

# THE KOO WEE RUP BLACKFISH



MARCH 2021



1916

Because not much happened in Koo Wee Rup this month, I thought I would share a picture from 105 years ago.

This picture was taken in 1916 on Station Street looking toward the railway station (near where Woolies is now). From the Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society collection.

The Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society Museum reopens on Sunday, 7 March from 1.30pm to 4.30pm and hopes to be open on the first and third Sunday of the month 1.30-4.30pm.

Caroline Roff, Editor

## Koo Wee Rup Township Committee Meeting

The Township held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, 3 February 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, 3 March at 7:30 pm at the Koo Wee Rup Community Centre.

Cr Ray Brown advised that Council have started working on the budget, it will be impacted by COVID-19.

Cr Brown extended an invitation to the township committee to join a roundtable discussion to address violence in Cardinia Shire. Building a Safer Cardinia has input from Police, Council, other groups and the general community. (Garry Oates volunteered to represent the Township Committee)

Council has established a COVID-19 Community Recovery Committee to address mental health issues, Economic and Jobs recovery and other issues that are affecting the shire because of the pandemic.

Cr Brown reported the following matters:

- The door of the disabled toilet on the corner of Alexander Avenue was vandalised and fell off, has been repaired
- Town clock – the south clock is not working. This will be fixed and other faces checked.
- The tender for the Railway platform works has closed and will be assessed in March with work expected to commence in April.
- Works at the Recreation Reserve are progressing: Footy club rooms to be completed late April, Netball clubrooms should be completed at the end of March, sewage connection being addressed by South East Water, Power has been upgraded and Gas connected.
- Koo Wee Rup Secondary College sports ground upgrade, groundwork is complete and the pavilion is due by June.
- Skate park upgrade – currently working through the design and will be seeking community input, with the scope to be finalised by June this year.

Continued Page 5

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  
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## What's on in Koo Wee Rup and District

### March

|       |      |   |                      |         |
|-------|------|---|----------------------|---------|
| Mon   | 1st  | Pilates (page 25)                                       | Eco House - Hospital | 6pm     |
| Mon   | 1st  | CWA Meeting (page 3)                                    | via Zom              | 7.30pm  |
| Wed   | 3rd  | Township Committee Meeting (page 1)                     | Community Centre     | 7pm     |
| Weds  | 3rd  | Lions Club Meeting (page 21)                            | RSL Clubrooms        | 7.30pm  |
| Thurs | 4th  | Heart Foundation Walking (page 25)                      | Clocktowers          | 7pm     |
| Fri   | 5th  | KRHS Ladies Auxiliary (page 21)                         | RSL Club Rooms       | 9.30am  |
| Fri   | 5th  | Triples   | Bowls Club           | 10.30am |
| Sat   | 6th  | Pilates   | Eco House - Hospital | 9am     |
| Sat   | 6th  | Pennant   | Bowls Club           | 1.00pm  |
| Wed   | 10th | Community Centre Committee Meeting                      | Community Centre     | 7.30pm  |
| Wed   | 10th | KWR Swamp Historical Society Meeting (page 33)          | KWR Museum           | 7.30pm  |
| Thurs | 11th | KRHS Auxiliary Blume Fashion Parade (page 10)           | Masonic Lodge        | 10am    |
| Thurs | 11th | South West Gippsland                                    | Bowls Club           | 11.00am |
| Thurs | 11th | Heart Foundation Walking                                | Clocktowers          | 7pm     |
| Fri   | 12th | Koo Wee 4 Kids (page 7)                                 | turningpoint Church  | 6pm     |
| Fri   | 12th | Brave Youth (page 7)                                    | turningpoint Church  | 6pm     |
| Sat   | 13th | Pilates   | Eco House - Hospital | 9am     |
| Sun   | 14th | Bayles Fauna Park Working Bee & Committee Meeting (p21) | Bayles Fauna Park    | 9am     |
| Mon   | 15th | Pilates   | Eco House - Hospital | 6pm     |
| Mon   | 15th | CWA Craft Night (Make a macrame plant hanger) (page 3)  | Senior Citizens Club | 7.30pm  |
| Tues  | 16th | Pennant   | Bowls Club           | 10.15am |
| Thurs | 18th | Heart Foundation Walking                                | Clocktowers          | 7pm     |
| Fri   | 19th | Triples   | Bowls Club           | 10.30am |
| Fri   | 19th | Koo Wee 4 Kids  | turningpoint Church  | 6pm     |
| Sat   | 20th | Pilates   | Eco House - Hospital | 9am     |
| Sat   | 20th | Pennant   | Bowls Club           | 1.00pm  |
| Mon   | 22nd | Pilates   | Eco House - Hospital | 6pm     |
| Tues  | 23rd | Pennant   | Bowls Club           | 10.15am |
| Thurs | 25th | Heart Foundation Walking                                | Clocktowers          | 7pm     |
| Fri   | 26th | Koo Wee 4 Kids  | turningpoint Church  | 6pm     |
| Fri   | 26th | Brave Youth   | turningpoint Church  | 6pm     |
| Sat   | 27th | Pilates   | Eco House - Hospital | 9am     |
| Sat   | 27th | Pennant   | Bowls Club           | 1.00pm  |
| Mon   | 29th | Pilates   | Eco House - Hospital | 6pm     |

### April

|       |      |   |                          |        |
|-------|------|---|--------------------------|--------|
| Thurs | 1st  | Heart Foundation Walking                          | Cardinia Lakes           | 7pm    |
| Thurs | 1st  | Mass of the Lord's Supper (page 5)                | 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 7)                      | 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  | Township Committee Meeting                        | Community Centre         | 7pm    |
| Weds  | 7th  | Lions Club Meeting                                | RSL Clubrooms            | 7.30pm |
| 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 | CWA Craft Night                                   | Senior Citizens Club     | 7.30pm |
| Fri   | 23rd | Koo Wee 4 Kids & Brave Youth                      | turningpoint Church      | 6pm    |

### 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](mailto:blackfish@live.com.au) post to PO Box 64, KWR or phone 5997 2333

*Caroline Roff, Editor*



## Koo Wee Rup Country Womens Association

### *Valentine's Day Grazing Boxes*

The Koo Wee Rup CWA ladies were busy in February making grazing boxes filled with yummy romantic cakes, cookies and slices especially for Valentine's Day.

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



### **2021 Meetings**

Our next meeting for 2021 will be on 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm. We are still unsure if we will be able to have our meeting at the Senior Citizens hall so we have a backup plan to hold it on ZOOM.

Unfortunately our first Craft Meeting had to be postponed due to the lock down with COVID. It will now be on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm (hopefully at the Senior Citizens hall) and we are planning to have lessons on making a macrame plant hanger. Most of you will remember macrame from the 70's when it was all the rage to have them hanging through the house and garden. Macrame has now come back into fashion with the next generation loving that look. Miranda will have kits made up so we can learn how to make a hanger for your beloved pot plant.

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

## Up to date Community Advisory Committee news

The short, sharp, shock Covid-19 lockdown at the beginning of February was a bit of a wakeup call for everyone but miraculously the committee had already decided to hold a face to face meeting on the 9th of February, and not on Zoom or Skype, just three days before the actual lock down.

At the meeting the chairperson, Geoff Stokes, warmly welcomed the new Koo-Wee-Rup Regional Health Services (KRHS) CEO, Noni Bourke to the meeting, wishing her well for a long and happy future with KRHS. Noni thanked the meeting for their good wishes and gave a short history of her background and her extensive work in public health. Noni also told of her keen interest in all community work and its on-going relevance to good health and well-being.

Aileen Thoms, Primary Health and Innovation Manager, provided an update on the past year 2020; particularly about the challenges of the Covid virus and what it meant to the whole KRHS operation. The committee, at its first time together for many months, shared their own individual experiences and the impact the virus had had on their own personal lives. A discussion then took place about the new Welcome Booklet; a booklet welcoming new residents to Koo-Wee-Rup and Cardinia Shire. The finished product and launch event will be later this year. It was noted with a little sadness that the dementia project officer, Angelique Jaufret, has moved interstate and a new project officer will be recruited. We all wish Angelique well in her new home.

A general report on the project 'Image Cardinia' and an update on 'People in Social Isolation' was given by Geoff Stokes. The latter project is being worked on by the Cardinia Aged Friendly Team on which Geoff Stokes, together with Tina Kendall represent Koo Wee Rup on the team.

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 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.

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 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](mailto:geoffreystokes@geoffstokes.com) Your email will be acknowledged.

*Geoff Stokes*



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

### Questions for Councillor Brown

Swimming Pool: Can the hours that the pool is open be reviewed? Not open for morning laps/exercise, people not attending because hours variable and not sure when it is open, if was regular and longer hours would probably get higher use. Heating is not working and has not been working for up to 12 months. Other maintenance is required – painting, ladders, broken concrete, often leaves and other debris in the pools.

Cr Brown advised that Aligned Leisure has full responsibility for the pools and these matters should be raised with them. Secretary will write to CEO of Aligned Leisure outlining these concerns.

Koo Wee Rup-Longwarry Road between Denhams Road and the Desal pipeline is in shocking condition, drivers are swerving across the road to avoid potholes. (Secretary note: road has been surveyed works to commence at end of February, Cr Brown asked council engineers to review road conditions and contact VicRoads).

Tennis Courts – usage is fairly low, and people don't seem to be aware that they are available for use or how to book them. Cr Brown: There is a need to restart the Tennis Club, and discussions have commenced. Once the club is up and running again "ownership" of the courts can be passed to the Tennis Club.

The president, Caroline Roff, extended her thanks to everyone involved in the organising and running of Australia Day. The event was low key compared to previous years because of COVID-19 restrictions. The speakers in the hall need checking, maybe add speakers in the Swamp Room and foyer.

The Christmas lights completion was again a success this year, the winner was 15 Ruby Avenue. The standard of the decorated houses was very good and the numbers have increased.

The president is representing Koo Wee Rup on the Imagine Cardinia people's panel. Imagine Cardinia provides community input to the shire for future planning. The panel has representatives from across the shire and is looking at issues such as diversity, demographics, open space and recreation, transport and employment.

The Men's Shed is open and still meeting COVID-19 restrictions, and additional restrictions because the Shed is on the grounds of an aged care facility. More information on activities is in the Blackfish.

### Shire Grants Programs

- Australia Day – Committee will apply for Australia Day funding for 2022
- Christmas Decorations – need to investigate the costs of different decorations eg lighting, trees etc. A sub-committee will investigate these options and report back at the next meeting. Committee is Gus Moore, Garry Oates, and refer to community members George F and Rod & Bev E.

Other possible projects that would require additional funding include:

- Signage on the Community Centre and the entrance at Rossiter Road. There are issues with visibility and supplying power to a lighted sign at the entrance but a "blue" sign could be an option on the road near the Police Station for the town side and near the Swimming Pool from the high way side. It may be possible to provide lighting on the gate posts to highlight the entry. Ray will report back at the next meeting.
- CCTV to provide added security in town. Any CCTV coverage needs to cover high use areas and be of a standard usable by police and easily accessible (will not be monitored). The bus interchange and Station St/Rossiter Rd is a good example of a suitable location. Garry Oates will contact PTV/Department of Transport regarding feasibility of this site.

The suitability of the Bus Service for commuters to Pakenham, Dandenong and Melbourne was discussed, and the need to have the Koo Wee Rup bus service included in the Myki system.

### JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

For document signing and associated services contact:

**GARY KING JP - 0438 663 655**

*JP duties are a free community service*

### 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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# turningPoint Koo Wee Rup Church



A big hello to our Koo Wee Rup community from turningPoint Church. We have been blessed to have met lots of new faces through our weekly programs and are excited to meet more of you throughout 2021.

Our food support service continues to run, and we have food delivery available for those who need it. All delivery bookings need to be in by 3pm on Wednesdays.

We have pantry staples, groceries, refrigerated food, frozen food, fresh produce, and baby supplies.

WHEN: Every Friday

TIME: 10am – 2pm

WHERE: 116 Denhams Road, Koo Wee Rup VIC 3981

Our weekly programs are open to everyone and we would love for you to join us. We have programs running for every age group:

- KOO WEE 4 KIDS                      Friday | 6pm-8pm
- BRAVE Youth                         Fortnightly Friday | 6pm-8pm
- CHAT & CHEW                        Tuesday | 10.30am | Older generation Women’s Group
- KNOW YOUR BIBLE                 Thursday | 10.30am | Bible Study Online via ZOOM
- CONNECT GROUP                     Thursday | 7pm | Koo Wee Rup
- CONNECT GROUP                     Friday | 7pm | Online via ZOOM

**To comply with COVID-19 regulations all our events require QR Code scanning or electronic sign in registration for contact tracing purposes.** For more information about our programs please contact our church office, see details below.

### CHURCH SERVICES

Every Sunday Morning                      10.30am

Fortnightly Sunday Night Service        6pm

Not sure what to expect from our church services? Take a look at [www.turningpointkooweerup.org.au/planavisit](http://www.turningpointkooweerup.org.au/planavisit)

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

9.30am – 3pm

116 Denhams Road, Koo Wee Rup VIC 3981

03 5997 2217

[kooweerup@turningpoint.asn.au](mailto:kooweerup@turningpoint.asn.au)

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

[Instagram.com/turningpointkooweerup\\_](https://www.instagram.com/turningpointkooweerup_)

### ANNUAL KOO WEE RUP EASTER EGG HUNT

We are so excited to be running our Easter Egg Hunt this year at Cochrane Park Playground. Bring your families and friends down for a sausage sizzle, entertainment, games, a live show and of course an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids! **To comply with COVID-19 regulations all our events require QR Code scanning or electronic sign in registration for contact tracing purposes.**

TURNINGPOINT KOOWEERUP CHURCH  
INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR THE

# KOO WEE RUP EASTER EGG HUNT

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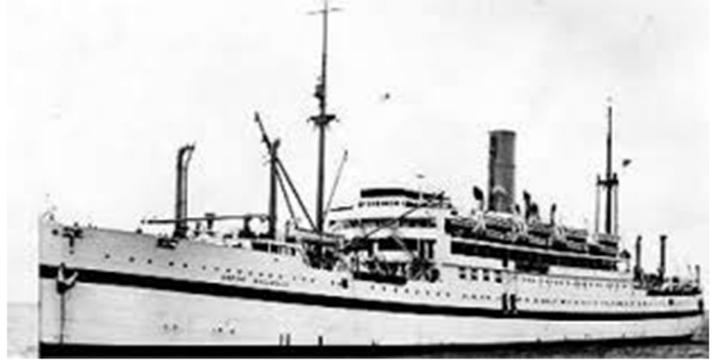
**E. [harcourts.bunyip@nutrien.com.au](mailto:harcourts.bunyip@nutrien.com.au)**



## Six weeks on a troopship - UK to Hong Kong 1953 by Geoffrey Stokes

*Last month we followed Geoff's journey from Southampton to Aden*

Empire Trooper weighed anchor and away we sailed down the Gulf of Aden into the Arabian Sea; the weather was now very hot and it was quite depressing sleeping below decks at night. Some of us were allowed to sleep on the sea deck but this was most uncomfortable. Sleeping on just a blanket laid on bare wooden deck boards was not easy. Not only that, the crew started to wash and clean the decks with their holy stones very early in the morning so not many of us persevered with this for very long. A holystone is a soft and brittle sandstone that was formerly used in the Royal Navy for scrubbing and whitening the wooden decks of ships. We were also having our first experience of not seeing land for days: Empire Trooper was our world as we headed to Colombo on the Indian Ocean island of Ceylon, now called Sri Lanka.



Colombo has a very large artificial harbour surrounded by giant breakwaters to give shelter from the weather to the many vessels calling there. There wasn't any dockside as such for large ships, and I believe that this is still the case. Joining a large number of other ships of varying sizes, we anchored within the breakwaters and then tenders of all descriptions raced to be the first alongside us. As always, the leading tender to get to us was the boat carrying our mail and we all assembled excitedly on deck to go through the ritual of letter distribution, one by one once more. Again I had two or three letters from my dear Olive and a couple more from the family. I can't remember who they were actually from now, but I never lacked news and never had to hope that I would have a letter, I always did. Some other unfortunate lads never received letters at all from anyone, but they were always hoping and I felt so sorry for them. Another thing that really surprised me was the fact that some of the lads could not read. I was often asked to read a particular letter from, say, a mother to a fellow soldier. This was a real eye-opener for me because I didn't realise then that there were actually people about and near me who were illiterate, especially amongst my soldier mates with whom I was spending a considerable part of my day and there were really a lot of them who couldn't read. Later on I was asked to write letters for them to send home.

I had my own problems at this time too. Being a married soldier meant that Olive received a married woman's allowance from the army. It was a pitiful amount, even then, of thirty shillings a week (about AUS\$3.50 in today's money), and it was sent directly to her. My own miserable weekly pay was just a bit less than this and was considerably less than my single army mates' pay. Therefore, I was often short of money and I had to do without a lot of life's luxuries, luxuries that were indulged in freely by my mates. None more so than now, here in Colombo, I was broke, really broke. Bill Furber, my best friend, offered to lend me some money but I knew from the experience of other lads that this action could get you deeper and deeper into debt and was difficult to get free of again: so, I turned him down. With one shilling and sixpence in my pocket I prepared to go ashore and seek the tropical delights of Colombo city. In order to save my mates the embarrassment of having to shout me drinks and, more importantly, food, I decided to go it alone and view the sights by myself. I have to add that my friends protested loudly but I was adamant that that was what I wanted to do. I know they thought of me as weird to do this but, as I was two-and-a-half years older than most of them, they put my perceived eccentricity down to that very fact!

We put ashore in a tender, about fifty of us at a time, a ride of about ten or fifteen minutes and, once at the jetty, I reluctantly left my companions and off I went to seek my own amusement. The city was basically divided into two sections: the European business sector with accompanying shops and stores etc., this area was called 'The Fort' and it was obvious why it was called this. It occupied the site of a former fortified area with the remains of the ancient walls and ruins of old structures still standing. Today's Fort had broad avenues and modern buildings, very much in contrast to the other section, the Asiatic quarter. This area was known as the 'Pettah' with crooked streets and many ramshackle buildings. However, hidden within this area were beautiful Buddhist temples and Muslim mosques. I decided I would explore the Pettah with its wondrous Asian sights and sounds, complete with fragrant aromas of cinnamon, frangipani and the ubiquitous tobacco smoke. I just couldn't believe what I was seeing. There was me, the only European around and dressed in a British army tropical uniform, wandering the back streets completely oblivious to the dangers of what I was doing. However I really enjoyed the experience and, as I do even now, I chatted in broken English to everyone in sight, from rich shop keepers and mini bazaar owners to beggars in the street; this experience to me was simply mind-boggling.

I moved from shop to shop, temple to temple, taking it all in and of course, no amount of pressure could make me buy anything – I hadn't any money to spare! There was one strange event I haven't forgotten. As I was wandering around, and this was for about two or three hours, I saw just one other European person. She was a beautiful, mature lady, fashionably dressed in European clothes, walking along a particular street. She smiled and nodded her head to me and passed by. It seemed quite incongruous to me that she should be here in the middle of this squalor and poverty and Asian ambience because there were no tourists around and few International businesses were operating in Colombo even though it was almost eight years since the war had ended.

*Continued next page*

### Six weeks on a troopship - UK to Hong Kong 1953 *from previous page*

For lunch, I bought some hot, what I know now as, samosas, flaky pastry parcels filled with vegetables and meat all washed down with a small bottle of Coca Cola (We were warned not to drink the local water). I sat on a bench on the sea front: it's called Galle Face Green, and I couldn't help but wonder at the beauty of the green landscape all around me. Perhaps it was the contrast to the sandy coloured deserts alongside the Red Sea and the Suez Canal: everywhere was indeed verdant green; a lush vegetation of palm trees, vividly flowering shrubs and plants that seemed to completely surround me. A bright blue sky above and the sun shining without a cloud in the sky, it was a good feeling. A young Ceylonese man came and sat down beside me and he said he would like to talk to me in English so that he could practice his language skills. Eventually he asked me if I had any cigarettes that I could give him because he had heard that we were issued with free cigarettes. This may have been so during the war but not now and I told him so. I offered him a packet of ten 'Senior Service' cigarettes if he would give me his fresh pineapple he had in his arms. He did so willingly and we both sat on that bench chatting away about our respective families and our mutual hopes while he smoked the cigarettes and I wrestled to get into this fresh, absolutely delicious, pineapple, the like of which I hadn't tasted before, not too easy without tools! Soon it was time for me to get back to the ship but not before he had asked me to visit his home on the way. I declined this offer because it was getting very late.

I made it to the tender in plenty of time and I swapped stories with my mates. None had had such a good time as me, I thought, for nearly all of them had spent the whole day in the bar at The British Serviceman's Club in downtown Colombo. We clambered up the gangway and we made a beeline for the refrigerated water fountain on the sundeck. We guzzled cups and cups of ice-cold fresh water to appease our massive thirst: a touch of dehydration, no doubt. I related the story of my day to one of the friendly crewmen that evening and he was very upset. He said that what I did, touring the Pettah alone, was so dangerous no one would ever dream of doing that. Never do that again he said and I have to admit, that after much thought about it, he was probably right: anything could have happened to me whilst wandering around those narrow crowded backstreets alone.

About this time, we received the news of the death of Joseph Stalin, the Russian revolutionist and dictator. As his name and power were synonymous with our understanding of Russia and our 'enemy', the communists, this news caused much discussion. Not only between ourselves in little groups on the sundeck, but it was also a popular subject at the regular official meetings we had with our officers where we discussed World news and happenings. We dreamed of a complete change of Russian policy that would alleviate the war in Korea and in Malaya. We wondered what Stalin's successor, Nikita Khrushchev would do. Perhaps it was indeed fortunate that we couldn't see into the future.

It was decidedly much hotter as we sailed across the Indian Ocean into the Straits of Malacca. Over two days the scenery from both sides of the ship, Sumatra on our starboard side and Malaya on our port side, gradually came into focus as the Straits narrowed. It was overwhelmingly beautiful with trees and palms growing right down to the beaches, almost to the crystal clear water of the Strait. The sea became distinctly greener and we saw floating logs, coconuts and odd vegetation coming off the land mass that was getting closer and closer by the hour.

My memories of Singapore on my outward journey are not as vivid as those memories of our stay in Colombo. I can recall the city with its opulent European buildings contrasting strongly with the hundreds of people crowded along the Singapore River and living in crude boats. At this time the political split between Singapore and Malaya hadn't taken place and nothing of the future modern transformation of the city was apparent. In fact the whole area was still in a state of emergency; the ongoing jungle conflict with the Malayan communist insurgents was in full swing. We said goodbye to some of our mates here who would be joining army units that were fully operational in the fight against the rebels. Little did we know that we would join them in the future albeit for a very short time. We all knew that some of them might not come back home again and, unfortunately, our fears were not unfounded later, with the terrible news of the deaths of several of our Empire Trooper comrades.

*Continued next page*

### Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service Ladies Auxiliary

Would like to wish Koo Wee Rup and  
District a better 2021.

### Blume Classic Fashion Parade

*Date:* Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

*Time:* 10am

*Where:* Masonic Hall on Rossiter Road,  
KWR

*Entry:* \$5.00 (includes morning tea).

*Door Prizes.* Raffle \$1.00 per ticket

We are hoping regulations stay the say,  
or get better, for people indoors.

Thank you all for your support

*Jan Fox (Secretary)*

**Six weeks on a troopship - UK to Hong Kong 1953** *from previous page*

This time, I did join my mates and go with them into the city. We had a walk around the big market in the Indian quarter and then, I did as they did before in Colombo, we all went to the British Serviceman's Club. This old club was behind a high brick wall right opposite the Raffles Hotel. Olive and I had a visit to Singapore in 2004, and parts of the wall were still there but the club building had long gone, replaced with office accommodation and such. On that spring day in 1953, it was humid and very hot. We didn't realise then, that it was like this every day in Singapore. Some days were just wetter than others! So we made the most of it by swimming in the pool at the club and drinking cold 'Tiger Beer', an extremely satisfying ale, whilst relaxing in loungers alongside the water. Someone suggested that we go across the road to Raffles: they said that Raffles had their own special drink and that it was good. So, in our army shorts, shirts, long socks and boots, looking as smart as we could, we lined up at the bar and asked for a 'gin sling'. Today, people travel the World to drink a gin sling at Raffles Hotel in Singapore and it costs them a lot of money; even more to stay in the place. However, on that warm day in March '53, even I could afford to buy a gin sling from my meagre pay. How things change? It was an enjoyable and splendid drink for us; none of us had had anything like it before and we made the most of it.

We were a couple of days in Singapore but we were not allowed off the ship on the second day. We spent this day watching the ship being refuelled and replenished ready for her trip onward to Hong Kong and Pusan in Korea. For us soldiers joining our regiments in Hong Kong, our journey would soon be over as the ship sailed first south across the equator and then northward into the China Sea. On the upper promenade deck, the officers and senior NCOs' deck, there was a ceremony as we crossed 'the line'. Someone was dressed as the Greek god Neptune and others were in odd fancy dress, ready to take part in the age-old ceremony. We could only watch in fascination and amusement whilst some of our so called 'superiors' put themselves through some quite degrading rituals in the name of tradition and, of course, in the name of showing off. Some of the younger subalterns were dunked into the sea via a 'witch's cradle' and after a substantial alcoholic 'oiling', all were decidedly drunk at sunset! Whilst we were on board the ship us ordinary soldiers had to stay teetotal!

Travelling northwards, the weather changed dramatically with tropical rain and winds slashing into us. The colour of the sea though clear was now jet-black, and it had that same heaving motion that it had had in the Bay of Biscay. The decks were out of bounds to us for two or three days and lifelines were stretched along the outside areas that we had to walk to get to meals etc. For the first time we were below decks during the day and this time was spent packing and preparing for our eventual disembarkation. There was darning of socks, mending of holes in uniforms and such like to do and I will tell you an embarrassing story of what happened to me. During a visit to the communal shower room I found a pair of tropical underpants that had been left behind. They were folded neatly and had been left in a changing cubicle. I picked them up and, on return to our deck, I made a great effort (I really did) to try and find the owner. No one put their hand up so eventually I felt quite chuffed that I had scored an extra pair of underpants. The stealing of items of clothing was not unknown and, in fact, I had had a pair of socks taken from of my (unlocked) locker whilst I was in training at Oswestry in Wales. If you were found 'deficient' on a clothing parade you had to pay for the item you had lost and also pay for an extra pair to be purchased to replace the item in the stores: a rort if ever there was one! So, here I was with what seemed a legitimate extra pair of underpants, after all, nobody had claimed them. The pants were therefore stowed away at the bottom of my kit bag ready to be unpacked in my new barrack room in Sek Kong. It was probably about four weeks later when I came to completely unpack my gear and I took out the extra pair of pants that I had found. As I tried to open the neat folds it all seemed stuck together. I realised with horror that the cause of them sticking together was dried poo! Someone must have pooped their pants; panicked and abandoned them folded, so that the soiling did not show. No wonder the person who owned the pants did not confess to anyone that they were theirs! I came along, picked them up, put them in my kit bag with my other clothes and here I am in front of all my army mates trying to convince them that the pooped pants I have had in my kit bag for weeks are not mine!

Suddenly the weather improved dramatically and, one morning, land was sighted; a mountain range amongst the clouds. We docked in Kowloon very early in the morning after an interesting trip sailing into this natural harbour between many islands and inviting sandy beaches. Hong Kong at that time was a British protectorate and it consists of 260 rugged and irregular islands. The protectorate comprised the island of Hong Kong, about 75 km<sup>2</sup> (29 sq. miles), the Kowloon Peninsula, about 7.75 km<sup>2</sup> (3 sq. miles) and to the north the New Territories, about 940 km<sup>2</sup> (365 sq. miles). Our destination that day was to the area known as Sek Kong (now known as Shek Kong), a military base alongside an operational air base, in the New Territories, very close to the border with mainland China. After the communist victory over the Chinese Nationalist forces in 1949, and the USA embargo in 1950 on trade with communist China, together with the on-going war in Korea, the border was a very sensitive issue and regularly, whilst I was posted there, small arms shooting would take place from both sides of the border – the Sham Chun River. One had to learn to duck very quickly – very quickly! The political thought of the day was that the communist Chinese forces would not stop at the Hong Kong border but would sweep on through and claim the protectorate as part of mainland China and therefore their own. The job of the armed British forces was to prevent this from happening. A David and Goliath situation if ever there was one. It was into this climate of political uncertainty that we were about to be transported northwards, from the comparative safety of the dockside of Kowloon, to the dangers of the contested border zone at Sek Kong and the Sham Chun River.



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## What was that siren?

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### February 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:

- 28/1/21 – Car Fire – Sth Gippsland Hwy Tooradin
- 3/2/21 – Automatic Alarm - Rossiter Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 7/2/21 – Explosion – Nellie St Lang Lang
- 9/2/21 – Grass Fire – Denhams Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 10/2/21 – Automatic Alarm – Sth Gippsland Hwy Caldermeade
- 13/2/21 – Automatic Alarm - Rossiter Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 13/2/21 – Automatic Alarm – Station St Koo Wee Rup
- 14/2/21 – Smoke issuing during Fire Danger Period – Sybella Ave Koo Wee Rup



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## The Fire Danger Period for our area is currently in force

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This means you cannot light a fire in the open air unless you have a permit or comply with certain requirements.

You need a permit to burn-off during the Fire Danger Period, otherwise brigades will be called out unnecessarily.

**If you don't obtain a permit, you could be breaking the law, police may be called and you may be prosecuted.**

Search for 'Can i' at [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au) for more information.

On days of Total Fire Bans, please AVOID using tractors, balers, slashers etc near grass/stubble etc. The heat or a spark can easily start a fire that can spread very quickly. If it is ESSENTIAL you use them, follow the CFA guidelines which include having at least 9 litre water knapsack or water extinguisher with you.

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## Emergency Broadcasters

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During significant fires in Victoria, stay tuned to your emergency broadcasters to hear fire updates, community alerts and other important messages.

Emergency broadcasters include [ABC Local Radio](#). Alternatively you can call the VicEmergency Hotline on **1800 226 226** (free call).

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## Contact Us

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You can contact Koo Wee Rup Fire Brigade for **non-emergency** enquiries via facebook [@KooWeeRupFireBrigade](#)

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## Nominations now open for the 2021 Stan Henwood Award

Nominations are now open for Cardinia Shire Council's annual Stan Henwood Award, which recognises outstanding individuals in Cardinia Shire who have made significant contributions to their community.

Stan Henwood was a prominent member of the Tynong community who made significant contributions to his township and the municipality. This annual award keeps Stan's memory alive and honours other civic-minded people in our community today.

Our community has experienced tough times throughout the pandemic and into recovery, which makes it all the more important to acknowledge those individuals who are working selflessly to help others and help make our shire a better place. Community members are encouraged to nominate anyone they believe has made a positive, long-term contribution to Cardinia Shire.

This year, nominees are no longer required to have completed more than 10 years of community services. For the first time, the award is instead open to anyone who has made substantial community contributions to Cardinia Shire.

Nominees must have made a significant contribution to community services in Cardinia Shire, have not previously received the award and must not have been a Cardinia Shire Councillor within the last four years.

Nominations for the 2021 award close at 5pm on Monday 5 April 2021.

Nominations must be submitted online via the SmartyGrants portal, which will require the nominator to register an account before they can prepare and submit a nomination form.

For more information about this award, eligibility criteria and how to nominate, visit [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/StanHenwoodAward](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/StanHenwoodAward)

---

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# KOO WEE RUP Primary School

## Welcome to our Foundation Class of 2021

Our Foundation students have had a fantastic start to their schooling over the past few weeks. They are settling into the routine of school beautifully and have enjoyed their first sessions at Italian, Art, Sport, Digital Technology and PMP. They have even attended their first school Swimming Carnival! In the classroom the children have enjoyed the experience of investigative play each morning which has allowed them to interact with their peers, make friends, develop their social and language skills and learn through play and exploration. We are working hard getting to know each other and establishing new routines. It has been a pleasure to be greeted by eager and enthusiastic children and families. We are looking forward to a special year together.



### Important Dates

Monday March 8

Wednesday March 10

Tuesday March 23

Thursday April 1

Labour Day Public Holiday

Family Open Night/Resilience  
Project Parent Session

School Photos

End of Term 1 Dismissal

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- Development of care plans
- Admitting rights to Kooweerup Regional Health Service beds
- Women's wellbeing
- Men's health
- Diabetes education
- Mental health plans
- Stop smoking plans
- Pharmacotherapy

**Our Kooweerup Regional Health Service Allied Professionals include:**

- Dietician
- Dementia Care advisor
- Podiatrist
- Social Worker
- Palliative Care specialist

To ensure you receive the very highest level of care in the delivery of our services, we maintain excellent facilities and equipment.

**Bulk Billing**

We bulk bill for concession card holders and under 18s.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE

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

215-235 Rossiter Road  
Koo Wee Rup Vic 3981

**5997 1819**

reception@blackfishmedicalclinic.com.au  
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**Taste of the Wild:** The World's favourite grain free dog food has come to Koo Wee Rup Stockfeed! Pamper your pooch with the best flavours like High Prairie, Wetlands, Pacific Stream and more!

**Leovet Products:** Aus Deutschland comes the best horse products, tried and true! From Cooling aids like Cold Pack Plus and Celsius to skin and coat conditioners to everything in between, try Leovet: It Works!

**Rebound Hoof Pack:** This patented easy to apply hoof packing sticks to the hoof and not to you! It draws out pain and inflammation from the hoof, and perfectly legal for competition!

**March Specials:**

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- Mitavite Stud Gro 20kg **\$18.50**
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- Equivac 2in1 **\$35.90** or buy 20 @ **\$38.50ea**
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- Pedigree 12 x 700g **\$23.90**
- Whiskas 24x400g **\$41.50**

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## St John The Baptist Primary School, Koo Wee Rup

Welcome to the beginning of the 2021 school year at St John the Baptist Primary School.

We welcome many new children and families to our school this year, especially our 33 Foundation students. We hope that all the children and their families enjoy another wonderful year at St Johns.

This year, we also welcome three new staff members to our school. Mr Daniel Stark (5/6), Ms Olivia Hunt (1/2) and Mrs Jodi Kennedy (3/4).

### Australia Day Awards

Congratulations to students Justin Vivian and Hayley Milner on receiving the Junior Citizenship awards at the Koo Wee Rup Australia Day celebrations.

### Student Leadership

Our senior students went through the process of selecting School and House Leaders for 2021. A large number of students prepared and delivered fantastic speeches in front of parents, staff and students. The Social Justice Leaders were also chosen after having to write a letter of application to the Principal. The student leaders for 2021 are:

**School Captains:** Levi Towers and Hayley Milner (pictured)

**House Captains:** CREMIN: Chad Bethune

MACKILLOP: Riley Peck and Emmalia George

WOOD: Savi Kaur and Kooper Herbert

SCOTT: Pheobe Neill and Jett Evans

### Social Justice Leaders still to come.

Keep an eye out for your child/children's class Seesaw page with what is happening in the classrooms.

### Yr 5/6 Camp

Grade Five/Six students started the year with a Camp at Forest Lodge Farm. They participated in many rewarding and confidence-building group activities, some of which proved to be a challenge for even the most daring.

### Future Events

3&4<sup>th</sup> March – Parent/Teacher Interviews

10<sup>th</sup> March – Division Swimming

1<sup>st</sup> April – Holy Week Liturgy



## Free disability awareness training

Free online disability awareness training is now available for all businesses and community organisations in Cardinia Shire.

The online training 'You Me Us' is designed to ensure Cardinia Shire continues to be accessible and inclusive for the community.

The training focusses on attitudes, language, communication and access through a series of videos. A certificate of completion is also presented at the end of the training.

Businesses and community groups are encouraged to take part in the free online training.



**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](mailto:rckooweeruplanglang@gmail.com)

Phone: 0499 101 953

We have around 4,000 residents living with a disability. We all have a role in making Cardinia Shire more accessible and inclusive for everyone.

Council is committed to creating a welcoming, inclusive and accessible community, as outlined in our Disability, Access and Inclusion Policy and Action Plan. "Council's Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee is committed to making Cardinia Shire welcoming, accessible and inclusive to all and welcome this training being available across our community.

Businesses and community groups can also help achieve a more inclusive community by increasing the availability and uptake of disability awareness training.

For more information and access to the training, visit [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/accessandinclusion](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/accessandinclusion)

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# Jordan Crugnale MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BASS



**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](http://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au)  
 1800 675 398

T 03 5672 4755

E [jordan.crugnale@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:jordan.crugnale@parliament.vic.gov.au)

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# 1<sup>st</sup> Koo Wee Rup Scout Group

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

Joeys have had a great time outside so this term with outdoor bowling followed by a water night, where the Joey Scouts had a great time getting their leaders wet during the water fight.



Cub Scouts got back to the hall and travelled around the world. They got to go skiing in the Swiss Alps, ride a Kangaroo in Australia have tea with the Queen and walk The Great Wall of China. Then we went back into a 5-day lockdown, so the Cub Scouts jumped back onto Zoom to make pancakes for Pancake Tuesday.

Scouts headed to Cochranes park to experiment cooking new things on the barbeques.

They tried cooking corn and a rice dish and were all pleasantly impressed with the food they got to eat.

Venturers started the year with an escape room and board games. Whilst the Rovers have gotten together and had a social night.

"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](mailto:1stkwrscouts@gmail.com)





# Koo Wee Rup and Districts Lions Inc

Written by Linda Sanders

## Covid Strikes Again

We sure have had our ups and downs with planning activities and catering events with COVID.

We were in the middle of planning catering with our bbq trailer for a clearance sale. We were to cater for an estimated 500 people which was a huge undertaking for our club. Unfortunately, it was cancelled as they are now doing the sale online.

We were also going to have our barbeque trailer at the Lang Lang Rodeo but that too has been cancelled.

Hopefully we will be able to have our annual bacon and egg cook up at the Gunfire Breakfast on ANZAC day.

Even our last meeting was cancelled and we would have had a Zoom meeting but with




# Craft & Patchwork

## SHOW

**KOO WEE RUP COMMUNITY CENTRE** Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup

**26th June 2021**  
9.30 till 4pm \$5.00 entry. Everyone gets a gift

**Proceeds support community projects**

- Stall Holders Attending
- Special Quilts on Display
- Morning/Afternoon Tea & Lunch




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everything cancelled, we decided not to have a meeting.

## Licola Wilderness Village

Licola is a small, beautiful village nestled beside the Macalister River, 254km east of Melbourne. They cater for family groups – both small and large, individuals, couples, school groups, outdoor recreation groups, church groups, sporting groups and the general public.

They are open 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Book a single cabin or our entire site.

The township of Licola is owned entirely by the Lions Clubs of Victoria and southern New South Wales. The greater part of the town is occupied by the Licola Wilderness Village, where Lions Clubs have for 50 years run camps for the underprivileged, deserving, special needs and disengaged young people, mostly held during school holidays.

Licola Wilderness Village has 16 general accommodation houses on site. Each house is self-contained with bunk bed style accommodation throughout 3 or 4 bedrooms per house. Each have toilets, hot showers, and a mini kitchenette containing a microwave, a toaster, a kettle, cutlery, and a fridge. As well as both indoor & outdoor sitting areas.

You can contact the village on 5148 8791, email on [camping@licola.org.au](mailto:camping@licola.org.au) or website on <https://www.licola.org.au>

Continued next page



## Koo Wee Rup and Districts Lions Inc *(from previous page)*

*Written by Linda Sanders*

### **Bus Trip to Licola Wilderness Village**

What a fun day we had travelling to Licola on the bus. Members of Koo Wee Rup and Strezlecki Lions met the bus at the Loch market site on 30<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30am. We picked some more people up at Leongatha and made our way to Licola. It was a windy twisty 3 hour journey but the country side was spectacular.

On arrival at the camp, we had a cuppa and then were given a tour by Ron Payne. It was wonderful to see all the fantastic amenities and all the hard work that has gone into the camp.

We were given a great barbeque lunch with individual boxes with sausage, burgers and salads. It was very tasty and it hit the spot.

After lunch we toured the rest of the property, having a good look at the solar power station and batteries.

At 2pm we got back on the bus and were driven back to Loch in just over 2 hours.

Overall it was an excellent day out and it was enjoyed by all.

The village and surrounds are well worth a visit and with all the houses available to rent, it would be an ideal getaway for couples and families.

### **Barbeque Trailer**

Our flash new barbeque trailer is available for hire for community groups. It has two hot plates that extend out the side of the trailer, is easy to use and would be ideal for any bbq catering events. Please call Ron Payne on 0429 042 911 for more details.

### **New Members**

We are looking for new members to come and help us raise funds to help our local community. We are a fun club; our members are friendly and it is a great way to not only make new friends but to help people in our local area.

Meetings are on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the RSL Club rooms. Currently we are having dinner meetings, which are being catered by The Chandelier Café.

If you would like more information about becoming a Lion, please call Ron Payne on 0429 042 911.



## **BAYLES FAUNA PARK**

### **Working Bee**

Sunday, 14 March, 9am start followed by a BBQ lunch

### **Committee Meeting**

Sunday, 14 March immediately after working bee

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

**All welcome**

## **Kooweerup Regional Health**

### **Service Ladies Auxiliary**

Meets on the first Friday of every month

9.30am in the RSL building.

New members welcome.



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if you aren't mobile, I can visit you*

## Koo Wee Rup RSL Sub Branch Report

In the month of February, we remember and pay tribute to those brave fallen fellow Australians in the bombing of Darwin. Equally, closer to home for myself and many others, is when our navy suffered its worst peacetime disaster when one of our frontline ships, the Daring class destroyer HMAS Voyager, was lost after being cut in two in a night collision with our then flagship of the fleet, the aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne, during a night flying exercise. The tragedy on the night of February 10<sup>th</sup> 1964 profoundly shocked our nation with the loss of a proud warship and the devastating loss of 82 of my shipmates (I had been drafted off the Voyager and joined Sydney 2 weeks prior to the incident), out of a crew of 293 on board Voyager.

Lest We Forget

RSL Victoria has issued a directive to all sub branches about Anzac Day commemorations: *Our first priority is to work within the regulations of COVID-19 restrictions as they will be at the time.*

We are permitted to have a modest Dawn Service. Marching from the KWR clocktowers to our cenotaph and having a gunfire breakfast as we have done in the past is NOT permitted. As to the many hundreds in our wonderful community who wish to be present at the dawn service, I feel the need to apologise but, as you know, it is truly out of our control. What took place in our community last year by showing their respect in their own way in their driveways and in small groups in their street was heart warming and beautifully amazing – our diggers will surely be pleased with that. Our schools can, if they wish, send a representative to lay their wreaths as may those of our dignitaries who wish to. As always, people may place flowers at the cenotaph and spend time in prayer and reflection in gratitude to our fallen after the Dawn Service.

Some of the above may change at short notice – for the better, we pray.

We Will Remember Them, Lest We Forget

*Yours Aye, John Camilleri, 5629 4242*

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## Bowls Club Report

With lockdown restrictions being eased, the Club has been again able to play Pennant games etc. Result of the Div. 3 game on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. had a 69-59 win against Karingal. Bryan Walker, Pauline Gray, Gerry Fuller & Julie Walker on 23-20. Arthur Giaccotto, Brett Condron, Charles Harris & Jim Jenkins won 25-12. Trevor Kitchin, Peter Butera, Rob Matthews & Tim Katz lost 21-27. Div. 6 were defeated by Mornington Civic in a close game 37-40. Margaret Royle, George Crynes, Wendy Pownall & Ken Hammond won their game 19-13. A 18-27 loss for Betty King, Steve Haines, Fay Halligan & Helen Ralph. The round scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> Feb. was cancelled due to lockdown with all teams sharing the points. Div. 3 & Somerville [8 pts. each]. Div. 6 & Somerville [7 pts each]. Games on 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. had Div. 3 lose to Mt. Martha 46-58. As we were down 5-31 after 25 ends and playing at a Club we had played before the final score was not that bad. Bryan Walker, Pauline Gray, Gerry Fuller & Julie Walker won 21-18. A 13-21 loss for Arthur Giaccotto, Brett Condron, Charles Harris & Jim Jenkins. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> rink of Trevor Kitchin, Peter Butera, Rob Matthews & Tim Katz were beaten 13-19. A good result for Div. 6 defeating Karingal 42-26 with both rinks having wins. Margaret Toyle, George Crynes, Wendy Pownall & Ken Hammond won 23-11 & Betty King, Steve Haines, Peter Stevens & Helen Ralph won 19-15. With 4 games to go before finals Div. 3 are on top & Div. 6 in 3<sup>rs</sup> place ensuring that both teams should be playing finals.



In the Tuesday Pennant competition we played Dromana in Div. 7 on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. and scored a 43-29 win. The rink of Fay Halligan, George Crynes, David Talbot & Helen Ralph won 25-14. Our other rink of Margaret Royle, Iain Caig, Peter Stevens & Frank Grant won 18-15. Div. 3 played Blue Hills and scored a convincing victory 68-36 with all 3 rinks winning well. Pauline Gray, Jim Jenkins, Mary Masters & Lois Mahomed won their game 22-14. A 24-10 win for Bryan Walker, Gerry Fuller, Joy Jenkins & Julie Walker. The 3<sup>rd</sup> rink of Charles Harris, Jill Roissetter, Betty King & Joy Herbert won 22-12. As with Sat. pennant there are 4 games to be played and currently Div. 3 are in 5<sup>th</sup> place & Div. 7 in 6<sup>th</sup> place. Realistically both teams are still in the finals race.

Congratulations to our recently crowned Club Champions for 2020-21. Brett Condron (1<sup>st</sup> time) & Pauline Gray (6<sup>th</sup> time) on their wins. Brett defeated Charles Harris 25-15 in a game where 2 or 3 rinks decided the game. Pauline & Wendy Pownall “faced off” again in the final with Pauline winning a tough game 25-18. Both then went on to represent the Club in the Region Champion of Champions but unfortunately were defeated in the 1<sup>st</sup> round.

The next round of our Friday Triples was played on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb. with 14 teams doing “battle”. Winning team for the day with 37 pts. was Trevor Kitchin [KWR], Ken White [Longwarry] & Noel Speight [KWR]. Runner up team only 1 pt. behind was John Williams, Neville & Kevin Kitchin [Lang Lang] on 36 pts. Best 1<sup>st</sup> game was won by David & Jenny Smith [Lang Lang] & George Crynes [KWR] with 18 pts. & 16 shots up. The best 2<sup>nd</sup> game went to John Van Vugt, Graeme Wilde & Simon Koning [Cardinia Waters] on 19 pts.



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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](mailto:kwrhall@gmail.com) or 5997 2001

*\*Bookings subject to Committee approval*

## Heart Foundation Evening Walking

This group continues to walk every Thursday evening at 7 pm. We meet at the Koo Wee Rup clock tower and bus interchange in Rossiter Rd and take a different route each week. All abilities and fitness levels can be accommodated. We don't leave anyone behind. The evening walks continue throughout daylight saving in a COVID safe manner, and our last session for the year will be on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April with a short walk at Cardinia Lakes followed by a social meal out. We were at the same venue earlier in March 2020 and it was the week before the COVID pandemic was declared. Since then we recommenced walking, but have certainly had a number of relapses. Should COVID restrict any plans, or you are interested in joining us, please give Marlene a call on 0429 814410.

## Pilates at KWR Regional Health Service

The two sessions per week recommenced in early December and Term 1 is now in full swing, pausing for the most recent February COVID lockdown. We meet at 6 pm on Mondays and 9 am on Saturdays at the community room at Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service entry off Rossiter Rd next to the community garden.

All equipment is carefully cleaned before and after use, and social distancing and signing in, are part of our core business. Try Pilates as it's great for developing core strength which helps lower back issues in particular. It's good for balance and strength, as we use the resistance of our bodies with the exercises, to develop overall body strength. Also you can't lose out as the first session is FREE. The cost is \$10 per session or \$5 concession.

Enquiries to Marlene on 0429 814410

## Compost corner at Deep Creek Reserve

Next time you visit Pakenham's Deep Creek Reserve be sure to check out the new and improved compost corner!

The space now features new displays and signage highlighting the benefits of composting and invites visitors to 'follow the trail' to learn about food waste and worm farms.

The compost corner is also home to:

- composting systems and worm farms which are used by the Deep Creek café for food scraps
- herb gardens for the café to use
- a paved pathway encouraging residents to walk through and explore the area
- native plants which keep in theme with the reserve's landscape.

The corner is designed to help the community learn about the local environment and sustainability, as well as the benefits of home composting. This space is not only practical for the onsite café to compost their food scraps and grow food, but is also an engaging area that will be used for school and community education. The composting systems on display are available at your local hardware store or online, so you can easily create your own compost corner at home.

Cardinia Shire residents who keep their purchase receipts for their compost bins, worm farms, bokashi bins or in-ground food waste digesters, may also be eligible for a rebate of up to \$50. Find out more or apply online on Council's website: [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/wasterebates](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/wasterebates)

Deep Creek Reserve is a place of environmental significance and offers people of all ages and abilities many ways to learn, play and get active. Learn more about the reserve at [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/deepcreek](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/deepcreek)



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 registering.

**Where:** Koo Wee Rup Clock Towers Rossiter Rd KWR

**FREE** daylight saving group. Ring Marlene 0429 814410

**Pilates Term 1 2021**  
**First Class Free**

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 and works the core, flexibility, strength and balance.

**When:** 6.00pm Mondays or 9.00am Sat .

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

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

Enquiries to Marlene  
0429 814 410

**Commences**  
**Sat. 30th January 2021**



# Outlook

community centre

Outlook Community Centre strives to offer programs which provide services to our Community in addition to our courses and social groups. Whether it is you or someone you know that may benefit from participating, all are welcome so please spread the word. We look forward to seeing you very soon.

**HOW TO ENROL IN A PROGRAMME: In Person:** 24 Toomuc Valley Road, Pakenham, **Telephone:** 5940 4728,  
**Online:** [www.outlookvic.org.au/book-online](http://www.outlookvic.org.au/book-online), **Email:** [communitycentre@outlookvic.org.au](mailto:communitycentre@outlookvic.org.au),

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

### **My Aged Care Navigator - Free 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.

**Friday 19 March, 9.30am - 12.30pm.**



**Cost FREE**

### **FREE Seniors Drivers Expo**

NO TEST INVOLVED. BBQ lunch included.

Free confidential vehicle check on your car, free confidential driving assessment, tyre maintenance presentation. Also learn how health and medications can affect your driving. Includes road rules updates. There will be an opportunity to ask questions of experts in driving, roadworthiness and road rules.

**Wednesday 7 April, 9.45 am – 2.30pm(approx) Cost FREE**  
*Supported by RoadSafe South East*

### **Safe Seats Safe Kids – is your child travelling safely? FREE Child Restraint fittings and safety checks**

70% of your 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. Outlook Community Centre invites local parents to book in for a free child care restraint fitting or safety check.

**2nd and 4th Friday every month, starting 12<sup>th</sup> March, 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/](http://www.safeseatssafekids.com.au/venues-mec/)

**Please note if you need to have more than one child 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](http://www.kidsafevic.com.au/road-safety/free-child-car-restraint-checking-program)

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



### **Self Defence for Seniors**

This session focuses on empowerment, not fear. It teaches highly effective self-defence in a fun, non-threatening environment. It is not a hard, physical workout and there is no need to wear exercise gear or any special clothing. You will learn real-world self-defence to improve your safety. The session will give you some impressive moves nonetheless. We want you to be confident in everything you do, everywhere you go and everyone you are with.

**Wednesday 17 March, 1.30pm - 2.30pm. Cost \$25**

### **Computer Maintenance and Internet Safety**

We rely more and more on technology in everyday life, therefore gaining an understanding of computer maintenance and tools is paramount. Learn how to protect yourself, your computer and privacy on the internet and discuss some security concerns when using your computer. BYO USB stick.

**Fridays commencing 12 March for 2 sessions, 10.00am - 12.30pm. Cost \$15**

### **Easter Simnel Cakes**

Simnel Cakes are traditionally eaten at Easter and Mothering Sunday, going back hundreds of years. Come and learn a little about its history and how to make and decorate it in the traditional way. As well as a demonstration of a large cake being cooked and decorated, each of the class participants will make and decorate 2 mini cakes to take home. During the class you will also enjoy a cuppa and get to sample the demonstration cake.

**Friday 26 March, 10.00am - 1.00pm. Cost \$25 plus \$10 ingredients**

Students are welcome to bring own utensils, contact the office for details.

### **Forget-Me-Not- Cafe**

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. The Café aims to bring together people living with dementia and their loved ones in Pakenham 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.

**Wednesdays, 3 March, 24 March, 10.00am - 12.00pm. Cost FREE**

Supported by



## Some good and pleasant news from the Men's Shed

As from the end of the surprise February lock-down, the Men's Shed is finally open again to everyone. It is open six days a week but closed on Sundays. All members and, indeed, all men of Koo-Wee-Rup and District can now come along and enjoy all the action and the camaraderie the 'Shed offers. There are still a few rules to follow though; masks must be worn at all times, even in the surrounding garden because the 'Shed is in the same area as the Aged Care building and comes under DHHS rules covering Aged Care and Hospital facilities. Social distancing is still required, good hand hygiene and, of course, there will be room number limits. One must also sign in at the main reception building where your body temperature will be quickly checked and then ... in you come and just sign in at the 'Shed! On the downside no group lunches will be held yet, such as the Wednesday group lunch; we are not quite to that stage but we will be very soon.

Wednesday the 10th of March 2021 is a most important day for us all. On this day the annual general meeting of the Men's Shed members will be held at 12:00 pm when all positions will be declared vacant. Nominations may be made in advance of the meeting to the secretary, Brian Harlow on 59979679, but nominations will be accepted on the day.

As the restrictions have eased substantially the community garden is open for the sale of our home-grown fruit and vegetables. 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'. Our new opening hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:00 am until 3:00 pm. So do come along and say G'day to Charlie. You can purchase fresh in-season organic fruit and vegetables along with just delicious preserves and sauces made by Charlie. Vegetables available now are spring onions, potatoes, sweet potatoes, parsley and celery, pumpkins and squash – and don't forget to get some of our own chuck's fresh eggs. Also watch the kronos machine at the hospital entrance for more weekly specials.

Despite the current situation, the Koo-Wee-Rup Men's Shed continues to grow in stature and for people who are new to the township, 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 executive 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 some real good mates and maybe get a boost to your own health and mental well-being at the same time. Don't forget then, when you can and the time is ripe, call in, try us. We can make you happy.

*Now ... How did the health experts lie? They said a mask and gloves was enough to go to the grocery store. When I got there, everyone else had clothes on.*

Geoff Stokes

Please email our Facebook Page or  
Club email if you are interested in playing or  
volunteering  
[info@langlangunited.com.au](mailto:info@langlangunited.com.au)  
<https://www.facebook.com/LangLangUnited>

**The Lang Lang United Country  
Women's Cup**

will be held on Sunday March 2021 relevant to all being well with  
Covid-19 Restrictions.

Lang Lang United Soccer Club are seeking Expressions of Interest  
from Senior Women's teams wishing to compete in this 6 v 6  
tournament.

**Places are limited so get in quick!  
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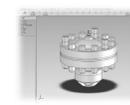
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**1300 764 773 or [info@conveyancingresolutions.com.au](mailto:info@conveyancingresolutions.com.au)**



## VACANCIES

**Your local Lions Club needs several community minded people to assist with their upcoming and ongoing projects**

### "Lions Youth of the Year"

Are you interested in assisting secondary school students between the ages of 16 and 18 years of age. This prestigious event for young people, which boasts many high-profile Australians among the ranks of former entrants is conducted in conjunction with the Koo Wee Rup Secondary College who have fully supported the concept for a number of years. Entrants gain experience in leadership, personal improvement, sportsmanship, citizenship, community involvement and public speaking.

Chairperson/Co-ordinator required - for more information contact Sheryl Blay on 0409 353 600

### "Lions Junior Public Speaking"

Our Junior Public Speaking competition is conducted in Primary Schools at two levels. Grades 3/4 and grades 5/6. The aim of this project is to provide primary school students with an opportunity to develop public speaking skills. Local Primary Schools support the program with the winners ultimately competing in front of an audience that includes many adults.

Chairperson/Co-ordinator required – for more information contact Ron Payne 0429 0429 11

### "Christmas Cakes & Puddings"

Through the sales of Lions Christmas Cakes and Puddings raise significant funds for distribution by the Lions Club to worthwhile service projects in the local communities.

Sales Rep/Co-ordinator required – for more information contact Ken Blay on 5915 3613

## Lions Awareness Day - 6 March 2021

### There's a lot more to Lions Australia than barbecues

On Saturday, 6 March 2021, thousands of Australia's most dedicated and hard-working volunteers will be on deck to let you know more about what Lions Australia does. After more than a century of helping others, we know our role as a service club is only becoming increasingly important.

It may be providing emergency relief during natural disasters or supporting farming communities during drought, supporting critical medical research into childhood cancers and diabetes, or working on local environmental programs – the work of all of our members is valued, and critical.

We hope you'll take the opportunity to join us at one of the many events that will be held across Australia, talk to a Lion and ask them why they decided to give some of their time and effort to help others.

## REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN

Registrations are now open for Lang Lang United Soccer Club's 2021 Season.

Please find the link below for Player / Volunteer / Coach registration through Play Football.

<https://www.playfootball.com.au/>

All players are required to purchase club shorts and socks.

A free training top will be gifted to each player on the completion of payment of registration.

If you have any queries at all, please don't hesitate to contact Karen Phillips on:

Mobile: 0418 176 793

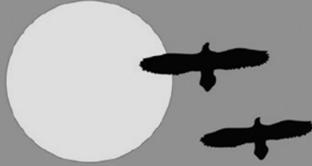
Email: [treasurer@langlangunited.com.au](mailto:treasurer@langlangunited.com.au) or alternatively;

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



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*Once United, Always United!*



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Dr Mike Inskip

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Email: [gregorys@krhs.net.au](mailto:gregorys@krhs.net.au) Website: [www.kooweeruphospital.net.au](http://www.kooweeruphospital.net.au)

March 21

Find us on



Hi all

I am truly thrilled to have joined the KRHS team and cannot thank everyone enough for the extremely warm welcome and the support you have provided in my first few weeks – hugely appreciated!!!!

A bit about me: I have an Allied Health background and have completed further study in Gerontology, Health Professional Education and Health Services Management. I was previously at Bass Coast Health and prior to that Peninsula Health and prior to that 10 years in the Northern Territory.

It has been brilliant getting to know the team and I look forward to getting out and about to meet staff, volunteers, residents, relatives, other service providers and the general community. *Noni Bourke CEO*

*We're here for you*

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## COVID-19 UPDATE

The rollout of Australia's vaccine program has begun in Victoria from 22 February 2021.

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine will help protect you from getting sick from COVID-19. The vaccines being used in Australia are very effective at preventing serious illness and loss of life due to COVID-19. The vaccine will be safe and free. The Australian Government aims to make the COVID-19 vaccines available to as many people in Australia as possible in 2021, with Australia's COVID-19 vaccines being made available in phases.

There will be limited doses of COVID-19 vaccines initially, so certain groups at highest risk of infection will get the first doses. As part of the rollout, the Victorian Government will deliver doses of COVID-19 vaccines to hotel quarantine and health hotel workers, airport and port workers, high-risk frontline health staff and public sector residential aged care staff and residents in the first instance. We will update the community about vaccinations as this information becomes available, it remains very important to stay safe by washing your hands regularly, carrying a face mask with you and wearing it when required, coughing and sneezing into your elbow, and keeping at least 1.5 metres from others. If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, you must get tested and stay home.



Food from Home is a place to learn, share, celebrate, and connect through growing food at home. Join the growing community of edible gardeners in the Cardinia Shire who thanks to the generous friends at [Food For Change](#) can provide you with some free seeds to help you start growing food at home! [#FoodFromHome](#)



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

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## Agnes Mickle – Pioneer Woman

By Heather Arnold, Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society

Alexander and Agnes Mickle (nee Johnston) arrived in Victoria in October 1857 on the ship, Blackwall. Agnes was 28 and Alexander was 27. They had tried to come to Australia the year before but their boat, the Mull of Kintyre, was shipwrecked just after it had left Scotland. They both came from Berwickshire, on the Scottish border. Alexander was the third of the Mickle brothers to arrive in Melbourne, with John having arrived in 1838 and Thomas in 1841. John Mickle, who along with his partners, William Lyall and John Bakewell, had amassed a large amount of land which they divided up in 1856. John Mickle's share included parts of the Yallock Run, which he renamed Monomeith and Alexander and Agnes came out to manage this property.

Alexander and Agnes took a bullock dray from Melbourne to Tooradin, then went by boat to the mouth of the Yallock Creek. They lived in the original homestead until 1860 when a new house was built. In November 1861, Alexander died suddenly from appendicitis and peritonitis and Agnes was at Monomeith, eight months pregnant and with her two children David, aged 3 and Isabella Margaret, nearly 2. The only other person on the property was "the lad" John Payne, who had to ride into Cranbourne for the Police to make arrangements for the burial. Their third child, John Alexander, was born four weeks later on Boxing Day, 1861. [Much of the information in these first two paragraphs comes from Dr Niel Gunson's book *The Good Country: Cranbourne Shire* (Cheshire, 1968)]

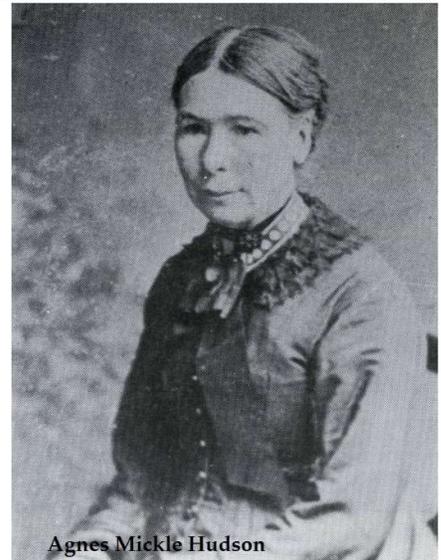
Their son, David, was the grandfather of the local historian Dave Mickle. He has written various books and was instrumental in establishing the Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society. Dave Mickle has written about Agnes, but nowhere does he write about what must have been the sheer horror (or so it seems to me) of the situation that Agnes was in - alone on the farm at the Monomeith; no close neighbours; about 30 kilometres from the nearest town which was Cranbourne, which at the time was a small town with a population of 115; and two little children and a baby on the way. The management of the Monomeith property was taken over by Andrew Hudson, who was a cousin of the Mickles. Andrew planted wheat and operated a dairy farm. Agnes married Andrew on May 17, 1865 and had two more children, Agnes Lilly, who was born in 1866 and in 1868, when Agnes was 40, she gave birth to James Johnston. Andrew and Agnes and family moved from the Monomeith property to Protectors Flats near Lang Lang, where along with the dairy farm, they also grew tobacco. In 1879, they moved to the *Warook* property on the Yallock Creek and built a house (not the existing *Warook* house) and a dairy. They leased this, on a ten-year lease, from William Lyall. Towards the end of this lease they started building 'The Grange', in Koo Wee Rup. Sadly, before they moved, Andrew Hudson died suddenly at the age of 55 on August 3, 1888. Agnes, a widow once more, moved into 'The Grange' a few months later on October 1.

After Andrew died it seems that her sons, John Mickle and James Hudson, took over the farm and they operated Koo Wee Rup Dairies, where they purchased milk from local farmers and made cheese, then later (after 1899) James worked on his own and milked cows and produced cheese.

Agnes also faced the death of her two daughters, who both died within a year. Isabella Margaret had married Richard Scott of Poowong in 1886 and had six children. She died in February 1902. Her other daughter, Agnes Lilly, had a more tragic life. She married George Hook in 1899 and their first child, Isaac, died in 1905, aged 5. Their second child, George was born on February 2, 1903 and sadly Agnes Lilly passed away six days later on February 8. Dave Mickle, in *Mickle Memories of Koo Wee Rup* writes that little George was adopted by his uncle John Mickle and his wife Laura (John Mickle being the child Agnes gave birth to, four weeks after Alexander died)

Agnes Hudson died on December 10, 1913 aged 86. Her obituary in the *Lang Lang Guardian* of December 17, 1913 describes her as having had a long, useful and honourable life ...the deceased lady who was loved and respected by those who had the privilege of knowing her, possessed the sterling attributes of the great Scottish race whose early pioneering enterprises left such an impress on the early land settlement in the colonies.... her mind was bright and active to the close.. and her health was remarkably good. This is a tribute to a remarkable pioneer woman, Agnes Hudson, who survived a ship wreck, the birth of five children, the death of two husbands and that of her two daughters.

**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 March 10 at 7.30pm. New members welcome. Museum re-opening on Sunday March 7 at 1.30pm. At the moment we plan to open the first and third Sundays of the month from 1.30pm until 4.30pm or by appointment. Heather Arnold [harnold@dcsi.net.au](mailto:harnold@dcsi.net.au) 0407 521 637.**



Agnes Mickle Hudson



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