

Stratford Lodge sells for over 3 million



SALE OF STRATFORD LODGE

A large crowd attended the sale of Stratford Lodge, Metcalfe, on Saturday May 19th. The auction was conducted by Tom May of Jellis Craig Macedon Ranges, who reminded people with the current and future overcrowding of Melbourne this market has become significantly active. The message was obviously taken to heart by his audience with 4 bidders. After an interesting bidding duel by the final 2, with no doubt strategically planned moves, the final bid of \$3,280,000 was obtained.

The homestead is on the Register of the National Estate, where it is described as "an early surviving homestead with historical associations and of architectural importance."

Stratford Lodge homestead and its now surrounding 216 hectares is the last significant remnant of the rush to obtain land in the Coliban district, following Major Mitchell's

exploration of "Australia Felix" in 1836. The land was originally taken up by William Umphelby, before it was sold to James Orr sometime in 1840. It was James Orr who built the substantial homestead, still in use today. The Orr family's hold on Stratford ended in 1857 when for several years it was owned by the colourful Hugh Glass who in 1862 was a dominant figure in the land dealing frenzy of the time. It is doubtful if he ever spent any time there.

Enter John Mactier who purchased the property in 1869 and for the next 141 years it was held by Mactier descendants. Rosie Mactier and her husband David Broadbent were the last to live there with a Mactier connection and it was she who sold it to the most recent occupants, Peter and Gina Frith.

Jill James

**Don't forget our Community Grants
program coming up in July!**

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BIRD QUIZ with NIGEL HARLAND



If you think you know what bird this is, and you haven't received a prize before, please send in the name of the bird and your name, email and postal address and you could be in running for a \$20 book voucher from Aesops Attic book shop in Kyneton.

Send it to bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com

Last month's bird was the White-plumed Honeyeater. This is one of our more common honeyeaters and has a preference for River Red Gum trees, although it can be found in many other habitats. It can be found in all areas of Australia apart from the far North and the South-west.

Our bird for next month is also of the Honeyeater family.

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This is Ollie and Milla Truelson playing with Dorothy and Daniel from Coliban Springs. Happiness is a warm puppy.



This is Darcy. He is 7 and a half years old and totally spoilt. Gloria & Les Pocock.

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Editorial

Hello Readers,

Another jam-packed edition for you this month. Don't forget the Winter Wine and Dine event on the Queens Birthday long weekend (see page 8). Its always very good.

The annual biggest morning tea is on the 14th June (see page 9). Great to see the school children and the Hall Committee working together as usual. Also, there are some important safety messages from the CFA on page 4.

We have a new advertiser, the Heathcote Dental and Kyneton Dental clinics. Please think about supporting our advertisers and mentioning Bridge Connection when you do! We are thinking about having a fundraising event for Bridge Connection in early October to give us some financial breathing space to take us into next year in a better position. Watch this space for more news about the event.

Stay warm!



Regina Bennett



Kathy Hall

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BRIDGE CONNECTION COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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CONTENTS

Regular articles	Page	Special articles	Page
Advertising rates	3	Could it be as simple as ABCD	9
Bird Quiz	2	Drivers face harsh penalties	12
Bridge Connection contact	3	Kerry Anderson	18
CFA update	4	Little Treasures	21
Church Services	7	Preventing Dog Attacks	5
Dr Tim	20	Stratford Lodge Sale	1
Editorial	3	The Silo Art Trail	19
Farmers' markets	14	Winter Wine & Dine Redesdale	8
Garden Patch	14 & 15		
Hall Happenings	18		
Letters to the Editors	22		
Local Contacts	See April edition		
Pet Pals	2		
Politics	10 & 11		
Quote of the month	7		
Rainfall	7		
Recipe of the month	19		
RMMP School	16		
RRRC Chairman's report	17		
Subscription	23		
The Munro Letters	6		
What's on in Heathcote	13		
		Notices	Page
		Biggest Morning Tea	9
		Defibrillator	7
		Kyneton Badminton Association	11
		Mia Mia Community Planing	13
		Party Hire Equipment	7
		Redesdale Hall Hire	3
		Sutton Grandge Hall Dates	5



Amenities are available for catering, meetings, weddings and club or family celebrations.

Please phone

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.

Roaster for Hire

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)

Phone **0418 130 206.**



VISIT THE NEW REDESDALE WEBSITE

www.redesdale.net

It was only a month ago we were waiting for Fire Restrictions to be lifted – we had successive 30 plus degree days. We are now in the throes of Winter, so we are all spending more time inside, getting that fireplace going for the first time.

It is a time when our attention turns to house fires, and here are a few tips on how to prevent serious harm in your home.

Kitchen – Cooking in the kitchen is the single largest cause of fires in the home. A fire in your kitchen can cause extensive damage. Kitchen fires are responsible for a high level of personal injury.

Some safety measures you can take are:

- ALWAYS SUPERVISE CHILDREN IN THE KITCHEN
- KEEP THEM AWAY FROM THE STOVE
- KEEP POT HANDLES TURNED IN
- KEEP STOVE TOP, GRILLER, OVEN, RANGE HOOD AND COOKING AREA FREE FROM BUILT UP GREASE, DUST AND OIL.
- STAY IN THE KITCHEN AND NEVER LEAVE COOKING UNATTENDED.
- KEEP COMBUSTIBLES SUCH AS PAPER TOWELS AND TEA TOWELS AWAY FROM COOKING AND HEAT SOURCES.
- MAKE SURE KITCHEN APPLIANCES ARE IN GOOD WORKING ORDER.

Bedroom – Fire risk is greatest at night when you are asleep. When we sleep we can lose our sense of smell. Without a working smoke alarm you may not wake up or wake up too late to safely escape.

- DO NOT SMOKE IN BED
- ENSURE POWERED ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES ARE NOT LEFT ON BEDDING (LIKE LAPTOPS, IPADS, HAIR DRYERS)
- AN EXTRA SMOKE ALARM IN EVERY BEDROOM WHERE THE DOOR IS CLOSED WHEN SLEEPING.
- HEAT BAGS SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A BED WARMER, AND YOU SHOULD ALWAYS FOLLOW MANUFACTURERS INSTRUCTIONS

Heating – Fires caused by in-home heating such as portable heaters, and wood/slow combustions heaters, increase during winter months.

- CHIMNEYS AND FLUES SHOULD BE CLEANED REGULARLY – PROFESSIONALS ARE AVAILABLE.
- YOU CAN USE A TORCH TO CHECK FOR CREOSOTE BUILD-UP OR OBSTRUCTIONS.
- ONLY BURN CLEAN, DRY WOOD. NEVER BURN TREATED TIMBER AS FUMES CAN BE DANGEROUS.
- DRYING CLOTHES AND OTHER ITEMS MUST BE KEPT AT LEAST ONE METRE AWAY FROM ALL HEATING.
- ALWAYS USE A FIRE SCREEN IN FRONT OF AN OPEN FIRE.
- KEEP WOOD AND OTHER COMBUSTIBLES AT LEAST ONE METRE FROM FIRE.
- CHILDREN MUST BE SUPERVISED NEAR ALL TYPES OF HEATING.

Electricity – Using damaged electrical equipment and appliances can result in a fire. Only use appliances in good working order.

- ENSURE MONITORS, LAPTOPS, TELEVISIONS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT HAVE GOOD AIR FLOW AROUND THEM AND ARE NOT IN CONFINED SPACES OR COVERED.
- TURN OFF ALL ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AT THE POWER POINT WHEN NOT IN USE.

- AVOID USING DOUBLE ADAPTORS.
- USE LOW WATTAGE GLOBES IN LAMPS.
- NEVER OVERLOAD POWERBOARDS.

Open Flame – Candles incense and oil burners are popular. It is vital when using these items that you do so safely to avoid starting a fire. Consider using battery powered candles.

- KEEP CURTAINS AND COMBUSTIBLES AWAY FROM OPEN FLAMES AT ALL TIMES.
- ONLY USE CANDLES, INCENSE AND OIL BURNERS ON STABLE NON-COMBUSTIBLE SURFACES.
- ALWAYS EXTINGUISH CIGARETTES, CANDLES, INCENSE AND OIL BURNERS BEFORE LEAVING HOME OR GOING TO SLEEP.

Laundry – The laundry contains electrical items and water, which can be a dangerous combination.

- KEEP ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES AWAY FROM WATER.
- ALWAYS LET CLOTHES DRYER COMPLETE COOLDOWN CYCLE BEFORE STOPPING
- CLEAN LINT FILTER AFTER EACH USE.
- STORE CHEMICALS SAFELY AND OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

Home escape plan – Make sure you can get out of your home in an emergency. Remember, you can't escape if you have deadlocked your door.

- GET DOWN LOW AND STAY OUT OF THE SMOKE
- MEET AT A SAFE PLACE SUCH AS LETTERBOX OR WASHING-LINE OUTSIDE YOUR HOME AND ENSURE EVERYONE IS OUT.
- GET OUT AND STAY OUT.
- MOST IMPORTANTLY PRACTICE THIS DRILL AND ENSURE OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS ARE AWARE OF YOUR MEETING PLACE.

For further information, there are plenty of useful pamphlets available from the Redesdale Fire Station or feel free to meet and talk with the fire brigade members any Sunday morning from 9am till 11am or contact

Andrew Campbell, Fire Prevention Officer on 0428 253104.



Sutton Grange Hall Events

Tuesday 19 June Bingo and Pizza. Start 6 pm. \$10 per card includes pizza.

Saturday 14 July Mid-year Feast. 6 pm start. A catered dinner of 2 courses. Details TBA.

Saturday 4 August Trivia night. 7 pm start. \$5 per head for participants. Supper provided. Prize for winning table.

Monday 27 August AGM. 7.30 start. All welcome.
Bring ideas for management and events.

Saturday 1 September Sports night. 7 pm start. Table tennis, carpet bowls etc. bring supper to share.

Saturday 22 September Fun night 7 pm start. Games. bring a plate for supper.

Wednesday 21 October 21st Treasure hunt. 10 am start. \$2 per child, \$5 per family. Morning tea provided.

Saturday 10 Nov 10th Bingo. 7 pm start. \$5 per card. Supper provided. Prizes for winners .

Sunday 2 December 2nd Christmas Tea. Satrt 6 pm. bring a main and desert to share. Santa visits at 8 pm.



Preventing dog attacks in our community

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is asking dog owners to check their pets are adequately confined to their properties following a series of recent dog attacks.

Council officers responded to a number of reports of dog attacks recently, some which were very serious where livestock, wildlife and pets were injured and/or killed.

Council is encouraging pet owners to ensure their dogs are adequately confined in a property, gates are closed and locked, and regularly checking gaps in fences so dogs can't escape.

If resident's see a dog wandering, especially if it is displaying threatening behaviour, call Council immediately so officers can try and prevent an incident from occurring.

For further information on dog attack prevention or on responsible pet ownership, contact Council on 5422 0333 or email mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au, or visit the State Government's Responsible Pet Ownership

website via <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/pets>

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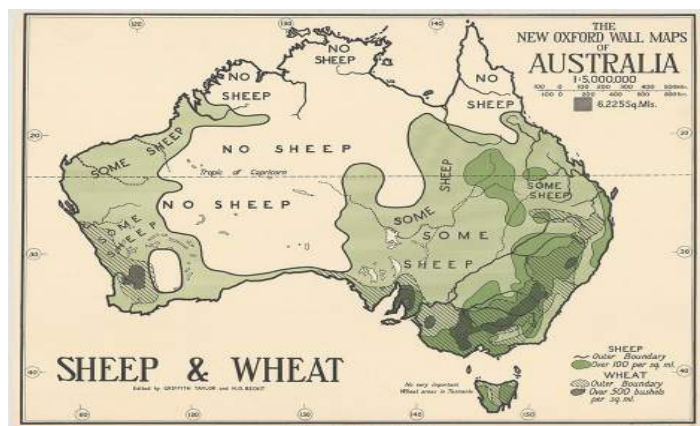
THE MUNRO LETTERS

Episode 14

We continue the 1842 letter from David Munro to brother Alex in Scotland

Here, David Munro continues to quote 'The Saxon' from the Sydney Morning Herald: "The increase in 1841 upon 1840 was only from 26,000 to 27,000 bales of wool or about 4 per cent. Nearly 200,000 sheep and as many hundreds of horses and cattle were lost last year to the value of at the least £100,000 for want of water." The first remark I will make upon this quotation is that letter writers in Australian newspapers are not in the habit of representing matters worse than they are, so that whenever any statement does appear calculated to have an injurious effect upon the colony, it may be implicitly relied on and very safely considered as rather under than above the mark. I consider this quotation then as proving that the country is nearly full. With regard to the districts which he mentions, I have told you what I myself saw "to the rear of Port Phillip" but at the same time I believe from what I was told that there was unoccupied country in the Portland Bay district this time last year. Moreton Bay is the direction in which the colony is at present extending, but it is not far from the tropics and there is every reason to think that sheep farming cannot be prosecuted much further in that direction. It therefore appears that the production of wool has nearly reached its limit as far as N.S.W. is concerned and that it is on the verge of that condition at which we hypothetically assumed the country to arrive.

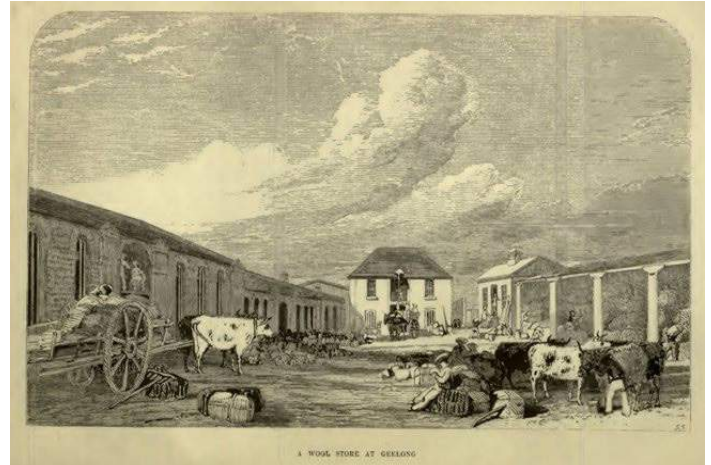
When I left home, I had not the least idea of this. I fancied that the extent of country suited for pastoral purposes was immense. In particular, it appeared to me impossible that all that fine country so recently made known by Major Mitchell could be occupied and in this direction, I imagined to myself the colony taking a great and prosperous extension. The information I acquired from actual settlers, and the ocular inspection of the district proved to me that the country was nearly full, and in some directions settlers had pushed into country which may be almost pronounced unfit for the reception of man. By the simple train of reasoning that I have unfolded to you, I saw the effect this must have upon the price of sheep. It was indeed already apparent and becoming more so every day. I saw that the majority of the settlers led a miserable, a retrograding existence, and I saw no prospect of making money to compensate for this mode of life. I therefore resolved to have nothing to do with sheep or cattle.



A 1920s graphic dividing the country up into the sheep haves and have-nots. The cartographer was Thomas Griffith Taylor, a geologist and survivor of Robert Falcon Scott's Terra Nova expedition to the Antarctic. Source: Cristen Tilley, ABC Twitter Inc. account.

You are aware I presume that this colony is at present in a state of the greatest embarrassment, almost bordering on a general bankruptcy. In the words of the Sydney Herald, "Profits on all sides have come down – property has become depreciated and embarrassment has spread through all ranks of the community."

The extent to which landed property has fallen in value in hardly credible: I have heard of several cases in which property of this description which has been mortgaged has sold for not a quarter of the amount which had been lent upon it. Sheep which 3 years ago were selling at £2 are estimated to be worth 5 shillings and have been sold at 3 shillings and 6 pence (3/6) and even as low as 1/6 a head.



The Wool Sheds at Geelong

Source: The three Colonies of Australia: NSW, Victoria, South Australia; their pastures, copper mines and goldfields. By Samuel Sidney. Project Gutenberg of Australia.

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A shepherds hut. Source: The three Colonies of Australia: NSW, Victoria, South Australia; their pastures, copper mines and goldfields. By Samuel Sidney. Project Gutenberg of Australia.

I flatter myself that I have pointed out to you the direct and legitimate cause of this in the condition of the colony when its field of extension of sheep pastures ceases. I believe the condition of this country will be considerably worse before it becomes better.

Next month: The spring as it appears of the present embarrassment of the colony is to be found in...

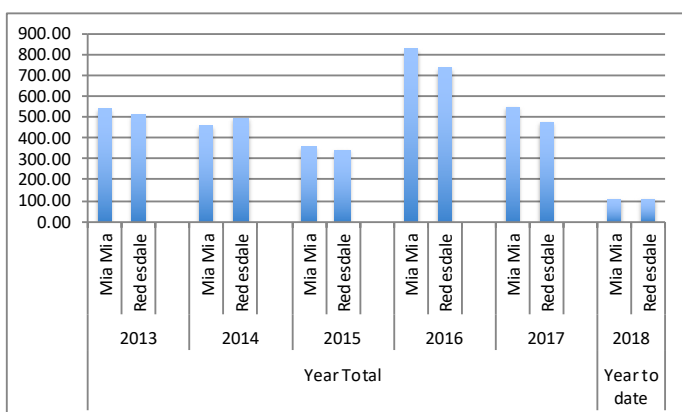
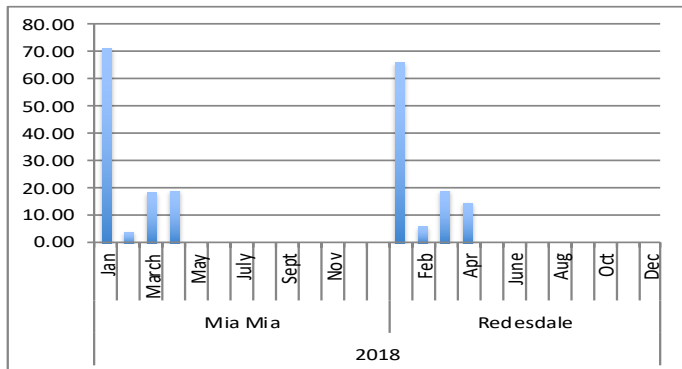
Redesdale
/ Mia Mia

Rainfall



The average yearly rainfall for Redesdale is about 601mms.

Thank you to Mary Bennett for the Mia Mia readings.



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UNITING CHURCH

Barfold: 1st Sunday of each month
Metcalf: 2nd Sunday of each month
Mia Mia: 3rd Sunday of each month
Sutton Grange: 4th Sunday of each month

Morning tea is served at each of these Uniting Churches at 9.45 am and services start at 10 am. If there is a 5th Sunday in the month, services may be found at Kyneton.

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Quote of the month:

"The poorest way to face life is to face it with a sneer."

Theodore Roosevelt

DEFIBRILLATOR

The Community owned defibrillator is now accessible to all community members.

It is situated on the outside wall of the CFA building (next to the Rural Café).



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Winter Wine & Dine REDESDALE

Saturday & Sunday 9th & 10th June 2018

On the long weekend in June, Redesdale is again host to the Winter Wine & Dine - a celebration of winter and the passionate local producers in this part of the state. "Redesdale, Barfold and surrounding areas, feature some of the best and most awarded olive and grape growing regions in Central Victoria and the World" says Sandra Aitken one of the winemakers participating, "Many of the olive producers nearby have won international awards for their olive oils and the wines do amazingly well in wine shows, especially considering how tiny we all are compared to those from other regions and states. We are all punching well above our weight. This part of Central Victoria has some of the finest beef, pork and lamb producers in Australia. It is a pretty convincing story and most people just don't realise what great produce we have close to hand.

The focus of the weekend will be to Show and Tell this story to the visitors" and it's not only wines and olive oils, there will be lots of local producers to talk with including walnuts, chocolates, apples, homemade icecream, puddings, preserves and some spectacular cheeses. It sounds like a great place for a meal, doesn't it?

"The Redesdale Hotel will be serving a selection of winter dishes to warm all weekend and we will feature local wines and beers by the open fire" said Beth McIlwain, publican. "Garth (chef & partner) is planning some fabulous things for the weekend, maybe a casserole of roasted, grass fed beef from Barfold or an antipasto featuring some of the many & varied local game, salamis, Castlemaine pork, Redesdale rabbit, cheeses from Goldfields and Sutton Grange, organic fruit from the Harcourt orchards, salad greens freshly picked from the vegetable plot, freshly baked Artisan breads from local bakers, newly dug

potatoes, some of his homemade mayonnaise or sauces featuring the best of the new season olive oils and free range eggs – only those from happy chooks of course" she laughs. Our salad dressing is made with local wine or cider vinegar and award winning extra virgin olive oils, and we love the home prepared olives from the local olive groves. We might even do some chutneys and relishes just to complete the picture. It's going to be a fun weekend and we have planned some great local music too !

Visitors can sample the local wines, ciders and boutique beers and purchase a glass (or a bottle) of something delicious to enjoy with a meal or to take home. There will be live music, lots of food, great coffee, bocce games on the bocce court, a brisk walk round the oval, open fires & lots of other things for young and old to do.

Many of the producers featured will be available for visitors to meet over the weekend. Live music will add to the atmosphere and there will also be activities for the children. Camping is available for those with caravans or stout constitutions for the wintry conditions.

Winter Wine & Dine Redesdale is an event to showcase the specialties in this unique little region of Victoria and all the good things that go with it. It will feature a focus on food and a great country experience. This is the third time this event has been held and it promises to be bigger and better than last year.

Entry is free!

For more details please call Beth and Garth at The Redesdale Hotel on 4405 0601 or Sandra on 0412 243 315 or follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/winterwineanddine>

A celebration of winter featuring regional producers, fabulous food, local wines, open fires & live music.

Winter

WINE & DINE *Redesdale*

Tasting & Sales

Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 June 2018
from 10.30am to 4pm.

**A great opportunity to try local products
and meet the producers**

- New season extra virgin olive oils
- Local wine tastings
- Cheeses, walnuts, ice cream, chocolate puddings & preserves
- Lunches, cakes and coffee all weekend
- Warming dinners and featured wines
- Live music
- Entertainment for the whole family

**FREE
ENTRY**

2640 Heathcote-Kyneton Road Redesdale VIC 3444

At The Redesdale Hall & Hotel

Could it be as simple as ABCD?

On Tuesday 8th May, a group of Redesdale residents attended a free seminar organised by the City of Greater Bendigo. The theme was Asset Based Community Development (ABCD).

The keynote speaker was Cormac Russell, who is the managing director of Nurture Development and a faculty member of the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) Institute at Northwestern University, Chicago.

Over the last 20 years Cormac has worked in over 30 countries around the world. He has trained communities, agencies, NGOs and governments in ABCD and other strengths based approaches in Kenya, Rwanda, Southern Sudan, South Africa, the UK, Ireland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Canada and Australia.

ABCD is a bottom-up way of working with communities that focuses on community strengths and assets rather than on deficits and problems. In other words, there is an emphasis on the glass half full rather than half empty. The half empty glass represents the notion that communities are deficient and have many needs. The half full glass represents the notion that communities (and the people that live there) have many strengths, capabilities and assets. ABCD is built on four foundations:

1. Focusing on community strengths rather than problems or needs.
2. Identifies and mobilises individual community assets, skills and passions,
3. It is community-driven - 'building communities from the inside out,' and
4. It is relationship driven.

The role of government, local, state or federal is de-emphasised; the role of the professional is that of facilitator rather than an expert and there is emphasis on the following;

- local knowledge,
- local culture,
- local resources,
- local skills, and
- local processes.

There is no room here to go into the whole theory, however, those who maybe interested are referred to www.sustainingcommunity.wordpress.com/2013/08/15/what-is-abcd

Those of us who made the journey into Bendigo for the 3 hour seminar which started at 6 pm and was accompanied by soup and sandwiches, were treated to a highly professional presentation in a lilting Irish accent. It was an interactive meeting encouraging us to meet others from all walks of life who work either as professionals in the community or who volunteer in community services. We all found it extremely stimulating and we are brimming with ideas. We are also grateful to CoGB to have given us this remarkable opportunity.

What better way to end than by quoting Cormac's motto (which paraphrases Benjamin Franklin):

When it comes to Community Building, well done is better than well said'.

Kathy Hall



**AUSTRALIA'S
BIGGEST MORNING TEA
IS ON ITS WAY**



**Biggest Morning Tea
Thursday 14 June at 10am
at the Redesdale Hall.**

Fundraiser for the Cancer Council
hosted by the Redesdale Hall Committee Inc.

Entertainment by R.M.M.P.S. students.

Favourite 'Placemat' Competition

'Tell a Story'

Raffles, Trading Table.

**Entry
\$5**

Please bring some change for voting.

**'All welcome - why not invite
your friends to this worthwhile cause.'**

Enquiries

Carolyn - Anne Boyd 5425 3194

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Steph Ryan MP

Member for Euroa

WWWstephryan.com.au



Wild dogs out of control under Labor

Wild dog attacks are getting out of control according to landholders, prompting Member for Euroa and Deputy Leader of The Nationals Steph Ryan to call on the Andrews Government to take urgent action.

Speaking in Parliament last week, Ms Ryan said some landholders said dog attacks were the worst they've been in 30 years.

"Attacks from wild dogs are putting livestock and farmers' livelihoods under threat across north east Victoria and many farmers are concerned about the growing number of wild dogs they're seeing," Ms Ryan said.

"I am gravely concerned that the Andrews Labor Government is dismantling successful control measures to appease Green voters in Melbourne.

"Daniel Andrews scrapped the wild dog bounty and has recently banned wild dog controllers from using larger dog control traps.

"Labor MPs have no idea of how destructive and devastating wild dogs are to farming communities."

Terry and Jan Ring from Upper Ryans Creek said it wasn't only the financial loss that farmers have to deal with.

"What really needs to be made known to whoever will listen, is the depth of the physical, mental and emotional toll taken, not only on the farmer but, also on wife and family," Mr Ring said.

"I still have flashbacks, 30 years on, from vision of dead and dying mauled animals strewn around the paddock or in a pile where they had suffocated fleeing from the dog.

"The psychological impact of this taints the wellbeing that should be had when going about the daily business of checking stock."

Ms Ryan said local wild doggers did a fantastic job but were stretched due to a lack of resources.

"Instead of hampering wild dog control, the Andrews Government needs to provide more support," Ms Ryan said.

"The Nationals will cut the red tape preventing wild doggers and landholders from properly controlling wild dogs. We will also hold a competitive tender process for spring and autumn aerial baiting and restore the wild dog advisory committee with majority landholder representation."

Steph Ryan (03) 5762 1600 or 0488 441 820

Cutting Costs For Farmers: Managing Energy Efficiently

Farmers who are seeking to better manage their energy costs are now able to apply for an on-farm assessment with the commencement of the Andrews Labor Government's Agriculture Energy Plan.

The on-farm assessments form a key part of the Labor Government's \$30 million Agriculture Energy Investment Plan and are aimed to help farmers better manage energy costs by providing expert advice and opportunities to improve efficiency, while investing in new technology.

The assessments, which are free for eligible primary producers, will be conducted by registered, independent experts and provide farmers with tailored advice on how to make energy decisions for their businesses.

Farmers are required to have an on-farm assessment or a similar, recently-conducted energy assessment, to qualify for an on-farm energy grant. The grant program will support farmers implement recommended changes on-farm to improve energy efficiency and productivity.

A specialist independent advisory panel was also announced today. The panel, comprised of energy and agriculture experts, will provide advice on the design and implementation of the Agriculture Energy Investment Plan.

Panel members include; Mark Wootton, Chair, Jigsaw Farms Principal, David Jochinke, Victorian Farmers Federation President, Alan Pears AM, Senior Industry Fellow, School of Global, Urban and Social Studies at RMIT, Natalie Collard, Executive General Manager Clean Energy Council and Adam Jenkins, United Dairyfarmers of Victoria President.

The Agriculture Energy Investment Plan is a partnership between Agriculture Victoria, primary producers, agricultural and educational groups, designed to support Victorian farmers and agricultural businesses. The panel is a demonstration of this partnership across energy and agriculture sectors.

Farmers are encouraged to apply for an on-farm assessment using the farmer guidelines at agriculture.vic.gov.au/agenergy

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Jaala Pulford

"This is about cutting costs for farmers and helping them realise how we can make a more sustainable and adaptable farm sector."

"These on-farm assessments are really important for our primary producers who are looking to not just cut cost, but also invest in new technology."

Labor takes the wheel for Central Victorian car owners and mechanics

Federal Member for Bendigo Lisa Chesters MP, has today announced Labor's plan to stick up for regional car owners and independent mechanics.

Ms Chesters said Labor's plan to make car manufacturers share their technical information so that vehicles can be serviced by any mechanic will put more money back into the pockets of car owners and give 23,000 independent repairers a boost.

"A Shorten Labor Government will require car manufacturers to share technical information with independent mechanics on commercially fair and reasonable terms, with safeguards that enable environmental, safety and security-related technical information to be shared with the independent sector.

"Modern cars are like computers on wheels, without timely access to the right data and diagnostics, independent regional mechanics can't compete fairly in the marketplace for service and repairs.

"This limited access to vital information pushes up prices for car services, and limits the ability of independent regional mechanics to grow their business and generate more jobs.

"This is about getting a better deal for people who drive cars and people who fix them.

"This policy is also common sense. Country drivers will not be forced to drive long distances to have their car serviced. They will have the choice to use their local mechanic," said Ms Chesters.

After visits to Canberra and multiple meetings with Members of Parliament, the Director of Gejay Automotive Bendigo, Gary Pinner has welcomed the news.


"I was very excited to hear this announcement; this policy is heading in the right direction and is ensuring the long term viability of my local business and the whole automotive industry.

"There was a desperate need for this policy and after my trips to Canberra to explain the position of independent mechanics I was very happy to hear it was announced," said Mr Pinner.

Ms Chesters has called on the Liberal National Government to match Labor's announcement.


"It's time the Liberals listened to Central Victorian car owners and mechanics. This is good reform.

"Labor understands it's your car and it should be your choice where it gets repaired - our plan will deliver money to the household budget and give local mechanics a boost to their business," said Ms Chesters.



Federal Member for Bendigo
LISA CHESTERS MP

PO Box 338 Bendigo 3552
Cnr Williamson & Myers Sts, Bendigo 3550
T: 034 5443 9055 • F 03 5443 9736
E: Lisa.Chesters.MP@aph.gov.au
@LMChesters • /LisaChestersBendigo



Kyneton Badminton Association



The Winter season of the Kyneton Badminton Association has just begun and new players are welcome to join. Competition is held on Monday nights from 7:00pm at the Kyneton Toyota Sports and Aquatic Centre. Players of all ages and abilities are catered for. For more information contact

Kevin Roberts on 5422 3057.

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Drivers face harsh penalties if they are caught drink driving

From 31 January 2018, people who hold a Victorian driver licence will be held liable for all drink driving offences they commit, regardless of where the offence takes place. In other words, a person found guilty of an interstate drink driving offence will be treated as if the offence was committed in Victoria. This is partly possible through the standardisation of driving penalties across Australia which commenced in 1999 and has continued unabated ever since.

Drink driving offences are still dealt with through the court system in some States, and therefore a driver caught driving under the influence will need to be found guilty wherever they were caught before their licence will be cancelled. As soon as VicRoads is advised by their interstate equivalent that a person with a Victorian driver licence presented a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) above 0.05 and has been found guilty within the regulatory system within that State, it will be deemed an interstate drink driving offence and the driver will be advised that their Victorian licence has been cancelled.

The length of the cancellation will be determined primarily by a combination of the BAC and the type of licence held at the time of the offence, and the driver's age. The penalty can however be increased depending on whether there are any aggravating circumstances which worsens the offence, such as whether there was an attempt to evade police, whether the vehicle was involved in an accident, or whether the driver has a history of such offences. It is unclear how these exacerbating matters will affect the driver's licence suspension when the offence is an interstate drink driving offence but it is assumed

that the cancellation penalty ordered by the Court in the State where the offending took place would be replicated by VicRoads.

It should be noted that regardless of whether a driver is found guilty of an interstate drink driving offence or one within its borders, their right to drive will be 'cancelled', not 'suspended'. The difference between 'suspend' and 'cancel' in this context is significant. A 'suspension' is simply the removal of the right to drive for a set period, after which time the right is restored without the Court's intervention. A 'cancellation' is the complete removal of the right to drive which cannot be restored without application to VicRoads or the Court. If the driver must apply to the Court for a 'licence eligibility order', the magistrate will determine if additional sanctions should be imposed, such as setting a probationary driver period and/or ordering the installation of an alcohol interlock device on the driver's vehicle.

In support of the widening of the jurisdiction of Victorian driving laws, the new penalty regime for such offences has been stiffened especially for low-range and first-time offenders. Under new laws introduced in 2017, low-range drink driving offences will be dealt with immediately by attending police, rather than through the Court process.

A 'low-range' offence is a BAC of between 0.05 and 0.069. The new rules provide for on-the-spot cancellation of licences, i.e. there is no requirement to attend court, unless the driver wishes to enter a Notice of Objection, which is essentially a challenge to the validity of the finding. Where a driver is caught outside of Victoria, an appeal must be lodged in the State where the offence took place.

In addition, all low-range BAC offences regardless of where they are committed, will suffer an immediate three-month licence cancellation, and the compulsory installation of an alcohol interlock device, which can prove very expensive for the offender given the installation and maintenance costs that the devices incur.

All drivers whose licence has been cancelled will need to complete a Driver Education Course prior to applying to the Court for a Licence Eligibility Order. This course provides drivers with much of the knowledge they require to convince the Court that they should be allowed to drive again. In addition, any fine ordered in Victoria associated with the original offence will need to be fully paid before the Magistrate can make an Eligibility Order.

By Dr Garth Wooler, GTC Lawyers

This article is published for general information only and is not intended to provide specific legal advice. It is important that you consult with a lawyer to discuss your case specifically, rather than rely on general information as to the law.

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Mia Mia Mechanics institute invites Mia Mia Community members to a Community Planning Party and Bonfire



On Saturday 26th May 2018

At Mia Mia Hall, Valley Rd Mia Mia from 4.30pm

We need community Consultation to update our Mia Mia Community Plan and we need your help to make things happen. There will be warming food on arrival plus a BBQ and a Bonfire.

We'll supply the food.

Bring your own drinks, outdoor chairs and warm clothing and you can enjoy the bonfire while generating great ideas for our plan.

If you are able to attend, you can register (there's no cost) at trybookings.com/VJHC or you can send an email to

miamiasocial@gmail.com

or you can phone 0419 525 101 and leave a voice message.



Our annual showcase of the wine, food and fun that Heathcote has to offer. Join us over the Queen's birthday long weekend and enjoy exclusive tastings, new releases, music, gourmet food, community activities and more at over 30 locations across the Heathcote region.

Check out the wine, food & fun at the following venues:

Armstead Estate Winery, Barnadown Run, Domaine Asmara, Flynn's Wines, Heathcote Inn, Heathcote II, Heathcote Wine Hub, Heathcote Winery, Humis Vineyard, Merindoc Cellar Door & Bistro, Mia Valley Estate Vineyard & Winery, Munari Wines, Palling Bros. Brewery, Peregrine Ridge, The Farmer & The Scientist, Rutherford & Maine, Sanguine Estate Wines, She-Oak Hill, The Shiraz Republic, Silver Spoon Estate, Tellurian Wines Heathcote, Vinea Marson, Fodder, M. Chapoutier Australia, Noble Red Wines, Toolleen Hotel

Saturday 9th June 2018 – High Street Heathcote Festival – Join the festivities and celebrate with 'Food Wine and Fun' from 10am to 3pm at Barrack Reserve. Market stalls, crafts, merchandise, vintage cars, animal farm plus food, music and local wine.

Evening Events:

Saturday 9th June 2018 - Heathcote Supper Club- Simply the Best Films & Wine screens "SOMM" - Door opens at 6pm. Bar service. Cost: \$35 includes film, curry & rice plus a glass of wine. Bookings essential www.trybooking.com/361249 0417 598 460 Venue: RSL Hall High St Heathcote.

Saturday 9th June 2018 – Mid Winters Night – presented by Munari Wines – 6.30pm to 10.30 pm, 1129 Northern High

way, Heathcote. Enjoy wine, food and three spectacular bands Busy Kingdom, rock/reggae band Del Santo and indie rockers, Izzy Losi and the Auracles. Cost \$28, includes glass of wine. Drinks at bar prices and hot food will be available from and on-site food van, Soul M8's. Booking at www.trybooking.com/360911 Ph 5433 3366

Sunday 10th June 2018- Silver Spoon Estate presents- BURLESQUE de VINE- "Taste of Winter in Paris". Four courses of French cuisine with matching wines and burlesque. Australia's finest Burlesque performers. Dinner, wine and show: \$110 per person. 6.30pm at Silver Spoon Estate, Heathcote - Rochester Rd (C347) Mount Camel. Bookings at www.trybooking.com/357799 or www.silverspoonestate.com.au

Saturday 25th August 2018 – The Heathcote Film Festival - The 8th Heathcote Film Festival will be held on this day. More details to come as the plans are confirmed and the date draws nearer.

Saturday 6th – Sunday 7th October 2018 – Heathcote Wine and Food Festival Residence Museum -10am-2pm. Located in the Camp Hill Historic Precinct at 19 Herriot St, Heathcote

Monday 8th October 2018 Heathcote Historical Lock-Up and Police Residence Museum -10am-2pm. Located in the Camp Hill Historic Precinct at 19 Herriot St, Heathcote

Wednesday 17th October 2018- Engine Room – Melbourne Chamber Orchestra Time: 8pm. Cost \$10.00. Venue to be advised.



Redesdale Ramblings: Daffodils Season

It is not too early to start talking about daffodils – some types of daffodil start to flower in autumn but they're not the typical yellow trumpets of springtime. The autumn species are more like jonquils with small starry flowers in white or green.

The "Green Daffodil" is *Narcissus viridiflorus* and has peculiar olive-green flowers in April and May. Breeders have used this species to introduce green shades to a race of daffodils which flower from autumn through winter and into spring.

There are a number of "white" autumn species including *Narcissus elegans*, *N. serotinus* and *N. obsoletus* which have white petals and small cups in yellow or orange. In the wild they are found around the Mediterranean in areas such as Southern Spain and Northern Africa. They have been crossed with the tazetta clan such as 'Soleil D'or' and "Paperwhites" and the resultant hybrids flower in May/June – e.g. 'First Stanza'. Their scent is also sweeter and less over-powering than the usual tazetta "pong"!

For some reason in Australia tazetta narcissus are often called "Jonquils". This is rather unfair on the true jonquils which are more delicately fragrant and have more graceful flowers with just a few florets on top of their short stems compared to the bunched up heads of tazettas. I have a theory that in the warmer climate of the colonies the tazettas proved hardier and easier to grow in places such as Sydney. So here they supplanted the true jonquils and their tendency to multiply quickly helped them spread across the country and become known as "Jonquils".

Some retailers try to get around the problem by calling them all "Multi-headed" narcissus but you do need to know the difference if you are entering flowers in the local shows such as the Kyneton or Bendigo Spring Flower Shows. If you don't go in for that sort of thing then just enjoy them in the garden (or in pots).

Redesdale is a great place for these and most other sorts of narcissus because of our dry summers and wet winters which is similar to what they get in nature. Most daffodils do best where they get plenty of water from autumn through to early spring. This autumn was so dry we started watering the beds where the spring bulbs are planted to make sure they get their roots growing in time to flower in spring!

We try to avoid watering them during summer because the bulbs lose their leaves and go dormant in late spring. Without roots to take up moisture if they are watered the soil around them stays wet and in really hot weather the bulbs can actually get cooked in the soil, especially if they have not been planted deep enough. So make sure you plant daffodil bulbs at least as deep as the height of the bulb, in fact large bulbs can be put in as deep as 15cm (6 inches) – some can even go deeper. When we redeveloped an area as a rock garden we inadvertently buried some trumpet daffs over a foot (25 cm) below the new soil level – they were impossible to dig out and kept coming up and flowering for years!

Of course if you grow daffs in a pot make sure you use one big enough to accommodate the growing roots and use a



Above Hybrid between N. elegans and N. tazetta



Above. Narcissus obsoletus

good quality potting mix with added fertilizer. However avoid the type with water-storing crystals which can keep the mix too moist when the bulbs are dying down. The pots can then be stored during the summer where they won't get wet and can be brought out again in autumn. Usually you would need to repot every 2 or 3 years depending on the quality of the potting mix and how quickly the bulbs multiply – if they get too crowded the flowering will suffer.

"So in the ground or in pots daffodils are a great addition to the garden in Central Victoria!"

cheers

Fermi de Sousa

The Redesdale Rock Gardener



Woodend Community Farmers' Market

Sat 2nd June
Cnr High & Forest Streets, Woodend
0487 444 090 Sharon Kittson

Daylesford Farmer's Market

Sat 2nd June
Daylesford Primary School
03 5664 0096 Peter Arnold

Kyneton Farmers' Market

Sat 9th June
St Pauls Park, Piper Street, Kyneton
54 221 025 Veronica Manifold

Riddells Creek Farmers' Market

Sat 16th June
Riddells Creek Primary School, Riddells Creek
0408 254 626 Ali Bant

Lancefield & District Farmers' Market

Sat 23rd June Centre Plantation, High Street, Lancefield
0407 860 320 Meggs Hannes

Maldon Market

Sunday 10th June

www.vicfarmersmarkets.org.au

It is recommended that you check these dates with the market website if possible.



Hello Dear Readers,

Lady Bombay here for another monthly instalment.

As the song goes "Everything old is new again". Well that applies to my old favourite the Zygo cactus, also known as the Christmas Cactus. Whilst terribly fashionable for most of the twentieth century, it

has taken a back seat for the last twenty years or so. Quelle surprise, its back in vogue. One sees them everywhere now particularly when they are in bloom. Lord B says I started the resurgence and of course, I agree with him. I have several in pots on the back terrace, with the north facing full sun, they cascade down the sides of their pots in reds, double pinks. They do rather like hanging baskets due to the airy drainage and potting mix. Please do remember to move them prior Jack Frosts visits so pay close attention to the weather forecasts. I always direct Thorn, the gardener, to move all the delicacies such to the small hot house and along north east facing walls in order to capture the morning sun rays. Terribly easy to propagate; just snip off a small piece and pop it in a small pot with potting mix. Add a drop or two

of liquid fertiliser and by mid summer, Les Voila!

I have a three-tiered Victorian wire plant stand in the hot house on which I place them whilst in all their glory. I must say it does look very Kew Gardens. This is the time when I partake in high afternoon teas to impress some of the other ladies in the district. They all take cuttings and I take note for next year's reciprocal visits.

My dear old girlfriend Georgie was complaining the other day that her morning room view was been diminished by the Yucca I gave her. So as I was looking at her and the Yucca at question, I dashed out to the Bentley and fetched my pruning saw. Always keep one in your car. Cut hers back to its socks and took the cut pieces back to Mia Mia Manor to propagate. I did ask her what she does to her soil for the yucca to grow so stealthily. Her response was her late husband's, mother-in-law's and cat's ashes. Oh dear, I should not have asked. That reminds me, I need to order in more blood and bone.

I must admit that fertilizer for the garden is much better than the cemetery.

Downwards and Upwards,

Lady B

Garden Lore

A British tradition instructs that red and white flowers should not be given to someone in hospital, as these two colours together signify blood and bandages.



Bombay and a Bex

Send in your questions for Lady Bombay Sapphire to bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com

Dear Lady B,

We have an old property which we took over from my husband's parents recently.

There are many deciduous trees such as elms, maples and ashes. As we installed a watering system in the gardens during summer, the trees have put on substantial growth and with that a deluge of autumn leaves. My husband rakes them up into numerous piles and burns them particularly when I have the washing on the line. I'm sure many of your readers will identify with this dilemma. As you are a wise old woman of the world, do you have a solution for me without creating irreconcilable differences?

Smoked out Sarah

Dear Smokie (wasn't that a bear)

Yes, with age does come wisdom and so do wrinkles, but you will find that out soon enough.

Build a compost bin dear. Not a difficult task. Simply a few pieces of tin roofing to make a decent four sided structure supported by star pickets. Throw all the leaves, flowers cuttings, kitchen scraps, old potting mix, a dash of blood and bone and so the cocktail begins. Very useful during the Spring to give nutrient and mulch to the garden during the harsher hotter months of the year.

If your husband still needs to burn off, buy an Aga. It will keep him occupied 24/7 and you bake the scones in it. I would say 'fait accompli.'

Lady Bombay



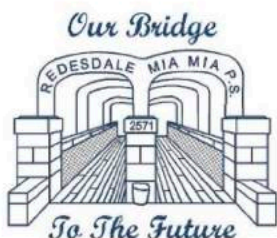
Photo by Meg Cumming @ Mia Mia

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GRASS SLASHING





Redesdale Mia Mia Primary School



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Term 2...

We have been enjoying learning about shapes across the school lately, as well as making calendars.

Students have continued to achieve rewards in Reading Eggs as part of our literacy program. We have also been writing persuasive texts and ads.

Students continue to enjoy their weekly athletics sessions with Garnet helping us with our training. We are starting our science unit Solid, liquids and gases next week!

Trish Johnstone will be Acting Principal for the remainder of 2018 while Joe is on leave. Drop in and say hi!

Christine, Bernadette, Joe, Carly and Alyssa.

Enrolments always welcome.

Phone - 5425 3155; **Acting Principal - Trish Johnstone**

Email - redesdale.mia.mia.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Redesdale Recreational Reserve Committee Inc.

Chairman's Monthly Report

May 2018

Hi Redesdalians

Well winter is just about upon us and it's time to check our wood fires and gas heaters so we can enjoy their use safely. Have gas heaters serviced and clean wood fire flues.



The rock walls at Reserve Lane have been completed and garden beds have also been planted behind them. It should look a picture come spring. A big thankyou goes to Gary P and Ronn T for their tireless work." THANKS GUYS "

Exciting things are continuing to happen with the Precinct Hub. Stakeholders are being interviewed by the architect for their input towards the concept drawings. When completed these drawings will be presented to the community for comment and amendment if required.

The pavilion project is slowly coming along and the next stage is about to begin. This will entail framing for the installation of the windows so kindly donated by Heather Carmody & Anthony Baird.

With the winter months coming along it will be all about maintaining the reserve gardens and trees. More tree planting could take place and our resident rock wall builders will be hard at the walls at Kyneton-Lyall Rd corner, this will complete all rock walls planned.

With the improvements to the reserve and now the Hub Precinct well on the way, Redesdale is becoming a showpiece for CoGB to other small rural communities. It just goes to show how the enthusiasm and hard work of the community can influence the council to support it all the way.

Keep smiling until next time.

Les Pocock.

Redesdale Recreational Reserve Committee Inc.

Who is MR FoET? (Macedon Ranges Friends of East Timor)

Our small group is affectionately known as MRFoET (Macedon Ranges Friends of East Timor). At the end of this year we will celebrate 10 years friendship with the community in Turiscai.

We are a small group of volunteers who work with Macedon Ranges Shire council representatives and a community reference group we foster in Turiscai, Timor Leste.

Once a year, with the aid of a local driver/interpreter, members of our group visit the Turiscai community to talk about plans and needs for the next 12 months.

Our work is primarily about strengthening educational opportunity and maternal and child health matters within the community in Turiscai. The community is made up of 13 small villages each with a school, a few have a medical outpost, but all share one medical centre located in the administrative centre of Turiscai.

Our work to date, in conjunction with the Turiscai community, includes the following projects:

- Pencils for Primary Schools
- Kids to kids art and story exchange
- Medical equipment to medical centre
- Facilitating clean spring water supply to medical centre
- Mother and baby packages
- Community health and hygiene booklets
- Delivery of Days for Girls kits to senior high school girls
- Furniture for kindergartens and schools
- Educational and wooden toys for kindergartens and playgroups.
- Alola Teacher training program
- Reading and educational resource materials for schools
- Adolescent nutrition and health program
- Individual student sponsorship

Our local activity includes

- World Breastfeeding week activity
- Sale of Wild Timor Coffee beans
- Book exchange hosted by local provedore café.
- Sale of local and Timorese craft items

We meet over dinner on the 1st Monday of every month 6:00 – 9:00pm in Woodend. If you would like to know more about MRFoET please contact our president Fran Wigley (0411 208 448) or secretary Melva Ryan (0499 188 815)

Come and try our coffee at the

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Fri - Sun 8am-5 pm

A great place to stop for all day breakfast, lunch, excellent coffee and fresh cakes.

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BY KERRY ANDERSON

Remember the Positives

Having driven through Melbourne peak hour traffic twice in the last week, I just have to say how lucky I

am to live in a rural town!

Sometimes we focus on the negatives and forget how lucky we are, but, if push came to shove, would we really want to change where we live?

One of my favourite sayings is 'do what you can, where you are, with what you have,' which I believe is credited to Teddy Roosevelt. We will never have everything we want but we are very lucky with what we do have. And, we've worked hard for it so we should enjoy it and make the most of it.

The reason I was driving through Melbourne peak hour traffic was to speak at the Rural Councils of Victoria summit. It will come as no surprise that I was talking about the importance of encouraging entrepreneurs in our rural towns.

Immediately following my presentation, a town planner talked about all the negatives of living in rural Victoria. There were many on her list. Obviously she doesn't mind driving in Melbourne traffic.

HALL HAPPENINGS

With Norma Barker



The Hall Committees Revellers group are playing to packed houses. We again have had a very successful season with them.

Our very sincere thank you to all our wonderful volunteer workers who help stage the evenings of fun, laughter and good food; and a special thankyou to our Revellers group. Thirty years. What an achievement. Thank you also to the Bridge Connection Committee for the great coverage of our 30th year.



Yes, at times living in a rural community can be tough but with that comes a flip side.

Adversity is a great breeding ground for entrepreneurs because people are forced to think outside the square and come up with solutions to problems. While we can't avoid the inevitable droughts and bushfires, we can work towards minimising the impact. Similarly, by encouraging more entrepreneurs we can also strengthen our capacity when it comes to economic downturns.

In a perfect world rural communities would start preparing well in advance of a crisis. Nurturing a collaborative culture of strong local leadership and entrepreneurship will help any rural community overcome adversity. A positive narrative will also draw young people to move home and new people to consider living in your community.

Thankfully, yet another speaker, Anton Eisenmenger, shared his personal story. He moved from the city to rural Gippsland because his partner had once lived there and they wanted to raise their family in a clean, green environment. Lifestyle compelled them to leave their city life and they created their own income by starting a business, The Long Paddock Restaurant. "I cannot express how great the local community has been to us," Anton said.

While family was the pull, community was the push.

Let's remember the positives.

Kerry Anderson

www.kerryanderson.com.au

Our 'Biggest Morning Tea' for the Cancer Council is to be held on Thursday 14th June at 10.00am at the hall (Flyer on page 9). The children of Redesdale/Mia Mia primary school will once again be entertaining us so please come along and help us raise some money for the Cancer Council and support the children.

Our cooking class will need to be delayed until July – more details next time.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

32



Cake Tatin (Serves 8)

This is a really good alternative to apple pie and is quick and easy to make.

Ingredients

2 Granny Smith apples, peeled, quartered, core removed.
1 cup caster sugar
100 g butter (25g chopped, 75g melted)
¼ tsp salt
1 cup SR flour
2 tsp ground cinnamon
2 eggs
½ cup milk
1 tsp vanilla extract
vanilla ice-cream to serve

Method

Heat your oven to 180 deg C. Cut each apple quarter into quarters again to create 16 slices for each apple. Melt ¼ cup sugar in a 26 cm ovenproof frying pan over a medium – low heat. Swirl the pan so that the sugar covers the base and becomes golden – about 5 mins.

Add 25 gm chopped butter and half the salt, swirling the pan until the butter melts and combines with the sugar. Add the apples and cook for 2 minutes on each side, then turn off the heat. Using tongs, arrange the apple slices into a radial pattern in the pan. Set aside.

Combine remaining ¾ cup sugar, flour, cinnamon and remaining salt in a large bowl. Whisk the eggs, milk, vanilla extract and 75 g melted butter in a separate bowl. Make a well in the centre of the flour mix and pour in the milk mixture. Whisk until just combined. Pour the batter into the pan, then bake in the oven for 15 minutes or until golden and cooked through when tested with a skewer. Remove and allow to cool for 10 minutes.

Turn the cake upside down and serve with vanilla ice-cream.

The Silo Art Trail

Celebrate the rich heritage of Victoria's Wimmera/Mallee region with a journey along the 200km Silo Art Trail, soon to become the country's biggest outdoor gallery. Cruise from town to town and witness this innovative art project that sees renowned street artists from Australia and across the globe transform wheat silos into giant works of art.

For more than 100 years Victoria's towering wheat silos have defined the state's rural landscape. And when Brisbane street artist Guido Van Helten created his famous 'Farmer Quartet' on the Brim silos in 2015, it captured the imagination of the town and inspired The Silo Art Trail project.

The trail brings together internationally recognised street artists – Julia Volchkova, Guido van Helten, Fintan Magee, Matt Adnate, Kaff-eine and Rone – and takes in six of Victoria's smallest towns. Murals in Sheep Hills, Brim, Patchewollock, Lascelles and Rupanyup are already complete, while new work by Kaff-eine are planned for Rosebery. A unique art project that is still evolving, the Silo Art Trail has already revitalised the towns and brought thousands of new visitors to the region.

The town of Rochester is set to join northern Victoria's expanding silo art trail, with the town due to paint the town silo later this month.

The GrainCorp owned silo will be painted by Melbourne based artist Jimmy DVate, who also completed the Goorambat silo art in March.

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Forecast - dry and dusty - lightening and thunder late in the day

If you think “medical records” what is the image that first

crops to mind? Everyone would have differing ideas about that I’m sure. It is important though that all of us give serious consideration about medical records over the next few months because momentous changes are afoot.

One of my early memories as a medical student was of my rush to return a patient’s file to the medical records department at the Adelaide Children’s Hospital, in time for the patient’s appointment. The elderly woman at the desk gave a very disapproving look as I handed them back. I doubt if she had any appreciation of the hours I had spent the previous day sifting through a forest of reports and letters to write up my case report about this complicated patient.

Even a small health service like Kyneton District Health has rows upon rows of paper files many of which slowly gather dust after an episode or two of inpatient care. Perhaps electronic records will come to Kyneton District Health one day ... though there will be many more deaths before that happens ... For large public hospitals, electronic medical records are already a reality, which must make amazing improvements to the ways staff are able to care for patients.

General practice has been an even earlier adopter of electronic medical records. I have very distant memories of writing patient notes on cards during a locum job getting on for 15 years ago, at which time I recall thinking paper records definitely belonged to last century. The elderly GP in Fitzroy that I was locum for had close to indecipherable writing - hence I honed my history-taking skills considerably that fortnight - often with the Greek-speaking relative of the patient in attendance translating. This GP’s notes were quite obviously his own in every sense - they could have been written in Latin for the rest of us!

I’m sure that patients now think quite differently about medical records. I am not infrequently given notes by my patient describing symptoms in detail even before they walk in the door. Patients take a more active role in viewing files particularly when results are given. The expectation too is that typed notes will be shared much more widely than before. Records may be requested in their entirety (always with patient consent) on occasions by lawyers and life-insurers. For more day-to-day communications a referral to another health professional is a summary of only details relevant to that practitioner. The surgeon you might see about your cataract surgery almost certainly does not need to know about your gynaecological history for example.

For a long time now though there has been a push from the health bureaucrats to connect patient information in a way never before attempted. A single health record for each Australian citizen has been the dream, but it has proven to be a bit of a problem-child up until now. Over 6 years ago the idea gave birth to the “Personally Controlled Electronic Health Record”. It was a very sickly infant with billions of dollars

Your Health!

with

Dr Tim



wasted in development and implementation for no net gains. The painful and expensive lesson was that this had to be much much better if this was to grow.

Fast forward now. 2018 is release time for the electronic health record 2.0 - now renamed “My Health Record”. Expect lots of advertising about the details in coming months. However the grand plan is that every Australian will have an electronic health record by the end of the year. You can opt out if you choose but there are good reasons to give it a go.

It will record all Medicare rebated services, pathology results and radiology results just for starters. Every time you get medication dispensed that will be in your record too. Some health practitioners (not all) will be able to upload information into your record too - with your consent. The overarching principle is that you, the patient, are totally in control of this, which practitioners get to see what, or whether you have a health record at all.

What are the benefits of this massive information technology undertaking? Primarily it is to increase patient safety, making sure allergy information and medication information is available to all practitioners so as to avoid mistakes. It will also allow easier sharing and review of investigation results by specialists and others involved in your care. There are other benefits which it is hoped will come about through this project - but for you it is about your safety.

In time I am sure that “my health record” will revolutionise the way in which all health practitioners work, possibly more so in General Practice than other areas of medicine. Your GP will be your guide to interpreting the information contained in your record, and will collaborate with you to help fill out your health record with your vital information over time.

In the meantime keep your eyes peeled for as much information as you kind find about “my health record” in newspapers, on the department of health website and through your health practitioners. Spend time thinking about the sort of information you want to share with other health practitioners, and what information you want to keep for yourself.

This medical record problem-child is starting to grow and develop again and should be ready to walk at least by next year, but I think we should only expect baby-steps for a while yet. The success of this initiative is very much about you and your involvement in it.

Tim

Dr Tim Stobie 5422 1397

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Little Treasures

We are continuing to invite stories about objects that are dear to our readers. We would love to hear from any of our readers about any inanimate object in your life that means a lot to you and that you really treasure. And send us a picture too.

Please send your contributions (about 500 words) to bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

My 'Little Treasure' was bought in Melbourne circa 1915 by my grandmother's grandmother, being in my family now for 5 generations!

Always known as 'The Little Bed' it has become a right of passage for the next in line to move into, [for maybe @3 years] after outgrowing a bassinette and then cot, and before moving onto a big bed!

This little wooden bed has moved around a lot on its 4 little casters, to a myriad of family and friends, being painted and repainted by young fathers preparing it for the next lot of children in their household.

About 30 years ago I remember sometimes seeing little white flecks round my son's mouth; he must have been sharpening/filing his 2 new [and only] teeth as I discovered, subsequently, that 2 little lines were marked/ gnawed out of the enamel paint...oh dear!

Recently the little bed spent a few years out in the shed, but now it's back inside the house, stripped and with a new mattress, once again providing a cosy, snug and special place for a new generation to sleep and dream.

Laura Lavender



More than Chance

A Careless hand tossed a flower away,
And fell on a heap of stones under a tree where the wind
blows free,
Left to wither and die alone.

All life had left
This faded bloom,
Except for a tiny seed
Falling to earth, to await new birth
Undeterred by stone and weed.

Now passers-by
Exclaim in delight
As they breath in the perfumed air,
Where one flowergrew, others welcome the dew,
And add to the beauty there.

That spent flower lay
On a clump of rocks,
But by chance the seed fell in sand,
There to multiply as the years pass by
Coincidence, or God's hand?

By Nancy Begg

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Dear Editor's

I read with concern a letter to the Midland Express from a Redesdale resident, Mr. John Barker.

Mr. Barker stated that votes and proxies presented for election of new members of the Committee at the AGM of the Redesdale Hall Committee were not valid- as they were not proffered by members.

As a Redesdale resident of many years, I assumed all in the district had a right to propose or stand for election. I made enquiries as to who were members and who were not- and am both surprised and concerned to learn that there are no members other than the existing 9 members of the hall committee.

The 40 "proxies" gathered from the community and mentioned by Mr Barker in his letter, were in support of new members to the committee. These people were unaware they could not vote and their proxies were unable to be tabled, even though it was a "General Meeting". When the committee resigns, it apparently is usual for all present members to stand for re-election- and all nine vote each other back to the committee- or for an 'approved' replacement.

The Hall Committee is in existence to look after the asset of the hall, an asset 'owned' by the whole community which, with the recent growth of Redesdale, now includes many younger and well qualified, interested people. Our newer residents often have different needs and ideas compared with those of people who have lived in Redesdale and have been on the committee for many years.

It is extraordinary that the Hall Committee has, of their own making, protected autocratic status by not actively inviting membership to all. This urgently needs to be changed. 40 votes, as represented by the proxies alone, for members other than those re-standing for election of the 9 current members, provides a majority decision- if we were to have a representative, democratic committee- but we do not.

Mr Barker voiced his opinion, along with the 40 others who wished to vote. However, he is not a committee member, so does not have a valid opinion or vote. He should be able to be heard, as should the other 40 -or more- community members.

Perhaps the Bendigo Council, who have already given substantial financial investment in support of the studies, plans and consultation processes necessary to implement major development in this region, can assist the Committee to understand the proper due processes of their position?

I -and I am sure- many residents of Redesdale would welcome such change or intervention.

Yours faithfully.

S.K. Arnall

North Redesdale Road, Redesdale, Victoria 3444.

Thank You

Dear Editor's

My family and I would like to thank Beth McIlwain and Garth Campbell from the Redesdale Hotel. For their personal support and the fundraising efforts in order to help us financially, whilst our son is in hospital after his car accident.

We also truly appreciate the support from the local community for their contributions towards that fundraising and for your positive vibes and prayers. The money has come in handy as I have been on unpaid leave from work for the last six weeks, and the positivity has been felt as our son Alex Hall as of yesterday was transferred to rehab, the start of his next step to recovery.

Dave Raggy Raybould and I have found that this terrible and unfortunate accident of our son's has brought us closer to our community and made us realise how friendly and supportive they can be. From the bottom of our hearts and souls we thank you all.

Stephanie & Dave Raggy Raybould



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