

ISSUE NO. 117 December 2020

FREE

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BRIDGE CONNECTION COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



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2021

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Christmas
& Happy
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to All



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Editorial

Dear Readers

Welcome to the December edition this will be the last edition till March 2021

Hope you will support the few Christmas celebrations taking place pages 9 & 11

We are still looking for some new people to join our committee email

bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com

Regina Bennett.

Mia Mia Cricket team are back playing season draw is on page 6



Regina Bennett

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BRIDGE CONNECTION COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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

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Magazine:	Regina Bennett - Editor	0437 514 223

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 Reserve Pavilion nears completion

There has been a flurry of activity at the Pavilion recently with the new deck getting closer to completion. We are hopeful to have the Certificate of Occupancy for the pavilion prior to Christmas and COVID permitting start to utilise this 'new' space.



The RRRC wishes everyone in the Community a Safe and Happy Christmas. Let's hope we don't have another year like this one.

Regards the 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

David Page 0423 242 774

Simon Hills 0418 522 817

Redesdale Reserve Hall Kitchen Renovation Stage 1 of the Redesdale Hub Project

As advised in the last Bridge Connection, there has been a number of items to be rectified to the kitchen prior to it being made available to the community. This work is all but complete and we are anticipating having a handover in December.

Once this is done and subject to COVID restrictions, we hope to plan for an opening event as soon as is practical.

Thanks again to the City of Greater Bendigo for their support and effort to complete this exciting addition to our community.

Regards,

Kitchen Working Group

Redesdale & District Association

President's Speech – RaDA AGM Meeting Wednesday 18th November, 2020

Pan Prendergast.

As the new President of RaDA, my first task is to thank the retiring President Gloria Pocock who has been a member of RaDA since its inception in 2012. In the 6 years I have known Gloria, she has spoken with great enthusiasm about Redesdale and its future. Always advocating for new opportunities and ways to implement the Redesdale Community Plan. We acknowledge your commitment, the passion you have for this community Gloria. Now your retirement beckons and you most certainly deserve it. We wish you well with our thanks.

I would also like to thank the outgoing Interim Secretary for the past year. Methodical in your work, with great attention to detail and exceptional management skills. Our thanks to you Lisa.

We look forward to Lin Newton taking on that most important role.

I believe the major benefit of joining RaDA is to be connected with people in our community and of course to enjoy that involvement. Having rep's from 8 existing groups and committee's in our community is a very important way to hear about what's happening and we continue to appreciate their reports.

Our new team has a mix of new and not so new members adding another layer of knowledge, enthusiasm and new ideas to get our community back together after the virus enforced hiatus.

We welcome our new members and we look forward to continuing our support for the current projects such as the community pavilion, the Redesdale community website, the community precinct and its future stages and the Stone Reserve project.

The Redesdale Art's Festival was my introduction in not only discovering the great artists we have in our area, but was instrumental in the making of great friendships. It plays an integral part of the collaboration between our community committee's and it has the power to connect our community residents with all of our different groups.

Attitude, creates a culture and it's the most critical part of being a success for failure.

Redesdale has 3 community committee's in our small town, so we already have strong volunteerism, a sense of belonging and a purpose to encourage community collaboration. Let's hope that in this next year we are once again able to celebrate being in a healthy, rural Victorian town.

The Association will continue to act as the central point of contact to represent our existing groups and committees.

Anyone from Redesdale and our close districts is welcome and encouraged if they would like to be a part of RaDA or simply have an idea to benefit our community.

Pan Prendergast.

New position holders are:

Pan Prendergast - President

Lisa Smith - Vice President

Linley Newton - Secretary

Other positions remain the same

New members include: Anne Murray, Megan Stewart, Mandy Munro.



Victoria, you know fire.

Victoria was hit hard in the 2019-20 fire season. The 2020-21 season is coming and you know as well as anyone how important it is to plan and prepare. Ensure your home is fire ready, ensure your family knows your plan, and be ready to leave early.

How well do you know fire?

Plan. Act. Survive. Go to vic.gov.au/knowfire

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Redesdale Bush Market.

Sunday, 7th March, 2021.

Redesdale Hall Committee Inc. are once again hoping to hold our annual "Redesdale Bush Market" on the Labour Day Long Weekend: Sunday, 7th March, 2021. Due to the current ongoing situation, we would like to hear from potential Stallholders, but at this stage will not require prior payment until closer to the date when we will all know more about any special requirements and restrictions (if any), etc. Please keep in mind that we may be limited in the number of Stalls and therefore suggest that anyone interested in tentatively booking a Stall send their details to:

The Secretary, Carolyn - Anne Boyd at jcboyd6@gmail.com

or by phoning: Alwyn - 0419 513 976 or Carolyn - Anne - 5425 3194.

See "Redesdale Bush Market" Facebook Page for updates once we know more.

We look forward to (hopefully) seeing everyone on the day!

Mia Mia Cricket Club Draw for Season 20- 21

<http://mycricket.cricket.com.au/common/pages/public/rv/draw>.

DATE/TIME	HOME TEAM	AWAY TEAM	VENUE
5 Dec 20 1:PM	United Gold	Mia Mia	AFL 2
12 Dec 20 1:PM	United	Mia Mia	Weeroona College
19 Dec 20 1:pm	Mia Mia	Bagshot	Mia Mia
9 Jan 21 1:pm	Strathfieldsaye	Mia Mia	Enterprise Oval
16 Jan 21 1:pm	Mia Mia	Mandurang	Mia Mia
30 Jan 21 1:pm	Mia Mia	Marong Panthers	Mia Mia
6 Feb 21 1:pm	California Gully	Mia Mia	Eaglehawk Secondary
13 Feb 21 1:pm	United Gold	Mia Mia	Mia Mia
20 Feb 21 1:pm	Mia Mia	United	Mia Mia
27 Feb 21 1:pm	Mia Mia	Mandurang	Mia Mia
6 Mar 21 1:pm	Mia Mia	Bagshot	Mia Mia
13 Mar 21 1:pm	California Gully	Mia Mia	Eaglehawk Secondary

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Editor - **Regina Bennett 5425 5402.**

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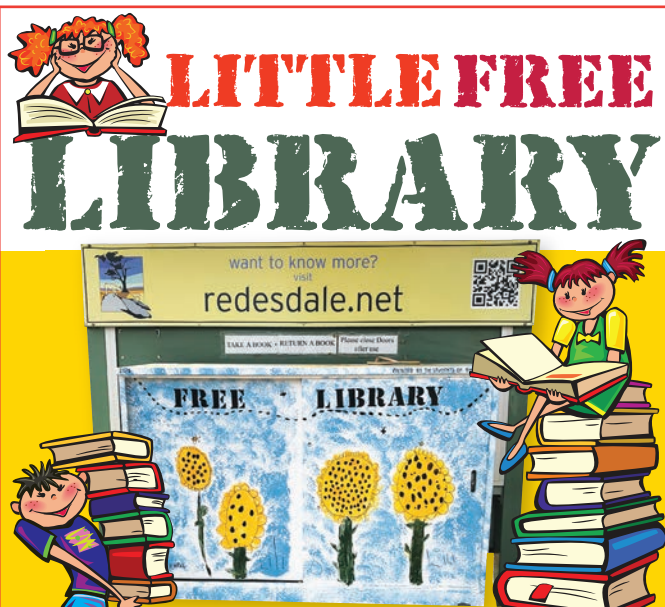
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Editor - **Regina Bennett 5425 5402**

'Bridge Connection' Community Newspaper



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Community Notice Board
Inside the Redesdale Recreation Reserve
Redesdale Recreation Reserve,
2631 Kyneton - Redesdale Road
Redesdale Vic 3444

REDESDALE CFA

Redesdale CFA update

By the time this goes to print, we will most likely be in the fire restriction period.

It's that time of the year when most people are battling to keep on top of the late Spring growth. This has been made even more difficult because of the continuous rain periods, mild weather, and for some, the inability to access their property because of the "ring of steel".

Once again, I would like to remind everyone that the single most common reason for us having to respond to a fire is because of ignition from a slasher/ mower. To avoid that embarrassment and potential damage to your and possibly your neighbour's assets, think about taking a few precautions to minimize the risk.

- Use the weather to your advantage. Mow on cooler, calm days. After rain?

- Have some water on hand. Extinguishers or knapsack.

- A "spotter". Someone to make sure everything is still okay.

- And most importantly, avoid the heat of the day.

Mowing in the morning means lower temperature, lower wind speed and higher humidity. A lot safer option!

With so much hay being cut this year, the CFA have put out a warning about haystack fires and checking hay temperature before stacking. For most of us the moisture levels and temperature are the baling contractor's responsibility. So to be on the safe side it is recommended that tunnels and air gaps are created when building a hay stack.

With Christmas upon us, I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season and more importantly a safe summer. Remember to check that gas bbq and find a safe, fireproof place for the slow cooker, weber or smoker (not on a wooden deck) when cooking the Christmas feast.

Talk again next year.

Regards Andrew Campbell

Fire Prevention Officer &
Redesdale CFA

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How to have a more sustainable Christmas 2020

By **Stephanie Raybould**

{Resource: Sustainable Victoria Website: sustainability.vic.gov.au}

Christmas as most of us know it is a wonderful and exciting time which we hopefully can spend with our family and friends. I personally love Christmas, from decorating our home to the full on feast sharing with family leading up to and on the day. This Christmas I am endeavouring to be a little bit more environmentally friendly so I am seeing this time as an opportunity to reduce waste and have a more sustainable Christmas. So I thought I would share some tips with you all just in case you would like to make a little bit of difference with a positive outcome to the environment.

So how do we have a more sustainable Christmas (and any other time of year at that, please don't stop at Christmas). Here are just a few ideas and tips to get you going:

Consider buying sustainable gifts and minimise plastic and packaging.

Nobody wants gifts they don't like or won't ever use, it's just purely waste. Instead think about a more sustainable way.

Think about gifts that reduce the use of plastics, buy items in glass jars or bottles or in cardboard/paper instead of plastic. Consider how much plastic packaging they come with. Choose items with less packaging if any.

Buy items that are made from biodegradable materials. There are so many businesses now that offer upcycled and recycled gifts such as items made from recycled water bottles.

Ensure your gift has minimal negative environmental impact, which will be enjoyed and will last.

Buy gifts made or grown locally such as produce and wines. We live in such a beautiful and diverse area which offers an abundance of locally made produce. Think 'hamper' with amazing Shiraz from Mia Valley Estate, delicious olives from Barfold Olives and preserves and relish from Redesdale.

Make donations on behalf of your loved ones, or choose gifts from organisations that actively support the causes that you are passionate about, for example, Saving the Bees, Loki's Lodge Animal Sanctuary, The Smith Family. There are

so many. Google a charity and go from there... there are so many out there that need your help. Give experiences instead.

Do Kris Kringle so you reduce the amount of 'stuff' we all end up with. Rather than buying a gift for each person, buyers are allocated one person to buy for anonymously, and a price limit for all of the gifts are set. Guessing who bought your gift is half the fun.

Consider if your loved one really needs it..

avoid, reduce, reuse, recycle.

Reduce Food Waste

Each year Victorian households throw away 250,000 tonnes of edible food – enough to fill Melbourne's Eureka Tower. The average household in Victoria throws away \$2136 a year in wasted food. Almost two thirds of the food Victorian households throw away could have been eaten.

Food waste adds a huge strain on our natural resources. An enormous amount of water, energy, land and fuel go into the food we buy. So, when we throw this food away we're wasting precious resources, and also creating toxic greenhouse gasses in the process.

Avoid food waste by planning your menu ahead. Good planning involves checking what you already have in your pantry and fridge, planning meals and knowing what you need to buy.

Shop for what you need when you need it, with consideration to minimising plastic packaging.

Plan your meals around food that is in season as it is cheaper and fresher.

Avoid shopping when hungry or with children (not always avoidable) as this tends to make you buy more.

Bulk buy if possible but remember that two for one specials are only good value if you actually end up using them and not a bargain if it ends up in the bin.

Cook to a meal plan,

Get creative to use up ingredients you already have.

Cook the right amount to avoid leftovers unless you are going to use them the next day for lunches.

Cook with food safety in mind – keep food out of the temperature 'danger zone', between 5 and 60 degrees Celsius where bacteria, a common cause of food poisoning can quickly reproduce. Be sure to store food in the fridge within two hours of serving. Prevent cross contamination. Always keep raw

animal products separate from ready to eat food. Make sure all food is cooked properly.

Store your food correctly so that it will last longer. For example, keep eggs in the fridge as they can last 7 times longer than out of the fridge. Consider donating non-perishable items which you will not use to a food bank.

If you do have left overs and scraps, feed them to your chickens and if you don't have chickens, ask your neighbour if you can feed theirs or start a compost bin or a worm farm.

Avoid disposable dinnerware and plastic cups

Plastic plates, cups and cutlery can't be recycled easily even though they are made from recyclable plastic. Avoid using disposable dinnerware and instead get your best dinner set out or better still use your odd dinnerware for a quirky but trendy looking dinner table setting. It's all about doing your bit for the environment. If you are really desperate for dinnerware, ask your guests to bring their own. Tell them you're trying out some new low-waste

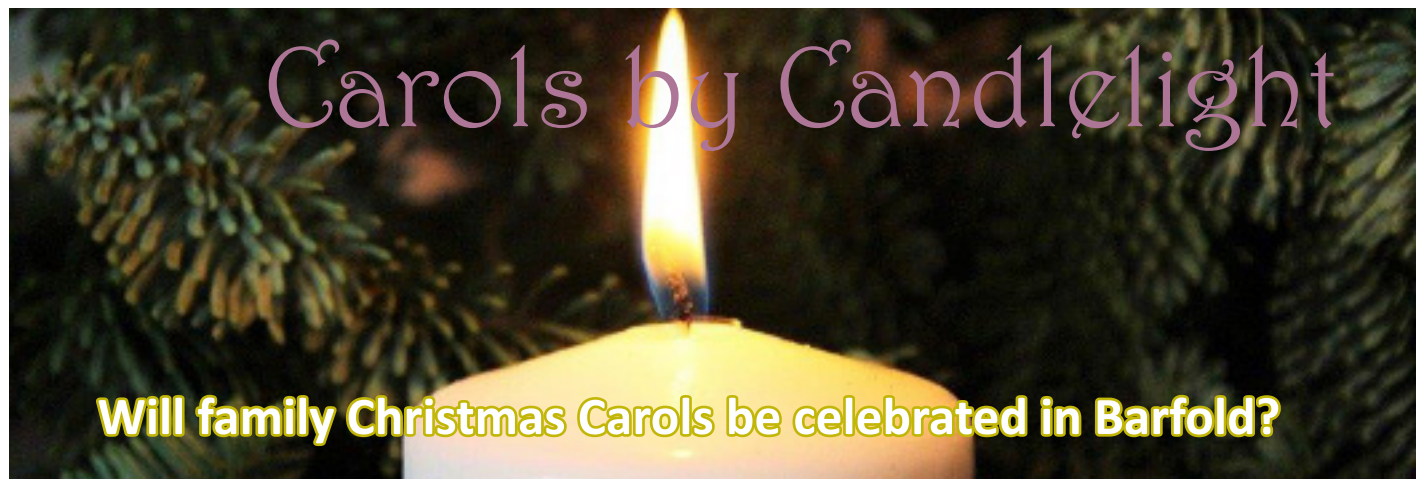
living techniques to help reduce your impact on the environment.

Eat more Plant Based Meals

By choosing more plant based meals you are reducing your environmental impact on the earth with a significant drop in greenhouse gas emissions, land use and water use.

You are also helping your health by reducing excess weight, lowering blood sugar levels, improving kidney function, reducing the risk and protecting against diseases, lowering your risk of heart disease and reducing arthritis pain.

Nowadays eating your veggies doesn't have to mean sides or salads only. Today there are so many plant based recipes you can create as entrees, main meals and even desserts. I for one since eating more plant based food have found that I am so much more creative in the dishes I cook at home. It is amazing what you can make. This Christmas we will be enjoying delicious plant based food with trimmings that even the omnivores love.



This year for the second time Barfold Community Church are planning to host a Family Christmas Carols evening for Barfold community and surrounds at the Barfold Union Church, 1653 Heathcote-Kyneton Road, Barfold.

Subject to restrictions being lifted, with an appropriate Covid plan in place, we will celebrate socially distanced. BYO food, drinks and chairs or blankets to sit on, in the field alongside the church. We hope you can join us. Any change to plans or further details will be posted on our website the week prior to the date.

Steve Messer and his band 'Strange Country'

We hope you can come and enjoy familiar Christmas carols with friends and families from the local area to celebrate Christmas 2020 together.

**at - Barfold Union Church,
1653 Heathcote-Kyneton Rd
Saturday 19th December 2020.
7.00 p.m.**



www.barfoldcc.org.au



Please note this is an alcohol-free event

Cat

By: Zoe Raybould

You scavenge for scraps to eat. You hiss at other cats that come your way. You have a beautiful smokey grey coat under the thick layer of dirt, dust and matts. Your ribs are slightly showing, your pelvis nearly ripping through your skin. But other than that, you have the most beautiful green eyes I have ever seen, the colour of jade, if I look hard enough it's like they're swirling yellow, so entrancing, a crown of yellow shaped around your slitted pupils. You beguile me.

I think I will call you Ouija.

I don't know how you can live in this place, a dim musty alleyway that smells like rotting rubbish and stale human excrement. The brick walls messily composed with tags and stains. But again, behind the ugly hides something beautiful, an 8-foot-tall 6-foot-wide graffiti of a woman's face. Grey scale. Eyelashes like spiders living on top of her eyelids, and hair like a black waterfall.

You meow at me, a needy whine, like you want something from me. I haven't known you for long but I already know that I can willingly give you a new life with me. You quickly whisk towards me, you can almost see the fleas jumping on and off of you. You sit down right at my feet, staring, staring into my eyes. I will come back for you.

20 minutes later after running down to the local pet shop I have a cat box. I show it down to the floor opening the door, I go to try and lead you in but you're unsure so you skip back to whatever you were trying to eat. I pick up whatever it was, looks like something between a rat and a bird and throw it into the cat box. You cautiously make your way towards the cat box, sniffing the doorway, but the smell of the thing reminds you how hungry you really are, so you walk in.

I lock the door and take you to my car and gently place you into the passenger seat and drive you to the veterinary clinic. I can hear you needily meowing to get out of the cage, to understand what is going on. Your usual meows now elongated trying to get my attention. I have to park a block away from the clinic due to no parking. I grab the handle on the top of your box and walk to the clinic with you. People staring at you with an expression like they ate something sour, then at me, then back at you. They stare but don't want to come near you, it's sad.

After briskly walking a block we stop at the veterinary clinic. Open the door. Walk to the front desk where a small petite, receptionist dwells, couldn't be any older than 25. I tell her my name and the reason I'm here, she tells me to take a seat. I sit down and hold your cage in my lap so you feel a bit safer.

5 minutes later the vet comes out, calls out. She introduces herself, Dr Honey she said. She welcomed me into the room. I lift you up and place you on the examining table for the vet to check you, to make you feel better. She opens the cage door

and gingerly pulls you out of the cage and hold you so you don't get too stressed and jump off. She examines all the small spots that live on your face, your gaunt legs and your stained teeth. While she was examining you she started petting you, 'It's sad isn't it?' she asks, I look up at her and she looks at me, 'people breeding these beautiful cats then getting too many, letting roam around the street with no one to care for them, and then when someone does see them they turn their head around in disgust because they live like this.' I nod.

I think everything will be fine and you will get to come home with me, It's bizarre. You look at me and into my eyes, like as if we have some sort of deep connection, like we've known each other for aeons. The longer we zone out, the more I feel as if every object near me is moving, and blurring, the vet's voice sounding like she's far away. Then hit with the realisation, like as if you put the thought there, I know that you won't be coming home with me tonight.

It made my heart heavy. Because even though I haven't literally known you for long, I know that you are something special.

You had already lived your life before I came along.

By: Zoe Raybould



FAMILY TWILIGHT CROQUET!!!

Come and learn to play croquet during the school holidays!

Croquet is the perfect family sport, it can be played by the whole family and everyone competes on equal terms.

The Kyneton Croquet Club will be holding free 'come and try' croquet games on Monday evenings in January from 6.00pm. commencing Monday, 4th January. The Club is situated on the corner of Ebdon and Donnithorne Streets, Kyneton.



Play at Kyneton Croquet Club



Malmesbury Village Fayre

All are welcome and all equipment and tuition will be provided. Come and try your hand at going for a hoop!! Lots of fun and suits all ages.



Croquet is one of the fastest growing sports.

It provides an opportunity for all ages to join in.

Croquet encourages a positive sporting attitude, good exercise and is outdoors.

Contact Graham or Sue for further details or just turn up!

Graham Smith: 0411 707 358

Sue Chivers: 0422 008 914



The Mia Mia Mechanics Institute

The Mia Mia Mechanics Institute plans to hold

Australia Day breakfast

Celebration in 2021 as usual, however it will depend on the Covid19 status.

We will abide by the relevant guidelines at the time.
Watch for posters closer to the day.

We have decided that a Christmas party will be too soon to set numbers and plans.

We wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas, we hope that 2021 is a wonderful year full of hope and alive with community activities.

For information re Aus day Anthony can be contacted at

Received my copy of Bridge Connection today, thank you, and was quite interested re. the follow up from the last edition concerning the use and transportation of gravel/stone taken from the gravel pit as we used to call it 70/80 years ago. I have read that the stone taken from this pit was of inferior quality and more suitable material had to be imported to actually lay the sleepers but I guess that the build up towards the end of the line would consist of such a substance.

The course of the line to transport the material was quite easy to follow sixty years ago - from the pit across the road - through the small cutting - approx. along the lane which now leads to dwellings in the area - across the school road and moving along a track clearly visible behind the police station then I presume across the Sutton Grange/Bendigo Road through the cricket ground up to the Railway Yards.

I left the school in 1944 after an attendance of six years but cannot remember any mention of a school plantation and was quite surprised on subsequent visits to see trees planted in this previously barren site,

I cannot envisage your developments so must venture out from Strathdale one of these days and have a proper look although I find it difficult to now orientate myself - the school is still in the same place but is different - the hall has been shifted and has been replaced by the fire brigade building - the tennis court has multiplied and moved - the cricket pitch now faces in the wrong direction - the railway yards and house have disappeared as have the sheep yards and pound - the general store and butcher's shop have been replaced - the garage is now the store - there are houses every where so that when once I knew everyone within ten miles now the last person I knew well was Agnes whose funeral I attended some time ago.

However the area now appears to be quite vibrant and progressive and cannot now be referred to as thistle covered lizard country, Keep up the good work

Cheers for now,

Lloyd Taylor.

UNITING CHURCH



The Uniting Church is conducting a Carols in the grounds of the Sutton Grange Church on

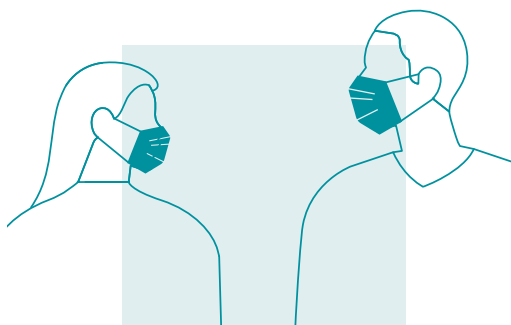
**Sunday Dec 20th
at 7pm.**

It will be bring your own chair or rug and insect protection.
Strict Covid -19 restrictions will apply.

There will be no supper.
If this event needs to be cancelled, notice will be on Sutton Grange Facebook.

www.macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au

EVERYTHING WE'RE DOING IS KEEPING US ON TOP OF THIS VIRUS



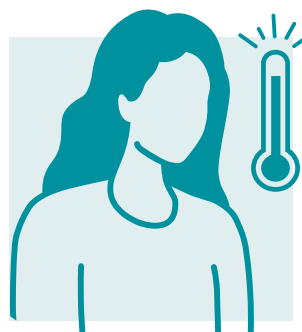
Keep our fitted face masks on and keep our distance.



Keep catching up outdoors.



Keep washing our hands.



Keep getting tested if we have any symptoms.

STAY SAFE
STAY OPEN

Go to [CORONAVIRUS.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au)

Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne



Campaspe River Update.

EPA v Coliban Water court case adjourned once more. Now set for Dec 14th at 2pm.

Excellent to see businesses and visitors enjoy a clean Lake Eppalock again and let's hope this continues throughout the summer. You can check the www.g-mwater.com.au/news/bga site for blue green algae reports.

Our waterways and tourist spots will of course be much cleaner without water that is high in nutrients & pathogens being released from the Kyneton Water Reclamation Plant. Two returning and one newly elected MRSC West Ward Councillors met with a group of concerned parties recently to discuss the severity of the ongoing problem. Hundreds of house sites are available for sale that will impact directly on the KWRP and a local plumber present at the meeting, described some of the issues that lead to the problematic invasion of storm water into the system. When housing developments are put to council it is evidently CW that has the final say on whether they have the capacity to cope with more sewage. The system is not coping now and the new storage dam being constructed presently will not solve the problems if the rate that the Hardwicks dam filled, is anything to go by. Irrigation can be part of the overall plan but soils must be able to absorb the water, or else it may well be just more high nutrient run off into the waterways. Benchmarks were also discussed when scientists and councillors alike spoke of shires where alternative systems that were more sustainable and environmentally sound were being used. An ongoing and complex matter that means our Campaspe still needs our care and support.

Lindy Connell



Redesdale Hall

FOR HIRE

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

Please phone
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.




Visit Redesdale Website

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Chairs, white plastic	\$2.50 each
Umbrellas, charcoal	\$5 each

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Ronn Taylor

0429336763



Redesdale Ramblings

Summer 2020

Here we are again at the start of another summer. Will it be as horrific as the last one? Are we ready? Have we done enough? We've spent a lot of time mowing, whipper-snipping and cutting back. But there's still so much to be done. Although the hills and paddocks around us are starting to dry off, the mown areas are back in growth and will need renewed attention. This is despite the ground already starting to crack in places. There are predictions of a wetter than average summer due to "La Nina". It certainly felt like a more "normal" spring with decent rain earlier bringing on profuse flowering of roses and fruit trees.

As I write there is the scent of roses wafting across from a Rosa multiflora which has grown up through the Silver Pear opposite the deck. The clusters of small, white, five-petalled blooms are only a touch bigger than those of the ubiquitous blackberry ("thanks, Dr Von Mueller!") and the thorns are only just a bit less vicious (yes, I know that they are really prickles rather than true thorns, but "A rose between 2 prickles" just doesn't sound right). The perfume makes up for its shortcomings. This particular rampant Rambler started life as a sucker from the understock of a grafted rose. I left it as I had the vague notion of taking cuttings to create our own rootstock for grafting (budding actually) our own roses. That never happened and the shoots matured enough to flower. The flowering was so attractive that we decided to let it grow. Another one, also an understock, makes a perfumed arch way between the carport and the house. It has to be cut back quite hard once the flowering is over otherwise it can be a drenching experience after rain!

We've been particularly negligent on the winter rose pruning and always resolve to get to it at the correct time. But prune too early and you could encourage new shoots which will be burned if we get a hard frost; prune too late and you end up cutting off healthy growth. We get to the point when it's too

late and just say "Next year"! With some roses this neglect can lead to decline but others simply say "Whacko!", expanding their territory to overpower anything in their way. The "multifloras" fall into the second category.

We've had mixed results with roses. Jenny who had the place before us planted LOTS of roses. Mostly popular ones like 'Lorraine Lee', 'Peace', 'Albertine' and 'Mr. Lincoln'. Some we are yet to identify and at least one appears to be a seedling. We moved some and grubbed out others. Some just gave up the ghost and some did well in their new homes. I think it mostly depended on the amount of water they got. Notwithstanding the irregular irrigation that we provide it seems to be the natural rainfall which has the most beneficial effect. They seem to do better in years when there's a decent drop of summer rain. That also goes for things like the deciduous trees that Jenny had planted around the block. The red oaks are a case in point. Twenty years ago they were only a few feet high. Five years later they were virtually unchanged. We presumed that they were unsuited to this climate and wondered if they should be removed. Our procrastination saved them! Of the three one was in the way of the "Crataegus Mound" which we planned to create planting out a "Mexican Hawthorn" and several "Washington Thorns". We decided to just leave the spindly little oak with the attitude "if it dies, it dies". It didn't die. Instead it put on a growth spurt dwarfing the hawthorns in a couple of years! Today it's the tallest deciduous tree we have. Presumably covering up the root system with the soil of the mound allowed it to get more moisture during its growing season. The other two stayed the same height. Then came two summers which saw an above average rainfall and they've doubled in height (but will never catch up with their bigger brother).

The hawthorns also prospered in the mound and though we rarely see fruit ripen on the 'Washington Thorns' the 'Mexican Hawthorn' sets a prodigious amount of large yellow fruit which the birds don't seem to be interested in until they fall.



Pink floribunda rose



Rosa multiflora in pear tree

Usually by now the parrots would have stripped the un-netted trees of their developing fruit. Perhaps the rain meant that there is more abundant natural food for them to plunder. I seem to remember another year not long after our crabapple trees had reached maturity that we harvested buckets of fruit because the rosellas were elsewhere. Could we hope for that to happen again? We've already bought some 5mm netting just in case!

Cheers

fermi

The Redesdale Rock Gardener



Crabapple 'Huonville Crab'

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Big spend, but not much for us

The Andrews Government has released the biggest spending budget Victoria has ever seen with the least transparency and detail ever seen.

Member for Euroa and The Nationals' deputy leader Steph Ryan said the Andrews Government was drip feeding funding to our area despite tripling state debt and spending a staggering \$50 billion.

"The Andrews Labor Government has sunk the state into an eye watering level of debt to deliver this budget," Ms Ryan said.

"Despite handing down the biggest borrowing budget in Victoria's history, Labor still won't fund projects which are vital to our region.

"The Nationals committed \$162 million to build the Kilmore bypass at the last election, yet this budget has delivered a paltry \$12 million to build a new roundabout as a first step in the long overdue project for which the Kilmore community has been desperately calling."

Ms Ryan said Labor's decision to ignore the dire need to rebuild the Benalla police station – the worst in the state – was disappointing, while CFA brigades in need of new stations, including Strathbogrie, Molka, Pyalong, Moorilim and Heathcote had also been overlooked.

"This was also Labor's chance to come good on the funding needed to complete the rebuild of both Seymour College and Benalla College – projects which The Nationals committed to completing at the last two elections."

Ms Ryan said the budget provided only small wins for local community action groups.

"The Nagambie community has put so much effort into lobbying for a permanent ambulance service and they deserve all the credit for that service being made permanent.

"The establishment of a Benalla campus of the Wangaratta and District Specialist School will be a great benefit to children and families in Benalla, and I look forward to seeing more detail including timelines for other projects funded in our area, such as the Benalla Art Gallery and Euroa Community Cinema.

"In light of the \$50 billion Labor is spending, our communities and businesses deserved more than the drip of funding we received."

In a brazen lack of transparency more reminiscent of Donald Trump's USA than Victoria, Labor has also hidden major cost overruns on projects, including regional rail upgrades, by simply refusing to publish the State Capital Program, a key

Federal Member for Bendigo
LISA CHESTERS MP

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budget paper.

"Every Victorian should be concerned by the fact Labor is covering up waste and cost blowouts at a time when they are spending almost \$50 billion," Ms Ryan said.

"Whether it is refusing to answer journalists' questions, rejecting any responsibility for the decisions which led to Victoria's second wave, limiting sittings of Parliament or covering up huge cost overruns in the state budget, Labor MPs have well and truly shown they have become so arrogant that they do not believe they need to be accountable to the people they serve."

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

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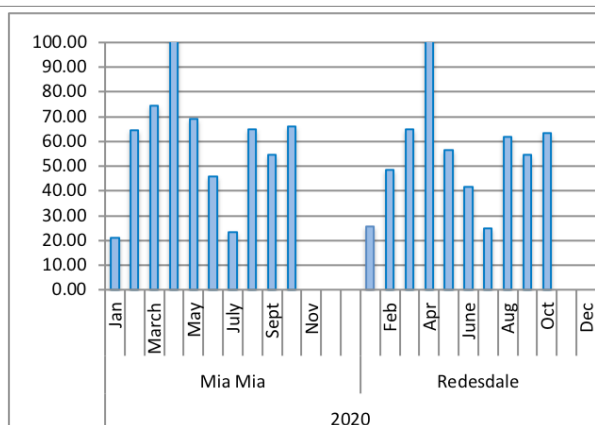
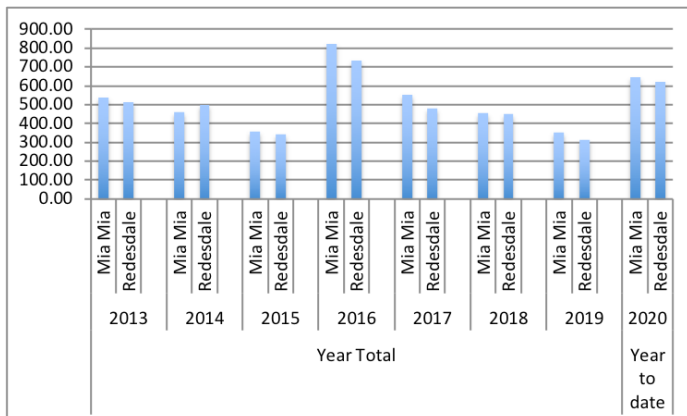
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The average yearly rainfall for **Redesdale** is about 601mms.

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



October Rain Fall

Redesdale 54.8mm Year to date 621.25mm

Mia Mia 66mm Year to date 646.25mm

Year Totals for Previous Years

2016	Mia Mia	826.00
	Redesdale	735.40
2017	Mia Mia	551.75
	Redesdale	479.60
2018	Mia Mia	455.00
	Redesdale	448.40
2019	Mia Mia	352.00
	Redesdale	315.00

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

54

Spaghetti with Ricotta and Spinach Pesto



- 6 cups fresh spinach leaves
- 1 cup fresh basil leaves
- 1 cup fresh flat leaf parsley leaves
- ½ cup walnuts
- 3 garlic cloves crushed
- Salt and black pepper
- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 cup fresh ricotta cheese
- ½ cup grated parmesan cheese
- 500gm packet of spaghetti

Bring a large pot of salted water to boil for the spaghetti.

In a food processor (or you can use a pestle and mortar) pulse together the spinach, basil, parsley, walnuts, garlic, and salt and pepper till it forms a coarse paste. Pour in the olive oil and the parmesan cheese.

Cook the spaghetti till al dente.

Place the pesto into a bowl and mix in the ricotta.

Remove the spaghetti with tongs directly to the sauce adding a little of the pasta cooking water to add to the creamy texture of the sauce.

Serve with an extra drizzle of olive oil.

Marisa Leahy

Mexican Spiced Cauliflower Tacos



Ingredients

- 1 head cauliflower
- Vegetable Oil for deep frying

Spice mix and batter

- 1tsp chilli powder
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 tsp cumin
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- ½ tsp salt
- Chickpea flour (besan flour) about 300-400g

For the tacos

- Tortilla wraps (2 per person)
- Salad mix – approx 300-400g
- Pickled or fresh Jalepenos (optional)
- Avocados x 3 peeled, stone removed and cut into 1cm pieces
- Lemon x 1 - juiced
- Spring onions ½ bunch sliced
- Coriander – fresh x 1 bunch – washed and leaves picked from stems

For the sauce

- Vegan mayo – 200g
- Sriracha sauce approx. 2 tablespoons (depending on taste preference)
- (or you can use sweet chilli sauce)

Method :

- 1: Add the spice mix to the chickpea flour and add enough water (a little at a time) to make a thick batter (like pancake batter) using a whisk to ensure it is smooth. Put aside.
- 2: Mix enough vegan mayo with 2 – 3 tablespoons of Sriracha sauce to make Sriracha mayo.
- 3: Prepare all the taco fillings - if not serving straight away add some lemon juice to the avocado to stop browning, cover and refrigerate until needed.
- 3: Trim and cut up the cauliflower into small to medium sized florets.
- 4: Dip each cauliflower into the batter and deep fry until golden. Cook in small batches. Place cooked cauliflower onto tray that has been lined with paper towel.

To serve:

On warmed tortilla, lay some salad mix, then fried battered cauliflower, and top with spring onions, avocado, jalepenos if using, top with drizzle of Sriracha mayo and coriander.

Stephanie Raybould

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Jorja Bennett

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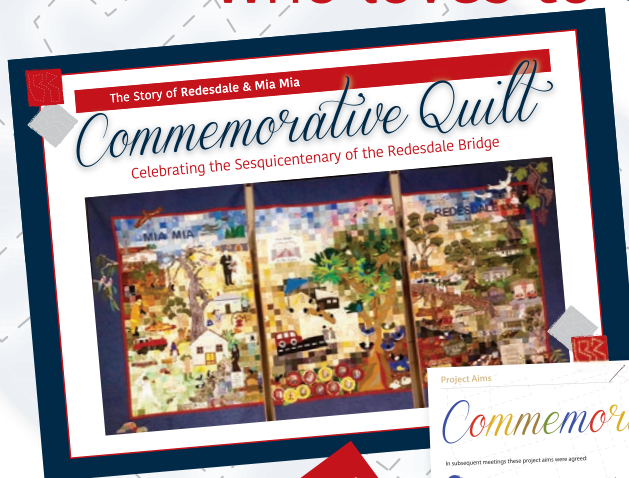
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