

JULY 2022

3610

FREE

MURCHISON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



MURCHISON PRIMARY SCHOOL BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE!

Students at Murchison Primary certainly got to finish Term 2 with a bang! During the final week we had multi-age activities on Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Students participated in a variety of learning activities with lots of fun and learning for all. Students programmed Spheros, designed paving designs for the outdoor area using tessellating shapes, art, PE, games and much more. We even had success with students learning to tie shoelaces. Thanks to the staff for organising these fantastic activities for our students.

On the last Wednesday of term a Hot Chocolate and Odd Socks Day was held - it was definitely the cool weather that made both of these things a winner! Thanks to Chappy, Grace and Max for ensuring everyone was served their hot chocolate. Thanks to all those who supported this State School Spectacular (SSS) fundraiser.

We look forward to seeing all students back on Monday 11th July for the start of Term 3.

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
murchison.org.au

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

MURCHISON BOWLING CLUB



At the last Murchison Bowling Club AGM on 25th June, President Geoff Higgins presented Harry De Klijn with a certificate and badge for his life membership.

Harry has played with the club for 49 years, has won club championship fifteen times and been runner-up six times. He has won 100-up six times, 21-up fourteen times - plus other titles including club pairs, mixed pairs, triples and mixed triples. He has played in three winning pennant teams and also won the G.V. Champion of Champions in 1995. Harry was G.V. of the year four times. In 1997, at Murchison Australia Day event, Harry was awarded the "Sportsperson of the Year" for his bowling achievements. He has been President, Secretary, Greens Keeper and on the Selection Committee seemingly "forever". On top of this, Harry is always there for working bees.

Harry's wife Marion and their six daughters - Julie, Linda, Jaquie, Sharon, Bernadette and Patricia - are all very proud of Harry and his bowling achievements.

The Neighbourhood House would also like to thank Harry for his kindness and hard work for the community over many years. What a legend!

MURCHISON RETIREMENT VILLAGE INC. WYBALENA VILLAGE

LIVE LOCAL, RETIRE LOCAL AND REMAIN LOCAL

Murchison's Retirement Village operates as Wybalena Village located at 25-27 Impey Street.

Our Village provides 11 friendly, supportive and affordable independent living units which are operated on a "not for profit" basis through our management committee, on behalf of your community.

This is our second article in 3610 to help keep you informed about your local Retirement Village. You will recall from the May issue, that the Committee is keen to add a further three units to our existing 11 units in the Village and as such, has applied for funding support as part of the Federal Government's "Building Better Regions Fund. Our grant application is still being considered by our Federal Government with an update expected in the next two months.

The Murchison Retirement Village Committee of Management consists of nine members who are elected each year at our AGM, which is usually held during October. If you are interested in becoming a committee member or a member of the Murchison Retirement Village, please enquire about a membership form from the Secretary or any committee member.

The current committee members are:

- John Pearce - member for 10 years
- Bruce Smith - member for 9 years
- Gerry Kleyn-Hesselink - member for 6 years
- Margaret McMaster - member for 6 years - Secretary
- Lee Gardiner - member for 4 years - Treasurer
- Stan McMaster - member for 4 years - President
- Karen Brisbane-Bullock - member for 2 years - Vice President
- Sandra Vazzoler - new member appointed October 21
- Rodney Harrison - new member appointed October 21

The Committee holds meetings most months and as mentioned above, an AGM is held in October. A number of the Committee are very active in the ongoing maintenance of the village for the residents with work being undertaken as required. We also use local contractors for those tasks not able to be covered off by the committee members.

We value and appreciate your support of your Murchison Retirement Village (Wybalena). Please check out future editions of 3610 for more information but if you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the Committee members.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER

G'day Murchison! I'm Louis Bowden and I'm the new manager of the Neighbourhood House. It's been a fantastic first month getting to know this wonderful community and meeting so many friendly and enthusiastic locals. Everyone has been very kind and supportive, and the level of commitment to "Murch" has me incredibly excited for the months and years ahead. To those I've spoken to already - great to meet you, looking forward to the next time. And to those I haven't I cannot wait.

Cheers, Lou.




SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES

soak!

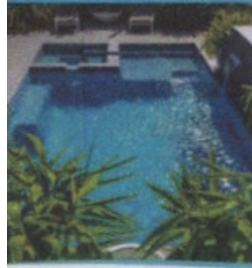
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03 5826 2443

FEAST YOUR EYES ON THIS - MURCHISON COMMUNITY MEALS



Share a meal with other
members of your community
Everyone is welcome. All ages.
Mon and Wed 12.00 noon
2 Course Lunch

Murchison Community Meals is a
Program of the Neighbourhood House
Murchison (VIC) Inc.
23 Impey Street. Murchison. VIC 3610
Ph: 5826 2326

TERM 3 PROGRAM GUIDE

11TH JULY TO 16TH SEPTEMBER 2022

Empowering people to unite and achieve community goals through support, referrals and programs.



PROGRAMS

Murchison Community Meals

Monday & Wednesday | 12 - 1pm | \$5 per head
Home cooked 2 course lunch | Eat in or takeaway

Murchison Coffee Hub and Barista Training

Tuesday | 8:30 - 10:30am | Cafe prices
Cakes and variety of Teas also available

Preloved Shop

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday | 9am - 3pm
New and second hand goods at very low prices
Clothing | Accessories | Homewares | Toys |
Games | CDs and DVDs | Artwork & Craft supplies

Food Boxes and Dignity Bags

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday | 10am - 2pm
Food staples and personal products
\$5.00 donation per box | One box per household

Murchison Community Book Store

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday | 9am - 3pm
Good quality books, puzzles and games at low prices

3610 Murchison Community Newsletter

Published monthly | Email and limited hard copy
Contact NHM Manager for all enquiries

COMING UP!!

Community Feedback

We want to hear from you and will be seeking your input into the future of the House and community

Stay tuned for more information about

- Charity Golf Day
- Father's Day

GROUPS

Murchison Walking Group

Tuesday & Thursday | 10am | FREE
Coffee Hub on return to the House on Tuesdays

Murchison Garden Group

4th Wednesday of the month | 6.30pm

Murchison Readers

4th Friday of the month | 10 - 11am | \$2 per head

Murchison Community Planning Committee.

3rd Tuesday of the month | 6.30pm
New members welcome

Guitar Lessons | Guitar Group

Tuesday | 6 - 7pm | Tuition fees apply

SERVICES

St Vincent De Paul Support and Referral

Friday | 2 - 3pm | FREE
Other days by phone appointment

Quilting Machine

Operations & hire | Contact the House

Everyday Services

- General Assistance and Referral Support
- Internet | Printing, Scanning and Photocopying
- ZOOM room -Online meeting space | telehealth
- Room for Hire- Meetings and Classes

CONTACT US

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday | 9am - 3pm
03 5826 2373 | murch-nh@hotmail.com

- @murchisonnh
- Murchison Preloved Shop





MURCHISON MEN'S SHED INC

INC No. A01097471; ABN 47749064930; ATO, DGR

23 Impey Street Murchison Vic 3610

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

In Australia, the backyard shed holds a very special place in the hearts of men. They go there to fix things, to escape from the household for a while, to be by themselves and sometimes with their friends. Traditionally, the shed is a refuge, a little haven of masculinity where female rules do not apply. So, it should come as no surprise that Australia has been the country to champion this organisation, the Australian Men's Shed Association. It was officially inaugurated in 2007 and now oversees over one thousand men's sheds around the country and over 125,000 members. The phenomenon has even spread internationally, with over five hundred sheds in Canada, Ireland, the UK, Denmark, Greece and Sweden.

Its motto is 'shoulder to shoulder, not face to face,' and that tells you a lot about the reason for the Sheds. Over the last twenty years, the proportion of people over 65 years has increased to 15.3%, and most of the baby boomers are still to retire. With better health, we live longer and grow older, but the question has now become what to do with those extra years. Especially for men this is a problem. Most men, particularly those who are getting older now, have focused on work for most of their lives. They did their jobs, socialised with their colleagues, and were only marginally involved in their families. When they retire, a lot of them suddenly realise that they are stuck, they have got very few friends outside of work and not enough interests to keep themselves busy. If a partner then dies, or they become ill themselves, depression and other mental health issues become a risk, sometimes even leading to suicide.

The Men's Sheds, first 'invented' in 1993, have been a godsend for a lot of men. In the sheds, they can meet other men while doing work. They can talk without having to sit and talk, like women do, which is where the motto comes from. This way there is less isolation, less depression and loneliness and mental and physical health problems are picked up and dealt with much earlier. In fact, research done by Beyond Blue, showed that men who frequent their shed feel better mentally, emotionally, and physically. They say they have less pain, are more vital, function better socially and are more optimistic, relaxed, interested, energetic, confident, and cheerful. They also report that they feel more useful and better about themselves, which might be because the Men's Sheds help the communities they spring from. The men make Mynah bird traps, fix furniture, help build doll's houses or even guitars. In the process, they not only connect with the people around them, but also learn new skills. All of this has led to an explosive growth of the Sheds: on average four new Sheds are started in Australia every week, and abroad the movement is expanding too. Here it is now the largest male-focused organisation in the country, with its membership more than doubling over the last 5 years. The Australian Federal Government has discovered the Men's Sheds as well: there is now a National Shed Development Program, with a grant system attached. So far, more than three million dollars has been provided, and every year \$800,000 is up for grabs. And since 2012 there is even a Bipartisan Parliamentary Friends of Men's Sheds Group.

Thankfully, for most men, if not all, their shed is more fun than 'good for you.'
'It is a place where they love to come and feel welcome.

Murchison Men's Shed is your local shed for your enjoyment and fellowship.

Age 18 to infinity. Contact 0421 525 655 or Dennis on 0428 148 210.



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Total Tree & stump removal was established in 2019 by owner operator Jake Carrick. After being in the industry for approximately 6 years Jake decided to have a crack and adventure out on his own with big goals to achieve. The company started off in Jake's back yard located in Moora Victoria on the outskirts of Rushworth Victoria. Building a small depo the boys settled in and called it home. Originally starting off as a small team of 3, 1 elevated working platform (EWP) & 1 truck and chipper, no loaders everything was done with man power, a lot of hard and long days, with Jake's goals in mind they hustled every day, advertising hard, making sure to deliver the satisfaction the client wanted. After a short while the company started to grow and Jake decided to purchase an opposition company, Goulburn valley tree services in late 2020 merging the two together.

Moving the depo over to Murchison Victoria, the fleet grew along with workers, 2 EWPs, 3 tipper trucks, 2 chippers and loaders, and the crew kept growing as well with 9 employees plus Jake.

Taking on government contracts & playing a huge part in the residential side of things in the northeast Victoria & southern NSW, working alongside other tree companies and subcontractors Jake and the company has come a long way but with goals still to achieve they haven't finished growing yet.

We as a company strive for a safer, more enjoyable environment to work in. Our clients' needs come first, setting the bench mark for a professional, efficient & affordable service. Willing to work in with our clients budgets, there is no tree yet to beat us, big or small we cover them all.

Constantly upskilling and training our employees, from basic first aid all the way through to apprenticeships. Our employees are our family, our clients are just as important.

If you contact our office you'll get the lovely Amy on the other end booking in your quotes, or listening to your concerns, the office is open Monday's Wednesday's & Fridays, drop ins are welcome. Or you can contact Jake directly 24/7 7 days a week.

We love the local support and we appreciate every bit of it!

MURCHISON AND DISTRICT PRIVATE HOSPITAL 1929 -1934

BY KAY BALL, PRESIDENT MURCHISON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The building that is now Murchison's Neighbourhood House was opened in 1935 as the Bush Nursing Hospital but was not the first hospital in Murchison.

From the late 1870's, the nearest hospital care for Murchison residents was at Mooroopna. That required travelling a considerable distance over rough roads, often a pretty uncomfortable journey on horse-back or in a horse drawn vehicle.

In 1929, community concern saw the establishment of a Private Hospital at a site north of our present football ground in River Road. The building was erected by Constable Nicholls on what was at the time his farmland, and included a section of the Caledonian Hotel that was transported from the

centre of town when the Hotel was undergoing renovations and the addition of a second storey. This was achieved using a steam traction engine shown in the attached photograph.

A Committee of Management who oversaw administration of the hospital, leased the building from Constable Nicholls. To provide the needed finance, residents paid an annual subscription, and fees were halved if they required hospital admission.

Nursing staff, who ran the hospital and lived-in, were on duty 24 hours a day and could provide care for up to four patients, including midwifery.

Issues such as the economic depression, distance from the town and difficulty in retaining nursing staff who found having too few patients unrewarding, caused it to close in 1934. The local doctor said the low number of admissions was due to 'people being too healthy'!

The Committee of Management then opened a new purpose-built hospital in Impey Street administered by the Bush Nursing Hospital Association. The original hospital then became a dwelling, but was destroyed by fire in 1941.

A new sign telling this story has been installed at the site in River Road jointly funded by City of Greater Shepparton and funds provided to Murchison and District Historical Society for the purpose of interpretive signage, on the closure of Murchison Action Group.



MURCHISON COMMUNITY WALKING GROUP

Joining a walking group helps you connect with others and make friends, says Judy Heller, a certified personal trainer, walking coach and founder of Wonders of Walking.

Your local walking group meets every Tuesday and Thursday out the front of the Neighbourhood House in Impey Street at 10.00 am for a walk and socialising. New members welcome.

Murchison Community Walking Group is a Program of the Neighbourhood House Murchison (VIC) Inc. 23 Impey Street. Murchison. VIC 3610 - Ph: 5826 2326



MURCHISON SWIMMING POOL INC

We have an exciting year ahead as we head back to normal. The Murchison Swimming Pool is community owned and run, and we have lots of events to plan and run this year.

If you like to be involved in organising events please come along and join the Pool Committee.

Everyone is welcome! The more people that get involved, the easier it is for everyone.

Any questions please contact Rachel Puts on 0408 375 694.

Murchison Swimming Pool AGM
Wednesday August 3
Held at the Murchison Bowls Club
6.30pm

Our Pool is one of the great assets we have in our town.
It is owned and run by the Murchison Community
The Pool committee has lots of plans for this upcoming season.

It might be cold, but planning starts in August for an opening at the end of November.

Many hands make light work.

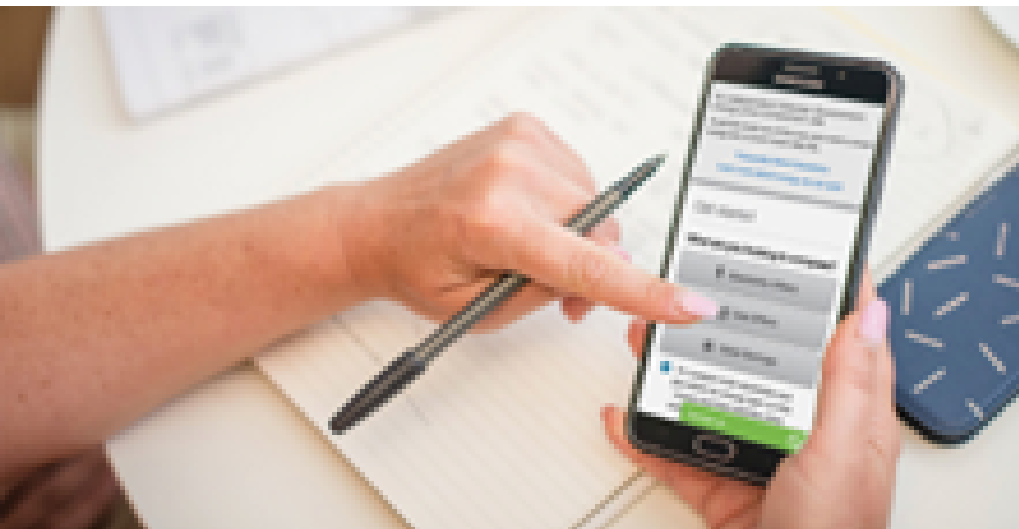
If you are interested in knowing more, you have an interest in planning and organising events or would like to contribute.

Please come along and join the Pool Committee.

All welcome!!!!

See you there.

MURCHISON
Swimming Pool Inc.



\$250 Power Saving Bonus



NEW EXCITING POWER SAVING BONUS PROGRAM FROM 1 JULY 2022

As you all might be aware of by now, Premier Dan Andrews recently announced a \$250 million funding package to help ease cost of living pressures for Victorian households.

From 1 July 2022, a new \$250 payment will be open to all Victorian households who use the Victorian Energy Compare website to compare their energy deal and seek out a better price.

This new program will be open to all households, and concession card holders who previously received the bonus will be able to apply for it again.

Just over 220 Neighbourhood Houses are currently participating in the Power Saving Bonus outreach program, facilitated by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria and Good Shepherd in partnership with the Department of Environment, Water, Land and Planning (DELWP).



Mercy Health

Care first

INFORMATION SESSION

Mercy Health will be hosting a morning tea and information session at Neighbourhood House Murchison at 10:30am on Tuesday, 2nd August to inform the community about the services they can offer in and around Shepparton.

If you're thinking about respite or permanent care for yourself or a loved one and want to know more, come along for a cuppa, a chat and an info pack, or get in touch with the Neighbourhood House on 5826 2373.



Jo's own first-hand experience and healing through her practice of yoga may just change your reality and surprisingly, may improve other areas of your life. She is sought after by those with physical injuries or challenges and also those working with mental health issues.

Her style is unorthodox, caring and direct, working with the physical, mental and emotional body to access healing for her clients on a holistic level, with life changing results.

A head-on car accident at the age of 27 took Jo on a massive journey and her story is nothing short of remarkable. Jo seriously injured her back in the crash, resulting in four herniated discs and the probability of lifelong back issues. Having never done yoga previously in her life, or being remotely interested in trying yoga, she eventually followed the advice of a friend and gave it a go. The results were startling!

After healing her back with the plethora of benefits yoga offers, Jo could not wait to do the same for others. Becoming a yoga instructor was a no-brainer for her and has become her passion. Her delivery is warm, fun and engaging... and gets results!

Jo teaches sold-out yoga workshops across Australia and New Zealand with incredible results.

What to bring:

Yoga mat | 2 blocks (if possible) | blanket | towel



AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR RETURNS TO THE GOULBURN VALLEY.

Goulburn Valley Libraries is pleased to welcome award-winning author and playwright Margaret Hickey. Margaret will be visiting the Shepparton Library on Thursday 18th August at 6.30pm followed by visits on Friday 19th August to Euroa Library at 10.00am and Cobram Library at 2.30pm.

Margaret Hickey is based in North East Victoria and holds a PhD in Creative writing, specialising in depictions of landscape in Australian literature. She is the author of the bestselling novel *Cutters End* and newly released *Stone Town*. Her plays have been performed in regional Victoria, Brisbane, Melbourne and New York. *Cutters End* has just been short-listed in the Best Debut Crime Fiction category in the Ned Kelly Awards.

Margaret's novels are described as rural crime novels and her new release, *Stone Town*, exemplifies this genre. A town that has long since seen better days, a policeman looking for a quiet posting whose hopes are shattered by the discovery of a body in dense bushland, murder and mystery set against the Australian landscape.

Those who heard Margaret speak at the Shepparton Library in December 2021 will know she is an engaging speaker. Bronwyn Cole, Program Co-ordinator for Goulburn Valley Libraries is thrilled to be able to offer this opportunity again to the Goulburn Valley Community. "I'm excited that Marg is coming to visit our libraries, not just one but three, making her more accessible to our community members. It's a fabulous opportunity for the people of the Goulburn Valley to hear from an award-winning author. Anyone who enjoyed reading *Cutters End* will want to come and hear all about *Stone Town*, which again features Senior Sergeant Mark Ariti."

Margaret was born in London to Australian parents and grew up in small country towns across Victoria. She studied in Melbourne and has travelled extensively through the Middle East, South America, Asia and Europe. Margaret is also a judge for the Joseph Furphy Literary Awards, the premier short-story competition in Australia.

If you would like to join Margaret Hickey at the Cobram Library, Euroa Library or Shepparton Library, please contact Goulburn Valley Libraries on 1300 374 765 or email gvlibraries@gvlibraries.com.au Copies of the book will be available for purchase at each of the events.

For more information:

Bronwyn Cole

Program Co-ordinator, Goulburn Valley Libraries

Tel: 1300 374 765

Email: bronwync@gvlibraries.com.au



MURCHISON FIRE BRIGADE CFA

BY BOB LANGFORD

In our June newsletter we concentrated on all aspects of home safety and this month we continue with further advice on the most effective means of fire detection the Smoke Alarm. **REMEMBER – ‘ONLY WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES’**

SMOKE ALARM POWER SUPPLY

CFA recommends the use of smoke alarms powered by a long life lithium battery

Homes constructed after 1st August 1997 must have smoke alarms connected to 240v mains power and have a back-up battery.

Homes constructed before 1st August 1997 may have smoke alarms powered by a battery.

INSTALLATION OF SMOKE ALARMS

Installation of Smoke alarms must be located between each bedroom area and the rest of the house. CFA also recommends that smoke alarms be installed in every bedroom and living area.

Smoke alarms should be installed in every living area and bedroom.

Smoke alarms should be installed on the ceiling at least 30cm from the wall , or where installed on the wall at least 30cm from the ceiling to avoid dead air space.

INTERCONNECTED SMOKE ALARMS

Smoke Alarms should be interconnected, so that when any alarm activates, all alarms will sound.

Interconnected Smoke alarms can be

- Hard-wired (which must be installed by a licensed electrician), or
- Wireless interconnected smoke alarms powered by a 10 year lithium battery (which can be easily installed without requiring an electrician)

MAINTENANCE OF SMOKE ALARMS

Smoke alarms should be tested monthly or as per the manufacturers guide, by pressing the button and waiting for the test alarm to sound.

Smoke Alarms should be cleaned with a vacuum cleaner at least once per year to remove particles that will affect smoke alarm performance.

Replaceable batteries in a smoke alarm need to be changed yearly.

REPLACEMENT OF SMOKE ALARMS

Smoke alarms, including those attached to mains power, should be replaced in accordance with manufacturers specifications – generally after 10 years.

All smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years

Should you require more information on smoke alarms this is available on the website www.cfa.vic.gov.au/smokealarms

Murchison Fire Brigade CFA is hosting a ‘Christmas in July’ at the Railway Hotel Murchison East on Sunday 24th July to which other CFA Brigades and members of the public are cordially invited. Those interested in attending should contact Paul Golding at the Railway Hotel for further details.

STAY SAFE – in case of an emergency immediately call 000 and ask for ‘FIRE’, follow your Fire Plan and evacuate the premises.

All For You



Events



<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/youth-take-over-nights-tickets-355032911997?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

**By Amber
McNally**



<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/youth-food-project-registration-305264613677?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

These are a couple of helpful links for our youth

<https://kidshelpline.com.au/>



<https://www.headspace.com>



DHURRINGILE PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Aim High' Respect Achievement Resilience



BIKE EDUCATION AT DHURRINGILE PS

For term 2, we were fortunate to receive Sporting Schools funding which we used for Bike Education.

To further the range of activities that our students can participate in at school and to extend our SHINE (Strive, Healthy, Include, New, Emotions) program, Dhurringile Primary School decided to spend the Sporting Schools funds on Bike Education in term 2 2022.

Each of our students was purchased a new bike to use at school along with a helmet and safety vest.

To support the Bike Education program, we also purchased a set of road signs, traffic lights, model cars and model signs.

Bike Education encompasses a variety of skills and curriculum areas including:

- Physical Education
- Health
- SHINE (Strive, Healthy, Include, New, Emotions)
- Maths
- Personal and Social Capability.

After initial safety and bike riding skills as part of our PE program, the students have been allowed to ride their bikes at recess and lunchtime. The students assisted in developing the Dhurringile PS bike riding rules to keep everyone safe.

And the verdict from the students – double thumbs up!

TALES TALL AND TRUE – BY KATRINA CAMPBELL

During those glorious winter sunny days that we had in June we were outside spreading compost on a lovely Monday afternoon, and just after 4pm the mobile rang and it was a friend laughing so hard I could barely understand her.

“Dave’s mowing the lawn in the paddock and got the ride on mower bogged. I’ve driven in with the car and now I’m bogged too. I told him it was too wet. Can you come and get us out?”

I told my other half who did not think it funny as it meant he had to stop what he was doing and if he had twenty more minutes he’d be finished the area he was working on. “Why would you be mowing the paddock at this time of the year?” was his last comment.

I suggested we go quickly as the sun was setting soon. So we packed up the wheel barrow and tools, tended to the dogs and set out in our old boots and gardening attire.

On the way as I drove, I knew that would be quicker and he could sit and relax for the thirty-minute drive. I mentioned that I had never been bogged before and added “don’t get me bogged by walking me into a quagmire”.

When we arrived we could see how soggy the paddock actually was. A lot wetter than Murchison. Our friends are Melbourne professionals who bought a weekender in Euroa with the intention of moving up once their kids are educated. Gorgeous people, generous and kindhearted but you wouldn’t put your life, or car in their hands.

I sat in the car and waited to be directed once the paddock was walked over and they were sure I could get in and out.

I got the go ahead and followed the outskirts of the paddock. As I neared the bogged car I could see it was a wheel deep in mud. I decided to turn the car around so I could back in. I calculated where to turn making sure the ground was solid. All good. But then was told the bogged car was in so deep I’d have to drive in frontwards. Not a problem. I turned the car around thinking this is ok. I drove along the fence line and around a large gum tree on the fence line trying to get as close to it as I could. I thought this is where they want me and as I put my foot on the brakes I could feel myself sinking. I quickly put my foot on the exhilarator but didn’t move and could hear the wheel spinning. Quickly put it in reverse and again the same but this time could feel I was digging a hole with the wheel and could feel the car lowering. I was bogged. What an idiot. Coming to get friends out and now I’m bogged too.

I got out and looked at the glorious orange sun set and thought get it together and get someone to help us with machinery quickly.

I could see over the fence that their neighbour had horses, a semi-trailer, many cars, many sheds and thought they looked like they knew a few things about a few things. They could help, I’ll climb the fence. Then I saw the big black dog and hesitated, then thought I’m not scared of dogs. I tried to climb under the top strand of barbed wire but it was too tight and I needed someone to lift it up. I had no time to stand around talking about what had happened and did not want a conversation with my other half and was certain our friends would have a solution that I did not think acceptable. I was on a mission. Possibly looked like it too. I gave up on the fence idea and walked to back of the paddock where I knew the fencing was average.

Climbed under and over and arrived into a beautifully manicured garden with a long row of roses heading up to the road, a small brown house, a huge shed that I was certain a tractor lived in but there weren’t any lights on and no visible car. No one’s home I thought so I headed up past the roses to the road.

At the road I turned left towards the neighbors with the horses and cars. I knocked on the door and a very kind faced lady welcomed me in and walked me straight out the back door, through their huge outdoor area, where I met the black dog who thought I was very interesting smelling of dogs and compost. Then out to the huge shed with more cars and the fire blazing. The man of the house didn’t say much other than “we’d better have a look”. He looked like a capable man and if we were on the TV show Survivor, even though I didn’t know him I’d want to be on his team.

It’s a clown show I warned.

Upon inspection the tractor was brought around and a chain attached also with two snatch straps. Thirty meters in total. I was out in two minutes. Then the mower. By this time it was pitch black and it was cold. We had a few tiny torches to hand around. But their car took a lot of muscle and when the tractor got bogged I thought this is the end but no, the operator was skilled and he was out in a blink. The strap broke once. A few times the tractor reared up like a bucking horse, but the car got out. Boy was I thankful for sensible helpful kind strangers and I’m going to buy some of those straps just in case!!