

# THE KOO WEE RUP BLACKFISH



SEPTEMBER 2021

## Scout Hall Redevelopment

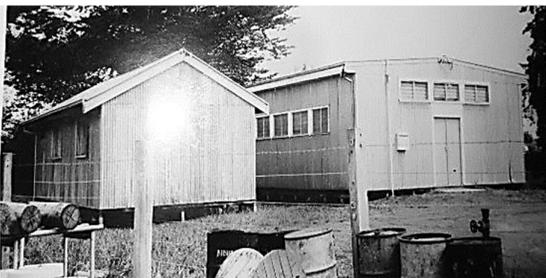
The 1st Koo Wee Rup Scout Hall is undergoing its first significant redevelopment in 50 years. The original hall dates from 1964 when the old flax factory building was moved to the site with extensions carried out in the 1970's.

The first plans for this renovation started about 6 years ago under the leadership of June Wright. Over this time the plans have changed numerous times.

KWR Scouts received a \$150,000 grant from the State Government but had to find another \$150,000 to be able to use it.

With many hours of fundraising and an interest free loan from Scouts Victoria with Scouts Victoria matching local scouts dollar for dollar they were finally able to come up with enough money.

The redevelopment includes re-stumping the hall, a new kitchen and

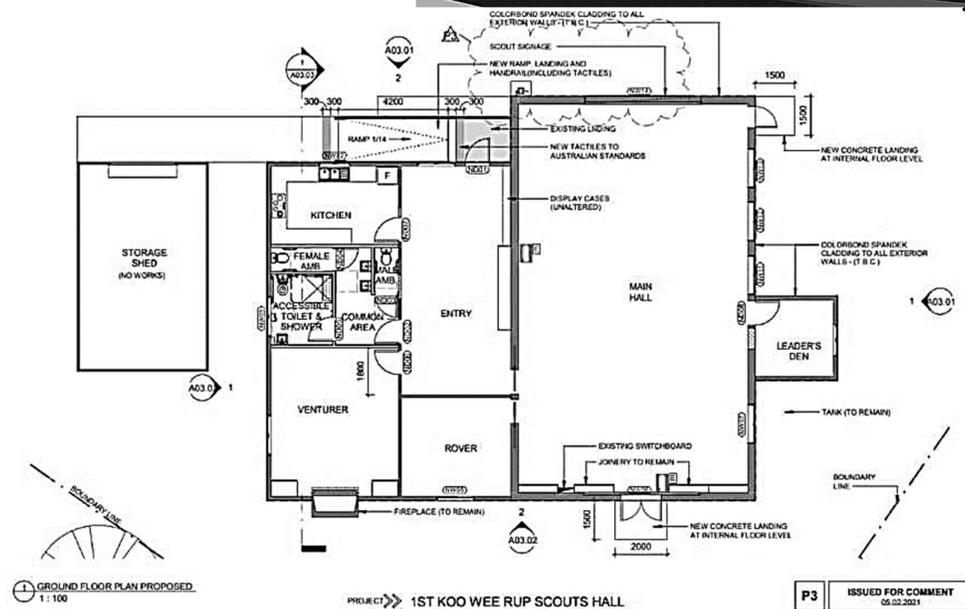
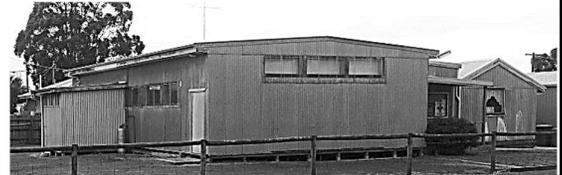


toilets, including a disabled toilet and all the internal being fixed up but the most noticeable change right now is that the outside is being re clad.

They have received a further grant through Bendigo Bank recently which will allow them to add security cameras to the hall.

*Caroline Roff, Editor  
Pictured clockwise from top right:*

- The hall as we know it.
- Stripped.
- Wrapped.
- Artist's impression of final building.
- Floor plan.
- Early days of the scout hall (taken from behind).



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](mailto:blackfish@live.com.au)  
PO Box 64, Koo Wee Rup 3981, Tel 5997 2333  
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Koo Wee Rup

Supported by  
**Cardinia**  
Cardinia Shire Council

**Bendigo Bank**

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

*Lockdown restrictions permitting*

### September

Wed 1st	Township Committee Meeting	via Zoom	7.30pm
Wed 1st	Lions Club Meeting	via Zoom	7.30pm
Mon 6th	CWA Meeting	via Zoom	7.30pm
Wed 8th	KWR Swamp Historical Society Meeting	KWR Museum	7.30pm
Sun 12th	Bayles Fauna Park Working Bee & AGM	Bayles Fauna Park	9am
Mon 13th	KWR Senior Citizens AGM ( <i>page 5</i> )	Senior Citizens Club	10.30am
Mon 20th	CWA Craft Night	Senior Citizens or Zoom	7.30pm
Wed 15th	Koo Wee Coffee Club	Chandelier Cafe	10am
Wed 15th	Lions Club Meeting	RSL Clubrooms or Zoom	7.30pm

### October

Mon 4th	KWR Senior Citizens Indoor Bowls (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	12.30pm
Mon 4th	Chair Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	5pm
Mon 4th	Mat Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	6pm
Mon 4th	CWA Meeting	Zoom	7.30pm
Wed 6th	Koo Wee Coffee Club	Royal Hotel	10am
Wed 6th	Township Committee Meeting	Community Centre	7.30pm
Wed 6th	Lions Club Meeting	RSL Clubrooms	7.30pm
Fri 8th	KWR Regional Health Service Ladies Auxiliary Meeting	RSL Clubrooms	9.30am
Sun 10th	Bayles Fauna Park Working Bee & Committee Meeting	Bayles Fauna Park	9am
Mon 11th	KWR Senior Citizens Indoor Bowls (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	12.30pm
Mon 11th	Chair Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	5pm
Mon 11th	Mat Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	6pm
Wed 13th	KWR Swamp Historical Society Meeting	KWR Museum	7.30pm
Fri 15th	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Bingo (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Sat 16th	Mat Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	9am
Mon 18th	KWR Senior Citizens Indoor Bowls (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	12.30pm
Mon 18th	Chair Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	5pm
Mon 18th	Mat Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	6pm
Mon 18th	CWA Craft Night	Senior Citizens Club	7.30pm
Wed 20th	Koo Wee Coffee Club	Chandelier Cafe	10am
Wed 20th	Lions Club Meeting	RSL Clubrooms	7.30pm
Fri 22nd	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Bingo (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Sat 23rd	Mat Pilates	Eco House - Hospital	9am

#### JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

For document signing and associated services contact:

**GARY KING JP - 0438 663 655**

**BEVERLEY EDWARDS JP -**

**0400 584 235**

*JP duties are a free community service*

#### HAVE YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

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

5997 2333 *Caroline Roff, Editor*



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## Letter to the Editor – On Kindness

Dear Caroline,

In these current times of negative news and lockdown frustrations, I felt I would like to write and tell your readers that there are still many acts of great compassion and kindness being shown. These acts deserve to be acknowledged for the happiness they have given, and for sustaining my faith in the innate goodness of the vast majority of humanity.

First, a huge “Thank You!” to the CEO of KRHS, Ms Noni Bourke, for her compassion in July’s Lockdown when my brother-in-law, James, was a patient in our local Hospital in the final stage of prostate cancer. In her wisdom, she decided that, although with visiting restrictions I could not enter the Hospital, I and my Australian Lions Hearing Dog, MoMo, could do a daily “window wave” at a designated window. This meant so much to a dying man, who had virtually nothing left to look forward to except our visits. James and MoMo had become totally devoted to each other while he was living with us for the final few months of his life, with myself as his 24/7 Carer, until James had to be hospitalised. To be able to see us both each day made a huge difference to him, brightening his mood, helping to ease his pain.

As James’ final days obviously arrived, the wonderful, caring Staff at KRHS nursed him with so much care and treated him at all times in a manner designed to preserve his dignity. MoMo and I were able to visit James for long periods each day, reassuring him that he was loved and not alone. Thankfully, when the end finally came, I was with him, holding his hand and reassuring him he was loved. Afterwards, I was so impressed by how the Staff cared for James as they performed their final ministrations, still talking to him, explaining what they were doing, and treating his body with great dignity, the final act of grace being one of the Nurses coming back into his room with a bright posy of Spring flowers that she caringly placed on his chest.

James’ family and I are so grateful that he was able to spend his final few weeks locally in such a caring and empathetic environment. We are immensely fortunate to have a first class Palliative Care facility right here in Koo Wee Rup. Congratulations and Thank You to all the Staff, from Front Reception all the way through the Hospital.

\*\*\*

My second big “Thank You!” goes to an unknown (to me) kind lady I saw in our local Woolies around 6 pm on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August. MoMo (in her Official ALHD jacket) and I were doing a quick, small shop on our daily walk, as we do a number of days a week so that MoMo keeps her Public Access training at top level, and this lovely lady smiled (behind her mask) and asked me about MoMo. My beautiful Australian Lions Hearing Assistance Dog was given to me by ALHD with the support of our local Lions Club, on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2020, between Lockdowns, to help in my daily life by alerting me to a number of sounds for which she had been trained by ALHD in South Australia. As I am profoundly deaf without my Cochlear Implant and hearing aid, MoMo is of immense value to my well-being and safety, as well as being the most wonderful companion, especially throughout all our Lockdowns.

I finished shopping and moved to the fast Checkout with my few items, and as I was finding my Rewards card, this same lady was behind me in the queue, leant forward and insisted on paying the \$39 owed for my shopping! To say I was pretty well speechless is an understatement; all I could do was say “Thank you so much!” as she smiled and left the store. I hope she reads this, and can know how uplifted I was by her kindness and generosity at the end of a difficult day. My footsteps, as MoMo and I walked home in the cold, rainy darkness were so much lighter, my heart was aglow from her act of positive humanity. THANK YOU, lovely lady! The world is still a wonderful place ....

*Suzanne de Pelsenaire, Koo Wee Rup*



### Kindness

Kindness is the superglue that binds the human race  
It comes in many guises, but they wear a common face,  
True kindness comes straight from the heart, a gift that has no strings  
Is given with no thought for gain, delights in joy it brings.

Kindness knows no barriers of race or sex or creed,  
Pure selfless act to man or beast whenever there’s a need,  
The smallest kindness offered can transform the greyest day  
Bring warmth and happiness all round in the very nicest way.

*Suzanne de Pelsenaire (c) 2004*



# RUNNY NOSE OR COVID?

The only way to be sure is with a test at the first sign of any symptom.

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## CONTACT

215-235 Rossiter Road  
Koo Wee Rup Vic 3981

**5997 1819**

[reception@blackfishmedicalclinic.com.au](mailto:reception@blackfishmedicalclinic.com.au)  
[www.blackfishmedicalclinic.com.au](http://www.blackfishmedicalclinic.com.au)



## Koo Wee Rup Township Committee Meeting

The Township held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, 4 August via Zoom. Township Meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 1 September at 7:30 pm via zoom. If you would like to raise an issue with the Township Committee, or would like to attend the meeting, please contact the Secretary via email at kooweeruptc@gmail.com.

The president congratulated Kaye Cameron on winning the Westernport byelection and welcomed her as our new councillor.

The president attended a meeting of the Carols by Candlelight committee. Koo Wee Rup Carols will be held on Saturday 11 December 2021, COVID restrictions allowing. A grant has been received from council.

Men's Shed is closed because situated on Aged Care Facility property.

The township committee's Christmas decorations committee has received a small grant.

CCTV camera was recently installed at Koo Wee Rup Pool overlooking the carpark. The camera feed is monitored by Pakenham and Dandenong Police. No response from Dept. of Transport regarding camera at the bus stop. The bus stop site was recommended by the community for a camera because of the school buses using the bus interchange.

Forget-Me-Not Café is on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions Last meeting attendance was limited because of noise levels. Because of restrictions the next Forget-Me-Not Café has not been scheduled.

## Police report to the Township Committee

### Theft from Motor cars:

There were three incidents involving theft from cars. Of concern is the fact that people are still leaving their cars unlocked with valuable items including purses and phones in clear view. This obviously provides added incentive (Not that they need it) for offenders to enter vehicles and steal items.

On one occasion the offenders used the victims credit cards stolen from a purse left in an unlocked car to purchase items from various shops.

On another occasion they were able to gain access to a mobile phone left in an unlocked car to obtain sufficient information to transfer a reasonable sum of money from the victim's bank account into another account.

Both these offences were clearly avoidable if the victims removed all such items from the car and ensured the cars were locked. I can't reinforce strongly enough the need to lock not just cars but houses as well. Although it is not a problem in Koo Wee Rup as yet, there is an increasing trend for offenders to gain entry into unlocked houses. Once inside the house they locate car keys which are often left in obvious places such as key hooks or even on kitchen benches or tables. Once they have the keys it becomes very easy for them to steal the victim's car.

### Theft of Motor cars.

A vehicle was stolen from the car park of the Football club whilst the owner was inside the club rooms. The owner had left the car unlocked with the keys in making it an easy target for the offenders. The vehicle was later recovered in Cranbourne

A 23 year old Cranbourne man has been charged in relation to the theft. This matter is pending a court outcome.

### Burglaries:

There were 5 reported burglaries during the month:

Two of these occurred on commercial properties.

- Shell Service Station in Station St. Koo Wee where offenders forced entry and stole cigarettes.

- Bayles Service Station: Entry forced with a quantity of tools and mechanical machinery was stolen
- Residential (house) burglaries.

There were three house burglaries all of which occurred on unattended rural properties. More often than not this involved entering sheds on the properties rather than the houses to steal tools and small items of farm machinery.

During the month Police also attended 8 Family Violence Incidents in Koo Wee Rup.

Two youth offenders received cautions for minor drug offences

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Damien Fitzgerald: 0419 524 824

Malcom Reedy: 0419 292 560

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## **We are located at:**

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**and**

**1, 1-3 Main Street, Bunyip.**

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



# Koo Wee Rup Bowling Club and Community Hub construction upgrade

Preliminary plans for a new pavilion at the Koo Wee Rup Bowling and Community Hub are now available for community feedback.

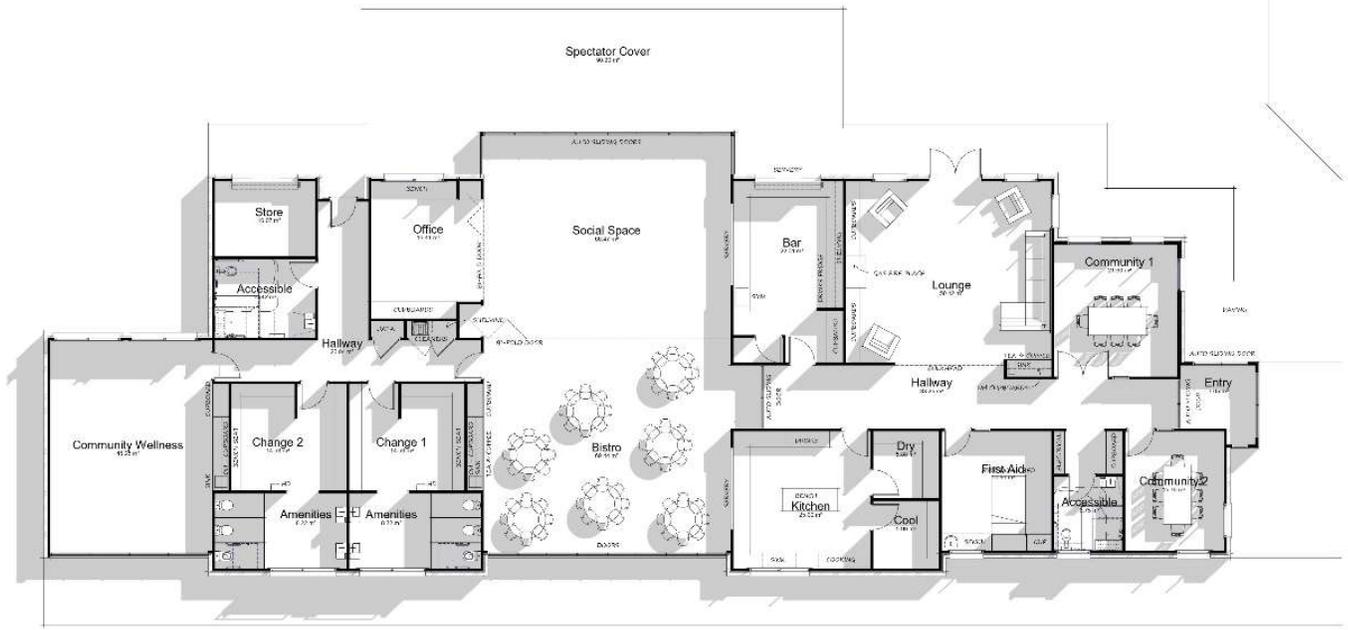
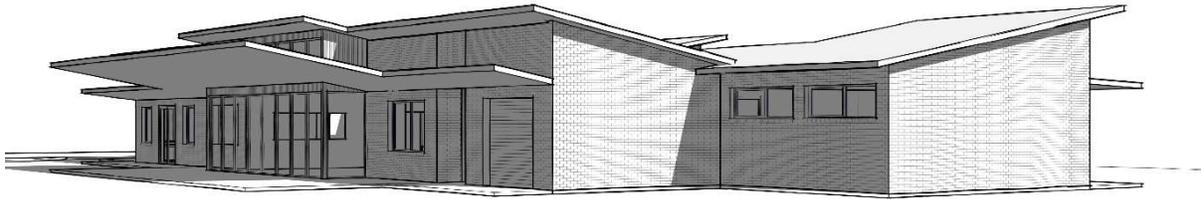
Cardinia Shire Council has received \$1.6 million of funding through the State Governments Growing Suburbs Fund for the design and construction of the new pavilion. Council will contribute \$1.6 million towards the project.

The current pavilion is used by Koo Wee Rup Bowling Club and South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group, with Koo Wee Rup Lions Club and other community and private groups also using it on occasion. Since receiving the funding, Council has worked with these groups on the proposed design of the new pavilion. Residents are urged to jump online and have their say on the preliminary plans.

The existing pavilion was constructed in the late 1960's and is located on the south end of the bowling green. As part of the upgrades, the new pavilion will be constructed to replace the existing pavilion. The pavilion will feature a multipurpose space for community use that can be divided into two separate spaces. The design also features community meeting rooms, unisex change rooms, accessible toilets and office. The pavilion and supporting infrastructure will provide universal access and environmentally sustainable design.

Cardinia Shire Mayor Councillor Brett Owen said the new pavilion would better support the current clubs as well as other local sporting clubs, schools and community groups in hosting meetings and functions. "This is an exciting project and one that I know the local community has been wanting to see take place," Cr Owen said.

To view the preliminary plans of the new pavilion, visit [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay)





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## What was that siren?

August 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:

- 27/7/21 – Burn Off – Koo Wee Rup Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 30/7/21- Car smoking after collision – South Gippsland Hwy Koo Wee Rup
- 30/7/21- Automatic alarm – Rossiter Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 30/7/21 – Fire in back yard – Main Drain Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 1/8/21 – Motor Vehicle collision - South Gippsland Hwy Lang Lang
- 3/8/21- Motor Vehicle collision – Ballarto Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 3/8/21 – Motor Vehicle Collision – Manks Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 5/8/21 – Car smoking after collision – Ballarto Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 9/8/21 – Burn off unregistered – Prestons Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 10/8/21 – Motor Vehicle Collision – Koo Wee Rup bypass Koo Wee Rup



## Winner of Mother's Day Raffle

The winner of the beautiful quilt from Koo Wee Rup Fire Brigade Ladies Auxiliary Mother's Day raffle was C Walker. A big thankyou to the swamp ladies for their donation of the quilt. The ladies Auxiliary would also like to thank the community who purchased the tickets. The Auxiliary raised \$511.45 for the Fire Brigade.

## Location of Smoke Alarms

Did you know you can't smell smoke when you're asleep? All homes should have interconnected working smoke alarms installed in every bedroom and living area. It could save your life.

## Register Your Burn-Off

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 notify CFA 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



**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



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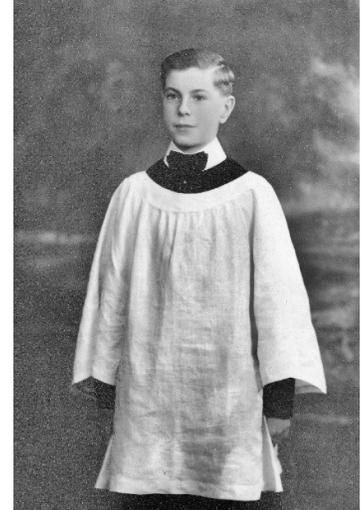
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## Tales from My Singing Years and My Passion for Opera *by Geoff Stokes*

I was five years old when I started to attend the Church of England Sunday School attached to our local parish church of St Philip's in the UK, so it seemed to me to be a natural progression to eventually move into the church choir; I can remember the day quite well. It was in 1940 and I was eight when I joined as a boy soprano, an event that would continue a tradition started in 1856, the tradition that there was always a Stokes in the church choir. At that time Frank Stokes, my cousin, had been called up for Military Service and me joining the choir continued the custom of having a Stokes singing in the church on Sundays. My audition, if that's what you call it, was at the church one warm sunny Friday evening at the choir practice in front of the choirmaster Mr. T. E. Clarke. He was a Victorian era gentleman who always wore a flyaway collar and black tie, a wonderful musician and a great teacher of sacred music to us; a set of unruly boys who sometimes played little tricks and jokes on him. We boys wore black cassocks with white surplices and a large white stiff Eton collar with a black bow tie. The senior boy wore a red bow tie and the number two boy wore a purple one. And so was set my ritual for every weekend for many years to come; choir practice on Fridays with a church service on Sunday Morning and another one Sunday Evening with Sunday school in the afternoon. During my time as a choir boy, I studied music and sang many solos in church and in the church hall for social events at the time. I can remember my mom crying with happiness when I sang, "Oh for the wings of a dove", a song I sang very often until my voice broke at fifteen years old. Then it was a move up into the men's chorus of the choir and my voice finally settled to a bass baritone when I was about 17 or 18 years old. At this age, at community concerts, I was now singing quite a lot of solos from Gilbert and Sullivan operas and religious songs from Handel's 'Messiah' and other oratorios etc.



There were two girls in our church choir, Eileen Cohen and Pat Whitmore. These two young ladies were there because of their superior soprano voices or as a contralto backup to the few and far between male altos. Pat became famous with her singing on BBC television and radio in the sixties, mainly with Geoff Love and his orchestra and as a regular backing vocal artist for the Beatles but I have no idea what happened to her later. Probably a happy grandmother today wondering whatever happened to Geoff Stokes? Ah well, maybe not! My own singing career could have got a boost had I understood the implications. One evening when I arrived home, Mr. McDermott, our choirmaster at the time, was in the house talking to my Mom and Dad. He had offered to pay my fees to attend full time at the Royal College of Music in London as a singer/musician in training. Sadly the answer to him was that 'our Geoff' was training to be a draughtsman and in any case the cost of keeping Geoffrey in London was more than they could afford. Mr. McDermott asked me again, personally, several times and I had no idea that I could have gone off to London myself and found work, any work, to help in the costs of my tuition and study. There, in front of me, was another turning point of life. What a different story this tale would be had I taken up his offer?

Fast forward to 1959 and I am now very happily married to my dear Olive. In early 1959 one of Olive's friends having heard that I had been in a choir, suggested to Olive that I join their opera group called 'The Wolverhampton Opera Society' (as distinct to The Wolverhampton Operatic and Dramatic Society, a separate group that staged Musical Comedies). The Wolverhampton Opera Society put on an opera every year in the Wulfrun Hall complete with full orchestra: reluctantly (yes, that's quite right!) I agreed to go along one evening for an audition. I went into the building as a bass baritone and came out of the session a tenor baritone.!! That's what comes of going to an audition organised by people who really know voices. Their next show was to be the opera 'The Masked Ball' by Giuseppe Verdi, quite a challenge for an amateur group. The musical director lived quite close to us in Wall Heath (the village where we now lived) and, unfortunately, the producer and he were always at loggerheads. In fact, only a short time after rehearsals commenced, they swapped roles - unbelievable. The main female lead was to be sung by a well-known soprano of the area, in fact she had attended Olive's school, Dudley High School, and Olive knew her by reputation. Rehearsals were a real trial for me due to the in-house fighting and eventually I found a reason to withdraw. And, the reason was; at work I was offered a position in a brand new Company office to be opened in Gloucester, a city about 88 km south of Wall Heath where we lived. Olive and I discussed this for some time before we finally took the step to move house and home into a new life-changing adventure. After a couple of months in our new home, history then repeated itself because, one of my friends this time, asked me to join the Gloucester Grand Opera Company for their production of 'De Fledermaus' by Johan Strauss. Actually my time with 'De Fledermaus' was OK, I was a member of the chorus and if you know the operetta, you will know that the chorus is an important part. It was indeed an enjoyable time. I have decided, that in this story I will not go into detail about every show that I was involved in over the years. That would take a separate book to describe all the happenings, frustrations, criticisms, successes, and failures that we had. There are one or two amusing anecdotes about some operas that I was involved with so I will share them with you.

*Continued next page*

## Tales from My Singing Years and My Passion for Opera *from previous page*

Notwithstanding what I said about my intended brevity when telling you about the theatrical shows I was in, I have to say that the next production was scheduled to open on January 4th 1961. It was an ambitious undertaking for it was to be Giuseppe Verdi's 'Nabucco'. This very 'Grand Opera' was a vehicle really for a leading singer of the group, David Purcell, who had a magnificent baritone voice. I managed to get a part in the chorus. Everything went well until the dress rehearsal when the leading soprano Phyllis, told her husband Peter who was the lead tenor, that she wouldn't sing the part and, in any case, she wanted him to leave her. Peter had been having what we thought was an innocent dalliance with a lady who had a minor part in the opera. However, it is said, Peter confessed to it being a torrid and serious affair and he moved out of the home that very night! So there we were with no leading lady for the Amazon part of Abigail, thirty hours before the show was due to open. Fortunately, David had sung in a concert in London a few weeks before and at that concert a lady friend of his had also sang items from 'Nabucco'. They hastily contacted her and she agreed to sing the part albeit with hardly any rehearsal. The actor who was to play the important role of the High Priest panicked and said he would not take part in what would be seen by all as an embarrassing disaster. All eyes focussed on me and I was asked to take over his part with twenty-four hours to go. I coped OK and thankfully I received very good reviews.

Everything went well and our new leading lady, Dorothy Copeland, was fabulous, far better than our original Abigail could have ever have hoped to be. Dorothy's first entry seemed to turn our longhaired but aged orchestra conductor to stone. It was the first night and he hadn't seen her before! He was almost overwhelmed by the sight of this scantily dressed Amazon woman who appeared with a short sword gripped between her teeth. She literally bounded on to the stage with super energy and then, taking the sword in her hand, she sensuously and slowly licked the blade. Believe it or not her first words to her stage partner, the very recently separated Peter, but, as per the script were, "Ha ha, a warrior – in love alone victorious eh?" Those of us waiting in the theatre wings who knew fell apart laughing. The opera had excellent reviews for the soloists and the orchestra, and for the rousing music that also included the "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves": It was a relief when it was all over but I suppose I could say - we had some fun. Certainly an experience; what other semi-amateur group would attempt to put on Verdi's 'Nabucco' these days? The annual general meeting of the group took place a couple of weeks later and, because there was no one else who would take on the job, I suddenly found myself, after only a year's experience in the group, chairman of the Gloucester Grand Opera Company – the chief!

The year ended with me being involved with yet another production for the Gloucester Grand Opera Group. I had to be, I was now chairman! We put on Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Ruddigore', not quite Grand Opera but very close. Technically, it was a problem, because of the regular appearance of ghosts emerging from large portraits hung on the on-stage set of a Country Manor art gallery and, with other very different scenes set in Cornwall, it was a challenge. At rehearsals we had an excellent piano accompanist. For her day job she was a doctor at the general hospital; in fact she was a senior pathologist and we found this out when one of our cheekier male chorus members said to her, "Gee, I wouldn't mind you looking after me if I was ever brought in to your hospital". Her answer floored him somewhat when she replied, "The only time we would ever meet would be on a cold slab in my mortuary and you would be, unfortunately - dead!" I played a satisfying character part, that of Sir Roderick Murgatroyd. He doesn't come on stage until act two but he is an important and lovable character in the story. I also had the best song (I thought!), and a baritone solo, not too many of these sorts of songs around. Over the following 50 odd years I had the leading roles in Grand Opera, Musical Comedy, Old Time Music Hall, Pantomime, Gilbert & Sullivan, and Oratorio. Escamillo, the Toreador in Bizet's Carmen, The Gardener in Mozart's The Magic Flute, The Red Shadow in Desert Song (twice), Fred in Kiss Me Kate, Jimmy in No, No, Nanette (twice), Liver Lips Louie in Guys and Dolls, and I sang the bass-baritone solos in Handel's Messiah several times. My concert repertoire had songs such as 'Old Man River', 'The Cornish Floral Dance' and 'On the Road to Mandalay' and other songs of this era I also devised, produced, and directed several old time music hall productions in the UK and Australia in the early 60s and 70s. The zenith was writing an old time music hall then the producing and directing it at the Victoria Theatre, Sovereign Hill, Ballarat in 1977, over five days. There's a separate story by itself.

However there is one other little story you will like and this is about our production of Carmen by Georges Bizet during the second week of October 1963, an ambitious production in anyone's language. However, we did have two potential Carmens to audition: Betty who had played the part of the 'Merry Widow' in our previous production and Audrey who had played many musical comedy roles around the district. Betty didn't look the part, Audrey did but Betty had the more appropriate voice, a superb mezzo-soprano whereas Audrey was really a coloratura soprano. Although Audrey was excellent in the higher ranges Betty's quite dramatic, sexy, lower register actually won the part for her. The decision to pick Betty as Carmen caused some angst especially as Betty had been chosen over Audrey for the title role in 'The Merry Widow' just three months before. We had a great tenor lead in Neville Ackerman playing Don José and he went on to join the Welsh National Opera Company the following year and he became their leading tenor for many years until his retirement.

*Continued next page*

## Tales from My Singing Years and My Passion for Opera *from previous page*

The part of Escamillo, the bullfighter, was offered to me after the audition and I gladly accepted. My potential show-stopping aria was the famous 'Toreador's Song' and there was also a super duet and knife fight between Neville as Don José and me as Escamillo.

We all spent many an hour rehearsing and the main set was a colossal arch stretched diagonally across the stage and I have to say the show was a great success. What it lacked in technical contrivances and visual illumination was amply made up by the performance of our two leads and the professionalism of the orchestra. I had an amusing incident during one performance. Micaela, played by the now recovered Phyllis, mistakes my character for a robber. She has to fire a shot at me with a rifle and the projectile is supposed to just miss me. This one night the rifle failed to go off after three attempts; the actual bang was supposed to be



made in the wings, off stage. The stage manager who was attempting the detonation was so frustrated that in the end he just shouted, "Oh...bloody well bang then ... bloody bang will ya!" The audience roared and it was some time before some order was restored. The director was not amused. All through the weeks of build up to the opening night one lady

### Music hall a big hit

#### White spats, canes villains, chorus girls and melodrama.

All the elements of an old-fashioned English music hall were at the Templestowe Memorial Hall, last week.

Nowadays, modern theatre talks about audience participation, but the full house at the Doncaster-Templestowe Repertory Group's "The Good Old Days" needed no prompting.

They sang along, booed, hissed, cheered, commented in the right places and made the appropriate oohs and aahs at the chairman's vociferous introduction of each item.

The group's intention was to take its audience back to a typical evening's entertainment in a London metropolitan hall at the turn of the century and they did just that.

The costuming, the direction and presentation was excellent and Geoff Stokes, who devised and directed the production, has talents worthy of bigger things.

Solo items were superb and the show just flowed, with no shyness on the part of the audience when it came to joining in the choruses.

A major highlight was the showing of one of the first silent movie westerns, "The Great Train Robbery."

With Patricia Trevellian providing the accompaniment on the piano and Gavin Dimmick on drums, the movie was a winner in every way and drew a greater audience response than any modern movie I have seen.

The main regret was the show has now finished.

It would be a winner as a regular runner in the area and would no doubt draw large audiences from all over Melbourne once the word got out.

A great idea was the BYO licence and the audience bringing along their own supper, which made the Memorial Hall like one big happy night time picnic.—Jane Eyre.

volunteer was supposed to be making wooden replica 'Pikes' for the soldiers and, in fact, the chorus soldiers had been practising their drill with broomsticks regularly over the weeks. The night before the dress rehearsal our producer asked this lady where the real pikes were because they were needed for the soldiers to get used to; after all the day after tomorrow was the opening night! She broke down and weepingly confessed that she hadn't had time to make them and in fact hadn't even made one. The air was immediately a bit thick from then on and very soon we had to put our heads together to decide what to do. My lovely wife Olive was

the official 'props' person for the opera and she came up with the idea of rifles for the soldiers. "But where do we get twelve rifles from?" she was asked. "What about David Purcell's father, he's a gun smith and has a shop in the city", she answered. It was late when we arrived at the shop but Cecil Purcell managed to find twelve rifles in his stock of second hand guns. He found quite an assortment of shotguns, air rifles, 0.22 rifles and at least one ex-army .303 for us and we immediately set about drilling the soldiers and teaching them basic rifle drill. As I said, the show was a success and for many years afterwards I used the Toreador's Song as a rousing item in my singing repertoire. Can you imagine travelling around today in a car at the dead of night with twelve rifles stacked on the back seat of your car? Olive had to drive them through the city and then take them home each night for the duration of the show. Olive had many theatrical parts herself in plays at this time; she was a superb and very popular character actor. That's another story to tell sometime.

My final show was in 2005 at an aged care home in Knoxfield, Victoria. My voice was now not so good as it was in the years before and I was getting fed up with all the rehearsals and time required to put on a show of any kind. I was also the emcee that afternoon at the aged care home and I noticed that 99.9% of my audience were ladies. I opened with, "How nice to be with you all this afternoon and we know that you will enjoy the show with our music and songs from an Old Time Music Hall of years ago but ...where are all your menfolk, didn't they want to be here today?" There was silence for about three seconds and then a lady sitting in a wheel chair at the front answered in a flat tone, "The're all dead"!!

So ... to finish with a little story: *C, E-flat, and G walk into a bar. The bartender immediately shows them the door and says, "Sorry, we don't serve minors."*

Geoff Stokes



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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

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- Joey – 6:30 to 7:30pm Monday
- Cub – 7:00 to 8:30pm Tuesday
- Scout – 7:00 to 9:00pm Wednesday
- Venturer – 7:00 to 9:00pm Friday
- Rover – 8:00 till late Friday



Joey Scouts have been cooking and making play dough over Zoom.



Well, we are all back online and creating some online programs. Again, learning new programs and apps and adjusting to the way of the current world the best way we can, by continuing to see the youth members every week. We held our ARAP on Zoom, yes there was some issues, but we made the most of the group's achievements.

Our Joey scouts have been making some Rocky Road and creating some playdough.

Cubs Scouts have found creative ways to do ten pin bowling, made some pizza scrolls and have enjoyed some science experiments. We had Oscar give a speech about Cubs at ARAP and he did a brilliant job.

We are watching the hall renovations in anticipation of it finished.

## Monster Raffle

This is happening again this year. However, it has gone digital this year. All you need to do is scan the QR code and enter the details. You are still able to purchase tickets in person, just let us know if you would like some.



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[www.scoutsvictoria.com.au](http://www.scoutsvictoria.com.au)



1st Koo Wee Rup Scout Group  
[www.scoutsvictoria.com.au/1stkwrsrup](http://www.scoutsvictoria.com.au/1stkwrsrup)

## \$2 a ticket.

Drawn November 5th at 11am.

A great list of prizes with a brand new car as the 1st prize.

**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?**

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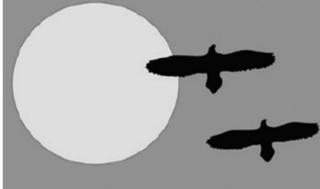


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## Koo Wee Rup Community Centre

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.

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*\*Bookings subject to Committee approval*

## Notes about the Community Advisory Committee during Lock Down.

You will recall from the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) August 2021 report that members of the CAC were all invited to a virtual meeting on the 28th of July 2021 to discuss the Koo-Wee-Rup Regional Health Services' (KRHS) Strategic Planning Process that is taking place over the next couple of months. This meeting looked at the purpose of the forthcoming KRHS Strategic Plan which is to identify the key areas and priorities that KRHS will focus on over the coming years. The invitees discussed in detail the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, improvements, and any gaps in the services provided by KRHS. They discussed how KRHS could better engage and connect with the Koo-Wee-Rup community in the foreseeable future. The coordinators would now like to hear from any resident of the Koo-Wee-Rup District Community who has suggestions and ideas about any changes or additions to the KRHS structure they would personally like incorporated or maybe even the way the KRHS is run, either day-to-day or into the future.

If you are a newcomer to the town, the main 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 KRHS on 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.

With the Covid restrictions showing no end at the time of writing we ask that if you or your closest relatives and friends are really sad and stretched with this upsetting life we are all experiencing please reach out to them and just talk to them. Do give them a phone call anyway. All this helps such a lot and if things are really bad do phone or Google 'Health Direct' a free Australian health service you can really count on. They will be kind and respectful to you and will understand the problems you have and will help you to overcome your sadness and anxiety. Help is also at hand via the new Community Activation and Social Isolation (CASI) initiative. CASI offers social, emotional and practical support for people who are isolated during COVID-19. Cardinia Shire residents needing support can call the COVID-19 hotline on 1800 675 398 then choose option 3. They will then speak to a Red Cross volunteer who has been specially trained to support people who might be distressed or anxious. The Red Cross volunteer will connect callers with the right support or refer them to Council to connect them with local services and organisations. Alternatively, those wanting support can call Council directly on 1300 787 624 to speak with our CASI support officer. Support might include wellbeing check-ins, assistance with video chatting to stay connected with family, linking people with online social and community activities, or providing help to run errands, collect items from the shops or with online applications. Take care and always be kind to each other.

*Geoff Stokes*

### KWR Senior Citizens Club

*Icke Road, KWR*

Once again we are in an extended lockdown. No activities at Seniors until restrictions are lifted. The AGM is still set for Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am, if restrictions are lifted. Meanwhile stay warm, stay safe.

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## Koo Wee Rup Country Womens Association

Written by Linda Sanders

### 2021 Meetings

Our next meeting would have been on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm at the Senior Citizens Hall in Icke Road (or more likely a ZOOM meeting)

Our next craft meeting would have been on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm at the Seniors Hall. (or more likely a ZOOM meeting). We will be doing our own projects.

If you would like to join our great team of friendly ladies, please call President Cathy

Stephens on 0403 593 513 for more details, or just turn up on the night.



### CWA Victoria Website:

There are numerous resources on the CWA Victoria website ranging from cooking, crafts, gardening, wellbeing and children. Have a look at [www.cwaofvic.org.au](http://www.cwaofvic.org.au)

Resource sheets with activities for 5-12 year-olds (scroll down on the home page). For teenagers, please click on the Young People circle at the bottom of the page. Each week new resource sheets will be available.

### **CWA Victoria suggested websites for keeping the kids entertained:**

National Gallery of Victoria <https://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/kids/>

Melbourne Museum <https://www.timeout.com/melbourne/kids>

Melbourne University <https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/five-tips-for-keeping-kids-learning-at-home>

Education Department [https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/english/literacy/LiteracyandNumeracyTipstoHelpYourChild\\_Final.pdf](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/english/literacy/LiteracyandNumeracyTipstoHelpYourChild_Final.pdf)

Things To Do With Kids <https://www.goodtoknow.co.uk/family/things-to-do-with-kids-66855>

Fun At Home Activities <https://familyguide.com/boredom-busters-110-fun-at-home-activities-for-families-kids-2/>

Fun Things To Do At Home <https://www.todayparent.com/family/activities/fun-things-to-do-at-home>

### **CWA VICTORIA SUGGESTED WEBSITES FOR WELLBEING DURING COVID:**

5 Ways to Well Being <https://5waystowellbeing.org.au/>

Wellbeing Tools for You <https://beyou.edu.au/resources/tools-and-guides/wellbeing-tools-for-you>

Mental Health Websites <https://schools.au.reachout.com/articles/recommended-mental-health-websites>

Health Direct <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/mental-health-and-wellbeing>

Wellbeing Australia <https://www.wellbeingaustralia.com.au/>

House of Wellness <https://www.houseofwellness.com.au>

### **Lamingtons** *From the CWA River Cookbook*

#### **Cake Ingredients**

250g butter	3 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla	125g Plain flour
90g castor sugar	¾ cup milk
250g S.R. flour	Desiccated Coconut to coat the lamingtons

#### **Method**

Cream together the butter and sugar, gradually add well beaten eggs, and vanilla.

Sift flour together and mix alternately with milk.

Place into a greased lamington tin (approx. 20 x 30 x 3cm) and bake at 180 for 50 minutes.

Allow to cool and leave until the next day before using.

Cut cake into squares and coat in chocolate icing and roll in coconut

#### **Boiled Icing Ingredients**

2 cups sugar

½ cup water

2 heaped tablespoons cocoa.

Add ingredients into saucepan and boil for 2-3 minutes. If too thick, add more water.



## St Vinnies Winter Appeal through our Bendigo Bank Branches

The Koo Wee Rup / Iona Maryknoll Conference of St Vinnies is part of an international Catholic material aid organisation to support those in the community who need a "hand up".

During the traditional winter appeal period from June until August, we have had a presence in the four Bendigo Bank Branches that cover our catchment. These are the Bunyip, Tooradin, Koo Wee Rup and Lang Lang branches.

It's proved to be a terrific partnership allowing the availability of the services of St Vinnies to be promoted, as well as offering an opportunity for locals to support us via non-perishable food donations and cash via our QR code donation system.



All donations have gone directly to our local area through this system.

This article is our Conference Members way of thanking our banking partners and we hope that we can work together again over future appeals. In the meantime this profile has also allowed up to commence a partnership with Woolworths Supermarket's food salvage program, which is also a terrific development for which we are very grateful.

Enquiries regarding material aid should be made via the Cranbourne call centre attached to the Opportunity Shop there on 5995 0211.



## Men's Shed Lock-Down News

Like everywhere else, the Men's Shed has been, and still is, in lock-down courtesy of the Covid pandemic and the State and Federal government rulings. However, there is a little bit of good news for you. The renovations and upgrading of the Men's Shed kitchen have now been completed. The kitchen now complies with all the rules required for an independent (non-standard) program that is developed specifically for the premises, i.e. our own kitchen in our Men's Shed. It is now entirely independent of the hospital kitchen.

So ... as we have said many times before, if you live in Koo-Wee-Rup and District, take note that when we can open up again 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 for you 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. Our own John Farmer will be waiting to welcome you.

It's now winter and the community veggie garden is in slumber mode; however the winter crop has been planted and we await the miracle growth of spring - not long now. This coming year all of our excess produce from the garden will be donated to the Turning Point Church and their Koo-Wee-Rup Connect Food Bank for distribution to the needy; surprisingly, there are quite a lot of our fellow townspeople who really do need our aid right now and not just for food. So .. if you know of anyone who needs a little help to maybe try and overcome some stress or other problems, even under today's restrictions, we can come to their aid. And what about you? Do please contact Brian Harlow on 5997 9687, and just have a little chat; he listens and is very understanding.

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. Finally:-

*My friend said to me, "What rhymes with orange?" And I told him, "No it doesn't!" I then told him, "No word rhymes with orange!". He said, "No it doesn't!"*

*Geoff Stokes*

## BAYLES FAUNA PARK

### Working Bee

Sunday, 12 September,  
9am start

followed by a BBQ lunch

### Committee Meeting

Sunday, 12 September  
immediately after working bee

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

**All welcome**

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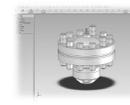
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If we can be of any assistance to you with any general queries, please do not hesitate to call **Rose Brady** on:

**1300 764 773 or [info@conveyancingresolutions.com.au](mailto:info@conveyancingresolutions.com.au)**

## Koo Wee Rup RSL Sub Branch Report

As we approach the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Sydney (II) I would like to bring to the attention of our community the loss of a proud and distinguished warship and her gallant crew.

HMAS Sydney was at Fremantle when war was declared on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1939. In May 1940 she proceeded from Australia via Colombo to Alexandria where she joined the British Seventh Cruiser Squadron for service in the Mediterranean. Her first action was the bombardment of Bardia, in company with HMAS Stuart and other allied warships.

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1940, with other units of the squadron, Sydney encountered three Italian destroyers. During the ensuing action, one of the three, Espero, was sunk by Sydney which then rescued 47 survivors. In July, Sydney became part of the covering force for Malta-bound convoys. She also joined with the Mediterranean battle fleet, which took part in the action against the Italian fleet at Calabria. Again, in action on July 19<sup>th</sup>, Sydney fatally damaged the Italian cruiser Bartolomeo Colleoni off Cape Spada, which was later sunk by Sydney's escorting destroyers. Later in the same year, Sydney was again in action against Italian convoys in the Straits of Otranto and participated in shelling the Libyan coast, the Dodecanese Island of Stampalia and Valona.

In January 1941, Sydney departed Alexandria and returned home, where after much needed maintenance and leave for her crew, she was assigned to patrol and escort duties in the Indian Ocean and to Fiji and New Zealand. Before the fateful encounter, Sydney had escorted the troop transport Zealandia which was making her way to Singapore. On reaching the Sunda Strait, Sydney handed her escort responsibilities to a British cruiser and turned for home, signalled her base in Fremantle the expected date of arrival would be November 20<sup>th</sup>.

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, 1941, approximately 130 nautical miles off the north-west coast of Western Australia, the German armed merchant cruiser Kormoran (flying a Dutch flag and disguised as the 8,000-ton merchant ship Straat Malacca) was on the look-out for unescorted merchant shipping. Kormoran was the Hamburg-Amerika line's ex-Steirmark – a modern, diesel-electric driven ship of 9,400 tons, capable of 18 knots. As Kormoran, she had been fitted out as a heavily armed raider. At around 1600 hours, Kormoran sighted Sydney, but having one engine out of commission (thereby reducing her speed to 14 knots) turned away as Sydney turned towards her, and repeatedly signalled requesting identification. Unable to understand the signal, the German Captain, Theodor Detmers, began a series of delaying tactics attempting to bluff his way out of the situation by signalling that his ship as the Straat Malacca, bound for Batavia. When asked to hoist the secret signal flags for that vessel (the letters IK) he was unable to reply.

At 1730 hours, Captain Detmers ordered removal of their disguise. Within seconds the Dutch flag was struck, the German colours hoisted, and firing had commenced at a distance estimated to be no more than one nautical mile (1852 metres, 15% more than a land mile). Kormoran scored hits on Sydney's bridge and repeated hits amidships. The German raider's captain knew he was dealing with the enemy warship whereas the Sydney's Commander, Captain Burnett, did not, but he was certainly on guard against that possibility. Sydney's gunners registered hits on the raider's engine room area before being struck by a torpedo forward of 'A' and 'B' turrets.

With her captain and most officers killed and ablaze from the bridge to the after funnel, Sydney began to turn sharply towards the enemy as if attempting to ram her but passed astern of the raider. Meanwhile, in Kormoran, they had their own problems. The surviving ship's company were unable to extinguish the fires in her engine room and for around 30 minutes both ships were subjected to devastating fire and crippled; the ships disengaged and one can only assume that Sydney's rudders/steering machinery were damaged as she disappeared towards the southern horizon, while on the Kormoran her crew were given orders to scuttle and abandon their ship, knowing on I y too well that with their cargo hold full to capacity with mines that were destined for Shark Bay WA, they had little time left, after which the mines blew up and she rapidly sank.

Rumours of the Sydney's loss causing deep distress to next of kin spread throughout the land before the official announcement, which was made on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1941, by the Prime Minister Mr Curtin. With the loss of 645 men, most of them young men in their teens and early twenties, and a proud warship making it the nation's greatest naval loss, but also no other event has been so shrouded in mystery and surrounded in controversy.

May they rest in eternal peace. We will keep their spirit alive.

We will remember them. Lest we forget.

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

### TURNINGPOINT CHURCH KOO WEE RUP

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**kooweerup@turningpoint.asn.au**



## Children's Eye Health

### 1 in 5 children has an undetected vision problem!

Vision problems have a profound effect on a child's development including schooling and day to day activities.

#### You can't hit the ball if you can't see it!

Most children will accept vision problems and adapt to their poor vision. They rarely complain as they believe everyone sees the world like they do. All children should have a full eye examination before starting school and regularly as they progress through primary and secondary school.

- Poor clarity or an imbalance in the coordination of the eyes can impact a child's development
- More than 411,000 children in Australia have a long-term eye disorder. Most of these are near or far sightedness

Signs of vision problems can be subtle. The following may indicate a possible problem with a child's vision.

#### Appearance

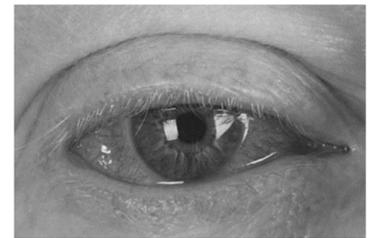
- Red or watery eyes
- One eye turns in or out

#### Complaints

- Blurred or double vision
- Headache or dizziness
- Eyes burning or itching

#### Behaviour

- Covers one eye
- Squints
- Tilts the head
- Holds a book close to read
- Difficulty with or avoiding reading or learning
- Rubs eyes
- Confuses colours
- Sensitivity to light
- Frequent blinking



#### Eye Care Practitioner

A full eye test with an optometrist will take approximately 30 minutes. It attracts a Medicare rebate and does not require a referral.

When visiting your eye care practitioner please be able to answer the following questions:

- Is there a history of eye conditions in the family (including lazy eyes or squints and near or far sightedness)?
- Have you noticed anything unusual about your child's eyes or behaviour? (e.g., rubs eyes when watching TV or reads with book very close.
- Has your child reached expected development goals and milestones such as walking and talking?

#### LEHP Children's Vision Screening Program

To help screen for undetected vision conditions, LEHP has purchased spot screening cameras that can identify issues through a simple on-site photograph. Screenings have been conducted in many districts and Qualified Vision Screeners and Facilitators are available to assist with conducting screenings in your area.

The Spot Vision Screening Camera analyses whether there are any abnormalities with the child's eyes and produces a printout that details findings and recommends whether an optometrist should be consulted.

The LEHP Children's Screening Program also tests a child's visual acuity, using a Lea Vision Chart, to see how sharp their vision is at longer distances.

Special charts are used to test colour perception, to ensure that colours are being perceived normally.

Depth Perception is observed using a 3D image device that checks that a child's stereo vision is suitable for conducting tasks at close range.

If you would like more information about Lions LEHP Screening Program, please contact Andrew Mortimer on 0420 326 691.





## Koo Wee Rup and Districts Lions

Written by Linda Sanders

### Lions Meetings

Koo Wee Rup Lions have meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at the RSL rooms, Station Street, Koo Wee Rup at 7pm.

We are committed to serving our local, national and international communities.

If you would like to join our merry team, please come along to a meeting to see how things are run or call Ron Payne on 0429 042 911.



AUSTRALIAN LIONS  
**CHILDREN'S  
MOBILITY  
FOUNDATION**

## Helping Children Walk With Pride

The Australian Chapter of Lions International Stamp Club is the collection hub for used postage stamps. They sort and sell the stamps on behalf of the Australian Lions Children's Mobility Foundation. All funds raised are given to the Foundation and this money assists in the purchase of walking devices for children with cerebral palsy (for more information about this project visit their website at [alcmf.lions.org.au](http://alcmf.lions.org.au)).

In 2018-2019 they raised \$48,000, in 2019-2020 they raised \$53,000 and 2020-2021 they raised \$66,500 – even during covid!!

If you would like to help in this fundraising exercise, all you need to do is trim around the stamps leaving approximately 2mm.

Do not soak the stamps off the paper.

If you have any used postage stamps, please drop them off at the Koo Wee Rup Lions Op Shop (when it reopens!!)



## New Westernport Ward councillor Kaye Cameron sworn in

The new councillor for Westernport, Kaye Cameron, was sworn in last month filling the vacancy left by much respected former Councillor Ray Brown.

Born in Koo Wee Rup and with a long family connection to Westernport ward, Councillor Cameron follows in the footsteps of her great, great grandfather J.P. Angus Cameron in representing her local community.

"My great, great grandfather was a Councillor on the then Cranbourne Shire Council for many years. Back in those days, the Cranbourne Shire covered a huge area including Koo Wee Rup.

"I've lived in the Cardinia Shire for almost my entire life and was the first female police officer to be stationed at Pakenham in the tiny Police Station on Main Street," explains Cr Cameron.

Outlining her priorities for Council, Cr Cameron says her focus will be on supporting the growth of Westernport taking the community's views and needs into careful consideration.

"Westernport ward is quite unique in that it is made up of predominately farmland with the growing towns of Lang Lang and Koo Wee Rup, as well as Cardinia and Bayles.

"While I want to see Westernport Ward grow and thrive, it is important this growth is appropriate, and the right infrastructure is in place. Equally important is for the community's needs and concerns to be taken into account," said Cr Cameron.

Cr Brett Owen, Mayor of Cardinia Shire, extended a warm welcome to the new councillor.

"I look forward to working with Cr Cameron in the best interests of the Cardinia Shire community," he said.

"There are some exciting community projects underway in Westernport such as the Cora Lynn Reserve pavilion project, the Catani Reserve cricket net upgrade project, Cochrane Park skate park works and the upcoming opening of the Koo Wee Rup Reserve football and netball pavilions and I look forward to working with Cr Cameron on delivering for our community," Cr Owen said.

For more information about Cardinia Shire Councillors, visit Council's website at [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/mayorandcouncillors](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/mayorandcouncillors) or call the Customer Service team on 1300 787 624 or email [mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au)

## Have your say: draft open-air fires local law

Following extensive community and agency consultation, Council has proposed new open-air fires regulations which will be open for public exhibition for community feedback from Friday 20 August 2021.

The proposed Open Air Fires Local Law aims to provide adequate provision for fuel reduction and fire prevention while discouraging unnecessary smoke health hazards. The proposed local law details the regulations for open-air fires - commonly known as 'burning off' – outside of the declared fire danger period. This new law will provide the community with more opportunities to reduce bushfire risk through burning-off while ensuring public safety remains a key priority. The proposed changes to local open-air burning regulations will make it easier and safer for residents to reduce fire fuel hazards on their properties.

The proposed changes aim to ensure that open air burning is used to minimise the risk of bushfire across the shire in a safe manner. The draft local law reflects the community's feedback and balances the need for fuel reduction and fire prevention with community amenity, environmental benefits and broader public health interests. Everyone is encouraged to go online, review the proposed new regulations and provide feedback.

The proposed local law renews focus on:

- Smoke impacts on community
- Bushfire fuel reduction and property preparation
- Burning off timeframes
- Burning off in townships
- Alternative methods of green waste disposal
- Environmental impacts

As part of the proposed local law, the Shire will be divided into three zones with appropriate open air fire regulations, rather than the previous rules where regulations were based on zoning and land size. This proposal is a move to make it simpler and easier for residents to undertake fuel reduction while balancing health and environmental concerns.

In the Urban and Township Zone, burning off is proposed to be allowed only with a permit.

In the Bushland and Peri-Urban Zone and the Rural Zone, if criteria is met, a permit for burning off may not be required. July and August will be declared 'no burn months' throughout the Shire. This means burning-off will be prohibited in across the entire shire throughout those two months of the year.

This change aims to reduce hazardous smoke caused from burning wet material. This is intended to encourage an uptake of alternative methods of waste disposal during these wetter months and reduce smoke impacts over the school holiday period.

In response to community feedback, where permitted, weekend days to "burn off" will now be Sundays, not Saturdays. The proposal has also been revised to include a new clause restricting open air fires on public holidays.

Council is inviting feedback until Friday 17 September and will review all feedback before deciding whether to make the local law.

To view the proposed Open Air Fires Local Law and for feedback details visit [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay)

All submissions must be submitted to Council prior to 17 September 2021.

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## Cardinia Shire Council's draft Disability Action Plan out for comment

Cardinia Shire Council's draft Disability Action Plan is available for public comment on [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay)

The draft Disability Action Plan sets out what Council will do to make our community, services, programs and workplace more accessible to people with disability.

The Disability Action Plan is based on four key principles in the Victorian Disability Act 2006:

- reducing barriers to people with a disability in accessing goods, services, and facilities
- reducing barriers to people with a disability in obtaining and maintaining employment
- promoting inclusion and participation of people with a disability in the community
- achieving tangible changes in attitudes and practices which discriminate against people with a disability

The draft plan has been developed based on extensive feedback from the community as well as disability sector service providers, advocates and organisations gathered through online surveys, a series of online workshops and pop-up events held across the shire.

For more information about Cardinia Shire Council's Disability Action Plan 2021 to 2026, visit [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/accessandinclusion](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/accessandinclusion)

Accessible formats of the Disability Action Plan including hard copies and an easy to read version are available by contacting the Customer Service team on 1300 787 624 or email [mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au).

# KOOWEERUP REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

235 Rossiter Rd. Koo Wee Rup. Vic. 3981 Phone: 5997 9679

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

September 21

Find us on



You are invited to participate and share your insights into the development of Kooweerup Regional Health Service's (KRHS) new strategic plan. The purpose of this plan is to identify the key areas and priorities for the health service, we welcome feedback on your experience with KRHS:

When you think about the KRHS services that you have used in the past, what have been some of the characteristics of these services?

- **What does KRHS do well?**
- **What are their key areas of improvement?**
- **How does KRHS compare with other [health] organisations you have used in the past?**
- **What positive impact does KRHS have on the community?**
- **What do you think are the key health and wellbeing needs of your community?**

Please email your answers to [info@krhs.net.au](mailto:info@krhs.net.au) or write out your answers and post to: Post Office Box 53 Koo Wee Rup 3981 before the end of September, thank-you.

## Aged Care Employee Day

Saturday 7 August was Aged Care Employee Day – a great opportunity to acknowledge and thank the extraordinary staff at KRHS who support our residents, clients, patients and families every single day. We are truly blessed at KRHS to have such a wonderful team who provide compassionate, professional and expert care – no matter what role they work in.

Over the last 18 months particularly what we have known previously in health care has changed significantly.

Through each and every challenge the KRHS team has stepped up and met it head on.

Pictured are some of our staff receiving a small thank-you gift from KRHS CEO Noni Bourke



**Kooweerup**  
REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

We provide a range of centre and community based services: Acute Care, Early Parenting Unit, Transitional Care Program, Respite and Residential Aged Care, Community Health, District Nurses, Home Care, Pathology and Allied Health for example: Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and Social work. There is also Specialist Medical Services such as Cardiology, Podiatry and a Diabetes Clinic. KRHS is a member of the 'International Health Promoting Hospitals Network' and 'Global Green and Healthy Hospitals'.

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

## Cora Lynn - the early years

By Heather Arnold, Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society

Cora Lynn is nine miles from the start of the Main Drain at Western Port Bay. Some of the towns along the drain were settled as part of the Public Works Department Village Settlement scheme. The 1890s was a time of economic depression in Australia and various Government Schemes were implemented to provide employment and to stop the drift of the unemployed to the city. One of these schemes was the Village Settlement Scheme. The aim was for the settlers to find employment outside the city and to boost their income from the sale of produce from their farms. It was in this context that the Village Settlement Scheme was implemented on the Swamp.

Under this Scheme, all workers had to be married, accept a block of land up to 20 acres, and spend a fortnight working on the drains for wages and a fortnight improving their block and maintaining adjoining drains. The villages were Koo Wee Rup, Five Mile (Koo Wee Rup North) Vervale, Iona and Yallock. Cora Lynn was not, however, part of this Village Settlement Scheme - the original block sizes along the drain near Cora Lynn were not twenty acres but, according to the Parish Plans, sixty acres to the west of Cora Lynn and from 40 acres to 80 acres to the east. They were taken up from around the mid-1890s. In the township of Cora Lynn, the first blocks were purchased in 1904. Other land sales took place in 1909.

The Cora Lynn State School opened in January 1907 and was originally called Koo Wee Rup Central. The Cora Lynn store was opened by George Petrie Murdoch in 1907 and a post office opened on July 1, 1907 and this prompted the Cora Lynn

Progress Association to request a name change for the area, and thus Cora Lynn was adopted, after the Cora Lynn gorge on the North Esk River near Launceston. The opening of the Post Office also meant there was a daily mail service, as the *South Bourke & Mornington Journal* of July 17, 1907, reported - *the Cora-Lynn folks are quite jubilant at having a daily mail running from Garfield. The time, I think, is not far distant when there will be a quite a little township at that place.*

This began a period of growth for the town. The community soon held social activities, such as dances, in the shelter shed at the school. This was obviously inadequate and in April 1910 a meeting was held for the purpose of establishing a Mechanics' Institute and Library at Cora Lynn. At the same time euchre parties and dances were held to raise money to clear the recreation reserve - in July 1910 over 100 people attended such a function. In either December 1910 or January 1911, the Cora Lynn Cheese factory opened. A branch of the London Bank (later taken over by the E.S & A bank) opened in a small building next to the General Store around this time (likely in response to the establishment of the Cheese Factory)



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Continued next page

## Cora Lynn - the early years *from previous page*

*By Heather Arnold, Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society*

However, all this progress had a downside as the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal* of August 24, 1910, reported - *the Cora Lynn Progress Association has complained of the excessive speed at which motor cars and bicycles are being driven through the shire on the narrow roads and several persons had experienced very narrow escapes from accidents.*

By 1910, the School numbers had increased so much that students had to be taught in the shelter shed. Cora Lynn led the way in February 1911 when the parents of the school had the distinction of appointing the first School Committee in the State. This was reported on in *The Argus* of February 10, 1911 - *The parents of children at the Cora Lynn State School, in Gippsland, have secured the distinction of appointing the first school committee in Victoria under the new Education Act passed last year which provides for the constitution of such committees in place of the old boards of advice. The Minister for Education (Mr A. A. Billson) says that, though the regulations governing the selection of committees have not yet been gazetted, he appreciates the enterprise of these parents in seeking to avoid delay. In announcing its appointment, the committee has forwarded to the department a report on the school containing information which the Minister says will be of great value to the officials. Mr Billson considers this report to be much superior to the general run of communications regarding State Schools previously submitted by boards of advice, and he says that if other committees formed subsequently come up to the standard set by Cora Lynn the change from the old boards to the new parent's committees will prove a wise and beneficial policy.*



*Cora Lynn - possibly the 1911 flood.*

*The Cora Lynn store is the centre building and the building on the right is the Bank.*

The Cora Lynn hall, called Keast Hall, was named after William Keast (1866-1927). Keast was the Member of the Legislative Assembly for the area from 1900 to 1917. This hall was to have been opened on June 13, 1911, but the official opening was delayed due to the fact that three feet of water was running through the hall, one of the many floods to hit Cora Lynn. The Hall was opened in early August 1911 - there was a short report in *The Argus* of August 9

- *There was a large attendance at a concert on the occasion of the opening of Keast-hall, Cora Lynn. Councillor W. Carney presided, and Mr. W. S. Keast, M.L.A., and Mrs. Keast were present. Mr. Keast give £10 to the building fund.* The original building must have been fairly basic as a concert organised by Mrs Keast was held in June 1917 to raise money to line the walls of the hall. The community had held various functions over the years for the hall including a roller-skating night in July 1914.

Other town activities included sports gatherings held on the newly cleared recreation reserve and in January 1915 a Cora Lynn branch of the Victorian Potato Growers Association was formed. On April 15, 1916, the first Cora Lynn Horticultural show was held. It was opened by Mr Keast, who was introduced by the Show President, Mr W. J Johnston, and the event was held in his 'own' hall. Mr Keast said the show *was a natural display of the fertility of the district and the industry of the tillers of the soil.* The report in the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal* of April 27, 1916, said *the display of goods was highly creditable..... the ladies, without whom an exhibition would be a failure, pleased the eye by their gorgeous display of fancy work and literally caused the mouth to water by the appearance of preserves, confectionary and the many tempting objects they alone know how to produce.*

**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. If lockdown restrictions allow the next meeting is on September 8 at 7.30pm. New members welcome. The Museum is open the first and third Sundays of the month from 1.30pm until 4.30pm (subject to lockdown restrictions) or by appointment. Heather Arnold [harnold@dcsi.net.au](mailto:harnold@dcsi.net.au) 0407 521 637**

# Have you seen Bab's?

**Barbara the Bandicoot (Bab's) is out and about in Koo Wee Rup keeping busy**

**Take a walk around KWR and see if you can find her:**

- ◊ Talking to a butterfly
- ◊ Lifting a weight
- ◊ Holding a pencil
- ◊ Enjoying the sunshine
- ◊ Playing netball
- ◊ Sharing the love
- ◊ Holding hands with Bobbie
- ◊ With her colour-in sheet

**Then enter our Colour-in Competition**

Colour-in the picture below or pick-up a full size picture at various shops around KWR.

Colour it in, add your name and contact number, drop the sheet into the box provided at the Bendigo Bank and you could win a prize.

Competition closes on the 26th of September.

Winners announced in the next Blackfish newsletter.

This is a Get Active Koo Wee! project run by the Kooweerup Regional Health Service



## Barbara the Bandicoot



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_