

# THE KOO WEE RUP BLACKFISH



OCTOBER 2023

## Celebrating changes at KWR Primary

Koo Wee Rup Primary School's \$2.5 million upgrade was officially opened last month by Jordan Crugnale, State Member for Bass. The upgrade has modernised classrooms giving students the quality learning environments they need to achieve their best.

Principal Ben Zimmerle, teachers, school captains and students from grade 1 and 2 celebrated on the steps of the building, counted down in Italian and spoke to what they loved about their new space – light filled, colourful, welcoming, break out areas too.

Alongside this upgrade the school has received a grant to build a competition grade gymnasium. Builders are already onsite with completion forecast for August 2024.

Due to the growth of the community, a two-room modular kindergarten will be built at the school, creating up to 90 kindergarten places for local families when it opens in Term 1, 2024. Local children will have a space to learn, explore and grow through play-based learning, supporting their development with two years of quality kindergarten for the best start to education and life.

They will also get more child and family services in one convenient location, with Cardinia Shire Council to run a maternal and child health service from the new kinder.



Jordan Crugnale MP joins students and staff at Koo Wee Rup PS to officially celebrate their \$2.5 m upgrade

## Koo Wee Rup Township Committee Meeting

The Township held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, 6 September at the KWR Community Centre. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4 October at 7:30 pm at the KWR Community Centre. Everyone is welcome to attend Township Meetings and join in the discussion.

The house formerly owned by past township committee member Audrey Mills behind Hollander House is to become a radiology clinic.

Continued page 5

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

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

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What's on in Koo Wee Rup and District

| October  |   | October                  |         |
|----------|---|--------------------------|---------|
| Mon 2nd  | KWR Senior Citizens Indoor Bowls (members only) (page 13) | Senior Citizens Club     | 11am    |
| Mon 2nd  | Chair Pilates (page 23)                                   | Eco House - Hospital     | 5pm     |
| Mon 2nd  | Mat Pilates (page 23)                                     | Eco House - Hospital     | 6pm     |
| Wed 4th  | Coffee Club (page 24)                                     | Royal Hotel              | 10am    |
| Wed 4th  | Get on Board (page 7)                                     | Eliston Community Centre | 10am    |
| Wed 4th  | Lions Club Meeting (page 7)                               | Tooradin Sports Club     | 7pm     |
| Wed 4th  | Township Committee Meeting (front page)                   | Community Centre         | 7.30pm  |
| Thu 5th  | Kids Corner with Amy (page 6)                             | Caldermeade Farm         | 10am    |
| Thu 5th  | Heart Foundation Walking (page 23)                        | KWR Clocktowers          | 7pm     |
| Fri 6th  | KRHS Ladies Auxiliary Meeting (page 5)                    | Education Room, Hospital | 9.30am  |
| Fri 6th  | Triples   | Bowls Club               | 10.30am |
| Fri 6th  | KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only) (page 13)  | Senior Citizens Club     | 11.30am |
| Fri 6th  | Social Bowls (page 15)                                    | Bowls Club               | 6pm     |
| Sat 7th  | Mat Pilates (page 23)                                     | Eco House - Hospital     | 9am     |
| Sat 7th  | Textile drop-off day (page 21)                            | IYU Rec Reserve, Paky    | 9am     |
| Sun 8th  | CFA Open Day (back page)                                  | CFA Station              | 10am    |
| Mon 9th  | KWR Senior Citizens Indoor Bowls (members only)           | Senior Citizens Club     | 11am    |
| Mon 9th  | Chair Pilates   | Eco House - Hospital     | 5pm     |
| Mon 9th  | Mat Pilates   | Eco House - Hospital     | 6pm     |
| Tue 10th | Morning Melodies – Paul Hogan (page 6)                    | Caldermeade Farm         | 10.30am |
| Tue 10th | Have a Chat Chuedays (page 24)                            | UA Church Hall           | 2pm     |
| Tue 10th | Community Centre Committee Meeting                        | Community Centre         | 7.30pm  |
| Wed 11th | Get on Board (page 7)                                     | Lymbrook Community Cntr  | 10am    |
| Wed 11th | KWR Swamp Historical Society Meeting (page 31)            | KWR Historical Society   | 6pm     |
| Thu 12th | Kids Corner with Amy                                      | Caldermeade Farm         | 10am    |
| Thu 12th | Heart Foundation Walking (page 23)                        | KWR Clocktowers          | 7pm     |
| Fri 13th | KWR Senior Citizens Lunch & Hoy (members only)            | Senior Citizens Club     | 11.30am |
| Fri 13th | Social Bowls (page 15)                                    | Bowls Club               | 6pm     |
| Sat 14th | Mat Pilates   | Eco House - Hospital     | 1pm     |
| Sat 14th | 80s/90s night (page 6)                                    | Caldermeade Farm         | 7.30pm  |
| Sun 15th | Bayles Fauna Park Working Bee (page 15)                   | Bayles Fauna Park        | 9am     |
| Sun 15th | Bayles Fauna Park AGM (page 15)                           | Bayles Fauna Park        | 12.30pm |

| November |  | November                |        |
|----------|--|-------------------------|--------|
| Thu 9th  | St Johns Art Show                        | St John's School        | 5.30pm |
| Sat 11th | Remembrance Day Service                  | Cenotaph, Cochrane Park | 11am   |
| Sat 2nd  | Scouts Christmas Tree Sales              | Station Street, opp PO  | 9am    |
| Sat 2nd  | Pakenham Carols by Candlelight (page 23) | Toomuc Recreation Res   | 6.30pm |
| Sat 9th  | Scouts Christmas Tree Sales              | Station Street, opp PO  | 9am    |
| Sat 9th  | Koo Wee Rup Carols by Candlelight        | Cochrane Park           | 7pm    |
| Sat 25th | Scouts Christmas Tree Sales (back page)  | Station Street, opp PO  | 9am    |
| Sat 25th | RSL Craft & Christmas Fair (back page)   | RSL, Station Street     | 10am   |

| December |                                   |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| Sat 9th  | Scouts Christmas Tree Sales       |
| Sat 9th  | Koo Wee Rup Carols by Candlelight |

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*

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*





# Koo Wee Rup Country Women's Association

*Written by Cathy Stephens*

As we announced last month, unfortunately the Koo Wee Rup CWA branch will be closing for now. Even though we are upset and saddened by the decision that had to be made, it has given us a reason to look back on all of the amazing things we have done over the past 8 years, the impact we have been able to make and the friendships that have been formed.

We have Joss Pohl to thank for initiating the re-formation of the branch and she along with a few key others were the driving force for many years. Looking back on our time, we are so thankful to the community for allowing us to come in and lend a helping hand to other community groups and play parts in the many events in and around Koo Wee Rup. As well as fundraising events such as the Harewood Heritage Day and Music on the Grass we also had great days at the Bayles Centenary celebration as well as Australia day events and Anzac Day mornings which are always so much more successful when multiple community groups work together.



We established the Christmas Tree at Woolies, the Win Pankhurst memorial scholarship as well as donating to the local schools over the years. One of our biggest fundraising events - our trivia night will be sorely missed.

Socially we have all learned many crafts and skills made possible by members and guests willing to teach us and the wider community and then used these learnt skills to take out the West Gippsland Craft Exhibition for the last couple of years, a highlight for our members every year. The friendships that have been formed through this branch were vital for many of us through the covid years and gave us all that little reprieve from what was an awful time. The laughs we had during our zoom meetings was priceless. These friendships will continue and hopefully so will our craft get together.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the other community groups and to let everyone know where the last of funds will be distributed. These recipients include: Koo Wee Rup Ladies Auxiliary, Share the Dignity, Koo Wee Rup Primary, St Johns Primary, St Vincent De Paul, Turning Point Church Food Bank, Koo Wee Rup Senior Citizens, Pakenham Girl Guides, the local foster care organisation and our larger CWA group.

Without the support of the local community, we wouldn't be in a position to make these donations so thank you to everyone who has supported us over the years.



# You can keep fighting fatigue,

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

Woolworths have completed an upgrade in the Koo Wee Rup supermarket, looks good but learning the new locations of all the usual purchases may take some time.

Western Union have opened an office in Koo Wee Rup, in the old CBA building next to the Op Shop. It's a bit different to the normal office where the Vanuatu vatu exchange rate is advertised rather than the \$US or Euro.

Premium Regional Disability Services are opening their Sensory Garden on Monday 18<sup>TH</sup> September, congratulations to PRDS and Linný for developing a great area for kids to experience..

Unfortunately the Koo Wee Rup CWA has held its final meeting, membership was quite strong but the group was not able to fill committee positions.

Garry and Gavin met with Tom from Melbourne Water to inspect the drains downstream of the Koo Wee Rup – Pakenham Road and Southern Boundary Drain at the end of William Street. The Main Drains appear to be functioning to the expected level, there may be some vegetation encroaching on one of the drains and this will be reviewed over summer when the water level drops.

The drains that enter Southern Boundary Drain at the end of William St are council drains but Tom will contact council and discuss ongoing maintenance.

The council has been repairing footpaths around town. A good job on the completed areas. A few other footpaths were identified that could have repairs made eg: Henry St in front of the playground; Rossiter Road opposite the High School, and in Gardner Street and Salmon Street.

## News from the KRHS Ladies Auxiliary

I would like to thank the previous officers and thank two new faces.

We had a great time with Kay's Classic Fashion. Our models had lots of fun. Thank you to the seniors for the use of the hall.

At our last meeting on 1 September the ladies voted unanimously to buy a Milano Chair for the health service: for those who know princess chairs, this is an upgrade.

Marlene 5997 1339

Jan 0408 390 337

# St Johns Art Show

## Thursday, November 9th

"Community event - Showcasing the artistic talents of our students"

5:30—7:30pm

Food trucks on site during this time.

Come down and grab a burger, some chips or maybe a hot drink, whilst listening to music on the deck.

"The Beat" playing 70s, 80s and 90s music

Hall opens at 6:00pm ~ Art Show begins  
Raffle, Art Auction and much more....





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Friday 20th October

TICKETS: \$35+

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JOEL TEMPERLY

CHELSEA HEANEY

ALESSIO GARDUCCI

HEADLINER: **ELLIOT GOBLET**

## UPCOMING OCTOBER EVENTS:

- 5th - Kids Corner with Amy (FREE!)
- 10th - Morning Melodies - Paul Hogan (FREE)
- 12th - Kids Corner with Amy (FREE!)
- 14th - 80s/90s Night (\$35+ - Eventbrite)
- 19th - Kids Corner with Amy
- 20th - Comedy Night w/ Elliott Goblet (\$35+ - Eventbrite)
- 21st - MARKET (FREE!)
- 26th - Kids Corner with Amy

**4385 south Gippsland Hwy, Caldermeade Vic 3984**



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To buy tickets:







## Koo Wee Rup and Districts Lions

Written by Linda Sanders

### Lions Meetings

Koo Wee Rup Lions have dinner meetings at 7pm on the first Wednesday of the month at Tooradin Sports Club and Supper meetings at 7pm on the third Wednesday of the month at the RSL rooms, Station Street, Koo Wee Rup.

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

If you would like to join our team, please come along to a meeting to see how things are run or call Paul Whelan on 0400 240 724.

### Grocery Grab

The Club has been selling tickets for a fund raiser with a grocery grab with the winner getting a \$500 Woolworths voucher. Normally a Grocery Grab would be the winner having to collect as many groceries in a certain time. Unfortunately, with Occupational Health and Safety, this is no longer an option.

Tickets are being sold at Woolworths supermarket for \$2 each. The winner gets a \$500 grocery voucher. 50% of the profits will be going to Lions Cord Blood.

Ticket sales from 7 September to 7<sup>th</sup> October when the raffle will be drawn.



### Get on Board

Host: City of Casey and Metro Trains

The City of Casey Community Transport team, in partnership with Metro Trains, invite you to a workshop to improve your confidence when using the rail network.

Morning tea provided.

🕒 Wednesday 4 October  
10.00 am – 11.00 am

📍 Eliston Family and Community Centre  
20 Eliston Avenue, Clyde North

📞 Bookings/enquiries:  
[forms.office.com/r/ABb2P1Upt9](https://forms.office.com/r/ABb2P1Upt9) or call 9705 5444

💰 Free



### Get On Board

Host: City of Casey

The City of Casey Community Transport team, in partnership with Metro Trains, invite you to a workshop to improve your confidence when using the rail network.

Morning tea provided.

🕒 Wednesday 11 October  
10.00 am – 11.00 am

📍 Lynbrook Community Centre  
2 Harris Street, Lynbrook

📞 Bookings/enquiries:  
[forms.office.com/r/ABb2P1Upt9](https://forms.office.com/r/ABb2P1Upt9) or call 9705 5444

💰 Free

### Winter's End

Aug 2023

A Chinese poet spoke to me across 1200 years  
yet I cannot make myself be heard by him.  
The ancient invisible cities of long eons gone  
teeming with elders, fathers, mothers, children  
hidden hamlets a home to cats, mice and rats  
many inhabitants, who could not write nor read.  
All blown away like leaves, with none to know  
now wholly unremembered as unbottled tears.

Here, a smallish town south of the Dandenong Range  
winter's end slows, colours unseen for awhile now show.  
Change rises again, barking flowers always in the round  
like domestic dogs who don't know how to keep it in.  
Deciduous trees darkened, streaked by dampness  
air vibrating with sounds of Plovers and heavy trucks  
raking afternoon light ploughing over Cochrane Park.  
Lone men fishing, stand on the cold desolate beaches.  
Old folk shelter in doorways, falter or overstep gutter drops  
are blown aside by gusts, drift as ships alone and derelict.  
Christmas past remnants still cling to fences, posts or seats  
like the faith of another era hanging on through neglect.  
School children are spilling out into the busy streets  
with undiminished energy and jingling small change.

Trees obscure the sun, mist rises without a sound  
as ghosts from cold fields, still clinging to sunlight.  
Shadows outnumber the evidence of the day's gifts  
clouds as towed caravans, move in the sky's heavy traffic.  
Closed heated homes and warm wives occupy themselves  
with cooking devotions and keeping an eye on things.  
Their husbands, seated or standing almost motionless  
like monks, whose monastery has burnt to the ground.

Warren Breninger

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## Lions Junior Public Speaking

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September at the Tooradin Sports club, were held the Junior Public Speaking finals.

There were eight participants from grades 3 / 4 and 5 / 6. They were, in the order they are pictured:

Lilah Vandeling, Lang Lang Primary School; Braithwaite Bates, KWR Primary School; Myla Damveld McGrath, Lang Lang Primary School; Lachlan Chapman, St Johns Primary School; Charlotte Hughes, St Johns Primary School; Naija Tempest, Bayles Primary School; Mikaela Pascoe, Bayles Primary School; Billy Hiam, KWR Primary School.



All the contestants did a fantastic job and should be very proud of themselves.

The winners were: Grade 3/4: Lachlan Chapman, St Johns Primary School and Grade 5 /6: Charlotte Hughes, St Johns Primary School. Congratulations, you did a wonderful job. Lachlan and Charlotte will now go on to compete in the District Semi Finals on 9<sup>th</sup> October at the Tooradin Sports Club.



Pictured: Lachlan and Charlotte holding their certificates and the Trophy the school gets to keep for the year.

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

Group Leader – Brooke

Contact 0457 171 039–or [1stkwrscouts@gmail.com](mailto:1stkwrscouts@gmail.com)

We had busy end to Term 3 and everyone is now enjoying a small break over the school holidays.

Joeys, Cubs and Scouts ended their term with a visit to the Moonlit Sanctuary in Pearcedake for a guided tour. It was a great evening seeing kangaroos, koalas, wombats, Tasmanian devil and owls.

Venturers finished their term with a night out at the cinemas to watch Blue Beetle.

In the second week of the school holidays our cub leaders are taking 15 of our cub scouts to Cuboree. They will join 3500 other cub scout at Gilwell Park for a week. We can't wait to hear all of the stories.



1<sup>st</sup> KOO WEE RUP SCOUTS & SCHOOLS MONSTER RAFFLE

Prize Value: \$17,190 (incl. on-road costs)

Scan the QR Code to Get your Monster Raffle tickets now!

Do you have a child that would like to come along and see what we do? We have space available in all sections, so if you are aged 5 to 25 get in touch, we would love to meet you.



**Joey Scouts**  
5 to 7 year old  
Monday  
6:30 - 7:30



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



**Scouts**  
11 to 14 year old  
Wednesday  
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 Senior Citizens

By Linda Sanders

We welcome new members at an annual fee of \$10. Come and give us a try at Icke Road, Koo Wee Rup (next to the Police Station). If you would like more information, please contact Andrew on 0420 326 691 or Leonie on 0477 249 000.

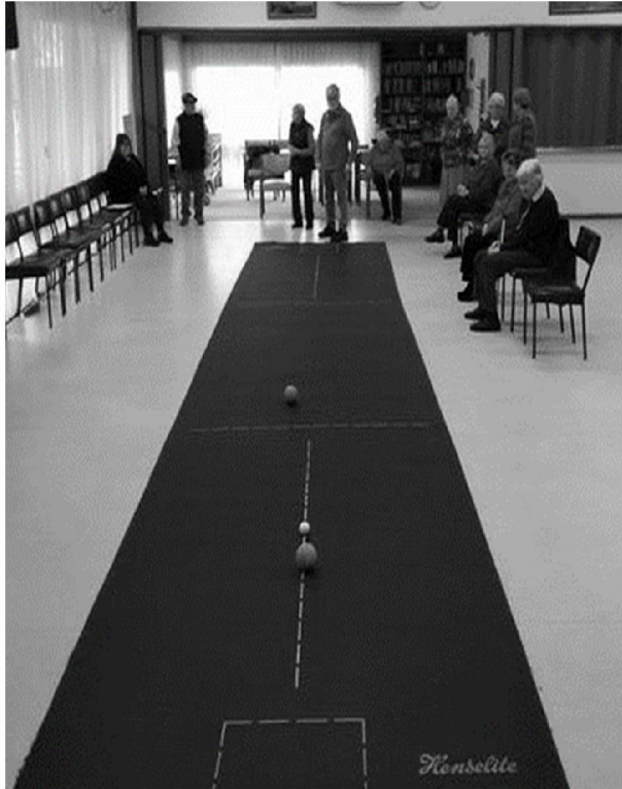
**Activities include:**

Monday: Indoor Bowls: 11am -3pm

Friday: Lunch followed by Hoy (a card game): 11.30am for 12pm lunch

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month: Activities morning: 10am – 1pm

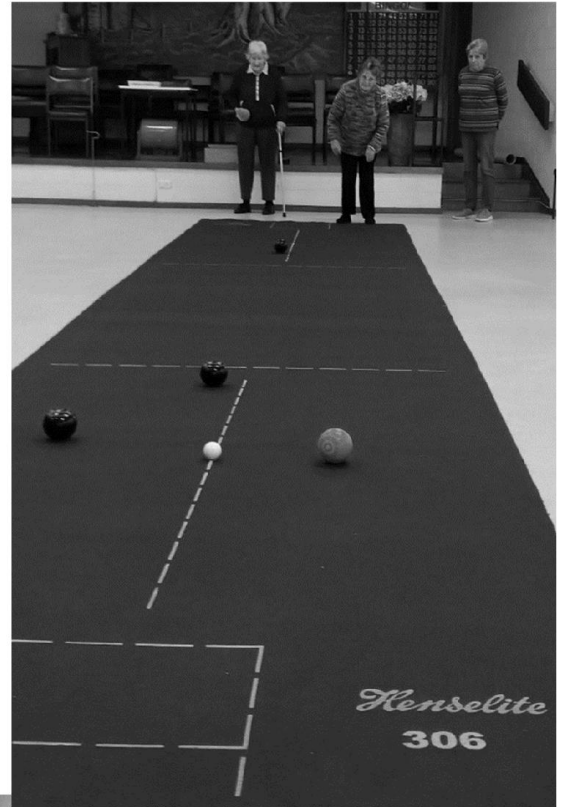
We also have monthly outings / entertainment / activities.



**Indoor Bowls**

Koo Wee Rup Senior Citizens have indoor bowls each Monday. Members meet at 11.30am, have BYO lunch and then play bowls. It is a lot of fun and much laughter is had. You don't have to be experienced, it's just for fun.

If you would like to come along and have a game, turn up on the day or ring Leonie on 0477 249 000.



**Morning Melodies**

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September some of our members attended the Tooradin Sports Club for Morning Melodies. It included morning tea, lunch and entertainment with Jeff Pattison singing Elvis, Johnny Cash and Neil Diamond.

The place was packed and the entertainment was excellent. People were singing along and dancing to great music. Overall, it was a very enjoyable outing.





**Rotary Club of Koo Wee Rup-Lang Lang**  
Community

Who can we help?  
How can you help us?

For more information  
facebook page (Rotary Club of Koo Wee Rup-Lang Lang)  
or our website

Email: [rckooweeruplanglang@gmail.com](mailto:rckooweeruplanglang@gmail.com)  
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## Koo Wee Rup Bowls Club

The pre-season working bee was very well attended with 22 people working on the Green, Garden, Office, Storeroom, Kitchen & Club house. Thank you to the members who also prepared the lunch (bbq, salads & cakes) it was very much appreciated.

We are slowly rebuilding our membership after a few players decided they did not want play Pennant this season. Our latest recruit is Steven Jenkins, son of Jim & Joy, after a break of 5-6 years from the game. He has already donned the KWR colours in the recent practice match against Cardinia Waters which was a good hit out with a reasonably even result in tricky conditions. Our newer members, Mel, Cam, Jimi, Bec. & Erin together with our experienced recruits Rob, Ian & Steve all showed that they will be assets to the Club. We still require many former/new members for the Pennant season {games on Sat. & Tues.}so if you would like to try the game come along on a Friday night about 6.00 p.m. for an introduction to the game. We will supply bowls for you, just wear a pair of flat soled shoes or play barefooted. If you don't try the game, you will never know if you like it.

Our Summer Triples competition commenced and despite a couple of late withdrawals we had 12 teams "doing battle". We had players from Drouin, Garfield, KWR, Korumburra, Lang Lang, Loch, Longwarry, Pakenham, Phillip Island. The winning team for the day with 36 pts. was Lexie Taylor, Graeme Burton & Mal Newman (Garfield). On 30 pts. for the day as Runner Up team was Joe Barlow, Charles Poulson (KWR) & Luke Monckton (Garfield). Best 1<sup>st</sup> game was won by Dale Hendrick, Robbie Proctor & Dale Hendrick (Drouin) on 18 pts. & best 2<sup>nd</sup> game was won by Jim Garnham, Geoff Barber &

Rodger Balmont (Korumburra) on 17 pts. A new innovation introduced by the organizers was for the most "touches" for the day. Winners of the day both with 7 were Colin Scales (Lang Lang) & Rodger Balmont (Korumburra).



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## Bayles Fauna Park

### Working Bee

Sunday, 15 October  
9am to 12 noon  
followed by a BBQ  
lunch.

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

### AGM

Sunday, 15 October  
12.30pm  
**All welcome**

[WWW.RIGHTCHOICEMORTGAGE.COM.AU](http://WWW.RIGHTCHOICEMORTGAGE.COM.AU)



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

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

### Technology

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

### Need a skin check?

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

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

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

### Early detection and treatment is essential

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

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

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

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

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



## A story about my days in the UK Army Reserve *by Geoff Stokes*

You will recall that I have previously written in 'Blackfish' about my 2 years, 23 days and 4 hours spent in the regular British Army – as a lance bombardier in the 45th Royal Regiment of Artillery to be precise, and the many places all over the world that I had been forced to visit on their behalf! However, part of the total compulsory National Service that I had to serve made it also compulsory for me to do part time service in the UK Army Reserve that was known then as the Territorial Army; this after I returned to civilian life. So, I had to serve yet another 3 years and 160 days with the 268th (Warwickshire) Medium Self-propelled, Regiment, Royal Artillery whose headquarters were a bus journey to Birmingham of about 15 miles (24 km) away from our new home – a flat in Bushbury, a suburb of west Wolverhampton. It was a week after my return from army service to my dear wife Olive at our new and first home, when Christmas 1954 came and went and where, once again, we did the rounds of our parents, relatives, and friends. It was always important to our Moms and Dads that we visited one on Christmas Day for dinner (mid-day), and the other parents for tea or vice versa. It was always a worry for several years that we didn't offend one or the other. That's how things were in those days, but more of that later!

It was 13th March 1955 when I had to don my soldier's uniform again to attend my first parade at the Territorial Army Regiment in Birmingham. Horrors: after all the attention that the tailor had given to me during my last days of regular service at Woolwich barracks in London, the uniform wouldn't fit. I had put on so much weight. Olive's cooking had certainly done me a world of good. I had, in fact, been too thin when I arrived back home, and Olive was determined to get me looking normal again. She did! Getting to Birmingham was not easy for me but the army had been helpful in this respect. Instead of being required to attend two nights a week I had to be there one Sunday in every month. Together with this, I was required to attend three weeks camp every year. The first visit was not easy; finding my way via several buses to the other side of Birmingham early one Sunday morning, was difficult. There were several other chaps who were there for the first time, and we had a sort of orientation day as they showed us around.

My first task was to hand in my brand new, non-fitting uniform, and draw out a replacement from the stores. I managed to get one that fitted me, but it was not as smart as my Woolwich outfit would have been. After a couple of visits, I was right into the swing of things and very much enjoyed the technical sessions. The guns of this battery were much larger than the 25-pounder (88mm) field guns that I had been used to. Here they were 150mm calibre, huge by comparison to the pieces I had been handling over the last two years. They were also self-propelled and were mounted on Sherman tank chassis, so quite a formidable weapon in any one's language. I was also told that the cost of one of these very large shells was about seventy pounds sterling (1955). Today that figure is Aus. \$4609! So, it was obvious we would not have many, if any, live firing days. At that time, I was told that I was the



*A 25 pounder Artillery piece. My own special piece.*



*A 150mm caliber field gun on a Sherman tank*

only B1 TARA (Technical Assistant and Surveyor) in the Regiment and therefore the senior surveyor, so a lot was expected of me. Apparently B1 TARAs were in short supply; they were normally regular soldiers. There was also a difficulty in training TARAs in the part time army because of the time involved in completing the course. Again, it was also difficult for the part time soldier to get the necessary practical field work, especially with these seldom fired self-propelled guns. Therefore, my life in the Territorials was very easy and quite enjoyable.

The annual Camp that year was a memorable experience for different reasons than you might think. We all went off by regular train service to Otterburn, a country town in County Northumberland very close to the Scottish border. It was miles from anywhere, the nearest big town being Newcastle, so Otterburn was just the place where we could fire off one or two

## A story about my days in the UK Army Reserve *from previous page*

of these monster guns which we never did of course. We were in tents and would be sleeping on palliasses filled with straw and hay. We had to fill them ourselves at the local farm and, as you might guess, the supply of filling soon ran out. It also started to rain so that first night was cold and miserable and depressing. In stark contrast the officers were lodged in a brick building and ate and lived in comparative luxury.

I was not looking forward to three weeks of this. We were taking over from an infantry Battalion, none other than the Black Watch; a battalion of this Regiment we had supported in our Far East conflicts in 1953, a tough bunch of blokes I can tell you! Every morning we were awoken by the skirl of the pipes and the sound echoed across the nearby hills. This was a magic sound; one I have never forgotten. And then something happened to change everything. The Regimental Sergeant Major called me over on the third morning and asked me if I would like a 'cushy' job. I said, "Yes, of course I would". He said that I would not be missed if I did something different to my normal TARA job, because the guns would be static and would not be driven around the countryside. Therefore, there would be really nothing for me to do in the field. He said that the sergeant who ran the officer's mess wanted someone who was reliable to help him. It would be hard work but there would be super food, plenty of free booze and a bedroom to myself. Did I want the job? I jumped at the chance!

In contrast to the other lads who I hardly knew anyhow, I was now living in sheer luxury, and I enjoyed every minute of the two and-a-half weeks I was there. Not only that, but I was also being paid by my current civilian employer as well as the government at the same time. I can't remember the mess sergeant's name now, but we became great friends, and I learnt a lot from him about the correct presentation of food and wine, both in a restaurant and in a bar situation. There were other soldiers serving in the mess as well as me and we formed a sort of camaraderie that seemed to set us apart from the officers in the mess and yet we always felt we were on the same level. Does that make sense? Probably not! Under the chef, we learned how to serve meals correctly (no thumb nails to be shown) and, under the mess sergeant, we learned how to pour and serve various drinks and cocktails. I also helped him with the mess food ordering and did the clerical work regarding the officers' credit. No money changed hands in the bar; an officer simply wrote a note, called a chitty, listing the drink he had ordered, and he would present this note to the barman ('steward' was the more genteel name for us): a system that had been in use for centuries, so I was told.

Towards the end of the evening when they were well oiled, the officers, the other side of the bar, would often draw me into their conversation as if I was one of their own particular group. I suppose a million bar stewards around the world would agree with me and say that this is what happens as the alcohol takes over. My perk was the fact that, as they ordered a drink, they would almost certainly say to me, "Have one yourself steward". "Perhaps later sir", I would reply, and the drink would be added to my tally for consumption later when they had all gone off to bed and we would be tidying up. The culmination of all this came on the last night when it was realised that the bottles on the shelf could not and would not be left for the incoming officers of the next Regiment, Battery or Battalion checking in, to consume free. The bottles had, of course, already been paid for. There was therefore plenty of drinking that night to try and finish them off and us stewards carried on tipling long after the last subaltern had staggered out of the mess to find his bed.

I couldn't remember what had happened when I came too, the next morning, the morning of our return to the railway station and back to our homes. I was told that in the middle of the night I had walked along the top of the wall surrounding the mess, a wall about two metres high: I was singing very loudly, and everyone had been scared I would fall. I didn't remember anything of that at all. And one more thing: I did not have a hangover either; maybe it wasn't me who performed that circus trick? We did have two or three days off from all this work during the weeks, and a couple of us went into Newcastle by bus one day. We had a great time visiting some bars and, I remember, a superb restaurant. In the evening we went to a live show at the theatre. A risqué play for the time as I recall.

There is one last anecdote that will amuse you. Imagine this: As a Lance Bombardier I oversee this small group of stewards, and we are on parade to receive orders. I call them to attention and at that precise moment my false front teeth plate shoots out and lands on the bitumen about two metres in front of me. Well: everybody just fell down laughing! What had happened was that my upper front plate false teeth with three teeth attached (remember the football incident I wrote about all those years ago?), must have cracked and on my strong command of "Aaaaten - Shun!" the plate had finally come apart. The camp carpenter stuck it all together again with something or other and the broken plate lasted until I was home again and could get to the dentist.

Back in our Bushbury Lane flat, reunited with my Olly once again, life took on some normality. Work in the drawing office at John Thompson (my employer) was reasonably easy and there was not too much pressure (on me that is!). Our weekends were taken up with visiting our parents or relatives and, I recall, we caught up with Olive's cousin, Elsie, and her husband again after a couple of years of being apart. We would visit each other for meals and drinks and perhaps listen to a play on the radio. As I said before, Olive's Dad and Mom, were the only people we knew who owned a television. The radio was our only source of home entertainment and we listened avidly to the 'Goon Show' and 'The Archers', a



## A story about my days in the UK Army Reserve *from previous page*

continuing daily serial about life in a country village. Dickie Valentine was our favourite pop artist, and he sang ballads, as did a very famous American singer called Jonnie Ray. We didn't know then that within two years the music world and us would be turned upside down with the introduction of 'Rock and Roll'. If you read the following, try to imagine the super life Olive and I had, as did all our friends and relatives, without the worry of 'mod cons'. You may have read a similar article like this before, but the following are mostly my own thoughts and words.

*Consider the changes Olive and I have witnessed; we were both born before computers and television, before penicillin, before polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox copiers, contact lenses, Android, or iPhones, frisbees and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, automatic geared cars, laser beams and ball point pens; before pantyhose, dishwashers, clothes driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothing and before man walked on the moon. Steam Rollers were then actually steam driven rollers and used always on road repairs and construction.*

*We got married first and then lived together. How quaint can you be? We were before househusbands, gay rights, LGBTQ, computer dating, dual careers, and computer marriages. We were before day care centres, group therapy and nursing homes. We had never heard of any sort of plastics whatsoever, FM radio, television, tape decks, walkmans, CDs, USB sticks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word processors, No WhatsApp or Skype, yoghurt and blokes wearing earrings and then, in those days, only just one or two retired sailors sported a tattoo. House heating was from a coal burning fireplace in the lounge. For us, time sharing meant togetherness, not computers or condominiums; a "chip" meant a piece of wood used to heat water for a bath, hardware meant hardware and software wasn't even a word. Worldwide, men had to wear a tie when going out to dine in a restaurant or café, or your entry was barred.*

*In the 1950s "Made in Japan" meant junk and the term "making out" referred to how you did in an exam or an interview. Pizzas, KFC, McDonalds, Hungry Jacks, instant coffee, tea bags and supermarkets were unheard of. Chicken was a luxury at Christmas after dad chopped the head off one of the chooks and mum had to spend hours plucking it and stuffing it.*

*In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mown, coke was a cold drink and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was Grandma's lullaby to her baby grandchildren and AIDS were helpers in the Headmaster's office or a type of Nurse.*

*We were certainly not before the difference between sexes was discovered but were surely before "sex changes". We made do with what we had, and we were the last generation that was so dumb to think a lady needed a husband to have a baby.*

*No wonder we are so confused and that there is such a generation gap, but we survived. We are now today's very Senior Citizens, a hardy bunch when you think of how the world has changed and of the adjustments we have had to make!*

Just before Christmas 1957 I had one more duty with the Territorial Army. As I explained earlier, I had been going conscientiously to the barracks in Stoney Lane, Birmingham every month, most of the time doing nothing. I was beginning to realize that all this part time soldiering, for me anyhow, was a waste of time. The problem was that there was no one to instruct me to further my TARA knowledge and there was no one for me to teach, even if they would let me. Therefore, I spent my time messing about in the stores or simply reminiscing with others. I suppose it would be at the December parade when the mess sergeant, whom I have mentioned before, approached me and asked me to help him at the officer's mess annual Christmas dinner. It was being professionally catered for so my help would be behind the bar and serving drinks. My time spent at the function would count towards my attendance record and I would be paid handsomely. He added that I could stay the night at his home. My answer was in the affirmative! It was a great night, and it was there I learned how to make a perfect champagne cocktail. In a Marie Antoinette champagne glass add one lump of sugar. Just cover the sugar with cognac then top it up with ice-cold champagne and serve it with a cherry – magnificent! I also learned that the port decanter is passed to the right around the table and finishes at the commanding officer's chair, hopefully with enough left in the decanter to appease his taste.

I remember once again being taken into people's confidence at the bar after dinner and being told all sorts of personal things, especially by the officer's wives. Alcohol does strange things to everyone; beware! I stayed with the sergeant at his house and met his wife and family and, as I said, he had become a good friend and he hinted broadly that there would be a promotion for me soon. I had an uncomfortable night trying to sleep on his settee and I was glad to see the morning and leave, eventually for home, a little later after breakfast. That was the last time I would attend the Territorials because, that very week, the British government defence department offered the option, to all in the same army category as me, to leave the Territorial Army and join the Reserve Army for a further five years. In the Reserve Army you were not required to attend parades or camp and only if there was an emergency or an international conflict would you be required to take up arms again without any delay. I chose to leave the Territorials and hang up my uniform and, eventually, in 1960, I received news from the Royal Regiment of Artillery's Chief Gunner at Woolwich Barracks, London, that my reserve service was over, and I would not now be required. Thank you, he wrote. I was now a real civilian again after a very long seven and a half years of military service. A sigh of relief then and now!

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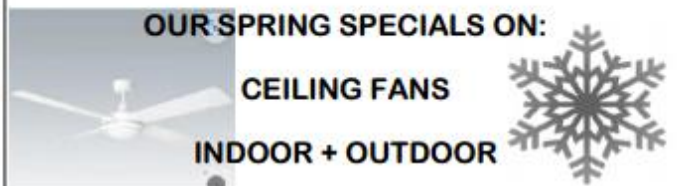
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## Grants available for local fishing clubs

The State Government’s Stronger Fishing Clubs Grant Program has opened. Angling clubs and associations can apply for grants of up to \$10,000.

The grants are available under the \$1.2 million program to help strengthen and increase club membership, and to promote participation in recreational fishing. Applications for round one of the program close on 6 December 2023.

This program will help fishing clubs attract new members, encouraging more families to take up fishing, and is part of the government’s push to improve fishing, boating, piers and aquaculture.

Projects eligible for funding include events that provide recreational fishing tuition for women, multicultural groups, First Nations peoples and all-abilities, alongside open days, training and events, and guest speaker nights.

Projects involving IT upgrades, website development, clubroom improvements, and equipment that will benefit all members are also eligible for funding. To apply online or learn more visit [vfa.vic.gov.au/strongerfishingclubs](http://vfa.vic.gov.au/strongerfishingclubs)

## Textile drop-off day

Drop off your 'end of life' textiles including clothing, bed linen, tablecloths and scrap fabric for free!

In partnership with **Textile Recyclers Australia (TRA)**, all textiles from the day will be sorted for recycling and turned into new clothing products through an innovative fibre to fabric recycling process.

Whilst good quality textiles and clothing can be donated or gifted, taking 'end of life' textiles to a dedicated drop-off point such as this event helps ensure they can be turned into something new, instead of ending up in landfill.

### Event details

**Date:** Saturday 7 October

**Time:** 9am to 1pm

**Location:** IYU Recreation Reserve carpark (165 Henry Road, Pakenham)

**Register:** [Trybooking webpage](#)

### What you can drop off

- Clothing (shirts, pants, dresses etc.) - these can have rips, holes or minor stains
- Fabric bras and crop-tops (no underwire)
- Bedlinen and table cloths
- Scrap fabrics or offcuts

### What you can't drop off

- No dirty clothing or textiles (minor stains will be accepted)
- No wet items – everything must be clean and dry
- No underwear
- No bras containing an underwire

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 Christmas Bingo - 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023

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## Heart Foundation Walking Evening Group restarts

The Thursday evening group only walks during daylight saving hours so welcome to the 2023 to 2024 Thursday evening program. We start on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

We meet at the clock towers/ bus interchange in Rossiter Rd at 7 pm every Thursday for the next 6 months of daylight saving. We are affiliated with the Heart Foundation and are entering our 12th year of walking this summer. We also work closely with Koo wee Rup Regional Health Service as part of the community programmes.

For the first few weeks we will not be walking a full hour until daylight hours extend. We have slower and faster walkers and never leave anyone behind. This is a really social group, with several gatherings, dinners and walks to other areas as part of our program. So why not give it a go. **WALKING IS FREE AND ENJOYABLE.**

**Enquiries to Walk Leader Marlene on 0429 814410**

There are also 2 daytime groups that walk year-round at 9 am Monday and Thursday if you're interested. It's the same venue, with a different leader.

## Pilates at Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service

We now offer two types of Pilates at the health service, a chair class and two mat classes. Pilates uses all parts of the body to develop core strength, flexibility and balance. This can be achieved through many exercises and many can be chair based, as well as on a mat on the floor. Clinical Pilates is also a means of using the resistance of a reformer (bed with a set of adjustable springs).

If you are worried about getting up and down off the floor, we teach you how to safely do this allowing for injuries or chronic conditions. It uses the progression of exercises making it more difficult if you are going well that day, or regression which makes it easier if need be. **The FIRST SESSION IS FREE**. So why not give it a try.

We meet 5 pm Mondays for chair (30 min class @ \$5.00) or 6 pm for a one-hour mat class @ \$10.00. Then on Saturday mornings at 9 am there is an additional mat class.

All classes are held in the community room at the health service in Rossiter Rd at the western end of the community garden.

Enquiries to Marlene on 0429814410

## Pakenham Carols by Candlelight is back in 2023!

Cardinia Shire Council is proud to announce the return of Pakenham Carols by Candlelight on Saturday 2 December 2023.

All Cardinia Shire residents are invited to pack a picnic rug and head down to Toomuc Recreation Reserve in Pakenham for this free event.

The official program will begin at 6.30pm with a talented line-up of performers including local school choirs, the Maryknoll Fire Choir, the CPAC Musical Theatre and the Cardinia Civic Concert Band.

To top the night off, there will also be a fireworks display at approximately 9pm.

Pakenham Carols by Candlelight will be an alcohol and smoke free event. Food and drinks will be available to purchase on-site. No pets allowed (assistance dogs are permitted).

For more information, contact the Future Communities team at [mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au) or call 1300 787 624.



### 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<br><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 5th October 2023 and will go through until early April 2024.

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





## Pilates Term 4 2023

### Free First Class

Chair based class now available

Reengage this spring with 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 Monday.  
Mat @ 6.00pm Mondays and  
Mat @ 9.00am Saturday

**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 4 starts: Mon 2nd October**





# MORNING MELODIES

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**2023 Programme:**  
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 Thu. 23/2 - Neil Diamond Tribute  
 Thu. 23/3 - Olivia Newton John Tribute  
 Thu. 27/4 - Brendan Scott Show  
 Thu. 25/5 - SHIRLEY BASSEY/TOM JONES Tribute  
 Thu. 22/6 - Roy Orbison Tribute  
 Thu. 27/7 - ELVIS Tribute  
 Thu. 24/8 - John Rowles/Engelbert Tribute  
 Thu. 28/9 - John Denver Country Tribute  
 Thu. 26/10 - Johnny Cash Tribute  
 Thu. 23/11 - Legends & Love Songs  
 Thu. 28/12 - Back to the 70s & 80s Disco Classics

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

|          |    |                 |
|----------|----|-----------------|
| October  | 4  | Royal Hotel     |
|          | 18 | Chandelier Café |
| November | 1  | Royal Hotel     |
|          | 22 | Chandelier Café |
|          | 29 | Degani          |
| December | 6  | Royal Hotel     |
|          | 20 | Chandelier Café |



Enquiries ph Jo on 0428 557 411



Koo Wee Coffee Club

Need a friend?

Recently retired?  
 New to Koo Wee?

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## HAVE A CHAT CHUESDAYS

WHERE? Uniting Church hall, 348 Rossiter Rd.  
 WHEN? Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023  
 And monthly on second Tuesday.  
 TIME.? 2pm-4pm.

This month's theme is  
**CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS**

Help us make some simple CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS and HAVE SOME FUN, whilst having a cuppa and some afternoon tea. All free. New faces always welcome. 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**

## Getting to know your Family History: a series of talks on the third Thursday of the month, 2023.

Presented by  
 Jane Rivett-Carnac, President  
 of the Narre Warren & District Family History Group  
 and Heather Arnold, President of the Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society.  
 Venue: Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society Museum, 325 Rossiter Road,  
 cr Henry Street, Koo Wee Rup.

Talks run from 11.00am to 12 noon.

### Programme

October 19  
 Irish records

November 16  
 Bring your questions, road blocks, success stories  
 from your family history research

Gold coin donation appreciated. No bookings required.

Parking available at rear of Museum.

More information – Jane 0412 084 671 or Heather 0407 521 637



These talks are brought to you by the Narre Warren and District Family History Group and the Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society





## Are you fire season ready?

Cardinia Shire is one of the most beautiful regions in Australia, but it is also one of the most bushfire prone. Preparing our homes and properties well in advance of the bushfire season is the most effective tool we have to keep ourselves, our families and the community safe.

### Grass – keep it short!

Grass fires can start and spread quickly and be very dangerous. Reducing the risk of grass fire is the responsibility of everyone in our shire.

In the lead up to fire season, all property owners and occupiers should prepare their properties for bushfire, even if their property is not immediately next to bushland.

At a minimum you should:

- Maintain all grass and weeds on your block at less than 10 centimetres high
- Clear your property of fallen branches and dead vegetation
- Clean up fine fuels such as leaves, twigs and long grass and remove any rubbish.
- Larger rural and agricultural properties need to create a firebreak at least 10 metres wide along external fences by slashing grass and weeds to less than 10 centimetres
- Create separation between vegetation and buildings and fences by mowing and pruning vegetation.

### Fire Hazard Inspection Program

Cardinia Shire Council undertakes an annual Fire Hazard Inspection Program which commences in the lead up to the fire season and comprises approximately 4,000 privately owned properties across the Shire. This program follows a risk-based approach which acknowledges that fire risk reduction is a shared responsibility for all residents in Cardinia Shire. The Fire Hazard Inspection Program is primarily focussed throughout the Fire Danger Period, however Fire Prevention Notices may be issued by an authorised officer year-round.

When a property has been identified as posing a fire hazard, a Fire Prevention Notice may be issued by a Fire Prevention Officer. The Country Fire Authority Act 1958 and Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958 authorises Municipal Fire Prevention Officers to issue Fire Prevention Notices on owners or occupiers of private properties to complete fire management works.

If you receive a Fire Prevention Notice this means that a Fire Prevention Officer has inspected your property and determined it poses a fire hazard. If you do not comply with the notice, **you may be fined up to \$1,923**, and/or you may need to cover the cost of contractor hire to remove fire hazards, plus administration costs. Legal action may still proceed. Each property is considered individually for its level of risk, but there are key things Fire Prevention Officers look for when inspecting a property:

- Long, dry grass
- Fallen and dead vegetation
- Weeds contributing to a high fuel load
- Vegetation close to neighbouring assets.

For more information and online resources on how to prepare for the Fire Season, please visit Cardinia Shire Council's website and search for Fire, Flood and Emergencies.

Keeping your bushfire plan up to date is essential. For templates and assistance with this please visit the Plan and Prepare section of the CFA website at [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au).

By working together this bushfire season we can preserve and protect our residents, wildlife and all the natural assets our beautiful Shire has to offer.



*Koo Wee Rup CFA Member, Roger Smith, receiving a donation from Bunnings East Pakenham. The voucher will be raffled at the CFA Open Day on Sunday, 8 October (details back page)*

*Stewart Matulis, Coordinator – Emergency Management, Cardinia Shire Council*

## Pepi's Land Bike Track concept design revealed

Local residents and bike enthusiasts are invited to share feedback on a concept design for a bike track upgrade at Pepi's Land in Emerald.

Cardinia Shire Council has developed a draft design for the bike track, following community consultation on the proposed upgrade earlier this year. The project has been renamed Pepi's Land Bike Track Upgrade in response to feedback that the track is not only used by BMX bikes.

A survey seeking feedback on the concept design opened today at **Creating Cardinia** and will remain open until 15 October 2023.

The community can also meet the project team and have their say on the concept design at a local pop-up session:

- Location: Pepi's Land Bike Track, Emerald (located at the far corner of Pepi's Land Reserve, also accessed by Railway Road).
- Date: Thursday 12 October
- Time: 3.30pm to 5.00pm

For more information, contact

the Parks Planning team at [mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au](mailto:mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au) or call 1300 787 624.



## Gippsland families encouraged to join GenV

Latrobe Regional Health is looking for families with bubs born between 4 October 2021 up until 3 October this year to take part in Australia's largest national birth and parent study.

Generation Victoria, or GenV, is gathering information for researchers to complete a picture of the health and wellbeing of a generation. The project is following babies and their parents to help solve problems like asthma, food allergies, obesity, and mental illness. So far, nearly 2000 Gippsland families have signed up to GenV, joining more than 100,000 families state wide.

GenV is being led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, supported by the Royal Children's Hospital, and has partnered with all Victorian birthing hospitals, including LRH.

GenV Gippsland area manager Denise Lawlor said inclusivity was at the heart of the project meaning all parents living in Victoria with a baby born within the eligibility period could take part.

This includes families whose first language is not English, regional families, fathers and other parents who are under-represented, or who may be unable to take part in other research projects.

Denise said families had been very receptive to be included in the project and were glad to be "part of something bigger than themselves".

"We hope as many Gippsland families as possible join us to be able to look for trends and patterns in this community in the years to come," Denise said. "For example, we frequently hear families connect with GenV's vision because of health conditions that might affect their family. The more families that take part, the more we can understand families like theirs and ultimately help us better prevent, predict and treat problems families face."

Participating families are sent a short survey up to four times a year, that takes a few minutes to complete.

When signing-up, families provide their contact details and some basic information, and can also consent to an optional saliva sample to support biological research.

Denise stressed GenV protects participants' privacy by removing identifying details from the research.

"GenV takes very little of families' time but has the potential to make huge differences to many families going forward, potentially even their own," she said.

GenV is led by the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, supported by the Royal Children's Hospital and University of Melbourne and funded by the Paul Ramsay Foundation, Victorian Government and the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation.

For more information, visit [www.genv.org.au](http://www.genv.org.au)

# KOOWEERUP REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

235 Rossiter Rd. Koo Wee Rup. Vic. 3981 Phone: 5997 9679  
 Email: [info@krhs.net.au](mailto:info@krhs.net.au) Website: [www.kooweeruphospital.net.au](http://www.kooweeruphospital.net.au)

October 2023

Find us on



## Meet our Occupational Therapist (OT)

Rachael Russell is an experienced OT who joined the KRHS team in March. Rachael is passionate about rural health and sees community clients aged 18 and over.

### What is an Occupational Therapist (OT)?

Occupational therapy enables people to participate in activities they find meaningful. An occupation can be anything you do in your day; working, showering, driving, eating, using your phone etc. The list is limitless! It is about working with individuals to determine what is meaningful to them. OT's can help people do the things they need and WANT to do with a focus on safety, independence and comfort.



**OT is a person centred profession based on an individual's goals.**

Occupational Therapists can help with:

- Home safety assessments
- Assessments for personal alarms
- Recommend and prescribe aids and equipment to support function
- Recommend home modifications
- Provide education around falls prevention, energy conservation, living with memory changes and managing the impacts of a chronic health condition

Rachael's days of work are Monday's, Tuesday's and Wednesday's. A referral code through My Aged Care will be required if you are >65 years old. Please call KRHS on (03) 5997 9679 for any enquiries.

## Build a Bandicoot Backyard

### Free, Fun, Family Activity

Saturday 21st October 10.30am to 12.00noon

Bandicoots like people need a healthy place to live, love and thrive.

Bring your gloves and help us create and plant a healthy bandicoot habitat, learn about the endangered Southern Brown Bandicoots that live in Koo Wee Rup and get a dose of nature that's good for your health. See if you can spot Barbara the Bandicoot in your Community Garden. Meet us at the Hewitt Eco House 215 Rossiter Road KWR

RSVP and for more information email [info@krhs.net.au](mailto:info@krhs.net.au)

Keep an eye out for more information on our [facebook](#) page



**Kooweerup**  
 REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

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



## The establishment of the Koo Wee Rup Country Women's Association in 1929

*By Heather Arnold Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society*

The Country Women's Association (CWA) of Victoria was formed on March 12, 1928. The aims of the organisation were *to speak and act for the country women and children ... the organisation will set itself the task of improving the conditions under which women and their families live in the country, promoting social contact, encouraging the study of affairs of local government which touch intimately the home life of the people, maintaining and improving educational facilities, and securing for the country districts adequate medical and hospital facilities.*

Mrs Kerr-Paterson of Koo Wee Rup was one of the inaugural members of the CWA executive committee and the inaugural President of the Koo Wee Rup branch. This is a look at the life of Margaret Kerr-Paterson (also known as Margaret Paterson) and the Koo Wee Rup Branch of the CWA.

Margaret was the eldest child of Samuel Pope Davis and his wife Margaret Calder Thompson; they had married in 1869. Samuel was a publican, and had built the Palace Hotel in Flemington in 1882 but had previously been a jockey and he had won the 1864 Melbourne Cup on Lantern. The Melbourne Cup started in 1861 and the first two races were won by Archer, ridden both times by Johnny Cutts; the 1863 race was won by Banker, ridden by Harry Chifney, whose real name was Henry Dawes, which makes Samuel only the third jockey to win the Cup. He and Matilda had nine children - Margaret McAlpin (1871), Grace Matilda (1874), Beatrice Sherman (1875), Samuel Ernest (1878-1878), Samuel Albert (1880), Victor Newton (1882), Unnamed boy (died at one day old in 1883), George William (1885) and Oscar Calder (1887).

Their marriage was not all smooth sailing as in July 1893 Matilda charged Samuel with assault and asked for maintenance. *The Age* reported on the hearing held at the Flemington Magistrate's Court -

*Matilda Davis stated that on Wednesday last her husband asked her to go to a ball with him, but the notice was too short, and she declined. This greatly annoyed him and he went by himself. On Thursday morning, after some words, the defendant rushed at her and caught her by the throat, threatening to choke her. The barman interfered and enabled her to get away. The defendant had often previously ill-treated her, and she now desired separate maintenance, as she was afraid any longer to live with him. In answer to defendant, she denied being an habitual drunkard, and said that she never drank at all until driven to it by his ill treatment and neglect. She had not thrown things at him or tried to stab him. She informed the bench that her husband had an income of £1000 a year, and she asked for £2 weekly for maintenance.*

The barman, Alfred Hambridge, supported Matilda's evidence and the result of the hearing was the *bench, after consideration, fined Davis £5, with £3 3s. costs, for the assault, and made an order against him for £2 weekly maintenance.* Matilda died suddenly that same year, at the age of 43, on December 29, 1893 at the Palace Hotel. Her obituary said *she was very much liked by those who knew her good qualities.* Samuel died May 13, 1897 at the age of 50.

At the time of the death of her father, Margaret was 26; her sister Grace was already married, so I presume that she and her 22-year-old sister, Beatrice, looked after the younger children. On September 25, 1901 Margaret married John Smerdon, in Sydney. John Smerdon was also a publican and the time of their marriage he had the licence of the Hotel Victoria in Albert Park, which he held until September 1905; he then moved to the Greensborough Hotel, then the Duke of Wellington Hotel in Flinders Street and in April 1912 took the licence of the Cricket Club Hotel on the corner of Fitzroy and Princes Street in St Kilda. They were living there when he died November 12, 1914.

*Continued next page*

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## The establishment of the Koo Wee Rup Country Women's Association in 1929

(from previous page)

By Heather Arnold Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society

The next year in 1915, Margaret married William Kerr Paterson. His address at the time was 48 Dalgety Street in St Kilda, barely a five-minute stroll from the Hotel. William was born in Ballarat in 1876 and it appears that the couple adopted the surname of Kerr-Paterson, from his middle name and surname, and that is how Margaret was frequently referred to in the newspapers. By 1917, they had moved to Talbot, where he was the manager of the London Bank (later called the E.S & A. Bank) and in January 1920 he was transferred to the Koo Wee Rup branch.

In March 1928, as we know, Margaret was elected to the CWA Victoria Executive and in March 1929 the Koo Wee Rup Branch was formed and she was elected President. There are very few reports of the activities of the branch in the *Koo Wee Rup Sun*. The paper frequently announced that it welcomed reports of activities of various groups, so it appears that the CWA may not have supplied reports. As a matter of interest, in May 1931, Koo Wee Rup was reported to have 32 different organisations, which as the *Sun* reported, seems *incredulous*, given the size of the population.

The very first newspaper report I can find of the branch was in the *Weekly Times* of May 11, 1929 -

[CWA] Centres had been formed at Beaufort, Upper Beaconsfield, Bendigo, Broadford, Cranbourne, Crib Point, Corowa, Euroa, Flinders, Kallista, Koo-wee-rup, Macedon, Monbulk, Mortlake, Myrtleford, Rushworth, Sale, Terang, and Yarra.

On August 23, 1929, Mrs Kerr-Paterson convened a meeting at Tooradin to establish a branch there. The next month the *Weekly Times* could report on a meeting of the Koo Wee Rup CWA -

At the monthly meeting, on August 28, a discussion took place regarding the rest room. Mrs Patterson [sic] and Mrs Hewitt waited on the hall committee and obtained the use of the hall kitchen on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, from 2 till 5 o'clock. Members will take charge in turn. A stove, towels and other conveniences will be in the room for the use of visitors. The 500 tournament being very successful, it was decided to hold two more during September. A fancy-dress ball is to be held on October 8 to raise funds. Members will do the catering in order to save expense. Mrs Benston is secretary and Mrs Hewitt assistant secretary.

One of the major projects of the CWA was establishing rest rooms for women, when they visited town. Women came in off the farms, perhaps on a market day or their shopping day and they had no toilet facilities and nowhere to feed their babies, so these rest rooms were a necessity.

In November 1929 the *Weekly Times* reported again on the branch -

the CWA ball which was organised by members of the branch was a great success, and the proceeds will add considerably to the funds. On October 30 there were 22 members present at the meeting and all greatly appreciated the demonstrations on rug making and soft toys given by Mrs Colles and Miss McLean, of Upper Beaconsfield. Several new members were enrolled and more are expected shortly. The annual meeting was arranged for Thursday, November 14. Mrs C. Benston is the secretary.

The first report of the CWA in the *Koo Wee Rup Sun* which I could find was in February 1930 when they noted that the branch had donated a sack of potatoes and a case of groceries to the associations' holiday home at Black Rock. The next month, Mrs Kerr-Paterson chaired the meeting to establish a new branch at Clyde and in July, the CWA decided to give prizes for the best garden and look at securing land for a 9-hole golf course and croquet lawn.

The most informative report of the activities of the CWA was in the *Koo Wee Rup Sun* held July 30, 1930 at the Memorial Hall -

### COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION.



Original caption Some of the women who attended the conference which resulted in the formation of the Victorian Country Women's Association. Left to right: Mrs Patterson (Koo-wee-rup), Lady Masson, Lady Mitchell, and Mrs. O. Hicken (Shepparton). Inset: Miss Fitzpatrick, organising secretary of the Country Women's Association of New South Wales.

Source: *The Argus*, March 14, 1928

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/3917825>

Continued next page

## The establishment of the Koo Wee Rup Country Women's Association in 1929

(from previous page)

By Heather Arnold Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society

The hall was beautifully decorated with gum tips, heath and blue irises. Various games and competitions were held and created great merriment. Community singing was also indulged in, Mrs F. Potts rendering invaluable service by presiding at the piano. Miss Isobel Mills excellently gave two pianoforte solos.

Mrs Murray Waller, organising secretary, delivered a very educational lecture on the aims and objects of the association. She emphasised that the organisation was non-political and 'non-sectarian'; that the chief purpose in view was to teach various handicraft which would be of service in their daily life. From the teaching imparted, many members have been able to take up various occupations, and she quoted many instances where success had been achieved. The association had done a lot of good Samaritan work, but they must not look upon the organisation as a benevolent society.

Mrs Paterson in moving a vote of thanks to Mrs Waller, referred to the happiness which suffused members at seeing so many present from other branches. The principal idea of the association was to learn something with the view of imparting it to others. Mrs G. Stevens, in seconding the motion, referred to the pleasure she felt at hearing Mrs Waller. She had on other occasions heard her lecture, and had derived much help and profit from same. Mrs J. Mickle, a former resident of Kooweerup, congratulated the local branch on the good work which it was carrying out. Mrs Paterson responded, and alluded to the pleasure at seeing Mrs Mickle and others from distant parts present. The success of the gathering, she said, was due to the secretary and all members, who worked unitedly together.

Other Koo Wee Rup CWA activities in 1930 and early 1931 included an upholstery demonstration and a raffia work demonstration; they also held a stall to assist the Deaf and Dumb Institution and there was this well-attended meeting in August 1930 when -

A very enjoyable social afternoon was held by the Kooweerup branch of the Country Women's Association last Wednesday, in the Memorial Hall, Kooweerup. The hall was decorated in charming fashion with wattle, gum, violets and iris. The president, Mrs K. Paterson, and members of the committee welcomed 150 guests, including visitors from other country branches. The afternoon opened with community singing, and later the secretary of the C.W.A., Mrs. M. Waller, gave an address on the work of the association in

all parts of the world. A delightful programme of games and competitions had been arranged.

On February 14, 1931, the ever busy, Mrs Kerr-Paterson attended the inaugural meeting of the Garfield Branch of the CWA.

Continued next page

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## The establishment of the Koo Wee Rup Country Women's Association in 1929

(from previous page)

By Heather Arnold Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society

Then in the September 1931, the Kerr-Patersons left Koo Wee Rup for Dandenong, where William became an Estate Agent. There were three farewell presentations. The first one, on September 9, was hosted by the Ladies Guild at the Anglican Church. The Vicar, Reverend Dodd, *referred in excellent terms of the work Mrs Paterson had performed for the church.* Mrs Dodd then presented Margaret with a *suede motor car cushion, with initials worked thereon.*

On September 28, there was a community function at the Memorial Hall where the Kerr-Pattersons were the special guests. The first presentation was from Mr A. Eason, who on behalf of the Bank employees presented William with an attache case and Margaret with a *set of useful ornaments.* Then Dr A. Hewitt, *on behalf of the townspeople, eulogised the guests for the manner in which they had interested themselves in practically every public movement.* Cr G. Bowden, *on behalf of the district farmers, paid a tribute to the sympathy and help which they had always received from the guests ...* Mr. M. Bennett, M.L.A., *said they were extremely sorry to lose such public-spirited citizens ... they had been to the fore in all public functions and had endeavoured to advance the interests of the town and district.* Mr Bennett presented William with a handsome writing desk, also a wallet of notes and Margaret was given a *beautiful wristlet watch.*

A month later, on October 28, another function was held, this time by the Koo Wee Rup CWA. The new President, Marion McCulloch, *in eulogistical terms referred to the work performed by Mrs Paterson,* and on behalf of the members presented her with an electric kettle.

The only reference in the newspapers to the Koo Wee Rup CWA after the reports of the departure of Margaret Kerr-Paterson was from September 1932, when members attended the third birthday party of the Tooradin CWA. The branch may have continued, but I suspect that Margaret was the driving force the branch and it closed down not long after she left. As we know, there were 32 organisations in Koo Wee Rup at the time, so the women had many other options for serving the community. However, on November 9, 1944, the Koo Wee Rup CWA was reformed, but that is another story.

Margaret Kerr-Paterson continued her community service in Dandenong - she was the inaugural President of the Dandenong CWA, which was formed in May 1933 and Convenor of the Women's Voluntary National Register, the Dandenong Red Cross Auxiliary, the Dandenong Hospital Appeal committee and was the Inaugural President of the Dandenong Public Hospital Auxiliary. In recognition of the long connection with the Country Women's Association, Margaret was awarded Life membership in 1946.

Margaret died on August 26, 1954, aged 83 and William died on April 7, 1961, aged 85. Margaret's obituary described her as *a woman of fine character and a sterling citizen* and we can truly say that her efforts with the Country Women's Association made a positive and practical effect on the lives of many rural women. [I need to add that even though this post was really about Margaret and the CWA, I was just amazed and excited to find that her father had won the Melbourne Cup; it was such a surprise discovery]

A version of this story with full references can be found here <https://kooweerupswamhistory.blogspot.com/2023/09/the-establishment-of-koo-wee-rup.html>

**The Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society meets on the second Wednesday of each month at Mallow house in Rossiter Road, corner of Henry Street. The next meeting is on October 11, 2023 at 7.30pm. New members welcome. The Museum is open the second and fourth Sundays from 1.30pm until 4.00pm or by appointment. Heather Arnold [harnold@dcsi.net.au](mailto:harnold@dcsi.net.au) ☎0407 521 637.**



prominent members of the Country Women's Association of Victoria, who attended exhibition and annual meeting recently. (Back row, left to right)—Mesdames Black (Tarwin), Kerr-Paterson (Koo-wee-rup), Murray Black (Tarwin), R. Balmer (Bendigo), K. Amos (Manangatang), and Webb (Wangaratta). (Front row)—Mrs O Hicken (Shepparton), and Mrs R. G. Beggs (Beaufort)

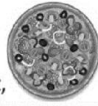
*Original caption - Prominent members of the Country Women's Association of Victoria, who attended the exhibition and annual meeting recently. (Back row left to right)— Mesdames Black (Tarwin), Kerr-Paterson (Koo-wee-rup), Murray Black (Tarwin), R. Balmer (Bendigo), K. Amos (Manangatang), and Webb (Wangaratta) (Front row)— Mrs O Hicken (Shepparton). and Mr R. G. Beggs (Beaufort)*

*Source: Weekly Times, May 2, 1931 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article223333619>*

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of October 2023 – St John’s Church, Koo Wee Rup

**50th Anniversary of the  
St Sofia Festival**

9:30 am - Mass Celebrated by Bishop Greg Bennet,  
Fr. Peter Slater, Fr. Avinash George and the St John’s Choir  
Followed by a small Procession within Church Grounds



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- ARANCINI VAN
- JUMPING CASTLE
- LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- SAUSAGE SIZZLE – AUSSIE STYLE & ITALIAN (WITH OR WITHOUT ASPARAGUS)
- PIZZA TRUCK

1973



2023



**ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 11:00am - Lunch & Cutting of the Cake   | 12:00pm - Sicilia Bella Folk Group        |
| 1:00pm - Memory Lane (rock n Roll Band) | 2:00pm - Auction, Spinning Wheel, Raffles |
| 3:00pm - Memory Lane (rock n Roll Band) | 3:45pm - Drawing of Major Raffle          |

**1st Kooweerup Scout Group**

**Christmas Tree sales**



Last weekend of November  
1st and 2nd weekend of December  
9am to 3pm

On-site Station St Kooweerup  
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OR phone: 03 5997 1879

**CFA Open Day**



CFA Open Day is a chance for you to meet your local CFA brigade and find out more about what we do.

**When:** 10am - 2pm Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October

**Where:** 10 Moody St Koo Wee Rup

**What:**

- Sausage sizzle
- Information on fire preparedness
- Demonstrations on Breathing Apparatus
- Having fun with the hoses, lights and sirens

*Come and meet  
your local brigade*



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