



# MURRA-BIT-A-NEWS

A FREE PUBLICATION

## January 2023

Community News Contributions Gratefully Accepted

P.O. Box 3, Murrabit 3579

Website: [www.murrabit.com.au](http://www.murrabit.com.au)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/whats-on-in-murrabit](https://www.facebook.com/whats-on-in-murrabit)

Phone: 03 5457 2205

Murrabit Advancement Association Inc.

Email: [murrabit1@bigpond.com](mailto:murrabit1@bigpond.com)

### Murrabit Community News

Welcome to 2023. Hopefully this year will be better than the last!

News this month is that three big pumps were brought into the area to help move floodwater away from residences and roads. This pumping was successful in getting the water off the Murrabit West Road and the road was able to be officially re-opened on Tuesday 5 January in time for the January Murrabit Market. The pumping was completed on Thursday 12 January. Great work by the volunteers who were involved in monitoring and regular refuelling of the pumps.

Work has continued to support our residents impacted by the floods with food hampers, care packs and donated goods being distributed. Thank you to the volunteers who have continued to regularly catch up with families and to offer support in whatever way is needed.

The January Market was back to usual and the crowd was magnificent. Our groups reported great food sales and lots of visitors eagerly spent up big at the 80 stalls. It was fantastic to have a bouncing castle back on site and so good to see families and young children out enjoying themselves again - fairy floss, popcorn, snow-cones and face painting was a great success! Apart from the Market, we have some community events coming up. Our regular Australia Day Breakfast on Thursday 26 January. We are organising a family and children's entertainer for around April and have locked in Sunday 21 May for a musical performance and afternoon tea in the Murrabit Hall. More details to come.



### AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST THURSDAY 26 JAN 2023 Lions Shelter (Back of Murrabit Hall)

8:00am Breakfast by Lions Club

(donation towards breakfast appreciated)

9:00am Welcome, Flag Raising, National Anthem

9:20am Guest Speaker - Pam Lingenberg

9:40am Presentation by Gannawarra Shire Council

10:00am Close and Thank you

### How to submit an article to this Community Newsletter

Information can be emailed to [murrabit1@bigpond.com](mailto:murrabit1@bigpond.com), delivered or posted through the door. Community interest articles are free. Business advertising from \$10.

We get a lot of information from organisations asking that we insert posters and flyers into our newsletter. Please email this information to us as a picture file, such as .jpg. Also be aware that a lot of small and light text is difficult to read so please consider this when asking us to insert a whole poster or flyer as these may not be printed at full-page size and may be reduced or cropped. We may also choose to share your information on our Facebook page rather than inserting it into our monthly newsletter. Sometimes we just get too much information to include and we need to prioritise the news most relevant to our own community. Thank you for your understanding. Full coloured versions of the newsletter can be accessed from our website: [www.murrabit.com.au/murra-bit-a-news](http://www.murrabit.com.au/murra-bit-a-news). If you would like a copy emailed to you, simply send us an email at [murrabit1@bigpond.com](mailto:murrabit1@bigpond.com) and we will add you to our distribution list.

Deadline for articles for the next edition is:

**TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2023**



**8:30am to 12:30pm**

- LIVE MUSIC by JOHN MARTIN -

Shop in the fresh Country Air - Breakie, Morning Tea and Lunch by our LOCAL community groups.

**MARKET CLEAN UP ROSTER 2023**  
**February Market—Murrabit Playgroup**



**Welcome Back:** School students return on Monday 30 January. We can't wait to welcome you all back. Please pop in and say hello before then and discuss your goals for 2023, so we can work together in making school a great place to be: inspired, educated, happy.

**Official welcome event:** Monday 20 March.

**Community volunteers welcome:** Looking for community volunteers for term one to work with the students, gardening, setting up the worm farm, cooking, swimming program or any other ideas.

**Gabriele Hogg, Acting Principal**



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- New release Fiction and Non-Fiction titles for adults, teens & children
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- Printing & photocopying (charges apply)

**Scan the QR code to become an online member and have instant access to our eLibrary, or drop in to one of our branches at Kerang, Cohuna, Leitchville & Quambatook**












## Murrabit Netball News

Happy New Year to all! In the off season; our newly appointed A/B coaches Kalinda, Kayla, Grace and Mary have been active in preparing for pre-season. If you are a member of the Murrabit Netball Club Facebook page and are keen for a run in senior netball, please post your expression of interest by completing the online form. 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.

### 2023 Preseason Dates:

Coaches will post weekly exercise challenges throughout January.

2 February – Pre-season training.

25 February – Netball camp (Location TBA).

2, 9, 16 March – Compulsory trainings.

25 March (TBA) – Practise match/bonding session.

For non-members all enquires can be directed to the

Murrabit Netball Club Secretary –

[murrabitnetballclub@gmail.com](mailto:murrabitnetballclub@gmail.com)

**Jenny Nethercote, President**

## A Week of Yoga in Murrabit

In mid January, we held our January 'Week of Yoga'.

We had morning yoga at 7am Monday to Friday and evening sessions from 6pm. There were classes in Hatha (regular), Yin (slow, deep stretch), Gentle yoga, Chair yoga and meditation during the week.



There were over a dozen people who took part with many coming for all 5 days. It was a lovely week with everyone able to experience not just the physical benefits of yoga but also

the mental and emotional benefits of the deep relaxation that yoga offers.

We're hoping to run another Week of Yoga around Easter.

If you'd like to come and try a bit of yoga, we have 3 classes each week in Murrabit: Monday morning (Gentle & Chair yoga) and Monday and Wednesday evenings (regular yoga).

**If you're interested phone Neil 0490**

**830 641 or Robyn 0427 517 236.**



## VACCINATION CLINIC – MPX COVID & JAPANESE

**SATURDAY 4 FEBRUARY**

**8:30am to 12:30pm**

**MURRABIT MARKET**

**To book phone: 1800 329 189**

**Booking preferred but will accept limited walk-ins**





## Hum and Strum music

We've been having a break since Christmas and will restart on Wednesday 25 January 2023 at the usual time of 2pm.

We already have an engagement for the new year and will be performing at WD Thomas Day Care Centre in Kerang on 15 February.

We really enjoy performing but if

that's not for you and you'd just like to come along to our regular Wednesday sessions for some fun – all good too! At the moment we have guitar, ukulele, banjo and keyboard but people who just like singing are part of our group as well. Interested in singing or playing for enjoyment in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere, then contact Neil Hopkins 0490 830 641 for more information.



## Murrabit Hall News

We hosted Robyn and Neil's 'Week of Yoga' in the Hall mid January with classes twice a day while regular yoga sessions have started up again on Monday and Wednesday.

The Hall continues to be the base for storage of all of our flood goods,

although things are slowing down a little now.

Thank you to Stephen O'Donoghue for his continued help with the maintenance of our sprinkler system and to Gannawarra Shire Council for their quick response to repairing a couple of major plumbing issues in the past month.

It's been wonderful to be able to host 2 community pizza nights in November and December and we're hoping to hold more community evenings in the coming months so keep a look out for that.

The Hall 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 Marlene Laursen 54572291 or Neil Hopkins 0490830641. **Have a great month everyone!**



## Murrabit Lawn Tennis Club

We have had a little break from tennis over Christmas and the holiday period.

The season was to start back on 14 January but was cancelled due to the heat rule. We started back on Saturday

21 January. Division 1 played Kerang, Division 3 had a bye and our junior teams will play Kerang and Barham.

The Club Championships will be played over 4 weeks in February and March. This is a knock out singles event played on Thursday nights. If you wish to participate make sure you put your name down. We will have a Men's, Ladies, junior boys and junior girls competition.

We are hoping to fit in a couple more coaching sessions to make up for the missed ones at the start of the season.

Then finish off our 'Tennis for Teens' with a little tournament. Dates to be confirmed.

Hope everyone is enjoying watching the Australian Open!

If you feel inspired to get out on the court feel free to come down for a hit of tennis any Thursday evening.

**Angela Morton, President**



## Murrabit Senior Citizens

**Next Community Luncheon will be held on Wednesday 22 February 2022 at 12 midday.**

Please phone Evelyn Napier on 5457 0280 by 20 February if you would like to attend. Knowing numbers helps with catering. **ALL WELCOME**



## Footy Banter

Football training started on Monday 16 January under coach Mick O'Toole. The ground is in beautiful condition and training will be held on Monday and Wednesday nights at 6.30pm.

Our 2023 season gets underway on 15 April with a trip to Moulamein

Our fishing comp, which will be held on 17, 18 and 19 March, sold out in under 3 days - amazing! We do have a standby list if you are still hoping to be in it and you can hop onto our fishing comp site and register. Go Blues!!

**Neil Teasdale, President**

## Library Story Time

Develop language and fine motor skills through songs and stories. Suitable for pre-school children.



Cohuna - Tuesday, 10.30am  
Kerang - Wednesday, 10.30am  
Victorian School Terms

Commencing 7 February



Interested? Ph:5451 0200



## Support for Carers Program



### Meet Sue

Support Carers Facilitator

Have a question or want to join the Support for Carers Program? Call NDCH (03) 5451 0200 and speak with Sue

**WORKSHOP**  
Do you have a personal experience of cancer or as a carer for a loved one?

**CANCER SHARED CARE**

Thursday 2 February 2023. 10am to 2pm. Kerang  
Contact Sue Spencer [sspencer@murrayphn.org.au](mailto:sspencer@murrayphn.org.au)  
or Phone: 0407 512 963 for info or to book in.

## 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 Heritage Group

Next Meeting (Includes Annual General Meeting): Monday 13 February 2023

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

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

The Murrabit & District Heritage Group is collecting flood photos, video footage, and any stories to ensure that this information is captured, recorded and possibly published into a book the same as in 2011. This includes the Westby, Myall, Capel's Crossing, Murrabit West and Benjeroop areas.  
Email: [murrabitheritage@gmail.com](mailto:murrabitheritage@gmail.com)



## Murrabit & District Lions Club

Our Club will be hosting the Australia Day Breakfast on Thursday 26 January 2023. This will be a chance to get together and reflect on what we have been through in the past year, and celebrate what a great community that we live in. All are very welcome to attend.

If you are new to our District, our Club has two meetings each month with a business meeting 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.

We are always on the lookout for new members. If you are interested in becoming involved in our Lions Club and serving our community, please contact our membership Chairman Bill Hazen on 5457 2213 or our President Neil Hopkins on 0490 830 641.



## Murrabit Rec Reserve

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

### 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 Playgroup

LIKE our **Murrabit Playgroup** Facebook page to keep up to date  
Or contact: Codie Laursen President 0458 237 789 or  
Olivia Monk Secretary 0427 603 912



## 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.

## Murrabit Men's Shed

Men's Shed is held 1:30pm to 4pm on a Sunday.

Next Meeting (includes Annual General Meeting): Sunday 19 February 2023, commencing at 1:30pm.

Community Lunch: Sunday 26 February 2023, 12 midday.

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**



## LIONS NEED 4 FEED - REGISTER NOW

If you, or someone you know, are impacted by the recent floods and need help with fodder then register with us for some fodder assistance.

It's a very quick and easy form (one short page, about 6 clicks) and will take about 3 mins. Please register on our website:

<https://www.needforfeed.org/apply-for-assistance.html> Or contact Neil Hopkins, Murrabit President, 0490 830 641 or any local Lions club member.



## Murrabit Accessible Defibs

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.

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



## 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](mailto:peter.walsh@parliament.vic.gov.au)**

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



# COMMUNITY UPDATE FLOOD SUPPORT

*Issue Two: 18 January 2023*



**Council continues to work with local, state and commonwealth partners to support communities in the recovery from the October-December 2022 floods**

## Secondary impact assessments

Council-appointed contractors are conducting **secondary impact assessments** on assets such as roads, levees, community infrastructure and impacted residential properties.

Some impacted residents will also receive a call from A1 Estimates regarding a secondary impact assessment (SIA) on homes. A1 Estimates is acting on behalf of Council to gather information regarding the impact of the October-December 2022 floods. A1 Estimates staff will also provide each resident with important health and safety information about impacts to their dwelling, including funding opportunities for residents without flood insurance coverage. If you have any questions, please phone Council on (03) 5450 9333.

## Support

- Rural Aid - 1300 327 624
- Rural Financial Counselling Service - 1300 735 578
- Flood Recovery Hotline - 1800 560 760
- Northern District Community Health - (03) 5451 0200
- Lifeline - 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636

## Council-managed road network initial assessment

Initial assessments of damage to Council-managed roads have been completed where roads have been accessible. Where possible, Council continues to carry out repairs to significantly damaged roads, to ensure they are safe for vehicles to pass.

## BlazeAid

BlazeAid volunteers are currently based in the Gannawarra to assist with clean-up efforts following the October-November 2022 floods, but need your help.

Local volunteers are needed to assist with on-ground efforts. Whether it is for a few hours or a number of days, any assistance will help residents impacted by the floods.

BlazeAid is also seeking assistance from an administration whiz who can help out with data entry at their Alexandra Park, Kerang base. This role will only take a few hours a couple of days a week. If you can assist in any way, please call in to BlazeAid's base at Alexandra Park, Kerang or phone Council on (03) 5450 9333.

## Skip bin service

Council's free skip bin collection service for rural residents whose primary place of residence was inundated or impacted by the floods is still available to landowners/tenants who are uninsured for such a clean-up. Register by phoning Council on (03) 5450 9333 or visiting Council's Customer Service Centres, located at Cohuna (open 10am-4pm weekdays) and Kerang (open 8.30am-5pm weekdays). Residents who are eligible for this service can only use the skip bins to dispose of flood waste. This includes carpets, white goods, furniture and plasterboard. Items that cannot be placed in the skip include tyres and machinery, food waste, asbestos, hazardous waste, materials that can be recycled and contaminated fodder.

## Structural assessments

Structural assessments for flood impacted properties are being offered through Emergency Recovery Victoria. For more information, call 1800 560 760.

**GANNAWARRA CARES**  
Take the time to connect with your community....



Ph: (03) 5450 9333

[www.gsc.vic.gov.au](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au)





# COMMUNITY UPDATE FLOOD SUPPORT



## Protect yourself from mosquitoes

Mosquitoes can carry and transmit diseases to humans. Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) virus has recently been detected in mosquitoes in northern Victoria.

The best way to protect yourself is to avoid being bitten. This can be done by:

- Covering up - wear long, loose-fitting clothing.
- Using mosquito repellents containing Picaridin or DEET on all exposed skin.
- Limiting outdoor activity if lots of mosquitoes are about.

For more information, visit: <https://go.vic.gov.au/3Qz9m5s>

## Sandbags

Efforts to remove sandbags from various locations throughout Koondrook will begin on Monday, 23 January.

As part of the removal efforts, Council staff will be available to remove sandbags from residential properties within the Koondrook township.

Residents wanting to access this service can do so by registering with Council by phoning (03) 5450 9333 and advising how many sandbags need to be removed.

## Septic tank systems

If flood waters have affected your property, your septic tank system - which contains sewerage from your toilet and greywater from your bathroom, kitchen and laundry - may also be affected. This wastewater contains human disease-causing microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses and parasites. Most septic tanks should not be structurally damaged by flooding as they are below ground. However, flood water may enter your septic tank system through the toilet, other fixtures or the overflow relief gully grate.

Flooding of the septic system may wash out solids from the tank, causing blockages or system damage.

If you suspect your septic tank system has been damaged by the flood, contact a licensed plumber to have it assessed.

For more information, visit <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/publications/septic-tanks-in-flood-affected-areas>

## Report flood damage to local waterways

North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) is asking landholders to provide input into the damage assessment process. They want to know if you have noticed any major flood damage to waterways or associated infrastructure such as serious erosion, major blockages, damage to riverside fencing, or extensive loss of vegetation.

To register damage please go to [www.bit.ly/cmarepair](http://www.bit.ly/cmarepair), scan the QR code, or call NCCMA on (03) 5448 7124.



## Insurance Council of Australia information session

The Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) is hosting an information session for insurance customers impacted by the October-December 2022 floods at the Rochester Lawn Tennis Club (1 Diggora Road) on Wednesday, 18 January at 5pm. The session will provide policyholders with general information on claim processes.

A drop-in session will also be held at the same venue on Thursday, 19 January between 10am and 6pm, enabling personal consultations with insurers. To register for this session, please visit <http://insurancecouncil.com.au/RochesterBookings>

Council is hopeful that the ICA will schedule a visit to Gannawarra Shire in the near future.



**FLOOD RECOVERY HOTLINE**  
**1800 560 760**  
Press 9 to speak to an interpreter



The Flood Recovery Hotline is open every day  
**7:30am – 7:30pm**



Ph: (03) 5450 9333

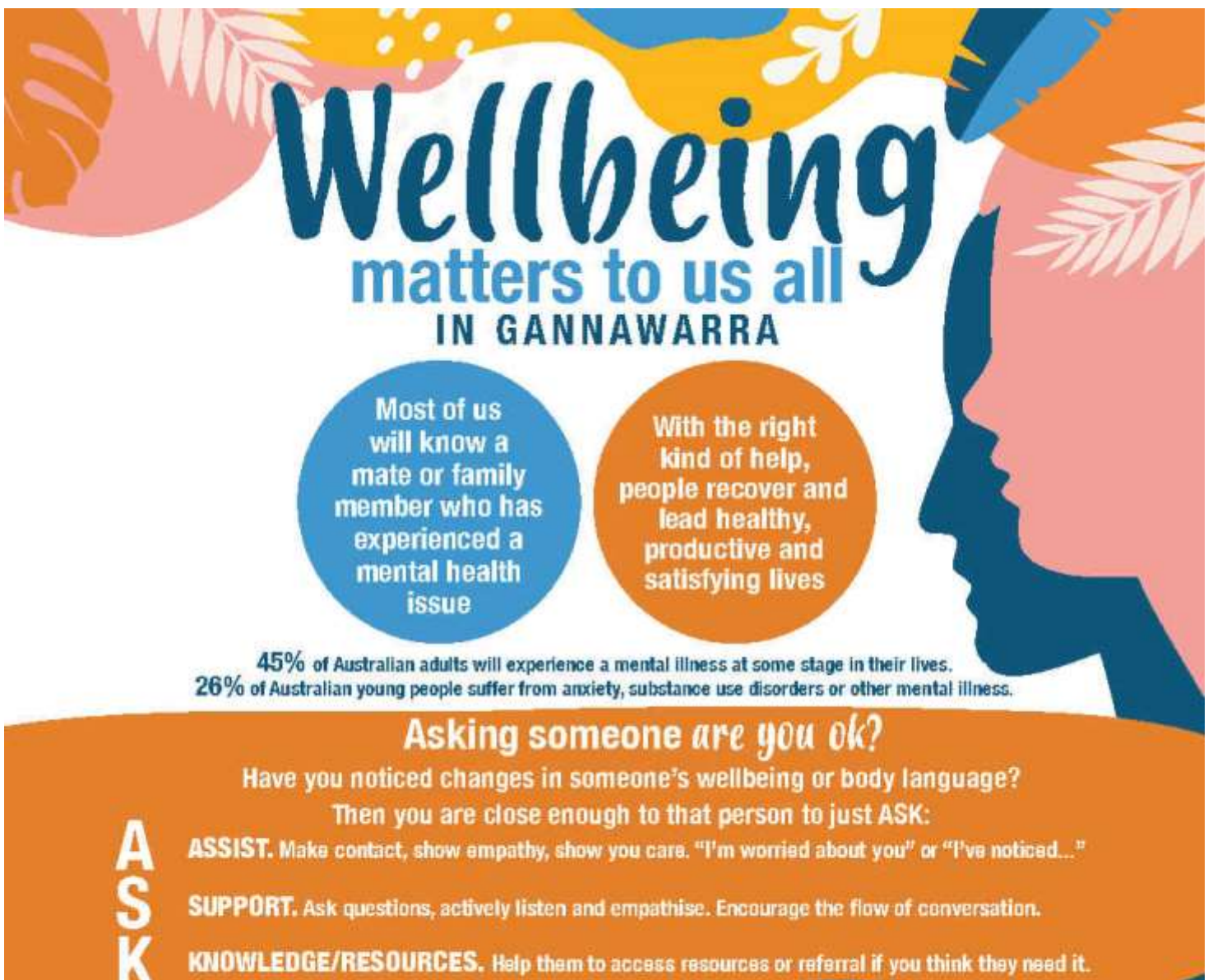
[www.gsc.vic.gov.au](http://www.gsc.vic.gov.au)







**FREE** Six session parenting program  
 Learn how to: understand emotions, manage conflict, communicate, build skills  
 Commencing Wednesday 22 February for six weeks at  
 Kerang Library (1pm to 3pm)  
 Or Headspace Swan Hill (5:30p, to 7:30pm)





# WATERBOY DELIVERIES

"That's what I call high-quality H2O"

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## DD 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



TA & DL

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## Golden Rivers Electrical Pty Ltd

Greg Maher

20 Gonn Avenue, Murrabit VIC

Ph: 5457 2293 Mob: 0408 500 988



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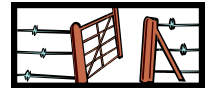
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Attachments:

- 1000mm mud bucket,
- 300mm & 460mm dig buckets
- Hydraulic quick hitch
- 300mm auger with power drive

Rates:

- \$250 per day - Dry Hire. (experienced operator with current, relevant licence required)
- Tipping trailer - 8'x 5' and Car trailer 14'x 6' - \$60 each per day.
- Mobile cool room (with additional freezer section) - \$80 per day.
- Prices are excluding GST



- Kerang Car Wash

Contact: Phone or text 0427 674 473

## PROGRESS EARTHWORKS

*... because you can't stop progress!*



Excavations & Transport

Don Cameron 0411 64 26 85