

# THE KOO WEE RUP BLACKFISH



AUGUST 2024

## Casting Shade



The new shade sails at Woolies are up. They provide an unexpected benefit after dark, as the lighting is bright and clear. The only downside is That locals can no longer engage in the low-key competition for patches of shade in summer. I'll miss that mild feeling of achievement when you managed to get your car almost entirely under the shade of a tree on a hot day.

*Caroline Roff, Editor*

### Koo Wee Rup Township Committee

### AGM

Wednesday, 4 September  
7.30pm

Koo Wee Rup Community  
Centre

All welcome

## Koo Wee Rup Township Committee Meeting

The Township held its monthly meeting on Wednesday 3 July at the KWR Community Centre. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 7 August at 7:30 pm at the KWR Community Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend Township Meetings and join in the discussion.

Netball Court funding has been reinstated in the council budget. Looking for grant funding to make up the shortfall of approximately \$300,000.

McDonalds Drain Road is still in need of maintenance. There is a pothole near 195 McDonalds Drain Road which forces trucks off the road to get past it. Past road grading practices have resulted in the road moving and narrowing, council needs to reinstate the road on its original alignment and width.

The mural quote has been confirmed. We have received grant funding for 80% of the project, the Township Committee will contribute 10% and the Koo Wee Rup Historical Society will contribute 10%. We need to confirm the agreement with the owner of the Woolworths building. The artist will be providing a design for comment shortly. We have to have a plan for the project by 31<sup>ST</sup> August and the project is to be completed by February 2025.

Council's Fair Access Policy is in place for sporting clubs to have a fair access policy for women. The Fair For All policy is a state government driven policy. Clubs must have a policy to access grants. There is a raft policy for committees to adopt or modify for their own use.

*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](mailto:blackfish@live.com.au)  
PO Box 64, Koo Wee Rup 3981, Tel 5997 2333  
Printed by KWR Township Committee

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

### August

Fri	2nd	KRHS Ladies Auxiliary Meeting (page 3)	Education Room, Hospital	9.30am
Fri	2nd	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only) (page 13)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Mon	5th	KWR Senior Citizens Games Day (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11am
Mon	5th	Chair Pilates (page 3)	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Mon	5th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	7th	Coffee Club	Royal Hotel	10am
Wed	7th	Lions Club Meeting	Tooradin Sports Club	7pm
Wed	7th	Township Committee Meeting (front page)	Community Centre	7.30pm
Thu	8th	Senior Citizens Club AGM (page 13)	Senior Citizens Club	10.30am
Fri	9th	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Sun	11th	Bayles Fauna Park Working Bee (back page)	Bayles Fauna Park	9am
Mon	12th	KWR Senior Citizens Games Day (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11am
Mon	12th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Mon	12th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Tue	13th	Community Centre Committee Meeting	Community Centre	7.30pm
Wed	14th	KWR Swamp Historical Society Meeting (page 19)	KWR Historical Society	6pm
Fri	16th	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Mon	19th	KWR Senior Citizens Games Day (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11am
Mon	19th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Mon	19th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	21st	Coffee Club	Chandelier Café	10am
Wed	21st	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Wed	21st	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	21st	Lions Club Meeting	RSL Clubrooms	7pm
Thu	22nd	Harry Belafonte Tribute (back page)	Bayles Hall	10.30am
Fri	23rd	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Mon	26th	KWR Senior Citizens Games Day (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11am
Mon	26th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Mon	26th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	28th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Wed	28th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Fri	30th	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am

### September

Mon	2nd	KWR Senior Citizens Games Day (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11am
Mon	2nd	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Mon	2nd	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	4th	Coffee Club	Royal Hotel	10am
Wed	4th	Lions Club Meeting	Tooradin Sports Club	7pm
Wed	4th	Township Committee AGM	Community Centre	7.30pm
Wed	4th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Wed	4th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Fri	6th	KRHS Ladies Auxiliary Meeting	Education Room, Hospital	9.30am
Fri	6th	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Mon	9th	KWR Senior Citizens Games Day (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11am
Mon	9th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Mon	9th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	11th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm

### 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*

## Pilates @

### Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service

Term 3 is in full swing so if you need some motivation for the rest of winter why not consider working out at your own pace in a great social setting.

Chair and Mat Pilates is offered every Monday and Wednesday with Chair @ 5 pm and Mat @ 6 pm. It gets your core working, which then benefits your back as well, plus we do a lot of balance and resistance work mainly through using the resistance of your own body.

The first class is a FREE TASTER CLASS so why not give it a go.

Ring Marlene on 0429 814 410 for more information or to discuss your needs.


## The latest news from the KRHS Ladies' Auxiliary

The King size single beds, purchased by the Ladies' Auxiliary, have now been delivered to the Koo-Wee-Rup Regional Hospital Services (KRHS) and are now in use at the hospital in both the Killara and Westernport units. These beds were purchased with generous donations and funds raised by the Ladies' Auxiliary.

There will be another RSL Christmas Fair this year on the 23rd of November. The Ladies' Auxiliary will have their Devonshire teas and a trading table for you yet again, so please come along and have some fun. There will be lots of stalls where you can purchase your Christmas goods. Make sure you have a look at the posters around the town later in the year for you to know what's available in entries for cakes, biscuits, competitions etc.

We also have another fashion parade planned for Tuesday September 24th with Kay's summer clothes, at the KWR Seniors' club rooms in Icke Road, more information later. We are now organising our special calendar for the next year, 2025, which should be good fun. This celebrates 70 years since the Ladies' Auxiliary began. Finally, our next meeting on Friday the 2nd of August is our AGM. It will be held in the education room at the hospital.

Olive Stokes



**Pilates Term 3 of 2024**

**FREE First Class**

Exercise at your level. Pilates is suitable for all ages & Abilities. It focusing on core, strength, balance and flexibility.


**When:** Chair based class 5.00 pm Mon and Wed.  
Mat @ 6.00pm Monday and Wednesday

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

**Cost:** \$5 (chair class 1/2 hr) and \$10 for mat (50mins)

Enquiries to Marlene  
0429 814 410

Term 3 starts: Mon 15th July.




**HAPPY FATHER'S DAY**

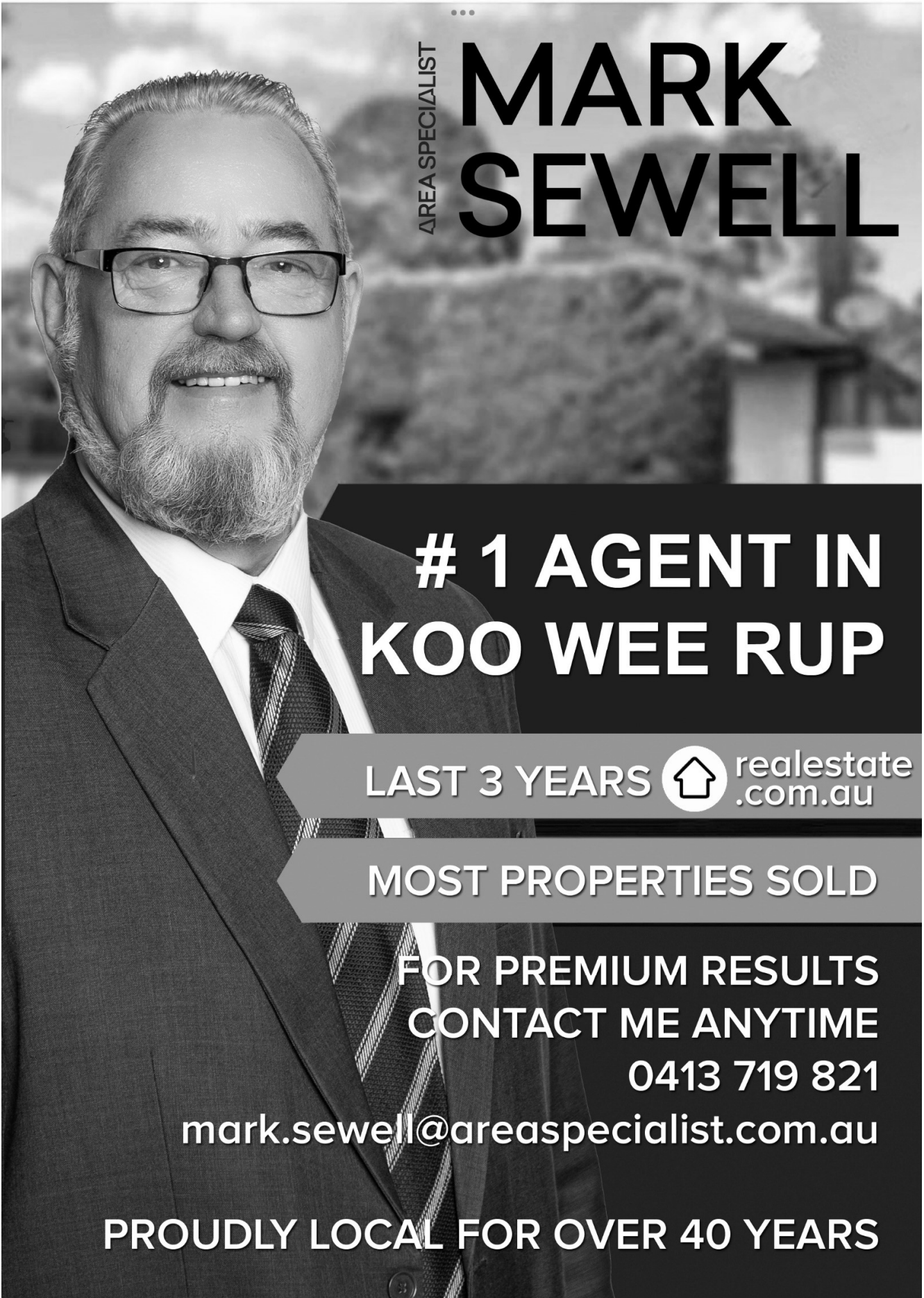
**ENTER FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN A BBQ CHARCOAL GRILL AND SMOKER!**

**COME INTO OUR KOO WEE RUP OFFICE TO GRAB A FLYER**

5/275 STATION STREET, KOO WEE RUP

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# MARK SEWELL

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**mark.sewell@areaspecialist.com.au**

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## Koo Wee Rup Township Committee Meeting *continued from front page*

The Caretaker period in the lead up to local government elections starts at the end of August. There has been a lot of



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interest from candidates in other wards, especially Bunyip where Councillor Moore is retiring. There have been no other nominations for Westernport Ward yet.

Councils are moving away from funding the upgrade of facilities on non-council owned land or facilities.

There has been an increase in accidents at the intersection of Ballarto Road and Hobsons Road as more people are using McGregor Road and Hobsons Road to travel south out of Pakenham and access the industrial estate.

The Australian Government Mobile Service Centre that provides assistance to access federal government payments and services is travelling around rural areas and

will be visiting Lang Lang.

Department of Transport and Planning (DoTP) have been contacted to again review the pedestrian and wheelchair access to the controlled pedestrian crossing at the corner of Station St and Rossiter Road. Council have reviewed this in the past but have concluded that it meets requirements, however users report issues with the steepness of the ramp.

Enquiry was referred to Cardinia Shire for review. DoTP are awaiting review from council regarding the issues with crossing. They have said they will be able to help with planning for remediation if council finds it out of spec.

The old railway bridge across the Bunyip Main Drain (south of the Koo Wee Rup – Pakenham Road) has been removed as it was in danger of collapse due to subsidence of a couple of the support pylons.

The replacement strip for the lighting on the clock towers has still not been installed.

The clocktower clocks need re-setting to correct time after recent power outages.

The Street sweeper has been visiting Koo Wee Rup but seems to be doing only the main streets.

The new Parks and Gardens contractors seem to be doing a good job.



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AREA SPECIALIST

# MARK SEWELL

## 2023 / 2024 Financial Year Sales Performance Koo Wee Rup

\$480,000	3/2 William Street	\$770,000	5 Milla Way
\$620,000	2 Bambury Close	\$390,000	2/7 Alexandra Ave
\$610,000	6 Egan Court	\$600,000	29 Charles St
\$1,112,500	43 Moody St	\$582,000	10 Sybella Ave
\$546,000	1/254 Rossiter Rd	\$895,000	19 Diamond Drive
\$800,000	13 Diamond Drive	\$815,000	6 Silver Way
\$705,000	8 Charles St	\$642,000	21 Bollen Way
\$830,000	30 Diamond Drive	\$650,000	54 Bailey Boulevard
\$385,000	8 Alexandra Ave	\$640,000	24 Lapis Street
\$715,000	79 Denhams Rd	\$705,000	51 Catani Avenue
\$690,000	49 Sybella Ave	\$3,200,000	85 Monomeith Rd
\$620,000	30 Charles Street	\$1,400,000	95 Monomeith Rd
\$507,000	6 Alexandra Ave	\$687,000	7 Bailey Boulevard
\$840,000	16 Dragonfly Circuit		

2023 / 2024 has been a year of changes from a real estate perspective. For me obviously the change to running my own business but also the change in the real estate landscape. Prices through 2023 / 2024 have dropped by around 5%. That was of no surprise due to the current interest rate levels. The light on the horizon is starting to shine through though with some expected relief for interest rates towards the end of the year. That being said there is still confidence in the market. Homes are all still selling it is just the days on market have lengthened.

**It's now what I call a normal real estate market.**

My personal sales stats for the 2023 / 2024 financial year in Koo Wee Rup was 27 transactions, up from 20 in 2022 / 2023. To all of those who have supported me and chosen me as their agent a huge thank you and lets look forward to growth in value in 2024 / 2025.

If I can help you in any way feel free to reach out to me at anytime that suits

Regards Mark Sewell 0413 719 821



# KOO WEE RUP Primary School

On Friday 19th of July we took possession of our eagerly awaited gymnasium.

Incorporating full size competition basketball and netball courts, toilet and kitchen facilities the spaces will be available to the local community for hire.

Please contact the office on 5997-1272 to register your interest.



Applications are being taken for Foundation 2025 enrolments.

Families residing in the Koo Wee Rup area can apply via registering at <https://students.educationapps.vic.gov.au/s/>

Please contact the office on 5997-1272 if you would like to arrange a parent tour.

## 'Footsteps into Foundation 2025'

Koo Wee Rup Primary School strives to ensure we provide a positive gateway into lifelong education for your child. We prioritise the wellbeing of our students with the understanding that this underpins children's ability to engage fully in the learning process.

In the classroom we challenge our students academically through a differentiated approach to teaching, ensuring that the individual needs of all students is catered to. Our curriculum and way of teaching is constantly evolving so that our teaching and learning programs are developed in line with current research into educational 'best practice'.

Our school motto of 'Together We Learn' is embedded through a strong professional learning program for all teachers to constantly reflect and build on their teaching practice.

Our 'Footsteps into Foundation' transition program has been established for new Foundation enrolments as a bridge between kindergarten and primary school. The program involves 9 planned transition sessions as well as a parent information session. As Principal of Koo Wee Rup Primary School, I invite you to visit our welcoming and friendly school and see for yourself the high quality teaching and learning programs on offer for all students.

To arrange your personal tour, please contact the school on 5997 1272.



Moody Street, Koo Wee Rup 3981  
Website: [www.kooweerupps.vic.edu.au](http://www.kooweerupps.vic.edu.au)

### Term 3 Transition (2:15 – 3:15pm)

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September

### Term 4 Transition (1:45 – 3:15pm)

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November

### State-wide Transition (9am - 1pm)

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December



Phone: 5997 1272  
Email: [koo.wee.rup.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:koo.wee.rup.ps@education.vic.gov.au)



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

1 Mickle St, Koo Wee Rup VIC 3981

Contact – [1stkwrscouts@gmail.com](mailto:1stkwrscouts@gmail.com)



Hey,

Welcome back to Term 3. What a jam-packed Term 3 we have ahead.

Let's recap on what has taken place in the last month. You may have seen us fundraising outside our local Woolworths. Thank you to everyone who donated and our valued volunteers that gave up their time. During our BBQ you may have seen we were selling raffle tickets for our trailer of wood.

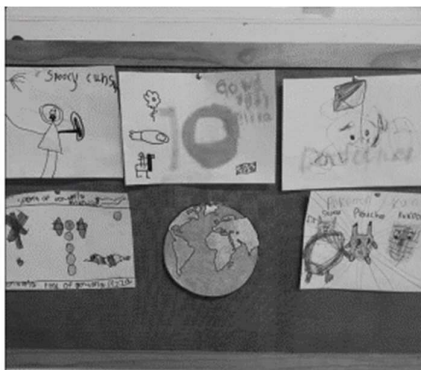


Many thanks to our Local Donator Daniel Vivian from Koo Wee Excavation and Digger Hire who kindly donated the wood. We are excited to announce our Winner from Maryknoll Rob Mackie who kindly forwarded his prize on to a family in need. Wow what an amazing community we have.

If you have a youth looking to join the Scouting Community please come and try a 3 week free trial. We would love to see you there.



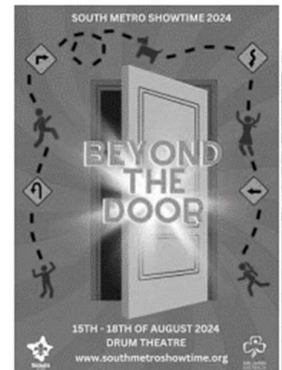
Our local group are looking for new Committee Members, if you are interested please contact us on the email listed above.



On going volunteers needed for our local Lions OP-Shop who provide much needed financial support to our local Scouting Group and many others. If you would love to help our group please contact us.

Thats a wrap. What a Jam Packed Term 3 we have ahead.

Let's go KOO WEE SCOUTS.



**Joey Scouts**  
5 to 7 year old  
Tuesday  
5:40 - 6:40



**Cub Scouts**  
8 to 11 year old  
Tuesday  
7:00 - 8:30



**Scouts**  
11 to 14 year old  
Friday  
7:00 - 9:00



**Venturers**  
14 to 17 year old  
Friday  
7:00 - 9:00



**Rovers**  
18 to 25 year old  
Thursday  
7:00 - 9:00

## Icarus Skin Cancer Clinic



**Phone:** 59 252 000

**Address:** Suite 4, Ground Floor, Hollander House, 352 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup VIC 3981

**Email :** [reception@icarusskincancerclinic.com.au](mailto:reception@icarusskincancerclinic.com.au)

**Website :** [www.icarusskincancerclinic.com.au](http://www.icarusskincancerclinic.com.au)

**EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF SKIN CANCERS IS ESSENTIAL**

### Experienced doctor

Our highly skilled skin cancer doctor, Dr Bruce Lim, has a comprehensive understanding of skin cancer and treatment, acquired from years of additional study beyond a medical degree. His experience gives you confidence that he will accurately diagnose and treat skin concerns in a safe medical environment. His breadth of knowledge and treatment of patients, and expertise ensure the highest standards of professionalism and safety.

Bruce has undertaken significant further training in the field of skin cancer medicine and is accredited by the [Skin Cancer College of Australasia](#). He has developed skills in skin cancer surgery including facial surgery, skin flaps (including nose, ears and lower leg repairs) and skin grafting. He is also passionate about promoting sun awareness and [skin cancer prevention](#) with his patients

### Technology

Using dermatology software powered by artificial intelligence (AI), we can capture high quality digital images of your skin and record exact detail for future comparison monitoring suspicious lesions for any changes, resulting in earlier diagnoses so you can avoid unnecessary procedures.

### Need a skin check?

**Anyone with changing spots, or spots that look very different to others on their body, should have them assessed by an accredited skin cancer doctor as soon as possible.**

Even if you are unsure if your spots have changed, it's worth having a doctor check your skin to ensure nothing is amiss. If you have a history of sunburn, multiple spots, previous skin cancer, or a family history of melanoma, you are at risk of skin cancer. The same is true if your family has light-coloured skin, even if you yourself have darker skin.

Remember that the damage may have been done when you were young, so just because you don't get sunburnt any more doesn't mean you're safe from skin cancer.

### Early detection and treatment is essential

Melanoma is the third most common cancer in Australia, and more people are being diagnosed with skin cancer every year.

The good news is that, if detected early, there is approximately a 99% chance of survival as the melanoma can be confined to the skin. Delayed diagnosis, however, may result in the melanoma spreading to other parts of the body. Once this occurs, it becomes a highly aggressive cancer which makes it difficult to treat.

Unfortunately, melanomas don't present symptoms so the only way to find them is to examine your skin.

A full-body skin check by an accredited skin cancer doctor is the best aid in early diagnosis.

**To make an appointment call 59 252 000 or book online**

## Some tales about my Indentured Apprenticeship days *by Geoff Stokes*

My regular readers will recall that I have written many times about events that happened to me in my youth and the following years during my service with the British army. Today I will write some anecdotes from my late teen years, that is before I married my dearest Olive and how different the world for us was at that time. I left school; in 1948 and although I passed the necessary exams with flying colours I could not possibly consider going to university because my parents could not afford to pay the fees – there was no government financial help at that time. World War II had only just finished (1945) and the only universities operating were Oxford, Cambridge, or Edinburgh.; all a long, long way from home. So, I ended up doing an indentured apprenticeship with John Thompson Watertube Boilers Ltd and attending Wolverhampton Technical College (Now Wolverhampton University) one whole day and three evenings per week for five years. What is an indentured apprentice you might ask? Well ...these Indentured Apprentice programs were usually part of a college diploma or an undergraduate degree program. They consist of helping students gain practical experience in their chosen field while skilled professionals supervise their work. They usually perform specific low-level duties that might not affect the outcome of a project or company's operations. These responsibilities might include using hand tools, measuring materials, and performing routine maintenance tasks with a token salary. My weekly pay to start my indentured apprenticeship as a mechanical engineer was £1 and ten shillings. (£51 - \$98.85 per week today 2024) I started in the drawing office as a leaner draughtsman under top class teachers, drawing and detailing water tube boiler parts, for

manufacture in the JTWBL factory next door.

Let's now move on now and a couple of years of my Mechanical Engineer apprenticeship have now passed and, I recall, that I was training in the foundry at this time. This was a dirty job, but I must say I enjoyed it. Most of the foundry was mechanised and one section produced small cast iron parts for general industry as well as other bits and pieces. The other section that I was involved with was the 'open sand casting' division that made large one-off castings such as gearboxes for the marine industry and general industry. Most of the finished products weighed over two or three tonnes and a couple of



*A photo of me and my fellow indentured apprentices in 1949.  
I am front row, 2nd from the left.*

projects I worked on were around the five-tonne mark. The moulds for these were made in the sand floor and digging out and lining the mould was hard work. After the withdrawal of the pattern, the moulders set to work to finish off the walls to give some class to the finished item after the molten metal pour. This work would take the best part of a week and working in this environment was dirty, sweaty, and very dusty. The men I worked with were tough, real tough and they were very proud of their skill and their moulders craft. I arrived at the foundry for my first morning there and, after being introduced to the two men who would be teaching me, one of them gave me a tea can and told me to fetch the tea for the morning's break. Being eighteen and an indentured apprentice, this order was beneath me, I thought, and I said so and that I was here to learn foundry work and not to be a servant to them by fetching their tea! Wham! One of the blokes whacked me around the ears and told me not to be cheeky and do as I was told or there would be more thwacks around my big head! Very meekly I fetched the tea for them. I have to say now that these two men that I was working with for the next four or five months were the finest I would ever work with. A fair day's work for a fair day's pay and a bit of joking and swearing in between. They looked after me as their own son although we had got off to a bad start. They insisted on strict discipline and with the very dangerous work with molten metal that they did, and, I must admit, that strict discipline was absolutely necessary. There could not be any part-time members of their team, and one didn't go home until the day's work was done even though the clock said it was time to go. I used to walk home, or sometimes caught the bus to a halfway point and walked the rest of the way. It would be about ¾ of an hour. We had no facilities for washing or changing so we had to go home in the clothes and overalls in which we arrived. No one thought this a problem; this was the normal thing to do at the time.

*Continued next page*

## Some tales about my Indentured Apprenticeship days *from previous page*

My dear Olive was working in an office as a comptometer operator. Comptometers at that time were the mechanical forerunners of electronic computers and Olive was one of only a few skilled operators who could produce calculated figures quickly and accurately from the unwieldy imperial system of weights, measures, and accounting. We thought it would be a good idea if she met me on my way home from work and we would have even more precious minutes together. She used her bike to get to work so it seemed simple for her to cycle across to where I would be walking home. Dear Olive didn't expect to see such a dirty, and roughly dressed Geoffrey in his navy-blue bib and braces overalls: I was even wearing a flat tweed cap and hob nailed boots on my feet. Olive was, of course, beautifully dressed and I was quick to sense that she didn't wish to walk too close to me. In fact, I don't think she met me from work again, at least whilst I was working in the foundry. I must have looked a dreadful sight complete with a black face and dressed like an eighteenth-century shipyard worker! It was interesting and, I might add, exciting work but the time eventually came for me to move on.

The next department I was sent to was the pattern shop, a logical move after finishing my time in the foundry. It was here that wooden patterns and hard baked sand cores were made for use on the foundry floor, and, I discovered, its inhabitants thought they were several rungs on the ladder above their foundry colleagues. So, I entered the world of woodworking although I was already reasonably well versed in the use of hand tools, thanks to my woodwork teacher at school and my dad at home. There is, or was, a significant skill in making patterns and the finished dimensions of the pattern must be calculated on the final sizes of the casting after cooling, and a determined allowance made for size changes due to the removal of the pattern from the sand. After about two weeks of this interesting work, for some reason, I was moved on, to work with a fellow called Stan. I soon discovered that Stan was very different to the others: he was a skilled cabinetmaker by trade and had very little to do with the manufacture of patterns although his bench was alongside the pattern makers. Stan was also a political animal and had strong views on modern philosophy and religion.

He was not averse to instructing me in all these disciplines either and I reviled in our debates, nevertheless I enjoyed my time with Stan, and I believe we became good friends in the six months I was under his wing. Not only that, but I also soon discovered that Stan had been one of my father's Boys' Brigade lads at Penn Fields church and he obviously thought very highly of my dad. He would remind me from time to time of my dad's teachings and discipline that he had received, so no wonder I was well looked after.

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*Continued next page*



## Koo Wee Rup Senior Citizens Club

Our member Ann Ritchie passed away recently. Ann always had a smile for everyone and was very sociable, attending our lunches and bowls. We send our sincere sympathy to her husband and family. Ann will be remembered with great fondness.

Members had a great 'Christmas in July' at Tooradin Sports Club. 50 members attended.

We welcome new members at an annual fee of \$10. Come along and give us a try.

Friday Lunch	11.30am	\$10
Friday Hoy	1pm	\$3
Monday Games	11-2pm	Free
Outings throughout the year.		
All enquiries	Dianne	0419 405 404
	Leonie	0477 249 000

### KWR Senior Citizens AGM

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August, 10.30 am  
at the Club Rooms

## Some tales about my Indentured Apprenticeship days *from previous page*

As I said, Stan didn't do any pattern making; he made very fine domestic items in exotic timbers for the directors of the company we worked for. Chairs, tables, lamp stands etc., and I recall us spending two or three weeks making Tudor style oak panels for the study at Mr. Wilson-Perry's palatial home. John Wilson-Perry was secretary of our group of companies at the time and was, in effect, the supremo over all the apprentices. My eyes were really opened when we went along to install the panelling. The house was huge, with ancient oil paintings on the walls, and fine silver in the display cabinets. His housekeeper used to feed us and give us drinks, and chat, but our biggest surprise was Mr. Wilson-Perry's young (even to me) wife, who sat around all day eating lots of chocolates from a very large box. This was particularly irking at the time because confectionery of all types was still on ration for the rest of us, even in 1950. She, single-handed, was eating the rations of a family for a week in a single day; day-by-day!

Stan drove a van with all our gear, and he would pick me up along the way when we were working at Mr Perry's house in the country. One day I had arranged to meet Olive in the town straight from work. The idea was that Stan could drop me off on his way home and doing that would normally take him through the town. We had a good day, and I was looking forward to my date with Olive that evening and, at the end of the afternoon, I changed into a collar and tie and sports coat and flannels. I remember thinking that I looked the part and Stan, and the housekeeper, expressed admiration at the sartorial change that had taken place with this young man. At the last-minute Stan asked me to move a couple of cans into the van for him to take back to the workshop. In doing this for him, somehow, I slipped, and a can of dark oak wood stain slopped down the front of my best jacket. Panic to say the least! Stan said that petrol would do the trick, and he pushed a rag down the petrol filler of the van until it was soaked and then vigorously rubbed my jacket front, now laid across the bonnet of his van. His efforts worked and I was relieved to see that the stains had completely disappeared. It was a different story when Olive and I sat down in the cinema. The heat of the place caused the jacket to smell strongly of petrol in a big way. So strong it was that some of the other patrons were sniffing and chatting to each other in some alarm thinking they were about to be blown up or something. Especially as most people then, and that included us two, smoked cigarettes whilst watching a film. We didn't burst into flames, and we had a quiet laugh together but that was yet another evening when Olive wouldn't come anywhere near me and who could blame her?

This work I did with Stan, seemingly unrelated to my planned future as a Mechanical Engineer, was probably one of the most important learning times for me. Being taught by this quintessential craftsman about woodworking tools, their use, and their maintenance, together with the operation of what was then a minimal selection of hand power tools, helped me save a huge amount of money in the years to come. This was in the future, when I needed to make things for the homes Olive, and I would buy or to do D.I.Y. maintenance work and repairs on our homes along the way. In fact, I was and still are called "Mr Fixit" very often!

There is one final memory of this time with Stan. One day a fellow came around the workshop with a new type of betting slip. Sealed inside the slip were some numbers and, on the following Saturday the numbers would be drawn and the person with the winning numbers on their ticket would get the first prize of one thousand pounds. Probably the first lotto program! That was a large amount of money then when you consider you could buy a new house for just under two thousand pounds. (£1,000 is worth £42,294.65 today – 2024, figures via the CPI indicator) The tickets were sixpence each and I thought hard and long when the fellow reached me and asked me if I would like to buy one. I said no because I really couldn't afford it! Sixpence, wow! You have guessed it, I am sure: yes, the fellow directly after me who was asked to buy a ticket, won! If I had bought that ticket that day my immediate financial troubles would have been over and for a very long time.

Geoff Stokes

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## News from the Consumer Advisory Committee.

The next meeting of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will be on the morning of Tuesday the 20th of August when we will discuss some interesting and sometimes contentious subjects concerning patients, residents, and support people of the Koo-Wee-Rup Regional Health Services KRHS. In the meantime, the committee has been currently conducting a Community Feedback Survey for people who have used our District Nurse, Home care, Early Parenting unit or Allied Health services. The results of this survey will be available soon.

Now, if you are new to the township, I am sure you will be saying to yourself, "What is the CAC; what's it all about?" Well, the Committee looks at problems that may have arisen between the Koo-Wee-Rup and District Regional Health Services (KRHS) and any of its users. These users could be for instance, patients in the hospital, residents in the hospital, carers of residents or patients, nurses in the hospital, members of the family of a resident or patient and any resident of Koo-Wee-Rup and District. The single aim of our Community Advisory Committee is to provide the KRHS Board of Management with feedback and advice from users to improve and strengthen the KRHS services, provide information, forward planning, and future policy development of the KRHS; not necessarily complaints of individual bad service because there is already a system in place to handle sudden instances of mismanagement. At the same time, we will have a guest speaker to talk to us about relevant problems or highlights of the KRHS system and the wider world of the South Gippsland area system.

Now, to our friends and neighbours in Koo-Wee-Rup and District, remember, any of our Committee members will be available to help you if you want to communicate with the Koo-Wee-Rup Regional Health Service Board of Management about problems that could be upsetting you, as a patient, a resident or a carer, and also, maybe, as an individual Koo-Wee-Rup resident or, indeed, from the whole community's point of view. Any Community Advisory Committee member

will listen to you closely and acknowledge your concerns, so that any problem you may have, is understood and seriously considered. We are your best advocates always. Further to that please have a serious thought about you, joining us as a committee member; your thoughts and opinions of these subjects would help us a lot so do have a go. Also, if you as a consumer/customer, 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 KRHS CAC. Simply phone KRHS on 5997 9679 or Geoffrey Stokes on 0435085002. Or you can email: [geoffreystokes@geoffstokes.com](mailto:geoffreystokes@geoffstokes.com) Your email will certainly be acknowledged. As above, the next meeting of the committee is planned for the 20th of August 2024 at 10:00 am. Before then we shall have informal meetings with each other to check on any community problems that may have arisen or are arising.

*Geoff Stokes*

### VOICES OF SILENCE

June 2024

Long gone generations or eons deeper still  
when little ones lived their lives unspoiled  
except for war, poverty and imperial court.

Children in growing bodies, self-possessed  
without records of pleasure or memory of pain  
yet now over virtue's crumbs, battles are fought.

Once all that was sensed or believed, seemed pure  
nowadays adolescent masses adrift are led astray  
unsinkable technology has long sailed from port.

Fears and phobias are governmentally induced  
reliance prompts and approval dependence  
drive kids into warring tribes for elitist sport.

The future of the gone is nearly past saving  
values are banished and vehemently trashed  
treasured hopes squandered for nought.

Fifty years ago, walking through the NGV  
with an art student, who brushing all aside  
and saying, 'all this stuff must be smashed'.


Every surviving mute antique in its glass case  
the voices of silence hung along the walls  
must be banned from visibility, never taught.

The harsh commandments of the new Judaizers  
epitomize the grip of the law in the extreme heart  
that attacks what history built, paid for and bought.

Armed with spray cans and powered angle grinders  
schemers attract the headlines and news cameramen  
while the world's meek feed the horse and mend the cart.

*Warren Breninger*

NAR NAR GOON



**EVERY THURSDAY !**  
Community Hall, Nar Nar Goon  
(opposite the primary school)

Heated / Cooled venue. Canteen. EFTPOS available.

1<sup>st</sup> Session - books sales from 6:30pm (\$2 games), or  
2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Sessions - book sales from 8:00pm (\$4 games)

2 Bingo flyers plus Rays Raffle (win \$50 cash or \$50  
meat tray from The Butcher with The Chef, NNG)  
\$1,000 in the final Jackpot (if sufficient books sold)

**EYES DOWN at 7.30pm**

For more information call Sharon ph: 0417 446 840

## Local Law updated to enhance community safety and wellbeing

Cardinia Shire Council has updated Local Law 17 which will now be known as the Community Local Law 2024, coming into effect on 1 August 2024.

This law plays a crucial role in addressing various local issues, safeguarding the municipality's amenity, regulating activities on Council-controlled land and roads, and enhancing community safety. The amendments to the Local Law were carefully crafted based on extensive feedback from community members. These changes also reflect emerging issues and evolving community needs.

Key Changes in the Community Local Law 2024:

- **Hoon Events:** Participation in, encouragement or attendance at a hoon event is an offence. Parking near a hoon event without a lawful excuse is also prohibited.
- **Real Estate Pointer Boards:** Boards can be used without a permit, subject to compliance with specific requirements, including the need to remove boards promptly. These changes aim to reduce clutter and improve road safety.
- **Domestic Waste and Recycling:** The updated law clarifies current requirements for household waste, green waste, and recycled waste collection, and introduce penalties for placing prohibited materials in bins. Educational efforts continue to promote proper waste management.
- **Asset Protection Permits:** Permit requirements have been strengthened to ensure protection of Council assets and increased penalties for non-compliance.
- **Building Site Regulations:** Higher penalties for stormwater protection, containment of refuse, disposal and removal of builders' refuse, and sanitary facilities, have been introduced to ensure compliance and protect community amenities. New regulations have been introduced to control building site work hours, aligning with EPA construction noise provisions.

Cardinia Shire Mayor, Cr Jack Kowarzik, expressed support for these changes.

"We are committed to creating a safer and more pleasant environment for all our residents," Mayor Kowarzik said. "There are some important improvements here. Local laws are not just about enforcement; they are about education and creating a community that values and respects our shared environment. We will continue to engage with residents and businesses to ensure everyone understands the benefits and responsibilities associated with these changes."

These laws are designed to enhance the quality of life for all residents by ensuring a clean, safe, and well-maintained environment. Local Laws last for 10 years unless revoked or renewed earlier. Local Law 17 was introduced in 2015 and this review ensures that the law is relevant and working as intended.

For more detailed information about the new Community Local Law 2024 and to review the specific clauses, please visit [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au)

## Victorians urged to enrol for upcoming local council elections

Eligible residents and ratepayers are urged to check they are enrolled to vote for the upcoming local council elections by 4 pm Wednesday 7 August.

If you're 18 or over and you live in or pay rates to a Victorian council, enrol and have your say on the future of your local council.

Australian citizens who have recently turned 18 or changed address can enrol or update their details online at [vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment](http://vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment)

Anyone on the state electoral roll is automatically enrolled for their current address for these elections. There are also additional council enrolment categories for non-resident owners, occupiers, company nominees and non-Australian citizens who pay rates.

The rules for council enrolment have changed. Property owners who don't live in the council area but may be eligible to vote because they pay rates should contact their local council for further information.

The 2024 Victorian local council elections will be the state's largest single election program, with a predicted 4.7 million voters participating in 465 individual elections across 78 councils.

Further information on enrolment is available by calling 131 832 or at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au), where voters can also sign up to the free VoterAlert service to receive important election reminders by SMS and email.





## 'Green up' Cardinia with weed-control grants

Help keep Cardinia green through applying for weed control grants of up to \$1,500\* which are now open for 2024-25. Available through the Greening Cardinia program, the grants aim to improve biodiversity on private and public land and create habitat for threatened species.

Eligible applicants can be landowners or community groups undertaking works to control high-impact weeds on property located in areas of high environmental value. This can include land near bushland, natural reserves or creeks and rivers.

Landowners on properties over 4,000m<sup>2</sup> (1 acre) and community groups\* may apply for a maximum of \$1,500.

Activities that are eligible include:

- Works that control high-impact weeds on property located in areas of high biodiversity value.
- Purchasing approved chemicals for the required works\* (up to a maximum of \$750 per grant).
- Disposing of weed material (such as tip passes or skip hire).
- The hiring of equipment (such as mulchers).
- Hiring contractors\* (conditions apply; see website for details).

In addition to the weed control grants, the Greening Cardinia program includes an indigenous plant giveaway (Category 2) and biodiversity incentive community group grants (Category 3).

Cardinia Shire Mayor Councillor Jack Kowarzik encouraged residents and groups to help maintain a green Cardinia.

"The weed control program has been hugely successful in recent years and we are pleased to see it return," Cr Kowarzik said. "We see great value in these grants and are encouraging all residents and groups, right across the shire, to get involved. The works carried out under this program will provide long-term benefits to the biodiversity of Cardinia."

For further information, including about how to apply, visit [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/greeningcardinia](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/greeningcardinia).

If you need assistance, please contact our Environment and Heritage team on 1300 787 624.



Ragwort

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an inclusive society for all

Outlook Community Centre offers free programs throughout the year for you to join and benefit from. Never been to the Centre before and one of these courses interests you? This is a great opportunity to experience the Centre and meet other community members. Everyone is welcome. We hope to see you soon!

To view our complete Term 3 Program Guide visit [www.outlookaust.org.au/book-online](http://www.outlookaust.org.au/book-online), drop in for a booklet or scan the QR code below. If you need some assistance, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

## HOW TO ENROL IN A PROGRAM:

**In Person:** 24 Toomuc Valley Road, Pakenham, **Online:** [www.outlookaust.org.au/book-online](http://www.outlookaust.org.au/book-online), **Telephone:** 5940 4728, **Email:** [communitycentre@outlookaust.org.au](mailto:communitycentre@outlookaust.org.au), **Payment:** Credit Card - online, over the phone or in person, Cash, cheque or EFTPOS



## Senior Safe Driver Program

Topics covered include:

- How ageing can affect driving
- Driving tips to enhance your safety when driving
- How to manage driving with a medical condition
- Planning for the future and
- Where to get information

**Tuesday 27 August, 1.30pm - 2.30pm. Cost FREE**

(Includes refreshments and cakes)

Supported by vic roads

Community Road Safety Grants  
and RoadSafe South East



## Rail Safety and Awareness Sessions

Session focuses on safety and myki – purchase, touch on/off, top up.

Also includes where to find help/assistance, safe people in uniform, accessibility, concessions and the new technology around timetabling and journey planning etc.

**Cost FREE**

**For those with a disability**

**Wednesday 21 August, 11.30am - 1.00pm**

**OR**

**General audience**

**Tuesday 10 September, 10.00am - 11.30am**

Supported by METRO



## Scam Awareness

Delivered by a representative from the National Anti-Scam Centre via Teams at Outlook Community Centre, Presentation will include:

- An introduction to scams and their impact
- Case studies that showcase what warning signs to watch out for and how to stay protected
- Where to report and seek support if you have been scammed
- The role of the National Anti-Scam Centre and Scamwatch

**Wednesday 21 August, 10.00am - 11.00am. Cost FREE**

## Carer's Group

Supporting those that support others.

Offering carers of people with a disability, mental illness or elderly people a chance to get together and learn more about news, services and support available to them whilst having a cuppa and a chat.

**1st Thursday of the month**

**1 August and 5 September, 10.00am - 12.00pm. Cost FREE**

## Always Hear

### FREE Hearing Assessment

Always Hear provides the following services:

- Free Hearing Assessments
- Hearing devices
- Hearing device maintenance
- Microsuction wax removal (fees apply)

Government funding for eligible clients.

**Monday 26 August**

**Call 03 5940 4728 to book your appointment.**

**Cost FREE**

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Personalised hearing care



## Learn How to Save a Life

**CPR/AED: Call - push - shock.** Learn how you can save a life with this hands on presentation from Ambulance Victoria.

**Stroke Awareness: Act FAST!** Stroke recognition and what to do about it. Learn how you can help someone having a stroke.

All ages and abilities are welcome.

**Tuesday 13 August, 1.00pm – 2.30pm**

**Cost FREE**

Supported by Ambulance Victoria



## Marketplace Walkers

Take the first step.

Pakenham Central Marketplace is a great place to walk because it is a sheltered indoor space, free from traffic and bad weather. Suitable for all ages and abilities.

**Fridays**

**Meet at Pakenham Central Marketplace (near escalators)**

**(No walk 27 September)**

**8.00am - 9.00am. Cost FREE**

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Walking



## FREE Legal Advice

Do you have a legal issue that you would like some advice on?

- Not sure which is the best way to proceed?
- Expert advice available from local Lawyers

FREE 15 minute phone appointments

**Bookings essential**

**Wednesdays 21 August, 18 September**

**5.30pm - 7.00pm**

Please call 03 5940 4728 to book.

# 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)

August 2024

Find us on



# Calling all Bandicoot Buddies

and anyone that likes gardening

**On Friday the 23rd August**  
anytime between **10am and 2pm**

Join us in a planting day at KRHS  
to help grow habitats for our endangered  
Southern Brown Bandicoots

Meet at the KWR Men's Shed  
BYO lunch or the Men's Shed Café is open  
(215 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup)  
all equipment is supplied  
as is afternoon tea

See you then!

If you or your group would like more information  
on this project, please call Brian on 5997 9687  
or email [Brian.Harlow@KRHS.net.au](mailto:Brian.Harlow@KRHS.net.au)



**Kooweerup**  
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**Cardinia**



**Kooweerup**  
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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 Podiatry and Diabetes Clinic. KRHS is a member of the 'International Health Promoting Hospitals Network' and 'Global Green and Healthy Hospitals'.



## Lubecker Steam Dredge

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

The Lubecker Steam Dredge was the first machine used on the long running project to drain the Koo Wee Rup Swamp, which had started with small scale works in 1857. The main drainage work to create the Main Drain, following the plans drawn up by William Thwaites, Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department, took place from 1889 to 1893. In 1893, the Public Works Department took back the drainage works from contractors and their engineer, Carlo Catani (1852-1918) was appointed to oversee future drainage works.

Carlo was keen to introduce dredges; however this was not approved because it would reduce the work available for unskilled labour, however after the 1911 flood, the Public Works Department devised a scheme to prevent a reoccurrence of the damage. As Carlo wrote in his presentation, Earth excavators and their use in Victoria to the Victorian Institute of Engineers in August 1916 - *A scheme was prepared, and it was estimated that by ordinary means the outlay would be £50,500, but I added that by the employment of up-to-date machinery this sum could be reduced by one half*

*On the occasion of my visit to Europe in 1912 I was commissioned by the Hon. the Minister of Public Works, Mr. Edgar, to look for the best machinery for these works, and with this in view I visited Lincoln, Manchester, Frodigam, and Glasgow, not only for the purpose of obtaining information, but also with a view to inducing English firms to tender in response to an advertisement in London "Engineer," and "Engineering," whereby tenders for the supply of a dry earth excavator had been invited by the Agent-General at my suggestion.*

*Three tenders were received on August 8th, 1912. One, that ultimately accepted, was from the Lubeck Dredge Company; two were from English firms. In consequence of these enquiries I recommended the purchase of the land dredger now at work at Lang Lang. It arrived in the autumn of 1913, but the winter floods and the fact that the type of machine was new to this country, delayed its reconstruction here, and it was not ready for trial till the summer of 1914.*

Lewis Ronald East, engineer and later a Commissioner and then the Chairman of the State Rivers & Water Supply Commission, described the dredge, which had a crew of nine, *as of the articulated ladder type. It weighed 80 tons and had a maximum capacity of 80 cubic yards per hour, or approximately 200,000 cubic yards per annum when working one shift. The purchase price was £2,300, on which £632 duty was paid. The actual cost landed and erected on the swamp, with rails, cranes and other equipment came to £4,716. In its first test, the machine excavated 50,000 cubic yards at a cost of 4d. per cubic yard. This was in 1914 when the basic wage was approximately 9s. per day. At the time a good labourer could dig around 11 cubic yards per day, so you can see why there was concern that people would lose their jobs.*



*The dredge in operation on May 21, 1914, the day it was officially started*

*State Rivers & Water Supply Commission photographer,  
State Library of Victoria Image rwg/u873*

The local community had heard the dredge had been purchased in October 1912, as the *Lang Lang Guardian* reported - *Return of Mr Catani. Dredging machine secured.*

*Residents of this district will be pleased to hear that Mr Catani, the Chief Engineer, has returned from his trip to the old country, and that he is full of enthusiasm for carrying out of the Kooweerup drainage works. The other day a resident of Yannathan met Mr Catani in Melbourne, and that gentleman informed him that he had purchased a machine which he estimated would shift earth at the cost of a penny a yard. The machine would be effective for both removing silt from the canal and shifting solid earth in the drains. As the ordinary cost of excavation is from 10d to 1s per yard, it is obvious, that if this machine can do anything like what is claimed for it, an enormous saving in cost will be effected.*

The dredge arrived at Lang Lang in late May 1913 and its first job was on the Tobin Yallock Swamp, working on the lower reaches of the Lang Lang River, and if the work proved successful it would be later purchased by the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission (SRWSC) for use on the Koo Wee Rup Swamp. The SRWSC had been established in 1905 and took over responsibility for the Koo Wee Rup Swamp drainage from the Public Works Department in 1912.

*Continued next page*



## Lubecker Steam Dredge *from previous page*

The *Lang Lang Guardian* in June 1913, reported on the arrival of the dredge - *Dredging Lang Lang River. Machinery Arrives .*

*Commencement is to be made at once with the work of dredging the Lang Lang River, in order to provide sufficient waterway to carry away all flood waters. The work is to be carried out by the Public Works Department, and Mr Catani, the chief engineer, paid a visit to the locality last week, to make arrangements for commencing operations. The machinery weighing about 60 tons, is now at the Lang Lang station, and arrangements have been made with Mr W. Glover to cart the machinery to the ground. The dredge is a German importation and is said to be the finest in the world. It will be worked from the bank of the river, and it is estimated it will shift earth at the cost of about a penny a yard. The work will be commenced a few chains from the mouth of the river at the bay, and it is said the river is to be dredged to a width of 40 feet and a depth of 10 feet.*

A few weeks later, the *Lang Lang Guardian* in July 1913 had a follow- up report - *sleepers and rails are being placed on a cleared track, across patches of dense t-tree and open country avoiding the low lying portion of the swamp so that operations are not likely to be interrupted by floods. The machinery, weighing over 100 tons, with a powerful engine is scattered over the ground, and it is an insoluble puzzle to visitors who attempt to construct in their mind as mechanical theory as to how this vast and complicated will be put together and how it will work. Mr Catani, the chief engineer, visited Lang Lang last week in connection with the operations.*

As you can see, there are some variations in the published accounts of the weight of the dredge - Ron East said the dredge weighed 80 tons and the two *Lang Lang Guardian* reports had it weighing 60 tons and then 100 tons; however Carlo noted in his presentation that it weighed 48 tons.

A regular columnist in the *Lang Lang Guardian*, Bill Nye wrote this about the dredge -

*This dredge and its operation will reveal to us the genius of three great nations – namely, the genius of the Italians, as represented by Mr Catani, who made a special trip to Europe to purchase the machine; the genius of the Germans, who invented and constructed it, and the genius of the Australians, who will work it, if some genius is discovered who will put it together and give the diabolical looking thing a start.*

They did find a genius to assemble the dredge, engineer F. C. Osborne, who was possibly Frederick Charles Osborne listed in the Electoral Rolls as an engineer, living at Brunswick at this time, with his wife Sarah. The *Lang Lang Guardian* reported in July 1913 that *Mr F.C. Osborne, who has had long experience in the work of erecting dredges in Victoria, has in hand the work of transporting and erecting the machinery.*

In November 1913, they reported that -

*Mr Osborne, has employed a small Tangye engine and secured it to a truck for the hauling of the machinery and goods, having also fitted it with reversing gear to make the return journey. The little locomotive drags heavy loads at a good speed, and all who have witnessed this ingenious adaption are strongly impressed by the ability of the Engineers in charge to overcome difficulties.*

The dredge was finally officially started on May 21, 1914. The *Lang Lang Guardian* reported on the event, and it is a long report but as it is the only account I can find of the event, worth publishing in full -

*Continued next page*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Lawn and garden fertiliser</li> <li>- Lime and gypsum</li> <li>- Organic fertilisers</li> <li>- Agronomy advice</li> <li>- Soil testing</li> <li>- 25kg bags to bulk loads</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Open to the public</b> 8am-5pm Monday to Friday 150 Sybella Avenue, Koo Wee Rup</p>  <p><b>Ph: 5997 2203</b></p>
---	---



*This is the Tangye engine referred to, used to haul machinery, goods and in this case important visitors taken on May 21, 1914, the day the Dredge was officially started.*

*State Rivers & Water Supply Commission photographer, State Library of Victoria Image rwg/u877*

## Lubecker Steam Dredge *from previous page*

*Lang Lang Dredge. Official Starting. An Interesting Ceremony*

On Thursday morning last the dredge on the Lang Lang River was started in the presence of a representative official party, including Mr Hagelthorn (Minister of Public Works), Messrs Cattanach and Dethridge (members of the Water Supply Commission), with Mr Catani (Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department), Mr Kenyon (Chief Engineer of the Water Commission), Mr Drake (secretary Public Works Department), Mr Kermode (engineer Ports and Harbors), and Mr Grenlees (naval architect). There was also a representative attendance of landowners of the surrounding district and others interested in the starting of this machine, and the weather being pleasantly fine and sunny, those who attended had an enjoyable outing, as well as being greatly interested witnesses of the working of a machine which is the first of its kind to be put into operation in Australia. Early in June of last year the machinery of the dredge arrived at the local station and the intervening time was taken up in transporting the plant to the end of Stanlake's lane, in constructing a line of rails across the t-tree swamp to the river bank, a distance of 60 chains, in adapting a Tangye engine to act as a locomotive hauler, and in erecting the machinery – a work which was rendered very difficult on account of the machinery leaving Germany never having, in mechanical terms, been "assembled." The work of erection, therefore, was one of considerable engineering difficulty. However, on April 15th a trial run of the machinery was given in the presence of Mr Catani, and the excavator worked so well that orders were at once given for a supply of timber and rails to lay a section of the line towards the outlet at the bay in order to commence work, the point at which the dredge was constructed being 23 chains from the bay, and the distance it is proposed to excavate from the bay to the road bridge is 2 miles and 60 chains.



Lubecker Dredge taken on May 21, 1914, the day it was officially started. Carlo Catani is on the ladder.

State Rivers & Water Supply Commission photographer, State Library of Victoria Image rwg/u855

As before stated, the machinery worked smoothly, and Mr Catani informed our representative that should the operation be a

success, it is proposed to construct similar machines in the State. The dredge was made in Lubeck, Germany and has been used in England, and is employed extensively in India. The cost of the machine was £2000, or, with duty added, £3000, the idea of constructing such machines in the State is on account of the saving in duty.

At the trial run on the morning in question, 105 cubic yards was excavated in 40 minutes the cost being estimated at 5d per yard. It was evident to the spectators that the machinery was working in very stiff, gluey soil, but the powerful engine used seemed to have no difficulty in doing its work in the section taken out, which was dredged to a depth of about 4 feet. The width of the proposed channel will be 40 feet at the top, 25 feet at the bottom, and 8 feet, with a batter or sloping bank of about 15 feet. The scoops, or delvers, which work horizontally and upon the principle on which a Californian pump lifts war, can be lowered or raised according to the necessities of working, and the earth removed is carried to a high elevated platform, and there tipped into a chute, from whence the conveyors carry it away. The earth is then deposited in a high, solid bank, which is considered to be one of the principal features of the scheme. The conveyors can also be raised or lowered to the height required in building the bank. It is estimated that the machine will scoop a length of 50 feet per day, at which rate the plant in about twelve months should complete the work to the bridge.

The defective feature in the work from the viewpoint of local opinion is the cutting of a parallel drain instead of widening the river. However, it is explained the reason of this is that to work into the river would necessitate great expense in the leveling of the bank for the rails to run on, whereas by working some 15 feet from the present waterway this bank can be avoided. It is not intended, as originally proposed, to join the two streams by crosscuts. One of the principal drawbacks in working is the necessity of carting fresh water about two miles, as the salt water in the river would be very destructive to the boiler. This official starting was satisfactorily carried out by Mr R. Carr, the engineer in charge, who was ably assisted by his staff.

*Continued next page*

## Lubecker Steam Dredge *from previous page*

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

From a report in *The Argus* on October 13, 1915 there are other details of how the Dredge operated -

*The dredge is an impressive looking machine weighing about 40 tons or more. It excavates or means of an endless chain arrangement, wherein each link of the chain consists of a heavy steel shovel head. These shovel heads first scrape away the "spoil," then they deliver it on to a mechanical conveyer on the far side of the machine. The conveyer in its turn dumps the earth on to a regular embankment or if necessary, into wagons that cart it away.*

The work at Lang Lang was practically completed in December 1916 and in April 1917 the *Lang Lang Guardian* could report the SRWSC had taken over the Dredge. A year later, in March 1918 it was reported that the dredge was working on the Yallock Creek, this is the earliest report I can find of it on the Koo Wee Rup Swamp, however it had obviously arrived much earlier as the next month it was noted that the work there was finished and it was being moved to the Main Drain -

*The outlet which is to be substituted for the Yallock Creek has been cut by the dredge, and the machine is being transferred to the main drain, where excavating is to be commenced at once. Owing to the great weight of the dredge it has been found necessary to construct a special bridge to enable the dredge to be taken over the main drain.*

In December 1918, the *Koo Wee Rup Sun* could report on more progress of the dredge on the Main Drain -

*The land dredge previously worked at Lang Lang by the Public Works department was kept working steadily throughout the year with good results. After enlarging the existing Yallock cut to the Melbourne road [South Gippsland Highway] and connecting it at this point to the Upper Yallock Creek proper, the dredge was transferred to the north western side of the main drain, near the sea end. It is now cutting new outlets for the new main western drain and the main northern catch drain. The results obtained by the operation of this dredge have been so satisfactory that the Commission is now arranging for a similar machine to be built in this State.*



*Lubecker Dredge, May 21, 1914, the day it was officially started.  
State Rivers & Water Supply Commission photographer, State Library of  
Victoria Image rwg/u871*

It was later put to work on the Cardinia Creek in the 1920s. It would be interesting to know if it worked at other locations in Victoria, I have no information about that, and it is hard to pick up references in the newspapers, as after the War they didn't seem to mention the fact that it was a German dredge.

In March 1935, Ron East, presented a paper *Swamp Reclamation in Victoria* to the Institute of Engineers Australia. He noted that by June 1934 total excavation by the Dredge was 1,332,231 cubic yards; it never worked at more than at 60 percent of its capacity. The average cost of excavation was 7.9 pence per cubic yard, but with interest and depreciation the total cost was 9.15 pence per cubic yard, well over the *Lang Lang Guardian's* original estimate of one penny per yard. East also reported that *the dredge has now practically completed its useful life.*

Finally, what happened to the Lubecker Dredge? We don't know but presumably it was cut up for scrap, perhaps around World War Two, as all that remains are a set of wheels on display at the Swamp Look-out tower on the South Gippsland Highway.

The original version of this story with references and footnotes can be read here <https://kooweerupswamhistory.blogspot.com/2017/07/lubecker-steam-dredge-on-koo-wee-rup.html>

**The Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society meets on the second Wednesday of each month at Mallow house, 325 Rossiter Road, corner of Henry Street. The next meeting is on August 14, 2024 at 7.30pm. New members welcome. The Museum is generally open on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. Heather Arnold ☎0407 521 637 or [harnold@dcsi.net.au](mailto:harnold@dcsi.net.au)**



# KOO WEE COFFEE CLUB



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

August	7	Royal Hotel
	21	Chandelier Café
September	4	Royal Hotel
	18	Chandelier Café
October	2	Royal Hotel
	16	Chandelier Café
	30	Degani



Enquiries ph Jo on 0428 557 411



Koo Wee Coffee Club

# “WANTED”



STALL HOLDERS

for the

**RSL**

Christmas & Craft Fair  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024



“Now Open”

Taking Bookings for Stall Holders

Sites Cost \$20

for bookings contact:

Secretary Bev Edwards Ph: 0400 584 235

Or Email: [kooweerup.rsl@gmail.com](mailto:kooweerup.rsl@gmail.com)

Closing Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October



A Tribute to HARRY BELAFONTE

The **CALYPSO** KING

Thu. 22nd August at 10.30am



**BAYLES PUBLIC HALL**  
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## Bayles Fauna Park Working Bee

Sunday, 11 August, 9am start followed by a BBQ lunch.

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

**All welcome**