

3610

FREE

MURCHISON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL 2024

Murchison Community we wish to advise this year's Good Friday Appeal Collection will be conducted in a new format. We won't be door knocking individual homes; however, we will be available to receive your generous donations at the following points on Good Friday.

Murchison Fire Station - 9 Robinson St

- Supa-Valu Centre – Stephenson St (under verandah)
- Billy's Coffee Van – Stephenson St (Historical Society carpark)

We have an EFTPOS Machine available this year for your convenience or you can donate using the QR Code (above).

If you need any assistance with how or where you can donate this year, please contact Annie 0418 322 769.

Please Give That They May Grow!

This year we are conducting a raffle which will be drawn on Good Friday all proceeds will be going to the Good Friday Appeal; tickets will be available at the 3 collection points – Tickets will be \$1 each.



Also, this year we will be offering a Morning Tea from 9.30am – 11.30am the proceeds from the Morning Tea will go towards the Good Friday Appeal 2024. The cost will be \$10.00 per person for your choice of Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate and a plate of slices, sandwiches etc. Please come along and support this extremely valuable cause and meet our dedicated volunteers. There will also be an opportunity for children to have their photo taken with Freddie Fire Truck (Photo taken by yourself).

We are more than happy to show you around our facilities at the Murchison Fire Station, if you would like more information on becoming a volunteer, please speak to any of our members. On behalf of the Good Friday Appeal Volunteers, we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy Easter!

VISUAL ART WORKSHOPS COMING SOON TO MURCHISON

Do You Remember? Drawn From Memory.

Visual art workshops coming soon to Murchison....

Image to be provided.

Gorram Falls by Philip Hickingbotham. Image courtesy of the artist.

Play, Relax, Learn

The Murchison Community Plan Committee (MCP) has obtained funding from Greater Shepparton City Council's Community Matching Grant to run four community ART workshops in Murchison. These workshops are for people who would like to explore their personal and town's history, have fun and learn from skilled artists.



All workshops are suitable for beginners and more experienced people. There are four workshops running, two painting based and two textile art based. All materials will be provided.

Each workshop cost \$20 per session. Maximum of 12 participants per workshop. Initially we are taking bookings for one workshop session per person. More places may arise subject to availability.

For more information book via Trybooking here: <https://www.trybooking.com/CQBNZ>

Or contact megan.hill54@yahoo.com.au

Workshop Artist Date, time, venue

Workshop 1- Landscapes Philip Hickingbotham

4th May 1-4 pm

Murchison Community Centre

Workshop 2 - Still life Philip Hickingbotham 11th May 1-4 pm

Murchison Community Centre

Workshop 3 - Textile Create Artist Book Kerry Handwerk 18th May 10-3.45 pm.

Murchison Community Centre

BYO lunch

Workshop 4- Textile/ Mixed Media. This Is Made of Memories Judith Roberts 25th May 10-3.45 pm

Murchison Community Centre

BYO lunch

VISUAL ART WORKSHOPS COMING SOON TO MURCHISON

CONTINUED

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VISUAL ART WORKSHOPS COMING SOON TO MURCHISON

CONTINUED

About the Workshops

Workshop 1 Paint a Landscape with Philip Hickingbotham

Learn about and experiment with acrylic paint on canvas to paint an outdoor scene! What makes a place memorable? Drawing upon your creativity and imagination, paint a local landscape that is in some way special or unusual. Please bring along a photograph or drawing for inspiration.

Workshop 2 Still Life Painting with Philip Hickingbotham

Learn about and experiment with gouache to create a still life on artist quality paper. Some things are with us forever! Paint a still life from real objects, using a range of techniques to approach painting. Bring along a personal object that you may like to paint.

About Philip

Philip was raised in Kyabram and obtained a Bachelor of Graphic Design and Diploma of Education from La Trobe University Bendigo. Philip has been a professional artist for 10 years and teaches art locally.

Workshop 3- Drawn from Memory – Artist Book Workshop with Kerry Handwerk

In this workshop, we will use new and old materials to create two small artist books, an Origami Picture Book and a Concertina Story Book that are drawn from the past and acknowledge the present. Please bring along some of your favorite things - papers, photos, ephemera (concert tickets, doodles, travel brochures, etc) - to personalize your pieces.

About Kerry

Kerry is a Shepparton-based textile, print and mixed media artist, who has exhibited regularly in group shows in regional Victoria in the last ten years - most notably with Shepparton Textile Artists (STA). She has also had successful solo and joint exhibitions, in Echuca and Kyabram.

Workshop 4: This Is Made of Memories – Textile/Mixed Media Workshop with Judith Roberts

In this workshop we will create a layered, textural, mixed media fabric that can be applied to a canvas or wrapped around a jar. Re-claimed fabrics and papers will be used. But to make your art special bring along small items that are personally significant (i.e. scraps of fabric and paper, maps, tickets, buttons, twigs).

About Judith

Judith has been active in the Shepparton textile art scene for over fifteen years. Participating regularly in group exhibitions with Shepparton Textile Artists, she has also mounted successful solo and joint shows in Kyabram and Echuca.

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
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

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

Neighbourhood House Murchison 23 Impey Street Murchison VIC 3610

P: 03 5826 2373

E: info@murchison.org.au

www.murchison.org.au

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

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For more information, please contact

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Marg McMaster 0417 262 213

Lee Gardiner 0438 464 913

09/06/2023

Volunteers Needed



Neighbourhood House Murchison is seeking **volunteers** to help deliver programs and connect with the Murchison community. It's great fun, great experience and a great opportunity to get involved in community action and development.

We currently need assistance in the **Op Shop & Bookstore**, in the kitchen helping prepare **Community Meals** and in collating, editing and publishing the **3610 Murchison Community Newsletter**.

Also, if you have an idea about an activity or hobby group you'd like to have in town please get in touch.

Contact Louis on **5823 2373** or at **manager@murchison.org.au** if you're interested.






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MURCHISON FIRE BRIGADE CFA

BY BOB LANGFORD

As we move slowly into Autumn one of the questions often asked us at CFA is 'when are fire restrictions going to be lifted? The answer to that question is that at the time of writing we do not know. The change of season often brings a relaxation of regulations however this year because of the extremely dry late summer period, elevated temperatures and vegetation growth the FIRE DANGER PERIOD IS STILL IN FORCE and likely to remain in force until after the Easter holiday period.

The CFA have extensive and helpful guidelines on the subject of fire safety during the FDP so please visit the CFA Website 'Can I or Can't I' for this information. Hard copies to take away can be found in the local Murchison shops and Post Office. Good information, and free!

Please note that lighting a fire in the open air during a Fire Danger Period without a permit is an offence and can bring a hefty penalty.

For Agricultural Grass and Stubble only burns permits under Schedule 13 MAY be issued after application. Such permits are issued subject to strict compliance with certain laid down procedures and arrangements and Farmers wishing to make application for a permit are encouraged to apply via Fire Permits Victoria at firepermits.vic.gov.au.

CFA Murchison, despite the relatively quiet summer and the absence of major incidents in our region, are still concerned about the number of grass/paddock/scrub fires we are called out to attend. Often, we discover an incident started by the use of machinery in inappropriate weather conditions and sometimes without means to extinguish a resulting fire. Please remember to plan accordingly and ask if in doubt. It is basic common sense. Reading and using the information provided in the CFA publication 'Can I or Can't I' is easier than explaining to a Magistrate.

The Brigade has been busy on all fronts of fire and accident-related activity across both the Murchison area and support to other Brigades requiring assistance in the management and control of emergency situations.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT VOLUNTEERING WITH CFA ?

Looking for Community Service with a sense of adventure and comradeship in an Equal Opportunity Environment?

There are basic entry requirements, but if interested drop into the Fire Station in Robinson Street Murchison on a Sunday morning and have a no obligation chat with some of our cheerful crew or stop them on the street. You may know them by sight, live closely or recognise them at social venues. Just ask, they will be pleased to help. You may be surprised to learn that there are opportunities other than operational firefighting duties, for instance in brigade support, fundraising, community liaison and equipment maintenance to name a few.

Come and see us. Find out whether you have what it takes to be part of a tight knit team engaged in a Community Service.



MURCHISON FIRE BRIGADE CFA

BY BOB LANGFORD

Some Brigade personnel news: We welcome back Firefighter Brian Beard who has returned to the Brigade after taking time out for personal reasons. Brian's personality and experience will once again be an asset to the team.

Congratulations to our female members Bec Catania and Amelie Moncrox who have recently graduated from the CFA drivers educational program and whom will be a welcome addition to our Tanker drivers pool. Well done ladies ! Together with Bill Beard's return our number of certified drivers is well on the increase.

Please remember that in case of emergency do not call or attend the Fire Station. We don't live there, and the station is often unattended with Volunteers on call. Instead please dial 000 and when answered ask for the Emergency Service required. Speak slowly and distinctly giving your name, contact number and a description of the incident. Help will be despatched immediately.

Please stay safe, especially over the Easter break. Please support the CFA Good Friday Childrens Hospital Appeal. Our Brigade organisational team will have full details available in another part of this months 3610.

What has Murchison Fire Brigade been up to since our last bulletin ? Well we have been quietly busy but thankful for a relatively quiet summer period where major incidents have been in the minority in our region. Incidents such as grass and tree fires due to lightning strikes, machinery and shed fires, car fires



A couple of our 4 wheeled casualties this month !

BREAKING NEWS**NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE MURCHISON ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH 3610 MURCHISON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**

If you're intersted in writing, photography, editing, designing or publishing - or just want to be more involved in the community - we need your help.

Please contact Murchison Neighbourhood house on [03 5826 2373](tel:0358262373) or at manager@murchison.org.au to find out more.



Community Meal

Share a meal with other members of the Murchison community.

Mondays and Wednesdays at 12pm.

Everyone welcome!

ONLY

\$5

For a delicious
2 course meal
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Murchison Community Meals is a Program of
Neighbourhood House Murchison (VIC) Inc.

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Neighbourhood House Murchison



Neighbourhood House Murchison
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THE VERY INTRIGUING VERRI STORY

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

THE VERY INTRIGUING VERRI STORY

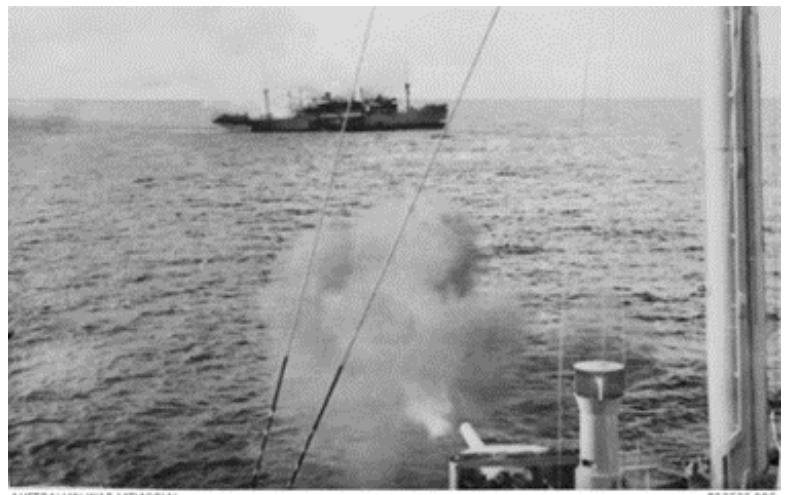
The history surrounding Prisoner of War (POW) Camp 13 Murchison, is a significant part of Murchison's history and when it was functioning during World War 2, had considerable impact on the local population and town. Enquiries about Camp 13 via emails to Murchison Historical Society and contact on our web-site, are nearly as popular as the interest shown in the Murchison meteorite! Camp 13 Murchison was the largest purpose-built POW camp in Australia and was headquarters and point of control for all the POW camps across the nation. It was able to accommodate 4000 prisoners and over time held German, Italian and Japanese military personnel and merchant seamen. A recent visit from descendants of an Italian gentleman who was a POW in the Camp has revealed even more interesting history of those who spent years in Camp 13.

An Italian, Dante Giovanni VERRI, had a dramatic arrival in Australia in June 1940, and, as he had been captured only 2 days after Italy entered the War, he was to spend 6 ½ years of captivity in Australia and endure a great number of moves from one Camp to another.

Dante was a Baker on the Italian passenger liner SS Romolo, a ship used to transport migrants to Australia. Once Italy entered into WW2 on 10th of June 1940, HMAS Manoora, an armed merchant cruiser that was patrolling the Australian coastline, was ordered to capture her as the ship was considered a desirable prize. The Romolo had fled the port of Brisbane a few days before and was heading north east with Manoora in pursuit. Romolo's Captain was ordered to scuttle the ship rather than be captured. Life boats were lowered over the side and crew set fire to the engine rooms. With smoke billowing from the listing ship, Manoora fired the 6-inch gun to hasten the demise of the ship. This was the first Australian Naval engagement with the enemy in World War 2. No lives were lost as the Manoora rescued the passengers and crew, who disembarked at Townsville.



SIGHTING OF ROMOLO



MANOORA FIRES ON THE ROMOLO

THE VERY INTRIGUING VERRI STORY

CONTINUED

Being civilians, they were classified as Enemy Aliens to be placed under guard with Internees who were residents of Australia but because they were of German or Italian descent, considered a threat to Australian security. They were accommodated in large vacant buildings such as old goals and mansions. As time went on numbers grew and with Military prisoners being shipped to Australia as well needing accommodation, purpose-built Camps were erected across the country.



RESCUE OF CREW AND PASSENGERS

Dante was 43 years old at the time of his rescue from the Romolo. He came from the village of Castelletto d'Orba, Alessandria, Northern Italy. He was married to Anna and they had 2 sons. He was at first held in Army Barracks at Gaythorne, Brisbane, then over the years spent time in Hay (NSW), Loveday (SA), and in Victoria at East Whorouly near Myrtleford, and Camp 13 Murchison. It is unclear why he was moved around so much; maybe it could have been that his skills as a Baker were in demand. His family report that he did not write one letter home to Alessandria in all the time he was in Australia. He signs his name on official documents quite clearly, so it was unlikely he was illiterate but perhaps just not a letter writer. In 1941, Merchant Seamen were re-classified from Enemy Aliens to Prisoners of War, which would explain some of his moves, as POW's were generally held in different camps to Civilians. As a POW he could receive better financial support.

Dante was repatriated to Italy in December 1946 on the ship Moreton Bay, the reason for the delay from the end of the War to that point in time, was the shortage of suitable ships.

The Verri family who visited Murchison recently related that when Dante walked into the family home, Gianfranco, Dante's son, who was 7 years old, did not recognise him as he had only been a baby when he last saw his father. Gianfranco had thought that his brother, who was 13 years older than him, was his father. That first meeting made a deep impression on Gianfranco, and he still has a strong mental picture of his father standing in the doorway wearing a red woollen coat. This coat would have been the Australian army issue 'great coat' - dyed a burgundy colour to identify POW's. It would have been very necessary as he arrived in Italy mid-winter, after leaving Murchison in the Summer.

THE VERY INTRIGUING VERRI STORY

CONTINUED



CARTOON DRAWING BY VON GRUENEWALDT, SHOWING THE ARMY ISSUE 'GREAT COAT' DIED BURGUNDY TO IDENTIFY POWs

It was a delight to meet 3 generations of this family, to share with them our local history about the World War 2 Camps in our area, to supply some more information about the experience Dante would have gone through and to learn his personal story.

An interesting post-script: Dante's son, Gianfranco was also a seaman and met his wife Rosemary, an American, on board a ship and they now live in Boston, USA. Their daughter, Giovanna met her husband, Spiro, of Greek ancestry while travelling around the world and they now live in Sydney. Their two lovely daughters, Giulia and Valentina accompanied their parents and grandparents on their family history journey.

After leaving the Murchison Heritage Centre, the family drove to the site of Camp 13 to view some of the remnants that can be seen from the road and the next day visited Myrtleford, to meet with locals and learn about POW Camp 5 at East Whorouly Camp Dante spent 3 years of his Australian captivity.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: ROSEMARY, GIULA, GIOVANNA, VALENTINA, GIANFRANCO, SPIRO WITH KAY BALL (IN FRONT) AT MURCHISON HERITAGE CENTRE



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*



MURCHISON MEN'S SHED INC

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NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

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OR JUST TURN UP ON A WEDNESDAY BETWEEN 10.00 AM AND 3.00 PM!

Furphy Literary Awards 2024

Furphy Foundation, Latrobe University and Goulburn Valley Libraries, are encouraging young people from across the Goulburn Valley to share a story for the Furphy Literary Awards.

Entries are now open for the junior and youth categories comprising of Junior Short Story, Junior Poetry for writers 12 years and under, and for writers aged 13-17 years, Youth Short Story and Youth Poetry.

Entries close on Friday 31 May 2024 at 11.59pm.

For more information - <https://www.furphyliteraryaward.com.au/junioryouth>

Cultural Diversity Week - 18 - 24 March

Cultural Diversity Week is a celebration of the state's diverse and powerful multicultural communities and gives us all an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the different backgrounds which make up our community.

There are plenty of opportunities to join in the fun and celebrations in Greater Shepparton:

EVENT	ADDRESS	HOST	CONTACT
Matinee Movie at the Shepparton Library: A true story of Dame Whina Cooper, Māori leader who fought to improve the rights of her people.	Shepparton Library 41-43 Marungi St, Shepparton	Goulburn Valley Libraries	Bronwyn Cole - 1300 374 765 ext 4 bronwync@gvlibraries.com.au <i>Please call or email to book.</i>
Sample Shepp & GV: A bite-sized taste of the culturally diverse and inspiring region	Greater Shepparton Visitor Centre 530 Wyndham St, Shepparton	Greater Shepparton Visitor Centre	Maree Glasson - 5832 9330 maree.glasson@shepparton.vic.gov.au
Weaving Stories: Write, draw, or colour on your weaving square.	All Goulburn Valley Libraries	Goulburn Valley Libraries	Bronwyn Cole - 1300 374 765 ext 4 bronwync@gvlibraries.com.au
Tatura Library Cultural Diversity Quiz: Enter to win a prize voucher.	Tatura Library 12-16 Casey St, Tatura	Goulburn Valley Libraries	Bronwyn Cole - 1300 374 765 ext 4 bronwync@gvlibraries.com.au
Dookie Campus Tour & DiGS Information Session	University of Melbourne, Dookie Campus 940 Dookie-Nalinga Rd, Dookie	University of Melbourne	Kate Radevski - 0447 215 845 kate.radevski@unimelb.edu.au <i>Please call or email to book.</i>
Multicultural Community Lunch: Dishes from other countries celebrating diversity.	290 Archer Street, Shepparton 3630	South Shepparton Community Centre	Melanie Domaschensch - 03 5821 6172 manager@southcom.org.au <i>Please call or email to book.</i>
Harmony Day at GOTAFE with Latrobe: Open to students and people from diverse communities with an interest in further study	GOTAFE Fryers St Campus 152-200 Fryers St	La Trobe University	Bianca Lelliott - 0431 709 424 b.elliott@latrobe.edu.au
Australia My Home: Albanian film event at the Shepparton Library	Shepparton Library 41-43 Marungi St, Shepparton	Goulburn Valley Libraries	Bronwyn Cole - 1300 374 765 ext 4 bronwync@gvlibraries.com.au <i>Please call or email to book.</i>
Sashiko for beginners at the Mooroopna Library: A fun, simple, needlework activity.	Mooroopna Library 9-11 Morrell St, Mooroopna	Goulburn Valley Libraries	Bronwyn Cole - 1300 374 765 ext 4 bronwync@gvlibraries.com.au <i>Please call or email to book.</i>
Harmony Day: Celebrate Australia's Diversity.	Shepparton Golf Club 15 Golf Drive, Shepparton	Voices for Harmony	Camuran Albanoi - 0421 743 699 camuran.Albanoi@gvhealth.org.au
Journey to African Stories: Author Ras Ato speaks about his book, plus traditional stories, games, music and more.	Shepparton Library 41-43 Marungi St, Shepparton	Goulburn Valley Libraries	Bronwyn Cole - 1300 374 765 ext 4 bronwync@gvlibraries.com.au <i>Please call or email to book.</i>
HOLI - Festival of Colours: Exchange colour powders with friends and family.	Ferrari Park Mooroopna	Greater Shepparton Napelese Community	Bishal Kunwar - 0402 317 434 bishalkunwar59@gmail.com

JACK LOWRY MEMORIAL SHIELD

An annual bowls Memorial tournament conducted at the Tatura Bowls Club in memory of former club member Jack Lowry and played since 2001, concluded last weekend with this years' winners filling the last spot on the honour board shield. The event attracted 16 triples teams from around the Goulburn Valley with a combined Mooroopna team of skip Debbie Dunkley and Dean Andrews joining with Murchison's Robert Smith to take out the honours, beating in a count back the only other three game winners being Hill Top's Mark Bentley, Trevor Downie and Rod Madill.

The shield recognises Jack Lowry, a former Tatura Bowls member who was highly valued at the club and was also a hard working and dedicated community member in the Dhurringile and Tatura districts. A councillor in the former Shire of Rodney Jack was also the Shire President when he opened the "new" Tatura Bowls Club in 1969.

With the temperatures looking to be in the high 30's, President Keith Smith and the match committee rescheduled to a 10 am start and played the three games straight through to beat the heat. All players then enjoyed a wonderful spread of sandwiches and cakes generously provided by members and guests.

Coming event: Open Two bowls triples, 1pm Sunday 7th April. Charity event with all proceeds to the Tatura Hospital. ... John Crilly



Photo: winners Dean Andrews, Debbie Dunkley(S), and Robert Smith with sponsor and Jack Lowry's daughter Helen Newton.

Photo: Jack Lowry opening the "new" Tatura Bowls Club building in 1969



Federal Member for Nicholls, Sam Birrell MP has slammed an advertisement authorised by the Australian Government attempting to justify the destructive water buybacks legislated by the Albanese Government.

Mr Birrell said the video advertisement, which is currently running in Nicholls, uses emotive language and doomsday scenarios to attempt to justify the Labor Government's plan to harm regional communities through water buybacks as part of the new Murray Darling Basin Plan. "This advertisement is simplistic, deluded, misleading, partisan and intends to justify the destruction of agriculture in Australia," Mr Birrell said.

"This advertising campaign smacks of a partisan political advertisement not the work of a body that should be focused on science. "It's sad that an organisation that once did have some credibility is now conducting itself in this way," he said. Mr Birrell said the advertisement is offensive to regional communities who will be impacted by water buybacks. "Labor's new plan for water will increase costs for producers and manufacturers, impact jobs and the economic prosperity of Murray Darling Basin communities," Mr Birrell said. "Murray Darling Basin communities grow fresh clean food for Australia and the world which drives economic growth for our Nation.

"Instead of celebrating the regions, this Labor Government continues to make it harder for regional and rural Australians to do what they do best," he said.

Please see below transcript of video as well as link to advertisement.

Transcript - The Murray-Darling rivers pump life through our nation.

To our farms, communities, and environment.

But water's being overused. And the next drought is only a matter of time.

We have to make sure there's enough water, otherwise the rivers may run dry.

If we don't act, it could threaten our iconic Aussie plants and animals, our food supply, and affect the drinking water of more than 3 million Australians.

Find out how the Australian Government's plan will restore the Murray-Darling rivers. Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra.

Ute Tax Makes No Sense

Federal Member for Nicholls, Sam Birrell MP, says the Albanese Government's family car and ute tax makes no sense and the Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen is struggling to explain it.

Mr Birrell asked the Minister in Parliament about the limitations of the LDV electric ute which has a maximum range of 300 kilometres, but fully loaded up, travels just 150 kilometres.

"Minister Bowen responded by quoting an out-of-date article to trumpet that the electric LDV ET60 ute was cheaper than its diesel twin but only in New Zealand which has vehicle efficiency standards," Mr Birrell said.

"Importantly, Mr Bowen confirmed that internal combustion utes are more expensive, but what he failed to say was that New Zealand scrapped its unfair 'ute tax' in December 2023."

NZ Transport Minister Simeon Brown dumped the Clean Car scheme saying that it "...provided subsidies for people purchasing electric vehicles while taxing hardworking farmers and tradies who have little choice about the type of vehicle they need for work, is inequitable and fiscally irresponsible."

"Even though the electric ute was subsidised and discounted further in 'clean car clearout' sales before the unfair policy was repealed, just 219 new electric utes were registered in NZ in 2023," Mr Birrell said.

"The Ford Ranger was the top selling vehicle in NZ for the ninth consecutive year despite a 14 per cent drop in sales because of the additional tax applied under the Clean Car scheme."

"The electric ute was cheaper because it was subsidised - the diesel twin was more expensive because it was taxed higher - and New Zealand woke up to the folly of a ute tax."

"Despite the New Zealand experience the Albanese Government is hellbent on applying the same unfair tax on families, tradies and farmers under its fuel emissions standards," Mr Birrell said.

Australia's top three best-selling vehicles in 2023 were utes, with each facing a carbon penalty of up to \$17,950 for the Ford Ranger, \$14,490 for the Toyota Hi-lux and \$13,830 for the Isuzu D-Max respectively by 2029 under Labor's proposal.

"I'm a supporter of the uptake of electric where they are appropriate and a form of fuel efficiency standards, however, it can't come at the expense of people whom an EV is not appropriate for because of the work they do or where they live," Mr Birrell said.

"Thousands of people in my electorate need these vehicles to perform their work and they will be forced to pay a high price to replace their vehicle simply because there is no viable alternative."

Annabelle Cleeland meets with Murchison Primary School and local CFA brigade. It has been a pleasure being able to spend time in Murchison in the last month and meet with community groups, schools, emergency services, and locals to hear about what is important to them. As I met Murchison Primary School's new student leaders, I knew our future would be in good hands. I had the honour of presenting badges to some amazing young people as they pledged to be kind, humble, and listen to their peers. Congratulations to School Captains Stella and Wally, Waranga House Captains Zara and Matilda, Goulburn House Captains Lexie and Hayden, and Junior School Councillors Isla, Mabel, Bella, Monique, Levi, Lachie, Annabelle & Samuel!



**Annabelle
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Afterwards, I worked with the year 6 cohort to hold a mock parliament, giving all the students an opportunity to write their own members' statements. I heard about so many issues from our regional roads destroying mum and dad's car, to frustratingly slow road works and an ugly and underdeveloped skatepark. While in Murchison, I also had the opportunity to meet with the local CFA brigade. Unfortunately, our government seems to have misunderstood the crucial role our volunteers play in creating safe and resilient communities. We've seen shocking restructures, insufficient funding, and ineffective sharing of the fire levy that has left brigades constantly rattling cans to meet their needs. Our volunteers should be provided the best infrastructure and assets we can afford. Our amazing local volunteers drop everything to support their neighbours and region on the most difficult of days. They should be supported with investment and assets to ensure their work can be done efficiently, effectively and they can continue to keep us safe.

I will continue to advocate for our regional communities and the courageous volunteers that keep us all safe in the face of danger. Thank you to everyone in the Murchison community who were so welcoming of me on my most recent visit and I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Annabelle Cleeland MP,
Member for Euroa



March 2024

Lovell calls for long overdue Greater Shepparton bus review

The state Labor government's 2021 Bus Plan is failing to deliver for residents of the Greater Shepparton area.

It has been 15 years since the bus network in Greater Shepparton was last reviewed, and growth in the municipality means that a new review is long overdue.

Other regional towns are having their bus networks updated, but Shepparton has been forgotten.

In parliament this week Wendy Lovell, Liberal Member for Northern Victoria, called on the Minister for Public and Active Transport to initiate a review of current bus services within the Greater Shepparton area, paying attention to the frequency, location, accessibility, and consistency of services.

Regional towns are growing, and public transport services must grow with them to ensure that all groups within the community are able to participate in social life. Youth, the elderly, and people with a disability, often don't have access to a motor vehicle and face social exclusion without public transport options that meet their needs.

Mooroopna, Tatura, and other small towns in the area suffer from sparse and infrequent bus services that limit the ability of residents to come into Shepparton for medical treatment or shopping, and similarly limit tourism from Shepparton into the surrounding towns.

Severely restricted weekend services mean that some residents are forced to walk long distances to their centres of religious worship on Saturday or Sunday.



"It's clear that the bus network in the Greater Shepparton region does not adequately cater for the area's growing and diverse community", said Ms Lovell.

"When the State Government released its 2021 Bus Plan, Labor declared that it was committed to delivering bus services that better match public transport needs.

"The Minister needs to back up that statement by conducting a proper review of the Greater Shepparton bus network."

HAPPY EASTER

NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE MURCHISON AND THE OP SHOP WILL BE CLOSING FOR ONE WEEK FROM 3PM ON 28TH OF MARCH 2024 TO SPEND EASTER WITH OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES.

THE OP SHOP WILL BE OPEN AGAIN 9AM ON MONDAY 8TH OF APRIL 2024. ALL PROGRAMS WILL BE BACK IN TERM 2. EXCITING NEW PROGRAMS- LEARN TO KNIT A BEANIE - FRIDAYS FROM 11AM UNTIL 2.00PM. COFFEE HUB WILL ALSO BE STARTING UP ON TUESDAY MORNINGS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL.



Neighbourhood House Murchison
The heart of our community

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.

WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH 2024

10:00AM - 1:00PM

23 IMPEY STREET MURCHISON

