

THE KOO WEE RUP BLACKFISH



NOVEMBER 2020

Going, Going, Going, Gone But Never Forgotten!!

A piece of local football history succumbed to the jaws of a demolition excavator in early October when the Demon's change rooms were demolished to make way for a state of the art facility that will cater for the 21st century and the changing face of our great game. The original very basic rooms were built in 1964 and, over the past 56 years, many hours of volunteer labour went into adding toilets, showers, umpire and trainers rooms plus a numbers of other additions that needed upgrading as the game of football evolved.

What took 56 years to create became a pile brick, concrete and steel after a short 7 hour attack from demolition bucket with a number of old timers and present day players watching on as the huge Demon logo stood proudly only to finally to admit defeat and become part of the history of the Koo Wee Rup Football Club.

The new facility which is expected to be completed for the 2021 football season will cater for the increasing number of players who have made Demon Land their home club, ranging from U/8s in the juniors right through to the senior teams, plus the ever increasing women football players. And let's not forget the huge number of Auskickers who are itching to get back to training and playing the game they have all missed due to the "Lost Season" of 2020.

The Koo Wee Rup Cricket Club will also benefit greatly from the new facility which includes a gymnasium, meeting rooms and community room. With the cricket club also experiencing a huge increase in junior and senior players, both clubs, plus the general community, will be proud of the completed facilities.

The Koo Wee Rup Netball Clubrooms will also be demolished and replaced by a 21st century standard facility which will also cater for the many Netballers who rightfully deserve modern rooms.

The Social Rooms are also receiving a complete internal face lift due to a serious mould infestation that developed when the rooms were locked down during the Covid-19 period. With no usage, the mould attacked the plaster, carpets and curtains in the rooms hence the new fit out. Special thanks to Cr Ray Brown, our local State Member Jordan Crugnale, the Cardinia Shire and a number of State Government departments who helped with the funding to carry out the works.

With the new Football/Cricket Change Rooms, the modern Netball facilities, plus the upgraded Social Rooms, local sport will further develop and will continue to be an important part of a vibrant Koo Wee Rup community.

Gary King



Items printed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the thoughts or beliefs of the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit any items, where necessary. All work associated with the production of The Koo Wee Rup Blackfish is done on a voluntary basis. Edited by C Roff email: blackfish@live.com.au

PO Box 64, Koo Wee Rup 3981, Tel 5997 2333

Printed by KWR Township Committee

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KWR Cafés and Restaurants

Some of our food shops are now open for sit down meals, and bookings are essential. All businesses are offering take away services. To help keep everyone safe, call first if you are ordering a meal or, if you want to order in person, take a walk after you've ordered, unless it's just a coffee, rather than wait inside. If you can pay by card, rather than cash, that would be appreciated.

Opening Hours and Phone Numbers

Abz Pizza & Fish & Chips	Phone: 5997 2373	Wed, Thu, Sun, Mon 4pm - 9pm Fri, Sat 12noon to 10pm	Delivery available
Aravi Restaurant	Phone: 5997 2520	Tues to Sun 11am - 10pm	
Chandelier Café	Phone: 5997 2322	Drinks and limited menu Mon to Fri 7am - 2.30pm, closed Sat & Sun	
Degani Café	Phone: 5997 2555	Full take away menu Mon to Sun 8am - 4pm	Or download the Degani app
KWR Bakery	Phone: 5997 1884	Mon to Sun	
KWR Charcoal Chicken & Souvlaki	Phone: 5997 2354	Tue, Wed, Sun 11am - 7pm Thu to Sat 11am - 8pm	
KWR Fish & Chips	Phone: 5997 1244	Mon to Sun 11am - 8pm	
Lynny's Take Away	Phone: 5905 4760	Wed to Sat 11am - 8pm	
Ray's Pizza and Pasta	Phone: 5997 1038	Wed to Sun 3pm - 10pm	Delivery available
Royal Hotel	Phone: 5997 1414	Limited menu Wed to Sat 5pm - 8.30pm	Drive through pick up
Simon's Noodles	Phone: 5997 1878	Mon to Sun 11.30 am - 8pm	
Tandoori Recipes	Phone: 5997 1484	Weds to Sun 4.30pm-9pm	Menulog available

What's on in Koo Wee Rup and District

November

Weds	4th	Township Committee Meeting (see page 5)	via Zoom	7.30pm
Thurs	5th	Heart Foundation Walking (see page 7)	Clocktowers	7pm
Sun	8th	Bayles Fauna Park Working Bee	Bayles Fauna Park	9am
Weds	11th	Remembrance Day (see page 3)	KWR Cenotaph	11am
Details will be posted in shop windows after 8 November				
Thurs	12th	Heart Foundation Walking	Clocktowers	7pm
Thurs	19th	Heart Foundation Walking	Clocktowers	7pm
Thurs	26th	Heart Foundation Walking	Clocktowers	7pm

Koo Wee Rup Senior Citizens Club Closed until further notice. All enquiries to: Dianne D - 0419 405 404 Diane K - 0408 663 655

Mat Pilates classes at Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service Cancelled until further notice.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

For document signing and associated services
contact:

GARY KING JP
0438 663 655

“JP duties are a free community service”

HAVE YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

Have you got some news, a photo, or an opinion you want to share with your community? Why not say it in the Blackfish? Just drop me a line at blackfish@live.com.au post to PO Box 64, KWR or phone 5997 2333

Caroline Roff. Editor

BAYLES FAUNA PARK

Next Working Bee

Sunday, 8 November, 9am start
followed by a BBQ lunch

Please bring own bottled water, wear long pants and closed in shoes

All welcome

Next Committee Meeting

Sunday, 8 November
immediately after working bee

The Grange

I would like to address an article published in the Pakenham Gazette on the 8th October 2020.

The property at Walker Street, Koo Wee Rup, known locally as 'The Grange' is not, as stated, owned by me but was granted into a Trust as a Life Estate in October 2017. The legal title holder is the Board of Trustees. This has led to confusion in the processing of legal documents as papers have been served on me rather than on the trustee. I was unable to appear before VCAT to defend the order imposed by council as I have no legal title to the property and would be acting in breach of trust if I appeared before them. The matter is now the subject of a Judicial Review in the Common Law Division of the Supreme Court.

It was claimed that a cypress tree was removed to make way for two shed when there was no cypress tree on the property when it was purchased and only one temporary relocatable shed has been installed.

It was claimed that all of the building, works and tree removal have been carried out without regard for the heritage significance of the site. The laundry addition to the house reinstates the original laundry where it stood until the 1980s and had identical street appearance. The Silky Oak tree near the front boundary was removed after it became extremely dangerous and frequently dropped sizable boughs and limbs, one falling on a gardener's car and narrowly missing the gardener. An arborist's report stated that the tree had severe bifurcation and less than 50% structural integrity. There is a heritage overlay on the land. This affects the old oak tree which has improved in health since the removal of the silky oak tree.

For over 2 years, my family and I have been subject to ongoing harassment from officer holders from the Cardinia Shire Council. Security gates have been installed to prevent people coming on the property whenever they like, taking photos and generally harassing the family. The net result of the minimal and tasteful enhancements to the property is that it can be lived in and enjoyed, as well as preserved.

There was no laundry in the house, now it has been re-instated where it once stood. There was only one bathroom and toilet. Now there are two, which are necessary facilities for a family including teenagers. The laundry creates an identical street appearance as what the old house had in earlier times; therefore, it is heritage in appearance. The house itself is not heritage listed. This is a common misconception.

Initially, the property was dilapidated, run down and overgrown. There were dead rats behind the cupboards and the smell was obnoxious. The garden was unkempt and a haven for mosquitoes. The fences were due for replacement, and the whole house was surrounded by grass and weeds, with vehicle access during wetter months turning the entry area to muddy tracks. The old cloth wiring and antiquated switchboard were potential fire hazards and were upgraded at considerable expense. The electrician commented that he was amazed the house had not burnt to the ground, such was the dangerous state of the wiring.

A stone driveway was professionally installed to allow vehicle access, new fences were built on 3 sides of the property, a vast improvement in street appeal. A large colourful garden bed and rose garden was established. A concrete drive was discretely added to the left side where once there was mainly mud. A relocatable shed was added to the left rear corner, which is essential for outside storage of items.

The lawns and garden are regularly and professionally maintained and are neat and tidy. The inside of the house has been modernised with a new kitchen and bathroom and repainted throughout with new floor coverings. The exterior is in need of new paint, new roof and gutters and refurbishment of verandas. The truth is that no-one was prepared to take this property on and begin the works needed to preserve it. Prospective buyers were more interested in knocking it down and building units on the site.

As caretaker on behalf of the trust, I take instructions from the Board of Trustees in relation to the maintenance and upkeep of the property. Ultimately, what happens to the property is in the hands of the trustees.

Stephen Douglas

Koo Wee Rup RSL Sub Branch Report

We have waited for as long as it was possible for putting pen to paper for this brief report (I feel that I've used up all of our Editor's patience - thank you Caroline).

With the present COVID-19 restrictions in place, the KWR RSL intends to have a Remembrance Day Memorial Service at the KWR cenotaph on the date and time written on our heart.

If you intend to be present, to show your respect for our fallen, please abide by coronavirus rules/restrictions of the day. Our secretary, Mrs Beverley Edwards, JP is prepared to place notices on shops/business windows re the above after the 8th of November when further restrictions, it is hoped, will be lifted.

We will remember them.

Yours Aye, John Camilleri, 6629 4242



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Lions Op Shop Reopens

Our loyal team of volunteers are ready to open up the Koo Wee Rup Lions Opportunity Shop on Monday 2nd November 2020 from 10am to 4pm.

The behind the scene workers have been very busy rearranging the shop, so come and have a look at what has been going on since your last visit.

From Monday 2nd November, we are happy to take donations again of CLEAN clothes in re-usable condition and household items that can be 're-homed'. PLEASE NO ELECTRICAL ITEMS.

There will be restrictions to ensure we are all COVID safe so please be patient!



Koo Wee Rup Township Committee Meeting

The Township held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, 7 October via Zoom. Township Meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4 November at 7:30 pm again via zoom. If you would like to attend, please email the township secretary at kooweeruptc@gmail.com and he will send you a Zoom link.

The President reminded everyone to vote in this month's council elections. Information is available online.

The proposal for the boarding house did not go to the final planning meeting for the current council, so now will not be assessed until the new council is installed.

In response to a question The President explained that because of the requirements to conduct meetings over Zoom it was not possible to arrange a session for the council candidates to address the Township committee and field questions.

The meeting was advised that the Township Committee is looking for nominations for the Australia Day Awards. It has not been decided what format the Australia Day celebration will take.

There was some discussion about the state of the Pakenham – Koo Wee Rup Road and also the status of the upgrade for the road. The Township committee had been in communication with Regional Roads Victoria earlier in the year but due to the COVID-19 restrictions an update on the project to the committee has not eventuated.

The secretary was asked to write to Regional Roads Victoria and request an update on the project, including proposed start dates and any opportunities for community input.

There was a brief discussion about Christmas Celebrations for Koo Wee Rup. The Christmas House Lights competition will be held this year but other events have not been finalised.



Lions Christmas Cakes and Puddings are an important fundraising project of Lions Clubs in Australia. Funds raised are donated to projects that benefit the community.

Lions Christmas Cake 1.5kg \$17.00

Lions Christmas Cake 1kg \$13.00

Lions Christmas Pudding 900gm \$13.00

Lions cakes and puddings are now available at the Bendigo Bank and Op Shop



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Heart Foundation Walking Update

The evening walking group meets during daylight saving **every Thursday evening at 7 pm** at the Koo Wee Rup Clock Towers in Rossiter Rd. As this is an outdoor event with strict COVID recovery protocols from the Heart Foundation it should be one of the early restarters. As soon as we receive the word from the Heart Foundation we will be back. The protocols are that we need everyone to be registered, so we can trace participants if there is an issue. We will be restricted to 10 walkers and if we get more then we need to break into two groups. We will also need to social distance and wear a facemask. So you can see that Heart Foundation Walking is very aware of our safety and is following COVID protocols very carefully.

Hopefully we will see you soon pounding the pavement and parklands around Koo Wee Rup. If unsure about dates when announcements are made please ring me to check. I will advise regular walkers as soon as I hear.

Marlene (Walk Leader) on 0429 814 410

Kooweerup Residential Care Visits Resume

Residents at Kooweerup Regional Health Service (KRHS) are again allowed to welcome visitors from today (October 19).

KRHS is reintroducing internal visits at its residential care facilities, with strict protocols being enforced to ensure resident and staff safety.

CEO Frank Megens said the health service had consulted families about resuming visits or keeping the facilities closed for another three weeks. "There was an overwhelming response from families that they wanted the opportunity to resume visits," Mr Megens said.

KRHS operates hostel Killara Hostel which provides private accommodation for singles and couples that balances between independent living and a care environment, Westernport Nursing Home which provides high care support, and dementia specific care within a secure wing of Killara Hostel.

Mr Megens said there were no active cases of COVID-19 in the Kooweerup region and the decision to resume visits was based on ensuring resident safety and supporting residents and their families.

"These are small steps but we welcome visitors back into the facility and look forward to taking further safe steps in the near future," Mr Megens said.

"We will continue to monitor the broader relaxation of restrictions in Victoria and base any further decisions on the latest government information and the local situation."

Initially residents will be limited to a one-hour visit per week with daily visits to Killara capped at six and Westernport capped at four.

Masks will be required and physical distancing enforced and visits will be restricted to the resident's room or the KRHS garden.

From October 26 residents and visitors will be allowed to leave the grounds to visit the local park or coffee shop based on a risk assessment by the nurse in charge, but home visits will not be allowed until at least November 9.

Window visits for up to an hour will continue to be allowed between 10am and 5pm.

KRHS has discussed the plan with Safer Care Victoria and is adopting risk assessment tools and environmental cleaning protocols to accommodate the return of visitors.

KRHS had been in lockdown after two staff members tested positive for coronavirus.

Residents' items which have been stored during the deep clean following the COVID-19 outbreak are also being returned to residents in the Westernport unit this week.

Rick Bain for the KRHS Board of Management



There's a fun, FREE and easy way to feel happy and healthy. It's walking – and everyone is welcome to take part.

Come along to our regular walks to meet new friends and boost your health.

What: Thursday Evening Walkers

When: 7.00 pm every Thursday during daylight saving. COVID recovery will be allowing 10 walkers, complying with social distancing and face masks will be needed. Watch Facebook and flyers when we restart.

Where: Koo Wee Rup Clock Towers Rossiter Rd KWR

FREE daylight saving group. Ring Marlene 0429 814410

Visit walking.heartfoundation.org.au for more information

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Congratulations on serving over 275 million people!

Let's break it down.

- 5,734,744 people served through vision screening
- 2,278,223 people served through childhood cancer awareness, education and advocacy
- 4,361,416 people served through environmental clean up and restoration projects
- 1,337,746 people served through type two diabetes risk awareness and screenings
- 14,756,467 people served through food collection and meal preparation
- 5,762,256 people served through tree planting and tree care
- 2,925,727 people served through education, literacy and reading programs
- 2,172,113 people served through eyeglass collection and recycling
- 1,377,427 people served through clean water and sanitation
- 31,410 people served through trachoma surgeries
- 600,000 people served through Lions Quest programs
- 8,500,000 people served through river blindness treatments

And that's just a fraction of the work our Lions have done this year.



Together, we're making our communities and the world a better place. Celebrate this momentous milestone with us — we couldn't have done it without you.



Will You Win The Big Race?

We're not talking about *'the race that stops the nation'* but the real estate race – where you have entered your property to hopefully storm home and successfully sell for a great price.

Like the Melbourne Cup, the contest to attract and win a buyer can be very competitive.

So, when it comes to selling your home, how can you make sure your property stands out from the crowd and improve your chances of securing the trophy – the best price?

We don't have a Melbourne Cup tip for you but we will wager that the following will help you rein in your chances for a win:

Before entering the stalls - Interview at least 2-3 local agents (including **Nutrien Harcourts** of course). Like a bookie at the race track, they will have the best inside knowledge of what's happening in the market in your area.

Help the odds be in your favour – by setting a realistic price from the starting gun. Don't be guided by your emotions but by factual data, the current market conditions and what other comparable homes in the area have sold for.

Dress to Impress – Smarten up your home before any open for inspections, think fresh, clean, no clutter and street appeal. Less is more so create space, depersonalise and take care of any repair or maintenance issues.

When approaching the home turn – Don't refuse to negotiate with a potential purchaser because you find their offer offensive. Remove your blinkers and let your agent 'get on the bit' to get you a premium price.

You're neigh-ly there – Make sure you keep the communication lines open. Stay in touch with your agent and answer or return their calls quickly, especially at the crucial negotiation stage.

Don't horse around – A potential buyer might just bolt if you procrastinate. Their offer may be scratched if you take too long to get back to them with an answer.

If you have a handicap - Be up front and honest regarding any structural faults or pest damage. Chances are it will be found by the Building or Pest Inspector any way and you may lose the sale or have to reduce the price to get the sale across the finish line.

We hope your house is a swooper and with these tips you are sure to shorten your odds to put yourself in the box seat to salute the judge.



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1,1-3 Main Street, Bunyip 3815
Ph: 5629 5329

St Sofia



This would have been the 48th St. Sofia Festival in Koo wee rup. Due to Covid 19, the celebrations could not be held, however a beautiful Mass was still celebrated with only 5 people participating. If anyone is interested in watching the Mass they can go to Iona Maryknoll Koo wee rup Parish and YouTube will come up and select. It will be on until Saturday, the 31st of October.

Empty church compared to the thousands and hundreds of yesteryear. We can only look forward and hope next year will be bigger and better and of course heading towards the 50th Jubilee!!

Pictured L to R: Gina Buccheri, Fr Frank Bertagnolli, Fr Peter Kooloos and Nella Bertuna



It was pointed out on facebook recently that it is 10 years since the traffic lights were turned on in Koo Wee Rup. It was also pointed out that Mal Function, our wonderful and sorely missed Poet Larrikin, celebrated this significant event in verse.

Drawn by the Lights

Koo Wee Rup can still report, no movement at the Station,
But of late there's been some action at another prime location ...
It's triggered much discussion, the talk of the town for sure,
Never in the village have we seen such things before!

We don't have whales to watch, or a sloping lake to ski,
But a shiny new attraction, an' it's free for all to see,
Not wild bush horses tossing, nor an Overflow like Clancy,
Not boom-gates at the crossing ... but something rather Fancy!

Standing proud an' pretty, at a major intersection,
A monument to Progress, well worth a close inspection ...
A snazzy bunch of Traffic Lights, the first to grace the scene,
Now glow in heritage colours, of amber, red an' green!

The locals an' the blow-ins line up from near an' far,
To watch 'em changin' colours, from the comfort of their car ...
Now Koo Wee Rup has added to its list of famous sites,
Folks come by the thousands, to drive past our new Lights!

Mal Function ... the Poet Larrikin

December 2010





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Dear Year 12

I am always proud of what each year level brings to their final year but never prouder of what you are achieving in such unusual circumstances. The best support, of course, at this time is coming from one another, from your parents and from our wonderful staff.

Your final year is always a challenging but ultimately rewarding one, providing the opportunity to demonstrate your growth, in every sense, as you finish your time at school. This is indeed true for 2020 and, in the face of unprecedented challenges, you have shown more than you might possibly realise. You have shown endeavour as you approach all that is asked of you. You have shown resilience in the way that you keep moving forward despite the obstacles thrown at you. You have demonstrated such a deep sense of caring as you support each other throughout this final leg of your journey through your school. And you have demonstrated your leadership in the example you have set and the encouragement you have provided for our younger students.

And all this with smiles on your faces and your humour intact.

We could not be prouder of Year 12 2020 and the character you have shown and we certainly look forward to recognizing and celebrating your achievements when the time is right.

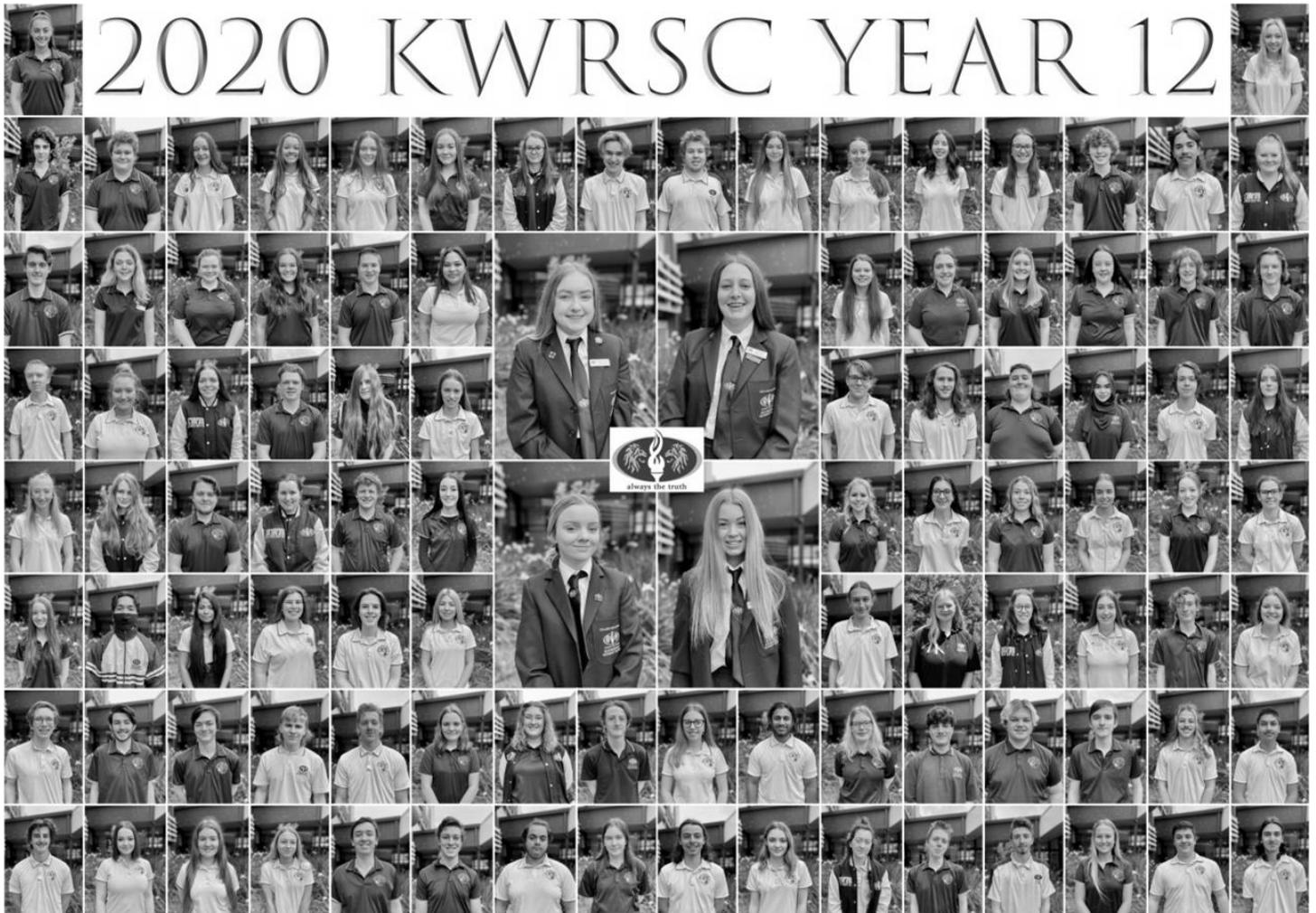
Until then the chase towards your goals continues. Keep persisting and supporting one another.

We are all here for you.

Felix Patton

Principal

Koo Wee Rup Secondary College



Where would you rather be this Spring?

Alex Scott & Staff - Koo Wee Rup are here to help you find your perfect property. Whether your looking to buy or sell contact our team today for the Best advice from the only agents in town who have been in operation since 1886!



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KOO WEE RUP Primary School

After starting at Koo Wee Rup Primary School at the beginning of Term 3, last Monday was a much anticipated day as I was finally able to meet the wonderful children that attend this school. It was most pleasing to see the way the vast majority of our students bounded through the gate with great big smiles on their faces. I've been especially impressed with the friendliness of the students who I greet at the gate each morning.

It would be remiss of me to not take this opportunity to thank our parent community for the work you have put in over the last term supporting your children during the period of remote and flexible learning. A number of times I have expressed my gratitude and support of our teachers. On this occasion, it is the parents for their flexibility and support that I am grateful for as without your assistance it simply would not have worked. To our students I extend a sincere sense of pride in the way they adapted and committed to completing the work set each day by their teachers. Thankfully we are all back on site now and I find it such a pleasure to see children working together, playing together and engaging in learning with their teachers. I look forward to meeting more of our parent community as restrictions ease.

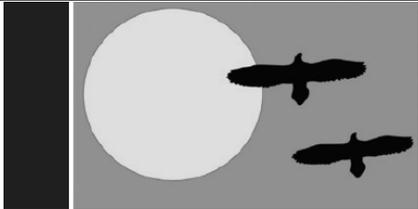
Ben Zimmerle - Principal

100 Days of School Celebration!

Foundation students have most certainly hit the ground running this term upon their return to onsite learning! On Friday we held our belated "100 Days of School" Celebration, which has been a much anticipated event throughout remote learning. The day involved dressing up like 100 year old people, with some very funny costumes! Students had a blast doing their best "old people" impersonations, whilst also completing other "100" related activities, such as counting 100 objects, talking about what life might be like when they are 100 and even looking into our future at our aged photos! Children were treated to a special celebratory packed lunch with lots of yummy treats.

We are so very proud of our Foundation group of 2020. While it has been a crazy start to their first year school life, they have powered through and made so many amazing achievements. We hope that this day which was all about celebrating their hard work is a memory that they will remember for many years to come!





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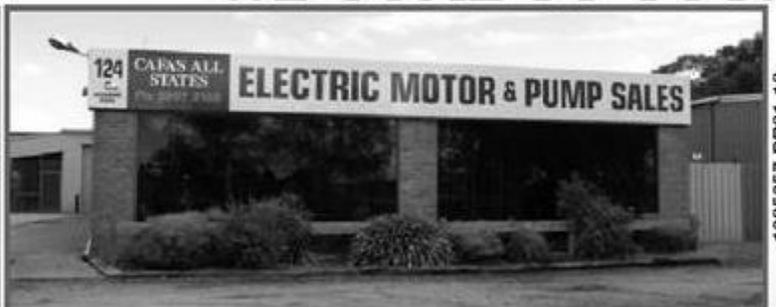
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St John's Primary School

It was so exciting to see all of our students return to school during the week of October 12th. The smiles on their faces, eagerness to see their friends and learn in the classroom was a pleasure to see. It has been wonderful to hear the student's laughter and chatter in the yard during snack and lunch. The staff at St. John's have been so impressed with the resilience shown by students throughout this time and how easily they have settled into the routines of school life.

Socktober; 'Sock it to Poverty'

Socktober is an initiative of Catholic Mission and one way in which our school fundraised and engaged in supporting Catholic Mission during World Mission Month of October.

We invited families to help Catholic Mission to strike out at social issues, such as poverty, child labour, homelessness and a lack of education through their practical support.

The students enjoyed a Crazy Sock Day as part of the celebrations.

We have started our 2021 Foundation Orientation sessions in the virtual world. Foundation students for 2021 will gain an insight into school life at St John's through our Seesaw app. We are hoping to welcome them onsite later in the term.

Planning for 2020 has already commenced, so if you are interested in exploring the wonderful educational, social and wellbeing opportunities with small class sizes that St John's have to offer, please contact the school to arrange a tour and to meet the principal Mr. Christopher Dortmans 5997 1653.



The latest Community Advisory Committee news

For those of you who are not quite sure, or maybe you are a newcomer to the town, the aim of the Community Advisory Committee {CAC} is to provide the Koo-Wee-Rup Regional Health Service (KRHS) with feedback and advice to improve and strengthen their services, their information, their forward planning, and the future policy development of the KRHS. The Committee will give advice to the KRHS Board of Management about problems that could be upsetting a Patient, a Resident or a Carer, and also, maybe, from an individual Koo-Wee-Rup resident or, indeed, from the whole Community's point of view.

During this time of the Covid pandemic the CAC has been unable to meet for its regular meetings but this does not stop the committee members from being available to the public to help with any problems they may have with KRHS or its services. The CAC will listen closely to these community members and acknowledge their concerns and aspirations so that these alternatives that they offer are consistently understood and seriously considered. This advice, and the recommendations developed, will be broadened into balanced information to assist the complete understanding of a particular topic by the KRHS Board of Management. During these uneasy Covid times KRHS has continued with strict infection control measures and has had **no** cases of Covid-19 in patients or residents. The staff across the Health Service continue to deliver high quality care for their customers; they practice strict daily screening, and monitoring for symptoms of ill health. Anyone with even mild symptoms is encouraged to be tested; this is one of the most important things we can all do to prevent the spread of this insidious disease. Strict hand hygiene, the wearing of surgical masks and shields, maintaining social distancing are all carried out daily at KRHS to ensure their clients and consumers continue to receive the highest quality individual care.

A meeting of the Community Advisory Committee will be held as soon as the COVID-19 virus restrictions are eased, allowing the members to get together even if it is at a social distance. As at the time of writing the Covid-19 situation is improving by the day. However, if you do have any personal problems or fears about the lock-down situation and its effects on you or your family then please ring either of the telephone numbers shown below. You will get all the understanding and help you need. All of the members of the Committee have been informed about the lock-down circumstances and rules within KRHS. One thing is very clear; if you personally show any of the symptoms of the Covid-19 virus then the advice from everywhere and it is also a strong Public Health message, is to contact your doctor, **Get Tested** and isolate yourself immediately. A test can be done very quickly at the pop-up testing site at the Community Centre in Koo-Wee-Rup. The open hours are from 12:30 pm to 2:30pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The facility will be manned by nurses from the Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service.

If you have a suggestion or some nagging thoughts about your difficulties, or your dependants comforts or problems with any aspect of the KRHS, then get in touch with the CAC Committee. Simply phone 5997 9679 or Geoff Stokes on 0435 085 002. Or you can email: geoffreystokes@geoffstokes.com Your email will be acknowledged.

Geoff Stokes

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For the latest Covid-19 updates:
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T 03 5672 4755

E jordan.crugnale@parliament.vic.gov.au

f [jordancrugnaleMP](https://www.facebook.com/jordancrugnaleMP)

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1 Mickle St, Koo Wee Rup VIC 3981

Joeys – 6:30 to 7:30pm Thursday
 Cubs – 7:00 to 8:30pm Tuesday
 Scouts – 7:00 to 9:00pm Wednesday
 Venturers 7:00 to 9:00pm Friday
 Rovers 8:00 till late Friday

Term 3 school holidays saw some of 1st Koo Wee Rup's youth members attend The Great Victorian Online Camp. A fabulous time was had by all with a great range of activities to choose from. Over the weekend our youth members got to do science experiments at Kaboom, practised first aid, learnt some skills for white water rafting, built catapults and Lego campsites, made ice cream and baked damper. We ended Saturday with a campfire ran by camp chief Rama and it was great to see all the youth members get involved and learn some new camp songs. We had youth from Joeys, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers join in the fun. We would like to thank Rama and the other volunteers for organizing this camp and parents for helping their child to participate in the fun.



***“Look wide,
 and even when you think
 you are looking wide –
 look wider still.”***

— Robert Baden-Powell

Do you have a child that would like to try scouting? Or have you thought about joining as a leader to assist the local youth? Do you have some time once a month to join our committee to help our group grow? To help families through these tough times we are not charging any fees until March next year. This is for new members as well as those already in scouting. **No Joining fee and No term fees so it is the perfect time to try scouting.**

Contact our Group Leader Shane Worthington
 0427 770 781 or email 1stkwrscouts@gmail.com



1959 - A holiday of a lifetime (Part 1)

by Geoff Stokes

This reminiscence will be published over two months, November and December 2020

Olive and I voted our holiday in July 1959 as our best ever. Even as I write this many years later, and with many modern sophisticated holidays and vacations under our belt, we still say it was the best. We decided to go on a touring holiday through Europe travelling all the way by our Lambretta 150cc scooter into Switzerland.

Our friends and relations were horrified when we told them of our plans. You see in that year very few people went overseas: hard to believe now, but the war was still fresh in people's minds and it was only in the last three or four years that tourists had been allowed into Germany and Italy. In fact, on our trip we only saw one or two British cars and there was a cacophony of horns when the drivers recognised our Wolverhampton number plate.

It was the height of the cold war and the Russians were still seen as a real threat to the Western Powers. Most people (those we knew anyhow) were still jittery about leaving the comfort and safety of mother England! We even had said to us, "You can't buy fish and chips in Switzerland you know". And, travelling on an Italian Lambretta 150cc scooter all that way, "Had we not heard of the huge mountains in that country?" Our holiday plan was the height of folly insofar as most of our family and relatives were concerned. We were absolutely mad they said. However, Jean and Ray, our neighbours next door

and close friends, encouraged us and one evening just before we left for the holiday, with the front pannier bag filled to the brim, a heavy suitcase on the back and with a 'heavy' Ray riding pillion at the rear, I did a test drive around our village of Wall Heath and we all declared our scooter set up was OK for the job in hand and ready to go!

Our plan was to ride south to Ashford in Kent, a distance of 322km (approx 200 miles), and the next morning catch the freight plane from Lydd airport to Le Touquet in France. From there we would travel north into Belgium, passing through Dunkerque and other historic wartime French coastal towns and, hopefully, we would get to Oostende on the first night. The journey would then take us across Belgium into Germany at Aachen and on to Köln on the Rhine. We would then travel south following the River Rhine through Bonn to Mainz at the junction of the Moselle River, finishing the Rhine German trip at Freiburg im Breslau. We proposed to enter Switzerland at Basle then on to Zurich and Lucerne and over the St. Gottard Pass to Lugano and stay there four or five days. We would start our return journey via the Lake Maggiore ferry and on via the Simplon Pass to Montreux. A couple of days there then over the French border to Besançon. We would then travel from Besançon to Reims, to Amiens on the Somme, and then to the coast and to the airport at Le Touquet with a day on the beach to finish off. Our British leg of the journey back to Wall Heath would follow the same route as our outward journey.

Well, in short, we did all that, but I don't intend to give you a day-to-day diary about our holiday even if I could. I have decided that I will tell you significant anecdotes of our trip as we travelled, along the way. Nevertheless, apart from the wet weather that followed us day by day, it was a fabulous memorable holiday where all the arrangements went like clockwork with no real problems at all. We were certainly pioneers and wherever we went we were treated as such, often with much incredulity and disbelief that we had come all that way on a motor scooter. But I must add that everyone also treated us with much kindness, everywhere. Of course there were many scooters about the streets in continental Europe; far more where we travelled than in the UK. However on the continent, scooters were used simply as a utility vehicle to get around the town. No one, people there said, would ever dream of using one for lengthy touring, especially to cross National borders. So they looked on us as extremely adventurous.

Continued next page



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1959 - A holiday of a lifetime (Part 1) *from previous page*

by Geoff Stokes

Having said that, here is a story about our first night after our flight from Lydd and our arrival in Oostende. We had been told that the cheapest accommodation would be in what was called a 'Pensionne'; a sort of cheap bed and breakfast type of lodgings. Well, we found one after a bit of an exhausting tour around Oostende and we booked in for the night. Strangely, there were no other guests staying at the place and, as it was late, we ate a cold meat and salad dinner in a large and empty dining room. Our bedroom was comfortable and had giant size bedroom furniture in it to enjoy. The atmosphere was weird and all night long the local butcher, wearing his white apron and carrying a meat cleaver, walked up and down the corridor outside. We seriously wondered if he had a secret viewing hole installed in the wardrobe to spy on us! We certainly felt very vulnerable and definitely uneasy. In the morning we went down to breakfast, again to an empty but, as I said before, a very large dining room. Our meal was typically continental but adequate with lots of very strong hot coffee. No one could speak English but we got by with our schoolboy and schoolgirl French; however, we were absolutely amused to read a notice, in perfect English that was pinned to the stairway. It read, "*Please do not jump upon the beds!*"

Outside, our trusty scooter was waiting to take us on the next leg of our journey. It was still there, outside the front door, propped up on its stand in the gutter with our two brilliant white crash hats sitting on the seats just where we had left them the night before. Did I mention we were dreadfully naïve? No one had disturbed anything: could you imagine that happening today, anywhere? That morning we made a pact that in future we would only stay in British AA recommended hotels. We planned to eat well at night and enjoy the luxuries, but during the day we would live simply on cheese and bread etc., washed down by our own home made cup of tea. Did I tell you we took along our own methylated spirit stove, a kettle and a teapot? Often, when we were making tea on the side of the road, people would stop and stare at the mad English couple and their scooter!

So, off we went, on the journey of a lifetime. The dazzling scenery down the Rhine was magnificent; the fairy tale castles that lined the shore were an amazing sight. We ate well in the evenings and stayed at some super hotels. Everywhere we went hotel staff thought it incredulous that we were travelling such distances on a mere scooter; they were also kind and warm towards us at all the places we stayed. Many nights our scooter had its own garage; usually in the owner's building, it was unbelievable the way people put themselves out for us.

Eating such good and different foods every evening was a truly great experience for us because we were able to taste true European ethnic food, which at that time was unobtainable in Britain. Our touring gave us a taste for the good life and the experience changed our life-style forever. Similarly with wines: we discovered such a lot of superb wines. From the wines of the Rhine to the lesser known Swiss styles and on to some full blooded Italian Reds; this was a compete eye opener for us and we just revelled in asking for "the wine of the region"; this request always a winner with the locals!

We saw all the tourist sites. I think now of the Bridge at Lucerne, the fountains at Lake Geneva in Zurich, and the magnificent Swiss Alps as we climbed up and over the St. Gottard pass. Well, to be precise, we actually put the scooter on a train to miss out on the peak. The weather was bad with thick snow at the summit, however we did climb to 2000 metres before travelling the last 14 kilometres on the train through a tunnel under the summit; we then rode down the other side. We arrived safely at Lugano and our room at our hotel had a magnificent view of the lake and the mountains beyond. To us it was like heaven, and we made the most of our four or five days stay.

We explored everywhere and we revelled in the warm air, swimming in the lake, or just supping a cold glass of the local wine at the lakeside, lounging on a recliner chair - superb. One day, one of the guests, an obviously rich patron, was out boating on the lake when he suddenly shouted out that he had dropped his (very expensive) camera into the lake. Could any of us swimmers find it for him and, if so, there would be a bottle of best champagne for the person who could retrieve it. There was a mad rush to dive down into the depths and just at that time I was swimming with a fellow whom we had befriended in the hotel restaurant the night before. He and his new wife were on their honeymoon, they were a indeed a lovely couple. We tried hard to find the camera but without success, even though the water visibility was excellent; what we really needed was a pair of goggles so that we could see more clearly. I mention this because it would have been no more than ten years later when I read an article in a newspaper about the pollution of Lake Lugano and its sister waterway, Lake Maggiore. It said that the pollution was so bad that one could actually walk across the debris on the surface of the water, rubbish that had collected there over the years: I was appalled, I couldn't believe it. Thankfully, it was about another ten years on and then I read another article that the lakes had now been cleaned up and returned to their original pristine condition. Apparently, there had been an almighty problem getting an agreement between all the countries that bordered the lakes: Switzerland, Italy and France, and what to do about it. France, I believe, dragged its heels, and for years nothing was done with the inevitable descent of the lake into gurgling filth.

Continued next month

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Good News from the Men's Shed

Today, as I write, the situation for the future, with the number of Covid-19 cases now reduced significantly into single figures, looks very positive indeed. Amongst all this, and throughout the lock-down days, the 'Shed door has always been left open for men who have problems, physical or mental. We care for their well-being during this stressful time and the 'Shed will always be there for anyone with any sort of difficulty; loneliness, sadness, a physical problem or whatever. There really is someone who will listen to you and give advice. Just contact our secretary, Brian Harlow on 5997 9687.

Even with the current easing of the Covid-19 virus restrictions, our weekly computer classes for seniors are still off limits for now. However during this inoperative time, we are hoping to upgrade our computers to the latest desk top designs and to an all Windows 10 operating system. We shall certainly celebrate that day when we re-commence our lessons because with nil social distancing necessary for learning computer skills, it means we will all be back to normal. And ... we will get back to normal – mark my words - we certainly will. In the meantime let me mention a new program we are starting to help those of you who do not yet connect with the cyber world. It's called Econnect and it is an initiative of the Australian Government, Be Connected, Good Things Foundation Australia, and KRHS. This free program gives you the opportunity to build new skills and help you connect to the world using digital technology with the use of an iPad on loan to you and it is also completely free to use. This Econnect program can help you to learn the basics of using an iPad and to going online into the Internet world. It teaches you to be safe and secure and you will be able to learn how to shop online and keep up to date with your community. Best of all you will be able to see and talk to your family and friends. Please call Angelique on 5997 9792 if you would like to take part in this wonderful Econnect program.

As the restrictions ease we are planning for and very much looking forward to the opening up of the community garden within the next two weeks for the sale of fruit and vegetables again. We aim to have pre-made up vegetable packs for sale at \$10 or \$20 for drive in and collect. Keep an eye out for the sign in the community garden, as it will say, the 'Men's Shed Garden Shop is open for business'. You can purchase fresh organic fruit and vegetables along with preserves and sauces. We can recommend Charlie's special 'Black Sauce' with its secret ingredients, it's delicious! Vegetables available now are silverbeet, lettuce, rhubarb, spring onions, parsley and celery. Also watch the kronos machine at the hospital entrance for weekly specials.

Despite the current situation, the Koo-Wee-Rup Men's Shed continues to grow in stature and it is now recognized as one of the very best in the State if not in Australia. This amazing achievement has been won by the untiring work of the president, the committee, and of course the steadfast work of all the members and our esteemed retired members. If you live in Koo-Wee-Rup and District, take note that all of our very friendly members will give you a real warm welcome as you come through the door. You don't have to be old either; we have a membership spanning all ages from youth to - well you know – somewhat older. Indeed, when life eventually gets back to normal there is always a genuine open invitation to come along, meet us and enjoy the company of some real good mates and maybe get a boost to your own health and well-being at the same time. Don't forget then, when the you can and the time is ripe, call in, try us.

Here is a comment about vegetables:

What is small, red and whispers?

A hoarse radish!

Geoff Stokes

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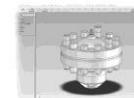
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If you would like to donate your hair, click on this link:

<https://lionsmelbnextgen.us20.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=dbeca43e22ea32abb81997d05&id=38f8deedc6>

If you would like to donate money towards the cause, click on <https://www.mycause.com.au/page/236343/cuthair4cancerkids>



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Supporting local youth





Outlook Community Centre hope you have kept well in these challenging times as we look towards the community reconnecting to enjoy each other's company and experiences once more. We have a selection of sessions to offer you in November to keep you busy and learning. Please assist us in reaching out to the community by

forwarding on information such as Ageing in Your Own Home and My Aged Care Information Morning sessions to those who may benefit. All the sessions listed below can be booked online at www.outlookvic.org.au/book-online, alternatively you are welcome to contact us by phone or email. We look forward to seeing you soon!

HOW TO ENROL IN A PROGRAMME

Online: www.outlookvic.org.au/book-online, **Telephone:** 0427 911 935 (while Centre closed due to COVID-19 restrictions) 5940 4728 (when Centre reopens due to easing of restrictions),

Email: communitycentre@outlookvic.org.au, **Payment:** PayPal with Credit Card or PayPal account online, Credit Card over the phone, Bank Transfer (initiate by phone)

Canva - Online Design Made Easy

Home-based course using Zoom. You will learn to quickly and easily create attractive, high impact social media and marketing designs. During the session we will create a sample Facebook post, promotional poster and business card.

Thursdays commencing 19 November for 2 sessions,

10.00am - 12.30pm.

Cost \$15

Life Skills Workshop for Men

We are currently seeking expressions of interest for these workshops.

The aim of these sessions is to support men by having real conversations about lived experiences in a fun, exciting and perhaps challenging environment. Through shared learning, it is hoped to assist in improving and honing their life skills toolbox.

We hope to help reduce the risks for men around such things as anxiety, depression and self-harm in these challenging times.

Tentative date: Late November for 4 sessions,

Tuesday evenings, 7:30pm – 9.00pm.

Cost: \$70

Register your interest by emailing

communitycentre@outlookvic.org.au or phone

0427 911 935

Ageing in Your Own Home

Home-based sessions using Zoom.

Session 1: The start of the journey - Wednesday 11

November, 10.00am - 12.00pm

Session 2: Assessment and service provision - Wednesday

18 November, 10.00am - 12.00pm

Session 3: Navigating financial aspects - Wednesday 25

November, 10.00am - 12.00pm

It is highly recommended that you attend the first session, and ideally all of them.

Cost FREE, however, bookings essential.

The Aged Care Navigator Trial is delivered in partnership with COTA Vic and Outlook Community Centre as part of a consortium led by COTA Australia and funded by the Australian Government. For more information go to www.AgedCareNavigators.org.au

iPads

Home-based course using Zoom.

Getting the most out of your iPad, from beginner to beyond. Learn how to set up your iPad and use its in-built features for productivity and fun. Connect to the internet and communicate with the world. Download and manage Apps, take photos, send emails, and much more.

Fridays commencing 6 November for 6 sessions,

10.30am - 12.30pm.

Cost \$40

Create Online E-Cards

Home-based session using Zoom.

In this session you will learn how to create and personalise e-cards for your friends and family wherever they are online. Whether they are celebrating a birthday, anniversary or you are sending seasons greetings, it's a great way to let someone special know that you are thinking of them.

BYO USB with photos you wish to use.

Tuesday 10 November, 10.00am - 12.00pm.

Cost FREE

My Aged Care Navigator Information Morning

Do you or someone you know need help to understand and navigate the system relevant to home care packages?

Find out more about:

- What services are available and who provides them?
- What you are eligible for and how to apply?
- What will happen next?

A free, confidential service that gives you independent information about home care packages and how to access them.

Face-to-face at Outlook.

Home-based session using Zoom if the Centre is closed for COVID-19 restrictions.

Wednesday 2 December, 9.30am - 12.30pm. Cost FREE

The Aged Care Navigator Trial is delivered in partnership with COTA Vic and Outlook Community Centre as part of a consortium led by COTA Australia and funded by the Australian Government. For more information go to

www.AgedCareNavigators.org.au





Koo Wee Rup Country Women's Association

Beat the show scone record

Koo Wee Rup CWA along with many of the other CWA groups in Victoria held a scone drive on Saturday, October 17th 2020.

With the cancellation of the Royal Melbourne Show, the CWA wasn't able to hold its annual scone sale fundraiser, so local branches took on

the challenge.

The total scones sold across Victoria was 13,443, just shy of last year's record of 15,565 at the Melbourne Show. The scone tally of the Royal Melbourne show is over 11 days and we did this in just one!!

That is still an awesome effort as many of the city branches couldn't travel more than 5km (COVID restrictions) so numbers were lower for those areas.

The Koo Wee Rup branch sold 6 dozen scones and also 25 grazing boxes filled with cakes, slices, biscuits and truffles. It was a lot of work, especially for group President, Cathy Stephens who did most of the assembly and organising. Lots of



other members helped with the baking but because we couldn't get together to help Cathy because of COVID.

We would like to thank the local community for their support by purchasing the boxes. The money raised will go towards our local area.

We are planning on making up some CHRISTMAS GRAZING BOXES. If you are interested in purchasing one, please look out for our facebook posts nearer to Christmas. We will also advertise in the Blackfish.

Win Pankhurst Memorial Scholarship

The Koo Wee Rup CWA give an annual donation to a Grade 6 student who is leaving primary school and entering high school. This money is to help assist with the additional educational expenses incurred when changing to high school.

Applications are made through the local area schools i.e. Koo Wee Rup Primary, St John the Baptist Primary and Bayles Primary.

Applications must be back to us by 12th November 2020. If you would like to email them in, our email address is kwrcwa@outlook.com.



Membership

We welcome new members to our friendly group. If you would like to come along to a meeting, normally we hold them on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm at the Senior Citizens rooms in Icke Road, Koo Wee Rup.

Craft nights are held on the third Monday of the month. You can bring your own project to work on and we often have lessons on how to do something new. We have a good chat and members can bring a plate so we can share all the goodies for supper.

At present we are holding all our meetings on Zoom because of COVID. We are looking forward to "getting back to normal" and actually meeting face to face.

2021 Australia Day Awards

Do you know a citizen, young citizen or senior citizen who makes a big contribution to our community? Or maybe you know of a fantastic local event that deserves recognition?

Nominations are open for our 2021 Australia Day Awards.

This is your chance to nominate someone who makes an important contribution to our local community or a community group who held an outstanding **event onsite or virtually between 1st November 2019 and 1st November 2020** that deserves recognition.

Show your appreciation by nominating the person or event for an Australia Day Award!

Nominate now at https://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/info/20021/supporting_our_community/240/australia_day_awards

Nominations are open until 5pm 13th November 2020.

For further information please contact Kym Ockerby, Community Development Facilitator at k.ockerby@cardinia.vic.gov.au or 5945 4371.

Koo Wee Rup Bowling Club

With the total disruption to the school syllabus for the year, the Club had no alternative but to cancel the bowls program for local primary schools. We are hopeful to be able to resume the program in 2021. The Club would like to thank the local school co-ordinators for their interest in conducting the program and to Club members who were willing to assist in doing the program.

The position of President of the Club has some hidden notes in the criteria of the job description with both Pres. Pauline Gray & Immediate Past Pres. Bryan Walker having short stays in hospital with minor heart problems recently. We hope that this does not deter any prospective applicants for the position when it is vacant.

The Club has cleared John Durrant to Mitcham BC. John has played at a number of Clubs when he was in the teaching profession and is the current "B" Grade Champion at our Club. Only with us for 3 years he was a popular member of the Club and we wish him the best at Mitcham BC. Another member on the move is Laurie Bell who has applied to become a dual member at Lang Lang BC & KooWeeRup BC.

With the easing and proposed easing of the lockdown situation the Club may be able to reopen and possibly play a few games before too long. The Club may also be in a position to conduct our A.G.M. which has been cancelled since May.

Life member Ray Brown has decided to nominate for the Shire of Cardinia Council. This decision came as a shock to many at the Club as his health was not the best early this year. Ray obviously feels he has some unfinished business to pursue and this may have been the reason he is standing for Council again. We wish him the best in the elections.

Rex Alexander 5997 1266



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Email: gregorys@krhs.net.au Website: www.kooweeruphospital.net.au

November 20 Find us on



15th October 2020

Dear families/residents,

Thank you for taking my phone calls made on the 9th October 2020 gauging support for a gradual opening of the facility to internal visits. Three family members were unable to be contacted at the time of phoning.

We are at an important point of the pandemic and your support and willingness to be involved in the decision making is greatly appreciated. As discussed the reintroduction of internal visits is not without risk and a measured approach will assist in maintaining safety for our residents while also addressing the broader mental health and family requirements.

To borrow a line from the Premier Mr Daniel Andrews, "this may be as good as it gets".

As I write this letter the Shires of Greater Dandenong (13 cases) Monash (12 cases down from 19), Frankston (9 cases down from 10) and Casey (8 cases down from 9) remain of concern in our local area.

In terms of specific postcodes Cranbourne (3 cases – down from 5), Clyde (4 cases down from 5) and Berwick (1 case stable) remain the postcodes to watch. Kooweerup and Pakenham remain at zero cases.

The options that were put up for families to consider were:

Option 1:

Maintain the status quo. Nil internal visits for a further three weeks from the 19th October 2020 followed by a review pending community spread.

Option 2:

That KRHS reintroduce internal visits from the week of the 19th October 2020.

Each resident will receive a one-hour visit per week in the week of the 19th October 2020.

Daily internal visits to Killara will be capped at six with four visitors for Westernport Unit.

Masks will be required by all internal visitors and will be provided by KRHS at the point of entry.

Internal visits must be undertaken in the resident's room or KRHS garden. To decrease risks to other residents visits in communal areas are not permitted.

Physical distancing must be adhered to.

Window visits (one-hour duration) will still remain between the hours of 1000 hours and 1700 hours. (last booking), two visitors per window visits. Children permitted but will form part of the two permitted visitors. Masks must be worn by all window visitors and will be provided by the visitor.

Commencing the week of the 26th October 2020 visits remain at one hour per resident per week but the opportunity to leave the grounds will be made available based on a Risk Assessment with the Nurse in Charge.

We draw to your attention that the ability to take the resident home at this point in time is not available, however we understand the importance of this item and look forward to considering this at the next point of review (9th November 2020).

Walks in the adjacent park or to the local Coffee Shop for a take away coffee are suitable activities.

The key principles to guide decision making will include the need to ensure physical distancing and maintaining the directions as set out by the Victorian Government.

The week of the 2nd November 2020 will be as per the 26th October 2020. A review to further increase access to the facility will be undertaken in the week of the 9th November 2020 as will consideration be given to home visits.

At all times KRHS will be monitoring the impact of the broader Victorian relaxing of restrictions as determined by the State Government and the impacts on our local postcodes.

Decisions to further apply restrictions or expand visits to the facility will always be based on ensuring resident safety.

To ensure viability of Option 2 it will be most important for adherence to the guidelines. Avoiding breaches of the guidelines will ensure that quarantine for residents will be avoided.

With this said the overwhelming response from families was that Option 2 was the preferred option and as a result will be implemented by KRHS commencing 19th October 2020.

Families are encouraged to book visits by contacting Reception on 59 979 679.

In discussing our plan with Safer Care Victoria representatives, KRHS was encouraged to risk assess visits outside of the facility. This will be done using a Risk Assessment Tool that will be applied when requests to leave the grounds are received. KRHS was strongly advised that Risk Assessments focused on ensuring consumer safety.

To further ensure resident and staff safety a Touch Point Cleaner will follow on from your visit and attend to the environmental cleaning.

We are all aware through Media and Government information that droplet spread through surface transmission is a primary way of virus spread. To facilitate this cleaning we request that you are mindful of the visiting duration.

The 19th October 2020 also marks the date for return of boxed resident items that were temporarily stored during the outbreak and deep clean. This situation applies to Westernport Unit residents only. Boxes will gradually be returned to Westernport Unit resident's rooms and family members are encouraged to again decant the contents and assist in creating a personal space.

In terms of the broader facility activities KRHS will continue to focus of segregation of staff.

Outpatient Services such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Early Parenting Unit and visiting Specialists will be stalled for a further three weeks followed by review. The uniqueness of the KRHS physical layout requires the organisation to restrict avoidable foot traffic where possible and as a result visiting services will be limited to essential services only.

Inpatient Physiotherapy/Occupational Therapy Services for residents and acute clients will continue.

We welcome families back into the facility and trust that a controlled Victorian situation will enable us to build on these small steps.

On behalf of the staff I thank you for your ongoing support

Yours sincerely,

FRANK MEGENS

Chief Executive Officer

FM/sg/21939

Please visit our website for the latest information on KRHS and COVID-19 restrictions

Native cats or Quolls in the local area

By Heather Arnold, Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society

I came across this snippet in the book *Early Days of Berwick* first published in 1948. It was referring to farming areas around Berwick - *The native cats were a pest amongst the poultry, but they appeared to contract some form of epidemic and they died out and now appear totally extinct.* This made me wonder what native cats were and where else they were found. Native cats are a type of quoll, a carnivorous marsupial, the Eastern Quoll - *Dasyurus viverrinus* - and were described by a writer as - *the colour of native cats varies greatly. I have seen them practically all black, except for the characteristic white spots, but in others the colour has been grey, brown, bluey-grey, yellow, and a mixture of the above colours, but always with the white spots.* They are about 60 cm in length, including the tail. Eastern Quolls are now considered to be nearly extinct on the Australian mainland, but still exist in Tasmania.

I did a search on Trove to find any local (or a bit further afield) references to quolls in the newspapers.

In October 1884 there were various reports about the tragic death of eleven-year-old Edward Williams of Tynong who died after having been bitten by a snake. Edward had put his hand into a hollow log, *in which he thought a native cat lay concealed,* only to find that it actually contained a four-foot tiger snake. This happened at eight o'clock in the morning and *shortly afterwards he began to feel the deadly effects of the poison, and his father, alarmed at the lad's appearance, hurried with him to the railway station, and took him to the Alfred Hospital. The boy was quite insensible when admitted, at about two p.m., and was evidently dying. He expired very shortly after admission.*

In April 1886, it was reported that the Zoological and Acclimatisation Society was sent *one white native cat, from Mr Staughton, near Pakenham* to add to their collection.

In 1899, the *West Gippsland Gazette* reported this story, which took place at an un-named location in Gippsland - *A boy, son of a selector climbed a high white gum after a magpie's nest, but slipped from a bough, and, falling, just managed to catch a limb, from which he hung by his hands. After making repeated efforts to draw himself up he abandoned the endeavour as hopeless, and remained hanging, calling for help all the time. When he had been in this position for about a minute, a native cat crept along the limb and smelt at his fingers. It then bit them. The boy shrieked at the animal, but it took no notice, and set deliberately to work to eat his hand. After the third bite, the youngster let go; and fell to the ground, breaking a rib and stunning himself in the fall. When he recovered consciousness, the cat had descended the tree, probably with the intention of resuming its meal if conditions were favourable. But the boy left.*

A story was published in 1907 about life on the Koo Wee Rup Swamp, shortly after the Village Settlements were established in 1893. The story outlines the trials and tribulations faced by the settler and his family including *the native cats killed the fowls... and a vagrant kangaroo dog stole the baby out of the gin case cradle, and only dropped it after a two-mile chase through the ti-tree.* The last part is particularly interesting given what happened to Lindy and Michael Chamberlain's baby, Azaria, in 1980.

The Australasian from August 1940 published this memory - "In the early 'nineties," writes Mr. A. H. McKibbin (Croydon), "I lived at Lyndhurst, near Dandenong. Immediately opposite our home was a primeval area of redgum bush which was a great stronghold of the native cats. These animals were a serious menace to our poultry, and some mornings I picked up as many as a dozen dead fowls resulting from carelessness in not closing the hen house door as tightly as it should have been shut. My father's method of dealing with these spotted terrors was kerosene case box traps with a drop door set on an internal trigger with bait attached. If the trap was sprung, then without doubt the marauder was inside".

The articles also talk about various urban locations where these quolls were found. This report is from 1910 - *the common native cat was until a few years ago very plentiful. In the early eighties it was not an uncommon occurrence to capture one or more of these creatures in the old Museum workshops in the University grounds. The old stone fences around Coburg afforded good shelter, and here they were commonly hunted with terriers. In 1902 a female and two half-grown young ones were trapped by an old inmate of the Immigrants' Home on St. Kilda road and brought to the Museum. In Victoria of recent years, it has become so rare that it will soon be numbered with the animals of the past.* In 1926 a small colony was reported at Ivanhoe - the journalist from

Continued next page



Native cats or Quolls in the local area *from previous page*

By Heather Arnold, Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society

The Herald described them thus with its brownish coat, spotted and mottled with white, the native cat is almost a handsome creature. As late as 1956 there was an isolated colony in one of the wilder parts of Studley Park; and every now and again the body of one is brought into the Museum after being dazzled and knocked over by a car at night on Studley Park Rd, or the Yarra Boulevard.

As we have seen, the 'native cat' was not very popular with the early settlers, primarily because they attacked poultry. The quoll would kill multiple chickens in one session, *unlike the fox [which] will usually take a fowl and depart, but the native cat is apt to kill a dozen or more before calling it a night.* Because of this, farmers seemed to have engaged in an all-out war against the quoll - they used poison, guns, traps - both rabbit traps and native cat traps - after which the captured animals were either shot or beaten to death. As quolls lived in hollow logs they were sometimes burnt to death if the timber was being burnt and if they escaped from the burning logs, they were killed by waiting dogs. Interestingly, quolls were not killed for their fur, even though fur from all types of animals, both native and introduced species, was used extensively in the nineteenth century for garments. *The skins were never valuable; in fact, it was such an unpleasant job skinning them that few men bothered about the skins at all.*

How prolific were the quolls? A writer to *The Australasian* from Gembrook on 1905 said - *Throughout the county of Mornington* the cats disappeared about 24 years ago, when there was about a rabbit to the square mile in it. At that point and previously, there were about 50 cats to the square mile. Now I believe you could not find one. So far as I can remember the grasshopper plague, then the rabbit one, came soon after the disappearance of the cats.* There was a theory that rabbits may have been responsible for the decline of the quolls and this was both raised and dismissed by a correspondent to *The Australasian* in 1918 - *The mystery regarding the almost total extinction of the native cat, along with the native bear, has been the subject of controversy in this column for many years past. Yet no one has suggested a theory that can be regarded as satisfactory. The suggestion that it was due to the cats swallowing the fur of the rabbits was frivolous. In Gippsland, for instance, the native cats had practically disappeared before the appearance of the rabbit. The latter pest was extremely scarce before '98. Regardless of this fact, there are still people who persist in the nonsensical theory that rabbits were the sole cause.*

The theory mentioned in the *Early days of Berwick* that they died of some form of epidemic is also supported by some writers. This is from 1938 - *Despite the war waged against them by men, women, and children in the sparsely settled areas, the native cats seemed to hold their own, but a strange disease broke out amongst them and so many were wiped out that they never recovered from the epidemic.* In 1940, Mr McKibbin, who shared his memories of the quolls at Lyndhurst also wrote that *Epidemics of disease at the close of last century and first years of the present one probably quite unconnected with the rabbit were responsible for the disappearance of native cats, and naturally the increase of the rabbit was facilitated with the removal of this little marsupial carnivore, which previously destroyed large numbers of the young bunnies.*

This is an abridged version of a story I wrote for my work blog, Casey Cardinia Links to our Past. It has all the footnotes and sources and you can read it here <https://caseycardinialinkstoorpast.blogspot.com/2020/10/native-cats-or-quolls-in-casey-cardinia.html>.

*County of Mornington - For Land Administration purposes Victoria was divided into Counties and then into Parishes - all of the City of Casey and nearly all of the Cardinia Shire is in the County of Mornington. Some of the Cardinia Shire north of Emerald, may be part of the County of Evelyn. The Mornington Peninsula, Bass Coast and Phillip Island are also part of the County of Mornington.

The Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society meets on the second Wednesday of each month. We are currently closed due to Covid 19. Heather Arnold harnold@dcsi.net.au 0407 521 637





Victoria, you know fire.

Victoria was hit hard in the 2019-20 fire season. The 2020-21 season is coming and you know as well as anyone how important it is to plan and prepare. Ensure your home is fire ready, ensure your family knows your plan, and be ready to leave early.

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