

3610

FREE

## MURCHISON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023 IS HISTORY MONTH  
AND SENIORS' MONTH

MURCHISON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



To mark these two notable celebrations, **Murchison Historical Society** members are organising **History Walks** around the town every Wednesday morning and Sunday afternoon during October.

**STEPPING BACK IN TIME** is a guided tour of our town, starting at the Heritage Centre, 4 Stevenson Street. You will be able to hear all about the interesting sites, buildings and events that make up Murchison unique history. The walk is over flat ground suitable for wheelchairs or walkers and last between 40 - 50 minutes. For Seniors, a shorter version called **WALK 'N TALK** is available too.

The walks finish at the Heritage Centre where you can enjoy morning or afternoon tea, and look around the gallery area where displays of many aspects of Murchison's history are on show.

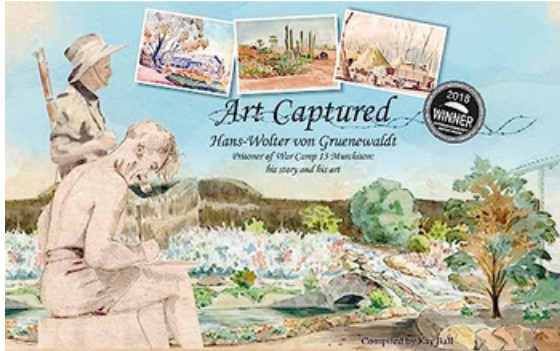
Entry is \$5 for adults, Seniors and school children are free.

**Sunday 1st of October** is the first walk, starting at 1.30pm and the next walk is on Wednesday 4th of October at 9.30am and will continue through October each Sunday and Wednesday at those times.

These walks are sponsored by Greater Shepparton City Council and volunteers from the Historical Society.

# HARDWORKING VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATE THEIR EFFORTS AT LONGLEAT WINERY

BY SHERRI SMITH-HOYER



Members of the Murchison Historical Society enjoyed a well-deserved morning tea to launch Hans Wolter van Gruenewaldt's *Art Captured* into an eBook. This now allows for easy access via Apple Books or Kindle Books.

**ART CAPTURED** is the story of Hans-Wolter von Gruenewaldt, a German Mining Engineer, who fled South Africa at the outbreak of World War 2 to avoid internment, only to be captured by the British and spend the next 6½ years as a Prisoner of War. His dramatic journey took him to the other side of the globe, miraculously surviving the sinking of the *Arandora Star* and enduring inhuman treatment aboard the *Dunera*, on his way. His Australian destination was Camp 13 Murchison, central Victoria.

Due to his artistic creativity, he left a visual legacy of 17 large murals in the township of Murchison. Many years later when his son gifted his extensive folio of artwork to the local Historical Society, the amazing scope, diversity and extraordinary talent of Hans-Wolter von Gruenewaldt was fully revealed.

The eBook captures his story and displays the wide range of his artistic skills featuring some exceptionally talented portraits, landscapes, sketches and cartoons.

**eBooks available from:**

**Kindle:**

[www.amazon.in/Art-Captured-Gruenewaldt-Prisoner-Murchison-ebook/dp/B0CBTRSXBZ](http://www.amazon.in/Art-Captured-Gruenewaldt-Prisoner-Murchison-ebook/dp/B0CBTRSXBZ)

**Apple:**

<https://books.apple.com/se/book/art-captured-hans-wolter-von-gruenewaldt/id6456885252>

## 3610 MURCHISON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER IS A PROGRAM OF NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE MURCHISON (VIC) INC.

Articles are due no later than the 17th of each month.

Publication will be the last week of each month.

Please email your article to [3610ourplace@gmail.com](mailto:3610ourplace@gmail.com)  
Subject line: Your Name/Organisation name and month of edition.

- All articles are subject to publisher and Management approval.
- Please submit in a Word document.
- Please submit Images as jpeg.
- Articles published are neither in favour or not in favour of politics.
- All articles must be submitted by the monthly deadline to be included in the next edition.

### Rates and Guide for submission.

- Community group/ Not-for-profit Organisation Local Area rates:  
Up to full page: Free
- Not-for-profit organisations from non-local area welcome. Space may be limited.
- Frontpage will be shared on a monthly basis between local Community organisations.
- For further details contact the Manager of the House at [3610ourplace@gmail.com](mailto:3610ourplace@gmail.com)

### Commercial Rates:

- Full Page: \$100
- 1/2 Page: \$50
- 1/4: \$30
- 1/8 (business card): \$15
- Annual Sponsorship - Business card size. \$250 for 12 editions.
- Annual sponsorship also includes 1 x half page article per annum with photos. For further details Contact Katrina Campbell at [3610ourplace@gmail.com](mailto:3610ourplace@gmail.com)

**Neighbourhood House Murchison**  
**23 Impey Street Murchison VIC 3610**

P: 03 5826 2373

E: [info@murchison.org.au](mailto:info@murchison.org.au)

[www.murchison.org.au](http://www.murchison.org.au)

Opening hours; 9am to 3pm Monday to Friday (excluding Thursday).



Murchison River Road Caravan Park Inc  
101 River Road Murchison Victoria

Welcomes you to [our](#)

## **Annual General Meeting**

Come along to find out about what is happening at this vital community asset.

Join us at the Railway Hotel, Murchison East

On Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, 2023

at 11:30 am. Light lunch provided.

Positions are open for community committee members. This is an exciting opportunity to be involved in local projects, be a part of a progressive and supportive team and contribute to one of our community's much needed facilities.

All welcome, please RSVP to Juliet Palmer on 0400 075 475 by Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 for catering purposes.

**Murchison Retirement Village Inc.**

*Wybalena Village'*

ABN 29 140 412 889

25-27 Impey Street, Murchison, 3610

Correspondence to: P.O. Box 29, Murchison, Victoria, 3610

Email: [wybalena23@gmail.com](mailto:wybalena23@gmail.com)

## **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of members of

**Murchison Retirement Village Inc.**

will be held on

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2023**

at 2pm

in the Community Room at

**Wybalena Village**

25-27 Impey Street

Murchison

# LOCAL AUTHOR RELEASES LONG-AWAITED BOOK "ONE HELL AT A TIME"

Local author Tracee Spiby is to launch her long-awaited book, *One Hell at a Time* at the **Shepparton RSL on Sunday, 15 October at 2 pm**. Written from the heart, it tells of her grandfather's experiences in World War 1 and provides an authentic portrayal of the harsh realities of war for a digger.

The book follows his journey from enlistment in 1915 through the stupidity of the Somme, the horror of Pozières, the blunders at Bullecourt, the mud and insanity of Passchendaele, through to the Armistice and his return home in 1919.

Renowned military historian and researcher, Lieutenant Colonel Neil Smith, will officially launch the book and the popular author, Hazel Edwards will also be speaking of Tracee's journey to publication. The event will include a reading from the book, and an opportunity to purchase signed copies.

All are welcome to attend the launch at the Shepparton RSL on Sunday, 15 October at 2 pm and learn about the incredible bravery and sacrifice of those who fought during World War 1.

For more information about the book or the launch, please contact Tracee via her website [traceespiby.com.au](http://traceespiby.com.au)

## ONE HELL AT A TIME - BOOK LAUNCH

**WHEN: SUNDAY. 15TH OCTOBER**

**WHERE: 88 WYNDHAM STREET, SHEPPARTON**



**BOOK LAUNCH**

*Never before have I read such a truthful, detailed and graphic account of life in and out of the trenches for Australian infantrymen.*  
- Lieutenant Colonel Neil C Smith, AM, retd

**One Hell at a Time**

TRACEE SPIBY

**Sunday 15th October 2023, 2PM**  
Shepparton RSL  
88 Wyndham Street, Shepparton

Launched by Lieutenant Colonel Neil Smith AM, retd  
Address by Hazel Edwards, OAM

For further information, please visit: [traceespiby.com.au](http://traceespiby.com.au)

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 Darren 0447 777 939



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 03 5824 1077  
 105 Ross St  
 Tatura, Vic

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## MURCHISON MEN'S SHED INC

INC No. A01097471; ABN 47749064930 ; ATO, DGR

10A Watson Street Murchison Vic 3610

Values: Respect, Honesty, Inclusiveness, Community Focused, Integrity

As part of this years Men's Shed Week, members welcomed visitors to an **OPEN DAY** at our shed, where we proudly promoted ourselves and offered for sale, items which had been made by members or had been donated to the shed.

Shedders from Shepparton East, Tatura, Mooroopna and Stanhope Men's Sheds, Bill Boyer and Karen Tidds from Council, Annabelle Cleeland MP from Euroa and visitors from Murchison, Tatura and Avenel also enjoyed a free sausage sizzle as well as coffee, tea and biscuits which were available all day.

The pool table which was recently donated to the shed by Margaret Lasini of Murchison was on display with a number of people giving their approval.

We have come a long way in the past 10 years, when the Murchison Planning Committee recognised that a Men's Shed would be a benefit to the community. Under the guidance of Jenny Lister, who was then the NHM manager, the group struggled with finding a clear leader and agreement about when and where to meet. We were just a few old guys, enjoying each others company and keeping ourselves occupied.

We would not have survived without the support of many in the community and we wish to acknowledge their support. The Shepparton City Council for supplying the land and the new shed. Longleat Wines, who allowed us to stay rent free in our old shed since the liquidation and until the new shed was built. The Murchison Service Station for servicing our BBQ trailer, and Stuart Craig for the signage on the BBQ trailer and the shed.

Tatura Rotary kindly donated substantial monetary support, as did the Whittaker family of Murchison, Steph Ryan from Euroa, and Anne Blashki from Shepparton. Numerous residents have supported us by supplying projects for our members to make and/or restore.





## MURCHISON MEN'S SHED INC

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Similarly organisations such as Murchison Pharmacy, Murchison CFA, Murchison-Toolamba Football Netball Club, Murchison Historical Society and the Medical Clinic have supported us with cupboards, shelving, chairs, tables, timber racking and medical benches, whilst Bunnings, SPC and Avonlea Flowers have donated tools, food items and flowers for raffle prizes.

We have also had support from the SES, Swimming Pool, RSL, Lions Club, Bowling Club working together at community Event requiring sausage sizzles.

Last but not least, to our members who have supported each other and the community through some good times and frustrating times.

For more information contact Con Scarvelis | 0421 525 665 | [murchisonmensshed@gmail.com](mailto:murchisonmensshed@gmail.com)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Wednesday 4th October** | Members lunch with chef Colin Beavis
- **Saturday 7th October** | Trial weekend opening of shed (all welcome) | 10am - 2pm
- **Saturday 21st October** | Murchison Men's Shed AGM | 10am followed by general meeting and BBQ lunch
- **Wednesday 1st November** | Members lunch with chef Dennis McCullagh
- **Wednesday 22nd November** | GV Health Presentation on bowel cancer | 11am

## CHRIST CHURCH MURCHISON WELCOMES NEW VICAR



The Anglican Parochial district of Murchison and Rushworth, Christ Church Murchison and St. Paul's Rushworth, welcome their Vicar, Father Andre du Plooy, who has moved from Kilmore (ph 0458 155 930).

Our services in Murchison are on Sundays at 11am, followed by tea or coffee, and on Thursdays at 10.30 am. Services at Rushworth are the second and fourth Sundays. The second Sunday is Holy Eucharist, and the fourth Lay Led.

Everybody is welcome.





Neighbourhood House Murchison  
The heart of our community

# Notice of Annual General Meeting

To all members, prospective members and the Murchison & District community

You are invited to the 2023 **Neighbourhood House Murchison (VIC) Inc. Annual General Meeting.**

**WHEN:** Monday, 16th October 2023 at 7pm

**WHERE:** Neighbourhood House Murchison, 23 Impey Street

**RSVP:** Monday, 9th October

03 5826 2373 | [manager@murchison.org.au](mailto:manager@murchison.org.au)

Find out what's happening in town, share your ideas and get involved in community development and action

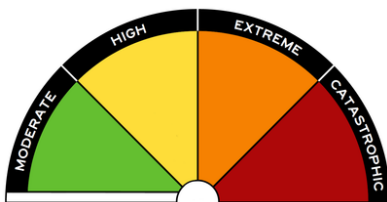
**Tea and snacks provided**



## MURCHISON FIRE BRIGADE CFA

BY BOB LANGFORD

On our Brigade Facebook and the Murchison Community Victoria page we have mentioned the change of seasons. This is the time we must consider other aspects of fire safety in addition to home fire safety, namely that of bushfire. Murchison and it's surrounds are situated in a wildfire prone area of the State and it is incumbent upon all residents whether in the urban or rural environments to take steps to minimize the risk of an outbreak of fire. PLAN and PREPARE your properties for the season, but also THINK of the affect your actions will have on others. The watchwords this season are THINK, PLAN & PREPARE. Guidance can be obtained from the CFA website [cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au). Town residents who consider burning off prior to the Fire Danger Period are recommended to contact the Shepparton Council first and check the by-laws covering this particular activity. Landholders in the rural sector are recommended to advise CFA by calling their burn off to 1800 668 511. Registering this way avoids CFA responding to sightings of smoke by turning out vehicles unnecessarily. Please remember that when these vehicles are responding to spurious smoke sightings they unavailable for emergency calls. This can affect you ! CFA Murchison has already turned out to one unregistered burn off this month as the landholder deemed it unnecessary to register. Care for your local community and do the right thing. No cost involved, just an 1800 phone call. THINK, PLAN & PREPARE!



<b>MODERATE</b> Plan and prepare	<b>HIGH</b> Be ready to act
<b>EXTREME</b> Take action now to protect life and property	<b>CATASTROPHIC</b> For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas



**SMOKE ALARMS.** CFA Murchison crews are busy throughout the town fitting smoke alarms to local residents dwellings. This is a free service. Interested residents are invited to contact my colleague Emily Guthrie at CFA Shepparton Regional Office to register for this service. Emily can be reached at ph. 0447 415 849 or via email at [emily.guthrie@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:emily.guthrie@cfa.vic.gov.au). Please note that this free service does not extend to rental properties, this is the responsibility of the Landlord. Commercial properties for instance holiday rentals or B&B are also exempt. Readers might have elderly or vulnerable family or friends living in their own homes who might benefit from a smoke alarm installation. If this is the case you can register on their behalf, but please discuss it with them first. Remember these smoke alarms are non invasive and have a guaranteed battery life of 10 years. Consider this replacement as part of your THINK, PLAN & PREPARE.

**MELBOURNE FIREFIGHTER STAIR CLIMB CHALLENGE.** A big shout out to our Brigade firefighter 3rd Lieutenant XAVIER REILLY who recently completed the challenge of climbing 28 flights of stairs in a Melbourne building dressed in full structural protective clothing and wearing breathing apparatus. Xavier completed this challenge in the respectable time of 9m09s and raised the magnificent sum of \$3,575 dollars for his nominated charities. Well done Xavier! Murchison is proud of you. Thank you to all who donated to assist Xavier's grand total. For such a small town the response was magnificent.



## MURCHISON FIRE BRIGADE CFA CONTINUED

**COMMUNITY FIRESAFE - ADVANCE NOTICE!** CFA intend to hold a town meeting on this subject on Thursday 23rd November. All members of the Community will be invited to attend. Chaired by CFA Community Engagement, all aspects of FIRESAFE will be discussed in public forum. Murchison Community will receive formal notice of this through local media in due course.

**BRIGADE GENERAL.** You may notice some CFA traffic on the roads in and around Murchison. The Brigade is participating in pre season exercises, sometimes singularly or jointly with other local Brigades and of course driver training.

Please don't forget that in the case of emergency do NOT call the Fire Station. Dial 000 and when answered clearly give your name, nature of emergency and address, and your contact number. Units will be dispatched to assist at the earliest opportunity. Stay safe!

# BOLTON ESTATE AGENTS

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BOLTON ESTATE AGENTS

IT'S TIME FOR FAMILY FUN

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Celebrating the 54th Anniversary of the  
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Viewing

10am - 12noon  
1pm - 3pm

school  
children  
**FREE**

must be  
accompanied  
by Adult

**SHOWING** Thursday, 28th September 2023  
Murchison Heritage Centre 4 Stevenson St, Murchison

Short **meteorite**  
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continuously

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# SPRINGING INTO ACTION AT THE HERITAGE CENTRE

BY KAY BALL, PRESIDENT - MURCHISON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Now it is officially Spring-time, Murchison Heritage Centre will resume regular open times from **Saturday 16th September**.

We have made a change in regard to our regular opening hours. We will now be open **Wednesdays 10am - 12pm, and Saturdays 10am to 12pm**. Entry is \$5, no charge for school children.

Over winter time while we have been in recess, Society members have been very busy reorganising our store-room and library and giving other areas a face-lift! We installed a Compactus which provides better use of space and allows a more efficient system for retrieval of items. Our volunteers have re-arranged the library to better accommodate our growing collection of local history books that are available for loan to members, and arranging family history folders and stocks of new books in an orderly fashion. It has been most rewarding to achieve these improvements.

If you belong to a club or group, consider coming to have an outing at Murchison Heritage Centre, 4 Stevenson Street - the only building in the river bank gardens.



**Groups** are very welcome outside our regular open days and times, and to book a visit simply telephone Janet - 03 5826 2363 | 0438 309 275. Details of what we provide for groups and costs involved are as follows:

**Self-guided tour of Gallery displays:** \$5.00 per person allow 30-45 Mins.

**Package A:** Self-guided tour of Gallery displays plus talk: \$10.00 per person.

**Package B:** Self-guided tour of Gallery displays, plus talk, plus morning or afternoon tea: \$15.00 per person.

**Package C:** Self-guided tour of Gallery displays, plus talk, morning or afternoon tea and town tour: \$20.00 per person. Local guide can come on board your coach and provide commentary during drive around town, or can include the cemetery and Ossario, or the site of Camp 13.

Light lunch can also be provided. Size of group: maximum of 35 is comfortable due to space in our meeting room. If group much larger, need to split the group e.g., 20 enjoy slide show and talk, while 20 browse the Gallery.

Building is airconditioned, has all abilities access, wheelchair toilet and parking adjacent. Please confirm numbers and any special requests with Janet two days before arranged visit.

Any questions just email Kay. Please note - new email address: [murch.hs@outlook.com](mailto:murch.hs@outlook.com)

## BAREFOOT BOWLS SEASON ALMOST UPON US

Spring has sprung and with it the glorious Spring weather. This must mean Barefoot Bowls season is just around the corner!

Join the Murchison Bowls Club and the broader Murchison community on Thursday evenings from 4pm for Barefoot Bowls and a BBQ dinner from 6pm for only \$10.

Great fun, great community spirit and fantastic atmosphere for all ages. Everyone is welcome.

Contact Wendy on 0419 622 909 to book.

## Murchison Bowls Club

Every Thursday night, the Murchison Bowls

Club is open for Barefoot Bowls,

Socialising and BBQ Dinner.

Starts on Thursday 5th October

Great atmosphere for all ages.

Everyone welcome.

Bowls coaching always available

Barefoot Bowls FREE starts at 4pm

BBQ Dinner \$10.00 per person starts  
6pm

Children under 12 FREE

Bookings please call Wendy 0419622909

### MURCHISON BOWLS CLUB



Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> November 10.00am

1<sup>st</sup> Race at 11am

Sweeps for all races

Meat and Salad lunch / afternoon tea

\$15.00 Adults

**MUST BOOK to save disappointment.**

**Contact Wendy to book 0419 622 909**

## JOIN THE MELBOURNE CUP CELEBRATIONS AT MURCHISON BOWLS CLUB

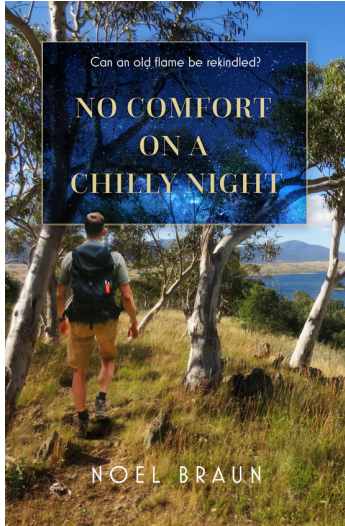
If you're looking for a great way to celebrate the Melbourne Cup and to get amongst the local Murchison community, look no further than the Melbourne Cup luncheon at the Murchison Bowls Club!

Sweeps for all races, lunch and afternoon tea for only \$15.

Tuesday, 7th November from 10am (first race at 11am). Call Wendy on 0419 622 909 to book.



## AUTHOR ENCOURAGES ADVENTURE AT ANY AGE



Noel Braun doesn't know what it means to sit still. In 2010, at 77 years of age, Noel undertook his first walk along the Camino de Santiago. Noel's experiences trekking the Camino have been the inspiration for many of his books. His latest book, *No Comfort on a Chilly Night*, is no exception.

Noel's seventh and most recent book is a romance novel focusing on relationships impacted by distance. Listen to Noel talk about his journey in writing a character who struggles to reconcile his sacrifice of love in the pursuit of career success.

Felix Schmidt is backpacking on the Camino de Santiago when he meets the love of his life, the beautiful French Pascaline. He brings her back to Australia where he joins a new firm of management consultants. Deeply engrossed in the company's growth, he neglects Pascaline. She believes his addiction has reduced him as a person, wearies of his obsessive workaholicism and returns to France.

Noel Braun commenced his working life as a country schoolteacher before moving into a corporate career, which took him from Melbourne to Perth and Sydney. He has had a lifelong passion for writing and wrote the first words of his novels fifty years ago. After a busy career and raising a family of four, he has found the time in retirement to fulfill long-held ambition to see his work in print.

Noel has published two novels: *Friend and Philosopher* and *Whistler Street*. He has published a memoir, *No Way to Behave at a Funeral* which describes his grief journey following the death by suicide of his wife Maris, and three explorations of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela: *The Day was Made for Walking*, *I Guess I'll Just Keep on Walking* and *Keep Pressing On, Brother*.

Come along to hear Noel speak and be inspired by his life of adventure and writing.

If you would like to join Noel Braun at the Murchison Heritage Centre on **Friday 27th October at 10.30am** please contact Goulburn Valley Libraries on **1300 374 765** or email **gvlibraries@gvlibraries.com.au**. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the event. If you can't make it to the event in Murchison, don't worry, Noel is also speaking at Nathalia Library on Tuesday 24th at 2.00pm, Avenel Library on Wednesday 25th at 1.30pm, Shepparton Library on Thursday 26th at 2.00pm and Tatura Library on Thursday 26th at 6.30pm.

**Bronwyn Cole | Program Co-ordinator, Goulburn Valley Libraries | 1300 374 765 | [bronwync@gvlibraries.com.au](mailto:bronwync@gvlibraries.com.au)**



# Murchison SES Unit RECRUITING NOW

**We are looking for people or the following:**

## Operational Roles

- General Rescue
- Road Rescue
- Chainsaw Operations
- Land Search
- Urban Search & Rescue
- Traffic Management



## Non-operational Roles

- Administration
- Fundraising
- Media & Public Relations
- Community Education

*Talk to one of our volunteers for more information or call / SMS Steve on 0400 509 552  
and or email [murchison@ses.vic.gov.au](mailto:murchison@ses.vic.gov.au)*



## Murchison SES Unit OPEN DAY

**Sunday 19th November  
11am - 2pm**

## Activities:

- See rescue techniques
- Car demonstration
- Displays
- Mock car rescue (RCR)
- Spreaders (jaws of life)



- FREE Sausage Sizzle
- Coffee Van
- Displays
- See Paddy the Platypus

*Talk to one of our volunteers for more information or call / SMS Steve on 0400 509 552  
and or email [murchison@ses.vic.gov.au](mailto:murchison@ses.vic.gov.au)*





## \$150K FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS

Important facility upgrades and community projects will get off the ground with funding from the Stronger Communities Program.

Grant recipients include Murchison Football Club, Rochester Football and Netball Club, Kyabram Blue Light, Goulburn Region Pre-School Association and Girgarre Facilities Committee.

Whether it be purchasing equipment, dealing with the aftermath of floods, or constructing buildings, the funds will support projects which will have a lasting impact on our communities.

This grant was oversubscribed but all projects submitted were worthy. There needs to be more for organisations to apply to and the government needs to re-introduce regionally focused funding to support the organisations that are at the heart of our towns.

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Saluting their Service - Grants of up to \$10,000 and \$150,000 are available for community and major commemorative projects that promote appreciation of the service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel. This is an opportunity for communities to develop projects that honour our heroes. Round 2 applications close October 10.

Sporting Champions Grants - Provides financial assistance for coaches, officials and competitors aged 12-18 participating in state, national or international sporting championships. If successful, applicants will receive \$500-\$750 towards the cost of attending their championships. Applications close October 31.

Active Kids Grants - The Active Kids grant program is funded by The Dickinson Foundation in partnership with the Australian Sports Foundation. It focuses on volunteer-run grassroots and community clubs and organisations with members aged 20 or younger. Clubs can apply for new sport equipment and uniforms. Applications close Friday 29 September 2023.

Free NBN for Eligible Families - Families across Nicholls may be eligible to access free broadband internet services over the NBN network through the Australian Government's School Student Broadband Initiative.

Families must have a child living at home that is enrolled in an Australian school in 2023, have no current broadband internet connection over the NBN network at their home and live in a premises where they can access the NBN network. Find out more or eligible families interested can contact my office - [sam.birrell.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:sam.birrell.mp@aph.gov.au)



# OPINION - DISAPPOINTMENT OVER MURRAY DARLING BASIN PLAN

BY SAM BIRRELL MP, FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NICHOLLS

The Murray-Darling Basin Plan legislation that was presented to Parliament on September 6 has sent shock waves through our community, and there's concern that we may lose a significant proportion of the main economic driver of our community, which is irrigation water.

The Murray-Darling Basin Plan was supported by all sides of government.

I think most right-minded people agree with the concept of taking some water away from irrigation for the Commonwealth to use for environmental purposes. We want a healthy river system, and there have been some positive outcomes from local organisations using environmental water. The question over the plan has always been how much should be taken.

So far, well over 2,000 gigalitres has been taken away from irrigation licence.

That has damaged the economy in basin communities, and it has damaged people's ability to farm. But it has been done in good faith to try to get some better environmental outcomes.

The way that the then Labor Party started to do it, which was just to buy it outright from farmers, caused incredible distress and economic damage around basin communities.

A better way of doing it was through 'on-farm irrigation efficiency'. That's where, instead of just selling the water, the farmer 'sells' the water to the government for a premium on the proviso that, the farmer must use the money for an irrigation upgrade, whether it be a centre pivot, improved flood irrigation or drip irrigation, where more crop can be grown with less water.

The plan had an extra component of 450 gigalitres.

That was a deal done with South Australia at the last minute in the plan. The figure of 450 gigalitres is huge. It equates to the annual irrigation of 50,000 to 75,000 hectares of orchard. Crucially, that 450 gigalitre amount involved a caveat that it could not be taken if it would be socio-economically damaging to basin communities. It had to be positive or neutral.

That was a very important and very well understood part of the original plan that is being trashed by this new Labor version.

Taking that water away damages society in the electorate of Nicholls and damages the economy.

Every bit of that water is used to grow something that we should be proud of, whether it's apples, pears, peaches, or dairy products, and it is so valuable because, when those things are grown, people get employed—not just the farmer who grows the produce but the people who are involved processing and packing the products, and those involved in getting that produce to market.

It could be turning milk into cheese, which is done in so many factories across the Goulburn Murray.

All of this has an amazing value. We talk about the cost of water, but we don't talk about the value of what it produces.

Labor's plan is to disregard the socioeconomic impact test, it is a retrograde step. I will fight against it.



# THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW MURCHISON MEN'S SHED

BY ANNABELLE CLEELAND MP, VICTORIAN MEMBER FOR EUROA

It was a privilege to be back in Murchison this month, attending the exciting opening ceremony for the local Men's Shed as they moved into their new home.

A power of work went into making this move a reality, and all community members deserve to be congratulated for all their tireless efforts.

Men's Sheds play such an important role in providing a welcoming place for members of our community to connect. Like all Men's Sheds, Murchison's is a place to share, talk, learn, make friends and look after each other's health and wellbeing.

Thank you to the Murchison Men's Shed for inviting me to join you for this special and well-deserved occasion. I wish you all the best in your new home and have no doubts that you will continue to provide an essential meeting point for the local community.

To the rest of the Murchison community, if you are interested in inviting me to your local events or have any issues you'd like to raise, please contact me at [annabelle.cleeland@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:annabelle.cleeland@parliament.vic.gov.au) or (03) 5762 1600.



**Annabelle  
CLEELAND MP**

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Proudly Supporting  
the Local Community

[Annabelle.cleeland@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:Annabelle.cleeland@parliament.vic.gov.au)



## Free Blood Pressure and Health Assessments

**Where:** Murchison Neighbourhood House  
23 Impey St, Murchison VIC 3610

**When:** Tuesday 3rd October 2023  
9:30am - 1pm

The CP@clinic/CP@team Program is a free health check-up. You can talk to a community health nurse about your health and well-being. All personal information will be kept private.

The CP@clinic/CP@team Program is a program of research being evaluated by Dr. Gina Agarwal, McMaster University and Dr. Evelien Spelten, La Trobe University

For more information, please call:

Primary Care Connect  
at (03) 5823 3200



Family Medicine



54 reasons

# Children's Week Festival 2023

Come and join in the fun!



## Come join the celebrations for this year's Children's Week!

We will have a **FREE** event running for the morning, with lots of activities set up for you and your children to enjoy, we will have local organisations joining in, plus some games and some free giveaways!  
Join us for a morning full of activities, laughs and **FUN!**

This event is open to **EVERYONE** we cannot wait to explore lots of different sensory activities, story time, and to meet new people from our community!

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2023  
Murchison Public Gardens – 10am - 12pm

Children's Week is a national celebration that recognises the talents, skills, achievements, and rights of children. The 2023 theme "Children have the right to relax, play and to take part in activities they enjoy" based on Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

For more information, please contact:

Tracey Oakley, Family Support Specialist  
E: [tracey.oakley@54reasons.org.au](mailto:tracey.oakley@54reasons.org.au) |  
M: 0408 713 938

[54reasons.org.au](http://54reasons.org.au)

## FIRST AID & CPR IN MURCHISON

The lovely folk from Stitches First Aid Education will be running a CPR and First Aid course face-to-face in Murchison in Term 4.

HLTAID009 - PROVIDE CPR | \$75 (2 HOURS)

HLTAID011 - PROVIDE FIRST AID (INCLUDES CPR) | \$180 (6 HOURS)



**WHEN:** 9am - 3pm | Thursday 19th October 2023

**WHERE:** Neighbourhood House Murchison | 23 Impey Street

Get in touch with the Neighbourhood House to book your place -  
03 5826 2373 | [manager@murchison.org.au](mailto:manager@murchison.org.au)



## EXERCISE CLASSES RETURN TO MURCH IN TERM 2 2023

Facilitated by **Primary Care Connect** and supported by **Neighbourhood House Murchison**, exercise classes will commence the week of **24th April 2023**.

At **Murchison Community Centre**, 10 Watson Street

ONLY **\$5** RESISTANCE TRAINING  
EVERY MONDAY 9AM

CIRCUIT TRAINING  
EVERY WEDNESDAY 9AM

Contact Primary Care Connect or the Neighbourhood House to register and to find out more.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TESTING KIT



Have you ever wondered how energy efficient your home or office is?

**Now you can find out!**

An energy efficiency kit is now available to borrow from **Neighbourhood House Murchison**. Test the energy efficiency of buildings using technology and know-how and find out where you can improve and save!

Get in touch with the Neighbourhood House to book or to find out more.

**03 5826 2373 |**  
[manager@murchison.org.au](mailto:manager@murchison.org.au)



## HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT

Housing for the Aged Action Group (HAAG) are coming to Neighbourhood House Murchison to assist with housing issues and to answer your questions.

**TUESDAY 2ND, 16TH & 30TH OCTOBER**

**10:00AM - 1:00PM**

**23 IMPEY STREET MURCHISON**

