

APRIL 2024

# 3610

FREE

## MURCHISON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

### CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK-YOU!

By Anne McNamara

To the Murchison Community for the continual support of The Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal 2024. This year we collected in a new and very different way to previous years, like many organisations there is a shortage of volunteers to assist, so a huge thank-you to the members of the Murchison Fire Brigade and the Murchison SES Unit who assisted again this year.

This year we had 3 collection points in town and direct collections from Wybalena Units, Murchison Caravan Park (River Road), Harriman Point Road and Channel Inlet Road Waranga Shores for donations and the use of EFTPOS Machines for the first time. We held a Morning Tea with all proceeds going to the Appeal (all food for the morning tea was generously donated by volunteers). There was a raffle of 10 Assorted Hampers (also donated by volunteers).

The amount of money raised for the Good Friday Appeal in 2024 by the Murchison Community is \$7,146.28.

The Murchison Community Fundraising for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal was started in 1984 by Milton Hammond who had a daughter attending the hospital. Milton was assisted with organising the annual event by the Murchison Lions Club Members and then by the Murchison Fire Brigade Members. Over the years we have also had the support of the local families and the Murchison Primary School, the Murchison Junior Fire Brigade was formed, and they continue to assist, along with the Senior Members of the Murchison Fire Brigade who would walk around the town door knocking, local Businesses have collection containers all year long.

This year 2024 is the 40th Year of raising money for the Good Friday Appeal, we have raised an amazing amount of money is in time - \$212,428.09.

So, a huge thank-you. I would also like to thank the Sub-Committee for the continued support of this Appeal, we hope to conduct the Appeal in a similar format next year.



## Tatura Bowls Club Charity Bowls Day.

The Tatura Bowls Club had a successful day fundraising for the local Tatura Hospital and Parkvilla Aged Care Facility with their annual bowling tournament when 20 teams competed recently. Numerous raffles and team entry fees have all contributed to an amount exceeding \$3000 which will be donated to the local hospital. Teams came from Murchison, Colbinabbin, Rushworth, Hilltop, Mooroopna Golf, Tatura and Benalla. Four three game winners resulted in a Benalla side comprising Jeeremy Boruch(S), Mark Moran and Reg Allen winning with 48 points from runners-up Rod Madill, Angie Serra and Peter Wallace from Hilltop on 46 points. Barry Ibbott and Geoff Holmes teams also won all their games but didn't score enough points to figure in the prizes. Some bowlers took home a bottle of wine with their individual efforts.



**Photo: Benalla winners Jeeremy Boruch, Tatura Club President Keith Smith, Mark Moran and Reg Allen.**

Nearest the spider Peter Daws, closest to the ditch Justin Spedding and resting touches achieved by Michael Stone, Lee Wakenshaw, Geoff Higgins and John Evans. The Tatura Bowls Club is most appreciative for the generosity of all the businesses and individuals who supported the club in donations of vouchers, financial amounts or products that enable the club to achieve this significant amount for the local hospital. ...John Crilly



### Murchison Toolamba Football Netball Club

Connecting our Community - One Family, One Place, One Day

#### 2024 HOPPERS Social Events

##### April

Sun 14/4 Rd 1 @ home vs Nagambie -Past Players Reunion  
20/4 Back to Murch after Violet Town - iPOD Shuffle

##### February

17/2 Junior Pool Party  
29/2 Whole Club training & dinner

##### May

Sun 26/5 Reverse Raffle @ Toolamba Fishing Club

##### March

3/3 Sunday Session @ Junction Hotel  
12/3 Netball Practice games @ Tot  
16/3 Practice games @ home  
23/3 Practice games @ home

##### June

1/6 Bus from Dookie - Pub Crawl to Murch  
22/6 Hoppers Ball

##### July

20/7 Rd12 vs Shepp East Sponsors & Ladies Day Evening cocktails  
27/7 Junior Hoppers Ball

##### August

17/8 Final home/away game @ Murch

##### September

14/9 After Grand Final Party  
Fri 27/9 Little Legends Games @ Toolamba



Keep an eye on our Facebook page and on club notice board for details closer to



#### MURCHISON-TOOLAMBA FNC

### 2024 Fixture

RD 1	SUN 14 APRIL NAGAMBIE HOME	RD 9	SAT 22 JUNE UNDERA AWAY
RD 2	SAT 20 APRIL VIOLET TOWN AWAY	RD 10	SAT 29 JUNE TALLYGAROPNA HOME
RD 3	SUN 28 APRIL MERRIGUM AWAY	RD 11	SAT 6 JULY GENERAL BYE SCHOOL HOLS
RD 4	SAT 4 MAY BYE SPLIT ROUND	RD 12	SAT 13 JULY STANHOPE AWAY
RD 4	SAT 11 MAY LONGWOOD HOME	RD 13	SAT 20 JULY SHEPP EAST HOME
RD 5	SAT 18 MAY LANCASTER AWAY	RD 14	SAT 27 JULY RUSHWORTH AWAY
RD 6	SAT 25 MAY GIRGARRE HOME	RD 15	SAT 3 AUG STANHOPE HOME
RD 7	SAT 1 JUNE DOOKIE AWAY	RD 16	SAT 10 AUG NAGAMBIE AWAY
RD 8	SAT 8 JUNE GENERAL BYE KING'S BIRTHDAY	RD 17	SAT 17 AUG VIOLET TOWN HOME
	SAT 15 JUNE AVENEL HOME		TOP 6 TO FINALS



OUR VISION  
To Advance the Health and Welfare of Aquatic  
Animals in Aquariums and Zoos Globally

## GOAL SETTING

I recently converted the word GOALS to an acronym:

**G**etting  
**O**rganized (and)  
**A**head (in your)  
**L**ife  
**S**tyle

I first heard about goal setting in the mid-1990's when I was in my early 40's and have used it since then with amazing results. Two stories I heard at the time convinced me of the benefits of written goals. The first related to a follow up study of Harvard University Law students about five years after graduation. The ones that had written goals whilst at University (and had continued on) were much further ahead in their field than those who did not have written goals (the majority).

The second story related to an annual conference where the speaker asked each person to write down on a card the ten goals they wanted to achieve in the next year. These cards were then placed into envelopes and collected. When the group re-assembled for the next conference a year later, the cards were handed out and over 80% of the goals had been achieved even though the people had only written them down once and had not seen the card since the last conference.

When you spend time thinking about and then writing down your goals, the universe responds. It is suggested that only 3% of people have written goals - these are usually the high achievers.

**Goal Setting will fast track your life.** I am not talking about the ten minutes to midnight on New Year's Eve promises, but real goal setting. Written goals, not dreams. What I try to do is set aside at least a few hours in a quiet area at the start of each year. I often put on good classical music, no phone or screen and an old-fashioned piece of paper and a pen / biro. No distractions - this is serious stuff.

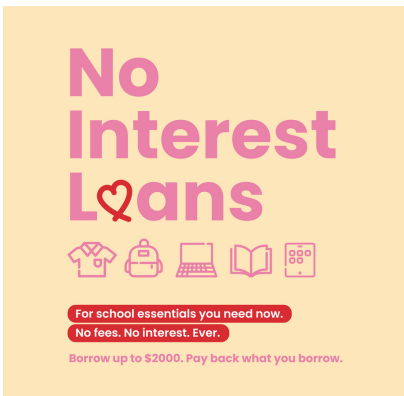
Start at the top and write down everything you want to do, experience, achieve, obtain etc. in the next ten years. Write them one below another – not across the page. **Think Big.** If that little voice in your head starts saying you cannot do that or own that – ignore it and write it down. Do not think about how you can achieve it – that will come later. Keep writing for as long as the ideas flow and then sit for at least another 15 minutes and others will come to your mind. If you cannot come up with a list of 50 to 100 things to do, experience, achieve, obtain in the next ten years of their life then you have not been thinking big enough.

Next I go back to the top of my list and write a 1, 3, 5 or 10 next to each goal indicating 1 year or 3 years or 5 years etc. Then I take all my one year goals and write them down in an Excel or Word document and sort them into groups such as Personal (usually revolves about losing some weight !!), Relationships, Family, Business or Work, Financial etc. This really helps you to focus.

I then print this list and often laminate it and place it in my shower. Reading your goals every day will really focus you on taking the necessary steps to make them happen. Always work on the one goal that could completely transform your life and just watch the results happen.

Each year repeat the process again; starting all over again. What I do after I have made a new list is pull out my old written list from the previous year, just in case I missed something. Do this each year and I promise you that in five years you will barely recognize your current life.

**Life is not a dress rehearsal and we only get one go so make the most of it.  
Live life to the full.**



**No Interest Loans**

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No fees. No interest. Ever.

Borrow up to \$2000. Pay back what you borrow.



**Community Meal**

Share a meal with other members of the Murchison community.

Mondays and Wednesdays at 12pm.

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Murchison Community Meals is a Program of Neighbourhood House Murchison (VIC) Inc.

23 Impney Street  
03 5826 2373  
info@murchison.org.au

Neighbourhood House Murchison



**Resilience in Recovery**

The Resilience in Recovery team from Greater Shepparton City Council is coming to Murchison!

- Tuesday 6 February
- Tuesday 5 March
- Tuesday 2 April
- Tuesday 7 May
- Tuesday 4 June

Come and say hello!  
9.00am to 3.00pm

For more information contact our team now

Resilience-in-Recovery  
03 5832 9700  
recovery@shepparton.vic.gov.au

Neighbourhood House Murchison  
The heart of our community

Australian Government  
VICTORIA

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

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

Publication will be the last week of each month.

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

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

### Rates and Guide for submission.

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

### Commercial Rates:

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

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

P: 03 5826 2373

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

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

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

## Murchison Retirement Village

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Newly renovated

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## Wybalena Village

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*"Your friendly local community focused Retirement Village"*

**Very reasonable ingoing costs and maintenance fees.**

For more information, please contact

**Bruce Smith 0437 627 210**

**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](mailto:manager@murchison.org.au)** if you're interested.






## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

# soak!

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Email: [office@everydaysupplies.com.au](mailto:office@everydaysupplies.com.au)



# MURCHISON FIRE BRIGADE CFA

BY BOB LANGFORD

Well it's that time of the year again. The change of seasons and the weather telling us that it is time to keep warm. Cooler weather is settling in but whilst we continue to enjoy the milder days of Autumn, Winter is just around the corner. During Summer we tend to concentrate on the dangers of bush and wildfire however as home fire safety is a full 365 day project throughout the year it does take on a greater emphasis in the cooler months with the use of home heating appliances. This will be dealt with more fully in next months newsletter but just a couple of points to start the ball rolling. Heating and Smoke Alarms.

Before we get into the depths of winter it might be a good start to have your heating appliances checked out by an individual licensed for that particular task. Check smoke alarms, which should be fitted in all residences in Victoria, and if a solid fuel heating appliance is used ensure your flue is cleaned of last years residues prior to lighting. A good reference guide is published by CFA entitled "Home Fire Safety", the content of which is available either online in the CFA website "[cfa.vic.gov.au](http://cfa.vic.gov.au)" or in hard copy from local shops in the Murchison shopping area and Post Office. Copies are also obtainable from the CFA Murchison Fire Brigade station when open, usually Sunday mornings.

Remember the jingle "CLEAN YA FLUE, BLUE!" and start off your heating season well.

Smoke Alarms. Only working smoke alarms save lives. A working smoke alarm provides you with early warning of a fire and gives you time to escape safely. It is a fact that you are more likely to die in a residential fire without a working smoke alarm. Smoke alarms should be tested regularly. A good time to test is twice a year when clocks are changed. Replace batteries annually to be safe. New Lithium batter powered smoke alarms which have a 10 year lifespan are available from major hardware retailers and are recommended by CFA. Contact CFA by emailing [smokealarms@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:smokealarms@cfa.vic.gov.au)

Another CFA initiative is the FREE installation of the new Lithium batter powered 10 year lifespan smoke alarms for residents who are unable to supply, install or maintain their own smoke alarms. Murchison Fire Brigade will resume their supply and fitting program for qualified residents in early May 2024. Please see the attachment for details.

Congratulations to the Murchison Fire Brigade Team who organized an extremely successful Good Friday Appeal for the Royal Childrens Hospital. Their organization and dedication to this event was second to none. Congratulations also to the volunteers who assisted in this event.





## MURCHISON FIRE BRIGADE CFA

BY BOB LANGFORD

The Brigade has been quietly busy on several fronts lately with our involvement in local emergencies involving burn offs, house and machinery shed fires and road traffic accidents, to name a few. The high standard of management and training for these events has resulted in a safe and personnel incident free Fire Danger Period over this last summer.

Fire Restrictions in our area were lifted on 8th April last and permits are no longer required for burning off however CFA do politely recommend that any burn off planned is registered. This prevents smoke sightings reported by public resulting in a turn out of the local fire brigade. We are duty bound to investigate all matters reported in by public and often, especially at this time of the year brigades are turned out to unregistered burn offs which are not emergency situations. CFA is an emergency management organisation and a turn out to a non emergency incident is a waste of resources and detracts from brigades ability to attend any actual emergency which might arise. Please REGISTER YOUR BURN OFFS ! Don't cause firefighters to rush to your property for no reason. You can register easily by phoning the hotline 1800 668 511 or online at [www.firepermits.vic.gov.au](http://www.firepermits.vic.gov.au). It's easy and it's free !

If you happen to live within town limits please check with the council first. There may be a special ordinance governing burning off in town limits. And please don't forget to inform your neighbours. This, like advising CFA is only a common courtesy. And please don't leave your burn unattended. Remember also, you are the only one responsible for what you do.



MyCFA - are you a MyCFA subscriber ? CFA has updated and personalised the subscriber form enable users to choose what content is delivered to their inbox based on their lifestyle and interests, occupation and/or local area. It's FREE to join and you'll receive the latest information and resources to keep you, your family and property safe. You can subscribe by contacting [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/mycfa](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/mycfa). It's well worth the effort, and just to reiterate, it is a FREE service.

This Mothers Day, Sunday 12th April Parks Victoria invites the community to visit the historic DAY'S MILL as part of the Australian Heritage Festival. CFA Murchison Fire Brigade is proud to support Parks at this event. We can be found operating our fundraising BBQ together with a Community Safety information stand and look forward to catering for the 'inner' person as well as discussing any fire safety concerns you may have. Come and see us there !



## MURCHISON FIRE BRIGADE CFA

BY BOB LANGFORD



Remember that in case of emergency requiring Fire Brigade Presence please do not call the fire station. It's unmanned and we don't live there!

Instead call 000 and when answered give your name, type and location of emergency and contact phone number. Help will be dispatched as quickly as possible.

Stay safe!

CFA Murchison Fire Brigade

Dear Householder

Murchison Fire Brigade now provides free smoke alarm installations for residents who are unable to supply, install or maintain their own smoke alarms. Smoke alarms installed contain a 10-year lithium battery, meaning that the battery lasts for the life of the smoke alarm.



If you are interested in having smoke alarms installed in your home or some general home safety advice, please get in touch with our team by contacting Emily Guthrie on 0447 415 849 or [emily.guthrie@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:emily.guthrie@cfa.vic.gov.au) (BH) In an emergency always dial 000

72% of fatal house fires start in the bedroom and occur while a person is sleeping.

By law, all homes are required to have smoke alarms in hallways between bedrooms and the rest of the home, but fire services also recommend having them installed in bedrooms.

Regardless of the type of smoke alarms you have:

- Test monthly -use a broom stick to press the button on your smoke alarms, hold until the alarm beeps three times
- Dust regularly
- All smoke alarms (hard-wired and standalone) need to be replaced every 10 years
- Smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling at least 30cm from the wall

If you have smoke alarms with replaceable batteries, you need to change the batteries annually. Remember -only working smoke alarms save lives.

Kind Regards from the Murchison Fire Brigade



23 Impey st, Murchison  
Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 9:00 - 3:00pm  
Ph: 5826 2373  
www.murchison.org.au  
Manager@murchison.org.au

Neighbourhood House Murchison  
The heart of our community

**Coffee Hub**

**9:30-10:30 AM**

**TUESDAY DURING SCHOOL TERM**  
Join us for delightful gathering where you can meet and mingle with fellow locals over a streaming cup of coffee or tea and delicious slice of something tasty.

**COFFEE / TEA & SLICE \$6**

## BOLTON ESTATE AGENTS

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**Please call Chris Bolton on  
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BOLTON ESTATE AGENTS

# MEN SHED

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT - AND LUNCH

### BY KELLY CARMODY

Simple acts of kindness can reach far and wide in a small community,

and Murchison Primary School's Year 5 and 6 students aim to make a significant impact by supporting families in their school. Partnering with the Murchison

Men's Shed, the students have embarked on a joint project called the 'FoodShare Station', and the collaboration is proving to be an invaluable learning opportunity for both parties. Murchison Men's Shed president Dennis McCullagh said the dynamic exchange of ideas and skills between the younger generation and the members of the Men's Shed had brought the two groups together.

"The kids have done a great job with the design elements for their FoodShare Station," Mr McCullagh said. "Surprisingly, we were on very similar pages, and they added some great ideas to what they wanted their station to include or how it could be easier to use." He added, with a laugh: "Now we just have to make it for them." The concept of the FoodShare Station originated during a school council meeting, suggested by a parent who valued hands-on learning experiences. Upon hearing the idea, the students enthusiastically embraced it, swiftly contributing ideas about which fruits and vegetables grown on the school grounds could be shared. They also proposed allowing other families to donate, swap or take what they needed from the station.



***Plans in action: Murchison Men's Shed president Dennis McCullagh reviews FoodShare Station blueprints with the enthusiastic Year 5 and 6 students from Murchison Primary School.***



***On the tools: Murchison Men's Shed member John McKenzie shows Murchison Primary School students Charlotte Morgan, Hayden Chetkett and Levi Hetherton how to use a saw.***



***Blast from the past: Murchison Men's Shed president Dennis McCullagh prepared lunch for all the members, aiming to evoke cherished memories of school days gone by.***



The students collaborated to brainstorm and sketch the design, incorporating elements such as shade, separate sections, safety features, signage and aesthetic considerations. Once finished, they visited the Men's Shed to present their ideas and share lunch together. "What a fantastic initiative to support fellow schoolmates and families. We were delighted to assist, discuss their design, enjoy lunch, and show them what we do here too," Mr McCullagh said. "We are hoping they may come back over at some stage to help with some of the building aspects, and it would be great to show them maybe a bit of woodworking at the same time. "It's also nice to show them there is more to life than just school and that other people are thinking about them."

As the session concluded, the Men's Shed members enjoyed a lunch that evoked fond memories. Opening their brown paper bags, they found Vegemite and cheese sandwiches, tiny teddy bear biscuits and fresh fruit, bringing smiles to many faces. "There's nothing like going back in time and having school lunch from a brown paper bag," Mr McCullagh said. "It was just something a bit special I wanted to do for the other members, and I'm sure it's brought back a few memories for them. "It's been a really great day and I think enjoyed by all. "Hopefully, by the end of May, we will have finished the school project, and we can chat about the next project they have already mentioned to us — the chicken coop. "They will need a place to put all their food scraps — stay tuned."

**Courtesy of The Shepparton News**





## Do You Remember? Drawn From Memory

### Art Workshops - Play, Relax, Learn

The Murchison Community Plan Committee (MCP) has obtained funding to run four community ART workshops. These workshops are for people who would like to explore their personal and towns history, have fun and learn from skilled artists.

### No experience required!!!

Limited places available at subsidised cost of \$20 per workshop.  
Choose from one of four workshops running each Saturday in May.

For more information and to book <https://www.trybooking.com/CQBNZ>

Or scan the QR code to the right

Or contact [megan.hill54@yahoo.com.au](mailto:megan.hill54@yahoo.com.au)



Workshop	Artist	Date, Time, Venue
<b>Workshop 1</b> Landscape Painting (acrylic on canvas)	Philip Hickingbotham	4th May 1 - 4 pm Murchison Community Centre
<b>Workshop 2</b> Still Life (painting with gouache)	Philip Hickingbotham	11th May 1 - 4 pm Murchison Community Centre
<b>Workshop 3</b> Create an Artist Book (mixed media)	Kerry Handwerk	18th May 10 am - 3.45 pm Murchison Community Centre
<b>Workshop 4</b> This is Made of Memories (textile/mixed media)	Judith Roberts	25th May 10 am - 3.45 pm Murchison Community Centre

Hero Image: Goomam Falls, Philip Hickingbotham, image courtesy of the artist  
Top Inset: Artist Book, Kerry Handwerk  
Bottom Inset: Textile Art, Judith Roberts





# Murchison SES Unit RECRUITING NOW

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

## Operational Roles

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



## Non-operational Roles

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

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



## **MURCHISON MEN'S SHED INC**

INC No. A01097471; ABN 47749064930 ; ATO, DGR

10A Watson Street Murchison Vic 3610

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

**NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

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**CON - 0421525665**

**EMAIL: [MURCHISONMENSSED@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MURCHISONMENSSED@GMAIL.COM)**

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



PO Box 632, 79 Benalla Road  
Shepparton VIC 3632  
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e. [gvlrc@gvlrc.vic.gov.au](mailto:gvlrc@gvlrc.vic.gov.au)  
w. [www.gvlibraries.com.au](http://www.gvlibraries.com.au)  
ABN 44 381 751 770

## ***Author T.M. Clarke is on her way to Murchison.***

A kidnapped child, an ex-security contractor and a private eye all feature in author T.M. Clarke's new book *Song of the Starlings*. We invite you to come along to the Murchison Heritage Centre on Friday 31st May at 10.30am to meet the author, and hear her speak about her latest book.

*Song of the Starlings* involves the hunt for a kidnapped child through the vastness of Africa. South African ex-security contractor Chrystal Booyesen has officially retired to her family game stud farm after her last mission took a dark turn. American private investigator Rowan Zackery is hired to rescue Australian corruption-fighting magnate Curtis Wilson's daughter. However, Rowan is out of his depth in Africa and he needs Chrystal's expertise. The longer Akina is missing, the greater the likelihood of her being dead and Rowan doesn't want to find yet another body. As they chase the elusive trail, can they save Akina, or will they be too late?

Zimbabwean-born T.M. Clark weaves her fascination for diverse cultures, wildlife and storytelling into her literature. Her books cater to a wide audience, ranging from children to adults. She has been nominated for a Queensland Literary Award and is a Children's Book Council Notable. She is the coordinator for the Children and Young Adults Writers' Conference in Brisbane, which offers professional development opportunities to both established and emerging writers and illustrators. Additionally, she co-hosts the Writers at Sea retreat. Tina Marie is passionate about nurturing writers and collecting books for building libraries in Papua New Guinea.

If you would like to meet Tina Marie and hear about her latest book, join us at the Murchison Heritage Centre on Friday 31st May at 10.30am. Contact Goulburn Valley Libraries to book: call 1300 374 765, email [programs@gvlibraries.com.au](mailto:programs@gvlibraries.com.au) or book online at [www.gvlibraries.com.au](http://www.gvlibraries.com.au).

If you can't make it on the 31st May, Tina Marie is visiting other libraries throughout the region in the same week. Check out the Goulburn Valley Libraries website for more details.





## ***De-snagging on the Goulburn River at Murchison***

In the early years of Murchison settlement, paddle steamers ventured into the Goulburn River from the Murray, transporting produce to markets and delivering supplies to farmers at Mooroopna, Murchison, Tahbilk and Seymour, when the river levels allowed.

In times of flood the river would flow rapidly and rise to alarming levels; the power and volume of the water caused trees to be dislodged and logs were washed into the stream. These trees and logs in the river caused dangerous snags that could damage or impede passage of any water craft, large or small and were a constant problem for paddle steamers.

Due to the disruption of river transport by the snags, both in the Murray and Goulburn, the government of the day imported a paddle steamer specifically to de-snag the rivers. It was a 'stern-wheeler', 26 metres long, with a shallow draft of about half a metre. It was assembled at Echuca and given the name of PS Melbourne. Captain James Hill, who qualified as a Master Mariner at Cornwell, England, was appointed in charge of the vessel when it was launched in 1865.

The PS Melbourne cleared snags along the Goulburn as far up stream as Seymour. It was dangerous work as explosives were sometimes used to displace large snags. The log-book recorded monthly totals of 300 – 400 snags removed, the size of one tree having a girth of 10 metres and another log 37 metres long. It must have been difficult to manage such large timbers, and two men lost their lives when crushed by logs. Captain Hill's wife Grace sometimes accompanied her husband and can be seen on the top deck of PS Melbourne along with the notable pot-plant flower garden on board in this 1875 photograph, taken near the site of the disused Punt crossing in Murchison. With a cable from PS Melbourne threaded through a pulley attached high up in a study tree on the bank, then placed around a snag in the water, the on-board winch would drag the timber up onto the bank. The photo also shows the crew on the river bank and cables used to winch the logs well away from the water-line. (If viewing on-line, zoom in for detail).



With the arrival of the railway in 1880, demand for paddle steamer transport along the Goulburn diminished and then ended in 1891 once the Goulburn Weir was operational.

Kay Ball, Murchison & District Historical Society.

Details provided by Fergus McPherson, great grandson of Captain James Hill.

## Remembering Our Heroes

Federal Member for Nicholls, Mr Sam Birrell MP, has welcomed more than \$21,000 in Federal Funding to local organisations to support projects which remember veterans and their families. Numurkah and District Historical Society Inc, Waaia Community Plan Committee Inc, and Cobram Barooga RSL Sub-Branch Inc. have been awarded funding through the Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program Round 2, 2023-24.

- \$10,000 will support Numurkah and District Historical Society to restore the Strathmerton Methodist Church Honour Board.

- \$4290 will support Waaia Community Plan Committee to install a First World War plaque in Waaia.

- \$7040 will support Cobram Barooga RSL Sub-Branch to install a new War Memorial to commemorate locals who served in the First and Second World Wars.

Mr Birrell said the funding will assist local people to create meaningful projects that honour our heroic service men and women.

"I want to thank and acknowledge these local groups for their time and efforts which have gone into making these important projects a reality," Mr Birrell said.

"Each project will help educate locals and visitors for decades to come about the service and sacrifices of local war heroes and their families. It's important these groups are supported to ensure veterans have a lasting legacy in our regional communities," he said.

Mr Birrell said he looked forward to seeing each project develop and encouraged other community groups wanting support for similar projects to apply for the next round of grant funding.



**NATIONALS**  
for Regional Australia

**Sam BIRRELL MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NICHOLLS

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🌐 sambirrell.com.au 📱 SamBirrellMP

Authorised by S. Birrell, National Party of Australia, 426 Wyndham St, Shepparton VIC 3630.

"Two grant opportunities are available and include up to \$10,000 for local community projects and activities and up to \$150,000 for major commemorative projects," Mr Birrell said.

The funding supports groups and individuals to promote appreciation and understanding of the experiences of service, the roles that those who served have played and to preserve or provide access to information about Australia's wartime heritage.

Applications for the next round of grants close June 20th 2024.

For more information visit - <https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=8f80a57c-4453-4014-8ef3-7ce786b356d7>

MEDIA CONTACT: Sam Birrell MP - Morgan Dyer - 0412 83 24 74 | [E.Morgan.dyer@aph.gov.au](mailto:E.Morgan.dyer@aph.gov.au)



Wendy Lovell MP

State Member for Northern Victoria Region

*Active, vocal and local*

**Liberal**  
Victoria

**Labor fails on promised safety barrier repairs** The State Labor Government has failed to meet its own deadline for repair work to wire rope safety barriers that was promised to commence in March. It is now mid-April and works have still not begun. In parliament on 22 February, Liberal Member for Northern Victoria Wendy Lovell called on the Minister for Roads and Road Safety to immediately repair damaged safety barriers on the Hume Freeway, Midland Highway and Goulburn Valley Highway.

On the Midland Highway between Mooroopna and Byrneside, large sections of wire rope in the centre of the road have been lying on the ground since well before Christmas.

On many stretches of road there are trees growing through and over the wire rope barriers, which will undermine and damage the barriers and road surface if they are not removed.

After Ms Lovell's call for urgent attention to the condition of wire rope barriers, the Victorian Government told ABC Radio that repairs were set for March, including along the Midland Highway near Mooroopna.

An inspection on 10 April of the Midland Highway near Mooroopna revealed that not only were the repairs not complete, they had not even started.

Prior to installation the Government claimed that wire rope safety barriers were necessary to reduce deaths on rural and regional roads. But flexible safety barriers will only be effective if they are properly maintained. In 2023, 295 lives were lost on Victorian roads - a 22% increase on 2022 and a 15-year high. The latest Transport Accident Commission figures show there have already been 48 road deaths in regional and rural Victoria this year, on track to match the tragic toll of 2023. Road safety, especially in rural and regional areas, must be a top priority for the government.



Comments attributable to Member for Northern Victoria Wendy Lovell:

"The Labor government promised to commence wire rope safety barrier repairs in March, but March has come and gone, and there's no sign of repair work starting any time soon." "The Government must take seriously the safety of regional road users and carry out the promised repairs. They are already well overdue and must start as soon as possible."

Media Contact: Robert Loring 0411 162 135

## Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell MLC

### Member for Northern Victoria Region



Tyrrell calls on State Government to open Barmah Forest for firewood collection.

One Nation Member for Northern Victoria Region Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell has called on the Allan Labor Government to open the Barmah Forest for firewood collection for local residents.

Speaking during the adjournment debate directed to Environment Minister Steve Dimopoulos during the regional sitting of State Parliament in Echuca, Mrs Tyrrell spoke of her recent visit to the nearby Barmah Forest and the large amount of deadfall littering the ground throughout the forest.

"I took a drive through the Barmah Forest during the Easter break and was shocked at the potential fire hazard of dead trees lying on the ground," Mrs Tyrrell said.

"The number of fallen dead trees covering the ground is so large they are actually inhibiting new growth and the natural regeneration of the forest."

In her contribution, Mrs Tyrrell again highlighted the lack of firewood collection points in the Moira and Greater Shepparton local government areas, with Moira Shire residents forced to travel to Warrenbayne, south-east of Violet Town to access their closest firewood collection point.

"I continue to be contacted by many constituents who rely on firewood to heat their homes frustrated that they have to travel long distances to get firewood when there is an abundance of wood available on their doorstep at Barmah," Mrs Tyrrell said.

"Allowing locals to collect firewood in the Barmah Forest will clear fire hazards and regenerate the forest itself and I call on Mr Dimopoulos to exercise some common sense and open the forest for firewood collection."

Media Contact: Jason Kelly 0413 103 240 [jason.kelly1@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:jason.kelly1@parliament.vic.gov.au)

**IT & COMPUTER SUPPORT**

**FREE**

9:15 am - 12:15 pm  
Every Wednesday during school term

If you're looking for help setting up a phone, computer or tablet, or need some assistance using the internet or accessing a service online, pop into the Neighbourhood House on a Wednesday morning to speak to our IT expert.

Neighbourhood House Murchison  
The heart of our community

23 Impney st, Murchison  
Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri 9:00 - 3:00pm  
Ph: 5826 2373  
[www.murchison.org.au](http://www.murchison.org.au)  
Manager@murchison.org.au

Greater Shepparton  
A Program of  
Neighbourhood House  
Murchison (VIC) Inc. Supported  
by Greater Shepparton  
Foundation

# Days Mill Open Day Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024



This Mother's Day, Parks Victoria invites the community to visit the rare and remarkable Days Mill as part of the Australian Heritage Festival.

Drop in, grab a coffee and a treat from one of our vendors, and enjoy the ambience of this well-preserved 19th Century Flour Mill complex, have a chat to the 'Friends of Days Mill' volunteers and Parks Victoria staff, and discover opportunities to get involved as a volunteer in caring for this special heritage-listed place.

**Where:** Days Mill Historic Area, 5 Day Road Murchison South 3610

**When:** 10am – 4pm on Sunday 12 May 2024

For more information:

Call Parks Victoria on 13 1963 or

Visit [Mothers Day at Days Mill](#)

☎ 13 1963  
[parks.vic.gov.au](http://parks.vic.gov.au)



**Parks**  
VICTORIA

## 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 23rd April 2024**

**10:00 am- 1:00pm**

**23 Impey street**

