

# Dunkeld & District Newsletter



Sponsored by Lions Club

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

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## DONATIONS



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

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR to all Community readers and contributors.  
The first Issue for 2026 will be Wednesday 11 February with items due by Friday 6 February.



**WE'RE HIRING**  
**CASUAL SCHOOL BUS DRIVER – DUNKELD**  
(Details in Advertisement Section of this Newsletter)



## **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](http://www.westernborder.church)

1 <sup>st</sup> Week	Sunday	December 7	8.30am	Mass
2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	Sunday	December 14		No mass or service (mass in Glenthompson)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	Sunday	December 21	8.30am	Mass
4 <sup>th</sup> Week	Wednesday	December 24	7.30pm	Christmas Eve Mass
5 <sup>th</sup> Week	Sunday	December 28	9.00am	Assembly of Word and Communion
1 <sup>st</sup> Week	Sunday	January 4	8.30am	Mass
2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	Sunday	January 11		No mass or service (mass in Glenthompson)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	Sunday	January 18	8.30am	Mass
4 <sup>th</sup> Week	Sunday	January 25	9.00am	Assembly of Word and Communion

### ANGLICAN/UNITING CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday December 7	ANGLICAN at Saint Mary's	5.00pm
Sunday December 14	UNITING at Dunkeld Community Centre	5.00pm
Sunday December 21	ANGLICAN at Saint Mary's	5.00pm
Sunday December 28	UNITING at Dunkeld Community Centre	5.00pm

### DUNKELD COMMUNITY CAROLS - ALL WELCOME TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AS A COMMUNITY.

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

Cuppa and biscuit to follow.

Enquiries to Heather Macgugan – phone: 0400 952 716. All Welcome.

### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, WARRAYURE

8189 Glenelg Highway, Warrayure

### CHURCH TIMES

December 7	Sunday	10:30am	<b>2026</b>		
December 14	Sunday	9:00am	January 4	Sunday	10:30am
December 21	Sunday	9:00am	January 11	Sunday	9:00am
December 24	Wednesday	7:30pm	January 18	Sunday	9:00am
December 25	Thursday	10:30am	January 25	Sunday	9:00am
December 28	Sunday	9:00am	February 1	Sunday	10:30am

### WHAT'S ON DECEMBER - PLEASE USE BELOW TO FILL IN THE DATES THAT ARE RELEVANT TO YOU

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>30</b>	<b>1 DEC</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Issue 19 publication	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Boxing Day	<b>25</b> Christmas Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

## Thank you from Christine Scott

(Wife of Neil Scott - School Bus Driver - Dunkeld Consolidated School)

Dunkeld has been home for Neil and I for the past 11 years, with many friendships formed over that time. Neil got involved with the Dunkeld Bowling Club which he enjoyed both as a committeeman and a player.

Neil had the privilege of working for BusBiz (Swan Hill Bus Lines) for 9 years, driving the school bus on the Mirranatwa Bus Run. Neil couldn't speak highly enough about his amazing employer and the support the company always provided. Neil always maintained he had the best job and the best bus run, taking in spectacular views and enjoying the nature our mountain areas provide. Thank you to Henry Withoos over the past weeks in his support.

A very sincere thank you to the Dunkeld Consolidated School teachers, staff, administration, parents and grandparents.

Thank you to all who sent flowers, cards and for the kind words received.

Spending a part of his day with the bus students was a highlight, talking AFL footy, local footy, or any sport and interests that the children had, always made his day. He saw these children almost daily for 9 years and got to know them individually and to know their interests.

Neil enjoyed following the local sports clubs and watching the local children participate in their loved sports. School sports days saw Neil attend, as he always enjoyed these fun events.

He was a very keen Adelaide supporter and made the trip many times to Adelaide to watch his favourite team 'the Adelaide Crows' and even travelled to Melbourne on occasion as well. Travelling to Adelaide also provided catch up time with family and friends.

Thank you all.  
Christine Scott

## MIRRANATWA CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Annual Mirranatwa Christmas Party will be at the Mirranatwa Hall from 6.30pm on Saturday 20 December. Santa will appear during the evening. As usual, it is BYO meat and drinks and also a salad and dessert to share. All welcome.

### Contact:

Jen Crawford - 0407 142 047.



## RED CROSS NEWS

We acknowledge the immense work being done by Red Cross in war ravaged Gaza and hope for their safety in such dangerous conditions.

New Trauma Teddy knitters are being sought to take up the task and Sally Beggs has the standard pattern on hand. A Teddy Bear's picnic was held in Beechworth to celebrate the 35th birthday of the Trauma Teddy concept. Young and old alike treasure Teddy and aged care residents love them.

Nareeb Nareeb Dunkeld and Brit Brit catered for the Zone Meeting in Hamilton last week. Mobilization Team members Natalie Motee and Anna Wilson gave a positive update on the work of Red Cross groups across the state. They were happy to take back with them the latest collection of used stamps and described the meticulous sorting and cataloguing done by two volunteers every Wednesday. Visitors, buyers and collectors are welcome on those days. After 10 years as Zone rep, Joy Savill has resigned and Lyn Iredell from Brit Brit, has taken on the task. Any ideas we have for Red Cross, can be passed on to Lyn and she will take them to the state meetings in Melbourne.

In February, Doug Robertson will speak in Coleraine on the famous Helena Rubenstein, whose life began in Coleraine. This year, \$330,000 have been raised for Red Cross in Victoria. Now that Head Quarters have moved to Southbank, all sections of the organization are being brought together, after many years of separation. These include Emergency Services; Patient Transport; Retail; Volunteers; Migration services etc. In Victoria, the idea is being formed of having clusters in the regions, so as to reduce the amount of travel for members and reps. for Zone Meetings.

Frankie Beggs gave the Overseas Support Group report, and that new ways to raise money are being sought, as some fundraisers have been lost. Emergency services were on hand during the Porepunkah tragedy and have been active with drought support.

Our Christmas Lunch will be at *The Little Brick House Cafe* on Thursday 11 December, at 12 noon. Please notify on 5574 0202 if attending. No membership is now required so feel welcome to join us.

Card below (stuck on the back of an elaborate knitting pattern) found in family memorabilia, probably dating from WW2.

Iris Field





## DUNKELD MUSEUM NEWS

### OPEN FOR BUSINESS:

Sunday 1.00pm - 5.00pm and  
Thursday 1.00pm - 4.00pm  
(Other times by appointment)

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

### MUSEUM DUTY ROSTER

Sunday 7 December

Simon Armytage and Lyn Collins

**OPEN FOR BUSINESS:** The Museum will close for the Christmas break after close of business on Sunday 7 December 2025 and re-open on Sunday 25 January. We will open by appointment only (subject to available staff) over the holidays if groups would like to visit.  
Phone 0428 749 236

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### DUNKELD PUBLIC LANDS

As this is the last newsletter for the year I would like to thank our voluntary Committee for their commitment and input over the past year.

We have six or seven meetings a year, plus working bees along salt creek, walking tracks and Memorial Park.

A special thanks to Wendy Trotter-Prust for all the correspondence and secretarial work she does voluntarily with the caravan park.

Also, her involvement in obtaining a grant to assist with finance for the Arboretum Toilet Project.

Work on the toilet is progressing at the time of writing, concrete footing is complete, building to commence soon.

Thanks to those who helped clean up along salt creek, very much appreciated.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Frank Raymond  
DPLC

## 300 Words from Father David

### **The question I fear most.**

I often find myself asking the Almighty lots of questions. Understandable, inquisitive things like ... What were you

thinking when you created tarantulas? How come we seem to be biased towards doing naughty things even though we know that there are fearsome consequences. Why is it so much easier to start a war than it is to finish it? I discover no clear cut, well-reasoned answers, which arrive with thunder and lighting, but rather in my dotage I find myself just sitting gently trying to find the answer from within. Like reliable tradies, outside external messenger, angel, seraphim and posties are a rare commodity.

But often it occurs to me that perhaps The Master might have some questions of me, particularly at the end of my life when I know I must give an account of my good things as well as my villainous acts.

I don't think The Almighty will ask me for references from 3 reliable witnesses, preferably one from my bishop. No, I think this will be a direct line of questioning just Him and me. Is it not possible that he might ask me 'What in my name were you thinking when you.... *here insert one of my many disappointments....?*'

But it is not this particular line of questioning that I fear the most, excruciating and understandable as it might be. The question that will make me squirm and writhe is this. 'What did you contribute?' We are given so much and so many chances to share our wealth, energy, talents, compassion, understanding and nourishment with others and to our collective community as a whole. On a daily basis the opportunities are there for the celebrating. I know that I have been giving so very much by so many, now it's my turn to do the giving.

### **Where to buy 2 kilos of anger.**

It was one of many conversations that I enjoyed in this interconnected community.

The person ahead of me in the aisle spotted my collar and proceeded to tell me with great vigour about an article they had read in a newspaper. Based on the two sentences they quoted from the article I understood why they felt so strongly. Given the effect that it had had on this person's blood pressure and with the wise voice of my doctor and the word hypertension echoing faintly in my mind, I chose not to follow up on the article.

Understandably, my friend was looking for an agreeable advocate in their line of questioning but as I had not seen the article I had to politely decline. It would be churlish of me to comment on something I had not read and did not understand. I would be casting rocky aspersions in ignorance.

Part of the dilemma is the brevity of time and space that our friends in the media have to dispense complex concepts in bite sized, easily digestible morsels for our consumption. It can't be easy. At least the scores in the footy are accurate and indisputable even if the process of getting the score on the board was fraught with danger, knocks and bruises.

The other thing that perturbs me is that the front page with its BOLD headline is often crafted to incite anger and or fear. I know where to go to purchase a kilo of grumpiness. It might be good for sales and the pharmaceutical company that dispenses my blood pressure tablets, but it doesn't always make for congeniality and laughter which are gifts that we all crave.

Ultimately I look forward to many happy conversations in this splendid, connected community of ours.

## Actually ... it's complicated

We tend to think of Christmass as straightforward, easy and uncomplicated. Baby in the manger, Peace on earth and good will to all. But by the time you scratch away the manky, pooey straw, shush the braying animals, make the bewildered Carpenter a cuppa and mop Mother Mary's brow, you realise actually... Christmass is complicated. God consciously chose to be born into the murky complexity of our grubbiness. Thank Goodness, for we always find ourselves being biased and tempted towards the dark side. The wrong things always look sparkling and glamorous. Thankfully The Master is born into our yuk, and there he loves us, rejoices with us, rejoices in us.

And in more good news he chooses you and I, that are not at all spectacular or ritzy. He will even use an old gnarly carpenter and a teenage peasant lass to knock on the door of our hardened hearts.

He is a God that comes in the unexpected, who surprises us, makes us feel embarrassed and flusters us. We are boggled because he comes and wants to live with us.

"Jesus Master carpenter, when you knock upon the woodenness of our indifference and sloth, give us the will to open the door and greet your arrival with joy. Grant us the strength to open our souls, our lives and our hearts to you. Step across the threshold of our complacency and lodge within us. Weep, dance and laugh with us. Make us uncomfortable, surprise us, disturb us, disquiet us and challenge us. Replenish us when our cup has run dry and when we are famished nourish us with the bread of life. And finally, when our earthly temple collapses in death, bring us to the home you have prepared for us where your eternal banquet goes on forever and ever Amen."

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



## A Christmas treat for Dunkeld – again!

This Christmas, for the third year running, Dunkeld will host the internationally renowned Australian Chamber Choir, with a concert that demonstrates how composers through the ages have produced some of their liveliest music for the Christmas season.

As a tribute to the late satirist Michael Leunig, the program will feature three of his short Christmas poems, set to music by Australian composer, Christopher Willcock. In this and other works on the program, the choir is accompanied by Katia Mestrovic on harp.

The centrepiece of the program is perhaps the most theatrical of Johann Sebastian Bach's Motets, *Jesu Meine Freude*.

These works are punctuated by well-known Christmas melodies, such as *In Dulci Jubilo* (by JS Bach), *Resonet in Laudibus* and *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen* (by Michael Praetorius).

The choir will also perform music that has never been heard live in Australia, despite being composed over four hundred years ago. Raffaella Aleotti, music director at the convent of San Vito in Ferrara, was the first woman ever to publish a collection of sacred music, in Venice in 1593. From this collection, the Dunkeld audience will be treated to the Australian premiere of *And there was with the angel*.

This concert will provide a refuge from the frenetic festive season, with music steeped in the essence of Christmas – peace, joy and goodwill.

## Australian Chamber Choir

With Katia Mestrovic – harp  
Directed by Douglas Lawrence  
Baroque Christmas  
Saturday 13 December at 3.00pm  
Sterling Place Community Centre, Dunkeld  
Book at [auschoir.org](http://auschoir.org) or call 0452 531 750.

## Grampians Golf Club

Members and Friends Newsletter – November 2025

As we commence the summer season at Grampians Golf Club, I thought our members and friends may appreciate an update from the incoming committee, with the highlights for 2025, planning for 2026 and the major areas of focus for the committee for the year ahead and beyond.

The Office Bearers for the year to come are Secretary - Kerren Collins, Treasurer – Mark Russell, Club Captain – Peter Hayes, Greens Committee Leader – Angus Jackson, Clubhouse Leader – Derek Morse.

The sub-committee leaders will be supported by general committee members Glen Dixon, Bailey Borgmeyer, Noel Mibus and Peter Gilbert. Other interested and motivated members have generously volunteered their time and expertise to support the club through the work of these sub-committees. The running of our major events and the ability of the club to present the course and the annual programme is largely dependent on the efforts of those members who continue year on year to volunteer their service. The Ladies Committee for 2026 is President - Lyn O'Brien, Vice President - Gillian Jenkins, Captain - Glen Dixon, Vice-Captain - Pam Howell. On behalf of the members, we extend thanks and appreciation for the valuable work of the retiring Committee Members – Jenny Crawford, Mark Dore and Dan Jones.

Golf Australia has introduced a digital scoring and handicapping system, led for our Club by Lindy Hayes and Pam Howell. It is a bit of a generalisation but hardly surprising, that our lady members appear to have mastered the system more quickly than our male members!! The prospect of committing your score to a mobile device and not a bit of cardboard does concern some, somewhat!

Apart from the golf programme, this past year saw the Club invest in the repainting of the Clubhouse, installation of solar panels, enhancements to the Kitchen and locker rooms and adoption of "Starlink" to assist our internet and digital business



requirements, such as EFTpos facilities. We acknowledge the grants extended by Southern Grampians Shire Council to assist the club to complete these projects.

The Club also installed “Vendi Golf,” a tap and go system which enables our increasing number of visitors to pay for their green fees via card. This has obvious benefits for both our visitors and the club, while retaining the honesty box system.

We encourage our broader community to promote Grampians’ unique golfing experience to visiting friends, relatives, and travellers. We believe a well maintained, interesting, challenging, and picturesque golf facility enhances the attractiveness of Dunkeld as a place to live, work, play and visit.

The club’s annual tournament in August was again successful, with the many visiting participants praising the state of the course and the organisation of the event, including the spectacular prizes and sumptuous catering. We are very appreciative of the support we received from our valued sponsors and of course our own volunteers and organising committee.

We would like to recognise the efforts of our members who took out the major events or trophies during the year. Our A grade Champions this year were Martina Whelan and Tim Farquharson and B Grade Mary Fenech and Derek Morse.



L to R: Derek, Tim, Martina and Mary



Some of our club members had success away from the home fairways and scrapes, with Alma Fonda and Lindy Hayes winning the prestigious Doris Chambers trophy against statewide competitors.



L to R: Venita, Pam and Glen

Closer to home, Venita Mibus, Pam Howell and Glen Dixon successfully lifted the Hamilton Rose Bowl.

Grampians was also represented at Western District Golf Association men’s pennant level, with the team just going down in a close fought Grand Final.

On behalf of the committee and membership of Grampians Golf Club, we wish everyone a happy, safe and joyful Christmas and New Year holiday period and a successful 2026. We look forward to sharing our wonderful facility with members and visitors alike over the summer. The Warbro, (our main summer competition for all members and visiting golfers) commences 29 November, with a Stableford event each Saturday commencing from 11.30am.

Early in the New Year we will outline the playing schedule for 2026, including the key dates for major events and Club functions. The committee is in the first stage of planning a major event in 2027, which will celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the 18-hole layout in October 1967. Watch this space for more information as planning proceeds. For now, good hitting!

Peter Besgrove  
President

**Councils L2P program** is currently seeking volunteers to join its mentor program.

Would you mind sharing this flyer to your upcoming community newsletter please.

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

For further information please call **5573 0444 | 0427 915 424** or emailing [l2p@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au](mailto:l2p@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au)

A flyer for the L2P Program. At the top, there is a photo of a man and a woman standing next to a white car with 'L2P' and 'TAC' logos. Below the photo, the text reads 'Volunteer Opportunities'. It then states: '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'. At the bottom, there are logos for Southern Grampians, Victoria State Government, and a QR code.

Please see attached the Council Flyer for engagement on the 2026/27 Council Budget

Using the QR code, residents can complete the survey for what services matter most to them or fill in a budget submission as per the media release provided earlier.



## OFF THE RAILS DUNKELD WRAP UP

### Bingo Night Brings the Community Together Saturday 22 November 2025, 6.00pm – 8.00pm



What a night! Our much-anticipated Bingo with Holly event took an unexpected turn when Holly was unable to attend — but the wonderful Georgina stepped in at the eleventh hour, keeping

the energy high and the room in stitches. Her warmth, humour and quick wit made the evening unforgettable, and we are incredibly grateful for her spirit of generosity. We were blown away by the huge turnout. The hall was packed with locals, friends, families and supporters of all ages, all coming together to raise funds for our 2026 program of arts, education and community events at Off the Rails Dunkeld. The buzz in the room, the laughter across the tables, and the friendly competition made it one of our most successful community nights yet.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came along, bought tickets, cheered, played, and made the night such a joy. Your support helps keep Off the Rails thriving as a volunteer-run, not-for-profit space for creativity and connection.

We also extend a huge shout-out to the local businesses who generously donated prizes and vouchers. Your contributions added excitement to every round and helped us raise vital funds for the community. We are lucky to live in a place where local business owners back community initiatives with such enthusiasm.

Thank you once again to Georgina and all that attended. The community raised \$1,350.00 which will keep the lights on for another year!!!!



## COMING UP

### 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, 6.00pm

OFF THE RAILS, 78 Skene Street, Dunkeld

0493 191 714 - @inlikeme - @offtherailsdunkeld Open weekends 12noon – 3pm (or by appointment)

### Call for Dunkeld Christmas Market Stall Holders

**Saturday 13 December 2025  
10.00am – 3.00pm**

Contact [otrdunkeld@gmail.com](mailto:otrdunkeld@gmail.com) or 0405 385 359.





### 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: 155 271 299**

Thank You.  
Off the Rails, Dunkeld Committee



### From the Lions Den

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



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

### A nice Lions story:

The Lions still assist DRASS (Dunkeld Refugee and Asylum Seeker Support) at the Old Bus Depot Op-shop, and we thank them for allowing us to be part of it. Our part of the proceeds go locally, one example is that we assist the Dunkeld and Glenhompson Newsletters financially. Thank you to those who have supported us over the time that we have been there.

### Coming events involving the Lions:

Dinner Meeting at Willaura.



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

Spencer Perceval (1762 – 1812) is the only British Prime Minister to have been assassinated. He was Chancellor of the Exchequer under Portland (1807) and succeeded him as Prime Minister in 1809. In 1812 he was shot in the lobby of the House of Commons. His assassin, John Bellingham, was

not a political opponent, but a bankrupt merchant trader with a grievance against the government.

### The world according to Hinchey:

Sometimes I knock our system of government, it is not perfect, but it is the best.

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

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!

Peter Hinchey



### Garden Notes - December

Main vegetable plantings for December are broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, early brussels sprouts, lettuce, beans, carrots, parsnips, beetroot, radish and turnips.

Flowering annuals include petunia, marigolds, impatiens, portulaca, and salvia.

Watering is probably one of the least understood aspects of gardening even by experienced gardeners. Firstly, people relying on dam or bore water should make themselves aware of the salt content. If it is 500ppm or less then it is safe for most plants, some very hardy plants can tolerate up to 1500ppm as long as care is taken not to splash it on to plant foliage. One easy test is if your water is drinkable then it is safe to use on your garden.

For established plants, a deep soaking say once or twice per week is much better than a quick splash every day as this will encourage roots to "chase" water deeper into the soil therefore establishing a deeper and stronger root system



which will be more drought tolerant. Young seedlings or newly planted plants will require more frequent watering, on hot days perhaps three or four times. Try to avoid using fine sprinklers in windy conditions as much water will be lost, also if your hose has been lying in the open on a hot day, be sure to "run off" any hot water before applying it to your plants. Mulching and regular weed control will significantly reduce water use. To avoid the establishment of fungus disease problems some plants should not be watered overhead, examples are roses, tomatoes and the pumpkin/cucumber group. As long as you only use natural soaps and detergents, "grey water" i.e. bath or shower water is safe to use on your garden. The best times of the day to water are early morning or evening as this is when evaporation is reduced, however, newly sown seed or newly planted seedlings will need water during the day.

Your soil type will also determine how much water your garden needs. Sandy soils will dry out much faster than heavier or clay type soils. This is because a clay soil with its much smaller particle size has many more soil "pores" in which to store water therefore a given volume of clay soil will hold more water than the same volume of sandy soil, an advantage in summer but the opposite can apply during a wet winter.

Now that your roses have nearly finished their main spring flush of growth and flowering, you should spend some time "dead heading" them, i.e. removing spent flowers by cutting down to a healthy leaf junction. This will ensure plenty of new growth for good summer and autumn flowers.

As weather warms up and dries out, slugs and snails become less of a problem, however earwigs can begin to appear. The main ways to control them are to remove any cover for them e.g. weeds, piles of timber or rubbish, paling fences and timber or stone garden edges are also popular hiding places. Carbaryl can be used, boiling water into hiding places is effective as are traps baited with any type of cooking oil.

Don't forget to check your nursery for a range of Christmas gifts.

Thanks for your support and encouragement during the year.

May you all have a happy and holy Christmas and a bright and trouble-free New Year.

Happy gardening!

Stephen Hughs, Ararat Nursery – phone: 5352 1123



bowling. An action-packed camp from start to finish! While the campers were away, the Year 1 students participated in a tailored learning program with Mrs Gilbert, deepening their literacy and numeracy skills through rich and engaging activities.

Year 6 students will be holding their second and final My Business Rules Market Day stalls in Mud-Dadjug Hall on Wednesday 3 December.

On Thursday 4 December, Year 6 students and staff will be participating in the Royal Mail Hotel Kitchen Garden Tour and Fine Dining Experience.

Our Future Stars 'Dunkeld Demons' basketball team will be competing at the Hoop Time State Finals at the State Basketball Centre at Wantirna South on Friday 5 December.

State-wide Transition Day will be held on Tuesday 9 December with Kindergarten students attending school for the whole day. Students in Prep to Year 5 will all 'step-up' into their 2026 classes for the day.

The Year 6 Graduation meal and ceremony will be held on Wednesday 10 December at the school.

On Friday 12 December, the school will be holding our Final Assembly at 9.10am where 2026 student leaders will be announced. At 10.45am, we warmly welcome our community to the Meeam Court Official Opening, followed by light refreshments in the Wurgarri Room. Family fun activities will be held on Kapping Oval at 11.30am and 'Foodbank Food Fight' events will be held on Koorae Oval from 2.30pm.



## SCHOOL NEWS

It has been a busy few weeks at Dunkeld Consolidated School. Our future Prep students recently enjoyed their transition session, exploring early literacy and numeracy tasks, building friendships, and practising the routines that will help them begin next year with confidence.

Our Year 2/3/4 students headed off to Warra Gnan Coastal Camp at Warrnambool for a fantastic two-day camp led by Mrs McShane and Mrs Phillips. From flying fox thrills and fishing to cycling, sandcastle building, mini-golf, shipwreck stories at Flagstaff Hill, and even a rainy sprint back to camp - they showed incredible teamwork, resilience, and enthusiasm. They wrapped it all up with some fun ten-pin

## MIRRANATWA PUBLIC HALL AND RECREATION RESERVE COMMITTEE INCORPORATED

At the request of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, a public meeting will be held at the Mirranatwa Public Hall and Recreation Reserve on Sunday 7 December 2025 at 7.00pm.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive nominations from not less than three or more than nine persons for appointment of a Committee of Management for the Mirranatwa Public Hall and Recreation Reserve Committee Inc for the next three-year period.



## 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.

**Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps:** In February 1951, the Australian Army merged the RAANS and the AAMWS to form the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps (RAANC).

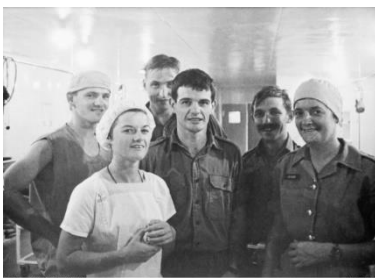
The change removed the administrative control of nursing from the Royal Australian Medical Corps. As an independent corps, the RAANC adopted the Latin motto Pro Humanitate, meaning 'For humankind'.



The RAANC also adopted a corps emblem of a lamp on a red background. The lamp is a longstanding symbol of military nursing. It dates back to Florence Nightingale, who was called the 'Lady with the Lamp' during the Crimean War in the 1850s.

Since 1951, RAANC members have served in conflict zones and peace operations around the world, including:

- Korea
- Malaya (Malaysia)
- Vietnam
- Cambodia
- Rwanda
- Bougainville
- East Timor (Timor Leste)
- Afghanistan
- Iraq.



*A group of military medical staff standing together. Theatre staff of the 1st Australian Field Hospital, which was stationed at Vung Tau from April 1968 to November 1971, gather for a group photograph outside an operating theatre. The nurses are (left) Lieutenant Yvonne Werndley and Lieutenant Norma Dickson. The four men were theatre technicians whose names, unfortunately, remain unrecorded. AWM P01702.009*

The service personnel of the RAANC continue to play a key role globally in:

- armed conflicts
- peace operations
- humanitarian operations
- disaster relief operations.

They have provided aid and comfort to thousands of patients, both military and civilian alike. Their contributions have changed and saved lives, and we are thankful for their extraordinary service.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup><https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/stories/army-nursing-in-australia>



## SANTA'S WONDERLAND RETURNS TO HAMILTON FOR A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS SEASON



Southern Grampians Shire Council is excited to announce the return of Santa's Wonderland, bringing festive cheer back to The Hub in Hamilton for another year of Christmas magic.

From Wednesday 4 December, Santa will transform Shop 5 at The Hub into his festive wonderland, welcoming children and families to share their wish lists, enjoy a chat with the jolly man in red, and soak up the wonder of the season.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said Santa's Wonderland has become a much-loved highlight of the local Christmas calendar, and Council is excited to help bring this joy to the community.

"Families are invited to take their own free photo with Santa, capturing a special moment to remember for years to come," said Cr Heslin.

"Santa will also be making a very special appearance at the St Mary's Christmas Parade on Friday 5 December, before heading to the Hamilton PAC for an additional meet-and-greet session among the festive market stalls.

"With Christmas excitement building across the Shire, Council looks forward to seeing local families and visitors come together to celebrate, create memories and enjoy everything this magical time of year has to offer," Cr Heslin concluded.

Meet Santa at Shop 5, The Hub in Hamilton:

- **Wed 3 Dec** - 11:00am to 1:00pm
- **Thurs 4 Dec** - 12:00pm to 1:00pm
- **Fri 5 Dec** - Appearing at St Mary's Christmas Parade
- **Wed 10 Dec** - 12:00pm to 1:00pm
- **Thurs 11 Dec** - 11:00am to 1:00pm

- **Fri 12 Dec** - 4:00pm to 6:00pm
- **Wed 17 Dec** - 11:00am to 1:00pm
- **Thurs 18 Dec** - 11:00am to 1:00pm
- **Fri 19 Dec** - 4:00pm to 6:00pm
- **Sun 21 Dec** - 11:00am to 1:00pm
- **Tue 23 Dec** - 11:00am to 1:00pm
- **Wed 24 Dec** - 11:00am to 1:00pm

For more information on all things Christmas in the Southern Grampians visit [Christmas in the Southern Grampians Southern Grampians Shire Council](#) or [What's On - Visit Southern Grampians](#)

## BIG SUMMER READ RETURNS TO KEEP KIDS READING OVER SUMMER



The Greater Hamilton Library and Public Libraries Victoria (PLV) are pleased to announce the return of the Big Summer Read, Australia's biggest public library-supported reading challenge.

Running from 1 December 2025 to 31 January 2026, the campaign encourages young readers aged 0–18 years to visit their local library and keep reading during the summer holidays.

Last summer, more than 24,000 Victorian children participated, logging thousands of books and helping to combat the “summer slide”- the loss of literacy skills that can occur when children stop reading over the holidays.

Over the past three years, our local Big Summer Read has been hugely successful with close to 500 participants reading over 7,500 books.

Library Services Coordinator Kelly Pitt-Lancaster said the program is a fun way to keep reading during the summer break. “Reading as little as six books over summer can help maintain a child’s literacy level. The Big Summer Read makes this fun and accessible for every family. Our recent figures show how popular our program has become with some great prizes on offer so register with us today.”

The campaign aims to engage young people in reading for pleasure, support literacy development and raise awareness of the free resources available through public libraries

The program is free to join, and participants can log the books they read, listen to, or have read to them. For every 10 books read, participants will receive an entry into the draw for some amazing local prizes.

First prize is a \$500 Toyworld voucher, second place is a \$300 JB HIFI voucher with third a \$100 pass to the Hamilton Cinema.

Now in its fifth year, the Big Summer Read has not only grown locally and across Victoria but has now expanded to include public libraries in Tasmania, Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia.

To register, visit the Greater Hamilton Library, collect a reading log and start reading. You can also access the

forms at [www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au/Greater-Hamilton-Library/Big-Summer-Reads](http://www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au/Greater-Hamilton-Library/Big-Summer-Reads)

## DATE SET FOR DEMOLITION WORKS ON LONSDALE STREET

Demolition at 90-92 Lonsdale Street Hamilton will move ahead with works set to commence 27 January 2026. This marks a major milestone in the ongoing revitalisation of the Hamilton CBD.

Warrnambool-based contractor Murihy Demolitions will complete demolition works, which will prepare the site for the new Hamilton Library, Digital Hub and Government offices.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin acknowledged the patience shown by the community throughout delays to the site.

“Thank you to everyone for your understanding while we have worked through the necessary planning and legal processes in readying the Lonsdale Street site for demolition,” Cr Heslin said.

“Projects of this scale take careful planning and coordination, and we want the community to feel confident that every stage has been, and will continue to be, completed with community front of mind.

“These buildings have been a part of Hamilton for a long time, and now they will make way for a completely reimagined CBD precinct. The new library, digital hub and government offices will transform the look and feel of the area and modernise the space. We’re really excited to show everyone what’s to come.”

The project will involve the complete demolition of existing structures including the former Toyworld and Mitre 10 buildings, as well as EPA approved asbestos removal, waste management and the eventual levelling of the site. Materials will be disposed of safely, with all relevant certificates provided to Council.

To protect nearby properties, demolition along shared boundaries will be completed by hand, with contractors to carry out roof protection works where needed.

Neighbouring businesses will be kept informed ahead of any temporary service interruptions.

The demolition will be broken down into six carefully planned stages over approximately six weeks. This is designed to minimise disruptions as much as possible. Fencing will be erected at the site from Friday 5 December 2025, with the demolition beginning on Tuesday 27 January 2026.

Council and Murihy Demolitions will work closely with those in neighbouring properties to accommodate deliveries and access needs during demolition periods. Community safety remains the highest priority. The site will be fully fenced and signed, with traffic management in place during short closure periods. Dust suppression, noise minimisation and continuous waste removal will ensure the project is completed with care for both the environment and the surrounding precinct.

“We understand that demolition works can be inconvenient, and we appreciate the patience of those who work nearby,” said Cr Heslin.

“This project is a very important investment in the future of our town, and your cooperation will help us to manage that as smoothly and safely as possible.”



If you would like to read more about this project and the future of the Hamilton CBD, check out all the details on our website. To stay up to date with Council plans, consider signing up to our newsletter.

## **SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY**

Wednesday 3 December marks an important date on the calendar recognising International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD).

This annual day invites us to reflect on the contributions, achievements and vibrant presence of people with disability in our region, while promoting a more inclusive community for everyone.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said the day is a meaningful reminder of the role the whole community plays in strengthening inclusion.

"International Day of People with Disability encourages us to recognise the extraordinary contributions people with disability make to our Shire every day," Cr Heslin said.

"Council is committed to fostering a community that recognises and celebrates diversity, removes barriers, and ensures everyone has the chance to participate."

To mark the occasion, Council is proud to once again partner with the Hamilton Racing Club for the much-loved Party with the Ponies - a standout event now celebrating its 20th year. Over two decades, this event has grown into a joyful and highly anticipated day, brought to life by the excitement, smiles, and energy of participants from across the region.

Taking place on Tuesday 9 December at the Hamilton Racecourse, Party with the Ponies welcomes disability groups, community organisations, and residents from Hamilton, Ararat, Terang, Portland, Warracknabeal, Warrnambool and Millicent.

From 11:00am, attendees can enjoy a full program of activities, including an animal nursery, face painting, crazy nail station, a giant birthday cake and roving entertainment. The crowd-favourite Fashions on the Field will once again be a highlight, offering a wonderful opportunity for creativity, colour and celebration.



"International Day of People with Disability reinforces the importance of accessibility, equality and connection."  
"Council is incredibly proud to support events like Party with the Ponies, which reflect the welcoming

and inclusive Shire we strive to be," Cr Heslin concluded.

For more information, please contact Council on 5573 0444.

## **IMPROVED SAFETY AT HAMILTON LAKES EDGE PLAYGROUND**

Hamilton's beloved Lakes Edge Playground is set for an upgrade that will provide a more welcoming and inclusive space for children and their families of all abilities.

Council has begun installation of new fencing and entry gates to fully enclose the playground, creating a space where children can play freely while parents and carers can watch and participate with greater peace of mind.

The upgrade follows a budget submission received during the 2024–25 Budget Submission process, where parents and playground users highlighted that user experience would be improved by enclosing the playground. The submission explained that it would also provide a more inclusive space for people with additional needs and their carers.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said the project shows how community input can directly shape local investment.

"This upgrade came straight from the families who use the playground every day," Cr Heslin said.

"Last year we asked the community what they wanted to see in the budget, and projects like the Lake Hamilton solar lights, the Pedrina Park cricket nets and now this playground fencing all came from that process.

"Budget submissions are open again until Friday 9 January, so if you have an idea for how Council should allocate budget, please head to the 'engage with us' section of the Council website, we'd love to hear from you."

The new fencing will match the existing style, with timber posts and powder-coated steel panels designed with vertical bars spaced to reduce entrapment risks and comply with recognised Australian Standards for playground safety.

Three new pedestrian gates will also be installed. These will be DDA-compliant, self-closing and fitted with child-safe latches to ensure safe and easy access for all users, including pram-users and people with mobility aids. The work will be delivered by Warrnambool-based contractor Doukas Group, with construction having begun on Tuesday 2 December and expected to be completed by Monday 15 December 2025.

Disruptions will be minimal, with the playground expected to remain open throughout majority of the works period. Please take care around the work zone and follow all safety signage.

For more information about Council projects, visit our website or sign up to our monthly newsletter.





## African Action South Sudan

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

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

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

Thank you.

From Jim for African Action International Inc.

[www.africanactionsouthsudan.org](http://www.africanactionsouthsudan.org)

## 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.



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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

Migraines		Headaches
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Respiratory Issues		Tinnitus
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Bowen is a Holistic Treatment treating the body on many levels

### 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](http://www.bowenom.com)

My contact details:  
Mauro Morganti (Moz) RN, RM (Non Pract), BT Diploma  
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