



ISSUE NO. 128 May 2022

For the Mia Mia- Redesdale Region including:

- Heathcote • Derrinal • Glenhope • Baynton • Sidonia • Barfold
- Langley V Sutton Grange • Elphinstone • Kyneton • Metcalfe

BRIDGE CONNECTION COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

RADA refreshed Open Garden visitors



Our thanks goes to Kathy Hall and Rod Gibson, Hardwicks of Kyneton, Bakers Delight Kyneton and Bendigo Bank Heathcote for their continued support for our local community.

continued page11.

We're open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday or call us on
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Editorial

Dear Readers

it is very important that you read the important news on page 4 about what is happening with the bridge connection.

if you have any stories or community event please sent to the below email address

bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com



Regina Bennett

Regina Bennett.

Editor: Regina Bennett

Ph: 0437514223

e: bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com

BRIDGE CONNECTION COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Advertising Rates/Sizes

Size	Height x Width	Price per issue	10 Editions
Business Card	55mm x 90mm	\$25	\$250
Quarter Page	130mm x 90mm	\$50	\$500
Half Page	130mm x 190mm	\$95	\$950
Full Page	270mm x 190mm	\$175	\$1,750

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Please send editorial or advertising copy to:
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or by post to **Regina Bennett 3465 Burke & Wills track Mia Mia 3444.**
For other editorial enquiries, please phone **0437 514 223**

Bridge Connection Distribution

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

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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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BRIDGE CONNECTION COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

MEMBER



IMPORTANT
LOCAL
NEWS

Bridge Connection Community Newspaper

The outcome of the discussion is that as of **June 2022**

we will be having printed editions only in

March, June, September and December.

Other months - **April, May, July, August, October and November**

will be online on the **Redesdale website** and the

Bridge Connection facebook page.

No editions in **January or February**

If you wish to be on an email list and sent to you please
email **gapocock@bigpond.com** and ask to be added to the list.

Current and future **Bridge Connections** will be able to be downloaded at
the below link

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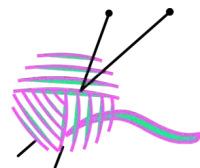


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Regina Bennett on: 0437 514 223 OR email bridgeconnection.editor@gmail.com

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if you are interested in joining contact Gloria Pocock at gapocock@bigpond.com or Regina Bennett at reginabennett@bigpond.com



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Heathcote-Kyneton Rd, Barfold

Contact; Leigh 0425812786



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Located on the side of the Redesdale fire station
Access code is 3444 (Redesdale post code)

DEFIBRILLATOR

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

It is situated on the
outside wall of the CFA building



UNITING CHURCH

10am Start

Morning Tea is shared before each service at 9.40



Church Services for May 2022

May 8th Metcalfe

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For more information go to

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Redesdale Mia Mia Primary School



School News

Respect, Resilience & Relationships

Pancake Breakfast

What a great way to end the term!

We invited all RMMPS families in for an end of term brekkie of pancakes and a few chocolate eggs. There was a very fun Easter Egg hunt to end the day as well.



New Facilities at RMMPS

Over the past month, we have had numerous builders and designers at our school working to make it a much more enjoyable space for our students at the local community. The bike track is finished for the time being however we are going to be continually working in that area over the coming months. There are a few jumps and trails to be ridden on bike, or by remote control car.

The basketball court is also underway with the crushed sand and rock being laid in the first week back at school. We are hoping that it will be completed in early May, no doubt it will be a huge, positive change for our students and community.

Travel Bits 3

OK, lets have a look at two of the European regions where travel in Spring and Summer is brilliant, though it can be quite crowded in some places – The UK and France

England, Wales and Scotland:

Today, slightly over 60 million inhabitants populate this island whose capital, London, remains the number one financial market in Europe. But there's still time for a pint at the pub after work in the City! Though it is a hub for the cutting-edge European cultural scene, the city of Sherlock Holmes has preserved its aristocratic charm. Royal palaces, wonderful galleries and museums, fabulous architecture and enough pomp and ceremony to entertain any visitor, are the hallmarks of a trip to the UK.

Beyond the green “London countryside”, you can explore the fascinating history of Great Britain through its fortresses and castles surrounded by enchanting lakes and gardens. After visiting some of its magnificent stately homes, such as Chatsworth and Caernarfon, take time for a stroll on the legendary campuses of Oxford and Cambridge. To reach even further back in time, head for the Scottish Highlands, where glaciers created a jagged coast of fjords, known locally as lochs: or spend some time exploring the cobbled streets of Edinburgh. From the rugged coastline of the far North to the villages and beaches of Cornwall in the South, there is something for everyone in any holiday to Great Britain.

A short flight across the English Channel, and you're

in France, one of the most diverse countries on Earth. There is always something to see and sense, whether you are driving down a lane, picnicking by a slow, deep river, or sipping wine in a village cafe. And of course you have the cities - Paris, ‘the City of Light’, and the great provincial cities of Bordeaux, Lyon, Toulouse, Marseille and Nice. Gothic cathedrals, Romanesque churches, ruined castles, great Estates, incredible Chateaux and brilliant Champagne houses provide the traveller a wonderful opportunity for romance and exploration and some of the World's best restaurants and cafes are sure to satisfy your tastes. If you hire a car, then there is nowhere you cannot reach.

Holly and I absolutely love Paris, and there is so much to do. My advice is to spend as much time in Paris as you can afford. Basically prices at cafes and restaurants are similar to Melbourne, and there is a huge range of hotels, and bed and breakfasts right in the centre of the city.

Simon



Above Le Procope

Below England Parliament



Blaze Aid

After Eleven forty seven!

Had the Black Saturday conflagration not started at Kilmore East and spread to the farm of Kevin and Rhonda Butler the story of BlazeAid may not be ours to hear. But it did, and the story continues thirteen years on!

At the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea meeting on 2 May Melissa Jones Operations Manager of BlazeAid Inc gave members an overview of the then, and now, of the corralling of volunteers to join together and start the rebuilding of communities devastated by natural disasters.

On the morning of 7 February 2009 north westerly winds in excess of 100 kilometres per hour scoured Victoria, bringing hot, dry air from Central Australia. The storm helped to create the almost perfect fire conditions, and when the winds brought down powerlines at 11.47am in Kilmore East, the resulting sparks ignited the fire.

Out of adversity comes opportunity is a quote attributed to Benjamin Franklin now brought to life by BlazeAid. On that fateful day Kevin and Rhonda Butler, were among those whose properties were burnt. [Arguably the first] Needing to quickly secure their 1,500 sheep, they sought assistance from family, friends and local volunteers to help re-fence their paddocks.

Many of the Probus members were affected in the fires and are still scared by their personal involvement. But Melissa showed her understanding of the underlying traumas of, not only the disaster, but the undertaking to return victims to some semblance of reality. Ironically some communities that BlazeAid have helped rebuild have been devastated not by fire, but its arch enemy rain.

One hundred and seventy-three people tragically lost their lives, 414 were injured, more than a million wild and domesticated animals were lost and 450,000 hectares of land were burned on Black Saturday. The formation of the unique volunteer army was the way that the Butlers decided to thank their helpers, and offer assistance to communities beyond Kilmore East.

The first assembly point was at the Butlers' Woolshed where locals and visitors heeding the pleas turned up "shovel ready". Kevin had placed an advert in the Kilmore Free Press and twenty-five volunteers came to the first assembly. Rhonda fed everyone breakfast and dinner and provided a cut lunch, with the costs covered by their family.

Rotary became involved and took over the financing which was assisted by donations. Melissa explained that they shy away from Red Tape and have had minimal interaction with Government, relying on donations from the public and organisations keen to give back.

As the weeks passed it became a multicultural community with interstate and overseas volunteers dropping in and taking on the tasks. People from all points of the compass were seen and heard at breakfast, and at the end of the day's work. The evenings in the Woolshed around the pot belly stove are legendary. The time-frame allocated was 12 weeks, but as word spread about the happenings at Kilmore East, others wanted a piece of the action and thirteen years on the assistance packages are still being rolled out.

Some of the developments since 2007 were advised:-

- 163 BlazeAid Camps established
- 200 combat ready trailers set up and stored strategically
- Value of contributions exceeds AU\$300 million
- 16,500 kilometres of damaged fence removed
- 16,000 kilometres of fences replaced
- 35 thousand volunteers signed on [Aged 4-94 average 60 years]
- Backpackers isolated in Australia due to Covid given assistance

Currently there are a total of twelve [12] camps running throughout Australia, nine [9] of which are in NSW and Queensland working on replenishment after the devastating floods. The Camp Co-ordinator makes the decision as to what happens at each farm.

A fact hard to believe was related; the crew on one relief boat working in the flood areas was almost hit by overhead power lines which are the main transmission lines along a highway. One family isolated in a tree were fortunate when a passing boat got tangled in debris which shut the motor and allowed their plaintive cries to be heard.

Recent new functions of BlazeAid are the Post and Wire Drive where the public are encouraged to purchase fencing materials. Almost impossible to insure, fences are expensive to replace. It takes the equivalent of one person/week to clear a damaged fence at a cost of \$2,500.00 and then \$10,000.00 to replace it.

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district, events, businesses and news.

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

Editor - **Regina Bennett 5425 5402.**

'Bridge Connection' Community Newspaper

Campaspe River Update

Coliban Licence Amendment.

The word from the EPA on April 14 was that they had received the amendment application from Coliban Water on 21 March 2022, but EPA have requested further information and have therefore not yet accepted the amendment application for assessment. This will change the time line for public feedback and they will let us know the new dates for this. Keep an eye out on the engage.vic.gov.au site to view the amendment application when it has been accepted, and present feedback.

Lake Eppalock was clear of blue green algae according to the GMW site on April 14th, but please check the www.g-mwater.com.au/news/bga site for current updates and report any sightings. Local knowledge and observations are very valuable.

Kyneton Offsets Project

Further results available. If you visit the Coliban Water site at connect.coliban.com.au/kyneton-offsets-project, under Document Library you will find the first three full reports of the Coliban Water Offsets Program when you click the See More option. (Yes. Definitely a bit of a maze!) AQUEST, The Aquatic Environmental Stress Research Group at RMIT University, put these reports out and the latest is the ***Monitoring Program for Assessing the Benefits of Environmental Offsets on the Condition of the Campaspe River: Year 3 (2020) Technical Report No: 61***. The communities seeking support from MPs when dealing with the contamination of the river by CW in 2019, found no comfort in being told about this offsets project at that time, the complete results of which were at least five years away, and of no help to them when they were confronted with unusable water there and then. The lack of forward planning and appropriate infrastructure upgrades glaringly obvious, as it is in so many situations throughout the state. However, the more accurate data that is collected on the health of our river is so very important in making decisions about how best to take care of the Campaspe into the future.

If you can help to care for our Campaspe in any way, please do so.

Our river to enjoy for years to come.

All the best, Lindy



RADA Refreshed open Garden Visitors

Continued from front page.

Wandering through the landscaped garden of Coliban springs you felt a sense of peace.

The weather gods were certainly shining upon all areas of Kathy Hall and Rod Gibson's stunning garden. I believe around 470 people attended the property over the 23/24 th of April through the Open Gardens Victoria organisation.

It is said, many people choose to garden in order to become more self sufficient and it is a proven fact it reduces stress and improves mental health Personally, I think it's a way to enjoy fresh air to be productive and to bring a little bit of beauty to our world. During our Covid lockdowns our gardens became our oasis from the outside world, with a stroll around the garden to pull out a weed or with a glass of something to sit and listen and watch nature. A new study has shown that a garden can add years to your life.

Life lessons to learn from gardening.

Growth takes time.

Nature is therapeutic. Redesdale Recreational Reserve Committee who cooked a BBQ providing sausages and delicious hamburgers as a fundraising event for our local

community projects.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who worked over the four days including the set up and tidy up and to the Rad& members and local ladies who provided beautiful homemade cakes, slices ,scones and biscuits. There were many lovely comments about the cafe style set up, the homemade food and of course the friendly atmosphere.

There was a steady flow of people from far and wide including people from Queensland, Melbourne, Geelong, Kyneton, Bendigo and further into rural victoria, travelling in cars, trucks, utes and on bikes!

We were lucky to have local Redesdale home grown produce and wine from " Mount Lofty Estate" set up in the lower part of the garden, staged with the surrounding sculptured art by talented sculptor, Anne Anderson from Kyneton. The perfect combination in such a stunning location.

A weekend outing that was well worth the visit! Our thanks goes to Kathy Hall and Rod Gibson, Hardwicks of Kyneton, Bakers Delight Kyneton and Bendigo Bank Heathcote for their continued support for our local community Until next time.

Redesdale and District Association.





March Rain Fall

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

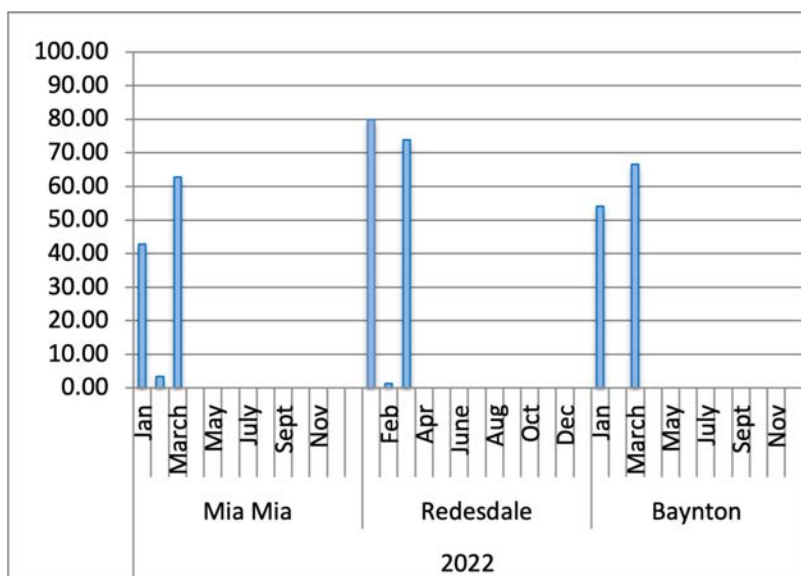
Thank you to **Helen Bennett** for the
Mia Mia readings & **Belinda Ryan** for
Baynton readings

Redesdale 73.8mm Year to date 155.00mm

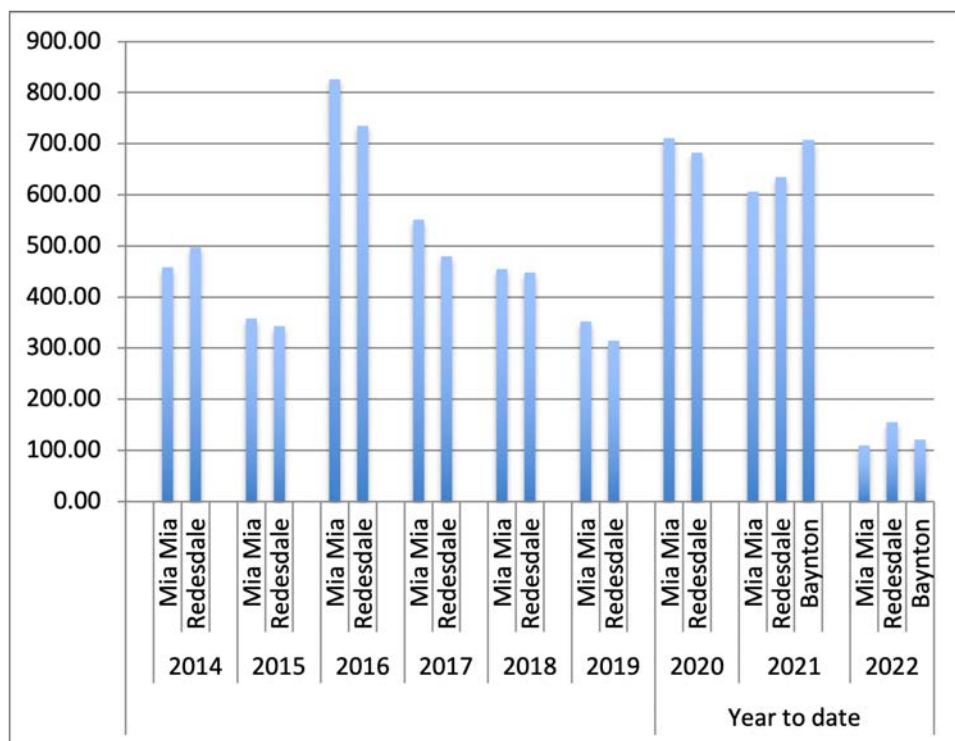
Mia Mia 62.75mm Year to date 109.00mm

Baynton 66.60mm Year to date 120.60mm

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
2021	Mia Mia	593.50
	Redesdale	634.40
	Baynton	707.80



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

65

Never Fail Chocolate Cake



- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup self-raising flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of milk
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon vanilla
- 1 tablespoon cocoa
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- Combine all ingredients and mix with electric beaters till smooth.
- Bake at 180 for 45 mins

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:

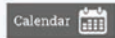
- 2nd Tuesday monthly, 1pm - Hall Comm. Meetings.
- 2nd Tuesday monthly, 7 pm - Rec. Reserve Meetings.

Redesdale



Visit Redesdale Website

Welcome to Redesdale.



www.redesdale.net

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 equipment for hire.

All proceeds go to the **RRRC**.

For more information or to make a booking, please email: 3444reserve@gmail.com

Redesdale Ramblings

Redesdale Ramblings #3 2022

As they say in the classics, "Winter is coming"! It wasn't the most torrid of summers but it certainly was dry. The ground around the garden cracked very badly and despite over 2 inches of rain they haven't sealed up yet. Considering the tragic weather other parts of the east coast have suffered we've had it easy.

The cooler weather now is preparing us for the winter ahead and the heavy doonas, jumpers and scarves have come out of storage. We are lucky in Australia to not have the extreme conditions that they have in some parts of the world such as Canada where snow puts a halt to gardening for months. Some people might welcome the reprieve!

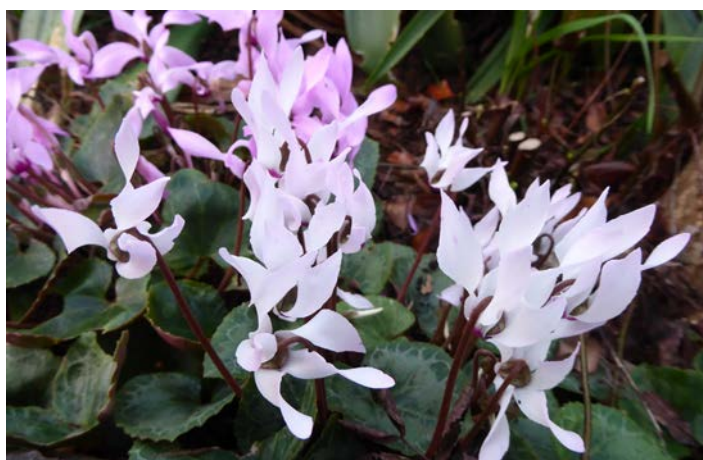
The autumn rain means the ground is softening from its concrete-like condition through summer to something workable where you won't jar your joints when you try to dig it. It's time to get stuck into jobs like weeding, renovating garden beds, dividing perennials and preparing deciduous trees and shrubs for transplanting when dormant.

But there are plenty of things in flower from now and into the depths of winter.

Bulbs. There's always a bulb in flower it seems! Cyclamen hederifolium, the ivy-leaf cyclamen, starts to flower as early as February and continues for

months by which time the winter-flowering Cyclamen coum begin to light up the areas under shrubs and other shady areas. Many people only know cyclamen as those gaudy potted specimens given as gifts around Mother's Day and birthdays. These are descended from Cyclamen persicum but look nothing like the original species, having become doubled in size and the flowers being frilled to within an inch of their lives. The species cyclamen are a great addition to the garden and apart from the ones already mentioned there are Cyclamen graecum and Cyclamen rohlfsianum which are suited to the climate in central Victoria and flower in autumn. The advantage of cyclamen is that after the flowers finish the foliage develops and persists for months. The patterns on the leaves are very attractive and can vary greatly making them very collectable. There are other species which aren't quite suitable for our gardens but can be grown with a little protection. Cyclamen mirabile has delicate, pale pink flowers but the real attraction is the foliage which can have bright pink tones when they first open. It's worth the extra effort to keep them growing in the shade-house.

Nerines started in March and continue flowering into the winter. Nerine flexuosa 'Alba' is usually in bloom on Mother's Day and its pristine white flowers are prized as cut flowers at that time. The pink form of this nerine seems to come into bloom a

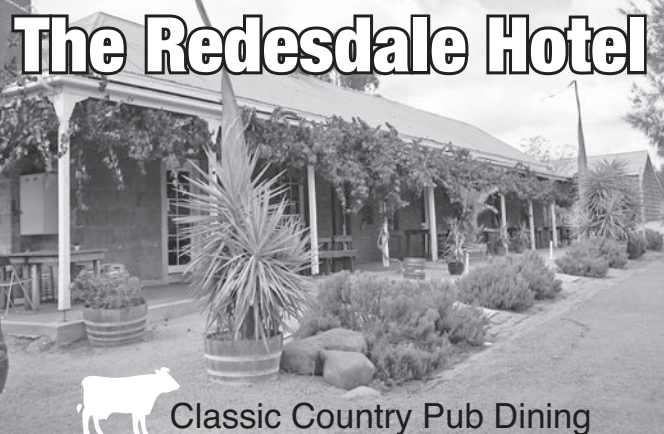


Cyclamen persicum Species

little later and is at risk of damage from frost. If the frost isn't severe the flower stems may be bowed down in the morning but will recover as the day warms up. A hard frost however will cause them to wither – we continue to grow them in the garden on the chance that we don't suffer a killing frost while they are in flower.

The autumn flowering narcissus species started in March and April and the earliest of the hoop petti-coat daffodils begin around May. Some of the Narcissus tazetta varieties also start flowering around now with the "Paperwhites" and the yellow and orange 'Soleil d'Or' are the most common. These are often called "jonquils" but they aren't. True jonquils also have "multi headed" stems of flowers but their flowers are sweetly scented while tazettas can be overpowering in close quarters! They also usually flower a little later.

There are many other plants that flower in the colder months especially many of the Australian native plants such as Correas and Epacris. These will be



Classic Country Pub Dining

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Monday - Closed

Tuesday - Closed

Wed to Sun • Lunch 12noon - 2.30pm

• Dinner 6pm - 8.30pm

The Redesdale Hotel

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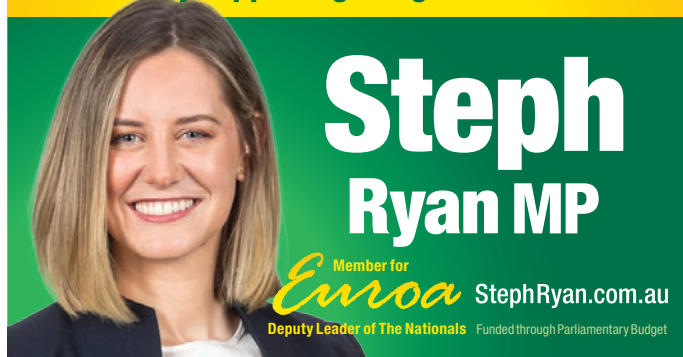


Quote of the month:

"To plant a garden is to
believe in tomorrow"

Audrey Hepburn

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Opportunity to invest in saving Victorian lives must not be missed

Victoria's road network will continue to crumble into dangerous disrepair without a substantial boost to funds for maintenance.

The Andrews Government sliced \$191 million from efforts to repair Victorian roads in last year's State Budget, allocating a spend of \$616 million to road asset maintenance.

Shadow Minister for Roads Steph Ryan said the 25 per cent cut to road maintenance came at a time when Labor was pouring \$24 billion down the drain on project cost blowouts alone.

"Victorians are fed up with crumbling road shoulders, yawning potholes, and dangerous roads. Instead of fixing these roads, Labor is putting out speed reduction signs," Ms Ryan said.

"Rather than reducing speed limits, the Andrews Government should be investing in proper maintenance."

Ms Ryan said the Government was wilfully ignoring warnings from the Victorian Auditor-General about the hazardous and declining condition of Victoria's roads.

"Labor has been in government 19 of the past 23 years. These warnings – first made back in 2017 – are one of many they've had about the deteriorating and dangerous consequences of poor maintenance of Victorian roads," Ms Ryan said.

"Much like the short-sighted, arrogant policies of the Andrews Labor Government, the shocking state of Victoria's roads will be an economic drain on our state.

"Poor roads increase travel times, damage vehicles and risk the lives of drivers and their passengers every single day.

"Labor's 2021-22 budget cuts must be reversed for the safety of all road users.

"Fixing roads saves Victorian lives and this Budget must deliver proper investment to maintain and improve our road network."



Federal Member for Bendigo

LISA CHESTERS MP

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MAJOR CONNECTIVITY BOOST FOR MACEDON ROADS, COMMUNITIES AND FARMS

Better mobile coverage on roads, as well as improved connectivity for regional communities and on farms, will lead an Albanese Labor Government's approach to upgrading regional telecommunications.

Federal Member for Bendigo, Lisa Chesters says the comprehensive, targeted plan will ensure better mobile coverage on roads, on farms, and across regional communities – and better broadband too.

"We'll commence an independent national audit of mobile coverage to identify mobile blackspots and the places most in need of coverage upgrades," Chesters said.

"I have spoken to dozens of locals who have raised concerns over mobile reception and connectivity in Kyneton and surrounding areas.

"I also know from firsthand experience the impact of not having access to reliable mobile reception can have on your workday when I'm working in Kyneton. It's frustrating.

"Labor will expand multi-carrier mobile coverage in regional homes and businesses, as well as along roads and highways – because we know people in rural and regional Australia often travel long distances and need to be connected for both convenience and safety."

Boosting coverage on roads and in regional communities

A key element of Labor's Better Connectivity For Rural and Regional Australia plan will be the establishment of a \$400 million fund to expand multi-carrier mobile coverage along roads, as well as for regional homes and businesses.

To support this, Labor will commit \$20 million to commence in 2022 an independent national audit of mobile coverage to establish an evidence baseline to guide future priorities.

A competitive tender process will be used to identify a partner company capable of placing mobile signal measurement devices on Australia Post's transport assets, to gather the best information possible.

Priorities will be assessed independently to maximise benefits, and this will include consultation with Infrastructure Australia, and broader community consultation.

Boosting connectivity for regional and peri-urban households and businesses

Labor will also commit \$200 million to continue investing in place-based connectivity projects.

Drawing from the Regional Connectivity Program, funded projects could include better mobile voice and data coverage, targeted fibre deployments, and improved microwave and fibre backhaul capacity to locations across regional and remote Australia.

Boosting on-farm connectivity for farmers

To support the productivity and safety of our farmers, Labor will also commit \$30 million to help expand on-farm connectivity and enable better wireless extension solutions on the field.

This will enable more farmers to fully utilise sensor and connected-machinery technology to improve the efficiency of domestic food production and support the export growth potential of the sector.

Labor will boost funding for the Regional Tech Hub by \$6 million to serve as a trusted intermediary and source of free and independent advice.

These initiatives supplement existing commitments Labor has made to:

Expand full-fibre NBN access to 660,000 more regional homes and businesses.

Upgrade the NBN fixed-wireless network to offer speeds between 100 and 250 megabits per second for all users.

Increase NBN satellite data allowances to 90 gigabytes a month and unmeter data between midnight and 4 pm, with an ambition to go beyond 100 gigabytes.



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Redesdale Rec. Res. Cttee - Craig Newton 0448 021 544

email: 3444reserve@gmail.com

Suicide Bereavement Service - 'Standby' 0439 173 310

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Matthew Evans 0437 867 028

Marg O'Rourke 0429 061 096

Greg Penna 0429 721 958

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State Member for Euroa - Steph Ryan (Nationals) 5762 210

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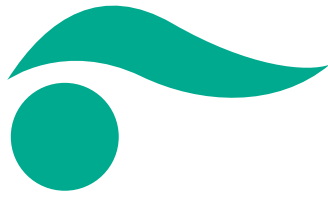
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