



MURRA-BIT-A-NEWS

A FREE PUBLICATION

February 2024

Community News Contributions Gratefully Accepted

P.O. Box 3, Murrabit 3579

Website: www.murrabit.com.au

Facebook: www.facebook.com/whats-on-in-murrabit

Phone: 03 5457 2205

Murrabit Advancement Association Inc.

Email: murrabit1@bigpond.com

Murrabit Community News

Australia Day at Murrabit was celebrated with a lovely breakfast cooked by our fabulous Lions Club, followed by a presentation by guest speaker Melissa Sambrooks. Melissa told her story of growing up in the area and her passions as a young person which included dance, swimming, running and footy umpiring. Melissa now teaches grades 7-9 students in Melbourne and is a VFL and AFLW boundary umpire. She recently won the AFLW Umpiring Rising Star Award and is working to progress her football umpiring career. Melissa told of her love for everything Australian - footy, vegemite, the Aussie spirit and language, and coinciding her visits home with the Murrabit Country Market! President of the Murrabit & District Lions Club, Neil Hopkins spoke of his love for community and coming together on Australia Day to celebrate what it means to be Australian. Cr. Travis Collier announced the Gannawarra Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year award recipients as Kerang resident, Jacqueline Hibbet and Cohuna resident, Fifi White.

Pictured below: Neil, Melissa and Cr Travis Collier



MURRABIT COUNTRY MARKET

First Saturday of every month plus Easter Saturday



Up to 100 stalls of:

- Plants
- Hardware
- Clothing
- Timber crafts
- Fresh produce
- Hot food & BBQs
- Devonshire teas
- Art & Crafts
- Giftware
- Antiques
- Books
- Toys

& so much more!

UPCOMING MURRABIT MARKETS

SATURDAY 2 MARCH 2024

Live Music - Honest Ken

SATURDAY 30 MARCH (EASTER)

Live Music - Jimmy Johnson

Variety of market stalls

Breaky, morning tea, and lunch by our local community groups

Stallholder bookings to www.murrabit.com.au/market or phone (03) 5457 2205.



Pictured above: Australia Day Breakfast 2024

CLEANER WANTED

Murrabit Recreation Reserve is currently seeking a cleaner.

Approximately 8 hours per week during the football/netball season.

For further details, please contact Stephen O'Donoghue, Secretary on 0418 577 238.

COMMUNITY WORKING BEE SUNDAY 24 MARCH 2024 9AM TO 12NOON

Come along and help tidy up the town in preparation for the influx of visitors over the Easter long weekend. If you can't make it on the day there is always plenty of jobs to do - gardening, watering, mowing, picking up sticks, racking up bark and leaves, washing down signs, whipper snipping, spraying weeds and ants, keeping the BBQ, seating area and playground in the Lions Park clean and tidy. If you see a job that needs doing, we are all volunteers, so please feel free to hop in and lend a hand.

Busy Bees of Murrabit

Community owned and operated gift shop and visitor centre, Gonn Avenue, Murrabit (part of the Murrabit Market Office Complex).
Open Murrabit Market mornings 9am to 12:30pm. Keep up to date by giving our **Murrabit Promotions** Facebook page a LIKE



Murrabit Accessible Defibs - Snake Bite Kits now included

24 hour accessible defib machines are mounted externally next to the kitchen door at the Murrabit Hall and at the door to the Murrabit Men's Shed. The Men's Shed defib machine cabinet also includes a set of pads suitable for children under 8 years. These life saving machines are available to anyone in an emergency.

Thanks to Ambulance Victoria who have recently added a Snake Bite kit to the accessible defib cabinets. This is a great addition which hopefully will never be used - but great to have as a 'just in case'.

Remember to always first call an Ambulance in an emergency by phoning **Triple Zero (000)**.



**SOCIAL MEALS**
February - June 2024

Murrabit Hall
Wednesday 28 February
Wednesday 27 March
Wednesday 24 April
Wednesday 29 May
Wednesday 26 June

Bookings to NDCH
Community Care
(03) 4429 1900
A great way to socialise and
enjoy a home-cooked two-
course meal for just \$10.

Murrabit Book club

Book Club meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 8pm, usually in member's homes. Please contact Jeanette Coulter 5457 2331 for more information.



Men's Shed is
held 1:30pm to
4pm Sundays

The Men's Shed sets up for each Murrabit Market - all welcome to come along and help out - meet at the Lions Park at 9am on Friday 1 December. Membership fees are \$35 to cover insurance costs and can be paid by dropping into the 'shed' on a Sunday.

Contact: Stephen O'Donoghue, Secretary 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 and non-concession fares are also available. No bookings necessary. Tickets available from the driver and allow for free transport on Echuca buses whilst there. For more information, please call Public Transport Victoria on 1800 800 007.

Murrabit Rec Reserve

The Murrabit Recreation Reserve is managed by a DECCA appointed committee of management. Hiring enquiries to Terry Morton President 0409 692 630 or Stephen O'Donoghue Secretary 0418 577 238.

MURRABIT MARKET CLEAN UP ROSTER 2024

March Market - Murrabit Fire Brigade
Easter Market - Murrabit Men's Shed
April Market - Murrabit Men's Shed
May Market - Murrabit Men's Shed
June Market - Murrabit Men's Shed
July Market - Murrabit Playgroup
August Market - Murrabit Men's Shed

MURRABIT NEWSLETTER DETAILS

If you are not already receiving this free community newsletter via email, please send us your email address so that we can add you to our email list. You will then receive the newsletter on the day it is produced. The monthly editions of this newsletter are also available from our website: www.murrabit.com.au/murra-bit-a-news
Hardcopies are delivered via Australia Post to local residences. Deadline for articles for upcoming edition is **TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2024**
Information can be emailed to murrabit1@bigpond.com, delivered or posted through our door. Community interest info is free.

Advertise from \$10.

Colour our Town Mural Project

If you have been kicking around Murabit lately you are sure to have noticed the latest mural s completed on the Murrabit Market site.

It's taken a while to get these latest murals completed with interruptions caused by the stormwater installation project, landscaping projects on the market site, and the 2022 floods. They were however completed just in time for the February Murrabit Market and the end result was worth the wait!

Working with local artist, Paul Oswin, the latest murals - one of a large Murray Cod with a little Cod, and the other of a Murray Cray completed Stage 2 of the Murrabit - Colour Our Town project.

These new large pieces of public art are on the end of the main Broadcast Point at the market, facing Browning Avenue.



Paul specialises in specialises in painting Australian native fauna.

It has been exciting to work with Paul to prepare each location for his imagined works of art and to see them come to fruition.



The two latest murals add to the three others completed in 2021 - our 'Murrabit Market' mural, four cheeky kookaburras and 'Eric' the wedge-tailed eagle across the road.

We were also lucky enough as part of Stage 1 of the project to have Paul deliver a workshop at the Murrabit Hall. The workshop provided a great opportunity for locals to come together to learn some new arts skills.

The project has been funded by Gannawarra Shire Council, the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal/ Gardiner Foundation, Murrabit Promotions Committee and Murrabit Advancement Association.

We hope to now be able to attract some additional funding so that Paul's creations can keep popping up in our little town to add some colour and a point of interest for our residents and visitors.

Pictured are the five murals completed so far as part of the Murrabit - Colour our Town project.



Tennis News

Hard to believe that our tennis season is heading into the last few weeks. We only have 2 more rounds of tennis, before the finals start in March. Our Division 1 team and the Juniors are sitting comfortably in the top four, but our Div 2 team are looking unlikely to see finals action this year.

It has been a little challenging for our teams this season with a number of our players and families busy with sporting commitments, events and holidays. But we are very lucky to have such a flexible crew and some superstars ready and willing to play up or fill in and help us out. A great team, club and community effort, keeping our strong little club out on the court enjoying our tennis. The juniors have had a great season so far and we have had 15 kids over the season making up our team. Each of the juniors has improved and enjoyed their tennis and we wish them the best of luck for the remainder of the season and finals.



The Murrabit Tennis Club Singles Championships began last Thursday night. No doubt there will be fierce competition in each of the Men's, Ladies', Boys and Girls divisions. Good luck to all those competing.

As the season comes to an end our main focus shifts to the Easter Tournament. This is our major event and rounds out our tennis year. We will be looking for players and helpers over the Friday and Saturday of the tournament. Entries are now open (see information below). It is always a relaxing and enjoyable family weekend. Let your friends and family know and ask them to join you at the tournament

Go Murrabit!



Netball News

In the off season, we held our AGM late November, and many positions remain the same.

At the AGM it was official, we were all very excited to appoint A grade coach, Elly Bookham from Lalbert. Elly is a returning player and a very handy mid courter. Elly is in great hands with the experienced Ashea Bujdoso, Elly's assistant. **Pictured below is Elly, President Jenny Nethercote, and Ashea.**



The girls kicked off the season mid-January and are offering great online exercises to keep players motivated and fit for season 2024.

We are also very happy to see Erica Cummins (pictured right) stepping into B grade as coach. Erica brings a wealth of knowledge to the game. Erica wears many hats at the Club as Treasurer and as an umpire.



Expression of Interest: We are seeking a B Reserve coach and junior coaches for U17s & U14s.

If you are interested in coaching, we would love to hear from you.

We welcome any players regardless of experience and we are always looking for umpires and committee members. Juniors striving to play senior netball are also encouraged to complete the online form.

2024 Preseason Dates still to come:

- 22nd February – Fitness and drills 6.15pm
- 29th February – Drills and games 6.15pm

For non-members all enquires can be directed to the Murrabit Netball Club Secretary – murrabitnetballclub@gmail.com

We would like to thank Neil Teasdale for his time as President of the Football Club. Neil was very hands on at a club and league level, often facilitating club activities including 2023 Carlton Draught pick – with Sydney legend Josh Kennedy. Neil was also very supportive towards the Netball Club female change room facilities and volunteering a lot of his time in support of his members. Thank you Neil we are most grateful!

We welcome Ross Stanton as President of the Football Club in 2024. Ross is a former Netball Club President, and we are very much looking forward to working with Ross.

Thank you. **President, Jenny Nethercote**



MURRABIT EASTER TENNIS TOURNAMENT

77th Annual Easter Tennis Tournament

Mixed event Good Friday - Doubles Easter Saturday

A fun family weekend. Entries are now open at

www.surveymonkey.com/r/FTC2QK6

www.Facebook.com/MurrabitEasterTennisTournament

www.tennis.com.au/Murrabit

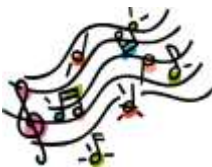
Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors who assist in the running of this tournament.

Contact Sara McNeil 0439 380 604

Email: murrabitolawntennisclub@gmail.com

Hum n Strum Music

We fired up a couple of weeks earlier than intended as everyone was seriously missing music and were just busting to get going again! Five terrific new songs have already been added to our playlist – Elvis, Creedence, The Drifters and The Beatles all getting a look in. We were pleased to welcome another new member – Colin McDougall and his ukulele - to our group. There's hidden talent all over the place!



We were all very sad at HumnStrum to hear of the passing of John Mathers last week. John and his beautiful wife Doris were original members of our group with John being our first drummer. John was a lovely bloke with a great sense of humour and we have missed his involvement over the past year and a half. We send our love and best wishes to Doris and her family, and look forward to Doris rejoining us again, soon we hope, with her ukulele and sweet singing.

Our first performance for 2024 was at the WD Thomas Day centre in Kerang last Wednesday. They are always so welcoming and we had a really great time with plenty of audience participation. Dancing happened again with Robyn and Kerry leading the way this time in the ever popular Twist! We are really looking forward to our next performance, which is at Murray Haven on 13 March, as they are such a great audience and a pleasure to play for.

Our regular Wednesday meetings are very informal and terrific fun, you just have to like music! If you would rather just pop in every now and then, you are most welcome. We meet at the Murrabit Golf Club from 2-4pm (although we often start earlier and finish later). And for those who like performing we also play once a month at different spots around the district. If you're interested in coming along, contact Neil Hopkins 0490 830 641 for more information.



Murrabit Hall

Woodfired Pizza Night update:
We are hoping to hold this event, which was postponed from December, sometime in April and are currently trying to find a suitable date. So keep a look out for that!

We were very pleased to again be the venue for Robyn and Neil's annual *Week of Yoga* in January. The Hall was used every morning at 7am and each evening at 6pm for yoga classes. There was plenty of interest with more than 20 people taking part across the week.

We have had new exterior handles installed on both the kitchen doors and the door to the main room. They have been changed from the difficult-to-open giant doorknobs to very user friendly handles. Thank you to the Shire for their quick response to our request for the change.

And, we would also like to thank Gannawarra Shire for their prompt repair of the injured shade sail at the rear of the Hall, which they were able to have back in place in time for our Australia Day celebrations.

Our regular activities - Line Dancing, yoga, market morning teas and community lunches – are all back in full swing.

The Hall is available for hire and is a perfect venue for a wide range of functions, day or evening, and is extremely well-equipped. To hire the Hall or for more information, contact Neil Hopkins (Pres) 0490830641 or Jeanette Coulter (Sec/Treas) 0458 572 331.

Have a great month everyone!

Neil Hopkins, President

Murrabit & District Lions Club



Our Club meets twice each month.

A business meeting is held on the second Tuesday of each month in our clubrooms at the Murrabit Golf Club and a dinner meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month where we have a guest speaker.

Our main activity each month is our food stall at the Murrabit Market.

We are a very relaxed group and have a good time while raising funds to support our local community.

We are always on the lookout for new members and would love to have you join us.

If you are interested in becoming involved in our Lions Club and serving our community, please contact:

Membership Chairman: Bill Hazen 5457 2213; or
President: Neil Hopkins 0490 830 641.

100th Anniversary Celebrations of Murrabit Township

The 100th anniversary of the Murrabit Township has been moved to the weekend of **5 & 6 October 2024**.

A third planning session to put in place arrangements for this important occasion will be held on

Monday 4 March 2024

**7:30pm at the MAA/Market Office,
Gonn Avenue Murrabit.**

Contacts: Narelle O'Donoghue 0427 834 367,
Faye Morton 5457 2333 or Neil Hopkins 0439 970 029,
email murrabitheritage@gmail.com

If you are interested in local history, LIKE our
Memories of Murrabit Facebook page



Community Phone Book update

It's that time of the year again! An update of the 2024 version of the Community Phone Book will happen soon. If you have any changes you would like to make to your existing entry, or if you are new to Murrabit and would like to be part of our Community Phone Book, send an email to murrabit1@bigpond.com, give us a call on 5457 2205, or stick a note through the mailbox in the Murrabit Market Office door.

Death Notice: Peter Hoornweg

Peter Hoornweg grew up in Murrabit and in later years moved with his wife, Jeanette, to Drysdale near Geelong. Peter was an active member of the Murrabit community including the Golf Club, Cubs and Scouts. He was a Cub and Scout himself prior to becoming a Cub leader in the 1970s. He was also the District Commissioner for the Mount Hope District.

Peter would often return to Murrabit to catch up with old friends. Peter's daughters, Jenny and Lara, let us know that Peter passed away suddenly on 14 February.

Historical Snippet

The establishment of the Murrabit Township

Murrabit is a closer settlement town, established in 1924. Prior to 1924, the main settlements across the district were at Benjeroop, Gonn Crossing, and Myall.

Gonn Station, downstream of Barham on the New South Wales side of the Murray River, was a large pastoral holding (farm) first licensed to Robert Beauchamp in 1850. A punt operated across the Murray River between New South Wales and Victoria.

The Murrabit area was selected under the 1869 Land Act. A township site was surveyed in 1878 (at Gonn Crossing) A boarding house, post office, and blacksmith developed at Gonn Crossing on the Victorian side where the Gonn Crossing Punt operated.

The Murrabit Post Office opened in 1880, again at Gonn Crossing.

The Murrabit West Butter and Cheese Company Ltd opened in 1890 but operated for only two years.

A Murrabit Public Hall was built in 1912 (on the south west corner of Murrabit West and Dawe Road).

Schools operated at Murrabit West and Rabbit Point, along with Benjeroop, Myall and Capel's Crossing.

The Gonn Crossing settlement was dependent on the river trade and there was large developments, primarily of citrus, across the district. The community began to agitate for a rail link to join the line which had reached Kerang in 1884 and Swan Hill in 1889.

By the 1920s there was a settlement of returned servicemen and women from World War One and a recruitment of British settlers under the Empire Settlement Act. British settlers began arriving in Melbourne on 19 January 1924.

To serve closer settlement, the Victorian Railways agreed to build a branch line from Kerang. This was under the Border Railway Scheme with a bridge to be built. A solid base for a bridge at Gonn Crossing could not be found and so the bridge was proposed for 4ms upstream from the Gonn Crossing Punt.

The building of the new bridge at Murrabit over the Murray commenced on 29 January 1924.

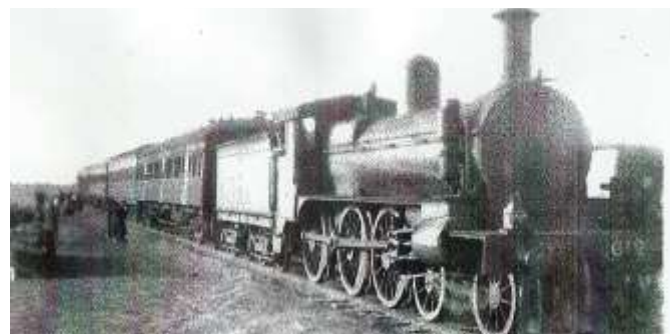
The settlement relocated with the surveying of a new township 'Murrabit' in 1923. The new Torrumbarry Weir was completed the same year and gravity irrigation reached the Murrabit district shortly after.

The township of Murrabit developed with the first 26 township blocks to the south of the current Murrabit Hall auctioned on 9 May 1924.

The hall built in 1912 was shifted into the new township in 1924, before being expanded to form a new public hall.

The official opening of the railway from Kerang occurred on 20 December 1924.

Murrabit's fascinating history as a railway town servicing a prosperous agricultural region, will be celebrated at the 100th Anniversary of the Murrabit Township on the weekend of 5 and 6 October 2024.



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Jack Hill's Store, 1923



Auction of Murrabit township blocks, 24 May 1924



Propaganda recruiting to the British Empire Migration Program, 1924

100th Anniversary Murrabit Township

1924 - 2024

Saturday, 5 October 2024
Murrabit Market

Featuring photographic displays on early history of Murrabit

Sunday, 6 October 2024

9am - 10am Registration

Busy Bees of Murrabit, Gonn Avenue

Cost : Adults \$20 Families \$50

Murrabit historical publications and merchandise for sale

Self Guided tour of Murrabit buildings

Open 9am - 11.45am and 1.30pm - 3pm

Historic memorabilia on display

Murrabit Public Hall, Murrabit Recreation Reserve Complex, Murrabit

Tennis Clubrooms, Former Murrabit Scout Hall, Murrabit Golf

Clubrooms and Murrabit Group School

10am - 11am Morning tea

Murrabit Group School

**12 noon Official unveiling of Sheave Wheels
and planting of a commemorative tree**

Murrabit Railway Precinct.

"Unveiled in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Murrabit township and arrival of the railway in 1924."

1pm Lunch at Murrabit Hall

Followed by speeches, cake cutting, music, recognition of oldest returning resident, photo gallery and displays, and vintage car displays

Pre-event ticket purchases encouraged

Neil Hopkins: 0490 830 641

Narelle O'Donoghue: 0427 834 367



Official opening of Kerang - Gonn Crossing (Murrabit) Railway, 20 December 1924 (Don Potts)

Murrabit Heritage Group
murrabitheritage@gmail.com



Hon Peter Walsh MLA

Your State Member of
Parliament representing Murray
Plains Electorate

496 High Street, Echuca

Phone: 5482 2039 or

1300 467 906

Email: peter.walsh@parliament.vic.gov.au

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



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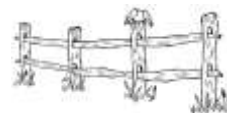
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