote Rd, Redesdale, 3444.

The Redesdale Hall Committee are holding their annual Bush Market in 2016 on the Labour Day long weekend at the Agnes Mudford Reserve offering something of interest for all ages.

The Committee are pleased to announce that the "Bendigo and District Concert Band" will once again be entertaining the crowds.

Children's entertainment includes : face painting by "Pass-The-Parcel", an animal farm and a jumping castle. Several members of the "Kyneton Vehicle Appreciation Society" will be displaying their vehicles on the day.

The "Australian Hearing Bus" will be in attendance offering free hearing checks.

The market begins at 9.00 am and finishes at 2.00 pm on Sunday, 13th March.

*****Please Note - Limited Food and Plant Stall sites still available, amongst others.*****

Enjoy a wide selection of stalls, ranging from local produce including wine tasting, olives, apples, honey, jams, chutneys, preserves, beef jerky, cakes and plants, through to clothing - new, pre-loved and vintage, fishing tackle, tools, art, photography, craft items, children's plaster crafts, crochet, bags & baskets, glassware, crockery, toys, bric a brac, bbq lunch, devonshire tea, great coffee and lots more! Why not invite your family and friends along to explore this very picturesque area in Central Victoria and make a day of it? Bring along a picnic rug or chair, enjoy the music and take in the local surroundings. (Please note that the weather can be quite different to other areas - sometimes drier! If in doubt, it's a good idea to check with the Weather Bureau.)

All Welcome!

Outside Stalls Available - \$20.00.

Bookings and Enquiries:

Alwyn - 0419 513 976 or Carolyn - 03 5425 3194.

Like & share us on Facebook: "Redesdale Bush Market 2016"

Redesdale Bush Market proudly sponsored by:

**Redesdale Roofing & Plumbing The Redesdale Hotel
Rebel Sport Bendigo**

Robbie Burns Feast continued:

kind sponsorship of the evening. All proceeds from the event will go to the Redesdale and the Langley/Barfold CFAs. It was a great night of entertainment.



Battle of the Bridge



Its on again! On Nov 1st 2015 the inaugural Battle of the Bridge cricket match was played at Redesdale Oval between Mia Mia and Redesdale Rockets. Mia Mia won. Redesdale will seek revenge at Mia Mia on **Saturday March 19th.**

PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT YOUR TEAM
The game of 30 overs per side starts at 11am. Food and drink will be provided including a gourmet lunch.

9

Recipe of the Month



Hazelnut Cake - Gluten Free

5 eggs - separated
250 gms castor sugar
1 tsp vanilla extract
250 gms ground hazelnuts
500mls thickened cream
1 tbs icing sugar
3 tsp instant coffee

Preheat oven to 180 deg C
Beat egg yolks, sugar and vanilla until thick.
Beat egg whites until stiff and fold into yolk mixture.
Carefully fold in ground hazelnuts.
Pour into prepared (22cm) springform tin.
Cook for 45 mins.

Whip cream with icing sugar and coffee.
Slice cake in half and sandwich coffee cream between layers. Garnish with coffee cream and add extra hazelnuts and strawberries.

This is a really easy and impressive cake!

Come and try our coffee at the

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Full Page	270mm x 190mm	\$175	\$1,750

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For other editorial enquiries, please phone **0407 116 899**

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The Bridge Abroad

proudly sponsored by Bendigo Travel and Cruise 5441 8811



New sponsored travel page! A prize at the end of next year!

Bendigo Travel and Cruise have sponsored this regular section of your Bridge Connection! Next time you go away (Australia or overseas) send us a pic of you or a friend holding a copy of the Bridge Connection and we will enter it for a prize weekend away at the end of next year.



How about these amazing Bridge Abroad photos?

On the left, Lucy Truelson, a frequent visitor to Redesdale who subscribes to the Bridge Connection, settles in on her break to read the December edition while Mek Kapah and friends try to read over her shoulder. They know a good publication when they see one! This was taken at the Melbourne Zoo where Lucy works with the elephants.

And below, Chrissie Gillies, a longtime resident who runs a B and B and produces excellent wine at Rupert's Ridge, carried the Bridge Connection on her amazing Grand Tour! Here she is in Moscow, in Red Square in front of St Basil's Cathedral. She wrote, "Bridge Connection - I always take it with me in case I'm bored!"

Come on everybody! Let's have your Bridge Abroad photos!



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