

SEPTEMBER 2025

Published By
Jessie Boer
Neighbourhood House

3610

FREE

MURCHISON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

WHATS HAPPENING IN OUR TOWN

Murchison Heritage Centre is in recess for the season.
For group bookings please ring Janet 5826 2363.

The Neighbourhood House Murchison

- The Preloved shop is open on 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 and art work for sale created by volunteers. 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 activities
- **Oaks Day High Tea** at the Neighbourhood House on Thursday the 6th of November

The Men's Shed

- Tuesdays 12th, 19th, 26th August FoodRedi Program. 11 am – 1.00 pm
- Saturday 23rd August Annual General Meeting
- Wednesday 3rd September Lunch with Chef Dennis at 12 pm

Murchison Golf Club

- Dargalong Cup on the 31st of August



MURCHISON GOLF CLUB

DARGALONG CUP

31 August

4BBB to Par \$50 per pair

And in conjunction

MURCHISON CUP

4BBB Stableford Ladies \$50 per pair

10.00 for 10.30 am hit off both events, with afternoon tea.

Entries: murchisongolf@gmail.com or contact Jeff Huddle 0488463100. Please supply your name, club, Golf Australia Number and whether you will be using a golf cart.

Payment by EFTPOS or cash on day



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



MURCHISON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE IS LOCATED ON THE LANDS OF THE NGURAI-ILLUM PEOPLE AND WE ACKNOWLEDGE THEM AS TRADITIONAL OWNERS. WE ALSO PAY OUR RESPECTS TO THEIR ELDERS, PAST AND PRESENT, AND ABORIGINAL ELDERS OF OTHER COMMUNITIES.



Chronic Condition Care Just Became More Accessible at Murchison Medical Clinic

Living well with ongoing health conditions like diabetes, heart disease, arthritis, or asthma relies on regular support from your GP team. We're pleased to share that recent changes to chronic condition management plans in Australia mean more patients in our community may now qualify for fully covered (bulk-billed) appointments specifically designed for managing long-term health needs.

What This Means for You:

- 1. Expanded Eligibility:** If you have a chronic condition (lasting 6 months or more, as determined by your GP) but previously didn't qualify for bulk-billed chronic disease management appointments, you might now be eligible. This change removes a barrier, helping more people access essential ongoing care.
- 2. Seamless, Consistent Care:** At Murchison Medical Clinic, where most appointments are bulk-billed, this expansion means even more patients can see their regular GP consistently for chronic condition management. This continuity is crucial for effective monitoring, timely treatment adjustments, and preventing complications – all focused on your long-term wellbeing.
- 3. Potential for Broader Support:** Qualifying under these updated plans may also unlock access to Medicare rebates for vital allied health services like podiatry, physiotherapy, or osteopathy, forming a more comprehensive care team for you.

Navigating the Changes Together:

While this policy aims to broaden patient access (a goal we fully support), it also involves significant changes to how chronic care planning is funded across all clinics. At Murchison Medical Clinic, our priority remains your health. We've always invested in strong systems to proactively manage chronic conditions with regular reviews and coordinated care – exactly the kind of care these plans are designed to support.

We view this expansion of eligibility as a positive step for patient access. We're committed to absorbing these funding changes while ensuring:

- No disruption to the high-quality, proactive chronic disease management you expect from us.
- Continued focus on providing the time and attention needed for effective care planning.
- More patients can benefit from fully covered, regular care and potential allied health support.

Why Book Your Chronic Condition Review Now?

Our team of 6 doctors and 4 nurses is ready to help you understand these updates and ensure your care plan is optimised:

- **Confirm Your Eligibility:** Unsure if your condition qualifies under the new criteria? Let's discuss it.
- **Personalised Plan Review/Development:** Whether starting fresh or updating an existing plan, we'll tailor it to your needs.
- **Continuity with Your GP:** Seeing your regular doctor ensures deep understanding of your health journey.
- **Beyond Chronic Care:** We also offer FREE health checks for patients aged 45-49, 75+, and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander patients.

Ready to focus on your long-term health?

Book your appointment easily:

- ◆◆ Online: Use our HotDoc booking system
- ◆◆ Via Facebook: Message us or book through our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/murchmed>
- ◆◆ Phone: Call us on 5826 2575

And you can visit us at the Love Murchison Event on Saturday the 4th Oct. We can answer any questions about chronic condition management, preventive health and the wide range of services provided at MMC.

At Murchison Medical Clinic, we believe accessible, proactive healthcare is the foundation of a thriving community. We're here to partner with you in managing your health, now and into the future.



Murchison Historical Society

Murchison's First Nation History

All the students from Murchison Primary School recently visited Murchison Heritage Centre to learn about our local indigenous history - the Ngurai-illum Nation who lived in this area for many thousands of years.

The children asked great questions and added their own comments when we explored the lifestyle of the First Nation as they lived in harmony with their environment, using only natural items found in their surroundings.

We discussed their food sources, shelter and clothing, canoe transport, implements, weapons and tools. We had some items on show that the children were very interested in: a hand carved boomerang, a woomera (a spear throwing implement), a coolamon (wooden curved carrying tray), spear, grinding rocks and sharp rocks for cutting. A real specimen of a preserved fresh water crayfish caught in the Goulburn that would have been nourishing food for the Clan really intrigued the students.

Some lovely samples of Aboriginal art and weaving were passed around the group as well.

After time together at the Heritage Centre, the students walked down to the site of the Protectorate.

We also discussed positive aspects of interactions locally between the new arrivals and the long-term residents. No violent episodes are recorded to have taken place in our district.

In 1840 the Goulburn River Protectorate Station was established at the site that later became the township of Murchison. The intention of the Protectorate System was to protect the Aboriginal inhabitants from the negative impacts of white settlers moving into the country they had occupied for thousands of years, particularly the brutal behaviours that had been occurring in Tasmania. George Augustus Robinson appealed to influential people in Britain that there had to be a better way to manage the situation. As a result, the Protectorate System, with Robinson in charge, was put in place across Victoria ahead of wide spread European settlement. Stations were located near the present-day sites of Melbourne, Healesville, Daylesford and Murchison to provide for their needs. The Station at Murchison operated until 1853.

The Aborigines Protection Board was then set up and caring locals continued to take an interest in their welfare.

In 1854 the area was surveyed, allotments selling quickly at an auction that same year and so the Village of Murchison was established.

We look forward to further sessions with the school as we learn more about the rich indigenous history that exists in the Murchison area.

Kay Ball, Murchison and District Historical Society Inc.



Above: Benny liked looking at the rock art.



Above: Hugh checked out the boomerang.



Above: The children walked down to the site of the Protectorate.

MURCHISON
HERITAGE CENTRE

Murchison & District Historical Society
4 Stevenson Street, Murchison PO Box 98, Murchison 3610

**Regular open times of the Heritage Centre
are in recess until mid-September**

We apologise for any inconvenience

All enquires please contact:
murch.hs@outlook.com
murchisonhistoricalsociety.wordpress.com
Group bookings: Janet - 5826 2363

Thank You

Murchison Mens Shed



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

Our recreation room and mezzanine floor at the shed has now been completed with builder Peter Bromley and his offsider putting finishing touches to the kitchen, and installing the windows and doors.

Gyprock sheeting has been installed to the walls and ceiling by Greg and Tyler Ritchie, and the painting completed by Liam Tito. All the electicals have been fitted by Justelec and the TV antenna installed by Bo Harrison.

The council has inspected and passed the build, so the "Wal Harrison Recreation Room" and "Alan Munro Kitchen" are now up and running, with the pool table ready for action.

On the 16th July 10 of our members and 2 partners successfully completed the First Aid and CPR training course conducted by the Stitches First Aid training Group and received their 1st aid certificates.

The indoor market, organised by the Neighbourhood House Murchison, was very well attended by community residents and we were pleased to support the event by having a sausage sizzle stall.

Peter, Rob, Dennis and Con went to the VMSSA road show at the greyhound rooms last Wednesday week, which was attended by over 120 shedders representing nearly 40 men's sheds, from Albury to Bendigo, Stanhope to Euroa, and everything in between .It was quite an informative day starting with breakfast at 8.30am, with morning tea and lunch also supplied. We received a \$100.00 voucher from Bunnings,as a prize for 2 of the best sheds.

Starting on Tuesday 12th August, the Murchison Men's Shed will be paying for six of our members to participate in the Food Redi program , a Community Health Program organised by GV Health over the next six weeks. This is a first for Men's Sheds. The program will include educational topics such as food safety, storage, portion sizes, food groups, home made vs takeaway, ingredient lists, nutrition panels, sugary drinks vs water. Each week a different recipe will be selected to cook from beginning to end, using a team approach,with one member as head chef. All the participating members will then sit at the table to share the meal and review.

Coming Events:

- Tuesdays 12th, 19th, 26th August FoodRedi Program. 11 am – 1.00 pm
- Wednesday 20th August Lunch with Chef Ian 12.00 noon
- Saturday 23rd August Annual General Meeting
- Wednesday 3rd September Lunch with Chef Dennis
- Tuesdays 2nd, 9th ,16th September FoodRedi Program 11 am-1.00 pm

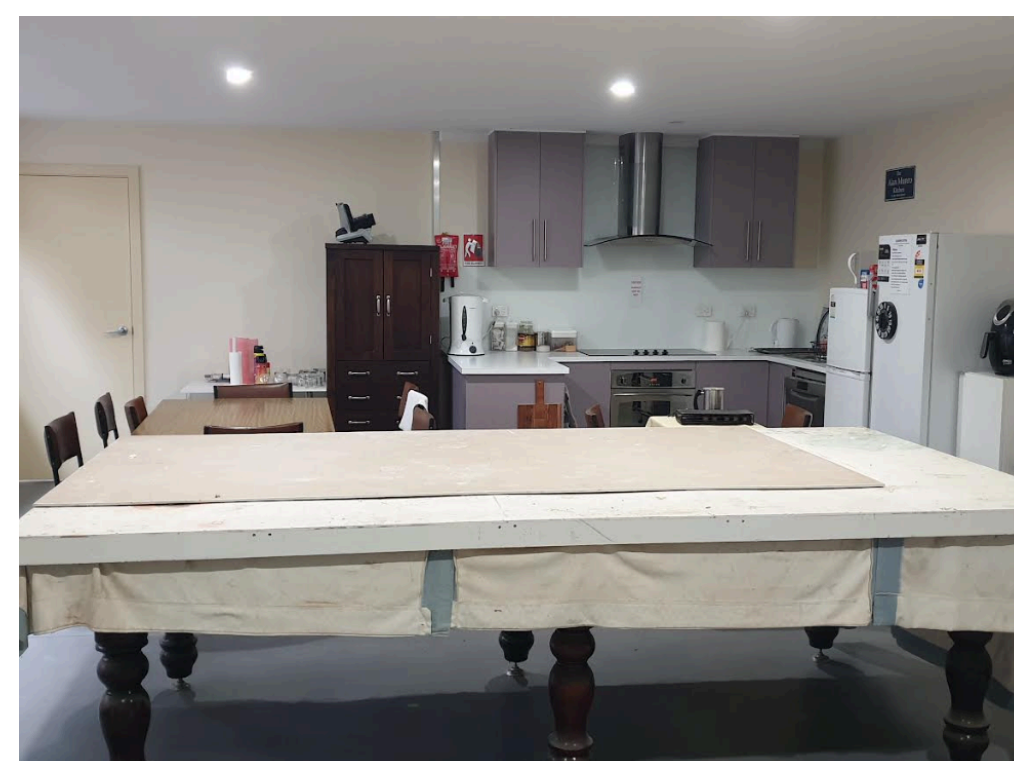
Meanwhile our Murchison Men's Shed "OPEN" banner will be on display on Watson Street when ever we are open, so come to the Men's Shed , meet and chat with the guys.

New members are always welcome

For more information contact

Con Scarvelis (Secretary) on 0421525665

Dennis McCullagh (President) on 0428148210



CFA MURCHISON FIRE BRIGADE**By Bob Langford**

Hello Murchison & district.

This will be our last Winter edition for 2025 and like everyone we look forward to the approach of warmer weather. Roll on Spring! Having a lengthy winter dry spell despite the recent and welcome rains has meant that some of our vegetation has dried out earlier than expected. This situation has resulted in the cause of numerous grassfires across the region, many caused by carelessness. We can understand that property owners are anxious to prepare their blocks prior to spring growth but common sense must prevail. Some simple guidelines on the subject of burn-offs are:-

1. Fire Permits Victoria require that burn-offs be notified all year round. This is simply a notification and giving 2hrs notice. Note - burn-offs are **not** permitted during the Fire Danger Period without a permit.
2. Notify your neighbours !
3. Never leave a burn off unattended !
4. If you have no means of extinguishing the fire, don't light it ! More information is available by contacting 'firepermits.vic.gov.au'

SMOKE ALARMS. You will have seen frequent reference to the subject of Smoke Alarms in our Brigade public messaging. The reason being CFA consider working Smoke Alarms to be the first line of defence in any house fire situation and the catch phrase '**Working Smoke Alarms Save Lives**' is often used to highlight this. The fact speaks for itself and is something you can do to prevent a disastrous situation.

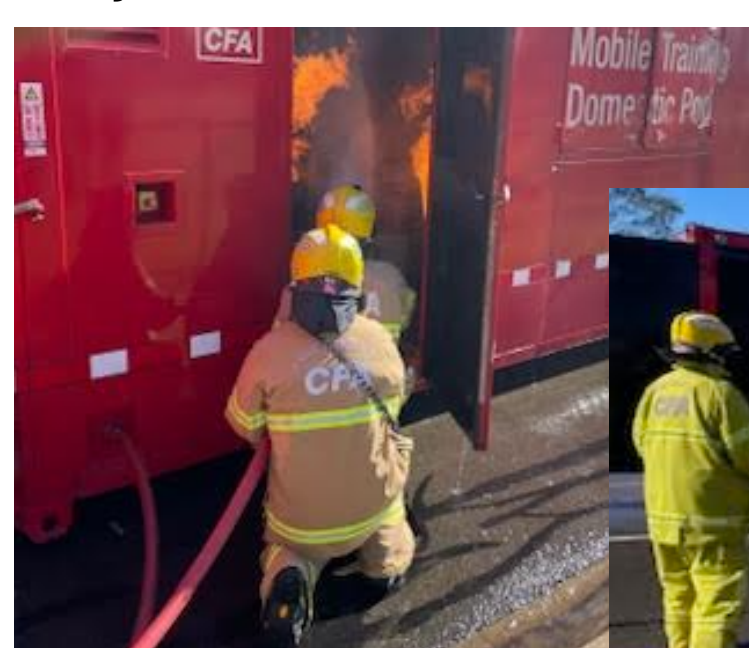
If your Smoke Alarms are over 10 years old or in a state of dysfunction, or if you have trouble maintaining your existing alarms, or find yourself physically unable to change the batteries please contact my colleague

Emily Birch at the Shepparton CFA Regional Office on 0447 415 849 or emily.birch@cfa.vic.gov.au . You may be eligible for inclusion in the CFA Smoke Alarm campaign. This is a free service available to owner occupied dwellings only. For anyone in a rental property please take up the matter with your landlord.

BRIGADE TRAINING. Regular training in firefighting skills and the use of constantly evolving equipment and techniques are what keeps us as a Brigade on our toes. As well as our being able to respond quickly to house, property and wildfire situations we find ourselves more increasingly being involved in motor vehicle accidents (MVA's) and assisting other Agencies such as Ambulance Vic, SES and Forest Fire Management Vic. The level of training reflects our commitment to Community safety!

The Brigade recently attended another of CFA's live fire exercises using a purpose built training pod, held at the Mooroopna CFA training track. These containerised pods, developed by CFA allow Members to gain close quarter live fire experience under strictly controlled conditions. Previous pod exercises have involved a simulated motor vehicle fire, a kitchen fire and this most recent a domestic lounge fire. Exposure to real fire in a controlled situation allowed crews to practice various approach, control and extinguishment techniques using teamwork and communications with ability to discuss their experiences first hand. Members of CFA Murchison Junior section also attended (blue overalls) and received instruction in situation approach, hose application and the use of different nozzles to produce a fan, spray or jet of water. No live fire was used during the Juniors training period. A great day out was enjoyed by all. There are vacancies at Murchison Junior Fire Brigade which offers a supervised adventure based programme for children aged 11-16 years. Should you be interested in finding out more about this don't hesitate to contact our facilitators – **Rebecca Catania on 0408 262 339 or Sharon Reilly on 0438 262 172**

They would love to hear from you !



CHRISTMAS IN JULY 2025 CFA Members, families and friends of local Brigades from Moorilim, Baillieston and Warring joined with us at the Railway Hotel Murchison East recently to help celebrate our annual Christmas in July. Compered by Paul Golding (Goldie) who arrived especially for the event, a great afternoon's food, drink, entertainment and fellowship to the background of live music was enjoyed by all. A lively, interesting and amusing goods and services auction was also held and the event rounded off by our monster raffle. Hosted by newly arrived publicans We would like to acknowledge and thank our publicans VIP and RUPI together with their hardworking staff Lukas, Heather and Bec for their great support and service on the day. We have already received hints to do it again next year. Watch this space !

**WORKING SMOKE
ALARMS SAVE LIVES**
**If you do one thing this
financial year - install a
smoke alarm in every
bedroom.**



RECRUITMENT Have you ever thought about becoming involved with CFA ? Our ongoing CFA recruitment campaign entitled **‘Come and Join Us - Give us a Hand’** is often mentioned on social media. There are many ways you can lend a hand. It’s not only Operational roles such as fighting fires and emergency response but also Support roles like business management, social media or educating your community on fire safety. With full training and support from your local Brigade you can learn exciting new skills, connect with new people and play a vital part in the community whilst at the same time learning more about the community and the area in which you live. CFA membership is rewarding. Our members come from all walks of life. Join us and find out !


Call into the fire station on Robinson Street on a Sunday morning between 0930 and 1200hrs and have a quick chat with our volunteers. They will be happy to chat with you or if you would prefer to make an on-line enquiry check

cfa.vic.au/volunteers. Please remember that in case of an emergency DO NOT call the Fire Station. We do not live there and it’s unattended. Dial 000 and when answered clearly give your name, nature and location of the emergency and your contact number. Units will be dispatched to assist at the earliest opportunity. Stay safe !

FIRE EXTINGUISHER MAINTENANCE DAY SHEPPARTON SALE YARDS – 2 nd September

Our Regional CFA Group are holding an information day to advise and inform about fire extinguisher maintenance. If you have an extinguisher on your tractor or other pieces of ag machinery, or if you have one in your car, boat, garage or importantly your kitchen then this is for you ! Come along on the day.

CFA Fire extinguisher maintenance service: Tuesday 2 September, Shepparton Saleyards



Does the fire extinguisher on your header look like this?...

Most farmers have a extinguishers on their machinery, but when was the last time you checked it or had it serviced? In the event of a fire, you don't want to reach for the extinguisher, only to find that it is no longer working. This could result in a larger fire, costly damage to crops or machinery or worse.

Local CFA volunteers will be at the Shepparton Saleyards on Tuesday 2 September from 8am to 1pm providing free information on fire safety and servicing extinguishers for a small fee. If your extinguisher is unserviceable, new extinguishers will also be available to purchase on the day.

Do you know your legal obligations when operating machinery during the Fire Danger Period ? Does your insurance company have additional requirements?

While extinguishers are great for small fires, it is critical to remain aware that they are a minimum requirement. You will almost definitely require more substantial firefighting equipment should a fire start and take hold. Your insurer's requirements may go over and above the minimum legal requirements for fire suppression equipment.

Further information:
<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/building-planning-regulations/fire-equipment-maintenance>

Murchison Cricket Club promoting their first season in Goulburn Murray Cricket.

During our AGM in July, the Murchison Cricket Club chose to take up the offer to join Goulburn Murray Cricket & leave Cricket Shepparton after 13 seasons.

Our President is Daniel Aquilina, our Secretary is Jason Batty & our Treasurer is Dylan Baker.

We will be playing in D-Grade (36 Over Innings, 7 overs Max. Per bowler & 60* retired for batters) & the Season begins on the 25th of October.

Our first training session will be announced shortly & the Murchison Cricket Club is looking forward towards a new era within the GMC.

MURCHISON CRICKET CLUB PLAYERS WANTED

BE PART OF THE TEAM!

The cricket club is recruiting for new players!

ALL AGES & SKILL LEVELS WELCOME

FAMILY FRIENDLY CLUB

SATURDAY GAMES WITH THURSDAY NIGHT TRAININGS



Contact Daniel - 0417 892 275



WE are **YOUR** community health connection!

**\$8 PER
SESSION
BOOKINGS
ESSENTIAL**



CIRCUIT CLASS

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



2025 HOPPERS SOCIAL CALENDAR

14	Sat 19th July	SHEPP EAST (A)	Black Tie Ball
15	Sat 26th July	STANHOPE (H)	Past Players Re-union - Goods & Services Auction
16	Sat 2nd Aug	GIRGARRE (A)	Junction Hotel
17	Sat 9th Aug	BYE	
18	Sat 16th Aug	VIOLET TOWN (H)	Sponsors Day
	Sat 13 Sep	GRAND FINALS	After Finals Party - Meal & Bar Open
	Fri 26 Sep	Legends Games @ Toolamba then to Junction Hotel (AFL GF weekend)	
	Fri 10th October		Senior Vote Count & Presentation Night
	Sun 12th October		Junior Vote Count & Presentation Day

TICKETED EVENT

**MORE INFORMATION ON
OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**



MURCHISON PRESCHOOL ENROLMENTS FOR 2026 OPEN NOW

We encourage you to reach out to discuss any of your questions, to come and get a feel for our learning space or visit www.grpsa.com.au to fill in an application

- Nature Learning program terms 2 and 3
- Pre-Prep rollout



**Free Blood Pressure &
Health Assessments**
(Adults 18+)

HEALTH HUBS MURCHISON
Murchison Neighborhood House
23 Impey St, Murchison VIC 3610

HEALTH HUB DATES

Monday 7 July 2025 9:00am - 11:00am	Monday 4 August 2025 9:00am - 11:00am
Monday 18 August 2025 9:00am - 11:00am	Monday 1 September 2025 9:00am - 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



Contact Us:
399 Wyndham Street, Shepparton
(03) 5823 3200
/primarycareconnect



**Free Blood Pressure &
Health Assessments**
(Adults 18+)

HEALTH HUBS MURCHISON
Murchison Neighborhood House
23 Impey St, Murchison VIC 3610

HEALTH HUB DATES

Monday 18 August 2025 9:00am - 11:00am	Monday 1st September 2025 9:00am - 11:00am	Monday 15 September 2025 9:00am - 11:00am
Monday 29 September 2025 9:00am - 11:00am	Monday 13 October 2025 9:00am - 11:00am	Monday 27 October 2025 9:00am - 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



Contact Us:
399 Wyndham Street, Shepparton
(03) 5823 3200
/primarycareconnect

3610 MURCHISON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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
1 x 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



Share your world
Become a foster carer

It's the little things that matter most – like having a safe place to call home, someone you can smile with and the right support.

You can make an extraordinary difference in the life of a young person by sharing those ordinary, everyday moments.

We are looking for compassionate individuals, couples and families to become foster carers to provide a safe and supportive home for vulnerable children and young people. We'll support you 24/7 and provide all the training you need.

Share your world. Become a foster carer.

1300 592 227
lwb.org.au/foster-care
Scan to find out more.



LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS

Murchison Preloved Shop



MON - FRI
9 AM - 3 PM
SATURDAY
10AM - 1PM

23 IMPEY ST
MURCHISON

Like us on Facebook

VISIT WWW.MURCHISON.ORG.AU



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 non-judgemental assistance



Proud Sponsors



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



St Vincent de Paul Society
VICTORIA
good works



21 Impey St, Murchison
Mon to Fri 830am - 530pm
PH: 5826 2575



GREATER SHEPPARTON



23 Impey St, Murchison
Monday to Friday
9:00 - 3:00pm
Ph: 5826 2373
www.murchison.org.au
manager@murchison.org.au



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



D & J Electrical PTY LTD
Phone: 0428242782
Email: admin@djelectrical.org



25 Stevenson St
Murchison
03 5826 2443

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Variety
Provider
& GIFTS

ewartplumbing
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& GARDEN CARE**

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**Controlled
Heating,
Cooling &
Plumbing**

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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

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 •

0457 283 085

JAKE CARRICK



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

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

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



**Murchison
Pharmacy**



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

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Find us on fb.
03 5826 2552
open 7 days

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
































Emergency Services Tax hits local ratepayers hard

Regional families and farmers are bearing the brunt of the Allan Labor Government's Emergency Services Tax, with local councils forced to rip millions more from communities already struggling under the weight of rising living costs. The Nationals' Member for Euroa, Annabelle Cleeland, said the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) would add enormous financial pressure to ratepayers across the region, as rates notices begin landing in mailboxes this month. "In Benalla, ratepayers are now set to fork out 81 per cent more under this new tax. In Strathbogie, it's even worse – a staggering 91 per cent increase," Ms Cleeland said. "This is not just a tweak to the system. This is a brutal cash grab from regional households, farmers, and small businesses already doing it tough." Ms Cleeland said she was particularly concerned about the impact on local businesses facing up to 100 per cent increases, warning that some may be crippled under the weight of the new tax. "The timing couldn't be worse. Rates notices are arriving this month and businesses are bracing for the hit – some will struggle to absorb a doubling of their bill," Ms Cleeland said. The ESVF replaces the existing Fire Services Property Levy and has been widely criticised as a "land tax by stealth," with property owners now paying significantly more, and in many cases without any clarity about where that money is going. "Every single person who pays rates will be hit by this tax, but the real sting is felt in our country towns, where residents are already volunteering their time with the CFA and SES," Ms Cleeland said. "Many of these same volunteers are now being forced to pay hundreds or even thousands more in rates, all while the services they support are stretched thinner than ever." Ms Cleeland said the impact would be long-lasting unless the State Government reverses course. "Local councils are being used as tax collectors for a government that refuses to fund core emergency services properly through the state budget," Ms Cleeland said. "The worst part is that regional communities are footing the bill while getting no say, no certainty, and no guarantee that this money will flow to frontline services in their area." Ms Cleeland reaffirmed that a Liberals and Nationals Government would scrap the ESVF and return to a fairer system. "We will scrap this unfair tax, reinstate the Fire Services Property Levy, and make sure that funding for emergency services is delivered transparently through the State Budget," Ms Cleeland said.

"Our rural communities deserve better than to be punished for where they live. They deserve a government that supports them and not one that keeps coming back to squeeze more from their rates notice."



Volunteers Given a Hand Up

Seventeen hardworking volunteer organisations will share in over \$60000 in funding from the Federal Government's Volunteer Grants Program. This program supports the invaluable work of volunteers by offering upskilling opportunities, helping to recruit new members and fostering stronger connections with the community. Across our region, thousands of volunteers dedicate their time and energy to incredible causes. Our communities simply couldn't thrive without their selfless efforts. Once again, this grant program was oversubscribed - a clear sign of the ongoing need for more regionally focused community grants.

- Seymour Performer's Workshop
- Rushworth Community House Inc.
- Christmas For Those Alone Incorporated
- Colbinabbin Town Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
- Kyabram Plaza Committee
- Wunghnu Fire Brigade
- Neighbourhood House Murchison
- Rushworth Bowls Club Inc.
- "The Cubby" - Shepparton Toy Library
- Tatura Cricket Club Inc.
- Tungamah Bowling Club Inc.
- Country Fire Authority
- Yarrawonga Mulwala Swimming Club
- Love in Action Broadford
- Echuca South Cricket Club
- Eastern Lions Kart Club
- Caroline Chisholm Society



Photo: Neighbourhood House Murchison Manager Jessie alongside her dedicated volunteers Noela and Sharon

WENDY
LOVELL MP
LIBERAL MEMBER FOR
NORTHERN VICTORIA REGION



Lovell demands answer on Labor's drought support delays

Liberal Member for Northern Victoria Wendy Lovell has demanded answers from the Allan Labor Government over the unacceptable delays in approving farmers' applications for drought support grants.

Farmers suffering from the devastating effects of the drought are eager to make use of the Farm Drought Support Grant program, and start work on projects to make their farms drought resilient into the future.

But many cannot begin work on their projects yet, because they are still waiting for in-principle approval for their state government grant applications and cannot proceed until

approval is given.

Ms Lovell told parliament that she had been contacted by constituent who submitted an application for a drought support grant back in July, but almost a month later had still not received written in-principle approval for his project. Many farmers want to urgently upgrade on-farm water infrastructure such as tanks, pipes, troughs, and dams, in order to make the best use of the limited rain that has started falling and that may come in a spring break. Capturing and making efficient use of rainfall is time critical as winter draws to a close and spring arrives, but due to government incompetence farmers are stuck waiting months for grant approvals.

Comments attributable to Liberal Member for Northern Victoria Wendy Lovell:

"It is completely unacceptable that Victorian farmers suffering the devastating effects of the drought are still waiting to have their drought support grants approved, almost a month after applying."

"The state Labor government must explain why it is taking so long to approve grant applications for drought support projects, and tell farmers what the government will do to speed up the approval process."

Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell MLC
Member for Northern Victoria Region



Tyrrell pushes for urgent review of Greater Shepparton bus network

Member for Northern Victoria Region Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell has called on the Allan Labor Government to implement an immediate review of Greater Shepparton's public bus network.

Ms Tyrrell's request came after recently meeting with Greater Shepparton City Council Mayor Shane Sali and CEO Fiona Le Gassick, where the need for the review of the current network was raised.

Speaking during the adjournment debate in a speech directed to the Minister for Public and Active Transport Gabrielle Williams, Ms Tyrrell said the current public bus services did not meet the needs of a population that had increased by over 12,000 people over the last 15 years.

"Despite an explosion of population and amenities, the Greater Shepparton bus network has not been reviewed by the State Government for over 15 years," Ms Tyrrell said.

"Many new housing estates have been developed over that time, meaning that many residents are simply not connected to the existing bus routes." Ms Tyrrell said that there are many limitations with the current network, including no bus services running on Sundays, the inability of people to access public transport to their employment and infrequent and unnecessarily long bus rides to Shepparton for Tatura residents.

"Tatura is the third largest town in Greater Shepparton and is just 20 minutes' drive from the Shepparton CBD, yet a bus trip for residents to Shepparton could take up to two hours," Ms Tyrrell said.

The Victorian Government released Victoria's Bus Plan in 2021, aimed to develop bus networks around the State that will increase bus travel and Ms Tyrrell said that Shepparton had been ignored in the plan.

"The Government allocated funding in the 2025-26 State Budget to conduct bus network reviews in Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat and the Bellarine Peninsula, yet Greater Shepparton misses out again," Ms Tyrrell said,

"Fifteen years since a review means our current bus network is not meeting the needs of our community and I call on the Minister to support Greater Shepparton City Council and ensure a thorough review is completed as a matter of urgency."