

Dunkeld & District Newsletter



Sponsored by Lions Club

Distributed fortnightly on Wednesday (except during School Holidays)
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DONATIONS

We rely on donations to the Community Newsletter to offset all expenses relating to producing it. Please send in your donation to the Dunkeld Consolidated School office where it will be receipted and an acknowledgement made via the Newsletter. A receipt will be provided. Direct deposit to BSB: 063 093 Account: 1000 4504 – please include your name as a reference so we may acknowledge your donation.

Thank you to all contributors to the Dunkeld and District Community Newsletters throughout the year. Please remember that the next Issue No.19 is the last for the 2025 year. If you have any news that you would like included, please submit by Friday 28 November for Wednesday 3 December publication.

The first Issue for 2026 will be Wednesday 11 February with items due by Friday 6 February.

DUNKELD PROGRESS ASSOCIATION – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Dunkeld Progress Association will be held on **MONDAY 1 DECEMBER** at 7.30 pm at Sterling Place: Dunkeld Community Centre.

As well as the election of office bearers, there will be the opportunity to discuss budget submissions.

All welcome. Come along and have your say.

Mary-Ann Brown
President



DUNKELD CHRISTMAS EVE SANTA TOWN RUN

Santa will visit the streets of Dunkeld on Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24 December 2025, commencing at 7.00pm.

- Out of town children are welcome to wait at the Post Office end of Memorial Park.
- Grandparents are welcome to ring Heather and she will make sure Santa knows that grandchildren are visiting.



Many thanks to the Dunkeld Rural Fire Brigade, Alan and Kerri Jones, Cee Blackwell, Riana of the Corrugated Cottage, Santa and helpers, and to those who make this community event possible.

Enquiries to – Heather Hampton, Phone: 5577 2240 or Mobile: 0437 947 951

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

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 November 23 UNITING CHURCH at STERLING PLACE 5.00pm Jim Hewett

Dunkeld Community Carols

Sunday December 14 at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Martin Street, 7.30 pm
 Cuppa and biscuit to follow

Practices will be held on Sundays – 23 and 30 November 23 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

CHURCH TIMES

Sunday 23 November 9.00am

Sunday 30 November 9.00am

**WHAT'S ON NOVEMBER / DECEMBER - PLEASE CHECK THROUGH THE NEWSLETTER AND USE
 BELOW TO FILL IN THE DATES THAT ARE RELEVANT TO YOU**

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



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

Sunday 23 November John Kay & David Gordon

Sunday 30 November Joyce Gordon & Makayla

McCabe

Sunday 7 December Simon Armytage & Lyn Collins

OUR VISITORS: Last week we hosted the Packenham Probus Club, a great group of people, it was especially pleasing to hear the group leader congratulate us on the Museum presentation, stating we were the best country museum they had visited ... that was worth all the effort we have put in over the last few years to make this place a great history archive.

END OF YEAR: The Dunkeld Museum will be closing on 7 December for our annual Christmas break and re-opening in February 2026.

DUNKELD PUBLIC LANDS

Many thanks to all who came along to help with the working bee to clean up Salt Creek from the Valley Road Bridge to the walkover bridges on both sides, helping to reduce fire risk.

The walking tracks have now been sprayed with frog friendly round up for environment purposes. All help received is very much appreciated.

Frank Raymond

DPLC

300 Words from Father David

Bread for the journey

Bread for the journey is the title of a book by Henri Nouwen. I was reminded of his book when watching a show on TV the other day. It was one of those programmes where a group of people are making a pilgrimage together. The scenery of course is stunning, the bantering jocular, the participants are looking for something which is not necessarily their final destination but rather that special something that they discover about themselves and each other whilst traipsing along. Its great television and lots of fun.

At one of their stops they are greeted by a beaming, jovial monk who welcomes his visitors with affection, deference and grace. And then

he proudly announces that he has a gift for them. What might it be? Perhaps a signed copy of his memoir, a set of rosary beads, a history of the monastery? No ... instead he hands around a bowl and each person takes out their gift. It is nothing more than a wisp of bread.

How ineffectual. What use could a small chunk of bread be to those who were hiking over great distances and burning energy as if there was no energy crisis?

Turns out, of course, that the bread and its size were both symbolic as all the very finest gifts are.

Bread is one of the oldest forms of sustenance that we have and is used universally to feed and strengthen. And the size... sometimes it is the smallest gesture of love... a smile, the sacrament, a look, a word, a hug, a card... in the twinkle of these minuscule things we are fed most lavishly and memorably. For our homework we might reflect on those crusts of bread that we have been offered and how we might offer the same sustenance to others.

We're the clever ones... right?

Each week it is a great joy to be able to chat to my daughter. She lives in New York and we engage in lively conversation thanks to a thing called google meet. We swap stories and update on family news.

This is a first world privilege not afforded to most of the world and would not have been available to our society 50 years ago.

We're the clever ones... right?

But the advancement of technology and medicine over the past few decades does not stop there. O Lordy, Lordy no.

Think of the motor vehicle. It takes us from A to B and then onto 3.6 and back home again. It's air-conditioned, plays music and now comes with navigation devices that even the most ungeeky priest can work out and use competently. We're the clever ones ... right? Think of the medicine and prescriptions that most of us of mature years rely on and the cleverness that was involved to test and refine these tablets to a safe and effective level. Where the clever ones ... right?

And then we took travel to a whole new level where hundreds of people can get on board a tin cylinder and in just over 24 hours arrive on the other side of the planet. And don't even get me started on space travel. We most certainly are the clever ones ... right?

But then if we are so clever in this age of communication and connection, how come there are many who feel nothing but isolation and loneliness. And Boy... we sure know how to start a war. But... we're not quite smart enough and clever enough and wise enough to know how to end a war. Perhaps we have a ways to go. Perhaps we're not the clever ones after all.

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

SGSC L2P Program

Council's L2P program is currently seeking volunteers to join its mentor program.

A small contribution of one to two hours a fortnight can help make a big difference.

For further information please call **5573 0444** or **0427 915 424** or emailing l2p@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au



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.

**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.

We have prizes from Parker St Project, the Royal Mail Hotel, Bellcourt Books, AGnVET Kelly's Dunkeld, Your Regional Butcher, Provincial Home Living, The Hamilton Gallery, and Kerryn's Mum

... to mention a few!!

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

- \$25.00 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 at the Dunkeld Post Office.

Icy Poles and Gorey Holes

An Exhibition by Trevor Flinn

LAUNCH – Friday 5 December, 6.00pm

EXHIBITION – Open weekends throughout
December, 12noon – 3.00pm (or by appointment)



Image: "Anthony", 2025, cardboard, concrete, foam, wire, bitumen paint (height 48cm dimensions variable)

Artist, Trevor Flinn invites you to his latest exhibition, which is both a response to current events and a celebration of the miracle of existence.

Having studied sculpture at the Victorian College of the Arts, he has since exhibited at C3 Contemporary Art Space, Kings ARI and Platform Artists Group.

Flinn's playful and inventive creations have been described as having a rawness and purity reminiscent of Art Brut, while also tapping into the rich tradition of Dadaism.

Join the artist (along with his analyst Dr Elizabeth Arthur, and manager Archer) for a look at his latest collection of spontaneous, irreverent and absurd sculptures, collages and constructions.

Opening Night

Friday 5 December at 6.00pm

OFF THE RAILS, 78 Skene Street, Dunkeld

0493 191 714 - @inlikeme - @offtherailsdunkeld

Open weekends 12noon – 3.00pm (or by appointment)

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

BSB: 633 000

Account Number: 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:

The Lions recently assisted the CFA when they conducted a Region exercise. Our thanks to these men and women who freely give of their time and talents to help protect lives and property.

Coming events involving the Lions:

Assisted with parking at the Dunkeld Races.

One of those things you really had to know:



The magnificent dome of Saint Peter's, and façade of the Gesu in Rome were designed by the Italian architect Giacomo della Porta (1532 - 1602).

Recently I wrote to the Pope advising him on how the church can reach out to young people. I explained that the church had to communicate in today's language especially with the stories of the Old Testament. A prime example is Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt. The young are not going to believe the story as told in the Bible, but, if it was explained; thus, "God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission, Moses led the people to the Red Sea and got his engineers to build a pontoon bridge. He led the people across and

called in bombers to destroy the bridge before the enemy could cross."

Although a few things have been changed a bit I think the young are more likely to relate to my version than the Bible's version, but both versions have Moses getting the people out of Egypt with the help of God. I have not received a reply as yet.

The world according to Hinchey:

To our CFA volunteers just remember that the next time you are working a serious life-threatening fire that our politicians are behind you. Sometimes that far behind you that they lose sight of you.

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

Peter Hinchey



Garden Notes – November

Time to prepare for summer watering, will your hose reach that new garden bed or will a longer hose or more taps be needed. Check and clean watering systems and sprinklers, repair or replace damaged or broken hoses or fittings, also remove weeds and apply mulch. This will significantly reduce water use.

Frost will rarely cause problems from early November onwards; therefore, the full range of summer and autumn vegetables can be planted. Crops which take a fair while to mature such as tomatoes and the pumpkin/cucumber group should be planted before the end of the month so that harvests can be made before the weather cools down in the mid to late autumn.

November is still a good time to plant summer and autumn flowering annuals such as petunia, marigold, impatiens, salvia, lobelia and other favourites.

Watch out for black aphids on peach, nectarine and cherry trees as these often appear during November and December. If there only a few, they can simply be hosed off, larger infestations should be sprayed with pyrethrum of one of the soap-based insecticides or products like MAVRIK.

Now that fruit has formed on apples and pears, they should be sprayed every three to four weeks until harvest, Spinetoram or Carbaryl are the current recommendations. November is a good time to feed lawns, a lawn growing strongly will be easier to look after during the summer months. Also don't cut your lawns too low, this will help to prevent the grass drying off.

One reader has found that his soil is strongly alkaline (the pH reading was 9) and has asked how to bring it down closer to neutral i.e. 6.5 to 7). Very old well-rotted sawdust or well matured compost will work or for faster results, he could try Allum or powdered Sulphur.

If you plan to re-pot any of your house plants, November is a good time. You will need good quality clean pots of the same size or slightly larger than your present pots and a premium quality potting mix (one that meets Australian Standard AS 3743). Do not use garden soil to repot house plants as it is very rarely of a suitable texture or structure and plants will usually fail to survive.

Remove plants from pots, trim damaged leaves and roots, lightly tease out root systems then position into new pots backfilling with potting mix followed by a generous watering. As temperatures rise, you will notice that your plants will use

more water, however, take care not to over water as most problems with indoor plants are caused by excess water.

Mowing, slashing or spraying of excess grass or weed growth around your garden will improve its appearance as well as reducing fire hazards and habitats for insect pests. If your apple and pear trees have set heavy crops, a few minutes spent thinning will result in larger and better-quality fruit and reduced risk of branch breakage under heavy crops. No more than two to three fruitlets per cluster is a good aim.

Roses can easily develop black spot at this time, avoid overhead watering and pick off and immediately bin any affected leaves. Also deadheading of spent blooms will encourage new flowers and reduce the risk of disease.

Another reader was having trouble with some Australian native plants. Inspection revealed that he had applied a liberal dressing of animal manure around them. This is a definite No-No.

Happy gardening!

Stephen Hughan, Ararat Nursery – phone: 5352 1123

A Spring Terrain

By Marion Colton

A place I really love to visit in the Spring is the native meadow to the west of the Myers' homestead. At this time of year, it is always full of a blend of exotic and native grasses, interspersed with a profusion of flowers, both native Australian and introduced.

As I wandered today, my attention was drawn to dense communities of Sundews, maybe a mix of *Drosera peltata* and *Drosera Auriculata*, which created a haze of gold across several areas. They are only just about to flower and their pale green, sticky leaves sparkle in the sun, a wondrous sight.

My eyes are drawn to the earth. On it are carpets of hundreds of minute sky-blue flowers, perhaps a Lobelia or Pratia species. From a distance they are invisible, for they cling to the earth, sheltered and hidden by all the taller species of grasses and forbs.

Colour is so helpful in drawing one's eyes to various plants. I became aware of a colony of yellow flowers, their dainty heads appearing above the grasses on fine, branched stems. They seemed to be enjoying this season as there were several patches of them. I had only seen a handful of them in previous years. They are possibly the Spur Velleia, *Velleia paradoxa*, and are very similar to a tall Goodenia species, *Goodenia pinnatifida*.

Also waving gently above the grasses, covering a large area, was a profusion of native Bluebells, maybe *Wahlenbergia gracilis*. Today, at this time in the morning, their buds are still closed, but they will probably be fully open in a couple of hours. They like to sleep in until the sun is at its height!

A low compact patch of white flowers beckoned me and I dutifully went to discover what they were and admire them. Oh, how lovely! Another favourite! The lovely Common Rice Flower, *Pimelea humilis*, with its globular head of tubular, creamy-white flowers. Sadly, I don't see it so often these days. White, too, were scattered patches of the native Cut-leaf Daisy, *Brachyscome multifida*, but many were past their prime, having lost their petals and been reduced to round, greenish, greyish brown seed-heads. They have delicate feathery leaves.

I smiled with delight when I saw the rich purple tones of the Chocolate Lily, *Arthropodium strictum*. Many flowers and buds bedecked their stems, emanating their enticing chocolate fragrance. How inventive plants are to attract pollinators! Beautiful in its formation but not so attractive because of its habit, and taller than the Chocolate Lillies, were the long flower spikes of Sheep's Burr, *Acaena echinata*. They produce small purplish flowers which develop into clusters of prickly seeds, renowned for attaching to socks and pants as one walks past. At the moment, the green burrs are just developing on their long claret stems.

Another prickly plant which grows here, and for which I have a special affection, is commonly known as Blue Devils, *Eryngium ovinum*. I find its skeletal form and colour quite fascinating. At present, most plants are still in their green stage of leaf and stem formation. Only one or two were displaying new flower heads. These spiky flowers were still immature and green and had not yet transformed to their unusual blue. Everything in its own time!

In the midst of a small, vegetated depression northwards was a mass of yellow flowers, about which I was curious. As I approached I realised they were Buttercups. How delightful! A native species, Small River Buttercup, *Ranunculus amphotrichus*. On the same stem as the glistening yellow flowers and new buds, but lower down, were pale green, rounded, pointed seeds melded together in small clusters.

How fascinating life in the natural world is! Feeling enriched and grateful I returned home.

I'd like to express my thanks for the privilege of living in such a special environment and with a caring community. I wish everybody, young and old, a very Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Christmas and hope that 2026 brings fulfilment.



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 held a Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph in the Dunkeld Memorial Park on Tuesday 11 November. President, Mr Terry Noble, led the service, which included the following speech:

Today we gather to honour the courage, sacrifice, and resilience of those who served and continue to serve in defence of our freedom. No event so deeply wounded, divided, changed and ultimately defined us than what brings us here today.



A moment of silence today is a symbol of reflection and gratitude and it's also a time to remember the families forever changed due to the war, we also remember the nurses, medics and the countless others who supported our soldiers, their sacrifice reminds us of the cost of war and the value of unity and understanding.

As we wear the poppies or just wear the memories, let it serve as a reminder of our shared responsibilities to strive for a world where such sacrifices are no longer part of our lives.

Let us honour also their memories by fostering compassion, respect and peace in our communities and this will remind us that we are young and free. Lest We Forget.

Dunkeld Consolidated School Captains, Grace Macgugan and Willy Kirk, participated in the service with Grace reciting The Ode and Willy raising the Australian flag to the masthead during Reveille. Colourful wreaths and red poppies were respectfully laid at the base of the cenotaph by community groups, School Captains and individuals. The RSL served light refreshments in the Supper Room at the Dunkeld Community Centre following the service.

Thank you to local businesses for allowing us to sell our Poppy Appeal merchandise and to Mrs Heather Lynch in Glenthompson for her tireless support and assistance. Thank you also to the general community for supporting our Poppy Appeal.



SCHOOL NEWS

Students tumbled down a rabbit hole at the Whole School Concert at the Community Centre on Thursday 6 November. 'Alice in Dunkeld' was a truly magical event with every student playing a part in the performance. School Captains, Grace and Willy, presented Mrs Tara Stephens, Music teacher, with colourful bouquets and a gift in appreciation for her hard work, support and enthusiasm. A wonderful night was enjoyed by all!



SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL MAYOR ELECTED FOR 2025/26

Southern Grampians Shire Council elected Cr Dennis Heslin unopposed as Mayor for 2025/26 at the 5 November Statutory Meeting.

Cr Heslin said it was an honour to once again represent the Southern Grampians community.

"To be elected the first time was an extraordinary honour; to be re-elected by my fellow Councillors is a real vote of confidence in the direction we're heading," Mayor Heslin said.

"The past year has been both a challenge and a privilege. With experience now on my side and a strong team around me, I'm confident we can make this an incredibly productive and rewarding year for our community."

"We have another big year ahead with a focus on our three major projects, aimed at improving the liveability of the region and strengthening its future for generations to come. Council was pleased to elect Councillor Helen Henry to the position of Deputy Mayor.

"Cr Henry and I are committed to working collaboratively and supporting each other throughout our 12-month term.

"As a Council, we've grown together in experience and capability, and I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity to continue leading such a dedicated team," said Cr Heslin. Councillors were appointed as representatives of Council for the following committees:

- Audit & Risk Committee: Cr Henry, Cr Barber
- Planning Committee: Cr Manning, Cr Heslin
- CEO Employment & Remuneration Committee: Cr Heslin, Cr Barber, Cr Henry
- Hamilton CBVD Revitalisation Advisory Group: Cr Barber
- MAV: Cr Campbell, Cr Heslin (Proxy)
- Southwest Victoria Alliance: Cr Heslin
- Rural Councils Victoria: Cr Manning, Cr Henry (Proxy)
- Green Triangle Action Group: Cr Rainsford
- Rail Freight Alliance: Cr Rainsford
- Ansett Museum Board: Cr Barber, Cr Campbell (Proxy)
- Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group: Cr Manning, Cr Henry

Council also made the decision to move monthly meetings from the second Wednesday of the month to the second Tuesday of the month. This change will come into effect from the first meeting of 2026 which will take place on Tuesday 10 February 2026.

Council determined the upcoming schedule of meetings for 2026 which will be made available shortly via the Council [website](#).

SHARE YOUR IDEAS FOR THE 2026/2027 COUNCIL BUDGET



Residents are invited to share ideas and complete submissions for the 2026/27 Southern Grampians Shire Council Budget, with responses welcome between Friday 7 November 2025 and Friday 9 January 2026.

Residents are encouraged to get involved early to help Council understand the services that are valued most within our community. Locals can participate in the engagement process by filling out an

online submission form, by completing the survey online or using the paper-based option available at the Brown Street Customer Service Centre.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said this is a great opportunity for residents of all ages to get involved in contributing to the Council budgetary process. "Council recognises the importance of services in supporting the everyday lives of our residents right across the Southern Grampians," said Cr Heslin.

"You might be a swimmer in one of our pools, an avid reader borrowing from the library, a new parent being supported by our maternal child health nurses, someone who spends a lot of time in the car on our roads, or you may volunteer with a sporting club using a recreation facility, we want to hear which services you use."

"The Budget is developed by these community ideas and feedback, submissions from community groups and individuals, as well as Council staff.

"All submissions will be considered and assessed in line with our Council Plan 2025-2029, with a draft Budget to be released for community exhibition in May 2026.

"Together, let's build a budget that reflects the values and priorities of our Southern Grampians community," concluded Cr Heslin.

As Council continues to work through the financial year, there are a number of projects supported by the 2025/26 Budget still to be delivered, including some which came from community submissions. These projects will continue to be completed across the remainder of the financial year. The Lake Hamilton Solar Lighting Project, Nigretta Stairs and Pedrina Park Cricket Nets were all priorities submitted through community engagement for last year's budget, now contributing to the overall enjoyment and liveability of the region.

The online submission form can be accessed on Council's [website](#). Submissions close Friday 9 January 2026. Hard copy forms can be obtained from Council's Customer Service Centre at 111 Brown Street, Hamilton.

LAKE HAMILTON SPILLWAY RECTIFICATION WORKS TO COMMENCE

Southern Grampians Shire Council will complete maintenance works and install survey equipment to improve safety of the Lake Hamilton Spillway.

Council will establish a monitoring system and undertake surveys to identify movement over the past six years within the immediate area of the spillway. In addition, grouting of the spillway and reed removal works will be undertaken. These works are a result of Council resolving to allocate \$75,000 for the project at last night's ordinary Council meeting.

These works will include the establishment of a comprehensive monitoring system, CCTV inspection to survey underground services near the spillway and to report any changes, as well as fixing identified cracked joints and gaps, and the clearing of impacting reeds.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said these works are vital to improve the safety of this important community asset.

"The construction of Lake Hamilton was completed back in 1977 and since that time, Council has undertaken or commissioned a number of assessments and technical reports that have identified areas needing rectification and ongoing maintenance works," said Cr Heslin.

"The most recent Spillway assessment report completed in 2022, noted several minor items of concern which have been addressed such as potential piping (leaks) under the embankment and minor cracks in the concrete spillway. "Most of these items were investigated and closed out, however, the report included two items of significant concern relating to checking the spillway capacity, and the pipeline age and condition through the embankment.

"Council will now install survey systems which will inform Council on the integrity of the spillway and future works or actions to be undertaken. The findings of these reports will be the source of a business case to be submitted in future years to address any subsequent stages of intrusive assessment and investigative works."

An emergency management plan for Lake Hamilton is currently in development and will be formed in partnership with relevant local stakeholder organisations.

Once completed, the Lake Hamilton Emergency Management Plan will be provided to the Municipal Emergency Planning Committee for review.

Data collected through the CCTV monitoring system will further inform staged actions which will determine future budget allocations and/or identified external funding opportunities.

"Ensuring our ageing infrastructure is well maintained and frequently assessed contributes to the overall safety and reduced risk for those residents located around the Lake," concluded Cr Heslin.

Council will keep residents informed on the upcoming works.

ONE STEP CLOSER TOWARDS A NEW LOCAL LIBRARY AND DIGITAL HUB

Southern Grampians Shire Council is taking a major step towards creating a vibrant new community precinct in the heart of Hamilton, with the appointment of Lyons Architecture to lead the detailed design of the Hamilton Library, Community Hub and Civic Square endorsed at last night's Council meeting.

Following an extensive procurement process, Council endorsed Newpolis Pty Ltd (trading as Lyons Architecture) as the preferred tenderer to deliver the next stage of design work for the landmark project.

The contract, valued at \$1.91 million (ex GST), will progress the designs for the Community Hub and associated public spaces.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said the project represents an exceptional opportunity to reshape the heart of Hamilton.

"The Hamilton Library and Community Hub will be a vibrant, inclusive space that will bring people together to learn, connect, and celebrate community life," Cr Heslin said. "This project, together with the New Hamilton Gallery and Streetscape revitalisation, will completely transform our CBD precinct, creating a thriving destination that attracts visitors and businesses, and provides a beautiful place that residents can be proud of.

"The appointment of Lyons will include local architecture firm Cooper Scaife who will be vital in providing the local knowledge needed to better understand our community's expectations. Cooper Scaife will be involved in upcoming community engagement to work with residents and Lyons Architecture to deliver a dynamic space, tailor-made for our region."

Cooper Scaife, synonymous within Western Victoria, are responsible for delivering the now iconic Tae Rak Aquaculture Centre.

Cooper Scaife Director Bianca Scaife said, "Cooper Scaife Architects are delighted to have the opportunity to contribute to such a transformational project for Hamilton. The redevelopment of this precinct will fundamentally change the fabric of our CBD, with benefits that will extend far beyond the boundaries of the site itself."

"We are looking forward to partnering with Lyons and bringing our local lens to create a place that is inclusive and welcoming for all members of our community."

The Hub will include a modern new library, a Digital Hub providing technology, high-speed internet and co-working facilities, as well as multipurpose spaces for meetings, events, training and community activities.

The design requirements will include the exploration of both a two-story building to house local government organisations as a Government Hub, as well as a single-story build without the government services if adequate funding is not realised. The designs will also include a Civic Square to provide a welcoming outdoor space for events, exhibitions and gatherings.

Costs for the design phase of the multi-million project will be jointly funded through the Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program (rPPP) and Council, with \$1.93 million allocated for design development and architectural services.

"We are really excited to develop these designs as they will put us in an ideal position to seek and secure project funding. We want to provide amenities for our residents that improve their lives and make this a great place to live."

"This is a transformative project that will strengthen Hamilton's position as a regional centre for learning, innovation and culture," Cr Heslin said.

Lyons Architecture have an impressive history of design across Australia with spaces such as Prahan Square, Queensland Children's Hospital, Koorie Heritage Trust, Springvale Community Hub, Southbank Hub and more. To find out more information about Lyons and their work, visit their website at www.lyonsarch.com.au

Community will have an opportunity to have their say in upcoming engagement sessions throughout the design process. These will be promoted via the Council website and social media channels.

GLENTHOMPSON RESIDENTS INVITED TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON PUBLIC TOILET LOCATION

Glenthompson residents will soon have their say on the preferred location for upgraded public toilets with Southern Grampians Shire Council set to begin community consultation following Wednesday night's Council Meeting.

Council has explored two options for the project, one within Lions Park (with two possible site locations) and another involving the renovation of the War Memorial building which currently houses the Glenthompson swimming pool amenities.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said Glenthompson residents will have an opportunity to share their thoughts to determine the ideal location to support the community's needs.

"After last December's motion to explore options including redevelopment of the existing swimming pool facilities, Council has investigated three potential locations for the construction of new public amenities to provide for locals and visitors," said Cr Heslin.

"Option one would see a new modular unit installed within Lions Park, either in the current location or closer to the Memorial Road frontage.

"Option two involves the redevelopment of the existing pool amenities in the much-loved War Memorial brick building for use by the public, ensuring it meet modern accessibility and compliance standards.

"Council will be in Glenthompson next **Thursday 20 November between 4:00pm – 6:00pm at the Glenthompson Hall** to share designs for both options. We would encourage any Glenthompson residents to get involved and tell us which option and location will best support your community now and into the future," concluded Cr Heslin.

The option of the new facility will include dedicated male and female toilets for general use, upgraded septic system, an accessible unisex toilet to meet the minimum standards for accessible public amenities including compliant circulation space, grabrails, way finding signage, plus connecting pathways, and direct access from Glenelg Highway.

The addition of option two has been incorporated to acknowledge the Glenthompson community's preparation to manage the Glenthompson Outdoor Swimming Pool over the 2025/2026 summer season. The release of the two draft options for community engagement is independent from the swimming pool operations for this 2025/2026 summer season.

This decision is a direct response to the Notice of Motion from Councillor Jayne Manning tabled at the December 2024 Council meeting.

Concept designs and a cost estimate have been developed for both options and are available on the [Council website](#).

COUNCIL CALLS ON COMMUNITY TO TAKE A STAND DURING 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

November 25 marks the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, a global campaign calling for the elimination of violence against women.

During this time, communities, organisations and individuals around the world come together to recognise women's rights, promote gender equality, and raise awareness of the devastating impacts of domestic and family violence.

Southern Grampians Shire Council is again joining with Rotary Hamilton's Walk Against Domestic and Family Violence on **Saturday 29 November 2025**.

Rotary Hamilton's Walk will start at 10:00am from the Hamilton Botanic Gardens (Thompson Street Gates) and will finish at the Hamilton Performing Arts Centre. Residents are encouraged to wear purple to support the end to gender-based violence or orange in recognition of the 16 Days of Activism. Guest speakers will feature from Victoria Police, WDHS and Council and will be followed by a free sausage sizzle.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said the campaign is a timely reminder that violence against women and children happens in our Shire, and that together we can take steps to prevent it.

"16 Days of Activism is an important time to have honest conversations about the impact of gender-based violence within our community. Statistics show it remains alarmingly high in the Southern Grampians, so we have a lot of work to do to change this.

"These conversations should happen all year, but the 16 Days campaign puts a spotlight on what we are willing to accept as a community. It challenges us to defend the basic human right to equality. This is our time to say no.

"I encourage everyone to get involved, join the walk against domestic violence, wear purple and orange, and show there is no excuse for gender-based violence in our region."

According to the Australian Institute of Criminology / Australian Bureau of Statistics data for 2023-24 (released July 2025) nationally there were 90 domestic homicide (homicide by intimate partner or family member) victims in 2023-24, representing around 37% of all homicide victims. Of these, 57 were female victims and 33 were male.

Across Australia, we know that nearly one in four women have experienced emotional abuse since the age of 15, and around one in six have at some point experienced physical or sexual violence by a current or former partner.

"While we recognise domestic violence is committed against both men and women, locally Southern Grampians Shire Year to March 2025 recorded 378 family violence incidents - a 13.5% increase on the same period last year.

"This is a stark reminder that we cannot treat violence against women as someone else's issue. Over the 16 Days of Activism and beyond, our community are encouraged come together to promote respect, safe relationships, support survivors and hold perpetrators to account," concluded Cr Heslin.

The annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign begins on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November and ends on International Human Rights Day, 10 December.

COUNCIL ADOPTS NEW ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY TO MAKE HAMILTON'S CBD SAFER FOR EVERYONE

Southern Grampians Shire Council adopted the Hamilton Central Business District (CBD) Road Safety Strategy 2025–2035 at the 12 November Council Meeting, setting a clear path toward safer and more accessible streets in the heart of Hamilton.

Developed in partnership with the Transport Accident Commission (TAC) and the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), the Strategy focuses on reducing serious injuries, preventing fatalities, and improving safety for all road users - whether driving, walking, cycling, or using mobility aids.

The Strategy was developed following detailed local road safety audits and data analysis which identified 19 casualty crashes within the CBD between 2019 and 2023, including five serious injuries. Most incidents occurred at intersections or crossings, often due to limited visibility, high vehicle speeds, and a lack of safe pedestrian infrastructure. Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said the Strategy demonstrates Council's strong commitment to safer streets and community wellbeing.

"We know how important it is for people to feel safe moving around our town centre," Cr Heslin said.

"This Strategy gives us a practical roadmap to make that happen through safer crossings, better visibility, speed management, and community education.

"It's about creating a CBD that's safe, welcoming, and easy for everyone to get around."

The 10-year plan adopts the Safe System approach, aligning with national and state road safety goals, including *Vision Zero* - a long-term commitment to eliminating deaths and halving serious injuries on our roads.

Key priorities include:

- Installing raised pedestrian ('wombat') crossings, particularly near schools
- Improving intersection safety and sightlines
- Investigating traffic calming and safer speed options in key areas
- Enhancing cyclist and micro-mobility safety
- Running education campaigns for students and drivers

Funding to implement priority safety improvements will be sought through TAC and DTP programs such as the Safe Local Roads and Streets initiative.

The Strategy will be reviewed every two years to ensure it remains effective and responsive to emerging safety needs. "This isn't a one-off plan; it's a living document that will guide improvements and investment over the next decade. We're proud to take this step toward a safer, more connected, and more vibrant Hamilton," Cr Heslin concluded.

The Hamilton CBD Road Safety Strategy 2025–2035 will also serve as a model for future road safety planning across the wider Shire. For more information visit [Home Southern Grampians Shire Council](https://www.southerngrampiansshirecouncil.vic.gov.au/home)

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Last Issue for the 2025 year

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

Issue Number	Cut-off Date	Publication Date
19	Fri 28 November LAST ISSUE FOR 2025	Wed 3 December

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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.

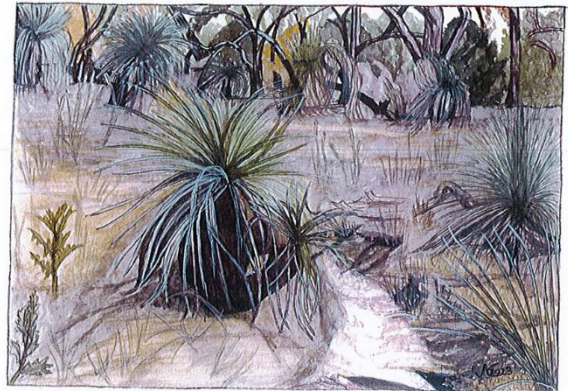
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Bowen Therapy Service is now available in Dunkeld and Surrounds

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:
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