

Town Crier



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VOLUME 395



FREE

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New POSTAL ADDRESS: 2 Panorama Close, Bundoora 3083 The Whittlesea Historical Society now have copies of the Town Crier on their website, they can be viewed at: http://whittleseahistoricalociety.org.au/town-crier-2/

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SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE \$50 - incl.GST (Contact Karen)

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Please Note:- Cancellation of advertisements must be received in writing before booking deadline.

ALL NEW ADVERTISING & ALTERATIONS ARE REQUIRED IN WRITING BY 15th OF THE MONTH

ADVERTISING RATES per month (Including GST)

Table with advertising rates for Trade Space, Inside Back or Inside Front Page, and Costs for Compiling and Altering Ads.

Other requirements by negotiation.

Special artwork may incur an additional charge

PAYMENT FOR ALL ADVERTISING IS NOW REQUIRED BY THE 15th OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH

CLASSIFIED RATES: \$15 per advert for 3 months (inc. GST) If more than one item, you may need to pay for multiple ads

BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS: \$25 per month for 4 lines and \$6 for each additional line (incl. GST)

Ask Karen about special rates for longer terms

Deadline for all advertisements, copy, or alterations to existing entries is no later than 15th of previous month

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The views expressed in all editorial matter are not necessarily those of the editor unless expressly signed. Letters to the editor are always welcome, but will only be considered for publication with authentic names and addressed available for publication. All advertising copy is the responsibility of the advertiser, NOT the Editor. Contact details must be supplied with all items submitted to the Town Crier.

Front Cover photo: Rose Photo Supplied by: Betty Harvey

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The weather has shown us that winter is creeping closer, but still we should get a few nice days. Happy Mothers Day to mothers and I hope you all have a lovely day spent with family and friends. If you are travelling north for the winter I hope you have an enjoyable trip.

- From: https://parade.com/966564/parade/fun-facts/
33. The green code in The Matrix was actually created from symbols in the code designer's wife's sushi cookbook. (cnet.com)
34. The wedding of Princess Diana and Prince Charles was watched by 750 million people worldwide in 1981; sadly, 2.5 billion watched her funeral in 1997. (bbc.com)
35. With 3.572 billion viewers, half the world's population watched the 2018 FIFA World Cup of soccer (or football, as many international fans call it), which is held every four years. That number is on par with the 2016 Summer Olympics; but only a quarter of the world watched the less-popular Winter Olympics in 2018. (fifa.com)
36. There are no muscles in your fingers: Their function is controlled by muscles in your palms and arms. (assh.org)
37. The hardest working muscle in your body is your heart — it pumps more than 2,000 gallons of blood a day and beats more than 2.5 billion times in a 70-year life span. (heart.org)
38. It's impossible to hum while holding your nose (just try it!).
39. Skin is the body's largest organ.
40. The earth's circumference is 24,900 miles. (nasa.gov)

Regards, Betty



Yan Yean Cemetery's

Mother's Day Memorial Service

Sunday 12th May 2024 at 9.30am

Yan Yean Cemetery Chapel 2265 Plenty Road, Yan Yean

RSVP9716 2619

A SHEEP DOG'S TALE By Matt Dickinson

A DIFFERENT COLLIE

Yesterday, Jack and I went into the Village of Etal, it has two rows of single story grey stone houses, all with a grey stone roof. A grove of trees is in the centre of the village with seats in the shade, a peaceful place.

At the end of the village is the church and cemetery. There is a post office, a grocery shop and Mr Carter the Butcher is ideally placed beside the Black Bull Inn, a meeting place for the village. Then there is the Etal park and sports ground where at weekends the football or cricket is played depending on the season. For swimming, there is the ice-cold water of the river Tweed. It is a friendly place, with everyone knowing everyone else and their dogs as well. This morning Jack went into the butchers and I stayed outside. I sat waiting for Jack the pavement was hard and cold on my hind end so I curled my tail close for warmth. I was hoping Jack would soon come out but he likes a long chat. As I sat I saw a lad and a dog coming along the footpath. It was one of my pups, my pup that they said was really needed and was sold to a family with a handicapped lad in the village. It seems years since he was taken from Middle Moor and me, I hardly recognised him there was something strange about him.

He has a harness with a loop handle attached around his shoulders and the lad was holding onto this handle. Just as they got near Jack came out of the Butchers shop with some bones for my dinner, they smelled delicious. Jack saw the lad, here was another chance of a chat for Jack. He loves to chat with anyone.

'Hello Jimmy Brown, lad, how are you and your dog getting along? I'm the man you got the dog from, Jack Dixon, from Middle Moor farm. What did you call your dog, Jimmy?'

'He's Fred, Mr Dixon and he is a real pal to me.'

'How long have you had him, Jimmy?' I've had Fred for a year, he was trained at the dog centre. He's great, takes me anywhere in the village and onto buses. He knows the traffic lights and when to go on green and stand still on the red signal, he's a great dog.'

My pup Fred, came close and stopped beside me, his mother.

Jimmy had hold of the handle and said, 'What's wrong Fred, what's wrong.'

'Jimmy lad your dog Fred has just met his mother, Nell, and he remembers her. Isn't that just great?'

It was wonderful that Fred knew me. Jimmy came forward to where I was standing and stroked my head. 'You're a great dog, Nell a great dog. Thank you for giving me Fred. He's my best mate, keeps me out of trouble, he stays with me always.'

Jack talked with Jimmy for quite a while as Jack does love to chat, while Fred and I smiled at each other, he was on duty and had to remain so.



Jack asked how his mother was, and his many other relations in the village and beyond. Then Fred and I rubbed noses and he licked my face, he said he was now a fully trained guide dog and had a certificate just like human beings have. Nowadays, even dogs have to have a degree. I have no

degrees, nor even a pedigree I am just a working collie bitch on a hill farm. But I do enjoy life.

I am glad Fred is educated and helps Jimmy to cross roads and get on buses and go shopping and is Jimmy's best mate and companion. Jack and I watched as Jimmy and Fred made their way slowly along the footpath in the village.

Jack said, 'Nell that dog Fred would have made a great sheep dog.'

As his mother I think he is doing great just as he is with him harnessed to Jimmy and he has passed a Dog Carer's Degree. I hope I see Jimmy with my Fred again soon, I am so proud of my son. We all need companions, and mine are all on Middle Moor farm with Jack and Sarah, Jim and Jane and all the animals, including Blackie the nasty tup, who says he hates all sheep dogs especially black collie bitches. But I think he really likes me a little bit.

NELL IS INJURED

A lot of people have a close relationship with dogs and very few have as close a relationship as a hill country shepherd and his dog. I am talking about farming in Northumberland hill and moorland country. The land there is poor, suitable only for sheep farming with hardy black faced sheep that can stand very wintery conditions and have a coat of wool which is ideal for carpet manufacture, they are also a good meat animal.

Shepherds work with their dogs every day, often the dog being the only other companion they have or see for the full long day, they talk to them as if they were humans and blast their mistakes with, 'Come out of that, Woman!'

Then they praise their good work with, 'Aye, your a good lass, a good dog, come here and get a pat.'

I love to be praised for good work and hate it when Jack uses harsh words or raises his voice to me. The incident I am about to relate happened during the 1939 to 1945 period. Long before almost every family had a motorcar as a means of transport.

HOW NELL GOT INJURED

We'd shifted 20 sheep that were near lambing into the small field the previous week and Jack decided we had better check them on this fine morning. I thought as I approached the field with the sun trying to break through the cloud and a chaffinch singing in the old elm tree beside the barn that all was good in the world.

Jack thought these Ewes looked in fine fettle as we got to the fence we could see the sheep grazing contentedly. As we had done many times before, Jack raised his arm and pointed to the sheep. I was waiting for the next instruction that came 'Fetch on, Nell, fetch on.'

Off I went bounding straight for the fence that I knew I could jump between the wire by moving my body sideways at the narrowest part, but something went terribly wrong, I staggered, I tried to go on but I couldn't. I was in dire trouble and in extensive pain, I was trying to do what Jack had asked, but I just couldn't get up.

Nell, Nell, lay doon lass, lay doon, Nell lay doon, there's a good dog.'

Jack looking over the fence at me now lying still but looking back at him with trusting eyes. He climbed over the fence to me and said, 'There's a good dog, Nell, lets see what you've done, Lass.'

There was a tear on my belly with a strip of skin hanging loose.

'God help us, Nell you've made a right job of it this time.'

NELL BADLY INJURED

'We need help and quick, Jack thought. What had happened when I jumped through the wire fence was a sharp barb on the wire caught one of my teats and tore a triangular strip of skin on my belly.

'Come on Lass, we've got to get you back to the house, there's a good dog.'

With head hung low I limped slowly the short distance to the house, while the tear dripped a little blood. Sarah was at the kitchen window and saw us above the stone wall coming back towards the house and straight away she realised something was amiss.

'What's happened Jack why are you heading home?'

'Sarah, now divn't fuss Nell has had an accident but its nowt that can't be mended. She's torn skin on her belly.'

'A tear on her belly, how on earth did she do that?'

'Niver mind how she did it, its done and she needs a vet now.'

'Bring her in, Jack.' Sarah pulled a mat over beside the Long Settle couch.

'Nell come here Lass, lie doon there's a good lass.'

I settled on the home made mat lying on the side away from the tear.

'I'll have to go into the village to raise a vet from somewhere. They are few and far between half of them are on War service can you look after Nell while I'm gone?'

'Jack, some times you fair amaze me, can ah look after Nell? Man I've looked after you both for years you can canny on that pushbike on the way to the village. Your not as young as you once were.'

Jack got the pushbike from the shed, checked the tyres then set off for the village.

A VET NEEDED URGENTLY

There is about half a mile of rough farm road to the village, full of uneven potholes before he reached the main road across the moor. Then the road descended off the moor heather between stonewalls into the better farmland of the lower ground. He didn't notice the pleasant morning as he pressed on the pedals as fast as he could taking him towards the village about three miles distant to the post office that held the local

manual Telephone exchange. 'Hello Mr Dixon, we don't often see you in the village at this time of day. What can I do for you?'

'Mistress Ball, I need to get a vet, ah have an injured dog at Middlemoor can you see if you can raise one for me, please.'

'I'll do what I can Jack. It will take a few minutes. Mr Brent at Wooler is the nearest. I'll get onto the Wooler exchange straight away. It shouldn't take long, have a seat, Jack.'

Jack always spoke of married women as Mistress instead of Mrs or missus.

He took his cap off and sat on the plain wooden bench while Mrs Ball and the operator in the manual exchange tried to contact Mr Brent. Contact was established with Wooler. They rang Mr Brents

phone a woman answered and told the caller, 'Mr Brent has been called out to a problem and won't be back till well into the evening.'

The lady answering took Jack's name and address and noted the problem a sheepdog with the tear on the stomach needing stitching.

'I can only suggest you try Mr Thompson in Rothbury he may be able to help.'

'Rothbury, that's another ten mile away, how am I going to get my dog there?'

Thompson wouldn't come from Rothbury to stitch one dog using up petrol ration.

He has to watch what he uses and I can't blame him,' said Jack. Petrol had to be used only for national war needs. All private cars were up on blocks in storage till the end of the war no family joy riding allowed at that crucial time in World history.

'I'm sorry Jack. That's all we can do, no vet is available.'

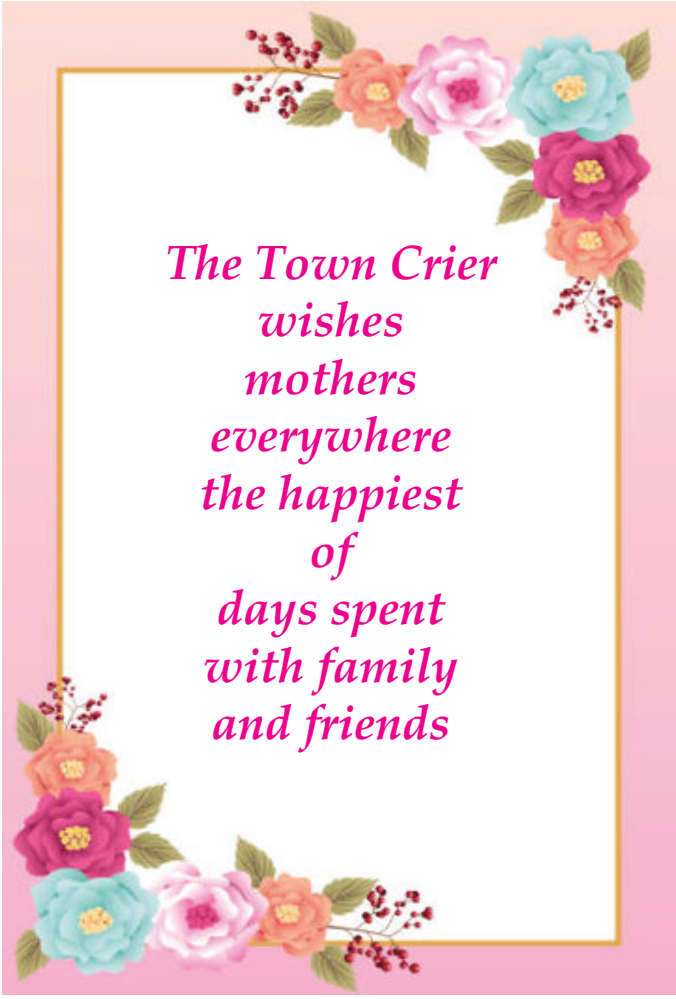
'Thanks for trying Mistress Ball.'

As he left the Post Office he knew in his mind what had to be done. Jack went straight to the chemist shop ordered the items, purchases that surprised the young woman assistant. But she supplied them without question. Jack mounted the bike and headed for home.


The ride back was much harder than the run into the village as it was uphill, and in places he got off and pushed the bike. A cold wind blew off the moor and Jack was very glad when he reached the farm road, even though it were rough and pot holed, then the farmhouse was a welcome sight. Sarah had been anxiously waiting at the house, looking for signs of Jack and a vet. Now she saw Jack making his way across the moor on his bicycle alone.

More of Nell next month





WHITTLESEA PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB



We are officially into most photographers favourite time of the year. Autumn, colours, softer light, cooler days and still foggy mornings, a recipe for beautiful images. Whether you enjoy photographing people, pets or plants take advantage of these conditions and get out there with your camera or smartphone before it turns cold. On May 11th head to the 'Ivy Lea Garden' Open day for spectacular Autumn colour. Also looking amazing at this time of the year is Toorourrong Reservoir Park. Our club spent a glorious evening there back in February and Mother Nature put on a stunning sunset for us. We are so lucky in the City of Whittlesea to have some fantastic local venues to shoot at. Coming up this month some of our lucky club members are taking part in the Bears Castle tour run by the Whittlesea Courthouse group.

The ANZAC Day holiday fell on our usual April meeting date hence we have two meetings scheduled for the month of May. Both are activity nights and will be interactive for members. If you have been thinking about taking your photography further then please reach out to us. We have members of all levels of experience as well as all types of photographic genre interests. And of course some of us just enjoy getting together with likeminded folk for a catch up and chat. Coming into the cooler weather it is easy to put the camera away and go into photographic hibernation. Joining a photography club is a great way to keep inspired.



McINTYRE FIELD - TOCUMWAL By Denys Potts

After the attack on Pearl Harbour on 7 December 1941 the Japanese began their advance down the Malayan Peninsula and air attacks on Singapore commenced on 8 December which ultimately surrendered on 15 February 1942. Two Royal Navy capital ships, Prince of Wales and Repulse, Britain's hope to deter the advance, had been sunk by air attack on 19 December 1941.

At the time, the Japanese advance appeared to be unstoppable. New Guinea was being occupied and on 15 February 1942, Darwin suffered the first of 64 air raids.

The raids on Darwin caused Australia and the United States to make plans for Australian Inland Defence. Several large airfields were planned in relation to the line of possible Japanese advance, one being at Tocumwal, considered ideal because of its open flat terrain and distance from the coast.

The site would be suitable for a heavy bomber base which would be utilised by the United States Army Air Corps (USAAC) with the added advantage of it being a railhead and close to the Melbourne-based headquarters of General MacArthur.

One day in February 1942 local farmers noticed strangers on their properties cutting telephone wires and removing poles and fences. When approached, the visitors told the farmers to pack their belongings, vacate their homes and get off their properties.

None of the landowners were given official notice to quit because of the extreme emergency and within 24 hours homes, sheds and fences were being bulldozed as construction was commenced by 2,700 workers of the newly-formed Allied Work Council and Australian Civil Construction Corps.

Work continued 24 hours per day and it was considered so urgent that two huge dragline dredges, each weighing 125 tonnes, were commandeered from Deniliquin, 115 km distant. The machines crawled to Tocumwal at 5 km/h, building their own roadway, crossing and clearing creeks, drains and channels as they came.

In 16 weeks the task was largely complete and the Americans subsequently named the area McIntyre Field in honour of Captain Patrick W McIntyre, USAAC, who was killed in an aircraft crash at Archerfield, Queensland, on 5 June 1942.

Considering the time span of the construction, the details of the undertaking were staggering. There were four 2,870m (5,200 foot) runways,

110km (70 miles) of taxi-ways, which absorbed three months output of BHP's tar production, 450 buildings, a 200-bed hospital situated away from the area and several giant single span timber hangars, each 39.6m (130'0") wide, capable of housing the Liberator bomber. These hangars remain the longest clear span triangular timber truss buildings known in Australia.

The airfield encompassed over 2,071ha (eight square miles) to ensure the defensive dispersal of aircraft, fuel and personnel. As far as possible, the buildings were designed to resemble a township's normal housing layout by aligning them on continuous streets.

Seven thousand American servicemen then descended on the base and preparations to bring it into active service commenced. Over 400 interned aliens were employed at the break-of-gauge railhead, there being a standard gauge line from Narrandera and a broad gauge line from Victoria, to handle the huge amounts of cargo that arrived each day, causing the Americans to shake their heads in disbelief at the inefficiency of Australia's different rail gauge system. As the airfield became operational in anticipation of the

Japanese onslaught, the war in the Pacific underwent a dramatic change. The United States Navy confronted a Japanese invasion force which intended to land at Port Moresby on 10 May 1942. Between 1 May and 8 May that force was routed in the Battle of the Coral Sea and the Japanese supreme command ordered the suspension of the Port Moresby landing.

The pressure on the Allies had been averted and General George C Kenney, commanding Allied Air Forces in the South West Pacific Area, ordered all the Americans and their equipment at McIntyre Field to pack-up and move to Garbutt in Queensland, "Two thousand miles closer to the enemy".

In November 1942 the RAAF took over the airfield and it was occupied by 5,000 airmen and 400 members of the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) who formed the 82 Wing - 7 Operational Training unit, 7 Aircraft Depot and 7 Central Recovery Depot.

Training of crews for Liberator bombers commenced which involved long flights

over the featureless western New South Wales terrain to teach navigation. Fifty-four Liberators were stationed at the base and eleven-man crews were turned out every two months. Consolidated Vultee Vengeance dive-bombers were used as target tugs to train gunners and Curtiss P40 Kittyhawks ran simulated attacks against Liberator formations.

The pressure on training meant that there were many accidents, causing the death of trainees. It was a deadly mix of untried crews, new aircraft that malfunctioned, inexperienced ground crews and not least, the appalling weather conditions - extreme heat and cold, gale force winds, drought conditions and dust storms that blocked out the sun. The dust was an ever-present menace to all things mechanical and on one occasion 60kg of dust was swept from the wings and fuselage of a Liberator.

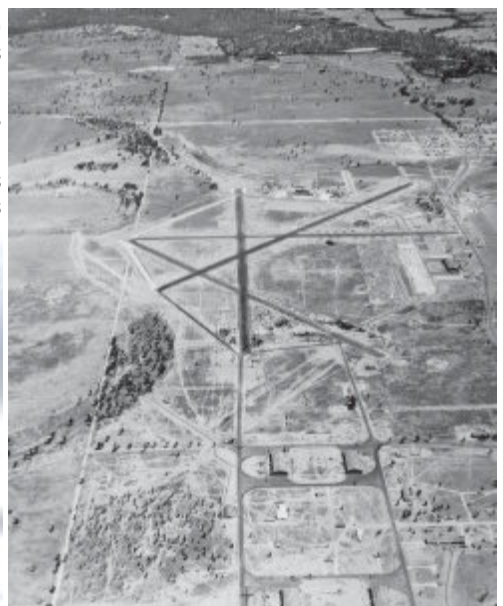
The majority of types of the aircraft used by the RAAF were handled at the base, they being serviced, modified, armed and made operational.

Flying was conducted continuously, practising landings, take-offs, formation flying tactics, bombing and gunnery. Spent cartridge cases littered the ground even into the gardens of local houses. Tocumwal residents were subjected to the sound of gunfire, glare of landing lights and engines being run flat-out in the engine test cells.

At war's end, 7 Aircraft Depot, as Australia's major aircraft depot, received hundreds of aircraft for mothballing and storage. They were packed wingtip to wingtip as far as the eye could see, from one perimeter fence to another. After languishing for ten or more years all were cut up and melted into aluminium ingots. Scrap metal dealers set up smelters and bought aircraft by the hundreds, paying £158-0-0 for a Beaufighter and £15-0-0 for a Kittyhawk. Vengeances, Flying Fortresses, Mustangs, Wirraways all went to the furnace.

Similarly, nearly all the 450 airfield buildings and all the hospital buildings were sold and removed. Many of the huts in the shape of houses form part of a section of the Canberra suburb of O'Connor.

Today three hangars remain, two being used for storage the third in active use by the Sportavia Soaring Centre.



Left: Tocumwal Hangar

Above: Tocumwal 1944

FAMILY CORNER

PLEASE NOTE: It is a requirement of the law that anyone submitting articles, notices etc.. for publication must have the writers contact details attached, but not necessarily for publication. Anything received without these details will not be included.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

16/5/2024 - Jack Burns
17/5/2024 - Jayden Andrews

BIRTHDAYS



JACK BURNS - 16/5/2024

Happy 72nd birthday, Jack, all the best for today and may the coming year bring lots of travel for you. Love from Kerry, Jeff and Tammie, Neville and Rusty, your family and friends.

JAYDEN ANDREWS - 17/5/2024

Happy birthday, son, enjoy your day. Love from Dad and Tammie

DATES TO REMEMBER 2024

King's Birthday - Monday 10 June
Melb. Cup Day - Tues. 5 November
Christmas Day - Wed. 25 December
Boxing Day - Thursday 26 December

2025

New Years Day - Wed. 1 January

NANNAS HOME BASICS GROUP

Have you seen the Nannas Home Basics group on Facebook? A community of people of all ages who love to share craft, baking, gardening, tips, recipes and conversation on almost any subject. Everyone is welcome to join - you don't have to be a Nanna to be a 'Nanna'. There is no joining fee. We meet twice a week for craft, cuppa and chat, Tuesday's 10.30-12.30 at Billy's Junction in Mernda and Thursday's 10.30-12.30 at Slices in Doreen. Many members knit and crochet for various charities, we have monthly lunches, occasional day trips, book club and sometimes guest speakers at our craft and chat mornings. There is also a Nannas Homemade Wares Facebook page where people can sell their handmade items, also a Nannas Makers Market that is currently run online each month.

For more information please ring Julie
0408 311 212 or
Terri 0448 273 040

Do you have an occasion you would like to see on this page, a birthday, anniversary, birth, engagement, wedding, or something else that is special to you. Send it to Betty, towncrier2019@gmail.com

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WHITTLESEA SENIOR CITIZENS Inc.

**P.O. BOX 50, WHITTLESEA
Community Activity Centre
57-61 Laurel Street, Whittlesea**

New members are most welcome.

We meet at Community Hall, Library, Laurel Street, Whittlesea 12.30 - 3.30pm every Wed.

MAY DATES

1st 1pm General meeting, afternoon tea
8th 1pm Trivia, afternoon tea
15th 1pm Bingo, afternoon tea
22nd 1pm Trivia, afternoon tea
29th 12.30pm Fish & Chips, Bingo, Afternoon tea

**President: Bill Beasy,
0408 997 841**

**Vice President: Joan Stroud,
408 363 074**

LORD HOWE ISLAND STICK INSECT

The Lord Howe Island Stick Insect is one of the largest Stick Insects in the world. They grow up to 15cm long and because of their size the locals called them 'land lobsters.' Lord Howe Stick Insects eat leaves and live for about a year. They belong to an ancient group of insects and are therefore called 'Jurassic Insects.' The only other known 'Jurassic Insect' species is found in PNG.

Adult Lord Howe Stick Insects are a glossy dark reddish-brown colour, while the young are a light green. The adults are active at night and the young are active during the day. Their different colours give them the proper camouflage for their respective periods of activity.

Only thought to be found on remote Lord Howe Island, it was believed to be extinct after rats decimated the species when they came ashore after a ship was wrecked there in 1918. In 2001, a team from the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service and Australian Museum landed on a steep, mostly bare, rocky outcrop called Ball's Pyramid, a 550metre high remnant of an ancient volcano, 16 km from Lord Howe Island to examine the rock. There they spotted a small group of Lord Howe Stick Insects feeding on the leaves of one small, straggly Melaleuca tree. After not being seen for 83 years they had discovered a tiny group of this species surviving, rather perilously on the exposed rock. The team didn't try to capture any of them, but reported the find.

How these stick insects arrived on inaccessible Ball's Pyramid no one knows. As they don't fly, it is supposed that they either floated to the rock on branches or other debris or were brought there among nest material by some of the many seabirds that nest on the rock.

In order to protect the remaining Lord Howe Stick Insects some of the endangered species needed to be retrieved. In 2003 a group from Melbourne Zoo led by Patrick Honan arrived on Ball's Pyramid and in a risky recovery operation they managed to capture two pairs for breeding. One pair went to Melbourne Zoo and the other to a private breeding sanctuary. Since the start of the breeding program at Melbourne Zoo the little colony of Lord Howe Stick Insects has grown from the two adults to a population of 24, and would be many more now.

It seems that possibly the rarest insect in the world is now safe from extinction and may
continued on next page >>>



WHITTLESEA COMMUNITY HOUSE

Hello! It's really starting to feel wintery! Grab a cuppa and check out what's coming up this month at Whittlesea Community House.

Save the Date: Paint and Sip is coming to the House in May! Keep Saturday 18th May (1pm – 4pm) free and get ready to produce a masterpiece, sip beverages and demolish a cheeseboard! \$25 per person. Money raised will go to the Food Relief Program at the House.

Celebrate Law Week (Friday 24th May 12.30pm – 1.30pm) with us and make your complaints effective! Our team of experts will show you how to complain effectively and get results. The Victorian Ombudsman will be in attendance alongside Whittlesea Community Legal and our financial counselling team. If you have issues with local government or public service entities the Ombudsman can even lodge your complaint on the day (from 10am)!

Helping Hands Expo join us for information day on all the things you can do and use to help you stay in your own home. Mobility aids, scooters, services and heaps more – it's FREE and morning tea is included! Thursday 30th May (11am – 2pm) at Whittlesea Community Activity Centre.

High Tea Fundraiser is BACK! This popular annual event will be held on Tuesday 17th September from Noon – 2pm at Whittlesea Bowls Club \$40 pp money raised goes to Whittlesea Community House.

Visy Recycling: Over the counter recycling is available Monday, Wednesday and Thursday each week 10am – 3pm and Saturdays from 8am – 4pm. Please note that we are not open on Public Holidays.

Got some time on your hands and looking for an easy and regular volunteering role (perhaps to meet your Centrelink obligations). Look no further! Our recycling team is seeking volunteers for regular shifts call 9716 3361 to discuss.

Are you a group or club? Did you know that you can register as a donation partner and receive the 10 cent return on recyclable items as a donation from the community? Go to <https://cdsvic.org.au/donation-partner-registration>

one day even be reintroduced to its former native habitat on Lord Howe. The successful return of the Lord Howe Stick Insect depends on a program that is being conducted to try to eradicate rats from the island. An incredible story of survival, rediscovery and renewal.

**Photo of an adult>>
Steven Katsineris. April 2006**

Community Meals

Big Blokes Brunch meet at the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre on Tuesdays! Join the blokes for brunch each week:

Tuesdays 11am – Noon \$2.00 per person

Ladies Lunch -join the ladies who lunch each fortnight at the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre. Thursday 9th and 23rd May 11.30am – 1pm \$2.00 per person

First Aid (CPR, Provide First Aid & Provide First Aid in an Emergency in an Education & Care Setting) Online learning + face to face Saturday 1st June \$85/\$150/\$195

Mental Health First Aid Returns! Just like regular first aid, mental health first aid is the assistance given in a crisis. This course will ensure you can identify a crisis or the potential for one and be in a position to provide support to a person until professional help is provided. Perfect for anyone working, volunteering or who has contact regularly with family or friends who are vulnerable

Two Day course – Wednesdays 8th and 15th May 8.30am – 4.30pm \$220/\$120 concession

Op Shop Tours return for 2024

We are trekking to Op Shops all over Melbourne on a monthly basis in 2024 and you can join us. Different route each month! Unfortunately all May trips are fully booked but how about these: Saturday 8th June 9am – 4.30pm \$15 per person

Also, Saturdays 6th & 13th July and 3rd & 10th August

Feel free to bring a snack to share on the Bus there will be a lunch stop,

Fix it Friday has returned this month! Sweep your problems into a pile and bring them to our experts for real help that doesn't involve a queue or a call centre!

Meet experts from Whittlesea Community Connections, Social Worker, Espresso Legal, Uniting Financial Counselling, NDIS, Centrelink and Neami National (Mental Health Program), Victoria Police, My Aged Care, No Interest Loan Scheme, Haven Homesafe, Gamblers Help and heaps more! Call 9716 3361 to register in advance, it's

FREE Friday 24th May 10am – 1pm Pop in during open hours for a cuppa

Mon – Thurs 10am – 3pm. A more comprehensive list of what is coming up at the House can be found on our website www.wchi.com.au or you can pick up a brochure from the House or call to book any of the above on **9716 3361**.

See you soon!



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WHAT'S IN A NAME - PORT MELBOURNE

First settled in 1839 by Wilbraham Liardet, he established a hotel, jetty and a mail service. Originally known as Liardet's beach, soon its official name of Sandridge and finally Port Melbourne in 1884. A thriving transport hub during the Goldrush of the 1850's with many ships looking to berth there. The suburb is bordered by the shores of Hobson's Bay and the lower reaches of the Yarra River. It has distinct localities such as Fishermans Bend, Garden City, and Beacon Cove. To alleviate the high transport costs of shipping goods on small vessels up the Yarra to Melbourne, the Port Melbourne railway line was built in 1854. In 1860 Port Melbourne was an early area of Victoria to gain Municipal status. The suburb had numerous hotels and as a major transport hub had a number of industries such as sugar refining, soap production, candle works, chemical works, rice and flour mills, gasworks, a distillery and even a boot factory. Swallow

& Ariel biscuit factory was built in 1854 and employed a large staff. Station and Princes piers were major places of arrival to Australia for immigrants from all over the world. Today as the industrial sector moved to outer Melbourne, Port Melbourne has increasingly become a residential suburb with a mix of apartment complexes and medium density housing many having magnificent views of Port Phillip Bay and city skyline. The railway line was converted in 1987 from heavy rail to light rail and trams now run on it. The beach areas are always popular with people, particularly on warm to hot days and the local kiosks selling icecream and refreshments do a roaring trade. Australia's world famous contemporary circus, Circus Oz, had its international headquarters in Port Melbourne for many years (now Collingwood), and the Maritime Union of Australia maintains a strong presence in the area as well.

From 'Golden Days Radio publication compiled by David Pollock, sponsored by the East Malvern Community Bank. Segments are broadcast every Thursday at 4.07pm on Golden Days Radio, 96.7fm. Streaming available, www.goldendaysradio.com

**The next Town Crier is due out Monday 3rd June
 Deadline is no later than Wednesday 15th May
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NEW CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES IN MERNDA DOREEN WOLLERT AND BEVERIDGE.

If you have just moved into this area and interested in U3A classes and activities drop in to the Mernda Community Centre at 70 Mernda Village Drive Mernda for more Information.

High Tea at Whittlesea Bowls Club



On Tuesday 9th April, 59 Whittlesea U3A members attended a High Tea at Whittlesea Bowls club. There was lots of chatter and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon including a the great spread of delicious pastries, cakes, scones and sandwiches. The event was so popular that all agreed to have another one during the next break. Our next High Tea will be held at Two Beans and a Farm in Mernda. Notification regarding enrolment will be on WOTZON in the next few weeks. You will need to be quick once it is advertised as there will be a limited number of spaces available.

DIGITAL LITERACY HELP AND ASSISTANCE

Need help with your smart device – **PHONE:** iPhone or Android or **TABLET:** iPad or Tablet at Lalor Library on Thursdays (1pm and 3pm), Mernda Senior Support Centre Fridays (10am to 12) and Thomastown Library on Fridays (1pm and 3pm).

MONTHLY MORNING TEA – The Whittlesea U3A monthly morning tea is at Epping RSL on the first Monday of each month commencing at 10am where information on how to access the **VICTORIAN VIRTUAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND EPPING PRIMARY PRIORITY CARE EPPING SERVICE** will be demonstrated each month.

How to join or renew your membership for 2024

Joining or renewing online - Visit our membership management system to join or renew your membership online www.whittleseau3a.org.au Joining or renewing by form contact the Office by:

- **Emailed to secretary@whittleseau3a.org.au, or Mailed to: Secretary, WhittleseaU3A Inc. P.O. Box 1157 Lalor, VIC, 3075,** or Delivered to the office during office hours.

The full calendar of Classes and Activities are available on the Whittlesea U3A website www.whittleseau3a.org.au. You can enrol online or by contacting either course coordinator on **0412 230 561** or communication@whittleseau3a.org.au or the office.



**'HEATHERLEY' AT WHITTLESEA
BY VANCE BEBBINGTON**

The farm now known as 'Castle Hill Farm' was previously called 'Heatherley'.

Our grandparents Joseph and Edith Bebbington purchased the property in 1933 and moved there in September 1934. At that time, it consisted of 180 acres (72 hectares) with an additional 76 acres (30 hectares) being leased. The family sold the farm in 1955. Seven of their ten children came with them and the younger ones went to Whittlesea State School. The eldest son Bevis (my Father) and Kenneth mainly worked away after the initial set up but returned to help in busy times, such as harvesting. The other children worked on the farm over the years, girls included, and at the end of the war the five youngest were still on the farm.

The family was featured in a photo display in the Weekly Times in the early 1940s.

Both my Grandfather Joseph (who died in 1948) and Grandmother Edith (in 1944), are buried in the former Yan Yean cemetery, now known as the Whittlesea cemetery, alongside their daughter Dorothy and son Trevor. Another son, Kenneth who was killed and buried in Palestine early in WW2, is noted on the grave, with a memorial tree in Whittlesea.

Before my grandparents purchased the farm, it had had several types of farming, from grazing, winery, and possibly as a dairy farm.

All the farm buildings, sheds, and silos as they were in 1934, were solid imposing buildings built of the same brick, with the storage sheds/barns being quite high with big double doors to allow for access by horse and cart or wagons.

THE BUDGERIGAR

The Budgerigar is a small, well known and common parrot. My mother, like many other people often had Budgies as pets. I used to help her look after and feed them. A friend who was moving overseas asked me if I wanted his pair of pet budgerigars, as he couldn't take them with him. They lived in a small cage and although they seemed happy enough, I decided that I'd get them a larger cage. One thing led to another and eventually I bought a large aviary. The birds had plenty of room to fly around and I put in rocks, logs, branches and other bits and pieces to make the place interesting for them. Then I bought more budgerigars and when they bred I had plenty of them in a profusion of different colours. I had so many that from time to time I had to sell some. Watching them, learning about them and caring for them gave me a lot of pleasure. We (my friend and I) left Tasmania we travelled around Victoria and drove to Adelaide, then through central South Australia, via the Flinders Ranges, to the Northern Territory, through Queensland and then south

The original house as it was then, was fairly basic, with a corridor down the middle, two rooms both sides and a bathroom at the back, with the back veranda being partly enclosed with wire mesh to accommodate most of the 10 children. The main house must have been on a slight slope as you walked directly in the back but the front had a full set of steps down to the garden.

Directly behind the main house, there was an additional building originally made of weatherboard, which included a kitchen and bedroom, while the back part of that building had high roof with double doors at the far end, probably used as storage, with access for unloading a horse and cart. This building had been used for the older boys, and when my mother Sheila arrived from England in 1946, my parents lived in this weatherboard house while my father re-built it as a brick house, before they purchased their own farm at Christmas Hills.

Approaching the farm from the road, across the water channel, at the first corner was a long thin paddock going up a rise. This was always known as the 'Rifle Paddock' and was used at weekends by the local gun club.

Since my grandparents and parents left 'Heatherley' before I was born, I have never seen the farm buildings up close, but I hope that this gives you an idea of what the 'Heatherley' farm, now known as 'Castle Hill' would have been like in the 1930s to the 1950s.

Vance Bebbington, March 2024.
This history was written by Vance Bebbington as a presentation for

the Whittlesea Historical Society bus tour of Yan Yean, when a visit was made to 'Castle Hill Farm'. WHS thanks the Wilkinson family for allowing access to their historic property as part of the 'Yan Yean: Sites of Significance' tour on the 17th of March 2024. The 'Castle Hill Farm' property retains many original historical features. The Wilkinson family has made some changes and additions to bring the home into the modern age, but the character and style of the old buildings has been retained and reflected when doing so. This is a credit to their respect for the history of their property.

The Whittlesea Historical Society has an exciting program of events and activities coming up. Perhaps you'd like to join in? Our next meeting will be held at the Arthur's Creek Mechanic's Institute on Sunday 19th of May, starting at 1 pm, and the general public is most welcome to attend. Afternoon tea will be served. Our guest speakers will be Peter Nankervis, who will speak about the history of Mechanic's Institutes, and Julie Nankervis, who will speak about writing your family history. Julie has 'walked the walk' with writing her own family history, and has some great examples of her work to show us. Peter and Julie are very involved with the management of the Arthur's Creek Mechanic's Institute, which is an historic building which has found a modern use. This is what preserves our old buildings – re-purposing, and people to care for them. Come along and be inspired.

**1938 Carting hay sheafs.
Kenneth & Olwen.**



down the coast.

I observed a large flock of about thirty budgies, up close drinking from a dam where we stopped near Williams Creek in S.A. Later I saw more, mostly from a distance at various places and the N.T. Near Charters Towers in QLD a big flock of over fifty of them flew swiftly past us, chattering in flight and shimmering in the sunny sky. It was quite an amazing sight to see so many of them whirling around. While the domestic, pet Budgerigar has been bred in a variety of colours, in the wild, it is mainly green and yellow in colour. The face is yellow, the upper body and wings are also yellow with black barring, the underside is green, the long tail feathers are blue and green and it has a small blue patch on its cheek. The male has a dark blue cere, near the nostrils, while the females is light blue or brown when breeding.

They live together in nomadic parties or big flocks, ranging from a small number to over a hundred. Sometimes they form very large flocks of thousands. Their voice is a pleasant musical call, a constant sound when flocks are in flight or

gathered at water in the morning or evening. They tend to breed depending on the seasonal conditions, if there is abundant rainfall and food they will often produce several broods. They nest in a hollow in a tree trunk, branch or hole in log or fence post. They favor communal nesting and several pairs will nest in the same tree. Usually four to six eggs are laid, but sometimes eight. The female sits on the eggs, but both parents care for them.

They inhabit grasslands, open woodland and scrubland, close to water. They feed mostly on the seeds of native grasses and herbs.

Budgerigars are distributed throughout the drier inland areas of mainland Australia.

With its pleasant sounding voice, attractive colours, diminutive size and delightful temperament, the Budgerigar certainly makes a lovely pet. But it is also wonderful to see these familiar native birds in the wild, especially the impressive spectacle of a large flock in full flight.

**Steven Katsineris.
Feb. 2007**



In the wild



THAT TIME OF THE MONTH CHINESE MEDICINE AND WOMEN'S STUFF

Gynaecology has many thousands of years history, with Chinese medical texts that go back as far as 1500 BC with references to treating difficult birth and infertility. Chinese Medicine has a comprehensive understanding of women and this is reflected in the medical literature. For instance, menstrual blood is referred to as 'Heavenly Water' with respect to all our origins, and menstrual pain is viewed as a sign of dysfunction not 'normal just pop a few pain killers and get on with it!' PMT involving irritability, moodiness and breast tenderness is also a sign that there is imbalance and perfectly treatable, not something we just have to put up with.

It basically comes down to two main factors, Blood and the Liver. The Liver in TCM (Traditional Chinese Medicine) stores and regulates the flow of blood as well as the 'free flow of emotions'. When, due to factors such as poor diet or stress, the liver's function becomes impaired there is as a result both period pain and emotional volatility as the Liver struggles to cope with the redistribution of blood and the clearing of toxins and excess hormones.

The health of Blood is also important, with blood deficiency, blood heat as well as cold in the abdomen, are factors that can cause dysfunction. These are difficult for self-diagnosis but generally speaking if you feel like strapping a hot water bottle to your abdomen, a ginger tea (two slices of fresh ginger in boiling water with honey) can often bring relief. If stress is a problem B group vitamins and Evening primrose oil can help but these must be taken as a preventative, not just during 'that' week.

More serious pain such as endometriosis or heavy periods must be treated by a practitioner, with good long-term results. And for all those women who suffer hot flushes and heat at night due to menopause, it is again a normal process that is in need of balancing with herbs and acupuncture being very effective.

Most importantly DON'T PUT UP WITH IT! PMT and Menopause all its forms is perfectly treatable so if you are suffering for your womanhood, get some advice and help.

Until next time, stay well, Dr Angela Palmer
Registered Chinese Medicine Practitioner
B.AppSc Human Biology, B.AppSc T.C.M. R.M.I.T
Kinglake Chinese Medicine,

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WHITTLESEA COMBINED PENSIONERS

(Reg. A0025361A)

President Lyn McKinnon opened our April Meeting.

Our guest speaker for May will be from our Country Womens Association, Ms S McCall.

Thursday 16th May, we travel to Daylesford a town in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range. Its known for its natural mineral springs. The leafy Wombat Hill Botanical Gardens sits atop an extinct volcano. Lunch at the Daylesford Hotel, 2 course meal. **Cost \$60.** Whittlesea pickup 8.30am, Mernda 9am, Mill Park 9.15am

Thursday 20th June is our birthday luncheon at the Bridge Inn Hotel. **Time: 12noon. Cost: \$20**

Thursday 18th July we travel to Abbotsford Convent. **Cost: \$60** Times and lunch TBA

Whittlesea Combined Pensioners & Superannuants Association of Victoria Inc. is open to all types of pensioners and their carer's and funded Superannuants.

Annual Membership is \$20. Trips and Luncheons are partly subsidised by the Club except for the 5 day trip.

Meetings are held 1st Thursday of each month, and Trips are on 3rd Thursday of each month.

Trips and luncheons are partly subsidised by the Club, all trips

are \$60 p. p. that includes lunch, birthday, mothers day and Christmas luncheon are \$20 p.p.

All trips must be paid by 1st Thursday of each month.

If members would like to attend any of the above trips but are unable to attend the next meeting they can contact

Nella Palmieri - 0433 114 960

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday 3rd May**, at the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre at 1pm.

New members are always welcome.

'til next time stay safe and well,
Nella Palmieri,
Social Secretary





HAPPINESS

By Sue Lloyd



Happiness is: A puppy; Relaxation; Raspberries; Fiery red sunset; Good friends; Happy memories; Seaside holidays; Freshly baked bread; An enthralling book; The calm of the ocean; Grandma's apple pie; Loving families; The joy of grandchildren; Dry washing on the line; Euphoria of music; A hot water bottle; Winter sunshine; Caring neighbours; Completing the crossword; Walking through a rainforest; The smell of rain after a drought; The distinctive calls of Australian birds.

Despite drudgery and broken dreams
The more you chase happiness the more elusive it becomes
Happiness occurs only when you fall down
and do not get back up again
Let it fall over you like rain

Maybe a reminder of the pleasure to be gained from the small things in life is worthwhile.

Many, if not all, of us are perhaps consumed with major difficulties we face every day.

Financial worries, health concerns, emotional problems, relationship breakdowns/separations, employment worries and the general pressure and pace of life as it seems to be now. Even getting to and fro from work can be extremely frustrating, long queues, traffic accidents and road works all contributing to longer work days. Working from home may also present problems; trying to simultaneously watch young children, care for elderly relatives, be expected to be available for work contact after hours, etc. etc.

In this demanding, and possibly chaotic lifestyle, it may be easy to overlook the need for balance in life. All work and no play, is not a good mix for long-term vitality and happiness.

Many readers of this piece may have also seen the article in the recent Age Good Weekend espousing the benefit of spending an hour a day in the garden. Perhaps not achievable for everyone. This particular article also bemoaned the diminishing size of gardens with ever larger houses on smaller blocks, claiming that the effect on overall general health and that of children was likely to be negative. No opportunity for children to build cubby houses, have sand a pit, trampoline, keep chickens and collect eggs or grow vegetables. For adults the suggestions were that such activities obviously aided physical wellbeing but that this also had a flow on effect mentally.

While this may not be possible for everyone going for a walk, with or without a dog, attempting to fit in a few minutes at the start or end of the day could be of benefit on many levels. It also provides some valuable 'me time' in the midst of all the hustle and bustle of everyday living.

Maybe, along with recognition of the simple pleasure listed above it might be worth a try.

Whittlesea Foodshare Report April 2024

At Foodshare we see too many people!

Don't get us wrong. We love to meet and get to know the people from the community of Whittlesea Township and Surrounds. Over more than 20 years Whittlesea Combined Churches have been providing relief, our volunteers have provided support for thousands of people.

Currently between 100 and 120 people per week visit Foodshare. It is clear that good quality food is at the top of the support ladder but smiles, a warm welcome and a cheerful chat are right up there too.

Seeing to the idea that we see too many people. It's a bit of a conundrum. Do we pray for more people to come to Foodshare so that we can make more and more friends? Or do we pray for less people to come because the economy is improving, and things are not as tough now?

That's a tricky question, isn't it? Of course, we pray for the circumstances that impact on household budgets to improve, but even if things return to be as they were in 'the good old days' there will always be a need to support folk at times of unexpected hardship. Loss of a job, sudden illness, or death, road accidents, and, as we saw in 2009, natural disasters can have a major impact on the whole community.

So, we're here to assure the community that we are not going anywhere! Our wonderful volunteers, backed by church congregations, Whittlesea Bowls, Whittlesea Rotary, Whittlesea Lions, community members, Kinross Farm as the Community House, will be here to provide support where and when it is most needed.

Closing Prayer: Dear God, we pray that all local people in need will find cheerful, caring support, here, at the heart of the community, and we give open hearted grateful thanks to all the wonderful volunteers and donors who provide it.

Amen

Ivan Peterson Chair Whittlesea Combined Churches

WHITTLESEA PHYSIOTHERAPY

NAVIGATING SCREEN TIME DURING CONCUSSION

RECOVERY: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

INTRODUCTION:

Concussion management is vital for recovery from mild traumatic brain injury. A key aspect under scrutiny is the impact of screen time on acute concussion recovery. Here, we explore this issue and offer practical guidelines for individuals recovering from concussions.

Effects of Screen Time on Recovery:

Screen time poses challenges for non-concussed individuals, causing headaches, vision issues, sleep disturbances, and cognitive fatigue. These effects mirror post-concussion symptoms, warranting further investigation.

How Screen Time Affects Concussion Symptoms:

Excessive screen time during recovery may worsen headaches, cognitive fatigue, eye strain, disrupted sleep, blurry vision, and light sensitivity.

Optimal Screen Time During Recovery:

Studies suggest moderation in screen time during the first 48 hours post-injury. Afterward, gradual reintroduction, listening to one's body, and personalised adjustments are key.

Screen Time Management Tips:

Prioritise rest initially, gradually reintroduce screen time, take breaks, and adjust screen settings. Individualised plans with healthcare professionals are crucial.

Blue Light Glasses and Recovery:

While blue light glasses may help reduce eye strain, their use should be limited to evenings. Morning exposure to blue light therapy shows promise in enhancing recovery but requires further research.

CONCLUSION:

Balancing screen time during concussion recovery is crucial. Personalised approaches, guided by healthcare professionals, can optimise recovery while staying connected.

Where to get help:

For comprehensive concussion care and rehabilitation, contact Whittlesea Physiotherapy and Clinical Pilates today. Let us help you regain confidence, strength, and resilience as you journey towards optimal health and performance.

Contact us by calling **9716 2250**, email info@whittleseaphysiotherapy.com.au or visit our website <https://whittleseaphysiotherapy.com.au/services/certified-concussion-clinic/>

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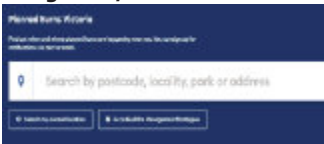
Training:

This month Brigade members have been focusing on forcible entry tactics and equipment and how to best utilise them in an emergency. Members were given the opportunity to use some of our larger tools such as the hydraulic combination tool, rescue saw and grinder to learn how to make a safe entry into properties such as garage doors during a fire. Our training also included how to make a safe entry into a doorway with fire behind it with a hose to protect ourselves during entry. As well as practice in gaining access into vehicles, to rescue children from hot cars without smashing a window.



Photo Credit: Steph Smith

Planned Burning: Planned burning is a land management tool where controlled fire is used, under carefully monitored conditions, to reduce fuels such as grass, leaves, bark, shrubs and fallen branches. Without planned burning and other bushfire risk management works, bushfires will be bigger and harder for our firefighters to control. To find out more information on locations of planned burns, please see <https://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au/>



Eden Park: Whittlesea Fire Brigade recently has welcomed several new members to our Eden Park team. Did you know Whittlesea Fire Brigade has a satellite fire station out at Eden Park? Firefighters responding out of Eden Park responds to the same call outs and participates in training and Sunday morning duties. As Whittlesea Fire Brigade members, they are 100% volunteers. Thank you for answering the call and responding to emergencies in the community. Welcome to the team.



Photo by: Crystal Devenish

Fire Danger Period: The Fire Danger Period (FDP) will end at 01.00am on Wednesday the 1st of May for the City of Whittlesea. Authorities enforce zero tolerance to burning off without a written permit. Police are dispatched to all calls regarding illegal burn offs. Victorians can find out 'Can I or Can't I?' information at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can or by calling VicEmergency Hotline on **1800 226 226**.

Fire Danger Period and Total Fire Ban – what's the difference? While both restrict your use of fire in order to protect you and your community, each have different rules. Our 'Can I' or 'Can't I' twins are here to help you understand the difference between the two. www.cfa.vic.gov.au/aboutfiredangerperiod



By Steph Smith, Publicity officer, Whittlesea Fire Brigade proudly 100% volunteers. If you wish to enquire about joining the Whittlesea Fire Brigade email us on admin@whittleseacfa.com website: <https://www.whittleseacfa.com/>

<<< Photo Credit: Forest Fire Management Victoria



FROM CHAIR ADMINISTRATOR, LYDIA WILSON



Hello everyone,
This month at the City of Whittlesea, we are thrilled to share some exciting project updates and upcoming events.

We are progressing well with a number of big projects across the municipality, including the Aboriginal Gathering Place and Granite Hills Major Community Park, both of which will be located within the stunning Quarry Hills Parkland. In addition, we have just started work on a series of trails that will be built throughout Quarry Hills that will provide about 4.5km of walking and cycling paths throughout the parkland for our community to enjoy. We will also begin construction of the Murnong Community Centre in Donnybrook shortly, which will provide an essential space in this rapidly growing suburb for kindergarten services as well as other important community services. For more information on these, or any other major projects, visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au.

We know transport is a key priority for our residents, and we are currently developing a plan that will help shape transport planning for our city over the next 10 years. The draft Integrated Transport Plan will cover walking, cycling, public transport, road transport, road safety and freight. We would like to know your thoughts on the draft plan. To view the document and have your say, visit engage.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/itp. Consultation will be open until Sunday 19 May.

We are also busily preparing for the upcoming local government elections that will take place in October this year, where we will welcome a new group of elected Councillors for the City of Whittlesea.

The 2024 Council Election presents a significant opportunity for residents to actively participate in shaping the future of City of Whittlesea and I encourage any residents who are considering nominating as a candidate to attend the upcoming information sessions that will be held over

the coming months. Information sessions will be hosted by the City of Whittlesea, the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) to support residents considering running for Council. Details can be found on our website at www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/councilelection

It is also timely to remind everyone that voting is compulsory for those who are enrolled on the Victorian electoral roll. Additionally, corporations, occupiers, and ratepayers who are property owners but reside outside the municipality may also be eligible to vote. Ensure you are registered to vote by 4pm on August 30, 2024. For more information visit www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/councilelection

Our Whittlesea Hub, which opened last year in the heart of Whittlesea, provides residents in the north of our municipality a convenient point of contact with Council, closer to home. In addition to being able to pay your bills and have your say on a range of community consultations, you can also come in and speak to one of our specialist staff who are based at the hub on the following days:

- **Monday** 10am-2pm, Emergency Management
- **Tuesday** 9.30am-4pm, Business Concierge
- **Wednesday** 9.30am-4pm, Building Services
- **Thursday** 9.30am-4pm, Planning Services.

Finally, mark your calendars for the Bringing up Kids Expo on Tuesday 7 May, at Westfield Plenty Valley. This free event brings together local family support agencies and services, providing valuable information on programs and events offered in the City of Whittlesea for families and children. Join us for a day of family fun, including face painting and entertainment. For further information on this event and to register, visit whittlesea.vic.gov.au/events

Take care, Lydia Wilson



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Member for **Yan Yean**



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- ✉ lauren.kathage@parliament.vic.gov.au
- ☎ 03 9432 9782

Authorised by L.Kathage, Suite 3, 14 Yan Yean Road, Diamond Creek VIC 3089.

Samantha Heyfron B Physio, APAM
Adam White B Physio, APAM
Tanvi Tiwari B Physio, MSc MSK Rehab
Luke McMurray B. Physio, B. Appsc, APAM
Maighan Cann B. Appsc, M. PhysioPrac

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WOMEN'S CANDIDATE ACT 1924 By Glen Davis

Victoria currently has a female Premier, Jacinta Allan. She is the second female premier of Victoria, the first being Joan Kirner. Both represented the Australian Labor Party (ALP).

We know it took a long time, and lot of hard work, from the second half of the 19th century into the 20th century to win women to vote. Victoria trailed the rest of Australia through much of this time.

Some female ratepayers were able to vote back in 1864 though this situation was rapidly changed, as by 1865 legislative change curtailed women's right to vote. In the years following, actions, and campaigns, were undertaken to give women the vote. This included the famous Monster Petition calling for women to have the right to vote. That gained 30,000 signatures and was presented to the Victorian Parliament on September 29, 1891. From here the campaign for women's suffrage continued. Anyhow in 1908 women in Victoria gained the vote allowing them to vote in the 1911 state election. Victorian women voted alongside the men on November 16, 1911.

But getting the vote, and being voted in, well they are two different things. The path to being elected was slower, more difficult.

Only in May 1924 were women able to run for election to the Victorian Parliament. This was because of the Parliamentary Elections (Women Candidate) Act 1923 receiving Royal assent on May 12, 1924. Until then women could only attend Parliament as spectators, or if they were working in domestic services roles at Parliament House.

Alicia Katz was the first female candidate to stand for Victorian Parliament. She stood for election to the Legislative Assembly seat of Barwon on June 26. This scarcely six weeks after the legislation allowing women to run for Victorian Parliament was made law. Katz represented the ALP. In her speeches she spoke about the role of women in the workforce, reforming marriage laws, on working towards a world based on the attributes of both sexes. On June 26, 1924, 3,046 voters made her their first choice, but she was defeated by the Liberal candidate Edward Morley.

Other women stood for Victorian Parliament following Alica Katz. However, it took nigh on a decade for a female candidate to win a seat in the Victorian Parliament, this being on November 11, 1933, when Lady Millie Peacock was the victor in a by election for the Legislative Assembly seat of Allandale, a seat she held until late 1935 when she retired from parliament.

To commemorate the accomplishment of May 12, 1924, proclamation of Women in the Victorian Parliament, there is a tree in the Rathdowne Street Gardens, South Carlton. This was planted by League of Women Voters of Victoria on May 12, 1989. A plaque is situated with the tree explaining its importance to both women in Victoria, as well as the history of democracy in Victoria.

A century down the track female parliamentarians is a reality in Victoria, Australia, and throughout the world. That is how it should be. In closing I'll defer to the words of Victoria's first women to run for Parliament, Alicia Katz. 'Undesirous as a man-made world had become, I did not desire a woman made world, but wanted a world based on the attributes of both'.

- Q. How are false teeth like stars? **A.** They come out at night.
- Q. What building in your town has the most stories? **A.** The public library.
- Q. What's worse than finding a worm in your apple? **A.** Finding half a worm.
- Q. What is a computer's favorite snack? **A.** Computer chips.
- Q. What did one volcano say to the other? **A.** I lava you.
- Q. How do we know that the ocean is friendly? **A.** It waves.
- Q. What is a tornado's favorite game to play? **A.** Twister.
- Q. How does the moon cut his hair? **A.** Eclipse it.
- Q. How do you talk to a giant? **A.** Use big words.
- Q. What animal is always at a baseball game? **A.** A bat.
- Q. What falls in winter but never gets hurt? **A.** Snow.
- Q. What did the Dalmatian say after lunch? **A.** That hit the spot.
- Q. Why did the kid cross the playground? **A.** To get to the other slide.
- Q. What do you call a droid that takes the long way around? **A.** R2 detour.
- Q. Why did the cookie go to the hospital? ... **A.** Because he felt crummy.
- Q. Why was the baby strawberry crying? **A.** Because her mom and dad were in a jam.
- Q. What did the little corn say to the mama corn? **A.** Where is pop corn?

PUZZLE PAGE

Science Experiments

Word Search Puzzle



- | | | |
|---------------|------------|-------------|
| BALANCE | GLOVES | PIPETTE |
| BEAKER | GOGGLES | REACTION |
| BUNSEN BURNER | HYPOTHESIS | RULER |
| CENTRIFUGE | LABORATORY | SCALE |
| CONCLUSION | MAGNIFIER | SCIENTIST |
| DATA | MEASURE | TEST TUBE |
| FLASK | MICROSCOPE | THERMOMETER |
| FORCEPS | PETRI DISH | VARIABLES |

Puzzle courtesy of PrintFree.com

Happy May Day!



Puzzle courtesy of www.printables4kids.com

MAZE CHALLENGE



Courtesy of www.kidsactivities.online



Courtesy of http://www.kidpid.com

- Q. Why can't Elsa from Frozen have a balloon?
A. Because she will 'let it go, let it go.'
- Q. What musical instrument is found in the bathroom?
A. A tuba toothpaste.
- Q. Why did the kid bring a ladder to school?
A. Because she wanted to go to high school.
- Q. What do you call a dog magician?
A. A labracadabrador.
- Q. Where would you find an elephant?
A. The same place you lost her.
- Q. How do you get a squirrel to like you?
A. Act like a nut.
- Q. What do you call two birds in love?
A. Tweethearts
- Q. How does a scientist freshen her breath?
A. With experi-mints.

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STAYING CONNECTED WITH PROBUS

Fun, Friendship and Fellowship in Retirement

Pomp and Circumstance

The phrase 'pomp and circumstance' has an interesting history. It was popularized by Shakespeare in his play Othello, However, the expression appears in Philip Massinger's play 'Bashful Lover', written around 1640 and published a few years later: "The Minion of his Prince and Court, set off 'With all the pomp and circumstance of greatness.'"

The election of the new committee of management at the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea on Monday 4 March 2024 took place at the Annual General meeting and had a feeling of pomp and circumstance. The outgoing President Keith Miller delivered a written address to members.

In part it reads, 'Our profile has been raised by the numerous articles in magazines. At the risk of sounding like an Oscar recipient I would like to thank the committee for all their work. I trust you will support the incoming President and Committee.'

The ceremonial aspect continued with all positions declared vacant, and Sue Sims was appointed as Returning Officer. There being no duplicate nominations for any committee position the time lapse between the outgoing and incoming President was short.

The outgoing Secretary and Vice-President Cheryl Manicolo had nominated for President and being the only applicant was installed. **Ms Sims declared:-** 'Cheryl Manicolo you have been elected as President of the Combined Probus Club of Whittlesea and as such it becomes your responsibility to uphold the Aims and Objectives as set out in the Club's constitution.'

'As the leader of your Club, emphasis should be placed on the core values of friendship, fellowship and fun within our Probus Community.'

'It is my honour to present you with the

President's Chain of Office as the new President of the Probus Club of Whittlesea'.

The Chain of Office was then placed on President Manicolo to loud applause from members. This passes for the Pomp of the meeting! In previous times the pomp was greater as the Chain of office was the quaintly named Collar of Office which originated in the middle ages!

The less exacting duties of President will come as a relief to Cheryl who has been an outstanding Secretary and Vice President with detailed on time minutes and agendas produced for every meeting. Greg Eddy was elected as Vice President to assist Cheryl whilst her replacement at the Secretary's desk is Helen Bowtell. Keith Miller assumes Ex Officio status!

Other committee positions incumbents are basically unchanged except for Bev Horan who did not nominate for a position. Beryl Lucas nominated for the Meet and Greet position vacated by Bev whose contribution had been acknowledged at the previous Committee meeting. Roma Harris is an associate member who delivers newsletters to members who do not have emails and are unable to attend

Other Committee Members

Teresa Carlin	Guest Speakers
Sue Giri	Assistant Hospitality
Michael Halley	Publicity
Sandra Hocking	Newsletter
Beryl Lucas	Meet and Greet
Kaylene McKay	Hospitality
Rita Miller	Dine Outs
Alessandra Testa	Treasurer and Day Trips
Glenda Vincent	Membership and Welfare
Mary Wood	Tours

Probus is dedicated to promoting the development of friendship, fellowship and the advancement of intellectual interests for active retirees. This is broken down to friendship, fellowship and fun. The management committee at Whittlesea has committed to members to build on the core values and deliver exceptional meetings.

They only have to continue on the success of the past year when the membership increased and new talents came to the fore!

The first meeting under the new regime is on April 8th when NESTA Russell from the Whittlesea Courthouse Visitor Information Centre will be the guest presenter.

Written by Michael Halley



Inset Helen Bowtell- Michael Halley
Back Row Sue Giri - Keith Miller - Glenda Vincent - Kaylene McKay - Beryl Lucas - Teresa Carlin - Roma Harris - Rita Miller
Front Row Mary Wood- Alessandra Testa- Cheryl Manicolo - Greg Eddy - Sandra Hocking



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Bundoora contact Elise **0433 702 326**. Females
Thursday night too.

TENNIS- Whittlesea Tennis Club, Laurel St,
Whittlesea runs social tennis Thursday nights
from 7.30pm on our fully lit 8 court family
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Contact: Malcolm **9714 8220**

BUNDOORA HALL ANNEXE meeting Room, holds approx. 80 people, at Contact Community Centre, Noorong Ave., Bundoora. For information & enquiries **Lyn 0438 248 950** or email: rice1429@gmail.com

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Recreation Reserve, Diamond Creek. Ideal for Functions, Birthdays, Engagements, & other parties, up to 150 people. Excellent kitchen & catering facilities. Large covered BBQ area. Fully air conditioned & heated. P.A. System, Fully licenced bar, abundance of toilets & off road parking. Disabled access. reasonable hire rate. NO 18th's. Contact Geoff Corner **0419 547 465** E: sellcor@bigpond.net.au

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Lindsay **0409 687 755** or **9465 2534**

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FIRE BRIGADES (fire only)	000
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POLICE	000
Epping	9409 8100
Mernda	9216 1200
Mill Park	9407 3333
Wallan	5783 0400
Whittlesea	9716 2102
AMBULANCE	000
HOSPITALS	
Austin & Repatriation.....	9496 5000
Mercy for Women	8458 4444
Northern	8405 8000
Royal Childrens	9345 5522
Beyond Blue	1300 224 636
Bully zero Aust. Found....	1800 028 559
Chinese Medicine	5786 1889
Child Protection Society	13 12 78
City of Whittlesea A.H.....	9217 2170
Electrical emergency	13 17 99
Eastern Energy	13 34 66
Emergency info. in Vic. ...	1800 226 226
Floods & Storms	13 25 00
Gamblers Helpline	1800 156 789
Gas emergency	13 27 71
Gas, SP Ausnet	13 67 07
Hall's Funerals	9438 5416
Kids Helpline	1800 551 800
Lifeline	13 11 14
Medical Imaging	9716 0278
Mobile Phone Emergency	112
Nurse on call (24hr)	1300 606 024
Parentline Vic	13 22 89
Poisons Info..24Hrs	13 11 26
Plenty Valley FM: provide local emergency information	9404 2111
Physiotherapy	9716 2250
Power outages, downed lines .	13 17 99
RACV	13 11 11
S.E.S	13 25 00
Yarra Valley Water	13 27 62
Crown Cabs.....	9310 5422
Lifeline	13 11 14
Caring Crisis Line	13 61 69
Nursing Mothers helpline.....	9885 0653
Help for wildlife	0417 380 687
Wildlife Victoria - 24hr Pager service	0500 54 0000
RSPCA	9224 2222
Bee swarm collection	0400 337 556

**GARDEN OF ROSES or
PADDOCK OF PRICKLES**

If you have something you would like to contribute to 'ROSES' or 'PRICKLES' column, email it to:
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All submissions must include name and contact details, including phone number (Not necessarily for publication)



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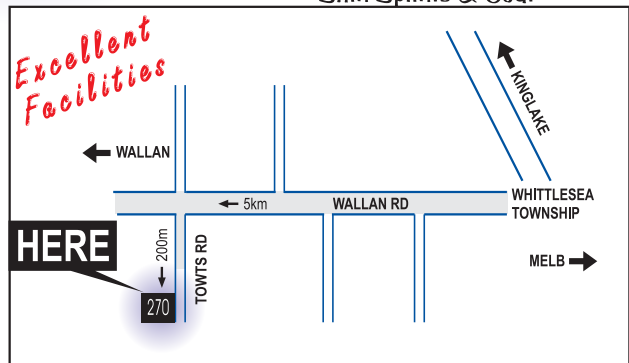
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