

# The Waterline News

\$0.00

Distributed in Tooradin, Koo Wee Rup, Lang Lang, Nyora, Korumburra, Loch, Kernot, Grantville, Corinella, Coronet Bay, Tenby Point, Bass, San Remo, Newhaven, Cowes, Rhyll, French Island, Harmers Haven, Wonthaggi and [www.waterlinenews.com.au](http://www.waterlinenews.com.au)



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**Volume 6 #2 MERRY CHRISTMAS from The Waterline Team**

**DECEMBER 2019**



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**Email:**  
[waterlinepublishing@gmail.com](mailto:waterlinepublishing@gmail.com)  
**Website:**  
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## Page 2: THE DESK

And so this is Christmas.

**This is the time of year to  
gather with our families and  
friends to celebrate**

**I wish all The Waterline News  
readers and contributors a Merry  
Christmas and a Happy New  
Year.**

**Please drive safely and be patient  
on these crowded roads.**

**The Waterline News is taking a  
holiday over January. The  
transition of ownership has  
created a few, well more than a  
few, things that have to be  
streamlined so the next issue  
after this will be the February  
2020 edition.**

Thanks Folks.

**Geoff Ellis**



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## February Edition

Submission  
 Cut Off:  
 18th  
 January



|  |              |   |                |
|--|--------------|---|----------------|
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| Block Slashing - Russell Sanders                             | 0418549499   | Minuteman Press - Printers                    | 03 8740 3461   |
| Chase Computers  | 03 5678 7097 | Newhaven College                              | 03 59567505    |
| Clare Le Serve -   | 0448083286   | Nurse Practitioner - Deb Garvey               | 0467841782     |
| Corinella Air Conditioning & Electrical                      | 0407976291   | Peter C. West Plumbing                        | 0419307615     |
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| Freemasons Victoria - Wonthaggi, Woolamai and Phillip Island | Page 19      | Spicy Duck Thai Restaurant                    | 03 5678 5020   |
| Frenchview Lifestyle Village                                 | 03 56788232  | Stihl Shop - Lang Lang                        | 03 5997 5691   |
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| Grantville Medical Centre                                    | 03 56788029  | Van Steensels Timber & Hardware               | 03 5678 8552   |
| Grantville Baptist Church                                    | 0412187893   | Waterline Conveyancing                        | 0408841556     |

# A Rare Opportunity

Newhaven College has a small number of vacancies in Year 1 and Year 3 in 2020.



## Success Starts Early

Our Junior School nurtures Prep to Year 4 children in their early years of learning, with the aim of producing happy, considerate, resilient and well-rounded young people. Every child is encouraged to achieve their own personal best based on the College values of Excellence, Responsibility, Honesty, Respect and Empathy.

## Wellbeing is Key

Our teachers are second to none, and small class sizes allow for learning environments which inspire curiosity and creativity. To balance academic and personal needs, wellbeing programs are embedded into the curriculum at all year levels to build the self-esteem and confidence that is required for children to learn and reach their individual potential.



## Embracing Technology

Interactive Promethean boards provide children with an enriched learning experience. The touch screen boards project visual elements that engage the children as they interact with the learning material. They can also work in small groups and teach each other to increase their understanding and confidence.

Spheros are fun spherical programmable devices that use STEAM-centric activities to encourage ingenuity. By introducing coding at a young age, Newhaven students are equipped with the skills required to pursue more advanced technology in Middle School.

To secure your child's education future contact Belinda Manning on 5956 7505 or email [belinda.manning@newhavencol.vic.edu.au](mailto:belinda.manning@newhavencol.vic.edu.au)





# Community



**Bass School Road, Bass 5678 2277**

We hurtle ever-faster towards the end of the year in some unjustified belief that it will bring a break in the accelerating pace of everyday life. It is to be hoped that readers of the Waterline News do get some sort of break. However the only surety is that it will be too soon before we are back to commenting on how fast the year is going. All this by way of saying that it's been a busy year at the Bass Valley Community Centre and we are having a break.

The Centre will be closed from Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December and re-open Monday January 6<sup>th</sup>. The Hadden House Op Shop will be closed from Sunday 2nd December and will re-open January 6<sup>th</sup>. It's very difficult to stop the wonderful volunteers who staff the op shop from coming in and opening the shop, but they too need a break. We can imagine them at home thinking of all the passing potential customers that they are missing out on. The volunteers and social support client Christmas Party is on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December which is the close of our social support program for the year. The social support program returns on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January. We won't be running our community bus for shopping on Christmas and New Year's Eves, but we will run a bus earlier in the week.

As we have mentioned before, we won't be holding our Autumn Festival at the beginning of March. For whatever reason (s) it hasn't been well attended. The thought of the wonderful country music performers we have had for previous Festivals entertaining a tiny handful of people was too much for us to contemplate again. Some of the local festivals and markets continue to do very well and we are supportive of them and wish them luck, but we just didn't have the energy for another disappointing turn-out.

Possibly the biggest excitement for the coming year is the development of our Seniors' Outdoor Gym. We are very near to having raised enough money to build it, with the support of very generous grantors: Bass Coast Council, Bendigo Bank and the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal. This facility will be an opportunity for our older clients and others to access a range of exercise that would otherwise not be available.

**From all of us at the Bass Valley Community Centre we hope the community has a great break and is back to face the new year with renewed enthusiasm.**



Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre, provides a welcoming, positive environment where you can meet new friends learn new skills or share ideas and information.

Ian Richie is the coordinator and he can provide all the information about this vibrant place on (03) 5672 3731.

**The Fixit Café** which aims to 'reduce, recycle, repair, or restore' while reducing the number of things that are sent to landfill.

And it's a lot of fun! Details of the next Fixit Café can be found in WNC's Grape Vine Magazine or by phoning 5672 3731.

**The Unemployed Workers Union meets on the first Monday of each month, from noon to 2pm, in the Harvest Centre.**

This group is run by people who are looking for work. It ensures that people on Centrelink payments know their rights and that people are treated with respect when they interact with job network agencies.

Here are many other courses and events available at Mitchel House, The Men's Shed and the Harvest Centre.

## Grantville and District Foreshore, Committee of Management.

The appointed term of the present members is coming to an end, so the precise future for the Committee and its make up is not fully settled.

Works on the foreshore have been continuing: further repositioning of rubble from the broken sea wall, commencement of removal of dangerous iron and steel posts from the area and professional treatment of noxious and invasive weeds. The Committee remains concerned that there are several instances in the crown land reserve of vegetation being illegally cut back and other materials introduced. This is mostly in the Malcom Drive/Stewart St areas. Anyone who has been involved in this type of activity should be aware that the Department of Environment and the Council have been alerted and action against those responsible may well follow. Contact Eric Hornsby 0407 222 087



Lang Lang Community Centre is an inclusive space for socializing and learning with a wide range of services.



Our programs include:

A variety of lifestyle classes:  
Tai Chi, Strength Training, Walking group, Line Dancing and more.

Playgroup for the littlies.  
Several Patchwork groups  
Lots of special events and activities  
Men's Shed  
Secretarial support services,  
photocopying, scanning and typing.  
Book Exchange  
Centrelink Access Point with  
MyGov services, dedicated DHS computer phone, fax and scanning facilities.

**We are located at:  
7 Westernport Road,  
Lang Lang.  
Open 5 days a week.**

## Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre



**56-58 Church St, Cowes  
Centre Manager -  
Greg Thompson**

**5952 1131**

Email :  
admin@pical.org.au  
Website:  
www.pical.org.au



## YOUR LOCAL CHURCHES

**St Paul's Anglican Church,**  
2-6 Hade Avenue, **Bass.**  
12.30 Every Sunday  
Enjoy a share lunch after the service.  
Rev Jo White  
5952 2608 or 0490 831 299  
[revjobpi@gmail.com](mailto:revjobpi@gmail.com)

**St Joseph's Catholic Church,**  
20 Bass Road, **Bass.**  
Sunday Mass 11.00am  
5952 5418

**St George's Anglican Church,**  
24 Smythe Street, **Corinella.**  
1st Sunday each month 11.00 am  
Other Sundays 9.00am  
5997 5440

**Grantville Baptist Church,**  
Grantville Community Hall  
1470 Bass Highway, **Grantville.**  
Service at 4pm each Sunday.  
Brendan Smith  
0412 187 893  
[hello@grantvillebaptist.org.au](mailto:hello@grantvillebaptist.org.au)

**Kernot Uniting Church,**  
1040 Loch Kernot Road, **Kernot.**  
Service various Sundays at 9.30am.  
Secretary Judy Hogan  
0422 094 903

**St Augustine's Anglican Church,**  
111 Marine Parade, **San Remo.**  
10.30 Every Sunday  
1st & 3rd Sundays Family Service.  
Other Sundays Holy Communion.  
10am every Tuesday Holy Communion.  
Rev Jo White  
5952 2608 or 0490 831 299  
[revjobpi@gmail.com](mailto:revjobpi@gmail.com)

**Our Lady Star of The Sea, Catholic Church,**  
43 Phillip Island Road, **San Remo.**  
6pm Every Saturday Mass  
Contact 5952 5418

**Bible Study Group**  
Mondays at 5pm.  
St Pauls Church Bass  
2-6 Hade Avenue, Bass  
Contact 5997 6127



It's been a great 2019. We trialled a number of activities including guest speakers, new activities, book sales, produce table, emergency planning sessions, support groups and more. Then of course there was the library discussion which took up a lot of community hours and energy. We have also held consultation to develop our three year plan. We are currently renovating and upgrading our website and will launch it in early January. We have done some major upgrades to the centre including (finally) installing our self-opening doors, reorganising our foyer area, introducing comfortable disability compliant seating in the foyer, adding air conditioning to meeting rooms, office and the kitchen and we are about to commence a mini renovation on the front section of our art space to create a community Café space. The space will be set up café style enabling social sessions, with a purpose, to be held. These will be part of our activities for 2020 and will include; children's story time sessions, crossword and puzzle groups, knitting and craft, gardening chat group. We are in discussion to develop a one on one coaching session for members of our community looking for that extra support to make the most of the challenges of today's world. Keep track of our Facebook page, website and notice board as we finalise these exciting 2020 activities. Have an activity you would like to run or participate in? Contact us and we will see if we can make it happen! Ongoing into 2020 all our well established and well loved activities continue including: Yoga with Nikki, Art and craft groups, community lunch, computer and internet access, and strength training. We are holding a small Christmas raffle to help raise much needed funds. If you would like to support us you can volunteer with us, join as a member, participate in our activities or make a donation.

Our last activity for 2019 will be our Community Lunch on 19 December at 12pm, this is when our Christmas raffle will be drawn. We will be closed from 21 December reopening on 6 January 2020. Our 16<sup>th</sup> Modern Art and Photography show will be on the weekend of 7-9 March! Thank you! Visit us at: 48 Smythe Street Corinella Call us on: 5678 0777



[www.u3abassvalley.com](http://www.u3abassvalley.com)  
[bassvalleyu3aoffice@gmail.com](mailto:bassvalleyu3aoffice@gmail.com)  
(PO Box 142 Grantville 3984)

### The 2019 Committee is:

Chairperson : Mark Dunbar  
Deputy Chair : Geoff Guilfoyle  
Secretary : Christine Holmes  
5678 0033  
Treasurer : Beverly Walsh  
General Committee Members:  
Vicki Clark, Sue Dunbar, Steve Edge and Christine Kent.

**Art for Pleasure  
Book Club  
Creative Writing  
Craft & Conversation  
Digital Photography  
Local History**

**Movie & Theatre Appreciation  
Singing for Leisure  
Tai Chi for Arthritis  
Travel & History**

An Annual Subscription of \$30 per person will cover as many U3A Bass Valley classes as you may wish to attend, subject to availability. Current members of other U3A groups may join U3A Bass Valley for \$15 per annum as an associate member and attend as many classes as you wish, subject to availability. **In addition to our annual subscription some classes have a \$2 attendance fee per class.**

### TAI CHI FOR ARTHRITIS

Hosted by Vicki Clark

Held at Coronet Bay Community Hall  
Gellibrand Street  
Every Tuesday 9:30 am - 10:30 am

Grantville Hall,  
Wednesdays 10.30-11.30

**Phone Vicki 0403 025 634**

Other U3A Groups are at:

Cowes (PICAL)  
[www.pical.org.au](http://www.pical.org.au)  
Phone 5952 1131  
and  
Wonthaggi  
[www.u3awonthaggi.org.au](http://www.u3awonthaggi.org.au)  
Ph: 03 5672 3951





# Community



## CORINELLA RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

**President: Peter Tait**  
**Vice President: Wayne Maschette.**  
**Secretary: John Stewart.**  
**Treasurer: Michael Kelze**  
**Committee: Lyndell Parker,**  
**Heather Reid, Margaret Stewart and**  
**Jackie Tait.**

'Joy springs eternal' the black swans return to our shores! A temperamental Spring saw us pounded by wind and water with a few really hot days. We can be thankful, as our neighbours in NSW and QLD suffered so badly with drought and fires.

Corinella Community Market is in The Harold Hughes Park the 2nd Saturday of each month: 14th of December is next. Lots of bargains to be had and the CRRA and CDCC work together to bring you delicious Bacon and egg rolls to help fund the Centre and Community Events.

Don't miss our CAROLS AT THE ROTUNDA on Saturday the 14th of December from 6.30 pm. Santa arrives at 7.30 pm, with carols from 8pm. A fabulous night, BYO blanket, drinks, nibbles and enthusiasm to make the Bay sing with our voices joined together harmoniously celebrating the Christmas season together. (Saturday the 14th is a very busy day for the Committee, feel free to offer us help!)

Luminous Galleries have a Christmas display entitled AN AUSSIE BUSH CHRISTMAS (artists Lyndell Parker, Kerry and Geoff Rigby) generously sponsored by St George's Anglican Church Corinella and Van Steensel Timbers Grantville.

The CRRA meets every 2 months, to discuss any current issues of interest to the community, and to encourage participation in "having a say" in local community matters. We are always seeking new members, its only \$15 for a couple to join, and all members are kept informed by email, of upcoming events, minutes of meetings etc. The CRRA works with, and is supportive of, all diverse and different groups and clubs in Corinella. 0422247490.

***Best wishes to all for a safe and Happy Christmas. On behalf of the Committee, Lyndell Parker.***



**President: David Buckingham**  
**Vice President: Kevin Brown**  
**Secretary: Stephanie Hartridge**  
**Treasurer: Louise Gration**  
**Committee Members:**  
**Mel Gration and Anna Dagys**

### CBRRA Meeting

The last CBRRA meeting began at 11am on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October at the Coronet Bay Hall.

Topics discussed were: 92 Norseman's Road proposed resort development. Donna Taylor from BCSC attended the meeting to run through the assessment proposal for the resort and to answer questions from over 130 attendees. It was a great turnout and highlighted the interest in the proposal. Other topics discussed were Banksias on the foreshore, Coronet Bay Wetlands, and more.

### Fun Run/Walk & Picnic Races

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Fun Run/Walk took place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November, attendance was down slightly from last year but a fun time was still had by all. After the Fun Run the Coronet Bay Picnic Races were held on the foreshore at 2.30pm. The races were a great success and fun was had by everyone, those who attended enjoyed some light entertainment by Ross McKay and Lucy Najin. A big thankyou to everyone who helped organize both the Fun Run and the Picnic races.

### New Year's Eve & Market

The annual New Year's Eve Fireworks will be held on the foreshore again this year, with live music, food stalls and the 9:15pm fireworks for great family enjoyment.

This will be followed by the Annual Coronet Bay Market at the Hall on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January. It has been an eventful year with many changes, we look forward to 2020 and all it has to bring.

**The next scheduled meeting and AGM is for 11am Saturday January 11th 2020 at the Coronet Bay AGM**

***We would like to take this opportunity and wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.***



**President: Jean Coffey 0419 500 593**  
**Secretary: Tim Herring**

If you are a Tenby Point resident and would like to stay abreast of what is happening, you are welcome to join our association.

We meet four times each year, on a Saturday morning, and membership is just \$10 per household per year.

### **PIONEER BAY PROGRESS ASSOCIATION**



**Contact :**  
**Zena Benbow**  
**pbpa@bigpond.com**

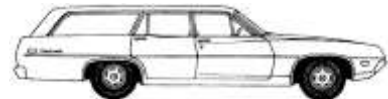
### **Bass Coast Resident and Ratepayer Association.**

PO Box 65, Wonthaggi VIC 3995

**Phone:**  
0409 357 916

**Email:**  
BCRRA@dcsi.net.au

**Website:**  
<http://www.basscrra.org>



### **Word from the street.**

Over **24,000 Victorians** are homeless on any given night (ABS, 2018).

They include; families with children, young people, older people, single adults, people with disabilities, people in regional and rural Victoria and people in urban neighborhoods.

All Australians are affected by the shortage of affordable rental housing, but women may be more at risk than men. One of the main reasons for this is gender based economic and financial inequality. Overall, women earn less on average than men, in both full-time and part-time occupations.

Domestic and family violence is the number one reason women become homeless in Australia. 40% of female clients cite it as the main reason for seeking Homelessness assistance.

# Community

## THIS MONTH'S COVER PHOTO (BASS RIVER IN BASS) by RORY MC GRATH

This month's page one pic, was taken by taken by Rory McGrath.



Rory is working towards an exhibition which will probably begin in early February 2020.

Rory is being assisted in these endeavours by Bass River Country Pty Ltd, which provides services to people with a disability and/or mental illness. They design programs that suit the individual.

<https://www.facebook.com/BASSRIVERCOUNTRY/>



## Representing the Bass Valley Friends of the RSL, Peter Thick

lays one of the many wreaths to grace the Memorial Wall of Honour on Remembrance Day, November 11th 2019. It had been wet and windy for days leading up to it, but at this year's Remembrance Day ceremony for the 100th Anniversary of Armistice the sun came out and so did the people.

Almost ninety people from clubs, community groups and the local school, with others honouring family members who served, gathered at the Grantville Memorial Park to hear a stirring round of guest speakers.

Les Ridge's moving account of the life and sacrifice of a local soldier who gave his life for his country was followed by the Ode and a minutes silence as the haunting sound of the bugle filled the morning air. After the ceremony was over the guests mingled over morning tea provided by the Bass Valley Friends of the RSL.



## 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 meeting is followed by afternoon tea.

The Craft and Chat group meet on the 4th Monday of the month at 10 am  
Learn new crafts

or join us with your current project.

Shared lunch

Enjoy the company of ladies of all ages, who have similar interests Learn a new craft skills, exchange recipes and cooking tips

**SOCIAL DAY OUT**

Theatre, lunches, shopping trips etc  
Monthly competitions

Craft days have been well attended.

You're very welcome to call Betty on 0418 396 863 if you want ask questions about any of these activities.

Membership: Annie 5978 8037

President: Kaye 0459 76 668



## Bass Valley Lions Op Shop

To celebrate the completion of our extension we are having a  
**SALE on ADULT Clothing**

For December  
Adult clothes  
50c each

### HOLIDAY CLOSURE DATES

**The Op Shop will be closed from  
DECEMBER 25th till  
January 6th.**

The Op Shop is  
Located inside  
Grantville Garden Supplies

Cnr Bass Highway and Grantville Drive  
Week Days 10am – 3pm  
Saturday 9am – 11.30am

## LOCAL POLICE NETWORK

Bruce Kent, Station Commander,  
San Remo phone: 5678 5500  
email: [bruce.kent@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:bruce.kent@police.vic.gov.au)



**Emergency Dial 000**  
**[www.police.vic.gov.au](http://www.police.vic.gov.au)**

## CORINELLA BOWLING CLUB INC.

22 Balcombe Street,  
Corinella  
Ph. 5678 0497



Follow and like us on facebook  
Corinella Bowling Club Inc  
Friday Barefoot Bowls at 5 pm during daylight saving time and Community/Corporate Bowls in January are the main social events.

After the game stay on for a meal at 7 pm in the licensed club house & experience the social side of this family friendly club.

Members also play pennant bowls Tuesday & Saturday and your support for the home games would be appreciated.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact:

Dave Burzacott,  
Tournament Secretary  
0423 593 227  
or Steve Bray,  
President 0418 316 912.

## San Remo Bowls Club inc.

Wynne Road, San Remo  
Ph: (03) 5678 5558



Website;

[sanremobowlsclub.teamapp.com](http://sanremobowlsclub.teamapp.com)

**Each Wednesday Social Bowls  
12.30pm with a 1.00 pm start.**

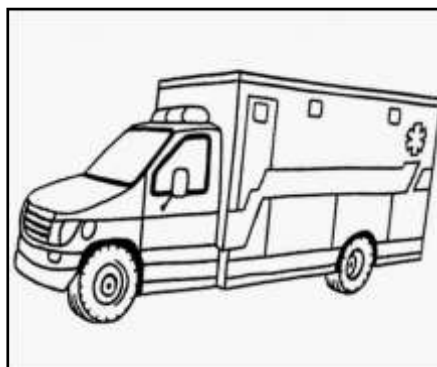
During Summer Time Each Friday  
5.00pm Barefoot Bowls and BBQ.

All Visitors and New Members  
welcome.

Contact Arthur Parker 0421 061 074  
Members of other clubs or visitors to the area can join us in the Monthly Triples as well as the Barefoot Bowls.

Please contact Arthur on  
0421 061 074 if any further  
information is required about the San Remo Bowls Club.

**CWA  
WOODLEIGH VALE BRANCH**  
**If you'd like to know more,  
Ring Carol on 03-5678 8041**



**Amy Easton – Licensed Conveyancer**

03 9131 4661 : Direct

03 5610 2010 : Reception

**Sargeants Conveyancing**

**Bass Coast; Southern Peninsula & East Gippsland**

3/75 Chapel Street COWES 3922

PO BOX 970 COWES 3922

Click the links for our offices at: Wonthaggi and Dromana

Please note we will be closed for the Christmas / New Year period from

12noon Tuesday, 24 December 2019

until 9am Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



*Your Invitation* Grantville Baptist Church Service

*Church has changed  
Check It Out*

**Sunday Church Service at 4pm**  
Grantville Community Hall  
1470 Bass Hwy, Grantville

Look forward to  
seeing you there!

Contact

Brandon Smith  
0412 187 893

[office@grantvillebaptist.org.au](mailto:office@grantvillebaptist.org.au)





# 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@boomerangbagspisorg](mailto:kylie@boomerangbagspisorg)

## Cape Woolamai Coast Action

Email [capewoolamaicoastaction@gmail.com](mailto:capewoolamaicoastaction@gmail.com)

## Corinella & District Probus Club

First Wednesday of each month at the 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.

Jacque Carter 5678 0596

## Corinella & District Community Centre

48 Smythe St Corinella. 5678 0777

Website [www.corinellacommunitycentre.org.au](http://www.corinellacommunitycentre.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 [pisccl23@gmail.com](mailto:pisccl23@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 [Suzi.marshman@hotmail.com](mailto:Suzi.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

# Markets & Op Shops



**RHYLL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.**  
C/- Rhyll Post Office, Rhyll, 3923

President: Judy Lawrence  
Vice President: Jim Kiley  
Secretary: Cheryl Overton  
0427 680 483

Meetings are held bi-monthly on the third Saturday of the month at the Rhyll Hall, Lock Road, from 10am.



**KERNOT FOOD AND WINE STORE**  
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SUNDAY AFTERNOONS**  
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(03) 5678 8555**

## MARKETS

**Each Sunday:**

**Kongwak Market**  
10am - 3pm  
Retro stalls, food, vegetables, coffee, curries, 30+ stalls  
Enquiries: Jane 0408 619 182

**Each 2nd Saturday:**

**Coal Creek Farmers' Market**  
Coal Creek Community Park  
8am - 12.30pm 50+ stalls  
coalcreekfm@hotmail.com  
Contact for information 0459 629 000

**Cowes Island Craft Market**  
102 Thompson Avenue, 9am - 2pm  
In the grounds of St Phillips Church  
60+ stalls Make, bake and grown goods and produce.  
Contact for further details 0412 710 276

**Corinella Community Market**  
Contact details 0435 736 510

**Each 4th Saturday:**

**Churchill Island Farmers' Market**  
40+ stalls. 8am - 1pm  
peter@rfm.net.au  
Further Information 0439 364 760

**Cowes Market on Chapel**  
Chapel Street. 8.30am - 2pm, 30+ stalls  
Further information- 0428 603 043

**Each 1st Sunday**

**Jumbunna Bush Market**  
Jumbunna Hall phone 5657 3253

**Each 2nd Sunday**

**Rotary Club Market Wonthaggi**  
Apex Park 8am - 1pm, 50+ stalls  
Walk to nearby Make it -Bake it Market  
Contact: Neville Goodwin 5672 7245  
Garry Sherrick 5672 5812

**Loch Lions Village Market**  
May - Sept Loch Public Hall  
Oct - April Loch Railway Station Park  
70 + stalls  
Information from Noel Gregg 5627 5576  
Market day phone 0418 500 520

**Each 3rd Sunday:**

**Inverloch Farmers Market**  
The Glade, Esplanade, 8am - 1pm  
50+ stalls Information: peter@rfm.net.au  
Phone 0439 364 760

**Tooradin Sunday Market**  
9am - 1pm  
Stallholders wanted, \$20 includes 1 sausage & bread breakfast per stall.  
All Market Enquiries: 0429 188 280

## MARKETS

**Grantville Variety Market**  
*(Weather Permitting)*  
4th Sunday, except December when it is held on the third Sunday.  
Grantville Recreation Reserve  
8am—2pm 100+ stalls  
BBQ & Sausage sizzle, Coffee Cart, indoor and outdoor, cake stalls plus plenty of home made goodies.  
Contact for further details 5997 6221

**Inverloch Community Farmers' Market**  
The Glade, Esplanade, 50+ stalls  
Last Sunday of each month.  
info@inverlochfarmersmarket.com.au  
Phone 0417 370 488

**San Remo Cuppa and Chat Market**  
2nd Friday and Saturday each month at St. Augustine's Church  
Marine Parade San Remo  
Friday 9am - 1pm Saturday 9am - noon.  
Bric a brac and Cuppa and Chat Market, cakes & jams Friday, plus a sausage sizzle on Saturdays.  
Further Information: 5678 5386

## OP SHOPS

**Bass Valley Community Group Hadden House Op Shop**  
Next to Bass Hall, Bass School Road  
Monday to Friday 9am - 3pm  
Saturday 10am - 2pm  
Phone Enquiries 5678 2277

**St George's Anglican Church Op Shop Smythe Street Corinella,**  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday  
10am - 2.00pm  
Saturday 9.30am - 12.30pm

**Grantville Lions Op Shop**  
The Lions Op Shop is located within GRANTVILLE GARDEN SUPPLIES  
Bass Hwy, Grantville  
Monday to Friday 10am to 3pm  
Saturday 9am to 11.30am 5678 8357

**Korumburra Uniting Church Op Shop**  
Thur-Fri 10-4 Saturday 10-12  
Contact for information 5658 1884

**Lang Lang Community Op Shop**  
12 Westernport Road  
Monday - Friday 10am - 3pm  
Saturday 10am - 1pm

**Nyora Op Shop at the Nyora Station**  
Open Monday - Saturday 9am - 1pm.  
Enquiries to Sylvia, Phone 5659 0089

**San Remo Op Shop**  
Back Beach Road.  
Enquiries 5671 9200  
Email: info@basscoasthealth.org.au





**DG Nurse Practitioner**  
Grantville Transaction Centre  
Cnr Bass Hwy & Pier Rd  
Grantville, 3984

**Hours**  
Mon, Tues, Thur, 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**

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|---|-------------------|
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| Care                                      | Women's health    |
| Dressings*                                | Ear syringing*    |
| Lesion removal*                           | Suturing*         |
| Treatment of minor illnesses / infections |                   |



## CFA NEWS

**With**  
**Michele Fulwell**

Welcome to December everyone! As we head into Christmas and the New Year the brigades would like to say thank you for your support this last year. It's been a big one locally and nationally on the firefighting front. The ongoing fires in NSW and QLD are a good reminder for those of us in Victoria to prepare now.

We'd like to remind everyone to keep their properties prepared, practise your fire plan and keep a close eye on the Fire Danger Rating's. Remember if you are travelling to take note of the Fire District you are in, the Fire Danger Ratings and have a holiday fire plan. Don't take yourselves into danger – it isn't worth it. At the time of writing we still don't know when the Fire Danger Period starts so keep an eye on the CA and brigade Facebook pages and local newspapers. If you need to refresh your memory on what you can and can't do during the Fire Danger Period and on Total Fire Ban days head to <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can>

### Santa Run

Kernot-Grantville Fire Brigade and Corinella Fire Brigade's are holding their annual Santa Run's on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019. Facebook pages and local shops for flyers.

Remember to stay safe on our roads over the holiday period. While we love meeting you all we prefer it not to be as a result of a car accident. Slow down, take care and return to your loved ones this Christmas.

### Out and About

This time of year is always busy with brigades being involved in the Dreamnight at the Zoo, Bass Valley Primary School Fete and McHappy Day in November. The brigades love these opportunities to spend time out in the community meeting local residents. Community Bushfire Exercise On Sunday 17th November over 120 people attended a Community Bushfire Exercise at Grantville Hall. Residents from throughout the Waterline and as far away as Cape Patterson learnt about fire safety within their properties and within their areas.

The interactive scenarios promoted some great conversations and ideas. The visual display showed how fire can behave and that it is unpredictable. We are hoping the public have all learnt something new that can assist them and those around them.

Thank you, everyone for your support and coming along.



**Home Care**  
*We're here for you*

Most of us don't want to think about needing support when we get older, some people find it hard to accept they may need help, so it's important to know what your options are.

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- KRHS is government approved to provide home care packages.

**call: 5997 9686 and see how we can make a difference in your life**

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**5997 9686**

### KRHS is a 72 bed Public Hospital.

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e.g. Physiotherapy, Social work and Occupational Therapy.

There is also Specialist Medical Services: Podiatry, Cardiology and a Diabetes Clinic. KRHS is a member of the International Health Promoting Hospitals Network and Global Green and Healthy Hospitals.

235 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup

phone: 03 5997 9679



## PHOTO MAGIC

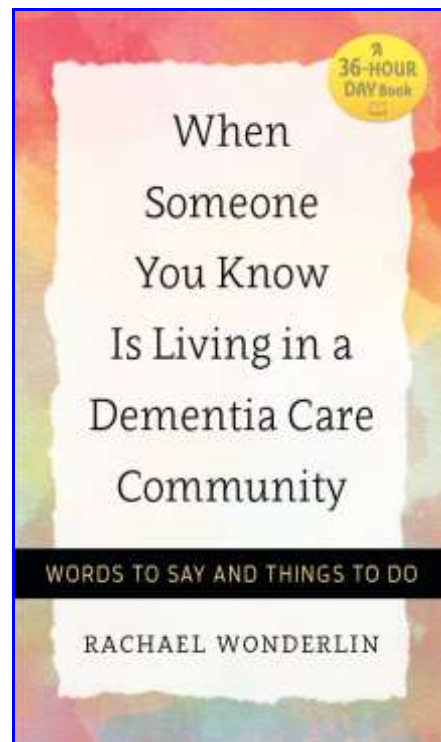
Vanish exes from family photos.  
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Create montages with multiple photos, eliminate red eye, correct sloping horizons, restore rich colour, removes scratches.

**call Trish on 0418 399 325**  
**www.trishhart.com trish@trishhart.com**

# Health

## NINE TIPS TO HAVE A LESS STRESSFUL CHRISTMAS

- 1. Begin with gratitude.** Before you begin handing out the gifts and tearing in to them, take a moment to reflect on all of your blessings since last Christmas.
- 2. Set a budget.** If you know exactly how much you are going to spend this Christmas, then shopping becomes much easier.
- 3. Release expectations.** Allow this Christmas season to be what it is without hopes for perfection. We are often disappointed when things don't go "as planned" during the holidays, so plan loosely and remain open to change.
- 4. Keep it simple.** Part of releasing expectations is simplifying your Christmas season.
- 5. Spend time in nature.** Wherever you live, in a cold or warm climate, spend time outside absorbing the natural beauty of this time of year. The smells, the sounds, the climate of December are all part of the joyful anticipation of Christmas.
- 6. Listen to beautiful music.** Everyone has their favorite holiday music, and it creates background mood for the holidays. Consider music that is peaceful and soothing to bring calm during this hectic time of year.
- 7. Create and sustain traditions.** Traditions during the holidays keep us feeling connected to one another and to something larger than ourselves. They offer a sense of certainty and comfort.
- 8. Entertain without perfection.** Sometimes we avoid inviting friends over during the holidays unless everything is perfect — the right meal, the house completely decorated and cleaned, a gift purchased. Let that go.
- 9. Light candles.** The glow of candlelight creates magic and warmth. Light them at dinner, during a bath, on the mantle. I've put an assortment of candles in the fireplace when it's too warm to light a fire.





**WONTHAGGI**  
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25 A'Beckett St, Inverloch  
Bass Coast Health, Grabham Wing

**2/1524 Bass Highway  
Grantville**

**Grantville Medical Centre**  
2/1524 Bass Highway Grantville  
**Appointments 5678 8029**



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Kernot Vic. 3979



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Menu: [tidesbarandgrill.com.au](http://tidesbarandgrill.com.au)



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**W: [www.flourishingfigures.com.au](http://www.flourishingfigures.com.au)**



**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)**

**Sore feet?  
SEE YOUR PODIATRIST**



**Michelle Graham B.App.Sci (Pod)**

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\*Referral from G.P. necessary.



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20-22 Pier Road, Grantville 3984**

**Contact:**

**Managers: Josh and Taylee (03) 5678 8232**

**Email: [info@frenchview.com.au](mailto:info@frenchview.com.au)**



## JUST LIKE MUM MADE

WE try to have at least one fish meal every week, two if possible. This lovely tuna mornay is very special. I hope you will like it. It is very easy to make and doesn't stretch the budget!

### TUNA MORNAY serves 4

#### Ingredients

1½ cups milk  
1 bay leaf  
1 slice of an onion  
5 whole peppercorns  
60 grams of butter  
1 onion finely chopped  
1 stick of celery finely chopped  
¼ cup of plain flour  
425 gram can of tuna, drained (reserve liquid) and flaked  
¼ teaspoon of grated nutmeg  
½ cup of cream  
Handful of parsley, chopped  
½ cup of cheddar cheese, grated  
½ cup of breadcrumbs  
½ cup of grated cheddar extra  
Paprika and seasoning to taste.

#### Method

Preheat the oven at 180.  
In a small pan heat milk, bay leaf, onion slice and peppercorns. Bring to the boil. Let stand for 15 minutes to infuse. Strain and reserve milk.  
Cook chopped onion and celery in butter, stirring for 5 minutes. Add flour and stir until mixture is bubbly. Add the reserved milk and tuna juice slowly, stir until mixture boils. Simmer for 5 minutes. Add nutmeg, cream, parsley and grated cheese. Stir for 2 minutes, remove from heat and add the tuna and seasoning. Stir. Spoon the mixture into a 3-cup greased ovenproof dish. Sprinkle with breadcrumbs and extra grated cheese and paprika. Bake for 15 minutes remove and grill for 2 minutes to brown the crumbs. ENJOY.



This is the season for salads! I love salads but sometimes I get a bit bored with making them and am always looking for a new recipe. This recipe is not new and, like me, you have probably eaten it in a restaurant or cafe before now. However, I have never made my own Caesar salad and I was delighted with it. I hope you will enjoy it too.

### CAESAR SALAD

(serves two as a meal, four as a side dish)

#### Ingredients

2 small crusty sourdough bread rolls or slices, torn into bite-sized pieces  
Olive oil spray  
4 bacon rashers, rind removed, coarsely chopped  
1 cos lettuce, washed and leaves separated  
Parmesan cheese, finely grated or shaved.

#### Dressing

1 egg  
2 garlic cloves, crushed  
3 drained anchovy fillets  
2 tablespoons of fresh lemon juice  
60ml (1/4 cup) of olive oil  
60ml (1/4 cup) of Rice Bran oil.

#### Method

Preheat oven to 180°C. Spread bread, in a single layer, on a baking tray and spray with oil.

Bake for 10-15 minutes or until crisp and golden. Set aside to cool completely.

Cook the bacon, stirring, for 3-4 minutes or until crisp and browned.

Transfer to a plate lined with paper towel.

#### For the dressing

Bring a saucepan of water to the boil over high heat. Add the whole unpeeled egg and cook for only 2-3 minutes. Use a slotted spoon to remove egg from the water. Crack the egg into a bowl and use a teaspoon to remove any remaining egg from the shell.

Place the egg, garlic, anchovies and half the lemon juice in a food processor and process to combine. With the motor running, add the combined oil in a thin, steady stream until the dressing is thick, adding a little of the remaining lemon juice until the dressing is a pourable consistency.

If you don't have a food processor, put all the ingredients into a bowl and stir well.

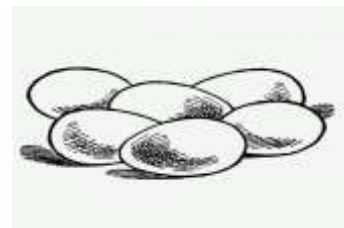
Season with pepper.

This dressing might sound bit a fiddly, but it is not, and it certainly works very well with the salad.

Combine the lettuce, croutons, bacon and half the parmesan on a serving dish.

Drizzle over the dressing and top with the remaining parmesan.

Enjoy!



BASS COAST ARTISTS SOCIETY

Join us to enhance your creative journey,  
in a nurturing and inclusive environment.

Website: <http://www.basscoastartists.org.au>

Email: [info@basscoastartists.org.au](mailto:info@basscoastartists.org.au)

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Bass



## 2019 PHILLIP ISLAND JAZZ FESTIVAL

What a Festival, the 2019 event was a resounding success with great crowds each day and Opening Night being a sell-out. A big thankyou to our Major Sponsors Bendigo Bank, Bass Coast Council and Ramada Resort for continuing to support this outstanding event.

In the words of Musical Director Robin Blackman the Festival was an absolute blast from the first note fired by the Syncopators to the final shot from the Esstee Big Band.

The ninety guests on Opening Night savoured a fine two course carvery provided by the Ramada catering staff headed by Chief Chef Nathan King as well as enjoying the efforts of evergreen pianist Bruce Gourlay and a roaring presentation from the Syncopators celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They were certainly at their brilliant best. The showstopper was drummer Rod Gilbert's version of Now You Have Jazz, a tune from the film High Society. He was joined by Peter Goudion in the latter part to reprise the legendary performance of Sinatra and Armstrong.

Saturday saw a program that was best described as highlight after highlight. From the time the Syncopators raised their instruments in battle the day just continued to get better and better. Second up was the group of Jason's Hot Four comprising Jason Downes on reeds, Steven Grant on keyboards, Chris Ludowyk on bass and Ian Smith playing drums. Four of Australia's finest musos did not let us down with a presentation that thrilled all those in attendance.

The Gatsby Orchestra specialising in early 1920's hot arrangements was noted for its strict adherence to the substance and tempo of the original writings.

For something different Vintage Roots led by Paul Van Ross took the adventurous route of taking well-known rock tunes and turning them into jazz in a Jazz Wizz style presentation. Vocalist Minti was quite sensational, what a voice, what power.

The evening program was led off by Andrew Nolte's Golden Gate Collegiates featuring well known tunes of the early jazz era. What a sparkling group who later combined with Creole Bells for a memorable jam session.

Creole Bells accompanied by Vocalist Beverly Sheehan gave their all as usual with a bright approach to the graveyard shift.

Sunday dawned and as has become the custom the Gospel Hour kicked off what was to be a most memorable day. The Creole Bells with Beverley Sheehan gave a bright but respectful version of well-known gospel tunes.

Dan Bolton a first timer from Queensland took the stage and this singer/songwriter/pianist did not let anybody down with a range of originals and well-known standards. His patter between tunes kept the audience actively engaged.

Festival favourites Shirazz returning for the 11<sup>th</sup> time let fly with a high powered show of traditional and original tunes leader Matt Dixon fired up with a couple of original tunes namely Desperado Blues and Cheeses much to the enjoyment and mirth of those present. This ever popular group will be returning for their 12<sup>th</sup> appearance in 2020.

The closing sets for the formal program was the responsibility of the Esstee Big Band, an eighteen piece unit of devotees of Big Band music. What a gutsy sound, what precision.

From the opening bars which sent vibrations through the seating, this group of professionals who do this for love, not money, became immediate favourites with those present. Rest easy they will be back soon.

An informal gathering at the Piano Bar hosted by Bruce Gourlay assisted by Judy Clark had the attendees actively involved either listening or engaging in what would best be called a community sing along. The curtain was lowered on the 2019 event around 9pm with a resolution from those present to return in 2020.

Roll on next year!!!!!!



The Audience



Left to right Jill Boyce, Jenny and Bruce Kent representing Bass Coast Shire, Cherrie and Ronald Bannear visitors from Adelaide, Ednalyne and Michael Armour representing Ramada Resort and Robin Blackman Musical Director of the Festival



Inge Royce, Graham and Jan Hudson sitting back relaxing enjoying the music.

### Sleigh Bells

'Ho, ho, ho!' calls the red-costumed Santa driving around in his sleigh at a canter. Children cheer him like mad for him they cannot be bad as they offer him biscuits and a Fanta.  
**Meryl Brown Tobin**

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



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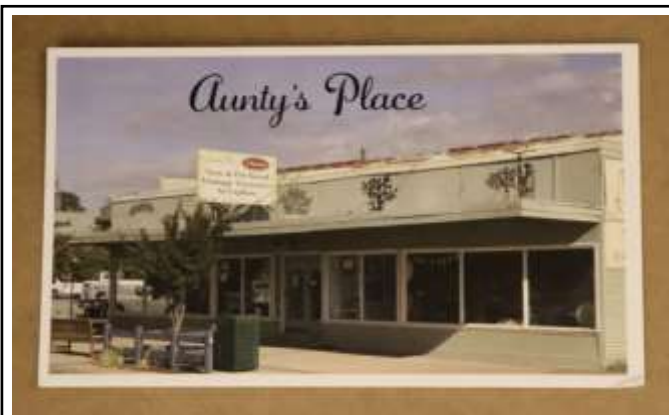
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# ART with JANICE ORCHARD



## NEIL DOUGLAS; LUNCH WITH A LEGEND

Years ago when I was writing a regular arts column for a regional newspaper I was given the task of finding and interviewing the reclusive Neil Douglas.

I had long been a fan of the eccentric and iconic Australian landscape painter and had in my possession a print of his painting "Enter the Wombat" which I looked forward to discussing with him.

After living a very public and sometimes stormy life Neil Douglas had taken up residence in a patch of bush in the Point Smythe Coastal Reserve at Venus Bay in South Gippsland.

Here he lived in isolation in an old caravan without power or water but was known to come out every few days to fill his water containers.

My instructions were to leave a note pinned to a certain tree near a tap in Tarwin Lower informing Neil that I wished to talk to him, and if the artist agreed he would telephone me.

I left my note and waited several days before there was a response.

In that first contact call Neil told me that his seventieth birthday was impending and he would enjoy having some company on the day, so arrangements were made for me to meet him at the locked gate that gained entry to his patch of the conservation reserve.

I had borrowed the work camera and armed with my notebook and some extra water and a bag full of birthday treats I sat at the gate and waited for the great man to arrive.

Emerging from the bush this much loved environmental artist wore hessian pants he had woven and dyed and sewn himself. Long grey hair hung down his scrawny back and his signature beard almost obscured his face.

But the twinkle in his blue eyes shone a welcome as he unlocked the gate. Although he wore a thick jumper and an old battered beanie on his head, his feet were bare. When I asked if his feet were cold and did he want some shoes his reply was "you don't wear a sock on your nose girlie, so I don't need em on my feet"!

We walked up the track to his home in the bush. There was an old caravan and a lean to Neil had made for a studio in which to work.

It had a roof of sorts and walls with gaps you could put a fist through. As there were no windows the birds flew freely in and out and to my horror their droppings landed on some finished paintings that were lying on the dirt floor.

One of these I lifted and years later I saw it had sold at auction for over five thousand dollars.

"Time for a cuppa" said my host as we entered the caravan where a battered billy sat on a gas ring on the floor. While Neil made the tea he chatted about his life's work and artistic career, his time in Eltham where he made pots with the likes of Percival, lived at Heide with John and Sunday Reed in the late 1930's and sketched along the Yarra with Sidney Nolan.

Neil Douglas received an MBE for services to art and conservation. Having been told in no uncertain terms that he would have to wear shoes that day, he arrived at Government House wearing the offending articles and after receiving his award he dropped them in the bin on the way out.

Anyway, several cups of tea later I asked Neil if I could use his toilet. "There isn't one" was the reply "you have to go bush"! Light was fading as the interview came to a close and Neil drove me in his old ute back to the gate which he locked behind me before heading back to camp.

But as he left I realised I had left my boss's camera in Neil's van. There was nothing for it but to walk the long dusty track in the dark, mosquitoes the size of helicopters almost carrying me along, to retrieve the camera with the all important photos.

Before bidding my host goodbye once more I asked Neil Douglas about the painting I mentioned, "Enter the Wombat" and told him that I had studied the painting for years and could not find the wombat.

His reply, "it hasn't entered yet".





## WATERLINE REFLECTION

By Reverend Ian Turnidge

Last Christmas Day I discovered a four-hour window of time, after the rush of early morning Church services, where I was not required to be anywhere! A moment of stillness on a busy day: a moment of silence after the flurry of Christmas preparations.

As a minister, my calendar to Christmas is wonderfully full of social events, activities, pastoral visits and celebrations, in addition to the preparations for services of 'carols and stories' and worship. So, those four hours on Christmas Day were a deeply appreciated gift. I made a cup of tea, opened some homemade shortbread, sat in my arm chair and rested.

Once before I spent a Christmas in a similar way. On that day, I enjoyed a toasted sandwich and a peppermint tea, and did some afternoon gardening. Wonderful! It was a remarkable day. I had grown up with formal, pressured meals, where the tensions of the day far outweighed any enjoyment of the food or company. That toasty on Christmas Day was one of the best culinary experiences I have had!

I'm no Grinch! I enjoy the festivities. But it is also encouraging seeing people embrace a simple approach to the celebrations. Choosing a priority of planet and people over wastefulness in gifting or food is a very exciting direction for the season.

Some find Christmas Day the loneliest, especially when the year has been marked by the death of a family member or the breakdown in relationships. My past experiences of a simple day, well planned: or a simple day accidentally encountered have nurtured my Spirit and enabled me to enjoy the day, whether alone or with others!

The Christmas story is hardly a story of feasting tables and abundance. Rather, it is a story of a young woman, a fragile couple and the gift of the birth of an infant in circumstances less than perfect. The creation of family. Every child is a gift. Every child changes everything in life. Most of all your heart. I wonder if we pondered this central story, and wondered why it has endured, if we'd discover a deeper meaning; an even more simple gift? If love is born like this, then perhaps our celebrations of it would reflect the complexity of what it is to be a gift for each other, rather than buying gifts for each other?

**May your journey to Christmas  
Be a pathway of Peace, Hope  
and Joy. A journey of Love.**

## THE PROBUS CLUB OF CORINELLA AND DISTRICT inc.



Probud is all about  
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Our Probud Club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 10am at the George Bass Hotel, Bass, with a meeting, interesting guest speaker and optional lunch.

There are regular lunches and outings arranged every month which you can attend. (see below).

Visitors and prospective members are very welcome to attend. Please contact our Secretary for details (See below).

Our current Members come from San Remo, Woolamai, Bass, Coronet Bay, Corinella, The Gurdies and Grantville and beyond.



### Outings and Events:

|            |          |   |
|------------|----------|---|
| <b>DEC</b> | Wed 4th  | There is no club meeting this month, but we have a Gala Christmas Lunch function for all our members at the George Bass Hotel 11.30am |
|            | Wed 25th | Movies at Leongatha.  |
| <b>JAN</b> | Date TBA | BBQ on Corinella foreshore.   |
| <b>FEB</b> | Wed 5th  | AGM and General Meeting   |
|            | Tue 11th | Shearwater Twilight Cruise  |
|            | Wed 19th | Ten Pin Bowling Cowes   |
|            | Wed 26th | Movies at Leongatha   |

Other activities planned include  
Government House Tour in March;  
Wonthaggi Desalination Plant;  
Lynbrook Hotel;  
Tramboat to Hawthorn and Como House;  
Robotic Farm Gippsland;  
The Melbourne Star;  
a visit to the Australian Gardens and many more.

### For enquiries please contact:

Secretary Heather Reid on 0421 012 519 or  
President Rob Parsons on 0402 852 300

## CHRISTMAS

"Good, close friends  
are the gift which  
keeps on giving,  
every day of the  
year." Annie

"Christmas is a  
season for kindling  
the fire of hospitality  
in the hall and the  
genial flame of  
charity in the heart."  
Washington Irving

"Xmas on the coast  
means surf and  
warm sand." Jess

"A good conscience  
is a continual  
Christmas."  
Benjamin Franklin

"Christmas is a  
season, not only of  
rejoicing, but of  
reflection."  
Winston Churchill

"A punctuation point  
— to stop, to pause,  
to share in the love  
and care of family  
and friends" Leslie

"Love the giver more  
than the gift"  
Brigham Young

"God never gives  
someone a gift they  
are not capable of  
receiving. If He  
gives us the gift of  
Christmas, it is  
because we all have  
the ability to  
understand and  
receive it." Pope  
Francis

"It's not how much  
we give but how  
much love we put  
into giving."  
Mother Theresa

"T'was the night  
before Christmas,  
when all through the  
house, not a creature  
was stirring, not  
even a mouse."  
C. C. Moore

# The French Island News



## FRENCH ISLAND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Tankerton PO  
French Island, Victoria 3921  
[secretaryfica@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryfica@gmail.com)

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

There is no regular police presence or ambulance service on the island. French Island has a Country Fire Authority (CFA).

There is one fire engine stationed permanently on the island. CFA volunteers are able to respond to any kind of emergency. Calling 000 is always the best option in an emergency.

## NURSE ON CALL

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

## AMBULANCE SERVICES

Ambulance Membership  
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/>

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Visit [www.figsfrenchisland.com.au](http://www.figsfrenchisland.com.au) or Facebook/[figsfrenchisland](https://www.facebook.com/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 Email: [secretary@fofi.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:filandcare@gmail.com).  
Landcare Nursery

Volunteers are always welcome at the nursery on Wednesdays from 10am to noon.

Contact -  
Glenys 0437 914 663  
or Judith 0412 178 617



## POISON INFORMATION HOTLINE

131126



## The BARGE

Spirit of French Island operate a vehicular barge from Corinella on the eastern side of Western Port 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 availability 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 and to book the Barge, call 0428 880 729.

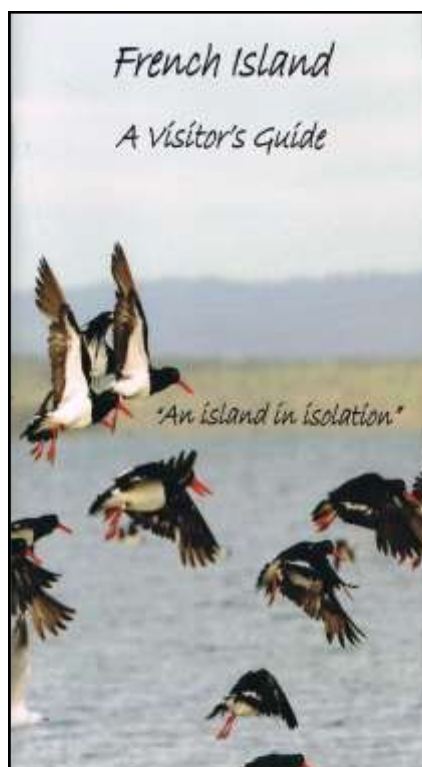
## French Island Visitor's Guide

Christine Dineen's French Island Visitor's Guide is a fantastic publication we visit all too infrequently.

The detailed map included within is a great reference, not only for visitors to the island, and anyone who has an interest in the local flora and fauna.

Available at the French Island General Store, or you can obtain a copy from the author:

Christine Dineen  
[dineenc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:dineenc@optusnet.com.au)



Notices for the French Island section of The Waterline News should be sent to: [waterlinepublishing@gmail.com](mailto:waterlinepublishing@gmail.com)



# Motoring with Bob Wheeler

Melbourne's first fatality from a motor vehicle accident occurred on Thursday 24th August 1905 with a car hitting a pedestrian near the intersection of Gertrude and Nicholson Streets, Fitzroy.

The driver of the vehicle, Macpherson Robertson, founder of MacRobertson Confectionary, was an early adopter of automobiles, having purchased his first, a French Rochet, in 1902.

The coroner's enquiry into the death of the pedestrian, Thomas Hall, found that Hall had died from injuries received through having been knocked down by a motor car. Thomas had been under the influence of liquor, and no blame was attached to the driver of the vehicle.

In the early days, driving on Victorian roads was chaotic with cars competing with horses and coaches, often driving on the wrong side of the road with the added danger of speed. Many believed that the motorcar had absolute control of the streets and driving one Phillip Island local to describe the motorcar as a 'plague'.

It wasn't until 1910 following the arrival of the first Model T Ford in 1909, that specific motorcar legislation was introduced. Members of Parliament struggled with the content of the Bill, and the final enacted legislation - the 1910 Motor Car Act - did not impose speed limits, but instead provided that those 'driving recklessly, negligently or at speed' shall be apprehended by traffic police waving stopwatches. Police were either on foot or bicycle. The Premier believed that it was easier to prove that a car was driven at a dangerous speed than to prove that it had been driven at a specific speed.

According to the Museum of Applied Arts and Science: In 1909, institutions such as the Melbourne School of Motoring opened to teach new owners to drive, as very few people knew how to drive their cars before they bought them.

Farmers were apparently the worst pupils as they expected a car to behave like a horse - to stay on a course when directed and to steer automatically around any obstacles in its path.

The locals on Phillip Island got to see their first motorcar in January 1909.

The motorcar was brought to the Island by Edmund Edmonds Smith and his wife Jemima.

The Smiths lived in Heyington Road, Toorak and were frequent visitors to Phillip Island, where they owned the beautiful property 'Erehwon' located in Cowes on the corner of what we know today as the Esplanade and Steele Street.

Who was Edmund Edmonds Smith? He was born in 1847 at Rotherhithe, Surrey, England - the second of seven sons of William Howard Smith, who was a master mariner and later a wealthy ship-owner, and his wife Agnes Rosa Allen.

Edmund arrived in Melbourne with his family in 1854 at the age of seven aboard his father's 186-ton schooner-rigged steamer, *Express*.

He attended Melbourne Grammar School and entered his father's firm. In the 1890s he was appointed chairman of the company and in 1904 he retired from the Board. He was president of the Victorian Employers' Union and the Australasian Steamship Owners' Federation in 1890 and of the federal council of the Employers' Federation in 1904. After his retirement he unsuccessfully attempted to enter politics.

He was very wealthy and owned office-buildings in Bourke and Flinders Streets in Melbourne.

During a trip to London, the Smiths' purchased two motor vehicles, which they had shipped back to Australia. They returned to Australia in December 1908.

It was in January 1909, during the busy summer period, when the Smiths brought the first motor vehicle to Cowes, which caused a bit of a sensation.

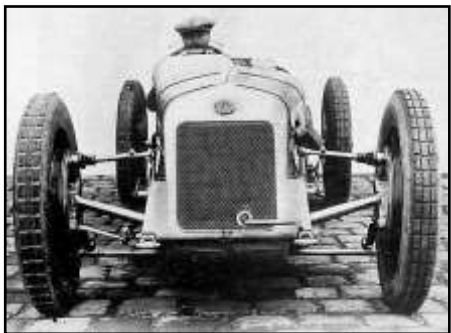
Given Mr Smith's position in the shipping industry, his wealth and being a part owner in the steamer *Genista*, the regular service that ferried passengers from Stony Point to the Island, he felt it appropriate to use the steamer to also transport his newly acquired motor vehicle.

The transport of the 'monster' horseless carriage, according to newspaper reports blocked the transit of passengers to the Island for five days - due to the smallness of the steamer, *Genista*, and the largeness of the car.

The protests from tourists not able to get to the Island and the locals who had never seen a 'petrol monster' before, prompted Mr Smith to invite locals and their equine friends to come to the famous *Isle of Wight Hotel* and 'make a familiarising inspection' of the horseless carriage. This invitation proved to be very successful and a short time later it was reported that the motorcar was careering over the level roads of the Island without causing alarm or accident.

Smith died on 13 April 1914 at his seaside residence *Erehwon* at Cowes and was buried in St Kilda cemetery. His estate was valued for probate in Victoria at £252,771, he had no children.

In 1928, almost 20 years after the Phillip Island locals got to see the first motor car, they welcomed the first Grand Prix Event ever held in Australia, on the Island. It was a race of 100 miles (160kms). This very first event attracted the largest number of people (1,000) that had ever visited Cowes in a single day.



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## MAN ABOUT TOWN

By Bob Middleton

It's been a while now since we made the move down from the hills of Jeetho West to the lowlands of Wonthaggi.

The words from Mark Knopfler's song *Brothers in Arms* keep resounding in my ears, though the line "These mist covered mountains are a home now for me, but my home's in the lowlands and always will be" will need some rejigging to fit our situation.

It's an oft-told tale of the need to downsize as the years pile up.

Steep country is not kind to old legs and two acres of garden seem to grow larger day by day. There is much wisdom in moving closer to essential services as we grow older. Now the medical centre, hospital and shops are within easy reach and, more importantly, Dan Murphy is just around the corner. And it no longer takes a 30-minute drive to visit our friends who live down this way.

There will always be regrets for things we inevitably have to leave behind. Looking out over the surrounding dairy lands we were captivated by the colourful display of the changing seasons. The closing off of paddocks for the grass to grow for next year's hay, the movement of the herds as cows were dried off and rested and the parade of heavy machinery coming together for the harvest.

Yes, we miss that hustle and bustle and the lowing of cows and bellowing of bulls.

Then there was the magic of watching the moon's journey throughout the year from our bedroom window as it navigated its way across the sky following the paths set down by the laws of the universe. Those heavy fogs that would roll in, blanketing our world.

We almost lost a friend who stayed overnight. Curly was a cattle breeder and bushman from the high plains who insisted on going out to buy the morning paper. As he went down the drive through the morning fog, he slowly vanished like a ghost and I felt a twinge of concern. By the time he found his way back the morning news was no longer new. But true bush men don't have any time for those GPS gadgets.

Our new place retains that feel of open country as it backs onto the fairways of the golf course and we are within a good tee shot from the wetlands.

A feature that is not lost on Charlie, our small and adventurous dog. Mobs of kangaroos come right up to our back fence but he now ignores their visits. Which is just as well as they never took any notice of him anyway. We do miss the variety of birds that visited us at Jeetho West where we recorded over 50 species.

Here we are down to about 15 which are mostly imports. I do hope that doesn't sound racist for we are grateful for the company. Having planted a bed of grevilleas along the drive we hope to attract some of the smaller honeyeaters in time but for now it is a popular meeting place for rowdy wattle birds.

Another important change we are slowly getting a hold on is the waste collection with those brightly coloured bins. A welcome relief from the monthly trailer load carted off to the Grantville tip.

I like to put our bins out early so as to give the neighbours some guidance. Why, only last week as I approached home there was our yellow lid shining like a beacon amongst all the red. Oh no, I thought, they've got it wrong again.

Still I think we are settling in to this new phase of our life. The apple trees planted last year are looking healthy and leafy and the manageable vegetable garden is showing promise and is crowded with herbs, silver beet and too much garlic.

I have a good feeling that we are going to be OK.



## MICHAEL FROM KROWERA

By Bob Middleton

Two acres of bush, a dozen or so badly placed native shrubs, some rather large garden beds and a vegie plot that had gone feral. We were in need of help and Michael answered our plaintive cry.

Now he comes up weekly from Krowera to throw himself into battle against this botanical invasion. Usually a Tuesday morning but that can vary. You see, Michael has a problem. He has a weak heart, the kind that melts when he sees someone or something in need. Somewhere along the path of life Michael got dusted with kindness.

The other morning he rang to cancel his visit due to an urgent need to build a chook house. That came as a surprise to us. We knew he had a couple of horses, two old pet steers, a dog and a cat, a house gecko of 13 years standing and a friendly visiting fox, but nothing about chooks.

He said he was sitting in this dead-end lane viewing the V8s racing around the Island circuit when a rooster came strutting up. "This poor creature's been dumped and is in need of a loving home," Michael thought. "Come sit with me and I shall take thee to a place of safety." He didn't say where he housed him for the first night but by the second he had him secure in a newly built fortress.

As time went by we got weekly updates about the level of crowing that came from Rooster Palace but eventually either this island bird realised he had found his home or the family adjusted to a newly acquired farm yard serenade.

We get these weekly reports from Michael during the morning break as we sit sipping tea. He tells us he has held down two jobs throughout his working life, 21 years in each. That degree of loyalty and dependability continues in his retirement years as he takes on caring for farm animals also in retirement.

These days he cares for pets discarded by children who are children no more. They have moved on to join an adult world. That's why the horses. The steers came to keep the grass down.

He admits he does not feel that comfortable around horses, yet for years he has been going out daily to care for their needs. Rugging them up on cold winter nights, paying for vet care, hoof trimming, regular worming. Travelling to Lang Lang to get feed, especially for the old mare after she lost all her teeth and needed to be hand fed.

Some weeks back he had to call in the vet to have her put down. Well, she was 38 years old. The vet expressed surprise at her longevity saying it was a testament to all the love and care she had received.

Still, Michael would not have budgeted for the cost of the excavator, nor the sorrow. It had to be a home burial. Michael would not have had it any other way.



# POET'S CORNER



## O, CHRISTMAS TREE

By Meryl Brown Tobin

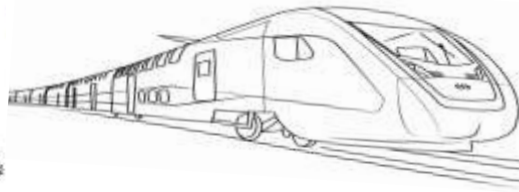
\*  
My  
Xmas,  
traditional,  
commercial,  
giving, receiving, loving  
fills us with goodwill,  
}  
Family time.

## THE GIFT

By Suzanne Hose

You came into the world with ease  
A brother for our eldest son  
But as I looked down and gazed  
upon your face  
My heart broke – surely this is not  
the one  
His features looked Down  
Syndrome  
Is he really for our home?  
Doctor said he'll never walk, talk  
or run!  
Send him away and forget he's  
your son.

But grow, walk and talk he did  
And was the fastest runner –  
heaven forbid  
And though learning was slow  
My heart learned to grow  
For this son who is ours forever  
May not be clever But.....  
Is humble, gentle and slow of pace  
Qualities all the world could  
embrace  
This gift that at first seemed all  
wrong  
Was really our teacher all along



## WOMAN ON A TRAIN

By Catherine Watson

I held her hand while she gave her  
dying breath  
Alan stood at the door.  
She took a great gasp and that was  
That.  
On her dying bed she said Peter  
was having it off with Linda.  
That was 19 years ago and  
The only one I ever cheated with  
was Tom.  
The others I had were all after he  
left me  
So that wasn't cheating, was it.  
I should have left him earlier  
But then he got MS  
So that was that, wasn't it.  
She said 'Mum told me'  
And this was something to hurt me  
'She told everyone when Chris  
was dying  
No one was to tell me.'  
Peter went out and rang.  
Why would she say that if it wasn't  
to hurt me?  
That was today.  
She says she's trying to get back at  
you somehow.  
Nineteen years ago!  
He was bad when Grandpa died  
And he was bad when Mum died.  
He was at the door.  
Michael stood at the door.  
Mum squeezed his hand and said  
'Is Michael there?' and gave a  
gasp.  
I said 'I hope there's life after  
death.  
I'm going up there to let her  
know.'  
Hopefully Irene might have told  
her by then.  
She's *strange*. You've got no *idea*!  
But she says things are going to be  
different  
Now she's got a new bowel.  
She would have known she was  
getting human bowels.  
I said 'What happened 19 years  
ago  
I haven't said.' Anything to annoy  
her.  
He said 'I'm going to go to her  
tomorrow  
And say to her about knowing.'  
She reckons he won't kill himself  
He's been threatening it for years.

## VALE CLIVE JAMES

Critic, author, poet, and lyricist  
Clive James is dead.

He was born Vivian James in the  
Sydney suburb of Kogarah. He  
moved to England in 1961 and  
became a literary critic and  
television columnist.

He was the author of several  
collections of poetry. James's  
assured, formal poems range in  
theme from romantic love to satire,  
and are composed in a wry voice.

## JAPANESE MAPLE

© Clive James, 2014

Your death, near now, is of an easy sort.  
So slow a fading out brings no real pain.  
Breath growing short  
Is just uncomfortable. You feel the drain  
Of energy, but thought and sight remain:  
Enhanced, in fact. When did you ever see  
So much sweet beauty as when fine rain  
falls  
On that small tree  
And saturates your brick back garden  
walls,  
So many Amber Rooms and mirror halls?  
Ever more lavish as the dusk descends  
This glistening illuminates the air.  
It never ends.  
Whenever the rain comes it will be there,  
Beyond my time, but now I take my  
share.  
My daughter's choice, the maple tree is  
new.  
Come autumn and its leaves will turn to  
flame.  
What I must do  
Is live to see that. That will end the game  
For me, though life continues all the  
same:  
Filling the double doors to bathe my eyes,  
A final flood of colors will live on  
As my mind dies,  
Burned by my vision of a world that  
shone  
So brightly at the last, and then was gone.



# Maru Koala & Animal Park

## Dreamnight at the Zoo 2019

In November we hosted our 14th annual 'Dreamnight at the Zoo event', which is a free night for children from our local region with special needs or a life threatening illness and their entire family. Over 75 families attended with close to 400 on the night including Maru staff who all volunteered their time, the CFA and Lions Club members. Our VIP visitors were entertained with a sheep shearing show, access to the park with many of the animals roving with the park keepers for interactions, Pirate Pete's Mini-golf, facepainting, childrens rides and a roving clown. A free BBQ dinner was then supplied complete with cake, ice-cream and finally a bag of donated goods to take home which included a printed photo of their family with a koala. We would like to thank the numerous sponsors including Maru business suppliers, local businesses and our main sponsors the Bass Coast Shire Council and Aquasure, who all pooled together to help make a stress free and memorable night for some of the most needy in our community. Lots of wonderful messages of thanks were received on the night and afterwards with consistent feedback being that families enjoyed the relaxed and non-judgemental atmosphere, friendliness of the volunteers and that their entire family could enjoy the evening together. Neroli & Ian Heffer



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## Loch and Woodleigh Vale Branches Celebrate 70<sup>th</sup> Birthdays

In October last year, Loch and Woodleigh Vale Branches united to celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> birthdays. This celebration took place at Nyora Hall and was conducted jointly by Helen Bryce, Loch Branch President, and Lynette Edden, Woodleigh Vale Branch President.

Guests included the State President of the Country Women's Association, Marion Dewar, Deputy State President, Pam Mawson (Woodleigh Vale Member), Bass Group President, Lorraine Roy, plus members past and present. Approximately 70 people were in attendance.

The earliest Loch Branch Minutes were read by Helen Bryce, with the earliest Bass Group President's Report read by Lynette Edden. This leap back into history was fascinating and concluded with Marion Dewar giving a very entertaining speech.

The "Singing For Leisure" group, conducted by Ann Brown, entertained all with a delightful musical interlude.

Each branch had a celebratory cake. Longtime member, Bev Boucher, cut the Woodleigh Vale cake with the Loch cake cut by Janet McKay and her daughter, Gwenda Woff. The afternoon was a happy celebration of service, friendship, and history with copious memorabilia on view. In true CWA style, the event culminated with a scrumptious afternoon tea.





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## Oh for a plan ... or scrap the lot?....

On either side of Western Port there are two environmental plans:

the "Port Phillip Bay Environmental Management Plan 2017-2027"; and the "Bass Coast Distinctive Area and Landscape" project, 2019 – primarily concerned with the area between San Remo and Inverloch.

Lamentably, Western Port and its Ramsar wetland has no government sponsored environmental plan and if this situation continues, is the state government negligent in its responsibility to protect Western Port and as a consequence, is the federal government in danger of not meeting its international treaty obligation to protect the Ramsar wetland?

The nearest Western Port has ever got to having a plan, has been the recent Container Port proposal, the current AGL Gas proposal, and back in the Henry Bolte days, a proposal for a Nuclear Power Plant - and that's about it!

For some reason, Western Port has been left to fend for itself. Successive governments have been quite happy for numerous environment research projects and reports to come and go, but have never picked up on this work to develop a coherent plan that deals with the environmental issues confronting Western Port and its Ramsar wetland - why?

Others have asked this question including the Western Port Seagrass Partnership in their Annual Report Highlights 2011/2012 when they said: "The board continues its efforts to forge a partnership between the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments in order to address the serious erosion and loss of saltmarsh habitat along the north-east coast of Western Port. We are calling for a strategic plan for this coastline as a first step toward the establishment of a coastal reserve and management plan in keeping with Ramsar values."

## It's now the end of 2019 and still there is no "strategic plan".

The question now arises: will "*The Marine and Coastal Act 2018*" (the Act) make any difference to Western Port's future?

**In theory the Act should**, for it "sets objectives and guiding principles for the planning and management of the marine and coastal environment. It establishes an integrated and coordinated whole-of-government approach to work with Traditional Owners, industry, and the community to protect and manage the marine and coastal environment and better manage many of the uses within it."

**In practical terms however**, will any of the following principles associated with the Act, be applied to Western Port? Infrastructure Victoria's "Victoria's 30Year Infrastructure Strategy", December 2016 indicates: "Some waterways and coastal environments in Victoria are in poor condition. This issue is likely to be exacerbated as development increases across catchments and coastlines and the impacts of climate change are felt, including more frequent and more intense storm and flood events and rising sea levels. Improving waterway and coastal health is important because it affects ecosystems and habitats, and water quality and quantity." An updated 30-year infrastructure strategy will be presented to Parliament in mid-2020.

Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability Victoria. Its role is to "provide independent and objective scientific reporting to inform policy-makers, scientists and the wider Victorian public on the state's natural environment."

"Victorian Infrastructure Plan", 2017. Under 1. Protecting Victoria's biodiversity, it says "Victoria's ecosystems support our wellbeing and prosperity. Natural environments must be properly valued and cared for to protect our biodiversity. The government is putting in place a long-term plan, Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037, to safeguard our environment for future generations through improved planning and protection across the state."

Components of the Act including:

"Draft Marine and Coastal Policy", 2019: "The Marine and Coastal Policy will provide guidance and long-term direction for the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment in the face of challenges from climate change, population growth, and ageing coastal infrastructure. The draft Policy provides the state-wide direction necessary to deliver a coordinated and integrated approach to all marine and coastal planning and management. By protecting and sustainably managing the marine and coastal environment the Policy will support long-term social wellbeing and economic growth for Victoria." Public submissions for the draft policy have closed; the final policy to be released by 31 December 2019.

"Victoria's Marine and Coastal Reforms Final Transition Plan", August 2018: "In consultation with the community and experts, a package of Marine and Coastal reforms has been developed. This includes the *Marine and Coastal Act 2018*. The reforms support the transition to stronger marine and coastal management, and provide the tools to address the long-term challenges and meet evolving public expectations. The reforms will also help to address the findings of the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO) report, *Protecting Victoria's Coastal Assets*."

**So these are the elements in play.** It remains to be seen if the current government can find a way to build on these principles and prepare an all-encompassing ecological plan to nurture and safeguard Western Port's environment.

## And so to the future

Given the problems associated with climate change and Victoria's population and tourism growth continuing at its present rate, what long-lasting effect will this have on the environmental sustainability of Western Port? This question needs to be addressed, for how much longer can we afford to let this situation drag on?

I would suggest it need be no longer, for there is a sufficient 'body of evidence' now tabled on which to devise a plan.

However I imagine the research will go on and more reports tabled and if it must continue this way, the time has come to say that the work must be targeted to achieving a strategic goal, objectives and outcomes of an all-inclusive Western Port Management Plan.

If this criterion is not met, I fear many countless hours and academic research papers will be wasted, and the vision for a "healthy, dynamic and biodiverse marine and coastal environment that benefits the Victorian community now and in the future" will benefit some, but not those associated with Western Port.

To support my contention I refer to a recent "Ockham's Razor" address by Dr Vishnu Prahalad, University of Tasmania (ABC Radio National, "Saturday Extra"). In his closing remarks he says: "We can't just do what we are doing, which is research, publish and repeat. Because while the number of published academic papers continues to rise, our biodiversity continues to decline." **Contd p27**





**Cranbourne Shire Historical Society**  
Polly Freeman -  
pauline.freeman2@bigpond.com

**Inverloch Historical Society**  
PO Box 46 Inverloch 3996  
5674 1386  
Email:  
secretary@inverlochhistory.com

**Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society.**  
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harnold@dcsl.net.au

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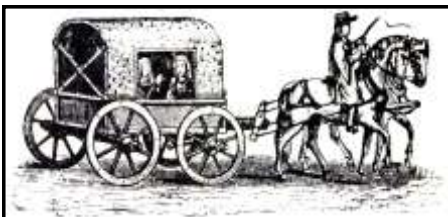
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ralph6@dcsl.net.au

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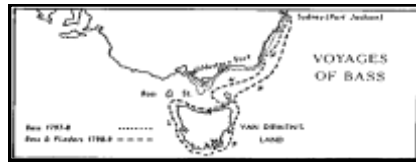


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### *Libby's Corner* with Libby Skidmore Historian



### *Bass Valley Historical Society*

At Christmas the settlers gathered in age old fashion for the fellowship and goodwill that the season brings. They met at the hut of Edward Hobson near Arthur's Seat. In attendance were Robert Jamieson and Samuel Rawson, the Meyrick brothers and the Desaillys who had settled in the Dromana area at Kangerong, along with George Smith and his wife who were relatives of Edward Hobson.

Jamieson and Rawson had journeyed across from Western Port, near Tooradin in that December weather.

The men's horses tethered to a tree were so cold they could hardly stand. The saddles were like sponges. At first light the drenched pair set out in torrential rain for Hobson's where they changed clothes and rejoiced with brandy and a hearty breakfast. On Christmas Eve, the house party celebrated with a bowl of "hot toddy and a good fire for it was cold enough to have one"

"On Christmas Day we sat down a large party to dinner, the table covered with the usual English cheers, washed down by champagne in the drinking of which we did not forget absent friends. We were a merry party that evening though sitting in a hut, which a beggar in England would hardly live in, the walls full of holes, the roof covered with bark through the crevices of which a person may have crept with the greatest of ease, the floor the natural earth, and situated in the middle of the eternal forest."

This party of young settlers, the pastoral population of the Mornington Peninsula at that time did not break up till December 30th, when Jamieson returned to his station and Rawson took off for Melbourne for a few days.

**From "Western Port Chronology 1798-1839" by Valda Cole in the archive library of Bass Valley Historical Society**  
Libby Skidmore

**Bass Valley Historical Society New members always welcome, bookings and information from Libby Skidmore**  
eskidmore@dcsl.net.au

*From previous page*

### **The challenge**

If a plan is not a good idea, then let the state government say so and scrap the two plans either side of Western Port.

If a plan is not forthcoming within twelve months, would it be fair to say that the federal government should take steps to ensure the Ramsar wetland's ecosystem is not further degraded by the state government's inaction.

**Neil Daly**



**"I've Got a Little List"** Last year The Mikado rolled into town and this year H.M.S Pinafore. H.M.S Pinafore with its nautical theme and The Mikado with its bureaucratic overtones, prompted me to contact The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to question what progress had been made in executing the DELWP "Grantville Coastal Protection Plan" – September 2018. This plan is set down in *The Waterline News*, October 2018.

I can now report that very little has happened but "The department is aware of the erosion issues in Grantville and has placed Grantville on the list of statewide priorities to ensure that it is considered if further funding does become available."

It goes on to say, currently "there is no funding to undertake any erosion mitigation projects in Grantville."

So that's it.

Next time you're wandering along the foreshore keep in mind you must persist, 'for they've got it on The List, but Grantville could be missed'!

**Neil Daly**



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# History

## IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS ?

In 1897, Dr. Philip O'Hanlon, a coroner's assistant on Manhattan's Upper West Side, was asked by his daughter, Virginia O'Hanlon (1889-1971), whether Santa Claus really existed.

O'Hanlon suggested she write to *The Sun*, a prominent New York City newspaper at the time, assuring her that "If you see it in *The Sun*, it's so." In so doing, Dr. O'Hanlon had unwittingly given one of the paper's editors, Francis Pharcellus Church, an opportunity to rise above the simple question and address the philosophical issues behind it.

Church had been a war correspondent during the American Civil War, a time that saw great suffering and a corresponding lack of hope and faith in much of society.

Although the paper ran the editorial in the seventh place on the page, below piece on the newly invented "chainless bicycle", it was well received by readers.

According to an anecdote on the radio program *The Rest of the Story*, Church was a hardened cynic and an atheist who had little patience for superstitious beliefs, did not want to write the editorial, and refused to allow his name to be attached to the piece.

More than a century later it is the most reprinted editorial in any newspaper in the English language.

In 1971, after seeing Virginia's obituary in *The New York Times*, four friends formed a company called Elizabeth Press and published a children's book titled *Yes, Virginia* that illustrated the editorial and included a brief history of the main characters. Its creators took it to Warner Brothers, who eventually made an Emmy award-winning television show based on the editorial.

The History Channel, in a special that aired on February 21, 2001, noted that Virginia gave the original letter to a granddaughter, who pasted it in a scrapbook. It was feared that the letter was destroyed in a house fire, but 30 years later, it was discovered intact.

A copy of the letter, hand-written by Virginia and believed by her family to be the original was authenticated in 1998 by Kathleen Guzman, an appraiser on the television program *Antiques Roadshow*. Some commentators doubt that a young girl would refer to children her own age as "my little friends" and suspect Virginia's father assisted her in composing the letter or even wrote it himself. This is the article as from *The Sun* from 1897:

***We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:***

*Dear Editor*

*I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?*

*Virginia O'Hanlon  
115 West Ninety Fifth Street*

*Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the scepticism of a sceptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds.*

*All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.*

*Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.*

*Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove?*

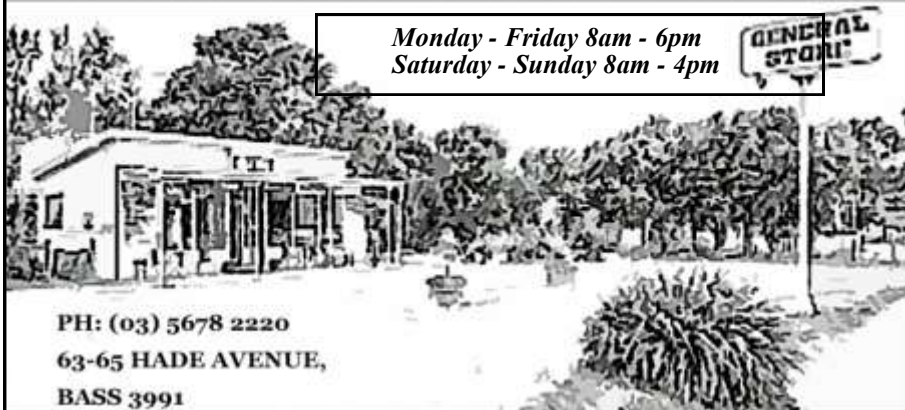
*Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.*

*You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart.*

*Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.*

*No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.*

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# QUIZ?

1. What date is St Stephen's Day?
2. In Charles Dickens' novel A Christmas Carol, who was Scrooge's dead business partner?
3. The song White Christmas was first performed in which 1942 film?
4. London's Trafalgar Square Christmas tree is traditionally given by which country?
5. In the song The Twelve Days of Christmas, '...my true love brought to me nine...' what?

6. Name the original eight reindeer from the 'T' was the night Before Christmas' poem?
7. Which Christmas carol includes the lyrics '...To save us all from Satan's power, when we were gone astray...?'?
8. The character Jack Skellington appears in which 1993 Tim Burton film?
9. What colour are the berries of the mistletoe plant?
10. In the inspirational 1946 film, It's a Wonderful Life, what's the name of George Bailey's guardian angel?

11. What are the names of the three wise men said to have brought gifts to the baby Jesus?
12. What is New Year's Eve called in Scotland?
13. What Christmas item was invented by London baker and wedding-cake specialist Tom Smith in 1847?
14. In what year was Band-Aid's Do They Know It's Christmas the UK
15. Christmas chart-topping record ? which modern country is St Nicholas's birthplace and hometown ?

16. Who wrote 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas?'?
17. From which country does the poinsettia plant originate?
18. Who is officially credited as the author of Auld Lang Syne?
19. How many points does a snowflake have?
20. What is the name of the cake traditionally eaten in Italy at Christmas?



In a society as diverse as ours, its remarkable that the celebration of Christmas is still so pervasive. Sure, not everyone makes the effort, but most do in some way or another.



At the last Australian Census in 2016, around 52% of the population identified as Christian. You might ask that if roughly 50% of the population has no real connection to it, why celebrate it?

Well, because it's fun, family-oriented and a bit magical for the children. Who doesn't love seeing a kid's eyes light up as they unwrap their presents or discover a stocking full of treats at the end of their bed?

Meanwhile, most of us understand that much of this merchandise is made offshore in less wealthy countries, by people earning what amount to slave wages, often under terrible conditions. We understand the same fact when buying cheap clothes or electronics throughout the year. To some extent this sort of purchasing is unavoidable.

What is avoidable is the sudden frenzy of unnecessary buying that occurs at Christmas. Most people receive things they don't want and won't use. 'Re-gifting' these items, however sensible, upsets a surprising number of original givers. Gift giving seems to serve the giver more than the receiver. A few in my family have attempted to institute a 'no giving of gifts unless they're handmade' policy. Or, a 'gifts only for children' policy and it always meets with resistance or downright defiance. "But without presents it's just another family lunch" they say (no Christians attending, obviously).

To certain extent Christmas has become a secular social convention, perhaps simply because we enjoy a celebration, and it's great fun for kids and the adults around them. Although lying to children about Santa is another ethical puzzler! With my own 3 year old, I'm attempting the idea that Santa is just a fun game but we'll see how that goes.

One basic thing we can do is simply buy less at Christmas. We don't need all the decorations, the overabundance of food or the useless presents. It could even make for less stress and more celebration.

The next round of topics for "Ethics in the Real World" is available at Wonthaggi Library.

**BELINDA HENDERSON**

Contact Wonthaggi Library for further details.

Gratitude is an emotion expressing appreciation for what we have. Spontaneously generated from within it is an affirmation of goodness.

Research shows that people who are able to express gratitude generally have higher levels of well being. And the good news is that we can deliberately cultivate gratitude if we are of the mind to do this.

So this festive season, I am going to try my best to replace the eggnog (yuk) with a splash of gratitude instead.

No more over catering, buying stuff destined for landfill or getting caught up in the frenzy of mass consumerism in an effort to keep up with the Jones. And speaking of the Jones, who exactly are they these days? Chances are they don't even celebrate Christmas. According to the latest Census, Australia now has more Buddhists than Presbyterians; more Hindus than Baptists or Lutherans; and nearly as many Sikhs as Lutherans.

Keeping away from the big box outlets will be required if I am to find more gratitude and not give into my propensity to over consume. I am not alone here. On average, Australians end the festive season with a \$1000 + credit card hangover and most of us will be stuck with that debt for the next 6 months and according to the statistics 11% of us will take two years to pay off the presents long forgotten

So I am paring it back this year and going back to basics and wish everyone peace and goodwill which is what Christmas is ultimately about isn't it?

**ALI**



## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. December 26. 2. Jacob Marley. 3. Holiday Inn. 4. Norway. 5. Ladies Dancing. 6. Comet, Cupid, Dasher, Dancer, Pritter, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen, (or Dunder and Blixem). 7. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen. 8. The Nightmare before Christmas. 9. White. 10. Nighmare before Christmas. 11. Balthazar, Melchor and Casper (or Casper). 12. Hogmanay. 13. Christmas Cacker. 14. 1984. 15. Turkey. 16. Dr. Seuss. 17. Mexico. 18. Robert Burns. 19. Six. 20. Panettone

# Gardening with Linda Gordon

## THE HEAT IS ON.

Feeling discouraged in your fruit and veg garden? Troubled by extreme UV, heatwaves, blasts of north wind and hollow-sounding water tanks?

Join the club.

Truly, if I can't get the garden jobs done before morning tea I'm as desiccated as the lettuce in the north-facing vegie bed.

It could be worse. We live down south, not in *sunny* Mildura, and for that I'm thankful.

There is also gratitude due to this hot weather for what it teaches us gardeners about growing edible and other plants, in challenging conditions.

We need techniques that are both preventative and remedial.

I've been asking local gardeners what they do to save their precious food crops and I'm happy to pass on a few of their tips.

Lorraine, who has a well-ordered, small and bountiful yard, has been using polystyrene boxes for delicacies such as lettuces.

Her tender plants, grown in the boxes, have done much better and provided better eating than the ground-grown equivalents.

It's not just being able to move the plants into some shade but also that once you've committed to the box, you tend to keep a close eye on things like drying soil, she says.

Strategically placed melaleuca offcuts provide welcome shade in fruit trees.

The hardy amaranth shelters a couple of tomatoes.

Op shop net curtains shade the golden delicious.

Of course there are lots of ways to create shade: net curtains for draping, hessian for loose wrapping (didn't work very well on Terry's apples), shade cloth on frames and stakes, trees, layers of mulch, etc.

An alternative is a pile of leafy prunings or tree trimmings; easy, instant shade makers. This is one of my preferred methods as I can target plants in danger of scorching and leave those that can manage.

You can dig the twig or woody end into the soil quite close to the vulnerable plant or make a rough shelter over a whole bed with these. It also protects the soil and keeps a bit of moisture in the mulch.

A neighbour has put up a beach umbrella over his most precious vegetables. This looks summery and cheerful but a strong gust of wind could ruin the effect.

What we plant, and where, is the bigger picture.

Before summer, another gardener I spoke to, tired perennial vegetables like warrigal greens, perpetual spinach (or beet), sorrel for salads and rhubarb for fruit and jam. Her theory is they will be stronger, more established, and better able to cope with whatever comes along.

Still, we cannot live on perpetual silver beet alone.

At the Wonthaggi Community Garden self-sown amaranth is throwing some lovely shade where it is most needed on summer favourites like basil and tomatoes.

It comes up everywhere (could be a pest, I guess), but what a trooper.

It's the tall red-leafed variety with a dramatic scarlet tuft, which is chockfull of edible grain (seeds).

I also broadcast mustard seed in a couple of beds to act as nurse and shade plants and weed preventers. It has worked well and seems to confuse the white cabbage moths as well.

More good news about managing gardens in hotter conditions comes from plants themselves.

According to research in the relatively new field of plant neurobiology, humans can learn from the highly skilled, adaptive behaviour of the planet's flora.

Michael Pollan (author of *The Botany of Desire* and *The Omnivore's Dilemma*) has surveyed new and somewhat controversial research into plant behaviour that could change the way we garden forever. But more on that in another column.

In the meantime, how about sharing your tried and tested (and more experimental) hot and cold weather gardening techniques so we can keep growing through the seasons in Bass Coast?

Email contributions and advice to:

[waterlinepublishing@gmail.com](mailto:waterlinepublishing@gmail.com)



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### NAKED AMBITION

By Chris Petrie

Would you drop your clothes and pose naked for a worthy cause? Well, that's what a group of brave residents of Coronet Bay did, to become models in the inaugural 2020 Beach Bums Calendar. In the calendar's introduction blurb, Coronet Bay resident Evan Bekiaris wrote:

*"Community and community benefits are the two key words in relation to the Beach Bums 2020 nude calendar."*

*A broad cross section of the Coronet Bay community dared to be brave and pose in tasteful nude calendar shots in an attempt to show the world that this little community is prepared to do whatever it takes to help to make the community they live in a better place.*

*Love where we live."*

Proceeds from the sale of the calendar are being donated to the Coronet Bay Community Garden, the Coronet Bay Christmas Luncheon and the Corinella CFA. This tasteful and professionally designed calendar has proved a best seller in the local Waterline Communities. So far, at the date of writing, the calendar has sold more than 200 copies, raising over \$3,500 with a third print run of 100 ready for sale.

Conceived over three years ago by local Coronet Bay resident Len Van der Neut, the idea gained momentum and captured the imaginations of locals who bravely bared all to the elements in support of the project. With the assistance of talented local photographers Katie Youens and Terry Francis, plus shots by Lucy Najm and Mr. Van der Neut himself, and the graphic design talents of local Chris Petrie, the project came to life.

The calendar's launch, held at the Coronet Bay Hall on Sunday, Oct 20, was well attended and introduced each of the models to the community. Models commented on how initially scared they were but also on how much fun it was and how proud they were to support a great local initiative. Pre-launch sales swallowed up the entire first print run of 100.

The Beach Bums is a group formed by local Waterline residents to create not-for-profit, low-cost local events. So far they have organised multiple karaoke nights, a trivia night, a 70s & 80s disco, a sing-along night and a movie night. More recently saw a Beach Bums AFL Grand Final day. These events have been well received with between 50 and 80 attendees. These are great numbers for small communities. The events are sponsored by local businesses and residents, with generous door prizes. Proceeds are donated to worthy local causes.

**2020 Beach Bums Calendars are \$20 and would make ideal Christmas presents. Calendars can be purchased from the Coronet Bay General Store, Grantville Pharmacy or directly from Len Van der Neut. Call: 0402 921 577**

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# Books & Writing

## R.I.P. BOB

By Allison Jones

This, of course, isn't my first letter to you, but I guess it will be my last.

I wrote to you in 1991 to thank you for being the greatest Prime Minister of my time. I was fifteen.

You actually wrote back. Well, someone typed a letter to me and you signed it.

My letter to you outlined my admiration for you. I didn't keep the letter you wrote back, well if I did I can't find it now, some 27 years later.

Your letter thanked me for my support and taking the time to write.

I remember feeling in awe that the Prime Minister of Australia said thank you to a 15 year old girl from Yinnar.

So, today, here I am sitting at my dining room table writing this letter to you. On the right of my computer I have a Prime Ministers of Australia mug I bought from Parliament House.

It tells me that you were Prime Minister from 1983 to 1991 and that you were the 23rd Prime Minister and under that it just says 'Labor'.

I was thinking on a long commute today about just what of you and your leadership appealed to me in 1983 when I was eight and what kept me barracking for you until, well, well until forever.

I am pretty sure I freaked my parents out very early on in life. I had an abnormal interest in mostly politics and the workings of government. I loved nothing more than memorising cabinets and even now still know some of yours. But I digress.

Back to what caught my eye with you as the PM. I think you were the first leader on TV that didn't sound like they wanted to be English. You sounded Australian, whether it was exaggerated or not I shall never know. So I liked that fact you were bringing you to the role.

You were smart. You knew it. Eight year old me knew it too. I remember asking people what a Rhodes Scholar was and being impressed. So the fact that you were smart, well beyond smart, sounded like an Aussie and weren't patronising, well that caught my eye.

Now I am older I know that I admired your egalitarianism but at ten years old I didn't know what that was. But I do now. You lived "jack is a good as his boss" in everything that I could see.

People in my life liked to share anecdotes about when you were in the Latrobe Valley and all had varying views. Friends of my parents who said they were in similar circles to you, liked to say your public persona was fake and that you were still drinking etc.

These theories and observations were like water off a duck's back. If you were on the news or the radio I would stop and listen to what you had to say. I liked your work ethic and I liked your reform agenda though I didn't term it that at the time.

In my mind I thought, this PM has big ideas and is working hard to change our economy and is making things better. I really liked your turn of phrase and watching you with the TV journalists in tough interviews. In my young eyes you held your own and I reckon you often relished the stoush.

When I have to do media I will often channel you. Direct, honest and owning it.

I watched you post America's Cup and saw the joy of the win and the pride for our country. It was very real, though your suggestion of a day off didn't wash with my folks. I was sent to school that day. It was confusing to me, a grade two-er as I was pretty sure you out ranked them.

I loved watching budget nights with Paul Keating as your Treasurer. In my mind you two were like Batman and Robin. I think our economy has much to thank you both for. Years after you were no longer PM and I was studying at Uni and learning about the Wages Accord and Tariff removal, I admired you even more.

So Bob Hawke, your leadership influenced my leadership and still does. For some reason you were the role model my eight year old self decided she needed.

From you I took authenticity. I realised that I could be me and own it and have fun.

Life is a big adventure. You can make a difference and still have fun.

If you have a decent brain use it, use it for public good and making a difference and, lastly, anyone can do anything.

RIP BOB

## UNEXPECTED

By E E Caldwell

"The man of 16," my grandfather said, "thought his father a fool. By 17, he was amazed at how much the old man had learnt in just one year."

I had not yet reached that wonderful time of total achievement – 13, 14 perhaps, when I informed the adults around me that in 100 years mankind would have nothing left to invent. Already, we had planes for the air, ships and submarines for the sea, cars and trains for road travel, radio and films for entertainment. So what else could we attain? Well, how about atom bombs, television, internet, medical advances, space travel and our ordinary basic homes equipped with washing machines, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, computers, electric blankets, ducted heating and cooling – almost anything connected to a power point. Oh yes, I knew it all! There would be no more wars – and there haven't, if you discount Korea, Vietnam, Africa, the Gulf, Afghanistan, Falklands, Middle East etc. Was my 13 year old self somewhat naïve? Ever so slightly!

Some two or three years later, my evening solitude was disrupted by a telephone call advising me of the death of my grandmother. For the next hour, stunned, I sat reading and re-reading a single page without absorbing any of its content. Many months passed before I was next alone in the house and inexplicably I was gripped with a sense of foreboding. "What is it," I asked. "Why this blind, unreasoning fear?" With no answer forthcoming, I deliberately sat down in the lounge room to unravel the strands. Without establishing the cause, I knew I would be forever in its thrall. "What has happened before when I was alone?" was the question and soon my recollection set things straight. No longer was I terrified by the vague, shapeless monster, the wicked, Unexpected!

© E E Caldwell

**Many thanks to Maree Silver, who types up all of Betty's pieces.**





The Wonthaggi Ethics Discussion Group meet fortnightly at the Wonthaggi Library. These are the topics for the current series of discussions.

Sat 14 Dec - Ethics of Political Power (Michael)

Sat 11 Jan - Reflections on Current Events (Catherine)

Sat 25 Jan - Ethics of Pleasure (Richard)

Sat 8 Feb - Earth's Distribution of Water (Pierrette)

Sat 22 Feb - Ethics of Keeping Pets (Christine)

Sat 7 Mar - The Politics of Language (Peter A.)

Sat 21 Mar - Animal Rights & Animal Welfare (Open)

More details? Contact the Library

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