

# THE KOO WEE RUP BLACKFISH



JUNE 2024

## Bowls Clubhouse Redevelopment



The Bowls clubhouse redevelopment is well under way. The old clubhouse is gone, and groundwork nearly completed. Most of the building is being fabricated offsite, so not weather dependent, and it is anticipated that the new clubhouse should be complete by October in time for the start of the next season.

## Koo Wee Rup Township Committee Meeting

The Township held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, 1 May at the KWR Community Centre. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 5 June at 7:30 pm at the KWR Community Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend Township Meetings and join in the discussion.

Questions to Councillor Cameron

*Why is Emerald Community House losing its funding?*

It was a controversial decision; Councillor Cameron did not have the details to hand and referred the questioner to council staff for more details. The Community House auspices a lot of smaller groups, so this decision will have a wider impact than just the Community House.

*Is there a rate rise in the council budget?*

Statewide rise of of 1.7%, but can impact some areas more than others as the 1.7% is the average across the shire.

Council is running a naming competition for the new Pakenham East suburb. The Naming Authority have specified that the suburb should be named after a woman with connections to the area. Five names have been nominated. The nominations can be viewed on the council Your Say page and you can lodge your vote for your preference.

Caroline has received reports again regarding hazardous areas for wheelchair users in Koo Wee Rup. These include the ramps at the pedestrian crossing outside the bakery which is too steep. Is there a body that this can be referred to that can provide input and recommendations that can be taken to council? Advice from the meeting was that the National Code states that the slope should be 1 in 14, the ramp is steeper than this, but council have not been able to find a solution that will fit within the constraints of the site. This ramp is at the only controlled pedestrian crossing in town. Caroline will contact Jordan Crugnale's office for advice.

*Continued page 5*

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

### June

Mon	3rd	KWR Senior Citizens Games Day (members only) (page 18)	Senior Citizens Club	11am
Mon	3rd	Chair Pilates (page 3)	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Mon	3rd	Mat Pilates (page 3)	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	5th	Coffee Club (back page)	Royal Hotel	10am
Wed	5th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Wed	5th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	5th	Lions Club Meeting	Tooradin Sports Club	7pm
Wed	5th	Township Committee Meeting	Community Centre	7.30pm
Fri	7th	KRHS Ladies Auxiliary Meeting (page 18)	Education Room, Hospital	9.30am
Fri	7th	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Mon	10th	KWR Senior Citizens Games Day (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11am
Mon	10th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Mon	10th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Tue	11th	Have a Chat Chuesday (back page)	UA Church Hall	2pm
Tue	11th	Community Centre Committee Meeting	Community Centre	7.30pm
Wed	12th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Wed	12th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	12th	KWR Swamp Historical Society Meeting (page 21)	KWR Historical Society	6pm
Fri	14th	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Mon	17th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Mon	17th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	19th	Coffee Club	Chandelier Café	10am
Wed	19th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Wed	19th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	19th	Lions Club Meeting	RSL Clubrooms	7pm
Fri	21st	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Sun	23rd	Bayles Fauna Park Working Bee (page 13)	Bayles Fauna Park	9am
Mon	24th	KWR Senior Citizens Games Day (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11am
Mon	24th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Mon	24th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	26th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Wed	26th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Thu	27th	KWR Senior Citizens Craft and Games (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	10am
Fri	28th	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am

### July

Mon	1st	KWR Senior Citizens Games Day (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11am
Mon	1st	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Mon	1st	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	3rd	Coffee Club	Royal Hotel	10am
Wed	3rd	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Wed	3rd	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	3rd	Lions Club Meeting	Tooradin Sports Club	7pm
Wed	3rd	Township Committee Meeting	Community Centre	7.30pm
Fri	5th	KRHS Ladies Auxiliary Meeting (page 18)	Education Room, Hospital	9.30am
Fri	5th	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Mon	8th	KWR Senior Citizens Games Day (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11am
Mon	8th	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*

## 10 years ago in *The Blackfish*

I was browsing old Blackfish recently and came across this little gem. You may remember that the Australian Human Rights Commission had hosted an expensive event in Sydney and when criticised by the media, Gillian Triggs, then President of the Commission, asserted that they couldn't hold such a prestigious event in 'a village hall in Koo Wee Rup'. To her credit, she accepted an invitation from the Township Committee to visit our village hall.

### Australian Human Rights Commission President Visits "Village Hall" in Koo Wee Rup

Professor Gillian Triggs, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, visited Koo Wee Rup last month and spoke to a group of residents at the Community Centre. She apologised for any concern that had been caused to the local community by comments attributed to her implying that an event held in a village hall in Koo Wee Rup was somehow second rate.

She went on to explain the work that the Australian Human Rights Commission undertakes. Although a lot of the work reported in the media is about the work they do in the international sphere, particularly in relation to asylum seekers; the Commission is tasked to investigate and prosecute every case of alleged discrimination on the basis of race, age, sex, religion, etc in Australia.

She told the group that the media furore caused by the Koo Wee Rup comments had caused the Commission to address their Sydney-centric attitude and encouraged them to look at more regularly hosting events in Regional Australia.

*Right: Professor Gillian Triggs with Township Committee President, Gavin Brock at the Koo Wee Rup Community Centre*



### Pilates both Chair and Mat @ Koo wee Rup Regional Health Service

Term 2 classes are now in full swing with Chair classes really having taken off in the last year. Just a quick explanation how you can get a good workout without getting onto the floor for mat or using a reformer bed.


As we develop injuries and need recovery time, we need to continue to exercise to maintain optimum daily living movement and flexibility. With minimum pain and discomfort. In recent years both Yoga and Pilates have introduced chair exercise as well as basic standing exercises to assist with this. Often it is the same exercises your Physio has set for your recovery, but by doing them in a supportive setting with like-minded people, it becomes more easily, a part of our daily routine and that what we need.

Human nature is such that we tend to stop our preventative exercises once the initial acute phase is over. Chair Pilates is yet another way to do some good core engagement work, which will strengthen our backs and support the body with daily functional activities. Also, the resistance work, maintains muscle strength and we all need good balance to enable self-correcting when we are at risk of a fall. So, all the boxes are ticked.

Some participants who have lacked confidence, then continue onto mat classes, and others who have issues, can reduce and go from a mat class to a chair class. All positive options.

Your first class is FREE so why not give it a go. Cost then is \$5 per half hour session for chair and \$10 for a 50 minute mat class.

Enquiries to Marlene on 0429 814 410



**Pilates Term 2 of 2024**


**First Class FREE**

Commit to doing some exercise at your level. Pilates is suitable for all ages & abilities, focusing on core, strength, balance and flexibility.

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

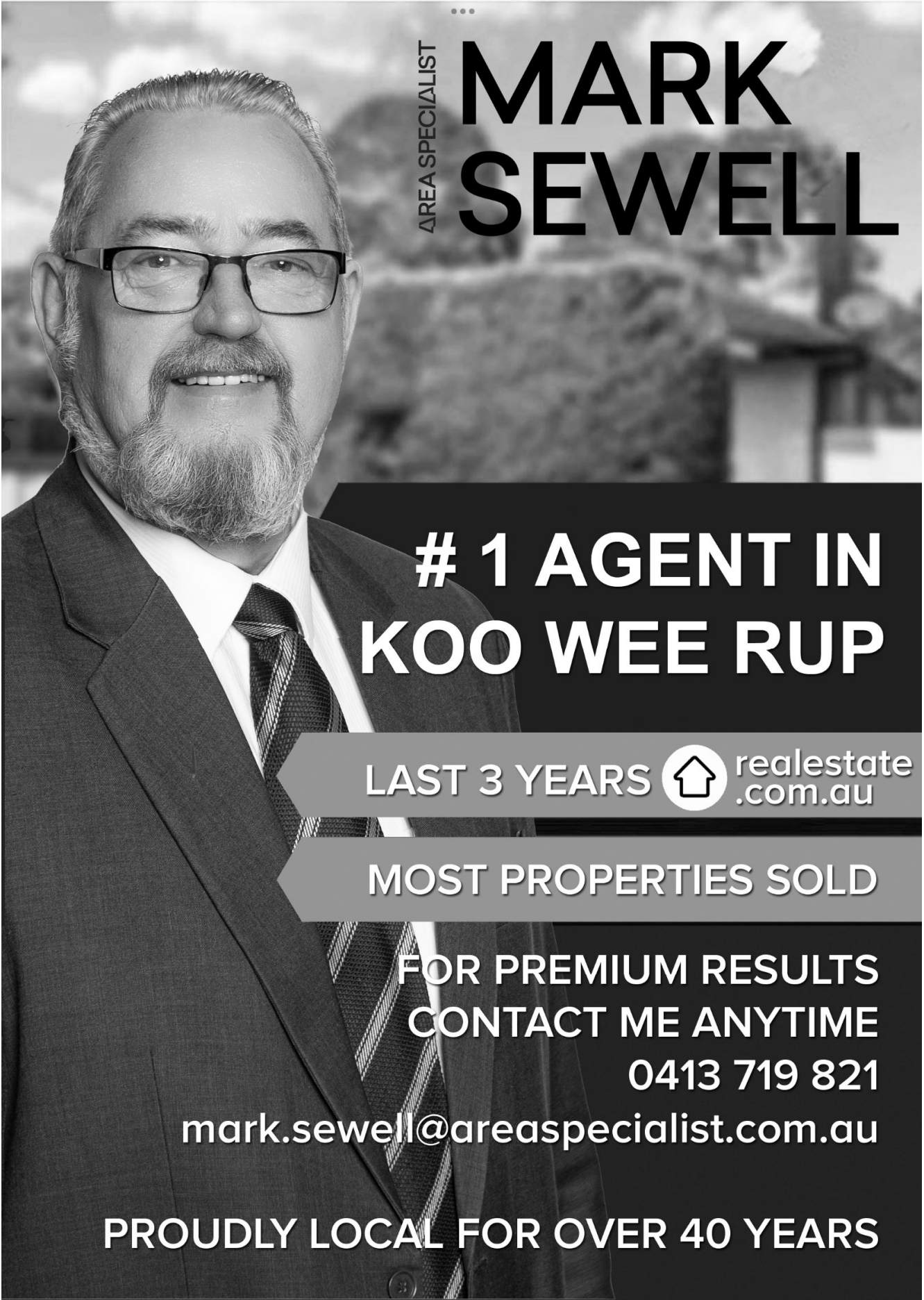
**Where:** Hewitt Eco House, Koo Wee Rup  
Regional Health Service, 215 Rossiter Road Koo Wee Rup.

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



Enquiries to Marlene  
0429 814 410

**Term 2 starts: Mon 13th May.**  
(Note later start date)



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

The Hospital Community Advisory Committee met recently, and the main discussion was around the star rating given to the facility by the Government. It is based mostly around safety and quality of care.

Koo Wee Rup Swamp Tower – the state of the entry/exit to the carpark is dangerous, many potholes meaning that vehicles have to slow dramatically to enter safely and cannot easily pull out onto the highway. Should be reported to the VicRoads as they are responsible for managing the South Gippsland Highway.

The meeting heard a brief introduction from several new or first time attendees at the Township Committee meeting and they were all warmly welcomed.

Can the signs promoting the introduction of reticulated natural gas to Koo Wee Rup be removed? It has been many years since this project was implemented. The answer is yes, just take the right tools and take them down.

There is a new bus stop being constructed on the Koo Wee Rup – Pakenham Road at Greenhills Road but Westernport Buslines don't know about it. When enquiries were made at Public Transport Victoria they said to speak to Westernport. Garry has asked that the route be expanded to detour into the industrial estate, he has spoken to Jordan Crugnale and she will follow up.

The Cardinia Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee met recently. They are working to make sure that council assets and facilities are accessible for all. There was an allowance of \$240,000 in the last budget, no commitment in the new budget. This budget funded several projects in Koo Wee Rup including Accessible Toilets at the Swimming pool and the lift and ramp to allow all abilities access to the pool. Kaye said there had been many comments regarding this omission from the new budget. Garry will draft an email to be sent to council.

*Police report to Township Committee page 7*



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## Police Report to Koo Wee Rup Township Committee

Sergeant Kevin Isles attended this evening's meeting.

April Crime statistics:

- Family Violence is more prevalent because the town is growing. 6 incidents attended this month, which can take up to 4 hours or more for the attending officers.
- Stolen cars in the wider area (includes Cardinia Shire). 3 thefts reported. Unfortunately, vehicles left unlocked or keys in cars. Windows smashed to gain entry.
- Residential burglary – Manks Road burglary from farm shed
- Theft of bike from a school but later returned.
- Ram raid on Shell Service station in Koo wee Rup about 4am one morning. Police attended almost immediately as they were in Koo Wee Rup. Charges have already been laid.
- Counterfeit \$50 notes are circulating and some have been used at Woolworths in Koo Wee Rup

Sergeant Isles encouraged people to report any incidents, even if minor. Non-urgent incidents can be reported to 131 444, but always call 000 in an emergency. When he tries to get additional resources to the area, command points to the lack of reported crime.

Koo Wee Rup and Lang Lang Stations will each be staffed one day per week.


Koo Wee Rup every Thursday either 8am to 4pm or 9am to 5pm depending upon shift rosters.

Lang Lang every Tuesday

Across the state, car theft is mostly of high-end cars, recently there have been car thefts from gyms where people leave their keys where they can be taken while they are working out.

We are fortunate in this area that knife violence is not that prevalent, but violence in schools is increasing.

When reporting a stolen item give as much information to police as possible, eg serial number, model number, if it is engraved with an identifiable code anywhere (eg Driver's License number). It can't be returned to you if it is recovered, and you have not reported it missing.



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## What was that Siren?



### May 2024

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:

- 1/4/24 - Structure fire – Five Mile Rd Koo Wee Rup North
- 1/4/24 - Powerlines sparking - Sybella Ave Koo Wee Rup
- 2/4/24 - Car accident/Rescue – Cnr Ballarto Rd/Hobson Rd Rythdale
- 6/4/24 - Tower fire – Kettles Rd Lang Lang
- 6/4/24 - Car accident – Cnr Sth Gippsland Hwy/Rossiter Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 21/4/24 - Smoke alarm operating – Woodlot Lane Tooradin
- 30/4/24 - Car accident/Rescue – Cnr Fechner Rd/Ballarto Rd Koo Wee Rup North
- 3/5/24 - Car fire – Railway Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 4/5/24 - Car accident/Rescue – Cnr Ballarto Rd/Hobson Rd Rythdale
- 5/5/24 - Hazardous Chemical – Tresize Ct Lang Lang
- 5/5/24 - Burning smell/Hazardous chemical – Rossiter Rd Koo Wee Rup
- 7/5/24 – Burn off out of control – Peers Rd Dalmore
- 11/5/24 - Car fire – Westernport Rd Lang Lang
- 11/5/24 - Car accident/Rescue – Moody St Koo Wee Rup
- 12/5/24 - Chemical spill – cnr Sth Gippsland Hwy/Caldermeade Rd Caldermeade
- 14/5/24 – Car accident/fire – Cnr Clarks Rd/McDonalds Tk Lang Lang
- 17/5/24 – Powerlines sparking – Rossiter Rd Koo Wee Rup

### The end of an era

The officers, members and ladies auxiliary of the Koo Wee Rup Fire Brigade are saddened by the loss of Tobe Florance.

Tobe was a foundation and life member of the Brigade's ladies auxiliary, serving for 68 years.

Tobe worked tirelessly raising funds and supporting the brigade in countless events over her many years of service.

She will be remembered fondly by all members and their families. Tobe passed away on Friday 19th April 2024, aged 98 years.



### Firefighter stair climb

On 7th September this year, two of our members are doing the 28 floor stair climb with 25kg of kit to raise funds to remove stigma and raise awareness of mental health issues like depression, and suicide for those in emergency services and defence.

Let's see if we can raise more this year than previous years.

If you can spare a dollar, please donate via this link: <https://www.firefighterclimb.org.au/station/cfa/koo-wee-rup/>

All donations are tax deductible, so now is a great time to donate before EOFY.

### Smoke Alarm Installation Program

CFA now has a free Smoke Alarm Installation Program happening where suitably trained volunteers will come to your house, do a survey on what smoke alarms you currently have installed, give you a few tips and information on the care of your alarms and then, if needed install new alarms.

As all alarms have a 10-year service life, all alarms should be replaced if they are more than 10-years old, batteries should be replaced regularly and they should be tested monthly.

The new smoke alarms installed by CFA have a lithium 10-year battery in them so they don't need changing but the whole alarm should be replaced after 10 years.

If you are interested in Koo Wee Rup CFA volunteers coming to your residence to look at your smoke alarms and, perhaps install new one, please contact [roger.smith7@members.cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:roger.smith7@members.cfa.vic.gov.au)



### Contact Us

You can contact us for non-emergency enquiries via email. Call Triple zero in an emergency [kooweerup.sec@members.cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:kooweerup.sec@members.cfa.vic.gov.au) or facebook @KooWeeRupFireBrigade

## 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**

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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 odd happenings during our first three years in Australia

1970 -1973 by Geoff Stokes

It was December 2020 when I wrote my first story for 'Blackfish'. It was about my dear wife Olive and I touring Europe - particularly Switzerland - on our 150cc Lambretta scooter in 1959. We rode over the Simplon pass and then on to Milan with its magnificent opera house and arcades of shops. Since then, with my stories, I have tried to interest you in all the absorbing and the many happenings of our adventurous life, so here are yet more tales from Geoff to amuse and interest you - I hope!

Let's go back to 1971. We had been in Australia for just over a year and I had settled in well with my work when Alec, our company accountant, told me he had a holiday home at Mount Beauty, a small town in the mountains about four hours' drive from Melbourne. After Christmas in February 1972, he asked me if we, as a family, would like to spend a week or two there for our annual holiday. We jumped at the chance and did just that; the first holiday of what would be many over the years that we would spend in that delightful place. During the building of the Snowy River Hydro Electric scheme, Mount Beauty had been the headquarters of the project and many compact timber houses had been built to accommodate the workforce of several hundred personnel. Alec and Betty's holiday house was very basic accommodation, but the house was comfortable and cool under the shade of huge gum trees in the garden. The water for domestic use was heated in a wood fired boiler outside and we discovered many red back spiders in the various nooks and crannies around and in the place. Nothing unusual for the area we were told albeit a bite from one of these small arachnids could be fatal. We all had a super time exploring the town and the surrounding area, especially along the banks of the pristine Kiewa River that originated from the Bogong Dam high up in the mountains. Our favourite spot was a tiny

beach-like hideaway along the river where the crystal-clear water pooled into a swimming hole with a handy rock, good for jumping off, that conveniently protruded into the deep end. The sandy banks of the river were speckled with gold, not real gold but 'fool's gold', in fact it was Iron Sulphide, a bright brassy colour. You could though pretend it was real gold! We spent most days here playing with the children, and both learned to swim here over the years as well as in the local swimming pool in the town. This first year we were in Mount Beauty, there were not many swimmers in the pool during the day because it was

school term time and not holidays. So, we cavorted in the water and our flickering ciné films of the time show Jonathan jumping and splashing about and his dad doing belly flops from the lower diving springboard. You can see Jonathan mouthing to me to "Have a go Dad from off the top board, go on then" - I didn't!

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Continued next page

## Our first three years in Australia *from previous page*

My favourite memory on that first visit to Mount Beauty was of Jonathan our son, aged seven at that time, catching his first ever fish. We were fishing from the little bridge at the outlet from the lake where the water then continues on as the Kiewa River towards Toowonga. The Redfin fishes were so prolific and hungry that year that they were biting at a bare hook with no bait. Suddenly Jonathan strikes like a pro and there it is, on the end of his line, a fish for breakfast. His first ever fish; what excitement from us all; little Catherine and his Mum and I were so happy for him. There is one other fishing story to tell, and I am not quite sure whether it is this year I am writing about (1972) or later but it doesn't matter.

We were fishing from this same position on the bridge and hoping to take a trout or two. We had bait off a float, and it was drifting fast downstream when suddenly Jonathan shouted excitedly, "Dad, I have a bite". At exactly the same time a fellow angler, positioned at least a hundred metres downstream, on the left bank of the river, started to reel in vigorously. A single trout had struck at each bait and Jonathan and this other guy had caught the same fish – amazing. Another day we drove alongside the River Murray to visit the wineries at Rutherglen. Our everlasting memory is getting out of the car on the way to Rutherglen and I said, "Listen". There was absolute dead silence, not even a bird could be heard. It was quite overwhelming – the proverbial 'Sounds of Silence' – just amazing.

During our stay we explored the slopes of Mount Bogong and the ascending track that crossed this river tributary seven times. Catherine, our daughter then aged just four, whilst paddling through one such crossing, attracted the attention of several black leeches that clung to her legs and arms, and they were slowly filling with her blood. It was with horror that we managed to eventually dislodge them; you can only imagine the consternation this episode caused. On the way home from our holiday we called in at Brown Brothers winery at Milawa to see if I could get them to use our new type of industrial ball valve. (You may recall my previous story about arriving in the country in 1970 with the first industrial ball valve to be seen in Australia made in the UK, safely locked in my briefcase). Our type of upmarket valve was also new to the wine industry and even stainless-steel vats, pumps and containers had only just arrived on the wine making scene. So, we tried to get Brown Brothers Winery interested in our ball valves on that first visit in 1972 but the guy there said, "We have no need for valves, we use bungs!". Within eighteen months they were one of our best winery equipment customers! We went on to sell valves to the wineries along the Barossa Valley in South Australia. Now, in 2024 they are a standard item almost everywhere and manufactured in their thousands in China!

*Continued next page*



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## Our first three years in Australia *from previous page*

But life goes on and we were soon back home in Templestowe, and everyday things were moving again and gradually normality, after a wonderful first holiday in Aus, resumed. The next show that our Musical Society planned to produce was "The King and I" by Rogers and Hammerstein; an ambitious project because there were lots of ladies and children required in the show together with two very strong leads. All had to be found within the near locality. I had the thought that I could play the part of 'The King' and, after my performance as Jimmy, the lead actor in "No, No, Nanette"; a few of the members were suggesting that very thing. "After all you do not have to follow how Yul Brynner played it, with a bald head and bare chest", they said. "You can be yourself". So, I practised the part and was well versed and very confident when I turned up for the auditions. I couldn't believe my eyes; there, dressed in black leather shorts, a shirt open to the waist and revealing a gold pendant on a neck chain, leather sandals and a bald head, stood a 1.85 metre fellow with his arms folded staring at me with a challenging look on his tanned face. Stupidly I asked him what part he was auditioning for, and he said, in a deep accented voice, "I am going for the part of The King" (You fool, his eyes said!) His name was Tony Kentuck and of course he got the part. The producer/director said to me, when I took the audition, "I'm sorry Geoff, Tony's got the part of the King – what can I do, I can't do anything else but give it to him, he's just made for it- just look at him! And so he was; Tony did a great job and became a good friend as well. I was given the part of the Kralahome, the Prime Minister, hardly any singing but an interesting dramatic part, I enjoyed it. It was a memorable show.

Olive and I began to realise that although we were happy living at the house in Hakea Street, Templestowe, it wasn't big enough for our growing family. Jonathan and Catherine each needed their own room so we sort of started to think about where to and when we could move. Well, I have to say it was me who dillied and dallied, whilst I was prevaricating and messing about, Olive swung into action! She was shopping in Templestowe one day when she happened to look on Estate Agent Peter McDougal's window and saw a house she thought would suit us. The agent said he didn't think it was the sort of house we were looking for but told Olive of a house being built in James Street, close by; would she like to go and have a look at it? She went along with him and fell in love with the place straight away and said to him that we would buy it and gave him a holding deposit on the spot. When I arrived home that day it was a *fait accompli*, and I was rushed off to see it before anyone else had wind of it. It was, and still is, a gorgeous house sitting then in a commanding position overlooking the valley of the road below to the high rise of the hill opposite with just one or two houses on the elevated horizon. It was built on the side of a hill, detached from other properties, and had four bedrooms, an ensuite to the main bedroom, a super floor tiled entrance hall and plenty of room to move about both inside and out. There was an extended-roof double car port with several steps up to the front door: quite imposing and in October 1972 very upmarket. So, we set into motion the wheels to purchase the house and enjoyed selecting wall and floor tiles, paint colours, carpets, curtains, bathroom suites etc., etc. At the same time, we put our first home of 2½ years for sale. Who else can say that his dear wife went shopping one Saturday morning and came back home and said quite nonchalantly, "I've just bought us a new house. I hope you like it". We sold quickly and soon we were living in James Street and, I must add, we were very happy. Lots of things had to be done; a shed for me, extra lighting, curtains, and furniture, oh so many things. But we did it all and Olive will tell you that the next ten years spent there were very happy ones.

Until I researched the old programs I have kept, I always thought that the next show our theatre group produced was in the following year, 1973 but, in fact, it was in the November of this same year as "The King and I" and it was held at a very different venue to that of past shows; it was at Mitcham High School, today called Mullauna College. The show was to be "Kiss me Kate" and it was decided early on by the committee that the Mechanics Hall in Templestowe was not nearly big enough for a production of this magnitude. Not only the hall, but the actual stage size could not possibly cope with the complex scene changes required for this musical extravaganza. The part I auditioned for was the lead, Fred Graham, a dual character who also played Petruccio. Let me explain. This most musical and amusing show draws on the traditional "play within a play" concept to portray the parallels between Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew" and the lives of the actors playing in that show. The musical opens at the end of the dress rehearsal for a new musical version of "The Shrew" in which the leads are played by Fred Graham and Lilli Vanessi who have been divorced from each other for a year. And so, on it goes, full of great songs and comedy routines. A testing time for all the singers/actors and there are lots of wonderful dances and skits along the way. I also did the lighting design for the show, so I was very busy indeed. There you are then, another slice of my life story for 1971 – '73, for you to enjoy or hiss with disinterest. Keep reading the 'Blackfish' for further instalments of this saga.

### Bayles Fauna Park Working Bee

Sunday, 23 June, 9am start  
followed by a BBQ lunch.

Please bring own bottled  
water, wear long pants,  
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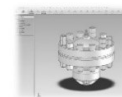
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## The latest News from the Community Advisory Committee.

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) met on the morning of the 21st of May and discussed some interesting subjects concerning patients, residents, and support people of the Koo-Wee-Rup Regional Hospital services. 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 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.

Our guest speaker was Werner Theinert, Consumer Consultant, Subregional Environmental Sustainability Working Group. His vision is to replace our current domestic gas-consuming appliances (when they require replacing) with more efficient renewables-powered electric appliances all within 8 to 10 years. For industry, the aim is to change over major industrial processes so that we'll be exporting green steel and green aluminium instead of iron ore, coal, bauxite, and alumina. His very interesting talk centring on the above vision, focussed on the change over but he did not discuss how it could be achieved over the existing electricity supply network cabling because there is over 850,000 km of distribution grid and 45,000 km of transmission grid in operation across Australia that is not suitable for renewables transmission.

Other matters discussed at this CAC meeting were the results of the completed CAC evaluation questionnaire with

### VICTORIANA

Feb 2024

Subtracting activist protests from the social equation we are left with little from a quiet, compliant people. So any glaring exception then must be of significance a protesting lamentation made with the heaviest sigh. Yet Anti-Lockdown rallies filled with mums and dads were trivialized and minimized, rubber bullets fired women manhandled and taken down with pepper spray pregnant mothers in dressing gowns arrested in homes. Public objections were dismissed, complaints got no reply whilst more egregious political marchers got away scot free the police formations parted like the proverbial Red sea.

Who could have thought science would end up the victim when the loudest agendas turn to falsehood and untruth. Of course, all across the land Premiers slandered defiance who now concede in scripted responses, there was over-reach a known absence of consensus about medicalised kids that people were silenced and shamed, forced suspensions and careers ruined, jobs lost, future employment put at risk scores of teachers, nurses and police unreturned to jobs. Yes it was all an unfortunate but a very necessary step as new plans are made, the work continues in best practice. Such cannot move away, concede or even apologize only lawsuits will manage to secure a slight compliance lest we forget.

Now, having had our first Home Invasion murder that anyone for a long time could have seen coming all the ready-made excuses and ineffectual reforms are wheeled out in heartless and cagey language. Yet are flags lowered half mast, black arm bands worn experts, ministers and judges begging for forgiveness on their unbent knees, faces stained with tears running.

*Warren Breninger*

consumer feedback. A report on the Home-Care Package Quality Review by Annie Barwise the Quality Manager, was also enlightening to our members. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was announced that Beverly Walsh the KWRHS Board representative, is retiring from the Board and thus the CAC too. Noni Bourke, CEO, on behalf of the meeting thanked her for all the voluntary work she has done over her eight years of exemplary service and wished Beverly well in all of her future endeavours.

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 advocates always. 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. The next meeting of the committee is planned for the 20th of August 2024 at 10:00 am. Before then we shall have many informal meetings with each other to check on any community problems that may have arisen or are arising.

*Geoff Stokes*

## Council's FREE green waste drop-off events!

Residents are encouraged to drop off their green waste for free at the upcoming Green-waste drop off events in Pakenham and Lysterfield.

The service helps Cardinia Shire residents to clean up and reduce the fire fuel load on their properties throughout the year.

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

**Pakenham – Monday 3 to Saturday 8 June**

Future Recycling Transfer Station (30-32 Exchange Drive, Pakenham)

Monday to Friday: 7:30am - 4pm

Saturday: 8am – 2:30pm

**Pakenham – Monday 5 to Saturday 10 August**

Future Recycling Transfer Station (30-32 Exchange Drive, Pakenham)

Monday to Friday: 7:30am - 4pm

Saturday: 8am – 2:30pm

**Lysterfield – Monday 7 to Saturday 13 October**

Cleanaway Resource Recovery Centre (840 Wellington Rd, Lysterfield)

Monday to Friday: 8am – 3:30pm

Saturday: 8:30am – 11:30am

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

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

For more information about Council's green waste drop-off events, visit [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoff](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/dropoff)



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

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

Term 2 is off to a fantastic start. All our sections have been busy with great activities.

We joined the worldwide Jamboree on the Trail, where all scouting members go on a bushwalk on the same day across the world. We travelled from Corinella to Coronet Bay and finished our walk with a sausage in bread.

Joeys have been travelling each week. They have been to Italy, France, and London. Where will they be off to next?

Cubs visited their friends in Lang Lang, enjoyed a night of cooking and then found clues to get around our town on a scavenger hunt.

Scouts have been busy learning by doing. Last week they were constructing outside our local RSL. Learning about ropes and knots, next time you see them stop and say hello to find out what they are constructing.

Rovers have been visiting with our other sections to lend a helping hand. They had a great time with the Joey Scouts running a Knight program where Joeys had to slay dragons and rescue the princess to become a knight.

We are currently seeking adults to volunteer with us. We are looking for new section leaders, committee members and a Group Leader. If you have some spare time and would like to volunteer to help guide the youth in our group on how to be the leaders of tomorrow.



**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

## News from the KWR Health Services Ladies' Auxiliary.

First, we would like to thank all the ladies that supported our Friday Op Shop fashion parade on the 7th of May. We had lots of fun and we hope all of you who came along did so too. Our next fashion parade is on a more serious note. June 25th with Kay's Fashions and the venue is again at the Senior Citizens club rooms at 10:00am.

The Killara Hostel residents now have their own kitchen garden and now being complete they can grow their own vegetables, herbs, and flowers. They are very happy to get out and plant and two of the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary and volunteers look after the garden and keep it tidy.

The Ladies' Auxiliary is 75 years old next year and to celebrate we are making another calendar. The previous calendar sold out very quickly so if you are interested, please place your order with Olive on 0435 034 101, or Marlene on 5997 1399 or with any member. We would love to see new members with some new ideas. Why not join us and bring a friend along too and have some fun. Our meetings are on the first Friday of the month at 9:30 am in the Education room.

*Olive Stokes*

## Koo Wee Rup Senior Citizens Club

*1 Icke Road, Koo Wee Rup*

Come and try our weekly activities. We welcome new members at an annual fee of \$10.

Every Friday 11-1pm Lunch \$10 for 2 courses

Every Monday 11-2pm Games Free

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month 10-1pm Games and Craft Free

All enquiries

Dianne 0419 405 404

Leonie 0477 249 000

## Ageing Well Expo 2024 a resounding success!

Cardinia Shire's Ageing Well Expo was held at the Cardinia Cultural Centre in Pakenham last month.

Celebrating healthy ageing and building community connections, this free event brought together residents aged 55+ years from the Cardinia Shire community to empower them in improving and maintaining their well-being.

Event highlights included two special guest speakers, a panel Q&A discussion, a range of stallholders exhibiting their local services and programs, a light lunch, and a mesmerising digital artist captured the day's moments, creating art in real time.



Guest speakers presented valuable insights and practical strategies for getting the most out of life and healthy ageing with attendees.

Among its objectives, this event aimed to empower the Cardinia Shire ageing community by providing access to essential resources, spotlight social and physical activity opportunities, celebrate diversity, and promote community education.


Senior community members can stay up-to-date on all things Ageing Well in Cardinia by:

- checking out Cardinia Shire's quarterly Ageing Well Newsletter
- accessing the resources available on Council's website at [www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/ageingwell](http://www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/ageingwell), and
  - visiting the 'Cardinia Support' website; a valuable resource accessible on mobile devices and available in several languages, connecting community members to over 250 local support services.

# KOOWEE RUP 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)

June 2024

Find us on 



## National Volunteer Week, something for everything

What a lovely lunch we had with our volunteers at the Tooradin Sports Club. It was great to get-together, have a chat, enjoy good food and appreciate all the amazing work and time our volunteers give us at KRHS. Thank-you!



## Biggest Morning Tea

1 in 2 of us will be affected by cancer in our lifetime and vital funds are needed for Cancer prevention, research and support programs. KRHS were delighted to participate in the Biggest morning tea on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May. A great morning with cup cakes and fun was held to help people impacted by cancer. Please take the opportunity to donate to this great cause.



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'.

# Outlook

an inclusive society for all

Outlook Community Centre offers a large range of programs to our Community to improve your health/wellbeing and knowledge/skills. If you or someone you know would like to join the programs below, contact the Centre or book online on the Outlook website. We hope to see you soon.

To view our complete Term 2 Program Guide visit [www.outlookaust.org.au](http://www.outlookaust.org.au), drop in for a booklet or scan the QR code. 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



### Care Finder Program

This federally funded program provides free intensive support for vulnerable older members of our community in their endeavour to navigate and access the aged care system and support services.

**Thursday 20 June, 1.30pm - 2.30pm** **Cost FREE**

To be eligible to attend a person must be eligible for government funded aged care and have no carer or support person who can help/assist.



### Employment Support Session for Women 50 - 70

*Are you aged 50+? Are you looking for support in finding employment, a volunteer position or training opportunities?*

Support available includes: getting the right services and support, resume review and refresh and/or building interview skills, assistance navigating the education and training space which includes finding out what free or low-cost programs are available, linkage to a mentor and strengths-based re-engagement with employment training.

**Thursday 20 June, 11.00am - 12.15pm** **Cost FREE**

COTA programs are not job-outcome focused so they are happy to help anyone regardless of where they are at in their employment or training journey.



### All Together Choir

*Singing can improve health, happiness and confidence.*

Come and join our fun inclusive choir. If you enjoy singing and want to meet new people then this is the group for you.

**Thursdays during school term, 10.30am - 12.00pm**

**Cost \$7 per session**

### 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, 8.00am - 9.00am** **Cost FREE**

**Meet at Pakenham Central Marketplace near escalators**

### Forget-Me-Not Café

*This Café style program aims to bring together people living with dementia and their loved ones in Pakenham and surrounding areas.*

The Café is a nurturing space that offers enrichment, support and understanding, where you can share experiences with others living with the challenges of dementia. Come along to enjoy activities, entertainment and refreshments.

**Tuesdays once per month, next café 18 June.**

**10.00am - 12.00pm**

**Cost FREE**

### Canva

*Free online graphic design platform.*

Learn to create professional social media posts, business cards, invitations, flyers. Make the most of this attractive platform to utilise for business and personal needs.

**Wednesdays commencing 19 June for 2 sessions,**

**9.30am - 12.30pm**

**Cost \$35**

### Computer Maintenance, Internet Safety and File Management

*Keep your PC running smoothly and your data secure.*

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**Fridays commencing 14 June for 3 sessions,**

**9.30am - 1.00pm**

**Cost \$20 (includes course notes)**

### Nutritional Science Information Session

*Live life with increased energy and vitality.*

Are you:

- Overweight and must lose weight as advised by your doctor?
- Not overweight, but are experiencing a metabolic condition and need to take action?

Come along to this information session to understand how you can improve your health and lifestyle.

**Friday 28 June, 9.30am - 12.00pm**

**Cost FREE**



## Les O’Riordan’s Recollections - Early Township Buildings

*By Heather Arnold, on behalf of the Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society*

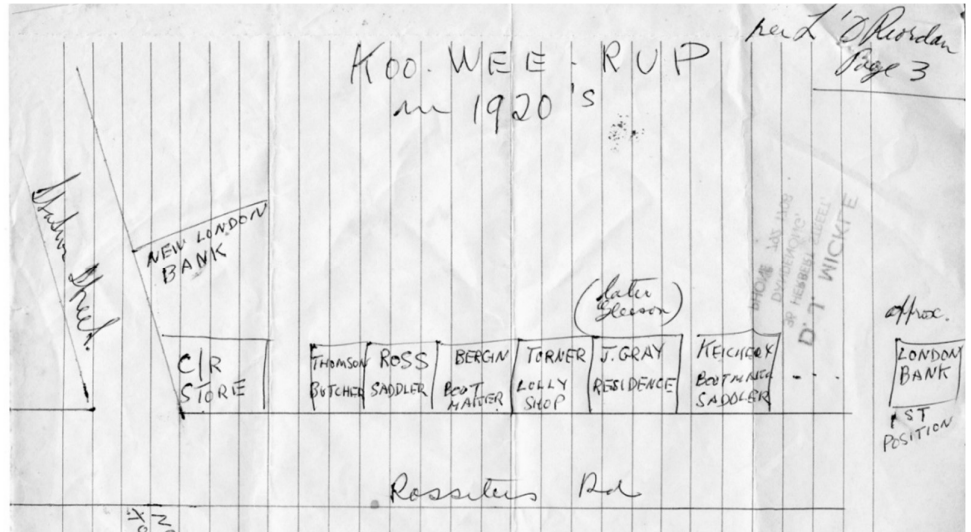
In 1968, Dave Mickle interviewed seventy-six year old Les O’Riordan. John Leslie O’Riordan was born on August 26, 1892 and is said to be the first white child born in the Koo-Wee-Rup Village settlement. His father, John O’Riordan, opened a store in the town in 1890 - it was a tin shed at the rear of what is now Light’s garage.

Les married Margaret Colvin in August 1918 and they lived at *Mallow*, the headquarters of the Historical Society. Margaret’s brother, A.C Colvin (Andrew) opened a cycle shop in the town in 1911 and later became an Agent for Ford Cars. Les died in 1978 and Margaret in 1955.

Some of the interview with Les is published in Dave’s book *Mickle Memories*, but we also have the notes from the interview at the Historical Society, so what follows is a combination of both.

### Rossiter Road

From the corner store going northwards (or down towards Bayles): on the left there was Thomson’s butchers shop, Ross the saddler, Bergin the bootmaker and Turner’s sweets shop, which was just before Jack Gray’s house. Next was Keighery’s bootmakers and saddlery. Still going north there was a timber building housing the London Bank (later moved to its current location – the ANZ bank). When the bank moved, Ben Darlington operated his radio shop from the site (where the car yard was). Just over Gardiner Street was Mrs Greys’ shop, then the Presbyterian Church and the Memorial Hall.



Rossiter Road shops in the 1920s as recalled by Les O’Riordan

### Station Street

Back to the Rossiter Road/ Station Street corner - the corner store was built for Bullocks, then owned by Finnigan, Battersby, Malouf, W.A Stephenson, Ernest Cougal and Ernest Williams.

Along Station Street was the new London Bank, then a small paddock and Joe Morrison’s blacksmiths shop. Next to Joe Morrison was Colvin’s cycle works and his Swastika café which he leased to the Misses Gallagher in 1922. The swastika was originally a symbol representing wellbeing and was used by many cultures until the rise of the Nazi Party in the 1930s. In the 1920s in Koo-Wee-Rup it was just a symbol of good luck, nothing sinister.

Molly O’Riordan’s post office was next - it was described by Les as a small square building under a large pine tree, clearly seen in the picture. This little post office was removed, and Colvin’s built a garage (Albons). At the rear of this site, the O’Riordans had built a coffee palace some years previously. It burnt down on the late 1920s/ early 1930s. O’Riordan’s residence and store were next, on the corner of Moody Street. A room at the back of the store was used as the first hall.

Behind the hotel was Wilkins (later Johnson) bakery and Johnson Brothers (later De Vries) butchery.



Station Street 1920s

### 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 June 12 at 7.30pm. New members welcome. The Museum is generally open on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month; we will be open June 9 and June 23, from 1.30pm. Heather Arnold 0407 521 637.

# KOO WEE COFFEE CLUB



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

June	5	Royal Hotel
	19	Chandelier Café
July	3	Royal Hotel
	17	Chandelier Café
	31	Degani
August	7	Royal Hotel
	21	Chandelier Café



Enquiries ph Jo on 0428 557 411



Koo Wee Coffee Club

Need a friend?

Recently retired?

New to Koo Wee?

Join us for,



## HAVE A CHAT CHUESDAYS

**WHERE?** U CA Church hall, 348 Rossiter Rd.  
**WHEN?** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024  
 And monthly on second Tuesday.  
**TIME?** 2pm-4pm.

*This month's theme is  
 Fun and Games*

Come and have afternoon tea and a laugh with us as you play a game you can play with others, you can also make a suggestion of what you think we could do next month.  
 We are a non threatening friendly group.  
 If you think we will all be strangers, we are not. We are friends you just haven't met yet.



For more info please contact.... Jenny 0409009529



Hiking



# ADVENTURE IS CALLING



Come and join us at 1st Koo Wee Rup Scout Unit as we venture into the wilderness, explore breathtaking landscapes, create memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.



Sailing



Caving



Adventure



Camping

FRIDAY

7:00 PM TO 9:00 PM  
 11 TO 14 YEAR OLDS

email -1stkwrscouts@gmail.com



# Wood Raffle

Win a trailer load of wood  
 (trailer not included)

\$2 a ticket  
 or 3 tickets for \$5

Tickets sold outside Woolworths Koo Wee Rup on  
 April 27<sup>th</sup>, May 25<sup>th</sup> and June 29<sup>th</sup>.  
 Or contact Kooweerup Scout Group to get your tickets.

Raffle drawn 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

