

# Dunkeld & District Newsletter



Sponsored by Lions Club

Distributed fortnightly on Wednesday (except during School Holidays)  
Printed at the Dunkeld Consolidated School – E&OE

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## DONATIONS

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."**

Direct deposit to BSB: 633 000 Account: 1430 91510 – please include your name as a reference so we may acknowledge your donation.

It's great to be back at work for a few more years. Many of you will know I have been travelling around Australia, experiencing a lot of different road conditions. The worst roads I have travelled on, are right here in south-west Victoria, particularly when wet, so please take it easy when driving on them.

The new 40km/hr zone in the main street of Dunkeld seems to be working well, with the majority of drivers doing the right thing, and why not, it only takes 6 to 7 seconds longer.

If you are going away let me know and I will do some patrols of your property.

Any unknown people or vehicles around your rural properties, get as many details as you can safely get, and let me know.

I was very grateful for the lovely bunch of native flowers and nice card that was left at the police station and also to others who passed on their condolences for our two fallen Police Officers.

Roger McCLURE  
Leading Senior Constable 33436  
Officer In Charge  
Dunkeld Police Station  
67 Parker Street  
0409 078 825  
[DUNKELD-UNI@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:DUNKELD-UNI@police.vic.gov.au)



VICTORIA POLICE

*The purpose of the Dunkeld & District Community Newsletter is to share information about activities, events, projects and services in our local district and surrounds, including historical information. It is not a platform for political or public argument. The newsletter is supported by local business advertising. The Dunkeld & District Community Newsletter reserves the right to accept or reject any submissions at its discretion without notification.*

## CHURCH SERVICES

### Saint Patrick's Catholic Church

Parish Priest - Father Pat Mugavin - 5571 1161

Website: [www.westernborder.church](http://www.westernborder.church)

3rd Week	Sunday	September 21	8.30am	Mass
4th Week	Sunday	September 28	9.00am	Assembly of Word and Communion
1st Week	Sunday	October 5	8.30am	Mass
2nd Week	Sunday	October 12		No Mass or service (Mass in Glenthompson)
3rd Week	Sunday	October 19	8.30am	Mass
4th Week	Sunday	October 26	9.00am	Assembly of Word and Communion

### ANGLICAN/UNITING CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 21 September	ANGLICAN at ST MARY'S 5.00pm	Father David Oulton
Sunday 28 September	UNITING CHURCH at STERLING PLACE 5.00pm	Jim Hewett
Sunday 5 October	ANGLICAN at ST MARY'S 5.00pm	Father David Oulton
Sunday 12 October	UNITING CHURCH at STERLING PLACE 5.00pm	
Sunday 19 October	ANGLICAN at ST MARY'S 5.00pm	Father David Oulton
Sunday 26 October	UNITING CHURCH at STERLING PLACE 5.00pm	HC Janet Shalders

Enquiries to Heather Macgugan – phone: 0400 952 716

All Welcome.

### Trinity Lutheran Church, Warrayure

8189 Glenelg Highway

#### CHURCH TIMES

Sunday 21 September	9.00am
Sunday 28 September	10.30am
Sunday 5 October	Church Camp Grampians Retreat
Sunday 12 October	10.30am Tarrington

#### WHAT'S ON SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER – PLEASE CHECK THROUGH THE NEWSLETTER AND USE BELOW TO FILL THE DATES THAT ARE RELEVANT TO YOU

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
14	15	16	17 Issue 14 publication	18	19 Last day Term 3	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1 OCT	2	3 Issue 15 cut-off	4
5	6 First day Term 4	7	8 Issue 15 publication	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Issue 16 cut-off	18
19	20	21	22 Issue 16 publication	23	24	25



## DUNKELD MUSEUM NEWS

### OPEN FOR BUSINESS:

Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm and  
Thursday 1.00pm - 4.00pm

(Other times by appointment)

**WEBSITE: Visit our website!** [dunkeldmuseum.org.au](http://dunkeldmuseum.org.au)

### MUSEUM DUTY ROSTER

Sun 21 September John Kay and David Gordon  
Sun 28 September Joyce Gordon and Makayla McCabe

### THANK YOU - SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL

The Dunkeld Museum is thrilled to have received a grant from the Southern Grampians Shire Council of \$3,000 for the funding toward the production of our book "Are you Staying or Going". This book is the brainchild of Liz Marcus. Her father Donald McArthur of Mirranatwa was severely impacted by the fires in 2024/2025 and Liz wants to gather people's experiences together in book form to be archived at the Museum as a historical record of the fires. We thank the Southern Grampians Shire Council for their generous contribution for the production of this important history book.

**CONDOLENCES:** Our deepest condolences go out to the Templeton family on the sad passing of Graeme "Grub" Templeton on 8 September 2025 at Hamilton, aged 68 years.

Also, our deepest sympathy to Norm Schwarz and family on the passing of Glenda on 2 September aged 85 years.

**42<sup>ND</sup> AGM:** On Sunday 21 September we will be holding our 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting at the Museum starting at 1.30pm. The meeting will be followed by guest speaker Roger McClure speaking about his recent caravanning and volunteering journey around Australia. Everyone welcome.

The Dunkeld Museum, in conjunction with Liz Marcus are conducting interviews to learn more about the local Communities experiences during the 2024/2025 Grampians Bushfires. Please share your photographs and stories for inclusion in our upcoming book.

### Contact

Liz Marcus – phone: 0402 051 548

[lizmcarthurmarcus@gmail.com](mailto:lizmcarthurmarcus@gmail.com)

Joyce Gordon – phone: 0428 749 236

[bullawynpastoral@bigpond.com](mailto:bullawynpastoral@bigpond.com)

**Deadline: 31 October 2025**



## RED CROSS NEWS

Emergency Ready Week is 15 - 21

September. 'Emergency Services volunteers will be in various retail stores across Victoria, promoting the importance of preparing for emergencies in communities, with the aim to provide tools and resources people can use to prepare for an emergency, and to increase the local community knowledge of why Red Cross has a local presence.'



Good news ... the value and success of donating used stamps, has shown to be significant. The Annual Financial Report stated that used stamps have realized \$20,000 towards the work of Red Cross. Each Wednesday, two volunteers trim and sort stamps for sale and visitors are welcome to visit the Docklands Office during this activity. Stamps need to have about a 2cm margin and even the whole envelope can be kept intact. Dunkeld district folk continue to contribute to such success and for convenience, a box is now in place at the Bendigo Bank, for ease in dropping off used stamps. Thank you, Louise, and staff.

This year also marks the 35th birthday of the Trauma Teddy Project (23 November is Trauma Teddy Day). Trauma Teddies are cherished by the children who receive them. Some even sit in the shopping trolley at supermarkets and / or attend sports practice. We welcome anyone with left-over wool and knitting needles, to experience the joy of creating these toys. Our long-time knitter Brenda Cullinane - has retired, after many years creating exquisite examples.

Iris Field



Dunkeld Writers Festival

### Dunkeld Writers Festival 2025

Following cooking classes with a special person, the 2025 festival kicked off with Kate Mildenhall reading her delightful book 'To Stir with Love' at Dunkeld Consolidated School. There were many highlights over the weekend, including: Friday Night Book Club, chaired by Michael Williams, in conversation with Marieke Hardy and Jason Steger, stars of the ABC Book Show. Books discussed were 'Orbital' by Samantha Harvey, 'Small Things Like These' by Claire Keegan and 'Three Days in June' by Anne Tyler.

One of the highlights of the Festival was the Celebration of a Life in Sports Journalism, which was a conversation between Tracey Holmes and Warwick Hadfield. Tracey Holmes's memoir 'The Eye of the Dragonfly: My Life Seeing the World Through Sport' was launched in Sydney earlier in the week and this was Tracey's first talk in Victoria. It was a real thrill to have two great sports journalists on the stage together and there was more to come in Grandstanding, the final session of the Festival, when Andrew Rule joined the panel which was entertainingly chaired by John Harms.

There were several sessions about different aspects of crime writing, featuring Andrew Rule, Peter Norris, Claire Sutherland and Dmetri Kakmi.

The James and Isabella Dawson Oration featured a stimulating conversation between Thomas Mayo and Michael Williams about the way forward for indigenous Australians. A complete contrast was the final session on Saturday afternoon where Ben Shewry and Adam Liaw, renowned Australian chefs, talked about food and gastronomy as art.

Different aspects of people's lives were explored in the session about memoirs. With Michael Williams chairing the session, we heard about very different childhood experiences from Dmetri Kakmi, author of 'Motherland', and Peter Norris, author of 'The Bank Robber's Boy'.

The crime session Mystery Road – Landscape as Character was ably chaired by local author, Louise Le Nay, author of 'Edenhope'. Panellists were Chris Hammer, one of Australia's most successful crime writers, Claire Sutherland, a new crime writer and author of 'The Crag' which is set in the Mt Arapiles area, and Dmetri Kakmi, author of 'The Woman in the Well'.

The Dunkeld Writers Festival wouldn't be possible without significant sponsorship and support from:

- Royal Mail Hotel
- Southern Grampians Shire Council
- Izzy's Hospitality
- Bespoke Design Photography + Web + Design (Samantha Kaspers)
- Indigenous Research Centre at State Library Victoria
- West Country Creative (Julie Kincaide)
- Bellcourt Books
- Roz Greenwood Old and Rare Books
- Sterling Place: Dunkeld Community Centre

A big thank you to the volunteers who helped before and during the Festival:

Daryl Black	Suzie Clarke
Lou Drummond	Kerren Collins
Oliver Falla	George Fitzpatrick
Connor Gordon	Diana Henkel
Amelia Jackson	Annette Jones
Heather Macgugan	Susie MacKinnon
Evelyn Maclean	Peter Maclean
Miranda Mildenhall	Geoff Montgomery
Clare Ryan	Fatema Shumona
Jock Whiting	

Special mention of and thanks to Heather Macgugan who prepared beautiful floral displays which graced the stage at Sterling Place.

Also a big thank you to Neil Scott who drove the bus on Saturday.

Special thanks to Michael Williams and Marieke Hardy who have provided support, advice, contacts and stepped in when there have been changes in the program. Michael and Marieke have been wonderful. Your contribution has been of enormous assistance in pulling together this year's Festival. This event happens because of a very hard-working committee. Thank you to Roz Greenwood, Louise Le Nay, Mary McArthur, John Myers, Kylie Schurmann and Cathy Taber.

## **SAVE THE DATE – 28 to 30 AUGUST 2026**

Mary-Ann Brown  
Chair  
Dunkeld Writers Festival

## **DUNKELD PUBLIC LANDS**

A Working Bee was held at Memorial Park last Sunday morning to spread the chip bark in the playground and to remove rose bushes from the garden arch area. The rose bushes will be replaced with suitable plants. Thank you to those who came along to assist us.

We hope to have our annual clean-up day along Salt Creek before we get into the fire season – late October, early November.

Our new caretakers at the Caravan Park, Tania Bakes and Stuart Klin have settled in well and getting involved in the community.

The continuing saga with a toilet at the Arboretum is nearly over, with only some concerns from the Building Department at Council, to be resolved.

Frank Raymond, DPL

## **300 Words**

### **Manipulative vs Superhero**

Over the years it has been my underserved privilege to be with people in pain. To wander in, to be invited in, to be expected when someone is in pain is a compliment that is not to be taken lightly.

I have watched many people gallantly march on through the rehabilitation process with panache, grace and yes sometimes drugs and tears. They have inspired and challenged me and I come away asking... How would I go in situations like this? Would I be as strong or wise, to say nothing of those who are nearest and dearest by the bedside. They too have their own psychological and emotional pain that leaps up at them and frightens them. It's a pretty fine line between being an absolute wuss at one end of the spectrum and being a superhero at the other. Asking for the right medication at the right time but also not abusing the marvellous medicine world that we happen to live in at this point in history and in this place. How do you get the balance right?

They tell me everyone's threshold of pain is different so perhaps the key is to be absolutely honest with that mystical 'pain number' between 1 and 10. What if we said that it was OK to tell the world that today really sucked or that actually I think I can and will do those painful exercises and just see if I get a little further than I did last week.

If you are one of those who are struggling through some kind of long-term pain, physical, emotional, psychological or you have a combo, then I doff my biretta to you. You have my sympathy and admiration.

When it comes my turn, as inevitably it must, may my greatest super weapons be tissues, drugs, courage and honesty.

### **Going cheap**

I am like many of you who have watched that elusive gift of peace disappear further and further into the future. In my little life I had hoped that we might actually have managed to achieve some semblance of stability. The sort that we enjoy here in Australia. That we might spread it around and help towards a healthy ceasefire or at least some helpful negotiations that might make way for a cessation of hostilities, the return of hostages, the just and equitable sharing of our generous resources.

But it is not so. We need to be honest about that. 'Us vs. them' is still the order of the day. The images in our lounge are graphic and instant and this I think only feeds my disappointment. When did my appetite for fear and anger become so ravenous? Has life and property always been so expendable. A quick flick through the pages of any history book will say 'Yes'. It's always been this way. But we know better now... don't we...??

Part of the quandary is that we have heavily discounted the value of human life. It is cheap and there is plenty of it. The light of the Christmass story that is peeking over the horizon

once more should remind us that all human life is sacred and the skanky pub is the place where God lives. Our church has plenty to say and loudly about how the squashing of another's life is not acceptable. Thou shalt do no murder is one of our top 10 biggies.

From my desk and through my eyes, all life is of infinite value. To be cherished, enhanced and enjoyed. I deeply appreciate the pull of retribution and revenge but... it is time. We've tried an 'eye for an eye' 'brother for a brother'. We're tired and it's time to do things differently.

Father David Oulton  
Phone: 0435 867 040  
Email: [droulton72@gmail.com](mailto:droulton72@gmail.com)

## Landcare News

**Grampians Ark Fox Control Program (private land component)**: Thank you to everyone who was able to participate in our Autumn pulse. There are many ways to reduce our fox population, and having a combination of methods is the most effective. This was a vital time to participate, as the bush had been burnt, leaving small birds, animals etc as sitting ducks for foxes. So, we thank all those people who were able to participate, they are playing a massive role in helping with the survival of our native animals. Participating properties will have notices attached to gateways. If you would like to join in with the next pulse, or just find out more information, please get in touch. We also have fox and smaller cages to be loaned out, as an alternative to laying baits. If you'd like to try one, please get in touch.

Our next pulse is Monday 8 September to Monday 15 December 2025. (If you would like to participate in this pulse, please get in touch with me now).

The program is as effective and as safe as it is, as participants follow the dates on the baiting pulse. Baits are laid across the landscape on participating properties (noted by the signs on the gates) all at the same time. And because there is such a great coverage of the local landscape, there only needs to be 1 bait laid per 100 hectares. This will reduce the chances of 1 fox caching (collecting) more than one bait at a time. It is a lot more effective, and it means less baits in the landscape.

*We gratefully thank Parks Vic for their funding and all-round support of this program – it's truly a great example of neighbours working together. If everyone does a little bit, we can achieve a huge amount.*

**You are invited – to Mirranatwa's bushfire walk**, with Greg Kerr (Nature Glenelg Trust) and Bill Weatherly (Friends of the Forgotten Woodlands)

We'll walk through areas the bushfire tore through, and see what is happening now. And talk about why. What can we do now? eg, plant, protect, add in nesting boxes, guarding vulnerable plants, weed etc etc???

We'll be visiting two sites, but what we talk about will be applicable to all areas affected.

### **Wednesday 15 October 2025**

11.00am – 3.00pm.

Lunch provided.

This is a free event, our thanks to the GHCA – it's supported by the Victorian Landcare Grants.

*Please RSVP for catering – and we'll confirm the sites then.* This will be a fantastic opportunity to walk and talk with Greg and Bill – both well respected and very knowledgeable blokes!

### **Save The Date!**

Dear Dunkeld Arboretum Life Members, Members and Friends,

The Dunkeld Arboretum Development Group Committee is hosting its first ever celebration of its native grasslands, from 10.00am to 1.00pm on Monday 20 October. We hope you're free to join us!

We were fortunate to receive funding under the Victorian Landcare Grants Program 2024/2025 which has enabled us to focus upon the precious native grassland located within the Dunkeld Arboretum. This funding has helped to address some of the issues we face as a community group with responsibility for this environmentally sensitive area.

We have been able to conduct a flora survey, tackle areas of problematic weeds, place the grassland on the local Burn Plan, fund new signage and photo posts.

Our free community event on Monday 20 October is central to our grassland project because, not only do we want to let people know more about this valuable part of the Dunkeld Arboretum, we would also like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the many people who've contributed to making the Dunkeld Arboretum what it is today.

We'll send out more information closer to the event, but for now 'Save the Date'.

For catering purposes, please RSVP if you'd like to attend, [dunkeldarboretum@gmail.com](mailto:dunkeldarboretum@gmail.com) or call 0412 855 359. Hope to see you there!

Best wishes

Annette Jones (Secretary, Dunkeld Arboretum Development Group Inc)

**Dung Beetles**: I am really keen to find out what dung beetles are living on our farms and around us - all through the year - as different species of dung beetles are active at different times. Now it's a little bit wetter, I wonder if we will see an increase in dung beetle numbers and species – I certainly hope so!!

Are you interested too? There is a really simple technique we can use to do quick surveys (they take 10 minutes of our time, once a month), and start gathering information. Once we know what we've got, we can then start thinking about breeding the ones we do have, and sharing or swapping them with our neighbours (near and far!). We all know the amazing benefits that these little beetles bring to our farming and lifestyle. They bury dung - removing habitat for flies to lay eggs, move dung into the soil, increase water holding capacity of the soil, soil aeration, increase nutrients in the soil....

Anyway – we are setting up a really basic dung beetle monitoring program. If you're interested in having a go too - please get in touch ASAP!! We have started doing our surveys – and refining our techniques!

We'll be working with the GHCA and our neighbouring landcare facilitators, to invite **Grace Evans – a dung beetle guru – here in October** for several workshops – so please stay tuned for the dates.

### **Weeds.....bathurst burr, spiny rush, cape tulip etc etc**

**etc....**: Weeds are becoming more obvious again, after some well needed rainfall. And as many of us has had to buy in feed from out of the district, the chances of weed seed coming in with it is really high.

So please keep an eye open for plants that don't look familiar, and get them identified ASAP!

It is always so much easier – and cheaper – to get on top of a weed when it's in the early establishment phase. If weeds are on roadsides, then we work with the responsible Shire (as long as it's a Shire road), otherwise we can explore other options.

*We all know that if we all work together, protecting our own patch, we can make a huge difference to the health of our larger landscape.*

If you've got a weed that's becoming an issue – e.g. Bathurst Burr, spiny rush, cape tulip, St Johns Wort etc – then let's work on the issue and involve others that have the weed too. Please get in touch.

The Southern Grampians Shire crew (through Marten Chin's guidance) have been working on weeds around Mirranatwa shire roads lately - and we thank them very much for this - it was in response to a mention from a local resident.

**Rabbits:** If you have known populations and rabbit warrens on roadsides in the Southern Grampians Shire – please get in touch now – as we are still working with the Shire on these sites.

And we all know it's most effective if neighbours work together on this - as rabbits really are worse than crossbred sheep when it comes to respecting fences.....! Please get in touch now.

*If you'd like to know more about these items, or to RSVP for anything, or to be added to the Landcare mailing list, please don't hesitate to get in touch.*

Cheers

Lisa McIntyre

Landcare Facilitator for Pannyabyr, Mirranatwa, Bunnugal, Glen Thompson, Mooralla, Bulart and Muston's Catchment Landcare Groups; Partnership and Community Coordinator (Southern Grampians), Nature Glenelg Trust  
Phone: 5574 9235  
Mobile: 0428 749 235

**OFF THE RAILS**

**OFF THE RAILS DUNKELD**

## COMING UP

**Unlock the Art of Fore-Edge Book Painting**

**Sunday 12 October 2025**

**11.00am – 1.00pm**

**Discover the Art of Modern Fore-Edge Painting**

Step beyond the centuries-old tradition of hidden images revealed only when pages are fanned. In this workshop, you'll explore the *modern* evolution of fore-edge painting - a vibrant practice where the outer edges of books become a permanent canvas.

With inks, paints, and patterns at your fingertips, you'll learn how to transform page edges into striking, visible artwork that enhances your book's beauty and makes it unmistakably yours. From bold gradients to delicate motifs, the creative possibilities are endless. (Even the *Washington Post* has celebrated this exciting new publishing trend!).

This hands-on session is perfect for book lovers, artists, or anyone curious to try something new. Step by step, you'll be guided through the process and leave with a beautifully

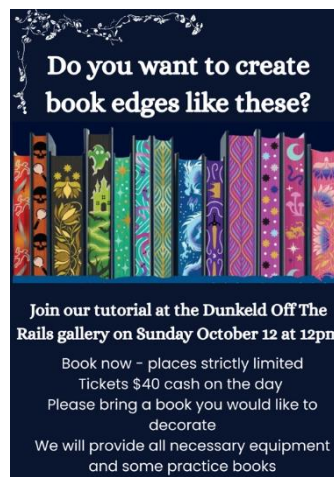
decorated book edge — plus the know-how to keep experimenting long after the workshop.

✦ **Come along and turn the edges of your books into works of art!**

**Cost: \$40.00**

Books will be available, though you're welcome to bring along a favourite of your own. All inks, paints, book presses, and equipment are provided.

**Bookings: Contact Bellcourt Books on 5572 1300 or bellcourtbooks@gmail.com**



## WHISPERS

### November

- Bingo with Holly

### December

- A Local Legends art exhibition
- Christmas Market

### First Quarter 2026

- International Musician
- More local Art Exhibitions
- Repair Café
- Workshops
- Spoon Carving
- Tech Savvy Sessions
- More .....

## ABOUT US

Off The Rails Dunkeld is a voluntary, community-run Not-For-Profit Organisation, dedicated to facilitating arts, educational, creative, and cultural opportunities for locals and the wider community in the beautiful heritage Dunkeld Railway Station.

Community spaces play a crucial role in providing residents with a sense of belonging and identity. They offer a place for people to connect, socialise and engage in activities, fostering a sense of community spirit and shared purpose. This space is for everyone, so if you want to get involved let us know, or just come along!

## HIRE THE SPACE

Got an idea you'd like to run with to use this lovely space? Want to run a workshop, a class, share some skills, host a community event, or just hang with your club in a cool space?

The rental market is still completely affordable at OTR!

Birthday parties are awesome here too!

Feel free to contact us on [otrdunkeld@gmail.com](mailto:otrdunkeld@gmail.com) or call 0405 385 359

### **Become a Friend of Off the Rails Dunkeld Off the Rail Dunkeld Memberships!**

Membership is super important to us! It not only helps us keep the lights going and water running, but small community spaces like Off the Rails Dunkeld play a crucial role in fostering a sense of belonging, connection, and mutual support among established and new residents and families in small towns.

To renew your membership, or join Off the Rails Dunkeld, please consider making a \$10 donation by direct deposit or drop into the Dunkeld Bendigo Bank branch:

**Off the Rails Dunkeld**  
**BSB: 633 000**  
**Account Number: 155 271 299**

Thank You  
Off the Rails, Dunkeld



### **Meeting Dates for 2025**

Monday 6 October 2025  
Monday 1 December 2025 (includes the Annual General Meeting)



### **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. Membership for 2025 is \$40.00 per person. If you are a relative of ex-service men or women, you can also join the RSL. Affiliate

memberships are also available to members of emergency services (police, fire brigade, CFA, ambulance and/or SES). By becoming a member of the RSL, you will enjoy the privilege of having joined one of Australia's oldest and most revered organisations and supporting your local RSL Sub-Branch. An organisation committed to selfless service on behalf of the nation, which is dedicated to honouring those who have served our nation through military service, and that focuses on the care of veterans and their dependants. Application forms are available from the Secretary/Treasurer, Terrie Nicholson on 0487 416 971.

**Vale:** The Dunkeld RSL Sub-Branch extends its sincere sympathy to the Templeton family on the passing of Graeme "Grub" Templeton, who was a loyal and long-time member.

**National Peacekeepers' Day:** Australia has a proud history of peacekeeping. On 14 September each year, we observe National Peacekeepers' Day. It commemorates the anniversary of Australia's first involvement in peace operations. Four Australians became the world's first peacekeepers to deploy into the field, in the Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia) on 14 September 1947.

National Peacekeepers' Day honours all Australian peacekeepers, peacemakers, peacebuilders and peace enforcers. They have made extraordinary contributions to uphold international stability and security in challenging environments.

Since 1947, over 65,000 Australians have served in peace operations, and 17 have lost their lives. This day is a time for

us to recognise and remember their service and sacrifice. We also reflect on the dedication, unwavering commitment, compassion, resilience and professionalism of those who continue to serve.

### **Significance of the date**

At the end of World War II, conflict arose in the Netherlands East Indies. The Netherlands colonial government and its military forces on one hand, and the Indonesian republicans on the other. On 20 July 1947, the Netherlands launched Operatie Product. This strong offensive aimed to remove Republican troops from parts of Sumatra and East and West Java.

Many countries, including Australia, reacted negatively to the Netherlands' invasion of Republican territory. On 1 August, the United Nations (UN) called for a cease-fire between the Netherlands and the Republican forces to allow for mediation. At its first meeting on 1 September, the UN Consular Commission called on its 6 members, including Australia, to send military personnel to observe the cease-fire order. In response, Australia sent 4 unarmed military observers from each branch of defence, who arrived in Java on 13 September.

On 14 September, the Australians became the world's first peacekeepers to be deployed into the field. They served alongside personnel from Belgium, Britain, China, France and the United States. The mission helped Indonesia gain independence from the Netherlands. It's been described as the start of UN peacekeeping. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup><https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/commemoration/days/peacekeepers-day>

### **From the Lions Den**

**L** Liberty  
**I** Intelligence  
**O** Our  
**N** Nations  
**S** Safety



*If we worry too much about ourselves, we won't have time for others. Mother Teresa*

### **A nice Lions story:**

The new District Governor Susan Eyton when filling in the questions for her profile, for the business interests question said, "I don't have any now I resigned from part-time work so I could follow my heart and be a fulltime Lion."

### **Coming events involving the Lions:**

We will be holding our annual barbecue for the Dunkeld Consolidated School on Friday 19 September, something that our members look forward to.

In the warmer months we will have a celebration to mark 50 years of Lions in Dunkeld and District. We will be in touch with past members to help us celebrate.

### **One of those things you really had to know:**

Saint Peter of Tarentaise was born south of Lyons in about 1120. At the age of 21 years, he joined the Cistercian Monks in the monastery at Bonnevaux, following his elder brother and to be followed by his father and younger brother, while his mother and sister became Cistercian nuns. He died in 1174 and his feast day is 14 September.

### **The world according to Hinchey:**

The family that prays together, stays together.

If you want to know more about Lions, please call me on 5577 2460.

Peter Hinchey

## A World of Grass-trees

By Marion Colton

One of my first memories in this area was in the early 2000's during my time WWOOFing (Willing Workers on Organic Farms) at "Aquila" on the Victoria Valley Road. One day, during my free time, I explored a track in the forest on the opposite side of the road, where I was fascinated by all the wonderful Grass-trees, *Xanthorrhoea australis*, edging the track. They radiated light with their shimmering leaves, touching my heart strings.

I didn't know then that I would subsequently live in this area a decade or so later, nor that I would be photographing many different aspects of them. Least of all did I know that I would be often sitting on my little canvas stool, endeavouring to sketch them.

What fascinating plants Grass-trees are, and how complex, as I've been slowly learning over the past few years! Our local environment would be so different without them. They clothe rocky summits and frequent the heathlands, able to thrive in soils and conditions in which other species struggle, not only to thrive, but to share their light and beauty. Sometimes, approaching a ridge top, one is outlined against the sky, its upper, blue-green leaves stretching out in all directions like a huge fan, whilst its black trunk is completely hidden by a skirt of slowly bleaching leaves, recalling a ballerina's tutu.

During countless walks I've been intrigued by their many shapes. Sometimes leaves spray out from a single black trunk; sometimes the central trunk divides into two, or multiple, curving, black limbs, each surmounted with a shimmering head of leaves, with, or without, tall flower spikes, depending on the season or conditions.

Their tall flower spikes, as thick as any arm, are so interesting. They were used long ago by the Aborigines of this area to carry fire to their camp sites. They usually grow straight and tall from the centre of the radiating leaves. However, sometimes they are very individualistic, curving out and upwards like a huge letter "L" or "J", or curving downwards like an elephant's trunk.

Immature spikes are a yellowish-green, slowly transforming to golden-brown, reddish-brown, then deep brown. Sometimes young spikes emerge from a nest of eucalypt leaves caught in the centre of the Grass-tree.

It is pure joy to stand before a flowering spike, a metre or more above the trunk, clothed in hundreds of tiny, cream, fragrant flowers, all packed tightly together encircling the stem. Not only humans delight in these flowers. They are constantly visited by numerous butterflies, bees, large and small ants, beetles and a medley of other insects, all wallowing in the sweet nectar and pollen.

Not only do insects find nourishment from the flowers, but sometimes also from the leaves. On a few occasions I came across leaves which were glued together with a white substance, so strongly cemented that I couldn't pull them apart. I wondered about their significance. My curiosity was satisfied when a knowledgeable friend prized one open to reveal a minute insect which created this phenomenon. How amazing!

Grass-trees are astonishingly resilient. Tree limbs crash onto them, squashing the plant, yet the leaves emerge around the

fallen limb, determined to stay alive. Young plants are not always so fortunate and die, huddling in their shades of brown, curled like echidnas, in the junction of fallen branches. On one walk, I stopped, entranced, before a tiny, dull brown, globular base of a Grass-tree, about the size of a football. From its centre a tiny tuft of new leaves was emerging. It was determined to live.

When I first arrived in Dunkeld, Baingug/Piccaninny looked very different from today. It had been ravaged by fires and the charred remains of many species, including Grass-trees, littered the bare, stony slopes. It was a sombre, desolate scene. Yet I have witnessed its slow transformation, some seemingly dead Grass-trees springing back to life. Of those not so fortunate, I was able to appreciate the unique, natural sculptures of their forms, often series of differently textured circles, of many hues, sometimes their hollows filled with vibrant green mosses or tiny fungi. The 'dead' Grass-trees offered them life, whilst they, in turn, helped to disintegrate the remains of the Grass-tree, returning it to the soil for future life.

On the earth beneath were often discarded sections, sometimes whole, sometimes fragmented, enabling me to learn about their many shapes, textures and constitutions. It was a revelation: interiors, smooth and pale, pocked with tiny holes; interiors, dense with beige, thread-like fibres; circles formed by the glossy, reddish bases remaining from leaves; and sometimes mounds of completely disintegrated glossy, red-brown to dark-brown, "J" shaped leaf bases, slowly forming a rich humus for future life.

Over the last couple of years I have tried to capture many of these stages in paintings in a small book soon to be released, called, "Grass-trees and Poetry". (The poetry is not related to Grass-trees but depicts different aspects of Nature.) Trying to draw and paint Grass-trees and honour their habitats has been a huge learning and increased my appreciation vastly. I'd like to share the book with you. There will be a limited number of copies, 30 only, so, please let me know by text only, 0447 808 277, if you would like one. Roz Greenwood of "Old and Rare Books" is happy for them to be collected from her shop ... cash only ... probably \$75.00 each. The proceeds will go to "Trees For Life". Thank you.



### COUNCIL BACKS LOCAL PROJECTS THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

Southern Grampians Shire Council endorsed more than \$149,000 in funding to support local projects, events, and initiatives through its Community Partnership Grants program at last night's Council meeting.

Community Partnership Grants are designed to support new or expanding initiatives, projects or events that contribute to the development of vibrant, inclusive, and resilient communities across the Shire.

These grants are one of the most significant and highly utilised funding streams that Council uses to provide grants to the public to fund projects that enhance community life and improve the day-to-day lives of residents.

A total of 41 projects will benefit from this round of grants, with five larger projects receiving funding of over \$3,000 (totalling \$59,972.30) and 36 smaller projects supported with grants of \$3,000 and under (totalling \$89,672.21). Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said the program gives local people the tools and support to bring their ideas to life.

"These grants are a reflection of the creativity and commitment of our residents. This year we've seen a broad range of successful applicants that show the diversity of interests that exist right here in our Shire.

"We've had big ticket items like bowling green lighting upgrades for the Grangeburn Bowling Club or a big financial boost for the wonderful Cavendish Redgum Festival. We've also had a huge turnout for modest grants like the Balmoral Easter Market, the Coleraine Community Christmas Carnival, blinds for the Glenthompson War Memorial Hall and a new bandsaw for the Hamilton Woodturners Club.

"Even that short list shows the variety and spirit of the people in this region. People who give up their time and do the paperwork for the clubs and societies they love. We have a huge history of volunteerism in this Shire, and it's absolutely marvellous that Council can give back and help people to follow their passions and enjoy their lives."

The Community Partnership Grants program brings Council's various grant streams under one umbrella, making it easier for community groups, organisations, and individuals to access funding for projects that strengthen the Southern Grampians across the social, tourism, cultural, and environmental spectrum.

Applications are assessed against clear criteria, ensuring projects align with Council's strategic priorities, including the Council Plan 2021-2025 and the Health and Wellbeing Plan. The latest round of Community Partnership Grants reaffirms Council's commitment to working alongside the community to ensure the Southern Grampians continues to thrive.

These grants are made available twice per year. For more information on the program, please visit Council's [website](#) or speak to the Grants Officer at 5573 0444.

### **SPRING SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM BURSTING WITH FREE AND LOW-COST FUN**

Spring has arrived and so have the school holidays! Southern Grampians Shire Council has a jam-packed Spring School Holiday Program, filled with free and low-cost activities to keep young people of all ages entertained.

Running from Monday 20 September, this spring program offers a range of activities spread across the two weeks, with something for everyone from curious little creators to teenagers wanting to gain valuable life skills.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said the program was designed for young people of all ages.

"We know school holidays can be a busy time for families, and we're excited to provide such a wide range of activities that are not only fun, but also affordable," said Cr Heslin. A few of the Program Highlights include:

#### **For teens and young adults (15-25 years):**

*The Tasty Trio with Fushy* offers a hands-on cooking class where participants will learn valuable skills in the kitchen and whip up a three-course meal. Suitable for 15-25 years.

*Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) Course* is ideal for those aged 18-25 looking to gain an important qualification.

*Basic Car Maintenance Workshop* at the Hamilton District Skills Centre. Suitable for 18-25 years.

#### **For younger children:**

The *Creator Lab* is back open Wednesdays from 9:30am-12:00pm, a hands-on session, perfect for the young curious minds who love to explore.

*Toonworld Clay Model Making Workshop* will provide a fun and imaginative session for budding artists.

#### **For the whole family:**

*TAYLOR is A Tribute* to the Eras of Taylor Swift - a celebration for Swifties of all ages!

"This is just a snapshot of what's on offer across the fortnight. The program has been carefully designed to engage the whole family while also equipping our young people - particularly those preparing to take their next steps after school - with valuable life skills," Cr Heslin concluded.

The holiday program is open to young people aged up to 25 years. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a supervising adult for the duration of all activities on offer.

Age limits apply to specific activities and must be observed. Council is required by the Department of Education to comply with child safety standards for all participants under 18.

For activities requiring bookings, there is a limit of two tickets per booking to ensure fair access for all.

All program details and bookings can be made via Council's website, where parents can enjoy the convenience of viewing the entire program in one place.

With places filling quickly, families are encouraged to book early to avoid missing out. Please visit School Holiday Programs Southern Grampians Shire Council to view the program and book your places.

### **COUNCIL INVESTS IN LOCAL BUSINESS' THROUGH BUSINESS FACADE PROGRAM**

Southern Grampians Shire Council has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting local business and revitalising township centres, with \$58,978 approved for the 2025 Business Facade Improvement Program (BFIP) at Wednesday night's Ordinary Council Meeting.

Launched as a pilot in 2024, the program has attracted strong interest from local businesses.

The program provides grants of up to \$3,000 per applicant on a dollar-for-dollar basis, encouraging investment in works such as painting, cleaning, signage, lighting upgrades, repairs, and entrance improvements that enhance accessibility.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said the program was already making a visible difference in towns across the region.

"When our businesses thrive, our communities thrive. This program is about more than just fresh paint or new signs - it's about building pride in our townships, improving accessibility for all, and helping our local businesses put their best foot forward," Cr Heslin said.

"We are committed to supporting business owners who are investing in the future of our region."

The BFIP aligns closely with Council's Small Towns Strategy and complements major projects such as the Hamilton CBD renewal and streetscape upgrades.

"Together, these initiatives are tackling the ageing condition of commercial buildings while creating vibrant, welcoming spaces that attract visitors, support local trade, and strengthen community identity," Cr Heslin added.

To ensure businesses right across the Shire had access to support, Council promoted the program widely by visiting all

townships where on-site advice was provided by Council's Business Facilitation Officer.

Between 16 June and 31 July, 24 eligible applications were received from Balmoral, Coleraine, and Hamilton, representing a total project investment of more than \$151,000.

An independent assessment panel evaluated all applications using best practice grant principles, ensuring a fair, transparent and competitive process.

"Council will further assist by waiving planning fees for successful applicants to further ease costs, while continuing to provide tailored guidance for works within heritage precincts.

"This program shows what's possible when Council and business work together. By investing in facades, we're not just upgrading buildings - we're strengthening the heart of our towns, supporting local jobs, and creating spaces that people are proud to live, work and shop in," Cr Heslin concluded.

For more information on Council's business support initiatives, visit please visit [Business Support Southern Grampians Shire Council](#)

### ARCHITECT APPOINTED FOR NEW HAMILTON GALLERY DETAILED DESIGNS

Southern Grampians Shire Council has taken another major step toward delivering the New Hamilton Gallery, one of the most ambitious projects in the history of the Shire, endorsing the progression of the project to the detailed design stage.

Following the successful completion of the concept designs, Council has awarded the detailed design contract to internationally renowned architectural firm Angelo Candalepas and Associates (ACA).

ACA was awarded the concept design contract in September 2024 through a competitive tender process which included 28 submissions from some of Australia's most highly regarded architects.

ACA has worked closely with the Southern Grampians community over a four-month period through a co-design process and will now bring those ideas and aspirations to life through detailed design stage.

A closed tender process was undertaken for the detailed design stage, with only one tenderer evaluated. This was due to several factors, including the reluctance of other architectural firms to proceed with detailed design if they were not involved in the concept phase. Engaging a new architect at this stage often leads to reworking the concept design, resulting in increased costs and potential delays.

An independent Probity Consultant was engaged to oversee the process and ensure it met the highest standards of fairness, accountability, and transparency and to assure that the project is being completed with the maximum benefit to our community. The state government agency, Office of Victoria Government Architects, who are the largest procurer of architectural services across the state, contributed their time and expertise with two senior principal advisors sitting on the evaluation panel.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin praised the decision to move forward with ACA, calling it the best possible outcome for the project.

"ACA have already demonstrated their ability to combine world-class design with a deep respect for our community's vision," Mr Heslin said.

"This next stage ensures we keep that momentum going, whilst positioning us strongly to secure further investment from our government and philanthropic partners. ACA are a world-renowned firm, designing buildings of national and international cultural significance such as the new National Gallery of Victoria in Melbourne. I am very pleased that we have been able to retain such a celebrated and decorated architect."

The contract for Stage 2: Detailed Design, is valued at \$3.35 million, with the vast majority of funding coming from sources external to Council. This includes \$2.9 million from the Federal Government's Regional Partnerships and Precincts Program grant and a generous philanthropic donation of \$400,000.

A saving of \$382,150 was made from the concept design stage and a carry forward of \$55,451 will be contributed by Council to the detailed design stage. Council has a capped commitment of up to \$10 million towards construction, conditional on additional funding support from State and Federal governments and philanthropic partners. The total construction cost of the gallery is currently estimated at \$48.9 million.

Council also acknowledged the recent bequest from the late Venise Alstergren, a celebrated artist and ardent supporter of Hamilton Gallery. Her gift of funding and artworks to the gallery is both a tribute to her love of the arts and a reminder of the philanthropic support building around the project.

Independent reviews confirmed that the current gallery building would not be suitable to deliver the conditions needed to house and display major artworks, with structural, environmental, and spatial limitations making a purpose-built facility the only viable option.

"This is about building a gallery that can stand proudly on the national stage, attract major exhibitions, and showcase our outstanding collection for generations to come. Artwork from the Hamilton Gallery collection has been exhibited in every major Gallery across Australia including recently the National Gallery of Australia and Hobart's MONA. Other galleries and other communities are benefitting from our collection, and I'd like to see our community reap the rewards from the collection our Gallery has built," Cr Heslin concluded.

The New Hamilton Gallery is one of the most exciting and significant cultural projects ever undertaken in the Southern Grampians and is expected to deliver long-term economic, social and cultural benefits for the region. To view the concept plans, please visit the [website](#). To stay up to date with all things Council, consider signing up to our SGSC online [newsletter](#).

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Please send items for inclusion in the Community Newsletter to Mrs Gaylene Raymond - [gfraymond@bigpond.com](mailto:gfraymond@bigpond.com)

Issue Number	Cut-off Date	Publication Date
SEPTEMBER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS		
15	Fri 3 October	Wed 8 October
16	Fri 17 October	Wed 22 October
17	Fri 31 October	Wed 5 November
18	Fri 14 November <b>LAST ISSUE FOR 2025</b>	Wed 19 November



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**September 2025**

# Council School Holiday Program

## Week One

**All Holidays** **Hamilton Art Gallery**  
Seeking Victor Activity Book - free for all ages.  
Drop in to the Hamilton Art Gallery.

**All Holidays** **Hamilton Visitor Information Centre**  
Bingo - free for all ages.  
Drop in to the Hamilton or Dunkeld Visitor Information Centre.

**SEPT 23** **SGSC Youth**  
RSA - @ Hamilton District Skills Centre - 9:30am-4:00pm - 18-25 years old - free - bookings required.

**SEPT 23** **Hamilton Library**  
Paint and decorate ceramic bird feeders - two session - 11:00am-12:00pm / 2:00pm-3:00pm - lower and upper Primary school - free - bookings required.

**SEPT 23** **HILAC**  
Nutrition and an introduction to the gym - 2:30pm-5:30pm - secondary school - free - bookings required.

**SEPT 24** **Hamilton Performing Arts Centre**  
Calling all Swifties - make a 'sweet escape' to the world of Taylor Swift with TAYLOR: A Tribute to the Eras of Taylor Swift - 7:00pm - bookings required.

**SEPT 24** **Hamilton Library**  
Movie/Craft - "Kangaroo" - 6-12 years old - 10:45am talk with Hamilton Wildlife Shelter followed by craft and movie at 11:15am - bookings required.

**SEPT 24** **Hamilton Art Gallery**  
Creator Lab - 9:30am-12:00pm - free - drop in to 84 Brown Street Hamilton - a limit of 15 people at one time.

**SEPT 25** **SGSC Youth**  
Daily Grind Intro to Coffee @2 doors - 3:00pm-5:00pm - free - 15-25 years old - bookings required.

**SEPT 25** **Hamilton Library**  
Toon World Education - Model making workshop - 10:15am-11:15am - all primary - free - bookings required.

**SEPT 25** **Hamilton Art Gallery**  
Advanced Drawing Workshop - 1:00pm-3:00pm - 13-18 years old - bookings required.

**SEPT 25** **Hamilton Art Gallery**  
Gelli Printmaking - 11:00am @ The Creator Lab 84 Brown Street - 5-12 years old - bookings required.

For more information on all our programs and to book please visit:  
[www.sthgramplains.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/School-Holiday-Programs](http://www.sthgramplains.vic.gov.au/Our-Services/School-Holiday-Programs)



**September 2025**

# Council School Holiday Program

## Week Two

**All Holidays** **Hamilton Art Gallery**  
Seeking Victor Activity Book - free for all ages.  
Drop in to the Hamilton Art Gallery.

**All Holidays** **Hamilton Visitor Information Centre**  
Bingo - free for all ages.  
Drop in to the Hamilton or Dunkeld Visitor Information Centre.

**SEPT 29** **SGSC Youth**  
The Tasty Trio with Fushy - 10:00am-1:00pm - 15-25 years old - free - 6 places - bookings required.

**SEPT 30** **SGSC Youth**  
Basic Car Maintenance - @ Hamilton District Skills Centre - 9:30am-12:30pm - 17-25 years old - free - bookings required.

**SEPT 30** **Hamilton Library**  
The Makers Nook - Crafting nook - 2:00pm-4:00pm all ages - bracelet making and badge making and more - free - bookings required.

**OCT 1** **SGSC Youth**  
Poetry Workshop - @ the PAC - 10:30am-12:00pm - free - 15-25 years old - bookings required.

**OCT 1** **Hamilton Art Gallery**  
Creator Lab - 9:30am-12:00pm - free - drop in to 84 Brown Street Hamilton - a limit of 15 people at one time.

**OCT 2** **Hamilton Art Gallery**  
Digital Drawing Workshop - 1:00pm-3:00pm @ The Creator Lab 84 Brown St - 15-17 years old - bookings required.

**OCT 2** **Hamilton Library**  
Bee Bot Challenge - Coding workshop and challenge maps - 10:30am-11:15am/ 11:30am-12:30pm - 5-10 years old - free - bookings required.

**OCT 3** **Hamilton Cinema**  
Free Movie Screening - 1:50pm - rated PG - free - all ages - bookings required.

**OCT 3** **Hamilton Art Gallery**  
Gelli Printmaking - 11:00am @ The Creator Lab 84 Brown Street - 5-12 years old - bookings required.

**OCT 3** **SGSC Youth**  
Plant it Forward @ Lakes Edge Adventure Playground - 10:00am-12:00pm - all ages - free - drop in.

For more information on all our programs and to book please visit:  
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Funds raised will support our ongoing improvements in the yard and play space, enhancing the school's aesthetics through the landscaping of our enhanced Kitchen Garden, scheduled for 2026. These improvements will complement the installation of our new sports courts and, together, we hope they will culminate in a major community celebration - an extravaganza to showcase the fantastic assets of our school, and to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed so generously to our improvement campaigns.



**BRICK: \$55.00**

Your donation of \$55 entitles you to have your name engraved into a brick as a lasting record of your valued support. The brick will be permanently installed at Dunkeld Consolidated School proudly showing your donation.

Size: 230 x 76 x 110mm

## ENGRAVING DETAILS

Please print clearly in block letters. Each box represents a character (letter, number, punctuation mark or space).  
Max 16 characters per line, three lines per brick. (No hand drawings.)

NAME BRICK	LINE 1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	LINE 2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	LINE 3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Simply fill out this form and return along with full payment by Direct Deposit BSB: 633 000  
Account: 1430 91510, cash, cheque or money order to Dunkeld Consolidated School.

**Dunkeld Consolidated School,  
93 Victoria Valley Road, Dunkeld  
VIC, 3294**

Please call Terrie Nicholson in the School Admin Office on 5577 2384 if you have any queries.

Company/Contact Name

Street

City

State

Post Code

Phone

Email

Our Donation

( )

**ORDERS CLOSE ON MONDAY 6 OCTOBER 2025**

Please copy and pass on to any friends and family.

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

**SIGNATURE**  
= ENGRAVING =

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