



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 94 December 2025 – January 2026

www.bridgemag.com.au

Peninsula SongRiders

Balnarring's
17th annual



Balnarring
COMMUNITY HUB
wellbeing, education and creativity

community
PICNIC

**SUNDAY
DEC 21
2-7pm**

special
guest
**Charles
Jenkins
duo**

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YEAR'S
EVE**

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www.balnarringdentist.com.au

THE BRIDGE – Changes afoot!

As we move into our 14th year, our goal remains the same - to connect our community through clear communication, creativity, and shared values. With thanks to our volunteers, contributors and readers, The Bridge continues to grow as a valuable resource for Balnarring, Bittern, Crib Point, Flinders, Merricks, Red Hill, Shoreham, Somers, Tuerong and surrounding areas.

New Website

We're thrilled to announce our new website is up and running at www.bridgemag.com.au

A big thank you to Mark from Somers Design for your help and generosity. Mark's work can be seen here www.somersdesign.com.au

Sponsorships

A huge thank you to our Hero Sponsors, **Community Bank Balnarring and District** ('Bendigo Bank') and **Balnarring Dental Centre** whose offers to support us as our Hero Sponsors enable The Bridge to continue, and keep it free for community groups, community events and micro-businesses!

If you would like to help support us, please email us at info@bridgemag.com.au or write to us at PO Box 248 Balnarring 3926.

THE BRIDGE – Changes afoot!

New Advertising Fees

For profit-making businesses (as opposed to community groups and micro-businesses), we ask for the following contributions to help cover our rising costs. There are 6 editions of The Bridge per year.

- Full page ad: \$100 per edition (\$600 per year: billed \$300 twice yearly)
- Half page ad: \$50 per edition yearly) (\$300 per year: billed \$150 twice yearly)
- Quarter page ad: \$25 per edition (\$150 per year: billed \$75 twice yearly)

Please contact us with any queries at info@bridgemag.com.au

New Submission Deadlines

From the Dec–Jan 2025 Bridge onwards, new earlier deadlines apply:

- **November 5th** for the December/January edition
- **January 5th** for the February/March edition
- **March 5th** for the April/May edition
- **May 5th** for the June/July edition
- **July 5th** for the August/September edition
- **September 5th** for the October/November edition

Please submit contributions (**up to two pages only, ideally!**) in **Word or PDF** format with a **font size of 14 point** and **heading in 16 point** to info@bridgemag.com.au

Our page limit is 84. First in, first served 😊

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Hello Everyone!

Our warmest Season's Greetings to you all, whatever you have planned for the end-of-year, New Year's Eve and beginning-of-2026! Have a wonderful time!!

We want to thank a number of businesses for their huge contribution to the sustainability of the Bridge this year – Balnarring and District Community Bank ("Bendigo Bank") for their ongoing support; Coast Real Estate for their sponsorship, and now ongoing advertising support; Balnarring Dental Centre, Tiv and Darina, for their new sponsorship into 2026. Our heartfelt appreciation to you all.



Our thanks also to Galaxy Printing, Anita and David, for their amazing support over many years – we wish you the happiest of times in your new adventures. And to our new printers, Just Press Print, in Mornington who are wonderful to work with, BIG thanks.

To our new Website creator, Mark at Somers Design, a huge thank you for your speed, efficiency and creativity, when we suddenly needed a new Bridge website!

To our Distribution Team: Robyn, Celia, Ed and Meg, Faye, Dale and Indi & Deepak – the Bridge wouldn't find its readers without your quiet commitment. We love you all! And to Brendon, thanks so much for resolving any IT issues that have appeared! You're a saviour!

To our 2025 Junior Bridge Editor at Balnarring Primary, Viv, we thank you for your fantastic contributions – they were all interesting and informative to read. Thank You & Best Wishes. And thanks to dear Mel at Balnarring PS for your ongoing commitment that enables these wonderful young people to be part of the Bridge team.

Finally, a note on the size of this edition, no. 94 – it's a whopper – 104 pages, from 60 or so groups, individuals, businesses – what a mosaic of vibrancy, joy, wonder and interesting stuff!! You, Bridge contributors are The Best!! Keep your sharings rolling in next year, 2026.

With our love, as always, and our best wishes that Peace, Love and Happiness fill your lives. 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.

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The Bridge Magazine
www.bridgemag.com.au

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Ali Hoelzer, Jen Atherton

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Distribution team:
Robyn Agg, Celia Sexton,
Faye Poll, Ed & Meg Pawlik
Deepak and Indi at Bal PO
Dale Stohr, Ali Hoelzer

Content:
Our wonderful community! You!

Happy Birthday!

December

2nd Melissa MacGowan
4th Stephanie Alyssa
6th Karina Armstrong
7th Maggie Dick
9th Viv Murphy
9th Noah McLean
14th Jamel Farmer
15th Nicole Wheaton
18th Emily Jean Henderson
19th Mark Raynes
20th Louis MacGowan
20th Flo MacGowan
31st Paul Dillon



January

8th Steve Sayle
9th Bronwyn Dick
9th Celia Sexton
16th Garry McKellar
19th Casey Dawson
24th Karen Saker
31st Leo Haylock

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

December 2025 - January 2026

Inspirational Angel Cards for the Community:

Calm Integrity

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 CAFE CORNER



LAST
SESSION
FOR 2025



PLEASE NOTE:
THE COMMUNITY CAFE
CORNER WILL BE
CLOSED IN JANUARY.

SEE YOU IN FEBRUARY

10AM-
12PM

A place to meet, sit, chat, knit, read a book, take part in an activity - you choose

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—BALNARRING—
DentalCentre

A New Kind of Dental Visit: Comfort, Care, and Peace of Mind at Balnarring Dental

For many adults over 45, visiting the dentist can still stir up old memories, especially of the school dental vans of the past. We see this often. Those early experiences were not always gentle, and for many people, they have left a lasting sense of anxiety around dental care.

At Balnarring Dental Centre, we understand this deeply. That's why we've redesigned the entire dental experience with one clear purpose: to make every visit as comfortable, calm, and stress-free as possible. From the moment you arrive, you are welcomed into a peaceful space with calming herbal tea, soft jazz, and the gentle scent of Tasmanian lavender drifting through the waiting lounge. Even our lounge chairs have been custom-made for older adults, offering extra support and a slightly taller seat height to make sitting and standing easier.

When it's time for your appointment, the focus on comfort continues. If you have neck, shoulder, or back concerns, supportive cushions are readily available. For extra reassurance, you can choose a warm soft blanket or a weighted blanket. To make the experience soothing and familiar, we play your favourite TV shows, films, or music on our ceiling-mounted screens, paired with noise-cancelling headphones so you don't have to listen to any high-pitched dental noises. We also apply a gentle custom-made lavender and peppermint lip balm to keep your lips hydrated throughout your visit.

We know that injections are a common concern, especially for patients who have had difficult dental experiences in the past. To ease this, we use a specially formulated numbing gel and a gentle facial massager, which together make the injection process virtually painless.

Comfort also means convenience, so we use modern technology to streamline your treatment. Our in-house CEREC system allows us to design and fit porcelain crowns on the same day, eliminating the need for temporary crowns or multiple appointments, ideal for busy adults or those who prefer to complete treatment in one sitting.

Whether you need a routine clean, a filling, veneers, implants, gum therapy, or aligners, our experienced clinicians provide comprehensive care under one roof, always with a gentle, calm and caring approach. For those who still feel too anxious to undergo treatment, we can arrange sleep dentistry with hospital-grade general anaesthesia so your dental work can be completed while you are fully asleep.

I'm Dr Ash, dentist at Balnarring Dental Centre, and I'm proud to be part of a team deeply committed to comfort, respect, and personal care. If it has been a while since your last visit, or if past dental experiences have made you hesitant, we'd love to welcome you into an environment designed with your comfort in mind. You deserve to feel confident, cared for, and completely at ease and we're here to make that possible. You're welcome to phone us during the week on 5983 5348, or pop in anytime for a chat. I'd love to meet you and show you how pleasant and relaxing dental care can be.



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

Wishing all residents and holiday makers a safe and happy summer on our wonderful Mornington Peninsula.

Thank You to Our CFA Brigades

I'd like to express my gratitude to our local volunteer CFA brigades for their support in preparing for the upcoming fire danger period. Their guidance helps keep families and properties safe, with a strong focus on having a fire plan and knowing when to put it into action. For more information, visit the CFA website: www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Spraying of Roadsides

Our community continues to raise important concerns and questions about weed spraying along our rural roadsides, undertaken by the Shire and State Government Departments. There has been a noticeable increase in complaints about spray drift impacting both property drinking water and native vegetation. While the Council maintains a 'No spray' register to protect sensitive areas, awareness and use of this register remains quite low. I encourage everyone to share their thoughts and experiences on this issue and to consider registering if you are affected.

Green Bins

If you're unable to apply for a green bin due to your distance from a built-up area, please get in touch with me. I may be able to help you navigate the process or explore possible solutions.

Planning Applications

Significant changes have been introduced under new 'VicSmart' State Government Planning Applications. These changes, increased by Ministerial amendments VC 267, VC 288 and others, further limit your ability to stay informed about planning applications near your property and remove all appeal rights. It's important to note that these amendments may mean the loss of existing character controls in our villages.

Large-scale landfill

Another pressing issue is the large-scale placement of commercial landfill on farmland, especially soil transported from major Melbourne building sites. Community concerns focus on potential contamination and the impact on farming operations, particularly with the land height increasing by three to five metres over many hectares in some cases.

Balnarring Skatepark

On the safety front, VicPol have responded to reports of threatening behaviour at the Balnarring Skatepark. If you notice any further issues, please notify the police and keep me informed - I'm

committed to advocating for ongoing or permanent surveillance where needed to keep our community safe.

CCTV

While Council adopted a \$500,000 upgrade for permanent CCTV to help local police address enforcement issues, this initiative did not include any Coolart Ward 'hot spots'. If you have suggestions or know of problem areas, your feedback will help me in seeking to prioritise these safety measures.

Dog leash free areas

Your input is also sought on dog leash free areas, on-lead walking hours on crown land, and dog exclusion zones such as wildlife reserves. These community views will be passed on to the Shire as it continues to review local laws to ensure they meet community needs and expectations.

Changes to Planning Matters Policy

On 05/11/2025, Council adopted an updated Planning Matters Policy. Despite efforts to amend the officer's recommendations, the policy was approved unchanged. This new version could significantly affect how councillors represent their community on planning issues. To fully understand the impact, I recommend comparing the marked-up changes with the previous policy.

The planning system requires councillors to remain impartial until all information is considered at a Council Meeting. However, the revised policy introduces a range of changes that may make it harder for councillors to fulfil their representative role—especially on topics like the Green Wedge, village character and environmentally sensitive areas.

It is important to note that the policy was only made public on the day of the Council meeting, giving residents limited time to contact their ward councillors and have their say before the vote.

Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) Update

Council has recently adopted the Domestic Animal Management Plan. Here are answers to some key questions I raised with Council management:

- ***What is the method of evaluating whether the animal control services provided by Council are adequate?***

The current requirement by state government regarding animal management are legislated through the LGRF reporting each year. These assist us to ensure we evaluate our services and the DAMP items also provide us with evaluation of services.

- ***Are there concerns with the level of compliance with animal related legislation?***

There is always non-compliance with the community in relation to animal related legislation however, we always take the educational stance to inform the community of their responsibilities which is an ongoing process each year.

- ***How do we minimise the risk of attacks by dogs on people and animals in a large municipality?***

This is a balance between ongoing proactive educational and compliance driven process. The DAMP gives us the framework to assist in the reduction of these matters.

- *How do we inform the many visitors and part time residents who often bring pets with them of their obligations in our municipality?*

We have regular updates on the Council website for requirements of responsible pet ownership. There are also interactive maps for on and off leash areas and prohibited areas on the website. Compliance officers conduct pro-active patrols educating and enforcing the relevant legislation.

Speed Reduction Initiatives in Coolart Ward

Council continues to advocate for road safety improvements in Coolart Ward. Approval from the state government is required for any changes to speed limits. Since launching this program seven years ago, there have been no fatalities on roads where speed limits were lowered—an encouraging result, given the Shire previously had Victoria's highest road toll.



Cape Schanck Road.

Road	Previous Speed	New Speed	Status
Cape Schanck Road	80/70km	60km	Installed
Frankston–Flinders Rd (Tyabb to Flinders)	100km	80km	Installed
Hendersons Road – Frankston-Flinders Rd to Myers Road	70/80km	60km	Installed
Arthurs Seat Road – Red Hill Road – Sheehans Road	70km	60km	Installed
Byrnes Road, Shoreham (Entire 1.4km)	60km	50km	Approved
Yal Yal Road – Merricks Road – End	100km	50/60km	Preparing Application
Old Bittern Dromana Road (North & South of Bittern – Dromana Road)	100km	50/60km	Preparing Application
Paringa Road – Point Leo Road – End	100km	50/60km	Preparing Application
Hunts Road - Balnarring Road – Hendersons Road	100km	50/60km	Preparing Application
Hodgins Road - Stumpy Gully Road – Derril Road	100km	50/60km	Preparing Application
Derril Road – Foxeys Road – Loders Road	100km	50/60km	Preparing Application
Tuerong Road – Derril Road – End of seal	100km	50/60km	Preparing Application
Graydens Road – Loders Road – Derril Road	100km	50/60km	Preparing Application
Turners Road - Hunts Road – Myers Road	100km	50/60km	Preparing Application
Godings Road - Loders Road – Stumpy Gully Road	100km	50/60km	Preparing Application

Season Openings

Yachting is a big part of our seaside culture; it was pleasing to be asked to attend the sailing season openings at Somers, Merricks and Flinders Yacht Clubs.

I look forward to continuing our work together in 2026. If you have any questions or feedback, please don't hesitate to be in touch.

Regards,

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



Westernport and Peninsula Protection
Council Inc

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 1st February 2026

10.00am registration

10.30am start

Followed by a member's lunch

\$10 membership

RSVP for lunch essential

wppcweb@gmail.com

Photo Karri Giles

A Gathering of Good Things, in the Heart of Red Hill

Local produce, handmade goods, vintage treasures,
live music, community connection

9am - 2pm

6th December featuring

Red Hill Lions Christmas Tree Festival

3rd January - 7th February - 4th April - 2nd May



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

First Saturday of the Month Sept-May

184 Arthurs Seat Road

Red Hill 3937

www.hillandridgemarket.com.au

Anglican Parish of St. John's Flinders with
St. Mark's Balnarring



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER 5pm

Family Christmas Picnic & Carols, St. John's
with the Fiore Chamber Singers.

Bring your picnic and a rug!



CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday 24 December



5pm 'Follow the Star' for families, St. Mark's
with CFA truck and Santa for the children!

11pm Midnight Mass, St. John's



CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday 25 December

8.30am Sung Service at St. John's

10.30am Sung Service at St. Mark's

St. John's: 23 King Street Flinders



St. Mark's: 1 Balnarring Road Balnarring



www.flindersbalnarringanglican.org

Family Christmas Picnic

on the lawns of St. John's Flinders

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER, 5pm

BYO picnic and drinks
& enjoy the festive music of

FIORE CHAMBER SINGERS

on the new outdoor C-Shell stage.



In the event of rain, the performance will be in the church followed by an al fresco picnic in the St John's hall.

A free event, thanks to the generosity of
Bendigo Bank Community Bank Balnarring & District.

No need to book.

General enquiries to John 0490 503 333

St. John's Flinders: 23 King St, Flinders



Western Port Uniting Church Parish

(consisting of Balnarring, Crib Point and Hastings congregations)

Regular Service Times and Locations:

December 2025 and January 2026

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.

Christmas – New Year Services

- December 24th Christmas Eve Carols and Readings – Hastings at 9.30 pm
- December 25th Christmas Day – Crib Point at 9.00 am and Balnarring at 9.45 am
- 28th December – Regular Services as above with Communion.
- 4th January 2026 - Parish Service with Scripture Union Family Mission participation at Balnarring at 10.45 am. This is the only service in the Parish this day.

If you wish to contact a Uniting Church or confirm our service arrangements and activities, 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

or check out our westernport.ucavictas.org.au website. It has the latest information about exciting events in the Parish churches.

Parish Opportunity Shop - 149 Disney Street Crib Point

Regular Op Shop - trading times: -

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

The Shop will be closed from 20th December 2025 – close of business to re-opening on 6th January 2026.

Volunteering opportunities exist for those wishing to contribute to a community group. Please call in or email colinwatt80@gmail.com to obtain a Volunteer Application Form.

Clean, presentable, and saleable donations are accepted during these hours - Thanks.

Bunnings Hastings - Sausage Sizzle – 3rd January 2026 – in aid of Frontier Services which is a Uniting Church agency supporting outback farming families doing it tough.

Scripture Union Family Mission at Balnarring – 28th December 2025 to 7th January 2026. The SU Family Mission Team will be running a free holiday family program of bible stories, games, songs, drama, craft activities and lots more! The Team aims to share the wonderful news of Jesus Christ, what He has done for them and why the Team has welcomed Him into their lives.

Unless otherwise stated, all programs will be run at Balnarring Beach in the Robertson Recreation Reserve or Rotunda opposite Tulum General Store on the corner of Library Road and Balnarring Beach Road.

Parish Christmas Message

Matthew chapter 1 verses 20 and 21.

An angel of the Lord said to Joseph

“do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

WILDLIFE RESCUE Contacts

Koala rescue

Jenny Bryant 0417 395 883

WHOMP

(Wildlife Help On Mornington Peninsula)

0417 380 687

Klarissa Gaunaut

0488 494 667



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.

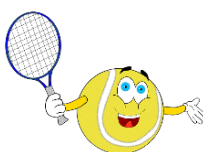
Members pay \$2 each time you play to cover cost of balls and coffee/tea. Let your friends, family, neighbours know that if they are not members they can play social tennis at a casual cost of \$7 each time.

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

SCOUT CHRISTMAS TREES!



Enjoy the smell of a freshly cut Christmas tree these holidays!

Sat 29th & Sun 30th November

Sat 6th & Sun 7th December

Sat 13th & Sun 14th December

9am – 2pm

5ft trees \$80 | 6ft trees \$90 | 7ft trees \$100

Walk ups welcome however pre-orders strongly advised to avoid
disappointment www.trybooking.com/DGSBU

Collection from Balnarring
Community Hall - 3035
Frankston - Flinders Rd

All proceeds go towards
1st Balnarring Scout
camps and activities



Peninsula SongRiders

proudly presents

RECORDED IN
TROPICOLOR
SOUND

Nicky Bomba's
BUSTAMENTO



SUNDAY 25 JAN 6-9pm



TICKETS \$40 ONLINE events.humanitix.com & \$45 @ DOOR IF STILL AVAILABLE
WESTERNPORT YACHT CLUB - 1 FORESHORE RD BALNARRING BEACH

Peninsula SongRiders

**Balnarring's
17th annual**



Balnarring
COMMUNITY HUB
wellbeing, education and creativity

Your Community Partner
Balnarring & District
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Bendigo Bank

**community
PICNIC**

**SUNDAY
DEC 21
2-7pm**

special
guest
**Charles
Jenkins
duo**

FUN ALL AGES • LIVE MUSIC • BYO PICNIC

'Zoned Community Land' - Frankston Flinders Road - Opposite the Shops

BALNARRING • VILLAGE • COMMON - FREE ENTRY

**NEW
YEAR'S
EVE**

**8-BALL
AITKEN
band**



**\$70 + BYO FOOD & DRINKS
WESTERNPORT YACHT CLUB 7PM**

TICKETS PRE-BOOKED ONLINE & @ DOOR/VENUE IF AVAILABLE. 1 FORESHORE RD. BALNARRING BEACH

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25/26 BALNARRING PICNIC RACES

CHAMPION STAKES DAY RACING
SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2025

CHRISTMAS PICNICS AT BALNARRING
SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 2025

BALNARRING CUP DAY
MONDAY 26 JANUARY 2026

LONG WEEKEND RACING
SUNDAY 8 MARCH 2026

EASTER PLATE DAY
SATURDAY 04 APRIL 2026

FASHIONS DAY
SATURDAY 11 APRIL 2026



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The Peninsula Climate Alliance

Working for a Sustainable Future on the Mornington Peninsula

On Easter Tuesday 2025, the MP Council passed a motion by a slim majority of 6-5 to cancel our landmark Climate Emergency Program and the related Climate Plan.

These programs were initiated by the community and enjoyed widespread community support. Yet they were cancelled at the end of a long weekend, with no notice and no consultation – not even the 3 working-day notice required by Council rules. And for reasons that have all been shown to be inaccurate or untrue.

A small group of concerned community organisations came together to enquire into the cancellation and see if alternatives could be found. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor ignored several requests for a meeting.



Thus was the Peninsula Climate Alliance born, an alliance that has grown to include 24 concerned community groups.

The PCA is determined to ensure that our current and future communities are not disadvantaged by the actions of a slim majority of councillors. We work through consultation where possible, and action when that fails.

Interested? We welcome applications by community groups working in the climate or environmental areas with membership decided by existing members. Expressions of interest via the contact form on our website:

<https://saveourclimateplanmp.org/>

Greg Holland
On behalf of the Peninsula Climate Alliance



Season's Greetings from Save Westernport at the close of another busy year in and around Westernport. The following are just some of the things that held our interest during 2025...

Across the Waters

The Flinders Fringe festival set the year off on a great start, and Save Westernport was pleased to play a supporting role in bringing "Across the Waters" to the festival. This collaborative work by local artists Jo Lane and Dr Laura Brearley was inspired by Westernport Bay, combining Art and Science in the production of a short film, titled Bellow Below, and a Deep Listening Circle sharing stories about relationship with Westernport Bay/Warn Marin/Wunmarrinh. This was an expression of gratitude and love for this special place, and unity and strength in our determination to better protect and nurture it.

Since the festival, the short film Bellow Below has been screened at several film festivals around the world, including New York's Earth Day, affirming the vibrant quality of the local Arts community on the Mornington Peninsula, and its value in bringing people together and demonstrating how Art can make a positive difference in so many ways. Terry Melvin's photostory of the Listening Circle can be viewed here https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nTw7_bBAOQdx9Dm1kxFnvEmonb2W8iQW/view?usp=drivesdk



Left: Julia Stockigt (SWP) and Catherine Watson (Save Westernport Woodlands) at the Listening Circle. Right: Tracee Hutchinson (PCA) and Jo Lane (SWP) at a dawn screening of short film 'Bellow Below'. Photos: Terry Melvin

Mornington Peninsula Shire Council

Like so many others, we were shocked by dramatic changes to MPS Council policy during 2025. The council's decision to dump their 30-year Climate Emergency Response Plan prompted Save Westernport and a number of local groups to form the Peninsula Climate Alliance, which you can read about in more detail in a separate article in this edition of the Bridge, in SWP's article on page 8 of the June 2025 Bridge. <https://bridgemag.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/the-bridge-june-july-2025.pdf> and here on the Peninsula Climate Alliance website <https://saveourclimateplanmp.org/>

Cuts to Arts funding and to council support for projects at Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association in Hastings, and specific council motions to restrict discussion on Planning matters, and targeting long-serving Balnarring-Red Hill Councillor David Gill, have confirmed a concerning direction away from democratic process in our local Shire council. A recent article in STPL stated "For almost 12 months, the bloc of six [councillors] has steered council votes and key strategic decisions" <https://stplnews.com.au/latest-news/bloc-of-six-rift-threatens-mayors-control/>

In August, Tracee Hutchinson called a public meeting on behalf of the local Arts community and the Peninsula Climate Alliance (PCA) to celebrate the contribution of Peninsula creatives and share our concerns about council cuts to Arts and to Climate Change preparedness. The meeting at Flinders Hall was attended by Mayor Anthony Marsh, who seems to remain unmoved by these community concerns. With the election of the new Mayor, we will be watching how council decisions continue to play out during 2026.

The Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain (HESC)

In March we were delighted when the Japanese consortium behind the HESC project announced plans to source hydrogen from Japan instead of from the La Trobe Valley, due to approval delays. Since 2018, Save Westernport, with the support of Westernport Peninsula Protection Council (WPPC), Environment Victoria and Friends of the Earth, has been fighting plans to make hydrogen from the La Trobe Valley's dirty brown coal, and ship it to Japan via a new pipeline to the Port of Hastings in Westernport Bay. After a 3 year pilot project, this year the HESC consortium reluctantly confirmed the end of the project in Victoria, announcing that operations would move to W.A. The decision now puts doubt on the future of CarbonNet, a government-funded experimental Carbon Capture and Storage project off Victoria's coastline.

Esso/Exxon had hoped to also participate in capturing CO2 emissions from the coal to hydrogen project, which they planned to inject into depleted gas and oil reservoirs beneath their decommissioned rigs in Bass Strait. We hope the end of HESC will put pressure back on companies like Esso that are now facing the mammoth and costly task of cleaning up and removing their abandoned gas and oil rigs off our coastlines. This year we heard that Esso had been taken over by Woodside petroleum. This means Esso's Long Island Point gas processing plant in the Port of Hastings is now under Woodside's control. We're unsure whether it will make any difference to the polluting practice of flaring waste gas from the nearby aging Long Island Point plant that can regularly be seen over the town of Hastings.

Victoria's Renewable Energy Terminal (VRET)

Plans for the V-RET are continuing to move ahead after the Port of Hastings Corporation's first proposal was rejected by former environment Minister Tania Plibersek in 2024, when she found it would have unacceptable impacts on Westernport's Ramsar Wetlands. This year the POHC made their second EPBC referral, and Save Westernport and other groups and individuals made submissions about the proposal that can be viewed on our website <https://savewesternport.org>

In August, federal environment minister Murray Watt announced that the project was a Controlled Action under the EPBC Act, and would be assessed by an EES in Victoria. SWP supports the government's renewable energy targets, but we are not convinced that the revised plans are different enough from the initial rejected proposal for the project to proceed. We also question whether Westernport's Ramsar wetlands are a suitable location for such an enormous project with all its likely impacts.

The Port of Hastings Corporation is the proponent on behalf of the Victorian government. Their job is to attract new business to the port, and they're committed to getting this project approved. This year they began holding public information sessions, and project details and information videos are available on the Port of Hastings website.

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

Some concerns noted at the recent info session include doubts about the effectiveness of silt curtains to control sediment movement during proposed dredging operations, the way industrial noise data is being collected, and the size of heavy vehicles travelling on Bayview Road to the proposed VRET site in Hastings. In September Save Westernport wrote a submission on the updated EES Scoping Requirements for next year's Environment Effects Statement (EES) that will assess the proposed Renewable Energy Terminal in Westernport Bay. Some concerning omissions were noted in the terms of reference that will guide the

project's EES, in particular the lack of reference to the Marine and Coastal Act, and to the need for sustainable ecosystem-based management of the project.

Save Westernport and fellow environmental organisations, Victoria National Parks Association, Environment Victoria, the WP Biosphere and Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS) wrote a joint letter outlining our concerns to the Victorian Ministers for Planning, the Environment, Energy, and Ports. You can read our joint letter and our submissions on our website. <https://savewesternport.org>

The POHC is now preparing their EES reports, which are expected to be released in 2026. The public will then have a chance to comment by making submissions. During the AGL EES we saw how record numbers of passionate submissions from the public made a strong impression on the Planning Minister during the EES hearing. We hope for strong community engagement on this project during next year's EES. Save Westernport is represented on the Port of Hastings' Community Reference Group for the EES. The CRG has been meeting throughout the year, and by continuing to participate we hope to keep the community updated about the proposed VRET Windfarm terminal project in the lead up to next year's EES.

During the EES hearing we will need to provide our own legal representation and expert technical & environmental witnesses to speak on our behalf and give evidence at the EES hearing, bringing attention to any questionable claims in the proponent's EES reports.

By making a donation to Save Westernport you can help ensure meaningful community participation during the project's EES Environmental Effects Statement in 2026. Please consider making a donation on our website <https://savewesternport.org/donate/> and support our work by becoming a member or renewing your Save Westernport membership on the website, where you can also sign up to receive our Newsletters and read regular updates, including our submissions <https://savewesternport.org/>

With thanks

The Save Westernport Steering Committee

EVERYWHEN ART



Photo: Alison Hoelzer

EXHIBITIONS | TALKS | EVENTS

December 7-21

**Burnarri Anja (many birds)
+ Wandjinas**

in partnership with Mowanjum Arts

Dec 27, 2025-Feb 1, 2026

SUMMER 2026

Shirley Purdie solo
Amanda Gabori solo
3 ladies from Ernabella



Whistlewood, 642 Tucks Road, Shoreham, Vic 3916
T: + 61 3 5931 0318 | info@everywhenart.com.au
Open Fri-Sun (Dec 7-Jan18, 7 days a week) 11am-4pm

  **everywhenart.com.au**

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

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 2026. Exact dates are still to be confirmed.

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

MOTH: Announcing Three Spectacular Shows — Including International Acts!

After both November shows sold out in record time, MOTH is thrilled to announce three upcoming performances featuring world-class talent and international guests.



December brings an exceptional evening with acclaimed musician **Eliza Hull**, performing on Friday 5 December, at the Dromana Community Hall. Renowned for her spellbinding performances at the Sydney Opera House, Hamer Hall, and NYE on the Hill, Eliza is also a passionate advocate for disability and accessibility, inspiring audiences across Australia through her music and message.

Joining Eliza on stage are local favourites **Inanna Indigo** and **Mathilde Anne**, promising a night rich in artistry and community spirit.

Before the show, Eliza will host a **free Inclusive Songwriting Workshop** on the same day, **Friday 5 December**, from 2:00–5:00 pm at the Dromana Community Hall. Open to participants of all abilities, the session explores lyric writing and melody creation, with each participant receiving a free ticket to Eliza’s evening performance.

(Tickets from postponed May events remain valid.)

Next up, Love Police and MOTH present — all the way from the USA — Nashville greats **Jonny Fritz**, **Joshua Hedley**, and introducing **Chris Acker**, live at **Flinders Civic Hall** on **Friday 9 January**.

Expect heartfelt songs, sharp wit, and timeless country charm - a triple treat for Americana fans.



In the new year, Irish twins **The Ocelots** return for their Jan–Mar 2026 Australian tour, performing at MOTH on **Friday 6 February**, at The Shed Theatre, The Pig & Whistle, Main Ridge.

Support by local artist Emily Jane Pritchard.

Bookings for all shows: musiconthehill.com.au

MOTH is supported by the Mornington Peninsula Shire.



**RECENTLY DOWNSIZED?
MISSING THE VEGGIE PATCH?**

THEN JOIN US AT



The Crib



Crib Point Community Garden Inc.

And help grow organic fruit and veggies

Meet like-minded people

Save money and eat fresh produce

**Our friendly group meets
on Wednesdays and Saturdays 9am to 12 noon
at 7 Park Road, Crib Point.**

For more information email:

thecrib3919@gmail.com



Balnarring Preserves Shines Again with Back-to-Back Wins at the Royal Melbourne Fine Food Awards

Balnarring Preserves is once again putting the Mornington Peninsula on the map, winning two Best in Class awards at the 2025 Royal Melbourne Fine Food Awards — an incredible achievement in one of Australia’s most competitive artisan food shows.

Winning a single *Best in Class* is no small feat, but taking out two in one year, and following on from last year’s Best in Class for Rose Cordial (2024), makes this local producer’s success even more remarkable. The Rose Cordial has now been crowned Best Cordial two years running (2024 & 2025) a rare back-to-back recognition of quality, flavour, and consistency.

Adding to the celebrations, Balnarring Preserves also won achieved two gold medals at the Sydney Royal Fine Food Show earlier this year. Founder Melissa Perkins credits the success to community roots and local collaboration.

“Every bottle we make begins with what’s grown around us. We use our own Red Hill Blueberries and ingredients sourced from other local growers. These awards belong to the whole Peninsula it’s a celebration of what local food can be.”

Balnarring Preserves products are available at Torello Farm, Ritchies IGA stores, and other local retailers across the Peninsula, or visit their Farm Gate at Turners Road, Balnarring. Red Hill Blueberries will also be available fresh from the farm gate December to March, with pre-orders encouraged.

Melissa Perkins

Farmer & Maker

Balnarring Preserves

Ph: 0417 941 879

melissa@balnarringpreserves.com.au

www.balnarringpreserves.com.au



**Contact us:**

185 High Street, Hastings, VIC 3915

☎ 5979 2762 🌐 wportcomsupport.org.au

✉ info@wportcomsupport.org.au

Opening hours:

Monday-Friday 10am-4pm

Western Port Community Support

Western Port Community Support (WPCS) is a not-for-profit organisation that provides a free, confidential, and independent support service to individuals and families who are experiencing a short-term crisis within the Western Port community.

Information. Support. Referral.

WPCS endeavours to link you to the right person, service or group who will provide you with free or low-cost assistance to meet your needs. WPCS is managed by an impartial and independent Board of Management and Executive Officer, supported by the program Case Workers, Volunteer Co-ordinator and Office Administrator. All staff and volunteers help WPCS clients.

Our volunteers all have different life experiences and unique skill sets, but they share the same enthusiasm and willingness to be a part of a dedicated team and to help the Western Port community.

WPCS can offer their services thanks to generous community donations, fundraising efforts, Local and Federal Government grants, philanthropic and business valued benefactors.

Support services

- Emergency relief and material aid
- Fresh food program
- Utility bill support
- Family and Housing Support Programs
- Education Support Program
- Financial counselling
- NILS (No Interest Loan Scheme)
- Tax Help Program (July to October annually)
- Christmas Giving Program
- Hosted outreach services
- Volunteering

Information and referral

- Drug and alcohol counselling
- Family and personal issues
- Support services and support groups
- Employment



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH KING STREET FLINDERS
ANNUAL FETE AND PET SHOW
SATURDAY JANUARY 24th 2026 9 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

All the usual wonderful Fete stalls – Craft, Jams, Cakes, Plants, White Elephant,
Fresh Produce and Flinders Accessories

As well as children's activities, spinning wheel, raffle and the C.F.A. fire truck.

Wonderful morning tea – scones with jam and cream and a selection of teas.

Classic car display – Mini Golf

Lots of food stalls and a tremendous book stall

Western Port Singers

The Western Port singers is a community choir based at the United Church Hall in Balnarring. We meet every Tuesday from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. We are currently looking for singers to join our very active choir. We sing in parts so an ability to read or follow music would be advantageous. We are particularly short of Bass singers at the moment, so please contact us if you fit this category. We are a fun group and sing music from lots of different genres including Queen, The Beatles, Musicals and classical pieces. We do an annual charity concert and throughout the year perform at various Retirement homes. Our first Semester next year starts on the 27th of January. So if you are interested in joining . please contact us at westernportsingers@gmail.com

Want to help?

Volunteering is easy, no experience necessary. Anyone can assist at a DSAMP **Let's go surfing** day both in the water and on the beach. No surfing experience is required. Bring a towel, sunscreen, wetsuit, water bottle and anything else you may need for a day at the beach.

Register at:
Eventbrite.com.au
or roll up on the day

Blue Shirts

Blue Shirt Volunteers ensure surfers have a safe and enjoyable surfing experience under the guidance of the Red Shirt Team Leaders.

Red Shirts

Red Shirt Team Leaders are responsible for all safety aspects on the beach and giving direction to Blue Shirt teams in the water.

Beach Coordinators

Beach coordinators are the link between teams in the water and surfers on the beach, they know who is next in line for a surf and any requirements the surfer may need.

Registration

Registration of all volunteers, surfers and carers is required, volunteers will be issued with a wristband and appropriate coloured rashie.

Meet and Greet, Merch and other roles

Our amazing volunteers make the day possible so whatever your skills are, we'll find a way for you to help out. Meet and greet volunteers help manage car parking and provide directions for participants. Merchandise volunteers manage the selling of our awesome shirts, hoodies, stickers and more!





Anyone can volunteer at a Disabled Surfers Association Mornington Peninsula - DSAMP

Let's go surfing event.

We have both water and land based roles assisting people with a disability to have a safe and fun surfing experience.

Let's go surfing

2026 Events

Saturday 31st January

Pt Leo Surf Beach

Saturday 14th March

Pt Leo Surf Beach

Volunteers start time 10:00am

Surfers start time 11:00am



FACEBOOK: facebook.com/letsgosurfing **INSTAGRAM:** @d.s.a.m.p

WEBSITE: www.disabledsurfers.org **EMAIL:** infodsamp@gmail.com

Bryce Trimble 0499 806 199 Grant Ellis 0407 059 657

"Come back to Earth"

Bill Genat and Kathryn Shain from **Open Path** convene guided explorations of grounded contemplative practice in Shoreham and on French Island.

Our call, **"Come back to Earth"**, highlights what we perceive as a central experience of modern life: the rampant busy-ness within which most people live, resulting in deficits regarding calm, centredness and groundedness.

Using practice frameworks drawn from Buddhist teachings, we cultivate our ability to **pause and centre**. In this way, we become more loving, kind, responsive and compassionate in our relational, human world, and with all other living beings.

We draw upon classical dharma teachings, and the inspiration of the natural living beauty of Western Port - **Boonwurrung Biik** - the First Nations 'country' where we live. Open Path sessions focus upon **cultivating naturalness** . . . How can we humans abide, like all living creatures in the natural world - bacteria, fungi, plants, insects, birds and animals, aligned easefully with the natural, unfolding universe?

Classical Buddhist teaching offers timeless advice in this regard. Within the contemplative canon, the "First Foundation of Mindfulness" is awareness of the body. Enhancing the 'felt' sense of the body and engaging with practices to **calm and enliven the body** are the first steps towards calming the mind.

In our sessions at Open Path, with gentle guidance, we ensure all participants have the time and space to engage with this work and, through their own **direct bodily experience**, find their way to establish greater calm based upon their own realisations. In this sense, we encourage participants to find their own way to bodily calm and aliveness, so calm can be accessed in any life situation . . . thus, "Open Path".

At Shoreham and on French Island, we convene supportive learning spaces both for dharma exploration and **cultivating a sangha** (community) of friends with a shared interest in human development. Our sessions are designed to build personal confidence in sharing insights and challenges and so enabling the learning of others.

Through the year, we offer courses comprised of multiple morning practice sessions focused on a particular theme and, day retreats, and multi-day retreats. Courses usually comprise between six and eight consecutive fortnightly sessions to **scaffold and build the learning** complemented by practice at home between sessions. See our website for more details: openpathmeditation.com.au

So, **"Come back to Earth"**, reschedule for 2026 . . . Set aside some time for some deep acknowledgement that you are of the Earth - you are made of all those carrots and tomatoes that grew from this very *Boonwurrung Biik* . . . join us, explore, acknowledge, realise and celebrate the fact that you ARE the environment . . . you are not separate.

"Come back to Earth"

Open Path Shoreham & French Island



Contemplative practice to strengthen resilience and responsive engagement in the busyness of everyday life.

Open Path offers morning meditation and contemplative practice sessions, day retreats and multi-day retreats drawing upon classical dharma teachings and inspiration from Western Port's beautiful bushland and beach setting.

2026 courses commence Sunday February 1st.

openpathmeditation.com.au

Is That a Good Place to Nest?

By Brian Thomas

I live in a street that winds its way out from the town centre in a long winding tongue of suburbia, three houses wide with farmland and trees on either side. Each spring the residents of the street are treated to the arrival of fluffy little Masked Lapwing chicks - and their manic parents protecting them from dangers both real and imagined.

The lapwings nest on the flat roofs of the houses in the street and they have a reputation of nesting in “stupid” places but to the lapwings where they nest makes perfect sense. The natural space for lapwings to lay their eggs is in an open paddock or grassland where they have a clear view of any dangerous predator approaching - which includes people. A flat roof gives them the same clear view around themselves.

In a more natural setting, their eggs are laid in a nest which is often no more than a scrape amongst pebbles or a few twigs thrown together in the grass, the olive-green eggs are well camouflaged with dark splotches, spots and speckles which blend in with the surrounding terrain. Not that the eggs are ever left unattended for long, parent birds share incubating duties, one bird getting off the nest and the other settling on the eggs almost immediately.



*Lapwing Chick
Photo by
Brian Thomas*

The adult lapwings are well known for their fierce defence of their eggs but particularly their chicks. They used to be known as Spur-winged Plovers (until the taxonomists got to them and re-classified them into a different class of birds) and they do indeed have a serious looking spur on the bend of each wing. They dive bomb with blood curdling screams any intruders that venture too close to either nest or young. People quite often refer to this behaviour as aggressive, but I see it more as defensive after all they are defending their offspring, they are just taking their cue from Chinese General Sun Tzu's book - The Art of War, where he suggests "Attack is the secret of defence" – they probably haven't read it, they're just doing what comes naturally.

Their bravery is something to be admired, I've seen lapwings that have nested in the gravel beside a highway challenge every car that went past with outstretched wings and an air of "Do you want some of this mate do you?!" They must have been exhausted by the end of the day.

For the flat roof nesting lapwings, the roof serves much the same purpose as open paddocks, there is a good view of the surrounding area with the possible advantage that land predators have to scale walls to get to them. The only difference is that when the chicks hatch, they are faced with a three-metre leap off the roof instead of just strolling out of the nest and into the surrounding countryside. It's quite an adaption on the chick's part.

The other complication is that they are now in suburbia and quite possibly in someone's back yard! This is probably more dangerous than being in the wild, it's like being born in the middle of a maze - they have to contend with finding their way out of the yard, into the street and from there into the farmland, battling with a swag of dangers on the way - dogs, cats, people, bikes, skateboards, scooters, cars, magpies, butcher birds and kookaburras, not to mention dead ends if they continually wander into different gardens.

This happened to a brood in my garden once. A family of lapwings wandered in from the street and ended up in our backyard. We had to close all the window blinds because each time the parents caught sight of us moving about inside the house the house they went berserk! Eventually the family made their way back out onto the road - at least I thought they had until sometime later my grandson Wren wandered around the side of the house and found an all but lifeless little body laying on the brick path.

We first gently warmed the little creature, but it was clear that it was still rather weak and needed a bit more care than we could provide so we whisked it off to our local wildlife carer and she nursed it back to health. Although its recovery was quick, it wasn't possible to reunite it with its family and so it stayed in care, sharing its enclosure with domestic chicks until it could fend for itself and was released back into the wild.

I'm guilty of adding to the general inappropriate nest sites for birds by erecting a nest box which Australian Wood Duck nest in each year. To be fair to me, the box was designed for kookaburras, and the ducks were an unintentional by-product when they beat the kookaburras to possession of the box.

Wood duck normally nest in tree hollows and even without my help, pairs of ducks turn up in the street with their broods of ducklings, and they face the same obstacles in reaching the farmland and relative safety as the lapwings do.

One year, a pair of Australian Shelduck and their offspring turned up. Twice the size of the Australian Wood Duck but also tree hollow nesters, they definitely didn't use my nest box! As well as the afore mentioned dangers of nesting in suburbia the wood duck also have to contend with the attention of ravens, and many's the time I have found eggshells beneath the nest box after a raven has helped itself to a breakfast egg, but only once have I caught them in the act.

On this occasion a raven reached into the box while the ducks were away (ducks usually only start sitting continually when the full clutch has been laid so that the ducklings all hatch at pretty much the same time and are able to leave the nest together) and pulled out an egg. But it didn't eat the egg straight away. It flew down near the compost heap and cached it for later, covering it with leaves and bits of tree bark.

So each year the ducks and the lapwings try their best to keep their chicks safe and lead them through the maze of dead ends and dangers until they reach the relative safety of the farmland, creating just a bit of chaos and concern amongst the residents as they do so.

There are other vagrants that wander into the street; long-necked turtles turn up in summer searching for mates or places to lay their eggs and even the odd echidna wanders in. Usually my advice is to leave animals alone if you find them – they usually know what they are doing and where they are going but for animals like the turtles and echidnas then suburbia is just too difficult for them to navigate and its easy for them to become trapped so it's best to relocate them to a more natural area nearby.

Blue-tongue lizards turn up in gardens regularly. They can squeeze under fences and through cracks in fences so have a bit more flexibility in where they roam. An added danger for the lizards though is snail bait. Blue tongues love to eat snails, and snails that have been poisoned by snail bait will also kill lizards that eat those snails. So please find an alternative way to control snails. A tray of beer works well, and this can be put out at night when lizards are less active and snails are out, and it can be taken up in the daytime so that you don't have drunken lizards!

Koalas turn up too and always create a frisson of excitement in the street. Trees handed out freely by the Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation members have added to the habitat for these increasingly threatened marsupials and several residents have taken advantage of this offer and planted manna gums and swamp gums. My tree was only four years old when it got its first koala in it.



Adult Masked Lapwing. Photo by Michael Mann.

There are the usual suspects living in the street too; those animals that have learned to live with us despite their bushland being cleared away and replaced by houses and gardens.

Ringtail possums are a common sight if you are out at night, running along the power lines using them as aerial highways. They are perfectly safe there as long as they don't try to cross from one line to another! It's a neat way to get around the street without coming to the ground. The ringtails have a pleasant chittering call which is a little bird-like.

Less common in the street are the Brush-tailed Possums, larger than the ringtails and with a voice that sounds like someone clearing their throat – with all the gruesomeness that that conjures up! Big and strong they have no fear of descending to the ground.

The smallest possum that we have is the sugar glider and these cute little guys need trees even more than the other two do. At dusk they will emerge from their nest in a tree hollow, nesting box or maybe even a roof space, climb to the top of a tree and launch themselves into space – gliding on a membrane stretched between its foreleg and hind leg to land on the trunk of another tree and scamper up it to repeat the performance.

MEDITATION and MINDFULNESS at BALNARRING

A WEEKLY GROUP

Offered by Pip Ransome who has over 30 years of experience practising and teaching buddhist methods for wellbeing. An opportunity to learn and practice with others, to make friendships as we meditate together

Suitable for beginners and experienced meditators.

Meditation and mindfulness have been proven beneficial for health of mind and body, memory, focus, sleep, calmness and creativity, and for exploring your own exciting inner journey.

ALL WELCOME.

Wednesday during school terms at 1.30 - 3.00pm

Balnarring Hall (Rear Room),

3035 Frankston Flinders Rd, Balnarring VIC 3926



Gold coin donation.



To register your interest email buddhataalk9@gmail.com
buddhataalk.com.au offers a clear, concise overview of the Buddha's teachings.

With Thanks to the Balnarring Community Hub Team for their support. Photo- Elaine Larsson



buddha talk



Resting Buddha



Pip

buddhataalk.com.au

buddhataalk meditation with Pip Ransome

SPECIAL EVENT!

December 2025 weekend retreat Meditation Brings Wisdom

Friday Dec 5, 6pm - Sunday Dec 7, 1pm.

At Sanctuary of Stillness (SOS), the Buddhist Society of Victoria's new retreat centre for laypeople, at Newbury near Daylesford. This tranquil setting is a perfect backdrop for your spiritual development and personal growth. Single/double rooms with ensuite, comfortable beds, delicious food, meditate on floor or chair. BSV members \$170, non-members \$250.

FOR INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, GO TO

<https://www.bsv.net.au/retreat-centre/retreat-info/>

February 2026

Journey to Tranquility course

Thursday February 5 – March 26, 2026.

For beginners and experienced meditators. Train in eight relaxation, mindfulness, meditation and contemplation practices that increase happiness and decrease suffering. 7.30-9 pm weekly, Balnarring. \$10 per session.

TO BOOK, EMAIL buddhataalk9@gmail.com

Friends of Woolleys Beach

Woolleys Beach and Jacks Beach are important areas of the Crib Point Stony Point Foreshore Reserve located in a significant area within the Western Port Biosphere with global importance for the conservation of nature under the RAMSAR wetland convention.

This unique reserve is used by locals and visitors alike for recreation, walks, bike riding, fishing, birdwatching or kayaking. Local primary schools visit the foreshore reserve on a regular basis to learn about the coastal environment including mangroves and seagrass beds.

Our ranger Glenn and local volunteers have been busy working around the foreshore reserve:

- 200 seedlings planted - thanks to Planet Ark and Conservation Collective Nursery
- Flax-leaved broom and sallow wattle removed from around the foreshore reserve
- Green Comb Spider Orchid identified during a school mangroves program – see below
- Nesting boxes installed for rosellas, sugar gliders and possums – thanks Michael Mann
- Tea-tree Fingers fungus presentation delivered by local scientist Shari Barmos

As the CFA Fire Danger Period has been declared, fire restrictions have come into force. Woolleys Beach foreshore reserve will be **CLOSED** when a Total Fire Ban is declared.

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

Upcoming working bee dates at Woolleys Beach foreshore reserve are:

Sunday 7 December 2025

Sunday 8 February 2026

Sunday 1 March 2026



H5 Bird Flu update:

The Victorian Government is raising awareness regarding H5 bird flu and its possible impact on our native birds and coastal marine mammals including seals, sea lions and dolphins. H5 bird flu (or H5N1 avian influenza) is a serious and highly contagious viral disease that has caused widescale death of poultry and birds but has not yet been detected in Victoria. Signs of H5 bird flu in wild birds include sudden death, inability to stand or fly, closed eyes, ruffled feathers, coughing or sneezing, tremors, depression and swimming in circles.

Watch out for H5 bird flu in Victoria

Know what to look for



AVOID touching sick or dead wild birds or animals.



RECORD what you see. How many? Where? When?



REPORT to **DEECA** by using the **QR code** or calling the **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline 1800 675 888**.



Report groups of five or more sick or dead wild birds anywhere in Victoria.
Report even one:



- sick or dead pelican or penguin



- sick or dead black swan



- sick or dead bird of prey (e.g. hawks, owls, eagles)



- sick or dead marine mammal (e.g. seals, sea lions, dolphins).

wildlife.vic.gov.au



Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action

We are planning more activities, planting and working bees in our foreshore reserve in 2026.

If you are interested to learn more, please check our Facebook page for updates and join our group. Please bring gardening gloves and hat. All are welcome and no experience needed.

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

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

Check Facebook for updates and join our group – [‘Woolleys Beach Friends Group’](#)

Many thanks to all our fantastic volunteers at Woolleys Beach!

Contact: ranger@cribpointstonypointforeshore.com.au

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

10 Things to gift yourself every day

Author: Arsalan Moin

1. The gift of walking

a daily walk is the most underrated health hack: it protects your brain, boosts your mood, and improves metabolic health

2. The gift of sunlight

exposure to natural morning light (even on cloudy days) can boost energy and mood and improve sleep quality at night.

3. The gift of slow breathing

slowing down your breathing and taking deep belly breaths is a simple but powerful way to regulate your nervous system.

4. The gift of a phone-free morning

waiting at least 30 minutes to check your phone or emails reduces stress, decreases reactivity, and boosts creativity and focus

5. The gift of nature

spending 15 to 30 minutes in nature, including urban parks, reduces stress and cortisol levels, and improves mood

6. The gift of micro-breaks

taking small breaks throughout the day can boost productivity and avoid burnout

7. The gift of noticing

noticing small moments of joy throughout the day (like a sunset, a smile, or a good cup of tea) can help regulate your nervous system and build stress resilience over time

8. The gift of kindness

small, random acts of kindness (even a simple smile to a stranger!) can uplift your mood and strengthen your sense of connection

9. The gift of gratitude

taking a moment each day to acknowledge what you're thankful for can boost happiness and reduce stress

10. The gift of a protein-rich breakfast

a protein and fibre-rich breakfast can stabilise blood sugar, reduce cravings, boost energy, and improve mood.



ABN: 84915700910

RTA: AU065351

REC: 36391

Dear reader

Summer is upon us and the invites are rolling in for festive catch-ups. Is your home ready to accommodate everybody?

One thing you might not have considered is checking on your air conditioner. That's where we can assist. Ninch Air and Electrical are a trusted, local provider of air conditioning and electrical services, proudly based on the beautiful Mornington Peninsula.

Our team specialises in:

- Maintenance and repair of air conditioning and electrical systems
- Installation of air conditioning and electrical systems
- Maintenance and repair of heat pumps

Why should you service your heating and cooling systems?

Regular preventative maintenance and cleaning of your equipment is essential in enhancing its efficiency, prolonging its lifespan and ensuring optimal performance.

The best part? On average, this service only takes 20 - 30 minutes!

What does it cost?

For installation work we offer a free, no obligation quote which includes an onsite visit.

For preventative maintenance and repair, we charge a call out fee of \$180 + GST. This includes the first hour of labour. If additional work is required we will inform you prior to commencing.

So why don't you worry about the dinner menu and we will handle the room temperature. We look forward to working with you.

Liam Berry
Director - Ninch Air & Electrical

Mobile: 0448 822 039

Email: liam@ninchairandelectrical.com

Web: www.ninchairandelectrical.com





Balnarring CFA News

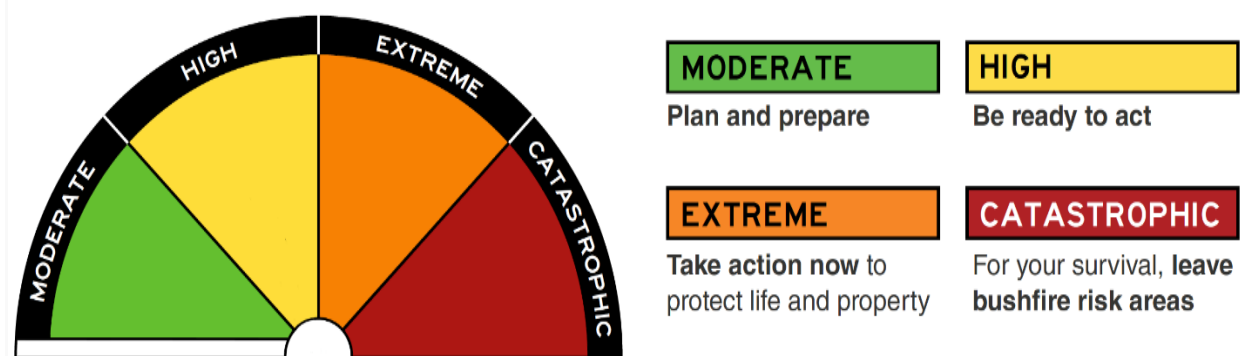


Know Your Risk.

As we head into the warmer and drier months of Summer, it's time again to start considering making or revising your BUSHFIRE PLAN.

For advice on a bushfire plan, please contact your local CFA brigade.

The Fire Danger Ratings



Please note: the fire Danger Rating System doesn't predict that a fire will happen, it predicts how dangerous a fire could be if one started.

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.
- *Bushfires can occur suddenly and without warning.*
- Sheltering in an unprepared house is extremely dangerous.
- Disruptions to services such as power and water are common during bushfires. Expect interruptions to your NBN, telephones, mobile phones or mains water.
- *CFA cannot guarantee a fire truck will come to your home to protect you.*
- Older people, children and people with a disability should not remain in a bushfire-prone area during dangerous fire weather or a bushfire.
- *Act early. Never wait to receive a warning.*

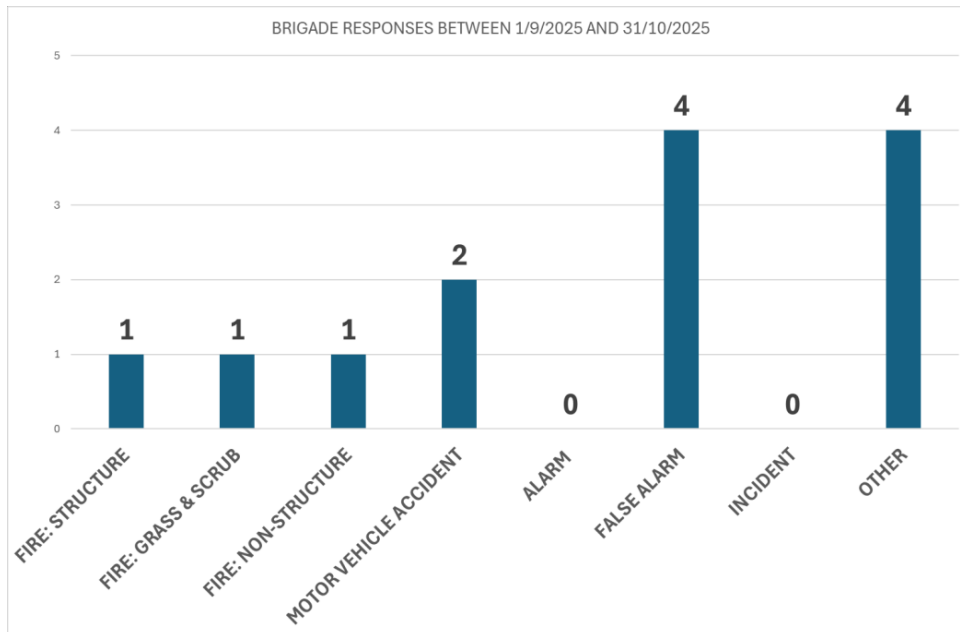
You must plan your own survival.

Open Day

23rd NOVEMBER, 10:30am – 1:00pm.

Come down to the station and bring the family, meet your local volunteer fire fighters, check out our trucks and equipment and pick up a few safety tips at the same time.

Turn-Outs



Santa

Balnarring CFA will again be escorting the Jolly Big Fellow around town on our annual **Christmas Eve Santa Run**. Check our FB page for his times and locations.

Byron SEDGWICK

M: 0419 313 413

E: byron@ianreid.com.au

Lieutenant – Balnarring CFA

Community Engagement Officer

Station Ph No: 5983 5379



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Shop Entrance



Nui Nalu Surf T-Shirts



Koa Kards Earring



Shop Interior

Mahalo, Catherine



What a wonderful day it was at Coolart!

The **2025 Annual Community Picnic** was a huge success, blessed with a warm, sunny day that felt like a gift. Approximately **600–800 people attended**, with many signing up to become *Friends of Coolart* members and others giving generous donations.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our two major sponsors — **Community Bank Balnarring & District** and the **Mornington Peninsula Shire** — whose generous support makes this much-loved event possible. A big thank you also to the many volunteers who put up their hands to help on the day; your enthusiasm and hard work truly make all the difference.

Friends of Coolart are now looking ahead to **2026**, when we hope to undertake some significant fundraising efforts that will ultimately allow us to **repair, renovate, and open the rooms on the second floor of the Homestead** to the public.

A highlight of the day was having the Homestead open to the public, with several rooms beautifully furnished to reflect the era of one of the families who once called Coolart home. The Homestead will continue to be open to visitors on **Wednesdays and Saturdays** (other days by arrangement). To open this **grand old dame** more often, we're looking for additional **volunteers to act as hosts and share her fascinating history** with visitors.

Friends of Coolart are always looking for more volunteers. You may like to **work in our gardens, help in the community veggie garden, assist in the Friends of Coolart Shop, lend a hand in the Homestead, or contribute to our beautiful weekly flower arrangements** placed throughout the house on a rostered basis.

If you're interested in joining us, please contact info@coolart.org.au — we'd love to have you on board.

Together, we're keeping Coolart's spirit thriving — preserving its beauty, sharing its stories, and welcoming the community to enjoy this special place.

An Important Note:

Our former President, Julie Ebbott, has resigned, and the Friends of Coolart would like to thank Julie for her enormous contribution and commitment to the future of Coolart over the past few years. Julie's hard work has resulted in the re-opening of the Homestead, ongoing partnerships and collaborations with many other community groups and an exciting calendar of events that bring people to glorious Coolart. We wish Julie all the best for her future endeavours!



FRIENDS OF
COOLART



Photos by Faye Poll

WHAT WAS THE OCCASION?



WHAT WAS THE OCCASION?

Saturday, 6th September, 1969.

A big day for Balnarring. The new hall is opened.

These three men were photographed in front of the World War 2 Honour Board on the day the new Balnarring Hall was officially opened. The hall had been built to replace the old Mechanics Institute Hall and the honour boards for both world wars and also the Pioneers board had been moved into the foyer of new hall in time for the big day. The men are the President of the Shire of Hastings, Cr Godfrey Robinson, Mr Wes Wade, member of the hall committee who was master of ceremonies on the day and Cr James Paton.

The hall had been built at a cost of about \$54,000, money that was raised by the community over several years and subsidized by the Shire and the State Government. Initially a committee of four or five had been set up to raise funds but this number grew to about twenty members as people became more interested. By means of a series of raffles, cake stalls and events, in particular a very popular carnival at Balnarring Beach, the community's share of the money was raised. Construction began on land acquired by the Shire with the foundation stone being unveiled by the Shire President just three months before the building was complete.

Cr Robinson organized for the Minister of Local Government, Mr Rupert Hamer, to come and officiate. On the day, Hamer and his wife, April, arrived in a government limousine. Robinson had planned things to the nth degree. He wanted everyone seated before he ushered in the minister and his wife. He had positioned staff to signal him when all was ready inside the hall but, somehow, he missed the signals and had led the limousine around the block a couple of times before the official guests could make their appearance. Apart from that, everything else went perfectly.

The Hamers, like everyone else, said they enjoyed the occasion, especially the afternoon tea.

Ilma Hackett

Balnarring & District Historical Society

(from the archives: based on Wes Wade's recollections: photo: Rod Nuske)

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PAVER**



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JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB**



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60



38th Flinders Lions Charity Golf Day Monday March 2, 2026

Proudly sponsored by

**The Flinders Golf Club
Bendigo Community Bank Balnarring**

SAVE THE DATE

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON

All enquiries: John Rex 0412 100 194
Email: golf@Flindersdistrictlions.com.au

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- Teenage Karate
- Adults Karate
- Brazillian Jiu Jitsu
- Personal Training

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Peter Smedley



2025/2026 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

AFRICAN PERCUSSION

MONDAYS 6.30-7.30 PM

THURSDAYS 5 -6 PM

MORE INFO: PETER 0432 043 547

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

YOGA WITH JAN

THURSDAYS 9.15AM-10.30AM

SUGGESTED DONATION \$20

MORE INFO: JAN 0405 809 157

BUDDHIST MEDITATION

WEDNESDAYS 1.30-3PM

GOLD COIN DONATION

MORE INFO: JUDITH 0408 632 714



QIGONG

THURSDAYS 6.15PM-7.30PM

SUGGESTED DONATION \$10

MORE INFO: ANDREW 0406 399 850

BALNARRING PLAYGROUP

FRIDAYS

@SALTBUSH

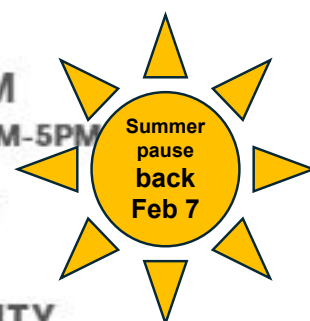
MORE INFO: KIRSTEN 0421 564 439

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

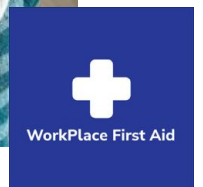
MORE INFO: BALNARRINGHUB@GMAIL.COM



Hub Special Events

In the second half of 2025 the Hub was able to provide 3 **FREE** training sessions to the community.

Provide First Aid (Level 2)



With Thanks to **Jane-Ellen Mountford**, info@workplacefirstaid.com.au

First Nations Cultural Awareness Training



With Thanks to **Jillian West**,
Nomuckerleener
First Nations Training, Consulting and
Mentoring.

These training
sessions were
made possible with
the assistance of:



Mental Health First Aid Training

With Thanks to **Lauren Zelunka**, Mental
Health First Aid Australia®



Balnarring
COMMUNITY HUB
wellbeing, education and creativity

MINDFULNESS COACH & END OF LIFE DOULA

Nic Fawcett



ABOUT ME

- Mother of three
- Living on the Peninsula
- Passionate about living life well
- 30 Years supporting families

SERVICES

- 6 week online mindfulness courses - **NEXT 28/01/2026**
- End of Life Doula
(**FREE** consultation available)

The tools of **mindfulness, meditation, and gratitude**, have profoundly transformed my experiences, and I am passionate about sharing these tools with others. I believe that living well through every stage of life is supported when we are able to control the focus of our attention, without the external distractions of what is happening around us. Practicing mindfulness each day, builds 'mind muscles' in much the same way that going to the gym builds your body's muscle. The more that you practice, the more control that you have. And of course, if we are controlling the way that we feel, regardless of what is happening externally, we impact our happiness.

As an **End of Life Doula**, my mission is to foster open conversations around end-of-life topics, providing individuals and communities with the knowledge and resources they need for informed decision-making. I offer a supportive space to listen and walk beside individuals and communities as they journey through end-of-life challenges and explore options that are right for them. Support includes organizing end of life paperwork, planning for home based death care, advocacy, funeral support and everything in between. I can support you to consider options for your emotional, practical, and spiritual needs. Inspired by the idea that everyone deserves to face life's end with peace and a smile, I strive to make a meaningful impact in the lives of others.



0421 711 032



info@parinamajourney.com



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your own mandala art work



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★ ALL ART SUPPLIES PROVIDED

★ NO ART EXPERIENCE NEEDED

★ AGES 10 - 100

★ GRAZING PLATTER TO SHARE

★ GIFT BAG FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

BALNARRING

(Address with booking)

SEPT 13th - OCT 11th

NOV 8th - DEC 13TH

JAN 10th - FEB 14th

MAR 14th - APRIL 4th

\$80.00 PP

BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES

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Have a lovely day



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



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SCAN ME 

From our BPS correspondent – Viv

Learning About Our World

Geography helps us learn about our world, the people in it, and how we all live together on Earth. We explore places, spaces, environments, and how everything is connected and changes over time. We learn about caring for the planet, solving problems, and working as a team. Geography helps us think creatively and make smart choices for a fair and sustainable future. We also use science, maths, and technology skills to study maps and the environment. By learning Geography, we become curious, responsible, and respectful citizens who understand how people and places are linked all around the world.

Junior School

The junior school have been learning about dreamtime stories and first nation's history. Since the junior school does not have First Nations as a subject this semester, they have been trying to expand on their prior knowledge and revise the things they were learning in semester 1.



The junior school are also just about to start weaving! Weaving is a big part of First Nations. It was used for bags, bowls, baskets and much more, the material used for weaving is raffia, Year 1s and 2s are learning where to find raffia and other materials for weaving!

Middle School

Back in term 2, Year 3s and 4s went to the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens, the middle school loved seeing all the beautiful animals and plants. We gathered 3 students



from year 4 to tell us their favourite things about the botanic gardens. Cooper from 4A loved to watch the unique animals, meanwhile Billie from 4A enjoyed seeing all the beautiful plants. Billie also learnt which plants you can eat and the ones you should stay away from. Lexi learnt that you are not allowed to pick any plants since it can hurt the flowers or plants' habitat.

Senior School

This term, the Year 5s and 6s have been studying foreign countries with a partner. This is called the Amazing Race and we do this every 2nd year.

Throughout this project it has been so fun learning and writing about these fascinating countries, Finn P states; 'It has been so interesting learning about other countries and their culture'. Every team created a PowerPoint and studied up to 5 countries, some teams are so speedy that they can look into a bonus country. While we were making these PowerPoints, we came across 'Roadblocks'. Roadblocks are basically little challenges that we need to overcome to continue with the race, but I'm sure some of you would have seen the TV show.



Stepping into Prep Transition Program

Transitioning from Preschool to Prep: A Big Step for Little Learners

The move from preschool to prep is an exciting milestone — a time filled with curiosity, growth, and new beginnings. While it's natural for both children and parents to feel a mix of excitement and nerves, a smooth transition can set the stage for a confident and happy start to school life.

We have commenced our early years transition program at Bittern PS. Each week our new students arrive at school ready to learn and get to know their teacher, their classroom and become familiar with their learning environment in preparation for the first day of school next year. Last week we held a Teddy Bear's picnic with the children enjoying a real life picnic with their senior buddies. 2026 prep enrolments are still open and we invite you to be part of our exciting transition program.

Hands on Learning (HoL) program with a community focus.

HoL is just one of the student wellbeing programs that we run at Bittern PS. HoL is all about unleashing student potential through student voice and agency. It is a practical in-school program that builds engagement, wellbeing, and attendance by creating opportunities for students to discover their talents and experience success through significant and authentic hands-on projects.

Below is an excerpt from our school newsletter about our latest project.

Building skills, growing confidence, and giving back to Chelsea!

Our Hands On Learning students have successfully completed their latest community project—and the results are nothing short of amazing!

Over the past few weeks, the students have been hard at work designing, building, and planting wicking planters—a sustainable gardening solution that conserves water and supports healthy plant growth. These planters are not only functional but beautifully crafted, reflecting the care, teamwork, and pride the students put into every step of the process.

But this project wasn't just about gardening—it was about learning practical skills, contributing to the community, and building confidence. Students worked collaboratively to problem-solve, measure, construct, and plant, all while gaining valuable experience in sustainability and teamwork.

We're proud to share that the completed planters were donated to the Chelsea Community Project, where they will continue to grow fresh produce and bring joy to the community for years to come.

Enrolments for 2026 are open! We invite you to visit and discover what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Personalised tours can be arranged by phone: (0359 839 590) or by email: bittern.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Sally Herbert
PRINCIPAL



Balnarring PreSchool Report

Term Four has the Balnarring Preschool buzzing with many days filled with visitors, new learnings and a fun jam packed end to the 2025 year.

A very wet “Little Long Walk” was held and we couldn’t be prouder of the bubups (children) as they really stepped up in the unfavourable weather and didn’t let it affected the joy, excitement, commitment and importance of the day. As Navaz so wisely stated activism doesn’t stop when conditions are challenging. They held their banners high, with big smiles and made the teachers and wider community proud. Thank you for your support in the community in the work we are doing in the reconciliation space this means a lot. Huge thank you to everyone involved in making the day happen.



Four Year Old groups have had the pleasure of spending some quality time over at Arcare reading, singing and connecting to the residents their ‘Grandfriends’. Lovely to see so many big smiles on all faces.

As the days passed the children will have enjoyed many successful events including Grandparents Day, Four Year Old groups camp nights and school orientation days and all the children with their end of year celebrations. With lots of growth seen throughout the year, the children are becoming excited and confident to move into School or Four Year Old groups next year.

As we wrap up another year I’d love to share some big news we have our beautiful 4 Year Old Weelam group teacher Ann Slater retiring, looking forward to slowing down and enjoying more time with her family and friends. We would love to thank her from the bottom of our hearts for her service to not only the Preschool but wider community. She has guided many little bubups (children) through their preschool years and made lasting memories, connections and a huge impact on little and big lives. Ann you will be missed by many and we welcome visits anytime at Balnarring Preschool. We will have also celebrated Ann at a surprise long lunch, followed by present and past families joining us in the afternoon to connect again in nature and are

sure that it was a huge success. Thank you to all those who helped make this a special day for Ann truly unforgettable.



We also say goodbye and thank you to not one but two wonderful educators of the Four Year Old Weelam team as they retire and move on to new things. Thank you for supporting Ann, the children and Balnarring Preschool.

Thank you Kim and Suzie for the years you have contributed to Balnarring Preschool - we wish you well for your future.

We truly will miss all three of you incredibly and are so grateful of your time at Balnarring Preschool.

With this announcement we would love to reassure the community that the Preschool is in great hands with our team stepping into the new year with new positions, fresh ideas and excitement. Jill will be leaving the Three Year Old groups to guide the Four Year Old Weelam group as the teacher.

Both Erin and Navaz are looking forward to stepping up into teacher positions of the Three Year Old groups. Both leading a group as the teacher and working together to welcome new children to the Preschool in 2026. Next year will be full of excitement, growth and continued community.

Take Care, Be slow, enjoy the summer and we look forward to an amazing 2026 connecting and welcoming new families, past families and checking in on our 2025 families.

Jaclyn Noakes, Historian Balnarring Preschool Committee

Friends of Daangean Report to November 2025

Team FOD took to the bush at Botaurus Wetland on Saturday September 27th. Just four of us this day with two leaving early. Two PV rangers called by and tackled some of the larger trees with a chain saw, which was a great help however, there is still a mammoth task ahead. Senecio seedlings were making an appearance, which is good. But also popping up were pine, boneseed, and sallow wattle seedlings. Sun Orchids appearing on the top of the dam bank should be ready to flower by the time Team FOD returns in October. Boneseed, sallow wattle and pittosporum were in full bloom so the air was most aromatic. Birds wise there were ducks on the water, yellow-tailed black cockatoos and straw-necked ibis in the air while sulphur-crested cockies screeched their melodious screech around a likely looking nesting tree.



Annabel admiring our new sign - MF

Saturday October 25th was the most recent weeding day and the final bee will be on Saturday November 29th when we break for the year's end. The 25th saw the inaugural hoisting of the new FOD teardrop banner. It was a simple enough exercise when we looked properly, and a bird of very little brain like an emu would've been able to work it out. Apologies to emu fans! It however didn't come with a rubber mallet to bash in the spike, but not to be thwarted Roger brought his.

Along the track a big messmate blew over in the recent winds; fortunately, not across the track. The root system lifted clear of

the ground with the tree's weight and the tree brought down the limbs of one of its neighbours, which I hope didn't have any nests in it/them.

More boneseed, pine, sallow wattle and pitto seedlings appearing in the pine forest, along with the disa coming into flower on the dam bank. The disa has since been sprayed, so hopefully that will make it pull its horns in somewhat. Sun orchids budding and waiting for sun were on the bank too.

I did the second last bird count at Botaurus Wetland, but Roger left too early to quiz so the bush birds I didn't include as I couldn't recognise their calls, apart from

the grey fantails. A flock of around 30 yellow-tailed black cockies flew over and their melodious calls contrasted with the not so melodious voices of the seemingly resident white cockies.

Waterwatch took place on September 22nd and October 22nd. Water levels continue to fall, but the quality remains good. I was away for the October survey but I believe the weather was less than clement and the actual testing was done under cover, although the hardy team still had to venture out to collect the samples.

On October 29th we had a macroinvertebrate day with Melbourne Water with day being open to all comers. The number of seven, five being us, plus the MW person was really an easy number to work with, although a few more would've fitted in.



Stealthy Diving Beetle - MF



Another Diving Beetle - MF

The point of this particular exercise was to check the Devilbend catch drain water for uncensored waterbugs and anything interesting that might show up.

The catch drain has never been looked at before and as MW is working to weed, revegetate and monitor its length a baseline waterbug populations and varieties thereof was needed. Our MI team will be doing this twice yearly now aside from the normal macroinvertebrate days. Anyone walking the Devilbend Catch Drain Trail will see blue signs that will soon have FOD et al written thereon.

We will be doing our normal MI survey on Wednesday November 5th, although by the time The Bridge Magazine comes out, all will be done! Read about it in the next issue.

Marnie Fitzsimons

FOD Coordinator

devilbendfoundation@gmail.com

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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
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For August and September

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Jane McDonnell Natural Therapist

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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).

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TUTOR

Jane Reiseger
0438 237 467

Literacy with Jane 

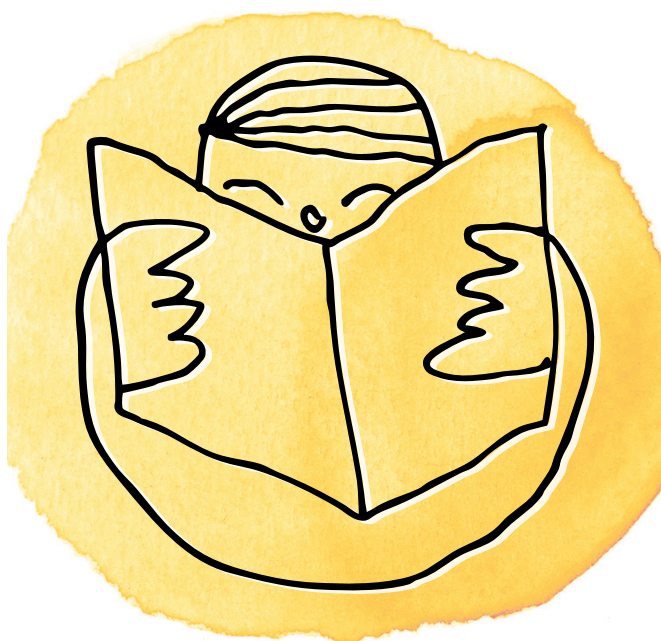
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FROM FOUNDATION TO GRADE 6.

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— FAMILY OF A GRADE 6 STUDENT, 12 YEARS OLD

“Oh, Jane my daughter read a whole book tonight for the first time. I wanted to cry. From the bottom of my heart thank you so much.”

— MUM OF A GRADE 2 STUDENT, 8 YEARS OLD



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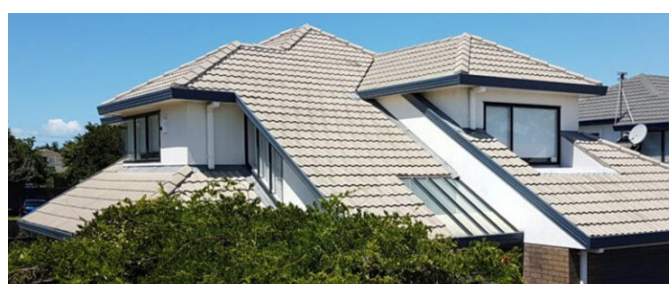
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PILATES WITH NEIL

Pilates with Neil is your destination for holistic well-being through mindful movement. Experience the transformative power of Pilates in a supportive and nurturing environment, suitable for all levels.

Neil offers small group Pilates Matwork classes to improve core strength, coordination, flexibility, breathing techniques and concentration. The small classes enable Neil to accommodate the needs of the individual.

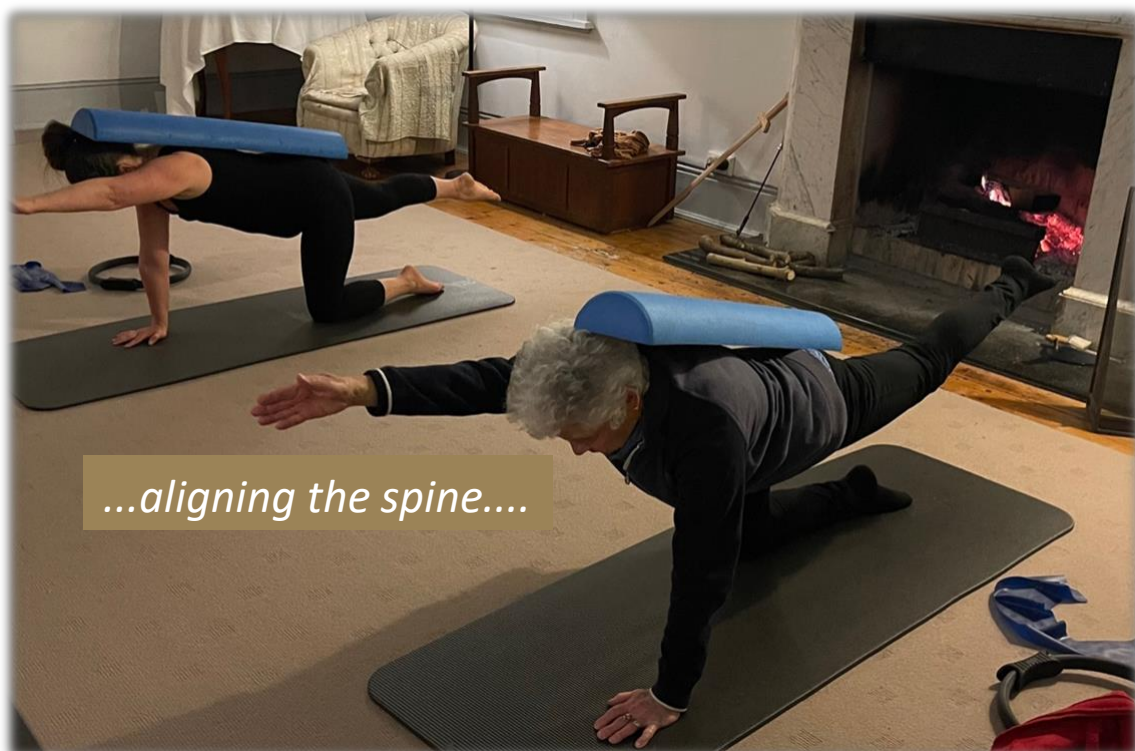
One-to One Postural Pilates sessions address an individual's specific needs, by appointment. A 45-minute gentle Stretch Class limbers the entire body, (time TBC).

Neil is also a Lomi Lomi Hawaiian Massage therapist; by appointment.

Neil has over 30 years' experience working in human movement. His work is based on the desire to help clients achieve their individual potential: to strengthen, lengthen, repair, rejuvenate, and release.

For more info call Neil on **0418638589**,
or visit his website: **www.pilateswithneil.com.au**

@Warrawee Wholistic, Balnarring,
& Crib Point Community House



...aligning the spine....

Crib Point Cricket Club
and
Crib Point Community House
**CHRISTMAS
TOY DRIVE**

**For
Mums Supporting Families in Need**



NEW TOYS ONLY PLEASE

Drop-off location:

Crib Point Community House
Mon to Thurs 9am to 3pm
Friday 9am to 12

Crib Point Cricket Club
Colin Pde, Crib Point





Crib Point Community Market

**Cribby Koala invites you to the
market on December 13th to visit
Cribby Koala's Cubby and write
your letter to Santa.**

Parent/Guardian must be present



NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2025



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Another year has almost gone and we're getting ready for the Festive Season and asking ourselves, 'where has the year gone?' Well, here at the Community House, it's been as busy as ever. Our **F.R.I.E.N.D.S.** morning is growing every week and the **Wednesday Wonders** talks have been popular too. It's a bit early to know what's on in term 1 2026 but rest assured, there'll be plenty of options. website

Our **Senior's High Tea** was a great success with 78 guests enjoying a scrumptious morning tea and lots of fun and conversations with new and old friends. A very big THANK YOU to the Hastings and District Community Bendigo Bank for their sponsorship and the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

We are partnering again this year with the Crib Point Cricket Club for the **Toy Drive** for Mum's Supporting Families in Need. You can drop your donations of new toys at the Community House Monday to Thursday 9am-3pm, Friday 9am-12noon. The December market which will be your last chance to donate.

Don't miss our **December 13th Market**. There'll be Cribby Koala's Christmas Cubby where the children can write a letter to Santa and Mums and Dads can take a photo their children with Cribby. Santa will make a visit too. Of course, there'll be lots of Christmas presents to buy from the many stalls as well.

Special Markets to look out for in 2026 is our 10th Birthday market on 14th March, the Community Support market on 11th April and Thank a First Responder market on 13th June. More information coming soon.

The **Quilt and Craft Show** will be on Saturday 28th March 2026, so start making your quilts and craft to enter. Entries close on 6th March and entries are available at the Community House or email info@cpch.org.au.



Crib Point Community Market Christmas Market December 13th 9am - 1pm

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

**Inside and Outside Stalls
Available
Stall Fees Paid on the Day**



Fantastic stalls inside and out.



7 Park Rd Crib Point, 3919

Ph: (03) 5983 9888

Email: market@cpch.org.au

Website: www.cpch.org.au

QUILT & CRAFT SHOW

Saturday 28th March 2026

Crib Point Community House

7 Park Rd, Crib Point

10am to 4pm - Entry \$5. per person

Quilts & Crafts by our Students and Local Quilters

Calling for entries for

The Quilt and Craft Show

Entries \$2. per item - limit of 2 per person

Entries will be judged by the public

Call 59839888 or Email: info@cpch.org.au

Entries close on Friday 6th March

For more information and entry forms
use the QR code

Follow us on





1st Balnarring

Scout Group

#OutsideIn25 is the theme for Scouts this year and nature is our main setting for learning. With the warmer weather comes more opportunities for outdoor adventures and what adventures our youth members have been on!

Joeys

In the September school holidays, our Joeys went on their biggest adventure to date. With over 1000 other Joeys from around Victoria, they camped for 3 days and 2 nights at Kangaree 2025. Held every 3 years, Kangaree is the Joey's version of a Scout Jamboree. The theme 'Life in an Arcade' had our Joeys enjoying arcade game themed activities during the day, followed by exciting night-time entertainment, before heading back to their tents for a good night's sleep.

Our Joeys also celebrated their 1-year anniversary recently, having formed in October 2024. It's been an action-packed year with four camps, as well as many other exciting activities. We can't wait to see what they get up to in their 2nd year!

Cubs & Scouts

Not to be outdone, our Cubs and Scouts attended 'Boost' a 2-night camp designed to boost their outdoor adventure skills. The choose your own adventure format meant our Cubs and Scouts could select activities such as abseiling, caving, sea kayaking, cycling to Point Nepean, sailing, pioneering and archery.

The Scouts also camped at Gilwell Park near Gembrook where they navigated their way to Ship Rock, tackled the 'leap of faith', had a canoe battle on the lake and cooked some awesome breakfast wraps.

Then, just one week later, some of those same Scouts joined in the statewide Scout competition - Fantastic Race. Navigating their way around the city on public transport, they collected points at various checkpoint activities, before camping out in Altona.

Somers Arts Fair

Despite the wet weather, our leaders and youth members had loads of fun showcasing our activities to the wider community. Our rope bridge was a huge success again with hundreds of children climbing it, some several times!

Christmas Tree Sales

To end the year, we have our huge Christmas Trees fundraiser with beautiful locally grown and freshly cut trees – see our flyer for details. Please come and support us, so that our youth members can participate in even more awesome adventures in 2026!



Top right: Joey Quinn getting all tangled up at Kangaroo. Credit: Phil Kosiol

Top left: How many Cub Scouts fit in one tent? Credit: Andrew Taylor

Left: Joeys racing Billycars at Kangaroo. Credit: Daniel Lane

Bottom left: Scouts preparing the route for a hike. Credit: Andrew Taylor

Bottom right: Scouts cooking delicious (and individually named) breakfast wraps on camp. Credit: Andrew Taylor





Scouts rafting up their canoes for a group photo. Credit: Abdreu Taylor

To Join

1st Balnarring Scout Group, meeting at St Marks Anglican Church, welcomes new members at any time. You can come and try for three meetings before joining up.

We offer four sections of Scouting

- Joey Scouts, aged 5 – 8, on Tuesdays 5.30pm-6.30pm
- Cub Scouts, aged 8 – 11, on Wednesdays 6.30pm-8pm
- Scouts, aged 11 – 14, on Tuesdays 7 – 9pm
- Venturer Scouts, aged 15 – 18 on Mondays 7 – 9 pm

Learn more about our adventures on our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61574679543547>

To register for a trial or to join up go to <https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/location/1ST-BALNARRING/>

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

Scouts on the Fantastic Race - a race around the city on public transport. Credit: Seth Glasgow



B Community Bank Balnarring & District

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT BOOKLET 24/25



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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 67 to 95.

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, outings and dine-outs. We celebrated our 40th birthday with a lunch at Toscanos in Hastings on Thursday, 25th September. Over 70 members, partners and guests attended and enjoyed this special day in our history. Dan Hourigan, our longest serving member gave an entertaining snapshot of the club's past activities.



Our first meeting will be on Friday, 30th January at the Bowls Club and will be followed by our Annual BBQ at Coolart.

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

Probus is about Friendship, Fellowship and Fun - with the emphasis on FUN! Our Club provides opportunities for women to engage in a variety of activities in a friendly environment including Mah Jong, Canasta, Music, Knit and Natter, Fireside Films, a regular Happy Hour, a Lunch Group and a range of outings.

Our Lunch Group meets each month at local venues to enjoy the friendship of members over a meal. In October we enjoyed lunch at the Mornington Races - and some of us even won! Our November venue will be Steeples at Mornington Racecourse where we will be entertained with "A Tribute to Elvis" !



Some of our ladies enjoying a Day at the Races!

Over 39 years our club has provided entertainment, support and assistance to members. The final meeting for the year will be a Garden Party Lunch in December.

Somers Ladies Probus Club usually meets on the first Friday of each month at 10 am at the Stone Pavilion, Camphill Rd. Somers.

New members are always welcome and we invite ladies to contact June (5983 5321) or Lis (0407 713 211) for more information.



Hi there!
My name is José Zandveld.

I'm a local photographer sharing
images of the area I grew up in,
the beautiful Mornington
Peninsula.

I am passionate about our
amazing surroundings and enjoy
capturing
inspiring moments
they produce.

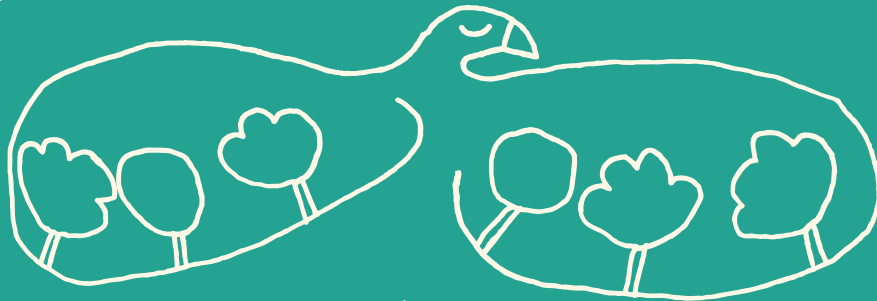
I offer prints for sale as well as
doing family and pet portraiture,
small intimate weddings,
sporting events and business
photos for websites.

You can follow my pages on:
Facebook or Instagram under
Right Spot Photography

and contact me on 0411 685
476.

Balnarring
Preschool
presents

.Womin Djeka.



Balnarring Ngargee

Community Festival
Family Friendly

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY

**20
26**

14TH MARCH

EMU PLAINS RESERVE

Coolart Road
Balnarring

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

Honouring & Celebrating First
Peoples Cultures

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

Schools embracing learning to celebrate First Peoples' cultures, histories, language and perspectives.

By lisahunter for the Womin Djeka Balnarring Ngargee Organising Committee

Have you ever wondered how schools and early learning centres are embracing, honoring, celebrating, and learning with First Peoples perspectives, knowledges, histories, cultures and/or languages? With the historic first Treaty having just passed through the Victorian Parliament we can look forward to learning more with First Peoples as they continue to share their gifts of ways of knowing, being and doing. The Womin Djeka Balnarring Ngargee celebrates some of the great work being done in our early childhood centres, kindergartens, and schools. For many years N'arwee't Carolyn Briggs has collaborated with Balnarring Preschool to share Boon Wurrung stories passed down through the generations to create a storybook, then launched at the festival. This year's book was **The Journey of the ilk**. *Weegabil nye-wiiny* or 'Old Man Sun' is the Boon Wurrung season that was also known as the ilk season, aptly for the timing of the festival each year, around February and March.

Schools and centres are invited to work with the theme of the most recent book to share some of their work as displays and/or activity centres at the festival. The displays and activities are inspired by, but not limited to, the books. We have seen the story and theme of **Barraeemal** which means emu in Boon Wurrung.



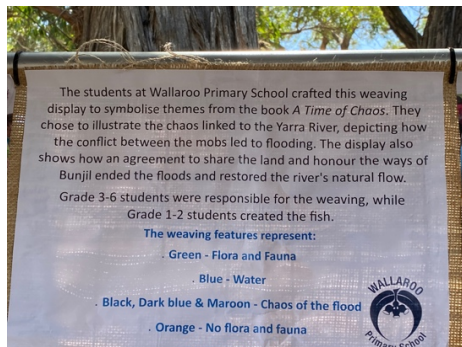
Children retell stories



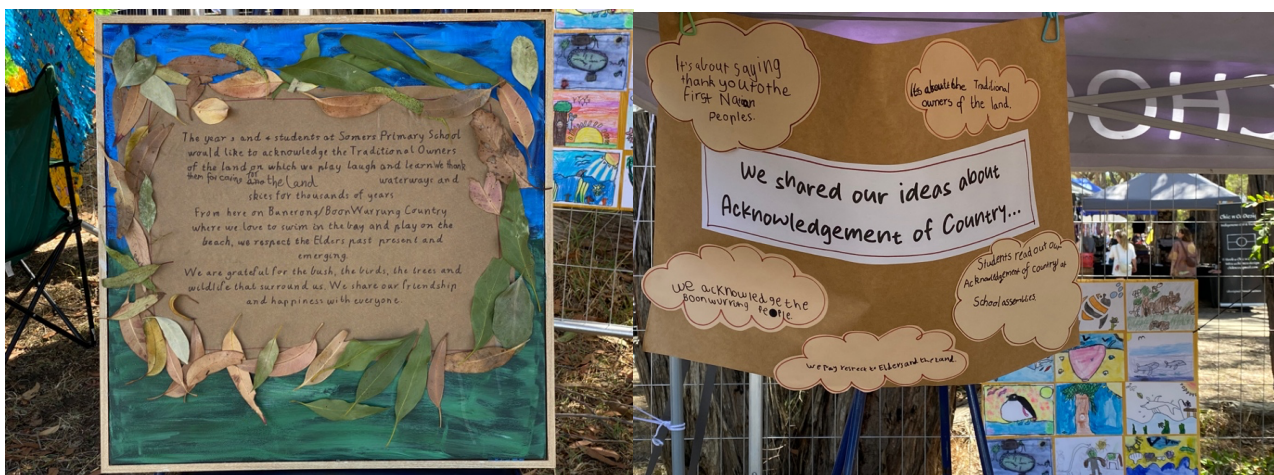
Sand painting emu tracks



This year schools displayed work around the book 2024 book- **The Time of Chaos**.

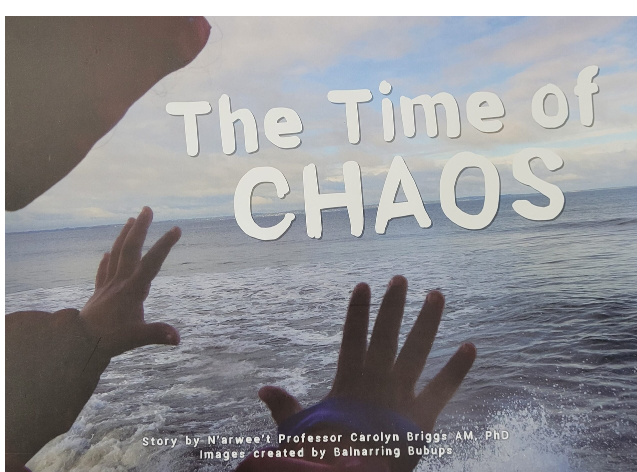


Wallaroo's Primary School teachers illustrating students' *Time of Chaos* work

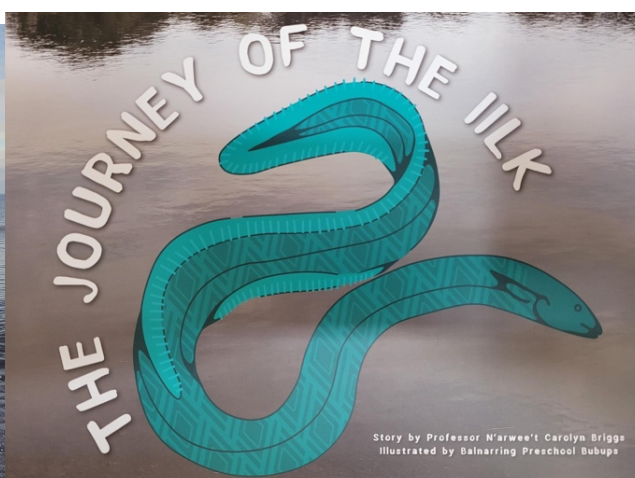


Showing their personalized acknowledgements of Country

With the new book launched this year - **The Journey of ilk**, this becomes the theme for next year's schools displays.



Book launched at 2024 festival – a theme schools drew upon for the 2025 festival



This year's book and 2026 theme

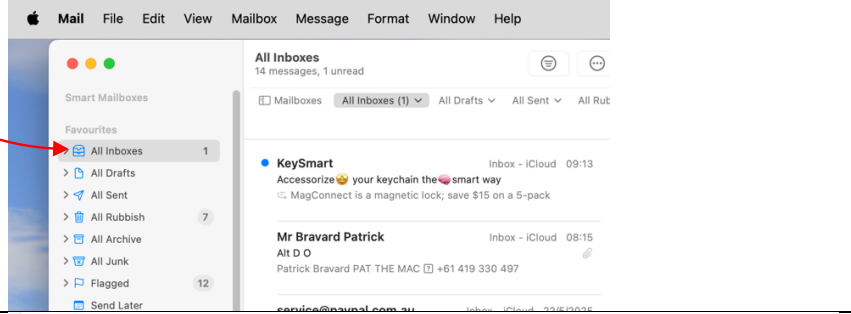
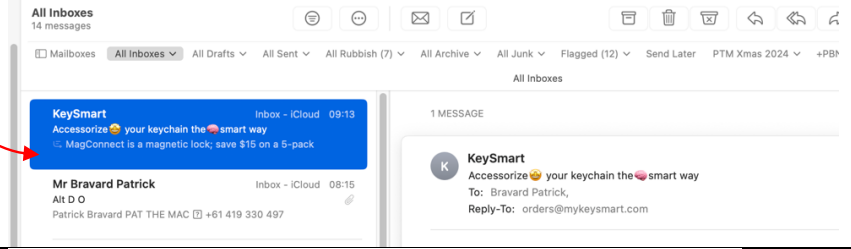
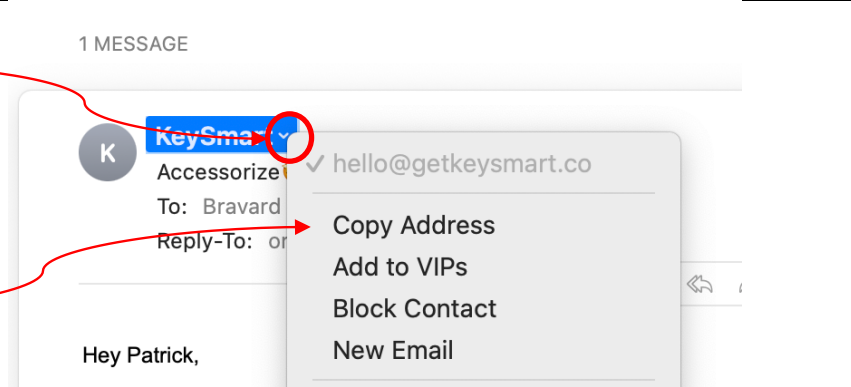
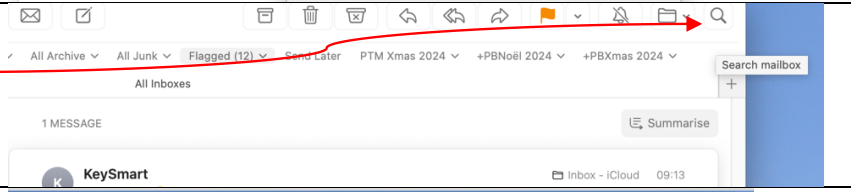
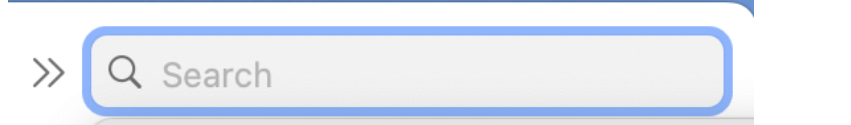
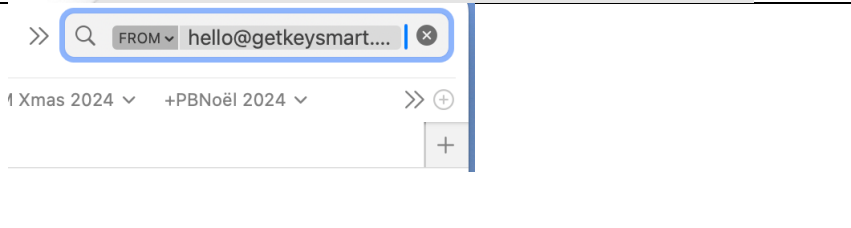
Teachers, parents and students, if your school or centre is interested in participating with displays and/or activities, contact lisahunter@monash.edu or Karen Anderson teachers.balnarring.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au to find out more. With **The Journey of the ilk** just a starting theme for the 2026 festival, we look forward to working with you to help you with planning and resources. So far, we already have these schools working on displays for the 2026 festival: St. Joseph's and St Mary's Catholic Schools, Somers Primary School, Woodleigh School Penbank and Minimbah Campus, Bittern Primary School, St Brendans Catholic School, Somerville, with more schools also interested.

We hope to see you all there on **Saturday March 14 at Emu Plains Reserve, Coolart Road, Balnarring. 10am-5pm**. See balnarringfestival.com.au for more festival information and updates on entertainment, cultural workshops, caring for Country organisations, food stalls, opportunities to volunteer, craft workshops, etc. Go online to join our list, volunteer, and to get the latest updates about our upcoming schedule.

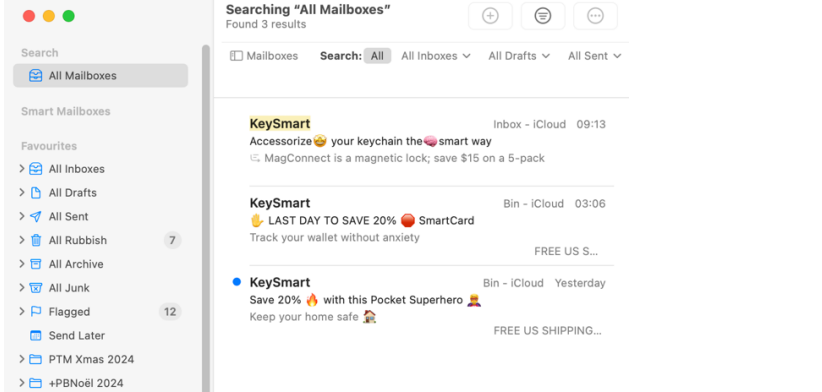
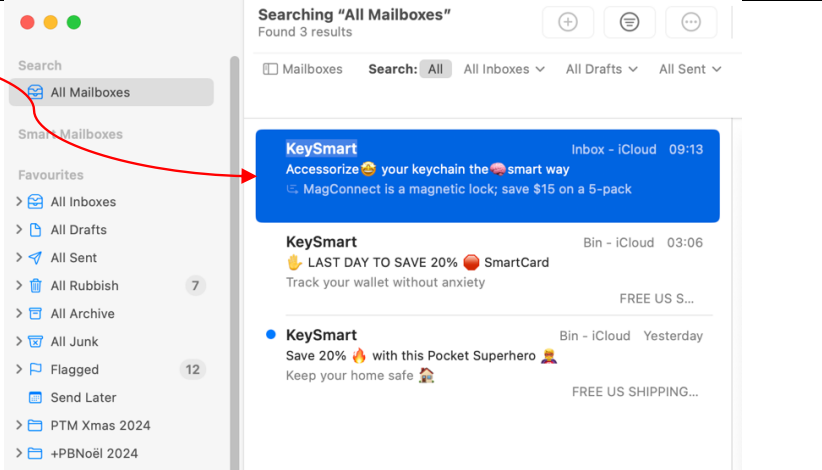
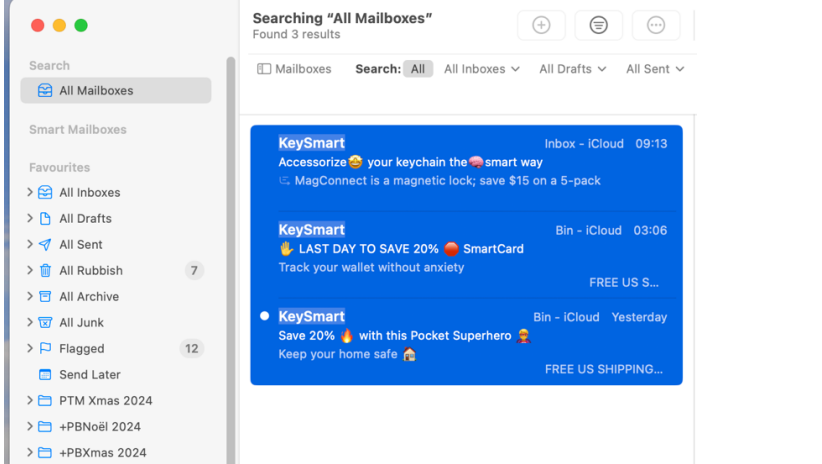
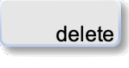
Will your school be involved in 2026? We hope to see you there.

Pat The Mac: How to delete several emails at once.

I suppose that every now and then you may want, on your computer, to delete several emails received from the same sender at once. To achieve this, read the procedures below.

Explanation	Illustration
1) To start, click on "All Inboxes" in the left pane.	
2) Then click on any one of the emails you wish to delete.	
3) Move the cursor to the right-hand pane and then click on the arrow next to the email address already selected. (circled in red)	
4) Click on "Copy Address".	
5) Move the cursor to the Search icon	
6) And click on it to reveal the search box	
7) Paste the address by pressing   then press 	

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

Explanation	Illustration
8) All the target emails now appear in the right pane	
9) Click on the top email	
10) Type   to select them all	
11) Press  key to delete them all	

There are ways to achieve the same task on the iPhone or the iPad, however the interface is slightly different. I'll be happy to reply to your questions if you think you need help with their iOS versions.

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



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Pat the Mac

M 0419 330 497

E pat@patthemacs.com

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OPEN TIMES
Tues to Fri
10-3.30pm
Sat 9.30am –
1.00pm

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.

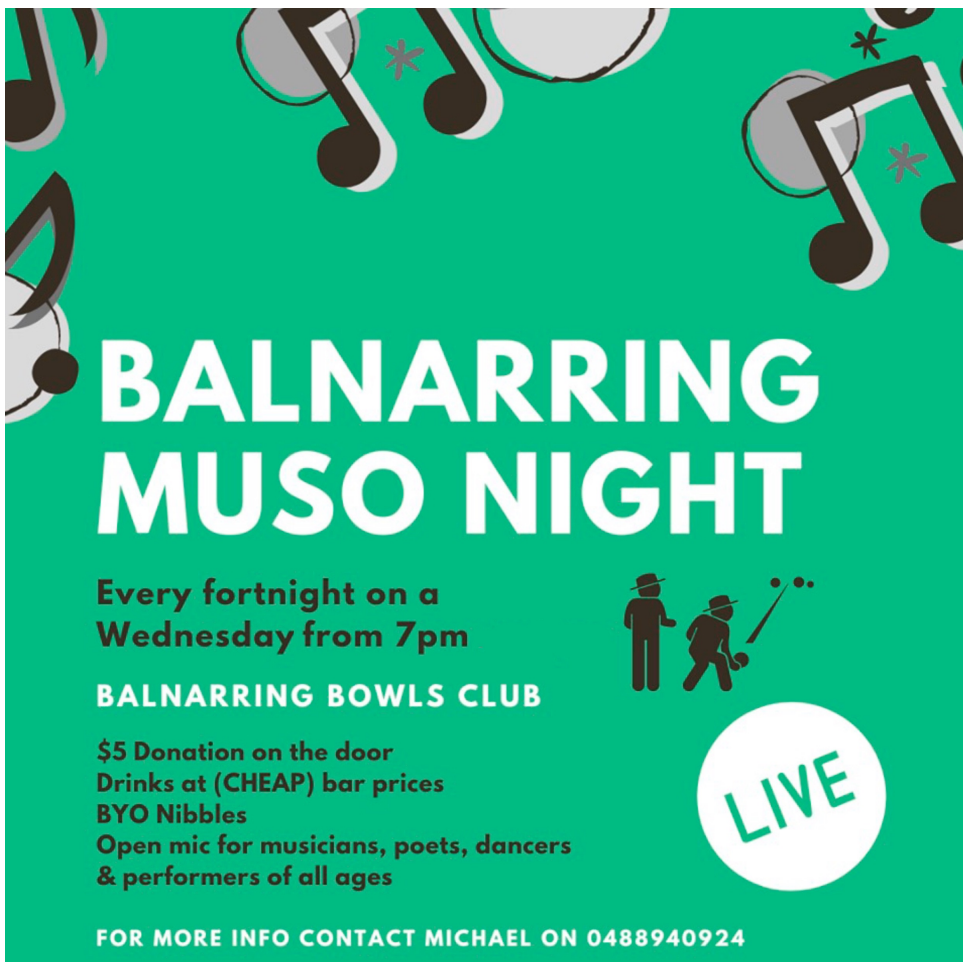
Our hard-working group meets at 10 am on the last Sunday of the month (excepting December and January) at the rotunda next to the beach store at Balnarring Beach.

Our Working bee will be in recess for December and January.

But we would like to thank all who participated over the year and wish you all a safe and happy break.

Back in February for the next one 😊

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



BALNARRING MUSO NIGHT

Every fortnight on a Wednesday from 7pm

BALNARRING BOWLS CLUB

\$5 Donation on the door
Drinks at (CHEAP) bar prices
BYO Nibbles
Open mic for musicians, poets, dancers & performers of all ages

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT MICHAEL ON 0488940924

LIVE

For Muso Night dates
over December and January,
please check out:
Balnarring Muso Night
on Facebook.

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 16pt.

Send as a **Word or PDF** 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 5th (February/March issue)

March 5^h (April/May issue)

May 5th (June/July issue)

July 5th (August/September issue)

September 5th (October/November issue)

November 5th (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