



THE BRIDGE

Bi-monthly community magazine for Balnarring, Bittern, Crib Point, Flinders, French Island, Main Ridge, Merricks, Pt. Leo, Red Hill, Shoreham, Somers and Tuerong

Issue 89 February to March 2025

www.bridgemag.com.au

Womin Djeka.

Balnarring Ngargee

2025

Honouring & Celebrating First Peoples Cultures

Community Festival

SAT 01 MARCH

Family Friendly

EMU PLAINS RESERVE

Coolart Road, Balnarring

10AM - 5PM

Presented by Balnarring Preschool

CULTURE EVOLVES

WALA CONNECTIONS

MITCH TAMBO

NAOMI DIANE

PLUS MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED

ENTERTAINMENT • CULTURAL WORKSHOPS • MARKET
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES • CARING FOR COUNTRY • FOOD

We acknowledge Boon Wurrung Peoples as the traditional custodians of the land on which the festival is held. We recognise their strength in maintaining their cultures over thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Q Womin Djeka Balnarring

YES!!
It's time again to get yourselves to the 2025 Womin Djeka Festival at Emu Plains on March 1 10am to 5pm. **DON'T MISS IT!!**

Made possible by the customers of
Balnarring & District

 **Bendigo Bank**

Huge Thanks to Bendigo Bank (Balnarring and District Community Bank) for their fantastic support of the Bridge.

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to issue no. 89 of our community magazine, now in its 14th year!! How time flies!!

We wish to thank Ernestine Harrison for her final contribution as Bridge Junior Editor. She has done a wonderful interview with Ian Wisken all about our wetlands – it is fascinating! We thank her for her contributions to the Bridge during 2024 and wish her well in her new adventures in Secondary School and beyond. Bravo, Ernestine!! You're a Marvel!

We hope everyone is enjoying the start of 2025 and has fully recovered by now from Christmas and New Year's celebrations! The start of the new year somehow always feels like a time of opportunity for newness and maybe creating some plans for the year ahead.

Having lived in the same house now for over 14 years (a first!) parts of the garden are ready for a new look, a new purpose – so, planning has been happening, and a program of renewal drawn up for the next year! We'll see how it all unfolds...!

Our warm thanks to the distribution team for their reliable kindness in getting the Bridge copies out to cafes, supermarkets, shops, POs, etc, in Flinders and Shoreham, Merricks and Red Hill, Bittern and Crib Point, Somers General, and all around Balnarring, so that you all can get your copy and keep up with what's happening in this beautiful community. And of course, you can see it all in full colour online at bridgemag.com.au

Have a Fab Feb and a Marvellous March

With our love, Jen and Ali xx

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, the Boon Wurrung and Bunurong language groups of the Kulin Nation. We would like to pay our respects to their elders, past, present and future.

CONTENTS

Birthdays/Angel Card	4
How to Contribute	last page

The Bridge Magazine

www.bridgemag.com.au

Email: info@bridgemag.com.au

Address: PO Box 248 Balnarring VIC 3926

The Bridge volunteers

Editorial & layout team:

Ali Hoelzer, Jen Atherton

Website: John Ashton (Ikoniq)

Accounts: Jen Atherton

Subscriptions: Robyn Agg

Distribution team:

Robyn Agg, Celia Sexton,
Faye Poll, Ed & Meg Pawlik
Jimmy & Daisy

@Balnarring Post Office
Jen Atherton, Ali Hoelzer

Content:

Our wonderful community! You!



Hello!

To show our appreciation for the support you have given your community by banking with Community Bank Balnarring & District, we'd like to say thank you and send our warmest birthday wishes.

To celebrate have a coffee or shop at any one of our love local partners.

Tag us enjoying your birthday gift!

Facebook @communitybankbalnarringanddistrict
Instagram @communitybankbalnarring

*Love Local Partners can be found on our website or look for the Love Local decal in our partners windows



Bendigo Bank

Community Bank
Balnarring & District

Community members celebrating a birthday can visit the Community Bank Balnarring & District branch (proof of D.O.B required) and our staff will present them with a birthday card. The birthday card includes a \$6 LoveLocal card which recipients can use at any participating business.

Terms, conditions and a list of participating businesses can be located on our webpage:

<https://www.bendigobank.com.au/branch/vic/community-bank-balnarring-district/love-local/>

Happy Birthday!

February

4th Jason
6th Matt Wood
8th Madison Hall
9th Jasmine Wigley
11th Terry Mulcahy
11th Sir John
12th Christian O'Toole
13th Bec Davis
13th We remember
Jane Featherston
18th Deirdre McLean
19th Jo Treweek
20th Daryl Gordon
25th Suzi Callender
26th Neil Adams
27th Grant Bradbury
27th Dr Tiv Nirmalaan



March

3rd Ronnie Little
5th Adam Harris
7th Audrey Russo
7th Hope Ryan
8th Harry Mussel
14th Crystal Fieldhouse
17th Paul Olson
19th Danni Josephine
21st We remember
Frank De Backer
22nd Steve Haylock
25th Jeff Fortuyn
27th Sophie Douglas
28th Mimi De Backer
28th Vince Cafici
31st Leo Haylock

*To add a name to community birthdays, email
info@bridgemag.com.au*

February March 2025

Inspirational Angel Cards for the Community:

Thrive Self-Respect

How can you weave these into your day to support and empower you?

Who do you appreciate in our community and why?

Email submissions of appreciation, & birthdays in our community, to:

info@bridgemag.com.au or

Post to: The Bridge, PO Box 248, Balnarring 3926

Would you like to receive a digital copy of The BRIDGE in your email inbox?

Email info@bridgemag.com.au "subscribe" in the subject line.

Want to contribute to The Bridge? For deadline reminders, email

info@bridgemag.com.au with "deadline reminders" in the subject line.



Community Bank
Balnarring & District

Kristy knows banking

If you need help with yours, you need to meet Kristy.

Kristy shares her knowledge of banking so you can achieve what you want from life.

And, she can meet you when and where it suits you; at the branch, over the phone, or via video call.

If you need help with your banking, call Kristy McRae, our lending specialist on 5983 5543 or search Bendigo Bank Balnarring.

bendigobank.com.au



Making good things happen



When you bank with us, profits pour into the community. **\$3.7M** so far.

Here's who we've helped lately:

Somers Tennis Club

Crib Point Junior Football Club

Point Leo Surf Life Saving Club

Westernport Yacht Club

Westernport Community Support

Somerville Football Netball Club

Tyabb Koala Hospital

Flinders Yacht Club

Merricks Coolart Landcare

Balnarring Netball Club

Flinders Golf & Bowls Club

Shoreham CFA

Balnarring Primary School

Flinders Cricket Club

St Mark Balnarring

Bridge Magazine

Saltbush

Womin Djeka event 2025

Merricks Yacht Club

Story Dogs

Find out more. Call 5983 5543 or search
Bendigo Bank Balnarring & District.





News from your elected advocate for Coolart Ward, Cr. David Gill.

What will the next 4 years bring?

- There are various views about the responsibilities of Council from 'stick to the basics' to community building including support for volunteers and everywhere in between.
Costs are usually the format in which this is discussed.
Recent debate concentrated on **rate rises**; this was investigated last year where the difference between the rate cap set by the State Government and a zero rate rise to the average property rate payment was \$25 for the year.
This could be multiplied by roughly 100,000 properties to be about \$2.5m becoming a huge amount over 10 years that is lost to community improvement programs.
- Major changes are planned through a **new Planning Policy** being contemplated through an officer led recommendation which has been online for your feedback.

Councillors are elected to represent their communities; there is an average of 1% of planning applications brought to Council for decision. The other 99% are dealt with through delegation by officers. I believe the proposed changes may make it more difficult for councillors to bring planning decisions to relatively more transparent and accountable Council Meetings.

- As we all know **potholes** are now running at an all-time high. Many of our roads have not been renewed within their working life time-span. State Governments have consistently reduced road funding over the last few decades.
We are now paying the true cost for this neglect.
Ratepayers have never been able to afford road renewal; State Government contributions are a necessity in every Victorian municipality.

Potholes are coming from cracks under roads within the substructure and filling potholes is only a temporary measure as the cracks reappear and potholes very quickly open up again.

Council has employed more 'pothole' staff through contract arrangements, but despite about 10,000 potholes being filled a year, in my opinion, we are going backwards.

- **Mobile Library Van in operation again.**

We welcome back this Council initiative after a long absence.



Will the state Government live up to promises to provide a **cross-Peninsula Bus service**? Many who require access to public transport do not have their needs met on the Peninsula.

- Recently the State Government Gazetted our neighbourhood character and coastal village protections in a new **planning scheme amendment C271morn** that helps protect the unique characteristics of our Western Port and hinterland villages.
- A special thank you to our **volunteers** including CFA, Meals on Wheels, Junior Sports Club members and all the thousands of others who help build our community.
- Don't forget to leave some **shallow water in your garden** for our native fauna including birds, insects and also bees during hot weather.
- Another downside to being declared a 'metropolitan' municipality is that Peninsula local newspapers no longer receive State Government paid advertising for the **Summer Water Safety campaign**. Only 'regional' papers receive this funding.

The Peninsula has 10% of Victoria's coastline and the most household swimming pools of any municipality in Victoria.

We have the highest drowning toll in Victoria; inland papers in areas with almost no drowning incidents receive the advertising campaign in their local papers!

- Red Hill South – near the Medical Centre and Dentist – now has an **outreach drop in Council Hub** giving convenient access to Council Services 9am - 5pm Thursdays.
If successful Council will consider **Balnarring** and Flinders for similar hubs as part of decentralizing and enabling more face-to-face assistance to community members.
- **Council Budget '25/'26.**
Please keep sending your requests and views for consideration before the draft budget is presented by Council officers.
There are a number of staggered meetings starting soon for Council to consider budget outcomes.
I have concerns about the process where single items sent by you for consideration are grouped under general headings and therefore can be ticked off as having been addressed.
- Council is considering a zebra crossing and raised platform on **Camp Hill Road, Somers** as a safety measure for school children and other pedestrians. Your feedback is welcome.
- At the recent **Merricks Beach Community Association AGM** concerns were raised about drainage and road conditions for Council consideration. Even though the village has our smallest permanent population there were 80 attendees. There is always great interest in the many topics and robust discussion is normal.

Regards,

David. david.gill@mornpen.vic.gov.au



Gazettal of Planning Scheme Amendment C271morn

The Mornngton Peninsula Shire Council has released information about the Gazettal of Planning Scheme Amendment C271morn – Protecting Township Character & Responding to Coastal Hazards Around Westernport Bay, Bass Strait and Inland Areas

Planning Scheme Amendment C271morn has been approved by the Minister for Planning and was gazetted on Thursday 9 January 2025. This means it is now part of the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme. The amendment implements key directions of Council's adopted Western Port Coastal Villages and Surrounding Settlements Strategy.

The Strategy aims to address inundation and erosion hazards along Westernport Bay and Bass Strait caused by predicted sea level rise, while protecting and enhancing sensitive foreshore areas and local township character. The Strategy is based on:

- climate change modelling from the State Government's Westernport Local Coastal Hazard Assessment (Water Technology, 2014), and
- the vision, framework plans and design objectives developed for each township in consultation with local communities.

Development of the Strategy was partly funded by the State Government's Coastal Planning Grants Program.

What does the amendment do?

Amendment C271morn implements the Strategy by making changes to planning controls affecting coastal and inland areas around Westernport Bay and Bass Strait to ensure that future development:

- respects local township character (in industrial and commercial areas), and
- responds to erosion and inundation hazards from predicted sea level rise.

The amendment applies to land in Hastings, Tyabb, Bittern, Crib Point, Balnarring and Balnarring Beach, Flinders, Red Hill and Red Hill South, Somers, Merricks and Merricks Beach, Point Leo, Shoreham, and Cape Schanck through to Portsea.

In summary, the amendment makes the following key changes:

- applies new Erosion Management Overlay – Schedule 6 (EMO6) to identify coastal areas vulnerable to erosion and updates where existing EMO4 and EMO5 apply
- introduces new schedules to the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) which already apply to coastal land identified as vulnerable to inundation
- introduces a new requirement to the EMO and LSIO that planning permit applications must be accompanied by a Coastal Hazard Vulnerability & Risk Assessment (CHVRA) to ensure that future development responds to sea level rise risks whilst protecting coastal environments and processes
- exempts public land managers (such as Parks Victoria and the Port of Hastings) from planning permit requirements in the EMOs and LSIOs where other legislation addressing sea level rise impacts already applies to their land
- applies the Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO) to identify significant foreshore areas in Balnarring, Crib Point, Bittern and Hastings and protect these areas from inappropriate development
- applies various new Design and Development Overlay (DDO) schedules to commercial and industrially zoned land in Hastings, Tyabb, Balnarring, Bittern and Red Hill to ensure that future development respects the height, scale and design of existing buildings in line with the preferred character of each township.



**BALNARRING BEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
INC. A0021164R
P.O. Box 463,
BALNARRING, 3926
bal.beachca@gmail.com**

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Balnarring Beach Community Association Inc. will be held at the Westernport Yacht Club, Foreshore Road,
Balnarring Beach,**

on Saturday 1st February, 2025

Registration from 10:00 am Meeting Commences 10:30am

BALNARRING BEACH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM AGENDA:

- **Attendance and apologies**
- **Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting held
on the 20th January, 2024**
- **Reports – Treasurer's report
Chairman's report**
- **General Business**
- **Election of Office Bearers and Committee for 2025**

**If you wish to present a motion to be considered by the Meeting, submit the
proposed motion to the secretary in writing either by email at
bal.beachca@gmail.com or to P.O. Box 463, Balnarring 3926 to be received
two weeks prior to the AGM.**



Balnarring CFA News



FIRE DANGER PERIOD

has been declared.

NO BURNING OFF

without a permit.

<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-bans-ratings-and-restrictions/can-i-or-cant-i>

BBQ Safety Tips

- Check the LP gas cylinder before you turn it on. A cylinder must not be refilled if it hasn't been tested for more than 10 years or if the cylinder has been damaged.
- All new barbecues and cylinders are fitted with a new, safer design connection to prevent gas from being released.
- Check the hose to make sure it has not deteriorated.
- Check the connections to make sure they are tight and that the O rings are in good condition and have not cracked or split.
- Check for gas leaks by spraying soapy water on the connections and hoses. Bubbles will appear if there is a leak when you turn on the gas.
- Use your barbecue in a clear space and ensure there is adequate clearance from walls, fences, and other property.
- Never use a barbecue indoors or in a confined space.
- Cook with properly designed barbecue utensils and wear an apron.
- Remove excess fat from the barbecue after each use to prevent fat fires.
- Do not use barbecues in windy conditions.

Do You Have A Fire Plan?!!

Remember, leaving early is always the safest option.

When the Fire Danger Rating is Severe or Extreme, leaving the night before or early in the morning is the safest option for your survival.

You must plan your own survival.

Turn-Outs

12 Nov	Car Crash: Frankston-Flinders Rd, Merricks (assisted by Red Hill).
16 Nov	Fire - burn-off: Stumpy Gully Rd, Balnarring (assisted by Bittern & Somers).
16 Nov	Fire - shed: Foxeys Rd, Tuerong (assist Moorooduc).
18 Nov	Car Crash: Stanleys Rd, Merricks North (assisted by Red Hill).
18 Nov	Alarm: Davies Rd, Somers (assist Somers).
21 Nov	Fire - burn-off: Stumpy Gully Rd, Balnarring (assisted by Bittern).
22 Nov	Fire: Bayview Rd, Balnarring Beach (assisted by Somers).
25 Nov	Gas - smell: Seabreeze St, Balnarring (assisted by Bittern & Somers).
21 Nov	Fire - burn-off: Stumpy Gully Rd, Balnarring (assisted by Bittern).
27 Nov	Tree v Power Pole: Camp Hill Rd, Somers (assist by Somers).
28 Nov	Power Pole - sparking: Seawind Rd, Balnarring (assisted by Somers).
30 Nov	Fire - car: Hanns Creek Reserve, Merricks Beach (assisted by Bittern & Somers).
8 Dec	Fire: Merricks Beach (assisted by Bittern & Somers).
28 Dec	Car Crash: Merricks Rd, Merricks North (assisted by Red Hill).
29 Dec	Fire - tractor: Frankston-Flinders Rd, Balnarring Beach (assisted by Bittern & Somers).
1 Jan	Fire: The Promenade, Somers (assist Somers).
3 Jan	Fire: Western Pde, Point Leo (assist Shoreham).
3 Jan	Fire: Pearce St, Crib Point (assist Crib Point).
7 Jan	Fire: Charles Ct, Somers (assist Somers).
8 Jan	Alarm: Jackalope Hotel (assisted by Bittern Brigade).
11 Jan	Fire: Merricks Beach (assisted by Somers).

News

We have had several members volunteer to be deployed assist with efforts in containing fires at The Grampians & The Gurdies.

Volunteers

If anyone else is interested in helping their community, please feel free to pop into the station at our regular training times.

Monday evenings from 7:30pm – 9:30pm

Sunday mornings from 9:30am – 11:30am.

We hope everyone had a merry Christmas & safe New Year.

Thank-you for your support and we look forward to serving our cherished community again in 2025.

Byron SEDGWICK

M: 0419 313 413

E: byron@ianreid.com.au

Lieutenant – Balnarring CFA

Community Engagement Officer

Station Ph No: 5983 5379



.Womin Djeka.



Balnarring Ngargee

20
25

Honouring & Celebrating
First Peoples Cultures

Community
Festival

Family
Friendly

**SAT 01
MARCH**

10AM - 5PM

Presented
by Balnarring
Preschool

**EMU PLAINS
RESERVE**

Coolart Road, Balnarring

**CULTURE
EVOLVES**

**WALA
CONNECTIONS**

MITCH TAMBO

**PLUS MORE
TO BE
ANNOUNCED**

**NAOMI
DIANE**

**ENTERTAINMENT • CULTURAL WORKSHOPS • MARKET
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES • CARING FOR COUNTRY • FOOD**

We acknowledge Boon Wurrung Peoples as the traditional custodians of the land on which the festival is held. We recognise their strength in maintaining their cultures over thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.



Womin Djeka Balnarring



.Womin Djeka.



Balnarring Ngargee

Get excited! It's here, it's happening, it will be amazing... **Womin Djeka Balnarring Ngargee** is on **Saturday the 1st of March** at **Emu Plains Reserve!**

We are so proud to present the 8th Womin Djeka Balnarring Ngargee to our community. Come and connect to community, Culture and learn with and from First Peoples in a beautiful natural space. The program is coming together beautifully and we have a full day of entertainment and workshops planned, together with an amazing BLAK market, First Peoples organisations, Caring for Country area and delicious food.

We are thrilled to welcome to the Ngargee stage, the incredible Australian world music artist Mitch Tambo who will treat us to a brand new music release. Mitch and rising West Papuan entertainer Voice of Lele, are thrilled to release their powerful duet of My Island Home. The song is a powerful cross-cultural collaboration that reflects the diversity of what "home" means to people from

Mitch Tambo and Voice of Lele. Artist supplied

all walks of life. Mitch and Lele's version of this classic Australian song honours the connection to country and culture. The couple put their own spin on the beloved anthem by infusing it with personal meaning and cultural pride, reflecting their distinct backgrounds. For Mitch, the song honours his deep connection to Australia as a proud Gamilaraay man. For the Voice of Lele, it evokes her emotional journey as a refugee from West Papua. "To me, My Island Home makes me reflect on how beautiful this place is and how blessed I am to have deep roots here," says Mitch. "As a First Nations person, my connection to Australia differs from how Lele, as a refugee, connects with it, but here we are, both feeling at home." Be there at 1pm to hear this new release live!



From top: Wren Arkose, Crooked TP; Brent Watkins, Culture Evolves. Artist supplied.

Joining Mitch Tambo and Voice of Lele on the Emu Plains stage are exciting emerging artists, Gamilaroi singer-songwriter Naomi Diane, and freshly confirmed artists Wren Arkose and Crooked TP.

Wren Arkose is a Wakka Wakka singer and ukulele player based in Melbourne. Her music is a blend of indie-folk, with an undercurrent of country rhythms, rooted in her childhood inspiration, Johnny Cash. In 2022 Wren released her EP 'Breathless' with the support of her 4 band members. Tracks from the EP have been played on Triple J, ABC Melbourne, 3KND and Triple R.

Crooked TP is a proud Mutthi Mutthi/Yorta Yorta/Tongan man. His unique old school hip hop style, cultural “flava”, and captivating performance, takes you on a journey through his story telling. Crooked TP shares his values of Culture, Family, Respect, Loyalty, Love, connection and Breaking every generational cycle or chain in his family and community! Dance is a strong feature this year with Wala Connections Ngargee Dance Group and Culture Evolves. Culture Evolves utilises traditional Aboriginal dance, songs, lore and modern dance to highlight the importance of social justice and social ecology in today’s society from a First Nations perspective. “We believe through actively practicing our culture, we can preserve and maintain our connection to Country. It is through teaching the wisdom imparted from our ancestors and performing ceremony, that we create a stronger and healthier sense of identity in Aboriginal people” says Brent Watkins a Gunai Kurni

man with Noongar Yamatji ancestry. ***We are still looking for volunteers to join us on the day.*** We are so very thankful that our community gets involved and volunteers always find this a rewarding experience. Get involved here:

<https://forms.gle/cdmgYZuXiMKgXEsK7>.

Enjoy the incredible workshops and Cultural experiences on offer. A smoking ceremony, conducted by Boon Wurrung man Jaeden Williams, will welcome you



Jaeden Williams. Artist supplied

all to the site as you enter and later enjoy Jaeden's incredible storytelling. Living culture will offer guided walks, fire making, spear throwing and Yidaki meditations. Several talented artists will be guiding us through jewellery making including Amanda Jean Hoskins, Sammi Trist and Marilyn Duff. Taylah Eid is returning with mixed media artworks. Bronwyn Razem will be weaving eels and you can see her exciting art installation created with the Balnarring Preschool.

We are very excited to have Angie Cleaver creating a community art piece with us. Angie is a descendant of the Pinterrainer people and also the Parperloihener people. From a very early age she has been interested in honouring her heritage and developing skills in Aboriginal Art and she now sells her work internationally. Angie believes art comes from the heart, "regardless of how adept a person is as an artist, I believe that they can paint the way they want because all art tells a story". We are so excited that she will be creating something magnificent with our community that demonstrates connection, a key vision of the Ngargee.



Angie Cleaver with her artworks. Artist supplied.

The workshop format is changing to enable more people to attend workshops and, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Vic Health, Prestige Aged Care, Ross E Trust, and your donations this year all workshops will be FREE. Many workshops will be "drop in", while some have set times. As always, the Welcome to Country is integral to the day, planned for 12:30pm, followed by the exciting launch of the fourth book created in a collaboration between Boon Wurrung Elder N'Arwee't Professor Caroline Briggs AM and Balnarring Preschool: The Journey of the ilk. ilk is the short fin eel, an important animal for Boon Wurrung People with a fascinating story. Don't hesitate to add this newest book to your collection.

BLAK Market Goods: Artist supplied from L-R N'Dene Riley, Brian Walker, Louise Grant and Andrea Cowling.



Peninsula SongRiders
proudly presents



PHIL CEBERANO & BIGFOOT

support: Mijo Biscan

SATURDAY 22 FEB 6-9pm



TICKETS \$30 ONLINE @ [TRYBOOKING.COM/CYJU](https://trybooking.com/cyju) & \$35 @ DOOR IF STILL AVAILABLE
WESTERNPORT YACHT CLUB - 1 FORESHORE RD BALNARRING BEACH

peninsula SongRiders
proudly presents

KINEMATIC



“seaside town” single launch
support from Jalgany duo & Gabe Hester

SATURDAY 29 MARCH 6-9pm



TICKETS ONLINE @ TRYBOOKING.COM & @ DOOR/VENUE IF STILL AVAILABLE
WESTERNPORT YACHT CLUB - 1 FORESHORE RD BALNARRING BEACH

Walking and sitting meditation

Second Saturday
of every month
10.30am to 12.00pm
Free

Coolart Wetlands &
Homestead
40 Lord Somers Road, Somers

Meet at information centre
BYO outdoor chair & cushion



buddhataalk

buddhataalk.com.au
buddhataalk9@gmail.com

MUCH TO LOOK FORWARD TO AT FLINDERS FRINGE

Flinders Fringe Festival, February 21st to 23rd 2025

As part of the wonderful programs in FLINDERS FRINGE next year, a series of works known as **ACROSS THE WATERS** will include the 'listening stones', a sculptural installation by Jo Lane. They will be at the centre of deep listening circles with Dr Laura Brearley at the helm. The 'listening stones' are a sculptural work of stones with ears.



They are ears of those that hear our local environment and fought and fight to save it and continue to advocate for this wonderful area. Local individuals who rally to protect Western Port area, the place where we, and unique marine life, flora and fauna, live.

While this is not unique to the Mornington Peninsula, our community is the only one that is ours ... our ears to our place.



ACROSS THE WATERS at FLINDERS FRINGE has been proudly supported with a Creative Grant from Mornington Peninsula Council.

More about **ACROSS THE WATERS** in our next edition ...



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



CURRENTS OF PRACTICE: CELEBRATING THE WETLANDS THAT SUSTAIN LIFE & INSPIRE ART

WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2025 FEBRUARY 2

Coolart Wetlands & Homestead will come alive on February 1–2, 2025, with Currents of Practice, an inaugural arts event marking World Wetlands Day. Curated by Rosa Mar Tato Ortega and Maria Tallarida, the event showcases the work of multidisciplinary artists while fostering a profound connection between art, history, and the vital role of wetlands in sustaining life.

Event Highlights

- Opening
 - When: Saturday, February 1, 1.30–3.30 PM
 - What: Experience artworks within the historic homestead, observatory, and surrounding spaces at Coolart.
- Q&A Panel Discussion
 - When: Sunday, February 2, 11.00 AM
 - What: Moderated by award-winning journalist Tracee Hutchison, this one-hour discussion will explore themes of connection, observation, responsibility, and obligation to our shared environment.
 - Highlights include Dominic White's performative sculpture, *The Empathy Suit*.

A Creative Call to Action


"Currents of Practice is about harnessing art to reveal the lifeblood of wetlands and their role in sustaining us all," shared curator Rosa Mar Tato Ortega. "Through art, Currents of Practice honours the wetlands that shape our existence and inspire action and awareness."

Maria Tallarida added, "This event creates a space for dialogue, bringing together artistic practices and significance to inspire collective reflection and responsibility."

Vision for the Future

With support from Friends of Coolart, Western Port Biosphere, Parks Victoria, and the Mornington Peninsula Shire, this event is more than an exhibition—it's the foundation for an ongoing global initiative. By documenting the event and creating a dedicated publication, Currents of Practice aims to position Coolart Wetlands as a hub for artistic exploration and environmental advocacy.

Tracee Hutchison, Moderator of the Q&A Artist Panel says, 'I am deeply honoured to be part of this unique and inspired event to celebrate World Wetlands Day 2025. Our internationally recognised wetlands are a vital part of our natural ecosystem, home to over a hundred species of waterbirds, waders, and seabirds—a magical place of salt marshes and mangroves. This inaugural event weaving art, land, landscape, and conversation is set to become an important part of the Mornington Peninsula's cultural calendar.'

 Where: Coolart Wetlands & Homestead, Somers, Victoria

 When: February 1–2, 2025

 Admission: Free

We ask that locals, Melbournian and regional visitors come celebrate the beauty of wetlands through art and join a conversation that connects creativity, conservation, and community.

Supported by professional documentation and a forthcoming eBook publication, this event lays the foundation for future programs aligned with World Wetlands Day.

Mel Barker, CEO of the Western Port Biosphere Foundation, noted:

"This collaboration brings the magic of Coolart to life, connecting art and ecology in ways that resonate locally and globally."

For a full list of participating artists [see](#)

Experience where creativity flows with purpose. Currents of Practice is a creative call to recognise, protect, and celebrate the wetlands sustaining our future.

For Media Enquiries

For further information, image credits, or interview opportunities, please contact:

Rosa Mar Tato Ortega

0412 034 401

rossatato@gmail.com

www.rosatato.com

Further Reading

- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Coolart Wetlands & Homestead



FEB 2025 SCHEDULE



YOGA WITH EUGENIE

SATURDAYS 9.00 - 10.30 AM

TUESDAYS 9.00 - 11 AM

SUGGESTED DONATION \$20

MORE INFO: EUGENIE 0429 092 331

MEDITATION

MONDAYS 7.30 - 8.30 PM

MORE INFO: SIMON 0415 729 579

SALSA DANCE

WEDNESDAYS SESSION 1: 6.30-7.30 PM

WEDNESDAYS SESSION 2: 7.30-8.30 PM

SUGGESTED DONATION \$20

MORE INFO: SIMON 0415 729 579

AFRICAN PERCUSSION

MONDAYS 6.30-7.30 PM

THURSDAYS 5 - 6 PM

MORE INFO: PETER 0432 043 547

YOGA WITH JAN

THURSDAYS 9.15AM-10.30AM

SUGGESTED DONATION \$20

MORE INFO: JAN 0405 609 157

BUDDHIST MEDITATION

WEDNESDAYS 1.30-3PM

GOLD COIN DONATION

MORE INFO: JUDITH 0408 632 714

BALNARRING PLAYGROUP

FRIDAYS

@SALTBUSH

MORE INFO: KIRSTEN 0421 564 439

QIGONG

THURSDAYS 6.15PM-7.30PM

SUGGESTED DONATION \$10

MORE INFO: ANDREW 0409 399 850

WOMEN'S MUSICAL JAM

SATURDAYS (FORTNIGHTLY) 3PM-5PM

FREE

MORE INFO: JACKIE 0480 173 357

ACTING FOR YOUTH

8-12YOS SATURDAY 11AM-12NOON

13-18 YOS FRIDAY 4.30- 5.30PM

SUGGESTED DONATION \$20

MORE INFO: JO 0409976454

BALNARRING COMMUNITY HUB COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

1ST TUESDAY MONTHLY 6PM-7.30PM

MORE INFO: BALNARRINGHUB@GMAIL.COM

PAST



PRESENT



FUTURE



Balnarring

COMMUNITY HUB

wellbeing, education and creativity

December 21st at the community Summer Solstice celebrations and additional celebration took place with the official handover of the BVC (Balnarring Village Common) to Balnarring Community Hub as the recognised community group for Balnarring and surrounds.

The past (BVC) represented by Mandy and Marty Nelson-Willams, planted a tree to acknowledge all that the BVC team achieved, while the present, represented by Celia Sexton, and the future, represented by Bron Dick planted trees for the what is currently being worked on to build our community facilities, along with a commitment to continue to create a place of gathering and inclusion.

The BVC team worked to establish the “common” the park land across from the shop to be dedicated for community use. This involved rezoning to ensure the land is not sold and developed and now a centre for community activities.

The “Hub” now continues to drive and builds on the BVC dream for a community house (Hub) for this space, or nearby.

To be a part of this next step please pop in to a monthly meeting to see how you can support.



The following posts about the GURDIES BUSHFIRE have been shared from Save Western Port Woodlands and PICS (Phillip Island Conservation Society) fb pages:

“Many of us have mourned since fire swept through the Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve on December 19-20 2024, threatening homes and properties in the Gurdies and further afield. For three hard days, around 45 firefighting vehicles, a number of aerial fire bombers and more than 400 volunteer personnel worked to contain a fire that burnt through a total of 192 hectares, including 125ha in the northern section of the Gurdies Reserve and a small area of the nearby Hurdy Gurdy Nature Conservation Reserve.”

Westernport Woodlander Prof Dick Wettenhall said the extent of the damage is devastating. After spending years photographing the orchids growing in the reserve adjoining his home, last year Prof Wettenhall published a book of his photos, "The Guide to Orchid Paradise: the Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve".

“The huge tragedy is that the understorey has been burnt and will take many years to return. There will be no pollinators until then.”

Local videographer and PICS member Terry Melvin sent his drone over the fire damaged Gurdies Nature Reserve and combined the footage and images from before the fires with ground level views of what remains. Heartfelt quotes and moving poems layered over Laura Brearley’s swelling soundtrack make this short film, ‘After The Fires’ a message of hope and gratitude for this remarkable, resilient country. “The film is dedicated to the hundreds of firefighters who worked so hard to save homes, woodland and wildlife in The Gurdies wildfire of December 2024.” The video is available here:

<https://youtu.be/zBntyRjcVhl?feature=shared>

Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) posted a message of support and gratitude to Save Western Port Woodland’s activist-custodians: “Thanks to Save Western Port Woodlanders, Bass Coast communities are rediscovering the Bass Sands - Gurdies - Grantville and Lang Lang proving ground areas. PICS is an avid supporter of SWPW’s campaign against the threatened expansion of destructive sandmining, because the future of these remnant coastal forests are integral to the health of Western Port bay.”

When the devastation of the Gurdies fire left the community shocked and reeling, Save Western Port Woodlands responded with an invitation to supporters to gather in the Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve for a commemorative walk for Fire & Rain.

“Re-entering the reserve after the fires will be confronting. This shared rite of loss and renewal is a chance to express our feelings, to find comfort in being together in this special place and to look toward new life in The Gurdies. We’ll reflect on our immense sadness, and gratitude for the firefighters who volunteered to save life and property in the district.”

“Despite the losses, there is much to be thankful for: the volunteer CFA firefighters who saved homes, sheds and livestock; the Forest Fire Management firefighters who stopped the fire from spreading into the southern section of the Gurdies reserve; the fact that no human lives or homes were lost; the green shoots that are already emerging in the burnt areas of the reserve.”

Dick Wettenhall: “After walking around the tracks on the southern side of the main creek valley today, I am feeling more optimistic about the future of our precious forest. The burnt areas in the Reserve are mostly on the northern side of the valley. Substantial amounts of the unique vegetation near the creek, including many of the tree ferns, have survived, and there were many birds flying around the shrubs.

There was a Golden Whistler down by the Old Quarry pond – I felt as if he was welcoming me back – and a family of kangaroos emerged from the bushes.”

The rare coastal biolink of forest known as the Western Port Woodlands is under threat from a surge in sand mining activities. Currently sand mining takes precedence over conservation of this fragile habitat and the wishes of local communities.

Victoria already has plenty of sand available in previously cleared or degraded areas.

It’s our call, and we’re drawing a line in the sand. This rare woodland is too precious to lose.

From Save Western Port Woodlands website: <https://www.savewesternportwoodlands.org>



December 27, 2024



December 21, 2023

Updates from SWP : Our New Year was brightened by a Mornington Peninsula News report on January 7 claimed that Kawasaki could be set to withdraw from their unpopular project to make hydrogen from coal and ship it to Japan from Westernport Bay.

<https://www.mpnews.com.au/2025/01/07/hastings-hydrogen-project-in-doubt/>

On the Renewable Energy (windfarm) terminal in Westernport Bay: In Dec 2024, Save Westernport made a submission on the Scoping Requirements for the EES. You can read our submission, sign up to receive our newsletters, and renew your membership on the Save Westernport website <https://www.savewesternport.org>



Location of The Gurdies (in red box at right)



Mornington
Peninsula
Landcare
Network

WINNER
2024
VICTORIAN
LANDCARE
AWARDS

PARTNERING AGAINST PESTS 2025

a Landcare approach

The Mornington Peninsula Landcare Network is delivering a series of informative workshops to empower the community to control invasive pests. Come learn best practice techniques & clever approaches that will save you time, effort & money.

Scan the QR code or go to the website below for your free tickets,

22 February

How to Control Rabbits



9 March

Weed Management Planning



16 March

Sensitive Weeding



23 March

Feral Management Planning



30 March

Weed Lookalike Identification



26 April

Fund & Promote Your Program



For more information go to:

<https://mplandcare.org.au/partnering-to-tackle-pests-on-the-mornington-peninsula-a-landcare-approach/>

OR EMAIL: facilitator@mplandcare.org.au



Partnering to tackle Pests on the Peninsula - a Landcare approach is supported by the Victorian Government through the Partnerships Against Pests program.

Lovechild Original Mandala Art

Blessed to reside by both sea & country for 40 plus years, Jill is a self-taught artist specialising in fine line mandala art by freehand design.

Inspired by the beauty of Mornington Peninsula & the folks she meets along the way, each artwork begins with the simplicity of a circle & weaves the mandala to life.

The mandala art journey has blossomed from paper & canvas to many & varied mediums.

Hand painted denim jackets, hats, tote bags, terracotta pots, crystal grids, greeting cards, grazing boards, tiered serving stands, mandala feathers, picnic baskets, cheese & wine boards & more.

Each piece is an original, one-off artwork & may be personalised for all occasions on request.

Both beginner & advanced workshops are offered November through May.

Learn to design & create your own mandala art. All art supplies are included & a grazing platter to share.

Thank you for reading & supporting Australian art & artists.

Workshop Beginner

Saturday 8th February 2025

Saturday 8th March 2025

9.30am

Balnarring Beach Rotunda

\$80.00 pp

Investment includes

*3-hour workshop

*All art supplies included

*Grazing platter to share

*Opportunity to win an original hand-painted mandala

See poster opposite.

LEARN TO CREATE YOUR OWN MANDALA ART

SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2025

SATURDAY 8TH MARCH 2025

BALNARRING BEACH ROTUNDA

\$80PP 3 HOUR WORKSHOP

ALL ART SUPPLIES INCLUDED

GRAZING PLATTER TO SHARE

LOVECHILDORIGINAL@GMAIL.COM



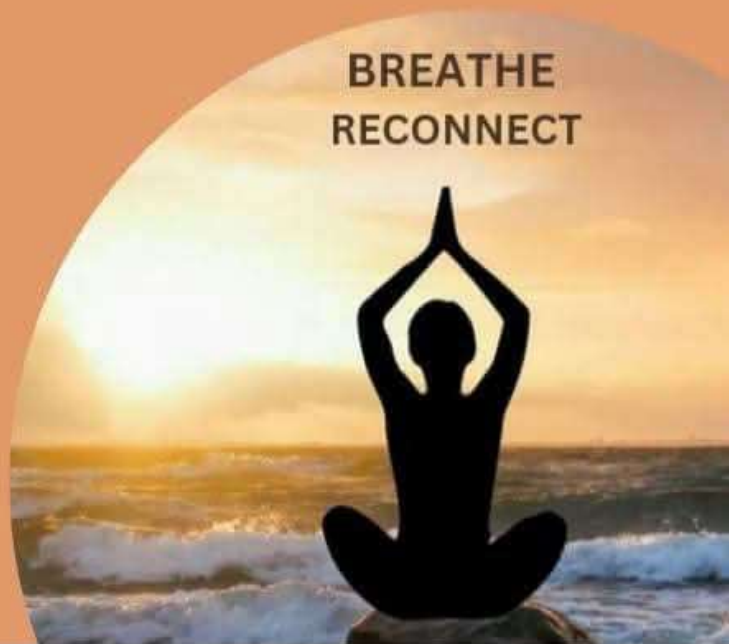
LOVE♥CHILD♥ORIGINAL

MANDALA ART

MORNINGTON PENINSULA

0408 477 468

BREATHE
RECONNECT



Open Path

*

Shoreham



Stillness, Centredness, Naturalness:

**contemplative practices to strengthen resilience
and responsive engagement in the busyness of
everyday life.**

**Open Path offers practice sessions, day retreats
and long retreats drawing upon classical
teachings and inspiration from Shoreham's
beautiful bushland and beach setting.**

2025 sessions commence Sunday February 2.

For more information:

openpathmeditation.com.au

contact@openpathmeditation.com.au



Save the date: March 14, 2025!

Balnarring Primary School is excitedly preparing for the 30th anniversary of the Balbiraoroo Wetlands in 2025, celebrating three decades of community dedication to nurturing nature and caring for the environment. This milestone highlights the school's strong connection to BoonWurrung Country and its ongoing commitment to sustainability.

Thanks to Bendigo Bank, Landcare Victoria, Hillview Quarries, and community fundraising, the school is also revitalizing its grounds and entrances with meaningfully created artworks. A centrepiece is the Bundjil and Waa sculpture by Taungurung artist Iluka Sax Williams, symbolizing the school's values and respect for First Nations culture. Complementing this, local artist Ron Roach has crafted wooden poles featuring native fauna and flora, embodying the school's ethos of caring for ourselves, others, and the environment.

This anniversary is a time to reflect on the school's rich history of connection to the environment, and we look forward to a future rooted in community, culture and environmental stewardship.

Balnarring Primary School
From the Bridge's Junior Editor, Ernestine
who has...

A Chat with Ian Wisken

The commencing of 2025 carries with it many events that induce excitement in the community. An example includes the 30th anniversary of BPS' stunningly famous wetlands!

Rewind to December of 2024, I, Ernestine Harrison, acquired the privilege of interviewing co-founder of these wetlands, Ian Wisken!

The majority of Balnarring residents are perhaps aware of Ian Wisken's essential contributions to practically all aspects of our wetlands, including the biodiversity, revegetation, and scouting the funding.

Ian was a wonderful interviewee, supplying an abundance of informative content. Below is a scribe of our conversation, represented as a 'Q & A'. Enjoy educating yourself on the topic of how the wetlands came to be!

Q: Okay, first question! How did the land appear before it was altered?

A: It was just a cow paddock! Hardly any vegetation, just a completely degraded piece of land.

Q: Were any animals living in it?

A: There had been cows in it, somebody was agisting cows. But there wasn't any at the time we initiated our project.

Q: What was the vision you had for that land when you first laid eyes upon it?

A: The vision was to bring it back to what it was before, revegetate it with indigenous species. Specifically plants and grasses. We had actually discovered that there was a damp spot near what is now the Balbirooroo that we found to be suitable for wetlands.

Q: What motivated you to change the land?

A: Well, there was a large amount of land around Balnarring that had been destroyed- one way or another. Much of the vegetation had also been changed, most of the original being gone. So we thought that this piece of land was a great opportunity to do something about that. Also to make a corridor with places such as Coolart, other places that managed to revegetate their land.

Q: Were there stages to this project?

A: Definitely. There were stages. First, we decided to make a wetlands out of Balbieroo, you know the big pool? We managed to get a grant from the Mullum Trust, we had never heard of it, and they never came down to inspect our work! We thought it would take years to get grants, but with a quick application we were given \$5,000! We ended up getting a bulldozer in to build the wetlands...anyway that was the first stage! Next, we needed to start looking at planting, that was important. We put in the dip net pond and the boardwalks over many weekends, and we received many grants from places such as Melbourne Water. Seemed like we were the flavour of the month! Nearly every grant we applied for we got!

Q: Do you go to the wetlands now? What do you think of the way it's developed?

A: Yes. I spent a lot of time there, particularly in lockdown, and I often thought to myself what a fantastic source of life it has become. So, yes we are quite pleased with how it has developed. It's honestly a relief to know that people like you still use the wetlands! It was quite the worry that it would be forgotten about after a while.

Q: Anyways, how many people did it take to build the wetlands? Who were those people?

A: We were actually very fortunate in the fact that one of the parents: Brian Thomas was the Ranger at Coolart, he had all the expertise! He knew all the birds, almost everything we had to do. Heather Goddard was also a parent at our school, don't know if you know her but she had all the expertise regarding contacts and applications. It was us three that it started with until we decided to launch a wetlands committee, which consisted of parents and eventually, students and teachers! We also managed to find a local builder: Simon Mantell, who was responsible for building all the boardwalks as well as the bird hide.

Q: Who do the wetlands belong to?

A: Well at first it belonged to the shire, but then I took a phone call from the regional office in Frankston who were sort of in charge. They said to me that they would give us the land more or less for free, but were not prepared to spend any money on it. We then had the choice to either leave it as a cow paddock and charge farmers to keep their livestock there, but

to keep their livestock there, but we decided against that, it was too great of an opportunity to revegetate and change the landscape.

Q: You told me the children were involved in the process of the wetlands, can you tell me how?

A: Well, we would have working bees where the children would come along and plant grasses and trees. So, overtime, that was very effective, since we would typically plant 500-600 trees each year.

Q: Well I think that's all the questions I have for you, Ian. It's been great interviewing you, you have been very informative!

It is now very apparent the immensely large amount of labour Ian and his team put in. I believe I can safely speak when stating the wetlands are an incredible fragment of nature's beauty. Thanks Ian and everyone else involved!

Alas, this is my final article as the BPS correspondent for the Bridge. Thank you for welcoming me to this magazine! I have thoroughly enjoyed this wonderful opportunity.

I wish everyone a pleasant 2025!



30 years on...



Sweet Talk on Valentines Day and Don't Thank Me, Spank Me! on International Women's Day at MOTH

It's all happening at Music on the Hill. After a sold-out show at the beautiful new Flinders Civic Hall featuring Steph Strings and locals Rae Santos and Spud Thompson, the community music event returns to the Shed Theatre at The Pig and Whistle in Main Ridge for three shows in four weeks.

Friday 7 February sees a double-header Americana show featuring multiple award-winning artist and MOTH favourite **Matt Joe Gow** playing as a trio. Opening the night will be UK duo **Dan Webster and Emily Lawler** who have included MOTH on their Australian tour.

A week later Melbourne-based six-piece boogie band **Sweet Talk** play on Valentines Day evening (**14th Feb**) supported by local indie pop/rockers **The Bloody Norahs**.

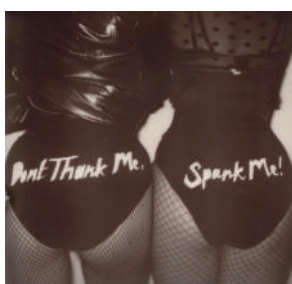


Sweet Talk are renowned for their high-energy live shows readily whipping unsuspecting punters into frenzied states of boogie with unabashed songs at the drop of a hat. They were founded over a bond of late nights, American music, classic song writing and improvised jams. Gaining a loyal following, Sweet Talk have been journeying across Australia with appearances at Blues On Broadbeach, Queenscliff Music Festival, Riverboats Festival, Port Fairy Folk Festival, Out On The Weekend along with live rooms, pubs and BBQ's across cities and states.



MOTH will be celebrating International Women's Day with a show on **Friday 7 March** featuring raucus trio **Don't Thank, Me Spank Me!** They will be ably supported by Peninsula-based singer-songwriter **Maxon** – also playing as a trio.

Don't Thank Me, Spank Me! are a genius combination of sublime songwriting, good hair and matching Fender Mustangs. The Melbourne outfit is made up of best friends Nitida Atkinson (vocals and guitar) and Esther Henderson (vocals and bass), and the sound is something like a parallel universe where the Runaways hung out with Britney Spears and cooked up guitar-heavy 80s bangers with garage-girl-group harmonies and attitude.



Bookings at musiconthehill.com.au

MOTH is supported by the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

Take a Bite Back: The Health Benefits of Dental Implants



We often think of missing teeth as primarily a cosmetic issue – a gap in our smile that impacts our confidence. However, the truth is that missing teeth can have a significant and detrimental impact on our overall health, extending far beyond the cosmetic.

When you're missing teeth, chewing becomes a challenge. This can lead to a self-imposed dietary restriction, as you avoid tough, fibrous foods like fruits, vegetables, and lean meats. This limited diet can quickly translate into serious nutritional deficiencies, such as Vitamin C for a strong immune system, Vitamin A for healthy vision, Calcium for strong bones or a lack of protein leading to compromised immune function.

A common question that arises is how many missing teeth is too many? Losing even one tooth is enough to start a chain reaction. Losing a tooth is like removing a load-bearing wall. Just like a missing wall can weaken the entire structure of a house, losing a tooth can destabilize your bite and put stress on

the remaining teeth. This causes them to deteriorate faster and before you know it one missing tooth turns into many missing teeth.

So don't let your "dental house" crumble. Replacing a missing tooth is like repairing that load-bearing wall. It helps maintain the stability and integrity of your entire oral structure, allowing you to prioritize your nutritional needs and improve your overall quality of life. That's where dental implants come in, you can reclaim your bite and enjoy a full, healthy diet once again.

Imagine tiny anchors gently placed into your jawbone. These anchors, called implants, seamlessly integrate with your bone, creating a remarkably strong and stable base for your new teeth. Unlike dentures or bridges, dental implants function just like your natural teeth. You can bite, chew, and speak with confidence, enjoying a wide variety of foods without worry or discomfort.

The placement of dental implants is a very simple and straightforward procedure.

Advanced dental techniques, using computer guided key-hole procedure ensures a relaxed and comfortable experience. In fact, most of our patients barely take a Panadol the next day!

For more information call us today to book your free complimentary consult with one of our highly trained dentists at Balnarring Dental Centre.

Balnarring Dental Centre
19 Balnarring Rd, Balnarring
Tel 5983 5348

BALNARRING MEN'S PROBUS CLUB

Our Club was founded in 1985 to provide opportunities for retired and semi-retired local men to engage in a variety of activities in a congenial environment which encourages fellowship and fun. We currently have 50 members with ages ranging from 65 to 97.

We meet at the **Balnarring Bowls & Social Club** on the last Friday of each month, except December, commencing at 10:00 am. Our regular features include photographic exhibitions, morning tea and guest speakers who are invariably a source of information and entertainment. Meetings will usually be followed by a light lunch at the club.

The Club also hosts a variety of activities including a book group, bridge, wine appreciation, photography, gardening, cycling, film group, outings and dine-outs.



Members of our gardening Group enjoying a Christmas Lunch and final meeting of the year at Coolart. Tall tales were told about their individual progress in growing tomatoes for the annual taste judging in February.

At our November meeting, our speaker Gerald Hughes gave us a very informative presentation on "How to avoid Scams ". Following the meeting 35 members enjoyed our annual lunch at the Heritage.

The first meeting for 2025 will be on Friday, 31st January, which will be followed by our annual picnic at Coolart with partners.

New members are always welcomed. For further information please contact our President **Dennis Paskins** on 0409 480 306 or check out our website by typing "Balnarring Men's Probus" into your web browser.

Somers Ladies Probus Club

Somers Ladies Probus 2024 end-of-year break up was celebrated at Toscano's Restaurant in Hastings. Our members were in the festive spirit with their Christmas themed outfits fitting the occasion. We were served a 2-course dinner which was enjoyed by all.

Generous members donated toys which went to Western Port Community Support in Hastings. The toys were distributed to families from the centre who are experiencing financial hardship, especially at this time of year.



Gifts donated to the Western Port Community Support Centre.

Our club is always looking to attract new members to join our very friendly group of women. There is an opportunity to forge new connections and develop friendships, at our monthly meetings at the Stone Pavilion, Somers at 10 am on the first Friday of each month.

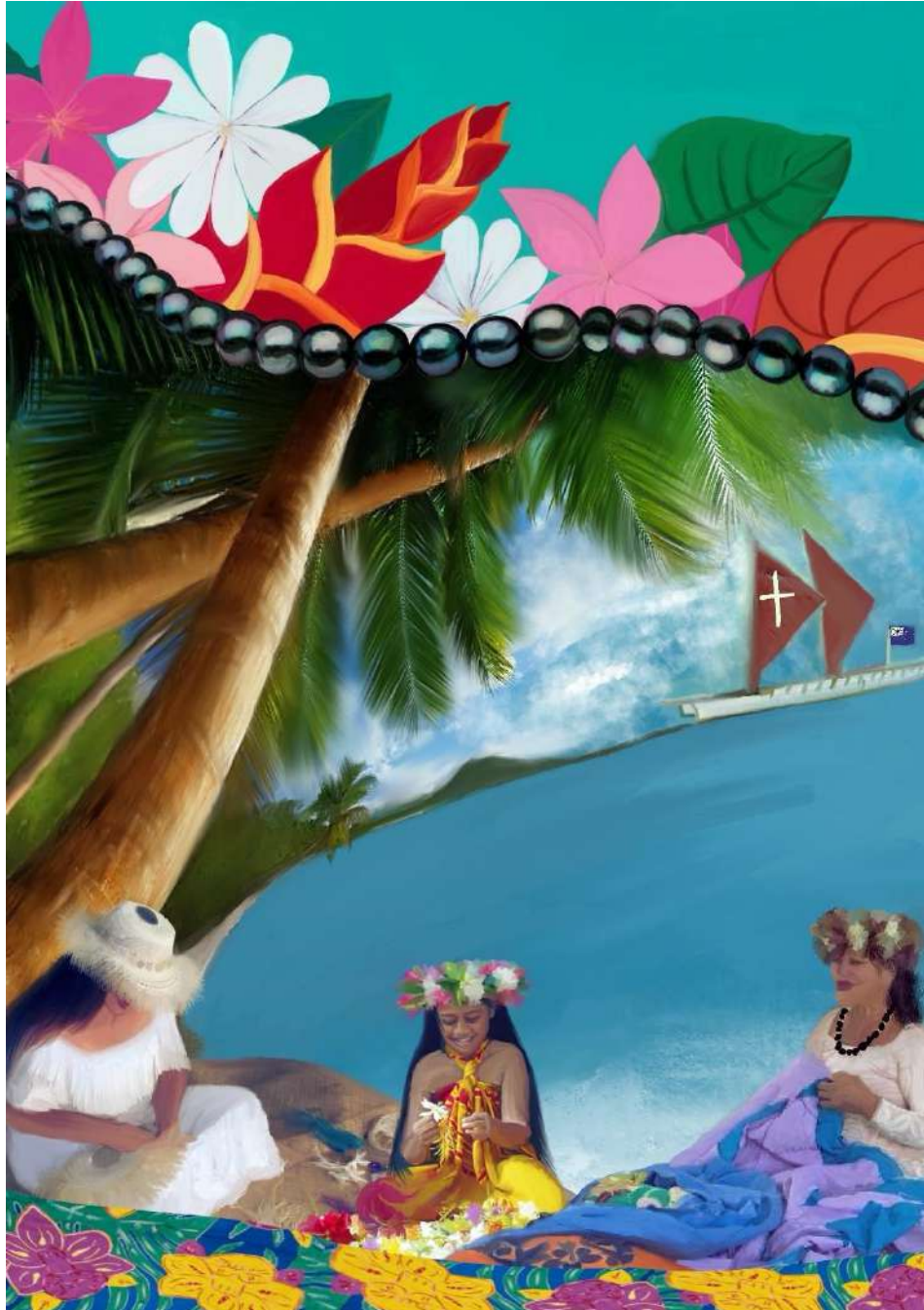
We host a variety of activities including Mah Jong, Canasta, Music, Walking, Knit and Natter, Fireside Films, a regular Happy Hour, a Lunch Group and a range of outings.

Contact Lis (0407 713 211) or June (5983 5321) for more information.

World Day of Prayer 2025

Cook Islands

‘I made you wonderful’



Date and Time: Friday 7th March 2025 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm
Location: Balnarring Uniting Church, 10 Balnarring Beach Road
Contact Number: 0427 379 815



Western Port Uniting Church Parish
(consisting of Balnarring, Crib Point and Hastings congregations)

**Service Locations and Times for
February and March 2025**

Balnarring 10.45 am Crib Point 9.00 am Hastings 10.45 am

Church Locations:

Balnarring - 10 Balnarring Beach Road, Balnarring.

Crib Point - 382 Stony Point Road, Crib Point.

Hastings - Corner Marine Parade and Hodgins Road, Hastings.

Parish Service – Sunday 30th March 2025 – Crib Point Uniting Church.

A Parish Service will be held on Sunday 30th March at the Crib Point Uniting Church commencing at 10.45 am. This is the only service held in the Western Port Uniting Church Parish on this day.

If you wish to contact a Uniting Church or confirm our service arrangements, please phone a Parish Contact as listed below.

Parish Contacts

Parish Minister:	Rev. Nigel McBrien	0456 298 267
Parish Chairperson:	Margaret Baker	0400 096 669
Parish Secretary:	Colin Watt	0427 379 815

Parish Opportunity Shop - 149 Disney Street Crib Point

Our Op Shop has resumed normal trading as follows: -

Tuesday to Friday – 10.00 am to 3.30 pm. Saturday 9.30 am to 1.00 pm.

Saleable donations are accepted, with thanks, during these hours.

If you would like to volunteer, please call into the Op Shop for an Application Form.

There are limited funds available to local organisations and community groups undertaking special projects to advance their cause. Please call at the Op Shop to register your interest in applying for a grant to support your special project.

The Op Shop will conduct a Mad March Sale and Footpath Sausage Sizzle on the 8th March. Come along for some extra special bargains and enjoy a sausage for a donation.

Frontier Services – Bunnings Sausage Sizzle – 4th January 2025

Thanks to all volunteers and community members who supported the Frontier Services Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on the 4th January 2025. Very much appreciated was the Bunnings BBQ facility which was ideally located near the main entrance and staff co-operation.

Pancake Day on Tuesday 4th March

Hastings Uniting Church will observe Pancake Day on Tuesday 4th March with a luncheon from 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm at the church. All are welcome. This is a great chance to get together, have some fun and make a difference whilst enjoying social light entertainment.

Funds raised are used by Uniting Victas to help some of the most vulnerable and marginalised people in our communities. These range from emergency relief for families facing food crisis, to supporting homeless people into permanent accommodation; from finding work for people with disability to supporting an older person to live independently in their own home.

Western Port Singers – will be meeting at the Balnarring Uniting Church on Tuesdays from 2.30 to 4.30 pm commencing on Tuesday 4th February 2025 with an open rehearsal. All voices welcome.
Contact Linda on 0412 221 474 for further details.

World Day of Prayer – 2025

World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical prayer event held on the first Friday in March each year all around the world. Each year a different country prepares the Services highlighting its culture, joys and problems

Theme from The Cook Islands – "I Made You Wonderful" with Bible readings from Psalm 139 - God knows us, God is with us, and God made us wonderful.

Date: Friday 7th March 2025, 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Service to be held at Balnarring Uniting Church, 10 Balnarring Beach Road Balnarring.

For this year, there is an informative children's worship service available on request. It includes educational information about The Cook Islands, a sea creature colouring activity, a raw fish recipe, a gospel story and a thanksgiving prayer.

Parish Encouragement Message

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

Jesus tells his disciples to take courage. Despite the inevitable struggles they would face, they would not be alone. Jesus does not abandon us to our struggles either.

Hastings



**We now have a new venue at: Bittern Memorial Centre
Hendersons Road, Bittern**



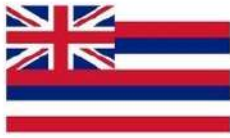
Why not join us at Bittern for the following courses:

**Pickleball,
Table Tennis (Mondays), Table Tennis (Fridays),
French Beginners,
French Intermediate, French Advanced,
Scrabble, Rummikub and Board games, Mahjong,
Dancing for Fun and Fitness,
Exercise to Music (Beginners), Ageless Grace,
Tai Chi, Yoga,
Acrylic Art, Watercolours,**

**For full details of many other courses/activities at
different venues in and around Western Port**

see our website: u3ahastings.org.au

Enrol online - only \$60 membership per year



Aloha Australia

Shipping Hawaiian shirts to Australia since 2016

GENUINE HAWAIIAN SHIRTS

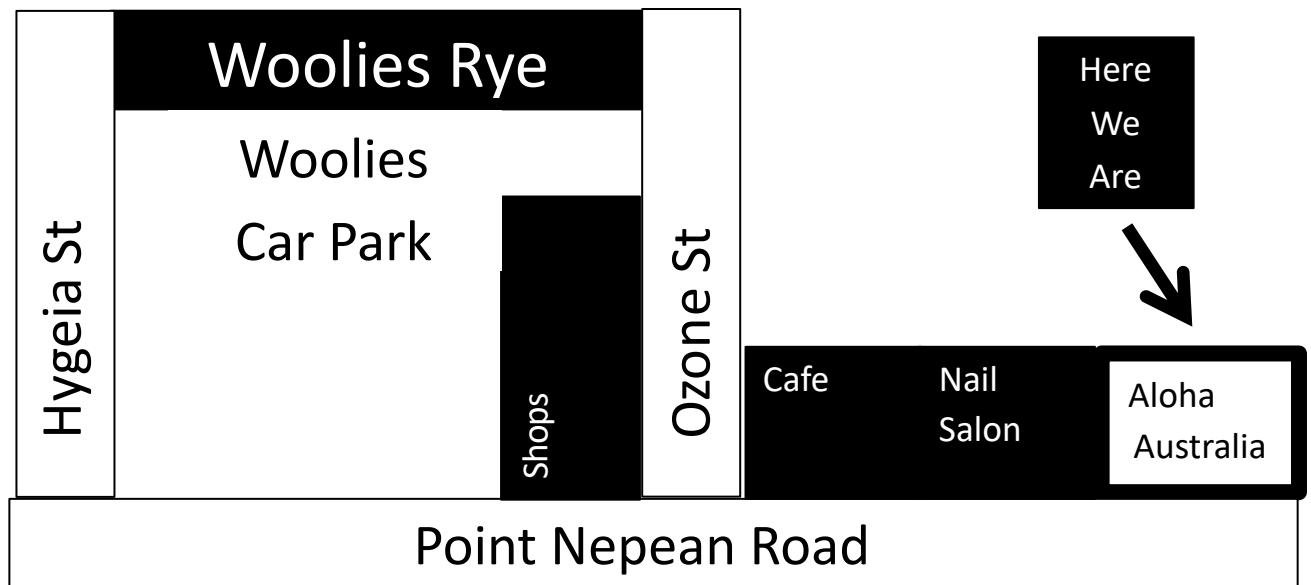
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RJC HAWAII SINCE 1953

www.thatsmybusiness.com.au

Shop Opening in March

2197 Point Nepean Road Rye



Aloha Australia is the exclusive RJC Hawaii supplier to Australia.

Personalised service with the largest variety of Hawaiian shirts you will find in a shop

anywhere in Australia, made in Hawaii.

With shirt names inspired by Hawaii's streets and beach side towns, to being named after people in our community, there is the feel of Hawaii for all wearers.

You can look as stylish as:



Jimmy from Balnarring Post Office
in
"The Jimmy"



The man who probably owns more Hawaiian shirts than
Magnum PI, 3AW's Tom Elliott
in
"The Tom Elliott"



Charlie from Koonya General Store Sorrento in
"The Charlie"

Mahalo

Catherine



Open 9am-4pm Weekdays

Willum Warrain is a 100% Aboriginal community-owned bush nursery specialising in local indigenous plants from the Mornington Peninsula. Many of the plants we sell have cultural uses and meanings for Aboriginal peoples in South East Australia.

We are the only Aboriginal-run nursery retail and wholesale nursery south of Melbourne open to the public. We are very keen to take on larger orders (with warning) from businesses and agencies seeking to achieve Reconciliation Action Plan goals and meet procurement targets.

We really appreciate the support of friends, allies and corporate clients who have been so keen to support our local Aboriginal mob developing this important social enterprise, creating employment opportunities for our Aboriginal community.

You can drop in weekdays throughout the school term and purchase plants. – we are currently growing over 100 species. Please see our exciting range of top 5 Deadly Plants (murnong, lomandra, chocolate lily, appleberry, karkalla) and our top 5 wetland and top 5 bush flower selections.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to heal country. For more information, please visit -

www.willumwarrain.org.au/willum-warrain-aboriginal-bush-nursery



Somers Combined Probus celebrates a milestone



Time flies when you are having fun and that certainly applies to Somers Combined Probus Club that celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. The club is planning a cocktail party for past and present members to mark the occasion on Friday 21 February.

In 2005 there were already three Probus clubs locally, a ladies, men's and a newly formed combined club in Balnarring. However, waiting lists were reasonably long so with the view of forming a Combined Probus Club in Somers, the Hastings - Westernport Rotary Club was asked to evaluate the level of interest and assess viability.

On 14 January 2005, a meeting was organised at the local R.W. Stone Pavilion. The response was so overwhelming that the Somers Combined Probus Club held its first meeting on 11 February, was chartered on 11 March and officially incorporated on 13 July 2005. The Rotary Club of Hastings-Westernport was the sponsor.

At the March 2005 charter meeting, membership had reached 72, the cap was 100. Enthusiasm was high and activity groups were quickly formed. Many of the activities were held in members' homes and they generally ended in a drink, meal and lots of fun and fellowship. Word spread and the waiting list grew rapidly. By 2023 membership had grown and a limit of 120 members was introduced. This limit was dictated by the capacity of our meeting venue, Somers Yacht Club.

With a wide-ranging program of activities the club is an ideal way to make new friends and integrate into the local community. The range of interests is wide and most people find at least one group that fits their interests.

The club meets at Somers Yacht Club the second Friday each month at 10am. New members are always welcome and will find plenty of friendly faces.

For more information contact our membership secretary Pat Pringle on 0418 311 889 or the President Judy Alsop on 0418 313 099.

-Tony Duboudin



BALNARRING TENNIS CLUB

FEEL LIKE A GOOD HIT OF SOCIAL TENNIS?

DO YOU HAVE A COUPLE OF HOURS SPARE

MONDAY, TUESDAY OR THURSDAY MORNINGS?

Our group of men and women enjoy playing doubles together every Monday and Thursday between 8.45am and approximately 11.30am. Players are of different levels but all sets are great fun and good exercise in a very friendly atmosphere.

Tuesday mornings ladies play from 9am to 11am and enjoy a coffee/tea together afterwards in the clubhouse.

Members pay \$2 each time you play to cover cost of balls and coffee/tea. Let your friends, family, neighbours know that if they are not members they can play social tennis at a casual cost of \$7 each time.

To parents of all junior club members we would love you to join the social tennis at the casual rate whenever you play.

You are most welcome to visit our social tennis to see how flexible and fun it is. Racquets are available to borrow if needed.

LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU SOON

WE PLAY ALL YEAR ROUND



Contributor is Margaret Rees

0408 271 059

Red Hill Op Shop

Trek to the Hill and Bag a Bargain

The Red Hill Op Shop has entered its 41st year of operation and the flow of goods through the shop never ceases to amaze and intrigue. The Op shop is fortunate to be the recipient of some terrific donations, and those items are carefully curated by our 100% volunteer staff and offered for resale.

Our shop is ALWAYS brimming with a wide variety of clothing, bric-a-brac, Manchester, art, sporting gear and books! There is always something for everyone! You just never know what you might spy!

We would love you to make a commitment to come and visit us in 2025 and discover what everyone else is talking about – **Red Hill Op Shop** – offering items at a fraction of the original price.

We are also remarkably inexpensive compared to other Op Shops in the area – so we think it will be worth your while to head to Red Hill.

Monies raised are directed to the Peninsula Home Hospice – our main beneficiary – and other ‘not for profit organisations’. We are proud of our unique association with the Peninsula Home Hospice.

We are located at 33 Mechanics Road, RED HILL and our opening hours are Tues, Wed, Fri and Saturday 10am – 1pm.

We can be contacted at pr@redhillopshop.com or follow us on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/redhillopshop



Hill & Ridge
**Community
Market**
Red Hill Recreation
Reserve

**Locally grown produce, delicious
foods, vintage, artisan products
and captivating music and art**

First Saturday of the month (Sep-May)

8am – 1pm | 184 Arthurs Seat Road, Red Hill

www.hillandridgemarket.com.au



97th

Red Hill Show

Saturday 8th March | Labour Day Weekend
Red Hill Showgrounds | 8.30am - 5pm



Mornington Peninsula Paddock with live Judging
Woodchop - Gumboot Throw
Australian Mountainboarders - Carnival Rides
Animals Galore from Cattle to Rats
and much more...

ENTER YOUR EXHIBITS NOW!



BOOK ONLINE and save via our website

www.redhillshow.com.au

184 Arthurs Seat Road, Red Hill 3937



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Contact Helen for a consultation


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@greenerescapesdesign



SCAN ME 



Help us put a roof over the arena and secure the future of Merricks Station Grounds as an equestrian facility for the Mornington Peninsula

RAISE THE ROOF

- Special recognition and benefits for donors including named recognition, life membership, signage and more
- All donations are tax deductible

\$1.2m
Goal

\$352,000 already raised!



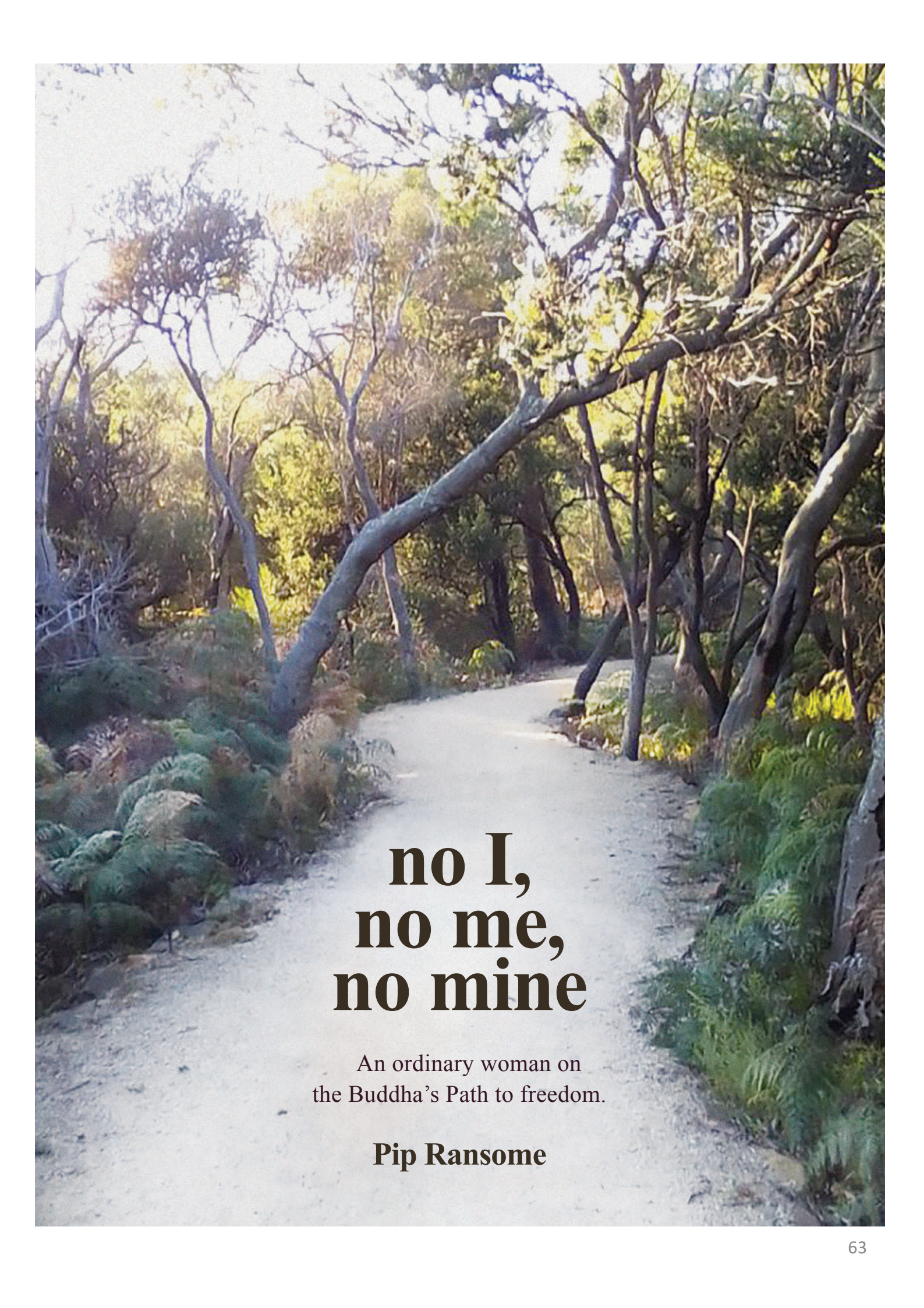
Opportunities for Business Sponsorship

- Electrical work: Installation of power
- Plumbing: Connecting water and installation of irrigation
- Water tanks: Provision of tanks with a 150,000 litre capacity



Donate Here

To sponsor or learn more contact
geegeejennym@gmail.com

A photograph of a dirt path winding through a forest. The path is light-colored and leads into the distance. On either side of the path are lush green ferns and trees with dense foliage. The lighting is soft, suggesting a sunny day with some shade.

no I, no me, no mine

An ordinary woman on
the Buddha's Path to freedom.

Pip Ransome



buddhataalk

“no I, no me, no mine” by Pip Ransome

This book is the story of an ordinary modern-day woman’s journey from a typical Western way of living based on ‘I, me and mine’ to a gentler, more aware, integrated and peaceful way of living as ‘no I, no me and no mine’: a way of living in harmony with our environment. The Buddha calls a complete understood experience of living in this way ‘enlightenment’, and describes it as ‘true and lasting happiness’ and ‘the end of suffering’.

Written by local resident Pip Ransome, the book tells of her own experience: early life, marriage and travels, work-life, meeting her teacher, Buddhist nun the late Venerable Ayya Khema, and how following the Buddha’s step-by-step instructions gradually eased the hurts, disappointments, losses – the suffering – inherent in our daily lives, replacing it with a growing freedom and joy. She relates the ups and downs of each stage, including a fascinating account of her years living and working with the Indigenous Yorta-Yorta people of northern Victoria.

Meeting Ayya Khema is a highlight of the story. Pip’s account of practising the Buddha’s path under Ayya Khema’s direction, given verbatim from meditation notes written directly after daily meditations, is a precious example of how to reach stream-entry, the safety and security of the first of the Buddha’s 4 stages of enlightenment, which like Pip, you can experience, here and now.

*‘It’s hard to put this treasure down. It promises to inspire,
inform and encourage our practice’ Oliver C.*

To purchase the book, email buddhataalk9@gmail.com The cost is \$20 plus postage.

In 1993 Pip Ransome was authorised to teach meditation and the Buddha-Dhamma by highly-esteemed Buddhist nun Venerable Ayya Khema. While maintaining her own practice, she has taught, quietly and with diligence, for 30 years. She now enjoys a secluded life in a seaside village on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria.





Are you a young person on the Mornington Peninsula aged 5-21 with a passion for theatre and the performing arts?

Dreamhouse Theatre Company—Mornington Peninsula’s leading not-for-profit youth theatre company—offers engaging acting and performance workshops for young people aged 5-21. Our programs are created by industry professionals with extensive experience in the performing arts, providing a nurturing space for creativity and growth.

Term 1 for 2025 begins Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th February.

At Dreamhouse, we’re committed to inclusivity, where all young people are encouraged to voice their ideas in a safe, welcoming, and creative environment. Our sessions focus on theatre games, improvisation, text exploration, and developing skills in devising, writing, voice, and movement—all while having fun!

We offer a friendly space for young people of all genders and abilities to find their voice and build confidence.

Dreamhouse Ensemble (Ages 12-21) Begins Wednesday 5th February 2025.

The Dreamhouse Ensemble is ideal for teens and young adults passionate about theatre. Participants dive deep into acting techniques, improvisation, and text work while forming strong connections with peers. It’s more than skill-building—it’s about becoming part of a creative community. The Dreamhouse Ensemble offers a unique space for growth on stage and beyond.

When: Wednesdays, 4-6pm

Where: The Southern Peninsula Arts Centre, Rosebud SC Theatre, 245 Eastbourne Road, Rosebud, VIC 3939.

Little Big Dreamers (Ages 5-12) Begins Tuesday 4th February 2025

For younger creatives, the Little Big Dreamers program is the perfect place to explore their imaginations, build confidence, and experience the magic of theatre. Through drama games, storytelling, and interactive play, children develop essential communication and teamwork skills in a fun and supportive environment.

When: Tuesdays, 4-5:45pm

Where: Red Hill Mechanics Hall, 19-23 Mechanics Road, Red Hill, VIC 3937

We can't wait to see you there!

Fee Structure: \$15 per week – Full-time and \$10 per week – Concession

Scholarships Available

We believe all young people should have access to the performing arts. Part or full scholarships are available to eligible young people facing financial, social, or other barriers to participation.

For more information, please email: dhtheatreco@gmail.com



WILDLIFE RESCUE Contacts

Koala rescue
Jenny Bryant 0417 395 883

WHOMP
(Wildlife Help On Mornington
Peninsula)
0417 380 687

Klarissa Gaunaut
0488 494 667

WHO? WHEN? WHERE?

A young boy with his bike and his dog: this photo (at left) was taken about 90 years ago. How things have changed!

The boy is George Weston and his dog is named Foxie. They are playing on the Hastings to Flinders roadway at Merricks outside his home and the general store which is owned and run by his parents, Alf and Tilly Weston. The family lives at 'Westgate', the Californian-style bungalow house they built next to the store. The year is 1933 or '34.

The building behind George is the Union Church, where both Anglican congregations and Presbyterian congregations once worshipped on alternate Sundays. The building, an old one, was erected in the 1870s and in 1935 it would be demolished as decrepit and unfit for use.

Today that road is known as the Frankston Flinders Road, and the general store has become a popular, high-class restaurant while the house is home to a gallery.

The former site of the Union Church is now part of the grounds of Stoniers Winery. George became a local real estate agent who unfortunately died in a road accident in the 1970s.)

*(photo and information from the archives of the
Balnarring & District Historical Society)*

Ilma Hackett

OPEN STUDIO WEEKENDS AND ART CLASSES IN SOMERS

Monique Morey is a local Somers artist and is excited to welcome you to her
OPEN STUDIO WEEKENDS IN 2025. (MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER).

Pop in and meet Monique for inspiration, to chat about her art classes, or to see her latest paintings of local landscapes and seascapes that will be available to purchase.

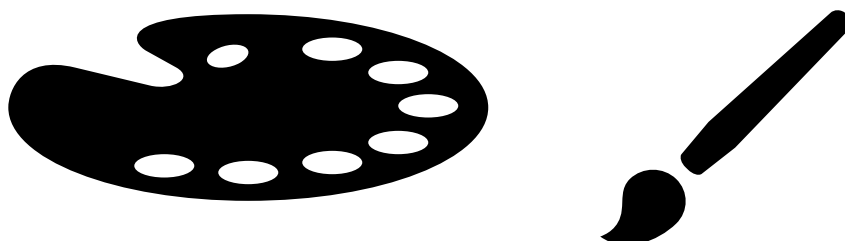
Monique has many years of experience teaching, and will also be running some fabulous and fun

DRAWING AND PAINTING WORKSHOPS FOR TERRIFIED BEGINNERS AND OTHERS!

For more information contact Monique at:

Email: moniquemorey7@gmail.com

@moniquemoreyart



The Embroiderers Guild of Victoria Flinders Branch

The EGV Flinders Branch is a friendly, enthusiastic group of embroiderers & textile artists with all levels of skill. We welcome all stitchers of any level & those on holiday in the area to join us.

Meetings: Guild members & other visitors are welcome to join us every 1st, 3rd & 5th Monday of the month at the St. John's Anglican Church Hall.

We meet from 10am until 4pm for a full day of stitching.

We meet at:

St. John's Anglican Church Hall
King Street,
Flinders, 3929

For more information, visit our website at
www.embroiderersguild.org/branches-locations

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Beginners welcome

for Kid's, Teenage and Adult's Karate

At Balnarring Zen Do Kai

Contact "Kyoshi" Peter Smedley

6th Degree Black Belt.

Make a booking on 0418 319 064.

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Learn BJJ



BALNARRING
BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU

Tuesday's 7pm

**Balnarring Community Hall,
6 week beginners course for
\$180 pp**

Peter Smedley : 0418 319 064

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87 Warrawee Rd Balnarring

www.warraweewholistic.com



BALNARRING
PODIATRY

Kayley provides a thorough and gentle treatment. Treating everything from a nail trim to postural issues.

20% OFF
for August and
September,
when you
mention this ad.

Book online at www.balnarringpodiatry.com.au or call 0438 174 179



Erika has over 16 years experience as a massage therapist and carefully tailors each treatment to reduce chronic pain and improve mobility.

She specialises in:

- Seniors massage
- Remedial massage
- Reiki
- Relaxation/therapeutic massage

\$20 OFF initial 60 or 90
min appointment!
For August and September

Book online at www.easeretreat.com or call 0417 533 064



Jane McDonell Natural Therapist

- Pranic Healing
- Herbal Medicine Consults and Workshops
- Lomi Lomi Massage
- Tai Chi Classes

For bookings contact Jane on 0411 399 212



Neil Adams has over 40 years experience working practically and creatively with various forms of human movement and physiology.

- Small Pilates Matwork classes,
- One-to-One Postural Pilates,
- Whole Body Stretch classes
- Lomi Lomi Hawaiian Massage.

Contact: 0418638589 / neiladams0@gmail.com



Elizabeth Brew provides a personalised, wholistic approach to treat the cause of pain, not just the symptoms. She is particularly experienced with older clients.

Karen Buckingham uses subtle touch and movement supporting the body's natural process of change and repair. She is particularly talented at working with babies, toddlers, children and women (pre and post pregnancy).

Book online at www.thepeninsulaosteopath.com or call 0483 812 165

an INVITATION

To visit the **History Room**
in the **Balnarring Hall** on a Monday morning
10.00 a.m. to 12 noon.

What you will find: photos, maps, documents, books
and objects relating to our district's past.

Bring your questions.

Bring your stories.

Ph. 5983 5236

(Balnarring & District Historical Society)

Paul's Art and Frame

... closed on 28th September 2023.
But hold those tears!

Paul has re-opened in Hastings...

at 19 Star Point Place
on Frankston-Flinders Rd
Hastings

Telephone: 0439 718 281

So, you can continue to get all your art and crafts
materials, custom framing and laminating, precut
frames, maps (overseas and Hema), paper carry bags,
candles, cards, and other treasures from Paul - Easy!!



Friends of Woolleys Beach

Join us!

Why? The Crib Point Stony Point Foreshore Reserve is one of the few remaining places along the Western Port coastline that has many species of plants, birds and animals. It is a significant area within the **Western Port Biosphere** and thus has global importance for the conservation of nature under the RAMSAR wetland convention and for developing the science of sustainable land use under the UNESCO man and biosphere program.

Unfortunately many of the native plant communities of the reserve are under threat from invasive weeds, which left unchecked can replace these important ecosystems.

Where? Woolleys Beach North carpark near Crib Point jetty
(Opposite the Victorian Maritime Centre at 220 The Esplanade, Crib Point).

When? First Sunday of each month from 9:00am – 11:00am.

Check Facebook for updates and join our group – **‘Woolleys Beach Friends Group’**

How? We will target Bluebell Creeper and invasive species within the reserve.

Please bring your own gardening gloves, hat and safety glasses.

Sign In and Acknowledge Job Safety required before we start in the reserve.

Many thanks to Annelie Burford for all her work at Woolleys Beach and welcome to our new Ranger Glenn Brooks-MacMillan!

Contact: ranger@cribpointstonypointforeshore.com.au

Further info: <https://cribpointstonypointforeshore.com.au/>



Friends of Daangean Report November 2024

After the disappointing turn up for the Daangean Point community boneseed session FOD's attention turned to Botaurus Wetland on Saturday September 28th where there's an overabundance of boneseed (*Chrysanthemoides monilifera*) and *Pinus radiata*. Into the denser and darker part of the pines intermittent pittos (*Pittosporum undulatum*) was less evident than towards the light where there were more of them. The boneseed had reached considerable dimensions in some places which indicated a few years under their belts, or should I say branches. A team of four created sizeable piles of fruiting boneseed beside the track for ease of access for Parks Victoria (PV) to collect and dispose of them at a later date. However, PV has a policy of non-removal of weeds so now when the seeds germinate they will do so in a confined area and not spread all over the place; that's if the foxes don't

interfere with the plan.

Our Liz Sarrailhe bestowed the Botaurus Wetland name to this site and on one of the bird count sessions an Australasian Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) was photographed in flight after leaving the water's edge.

This new site has various woody weeds including, blackberry (*Rosaceae* sp), sallow wattle (*Acacia longifolia*, subsp. *longifolia*), hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and the African Weed-orchid

(*Disa bracteata*). Even with the overabundance



Jamie on his knees with the fallen pine - MF

of these weeds it was still an easier site for working because there was no bracken

of gahnia to fight a way through to reach the now increasing number of pitto regrowth.

Saturday October 26th was our second session at Botaurus Wetland and this time we had a new recruit who is a Holmesglen student. Hopefully she re-joined her class with more knowledge up her sleeve. Michelle and I tackled the boneseed amid the pines and Jamie battled his way through blackberries to deal with boneseed on the dam bank. Julie was unwell and unable to come but she did, however, provide us with banana bread that was still warm from the oven. I remained for an extra hour and dealt with 212 *Disa*, and on returning on the following Tuesday I dealt with another 163 all before they began to set seed. The usual removal method is digging out the fleshy bulb, but I work on the bulb



***Disa bracteata* – African Weed-orchid - MF**

exhaustion theory in that if the bulb has put in great effort to produce the flower then there won't be much left in it to reproduce. It seems to flower from the new bulb whereas the previous one is spent.

Waterwatch took place on Tuesday September 24th and October 22nd. Water levels were down in September but had risen again in October due to rains beforehand. Water quality was good on both occasions, but the turbidity level was high as usual in the catch drain water at the Devilbend Creek area.

The cormorants were absent from the Bittern water tower again so they are probably nesting elsewhere. Coots and the resident swans were on the water and a bunch of Pacific Black ducks (*Anas superciliosa*) preened and sunned themselves on the dam wall just above the water's edge. And in September two Yellow-billed Spoonbills (*Platalea flavipes*) fossicked in the edge of the reeds.



Pair of Yellow-billed Spoonbills - MF

Vandals have been busy setting fire to the disabled toilet cubicle at the Devilbend picnic ground, and wrecking even further, the roadside verges of Hodgins and Derril Roads. Dumped rubbish and various piles of tyres along the Devilbend roads don't make for attractive viewing!

Marnie Fitzsimons

FOD coordinator, devilbendfoundation@gmail.com

NB Keep an eye on the roads for crossing reptiles now the weather is warming, and also for young birds, some of which have already lost their lives to vehicles and the drivers thereof.

Crib Point Community Market

7 Park Rd, Crib Point

**Saturday 8th February
and 8th March**

9am - 1pm

**Lots of Stalls
Inside and Out**

**Handmade Goods, Up-
Cycled Items, Plants,
Gifts, Community
Stalls, Coffee Van,
Devonshire Tea & BBQ,
Cribby Koala Treasure
Hunt and much more....**



**Inside and Outside Stalls
Available**

Stall Fees Paid on the Day

7 Park Rd Crib Point, 3919

Ph:(03)5983 9888

Email: market@cpch.org.au

Website: www.cpch.org.au



NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2025



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A new year and a new term. I hope this newsletter finds you all well. I'm sure you will find something in our program to join in, learn and have fun. We joined with the Crib Point Cricket Club again last year for the Toy Drive which was very successful. All the toys went to Mums Supporting Families In Need, a great organisation that helps families in need all over the Frankston and Mornington Peninsula. I recently bought some marked down toys to start for this year's drive. I'm sure we can make it even bigger this year.

Our **Craft weekend** is coming up in May and bookings are open. It will be at the Lord Somers Camp in Somers from Friday 30th May to Sunday 1st June and costs \$230 per person. This includes accommodation and meals. You can do your UFOs or whatever project you are working on. Whatever your craft, it will be a great weekend filled with craft, wine, laughs, more wine and lots of fun. Come on ladies, you deserve a girls weekend away. For more information give us a call on 5983 9888.

Program Term 1 is just beginning, it's not too late to join most of our classes. New this term is **Pilates** - mat work with Neil Adams, which is on Tuesday mornings 9.30 – 10.30 and Thursday evenings 6-7pm. Beginners are most welcome. Back by popular demand is a 4hr **Cricut workshop**. There will be 2 session of Senior Safe Driver program on 18th March. This is FREE and will cover new road laws, how age affects your driving and more. There will also be a **Health Pet Day** with the RSPCA and the **Street Law Coffee Van** will visit in March. Dates for these two events are yet to be confirmed. Check our website, www.cpch.org.au and Facebook or give us a call on 59839888 for more information.

Don't forget our **Community Market** on the second Saturday of the month. Our next two markets will be on 8th February and 8th March. If you are interested in having a stall, please email Michelle at market@cpch.org.au to book a stall. Payments for stalls are taken on the day of the market.





Craft Weekend

**Friday 30th May
to Sunday 1st June
at
Lord Somers Camp**

Join us for a Crafty weekend filled with fun, wine, laughs, more wine and maybe even some crafts too.

Finish your UFOs or have a special project

**Includes meals and accommodation.
\$230 per person**

For more info and to book call 5983 9888





1st Balnarring

Scout Group

Scouts in 2025?

Is it time to check out if local Scouting is for you and your child?

1st Balnarring Scout Group, meeting at St Mark's, offers four Sections:

- Joey Scouts aged 5-7 (Tuesdays 5.30-6.30 pm)
- Cub Scouts aged 8-10 (Wednesdays 6.30-8 pm)
- Scouts aged 11-14 (Tuesdays 7-9 pm)
- and Venturer Scouts aged 15-17 (Tuesdays 7-9 pm)

Scouting welcomes all: Is 2025 your year to try Scouts?

What we do ...

Highlights of 2024 have included:

- Joey Scouts - our very first meetings, a camp at Tuerong
- Cub Scouts - camping, geocaching, cycling, creative skills
- Scouts - caving, canoeing, camping, hiking, and preparing for the 25th Australian Jamboree in Queensland in January
- Venturers - hiking, camping, and the national Venturer camp last January (with expeditions including a week Scuba diving in Fiji)

Weekly meetings, at St Mark's or nearby, and occasional weekends.

As you'll see, much of the program is outdoors (off-screens).

Scouting is a broad program that aims to develop young people in all dimensions (physically, mentally, socially, etc) unlike many activities which focus on the one aspect, like physical development.

The national Resilience Survey found Scouts have many advantages compared with their peers.

(See more at <https://scouts.com.au/blog/2020/05/29/the-scouting-effect-scouting-builds-resilience-for-life/>)

British studies show that Scouting is linked to stronger mental health decades later.

UNESCO describes Scouting as the world's largest provider of non-formal education.

It's a program enjoyed by 57 million young people today, and more than 2 billion in the past 100 years.

For young people, Scouting is fun, friends and adventure.

But it's really about learning: to grow in confidence, to care for self and others, and to learn life skills that will be useful for decades.

1st Balnarring also welcomes adults who'd like to inquire about volunteering.

Being a Leader is an awesome hobby.

You learn new skills, confidence, increase your local network, and share great adventures with young people.

Financially it's a cheap hobby, and you give as much time as you prefer.

If you're a parent, former Scout, student or just interested in volunteering with young people, check us out.

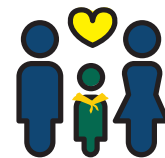
All inquiries to gl.1stbalnarring@scoutsvictoria.com.au



Scouts
AUSTRALIA



Scouts are more likely to hold more hope for a positive future than non-Scouts (78.8% v 69.4%)



Scouts are more likely to report they have adults who set good examples for them (93.4% v 86.6%)

Resilience Survey Key Findings

Scouts are more likely to forgive others who are mean to them (72% v 65.7%)



Scouts are more likely to trust others (81.5% v 68.5%)



Scouts have an overall better life satisfaction than their peers (87.7% v 82.5%)

Scouts have a healthier mental state than non-Scouts (62.1% v 49.1%)



A Scout's values are more likely to be more positive than non-Scouts (68.7% v 57.7%)



Scouts Australia partnered with Resilient Youth Australia to conduct the Scouts Australia Resilience Survey to investigate the impact of Scouting on the resilience of its youth members.

A sample of current youth members aged 8-18 years old across all States and Territories took part in the survey. Their results were benchmarked against the Australian norm dataset of 48,671 young people aged 8-18 years.

Through this survey, we have found that Scouts have an overall better life satisfaction than their non-Scouting peers, and that the longer they stay in Scouts, the more resilient they are likely to become.



Scouts are more likely to get along with people who are different to them (86% v 80.8%)



Scouts are more likely to feel they can talk about things that are upsetting them (58.5% v 52%)

Scouts are more likely to feel good about themselves (81.8% v 70%)



Scouts are more likely to have a better healthy body image than non-Scouts (63.5% v 51.9%)



Scouts are more likely to give time to help others (81.3% v 73.2%)

Scouts are more likely to enjoy school (75.6% v 69.4%)



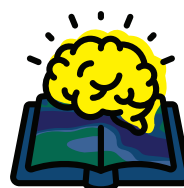
Scouts are more likely to read for fun (60% v 45.9%)



Scouts have better social skills than non scouts (76.1% v 70.5%)



Scouts are more likely to be selected to help with tasks at school (66.6% v 54.5%)



Scouts are more likely to know they can solve a problem when others want to quit (66.8% v 58.7%)



Scouts are more likely to feel they make a positive contribution to their community than non-Scouts (58.8% v 43.4%)

Pilates Matwork
Lomi Lomi Hawaiian Massage
One-to-One Postural Pilates
Stretch and Release Class

with Neil Adams

Pilates Matwork: Small group classes to improve core strength, coordination, and flexibility

Lomi Lomi Hawaiian Massage: Relaxation, rejuvenation and healing through the experience of Lomi Lomi Hawaiian massage

One-to-One Postural Pilates: based on Pilates principles and designed to address specific postural concerns of individual clients

Stretch and Release class: A 45-minute session of gentle stretching to limber and relax your entire body

Please call Neil on 0418 638 589
for class times and more information

@Warrawee Wholistic
87 Warrawee Rd. Balnarring, Vic
www.warraweewholistic.com

Combined Probus Club of Balnarring

Our Club welcomes couples and singles to enjoy the friendship and fellowship of like-minded people.

We meet at the Balnarring Hall on the third Friday of each month at 10.00am. Our meetings consist of a brief coverage of the business of the previous meeting, morning tea, then a Speaker or other organised activity.

We organise day trips and a four-day Spring and Autumn trip. Our interest groups include Theatre Lovers, Book Club, Singing for Fun, Gardening, Cards: Hand & Foot, and "500", Scrabble, Walking, Dine Out, Cinema, Movie discussion group, Camera Crew, Backgammon, Bocce, Carpet Bowls, and a Book Exchange.

Membership Enquiries to: balnarringcomprobus@gmail.com

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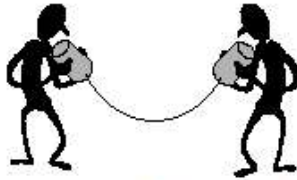
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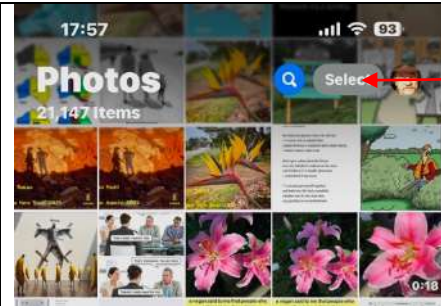
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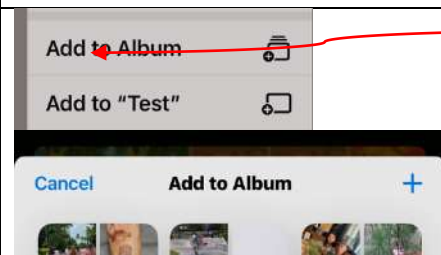
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Pat The Mac: Organising your photos on iOS

In the last edition of the Bridge (issue 87), I explained how to create Folders. I also promised to explain how to create Albums that serve as containers for your photos. There are in fact many ways to create Albums but I will show you the simplest one. Keep in mind that I'm basing this explanation on iOS 18 and above.

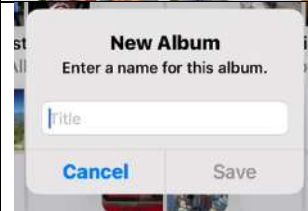


1) To create a new Album, ~~click on Select~~
The word Select is replaced by Cancel. You can now tap the photos you want to select one at a time, or tap and drag to select many at once. When you are happy with your selection, hold your finger on one of the selected photos and a menu will appear as shown below

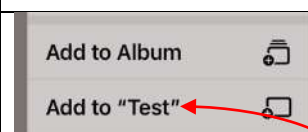


2) Tap on "Add to Album"

3) On the next screen, tap the +



4) Enter the name of the Album you want to be created and press "return"
All the photos you selected will be stored in this album and your screen will return to the position of step 1.



If you want to add more photos to the same album, repeat step 1 and in step 2, tap on the name of your newly created album (here named "test"). The photos are then added to the album

There are many, many ways to organise your photos. If you are interested in learning more, contact me. I can give you a personal training on improving your photos organisation skills.

If you need further help, contact me using the details below.

Pat The Mac on 0419 330 497 or by email via pat@patthemacs.com



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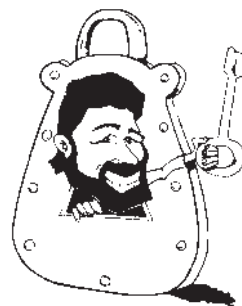
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Working Bee at Balnarring Beach: All Welcome!

A dedicated group of Balnarring Beach ratepayers and members of the Foreshore Committee are inviting anyone with a heart for the environment to take part in our monthly working bee.

Our hard-working group meets at 10 am on the last Sunday of the month (excepting December and January) at the rotunda next to the beach store at Balnarring Beach.

Our next 2 working bees are on:

Sunday February 23rd and Sunday March 30th at 10am at the rotunda.

We usually work till 12 noon and enjoy a free cup of coffee or a drink afterwards at the Balnarring Beach shop, 'Tulum Store'.

It is always a great opportunity to have a chat.

Paul, our Ranger always has some important work for us to do, be that weeding or planting freshly cleared terrain with new plants. Some of these plants are propagated and raised over many months in our nursery.

If you can make it, please bring **gloves** and wear **sturdy footwear**.

We hope to see many of you there.

Cheerio and many thanks to all who attend.

Rupert Steiner, for the Balnarring Beach Foreshore Committee working bee.

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THE BRIDGE

CONTRIBUTING TO THE BRIDGE

The Bridge is a bi-monthly independent community magazine for Balnarring and surrounding areas. The views expressed within are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Editor, Community or any organisation. Financial contributions are welcomed.

GUIDELINES FOR THE BRIDGE CONTRIBUTIONS

The contributor's name must appear with the article and contact information is recommended. If emailing, please use A4 page format with 1.5cm margins, 14 point font size and single spacing. Headings with a font of 18. Send as a Word or Pages format file to info@bridgemag.com.au or PO Box 248 Balnarring VIC 3926. Ideally, file sizes no bigger than 1.5MB please.

Deadlines for submissions are as follows:

January 10th (February/March issue)

March 10th (April/May issue)

May 10th (June/July issue)

July 10th (August/September issue)

September 10th (October/November issue)

November 10th (December/January issue)

Our number of pages is limited so "first come, first served". Submissions for multiple issues must be made each issue unless otherwise agreed. Acronyms to be written in full at first mention followed by the acronym in brackets, e.g. "Community Centre (C.C.)".

The primary focus of The Bridge is to promote free community events. Volunteer organisations are encouraged to submit up to one page per issue and will not be charged.

All entries that create income, including employment and housing, count as adverts.

Personal words from individuals are also free to enter. Businesses holding events, workshops, etc. in the coming months are encouraged to contribute.

Content that speaks negatively of any individual or group will not be published. Groups should comment on their own activities only, unless in appreciation. The editorial review team reserve the right to edit and/or refuse contributions where necessary. Copyright on images used remains the responsibility of the contributor, and photographers must be credited.

Website: www.bridgemag.com.au

Email: info@bridgemag.com.au