

# The Waterline News

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## TIME AND TIDE

Page 36



[www.waterlinenews.com.au](http://www.waterlinenews.com.au)

# From The Desk

	PAGE
COVER	1
FROM THE DESK	2
NURSE GARVEY	3
COMMUNITY	4
ANZAC DAY	5
ANZAC DAY	6
COMMUNITY DIRECTORY	7
CFA	8
NEWS	9
MUSIC	10
MUSIC	11
BASS COAST STOCK FEEDS	12
THIS ISO LIFE	13
BCAL	14
MAYDAY	15
MAYDAY	16
PIONEER BAY	17
FRENCH ISLAND NEWS	18
IMPACTS OF ISOLATION	19
IDAHOBIT	20
ENVIRONMENT	21
BUSINESS DIRECTORY	22
ART	23
BASS COAST PRIZE	24
PHILOSOPHY	25
GARDENING	26
BOOKS AND WRITING	27
BOOKS AND WRITING	28
DIRECTORY	29
CORINELLA PROBUS	30
DIRECTORY	31
RECONCILIATION	32
HUMOUR	33
DIRECTORY	34
CFA 2	35
FROM THE FRONT	36
SCRAR	37
DIRECTORY	38
DIRECTORY	39
BUSINESS PHONE DIRECTORY	40

## THE WATERLINE NEWS

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PO Box 324, Wonthaggi, 3995

**Editor - Geoff Ellis**  
[waterlinepublishing@gmail.com](mailto:waterlinepublishing@gmail.com)  
[www.waterlinenews.com.au](http://www.waterlinenews.com.au)  
ABN 97 336 380 867



It seems like there has been a different set of rules every day since the previous edition of the Waterline News. As this one goes to the virtual presses the COVID restrictions are starting to be eased, So we can cautiously emerge from the safety of isolation to reconnect with our world within the parameters that are set by the authorities.

This edition of the Waterline is back to full size though it won't be printed due to the current challenges of distribution. As the amount of advertising has reduced and the number of events to be publicised is minimal, many of this month's contributions provide insight into the townships, communities and people that make up The Waterline and give the area its eclectic nature.

I hope you enjoy reading these articles as much as I have. Its been an absolute delight to open emails from people across the Waterline and beyond in response to my request to tell us how people are dealing with the COVID-19 isolation

During this time we have had a great opportunity to consider what really matters.

Our relationships and friendships have been recognized for the precious, fragile gift that they are. We all long to share a cuppa and a chat, or swap a few casual words and a wry smile as we pass each other on the street.

Although the absence of connection has been traumatic many of us have enjoyed the slower pace of life and some are considering scaling back, reducing commitments that now appear unnecessary. I have spoken to people who are contemplating early retirement or downsizing their home.

Due to the changing nature of the restrictions council and government websites are the best source of information about what we can, or can't do. I also need to point out that the views expressed in this publication are personal opinion and are not aligned with any council or government policy or decision.

***Geoff Ellis, Editor.***

***JUNE Edition: Deadline is May 29***

**NATIONAL 18-24 MAY 2020**  
**VOLUNTEER**  
**WEEK**  
CHANGING COMMUNITIES.  
CHANGING LIVES.





**DG Nurse Practitioner**  
**Grantville Transaction Centre**  
**Cnr Bass Hwy & Pier Rd**  
**Grantville, 3984**  
**Hours**  
**Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri**  
**6.00 am - close**  
**Bulk Billing**  
 All consultations bulk billed  
 May have fees for some procedures\*

**For appointments phone**  
**5616 2222**  
 or  
**0467 841 782**  
**Same day appointments available**

**Services available include**  
**Fluvax**  
**Immunisations**  
**Men's Health**

# Landmark Pot Hole Filled

Just in time for winter, the pot hole in front of the Grantville Pharmacy has been fixed.

The sunken Telstra pit has been raised so shoppers will no longer have to navigate around the treacherous puddle that formed there on rainy days.



**KOALA HUGS A. PENROSE**  
[WWW.KOALA-HUGS.COM.AU](http://WWW.KOALA-HUGS.COM.AU)



**KOALA HUGS A. PENROSE**  
[WWW.KOALA-HUGS.COM.AU](http://WWW.KOALA-HUGS.COM.AU)



AJ Penrose is a full time multimedia developer and kid wrangler (mum), and part time photographer, illustrator and story-teller. That's quite a lot of time, when you put it all together. AJ's family are 'weekenders' at French Island. Her comic 'Koala Hugs' is a true and accurate representation of their experiences. Alright, she's taken a small amount of artistic licence. Just a smidge

Corinella and  
District  
Community  
Centre




48 Smythe St  
Corinella  
5678 0777

CORINELLA BOWLING  
CLUB INC.  
22 Balcombe Street, Corinella  
Ph. 5678 0497  
Follow and like us on facebook  
Corinella Bowling Club Inc  
Dave Burzacott,  
Tournament Secretary  
0423 593 227  
or Steve Bray,



San Remo  
Bowls Club inc.  
Wynne Road,  
San Remo  
(03) 5678 5558  
Website:  
sanremobowlsclub.teamapp.com



CWA  
WOODLEIGH VALE  
BRANCH  
ALL MEETINGS  
POSTPONED.  
**WATCH THIS SPACE**  
If you'd like to know more,  
Ring Carol on (03) 5678 8041



GRANTVILLE COUNTRY  
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION.  
FRIENDSHIP  
SHARING and CARING.  
The Grantville branch of the  
Country Women's Association  
Meets on the second Monday  
of each month at Grantville  
Public Hall at 12:30pm.  
The Craft and Chat group meet on the  
4th Monday of the month at 10 am  
Theatre, Lunches, Shopping etc  
Call Betty on 0418 396 863  
ALL MEETINGS  
POSTPONED.  
**WATCH THIS SPACE**



## CDCC: Update

Well April 2020 didn't really pan out as we had planned. How's May going?

Throughout the social distancing time we have been in touch with community houses across the state. While houses in large communities have seen increased need many of us in smaller communities have seen our communities unite and support each other.

**Corinella and other Waterline towns are certainly looking after each other. The kindness and generosity of our community is a shining light in these troubled times.**

**Well done Corinella and district communities.**

Our AGM is on hold until we are able to schedule a time when our members and visitors are able to attend. We will provide updates as they become available and more information on how this will work will be emailed to our members and posted on our Facebook page.

Like everyone, we are learning as we go and patience is greatly appreciated.

We are at the centre on Mondays and Thursdays for food relief, document printing and copying. The centre is not open to the public under current restrictions.

We are doing our best to share information and activities on our Facebook page: Corinella and District Community Centre. Changes to centre activities will also be posted on the page. You need to make an appointment to access our services. You can contact us anytime on 5678 0777, leave a message which will be forwarded to us as a voice recording. We will call you back with an appointment time or other instructions.

If you know of anyone who is unable to get to the supermarket or shop for basics or who is going through a tough time, we are able to provide food parcels. If you cannot leave your home we may be able to arrange delivery.

We also offer a printing/copying service (there is a small cost) for those who don't have a printer and need documents copied to set up accounts and assistance, verify details etc. On Thursday documents can be verified by a JP. Appointments are essential.

When the centre is able to reopen we hope that all our usual activities and external services, such as strength training and Yoga will come back. We also plan to bring back our art groups, kids story time, community lunch when we are able. We have capacity to add a range of social, learning, or cooking activities. **If you have developed a new passion for craft or crosswords and would like to share these as a social group, please let us know and we will get that ball rolling.**

## CORINELLA RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

We live in challenging times. I start this update with sad news. Faye Paddon, a past committee member of the Corinella Ratepayers and Residents Association has lost her 5 year battle with cancer recently.

Those of us who worked with Faye, recall her with great affection. She was that "salt of the earth" type who quietly worked away making "light work" of helping Rex BBQ 350 sausages on Australia Day or selling LED candles at Carols by Candlelight at the Rotunda.

Faye was always there to help, but never wanted to be centre stage. Over the winter last year, when the Corinella Community Market was held at the Hall due to inclement weather, Faye refused to let her illness stop her from "doing her bit". It was inspirational to see her courage through the pain, determined to help serve the community as we strived to raise funds for Community projects and the Corinella Community Centre.

Due to the COVID-19 rules only Jenny, her beloved sister and Corinella resident, was able to be at with Faye's two children Tracy and Wayne, their partners and her five grandchildren.

Faye is remembered by her family as a loving mum and grandmother, and sister who loved to paint and do all sorts of puzzles.

In her years in Corinella, many happy hours were spent walking on the beach and catching up with other locals.

She will be sadly missed by many in our community. Thankyou Faye, for your friendship and your loyal service to the Corinella Community from the Committee and Members of the CRRA.

**-Lyndell Parker.**



# ANZAC DAY



Anzac Day was honoured at the San Remo Cenotaph on behalf of the community, by Vietnam veteran John Methven OAM, his wife Krishna and bugler Peter Buitenhuis (pictured)

A number of wreaths were laid, including one on behalf of Bass Coast Shire Council.

Jane Ross (pictured) was to have delivered the address but, because of social distancing rules, she has given permission for *The Waterline News* to publish it instead:

"I am "speaking" to you at this San Remo Anzac Day commemoration as the president of South Gippsland Legacy, a unique Australian organisation established by ex-servicemen in the aftermath of WWI.

Its purpose has always been to assist war widows and it is now responsible for helping veterans and their families.

The South Gippsland Group began 70 years ago.

"I am the proud descendant of eight soldiers who served Australia in World War I or II. An uncle fought in both and was a prisoner of the Japanese on the Burma Railway, surviving to tell the experience in a book couched all in poetic rhyme.

It's called *Slaves of the Samurai*.

"Another of those forebears was my Dad, the late Bill Ross. He was a founding member of South Gippsland Legacy and delivered the Anzac address at the San Remo Cenotaph over 25 years ago.

"At a recent South Gippsland Legacy meeting, we acknowledged Bob Semple, who died in January at the age of 98. He wasn't from around here, but was in the 9<sup>th</sup> Division's 2/12<sup>th</sup> Field Regiment with Dad, who was his troop commander.

"They were among the Allies who held off the Germans in Tobruk, wearing the enemy's derisory name for them as a badge of honour – the Desert Rats.

"Bob Semple was one of the last surviving Australian Rats of Tobruk. He was drum major of the Hawthorn City Pipe Band for many decades and his regiment always marched behind that band during Melbourne's Anzac Day parade to the Shrine of Remembrance. The Desert Rats were under siege in Tobruk for 21 weeks – between May and September, 1941.

"The regiment was raised in May 1940 and in an account of his war service written later in his life, Dad made it sound as though he and his mate were signing up for a Sunday School picnic when they went to Caulfield Racecourse to enlist.

"They and the Allies who were in the desert with them, endured ghastly conditions such as dust storms, searing heat, rationed water and, according to the history of the regiment, called, appropriately *Gunfire*, appalling rations with endless servings of rice liberally laced with sand and flies.

"The men drew comfort, as did the Germans, from a love song – *Lili Marlene* - that rose from obscurity to become the unlikely anthem of World War II.

It meant so much to my father that for many years after the war, he poured his nightly Scotch from a decanter with a stopper that played the song every time he tipped the decanter up!

"I cannot hear that music without tearing up; both for the memory of my beloved Dad who died 10 years ago and the suffering war brings.

"The regiment followed its Tobruk involvement with 17 weeks in action at El Alamein, which included a great artillery battle of October 1942, when 180,000 rounds were fired. Following retraining in Australia in jungle warfare, the regiment was deployed to New Guinea and North Borneo.

"At El Alamein, they dug in with the help of railway sleepers and, when a German bomb landed near Dad, he was buried up to the eyeballs; with blinking the only way of indicating to his comrades he was still alive. A telegram was sent to the family address, but the telegram boy couldn't hand it to his mother because it was addressed to his father. My grandfather was working in Canberra, so my grandmother had to wait – and wait – to find out if her only child had been killed or wounded.

"That experience makes me wonder how on earth women managed to hold themselves together while they waved their men off to war, much less endure the heartache of their death in a far off land.

"On this, the 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Anzac landing and the year marking the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II, it behoves us all to remember those who sacrificed their lives or their health in order that we might live free of tyranny – and those who loved them.

**"Lest we Forget."**



L to R : Wonthaggi Cenotaph, wreaths at Wonthaggi Cenotaph and Bass Cenotaph.



# ANZAC DAY

## CYRIL HARVEY KELLY

### As told by Lyndell Parker

These cherished photographs and documents mark the life of Cyril Harvey Kelly.

The top photo shows him proudly ready to do his duty; there is his enlistment paper; the family photo shows Cyril to the left of his mum, Rosetta (Lyndell's great grandmother) and on the right is his young brother Murray, who enlisted on learning of brotherly death; And the letter that informed Rosetta about her son's death;

As I sit and write we are forced to self isolate, in a bid to save lives. There is a struggle taking place in many homes across the country for so many different reasons, and it covers all age groups and genders, no one is exempt.

Fear of illness and death, loss of jobs, loss of income, and insecurity about the future! We live in unprecedented times, facing a possible depression.

We are not at war, but it makes me think of the struggles that took place in far away lands so long ago, a terrible time, with a life and death struggle taking place, a generation that thought they were fighting "the war to end all wars" to give us a better life.

**My Great Uncle Cyril died at Gueudecourt in the Somme in February 1917. He was mourned by his mother so deeply that in his memory she spent the next 40 years of her life painting over 350 water-colour paintings of Western Australian wildflowers. The Bunbury City Council in WA holds this collection.**

The Bunbury Museum and Heritage Centre have kindly sent me transcripts of Cyril's letters to his mother, my great grandmother, from the Cyril Kelly Collection. I didn't know so many letters existed, and as I read through them all I tried to get a sense of who Cyril was, as a person. I have the family stories, of course, which like all family stories are a tiny bit blurred around the edges.

Each letter starts *Dear Mother*, and ends *lots of love from Cyril*. Between those lines I found a young man who was pouring out love and consolation to his mother. I saw what a beautiful, loving caring young man he was as I read those letters and know why my great grandmother mourned him so deeply.

**September 27th 1916....**"we are in the trenches again, but in a much quieter place this time than where we were before, and a man has a chance here" .....

**6th July 1916....** "You don't want to jump to conclusions about me, just look at the bright side and hope for the best" (I cried as I read that -LP

**November 14th 1916....** "I am glad the horses are looking so well. My word, I wouldn't mind being home in the west for the lovely spring weather"..... later in the letter, he tells my great grandmother... "can hear the continuous booming of the guns. I pity the poor chaps up there now in the cold and wet and the mud (in some places up to your waist) It is awful and 48 hours is about as long as they can keep you in the front line." .....(I am overwhelmed by his compassion for his comrades. LP)

**December 19th 1916....** Cyril enquires about "Venus and her foals" and how pretty they must have looked at the show and how they did. As he wrote he was struggling to keep warm.

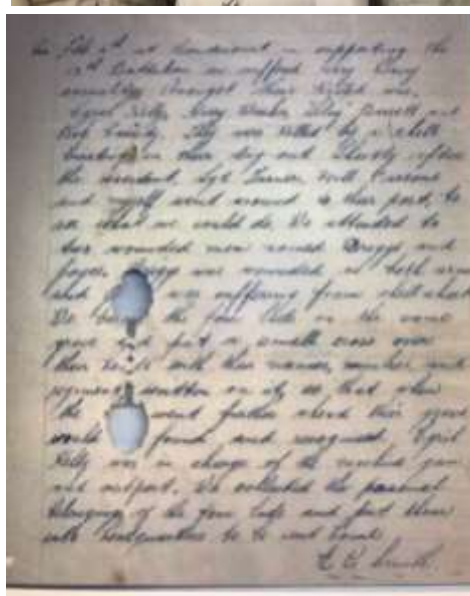
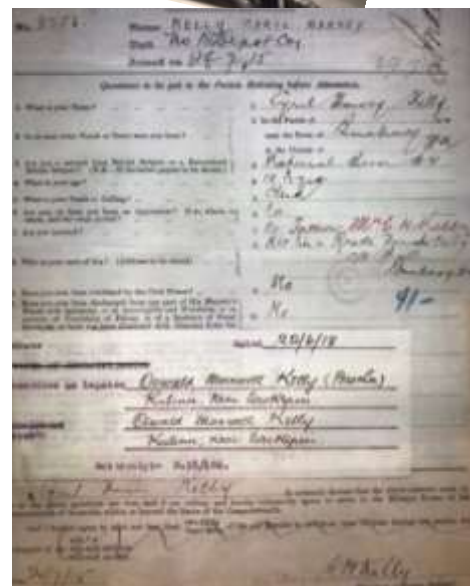
...."Everything must be lovely at home about this time and we could do with a bit of warmth over here. You might send some of the sun over in the next letter, as I have been cold for about 2 months. Hope you and Murray have a happy Christmas and enjoy yourselves in the holidays."

Cyril's always inquires after the horses, obviously much loved by him and tries to console his mother Rosetta about the family fighting going on between his siblings. My grandfather Oswald, his elder brother (a farmer), Murray (who joined at age 18, a month after Cyril was killed) and his sister Joy. The letters all had one thing in common, care for others and no grumbling about how terrible things were for him.

**What can I learn from my Great Uncle Cyril and those who gave their lives so long ago, that would help me now?**

They faced unprecedented times, with courage and resolve to do what needed to be done. No one believed that war would last so long or be so terrible, mistakes were made and lessons were learned. Our leaders and politicians, trying as hard as they can not to, will also make mistakes and we will all learn more about ourselves. Our strengths and our weaknesses will rear their heads at times so we can become stronger together.

We will prevail.





# Community Group Directory

## Artists' Society of Phillip Island

56-58 Church Street Cowes  
For more information <http://aspi-inc.org.au/>

## Australian Red Cross

Woodleigh Vale Branch  
Contact Sheila Campbell 5678 8210

## Bass Coast Community Baptist Church

Minister - Barry MacDonald 5995 3904

## Bass Coast L2P Learner Driver Mentor Program

Wonthaggi  
Leanne Tilley 5672 3731 or 0467 590 679

## Bass Coast Strollers

Contact Liz Hart 5678 0346  
Website <http://basscoaststrollers.org/>

## Bass Friends of the RSL

Secretary Trish Thick 5678 1071  
Mobile 0409 851 599

## Bass Valley Community Group

Monday - Friday 5678 2277

## Bass Valley Landcare

2-4 Bass School Rd, Bass 5678 2335

## Boomerang Bags Phillip Island & San Remo

- Wednesdays 10am - 4pm.  
Contact [kylie@boomerangbagspistr.org](mailto:kylie@boomerangbagspistr.org)

## Cape Woolamai Coast Action

Email [capewoolamaicoastaction@gmail.com](mailto:capewoolamaicoastaction@gmail.com)  
second Saturday Monthly. 8.00am to 10.00am Marg Dumergue 0419007758

## Corinella & District Probus Club

First Wednesday of each month Bass Hotel.  
Heather Reid 0421 012 519

## Corinella Boating & Angling Club

Website [www.corinellafishing.com.au](http://www.corinellafishing.com.au)

## Corinella Bowling Club Inc.

Balcombe Street Corinella.  
Jacquie Carter 5678 0596

## Corinella & District Community Centre

48 Smythe St Corinella. 5678 0777  
Website [www.corinellacomunitycentre.org.au](http://www.corinellacomunitycentre.org.au)

## Corinella & District Men's Shed & Woodies Group

Corinella Road  
Contact Ken Thomas 0427 889 191

## Corinella Foreshore Committee

Contact Barbara Oates 0427 780 245

## Coronet Bay, & Surrounds Playgroup (0-4yrs)

Coronet Bay Hall  
Wednesdays 10am - 12noon  
Contacts Catherine 0416 112 629

## Coronet Bay Adult Social Club

Tuesday 7-10pm Coronet Bay Hall  
Ann 5678 0341

## Country Women's Association of Vic inc. Bass Group.

Cowes	Lorraine	5952 2165
Glen Alvie	Libby	5678 3280
Grantville	Annie	5678 8037
Loch	Val	5659 4268
Woodleigh Vale	Carol	5678 8041

## Cowes Table Tennis Group

Barbara Parrott 0425 885 834

## Grantville & District Ambulance Auxiliary

Contact - Shelly 0417 593 497

## Grantville Business & Community Association

Secretary Sandy Ridge  
Email [thegbca1@gmail.com](mailto:thegbca1@gmail.com)

## Grantville & District Foreshore Committee

Contact: Barbara Coles  
Email [bacoles@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bacoles@bigpond.net.au)

## Grantville Recreation Reserve Committee

Pat Van 5997 6221

## Grantville Tennis Club Inc.

Contact Pat Van 5997 6221

## Lang Lang Bowling Club

Ian Painter 5997 6554 M: 0419 646 040  
Email [langlangbowling@bigpond.com](mailto:langlangbowling@bigpond.com)

## Lang Lang Cricket Club

Secretary: Sharon May 0459 368 431

## Lang Lang Playgroup

(0-Preschool) Thursdays 9.30am  
Contact: Leah Dyall 0418 463 963  
Amanda Gray 0458 195 258

## Lions Club of Bass Valley

First Tuesday each month 6pm  
Grantville Transaction Centre then third Tuesday each month, Dinner at Bass Hotel.  
Lyn Renner 0416 024 356

## Nyora Youth Group

Contact Michael Felton  
Email [nyorahall3987@outlook.com](mailto:nyorahall3987@outlook.com)

## Phillip Island Bowls Club

Dunsmore Avenue, Cowes.  
New members welcome, Free coaching  
Contact George Mol 0407 851 065

## Phillip Island Camera Club

Meet at the Heritage, Cowes.  
Contact Susan 0408 136 717

## Phillip Island Community Art & Craft Gallery Inc.

Cowes Cultural Centre Thompson Ave  
All Enquiries Call Aleta 0419 525 609

## Phillip Island Indoor Carpet Bowlers

Come and join the fun. Phillip Island Celebration Centre 6 Lions Court, Cowes  
Contact Jack 0434 944 380

## Phillip Island & District Railway Modellers Inc.

The Phillip Island & District Railway  
Contact Peter 5956 9513

## Phillip Island Bicycle User Group

Meets Wednesdays 10am Amaze'n' Things  
Secretary Ruth Scott More information at [Phillipislandbicycleusergroup.com.au](http://Phillipislandbicycleusergroup.com.au) and Fb

## Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL)

56-58 Church Street, Cowes 5952 1131  
Email Linda Morrison [manager@pical.org.au](mailto:manager@pical.org.au)

## Phillip Island Patchworkers

Meet on a Monday night from 7.30.  
Contact - Lyn Duguid 0427 593 936  
Email [phillipislandpatchworkers@gmail.com](mailto:phillipislandpatchworkers@gmail.com)

## Phillip Island-San Remo - Bass Coast Vegan Community

Find us on Facebook under our title as above

## Phillip Island Senior Citizens Club

Phone bookings 5952 2973  
Email [piscc123@gmail.com](mailto:piscc123@gmail.com)

## Phillip Island World Vision Club

Second Wednesday each month 1.30pm  
St. Phillip's Church Cowes  
Enquiries - Thelma 5678 5549

## Pioneer Bay Progress Association

Zena Benbow Email: [pbpa@bigpond.com](mailto:pbpa@bigpond.com)

## Probus Club of San Remo

Second Monday of the month (except January) 10am at the Newhaven Public Hall.  
Visitors Welcome.  
Enquiries Bob Andrews 0437 526 757

## Rhyll Community Association.

Secretary Cheryl Overton 0427 680 483

## South Coast Speakers - Toastmasters

Meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 7.30 to 9.30pm at the San Remo Hotel, 145 Marine Parade, San Remo.  
Contact Patricia 0412 339 795  
Email [info@southcoastspeakers.org.au](mailto:info@southcoastspeakers.org.au)

## South Gippsland Arthritis Support Group

Contact: Adam 0408 353 785  
Marg 0417 154 057  
Diane 5658 1443

## South Gippsland Mental Illness Carer's Group

Maggie 5658 1781 Rosemary 5662 4352

## South Gippsland Parkinson's Support Group

Third Friday each month 10am for 10.30 Leongatha RSL  
Meeting/Guest Speaker/Lunch available.  
Email [Suzy.marshman@hotmail.com](mailto:Suzy.marshman@hotmail.com)

## South Gippsland Support after Suicide

Phone 9421 7640  
Email [southgippslandsas@gmail.com](mailto:southgippslandsas@gmail.com)

## Survivors of Suicide

Raising awareness to aid prevention  
Jillian Drew 0413 056 165

## St Pauls Anglican Church Bass

HC at 12.30pm every Sunday  
Contact Sandy Ridge 5997 6127

## St Georges Anglican Church Corinella

Op Shop open Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri 10am - 2pm Saturday 9am - 12.30pm

## Tenby Point Residents Association

President Jean Coffey 0419 500 593

## Wonthaggi Genealogy Inc.

Family History Centre, Library Complex. Murray Street, Wonthaggi 5672 3803  
Tues & Thurs 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-1pm  
[secretary@wonthaggigenealogy.org.au](mailto:secretary@wonthaggigenealogy.org.au)

## Woolamai Racing Club

Contact the Secretary (03) 5678 7585



**As we head into winter and with more people at home, there is an increased risk of house fires.**

Heaters of any kind should be checked regularly during winter and before their first use of the season. What do I mean by heaters?

Electric heaters, gas heaters, wood heaters, kerosene heaters, fixed radiators or wall heaters – if it produces heat it should be checked. Gas heaters should be inspected and serviced by a qualified person once a year.

The same goes for your electric split system. If you have a wood heater the firebox and chimney should be inspected and the chimney cleaned before the first use of winter. You should check the cords on portable electric heaters for fraying and make sure to only use them in a safe place.

## HOME FIRE SAFETY

With so many of us at home for longer periods now is the time to make sure our homes are fire safe.

CFA recommends having a working smoke alarm and testing it regularly, looking out for fire hazards in the home and having a home fire escape plan and practising it regularly but what does that mean in real life?

### SMOKE ALARMS

When you're asleep, you lose your sense of smell. A working smoke alarm provides you with early warning of a fire and gives you time to escape safely. You should have at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home, preferably one in each living area, hallway and bedroom. Victorian fire and rescue services recommend that smoke alarms be interconnected so that when any alarm activates, all smoke alarms will sound. As a minimum you should install smoke alarms with a 10 year-long-life battery.

But many of us still have smoke alarms with replaceable batteries we installed years ago so what should we do? Firstly, if the smoke alarm is more than 10 years old – replace it with a new 10 year lithium battery model. Once that is installed test it every month, by pressing the button and waiting for the beep-beep-beep, and dust it at least once a year! If your smoke alarm is less than 10 years old and holds a 9volt battery be sure to change the battery once a year and test each month.

More information can be found at <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/smoke-alarms>

## FIRE HAZARDS

Fire hazards can be found in every room of the house and are often over looked.

Something to check for in every room is overloaded power points. With a house full of electronics we often run out of power sockets and double adaptors or power boards or both! It's easily done but poses a fire risk. Especially with everyone at home working or studying now is a good time to replace multiple double adaptors with power boards or review what is being used from a single power point.

When you are checking the load on your power points make sure you check where your device charger sits. Devices being charged on a bed can cause a fire as the device overheats. With students at home I can picture many sitting on their beds with laptop, tablet and/or phone plugged in and charging as they work. Or worse still tucked under their pillow at night!! Take a look around and make sure devices aren't charged in bedrooms.

With cooler damper days many of us will have clothes drying in the house. Make sure you always keep them at least 1 metre away from the heat source. Make this the rule for people and pets as well to keep everyone safe! If you are using a dryer make sure to clean the lint filter after every load. It is easily overlooked but a common source of fires in the home.

### HOME FIRE SAFETY PLAN

Every household should have and practice a home fire safety plan. Things to think about when looking at your plan are escape routes and a meeting place.

Children are less likely than adults to wake up to the sound of a smoke alarm. Think about how you might be able to reach children's bedrooms if regular access is blocked by fire.

For more information visit <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home>



Our first message this month is to reassure everyone we are still here for you. Current circumstances mean you may not see us as around as much but if there is an emergency we will be there! Brigades are not training, hold meetings or conducting community education or engagement due to COVID-19 restrictions but we are still ready to attend incidents as required. Recruitment has also been suspended so if you expressed interest in joining and haven't heard from us—we're sorry! We will let everyone know when things return to business as normal.

With most of us spending extra time at home, tidying up around your property is a great idea. Remember as you mow, trim and clean that shire by-laws don't allow burning off in residential zones.

Use the appropriate bin if you have roadside collection and think about how you are storing any clippings and cuttings that need to be kept on your property until the tip re-opens or you can refill your bin. Keeping refuse clear of the house and outbuildings is the safest way to go! If you are on a rural property and allowed to burn please remember to register your burn on 1800 668 511 or by heading to <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/contact/register-your-burn-off> and completing the Register Your Burn Off form.

As well as registering your burn-off you should follow these rules:

- Check and follow local regulations or laws set down by CFA or your local council
- Notify neighbours at least two hours before starting the burn
- Check the weather forecast for the day of the burn and a few days afterwards
- Check the fuel moisture conditions
- Establish a fire break of no less than three metres



## SHUT IN, NOT SHUT OUT

I'm probably coming from a position of advantage when I think of how I'm coping with the current social isolation requirement.

Being a "Gurdies Hill-Billy" sets you up mentally and being "flat-chat" before the pandemic has worked well with the need to stay occupied.

So right now, I'm at liberty to survey my back burner and to some degree, cherry-pick amongst the long-neglected tasks.

I can also say with candour that I don't feel in the least bit guilty over the fact that I no longer have at least two meetings or social engagements a week to prepare for and attend.

Now, who would have thought that petrol prices would hit an all-time low, just at the time when you have little need for it.

But on the plus side, having that significant hit on the bank balance removed is not something to be sneezed at (into the elbow please).

So, while being shut in can have some significant disadvantages, on balance, as a temporary measure, it's not entirely bad.

*Les Ridge*

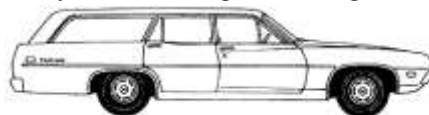
## SHELTER FROM THE STORM



Bass Highway, The Gurdies.

The long awaited bus shelters have arrived. School kids and old folks will no longer have to clutch their umbrellas as they wait for the 17 buses that stop there every day. Local State member, Jordan Crugnale, commended the local residents and bus travellers for their persistence and patience.

The other night there was a report that the Wonthaggi footy grandstand was on fire. Turned out to be a homeless person cooking dinner on an open fire. Earlier in the day he had pitched a tent and set up camp. He's not one of the recently jobless so he probably wasn't overly concerned that people may notice his poverty. When you're this far down you might as well be comfortable. Our roving reporter popped over to see how he was going in the middle of the next day. He was asleep in his tent, or at least pretending to be asleep. Our reporter lingered for a while then left. The next day the homeless person was gone.



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## AUSTRALIAN JAZZ MUSEUM

With live jazz in recess everywhere due to COVID-19 it would be worthwhile if jazz lovers took the opportunity to view the Australian Jazz Museum website  
<http://www.ajm.org.au>

The Australian Jazz Museum selectively issues rare items from its vast collection in Compact Disc form. These discs allow listeners to relive Australian Jazz from the very early years through to the present.

The carefully chosen AJM CDs released are selected for their entertainment value, rarity, historical significance or personnel importance. Each track is professionally restored and remastered with excellence in sound quality, guaranteeing the listener an optimal experience of the finest classic jazz tunes.

Comprehensive notes are included with each individual CD, many of which are two disc sets, providing further value excellence.

It is worth noting that the Museum is run by volunteers and that all sales revenue is regenerated into future CD releases.

We wish good luck to everyone with this uncertain future.

**Cheers for now,  
Jill Boyce on behalf of**

## Phillip Island Jazz

**The Jazz Club - 12-2pm  
Saturdays.**



## VALE DON BURROWS

Burrows was born in Boorowa, New South Wales, into a musical family. His father, Bill Burrows, was a baker and played the piano and trumpet while his mother, Ivy, sang and played the piano.

His parents had their own band and played for dances at the Mechanics Institute and the Town Irish Guild Hall as well as dances at Murringo and Rye Park. Bill Burrows was also a member of the town band under conductor Albert Bryce, the father of noted Australian composer, Eric Bryce.

Burrows moved with his parents to Bondi in Sydney where his father purchased his own bakery. Burrows attended school at Bondi Public School. In 1937 a visiting flautist and teacher, Victor McMahon, inspired him to start learning the flute. He began on a B-flat flute which he later played at Carnegie Hall and the Newport Jazz Festival. By 1940 he was captain of the Metropolitan Schools Flute Band and studying at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

By 1942, Burrows had begun playing clarinet and appeared on *The Youth Show*, a Macquarie Radio show. In 1944 he was invited to play and record with George Trevare's Australians. He became well-known in Sydney jazz circles and was performing in dance halls, nightclubs and radio bands.

During the 1960s and 1970s, Burrows had many engagements in Australia and the United States, including six years performing at the Wentworth Hotel in Sydney. In 1972, he performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival and later the Newport Jazz Festival.

1973 was a watershed for Burrows as he received the first gold record for an Australian jazz musician for his record *Just the Beginning*, instigated the first jazz studies program in the southern hemisphere, at the New South Wales Conservatorium of Music (under the direction of Rex Hobcroft) and was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE). In 1979 he was appointed Chair of Jazz Studies at the Conservatorium.

Burrows performed to mostly classical music audiences through tours with Musica Viva and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation concert series. He led the nationally televised show *The Don Burrows Collection* for six years. He had an extensive recording career with his groups and performed on albums by others.

In the 1980s, Burrows mentored and was closely associated with James Morrison. He formed the Don Burrows Quartet with George Golla (guitar), Ed Gaston (double bass) and Alan Turnbull (drums). He also worked with Frank Sinatra, Dizzy Gillespie, Nat King Cole, Oscar Peterson, Tony Bennett, Stéphane Grappelli, Cleo Laine and the Sydney Symphony Orchestra.

In 2005, Burrows toured with a small band that included the Australian jazz pianist Kevin Hunt. He used his photographic images with his music in a show called *Stop, Look and Listen*.

Burrows had arthritis from age 38. In a 2008 interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Andrew Ford, celebrating his 80th birthday, he said that "arthritis is not the greatest for playing a musical instrument."

"But playing a musical instrument is very, very good for arthritis". In later years he had Alzheimer's disease and lived in a nursing home in northern Sydney.

He died on 12 March 2020.

He was 91.



# Music



## YORTA YORTA MAN

"I just want people to remember me as a nice person who had a bit of talent that I put to good use." Jimmy Little, TV interview, 2005.

300 people walked off Cummeragunja Aboriginal Reserve in 1939. Wages were low and conditions were dire. Jimmy Little's family left the reserve and moved to their father's tribal land near Wallaga Lake.

On his 13th birthday Little was given a guitar. A year later he was playing at local concerts. His influences included Nat King Cole, Johnny Mathis and Jim Reeves.

Three years after getting that guitar he went to Sydney to sing on *Australia's Amateur Hour*, a popular radio show. Little eventually moved to Sydney to pursue a career in country music by signing with Regal Zonophone Records.

His third single was "Give the Coloured Boy a Chance" which had been written by his father. It was the first song released in Australia that referred to local First Nations issues. It was also the first track both written and recorded by indigenous musicians. This was 1958.

Jimmy laboured in a factory and supplemented his income with performances at concerts and dances and TV appearances on *Bandstand*. Little signed with Festival Records and in September 1959, he had his first charting single, "Danny Boy".

Little made his acting debut in the Billy Graham evangelical feature film *Shadow of the Boomerang* that same year.

Little had the role of Johnny, a devout stockman on a cattle station where his American employer's son Bob refers to him as "that nigger". After Johnny dies, while saving Bob from being gored by a wild boar, Bob has a religious conversion to Graham's cause.

**After 17 singles, Little issued his biggest hit, the gospel song, "Royal Telephone", based upon the Burl Ives' version. In November 1963 it peaked at No. 1 in Sydney and No. 3 in Melbourne.**

The magazine *Everybody's* named him Australian Pop Star of the Year. Little was backed by the Jimmy Little Trio which had an all indigenous line up.

Little's final hit of the era came in September 1974 with "Baby Blue" which peaked at No. 8 in Melbourne. Little turned from his musical career to focus on his family and becoming qualified as a teacher.

By the 1980s Little had turned to full-time acting, making his theatre debut in *Black Cockatoos* before appearing in director Wim Wenders' 1991 film *Until the end of the World*. As well as Tracy Moffatt's *Night Cries* and Andrew Schultz's opera *Black River*, his teaching and community work earned him the title of NAIDOC Aboriginal of the Year in 1989.

In 1992, Little performed in Tamworth on Parade and Kings of Country road shows before releasing his 14th album, *Yorta Yorta Man*, in 1994. The same year, he was inducted into Australian Roll of Renown, the highest honour an Australian country music artist can achieve.

*Messenger*, a collection of contemporary songs reinterpreted through Little's smooth vocals, released in June 1999, sold over 20,000 copies. It featured covers of well known songs by artists such as Nick Cave, Ed Kuepper and Paul Kelly.

At the ARIA Music Awards of 1999 *Messenger* won Best Adult Contemporary Album and Little was inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame.

At The Deadly Awards of 1999 he won Best Male Artist of the Year and Best Single Release of the Year. By 2001 *Messenger* received a gold record for shipments of 35,000 units. In 2002 Little won the Golden Gospel Award at the Australian Gospel Music Awards for his lifetime support of Australian gospel music.

He also sang 'Happy Day' with Olivia Newton-John that year. Jimmy released the album *Down the Road* for ABC Country in 2003.

In 2004 he released his 34th album, *Life's What You Make It*, a collection of distinctive and poignant versions of songs by contemporary artists as diverse as the Red Hot Chili Peppers, U2, PJ Harvey, Neil Young, Brian Wilson, Elvis Costello and Bruce Springsteen.

As well as music, Jimmy Little also dedicated much of his life to helping his community. At the 1997 Mo Awards, Little was awarded the John Campbell Fellowship for "an outstanding contribution to the community."

In January 2004, Jimmy Little was made an Officer of the Order of Australia with the citation, "For service to the entertainment industry as a singer, recording artist and songwriter and to the community through reconciliation and as an ambassador for Indigenous culture".

In June 2005, on the last day of National Reconciliation Week, Little and Peter Sculthorpe were awarded honorary doctorates in music by the University of Sydney in recognition of "their joint contribution to reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians".

Little was diagnosed with kidney failure and received a life-saving kidney transplant. The experience led him to launch the Jimmy Little Foundation in 2006 to help many other indigenous Australians who are succumbing to kidney disease. The foundation works with patients in regional and remote Australia and partnered with the Fred Hollows Foundation in 2009 to develop a nutrition and education program for indigenous children to reduce the cycle of bad nutrition leading to diabetes which can lead to kidney failure.

Jimmy was the patron of The Indigenous Doctors Association of Australia, an ambassador for The Fred Hollows Foundation and Kidney Health Australia. Dr Little was also an ambassador for literacy and numeracy with the Federal Department of Education Science and Training.

On 2 April 2012 Jimmy Little died at his home in Dubbo, aged 75 years.

He was survived by his daughter, Frances, and his grandson, James Henry Little.

His Foundation thrives.

<https://www.jlf.org.au/jimmy-little>

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## How COVID-19 has impacted my life: *Di Goeman*

I am one of the very fortunate ones; although restricted to home, I am retired, I share a spacious home with my husband who maintains a very productive vegetable garden and we both enjoy living in a beautiful seaside environment.

While life for us has changed, we no longer meet up with our two daughters, our granddaughter and great granddaughter in person or undertake our weekly visit to stay with our grandsons, but use Facetime, WhatsApp, text messages and telephone calls to stay in touch with each other.

We no longer do our shopping at the super market, I no longer attend Tai Chi and Peter no longer visits Bunnings to buy seedlings and fertiliser for his vegetable garden.

We do our shopping online and Peter also orders his seedlings and fertiliser online for home delivery.

We have committed to a healthier diet using recipes from Dr Michael Mosley and Sam Woods that we have found on the web or through library e-book loans. Peter has lost 6 kilograms.

We do still order take out from our local food businesses however – who by the way are doing an amazing job of delivering delicious hot food!

Peter is much closer now to achieving his goal of '1001 movies to watch before you die'.

I've started to knit again, I have downloaded several meditation apps on my phone: *Smiling Mind* and *I Giant Mind* and I've read Julia Baird's recently released book "Phosphorescence" – she discusses awe, wonder and things that sustain you when the world goes dark.

We have both signed up to our old secondary school Facebook groups and made contact with classmates from more than 50 years ago and gained school photos that we didn't have.

I have also signed up for free access to

Ancestry via the Library and have made contact with relatives in France from my Mum's side of the family, and in the UK from my Dad's side of the family, parts of my family tree now date back to around 1650!

As I mentioned, we are very lucky indeed. My heart goes out to those of you who: have been stood down from your jobs, are in isolation alone, struggling to keep your businesses afloat, facing the challenges of working from home and/or home schooling and have been severely impacted.

Julia Baird states in her book to 'continue to glow when the lights turn out...all we can do really is keep placing one foot on the earth...love...look outwards and upwards at all times, care for others, seek wonder and stalk awe, every day, to find the magic that will sustain us and fuel the light within'.

**Stay safe, stay home.**

## How COVID-19 has impacted my life: *Lester Harris*

In an effort to explain how I feel now, as a result of COVID-19, I have put these few words on paper (as it were).

My wife and I retired from the Post Office/Newsagency in December 2017, feeling rather in need of holidays and rest.

That was the end of 17 years of long days, seven days a week. Even a short day, on the weekend was eight long hours.

Running the shop became so much of our life that it has taken until now to feel really comfortable just putting in a few hours a day doing maintenance around our home.

The arrival of the corona virus has actually given me an opportunity to focus on some specific projects.

Previously I had been getting distracted (in a very pleasant way) by travel and some socialising, which by the way I am very much looking forward to getting back to doing.

In fact I'm not sure I really want to be as busy as I am but I must say I am quite happy with my lot at the moment.

At least the house thinks I love it again.

So acting the hermit feels good. Keeping in touch with my three sons and their families is good. Spending all my time with Sylvia

is excellent.

The only real concern I have is the same as I believe everyone has: "How drastically is COVID-19 going to affect us all?"

In my case to date, not much, but I sincerely hope and wish that it doesn't have a serious lasting impact on Australia, or indeed the world.

I still want to travel, so many countries and cultures yet to see, and I hate the thought of people losing friends and/or family.



## DINING OUT

Fabio Dore the owner of One Ford Street restaurant hopes to attract enough diners to have two or even three sittings every evening.

After 24 hours of frantic cleaning to prepare the restaurant to operate under the shadow of COVID-19 and armed with a 20-litre tub of sanitiser, a dramatically smaller and now laminated menu, latex gloves and a skeleton staff, the work of a restaurateur sounds a little like running a hospital, Dore says.

Just how different the restaurant experience will be, will become clearer over the coming days. But a few themes are beginning to emerge.

### Don't expect to just show up

With only 10 diners at a time, bookings are all but essential and many places want you to pay in advance.

### Is this the end of 7.30pm reservations?

Most restaurants are juggling the 10 person limit by aiming for multiple nightly seatings in an effort to compensate for the drop in numbers.

From Friday restaurants in many states have been allowed to have 10 dine-in customers. Dore now opens earlier at 5pm. "We hope families will come to the earlier seating," he says.

Each session will also be timed and diners will have around one-and-a-half hours to order and eat their meal before a second seating begins at 7pm (after tables and chairs are sanitised).

A third seating will begin later in the evening depending on demand.

# Bass Coast Adult Learning



## Bass Coast Adult Learning

Learn More.

### Let's start at the beginning.

In 1988 a committee was formed to investigate the educational needs of adults in the South West Gippsland region.

In December 1994, the Centre moved to its present site. In 1999, CDLC became Bass Coast Adult Education Centre, and in 2018 became Bass Coast Adult Learning.

During its tenure at the White Road site, BCAL has maintained and improved the property to increase accessibility for all.

It has provided Migrant English and Literacy courses funded by State and Commonwealth Governments. It has offered a variety of courses, including computing, work safety, hospitality, first aid, language and art and practical courses, both funded by government and paid for by participants.

More recently, BCAL has expanded offerings to include qualifications in Hairdressing, Horticulture, Hospitality and Tourism.

Bass Coast Adult Learning has adapted its teaching methods to reduce the risk of the potential spread of COVID-19 and is continuing to offer a broad range of courses.

The term 2 program is available at [www.bcal.vic.edu.au](http://www.bcal.vic.edu.au) and the centre has adjusted course delivery with most classes now online using technology including Zoom and Google Classroom.

The Centre has also launched a course for people considering employment in administration.

*Office Admin Skills* is an introductory course for anyone wanting to get a solid foundation in administration including teaching telephone skills, email and Microsoft word processing and mail merge.

These are essential to anyone wanting to get their foot in the door in administration. The course is designed to enable you to either continue onto further study in business administration, or be equipped for that entry level office roles.

The Centre is also taking expressions of interest for a new short course which aims to equip participants with the relevant skills to take advantage of any employment opportunities that arise.

*Employable Me* will provide participants with access to BCAL's resume clinic and extensive preparation for job interviews.

For only 2.5 hours per week at a very nominal fee, *Employable Me* is an excellent course for those wanting to ensure their skills are fine tuned in this time.

Whilst taking into account that this is a rapidly evolving situation, the Centre remains open for the foreseeable future.

Where possible, practical components of courses are being conducted via live video and staff have contacted all students to ensure the transition to online learning is smooth.

The Centre has loaned out laptops to assist many students so they can continue their studies unhindered and has been distributing hard copy education packs for students.

**For any more information please contact  
Bass Coast Adult Learning Centre on  
5672 3115 or email  
[info@bcal.vic.edu.au](mailto:info@bcal.vic.edu.au)**



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# Mayday

## MAYDAY 2020

**Jessica Harrison**

**Convenor of the Wonthaggi Branch of  
the Unemployed Workers Union**

This year there was no May Day rally or celebration like we have held in previous years.

Locally, May Day traditionally marks the gain of the 8-hour day, proclaimed first in Victoria in 1916, granting the eight-hour day to a wide range of workers in the state.

Although distancing and isolating measures prevent us from getting together in person, with the lockdown comes a recognition that working people are holding the world together.

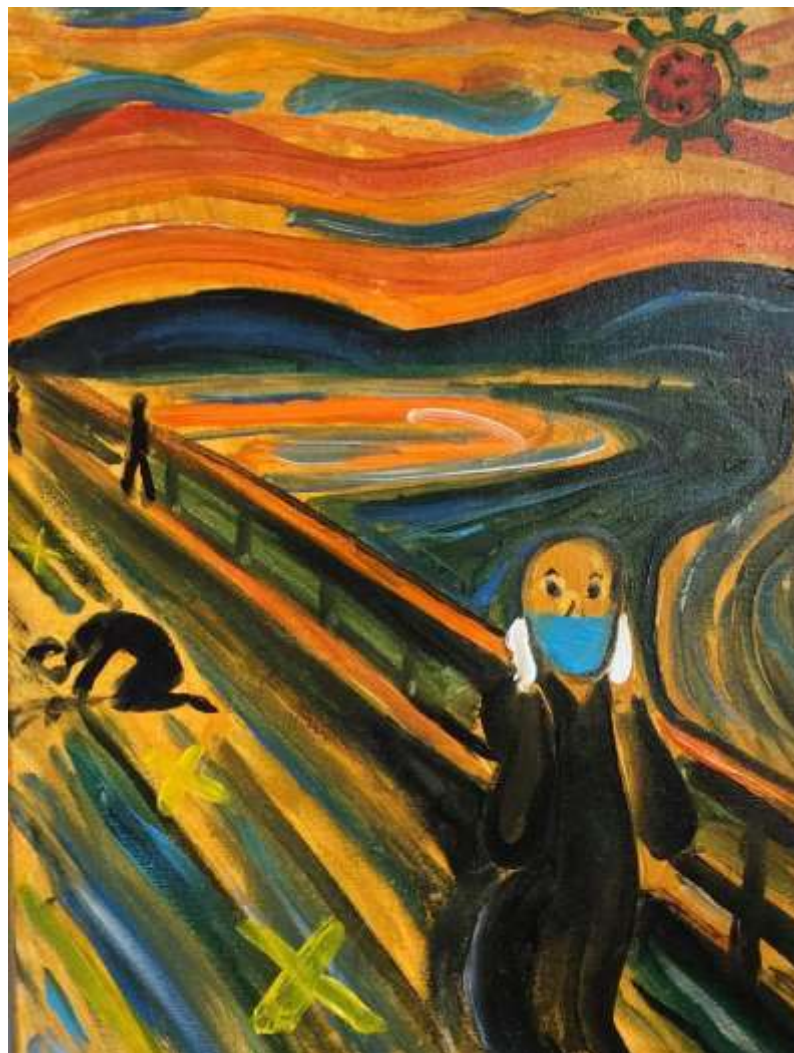
Health workers, cleaners, sanitation workers and carers have achieved new recognition globally as crucial fighters against the infection.

We all depend on their underpaid and undervalued work. Amid the “economic stimulus”, unions held a motorcade protest on the Sydney Harbour Bridge in early April against the government's “JobKeeper” package which is not available to more than 2 million workers.

Casuals, refugees with no other support and many “off the books” workers will not get any support. Although very helpful in the short term, the six-month increase in unemployment benefits (now called “Jobseeker” payment) threatens to lull new claimants into a false sense of security.

What will happen if the payment returns to its previous low rate in October? How will people survive?

An approaching recession means we must keep linked with each other and build strong networks in our local community. Watch this space for a solidarity celebration when restrictions are lifted!



**COVID SCREAM**  
By BADEN JOHNSON



**THE BEACH IS CLOSED,  
EASTER LONG WEEKEND**  
By BADEN JOHNSON

# Mayday

## 130 YEARS OF MAY DAY IN AUSTRALIA, 1890 – 2020

By Burt Blackburne, Kongwak

Contrary to popular belief the origins of May Day are not in the Soviet Union, but in fact in the USA.

May Day originated at a conference of American and Canadian Trade Unions in 1884. They set the date of May 1<sup>st</sup> 1886 as the day on which strike action would be taken to win the 8 hour Day.

The main industrial struggle centred in Haymarket Square, Chicago, where six workers were shot by the police. In the following protest demonstration a further 11 workers were killed. Subsequently many demonstrators were jailed and four Trade Union leaders were framed and executed.

At the time, men, women and children were working 12 to 16 hour days and the demand for an 8 Hour day had very strong international working class support. In 1889 the second International Working Men's Congress in Paris set May 1<sup>st</sup> to demonstrate in every country for a legal reduction of the working day to eight hours.

### **Australian workers had been amongst the first in the world to win an Eight Hour Day.**

In 1885 the Stonemasons in Melbourne and Sydney by strike action won the Eight Hour day and inspired the rest of the Trade Union movement across the world. In 1891, Australia's first May Day public meeting was held on May 1<sup>st</sup> 1890 at the Trades Hall Melbourne.

The meeting was presided over by Dr Maloney, later a State and Federal Member of Parliament for 50 years.

The first May Day march was held in Barcardine, Queensland in 1891, when 1500 shearers marched in protest against the union smashing efforts of the graziers, who proposed savage cuts in shearers' wages. Ipswich Queensland also celebrated the same day with a march and carnival.

Henry Lawson in 1891 wrote in Queensland for May Day as follows....

*"So we must fly a rebel flag,  
as others did before us  
And we must sing a rebel song,  
And join in rebel chorus  
We'll make the tyrants feel the sting,  
of those they would throttle  
They needn't say the fault was ours,  
If blood should stain the wattle."*



Melbourne's first May Day march was held in 1893. Many prominent Australians supported May Day. Marcus Clark worked for and wrote about the campaign for an eight hour Day, which was actively supported by the International May Day organisation.

Tom Mann was actively associated with May Day celebrations in Australia over the years he lived here. The resolution of the Sydney May Day demonstration at the time stated "The workers once and for all, should declare socialism is that which alone can secure the full fruits of their labour."

Prominent progressive politicians have supported May Day. Eddie Ward, Maurice Blackburn, Frank Anstey, Jack Cain Snr (Victorian Premier), Jim Scullin (Prime Minister) John Curtin (Prime Minister), Senator Olive Zackharov and Joan Coxsedg MLC who spoke at a May Day function in Wonthaggi.

On January 30, 1989 former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam wrote a public letter to the "Sydney Morning Herald" calling for a public holiday on May Day.

Gough Whitlam wrote "There can be no ideological or meteorological objection to enacting the same day. Throughout Europe, capitalists and communists alike take holidays on May Day itself. So do the South American democracies which share our latitudes. If the Australian Government moves quickly, we can celebrate May Day this year on a Monday." The Melbourne May Day Committee continues to press for a public holiday on May Day.

Visit the Web site <http://maydayvictoria.com> for more details or Email [mayday@maydayvictoria.com](mailto:mayday@maydayvictoria.com) if you have any questions.

### **South Gippsland and May Day**

Leading local activists, Communists, Socialists and Trade Unionists and their families have actively supported May Day. These include, Idris Williams, (Secretary Mine Workers Union), Agnes and Wattie Doig, Harry Bell and the Chambers family.

Some have spoken on the May Day platform at the Yarra Bank. The miner's banner at the Wonthaggi mine museum highlights the miner's struggles but also their commitment to socialism. The banner states "United For Socialism" which reflects the need to consider an alternative type of society to capitalism.

OXFAM has highlighted the massive inequities across the world, where 24 huge capitalists have as much wealth between them as the poorest half of the population of the world. Similarly unbridled capitalism in pursuit of huge profits for the extremely wealthy few, is destroying the environment. How is it possible that unemployment, poverty, homelessness, inadequate health care, drug abuse and suicide are rife in a country which has all the resources for providing for the needs of every Australian.

130 years since the first May Day, many of the same issues still face workers today. Workers are having to work in excess of 8 hours a day in multiple jobs, just to survive from week to week. Millions of workers are working in insecure or casual jobs, on temporary protection visas or are simply undocumented workers.

Workers everywhere must continue to unite and fight for better wages and conditions, for democratic rights and against the destruction of the environment and our planet.



## **A CAUTIONARY TALE from *Les Ridge***

Back in pre-historic times, the Gobi Desert was a quite different place than today. For a start, it played host to a colony of Moles, a colony that was the last of its kind.

Extinction was looming due to the fact that the moles' sole source of food was treacle and treacle mines were fast disappearing from the desert. As fate would have it, the mine that was sustaining this colony had just run dry and the whole colony was being addressed by the Chief elder Mole – the Master Mole himself.

He told them to form a line that would head off into the desert, with him at the head. His ability to detect the scent of treacle was the stuff of legend and that skill was essentially why he was the current Master Mole. So, with great sadness and apprehension, the colony formed up and trudged into the desert.

Right at the back of the line was young Malcolm Mole, along with his big brother Matthew and his mum Martha Mole.

Malcolm still had the instructions from his mum ringing in his ears – “If you smell treacle, shout loudly ‘Treacle!’ and sit down. But remember, no false alarms, or else we will be ejected from the colony.” A full day went by without a single cry of “Treacle” from anyone in the colony.

But Malcolm’s mum noticed that during the heat of the day, just after a brief lunch break, which was more break than lunch, little Malcolm became quite agitated.

She thought nothing more of it until the second day. This time, as they moved off after lunch, she heard a high-pitched shout of “Treacle!” She looked round to see her youngest off-spring sitting on the sand.

The colony soon circled the still seated Mole and the Master Mole demanded to know what was going on. “I smelled treacle sir” said Malcolm in his most polite voice. The Master mole sniffed the air and then turned to Martha with a serious yet understanding manner. “In consideration of the tender age of your son, I will overlook this false alarm, this time.

However, please keep him firmly under your control, because we cannot accommodate such delays indefinitely.”

The colony then formed back into a line and continued the search for a new treacle mine.

Another day passed without incident, but on the afternoon of the next day there was a pathetic whimper of “Treacle” from the back of the line.

This time, although the line stopped, no-one moved, save for the Master Mole, who approached the quivering and whimpering Malcolm. His mum went to intervene, but the Master Mole told her gently to stay put.

He then quietly addressed the now apoplectic mini mole and asked, “Can you still smell treacle?” “Yes!” replied Malcolm, “I can.” The Master Mole asked Malcolm to get up and he sat down where Malcolm claimed he could smell treacle. After inhaling for a few seconds, he turned to Malcolm and said, “You silly little mole! That’s not treacle you can smell it’s mole asses!”

## **Pioneer Bay Progress Association INC May Report.**

(Please note email contact change [pbprogressassociation-inc@gmail.com](mailto:pbprogressassociation-inc@gmail.com))

It is good to be able to write something during this once-in-a-generation circumstance. For months, we have been trying various things to unite our community here once again, and I am happy to see during these times a respectful 'vibe' happening.

Very early on in the COVID-19 piece, during the initial panic buying phase, it was great to see Dayelle offer to shop for supplies for elderly or immune compromised people in the Bay; between neighbours, shortfalls of food or toilet paper and the like were sought and rectified.

Pat and Barb, with the occasional extra hands from myself, have continued to bring the garden beds at the Reserve back to managble.

With the view to mulching in May along with some new plantings, it would be great to see some additional hands involved.

Whilst the Facebook page is often utilised to advertise this purpose, if you'd like to be aware of upcoming working bees at the park, the Reserve contact is [pbreservecom@gmail.com](mailto:pbreservecom@gmail.com).

For people like myself, who are continuing to work and have quite possibly got to, or are now past the stage, of being in a state of "grateful to still be employed, yet frightened of who you might be in contact with and therefore what you might bring home" tightrope I would like to say hang in there!

I know from my experience as an IT tech we've been three times more busy than normal owing to the fact that people are working and schooling from home- it's great to see people supporting our local business!

Speaking of which please continue to support local businesses- especially those who have been forced via COVID closures to change their usual business models to continue trading. From the bottom of this tired Mumma's heart, I thank you for the plethora of take away on offer right now!

It means I can return home from work, speak and assist each child's education experience/ difficulties during the day, address it, and have a good old fashioned family discussion round the dinner table.

In short I'm ecstatic to see locals looking after one another in a myriad of ways - may this continue long after covid restrictions have been lifted!

*-Zena*

[pbprogressassociation-inc@gmail.com](mailto:pbprogressassociation-inc@gmail.com)

# The French Island News



## FRENCH ISLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

secretaryfica@gmail.com

### EMERGENCY SERVICES

There is no regular police or ambulance service on the island.

French Island has a Country Fire Authority (CFA).

There is one fire engine stationed permanently on the island.

**Calling 000 is always the best option in an emergency.**

For non urgent health issues islanders may utilise the Department of Health's Nurse on Call service: 1300 60 60 24

### AMBULANCE

Membership Enquiries 1300 366 141 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm).

Membership is advised as Air Ambulance is used from the island. If local support is required ask Ambulance to request CFA support on the island.

### FRENCH ISLAND FERRY

<http://westernportferries.com.au/>

Make French Island your next weekend getaway destination, with a free shuttle bus service on weekends and public holidays from the Ferry to the Store your transport needs are taken care of. At the Cafe there's an extensive menu, bike hire available, accommodation and locally made and grown products for sale. You can cycle your way around looking at Koalas and enjoy a day of adventure or cosy by the fire in the cafe for a relaxing lunch.

**Visit [www.figsfrenchisland.com.au](http://www.figsfrenchisland.com.au) or Facebook/figsfrenchisland for more information.**

289 Tankerton Road, French Island, 3921  
(03) 5980 1209



## FRIENDS OF FRENCH ISLAND NATIONAL PARK (FOFI)

Secretary: Meredith Sherlock.

Phone 0438 077 329

secretary@fofi.org.au

### FOFI Project Days

Third Saturday each month

Membership enquiries and

More details - [www.fofi.org.au](http://www.fofi.org.au)

### French Island Landcare

For more information on Landcare

filandcare@gmail.com.

### Landcare Nursery

Glenys 0437 914 663

or Judith 0412 178 617



### The BARGE

Spirit of French Island operate the vehicular barge from Corinella to the barge landing on French Island. It accommodates two standard size cars or a larger truck. **It is advisable to book as far in advance as possible, as the barge schedule and is limited by times and tides.** As a guide, the barge runs approximately every half hour for a few hours either side of high tide. Foot passengers can take the barge but they should arrange transportation at either end as there are no other facilities.

**For information about fees or to book call 0428 880 729.**



The French Island General Store is the only shop on the island.

It's also a café, a tourist destination and a gathering place for the French island community in times of stress. Assistance to the community is on offer as needed, right now and into the future. The shop itself is unscathed. It remains open and tourism will continue unaffected.

## FOFI

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

Thirteen members attended the AGM on Sunday 19 January and enjoyed good food, good company, and good discussions about all things French Island, including Koalas. The Secretary read out her report of the past year's achievements, and this can be found on our website (under About Us).

2019 was a bumpy year for FOFI's finances because of complications with the ATO, but the Treasurer was pleased to report that the dust has now settled and the bank balance is healthy.

**Andrew Browne** has made a welcome return as President, while **Meredith Sherlock** continues as Secretary. **Chris Chandler** stayed on as Treasurer. Kay Treloar joins Suze Kepert, Bett Mitchell and Jarryn Van Dyk as our valuable committee members.



## THANK YOU, GEOFF LACEY

At the AGM, Geoff Lacey announced that he would be retiring from the committee after almost 30 years.

Geoff joined FOFI in 1989 and first wrote a piece for FOFI's newsletter (*French Island Park News*) in May 1991, also joining the committee in that year.

He, was President from 1994 to 1999, Secretary till 2003, and general committee member up to the present time.

He was also President again briefly in 2015.

In August 2004 Geoff began co-editing *FOFI News* with Frances Garner and then took over as Editor in 2008.

He continued to produce four excellent newsletters each year up until March 2016.

In 2009 Geoff received a Best Friend award from the Victorian Environment Friends Network.

**Regrettably we have had to put our project days on hold since March due to Covid-19.**

**We await advice from Parks Victoria on when normal activities can resume.**



# Impacts of Isolation

## **Social isolation and loneliness can be harmful to both mental and physical health.**

The two concepts do not necessarily co-exist, a person may be socially isolated but not lonely, or socially connected but feel lonely.

They are considered significant health and wellbeing issues in Australia because of the impact they have on peoples' lives. Part of the challenge in reporting on social isolation and loneliness stems from a lack of Information about these experiences.

## **Difference between social isolation and loneliness**

Social isolation is seen as the state of having minimal contact with others. It differs from loneliness, which is a subjective state of negative feelings about having a lower level of social contact than desired (Peplau & Perlman 1982). Some definitions include loneliness as a form of social isolation (Hawthorne 2006) while others state that loneliness is an emotional reaction to social isolation (Heinrich & Gullone 2006).

## **How many people are lonely?**

Most Australians will experience loneliness at some point in their lives. One in 3 Australians reported an episode of loneliness between 2001 and 2009, with 40% of these people experiencing more than 1 episode. Additionally:

- 1 in 10 (9.5%, or around 1.8 million based on 2016 population) Australians aged 15 and over report lacking social support (Relationships Australia 2018)
- about 1 in 4 report they are currently experiencing an episode of loneliness (Australian Psychological Society 2018)
- 1 in 2 (51%) report they feel lonely for at least 1 day each week (Australian Psychological Society 2018).

Most incidents of loneliness will last for 1 year or less.

## **Causes of social isolation and loneliness?**

Although there is no guarantee that an individual's family household composition will either lead to or protect against loneliness, some situations are more likely to be associated with loneliness than others.

According to the 2016 Census of Population and Housing, about 1 in 4 (24%) Australian households are lone person households and 71% are family households. Of family households, 45% consisted of a couple with children, 38% a couple without children and 16% were a one-parent family with one or more children (ABS 2016).

Living alone and not being in a relationship with a partner are substantial risk factors for loneliness (Flood 2005; Lauder et al. 2004; Relationships Australia 2011). Relationship separation tends to result in an increase in loneliness across ages and genders, however, the effects are more pronounced for men than women.

Recently separated men are more than 13 times more likely to develop loneliness than married men, as opposed to twice as likely for separated women compared with married women (Franklin & Tranter 2008).

Single parents experience higher levels of social isolation (38% for men, 18% for women) than singles adults without children, or couples with or without children (Relationships Australia 2018). Disconnection from community (Relationships Australia 2018) is a risk factor for developing loneliness. It has been suggested (for example, MacKay 2017) that social fragmentation, or disorganisation and isolation in a particular geographic area (Maguire & O'Reilly 2010) can influence social isolation and loneliness, although there appears to be little difference between levels of social isolation and loneliness in particular

geographic areas (Baker 2012). Unemployment, receiving income support (Relationships Australia 2018) and lack of satisfaction with financial situation (Baker 2012) are also substantial factors in the development of loneliness across age groups and gender. Loneliness can be self-reinforcing if it is associated with an experience of depression and anxiety, particularly around social interactions (Australian Psychological Society 2018).

## **Social media**

The relationship between social media and loneliness is complex and depends on the individual and their life circumstances. Users of social media experiencing loneliness have reported increased use of social media to communicate with family and friends (Relationships Australia 2011), while at the same time reporting fewer online 'friends' and being less likely to consider these as real friends than users who are not experiencing loneliness (Baker 2012).

Others have argued that online socialising can increase levels of loneliness as these relationships are generally fragile and shallow (Franklin 2009). The number of online friends appears less important than the quality and strength of the relationships.

## **Impact**

Social isolation has also been linked to mental illness, emotional distress, suicide, the development of dementia, premature death, poor health behaviours, smoking, physical inactivity, poor sleep, and biological effects, including high blood pressure and poorer immune function (Hawthorne 2006; Holt-Lunstad et al. 2015). High levels of social isolation are also associated with sustained decreases in feelings of wellbeing (Shankar et al. 2015)

*Dr Di Goeman*

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IDAHOBIT. May 17

**The World Health Organization regarded homosexuality as a mental disorder until May 17, 1990.**

IDAHOBIT\* was created in 2004 as a global landmark to draw the attention of decision makers, the media, the public, corporations, opinion leaders, and local authorities to the situation faced by people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.

This year's theme, *Breaking the Silence*, headlines the need to increase LGBTIQ visibility and make sure that every space, is a safe space, for every person. Then people can be their true selves and not have to pretend to be someone else just to be accepted by society or colleagues. Or their own family.

**“Diversity is a wonderful reality, inclusion is a choice”**

- Pam Rothfield

Today the Rainbow flag was raised at Mitchel House in Wonthaggi. This is the third year in a row that LGBTIQ advocacy group, the South Coast Inclusion Network (SCIN) Inc has raised the rainbow there. Another Rainbow flag was raised at San Remo Police Station. Next year the group plans to raise the Rainbow flag on council buildings across the shire but Commonwealth policies need to be reworked to enable such official celebration of Bass Coast's LGBTIQ people.

Today's flag raising coincided with the launch of SCIN's new website and facebook page. SCIN also wanted to increase the LGBTIQ presence in the general community and provide an icon of hope for those who might be doubting themselves or are living in close company with housemates or family members who are hostile toward gender diversity.

Since SCIN began three years ago, spokesperson Helen has noticed “In Bass Coast, there's a lot of momentum but I think it's going to take some time because a lot of people my age and older have lived experience of things like abuse, discrimination and just being pushed aside by their families. SCIN advocates for organisations to celebrate and encourage gender diversity.

At San Remo Police Station, Senior Sergeant Kent, AKA Cr Bruce Kent raised the Rainbow flag alongside Sally Conning who is President of SCIN. Bruce Kent strongly expressed his view that there is strength in our community when we all walk together. Sally, who had raised a flag in Wonthaggi and then driven to San Remo, said “I really wish I could do myself out of a job – one day we won't need IDAHOBIT. Some people don't understand us. We have to continue to say we're here and we're part of the community., respect us and celebrate with us



Sally also acknowledged the special significance of the Police Station ceremony, given the events of the last few weeks. “Here is a Trans Elder and a Sergeant raising the flag with mutual respect. And the Deputy Mayor alongside with his damned camera! Three people with common goals showing LGBTIQ support.

\* The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia.





# Environment

## Why is it so? – A progress report, concluded.

*Owing to space restriction in The Waterline News, Easter 2020 edition, the last section of the report, “Why is it so? – A progress report” was not published.*

*By way of a lead into the last part of the report, the Editor said “We may have reached the cross roads when it comes to trying to grow mangroves in Grantville so it’s time the citizen scientists were given credit for their efforts over the years.”*

*While the report does not say “we may have reached the cross roads”, it does highlight the role of our citizen scientists and refers to the work of Dr Tim Ealey, affectionately known as Dr Mangrove.*

## Citizen scientists: Tenby Point

On the north-west side of Tenby Point you’ll find a healthy stand of mangroves that Keith and other local residents have been nurturing for some years.

Keith recalls it was the early 1980s when the Tenby Point mangroves first started to wane and this seemed to coincide with the decline of seagrass in the area.

About twenty years ago with the gradual return of the seagrass, Keith started planting mangrove seeds and while he hasn’t kept a tally, but probably in the hundreds, believes this has helped the mangroves survive and multiply.

He puts some of this success down to the seagrass and its nutrient qualities and that it keeps the mangrove seeds closer inshore.

He added, the Tenby Point sediment is partially made up of a volcanic rock, sandstone and clay and this may be another reason why the mangroves are growing.

His approach is to integrate the seeds with the existing mangroves and seagrass, for he considers the ‘mangrove nursery’ as the natural way to replicate nature. He does this by gathering mangrove seeds that have broken out of their shells and are sprouting roots; encasing them in a handful of seagrass and burying them just below the sediment; and placing a rock on the seaward and land side of the buried seed to absorb some of the wave energy and tidal movement.

In comparing the success of Tenby Point with Grantville, he said “The lack of seagrass and possibly a different sediment composition at Grantville may be why the mangroves are struggling to survive; a pH test would be one way to test my theory.”

Keith suggested Western Port is a complex environment and that all environmental factors should be taken into consideration and treated as a whole process. He added, “Independent scientific research is fine but, as yet, nobody seems to be joining the dots and environmentally, time is running out.”

## Coda

Unaided, the Pioneer Bay mangroves are moving towards Grantville and given the placement of 633 pods near them, brings me back to Dr Tim Ealey’s thoughts when he said, “Nature has set us up with a neat experiment” (*The Waterline News*, February 2015, page 19).

We no longer have the Malcolm Drive sea wall Tim spoke of, but now concrete pods with mangrove seeds - it will be interesting to see what nature does this time!

*- Neil Daly*



**Mangroves and seagrass at Tenby Point**



**Old Sea Wall at Queensferry—  
pic courtesy of Jim Worrall**

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Dr Mehdi has been an GP in Australia for more than 5 years working in remote and rural areas. He is delighted to be settled in Nyora and is passionate about family health, in particular paediatric health.



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# Art with Janice Orchard

## **BADEN JOHNSON And the ISOLATED PENGUINS**

An interview with an artist is something I have always enjoyed, usually taking place over a cup of coffee or glass of wine across a table, face to face.

In these days of self isolation due to the pandemic that is gripping not just Australia, but the entire world my long anticipated interview with Baden Johnson called on all my technical skills as we talked via Messenger with A distance between us of some twenty kilometres.

With his permission I was able to record our conversation and type it onto my computer when we finished. While not the personal contact I would have liked with a fellow artist, none the less it was chatty and informative in an informal way that comes from mutual respect between likeminded creative spirits.

Baden Johnson is an artist who moves with the times, using his creative talents in response to what is happening in the world around him. He has had numerous solo exhibitions and group shows and has entered prestigious arts competitions including being a finalist in the Fleurieu Biennale Art Prize in South Australia and the John Leslie Award in Sale Regional Art Gallery.

The one time street artist from east of Melbourne moved his family to the peace and beauty of Coronet Bay because he was drawn to paint the landscape and he believed in order to do this he had to live in the landscape.

And so began a series of vibrant sunsets painted in an expressionist style and responding to the peace and tranquillity he was enjoying in his new life.

And then it happened. Life as we all knew it suddenly came to a grinding halt as the world was gripped by the unseen menace of a new corona virus.

Baden Johnson remembers the day well, March 21st 2020, when the spark of an idea came to him. Artists in isolation are in their natural element as they prefer to work away at their creativity in the privacy of their studios.

Why not use this to channel the creative energies of artists from all over to record the events of the day and the effect this pandemic is having on the world.

Back in 1990 Baden had met Albert Tucker, one of a group from the 1940s known as The Angry Penguins, at a retrospective of his paintings.

The Angry Penguins artists were early Australian exponents of surrealism and expressionism, expressing with paint their reactions to what was happening in the world at that time and included John Perceval, Arthur Boyd, Sidney Nolan, Danila Vassilieff, Albert Tucker and Joy Hester.

“March 21, it was a Saturday morning, I had just woken up, I was still working but COVID-19 was going on. I just woke up with this memory from when I had met Albert Tucker at the opening of his retrospective at the National Gallery of Victoria in 1990.

Tucker was just casually walking around and he seemed like a really nice, approachable guy, so when I got the chance to have my catalogue signed I couldn't resist asking him the question, do you think in the future of Australian art there will ever be another group like The Angry Penguins?

His answer to that was yes there would be, if and when the time was right and that it probably wouldn't come from the art establishment. That memory just popped into my head that Saturday morning and I thought well is the time right?

We are in a crisis and, while the Angry Penguins were making art reacting to the Depression and War, we had our own crisis. We had had drought and bushfires and I had been painting a whole series of work on these. I knew other artists who were also painting about climate change and its impact on Australia and I had the idea that maybe this is the time to start another movement, and so I thought the Isolated Penguins would be an appropriate name.

Contemporary art likes to have some reference or acknowledgment of the past and art that has gone before so the name is really an homage or acknowledgement of that”.

Using the power of social media, Baden Johnson sent a call out to any artists who wanted to take up the challenge of recording through their art the experience of social distancing that was legislated by the government in an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19.

At the time of writing this there are presently 182 members on the Isolated Penguins Facebook page and the list is growing. Artists locally and interstate are taking up the challenge.

They are posting images of their artwork, paintings, comedic sketches, photographs, poems and even songs and written especially to create a living record of what the world is going through in these uncertain times.

The works feature icons of the virus itself as well as the face masks and gloves that have become symbols of self protection for those on the front line of the pandemic as well as those who venture into the stores in search of the necessities of life.

A You Tube channel has been set up where those interested can view videos of members and their work. Art should be a reflection of these important times. Initially Baden sent an invitation out to artists he knew who were already working in this style and they were keen to come on board. While anyone is invited to post their work on the Facebook page, there is a core group who are regular contributors and these include Baden Johnson of Coronet Bay, Lynda Horsborough, Cape Woolamai, Wade Saliba, Melbourne and Euan Graham, Canberra.

Interest in the Isolated Penguins has also come from artists and galleries in Sydney and Canberra.

So what does Baden see in the future for the Isolated Penguins?

“Well, with so much interest growing in what we are doing as a group recording the days and nights of creativity in isolation, the next step would ideally be a group showing.

While this could be done virtually, there is nothing quite like walking through an exhibition, much the same way as I did with the Albert Tucker retrospective, smelling the paint and marvelling at the textures of the original art works”.

And then depending on funding availability there's the possibility of a book about the Isolated Penguins and the way our artists have recorded this period in world history.

For more information on Baden Johnson and the Isolated Penguins look him up on Facebook.

*To retain the integrity of Janice's words I have spread the images she supplied of these works through the May edition. I feel very privileged to have such a great article about such thought provoking artists. Bliss! - ED*

## 2020 Bass Coast Prize for Non-Fiction

### Catherine Watson

WHILE these are grim times for the arts community, for many writers, artists, musicians it's also a time to step back from the usual noise and bustle and actually create.

The second Bass Coast Prize for Non-Fiction has been brought forward to take advantage of the COVID-19 lockdown when many writers have more time for writing.

Entries are now open for the 2020 Bass Coast Prize, one of the richest competitions for non-fiction in Australia, with a total of \$10,000 in prize money. The first prize winner will receive \$5000, second \$3000 and third \$2000.

Given the cancellation of exhibitions, concerts, plays and arts festivals, including our own Phillip Island Story Gatherers Festival, the non-fiction prize keeps the literary flame burning in Bass Coast.

The prize is sponsored by Phillip Island writer and activist Phyllis Papps to encourage and support local writers of non-fiction in a time of diminishing opportunities for mainstream publication.

It's open to writers living, working or studying in Gippsland, or who have a strong connection with the Gippsland region.

While the generous prize money is important, most important to many writers is a deadline and a guarantee that their work will be read.

Julie Constable, who won second prize in the inaugural competition, said her essay *Pittosporum flowering* began by threading together journal entries about her garden.

"The Bass Coast Prize with its long form framework gave me the opportunity to reflect upon and explore the personal, environmental and historical stories that surfaced — digressions which became integral to the fabric of the essay."

The inaugural competition last year attracted 42 entries from throughout Gippsland. Ms Papps said the judges were gratified by the response from writers and impressed by the very high quality of the work submitted.

Entries can be in the form of prose or poetry but must pertain to the Gippsland region, issues or people. The required length is 4000-10,000 words.

The prize is auspiced by the *Bass Coast Post* and the *Waterline News*. The three judges are *Bass Coast Post* editor Catherine Watson, *Waterline News* editor Geoff Ellis and local writer Anne Heath Mennell.

Entries close on September 4, 2020 and prize winners will be announced in November 2020.

The winning entries will be published in the *Bass Coast Post*. For more information and entry criteria visit [basscoastprizeforfiction.weebly.com/](http://basscoastprizeforfiction.weebly.com/) or email Phyllis Papps at [p.m.papps@waterfront.net.au](mailto:p.m.papps@waterfront.net.au).



COVID 19-LYND A HORSBOROUGH



SOCIAL DISTANCING-LYND A HORSBOROUGH



**The history of celebrating Mother's Day is long and complex.** As is the case with many public holidays, its origins are varied but have a strong Christian element.

For example, the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' is related to the Christian occasion of Lent. However other festivities surrounding mothers date back further and to other purposes.

Father's Day appears to have been created much later, in the US, and has little to do with the Christian calendar.

These days, the point of a day to celebrate your parents is to simply say thanks, for everything you've done for me. We still however have some peculiar traditions around it.

I give you the example of breakfast in bed prepared by the child or worse, children. What a shambles this is. "Thank you darling, for all the cleaning I must attend to, when all I wanted was an extra hour in bed."

It is also yet another marketing opportunity to increase retail sales. Particularly on items related to cooking and cleaning, or a variety of assorted tat with the children's faces on them.

Apparently, some people spend hundreds on items like a flash sewing machine (and possibly then ask Mum to run up some curtains). Last year, I gave Mum a giant Toblerone and she was quite happy with that.

Then again, I'm only 4 years into this game. Thanking your mother becomes more important the older and further away you are from her. Once you become a mother you are forever a mother. It's almost like having a miniscule slice of your heart running around the world by itself, and I doubt you ever get over the urge to protect it. Still, all I want for Mother's Day is some time away from the little gremlin. But I imagine that when he's much older, I'll be rapt to receive any contact from him at all. As such, those of us lucky enough to have a mother in our life should get in touch, if not on the day then around it.

**-Belinda Henderson**



The International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOBIT) has been celebrated on 17 May each year, in an increasingly wide range of countries, since 2004.

Terms ending in *-phobia* (from the Greek for 'fear') are not necessarily ideal in this context (often what is being opposed is more hatred, however motivated, and its consequences, not fear as such); but the cause itself is obviously more than worthy. The date was chosen to commemorate the decision to remove homosexuality from the International Classification of Diseases of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1990.

LGBT people (and indeed people of non-binary gender) are members of obviously harmless minorities with much to offer humanity, who have long endured unjustified discrimination and the suppression of their identities and opportunities for self-expression.

In many places it is still socially very difficult to 'come out'. This is often associated with conservative readings of key religious texts – and it must be remembered that some religious believers do find faith-based reasons for opposing e.g. gay marriage and for regarding LGBT activity as sinful' (without necessarily seeking to have it banned by law).



For example, the Southern states of the USA, especially rural areas where conservative Christianity is strong, still represent a difficult environment for LGBT people. There is also confusion (arising out of ignorance) between e.g. homosexuality and paedophilia.

In some African and Middle-Eastern countries LGBT activity and indeed speaking out in support of liberalisation are in fact illegal. Even in the UK male homosexuality was legalised only as late as 1967, and hostile attitudes to LGBT are still encountered in such countries.

This is not to say that there are not legitimate issues here which still need to be considered. For instance, one can ask how people – particularly trans people – should be defined, for official purposes, as members of one gender or another. One context where this arises is eligibility to compete in women's sports. There have been clashes in this context between some groups of feminists on the one hand and those identifying as trans women on the other. Another issue involves the treatment of babies born with non-binary physiological characteristics. But such matters cannot be debated in a fair and mutually respectful way against a background of ill-informed bias and unreasonable hostility.

**- Dr Mark Newbrook, UK, ex-Monash University**



# Gardening

## End of the line

By Linda Gordon



Wonthaggi's heathlands are particularly lovely walking so I am disappointed when someone uses the area near the start of a walking track as a dump site.

I can't figure out why anyone would drive down to the very end of an unmade road, on the outskirts of Wonthaggi, wrestle awkward, heavy things out of a trailer, push them part way into the bush, and then live with the guilt.

The council has used increased fines and hidden cameras at dumping hot spots in a more "proactive" approach to illegal dumping of late. A council officer told ABC local radio this approach had worked but that illegal dumping in the bush was not so much a waste problem as a human behaviour problem.

Well, good luck with that.

It's an old and intractable problem. Where ever they go humans leave their traces their debris.

Sometimes in wilder places, over a long time, it gets absorbed even transformed. A car, for example, which was dumped or driven into Wonthaggi's mining landscape years and years ago, has been slowly consumed. It is now where moss grows and bees live, where branches fall to rest and wagtails dart.

So, yes, the natural world can take and repurpose some of our junk but there's a limit. And if we can't take our stuff to the tip right now, well, surely we can wait.

## Tips for May

A big pot filled with garden "goodies" makes a wonderful Mother's Day gift.

**Pot up basil** to grow on an indoor windowsill. In most areas it will die off with winter's arrival.

May's the last chance to **finish planting spring bulbs**.

In warm, frost-free districts, **cut back tibouchinas** immediately after they've finished flowering.

As soon as possible after purchasing lily bulbs, plant them into humus-rich soil.

**When mowing, leave lawns a little longer than usual.** They will cope better with the cooler conditions.

**Plant out all winter/spring flower and vegetable seedlings.**

**Cut back and lift dahlia tubers** as plants die down.

In cold areas, build structures that will support frost protection (such as shade cloth or plastic covering).

**Indoor chrysanthemums will last for weeks** in a well-lit indoor position. They can then be planted out in the garden.

**As weather cools reduce watering of indoor plants** and use tepid (rather than cold) water.

**SEEDS TO SOW:** Primula, Wallflower, Scabiosa, Broad Beans, Chinese

Onions.

Cabbage,



## Shovels

Humans have been digging the earth for some 12,000 years. While the earliest agriculturalists had to make do with shovels crudely fashioned from animal bones, later advances led to the development of modern shovel designs with specialized heads that are purpose specific, like spades for digging in solid soil and shovels for moving loose material like coal or grain.

This specialization was in part a consequence of the tool's widespread use in steel mills, granaries, construction and mines, as well as its universal use in agriculture where manual labour was required to move large amounts of loose material.

In fact, shoveling stuff was big business through the late 19th century when steam powered industrial excavators became economically feasible.

So much so that Frederick Taylor developed and championed the "science of shoveling" between 1890 and 1910.

After detailed analysis of the shoveler's required movements, Taylor advocated for industry investment in shovels with specialized scoops for each material.

Taylor argued that the investment would be repaid through increased worker productivity.

While his ideas were not immediately recognised by the industrial upper crust, his crusade for better shoveling helped spawn new shovel designs as well as develop the book for which he is most famous, *The Principles of Scientific Management*.

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# Books And Writing



## Respect

**Clara McPherson**

I'm not Gay  
I thought I had made that clear  
I will take love, friendship and laughter  
Over domination, rage and fear  
Our friendship has emotions  
That balances us both out  
We understand that  
Power and control  
Has no place in life  
It's respect for the person  
That I hold so dear  
I'm not Gay  
I thought I made that clear.  
But I will pledge my support to thee  
For you deserve to be free.



## Isolation

Shut away from life's usual busyness  
I hear the purr of passing traffic  
its tireless roar muted  
so many vehicles idle.  
This morning's bird-shriek  
lessens to sporadic tweets.  
Quietness bathes the neighbourhood.

The earth, unaware of changing times  
sends up the pink and red florets  
of nerine and naked lady.  
The pumpkin flowers fertilise  
and swell with miniature fruit.  
Leaves turn burgundy, gold and bronze  
storing food, preparing for winter.

Floating inside this bubble  
tranquillity  
washes  
over me.

© **Maree Silver**

## Joy

When my brother announced his second daughter was to be called Robyn, I asked him what would be her second name. "Houses," was the reply. I would have preferred Banks but it was rapidly replaced with Joy. And that brings me to one of my television delights of several years ago – the British comedy series set in the office of a television news crew, *Drop the Dead Donkey*.

In particular, the casting was excellent, my most favourite staff member being Joy. She was just so deliciously vicious!

When she arrived one morning for work, she found a young derelict, bedraggled and starving, lurking outside the building. She hauled him into the office and commenced providing him with sustenance. So out of character! Joy, who never once had been known to offer assistance to anyone, was making coffee for the hobo and genuinely attempting to improve his lowly condition. He was, of course, her brother and memory eludes me when trying to recall his name. Joy we already knew. Merryweather was, I think, the surname. Lucky or Happy or something equally incongruous was the brother. Little by little, the names of other unseen siblings emerged – all with bright, cheerful, optimistic handles; but the dysfunctional family in no case fulfilled the promise their names had bestowed. Melody, Bonny, Felicity, Gay, Harmony or the like were recovering (or non-recovering) alcoholics, drug addicts, jail birds, the dregs of humanity, constant drains on the tax-paying public.

Joy, for all her acerbic nature, was the best of a pitiful collection of misfits and Joy was my constant emotion or as long as the television series prevailed.

## E E Caldwell



*Published with many thanks to  
Maree Silver who types up Betty's  
contributions for the Waterline News.*

## CHARITY BEGINS

"Hi, sis."  
"What are you doing here?"  
"I've come to see you. Do I need to have a reason?"  
"You always do. How much do you want this time?"  
"Seeing you put it that way, I'm skint. Can you do anything to help?"  
"Not so much can as will I do anything."  
"Well."  
"The short answer is no. You've treated all our past loans as gifts."  
"Gee, sis, things are mighty grim right now. Kids need school stuff, I've lost my job. Nettie's threatening to leave. I'm at my wit's end. I've nowhere else to turn."  
"You should have sorted all that out years ago."  
"Everything was OK then."  
"Mmmm? While Mike and I were slaving our guts out, you were gallivanting on exotic holidays – flash clothes, expensive wines, cruises – things we couldn't even contemplate."  
"But it was all for the good. How else could the kids have had geography at first hand? And Nettie always wants the very best."  
"And you don't?"  
"Aw, come off it, sis. Are you going to help or not?"  
"I'll give you an address that might do you some good. It's the big place on the corner of High Street and Railway Parade."  
"Isn't that where the Salvation Army is?"  
"So? My years of helping you out are over. You're not likely to bankrupt them as you see hell-bent on doing to the rest of us."  
"A fine sister you've turned out to be. You and Mike have full-time jobs, your kids have graduated with letters behind their names and you begrudge me a few bucks to get back on my feet."  
"You mean a few more bucks. But enough's enough. I made it quite clear last time that there wouldn't be a next."  
"But we'll be thrown out on the streets soon. Don't you care about that?"  
"Not particularly."  
"Your own flesh and blood."  
"So was Hamlet's uncle."  
"What?"  
"My father's brother, but no more like my father than I to Hercules."  
"Honest to God, sis, I wish you'd speak plain English. There are times when I can't understand a word you say."  
"Then try this. I am not a bottomless pit, I never was and I never will be. And another . . . DON'T SLAM THE DOOR ON YOUR WAY OUT."  
**E E Caldwell**

## MUCK AND BRASS

‘Where there’s muck, there’s brass.’ So they say in Yorkshire. I certainly discovered the truth of it while researching my family history. I was following the trail of a certain John Russel. He’d lived in Limerick in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. I found him in the Limerick Chronicle of 10 April, 1813. Why was he in the paper? Had he been elected Mayor, had an accident, got married, or been up before the magistrate? None of those things.

I didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. My illustrious ancestor had placed a small advertisement in the Limerick Chronicle to advise people of an auction, to be held four days later, at the rear of his home. And what was to be auctioned, I hear you ask? Stock maybe, some cows or horses? Property? Some exotic, imported goods from faraway places? None of those things. The auction was of muck. Actually, not to put too fine a point on it and to quote the advertisement, ‘A Large Dung Hill’.

Seriously! Mr Russel, my five times great grandfather, was auctioning ‘Street Dung’. And not just a bit of dung, either. Apparently he had ‘many hundred loads’ of the stuff. So much in fact, that it would be divided into ‘lots of moderate size, in order to convenience Purchasers’. That was all the advertisement had to say. I was intrigued. Mr Russel’s house was near the Depot Barracks, presumably the source of at least some of the dung. But why was it in his back garden? What did Mrs Russel think of that? Instead of sweet scented roses, lilacs and lavender, she’d have had the pong of dung wafting through her windows. Perhaps she had given him an ultimatum. The dunghill would have to go. ‘It is too much, Mr Russel’, she might have said, ‘indeed it is’.

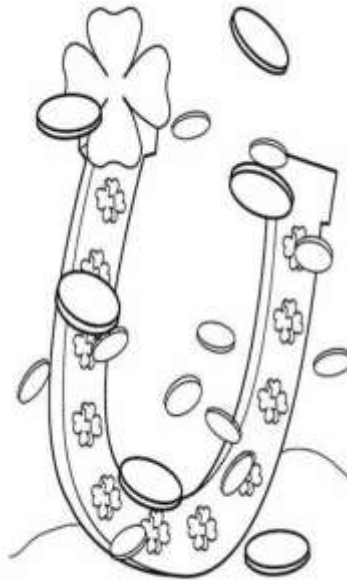
I had so many questions. Who on earth in Limerick, in 1813, could have afforded street dung? What would the going rate have been? Was it sold by weight or the cartload? Would buyers have used it on their fields and gardens or did they do other things with it back then? Were auctions of dung a frequent occurrence or was this something special? Was this how my ancestor made his living or was it a unique opportunity that had somehow come his way?

I tried to imagine the scene – a noisy crowd, probably mostly men, with handcarts, ponies and carts, maybe even buckets. Many would know each other and there would be raucous banter before the auction. I’m sure many of the local dogs would have ignored the roars of their masters to ‘Get out of it!’ and wriggled ecstatically in the enticing heap.

An April day in Limerick should not have been too hot but a ‘large dung hill’ would have had a powerful pong. Perhaps some of the more sensitive noses tied neckerchiefs over their faces, bandit style, especially if they had to shovel their own purchase.

I checked the next issue of the Chronicle after the auction date but there was nothing. Presumably the sale had gone smoothly and there was nothing more to be said. I hoped all the dung had been sold at a good profit. My little window on the past had stirred my imagination but not satisfied my curiosity. I’ll probably never know the answers to my questions but one thing’s for sure, my five times great grandfather certainly knew how to make brass out of muck.

© *Anne Heath Mennell*



## SAYING GOODBYE

In this strange new world we’re coming to regard as the norm, Coronavirus restrictions invade many areas of our lives, even death.

On March 13 we attended a funeral for a long-time friend. At that time Australians were just becoming aware of the term social distancing and its meaning. While some people shook hands, others touched knuckles and others waved or threw kisses from a distance.

In the funeral chapel about 80 people sat on the chairs provided and maybe 50 others stood along walls or in an open area. At the wake afterwards all mingled.

No such thing as standing 1.5 metres apart in those days.

At Easter a relative died. By then funerals had been restricted to only 10 people in attendance, including the undertaker.

According to one news report, on Easter Saturday two fully-armed police officers checked out one funeral and questioned church staff during proceedings. Social distancing was being observed.

However, the interruption caused much distress to the daughter of the deceased man and her family. In the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic some families have chosen not to have a funeral at all, others to postpone it and have a memorial service when things are back to ‘normal’.

What is clear is that funerals, memorial services and celebrations of a life play an important role in our society. They allow mourners to get together to grieve, pay their respects to the deceased and farewell them and share reminiscences with others who knew them.

It is quite remarkable to compare the stress of people as they arrive at a funeral with the relief that comes after the service and the joy that comes from mingling with others at the wake after it.

That is when the healing starts.



*Meryl Brown Tobin*



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# Corinella Probus

## A History of the Probus Club of Corinella and District Inc.

### A Historical Report written by Rob Parsons, Past President 2019-2020.

#### Part I The formation of our Probus Club.

Sometime in early 2002, the Rotary Club of Phillip Island considered forming a new Probus Club in the Waterline area. Probus Clubs are normally always formed by Rotary Clubs as a project of their Vocational Service Committee.

This can quite often take a few months to organise by the Rotary Club, as interested members have to be found and an initial steering committee formed.

**2002 May.** The first proposed meeting of interested people was on the 1st May 2002, chaired by Rotary District 9810 Probus Chairman, Roger Gordon. Prospective members at this meeting were: Ian & Molly Knight, Rosemary Harding, Margaret Pryor, Graham & Lyn Van Nooten, Janet Lyle, Pauline Potzold, Greg Mitchell, Susan Graham, Jan Chisholm, Phil Kinniff, John Horsnell, Joseph Ford and Maureen Barden.

Apologies were from: Louise Mitchell, Heather Horsnell, Margaret Watson, Jack Smith, Pat Barnard, Heather Reith, Jean & Stewart Day, Hildegard Ford, Bruce Pryor, Christian Petzold and Ruth Heffer. The Elected Committee was ratified at this meeting: President Ian Knight; Vice President Joe Ford; Secretary Rosemary Harding; Treasurer Jan Chisholm, Membership Molly Knight; Program Jacqueline Gullick; Welfare Sue Graham; Newsletter Joe Ford; Hospitality Lyn Burgess; Committee Doug Gullick.

**2002 June.** Rotary President Graham Koenig from the Rotary Club of Phillip Island took the chair at the Foundation meeting of the Probus Club of Corinella on 12th June 2002 at 10.00am at the Corinella Public Hall. Rotary donated the Probus gong, foundation members name badges, Probus brooches and pins.

The gavel was missing and Thelma Churchill offered to donate one. The Club was originally to be called Bass Valley Probus Club but Probus South Pacific disallowed this name as it was a region not a town. So it became Probus Club of Corinella.

**2002 July.** The first General meeting 3rd July 2002 attended by 50 members with 5 apologies. Artist and illustrator Nicholas Day was guest speaker for this first Club meeting.

Each of the first few meetings had attendances of between 30 and 40 with 6-10 apologies.

**2002 August.** This meeting began with 31 members and 2 visitors in attendance. There were 11 apologies. President Ian began proceedings with a humorous reading titled "Why a ship is called SHE?" A number of foundation members badges were handed out, the membership to date is 53, a good start to this new club. Deb Amor, Ranger from Bass Shire was the guest speaker.

The original foundation members were: Lorraine and Ray Anson, Stephanie Baillie, Josef Barutzki, Lyn Burgess, Clare Caghey\*, Jan and Wayne Chisholm, Thelma Churchill\*, Alex Cole\*, Betty and Harry Day, Jean and Stewart Day, Beryl and Trevor Dodds, Shirley and Ken Duggan, Dawn Dunn,

Laura Ealey, Hildergard and Joseph Ford, Ron Gosewinckel, Eric Graae, Susan Graham\*, Jacqueline\* and Doug Gullick. Margaret and Laurie Hamilton. Rosemary and Cliff Harding.

Ruth Heffer, Celia Hendriks\*, Phil Kinniff\*, Molly and Ian Knight, Janet Lyle, Marion and Lachlan Marshall, Louise and Greg Mitchell, Pauline and Chris Petzold, Bruce and Margaret Pryor\*, Shirley and Don Stevens, Jack Smith, Carol Thompson, Lyn and Graham Van Nooten.

\* Indicates that these Foundation members are still members of the club in 2020.

The first Newsletter was printed in September 2002.

The club became incorporated on the 28th November 2002.

A message from our Inaugural President Ian Knight (dec), written in October 2003:

*I am privileged, and humble to be President of our fledgling club only 16 meetings old. It is a joy to be part of an organisation that has bonded together in so short a span of time.*

*Our small but growing membership comes from different cultures, languages, social groups, professions and other work.*

*Happiness can come from the many new friendships we make as Probeans.*

*Speakers from our own membership have made valuable contributions to our meetings.*

*while social occasions have been great fun due to the enthusiastic contributions from you all.*

*A thought occurred to me that if all organisations in our community were as committed, strong and happy as our Probus Club, we would be much better off.*

*My hope is that we keep recruiting new members, keep well and happy, smile and continue to enjoy our Probus Club. - Ian Knight.*

**Next Month: Part II, The move to the George Bass Hotel.**

**For further information about joining our Probus Club please contact**

**Secretary Heather Reid on 0421 012 519**

**Photo: Rosemary Harding. Foundation Member 2002. Secretary 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005. President 2008-2009**



**Photo: Foundation President Ian Knight.**








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# HENRY LIVES:

Though he died in 1972 at Abbotsford NSW and was buried at Waverley NSW Henry Lawson still lives in our hearts, minds and souls - Edna

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# In this together

**National Reconciliation Week**  
**2020**





**A MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN**

To the citizens of the United States of America from Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

"In light of your failure to facilitate competent candidates for President of the USA, and thus to govern yourselves, we hereby give notice of the revocation of your independence, effective immediately. Her Sovereign Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will resume monarchical duties over all states, commonwealths, and territories (except North Dakota, and Utah, which she does not fancy). Our Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, will appoint a Governor for America without the need for further elections. Congress and the Senate will be disbanded. A questionnaire may be circulated next year to determine whether any of you noticed. To aid in the transition to a Crown dependency, the following will be introduced with immediate effect:

-----  
1. The letter 'U' will be reinstated in words such as 'colour,' 'favour,' 'labour' and 'neighbour.' Likewise, you will spell 'doughnut' without skipping half the letters, and the suffix '-ize' will be replaced by '-ise.'  
-----

2. Using the same twenty-seven words interspersed with 'like' and 'you know' is unacceptable. There is no such thing as American English. We will let Microsoft know on your behalf. The Microsoft spell-checker will be adjusted to take into account the reinstated letter 'u' and the elimination of '-ize.'

-----  
3. July 4th will become a day of mourning, not celebration.  
-----

4. You will learn to resolve personal issues without using lawyers, guns or money. The fact that you need so many lawyers shows that you're not quite ready to be independent. Guns should only be used for shooting grouse. If you can't sort things out without suing someone then you're not ready to shoot grouse.

-----  
5. Therefore, you will no longer be allowed to own or carry anything more dangerous than a vegetable peeler. Although a permit will be required if you wish to carry a vegetable peeler in public.  
-----

6. All intersections will be replaced with roundabouts, and you will start driving on the left side. At the same time, you will go metric with immediate effect and without the benefit of conversion tables. Both roundabouts and metrication will help you understand the British sense of humour.

-----  
7. The former USA will adopt UK prices on petrol (which you have been calling gasoline) of roughly \$10/US gallon. Get used to it. We had to.

-----  
8. Hollywood will be required occasionally to cast English actors as good guys. Hollywood will also be required to cast English actors to play English characters.  
-----

9. You will cease playing American 'football'. There is only one kind of proper football; you call it soccer. Those of you brave enough will, in time, be allowed to play rugby (which has some similarities to American football, but does not involve stopping for a rest every twenty seconds or wearing full kevlar body armour).

-----  
10. Further, you will stop playing baseball. It is not reasonable to host an event called the World Series for a game which is not played outside of America. Since only 2.1% of you are aware there is a world beyond your borders, your error is understandable.

-----  
**11. You must tell us who killed JFK. Some one over there must know the truth.**  
-----

12. An internal revenue agent (i.e. tax collector) from Her Majesty's Government will be with you shortly to ensure the acquisition of all monies due (backdated to 1776)  
-----

God Save the Queen!



*P.S.: Only share this with friends who have a good sense of humour ( NOT humor )!*



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# Home Heating Safety



You need to be careful with all types of home heating and it's important to be aware of the risks involved with using fixed and portable heating appliances.

Heaters can include:

- fixed electrical appliances
- fixed gas powered appliances
- an open fire
- wood heater/slow combustion heaters
- portable heaters including electrical, gas and kerosene.

**Fires caused by heating increase during winter months**

## Heating safety tips

- ensure heaters are installed, maintained and operated according to manufacturer's instructions
- turn off all heating devices before leaving home or going to sleep
- drying clothes and other items must be kept at least one metre away from all heating
- children must be supervised near all types of heating. Maintain a safe distance between children and heating
- for portable heating appliances choose models that have automatic safety switches that turn the heater off if tipped over
- keep portable electric heaters away from wet areas to avoid the possibility of electric shock.

## Open fire safety tips

- always use a fire screen in front of an open fire
- extinguish open fires before leaving home or going to sleep
- ensure ashes are cold before discarding
- chimneys and flues should be cleaned annually
- keep wood and other combustibles at least one metre away from fire
- children must be supervised near open fires. Maintain a safe distance between children and heating
- only burn dry, clean wood
- brick chimneys and gas heaters should be checked before winter to prevent fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odourless, colourless gas that can be produced by faulty gas heaters, it can be fatal. Visit [esv.vic.gov.au](http://esv.vic.gov.au)





## FROM THE FRONT

As the final geotextile bag went into place in front of the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club many other parts of Bass Coast's 140km of Coastline were under attack from Mother Nature and human nature.





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## About South Gippsland Rural Australians for Refugees By Felicia Di Stefano

We arrived in Australia as refugees many years ago. Besides being grateful, almost every day of my life for living in Australia, I remember how heart-wrenching it was for my parents to leave the land of their birth, the little they had and their friends.

When people escape their birth country it is always with regret and because something is very awry with their lives there. We were a despised ethnic minority and had to find another home. We were strangers and Australia made us welcome. On becoming part of the Australian society we gave back intellectually and economically. I in turn would like to welcome the strangers who are detained on PNG and Nauru, those who need to run from bombs, prisons, torture, those who languish with unprocessed claims in Australia; to welcome them into our wealthy land.

As our National Anthem says, in part: For those who've come across the sea, / We've boundless plains to share.

No, we cannot welcome them all, but we can welcome many more refugees and it is very wrong to lock people up because of the way in which they arrived in Australia. It is against international law. The people who come to us by boat to seek shelter have often been bombed, imprisoned and tortured in the lands they flee. "We have an obligation, as members of the national community, to behave with magnanimity to those who arrive here carrying little more than their hopes for a safe future." Zelman Cohen a former Governor General of Australia.

SGRAR is part of a national grassroots movement which strives to uphold the human rights of asylum seekers and refugees. We work towards changing Government policies, as well as give support to asylum seekers and refugees in the community as needed. We have welcomed the South Sudanese people who came to Wonthaggi some fifteen years ago as well as the Karen people more recently, who are now well assimilated into the Bass Coast community.

We formed the SGRAR group in 2003 after we had seen a DVD exposing horrendous treatment of refugees and asylum seekers in the then Nauru detention centre, read prison. Seventeen years later conditions for people seeking asylum in Australia are just as inhumane.

Especially for those who arrive by boat. Like Al Muderis who escaped the murderous Saddam Hussein regime and came to Australia by boat. Now Australia is proud of the man who has put us at the forefront of orthopaedic discoveries. Another boat person is Anh Do; comedian, author, artist. There are many others.

The Bass Coast community has been welcoming, generous in their response as SGRAR asked for financial and material support for the refugees.

We received smiles, handshakes, furniture, clothing, white goods as well as bicycles and sewing machines as welcome gestures to the people seeking a home in Wonthaggi.

In order to inform local people of the plight of refugees and asylum seekers in Australia; we hold meetings, rallies, bring speakers, show films and distribute fliers with information about the people who come to us for shelter.

We write articles to the local press as well as many letters to politicians and ask community members for signatures as we petition our parliamentarians.

We are asking the Government to allow ill refugees in Nauru and PNG to be brought to Australia for medical attention.

Too many refugees have died because they were left suffering on the tropical islands with inadequate medical help.

Our current focus is putting pressure on the federal government to find safe resettlement for refugees and asylum seekers who have been imprisoned in PNG and Nauru for almost seven years. As well, we are asking for the release of people into the community who are currently in crowded detention centres where it is impossible to self-isolate and where they interact with changing guards and consequently are in grave danger of contracting COVID-19.

The pro-refugee network is a vast mosaic of overlapping networks: lawyers, church people, human-rights advocates, welfare workers, political activists and ordinary people; from highly skilled professionals with specific expertise to the many thousands who have joined a grassroots movement striving to return compassion and humanity to Australia's treatment of asylum seekers. One strand in this network is – Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR), an informal network of regional and rural groups supporting and advocating for refugees and people seeking asylum.

We invite you to consider how you might work with us and join one of the RAR support groups. There are many RAR groups, community groups, church groups working to improve the lives of people seeking refuge and asylum.

**If you would like to receive emails from SGRAR please contact Felicia:**

**[sgrar07@gmail.com](mailto:sgrar07@gmail.com)**



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### Parkinson's Support Group

*Caregivers and family members are welcome!*

The South Gippsland Parkinson's Support Group was formed in October 2004 and continues today.

The group meets on the third Friday of each month at the Leongatha RSL 10.00 for 10.30 start.

A short meeting is conducted, then a guest speaker to follow, lunch is also available.

We also try to have another activity each month, which could be anything from a bus trip to a luncheon at the local church. People with Parkinson's and their carers most welcome.

Inquiries:

Email: [Suzi.marshman@hotmail.com](mailto:Suzi.marshman@hotmail.com)

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