



MURRA-BIT-A-NEWS A FREE PUBLICATION

June 2021

Community News Contributions Gratefully Accepted

P.O. Box 3, Murrabit 3579

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Murrabit Advancement Association Inc.

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Murrabit Community News

After a huge effort to get the Murrabit Market up and running in December 2020, we entered 2021 with confidence that we wouldn't need to close the market down again. Unfortunately this was not to be!

With the lockdown now behind us, we will be up and running again for the Saturday 3 July Murrabit Market. We will be keeping our fingers and toes crossed that we won't find ourselves in such an uncertain position again as we move forward!

The recent rain has been welcome and it is fabulous to see the area covered with a green tinge and the crops starting to emerge. It certainly is a great time of the year to notice the little changes in the environment, and to enjoy the Winter sun when it graces us with its presence!



We have some exciting projects occurring at Murrabit.

Construction works will commence soon to install our new town stormwater system. Our community named this as our top priority in our 2017-2021 Murrabit Community Plan and we are really pleased that it is included in the Gannawarra Shire Council's budget for 2021/22 after receiving a large federal government grant.

The new Murrabit Netball Club Change Room Redevelopment project is underway at the Murrabit Recreation Reserve. This is being funded by the Victorian Government, Gannawarra Shire, Murrabit Football Club, Murrabit Netball Club and Murrabit Recreation Reserve Committee of Management. Total project cost is \$328,800.

The panelling is in place at the Lions Park toilet block for the next 'Colour our Town' mural. Hopefully this will be completed over the coming school holidays by Kerang Artist, Paul Oswin.

Paul created the mural on the market site and will be back in town soon to create two more. This project is being funded by Gannawarra Shire Council, the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR), Murrabit Advancement Association and Murrabit Promotions Committee.

Exciting news has just been received that an application to DELWP for solar panels to be installed on the Murrabit Tennis Clubrooms has been successful. This is part of our community vision to have all our community buildings powered by solar to reduce the operational costs to our community groups. Once the Tennis Clubroom solar project is completed, there will just be the Golf Clubroom remaining, with all other community buildings now being powered by solar. A great outcome for our little town!



New Welcome to Murrabit Sign - Murrabit Lions Park

Get the News Early

Did you know you can receive the Murrabit newsletter via email?

To add your email to the list, simply send an email to murrabit1@bigpond.com.

MURRABIT COUNTRY

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8.30am—12.30pm
Free Entry

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MURRABIT MEN'S SHED

After yet another forced closure of the 'shed' and interruption to our programs and activities, we will be back up and running again from Sunday 27 June. Men's Shed is held 1:30pm to 4pm every Sunday. Membership for the 2021/22 financial year is now due. Cost is \$35 per year to cover insurance costs and can be paid by dropping into the 'shed' on a Sunday. Enquiries to Stephen O'Donoghue, Secretary
Phone: 0418 577 238.
Facebook - Murrabit Men's Shed.



KERANG TO ECHUCA BUS SERVICE

1st Tuesday & 3rd Friday of each month
Timetable, Bus stops & Fares

8am - Departs Kerang Railway Station -

8.25am - Departs Murrabit Hall

8.45am - Departs Koondrook Hall (side)

9.05am - Departs Cohuna Hall (rear)

10.15am - Arrives Echuca CBD

2pm - Departs Echuca CBD for the return service

One-way, Part way & non-concession fares are also available. No bookings are necessary. Tickets are available from the driver & allow for free transport on Echuca buses whilst there.

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MURRABIT LIONS UPDATE

It has been a fairly quiet time this month for Lions with a number of our members managing to escape to warmer, less locked down parts of Australia!

We had a terrific dinner meeting in May at the Golf Club. We welcomed Chris and Don (proud new owners of Carol and Peter Ash's place) for their first Lions dinner, Robyn and Yvonne surprised us all with an exciting new table arrangement and the Kerang scouts provided a fantastic range of delicious casseroles for dinner.

Our guest speakers were Chris and Jenny Pye from Barham and they shared plenty of stories about their 18 months of adventures travelling all over Australia in a gypsy wagon built by Chris and towed at an average of 40kph by a big old Chamberlain tractor!

Thanks to a Gannawarra Shire grant, we are enjoying the renovated Golf Clubroom, which doubles as our Lions headquarters! The building has been painted, new carpet, blinds and split system air conditioners/heaters installed creating a most comfortable environment for our meetings and dinners!

Our next dinner meeting will be on Tuesday 29 June. Our change over dinner is coming up in July and we will hopefully have the conclusion of our Junior Public Speaking competition in July as well.

If you are interested in joining Lions, please contact President Neil Hopkins on 0490 830 641 or membership head 'honcho' Bill Hazen on 54572213.



TA & DL

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MURRABIT & DISTRICT HERITAGE GROUP

The Murrabit & District Heritage Group meets bi-monthly. Next meeting : 20 July 2021, 7:30pm at the Murrabit Market Office.

Everyone with an interest in local history is more than welcome to attend.

A delicious supper follows each meeting and general finishing time is 9:15pm.

The group has agreed that a member will create a special interest article for each Murrabit newsletter from now on, with Faye Morton offering to put together an item for this newsletter on Tom Lornie (below). Thank you Faye!

Contact: President Neil Hopkins 0439 970 029
Secretary Narelle O'Donoghue 5457 2264
or email: murrabit1@bigpond.com

TA LORNIE - BY FAYE MORTON

It has been 65 years since the T.A. Lornie Guide and Scout Hall was opened by Member of Parliament (who was also a Murrabit local), the Honourable Dudley Walters.

The Hall was named after Thomas Andrew Lornie, who was an enthusiastic Scout Leader for many years. He had a great sense of humour which made him a great success with the boys. They spoke of him as a wonderful Scout Master. He loved wild life and his interest in nature was passed onto the boys who were fortunate enough to be Scouts during his years in the Scout movement.

Thomas Andrew Lornie was one of the Closer Settlement people who came to the Murrabit district during the 1920s with his wife Marion and children, Freda and Ian.

He originally owned blocks on what was the Tye Estate (located between Punt and Hannah Lanes). but when he became manager of the Murrabit Packing Shed, they lived in the house on the river side of the road near the Gonn Crossing Punt.

The Packing shed was situated at Gonn Crossing before it was shifted in to Murrabit where it is today [trading as Murrabit Trading Ltd now] enabling the company to send the oranges and other fruit by train to markets in Melbourne.

During WW2 Tom Lornie was a member of the Volunteer Defence Corp.

He and his family lived in the district for many years. After WW2 Tom started up Scouts in Murrabit.

Guides and Brownies started in 1954. In 1956 the T.A. Lornie Scout and Guide Hall was opened as a tribute to Tom as a long serving Scout Master.

Now the T. A. Lornie Guide and Scout Hall has been restumped, reclad and repainted and the local Men's Shed use it as their meeting room. It's great that this historic building has been fully restored and is once again being used by our community.

Question: During 2019, Faye Morton had reason to read through some of the old minute books from the Murrabit Football Club. Would like to know what was the 'Silver Circle' mentioned in the minutes during the 1950-1960s?

What's Happening at the 'Tav'

A fantastic night was had by all at the Tavern's re-opening on Friday 18 June 2021. With all of the refurbishment that has taken place the Tavern looked terrific, the maximum 50 allowed had booked in well in advance and it was easy to see and feel how excited everyone was to be back!

Everyone had a great night and no one was in any rush to head home.

The really exciting news is that **the Tavern is again open from 4:30 pm on Fridays and Saturdays** from now on!

Patrons are again able to wander in sit down and enjoy a drink but don't have to be having a meal. There is still a maximum of 50 people permitted and while bookings are not essential, it might be a good idea.

Deb is still looking for a junior assistant (15-18 years) to help in the store from 5:30pm on Friday and Saturday. There's an opportunity for someone!

Murrabit Public Hall Update

We have had new double roller blinds installed at the hall thanks to a grant from Gannawarra Shire Council. The new blinds will allow either sunscreen or full blackout. We are also waiting to hear about another grant application through FRRR which, if successful, will allow us to do up the area on the east side of the hall. We are hoping to put in some decent grass and add 2 or 3 nice big outdoor tables with shade to create another friendly space for anyone and everyone to take some time and have a catch up.

The Hall is again open for business: For bookings, contact Marlene Laursen on 5457 2291 or Neil Hopkins - 0490 830 641.

Murrabit Seniors



Meet every fortnight - Wednesdays 1pm

*Social Meals also at the
Murrabit Hall*

28 July 2021, 12 noon

New people very welcome

Contact Evelyn Napier 5457 0280
or Gannawarra Shire Community Care Team on
5450 9333



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Murrabit Group School

A busy month at school with many things occurring around Remote Learning. Our students, parents and staff adjusted amazingly well again and showed how resilient they are.

Unfortunately COVID has seen the cancellation of the Lightning Premiership for 2021, much to the disappointment of our enthusiastic students who had been training hard.

At school, students have been able to continue with their normal classroom learning, complimented with specialist music, Italian, art, library and PE classes. School really is a fun place to be!



Regional Cross Country

After the great success at the Mallee Zone Cross Country, we had four students, Sophia Larkin, Jobe Hein, Cooper Hein and Xavier Murray who have qualified for the Regional Cross Country Championships at the start of next term. This is a wonderful achievement and we wish them the best of luck.

Canberra Fundraising

The Grade 5/6 students are busy fundraising for their Canberra Excursion in term 4. To help raise money they are collecting cans, bottles and glass with the 10 cent recyclable symbol on it. We would appreciate any community support. If you would like to drop your bottles, cans or glass off at the school we would gladly take them to the recycle depot.

Last Day of Term

The children are looking forward to having a fun day on the last day of term with their PJ / Movie Day.

School Reunion

An early notice that the School is celebrating 50 years since it became Murrabit Group School, with a number of smaller schools coming together on one site. This occurred in 1971.

To help us celebrate we are having a reunion on Saturday 2 October 2021 - Murrabit Market day.

A committee is being formed to come up with details of what the celebrations will look like. If you are interested in being involved on the committee give the school a call on 5457 2284.



Weekly sessions are **9:30am to 11am on a Tuesday**. Anyone is welcome. Please bring along a piece of fruit to share.

Playgroupers have been kept fabulously entertained this month

with a big thank you to the Murrabit Primary School and the talented Mr Hopkins. With 'Hoppo' on the guitar, the children all joined in for nursery rhymes and had an absolute ball.

We hope COVID stays away so we can keep enjoying great activities like this at playgroup.

As always, everyone and anyone is welcome to attend, and it has been fantastic to see some new faces come along.

We have also celebrated some birthdays this month, wishing Lilly Monk a very happy 4th birthday and to Jobe McKnight who celebrated his 3rd birthday.



As an update from the last newsletter, Murrabit Playgroup and the Murrabit Advancement Association have raised concern with the Uniting Church as to uncertainty surrounding the use of the Murrabit property for childcare.

The building has been used to provide early childhood services to the wider Murrabit district for the past 55 years.

A virtual meeting was held on 10 June 2021 and follow up correspondence has been provided.

This is an important issue for Murrabit and our priority is to gain permission to have the In-Venue Family Day Care Service reinstated at the building so that our local families have access to childcare. We will keep people informed as news arises.

The Murrabit Market will be back up and running in July and we would love some volunteers to help serve at BBQ. A quick little fundraiser and a social morning out. If your able to help please let Olivia or Codie know.

Codie Laursen President

Olivia Monk Secretary

<https://www.facebook.com/murrabitplaygroup>

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

To put an article into the Murra-bit-a-News please have it into the MAA Office by



THURSDAY 15 JULY 2021

Information can be emailed to murrabit1@bigpond.com delivered or posted through the door.

Community interest info is free.





Advertise from \$10.

**COVID REVISED
2021 GRFNL SEASON**

R7. 19/6 - WANDELLA (H)
 R8. 26/6 - HAY (A)
 R9. 3/7 - QUAMBATOOK (H)
 R10. 10/7 - NULLAWIL (A)
 R11. 17/7 - MACORNA (H)
 BYE - 24/7
 R12. 31/7 - ULTIMA (A)
 R13. 7/8 - MOULAMEIN (H)
 R14. 14/8 - WANDELLA (A)

21/8 - 1st Semi Final
 28/8 - 2nd Semi Final
 4/9 - Preliminary Final
 11/9 - Grand Final

Murrabit Footy Club

We were hoping for a clear run with the COVID restrictions in 2021. Unfortunately that was not the case. The state lockdown saw all football and netball cease for a 3-week period and the state go back into lockdown.

As we emerge out the other side of this lockdown, our 2021 draw was revised and with this several restrictions on crowd size and access to facilities.

As we know, we must be flexible! The restrictions can change from week to week and we hope that as we continue through the remainder of the season that the restrictions ease.

As we pass the mid point of the season, we see the Football Club in a strong position. Our Senior side sitting 1 game out of the 4 have been on the wrong side of some close games and will strive to turn that around of the second half of the year.

Our Reserves have only dropped the one game to date and as players return from injury the side will continue to improve and should play deep into the finals series.

The U17.5s continue to battle it out each week and apply pressure all over the ground. They are often outsized but to their testament, always follow the instructions of the coaches and the game plan.

And what a start to the year by our U14.5s, 3 great wins only 1 loss and a draw sees them in the top 4.

We spare a thought for our sponsors who continue to support us throughout these uncertain times. If you are able to, please support where you can.

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Murrabit Netball Club Update

Great to be back on the courts after another lockdown and on Saturday we welcomed our old foe, Wandella, to the Murrabit Recreation Reserve for a wonderful day of netball.

Results: F Troop won 22-4, Under 14s lost 29-34, Under 17s lost 22-45, B Reserve won 42-17, B Grade won 44-21, A Grade won 52-18.

All grades are playing a wonderful brand of netball - from our oldest to youngest player - everyone is doing the club proud.

Thank you to all our coaches for their continued hard work.

By now you would have noticed that the construction of the new netball rooms is underway which is exciting and we look forward to seeing it all come together.

In the coming weeks we will have details on our netball function. It is sure to be a great night and we look forward to seeing you all there!



"Busy Bees of Murrabit"

Community owned and operated gift shop and visitor centre, Gonn Avenue, Murrabit (part of the Murrabit Market Office Complex)



Currently open Murrabit Market mornings 9am to 12:30pm

Other times by appointment by phoning 5457 2205

Keep up to date by liking our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/murrabitmapotions>



Golden Rivers Electrical Pty Ltd

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HON PETER WALSH MLA
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Please feel free to contact my office with any matters concerning the State Government or its departments.

Funded from Parliamentary Budget

MARKET CLEAN UP ROSTER 2021

July, August and September
Murrabit Men's Shed



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