

# town Crier



February 2024  
VOLUME 392

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**FREE**

# Shopfront Improvement Program 2023-2024



Upgrade your shop front with a City of Whittlesea grant.

Business owners in the City of Whittlesea can submit an application for a co-contribution funding grant to upgrade their shopfronts.

Applications close  
28 February  
2024



Do you know a business that can benefit from a shopfront facelift? *Apply today!*



To view the Grant Guidelines, eligibility or to apply, scan the QR code or visit [whittlesea.vic.gov.au/BusinessGrant](https://whittlesea.vic.gov.au/BusinessGrant)



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Police are conducting drug tests across Victoria, which helps to keep our roads safe. Being caught with illicit drugs in your system could result in a minimum fine of \$577 and possible licence suspension.

Drug driving? Chances are you will be caught.

Anywhere. Anytime. Anyone.

**TAC**

**VICTORIA**  
State  
Government





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DISTRIBUTION - 3,100 plus

Arthurs Creek, Beveridge, Broadford, Bundoora, Craigieburn, Diamond Creek, Donnybrook, Doreen, Eden Park, Epping, Greenbrook, Greensborough, Hazeldene, Hurstbridge, Kalkallo, Kilmore, Kinglake, Laurimar, Lalor, Mernda, Mill Park, Pheasant Creek, Plenty, Rivergum, South Morang, Strathewen, Thomastown, Upper Plenty, Wallan, Wandong, Whittlesea, Wollert, Yan Yean, Yarrambat.

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

ADVERTISEMENTS

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: Trade Space (5cmH x 6cmW) \$50 Colour \$60, 1/8 page \$95 Colour \$105, 1/4 Page \$135 Colour \$190, 1/3 Page \$175 Colour \$180, 1/2 Page \$245 Colour \$360, Full Page \$450 Colour \$660, Colour Back Page \$800, Inside Back or Inside Front Page \$660, 1/2 \$360, 1/4 \$190, COSTS For COMPILING ALTERING ADS, Trade Space \$20 \$15, 1/8 page \$30 \$20, 1/4 page \$35 \$25, 1/3 page \$38 \$28, 1/2 page \$40 \$30, Full Page \$45 \$35

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 CLASSIFEDS: \$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

DISCLAIMER

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: Uluru

Photo Supplied by: Val Dean

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Happy new year to everyone, how quickly the holiday time went by. School is back, and I hope the littlies going for the first time are not too stressed with the changes in their lives. Valentines Day is this month and for those who celebrate it, I hope you have a wonderful day.

From: https://parade.com/966564/parade/fun-facts/

- 5. The tallest man ever recorded was American giant Robert Wadlow (1918-1940), who stood 8 feet 11 inches. Wadlow's size was the result of an abnormally enlarged pituitary gland. (guinnessworldrecords.com)
6. The tallest living man is 39-year-old Sultan Kosen, from Turkey, who is 8 feet, 2.8 inches, who set the record in 2009. His growth is also due to a pituitary issue. (guinnessworldrecords.com)
7. The oldest person ever to have lived (whose age could be authenticated), a French woman named Jeanne Louise Calment, was 122 years old when she died in 1997. (guinnessworldrecords.com)
8. Sliced bread was first manufactured by machine and sold in the 1920s by the Chillicothe Baking Company in Missouri. It was the greatest thing since...unsliced bread? (chlicotheneews.com)
9. The Earl of Sandwich, John Montagu, who lived in the 1700s, reportedly invented the sandwich so he wouldn't have to leave his gambling table to eat. (pbs.org)
10. The first college football game was played on November 6, 1869, between Rutgers and Princeton (then known as the College of New Jersey) in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Rutgers won. (ncaa.com)
11. Experiments in universities have actually been carried out to figure out how many licks it takes to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop, both with machine and human lickers (because this is important scientific knowledge!). The results ranged from 252 to 411. (tootsie.com)
12. The Four Corners is the only spot in the US where you can stand in four states at once: Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico.



Regards, Betty

Whittlesea Monday Market logo with apple, flower, and shopping bag icons. Text: WHITTLESEA MONDAY MARKET EVERY MONDAY 8 am to 1 pm WHITTLESEA SHOWGROUNDS Food, Plants, Tools, Hardware, Collectables, Second-hand goods, Clothing, Toys, Bric-a-brac, Stockfeed, Auctions & More! Enquiries: 0428 821644 Facebook icon. Three circular photos showing market stalls and people.



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State Government

Justice and Community Safety

ESAJDJCS0001-06

## A SHEEP DOG'S TALE By Matt Dickinson

A few days later Jack and I were in the village collecting the mail. Three old farm workers were sitting on the wooden seats outside the Farmers Arms Inn enjoying a chat and the weak sunlight that just managed to throw a shadow. We crossed the road to the seated men.

Jack said, 'You men have a great spot here.'

'Aye.'

To the oldest man he said, 'Hello again, Jake.'

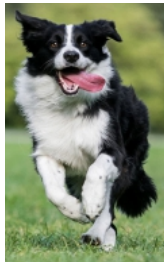
The old man looked up. 'Hello to you Jack, how is old Tom going?'

'I have been wanting to see if you would you come to Middle Moor and have a look at old Tom he's not doing very well?'

'Aye, I'd be glad to see the old fellow again, how about Monday?'

'Yes that will be fine, see you Monday.' Jake came to Middle Moor as planned. Jack and I watched from the dry stonewall on the edge of the field as Jake walked across the field toward Tom.

I saw Tom lift his head from grazing his ears pricked up, he knew Jake. The pair moved towards each other, Jake had a nosebag of oats for him. Old Tom ate the oats, Jake stroked Tom's head, talked to his old friend. I don't know what he was saying to the horse. After a short while Jake turned and the horse followed him out of the field no halter needed and over to the one stall stable near the house. Tom stood while Jake started to groom him with a currycomb. After a good



going over, Jake got a hoof pick in his hand and said, 'up Tom'. Tom lifted his hoof for Jake to clean soil or small stones from his hoof. He checked all the hooves and found them clean and healthy. Jake spent quite a long time with Tom.

In fact didn't stop until Sarah called us in for a meal. Yes me as well. I heard Jake thank Sarah for the great tasting meal she provided.

I had left overs from the night before great food I enjoyed it.

'Jake will you come again for Old Tom? I think he needs you.'

'Course I will, Sarah. Glad to come to a meal like this. My wife was a good cook too.'

'You're very welcome, Jake.'

So Jake started coming and grooming the Clydesdale and things now look much brighter with Old Tom.

Another day as we left the house after another lovely meal, we'd been to the moor in the morning checking sheep and I wondered what we were going to do in the afternoon. I was surprised when Jack went with paint and a brush in hand and started painting the old cart. In fact it took several days of sanding and painting that old cart. I as a dog couldn't understand what Jack had in mind. Painting a cart that hadn't been used

or seen paint for years.

Then I heard Jack talking to Sarah about the local Farm Show. In show week Jake came to see his old mate Tom and groomed him. This time, he really worked on the Clydesdale even to blacking and polishing the great hooves. On the harness Jake fixed the polished brasses Masonic symbols, sunrays and smiling women's faces. On the morning of the show, Jake and Sarah brushed and plaited old Tom's mane with blue and white ribbon through the hair.

By ten o'clock we were all ready. They even combed and brushed me a blooming sheep dog right from my nose to the end of my tail. The Clydesdale all decorated, as he had been many times in the past before tractors came along. Old Tom was harnessed and coupled up in the shafts of the fresh painted old cart.

Jake had Jim and Jane in the cart as we went through the village to the Show Grounds. We all looked magnificent, people watched and waved as we passed by Jim and Jane waved back to the smiling crowd. I was in the shade I was walking under the cart. The brasses shining brightly, Old Tom had his decorated head held high enjoying every minute of his parade.

As his friend, I am glad for Old Tom he's happy again, life goes on.

**More of Nell next month**

## THE WHITTLESEA GARDEN EXPO 2024 IS COMING - SAT 2<sup>ND</sup> & SUN 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2024 (see ad on page 8)

The Whittlesea Garden Expo, run by the Rotary Club of Whittlesea and held on the first weekend in March each year, is going from strength to strength. Last year Millie Ross, from the ABC's Gardening Australia, was our keynote speaker. This year our keynote speakers will be Melissa King from Channel 7's Better Homes and Gardens and Chloe Thomson who is a local horticulturalist, podcaster and videographer who runs 'Sprout School'. But just like last year, we will be having several great speakers throughout the weekend on a wide range of very interesting topics. Got a question? The Expo is the place to get an answer from one of our experts. The Expo will showcase a wide range of unusual, quality plants, garden ornaments, accessories, pots, tools and garden furniture and more. And all the while, you can be enjoying the music as you stroll around, taking in all the beautiful wares before you. Or sit and relax while you enjoy something to eat from one of our food sellers, a coffee or an ice-cream. Have a chat with our renowned local artist, Thel Cardwell while she works. And we haven't forgotten the children-there will be activities for them to enjoy as well.

The Whittlesea Garden Expo is very **Continued on page 15**

# Respite

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Located in the heart of Whittlesea, Sunlight has all the charm of a rural setting, with the benefits of easy access to local shops and services.

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To book, call Margaret on 0498 008 574 | Offer ends March 31, 2024\*

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\*T&Cs apply. Visit [tlcsunlight.com.au/services/respice-care](https://tlcsunlight.com.au/services/respice-care)

## ISURAVA By Denys Potts

Japan's Basic War Plan, formulated in 1938, was based on the assumption that the conquest of Malaya, the Philippines and Dutch East Indies would take about six months. In actual fact this object was achieved in three months and in accordance with the plan there was a pause in offensive operations to allow for the consolidation of the gains. It was decided to extend the defensive perimeter eastwards from the Kurile Islands, northwards to the Western Aleutians and Midway and south to Port Moresby in southern New Guinea.

The object was to gain air mastery of the Coral Sea and isolate Australia from the United States.

In April 1942 the Japanese High Command issued orders to seize Port Moresby, as capture of the air base there would put an end to Allied bombing raids and strengthen their hold on Rabaul, thus further isolating Australia.

The Port Moresby invasion group consisted of eleven troop transports and a destroyer squadron and was accompanied by the Tulagi (near Guadalcanal) invasion group, a support group and a covering group.

In total seventy ships were involved, which included one light aircraft carrier, four heavy cruisers and six destroyers.

On 4<sup>th</sup> May 1942, the Port Moresby invasion group departed Rabaul but in the interim the battle of the Coral Sea had commenced and subsequently the invasion group retired and returned to Rabaul. Although the Japanese claimed the battle as a victory having inflicted more losses on the Americans than they themselves suffered it forced them to delay the Port Moresby sea-borne invasion.

On 19<sup>th</sup> July 1942 another invasion force left Rabaul and landed 5,500 troops at Gona and Buna, New Guinea, during the night of 21/22 July. By mid-July a total of 13,500 troops had been landed in the Gona area, their objective the capture Port Moresby by an overland strike via the Kokoda track across the Owen Stanley Range. Only ten days had been allowed for the task so the Japanese troops carried few rations and supplies, the hope being they could capture enemy goods as they progressed.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> July, at Awala, 11 Platoon of the 39<sup>th</sup> Australian Militia Battalion encountered the Japanese, but outnumbered and out-gunned, the 39<sup>th</sup> began a tenacious fighting withdrawal to Kokoda.

At that time the 39<sup>th</sup> was the only Australian unit confronting the Japanese and from 23<sup>rd</sup> July, over the period of the next month, fewer than 500 men of the 39<sup>th</sup> resisted 13,000 Japanese. The Australians were armed with rifles, revolvers and a Lewis gun.

On 28<sup>th</sup> July the Japanese attacked Kokoda village and the CO of the 39<sup>th</sup>, Lieutenant Colonel Owen, was killed and the battalion forced to withdraw to Deniki. On 8<sup>th</sup> August A Company of the 39<sup>th</sup> retook Kokoda village and held the plateau for 2½ days but again withdrew to Deniki. This position became untenable and a further withdrawal to Isurava had to be made on the night of 14<sup>th</sup> August.

Poorly equipped, the battalion had to dig-in with bayonets, bully-beef tins and helmets. It was fortunate the Japanese did not follow-up their success at Deniki and a lull in fighting ensued for almost a fortnight which allowed reinforcements from the 21<sup>st</sup> Brigade, Australian Imperial Force, to begin moving forward.

On 26<sup>th</sup> August the Japanese clashed with the 39<sup>th</sup>'s forward outposts, heralding that their next attack was developing. On the same day the first two companies of the 2/14 Battalion arrived to relieve the exhausted 39<sup>th</sup>. The next afternoon the 39<sup>th</sup>'s left flank was attacked and the Japanese were able to penetrate one of the company positions but were beaten off by two quick counter-attacks.

Fighting continued around the forward arc all through the 28<sup>th</sup> August as the Japanese sought a weakness in the Australian defence. The rest of the 2/14 arrived on this day and the CO, Lieutenant Colonel A Key, assumed command of the area.

Although the 39<sup>th</sup> now had a chance to withdraw, its commander, Lieutenant Colonel R Honour, aware of the onslaught the 2/14 would face, decided it would remain in place. However, the men were moved into positions to the rear to allow the 2/14 to occupy the most threatened parts of the positions.

On 29<sup>th</sup> August the Japanese attacked ferociously all round the forward arc of the Australians. The 2/14's C Company was forced to give way and the enemy poured through the gap, threatening the whole position.

A counter-attack met them head-on and Private Bruce Steel Kingsbury single-handedly rushed the Japanese, holding and firing a Bren gun from his hip and cleared a path of more than 100 metres causing a large number of casualties. This action inspired others in his platoon to attack and drive the enemy back and momentarily restored the situation.

For his actions, Kingsbury was awarded the Victoria Cross and the citation read as follows:

*In New Guinea, the battalion to which Private Kingsbury belonged had been holding a position in the Isurava area for two days against continuous and fierce enemy attacks. On 29<sup>th</sup> August 1941, the enemy attacked in such force that they succeeded in breaking through the*

*battalion's right flank, creating serious threats both to the rest of the battalion and to its headquarters.*

*To avoid the situation becoming more desperate, it was essential to regain immediately lost ground on the right flank. Private Kingsbury, who was one of the few survivors of a platoon which had been overrun and severely cut about by the enemy, immediately volunteered to join a different platoon which had been ordered to counter-attack.*

*He rushed forward firing the Bren gun from the hip through terrific machine-gun fire and succeeded in clearing a path through the enemy. Continuing to sweep enemy positions with his fire and inflicting an extremely high number of casualties on them, Private Kingsbury was then seen to fall to the ground, shot dead by a bullet from a sniper hiding in the wood.*

*Private Kingsbury displayed a complete disregard for his own safety. His initiative and superb courage made possible the recapture of a position which undoubtedly saved battalion headquarters, as well as causing heavy casualties amongst the enemy. His coolness, determination and devotion to duty in the face of great odds was an inspiration to his comrades.*

The Japanese continued to press home their attack throughout the afternoon and C Company was again forced to give ground. D Company, astride the trail, broke around 1500 hours after having repulsed eleven attacks on its positions. Because of the danger of being overrun during the night there was a withdrawal of just over a kilometre to positions around the Isurava Guest House.

The Japanese followed close and the 30<sup>th</sup> August brought no respite. With some companies unable to muster a full platoon, Lieutenant Colonel Keys lacked the troops to cover the high ground on his left and the Japanese quickly exploited this weakness. They heavily attacked the Australian's right rear, threatening to cut the track behind them.

A further withdrawal was ordered at 1500 hours and many had to fight their way out and when the 2/14 mustered at Alula the next morning 172 personnel were missing in addition to those known to be dead and wounded.

Throughout September the Australians, against vastly superior numbers, fought an adroitly executed series of tactical withdrawals. A further major battle occurred at Mission Ridge on 8<sup>th</sup> September where 1,000 Australians of 21 Brigade, under the command of Brigadier A Potts, were out-numbered six to one and although casualties were heavy it succeeded in delaying the Japanese advance for a further three days.

Further defensive withdrawals delayed the Japanese to the extent that on 25<sup>th</sup> September the Australians opened their counter-offensive along the Kokoda track, ultimately causing the Japanese to order a 'withdrawal to the rear'. Kokoda village was re-occupied on 2 November and by the time the Japanese were driven into the sea at Sananada on 22 January 1943 more than 13,000 of them plus 2,000 Australians had been killed.

### FOOTNOTE

Bruce Kingsbury and Alan Avery along with Lindsay Bear, Edward Silver, J Whitechurch, Harry Saunders, B G Wilson, D O'Conner, F J Parsons, Neil Gordon and E R Jobe were members of Section 7 of the 9<sup>th</sup> Platoon in the 2/14 Battalion, which in 1945 was described as the most highly decorated Section in Australian and British military history.

These men, the eleven original members of this Section, between them were awarded a Victoria Cross, a Distinguished Conduct Medal and four Military Medals.



Kingsbury's Grave

## 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

14/2/2024 - Maddux Lemi (10)

## BIRTHDAYS



**MADDUX LEMI - 14/2/2024**  
Happy 10<sup>th</sup> birthday beautiful boy, lots of love from GG, Grandy, Mum and Dad, Marley, Collins, Sloane, Connor, Spenny, Camille and Chris, Hannah Rose, and Mackenzie. xxxxxxxxx



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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.

### FEBRUARY DATES

7<sup>th</sup> 1pm General meeting, afternoon tea & Committee meeting

14<sup>th</sup> 1pm Trivia, afternoon tea

21<sup>st</sup> 1pm Bingo, afternoon tea

28<sup>th</sup> 1pm Trivia, afternoon tea

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

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

### DATES TO REMEMBER 2024

Labour Day - Monday 11 March

Good Friday - Friday 29 March

Easter Sunday - Sunday 31 March

Easter Monday - Monday 1 April

ANZAC Day - Thursday 25 April

King's Birthday - Monday 10 June

Daylight Saving ends - Sunday 6 October

Melbourne Cup Day - Tues. 5 November

Christmas Day - Wed. 25 December

Boxing Day - Thursday 26 December

### 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



# 2024 WHITTLESEA GARDEN EXPO

Saturday 2nd March  
Sunday 3rd March

Entry 9am - 3pm

Whittlesea Showgrounds  
Whittlesea-Yea Road

Tickets Child: Free  
Tickets Online: \$8  
Tickets Gate: \$10



Buy Tickets: [trybooking.com/clyie](https://trybooking.com/clyie)

Saturday Guest Presenter: Chloe Thomson  
horticulturist and passionate gardener

Sunday Guest Presenter: Melissa King  
from Channel 7's Better Homes and Gardens

for more information: [wgexpo.net.au](https://wgexpo.net.au)

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Wallan VIC 3756.



Australian  
**Labor**



## AN AUSTRALIAN WORLD WAR ONE HERO!!!

By Lindsay Mann

So, who was this man of such importance to Australia's history of the First World War (1914 TO 1918)? Let us find out, as we re-discover –'Robert Garrick Wilson: a World War One, Benefactor to Australian Troops!'

Young Robert was born on 16 May 1863, and, as the first-born was named after his father, who was the founder and proprietor of a very successful grocery business, which he advertised as follows:- 'R.G. Wilson & Co. Importers, Wholesale & Family Grocers, and Wine and Spirit Merchants, Swanston Street; opposite St. Pauls Cathedral'. The family lived in Toorak. Robert was educated at Wesley College and later at Geelong Grammar where he joined the Victorian Militia Reserve, and, many years later, (22nd of December 1915), he joined the Australian Military forces, but not to fight. At age 52, he was far too old, for that!

During the younger Robert's school holidays, and after graduation, his father taught him about the grocery business where he gained knowledge of all aspects of the trade. He was also a member of the Australian Military Forces, with duties to fulfil. When his father realised that his son was not interested in being a grocer, but wanted to be a grazier, he agreed to set him up on a grazing property at Derrimut, which at that time was a farming area. In 1902, the older man purchased over 1,200 acres of good farming land, at Whittlesea. Robert was 38 years of age when he moved to Whittlesea, where he became active in the Whittlesea Township. He was also a member of the congregation of the Whittlesea Presbyterian Church, and served as Church Treasurer. By the 2nd of June, that same year, Robert, while farming his father's Whittlesea property—and always being willing to help in the community, became Secretary of the Yan Yean Public Cemetery Trust.

His house was destroyed by fire, on 30 December 1904; and early in 1905, he resigned from the Cemetery Trust, and engaged a carpenter to add an extension onto Whittlesea's pioneer settler, George Sherwin's original home, at 73 Laurel Street, Whittlesea, toward the end of this street.

Robert Wilson was a very astute man, a clear thinker, an incredibly generous philanthropist, and an innovative farmer who developed his property into a most successful Shropshire sheep stud.

He was elected to the Whittlesea Shire Council, and was much praised by Cr Walter Thomas for his work at meetings. He rewarded Whittlesea Primary

School pupils for good results at exam time, giving encouragement awards to the children. He was also a member of the Whittlesea Agricultural Society, where he served for a time as the Society's President. Later, he subdivided his land into small farm lots, and leased these holdings to farmers.

Knowing Full Well, that war was coming, he purchased a 200-acre property, called 'Morningside Park,' which was located on Camp Road, Broadmeadows. It was well suited to being made into parade grounds for the training of Army Recruits. When the army came calling, instead of trying for the best price, he offered it to them as a free loan. Of course, this was accepted, but within eighteen months or so, the army had purchased it, and still own it today. The army had abolished the canteen system. Therefore, when the first trainee soldiers arrived for their training, they had to fend for themselves for supplies of cigarettes, and pipe tobacco, biscuits, drinks (non-alcoholic) etc. This opened the way for hawkers who went from tent to tent selling food items, at inflated prices, for goods of inferior quality. Robert's response to this was to offer to equip and furnish a store in an unused building on the property, and; not content with that; he offered to hand over all the earnings of the institute, less, working expenses, to be divided pro-rata among units in the camp. Not only did he undertake to stock the store, he did it all, at his own expense.

The first store was so successful, that three more, were established at the camp. The army promoted him to Honorary Major and sent him off to set up the same facilities at other camps in Victoria as well as interstate. These services were also available on Troop and Hospital Ships. He knew that this would build morale! It was his contribution to the war effort!

When troops arrived in Egypt for further training, it was found that the Egyptian vendors were selling inferior quality items—half filled tins of soups, and jams, as well as camel butter—all at highly inflated prices.

In response to complaints, the Federal Minister of Defence promoted Robert to Honorary Lieutenant Colonel, and he was sent to Egypt to bring the supply of goods under his control. Robert, in completing his Attestation Paper, stated that he had served in the Australian Military Forces, as well as the Victorian Militia Reserve.

After his arrival in Egypt, having overcome many problems and obstacles, he managed to obtain goods of excellent quality, and quantity, which allowed him to open the first Australian canteen at Egypt's Maadi Camp, Cairo.

Tragically on the evening that the Maadi canteen opened, Robert suffered an extreme attack of



Lieutenant Colonel Robert Garrick Wilson

sinusitis which caused his sudden death. He now lies buried in the Cairo War Memorial Cemetery. Row D. Grave No. 303. However, the work that he started was continued by Captain Hogben.

It appears to me, that when Robert realised that war was coming, he decided how he would help the war effort. Although he had health problems, he brought his plan to fruition, thus sacrificing his own safety for the sake of 'Australian Troops.'

Finally, my interest in this man goes back to 2019, when my wife and I were interested enough to meet with a consultant at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, who gave us copies of documents. The most striking and enlightening thing we were shown was his Enrolment Book, which stated that his 'Main Place' was not Broadmeadows, but Whittlesea.

This switched a light on, for me! Bearing in mind his plans to support the Australian Troops with Canteen Services; which the army had stopped supplying. He subdivided his 1,272-acre property at Whittlesea – into lots, suitable for small farms and leased them out to interested parties. Therefore, judging by this man's absolute determination to supply comforts to the troops; it seems that the proceeds from those small farms supplied our heroic Aussie Soldiers, with comforts from home. When that amount proved inadequate the rest would appear to have come from his other, not inconsiderable, resources!

Now, this most worthy man formerly forgotten, is remembered with the honour that he so richly deserves, in the form of a dedicated Commemoration just beyond the Soldier's Memorial, erected in his Favourite Place - 'Whittlesea!'



## SUMMER FEAST

Last summer was such an unexpected and welcome change from the very hot ones we have experienced in the past. It was so mild and wet that the garden thrived without struggling with the withering heat. The wonderful result of these conditions meant our various plants produced a great deal more flowers, buds, nectar, seeds and fruits. The six old Plum Trees were laden, the many Eucalyptus Trees, Kangaroo Apples and other trees, bushes and grasses flowered profusely attracting lots of birds, bees and butterflies. It was a marvellous sight to see everything so lush and colourful in summer.

Much more wildlife came to the garden like the King Parrots, Eastern Rosellas, Crimson Rosellas, Rainbow Lorikeets, Magpies, Noisy Miners, Crested Pigeons, Kookaburras and Turtle Doves. Flocks of Musk Lorikeets that visit in summer came everyday for months.

Birds that visit the yard and nature strip less frequently also came more often, the Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, Gang Gang Cockatoos and Galahs. Birds rarely seen in the garden dropped in, a few Common Bronzewing and small groups of Long-billed Corellas.

With the milder conditions and a feast of fruits, buds and flowers, there were also plenty of insects, skinks, snails, bugs and slugs in the yard for the predator birds. The Pied Currawongs and Grey Butcherbirds that come to the garden in the autumn months were earlier too. At night Tawny Frogmouths and Barn Owls were in the yard feeding on moths, insects and other small prey. They often stayed roosting in the daytime for a few days or longer. Other wildlife like the resident Ring-tailed Possums also benefited from the greater abundance of food gathering at night in the trees to feed on the plums, buds and flowers. The Blue-tongued Lizards had plums and flowers to eat as well.

There's an old saying that states if you build it they will come. The meaning being if you build something, or provide something that fills a basic need, then people will come to get it or use it. In the case of gardens, if you plant and grow suitable types of vegetation that provide the shelter, protection, food sources, roosting and nest sites that native birds and other wildlife need, they will come to visit or live in our yards.

The wetter, cooler conditions were a clearly a welcome relief for the region's residents, its plants and wildlife.

Steven Katsineris. April 2021



## NEW KILMORE MRI SCANNER COMING IN 2024

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 Open Monday – Friday 9am – 6pm  
 Saturday 10am – 4pm

## WHAT'S IN A NAME - OAKLEIGH

15 kms south east of Melbourne CBD, the origins of the name are unclear. Local historians have three theories. First that it derived from the She-Oaks that grew near Scotchman's Creek, from 'Oakleigh Park' an estate near Malvern Hills in England, or from Mrs Oakley an early settler. A grazing run was established in the settled district east of Melbourne in the early 1840's, for which the lease was taken up by farmers John and Archibald McMillan. Scotchman's Creek Run, as it became known was named after scottish settlers. By 1853 Scotchman's Creek was known as South Yarra Creek, due to the well known South Yarra Pound build in the area in early 1840's on behalf of the government to collect stray livestock. Part of the Parish of Mulgrave, County of Bourke, Oakleigh was first surveyed in 1853 and the first blocks of land sold soon after. The Post Office opened on 1 August 1854, the Shire of Oakleigh was created in 1871 and a boom in settlement followed the opening of the Melbourne-Oakleigh railway line in 1877. Railway workshops, brick works, sand mining and market gardens became the most important industries in Oakleigh at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Until 1953 the area supplied 20% of Melbourne's

bricks. The Hall, formerly Mechanics Institute has served as the town hall, post office & courthouse. It remains today as does a grandstand of the cricket and football oval. The Sacred Heart Church a large Elizabethan church with twin copper domes is still a landmark and is part of a school. Sandy flat soil suitable for golf courses has become the home of the Metropolitan, Commonwealth and Huntingdale courses, the hosts of many major Australian tournaments. The convent of the Good Shepherd occupied the northernmost boundary of the city until it was demolished in 1984 for an extension to Chadstone Shopping Centre that opened in 1960 on land initially leased from the Good Shepherd Sisters, for 99 years. In 1983 the site was purchased from the congregation. The Oakleigh General Cemetery in operation from 1860 until 1960 is situated in Pioneer Memorial Park, the Motel the first of its kind was opened in time for the 1956 Summer Olympic Games. Oakleigh is known to have a strong Greek cultural influence largely due to the influx of Greek immigrants in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. 14% of those living in the suburb speak only Greek at home. Oakleigh is the only local government area of the City of Monash.

**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](http://www.goldendaysradio.com)**



## NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

**PHONE 9464 1339 or 0404 119 189**

Leave a message if no answer

**Secretary@whittlesea.org.au**

Website & for application forms

**[www.whittleseau3a.org.au](http://www.whittleseau3a.org.au)**

Are you aged 50+ and retired or semi-retired?  
 Do you want to keep your brain and body active and make new friends?  
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 Then join us at Whittlesea U3A.

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## THE 2024 WHITTLESEA U3A YEAR IS HERE

How to join or renew your membership  
 Joining or renewing online - Visit our membership management system to join or renew your membership online.

Joining or renewing by form 2024

Download a PDF membership Form here

**The completed form can be:** - • 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.

## EXPANDED CLASS & ACTIVITIES PROGRAM AT MERNDA SENIOR SUPPORT CENTRE



Speakers' Discussion Group Mondays 1:30 pm to 3pm.

**DESCRIPTION:** This activity explores a number of interesting subjects from history, geography, health, and community engagement. Each week there will be a new speaker focusing on topics like the history of the Sydney Opera House, historical places around the world, how to access medical information etc.

Attend the session you are interested in or attend them all. Topics will be organised a term in advanced.

## DIGITAL LITERACY HELP AND ASSISTANCE CONTINUES IN 2024

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).

**NEW - 3D PRINTING CLASS AT PETER LALOR CAMPUS IN 2024** We have a new tutor who is organising a class at Peter Lalor Campus on 3D Printing Tuesday 2pm 4pm.



## 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.

The full calendar of Classes and Activities are available on the Whittlesea U3A website **[www.whittleseau3a.org.au](http://www.whittleseau3a.org.au)**

You can enrol online or by contacting either course coordinator on **0412 230 561** or **[communication@whittleseau3a.org.au](mailto:communication@whittleseau3a.org.au)** or the office.

## ROSE PRUNING

DEMONSTRATION

Sat 9th March 2024 @ 10.00 a.m.

Venue - WHITTLESEA COURTHOUSE

Visitor Information Centre

Cnr. Church & Beech Sts, Whittlesea

Entry:- \$5 for Adults donation (under 18 free)

Enquiries 9716-1866 or at the centre

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**2024 The Year of the GREEN WOOD DRAGON!**

Close your eyes, and think of a Dragon. What do you see? Amazing it is that a creature that is mythical has a place in almost every culture and every continent on this planet. From the great Welsh Dragons that were battled by Knights in shining armour, the Rainbow Serpent that wove the dreamtime to the Fiery Dragons of China. It is also the only creature of the Chinese Zodiac that is mythological and thus there is a magical element to this creature that draws our attention. This year of the Green Wood Dragon will begin on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and go to Jan 28<sup>th</sup> 2025, and with the flourish of growth with that wood element and the fire of the dragons breath, prepare for big changes as we prepare for transformation, innovation, regeneration and fantastical realities.



At the beginning of each year, I take a month off practical physical health focus of my column to present an over view of the year of the Chinese Zodiac. Just a note on Chinese Astrology, unlike Western Astrology, it is not predictive and does not follow the planetary alignments as such, but looks more at the ‘climate’ or flow/feel of the year, depending on the animal sign that you correspond to, according to your year of birth (look up Chinese zodiac online to find your animal). They follow a 12 year cycle based on Jupiter’s 12 year journey around the sun.

Dragon years of past have been times of great change, especially on the ideological front. In past Dragon years we saw the Korean war break out, and later the Vietnam war was triggered. Both with Communism vs Capitalism strongly ideologically driven resulted in many years of conflict. Vladimir Putin was born in a Dragon year, came to power in a dragon year and gained Presidency for an extra 6 years in a dragon year. Evident that pride, stubbornness, ambition cunning and courage are prominent in a dragon year. Lucky we cannot poison and banish our opposition to remote Artic Gulags to get rid of them... we need to therefore look at how we can prepare for what will most definitely be a dynamic year.

Clear the clutter is a good step. Feng Shi, the art of flow in a home or business to ensure a good flow of Qi, looks at clutter and placement of furniture and objects to maximise calm, concentration and a harmonious family home. The image you can use is of a Chinese Dragon flowing through your home. Is the flow clunky? Or can you move around the place and feel content at the things you own and where they are. As the new year begins use it as a time to achieve some balance in your living space. This Dragon year will be quite a transformative one, as we also have Pluto, the planet of the masses and dredging up any false illusions moving into Aquarius for the next 20 years, while this year we also have Aries that rules the Dragon (it’s planet being Mars the fire planet) and as one astrologer put it ‘soul growth through painful experiences’ as the Dragon will burn down our false illusions of ourselves and the world we live in, and like a volcano eruption, leave in its wake the fertile soil will provide the new growth that the wood element will lend to rebuild on more solid foundations.

Technology will really take off in a ‘you ain’t seen nothing yet’ way thanks to all that magical energy, so take very seriously your cyber security and plan for new ways of doing so many things. Interestingly the word Dragon comes from ‘draconta’ which means to guard or to watch over’, so depending on your personal sign, there will be prosperity for many this year but plan ahead, write down some goals you’d like to achieve and see if a little Dragon magic will help you along. Innovation, working towards something and creativity all are favoured this year.

Festivities are important so make time to party and have fun. Open up your world to new experiences and try something new. Wood loves to grow and let your inner ambition drive you beyond your comfort zone to greater adventures. Try to stay optimistic, all we can do sometimes when all is said and done is to love our families, friends and communities. The Dragon is more of a loner than the Rabbit year just gone, so make sure you stay connected.

Socially, and environmentally we are together working towards great harmony and cohesion as we grow as a humanity. As my Dad used to say ‘God gave you two ears, two eyes and only one mouth, to listen and look twice as much as you speak’. The more we share our feelings and experiences and listen to the experience of others, the more magic the Dragon will bless us with! **Have a Magical year!**

**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 COMMUNITY HOUSE**

**Happy New Year Everyone!** We will be open from January 29<sup>th</sup> 2024 and we are hoping for a big start to the year! Here are some things to get you started!

**Visy Recycling:-** Over the counter recycling is available Monday, Wednesday and Thursday each week 10am – 3pm and Saturdays from 8am – 4pm. **Please note we accept large volumes (100plus) ONLY ON WEDNESDAYS.**

Looking for an easy and regular volunteering role (perhaps to meet your Centrelink obligations). 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>

**COMMUNITY MEALS**

**Big Blokes Brunch** has already kicked off at the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre on Tuesdays! Join the blokes each week: Tues. 11am – Noon \$2.00pp  
**Ladies Lunch** Join the ladies who lunch each fortnight at the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre. Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 11.30am – 1pm \$2.00pp

**Catering for Community** As part of our ACFE program for 2024 we are looking for students to join our Catering for Community course. The course is FREE to eligible students and you will learn how to cook for a crowd as we cater for the fortnightly Ladies Lunch. Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> February, 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> March, 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> June. 9am – 1pm

**Digital Literacy for Beginners**

Tired of asking your kids and grand kids for help with technology? We can help! Tuesdays for 8 weeks from 6<sup>th</sup> February 10am – 12.30pm \$ 2 0 / concession FREE

**Employable Me** - This is perfect for anyone trying to enter the workforce. Set up your resume, tune up your interview skills and learn how to get noticed on employment sites! Tues from 23<sup>rd</sup> April 10am – 1pm FREE

**First Aid** (CPR, Provide First Aid & Provide First Aid in an Emergency in an Education & Care Setting)

Online learning + face to face S a t 17<sup>th</sup> February \$85/\$150/\$195

**Op Shop Tours** return for 2024 on a monthly basis in 2024 and you can join us. Different route each month! Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 9am – 4.30pm \$15 p.p. Also Saturdays 9<sup>th</sup> March, 13<sup>th</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> May and 8<sup>th</sup> June. Feel free to bring a snack to share on the Bus there will be a lunch stop.

**Fix it Friday is back in 2024!** Sweep your problems into a pile and

**Continued at bottom of page 13**



# 2024

By Sue Lloyd



What is the one word that would be appropriate for the New Year? Obviously a new start and opportunity for new resolutions are implicit.

**Fitness?** Perhaps a determination to finally put that exercise programme into effect that you have been intending to begin. Not only that but to actually maintain the regime throughout the twelve months. Along with that might go a wish to gain or shed some weight and alter eating habits accordingly.

**Career?** Possibly there has been a germ of an idea to start up an online business or turn a hobby into a money making venture by having a stall at many of the markets that are so popular.

**Community?** Does the idea of volunteering your time and/or expertise in some capacity appeal? Then it might be appropriate to seriously consider opportunities in that area. There's a possibility that could turn into a paid job maybe? There are many people who would welcome help in fund raising.

**Education?** What about enrolling in a course at TAFE or university? The notion of joining an organisation that presents courses of interest, such as University of the Third Age (U3A) if you are retired or have reached that age may fit in with your lifestyle.

**Travel?** Now that the Covid restrictions are lifted is it time to plan that long delayed holiday or cruise? Put a tick against a bucket list if you have one.

**Family?** Is it the year to focus on rebuilding or strengthening family relationship and dynamics? Perhaps heal past hurts, try and remedy strained communications, reach out to others who may have become isolated or alienated?

Welcome new births and mourn losses. Keep the memory of those who have died, passed on, whatever term is appropriate for you, alive and celebrate their achievements and successes. Be determined to be good role models to babies and children as they grow.

**Friendship?** 2024 might be a fresh start with friendship groups. Plan a coffee morning or meet over lunch. Let bygones be bygones, realise that envy, jealousy or criticism do not play a part in true friendship. Be reminded of the power of good friends whom you can trust.

Pondering on these possible 2024 words, my choice is **HOPE**.

Hope that the world may stop the madness of border, ethnic or religious disagreements and violations, the consequent death and destruction.

Hope that politicians everywhere can agree on decency, honesty, morality and truth, foregoing ego and self service.

Hope that climate change may assume greater significance and appropriate action be taken.

It's not much to hope for is it!

## WHITTLESEA COMBINED PENSIONERS

(Reg. A0025361A)

President Lyn McKinnon opened December 2023 Meeting.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February** we will travel to the Blue Lotus Water Garden at Yarra Junction. Lunch at the cafe at the gardens. \$60 Time TBA

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March** we will travel to Roxborough Park Hotel for our Easter Luncheon. \$20 12noon.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April**, we will be travelling to the Great Stupa of Universal Compassion at Bendigo. Lunch details to follow with time. \$60 Note to Members that membership is now due and needs to be paid by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024.

**Whittlesea Combined Pensioners & Superannuants Association of Victoria Inc. is opened 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.**

**ALL TRIPS MUST BE PAID BY THE 1<sup>st</sup> 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 on 0433 114 960**

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2024** at the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre at 1pm.

**New members are always welcome. 'til next time stay safe & well,**

**Nella Palmieri, Social Secretary**

## Whittlesea Community House Continued from Page 12

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



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heaps more!

Call 9716 3361 to register in advance, it's FREE Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 10am – 1pm. A more comprehensive list of what is coming up at the House can be found on our website [www.wchi.com.au](http://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!

# WHITTLESEA FIRE BRIGADE



**Santa Run:** Thank you so much to the Whittlesea, Eden Park and Humevale communities for coming out to see Santa during our annual Santa run. If Santa's numbers are correct, he met with over 800 people on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December. Thank you to our volunteers for giving up their Christmas eve to be able to help Santa deliver all the lollies.



**Black Saturday- We Remember:** We will never forget February 7, 2009 - the days leading up to and after this tragic day in Victorian history. We take this opportunity to remember the 173 lives that were lost alongside homes and livelihoods. We take a moment to think about all of those people who were affected, who lost homes, properties and loved ones. We acknowledge and thank all emergency services workers, police, ambulance, firefighters and community members who went above and beyond to protect Victorian lives and properties during those harrowing few days. Whittlesea Fire Brigade members remember and respect the tragic loss suffered by so many then and now. 15 Years have passed since Black Saturday but they will never be forgotten.



Together, we remember

**Two Streets Back:** Grassfires can start anywhere and spread quickly.

\* If you live next to grassland and a grassfire starts, walk at least two streets back from the fire.

\* If you live two or three streets away from grassland and a grassfire starts, stay where you are.

\* Grassfires are unlikely to spread into built-up areas.

Avoid driving vehicles and motorbikes through dry grass. The risk of starting a fire from the hot exhaust system is high. Even pulling over into grass at the side of the road could start a serious grassfire without you even being aware.

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/prepare/bushfire-basics/grassfires-near-cities-and-towns>

**Fire Danger Period:** The Fire Danger Period (FDP) began at 01.00am on Monday, 4 December 2023 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](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can) or by calling VicEmergency Hotline on **1800 226 226**.

## Can I or Can't I?

"Can I burn off?"



For restrictions during the Fire Danger Period visit [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)

**Thank you to the community:** We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated to the brigade in 2023 via either direct donations or through our money tins at the various shops in the Whittlesea township. Every bit helps towards the purchase and upkeep of equipment. The Whittlesea Fire Brigade is a 100% volunteer CFA brigade, serving the community for over 79 Years. We attend more than just bushfires at Whittlesea CFA, providing assistance for house and factory fires, motor vehicle accidents, grass and scrub fires and Emergency Medical Response. We have 40+ members providing an emergency service 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. We appreciate the support of all of our community members that have donated over the last 12 months. Thank you!!! **By Steph Smith, Publicity officer, Whittlesea Fire Brigade.**

Whittlesea Fire Brigade proudly 100% volunteers. If you wish to enquire about joining the Whittlesea Fire Brigade email us on [admin@whittleseacfa.com](mailto:admin@whittleseacfa.com). See our website: <https://www.whittleseacfa.com/>



**FROM CHAIR ADMINISTRATOR, LYDIA WILSON**

Hello everyone, I hope you have had a lovely start to 2024. We are excited for another busy year ahead in the City of Whittlesea, with many events planned, major projects taking shape and of course, continuing to provide a full range of important services to our growing community. As Administrators this is the final year of our term and in October 2024 local government elections will be held to select a new group of Councillors to act as decision-makers for the City of Whittlesea. We are excited to welcome back locally elected officials, who will bring with them a real sense of grass roots community representation from all corners of our municipality.

We have much to do in the meantime and we are busy getting ready for our major Community Festival on Sunday 17 March 2024. Set within the lawns at the Civic Centre and Plenty Ranges Arts & Convention Centre in South Morang, the festival's theme this year is 'Connections' - promising to connect our community with activities for all ages. From live music and cultural performances to cooking workshops, ageing well activities, a Pet Expo, a family zone with face painting, community stalls and more, this free event really does offer something for everyone. Please mark the date in your diary and bring the family along to join the lively celebration with our vibrant community. You can view the full program at [arts.whittlesea.vic.gov.au](http://arts.whittlesea.vic.gov.au).

Kindergarten applications for 3-year-old kindergarten in 2025 and 4-year-old kindergarten in 2026 are now open. There are 43 kindergartens in the City of Whittlesea including the newly opened Murnong Kindergarten in Donnybrook. We invite parents, carers and children to meet the kindergarten teachers and discover the learning environment at our special Kindergarten Open Event on Thursday 29 February (5.30pm - 7pm), and Saturday 2 March (9.30am - 11.30am). To find your closest participating kinder or to apply online visit [www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/kinder](http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/kinder).

If you love markets as much as I do, please come along to the Doreen Twilight Market on Friday 9 February from 5pm at the Laurimar Wetlands, Doreen Hazel Glen Drive and Painted Hills Road, Doreen. Get together with your family and friends to explore market stalls, roving entertainment, face painting, and even reptile encounters. We will have live jazz music from The Band Wagon, and a Nanna Market that offers stitched and crocheted goodies, handmade jewellery, baby items, and baked treats.

Ahead of International Women's Day in March, we will be holding a business networking event and morning tea to celebrate Women in Business. This event is on Thursday 7 March 2024 at the scenic Five Vineyard in Mernda. It is a chance to hear from three remarkable local businesswomen and learn about their unique business journeys. This is a wonderful way for women in business to network, and share business knowledge, connections, and learnings. I look forward to being in attendance alongside Council staff to discuss support for businesses within the municipality. Register at [www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/BusinessEvents](http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/BusinessEvents). You can also join to become a Business Network member (it is free) and hear about other upcoming events.

continued bottom next page >>

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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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A final reminder that nominations for our 2023 City of Whittlesea Community Awards are now open. These awards provide an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the extraordinary contributions of people who live, work, volunteer, or study in the City of Whittlesea. If you know of someone deserving of recognition, I encourage you to submit a nomination at [www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/communityawards](http://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/communityawards) by Sunday 18 February. **Take care, Lydia Wilson, Chair Administrator**

## CLIFTON PUGH, COTTLES BRIDGE By Glen Davis

Cottles Bridge sits just outside of the official Town Crier distribution area. I suppose you could call it a neighbour. One of the most famous people linked to Cottles Bridge was the Australian artist Clifton Pugh, 17/12/1924, to 14/10/1990.

As a teenager Pugh attended evening drawing classes before finding himself in khaki and green, fighting in the islands north of Australia, we faced the threat of invasion. After returning from serving in the Australian army during the victory over Japanese militarism Pugh turned his hand to further, more advanced drawing. Under the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Scheme, Pugh trained at the National Gallery of Victoria Art School, firstly immersing himself in their drawing school, before progressing into their painting school.

The area around the Northeastern corner of Melbourne was a place for the artistic minded. We're aware of other famous artistic features in this area including, Montsalvat, the Heidelberg School, as well as artists camps in Box Hill, and Warrandyte. This was bringing the artistic community 'up and close' to the Australian bush away from the 'big smoke'. Pugh himself had been schooled in parts of Melbourne's North-East including Briar Hill, and Eltham.

Attempts were made to obtain land to establish an artist's community in Hurstbridge. Failing that an alternative location was sought. Eventually land was obtained around Cottles Bridge, the area being named Dunmoochin. Pugh initially camped on the location, then commenced building the initial property on the site, it being a daub, and wattle shack. On the same day he started this building the Australian people voted NO on Prime Minister Menzies attempt to outlaw the Communist Party of Australia. For an artist whose politics were Left of centre is there a possible analogy/inspiration here?

The land around Dunmoochin included billabongs, and creeks, situated amongst the rocky outcrops. Native flora, and fauna, were in abundance through the locality providing a wide range of subject matter for the various artists to hone their range of skills.

Pugh's work on the Australian landscape developed in this period. Pugh's figurative drawing style with its realistic appraisal of the Australian bush was different to the established sentimental style of those aligned with the Heidelberg School, a style to which Pugh's works often contrasted.

One of these works from this period was the 1957 **Meeting of the Apostle Birds**, influenced by this species that is quite prevalent around Cottles Bridge. Another Pugh painting from this time, though in marked contrast, was **A Feral Cat**. These introduced pests were not uncommon around Cottles Creek causing great havoc to native species.

Dunmoochin in ways helped provide an impetus for Pugh's appreciation of the Australian landscape. We're aware of his 1954 journey across the Nullarbor, this coming not long after the setting up of Dunmoochin. Pugh yearned to see more of the vast Australian countryside, its breadth and diversity inspiring him, whilst also highlighting the precariousness of the native environment.

There was a concept of community ownership in the Dunmoochin community with various artistic strands coming together. This included painters, potters, and various other artists. Finding a bush setting perfect to fine tune, and develop, their artistic skills enhanced their work. An Artist Co-operative was established with the relevant titles communally held. As the structure of Dunmoochin changed over time the original members claimed their section of the land.

With Dunmoochin being a springboard for his developing skills, Pugh continued his fine artistic career. Political leaders were among those who attended Dunmoochin to be painted by Pugh. He was thrice a recipient of the Archibald Prize, launched many exhibitions whilst also using the mediums of television, and print, to showcase his works. Until his death in October 1990, he continued his painting, and drawing.

On Clifton Pugh's death he donated the Dunmoochin land to what is now the **Trust for Nature**. Likewise, his artistic collection, and equipment, with sundry other items were given on to benefit a future generation of artistic Australians.

### Whittlesea Garden Expo continued from page 5

much a community event and involves Rotary, the CWA, the CFA, Men's Shed, Whittlesea Football Club and the Whittlesea Agricultural Society. It is all about the community supporting the community, so come join us, snap up a treasure and enjoy the friendly atmosphere. The entry price covers both days, so you won't miss any presentations and if you regret not buying that special plant, you can come back!

Tickets for the Expo are available online through Trybooking at a discounted price. Otherwise pay at the gate. Check out our website [www.wgexpo.net.au](http://www.wgexpo.net.au) for more information or to book a stall.

Do you have gardening books you no longer need? We'd be happy to take them off your hands, just drop them into Whittlesea Flowers & Bears, Church Street in Whittlesea or email [whittlesearotary@gmail.com](mailto:whittlesearotary@gmail.com) to arrange collection.

# PUZZLE PAGE

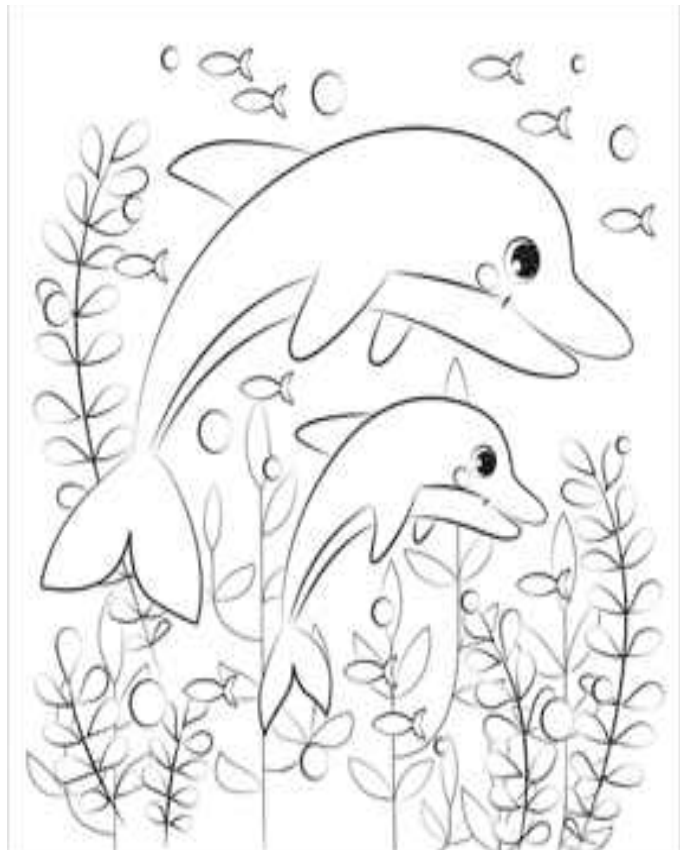
## Earth Science



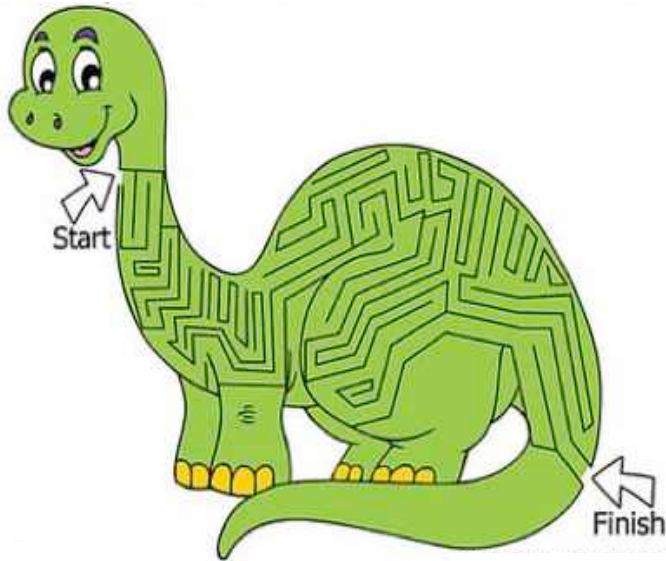
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| Ablation   | Glacier    | Ridge           |
| Bedrock    | Ice age    | Rift            |
| Cave       | Igneous    | Rock            |
| Core       | Lava       | Sedimentary     |
| Crust      | Magma      | Soil            |
| Delta      | Mantle     | Tectonic plates |
| Earthquake | Mountain   | Topography      |
| Erosion    | Ocean tide | Volcano         |
| Fault      | Pangea     |                 |
| Fossil     | Relief     |                 |

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### HERE WE COME A-CAROLLING

Christmas Carols associate with the northern winter solstice and the date of Christ's birth. Carols were originally pagan songs in the pre-Christian era to celebrate the solstice, but over the centuries have evolved to modern day usage. One source claims there are nearly 10,000 songs about or for Christmas. Since the average song runs approximately 3.5 minutes, it means you would have to sing Christmas songs 24/7 from December 1 to December 24 to sing them all.

At the December meeting of the Combined Probud Club of Whittlesea thirty youngsters from St Mary's Catholic Primary School came and sang a selection of Carols and Christmas songs that suited the audience and the sentiment. They managed to give renditions of nine from the ten thousand, but time was limited and they selected songs they felt appropriate.

Many hymns and carols are centuries old and reflect times past. Our presenters caught the audience attention immediately when the enlightened us about dashing through the bush in a rusty Holden Ute. The medley delivered messages about sought after gifts, the tradition of the Christian Christmas, and the iconic Silent Night.

After a rounding applause and three hoorays, the girls and their teachers returned to the classroom to study other subjects. Teresa Carlin the speaker coordinator gave Angelo Iacopino the team leader a token of appreciation and individual gifts to the children and his two assistants.

The December meeting always has a finale with a Christmas inspired dinner. This year the venue was at the Magpie & Stump Hotel at nearby Wandong. The fare was roast turkey and ham with vegetables and cranberry sauce. Deserts were a choice of Christmas pudding or Pavlova.

Folks also had an opportunity to win a prize in the free raffle. The onset of summer was a catalyst for some to stay indoors and yarn until the temperature receded. Others braved the conditions and went about their lead up to Christmas.

Probus is a Community Service Activity of Rotary Clubs. Probus is an association of retired and semi-retired people who join together in clubs, the basic purpose of which is to provide regular opportunities for them to keep their minds active, expand their interests and to enjoy the fellowship of new friends.

A number of new members joined Whittlesea in 2023 and may not be aware of the Rotary umbilical cord. The 2024 program will commence Monday 5 February and Michael Hall the Rotary President will be the guest presenter to enlighten members about Rotary and its overarching association with Probus. Michael is a well-known business leader and raconteur.

There will be no presenter in March when the Annual General Meeting of Members takes place. Beyond that some exciting topics and presenters are well advanced in the planning stage.

**Written by Michael Halley  
Reviewed by Angelo Iacopino**

The photograph of the children has been approved for publication



*"I'm the Ghost of Christmas Grammar, and I see you're having trouble with past, present, and future tenses."*

### A FARMERS LAMENT

(An oldie but a goodie)

Life on the land is full of troubles, many originating in Canberra.

It all started back in 1966 when they changed to dollars and overnight my overdraft doubled. I was getting used to this when they brought in kilograms and my wool cheque dropped by half.

Then they started playing around with the weather and brought in Celsius and millimetres and we haven't had a decent rain since.

As if this wasn't enough they had to go and change over to hectares and I end up with less than half the farm I had. So one day I sat down and had a good think, I reckon with daylight saving I was working 8 days a week, so I decided to sell. Then, to cop it all, I had only got the place in the agent's hands when they changed to kilometres and now I find that I'm too flaming far out of town!



*Happy Valentine's Day  
to all who celebrate  
this special day*

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[www.whittleseatc.com](http://www.whittleseatc.com)  
email: [Info@whittleseath.com](mailto:Info@whittleseath.com)

## MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH CENTRE

### Whittlesea Community Activity Centre

57 - 61 Laurel Street  
**Consultations by appointment only**  
**Tel: 9404 8888**

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Kalkallo, Kinglake West, Mernda, South  
Morang, Whittlesea, Wollert.....000

**POLICE**.....000

Epping .....9409 8100

Mernda .....9216 1200

Mill Park .....9407 3333

Wallan .....5783 0400

Whittlesea .....9716 2102

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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

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Poisons Info..24Hrs.....13 11 26

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**S.E.S.**..... 13 25 00

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Lifeline ..... 13 11 14

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**GARDEN OF ROSES or  
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All submissions must include name and contact  
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(Not necessarily for publication)

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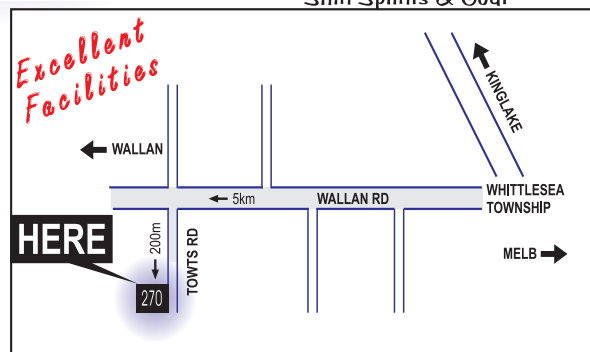
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**WHITTLESEA**

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**Contact:** Susan Sinclair 0417 599 555



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**Price:** \$2,200,000 - \$2,400,000

**Contact:** Lynn White 0419 434 111



**WHITTLESEA**

**Fabulous location, rear access to Church Street**

James Street, arguably the most sought after street in Whittlesea. Walk to everything, one street over from main shopping strip, this great property is tucked away but so conveniently located, rear gate access to laneway & Church Street park. 2 bedrooms both with BIR's, large open plan living with split system AC, great size kitchen, loads of bench space. Large carport with roller door at front.

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**WHITTLESEA**

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**Contact:** Susan Sinclair 0417 599 555

**LAND FOR SALE - FLOWERDALE**

**24 Broome Road. 6126m<sup>2</sup> (over 1½ acres),** elevated vacant allotment with hill views & above creek. Extra wide frontage 61m. Part cleared, bush at rear. **Price Guide: \$191,000 - \$210,000**

**3 Kookaburra Court.** Lovely level vacant allotment in quiet location. **662m<sup>2</sup> approx.** Extra wide at rear facing north. Colourbond fencing along 3 boundaries. 5 mins walk to King Parrot creek. **Price Guide: \$175,000 - \$190,000**

**2 Long Gully Road.** Terrific affordable allotment. **983m<sup>2</sup> (¼ acre approx.)** Wide 20.9m (approx) frontage, mainly cleared with lovely feature gum tree. 3mx3m shed plus new front fence & crossover. **Price: \$195,000 - \$210,000**

**58 Silver Parrot Road. 1253m<sup>2</sup> (¼ acre plus),** near level cleared allotment with sought after 2 meg pumping rights. **Price: \$280,000 - \$300,000**

**3423 Whittlesea - Yea Road -** Very rare find of over **1 acre (4351m<sup>2</sup>)** approx, vacant allotment. Lovely seasonal creek along rear boundary. Cleared usable land. **Price: \$290,000 - \$310,000**

**5 Riverside Crescent.** Stunning almost level cleared allotment of **1119m<sup>2</sup> (over ¼ acre) approx.** Backing onto King Parrot creek. Feature gate entrance, sealed road frontage. **Price: \$295,000**

**71 Silver Parrot Road. 2711m<sup>2</sup> (¾ acre) approx.** Lightly treed very pretty allotment with extra wide frontage. **Price: \$320,000**

**35 Forest Road.** Fabulous allotment **1187m<sup>2</sup> approx.** Direct access to creek at rear. Near level, fenced to sides. Great wide open block. **Price: \$325,000**

**18 Riverside Crescent.** This absolutely fabulous allotment of **1360m<sup>2</sup>** has huge appeal. Wide frontage, power run on site, 3 room site office & large store/shed already in place with water tanks. Approved plans available. **Price: \$335,000**



**WHITTLESEA**

**Picturesque, rare 6733m<sup>2</sup> (1.65 acres) approx. vacant allotment**

This stunning allotment located in exclusive enclave is titled and ready for your new home and lifestyle just on the outskirts of Whittlesea township.

Northerly aspect, small stand of native flora and beautiful uninterrupted views to Great Dividing Range. All services available, water, power, gas, sewerage and NBN, sealed road access and frontage, fenced on 3 boundaries.

**Price:** \$880,000 - \$930,000

**Contact:** Susan Sinclair 0417 599 555