



MURRA-BIT-A-NEWS

A FREE PUBLICATION

January 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.

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Murrabit Community News

With a blink of an eye, we said goodbye to 2023 and welcomed in 2024 - let's hope it's a good one!

The end of 2023 and start of 2024 have been very wet considering that El Nino was declared and we were warned to expect a hot and dry summer - maybe El Nino missed the memo!

Christmas Day saw extensive flooding in the Murrabit township after 100 plus mms of rain. No commentary needed - we will let the pictures below tell the rest of the story! Most stormwater drained over a couple of days.



December and January Murrabit Markets were both well supported by shoppers and stallholders and we were blessed with good weather. February market is on Saturday 3 February. Live music by Honest Ken. 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.

Local events

A write up of some great events held between October and December 2023 is included in this newsletter, along with some wonderful events coming up in 2024, including an 'Around the Paddock' event in Cohuna for local dairy farmers on 7 February, a Sporting Club Dinner in Kerang on 15 February, and a Tiny Towns Showcase on 16 February which will include a launch of the new Murrabit & District Community Plan. Please support these free events by registering using the information on the respective posters on page 6. The Woodfired Pizza Night that was cancelled in December because of a total fire ban will be rescheduled to when it cools down a bit!



Australia Day

Breakfast

Back of Murrabit Hall

Friday, 26 January

2024

8:00am Breakfast by Lions Club (donation)

9:00am Welcome, Flag Raising, National Anthem

9:20am Guest Speaker

9:40am Presentation by Gannawarra Shire Council

10:00am Close and Thank you

MURRABIT COUNTRY MARKET

First Saturday of every month plus Easter Saturday



Live Music by Honest Ken

A Small Community Success Story

Murrabit Group School - 2023

As another year ends, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and pride for the incredible journey we've shared at this wonderful rural school. It has been a true honour to serve as your acting principal, and I find myself humbled by the unwavering spirit of our supportive families and the exceptional talents of our incredible students.

I express my deepest appreciation to our exceptional teachers, staff, and families. Your collaborative efforts and unwavering support have laid the foundation for success.

Our students, the essence of our school, consistently inspire with their curiosity, resilience, and boundless enthusiasm for learning, arts, science, and sports. Their achievements, both significant and subtle, reflect the immense potential within each of them. Witnessing their growth over the course of 2023 has been particularly gratifying.

I'm particularly proud of our Grade 6 students, some I've had the pleasure of teaching for a year and some more new but they bring huge personalities and experience. This is an exciting time for them as they set off in new directions, but it also brings us some sadness as we will miss them. We thank Jobe and Oliver for being terrific school leaders and ambassadors. We have seen them grow in confidence and are always willing to step up. We wish them all the very best but hope that they do come back and visit.

continued...

The achievements of our students in public speaking, arts, swimming, athletics, T-ball, netball, and cricket are a source of immense pride. Their goal setting, academic progress, and participation in enriching experiences such as dance performances and engaging excursions and camps reflect the diversity of our programs, including STOMP, Dagogo, Billy Bush Band, circus skills, and various exhibitions.

Throughout the year, our school has undergone significant improvements, a testament to the collective efforts of our families and the community. The establishment of a new sports shed, upgraded fencing, refreshed playgrounds, enhanced gardens and mowing, improved classrooms, updated indoor cupboards, and additional resources.

To each member of the Murrabit Group School community, I extend my warmest wishes for a restful and rejuvenating break. I eagerly anticipate the exciting adventures that await us in the coming year. Thank you for contributing to everything that makes Murrabit Group School a shining light and a place we are all proud to call our school family.

Lions Club Citizenship Award- Oliver More

Brendan Hope Memorial Sporting Achievement Awards
- Eve Murray and Jobe Hein

Dick Walters donated Swimming Improvement Award-
Jade Lavey

Gaby Hogg

Acting Principal



Submissions of photographs, drone footage, digital media, art, poetry and stories inspired by the October-December 2022 floods are being sought to develop the *Gannawarra Flood Reflections Exhibition*. To premiere at Kerang's Sir John Gorton Library in March 2024 before travelling to other towns and districts across Gannawarra, the 100-piece exhibition forms part of the Gannawarra One-Year-On Flood Reflections program. Residents are invited to submit up to 10 items for consideration before 5pm Sunday, **21 January 2024**, which can be done by completing a submission form available online under the *Gannawarra Flood Reflections Exhibition* heading at www.gsc.vic.gov.au/floods or by picking up a hard copy at Council's Customer Service Centres.

Death Notices - Charles Humphry & Ralph Steains

Charles was 99 and lived locally until retiring to the north east of Victoria. Charles went to Rabbit Point Primary School and was one of the students who carried books and desks from the old school to the new school in Murrabit township, all the way back in 1926. In 1945 he started a poultry operation and went on to develop a citrus property. Charles was very involved in district organisations including at the Murrabit Packing Shed and Trading Store, Murrabit Hall, Tennis Club and Golf Club.

We were also saddened to hear of the passing of Ralph Steains. Ralph and Julie resided in Kerang.

Both Charles and Ralph maintained a strong interest in the Murrabit community post retirement and their lives were celebrated at funeral services on 6 January.

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



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.

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)**.



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 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.

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.



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 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 13 FEBRUARY 2024

Information can be emailed to murrabit1@bigpond.com, delivered or posted through our door. Community interest info is free.

Advertise from \$10.

MURRABIT MARKET CLEAN UP ROSTER 2024

February Market - Murrabit Playgroup

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

Hum n Strum Music

What a fantastic afternoon we had for our open day in December. We had 9 new people come along and join us for the day so quite a crowd with 23 singing and playing musical instruments. Our visitors were fabulous and sang along beautifully (and some even danced as well!).

After almost having to cancel due to a power outage, we started a bit late but then played and sang along for over 2 hours with an absolutely delicious afternoon tea in the middle of it all (catering was by Murrabit's very own Olivia O'Donoghue)..

It was a really lovely afternoon, and just so nice to see so many people having a great time singing and making music together. Hopefully we can do it all again before too long! We thank Gannawarra Shire Council for the funding which helped us make it a special day (pictures below).



We performed at Glenarm on 6 December and it was a pleasure to be there. The crowd kept growing until I reckon every person in Glenarm was there (plus a few extras!). We added a set of Christmas songs to our performance. John and Angie had the crowd clapping and laughing when they danced The Twist while we sang and played along! Everyone had a fantastic time and we were able to stay for a cuppa, cake and chat afterwards.

So, after a really busy month, we are having a bit of a break and will fire up again in late January/early February 2024. Our regular Wednesday meetings are very informal and terrific fun, you just have to like music!

We meet at the Murrabit Golf Club from 2- 4pm (although we often start earlier and finish later). And for people 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

Unfortunately the **Woodfired Pizza Night** at the Hall on Friday 8 December had to be postponed due to some very unfriendly weather. We're hoping to organise a new date soon.

We put on a **Come-and-Try**

musical open day last Wednesday in conjunction with our local music group, HumnStrum. We ran the event at the Golf Club and it included a fully-catered afternoon tea.

Thanks Olivia – absolutely delicious! There were 24 people took part in a very successful day filled with fun, laughter and music. Hopefully we can do it again! Thank you to Gannawarra Shire for providing the generous grant as part of their ongoing flood recovery program.

The Murrabit Group School Christmas concert and graduation was held in December with the Hall pretty much packed out! Thank you to Greg Gurnett for so generously donating his time and equipment to make sure that the sound system and microphones were at their best for the evening.

While our regular activities - Line Dancing, yoga and community lunches - all take a break over Christmas and into January, the Hall is still 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 0490 830 641 or Jeanette Coulter 0458 572 331.



Murrabit & District Lions Club News

The Murrabit & District Lions Club celebrated the end to a very busy 2023 recently at the Murrabit Tavern. It was

great to all catch up and talk about what has been happening in our area. Instead of the usual Kris Kringle gift giving, members donated to the Gannawarra Toy Run. We have had some very successful Murrabit markets throughout 2023 - the crowds have increased which is great for us and the other community groups involved. The Murrabit Community Flood Recovery Pizza night planned for 8 December had to be postponed because of the total fire ban. We will reschedule this in the new year when it cools down a bit.

Our Club will be hosting the Australia Day Breakfast again. Keep 26 January in your diary as this will be a chance to get together and celebrate what a great community we live in.

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.

We are a very relaxed group and have a good time while raising funds to support our local community groups such as the Murrabit Group School, Men's Shed, Family Hub and others in the area.

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.

Tennis News

Tennis at Murrabit has been going along nicely and we are halfway through the season.

Our junior coaching program came to a close in December with our last coaching session and breakup. Although we did have a lot of families missing that night, we had a small presentation with the participants receiving lollies and certificates.

Our coaches, Simon and Sally, were very proud of the improvements that the children have made this year during the 8-week program. In Sally's Hot Shots group, the children have learned the basic skills of tennis with forehands, backhands, volleys and smashes. Simon's Tennis 4 Teens group have improved on their serving, receiving, spins and court work. It is great to see our kids developing, growing and enjoying tennis. A big thank you to our coaches, and all the parents and club members who helped with throwing balls, picking up and cooking.



Plenty more tennis to come in 2024 with the season resuming on 13 January. Club Championships will begin in mid-February and preparations for the Easter tournament will get underway.



Family Hub News

Murrabit Playgroup hosted another hugely successful Arts program in December with 31 women enjoying a Christmas Wreath making workshop with Mel Lane from Riverside Creative Studio, Kerang.

We had women from Lake Charm, Dingwall, Kerang, Koondrook and Murrabit attend. It was a great night to get together prior to Christmas and some lovely wreaths were created.

Thanks to the Gannawarra Shire Council's Flood Recovery program for funding this event for our community. We will have more exciting events to plan in 2024.

Pictured right and below - Christmas Wreath Making Workshop



We are also excited to have been successful with some recent grant applications to help replace the spouting on both buildings and fix up the plumbing to prevent future flooding. This work will get underway soon.

Kerang
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A week of yoga at Murrabit

Dates: Monday, 8 January – Friday, 12 January

Cost: \$10/session or \$30 to come as often as you like.

Venue: Murrabit Hall

There will be classes in Hatha (regular), Yin (slow, deep stretch) and Chair yoga during the week. For every level of experience. You can come to every class, or just those that suit you. Each day Monday to Friday at 7am. Also Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday evenings at 6pm. And if you're interested but don't have a yoga mat? We've got spares!!

Interested? Phone Neil 0490 830 641 or Robyn 0427 517 236

100th Anniversary Celebrations of Murrabit Township

All welcome to come along to the second planning session

Monday 15 January

**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

AROUND THE Paddock

DAIRY FARMER DINNER

**WARREN DAVIES,
THE UNBREAKABLE
FARMER**

**MATT HAWKEN,
AGRICULTURE
VIC**

What else?

Official launch -
Ag Vic "After the
Flood" podcast series

Live acoustic music
with Elise Drake

Lucky Door Giveaways

Chance to
win an
'Akubra' &
other prizes

Win

An afternoon
tea for your
favourite local
community
group!

Dinner Provided

Drinks at bar
prices



Warren Davies - known
as 'The Unbreakable Farmer'
provides an authentic
presentation focused on
creating positive community
connections and supporting
mental health and wellbeing.

6.30PM FOR
7.30PM START
07
FEBRUARY

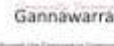
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Gannawarra Sporting Club Dinner

Thursday 15 February, 2024

6.30pm for 7pm dinner



Hosted by:
Brad McEwan

Former sport presenter, 10 News
First and host of Network 10's
Sports Tonight, and resilience
and leadership trainer

Venue:
Kbar Function Room
77 Wellington St Kerang

Dinner Provided:
Drinks at bar prices

Win:
A \$250 sports equipment
voucher for your club



No cost, but
bookings
essential
Limit of
100 tickets

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An evening
focused on the
role of volunteers
in communities
during times of
crisis and the
importance of
sport and
recreation clubs
as the fabric
of small
communities



Supported by Gannawarra Shire Flood Recovery Funding through the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee

GANNAWARRA TINY TOWNS Showcase

Hosted by
Brad McEwan

Former sports presenter, journalist,
resilience and leadership trainer and
passionate small towns advocate

**FRI. 16
FEB 2024** 10:00 AM-
2.00PM

**NDCH MEETING ROOM
24 FITZROY ST KERANG**

**MORNING TEA &
LUNCH PROVIDED**



NO COST, BUT
REGISTRATION IS
ESSENTIAL THROUGH:
TRYBOOKING VIA QR CODE
PHONE: 03 5450 9333 OR

Email: communityrecovery@gsc.vic.gov.au

<https://www.trybooking.com/CODJV>

Fuel voucher available to assist residents
with travel costs.

Includes official launch of
Connecting Gannawarra
Community Plans for six
small towns and a chance
for small communities to
showcase their
achievements, unique
challenges, and be inspired
to thrive into the future.



Supported by Gannawarra Shire Flood Recovery Funding through the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee



Building Farm Spirit - Murrabit Men's Shed Flood Recovery Events -

The Murrabit Men's Shed received funding from the National Centre for Farmer Health Building Farm Spirit Flood Recovery funding program.

The funding enabled the Men's Shed to host a number of events between October and December 2023, one year on from the 2022 Floods.

Events hosted included a Men's Breakfast, Community Picnic, Community Meal, Community BBQ, and a Christmas Lunch.

The funding was aimed at bringing residents from across the district associated with farming together to connect socially and support mental health and wellbeing.

The variety of events hosted enabled a wide range of community members of all ages to benefit.

Thank you to all who supported these events and to the men's shed members for organising.

#Building Farm Spirit



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- 1000mm mud bucket,
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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