

MURRA-BIT-A-NEWS PUBLICATION

November 2023

Community News Contributions Gratefully Accepted

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Murrabit Community News

Lots of great community events have been held recently. The 46th Anniversary of the Murrabit Country Market was celebrated on 4 November. This was closely followed by a great Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon at the Murrabit Hall on 7 November. Next came a Men's Breakfast on 10 November, Remembrance Day on 11 November and the Annual Community Picnic at the Murrabit Family Hub on 12 November. Great to see so many community members supporting each event and enjoying time connecting with others. A Community BBQ was held on Thursday 23 November at the Murrabit Recreation Reserve. This had about 80 people attend. Thanks to the Murrabit Men's Shed who applied for funding through the National Centre for Farmer Health #BuildingFarm Spirit Program to support a number of

these events.

Murrabit Remembrance Day Service 2023 (left)

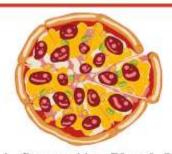
Murrabit Playgroup's Annual Community Picnic (below)



The December Murrabit Market is coming up on Saturday, 2 December. This will be the final market for 2023. There will be live music by Jimmy Johnson, a variety of market stalls, plus breaky, morning tea, and lunch by our local community groups, and perhaps even a visit from Santa (if it's not too hot!!) Stallholder bookings to www.murrabit.com.au/market or phone (03) 5457 2205.

It is one year on from the 2022 floods and it is important that opportunities continue to be offered for the wider district to be together, to connect and support each other. Benjeroop have their annual Christmas Party on Saturday, 2 December and Murrabit has a woodfired community pizza night on Friday, 8 December. See posters in this newsletter for further details on these and other upcoming events.





Murrabit Community Flood Recovery

One Year On **Woodfired Pizza Night** Friday 8 December 2023

Murrabit Hall From 6pm. BYO Drinks. All Welcome

Come along for a catch-up prior to Christmas and order a delicious pizza cooked by Brad's Tiamo Twin Flame Woodfired Pizza, Gunbower

\$5 per pizza

Bookings essential by 6 December phone Neil Hopkins 0490 830 641













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. Hard copies of this form are also available at Council's Customer Service Centres at either Cohuna or Kerang for completion.



School News

your feedback.

The year is quickly coming to a close however we as busy as ever! We have parent/carer math PD planned and new parent communications, dance with Dagogo, our school community concert, swimming program, bus safety session and a respect session with Northern District Community Health as a part of Gannawarra Goes Orange campaign, saying no to family violence. Our new look newsletter is going well, and we'd love

Our students recently played in the regional T-20 cricket finals in Swan Hill on a very warm day, Eve Murray got through to State finals in discus with a splendid effort and on 5 December our T Ball team will once again play at State level.

Casey Heffer, Eve Murray, and Lilly Monk won art prizes at 100th birthday of the paddle steamer, the PS Alexander Arbuthnot (below). We were also fortunate to have the Billy Tea Bush Band play and dance with us too.



What an exciting, challenging, and tiring week for many of our students, with interstate trips and sleep overs. Thank you to all the staff for making this possible, especially the organising teams. Melissa Devereux and I were fortunate to experience many activities with our Grade in Canberra (below); their resilience, kindness, general knowledge, and inquisitiveness a pleasure to be a part of. We were lucky enough to visit the National Dinosaur Museum, the Royal Mint factory, the Museum of Australian Democracy (Old Parliament House), the Gardens of Old Parliament House, the Australian War Memorial, Mount Ainslie Lookout, The National Gallery, Zone 3, Australian Institute of Sport, the National Museum of Australia, Parliament House, Questacon-National Science and Technology Museum, The Australian Electoral Commission, National Botanical Gardens and lastly the National Exhibition Centre.

We congratulate Ms Natalie Goudie-Troy on her teacher award last week and we are very proud of her achievements at the Specialist school and feel fortunate that she is in the Mental Health in Primary school role next year at Murrabit.

We welcome everyone to the school concert and graduation night on Thursday, 14 December 6.30pm at the Murrabit Hall.

We continue to welcome new students and their families to our wonderful little school. Please feel free to come and have a look.



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

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 DEFIBRILLATOR 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).**





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 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.

MURRABIT MARKET CLEAN UP ROSTER 2023/24

December Market - Murrabit Tennis Club January Market - Murrabit Tennis Club 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



VINCE MAHER

On behalf of the Murrabit community, we express our sympathy to Gwen, Shelley, Ricky and Greg and the wider Maher family on the passing of Vince.

Vince was a man who gave his all to his community. He was so generous with his time and in providing his knowledge and

wisdom to those he came in contact with.

Vince was involved in nearly every group at Murrabit.

While we will miss Vince terribly, we are confident that Vince has passed the baton on to others across the community who will continue his great work.

We will miss Vince's contribution across a whole range of Murrabit community groups.

Vince's life of community service is a great reminder to us all that every volunteer's contribution adds to a bigger picture.

What makes Murrabit a great place is people who see something that needs doing, and they jump in to make sure it gets done.

Thank you Vince for showing us the way to be great citizens who live to make the lives of others better.

Let's keep Vince's spirit alive in our small community by living by his values of just wanting to make a positive difference in our little town.

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.

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.



Save the Date
Australia Day
Breakfast
Back of Murrabit Hall

Friday, 26 January 2024

8:00am Breakfast by Lions Club

9:00am Welcome, Flag Raising, National Anthem

9:20am Guest Speaker

9:40am Presentation by Gannawarra Shire Council 10:00am Close and Thank you

Historic Snippet

Capel's Crossing Tavern

Herbert IEVERS selected land at Capel's Crossing but died before he and his family could move there.

Herbert IEVERS was born 1840 in Northern Ireland. He married Mary CURTAIN in 1862 in Sandhurst, Victoria (now known as Bendigo). They had 12 children. Only 9 survived. Two of those that died were Charlotte and Herbert. The names were used again.

When Herbert died in 1878 in Bendigo he was a gold miner. He left the Capel's Crossing property to his widow Mary, who moved with the family to the property when the youngest child Herbert, was 3 months old.

After her husband's death, Mary married Henry/Harry LEATHART in 1881, who had a block over the Kerang Road, south of Blain Road, with whom she had 3 more children. Harry moved across to her house which she had set up as a licenced wine tavern and boarding house. The residence was also used as a post office.

The original building was destroyed by fire in February 1890. Mrs LEATHART was rescued from a burning building by Mr BROWN, teacher at Capel's Crossing North State School.

The present building which is still used as a house, has a cellar. The IEVERS and LEATHART family married into many of the local families. Mary LETHART died 1916 aged 73 years. Harry LEATHART died 1933 aged 80 years.

Sourced from "Murrabit, Our Murrabit" by Jill SUTHERLAND. Victorian Births, Deaths and Marriages.



100th Anniversary Celebrations of the Murrabit Township

Would you like to be involved in planning the 100th Anniversary celebrations of the Murrabit township which will be held 6-7 April 2024?

All welcome to come along to a planning session

Monday 11 December
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

Murrabit Fire Brigade

We have experienced two major fires in the first few weeks of the current fire restriction period. The first was a massive hay-shed fire east of Kerang. The second was another massive fire, this time at Lake Charm. Our volunteer firefighters were involved in both, spending long hours away from their own homes and families protecting the wider community.

This serves as an important reminder that property owners need to be prepared for what is predicted to be a long, hot summer.

In the same way that local property owners need to plan and prepare for any emergency event, property owners should by now have cleared long grass and trees from around their valuable assets, like homes and farm sheds, cleaned spoutings and planned, prepared and tested fire fighting equipment.

A reminder that no fires are to be lit in the open air and farmers should clean-down and inspect equipment thoroughly before use. A small fire can spread quickly so farmers need to ensure adequate firefighting resources are available in paddocks and that a working fire extinguisher is within easy access when attending to any work.

The CFA Your Guide to Property Preparation provides an excellent easy to read guide for what every property owner needs to do. This guide can be accessed via the CFA website. *Thanks to Jade from*



Murrabit Group School for the poem below.

Fire

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Red looks like burning flames. Red sounds like crackling. Red smells like smoke and ashes.

> Red tastes like smoke. Red feels like burning. Red is fire. By Jade Lavey



Hum n Strum Music

Our last day this year will be an Open Come-and-Try Day - Wednesday 13 December 2pm at the Murrabit Golf Clubrooms with a special afternoon tea at 3pm. We'll also be doing some Christmas carols and we're keen for you to join in. We'd like to invite everyone to come along and join us — you can stay the whole 2 hours or come for a little while. You can bring an instrument and play, you can join in the singing or you might just like to come and have a bit of a look. But please feel free to drop in! Obligation free! If you think you might be interested, you could give me Neil Hopkins a call or just come along.

Our visit to Murrayhaven a couple of weeks ago was a beauty! A big crowd turned out, plenty of visitors amongst them, and we had a terrific day. We added a set of Christmas songs to the performance and John Ficken set the place alight when he danced The Twist while we sang and played along. Angie and Michael have brightened our performances by buying us each a stunningly colourful pair of musical socks to wear during our performances. Last week we were delighted to join in the community meal and then perform after lunch – never an easy task. It was great to have everyone joining in as we sang some well-known Christmas carols. And a few of us were lucky

enough to take home a Christmas raffle prize! We've been lucky to have Danielle Hazen join our group this month – she's talented, entertaining and fits in beautifully. Welcome Danielle.

We'll be performing at Glenarm on 6 December and will have our final music session at Murrabit on 13 December before having a holiday break.

Our regular Wednesday meetings are very informal and terrific fun, you just have to like music! HumnStrum meet at the Murrabit Golf Club from 2-4pm (although we often start earlier and finish later).

If you're interested in singing or playing for enjoyment in a really relaxed, friendly atmosphere contact Neil Hopkins 0490 830 641 for more information.



Murrabit & District Lions

While we were only small in number, we had a lovely service on **Remembrance Day.** The wreaths prepared by Dorothy

were beautiful and the memorial area looked fantastic, while the morning tea that followed was absolutely delicious. A very special thank you to Lily and Phoebe Monk and Callum, Stella and Will Ettershank for the important part that they played on the day (so many poppies to lay!) Thank you also to Natalie Goudie-Troy from Murrabit Group School for her help and finally thank you to Marlene Laursen and Dossie Monk for creating all of the beautiful poppies that we use each year.

Last Sunday we catered for the Billings' clearing sale. Thank you to all of our members who were able to help out. It was a busy day and quite a long one by the time we had finally parked the caravan/kitchen and the cool room and then packed everything away again. But the money that we raised will be put to good use around our community. Our next Dinner meeting will be held at the Murrabit Golf Club on **Tuesday**, **28 November**. Our guest speaker will be Kerry Stirling from Murrumbidgee Local Health. The final meeting for the year will be our Christmas break-up on Tuesday 12 December at the Murrabit Tavern. If you're interested in coming along - you don't have to be a Lion; everyone is welcome - give us a ring!



Murrabit Hall

It's a very sad time with the passing of Vinnie Maher recently. Vince was a long serving member of our Hall committee who gave his time and contributed so freely, not just to the Hall but to the

whole community, and just did so much amazing work around the district. We'll miss him very much. We had a good crowd of over 30 people for the last community lunch of the year. It was lovely to have our local music group, HumnStrum, provide some music for us, including Christmas carols.

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 0490830641 or Jeanette Coulter 0458 572 331.

Have a great month everyone!

Pancakes

Ingredients:

- . 2 Cups of self-raising flour
- . 4 tbsp of white sugar
- . 2 Eggs

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4

- . 2 Cups of milk
- . 1 tbsp of vanilla extract
- . Oil

Method:

- Place flour and sugar in a medium bowl, mix together well.
- Mix in egg and milk, mix until there's no lumps.
- 3. Heat up pan and spray with oil.
- When heated up pour ¼ of a cup of the mixture into the pan. Cook until the top of the pancake has bubbles on it then flip.
- 5. When finished cooking put them on a plate.

- 6. Put any toppings you want on it.
- 7. Enjoy. A 'procedure' by Xavier, & Grade 4, Murrabit Group School

We are really keen to add some new members. We are very much a local community club with our efforts focused on helping local people and groups. We meet twice a month at the Murrabit Golf Club, second Tuesday for business meetings and fourth Tuesday for Dinner meetings when we also have a guest speaker.

If you are new to our district or are interested in becoming involved in Lions and helping our community, please contact membership Chairman Bill Hazen on 54572213 or President Neil Hopkins on 0490 830 641.

Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon 2023

The Murrabit Hall was the place to be on Melbourne Cup Day for anyone looking for a fun, relaxed family-friendly day out. Locals enjoyed a lovely day of fashion, fine food, laughs and cheering home that winning horse.

We hosted around 50 guests dressed up in their finest outfits, matched with beautiful hats, fascinators and accessories; turning on the Cup Day atmosphere.

As per the traditional Melbourne Cup Day theme, many bright colours were on show here in Murrabit, along with some chic classic black and white outfits.

The Hall was decorated and looked fabulous with soft pink and gold touches, along with some beautiful homegrown roses.

Jeanette Coulter, as always, ran the sweeps, keeping everyone entertained and very excited when their horse came home a winner. The race was shown on the big TV, and we all cheered on our horses. Thank you to Jeanette for doing such a fabulous job.

Each guest bought a plate of food to share, and we had an amazing array of food - hot, cold, sweet and savoury. No one went hungry and we even found room for the beautiful cakes and slices!

Our MC Jodie Hartley announced the fashion winners, selected by our guest judge Pat. Lady of the Day recipient was Jo Yard. Jo received perfume kindly donated by Jeanette Coulter.

Best Dressed Gent was awarded to Alec Monk, Junior Racegoer to Pippy Morton, Best Hat went to Jan Woodier, Best Dressed Couple was Liz Hawe and Greg Gurnett and a special award was given to Sue Hollingworth for her wonderful lemon-themed outfit.

Our raffle was a beautiful gift hamper, filled with goodies, supplied by Busy Bees, and the lucky winner was Kylie Leahy. The second prize in the raffle went to John McNeil and third prize to Kendell McDonald. Lucky door prize was won by Margot McNeil.

The event was run by the Ladies of Murrabit Arts and Culture Group in conjunction with the Murrabit Promotions Committee. Special thanks to the Murrabit Hall Committee for the use of the venue.

All money raised on the day will go towards future events in Murrabit.

Thank you to everyone who came along. I'm sure all the Ladies, Gents and Children all had a wonderful time. Next year we would like to see a few more of our local fellas come along for this great day out. We were expecting more fellas this year but the fire-truck took them (and some of our ladies) away for the afternoon and evening to fight the big hay-shed fire near Kerang! Hopefully next year will be fire-free as it really is a great day out!

Ang Morton

President, Ladies of Murrabit Arts and Culture Group





Benjeroop Public Hall COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

Saturday 2nd Dec. 6.30pm

Santa Visiting (\$20 limit please)

Barbeque Available

BYO Meat and Drinks

Each family is invited to bring along a salad to share and a donation for the hamper

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ALL WELCOME

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 editions

is TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2023

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

Advertise from \$10.



Tennis News

We are well into the tennis season now with Round 6 played on the weekend. The new draw has been fantastic, allowing all our players/teams to play at the same venue each week.

Our two senior teams and junior team are all playing well with several wins on the board and still 2 teams yet to play. We are very lucky to have some new members this year. They have slipped nicely into our team and are playing some good tennis.

The juniors have been playing terrific tennis and showing off what they are learning each week in their Thursday night coaching sessions.

We have a squad of 12 juniors for Saturday comp, fantastic numbers for our small club. The kids have a great time and love playing tennis with their friends, as well as the friends they have made from the opposition teams.

Thursday night training is on every week. Anyone is welcome to come down to the courts on a Thursday night for a social hit and catch-up. We have plenty of spare racquets. The bar is open and a BBQ is usually available. Last Thursday night the Men's Shed provided a BBQ for all local families at the Rec Reserve. Thank you to Stephen and the Men's Shed for organising this (pictured right). Our very popular junior coaching program is going strong with plenty of kids turning up each Thursday night. It's not too late to join in if there are any other kids keen to come and have a go at tennis. Starts at 6 pm each Thursday night. The older kids group starts a bit later around 6:15, as we have a number of our kids basket-balling and cricketing first.

Our coaching programs will finish up before Christmas with a mini tournament for the older group and a games night for the hot-shots kids. Christmas breakup night details to come. Go Murrabit!









Netball Club AGM

Tuesday, 28 November 7pm Murrabit Complex



Murrabit Junior Tennis Coaching (above), Men's Shed Community BBQ 23 November (middle), Jeanette Coulter, Jenny McDonald, and Jenny's mum Pat catching up at the Community Picnic on 12 November at the Murrabit Family Hub (bottom)





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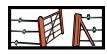
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