

ISSUE NO. 112 March 2020

FREE

For the Mia Mia- Redesdale Region including:

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- Langley • Sutton Grange • Elphinstone • Kyneton • Metcalfe

# BRIDGE CONNECTION COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



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COVER CONCEPT COURTESY/ blue pencil publishing

## Stinson Memorial Commemoration



Relatives of the the ten victims  
Left memorial plaque and story board

Continued pages 21, 22, 23

Applications to our Rural Scholarship are now open!  
This program is open to people of all ages looking to expand their knowledge in the rural industries. Visit our website for more info.

Heathcote & District **Community Bank®** Branch



heathcotenagambie.community



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There are many reasons why I love my pet cat Leo, one of those reasons is because he is our hilarious baby and never fails to make us laugh every single day, on this particular day he was stung by a bee and although we were all very worried for him, his cute face was just so adorable and had left our whole family in hysterics.

*Angel Polendakis*

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**April 4 2020**

Redesdale Hall

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**Tickets: \$20pp**  
Tickets: Lisa Smith 0411 035 000

Invite your friends and make up a table of 10.  
If you are a couple you may share.



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This event is funded by the Department of Health and Human Services | All funds will be supporting Community projects.



be entertained by  
**Bobby Valentine  
& Band of Renown**

More information on the Redesdale website @  
<https://www.redesdale.net>

## Editorial

Hello Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first edition for 2020.

It is with great sadness that we advise the passing of Keith Gale.

Keith was a long serving member of the Bridge Connection Committee, we pass our condolences on to Keith's family and friends, Keith will be greatly missed in our community.

Several community events being held in the next few months

Redesdale Market **March 8th** flyer on page 23

Bobby Valentine and the band of Renown **April 4th** flyer page 2

**Please help support our Community events**



Regina Bennett

**Regina Bennett**

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## BRIDGE CONNECTION COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Size	Height x Width	Price per issue	10 Editions
Business Card	55mm x 90mm	\$25	\$250
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Half Page	130mm x 190mm	\$95	\$950
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#### Bridge Connection Distribution

950 Copies printed and distributed to Redesdale Mia Mia Region, including Barfold, Baynton, Derrinal, Elphinstone, Glenhope, Kyneton, Langley, Metcalf, Sidonia and Sutton Grange

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**Please Note:**  
**COPY DEADLINES**  
**20TH OF EACH MONTH**

## Bridge Connection

### - Mission Statement -

The mission of **Bridge Connection** is to bring people together by:

1. Providing information about local issues, goals and events, and to celebrate local achievements,
  2. Encouraging economic growth in the area
  3. Fostering geographic identity, and
  4. Providing a platform for public debate
- Bridge Connection is published by local people who volunteer, for local people as a **free paper** and on line at **redesdale.net** and via **face-book**



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## Redesdale Hall



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

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**Carolyn (03) 5425 3194** for more information.

#### Redesdale Hall Activities:

- 2nd Tuesday monthly, 1pm - Hall Comm. Meetings.
- 2nd Tuesday monthly, 7 pm - Rec. Reserve Meetings.

Redesdale



**Visit Redesdale Website**

Welcome to Redesdale.



**www.redesdale.net**



**Acting Principal: Aaron Taylor**

Phone: 5425 3155

Email: [redesdale.mia.mia.ps.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:redesdale.mia.mia.ps.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au)

## Redesdale Mia Mia PS

### Vision:

The community of Redesdale-Mia Mia Primary School considers itself a family that fosters well-being and embraces diversity. We strive to develop independent leaders who are globally capable.



## School News

The school would like to officially welcome our new and returning staff and students for 2020. This year we welcomed one excited Prep into our classrooms and one new teacher! James Addlem joins the team at RMMPS and will be with us for the first 6 months of 2020. For those unaware, Dee Groves, last year's 3-6 teacher was appointed as the Acting Principal at Araluen PS. Ms Groves is expected to return in Term 3.



### 2019 Presentation Evening

Our 2019 school year finished with a superb presentation evening. The night included awards, presentations, student performances and concluded with a shared dinner and dessert.

Our 2019 Zetland Lodge award winners were Lachlan Smith and Sayge Edwards. The deserved recipients received a financial contribution toward their secondary school expenses. Mikayla Hall, Lochlan Huntly and Max Patros were also awarded for their efforts throughout the year. 2 of our students, Skye Arnephy and Malaki Hallet, were rewarded for their outstanding attendance. Both attended in excess of 97% of days across the entire year. They both received a new scooter for their commitment to their learning.

Jodi Brophy and Paul Patros were also recognised for their tireless work as parents and school council members at RMMPS over the last 10 years. Their youngest child, Max, was part of the graduating class of 2019.

The evening finished off with students performing several songs in Indonesian followed by a grand finale, which saw a whole school performance of the song 'Pack Up'. Thanks to everyone that came along and helped make the night a great success.



## Media Release

Heathcote & District  
Community Bank Branch



### Community Bank offers helping hand to local farmers

Do you work in a rural industry? Are you looking to upskill in 2020? Heathcote & District Community Bank Branch are pleased to announce that their Rural Scholarship program is back for another year. Heathcote & District Community Bank Branch Manager Michael Prowse said the Heathcote Rural Scholarship Program, was launched in recognition of the district's significant farming community. 'We're very supportive of the district's farming community and after running farming events for the last three years we've seen that there's a real need for a scholarship like this' Mr. Prowse said. Applications for the scholarship are open to individuals of all ages who are wishing to sharpen their skills or extend their tertiary training in any of the rural industries. Whether it is a short welding course or a Diploma in Small Business Studies, the scholarship offers up to \$3,000 to assist with fees, accommodation and travel. Mr. Prowse said "It's because of our customers that we're able to run programs like this, without their support the funds wouldn't be available. We invite anyone who is considering expanding on their studies to make an application." Applications are Currently open and will close 29 February 2020. Applicants can apply online via the community bank's website or by picking up an application form at the branch. For further information please contact **Heathcote & District Community Bank** Branch on 03 5433 3115, or visit [www.heathcotenagambie.community](http://www.heathcotenagambie.community)

Media enquiries: Hannah Thomson 0439 374 622

[bendigobank.com.au](http://bendigobank.com.au)

# Mia Mia Mechanic Institute

## Preliminary Dates for 2020

**Flower Show**  
Saturday 24th October

**Community Christmas  
Party**  
Saturday 5th December



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# Keith Gale 15th January 1929 - 10th February 2020



## Eulogy by Elaine

Keith was born on January 15th, 1929, as Harold Keith Gale, the first son of Harold Thomas and Ena Adeline Gale in Howlong, NSW. Most of his life he was known as Keith.

Keith was an elder brother to Kevin and Mary (who died in May 2017) and was Married to Lois Jean (who died just last month)."

Being the eldest Keith was expected to leave school and get a job as soon as he could to help support the family.

Before leaving the Catholic school in Howlong, Keith completed Class Six & Seven with great results - all 'B's in all 5 subjects in 1941 & 1942 at the age of 13. Keith was also an altar boy for the Catholic church for some years prior.

Keith's first job was Tilley Plastics in Melbourne, where he completed his Apprenticeship in Fitting & Turning on 18th April 1950. He moved onto his next job at Polson Motor Parts in Footscray, where he eventually meet, Lois Jean and they married on 29th March 1952. Before their marriage, they enjoy dancing, frequently in the company of his brother Kevin and sister-in-law, Beryl.

During his employment at Poison's - Keith and Lois Jean built their first home for the family in Pascoe Vale. Accommodation during construction of the family home was a garage and living with their first child, daughter - Kaye. Completion of the family home became urgent with the arrival of their second child - son Philip. The garage was becoming too small for 2 adults and 2 children, so the house was soon finished and when Philip was born they moved in. The backyard was always full of fresh vegetables and fruit trees to help feed the growing family.

The following years of 1959 to 1963 -another two children -Elaine and Alison were born and a new job commenced with Caterpillar of Australia in Tullamarine, which was closer to the

family home.

During 1976, Keith completed a course to become a Motor Mechanic for Diesel Engines and he shared many hours teaching Philip about cars and repairing and stripping down an engine and then rebuilding it back to original state of working. Keith's last job before retirement was with Pleasant View in Preston for 13 years.

His role was in General Maintenance for Pleasant View, at the Children's Court, the Smith Street Clinic and "G" Division in Pentridge Jail.

After retirement, the family home was sold in Pascoe Vale and Keith commenced construction of a second home in his lifetime, at his

Property in Mia Mia, with his second wife, Margaret The land where the home was built was purchased in the 70's and there were many visits on weekends to keep the grass short Keith had Highland Cattle on his property as pets and also had a beautiful and loving cat called

Mischief. Throughout his working and private life, he continued his faith in Religion. Living in his new community of Mia Mia and surrounding areas, he continued to be a valued part of his parish and the Community.

Keith was always ready to help, where needed and would be the first to offer his help for any project/ charitable event As well as his religious commitment, he was involved with the local Fire Brigade as a volunteer, he helped with printing and publishing of diaries and assisted with the preparation and delivery of the local publication, The Bridge Connection.

Keith was involved with the Metcalfe Senior Citizens and Redesdale Rebels (i.e. Senior Clubs) and was part of the Macedon Ranges Uniting Church Partnership.

Due to Keith's Voluntary work in the community Keith was awarded a certificate of appreciation in the International Year of Volunteers 2001 signed by the Hon Steve Bracks MP Premier of Victoria.

Keith was the proud father to 4 children, grandfather to 9 Grandchildren and great grandfather to 5 great grandchildren. It is a great shame that he didn't get to meet his 6th great grandchild.

## Reflection's of Keith's life by Alison

For as long as I can remember, Dad was always involved in the local church -for the past 30 years the local parishes of Barfold, Metcalfe and Mia Mia and Sutton Grange. Being small communities, numbers were very important to keep them going. For many years, he helped by cutting the grass at Barf old and he hated giving this up in the last couple of years when he could no longer manage. He also enjoyed attending the yearly dance in Redesdale with the Redesdale Revellers in full dance and song. In addition to his church activities, Dad was very active in the wider community including Kyneton University of the 3rd Age, Metcalfe Senior Citizens and Kyneton Landcare and the Men's Breakfast.

Keith always had a wicked sense of humour and could spin a yarn like a champion. When Alison was in her 20s, Keith and

*Continued on page 7*





Margaret (Keith's) second wife) would go caravanning Alison would babysit their house with their 2 cats, Simon and Cleo in Pascoe Vale. One such time it was Valentine's Day and when she arrived to feed Simon and Cleo there was a huge card waiting for her, signed by the little fur critters! It was the paw prints in place of their names that gave her a chuckle, although in hindsight, Keith should have cleaned their paws after applying the ink, as having their little paw signatures all over the kitchen lino floor in purple ink probably wasn't ideal!



After Keith's melanoma cancer diagnosis in 2012, the subsequent surgery resulted in the loss of his left ear. It was not long after, this that Keith went to the local hardware store to get some bits and pieces. It was a family run business at the time with the owner's 17-year-old son working there. The young man helped Dad find the bits he needed and, after chatting for a little while, the young man said, "Can I ask you a question?" Keith responded "of course!": He asked, 'What happened to your ear?' Quick as a wit, Keith responded, 'A guy said lend me your ear, and the bastard hasn't brought it back.' The young man doubled over with laughter. Then his father arrived to ask what was going on? Somehow, they managed to relay the story in-between fits of laughter, which subsequently had all 3 of them nearly wetting themselves.

**Thank you Elaine & Alison for allowing The Bridge Connection the opportunity to reflect on parts of Keith Life.**

**Keith will be greatly missed by his Family, Friends and the Redesdale Mia Mia and surrounding communities.**



**Tuesday 3rd March 2020** – Heathcote Artists Come & Try – Time: 9am – 12pm. Acrylic, Water Colour and Pastels. Sign up now for one or all three sessions. No experience needed, all materials supplied. \$5 each session. **Bookings essential.** **Contact Iris** 0417 565 225 or email [heathcoteartistsinc@hotmail.com](mailto:heathcoteartistsinc@hotmail.com) Venue: Heathcote Golf Club Rooms.

**Friday 6th March** – El Rocio Spanish Festival – All welcome to one of the oldest Spanish traditions. 9am-meet at Mclvor Creek, 9.30am-begin walk, 10.30am mass at Mary Help of Christians Church, lunch at Barrack Reserve (BYO). 6.30pm Dinner, music & dancing at RSL Hall. Contact [tery.m@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tery.m@optusnet.com.au) **Website** <http://rociovictoria.org.au/>

**Saturday 7th March** – El Rocio Spanish Festival – 10.30am - Meet at Info Centre and see traditional Spanish Dancing, 11am – begin walk, lunch at Mary Help of Christian Church, 6.30pm Dinner, music & dancing at RSL Hall. Contact [tery.m@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tery.m@optusnet.com.au) **Website** <http://rociovictoria.org.au/>

**Saturday 7th March 2020** - Heathcote Inn "Meet the Wine Makers" - Time: 6.30pm. The final of the "Meet the Wine Makers series". Local wine makers will provide insights into all aspects of producing their wines. Dine with the winemakers from Tellurian Wines and be treated to an amazing 4 course dinner paired with matching wines. **Tickets** \$95 per person. **Bookings phone 5433 2409** or [bookings@heathcoteinn.com.au](mailto:bookings@heathcoteinn.com.au) Venue: Heathcote Inn 9 Hunter Place Heathcote

**Saturday 7th March 2020** – Lions Bush Market – Time: 8am – 1pm. Stall **bookings** can be made by calling Jean on 0400 675 995 or via email at [www.lionsmarketmanager@gmail.com](mailto:www.lionsmarketmanager@gmail.com) Venue: Barrack Reserve, High Street, Heathcote.

**Sunday 8th March** – El Rocio Spanish Festival – 9.15am – Mass at Mary Help of Christians Church , 11am Begin walk, 1pm lunch at RSL, 2.30pm Introduction of Guests & Spanish Dancing. Contact [tery.m@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tery.m@optusnet.com.au) **Website** <http://rociovictoria.org.au/>

**Sunday 8th March** –Redesdale Bush Market – 9am -2pm. Agnes Mudford Reserve. Enjoy a wide selection of stalls. Listen to the music while taking the local surrounds. Free entry. For more information contact, **Alwyn 0419 513 976 or Carolyn-Anne 03 5425 3194.**

**Tuesday 10th March 2020** – Heathcote Artists Come & Try – Time: 9am – 12pm. Acrylic, Water Colour and Pastels. Sign up now for one or all three sessions. No experience needed, all materials supplied. \$5 each session. **Bookings essential.** **Contact Iris 0417 565 225 or email** [heathcoteartistsinc@hotmail.com](mailto:heathcoteartistsinc@hotmail.com) Venue: Heathcote Golf Club Rooms.

**Thursday 12th March 2020**- Palling Bros Pizza Box Open mic Poetry - Time 6pm. All welcome, arrive at 6pm put your name in the pizza box for a 6.30 start. Original works welcomed. Venue: Palling Bros Brewery High Street Heathcote. Ph 04028 18050

**Saturday 14th March 2020**- Palling Bros Brewery present - Vino Sapiens. Time: 8pm. Free Entry. Local band performing more classic covers that everyone will enjoy. A family friendly event. Venue: Palling Bros Brewery High St Heathcote. **Ph 0427 848 073.**

**Friday 20th March 2020**– Lions Night Market – Time: 5pm – 9.30pm. Stall bookings can be made by calling Jean on 0400 675 995 or via email at [www.lionsmarketmanager@gmail.com](mailto:www.lionsmarketmanager@gmail.com) Venue: Barrack Reserve, High Street, Heathcote. **Saturday 29th March 2020**- Palling Bros Brewery present- Grim Fawknar. Time: 8pm. Free Entry. Back by popular demand, highly acclaimed and voted "Melbourne's Best Busker". Venue: Palling Bros Brewery High St Heathcote. Ph 0427 848 073.

**Saturday 4th April 2020** – Lions Bush Market – Time: 8am – 1pm. Stall bookings can be made by calling Jean on 0400 675 995 or via email at [www.lionsmarketmanager@gmail.com](mailto:www.lionsmarketmanager@gmail.com) Venue: Barrack Reserve, High Street, Heathcote.

Phew! While Australia suffered through one of the worst fire seasons in our history, locally we remained relatively unscathed.

The last article that I wrote, I stated the fact that the most common reason for a call out would be from a slasher/ mower fire. I'm pleased to report that, this season, we have not turned out to one of these fires.

A big pat on the back must go out to both local residents and holiday makers for the care and caution that they have displayed during the danger period .

Thank you also to those who participated in the Fire Awareness Sessions this season. It was a learning experience for both the community and for us to find out more about your concerns .

I would like to mention the special efforts made by Redesdale CFA members in the fight against the fires in N.S.W. and Eastern Victoria. Lindsay Booker was deployed as a team leader to N.S.W on two occasions. Michelle King was flown into Malacca, Andy King nominated to go to Gippsland and locally a crew manned the Kangaroo Flat fire station due to a void caused by the large number of fires. We have come a long way since I first joined the brigade and we would occasionally venture to Mia Mia or Barfold for a fire!

Our next challenge will be unattended camp fires, bon fires and burn off's as the weather cools and fire restrictions are eased. If you light a fire, please, still observe local regulations. It is easy to become complacent .

Locally, the Redesdale CFA will be at the Redesdale Bush Market. We will be available to discuss fire prevention or talk about your fire safety concerns. Most importantly the CFA firewood and wine raffle is on again. See you there, to purchase tickets.

Good luck.

**Andrew Campbell.**  
Fire Prevention Officer.

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# Spain Comes to Redesdale

Two years ago Lisa and I set of on the " trip of a lifetime ". We trekked over 100 ks through Tuscany with a group of 19 other like minded people. These generous people had been touched by breast cancer in some way. Some recovering from recent treatment, some doing it in memory of a friend, there was breast care nurses and those just doing it because it's a good cause. A wonderful group of people who have become great friends. So much so that we want to do it all again. This time, the 120 k El Camino trek through Spain with the aim to raise over \$100K for the Otis Foundation.

A major fundraiser that we have coming up will be held at Kez's Hideaway on Racecourse road. This purpose built breast cancer retreat currently is home to families for a weekend or week day stay. Hosting approximately 100 families or groups a year. We have been given a weekend to throw the doors open to the public for fundraising purposes. Thank you to the Otis Foundation for this opportunity.

The day "Spain comes to Redesdale " consists of three sessions. Firstly from 3 till 6pm guided tours of Kez's while enjoying a High Tea, ( Tea, Coffee or Bubbles)

Next, 6 to 7.30, a taste of Spain. Enjoy Paella with a complimentary Sangria. Also Nachos and Tacos will be available. And finally from 7.30 on . Bring a chair or rug and sit back and enjoy " Yesterday " on the big outdoor screen. A much acclaimed film featuring the music of the Beatles.

The date is **March 28th. Cost is \$20 per person per session.**

**Tickets are available online:**  
**[otisfoundation.org.au/spaincomestoredesdale](https://otisfoundation.org.au/spaincomestoredesdale)**

Note. If you just want a tour through Kez's, you can join the guided tours via a gold coin donation.  
Looking forward to seeing you there.

**Lisa and Andrew Campbell.**  
**Ph 0428253104**



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## SPAIN COMES TO REDESDALE 28th March 2020

Local land donors Andrew & Lisa Campbell are hosting an outdoor movie night fundraiser at the purpose-built OTIS Foundation retreat 'Kez's Hideaway' in Redesdale, with guided tours of the house and a High Tea beforehand.

### High Tea & Tour (3-6pm):

Guided tours of the house with High Tea and your choice of tea, coffee or a glass of bubbles will take place between 3-6pm.

### A Taste of Spain (6-7:30pm):

Enjoy a beautiful dinner featuring authentic Spanish Paella and a complementary Sangria to go with. Tacos & Nachos will also be available.

### Outdoor Movie (7:30 - 9:30pm):

Watch the critically acclaimed film 'Yesterday' on the big screen under the stars at Kez's Hideaway. Please BYO chair or rug

Tickets can be purchased online via:  
[otisfoundation.org.au/spaincomestoredesdale](https://otisfoundation.org.au/spaincomestoredesdale)

100% of the proceeds from this event will go directly toward  
The OTIS Foundation, gifting retreat accommodation to those  
experiencing breast cancer.





## Redesdale Recreation Reserve Committee Chairman's Report

A new year begins and with some recent early rains, although patchy, all goes well for hopefully a good early autumn break.

The whole committee have been working tirelessly over the past couple of months to finally have the internal walls and ceilings completed along with the skirts, arcs and painting. It's looking more like a conference centre now rather than just a tin shed. With a couple of small items to address prior to receiving the Certificate of Occupancy, it will then be on to construction of the deck. Special thanks to Lin Newton for providing snacks for morning teas and to Robyn, Pan and Lisa for their colour scheme selection. A huge thank you also to Steve Atkins, electrician extraordinaire, who has powered up the pavilion with his electrical skills.

We've had some changes on the committee over the last couple of months.

We would like to acknowledge the huge contribution to the committee by Rod Gibson over the past five years or so. He came with many valuable ideas and was one of the driving forces for the pavilion. He was always, and still is, available to help out not only physically but also financially. He helped source some of the equipment we now hire out and he and Kathy provided the sheep that adorn "The Redesdale Sheep Yards", just to name a couple of examples. Thank you Rod and enjoy your retirement.

We welcome Craig Newton, not only to the committee, but also to Redesdale. Craig and his wife, Lin, have moved back to Redesdale where he grew up on his parents farm. He brings with him a wealth of experience in the hospitality industry amongst other things, having operated businesses here and overseas. Craig, over the past couple of months, has already proven he will be a valuable asset to the committee.

You will also notice elsewhere in this edition of BC that threw the generosity of City of Greater Bendigo the pavilion and surrounds now has free WiFi. We believe this will be of great benefit to the community as a whole, so we encourage all to go and sit in the staging area or surrounds of the pavilion or the rotunda and enjoy the serenity and the free WiFi.

Some of you have noticed, and reported to us, the dead gum tree on the western side of the oval.

We have employed the services of an arborist to make the tree safe, hopefully before the end of February. As the trunk of the tree is being used as a habitat for birds etc. we have decided to only cut back all the branches leaving the main trunk as a habitat for many decades to come.

We always welcome feedback on ways we can improve the looks and functionality of the Reserve, so if you have any ideas or suggestions please feel free to contact any of the members listed.

Happy days

**Mike Abramowski** 0418319131

**Chairman Redesdale Recreation Reserve Committee**

**Secretary** Lindsay Booker 0448021544

**Treasurer** Gary Prendergast 0409705250

Ronn Taylor. 0429336763

Wayne Smith 0418409642

John Beurle 0422001924

David Page 0423242774

Craig Newton 0408890060.

### Free community Wi-Fi



#### The City of Greater Bendigo has installed free community Wi-Fi in the Redesdale Pavilion.

Wi-Fi will be available inside the building when it is open or in the immediate vicinity outside. All you need is a smart phone, tablet or device which can connect to Wi-Fi.

Once you connect to **CoGB\_Community\_Wi-Fi** you will need to accept the Terms and Conditions of use and you will be able to access the service 24 hours a day, seven day a week. The service is free and unlimited but please refer to the Terms and Conditions. There is information displayed with Frequently Asked Questions at the Redesdale Pavilion.

[www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/wifi](http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/wifi)



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Visit: **www.redesdale.net**  
**district, events, businesses and news.**

For more information turn to **page 3**  
for advertising rates or call and chat to

Editor - **Regina Bennett 5425 5402.**

**'Bridge Connection' Community Newspaper**



## Rural Communities Committee (RCC)

### Free Internet and Wi-Fi at the Redesdale Pavilion

As a part of the City of Greater Bendigo's strategy to support rural communities and projects such as our Redesdale Community Hub, I am pleased to confirm that the Agnes Mudford Reserve now has free community Wi-Fi access available for everyone with a phone, tablet or PC with Wi-Fi located in and around the green 'Pavilion' overlooking the Reserve. This is wonderful especially with the challenges we have for internet access in the area. A huge thank you to the City of Greater Bendigo for this support and service.

Please see further details elsewhere in the Bridge Connection, at <https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/Services/Free-community-wifi> and posted around the Redesdale township regarding how to access this new Wi-Fi hotspot. Note that no password is needed, so just connect and go! Range is around 15-20 meters around the Pavilion, (subject to your device and the amount of people accessing the hotspot at the same time). On the front deck of the Pavilion is a great spot out of the weather and a very pleasant place to sit, browse and take in the surrounding sights, sounds and smells of our town.

Once the Pavilion is ready for use, (see RRRC report) we are delighted to advise that the City of Greater Bendigo has provided our community 3 computers (connected to the internet) for use at the Reserve. The finer details of how this will work, when they will be available and all the other details are being worked out as we go to print, so please keep an eye out for dates etc. Thanks again to the City of Greater Bendigo for their wonderful support for Redesdale, the provision of these computers, Wi-Fi hotspot and Stage 1 of the Redesdale Community Hub; a new kitchen!

If you have any queries regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact the RRRC.



Need to advertise your **business locally?**

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**'Bridge Connection'**

it is a great way to let the community know you are **open for business.**

For more information turn to **page 3** for advertising rates or for more information phone

**Editor - Regina Bennett 5425 5402**

**'Bridge Connection' Community Newspaper**

## RCC Work Progress

In our recent RCC meeting we refined our focus and have overarching themes of collaboration and action. Items of focus include:

1. Rural wellbeing (especially mental health)
2. Connectivity
  - a. Technology (mobile phone and internet)
  - b. Transport options
  - c. Outreach services
3. Effective models of information sharing with community members
4. Rural roads safety

As we work through these focus areas I will share updates as they occur.

### Council Strategies

The City of Greater Bendigo is hard at work crafting new strategies for the future of all members of our community. Two of the strategies listed below are out for community discussion, feedback and input now.

The food strategy has a broad community impact so well worth a look and the 'Reimagining of the Bendigo Creek' plan although not directly affecting our local area, anything that brings more people to the area will have a trickledown affect bringing people through Redesdale to get to Bendigo. Hopefully they stop, stay and spend at our eateries and general store.

1. Greater Bendigo's Food System Strategy 2020 – 2030 (Rebecca Huddy)

More information: [www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/foodsystemstrategy](http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/foodsystemstrategy)

2. Reimagining Bendigo Creek Draft Plan (Anthony Sheean)  
More information: [www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/bendigocreek](http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/bendigocreek)

3. There is also work being done on a policy to better use, access and support of Community Buildings in the Shire. Keep an eye out for a draft policy in the next month or so. I have been fortunate to be involved with the early development of this policy which is hopefully put to council for ratification in the middle of this year.

Other news that may affect some is that the Kangaroo Harvesting program has resumed in most zones. See this link for details <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/kangaroo-harvesting-program>

If you have any queries, ideas or feedback on the above then please reach out as this collaboration with Council is all about bettering the rural community we live, learn and work in. Your engagement will always be welcome.

Regards,  
**John Beurle**  
**0422001924**  
[john.beurle@gmail.com](mailto:john.beurle@gmail.com)

## Redesdale Ramblings

### Low growing shrubs

I was talking to Mr. Don recently and he said that he's planted some low growing banksias on one side of his house. It got me thinking about other such shrubs where you don't want to obstruct the view. There are plenty of native plants as well as exotics which fit the bill for Central Victorian gardens.

One of the banksias we discussed is *Banksia blechnifolia* which trails across the ground and can drape itself over rocks quite attractively. Its foliage is deeply toothed which gives it a similar appearance to *Blechnum* fern, hence its specific name. The flowers are typical banksia cones which sit up amongst the foliage and are a source of nectar for birds and insects. *Banksia petiolaris* grows in the same way but its foliage is more finely toothed. A taller growing shrubby-type is *Banksia caleyi* with dark flower-buds that hang down earning it the common name, Red Lantern Banksia.

Banksias are in the Proteaceae family and are adapted to phosphorus-poor soils so can be "poisoned" by fertiliser unless you use one suitable for native plants.

Correas, the "Native Fuchsias", can get quite tall but respond well to pruning so can be kept at a suitable height. But several types stay low such as *Correa pulchella* which has flowers ranging from soft pink to bright orange. There's some lower growing forms of *Correa reflexa* and *C. alba* which are worth searching out.

One of our favourite forms of rosemary is the prostrate or trailing type called *Rosmarinus officialis* "Prostratus" (actually rosemary has recently been lumped in with *salvia* so is now *Salvia rosmarinus*!). It's another plant that trails and can mould itself over rocks and the edges of garden beds. The foliage is finer than the typical culinary rosemary but works just the same with the Sunday roast! The soft bluey-purple flowers are an added bonus during the winter and are alive with bees – one visitor referred to them as "the bee-bushes"! The advantage of the trailing habit is that it often puts down roots where it touches

the ground so it's a handy way of propagation; just allow the roots to develop then sever the new plant from the original and replant it where you want it. Being from the Mediterranean it prefers to be in full sun in well drained soil which isn't too rich (so avoid manures or other fertilisers). A raised bed is the ideal setting as it allows the rosemary to trail over the edges while ensuring it's not going to get water-logged during the winter.

For a slightly less exposed situation the "Hardy Plumbago", *Ceratostigma griffithii*, gives value in different seasons. It has beautiful, clear blue flowers through summer then develops colourful red autumn foliage and leafs out again in the freshest green come spring. Although it will flag in extreme heat it tolerates the summer fairly well.

One of the best daisies I've grown is the shrubby "Moroccan Daisy", *Rhodanthemum hosmariense*. Above the finely cut silvery green foliage, sparkling white flowers open up from tight buds which are edged in black. I think it's technically a sub-shrub because the flowering stems die back at the end of the summer so the bush stays very low over the winter. It's easy enough to strike from cuttings though it can be a bit slow to get established. It doesn't require a lot of water over the summer and it definitely doesn't want to be in soggy ground over winter, so another tenant for the raised bed!

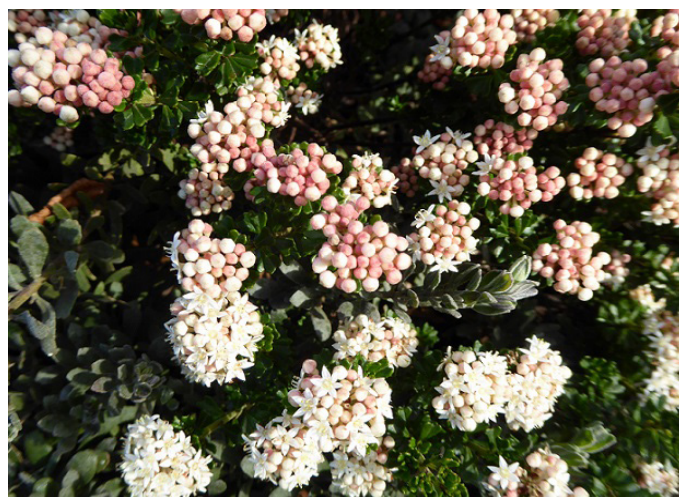
To finish I'll return to the Aussie natives and mention my favourite rock garden shrub, *Pomaderris obcordata* 'Mallee Princess'. It originates from near the Victorian/South Australian border and forms a low hummock of small green leaves which are covered in winter by terminal clusters of soft pink buds which open as white stars. We planted ours in a very sandy garden bed and when it was quite young it was attacked by a marauding cockatoo who reduced it to a much smaller mound of twigs! However it slowly recovered and after a few years it looks great. I'm not recommending you get the cockies to do this on a regular basis but at least we know that sometimes even this sort of vandalism can be overlooked,

**cheers  
fermi**

*The Redesdale Rock Gardener*



***Correa Pulchella Prostrate Orange***



***Pomaderris Obcordata***





### *Lady Sapphire Bombay*

Hello dear readers,  
Storms and tempus and thunder let no man or woman put asunder, all came down on Mia Mia Manor with fright and delight.  
Such is the Summer of 2019-2020. From the harsh desert dryness and heat to tropical downpours. At least one cannot complain that the weather

in Central Victoria is dull. Thorn, the gardener was staking all the cannas in the pots along the back of the house on this hot clear day, which by the way look absolutely breathtaking (the cannas not Thorn), when suddenly all went very dark in the skies above and humidity rising to 100%. The skies opened to a deluge of 20ml in 5 minutes. Thorn, the gardeners, carefully manicured raked paths washed away. The patio areas were transformed into swimming pools with the flow of water making its way through the kitchen door.

As enough was happening, Lord B decided to set off the house alarm to notify all in ear shot that help was required to combat the rising waters protruding Mia Mia Manor. All my beautiful Egyptian towels were thrown at the doorway to soak up the water. Only then to realise that the box gutters which were installed last year were overflowing and straight into my office. No time to lose, the computer was quickly turned off and power points and more beautiful towels at the ready to start the mopping process. Had anyone checked the other side of the house? More towels were required as the master bedroom was flooding. "Battle stations", yelled Lord B; Obviously a nod to his hero Lord Horatio Nelson.

Thorn, the gardener, grabbed my antique lace tablecloth to start mopping. I thought, its either him or the tablecloth to go, with my suggestion he use the bedspread, which was a gift from my mother in law and never liked in both it and her. The storm felt like the longest 5 minutes of our lives. No sooner had it arrived; the sun came out again.

Mia Mia Manor looked like the aftermath of a Cecil B DeMille disaster movie. All we could do is clean up the aftermath or should I say, Thorn, the Gardner, as no garden watering was required for this day and perhaps the next few, and his cottage further up the hill was totally unscathed.

On the upside, all the water tanks and ponds are full to overflowing, where Thorn, the gardener had to give mouth to mouth on one of his precious goldfish that had washed out of the fountain. Low and behold, it survived.

The grass is growing with slight trepidation which gives the garden a break from the rabbits which have devoured even the less devour able plants.

Of course, with the storms come the blackouts which seemed to be more frequent. Thanks to Grannies Kerosene lamps and a gramophone playing a Gilbert and Sullivan 78, life at Mia Mia Manor remains composed for any occasion when there is no radio or television.

With the days drawing in, Autumn shall be upon us before

we know it. It's always time for Mothers ruin and perhaps a little rabbit terrine. Till next month's adventures at Mia Mia Manor.

**Lady B**



### Quote of the month:

*My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece.*

**Claude Monet**



## QUICK CLUES

## CROSSWORD

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## CRYPTIC CLUES

### ACROSS

- 1 To accidentally knock someone (4)
- 3 Nothing left on the dinner plate, there's ..... (3,1,5)
- 9 A pretty flower (4)
- 10 Someone who doesn't eat meat (10)
- 12 Long suffering (8)
- 13 Eating outdoors (6)
- 14 To get angry is to ..... (4,4,6)
- 18 A modern way to meet new people (8,6)
- 20 Shiny sheen (6)
- 22 Verb for fellow exposing himself quickly (8)
- 24 Somewhere young people go to dance at night (10)
- 25 Short form of anonymous (4)
- 26 People, not dogs, who keep an eye on corporates and businesses (9)
- 27 To boast is to ..... (4)

### DOWN

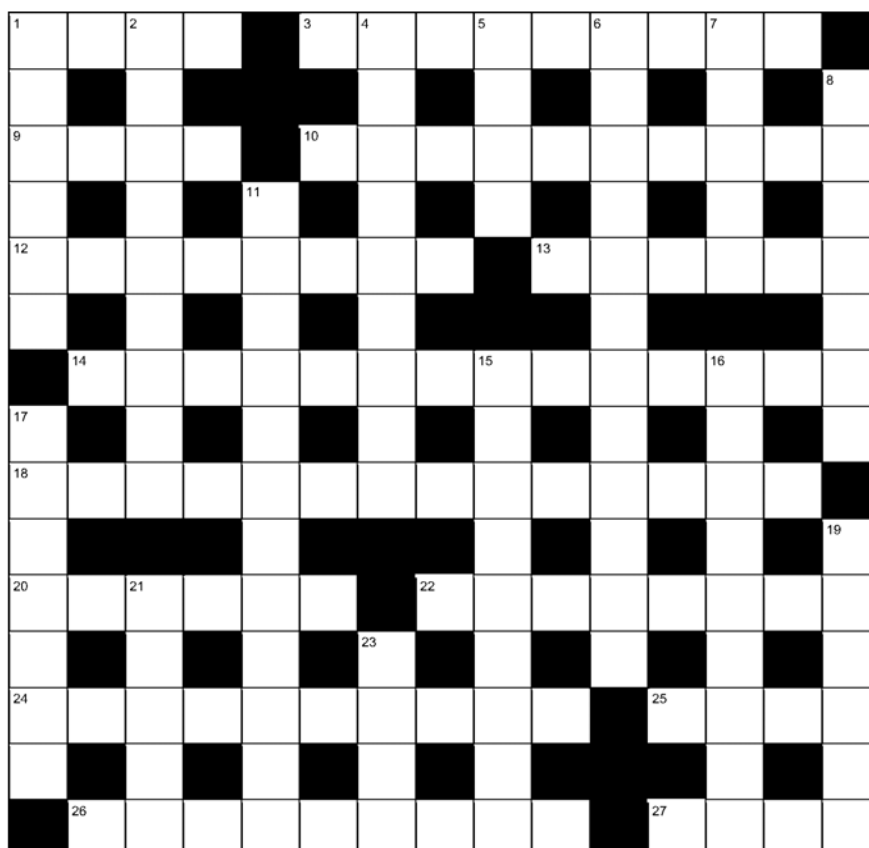
- 1 Only just there (6)
- 2 Not informed the right way (9)
- 4 A polite gesture of respect, usually a bow or curtsy (9)
- 5 Kane's brother (4)
- 6 Someone who plays the clarinet (12)
- 7 Strange creature from outer space (5)
- 8 Mythical horse with a horn on its head (7)
- 11 Boring person who works for a bureaucracy (12)
- 15 A bag thrown over a horse (9)
- 16 Elderly person on a pension (9)
- 17 One cold country (7)
- 19 Delicious drink at Christmas time (6)
- 21 Eighth letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 23 To cover something (4)

### ACROSS

- 1 A blow for British politician touring university (4)
- 3 A heavyweight returns to fight for nothing (3,1,5)
- 11 Grew a plant (4)
- 12 One won't have joint or Ecstasy, averting a problem (10)
- 15 Long suffering Liberal takes the lead (8)
- 16 Eating out (6)
- 17 Get angry response to endless mêlée for a change (4,4,6)
- 18 PC way of meeting people (8,6)
- 20 Sheen produces different result (6)
- 22 Fellow gets beating for exposing himself (8)
- 28 Dark suit needed for these places of entertainment (10)
- 29 Clergyman won't start soon (4)
- 30 Regulators would have done this at Walthamstow? (9)
- 31 Boast by supporter beginning to grate (4)

### DOWN

- 3 Only just how naturists live? (6)
- 4 Heard teacher in class is to give incorrect details (9)
- 9 Respect obtained by wayward niece with ASBO (9)
- 10 With potential, say, to be murder victim (4)
- 11 Recital isn't arranged on time for musician (12)
- 12 Foreign article contains untruth (5)
- 13 Unusual icon in urn depicting legendary beast (7)
- 11 Administrative leaders of British union shown by funny caricature (12)
- 18 Burden unpleasant woman with some riding gear (9)
- 19 Elderly person in boarding house meeting Royal (9)
- 20 One country or another with sea, we hear, not river (7)
- 19 Travelled back taking horse for a drink (6)
- 21 Athenian's introduction to Socrates? (5)
- 23 Cold boy gets dressed (4)



Answers on page 20



## Campaspe River Update.

Coliban Water must be held accountable for their contamination of the Campaspe River.

The latest EPA / Coliban Water court case was listed for February 3rd at the Kyneton Magistrates Court and those who gave up their time to go and were hoping for some justice and practical help for our waterways, were disappointed that it was adjourned for a second time. CW requested a further six weeks to continue their discussions with the EPA, who did not object to this request. The charges were made public November 24th 2019 and the court appearance is now to be March 16th 2020. When a private non-government individual was very swiftly charged for illegal dumping last year, Dr Pigdon stated that, "EPA and the community are sick of people treating Victoria as a dumping ground and EPA makes no apology for taking a no-tolerance approach." We would like to see an appropriate outcome swiftly brought about in this case.

The new flow meter, up river of the KWRP discharge point, has been installed. Readings will be collected and compared with those taken at the BOM station at Redesdale.

The construction of Hardwick's much needed Turkey Nest Dam has begun.

The public supported the river through the petition, and now have a chance to support independent monitoring with the results available to all, through crowd funding. <https://chuffed.org/project/this-river-is-not-a-tip-saving-the-campaspe-for-its-communities> Please consider. Thanks to Steph Ryan MP for her efforts with the petition.

Goulburn-Murray Water warnings via media releases put out on December 19th, told us that the water in Lake Eppalock was only fit for sightseeing due to serious Blue-Green Algae blooms. "Blue-green algae occur naturally in waterbodies. They contain toxins that are harmful to humans and animals. Characteristic signs of algae contact are skin rashes or itchiness; sore eyes, ears and nose; or if swallowed, nausea or vomiting."

GMW recommends:

People and pets avoid contact with the water.

People who come into contact with affected water should wash affected skin immediately in clean cold water.

Seeking an alternative water supply for stock and pets where possible.

Do not use affected water for cooking, drinking, washing or showering. Boiling the affected water will not make it safe for these purposes.

Reading GMW's fact sheet and other information on blue green algae at GMW's blue-green algae webpage (<https://www.g-mwater.com.au/news/bga>) to be informed of the risks. These warnings were due to be updated Feb 21st.

Water samples taken by Parks Victoria at Turpins Falls (about 17th of Jan), "show that low levels of a single non-toxic species of Blue Green Algae is present in the water. The levels are currently within safe water quality levels for recreational waters. Parks Victoria will continue to monitor conditions at Turpins Falls as summer progresses."

Stay safe.

*Lindy Connell*

## BARFOLD COMMUNITY CHURCH

Kyneton/Heathcote Road, Barfold.



**SHANE VARCOE**

Shane is an Executive Officer at the Dalgarno Institute, which is committed to proactive prevention against drug and alcohol harm through education, advocacy and resourcing.

**29th March 2020**

**Commencing at 3.30pm will be a time to hear Shane's story, discussion and questions. BBQ tea.**

For catering purposes RSVP text message to Leigh: **0425812786**

**Please bring a chair**

You are warmly invited to

# BARFOLD

## COMMUNITY CHURCH

Meets 10.00 am

2nd – 5th Sundays each month

followed by morning tea

at Barfold Union Church

Heathcote-Kyneton Rd, Barfold

**Christmas Service will be**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019**

Contact; Leigh 0425812786





  
 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  
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## Bendigo Ripped Off By Sports Grants Rort

Federal Member for Bendigo, Lisa Chesters is calling for immediate funding for projects duded by Bridget McKenzie's sports grant scheme.

"The Bendigo electorate has been ripped off by this rort," Chesters said.

"Our community has potentially missed out on almost \$1million dollars of sporting infrastructure upgrades because of a corrupt process. We deserve our fair share."

After obtaining a spreadsheet created by Senator McKenzie's office, the ABC has released the list of the top 50 ranked sports grant projects that missed out on funding which includes Kyneton District Soccer Club who scored 87/100 and the City of Greater Bendigo, who applied on behalf of the Garden Gully Hockey Facility and received a score of 86/100. "Both of these projects scored high for a reason. They were ranked on community participation, community need and project design."

The Kyneton District Soccer club's project was worth \$460,000 while the Garden Gully Hockey Facility upgrade required \$500,000.

The ABC also reports that the lowest ranked application funded got the maximum grant available, and the three lowest ranked projects funded were all in Coalition-held seats.

"These worthwhile clubs deserve to know why lower ranked projects received funding over theirs," Chesters said.

"In light of yesterday's revelations, the full list of every eligible application and how it was assessed by Sport Australia must immediately be released.

"I acknowledge and am pleased that Neangar Park Golf Club received \$250,000 in Round 3 of the Community Sports Infrastructure Grants program, but it makes me question why other highly ranked groups missed out.

"It should not be one or the other."

Clubs and councils that missed out still haven't received an apology from the Government.

They deserve, at the very least, to know if they were duded by Bridget McKenzie and anyone else involved in this Government's shameless rorting.

"This Liberal National Government continues to leave Bendigo off the map, I'm calling for our fair share," Chesters said.

## Upgrade needed at fatal intersection

Tooborac residents are calling on the Andrews Government to upgrade a local intersection following a fatal collision last month.

Local MP and The Nationals deputy leader Steph Ryan has written to the Roads Minister about the intersection after members of the Tooborac CFA attended a three-car collision at the intersection of Seymour-Tooborac Rd and the Northern Hwy, last month.

"Following last month's tragic accident, I have been contacted by a number of local residents, including by members of the Tooborac CFA who are pushing for long-term safety improvements at the intersection," Ms Ryan said.

"The intersection has become a notorious blackspot for motorists attempting to turn off the Northern Hwy into Majors Line Rd.

"One solution suggested by the community is for VicRoads to add a turning lane on the Northern Hwy into Majors Line Rd to reduce the risk of future collisions."

Ms Ryan added that she had previously raised concerns about the intersection with the Minister in June last year, following a fire at Easter which left an increased amount of timber on the roadside.

"I previously raised the safety of this intersection with the Minister last, asking her to investigate its safety and urging VicRoads to attend to fallen timber on the roadside of Majors Line Rd.

"In her response, the Minister advised that Regional Roads Victoria conducted an assessment of the investigation and found that it met the recommended standards.

"Following last month's fatal collision, I have again written to the Minister to request her urgent investigation into long-term safety improvements at the intersection.

"The local community are devastated by last month's tragic accident and fear that it's likely to happen again if immediate action is not taken to address this hazardous intersection."

### Media contact:

Caitlyn Putt – 5762 1600 or  
 caitlyn.putt@parliament.vic.gov.au



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## UNITING CHURCH

10am Start

Morning Tea is shared before each service at 9.45



<b>Barfold</b>	1st Sunday of month	<b>1 March</b>
<b>Metcalfe</b>	2nd Sunday of month	<b>8 March</b>
<b>Sutton Grange</b>	3rd Sunday of month	<b>15 March</b>

**Mia Mia** 4th Sunday 22 March Please note that for this month only the 3rd Sunday is at Sutton Grange and 4th Sunday is Mia Mia.

**5th Sunday of month** is free for people to go to the churches or a **Macedon Ranges Partnership** event. Our services rotate around the churches during the month.

For more information go to -

**[www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au](http://www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au)**

### CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Redesdale** 2nd Sunday of each month 11am

## FARMERS' MARKETS



### Woodend Community Farmers' Market

Sat 7 March  
Cnr High & Forest Streets, Woodend  
0487 444 090 Sharon Kittson

### Daylesford Farmer's Market

Sat 7 March  
Daylesford Primary School  
03 5664 0096 Peter Arnold

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

### Kyneton Farmers' Market

Sat 14 March  
St Pauls Park, Piper Street, Kyneton  
54 221 025 Veronica Manifold

### Riddells Creek Farmers' Market

Sat 21 March  
Riddells Creek Primary School, Riddells Creek  
0408 254 626 Ali Bant

### Lancefield & District Farmers' Market

Sat 28 March  
Centre Plantation, High Street, Lancefield  
0407 860 320 Meggs Hannes

### Maldon Market

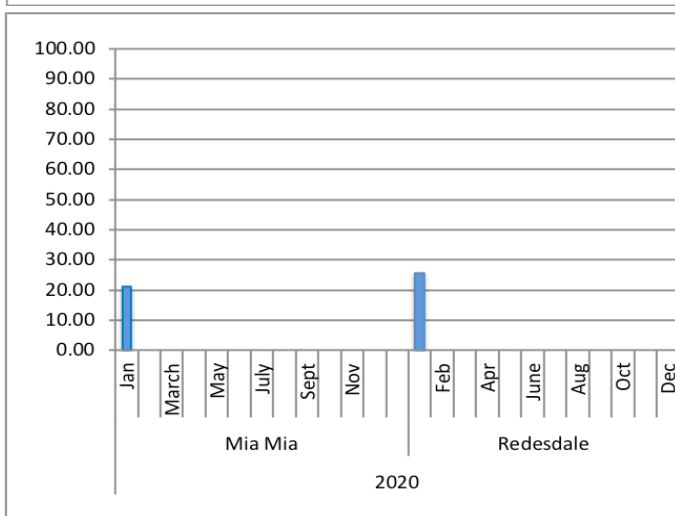
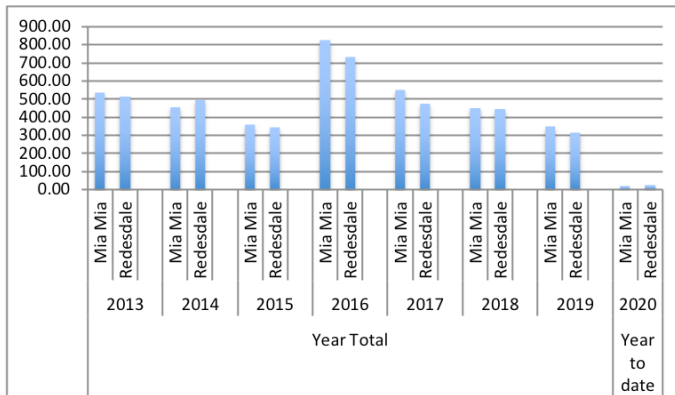
Sunday March 8

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



The average yearly rainfall for **Redesdale** is about 601mms.

Thank you to Helen Bennett for the **Mia Mia** readings.



## January Rain Fall

**Redesdale 25.6mm Year to date 25.6mm**

**Mia Mia 21.25mm Year to date 21.25mm**

## 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).



## Party Equipment for hire

The following party equipment is available for hire from the Redesdale Recreational Reserve Committee (RRRC)

Commercial sized steel roaster	\$120 per weekend
Large marquee 3m x 6m	\$225 per weekend
Collapsible marquee 3m x 3m	\$80 per weekend
Tables - 1.8m x 1m	\$8 each per weekend
Table cloths, white	\$10 each
Chairs, white plastic	\$2.50 each
Umbrellas, charcoal	\$5 each

A bond will be required on most hires. Proceeds go to the RRRC. For more information or to make a booking call:

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## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

49

### Stuffed Zucchini



4 Medium zucchini

1 onion chopped finely

3 tomatoes chopped

2 cloves garlic chopped finely

3 tbs oil

2 eggs

1 cup breadcrumbs

1 cup parmesan cheese

500grms lean beef mince

300grms shredded cheese

Chopped fresh herbs, parsley, basil

Salt and pepper

Saute onion and garlic in the oil add the meat and cook for 3 mins.

Add tomatoes, salt and pepper and herbs and cook for 15mins.

Place all these ingredients in a bowl and allow to cool slightly .

Add beaten eggs, parmesan cheese and breadcrumbs

Trim stems from Zucchini and slice lengthwise, place into a baking tray

Large enough to sit side by side.

Fill zucchini with the mixture , top with shredded cheese and place in oven.

Cook at 180 degrees for 30 minutes till the cheese has browned.

**Marisa Leahy**

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### We don't need breaks

Osteoporosis is a common condition affecting over a million Australians. If you are a student of Greek language you will understand that the name is succinctly descriptive - osteoporosis sufferers have bones that are literally porous, or full of holes.

Bones are an amazingly strong intermix of collagen fibres and calcium crystals, which gives bone great resistance to all sorts of force - compression, twisting and flexing which of course gives us great ability to run, jump - and fall, and survive - in the rough and tumble of sports like AFL.

Our bones are constantly being renewed to endure the daily stresses of getting around. In this process of renewal two groups of bone cells are important. One group - osteoblasts - builds new bone. The other group - osteoclasts - breaks down old bone for renewal. So if your bones were an apartment building with "concrete cancer", the renewal process of bones looks like the "concrete cancer" gets fixed, without the need to demolish and completely rebuild, all while the residents continue to live in the building. Now that's a building insurer's dream!

Like many processes in the body, unfortunately the renewal process of bones is reduced by age. So almost everyone has less bone density at age 70 than they did at age 20. Some people have drastically, dangerously reduced bone density however.

Those at increased risk of osteoporosis include those in whom parents also had osteoporosis, those people who have inadequate diet, those who get inadequate exercise, those who have liver or kidney, thyroid or bowel disease, or anyone who has smoked or drunk alcohol to excess. In addition some medicines are associated with an increased risk of osteoporosis.

What happens if osteoporosis is left unchecked? There are literally no symptoms until bones actually break. When bones are severely weakened, fractures can happen even with minor falls, or sometimes a fracture happens spontaneously, as the bone is just too weak to resist gravity.

Potentially any bone can break because of osteoporosis, but there are two particular places in our skeleton where forces combine to give the greatest risk of fracture. These are in the lumbar spine and in the hip - or femur. That is why we most often measure bone density in these places.

Anyone who has seen a friend or relative suffer a hip fracture, or who has suffered a fracture themselves, will understand what a devastating effect it can have. It's a big operation to replace the broken hip, weeks of rehabilitation and often months of trying to get back to normal life. Recovery from a hip fracture is a slow and painful process. Sadly some people do not survive.

The good news is that because of advances in treatment, osteoporosis has never been more easily, effectively or safely treated than it is today. Treatment commonly consists of six monthly injections. The injections work by suppressing the bone cells that break down bone - the osteoclasts. With regular injections many people on treatment can expect an increase in bone density, reversing the natural decline that happens with age.

It would be remiss not to emphasise the importance of prevention however. A good diet with plenty of calcium and vitamin d, regular exercise and avoiding the usual toxins of life - alcohol and cigarette smoke - will go a long way to keeping your bones healthy, and avoiding the kind of breaks you just don't want.

Tim

## Crossword Answers

### ACROSS

1 bump. 3 not a scrap. 9 rose. 10 vegetarian. 12 languish. 13 picnic. 14 lose one's temper. 18 computer dating. 20 lustre. 22 flashing. 24 night-clubs. 25 anon. 26 watch-dogs. 27 brag.

### DOWN

1 barely. 2 misinform. 4 obeisance. 5 Abel. 6 clarinettist. 7 alien. 8 unicorn. 11 bureaucratic. 15 saddle-bag. 16 pensioner. 17 Iceland. 19 eggnog. 21 sigma. 23 clad.



# Stinson Memorial Commemoration

*Continued from front page*

On the 31st January 1945, at the entrance to the Spring Plains farm on the Burke and Wills track, a Stinson model A aircraft fell out of the sky and all ten people on board perished. Ellis Knight, Reg Bennet (dec. grand father and father of the Bennett family of Mia Mia) and Mrs Davey, a volunteer plane watcher, all saw it happen.

The catastrophe is still in their minds and those of the deceased's families. This year, due to local efforts particularly those of Rod Chapman and Colin Smith, a memorial service on the 75th anniversary was conducted and a memorial plaque unveiled. It was a propitious occasion, wrenching, solemn and held under a threatening cloud cover. Auspicious as well as propitious.

The site is a confluence of history and chances. History insofar as it was the contact area of the Dja Dja Warrung and Taungurwong clans as they moved over millenia around central Victoria. It is in the path of the exchange of Mt William flint stones. So far as is possible to ascertain it is the exact spot where Major Mitchell and his survey expedition passed over the Campaspe in 1836/7, which he named after one of Alexander the Great generals. The expedition had ridden up out of the Mia Mia creek ravine to find harder ground over which the heavy drays could travel. It became the intersection of squatter settlers and their largely ex-convict shepherds. The first lot from the Yass plains in NSW, in this case the Pohlman and Baynton crews, moving south along the Major's line. The second lot moving north from the Port Phillip District. The Dja Dja Warrung and Taungurong were displaced with relatively little effort and a few murders on both sides. In fact both clans appear to have been decimated ten years before, by a smallpox outbreak, which were endemic to Eastern Australia after having been brought to the north coast of the continent by Marcassan sea slug gatherers some four centuries before.

It is a place of confluence for other reasons. Burke and Wills in 1861 passed along the track as they sought the Great Inland Sea. In 1910 the Duigan brothers launched their home designed and built aircraft into the air, and initiated the march of the Australian aeronautical industry. The first powered flight by such an aircraft in Australian history. Then, with massive irony and human cost the ANA Stinson fell to the ground, disintegrating as it did so, with an impact so severe that human survival was just not possible. It could be the pilot was attempting to land on the emergency airstrip on Spring Plains which largely followed the take-off point by the Duigans

At first sabotage was suspected, not entirely an absurd proposition. In January 1945 the so-called Second World War was far from won. The Germans had just been defeated at the Battle of the Bulge, the Japanese were still in Singapore and Manila. So the question is begged. What was the flight about and why travel from Melbourne to Mildura stopping at Kerang. The answer lies in the passenger list. Half of them were associated with the Allied Works Council. (AWC). This augustly named outfit was the Federal governments quarter-master authority supervising the war effort. But it had other

secret and innovative functions. It was also the research and development arm of the forces, briefed to design and construct new weapons to aid the defeat of our foes. These men were on their way from the government aircraft factory at Fisherman's Bend, to the Mildura AWC factories obviously to supervise aeronautical works. One victim was the Boeing rep attached to the RAAF. Mildura is seldom associated with intellectual endeavour but in this instance the research facilities, as was often the case were located out of air raid compass. Later the AWC establishment at Mildura was to emerge as an engineering and medical campus of Melbourne University as it had the infrastructure to sustain the many soldiers on the CERT educational program.

The catastrophe could not escape public notice. A couple of RAAF passengers a fortnight earlier, had noticed a crack line in the wing structure and had brought it to notice. They were contacted by two parliamentarians. The Lang Labor member Joseph Clark and the staunchly conservative member Thomas White DFC. He had married Alfred Deakin's daughter and flown with the AFC in Iraq. White admired by almost everybody, and Clark, perhaps less so, agitated for a Commission of Enquiry. It could not be resisted and Justice Philp of the Queensland Supreme Court was appointed Chairman. Justice Philp was later to conduct the Royal Commission into the espionage activities within Australia of the Soviet Union. The Enquiry revealed that the fault lay with the re-configuration of the plane carried out beyond its original specifications. The tri-motor system had been replaced by a more powerful and heavy bi-motor structure and this had caused the phenomenon as it then was, of metal fatigue to crack and then dismember the elevator hinge of the wing. It just fell out of the air. A lasting a valuable addition to aeronautical science was unmasked, that of metal fatigue. This catastrophe had an enduring and immensely valuable result. It alerted the scientists of the world to the danger of metal exhaustion. That alert saved countless lives.

**Howard Nathan**

*Continued on page 22*



**Howard Nathan MC**

# VH-UYU STINSON MEMORIAL ACCOMPLISHED

*Continued from page 21*

The 31st of January 2020 at 0930 hours on the Burke & Wills Track, history was made and a terrible neglect was addressed. Preparations for the event came together as though it had been rehearsed. In the morning the weather was mild, slightly overcast and a light wind: perfect as if made to order for this occasion.

About one hundred and fifty people attended the event from various historic and aviation related organisations, local people from the district and the relatives of the victims of this aviation tragedy.

The Australian National Anthem commenced proceedings and the Australian Flag was unfurled from the top of the flag pole, followed by the United States of America flag on a second flag pole in honour of Harry Franklin Black, and the New Zealand flag from the yard arm of the second flag pole in honour of First Officer Orvil Darcy Openshaw .

Howard Nathan opened proceedings warmly welcoming the enthusiastic crowd to this historic event. Howard described the confluence of many historic occurrences from the time of indigenous clan meetings of the Dja Dja Warung and Taungurung tribes, who shared this land. The theme continued citing the explorers Major Mitchell and Burke and Wills, whose trails went through this very place. Next to be mentioned were the Overlanders from the colony of New South Wales and the Overstraiters from Tasmania who met and developed the pastoral properties here in the district.

Howard Nathan once again notes that here, this coincidence of historic milestones makes it's mark in aviation. The achievement of the Duigan brother's first flight in a locally made plane and the sad loss of VH-UYU that became the catalyst for significant advances in aviation safety worldwide.

Shire of Mitchell's Cr Bill Chisolm spoke of the historical coincidence of aviation related events in such a small locality including a World War Two emergency air strip on the opposite side of the Burke and Wills Track that made this place unique and worthy of recognition.

Warren Canning President of the Kyneton Aero Club Inc and Aviation Scientist of the Defence Science Technology Organisation told of the research work carried out by Aeronautical Research Laboratories at Fishermans Bend. The crash of VH- UYU initiated the research into air frame durability and testing for metal fatigue. Two hundred P51 Mustang wings were allocated for testing; flexing of these wing structures in repetition on a pneumatic operated test frame over thousands of cycles provided data to develop parameters of safety and endurance.

Bryan Kerr, son of Frederick Kerr and brother of Colin Kerr, two of the deceased told of how he had travelled in that same plane 6 weeks earlier and how important this event was to his family. Bryan unveiled the memorial plaque upon the cairn, and the wreaths were laid at the foot of the cairn from the relatives of the victims, Kyneton RSL World War Two veterans, and Ellis Knight laid a wreath on behalf of the community.

A duo of CT 4 ex RAAF trainers in close formation made two passes nearby to the memorial site organised by the Kyneton Aero Club Inc.

The service concluded shortly after 10am and food and refreshments were on offer to all at the Mia Mia Hall where the relatives of the victims were able to speak with organisers, local residents and view a large model of the Stinson VH-UYU and enjoy our hospitality.

This event will be rightly remembered for many reasons. For the relatives of the victims it was recognition, knowledge and a long awaited conclusion, which has helped the healing process. Many relatives commented that they had no idea of what really happened. For our locality it was history being remembered and recorded, placed prominently for all to see. For the Stinson Memorial Committee it was a mission successfully accomplished under adverse conditions through the strength, talents, generosity and tenacity of it's members and the broader community.

Many thanks are owed to the following groups and people for contributing financially and aiding by any other means to this achievement that we should all be rightly proud of.

The Kyneton Aero Club Inc, Kyneton RSL, Kate Hicks, David Cheal, Graeme Cooper, Mia Mia CFA, Redesdale CFA, Civil Aviation Historical Society of Australia, Kyneton Museum, Kyneton Historical Society, Ross Knight, Peter Bennet, Ellis Knight , the Coombe family, Marj Townsrow, the Rural Cafe, Councillor Bill Chisolm and Karen Watkins of the Shire of Mitchell. Anton Hasell artist extraordinaire Ned Upton and the Hon Howard Nathan the dynamo duo, Andrew and Heather Pattison, organisers supreme, The Bridge Connection team, Campaspe Valley Landcare and the Mia Mia Mechanics Institute Inc who felt that it was important to back Rob's memorial project after an Australia Day address. Grant providers : Community Underwriting, (MMMI public liability insurers).

The members of the Stinson Memorial Committee comprises of: Wendy and Grant Hulls, Jim Coombe, Rob Chapman, Colin Smith, Anthony Ryan and Robbie Stockfeld.

[www.stinsonmemorial.com](http://www.stinsonmemorial.com) is the website for full story.)  
I thank you all!

Rob Chapman, Chairperson retired of the Stinson Memorial Committee.



**CT 4 ex RAAF trainers in close formation made two passes nearby to the memorial site organised by the Kyneton Aero Club Inc.**





*Top left wreaths were laid at the foot of the cairn from the relatives of the victims, Kyneton RSL World War Two veterans, and Ellis Knight laid a wreath on behalf of the community.*

*Above Rob Chapman cutting cake replica made by Jodie Brophy*


*Left Attendees*

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