

SUNBURY & MACEDON RANGES **Star Weekly** starweekly.com.au



Organiser Carole Simpson, Rev Fa'amata'u Leota and church council chair Dianne Moon. (Damjan Janevski) 550461_01

Cuppa for a cause

Baked goods and tea will be aplenty as St Andrew's Uniting Church gears up to host its 16th Biggest Morning Tea.

Organiser Carole Simpson is once again getting the tea cups ready alongside organisers Helen Hall and Robin Simpson, with the annual event one that is not to be missed in Sunbury.

Ms Simpson has hosted the annual morning tea at the Sunbury church since 2010, and so far said she has raised more than \$8000 for the Cancer Council.

She said the cause is an important one for the community to get behind.

All money raised on the day will go towards the research and prevention of cancer, as well as for the vital support needed to make each stage of the cancer journey easier.

The Biggest Morning Tea will be held at St Andrew's Uniting Church, corner of Brook and Barkly streets, Sunbury, on Sunday 14 June, from 10.30am, after the 9.30am morning service.

Everyone is welcome to attend, with plenty of baked goods, tea and coffee available for everyone.

Neighbouring threat

By Georgia Tacey

Sunbury councillors have sounded the alarm on a proposed Clarkefield development and the burden it may place on the already straining Sunbury infrastructure.

Hume councillors Jarrod Bell and Kate Hamley have individually made their own submissions to the state government for the proposed new district town at Clarkefield.

The neighbouring hamlet, which sits only five minutes outside Hume's border with the Macedon Ranges, could potentially result in more than 2300 new homes and 6000 residents if it is approved.

Cr Bell said he was concerned by how Hume already had multiple precinct structure plans in the works in Sunbury's

north and south, with major development already occurring in Sunbury's patch of Lancefield Road and nearby Sunbury Road.

"To then throw in an additional 6000 (residents) onto what will already be a really rapidly growing area, I thought was an overdevelopment of the area and really out of tune with what the southern Macedon Ranges is," he said.

Cr Bell said he worries Sunbury would bear the burden of service demand, including its libraries, kindergarten, school, and health services.

"These 6000 residents will not pay a single cent of rates to Hume council to deliver services that they will use, because they live in the Macedon Ranges council," he said.

"I think the documents I saw didn't even acknowledge effectively a residual burden or a residual share of service demand into communities like Sunbury."

Cr Hamley said this proposal is not something Hume has considered.

"What's been put forward at the density they've suggested, is really like an entire new suburb," she said.

"It's not something we've considered in all of our growth planning for Sunbury's north, and this will continue to put a lot of pressure on us, as far as community services and infrastructure that we haven't planned for."

Both councillors raised concerns about the traffic impacts on Lancefield Road and Sunbury Road, as well as on the public transport system that Cr Hamley said is

already at capacity.

"As much as their design of the development at Clarkefield has tried to say, 'we have all this public transport' the reality is that everyone there is going to be heavily car dependent, especially because there's no schools, there's no supermarket, there's no petrol station," she said.

Cr Hamley and Cr Bell said this proposal only renews their calls for the full duplication of Sunbury Road as well as the Bulla Bypass.

The proposed development by APD Projects is currently being considered by the planning minister under the state government's Development Facilitation Program, with the proposed township poised to deliver up to 2500 homes over the next 15 years if approved.



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Honoured to be recognised

An animal sanctuary founder, a fifth-generation farmer and a Trentham doctor are among those locals awarded OAMs.



Pam Ahern with Ruby the Kelpie and Kansas the lamb. (Supplied)

Pam Ahern (OAM)

Lancefield resident Pam Ahern said she was humbled to be recognised with a Medal of the Order of Australia.

The Lancefield local and founder of not-for-profit farm animal sanctuary Edgar's Mission was recognised for her contributions to animal welfare.

"I think it's wonderful that the work for farm animals has been recognised," she said.

"I think it's not just an award for me. It's a nod to kindness for all animals."

Ms Ahern founded the mission in 2003, when she rescued a tiny piglet for a fashion shoot, naming him Edgar Alan Pig.

"I had no idea that Edgar would grow as big as he did, or the sanctuary would actually grow as big as it did," she said.

"Not only has the sanctuary grown, but it's also the recognition that we have around the world and also awards, it's really gratifying."

Currently, the mission supports close to 600 farm animals.

"To highlight the personalities of these animals through the work of Edgar's Mission, I really think it encourages people to think, and I think that's been the

success of Edgar's Mission is that we don't tell people what to do or what not to do," Ms Ahern said.

"We really speak to the goodness of the human heart and give them a chance to meet these animals and learn what their lives are about then to make the choices in their life that reflect kindness and justice."

Outside of Edgar's Mission, Ms Ahern contributed to animal welfare through being an ambassador for World Animal Day and Be Kind to Animals Week, as well as volunteering for the Save Babe Campaign.

She is also a former Australian Champion Rider of the Year, and in 2025 was inducted into the Garryowen Hall of Fame, to recognise her achievements from her equestrian days.

Ms Ahern said the OAM was an honour for her, and that she will continue to do what she does for the kindness of all animals.

"I'm just really humbled by the experience and grateful that the spotlight this will shine, that caring for animals is a legitimate concern in our community, particularly farm animals," she said.

Judith Clements (OAM)

Fifth-generation farmer Judith (Judy) Clements has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her service to the Whittlesea community.

Ms Clements has dedicated decades to groups including the Whittlesea Agricultural Society, Yan Yean Cemetery Trust and the Victorian Farmers Federation.

She said it is incredibly humbling to receive such an honour.

"It's overwhelming because you just sort of chip away at the things that you feel passionate about without greater thought, it's about the motivation, it's about the things that cause you to be involved," she said.

She said the motivation to give back to her community is deeply rooted in her family.

"My fathers involvement set me down that path of getting involved from a fairly young age with various community projects and pursuits and advocating."

"I think that it makes it even more emotional to think of people who are no longer with us who have set us on such special paths in life."

"My whole psyche is deeply rooted in the district and I just feel a connection with it."

"It's something that comes from having your hands in the soil."

She said it was particularly significant to be involved in assisting farmers recovering from the 2009 Black Saturday fires.

"It was such a horrific time for people, so traumatic that there were people who were far worse off and that puts life into perspective in thinking of how fortunate I am, and for me is very good motivation for stepping forward."

"Having been through fires and floods ourselves from a farming experience and knowing just how enormously challenging it is... your world is turned upside down with one event."

Ms Clements said she hopes to continue advocating for farmers and helping authorities prepare for and understand the impact of natural disasters.

"There's a lot that I have learnt across those experiences... about recovery about... how we can make it that little bit better for people."

Across all her roles she said there is a common theme, she never works alone.

"Hopefully... the award is a recognition of the greater good that so many wonderful people contribute to society."



Judith (Judy) Clements. (Supplied)

Dr Jon Graftdyk (OAM)

Trentham local Dr Jon Graftdyk has received what he calls a "great honour" after being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his work supporting those living with a rare form of cancer across Australia.

Diagnosed with a rare form of lung cancer just weeks before his 48th birthday back in 2022, Dr Graftdyk has since committed his life to supporting those living with ALK-positive lung cancer.

Co-founder and chairperson of ALK Positive Australia, Dr Graftdyk extends a helping hand to those living with, or knowing someone living with the rare condition nationwide and works to raise funds for vital research into the condition.

"My primary motivation behind establishing the charity was to form some sort of connection for those living with it," Dr Graftdyk said.

"There was just no connection in Australia, so I just really wanted to ensure there was a way for Australian ALKies to connect and get support."

The rare and incurable cancer is found in about two to five per cent of all lung cancer cases worldwide, usually affecting younger, non-smoking demographics.

Another motivator, Dr Graftdyk said, was to raise funds for vital research on the disease.

"Unlike normal lung cancer, it's not treated through chemotherapy," he said.

"We are trying to do as much as we can in research to find better treatments and combination therapies to extend our lives."

Despite living with the disease for about four years, Dr Graftdyk's dedication to helping others has never wavered, committing his time to ensuring others feel supported, feel informed, and are aware of their options through their stressful diagnoses.

"Sometimes it's just about providing a bit of practical support to help people understand what their treatment options are and what makes a difference," he explained.

"You just need to listen and let them

know they're not alone. We're all stronger together. It makes it easier to know there are other people who are going through similar things to you."

On receiving his OAM, Dr Graftdyk said he owed it all to those around him.

"It's not the reason I do the work that I do but it's nice to know that other people see the work you do and it's supported and appreciated," he said.

"It's amazing to be a part of a community that is so dedicated. I've gained a lot from the experience."

Above it all, he said he wouldn't change a thing.

"It's a life changing event to be diagnosed with lung cancer and it can be pretty easy to sit back and feel like your life is over," he said.

"But I actually feel like I gained a lot from that experience and I'm a better person - a better partner, better dad, a better community member because of it."

For support, visit: <https://alkpositive.org.au/>



Dr John Graftdyk has been honoured with an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) for his work in supporting the community through ALK Positive Australia. (Supplied)



Jenny Kearney, OAM. (Damjan Janevski) 557528_04

Jenny Kearney (OAM)

If you're local to the Bacchus Marsh area, there's a good chance you know Jenny Kearney and her work with the SoulFood program, and there's an even better chance you know why she's been honoured with a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) this King's Birthday.

Mrs Kearney has dedicated the last 16 years of her life to coordinating the community's SoulFood program, recognised for her hard work and dedication to providing support to the local Bacchus Marsh community.

The SoulFood Program was founded by Bacchus Marsh's Uniting Church and began as a program aimed at supporting the local community through hot food services, donation drives, and Christmas appeals.

Mrs Kearney has helped transform the program into something bigger than anyone had ever expected, extending a helping and loving hand, catering to the needs of all those around the Bacchus Marsh community.

"We provide a free community lunch which we work hard to cater to everybody," Mrs Kearney explained.

"As we've grown the need has increased, so we also do a lot of other things like

giving out free fresh fruit and vegetables, free bread, clothing and bedding, we also have emergency groceries."

Mrs Kearney was honoured with her OAM for her service to the community through her extensive and continuous work with the SoulFood program.

It's a recognition she is humbled by, but one she couldn't have achieved without the help of those around her, she said.

"I'm very humbled and honoured to receive such an award, but I'm only as good as our volunteers and we have a fabulous team who are absolutely brilliant," she said.

"They are so compassionate, kind, and generous with their time. That's the reason the SoulFood program is as good as it is."

She extended her gratitude to the wider Bacchus Marsh community and said making a difference is enough to keep her going.

"The support from the wider community has been fantastic," she said.

"We are very happy to do the service that we do - we're lucky that we are in a position where we can see a need and are able to do something about it. We thoroughly enjoy what we do and I'm a part of a fabulous team."

Patricia Kaye (OAM)

Gisborne local Patricia Kaye has received a Medal of the Order of Australia for her contributions to the Gisborne community.

Ms Kaye has lived in Gisborne for more than 50 years, and has continuously remained heavily involved in groups across the community.

Her extensive list of groups keeps her very busy and recognisable around town, and said she loves the community she calls home.

"I came to Gisborne in '69 and it was just a little tiny town, a lovely town, and it's always been such a lovely, friendly community," she said.

"The people there are just nice people, it was just a lovely place to live.

"I've always loved being there, I've been living there in a little old 174 year old cottage, and been involved in business in the community."

In 2025, Ms Kaye was recognised by Ambulance Victoria for her 50-year involvement in the Gisborne Ambulance Auxiliary.

A founding member, she has remained treasurer of the group which fundraises for the Gisborne Ambulance since its beginning, helping raise funds to open

the branch in town, a local helipad and supporting plenty of paramedics.

In August, she was awarded with the 50 Years of Service Award for her efforts.

Ms Kaye is also a volunteer for the Gisborne Vintage Machinery Club, a life member of the Gisborne Probus Club, and a former president of multiple community groups and organisations, including Gisborne Artist's Society, Gisborne Friends of Vision Australia, and the eye and ear committee for the Eye and Ear Hospital.

She was also a volunteer or member for the Gisborne Ratepayers Association, Gisborne Leisure Learning, the Gisborne Gazette and Vision Australia.

"I'm always in the community, because it's always been a lovely community," Ms Kaye said.

She said she was shocked to find out she was receiving the award, and said it was a great honour.

"It was an incredible surprise and the last thing I expected," she said. "I always think when I read those things, well, these people have done so much good in their communities and that they deserve that and I never thought I'd get one."



Patricia Kaye celebrating the Gisborne Ambulance Auxiliary's 50 years with Ambulance Victoria chief executive Jordan Emery, Gisborne Ambulance Auxiliary member Tim Fraser and paramedic Horace Vella. (Supplied)

Michael Crosbie (OAM)

Decades of volunteer work across the Sunshine community have earned Michael Crosbie a Medal of the Order of Australia.

Mr Crosbie, who lives in Altona, was recognised as part of this year's King's Birthday Honours.

Over the years, Mr Crosbie has been a member of a number of community groups including the Sunshine and

District Historical Society, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Sunshine, St Vincent de Paul Society Sunshine Conference, Sunshine Golf Club, East Sunshine Kindergarten, Sunshine Football Club, Helping Hand Society and Adult Migrant Education Scheme.

As the co-founder of Sunshine Credit Union in 1975, Mr Crosbie as served as treasurer, auditor and financial advisor to

many local groups.

Mr Crosbie was a founding member of the Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception parish council and historical society, while he also served as treasurer and auditor for 35 years and was a member of the primary school board council for 15 years.

He served as president of the Sunshine St Vincent de Paul conference from

2010-2018 and has been treasurer since 2018. He first joined the conference in 1998.

He was also vice president of the Sunshine and District Historical Society from 2010-2017 and has been the group's public officer since 2017 and secretary and treasurer since 2018.

Mr Crosbie is also a life member of Sunshine Football Club.



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Bug expo to leave Woodend

By Georgia Tacey

A major Macedon Ranges event is on the move.

The National Insect Expo, the largest of its kind in Australia, will soon move to Mitchell shire, after organiser Dr Bert Candusio wasn't able to secure a permanent home in the Macedon Ranges for the National Institute of Entomology.

Dr Candusio said he's been trying for the past six years to keep the expo and institute in the Ranges however he wasn't able to find a spot to call home.

"We have had a long affiliation with

Woodend, and we desperately wanted to remain in Woodend for that very reason," he said.

The institute explored options including the Woodend Community Centre, Old Kyneton Primary School and the Woodend Masonic Hall, but negotiations always stalled. Dr Candusio also worked with Macedon Ranges council officers to help secure a home for the institute, however was unsuccessful.

However, a Mitchell councillor who was a frequent attendee and lover of the National Insect Expo alerted him to a potential opportunity for a potential home at the

Kilmore Town Hall.

"When [Mitchell council] found out our institute was keen on looking in, I went down and gave a presentation to the council in December last year about what our plans were, what we had hoped for the building, and then ultimately if we were successful in gaining the building, we may look at relocating the expo from Woodend to Wallan or Broadford in four or five years time," he said.

Dr Candusio is in the process of moving the institute to the Kilmore Town Hall, after getting the go ahead from Mitchell council.

He said the expo will remain at Woodend Buffalo Sports Stadium for now, and will return there this October.

"It'll stay in Woodend for at least four years, and then we'll relocate it ... because Wallan has a triple court stadium in size whereas in Woodend it's one and every year I have to turn back exhibitors because there's no room for them," he said.

Macedon Ranges mayor Kate Kendall said she was pleased to hear that the expo will remain in the shire for several years, but said council wishes it the best in its future endeavours.



Dean Lewis with his restored 1942 World War II Ford Jeep. (Damjan Janevski) 557049_02

Soldier Dean's 'mission impossible'

A former soldier from Toolern Vale has undertaken a new mission, working to track down the descendants of the owner of an old prayer book which forms part of his war memorabilia collection.

Something Dean Lewis knows will be no easy feat.

First joining the Australian Army during the mid 1980s, Lewis had to get his parents' written permission on account he was so young, before spending six years with the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

"During my six years I was deployed to the Northern Territory for Kangaroo 89, which was the largest military exercise after World War II," he explained.

"I reached the rank of corporal and was awarded the ADF Medal before leaving for civilian life."

Although no longer an active member of Australia's Defence Force, Lewis' passion for all things military has never wavered.

An avid memorabilia collector, Lewis recently finished restoring a 1942 World War II Ford Jeep, with his personal museum including a wide range of Light Horse Birage items and bibles, belonging to former soldiers.

"One of the things I collect is army bibles," Lewis explained.

"I recently bought what I thought was a Turkish bible, but I have since discovered

it is actually a prayer book."

A handwritten note inside reads "Turkish Holy Book Koran, captured at Haj by G Love. Souvenir."

Combining his passion for military and family heirlooms, Lewis hopes to track down the descendants of the original owner.

"Ideally we will trace it back to the army unit, then the soldier and return it to his family," he said. "I'm under no illusion, and realise it's close to a mission impossible, but what a great story it could be if I did manage to find the original owner's family more than a century later and halfway across the world."

Celebrating pride

Local businesses and community groups across Sunbury and Macedon Ranges are invited to dress up their shop fronts and windows in celebration of Pride Month.

The annual rainbow windows competition is being organised by Omnia Community Health in partnership with Macedon Ranges and Hume councils.

Omnia Community Health's Rhani Dean-Talbert explained that the rainbow windows competition is a way that local organisations can come together and visibly show their support for the LGBTIQ+ community.

"Pride is built on people standing up and being seen, so we invite people to get creative, have some fun, and put on an eye-catching display that celebrates inclusion," Ms Dean-Talbert said.

Registrations are being open until Sunday 14 June, and the first 20 registrations will receive a free pride pack with resources to help with their display.

Windows can be decorated with pride colours, flags, symbols, and messages and there will be prizes up for grabs for the most creative entries with winners being announced at the end of June.

Also as part of Pride Month, local business and community members are invited to take part in a free online rainbow inclusion training session. Taking place next Wednesday 10 June between 3-4.30pm, the interactive training will build the knowledge, confidence, and practical skills needed to create safe, inclusive, and affirming environments for LGBTIQ+ people.

Omnia Community Health also holds a monthly rainbow coffee club for LGBTIQ+ adults in Romsey, Sunbury and Kyneton and this month anyone attending will receive a free coffee and cake.

Details: sunburycowbaw.org.au

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Ranges teachers recognised

Teachers across Victoria have been recognised for their outstanding contributions to students, including two from the Macedon Ranges.

Education Minister Ben Carroll awarded teachers and support staff at the annual Recognition of Service awards, for staff who have served 40, 45, 50, 55 and 60 years of service to public education in Victoria.

Two education veterans from the Macedon Ranges received an award on the night.

Stephen Taylor from Darraweit Guim Primary School celebrated 40 years of service, and Helen Burgess from Mount Macedon Primary School celebrated 45 years of service.

Macedon MP Mary-Anne Thomas congratulated both teachers.

"Darraweit Guim and Mount Macedon Primary Schools are such valued parts of our local community, and I sincerely thank Stephen and Helen for their remarkable dedication and many years of outstanding service to local students and families," she said.

More 300 teachers and support staff from Victorian schools were celebrated on the night, which Mr Carroll congratulated all recipients.

"Whenever I speak with our hard-working teachers, I'm struck by their dedication to making sure our children thrive," he said.

"I'm proud that Labor has made Victorian teachers the best paid in the nation - because they're the best in the nation."

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Paediatric first aid educator and nurse Grace Larson with Jonti. (Supplied)

Paediatric first aid course

Grandparents and informal carers across the Macedon Ranges are being invited to take part in a specialised pediatric first aid workshop at the Woodend Neighbourhood House.

The hands-on session is designed specifically for people caring for babies and children, helping participants build confidence and practical skills to respond to common childhood accidents, injuries and illnesses. Facilitated by paediatric first aid educator and nurse Grace Larson, the workshop will cover CPR for babies and children, choking response, burns treatment, head injuries, snake bites, allergic reactions and other common emergencies.

Ms Larson said the training was particularly important for grandparents and informal carers, many of whom may not have updated their first aid skills in decades.

“Caring for children today can look very different to when many grandparents were raising their own families,” she said.

“In an emergency, knowing what to do in those first few minutes can make an enormous difference. We want grandparents and carers to feel calm, confident and equipped with practical skills that could one day save a child’s life.”

The workshop is delivered through The Sisterhood Project, a grant-funded charity committed to making paediatric first aid education more accessible.

Woodend Neighbourhood House manager Melissa Baker said “It’s wonderful that we can offer affordable access to this specialised training locally, helping carers feel more supported and prepared while caring for children.”

The workshop is on Saturday 20 June, from 10am-noon, Participation costs \$20.

Briefs

Immunisation sessions

Macedon Ranges council provides free immunisations as set out by the National Immunisation Program. When you attend a council immunisation session you should bring your child’s health book and Medicare details. All children and adults are required to remain at the immunisation venue for at least 15 minutes after receiving any vaccination. The next round of sessions will be held across the shire on Tuesday 16 June. In Riddells Creek, the session will take place from 9.30am to 10.30am at the Riddells Creek Community Centre. In Romsey, it will take place from 11.30am to 12.30pm at the Romsey Community Hub.

Jobs expo

A free expo for jobseekers looking for local career pathways and entry-level jobs will be held at the Hume Global Learning Centre in Sunbury on Wednesday 17 June. On the day, more than 100 jobs will be featured, with the opportunity to meet and chat with local businesses face-to-face about their job opportunities, as well as experts from education providers and the opportunity to learn about career opportunities and pathways. Two sessions will be held, with registrations required. The first session will run from 10am-noon, and the second from noon-2pm. Details: <https://tinyurl.com/3w663xct>

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Woodlea & Deanside





Zamika Hunt with her son Elroy. (Pictures: Ivan Kemp) 556709_08

Hunt for an inclusive world

Mum of four Zamika Hunt participated in Aspect's (Autism Spectrum Australia) Walk for Autism campaign recently to raise understanding following her son Elroy's diagnosis. She spoke with Jena Carr about what a more inclusive world for autistic people would mean for families like hers.

Elroy Hunt sees beauty in everything and loves to take the time to look at what is often overlooked by many people.

When the five-year-old was diagnosed with level two autism, it was the beginning of a journey that mum Zamika Hunt, 31, never expected to take with her fourth child.

"Like many parents, I had a picture in my mind of what parenting would look like and what milestones our family would celebrate," she said.

"One of the biggest challenges after diagnosis was finding the right supports, as there is no handbook that tells you exactly what your child needs.

"I have carried the weight of constantly advocating for him so others could see beyond his challenges and recognise the incredible little person he is.

"We spent countless hours researching therapies, attending appointments, advocating, asking questions, and trying different supports and groups until we found the ones that suited Elroy.

"Receiving his diagnosis meant taking time to process, learn, and grieve the parenting journey I had imagined...but I'm so thankful that I have him."

Autism presents differently in everyone diagnosed with the condition, with Elroy requiring substantial support for communication and routine challenges.

"We're used to the stares when he's not coping with things...and he is quite speech-delayed," Zamika said.

"We're on a behavioural plan at school because he does hide under tables and goes non-verbal at times, so sometimes you just need to leave him and let him process it.

"As a parent, you would do anything to make life easier for them, but there have been times when I have worried about Elroy's future and whether he would be accepted.

"There have been moments of exhaustion, uncertainty, and heartbreak as watching your child struggle in a world that isn't always that understanding of him can be incredibly difficult."

Despite the challenges, Zamika said there was "so much joy" in watching Elroy grow into the person he is.

"We've had to change the way we look at things, but he...fits into our family, and I think he was the missing piece of the puzzle," she said.

"The smallest achievements can represent months or even years of hard work, and those moments bring a level of pride that is hard to put into words.

"Elroy has taught me patience, resilience, and the importance of seeing the world differently, and he has shown me that success doesn't have to look the same for everyone.

"A successful school drop-off, trying new food, coping with a change in routine, joining in with other children, or making it through a difficult day without becoming overwhelmed are all victories worth celebrating.

"I also only went into childcare because of him, as I figured I would not always be there to help him, but I could help children like him, and it's absolutely changed the way that I look at everything."

Zamika said that Elroy's unique way of seeing the world has changed the family's lives for the better as he helped everyone notice the little things.

"Elroy reminds me every day to slow down, celebrate progress, and find happiness in moments others might miss," she said. "He has taught me to see the world through a different lens, which has taught me to celebrate things that many people might take for granted.

"He makes us look at the little things, and every day we come home from school with sticks, rocks and grass in our pockets.



“Elroy reminds me every day to slow down, celebrate progress, and find happiness in moments others might miss”

- Zamika Hunt

"I honestly love it...and you wouldn't think that a rock could make the difference to the entire day."

Aspect held its ninth Walk for Autism campaign last month, with participants encouraged to walk 7000 steps a day for the 70 per cent of autistic people who experience mental health challenges.

Zamika walked 357,205 steps and raised \$1007 for the campaign, with her coworkers and family members walking alongside her.

"This walk was about love. Love for my son, pride in how far he has come, and hope for the future," she said.

"It was also for the future I want him to have, where he is understood, accepted, included, and celebrated for exactly who he is.

"Every step I walked was for Elroy; for the little boy who works so hard every single day and the child who has overcome obstacles many people will never see.

"Autism is not just about challenges; it's about unique strengths, different perspectives, and incredible determination.

"I chose to participate in the Walk for Autism because I wanted to give back to a community that has supported us and helped us feel less alone.

"The support we have received throughout this fundraiser has been overwhelming, as every donation, message, and word of encouragement has meant more than people realise."

Elroy also joined in on walks with his mum while dressed up as a duck, which is his favourite animal.

"I like how they swim and that they're fluffy," Elroy said while spotting ducks along the Barwon River.

Raising awareness of the realities that many people living with autism face, while also highlighting the positives, was an important goal for Zamika during the campaign.

"I want families who may be at the beginning of their journey to know that they are not alone," she said.

"Take the time to know that it's not always going to be what you thought, but it's going to be something amazing.

"If sharing our story helps even one person better understand autism or makes one family feel less alone, then every step has been worth it.

"The early days after diagnosis can feel overwhelming, but there is support available, there are communities that understand, and there is so much hope."

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Q TEACH THE FUTURE

Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne





with Evan Turok

A surprising hit and a polarising miss

Romsey movie buff Evan Turok is Star Weekly's film reviewer. Each month he shares his take on recent releases, cult classics, modern favourites and everything in between.

★★★★☆

The Drama - MA15+

Going into the cinema, I had a feeling that Kristoffer Borgli's 2025 film *The Drama* wouldn't be for me ... I was wrong.

The drama follows the soon-to-be-married couple of Charlie Thompson (Robert Pattinson) and Emma Harwood (Zendaya).

While preparing for their big day, the pair and some of their friends begin discussing the worst things each of them have done.

In a drunken state, Emma lets out a secret from her past that turns the entire situation upside down, leading to a series of painful situations unfolding until finally coming to a head on their wedding day.

The two most important aspects of a film are if it entertains and if it can affect your emotions in the intended way.

Two big ticks for the drama. There were countless occasions where the tense, awkward situations, paired with realistic dialogue and naturalistic acting, left me wanting to curl up into a ball and disappear into the chair in the best way possible.

The Drama was funny, heart-breaking, and artistically creative.

Each new scene was willing to be bold and true to life, leaving us with a film that was so easy to relate to and get lost in.

This is why I was so disappointed in its ending, which so quickly abandoned the risk-taking style replaced by a forced happy ending that took away from the film in its entirety.

From the first second *The Drama* started, there was a beautiful look to it. It wasn't long before I noticed some flashes of white on the screen and immediately realised what made this movie so easy on the eyes, was the fact that it had been shot on 35 millimetre film.

Borgli's decision to make a movie the old-fashioned way added so much to the tone and atmosphere of the film and doubled as indisputable proof that 35 millimetre film should once again become the standard for capturing movie magic in its purest form.

The drama shows us that it's impossible to know someone truly is until you have seen every side of them and begs the question, how would you react in the same situation?

A well-made film, earning 4/5.

★★★★☆

EraserHead - M

David Lynch is a polarising film director, no one would be more opinionated and passionate about his films than him, a true perfectionist to his imagination.

His film *EraserHead* 1977 is without a doubt the strangest film I have ever watched.

Jack Spencer and his wife Mary are suddenly thrust into parenthood as the mother and father of a horrific alien baby.

The constant screaming and lack of sleep gets to Mary who leaves Jack as the sole parent, soon a series of unnerving, grotesque visions plague Jack while he struggles to care for the creature the best he can.

EraserHead is a visual and cinematic masterclass, starting with wide, still simplistic shots that demonstrate the nature of life in the melancholic urban environment the film takes place in.

It steadily transitions into a truly unsettling horror that is so incredibly uncomfortable on the eyes.

Lynch follows the philosophy of 'the only way past is through' and leans so hard into the style that you can't bring yourself to look away.

There is so little dialogue in this film it's hard to know exactly what the story is, and I believe that is exactly the point.

When people watch *EraserHead* they are desperate to find a cohesive beginning, middle and end style story that simply isn't here.

Although *EraserHead* is thin on story and hard to follow, it isn't about leaving you confused, it's about leaving you curious, the film demands to be rewatched, debated, studied and ultimately, never agreed upon. That's what makes *EraserHead* such a revolutionary film for its time.

At the end of the day this isn't my type of film, it is very slow paced and made ninety minutes feel much longer than it was.

The story is replaced with strange and striking visuals that can sometimes be hard to get on board with.

Ultimately this film made about as much sense as a football bat, so, if you are willing to take a risk and leave a film thinking to yourself 'what the heck just happened?' then *EraserHead* is for you, if not, give it a miss. *EraserHead* gets 3/5.



SPONSORED CONTENT

Australian businesses urged to seize AI opportunity

Artificial intelligence is already helping Australian businesses improve customer service, lift productivity and support workers, but leaders say success depends on building confidence in how the technology is used.

At CommBank's Accelerate AI event in Sydney, CEOs and founders said AI was moving from experimentation to practical use, with benefits emerging across retail, technology and professional services.

Bunnings is one example. Earlier this year, the retailer launched Buddy, an AI shopping assistant that helped 25,000 customers with DIY projects in a single week. It has also rolled out an AI chatbot for 50,000 staff across 400 stores nationwide.

Chief customer officer Rachael McVitty said Bunnings had taken a simple approach to building trust: customers always know when they are interacting with AI, the tool uses verified information, and people can still speak to a team member when needed.

At Canva, co-founder Cliff Obrecht gave ChatGPT an unorthodox test shortly after it launched: plan a global camel delivery service, including logistics, routing and turnaround times.

The model produced a complete operational

plan, despite the abstract challenge Obrecht expected would break the technology. At that moment, he knew what needed doing.

"If we weren't going to disrupt ourselves, we were going to be disrupted," he said of Canva's approach to implementing AI into its operations.

While speakers pointed to growing use of AI across Australia, some noted the technology remains in its infancy.

"If the ultimate measure is impact, we are less than one per cent of the way in," Seek founder and technology investor Paul Bassat said.

But that doesn't mean people should wait for the technology to mature before adopting it.

"If you don't adopt AI, almost certainly you will lose market share. And ultimately, you will go out of business."

Read the full story at CommBank Newsroom.

https://www.commbank.com.au/articles/newsroom/2026/05/australias-ai-moment-opportunity-in-front-of-us.html?utm_term=External&utm_medium=Native&utm_source=Star&utm_campaign=weekone&utm_content=accelerate



Canva CEO Cliff Obrecht at Accelerate AI 2026.



CommBank Accelerate AI: Mel Silva, Vice President and Managing Director, Google ANZ; Dr Nicole Gillespie, Chair of Trust and Professor of Management, University of Melbourne; Rachael McVitty, Chief Customer Officer, Bunnings; and Stephanie Crowe, Head Australian Cyber Security Centre



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help you understand your bill



discuss payment support options that work for you



answer questions about your account.



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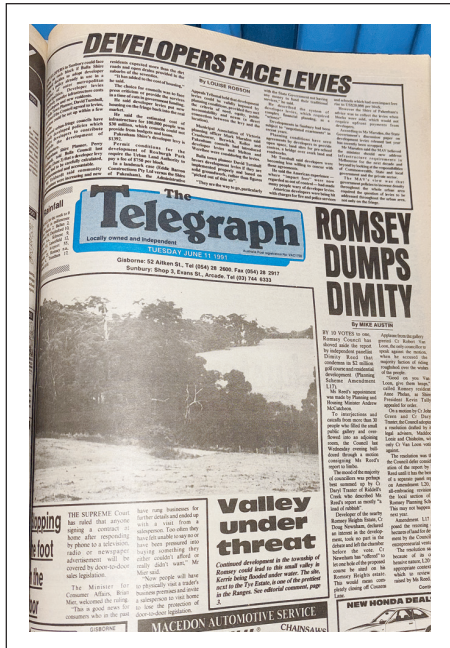
Greater Western Water office	Sunbury	weekdays	9am - 5pm
Romsey Hub	Romsey	Thursday 2 July	11am - 3pm
Woodend Community Library	Woodend	Monday 13 July	11am - 3pm



To register, or find more upcoming customer care days scan the QR code or visit gww.com.au/customer-care

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Star Weekly looks back through the pages of our predecessors



35 years ago
11 June, 1991

By 10 votes to one, Romsey Council has shoved aside the report by independent panellist Dimity Reed that condemns its \$2 million golf course and resident development (Planning Scheme Amendment L17).



20 years ago
13 June, 2006

When 35-year-old Sunbury mother Jodie Symes boarded a plane headed for Sydney at 6am last Sunday week, the friendly blonde could never have guessed the events that would follow.



15 years ago
7 June, 2011

Sunbury's champion sport stackers Racheal Bromley and Amy Annett are eyeing further international success.



10 years ago
7 June, 2016

A property developer with major business interests in Sunbury stands ready to proceed with plans for a multi-level carpark in Sunbury's Evans Street.



Saltwater P-9 College students: Kashaf (front), Moksh, Abdullah, Poppy and Basil. (Damjan Janevski) 554727_04



Hume City Broncos players Ricardo Time and Kelly Heimburger, wearing their Pink round jerseys. (Damjan Janevski) 554401_04



Seaworks chief executive Glen Jones ahead of the Winter Solstice. (Damjan Janevski) 555141_03



Willy Lit Fest program co-director Alice Reid outside Williamstown Town Hall. (Damjan Janevski) 555144_02



Line dancer Debra Jane Ciavarella. (Damjan Janevski) 555106_02

Faces of the west

Each week Star Weekly photographers are out and about capturing events and people across the western and northern suburbs.



Sunbury Neighbourhood House volunteers Robert Camilleri, Win Laing, David Thornton, Lyn Knorr and Cheryl McMahon. (Damjan Janevski) 555495_03



Now selling in Sunbury

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

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



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maintenance
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own home



Capital gains
are yours to keep

INGENIA LIFESTYLE
Sunbury



Council strikes resume

By Georgia Tacey

Council workers across eight councils are resuming protected industrial action, with another full day stoppage planned.

The Australian Services Union (ASU) has said more than 500 members endorsed taking strike action on Wednesday 17 June, which could potentially see another full stoppage of services similar to the previous rally on 5 May, once again marching to parliament's steps.

"Our members do not take the decision to strike lightly, but the next major strike on 17 June will take in over 1500 workers and is being done because we haven't received a single wage offer from any of these eight councils," ASU acting branch secretary for Victoria and Tasmania Zoe Edwards said.

The eight councils - Hume, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Greater Dandenong, Darebin, Melbourne, Merri-bek and Yarra - have experienced disruptions since industrial action began in early April.

In Hume, more than 26,000 bins were not emptied as council's waste workers walked off the job.

Hume chief executive Sheena Frost said councils are continuing to negotiate in good faith with all unions as part of the multi-employer bargaining process, with the ASU calling for a 10 per cent pay increase in the first year, followed by four per cent increases per year after.

"The Australian Services Union's industrial action is being undertaken very early in

the bargaining process," Ms Frost said.

"None of the eight councils have been officially notified of any ASU strike action on 17 June.

"While we acknowledge the legal right of the ASU to take protected industrial action, any adverse effects on our communities are regrettable.

"We will keep our communities informed as much as possible."

Ms Frost said council asks the community for patience while negotiations continue.



Lama Hannoun, Rose Raad, Laith Alghareeb, Celia Chang and Sihem Sayand. (Damjan Janevski) 556599_02

Refugees take the lead telling their stories

A group of people from refugee backgrounds have come together to plan, create and deliver the A Million Stories: Journey to Hope event at Town Hall Broadmeadows.

The event on Saturday 20 June will celebrate Refugee Week, with locals and visitors invited to join together for fun, food, culture and music.

Volunteers and staff from local migrant, refugee and asylum seeker services have been meeting fortnightly to plan the event.

Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre's

Sihem Sayand said every activity was planned by refugees themselves.

"This is our community, this is the people we support. I am very proud of this event because it's about inclusion and belonging and also participation," Ms Sayand said.

Arabic Welfare volunteer Lama Hannoun said it was a great opportunity to be involved.

"I'm a new refugee here and I know about two to three per cent about the country," Ms Hannoun said.

"You feel yourself as a refugee that you became part of this society and this community, you can say belong."

Arabic Welfare's Rose Raad said volunteer Laith Alghareeb has recruited 20 children to form a choir for the event.

Arabic Welfare volunteer Elias Rawik said he did not hesitate to join.

"When I found the chance to include myself in the refugee event I was like so fast... accept that," Mr Rawik said.

"We're not like team members, we are more like family."

Winter works blitz across the west

A state government works blitz will impact motorists and commuters across the west throughout winter.

The government said the blitz would include works to help slash congestion and make life easier.

Sunbury line passengers will swap trains for buses on the weekends of 13-14 and 27-28 June, while the Metro Tunnel will also close to remove temporary tracks from 9am 7 July to last train 12 July.

In Melton, crews will finish building a road bridge over the rail line and continue work to build the new Melton station, resulting in Ferris Road being closed to traffic from 23 June to 15 July.

Level crossing removal works will also result in the closures of Coburns and Exford roads in Melton at times throughout August and September, the state government said.

For V/Line passengers, coaches will replace trains on sections of the Ballarat line from 22 July until last service on 26 July.

The government said there would be further changes to train services in August, with dates to be confirmed closer to the time.

Transport Infrastructure Minister Gabrielle Williams encouraged people to plan ahead before travelling.

"Thanks to drivers and passengers for their patience while we get on with this vital work," she said.

For more information about winter disruptions, visit: bigbuild.vic.gov.au/disruptions

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SUNBURY & MACEDON RANGES
Star Weekly

Sent to your inbox every Tuesday



PUZZLES

SUDOKU

No. 293

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.

easy

4			8					3
7	3	8		6		5		1
	2							
1			3	2		7		9
				9				
3	2		7	6				4
							7	
9	4		3		1	6	8	
5				9				2

medium

			2	7	1				6
		6							
7	1				8				
		3	4			2	9	5	
	9						6		
8	4	5			6	3			
			7				2	3	
							5		
3			5	4	2				

hard

				8	6		7		
	5	1							
8				3					
3			2			6			
5		9			3		4		
	4			3			8		
			7				2		
						5	8		
7		1	5						

easy medium

2	4	3	6	8	1	7	5	9	3
8	9	1	5	2	4	7	6	3	8
5	7	4	1	9	6	3	2	8	4
1	4	8	2	7	5	3	6	9	8
6	3	9	8	4	2	1	7	5	3
9	2	7	1	9	4	6	3	8	5
3	6	8	5	7	1	4	2	9	8
7	1	4	9	3	8	6	5	2	7
5	8	2	6	1	7	4	3	9	8
8	3	7	5	2	9	1	6	4	3
4	1	9	8	5	7	1	8	2	6

hard

6	6	4	8	5	1	3	7	2
7	8	8	2	2	4	4	3	1
2	1	3	6	9	7	8	4	8
1	8	2	7	4	2	6	1	8
5	9	6	3	6	8	8	9	5
5	9	6	8	9	7	1	3	2
8	2	7	4	1	8	6	8	3
9	5	9	3	1	8	9	6	5
5	9	6	8	9	7	1	3	2
8	2	7	4	1	8	6	8	3
9	5	9	3	1	8	9	6	5
5	9	6	8	9	7	1	3	2

Puzzles and pagination © Pagemasters | pagemasters.com

5x5

F		L		S
	S		A	
S		N		E
	D		E	
D		E		S

Insert the missing letters to make 10 words – five reading across the grid and five reading down.

NOTE: more than one solution may be possible

S	D	E	E	D
D	G	E	D	E
E	C	N	I	S
S	U	A	L	S
F	A	L	L	S

No. 400

QUICK QUIZ



- Michelle Yeoh (pictured) won a Best Actress Academy Award for which 2022 film?
- Which landlocked country in Eastern Europe translates to English as 'White Russia'?
- In the food industry, what does UPF stand for?
- Which iconic Australian landmark is playfully known as 'Nuns in a Scrum'?
- Which aptly named flower symbolises remembrance?
- In Greek mythology, how many labours did Hercules endure?
- The Buddhist temple Angkor Wat is located in which country?
- What animal is responsible for the most human deaths each year?
- Which British prime minister survived an IRA assassination plot in 1984?
- Melbourne hosted which major global exhibition event in 1880?

ANSWERS: 1. Everything Everywhere All At Once 2. Belarus 3. Ultra-Processed Foods 4. Sydney Opera House 5. Forget-me-not 6. 12 7. Cambodia 8. Mosquito 9. Margaret Thatcher 10. World's Fair

QUICK CROSSWORD

No. 293

ACROSS

- Raincoat (coll) (3)
- Wrongfully entered (10)
- Ratify (7)
- Landed properties (7)
- State of existing in reality (9)
- Oodles (4)
- Florida city, Fort – (10)
- Small island (4)
- Car (4)
- Scents (10)
- Prefix meaning water (4)
- Gloomy (9)
- Spider-Man villain (7)
- Highest mountain (7)
- Simple (10)
- Organ used to hear (3)

DOWN

- The feast of St Michael (10)
- Compile (9)
- What's left (9)
- Ill-reputed (5)
- Season (6)
- Glossy fabric (5)
- Elan (4)
- Harangue (6)
- Informal bulletin (10)
- Toy Story's Buzz – (9)
- Desecration (9)
- Tallied (6)
- Farm animals (6)
- File (5)
- Schnoz (coll) (5)
- Measure (4)

E	V	E	A	N	E	N	E	T	E	
E	D	O	V	A	T	A	L	I	E	
A	S	E	R	A	N	O	N	O	E	T
A	T	E	A	N	L	A	N	O		
E	N	I	N	A	S	E	N	O	S	
A	R	O	H	O						
S	E	N	V	E	R	O	N	I		
E	N	I	N	A	S	E	N	O	S	
A	N	I	N	O						
A	N	V	A	L	I	A	L	O	V	
E	N	I	N	A	S	E	N	O	S	
V	E	N	E	B	E	L	O	I		
E	S	S	V	E	S	E	R	I		

DECODER

No. 325

24	14	2	22		11	17	14	19	5	19	14	9	
19		9		14		10		10		14		20	
2	8	8	10	23	14	26	D	26	D	14	15	20	10
25	C	18		12		14		10		2		22	
1	2	15	14	10	26	11	4	25	11	7	14		
14				16		4		18		4		15	
12	9	2	16	5	4		4	15	14	14	17	14	
4		6		18		21		11				16	
	25	2	19	10	25	2	12	18	19	10	16	5	
4		15		4		16		4		19		12	
15	14	14	25	C	20		5	11	15	10	2	12	20
14		2		14		15		13		3		14	
26	D	10	4	2	19	22	14	26	D	1	10	15	16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
										C	D	

26	C	B	X	J	H	R	U	V	N	L	E	1	
25	L	O	M	F	P	Z	S	G	S	O	K	A	2
24	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3

9-LETTER WORD

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once.

No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural nouns ending in "s".

Today's Aim:
15 words: **Good**
22 words: **Very good**
30 words: **Excellent**

		I		
S		P		S
G		P		D
	E			
		N		

DESPISING, dips, 'dips, 'pegs, 'pend, 'pends, 'pens, 'pidgin, 'pied, 'pine, 'pined, 'pines, 'ping, 'pinged, 'pings, 'pins, 'sips, 'snip, 'snipe, 'sniped, 'snipes, 'snips, 'sped, 'spend, 'spends, 'spied, 'spies, 'spin, 'spine, 'spins

12-06-26

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 weditorial@starweekly.com.au by 9am Wednesday the week prior to publication

Teen Takeover

Sunbury Library will be closed to the public for the teen takeover on Friday 12 June from 5-8pm. Only registered young people aged 12-18 and library staff will be allowed in for teens to make use of quiet study spaces, play board and video games, join in on craft activities and enjoy free pizza. Bookings are essential for this free night.
 ■ humelibraries.events.mylibrary.digital/event?id=225105

Speed Puzzling Tournament

Whether you're a seasoned puzzler or a newcomer, speed puzzling offers a fun and challenging way to test your puzzle solving skills under time pressure. Grab your trusty sidekick and register your partnership to complete the choice puzzle in record time. The tournament will be taking place at the Sunbury Library on Monday 15 June from 5.30-7.30pm. The event is aged 16 plus, with only one ticket per pair for the free event.
 ■ humelibraries.events.mylibrary.digital/event?id=214326

My ADHD Brain

Come down to the Sunbury on Thursday 25 June from 6.30-7.30pm to hear from award winning Guardian journalist and author Matilda Boseley talk about adult ADHD and her journey as a late diagnosed neurodivergent woman.
 ■ humelibraries.events.mylibrary.digital/event?id=214338

Over 55s Social Table Tennis

Every Wednesday from 1-3pm, in the Sunbury Recreation Stadium, Sunbury Recreation Reserve (Clarke Oval). No experience or booking necessary. Come, have a look and give it a try.
 ■ Bruce, 0438 027 978

North West District Pipe Band

North Western District Pipe Band meets every week at the Diggers Rest Bowling Club. They're looking for any pipers or drummers out there, retired or beginners, for social play outs.
 ■ Hank, 0412 160 576

Sunbury Ladies' Badminton Club

The club plays social and competition games every Thursday morning 9.30am-noon, excluding public and school holidays at the Eric Boorman Stadium, Wilsons Lane, Sunbury. All skill levels welcomed.
 ■ sunburylbc@gmail.com

Sunbury Art Society

Join the SAS group for all things arty. The group meets on Fridays and Saturdays at its new location at Artrise in Jacksons Hill from 10am-3pm. New members and beginners welcome.
 ■ sunburyartsociety.com

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.
 ■ 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. The next Chamber Poets Woodend will take place at the Woodend RSL on Saturday 13 June 1-3pm, with special guest poets, live music, open readings, bar and snacks. Donation \$10 at



This week's photographer's choice picture is of Heather Marcus in her garden with her beloved gnomes. (Damjan Janevski) 557039_01

the door.
 ■ 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. No partners needed, 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, 7-19 O'Shanassy Street, Sunbury. All women are welcome, and grandchildren welcome to.
 ■ Bev Goodman, 0402 988 954

Neighbourhood garden

Become part of Sunbury's Neighbourhood Garden and grow edible and useful plants in a social group at the Sunbury Neighbourhood House, 531 Elizabeth Drive, Sunbury. All skill sets are welcome.
 ■ sunburyhouse.com.au, or 9740 6978

With One Voice Sunbury

With One Voice 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. The choir rehearses each Tuesday from 6.30pm at Goonawarra Neighbourhood House, 8 Gullane Drive, Sunbury. A fun and welcoming choir, new members are welcome.
 ■ sunbury@withonevoice.org.au

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 while you shop and catch up with friends. Located at the picturesque Malmsbury Cricket Ground, Ellesmere Place, Malmsbury from 9am-1pm.
 ■ Amy, 0423 726 695

Young Voices of Macedon

A community choir for children of the Macedon Ranges and beyond, Young Voices of Macedon rehearses at the House of the Rock, 247 Station Road, New Gisborne. The choir has separate programs for young children aged five to eight and older children. Rehearsals assist children in developing vocal technique, part singing skills, and general musicianship, across popular, classical, folk and music theatre

styles. Rehearsals run on Thursdays, from 4.15pm, with afternoon tea and play time.
 ■ yv-macedon.org.au

Messy Play in Sunbury

Join in the Messy Play fun with this toddler-focussed program, including messy and sensory child-led play. The program will run from 10-11.30am on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays at the Sunbury Neighbourhood House, 531 Elizabeth Drive, Sunbury.
 ■ sunburyhouse.com.au, or 9740 6978

Hume Men's Shed

The Hume Men's Shed (Sunbury) is a not-for-profit organisation, meeting every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings at 158 Evans Street, Sunbury. The group caters for men be it carpentry, welding, metal work, gardening or just to chat.
 ■ sunburymensshed.com, or 0438 677 425

Macedon Ranges Photographic Society

Into photography, just starting out, or a fully fledged professional? The Macedon Ranges Photographic Society is the local camera club for friendship, photographic outings, workshops, guest presenters, competitions and more. Come along to a meeting on the first and second Monday of the month. Doors open at 7pm and the meeting starts at 7.30pm at Jubilee Hall, 52 Smith Street Macedon.
 ■ macedon-ranges-photography.org.au, info@macedon-ranges-photography.org.au

A local taste of Broadway

The Sunset Six are bringing your Broadway favourites to a Gisborne stage.

Macedon Ranges singers Tasha Luke, Rexine Perry, Lucy Watson, Erin Haberecht, Kate Kenndy and Katy Somerville will present a cavalcade of songs from an array of musical theatre favourites.

Featuring classics from 42nd Street, Les Miserables, Funny Girl, Company, Waitress and more, in a concert featuring music for all tastes.

Tasha, Rexine and Lucy have been performing around the Ranges for the past few years as The Sunsets, performing locally at carols, markets and more across the region.

The group said they are thrilled to have Erin, Katy and Kate join them to make The Sunset Six.

Helping bring the sound to life will be pianist Dan Rigby.

The group all individually have backgrounds in musical theatre, starring in productions across Australia and even beyond.

The group have also performed with Kyneton Theatre Company in shows such as Mamma Mia!, The Wiz, Legally Blonde and Joseph & His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat - and the upcoming musical showcase, Broadway, Baby.

The seasoned performer and local talent is also seen as the accompanist for

the Kyneton Theatre Company, an organ scholar at the Anglican Parish of Gisborne and a member of the Bendigo Symphony Orchestra.

The group said they are excited to bring audiences this original 'mixtape show' celebrating the incredible music of Broadway and the West End.

The Sunset Six do Broadway concert will take place on Sunday 21 June at 2pm at the Gisborne Uniting Church, 23 Brantome Street, Gisborne.

Tickets will cost \$25 for adults, and \$20 for concession and students, with afternoon tea to follow the concert.

Details: macedonrangesunitingchurch.org.au



Tasha Luke, Rexine Perry, Lucy Watson, Dan Rigby, Erin Haberecht, Kate Kenndy and Katy Somerville. (Supplied).

School holiday fun at Museums Victoria

From sport, science and history, there is something for everyone on offer at Museums Victoria these winter school holidays.

Families can explore the fascinating world of iridescence in nature at Scienceworks' Colour exhibition.

Fresh from Questacon in Canberra, it features 21 hands-on experiences. Play with coloured bubbles, lose yourself in optical illusions, encounter jewelled insects and discover how light creates the beautiful colours all around us.

Visitors of all ages can experiment, explore and be amazed at the science and sensations behind one of the most powerful forces shaping how we see and experience the world.

At Melbourne Museum, ancient Rome is still on the itinerary. Kids can get crafty creating their own mosaics to add to the towering pillars in the foyer, or fashion a gladiator helmet to live their best warrior lives as they imagine storming the arena.

For curious kids who want to learn about the world around them, Our Wonderful Planet celebrates the incredible biodiversity and wonders of nature.

Traverse the globe and experience four of Earth's biomes: reef, rainforest, ice and soil and encounter the animal ecosystems that make up our natural world.

As World Cup fever hits, learn about how football brings a vital sense of community and belonging in the new Home is Football exhibition at the Immigration Museum.

The exhibition features incredible and inspirational experiences from players around Australia showing that football is so much more than who wins and loses.

At IMAX, kids and their families can experience some of the most elusive and extraordinary animals with WILD ASIA 3D.



Experience Colour at Scienceworks these school holidays. (Museums Victoria/ Eugene Hyland)

Narrated by Colin Firth and developed by BBC Studios, WILD ASIA 3D showcases never-before-seen wildlife moments including snow leopards, red pandas, jerboas, sea bunnies and more.

From the towering Himalayas to the vibrant coral seas of the Pacific, this giant screen adventure takes audiences on a journey across Asia's most extreme landscapes in IMAX 3D.

Reeds, brass, wind and fun at 35 year celebration

Melton's very-own and one-of-a-kind community band is hosting its largest concert in the last decade, and you're invited.

The Melton Concert Band, formerly the Melton Wind Symphony/Greater Western Community Band, is celebrating 35 years of all things reed, wind, and brass, with one epic performance set to take place on Sunday 14 June.

Everyone is invited to join the band at the Melton Community Hall at 1.30pm for an afternoon of fun, music, and memories, as the band gears up to play everyone's favourites, from hits of the 50s right through to the sounds of today.

"You can expect a bit of Bill Haley with Rock Around the Clock, songs from The Greatest Showman, Chicago, Ray Charles and ABBA," band conductor Angus



The Melton Concert Band. (Supplied)

Charlton said.

There's even an opportunity for young music minds to get involved and have a bit of fun on stage with the band.

"There will be a section of music specifically for children, where there is an opportunity for them to perform with the band whirling the Corrugophone, better

known as the Whirly tube" Charlton said.

"Or they can join the soloist in the Concerto with an Eggshaker."

Charlton said the band has grown significantly since missing out on a 30th anniversary celebration due to the Covid pandemic and grants from Melton council meant the band could afford their very own uniform, which will be on display for the very first time.

"This concert will be the first performance where our uniform will be on display, so we will not only sound cracking hot, but look sharp!" Mr Charlton said.

Tickets are available via phone or email, and can be purchased at the door on the day.

Detail: <https://www.melton.vic.gov.au/Out-n-About/Events-Activities/Melton-Concert-Band-35th-Anniversary-Concert>.

Embark on a wellness journey

As the world celebrates International Yoga Day on Sunday 21 June, west residents are in for a treat. Dhyana Foundation Australia and Karma Stories have teamed up to host a special event that promises to uplift the mind, body, and soul.

The festivities will take place at Bunnings in Altona, transforming the location into a hub of wellness and compassion. From 10am to 1pm, visitors can immerse themselves in an array of authentic yogic practices and interactive activities.

Led by experienced Dhyana Foundation trainers, the event will feature guided yoga sessions, including breathing exercises and asanas, catering to participants of all age groups. The highlight will be the participation of Karma Stories, an animal welfare initiative of Dhyana Foundation Australia, which cares for over 150 rescued and rehabilitated animals.

"This International Yoga Day, we invite the community to join us in celebrating the timeless wisdom of yoga and the spirit of compassion that lies at the heart of our work," said Ashwini Gurujii, the founder of Dhyana Ashram and Dhyana Foundation.

Attendees can also look forward to handcrafted cakes lovingly prepared by volunteers, a Karma Stories awareness stall showcasing community initiatives, and complimentary food and snacks. Additionally, visitors will have the opportunity to learn about mindfulness, holistic wellbeing, and the Vedic sciences.

"We believe that by reconnecting with ourselves, with nature, and with one another, we can create a more harmonious and thriving community," added Ashwini Gurujii.

"This event is our way of extending this invitation to everyone in Melbourne."

The International Yoga Day celebration at Bunnings Altona is an event not to be missed. Mark your calendars and get ready to embark on a transformative journey of wellness, compassion, and community.

For more information contact 0423 238 659 or 0449 019 115.



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PUBLIC NOTICES AND EVENT

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Please be advised that the Jack McDonough cycling race will take place on 13/6/2026. Roads will remain open, but motorists should expect the possibility of some minor delays when overtaking groups of less than 20 riders.
Saturday 13/6/2026
10AM-1PM
Circuit: Rochford Rd-McMasters Lane - Three chain Rd - Dons Rd (Newham Lancefield Cobaw)



Geographic naming proposal

Melton City Council is proposing to name the future community services facility in Diggers Rest. The naming of this feature is required as it is a new feature. In March 2026, the community voted for the name of the building to be "Link the name to place" and made naming suggestions. The building will be located on 280 Vineyard Road, Diggers Rest, identified in red on the below map:



We are now inviting members of the public to vote on six shortlisted names. The names are:

- Diggers Rest Community Centre
- Golden Sun Children's and Community Centre
- Volcanic Plains Children's and Community Centre
- Goldfields Community Centre - Diggers Rest
- Vineyard Road Children's and Community Centre

Members of the public can vote on one of the above names by completing the online survey on Melton City Council Conversations Page, at the following link: <https://conversations.melton.vic.gov.au/naming-diggers-rest-childrens-and-community-centre-building>
Submissions may also be emailed to Council at placenames@melton.vic.gov.au
Feedback will be open until 5pm on Sunday 14 June 2026.

Roslyn Wai
Chief Executive Officer

Find it in the **General Notices** section of Network Classifieds.

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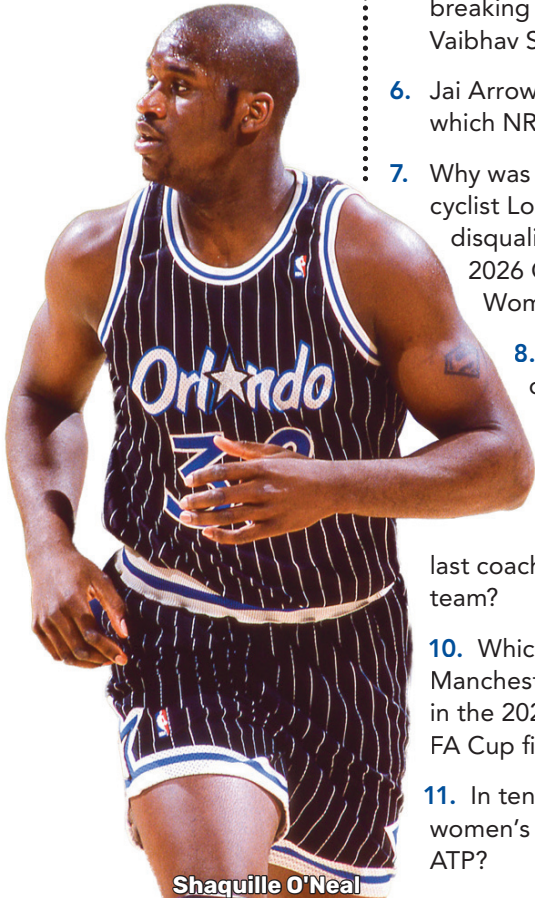
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SPORTS QUIZ

1. Which French team defeated Arsenal in the 2026 UEFA Champions League final?
2. Which state's rugby league team won the 2026 Women's State of Origin series?



Shaquille O'Neal

3. And who won the Katrina Fanning Medal for player of the series?
4. Which two teams are competing in the 2026 NBA Finals series?
5. How old is record-breaking Indian cricketer Vaibhav Sooryavanshi?
6. Jai Arrow last played for which NRL team?
7. Why was Dutch cyclist Lorena Wiebes disqualified from the 2026 Giro d'Italia Women?
8. Which country did Socceroo Cristian Volpato represent at youth level?
9. Brad Scott last coached which AFL team?
10. Which team did Manchester City defeat in the 2026 Women's FA Cup final?
11. In tennis, what is the women's equivalent of ATP?

12. Where is the Brumbies Super Rugby team based?
13. In which year did six-time NBL MVP Bryce Cotton acquire Australian citizenship?
14. Netflix's GLOW features which professional sport?
15. Who recently became the UK's first billionaire athlete?
16. Who was the first foreign-born player to win an NBA MVP?
17. And who is the most recent US-born player to win an NBA MVP?
18. Who defeated Jannik Sinner in the second round of the 2026 French Open?
19. True or false: Shaquille O'Neal broke multiple backboards throughout his career in the NBA?
20. Known for its racing circuit, the city of Bathurst is located in which Australian state or territory?
21. FIDE governs which sport?



Cristian Volpato

22. How many points is the inner bullseye worth on a dartboard?
23. And what colour is it?
24. True or false: in competitive swimming, women are allowed to wear swimsuits that extend past their shoulders?
25. Which NBL team did Dean Vickerman last coach?
26. And how many seasons was he coach for?
27. What weighs more: a hockey puck or a baseball?
28. What is association football more commonly known as in Australia?
29. How many Canadian teams are there in the WNBA?
30. Respectively, which NHL team and BBL team share the nickname 'Hurricanes'?

1. Paris Saint-Germain 2. New South Wales 3. Yasmin Meakes 4. New York Knicks, and San Antonio Spurs 5. 15 6. South Sydney Rabbitohs 7. For riding an underweight bike 8. Italy 9. Essendon 10. Brighton & Hove Albion 11. WTA 12. Canberra 13. 2025 14. Wrestling 15. David Beckham 16. Hakeem Olajuwon (1993-94) 17. James Harden (2017-18) 18. Juan Manuel Cerundolo 19. True 20. New South Wales 21. Chess 22. 50 23. Red 24. False 25. Melbourne United 26. Nine 27. Hockey puck 28. Soccer 29. One (Toronto Tempo) 30. Carolina and Hobart



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LBX has a little bit of luxury

By Derek Ogden, Marque Motoring

Yaris by Lexus: an automotive oxymoron? Nothing could be further from the truth.

The new Lexus LBX luxury compact is built on the Toyota Yaris Cross platform (GA-B).

The LBX is the smallest model in the Lexus range and the brand's first B-segment SUV.

Enter the progeny of the Yaris Cross. Imbued with the Lexus philosophy of Kaizen (continuous improvement) across all its brands. Now it is bringing this to the small SUV segment with the LBX.

Lexus sees the need for the LBX to meet the demand for signature craftsmanship, cutting-edge design and high levels of technology in an attractive package for a diverse and growing customer base.

"The first LBX breaks new ground," says Lexus Australia chief executive John Pappas, "It is proof that luxury is not dictated by vehicle size and is in keeping with our electrified strategy, offering the latest in hybrid technology with an advanced fuel-efficient powertrain."

Available in Luxury 2WD, or Sports Luxury 2WD or AWD variants, prices start at \$47,550, plus on-road costs, and top out at \$56,990 for the flagship, aimed at appealing to youthful buyers with active lifestyles. The entry-level Luxury 2WD was on test.

All come with a five-year unlimited kilometre warranty, and Lexus being what it is, a three-year complimentary subscription to the manufacturer's Lexus Encore lifestyle program boasting benefits such as exclusive offers from luxury hotel partners, invitations to premium events and fuel discounts at participating Ampol service stations.

Styling

Designers set out to make its mark for future generations of compact city-slicker SUVs.

Based on the rigid GA-B platform, the all-new LBX is one of the best-looking compacts around, the trademark Lexus spindle dominating the front, vertically compressed to sit low in the vehicle body to accentuate sportiness.

The bonnet leading edge seamlessly moulds into the slim high-set LED headlights, which include a high/low-beam light and bi-functional daytime running light and turn signal with an inverted version of the L-shaped signature lighting.

Minimal overhangs and rugged wheel

arches, dark side sills and wheel arch moldings complement the expressive SUV design. Lexus SUV family features anchor the rear with combination lamps joined by an LED light bar spanning the width of the tailgate, before framing the tail lamp cluster with a distinctive L shape.

Dynamic 18-inch alloy wheels are standard across the range, with Luxury grade fitted with dark grey metallic wheels with a bright machined finish highlighting the twin Y-spoke design. Two-tone body finish includes a black roof.

Interior

In the cabin there's black seat upholstery, steering wheel, door and instrument panel trim and front and rear floor mats. Front seats are heated. Dual zone climate control has remote function.

Occupants have the benefit of wireless phone charging, ambient interior lighting, smart entry and start and power tailgate. The driver gets an auto dimming rear-view mirror.

As for occupant comfort, Lexus says the split-folding rear seat and optimization of rear cargo space provide customers with active urban lifestyles the carrying flexibility they need for work, family and fun requirements. However, rear legroom is cramped, even with average-size front row occupants.

Infotainment

The dashboard is dominated by an integrated 9.8-inch multimedia display set behind an anti-reflective glass coating. There's a single external knob for power on/off and volume control. A 12.3-inch instrument cluster greets the driver on sitting down.

The display apes a smartphone layout and offers voice recognition and wireless compatibility with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Luxury grade is paired with a six-speaker audio system.

Native navigation is cloud-based, storing map data, downloading it to the sat nav as needed using the data communication module built into the vehicle. This also facilitates over-the-air software updates for the head unit and instrument cluster.

Up to three users can save personal settings for multimedia, vehicle settings and active safety parameters through a Bluetooth device or smart key. Customers can also pre-set audio and navigation settings, seat position, interior illumination, and parameters for the



The LBX offers the latest in petrol/electric hybrid technology. (Pictures: Supplied)

Pre-Collision System warning timing, blind spot monitor sensitivity and other settings.

Engines/transmissions

All LBX grades share the same petrol/electric powertrain, teaming a 1.5-litre internal combustion engine with an electric motor generator and nickel-metal hydride battery for fuel economy with refined performance.

Peak power for the petrol motor is 67kW at 5500rpm and 120Nm of torque from 3800 to 4800 revs. It is mated with a continuously variable transmission.

The petrol engine is paired with a hybrid transaxle on the front axle including a permanent magnet synchronous motor producing 69kW/185Nm, powered by a compact nickel-metal hydride battery stored underneath the rear seat.

Peak combined output for the three-cylinder hybrid powertrain is rated at 100kW, with low combined fuel consumption of 3.8 litres per 100km on the combined urban/highway cycle and average carbon dioxide emissions of 85 grams per kilometre.

Safety

The all-new LBX offers excellent protection for occupants and other road users with a full suite of Lexus Safety System+ features. Active safety uses a combined radar and

camera sensor, operating high-tech. For example, the Pre-Collision System with Pre-collision Braking, which detects leading vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists in the daytime, as well as oncoming vehicles and motorcycles in the daytime.

Dynamic Radar Cruise Control offers a broad range of associated features, allowing four levels of preset distances to vehicles in front and three levels of acceleration strength.

The DRCC system can also offer stop-start and low-speed following, with smooth acceleration or deceleration as required.

In a first for Lexus, owners can set a speed limiter linked with Road Sign Assist (Speed Signs Only) to limit the vehicle's speed in accordance with the associated speed limit.

The LBX comes equipped with eight airbags for excellent passive occupant protection.

Driving

The front suspension of the LBX two-wheel drive variants features a new MacPherson strut system with updated suspension geometry ensuring excellent straight-line stability and minimal understeer. At the rear, the front-drives incorporate a lightweight rigid torsion beam. It all goes into making the ride and handling steady and sure footed.

While it's no bitumen burner, engineers improved the hybrid system's responsiveness and acceleration thanks to the strong output of the motor and hybrid battery.

Acceleration and deceleration characteristics are sensitive to up and downhill inclines and can adjust the drive force accordingly.

The new hybrid powertrain ensures the LBX provides refined mid-range performance while offering excellent fuel economy and low carbon dioxide emissions. After an average working week the test LBX had managed to average 4.5 litres per 100km of fuel use.

There's a stillness in the well-insulated cabin, mostly free from wind and tyre noise, until the 'loud' pedal is pushed, then it's a raspy retort.

Summary

The LBX delivers big on Lexus fundamentals of quality and craftsmanship, while offering the latest in petrol/electric hybrid technology with an advanced fuel-efficient powertrain.



Mernda's Joshua Caputo. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 557014_03



Lincoln Coffey in action against Kilmore. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 557014_08



Spring Hills' Katie Godden. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 556977_01

Long weekend sport action

While many people took the opportunity to mark the long weekend, *Star Weekly* photographer Ljubica Vrankovic was out and about shooting the football and soccer action from across Melbourne's north-west.



Captain Aleksandra Sinclair. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 556977_02



Keilor Park's Abby Holmes. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 556984_06



Georgia Henderson in action against Bulleen. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 556984_14



Jenna Ibrahim. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 556977_07



James Sekulovski. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 557014_13



Keilor Park celebrates. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 556984_19



Maggie Byrne. (Ljubica Vrankovic) 556984_18



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