



Over the past months the long-awaited renovation of the hall kitchen has been underway and is all but complete.

The kitchen was completely gutted with all but the timber frame remaining allowing for the installation of significant insulation, new upgraded wiring, plumbing, lighting and duct work for new range hoods and air control.

We have a new floor, benches, cupboards and hot water and washing facilities and of course a bright new paint job.

Despite having some changes to our original plan and with a number of finish and

installation issues, the kitchen is looking sparkling and soon will be ready for use.

The council has been working hard as the project managers and many local businesses have been engaged to bring our new kitchen to light.

Once the final work is completed and subject to COVID restrictions, we hope to have a opening event sometime soon.

Regards,
 Kitchen Working Group

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Editorial

Dear Readers

Bridge Connection are looking for new members to join our committee. If you think that you can help contact me on the email or phone number below.

Next Month is the last edition before the end of year break. March is the first edition for 2021. stay safe.

Regina Bennett.



Regina Bennett

Editor: Regina Bennett

Ph: 0437514223

e: bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com

BRIDGE CONNECTION COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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For other editorial enquiries, please phone **0437 514 223**

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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 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

It has been absolutely fantastic having the students back learning on-site with us, we have loved their energy and enthusiasm coming back to school. They have settled back into routines with great ease and happiness.

Earlier in the year, we were also able to employ a STEM and Living Green Teacher to work with our students on Mondays. Lydia comes to RMMPS with experience and passion in these two learning areas and currently works at Axedale and Eppalock Primary Schools. RMMPS now offers and even more significant range of unique learning opportunities including:

- Art
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- Physical Education

More recently, we were able to purchase a huge number of new reading materials for our students to take home, which has supported our Literacy program. Mr Addlem also was successful in organising a grant which allowed us to purchase a huge variety of new musical equipment. Our beautiful little school is certainly very equipped to teach our students this year and into the future.

The school has undergone a significant transformation in the recent months. The school building has undergone a facelift in order to meet bushfire safety standards. We also have a new shade sail and we are currently in the process of getting a brand new toilet block, with fantastic amenities. The works around the school are expected to be completed in the next two weeks, which is very exciting. It is an exciting time to be a part of RMMPS!





Redesdale Recreation Reserve Committee Chairman's Report

Redesdale Recreational Reserve Update

With plenty of rain falling in the district the reserve is looking bright and green. We have had new plantings along Lyell Road boundary care of Campaspe Valley Landcare; thanks to Philip Don and Simon Hills for their work in the fog that day. There has been much tree trimming, spraying and general clean up with a new bin for the mountains of rubbish left at the public toilets.

Recent working bees at the pavilion include driveway work, holes drilled for posts to support the new deck and with all internal works now complete the Certificate of Occupancy is not far away, so not long to go before we can start utilising this space. With 3 computers and free wifi provided by the City of Greater Bendigo these facilities will allow us to offer access to the community hopefully before Christmas COVID rules permitting.

Some much needed funds for the new deck were raised during winter, with a fire wood drive delivering wood

through out the district. Much timber, stories and stacking were shared by the crew involved. Great job guys!

On a personal note one of our members David Page has recently undergone a much anticipated kidney transplant. Despite several complications, David is quite chipper and looking forward to settling down to a more normal life. He may be at the pub for a quick hello sometime soon and our thoughts go out to him and his family. Good Luck David!

Regards,

Mike Abramowski
RRRC

Mike Abramowski 0418 319 131

Chairman Redesdale Recreation Reserve Committee

Secretary Craig Newton 0408 890 060

Lindsay Booker 0448 021 544

Ronn Taylor. 0429 336 763

Wayne Smith 0418 409 642

John Beurle 0422 001 924

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Stone Reserve Heritage Walk Update

Some terrific news from the Stone Reserve Heritage Walk project: Heathcote & District Community Bank branch of the Bendigo Bank has approved a \$25,000 "challenge" grant. There are two main conditions for the grant. Firstly that community support can be demonstrated and secondly that we can find the rest of the funding for the improvement and development of a heritage walk. We believe that both are very possible so thank you to Heathcote and District Community Bank. This is a wonderful start to the project.

In terms of community support, we have received very positive feedback in the form of letters and emails. We are grateful to have had enthusiastic phone calls from people with new information regarding the past use of the reserve. This will be very useful when the history boards are designed. It seems that it is highly likely that the reserve was used as a quarry for the stones used when laying sleepers for railway lines. It appears that there was a branch of the line that terminated at Redesdale (behind the general store), and this branch headed off behind the school and then across the road to the quarry. It may have only functioned for about 15 years in the 1880s and 90s.

If you have any more information or feedback regarding the project, please contact via:

stonereserveredesdale@gmail.com

The strategic plan can be viewed on the redesdale.net website.

The next stage of the project will be to complete a site survey and produce a site plan. We are very grateful that the City of Greater Bendigo has agreed to do this.

Kathy Hall
Stone Reserve Subcommittee
Redesdale and District Association

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



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
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Redesdale Ramblings

A Bromeliad that doesn't need shade!

Well, a bromeliad relative called *Puya chilensis*! Ours has burst into bloom and at over 3 m tall it makes an impressive sight.

Over a dozen years ago we got a tubestock seedling of this *Puya* from a friend who likes raising exotic plants from seed. It was planted in a raised bed in the lower part of the garden in full sun and it slowly grew. And grew. And grew! We quickly gave up any thoughts of having a neat and cultivated garden around it because tangling with its barbed leaf edges is hazardous! Unlike some more regular spiky subjects such as agaves, the curved spines on the leaf edge can face in either direction so that trying to gently reach into the centre you can be caught by the barbs and it's very difficult to extricate yourself.

Like many of its relatives it forms a rosette of foliage and produces offsets or "pups" which is what helps perpetuate the plant because the individual rosette dies after flowering. From the centre of the rosette an enormous spike slowly emerges – we saw the first one start in August and this year there were three at once. Previously a single spike was produced a few years ago and the first one was a few years before that. From the time we planted it to the first flowering was at least 8 or 9 years so it's not a quick process.

By the end of September the spikes had reached over 2m and then the bracts around the spike fell away to reveal short branch-like structures which gradually



Puya branchlets expanding

stretched outwards. The stems by October were over 3m tall and the top metre was a tree-like structure covered in buds. By the middle of the month the first flowers started to open. Soon the bees and the honey-eaters had discovered them and are constant visitors. *Puya chilensis* flowers are an acidic yellow and when the spike is in full bloom it is quite spectacular.

There is another species of *puya* which puts this one in the shade – literally! *Puya raimondii* tops out at 10 to 15 m and would be an incredible sight to behold in the high Andes of Bolivia and Peru. However the ones I would love to grow are the blue flowered ones, *Puya berteroniana* and *Puya alpestris* in particular. Their colours are close to a metallic turquoise and would look unreal. A friend who grew one in their garden in Macedon was dazzled by the flowers but was disappointed when the entire plant died after flowering because it was a single rosette!

The only problem would be finding a space for another *puya* – they take up a lot of space and as mentioned before you have to leave a certain amount of space around them. Friends who decided they couldn't afford the room anymore had to use a tractor with a chain to haul it out – no one was getting too close in that operation!

cheers

fermi

The Redesdale Rock Gardener



Puya flowers

Campaspe River Update.

EPA v Coliban Water: Outcome Awaited.

The charges laid in November 2019 for contaminating the Campaspe from Kyneton to Lake Eppalock, is listed to be heard on November 9th 2020. The adjournments have allowed for much discussion between the EPA & CW.

In the meantime work at the KWRP has been ongoing and Hardwicks large storage dam completed, but any rain event at the present time still threatens to compromise the river as both the lagoons and the storage dam are very near capacity. Tertiary treated Class B water has been being released to the Campaspe but the present predicament will see Class B recycled water released to the river according to the CW Update Oct 16th . Some good news for Lake Eppalock is that the Goulburn-Murray Water Blue-green algae warning was finally lifted on Friday August 21!

Lindy Connell.

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Labor urged to act quickly on fire risk ahead of summer

The Andrews Labor Government needs to lift its game to prepare for the coming fire season, Member for Euroa and Nationals deputy leader, Steph Ryan has warned.

In a scathing report released last week, the Victorian Auditor-General found Labor had monumentally failed to meet its prescribed burning targets.

Ms Ryan also raised concerns about long grass on roadsides through the region, which has seen a substantial increase in fuel loads.

“Grass along the edges of major highways including the Hume is now waist-high. This grass threatens to become a wick along roadsides as the weather gets warmer, if it is not slashed urgently. It is also impacting on the visibility of motorists, particularly at intersections,” Ms Ryan said.

“While you cannot eliminate the risk of bushfire, you can manage it to help protect people, property and the environment, it starts with early prevention through planned burns and roadside slashing.

“The CFA estimates that roadside slashing decreases any potential flame height by half, making roadside fires easier to put out.

“With last year’s devastating fire season still at the forefront of our minds, it is critical that the government properly resources VicRoads to get on top of slashing and management of roadside vegetation to mitigate fire risk.”

Ms Ryan said Labor’s failure to reach its fuel reduction targets was also a massive concern ahead of the summer fire season.

“The Auditor-General’s investigation found Labor achieved just 43 per cent of planned priority burns and 30 per cent of normal burns last year. This is a real cause for concern, particularly in light of the fire season we have just had,” Ms Ryan said.

“When the Andrews Government introduced its new model removing the 2009 Bushfire Royal Commission’s requirement that five percent of the state’s forest to be burnt every year, it assured regional Victorians that there would be no change to the area of forest that is treated.

“We now know beyond a shadow of a doubt that that is not the case, and it is our communities which are being put at risk as a result of Labor’s failure to meet these targets.

“It is unacceptable to use climate change as an excuse for inaction. If anything, a longer bushfire season means the government needs to be more active in burning when there is



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an available window. There are also ways to utilise traditional indigenous burning techniques that can be adapted to almost any climatic situation.”

Ms Ryan said The Nationals have been pushing for an expansion of indigenous burning practices because they show promise in delivering better protection for communities and are more in tune with the natural systems and processes of the Australian landscape.

“Utilising cool indigenous burns can ensure the window the government is so worried about can be expanded and our bush and communities are better protected,” Ms Ryan said.

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

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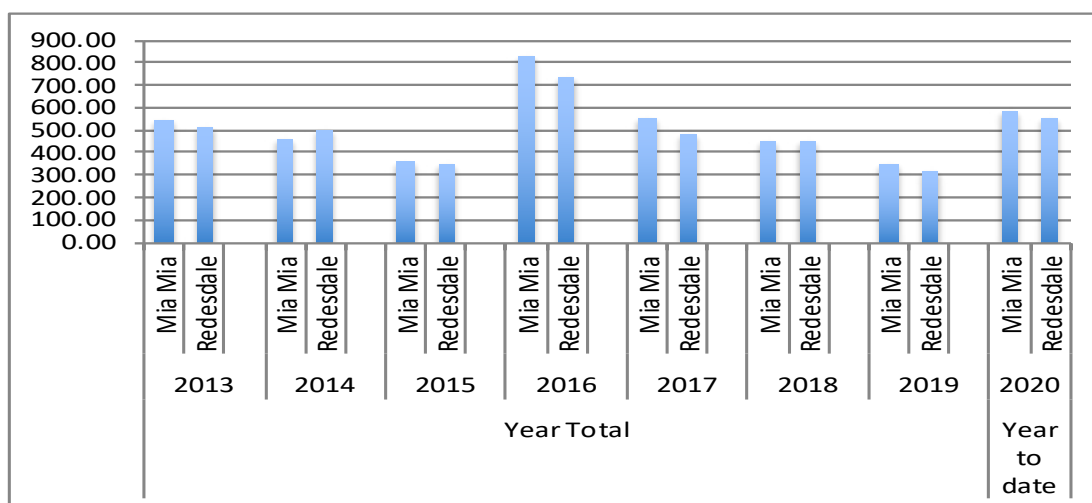
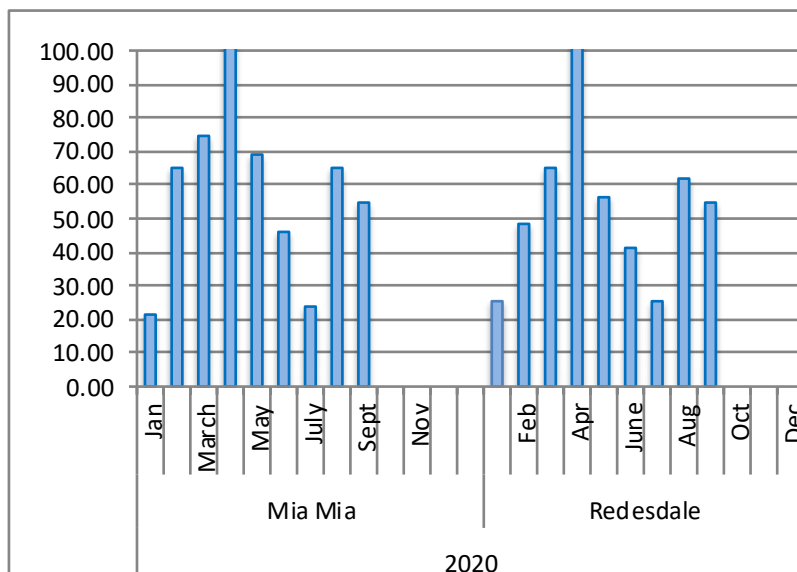
September Rain Fall

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

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

Redesdale 54.8mm Year to date 557.65mm

Mia Mia 54.75mm Year to date 580.25mm



Year Totals for Previous Years

2013	Mia Mia	538.00	2017	Mia Mia	551.75
	Redesdale	514.90		Redesdale	479.60
2014	Mia Mia	458.00	2018	Mia Mia	455.00
	Redesdale	497.00		Redesdale	448.40
2015	Mia Mia	358.00	2019	Mia Mia	352.00
	Redesdale	343.40		Redesdale	315.00
2016	Mia Mia	826.00			
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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

53

Seeded Bread



Ingredients

- 500g warm water
- 2tsp dried instant yeast or 20g fresh yeast
- 500g strong bread flour
- 1 tsp salt 30g extra virgin olive oil
- 50g rolled oats
- 30g sesame seeds
- 30g linseeds
- 30g sunflower seeds
- 30g pepitas
- 30g poppy seeds

Preparation

1. Stir the yeast into the water and set aside for 2 minutes or till bubbles form
2. Grease a deep sided large loaf tin
3. In a the large bowl of an electric mixer add together the flour, salt, oil, rolled oats, sesame seeds, linseeds, sunflower seeds, pepitas, and the poppy seeds. Mix together for 3 minutes on medium speed.
4. Preheat the oven to 200°C. Transfer the dough into the loaf tin and leave to prove in a warm place until doubled in size. Approx. 60 minutes. (I cover it with a tea towel and sit it on the stove top.)
5. Bake for 40-45 minutes (200°).
6. Serve warm or transfer to a wire rack and allow to cool completely.

This is a very substantial bread, I always make a double amount and freeze the other. **Marisa Leahy**

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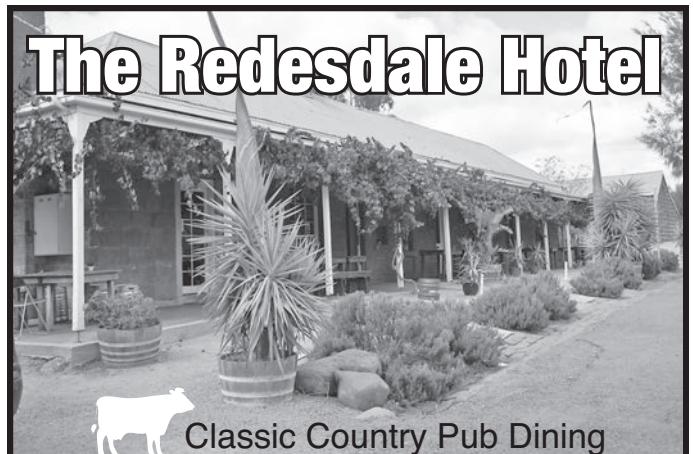
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Keith Respondek

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