



# 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 96 April – May 2026**

**[www.bridgemag.com.au](http://www.bridgemag.com.au)**

*Right Spot Photography*



Another stunning photo from local photographer, José Zandveld.

Made possible by the customers of  
Balnarring & District

 **Bendigo Bank**



– BALNARRING –  
**DentalCentre**

Ph 5983 5348  
[www.balnarringdentist.com.au](http://www.balnarringdentist.com.au)

## Hello Everyone!

We hope you enjoy making your way through this edition, No. 96, of your Bridge magazine. Be sure to read right to the last page!

Time seems to be galloping already – it feels like only yesterday we were experiencing the Christmas queues at the supermarket and cafes and looking for that elusive carpark spot!! Things have quietened somewhat, and it won't be long now - until after Easter - that we'll be enjoying a more peaceful environment. How fortunate are we to live/weekend here year-round and I think most of us would count our blessings in this regard!!

A series of unexpected challenges has had my nervous system in high alert mode – how very uncomfy those Flight/Fight/Freeze feelings are!! In my looking for respite from the inner tension and extra exhaustion, I came upon Nick Ortner and his sister Jessica, American exponents of Tapping, which I've found very helpful in soothing the nervous system – just search for Nick Ortner Tapping and you'll find him. So, what is Tapping? Tapping, or Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT), combines elements of ancient Chinese acupressure with modern psychology. You use your fingertips to tap on nine specific meridian points while mentally focusing on a stressor or negative emotion you are experiencing. The process sends calming signals to the brain. I have found it to be effective. But please do your own research and practice and make up your own mind. I wish you well – it is so lovely to feel peaceful – and there are many practices available that can help to keep us in relaxed equilibrium ☺

We welcome sponsors and thank those who have already generously made contributions to the Bridge to help keep it in a healthy financial state, along with our wonderful Co-Sponsors, Community Bank, Balnarring and District and Balnarring Dental Centre – we are filled with gratitude for your Community Spirit.

Our love and best wishes to you all for an Amazing April and Magnificent May!!  
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  
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Faye Poll, Ed & Meg Pawlik  
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Dale Stohr, Ali Hoelzer

*Content:*  
Our wonderful community! You!



# Happy Birthday!

## April

2<sup>nd</sup> Elizabeth Shannon  
4<sup>th</sup> Kerry Fortuyn  
6<sup>th</sup> Jenny Taylor  
9<sup>th</sup> Kirra DiConza  
10<sup>th</sup> Marina McLean  
10<sup>th</sup> Winnie Gibson  
12<sup>th</sup> Nick Fenton  
12<sup>th</sup> Elise Cooper  
12<sup>th</sup> Jamie Roach  
13<sup>th</sup> Tia Mustey  
14<sup>th</sup> Kiera Oldfield  
15<sup>th</sup> Joey De Backer  
17<sup>th</sup> Eve Whitelaw  
17<sup>th</sup> Rob Westle  
19<sup>th</sup> David Buntine  
22<sup>nd</sup> Michael Gibson  
22<sup>nd</sup> Alex McLean  
22<sup>nd</sup> Mollie Nelson Williams  
24<sup>th</sup> Andrew Dowey  
24<sup>th</sup> Lani Oldfield  
26<sup>th</sup> Fiona Hammond  
29<sup>th</sup> Jack Gosling  
29<sup>th</sup> Courtney Gibson



## May

3<sup>rd</sup> Barb Rimington  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sarah Toose  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jodee Hopkins  
4<sup>th</sup> Willow Roach  
17<sup>th</sup> Quinnah Heffernan  
21<sup>st</sup> Renae Haylock  
21<sup>st</sup> Peter McLean  
23<sup>rd</sup> Stewart MacGowan  
25<sup>th</sup> Hannah Lewis  
27<sup>th</sup> Gina Tritt Buntine  
30<sup>th</sup> Amy Sayle

*To add a name to community birthdays,  
email [info@bridgemag.com.au](mailto:info@bridgemag.com.au)*

**2026**

*Inspirational Angel Cards for the  
Community:*

***Sense of Humour    Honest***

*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](mailto: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](mailto:info@bridgemag.com.au) "subscribe" in the subject line.

**Want to contribute to The Bridge?** For deadline reminders, email  
[info@bridgemag.com.au](mailto:info@bridgemag.com.au) with "deadline reminders" in the subject line.

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# COMMUNITY CAFE

10AM-12PM

# CORNER



**APRIL**  
WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup>  
WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup>



**MAY**  
WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup>  
WEDNESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup>

Located at the St Mark's Hall Balnarring next  
to the op shop.

PROUDLY  
PARTNERING WITH

Community Bank  
Balnarring & District





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

Local Government is accepted as closest to community.

You can speak to most officers, including the CEO, about your Council concerns with an expectation of a personal reply.

You have elected councillors to speak to, assist and represent you.

Under the Local Government Act, day to day operational decisions are an officer legal responsibility with councillors only able to make decisions at public Council meetings.

Municipalities do not operate under a constitution instead they are governed by the State Government which has control over all basic aspects of Local Government.

Civil societies have equal rules for everyone. Disputes are decided by arbitration or courts after consideration that is bound by evidence rules and lawful procedures.

I believe that other key community aspects of Local Government should include:

- Meaningful consultation
- Transparency in decision making
- Judging issues on their merits
- Ensuring everyone is equally heard
- Freedom of expression for councillors raising community concerns and the ability to raise matters for debate on your behalf
- Scrutiny and accountability should be encouraged
- Confidentiality rulings should be subject to strict regulation and appeal

**Real Estate Signs** come under Council's Local Law or provisions in the planning scheme.

They are not meant to be permanent. They should be used as a for sale sign for a property on the market with an allowance for a small directional sign such as for an open inspection.

If you have concerns regarding any type of sign you may send an email to the Manager Regulatory Services preferably with a photo and location details

[dale.gilliatte@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:dale.gilliatte@mornpen.vic.gov.au)

### **Excellence in Road Safety award.**

MPSC was named the winner of the 2025 excellence in Road Safety Award for reducing road trauma regarding work on rural compact roundabouts such as the Merricks Road / Stanley Road Council managed intersection.

**Feral Cats** and cats allowed to roam are a huge problem for wildlife on the Peninsula.

Council is unable to cope with the number of cats brought to the pound due to space availability in the cat section. While most dogs are registered and can be returned leaving space for more stray dogs. Unfortunately most cats are unregistered and it is difficult to find their owners. They will be offered for adoption.

Feral cats as diagnosed by a vet are not able to be adopted under state government direction.

This is a Notice of Motion that I attempted for the 17<sup>th</sup> March Council Meeting. I am looking for your feedback.

### **Vehicle Parking Congestion on the Mornington Peninsula.**

That:

1. an initial discussion report be brought to a Council workshop in April 2026 and consequently to a public Council Meeting in May 2026 outlining issues to do with future vehicle parking congestion and shortages by using existing planning studies and information already available as a starting point
2. the report considers long-term economic effects of decreasing parking requirements over the last 10 years below that possible and available in our planning scheme
3. population and tourism growth be assessed as part of the need for adequate parking spaces in commercial and industrial zones and tourism areas
4. projections of parking needs over the next 2 decades be considered in the initial report
5. a budget allocation for further investigation into long-term vehicle parking congestion issues across the Mornington Peninsula be considered for the forward 26/27 Council budget



## Quarterly Report.

Council has released the report on the last quarter of operations. Some matters of public interest include

- 29,106 service requests
- 1.3million web page reviews
- 3,388 web chats
- 110 bushland reserve volunteer working bees
- MPSC named the winner of the 2025 Australia wide excellence in road safety award for reducing road trauma for its work on rural compact roundabout
- 1866 potholes were filled this quarter
- 10,000 tonnes of kerbside waste diverted from landfill
- 80 days on average for planning applications to be decided
- 1897 compliance investigations closed
- 55 days on average for event applications to be decided
- 14.7% of council decisions made at meetings closed to the public, exceeding the target of 10%

Local ecologist, ethnobotanist and educator Gidja Walker CAM received the prestigious **Dame Phyllis Frost Award** for more than 30 years of inspiring work restoring local ecosystems and sharing her deep knowledge of Country with the community.

Local volunteer community groups were also in the limelight:

- **Our Songlines** – winner of the *Indigenous Culture* award for the annual *Our Survival Day* event.
- **Southern Peninsula Community Support** – winner of the *Social Wellbeing* award for the *SPLaSh – Southern Peninsula Laundry and Shower* program.
- **Circular Peninsula** – winner of the *Litter* award for the *Lid Rescue Project*.

Honourable Mentions were also awarded to:

- **Mornington Peninsula Shire's Wash Against Waste Event Trailer** – *EPA Waste Prevention and Reduction* category.
- **Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation** – *Environment* category for work in providing koala trees in bioink corridors.

As always I appreciate your feedback.

Regards,

David.

[davidgill4coolartward@gmail.com](mailto:davidgill4coolartward@gmail.com)

Australian Native

# Plant Sale

Peninsula Community Theatre

91 Wilson Rd Mornington 3931

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026 10am to 3.30pm

*Professional advice available from the growers*

**FREE  
ENTRY**



*Free talks on*  
Pruning & maintenance  
Propagating plants

**Book  
Sales**

-----  
**Kids  
Corner**

Australian Plants Society Mornington Peninsula Inc.  
[morningtonpeninsula@apsvic.org.au](mailto:morningtonpeninsula@apsvic.org.au)



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

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

9am – 2pm

6<sup>th</sup> December featuring

Red Hill Lions Christmas Tree Festival

3<sup>rd</sup> January – 7<sup>th</sup> February – 4<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.hillandridgemarket.com.au)

# LOOSE DENTURES? MISSING TEETH?

Learn whether dental implants could be suitable for you.

CALL 5983 5348 TO BOOK A FREE IMPLANT CONSULT



– BALNARRING –  
**DentalCentre**



## **Dental Implants vs Dentures: What's the Difference?**

For many people over the age of 50, tooth loss is something they have either experienced themselves or seen friends and family deal with. In the past, dentures were often the only option for replacing missing teeth. Today, however, dentistry has evolved and there are now more choices available. One of the most common questions patients ask is about the difference between dentures and dental implants.

Dentures have been used for generations to replace missing teeth. They are removable appliances that sit on top of the gums and are designed to replace several or all missing teeth. Modern dentures look far more natural than older versions and can help restore the ability to chew and speak more comfortably than having no teeth at all. For many people, dentures remain a practical solution, particularly when several teeth have been lost.

However, dentures do have some limitations. Because they sit on the gums rather than being anchored into the bone, they can move slightly while eating or speaking. Over time, many denture wearers notice that their dentures become looser. This is not because the denture has worn out, but because the jawbone underneath gradually shrinks after teeth are lost. When the bone changes shape, dentures may need to be adjusted, relined, or replaced to improve the fit.

Dentures also tend to collect more food particles and bacteria around and underneath them. This can make cleaning more challenging and may contribute to problems such as bad breath, gum irritation, and gum disease. In situations where natural teeth remain and help support a partial denture, bacteria trapped around the clasps can sometimes increase the risk of decay in those teeth if cleaning is not thorough.

Another factor many people do not realise is that dentures should be removed at night. This allows the gums and soft tissues of the mouth to rest and helps reduce the risk of fungal infections that can develop if dentures are worn continuously. While this is an important part of maintaining good oral health, some people find the daily routine inconvenient. Others feel self-conscious about removing their teeth at night, particularly when travelling or staying with friends or family.

Dental implants are a newer option that aim to replace not only the visible tooth but also the root of the tooth. An implant is a small titanium post placed painlessly into the jawbone where a tooth once was. After a healing period, the bone integrates with the implant, creating a strong foundation for a replacement tooth or even for supporting dentures.

Because implants are anchored in the bone, they tend to feel more stable than removable dentures. They also help stimulate the jawbone during chewing, which can slow down the bone shrinkage that normally occurs after tooth loss. For some patients, implants can

replace a single tooth, while in other situations they can be used to support a bridge or stabilise a full denture.

Some people prefer implants because they are fixed in place and function more like natural teeth. They are secured into the jawbone and do not need to be removed each day, which can provide greater convenience and confidence for some patients.

Choosing between dentures and implants depends on many factors. These include overall health, the condition of the jawbone, the number of missing teeth, and personal preferences. For some people, dentures remain a simple and effective solution. Others may benefit from the added stability that implants can provide. In many cases, dentists also combine the two approaches by using implants to secure dentures so they feel firmer and more comfortable.

One common question people ask is whether they are too old for dental implants. Age alone is usually not the deciding factor. Many people in their sixties, seventies and beyond successfully receive implants. What matters more is general health and whether the jawbone can support the treatment.

The most important step for anyone considering tooth replacement is to have a conversation with their dentist about the options available. Every person's situation is different, and treatment should always be tailored to the individual. At Balnarring Dental Centre we are happy to provide a complimentary consultation about this to members of our local community.

Modern dentistry offers more solutions than ever before, and understanding the differences between dentures and implants can help people make informed decisions about their oral health. The goal is always the same: restoring comfort, function, and the confidence to smile and enjoy everyday life.

Written by the team of Balnarring Dental Centre

Ph: 59835348

19 Balnarring Rd, Balnarring

Accepting New Patients and offering Free denture vs implants consultation for locals

# THE COAST

REAL ESTATE

## More than Agents ***We're Local Advocates***

Since 2000, The Coast Real Estate has proudly served the Mornington Peninsula. Our passion for the region runs deep - rooted in community, driven by results.

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# ART FOR WELLBEING

MONTHLY CREATIVE WORKSHOPS AT SALT BUSH,  
BALNARRING BEACH

## How Does Your Garden Grow This Year?

**Monday 23 February 2026**

11:00 am – 1:00pm Saltbush, Balnarring Beach

*Light refreshments provided*

### A Gentle Creative Workshop

Explore your “inner garden” – the inner landscape where intentions, emotions, and personal growth take root. Through guided prompts, mindful artmaking, and reflective mapping, you’ll notice what’s growing, what needs tending, and what seeds you’re nurturing for the year ahead. New themes each month to revisit and tend your inner garden.

### Details

Cost: \$100 per person • Duration: 2 hours  
All materials provided • Bookings required

### Bookings:

Contact Michelle: 0479 128 176 or via  
@therapeuticartscounsellingstudio



## THE GATHERING GARDEN

**Do you have excess fruit on your trees  
& vegetables in your garden?**

Nourish someone in need by donating your  
homegrown produce to The Gathering Garden project.

As demand for food support grows we desperately  
need your help!

We collect locally grown fruits & vegetables to  
share with our community via our weekly Fresh  
Food Program.

Donations accepted Mon to Fri 10am-3pm at  
WPCS, Reception B, 185 High St Hastings



# Western Port Community Support Fresh Food Market Program

***We need your help..***

Western Port Community Support (WPCS) in Hastings has been supporting the community since 1979 and is the region's largest provider of Emergency Relief and Crisis Support. Our not for profit organisation assists individuals and families experiencing any level of hardship, personal crisis or insecurity.

Whilst WPCS delivers a wide range of services, including housing and homelessness support, family support, medical assistance, food & fuel vouchers, financial counselling and material aid, our core focus remains Emergency Relief and food support.

Over the past 12 months, demand for our Emergency Relief and the Fresh Food Program has increased significantly due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. Many people seeking support are doing so for the first time. Currently, we provide food assistance to an average of 500 people each week, with demand continuing to rise.

A key part of this support is our weekly free Fresh Food Market, where rescued fresh produce is made available to the community in a market-style setting. At times, demand exceeds supply.

To help meet this need, we have launched the **Gathering Garden Program** which seeks donations of surplus fruit & vegetables from local gardens and growers.

**For more information please contact Fresh Food Program**

**Co-ordinator Karsten Poll on 0492 883 202.**

**Produce can also be dropped off to WPCS**

**185 High St Hastings (Mon to Fri)**



## **Kind Words from Faye, one of the Bridge Distributors**

A very big thank you to our devoted editorial and layout team, Ali Hoelzer and Jen Atherton.

When I first became involved with The Bridge, it was a thin little stapled booklet and wow, look at the beautiful, classy publication it has become today. It's such a fantastic way for our community to stay connected with local groups, activities and businesses.

Ali and Jen truly put their whole hearts into every edition. When they're working through all the entries, there are days when they barely have time for anything else. We are so incredibly lucky to have two such generous people in our community and everything they do is done with kindness and love.

Ali and Jen, we love you both for all that you give us and we truly appreciate your time, dedication and effort.

Faye

*- Our love and appreciation to you Faye and all of the Bridge volunteers!!  
Thank you so much for your kind words and for your constant support.  
Ali & Jen xx*

## ***WILDLIFE RESCUE Contacts***

Koala rescue  
Jenny Bryant 0417 395 883

WHOMP  
(Wildlife Help On Mornington Peninsula)  
0417 380 687

Klarissa Gaunaut  
0488 494 667

## ***The Long Journey Partnership - news from Murray and Carol***

Hi Everyone

Please see our link to our latest project for the remote community of Numbulwar NT. The website URL is:

<https://chuffed.org/project/162948-off-the-floor-mattress-in-a-box-for-numbulwar-nt>

In brief

- Mattresses in remote communities are very very expensive.
- A clean mattress reduces the risk of bed bugs which can create ideal infection site for kids after they are bitten
- This infection left untreated can lead to Rheumatic Heart Disease
- A good night sleep encourages better outcomes for education and healthy living

In short

We happened to get 100 mattresses in a box from Aldi for \$50 each..great deal.

If you are able please donate to our link plus the link on Rheumatic Heart Disease and its affects.

We have managed to get free transport to the community so with proceeds we will purchase bed frames in Darwin mid year.

Thanks

Murray and Carol  
The Long Journey Partnership  
Connecting Communities through Education

To donate, please visit the website URL above.

To understand Rheumatic Heart Disease, watch this video:  
<https://vimeo.com/194468322?fl=pl&fe=vl>





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

**SERVICES**

**Sung Service with Eucharist**

St. John's: Sunday 8.30am

St. Mark's: Sunday 10.30am

**Said Service with Eucharist**

St. Mark's: Thursday 10.00am

**Morning Prayer**

St. Mark's: Tuesdays 9.00am

St. John's: Wednesdays 9.00am

**Godly Play for Children**

First Sunday of the month at St. Mark's hall 9.30am

**PARISH ACTIVITIES**

**Café Corner**

Every second & fourth Wednesday at St. Mark's hall  
10am-12 midday

**Men's Group with Breakfast**

Last Saturday of month alternating b/n  
St. Mark's & St. John's 8am

**Doing Justice Group**

Third Sunday of month at St. Mark's hall, 5pm

**Exercise Class**

Fridays at St. John's hall, 8.30am

**Craft Group**

Fridays at St. John's hall, 1.00pm

**<https://flindersbalnarringanglican.org>**



ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST. JOHN'S FLINDERS  
WITH ST. MARK'S BALNARRING

## HOLY WEEK

MONDAY 30 MARCH 9AM - MEDITATION - ST. MARK'S

TUESDAY 31 MARCH 9AM - MEDITATION - ST. JOHN'S

WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 7PM - TENEBRAE - ST. JOHN'S

THURS 2 APRIL 6PM - STATIONS OF THE CROSS - ST. MARK'S

## GOOD FRIDAY

8.30AM - ST. JOHN'S

10.30AM - ST. MARK'S

## EASTER DAY SERVICES

6AM - DAWN SERVICE ON BALNARRING BEACH & ROTUNDA  
(WITH THE UNITING CHURCH)

8.30AM - ST. JOHN'S FOLLOWED BY EASTER EGG HUNT

10.30AM - ST. MARK'S FOLLOWED BY EASTER EGG HUNT

St. John's - 23 King Street Flinders

St. Mark's - 1 Balnarring Road Balnarring

<https://flindersbalnarringanglican.org>



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

**Service Locations and Times for April and May 2026**

Balnarring 10.45 am    Crib Point 9.00 am    Hastings 10.45 am

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Parish Service at Balnarring – this is the only service in the Parish on this day.

**Easter Services**

Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – 9.30 am at Balnarring

9.30 am at Hastings

10.30 am at Hastings UC

Ecumenical Service – Stations of the Cross.

Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April – 6.00 am Dawn Service at Balnarring Beach –

Combined Uniting Church and St Marks Anglican Service.

9.00 am – Crib Point

10.45 am – Balnarring and Hastings.

**Church Locations:**

Balnarring - 10 Balnarring Beach Road, Balnarring.

Crib Point - 382 Stony Point Road, Crib Point.

Hastings - Corner Marine Parade and Hodgins Road, Hastings.

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

**Parish Contacts**

Parish Minister:            Rev. Nigel McBrien            0456 298 267

Parish Chairperson:       Margaret Baker                0400 096 669

Parish Secretary:         Colin Watt                        0427 379 815

**Parish Website:** Go to [westernport.ucavictas.org.au](http://westernport.ucavictas.org.au) for more detailed information about our Parish.

**Parish Opportunity Shop - 149 Disney Street Crib Point**

Our Op Shop trading hours are: -

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

Donations are accepted, with thanks during these hours but not electrical appliances.

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

Continued next page

## Western Port Uniting Church continued

### Parish Encouragement Message 2 Corinthians 1:3-4:

God brings us a comfort like no one else can.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray for the flourishing of our community — spiritually, socially, and economically. May we work together to create a place where all are valued, where justice and righteousness prevail, and where the needs of the most vulnerable are met. Amen

# BALNARRING PICNIC RACES FASHIONS ON THE FIELD



Step out in style at Balnarring Fashions on the Field — where fashion meets fun and flair takes centre stage. With over **\$5,000 in prizes** and a wide range of categories to suit every look and personality, it's your chance to shine. Frock up, gather your friends, and enjoy a fantastic day of colour, creativity and community spirit. Whether you're strutting for the judges or soaking up the atmosphere, don't miss one of Balnarring's most stylish and entertaining days on the field.

# \$5,000+

**IN PRIZES TO BE WON!**







# 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**



**TICKETS FROM \$15**  
**CHILDREN U/18 FREE**  
**CONCESSIONS**



**FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES**  
**FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT**



**BOOK NOW!**

[f @balnarringraces](#) | [country.racing.com/balnarring](https://country.racing.com/balnarring)



**Balnarring Pre-School**  
Living and learning with nature



## Balnarring Preschool report:

**Everyone has settled in well:** It has been wonderful to see our community reconnect after the holiday break, and the children have continued to grow in confidence as they become more familiar with their teachers, friends and learning spaces.

**At the start of the term:** Both the **3-year-old and 4-year-old** groups have had a wonderful start to the year, with friendships forming and routines becoming familiar. All groups are now running full-time sessions and enjoying their days together, and we really appreciate the support from our wonderful families during this transition.

**Earlier in the term** we were honoured to begin the year with a **Welcome to Country** delivered by Jaeden Williams-Briggs. Jaeden warmly welcomed our preschool community to **Boon Wurrung Country**, reminding us of the deep cultural history of the land where our children learn and play. It was a meaningful way to start the year together and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this place.

**Our 1st fundraising event for 2026 is fast approaching** - A huge thank you to **Balnarring Bowls & Social Club** for generously hosting our **Easter Hunt fundraiser**. We are incredibly grateful for their support and for providing such a welcoming space for our families to connect while supporting the preschool.

**In true Balnarring Preschool spirit**, Karen and the team also helped deliver the **Bundjil Nest Conference**, a two-day event focused on reconciliation and embedding First Nations voices, histories and perspectives in early years education. **Over 250 educators attended**, with participants travelling from interstate to connect and learn how to bring this knowledge into their teaching. The effort involved in organising, presenting, setting up and packing down was enormous, and we are incredibly proud of the team.

**We continue to support our teaching team** during their EBA negotiations. Thank you to our wonderful families for your patience and support.

**Finally, we have some exciting news** to share from our preschool family... 🐾  
Our much-loved **Mirring the dog** has recently become a dog dad! Mum Iris and her puppies are doing well.

**Thank you to all families** for being part of our supportive and welcoming community. We look forward to the many experiences and events still to come this year.

**Steph Myers**  
Historian  
Balnarring Preschool Committee





## **News from Balnarring Community Hub**

The Balnarring Community Hub (BCH) committee, led by the irrepressible, hard working, visionary and determined Bronwyn Dick, continue to work to support the local community by offering a variety of classes for free, gold coin donation or at low cost to all ages.

At the Balnarring Community Hub we dream of having a permanent home so that the Hub can operate like the many Neighbourhood Houses throughout the state. We have followed up on numerous creative ideas on how best to achieve a permanent home and we are hoping to have good news to share with you about this in 2026. Meanwhile we continue to offer our classes in the back hall of Balnarring Hall and in the main hall.

Last year, in addition to our classes, we were able to secure funding to enable First Nations Cultural Awareness Training, Mental Health First Aid Training and General First Aid Training. These were all excellent events and we hope to offer some, if not all of them again.

We were also very happy to support the 17th Annual Peninsular Song Writers Summer Solstice Community Picnic at the commons behind the kindergarten. Unfortunately this year the weather was cold, dismal and raining but after a warm Welcome to Country the musicians embodied the adage 'The show must go on' and they played with heart and soul, whilst the audience sheltered or danced under the many awnings.



During the Picnic, Bronwyn addressed the audience about BCH plans to officially name the amphitheatre and surrounding area that was rescued by the community for common use. The BCH is in discussion with First Nations Elders about the correct spelling for the future name.

Check us out at [Balnarringhub@gmail.com](mailto:Balnarringhub@gmail.com) or join our committee as we always need new ideas, more skills and fresh faces. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the Balnarring Hall, in the small back hall at 6pm.

# 2026 SCHEDULE

AM SESSIONS

PM SESSIONS

## MONDAY

### AFRICAN PERCUSSION

**MONDAYS 6.30-7.30 PM**

SUGGESTED DONATION: **\$25**

MORE INFO: PETER 0416 951 225

### MEDITATION

**MONDAYS 7.30 - 8.30 PM**

SUGGESTED DONATION: **\$20**

MORE INFO: SIMON 0415 729 579

## TUESDAY

### YOGA WITH EUGENIE

**TUESDAYS 9.00 - 11 AM**

SUGGESTED DONATION: **\$20**

MORE INFO: EUGENIE 0429 092 331

### BUDDHATAK - MEDITATION

**TUESDAYS 7:30PM-9:30PM - TERM TIME**

GOLD COIN DONATION

MORE INFO: PIP 0422 366 907

### BCH COMMITTEE MEETING

**1ST TUESDAY MONTHLY 6PM-7.30PM**

MORE INFO: [BALNARRINGHUB@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BALNARRINGHUB@GMAIL.COM) OR  
[BALNARRING COMMUNITY HUB FB PAGE](#)

## WEDNESDAY

### BUDDHIST MEDITATION

**WEDNESDAYS 1.30-3PM**

GOLD COIN DONATION

MORE INFO: JUDITH 0408 632 714

### SALSA DANCE

**WED SESSION 1: 6.30-7.30 PM**

**WED SESSION 2: 7.30-8.30 PM**

SUGGESTED DONATION: **\$20**

MORE INFO: SIMON 0415 729 579



## THURSDAY

### YOGA WITH JAN

**THURSDAYS 9.15AM-10.30AM**

SUGGESTED DONATION: **\$20**

MORE INFO: JAN 0405 609 157

### QIGONG

**THURSDAYS 6.15PM-7.30PM**

SUGGESTED DONATION: **\$10**

MORE INFO: ANDREW 0406 399 850

## FRIDAY

### BALNARRING PLAYGROUP

**FRIDAY @ SALT BUSH**

MORE INFO: KIRSTEN 0421 564 439

### ACTING FOR YOUTH

**13-18 YOS FRIDAY 4.30- 5.30PM**

SUGGESTED DONATION: **\$20**

MORE INFO: JO 0409976454

## SATURDAY

### YOGA WITH EUGENIE

**SATURDAYS 9.00 - 10.30 AM**

SUGGESTED DONATION: **\$20**

MORE INFO: EUGENIE 0429 092 331

### ACTING FOR YOUTH

**8-12YOS SATURDAY 11AM-12NOON**

SUGGESTED DONATION: **\$20**

MORE INFO: JO 0409976454

### WOMEN'S MUSICAL JAM

**SATURDAYS (FORTNIGHTLY) 3PM-5PM  
FREE**

MORE INFO: JACKIE 0480 173 357



# 3 FOR 3

## INTRODUCTORY OFFER

### FOR NEW CLIENTS

*therapeutic encounters through art-making*

## THERAPEUTIC ARTS COUNSELLING

3 IN-PERSON SESSIONS - IN  
THE STUDIO OR OUT IN NATURE



Contact Michelle on 0479 128 176 for bookings

Location: Mornington Peninsula areas

**THERAPEUTIC ARTS COUNSELLING STUDIO**

# FOLLOW US

Want to stay up to date with what we are supporting in the local community including business profiles, staff and director profiles and local events!

 /communitybankbalnarring

 /communitybankbalnarringanddistrict





**From our BPS correspondent – Myra**

## ***2026 starts at BPS***

Have you ever wondered what it's like to step inside our school and watch your peers grow as they step up into a new grade? Even though it's only the start of the year, Balnarring Primary School has been buzzing with activity.... the preps starting their first year at BPS, the Year 6s learning how to fulfill their new leadership responsibilities, students making a splash at the swimming trials and a special excursion for the Year 3s and 4s to Tuerong Farm! You name it - come along with me for a behind-the-scenes look at our amazing school!



We were very excited to welcome the new preps as they began their school journey. They were very enthusiastic to meet their Year 6 buddies, teachers and new classmates, and quickly fell in love with the junior school playground. Their excitement is infectious - we can't resist waving at them whenever they run past! Recently, they have been learning the sounds of the alphabet. They are starting to master the sounds of P, S, A, N, T and I, using hand motions to help them remember. In addition, they haven't hesitated diving into story time, enjoying books such as 'Thelma the Unicorn' and 'Pig the Pug'.

This year, the Year 6s have been learning what it means to be a true leader and a good role model. Last week, the school captains led the school in our first assembly. They did a glorious job of speaking clearly and with confidence and showcased their pride in our school. Other Year 6 leaders have also set to work. The animal shed captains have been working hard to give the best environment for the animals, making sure they are well fed, healthy and have clean enclosures. On the other hand, the house captains did a great job by thoughtfully planning the first house colours event so everyone had a fun, sporty afternoon. The rest of the Year 6s have been playing their part by helping keep our school a safe and kind place.



At BPS, we also get many opportunities to represent our school at district events. At the recent swim trials held at the Crib Point Pool, students from Year 3-6 raced against others in their year level and those with the fastest times were selected for the school's swim team. This year, we had twenty eager swimmers represent BPS at the district swimming carnival and we are so proud of their efforts. "It was such a supportive atmosphere - everyone was cheering for all the swimmers, no matter the school!" exclaimed Ruby, one of our swimmers. Our school swim team has competed in the swim carnival alongside other schools for many years. Whilst we may not always come up on top, it's fun to compete with your friends and classmates, give your swimming a red hot go and show pride in wearing the school colours!

How long has it been since your last excursion? The lucky Year 3s and 4s had an exciting day filled with discovery and enjoyment at Tuerong Farm. They have been learning about where the food on your plate comes from. Tuerong Farm is a local business that grows ancient grains and mills them into flour which is then turned into delicious sourdough bread and pastries. The students got an exclusive tour of the property and learnt all about the process of making bread. They discovered the diverse types of wheat, how long it takes from growing wheat to producing bread, how the grain is stored and the process of milling. But the real highlights were getting a choc chip cookie and climbing on the harvester!



As you can see, our school has been full of fun and exciting activities. But the excitement doesn't stop here - it's only the start of the year! We can't wait to share more news with you in the next Bridge article. Stay tuned!



## **Bittern Primary School**

*Respect, Connect, Inspire, Achieve*



The new school year has commenced, and we are off and running at BPS. Our school leaders have led their first assembly; we hosted a fabulous Open Day in March and have completed our Swimming carnival. Students are settling into routines, building friendships, and embracing new challenges with confidence. We welcomed our new Foundation (prep) students who have made a great start to their schooling. So much happening and many exciting things planned for the year.

### **Why choose a small school?**

Our school has much to offer and provides a safe, supportive learning environment for every student. The power of small schools is that every child is known, supported, and valued.

In 2026 we have planned to keep our class sizes small. This enables us to tailor learning to each student. Our teachers have the time and flexibility to understand individual strengths, interests and learning needs. We value the importance of communication with our families. Student learning is facilitated by a 3-way partnership that includes the student, family, and school. We encourage parents/carers to collaborate with us to support the academic and social growth of their child.

### **Our key focus: A Safe and Supportive Environment**

Small schools naturally foster a sense of safety and wellbeing. At BPS we have a shared responsibility for every child every day. We know our children well! Students' feel comfortable being themselves, taking learning risks, and asking for help. This supportive atmosphere allows children to focus on learning, friendships, and personal growth. This year, we are officially rolling out our School Wide Positive Behaviour Framework. This is an evidence-based framework to create a positive and inclusive environment by teaching expected behaviours, improving social-emotional skills, and boosting academic focus.

In addition to our core business areas of English and Mathematics and other key curriculum priorities, our specialist programs, include Visual Arts, Sport, Health and PE, Digital Technologies, and Auslan. Our Kitchen Garden program aligns with our science curriculum, and we offer a Perceptual Motor Program (PMP) to support the learning needs of our younger students. We have an extensive wellbeing team that includes 2 trained social workers that prioritise student wellbeing and family support.

### **A Strong Sense of Belonging at BPS.**

At BPS we have a keen sense of community. Students feel seen and valued, knowing they are an important part of the school. Friendships span across year levels. This sense of belonging helps students develop confidence, resilience, and a lifelong love of learning. This was evident in the joyful faces of our students at our Christmas Concert. It was noted by many of our audience members, the fun the students were having and what a great community event this was. We had a great turnout from our families.

At BPS, education is personal, caring, and connected, students do not just learn, they thrive.

If you are looking for a school for your young person in 2026, please give us a call (5983 9590) or email [bittern.ps@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:bittern.ps@education.vic.gov.au) to arrange a personalised tour.

Sally Herbert  
PRINCIPAL



1<sup>st</sup> Balnarring Scouts have kicked off the year with some exciting activities and adventures!

Over the summer our scouts raised over \$1500 for Bushfire Relief at The Heritage. Also, Venturer Jack headed over to New Zealand for NZ Venture 25 and tried some amazing activities, including white water rafting.



Venturer Jack white water rafting at New Zealand Venture  
Credit: NZ Venture 26

Our youngest members, our Joeys, have welcomed some new faces this year. Their weekly activities have included:

- Making insect houses
- Picking up rubbish around the skate park for “Clean Up Australia” Day
- Learning all about reptiles, scorpions and ferrets with 1<sup>st</sup> Tyabb Scout leaders



Joeys and their insect houses, on ‘Clean Up Australia’ Day and meeting reptiles at 1<sup>st</sup> Tyabb  
Credit: Gabby Ackland



The Cubs have started this year with a focus on their camping skills. That's because later this year they will be joining 1000's of Cubs from around Victoria at Cuboree 2026. Cuboree is only held every 3 years, so most of our Cubs have never attended one and are super excited that this year is *their* year!

They recently attended a 2-night district camp where the activities were ziplining, abseiling, archery, high ropes and bouldering. Plus – with some adult help – they looked after their camp including cooking meals and cleaning up afterwards.



Cub Scouts on camp – setting up tents, bouldering, archery and meal preparation  
Credit: Di Hook

Our Scouts have also been working on their camping skills and have already been away on a canoeing/kayaking camp and Stradbroke Cup – a competitive camp at Bay Park. Both patrols had an awesome time and earnt silver pennants! Next, they are off on a bike hike between Bright and Beechworth. Are they ever home?



Scouts preparing for canoeing down the Yarra, with their giant flagpole and Venturers on their picnic hike  
Credit: Andrew Taylor

### To Join

If these adventures sound like fun to you, why not give us a try? We welcome new members at any time. You can come and try for three meetings before joining up.

<https://scoutsvictoria.com.au/location/1ST-BALNARRING/>

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 – 9pm



## BALNARRING PODIATRY

Book online at [www.balnarringpodiatry.com.au](http://www.balnarringpodiatry.com.au)

Kaley 0438 174179

## THE PENINSULA OSTEOPATH

Book online at [www.thepeninsulaosteopath.com](http://www.thepeninsulaosteopath.com)

Or call Elizabeth or Karen 0483 812165

## PILATES CLASSES

Contact Neil 0418 638589 / [neiladams@gmail.com](mailto:neiladams@gmail.com)

## REIKI

Book online at [www.easeretreat.com](http://www.easeretreat.com) / Erika 0417 533064

Anne-Marie 0433 770375 [f](#) Akitsu Moon

## REMEDIAL MASSAGE

Book online at [www.peninsularemedialmassage.com.au](http://www.peninsularemedialmassage.com.au)

Or call Lilith 0433 576320



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Jane McDonell Herbalist 0411399212

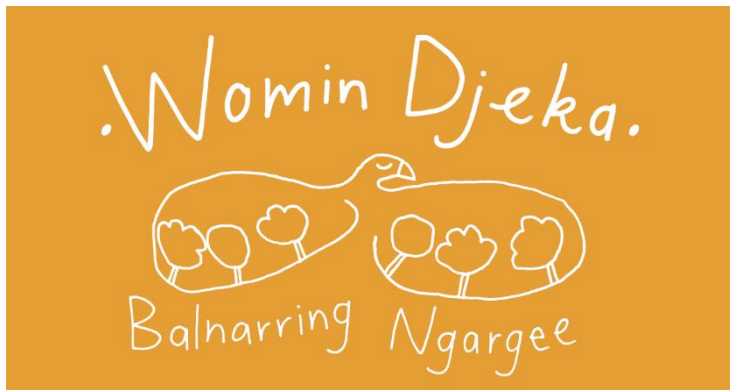
[janemcdonell@live.com.au](mailto:janemcdonell@live.com.au)

[www.sweetleafbotanical.com.au](http://www.sweetleafbotanical.com.au)

Paul Wraight Herbalist 0438 053359

[naturedoctor69@yahoo.com.au](mailto:naturedoctor69@yahoo.com.au)





The woven iilk trap 2025. Photo: Lisahunter

**This year I am writing this again just as we put the final finishing touches towards what we know will be an incredible festival on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March. However, by the time you read this, we hope you will be buzzing from enjoying a spectacular day!**

*We want to know what you thought!! What was the best thing about Womin Djeka Balnarring Ngargee 2026? How fantastic were the artists? Did you get a chance to hear the interviews and LIVE broadcast onsite with RPP? Tune into their regular shows on 98.7FM. What did you learn? What would make this festival even better? Let us know: [womindjeka.balnarring.ngargee@gmail.com](mailto:womindjeka.balnarring.ngargee@gmail.com). Let's share our experiences. Tag us in photos on our Facebook or Instagram #womindjekabalnarring.*





# Thank you Womin Djeka Balnarring Ngargee



We have many people and organisations to thank for making this day what it was. Thank you to our major sponsors who gave us the funds to make this festival happen: **Mornington Peninsula Shire, Vic Health, Bendigo Bank and Ross Trust.** We really appreciate the enduring relationships we have with our major sponsors and we thank them for the certainty of being able to present this event in its 9<sup>th</sup> year with such a huge headlining performer. Thank you to our hugely valued sponsors **Balnarring Preschool, Esso, Arcare Aged Care, The Coast Real Estate, The University of Melbourne, RPP, Balnarring Picnic Racing Club and Torello Farm.** It is because of these companies that we can run this event. We also want to thank **Greenlink Web Solutions** who have generously hosted our website for many years.

We would also like to thank the **Emu Plains** committee and grounds team for their support to the festival. Thank you to the many people who gave donations before and on the day. Thank you to each and every one of you incredible volunteers who gave your time to make this festival happen! Thank you to the **Bundjil Nest Project team.** Thank you to the schools who contributed to the **Bundjil Nest Schools Project:** it is fabulous to see this project growing. Thank you to the performers who delighted us with their music and dance and our incredible Emcee, Shelly Ware. Thank you to all the workshop presenters who taught us. Thank you to the organisations who Care for Country and for Community. Food and market stall holders, we hope you all had a fabulous day. **Importantly, thank you to the Boon Wurrung Elders for your guidance and support.** Thank you to the committee for organising this event. You are enthusiastic and supportive and it is incredible to see this event come together. If you are excited by the commitment to reconciliation that this festival demonstrates and want to contribute to its creation, the committee would be thrilled to welcome you. Email us at [womindjeka.balnarring.ngargee@gmail.com](mailto:womindjeka.balnarring.ngargee@gmail.com).

This page: Market and workshop photos supplied by artists.

From top to bottom: Chic n Co Design, Art by Bronwyn David, Luruk-In and Amanda Jean Hoskins

Left page: All artists photos supplied: Clockwise from Left: Boon Wurrung Ngargee Dancers with N'arwee't Prof Carolyn Briggs OAM; Dan Sultan, Canisha, Candice Lorrae and Kiwat Kennell.

# CRIB POINT COMMUNITY MARKET



**Next Markets:**

**April 11 \* May 9 \* June 13**

**9am - 1pm**



**Brimming with a great variety of stalls,  
fresh produce, plants, delicious food,  
coffee van, Sausage Sizzle and Devonshire  
tea complete with home made scones.  
Do the Cribby Koala Treasure hunt too.**

**Inside and outside stalls available  
Stall fees paid on the day**

**Book a stall at [market@cpch.org.au](mailto:market@cpch.org.au)**

**Crib Point Community House  
7 Park Rd, Crib Point**





## **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 coastal reserve is used by locals and visitors alike for walks, bike riding, fishing, boating, birdwatching, kayaking and more. Local primary schools visit the foreshore reserve to learn about the coastal environment on Western Port including mangroves and seagrasses.

Have you seen this great documentary video being released by Western Port Down Under?

View video here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvRovFtuIFc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvRovFtuIFc)

Upcoming working bee dates at Woolleys Beach foreshore reserve are:

**Sunday 12 April 2026**

**Sunday 3 May 2026**

**Sunday 14 June 2026**



**Jacks Beach at sunrise – photo by Glenn Brooks-MacMillan**

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 required. Refreshments and snacks provided at the end of each working bee at Woolleys Beach.

*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. See dates above.  
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\*\*](mailto:ranger@cribpointstonypointforeshore.com.au)

**Further info:** [\*\*https://cribpointstonypointforeshore.com.au/\*\*](https://cribpointstonypointforeshore.com.au/)



# **ZEN DO KAI** **MARTIAL ARTS**

*"The Best of Everything in Progression"*

Now taking bookings for a new

## **“Kid’s Karate Beginner’s Class”**

### **Term 2 - 2026.**

**at Balnarring P.S. Gym**

**CALL NOW to receive the first week FREE.**

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**CLASSES EVERY WEEK FOR ADULTS,  
TEENAGERS AND CHILDREN.**



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# So Somers An exhibition by Bruce Baldwin

Hosted by CoolArt 2026 at Coolart  
March 21 to April 26  
Wednesdays & weekends 11.00am to 3.00pm

Opens Saturday March 21 at 4 pm  
40 Lord Somers Road, Somers

RSVP







## What's on at Coolart April/May 2026

### **CoolArt 2026 – Showcasing Our Creative Community**

Friends of Coolart present CoolArt, a new exhibition program at the historic Coolart Homestead celebrating the work of local artists.

Each exhibition runs for approximately two months, inviting visitors to experience contemporary art within the unique heritage setting of Coolart Wetlands.

The 2026 program opens with:

**Bruce Baldwin – So Somers**

**Exhibition: 21 March – 26 April 2026**

**Opening: Saturday 21 March | 4pm.**

**For more info [membership@coolart.org.au](mailto:membership@coolart.org.au)**



**RSVP**

### **Mindful Stretch Class with Claudia Friday's in the Garden**

Giving your body length, space and ease. It's calm. It's strengthening. Plus it's a lot of fun. Keep your body young.

**Cost: \$30 per class**

**All bookings and enquiries: [events@coolart.org.au](mailto:events@coolart.org.au)**

### **Forest Bathing at Coolart**

Inspired by the Japanese practice of Shinrin-yoku—"immersing your senses in nature"—this walk invites you to slow down, breathe deeply, and experience the forest in a whole new way.

**Join Brigitte Sigley Wednesdays**

**9.00 to 10.15am (arrive 8.45am)**

**For details or to book. [focusonliving.com.au](http://focusonliving.com.au)**

### **Crafternoons at Coolart starting Tuesday 16th April 1 - 3pm**

A weekly crafting session in the homestead kitchen for our volunteers interested in making items for the shop. Enjoy a crafty gathering with tea coffee and home baking.

**For details email [volunteer@coolart.org.au](mailto:volunteer@coolart.org.au)**



## Friends of Coolart – AGM President's Report

Friends of Coolart is a volunteer organisation that supports Parks Victoria in promoting, enhancing and celebrating the environmental, cultural and educational value of Coolart Wetlands and Homestead.

Our volunteers work to bring people through the gates and connect the community with this remarkable place — its wetlands, birdlife, history and heritage. Through events, exhibitions and community activities we raise awareness, foster pride in the property and help generate support for its future.

Like many historic landscapes, Coolart requires ongoing care and preservation. While this responsibility is shared with Parks Victoria, Friends of Coolart plays an important role as advocates for the property — raising funds, building partnerships and encouraging community involvement.

We believe preservation begins with people. When the community values a place, it becomes something worth protecting.

Looking ahead, our vision is for Coolart to continue thriving environmentally, culturally and educationally — supported by strong partnerships, active volunteers and a community that cares deeply about this special landscape.

Friends of Coolart may not control every aspect of preservation, but we can ensure that Coolart is never overlooked and always valued by those who visit and support it.

Marnee Wills

President, Friends of Coolart



# Balnarring CFA News



## **FIRE DANGER PERIOD**

Fire restrictions are still in force and heavy penalties may apply.

## **NO BURNING OFF**

**without a permit.**

Please check the CFA Restrictions or Mornpen website for more information.

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

**Only working**

## **SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES.**

As Daylight Savings finishes it is also a great time to consider the effectiveness of any Smoke Alarms installed. Ideally, the detector should be located between living areas and bedrooms.

It is recommended that interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms with a 10 year lithium battery be installed. These smoke alarms should be tested monthly, cleaned annually and the whole unit fully replaced every ten years. If other types of alarms are fitted change the batteries once a year, preferably at the end of daylight savings.

The three most common causes of house fires are -

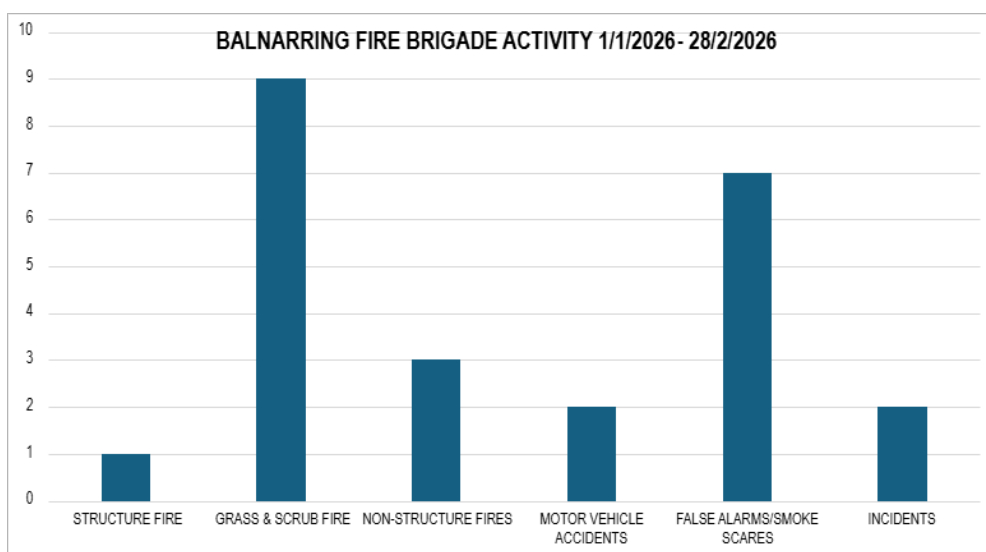
- faulty electrical wiring and appliances;
- leaving cooking appliances unattended;
- heating related fires.

The main causes of wood fuelled heating house fires are -

- dirty, blocked or faulty chimneys and flues;
- faulty wood combustion heaters;
- burning logs rolling out of unguarded fireplaces;
- disposal of hot ashes.



## Turn-Outs



## News

We've had several members from our brigade and Westernport Group on deployment throughout the state to assist with large scale bushfires.

On the social side, we recently held the annual Inter-Brigade Barefoot Bowls Challenge. This was the second year it was run and Chris from Shoreham took top honours and snatched the trophy from current champion David of Balnarring. Congratulations Chris and thanks to all the neighbouring brigades for participating and a special BIG THANKS to the Balnarring Bowling Club for allowing us the use of their facilities. Barefoot bowls is great fun and on every Friday evening during daylight savings – get on down next time it's on.

## Volunteers

We have had a few new recruits that have started their basic training and we look forward to having them join us on callouts in the very near future, However, we can always do with more (especially ladies). So, if you're interested in helping the community, please feel free to pop into the station at our regular times or just give us a call. There's lots of ways to help.

Training: Monday evenings from 7:30pm - 9:30pm.

Training and Maintenance: Sunday mornings from 10am - 12pm.

Byron SEDGWICK

M: 0419 313 413

E: byron@ianreid.com.au

Lieutenant – Balnarring CFA

Community Engagement Officer

Station Ph No: 5983 5379





Western Port Singers Inc.  
presents



*Love is in the Air*



Mid-Year Fundraising Concert at  
Balnarring Community Hall on  
**Sunday, 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2026, 2-4pm**

After the great success of our concert last year, we will  
again be raising funds for

**Western Port Community Support**

Their volunteers serve an amazing afternoon tea following  
the concert.

Bookings will be available on TryBooking  
For enquiries contact Jan Brandon:  
[westernportsingers@gmail.com](mailto:westernportsingers@gmail.com)

# 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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## How Does Your Garden Grow?

*A continuation from last month's theme*

Monday 23 March  
10:30am – 12:30pm  
Saltbush, Balnarring Beach  
Light refreshments provided

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Work on a small canvas, in your journal, or on paper  
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Instagram: @therapeuticartsstudio

Next workshop: April – date TBC

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**We meet at: St Mark's Anglican Church Hall,  
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**Sandra Bennie, EGV Flinders Branch Secretary**



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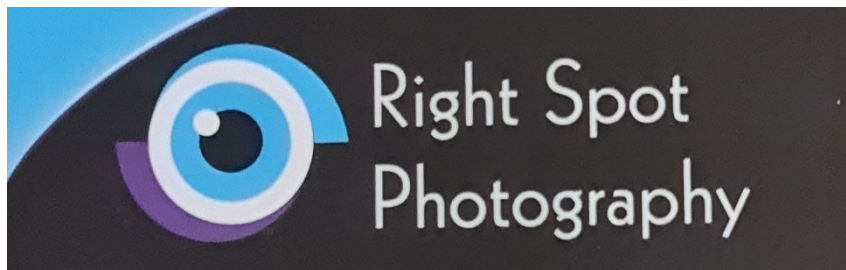
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**For more information contact Monique at:**

**Email: [moniquemorey7@gmail.com](mailto:moniquemorey7@gmail.com).**

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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.



## Port Douglas to Melbourne in 7 days, ‘DOUBLE PARKED’ takes on Shitbox Rally Autumn 2026

**Jane & Mel** from Balnarring Beach are team ‘**Double Parked**’ and we’re taking on the Shitbox Rally Autumn 2026, driving a \$1,500 car halfway across the country to raise funds for charity.

[Shitbox Rally](#) is not a race, it’s a challenge to drive cars worth \$1,500 through outback Australia via some of its toughest roads to raise money for Cancer research. This remarkable event has raised more than \$61 million since the first rally in 2010.

To participate, each team must raise a minimum of \$5,000 with a target of \$2.5 million for the rally and thanks to the generosity of local businesses on the Mornington Peninsula, we’ve raised the funds to qualify.

“Jane and I are stoked to be selected for the next Shitbox Rally heading off on 1 May 2026 driving our 1990 Nissan Pulsar from Port Douglas back home to Balnarring Beach, raising funds for cancer research. It will definitely challenge us as neither of us know anything about cars. We expect to be driving mostly back roads, sleeping in swags next to our car and I’m sure we’ll be dusty, dirty and sweaty with no aircon or a shower for a week. But, we’re super pumped for the experience and the opportunity to raise funds for cancer research. Sadly, we’ve been touched by cancer, and we hope that our contribution will make a difference” says Mel.

Box Rallies (Shitbox Rally, Mystery Box Rally and Lunchbox Rally) James Freeman OAM, Founder and CEO who lost both of his parents to Cancer within 12 months of each other, said; “Shitbox Rally is not a race, but a reward for fundraising efforts. This is a chance to explore Australia, drawing teams from around the country to help achieve the extraordinary.

What interests and excites us about the 2026 Autumn route is the tropics and humidity to the red dust of the Outback, to the Victorian high country, all within 7 days. It would be hard to find a rally route with more contrasts than this one. This is only the second time we have ventured into the high country. The best way to describe the road we take from Mount Hotham to Dargo is EPIC and that is after we have conquered vast sections of central Queensland and NSW. We have also never finished a rally in Melbourne.



Teams not only pull together to help each other through the challenges of the rally itself, but also help and support each other through openness, mateship and camaraderie from people that have gone through similar hardships with their own cancer stories.”

If you would like to donate there is still plenty of time. For more details and to follow our adventure, check out our Facebook page **Team Double Parked – Shitbox Rally Autumn 2026**

If you’d like to make tax deductible donation please scan the QR code



Or visit link: <https://autumn2026.shitboxrally.com.au/double-parked/donate>





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To register contact [info@u3ahastings.org.au](mailto:info@u3ahastings.org.au)

**Tuesdays** April 28–June 16 2026, 7.30–9.15pm

Balnarring Hall (enter via side door near kindergarten)

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(suggested donation per session is \$10)

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## **WHEN IS A CLIMATE PLAN NOT A CLIMATE PLAN?**

This time last year in April 2025, the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (MPSC) voted to throw out the community's 2020 Climate Emergency Plan, after a Motion by the newly elected Deputy Mayor Cr Pingiaro was narrowly adopted, 6 votes to 5. But the Council did not anticipate the community outrage to follow. This response, together with pressure from the Peninsula Climate Alliance of local groups that quickly formed in response to the decision, soon forced them to draft a replacement "Climate Resilience Plan".

As many noted, this new Council Plan ignored the legal requirement for Shire Councils to reduce emissions, focusing instead on efforts to fix things up after they'd been damaged by climate change. Last month the Council put a short survey on their website to gather public feedback on their draft Plan. Given the importance of the Council's preparedness for Climate Change to all who live, work or holiday on the Peninsula, the survey seemed almost farcical, still it's wonderful that so many of you took time to comment on the Plan.

Save Westernport and other organisations, including the Peninsula Climate Alliance took advantage of the opportunity to point out some major flaws in the Plan in more detailed submissions. Read these submissions on SWP's website <https://savewesternport.org/>

In a recent update, we've now heard it's likely that the Council will need to revise their draft Climate Resilience Plan due to significant community concerns about the initial draft version, submitted as feedback on last month's public survey. Thanks to everyone who took the time to comment on the Plan.

Find out more or join the Peninsula Climate Alliance on the new PCA website <https://www.peninsulaclimatealliance.org/>



Picture: Mornington Pier, 2 September 2024  
Gregor Carr (Jane Bunn's Weather Photography 7 News)

## **SANDY POINT- A SIGNIFICANT VEGETATION REMNANT**

In an unexpected article in the MP News last month, we read the scant details of a concerning government decision to sell off a vast expanse of Defence Force land at HMAS Cerberus at Sandy Point in Somers. 'HMAS Cerberus to be 'partially divested' in defence sell-off' <https://www.mpnews.com.au/2026/02/04/hmas-cerberus-to-be-partially-divested-in-defence-land-sell-off/?amp>

In 2013 Westernport Peninsula Protection Council (WPPC) wrote to fmr local member for Flinders, Greg Hunt asking him to call for the significant remnant coastal habitat at Sandy Point to be preserved as a National Park. They said “Sandy Point is one of the largest and most dynamic spit systems on the Victorian coast, sustaining important remnant vegetation communities that have been extensively cleared on the Mornington Peninsula and within the Westernport Catchment. It supports some of the best remaining examples of Coastal Banksia Woodland, Coastal Grassy Forest, Native Orchids and Coastal Dune Scrub in the region, and a large and varied bird population of over 200 species, as well as many woodland species and the largest remaining population of White-footed Dunnarts remaining on the Mornington Peninsula.”

The Navy Base HMAS Cerberus consists of over 1500 hectares (3500 acres) of land, of which the Navy uses about 14 Ha (35 acres), including the rifle range. According to the MP News article, an area of 1164 hectares has been marked for “divestment”.

With such limited information available on the decision, what this will mean for Westernport remains unclear. While we await more news, Save Westernport joins WPPC in renewing the call for an ecological survey to record the condition and biodiversity of the site.

In her 2020 EES submission on the AGL proposal, Bunurong Custodian Tasma Walton described the area as “*traditional Bunwurrang/Bunurong Women’s Country*”, and referenced “*ancient whale ceremonial grounds and Dreaming sites around Sandy Point.*”  
**Extract from AGL [EES submission by Tasma Walton](#), Bunwurrang/Bunurong Custodian.**

**Please support Save Westernport by becoming a member or renewing your membership at <https://savewesternport.org/>**



## 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.

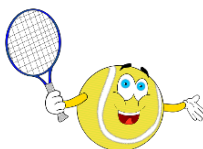
Members pay \$2 each time you play to cover cost of balls and coffee/tea. Let your friends, family, neighbours know that if they are not members they can play social tennis at a casual cost of \$7 each time.

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

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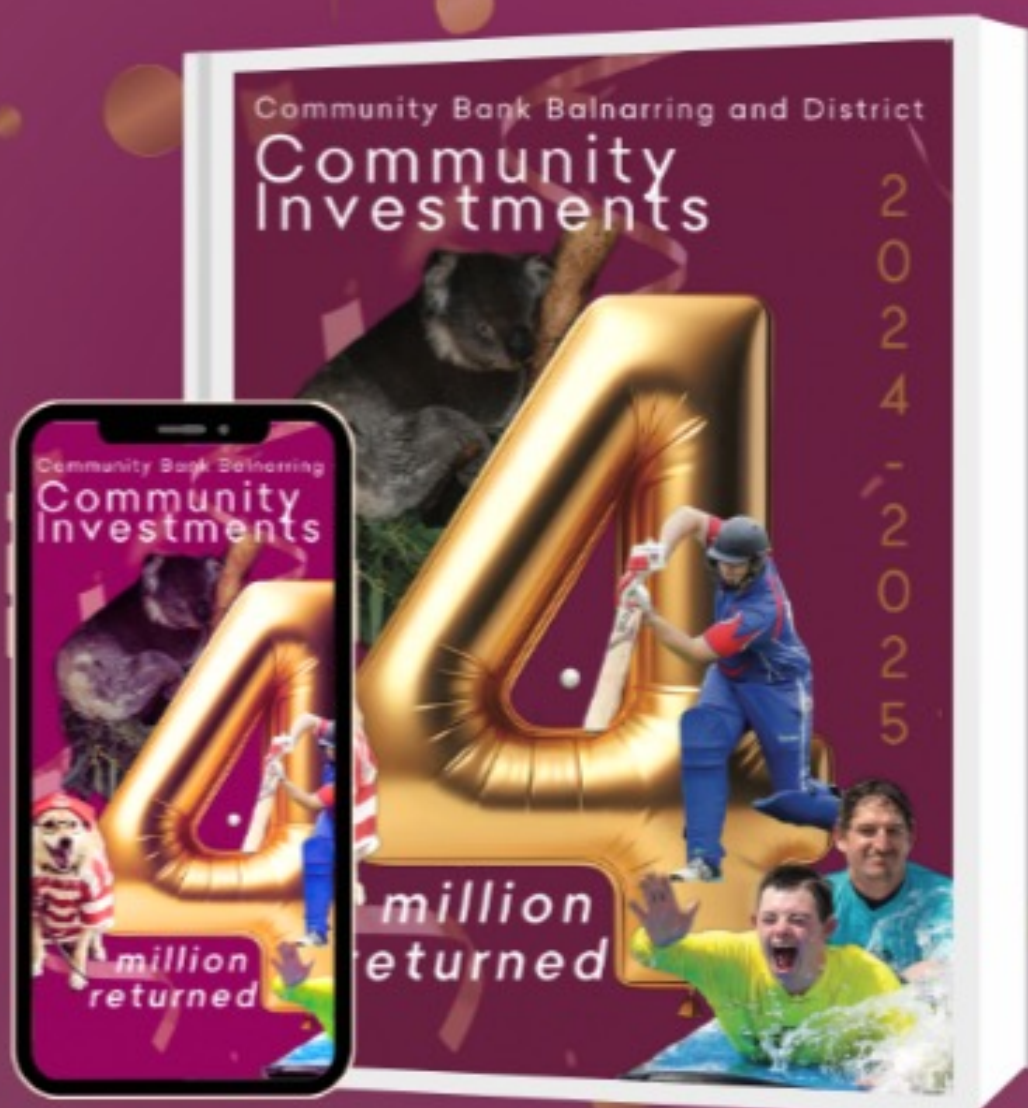
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## Koalas in Crisis on Western Port Highway

On 26 February 2026, another koala was killed on Western Port Highway - a prime adult male struck along the now well-documented stretch between Thornells Road, Tyabb and the Conservation Collective Nursery in Somerville.

The driver did not stop.

The koala was later found by a member of the public, who turned around, removed his body from the road and reported the incident to Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation (MPKC). Without that intervention, the koala may have remained there indefinitely.

This is not an isolated tragedy. It's part of an escalating and deeply concerning pattern. Data collected by MPKC identifies Western Port Highway as the worst road on the Mornington Peninsula for koala deaths by vehicle strike. The section between Thornells Road and the Conservation Collective Nursery has become a recognised koala roadkill hotspot. Along this stretch alone, 22 koalas have been killed in the last 18 months.

Across the Peninsula more broadly, the trend is equally alarming. In 2024, 40 koalas were recorded as killed by vehicle strike, including two joeys. In 2025, a further 25 koalas were killed on local roads. So far this year we've already lost 11 koalas to vehicle strike - four of those on the Western Port Highway.

Every incident reported to MPKC has occurred on roads with speed limits of 80 km/h or above. Speed is not the only factor, but it's a significant one. Higher speeds reduce reaction time, increase stopping distance and greatly increase the likelihood of fatal injury. Much of Western Port Highway carries higher speed limits and limited roadside lighting. Combined with heavy freight traffic and driver inattention, this creates a lethal environment for wildlife, particularly between dusk and dawn when koalas are most active.

There is also a broader question of responsibility. When wildlife is struck, too often drivers do not stop. If this were someone's dog left on the road, the response would be immediate and emotional. There would rightly be outrage that no one stopped. Koalas may not wear collars, but they are part of this landscape and part of what defines the Mornington Peninsula. Their suffering should not be easier to overlook simply because they are wild.

Some have suggested that the solution is simple - relocate the koalas. It is not. We do not have precise, up-to-date mapping of koala populations across the Peninsula. Koalas move, disperse and establish territories over large areas. This is not an enclosed population that can simply be "rounded up" and moved elsewhere. Even if relocation were feasible at scale - which it isn't - other koalas would eventually move back into suitable habitat along this corridor. Relocation does not address the underlying issue of high-speed traffic intersecting with habitat.

Electronic wildlife warning signage has recently been installed on the Western Port Highway following advocacy and shared funding between MPKC and the Mornington Peninsula Shire. This is a positive step, but signage alone will not resolve a systemic problem. What is required is practical, evidence-based intervention:

- Stronger enforcement of speed limits
- Consideration of targeted speed reductions in known wildlife zones
- Purpose-built wildlife crossings
- Fencing to guide animals toward safe crossing points, without hindering residential access.

This is not about restricting motorists unnecessarily. It's about responsible road design in areas where biodiversity and transport corridors intersect. Koalas are a vulnerable and iconic species. Without meaningful intervention, koalas will continue to die, not because coexistence is impossible, but because we have failed to design for it. We are calling on authorities to prioritise this corridor for targeted safety intervention. We urge drivers to slow down in wildlife zones and remain vigilant, particularly between dusk and dawn.

### **What You Can Do**

Community advocacy matters. If you would like to see stronger action on wildlife road safety, please contact the CEO and councillors of the Mornington Peninsula Shire and ask that wildlife roadkill mitigation be prioritised on Western Port Highway and other identified hotspots.

Email: [customerservice@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:customerservice@mornpen.vic.gov.au)

Ask for practical measures such as speed review, enforcement, wildlife crossings and protective fencing.

We also urge residents to report all local koala sightings - dead or alive - to Mornington Peninsula Koala Conservation (MPKC):

[mpkoalatreeplanting@outlook.com](mailto:mpkoalatreeplanting@outlook.com)

If you see injured or dead wildlife, contact Wildlife Victoria immediately on 8400 7300. A single phone call can save a life.

These deaths are not inevitable. They are preventable. The question is, are we prepared to act accordingly?

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# THE BRIDGE

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Merricks, Point Leo, Red Hill, Shoreham, Somers and Tuerong.



## Friends of Daangean Update

Dec to Feb 2026

Team FOD began the new working year on February 28<sup>th</sup> with a crew of six including one new volunteer. During the previous week the possibility of an extra four looked promising, but unfortunately, they disappeared into the ether. Late last year Parks Vic allocated Team FOD a new patch to maintain in lieu of our Woodland Break block becoming increasingly difficult to negotiate due to gahnia and bracken density; younger, stronger legs required. At our own volition, Team FOD relocated to Botaurus Wetland where the bird monitoring team encountered an Australasian Bittern and it was decided to clean up the habitat by removing heavy growth of boneseed.

Our new patch, maintained for several years by DELWP as a carbon offset, was returned to PV. This particular piece of bushland, being relatively clear of dense undergrowth, was offered to us as an easier going site workwise. Our first day was a walk in the park compared with Woodland Break and Botaurus Wetland, although the humidity was a tad uncomfortable. FOD's requirement, as in the serfdom days is hunting and pecking, or gleaning pitto, pine, boneseed, hawthorn and blackberry seedlings. Although small and easily removed it didn't seem as satisfying as leaving a trail of fallen big stuff in our wake. But we prevented any of that as a future happening. Four big seeding pines on the roadside are a concern for continued recruitment. However, they are a shire responsibility. Bell miners made for pleasant listening at the worksite and around the dam where they drink and bathe.



**Bell Miner at the dam - MF**

during their previous continued inundation have produced any recruitment so perhaps in time the cumbungi and burgan will become much thicker. While in the vicinity of Site 2 we took a drive down to the section of the catch drain that's to be one of the new macroinvertebrate survey sites that is currently devoid of vegetation. It will be interesting to see forthcoming changes when it is planted out. At Site 3, Bittern (EBI100) the low water level on the water tower revealed what looks like an inflow hole probably from when the reservoir was an operating

Waterwatch didn't take place in December for various reasons, so make up it was done twice in January. On Jan 1<sup>st</sup> the water levels were down considerably in both dams due to the continued dry. A fall of rain put some water in the catch drain at Site 2 (EDV300). Cumbungi rhizomes are travelling across the access track and none of the prickly tea tree that died

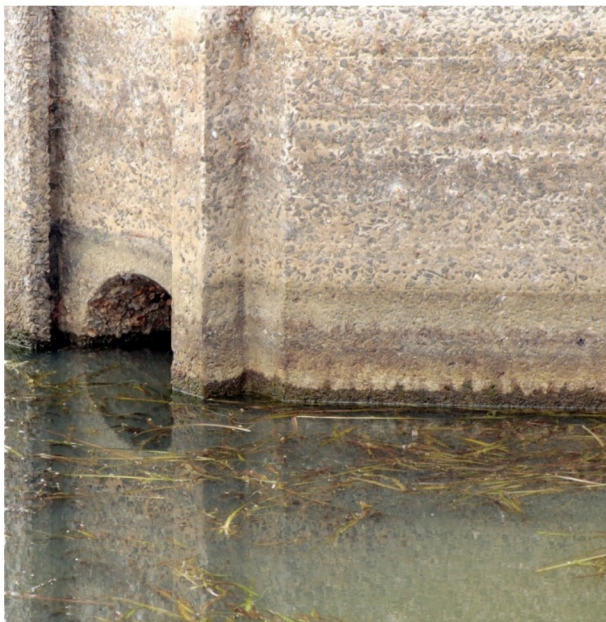


**Water level at collection Site 2 - MF**

water body. Turbidity at all sites was <9 which indicates clear water. Coots and swans on both dams, a little pied cormorant on the tower and Michael identified the call of an olive-backed oriole and a grey shrike thrush.

Jan 29<sup>th</sup> at Site 1 (EDV400) had quite a bit of rubbish in and around the quarry area. Water level continuing to fall. The water temperature was 22.9°C and pH 10.7. At collection Site 2 the bell miners tinkled away in the swamp gums across the way. Footprints in the mud indicated someone made heavy going of it. Water temp 23.5°C with pH 10.1 And once again the catch drain is dry here. At Bittern's Site 3 cumbungi was beginning to flower in the catch drain and the dam water had receded more so a further walk was needed to find reachable water clear of the bottom. Water temp at 10.40am was 25°C with pH 9.8. While turbidity is generally <9 at all sites on this occasion at Bittern it was 35 for some reason so perhaps water was collected a little too close to the bottom.

Tuesday Feb 24<sup>th</sup> and at Site 1 lots of rubbish strewn about both in the water and out. PV staff were at the Devilbend picnic ground repairing damage done by hooligans in their vehicles tearing up the grass. While the picnic area was quiet a bronzewing pigeon fossicked in the grass, a couple of masked lapwings wandered around and a small group of wood ducks went about their business. A solo noisy miner looked a bit lost with nobody to annoy. The DB water at Site 1 was 22.9°C and air temp was 24°C at 9.20am with Ph 9.9. Remedial work is supposed to be



**Low water level at Bittern tower - MF**

carried out by Melbourne Water along our Site 2 vehicle access track soon; hopefully before the next big rainfall.

Site 3 at Bittern near the dam wall at 10.30am the water temp was 24.4°C with air temp 25° and pH 9.2. The turbidity at all sites was <9. Near to the collection site were deep trailbike tracks in the mud and signs of it being pulled out, while across the way a bit, on a mud bar, was a yabby net standing like a sentinel. Across the water from the dam wall a flock of black cormorants were clustered on the shoreline with a yellow-billed spoonbill fossicking about nearby. Coots and swans, and some ducks on the water, lots of swallows flitting about the

tower while a nervous little pied cormorant stood on top of it.

Marnie Fitzsimons

FOD co-ordinator

marniefiz1@gmail.com



# Somers Ladies Probus Club

Fellowship, Friendship and Fun are the foundation on which Probus is built. Somers Ladies Probus hosts a variety of activities including: Canasta, Music, Walking, Knit and Natter, Fireside Films, a regular Happy Hour, a Lunch Group and a range of outings.

At our recent AGM our committee for 2026-2027 was elected, with Jan Camm continuing as President.



Our first outing for 2026 was to the McClelland Sculpture Park and Gallery, followed by lunch at Harry's Café at the venue.



We enjoyed seeing some well-remembered sculptures from their time along Peninsula Link.

Interested ladies are invited to join our very friendly group of women. There is an opportunity to forge new connections and develop friendships, at our monthly meetings at the Stone Pavilion, Somers at 10 am on the first Friday of each month. Our next meeting will be on March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

Contact Val (0408 392 564) or June (5983 5321) for more information.

## 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 48 members with ages ranging from 70 to 93.

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.

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

The Club was delighted to award life membership to Dan Hourigan. Dan is our longest serving member, a past president and was the convenor of a book club for 25 years. At our February meeting Dan was presented with his award by President Dennis Paskins and Life Member Daryl Cowen.



New members are always welcomed. For further information please contact **Daryl Cowen** on 0439 100 546 or check out our website by typing "Balnarring Men's Probus" into your web browser.



# MORNINGTON PENINSULA BIRDLIFE

Our Mornington Peninsula BirdLife committee are all volunteers and hope to encourage our local population and holidaymakers to enjoy free guided birdwatching across the Peninsula throughout the year. Health benefits not only for those attending but an appreciation of our birdlife will enhance care of our beautiful environment. We have a couple of bird outings during the year off the Morn Pen which I'm not sure will be included but have nonetheless included the March outing to Seaford Wetlands just in case.

Our upcoming outings are as follows:

**Wednesday 8 April 2026, 9:15am Jack Babbington Reserve, Hastings Foreshore Reserve & Jetty.** Meet in 1<sup>st</sup> Hastings Scout Hall car park, Thornhill St., enter off Marine Parade. Melway 154 J8. Concrete path, boardwalk & gravel paths. Wheelchair accessible. Enquiries to Outing Co-ordinator 0421-651-844

**Sunday 19 April 2026, 9:15am Greens Bush, Cape Schanck.** Meet in Rogers Road before gate end. Enter from Patterson Road, off Boneo Road. Melway 253 H11. Formed bush tracks. Enquiries to Outing Co-ordinator 0421-651-844

**Wednesday 20 May 2026 Annual General Meeting. 6:30pm for 7pm start.** Mt Martha Community Centre, 466 Esplanade, Mt Martha. Car park entry is in Dominion Road. Guest speaker plus supper included.

**Sunday 17 May 2026, 9:15am Yalukit William Nature Reserve, Elsternwick.** Meeting place to be advised. Melway 67 E3. Enquiries to Outing Co-ordinator 0421-651-844

**Wednesday 10 June 2026, 9:15am Waterways Estate, Mordialloc.** Meet in Observation Court, access off Springvale Road at traffic lights into The Waterways Boulevard then left at Waterside Drive. Cross the bridge then left into Observation Court. Melway 93 F4. An easy walk on formed tracks. Enquiries to Outing Co-ordinator 0421-651-844

**Sunday 21 June 2026, 9:15am Langwarrin Flora & Fauna Reserve, Langwarrin,** Meet in car park off McClelland Drive, south of North Road intersection. Melway 103 D11. Formed tracks. Enquiries to Outing Co-ordinator 0421-651-844



## Working Bee at Balnarring Beach: All Welcome!

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

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

**Our next 2 working bees are on:**

**Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> at 10am at the rotunda.**

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

It is always a great opportunity to have a chat.

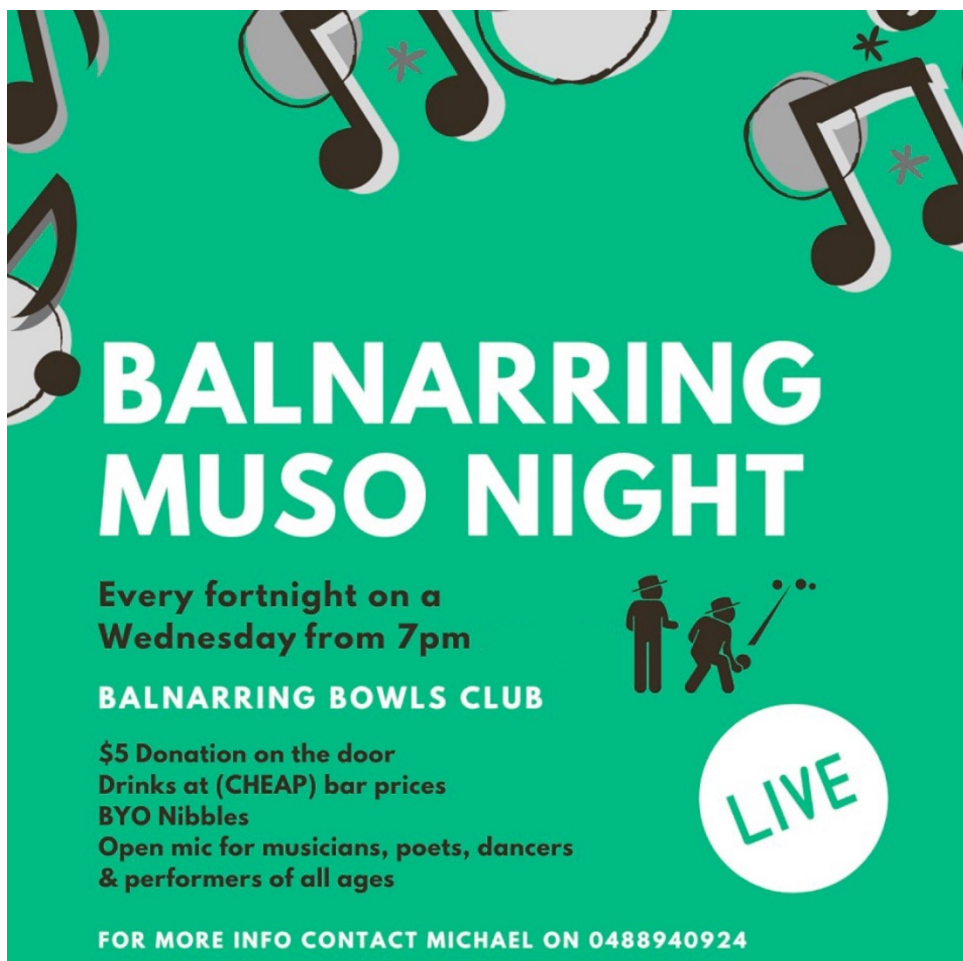
Paul, our Ranger always has some important work for us to do, be that weeding or planting freshly cleared terrain with new plants. Some of these plants are propagated and raised over many months in our nursery.

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

We hope to see many of you there.

Cheerio and many thanks to all who attend.

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



**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 April and May,  
please check out:  
*Balnarring Muso Night*  
on Facebook.

## WHO? WHERE? WHEN?



In the late 1940s and early 1950s this vehicle was seen most Sundays making its way along Balnarring Beach Road. It could be termed the Sunday School Bus.

The driver is Bill Seddon and the passengers are a group of children returning home after a session of Sunday School at the local Balnarring Methodist Church. The car is heading downhill towards Balnarring Beach. Coolart's paddocks are in the background.

Bill was the Sunday School's Superintendent. A dedicated member of the church, he and his wife Rita were particularly interested in the welfare and well-being of young people.

Bill had been a missionary in New Guinea and had returned to Victoria after a bout of blackwater fever (malaria) had almost claimed his life. He and Rita had come to Balnarring Beach to live in the mid-1940s. They had no children of their own but were devoted to young people. Sunday school sessions were held in the hall behind the church building. The hall had, in fact, been the old, former Methodist church at Merricks Noth.



Each Sunday, Bill would leave from his home in Balnarring Beach in his old Dodge car, pick up as many children as he could persuade to come and drive them up the hill to the church to attend Sunday school classes.

At the end of the session, he drove them home again. The children packed in, sitting on each other's knees when there were more bottoms than seats.

Bill 's tales of his deeds in New Guinea fascinated the youngsters who lived near him as did his collection of spears and clubs.

*Ilma Hackett*

***Balnarring & District Historical Society***

*The Society rooms are open most Monday mornings  
from 9.30 a.m. until 12 noon. Why not stop by and talk with us?*



The BRIDGE would like to sincerely thank our financial supporters so far in 2026!

While 100% Volunteer run, without this support, the Bridge could not exist.

Big thanks to:

Balnarring Dental Centre – Hero Sponsor

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Many hands make light work. To ensure the Bridge is sustainable, we would love to grow this list, please get in touch if you can help:  
[info@bridgemag.com.au](mailto:info@bridgemag.com.au)



## Pat The Mac favourite app: Notes

As you may have noticed by reading my previous articles, I'm an avid user of Apple Notes. The main reason being that this software synchronises seamlessly across all my devices: my iMac, MacBook Pro, iPad, iPhone and even my Apple Watch. Furthermore, I reckon that in most cases, Notes is good enough word processor to avoid paying a subscription for a "Real" one. (I created this article using Notes only)

Notes rich set of features includes:

- Create a list
- Create a table
- Attach a document (any type)
- Change font colour, Styles, etc...
- Use of AI Writing Tools
- Create mathematical formulas

One can print the Notes directly to your printer or transform them in PDF before sending them.

If you wish to share a note, it is simple, but even better than sharing, you can also « collaborate ». That means that the recipient(s) will be able to edit the shared note. This streamlines a lot the communication on long term projects.

Another interesting feature is Privacy: You can limit the access to some notes by setting a password and use your fingerprint or FaceID for reading them.

On iPad and iPhone, you can use Notes to scan a document directly. On these devices, you can also add a sketch drawn on the screen with your finger or the Apple Pencil.

You can also create Notes while driving without touching your iPhone. Say:

- "Hey Siri, take a note": Siri will ask what you want to say. Speak your message, and it will be transcribed into the Notes app. Or.
- "Hey Siri, note to self: [your idea]": This allows for a quicker, one-step process to record a thought.

The note will be available on all your devices right away.

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

Pat The Mac on 0419 330 497 or by email via [pat@patthemacs.com](mailto:pat@patthemacs.com)



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(Mordialloc to Portsea). Hourly rate \$85.00 Call or email

## Pat the Mac

M 0419 330 497

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# THE BRIDGE

## **CONTRIBUTING TO THE BRIDGE**

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

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE BRIDGE CONTRIBUTIONS**

The contributor's name must appear with the article and contact information is recommended.

If emailing, please use A4 page format with 1.5cm margins, 14-point font size and single spacing and include your photos with credits. Headings with a font of 16pt.

Send as a **Word or PDF** format file to [info@bridgemag.com.au](mailto: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 5<sup>th</sup> (February/March issue)**

**March 5<sup>h</sup> (April/May issue)**

**May 5<sup>th</sup> (June/July issue)**

**July 5<sup>th</sup> (August/September issue)**

**September 5<sup>th</sup> (October/November issue)**

**November 5<sup>th</sup> (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 two pages per issue and will not be charged.** All entries that create income count as adverts, unless a micro-business. For advertising fees please visit <https://bridgemag.com.au/submissions-advertising/> 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.

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