Published By Jessie Boer Neighbourhood House



## MURCHISON COMMUNITY NEWSLET

## WHATS HAPPENING IN OUR TOWN

## **Murchison Heritage Centre**

- Back open Saturday mornings 10-12
- Group bookings please contact 0475 018 743

## The Neighbourhood House Murchison

- The Preloved shop is open Saturdays 10am-1pm
- Celebrate Seniors month from the 1st-31st October at the Neighbourhood House Murchison Mon-Fri 9am-3pm with a display of memorable photos provided by the community. A cup of hot coffee/tea can be purchased for a gold coin donation.
- 'Love Murchison' town event Saturday October 4th 11am-2pm, lots of activites
- Oaks Day High Tea at the Neighbourhood House on Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> of November

## Men's Shed

• Interested in starting a Ladie's Shed? Come down and attend the meeting at 430pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> Oct

## **CFA Open Day**

• Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of October

## **Murchison Golf Club**

• Dargalong Discovery Day at Murchison Golf Course on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> of October 10-2

## **Ribbons of Courage Morning Tea**

Support Group

 The annual morning tea raising funds to support Goulburn Valley Breast Care Support Group! 4th October at the Community Hall \$35pp Bookings are essential 0438262172







Activities for kids. Free BBQ lunch.

Presented by Waranga Catchment Landcare Collective

Save our planet by signing up to the digital version of the 3610 Murchison newsletter http://eepurl.com/h-iLCz













## Your Health, Your Voice: Murchison Women's Event in the Works

How often do we put our health on the back burner? From managing daily stress to keeping up with essential preventative checks, women's health is a journey, not a destination. Yet, many of us have questions we haven't had the chance to ask in the busyness of life.

This November, the Murchison Medical Clinic is partnering with the Murchison Country Women's Association to change that. We are excited to announce a special women's health event dedicated to open conversation, expert advice, and community support.

Scheduled for Friday, November 17th, this event will be a fantastic opportunity to learn, share, and connect with other women in our community. To ensure we cover the topics that matter most to you, we want to hear from you! What's on your mind?

Navigating menopause with more ease?

Strategies for managing mental wellness and stress?

The latest in preventative health screenings?

Building healthy habits that stick?

Send your questions and suggestions for discussion topics to reception@murchmc.com.au. Your input will help us shape an informative and engaging session.

Keep an eye on next month's newsletter for all the final details, including our special guest speakers, venue, and time. Let's make our health a priority, together

## Victoria Seniors Month 2025

Connect, Create, Celebrate with the Victoria Seniors Festival From the 1<sup>st</sup> of Oct until 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2025

- -Check out the events calendar at
- www.seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/festival
- -Free public transport from Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> Oct until Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> Oct, remember to carry your senoirs myki and Victorian Senoirs Card with you.
- -Neighbourhood House Murchison will have a walk through classic photo display from 1st-31<sup>st</sup> Oct, coffee/tea available with a gold coin donation



## **Murchison Historical Society**

## **SPRINGING INTO ACTION!**

After having a break over winter, we will be up and running from Saturday 13th September for our regular Saturday morning open times, 10am to 12pm. With Spring in sight hopefully we will have some warmer weather to bring people out and about.

Groups are always welcome at any time by arrangement outside the Saturday morning sessions. If you are

involved with a club, think about having an outing to Murchison Heritage Centre as you can be sure of an enjoyable experience. Email contact is best: murch.hs@outlook.com or telephone 0475 018 743 – leave a message or text. Members have been active over the winter recess, still cataloguing our collection and library. Revision of one of the best accounts of our local history, The Doctor, The Captain, The Poet and others, that has been out of print for some time has been another task undertaken over winter. This will be launched with much fanfare at the end of October to mark the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the Murchison and District Historical Society, more details nearer the time, so watch this space!



Photo: Anyone for tennis? Murchison tennis players circa 1900

Cheers, Kay Ball.

## CFA MURCHISON FIRE BRIGADE

## **By Bob Langford**

Here we are with another change of season which of course adds another dimension to our fire awareness, and that is the threat of wildfire. Despite recent rain showers the country is still very dry and we must continue to exercise caution. No more so than during the time leading up to the Fire Danger Period when burn off's are common and unregulated. Recently the Brigade was called to a burn off in Murchison East that had become out of control. The fire had spread from a pile of burning logs and branches into dry grass and further out from the property into roadside vegetation and was threatening a major highway. Murchison brigade had to request assistance from both Nagambie and Arcadia brigades in order to bring the situation back under control. This episode was an example of negligence and without forethought as when the brigade arrived on scene they found the burn completely unattended and with no means of extinguishment in evidence.

Remember should you wish to burn off you have an obligation to advise the authorities of your intention. This is not the same as applying for a permit during the fire danger period but merely giving advice of what you intend.

**ALWAYS** register your proposed burn off using the freecall number 1800 668 511

**NEVER** light a burn off if you have no means of controlling and extinguishing it.

**NEVER** leave a burn off unattended and do not leave until the ashes no longer represent a threat to the surrounding area.

**ALWAYS** remember that you are responsible for the consequences of a burn off which has escaped your property boundary.

**ALWAYS** be aware that in Victoria Section 11 of the Summary Offences Act 1966 makes it illegal to light a fire in the open air or leave such a fire unattended and without proper supervision. Exceptions to this are declared Total Fire Ban days or during the declared Fire Danger Period which are governed by the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 and require permits for burning off in order to prevent damage to property or endangerment of life.

**THINK** before you burn - It could become an expensive mistake!

The above incident would never have happened if the correct procedure had been followed.

## **CFA visit to Murchison Neighbourhood House.**

CFA Murchison recently visited the Neighbourhood House and met with teachers and pupils from Greater Shepparton Secondary College who were engage in a project assisting the volunteers in our Murchison Community Garden. CFA Members Bob,Bill & Ray introduced the visitors to the Murchison Tanker and gave a short talk about CFA involvement in the community, outlining it's social and operational responsibilities. Recruitment was also touched on with community service often looked upon favourably by prospective employers. Some interesting questions were answered and the students given a close quarter look at the tanker during which a number of 'selfies' were taken. Thanks to Jessie and her staff at MNH for the opportunity to be involved and of course their great hospitality.

#### **CFA 'LOVE MURCHISON'**

Come and meet us at our local event on Saturday October 4th . Look out for the red gazebo and of course the BIG RED TRUCK always a kids favourite.

## **CFA Murchison Fire Brigade 'OPEN DAY'!**

Sunday 5th October is the day that we open the Fire Station doors to the public. Come in, look around and inspect our vehicles and facilities. Talk to our members and perhaps join the lunchtime sausage sizzle and you may be lucky and catch some of the CFA Murchison Fire Brigade Junior Section at a training exercise. It isn't often we get the opportunity to do this and we are looking forward to it. Stay in touch with local media for up to date information.

Follow CFA Murchison Fire Brigade on Facebook for more information, fire safety advice and community safety issues. Become a member of MyCFA to receive regular postings on issues concerning your own personal interests. Talk about these when you visit us on 5 th October

Remember, in case of emergency do not call the fire station, we don't live there but call 000 and when answered speaking slowly and distinctly request the service you require giving a brief message and advising your name and contact details. Help will be dispatched as soon as possible.

STAY SAFE IN THIS RUN UP TO OUR FIRE DANGER PERIOD!

THE RESPONSIBILITY IS YOUR'S

## **Murchison Mens Shed**



## MURCHISON MEN'S SHED INC

INC No. <u>A01097471:ABN</u> 47749064930 ; ATO, <u>DGR</u>

10A Watson Street Murchison Vic 3610

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

Over the last six weeks, 6 of our members, Peter Cutcliffe, Dennis McCullough, Rob Cornelius, Jim Reisenberg, Con Scarvelis and Graeme Ryland have participated in the Food Redi program, a Community Health Program organised by GV Health coaches Candice Bianchini and Shelley McFadzean. Each Tuesday, a different member was chosen to be head chef, and a different recipe was selected to cook from beginning to end, using a team approach. All the participating members including the health coaches sat at the table for a wholesome meal. The program included educational topics such as food safety, storage, portion sizes, food groups, home made vs takeaway, ingredient lists, nutrition panels, sugary drinks vs water. We were fortunate to have local MPs, Sam Birrell and Annabelle Cleeland visit us unexpectedly on one of the Tuesdays for a photo shoot. Coming Events:

Saturday 27th September Watch the AFL Grand Final at the Men's Shed BYO drinks, pies sausage rolls available

Wednesday 1st October Men's Shed Gathering at Murchison Men's Shed 11.00am to 2.00 pm coffee, tea and lunch supplied. New members welcome

Saturday 4th October Love Murchison at the Football Oval Hot dog stall 11.00am to 2.00 pm

Wednesday 8th October Meeting to gauge community interest in Ladies' Shed at the Men's Shed 4.30 pm

Saturday 18th October Land Care at the Murchison Golf Club Sausage Sizzle 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

Wednesday 5th November Lunch at Men's shed Chef to be confirmed

Sunday 16th November Garage sale at the Men's Shed, All Welcome sausage sizzle available

Sunday 7th December Christmas Carols at the Murchison Gardens 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm

Saturday 13th December Christmas Dinner at Tatura Hotel 6.30 pm

Meanwhile our Murchison Men's Shed "OPEN" banner will be on display on Watson Street when ever we are open, so come to the Men's Shed , meet and chat with the guys. New members are always welcome For more information contact Con Scarvelis (Secretary) on 0421525665 or Dennis McCullagh (President) on 0428148210



## NOTICE:

LADIES,

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN STARTING A LADIES' SHED?

The Murchison Men's Shed committee will be holding a meeting at the Shed at 4.30pm Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2025 to gauge community interest.

**Interested Ladies???** 

Come along to the meeting.

Sponsored by MURCHISON MEN'S SHED Inc.

Murchison Bowls Club would like to say

# Thank you



We now have a brand new Oven at our Bowls Club.

Purchased from proceeds of the Friday Meat Tray
Raffle at the (East). On behalf of the Murchison
Bowls Club, thank you for your support!!!! Thank
you to our sponsors Railway Hotel & Brads
Magic Meats for making this possible.





## MURCHISON BOWLS CLUB



Tuesday the 4th November 10.00 am

1st 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

## **Murchison Bowls Club**

**Every Thursday night, the Murchison Bowls** 

Club is open for Barefoot Bowls, Socialising and Dinner.

Starts on Thursday 9th October 2024

\$50 Meat







Great atmosphere for all ages.

Everyone welcome.

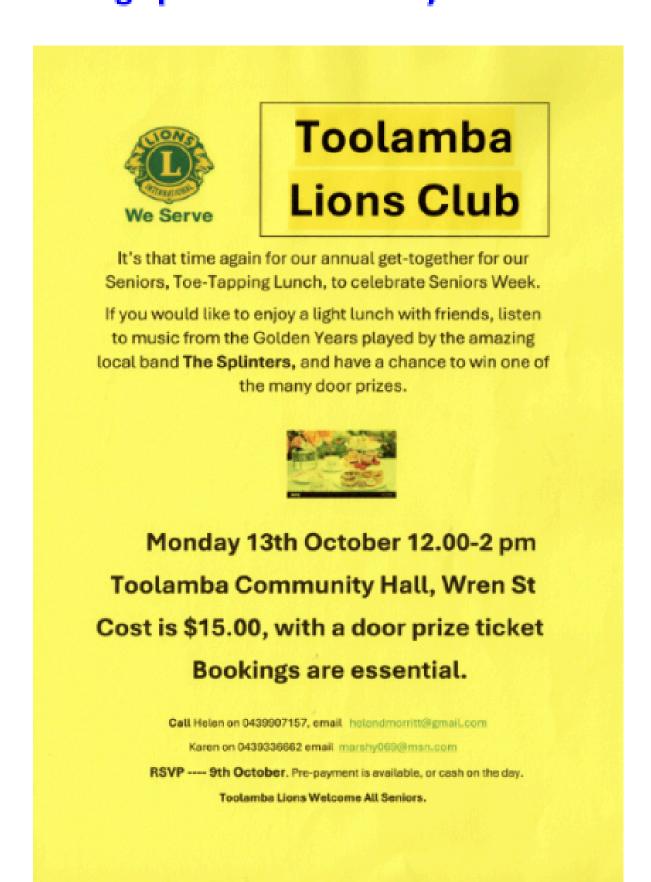
Bowls coaching always available

Barefoot Bowls FREE starts at 4pm

Dinner \$10.00 per person starts 6pm

Children under 12 FREE

## Bookings please call Wendy 0419622909





The Neighbourhood House Murchison will be closed from Monday the 22nd September and reopen on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> October (No St Vincent De Paul support on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> September)

(No lunches or programs during the school holidays)

## Join us for Water Week

National Water Week 2025 is a vibrant celebration of water, and we are proud to lead the way in engaging communities in understanding its importance. Through a series of creative, hands-on events, we want to continue to help people value, understand, and use water wisely.

This year's main event, Let's Grow: Waterwise Gardens, will be held on Wednesday 22 October, starting at 7pm at Eastbank in Shepparton. Landscape architect Louise Costa and native plant expert Cathy Olive will inspire residents to transform their yards into beautiful, waterwise outdoor spaces. People who register early to attend the seminar will be able to collect a waterwise garden pack, including our new gardening handbook. The seminar will also be livestreamed for people who want to learn more but can't get to the event in person.

On Thursday 23 October, we will be part of Water Night, a national initiative encouraging households to turn off nonessential water taps for five hours. Supported by Costa Georgiadis for the fifth year running the online event continues to grow. Reaching over 4.2 million people, more than 15,000 individuals signed up in 2024.

This year, participants will be invited to nominate the sporting club, school, business or community group they're connected to, allowing us to celebrate those in our region who are leading the way in understanding more about water and promoting water-saving.

We will also engage thousands of students through our Schools Toilet Paper Wrap Competition, which asks kids to design the wrap that holds toilet paper rolls together. This year's competition reinforces the Don't Flush It message and the 3Ps (what to flush) - pee, poo and (toilet) paper - not only sparking creativity, but deepening students' understanding of the wastewater process. Winning designs will be announced during Water Week and celebrated across our platforms. This year's Water Week will be celebrated as well as lived, with every initiative reinforcing the importance of water and community-wide action. You can register for Let's Grow: https://riverlinksvenues.com.au/whats-on/event details/!/calendar/event/lets-grow-25

## **Save Water: Every Drop Counts**

With recent dry seasonal conditions and lower than usual water storage levels we asked people in Euroa, Violet Town and Mansfield to be especially mindful of their water use. Both Euroa and Violet Town had Stage 2 water restrictions in place from May - July, and with higher-than-average water use in Mansfield, we also asked the townspeople to be aware of their water use. Thanks everyone for making every drop count where you can.

We all need to take action to protect our precious water supplies and we'll be sharing the Save Water right across the region as we move into spring and summer. Using water wisely not only help us maintain the supply of drinking water, it helps the environment and can also save you money.

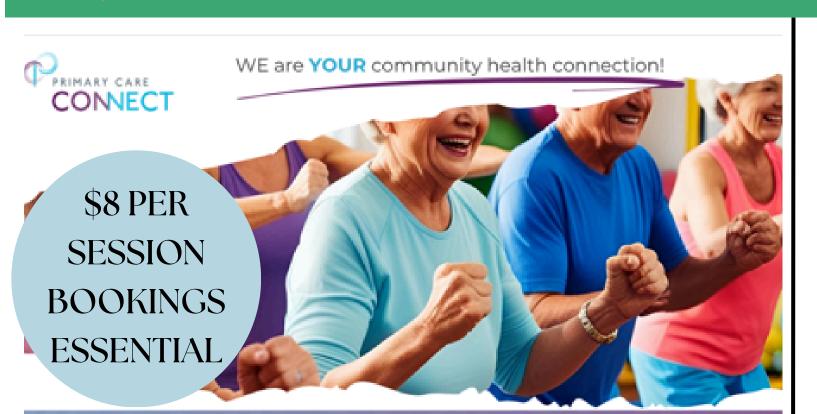
We've created a Save Water webpage to help you understand your water use and find practical ways to reduce it. You'll find tips for your home and garden, a water use calculator, and the Permanent Water Saving Rules, which apply all year round. There are simple things we can all do - fixing leaks, taking shorter showers, and being smarter with how and when we water gardens. The webpage also includes videos to help you make easy changes and check your home for hidden water waste.

Every drop counts. Let's be waterwise together.

Visit gvwater.vic.gov.au/savewater to learn more.







# IRCUIT CL

## Primary Care Connect is bringing **OUR GYM** directly to the Murchison community!

Primary Care Connects Circuit Class consists of structured exercises completed as a group by alternating from one exercise to another. Sessions focus on increasing whole body muscular strength and endurance, overall fitness, and improving movement and mobility. Our Circuit Classes are suitable for people of all ages and fitness!



**Murchison Community Hall** 10 Watson street, Murchison



Free Blood Pressure & Health Assessments (Adults 18+)

## HEALTH HUBS MURCHISON **Murchison Neighborhood House**

23 Impey St, Murchison VIC 3610

## **HEALTH HUB DATES**

<b>Monday 13</b>	<b>Monday 27</b>	<b>Monday 10</b>
<b>October 2025</b>	<b>October 2025</b>	<b>November 2025</b>
9:00am <b>-</b> 11:00am	9:00am <b>-</b> 11:00am	9:00am <b>-</b> 11:00am
<b>Monday 24</b> <b>November 2025</b> 9:00am <b>-</b> 11:00am	<b>Monday 8 December 2025</b> 9:00am <b>-</b> 11:00am	

The CP@clinic is a free health check-up. You can talk to a paramedic and/or nurse about your health and wellbeing needs and concerns. All personal information will be kept private.

For more information about CP@Clinic, please call: Primary Care Connect at (03) 5823 3200 to speak to our friendly Consumer Care Team.









Family Medicine







# KEEP OUR POOL OPEN

**Murchison Community Swimming Pool** is calling for HELP!

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR POOL OPEN

## Can you help with any of the following:

- · Sell meat raffle tickets at The East on a friday night
- Help on a working bee for pre open spruce up
- Work in the Kiosk
- Help with event set ups
- Share ideas to help us make money to stay open
- Help tend a stall
- Be part of our teeny tiny committee and share ideas
- Come to our meeting for moral support



**Next pool meeting** 25th September, 6pm at Historical Society

Contact Jackie 0411 106 096



## WE ARE HIRING

- Kiosk Staff
- Junior Lifeguards
- Senior Lifeguards

Looking for a fun filled Summer Job? Join the Murchison Swimming Pool

A great opportunity for employment in our community. We have many open positions; Kiosk attendant, Junior Lifeguards aged 16+ and Senior Lifeguards who are aged 18+

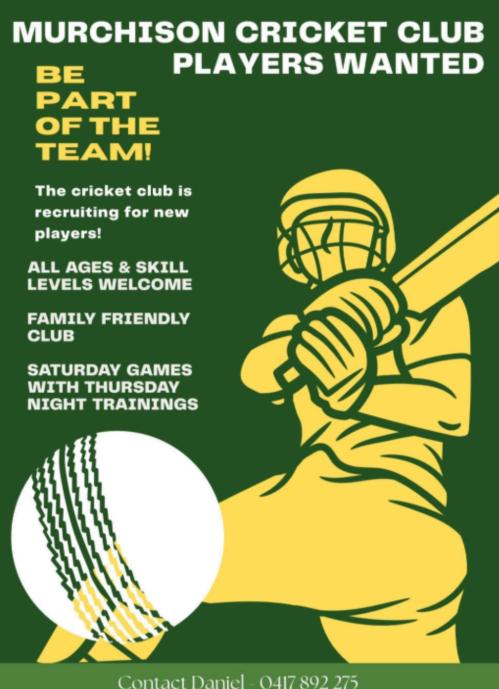
**NEW open hours** Season 2025/26

Mon - Fri 4pm - 6:30pm

Sat - Sun 1.30pm - 6:30pm

To find out more and apply please contact

murchisonswimmingpool@gmail.com or call Leanne 0458561095



3610 Murchison Community Newsletter is a program of

Neighbourhood House Murchison (Vic) Inc.

#### Articles are due no later than the 14th of each month.

Publication will be the last week of each month.

Please email your article to 3610ourplace@gmail.com

Subject line: Your Name/Organisation name

- All articles are subject to publisher/ 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 3610ourplace@gmail.com

#### **Commercial Monthly Rates:**

Full Page: \$70 1/2 Page: \$40 1/4: \$25

1/8 (business card): \$15

#### Annual Sponsorship:

Business card size.

\$150 for 12 editions.

Annual sponsorship also includes

1x half page article per annum with photos.

For further details Contact Jessie Boer at

3610ourplace@gmail.com

Ph: 58262373

Monday to Friday 9am-3pm

# LOCAL ADVERTS



lwb.org.au/foster-care

Scan to find out more.

Murchison Medical Clinic

21 Impey St, Murchison

Mon to Fri 830am - 530pm

PH: 5826 2575







Facebook

**UISIT WWW.MURCHISON.ORG.AU** 





**Community Bank Rushworth & District** 

**Bendigo Bank** 

#### **Become a volunteer**

To register your interest in becoming a volunteer with VICSES, scan the QR code, or visit:

ses.vic.gov.au/joinus.



**Neighbourhood House** Murchison offers food relief Monday to Friday 9am-3pm at 23 Impey St We replenish goods every Tuesday at midday Please see the Manager or volunteers for nonjudgemental assistance





Support at Murchison **Neighbourhood House every** Friday 2pm-3pm



St Vincent de Paul Society VICTORIA





GREATER





SHEPPARTON

WYBALENA RETIREMENT VILLAGE

> 25-27 IMPEY ST MURCHISON

Your Friendly local community

focused Retirement Village'

Lee Gardiner 0438 464 913

Stan McMaster 0416 052 885

Marg McMaster 0417 262 213

## LOCAL SERVICES DIRECTORY





0400 620 204



0494 150 922 colmsmowing@gmail.com colmsmowing.com.au



## **Longleat Wines**

105 Old Weir Rd Murchison Open Sat/Sun 10-5 Wine-coffee/cake-meals

Bookings: 0421602520 Email: info@murchisonwines.com.au murchisonwines.com.au

## Murchison Bakery & TEAROOMS

39 Stevenson Street Murchison Vic 3610

OPEN 7 DAYS (03) 5826 2336



Murchison **Post Office Monday to Friday** 9am to 5pm 51 Stevenson St Ph: 58262219

## **BOLTON** ESTATE AGENTS

If you're thinking of selling your property.

**Please call Chris Bolton on** 0413 092 698

Murchison's only local **Estate Agent** 



 TREE REMOVALS
 TREE PRUNING STUMP GRINDING •

24/7 EMERGENCY TREE CARE

JAKE CARRICK

45 Stevenson St, Murchison Mon to Fri 9am-5pm PH: <u>5826 2208</u>





Controlled Heating, Cooling & Plumbing

0408 333 484



**Murchison Supa Valu Centre** 33 Stevenson St, Murchison PH: 5826 2246 Open 7 days a week Mon-Thur 8am-4pm, Fri 8am-530pm, Sat & Sun 8am-4pm



www.avonleaflowers.com.au



**Solar PV systems for Domestic, Business and Commercial** Ph: (03) 58262513 email: info@gvce.com.au www.gvce.com.au



4895 Goulburn Valley Highway **Murchison East** P.O. Box 64, VIC, 3610

**MILOS & PERSIDA VUKCEVIC** 

Phone: 5826 2267

FUELS · OILS · AUTO GAS · TYRES





## Neighbourhood House Murchison (Vic) 2025 Annual Program Guide

Open Monday to Friday | 9am - 3pm

(Please note: Programs/Activites don't operate during school holidays or public holidays)

Our purpose: To nurture inclusive, welcoming, and safe spaces where every member of the Murchison and District community can engage in diverse activities, build meaningful connections, and feel a true sense of belonging

## PRELOVED SHOP

## Murchison Preloved Shop

Monday to Friday | 9am - 3pm Preloved goods at very low prices Clothing, Toys, Kitchen goods, etc.

## Community Book Store

Monday to Friday | 9am - 3pm Great quality books at low prices

## SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

#### Food Share Program

Monday to Friday | 9am - 3pm Donation | Replenished every week

## FREE Fruit & Vegetable Exchange

Help yourself to Fruit & Vegies ( Donate:

Monday to Friday | 9am - 3pm

### Community Meals

Every Monday & Wednesday 12pm - 1pm | 2 Courses | \$8 Per Serve Enjoy a lovely home cooked meal along with other members of the community Everyone is welcome

#### Coffee Hub

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday | 9am - Ilam \$5 Coffee & a home made sweet or \$3 for just a coffee or tea

## NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE SERVICES

- Commercial Kitchen Hire
- -Room Hire
- Private Office Hire

Please contact the Neighbourhood House Manager for availability and prices on 58242373

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

## ST VINCENT DE PAUL SUPPORT

Every Friday | 2pm - 3pm | FREE

## Community Computer

Computer Available & WIFI | FREE Monday to Friday | 9am-3pm Printing, Photocopying, Scanning | Fee's apply

### Laundry Services Available

Washing | Drying \$3 Per Wash or Dry

### 3610 Community Newsletter

Published Monthly | Contact the Neighbourhood House Manager if you'd like to help on 58262373

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

## Housing for the Aged Action Group

Providing housing assistance to seniors who need help

## Primary Care Connect Paramedic Program

Free health assessments, blood pressure checks, diabetes checks

#### Community Calendar of Events

Neighbourhood House Murchison plans multiple events for all members of the Community to join such as Fund Raising Activities, Town Events, Christmas Carols and more To get involved or to find out whats happening please speak to the Neighbourhood House Manager on 58262373

#### Got an Idea!!!

Please reach out to the Neighbourhood House Manager to share your idea or to start up a Community Activity on 58262373

## **HEALTH & WELLBEING**

## Murchison Walking Group

Tuesday & Thursday | 9:30am FREE | Departs from the Neighbourhood House

### Community Garden

Wednesday 9am - 11am | FREE 19 Impey St, Murchison Embrace the community spirit by helping to create a garden to be shared by all

## Murchison Gardening Group

4th Wednesday of the month SI Per Person

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

#### Murchison Readers Group

Last Friday of the month 10am - Ilam | \$2 Per Person Enjoy the pleasure of each others company while discussing books

## Sewing Group

Friday | Ilam - 2pm | \$2 Per Person BYO Anyone is welcome to join

#### Art and Craft Group

Monday | 10am - 2pm | S2 Per Person Create your very own masterpiece.

## SKILLS AND TRAINING

### IT Support

Wednesdays | Fortnightly 930am - 230pm | Gold coin donation Bring your own device

### Skill Building Workshops

Workshops are planned monthly and published through communication channels, social media and flyers























23 Impey Street, Murchison

Ph: 03 5826 2373

E: manager@murchison.org.au Web: www.murchison.org.au



## <u>CFA volunteers deserve respect,</u> <u>not red tape</u>

The Nationals' Member for Euroa, Annabelle Cleeland, has called for CFA volunteers to be provided with paper copies of the rebate application form for Labor's cruel \$3 billion Emergency Services Tax. Speaking in Parliament, Ms Cleeland said the current online-only system was shutting out many local CFA members who either lacked reliable internet access or the digital literacy required to complete the complicated application. "Many of our CFA volunteers are being asked to jump through unreasonable hoops just to access a rebate they were promised," Ms Cleeland said. "They should not have to battle red tape on top of their tireless service to our communities." Calling on both the Minister for Government Services and the Minister for Emergency Services, Ms Cleeland said the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund was already adding enormous financial pressure to people across the region. "The government's promise of a rebate has done little to ease the burden, with the convoluted application process leaving many frustrated and unable to claim the support they were entitled to," Ms Cleeland said. "CFA brigade leaders and administrators have also been left without the tools or guidance to support their members, compounding the difficulties faced by our dedicated volunteers." Ms Cleeland said despite the pain being caused by the increased tax, very little of the money was reaching emergency services. "Compared to 2023/24, overall CFA funding is down \$42 million," Ms Cleeland said. "Just \$13.5 million statewide has been allocated for regional CFA station upgrades, and not a single new tanker is listed in the forward estimates. "Meanwhile, Fire Rescue Victoria funding has been cut by \$115 million, and the SES — which Labor repeatedly used to justify the tax — has been reduced by \$8.4 million. "This tax is more than happy to rip millions from our regional communities but is failing to actually benefit our emergency services in need desperate need of support." Ms Cleeland also pointed to the latest Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria survey, which showed more than 2,000 CFA volunteers felt undervalued and ignored by the Allan Labor Government. "If this government is serious about supporting CFA volunteers, they need to act now and make this application process genuinely accessible," Ms Cleeland said. "Providing a simple, paper-based option is the very least this government can do."



## <u>The productivity round table – here's the problem.</u>

The Labor government's touted productivity roundtable seemed like a stunt to create an impression that one of the critical challenges faced by Australia – our falling productivity – was in fact being addressed. Many of us gave it the benefit of the doubt, because you have to discuss these issues, and having business leaders in a dialogue with our leaders. It was good that Shadow Treasurer Ted O'Brien was there and able to intervene in a Jim Chalmers bout of self-congratulations on the economy that bore little resemblance to reality. But here is the problem – Labor under Albanese and Chalmers is fundamentally an anti-productivity government. It is obsessed with wealth redistribution, crony capitalism and the welfare state. It is dictated to by unions, and these dictations have found their way into legislation that makes us less competitive and less productive. Energy policy was barely discussed at the roundtable, as though everyone accepts that the transition is going swimmingly, and that cheap and affordable power will just continue as we move from the 24/7 generation of coal and gas to the intermittent nature of renewables. Anyone seriously looking at the grid and assessing the successes and failures of other nations in their energy transition would see the flaws in this. This particular energy transition is one of the biggest economic gambles Australia has ever embarked on, and the probability and consequence of getting it wrong is too horrific to contemplate. Government ministers seem to put the viability and competitiveness of business (particularly small business) last on their list of priorities when drafting legislation. This is evident in the regrettable changes to the Murray-Darling Basin Plan and in the new industrial relations laws, which have hit small businesses hard with a mountain of regulation. In addition, Labor is on a spending spree, with diminishing economic activity to pay back the debt in the future. According to research published by the Centre for Independent Studies (CIS) in July 2025, more than half of Australian voters rely on the government for their main income, through publicsector wages, welfare payments, or subsidies. The Institute of Public Affairs found that between August 2022 and August 2024, 82.1 per cent of new persons employed were in the public sector. It's not to say that people who work in the public service (in many cases) don't provide a valuable service, but an economy based on taxpayer-funded jobs is a house of cards. Tax was discussed, but there seems to be little appetite for real reform – and efforts by the previous coalition government to address the productivity-killing phenomenon of bracket creep were reversed by Labor. They have no plans that I can see to reform tax in a meaningful way – just crazy grabs for money like the unrealised superannuation capital gain fiasco. What does it all mean? Well, on this pathway we are in managed decline as a nation, and that means a decline in our living standards and opportunities for our next generations. A bold government with vision and understanding of what drives the economy needs to come in and fix this trajectory, and Albanese and Chalmers' incarnation of Labor is clearly, by its own rhetoric and actions, not that.



## <u>Labor trashes farmers' rights with support</u> <u>from Animal Justice Party and Greens</u>

The Allan Labor Government has stripped farmers and landowners of their property rights so power lines can be forcibly built on their private property. Liberal Member for Northern Victoria Wendy Lovell spoke yesterday during the debate on the National Electricity (Victoria) Amendment (VicGrid Stage 2 Reform) Bill 2025, slamming the Labor government for its draconian legislation that gives officials the power to use reasonable force to enter land deemed necessary for the construction of electricity transmission towers across large swathes of the state. Labor, with the support of Member for Northern Victoria Georgie Purcell of the Animal Justice Party, the Greens, and the Legalise Cannabis Party, rammed through legislation last night that not only gives officials power to enter land without consent, but also gives them authorisation to cut locks and break open gates when undertaking involuntary entry onto properties, and threatens massive penalties of up to \$12,210 for farmers and landowners who resist. The Government also refused to provide detailed costings of the Victorian Transmission Plan to refute the \$28 billion estimate made by Professor Bruce Mountain of the Victoria Energy Policy Centre at Victoria University. The Liberals secured an amendment to the bill, preventing the Treasurer's attempted cash grab by removing the ability of the Treasurer to divert money from the community benefit fund into Consolidated Revenue to cover cost blow-outs for metropolitan projects. However, Labor supported a Greens amendment that will allow the Government to take money from the community benefit fund, and instead put it towards "biodiversity" programs. The Greens, together with Georgie Purcell from the Animal Justice Party, and the Legalise Cannabis Party, also blocked Liberal amendments to remove the coercive entry powers and punitive fines from the bill, and supported the Labor government to pass the draconian legislation. Comments attributable to Liberal Member for Northern Victoria Wendy Lovell: "This draconian legislation proves Labor's contempt for regional communities in Victoria. Farmers and landowners have become the victims of Labor's ideological obsession with forcing through a rushed transition to renewable energy." "In government, the Liberals will repeal this legislation, and give back rural people the rights they have lost under Labor. We will reintroduce a 2km buffer zone between homes and wind turbines, and give regional Victorians a voice by bringing back the right of appeal against these projects."

## **Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell MLC**

**Member for Northern Victoria Region** 



# Tyrrell continues better roads campaign, seeks work on Murchison-Tatura Road

Member for Northern Victoria Region Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell has sought a commitment from the Minister for Roads and Road Safety to fully repair the Murchison-Tatura Road, also known as Ross Street in the Tatura township, from the outskirts of Murchison to the intersection with Hogan Street.

In a constituency question in State Parliament to Minister Melissa Horne, Ms Tyrrell said she had recently been contacted by a constituent regarding the poor condition of the road and in response drove the 17km stretch of road to inspect its condition for herself.

Ms Tyrrell said the entire section of the Murchison-Tatura Rd and Ross Street to the intersection with Hogan Street was in an unacceptable condition and needed to be repaired as soon as possible.

"It would be easier to count the sections of the Murchison-Tatura Rd that don't need immediate attention rather than the sections that do," Ms Tyrrell said.

"The entire road is littered with dangerous potholes, deep rutting and crumbling surfaces that make it dangerous for all motorists."

In her contribution, Ms Tyrrell highlighted specific sections of the road that needed immediate attention just within the Tatura township, including at the Hogan Street roundabout, at the Casey and O'Toole intersections and outside the Tatura racecourse.

"Ross St and Murchison-Tatura Road is used by a large number of motorists each day, including heavy vehicles transporting produce to Melbourne from regional towns such and Kyabram and Tongala," Ms Tyrrell said.

"This entire section of road, from the Hogan Street intersection to the outskirts of the Murchison, is in a deplorable state and I seek a commitment from Minister Horne that she will ensure a total repair commences as soon as possible."