

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 \$30

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.

POLICE NEWS

Glenthompson Recreation Reserve was broken into around 25 October and a safe stolen. Safe was recovered on side of Dunkeld Penshurst Road near "Back Creek." Any information please contact me or crime stoppers.

Good work by local Glenthompson residents in reporting a vehicle recently bogged beside railway tracks. Well worth reporting.

Also, vehicle heard entering a rural property in Victoria Valley and seen leaving shortly after. Nil description.

If you haven't got a driver's licence, or it's suspended or disqualified, don't drive.

A local lost a mobile phone in Melbourne which was handed in and returned to Dunkeld and another person lost a passport/documents at railway station Tokyo Japan, which millions of people use, also handed in and returned to information desk. Good people around.

If you become aware of a crime or incident which requires police attendance, please put your hands in your pockets, so you don't touch anything and leave scene, except for providing emergency assistance, in the first instance. This means the scene is less contaminated and provides police the opportunity to gather the best possible evidence.

Roger McCLURE
Leading Senior Constable 33436
Officer In Charge
Dunkeld Police Station
67 Parker Street
0409 078 825
Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000



3 PEAKS FESTIVAL

The sun shone on Memorial Park full of stallholders and visitors all enjoying a day out, while kids had a blast running between activities. A hugely successful day with massive thanks to our local volunteers who greatly assist with the running of this event.

Thank you to our event sponsors DUNKELD and DISTRICT COMMUNITY BANK and the GREATER GRANTS PROGRAM.

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

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
5 th Week	Sunday	November 30		No Mass or service

ANGLICAN/UNITING CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 9 November UNITING CHURCH at STERLING PLACE 5.00pm Rev Peter Cook HC

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

Dunkeld Community Carols

Sunday 14 December at Saint Patrick's Catholic Church, Martin Street commencing at 7.30pm.

Cuppa and biscuit to follow.

Expressions of interest by Monday 10 November to Mrs Mac on 0400 952 716.

Primary and Secondary students interested in singing a couple of items, Guitarists and Ukulele players welcome.

Practices will be held on Sundays – 16, 23 and 30 November at 3.30pm for about 30 minutes at the ANGLICAN CHURCH opposite the POST OFFICE.

Please call me to register your interest. Looking forward to hearing from you all.

Students to wear Christmas clothes for our performance.

Enquiries to Heather Macgugan – phone: 0400 952 716.

All welcome.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, WARRAYURE

8189 Glenelg Highway, Warrayure.

CHURCH TIMES

Sunday 9 November 9.00am

Sunday 16 November 9.00am

Sunday 23 November 9.00am

WHAT'S ON NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2025						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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
30	1	2	3 Issue 19 publication	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20

RED CROSS NEWS



A very successful Ram Sale Day was held at *Nareeb Nareeb* last week. The local Red Cross team had prepared salad rolls and shared slices for the visitors, agents and buyers. Total raised for the Red Cross OSG Tonga Appeal came to \$500. Thank you to all who helped and to those who donated slices.

Next event is the final Zone Meeting for 2025. This will be held in the Daisy Turner Room in Hamilton on Tuesday 18 November, from 10.00am. Once again, Nareeb Nareeb/Dunkeld will be catering, with help from Brit Brit members. Already we have a collection of used stamps to hand over and the collection box in the Bendigo Bank Dunkeld, has room for more before the meeting. This is a painless and very successful method of raising funds and thus contributing to the work of Red Cross.

Iris Field



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 9 November Rex Beveridge and Lyn Collins

Sun 16 November Heather Funk and Di Duckmanton

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.

DUNKELD PUBLIC LANDS

Can you give some time to help?

Unfortunately, our working bee for Sunday 26 October was cancelled due to bad weather. We will try again for next SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER 9.00AM for a few hours.

With the Fire Season fast approaching we need to get the area along Salt Creek cleaned up. Grass cutting and removal of fallen timber is a priority. Whipper snippers and rakes would be very handy.

There is a fair bit to do, so it would be great to have some volunteers to help for a few hours. If you have some time to contribute it would be very much appreciated.

Regards
Frank Raymond

DUNKELD SAWMILL

We have been going well at the sawmill in recent times. Timber has been cut for community groups and some private orders. Lots of visitors drop in on a Friday and we have had a number of tours.

Our Open Day went well. Numbers were probably down, but we clashed with the Hamilton Pastoral Museum. May have to change our day next year.

John Smith

300 Words from Father David

Today's story begins at the Queen Vic market in Melbourne. It has a large veranda and sometimes they feed those who sleep rough there with a bottle of water and a BBQ.

Jeanine and I have stayed at an inexpensive but comfortable hotel just around the corner from all this so we know the area well and we know who and what to expect. It's not ritzy, it's not sexy and glamorous and pretty much every time I have to check myself, remind myself, that I have no idea what has led these people to their destitution, and I have no idea where and who they will be in 6 months time and what they will look like.

A mental illness, a case of abuse, the invisible scourge of PTSD.

The trouble is that every time I consciously or subconsciously dismiss one of these little ones, I not only do a disservice to them, but, just as appallingly, I discredit and diminish my own self and therefore all my brothers and sisters. Everybody loses.

In his book 'The promise' Arnold Dix captures this eloquently and succinctly in his own encounter.

"I once gave money to a beggar on the street in Melbourne. The person I was with scoffed, telling me I had probably just been scammed. That immediate dismissal of a perfect stranger doesn't sit well with me. Even considering that possibility gets in the way of the intention of my act to show someone a little kindness and some mercy.

Who cares if they spend that money on alcohol?
Who cares if they don't need it as much as they have implied?

When we do not take each other at face value, when we discard people because they do not act or look like we think they should, we do a disservice to each other as human beings."

Treasure the invisible

Some time ago we had a working bee here at Christchurch Hamilton. The day was overcast and

coolish but rugged up and looking like a bit of dog, I cheerfully joined in.

The aim was to smarten up the grounds, get rid of excess vegetation and show to the community that we take our care of the environment seriously, as well as offering a manicured 'welcome mat'. There were heady discussions around the logistics of what needed to be done, the right equipment and who would/could/should apply for these much sought after positions.

The skip filled easily and quickly. In fact there is probably another skip waiting in the next door departure lounge ready to go. The distraught and hapless flagpole was moved out of harm's way and plotting began for a slightly different version. It now looks very hospitable and you're always welcome to see what we accomplished.

It was leading into the footy finals so there was a bit of chatter about who might win and who might lose. Who had despaired of their team and whose heart had gone into arrhythmia with hope and excitement.

But there was something else that happened and while it was invisible, I sensed it most keenly when we all stopped for a well-earned cuppa and delectable home-made scone.

The sense of camaraderie and teamwork, co-operation and conviviality was almost palpable. Together we had achieved much, and the sense of pride blended with mirth and jocularly was just as enjoyable as looking over the well cared for and much loved grounds.

These invisible threads of companionship, encouragement and community are the deepest and sweetest treasures for me as a parish priest. They are not quantifiable, touchable or seeable, but it is these invisible things that I treasure most.

Father David Oulton
Phone: 0435 867 040
Email: drulton72@gmail.com



OFF THE RAILS DUNKELD 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.



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 or at the Dunkeld Post Office



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 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

PA System available for Hire

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

\$50.00 per day or \$80.00 for a weekend

Has two UHF microphones and a stand for speaker. Compatible with blue tooth, MP3 player, DVD and CD player.

****Free hire to non-profit organisations.****

Contact Peter Hinchey on 5577 2460 for more information.

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:

Lion Todd Burger was presented with a District Governor's Appreciation Award at the Governor's visit to Cavendish for the work he has done over many years. Well deserved, Todd.

Coming events involving the Lions:

Assisting with parking at the Dunkeld Races on Saturday 15 November.

One of those things you really had to know:

The Great Pyramid, the largest of the pyramids at Giza was built by Khufu or Cheops, King of Egypt in the 26th century BC.

"The rabbit that runs is the rabbit that gets shot."

The above words were said by the Australian Commander-in-Chief, General Blamey to the survivors of the fighting on the Kokoda Track. They expected praise for stopping the Japanese advance but instead had to listen to this. One of the men who had to listen was Dr Henry Devenish Stewart (died September 1991), who risked his life many times to help his patients. One occasion as Japanese bullets were just missing his head he said to his patient, "I'll finish your job lying down."

"Mad if you don't, Doc."

I will remember you on Remembrance Day.

The world according to Hinchey:

Thank you to those who have given so much for our freedom.

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 to 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.



Engagements involving Australians

Since World War I, Australians have been called on many times to serve in wars, conflicts, and peace and humanitarian operations.

Almost 2 million people have worn with pride the uniforms of the Royal Australian Navy, Australian Army and Royal Australian Air Force.

Tragically, over 103,000 names are listed on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial. Those listed were members of the Australian armed forces who died during their service or afterwards as a result of war service:

- World War I
- World War II
- post-1945 conflicts, warlike service, non-warlike service and certain peace operations

Remembrance Day is a time for Australians to unite in solemn respect and remembrance for all those who died or suffered.

History of Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day was originally called 'Armistice Day', and 2 minutes of silence was observed for the first time at 11.00am on 11 November 1919 to remember those who had died.

Prime Minister Billy Hughes said at the time:

Of their deeds it is not necessary for me to speak. Of their valour, endurance and resource at Gallipoli, Pozieres, Baupaul and other famous fields, men still speak with awe.

Hughes put our soldiers' sacrifice into perspective when he added:

Our heritage, our free institutions of government - all that we hold dear - are handed back into our keeping, stained with the blood of sacrifice. Surely not only we, their fellow citizens, but Australians throughout the ages, will treasure forever the memories of those glorious men to whom the Commonwealth owes so much, and will guard with resolute determination the privileges for which they fought and suffered.

After World War II, the Australian Government agreed to the United Kingdom's proposal to rename Armistice Day to 'Remembrance Day', to commemorate and remember those

who were killed in both World Wars. Today, we remember the loss of Australian lives from all wars and conflicts.

In 1918, Australia made a promise never to forget the service and sacrifice of 416,000 Australians who enlisted and over 60,000 who died. For over 100 years, we have kept this promise. We remember them still.¹



A large crowd of people smiling and waving hats and small flags gathered in Martin Place, Sydney, to celebrate news of the signing of the armistice, 11 November 1918.

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



**REMEMBER
to remember**



SCHOOL NEWS

- One of our Year 5/6 Future Stars Hoop Time basketball teams represented our school proudly at the Regional Finals at HILAC on 27 October. The team played three strong games, showcasing magnificent teamwork, determination, and skill. They shared the ball beautifully and supported one another on and off the court. Their hard work and sportsmanship paid off - the team has progressed through to the State Finals in Melbourne this December! Congratulations to all players on this fantastic achievement.
- Department of Education Primary School Nurse, Kim, visited our school on 29 October to conduct free Health, Wellbeing and Development Checks for the Prep students.
- On 30 October our Year 5/6 students headed to Pedrina Park in Hamilton to compete in the Cricket Blast competition. It was a lovely sunny day and lots of fun!
- World Teachers Day was acknowledged on Friday 31 October.
- Whole School Concert, *Alice in Dunkeld*, will be held on Thursday 6 November commencing at 6.30pm at the Dunkeld Community Centre, Sterling Street – gold coin donation entry. *Step into a Wonderland with Alice in Dunkeld!*
- Grace Macgugan will be competing in the SSV State Track and Field Championships at Lakeside Stadium, Albert Park on 6 November.
- School will be catering for the GPT100 Miler endurance event, being held on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 November.
- Year 2/3/4 Warra Gnan Coastal Camp will be held on Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 November.
- Kinder to Prep Transition Program on Wednesday 12 November.
- Our school will also be involved with providing volunteers for some activities at the 2025 Dunkeld Races.



TAC
L2P
PROGRAM

Volunteer Opportunities

The Southern Grampians L2P Program is currently seeking mentors to provide opportunities for young people to practise driving and work towards gaining their probationary license.

1-2 hours a fortnight can help make a difference.

Express your interest by calling **5573 0444** | **0427 915 424** or emailing l2p@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au.

MEDIA RELEASE

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL



COUNCIL ADOPTS 10-YEAR ASSET PLAN TO GUIDE FUTURE INVESTMENT

Southern Grampians Shire Council adopted its Asset Plan 2025–2035, setting a clear direction for how the Shire's infrastructure will be managed, maintained and renewed over the next decade.

Developed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Plan outlines the condition, value and long-term needs of Council's roads, buildings, parks, drainage, bridges and other key community assets. It provides a transparent framework to ensure that future investment decisions are sustainable, data-driven and aligned with community priorities.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Cr Dennis Heslin called it a vital piece of Council's long-term planning framework.

"Our infrastructure is what allows us to make the most of our towns, from roads and footpaths to playgrounds, footy ovals and community centres," Cr Heslin said. "This Plan ensures we're managing those assets responsibly, planning for the future, and maintaining the high level of service and transparency our community expects."

The Asset Plan 2025–2035 aligns with Council's Community Vision, Council Plan 2025–2029, and Long-Term Financial Plan, ensuring a coordinated approach to planning and investment across all asset classes.

Community feedback played an important role in shaping the final document. The draft Plan was publicly exhibited between 19 September and 6 October 2025, with submissions helping to strengthen sections on playgrounds and sporting facilities and clarify the Plan's review cycle.

"We're grateful to everyone who took the time to provide feedback," Cr Heslin said. "Direct insight from the community helps us make sure our planning reflects local priorities and focuses on the assets that matter most." In recent years, Council has strengthened its asset knowledge through detailed road and footpath assessments and an updated Road Management Plan, helping to ensure the right investment decisions are made at the right time.

"This Plan reflects the progress we've made in improving asset management and provides a strong foundation for the future," said Cr Heslin. "By maintaining up to date data and a long-term focus, we can make the best use of every dollar invested in community infrastructure."

The Asset Plan 2025–2035 is available on Council's [website](#). To stay up to date with everything Council, consider signing up to our monthly [newsletter](#).

COUNCIL ADOPTS UPDATED AQUATIC CHILD SUPERVISION POLICY TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY SAFETY

Southern Grampians Shire Council has adopted a new Child Supervision Policy for all Council-operated outdoor swimming pools, highlighting its commitment to the safety of children, families and staff.

The updated policy, endorsed at the October Council Meeting, will take effect from the beginning of the 2025/26 Outdoor Pool Season. It replaces the *Watch Around Water* accreditation currently in place at outdoor pools, which will continue to apply at the Hamilton Indoor Leisure and Aquatic Centre (HILAC).

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said the adoption of this policy enables a more efficient and effective response for all Council employed lifeguards, allowing Council to tailor the policy to meet service needs while ensuring the safety of all pool users and staff.

"The policy remains in alignment with the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations (GSPO), which reference national industry standards that are enforced by state and local governments. It includes and extends on current Watch Around Water policies to provide increased clarity on facility entry for minors and education for large group entry."

The policy will remain unchanged for children five (5) years and under with no entry permitted without an appropriate parent or guardian (aged 16 or over) willing to swim with the child and remain within arm's reach.

Children aged 11 years and under will require active supervision by a parent or guardian while at the pool. This is an increase from the previous age limit of 10 years.

"Raising the supervision age reflects research showing that incidents often occur among children aged 0-14. Our goal is to reduce the risk to potential injuries and drowning in public aquatic facilities," Cr Heslin explained.

In line with the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations to ensure safe supervision levels, groups / families will not be permitted entry where the number of Parent / Guardian's supervising a group of children under 10 years exceeds the ratio of 1:4. Larger informal groups of children arriving at an aquatic facility may also be required to participate in a short safety briefing to the entry policies and may be refused entry.

"This policy builds on the Watch Around Water policies with a view to reduce the number of youth related behavioural incidents encountered at all Council Outdoor Aquatic Facilities.

"Through implementation of this policy and associated actions staff will have clear age-related guidelines on facility entry for minors and education for large group entries," concluded Cr Heslin.

Council encourages all parents, guardians, and community groups to familiarise themselves with the new policy ahead of the upcoming pool season.

For more information visit [Pools Southern Grampians Shire Council](#) or view the policy [here](#).

ANNUAL REPORT SHOWCASES YEAR OF PROGRESS FOR THE SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS

Southern Grampians Shire Council has tabled its 2024/25 Annual Report, highlighting strong progress across major projects, financial stability, and the continued delivery of services which support the region's communities.

Presented by Mayor Dennis Heslin at an Unscheduled Council Meeting on 22 October, the Annual Report provides a transparent account of Council's performance over the past financial year. The report also details progress towards the goals set out in the *Council Plan 2021–2025*.

Cr Heslin said the report captures the dedication of Council staff, community groups and partners working together to deliver positive outcomes for the whole Shire. "This past year has seen some truly transformative projects finally come to life, from the completion of the Melville Oval Redevelopment to new recreation facilities, gallery initiatives and support for local businesses and community groups,"

"These achievements demonstrate Council's ongoing commitment to strengthening our region through investment in infrastructure, creativity, sustainability and community wellbeing. Many of this year's biggest achievements were identified by members of the community through the budget submission process, which is a fantastic outcome for those community groups."

The Annual Report tracks progress across Council's five key strategic objectives: *Supporting our Community, Growing our Regional Economy, Maintaining and Renewing Infrastructure, Protecting our Natural Environment, and Providing Strong Governance and Leadership*.

Highlights from 2024/25 include:

- Completion of the Melville Oval Redevelopment
- Installation of a new pump track at the Hamilton Skate Park
- Completed a full replacement of the stairs and viewing platform at Nigretta Falls
- Opening of the Hamilton Gallery's Creator Lab
- Launched the first Business Facade Improvement Program
- Distribution of \$300,000 in community grants to local groups
- Completion of the co-design phase for the new Hamilton Gallery
- Establishment of a CBD Streetscape Advisory Committee
- Endorsement of a preferred developer for the Lakes Edge Land Release
- Delivery of a \$23.18 million Capital Works Program
- Installation of solar lighting around Lake Hamilton
- Construction of new cricket nets at Pedrina Park

Council also received audits from the Victorian Auditor-General's Office on both the Financial and Performance Statements, confirming sound governance and responsible financial management.

"We're proud to share a record of strong performance, responsible budgeting and a clear focus on outcomes that benefit our community," Cr Heslin concluded. The 2024–2025 Annual Report is now available on Council's [website](#).

Make sure you don't miss a thing by signing up to our monthly [newsletter](#).

COUNCILS OUTDOOR POOLS PREPARE TO OPEN

With November almost here and the weather warming up, it's time to get ready for another outdoor pool season across the Southern Grampians Shire.

Hamilton Outdoor Pool is set to open on 1 November with Balmoral, Coleraine, Dunkeld and Penshurst all following with opening scheduled for 6 December (weather permitting).

Preparation works have been underway for over eight weeks with the team heading into the home stretch of pre-season. Throughout this time, the five Southern Grampians Shire Outdoor Pools have been filled, pumps checked and water quality balanced to meet parameters for opening.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said Council was excited to welcome the community back to its outdoor pools and encouraged residents to support their local pools and lifeguards this summer.

“Our outdoor pools are such an important part of our towns and hold plenty of stories. They’re a great way for families and friends to get together outdoors, be in the community, get some sun (safely!) and make some lasting memories together.

“We are pleased to be able offer free entry to all outdoor pools for all residents again this summer, and we encourage everyone to get out and enjoy them.”

While the Hamilton Outdoor Pool is almost ready to open, vacuuming of the outer township pools and cleaning of changerooms and kiosks is scheduled across the next six weeks.

This year will also see the introduction of an updated Child Supervision Policy to help keep everyone safe.

Key changes within the Policy include:

- Children aged 11 years and under will require active supervision by a parent or guardian while at the pool (previously under 10 years of age)
- To remain in alignment with the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations (GSPO), to ensure safe supervision levels, groups / families will not be permitted entry where the number of Parent / Guardian’s supervising a group of children under 10 years exceeds the ratio of 1:4
- Larger informal groups of children arriving at an aquatic facility may also be required to participate in a short safety briefing to the entry policies and may be refused entry

To view the new policy in full please visit [Public Documents Southern Grampians Shire Council](#)

“We look forward to getting outdoor pool season underway for all the community to enjoy,” Cr Heslin concluded.

For Outdoor Swimming Pool operation hours please visit [Pools Southern Grampians Shire Council](#)

COUNCIL SEEKS FEEDBACK ON NEW PLAQUES AND MEMORIALS POLICY

The Southern Grampians is a Shire rich in heritage and defined by industry- leading agricultural practices, a deft entrepreneurial spirit and a strong legacy of military service. As a result, there are many plaques and memorials dotted across the breadth of the Shire. Council has drafted a clear framework for how plaques and memorials can be considered, approved and installed on Council-owned land or buildings, and are inviting the community to have their say on the new policy.

The draft *Plaques and Memorials policy* seeks to ensure that these commemorations reflect people or events of *outstanding significance* to the Southern Grampians Shire and its history.

These new guidelines will also make certain that installations are appropriate to their surroundings, are low-maintenance, and are designed to avoid environmental or safety impacts.

Mayor Councillor Dennis Heslin has welcomed the draft policy, saying:

“Now that we have a clear policy to point to, we can ensure that all applicants are on an even playing field. “All new proposals can now be carefully assessed against the policy to make sure that plaques and memorials serve the heritage of our community.”

The cost and installation of any new plaque or memorial will be borne by the applicant, while Council oversees installation and compliance.

To view the draft policy and provide your feedback, head to our [website](#)

To make sure you never miss a story, consider signing up to our monthly [newsletter](#).

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR 2026 SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS

Nominations for the 2026 Southern Grampians Shire Community Recognition Awards, presented on Australia Day, open Saturday 1 November.

Each year, the Community Awards shine a spotlight on incredible hardworking people within our community that go above and beyond and make a significant contribution to our region.

These awards showcase those who give their time, energy and care to others; the quiet achievers, the local leaders, and the everyday champions who make a real difference.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said now is the perfect time to start thinking of those in our community who stand out and deserve to be recognised.

“We have so many fantastic people within our community who give so much of themselves for others. Their compassion, kindness and commitment make our region a wonderful place to live.

“Whether it’s a neighbour, friend or family member, we want to thank them. So I really encourage everyone to take the time to nominate someone and help honor their contribution.”

The Southern Grampians Shire 2026 Community Awards includes four categories:

- Young Citizen of the Year - For residents under 25 who have made a significant contribution to the community, either this year or over several years.
- Citizen of the Year - For residents aged 25 and above who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the community in 2025 or over a period of years.
- Community Event of the Year - Recognising an outstanding event held between 30 October 2024,

and 30 October 2025, whether it was a single-day, multi-day, or virtual event.

- Community Recognition Award - For individuals or groups who have made a significant contribution to the local community over the past year or beyond.

Award recipients will be celebrated at the Southern Grampians Shire Council official Australia Day ceremony on 26 January 2026, at the Hamilton Botanic Gardens.

Nominations close on Sunday, 30 November 2025 at 5:00pm. Forms can be accessed online via [Southern Grampians Shire - Civic Events Southern Grampians Shire Council](#) or collected from Council's Customer Service Centre at 111 Brown Street, Hamilton. For further information, contact Council at ausday@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au or phone 5573 0444.

"We encourage you to submit your nominations today for those who help make the Southern Grampians a better place to live," Cr Heslin Concluded.

FRESH NEW LOOK FOR DUNKELD AND PENSURST TOILETS

Southern Grampians Shire Council is giving two important community facilities a refresh, with upgrade works now underway at the Dunkeld Visitor Information Centre Public Toilets and Penshurst Caravan Park Toilets/Shower.

These upgrades will address deterioration, enhance functionality and improve overall appearance and standard.

The Dunkeld Visitor Information Centre Public Toilets work will refresh internal finishes through the removal of existing linings, installation of vinyl sheeting to floors and walls, a full internal repaint, as well as updated dispensers and signage. The facility will be closed from Monday 27 October to Thursday 18 December 2025.

Recognising the importance of local events scheduled for this time, the Dunkeld Visitor Information Centre Public Toilets will be reopened by the contractor from 7 to 9 November, closing again from 10 November to accommodate the GPT100 Miler. The bathrooms will briefly reopen again on 15 November for the Dunkeld Cup, closing again from 16 November.

The toilets in the Dunkeld Memorial Park across Parker Street will remain open during this period.

The same surface refresh will be delivered at Penshurst, complemented by replacement of the toilets in both male and female amenities, a new urinal in the male amenities, as well as refurbishment of floors and fixings. The facility will be closed from Monday 3 November to Thursday 18 December 2025.

Alternative public toilets can be found at the Penshurst Botanic Gardens adjacent to the swimming pool. Further information will be provided on access to showers for Penshurst Caravan Park visitors.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said the upgrades were part of Council's ongoing renewal and investment in community infrastructure. "These improvements will bring a noticeable lift in quality and presentation," Cr Heslin said. "By addressing wear and tear and enhancing the usability of our public amenities, we're making sure they meet the expectations

of both our community and the many visitors who come to enjoy our region."

Council appreciates the community's patience during these works and looks forward to reopening both facilities in time for the busy summer season.

For up-to-date details on projects happening in the Shire, check out our [website](#). Subscribe to our monthly [newsletter](#) and never miss a story.

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 Hewett for African Action International Inc.
www.africanactionsouthsudan.org

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
18	Fri 14 November	Wed 19 November
19	Fri 28 November LAST ISSUE FOR 2025	Wed 3 December



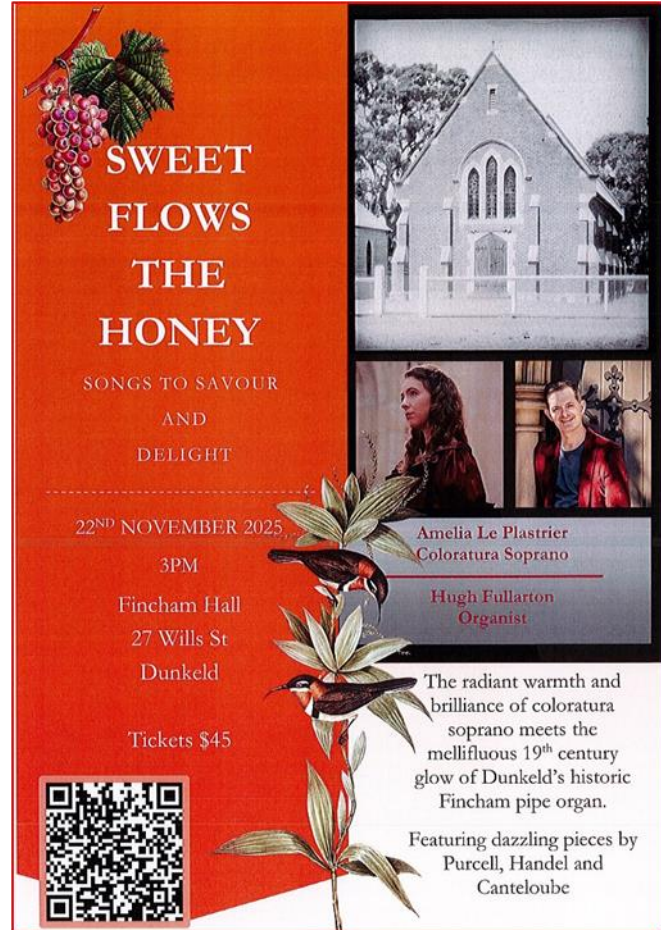
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Bowen Therapy Service is now available in Dunkeld and Surrounds

In the last edition I introduced myself as a newbie living in Dunkeld with a background of being a registered paediatric nurse and a Bowen Therapist in Geelong. I now wish to offer my Bowen therapy services in Dunkeld and the surrounding region. I can provide home based treatment sessions.

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. Women, children and babies have been an interest and speciality for me.



The Bowen Technique



What does Bowen Therapy treat?

This is only some of the conditions that Bowen Therapy can help address, but there are also many others! Please contact me if you have a question or require further advice.

My website can answer some of your questions
Bowen Om Bowen Therapy: www.bowenom.com

My contact details:
Mauro Morganti (Moz) RN, RM (Non Pract), BT Diploma
Phone: 0425 852 081
Email: mozemail@mail.com / bowen.om@gmail.com

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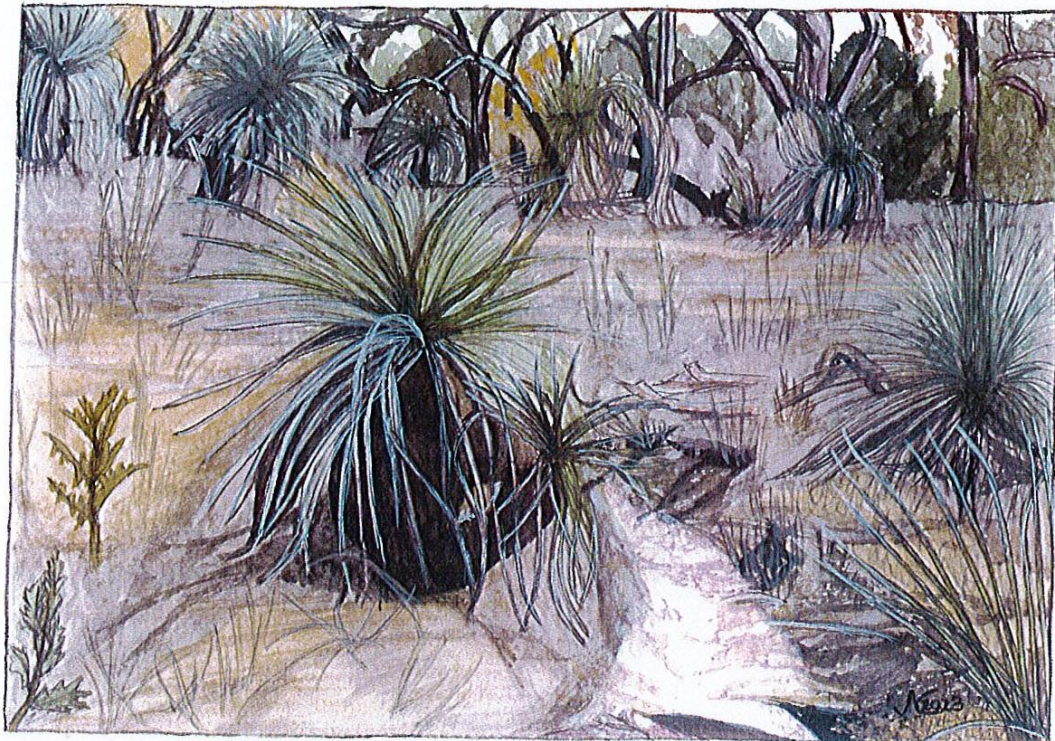
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