

Dunkeld & District Newsletter



Sponsored by Lions Club

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

Issue No: 18/2023 Date: Wednesday 15 November 2023

COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY

The Fire Danger Period (FDP) will begin at 01.00am on Monday 20 November 2023 for CFA's South West region, including the following municipalities in District's 4, 5, 6 and 7.

- Glenelg Shire Council
- Moyne Shire Council
- Southern Grampians Shire Council
- Colac Otway Shire Council
- Corangamite Shire Council
- City of Greater Geelong
- Borough of Queenscliffe
- Surf Coast Shire Council
- Golden Plains Shire Council



The El Niño weather pattern means Victorians can expect a hotter and drier summer than recent years, and communities should begin preparing their properties and creating a Bushfire Survival Plan.

CFA Deputy Chief Officer South West Adrian Gutsche said the Fire Danger Period was being introduced due to the drying conditions in the forest areas of South West Region.

"This includes all the areas associated with District 4, 5, 6 and 7," he said.

"Communities may still see some green conditions across grassed areas however the underlying grass conditions are conducive to carrying fire. With the dryness of the forest, there is the risk that if fires start, they will take hold in forested areas hence the implementation of the Fire Danger Period."

While CFA's 52,000 members are poised to respond and support communities this bushfire season, they're urging people to use common sense and take responsibility for preventing fires.

Residents in the South West region are asked to take this opportunity ahead of the FDP to clean up their properties and for landowners to conduct safe private burn-offs where possible.

Those conducting burn-offs must notify authorities online at the Fire Permits Victoria website www.firepermits.vic.gov.au or by calling ESTA on 1800 668 511.

By registering your burn-off online, you allow emergency call takers to allocate more of their time taking calls from people who need emergency assistance immediately.

No burning off is permitted during the FDP without a Permit to Burn, which can be applied for through the Fire Permits Victoria website. There are very strict conditions attached to these permits and the liability sits with the permit holder to ensure they always act safely. Fire Danger Period information:

- A written permit is required to burn off grass, undergrowth, weeds or other vegetation during the FDP. You can apply for a permit at firepermits.vic.gov.au. It can also be issued by the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer or the CFA District Office.
- Lighting fires in the open without a permit can bring a penalty of more than \$21,800 and/or 12 months imprisonment. For a full list of conditions, visit cfa.vic.gov.au/can.
- Farmers can find legal guidelines and practical advice at cfa.vic.gov.au/farms.
- More information about FDPs is available online at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/firedangerperiod.
- To find out what you can and can't do during FDP, visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/can or by calling VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

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.

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.

CHURCH TIMES

Saint Patrick's Catholic Church

Co-Pastor: Father Pat Mugavin - 5571 1161
Co-Pastor: Father George Kuruvila – 5571 1161

Email: patrick.mugavin@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Email: george.kuruvila@ballarat.catholic.org.au

1st Week	Sunday	November 5	8.30am	Mass
2nd Week	Sunday	November 12		No service
3rd Week	Sunday	November 19	8.30am	Mass
4th Week	Sunday	November 26	9.00am	Assembly of Word and Communion

Dunkeld Anglican Church

1st and 3rd Sundays at Saint Mary's opposite the Post Office at 5.00pm with Father David Oulton.
2nd Sundays - an Ecumenical gathering and sharing in the Round at 5.00pm at Sterling Place Community Centre led by the Uniting Church. We look forward to meeting you. All welcome. Enquiries to Father David phone: 5571 1317.

Dunkeld Uniting Church

Meeting every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 5.00pm at Sterling Place Community Centre.
For further information call 0400 952 716.

Panyyabyr Uniting Church

Warrayure Trinity Lutheran Church

Sunday	19 November	9.00am
Sunday	26 November	10.30am
Sunday	3 December	10.30am
Sunday	10 December	9.00am

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER and DECEMBER 2023

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
13	14	15 Issue 18 distributed	16	17	18 Dunkeld Races	19
20 Fire Danger Period begins Dunkeld Arboretum AGM @ 7.30pm Sterling Place	21	22	23	24 Issue 19 deadline	25	26
27	28	29 Issue 19 distributed	30	1 DEC	2 1 st Anniversary The Old Bus Depot & Community Shed	3
4 Dunkeld Progress Assoc AGM and Christmas gathering @ 7.30pm	5	6 DCS House Athletics Sports	7 Mobile Library – Dunkeld DCS Year 6 Graduation	8 Issue 20 deadline	9	10 Glenthompson Christmas Carols and service 6.30pm
11	12	13 Issue 20 distributed	14 DCS Whole School Concert at Community Centre	15	16	17



Mobile Library

Will be visiting DUNKELD every
 Thursday fortnight
 12.30pm – 1.30pm
 Glenelg Highway alongside pool
 Dunkeld: 7 December
 Mirranatwa: 14 December
 Phone: 5573 0470
www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au/library
 LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:
 GREATER HAMILTON LIBRARY



RED CROSS NEWS

A very small number of members met for the end-of-year afternoon tea at *Sturgeon View Cafe*. Thank you, Sharon and staff for the delicious treats. Even so, we did manage to collect a large box of groceries for the Food Bank, and a sizable bag of used stamps, so thank you to the donors of such items. These will be handed to Cheryl Ham (standing-in for Carolyn Ratnik) at the Zone Meeting on Tuesday. A report will be in the next Newsletter.

Iris Field



DUNKELD MUSEUM NEWS

OPEN FOR BUSINESS: Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm and Thursday 1.00pm – 4.00pm.

WEBSITE: Visit our website! dunkeldmuseum.org.au

MUSEUM DUTY ROSTER

Sun 19 Nov 2023 John Kay and David Gordon

Sun 26 Nov 2023 Joyce Gordon and Julie Kincade

Visitors to the district: Sunday 29 October was a very busy day at the Museum, starting off in the morning with visitors from Ballarat coming to check out our early history displays. Marilyn Hanson was thrilled with her account of the Duckmanton family, especially the cemetery inspection and drive around town with Neil Duckmanton, well done Ducky! Back at the Museum we were busy gathering information for Ann Ashton who was researching the family of Napier and Mervyn Napier Waller. While all this was going on, two young history buffs from Baimbridge College were working away at the development of QR Code for the Heritage Walk storyboards around town, hoping to have some in operation before the Christmas influx of visitors. Another bus of visitors is coming to visit on 16 November – Day Trip Tours arriving at 9.45am.

Life Member: Welcome to Lyn Collins as a Life Member. Last week Lyn brought in some Collins memorabilia for us to consider if we would like to copy for our archives, included some ledgers from the original Collins Butcher Shop, also amongst the collection was a photo of school children at Dunkeld in the 1930s, all un-named, so now the challenge is on to put names to the faces!

Work on the foyer/entrance to the museum is now completed and is looking good. Thanks to Dennis Fitzpatrick, Alan Fort and others who helped in any way to finish this project off.

Joyce Gordon, Secretary

DAN TEHAN MP
 FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WANNON

Working for Wannon

190 Gray Street Hamilton VIC 3300
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 www.dantehan.com.au

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 Friday 8:30am - 2:00pm
 Saturday 8:30am – 2:00pm
 Sunday 8:30am – 2:00pm
 Monday Closed
 Tuesday Closed
 Wednesday Closed



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 Victoria 3289

M: 0400 819 408

ADRASS Group Initiative- Helping Community,
Human Rights & the Environment



COME AND CELEBRATE OUR
1st ANNIVERSARY

Dunkeld & Area - Artists, Crafters, Writers

Newly Released Pre-Loved Goods

Refugee Made Products

Tool Shed

Furniture, Antiques & Treasures,

Children's Corner

Christmas Gifts

Plants

All Things Camping

Special Discounts

Egg & Bacon Rolls, Cold Drinks

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 2ND
10AM - 3PM

STURGEON VIEW

Dine In

Takeaway

Licensed premises

Takeaway alcohol

Catering Available

Large group bookings welcome!!!

(Seat up to 50 inside)

**Menu choices, something for everyone
including**

GF, Vegan, & Vegetarian options

SPECIALITY NIGHTS

TUESDAY - Parma Night \$20

WEDNESDAY - Steak Night \$30

(Free pot of beer or soft drink when dining in)

THURSDAY - Burger Night \$18

Or Steak Sandwich \$20

Freshly made in house Pizzas

Available daily from 5.00pm

Takeaway Family Packs

Pizza Bundle – 2 x pizzas, Garlic bread
& 1.25L soft drink \$45

(Speciality pizzas not included)

Fish & Chips Bundle - 4 x pieces of fish
Chips and salad \$40

Coffee, Tea, milkshakes, soft drink, etc

Cakes, slices biscuits

Coffee & Slice deal \$10

Free home delivery service

from 6.00pm to 7.30pm

Tuesday to Sunday in Dunkeld town

boundary only

(minimum spend \$20)

OPENING HOURS

Monday Closed

Tuesday to Sunday – Open – 10.30am

Lunch – 11.00am to 2.00pm

Dinner 5.00pm to 8.00pm

(Closing times for dinner may vary)

109 Parker Street Dunkeld

Phone (03) 5577 2288

sturgeonviewcafedunkeld@gmail.com



News, Views, Action, Feedback, PROGRESS.

This organisation is an important link to the local council.
Please consider joining the committee and help make things
happen in Dunkeld.

All positions are declared vacant. Nomination forms will be
found at Dunkeld Post Office or email us for a form
dunkeld.progress@gmail.com

**President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer,
Community and Council Liaison Officer – five positions.**

The AGM and Christmas gathering will be held on Monday 4
December at Dunkeld Community Centre, 7.30 pm start.

Community Bank
Dunkeld & District

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community



WELCOME TO THE TEAM, SIMON!

We are pleased to welcome Simon Tindall to our team. Simon will be available for all Home Loan matters and brings extensive knowledge to the position, with previous banking experience at other financial institutions, both in branch and as a mobile lender.

Simon is moving to the area from Warrnambool and is looking to get involved in the Community.

It's great to have you on board Simon. Please call in to introduce yourself to Simon, make him feel welcome and utilise his wealth of knowledge for any future borrowing plans you might have or a review on your current home loan. ❤️

NUMBER ONE! 🏆

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Glenthompson Country Choir

The Service of lessons and carols will be held on Sunday 10 December 2023 at 6.30pm at Saint Peter's Anglican Church and everyone is invited to join us for the service and supper afterwards under the trees.

Anyone who is interested is invited to sing with the Glenthompson Country Choir for Christmas. The ONLY requirement is that you enjoy singing Christmas Carols!

There will be three practices for the choir at Saint Peter's Anglican Church, Glenthompson:

- 1st practice Wednesday 22 November at 6.00pm.
- 2nd practice Tuesday 28 November at 6.00pm.
- 3rd practice Thursday 7 December at 6.00pm.

Please ring Elisabeth Cuming on 5577 4223 or 0427 774 223 if you are interested in being part of the choir for our Christmas celebration service.



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250 WORDS FROM FATHER DAVID

Us versus them

Perhaps it is just my age but I am more aware of division and argy bargy these days. Of course, as far back as Cain and Abel there has always been a polite difference of opinion and that did not end at all well.

But my hope would have been that in my little lifetime, I would have seen signs of healing reconciliation. Phrases like 'How can we make this work?' Maybe just letting the other prattle on until they have completely said everything they need to say.

I'm not asking for perfect harmony. The issue is not whether we disagree but *how* we disagree. How we put our point of view forward with respect and even with a smile.

Is it the way our media fuels outrage? Look out for the tag line that sends your blood pressure up. 'Political leader X claims that'... 'It is alleged that...'. Or the questions 'who knew what and when and why?' 'Tell me Mrs. Bloggs how you feel towards the hospital staff where your best friend died?' I mean really ... How do you think Mrs. Bloggs is feeling? What a supercilious question. And is Mrs. Bloggs intimate, personal sadness the sort of thing that should be splashed around for the consumption by a stranger?

What might happen in question time at our parliament if the adversaries simply ditched the divisive format, sat in a circle, had some chocolate biscuits and a nice cup of tea and enjoyed each other's company. First item on the agenda '*How to best serve the people who elected them*'.

Or what if the debate at the pub finished when as gentlemen, they agreed to disagree and bought another round, thinking about how lucky they are to have a drinking buddy.

It doesn't have to be me versus you, us versus them... does it?

silk and wool was an enchanting and educational experience that truly expanded our understanding of fibre art. Belinda's expertise and passion for the craft shone through as she guided us through the intricacies of working with these diverse materials. The combination of silk and wool offered a dynamic and tactile quality to our creations, resulting in stunning, multi-textured pieces that were both visually appealing and luxurious to the touch.

One of the most valuable aspects of this workshop was the in-depth exploration of different types of fibre and their unique properties. Belinda's comprehensive knowledge of various fibres, including their characteristics and uses, enabled us to make informed choices when selecting materials for our projects. The wet felting process itself was an engaging journey of experimentation and discovery, like magic! We learned how to manipulate the fibres and control the shrinkage to achieve our desired outcomes.

Belinda is so generous with her skills and materials, making up wet and dry felting kits for each of us, and bringing loads of merino, raw fleece/locks, bats, blue faced Leicester, sari silk, mulberry silk, banana fibre and the most amazing, soft, textural angora rabbit fleece amongst many other fibres. It was so interesting!

Overall, Belinda Rogers' dry and wet felting workshop with silk and wool was a delightful fusion of artistry and education, leaving participants with a newfound appreciation for fibre arts and the skills to create exquisite, one-of-a-kind pieces. We also made some new friends! Belinda is at OTR Dunkeld every Thursday 10.30am – 12.30pm this November. Drop by and say Hi!



**CALL OUT for Market Stall Holders!
Bizarre Bazaar - Saturday 9 December at OTR Dunkeld!
STALLS ARE FILLING FAST!!**

We are running a pre-Christmas market day with crafts, gifts, stocking stuffers, food, music and loads of off the rail fun! We would love to hear from makers, producers, performers, and artists far and wide to join us for an awesome afternoon! Please email otrdunkeld@gmail.com with your expression of interest in having a stall. We would love to hear from you!



**COMING UP AT OTR Dunkeld
Thursday 16 November 2023
Intro to Watercolours – Basic for
Beginners
10.30am – 12.30pm**





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**OFF THE RAILS
DUNKELD**

**OFF THE RAILS DUNKELD
NEWS**
Beginners Felting with Belinda Rogers –
Thursday 9 November
Dry and wet felting with Belinda Rogers using

The lovely Belinda Rogers will help us gain confidence using watercolours. Wet On Wet/Wet On Dry/Basic Brush techniques covered.

Plus, she will share a few tricks she has learnt along the way!

'Watercolour Flirtation' Series 1... \$40.00 includes everything..except your curiosity and imagination
Payment on the day is fine. See you there!

Saturday 18 November 2023

Printmaking - Create an Artist Book with Susan Clarke 10.00am – 4.00pm

Participants will create a concertina artists book using a variety of linoprint techniques.

Cost will be \$90 per person with a \$10 materials fee to be paid with cash on the day.
All materials will be supplied. All you need is an image idea. Minimum of 4 and Maximum of 6 people to run the workshop.

Contact: Susan Clarke - susanclarkeartworks@gmail.com
Phone 0409 431 960.

For further information and payment please contact Susan.
Bookings and payment will secure your place.



Saturday 18 November 2023

Youth Trivia Night Starts at 7.00pm

A fun night of trivia for the Youth of Dunkeld and surrounds. Snacks and prizes!!



Thursday 23 November 2023

Open Studio with Belinda Rogers 10.30am – 1.30pm

For participants in Belinda Rogers workshops. Once a month I will be available for beginner participants to ask more questions.. check you are on track with your skills practice, bring and work on current projects, or just simply drop by for a coffee and chat.... or curious about how and what I teach. Come say hello and check me out in a relaxed setting!



\$0 - Free event, 30 November 2023 and once a month from January 2024.

Saturday 25 November 2023

Printmaking – With Britt Gow



Gelatin Plate Mono-Printing 10.00am to 11.30am \$55.00
Gelli-printing is a spontaneous and somewhat unpredictable process that can be easily achieved at home, without specialized equipment. The gelatin plate is a soft and malleable surface that can hold the detailed impressions that you make on it with brushes, botanical materials, stencils, masks and stamps. In this workshop you will learn how to make your own gelatin plate and use it to create unique, layered artworks that can be enjoyed alone or used as cards,

gift tags, wrapping paper, bon-bons and collages. Come along and enjoy creative exploration with colour, texture and shape. Bring your own apron and pressed botanicals, textured materials or stencils, or use those I have available.

Lino-Printing on Fabric 1.00pm to 3.00pm \$85.00

Transfer a design to linoleum and practice the tactile and therapeutic art of linocut. Then transfer your design to paper or fabric by inking up the linoleum plate and applying pressure. You will have the opportunity to choose a pre-cut design from Britt's collection to print onto cotton tote bags or linen tea-towels. Bring your own apron and if you have pre-cut lino or ezy-cut plates, and/or your own cotton fabric, bring them along and we can use fabric paint to create your own gifts.

\$20.00 Discount for booking both workshops \$120.00

Contact: Britt Gow on 0458 016 300 or
brittgow@gmail.com

Sunday 26 November 2023

Monthly Skills Session – Christmas gift Crafternoon 1.00pm – 4.00pm



Sewing, felting, printmaking or whatever takes your fancy. We will be guided to create handmade gifts and decorations for the festive season!

Some materials supplied, BYO sewing machine/gear.



Sunday 3 December 2023

Make Your Own Christmas Wreath with Artist, Lisa Addinsall 10.00am – 4.00pm

\$70.00, all materials provided. More details and booking information to come!



Saturday 9 December 2023

Bazaar Bazaar 2.00pm – 5.00pm

Dunkeld Market Day, food, music, fun, Christmas gifts galore, community get together, more details to come!



OFF THE RAILS REGULAR EVENTS

VanGogh Travelling Art Every Monday



VanGOgh is a weekly mobile children's art program, bringing country children the opportunity to get creative in their own town and building an Art Club community. Mobile Art Club is at Off The Rails Mondays 4.30pm – 6.00pm. To secure a spot for your mini Master or for more information, contact Shelley via Facebook "Vangogh travelling art club", email vangoghartclub@gmail.com or phone 0488 712 937.

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! Feel free to contact us on otrdunkeld@gmail.com or Lucinda at 0459 774 624

SUPPORT US!

Become a friend of OTR Dunkeld. We 'run on the smell of an oily rag.'

For \$10.00 be a Member and a Friend:

Off The Rails Dunkeld

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Like us on Facebook and Insta @offtherailsdunkeld

From the Lions Den

L Liberty
I Intelligence
O Our
N Nations
S Safety



So great is the strength we possess in our unity. Mary MacKillop 1874.

A nice Lions story:

Turkey's disaster of the century. Lions have supplied tents to temporarily house over 1,000 people at Antakya. They also have constructed a Container Village at Adiyaman. The containers are fitted with a kitchen and bathroom.

One of those things you really had to know:

In January 1900 there was an outbreak of bubonic plague in Sydney. The last appearance of the plague was in Brisbane in 1922.

Environment

Nature is an incredible thing, Part III.

Dates of interest:

Rabbits:

- 1788 some were brought here in the First Fleet for a food source, they were not released into the wild.
- 1859 on Christmas Day, 13 were released for sport at Baron Park, Victoria by Thomas Austin.
- Now, population estimated to be 200 million.

Hares:

- 1862 unknown number released at Westernport Bay.
- 1863 unknown number released on Phillip Island.
- Population not known.

Foxes:

- 1855 introduced into Australia and are now found in 80% of Australia.

- A fox can make forty different sounds, has impeccable hearing, is extremely patient and in zoos will live for up to 15 years. In the wild will live for three to four years.
- Population – estimated 1.7 million (I don't know who came up with this figure, but I think there is a lot more than that. One local farmer has killed over 130 on his farm this year. Last year he killed over 100.)

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 renewal for 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: Thank you to the school and general community for supporting our recent Remembrance Day Service. Thank you to the local community for generously supporting our Poppy Appeal including the Dunkeld Post Office, Kelly's AGnVET, Dunkeld Community Bank, Grampians Providore, Sturgeon View, Dunkeld Consolidated School and a special thank you to Mrs Heather Lynch in Glenthompson for her assistance and dedication.

President, Mr Terry Noble, conducted the service with Dunkeld Consolidated School Captains, Harry McShane and Yvette Fanning, reading The Ode and raising the flag during Reveille respectively.

Mr Noble said, "Today we acknowledge all serving men and women and all veterans around Australia. There are unfortunately many conflicts that we commemorate today and I take this special day to share with you the Vietnam War of which 75 years was commemorated in Canberra recently.

Let us acknowledge the weight of what you lived through, what you saw and what you felt and what each day might bring.

There is respect for your valour, your integrity and your character, we understand the price you paid and the price that some are still paying.

I would like to share a time with you. Eighteenth of August 1966 in Vietnam. The Battle of Long Tan – chosen to remember the men of D Company, 6 RAR who fought a pitched battle against over 2,000 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong soldiers in a rubber plantation not far from the village of Long Tan.

Australian Troops were first sent to Vietnam in 1966 of which the number increased over a ten-year period and involved over 58,000 serving during that time.

The gathering today serves as a time to reflect the understanding and reconciliation of Australians who have paid the ultimate sacrifice through war.

Australians also have the opportunity to reaffirm the values and friendship that we as a nation share with countries that

were our allies such as the United States of America, New Zealand and the Philippines.

We as a country live in peace and shall be thankful to all the Defence men and women and their families for this. Lest We Forget."



Every year at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, millions around the world pause in silence to remember the sacrifices many have made so we can enjoy life today.



The Gully

November 2023

I am learning about a gully. To me, it is fascinating. So often gullies pass unnoticed but they are an essential part of the topography. They sometimes have many tongues, like this particular one, and they remind me of the system of arteries and veins in the human body. Like them, they distribute not only precious water, but seeds, minerals and other nutrients to the surround countryside.

This particular gully is quite long and deep and I have never seen water in it, probably because I'm sheltering indoors! I reflect on its formation over many, many years. What an amazing spur to carve such a deep and intricate gully. It seems to appear from underground and as it nears the river flats, it also seems to disappear underground.

I stand on a curving kangaroo pad at this spot, gazing up into the centre of the gully, a large, spreading Black Wattle, *Acacia mearnsii*, behind me. How I love the honey fragrance of its creamy blossoms! Before me, it is as though the gully has tipped a load of sedges at its foot. They are growing lushly, packed tightly together and at the moment their triangular stems are tipped with shining bronze flowerheads, contrasting so beautifully with their vivid green leaves. Behind them an earth cliff juts out into the hollow gully. In the latter, partway down the eastern bank, lies a bleached, divided branch. A kangaroo pad winds up the eastern side and disappears into a sea of Austral Bracken, *Pteridium esculentum*.

I make my way slowly up the spur on the gully's western side, noting a juvenile Black Wattle amongst the sedges, whose names are Tall Sedge, *Carex appressa*. *Acacia paradoxa* shrubs perch on the edge of the gully, one dead and one alive. A lichened gum branch weaves through them. An amazingly tall Fireweed, *Senecio glomeratus*, has grown up from the gully and penetrated the spiny branches of *A. paradoxa*, lighting them up with its vivid umbels of yellow flowers. Up the bank, amongst the grasses, are tall, flowering Catsears, *Hypochaeris radicata*, with their vivid yellow dandelion-like flowers, sometimes on forked stems, as they struggle to reach the light. They are introduced plants, commonly seen, whose leaves were once enjoyed by nineteenth century people in Europe. From the earth cliff a large River Red Gum arches over the *A. paradoxa* towards the river. Its textured base is moss-covered and the soft greys of its curving trunk have a calming effect. Its second large trunk rises vertically to some height and spreads its arching branches westwards over the spur, some of its pendulous leaves touching the earth.

From this stance, I can see another jagged cliff of earth descending into the gully. It curves around to a River Red

Gum beside which is a straggly, *dead A. paradoxa*. An old bird's nest is in its branches. The rim of this cliff is covered in drying mosses. It ends in a very narrow point and descends roughly ten metres to the gully's bed. Just there the gully is about a metre wide but then it fans out to about four metres curving around below the base of the tree, I'm standing by. The earth cliff is a dull red-brown and steep. At its foot, in the bed of the gully, is a profusion of sedges and grasses, which occasionally creep up the far banks. Trees are victims of the elements as well as old age, and on the far bank you can see the ravages: the stark, black remains of a Blackwood tree, its pointed, jagged limbs delineated by the blue sky, whilst one long curving branch is in the process of breaking off. Nearby is an old, charred Red Gum stump. I watch a White-throated Treecreeper spiralling up a trunk rising from the gully bed. Behind the earth cliff, the banks, grassed and dappled with sun and shade, slope down at a 45° angle.

I've now squeezed past a prickly *A. paradoxa* and am standing on a narrow isthmus of cliff. It is only as wide as my stride and narrows to a hand-width. On my left is a double-trunked River Red Gum. Its base is deeply furrowed and covered with a network of spiderwebs. It is also a network of colours, deep browns, pale greys and ochres, and sometimes blacks. On the far side of the gully, a kangaroo pad descends the grassy bank and rises steeply up this side beside me. Down in the gully bed is a melange of discarded trunks and dead branches still holding their dead, platinum-coloured gum leaves. There is movement amongst them, and I distinguish the forms of tiny birds hopping nimbly amongst them; maybe Blue Wrens but I can't see the details.

I continue strolling around similar sweeping curves and narrow isthmuses of bend and arrive at a shady grassy spot where I decide to lunch. Before me, Fireweeds mingle amongst dead branches. A smooth white limb arches over a mini earth mountain in the midst of a deep tongue projecting from the main gully. Dead, platinum leaves hang in clumps on dead limbs, whilst slender, smooth white branches with living leaves stretch out far over the bank and spur, only half a metre above the flowering grasses. A few ribbons of bark dangle into the depths below. A Little Wattle Bird speeds across the gully and back, maybe foraging insects for its young. A sudden warmth rises up from the earth and passes. I watch tiny native bees visiting the Catsear daisies edging the rim. A gentle breeze sways the mass of silvery-green grass heard under the white limbs. They catch the light even though that area is in shade.

I've moved around the undulating edge of the bank and am now sitting on a mossy indentation of this deep tongue piercing spur. The mosses bump down to a bridge of roots as thick as branches which span the narrowest part of the tongue. They are intricately intertwined as they fan out from another thin isthmus of land. Mosses, now a dull golden green and grasses creep down the far bank along them, sometimes forming a dense mat between the roots. The source of the latter is a large, many limbed River Red Gum which chose to grow in this precarious position on the narrow isthmus. It is very much alive, and frequented by pairs of Crimson Rosella, Little Wattle Birds, Grey Fantails and other visiting birds. What an amazing life-force it has to send its roots across a huge space, maybe three or four metres, and for them to continue growing in the much-desired earth of the spur beyond. Or maybe the earth washed away between them. A little to its left, its companion on this narrow isthmus of land is a mature *Acacia mearnsii*, its black trunk and limbs reaching upwards and out over the main gully and also curving down onto the bank this side. A small bird has just sped into its leafy branches is now invisible. The roots of this tree have created a parallel bridge over the much wider, bowl-shaped end of the tongue, continuing likewise to grow into the spur. A young eucalypt sapling rises up between the roots from the depths of the bowl, near its perimeter. A dead

Black Wattle, also a junior, has tried to survive nearby. The bowl is clothed in mosses, grasses and flowering Catsears. From this perspective on the bank, the aforesaid white limb emerges from the end of this isthmus which descends in ever increasing juts down into the main gully. The white branch hangs seductively over the edge, then undulates over two craggy mini mountains of earth at the junction of the tongue and the main gully, before it sprawls out over the spur beyond. Behind it grows a young *Acacia mearnsii* on the spur side. It is interesting that all the way up the gully the River Red Gums and the *Acacia mearnsii* are often in each other's company, sometimes relieved by *Acacia paradoxa* shrubs. I suspect the wattles supply nitrogen for the gums. In other places it seems to be *Acacia melanoxylon*, Blackwood trees, that choose to grow beside *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, our River Red Gums.



I am going to finish my narrative here. I had the fallacious expectation that I would describe the entire gully, but I'm not even a third of the way up it!! However, I hope I've portrayed a reasonable picture of it and its community of plants and animals.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing everybody a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Christmas and I thank everybody for their unique gifts to the community and to our planet. Thank you.

By Marion Colton



School News

There have been a number of activities that students have been involved in over the last two weeks, including:

- Students and staff enthusiastically embraced Pyjama Day on 1 November, with gold coin donations helping The Pyjama Foundation to raise much-needed awareness and funds for children in foster care.
- Student Representative Council (SRC) members are holding a Zooper Dooper stall each Wednesday to raise funds for Elizabeth's Legacy.
- Hamish and Jude Rush, competed in the 2023 AusCycling BMX Racing National Championships in Shepparton from Wednesday 1 to Friday 3 November.
- A boys team competed in the Division Cricket Blast Primary School competition on Friday 3 November at Pedrina Park in Hamilton.
- A Special Assembly was held on Friday 3 November, which included Class Captain reports and a presentation of Honour Certificates
- The 'My Business Rules' Market Day was a flurry of activity on Friday 10 November for our Year 6 entrepreneurs from first coming up with an idea, presenting their business concept, making and then finally marketing and selling their finished product. There was an impressive range of items for sale!
- School Captains, Harry McShane and Yvette Fanning, proudly represented our school at the Dunkeld RSL Sub-Branch's Remembrance Day Service on Saturday 11 November.
- Year 6 students, Max Russell, Freddie Jury and Mac Jackson competed in the Western Victorian Open Schools Chess Competition (for Year 6 to 12 students) at Baimbridge College on Monday 13 November, with

Freddie receiving second place and Max receiving third place in the Primary Schools section. Fifty-six players from seven schools competed in the tournament.



- SAKG Kitchen and Garden classes have been held each Friday with students doing Science with their classroom teachers, Lisa McIntyre and Friends during the first half of the Garden classes, before moving out to the Garden.
- Eight nervous but excited Dunkeld Kindergarten children visited the Prep classroom for a transition visit with Mrs Gilbert and the Preps on Wednesday 15 November. During the first hour children enjoyed a variety of five different activities: Lego, building with straws, playdough, sorting animals and completing a pre-writing task with Mrs Gilbert. After a break, the Preps read the big book 'Mrs Wishy-Washy' to the Kinder children while they were eating their fruit. A play outside on the playground filled in the last fifteen minutes of the visit time before the Kinder children were collected to finish their Kindergarten session. What a busy morning! It was so much fun and we can't wait to see the Kinder children again on their next visit in two weeks' time on 29 November.



Upcoming events include:

- SAKG Year 6 students' Royal Mail Hotel Kitchen Garden Tour and Fine Dining Experience on Thursday 16 November.
- Crazy/Funky Hair Day on Friday 17 November – gold coin donation in aid of Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.
- SAKG Kitchen and Garden classes each Friday with a visit by the Upper Hopkins Land Management Group to visit the school's program on 17 November.
- Our school community is providing volunteers at the Dunkeld Races as a whole school fundraiser (on 15, 18 and 19 November).
- MARC Library Readers Cup Challenge (Year 6 team) at Branxholme Wallacedale Community School on Monday 27 November.
- Kinder to Prep Transition Program on Wednesday 29 November.
- Last SAKG Kitchen and Garden classes for 2023 on Friday 1 December.
- House Athletics Sports Day on Wednesday 6 December.
- Year 6 Graduation dinner and official ceremony on Thursday 7 December.
- Crazy Wear/Crazy Casual Clothes Day on Friday 8 December – gold coin donation to support Elizabeth's Legacy.
- 'Thank You' Morning Tea for all school helpers and volunteers on Monday 11 December.
- Kinder to Prep Transition Program and state-wide Orientation Day on Tuesday 12 December with our students stepping up to their new 2024 year level for the day.
- Whole school concert at the Community Centre on Thursday 14 December.
- Last Special Assembly for 2023 on Friday 15 December, with student leaders for 2024 being announced.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTION AND DISTRIBUTION DATES FOR 2023

Please note that the closing date for the Community Newsletter is 6.00pm on the Friday before the distribution date, as listed in the below table.

Please forward your content to Mrs Carol Burger – email: carolburger5103@gmail.com or phone: 0417 374 673.

A friendly reminder that if you wish to change the content/size of your advertisement please email the new version to Carol Burger by the relevant closing date.

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

Issue	Cut-off Date	Distribution Date
19	Fri 24 November	Wed 29 November
20	Fri 8 December LAST ISSUE FOR 2023	Wed 13 December

Willaura Modern invites you to our Summer Exhibition of

Land in New Light

by

Sue Quinlan Brain

2 December 2023 - 21 January 2024

Exhibition Launch

Willaura Modern Railway Gallery

Midday 2 December 2023

Open Friday and Saturday 10.00am to 2.00pm

RSVP 0428 541 482

Other times by appointment

willauramodern@gmail.com

Contact Lois 0428 541 482

Updates: Willaura Modern Facebook Page

Image Front: Twilight Farm 2023

Oil on canvas 76 x 61 cm



Pregnancy scanning

Contact Joseph Sutherland 0407 108 679

spotonscanning.com.au  



HELP SHAPE THE 2024-2025 COUNCIL BUDGET

Southern Grampians Shire Council is changing the way it engages with the community in relation to the preparation of the annual budget. This year, Council will shift to a single engagement period prior to the preparation of the budget, seeking submissions from the community beginning in November.

This earlier engagement process will allow Council to be better informed of residents' priorities within the context of the Council Plan 2021-2025, prior to the development of the budget.

Residents can participate in the budget engagement process by filling out the online submission form or completing a paper-based form available at our Brown Street customer service centre.

The new engagement process will also allow the 2024/25 Annual Budget to be considered by Council for adoption in May 2024 — a month earlier than in previous years. Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Cr David Robertson encouraged community members to get involved in this process to share what they felt was important to them and their families.

"Whether you're a ratepayer or a regular user of council services, the budget and how Council prioritises its spending affects everyone," Cr Robertson said.

"From children and family services to libraries, roads and footpaths to waste collection, it's important that the budget reflects the priorities of residents."

"While there are no guarantees that submissions will be included in the budget, all will be considered and assessed against their alignment to our Council Plan 2021-25," Cr Robertson said.



ELDERS HAMILTON

Proud to be a supporter of the Dunkeld community

BRANCH MANAGER & RURAL

REAL ESTATE

Lachy Patterson 0407 704 684

WOOL

Andrew Howells 0418 846 291

Kate Methven 0488 415 883

David Whyte 0407 347 203

State Wool Manager

Lachie Brown 0409 645 915

LIVESTOCK

Aaron Malseed 0407 782 286

Jordy Anthony 0407 649 925

Dillon Dawson 0438 054 593

Steve McLeod (Agent) 0419 836 203

Ashley Crow (Agent) 0419 711 405

STUD STOCK

Ross Milne 0408 057 558

FARM SUPPLIES

Ryan Gerring 0439 699 110

Jason Callaway 0417 710 401

Damon Hiscock 0439 671 046

Rob Browne 0427 315 793

Rod Evans 0498 750 125

James Whyte 0458 322 094

AGRONOMY

Mark Rouse 0473 444 288

Gabby Redpath 0438 903 123

RURAL REAL ESTATE

David Peardon 0408 528 050

RURAL BANK

Agribusiness Relationship Manager

Annie Giblin 0428 518 534

SALES SUPPORT

Ann Hiscock 5551 5700

Wendy Kerr 5551 5700

Annaleace Dohle 5551 5700

Maggie Craig 0427 976 179

100 Portland Road,
Hamilton P. 03 5551 5700
E. hamilton@elders.com.au
elders.com.au



The online submission form is live now and can be accessed here. Submissions close Friday 1 December at 5.00pm. The form is available on Council's website at www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

Council is also conducting a short survey about the budget and long-term financial plan, available here. Hard copy forms and surveys can be obtained from Council's customer service centre at 111 Brown Street, Hamilton. Enquiries can be directed to council@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au or 5573 0444.

**SILENT AUCTION in aid of
Elizabeth's Legacy
Flicker of Hope - a
Neurofibromatosis research and
awareness charity**



Mr Robin Ramsay was the highest bidder (of \$55.00 per hour) for Roger McClure's eight hours of work within the local area.

A sincere thank you to Robin and to Roger for their generosity and support for this very worthy cause, Elizabeth's Legacy.

Donations to Elizabeth's Legacy may also be made online at:

<https://makingadifference.gofundraise.com.au/page/ElizabethsLegacy>



**LOCAL BUSINESSES INVITED TO
LEARN HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH
NEW EXHIBITION**

Hamilton Gallery has recently announced its highly anticipated international exhibition, 'Emerging From Darkness,' set to open on the 8 December 2023 at 6:00pm and running until mid-April 2024. Now, local hospitality, accommodation and retail businesses are invited to join Council CEO Tony Doyle and Gallery Director Joshua White to learn how they can be involved, jointly promote the region and take advantage of the increased visitation in the region throughout the exhibition.

The gallery's recent success with the Robert Martiensen exhibition has demonstrated the profound positive influence significant exhibitions can have on the local economy. In the 10-week duration of the exhibition, 3,549 people walked through the Hamilton Gallery doors, with almost 2,000 of those coming in the final eight days of the exhibition, after major exposure in the media. Visitors came from across the country and as far as Western Australia, staying multiple nights in the region.

Gallery Director Joshua White said the feedback from local businesses following the Robert Martiensen exhibition was extremely positive. "We've spoken to a number of Hamilton CBD businesses who said they had a significant upturn in trade over the final weeks of the exhibition. One in particular said the increase in customers was so considerable, that it actually turned around the long-term prospects for their business, which is really wonderful to hear," Mr White said.

"Our upcoming exhibition 'Emerging from Darkness' is a significant cultural milestone for our gallery and our community," continued Mr White. "We have carefully curated

the exhibition to showcase a diverse range of world-class artworks, many never seen in public before, that will not only captivate our local audience but also attract visitors from far and wide."

The impact of Emerging from Darkness on the Southern Grampians economy is expected to be substantial.

"The Robert Martiensen exhibition showed the positive impact a good exhibition can have on local businesses," stated White. "With 'Emerging from Darkness,' we anticipate a significantly higher number of visitors coming to our region, for a period of close to five months. This will undoubtedly boost the local economy and provide many opportunities for businesses to thrive."

To provide more insight into this groundbreaking exhibition and its potential impact on the region, Council and Hamilton Gallery are inviting local retail, hospitality, and accommodation businesses to attend an information session.

Tony Doyle, CEO Southern Grampians Shire Council and Gallery director Joshua White will be on hand to discuss the importance of the exhibition to the region. Mary McArthur, Council's Visitor Services Coordinator will also attend to discuss opportunities to jointly encourage increased and extended visitation within the region throughout the exhibition period.

"We recognise the potential this exhibition has to attract a significant number of visitors to our Shire, further strengthening our local businesses and tourism sector. We invite all our local businesses to come along and hear all about the extensive marketing program behind 'Emerging from Darkness', the expected surge in visitor numbers, and opportunities to get involved and reap the benefits," Mr Doyle said.

The information sessions are being held on Monday 20 November at 5:30pm and Tuesday 21 November at 1:00pm in the Hamilton Cinema with light refreshments provided. RSVP to info@hamiltongallery.com or 5573 0460.