

SUNBURY & MACEDON RANGES

Star Weekly

starweekly.com.au



Ex-pilot Neil Spencer and pilot Sophia Eldridge are ready to welcome you to the Kyneton Airfield for the Biggest Morning Tea. (Damjan Janevski) 550462_04

Morning tea takes flight

Fly in to Kyneton to celebrate Australia's Biggest Morning Tea.

Kyneton Aero Club is once again hosting a morning tea, featuring classic planes and cars alongside a cuppa.

Committee member Sophia Eldridge said it's a great event to visit the airfield and help raise money for Cancer Council.

"It's not only about raising money, but it's also such a great way to connect with each other and enjoy passions you don't always get to experience," she said.

"It's not only just about aviation or about the cars, but to be able to gather together."

The free event is open to the whole community to come down and have a look at the impressive displays.

The community can also find out more about the Kyneton Aero Club on the day.

The Biggest Morning Tea will be held at the Kyneton Airfield, 1503 Kyneton-Metcalf Road, Kyneton from 10.30am-1pm on Saturday 16 May.

Details: kynetonaeroclub.org/wp/

Hamlet growth plan

By Georgia Tacey

More than 2300 new houses, a new town centre, parks, education sites and more may soon transform the rural zone of Clarkefield into a bustling town.

Planning documents for the development currently at the hands of the state government have been released, after Macedon Ranges council lobbied for more engagement and transparency on the proposed development.

In February, *Star Weekly* reported that council had concerns about the proposed development, which it said would completely transform the rural landscape of the classified hamlet.

The project bypassed council, with the planning minister the authority for its approval.

Council successfully got the state government to open community consultation on the project, and the almost 20 planning scheme amendments it requires. Included in the documents, the multi-lot staged subdivision will include medium to high density housing, with lot sizes ranging from 84m2 and 512m2.

There will also be affordable and key worker housing included, with building heights ranging from one to four storeys in the town centre.

The new township will be close to Clarkefield train station, with the plans prompting a safe street network to favour pedestrians and and cyclists. The subdivision will also have 95 per cent of homes within 400m street walking distance from the nearest or proposed bus stop, or 800m of the train station.

Two new local parks are included in the plans, as well as the redevelopment of the existing Clarkefield Recreation Reserve.

Phase two of the development, which requires a future planning permit application, would include plans to establish a new centrally located hub with a new outdoor sports facility, a future education use, and a council multi-purpose community centre, a community farm, and a wetland parkland.

No direct property access will be provided from Melbourne-Lancefield Road, with a new access point to the proposed Clarkefield township from the road. The existing intersection at Station Street and Melbourne-Lancefield Road will be altered.

Mayor Kate Kendall called for the Macedon Ranges community to make its voice heard and make a submission, with

council actively working on its own.

"This is a significant proposal for not only Clarkefield, but also the entire Macedon Ranges. All residents should take the chance to view it and have your voice heard," she said.

"With strong farming ties, and a peri-urban location including a train station, the future development of Clarkefield needs to be measured and carefully considered. Council intends to continue advocating for the best outcome for the community."

According to the state government, the community engagement will help inform the planning minister on whether to proceed with the project's approval, with an assessment due in August.

Consultation is open until 1 June on Engage Victoria's website.

Details: tinyurl.com/38cdfw2

CDB-L 48045, CB-L 32244

*With thousands of projects completed,
you're in good hands.*

"5 star plus delivery of service in a timely manner."

★★★★★

Carports • Pergolas • Decks • Shade Structures

Your trusted Home Improvement Specialists!

☎ 1800 010 677

custom@outsideconcepts.com.au

www.customcarportsandpergolas.com.au



Now selling in Sunbury

Resort-style living designed for over 55s



Brighton Living (Light). Artist's impression – to be used as guide only.

Discover a brand-new community in Sunbury, thoughtfully designed for comfort, connection and low-maintenance living.

Enjoy contemporary homes, quality finishes and a range of resort-style facilities designed for relaxed, connected living – all within a welcoming neighbourhood you'll be proud to call home.

Brand-new 2-bedroom homes from \$499,000*

Visit us at: Ingenia Lifestyle Sunbury
Sales Suite 10-30 Barrington Lane, Sunbury

*Prices are current at the time of publication in April 2026 and may be subject to change.



Potential to
free up money



Low
maintenance
living



Own your
own home



Capital gains
are yours to keep

INGENIA LIFESTYLE
Sunbury



Budget boost for house

By Georgia Tacey

Schools, community organisations and sporting groups were the winners in the state budget for Sunbury and the Macedon Ranges.

The 2026-27 state budget, handed down by Treasurer Jaclyn Symes on Tuesday 5 May, had small inclusions for Sunbury and the Macedon Ranges in the budget papers, with big funding requests for roads overlooked.

In Sunbury, Kismet Park Primary School received the biggest funding boost, with \$11 million awarded to upgrade the school.

Goonawarra Golf Club has also benefited

from \$150,000 in funding, which will go towards future projects.

Sunbury Neighbourhood House (SNH) received a funding boost of \$50,000, which Sunbury MP Josh Bull said was critical to the house.

"Our Sunbury Neighbourhood House is a vital asset to the local community - and we know that they have been working tirelessly to continue providing their quality services, support and programs to local residents and families," he said.

The SNH board released a statement on Facebook about the announcement, and said this funding will help keep their doors open.

"While we acknowledge that there has not been a broader increase in baseline funding for neighbourhood houses across the state, this one-off grant is a meaningful recognition of SNH and the needs of our local community," it said.

The board said the vital boost will help provide more opportunities for the community.

Hume mayor Carly Moore said it was disappointing that Sunbury Road wasn't funded in the budget.

In the Macedon Ranges, Heskett Primary School is receiving a small funding boost, sharing in a total of \$25 million for small-scale capital projects, alongside 23 other

schools.

The Healthy Loddon Campaspe program, which covers Macedon Ranges shire, has received \$1.1 million in funding to prevent chronic disease through its program.

Macedon MP Mary-Anne Thomas said a funding announcement to upgrade and open the Old Kyneton Primary School is coming as part of the budget, but no funding was confirmed at time of writing.

Macedon Ranges council previously called for road improvements in the shire and funding for Barkly Square Pavillion and the creation of a youth mental health hub, all of which weren't included.



The IDAHOBIT 2026 working group and friends are gearing up for the Macedon Ranges' events. (Damjan Janevski) 550463_04

Mark IDAHOBIT Day in Sunbury, Ranges

The Sunbury and Macedon Ranges communities will celebrate International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) with a series of events.

Marked globally on 17 May, IDAHOBIT marks a significant milestone in human rights history, with this day in 1990 the day the World Health Organisation removed homosexuality from its classification of diseases.

Organised by Omnia Community Health, Macedon Ranges council, Hume council and DPV Health, the

events will feature live music, entertainment and food, as well as flag raising ceremonies in Kyneton and Sunbury. Omnia Community Health chief executive David Wild said the event provided an opportunity for the community to come together in support of diversity and inclusion.

"It is an opportunity to reflect together on a day that marked a turning point in the recognition of the equality, human rights and dignity of LGBTIQ+ people."

IDAHOBIT events will take place in

Sunbury on 14 May at 4pm at the Sunbury Hume Global Learning Centre, guest speakers, live music from Siena May, and activities.

In Kyneton, the flag will be raised at the Kyneton Mechanics Institute from 1pm with a performance from the Rainbow Voices Choir, a free barbecue and cakes from the Country Women's Association.

Macedon Ranges council has a number of events planned, including author talks, crafts, live music and a community lunch.

Ranges roads to be upgraded

Two intersections in the Macedon Ranges are set to receive upgrades as part of the federal government's Black Spot Program.

The Crows Road-Russells Road intersection in Woodend North will receive \$236,250, and the Victoria Street-Sturt Street-Yaldwyn Street East intersection in Kyneton will benefit from \$152,000.

In Woodend North, the works will include the installation of safety barriers with motorcycle rub rail, the construction of road shoulders, the installation of flashing warning signs, line markings and other supporting treatments.

McEwen MP Rob Mitchell welcomed the announcement.

"It is great to see these projects in our community receive the funding needed to ensure a safer journey for many residents who use these roads," he said.

In Kyneton, the works will include installing a pedestrian refuge island, splitter island, signage, line markings, and upgrades for lighting, kerbs and channels. Pram ramps will also be modified alongside other supporting treatments.

Projects were recommended by the Victorian Black Spot Consultative Panel. The panel found that the Woodend North intersection had a lack of safety barriers in a high speed environment with an increased risk of severe crashes, inconsistent signage for west and northbound motorists and visibility is limited due to a vertical crest which reduces sightlines.

For the Kyneton intersection, the panel said the wide traffic lanes on Sturt Street and Yaldwyn Street East encourage drivers to travel at higher speeds, leading to a lack of caution when turning onto Victoria Street.

Council workers rally at state parliament

More than 1000 council workers rallied in front of parliament on state budget day, 5 May.

Council workers from eight councils, including Hume, Maribyrnong and Hobsons Bay joined together for a 24-hour stop work part of a wider Australian Services Union (ASU) fight to win 10 per cent wage increases.e.

On 5 May library programs in Hume were cancelled and the Craigieburn library closed its doors early.

The ASU Vic-Tas branch secretary Tash Wark said shutting down services proves how important council workers are.

While Fair Work approved a multi-employer bargaining process between the ASU and involved councils in late December, the first bargaining meeting was held on 24 March. At least four meetings have been held since.

Hume mayor Carly Moore attributed the delay to the complexity of the arrangement, which she said is not specific to Hume.

"While we absolutely believe our staff deserve fair pay, [but] councils operate under a state government rate cap," Cr Moore said.

The state government council rate cap for the 2026-27 financial year is 2.75 per cent.

"[Wage] increases of this scale (10 per cent) place significant pressures on council budgets and ultimately on the ratepayers, particularly at a time when many households are facing cost of living pressures."

A state government spokesperson said before the rate caps, council rates were rising by about six per cent every year.

ADVERTISEMENT

Delivering for Sunbury

-  sam.rae.mp@aph.gov.au
-  (03) 9070 1960
-  316 High Street, Melton 3337
-  samraeforhawke.com.au
-  SamRaeForHawke
-  SamRaeMP

SAM RAE

Labor Member for Hawke
Minister for Aged Care & Seniors

Authorised by Sam Rae MP, 316 High St, Melton VIC 3337



Surgery a chance to survive

Kirsty Wesner was staring death in the face when friends, strangers and a US-Filipino surgeon stepped in to give her a chance at survival. She's determined to make the most of it, Cade Lucas reports.

There's desperate and then there's the plight Footscray's Kirsty Wesner found herself in at the beginning of this year.

Back in January, *Star Weekly* reported on the 41-year-old mother of three's frantic efforts to raise enough money to travel overseas for life-saving surgery.

Stricken with Superior Mesenteric Artery Compression Syndrome (SMACS), a rare digestive disorder that was slowly killing her, Ms Wesner needed to raise more than \$40,000 so she could pay for a trip to the Philippines to undergo the Alvear procedure, a specialised surgical technique that is one of the few known treatments for SMACS and which is not available in Australia.

In fact, the Alvear procedure is mostly performed by the man it's named after: Filipino-American surgeon Dr Domingo Alvear, who returns back to his homeland a couple of times a year to perform it and other life-changing operations.

By the time Ms Wesner spoke to *Star Weekly* in late January, she had less than three weeks to come up with the money in time for Dr Alvear's February visit, yet the GoFundMe page she'd set up had attracted little more than \$6000.

“It's Kirsty 2.0. I feel like I have an opportunity to survive now”

- Kirsty Wesner

Raising over \$30,000 in three weeks would be difficult for the most physically able, but for someone dangerously malnourished and underweight due to not having been able to eat properly for two years, it bordered on fantasy. And a death sentence.

“I will die without this surgery,” Ms Wesner said bluntly in the story published on 22 January.

While news of Ms Wesner's plight was splashed across the front page in the inner-west, out in Melton, where she lived before moving to Footscray to be closer to medical care, a rescue attempt was quietly getting underway.

Lori Keele became friends with Ms Wesner after their daughters did the same. Despite the Wesners no longer living in Melton, the families remained close and Ms Keele was well aware of her friend's worsening health.

“It was very hard to watch,” Ms Keele said of witnessing her friend's decline while feeling helpless to stop it.

With time running out, she reached for the break-glass option many locals go to in times of crisis: she contacted Keith Stephen.

Keith and Sallyann Stephen are what passes for moves and shakers in Melton. Keith runs an IT business and is a well known local trader, while both are members of Rotary Melton Valley, where Sallyann serves as the secretary.

“It just really hit a chord with us” Mrs Stephen said of their reaction to learning about Ms Wesner's situation.

Then they swung into action.

“I discussed this with the members of my Rotary club to see if we could help and then reached out to most of my customers via email seeking donations to help fund Kirsty getting to Manila for this life-changing operation and many generous donations were received,” Mr Stephen said.

“All donations were made via Rotary Melton Valley, who also donated \$1000 and coordinated payment to the medical team in Manila.”

Donations from Mr Stephen's customers came in from all over the country and



Left: Footscray's Kirsty Wesner with her daughter Isla, 11, has returned from the Philippines where she had life-saving surgery. (Damjan Janevski) 546594_03
Top right: Kirsty with Dr Domingo Alvear and daughter Isla. (Supplied)
Right: Kirsty and Isla with Rotary Melton Valley president Michael Dowling (left) and club member Keith Stephen. (Damjan Janevski) 546594_06
Inset: Kirsty recovering post-surgery in a Manila hospital in February. (Supplied)



while the exact total is unknown, it's believed to have far exceeded the amount donated by the Rotary club or the \$2000 provided by the Footscray Lions Club who Ms Wesner approached herself.

“I received email correspondence from Kirsty and I said “right this seems like a desperate case where nobody else is going to help,” Footscray Lions Club member Bert Jessup recalled, pointing out that once the club had verified Ms Wesner's story, the decision to contribute was an easy one.

“We had some funds available and we decided to donate them,” Mr Jessup said.

While this was going on, Ms Wesner's GoFundMe had crept up to over \$9000 and with Ms Keele and her husband providing a substantial donation as well, the fundraising target was suddenly within reach.

“It was so touch and go,” Ms Wesner said of the last-minute dash for cash which was then followed by the not insignificant task of getting \$41,000 to the Philippines.

“The banks were complicating things and shutting people's bank accounts because they didn't think it was legitimate.”

The transfer was belatedly approved and finally, the night before Ms Wesner and her youngest daughter were due to fly out to Manila on 13 February, reality set in.

“It was kinda like, ‘okay it's actually happening now,’” she said.

Being wheeled into surgery five days later on 18 February was even more profound.

“I became emotional and realised that it was actually gonna happen.”

The operation at a hospital on the outskirts of Manila and lasted for roughly four hours.

While there were no complications, Ms Wesner awoke from the “very invasive” surgery to excruciating pain and stitches from sternum to naval.



“They took all of my intestines out and operated on all of it,” was her rough explanation of what Dr Alvear did in the procedure.

Given the nature of the condition, it's hard to think of any other option.

SMACS involves the duodenum – the first part of the small intestine – being squeezed by two arteries, the SMA and the aorta, restricting the amount of food that can be digested.

In Ms Wesner's case, the SMACS was further complicated by her also having Ehlers Danlos, a genetic condition that causes organs, ligaments and connective tissue to stretch, prolapse and drop.

Having a combination of rare disorders made accessing viable treatment in Australia even rarer, with Ms Wesner claiming local doctors lacked knowledge about her ailments and often misdiagnosed her with anorexia or other eating disorders.

A rapid decline in her condition over the past two years forced her to look overseas and to Dr Alvear.

Once he began operating on her, the US-based surgeon found that not only did Ms Wesner have SMACS, but an especially bad case of it.

“What they found was that the artery was compressing the duadenum, but there were also ligaments that were across the whole length of my intestines,” Ms Wesner said.

The effect was such that not only were Ms Wesner's intestines being squeezed, but twisted as well, making it almost impossible for food to get through. Dr Alvear and his staff were amazed that she had survived so long.

Ironically, the sagging effect from her Ehlers Danlos probably helped keep Ms Wesner alive.

“It kinda helped keep me alive for longer with that not compressing so severely,”

she said.

Unfortunately, the Ehlers Danlos also meant Ms Wesner couldn't take many common painkillers and with opiates such as morphine also restricted in the Philippines, her first week post surgery was rough

“The recovery was very brutal,” she said.

“It was still less pain than what I was experiencing beforehand.”

Whatever pain there was disappeared once Ms Wesner ate her first meal with solid food since 2024.

“I cried,” she said. “When I had a burger I cried my eyes out. I hadn't had a burger for two years.”

“I felt like I had my life back.”

Discharged from hospital after 10 days and returning to Australia at the end of March, Ms Wesner has since been out for a meal with Ms Keele, the first time they'd eaten together in years.

“Oh my God, she's so much better. She's unrecognisable,” Ms Keele said of her friend's improvement.

The recovery has been uneven though. While Ms Wesner is able to eat and digest food and her weight has increased by 10 kilograms, her mobility hasn't improved.

“We're still trying to figure that out,” she said of why she was still wheelchair-bound.

Not that this has dimmed her newfound lease on life.

“It's Kirsty 2.0. I feel like I have an opportunity to survive now,” Ms Wesner said, adding that she was preparing a presentation on SMACS that she hopes to show at Rotary clubs, while a foundation aimed at educating Australians, particularly clinicians, on the condition was also a possibility.

“I want my suffering to have been worth something,” she said of her future goals.

As for all those who donated to make her new life possible, Ms Wesner is much less definitive.

“I don't even know how to express how grateful I am to them.”

You can **shape** young lives.



Working in early childhood education can shape the lives of young Victorians.
And with scholarships and study support, it could shape your life too.



Learn more at vic.gov.au/kinder



Department
of Education

CONTACT US

PHONE \ 03 8318 5777

LOCATION \ Corner Thomsons Road and Keilor Park Drive, Keilor Park, 3042

DISTRIBUTION \ 1300 656 678
distribution@fermax.com.au

ADVERTISING

GENERAL SALES INQUIRIES
westads@starweekly.com.au

CLASSIFIEDS \ 1300 666 808
EMAIL \ sales@networkclassifieds.com.au



GENERAL REAL ESTATE INQUIRIES
reads@starweekly.com.au

EDITORIAL

GENERAL EDITORIAL INQUIRIES
westeditorial@starweekly.com.au

COMMUNITY CALENDAR ENTRIES
communitycalendar@starweekly.com.au



Published by MMP Star Pty Ltd ACN 168 220 399
Head Office Corner Thomsons Road and Keilor Park Drive, Keilor Park, 3042
Publisher/Managing Director, Paul Thomas
All material is copyright to MMP Star Pty Ltd.
Responsibility for election comment is accepted by Paul Thomas.
All significant errors will be corrected as quickly as possible. Distribution numbers, areas and coverage are estimates only. For our terms and conditions please visit starweekly.com.au



Kismet Park Primary School captains Summer, Ryan, Wren and Flynn with acting principal Sam Carlton. (Supplied)

Budget windfall for Kismet

Kismet Park Primary School is celebrating after winning big in the 2026-27 state budget.

The Sunbury school has received \$11 million in funding for an upgrade to the school facilities.

Sunbury MP Josh Bull welcomed the funding for the local school, and said the upgrade, which plans to modernise the school facilities, will be transformative to the school and its community.

"I have advocated strongly for the Sunbury electorate and am thrilled to see the significant \$11m investment into Kismet Park Primary School - and I thank acting principal Sam Carlton and the school community for their advocacy," he said.

"This will be transformational for such

a wonderful local school, and it was an honour to be able to deliver the great news."

Mr Carlton said the school community was thrilled for the support, and shared more about what the funding will cover.

"This significant investment marks the beginning of an exciting transformation for our school community, including a brand new, innovative STEAM facility," he said. "The staff at Kismet Park Primary School are incredibly excited about what this means for the future of teaching and learning for our students.

"We can't wait to see what's ahead and to embark on this journey together. We'd also like to thank our school community for their ongoing advocacy and support, along with Josh Bull for his support of our school."

Briefs

Sunbury break-in

Police are appealing for public assistance after numerous items were stolen from a Sunbury property. Police said a male gained access to the property on Old Vineyard Road after ramming the front gate on 3 March about 2.30pm. Investigators believe the offender attended the address in a silver Toyota Prado bearing stolen registration plates. Police said the offender then forced entry to the premises by kicking in the front door, ransacking the premises and fleeing in the Toyota with stolen cash and jewellery totalling about \$1100. The male is described as Caucasian, a slim build, brown hair and aged in his 30s. He was wearing a blue hoodie with "AMERICAN" on the back, black pants and white shoes. The investigation remains ongoing.

V/Line disruptions

Due to V/Line maintenance works, coaches replace evening trains on the Bendigo Line for the entire journey from 17-20 May. On Sunday, from 8.30pm at Southern Cross, coaches will replace trains, and 7.30pm from Bendigo. From Monday to Wednesday, coaches will replace trains from 8.30pm from Southern Cross and 8pm from Bendigo. Passengers should allow for an additional 60 minutes of travel time to their journey. Details: vline.com.au

FOR BREAKING NEWS, VISIT

Web: starweekly.com.au
f Sunbury & Macedon Ranges Star Weekly
t @starweeklynews
i @star_weekly

Doing good for Sunbury

By Georgia Tacey

The Sunbury community has wrapped around Distinctive Options and its supported employees.

The DO Food Project has recently had a big upgrade of its outdoor space with a new seating area and children's section donated by two local businesses, Love It Styling and Little Bear Earthworks.

The project offers supported employment opportunities to help the NDIS participants DO supports to build confidence and gain skills to go onto full-time employment.

Currently, 20 supported employees work under the helpful guide of Kev Barker, who said he's supported about 40 to 50 participants over the past two years.

DO chief engagement and growth officer Kelli Browne said the community's support is vital to the project's success.

"We're doing everything we possibly can to bring the community together to help create as many of these fantastic opportunities for people with a disability to have meaningful, inclusive employment in the area," she said.

"We really can't do it without the support of community-minded businesses, like Little Bear Earthworks, and the wonderful support that we get from so many community organisations, volunteer groups and visitors in this area coming and supporting us.

"We want people to know when they come here, it's more than just buying a coffee, it's actually about creating meaningful and inclusive opportunities for people with a disability, and that really changes lives."

Mr Barker said he's seen people completely change and grow through working at the DO Food Project, including



Little Bear Earthworks director Charlie Jarratt, supported employee Aidan, support worker Michelle Codova and Distinctive Options chief engagement and growth officer Kelli Browne. (Pictures: Damjan Janevski) 549533_01

twins Liam and Lachlan.

"The twins came to us at 26 and had never worked a day, barely kind of left their house, never engaged in services after school, from 18 to 26," he said.

"Now, they're capable of anything ... I can stand there and watch them serve customers, make coffees, make food and the joy that you can see that they have every day here connecting with people, interacting with people, having fun as well as learning."

Mr Barker said there's currently about

five to 10 supported employees he said are ready to enter the workforce.

"[It's great] watching the relationships that they can create with members of the community and building their confidence," he said.

"DO is very insular, they feel safe within this space, but getting them to be safe outside of that space and in the greater community is something we're really striving towards."

Little Bear Earthworks director Charlie

Jarratt said he loves supporting the local Sunbury and Macedon Ranges community, and when he discovered the DO Food Project, he knew he had to do something to support the not-for-profit.

"I've always had the mentality of if we can, we do. If we can help, we will," he said.

"When I found out there was a place like this that can do coffee ... that was the move to support them.

"I started talking to every single person that worked here and all the other guys that volunteer here ... and it's just a massive dopamine hit just walking in because everyone's super nice and super happy."

Mr Jarratt has donated weekly free coffees for the month of May, and Ms Browne said all mothers, grandmothers, and any carers can get a free coffee.



Distinctive Options chief engagement and growth officer Kelli Browne with Little Bear Earthworks director Charlie Jarratt who's supporting the DO Food Project with free coffees. 549533_05

Plane noise breaks wanted

Community consultation found that locals would like overnight and occasional daytime breaks from aircraft noise when Melbourne Airport's third runway opens in 2031.

Last year, more than 500 locals had their say on the Noise Sharing Plan which will guide how aircraft noise is distributed across communities surrounding the airport.

According to Melbourne Airport, the third runway will change how aircraft noise is experienced and will particularly impact the nearby suburbs of Keilor and Bulla. The Noise Sharing Plan aims to give communities breaks from continuous

aircraft noise through flight path management and runway operations.

Melbourne Airport major capital projects executive general manager Scott Cooper said community feedback will help shape the plan.

"Community members indicated preferences for breaks from aircraft noise at night and alternating runway use to provide regular days of respite, along with interest in learning how flight paths are designed to support noise sharing," he said.

This feedback was received through more than 570 online survey responses and 24 community sessions facilitated by independent consultants Trax and GHD.

Aviation industry stakeholders were also consulted and Mr Cooper said they questioned the impact of flight path changes on local airspace access. Though he said they supported priority airspace access for emergency services.

Melbourne Airport will publish the draft plan for review and further community feedback later this year. The plan will then be submitted for approval to the federal infrastructure, transport, regional development and local government minister.

Melbourne Airport was required to develop a Noise Sharing Plan as part of the federal government's runway approval.

"The third runway is essential to ensure Melbourne Airport has the capacity it needs to serve Victoria's growing population and the increased demand for both passenger and cargo services," Mr Cooper said.

"By 2045, we expect more than 76 million passengers to pass through our terminals, which is more than twice the number today.

"The third runway will contribute almost \$6 billion to the Victorian economy each year, while giving airlines more flexibility, reducing delays and supporting thousands of new jobs."

Details: melbourneairportprojectshub.com.au/noise-sharing-plan

MY PLACE

Kyneton CFA has a new captain. Georgia Tacey caught up with Andrew Twomey to hear about his role at the CFA and his life living in Kyneton.

What's your connection to Kyneton and the Macedon Ranges?

Our family moved up to Kyneton in 2015, after spending three months travelling around Western Australia and Central Australia, we realised Melbourne no longer suited the lifestyle we were looking for. The open spaces and more relaxed pace really appealed to us, so we began looking for an alternative and the Macedon Ranges ticked all the boxes. Kyneton has been a fantastic place to settle. It offers everything a young family could want, great schooling options, a wide range of after-school activities for kids, and good access to transport and healthcare. It's also ideally located between Melbourne and Bendigo, which makes it a convenient place to live while still enjoying a quieter, more community-focused lifestyle.

What do you like about where you live?

The open spaces and access to some great local parks and gardens, great food, and wine right on our doorstep is a bonus.

Is there anything you'd change or like to see in Kyneton or the Macedon Ranges?

One thing I would like to see is better access to public transport especially after hours



Andrew Twomey.
(Damjan Janevski)
549752_07

and on weekends. Now, it can be difficult for people to get from town to the train station once bus services stop, which limits mobility for many in the community. This is especially challenging for teenagers, as it can restrict their ability to access activities and opportunities outside of school hours.

Where's your favourite local place to spend time?

Blackhill Reserve or just on the back veranda enjoying the views over towards the hills out to the west of Kyneton.

Can you tell us a bit about your role as captain of the Kyneton CFA?

As captain of Kyneton CFA, my role is primarily an administrative role. It involves managing the resources available to us, including the fire station, trucks,

equipment, and brigade members, to ensure we can deliver the best possible service to our community. A key part of the role is also supporting the wellbeing of our members, making sure they are safe, prepared, and supported in what can often be a demanding environment.

How long have you been part of Kyneton CFA?

I started to attend training in late 2015 and officially joined the Kyneton CFA in 2016, during which time I have been involved in community safety, fire equipment maintenance, training with other members within the brigade. I have been part of strike teams to NSW and northern Victoria in 2019-2020, The 2022 floods in Echuca and Rochester and the recent Harcourt fires.

Why did you decide to join?

I joined as a way of giving something back to the community that I live in and to meet some new people after recently moving into town.

Is there anything you're looking forward to as captain, or anything you'd like to see happen?

I'm looking forward to working with the incoming brigade management team to support the brigade in delivering first-class service to the Kyneton community and surrounding towns. My priorities are making the best use of our existing resources, developing members' skills so they can confidently fulfil their emergency roles, and strengthening teamwork and readiness across the brigade. I would love to see extra funding available for brigades.

SOMETHING EXCITING IS COMING!



WIN a \$200

Toy Shopping Spree,
Coming Soon!

AUSSIE

TOYS

ONLINE

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Star Weekly looks back through the pages of our predecessors



35 years ago
14 May, 1991

The future of water supplies in the Macedon Ranges area is causing grave concern.



20 years ago
16 May, 2006

Organisers of the 4Patty fun day held earlier this month are angry about comments posted on Cr Ann Potter's blog last Sunday, criticising the actions of former councillor Jack Medcraft at the event.



15 years ago
10 May, 2011

Three members of the 3rd Sunbury Scouts have been awarded the highest honour - Australian Scout Medallion.



10 years ago
10 May, 2016

Macedon state MP Mary-Anne Thomas has hit out at Macedon Ranges council's plea for help with explosive growth in Gisborne, saying she's disappointed it has been unable to come up with a positive plan for the town.

IDAHOBIT

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, BIPHOBIA, INTERSEXPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA

Join us to raise the rainbow flag!

Thursday 14 May, 4pm
Sunbury Library

- Live music from Sienna May
- Kids activities
- Food

Monday 18 May, 1pm
Kyneton Mechanics Institute

- Rainbow Voices Choir
- Free BBQ
- CWA cakes/biscuits

Plus guests speakers

12867928-AF20-26

MACEDON RANGES IDAHOBIT CELEBRATIONS

2026 THEME: AT THE HEART OF DEMOCRACY

International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia, & Transphobia

MAY 13 **Pride Crafternoon** Ages 12 - 21
📍 Woodend | 4 - 6pm | **Registrations required**

MAY 14 **Author Talk - Krysteen Dvoracek: Love and Parrots**
📍 Kyneton Library | 5:30 - 6:30pm | **Booking required** | Free

MAY 17 **Country Struts Honky Tonk** with **Kerryn Fields & Band** and **DJ Queenie**
📍 Kyneton Mechanics Institute | 2 - 4:30pm | \$15 Student | \$20 Concession | \$25 Full

MAY 18 **Flag Raising Ceremony**
📍 Kyneton Mechanics Institute | 1 - 2pm
FREE sausage sizzle
Musical performances
Community speeches

MAY 20 **Community Lunch - IDAHOBIT Theme**
📍 35 High St, Kyneton | 12:30 - 1:30pm | All ages | Free

To find out more, scan the QR code or visit mrcs.vic.gov.au/IDAHOBIT

12867928-VP20-26



Left: Cooper, Estee and Holly learning the art of pottery. Right: Charlie and Ethan working on their robot at the Southern Cross FRC Championship. (Pictures: Supplied)

Learning through action at Global Village Learning

At Global Village Learning, learning is something you do, not something you sit through.

Our learners don't wait to apply knowledge later. They build, design, create, test, and refine now.

Whether it's developing a prototype, working with materials, or shaping an idea into something real, learning happens through action.

This is driven by a simple belief: young people are capable of far more than we often allow. When they are trusted with meaningful work, they step up.

At GVL, Personal Interest Projects and EDventurous Projects sit at the centre of the experience.

Learners pursue what genuinely interests them while developing the skills needed to bring those ideas to life. It's

practical, purposeful, and engaging.

There is structure, but it's personalised. Learners move through Learning Hubs based on readiness, building confidence and mastery over time.

What ties it all together is our vision: empowering learners to build communities that positively impact the world.

This is supported by a focus on agency,

mastery, and community connection. When learners have ownership, feel capable, and are part of something bigger than themselves, motivation takes care of itself.

The result is a learning environment with energy. Focused. Creative. Real.

Not preparation for life, but a place where young people are already shaping it.



Beyond the Classroom

Self-directed. Hands-on. Real. Learning that lives in the real world.

Want to learn more? Visit gvl.vic.edu.au to submit an Expression of Interest.



© 2026 Global Village Learning | 57 Barringo Rd, New Gisborne VIC 3438

Braemar College: Two campuses, one learning journey

A Braemar College education is shaped by place, defined by belonging.

In the foothills of the Macedon Ranges, students begin a learning journey shaped by something increasingly rare in education today: a deep and lasting sense of place.

Braemar College offers a distinctive years 5 to 12 co-educational experience across two campuses, where every student is known personally and supported through every stage of growth.

The journey begins at our Woodend campus, home to the Middle School. Here, students in years 5 to 8 settle into secondary learning in an age-appropriate environment intentionally designed to build belonging, friendships and independence at the stage when those foundations matter most. Strong teaching, clear expectations and genuine care give students the confidence to aspire, achieve and thrive.

By year 9, students step into the next chapter of the journey at our Mount Macedon campus. Set within a landscape of striking natural beauty and shaped by a heritage stretching back to the early 1900's, this campus offers more than a place to learn. It offers a community defined by tradition, character and connection, where one generation of Braemar students is linked to the next.

Two campuses. One College. One continuous years 5 to 12 learning journey. From the warmth of Woodend to the established strength of Mount Macedon, our students grow in mind, body and spirit, well prepared for senior secondary learning, and for the world beyond it.

To experience the Braemar journey for yourself, we warmly invite families to book a personal tour of either campus.



College Principal Russell Deer with (from left) Hayley, Chelsea, Oliver and Connor.



**Join us
now as we
celebrate
the past and
begin the
next 50 years
in Braemar's
history**



BRAEMAR 

For further information regarding enrolments
contact the Registrar: registrar@braemar.vic.edu.au
or Phone: 5427 9161

Salesian College Sunbury is preparing students for the future

At Salesian College Sunbury, we are committed to preparing students for the future through a quality education that encourages excellence, confidence and growth.

Our college provides an environment where young people are supported to discover their strengths, pursue their interests and achieve their personal best — academically, socially and beyond the classroom.

We recognise that every student brings different strengths, interests and aspirations to their learning — and that these can evolve over time.

In response, Salesian College Sunbury has embraced flexible and innovative approaches that place students at the centre of their educational journey.

Our My Salesian Passport curriculum structure empowers students with meaningful choice and agency, enabling deeper engagement while allowing them to explore a broad range of pathways aligned to their interests and talents as they grow.

The college continues to invest in facilities and programs that support future focused learning across a wide range of disciplines.

Our dedicated STEAM Centre offers students opportunities to engage in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics through hands on, collaborative and problem based learning. These purpose built spaces encourage creativity, innovation and critical thinking, preparing students for a rapidly evolving world.

Our strong agriculture program, utilising the college's expansive grounds, provides authentic, hands on learning experiences that develop practical skills,



Salesian College students walking with principal Mark Brockhus. (Supplied)

deepen understanding of sustainability and food production, and open pathways into agricultural and environmental industries.

Equally the Salesian College Sports Academy provides student athletes with a structured pathway to excel. Through specialist coaching, tailored training programs and a focus on balancing academic and sporting commitments, students are supported to succeed both in the classroom and in their chosen sport.

With robust VCE and advanced

Vocational Major pathways, we ensure our students are well prepared for further study, training or employment after graduation, no matter where their strengths lie or how their aspirations develop over time.

Beyond academics, a strong sense of community underpins college life. Students are encouraged to engage in leadership opportunities, creative pursuits, sport and community initiatives, building confidence, resilience and responsibility.

Principal Mark Brockhus says, "Our

focus is on creating opportunities that allow every student to grow, excel and find a pathway that suits them. We are proud to offer an environment where students feel supported, challenged and inspired to be their best".

Discover a school where students are supported to excel — no matter their interests or aspirations. Year 7 2028 applications are now open and close Friday 14 August, 2026. Book a student-led tour of Salesian College Sunbury by visiting our website today.



Salesian College
SUNBURY

Strive in life.

Where Your Potential Finds a Home.

YEAR 7 2028 APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN



Book your tour today.



Every student is valued and supported at Riddells Creek

At Riddells Creek Primary School, our values of caring, respect, integrity and safety underpin all aspects of school life.

These values guide how we learn, interact and work together, fostering a connected and inclusive community where every student is known, valued and supported.

We are proud of our strong partnerships with families and the wider community, which contribute to a genuine sense of belonging.

Our teaching practices are grounded in evidence-based approaches, with a strong focus on continuous improvement.

Recent NAPLAN results reflect positive growth and improved outcomes for our students.

This progress is supported by strong teacher-student relationships and understanding of individual learning needs.

In literacy, we implement a structured synthetic phonics approach to establish solid foundations in reading and writing.

In mathematics, a hands-on and inquiry-based approach promotes critical thinking, problem-solving and collaboration.

We are committed to maintaining high expectations while catering for the diverse needs of all learners.

Students benefit from a broad range of opportunities beyond the classroom.

Participation in events and programs such as the Melbourne Writers Festival, the Victorian High-Ability Program, 'Go Girls' STEM Day and the Maths Association of Victoria Games Day enrich learning and extend student interests.

Our comprehensive sporting program also provides opportunities for participation and achievement at school,



Students Evelyn, Evie, Taj and Mitchell. (Pictures: Supplied)



district and regional levels.

Specialist programs in STEM, performing arts and visual arts enable students to explore their interests and develop new skills. Our students love the hands-on, challenges and inquiry approaches of these subjects. Our expansive grounds are the perfect place for students to take part in a myriad of PE and sporting activities.

A valued component of our curriculum is the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program for years 3 and 4. Supported

by dedicated staff and volunteers, this program offers hands-on experiences in growing, cooking and sustainable living, while promoting healthy lifestyle choices and environmental awareness.

Our biennial whole-school production is a highlight of the school calendar, bringing the community together in celebration of student talent and collaboration. The 2025 production of Wonder in Aliceland showcased the creativity, confidence and pride of our students.

Student wellbeing is a central priority. Through programs such as The Resilience Project, School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) and Respectful Relationships, students develop the skills to manage emotions, build positive relationships and respond effectively to challenges. Targeted small-group support, led by our Education Support staff and chaplain, provides additional opportunities for students to build confidence and experience success. Collaborative initiatives, such as the creation of our recent school mural, highlight the positive impact of this work.

Leadership opportunities for year 6 students are an important aspect of school life. Through roles such as leading assemblies, conducting tours and representing the school at events, our student leaders make a meaningful contribution to the school community.

We value and celebrate diversity within our school community. The teaching of Auslan and engagement with the deaf community are integral to our inclusive approach.

A recent highlight was our school leaders confidently signing the national anthem at the Riddells Creek Anzac Day dawn service, fostering empathy, respect and strong connections to the wider community.

At Riddells Creek Primary School, we are committed to ensuring every student feels connected, supported and challenged in their learning.

For further information or to arrange a school tour, please contact us on 5428 7277 or via email at riddells.creek.ps@education.vic.gov.au



Dedicated to delivering high quality educational outcomes for all students

The Riddells Creek Primary School team comprises of highly skilled & motivated teachers and support staff who are committed to fostering the academic and emotional growth of all students.



Clubs offer social experiences beyond the classroom

When students commence their secondary journey at Sacred Heart College Kyneton, they meet and mix new classmates from a range of local primary schools.

The Transition Program for students moving from grade 6 to year 7 includes a mix of onsite activities, excursions and year level camp, all great chances to develop new friendships.

Beyond the first weeks of term, time and space is provided for students in year 7 to continue growing these connections, vital for wellbeing and social development.

The Learning Studio is a welcoming space

provided in the year 7 area and is a flexible learning space that provides opportunities to foster new connections and strengthen emerging friendships.

Offering regular, year level focused, lunchtime activities provides the perfect opportunity for students to continue conversations while focusing on an area of shared interest.

For students in higher year levels keen to discover new interests or connect with peers, there are a variety of lunch break activities.

One of these is the lunchtime drama club

called Drama Llamas.

Past activities have seen students create skits and short plays around the theme: "I know things are bad, but they could always get worse." This highlights how the small choices we make one day can change the future. Working in groups to create short plays is a fun way to spend lunchtime with friends.

The Catherine McAuley Library at Sacred Heart College is a lively and welcoming space for all students. Whether you'd like to relax with a book, catch up with friends, or enjoy a game of cards, chess, or one of our

many board games — there's something for everyone.

Teacher librarian, Tina Fattori, explains, "For students looking for more structured lunchtime activities, we offer a variety of fun and engaging Library Lunchtime groups throughout the year. Currently, you can join our Knitting Group, Dungeons & Dragons sessions, or the Book Club. We can't wait to welcome you to the library when you start secondary school!"

College Tour bookings are available via: www.shckyneton.catholic.edu.au.

We look forward to welcoming you.



Learn. Care.
flourish

Discover the Sacred Heart difference.

Enrolments for Year 7, 2028 close on 24 July, 2026 (students currently in Grade 5).

Our contemporary approach to learning and teaching ensures every student is both challenged and supported to achieve their personal best. To experience the Sacred Heart difference, visit the College website or join one of our College tours (bookings essential). For enrolment enquiries, please contact the Registrar.



Scan for tour bookings

Free measles jab available

Ranges residents are being reminded to keep up to date with vaccinations following an increase in measles cases across Victoria.

The Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit (LMPHU) said there had been four measles cases within a week in late April. All four were unvaccinated, with one spending time within the Loddon Mallee region.

LMPHU clinical unit head Dr Simon Crouch said recent cases highlight that measles remains an active public health risk, particularly with increased travel and gaps in vaccination coverage.

"Measles can be reintroduced into Australia through overseas travel and spread

rapidly in under-immunised communities," Dr Crouch said.

Measles is a very contagious disease and can spread quickly where vaccination coverage is incomplete, LMPHU said.

Symptoms of measles may initially include fever, cough, runny nose, and sore eyes before the appearance of a red rash a few days later, which usually starts on the face before spreading.

It can also lead to serious complications, including pneumonia and encephalitis, with infants, pregnant people and those with weakened immune systems are at higher risk of severe illness.

Vaccination is the most effective way to protect individuals and the community. Two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine provide strong protection and long-term immunity.

People born between 1966 and the early 1990s may not have received two doses, and people born overseas may have different vaccination histories. It is safe to receive an additional dose if vaccination records are uncertain.

Vaccination coverage in parts of the Loddon Mallee region is below the level needed to reliably prevent outbreaks, meaning even small gaps can allow measles to spread

quickly, LMPHU said.

LMPHU is working with local services to offer free MMR vaccinations across the region, including with Macedon Ranges council.

MMR vaccination is also available through local GPs and healthcare providers for eligible people, noting that an administration or consultation fee may apply.

Anyone who develops measles symptoms, particularly after travel, should seek medical advice and call ahead before attending a healthcare service.

Details: bendigohealth.org.au/services/detail/4756



Sunbury and Wollert residents rallying before the public hearings started (Georgia Tacey).

Waste to energy inquiry arrives in Sunbury

Members of the No Sunbury Waste Incinerator and the No Northern Incinerator Wollert groups met the parliamentary inquiry as it arrived in Sunbury for the first public hearing into waste to energy infrastructure.

On Thursday 7 May, about 120 Sunbury and Wollert locals braved the cold and descended on Sunbury Library to hold a rally and peacefully protest ahead of the first public hearing held for the parliamentary inquiry.

The inquiry is investigating the development and expansion of waste to energy infrastructure across Victoria, with residents opposing the proposed projects in Sunbury

and Wollert.

Two days of public hearings were scheduled for the inquiry, with the first being held in Sunbury with a second held in Melbourne.

Western Metropolitan MP David Ettershank said most of the submissions to the inquiry came from Sunbury residents.

"The response from residents of Sunbury has been overwhelming, and the vast majority of the 700 submissions came from Sunbury and surrounds," he said.

"That's people putting their thoughts into action and is just what we need in this campaign."

He said bringing the inquiry to Sunbury was unusual, but said it was due to the high number of Sunbury residents raising their concerns on the proposed project.

"To have it come for a local political issue, an environmental issue, is pretty unusual, and is just a testimony to the fact that the government is aware it's a hot issue and they need to do something about it," he said.

The committee heard from a range of community groups, advocacy organisations and local stakeholders, including No Sunbury Waste Incinerator, Sunbury Clean Future Inc, Toxics Free Australia, Clean Air Communities and Hume council.

Upper Coliban Reservoir closed

Upper Coliban Reservoir has been closed for recreational use due to the presence of blue-green algae, Coliban Water has said.

Community members are warned not to enter or make contact with the water at both entrances at Premier Mine Road in Kyneton and Springhill Road.

Coliban Water said the use of kayaks, canoes and small portable craft is not permitted, and has said the community should avoid making contact with the water.

The water is unsafe for humans or animals to consume due to the algae.

Coliban Water also has advised against shoreline fishing at this time.

Blue-green algae is a naturally occurring bacteria that can be found in rivers, reservoirs and water storages, with blooms affecting water quality.

Coliban Water said some species in blooms can produce toxins and can pose serious health implications for humans, animals and birds drinking or coming into contact with the water. It also said while not all blooms are toxic, they should be treated as toxic until the water has been tested.

The water authority said it has increased its water quality testing program to monitor the situation more closely.

Details: connect.coliban.com.au/bga

Keeping up to date with your local news has never been so easy...

Simply register today and get our latest news articles and **Digital Editions** in your inbox for **FREE**

SUNBURY & MACEDON RANGES
Star Weekly

Sent to your inbox every Tuesday



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WANT YOUR EVENT LISTED? Community Calendar is made available free of charge to not-for-profit organisations to keep the public informed of special events and activities. Send item details to Star Weekly Community Calendar, Corner Thomsons Road and Keilor Park Drive, Keilor Park, 3042, or email to [westeditorial@starweekly.com.au](mailto:wededitorial@starweekly.com.au) by 9am Wednesday the week prior to publication

Friends of Emu Bottom Wetlands Reserve

After 35 years transforming an historic but degraded farmland into a beautiful community parkland, Friends of Emu Bottom Wetlands Reserve are holding their very last working bee on Sunday 17 May, 10am-noon. Entry from Iredale Promenade Just off Racecourse Road, Sunbury. Come and help them finish the job and join for a celebratory lunch.

Woodlands Ladies Probus Club of Sunbury

Woodlands Ladies Probus Club is for retired and semi-retired ladies who are looking for new friends and social activities. The club meets on the fourth Monday every month at Club Sunbury, with guest speakers and lunch after if you wish.

■ Jessie, 0458 190 254, or woodlandsladies.3429@gmail.com

Chamber Poets

The Chamber Poets Woodend meet every second Saturday of the month at the Woodend RSL. Featuring open readings, special guests and music. Donation \$10 at the door.

■ [facebook.com/groups/ChamberPoets/about](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChamberPoets/about)

Scottish Country Dancing Group

The Macedon Ranges Scottish Country Dancing Group meet every Thursday, 1-3pm, at Buffalo Stadium, Woodend. The dancing involves social country dancing, not the highland dancing many people think of. The group dance in sets, learning different steps and formations – no special clothes needed, just soft flat shoes. The group are a friendly group having fun and keeping fit at the same time. You don't need to bring a partner, just a smile and sense of fun.

■ Lynne, 0417 331 439 or Norm, 0408 592 609

CWA Sunbury

CWA Sunbury meets second and fourth Mondays at St Mary's Church in O'Shanassy Street, Sunbury. All women are welcome, bring your grandchildren if you are caring for them, there is a playground available.

■ Bev Goodman, 0402 988 954

With One Voice Sunbury

The WOV Sunbury community choir is changing the world one voice at a time by providing an opportunity for people to meet and experience the joy of singing, often making friends through the shared experiences of singing and performing; although performing is not required. One Voice Sunbury community choir rehearses each Tuesday, from 6.30pm, at Goonawarra Neighbourhood House. A fun and welcoming choir, new members are welcome – just join in on the fun.

■ sunbury@withonevoice.org.au

Neighbourhood garden

Become part of Sunbury's Neighbourhood Garden and grow edible and useful plants in a social group at Sunbury Neighbourhood House, 531 Elizabeth Drive, Sunbury. All skill sets are welcome.

■ www.sunburyhouse.com.au, or 9740 6978

Malmsbury Farmers and Makers Market

Locals and people from afar get along to this wonderful Farmers Market. Always the third Sunday of the month ... fresh produce, wine, hot food, coffee, plants, artisan foods and crafts that are special. Musical entertainment whilst you shop and catch up with friends. Located at the picturesque Malmsbury Cricket Ground from 9am-1pm.

■ Amy, 0423 726 695

16 SUNBURY & MACEDON RANGES STAR WEEKLY Tuesday, 12 May, 2026



This week's photographer's choice picture is of autumn leaves in the Macedon Ranges. (Damjan Janevski) 550878_01

Insync Entertainment

Insync Entertainment is an all-female community choir, providing the opportunity to meet others who enjoy singing. The group is seeking new members to join the friendly choir. No auditions required. They rehearse at the Sunbury Baptist Church Hall every Monday from 7.15-9.30pm.

■ insyncentertainment@gmail.com

Sunbury Seniors

Sunbury Seniors meets on Mondays and Fridays 10am-2.30pm [except Public Holidays]. The Club has returned to its original location now that the Sunbury Seniors Hub, 8 Oshanassy Street, Sunbury has been rebuilt. A variety of activities will be offered including carpet bowls, cards, pool, jigsaw puzzles, board games, darts, table tennis, monthly guest speakers and outings and subsidised lunches or just a cuppa and a chat.

■ www.sunburyseniors.com.au, or 0434 400 754

Sunbury Men's Probus Club

Join the Probus Club of Sunbury on the first Wednesday of the month at the Sunbury Bowling club at 10.15am. It's a friendly men's group open to visitors and new members, with a number of great events held each month.

■ Lindsay Brown, 0405 177 478

Pernaperna Women's Group

The group is currently knitting and crocheting blankets for First Nations peoples in palliative care across Australia. Pernaperna is a friendly group who meet fortnightly at Sunbury Neighbourhood House, 531 Elizabeth Drive, Sunbury, on a Thursday, from 1-3pm. It has established a bush tucker garden at Sunbury Neighbourhood House. New members welcomed. If you don't knit or garden but would just like to drop in for a chat, the group would love to meet you.

■ Joan, 0418 302 676

Jacksons Creek Combined Probus

The club meets on the second Monday of each month at the Sunbury Bowling Club at 10am. This friendly group of men and women enjoy outings and meetings each month and twice yearly trips away staying in cabins and caravans. Visitors and new members are warmly welcomed

■ Doug, 5428 3317, or Teresa, 0417 373 006

Friends of Woodlands Historic Park

Help preserve Woodlands Historic Park and learn about its history by joining the Friends of Woodlands Historic Park. The group consists of volunteers, working one day each month in the park, on projects including plant propagation and

revegetation, weed removal, litter control and other activities. Some members may also work in the park on projects at other times. Becoming a member of the group is easy and free, and is open to like-minded people who want to take positive action to maintain our environment. You must be 18 or older and enjoy outdoor activities. The Friends group meets on the first Saturday of each month at the Parks Victoria depot off Somerton Road, Greenvale.

■ Bevan, 0468 469 514 or bevan@keepemail.com

Sunbury Badminton Club

The Sunbury Badminton Club plays social games on Tuesdays and Wednesdays nights, from 7.30-9.30pm, and on Wednesdays, 10am-noon. Monday night is a round robin competition from 7.30-9.30pm. All are welcome to attend at Clarke Oval Stadium, 49 Riddell Road.

■ sunburybc@gmail.com

Toastmasters

Sunbury and Macedon Ranges Toastmasters helps its members develop their public speaking, communication and leadership skills. The group meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month, from 7.20-9.30pm, at the Sunbury Community Centre, 531 Elizabeth Drive, Sunbury.

■ vpm-4185@toastmastersclubs.org

Scoring hope for the future

What happens when music, light and imagination come together to tell the story of our planet?

Echoes of the Earth is a powerful immersive performance that places audiences inside a living experience of humanity's relationship with Earth and the choices that shape what comes next.

Created by Altona resident, multi-instrumentalist and composer QiQi, the

work blends live music, evolving projections and atmospheric staging to create a world that surrounds and responds to the audience.

The project, developed over two years, will be staged for the very first time in Brimbank.

QiQi said the work aims to spark constructive dialogue about the climate crisis. "Through music and shared experience,

the work invites us to reflect on the role we all play in the future of Earth," QiQi said.

"I want to bring more hope into this discussion about climate change, and just how powerful we are when we work together."

QiQi will join three live musicians as part of the work — a pianist, a percussionist and a double bassist— and will play the Chinese stringed-instrument, the guzheng, which has a 2500 year old history.

"I really love the instrument, especially for its history and tradition. It's an instrument which tells stories almost with a magical quality," QiQi said.

Echoes of the Earth, which has been developed and presented through Creative Brimbank's Bowery Theatre Residency program, is showing at Bowery Theatre, 33 Princess Street, St Albans, on Thursday 21 May at Details: creativebrimbank.com.au



Sleepless Festival organisers Victoria Marinho and Stewart Bruce in Footscray's Trugo Lane where the community arts event will take place on 15-17 May. (Damjan Janevski) 550998_01

Sleepless weekend set for Footscray

Footscray's Trugo Lane will be transformed into a three day cultural and arts street party when Sleepless Festival returns from 15-17 May.

Born from a desire to create space for emerging and independent artists in Melbourne's west, Sleepless Festival is a volunteer led, non-profit arts charity that reimagines the laneway between Paisley and Irving streets as a multi stage precinct, blending live music, installations, visual and street art, performance and community workshops.

The 2026 festival will feature more than 60 different artists across the weekend, including Gusto Gusto, Ag Angenth Ayom, Vanessa Estrada, Asinine and Naive Atom.

The festival's main stage will play host to a diverse mix of alt-rock, rap, jazz, afrobeats, R'n'B, punk, and pop, while electronic and boundary pushing experimental performances will take place at the Irving Hub. There will also be a creative program featuring live painting, a DNB musical, a fashion showcase and interactive installations and performances

from Nxngtn, Gusteenee, Sausage Woman, Anna Luna, Rubyanna Edwards, Nat Thomas Steer and Mammet.

"We are so excited to be back taking over the streets of Footscray and showcasing the local arts scene," Sleepless Festival head of programming Miles Brennan said.

Sleepless Festival begins at 6pm on 15 May and then runs from noon until late on 16 May and 10am-8.30pm on 17 May.

Tickets and information: <https://sleeplessfestival.com/>

Join Elmo and friends under the big top for a circus spectacular

Elmo and his Sesame Street friends are in Craigieburn this month for a circus spectacular.

Step right up to Elmo's Circus Dream under the big top at Craigieburn Central until Sunday 17 May.

Watch as Elmo drifts off to sleep and a magical bedtime story transports him to a vibrant circus world.

Elmo will be joined by his friends Abby Cadabby, the Cookie Monster, Grover, Bert and Ernie as they chase their biggest circus dreams.

Circus Royale owner and ringmaster Damian Syred is proud to present world-

class circus acts to local audiences.

"We still have that exciting action while teaming up with our favourite Sesame Street characters," Syred said.

"You can definitely see the excitement on the children's faces, especially when there are characters that they've only seen on TV up until now.

"We funnily have a strong response from the adults too that as a grown-up they are watching these characters and get to see them again."

Syred said the show has something for everyone, blending heart, humour, and spectacular circus artistry.

"That is the beauty of the circus in general, it's still going strong to this day because it's got something for everybody.

"We have the motorbike daredevils with aerials and Las Vegas-style illusions.

"It's a great excuse for people to get out of the house and do something as a family."

Don't miss your chance to see Elmo and friends live in Craigieburn at Elmo's Circus Dream produced by Circus Royale and Showtime Attractions.

Book tickets online: <https://www.sesamestreetcircus.com.au/>



Zoologist Chris Humfrey (Supplied)

Get wild with wildlife

Wild Action is letting you get up close and personal with Australia's furry friends.

Wild Action director and zoologist Chris Humfrey will lead sessions in May in Macedon to let the whole family discover more about endangered species.

At each session, you'll be able to learn more about our native wildlife and take interactive photos with the animals in a fun, interactive and educational experience for all ages.

Animals featured at the workshops include koalas, echidnas, wombats, joey kangaroos, mountain pygmy possums, bats, snakes, lizards, frogs and more.

"You name it, we'll have it here," Humfrey said.

"Kids and adults alike can learn all about conservation, their threats, their habitats.

"Many of these animals are indicative to the Macedon Ranges. We live in a really amazing biodiversity hotspot, and I think people don't realise how lucky we are."

Humfrey said the event will also be accessible for everyone, with the ethical event something he hopes will become a monthly activity.

"You can pat a koala, you can hold a joey kangaroo ... all of these animals are part of our family, so they don't get stressed out, and the photo opportunities are amazing," he said.

"It's one of the most interactive wildlife programs around ... and it's probably the only place you can hold a mountain pygmy possum in your hand.

"They're critically endangered, there's 2000 left, so everyone's support actually helps us breed our critically endangered mountain pygmy possums. It all goes back into our conservation works."

Wild Action is coming to Macedon's Jubilee Hall on Saturday 16 May and Sunday 17 May with two sessions held each day.

Tickets are \$30 per person, with spaces limited.

Details: weteachme.com/classes/1044535-a-weekend-of-wild-life#details



Network Classifieds

sales@networkclassifieds.com.au
networkclassifieds.com.au

1300 666 808

Trades & Services

DEADLINE

Placing your classified advert is so easy...

Online: networkclassifieds.com.au (24/7)
Phone: 1300 666 808 (Open 8.30-5pm Mon-Fri)
Email: sales@networkclassifieds.com.au
(include your name, address and phone number)

We accept payment by:
VISA/MASTERCARD/EFTPOS
(1.5% credit card processing fee applies. Cheques and money orders can be posted in or hand delivered to our local office)

Ask about our discounted ongoing advertising rates and how choosing more newspapers gives your advertising more impact and saves you money...

Deadline for all classifications is 10.00am Monday.



ANTENNAS

SAME DAY TV ANTENNA SERVICE

40 Years Family Owned & Operated
25 Year Warranty
Senior/Pensioner Discount
#1 in SUNBURY
0488 816 557
Phone 7am-8pm | installmyantenna.com.au

Find your Local Professionals in our Trades & Services section of Network Classifieds.

1300 666 808

LANDSCAPING

JMH LANDSCAPING

• Concreting • Landscape Specialist • Retaining Walls
• Decking & Pergolas • Feature Walls
FREE Quotes Call Mark 0401 399 694

Time for a new car? **Family holidays a thing of the past!** **Looking to upgrade your boat?**

Ca\$h deal for your wheels!

Your advertisement will be published in the Classified section of the Gannawarra Times weekly issue for 15 weeks.

Advertise your car, motorbike, truck, tractor, trailer, caravan, campervan, machinery or even your boat (with trailer), houseboat or other water toys. Include a colour photo for no extra charge.

*Conditions:
1) Private sellers only. No refunds once sold.
2) Maximum of 10 lines including heading.
3) Extra charge for extra lines above 10.
4) Extra colour pics only \$5.50 each.

Phone our friendly classified staff on **1300 666 808**

From **\$55*** with photo



sales@networkclassifieds.com.au

We accept

TREE LOPPING/SURGERY

That Tree Feller

Complete Tree & Stump Removal
Call David on **0408 507 145**
www.thattreefeller.com.au

- Pruning • Hedging
- Narrow Access Specialist • Mulching
- Servicing All Areas • Free Quotes

cutandclimb

TREE SERVICES

Lee Guppy 0407 051 511
Dip. Hort. Arb

Tree Removal • Tree Pruning
Report Writing • Stump Grinding • Fully Insured
Emergency Call Outs • Mulch Available

lee@cutandclimb.com.au

ARCHIE'S TREE SERVICE 5% DISCOUNT on presentation of this ad

REMOVED OR TRIMMED

- Stumps Removed
- Fully Insured
- Woodchipping & Mulching
- Pensioner Discounts

Certificate in Tree Climbing & Tree Felling
0418 378 097

PM TREE WORX & STUMP REMOVAL

Professional, efficient, high quality tree services for residential and commercial.
• Tree Removal • Tree Pruning • Stump Grinding • Emergency Tree Services • Arborist Reports • Hedge Trimming • Land Clearing • Large Lawn Maintenance
Call David for your free no obligation quote 0418 526 769
Email: david@pmtreeworx.com.au

General Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES AND EVENT



Department of Transport and Planning

DRAFT AMENDMENT C164MACR & DRAFT PLANNING PERMIT PA2604339

The Minister for Planning is undertaking consultation under section 20(5) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* on Draft Amendment C164macr to the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme and Draft Planning Permit Application PA2604339 for land at Clarkefield.

Draft Amendment C164macr proposes to nominate Clarkefield as a District Town, introduce new planning policy, rezone approximately 175 hectares to Comprehensive Development Zone Schedule 1, apply environmental and native vegetation controls, amend subdivision and open space provisions, and incorporate key development and infrastructure documents.

Draft Planning Permit PA2604339 proposes Stage 1 subdivision at 1227 and 1560 Melbourne-Lancefield Road and 32-47 Station Street, Clarkefield, comprising a staged subdivision of 780 lots and 13 super lots.

To find out more about the proposal and how to make a submission on C164macr visit engage.vic.gov.au/priority-projects.

Submissions close 5.00 pm, 1 June 2026.

General Classifieds

ADULT SERVICES

Rainbow Club
\$110/30mins
Open 7 days
48 Davies Avenue, Sunshine North
0468 693 833

MASSAGE THERAPISTS

ADVERTISERS, in this section are qualified practitioners and offer non-sexual services.

PETS & SERVICES

ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE

Anyone advertising a puppy, dog, kitten or cat in Victoria for sale or re-homing will need a source number from the Pet Exchange Register and a microchip identification number. It is now an offence to advertise unless the source number and microchip identification number is included in the advertisement or notice. For further information, call 136 186 or visit animalwelfare.vic.gov.au

FOR SALE

MURRAY RIVER REDGUM
BONE DRY FIREWOOD

3m split	\$230 pcm
6m split	\$225 pcm
12m split	\$220 pcm
20m split	\$215 pcm
20m unsplit	\$205 pcm

Free Delivery All Areas
Phone Peter on **03 5423 7103**

Romsey Firewood
EXCELLENT QUALITY REDGUM

3m split	\$230 pcm
6m split	\$225 pcm
12m split	\$220 pcm

Local Split
3m split\$180pcm
6m split\$175pcm

Free Delivery All Areas
Phone Peter **0418 384 796**

Professional Services

Network Classifieds
1300 666 808

Employment

POSITIONS VACANT

Career Opportunities

- Multiple positions as Mental Health Nurse based in Malmsbury
- Part time, fixed term General Practitioner
- Generous salary packaging options to reduce your cohealth taxable income
- Work for a multi-award-winning iconic community health organisation

cohealth is looking for a motivated GP and Mental Health Nurse to join a passionate, multidisciplinary team at the Malmsbury Youth Justice Precinct.

To find out more scan the QR code below or visit <https://cohealthcareers.org.au/Current-Jobs-to-apply/>

We will be conducting interviews for this role as applications are received.

cohealth
connecting communities



cohealth.org.au



Find local work in the **Employment** section of Network Classifieds.

Network Classifieds
1300 666 808

PROFESSIONAL

DISCRIMINATION IN ADVERTISING IS UNLAWFUL

The Victorian Equal Opportunity Act 1995 makes it unlawful for an advertiser to show any intention to discriminate on the basis of sex, pregnancy, race, age, marital status, political or religious belief or physical features, disability, lawful sexual activity/sexual orientation, HIV/AIDS status or on the basis of being associated with a person with one of the above characteristics, unless covered by an exception under the Act. As Network Classifieds could be legally liable if an unlawful advertisement is printed, Network Classifieds will not accept advertisements that appear to break the law. For more information about discrimination in advertising, contact your legal advisers or the Equal Opportunity Commission.

Motoring

WRECKING

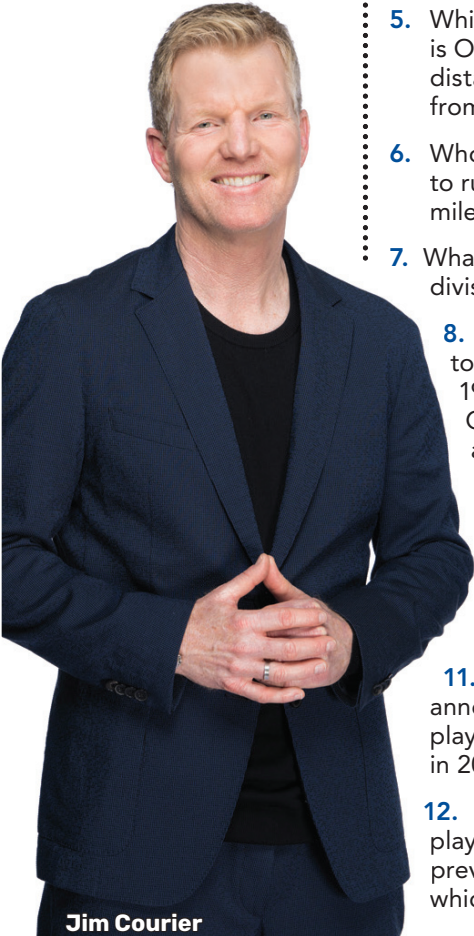
FREE CAR REMOVAL
Pay up to \$500 for most cars
Dead or Alive
LMCT 10268W
7 days a week service
Call Gus for a free quotation on **0435 904 818**



Buy & Sell in our **Motoring** section of Network Classifieds.
Network Classifieds
1300 666 808

SPORTS QUIZ

- How many players are on a soccer field during a match?
- Former athlete Jim Courier is best known today for commentating which sport?
- What is the term for a sporting contest between two teams from the same city, town or region?
- Owen Wilson stars in which 2025 comedy series about golf?
- Which Australian state is Olympian middle-distance runner Jess Hull from?
- Who was the first person to run a sub-four-minute mile?
- What are the two main divisions in WWE?
- The All Blacks' loss to South Africa in the 1995 Rugby World Cup final is commonly attributed to what?
- In squash, what is a boast?
- What sport is Fenway Park associated with?
- Jarome Luai recently announced a move to play for which NRL team in 2028?
- Brisbane Lions player Oscar Allen was previously captain of which team?



Jim Courier

- Which golfing league has postponed a June tournament in New Orleans?
- In May, Aussie Travis Bazzana made his debut in which sporting league?
- Swimmer Andy Donaldson recently swam 55km in waters that are home to which deadly animal?
- Which Australian NBA star has released a signature shoe manufactured by Puma?
- Which nation has won the most FIFA Women's World Cup tournaments?
- In what winter sport can a competitor perform a mule kick?
- Cricketers Steve Smith, David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne all played in which recent T20 tournament?
- Which 1989 comedy about a hapless baseball team stars Charlie Sheen and Tom Berenger?
- Which AFL club sacked CEO Paul Guerra after just seven months in the job?



Tadej Pogacar

- Who won game one of the NRL Women's State of Origin clash at McDonald Jones Stadium?
- Which sport is historically celebrated as 'America's pastime' having taken root in the 19th century?
- What colour is the 3 ball in a game of pool?
- Slovenian cyclist Tadej Pogacar has finished either first or second in which major race for the last six years?
- What discipline focuses on efficient movement to overcome physical obstacles in urban or natural environments?
- In which decade of the 20th century was the sport of pickleball invented?
- Which current legendary NRL coach has been diagnosed with a neurodegenerative disorder?
- Which two AFL teams fought out a draw in round eight of the season?
- Formula One's two American teams, Cadillac and Haas, both use which famous car company's engine?

1505

1. 22 (11 per side) 2. Tennis 3. Derby 4. Stick 5. New South Wales 6. Sir Roger Bannister 7. SmackDown and Raw 8. Food poisoning 9. Deliberately hitting the side wall before the front wall 10. Baseball 11. Papua New Guinea Chiefs 12. West Coast 13. LIV Golf 14. Major League Baseball 15. Crocodile 16. Josh Giddy 17. United States 18. Snowboarding 19. Pakistan Super League 20. Major League Baseball 21. Melbourne 22. New South Wales 23. Baseball 24. Red 25. Tour de France 26. France 27. 1960s 28. Parkour 29. Craig Bellamy 30. Ferrari



**Place Your
Classified Ads
Online**

Anytime...anywhere



**Network
Classifieds**

Your advert will appear in print and online!

Tiggo 4 is cheap, but beware

By Chris Riley, Marque Motoring

It's cheap and it's a hybrid – that's what it is.

In fact, Chery reckons the Tiggo 4 is Australia's cheapest hybrid SUV as well as its best-selling SUV.

It's powered by a 1.5-litre four-cylinder petrol engine together with the help of an electric motor, that combine to offer budget-friendly fuel consumption of 5.4L/100km.

The Tiggo feels cheap, but let's find out.

Styling

Tiggo 4 Hybrid is available in two grades: Urban and top-of-the-range Ultimate.

Urban is priced from \$29,990 driveaway, the Ultimate from \$34,990 – both prices are driveaway. Metallic paint adds \$500 to the price.

Be aware there's a big \$6000 difference between the regular Tiggo 4 Ultimate and the Tiggo 4 Hybrid Ultimate.

Competitors include the Honda HR-V, Haval Jolion and MG ZS.

Although billed as Australia's cheapest hybrid SUV, Urban offers quite a few standard features, that range from dual 10.25-inch LCD instrument cluster and multimedia touchscreen, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, plus innovative 'Hello Chery' voice control system.

Standard equipment includes cloth trim and dual zone climate air-conditioning, with rear air vents, height adjustable driver's seat, remote start and walk-away locking.

There are also 17-inch alloys, adaptive cruise control, speed limit information, LED lights all-round, auto high beam, auto lights and wipers, and front and rear parking sensors.

Ultimate ups the ante with artificial leather seats, heated front pews, power adjustment for the driver's seat, electric sunroof, colour-select ambient interior lighting and a 360-degree surround view camera.

Tiggo 4 is covered by a seven-year unlimited kilometre warranty, seven-year capped price servicing and up to seven years of roadside assistance.

Infotainment

Infotainment consists of a 12.5-inch touchscreen, Bluetooth, steering wheel mounted controls, Hello Chery voice control, AM/FM and DAB+ digital radio, wired and wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, plus four-speaker sound.

Another 12.5-inch screen supplies the instrument cluster, both incorporated into the same sweeping display panel.

There's no built-in satellite navigation in either variant, so for that you will have to use your phone.

USB-A and -C ports are located in the front with another USB-A port in the back, as well as a 12-volt outlet up front.

Ultimate adds six-speaker sound and a 15W wireless phone charger.

Safety

The Tiggo 4 scores a full five stars for crash safety from ANCAP.

A reversing camera, stability control and seven airbags are fitted including a centre airbag which provides added protection to front seat occupants in side impact crashes is also standard.

Autonomous emergency braking (Car-to-Car, Vulnerable Road User, Junction & Crossing, Backover and Head-On) as well as a lane support system with lane keep assist (LKA), lane departure warning (LDW) and emergency lane keeping (ELK), and an advanced speed assistance system (SAS) are standard.

RATINGS	
Looks:	7
Performance:	6
Safety:	7.5
Thirst:	5
Practicality:	7.5
Comfort:	7
Tech:	7.5
Value:	7.5
Overall:	6.9



The Tiggo 4 might be cheap, but it needs some refinement. (Pictures: Supplied)

Two ISOFix and three top-tether child seats anchor points are offered.

Engines/transmissions

Under the bonnet is Chery's new hybrid system, that operates in series and parallel mode as required, combining a naturally aspirated 1.5-litre petrol engine with an electric motor, together with a 1.83 kWh battery.

The petrol engine produces 71kW of power and 120Nm of torque, while the electric motor provides 150kW/310Nm.

Combined power and torque outputs are not supplied, but the petrol engine should add something to the equation when both are operating together in parallel mode.

The graphic displayed in the driver information panel suggests this to be the case.

There are no gears or gear changed paddles, with drive to the front wheels through a one-speed dedicated hybrid transmission (DHT).

Driving

At 4330mm long, with a 2604mm wheelbase, the Tiggo 4 Hybrid seats five occupants.

Front legroom is adequate, but there's limited room to stretch your legs if you're in the back.

There is however a rear air outlet for rear seat passengers, but only one.

The touchscreen is relatively easy to operate, with plenty of options to play around with and three different themes for the instrument cluster.

But try finding out how much fuel it averages for anything more than the last 50km – no can do amigo.

A row of buttons provides easy access to oft-used features such as volume, driving modes and the around-view camera which gets in the way sometimes.

The two centre cupholders will not accommodate sports drink bottles, nor will the cupholders in the front doors.

A small centre console box is provided as well as a storage tray below the console.

Rather inconveniently the phone charger is to be found somewhere down there too.

But, and it's a big but, a lot of space has been seconded to flashy Range Rover-esque glass climate control panel and the gloss black trim that runs the length of the centre – way too much.



With a largish 51-litre tank, fuel consumption, using standard 91 unleaded, is a claimed 5.4L/100km.

That's 27 per cent less than the equivalent non-hybrid model.

There are two drive modes, Eco and Sport. In Eco mode the petrol engine remains dormant most of the time.

In terms of the overall drive experience, the Tiggo presents two different personalities, just like the proverbial Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. It goes okay, or so we thought, until we encountered our first hill.

Even the ride quality is pretty good for an import, with adjustment for steering weight and some tyre squeal and tendency to oversteer when pushed hard through corners.

But point it at a long, steep hill such as the big one heading up the M1 north out of Sydney and it soon becomes apparent that things aren't quite right.

As the petrol engine cuts in, things become very noisy, very quickly – and you'd be forgiven for thinking the thing is going to blow up. My wife thought so.

Although CVT and one-speed dedicated hybrid transmissions are mechanically and fundamentally different, the seamless drive ratio transition is much the same – as the engine revs rise to keep pace with demands from the throttle.

This is what produces the escalating

cabin noise and zoom-like acceleration (or lack thereof).

The majority of time, however, the Tiggo is a pussycat, operating on electric power alone, and as such surprisingly quick and responsive off the line – thanks to the instant torque from the electric motor.

It stays this way up to 80km/h or so, depending on system load, delivering a very EV-like driving experience around town.

Hills however remain its weak point.

Then there's the incessant warnings and interventions from the driver assistance systems, especially the lane-centring function.

Even with everything we could find turned off, the steering wheel continued to tug this way and that soon became tiring.

And what about the requirement to clip your driver seatbelt before the car will move?

It's a good idea from a safety point of view, but damned annoying in practical terms, when you simply need to move the car aside to let someone out.

Or move to another bowser at the petrol station because the one you have pulled up at is out of order – the scenarios continue to crop up.

The boot offers a reasonable amount of space, but an odd bump in the floor hides the standard 12-volt battery.

Of note Urban gets a puncture repair kit while the higher priced Ultimate scores a space saver spare.

We clocked up 450km in our week with the Tiggo 4 Hybrid. We can tell you our average speed over this period was 50.2km/h which included motorways, suburban routes and country roads.

Alas the Tiggo would not disclose the average fuel used over this same distance, producing only a figure for the last 50km (not worth mentioning).

We did however have 390km of range remaining.

What about some transparency?

Summing up

Yeah, nah – it might be cheap, but it needs some refinement. The raucous powertrain and intrusive driver assistance systems spring to mind.

The non-hybrid Tiggo 4 is an award winner, but we can't see this one receiving any gongs until these problems are sorted out.



Diggers Rest's Dylan Stone. 550551_01



Gisborne Giants' Mitchell Bongiovanni. 550551_15



Diggers Rest's Joshua Wallace. 550551_26



Macedon's Nathan Bridgland and Woodend-Hesket's Austin Corbell. 550550_21

A wintry day for sport

There was a winter blast on Saturday making the sports ball wet and the kicking more difficult.

Star Weekly photographer Ljubica Vrankovic was out shooting some of the action.



The view from Tony Clarke Reserve. 550550_23



Darley listens on. 548526_15



Darley's Charlotte Hill. 548526_11



Woodend-Hesket's Alistair Rae goes up with Macedon's Jacob Gough and Jack Kernan. 550550_19



Bacchus Marsh's Amy Garofalo. 550547_02

Warriors fall short again

By Tara Murray

The Western Warriors had an improved performance on Wednesday in the Victorian Netball League but it wasn't enough to get across the line against the City West Falcons.

The Warriors were hoping to bounce back after a disappointing performance in the previous round.

It was the Falcons that got out to an early lead and they were able to extend it in each quarter on the way to a 77-61 win.

Warriors' coach Kim Bailey said it was a really tough game, but a good game.

"I know that we lost and I don't think the score really reflected the standard of the game," she said.

"I thought it was probably one of the best

games that our attack had played, especially in the second half.

"Pretty high scoring. That's a big game and you could see both ends had quality goalers in there."

Kim Borger shot 30 goals for the Warriors, while Mia Lavis shot 19 and Poppy Douglass shot 12.

Lavis was restricted to a half due to SN reserves commitments.

Bailey said they needed to keep working on their defence.

She said since they came into the competition they had struggled to contain really tall goalers like Jane Cook.

"There's not many teams that can," she said. "Their midcourt was good.

"Ruby Shannon again was the standout

and she just goes and goes.

"There was not one player out there that didn't try. I've been more disappointed in closer.

"it will turn, it's just when."

The Warriors received a boost with Jasmine Fraser back for her first game of the season in defence.

Bailey said with her extra height they gave her first crack at shutting down Cook.

"She did a good job, she took ballside front and tried to dictate."

On the other side Sarah Croft is set to be out for a while with a knee injury.

Having missed a couple of games, she played local netball on Saturday and but pulled up sore and had scans on Wednesday.

Bailey said they would miss Croft, but felt their depth was good enough to cover her.

The Warriors sit 10th on the ladder with a 2-51 record.

The Warriors 23-and-under side lost a thriller to the Falcons, 65-63.

It was the middle two quarters that cost the Warriors as they headed into the final quarter down by eight.

Bailey said losing Ella Closter in the second half with a cramp in her foot had hurt them after she had shot 30 goals.

Charlize Bellette stood up in her absence.

The Warriors face championship ladder leaders, the Hawks on Wednesday night in round nine.

Bailey said it would be a challenge for both their sides.



Ethan Bygate. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 546152_06



Dylan Johnstone. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 484133_24

Five Dogs in squad

Five Gisborne players have been named in the initial Bendigo Football League inter-league training squad.

The league announced a 53-player squad as part of preparations for the upcoming representative interleague matchup against the Ovens and Murray on Saturday 23 May at the Queen Elizabeth Oval.

With all nine BFNL clubs represented, the squad reflects the depth of talent within the BFNL and brings together a mix of experienced performers and emerging players eager to represent the league on the inter-league stage.

Coach Simon Rosa said the squad selection process had been both competitive and rewarding, highlighting the strength of the league.

"The depth of talent across the BFNL continues to grow, and that made selection incredibly challenging in the best possible way," he said.

"This squad gives us a strong foundation to build from, with a great mix of experience, leadership and players who are ready to take the next step at interleague level."

"We're looking forward to getting the group together, setting our standards early and building a team that represents the league with pride."

Bulldogs' Harry Luxmoore, Shane Clough, Zac Vescovi, Dylan Johnstone and James Gray have been included in the squad.

Others in the squad include Michael Hartley, Dylan Landt, Fergus Greene, Bailey Henderson and Ben Thompson.

The squad will have four training sessions the next three weeks.

"Interleague is about more than just performance on the day — it's about representing your league and your teammates," Rosa said.

"We want players to embrace that responsibility, build strong relationships within the group and create an environment that brings out the best in everyone."

Lions bounce back onto winners list

By Tara Murray

It was a win that the Sunbury Lions needed on Saturday in the Ballarat Football League.

After a couple of disappointing weeks which resulted in big losses, the Lions returned to the winners list against Sebastopol on Saturday.

The Lions started well and were able to hold on as the Burras came hard late, winning 12.7 (79)-7.11 (53).

Lions' coach Matt White said they needed that one.

"It was nice to get the monkey off the back after a couple of big defeats," he said.

"We weren't defending the way that we like. We got some small pressure forwards back and it made us a lot better.

"We had repeat inside 50s and we were able to score in the first quarter. To have the start we had after the last few weeks, it set the tone."

White said they kept the defensive efforts high all day as they kept the Burras at bay.

He said it was also about celebrating the small things and keeping the vibe really

strong among the group.

White said while they set the tone in the first quarter, it was hard work throughout.

"We were gassed in the last quarter and Sebastopol threw everything at us," he said.

"A four goal win in the end was what we wanted and what we needed."

Mitch Mclean kicked five goals for the Lions, while Daniel Johnston chipped in with three goals.

Mclean was among the four inclusions for the Lions, along with Brock Landt, Tyson Cook and Nathan Wood.

White said all four had a big impact.

He said Landt and Cook provided the pressure in the forward line and Mclean was the one that was able to reap the rewards.

Riley Miller and Harry Power were among the other standouts.

While the Lions have been missing some players, White and the coaches have taken the opportunity to blood some young players.

"It was an opportunity for a few guys to see where they are at with their footy," he

said.

"It wasn't the easiest when we were on the end of a couple of big losses.

"We had guys come back in and it was good to get the win."

The win moves the Lions to 2-3 after the first five rounds.

The Lions face Bacchus Marsh this Saturday before the break with interleague.

"It's not an easy game," White said.

"It's an inform Bacchus Marsh as well, so we are up against a team that is playing well.

"We'll go back to the drawing board and recover and head up to take on the Marsh."

Meanwhile in the A-grade netball, the Lions bounced back with a hard fought win against Sebastopol.

After scores were level at quarter time, the Lions held a narrow lead at the next two breaks which they were able to hold onto, as they won 54-51.

Lani Faunuku shot 31 goals for the Lions, while Caitlin Hill shot 23 goals.

After five rounds, the Lions sit fourth on the ladder.

Bulldogs' strong start

By Tara Murray

Things are travelling along nicely for Gisborne in the Essendon District Football League women's division 1 competition.

It was an unknown for the Bulldogs heading into the season, but the side has shown that it will be competitive.

After playing as a combined side last season in division 2, the Bulldogs have returned to being a standalone side this season.

Bulldogs director of women's football Darren Mitchell said they were pretty happy with how things were tracking.

"Two-thirds of the team are brand new," he said.

"The Kyneton girls wanted to play in their own competition so we lost them.

"We were able to get a few players back and had a few others come across from oth-

er clubs.

"We've got a core group and they are good humans as well."

Mitchell said they'd had some good results to start the season, including hanging on to claim the points against Coburg Districts in the first half of the split round.

They also have wins against Taylors Lakes and Roxburgh Park.

"It's been a good result so far," Mitchell said. "It will take time and the more we play together the better we will be and the more that we will gel.

"We'll keep improving throughout the season. We know it's not all about premier-ships, but development and retention."

Mitchell said an exciting thing for them was having one or two under-19s playing up in the senior side each week.

He said with some good numbers in the



Amy O'Kelly. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 497597_15

under-19s they had been able to give those playing stepping up some good game time in the senior side.

The Bulldogs had a bye on the weekend, as the second half of the split round occurred.

Mitchell said while some players would have loved to have played on, while there were a few sore bodies, who welcomed the

break.

The Bulldogs will resume their season on Saturday against Keilor Park, which Mitchell said would be one of the teams to beat along with Westmeadows and Craigieburn.

Mitchell said they know there's some good challenges ahead of them.

"We are tracking well," he said. "There's optimism there for the season.

"We're pleased where we're at and there's lots of improvement to come."

In matches on the weekend, the Sunbury Kangaroos lost to Burnside Heights.

Missing a few players, it was a tough day for the Kangaroos as they lost 7.6 (48)-0.0 (0).

Nicole Knudsen and Lisa Kirby were named the Kangaroos best.

The Kangaroos sit seventh with a 2-2 record.



Alice Bromley. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 490796_03

Tigers women are having fun in RDFL

By Tara Murray

Lancefield is focused on what it can control in the Riddell District Football League women's competition.

Coming off a season of massive growth, the Tigers are keen to continue the build of the program going forward.

After four rounds, the Tigers have two wins on the board along with a loss to reigning premiers Macedon.

Tigers' coach Cash Ferguson said the biggest thing for them was about having fun and enjoying what they were about.

"We're had a good start to the season so far, we're happy with where we are at and how we're tracking," he said.

"It's only the start and it's a long journey and we have more to give and there's plenty more in the tank to come.

"We'll see what comes round 14, that's the important one, not now."

Ferguson said it was a unique situation with just four teams in the competition.

He said it gives them an opportunity

to really understand who they are playing against.

While Macedon is again the team to beat, Ferguson said they were more focused on what they were doing.

He said this will hopefully lead to success in the future.

"Our main focus has to be within our own group and just within our own program," he said. "Last year was a little bit bittersweet for us.

"We wanted to see a bit of growth and didn't have expectations for success, just to continue to build a great culture within the team and see some improvements.

"We exceeded by round three or four last year. We shifted the goal posts a little bit and challenged the girls.

"It was still tough to come up one game short, but it was an amazing massive growth last year. We went from two wins in our first season, to making a preliminary final in our second season."

"This year has sort of just become not so much about Macedon, but internally

focused on continuing to build the program and go in the right direction with a healthy future."

The Tigers have added some more depth to its squad for this season and it had been through word of mouth, not them going out and recruiting.

The Tigers had a bye at the weekend with Ferguson said it had come at the right time, but not for the usual reasons.

Someone had stolen the copper wires at Lancefield Park which meant there were no lights for training on the oval.

Ferguson said they were unsure whether it would flow into this week.

In the only match on the weekend, Macedon continued its unbeaten start with a 13.20 (98)-0.1 (1) win against the Mount Alexander Falcons.

Samantha Pointer kicked five goals in a best on ground performance for the Cats.

In round five, Riddell will host Macedon, while Lancefield is at home to Mount Alexander, both on Saturday night.

Sports shorts

FV

Sunbury United had a hard fought win against Hoppers Crossing in the FV state league 3 north-west competition on Saturday. A Damian Rastocic goal in the 20th minute would be the difference for Sunbury in the 1-0 win. After seven rounds, Sunbury sits sixth on the ladder with 12 points. In FV state league 7 north-west, Gisborne beat Old Trinity Grammarians, 2-1. The win moves Gisborne to sixth on the ladder.

Bendigo NL

Gisborne had a big win against Castlemaine in the Bendigo Netball League. Having had the past two weekends off due to split rounds and byes, the Bulldogs were back in action. They had no trouble at all as they accounted for Castlemaine, 65-19. After five rounds, the Bulldogs sit in fourth spot with a 3-1 record.

RDNL

All the favourites got the job done on Saturday in the Riddell District Netball League. Kyneton had a big 83-46 win against Melton South to get its first win on the board. The Gisborne Giants got the job done against Diggers Rest, 59-43, while Lancefield was too strong for Melton Centrals' 79-31. Riddell won the battle of the young guns against Romsey, 61-48, while Woodend-Hesket won a low scoring affair against Macedon, 31-28.

EDFL

East Sunbury made it three in a row, while the Sunbury Kangaroos returned to the winners list in the Essendon District Football League division 2 competition. The Thunder's straight kicking got it across the line against Keilor Park, winning 10.2 (62)-4.12 (36). Riza Gashi and Justin Waldron were named the Thunder's best in the win. The Sunbury Kangaroos snuck home against Burnside Heights, winning 8.11 (59)-7.14 (56). Jackson Treweek and John Corso were named the Kangaroos best. The two Sunbury sides sit in fourth and fifth place with a 3-2 record. In division 1, Rupertswood remains winless after losing to Moonee Valley, 17.18 (120)-12.11 (83).

FOR MORE SPORT VISIT

Web: starweekly.com.au

[f](#) Sunbury & Macedon Ranges Star Weekly

[t](#) @starweeklynews

[i](#) @star_weekly



Lions bounce back



Tigers having fun



Callum Moore. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 546093_06

Moore makes stunning start

By Tara Murray

Diggers Rest forward Callum Moore wanted to tick off a number of things in his football career, one which led him to the Riddell District Football League club.

Moore, who had played at the highest level with Richmond and Carlton, had returned to his junior club Aberfeldie in recent seasons after a strong Victorian Football League career and time at Wangaratta.

After claiming the Essendon District Football League's top honour, the Reynolds Medal, and its leading league goalkicking award last season, Moore shocked many by moving to the Burras.

"Outside of the AFL system I wanted to tick everything off and that included playing with my mates," Moore said of the move.

"I wanted to tick that off before injuries come a lot more frequently.

"I've missed out on playing in wins and flags with them."

Moore said winning the EDFL best and fairest, which he had no clue that he

would get, hadn't changed his mind about changing clubs and joining the Burras.

He said Aberfeldie had been really good about it and said if things worked out, he would love to finish his career at his junior club.

"I just wanted to play with my mates that stood by me through my footy career," he said.

"There's a bunch of boys there who I have years of friendship with.

"That's special for me. Win, lose or draw, it doesn't affect me as long as I'm running out with my mates."

Moore started his time with the Burras with eight goals in round one before a hip-groin injury derailed his momentum in a couple of games.

After rehabbing the injury over the Burras bye at Collingwood's facilities, he's returned to full fitness in the last round against Macedon.

On Saturday, he kicked 15 goals against the Gisborne Giants in a best on ground performance.

The goal tally isn't a career high though, having kicked 20 in a game last season.

"It's been nice to get back on the park," Moore said. "The boys are playing pretty well and we're gelling together.

"We're understanding the game plan and it's helped us get the wins. I would have not got that many goals if the blokes in defence and midfield didn't get me the ball.

"It was a team effort and I reaped the rewards of everyone is playing our game plan."

Moore said the 33.18 (216)-5.7 (37) win against the Giants was a bit of a statement game for the side.

The win has the Burras sitting at 4-0 and top of the ladder to start the season.

Moore knows the club has a big focus this season.

"We were strong the last couple of seasons before falling off before finals," he said.

"We want to have as much depth and pressure and that is big in what we are starting to do."

Riddell, Macedon, Melton South and Melton Centrals were the other winners on Saturday.

Dogs win thriller

By Tara Murray

Gisborne took the lessons of earlier in the season to sneak home in a thriller against Castlemaine on Saturday in the Bendigo Football League.

Returning to the field after two weeks off, the Bulldogs had to come from behind at three quarter time to get the job done. The Bulldogs finished with 11 scoring shots in the final quarter to do just enough as they won, 8.20 (68)-9.13 (67).

Bulldogs skipper Zac Vescovi said it was a pretty crazy match.

"It was an intense game of footy and it was really good," he said.

"They jumped us in the first quarter. Towards the end of the third quarter I was quietly confident that it had to turn."

Vescovi said during the couple of weeks off that they had really focused on some intense training to prepare themselves for the winter months.

"We've had a stop-start year and it is what it is," he said.

"We got some extra learning for the rest of the year. We put a lot of learning into practice and that played a big part in getting us over the line."

The Bulldogs trailed by 20 points at quarter time before being back to three points at the main break.

That margin increased back out to 14 points heading into the final quarter, with the Bulldogs having had one more scoring shot.

Vescovi said they felt they were doing a lot right at that point of the game.

"We were defending well but we couldn't connect with the half forward line," he said. "We were kicking a lot of long points. "We couldn't get the connections to hit up our forwards in good spots. That last five minutes the game opened up."

The Magpies had their chances with the ball spending most of the final two minutes of the game in their forward line.

The Bulldogs hit the lead by seven points through Matthew Merrett before the Magpies had the next two scoring shots to level the scores.

One more point gave the Bulldogs and the lead and they shut down the game to ensure they got the win.

Shane Clough and Merrett kicked two goals each in the win.

Will Elliott and Dylan Johnstone were named their best.

Vescovi said having lost to South Bendigo by two points, it was vital that they got the points this time round.

He said they had taken a lot out of that game and playing in pressure situations.

The Bulldogs now face reigning premiers Eaglehawk this Saturday.

"They beat us twice last year when it mattered most," Vescovi said.

"We'll be back home and boys can't wait and are looking forward to the challenge."