

town crier



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Contact details must be supplied with all items submitted to the Town Crier.

**Front Cover photo: The Nut, Stanley, Tasmania
Photo Supplied by: Betty Harvey**

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Winter is certainly with us, if the mornings are anything to go by. The garden is very bare and the trees have no leaves.

School holidays are around for the first two weeks, and if you are going away to somewhere warm and driving, please take care and have rest breaks on the journey and come home safely.

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

48. A mash-up of two words to make a new word (such as breakfast and lunch into brunch, or motel from motor and hotel) is called a portmanteau. In case you're wondering, the word 'portmanteau' itself is not a portmanteau; it's a compound word that refers to a dual-sided suitcase. (merriam-webster.com)

49. The dog ate John Steinbeck's homework—literally. The author's pup chewed up an early version of *Of Mice and Men*. 'I was pretty mad, but the poor fellow may have been acting critically,' he wrote.

50. Among lost works, this story might be even worse: Ernest Hemingway's first wife, Hadley, left a suitcase full of the author's writing on a train. When she went back to get it, it was gone. 'I had never seen anyone hurt by a thing other than death or unbearable suffering except Hadley when she told me about the things being gone,' Hemingway wrote in *A Moveable Feast*.

51. The original title of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* was *First Impressions*. (jasna.org)

52. Mary Shelley wrote *Frankenstein* when she 18, during a ghost story competition while staying in Switzerland with writers Percy Shelley (her lover) and Lord Byron. (penguinrandomhouse.com)

53. German chocolate cake doesn't come from Germany. It was named for a person, Sam German, who created a type of baking chocolate for Baker's in 1852. (npr.org)

54. Hawaiian pizza was created in Ontario, Canada, by Greek immigrant Sam Panopoulos in 1962. (cbc.ca)

55. Almost all commercially grown artichokes (99.9 percent) come from California. One town in particular, Castroville, is nicknamed 'the Artichoke Capital of the World.' (visitcalifornia.com)

56. The different colors of Froot Loops cereal all taste the same — they're not individual flavors. (time.com)

Regards, Betty



Want to keep those grey cells active while making friends and having fun?

Free Bridge Lessons

Starting 1st August 2024

When Thursday Mornings from 10am to 12 noon

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40 Fir St Whittlesea**

**Contact Lyndall 0428 601 111
lyndallshaw@bigpond.com**

TRAVELLING THE HIGH COUNTRY OF CENTRAL GIPPSLAND

In late September, 2008, with my two youngest children, Lara and Andreas, we took a trip through the high country forests and farmland of Central Gippsland to Walhalla. We left early in the morning, it was rather cool, but the day got warmer as the sun broke through the clouds. We drove from our home in Hurstbridge, northeast of Melbourne north first to Yarra Glen and Healesville. There was very little traffic on the roads and so it was an easy drive. We stopped in Healesville to buy some pizza slices and buns and also got some information leaflets and maps for our trip at the Information Centre. We drove on to Yarra Junction where we stopped for an early morning tea. While the children played in the park I had a coffee, before we set off again.

From Yarra Junction we drove east towards Powelltown. We passed numerous farms, with lots of beef and dairy cattle, sheep, many with lambs and some horses. The picturesque farmland was punctuated by sections of lovely remnant forest. We saw plenty of birds, mostly Crows, Magpies, Kookaburras, Little Wattlebirds and Cockatoos, but some smaller birds too. Unfortunately, we also saw a couple of dead Wombats on the side of the road. We briefly stopped at Powelltown to have look around the small timber town, then resumed our trip towards Noojee.

We drove past more farms and wineries before entering the thicker parts of the shady cooler forest. We drove up and around narrow windy roads through lush ferny gullies surrounded by tall hills and mountains. As we drove leisurely along we marveled at the magnificent towering Mountain Ash and other Eucalypt trees. Deep in the secluded forest we saw many more birds, including a lot of Scrub Wrens and other small birds flying around beside or across the road. In the distance we could hear the pleasant calls of Lyrebirds.

In time we reached the very pretty town of Noojee and stopped for a short break. It is nestled amid beautiful and luxuriant forest on the banks of the Latrobe River. The name of the town is Aboriginal, meaning, 'Valley of contentment or place of rest' which is a very appropriate name for this charming little place. In the past the town mainly survived on gold and tin mining, saw milling and farming. These days there is still fertile farmland around, but Noojee's main livelihood is its many natural attractions and the small-scale tourism this creates. The town has various cafes, shops accommodation houses and other small businesses that cater for visitors. It is one of those small communities with an unhurried pace of life. We would have liked to stay longer, but moved on vowing to come back again.

We drove on past the turnoff to Toorong Falls and on to a fork in the road at Icy Creek, where we turned right and into the denser forest. We had passed only one car since leaving Noojee. We stopped a couple of times to wander around in the superb forest or look at the meandering creeks, impressive trees and thick green valleys. Except for the sweet sounds of the birds it was so very tranquil and quiet in the middle of the forest. Being in such enchanting wild places is a real feast

GET WELL SOON

Letting friends and family know that Denys Potts is in hospital. Denys has been submitting article to the Town Crier for more than 30 years.

Our prayers and thoughts go out to him and his family for a speedy recovery.

Denys would be greatly missed, his Military articles have been enjoyed by young and old, many readers have taken the time to phone in saying how much a particular story resonated with them. Some even requested a phone conversation with Denys to express their gratitude to him personally. He always obliged.

Get well quickly, Denys

for the senses. We also took a break in our journey at a nice picnic ground amid the forest.

After that the children and I explored the area and then we drove on again. We didn't pass another car or see any people along this stretch of road through the remote forest.

Eventually, we came out of the forest and back into an area of mainly farms, with some bush and tiny towns scattered along the way. It is a diverse region with quite scenic countryside. We drove on to Fumina South, then Hill End and Willow Grove. At Willow Grove I took a left turn to Tanjil South and drove on until we got to an intersection and then took the road to Walhalla.

Then we drove on through the stunning rocky hills and forest of the Moodarra State Park to the town of Erica. We arrived there just before midday and parked at the Erica Hotel, where we had to collect the keys for our cottage accommodation in Walhalla. The hotel was a rather interesting place, full of historical and other local memorabilia of the region, relating to the timber industry, deer hunting and bushfires.

The Erica Hotel was itself rebuilt after being destroyed by a fire in 1984. While we were there the children and I had some drinks and shared a bowl of chips.

The township of Erica was originally established around a train station in the early 1900s. Erica grew due to the expansion of the train network around the surrounding region, which was

needed to transport timber for the growing requirements of Walhalla's booming gold industry. Today Erica's main commercial activities come from agriculture and tourism. The town is surrounded by three National Parks and is a popular destination for people wanting to go bushwalking, horse and bike riding, fishing, camping and cross-country skiing. And many skiers also pass through Erica on their way to Mt Baw Baw. After our brief rest we continued the drive towards Walhalla. We passed through more farmland, with forested hills and mountains in the distance beyond. Just past Erica we saw a Wonga Pigeon walk across the road.

A few minutes later we drove through the little town of Rawson and at a fork turned left into Walhalla Road. We then entered a beautiful wild spot surrounded by lofty, thickly forested mountains. From then on the road was narrow and very windy as it twisted its way around high, sheer rock cliffs on one side of the impressive deep gorge. Below the strongly flowing river surged through the valley. Lots of fallen rocks lay at the edge of the road with plenty of seemingly loose rocks hanging above the road. Signs saying 'Beware of Falling Rocks' were positioned along the road, pointing out the obvious risk. I imagine in wet conditions it might be a problem. This section of the drive is particularly delightful though, with its exquisite and truly spectacular scenery.

Eventually, after going over a few bridges the road came out into a long valley and we caught sight of some houses. We had arrived at Walhalla; an enchanting little town situated in a lovely gully surrounded by high, profusely forested hills.

It had been a fantastic trip without any problems. We really like to try to travel at a slow, relaxed pace, so we can explore and observe along the way. For us getting to any holiday destination is always a wonderful adventure as well. And we had greatly enjoyed our pleasurable journey through the magnificent high country region of Central Gippsland.

Steven Katsineris. October 2008

<<< **The township of Walhalla**



THE MOOR ROAD

Another sheepdog friend of mine, Len from a farm on the other side of the moor. Between the Farms, there is a big stretch of unfenced open moorland, rough hilly country with heather, moss, curlews, heather beaters, grouse, rabbits and sometimes an adder can be seen and avoided. Adders are poisonous and can kill rabbits, I don't think they can kill hedgehogs as they have spikes all round to protect themselves. Some Black faced sheep feed on the moss and heather as good grass is limited.

The few sheep on the unfenced moor mainly belong to Moorside farm, and there seems to be trouble on the moor. The Moorside shepherd Jim Thompson found a sheep that had been attacked by a dog with wool torn off her back and her skin bleeding. It must be a wild dog or a pet gone feral. Whatever it is, this dog or dogs has to be found and killed before it does any further damage. I see Jack is carrying a light rifle with him as we check our black-faced sheep, on our part of the moor. So far we have seen nothing out of the ordinary, just rabbits and a lone hare. Then things changed completely overnight.

Jim Thompson's dog, Len had gone missing in the evening and then turned up just on dawn.

'Where have you been, Len? What have you been up to?'

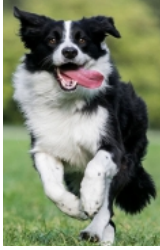
But poor old Len couldn't tell Jim. The next day, Jim was on the moor road with Len and he put his head in the air and went off the road, across the open moor, to a depression amongst the heather.

Jim thought 'What on earth is Len doing now'. He followed the dog to the hollow ground in the heather. Here lying in the hollow is a fresh killed sheep. The ewe had wool torn off it and bitten neck and leg, she'd bled to death. Jim was thunderstruck. Len, was missing last night and now went across the moor straight to this killed ewe. Len was now standing over the ewe right in front of him. In his mind, Jim could only think Len had killed the ewe. How did Len know to leave the moor road, and go to the hidden dead sheep? It must be Len who is the killer. Jim took Len back to Moor side and rang Jack Dixon. He told Jack what had happened and asked him for the humane killer gun that Jack uses to kill animals. Jim Thomson intended to end Len's life straight away Jack said, 'Jim how long have you had your dog Len?'

'About four years.'

'You have had that dog for four years with sheep and now you think he killed one? Your mad Jim, stone mad, what ever killed that sheep was doing it to live, it is a feral hungry dog, not a well fed collie. It is a dog that is desperate for a feed you don't need my humane killer gun. Just keep Len penned up until this whole mess is cleared up. It has to be another dog, Jim just has to be its not Len that's for sure.'

So now Len is kept penned up when



Jim isn't using him. I saw Len a week later at the monthly market. I barked asking Len about the dead sheep. Len told me he is courting a young collie bitch in the village and where he went missing overnight. In the morning I was with Jim on the open moor road and I got the smell of a sheep from the air I just went to see what was wrong. I got to the hollow with the dead sheep and Jim saw me. He thinks I killed the sheep Nell. He thinks I am a sheep killer!

I wish I could tell Jack all this but I'm just a collie dog. I understand plain English but I can only bark. At the market the local farmers and shepherds had a meeting and they decided to scour the moor and try to raise this feral dog or dogs. The following day, about ten men with guns, on horseback went in a long line across the moor, they frightened a few Black faced sheep and raised a fox and some grouse, but saw no sign of any dog. There are high crags on the moor and deep bracken fern to hide any dog, fox or badger. I think the men enjoyed the outing they were thirsty and had to have quite a lot of a brown drink that they all like. For the next two weeks nothing happened. I was hoping the killer dog had gone off the moor. Then a lamb was attacked on the Etal village side of the Moor. This is very bad it could be a dog from the village, but it proves Len is not the problem dog. The village dogs were all checked including Major Thompson's gun dogs. They are big hounds but are always kept in kennels and only go out with a handler. There are no suspicious dogs in the village. Only family pets, again there was no sign of the problem on the wide moor. The local farmers now kept almost all sheep off the moor. The moor road is quiet no stone walls no traffic and no policemen for miles. It has some steep pinches and dips and very sharp turns, because of this it is sometimes used by young men in their jalopies who like the smell of car fumes and tyre smoke and the car drifting sideways on the sharp corners on the loose surface moor road. No doubt this is exciting but comes with considerable risk, but all young lads think they are bullet proof.

Jack said to Sarah, 'They are risking their lives for nothing, somebody could get killed on that loose surface moor road with its twists and turns.'

I think Jack is often right. Young men can be so stupid. About a week later I was sleeping when I heard these cars roar along the moor road about 10pm. Of course I soon went back to sleep. I must have slept for about an hour dreaming of happy times with my pups when there were cars and flashing lights on the moor road, police car and ambulance racing along the road.

At breakfast the following morning I got some of last night's stew and was enjoying it. The phone rang it was Jim from Moorside and he was very excited. Jack talked for an while then said, 'That's great, Jim that's great.'

'Jack, what happened,' Sarah asked. 'There's been an accident on the open moor road?'

'An accident do you mean with those young lads in their cars?'

'Aye.'

'Well is their anybody injured the ambulance went past here.'

'Aye, two young lads injured and taken to hospital for check up.'

'Whatever happened Jack what happened?'

'Jim says they were speeding, racing on that narrow road with their car lights off. In a dark dip in the road they hit an animal then ran off the road and rolled the car that is now a write off.'

'Jack for goodness sake, two lads hurt and a car written off. What on earth is great about that, that's terrible, Jack, just terrible.'

'Sarah, listen woman, the car hit and killed an animal, a big dog, they think it is the hound that was lost from a foxhunt about two months ago. That poor beast has been surviving on what rabbits it caught on that moor for two month. That's the sheep killer, Sarah. That's the sheep killer, dead, gone, the shepherds can put sheep back where they belong on the moor, it's good news Sarah. Really good news for the district.'

'Not for those silly lads in hospital Jack, not for them.'

'Oh Sarah, they will get over a few bruises they are young lads and an old car can be replaced.'

And I am glad for Len and his bitch friend in the village. He can visit her again also for the black-faced sheep being now safe from harm on the Moor as they should be. I heard Jack on the phone to Jim Thompson, 'Aye, the Fox hunt club say it's not one of their dogs, they niver lost one it has nothing to do with them for compensation.'

Jack said, 'Aye that would be right.' Sometimes I can't understand humans, I am just a dog.

Where else than a fox hunting club could a fox hound come from, they are not a pet to have around the house they are bred to hunt foxes to chase and kill for sport, some strange sport. I'm glad I am not a fox I'm just a black collie bitch.

'Summer time and the livin' is easy. Fish are jumpin' and the heather is high'

Summer is a grand time for a dog like me, the lambs are growing and the fields have great crops of standing grass ready to cut for hay. The days are warm and the long twilight makes the moon and stars wait their turn to shine on the moor. The heather is in full purple bloom the air is heavy with the scent of its blossom. Now the moor is buzzing with the sound of bees, by the thousands of thousands. Sipping nectar from the heather and taking pollen to the flowers. A big tray truck came on the moor road, with a big load of square white boxes. The two men with the truck were well protected in white suits and face cover, lifted and arranged the white boxes in separate lines on the moor 20 yards apart.

These white boxes are the beehives, I could hear continuous

loud buzzing sound, Tim asked what was going on.

I told her, 'Tim, these boxes are Beehives with thousands of bees in each one.'

The men removed the cover and cleared the bee entrance to the hives. Immediately bees started to come out looking around the whole area for flowers and nectar. Tim was curious about these hard working insects, I told her, 'Tim, these are not like blowflies. They don't lay maggots on sheep. Bees are one big family and they look after each other and can give a painful sting.'

Tim took no heed of what I barked to her. She went to see and sniff the lovely smell of the honey in the hive. As Tim got nearer with the bees coming and going to and from their hives there were bees in swarms all around her.

She was very lucky. Jack saw she was looking for trouble and called her out 'Tim, come out of that, come here you'll get stung, you silly bitch, come away from the hives.'

About a week later, we had to gather sheep on the moor and move some that were near the lines of busy beehives. It was late in the evening and the sun was casting long shadows and there was a strong cold wind blowing across the moor. Jack told Sarah, 'Bees don't like strong winds. Its hard enough for them flying, with a load of nectar and pollen, it makes them bad tempered.'

Now I know what Jack said is right the sun was low and casting long shadows. Tim was far too close to the hive, curious as usual, a bad mistake a very bad mistake. Out came angry bees, very angry bees in huge numbers. A lot settled on Tim but couldn't sting her through the depth of her fur. One found his soft nose fastened on the damp skin and stung hard another found her ear and stung her again.

Tim jumped and yelped and ran to Jack whimpering in pain, shaking her head violently but the sting held firmly in her tender nose.

'Aah you silly dog, come here, come here lass. Let's hev a look at you.'

Jack found the stings and removed them. Tim still whimpered and was in much pain with swelling nostrils. But a lesson was learned, leave busy bees alone. Now when we go on the moor Tim keeps well away from those busy bees.

The sheep don't seem to mind having bees on the moor. They keep away from those boxes.

More of Nell next month



NEWS FROM WHITTLESEA PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

What a start to Winter it has been for our club. We certainly haven't let the cold weather put us off getting out and enjoying our photography. We had a fabulous day meeting up with members of the Diamond Valley Photographic Society in Eltham. We set ourselves the challenge of taking photos of things that showed textures and shapes. We enjoyed a lovely lunch then met up again at the Diamond Valley Library. There we each had to choose one of the images we took and then everyone there had to award points to each image. It was club versus club and the points were tallied with Whittlesea coming out on top. These activities are a great way to keep inspired over Winter. Of course it is also great to catch up with friends from other clubs. This is the importance of being a part of any club or group. Making connections and sharing with others about the things you are passionate about.

Don't let the cold weather put you off taking photos. Why not set up a mini studio at home using curtains or sheets for backdrops and natural window light for your lighting. Find some interesting objects and get creative. It is a great way to keep inspired and try something different.

After having the amazing Chris Hopkins speak at our June meeting coming up at our July meeting we have Richard Tatti. Richard is from 'Nightscapes Photography' based out of Bendigo. As the name suggests he specialises in night time photography. Getting good shots of the night sky is one of the most challenging things to do in photography. Richard will share some tips as well as show us some of his amazing work on our big screen display. What a great way to spend a chilly Winters evening. You don't have to be a member to attend - we welcome guests.

If you would like to attend or find out anything more about being a part of our club then please email info@whittleseaphotographyclub.com



Electricity –The spark that ignited development.

By Barbara Miller

We take it for granted that electricity is connected to our homes, available at the flick of a switch when and where we need it. This has obviously not always been the case, but that convenience is still a relatively recent innovation for some. It's worth considering that we accept the use of electricity in our homes as being essential, and we forget how hard our forebears fought to get these services.

The Thomastown Terminal Station, on the corner of Mahoney's Road and High Street, was a turning point in electricity supply to the northern suburbs, and later to the outlying northern regions of Victoria. This terminal station started operations on the 15th of June, 1924 and so has just passed its 100th anniversary. 'The Thomastown Terminal Station was designed to receive and control incoming electricity, transform or break it down to a lower voltage, then radiate it at reduced voltages to local transmission stations'. (Robert Wuchatsch, 2024)

The consequence for Thomastown of the building of this Terminal Station was that large factories were established close by, and housing estates spread across the area to provide workers for the factories. The Sydney company, R. Fowler Limited established a Victorian branch of their business in 1927, followed by many large and well-known businesses such as Sutton Tools, Davleco, St Regis ACI, Goodyear, Bostik and Tieman. These factories provided employment for the residents of the area, many of them in the 1960s being newly arrived migrants. You can read further about the Thomastown Terminal Station in an article by Whittlesea Historical Society member Robert Wuchatsch, available on the WHS website.

It was in 1937, after many years of lobbying by residents to the Council, and by the Council to the State Electricity Commission (SEC), that electricity finally became available in the township of Whittlesea. The Advertiser published a letter stating, 'People who are not comatose are unable to understand why Whittlesea does not go in for the electric light. It would turn the present sleepy hamlet into a prosperous and thriving township'.

In order for the SEC to be persuaded that the costs of supply could be met in each township, residents had to provide a deposit and a guarantee of minimum revenue for the SEC. In the case of Eden Park, the guarantee required was 166 pounds per year for five years, to be spread over eight households. Rod Cavanagh wrote that "the 'old' Eden Park was never the same afterwards" once electricity was connected. (Rod Cavanagh, 2022)

On September 28th, 1937, a great celebration was held in the Parish Hall in Church Street Whittlesea, and the highlight was the switching on of the lights. This was followed by dancing until late into the night, and a magnificent supper provided by Mrs Clancy of Clancy's Tea Rooms. It would have been a time of great excitement and a realisation that the 'modern age' was finally here.

The townships that the power lines traversed on the way north - South Morang, Mernda and Yan Yean - also benefitted from the connection of power to the township of Whittlesea. The South Morang school had electricity connected in 1937. Seventy eight consumers, including a number of farmers, were initially supplied along this route. In Epping, the erection of the poles was hampered by the hard rock which was to be found just under the surface. This was likely also the case in Thomastown, Lalor, Wollert and Woodstock.

Rob Wuchatsch reminisces that electricity was connected to Thomastown in 1934, however 'Our farm at Westgarthtown, located west of the Edgar's Creek, wasn't connected until 1966 and before then I did my homework or studied for exams by the light of a Tilley lamp'. (Robert Wuchatsch, 2024) It's hard to imagine this scenario now, not only for the lack of electric lighting, but for all of the gadgets that go along with being connected to the electricity grid.

Read more about the factories of Thomastown on the WHS Facebook page.

The picture connected with this article is on page 9

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

1/7/2024 - Neville Tranter

2/7/2024 - Greg Harvey

5/7/2024 - Jeff Andrews

BIRTHDAYS



NEVILLE TRANTER - 1/7/2024
Happy birthday, Nev, all the best for today, and may the coming year be filled with good health and happiness. Love from Rusty, Jeff, Tammie, Jack, Kerry, Steve, Nikki and your family and friends.

GREG HARVEY - 2/7/2024
Happy birthday, Greg, may your day be filled with everything you could wish for and lots of love and happiness. Love from Mum, Jeff and Tammie xxxxxxx

JEFF ANDREWS - 5/7/2024
Happy birthday, Jeff, all the best for today and the coming year that hopefully will be filled with love and good health. Love from Mum and Tammie xxx

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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57-61 Laurel Street, Whittlesea

New members are most welcome.
We meet at Community Hall, Library, Laurel Street, Whittlesea 12.30 - 3.30pm every Wednesday

JULY DATES

- 3rd 1pm General meeting, afternoon tea
- 10th 1pm Trivia, afternoon tea
- 17th 9.30am - 4.30pm Christmas in July/Club birthday, Sky High, Mt Dandenong
- 24th 1pm Bingo, afternoon tea
- 31st 1pm Trivia, afternoon tea

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

Vice President: **Joan Stroud, 0408 363 074**

DATES TO REMEMBER 2024

- Daylight saving starts - Sun. 6 Oct.
- Melb. Cup Day - Tues. 5 November
- Christmas Day - Wed. 25 December
- Boxing Day - Thursday 26 December

WHITTLESEA COMMUNITY HOUSE



Hello! Winter has really hit us! Check out what's coming up this month at Whittlesea Community House.

Save the Date

Uke Muster returns - Get ready to strum along, perform and learn heaps. Saturday 12th October - register now ITS FREE <https://www.socialplanet.com.au/activity/view?id=23984>

Paint and Sip is coming back to the House in September! Keep the Saturday 7th September (1pm - 4pm). Get ready to produce a masterpiece, sip beverages and demolish a cheeseboard! \$30 per person. Money raised will go to the Food Relief Program at the 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>

COMMUNITY MEALS

Big Blokes Brunch meet at the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre. Join the blokes for brunch each week: Tues 11am - Noon, \$2 pp

Ladies Lunch - join the ladies who lunch each fortnight at the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre. Thurs 25th July, 11.30am - 1pm, \$2 pp

First Aid (CPR, Provide First Aid & Provide First Aid in an Emergency in an Education & Care Setting) Online learning + face to face Saturday 17th August \$85/\$150/\$195

Employable Me

This course 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! Fridays from 9th August 9.15am - 3.15pm. **FREE**

Next Boast Licence Saturday 10th August 9am - 1pm \$140 per person
Students from 12 years are eligible, PWC issued to >16 years

Op Shop Tours We are trekking to Op Shops all over Melbourne twice a month in 2024 and you can join us. Different route each month! These trips sell out fast so grab a friend and join the fun: Saturday 3rd & 10th August 9am - 4.30pm \$20 per person
Feel free to bring a snack to share on the Bus there will be a lunch stop.

Metal Detecting Our Semester 2 session.

Saturday 16th November \$10 per person

Digital Literacy for Beginners

Tired of asking your kids and grand kids for help with technology? We can teach help!

Mondays for 10 weeks from 15th July 9.30am - 12.30pm \$20/concession **FREE**

FIX IT FRIDAY returns 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 26th July 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 Semester 2 brochure from the House or call to book any of the above on **9716 3361**.

See you soon!

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Picture below is connected to Whittlesea Historical Society article on page 7



ELECTRICITY
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With the work well in hand for the supply of electricity to Whittlesea, South Morang, Mernda and Yan Yean, it is expected that the service will be made available in a few weeks. Prepare in advance to enjoy all the advantages that electricity offers through electric irons, ranges, hot water service, vacuum cleaners, farming machinery and numerous other modern electrical appliances.

Enquire now about having your home or farm wired in advance, so that you may take advantage of the supply at the soonest possible moment . . . and enjoy all modern conveniences, at the snap of a switch.

Complete details of Supply and all information regarding installation and appliances are available from

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION OF VICTORIA
Office and Showrooms: Main St., Greensborough. 'Phone: Greensborough 63.

**ST MONICA'S COLLEGE, EPPING
DUAL WINNERS**



St Monica's College, Epping is pleased to announce that we have won two categories in the Sustainability Victoria's Resource Smart Schools Awards 2024. These awards recognise the achievements of Victorian schools by celebrating reduced resource use, curriculum integrated sustainability and sustainable school communities. St Monica's College, Epping was shortlisted in two categories - Curriculum Leadership School of the Year and Student Action Team of the Year. We won both categories. College Principal, Mr Brian Hanley OAM, said it recognises the wonderful efforts of our Monicans, 'More than 100 students and staff are involved in the related activities, ably led by Mr Ben Coleman. The environmental based projects that this team tackles have a great impact on life at our College and provide students with excellent skills to take back into their community. I congratulate the team on the impact they are having in making St Monica's College, Epping more environmentally sustainable.' Mr Ben Coleman was also recognised recently by being awarded the City of Whittlesea Sustainable Citizen of the Year.

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Are you aged 50+ and retired or semi-retired?
 Do you want to keep your brain and body active and make new friends?
 Do you want to share your skills and experience with others?
 Then join us at Whittlesea U3A.
 We offer a wide range of activities all managed and run by volunteers

New CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES IN MERNDA DOREEN WOLLERT AND BEVERIDGE.

Beveridge Line Dancing and Craft Classes are well supported. Visit Beveridge on:



Tuesdays at 1pm and 2pm

At Greater Beveridge Community Centre, Cnr Lithgow Street & Mandalay Circuit Beveridge

NEW SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITY IN THE SOUTH MORANG AREA

NAME: QUARRY HILLS SENIOR STEWARDS PROGRAM

Location: Quarry Hills Drive and Palisades Blvd, South Morang

Dates: Wednesday 12 June fortnightly to 13 November



Supported by City of Whittlesea Biodiversity Group

What you will be doing:

Visit existing wetland project and a new wetland site. Photograph/Naturalist use and identification of species
 Hand weeding & Litter collecting. Please bring with you/wear: water bottle, long-sleeved shirt and long pants, gaters (optional) notepad and pen for sketching ideas and taking notes. You can download the iNaturalist App to your phone or tablet prior to the day to use this to help identify species and collect date.

MONTHLY MORNING TEA: U3A morning tea is at Epping RSL on the first Monday of each month commencing at 10am.

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.

TECH CAFE FOR SENIORS Digital Skills Mentoring Program



A safe place to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with a biscuit and a chat while you learn the digital skills you need. A volunteer digital skills mentor listens to your needs.

Learn how to:

- * Spot scams and stay safe online, access MyGov and other key sites
- * Connect with family and friends, share interests, photos and connect on social media
- * Use technology to live independently

DIGITAL LITERACY HELP AND ASSISTANCE WITH PHONES:

iPhone or Android, iPad or Tablet at **Lalor Library**, Thursdays 1pm - 3pm, **Mernda Seniors Support Centre**, Fridays 10am - 12noon, **Thomastown Library**, Fridays 1pm to 3pm.

The next Town Crier is due out Thursday 1st August

Deadline is NO later than Monday 15th July

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 2-3/81 Church Street, Whittlesea
 Open Monday – Friday 9am – 6pm
 Saturday 10am – 4pm

WHAT'S IN A NAME - PRESTON

9 kms north of the CBD the area where Preston now resides was first surveyed for sub-division by Robert Hoddle in 1837. Parcels of land between 300 acres in the southern area and over 1000 acres in the north were all sold during the Melbourne 'land boom' of the late 1830's. First permanent resident was Samuel Jeffrey in 1841 and from him the early name became Irishtown. In 1850 Edward Wood a settler from Sussex, England opened a store at the corner of High and Wood street that was also the district's first post office.

1854 saw the establishment of the area's first primary school, an anglican and a Wesleyan school. During its formative years Preston was heavily reliant on an abundance of fertile land for farming, dairying and market gardens. unproductive areas produced clay for pottery and bricks. The 1860's saw the development of Preston's industrial capacity with a bacon curing factory opening in 1862, followed by a tannery in 1865. These original establishments would be followed by several large factories including Huttons Hams and Bacons, and Zwar's Parkside Tannery. By 1860's the area had 5 hotels, 3 still survive today, the Preston opened 1856, the Junction 1861, Reservoir's Rose Shamrock 1854. 1889 saw the first church was accompanied by a growing number of hotels and other stores that emerged some 2 kms south of Wood's store at the junction of Plenty road and High Street, the latter served as a route to Sydney. Throughout the 1880's Emporium led to Northlands in the are between Wood's store and 1966.

Meeting at the Wood store members of Ebenezer Church and Particular Baptist from Brighton England met to change the name. Wanting to name the town after their former home in Sussex, but Brighton was already taken, naming it after Preston, a small village also in Sussex where church members had happy annual outings. The first rail line between Collingwood and Whittlesea passing through Preston.1880 saw a residential area capable of supporting 20,000 inhabitants. The acquisition of Housing commission land by Myer Emporium led to Northlands in 1966.

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



WHITTLESEA FIRE BRIGADE

Burning Off:

The fire danger period has now ended in the City of Whittlesea.

Before burning off, ensure:

- You're following regulations or laws by CFA and your local council. See <https://www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/health-safety/neighbourhood-complaints/burning-off-and-fires/> for more details
- You notify your neighbours if your activity will generate fire and smoke.
- Check the weather forecast for the day of the activity and a few days afterwards
- Establish a gap in vegetation or fire-break with no less than three metres cleared of all flammable material.
- There are enough people to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively.
- You notify the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) to register your burn-off

There are several ways to notify ESTA of your planned burn

* **Online** (Preferred) - Register online on the Fire Permits Victoria website <https://firepermits.vic.gov.au/>. You can do this if your burn-off commences more than two hours from now.

* **By Phone** - If you wish to start your burn-off immediately, or do not wish to utilise the online form, you may register your burn-off by calling ESTA on **1800 668 511**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. National Relay Service Users can ring 1300 555 727 and ask for Information to be relayed to ESTA via 1800 668 511

* **By Email** - Complete the Burn off Notification Form (PDF 191.5KB) and email the form to burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au.

Massive thank you! A massive thank you to our local Champions SUPA IGA Whittlesea and Whittlesea Bowls Club for their generous donation and continued support for the Whittlesea Fire Brigade. Donations like these help the brigade purchase vital equipment to continue helping and supporting our community. Please help support our local businesses so they can help support our community.



Photo: Danny Cobb



Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb 2024: On the 7th September we'll be running up 28 floors to raise money for Lifeline, Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation and 000 Foundation to improve support services, fund research, remove stigmas and raise awareness of cancer and mental health issues, especially for those within the Emergency Service and Defence communities. Please support us by using the Donate button: <https://www.firefighterclimb.org.au/station/cfa/whittlesea/>

Our 2024 climbers are:
Lauren Caffyn, Jesse Loschiavo, Danny Cobb

Photo credit: Steph Smith

Do you have a smoke Alarm in your garage? It is recommended to install a smoke alarm where Light Electric Vehicles (e.g. e-bikes, e-scooters, etc.) and other devices are charged. A smoke alarm in the garage may also give you an early warning to other fire hazards. Remember:

- Use electrical tools with caution
- Use the correct charger for all electrical appliances and vehicles
- Don't use battery charging devices with worn or damaged cables.
- Lithium-ion batteries can be sensitive to heat and therefore must be charged and stored in moderate temperatures.
- Larger batteries and equipment such as power tools and especially electric bikes, scooters or skateboards should be charged in the garage, shed or carport away from living spaces.
- Don't overload circuits, and
- Do not use cooking equipment or generators in the garage.
- For more information see: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home/charging-and-battery-safety>



For more information and Home Fire Safety tips go to: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home>

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 See our website: <https://www.whittleseacfa.com/>

ALWAYS REGISTER YOUR BURN OFF

CALL: 1800 668 511

Keep your burn off safe and legal:

- + Never leave it unattended
- + Monitor weather conditions
- + Have sufficient equipment and water to stop the fire spreading
- + Check fire restrictions in your area



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Advertise your business with us, we will make sure more than 4,000 people see it. Life has affected us all these last few years, if you advertise with us, you will not only be helping yourself, you will help us too. We express our sincere gratitude to our loyal advertisers who have continued to advertise with us throughout this difficult time.

BUT, we need more help to continue producing the magazine. With a high loss of advertisers, higher costs for us, the future is beginning to look very disappointing indeed.

HELP KEEP THE TOWN CRIER ALIVE

Thank you, Karen Mace. 0410 324 326 karen_macetc@yahoo.com

WHITTLESEA PHYSIOTHERAPY

STRUGGLING WITH HEEL PAIN? DISCOVER THE CAUSES AND TREATMENTS FOR PLANTAR FASCIITIS

Plantar fasciitis is a common inflammatory condition that causes pain underneath the foot. The plantar fascia is a thick band of tissue that runs across the bottom of your foot, connecting your heel bone to your toes. Plantar fasciitis is a leading cause of heel pain, affecting millions of people worldwide.

Symptoms

* Sharp stabbing pain at the bottom of the foot, particularly underneath the heel.

* Pain is usually worse in the morning, or after getting up after rest.

Common Causes:

Plantar fasciitis is caused by overload and we are putting more stress through the plantar fascia than it can cope with. This could be due to:

* **Overuse:** Excessive running, walking, or standing can strain the plantar fascia, leading to microtears and inflammation.

* **Foot Mechanics:** Flat feet, high arches, or abnormal walking patterns can contribute to plantar fasciitis.

* **Age:** It's more common in middle-aged individuals, but it can affect people of all ages.

* **Footwear:** Wearing unsupportive shoes or sudden changes in footwear can exacerbate the condition.

Treatment Options:

* Decreasing the aggravating activity and ice are the first step to reducing the inflammation and pain of plantar fasciitis.

* Massage and stretching can assist in reducing tension in the plantar fascia and supporting muscles.

* Corrective exercise is needed to strengthen the surrounding musculature to better support the plantar fascia.

* Correct any biomechanical issues that are affecting the plantar fascia, this may require orthotics.

If you're experiencing persistent heel pain or suspect you have plantar fasciitis, give Whittlesea Physiotherapy and Clinical Pilates a call on **9716 2250**. Our experienced Physiotherapists can assess your foot, give you an accurate diagnosis and individualised treatment plan. Early intervention can help alleviate symptoms and prevent the condition from worsening.

DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE MOVED? WE ARE NOW LOCATED AT 73 CHURCH STREET WHITTLESEA (NEXT TO AMCAL)!

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73 Church St, Whittlesea.**

Phone: 9716 2250

info@whittleseaphysiotherapy.com.au

www.whittleseaphysiotherapy.com.au

WHITTLESEA COMBINED PENSIONERS

(Reg. A0025361A)

President Lyn McKinnon opened our meeting for June 2024.

We held our Annual General Meeting on 6th June. Our new office bearers are as follows:

President: Lyn McKinnon

Secretary: Nella Palmieri

Treasurer: Lorraine Murphy

Social Secretary: Asha Sandifer

Thursday 18th July we travel to Abbotsford Convent. **Cost:** \$60
Pick up times: Whittlesea 8.30am, Mernda 8.45am, South Morang 9am, Mill Park 9.15am

Thursday 15th August we travel to Sunbury Leagues Horse Farm. **Cost:** \$60, times and lunch details TBA.

Thursday 19th September we travel to Tesselaar Tulip Festive. **Cost:** \$60, times, lunch details 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.

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 4th July**, at the Whittlesea Community Activity Centre at 1pm with afternoon tea to follow.

New members are always welcome.

**'til next timestay safe & well,
Nella Palmieri, Secretary**



THEM BONES THEM BONES

Bone strength and mineralization of bones has been a topic of wide discussion and the effects of various minerals that bones compose of is vital in understanding the life of bones.

When we think bone strength, we tend to think of Calcium, however there is so much more to this delicate balance of minerals in our bodies. It is vital that we take into consideration age, gender, time of life and what medication we may be on.

Bones are made up of collagen protein, calcium and fats. Bone cells are constantly being remodelled in relation to how we use them via osteoblasts (cells that lay down bone) and Osteoclasts (that re-absorb bone cells) in response to what we do. This is why load bearing exercises are helpful in keeping our bones strong and why sitting for long periods of time and not being physically active can weaken bones, despite our diets being healthy.

Muscles also rely on calcium to flex and lift, and it's magnesium that allows a muscle to relax, this plus enough sodium form good quality salt (such as Celtic Sea salt full on minerals) allow our bodies to balance the calcium to magnesium ratios for a healthy bones, muscles and blood vessels.

Now when we age, absorption of minerals can be affected, also certain drugs such as statins (cholesterol lowering drugs), ant-acid drugs such as Nexium and Omeprazole as well as certain metabolic disorders such as Coeliac or Chron's Disease and Syndrome X (early insulin resistant type 2 diabetes) can strongly affect how well we absorb minerals and lead to a depletion of these vital nutrients.

This can lead us to think that we should supplement with Calcium for strong bones, but only using a single mineral can upset the delicate balance of our metabolism, as does the supplementation of Magnesium. Balance is the key here as is essential nutrients that allow us to absorb them such as boron and Vitamin D. Interestingly Boron is found in leafy greens such as Kale (cooked), spinach, whole grains, nuts, apples, prunes raisins, beans milk and potatoes. All these foods also contain good amounts of Calcium AND Magnesium.

The point here is balance. If you are menopausal, older than 55, are on any of the above medications it may be useful to you to be on a mineral supplement and my recommendation is that you choose a supplement that contains all of the mineral that are essential for bone health AND the nutrients that increase their absorption. Not just Calcium and/or Magnesium.

Bone broth and collagen supplements are excellent as they naturally include the mineral necessary in a highly absorbable way, and to cook with them in a soup full of leafy greens, beans and enjoyed with a slice or lovely whole grain sourdough has to be a wonderful way to ensure your bones are strong and your minerals are balanced.

And remember when in doubt, talk to your health professional about what supplement is the right one for you.

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,

1 Robertson Road, Kinglake 3763 Phone: 03-5786 1889

Most people are at the age where they are using their phones to document the good times in their lives. I'm at the age where I use my phone to take pictures of labels that I can't read and use my phone to enlarge the print so that I can read it.



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Karen McKenzie, Rob Mitchell MP

VOLUNTEER SPIRIT

The spirit of a community is embodied in its volunteers. Whittlesea is blessed with dedicated and selfless local volunteers that are integral to what makes our community as special as it is. Whittlesea's Karen McKenzie embodies the essence of community service. From her volunteer service at the Salvation Army Op Shop in Church Street to her dedicated efforts with the TAC L-P driver program and her commitment to blood donation (106 and counting) she inspires with her selfless outlook. I was lucky enough to catch up with Karen ahead of National Volunteers Week (20-26 May) to thank her for her dedicated service.

Volunteers like Karen are the backbone of our community and their efforts highlight the best we can achieve when we come together. Across McEwen, countless individuals contribute their time and skills to various sporting causes, creating a network of support and solidarity. From local fire brigades and sporting clubs to charity organizations and environmental groups, volunteers are the lifeblood of the community. The theme for National Volunteer Week 2024 was 'Something for Everyone' encouraging people to recognise we all have something to offer as a volunteer.

The strength of McEwen lies in its people. Our volunteers, whether they're providing emergency services, coaching junior sports, or supporting the elderly, are integral to our community's fabric. The Contributions make McEwen a better, safer and more connected place to live.

Regards, Rob Mitchell, Federal Member for McEwen.



CONVERSATIONS

By Sue Lloyd



How do we manage conversations that go wrong? How do we react? By that I mean meetings that become unexpected, in either a good or bad way. The casual chat over a cup of coffee that turns out to be an intimate sharing of secrets. The catch up with acquaintances where deep secrets are revealed. The conversation that triggers an aspect of the past bringing with it an outpouring of emotion. Even words exchanged with strangers in unplanned ways.

Obvious answer – avoid them. Or at least shut the flow of words down, change the topic or find an excuse to remove yourself from the situation. That's the easy way. Try to put the whole episode out of mind out of sight as they say. Get on with life. But is it the best way? Let's consider why this is a common reaction.

Embarrassment – quite possibly, were things to become public that could affect people we know which might then potentially damage relationships. Sharing of long held and supposedly private secrets for example. We all know the wording 'I'll tell you but you must not tell anyone else.' Regretfully sometimes those secrets are passed on, either unintentionally or even intentionally, both totally inappropriate in such a scenario.

Anger – our own emotions are perhaps triggered by something that is said. Our minds immediately revert to an earlier situation, probably unresolved and still lingering on the sub-conscious only to be instantaneously brought to the fore, accompanied by all that has been left unsaid or said that would have been better not said at the time. Understandably not a particular conversation to be listened to if that is the result.

Inadequacy – how could we respond? What could we say? We don't know what to say. We might only make things worse. Feeling you've attempted to help or advice in such a similar situation previously only to have the offer rebutted.

Guilt – why didn't we realise something was wrong? Why didn't we follow up on our instinct? Why did we left it so long to be in communication with the person? Being busy seems a poor excuse. That word 'should' with which we are all so familiar rears its head compounding our sense of culpability.

Surprise – finding ourselves completely unaware that such events have happened, particularly if the conversations are with people we know well. That was a situation in which I found myself when a lifelong friend of forty or so years revealed a closely guarded personal secret which no-one had even been told about. To say I was astonished would be a vast understatement.

Sitting with strangers on occasions past traumas have been revealed and the speaker has expressed a profound sense of relief. This was accompanied by the gratitude that we, the audience, had simply held a quiet calm space, without interrupting and particularly without attempting to offer advice, suggestions or worse, criticisms.

In the end conversation are not necessarily always about us but a focus is more aptly kept on the speaker. Our ability to allow the other person time and space to express their difficulties is really all that is needed in many cases. The responses on our part would be obvious most probably from the tone of the conversation, the body language and general demeanor of the speaker. Again we are all familiar with 'a problem shared is a problem halved'. That is not to say we remain mute of course, on many such meetings exchanges are made on both sides. I referred to conversations that suddenly and out of blue descend into more serious areas.

It's always welcome if compliments are given where applicable.



THE WILLIE WAGTAIL

Willie Wagtails don't visit our garden, but I often observe them in the grassy area opposite our house that has some remnant bush. I've also seen them in other open areas, like parklands, paddocks and larger gardens around Hurstbridge and the region. When I have visited I've seen them at the home of a friend who lives a bit further out of the township and has some acres of grassland around the house. My friend's garden also has a dam close by and a fountain with continuously flowing water, which appeals to Willie Wagtails, as they prefer habitat with watercourses or wetlands nearby. On our travels, driving and bushwalking around Victoria and NSW, we have repeatedly spotted them alongside roads, in parks, around clear areas of grassland and farmland.



It's hard not to notice these little birds because of their curious tail behaviour, which every time instantly attracts my attention. They get their name from the odd way they sway their fanned tail around while standing still and walking about. They constantly wag their tail from side to side to scare insects into the

open, making them easier to catch. They will then rush along hopping across the ground or flying fast in pursuit of insects and other small prey that they have disturbed.

Sometimes I've seen them perched on a rock, or log, or on a low branch of a tree, other times wandering around an open paddock, grassy area, sports field or on nature strips, constantly wagging their tails from side to side. Other times I've seen them following farm animals like cattle, sheep or horses or even sitting on their backs, waiting to catch any insects disturbed by the grazing animals. On other occasions they flit around in the air catching flies, butterflies and other insects in flight. They are very agile when flying about after prey.

It is a small, (about 20cm in length) black bird with white underside and white strips above the eyes. They feed mainly on flies and other flying insects. They also hunt spiders, worms, insects and other food on the ground.

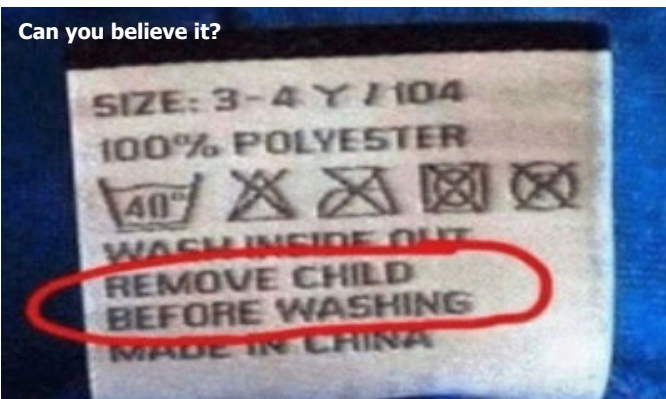
They build a small, cup-shaped nest of fine grass, bound with cobwebs hidden in low foliage in bushes or trees. The female usually lays three eggs, or sometimes four. They will aggressively defend their nests and territory against other Willie Wagtails or even larger birds like Kookaburras, Hawks and Magpies.

They inhabit open forest country, woodlands, rural areas, golf courses, parks and gardens. They are absent from thickly forested areas. It is distributed throughout most of mainland Australia. They are not found in Tasmania.

Their voice is a pleasant whistling sound. Willie Wagtails also make a harsh alarm call. These calls can be heard during the day, but also sometimes on bright nights as well, when they are out hunting by moonlight.

It has adapted well to urban locations with suitable habitat and is a common sight in many parks, gardens and other open areas. It is really splendid to watch these nimble and swift flycatchers in action hunting. They are generally unconcerned about the presence of people and so are very easy to observe close-up. I am always pleased to catch sight of these active, pretty little birds and particularly to hear the Willie Wagtails sweet voice.

Steven Katsineris, March. 2009



FROM CHAIR
ADMINISTRATOR,
LYDIA WILSON



Hello everyone,

This month at the City of Whittlesea, we are looking forward to many upcoming events in our municipality for the whole family to enjoy.

If you are looking for something to entertain the children these winter holidays, our school holiday program has a range of fun activities on offer. From movie sessions and indoor rock climbing to a magical karaoke night for young people aged 12 to 18. For more information on our school holiday program schedule and event calendar, visit: www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/events.

We are now only four months away from the Local Government elections that will be held in October. I would encourage those in our community who are passionate about making a difference to consider standing for Council. Serving as a councillor is a unique opportunity to represent your community and actively participate in shaping the future of your municipality.

If you are considering nominating as a candidate, I encourage you to attend an upcoming information session to find out more, have your questions answered and gain insights into what it means to be a Councillor. This month we have our City of Whittlesea **Candidate Information Session on Thursday 25 July, from 2pm - 4pm** at the City of Whittlesea Council Offices, 25 Ferres Blvd South Morang, as well as a north-west region information session hosted by the Municipal Association of Victoria at the Broadmeadows Town Hall, 10 Dimboola Rd, Broadmeadows, on **Thursday 18 July, from 6.30pm-8.30pm**.

A number of new sessions have been also added, including specific information for women who wish to run for Council and showcase their leadership skills. For further information on all sessions available visit www.whittlesea.vic.gov.au/councilelections.

Works are underway on the Whittlesea Township Park - a \$1 million project which will see the existing timber bridge over Plenty River replaced with a concrete bridge, providing access for pedestrians, cyclists and emergency vehicles. There will also be seated rest stops installed, improved lighting, updated signage, native tree planting and works to alleviate overland flooding issues. We are so pleased to be taking significant steps towards removing common barriers to exercise and promoting healthy, active lifestyles within our community. Funded by the City of Whittlesea and Victorian Government through its Growing Suburbs Fund and expected to be complete by mid-2025, the upgrades are sure to make a big difference to the lives of local residents.

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, Animal Management
- * Tuesday 9.30am-4pm, Business Concierge
- * Wednesday 9.30am-4pm, Building Services
- * Thursday 9.30am-4pm, Planning Services.

Our customer service and specialist staff look forward to chatting to you, in this very handy location for our northern residents.

Take care, Lydia Wilson

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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DOREEN By Glen Davis

As we're aware the suburb of Doreen is situated on the edges of the City of Whittlesea, and the Shire of Nillumbik. Doreen is a fast-growing area. Back in 2015 the population was 19,990, in 2021 it was up to 27,122, and it keeps increasing.

This area was first colonised by Europeans in 1844. In the early years of European settlement, it was known as Hazel Glen. From 1895 the name Doreen was bestowed on the area by the then Victorian Postmaster General, John Gavan Duffy. Duffy was the Irish born son of Charles Gavan Duffy, a previous Victorian Premier.

But Doreen is more than a place name, it's also a female name. Let's go back and see what we know of its origins, also of notable Doreen's. The name Doreen is a derivative of the Irish Doirean, sometimes spelt with a double nn. To the Irish the name Doirean had a few meanings including gilded, sullen, moody. Apparently, the name also appears in Greek culture. Over time the name Doirean has been Anglicised to Doreen.

Possibly the Anglicised Doreen first appeared in 1894 in Edna Lyall's novel, **Doreen, The Singer**. This story was about a girl whose father was imprisoned for his Irish republican sympathies, this during the time of the Fenians in the late 19th century. Despite her father's politics Doreen falls in love with an Englishman. What happens here? Do yourselves a favour and grab a copy of the book.

Doreen's in history; there's been a few.

Doreen Tracey was an original performer on the **Mickey Mouse Club**. Doreen Blumhardt was a New Zealander famous for her ceramics, also pottery, as well being a leader in craft education. There was the Canadian soprano Doreen Hume, whose solo career spanned nigh on four decades, commencing in the mid 1940's. Closer to home there was the historian Doreen Kartinyeri famous for her work in South Australia, such that she was named South Australian Aboriginal of the Year in 1994.

Of course, for those who watch the wonderful Australian children's show Bluey there is Doreen who's the neighbour of **Bluey's** family. As well as being a caring, sharing, neighbour Doreen is famous for a good curry, as well as her love of mahjong.

As well as the Doreen's there are those who retain the original, Doirean(n). In modern day Eire, Doireann Ni' Ghirofa is a poet, and writer fluent in both Gaelic and English. Doireann Garrihy is a comedian, social media influencer.

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Member for **Yan Yean**



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Diamond Creek VIC 3089

✉️ lauren.kathage@parliament.vic.gov.au

☎️ 03 9432 9782

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

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Signed: _____

PUZZLE PAGE

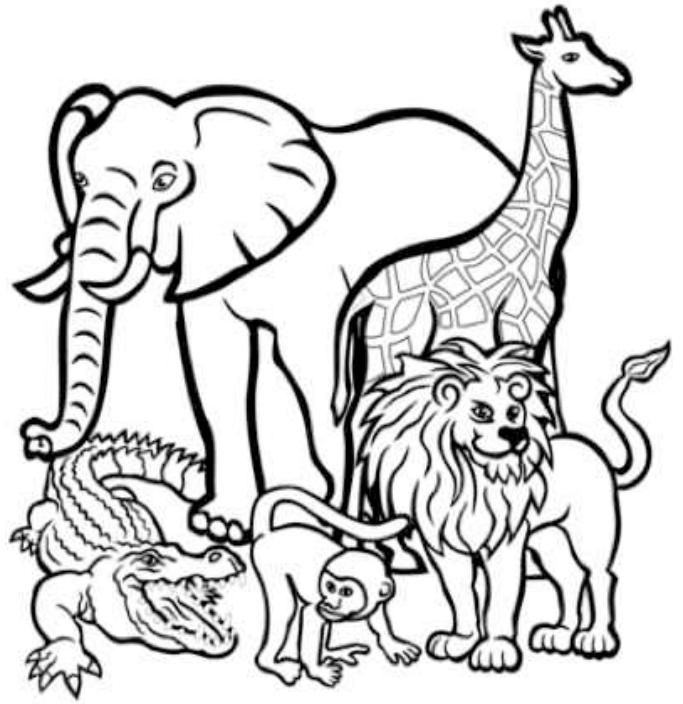


Dinosaurs

D A S P I N O S A U R U S S R E L W A R C
 I E X T I N C T E N D S A K S A T N U H P
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- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|-------------|---------------|
| Allosaurus | Extinct | Mesozoic | Skull |
| Arthropods | Flyers | Nest | Spinosaurus |
| Babies | Footprints | Predator | Stegosaurus |
| Bones | Fossils | Prehistoric | Stomp |
| Brachiosaurus | Geology | Pteranodon | Tail club |
| Carnivore | Giant | Pterodactyl | Teeth |
| Claws | Gliders | Reptile | Titanosaurus |
| Crawlers | Herbivores | Ridge | Tracks |
| Crest | Herd | Roar | Triceratops |
| Dig | Horn | Rock | Tyrannosaurus |
| Discovery | Hunt | Sauropods | rex |
| Dome head | Iguanodon | Scales | Velociraptor |
| Egg | Jurassic | Scary | Volcano |
| Eruption | Lizard | Skeleton | wing |

Puzzle courtesy of thewordsearch.com/puzzles/



Puzzle courtesy of www.printables4kids.com



Puzzle courtesy of RaisinOurKids.com



Courtesy of www.Kidsfront.com



Hay Group
 Photo with Probus article >>

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ON THE ROAD TO NOWHERE

The autumn excursion of the Combined Probud Club of Whittlesea was scheduled to take in the excitement of the Opal Mining town of White Cliffs NSW. The town itself is often stated as being nowhere! It is actually somewhere but a fair distance from anywhere! To soften the culture shock and relate the famous tyranny of distance the first day's travel was the five hundred kilometers to Mildura to the overnights accommodation at the Inlander Resort. On the way we passed the world's smallest mountain Mt Wycheproof. Next day in search of nowhere the tourist party ventured into Mungo National Park which although a shorter travel distance took up the whole day. The Willandra Lakes Region World Heritage Area covers 2,400 square kilometres and takes in all 19 lakes of the Willandra Lakes system. It includes much of Mungo National Park and a larger area of leasehold grazing country. Scientists have discovered artefacts dating back over 50,000 years across the expanses of the last ice age. This makes Mungo one of the oldest places outside of Africa to have been occupied by modern humans since ancient times. In 1974, after some heavy rain, geologist Jim Bowler spotted something he hadn't seen before - the gleam of a white object poking out of the soil. When he looked closer he realised it was a human cranium. Further investigation revealed the almost complete skeleton of an adult male. Best advice today by the scientists is that the skeletal remains 40 thousand years old. Our members were given an extensive cultural background by the folks who conduct the Aboriginal Discovery Tours. Part of the day was outdoor hiking to visit cultural and geological significant parts of the park. Each will have taken their own counsel on the information gleaned and as the sun was dropping low they returned to the resort for a meal and sleep. Hale and hearty and well breakfasted we

headed again into NSW and on our way to nowhere. To make the destination a fuel-stop at Wilcannia on the Darling River gave an insight into the Australia that was, and is unlikely again. The town was the third largest inland port in the country during the riverboat era of the mid -19th century. Today it is sparsely populated with the percentage of aboriginals around three quarters. Some small industries and community activities keep the town afloat. Included are a friendly supermarket and a professional pharmacist! Finally we arrived at White Cliffs and were allocated accommodation and soon tucked into our selected meals. Next morning a visit to the Red Earth Opal Gallery and Café was an eye opener, run by owner Graeme and family. The area was widespread and of first class standard, with a large amount of Opals and other Gifts for sale. Following shopping and coffee break Graeme took us on a tour of his large underground mine. His experience of three decades was evident. His enthusiasm searching for Opal shone through and his passion for finding Opal pineapple clusters in particular was a highlight. After that extensive underground visit, another Guide, Rob, boarded our coach as we travelled around the district of White Cliffs pointing out a variety of places of significance. Rob gave us an insight as to how many residents have burrowed into the white cliffs and made their home. Inside the temperature remains a constant low 20 degrees all year round as opposed to double that outside. [In 1939 51.5C was recorded]. It was interesting to learn that White Cliffs NSW is the site of Australia's first Solar Power Station, built in 1981, upgraded in 1996, but closed in 2005! Day five we loaded up and took one of the several roads to lead from nowhere to somewhere. We took the one back to Wilcannia and onto Ivanhoe for luncheon. Our presence caused several tradies that had stopped for luncheon to give it a miss and move on, and many of us were assisted by a young aboriginal girl with the coffee machine. [She was actual a customer but wanted to help]. Mid-afternoon we arrived at Hay where our accommodation waited, but had to wait until folks had a wander around the town centre. Some eighty kilometres back we passed by a small town made famous by Banjo Patterson in his poem Hay and Hell and Booligal. Banjo predicted us in the lines: - You never see a stranger's

face; They hardly ever care to call; After breakfast and all but one passenger taking all their possessions we went down town for group photographs and then to visit Bishops Lodge. This building was constructed in 1889 as the residence of the bishop of the Riverina. In 1985 the Hay Council purchased the property and it is now an interesting tourist attraction, as is the attached Rose Garden that has 500 varieties. We rolled along through the southern Riverina and made it across the Murray River to Echuca for luncheon at the Workers Club. From there it was an express trip home to Whittlesea and each to his own! Our arrival at White Cliffs meant close to doubling the population. Major tourist companies expect bigger contingents so will not have the town as a destination. It is groups like Probud that can organise smaller numbers and perhaps make a visit to nowhere! Even encourage grey nomad members to make a side trip! We may be able to claim a Probud lead Recovery for nowhere to somewhere!

Written by: **Michael B Halley**



Machinery

A Pineapple Cluster



Underground

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

TENNIS- Whittlesea Tennis Club, Laurel St,
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Karen 0410 324 326
karen_macetc@yahoo.com

Q. When you look for something, why is it always in the last place you look?

A. Because when you find it, you stop looking.

Q. What is brown, hairy and wears sunglasses?

A. A coconut on vacation

Q. What do you say to a rabbit on its birthday?

A. Hoppy Birthday.

Q. What's the one thing will you get every year on your birthday, guaranteed?

A. A year older.

Q. Why do candles always go on the top of cakes?

A. Because it's hard to light them from the bottom

<https://parade.com/968634/parade/jokes-for-kids/#funny-jokes-for-kids>

HALLS FOR HIRE

ARTHURS CREEK HALL - For enquiries and bookings contact Ruth White **9714 8438** or **0423 864 542**

ARTHURS CREEK UNITING CHURCH HALL

Comfortable venue for small groups. (to 50)

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: rie1429@gmail.com

DIAMOND CREEK BOWLING CLUB INC., 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

DIAMOND CREEK MASONIC HALL, 46 Main Hurstbridge Road, Diamond Creek. Ideal for family & community functions. Heating & Cooling. Excellent kitchen & facilities. Chairs & trestle tables. Can be inspected. Contact Des **9435 4208**, bonview@tpg.com.au

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www.strathewenhall.com

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

POLICE.....000

Epping9409 8100

Mernda9216 1200

Mill Park9407 3333

Wallan5783 0400

Whittlesea9716 2102

AMBULANCE.....000

HOSPITALS

Austin & Repatriation..... 9496 5000

Mercy for Women8458 4444

Northern8405 8000

Royal Childrens9345 5522

Beyond Blue1300 224 636

Bully zero Aust. Found.... 1800 028 559

Chinese Medicine5786 1889

Child Protection Society13 12 78

City of Whittlesea A.H..... 9217 2170

Electrical emergency13 17 99

Eastern Energy13 34 66

Emergency info. in Vic. ... 1800 226 226

Floods & Storms13 25 00

Gamblers Helpline1800 156 789

Gas emergency13 27 71

Gas, SP Ausnet13 67 07

Hall's Funerals9438 5416

Kids Helpline1800 551 800

Lifeline13 11 14

Medical Imaging9716 0278

Mobile Phone Emergency112

Nurse on call (24hr)1300 606 024

Parentline Vic13 22 89

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

Plenty Valley FM: provide local
emergency information 9404 2111

Physiotherapy9716 2250

Power outages, downed lines .13 17 99

RACV13 11 11

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

Yarra Valley Water13 27 62

Crown Cabs..... 9310 5422

Lifeline13 11 14

Caring Crisis Line13 61 69

Nursing Mothers helpline.....9885 0653

Help for wildlife0417 380 687

Wildlife Victoria - 24hr Pager service
..... 0500 54 0000

RSPCA9224 2222

Bee swarm collection.....0400 337 556

 **GARDEN OF ROSES or**  **PADDOCK OF PRICKLES**

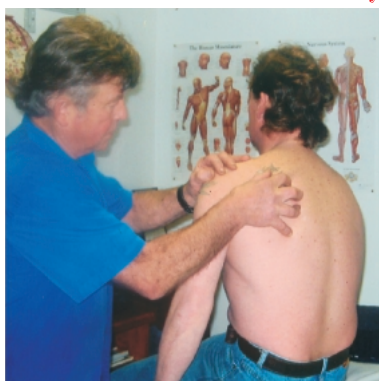
If you have something you would like to contribute to 'ROSES' or 'PRICKLES' column, email it to:
towncrier2019@gmail.com
All submissions must include name and contact details, including phone number (Not necessarily for publication)



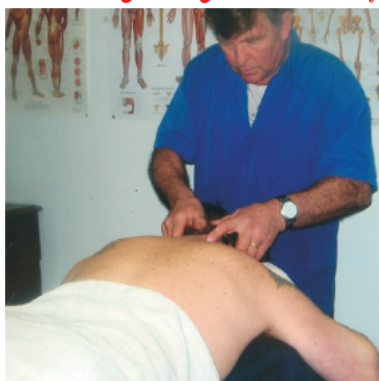
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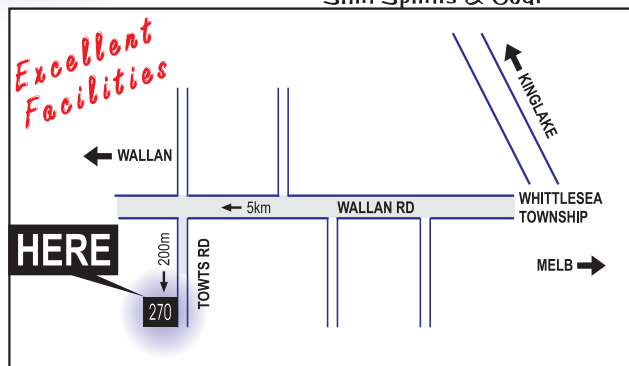
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All reasonable offers considered

Price: \$1,750,000

Contact: Susan Sinclair 0417 599 555



WHITTLESEA

A place to call home, right in town

With location in mind, a great 700m² approx allotment, this 3 bedroom brick veneer home oozes the love of a family.

Kitchen with as new upright stainless steel stove, adjoining meals area, dual aspect windows, spacious lounge with cosy gas log fire.

Carport, large lockup garage with workshop and drive through to extra shedding/storage.

Price: \$630,000 - \$660,000

Contact: Lynn White 0419 434 111



KINGLAKE WEST

Nestled in a botanical like garden, home on 5 acres (2ha)

Meandering along a welcoming driveway sits this charming 3 bedroom brick veneer home. Featuring 3 living areas including formal lounge with open fire, rumpus room & large meals area adjoining timber kitchen. Main bedroom with semi ensuite. Covered entertaining. Outbuildings include Mudbrick studio, 2 room bungalow for the odd stay over visitors. Large shed/garage, bird proof chicken run and vegie patch.

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FLOWERDALE

Stunning Vacant Allotment, Absolute Creek Frontage

This beautiful parcel of land measuring 1187m² approx. (over 1/4 acre) is ready to go, cleared, near level, wide frontage and picturesque location. True water frontage to the King Parrot Creek, your own little oasis away from the madding crowd.

Set in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, direct access just up the road to endless adventures in the State Forest.

Vacant allotments with these features rarely become available.

Price: \$319,000

Contact: Susan Sinclair 0417 599 555