

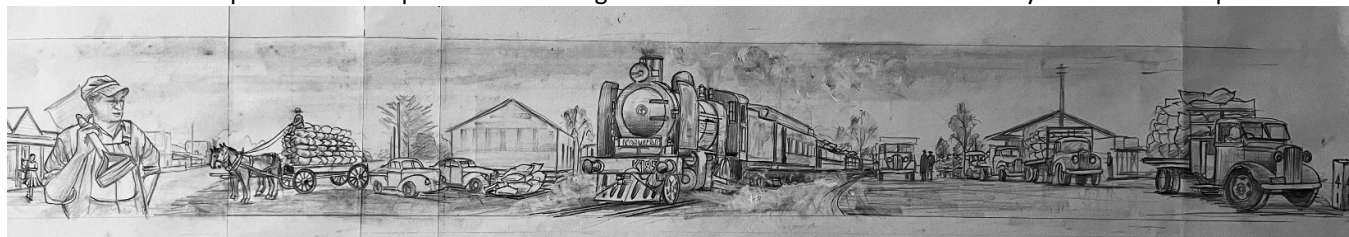
# THE KOO WEE RUP BLACKFISH



NOVEMBER 2024

## The Great Train Mural

How exciting is watching the progress of the train mural on the back of the Woolies building? For those of you, like me, who have been wandering past every day, it's hard to believe one man can create so much in such a short time. Simon White is working with a wall that measures roughly 50m x 10m. Below is the design concept sketch he is working from plus a couple of progress (and pre-work) shots. This is a project developed by the Township Committee. We have received 80% of our funding from the State Government Tiny Towns Grant program and will be splitting the remaining cost of the mural with the Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society. We had asked Simon to create a mural with a train pulling into the old Koo Wee Rup station with spud trucks waiting to unload. What he has created is beyond our best hopes.



## Koo Wee Rup Township Committee Meeting

The Township held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, 2 October at the KWR Community Centre. The next meeting of the Township Committee will be held on Wednesday, 6 November at 7:30 pm at the KWR Community Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend Township Meetings and join in the discussion.

The Township Committee applied for an Australia Day Grant of \$1,000 however we only received \$300. The meeting resolved to continue with the event for 2025 but will consider whether we can afford to carry the majority of the cost for the event in future years. Caroline will speak to council and our councillor regarding the grant and why the funding is so much lower than in previous years.

Caroline is meeting the artist on Monday 7th October, at the old railway platform to finalise the approach and design for the mural.

The search for new Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service CEO has commenced.

Jenny reported that the Christmas angel that was stolen from the front of the Uniting/Anglican Church has been found in the laneway behind Townley Road. It is being repaired by Rodney Edwards and will be ready for use again this Christmas.



*Items printed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the thoughts or beliefs of the Editor. The Editor reserves the right to edit any items, where necessary. All work associated with the production of The Koo Wee Rup Blackfish is done on a voluntary basis. Edited by C Roff email: blackfish@live.com.au*

*PO Box 64, Koo Wee Rup 3981, Tel 5997 2333*

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

### November

Fri	1st	KRHS Ladies Auxiliary Meeting (page 3)	Education Room, Hospital	9.30am
Fri	1st	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only) (page 18)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Mon	4th	KWR Senior Citizens Games Day (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11am
Mon	4th	Chair Pilates (page 18)	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Mon	4th	Mat Pilates (page 18)	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	6th	Coffee Club (page 16)	Royal Hotel	10am
Wed	6th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Wed	6th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	6th	Lions Club Meeting (page 20)	Tooradin Sports Club	7pm
Wed	6th	Township Committee Meeting (front page)	Community Centre	7.30pm
Thu	7th	Heart Foundation Walking (page 7)	KWR Clocktowers	7pm
Fri	8th	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Mon	11th	KWR Senior Citizens Games Day (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11am
Mon	11th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Mon	11th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Tue	12th	KWR Community Centre Meeting	Community Centre	7.30pm
Tue	12th	RSL Meeting (page 5)	RSL Clubrooms	7.30pm
Wed	13th	Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society Meeting (page 25)	Museum, Rossiter Road	7.30pm
Wed	13th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Wed	13th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Thu	14th	Heart Foundation Walking	KWR Clocktowers	7pm
Fri	15th	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Sat	16th	Tooradin Craft Bazaar (back page)	Tooradin Public Hall	9am
Sun	17th	Bayles Fauna Park Working Bee (page 17)	Bayles Fauna Park	9am
Mon	18th	KWR Senior Citizens Games Day (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11am
Mon	18th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Mon	18th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	20th	Coffee Club	Chandelier Café	10am
Wed	20th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Wed	20th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Wed	20th	Lions Club Meeting	Tooradin Sports Club	7pm
Thu	21st	Senior Citizens Games and Craft (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	10am
Thu	21st	Heart Foundation Walking	KWR Clocktowers	7pm
Fri	22nd	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Sat	23rd	RSL Christmas and Craft Fair (back page & page 7)	RSL, Station Street	10am
Mon	25th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Mon	25th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Tue	26	Forget-Me-Not Café (page 16)	Eco House, Hospital	10am
Wed	27th	Chair Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	5pm
Wed	27th	Mat Pilates	Eco House, Hospital	6pm
Thu	28th	Heart Foundation Walking	KWR Clocktowers	7pm
Fri	29th	KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only)	Senior Citizens Club	11.30am
Sat	30th	Christmas Tree Sales (back page)	RSL, Station Street	9am

### JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

For document signing and associated services contact:

**Gary King JP - 0438 663 655**

**Beverley Edwards JP – 0400 584 235**

*JP duties are a free community service*

### HAVE YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

Have you got some news, a photo, or an opinion you want to share with your community? Why not say it in the Blackfish? Just drop me a line at [blackfish@live.com.au](mailto:blackfish@live.com.au) post to PO Box 64, KWR or phone 5997 2333.

*Caroline Roff, Editor*

## Master Damian Grange - Taekwondo World Champion

Local man Damian Grange recently attended the World Haidong Gumdo Championships on Jeju Island, South Korea, as a member of the Australian Team. Master Damian won gold in individual sword patterns in the brown belt master's division.

Haidong Gumdo is a traditional Korean Sword Martial Art, similar to Japanese Samurai. Master Damian is a Taekwondo Instructor at Heenan Taekwondo Pakenham and made the natural progression to Haidong Gumdo approximately 2 years ago, under the tutelage of Grand Master Jung Il Oh, Head Instructor Haidong Gumdo Australia and Australian Coach.

Australia took a 22 member team, from Victoria and Queensland, to the championships, including 5 members from Heenan Taekwondo Pakenham.

Australia finished equal first with South Korea, beating competitors from all over the world, including USA, Mexico, Italy, Kuwait, Germany, South Africa and assorted Asian countries.



## News from the Ladies Auxiliary

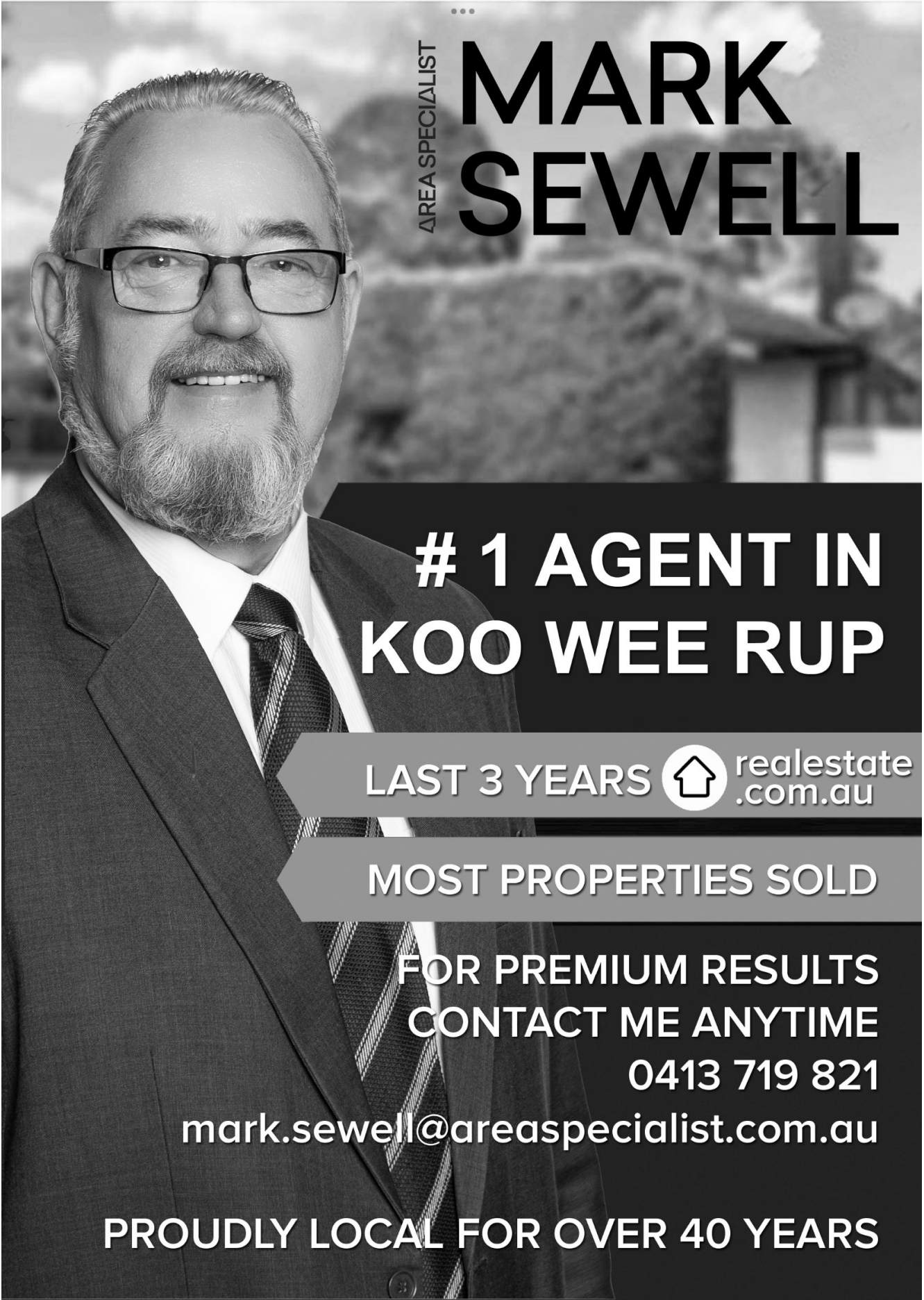
Our fashion parade on September the 24th with Kay's Fashion was a great success. We thank all the ladies who came along and supported us.

The 2025 Calendar, which we have all contributed to in one way or another, is now being printed. Our very grateful thanks go to Jan, the photographer, and Caroline who came up with such great ideas and was such a wonderful help with props and costumes etc. The calendar, when printed, can be purchased from the reception office at the hospital, the Chandelier café, and by phoning May Ridgway on 5997 1335 or 0408530641. Envelopes to suit the calendars are also available if required.

The Ladies Auxiliary will be at the Tooradin Craft Bazaar on November the 16th selling their popular scones loaded with jam and cream, so do come along and enjoy the day.

The last item to mention is for you to not forget the Koo-Wee-Rup RSL Christmas Fair on November the 23rd at the RSL building in Station Street. There will be many stalls from which to purchase Christmas gifts, food, face painting, fairy floss and there will be lots of entertainment for the children. There will also be cooking competitions for adults and children and, of course, the Ladies Auxiliary will be offering their Devonshire teas where you can sit and have a chat with friends in the main building. There will also be a raffle and a trade table to purchase pickles and jams etc. Please do come along and support your local community. Remember, all profits we make from our activities go to the purchase of hospital equipment for the Koo-Wee-Rup Regional Health Services.

*Olive Stokes*



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## Koo Wee Rup RSL Report

Things are really starting to happen at our RSL sub-branch. We continue to have our great Friday night get togethers once a month for dinner with our friends from the Nar Nar Goon RSL in our very comfortable lounge area in our clubrooms. October was Pasta night. These are great nights that our veterans and members look forward to. Remember if you're a veteran or family of a veteran and are looking to make some new friends or just join in with people you already know why not come along to one of our monthly meetings and find out more about our Friday night get together. Our meetings are the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the RSL clubrooms, 13-15 Station Street, Koo Wee Rup (opposite the post office). For more information contact [kooweerup.rsl@gmail.com](mailto:kooweerup.rsl@gmail.com).

On the 11<sup>th</sup> November we will be holding our Remembrance Day Service, at 10.45am at the Cenotaph outside the Koo Wee Rup Community Centre – check out our Facebook page. Everybody is welcome to attend. In the lead up to Remembrance Day we will be selling poppies at Woolworths Koo Wee Rup, if you collect badges (as we've found out a lot of people do) we have some great new ones available. When you're at Woollies and you see one of our volunteers selling poppies, please say 'Hi' and consider purchasing a poppy or badge.

A few of our members have been working tirelessly to present the Koo Wee Rup RSL Christmas Fair on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November at the RSL, 13-15 Station Street, Koo Wee Rup, thanks to Mark Sewell for sponsoring our sign board. We hope to see a lot of locals at the Fair, which promises to be a great day for Koo Wee Rup & district.

After the Christmas Fair is over, we hope to get a few Christmas lights installed on the RSL building to brighten the town with some Christmas Cheer. It would be nice to see some other businesses decorating their windows with some Christmas Cheer – the challenge is on! Also remember to check out our Christmas window which will be running from the 23<sup>rd</sup> November throughout the Christmas season.

Speaking of Christmas Cheer, how wonderful was it to hear that our beloved magnificent Christmas Angel who lives on the Uniting Church wall during the Christmas season was found a few weeks ago. Sadly however, she was found a little worse for wear after her traumatic ordeal and with her power cable cut. We're guessing that was the quickest way for her abductors to remove her from the wall. I'm proud to say that I was asked by Jenny from the Uniting Church if I was able to fix her and I quickly responded to Jenny's call for help and was able to restore the Angel to her former glory and she is now waiting patiently for me to place her back on the wall where she should be at Christmas. Let's hope this year somebody doesn't decide they need her more than the church does.

Anyway, that's all from the RSL this month as we've got a bit of work ahead of us over the next few weeks.

*Rodney Edwards (President)*

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The graphic features a large background image of a woman with long, wavy blonde hair. Three circular inset images show different hairstyles: a woman with long blonde hair, a woman with long dark hair, and a woman with long dark hair. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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Contact Us:

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## Koo Wee Rup RSL Christmas & Craft Fair

### 23<sup>rd</sup> November: 10.00am – 3.00pm

So, we're sure you've seen the sign outside the RSL advertising our Christmas & Craft Fair – thank you to our wonderful local estate agent (and RSL member) Mark Sewell for kindly sponsoring our advertising board. Also, there's information on the local Facebook noticeboards and the Koo Wee Rup RSL Facebook page.

The event promises to be a great day, we have secured at least 30 stalls selling a wide variety of lovely handmade things that will make great Christmas gifts so come along and check out what's on offer by some talented locals. The RSL will be selling personalised hand painted Christmas baubles.

We will also have a great raffle – 1<sup>st</sup> Prize a Wheelbarrow (donated by Bunnings) full of goodies donated by some local businesses. 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize a beautiful handmade Advent Wall Quilt and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize a \$100 Meal Voucher kindly donated by The Royal Hotel Koo Wee Rup. Tickets for \$2.00 each will be on sale prior to the day as well as on the day with the winners drawn on the day.

Also, the Lions Club Great Sausage sizzle presented by the Koo Wee Rup Lions Club will be in attendance. There will also be a tearoom set up inside the clubrooms and delicious cakes, sandwiches and Devonshire teas will be on offer from the Koo Wee Rup Hospital Ladies Auxiliary.

The Koo Wee Rup Scouts will be there with their Christmas trees for sale, where you can purchase your tree nice and early or place your order for a tree to pick up a little closer to Christmas – well it is only four weeks until Christmas.

The stalls are not the only things, we have some competitions and displays too. Firstly we have our colouring competition, this is open to all primary school children, in previous years we've had entries from Koo Wee Rup, St. Johns, Bayles and Cardinia primary schools, it's not just limited to those four schools, we encourage entries from all primary school aged students. Colouring sheets will be available at the four local schools plus some local businesses will have them. There are some prizes on offer kindly donated by Bunnings and the Koo Wee Rup RSL. Entries for the colouring competition must be received at the RSL by midday on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

Another special part of the Christmas Fair is the Cooking and Craft Competition. There is an entry form attached to this edition of Blackfish, some local businesses will have them too or you can obtain a form from the RSL either in person if we're open when you call by or be emailing [kooweerup.rsl@gmail.com](mailto:kooweerup.rsl@gmail.com). The Cooking and Craft competition is FREE TO ENTER, there is a Junior section for primary school aged children and an adult section. There are prize cards for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and a beautiful rosette for the best Junior exhibit and the best Senior exhibit. You can enter in a number of classes including Best Decorated Cup Cakes (Adult & Children), Best Decorated Gingerbread House (Adult), Best Christmas Biscuits (Adult & Children), Best Table Centrepiece (Adult), Best Christmas Table Runner or Placemat (Adult), Best Handmade Christmas Card (Children), plus other sections. Please no large quilts – it's not a quilt show. But wait for it .... there is a \$100 cash prize generously donated by the Koo Wee Rup Lions Club for the Best Decorated Lions Club Cake.

We've saved the best 'til last ... SANTA will be in attendance in his Christmas themed room. There will be plenty of opportunities for everybody to meet Santa and Mrs Claus and everybody is encouraged to have a photo with Santa. We even encourage you to bring along your fur babies for a photo with you or your children.

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR !!!

## Heart Foundation Evening Walking Group

This group walks every Thursday evening at 7 pm from the Koo Wee Rup Clock Towers during daylight saving. So, we started again on 10<sup>th</sup> October with a good number of past walkers returning for our 13<sup>th</sup> year of walking during daylight saving. If you need to get moving why not join us for a FREE social group walk.

Enquiries to Marlene, Walk Leader on 0429 814 410.



## Walking together towards a healthier heart

There's a fun, free and easy way to feel happy and healthy. It's walking! Come along to our regular walks to meet new friends and boost your health.

Join your free local walking group at the date and time below:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Koo Wee Rup Evening Walkers</b>
<b>When</b>	Daylight saving period <b>Thursdays @ 7 pm</b>
<b>Where</b>	<b>Koo Wee Rup Clock Towers</b>
	<b>Rossiter Rd Koo Wee Rup</b>
<b>Organiser</b>	Marlene 0429814410

This group walks every Thursday evening during daylight saving. We start on Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and will go through until early April 2025.

Visit [walking.heartfoundation.org.au](http://walking.heartfoundation.org.au) to join or for more information





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## Some of my earliest memories *by Geoff Stokes*

Saturday the 16th of July 1932 dawned bright and warm in Bradmore, Wolverhampton, England. It was a perfect summer's day, as recalled by my sisters, Eileen and Mary. Eileen was then 11 years old, and Mary was 8. Neither of them had any idea that my mother was pregnant and at lunchtime they were delighted to be told that they were to go to their friend's house to play and there they could stay for the rest of the day. So off they went to play with Alice Watkins and the Sheargold children at Watkins' old farmhouse in Church Road, about five minutes' walk away. From their farm the Watkins's supplied most of the village of Bradmore with milk. Mrs. Watkins delivered it to one's door via a horse drawn cart driven by Mr. Watkins. The cart carried several large metal churns of milk. As a child I remember her well; she always wore a light brown slop coat and carried the milk in a small churn with a handle for ease of transport. The milk was then ladled into our own jug or jugs and then taken to the pantry under the stairs where it was placed on a very large slab of cold marble. Here it stayed until wanted. There were no refrigerators in Bradmore then! One or two men often followed Mr Watkins and his horse and cart. They were hoping to collect manure droppings from the horse for their gardens as a super fertiliser!

It was normal at that time for mothers to be to have their babies delivered at home by the local midwife and I was no exception. That day at exactly 4-00pm I arrived into this world crying very loudly carrying on my head a crop of blonde hair, to the absolute delight of Mom and Dad who were now 46 and 42 years old. I weighed in at seven pounds (3.175 kg) exactly and always believed that I measured twenty-one inches (533mm). This seems so highly unlikely now when I really think about it, but someone somewhere must have told me at some time that this was the overall measurement of GJS. To say that I was a 'crier' was no exaggeration. I cried and cried so much that within a week of my birth I developed a hernia! A special spring loop pad was made to apply continual pressure to the 'rupture' and together with the revelation that my dear Mum's breast milk was not satisfying me, my crying sessions decreased dramatically. The loop must have worked well because I didn't require any surgery. Mom kept this loop for many years as a memento and, I recall, when I was about thirty years old, it came out for a viewing and a laugh and that was the last time I saw it.



*This photo is dated August 1933,  
I would have been 13 months old*

My sisters came home for tea very late that Saturday evening and discovered that they now had a brother, found as my mom explained to them, in the cabbage patch at the bottom of the garden! All of us accepted this explanation until my credulity was stretched to the limit at the age of seven or so and then other more believable facts had to be given to me. From day one I was spoilt beyond measure. My dear sisters and their friends played a large part in my infant upbringing and, together with my Mom's unswerving dotage on her longed-for son, I was in heaven. In retrospect, and I am talking now perhaps of my adolescent years and onward, this initial close and continual contact with loving females, shaped and tuned my relationships with the ladies over the years. I have always been able to understand, get on with, and indeed revere females of all shapes and sizes and have often preferred their intellectual company to males. All this, without falling in love with everyone I became close too and, unfortunately, all too often misunderstood by those around me. (Adolescent years excepted!)

My christening took place at St. Philip's Church on August the 10th of that year, the ceremony, as directed by the Church of England prayer book, was conducted by the Rev. T Jeremy the Curate of our Parish of Penn Fields. I was told that I behaved quite well and only cried when coming out of the church. I was dressed in the same christening gown that my father was christened in all those years before (1886). I never saw the gown in later life; it was said to have been donated for yet another Stokes's Christening (possibly one of Dad's great nieces, Elsie Mary Bowdler, also born in 1932). My Godparent's were my Mom and Dad (strange that?) and Elsie Hipwood, loving wife of my Dad's cousin, William (Bill) Stokes. Elsie is lovingly remembered by me as a dear lifelong friend and a beloved 'Aunty'. She re-married in the 1950's. William (Bill), her husband, died at the early age of twenty-six (1930). At the time it was said by the family that he had died from lead poisoning. Bill was a plumber who worked on domestic and commercial lead pipework. Lead was the standard material used for all household water pipe circulatory systems at the time and every metre of water supply pipework in our village was made of lead.

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*Continued next page*

## Some of my earliest memories *from previous page*

Dad, said, in explanation of Bill's early death, that Bill was a chain smoker and, as he smoked cigarettes, he tended to suck his fingers after 'wiping' the hot lead joints. The joint, with extra lead added for strength, looked like a swollen blister on the pipe: it was then wiped with a soft leather wiper while it was in a plastic and hot state so that it looked smooth and streamlined. As I said, this was done by hand with a square piece of supple leather. There is a suspicion, agreed with by my sisters, that he died from the unmentionable disease (in those days), cancer. However, he was rather young for that. Believe it or not the word 'Cancer' at this time was 'banned' from conversations because it was believed that the disease was inflicted on you for the misdeeds you had done to others. Therefore, if you have cancer, you are being punished for the serious wrongs you have done to others.

At this point in almost all 'life' stories the narrative will now jump from age nought to age five because, to most people, hardly anything except flashes of dubious and unclear memory, can be recalled. I shall be different here. I can clearly remember certain occasions and happenings taking place during my baby years. Friends, as well as well-meaning acquaintances have often substantially challenged this ability I have to remember some very early events in my life. I do realise and understand that the common explanation for this unusual early perception of events is, that when I was a very young boy, someone has told me of something that happened to me when I was a baby. It is then claimed that the story is then repeated to me so often as I grow older, that my initial imaginative picture of an event becomes, in my own mind, my very own exclusive memory of that event. Apart from saying, "Well, I just do remember, OK", I do have some proof that the recollections are really mine. My sisters always said to anyone who was interested that they remember *me* telling *them* of early events I recalled, not them telling me! And this from the time I could talk quite well at the age of eleven months. After all that technical stuff the reader probably wonders what sort of recollections I have. Are they exciting? Are they contentious family secrets? Did I overhear and understand things I shouldn't have? No! None of these things. What I do remember will very likely mean nothing to anyone else, but they do represent to me my experience of baby days and not in any way my perceived imagination of them.

I was sitting in my pusher under the lilac tree in the back yard and my legs were covered with a quilted blanket. I was fascinated with a man who was building a chimney on a roof that had no cover (tiles). The unfinished house was at the bottom of our garden. My sister Mary kept saying to me, "Chimney, chimney, chimney", and then she would chant, "Chimney on fire / three miles higher / I'll tell the bobby who set it on fire". I learnt that particular rhyme very quickly and soon made a nuisance of myself singing it loudly everywhere we went for the next couple of weeks! The point and proof of this story is that it can be dated. The houses at the bottom of the garden that I saw being built at that time were in the then new Oxbarn Avenue running parallel to Victoria Road on the old Oxbarn Farm. The date was autumn 1933; I was perhaps about 14 to 15 months old. Photographs of me at that time show a chubby child with dimples in my cheeks and a quaff (probably Mom's design) of blonde curly hair. Same pusher and I remember being pushed up the hill in Bradmore Village, again with Mary at the white rubber lined handle and a large dog came over and licked my face. I was not frightened but I do remember the dog's owner hitting it with a stick and I cried about that. The dog's name was 'Gip'; he was black with a white patch over one eye.

I also recall visiting Dad at the annual camp of the St. Philip's Church Boys' Brigade Company. Dad had for many years run a BB Company at the church and was its Captain. A forerunner, of which he served as a Lieutenant, was a company of The Church Lads' Brigade. However, it was the Boys' Brigade that had an enormous influence on me during my early teenage years so, let's have a look at the background of this organisation in the thirties in Bradmore and Penn Fields and that of the CLB in earlier days. Again, let Dad tell it as it was.

"A company of the Church Lads' Brigade was enrolled at St Philip's, Penn Fields, an adjacent suburb, on the eighth of February 1898 and was attached to the Seventh Battalion, Litchfield Diocese. The Reverend William Kipling Cox was the Company Chaplain and Mr. Parsons and Mr. Stokes (me) were officers at some time later. The Company closed between 1901 and 1908, but was then revived, until 5th June 1913, when it was disbanded. The buglers of the Company of sounded 'The Last Post' and the 'Royal Salute on Trinity Sunday 22nd May 1910 at the 11 AM Service upon the death of King Edward VII a fortnight earlier. The text for the Sermon was: "Edward VII and Christian Duties".

Mr. Tansey (Nickname) Sproson, Dad's friend, who lived in Oxbarn Avenue, recalls marching from St. Philip's church to Queen Square Wolverhampton, about two miles (3.22 km) from Bradmore where they joined other companies and then marched to Wergs Hall, another two miles to the home of Colonel Hickman; after the festivities they marched back again. These festivities were part of those arranged for the Coronation of King George V in 1911. Dad continues, "The Battalion band under Captain Cotterall, followed by the St. Philip's Company (under me, Lieutenant Stokes C.O.) was part of the procession from the Church Schools in Church Road to a special commemoration service of Holy communion at the Parish church on the 24th of June 1911, on the Coronation of King George V. At this time, both the Church Lads' Brigade and the Boys' Brigade trained with cavalry type rifles".

*Continued next page*

## Some of my earliest memories *from previous page*

Today one would think that 'boys' training with cavalry rifles' meant that the organisation was paramilitary. Nothing could be further from the truth. The precedence at that time for the quality upbringing of young men was the installation of discipline to their characters. Good discipline was considered absolutely essential to enjoy a decent and God-fearing life. It had to be thoroughly taught so that orders from a superior, teacher, doctor or the squire of the manor, would be instantly obeyed without question (also useful if one joined the army or navy at a later date!). This was achieved in the CLB and the BB with practising complex marching drill patterns from spoken orders and physically enhanced with the use of rifles, that were spayed. My father, born in Victorian times with Victorian mores, often told us that his own priorities of service were to 'God, King, Country, Family and Self' in that order!

This now brings me to our visit to Dad's BB camp mentioned a few paragraphs back! Dad only ever had two weeks annual holiday a year and this was always spent organizing and running his BB boy's camp. Mom, my sisters and me never went on holiday anywhere very far because when Dad was on his holiday from work there was always the BB camp. Mom, as I recall, never complained about it over the years afterwards and of course, these camps finished for us all in 1938. I believe that the camp this particular year (1935) was at Pattingham, a rural village quite close to Wolverhampton. I can recall being very embarrassed because, for the visit, I was dressed in a silken knitted suite: aqua-green with white angora wool trimmings! I marveled that so many lads were sleeping in one tent: a bell tent. I ran around and around, up and down, as I recall, entertaining all who would look at me. I



*At the Boys' Brigade Camp. I am three years old*


I remember gamboling across the grass to the applause of those who watched. Perhaps this was my first public performance of many to come? A BB boy asked me, as a tiny little one, whose father was the Captain, if I would post a letter for him in the camp post-pillar box and, of course, he had to lift me up to do that. I have a photograph of this event with everyone looking on smiling graciously. The year was 1935, August, and I was just three. Other following years I remember taking part in the camp sports. The sack race and the egg and spoon race; in one I fell into a muddy ditch and cried a lot because a wasp had stung my ear at the same time. That was quite a sting because my ear swelled up so much that the weight of my ear lobe seemed to pull my head over to one side. You may guess that I was well looked after by Mom and sisters with lots of TLC. After the disbandment of the St. Philip's BB Company in 1938, it would be 1946 before I went to my next BB camp. This time as a member of the Boys' Brigade, well prepared but still filled with those happy memories of Dad's camps.

There are other baby memories that live in my skull, but I won't bore you with story details I'll just tell you about just a couple. About this time, I performed for my Auntie Floss (Florence, my mother's sister) by sitting on my potty and dragging it with my legs all-round the floor of the living room. Boy, was I clever? Did I laugh? Yes, I did. I can easily remember how very clever I felt. That is, until the potty hit an obstacle of some kind, and I fell off and the contents of the pot slowly,

slowly spread across Mom's best carpet, this was a carpet that Mom had made with her own hands. Whilst we are talking body fluids, and again even at this very early age I was embarrassed, I shot a fountain of wee all over Eileen whilst she was changing my nappy. Yes, I do remember this, and it was me who reminded Eileen of it some years later. She had, in fact, forgotten all about it. Mary didn't forget her little 'accident' she had with me though: she accidentally tied my little 'willy' in the strings of my pajama trousers as she was putting me to bed one night. You can bet I remembered that one because it jolly well hurt!

*Geoff Stokes*

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

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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

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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**





# 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)



Welcome to our last term for 2024 at 1st Koo Wee Rup Scout Group. We are taking part in the Scout Monster Raffle, all proceeds go back to supporting our group, it also provides support in enhancing our Youth Program and purchasing new equipment. Over 100 individual prizes to be won. If you would to purchase tickets, please contact us on the email above.

### 1st Prize a Brand New Car

Our Joey and Cub Section for the month were invited to the Pakenham State Emergency Service Headquarters to see the running of the organisation and the services they provide for the community. Thank you to the Volunteers for hosting our Group. Congratulations to Hannah one of the Cubs for being invested into the world of Scouting.

Scouts have quickly grown so within unit they are embarking on adventures of the pirate kind. Using our scouting skills, we are off looking for pirate gold and getting ready to set our mainsail for adventure on land and sea.

Rovers have been playing Dungeons and Dragons while participating in Aron's Escape Room. *Upcoming events for our Group include Cubs Spooky Scary Halloween Dress Up, Scouts Camping, Venturers Hiking. If you would like to get involved in the world of Scouting, we offer a 3-week free trial. Reach out to us if you're interested.*

Koo Wee Rup Scouts is seeking Volunteer and Parent Helpers for ongoing support at the Lions OP Shop and also our groups listed below. Please contact us on the email listed above.



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

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## Koo Wee Rup Bowls Club

One of our members, Stephen Payne, along with wife Heather, is leaving for a trip to Canberra on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. to participate in the National Transplant bowling weeklong tournament. Whilst Steve is plying his trade on various bowls greens, Heather is intending to try out a couple of Canberra's golf clubs. Good luck to both Steve & Heather.

Our Saturday Pennant squad made a trip to Cardinia Waters for a practice match on the 5<sup>th</sup> Oct. and finished with a 2-2 result. It gave us the opportunity to introduce two of our new members (Jason Bellink & John Harrower) to the game on a very tricky green. Together with Ric Lloyd playing after a 10 year break from the game, all showed that they will be handy players for the Club. We had to cancel another practice match at Cardinia Waters on Tues. 8<sup>th</sup> due to one of our players contracting Covid 19. As Cardinia Waters is a retirement village we thought it would be better to cancel the game.

The MPBR Pennant season commenced on 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. with Div. 6 making the trip to Mt. Martha and suffered a disappointing 1 shot loss beaten 52-53. It was encouraging as we had our 3 recruits from other Clubs playing. The biggest margin on the rink for the day of Brett Condron, Rob Matthews, Cam Davey & Adrian Wheelan was 3 shots with the final score being a 17-15 win. Having a tough battle and dropping 6 shots on the 15<sup>th</sup> end certainly did not help Stephen Plumridge, Tim Katz, Tracy Hill & 9 year old Mav Katz eventually losing 13-24. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> rink of Steven Jenkins, Ian Richardson, Daniel Price & Rex Alexander all contributed to a 22-14 comfortably win. Our Div. 8 team had to forfeit to Mornington due to unavailability of players & a dose of Covid – 19. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round in Div. 6 and another narrow loss 48-51 to Mt. Eliza. Leading all game the rink of Steven Jenkins, Daniel Price, Jim Jenkins & Rex Alexander scored an 18-15 victory. Establish an early lead, Steven Plumridge, Tim Katz, Tracy Hill & Mav Katz could not match their opponents over the final ends losing 13-17. Well down 7-14 at afternoon tea, a good comeback by Brett Condron, Peter Butera, Cam Davey & Adrian Wheelan restricted the loss to 17-19. A trip to Somerville, which is never easy saw Div. 8 get beaten 25-46. Both rinks were comfortably defeated with Margaret Royle, Erin Price, Mary Masters & Bec Watts losing 13-21 & Arthur Giaccotto, Jimi Watts, Jason Bellink & John Harrower going down 12-25.

Midweek Pennant commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> with a extremely disappointing game against a good side at Blue Hills who played the windy conditions well. Playing with only 10 players against 12, it was never going to be an easy day. We eventually were beaten 38-98 despite the final score on all rinks we battled hard. The rink of Margaret Royle, Stephen Payne & Mary Masters lost their game 11-38. Doing a little better Arthur Giaccotto, Rex Alexander & Ric Lloyd were defeated 10-32. In the game for most of the day, a 17-28 loss was a good performance from Steven Plumridge, Charles Poulsen, Tracy Hill & Helen Ralph. We should have a number of players back for the next game so hopefully a better performance should result.

Again thanks to the ordinary weather forecast, the next round of Friday Triples was cancelled. Hopefully we will get a game in shortly but in hindsight a good decision.



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# KOO WEE COFFEE CLUB



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

November	6	Royal Hotel
	20	Chandelier Café
December	4	Royal Hotel
	18	Chandelier Café
January	1	New Year's Day
	15	Chandelier Café
	29	Degani



Enquiries ph Jo on 0428 557 411



Koo Wee Coffee Club

# Forget-Me-Not Café

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



Join us at the **Forget-Me-Not Café**  
Hewitt Eco House Community Room  
215 Rossiter Road, Koo Wee Rup  
10.00am - 12.00pm



**Upcoming Dates:**  
**Tuesday's 2024**  
26th March  
28th May  
30th July  
24th September  
26th November

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

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

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



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## This month's news from the Community Advisory Committee.

The next meeting of the Koo-Wee-Rup Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is on the 19th of November 2024. Since my last report in the October 'Blackfish', CAC members have continued to explore the details of the new partnering in health care communication, local health services networks, effective communication and enhancement by, and of, mutual coordination. The plan will also be an important continuing subject for the Koo-Wee-Rup Regional Health Services (KRHS) Board of Directors at their forthcoming meetings. At our November '24 meeting a representative from our wonderful District Nurses group will talk to the committee on 'How to prepare for the hot weather and the do's and don'ts of summer safety', It is a very important subject especially when it is primarily aimed at our older residents. Very soon outdoor temperatures will rise dramatically and could last for several days over the summer months so we should all be prepared for this inevitable weather change.

To everyone: in December we will hold our Annual General Meeting at which all positions on the committee will be open for nominations. These nominations can be offered on the day of the meeting or before, by contacting Sharyn Gregory on 5997 9679. 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 KHRS; 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 Health Care System.

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

### WHEN YOU ARE OLD

Feb 2024

When greyness grows without and depletion reaches deep sleepiness and headaches make the eyes habitually close and you review the deep past, its host of appealing faces staring, stained as those of soon to be slaughtered sheep.

You remember other smiling eyes that once were so glad to look on your face and hear your voice lovingly expound as if past pleasant days were lived long ago in ancient times when those known were as dreamy gods now gone and had.

Searching memory now for lost acquaintance or early friend who loved the dying ghost showing in your voice and tongue cherished the sorrows that ruled and reigned in your rhymes you find not one, desolation seems to extend to the very end.

Kneeling down, knowing the Lord of fretting fearful cares murmurs into your ear, breathes into your breathless lung like swirling vapours that cloak the mountain tops in spirits soothing the harsh ridges with softness and a cloud of stars.

*Warren Breninger*

## Bayles Fauna Park Working Bee

Sunday, 17 November, 9am start  
followed by a BBQ lunch  
Please bring own bottled water,  
wear long pants, and closed in  
shoes.

**All welcome**

an individual Koo-Wee-Rup resident. 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. So, come along to the AGL in December. 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 KHRS, then get in touch with the KHRS 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.

*Geoff Stokes*

## Koo Wee Rup Senior Citizens Club

Icke Road, Koo Wee Rup

Members had a most enjoyable outing to Tooradin for a morning melodies and lunch as part of Senior's week. This outing was paid for by the club. Several members took advantage of the free public transport during Senior's week to travel to Ballarat for the day and also to Inverloch.

We welcome new members at an annual fee of \$10. Come try us out.

All enquiries to: Dianne 0419 405 404

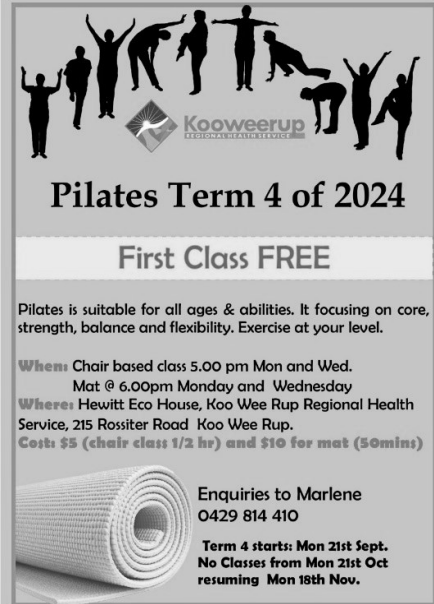
Leonie 0477 249 000

Every Friday	Lunch	11am-1pm	members only	\$10
Every Friday	Hoy	1-3pm		\$3
Every Monday	Games/Activities	11am-3pm	members only	Free
Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	Games/Craft	10am-2pm	members only	Free

### Pilates at Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service

We continued during the September School Holidays as I had a planned trip away. Members had "homework" to do during my absence in the form of exercise and balance work documented on exercise sheets. But social group exercise is always more motivating so why not join us. We offer Chair Pilates at 5pm Monday and Wednesday evenings for 30 mins (Cost \$5) and Mat classes at 6pm Mon and Wed. evening for 50 mins at the cost of \$10. For everyone **the first session is a FREE TASTER CLASS**. Why not work on your core strength, flexibility and balance at your own pace with a supportive group of people.

Enquiries to Marlene on 0429 814 410



**Pilates Term 4 of 2024**

**First Class FREE**

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

**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 4 starts: Mon 21st Sept.  
No Classes from Mon 21st Oct  
resuming Mon 18th Nov.**

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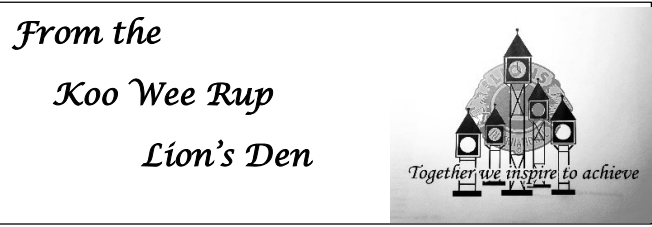
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# The 2024 – 2025 Peace Poster Contest - This year's theme: "Peace Without Limits"

For peace to be anything more than a possibility, we need to make it a priority. This year, we're asking our young students to create a poster that speaks to our world's infinite potential for kindness once we commit to pursuing the idea of peace without limits.

**Our Local Schools** in the area came on board for the first time presentation of the Peace Poster in 2023, by Koo Wee Rup & District Lions Club, as a project. Local art talent in the area is of a very high standard for students aged 11-13 years.

What a ride, as the Peace Poster Chairperson for Koo Wee Rup Lions as a first-time entrant in 2023. With Koo Wee Rup Primary School Miss Lily Krone's Poster Winning at Lions club level judging, at Lions District Level Judging, to come 4<sup>th</sup> at Multiple District judging. Just outside going to international level, with credit going to her art teacher Ms Irvin.

We have 3 fantastic artists going through to District Level Judging 2024-2025. With Makayla Burkitt & Zoey Claessen from Bayles Regional P.S. and Amelia Mathews from Koo Wee Rup Primary School.

Good Luck Students with your Posters.

*President Shirelle Lean*

District Winner 2023 -2024 Lily Krone Koo Wee Rup P.S. "Dare to Dream"	Entrant 2024 Amelia Mathews KWRup P.S.	Entrant 2024 Makayla Burkitt Bayles Regional P.S.	Entrant 2024 Zoey Claessen Bayles Regional P.S.



Viewing was after club level judging open to contestants, family, friends & public.



Thank you to our Judges at Club level, Barb Leeson, Olive Stokes & Rodney Edwards.

### A little bit of history behind the Lions International Peace Poster & Essay Competition

Nothing speaks louder to the world's need for harmony than a child's vision of peace—except for the collective expressions of millions of children.

Since 1988, Lions Clubs International has sponsored the annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest to encourage young people to express their perspectives on peace. Every year, as many as 400,000 children ages 11 to 13 from around the world participate in the contest. Sponsored by local clubs, the international competition reflects one of the key tenets of the Lions—to create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.

*Continued page 21*

*Lions  
Christmas  
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Please drop us an email ([kooweeruplions73@gmail.com](mailto:kooweeruplions73@gmail.com)), or contact President Shirelle (0411 248 123), Secretary Belinda (0417 721 333) or Service Co-ordinator Jack (0418 729 912).



## Junior Public Speaking Update

October 2024 has shaped up to be a very busy project month for the Koo Wee Rup & District Lions Club.

PDG Ian Gration chairperson for Junior Public Speaking continues on his journey with students in the finals. Tooradin Sports Bar kindly supported this event by holding the next round of judging on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

We witnessed some very talented students, but with only one winner from grades 3-4, & one winner from grades 5-6 going through to tell their story at the Lions District Convention being held at the Peninsula Community Theatre 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

Results this round were as follows:

Grades 3-4 was won by Gracie Lunny from Inverloch Konwak P.S.

Grades 5-6 was won by Alana Eddy from Balcombe Grammar School



### Lions International Peace Poster & Essay Competition *continued from page 19*

One international grand prize winner and 23 merit award winners are chosen each year for their unique and heartfelt visions of peace created from crayon, water colour, pencil and other mediums. All winners receive a cash prize and certificate.

Mustapha El Tawokji from war-torn Beirut, Lebanon, won the first Peace Poster Contest in 1988-1989 by expressing the theme, "Peace Will Help Us Grow," with a dove flying over a bed of roses. While he had never known peace, he expressed his vision of what peace would be like.

Grand prize winners have come from all over the world: Italy, Japan, Indonesia, Brazil, South Africa and the United States, just to name a few. The artwork and creativity of every child who enters the contest is celebrated by its sponsoring Lions club. Each young artist's work reflects his or her own experience, culture and worldview.

Visually impaired young people can have the opportunity to share their expressions of peace through the Lions International Essay Contest. Each year students ages 11 to 13 enter short essays on the same theme as the Peace Poster program for a chance to win a cash prize.

Both contests trace their roots back to a program in the 1960s called the Peace Essay Contest. To help celebrate LCI's 50th anniversary in 1967, Lions asked young people ages 14 to 21 to submit an essay on peace. More than 1 million entries were received. Former U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower served as honorary chairman of the international panel that chose high school student A. Russell Wodell of Cranbrook, British Columbia, Canada, as the winner for his essay titled, "Is Peace Attainable?"

"There is no easy road to peace," wrote Wodell. "Only through evolution of his social, moral and intellectual values can man achieve true peace with himself."

Young people from around the globe continue to offer Lions their expressions of peace in the hopes that one day the dream may come true.



Don't forget to buy a raffle ticket Drawn 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2pm at Woolies KWRup



# Outlook

an inclusive society for all

Join us at Outlook Community Centre for our FREE or low cost information and support sessions this November. We offer programs for the community which will assist you on your life's journey. If you know of anyone who may benefit from the programs, please assist us by sharing the details.

To view our complete Term 4 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. Please don't hesitate to give us a call if you need some assistance.

## 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



### Age Pension and Your Choices

#### Join us to discuss:

Planning for retirement choices at age pension age, superannuation options, age pension eligibility, pension income and asset assessment, deeming, work bonus/concessions, taxation and going overseas, new claim procedure and self-service, your rights and obligations.

**Friday 15 November, 10.30am – 12pm. Cost: FREE**

*Presented by Services Australia*

#### Planning for Retirement - Accommodation Options

#### We'll cover:

Options for the family home, staying in your home, reverse mortgages and home equity access scheme and selling your home rules. Also downsizing (into super contributions), renting and retirement villages, lifestyle resorts, granny flats, and home care packages

**Friday 15 November, 1pm – 2.30pm. Cost: FREE**

*Presented by Services Australia*



Services Australia

### Artificial Intelligence

#### Unlock the power of AI to enhance your life!

Join us to explore the fascinating world of AI and embrace its potential to enhance your daily life safely and effectively. Our course will provide you with the skills and hands on experience you need to confidently navigate and use AI in society.

**Fridays commencing**

**15 November for 4 sessions, 10am - 11.30am. Cost: FREE**

*Funded by Good Things Foundation*



Good Things

### Computer Maintenance, Internet Safety and File Management

#### Keep your PC running smoothly and your data secure

Covers maintenance tools and options, managing your files and folders (including backups), staying safe on the internet, avoiding online scams, managing passwords and much more.

BYO USB stick.

(Note: some of the course content is specific to computers running Microsoft Windows - ie. not Apple/Mac/iPad).

**Fridays commencing 22 November for 3 sessions, 9.30am - 1pm. Cost: \$20 (includes course notes)**

*Supported by Learn Local*



### Prenatal Nutrition

#### It is important for a woman

to focus on eating well during preconception, throughout pregnancy, and postpartum.

Hormonal changes are happening, and the body is nurturing a growing baby which is why being informed about how to support your pregnancy journey and your growing baby's health with nutrition is essential.

Join accredited practising dietitian Joanna Aaron as she guides you through a checklist of essential tips and practical advice on food and nutrition during pregnancy.

**Monday 11 November, 6pm - 7pm. Cost: \$30 (Handouts supplied)**

### 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.

**Tuesday 12 November, 2pm - 3pm. 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 or assist.**

*Supported by Carers VIC Australia*



### Forget-Me-Not Café

This café style program brings together people living with dementia and their loved ones

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: 19 November & 17 December, 10am - 12pm. Cost: FREE**

### 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 20 November or 18 December, 5.30pm - 7pm. Cost FREE**

**Please call 03 5940 4728 to book.**

## Thomas Roxburgh – Asparagus Pioneer

By Heather Arnold, Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society

Over ninety percent of Australian asparagus is grown on the Koo Wee Rup Swamp and asparagus has been commercially grown in this region for over 100 years, so this is a look at the early history of asparagus growing on the Swamp.

The first mention I can find of asparagus was in *The Australasian* of October 31, 1896. There was a report on James Pincott's farm *about three miles from Bunyip -*

*one of the most interesting and best managed in the settlement. Mr. Pincott carried out some experiments for six months for the Agricultural Department on this plot, when the fertility of the soil was being tested, and the place locally has consequently become known as the "experimental farm."* He grew potatoes, onions, strawberries, and clover, amongst other crops and found that *Asparagus and celery can be raised to wonderful perfection.*



Thomas Roxburgh - from *The Argus*  
December 31, 1931

The next reference was in *The Age* of May 10, 1912 when it was reported *That land on the Kooweerup Swamp can be turned to more profitable account than growing potatoes has been demonstrated by Mr. Roxborough [sic]; who, although a busy man in Melbourne, pays a good deal of attention to his farm at Iona, and for a considerable time has experimented in the cultivation of asparagus. Some three years ago he put in one acre as a test, adopting the American principle of planting 1 foot in depth and 3 feet between the plants, with rows 10 feet apart, so as to allow of cultivation between, the soil being of a peaty nature. Now he has nine acres under asparagus, and intends extending the area, as the managers of hotels and cafes in Melbourne have advised him that the asparagus is of the finest quality.*

*Some time ago Mr. Roxborough induced an American expert to visit the locality, and he declared that the Kooweerup Swamp land is particularly well adapted for this, form of cultivation, and Mr. Roxborough's experience bears out his opinion. It is stated that a Melbourne jam factory has offered to put up a canning factory if Mr. Roxborough will agree to put 20 acres under asparagus.*

Who was Thomas Roxburgh and where was his farm? His farm, *Cheriton Park*, was on the corner of Fallon Road and Simpson Road at Vervale, even though it is also listed in the newspapers (such as in the article above) as being at Iona, Garfield or Catani. The farm was locally known as Roxburgh Park and was 352 acres. The Roxburgh's had begun their purchase of land on the Koo Wee Rup Swamp in 1902-1903.

Thomas Roxburgh was born in Jamaica, West Indies to Adam Roxburgh and Jane Watson. The family arrived in Melbourne on September 28, 1853 when Thomas was two years old. They moved to Ballarat which was where he married Sarah Anne Holthouse on July 2, 1879. Sarah was the daughter of Ballarat's *well known and most esteemed citizen*, Dr Thomas Le Gay Holthouse, as he was described in a newspaper report, and his wife Hanna (nee Pratt). As noted in Thomas' obituary - *Later he became a member of the firm of James Fry and Co., wheat millers and ship charterers. In 1895 Mr. Roxburgh commenced business on his own account as a grain and shipping broker in Collins-street, and this business he personally conducted practically up to the time of his death. He did a large business with the East, and was agent for steamers trading with Japan. Mr. Roxburgh established an asparagus farm at Garfield, Gippsland, where an extensive business is conducted by his two sons, Mr. Leslie le Gay Roxburgh and Mr. Reginald Owen Roxburgh.*

Thomas and Sarah had seven children; the first two children were born in Ballarat and the others in Hawthorn -

Edith Jenny (1880-1881)

Mabel Stella (1881-1970)

Leslie Le Gay (1884 -1969, married the delightfully named Miss Widgie Potts of Narrabri, NSW, in 1915. Her real name was the more prosaic Ann)

Reginald Owen (1889-1953, 1st A.I.F)

Dorothy Alice (1890-1987)

Leeuwin Beatrice (1895 - 1981, married Peter Charles Ferguson, of Barcaldine, QLD, in 1924)

Mary Hope Bradgate (1899 - 1978, married Jeffrey Ivey Retallack in 1942).

Thomas Roxburgh died on December 29, 1931 and his wife, Sarah Anne, on July 24, 1942, aged 84. They are buried at Brighton Cemetery.

*Continued next page*

## Thomas Roxburgh – Asparagus Pioneer *from previous page*

Back to Thomas and his asparagus, he did not personally work on the farm, he employed farm managers and later his son, Leslie, managed the farm. By 1927 it was reported he had planted 100 acres of asparagus, and his farm was *one of the most lucrative farms on the Kooweerup Swamp area, as a ready sale is found for the product at £1 per box. The rich, peaty soil is particularly adapted for the production of the plant, which grows to perfection.* By 1932, the farm had 120 acres under asparagus and *in the cutting season 20 to 25 men are employed every day, and from 10cwt. to 15cwt. of asparagus a day are despatched.* [cwt - hundred weight or 112 pounds or 50 kg].

During the Second World War, the Roxburgh farm had the Australian Women's Land Army (AWLA) girls working on the property. The AWLA was established to fill the gap in agricultural workers due to the War. They had training at Mont Park or the Werribee Research Station and were then allocated to farms.

*The Argus* of November 11, 1942 interviewed Mr G. Roxburgh (this was Thomas' son Leslie Le Gay, who was listed in the Electoral Roll at Vervale, occupation farm manager) - about the Land Army 'girls' and the family farm which was growing asparagus for the use of the Army. Mr Roxburgh was quoted as being *"very proud of the girls. He finds them fine workers, though physically they cannot stand up to the same speed of work as the men. He thinks that 5 girls can do the work of 3 men"*. *"They are steady workers,"* Mr Roxburgh said, *"and once I have told them what fields I want done I do not have to worry again."* The women did the cutting, placing the spears into bundles, the picking up of the bundles onto the cart and also worked in the packing shed.

The report goes on to describe the living conditions - *There are 20 girls, and they live in a camp on the estate, where they sleep in tents and have a small recreation hut. The camp is run on the lines of a Girl Guides' camp, as 2 of the girls first there are Guides, and they helped to establish the camp. The day is a long one. The girls rise at 6.15 and are in the fields at 7.30. They have one hour for lunch, 12 to 1, when they all go to the cookhouse for a generous hot meal, and then spend 20 minutes or so in their tents resting. Work finishes about 5.30, or sometimes earlier if they are able to get through their day's work quicker. In spite of this long day, the reporter said that after work the girls often ride the 6 miles on bicycles to Garfield, to go to the pictures or to a dance. The day I was there several girls were going to walk 2 or 3 miles to a dance!*

In June 1943, *The Herald* reported on the state of the asparagus industry - *Victoria's crop, which is estimated to be nearly 40,000 cases, each containing 24 2-lb. tins, is grown by about 20 growers on nearly 1000 acres in the Koo-Wee-Rup, Portarlinton and Barwon Heads, and Bairnsdale districts. All but about 20 per cent of the crop, which was sold fresh, was processed for Commonwealth consumption.*

However during the War the Federal Government declared asparagus to be a luxury item. Charles Gartside, M.L.C., of Gartside Brothers Cannery, was not happy about this and he was interviewed by *The Herald* on June 1, 1943 on the issue - *The action of the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture in listing asparagus as a luxury vegetable and taking over the entire crop for the services was a "political move designed to impress on civilians the need for austere living" one of Victoria's leading canners. Mr Gartside, M.L.C., said today.*

*Canneries which had processed practically the entire output, were virtually told that tins could not be provided for asparagus designed for civilian consumption. Instead of canning asparagus in long spears, canneries had been ordered to cut it into small soup pieces, which turned good food into pig's food, claimed Mr Gartside. Both civilians and service personnel were prevented from eating asparagus as it should be eaten - long spears dipped in melted butter or iced - and troops would have to eat it in soup or with a fork.*



*Land Army Women - taken November 1942. Argus Newspaper Collection, State Library of Victoria.*

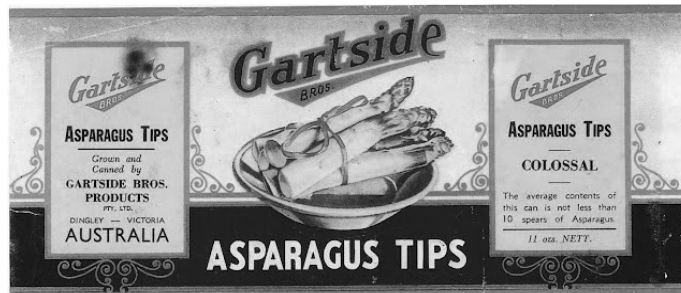


## Thomas Roxburgh – Asparagus Pioneer *from previous page*

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

The main processors at the time were the Gartside Brothers Cannery at Dingley, the Rosella Preserving Company or A.J.C. (Australasian Jam Company).

From October 1944 there was a small Italian Prisoner of War Camp at Koo Wee Rup and the men were allocated to work on various local farms, including the Roxburgh farm. My Dad, Frank Rouse, who was ten at the time, remembers truckloads of the prisoners driving down the road to the farm in the morning, one guard on each truck. At lunch time a food van with a portable cooker would go the farm to feed them.



*Gartside Brothers Cannery label*

*Cheriton Park* was advertised for sale by auction in 1947 and at that time it had 125 ac

res of asparagus under production. The top offer was £20,750, but this was below the reserve and the sale was not completed. Two years later the *Weekly Times* of November 24, 1949 could report that the Koo Wee Rup Swamp had 1,300 acres under asparagus.

In April 1951 *Cheriton Park* was on the market again and was sold for a price close to the reserve of £39,000. The buyer was A.J.C., the Australasian Jam Coy. Pty. Ltd., a subsidiary of Henry Jones Ltd. They held the land until around the early 1970s.

There were several other early growers from the Koo Wee Rup Swamp which I found reports on. In October 1934, *The Age* reported that - *Smaller plantations in this locality are also being cultivated by Messrs. Dick and Hardy, with favorable results. Several other progressive farmers are also contemplating a change from potatoes. At Cora Lynn, Mr. D. Kinsella (Kinsella Bros.) has this season planted a 12-acre paddock. Mr. Wadsley has long been the pioneer of this vegetable at the "Five-mile."*

Ten years later in September 1944, *The Age* published a short obituary of Mr Wadsley - *Mr Charles William Wadsley, JP, 53, died at his home, Strathallan, Koo-wee-rup, on Tuesday after a long illness. Mr Wadsley was a former president of Berwick Shire, in which he represented Iona Riding for 11 years. He retired three weeks ago. He was an expert on asparagus growing, and in addition to his own property supervised an asparagus farm at Geelong.*

The *Weekly Times* of March 22, 1941 reported on Alf Ellett, another asparagus grower -

*When, in 1937, the whole of his farm was submerged for upwards of a week, Mr. Alf Ellett found that, when the water subsided, his few rows of asparagus - grown for his own use - alone had survived. Indeed, their subsequent growth showed*



*Remnant Cheriton Park trees, 2010. Photo by Heather Arnold*

*that they had actually benefited from the thorough soaking which the land had received. The thought then occurred to him that asparagus growing was worth developing, not only as being equally profitable as other forms of vegetable culture, but as a safeguard against future floods. He thereupon set about putting almost the whole of his 42-acre block under asparagus.*

There is still a reminder of *Cheriton Park*. There was an interview in the *Pakenham Gazette* of December 8, 1999 with Bill Roxburgh, the grandson of Thomas. In the interview Bill talks about how his grandfather, who owned *Cheriton Park*, had planted all different kinds of trees on a five acre section of his land and had built his own park to relax in. Some of the trees are still there, on the corner of Fallon Road and Simpson Road.

The original of this article, with references and footnotes, can be read here –

<https://kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com/2019/04/thomas-roxburgh-asparagus-pioneer.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 November 13, 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**





**KOO WEE RUP & DISTRICT RSL SUB-BRANCH**

**REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE**

11th November 2024

All Welcome

To be held at the Cenotaph in Cochrane Park

Rossiter Road—Koo Wee Rup

Assemble at 1045 for an 1100 Service

Any person or organisation wishing to lay a wreath is more than welcome to do so at the conclusion of the service.



LEST WE FORGET

Enquiries:

Mrs Beverley Edwards, JP  
Secretary—Koo Wee Rup RSL  
0400 584 235



**RSL**

**Christmas & Craft Fair**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November '24

10:00am – 3:00pm

**at Koo Wee Rup RSL Station St, Koo Wee Rup**

(opposite Newsagent's)

Various Stalls for that Special Christmas Present

Visit from Santa - Photos with your children or fur – baby!

**Christmas & Craft & Cooking Competition**

Entry Forms available on Facebook KWRup Noticeboard & Bendigo Bank

**Best Decorated Lions Cake Wins \$100**

**(Junior & Senior Best Exhibit Rosette)**

**Primary School Age Colouring in Competition**

**“Great Prizes to be Won”**

Entries available at Schools & the Bendigo Bank KWRup

**Scouts Christmas Trees, Face Painting, Fairy Floss**

Ladies Hospital Auxiliary Café & Home-Made Jams

Lions Great Sausage Sizzle, Food Stalls, Christmas Raffle

**Plus, Much More ... Come One Come all!**



**1st Kooweerup Scout Group**

**Christmas Tree sales**

Pre-orders welcome NOW

5ft - \$60- stand to suit \$50-

6ft - \$70- 7ft - \$80- stand to suit \$60-

On-site Station St Kooweerup  
opposite Kooweerup Newsagency

**9am to 2pm**

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> November & Sun 1<sup>st</sup> December

Sat 7<sup>th</sup> December & Sun 8<sup>th</sup> December

Pre-ordered tree sales ONLY – Sat 14<sup>th</sup> December

Delivery in township area available \$10-

Delivery outside township area – please ask

January dead tree pick up available [Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025] \$10-

Contactless payment options are available

Orders & enquiries please contact:

1stkwrscouts.christmastrees@gmail.com

OR phone: 03 5997 1879



Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>

For The Annual

**Tooradin Craft, Quilts, Gifts  
& Homewares Bazaar**

Tooradin Public Hall

Station Road, Tooradin

9am – 3 pm

*Amazing Range Of Handcrafted Quilts & Goods  
At Bargain Prices !*



Facebook: Tooradin Craft Bazaar

Enquiries: dalebell1948@gmail.com

Free Activities For Children

Free Greeting Card With Envelope With Every Purchase



## RSL CHRISTMAS FAIR

Proudly presented by the Koo Wee Rup & District RSL

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024 : 10.00 am to 3.00pm

At the Koo Wee Rup RSL – 13-15 Station Street, Koo Wee Rup

### CHRISTMAS COOKING AND CRAFT COMPETITION

#### Free to Enter - SENIOR ENTRY FORM

**CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:**

Complete the entry form below by ticking which sections you would like to enter. Entries to be delivered to the Koo Wee Rup RSL between 4.00pm – 6.00pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024. No late entries after 6.00pm accepted. Prize cards to 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in each section. Phone enquiries can be directed to Bev Edwards on 0400 584 235. Entries can be collected after 3.00pm on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

TICK	SECTION NO.	SECTION	Admin Use
		<b><u>COOKING</u></b>	
	SPECIAL/LC	Decorated Lions Christmas Cake – <b>1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$100.00 donated by Koo Wee Rup &amp; District Lions Club. A portion of the cake packaging box must be attached to your presentation board as proof of Lions Club cake.</b>	
	01	Decorated Cake – Traditional Christmas theme	
	02	Decorated Cake – Novelty Christmas theme	
	03	Christmas Themed Cupcakes x 6	
	04	Christmas Themed Biscuits x 6	
	05	Shortbread – 6 pieces	
	06	Decorated Gingerbread House	
		<b><u>CRAFT</u></b>	
	07	Decorated Christmas Stocking	
	08	Christmas Table Runner or Placemat	
	09	Handmade Christmas Item – Your choice – <b>Max.size 1m x 0.5m, NO LARGE</b>	
		<b><u>QUILTS</u></b>	
	10	Christmas Table Centrepiece	
	11	Dressed Doll/Toy – In Christmas Themed clothing	

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

Phone Number: .....

**JUNIOR ENTRY FORM ON OTHER SIDE OF PAGE**





## RSL CHRISTMAS FAIR

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Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024 : 10.00 am to 3.00pm

At the Koo Wee Rup RSL – 13-15 Station Street, Koo Wee Rup

### CHRISTMAS COOKING AND CRAFT COMPETITION

Free to Enter

### JUNIOR ENTRY FORM – Primary School Age Students

#### CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:

Complete the entry form below by ticking which sections you would like to enter. Entries to be delivered to the Koo Wee Rup RSL between 4.00pm – 6.00pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024. No late entries after 6.00pm accepted. Prize cards to 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in each section. Phone enquiries can be directed to Bev Edwards on 0400 584 235. Entries can be collected after 3.00pm on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

TICK	SECTION NO.	SECTION	Admin Use
		<b><u>COOKING</u></b>	
	01	Decorated Cake – Christmas theme	
	02	Christmas Themed Cup Cakes x 6	
	03	Christmas Themed Biscuits x 6	
	04	Decorated Gingerbread Man	
	05	Christmas Themed Chocolates x 6	
		<b><u>CRAFT</u></b>	
	06	Handmade Christmas Decoration for tree or table	
	07	Hand drawn or painted Christmas card	
	08	Other piece of handmade Christmas craft	

Name: .....Age: .....

Address: .....

.....

Phone Number: .....Your School: .....

**SENIOR ENTRY FORM ON OTHER SIDE OF PAGE**