

THE KOOWEERUP BLACKFISH



APRIL 2021

And the Band Plays On

On the evening of March 23rd at Kooweerup Secondary College the Senior Band had its first public performance with a live audience since Covid. The occasion was recruitment for the College instrumental music program.

Last week I represented the College at the Memorial Service for Captain Alan Moore, a member of the 39th Battalion and veteran of the Kokoda Track campaign. KWRSC's 20 year association with the 39th Battalion was acknowledged and the Battalion's March "Sussex by the Sea" was played.

Last night we were able to honour Alan Moore as well and the Band played the march at the conclusion of its performance.

Claudia Barker



Koo Wee Rup Township Committee Meeting

The Township held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, 3 March at the Koo Wee Rup Community Centre. Township Meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7 April at 7:30 pm at the Koo Wee Rup Community Centre.

The proposed Lions Club town festival which had been planned for March has been cancelled due to ongoing COVID19 restrictions. Planning is under way for the festival to take place in October 2022.

The Christmas Carols will be on again this year. The Lions are investigating purchasing a portable stage and would like a concrete pad in Cochrane Park somewhere, the site of the old railway house has been suggested (this is subject to council and community approval). Alternatively, a more expensive stage which can be used on uneven ground will be purchased. Any stage purchased by the Lions would be available for use by community groups.

The Museum is re-opening on Sunday 7 March and will be open the first and third Sundays of the month from 1 – 4pm. The collection has been sorted and laid out in a more logical order during the closure of the museum. The museum is always looking for new members to manage the collection of historical items and stories from our town and surrounds.

Continued Page 5

What's on in Koo Wee Rup and District

April

Thurs	1st	Mass of the Lord's Supper (page 3)	St John's Church	7.30pm
Fri	2nd	Solemn Liturgy of the Passion	St John's Church	3pm
Sat	3rd	KWR Easter Egg Hunt (page 13)	Cochrane Park Playground	12noon
Sun	4th	Easter Sunday Mass	St John's Church	8.30am
Mon	5th	CWA Meeting	Senior Citizens Club	7.30pm
Wed	7th	Koo Wee Coffee Club (back page)	Royal Hotel	10am
Wed	7th	Township Committee Meeting	Community Centre	7pm
Wed	7th	Lions Club Meeting	RSL Clubrooms	7.30pm
Fri	9th	KWR Regional Health Service Ladies Auxiliary Meeting	RSL Clubrooms	9.30am
Sun	11th	Bayles Fauna Park Working Bee & Committee Meeting	Bayles Fauna Park	9am
Wed	14th	Community Centre Committee Meeting	Community Centre	7.30pm
Wed	14th	KWR Swamp Historical Society Meeting	KWR Museum	7.30pm
Mon	19th	Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	6pm
Mon	19th	CWA Craft Night	Senior Citizens Club	7.30pm
Wed	21st	Koo Wee Coffee Club	Chandelier Cafe	10am
Fri	23rd	Koo Wee 4 Kids (page 13)	turningpoint Church	6pm
Fri	23rd	Brave Youth (page 13)	turningpoint Church	6pm
Sat	24th	Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	9am
Sun	25th	ANZAC Day Commemoration (page 3)	Avenue of Honour	5.30am
Mon	26th	Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	6pm
Fri	30th	Koo Wee 4 Kids	turningpoint Church	6pm
Fri	30th	Brave Youth	turningpoint Church	6pm

May

Sat	1st	Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	9am
Sun	2nd	Bayles Fauna Park Working Bee & Committee Meeting	Bayles Fauna Park	9am
Mon	3rd	Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	6pm
Mon	3rd	CWA Meeting	Senior Citizens Club	7.30pm
Wed	5th	Koo Wee Coffee Club	Royal Hotel	10am
Wed	5th	Township Committee Meeting	Community Centre	7pm
Wed	5th	Lions Club Meeting	RSL Clubrooms	7.30pm
Fri	7th	KWR Regional Health Service Ladies Auxiliary Meeting	RSL Clubrooms	9.30am
Fri	7th	Koo Wee 4 Kids & Brave Youth	turningpoint Church	6pm
Sat	8th	Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	9am
Mon	10th	Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	6pm
Wed	12th	Community Centre Committee Meeting	Community Centre	7.30pm
Wed	12th	KWR Swamp Historical Society Meeting	KWR Museum	7.30pm
Fri	14th	Koo Wee 4 Kids & Brave Youth	turningpoint Church	6pm
Sat	15th	Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	9am
Sun	16 th	Make a wish in May (back page)	Community Garden	12.30pm
Mon	17th	Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	6pm
Mon	17th	CWA Craft Night	Senior Citizens Club	7.30pm
Wed	19th	Koo Wee Coffee Club	Chandelier Cafe	10am
Fri	21st	Koo Wee 4 Kids & Brave Youth	turningpoint Church	6pm
Sat	22nd	Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	9am
Mon	24th	Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	6pm
Fri	28th	Koo Wee 4 Kids & Brave Youth	turningpoint Church	6pm
Sat	29th	Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	9am

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

Koo Wee Rup RSL Sub Branch Report

In the last communication received from RSL Victoria dated 18th of March, we were informed that we may have a congregation up to one thousand at this Anzac Day commemorative service. The district covid-safe officer, Mr Brian Harlow, has submitted a covid-safe plan and, if approved, we hope to have our veterans, Fire Brigade and KWR Scouts march from the Avenue of Honour entrance and proceed to our cenotaph followed by those of our community who wish to march. There will be signage and people to guide those present in accordance with the covid-safe rules. We are not permitted to have a gunfire breakfast.

Organisations, clubs, and individuals wishing to lay or order a wreath please call our secretary, Bev Edwards, on 0400 584 235 – excluding those who have already placed an order.

Program for the Anzac Day Commemorative Dawn Service is as follows:

- 5.30 Veterans, Fire Brigade and KWR Scouts form up at the entrance of the Avenue of Honour
- 5.40 March down the Avenue of Honour to our cenotaph
- 5.55 Veterans, Fire Brigade and KWR Scouts stand-by and those wishing to be with us please abide by safe distancing rules.
- 6.00 Commence Dawn Service

We will remember them

Wishing everyone a Holy and safe Easter

Yours Aye, John Camilleri, KWR RSL Sub Branch 5629 4242

Franciscus (Frank) de Haan

Passed away 8th April 2020.

12 months on...

Funeral / Party Thursday 8th April
2021

The Royal Hotel. KWR. 12pm.
Presentation / speeches 12.30pm
Finger Food, beer, wine, soft drink will
be served.

Numbers are very much appreciated
to

Jan de Haan 5997 1290
or Rashelle de Haan 0410 457 331

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

Holy Thursday April 1

Mass of the Lord's Supper:
St John's, Koo Wee Rup - 7.30pm

Good Friday April 2

Solemn Liturgy of the Passion:
St John's, Koo Wee Rup – 3.00pm.

Holy Saturday April 3

Easter Vigil:
St James', Nar Nar Goon - 7.30pm

Easter Sunday April 4

Mass:
St John's, Koo Wee Rup - 8.30am

Mass:
St Joseph's, Iona - 10.00am



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Damien Fitzgerald: 0419 524 824

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Koo Wee Rup Township Committee Meeting *(continued from Page 1)*

Police report to Township Committee

I have noticed through some social media postings there are some misconceptions of how we (Koo Wee Rup Police) are operating during Covid so I will provide this information in a hope it clears up some confusion.

I think the wording that the station is 'closed' has been used in some areas to describe how we are operation during Covid. Whilst it is a requirement that our Service Counter is closed, we are still providing a Police presence in the area through our patrols. Pakenham, Narre Warren and Dandenong Police Stations are providing 24hr Counter Service if members of the public need to attend to speak with Police.

Whilst we are in the station at Koo Wee Rup we are still taking phone calls. If no one is working directly from the station, then the phones will be diverted to Pakenham.

If members of the public want to report non urgent crimes and events, then they can call the Police Assistance Line on 131 444. The Police Assistance Line cannot assist with urgent matters, including family Violence, assaults or another crime that is happening at the time of reporting.

000 can still be used for urgent matters requiring Police attendance.

Sgt Kevin Iles

The AGM for the Men's Shed will be held on Wednesday 10TH March, for further information regarding the happenings at the Men's Shed please see the report in the Blackfish

The main ideas for improving the Christmas decorations around Koo Wee Rup include a tree at the clock towers, strings of lights draped around the clock towers and other decorations around town. Garry is submitting a grant to council for the purchase of more decorations. It was suggested that the business community in town could be approached for their support, and also to try and engage the schools but the committee was conscious of not impacting the work that the CWA do with the primary schools and kinder to decorate the tree at Woolies. There was also an idea for large banners on the old printers building.

Garry attended the Building Safer Community Round-table where he raised some issues on behalf of the Koo Wee Rup including additional police presence in town, increased CCTV coverage especially at the Station St Rossiter Road intersection and Bus stop, and also the issues of hoons around town and illegal fireworks.

The president attended the shire's Climate Impact and Risk Workshop this month. The workshop asked two questions:

- What things are already happening in your community to address climate change?
- How can council better support communities to address climate change?

The president asked for some input from the committee. Some of the responses included to:

- Mandate a certain level of sustainable housing required by all new built houses.
- Casey, Cardinia and Bass councils put a book out to promote sustainable building practices.
- Offer support for solar panels.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

For document signing and associated services contact:

GARY KING JP - 0438 663 655

JP duties are a free community service

Please note: Koo Wee Rup Connect will be closed over the school holidays and will reopen on 23rd April 2021



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Koo Wee Rup Country Womens Association

Written by Linda Sanders

First Craft Get Together for the Year

On Monday 16th March we held our first craft get together. As we couldn't use the Senior Citizens hall, we had the evening at Linda Sanders place. Her husband Rex had set us up with ladders to hang the macrame from. It worked really well and we hope to use it again in the future to make more macrame items.

Each member made a pot plant hanger. Once you learned the square knot, it was plain sailing and we all managed to complete the hanger.

Many thanks to Miranda Cook who made up the kits and taught us how to make the hangers.

We hope to make another macrame project soon and would like to invite members of the public to come along and have a go. We will put out an invitation on social media when we have finalised the details.

2021 Meetings

Our next meeting will be on 5th April at 7.30pm at the Senior Citizens Hall in Icke Road.

Our next craft meeting will be on 19th April at 7.30pm at the Seniors Hall.

If you would like to join our great team of friendly ladies, please call President Cathy Stevens on 0403 593 513 for more details.

High Tea at Kim's House

On Saturday 13th March some of our members travelled to Park Orchards for a high tea at member Kim Louise's new home.

They all took a plate to enjoy for afternoon tea and had a tour through Kim's lovely home. Reports say that it was a very enjoyable day and they had a really good chat and plenty to eat.



Koo Wee Rup Senior Citizens Club

Icke Road, Koo Wee Rup

Welcome back to all members.

Bowls recommenced on March 15th. All enquiries to Leonie please.

Our first Friday lunch will be on April 9th. Bookings are essential by Wednesday April 7th to Diane K please. Strict covid safe guidelines apply at club rooms to help us all.

Members had a catch-up lunch on March 29th at the Hotel. Good to see so many of you again.

Tuesday night bingo will not resume. The committee thanks all who have supported and helped on the night over past years.

We welcome new members at an annual fee of \$10.

All enquiries to:

Dianne D 0419 405 404

Diane K 0408 663 655

Leonie 0477 249 000





LET'S TALK LOCAL

Alex Scott & staff are excited to introduce our new Sales Agent Michael Hodges, who has joined our sales team at our KooWeeRup office.

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A Tale of a voyage in the South Pacific 1986 *by Geoff Stokes*

It was 1986. I was getting older by the minute and my ambition, and it had been my heart's desire for years, was to go sailing on a tall ship across the oceans. Eventually, and I am not sure how, I identified a Brigantine of 150 tonnes called 'Eye of the Wind', a ship that was owned by a group called 'Adventure Under Sail'. It fitted exactly into what I would like to do. 'Eye of the Wind' operated all over the world but once every two years or so it came down south over the equator and sailed in the South Pacific generally following James A. Michener's travels as in his story, 'Tales of the South Pacific'. This sounded ideal to me and I started making enquiries about its forthcoming voyage around the Southern Pacific Ocean islands. 'Adventure Under Sail' turned out to be an Australian group of enthusiasts who were the owners of the vessel and very soon I had the itinerary of the ship in my tender hands trying to work out the best leg for me in the vessel's forthcoming ten month's sojourn south of the equator. The ship had started its Pacific sail over a year ago in November 1985 from Cairns, and the journey had taken it to Thursday Island then on to Hong Kong where the ship was involved in the making of the movie "Taipei". There the ship was transformed into an opium smuggling vessel complete with pirates! From Hong Kong 'Eye of the Wind' sailed to Palau then on to Truk, Ponape in Micronesia, Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands then onward to Vila the port capital city of Vanuatu. It was the



following leg of its journey that I decided on; that of Vila to Honiara in the Solomon Islands, and for me it would be an adventurous sail of eight weeks. This leg followed very closely the travels of James A. Michener. The ship was anchored off the island of Espirito Santo so I had a 53 minute ride in a jaded twin engine Cessna to get there from Vila. After being picked up at the wharf and ferried to the ship, I met the skipper, 'Tiger' Timbs and my fellow crew members and a few elderly passengers who would be my world for the next few weeks. Now ... I don't intend to reproduce my complete daily diary, I will just write about some highlights of this cruise. The complete diary stands alone as a journal of all that happened to me over eight weeks of absolute adventure and excitement. However I will reproduce a paragraph or three to whet your whistle a bit and maybe you may decide to read the diary in full one day— no one has yet!

Monday 30th June 1986.

It was 2:30 pm before we could get under way. It was siesta time and the customs officials could not be awakened to give us clearance until then! With a strong south east wind on to the shore it was difficult to get the ship away. I had the job of manning the stern fender; quite hairy for a while. Then we were sailing down the bay but only for a short distance because us scuba divers were off to dive on the sunken USA ship, "President Coolidge". President Coolidge sank off the southeastern edge of Luganville (Santo) on Espiritu Santo island on 26th of October 1942 after hitting a mine. To the east is Million Dollar Point. President Coolidge rests on her port side at a depth of between 21m at her bow to 73m to the stern. This shipwreck is often scuba dived and is able to be penetrated allowing divers to explore the cargo holds and interior rooms. The shipwreck is only a short distance from the southeastern edge of Luganville. At a depth of 45m within the ship is "The Lady", a statue in the first class passengers lounge smoking room. Now she poses cheekily, for those divers sufficiently experienced to penetrate the wreck. Afterwards we went off on our inflatable portable motorboat in quite big seas to visit Million Dollar Point. It was here after the war that France refused to buy (at very reduced rates) USA war surplus equipment; so the Yanks dumped it all in the sea! Santo was the largest US base in the Pacific - the scene of the movie musical "South Pacific". At one time over 400,000 US soldiers were here. Not finding a buyer the US put all the equipment into the sea. We snorkled (too soon after our last dive to scuba dive again) over the top of artillery guns, tanks, ships, a couple of bulldozers and unidentifiable large bits and pieces. All surrounded by fantastic, beautiful fish just like in a tropical fish tank. So ... back to the ship. Sails were set but at this time I didn't go aloft; I helped with unfurling the sails and pulling on the halyards, buntings and braces. Suddenly we were under full sail! After all these years of waiting this is it! What a wonderful experience, weird whistling through the rigging, a slight roll and pitch and the bow wave rushing by in a stream of luminescence absolute magic. It's dark now and we are sailing north hoping to reach the famous Champagne Beach on North Santo by the morning. I am on watch from 8:00 pm until 12 midnight and hopefully I will get a chance to steer 'Eye of the Wind' by the helm in the dark by compass - and I did! The sails are huge, beautiful - it's all just wonderful.

Continued next page

A Tale of a voyage in the South Pacific 1986 *from previous page*

Friday July 11th 1986.

Today I have had two deck watch duties, one last night 8:00 pm to 12:00 midnight and one this morning, 8:00 am to 12:00 midday. We really did hit foul weather today and the rain squalls hit us hard. So much so that we had to get out our wet weather gear. During my watch up in the bow, the ride was exhilarating and now and again a heavy sea would break right over the bow rail. When I was on the helm I felt like that bloke who advertises sardines on the television, it was exactly the same as the advert! The rain was so hard it poured off the deckhouses and masts in torrents and all of our bins, containers and buckets were put to work. At times the wind on the meter read 35 knots and the job of reefing sails was a very hard indeed. We reckoned the deck was moving at least 8 metres in a pitch and, at the roll, the water washed all over the dipped deck. What an experience. Eventually, after we had close reached for at least an hour, the wind came too close on and we struggled for a long, long while. Eventually we arrived off our destination, the remote island of Tikopia. Covering an area of 5 square kilometres the island is the remnant of an extinct volcano. Its highest point, Mt. Reani, reaches an elevation of 380 metres above sea level. Lake Te Roto covers an old volcanic crater which is 80 metres deep. Unlike the rapidly westernising society of much of the rest of Temotu Province, Tikopia society is little changed from ancient times. Its people take great pride in their customs and see themselves as holding fast to their Polynesian traditions while they regard the Melanesians around them to have lost most of theirs. The island is controlled by four chiefs (*ariki*) Kafika, Tafua, Taumako and Fangarere, with Kafika recognised as the first among equals. Tikopians have a highly developed culture with a strong Polynesian influence, including a complex social structure. The population today (1986) is approximately 1200. The locals helped us anchor which, with the crew, was a difficult task as two of our senior crew launched the inflatable in the high seas to set up marker lights to enable us to anchor more easily at the best spot.

Saturday 12th July 1986.

At 10:00 am we set off for the shore and we were immediately soaked to the skin with the rain. It ceased abruptly when we reached the coral sandy beach and that is where an experience of a lifetime began. We are on a very remote Polynesian island and we were welcomed by dozens of cheering children. About 6 or 7 of them attached themselves to each of us. I had as companions some 11 or 12 year old boys - Alan, Manual, two Johns and Colin. They unashamedly held me by the hand and led me off to get dry and to see their village. Everywhere people welcomed us with smiles and waves. Then they found out that I could sing and make noises so the rest of the morning we sang songs. They harmonise quite naturally, and their enthusiasm is unending. What a choir we had! By now we had about 30 in our party and after visiting the new hospital (provided with Aussie cyclone aid) and various houses and characters, we ended up on the beach singing our hearts out. Lunch was on the ship and afterwards I was met again with each child hanging on to my every word. The hospitality was quite overwhelming and, frankly, physically exhausting. We met an older man called John who invited me into his house; he spoke English very well. We sat on rush mats on the floor. He showed me the short javelin that the men will throw in the competition tomorrow with the other villages. Up till now we had seen very little of the women folk. My guess is that the younger girls have been locked away! The older women appeared to take part in only manual labour around the village. The skipper, Tiger Timbs, had invited the chief for dinner on the ship and he arrived with his sons and lesser chiefs, about ten of them altogether. After dinner they sang and danced for us and we sang and danced for them! Their swaying dance involved us all and seemed to go on for ever. The chief was about sixty years old and, as with all the males, he was heavily tattooed, and his teeth were stained black from chewing beetle nut. He was the only one with woolly hair and this was crinkly and grey. He wore just a sarong - perfect for the humid weather. They brought us leaves from exotic smelling plants which we had to wear behind our ears. They also brought us food! A desert in half a coconut consisting of coconut cream - very thick and sweet, with bits of pawpaw added. The chief speaking via his son, thanked us and gave us his love and blessing many times during the evening. I replied on behalf of us all because the skipper was on deck bothered with the squalls which were tending to drag our anchor. We have a difficult anchorage with reefs either side of us. The get together finished at 12:30 am and we sank exhausted into our beds. What a fantastic day.

Sunday 13th July 1986.

The same children were waiting for us again as we landed, singing their little hearts out in beautiful harmony. We called in at one of the eight churches, the Anglican church of St. Luke's. We were told there will be a choir practice a little later on. This was also the first time I had seen anything of the women folk or any young ladies. I have to add that the women wear nothing to cover their breasts but insist on wearing long skirts and that rule for long skirts applied to our female crew members and older passengers too. As we approached the church each of us had at least eight attendant children all vying for a hand to hold and all the younger girls there - bare above the waist - scattered quickly and returned later wearing an assortment of old and worn bras and colourful sarongs. They are extremely shy and stare at you over a raised piece of material they hold in their hand. The choir practice was indeed gorgeous. We all came into the church, took off our shoes and sat down on the matting floor. The choir was learning their new hymns in standard tonic sol-fa taught by the preacher Andrew. There were no accompanying instruments, the hymns were pitched by one singer and away they went in perfect harmony. The words were in their own island language, the tunes were the well known hymns from the world wide Anglican Ancient and Modern hymn book. After lunch we returned to watch the spear throwing contest. *Continued next page*

A Tale of a voyage in the South Pacific 1986 *from previous page*

The wooden spear javelin they used was only one metre long and about 12mm diameter. The inter-village event took place down a "runway", a swept lane about 10m wide and 200m long. The spear was thrown so that it slid or skimmed along the ground and not in the air at all. The home team won with the longest skid and we made our way to the chief's house to say our goodbyes. We were joined by Tiger Timbs, our skipper, as he was our leader and number one in their eyes. We took off our shoes and entered by a very low door just under a metre high. Inside we drank coconut milk from the nut and shared and gave out presents. Patterson, the chief's son gave me a necklace, a symbolic fishhook - this shape is everywhere especially with their tattoos. I gave him a green necklace for his wife Rose and the chief gave our skipper a carving set and then it was time for us to go. Our presents from the children were; from little Manual, a coconut, from Alan a bunch of bananas. We went out from this stone and rush house backwards as a sign of respect and made our way to the beach; the singing was now non stop. We had to wade out across the coral to the inflatable and I was helped into the skimmer by young John and Samson. I kissed all of my kids goodbye; goodbye to the singing, happy, beautiful children and they gave me a loving hug in return. We also said goodbye to Tikopia, a lost world of kindness, simplicity and love. At 5:00 pm we set sail for the Santa Cruz islands, again a 30 hour trip. After dinner we tasted the food given to us by the chief; Lap Lap pudding and Carowa wrapped in a coconut leaf basket. I am on deck watch today on a rolling ship ready for tomorrow.

Thursday 15th July 1986.

We had a fine sail to Tinakula which is really just an uninhabited active volcano. We approached (from the seaward side) at about 5:00 pm from the south; the vegetation was lush and green, and the height of the volcano is 800 metres. As we passed to the north east, we saw the magnificent and rare sight of an active volcano. We had our dinner on our laps on the poop deck and watched until darkness the exploding white hot rocks cascading down the mountainside in a fusillade of luminous splinters only to hit the sea with geysers of steam and foam sprouting many, many metres into the air. Eventually we really had to leave and we are now on the last leg of our sail to Santa Ana. It's another 35 hour sea trip so I will spend my birthday tomorrow sailing the Pacific ocean.

Thursday 24th July 1986.

This afternoon we set off again and had an interesting sail down the Ntebo Channel. It was a very difficult job and full marks to Tiger Timbs, the skipper. At times the channel was less than 100 metres wide through mangrove trees and we sailed past villages so close that we could actually see expressions on the inhabitant's faces. Halfway down we moored at the "Water Pipe". This is a 75mm diameter steel pipe which descends the sheer cliff and discharges crystal clear fresh water into the sea. Any vessel can simply connect a fire hose to it and have a free, instant supply of fresh water so, tonight we can shower for as long as we like and wash our clothes in clean wash water instead of sea water. It was exactly here that John F. Kennedy used to provision and water his patrol boat in WW2. He went on to be a US naval hero for his bravery in swimming long distances to get food and water for his ailing crew members and returning in a native canoe. It was very still outside tonight, and we all entertained each other. I sang 'Old Man River', The 'Toreador's song' from Carmen and 'The Cornish Floral Dance' - my (bygone) era songs of course!

Friday 25th July 1986.

Later in the morning we moved further down the Sound to Tokyo Bay at Gavunti Harbour. Seven of us took out the inflatable to visit some wartime wrecks still to be seen off the shore where they had been sunk or dumped all those years ago. We took quite a while to get there, at least an hour, and the first wreck was a huge US landing craft used for conveying tanks or heavy artillery. We went aboard the vessel and found it was badly rotting but it was quite an experience to think one is actually standing on the deck of this wartime vessel. We moved off and twenty minutes later we arrived at the wreck of a Japanese destroyer, long and thin, full of history. I remember these fast night time raiders from my boyhood recollections of the war. It is in a high state of decomposition but is indeed still recognisable, in particular the boiler plant - large even by today's standards. The ship must have had a tremendous advantage over the Americans in the early stages of the war. We saw hundreds of natural oysters growing on the sides of the vessel; we ate a fair few of them then and there, they were magnificent. An hour ride back to Eye of the Wind in the inflatable and off on another scuba dive. This time our maximum depth was just 10 meters and apart from indescribable coral formations and myriads of tropical fish we looked at a sunken landing craft barge again from WW2, festooned with shellfish, coral and such like. We also saw some beautiful starfish; brilliant blue, and other vivid colours with patterns of spots. They looked like star cakes with chocolate drops!

And the final paragraph - my last day.

As we took off (from Honiara airport) in a tight turning climb to clear the mountains, I had a final glimpse, and a last glimpse, of my tall-ship friend, 'Eye of the Wind'. She has fulfilled my every ambition and dream. I wonder if I will ever sail in her again? Bon voyage 'Eye of the Wind'.

On March 26th 1988 I sailed on 'Eye of the Wind' yet again as a crew member, during her trip around Australia to celebrate the bicentenary anniversary of Arthur Phillip's First Fleet arrival in Australia on the 18th and 20th of January 1788.

*I must go down to the seas again
To the lonely seas and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship
And a star to steer her by.*

*I must go down to the seas again
To the lonely seas and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship
And a star to steer her by.*

Sea Fever by John Masefield

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Stockdale & Leggo Koo Wee Rup
48 Station St, Koo wee Rup VIC 3981
P 03 5997 1899

Stockdale & Leggo Phillip Island
45 Thompson Ave, Cowes VIC 3922
P 03 5922 9300

Stockdale & Leggo Hastings
69 High St, Hastings VIC 3915
P 03 5979 4177

W stockdaleleggo.com.au/kooweerup W stockdaleleggo.com.au/phillipisland W stockdaleleggo.com.au/hastings

Hello to our Koo Wee Rup Community!

Can you believe that it is April already? Our Easter Event is on Saturday 3rd April 2021 and we cannot wait to see you all! We love putting on these events for all our families in our community. There will be a sausage sizzle, drinks, games, jumping castles, craft table for the kids and of course: THE EASTER EGG HUNT! **This will be a COVID-SAFE Event and all our attendees will need to register to access the activities for contact tracing purposes.**

Our programs have been a big hit this term and we are meeting new faces each week. All our programs have paused for the school holidays and we will be back on the week of 19th April 2021. We are looking forward to seeing what Term 2 brings 😊

If you are thinking about getting involved and would like more information, please contact our church office. We are happy to help you find a group that suits your interests.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10.30am Church Service 1pm – Fortnightly Eden Young Adults 6pm – Fortnightly Church Service		10.30am – Chat & Chew		10.30am – Know Your Bible Study 7pm – Connect Group	10.30am – Koo Wee Rup Connect 6pm – Koo Wee 4 Kids 6pm – BRAVE Youth 7pm – Online Connect Group

Church Office

Opening hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

9.30am – 3pm

116 Denhams Road, Koo Wee Rup

03 5997 2217

kooweerup@turningpoint.asn.au

Please note: We will be closed over the school holidays and will reopen on Monday, 19th April 2021.

Church Services

335 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup

Every Sunday morning 10.30am

Fortnightly Sunday evenings 6pm

Church Services will continue to run through the school holidays.

BAYLES FAUNA PARK

Working Bee

Sunday, 11 April, 9am start

followed by a BBQ lunch

Committee Meeting

Sunday, 11 April

immediately after working bee

Please bring own bottled water, wear long pants and

closed in shoes

All welcome



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Koo Wee Rup Easter Egg Hunt



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What was that siren?

March 2021

It was the Koo Wee Rup Fire Brigade back up siren to alert all the volunteers to attend the station for a turn out call. It's also used to let the local community know we are about to be out and about on a call.

Our calls since the last report were:

- 24/2/21 – Motor Vehicle Collision – South Gippsland Hwy Koo Wee Rup
- 1/3/21 – Oil on road – Manks Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 8/3/21 - Motor Vehicle Collision – South Gippsland Hwy Koo Wee Rup
- 9/3/21 – Automatic Fire Alarm – Rossiter Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 13/3/21 – Compost fire – Station St Lang Lang
- 15/3/21 – Alarm Operating – Station St Koo Wee Rup



Register Your Burn-Off

The Fire Danger Period has now ended. Before you carry out your planned burn, make sure you check and follow local regulations or laws set down by your local council.

Please also give us a call to register your burn so we don't have to drop everything and check out your burn-off for no reason.

Go online <https://firepermits.vic.gov.au> or phone 1800 668 511 to register your burn.

Contact Us

You can contact Koo Wee Rup Fire Brigade for **non-emergency** enquiries via facebook @KooWeeRupFireBrigade



Some better news from the Community Advisory Committee

My first task before I start telling you about the latest happenings around the Community Advisory Committee's work is to apologise for some incorrect information I gave to you in the March '21 edition of Blackfish. I wrote: *'A discussion then took place about the new Welcome Booklet; a booklet welcoming new residents to Koo-Wee-Rup and Cardinia Shire.'* This misinformation created a flurry of calls to me pointing out that the Welcome Booklet was not for KWR and Cardinia Shire residents but it is for new residents of our Killara Hostel. My profound apologies to all for this rare slip-up.

Now some news for you. The 'Forget-me-not Café is starting up again now that Covid-19 restrictions have been eased somewhat. The Café aims to bring together people living with dementia with their loved ones and families. They all get together for a cuppa and cake, rediscover memories and create new ones. These face to face meetings in such a warm and friendly atmosphere does wonders for these dear folk who suffer from this sad malady. This month, on the 21st of April, the staff will be getting together with the KRHS art group to organise an art display for the attendees at the Forget-me-not Café. Remember all are welcome. Just contact Aileen Thoms on 5997 9679 for details.

With the new Covid-19 rules relaxed somewhat, our staff who have been working remotely will be back on site from the beginning of April '21 and although visitors will be allowed into Killara Hostel, our wonderful volunteers cannot come back just yet. In addition KRHS will be commencing Physio and Occupational Therapy classes soon and are very keen to offer these classes to people under 65 years old. Again call Aileen Thoms for details.

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 is to provide the KRHS with feedback and advice to improve and strengthen their services, their information, their forward planning, and the future policy development of the KHRS. 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.

The Community Advisory Committee will listen closely to these consumers 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.

If you have a suggestion or some nagging thoughts about your difficulties, or your dependant's comforts or problems with any aspect of the KHRS, 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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- Men's health
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- Mental health plans
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To see one of our GP's or Health Professionals, please call ahead to make an appointment. We do accept walk-ins although you may have to wait.

HOURS

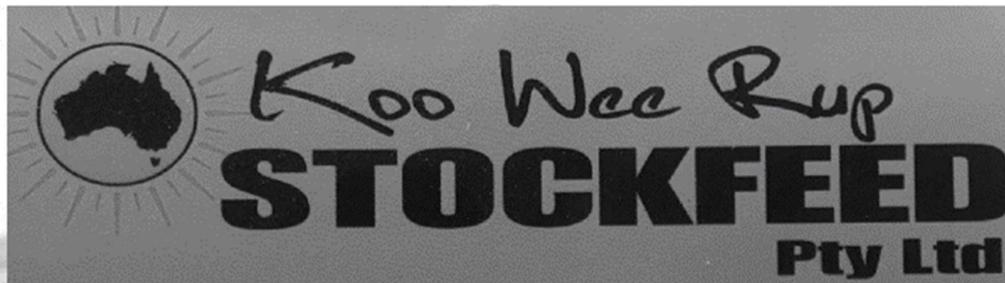
Monday to Friday
8.30am to 6pm
Saturday - 9.30am to 4pm
Closed public holidays
Same day appointments usually available

CONTACT

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New Products in Store:

Bogs Winter Gumboots: Bogs' new season winter gumboots are in stock! We have a wide range of styles and sizes available for men, women and children.

Bogs Workboots: We have a full range of work boots including steel- and composite-toe boots to keep your feet warm and dry this winter.

Nikwax Range: Nikwax provide a range of waterproofing products for almost every need, ensuring that your horse rugs, your work boots and your raincoats are fully sealed against the rain. They also provide cleaning agents for all of the above.

April Specials:

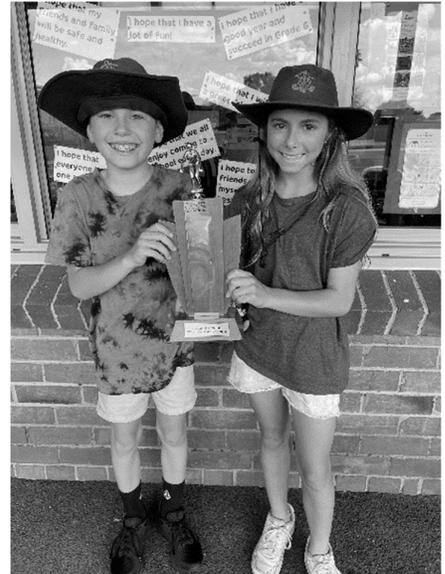
- Prydes Easi-Sport 20kg **\$39.90**
- Prydes Easi Result 20kg **\$33.75**
- Hygain Allrounder 20kg **\$17.95**
- Johnsons Every Horse Weight Gain 20kg **\$23.50**
- Johnson's Platinum Low GI 20kg **\$25.00**
- KER Equi Jewel 20kg **\$55.00**
- Equivac 2in1 **\$38.50** or buy 20 @ **\$35.90ea**
- Advance Adult All Breed 15kg **\$75.00**
- Stockman & Paddock 2x2 Dog Biscuits **\$38.00**
- Chum 12 x 700g **\$21.50**
- Cobber Dog Food (Excluding Puppy) 20kg **\$44.00**

St John the Baptist Primary School



Throughout the term during the season of Lent, the children focused on the charitable works of the Caritas Australia. As part of this focus and lead by our Social Justice Student Leaders, a fundraising project ran across the school. The theme being **“Be More”** Children were encouraged to help raise money for Caritas. This money will go a long way to helping those less fortunate. Our term ended with a wonderful Easter Play, performed by our Grade 5/6 students.

Our annual St John’s Swimming Sports were held at the Koo Wee Rup Pool on Friday 12th March, for students from Grades One to Six. It was a very enjoyable day and great to see many parents come along to show their support. Congratulations to all students who competed hard in their events and especially to Mackillop (Blue) House for winning the 2021 trophy.



Foundation Open Morning

We held our Foundation/Prep Open Morning for all prospective students and their parents on 23rd March. Our school leaders took families on tours of the school informing them of the facilities and programs we offer.

If you were unable to make it on that day and are interested in enrolling your child/ren at St Johns, guided tours are available with our Principal, Mr Christopher Dortmans. Please contact us on (03) 5997 1653 to arrange an appointment.

Official Launch of the Skin Check & Awareness Unit



Koo Wee Rup & District Lions are proud to announce the official launch of the Lions V Districts Cancer Foundation’s Skin Check & Awareness Unit, which took place today, Wednesday March 10, at Government House, Melbourne.

The Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria, did the honours, after acknowledging the work of Lions and, specifically the work of the Foundation and all of its supporters.

Foundation Chair, Bruce Hudgson, outlined the very valid reasons for the project and thanked the Board of Trustees and all of the supporters of the project, and acknowledged the support of key mentors and advisors.

After cutting the ribbon to make the launch

official, Her Excellency Ms Dessau was presented with a Melvin Jones Fellowship in recognition of her support and encouragement for the Foundation and for the Lions organisation.

This marks the start of what will be a long term life saving project.





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Free Online Webinar

Wednesday 28th April 2021

5.30 to 6.30pm

We will cover common scams that are impacting everyday people and the community and how to protect yourself and educate others on how NOT to fall victim to these common scams

**Call the branch on 03 5997 2266 to
reserve your spot**





1st Koo Wee Rup Scout Group

1 Mickle St, Koo Wee Rup VIC 3981

Joey Scouts – 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

Joey Scouts have been learning about Autumn. They have created bird feeders with icy pole sticks and Autumn bottles. They have had a great time playing with and making some sensory items.

Cub Scouts joined with 1st Lang Lang Cubs and 1st Bunyip Cubs to have Mini Olympics for three weeks. They had a great time with soccer, netball, swimming, diving, cross country, relays and 100m sprint. Cub Scouts are busily preparing to have a great week at Cuboree in the second week of School holidays.

Scouts had a camp at Inverloch and spent a lot of their time at the beach. They got to decide on their own meals and do their own shopping, learning how to budget their money and shop for more people. The Scouts are getting prepared for Corroboree a 4-night camp over the Easter weekend.



Venturers have been busy this month with a mystery bus tour taking them to Mt Donna Buang and Kurth Kiln. They have given snorkelling a try and been hiking at Mount Worth.

Rovers have had a meeting and made more plans. They have had some social nights with pizza and Mario Kart as well as board games. They also did a night on self-care with face masks, manicures and learning about meditation.

"The open-air is the real objective of Scouting and the key to its success."

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?

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



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We're here to help.

If you have any questions about State Government or community matters, my team and I are here to help you.

For the latest Covid-19 updates:
www.dhhs.vic.gov.au
1800 675 398

T 03 5672 4755

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

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

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Koo Wee Rup Bowls Club

Hosting Somerville in Tuesday Div. 3 we scored an important win 62-51 with 2 rinks having wins. Bryan Walker, Gerry Fuller, Joy Jenkins & Julie Walker lead all game to record a 24-11 win. The reliable rink of Charles Harris, Jill Roissetter, Betty King & Joy Herbert battled hard losing 15-26. Pauline Gray, Jim Jenkins, Mary Masters & Lois Mahomed had a good final 4 ends to win 23-14. A Rd. 10 game against top team Belvedere had a final score of 33-45 for Tuesday Div. 7 side. Down 12-1 {5 ends} Margaret Royle, Iain Caig, Peter Stevens & Ken Hammond did well to lose 19-24. Our other rink of Fay Halligan, George Crynes, Noel Speight & Helen Ralph were comfortably beaten 14-21. We had 2 close games in Rd. 11 with Div. 3 losing to Rosebud CC 68-61 & Div. 7 losing to Balnarring 41-43. A close battle for Pauline Gray, Jim Jenkins, Mary Masters & Helen Ralph losing 19-23. A solid performance from Bryan Walker, Gerry Fuller, Joy Jenkins & Julie Walker winning 27-19. A poor 2nd half saw a 15-26 defeat for Charles Harris, Jill Roissetter, Betty King & Joy Herbert. In Div. 7 despite losing 4 shots on the final end Margaret Royle, Pat Carlin, Peter Stevens & Frank Grant held on to win 19-16. Even with 2 ends to play Fay Halligan, Noel Speight, David Talbot & George Crynes lost 22-27. Rd. 12 results were Div. 3 defeated by Mt. Eliza 58-72. Pauline Gray, Jim Jenkins, Mary Masters & Noel Speight had a steady 24-15 win. The past couple of weeks have seen Charles Harris, Jill Roissetter, Betty King & Joy Herbert struggle and were beaten 18-31. Bringing in the big gun did not help Brett Condran, Gerry Fuller, Joy Jenkins & Helen Ralph losing 16-26. Div. 7 lost to Karingal 40-59. A good run from the 14th end resulted in a 26-21 win for Margaret Royle, Pat Carlin, David Talbot & Ken Hammond. A tough game for Fay Halligan, Iain Caig, Margo Dillon & George Crynes well beaten 14-38. The penultimate round of Pennant was played with some members filling in to replace our team playing in Bendigo Country Week. Div. 3 had a big 91-37 win against Rye to sneak into 4th place while Div. 7 won 46-35 against Dromana to mathematically remain a chance for finals. Div. 7 had both rinks win for a change with Margaret Royle, Pat Carlin, Peter Stevens & David Talbot winning 25-19. A 21-16 win for Fay Halligan, George Crynes, Margo Dillon & Frank Grant.

Saturday Pennant Div. 3 "bounced back" in a game of importance to both Clubs defeating Blue Hills 72-58. Always tough opponents with only 1 shot difference at the halfway mark, we slowly drew away for the win. A drawn game with us scoring 2 shots on the final end was the result for Bryan Walker, Pauline Gray, Gerry Fuller & Julie Walker 22-22. Getting 6 shots on the 2nd last end secured a 26-18 win for Arthur Giaccotto, Brett Condran, Charles Harris & Jim Jenkins. After a lean couple of games Trevor Kitchin, Peter Butera, Rob Matthews & Tim Katz scored a 24-18 win. Div. 6 had another game against Somerville and lost 35-51 but remained in 3rd place. Losing 6 shots [18th end] did not help Betty King, Steve Haines, Peter Stevens & Wendy Pownall going down narrowly 22-24. A 13-27 loss for Margaret Royle, Iain Caig, Frank Grant & Daniel Price scoring only 1 shot over the 2nd half of the game. Rd. 12 and a disappointing result for Div. 3 at windy Belvedere drawing 56-56. With the scores level on 5 occasions during the game the end score of 19-19 was probably fitting for Bryan Walker, Pauline Gray, Gerry Fuller & Julie Walker. Unable to handle the crosswind Trevor Kitchin, Peter Butera, Rob Matthews & Tim Katz only won 1 end of the last 8 losing 14-22. A handy run scoring 12 shots over 6 ends ended with their score being 23-15 but it was the final bowl of the afternoon by Arthur that secured the overall draw. Div. 6 had a narrow 42-37 win against Yamala Park. Not scoring for the last 5 ends while their opponents scored 10 shots was the downfall for Margaret Royle, Mary Masters, Wendy Pownall & Ken Hammond beaten 15-21.

Another steady performance from Betty King, Steve Haines, Peter Stevens & Iain Caig after a good start went on to win 27-16. Somehow we managed to get both Div. 3 & Div. 6 games played while the rest of the MPBR games were washed out. Both teams played Mornington Civic with Div. 3 winning 58-40 to replace Civic on top of the ladder. The game was shortened due to the weather conditions, but sufficient ends played to declare a result. Bryan Walker, Pauline Gray, Gerry Fuller & Julie Walker scored a 22-15 win. Level with 1 end to play Arthur Giaccotto, Brett Condran, Charles Harris & Jim Jenkins lost 15-16. A 21-9 win for Trevor Kitchin, Peter Butera, Rob Matthews & Tim Katz for a good win. As in Div. 3 the top 2 teams in Div. 6 played each other and the dominant team for the season in Civic won 23-39 also in a shortened game. Div. 6 remained in 2nd place after the loss with 1 round to be played.

We managed 2 games of Triples without interruption on 5th March with the Winning rink being Vince Bevilacqua, Ned Courtin & Ken Clifton [Pakenham] with 40 pts. Close behind in 2nd place was Tom Cleary, Graeme Burton & Les Pumphrey [Garfield] with 39 pts. Best 1st game went to John Williams, Neville & Kevin Kitchin [Lang Lang] & best 2nd game to John Van Vugt, Graeme Wilde & Simon Koning [Cardinia Waters] on 20 pts. Results from 19th March saw winning team with 39 pts. being Mick Knight [Cardinia Waters], Ian Alkemade [Lang Lang] & Gunter Baumbach [Garfield]. Runner team was Vince Bevilacqua, Ken Clifton & Luis Aquilar [Pakenham] on 37 pts. Best 1st game was won by John Williams, Neville & Kevin Kitchin [Lang Lang] with 19 pts. and best 2nd game was won by Noel Speight, Joe Barlow & Charles Poulsen [KWR] on 18 pts.

The Club will conduct our 2021-22 Annual General meeting on Sunday 2nd May 2021 commencing at 2.00 p.m. after the presentation of trophies at 1.30 p.m. If you may be interested in having a look at the Club or contemplating joining you are most welcome to attend.

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Much better news from the Men's Shed

At the recent annual general meeting of the Men's Shed members, a new working committee was elected. The executive officers are: -

President: George Fittock.
 Vice-president: Alan Mackenzie.
 Treasurer: John Farmer.
 Secretary: Brian Harlow.
 Committee members: Bill Barnes, Alf Bradsher, Barry Lynch, Ron Payne and Keith Taylor.

A special vote of thanks was given to the Men's Shed retiring president, Bernie Sheldon. A sincere thank you was given to him for all the wonderful work that Bernie has done over his three years in the president's shoes. Nothing was ever too much for him and his leadership and organising skills inspired us all. Thank you indeed Bernie.

With the easing of the Covid-19 rules, activities at the Men's Shed are almost back to normal and the members now look forward to a regular and consistent coming year. We have four new active members and we know that they will bring more skills and life to the running of the Shed and the accompanying workshops.

The community garden is still thriving and, contrary to circulating rumours, vegetables are still available for sale, namely tomatoes, pumpkins and potatoes. There are also plenty of eggs available. Just come into the Men's Shed and John Farmer will look after you. However, It will be at least two months before our winter planting crops are harvested so we will let you know when these new fresh vegetables are available.

We also have another announcement to make. From now on, every Friday, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, you are invited to join us for a light lunch - homemade style - with a social get-together. Remember, this invitation is open to everyone - ladies and gentlemen. We have shown our menu here for you to consider.

For those of you who are new to the town, 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 committee 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 there is always a genuine open invitation to come along, meet us and enjoy the company of real good mates and maybe get a boost to your own health and well-being at the same time. Come on, call in, try us.

The following story is really true!

My grand-daughter asked me for a pet spider for her birthday, so I went to our local pet shop and they were \$70!!! So I thought ... I can get one cheaper off the web.
 Geoff Stokes.

Men's Shed Coffee, Cakes & Lunch

Every Friday from 11.00am to 2.00pm

\$4.00 Pies:
 Steak and onion
 Curry



\$1.00 Sausage Rolls

\$4.00 Pasties

\$1.00 Egg & Bacon Quiche



\$2.00 Soup:
 Vegetable

Curry

\$1.00 Pumpkin Scones

\$2.00 Coffee or Can



Koo Wee Rup and District Lions

Guest Speaker - District Governor



On Wednesday 3rd of March 2021 at our dinner meeting at the RSL clubrooms, Zone Chairman Ron Payne introduced the District Governor Graham Cockerill who spoke of the message from the International President. Graham also explained the meaning of pictures on his bannerette.

Graham presented, on behalf of the late June Wright OAM, Betty Leemon with a ten-year certificate and pin.

Geoff Gee was presented with a Childhood Cancer Research Foundation Bronze Award and Geoff's 46 year membership & attendance pin

Graham also presented Peter Martin with a Treasurer's medal.

DG Graham was thanked for his attendance and presentations by President Rex Sanders who exchanged bannerettes with the DG.



Need for Feed Disaster Relief

Lions have been supporting our farmers and rural communities in times of need since 2006. 100% of all donations go to assist those affected.

The most recent delivery saw the first trucks leaving southern Victoria on 24th March 2021 bound for Mid North Coast NSW floods. They were then meeting up with more from northern Victoria in the afternoon and southern New South later in the day and then on to the flood area on the 25th March. More will be going next week.

To donate to help keep them rolling <https://www.needforfeed.org/donate.html>



Koo Wee Rup and District Lions St Patrick's Day Meeting



At our regular meeting on Wednesday 17th March, we had members from the Tooradin Lions club attend our meeting.

President Ian Shiell, Secretary Sandra Hollard and member Trevor Hollard attended our meeting to watch how we conduct our meetings.

Also attending the meeting was Leonie Smith who is interested in joining the club. I hope we passed the test and that you will join us.

President Rex presented Jacqui Armstrong with a Gold Centennial Award for sponsorship of a Lion who remained a Lions for more than two years.

Tail Twister Shirelle Lean did a fantastic job with her St Patricks Day theme

Treasure Hunt and competitions. Well done Shirelle for another fun event and all the shenanigans.

Ron Payne won a bottle of green beer which matched his shirt. Delicious!!!!

Olwyn Portbury won a prize for being the best dressed.

President Rex Sanders won the Scavenger Hunt and he shared the chocolate coins with all the members and visitors.





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Koo Wee Rup Community Centre

247 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup

The Community Centre is used by a wide range of groups to bring people together and foster a positive community spirit in our local area.

From birthday parties to weddings, conferences to community seminars, the Community Centre caters for many different events in its three function rooms.

The centre is fully equipped with 250 padded seats, 25 tables that each seats 10 guests, a portable stage, kitchen facilities and crockery – so you have everything you need to ensure your function runs smoothly.

MAIN FUNCTION ROOM

Cocktails, conferences and seminars – 250 seat capacity

Banquets, weddings, and birthday parties (must be 21 or over) – 200 seat capacity

SWAMP ROOM 25 seat capacity

TOWER ROOM 10 seat capacity

Enquiries to kwrhall@gmail.com or 5997 2001

**Bookings subject to Committee approval*

Heart Foundation Walking Evening Group :

With the end of daylight saving, we enter the winter recess for the Heart Foundation Evening Walkers as it's getting darker. But there are still daytime groups at 9am Mondays and Thursdays from the Rossiter Rd Clock Tower and bus interchange, if you can get away in the mornings. We finished the six months of Heart Foundation Walking with a social dinner on Thursday 25th March and have averaged 7 to 9 regular walkers all season. Even with social distancing, and at times face masks, the group was committed to walking as a group during our COVID recovery period. Hopefully everyone can continue to walk informally until the next season of daylight saving allows us to restart in October.

Marlene Dalziel (Walk Leader)
0429 814 410



Mat Pilates @ Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service (KRHS)

Some are still reluctant to return to group exercise since COVID due to hygiene concerns. Our mat Pilates classes in the community room at KRHS practice good hygiene required by both the health service and the broader fitness community for COVID recovery. We recommenced early December and continued over most of January and are now fully operational again. I'm a fully qualified fitness instructor and mat Pilates teacher. The benefits of improving your balance, core strength and fitness are well known, but Pilates allows you to work at your own pace and there are always progressions for exercises as well as modified versions. So don't be concerned about overdoing it. We "listen to our bodies" telling us what we can and can't do. The first class is FREE, so you have nothing to lose. We have classes on Mondays at 6 pm and Saturdays at 9 am in the community room at KRHS. Use the entrance next to the community garden.

Term Two starts on Monday 19th April. Enquiries to Marlene on 0429 814 410,



Mat Pilates Term 2 2021

Coming out of Covid-19 restrictions lets reengage with exercise at our own pace. Strict hygiene measures are in place. Pilates is suitable for all ages & abilities.

When: 6.00pm Mondays or 9.00am Saturdays.

Where: Hewitt Eco House, Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service, 215 Rossiter Road Koo Wee Rup.

Cost: \$10 casual & concession of \$5 available.



Enquiries to:
Marlene on
0429 814 410

**Commences:
Monday 19th April 2021**



**Rotary Club of Koo Wee Rup-
Lang Lang**
Community

Who can we help?
How can you help us?

For more information
facebook page (Rotary Club of Koo Wee Rup-Lang Lang)
or our website

Email: rckooweeruplanglang@gmail.com
Phone: 0499 101 953

Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service

Ladies Auxiliary

Meets on the first Friday of every month

(April meeting on 9th

because of Good Friday)

9.30am in the RSL building.

New members welcome.

Outlook

community centre

We have a busy Term 2 planned at Outlook Community Centre with something for nearly everyone. Most of our social groups are back on board including our much loved All Together Choir and a new Introduction to Ukulele course for beginners to enjoy a joyous jam with Jennifer. Look out for our complete program online soon at

www.outlookvic.org.au Email us at communitycentre@outlookvic.org.au to receive a digital copy of the Term 2 program and receive updates throughout the term. We hope to see you soon!

HOW TO ENROL IN A PROGRAMME: In Person: 24 Toomuc Valley Road, Pakenham, **Telephone:** 5940 4728,

Online: www.outlookvic.org.au/book-online, **Email:** communitycentre@outlookvic.org.au,

Payment: Credit Card - online, over the phone or in person, Cash, cheque or EFTPOS

Basic Computer Skills for Office Workers

This course is ideal for those that are looking for work or returning and are a bit rusty on those basic computer skills. The basic skills that you will need to be successful in your role will be covered in this course and includes: Outlook, Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

Tuesdays commencing 27 April for 8 sessions, 9.30am - 12.30pm.

Cost \$45 (No class 11 May)

Functional Fitness

Improve balance, agility and muscle strength. Train your body to make it easier and safer to perform everyday activities. Suitable for all ages and abilities. Chair-based and standing. BYO mat and drink bottle. Please bring own hand weights if possible, (free loan weights are available).

Thursdays commencing

22 April for 10 sessions, 10.30am - 11.30am. Cost \$90

(29 April and 6 May sessions to be pre-recorded and shown on the big screen at Outlook)

Introduction to Ukulele

The Ukulele is a very simple instrument to learn - perfect for the lazy potential musician. No need for ability to read music, practice endless scales or devour a heap of theory. A relaxed, happy group where we can sing and strum away, making magical music together. Bring a love of music, a sense of fun and a Ukulele. BYO Ukulele.

Thursdays commencing 29

April for 9 sessions,

1.30pm - 2.30pm. Cost \$35

Women's Friendship Group for Over 60s

Do you enjoy a coffee, a chat and want to make new friends? This group enjoys craft activities, guest speakers and going on excursions. Come along and see if this informal relaxed group is for you.

Tuesdays commencing 20

April for 10 sessions,

10.00am - 12.00pm. Cost \$4 per session

(Some weeks the group is out so prior bookings are essential)

Line Dancing

Dances are taught by walking through the steps and then applying this to music. It is lots of fun. No partner required.

Easy Line Dancing

Mondays commencing 12 April for 10 sessions, 10.00am - 11.30am. Cost \$50 (No class 14 June)

OR

General/ Early Improvers Line Dancing

For more experienced dancers who enjoy improver/easy intermediate level dances.

Fridays commencing 16 April for 11 sessions, 10.00am - 11.30am. Cost \$55

All Together Choir

Do you love singing?

Our inclusive All Together Choir welcomes everyone to join. All you need is a love of singing, Come along and give it a try.

Followed by refreshments.

Thursdays commencing 6 May for 8 sessions, 10.30am - 12.00pm. Cost \$7 per session



Safe Seats Safe Kids

IS YOUR CHILD TRAVELLING SAFELY?

FREE CHILD CAR RESTRAINT FITTINGS & SAFETY CHECKS

Outlook Community Centre invites local parents to book in for a free child car restraint fitting or safety check.

70% of child car restraints are incorrectly installed or used, posing a serious safety risk to children in those restraints. For peace of mind, have a professional fitter check your restraints so you know your child is safe.

2nd and 4th Friday every month 10.00am - 2.00pm. Bookings are essential. Parents and Carers (including Grandparents) can book in a free child care restraint fitting or check by registering via www.safeseatssafekids.com.au/venues-mec/ Please note if you need to have more than one child car restraint fitted/checked, you will need to book multiple appointments.

For more information about the program please visit

www.kidsafevic.com.au/road-safety/free-child-car-restraint-checking-program

These events are hosted by Kidsafe Victoria with Neighbourhood Houses Victoria in partnership with the support of the Victorian State Government.

Council's free waste drop-off events are back for 2021!

Cardinia Shire Council's free waste drop-off events, including green waste drop-off, drumMUSTER and Detox Your Home, are back for 2021.

Green waste drop-off events

Council's green waste drop-off events are a free service accepting residential amounts of green waste including flowers, garden prunings, grass clippings, leaves, tree branches and trunks (up to 30 centimetres wide and 1 metre long), and weeds.

Residents must present photo ID as proof of residence within Cardinia Shire to access the free service.

Waste will only be accepted from residential vehicles and trailers; commercial business operators cannot use this service.

When: Friday 16 - Monday 19 April 2021, 9am to 4pm

Where: Pakenham – Future Recycling Transfer Station. 30-32 Exchange Drive, Pakenham

For more information about Council's green waste drop-off events, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/greenwastedropoff or call Council's Customer Service team on 1300 787 624.

Detox Your Home

Dispose of unwanted household chemicals at Council's FREE Detox Your Home event in Pakenham on Saturday 17 April 2021.

The Detox Your Home service provides Cardinia Shire residents a safe, free and easy-to-use way to dispose of unwanted common, toxic household chemicals without harming your health or the environment.

The collected chemicals are safely sorted and transported to a specialist waste treatment facility. Where possible, chemicals are recycled or used for other purposes such as energy recovery.

The Detox Your Home program is a free service administered by Sustainability Victoria in partnership with local councils and funded by the Victorian landfill levy.

When: Saturday 17 April 2021, 9am – 2pm

Where: Cardinia Operations Depot. 18 Purton Rd, Pakenham

Please note that all residents attending the Detox Your Home event must register at: <https://detoxcardinia2021.eventbrite.com.au>

For more information about Detox Your Home events, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/greenwastedropoff or call Council's Customer Service team on 1300 787 624.

drumMUSTER

Council's free drumMUSTER drop-off event provides commercial and residential community members with disposal opportunities for **eligible**, cleaned agvet chemical containers.

Council's trained staff manage the event and organise for the drums to be collected and recycled afterwards.

When: Saturday 17 April 2021, 9am – 12pm

Where: Cardinia Operations Depot. 18 Purton Rd, Pakenham

For more information about the DrumMUSTER mobile collection, including eligible containers, visit www.drummuster.org.au or call Council's Customer Service team on 1300 787 624.

COVID-19 restrictions

Please note that Council's free green waste drop-off events will be run in line with Victorian Government COVID-19 restrictions. Residents must not attend if they are unwell and must comply with all instructions as directed by staff.

For more information about the current restrictions, visit www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au

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1300 764 773 or info@conveyancingresolutions.com.au

Lang Lang Pavilion and Reserve officially open

Cardinia Shire Council officially opened the Lang Lang Pavilion and Reserve on 11 March.

The major recreation and community precinct is a partnership between the Council, Federal Government and Our Community Company.

Cardinia Shire Council Mayor Councillor Brett Owen officially opened the new precinct with Federal Member for Monash Russell Broadbent MP and representatives from Our Community Company.

“This is an exciting addition for the Lang Lang community and surrounding areas as it provides new facilities for a number of sporting and community groups,” Cr Owen said. “We have the ideal spot here for our community with sporting and community facilities, parks and open spaces.”

The reserve features ovals for football and cricket, and netball courts. The pavilion is equipped with a multipurpose community space, universally accessible change rooms, a gym, kitchen, umpire facilities and storage space. This is a state-of-the-art precinct.

Federal member for Monash Russell Broadbent said he was pleased to attend the official opening event. “I’d like to see this standard of sporting and recreation facility across all of my electorate. This is a wonderful sporting and community precinct,” he said.

Cardinia Shire Council contributed \$5.7 million to the reserve while Our Community Company contributed \$3.3 million. The pavilion was funded through the Australian Government’s Building Better Regions Fund (\$1.5 million) and Cardinia Shire Council (\$3 million).

The Lang Lang Pavilion and Reserve precinct is located at 200 Caldermeade Road in Caldermeade.

For more information about Lang Lang Pavilion and Reserve, visit Council’s website at www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/langlangprecinct



(from left) Federal Member for Monash Russell Broadbent MP, Our Community Company Vice Chairman Gordon Smale, and Cardinia Shire Council Mayor Councillor Brett Owen pictured yesterday at Lang Lang Pavilion and Reserve.

Picture by Cardinia Shire Council

Have your say on plan to develop ‘wildlife corridors’ across Cardinia Shire

Be part of a plan that will save wildlife, increase vegetation, improve waterways and help set environmental priorities for the next decade, through Council’s draft Biolink Plan consultation. A ‘biolink’ is a wildlife corridor that connects pockets of native vegetation so wildlife can move more easily between areas.

The draft plan uses the latest technology in wildlife species computer modelling and aerial vegetation mapping to identify key wildlife areas and potential ‘biolinks’ across Cardinia Shire. The consultation asks residents how they can support native plant and animal habitats on their property. The consultation’s key feature, an interactive map activity, asks residents to drop markers and make comments about how and where they can support wildlife corridors. They can also highlight areas on the map that they think have significant biodiversity value, or areas they think should be reprioritised. The creation of new biolinks will enable us to connect the highly fragmented vegetation across the shire. This in turn will encourage the movement of wildlife, increase the genetic diversity in breeding populations, and ensure the long-term viability of our native animals. The plan will provide a long-term strategic direction for Council’s environmental works over the next ten years. Programs will be better focused to direct resources and investment on the most important conservation areas.

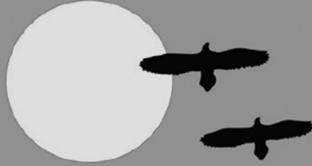
The community are encouraged to look at the plan and consider how they can support native plants and animals on their properties. This could be through a variety of conservation management actions such as weed control, pest animal control, revegetation, and installing nest boxes or fencing to protect native vegetation.

Community safety is paramount, and the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee will be a collaborative partner in the design of all large scale biolinks.

View and interact with the community biolinks maps and have your say at www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/creatingcardinia. The community is also invited to learn more at Council’s online Biolink Workshop on Thursday 15 April from 7.30pm-8.30pm. For more information or to register, visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/creatingcardinia

Feedback is open until Friday 30 April 2021.

For more information on the draft Biolink Plan, phone Council on 1300 787 624 or visit www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/creatingcardinia



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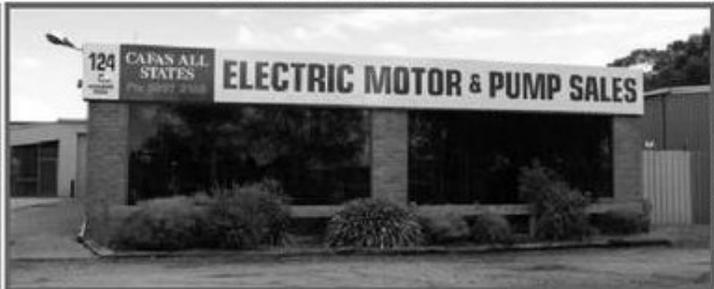
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April 21

Find us on



Forget-Me-Not Café

The Forget-Me-Not Café is an opportunity to make new friends and nurture old ones, share experiences and create new ones in an environment of support and understanding.

Join us at the Forget-Me-Not Café
Hewitt Eco House Community Room
215 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup
Wednesday 21st April 2021
10am - 12pm



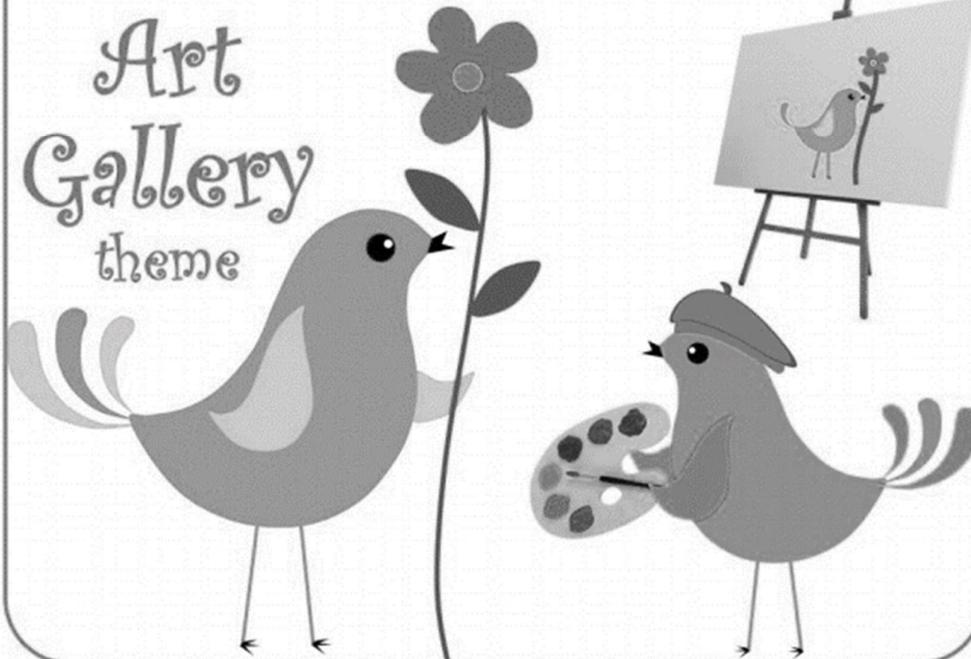
Kooweerup
REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

The Café aims to bring together people living with dementia and their loved ones in Koo Wee Rup, and surrounding areas.

The Café is a nurturing space that offers enrichment, support and understanding, where you can share experiences with others living with the challenges of dementia.

Contact Joanne for more information 5997 9655 Joanne.Cain@krhs.net.au

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Please visit our website for the latest information on KRHS and Covid restrictions

Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society

Annual Luncheon

Guest Speaker is

Claudia Barker, O.A.M

**Director of Music at the
Koo Wee Rup Secondary College
and leader of the College band**



When - Sunday, May 30, 2021 at 12 noon.

**Where - Tooradin & District Sports Club,
Recreation Reserve, Tooradin**

Cost - \$25.00 per head. Drinks at bar prices

**RSVP, including any special dietary requirements, by May 21, 2021
to Heather Arnold - 0407 521 637 harnold@dcsi.net.au**

Koalas at Yannathan

Heather Arnold, Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society

I came across a report in the *South Bourke & Mornington Journal*, June 8, 1887 of a trip from Berwick to Yannathan. This paragraph was of interest - *At Yannathan my business was completed and left me a day to look about the locality. The place swarms with "bears." In nearly every other tree they are to be seen. The name "bear" quite intimidates the "new chum," but no need of fear, for they are truly harmless beasts living on the gum leaves, and I am told are rapidly killing the gum trees as effectually as if they had been "rung."*

Six years later there was another account of koala at Yannathan, this one painting a far bleaker picture of their numbers. This was a letter published in the *Weekly Times* on July 1, 1893 addressed to Uncle Ben, the editor of the children's section.

A Bear - Yannathan.

Dear Uncle Ben,

This is my first letter to you. I am going to tell you a story about a bear. One morning early about three o'clock when my sisters were in bed, they heard something scratching. They thought at first that it was the rats, but soon they knew that it was too loud for them. They looked down towards the window where the noise came from. Seeing a shadow like a man's hand, they got out of bed, went to the window and looked out. Then they saw a bear which had climbed up the wall and was trying to hold onto the window, but could not. Mother, who was in another room, heard them laughing. She asked what was the matter, and they told her, so she got up and went outside, and took the bear off the window and put him on the ground. In the morning when we got up it was in a pear tree in the garden. The bears that are about here are quite harmless. They are very scarce, but when we first came into Yannathan there was a great number.

I remain, your affectionate niece, Sarah Aitken, aged eleven years and eight months.

The cause of the decline in koala numbers in Yannathan can be attributed, mainly, to habitat loss due to the clearing of land for farming. Dr Niel Gunson in his book *The Good Country: Cranbourne Shire* writes that *early settlement in the Yannathan district started on the western boundary in 1875 and by 1878 all the dense forest country had been selected. Clearing at Yannathan began as soon as the settlers could undertake the work, it has been said of this thick bush country (paperbark, tea tree, blackwood, silver wattle, musk tree and clematis) that 'when cleared it proved to be the best land in Gippsland'.*

The koala was also killed for 'sport'. There was a report in the *South Bourke & Mornington Journal*, March 15, 1882 about a fishing and hunting trip to the Bass River district which mentioned *the amount of sport they were going to have! Ducks, swan, hare, native bears, 'possums and fish were to be got without the least exertion.* Given that the koala was also called the 'Australian sloth' it is no wonder that they could be got without the least exertion.

The koala was also a component of the fur trade, not, however, the high-end garment segment of the market. This is part of a report from 1880 - *Another numerous marsupial is the native bear, or Australian sloth, possessing a short matted wool, and a thick pelt unamenable to softening influences. These inoffensive creatures are most tenacious of life, and when they are killed, sorely test the patience of the skinner. The best of the skins are made into carriage rugs, but the majority are only fit for mats (The Argus, December 9 1880)*

In Victoria, koalas gained some protection in December 1898, when they were deemed to be native game and thus protected. This gave them year-round protection, though this was objected to by the Fur Buyers' Association who thought koalas should only have protection for part of the year. As a matter of interest in 1899 the Fur Buyers' Association spokesman, *Mr Coles said that last year on the London market a total of 176,000 skins were offered. New South Wales sent 134,000 and Victoria and Queensland 51,600. This showed that there was not such a slaughter going on here as there was in New South Wales (The Herald July 11, 1899)* The Victorian Government did not alter the year-round protection for koalas and in 1938 strengthened their protection level by including injuring and molesting the animals, as well as destroying them, in the legislation. The koala was not so fortunate in other States as even as late as 1927, Queensland exported over 580,000 koala skins to the United States. The koala is now protected throughout Australia, although still impacted by habitat loss and degradation, and disease.

It is hard to imagine Yannathan was once a place of dense forest and swarming with koalas.

The Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at Mallow house in Rossiter Road, corner of Henry Street. The next meeting is on April 14 at 7.30pm. New members welcome.

The Museum is opening the first and third Sundays of the month from 1.30pm until 4.30pm or by appointment.

Closed Easter Sunday. Heather Arnold harnold@dcsi.net.au 0407 521 637.



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Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Make a Wish in May

Bring your silver coins to the
Koo Wee Rup Community Garden Wishing Well,
any day in May, donate the coins and make a wish!

All proceeds will be matched by the KRHS Ladies Auxiliary
and donated to our Aged Care 'I have a wish' project



Free sausage sizzle, fairies, competitions and fun on
Sunday 16th May from 12.30 till 2.00pm, everyone's welcome.
Community Garden, 235 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup
For more information please call May 5997 1335 or Joyce 5997 1571

KOO WEE COFFEE CLUB



*Catching up with locals to have a coffee and a chat
from 10am onwards on the following days:*

April	7	Royal Hotel
	21	Chandelier Café
May	5	Royal Hotel
	19	Chandelier Café
June	2	Royal Hotel
	16	Chandelier Café
July	7	Royal Hotel
	21	Chandelier Café



Enquiries ph Jo on 0428 557 411



Koo Wee Coffee Club