Exciting news!
The Rodeo is coming to town
Saturday 11 March 2016 at the Dunkeld Racecourse

FOOD VENDORS and VOLUNTEERS – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Dunkeld Rodeo Committee is made up of members who live and work in the community and are involved in various clubs and organisations such as the Glenthompson-Dunkeld Football Netball Club, the Dunkeld Racing Club and the Dunkeld Recreation Reserve. Several members are also parents of children who attend Dunkeld Kindergarten and/or Dunkeld Consolidated School.

The Committee’s primary focus for the event is to raise funds for various clubs and organisations that are part of the Dunkeld Community. Funds that are generated will go towards further developing and improving various Dunkeld facilities for future generations to enjoy.

The Rodeo will be held at the Dunkeld Racecourse, starting at 3.00pm with the final bull ride at 9.00pm – gates will open at midday. A live band will then keep patrons entertained until late. A camping area will be provided for those from out of town not wishing to drive.

The Rodeo Committee is looking for local support in running some catering outlets during the day. This is a great opportunity to fundraise for your group, while helping create another large event for the town.

Currently we are looking at offering outlets such as coffee, pizzas, roast beef rolls and ice-cream. Some groups/sites may also be interested in offering a range of healthier items such as salads/sandwiches and fruit salad? Hours of operation will probably depend on the type of food you are offering and the length of time you are able to provide the food (staffing).

The Rodeo Committee really encourages local clubs and groups to get involved, so that the money remains in the community…otherwise we risk losing to outside food vendors.

There are also opportunities for your group to work in other areas of the rodeo, selling drink tickets and proof of age wristbands, or working on the gate.

If one of these is of interest to your group please let Adrian know before Friday 23 December, and further details can be worked out.

ADRIAN FIELD - 0418 345 336
**DONATIONS**

- John and Joy Templeton: $50
- Ian and Heather Macgugan: $25
- Neil and Cindy McIntyre: $20
- Dorothy Williams: $20

We rely on donations to the Community Newsletter to offset all expenses relating to producing it. Please send in your donation to the Dunkeld Consolidated School office where it will be receipted and an acknowledgement made via the Newsletter. A receipt will be provided.

*Please make cheques payable to the “Dunkeld Consolidated School.”*

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**CHURCH TIMES**

**Saint Patrick’s Catholic Church Dunkeld**

Parish Priest - Father Pat Mugavin - 5571 1161  
E-mail: hamilton@ballarat.catholic.org.au

- **1st Week**
  - Sunday: December 4 at 8.30am
  - Mass
- **2nd Week**
  - Sunday: December 11 at 8.30am
  - No mass or service (mass in Glenthompson)
- **3rd Week**
  - Sunday: December 18 at 8.30am
  - Mass
- **4th Week**
  - Sunday: December 24 at 6.00pm
  - Vigil Mass

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**Saint Mary's Catholic Church Hamilton**

- **December 11**
  - Sunday: December 11
  - 3rd Sunday of Advent
  - 7.00pm
  - Saint Mary's, Hamilton
- **December 16**
  - Friday: December 16
  - Advent Service of Reconciliation
  - 6.00pm
  - Saint Mary's, Hamilton
- **December 18**
  - Sunday: December 18
  - 4th Sunday of Advent
  - Mass
  - Saint Mary's, Hamilton
- **December 24**
  - Saturday: December 24
  - Family focus
  - 8.00pm
  - Saint Mary’s, Hamilton
- **December 24**
  - Saturday: December 24
  - Vigil
  - 6.00pm
  - Dunkeld
- **December 24**
  - Saturday: December 24
  - Vigil
  - 7.30pm
  - Penshurst
- **December 25**
  - Sunday: December 25
  - Christmas Day
  - 9.00am
  - Saint Mary's, Hamilton
- **December 25**
  - Sunday: December 25
  - Christmas Day
  - 9.00am
  - Macarthur

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**Anglican - Uniting Churches Combined Worship**

Services at Saint Mary’s, Dunkeld

Shared worship at 9.00am each Sunday - except when there is a 5th Sunday in the month when there are district services in Hamilton.

- **December 11**
  - Janet Shalders
  - 9.00am
  - DUNKELD COMMUNITY CAROLS 7.30 pm at COMMUNITY CENTRE
- **December 18**
  - Rev Lynton Wade
  - 9.00am
  - NO SERVICE CHRISTMAS DAY (check Spectator for Services in Hamilton)
  - NO SERVICES FOR ALL OF JANUARY

**Inquiries:** Judy Trompf 5577 2414 or Heather Macgugan 5577 2277. All very welcome.

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**Panyabyr Uniting Church**

Our Christmas Eve Service will be held at 7:30 pm and will be conducted by Mrs Elaine Edwards. At the close of the Service, we will have a quick cuppa. We hope you will be able to join us.

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**Mirranatwa Uniting Church**

There's an open invitation to attend the Christmas service at the Mirranatwa Uniting Church, on Sunday 11 December at 2.30pm, and to afternoon tea afterwards. Taking the service will be Eleanor Wood and Paul Quigley from Hamilton UC.

**Contacts:** Margo Dark 5574 0222; Kristy Beveridge 5574 0274 or Iris Field 5574 0202.
WELCOME and CELEBRATE DUNKELD’S NEW SCULPTURE

After several months of campaigning to raise some funds to purchase Michael Sheills’ evocative sculpture, and a solid donation from the Southern Grampians Shire’s Community Arts Programme, we have been able to remunerate the artist and can finally call ‘Fools Vessel’ our own. Strung up above Salt Creek on the walking trail to the Arboretum below the Royal Mail Hotel, it survived the flooding of the creek and is now another testament to the goodwill of our Dunkeld community.

On Sunday December at 4.30pm we will stage a launch of the work, and we invite everyone who is interested, and especially the donors, to attend a brief ceremony to celebrate our acquisition. BYO glass for a celebratory drink.

Annette Huf, Lost in Sculpture Committee and Roz Greenwood.

COUNCIL SEEKING FEEDBACK ON OUTDOOR POOLS POLICY

Southern Grampians Shire Council proposes to adopt an amended Operation of Outdoor Pools Policy, which would come into effect from 1 January 2017.

Council resolved at Wednesday’s ordinary meeting to seek feedback from the Community about the proposed changes, before making a final decision at December’s Council meeting.

The proposed Policy alters the length of the pool season, alters the temperature that will trigger pools to open and reduces the hours of operation to address significant health and safety risks to Council staff and the community.

The key policy recommendations include:

• Season length to run from the first weekend in December to Labour Day public holiday in March;
• Pools will be closed when the air temperature is forecast to be less than 24 degrees Celsius;
• Pools will be opened from 2.30pm to 6.30pm;
• Pools will be opened on weekends from 12.00pm to 8.00pm when the air temperature is forecast to be more than 35 degrees Celsius;
• Supervised early morning swimming will be offered regardless of temperature at Hamilton on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between .00am and 8.00am.

Council Chief Executive Officer Michael Tudball said the proposed changes were being recommended in an effort to improve patron and staff safety and to enhance the capacity to have pools staffed at times of peak use.

“Last year’s HILAC enterprise review revealed a number of areas for improvement in the operation of the outdoor pools with regard to patron and staff safety. It also highlighted that under the current policy, we are simply unable to meet service levels. We need to make some changes to opening times, prioritising peak times, to enhance the capacity to have lifeguards at pools when the community most want to use them” Mr Tudball said.

“The shorter opening times mean lifeguards don’t have to work alone for 8 hours straight in a job that requires very high concentration at all times and will remove the need to close for 45 minutes mid-afternoon for the lifeguard to have a break and to test the water quality as legally required”.

Santa Claus is coming to town! Let’s get jolly.

Christmas means many things to many people. But for many Dunkeld residents, it’s a chance to take on the Millards – reigning premiers – in this year’s Christmas Spirit stakes!

We invite ALL Dunkeld residents to enter the Santa Claus and Christmas Spirit categories in this year’s street decorating competition, sponsored by the Dunkeld Progress Association and Discover Dunkeld.

To be in with a chance to win $100 cash prize, use your best creativity and humour to showcase Santa Claus in your front yard doing something remarkable, or you can light up the night with your very own Christmas extravaganza – or you can do both!

To ensure the judges don’t miss your contribution, lodge your entry form with the Dunkeld General Store. We encourage everyone to share their festive creations on social media via Facebook, Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag #discoverdunkeld #letsgetjolly

Good luck! Competition opens on 1 December and entries must have been lodged by no later than Friday 16 December to make sure you’re in the running for a prize.
“Our usage trends from the last three years show that our pools have low or in many cases no patronage before 2.30pm and when the temperature is below 24oC, so we don’t expect these changes will have a huge impact on patrons. On weekends, when temperatures are forecast to rise above 35oC, pools will be open from 12.00-8.00pm,” Mr Tudball concluded.

Another important change recommended due to growing concerns over patron safety is the removal of unsupervised early morning swimming from all Council pools. Supervised early morning swimming will be made available three days a week at Hamilton.

The proposed amended Policy is available on Council’s website www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au

Any person wishing to make a submission in relation to the proposed Policy can do so in writing or via https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OutdoorPoolsPolicy Hard copy surveys will be available from Council offices, HILAC, Hamilton Library and post offices within the Shire. **Submissions are due by Friday 9 December 2016.**

Written submissions should be addressed to:

Chief Executive Officer
Southern Grampians Shire Council
Locked Bag 685
Hamilton Vic 3300
or council@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au

Further information on the proposal can be obtained from Council’s Recreation Manager, Jason Thomas, on 5573 0327 or jthomas@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au.

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**Kellys Penshurst and Kelly & Henson Dunkeld Stores Align**

Kellys Merchandise Penshurst and Kelly & Henson Dunkeld have both renamed and rebranded to become Kellys Penshurst and Kellys Dunkeld.

The decision to rebrand aims to provide a more consistent image and message in our communication to both customers and the wider community. The rebranding has been undertaken in stages beginning with uniforms, shopfront signage and marketing. While names of both stores have changed, ownership of the businesses remains the same with a continuing focus on rural and hardware supplies through franchise partners NRI and Mitre 10.

The new Kellys logo (pictured above) incorporates three coloured shapes representing the company’s core values of knowledge, trust and relationships. Updated shopfront signage at Penshurst and Dunkeld also features farming and landscape imagery taken by local photographer Tracey Kruger.

Kellys is proud to be a part of both the Dunkeld and Penshurst communities.

**Penshurst**

**Dunkeld**

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**31-39 Victoria Valley Rd, Dunkeld**

**Southern Grampians Cottages**

- Friendly service
- Modern clean facilities
- Cosy wood fires
- Peaceful garden setting
- Mountain views
- Spa cottages
- Children’s playground
- Laundry

Friends or family visiting the area? Why not suggest this modern fully self-contained accommodation!

**“SPECIAL: 10% discount for bookings with a local connection”**

Contact George or Carolyn on 5577 2457
www.grampianscottages.com.au or stay@grampianscottages.com.au
DUNKELD CHRISTMAS EVE TOWN SANTA RUN

Santa will visit the streets of Dunkeld on Christmas Eve
Saturday 24 December
commencing at 7:00pm.

*Out of town children are welcome to wait at the Post Office end of the Memorial Park.*

*Grandparents are welcome to ring Heather and she will make sure that Santa knows that grandchildren are visiting.*

Many thanks to the Dunkeld & District Lions Club; Melissa and Adrian Field from the Dunkeld General Store; Dunkeld Rural Fire Brigade; Victoria State Emergency Service – Dunkeld Unit; Kerri and Alan Jones, who all make this community event possible.

Enquires – Heather Hampton 5577 2240

COMMUNITY CAROLS
Everyone is invited to sing your favourite carols and hear some of our young students perform a few different songs at the Community Centre on Sunday 18 December at 7.30pm. A collection for the Christmas Bowl Appeal will be taken and bring a plate of biscuits to have with a cuppa after. Tea, coffee and cordial will be provided. Children wear your Christmas gear!!! See you there!!
Enquiries Heather Macgugan 5577 2277

**Reminder to all the children who are performing at the Carols that the next two practices are this Friday 9 December at 3.30pm at the Community Centre and next Friday 16 December at 3.30pm at the Community Centre.
Keep singing!!! Thanks from Mrs Mac.

DUNKELD ARBORETUM DEVELOPMENT GROUP INC.
A Christmas BBQ will be held on Friday 16 December at 6.00pm at the Sawmill with the Sawmill Group.

Meat, bread, tea and coffee will be supplied. Please bring a salad or sweet to share. BYO drinks and a chair.

For catering purposes could the Arboretum Group RSVP to Heather Hampton by Monday 12 December. Thank you
Phone 5577 2240 or 0437 947 951.

Many thanks to Allan and Jim Dark and Jim McIntyre for replacing rails on the walk bridge and to Frank Raymond for helping at the Arboretum.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Santa Claus is coming to town! Let’s get jolly.

Name:........................................................................................................................................

Address:........................................................................................................................................

☐ Santa Claus category (most original idea)

☐ Christmas Spirit (best decorated house and garden)

**Please tick category that you are entering ** Return form to Dunkeld General Store **Entries must be lodged by 16/12/2016**
ROYAL MAIL HOTEL

After renovations and the establishment of a new tasting area, you are invited to take a tour of the Royal Mail Cellar. Tours depart Hotel Reception at 3.30pm every day except Monday.

Tours need to be pre-booked at least 24 hours in advance by phone 5577 2241.

$25 per person, includes a comparative wine tasting.

Dunkeld Old Bakery

Established 1887

Dear Customers,
Your Bakery will close for a holiday break.

Monday 12 till Wednesday 28 December.

The Bakery will re-open
On Thursday 29 December at 10.30am.

Late opening on Sunday 1 January at 10.30am.

The Bakery Team wishes you all
A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

OFF THE RAILS

Annual General Meeting

Off The Rails is an inclusive community art space and artist studio run by local volunteers from a range of backgrounds.

Are you interested in the Arts and want to see Dunkeld continue to creatively flourish?

You are invited to the Off the Rails AGM.

10.00am to 11.00am – Saturday 10 December 2016.

Coffee and brunch on the Platform, Dunkeld Railway Station.

Consider getting involved as a Friend or be on the Committee – get on board!

SUMMER SERIES AT OTR

Wind down from the week at Off The Rails…

Chill Out Fridays

5.00pm – 7.00pm
Uke jamming, Euka (cards) and other relaxing pursuits
BYO refreshments, ice supplied
All welcome

Queries, Lucinda on 0459 774 624.

We wish you a lovely Christmas from Off The Rails.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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Tours need to be pre-booked at least 24 hours in advance by phone 5577 2241.

$25 per person, includes a comparative wine tasting.
AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATIONS - DUNKELD

Come along to the Dunkeld Memorial Park on THURSDAY 26 JANUARY 2017 to celebrate Australia Day.

There will be a short service at 8.00 am followed by an egg and bacon breakfast provided by the Dunkeld Lions Club.

MIRRANATWA CHRISTMAS PARTY

The community Christmas Party will be held on Saturday 17 December at 7.00 pm at the Mirranatwa Hall after Mirranatwa (hopefully) wins the tennis match.

BYO drinks and tennis rackets and the usual food to share.

Friends and family are welcome and Santa will be there.

Contact person: Jenny Crawford 5574 0241.

1ST CAVENDISH SCOUTS

Scouts and Cubs Scout sessions are run every Monday night (during school terms) at the Cavendish S.M. Hall, Barker Street, Cavendish.

Scouts and Cubs Scouts sessions start at 5.30 pm with Cubs Scouts finishing at 7 pm and Scouts continuing until 7.30 pm.

If your child is over 7½ years old and is interested in coming along and trying Cubs Scouts or Scouts, they are most welcome to come along and join in. Sessions start up in Feb 2017.

Contact Louise Williams 0409 105128.

RED CROSS

The group has had a very successful and busy year, raising funds for appeals at home and abroad and having fellowship along the way.

Here are some of the members enjoying their end-of-year lunch at Izzy’s Cafe recently.

We thank everyone from the community who has generously given to the Red Cross in 2016 and welcome any new member who would like to join the Dunkeld sub-branch...the meetings are not long!

The first meeting for 2017 will be on Thursday 23 February at 2.00 pm, in the Henry Leech RSL Room. All welcome.

Iris Field, Secretary

DUNKELD INFORMATION CENTRE

The next ordinary meeting for the Dunkeld Visitor Information Centre will be held on Wednesday 14 December at 5.00 pm at the Information Centre meeting room.

GRAMPIANS CRICKET CLUB NEWS

Our big Christmas bash featuring the brilliant McIntyre Brothers for all community members is on Saturday 17 December starting at 7.00 pm.

DUNKELD BOWLING CLUB

***COMMITTEE MEETING CHANGE OF DATE***

Monday 19/12/2016 to accommodate Christmas

Players, families and others are invited to attend a BBQ tea after the Pennant and Social Bowls on Saturday 10 December. This will also have a Christmas theme and be the last BBQ for 2016. Those wishing to attend, please let the club know of numbers for catering purposes.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

STRIP CLUB

Classes will resume in February 2017

CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS from 22nd Dec - by appointment only in January

Margie Dore 55772322
THINK CHRISTMAS NOW.
SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL

#dining tables #chairs #coffee tables
#hall tables #occasional tables
#nests of tables #desks #outdoor
tables #work tables #sideboards
#tall boys #chests of drawers
#beds #bedside tables #crystal
cabinets #entertainment units
#kitchen cabinets #mirrors #hat/coat
stands #bathroom cabinets #bookcases
#library installations #benchtops
#timber doors #antique restorations
#wardrobes #serving platters
#rolling pins #pastry pins #red
gum boxes #cigar boxes #vases
#serving bowls #letter racks #serving
trays #fire pokers #inlaid cutting boards
#butcher’s block #cutting boards
#table centre pieces #knife block
#salt bowls #sculptural wall
decoration
#sculptural entrance decoration
#shop fittings #bed heads
#board room tables #extension tables
#shelving #red gum slab
dressing/sanding

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DUNKELD

SUN 18th DECEMBER –
“A VERY 109 CHRISTMAS”

“Come along & join us for a
festive afternoon with live
music from
The McIntyre Brothers”

❖ Take-away available
❖ Fully Licenced
❖ Bookings Welcome

MON – FRI
Open from 10.30am til Late
SAT & SUN
Open for Breakfast from 9am til Late

Ph (03) 5577 2288
109 Parker Street, Dunkeld, VIC 3294
AN UNUSUAL TREASURE IN THE BUSH
by Marion Colton

There are so many wonderful species to write about but this time I am going to concentrate on one. On an October walk along the track skirting the dams at the foot of Mount Abrupt, I was surprised to see amongst the leaf litter some Coral fungi, a member of the Clavaria family, probably a Ramaria.

I was first made aware of this, to me, very interesting species by Denis; my WWOOF (World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms or Willing Workers On Organic Farms) host some years back on Kangaroo Island. He was showing me some of the floral treasures, and also explaining the history of the extensive Salt Lake not far from his home. On one area, from memory, a small promontory jutting into the far side of the lake it was growing abundantly under some trees. It grows in coral-like mounds on the earth, extending in number over the area. On stooping to experience them more closely, each mound resembles the finely branched structures of coral, hence its common name. They are mainly white, like bleached sea coral, sometimes tinged with the palest bluish or yellowish green. When touched they are as hard and rough as coral formations.

My second experience of this unusual fungus was in the forests of Nuggety Gully in Creswick. I was both delighted and surprised to find a small community growing at the foot of the broad-leaf peppermints, Eucalyptus dives. Surprised because despite thirteen long years of drought in this area, the topography and climate differed so greatly from that of Kangaroo Island. The drought broke, followed by floods, and I was curious to know how this plant was surviving. The area where it grew had not flooded but had received an ample supply of rain. It was interesting to discover that the intricate, branch-like structures were now quite soft to the touch, lacking completely their brittle hardness. A short while later, when the summer heat once more reigned, they had resumed their rigidity.

So it was with astonishment that I acknowledged a very young community of this Coral fungus amongst the trees of our “own” bush, in yet again a very different climatic and topographical area.

Subsequently, on an evening walk on John Lewis’ covenant property, organised by our local Landcare group, Adam Merrick of Trust for Nature, pointed out yet another small community of this fascinating species … I would like to say “thank you” to all the people who make this community so delightful to live in. May we and all future generations enjoy the benefits of all the natural diversity we have here.

I also wish everyone a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and 2017.

DUNKELD RURAL FIRE BRIGADE

What a difference a year makes! This time last year the fire restrictions were in, we had experienced the second failed spring in a row, and one of the driest Octobers on record.

This year, Dunkeld has had the wettest spring since 1978 (the year I started keeping records). The total rainfall for the months of September, October and November was 300mm, 5mm above the previous record in 1992. Total rainfall for 2016 to the end of November was 771mm. As a result, the crops and pastures have thrived, and farmers look like having a long-awaited good season.

The other side of the coin, however, is the enormous grass growth, including along roadsides. Whilst much of it is still green, if we get more warm and windy days over the next few weeks, the grass will dry out fairly rapidly. Because of this, the experts are forecasting a fire season which could see an increase in the incidence of fast-moving grass fires.

Whether this is true or not, now is the time for everyone to “clean up” around houses, sheds and properties - if not already done. If this needs to involve burning, there are only a couple of weeks left, because it is highly likely (but not yet official) that fire restrictions for Southern Grampians Shire will come into effect on Monday 19 December. After that, NO burning off can be done without a written permit.

If you propose to do any burning, please make sure you first notify VicFire, using the burn-offs number (1800 668 511). If you live within the Serra Group area, it would also be appreciated if you could notify us at the Group Base (5577 2216). There is nothing more annoying for a Brigade than to receive a fire call (perhaps via a well-meaning passer-by with a mobile phone) and then find it is someone merely burning a small heap of rubbish. It is also vitally important to completely extinguish every burn-off before leaving it. Otherwise a subsequent hot, windy day could result in embers spreading sparks into adjacent grass.

It is expected that Dunkeld and other local Brigades will commence annual roadside burning operations to reduce fuel in the near future. Details will be advertised in the Hamilton Spectator as usual, and on the day of specific burns, notice will be broadcast (in the case of Serra Group) during radio skeds at 12.45pm, or at 8.30am if the burn is to start in the morning.

For radio operators and those with listening sets, please note that Serra Group is now operating on digital radio channel 405 and Westmere Group (to our east) will now be operating on digital channel 370. The designated channel for Dundas Group is channel 394, which is also linked to channel 409 for the Victoria Valley/Mirranatwa area. Mount Rouse Group, like Serra Group, has also been allocated channel 405. For incidents in the Grampians National Park, the DELWP command channel continues to be analogue channel 146.

This means that the old CFA analogue listening sets will no longer be able to pick up most fire traffic, although, when necessary, Serra Group can continue to broadcast important messages on analogue channel 11, which is still a designated District 5 channel.

Note that Dunkeld Brigade and Serra Group still have a number of the new digital listening sets available for sale, to CFA Brigade members. Contact Peter Flinn on 5577 2216 or 0409 971 841 if interested.

The CFA as an organisation has been in the news a lot over the past few months, for all the wrong reasons. Clearly, members of Dunkeld and other local Brigades are as concerned about the situation as everyone else. However, the local community should know that rural volunteer firefighters continue to be focused entirely on protection of the local community from fire. If there is a fire, the local Brigades will aim, as always, to respond promptly, throw everything at the fire, put it out as quickly as possible, then go home. That won’t change.

Many will be aware that Dunkeld Brigade member Felicity (Flick) Gordon is in hospital in Adelaide with a serious illness.
Needless to say, her parents, Dunkeld Brigade Captain Mike, and Lee-Anne, have a lot on their plate at present. As a result, First Lieutenant Edward (Woody) Blackwell will act as Captain of Dunkeld Brigade until further notice. Woody proposes to set up a roster from among the other Lieutenants for the fire season, to ensure that the Brigade discharges all its responsibilities to the community as usual.

All Brigade members, and the Dunkeld community at large, send their best wishes to Flick for a full recovery, and to Mike, Lee-Anne and the entire family, assuring them of our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Acting Captain Woody has also asked that any members who are interested in upgrading their skills by undertaking a Crew Leader course, to be conducted within the next few months, should contact him on 0408 779 296.

The Dunkeld Brigade wishes the Dunkeld and district community a safe and fire-free summer, and a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Peter Flinn

DUNKELD INFORMATION CENTRE

The next ordinary meeting for the Dunkeld Visitor Information Centre will be held on Wednesday 14 December commencing 5.00pm at the Information Centre meeting room.

GARDEN NOTES – DECEMBER

Now that your roses have nearly finished their main spring flush of growth, you should spend some time ‘dead heading’ them, that is removing all spent flowers down to a healthy leaf junction, this will ensure strong new growth for good summer and autumn blooms.

It is important to continue your spray program on your fruit trees during the summer if you want good quality fruit. Use Mancozeb for disease control on apricots, peaches and nectarines. This material can also be used on apples and pears and can be alternated with Malathion or Mavrik to assist with Codling moth control.

Whenever you use spray equipment don’t forget to wash it out carefully with clean water after every use. Never leave spray mixed up in your sprayer for more than a few hours, keep separate spray equipment for weed killers and make sure to regularly check oil and tighten any washers and connectors etc and put them away after each use. Properly cared for, your sprayer should last for many years.

December vegetable plantings include cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, lettuce, beans, carrots, parsnips and beetroot also radish.

There are still plenty of flowering annuals available for a good summer and autumn display including petunia, impatiens, salvia, marigold, begonia and several others. To make best use of often scarce water supplies, try to develop the habit of deep watering your lawns and established trees and shrubs approximately once per week. Young seedlings, newly sown lawns and soft leafed plants will require water every day or two during hot weather.

An easy way to reduce water usage is to keep weeds under control and to mulch your garden, using a wide range of materials as mentioned in this column over the past few months. Don’t forget to check out your nursery for a wide range of Christmas gifts. Thank you for your interest and support. Season’s greetings to all.

Happy gardening – Stephen Hughan.

CALL FOR 2017 AUTUMN/WINTER EVENTS

Council is currently working on the 2017 Greater Hamilton Autumn/Winter Tourism and Events Marketing Campaign and are calling for contributions.

Council are asking event organisers from across the region to complete an Event Notification Form to advise us of any upcoming events for consideration as part of this marketing campaign.

The campaign will include a variety of marketing media including radio advertising, print advertising and supporting publications, all integrated with strong digital marketing tools that are aimed at reaching our audiences in Melbourne, regional Victoria and South Australia.

The print component will include the Greater Hamilton Events Guide, which will be available electronically via our website, and distributed to Visitor Information Centre’s across the region, and locally to accommodation, attractions and hospitality providers. It is also used at trade shows, media launches, conferences, regional promotions and in our social media marketing.

If your organisation or group is holding an event or festival between 1 March and 31 August 2017 and would like to be considered for inclusion in this campaign, please contact Council’s Manager Tourism Development, Diane Barrera on 5573 0237 no later than close of business on Monday 12 December 2016.

Event notification forms can also be downloaded from Council’s website http://www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au/Page/Download.asp?name=EventNotificationForm.DOCX&size=158336&link=../Files/EventNotificationForm.DOCX

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Manager,
Mark Condon 0427 345 903 111 Lodge Road, Hamilton
Trevor Landwehr 0407 719 099 Phone 5671 9069

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BY APPOINTMENT
**COMPLETE GARDENING SERVICE**

- **Pruning**
- **Chainsaw work**
- **Landscaping**
- **Broad Leaf Spraying**
- **Irrigation**

**SLASHING**

- **Fire breaks**
- **Large grassed areas**

**SIX FOOT DECK** – (Largest in Town)

**PH:** Brad Mawson 0407 864 525

---

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SIX FOOT DECK – (Largest in Town)

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“Young men are apt to think themselves wise enough, as drunken men are apt to think themselves sober enough.” - Lord Chesterfield.

“When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant that I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I was 21, I was astonished at how much he had learned in seven years.” - Mark Twain.

“I am not young enough to know everything.” - Sir James Barrie.

The second event is the Australia Day ceremonies which are held on Australia Day on 26 January at 8.00am in the local park. After the ceremonies, please join us for a free breakfast with our recipient to thank them for what they have done for our community.

Please have a safe Christmas, and thank you for your support over the year.

Peter Hinchee

DUNKELD MUSEUM UPDATE

Great Victorian Bike Ride: The Dunkeld Museum held a successful stall as part of the ‘community stalls’ at the Dunkeld Consolidated School recently. The Museum was open from 9.00am to 5.00pm on Sunday 27 November and we welcomed extra visitors to our Museum while they were in town for the Great Victorian Bike Ride.

Storage Shed: A concrete slab has been poured in readiness for the erection of our new colour bond storage shed. The shed will be known as the Don Dickie Memorial Shed as monies generously bequeathed to the Museum by the late Don Dickie have been used for this beneficial asset.

Town Walk Signs: A “Crowd Funding” site has been established through the Dunkeld & District Community Bank Branch (Bendigo Bank) and the community is invited to donate online to the Museum’s Town Walk project. Please visit the following website: https://www.communitys.bendigobank.com.au/ and then click on the following links:

- Explore Projects
- Dunkeld History Town Walks Sign
- Pledge Now
- To make a pledge, you will need an account. Sign up here. (Please follow the steps to create an account).

Donations may also be made in person at the Dunkeld & District Community Bank branch – 633 108 145911962. Thank you for supporting and helping the Dunkeld Museum restore our historic town walk signs so we may continue to showcase our proud history.

Opening Hours: A reminder that the Museum is open every Sunday and on public holidays from 1.00pm to 5.00pm.

Museum Duty: The following volunteers are on Museum duty from 1.00pm – 5.00pm on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>11 Dec</th>
<th>Berny Gordon &amp; Joyce Gordon</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>16 Dec</td>
<td>Terrie Nicholson &amp; Barbara Dohle</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>1 Jan</td>
<td>Tony Williams &amp; John Kay</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>2 Jan</td>
<td>Jeff Nagocka &amp; Rex Beveridge</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8 Jan</td>
<td>Helena Finn &amp; Trevor Finn</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>15 Jan</td>
<td>Brian &amp; Julie Herrmann</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>22 Jan</td>
<td>Jenny Cook &amp; Katrina Weatherly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>26 Jan</td>
<td>Joyce Gordon &amp; Heather Funk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>29 Jan</td>
<td>Wally &amp; Carol Allen</td>
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If you are unable to carry out your duty on your rostered day could you please contact one of the other volunteers to arrange a swap.
Earlier. There are four money-lub members. That from our de up primarily of parents putting the opposition under pressure. It was a great win score. All 3 leaders did a superb job to set up the heads, occasionally, as Gus, who is known to have a full blooded drive occasionally, let a couple rip with great effect. That win puts us back in the top four.

On 2 December the ladies played RSL as the last game of the season. RSL always a very strong team again proved too good but not by a great deal. Our ladies played very well to go down by a slim margin.

LADIES PENNANT
The Dunkeld ladies (along with John Mac, who was filling in due to a rare shortage of ladies, John did not have to wear a dress), ventured to Coleraine on 25 November. In a very close match with one rink losing by one shot on the last end and the other rink went down by a slim margin, the Coleraine team were victorious on the day.

On Saturday 26 November, the Dunkeld lads tackled Grangeburn on the top rink. In some tight games we came away with an overall win. Syd and his boys with all sharing the load, snatched a close win. Boxy, as skipper and with Col Parker bowling well went down in a fluctuating game. The last rink claimed a good win with Frank leading beautifully and setting up the ends. Newly elevated John Mac bowled manfully and his longer shots came in handy on a few occasions, as Gus, who is known to have a full blooded drive occasionally, let a couple rip with great effect. That win puts us back in the top four.

To top it off, Gary won the six pack in the raffle.

This week travelling to Penshurst saw us come away with an exceptionally good win. Winning all 3 rinks, all with very good margins, that allowed us to actually double the Penshurst score. All 3 leaders did a superb job to set up the heads, putting the opposition under pressure. It was a great win against an always difficult opponent.

Next week we take on Heywood at home.

**COMING EVENTS**
Members are advised to watch the Events Noticeboard in the Club.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/01/2017</td>
<td>Club Championships</td>
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<td>22/02/2017</td>
<td>Dunkeld Pairs</td>
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<td>4/03/2017</td>
<td>The M.A. Templeton Memorial 21UP</td>
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<td>11 or 25/03/2017</td>
<td>B Grade Championships</td>
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<tr>
<td>18/03/2017</td>
<td>The Stuart Darroch day</td>
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<td>29/04/2017</td>
<td>Dunkeld Fours</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/06/2017</td>
<td>Dunkeld Triples</td>
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</tbody>
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SOCIAL FUNCTION
Players, families and others are invited to attend a BBQ tea after the Pennant and Social Bowls on Saturday 10 December. This will also have a Christmas theme and be the last BBQ for 2016, so come along and enjoy the fine BBQ, nibbles, drinks and of course, the hospitality.

Those wishing to attend, please let the club know of numbers for catering purposes.

**TOURNAMENTS**
On 25 November Iven, Treasurer Paul and Gary supported the Triples event at Aradale Bowls Club in Ararat. Two close losses and one close win were the fruits of our efforts. We had a friendly, entertaining day, bowling on a very fast rink. All was not lost as Paul won the PK raffle prize (honey products) and Gary brought home a bottle of wine.

Gary Wall, Publicity Officer

**GRAMPIANS CRICKET CLUB NEWS**
Our big Christmas bash featuring the brilliant McIntyre Brothers for all community members is on Saturday 17 December starting at 7.00pm. Each grade responsible for the food and free entry for a fantastic night – all juniors and seniors welcome.

**Juniors:**
Each Thursday night 35 grade P-2, 20 odd U12’s, a dozen U14’s, 8 U15 girls and a group of U16 boys train at the school. All up about 80 district children benefit from our wonderful volunteer coaches made up primarily of parents and Cricket Club members. For any of these kids the club aims to provide quality coaching and an enjoyable experience, with the hope the players at some point become senior cricketers in the club and beyond and hopefully continue that cycle for the next generation of juniors. Most importantly regardless of the sport, we hope the young players become great community contributors for years to come.
U12’s finished their league season with a T20 Blast carnival in Hamilton with two teams taking on the rest of the association and winning all games. This squad continues to improve each week and now the real test with a match against each other on the Grampians Turf this Thursday night starting at 4.15pm followed by a BBQ for parents and kids. Huge thank you to Jack and Michelle Calvert and Mac Cuming for all their coaching and energy each week and the great group of parents who regularly assist with the training on a Thursday.

U14’s Part way through their final game of the season this group need to chase down 200 to achieve victory. Coaches Darren Gordon, Andrew Howells and Andrew Huf have worked diligently to develop the skills of this group and with most still having another year in this age group big things are to come.

U16’s Achieved a solid victory against College in the last round, with youngster Zach Burgess stepping up a grade for a brilliant 36 runs. Solid performances from Lachie Field 36 not out, Alyssa Humphries 15 and Vincent Huf a dashing 22 not out helping the team to an 80 run win.

Two games to complete the pre-Christmas draw to come.

U15 Girls: Incredible development from this team who looked like even one win might be pushing the limits during round 1, have now won three games and are second overall, with one game to come. Regardless of this the great improvement in each player has been exceptional, with some girls obviously putting in some extra hours at home to prepare. The move to hard balls and centre wickets provided us with our most thrilling match yet and a two run win against a strong Hamilton outfit.

Top scorers Jess Field 44 not out, Miranda McIntyre 18 not out, Hollie Phillips 8 not out and wickets to Julia Kelly, Anna Schurmann and Victoria Mawson.

Last game this week.

Jess Field and Miranda McIntyre have also been included in the Western Waves U14 girls team for the U14 State Championships in January.

A Grade: An outright win over Pigeon Ponds has propelled the team into the top two spots on the ladder. The inclusion of Brandon Weatherston (30) with the bat and 5 wicket hauls to Ryan Burgess in the first innings and Lachie Field (including a hat trick) in the second have set the young Puma outfit up for another tilt at the finals. Will Collins also returning to form with 4 wickets and veteran Mac Cuming holding the batting up with 43 not out.

B Grade: The trip to Casterton was always going to be tough, particularly with several players unavailable. Despite this a competitive effort allowed the squad to leave with pride intact and a win in the last round before Christmas would keep the team around the top 4.

Women: Ali Wedding continues to lead from the front with this group of fresh faced stars and can be mighty pleased with the continued improvement in each player as well as the great environment she has created. Some girls have made their highest scores with Pania Potatua-Wright 35 retired and Bec Howell 37 retired continuing their great form. Chance to see if the girls can out dance the boys at the Christmas party on the 17th.

C Grade: Two more wins for this exciting mix of young and old, with the latest against top placed Casterton has the team sitting in 2nd position at this point. Continued great performances with bat and ball from Josh Mawson, Dylan Mooney and Jack Kruger and some timely contributions from the experienced Russ Macgugan, Brett Matthews and Dylan Golding have helped the cause, with cameos from Vincent and Andrew Huf, Mick Alderman, James Stephens, Will Luhrs and Andrew Povey ensuring the large crowds have had plenty to cheer about. Mawson and Macgugan both reaching 50’s in the last two games.

Cricket continues through January and several players will represent the association at junior country week, the Western Waves at State level and for Vincent Huf the state at the National Primary School Championships.

To all players, parents and supporters the club wishes you a safe and happy Christmas and plenty of runs and wickets in the new year.

The club also wishes to thank our major sponsors Dunkeld Bendigo Community Bank, Fox and Lillie, Royal Mail Hotel and Café 109 for their ongoing support, the reminders and support from Vicki Kearney and the community newsletter and thank the many volunteers that help keep the wheels in motion each week.

Happy Christmas.

Stephen Field
PENSHURST SHOW PROVIDES ENTERTAINMENT FOR ALL AGES
The Penshurst P & A once again showed that they know how to put on a great event. Many people from all over the district ventured to the Penshurst Show grounds for the 101st Annual Show. There were many events that suited all ages from shearing competitions, kids activities, and equestrian events to art work competitions. The Dunkeld & District Community Bank® proudly sponsored this event.

PUMAS POUNCE INTO THE 2016-17 SEASON
Dunkeld & District Community Bank® Branch are pleased to maintain their sponsorship agreement with the Grampians Cricket Club. The Cricket Club involves over 100 people with 8 different teams competing — men and women — every week. It is great to see the club thrive with so much talent and to be successful for another year. We are proud to be a part of this.

DUNKELD HISTORY TOWN WALK SIGNS NEED YOUR HELP!
A donation platform has been set up through the “Bendigo Bank Communities” for the fundraising of the Dunkeld History Town Walk Signs.
The Dunkeld Museum needs more donations to complete their project of upgrading the history signs that are situated around the town. They currently have approximately $9,000 towards the production of the signs but need an additional $16,000 to complete the restorations. If they reach their goal here, a local benefactor will generously match their contribution dollar for dollar. Dunkeld & District Community Bank® Branch are proud to have donated $2000, making them that little bit closer to their goal. If you would like to electronically donate please go to https://www.communities.bendigobank.com.au/projects/dunkeld or visit the branch to make a cash donation.

Merry Christmas.
From all of us at Dunkeld & District Community Bank® Branch, best wishes for the holiday season and thank you for your loyalty and support.
Drop into your local branch at 92 Parker Street, Dunkeld or phone 5577 2488.
POLICE NEWS
I've just come down the street from the Dunkeld Consolidated School. Prep children arriving at school before they start for real next year. A new generation of children starting out and some finishing their years at Dunkeld and moving onto their new schools. The change, from being cautious and nervous at the start of the day to the excited and happy look on their faces at the end of the day, is great to see. I often wonder going forward where will they go and what will they achieve in their lives. Such are the ebbs and flows of life.

December is here. The pace of life always seems to go up a notch at this time of year. Christmas shopping, tourists, busy roads, people trying to get everything done before businesses close. Patience and tolerance are helpful qualities particularly on the roads and around the larger car parks.

December perhaps also offers a brief moment for reflection over the year. It's been a great one for the Western District. I remember looking around the countryside from Mount Sturgeon in January and not seeing any water in any dams. I thought then that we'd need crop failures because we needed water foremost. However, the season has turned out better than I thought it would. We've received water and we've also got crops, albeit that they're not in the silo just yet.

Some memories of 2016
I remember receiving a phone call when the rain was falling fairly consistently and heavily in the area, advising that the spillway wall at the Arboretum had two hours before it would let go - fortunately, it's still there. Gary at the Caravan Park did a great job coordinating the caravans against the constant concerns of flooding from the creek for weeks. I don't know how he kept going but he did.

The 3 Peaks Festival in the Memorial Park, which timed the weather to perfection, a gale arriving post event.

The Dunkeld Race Committee and volunteers facing the challenges of preparation against a background of consistent wet weather. Whilst it was cooler, the day before (strong winds) and after (heavy rain) was a realisation that the Race day was the best by far.

The Great Victorian Bike Ride stopping overnight in Dunkeld. Approximately 5000 cyclists, support crew etc. Arrived and gone within 24 hours and to look at the Racecourse, you wouldn't even know they'd been there. It's an impressive logistical operation. Some of our local business owners were only just finishing up at 10.00pm after a very long and tiring day. The whole community should be proud of the efforts of their locals, particularly volunteers, who provided stalls, food, and entertainment for the cyclists, and the very warm welcome that Dunkeld provided.

Thank you to the communities of Dunkeld and Glenthompson including the outlying residents for all of the support and help you've provided me over the past year. I could not perform my role without your support, which is greatly appreciated. I hope you enjoy a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy 2017!

Best Wishes,
L/S/C Bruce McNaughton
Dunkeld Police Station
Ph: 5577 2260

DUNKELD RSL SUB-BRANCH

RSL Membership: We invite ex-service men and women to be members and renew their membership to ensure the future of the RSL locally. If you are a relative of ex-service men or women you can also join the RSL. By becoming a member of the RSL you will be helping the welfare of disabled war veterans and supporting your local RSL Sub-Branch. Membership renewal for 2016-2107 is due by 31 January 2017. This year membership fees may also be paid online via the following website: http://www.rslvic.com.au/membership/rsl-rewards/
Application forms are available from the Secretary/Treasurer, Terrie Nicholson on 5573 3353.

The Belgians have not forgotten: Learn about the sacrifices of Allied soldiers during World War I in an unique, immersive way with an internationally touring exhibition coming to Warrnambool in December. Warrnambool is the only Victorian city selected to host the commemorative exhibition, which was commissioned by the Belgian Government. Entitled “The Belgians have not forgotten”, the exhibition tells the story of campaigns in Flanders in which Australian soldiers were heavily involved. As part of the exhibition, floor-talks will be held daily from 12.30pm – 1.30pm illuminating the stories of local soldiers who were part of the many battles which made up the campaign, as well as the experience of their families.

The official opening ceremony will be held on Friday 9 December commencing at 5.00pm at the Lighthouse Theatre.

Presentation 1 – Monday 12 December and Monday 19 December – Sabrina Watt
The Letters of Andrew Watt – What Do I Tell Them – That They Might Understand?
Presentation 2 – Tuesday 13 December and Tuesday 20 December – David McGinness
Beneath Flanders Fields – Tunnelling Operations in the Ypres Sector
Presentation 3 – Wednesday 14 December and Wednesday 21 December – Steven Bloxham
The Battle of Polygon Wood – Battlefield Archaeology in Flanders
Presentation 4 – Thursday 15 December and Thursday 22 December – Doug Hazlewood
What Happened to This Young Boy – Once Lost, Now Found, Too Late?
Presentation 5 – Friday 16 December and Friday 23 December – Doug Hazlewood
Boys and Men – From Here to Flanders – Vignettes of Some Who Served

This exhibition will run from 12 – 23 December at the Lighthouse Theatre, corner of Liebig and Timor Streets, Warrnambool. Public opening times will be Mondays and Wednesdays from 9.30am to 4.30pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays 12.30pm to 4.30pm and Fridays from 9.30am to 7.30pm.

Put Your Hand Up: Stuck? Or exhausted? Want more out of life? Are your relationships where you want them to be? Do you wish there was a different way? Come to this one day donation event on 9 December in Melbourne, 11 December in Horsham or 14/15 December in Gippsland. Register now at www.putyourhandupaustralia.org

Hamilton and District Legacy Fleece Show: The 65th Annual Fleece Show will be held from Tuesday 6 December until Thursday 8 December at the Sheepvention Centre at the Hamilton Showgrounds. The “Blessing of the Fleece” will be held at Legacy House on Sunday 11 December at 11.00am.

The Dunkeld RSL Sub-Branch would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members, supporters and the Dunkeld and district community a peaceful and joyous Christmas and a happy and safe New Year!
FREE SPIRIT DUNKELD CHILDCARE

Free Spirit is excited to announce that it is opening a new purpose altered premium childcare in Dunkeld, due to open in January 2017.

We are a privately owned long daycare centre passionate about providing quality care for babies from 6 months to school age. OSHC will also be available.

Our centre strives to provide care of the highest standard in a secure, nurturing and joyful environment. We aim to provide a “home like” atmosphere which incorporates realistic, natural and culturally rich environments. We believe warm, sensitive and responsive care-giving gives a child a sense of security and encourages emotional and intellectual development.

Free Spirit provides natural play-scapes and gardens which enable children to experience play and interaction with nature.

Children are allowed time for uninterrupted play and freedom to explore within a carefully structured environment. Both elements, freedom and structure, blended to provide an optimal learning environment.

We believe that all children have a right to be nurtured, respected and to feel a sense of belonging in their family, school and community.

It is our desire to build a community which respects childhood as a time to explore, create and be joyful.

Through play-based learning children are provided with the guidance and encouragement to develop their curiosity about the world allowing each child to develop to their fullest potential.

We aim to create a family-friendly centre, focusing on the child while supporting the needs of the whole family.

We look forward to working with parents to provide a care program that is tailored to the needs of your child. Our small enrolment numbers allows us provide a more individualised and personalised care program for your child.

If you would like to enrol your child with Free Spirit Childcare in 2017, fill out an expression of interest form and return before Friday 9 December. Forms can be collected and returned to the Dunkeld General Store or message via our Facebook page to have a form emailed to you.

Looking forward to providing quality care for your child in 2017.

Alison and Derek Prentice
Phone 5577 2598

FREE SPIRIT
Dunkeld Childcare

A BIG Thank You from the Dunkeld Delights team for all the amazing support that we have received for 2016.

It has been a great year for our business and we are looking forward to next year and continuing to develop our business and to keep delivering the quality handcrafted products you have come to know.

We are closing on 24 December Christmas Eve and will reopen 9 January 2017.

In the meantime we are open for business and we ask you to shop local, there are so many great businesses in Dunkeld.

Thank you and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Cheers from the team at DD
SCHOOL NEWS

DUNKELD INTERVIEWS

Interviews for the Year 6 Dunkeld Scholarship were conducted earlier this week. All the Year 6 students were involved. The Dunkeld Scholarship and other award recipients will be announced at the Year 6 Graduation Ceremony on Tuesday 13 December.

YEAR 6 GRADUATION

Invitations to the Year 6 Graduation dinner and presentation of awards have been sent out. The Graduation will be held on Tuesday 13 December at the school. The dinner for students, parents, staff and official guests will commence at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start. Family and friends are invited to attend the ceremony and presentation of awards at 7.45pm, which follow the Graduation Dinner.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS GOLF STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to Year 6 student, Josh Gordon, who made it through to the Victorian Primary Schools Golf State Final at Koo ringal Golf Club, Melbourne which was held on Wednesday 30 November.

SCHOOL DISCO

A School Disco (organised by Mrs Anne Gilbert) was held on Friday 2 December. Four year old Kindergarten students also attended this fun evening. Children wore a 'touch of yellow' and a total of $131.65 was raised for Cancer Council Victoria.

KINDER TO PREP TRANSITION PROGRAM

As part of the school’s Kinder to Prep Transition Program, an Orientation Day for Kindergarten students (commencing Prep in 2017) was held yesterday. The Kinder students enjoyed a day with their 2017 Prep teacher, Miss Jayne Berry.

SOCIAL SERVICE CHRISTMAS STALL

The students’ Social Service Christmas Stall will be held on Thursday 8 December, commencing at approximately 9.30am.

SHEEP DRIVE FUNDRAISER

The Dunkeld Consolidated School Council will be conducting a Sheep Drive fundraiser during this term for the School Camps and ICT programs. If you have any sheep that you would like to donate could you please contact Luke Balkin on 0429 626 748 or Trent Adams on 0428 886 221.

THANK YOU MORNING TEA – MONDAY 12 DECEMBER

The Dunkeld Consolidated School would like to invite all the helpers and volunteers that may have assisted in any way at the school during the year to a ‘Thank You’ Morning Tea on Monday 12 December commencing at 11.00am in the school hall.

WHOLE SCHOOL EXCURSION TO FLAGSTAFF HILL

A whole school excursion to Flagstaff Hill, Warrnambool will be held on Thursday 15 December. The P & F Association will generously cover bus hire costs for this excursion.

CASUAL DRESS DAY – FRIDAY 16 DECEMBER

Students are to wear casual clothes on Friday 16 December and are encouraged to bring a gold coin donation, which will be forwarded to local charities e.g. Ivy's Army and Peter's List.

DUNKELD & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB FREE BBQ

The Dunkeld & District Lions Club members will be providing a free ‘sausage sizzle’ for all students and staff on the last day of term, Tuesday 20 December, commencing at 1.00pm.

RETURN TO SCHOOL DATES - 2017

The first day for all students next year will be Tuesday 31 January. Staff will return officially on Monday 30 January. Prep children will have a four day week during summer, staying home each Wednesday during the month of February.

Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program (SAKG)

HELP NEEDED

We have been given a wonderful opportunity to help raise funds for the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program. We will be catering for the Glen Thompson Community Christmas Event on Saturday 10 December. We need your assistance to prepare only. We are not required for service during the evening.

If you are able to help please phone the school on 5577 2384 and we will meet you in the Dunkeld Consolidated School Kitchen.

We thank the Glen Thompson Community for this opportunity. Thank you. SAKG Team - Lisa McIntyre and Clare Kennedy

KITCHEN CLEAN UP DAY

All are welcome to come at 10.30am this Thursday 8 December to help have a clean-up of the kitchen and pantry and make a few sausage rolls for Saturday’s Fundraiser. Come for an hour or for the afternoon, whatever you can spare I will be very thankful. Clare Kennedy

THANK YOU

I take this opportunity to thank Mr Paul Jeffreys and all of the staff together with the School Council, for continuing to support this valuable program of authentic learning for our students. I thank all of our friends of the SAKG Program, those that help out on a Thursday, for fundraising ventures, and you who donate beautiful produce and share from your own garden. Thank you for your ideas, advice, and support to me during the year. Thank you to Mrs Terrie Nicholson for her patience understanding, and knowledge of finance. Thank you to Ally Gordon and Vicki Kearney for supporting our promotion and sharing of information through our newsletters each edition. Thank you for your kindness, generosity and assistance with the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program in 2016. Thank you to Lisa McIntyre for your support and I look forward to working with you again in 2017. Finally to our students, thank you for ‘having a go’ at all things new, for sharing your knowledge and your care of one another.

Happy preparing and sharing in the holidays. Merry Christmas to all.

Warm regards Clare Kennedy, SAKG Kitchen
Christmas is just around the corner.
Organise a hamper for that hard to buy for person. The gift of food. My fave!!!
Please note – the Thursday Spectator will no longer be delivered on a Wednesday night.
it will be available for pick up on Thursday...thanks!

- Monday to Friday 6:30am – 5:30pm
- Saturdays 7:00am – 4:30pm
- Sundays 7:30am – 3:00pm
FLOOD RECOVERY WORKS CONTINUE ON SHIRE’S ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

Detailed inspections of Council infrastructure assets across the Shire are commencing, as the flood recovery process continues. Council has estimated through inspections completed to date, close to $27M damage to roads, footpaths, dam walls, bridges, culverts, open drains and stormwater network due to the September floods, with issues affecting the essential infrastructure network throughout the entire region, extending well beyond the major problems experienced in Coleraine and Dunkeld.

The repair bill, which is estimated to be about 15 times Council’s annual road maintenance spend, is sourced from the Federal and State Government under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. CEO Michael Tudball has stressed that the recovery process will be a challenging time for both Council and the Community. “Unfortunately, Council cannot just go out and fix the problems as it finds them. The Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements require a strong degree of scrutiny to ensure that taxpayer’s money is not misused. This means that all works have to be accurately quantified and approved by an auditor before the money can be spent. The works then have to go through a contracting or quotation process to ensure that they provide value for the money”. “It’s going to be a long process for everyone and we thank the community for their continued patience” Mr Tudball said.

The infrastructure recovery program is going to be completed over the next two years (up to June 2019). To comply with the guidelines around Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery funding, additional staff and resources have been brought in to complete the recovery processes so Council staff can continue with business as usual and ensure delivery of the regular capital works program. “We also have to be wary of making improvements, throughout the recovery process. While works are being completed, we are only funded to get the back to the condition they were prior to the flood damage. We need to build to today’s construction standards, but not make improvements. Any betterment of assets would need to be funded by Council and these have not been budgeted for” Mr Tudball continued.

“There will be many sites across the shire controlled by safety signage for an extended period. Road users need to be mindful that safety signage is there for a purpose. We ask that everyone exercise caution, especially throughout the busy Christmas period and always drive to the conditions Mr Tudball concluded.

THANK YOU from the Newsletter Team

On behalf of the Dunkeld & District Newsletter Team, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many local business advertisers for their continuing support. It is in large part due to the advertising payments that we are able to offer the newsletter free of charge to the general public.

Of course, I cannot forget the generosity of many individuals who offer donations throughout the year.

Thank you also to the wonderful committee members and article contributors that make the newsletter what it is – a truly local newsletter.

I am still in awe of the passion that the local Dunkeldians(?) have for their newsletter. I am constantly recognised for my name in relation to the newsletter rather than my face and in saying this everyone is very kind in their support and encouragement of the job that I am doing. I sincerely appreciate this feedback (and am a little worried about the consequences should standards fall).

The merriest of Christmas to you all and all the very best for the New Year. We look forward to catching up on all the news in 2017.

Vicki Kearney (for Terrie Nicholson and Ally Gordon) x
WHAT’S ON IN DECEMBER 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MON</th>
<th>TUES</th>
<th>WED</th>
<th>THURS</th>
<th>FRI</th>
<th>SAT</th>
<th>SUN</th>
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| 5   | Dunkeld Progress Association AGM  
|     | - Newsletter Cut Off Issue 19 | 6   | 7 LAST NEWSLETTER OF 2016 | 8   | 9   | 10 Dunkeld Bowling Club BBQ tea  
|     |                             |     |                      |     |     | Off The Rails AGM |
| 12  | 14Visitor Information Centre Meeting | 13  | 15 | 16 Last day to lodge Christmas Competition Dunkeld Arboretum Group Christmas BBQ |
|     | Dunkeld Bowling Club Committee meeting | 19  | 20  | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Dunkeld Christmas Eve Town Santa Run |
|     |                                            | 26  | 27  | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017 |

Mobile Library

Will be visiting Dunkeld every Thursday fortnight: **11.30am – 1.30pm**  
Sterling Street (Community Hall)

**Dates for December: 15**

**Mirranatwa**: 8 and 22

*The Mobile will not operate on Extreme and Code Red Fire Declared days*

Phone: **5573 0470**  

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COMMUNITY BUS SERVICE

The community bus is available to all seniors (male/female) travelling to Hamilton on a fortnightly basis from Glentompson and Dunkeld.

If you would like to use this service, contact the HACC Office on **5551 8480** for assessment.

Pick-up is from your home - seats available.

If any of our regular clientele are unable to use bus that day, please phone the number above, if not answered leave a message by 8.15am - the driver will be notified.

DUNKELD & DISTRICT NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTION CUT-OFF AND DISTRIBUTION

This is the last issue for 2016.

The Dunkeld & District Newsletter will resume production in the second week of Term 1 2017.

The Dunkeld Consolidated School will forward invoices and receipt any monies pertaining to advertising in the Dunkeld & District Community Newsletter.