



Sabine Riodan

Anette Coombe

Vanessa Williams

continued page 15

A hundred years of the soldier settler and ninety years of his son.

Celebrating 90th Birthday Jim Coombe

Mia Mia's most senior citizen, Jim Coombe, celebrated his ninetieth birthday last month, one hundred years after his father returned from WW1 and took up the Government's offer of a three hundred acre piece of farm land in Valley Road, Mia Mia.

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Editorial

Dear Readers

Welcome to 2021 hope this year will be better than last year.

March 27th **FREE Community event** at Redesdale Recreational Reserve. Info on Pages 22,23

The Bridge Connection has some new Committee Members and some that have been Long standing members retire.

Marisa Leahy is our new Treasurer and Lin Newton and Pan Prendergast are new members of our committee.

We bid farewell to Terry Mackenzie and Jill James we will miss our catchups and hope you enjoy your retirement and thank you both for your service to the Bridge Connection.



Regina Bennett

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BRIDGE CONNECTION COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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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 Recreation Reserve Committee Chairman's Report

Redesdale Recreational Reserve Committee

Preparation for Winter Sale

Winter is coming, well it is a bit of a way off but have you thought about wood yet?



As we did past year the RRRC is offering local firewood at \$150 per cubic metre with free delivery within 10kms of the Redesdale Reserve. (\$10 per extra 10kms)

Supporting your local community should give you a nice warm feeling and just think of what the wood will do for you?!

Order via **Email: 3444reserve@gmail.com** or

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Other activities at the Reserve

The new kitchen is now complete and whilst the ladies of the Hall Committee are sorting out 'what will go where' we are planning a grand opening in the coming months. Great work from the City of Greater Bendigo (CofGB) in finalising the fit out and handover. We are very lucky and have a great new kitchen to utilise.... Come and check it out!

After a quiet Christmas and COVID constraints, we have installed two new air conditioners and are in the final stages of completing the decking in front of the pavilion. A few delays, but we are on the path to completion.

We have 3 donated computers and free Wi-Fi inside the pavilion (all from CofGB) and will be opening the pavilion to the community once all the safety and occupancy documentation is complete. Note the Wi-Fi is available now and can be used outside the pavilion anytime of the day. Instructions are on the windows. Check it out!

We are applying for a new grant to add shade sails and balustrades to make the deck complete and ready for those hot summer nights.



One of our members has recently acquired a drone and is offering to take 15 aerial images and 5 minutes of video footage of your property. The service is free (within 20 k's of Redesdale and assuming a 30 minute visit); however, a donation to the RRRC of \$50 for the fit out inside the pavilion will secure you a booking. Please contact John Beurle on 0422001924 or john@passivehouse.services if you are interested in some shots from the air of your domain.



Best regards and stay safe from the RRRC team.

Rural Communities Committee (RCC)

The next RCC meeting will be held on 24th February with a full agenda including:

Follow up on previous actions including on NBN, mobile coverage reviews

Farming and Agribusiness Advisory Committee membership

Imagine Greater Bendigo presentation

Forward work plan

Community Connectivity

Other general business

I will share the highlights from the 24th meeting in the next Bridge Connection. If you have any queries regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

John Beurle

+61422001924 or john.beurle@gmail.com

Redesdale & District Association

Welcome back to all the readers of The Bridge Connection.

As I write this article ,Victoria has just come out of another lockdown.

Fingers crossed we don't have to go through another one in the near future.

Thankfully our town and it's districts haven't experienced the worst of COVID outbreaks.

It should make us all think carefully and be mindful of others in our daily lives.

Now to the business of The Redesdale and District Association. Our first event for the year is a RaDa initiative and funded by the Greater City of Bendigo.

" Bobby Valentine and the band of Renown "

6pm , March 27th . At the Agnes Mudford Reserve, Redesdale. BYO Chair. Sausage Sizzle and Refreshments will be available for purchase from the

Redesdale Recreation Reserve Committee.

It's a FREE community Concert, emphasising the importance of Health and Wellbeing. All the more relevant in these times. Please tell your families and friends as, I'm sure it will be a great night for all ages. We will be abiding by the COVID rules and regulations.

Our team of committee members have been busy implementing our "welcome Bag" for new and current residents of Redesdale and local districts , it includes relevant information regarding Fire, Flood, Storm emergencies.

Get ready, have a plan, know what to do.

With a list of Contact numbers that can be useful. It will be ready to hand out in March to all students at the Redesdale Mia Mia Primary School.

Please contact us at RaDa if you know of any new residents that would benefit from local information together with anyone who would like one.

Many thanks goes to the following organisations that have contributed.

The Bridge Connection, CFA, SES, GCoB, RFDS, Fosterville Gold Mine and of course our local businesses of Redesdale.

If there are other businesses that would like to be included please get in touch with the Redesdale and District Association.

Our calendar of events for this year include the March community concert, another CLEAN UP DAY for REDESDALE , where it is hoped more members of our community will join in with keeping our town tidy. (Date will be published in the Bridge Connection and Redesdale.net website in the weeks to come.).

The 6th Redesdale Art Show later on this year, once again highlighting the talents of our exceptional local artists.

So lots of planning and preparing for our community this year.

The Redesdale and District Association is looking for new members to join us. Everyone is welcome. Please let us know if you have any issues or ideas you wish to voice.

Happy to listen.

Pan Prendergast

Redesdale and District Association

Barfold Carols 2020

In late December 2020 Barfold Community Church welcomed the neighbourhood to celebrate Christmas with an evening of carols. This is the second year the live band, Strange Country, played to a crowd of locals with their unique style of country/ folk mixed with traditional Christmas carols, also bringing a Christmas message for all. Free hot drinks were warming on the cool pre-Christmas evening as a crowd of over two hundred joined together in song and celebration. We hope this will become a regular event for Barfold community.



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Redesdale Mia Mia Primary School



School News

Respect, Resilience & Relationships

The school would like to officially welcome our new and returning staff and students for 2021. This year, we have welcomed one excited Grade One student into our classrooms. In terms of staffing, both James Addlem and Andrew King are returning as the two classroom teachers while we would like to welcome back our specialist teachers as well. Lydia Fehring has returned as our Living Green and STEM teacher, Jocelyn Russell continues to work with our students in the MARC Van (Library) and Mick Cullin returns as our Indonesian and Art teacher. James Addlem will continue in his role as our Music teacher while both James and I will work as Physical Education teachers. We would also like to welcome back Micaela Dumergue as our Education Support staff and our Business Manager, Lou Bray.



2020 End of Year Performance



Our 2020 school year finished with a wonderful, fun and music filled evening. The night included awards, presentations, and some stellar student performances of singing, dancing and public speaking.

Our 2020 Zetland Lodge award winner was Beccy Travers. She received a financial contribution toward her secondary school expenses. The school recognised Beccy's contribution through a speech from staff and multiple speeches from all the students at RMMPS.

The evening was filled with very entertaining singing, dancing and music performances. The students covered George Ezra's "Shotgun" while playing a variety of musical instruments.

They also sang and danced to Baker Boy's "Marryuna" and a few other performances. The highlight may have been the student using traditional Indonesian instruments called "Aungklungs" but arguably what stole the show was the epic dancing to the song "Blackfella/White Fella" by the Warumpi Band.

Once this was finished, it was a perfect night to head outside for a sausage sizzle and final catch up before holidays. Needless to say, we thoroughly enjoyed the evening and left 2020 on a very positive note.

2021

We have started this year in a marvellous manner. Students are coming to school excited and loving the wide variety of engaging learning programs we offer at RMMPS. The students are very eager to participate in Clean Up Australia Day on Friday the 5th of March and we have swimming late this term in the final week. Another exciting program the students are learning about is 'Mindfulness' through the implementation of the Smiling Program.



REDESDALE CFA

Redesdale CFA Update

So far so good. In what shaped up to be a horror fire season, it has proven to be unusually quite.

With the incredible early spring growth generating more than usual roadside and paddock fuel, concerns were that given the wrong kind of day, a grass and scrub fire would take some stopping. This combined with difficulties caused by Covid, mainly people being locked up in Melbourne and not being able to access their properties for cleaning up, meant there was an increased potential for property damage or loss. Statistically the main reason we "turn out" is to extinguish a fire started by someone cutting dry grass. Not the case this year. I would like to thank people for being cautious and taking simple precautions like picking the right day to mow, avoiding the heat of the day and having a good water supply on hand. Keep up the good work.

The current Covid climate that we are in has seen an increased demand for regional properties and Redesdale is no exception. If you are new to the area the Redesdale And District Association (RADA) the CFA and the Redesdale brigade are in the process of producing a new resident's pack with important information relating to our area along with tips on how to carry out fire prevention and fire safety. This will be available soon but in the meantime there's plenty of information available at the fire station or speak to a member, Sunday mornings 9.00 'till 11.00. Or call myself.

Andrew Campbell

Fire Prevention Officer

0428253104



DEFIBRILLATOR

**The Community owned defibrillator
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community members.**

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Applications close at 5pm on Monday 29th March

Visit fgmcommunity.com.au
Email fgmcommunitygrants@kl.gold



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<https://www.redesdale.net>

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REDESDALE FIRE BRIGADE

- Captain - Paul Atkins 0409 141 215
- Secretary - Lee Mason 0422 055 278

MIA MIA FIRE BRIGADE

- Captain Calvin Millard 0409 979 037 A/H: 9744 6745
- Mia Mia Fire Brigade Secretary - Steve Cadasch 5425 5548

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

BRIDGE CONNECTION MAGAZINE

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Bridge Connection President - Gloria Pocock
Bridge Connection Treasurer - Marisa Leahy
<https://www.redesdale.net>

MIA MIA MESSENGER Enquiries 5425 5565

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Mia Mia Mec. Inst. Secretary - Wendy Hulls 5425 5590
Mia Mia Mec. Inst. President - Anthony Ryan 5425 5578
Mia Mia Reserve Comm. Secretary - Anthony Ryan 5425 5578
Mia Mia Reserve Comm. Chairperson - Grant Hulls 5425 5590

Otis Foundation 5444 1184

Redesdale and District Assoc. Inc - Lin Newton 0418 583 304
Redesdale Hall Committee - C. Boyd (Sec) 5425 3194
Redesdale Hall Hire - C. Boyd (Sec) Redesdale 5425 3194
Rec. Res. Cttee - Craig Newton 0448 021 544
email:3444reserve@gmail.com

Suicide Bereavement Service - 'Standby' 0439 173 310

Tennis Club - Linda Newnham 0400 554 716

TOWNSHIP BUSINESSES

Redesdale Hotel - Beth & Garth 03 4405 0601
Redesdale General Store 5425 3154
Cafe Budburst - Sarah 0407 551 578
The House Gallery - Joyce 0408 154 315

COUNCILLORS

City of Greater Bendigo - Eppalock Ward

Matthew Evans 0437 867 028
Marg O'Rourke 0429 061 096
Greg Penna 0429 721 958

POLITICIANS

Federal Member for Bendigo - Lisa Chesters (Labor) 5443 9055
State Member for Euroa - Steph Ryan (Nationals) 5762 2100

Redesdale Mia Mia Primary School 5425 3155

HEALTH SERVICES

Bendigo Health 5454 6000
Heathcote Health 5431 0900
Kyneton Health 5422 9900
Royal Flying Doctor Community Transport (Heathcote) 5431 0900

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

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Bendigo Visitor Centre 1800 813 153
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Redesdale Hotel 4405 0601
Redesdale General Store 5425 3154
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William Farmer Funeral Directors 5441 5577

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Tribute to Bruce and Lyn Anderson

The Baynton Community honoured the lives of Bruce and Lyn Anderson as part of the Australia Day celebration held at the Baynton Hall. Bruce and Lyn died tragically in October 2019 and were much loved and respected members of the Baynton community for many years. Present were Bruce and Lyn's daughter Emma and son Craig and their family members and friends.

To honour Bruce and Lyn's memory the Pastoria Fire Brigade commissioned Peter Stone to handcraft a magnificent outdoor table with memorial plaque to remember them. The table was handcrafted in locally sourced Cyprus Macrocarpa and installed beside the Baynton Hall as a lasting tribute. Peter is to be thanked for his talent and work. Several tributes reflected on the contribution Bruce and Lyn had given to the CFA and wider community.

Past Pastoria Captain Gerard Ryan spoke of Bruce as a practical man who could always be relied upon. Don Patterson shared the contribution Bruce had given to the Nullavale CFA and neighbour. Peter Stone spoke of Lyn and Bruce's community spirit and friendship over many years. Current Pastoria captain Trevor Watson proudly unveiled the table.

An evening of storytelling and a BBQ was shared before the running of the annual Australia Day Gift.



Left to Right : **Back** - Alex Sambrooks, Peter Stone, Glenyse Stone, Emma Sambrooks, Craig Anderson
Middle – Zack Sambrooks, Brooke Anderson, Stacey Anderson
Front - Dylan Anderson, Kayla Anderson, Riley Anderson



Thank you Phil Don

Have you noticed how the verge on the Kyneton - Redesdale Road leading into Redesdale from Siddles Rd to the Service station is mowed and the rubbish picked up. If not, take a look and imagine 1.5 meter high tinder dry Phalaris grass concealing rubbish, fallen tree limbs, rocks and road detritus, as that is how it was back in February 2009 just before it became a corridor of flame on Black Saturday.

The fire of Black Saturday left an impression on one particular person that has forever been a driving force for change and I will say positive improvement to the amenity of this area.

At that time the City of Greater Bendigo paid little attention to Redesdale or Mia Mia and that was evident in so many ways, a trend that is prominent with small towns close to municipal boundaries.

Vic Roads were often reminded via the City of Greater Bendigo's small towns meetings which were a regular monthly then quarterly event on the state of the roads and verges under their control in the region both before and for many years after Black Saturday with only token responses.

Late in 2009 I met Phil Don at the CFA Wildfire Fire fighter recruit course held at Langley P.S. It was evident to me Phil had a mission, and he did not want to see another day like Black Saturday threaten his home or the habitat of the district, Phil made Fire fighting contingency plans and taking measures some might believe excessive, and regularly updated them, in many ways he was visionary of what was to come.

About 2015 I began to notice regular mowing work had been carried out in parts of the Kyneton - Redesdale Rd, even garden beds and shrubberies would appear as if by magic often with a Golden Wattle blossomed sign with "Campaspe Valley Land Care Group" upon it.

Little did I know this was mostly Phil Don driven by his ambition and other Land Carers to restore the natural environment, reduce roadside grass fire fuel loads with anyone who would help in these projects under the banner of Land Care, as it was plainly apparent no State or local government agency was prepared to consider it let alone do anything about it.

There is no doubt Phil is 100 % obsessed with creating a safer environment, and restoring native flora and fauna habitats. The Planting of thousands of trees and shrubs with tree guards on crown and private land to revegetate damaged landscapes where ever required.

Phil has bought tractors and mowing, planting equipment to achieve these goals and countless litres of fuel and herbicide over the years almost always at his own expense. Also not forgetting the occasional times machinery has incurred damage in achieving the work that most people have attributed to Government contractors or taken for granted.

In 2019 the Land Care Group did a Working Bee on the Kyneton - Redesdale Rd with the help of young Bill and Kathy Krierwaldt of Waldon farm which has improved the mowing of this stretch

of road verge. Phil is now the Past President of Campaspe Valley Land Care Group, as always, he is fired up as ever to achieve visible genuine improvements for the region. In recent times he has had some setbacks, both financial and in health, if you or a group you belong to believe Phil has and is doing a good job then please let him know. I certainly believe he has done worthy things for this community.

Rob Chapman President Campaspe Valley Land Care Group



FEATHER BRAINED FOES the Fruit Growers woes

This season looked really promising for my fruit trees, the branches were heavily laden with immature almonds apricots and apples of different varieties, but like a plague of locusts the Cockatoos and Rosellas soon found them and ate or ruined almost all of nature's bounty that I was looking forward to.

My home orchard is some 36 by 16 meters with a broad variety of types some of which will grow quite large like walnut, pecan and mulberry so netting the whole area is possible now, but won't be practical in the longer term as the trees continue to grow, I have used non lethal 12 g bird scatter rounds and noisy blanks to scare the birds off. The awful racket of these rounds becomes pointless as these intelligent birds soon realize it is not hurting them. Like gas guns the birds get used to it, and return very quickly even before I have left their sight.

loud noise creation is only a short term fix and not particularly good for the amenity of the area, and in this circumstance use of potentially lethal bird rounds are fraught with so many negatives it just is no longer viable consideration. Bird population reduction regardless of the execution has been one method that has had some success, but also attracted much criticism from an ethical point of view, and that makes it contentious and political and not a universally preferred solution.

Now we come to physical barriers to exclude birds away from the trees and fruit. Personally I don't like bird netting as it has a relatively short working life span only to become land fill waste eventually in most cases. Active recycling of old bird netting has not been announced here as far as I am aware. Controlling weeds and grasses inside individual netted tree enclosures can be a chore and pruning becomes a little difficult as in many cases the net must be removed from the hoop frame before pruning can commence for access. It must be said though it is an improvement on having to expectantly wait for birds to approach the trees and then scare them off with a shot gun blast. The integrity of the netting must be maintained otherwise birds will find and enlarge any tear or hole in the netting. Pruning inside netted enclosures must keep the tree branches away from penetrating the netting.

My neighbour recently spent \$6,000 on a netting enclosure for his fruit trees which is slightly smaller than my home orchard, that almost seems to negate the financial benefit of growing your own fruit depending on the lifetime of that enclosure and the Fruit trees therein.

Having asked advice about imitation birds of prey, suspended kites that look sort of like flying Hawks, perched Owls and static human form scare crows from professional growers. This brought me no solid solutions, but disappointingly receiving only mixed responses, netting seems to be regarded as the best solution around.

Keeping birds off crops and produce must be a massively underrated problem that incurs much expense, a problem therefore that needs a cost effective solution that is time efficient and environmentally sustainable.

I am going to place a nesting platform for a raptor on my 10 meter water tower in the hope of attracting either a Hawk or Black shouldered Kite to it, but this may take some time for a nesting pair to adopt. I had a pet Black Shouldered Kite in my youth that scared Pigeons, Black birds, Starlings, Indian Minors and Sparrows so I know it is possible that's if the Magpies don't pester them too much.

A couple of years ago I saw a Land Line report on ABC TV about the use of drones for crop spraying up in Queensland. The CSIRO or University of Queensland was trialing a prototype chemical applicator drone. There was a more precise application of chemical and much less chemical expended, and timely operation, and it could work with or without human input after the first manually controlled flight was data recorded.

This drone was no toy it was quite a robust machine, and able to carry a substantial payload of chemical, as far as I can recall it was being manually controlled initially. GPS referencing, altitude and, air speed were some of the key data recorded to memory, so it may only have to fly that pattern once and be capable of repeating the routine of flying without requiring human input thereafter.

There is a company in Eltham that markets some pretty smart Drones off the shelf and custom built ones too. Some off the shelf models will do programmed circuits to patrol a given area, but require human management to conserve battery power and to restart the operation and cost about \$5000. The custom built Drones are something else they are in a class of their own. These drones are large and built to resist territorial bird attack, Magpies being one the more aggressive species and some raptors. Customised software enables such drones to perform specialized tasks at a specialized price in the range of \$25,000, it would seem you would need a lot of justification for that expenditure.

Regrettably it still has several inadequacies from being the perfect bird deterrent . All drones still require a human to turn it on & off, change and recharge batteries, there is no standby mode, and although it can be programmed to operate at specific times most likely for bird attack, for other times there are no bird detection systems to activate the drone, at this stage these issues only exist for lack of technical research. Radio controlled tools like purpose built flying drones controlled by an operator and or a programmable system are now accepted tools of modern property management and are finding many applications in farming. Obviously price is an issue and learning how to operate or program drones takes some time. The Federal Government introduced laws that now require operating a flying drone to be registered with CASA. Recently the Vic State Government regulations concerning bird netting have changed making some varieties of bird netting currently being used illegal. This will add yet more costs to production to comply for producers, and aggravate home orchardists who work hard to protect fruit from marauding flying feathered opportunists, and of course create more environmentally unfriendly waste.

continued Page 13

In the mean time I will be encouraging birds of prey (Raptors) to nest on my property, it seems to me to be the best natural option, though probably not the best required option. Falcons, Kites, Hawks, Kestrels and Owls are the best at pest control, Planting some tall growing trees, nest platforms and nest boxes for Owls in mature trees for these birds to raise their chicks. After all they are beautiful to watch effortlessly wheeling, hovering, swooping, soaring high above and making a meal out of a pest.

Should I acquire a specialized drone I will write up a report on it's pro's and con's. I do hope to see innovations soon from those researchers at the CSIRO or University of Queensland make a breakthrough on Drone function autonomy, and also a more reasonable cost of a specialized drone as more acceptance of the technology increases.

How do you deal with protecting your crops from birds? Your ingenious ideas could be worth a fortune \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$.

Rob Chapman



Rob's pet Blackshoulderd Kite

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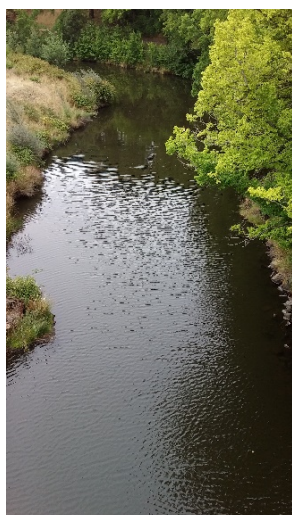
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Campaspe River Update

EPA v Coliban Water court case was adjourned once more. The Magistrate stated that it was not the fault of either party that it was listed on such a busy day, but that it was too important, too complex and complicated and needed half a day. The digital meeting also had technical problems that meant that some of the key participants could not be understood. He urged interested parties to liaise with the EPA and court and to come along on **March 2nd at 2pm** when more time is available to devote to dealing with the matter properly.



Photos taken in January 2021 show the river just upstream of the CW discharge point at Ward's Lane ... and the Azolla covered water just downstream of the discharge point.



Clear water in Kyneton, but when a local grazier went to water stock on the river downstream of the discharge point, the entire surface was covered with Azolla and the water underneath was black.

No good for watering stock or the ecosystem.



The volumes of sewerage and trade waste are increasing, just look at the amount of development happening in the area. We can be sure of this volume. To have infrastructure that must deal with the waste still relying so heavily on the weather and seasons being predictable, something we cannot be sure of, just doesn't add up.

Unfortunately Lake Eppalock has a warning for blue green algae again. You can check the www.g-mwater.com.au/news/bga site for reports. Latest update was due on Feb 19th.



YOUR HEALTH

with Dr Tim Stobie Ph: 5422 1397

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Dr Tim Stobie

"There is nothing good or bad, but thinking makes it so."

William Shakespeare's words from 'Hamlet' written over 400 years ago are a wonderfully succinct expression of the challenge of maintaining good mental health.

When mental health is optimal, we masterfully process and interpret our constant interaction with the inanimate environment and companion beings, human or otherwise. We feel in control of ourselves and, in some degree, in control of our environment, our home. The expectation that our future needs and desires can be fulfilled becomes solid. Happy days.

Most of us inherently believe that good mood and mental health are attainable through exercising positive thinking, and modifying our behaviours to reinforce a state of positive control over ourselves and our environment. This is the basis of what health professionals term Cognitive Behaviour Therapy. It is one of the foundations of modern psychological practice and widely used to treat a variety of mental health conditions. Much as we exercise muscles to help us move better, we can use cognitive exercise to help ourselves to better mental health.

There are rare conditions which don't respond well to such therapy. In these conditions reasoning and self-reflection are often difficult or impossible. Medical treatment which in some way alters the chemistry of the brain towards normal is often helpful to manage these rare conditions. Our brains are organs which show amazing ability to adapt not only in terms of cognitive patterns, but also ability to remodel physically, for new neuronal connections to be made, or for maladaptive connections to be switched off. Brain injury will always affect mental health temporarily, be it injury through poisoning, physical damage or traumatic experience. But our brains' adaptive abilities after injury can sometimes be truly remarkable.

Healthy relationships are an incredibly important part of maintaining good mental health. Good relationships reinforce our own self-control, respect our shared environment as well as our personal traits, and give real support to the fulfillment

of our needs and desires. Shared communication at many different levels is important. Giving is an important way of boosting our own mental health as well as the mental health of those around us. Healthy relationships accept change in ourselves and others, as life circumstances change. Healthy relationships celebrate individuality as much as togetherness. Healthy relationships are forgiving. Healthy relationships are an integral part of our daily ritual of positive thinking and cognitive exercise.

I am still amazed by the creative genius of the creators, including the Director, Roberto Begnini, of the 1997 film "Life is Beautiful", in which a family survives the horrors of a Nazi concentration camp. If ever there was a cinematic example of the power of a trained approach to mental health, then this film surely would be it.

If you wish to discuss aspects of your own mental health you may contact:

- Your GP (doctor)
- Psychologist
- Psychiatrist
- Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA) Tel. (03) 9486 3077.
- Relationships Australia – provides counselling, mediation, family dispute resolution, relationship and parenting skills education, family violence support, community support, employee assistance programs and professional training. Services and programs are available nationally Tel. 1300 364 277
- 1800 RESPECT is the national sexual assault and family violence counselling service for people living in Australia Tel. 1800 737 732
- beyondblue – an independent, not-for-profit organisation that provides telephone and online support for depression, anxiety, and related disorders, as well as online resources and information Tel. 1300 22 4636
- MensLine Australia provides national telephone and online support, information and referrals for men with family and relationship concerns. Tel. 1300 78 99 78.
- QLife provides telephone and online support to help lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex communities to work towards better health, including mental health Tel. 1800 184 527
- Australian Psychological Society Tel. (03) 8662 3300 or 1800 333 497
- Anxiety Recovery Centre Victoria Tel. (03) 9830 0533 or 1300 ANXIETY (1300 269 438)
- Lifeline – 24/7 Crisis support Tel 131114

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Mia Mia Australia Day Celebrations 2021

The Mia Mia Australia Day Breakfast took place on the Mia Mia Cricket Ground this year Due to Covid - 19 regulations. The Day began with Ned Upton as MC and Speeches made by COGB Cr Rod Fyffe OAM and from the Mitchell Shire Councillor Bill Chisholm. Kathy Hall gave an overview of the Stone Reserve Project. And the Flag was raised by former Mia Mia resedent Donald Bennett



Above Jim Coombe and Donald Bennett



Right Donald Bennett

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

55

Panzanella



Italian Bread Salad

1kg of mixed ripe tomatoes,
Cut into wedges or halved if cherry ones
1 cucumber halved and sliced
1 green capsicum, sliced
1 garlic clove, finely sliced
1 hand full of basil leaves chopped
1 large red onion, thinly sliced
3-4 slices of stale bread, soaked in water
And then cut into 2 cm cubes
(Use a ciabatta, rye or wholemeal)
Dressing
150ml extra virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
Salt and black pepper to taste

Method

If toasting the cubed bread, preheat oven to 180 C and line a baking tray.
Place bread on the tray and bake until golden brown, 5-10 minutes.
Cool slightly.
In a large bowl add the prepared tomatoes, cucumber, capsicum, red onions, garlic and bread.
Mix the dressing through the salad and place aside for 20 minutes for the flavours to infuse.
Toss well again before serving.

Marisa Leahy

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.

Redesdale



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
email: 3444reserve@gmail.com



Redesdale Ramblings

Redesdale Ramblings: some Amaryllids for the garden

Summer's end is within sight as I type this article. It started with heat and fury but there was rain as well which gave a boost to the garden – and the weeds! By mid-Summer the ground around our place had huge cracks and these seemed to swallow up the two inches of rain without any run-off! But the moisture had good effects on the trees and I think it helped spur on the Amaryllis or “Belladonna lilies” which have flowered extremely well this year. The most commonly seen form is the true species which has one-sided flower heads of soft pink trumpets which are sweetly scented. They can often be seen around abandoned homesteads and paddocks in late January through to early March with “peak bloom” in February. But there are other versions, some pure white, some almost crimson and shades in-between and sometimes two-toned. Most of these are actually hybrids and Australia was one of the places where they were originally raised, some as early as during Colonial times. Most people believed that the other parent was a *Brunsvigia*, in fact calling the hybrids, xAmarygia. However recreating such crosses do not reproduce similar looking plants. Bruce Knight, an avid grower near Gosford back in the 1990s tried crossing different bulbs and concluded that the actual second parent was *Cyristetes longifolia* (now called *Ammocharis longifolia*). These hybrids differ from the true species by having their florets arranged radially rather than facing in one direction, a trait inherited from *Cyristetes*. *Brunsvigia* also have radial distribution of the flowers but the shape of the flowers is different. These South African lilies are not closely related to the true Lilies or *Liliums*, but are more closer to things like daffodils which are in the same family, the Amaryllidaceae. This huge family provides a range of bulbs which love growing in our region. Apart from daffodils and snowdrops there are “rain-lilies”, *Habranthus* and *Zephyranthes* from the Americas; “surprise-lilies”, *Lycoris* from Asia; the similar looking *Nerines* from South Africa and *Rhodophiala* from South America. There are even Australian amaryllids such as the “garland-lilies”, *Calostemma purpureum* and *C. luteum* which flower in autumn.

Not all bulbs come from similar climates as ours but many

from the Mediterranean region and similar places around the world will be suitable. *Sternbergia* is a small genus but the most commonly seen species is *Sternbergia lutea* with golden goblets emerging in autumn backed by strappy, dark green leaves. *Sternbergia sicula* is a smaller version (some say it is just a variant and not a separate species) which can have almost starry-looking flowers at ground level in profusion. There is even a white flowered species, *Sternbergia candida* which blooms in the middle of winter.

Now is a great time to get more bulbs for the garden from suppliers such as Hancocks Daffodils, Lambley Nursery or local nurseries such as The Garden Tap in Kyneton. Hopefully The Kyneton Daffodil and Arts Festival volunteers will be selling daffodil bulbs again this year, usually outside the supermarket. There are also specialist bulb growers such as Tonkin Bulbs in the Dandenongs, Glenbrook Bulbs in Tasmania, Trevanion Daffodils and Keira Bulbs in Canberra and Garry Reid (Obscure Bulbs) near Yackandandah. Ray Mills is no longer selling bulbs at the Wesley Hill Market but I think still sells from his home in Guildford.

Once you get your new bulbs you will have to plant them or pot them up. Planting depths vary greatly depending on the species or variety of bulb. The general rule-of-thumb is to plant a bulb twice the depth of its height; so for a 5cm tall daffodil you need to dig a 10 to 15cm deep hole. Try doing that in Redesdale at this time of year! Unless you have a prepared garden bed it would be difficult to dig down so far in our local Adobe clay – maybe if you have a backhoe or a mattock and strong arms? Usually we have to wait until the ground is softened by autumn rain. The problem with planting daffodils too shallowly is that they are more prone to multiply rather than bulk up in size for better flowering. This is possibly due to the bulbs going into early dormancy because of the upper soil layer drying out more quickly.

However not all bulbs need deep planting. You often see nerines and belladonnas pushing themselves up to the surface and these are usually recommended to be planted with the “neck” of the bulb above the soil surface. The only risk is with small bulbs or offsets which might get too desiccated in hot conditions if too exposed.

Cheers

Fermi

The Redesdale Rock Gardener



Habranthus (rain-lily)



Sternbergia lutea

A hundred years of the soldier settler and ninety years of his son

continued from front page

A hundred years of the soldier settler and ninety years of his son

Mia Mia's most senior citizen, Jim Coombe, celebrated his ninetieth birthday this week, one hundred years after his father returned from World War One and took up the Government's offer of a three hundred acre piece of farm land in Valley Road, Mia Mia.

The returned soldier, Clarrie Coombe, was originally from Gippsland and was hoping the government would offer him some lush green Gippsland dairying country. So he was pretty disappointed to end up with three hundred acres of Central Victoria basalt boulders. But, as people did in those days, he made the most of it and a hundred years on half of the land is still in the hands of the family.

Most people think that the government gave the land to the soldier settlers, but that was not the case. "The government gave them loans to pay off over a number of years", says Jim Coombe, "but the deal wasn't really that good. The only people who survived were the ones that refinanced through the banks".

The farm was scarcely big enough to support one family, let alone Jim and his elder sisters and their families, so Jim honed his mechanical skills and ran the Redesdale Garage for a number of years, as well as looking after the roads for the local shire. Eventually, with five daughters to feed, he moved north to Torrumbarry to grow lucerne, and later to Healesville to drive buses for McKenzie's bus lines.

As he was about to retire from the Healesville job his eldest sister and her husband, who had taken on the family farm, were also retiring and moving into Kyneton. They suggested Jim

move back to Mia Mia and look after the farm. So he has been back at his birth place for almost twenty years.

On his birthday Jim was surrounded by many members of his family, including several great grandchildren.

Jim Coombe is one of the last of a wonderful breed of rural handymen who can turn their hands to almost anything, - farming, shearing, timber cutting and felling, fencing, welding, mechanical repairs, building, plumbing, electrics All the things Worksafe doesn't allow you to do any more!

Long may he and his contemporaries live!

Andrew Patterson



Jim and his extended family

Proudly supporting Bridge Connection



Rope barriers increase freeway fuel loads

Member for Euroa and Nationals deputy leader Steph Ryan has slammed the Andrews Labor Government for letting fuel loads increase on the Hume Freeway, describing long grass as “a disaster waiting to happen”.

Ms Ryan joined Boho CFA brigade captain Gary Washusen this morning to call on the Andrews Government to take immediate action to address the fire risk.

It comes after Ms Ryan told Parliament earlier this month that the government had failed to protect communities this season, with the placement of wire rope barriers clearly impeding slashing efforts.

“I am deeply concerned about the Andrews Government’s failure to slash grass along the Hume Freeway this season,” Ms Ryan said.

“Wire rope barriers have impeded the government’s slashing efforts and there is a very real risk of a grassfire as a result.

“In some places along the Hume, the grass is so high that you can barely see the wire rope barriers.

“Local brigades have contacted me deeply concerned by the danger this presents not only to local communities, but also for first responders, whose safety is put at risk by the placement of wire rope barriers.”

Mr Washusen wrote to VicRoads in January to convey his concerns, however he has not yet received a response.

Without a change in approach, Mr Washusen said he feared it was “just a matter of time” before the state has a repeat of Black Saturday.

“While the freeway carriageways make a significant fire break, the fine fuel in the form of grass ignites very quickly and will develop into a serious fire during high fire risk days,” Mr Washusen said.

“The Hume Freeway in many areas borders a lot of hilly country and a fire escaping the freeway reserve has potential to impact the Strathbogie Ranges and Black Saturday is a reminder of how devastating that could be.”

Mr Washusen said the machines used by VicRoads to slash the freeway left a lot of long grass standing around the cable barrier posts.

“Where there are no trees, these machines are very effective but where there are trees, a lot of grass is left standing,” Mr Washusen said.

“The cable barriers often restrict access for the equipment and then when a limb or tree falls over, it’s often impossible for the mowers to get in.



Federal Member for Bendigo

LISA CHESTERS MP

PO Box 338 Bendigo 3552
Cnr Williamson & Myers Sts, Bendigo 3550

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E: Lisa.Chesters.MP@aph.gov.au

Twitter: @LMChesters • Facebook: /LisaChestersBendigo



“The fear is one day there will be a bad fire and somebody will have an accident in the smoke and block the freeway. Cars and trucks unable to turn around will queue up and people will be incinerated. It’s that simple.”

Photo caption: Member for Euroa and Nationals deputy leader Steph Ryan with Boho CFA brigade member Kerry Davis and captain Gary Washusen.

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

Shane Varcoe comes to Barfold SUNDAY, 7TH MARCH AT 10AM



Shane Varcoe will be visiting speaker
@ Barfold Community Church.

Shane is currently Executive Director of the Delgarno Institute, a coalition focusing on alcohol and other drug issues and their impact on our society.

As an AOD (Alcohol & Other Drugs) Harm Prevention advocate he is the architect of the ‘No Brainer’ educational project as well as ‘The Fence Builder’ and ‘Isabella’s List’ community initiatives.

Shane is an author and presenter and has been an ordained minister.

Everyone Welcome

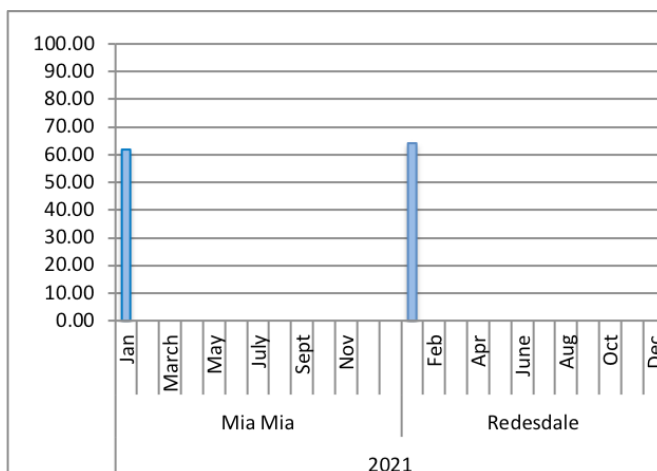
Redesdale
/ Mia Mia

Rainfall



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

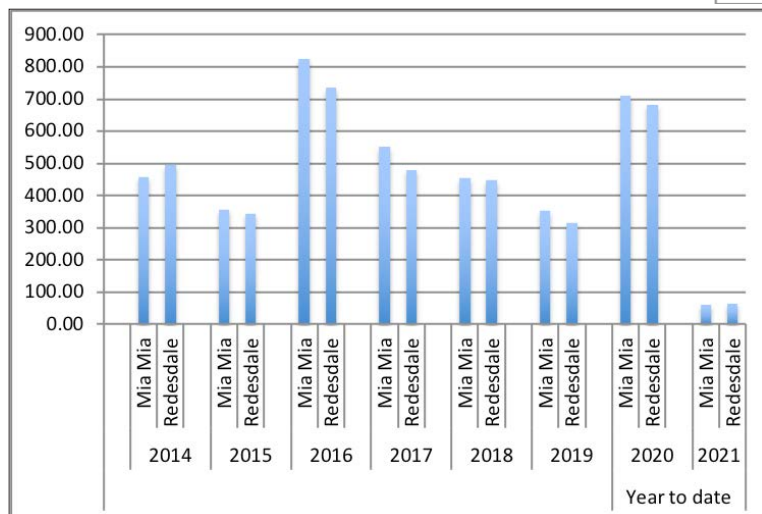
Thank you to **Helen Bennett** for the **Mia Mia** readings.



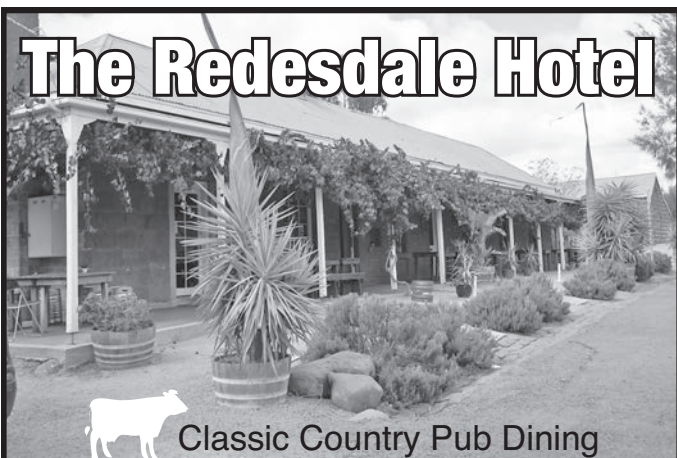
2020 Rain Total

Redesdale Year total 682.85mm

Mia Mia Year total 711.25mm



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January Rain Fall

Redesdale 64.2mm Year to date 64.2mm

Mia Mia 62mm Year to date 62mm

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
2020	Mia Mia	711.25
	Redesdale	682.85





Youth Mental Health First Aid is back in 2021!

Adults wanting to learn about youth mental health and how to support young people struggling with mental health problems can register for this 14 hour first aid certificate course. The course covers various mental health problems experienced by young people and is delivered using case studies, films and group discussions.

- **YMHFA Refresher**—for people who are due to have their first aid accreditation renewed, this 4 hour course is for you. Saturday 6 March 9am–1pm at the Kyneton Town Hall.
- **YMHFA Community course**—Saturday 13 March full day and Wednesdays 17 & 24 evening sessions
- **YMHFA Mens course**—Thursday evenings April 8, 15, 22 & 29—Woodend (venue tbc)
- **YMHFA Community course**—Saturday 8 May full day and Thursdays 13 & 20 May—Gisborne Council Chambers
- **YMHFA Community course**—Saturday 12 & 19 June Romsey House

 **MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID Australia**

 **Macedon Ranges Shire Council**  **Youth Development**

For more information about the courses and to register, please contact Loren at Live4Life on 0429 466 207 or lpolzet@mrsc.vic.gov.au

How to book

Due to Covid management requirements, numbers are strictly limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Course fees are \$37.50 for residents of the Macedon Ranges and \$190 for all others. Please note the Refresher course is \$30 for all participants.

A course manual and refreshments are included in the course fee.

"I would absolutely recommend it, and have done so."

"I wanted to get a better understanding of some of the issues these kids were facing, and I learnt a lot."

Nature Stewards Program

Would you like to do more for nature but don't know where to start? Nature Stewards is a 10-week educational program that will introduce you to Victorian and local nature and show you ways to take action for the environment.

This program will allow you to discover more about your local environment, connect you with others in your community, and help you learn how to volunteer for nature at home, online, and in your community. Participants will learn about conservation of ecosystems, managing soils, fungi, plants and animals.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council have partnered with two other local governments (Melton and Hume) to host the Nature Stewards Program, run by Outdoors Victoria, a non-for-profit organisation.

The Nature Stewards program will run between April and June, 2021 and includes 10 class sessions of 3 hrs, and four field sessions of 4 hours. The cost is \$175 (\$45 for concession) and has been reduced for participants coming from the Macedon Ranges.

You don't need to have existing experience in environmental care or work - anyone over the age of 18 years with an interest in learning more about the local environment is encouraged to join up.

People who are keen to learn about the environment and potentially consider incorporating this knowledge into a community group are also encouraged to apply.

Find out more and apply here: outdoorsvictoria.org.au/nature-stewards/

Bobby Valentine and band of Renown

Appearing at Redesdale Recreational Reserve, an outdoor event, at 6pm on Saturday March 27th as part of the Summer in The Parks Celebration is Bobby Valentine and band. The event is a RaDA initiative and is funded by the City of Greater Bendigo.

Bobby has been a professional entertainer for over 30 years working in various bands based in Melbourne and appearing nationally & internationally. He has worked with Stevie Wonder, Whitney Houston, Rod Stewart and all Australian legends. He has been a guest on almost every Australian TV variety show, notably as a regular on Hey, Hey It's Saturday, Midday Show, Bert Newton Show, I.M.T. and Steve Vizard's Tonight Live.

As well as being the mainstay of many successful bands, Bobby has worked as a solo artist for much of his career and has notched up many significant private performances for celebrity weddings, parties and major events ... Australian Open Tennis, Melbourne Cup, AFL Grand Final, Hugh Jackman, Eddie McGuire, Sam Newman, Jimmy Barnes and the list goes on.

Bobby's voice has been heard selling everything from Holdens to the Labor party in TV & radio jingles, the most notable being as "The voice of David Jones" for 8 years.

Bobby's latest album, Writing My Book Again, featuring mostly his own originals, was released at Toyota Hats Off to Tamworth on 13th July 2018 and led to shows at the 2019 Tamworth Country Music Festival.


FREE
6pm, Saturday
27th March
Redesdale
Recreational
Reserve

Due to the current COVID 19 conditions which are ever changing, an event like this is uplifting and great value. Music is a powerful thing. Aside from its entertainment value, listening to music is known to have positive effects. The event also provides the opportunity to make available information on mental awareness and treatment in the region.



A single ember can spread bushfires as far as **30km**.

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BOBBY VALENTINE

APPEARING WITH **Band Of Renown**

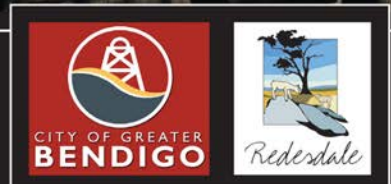
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FREE

**6pm, Saturday
27th March
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