

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

Anonymous	\$50
Anonymous	\$10

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.

Henty Region Fun Day for Farmers Sunday 26 October at the Hamilton Golf Club

This day is being provided to farmers in our Region to spend a day off the farm, enjoying lunch, a chat, hopefully some laughter and fun. Henty will also launch its Financial Relief initiative to help farming families.

Thank you to those people who have already put the news around their community.

CHURCH SERVICES

SAINT PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Priest - Father Pat Mugavin - 5571 1161

Website: www.westernborder.church

4th Week	Sunday	October 26	9.00am	Assembly of Word and Communion
1st Week	Sunday	November 2	8.30am	Mass
2nd Week	Sunday	November 9		No Mass or service (Mass in Glenthompson)
3rd Week	Sunday	November 16	8.30am	Mass
4th Week	Sunday	November 23	9.00am	Assembly of Word and Communion
5th Week	Sunday	November 30		No Mass or service

ANGLICAN/UNITING CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 26 October	UNITING CHURCH at STERLING PLACE 5.00pm HC	Janet Shalders
Sunday 2 November	ANGLICAN at ST MARY'S 5.00pm	Father David Oulton
Sunday 9 November	UNITING CHURCH at STERLING PLACE 5.00pm HC	Rev Peter Cook
Sunday 16 November	ANGLICAN at ST MARY'S 5.00pm	Father David Oulton
Sunday 23 November	UNITING CHURCH at STERLING PLACE 5.00pm	Jim Hewett

Enquiries to Heather Macgugan – phone: 0400 952 716

All Welcome

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, WARRAYURE

8189 Glenelg Highway

CHURCH TIMES

Sunday 26 October	10.30am
Sunday 2 November	10.30am
Sunday 9 November	9.00am

WHAT'S ON OCTOBER / NOVEMBER – PLEASE CHECK THROUGH THE NEWSLETTER AND USE BELOW TO FILL THE DATES THAT ARE RELEVANT TO YOU						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
19	20	21	22 Issue 16 publication	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Issue 17 cut-off	1
2	3	4	5 Issue 17 publication	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Issue 18 cut-off	15
16	17	18	19 Issue 18 publication	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 Issue 19 cut-off	29

DUNKELD PUBLIC LANDS

Can you give some time to help?

The Fire Season is approaching in a few weeks so we would like to have 'Our Annual Clean Up Day' along Salt Creek, with grass cutting and removal of fallen timber.

There is a fair bit to do, so it would be great to have some volunteers to help this SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER 9.00am for a few hours.

If you have some time to contribute it would be very much appreciated.

Whipper snippers and rakes would be very handy. If we don't get it all done along Salt Creek, we may try again on Sunday 9 November.

We have finally got a start on the toilet project at the arboretum, with Council approval received last week. Thanks to Alan Jones and Andrew Peters for all the work they have done to get this project started.

Regards
Frank Raymond



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

MUSEUM DUTY ROSTER

Sun 26 Oct 2025	Simon Armytage, Jenny Crawford, Pauline Crawford
Sun 2 Nov 2025	Joyce Gordon and Makayla McCabe

THANK YOU: To all our wonderful volunteers who contributed to the success of the Open Day at the Sawmill. Once again, our loyal workers put in a lot of work, but it was well worth the effort as the Museum has benefited with a healthy profit from the event, and a big thank you to the Sawmill group for their wonderful support to not only help with fundraising, but to showcase the Sawmill to our Museum as an added attraction for visitors to the Museum. To all the volunteers who participated to make this day such a success thank you.

Thank you also to Hamilton Produce for their donation of a toolbox kit for the raffle. *(Hamilton Produce have been fantastic supporters of the Museum and have donated many valuable items for our previous raffles to raise funds for the Museum.)*

The toolbox raffle was won by Donald McArthur of "Longreach", Mirranatwa, and the competition

to guess the weight of a huge log, which drew a lot of interest was won by Peter Nelson.

This event was generously sponsored by the Southern Grampians Shire Council.

UPCOMING VISIT: The Pakenham East Probus Club, a group of about 40 people are coming to visit the Museum on Friday 7 November. They are also visiting the Light Horse Museum and the Sawmill on that day.

RESEARCH: Recently we have brought enquiries from the Kennedy family seeking photos of the fellmongery at Dunkeld, the Woodburn family, and an enquiry about W.Y. Woodburn, and we have received a very complimentary thank you note from Allan McLeod and his sister Wendy who were very excited about information we dug up about their family. So, a great big thanks to our Research Officer, Heather Funk, who is brilliant at delving into information about family history.

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.

Liz showed a few of the images of the fires in presentation folders at the sawmill event and many people spoke about the images and gave information and stories that will be included in the book.

Time is running out for your stories to be included so get back to us soon, interviews are scheduled to finish at the end of October.

Contact

Liz Marcus 0402 051 548

lizmcarthurmarcus@gmail.com

Joyce Gordon 0428 749 236

bullawynpastoral@bigpond.com

Deadline 31 October 2025

300 Words

You need to hear this

One day a friend kindly passed on his gratitude. I quickly fobbed it off and replied that my actions were just what I do. It is who I am.

Swiftly he replied, 'Yes, but you need to hear what I am saying.' He was congenially firm and it made me pause and take notice.

His polite insistence for me to pay close attention to his thankfulness was ringing in my ears long after I put the phone down.

Now there are two bits in his one sentence. First, there is my need. There is a part in all of us that has a need to accept recognition and gratitude when it is offered. To own it and accept it as an integral part of ourselves. We should not simply brush off heartfelt and authentic comments from others. It is essential for us to understand that we actually do some good stuff sometimes. Sure not 100% of the time, but all of us want to leave others and the world a better place. And while we might fail sometimes, all of us strive to achieve a high standard and set the bar accordingly.

The other bit to my friend's comment is the word *listen*. I wonder how many times I have been spoken to and not really listened. How many times has someone written to me and I have passed it off as old so and so just being polite and minding their manners? Most of the time people really do mean what they say and if they didn't mean it, they wouldn't say it. It is especially powerful I think when they have actually made the time and expended the energy to write a letter. I need to Listen with a capital L, not just to show the appropriate respect to the speaker, but for mine.

The openings and closings we call 'funerals'

Even after 40 years, I still regard it as a poignant privilege to attend a funeral. Perhaps more so now that my own funeral draws ever closer. Frequently I'm the person up the front trying to make sure that it all goes smoothly, but at the same time not drawing attention to myself. It's not about me. It has never been about me.

Someone popped up once in the back row of the funeral who I didn't know. We got chatting at the wake over a couple of frothies and some sausage rolls.

In his own words he had come for 'closure' and what lay behind his comment I take to my own funeral and grave.

But he was right. Funerals are about closure. What is past and gone must now be commended to the past and gone. We may not forget about the person but we can never get them back again no matter how much we might ache to.

Funerals are also about opening. We are invited to a different, new, wonky, rocky pathway. One which, if we are honest, we would rather not have to stumble along. But we have no choice and pained and grumpy as we might be, this long and tortuous path is the one we must tread.

Some of us are crazy enough to believe that the one we think we have left behind, often walks with us. Encourages us, maybe even weeps with us and always cheers us on. For them too something has changed. There is closure on their past life but what if in dying to this world they live refreshed, liberated and renewed in another dimension where the distance between them and us is disconcertingly thin. Closure and opening coexist in the same place and at the same time.

My misspent college days

My college years were heady days of lectures, wine, song and prayer. We wrote essays, or tried and we used to have these things called tutorials. A hapless student would be asked to prepare a paper and the others would savagely tear it to pieces, arguing the toss and pointing out the flaws in the logic. I think today we would call it a healthy, robust debate but at the time it seemed cruel to those who were of a more sensitive nature. We spent a lot of time trying to figure out the theological niceties of the divine and proving that somehow, we were the gatekeepers and guardians of the impeccable truth.

It was not until I heard a line from a colleague some 40+ years later that I began to see things from a much healthier perspective. My friend said something like this.

'What if, it is *not* about what we think about God on any given day, but rather it *is* about what God thinks of us each and every day. Maybe if I had heard those words, grasped them, clutched them to myself and integrated them into my soul, the last few decades may not have been so tortuous.

For the truth that I have come to understand, nearly too late is that I can argue the toss and ponder and panic about the unfathomable God, but my energy would be more fruitfully expended in just allowing the delicious reality that the Master adores me and wants to continue to engage with me, even when and especially, when I have been at my most ghastly and shabbiest.

It is *not* about what I think of God on any given day. It IS about what God thinks about me (and you) each and every day.

Father David Oulton
Phone: 0435 867 040
Email: drouton72@gmail.com



Get your Bingo on in Dunkeld!

Saturday 22 November 2025

6.00pm – 8.00pm

Enjoy a night out in Dunkeld with great company, a fun host and lots of awesome prizes.

This fundraiser will support some exciting local activities at Off the Rails in the new year.

- \$25 per head or \$100 for a table of 6.
- 1 bingo card per person per game
- Additional cards are \$5 each.
- BYO drinks, snacks available for purchase

Tickets available at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/bingo-with-holly-tickets>

Or through our Facebook page.



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 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



OFF THE RAILS DUNKELD

COMING UP

Call for Dunkeld Christmas Market Stall Holders

Saturday 13 December 2025

10.00am – 3.00pm

Contact otrdunkeld@gmail.com or
0405 385 359.



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
633 000
Account 155 271 299

Thank you.
Off The Rails, Dunkeld Committee

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:

We recently had our annual visit by the District Governor at Cavendish where we combined with the Penshurst and Cavendish clubs to brought up to date in what is happening in the wide world of Lions.

One of those things you really had to know:

On the 15 October the world celebrated the International Day of Rural Women.

I celebrated the day by thinking about what the ladies had done for our country. One I thought about was Esther Ballantyne (1833 – 1916) who arrived in Geelong from Plymouth on 14 May 1849 with her family (Haines). She met William Ballantyne when he and the five Henty brothers drove sheep from Portland to Geelong. They married in 1851 and set off by bullock wagon with their sheep to take up land. They pushed on to a part now known as Tocumwal, New South Wales where they struck camp to start the building of their sheep station.

As the dawn came up on the first day at their camp site, Esther saw a crow on the branch of a nearby tree. She also saw behind every tree a pair of eyes looking at her. Surrounded and outnumbered she said to her husband, "Ballantyne, hand me the gun." She then shot the crow and as it fell to the ground the watching natives laughed, waved and left. Message delivered, message received, message understood.

The Ballantynes made friends with the local native population and Esther learnt their language. She was to become doctor and nurse and friend to them. She did not see another white woman for three years.

Over time the Ballantynes purchased land near Benalla and Esther went there by coach from New South Wales. The driver was suddenly taken ill and it was "everyone out". Esther had other ideas and took the reins and drove the coach to the destination.

The world according to Hinchey:

Thanks Esther, people like you have made our country great.

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

Peter Hinchey



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.

Remembrance Day Service 2025: The Dunkeld RSL Sub-Branch will hold a Remembrance Day Service commencing at 10.50am sharp on Tuesday 11 November at the Cenotaph in the Dunkeld Memorial Park. The general community is invited to attend and lay a poppy or a wreath during the service. Light refreshments will be served in the Supper Room at the Dunkeld Community Centre, upon completion of the service. Together We Remember.



Buy a virtual poppy (digital): For the first time, you can honour our veteran community by purchasing a personalised virtual poppy. Share it with your family and friends to help us support those who have given so much to Australia. Show your support by visiting www.poppyappeal.com.au

At 11.00 am on 11 November 1918, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous war. The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month attained a special significance in the post-war years.

Remembrance Day is a day for people to acknowledge the service personnel who have died while serving, including in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. This Remembrance Day, the RSL invites the community to attend a commemorative service at their local RSL Sub Branch to remember those who have given their lives in service to their country. The community is encouraged to wear a red poppy on Remembrance Day in memory of those who served and sacrificed for our nation.¹

¹<https://www.rslaustalia.org/remembrance-day>

A Rocky Outcrop

By Marion Colton

Imagine a small rocky outcrop on Baingug/Piccaninny, facing Mud-Dadjug/Mount Abrupt through the gum trees. It is not very high, maybe two or three times my height. It curves extensively around the spur diminishing in size at each end. Its strata are very bulbous, with mounds of rock erupting in different directions, all curved, creating hollows and crevices and a little waterway between them for rain to meander down the sloping hill. Sometimes the smoothly curved edges protrude like giant lips over little ledges, or lean over bumps creating shady patches over depressions. Sometimes the

bottom layers project like giant, curved tongues enjoying the taste of Mother Earth.

The colours of the rock surface surrounding the vegetation are mingled; pale greys merging into darker greys, the grey occasionally broken with an ochre-coloured rock lying on the surface. Where water is trickly down after yesterday's rains, the rocks appear black beneath twinkling droplets of filtered sunlight.

I don't know which is the most difficult, to draw rocks or to try and describe their wonders and complexities in words? Whatever, I hope you gain a rough picture of the outcrop I was eager to investigate.

I had previously noticed the vegetation on the rocks and was curious to see what grew there. How delighted I was to discover many little plant communities growing in different places! Oyster Bay Pines, *Callitris rhomboidea*, favoured the topmost crest, emerging from fissures in the rocks, whilst a Grampians Gum, *Eucalyptus alpina*, leaned over the eastern edge.

One tongue of rock sloped down towards the western end where it merged with the earth. On its slightly hollowed surface, a few centimetres of soil were in the making. From it, catching the light on their sticky, golden-green leaves, grew a colony of pink-flowering Pale Sundews, *Drosera peltata*. Amongst them, at their feet, and also catching the light, were the red, basal rosettes of the Scented Sundew, *Drosera whittakeri*. A few had dribbled down to the end of the slope, where they enjoyed more shade and were greener. Near the Pale Sundews was a family of a species, the name of which is unknown to me, although I see it often. Its stems were approximately ten centimetres tall, adorned with mid-green leaves, rounded with serrated edges. Orange tips peeped out at the top of their foliage. Two squat Guinea-flower species were also on this slope: one, *Hibbertia fasciculata*, was flowering; the other, with tiny, linear leaves, was in bud, maybe a small version of the Erect Guinea-flower, *Hibbertia riparia*.

Below this slope was a narrow ledge, over which a small Slaty She-oak, *Casuarina muelleriana*, projects its branches. Here too, was a fair amount of newly created soil in which, spaced out, minute green stars of new mosses were gradually emerging. Here too, tucked into the crevice, were tiny Rock Ferns, *Cheilanthes tenuifolia*. A few Pale Sundews accompanied them and nearby I recognised the basal leaves of the lovely Magenta Storks-bill, *Pelargonium rodneyanum*, not yet in flower. But one species was in flower and was abundant all over the outcrop. This was the pretty Blue Squill, also known as Blue star, *Chamaescilla corymbosa*, displaying its sky-blue petals and orange stamens above its slender, grass-like leaves.

It would take too much time to describe every little pocket of plants, so I'll endeavour to give a rough outline of the many different species growing in this habitat.

Walking roughly eastwards, the outcrop sank into a rough, bulbous semi-circle, through the centre of which a shallow gully was forming between the mounds of rocks. It was through this that the water seeped to the earth below. To its left, on an extensive flattish area, were masses of Rock Ferns, different Grass species and what looked like a clump of the chewed stems of a Nodding Blue Lily, *Styandra glauca*. A mixture of flowing Yellow Stars, *Hypoxis glabella*, and Blue Stars, which seem to love perching amongst the rocks, also grew here. Many fresh basal leaves of Magenta Storks-bill were also visible. I must visit later then they are flowering. There were even a couple of Waxlip Orchids, *Glossodia major*, displaying their magnificent blooms, whilst

the delicate Pink Fingers, *Caladenia carnea*, dotted the edges of the curved rock.

I was amazed to see a couple of new seedlings of the Variable Prickly Grevillea, *Grevillea aquifolium*, emerging from some dark green, velvety mosses. Even more amazing were the number of small Hop bush saplings of diverse sizes that frequented the dips, crevices and flatter areas of the outcrop. Their wedge-shaped leaves, hence, their common name, were shining from the sun on their glossy surfaces. From their branches hung tiny bunches of minute, green flowers. Yes, they are the Wedge-leaf Hop bush, *Dodonaea cuneata*. I also spied a tiny seedling of *Callitris rhomboidea* and, further back, the massed flowers of the Common Beard-heath, *Leucopogon virgatus*.

It all resembled a little tree and plant nursery in a totally natural environment, a perfect delight to experience and learn from.

FOOTNOTE: My book, "Grass-trees and Poetry" is now available and can be collected from Roz Greenwood's "Old and Rare Books" during weekends. It costs \$75.00 and the proceeds go to "Trees For Life". Enjoy!



SCHOOL NEWS

Term 4 ... and students have hit the ground running by already participating in several exciting events and activities:

- Year 5/6 Cave Hill Creek Camp from 6 to 8 October.
- Greater Western Region Track and Field Championships in Ballarat on 10 October (Grace Macgugan, Audrey Black, Sybil Patterson, Xavier Macgugan, Tom Roache, Ruby Mibus, Athena Manolas).
- MARC Library Readers Cup Challenge at Branhholme Wallacedale Community School on 14 October.
- Kinder to Prep Transition Program on 15 October.
- School Assembly on 17 October.
- Regional Hoop Time Junior (Year 3/4) basketball competition at HILAC on 20 October.

During the fourth week of students will also be involved in:

- Regional Hoop Time Senior (Year 5/6) basketball competition at HILAC on 27 October.
- Year 5/6 Cricket Blast competition at Pedrina Park, Hamilton on 30 October.

SAVE THE DATE – DON'T BE LATE: Thursday 6 November 2025 – Whole School Concert commencing at 6.30pm at the Dunkeld Community Centre – gold coin entry. *Step into a Wonderland with Alice in Dunkeld!*



African Action South Sudan

Jim Hewett is helping to send a shipping container full of medical equipment and Primary School educational materials to Obbo, a remote community of South Sudan. African Action needs to raise a further \$10,000 to finance this undertaking.

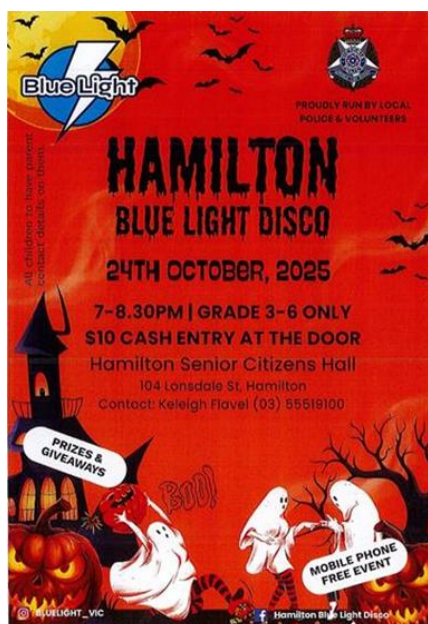
We are also looking for donations of medical supplies, books and equipment for the Primary School and new hospital facilities due to be opened soon.

If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Jim on 0427 001 470 – Bus Depot, Dunkeld. Financial contributions are tax deductible.

Thank you.

From Jim for African Action International Inc.

www.africanactionsouthsudan.org



MEDIA RELEASE

SOUTHERN GRAMPPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL



NEW FOUR-YEAR COUNCIL PLAN ENDORSED

A clear direction for the next four years has been set with the endorsement of the new Council Plan 2025-2029 at last night's Southern Grampians Shire Council meeting. The Plan, which was developed through extensive engagement with the community, outlines a vision for a thriving, connected and sustainable Shire. It focuses on five key priority areas, those being Social and Community; Business, Economy and Tourism; Community Infrastructure and Assets; Environment; and Leadership and Governance. Each of these areas has been given their own clear strategies and measures to guide progress.

The Plan includes the Disability Action Plan and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan. In previous years the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan was a separate document but has been absorbed into the wider Council Plan.

The final Plan was informed by community feedback received through public exhibition, with more than a dozen key changes made in response to local input. Development of the Plan commenced with community meetings in each of our small towns as well as the opening of a shop front in Gray Street, Hamilton. Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin welcomed the plan, calling it a reflection of what the community values most.

"We embarked on a series of engagement initiatives to try to capture as accurate a snapshot of our residents as possible. Adding to our usual methods of engagement, this time we rented out a shopfront in Hamilton. Councillors and Council staff met face to face with anyone and everyone who wished to discuss the future of our Shire.

"Using a system of dots, where residents were invited to mark their biggest priorities, we were able to gather extraordinarily useful feedback from exactly the people this plan hopes to represent. We had a terrific turnout and some really useful conversations.

"This Plan is shaped directly by the ideas, opinions and voices of our residents. It sets out how we'll work together to strengthen local business, support vibrant towns, protect our environment, and ensure our community remains an inclusive and resilient place to live."

Some of the changes that came directly from community feedback include stronger recognition of our built heritage, a commitment to emergency preparedness and environmental protection, clearer targets for housing and tree canopy expansion, and new strategies to attract events, boost tourism and support young people transitioning into employment.

The Plan also emphasises transparent governance, more robust service delivery, and enhanced community engagement to ensure residents remain at the heart of Council's decision-making.

To support the Plan, Council develops an Annual Plan each year, detailing key projects and initiatives that deliver on its long-term objectives. Progress will be

measured and reported annually through the Council's Annual Report.

"This document is a promise to our community," Mayor Heslin said. "It's about setting the kinds of goals our residents care about and then delivering on them." The Council Plan 2025–2029 can be viewed on Council's [website](#) or in person at Council's Customer Service Centres and the Hamilton Library. If you would like to see a timeline of how this plan came together, you can view it [here](#).

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL RENEWS COMMITMENT TO REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Southern Grampians Shire Council has reaffirmed its commitment to collaboration and regional relationships by endorsing a new three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Southwest Victoria Alliance (SWVA) at the 8 October Council meeting. The Alliance brings together Corangamite, Glenelg, Moyne, Southern Grampians and Warrnambool Councils to provide a strong, unified voice for southwest Victoria. The SWVA is the peak regional advocacy and partnership body for southwest Victoria.

Through this partnership, member councils campaign collectively for key regional priorities including housing, childcare, water security, roads funding, renewable energy and transport.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin praised the renewed agreement, saying that it strengthens the region's ability to work together on the issues that matter most.

"It can often be the way that our Councils are consumed with the day to day running of their individual Shires, so it can be an enormous advantage to have a partnership like this to help us to keep an eye on the bigger regional picture," said Cr Heslin.

"By standing together in this way, our councils deliver a firm voice for the entire southwest. This partnership allows us to champion causes more effectively, attract funding and deliver outcomes that benefit each of our regional communities."

The updated MoU formalises membership, governance and funding arrangements through to October 2028, while providing flexibility for representation and introducing clearer roles for independent and associate members.

The SWVA has advocated for better outcomes for regional Victoria with robust campaigns protesting the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund as well as fighting for drought support.

For more information, please see the [SWVA website](#), for all things Council, consider signing up to our [monthly newsletter](#)

CHILDCARE OPPORTUNITIES COMING TO SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS

The Southern Grampians is set to welcome two new long day care facilities in Hamilton, as a result of strong advocacy from Council and the community to increase local childcare options.

Construction of Bright Start Childcare on Station Street is scheduled to commence in January 2026, while Piece

Property will deliver an additional facility as part of the Lakes Edge housing development.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said the lack of available childcare options has proved exceedingly challenging for families and newcomers to the region.

"Available childcare has been a huge issue within the Southern Grampians for years where the number of children on waiting lists far exceeds the number of available places for care," said Cr Heslin.

"This impact has been felt across both family life and professionally where families have had to make big decisions about their ability to return to work after having children.

"It has also been an issue in attracting new families and key workers to the region where they simply haven't had the opportunity to settle due to restricted childcare options.

"To know we are on the cusp of having two brand new facilities built here both with 100 plus spaces will go a long way in supporting families and regional growth."

BNA CEO Brent Wilson from Bright Start is looking forward to starting the construction phase of their Station Street facility.

"We are looking at starting construction on our Hamilton location in January 2026 after a long three-four year search to find a suitable location," said Mr Wilson. "Our new facility will provide places for up to 148 children where those aged from six weeks to school age will have the opportunity to attend. The service will operate extended long day care as well as a three and four-year-old kinder program.

"The facility will be a cookie-cutter copy of our newest facility that's just opened in Warrnambool so if any prospective families would like to have an early preview of what they should expect to see in the Southern Grampians, they are more than welcome to make an appointment for a walk-through at our Warrnambool location.

"We are excited and really looking forward to getting our facility up and running for the people of the Southern Grampians and welcoming the littlest residents to our service," concluded Mr Wilson.

Community are also invited to register their interest in the new childcare facility being built by Piece Property PTY LTD as part of the Lakes Edge Housing Development project. Registrations of interest will inform the planning for the Lakes Edge Development and specifically the childcare facilities.

The planned development will see approximately 350 houses built at Lake Hamilton with the new 120 space childcare facility being built in phase one to support community growth. Families and carers of children aged up to five years of age are invited to register their interest for children attending the service, including number of days care would be needed.

Southern Grampians Shire Council CEO Tony Doyle recognised the importance of having access to quality childcare services for Southern Grampians families.

"We know statistically and anecdotally that childcare services within our region are at capacity and are well and truly stretched," said Mr Doyle.

"This has limited the ability of working families and is something that we as a Council have also experienced in staff finding it hard to return to the workforce due to lack of available care.

"As a Council, we have been really active in advocating for more options for our residents where we have met with, including Victorian Ministerial Meeting, meetings with the Education Department and working regionally on the training of early years educators."

While this project is still in the development phase, Piece have committed to building the childcare facility in the first phase to support local families secure childcare services which are urgently needed.

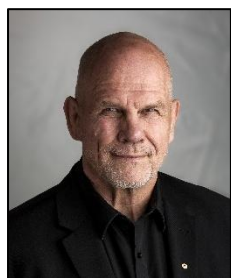
Community members are encouraged to check out the Piece Property website and fill in an expression of interest form to help developers better understand the community needs and aspirations from this service.

Piece Property Pty Ltd were announced as the successful land developer in September 2024 to develop Lakes Edge vacant land, offering a range of housing options, to relieve pressure on the region's housing market as well as supply of a much-needed childcare facility. The housing development will also include a green space with one hectare of land to be developed into an open public space with communal BBQs and play areas.

The need for new housing was identified by Council as a key priority to address shortages in the shire and to assist local businesses with recruitment key skills shortages.

Feedback, questions and childcare expression of interest form can be directed to Piece Property at www.pieceproperty.com/webinar-registration. Information on Bright Start is available at [Bright Start Childcare + Early Learning Centre](#).

HAMILTON LIBRARY SHOWCASES HISTORY WITH AUTHOR PETER FITZSIMONS



Get ready for an extraordinary true story of courage and leadership. The Hamilton Library is proud to announce that one of Australia's most acclaimed non-fiction writers, Peter Fitzsimons AM, is coming to Hamilton on Tuesday 18 November for an evening of history and conversation you won't soon forget.

The bestselling author of *Kokoda*, *Batavia*, and *Ned Kelly* is back on tour with his soon-to-be released new book, *The Courageous Life of Weary Dunlop*. This special event will see Peter share his trademark mix of enthusiasm, passion and educational storytelling as he dives into the life of Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop, the doctor whose courage and compassion saved countless lives on the Thai-Burma Railway during World War II.

This free event will feature a talk from the Author, followed by a Q&A session with time afterwards for book sales and signings. The event is being hosted by the

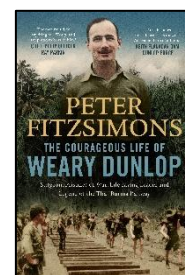
Hamilton Library and held in the Hamilton Performing Arts Centre.

"We have seen very clearly that history is a genre that our readers love," said Senior Library Coordinator Kelly Pitt-Lancaster.

"Peter Fitzsimons books are perpetually popular, so when the opportunity to have him speak arose, we jumped at the chance. With more than 30 books to his name and an unmistakeable passion for sharing Australian history, we couldn't be happier to welcome an author of his calibre.

"Off the back of a recent talk by Tim Ross organised by the library, we're so happy to be able to keep the momentum going and provide these experiences and opportunities for our community," concluded Ms Pitt-Lancaster.

Peter Fitzsimons will host this story of leadership, ingenuity and selflessness on Tuesday 18 November from 7:00pm at the Hamilton Performing Arts Centre. Although tickets are free, bookings are essential. The Hamilton Performing Arts Centre bar will be open on the night to purchase pre-show drinks. Bellcourt Books will have a stall on the night with books by the author available to purchase.



Please head to the Hamilton Performing Arts Centre [website](#) to secure tickets. Please note that this is an 18+ event.

WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE THIS FIRE SEASON

As the warmer months approach, Southern Grampians Shire Council is encouraging all residents to start preparing their properties ahead of the upcoming Fire Danger Period.

Over the coming weeks, Council's Fire Prevention Officers will begin inspecting properties across the Shire to identify potential fire hazards. These inspections are a key part of keeping our community safe and reducing the risk of bushfires this summer.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said if a property is identified as needing hazard reduction work, the owner will receive a Fire Prevention Notice.

"If you receive a Fire Prevention Notice, it will outline required hazard reduction work with the due date, helping to improve the safety of your property and the community."

"To help residents get their properties fire ready, Council is offering free green waste drop-off at all its Transfer Stations from Monday 3 November to Sunday 9 November.

"This is a great opportunity to remove fine fuels such as long grass, leaves and loose bark from around your home".

Conditions apply for the free green waste drop off:

- Limit of 2m³ per customer, per day

- Only green waste and small tree branches will be accepted (nothing bigger than 200mm accepted)
- No stumps, treated timber or other garden waste e.g. soil, fencing wire, plastic strapping
- Loads will be inspected on arrival and any contaminated loads will be rejected
- Commercial loads are not accepted for free under this arrangement

Now is the perfect time to get started on cleaning up your property, here are a few simple steps you can take today:

- Keep grass short and gardens tidy,
- Trim overhanging branches and clear away leaves, bark and twigs,
- Use your FOGO bin and take advantage of the weekly spring collection which continues until the end of November before returning to a fortnightly collection in December.

Acting now will help ensure you're ready when the CFA Fire Danger Period begins in the coming weeks.

If you'd like more information about Fire Prevention Notices or want to report a potential fire hazard, please contact Council on 5573 0444 or visit our website [Preparing for an emergency Southern Grampians Shire Council](#).

Resources to help prepare properties for the upcoming Fire Danger Period can be found via the CFA website [How to Prepare Your Property | CFA \(Country Fire Authority\)](#).

If you fail to complete the required work by the due date, you run the risk of receiving an infringement notice for non-compliance, and your property compulsory cleared by a contractor.

"Fire prevention is not a one-time job - it's something we all need to stay on top of throughout the summer months. By working together, we can reduce fire risk and help keep our community safe this season," concluded Cr Heslin.

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Please send items for inclusion in the Community Newsletter to Mrs Gaylene Raymond - gfraymond@bigpond.com

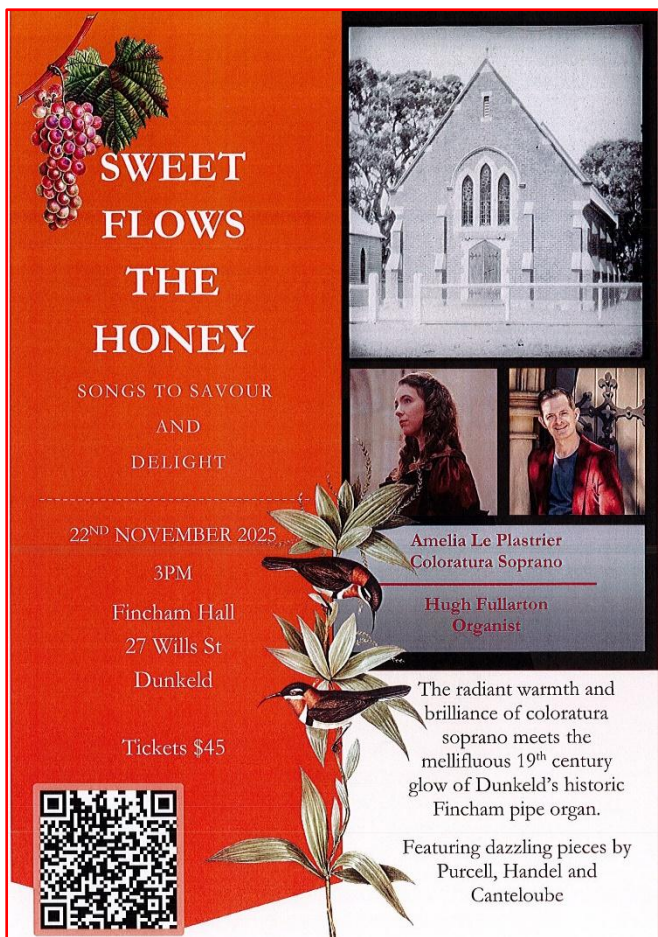
Issue Number	Cut-off Date	Publication Date
17	Fri 31 October	Wed 5 November
18	Fri 14 November	Wed 19 November
19	Fri 28 November LAST ISSUE FOR 2025	Wed 3 December



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PA System available for Hire

The Dunkeld & District Lions Club recently purchased
a PA System, which is available for hire:

\$40.00 per night or \$50.00 for a weekend

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- ✓ Immigration, citizenship and passports
- ✓ Australia Post
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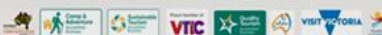


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Bowen Therapy Service is now available in Dunkeld and Surrounds

My partner Jen and I have recently moved from Geelong to now live in Dunkeld. I am a practising Paediatric Registered Nurse currently on Long Service Leave with the view of working in our local Health Care setting in the foreseeable future. I am also a Bowen Therapist where in Geelong offered home based treatments. I now wish to offer the same Bowen Therapy services in our community.

What is Bowen Therapy:

Bowen Therapy is a form of bodywork that is very gentle and relaxing.

Bowen Therapy involves small gentle moves on body acupoints, that creates a healing response.

Acupoints are certain specific areas on your body much like what an acupuncturist uses for the positioning of their needles. We as Bowen Therapists use our fingers instead of needles to create the same healing response.

Bowen Therapy is safe and appropriate for people of all ages, from babies to the elderly, and all degrees of health.

What does Bowen Therapy treat?

This is an example of some conditions that Bowen Therapy can help address, but there are also many others.

The Bowen Technique

Migraines		Headaches
Hormonal Issues		Stress
Respiratory Issues		Tinnitus
Back Pain		Frozen Shoulder
Sciatica		Digestive Issues / IBS
Plantar Fasciitis		Allergies
Ankle Issues		Knee Issues
Menstrual Problems		Joint Pain
Sleep Problems		Depression, Anxiety

Bowen is a Holistic Treatment treating the body on many levels

Please feel free to contact me for further information and advice.

My website should answer a lot of your questions.

Hope to hear from you soon.

My contact details:

Mauro Morganti (Moz) RN, RM (Non Pract), BT Diploma.

Phone: 0425 852 081

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Each brick will be engraved with your name, your family's name, or in memory of a loved one, and will be laid as part of a commemorative installation on school grounds. This tribute will stand for decades to come - a visible reminder of the people who make Dunkeld Consolidated School the strong, connected community it is today.

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

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LINE 2

LINE 3

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.

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

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