



# MURRA-BIT-A-NEWS A FREE PUBLICATION

## January 2022

Community News Contributions Gratefully Accepted

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### Murrabit Community News

January market was held on New Years Day - nice early morning for all our volunteers! We were a few stallholders down due to the public holiday and forecast hot weather but still plenty on offer and good crowd of visitors. Hopefully February weather will be kinder to us!

Lots already being planned for 2022:  
The stormwater project is progressing and it's great news that more funding has been secured by Gannawarra Shire Council to enable stage 5 and 6 to be completed. Stages 1-4 are part of the current project. This is a really big project for Murrabit which will provide the basis for future town beautification. The works are dusty and disruptive but we encourage residents to be patient as the works continue. See update article for further detail.

A funding application titled *Connecting Spaces and Places - Murrabit* has been submitted to the FRRR Future Drought Fund for a landscaping project on the south east side of the hall. This will enable our outdoor event space to be expanded and the heritage trail restored. A funding announcement is due in February. Will keep our fingers crossed that this project valued at \$47,208 is successful!

The Murrabit Advancement Association's offer to purchase the Uniting Church property in Murrabit has been accepted by the Uniting Church. This is a positive step forward which has been possible by all our town leadership groups planning and working together. The purchase will provide certainty for Murrabit Playgroup and the future of early childhood services at Murrabit. Hopefully settlement is not too far away and we can then get a community working bee organised to get the property back into tip top shape so that playgroup can recommence.

The last two years have been really challenging for a lot of our groups and residents so here's hoping that 2022 is a better year for everyone!



**Australia Day**

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

### **AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST WED 26 JAN 2022 Lions Shelter (Back of Murrabit Hall)**

8:00am Breakfast by Lions Club (donations appreciated)  
9:00am Welcome, Flag Raising, National Anthem  
9:20am Guest Speaker - Gaby Hogg  
9:40am Presentation by Cr. Jane Ogden,  
Gannawarra Shire Council  
10:00am Close and Thank you

### **Great Murrabit Australia Day Floatilla !! Wednesday 26 January 2022**

It's been going for too many years to count but if you are new to Murrabit you are welcome to join in the fun. Get your life jackets, floaties, lilos, blow-up thongs, boats or whatever 'floats your boat' ready! After enjoying the Aussie Day Breakie at the Hall, we meet at the Boat Ramp ready to hit the water at 11am. We float, or boat (no motors going unless needed) from the Murrabit Boat Ramp to Morton's Sandbar, downstream on the NSW side of the river. There will be a couple BBQs at Morton's Sandbar. Bring along your own meat and a salad to share or your own picnic lunch, plus chairs, rugs, etc for a relaxing arvo by the Mighty Murray River. Feel free to leave cars at the sandbar before the float (let someone know that you need a ride to the boat ramp). This is a relaxing, family day of fun which has become an Australian Day tradition. The only rule is that all children must wear a fitted lifejacket while in the water and be supervised by their parents or other responsible adult/s.

## **MURRABIT COUNTRY**

**MARKET** Saturday 5 Feb 2022  
LIVE MUSIC-KATHY MITCHELL  
(GYORFI) FROM BARHAM

First Saturday of Every Month, rain, hail or shine!

8.30am—12.30pm Ph: 5457 2205  
Free Entry Dogs Strictly Prohibited

### NEWSLETTER DETAILS

Deadline for articles for the next edition is:  
**THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2022**

Information can be emailed to  
[murrabit1@bigpond.com](mailto:murrabit1@bigpond.com)  
delivered or posted through the door.

Community interest info is free. Advertise from \$10.  
To add your contact details to our newsletter email list  
simply send an email to [murrabit1@bigpond.com](mailto:murrabit1@bigpond.com)

## MURRABIT MEN'S SHED

Men's Shed is held 1:30pm to 4pm on a Sunday. 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 4 February. 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. On Monday 14 February 2022 a few from the Leitchville Men's Shed are coming across for a tour, chat and BBQ lunch. After a difficult couple of years this will be a great way to start 2022. Feel free to come along and join in. Contact Stephen O'Donoghue, Secretary 0418 577 238. Facebook - Murrabit Men's Shed.



## Get the News Early

Did you know you can receive the Murrabit newsletter via email? That way you will receive a full coloured version on the day the newsletter is put together rather than waiting for it to arrive by mail. To add your email to the list, simply send an email to [murrabit1@bigpond.com](mailto:murrabit1@bigpond.com).



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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*

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MARKET CLEAN UP ROSTER 2021  
February Market—Murrabit Playgroup

**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.*

**OD JOBS**

Get things ticked off your 'to do' list

Contact Stephen O'Donoghue  
0418 577 238

- Fully automated garden watering systems and repairs
- Swimming pool maintenance
- Small engine and pump repairs
- Home maintenance
- General odd jobs

## Golden Rivers Electrical Pty Ltd

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## MURRABIT HALL

With most regular Hall users having a break over the summer break, it was really nice to see the Hall used every day last week with Robyn & Neil holding their 5 Days of Yoga program.

We've been successful in gaining a grant (thank you to Gannawarra Shire Council) which will be used to purchase a new battery and pads for the Defibrillator inside the Hall.

Don't forget the Wedding Dress exhibition being planned by the Heritage Group which will be held at the Hall and will happen on **May 1st** this year!!!

And thanks to Peter Laursen for once again mowing the grassed area at the rear of the hall – it looks great!

To hire the Hall or for more information, contact Marlene Laursen on 54572291 or Neil Hopkins 0490 830 641. It is an extremely well-equipped facility and is a terrific venue for a wide range of functions and activities.

**Have a great month everyone!**

## MURRABIT & DISTRICT HERITAGE GROUP

Upcoming meeting:

**Monday 14 February 2022 at the Murrabit Market Office, commencing 7:30pm**

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

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**WEDDING DRESS EXHIBITION**

**SUNDAY 1 MAY 2022**

We have made a big list of special places of interest we would like to visit in 2022.

If you are interested in local history, please come along and join us as we explore our local heritage together. If you don't like meetings, feel free to get in touch so that we can keep you in touch with what our plans are.

Contacts: President Neil Hopkins 0439 970 029

Secretary Narelle O'Donoghue 5457 2264



Murrabit Football Club has reappointed Leigh Millard and Mick O'Toole as joint senior coaches for the 2022 season, we have managed to keep the majority of our senior playing list and have already added a few handy recruits. Nick Hein will once again take charge of the Reserves side and has his eye on the

big prize. Brent McKnight is taking charge of our 3rds and he will be assisted by Leigh Wilkinson.

Training has started and is on Monday and Wednesday nights starting at 6:30pm so come along for a run or just for a look. **Neil Teasdale, President 0427817673.**

## "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



## ACCESSIBLE DEFIBS AT MURRABIT

Two 24/7 defib machines are located at Murrabit - one at the Murrabit Hall and the other at the Men's Shed. These life saving machines are available in an emergency. Remember to always first call an Ambulance in an emergency by phoning **Triple Zero (000)**.



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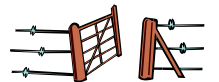
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- Mobile cool room (with additional freezer section) - \$80 per day.
- Prices are excluding GST



-Kerang Car Wash

Contact: Phone or text 0427 674 473

## Colour our Town Mural Project

2021 saw the completion of two murals in Murrabit. This is the start of the Murrabit - Colour our Town project. The first two murals were funded by Gannawarra Shire Council and we thank Council for helping to kick start this arts project in our town.

The next stage of the project is funded by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal/Gardiner Foundation with another two murals to be completed in 2022.

The artist engaged to complete these murals is Paul Oswin from Kerang. Paul specialises in painting native fauna. We love the four cheeky kookaburras and 'Eric' the wedge-tailed eagle and look forward to continuing to enjoy Paul's creations popping up in our little town.



The site for the next mural is on the end of the main Broadcast Point at the market, facing Browning Avenue. We were also lucky to have Paul deliver a workshop at the Murrabit Hall in November. The workshop provided a great opportunity for locals and visitors to come together to learn some new arts skills.



## Hum and Strum music

Are you interested in music or enjoy singing? Come along and join us at Hum and Strum on Wednesdays at 2pm at the Murrabit Hall.



We had a terrific afternoon last Wednesday when we met for our first session for the new year.

We had a dozen people; some playing ukulele, a couple of banjos and guitarists, and everyone singing along to some fabulous tunes.

We've got a very relaxed, friendly group and it's all about fun and providing lots of enjoyment for everyone. The group is for people who like to play, sing or hum along to some catchy tunes (no experience or high-level expertise required – just interest and enthusiasm). So whether you're an expert or an absolute beginner, or just like to sing along, why don't you come along - we'd love to see you. If you think you might be interested, contact Neil Hopkins 0490 830 641 for more information.

A contribution from Gannawarra Shire Council in 2021 assisted with the printing and distribution costs of the Murrabit community newsletter. This helped to ensure that we were able to get the newsletter up and running again and for you to receive your local newsletter each month.

This was part of the **re-Connect with your Gannawarra** project; an initiative funded through the Victorian Government's Community Activation and Social Isolation Initiative and Drought (Mental Health) Package, and supported by the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee.



We acknowledge this contribution and thank Gannawarra Shire Council for its support. Advertising also helps to reduce the costs of the newsletter and ensures that our local businesses have the opportunity for low cost advertising. Accounts to our advertisers for the March 2021 to December 2021 editions of the newsletter have been mailed. New advertisers are always welcome and enquiries can be made by emailing: [murrabit1@bigpond.com](mailto:murrabit1@bigpond.com)

## MURRA-BUBS & PLAYGROUP Murrabit Playgroup News



It's great news that the Uniting Church has approved for the sale of our building to go ahead. This will mean that early childhood services can remain in our little town and for playgroup to have

somewhere to meet, for young families to support each other, and for our children to get together to play and learn. Thank you to everyone who has supported playgroup to help secure the property. We are hopeful that settlement isn't too far away now and we can then start planning for the future.

We would like to get playgroup up and running again in February and are seeking new families. If you are new to Murrabit and have some little children, we would love to hear from you.

We will be having our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 23 February 2022. Community members as well as young families interested in supporting playgroup are encouraged to come along.

Playgroup is also on Market clean up duty for the February market. This is an easy way to earn a little bit of money that will help to support some playgroup activities as we kick off for 2022. Extra help from other community members would be appreciated to get this job done!

We hope that 2022 will be a great year for playgroup. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for event details.

Codie Laursen President

Olivia Monk Secretary 0427 603 912

[www.facebook.com/murrabitplaygroup](http://www.facebook.com/murrabitplaygroup)



## Stormwater Project Update

We have included an article in previous Murrabit newsletters updating the community on the stormwater project, but as we commence 2022, here is a repeat of a previous article with a new update at the end:

The Murrabit Stormwater project will convert the current open drain network to an underground drainage infrastructure system. This will provide more effective treatment of stormwater, reducing the severity of rainfall events and ponding within the Murrabit township. The project is funded through an allocation of \$1.1M from the Federal Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

S&R Engineering and Construction are undertaking the works to upgrade the drainage network throughout Murrabit on behalf of the Gannawarra Shire Council.

Stages 1-4 of the project are underway. These stages involve the installation/construction of:

- 41 x concrete pits
- 1300m x drainage pipe ranging in size from 300-900mm diameter
- 1250m x 225mm diameter HDPE rising main
- Pump station
- 5ML detention dam

Throughout the project, various roads will be impacted due to the construction works.

- Browning Avenue
- Gonn Avenue/Murrabit-Kerang Road
- Danson Street
- Laursen Street

In some locations, full road closures will be implemented (local traffic will still be able to access properties under S&R guidance). In other locations, traffic speed reduction signs will be implemented to ensure safe passage of traffic throughout/around the construction zone.

S&R will strive to minimise the impacts caused to each resident as much as possible. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the works, there may be small periods of restricted access to properties whilst we trench and install the drainage network. The S&R team will work directly with the affected residents to minimise the impact and ensure access is maintained as much as possible.

Preliminary works commenced on 13 September 2021 and the project is expected to be complete by early 2022.

Enquiries specifically related to this project may be directed to the S&R project team:  
Clayton Holmes 0439 427 129 or  
Brett Dickinson 0400 687 107.

If you have any further questions regarding the works, please contact Gannawarra Shire Council 5450 9333.

### Update January 2022:

A further funding announcement was made in December 2021. This funding will enable Stages 5 and 6 of the project to be completed. Note that Stages 1-6 does not include landscaping works. Discussions have commenced with Gannawarra Shire Council as to a future landscaping project.

Residents with concerns about the project are encouraged to phone the numbers provided above.

## Update from Murrabit Group School

Gaby Hogg will return to Murrabit as Acting Principal for the commencement of the 2022 school year. The school will also welcome Miss Bath as the new Grade Prep/1 teacher. Thank you to all students, staff, parents, School Council, Parents and Friends and the whole schooling community. It is evident that Murrabit Group School is a wonderful school and that there is so much community support, which I too have been fortunate enough to have encountered.

Term 1 commences on Monday 31 January 2022.

**Jodie Closter**

**Acting Principal (through to 30 January)**

## Murrabit & District Lions News

### Australia Day

Our Australia Day celebrations will go ahead on Wednesday with our fantastic big breakfast kicking off at 8am. Official proceedings will commence at 9am with Flag raising and the National anthem. Our guest speaker this year is Lake Charm local, Gaby Hogg. Gaby is a widely-travelled educator, teacher and Principal who will entertain with tales about life, teaching and travels in different places. Deputy Mayor, Jane Ogden, will also be in attendance representing Gannawarra Shire Council. The morning will finish at around 10am.

### New Year's Day Market

A great performance by everyone in our community concerned with running our market on New Years Day. There were a few Lions who were moving a little steadily after some serious New Years Eve shenanigans and only a short nap before fronting up for market duty. There were certainly a few slow movers, at least until they got that first egg and bacon sanger down. Ah well, you're only young once!

### New Members Welcome

The Murrabit Lions Club is always open to new members. If you are new to the district and would like to join our Club or just come along to one of our dinner meetings, you would be most welcome. We meet at the Murrabit Golf Clubrooms on the second Tuesday of each month for a business meeting and the fourth Tuesday of each month for a dinner meeting. Please contact President Neil Hopkins on 0490 830 641, Bill Hazen on 5457 2213 or any Lions member to find more information.

## Murrabit Seniors News

December saw us have a Christmas lunch. Our thanks to the Gannawarra Shire Council and to Leonie Dean and her helpers for a lovely meal. It was nice to catch up with our members after a very different year. We had a multi gift table, so everyone went home with a gift. We were saddened by the passing of our member and friend, Carol Smith. We will miss her smiling face. Our condolences to Brian and his family. On 20 December, 10 members attended a Christmas lunch at cluBarham. We thank cluBarham for this kind gesture to our Senior Citizens. Our first meeting back for 2022 will be Wednesday 16 February 2022, 1pm at the hall. All are welcome.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy 2022.

**Evelyn Napier, Secretary**

**Murrabit Senior Citizens Ph: 5457 0280**



## MYALL STATE SCHOOL

2021 marked the 125th Anniversary of the opening of Myall State School (No 3271).

The school was first proposed in 1892 by Mr J Lake, Mr WJB Lake, Mr Hein, Mr McIntosh and Mr Wilson, all early selectors in the district. At the time there was a steadily increasing population of newcomers to the village, many of whom had strong ties with the early settlers.

The school was officially opened in 1896 by Mr J.P. McColl (MP) on a site reserved for a school where the Echuca to Swan Hill Road crossed the Reedy Creek. The site was directly two kms north of the Myall Post Office which was established in 1890 at the Rowleys property. The Post Office was moved to the village in 1913.

The school shared a teacher part time with Capel's Crossing North School (No 2500) which was established in 1883 and referred to by locals as the first Myall School. The first teacher was Mr Edgar Smith. A photo of Mr Smith along with the 22 pupils at the village school was taken circa 1900-01. Included in this photo are the families; Smith, Cheyne, Vistarini, McDougall, Hall, Petzke, Cusini and King.

Mr Edgar Smith married Miss Amy McDonald, daughter of Mr John McDonald, first selector of "Rosevale", Myall. Russell McDonald, grandson of the first selector wrote a history, "100 years at Rosevale" (1976). Russell was enrolled in the Myall School in 1910 before the school had a verandah attached. The school building which was constructed by parents was officially recorded as having been donated by Mr Andrew Smith of "Benwell Park".



In his report to the Education Department in 1897 Teacher Mr Smith described the building as "one room unlined and unceiled constructed of red-gum slabs between which are cracks which afford

abundant ventilation in summer but which will make it uninhabitable in winter unless it be lined. The roof is of iron, the floor of red-gum boards."

Russell in his memoirs refers to the open fire place, the chimney being outside which was not built high enough to clear the roof ridge and smoke filled the classroom when the west wind blew, "until Mr John Watson came along and cemented an extra three or four feet of metal flue on top."

Students digging in the garden in the late 1940s after the school had been moved to the northern corner of the site, found the slate pencils which had slipped through the cracks in the floorboards. This site was remembered by the students where the flagpole was standing near the veggie patch.

**School Attendance:** When Myall School started there were eight grades. Children had to qualify and then they could sit for their merit certificate. Parents were not required to send their children to school after they turned fourteen. After 1919 when Kerang High School commenced, a few went on to Higher Education though most were needed to work on the family farm.

Many of the children of the Myall settlers would have walked long distances to Myall School. Some like Harry Westblade walked about six miles (9.65kms) or rode a horse. Some children shared a ride on horseback with siblings or else were driven by horse and cart. Prior to leaving for school, many would have helped out with farm chores, often milking several cows and moving them to fresh feed.

The school was seen as the focus for community events including church services, district meetings, dances, debating and picnics which were well attended. When the Myall Hall was built in 1912 it became the venue for community activities attracting large numbers to dances and balls from surrounding districts.

**A Day to Remember:** A new school building was provided by the Education Department which was to be officially opened on Empire Day, 24 May 1915, by Mr Frank Tate, Head of Dept of Education supported by local member of Parliament Henry Angus MLA. This defining moment in the life of the school took place without the dignitaries at the end of a long drought, at a time when some young men of the district had already left for the great war. It took place just one month after the Anzacs landed at Gallipoli and well-known local soldier and correspondent for the Kerang Times, Charles Davey, had been listed that day amongst the casualties.



**Myall State School 1915**

**Commemorating the Past:** In November 2020 two large history boards were completed for the picnic shelter at Myall Hall with the support of a Gannawarra Shire Council community grant. They consist of a Myall Timeline and Remembrance Board.

**Planned Event for 2022:** An event is being planned for the third week in March 2022 to commemorate the history of the Myall School and the wider district. It is also intended to officially unveil the history boards at this event, which will be held on a weekday. Details will be advertised in the February newsletter.

**Thank you to Marianne and Graham Cockroft for putting this article together for the newsletter.**

