

Winchelsea Star

Price \$1

Your Weekly Community Newspaper

Since 1977

Vol 46 Ed 46

Tuesday 28 November 2023

winchelseastar.org.au



Winchelsea
Community Market

Shire Hall
9am - 1pm



Community Market this Sunday 3 December

Including - Children's colouring competition, Christmas crafts,
Winchelsea Choir will be doing Devonshire Teas
Musicians and a visit from Santa - and much more!

See you at the Market 9am - 1pm



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SATURDAY	9TH	DECEMBER
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5:30PM

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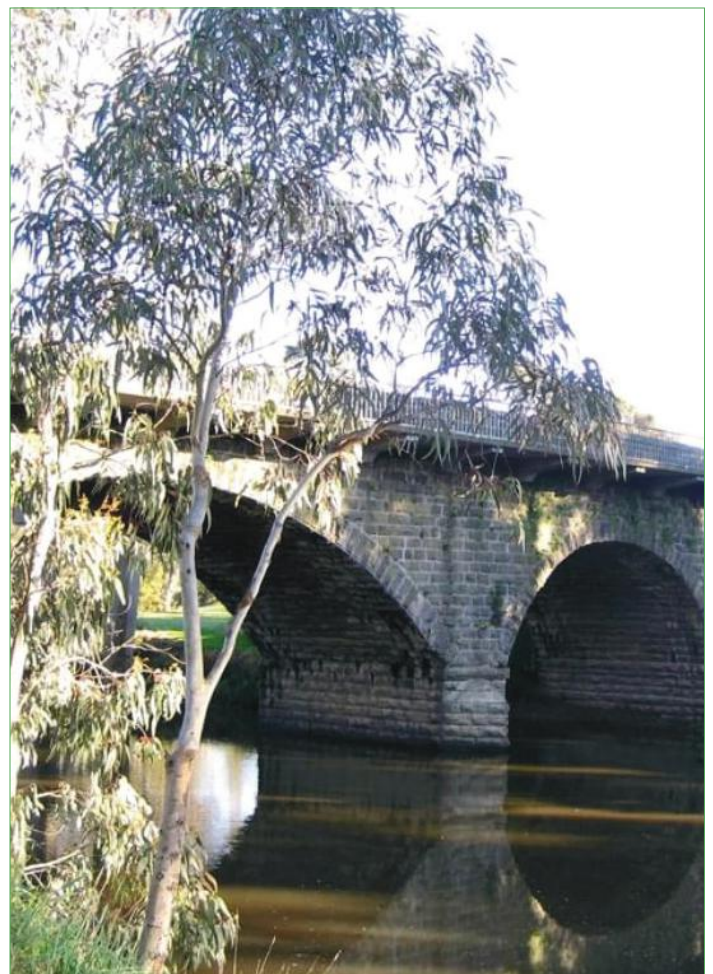
The Beggars – Christmas Show 2023

Wednesday, 6 December 2023 | 11 AM

Get into the Festive spirit with this wonderful concert full of your favourite carols and sing-along songs.

The last 2023 Theatre Season Show includes a **free Cuppa & Treat** from 10am and an **exciting announcement** for what's coming in 2024 following the performance, so make sure you stick around!

Get your tickets now at copacc.com.au, at the Box office or on 03 5232 2077.





Winchelsea Probus Club goes to Gaol

Story: Linda Carter

Photos: Anne

Winchelsea Probus Club's November trip was a visit to the Geelong Gaol.

Our tour guide Rob was a fountain of knowledge, with many interesting and amusing stories about the Gaol since its foundation in 1853 till its closing as late as 1991, when the cells still didn't have plumbing!!

It had 6 executions and several escape attempts, some successful some not.

It has housed some well known criminals including Chopper Reid and Edwin John Eastwood, the Faraday school kidnapper who did attempt to escape but failed.

It was home to men, women and children as well as being a hospital for sick and injured prisoners from other prisons, the goldfields and beyond. It was believed that being close to the sea would help in recovery and was ironically named "the seaside resort"

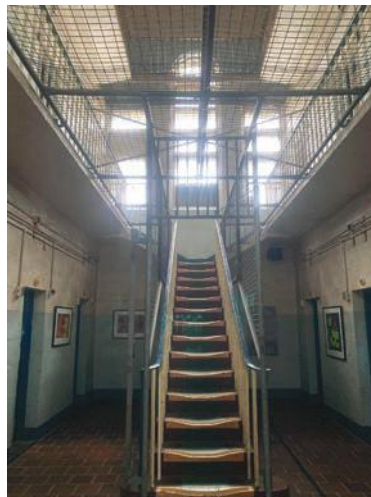
There is a wonderful exhibition on the Kelly gang telling the complete story including replicas of their suits of armour. And currently a display of artefacts pertaining to Chopper Reid. Prison uniforms through the ages, along with a welcome cuppa too it was a fascinating experience. I thoroughly recommend it, you can even do ghost tours which I hear can be quite creepy if you like that sort of thing.

Then it was on to Moorabool Chocolates for a delicious lunch and choccies to purchase to nibble on or take home.

A wonderful day again, many thanks to Anne who organises everything for us down to the finest detail and our lovely driver Leanne. Our final trip this year will be Christmas lunch at the Jan Juc Hotel.

If you would like to enjoy some of these outings come along to a Probus meeting on the first Monday of the month, 10am at the Senior Citizens rooms and see what we are all about, you don't necessarily have to be a member to come on the trips.

Any enquiries call Linda on 0439 817 263



Geelong gaol



Ned Kelly's death mask



Geelong gaol upper level



Guide Rob and fascinated listeners



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HIGH

DRAMA

GET SET TO MELBOURNE

MOULIN ROUGE! THE MUSICAL



Melbourne is setting the stage for entertainment this summer. From first light to late night, it's the season that turns up the volume, the action and the fun. Take a seat and get set to Melbourne. visitmelbourne.com



Winchelsea Street Names

ALBERT STREET

Recent street named after Albert Jacka - the Australian recipient of the Victorian Cross. See him on one of our cairns at the Memorial Park.



Acc No
6576



**Lance Corporal
Albert Jacka**
Unit: 14th Battalion
Born: 10 January 1893 at
Winchelsea, Victoria
Date of action: 19-20 May 1915
Place: Courtneys Post,
Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey
Details: The Turks
launched a general attack
to push the Australians
into the sea. The party
waited long enough for
Jacka to circle the rear
then threw two bombs and
gave covering fire. Jacka
leapt over the parapet,
shot five Turks and
bayoneted two others.
Died: 17 January 1932 at
Melbourne
Buried or commemorated:
St Kilda Cemetery,
Current location of the VC:
Australian War Memorial

Honouring the service of Victorian Veterans

The Victorian Government is honouring the service and sacrifice of veterans in Victoria, with new wellbeing supports and grant programs to make sure veterans receive the support they deserve for everything they have given to the state.

Minister for Veterans Natalie Suleyman today announced applications opening for two programs supporting building and facility upgrades for community organisations, as well as the recipients of the Victoria Remembers and Anzac Day Proceeds Fund grants.

The Veterans Capital Works program gives local organisations funding to upgrade their buildings and facilities, for Victoria's veterans. Interested organisations can apply for grants from \$5,000 up to \$50,000 for projects that can be completed within a year.

This program has supported 55 projects since 2021 to complete building and facility upgrades, including Paynesville RSL Sub-Branch which received \$50,000 to upgrade their club building.

The Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour program provides grants of up to \$30,000 for projects that restore community war memorials, honour rolls and avenues of honour and closes on 29 January.

The Anzac Day Proceeds Fund supports ex-service organisations to deliver a range of activities that boost the wellbeing of veterans, with 19 organisations supported to continue their work delivering important services to veterans and their families.



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New primary school for Winchelsea



Winchelsea Primary School Council

The School Council at Winchelsea Primary School have been working hard to support our school and its students and have identified that the Winchelsea township is growing.

It is a great country town that we live in. As the town grows we need its infrastructure to also grow. One place that our Council feel has been sadly forgotten is our school.

Our school needs your help and support. Whether you have a child attending the school, yet to attend the school or you are a past student we are seeking your support.

We have created a petition asking the Government to build a school for our children to learn in a space that is inviting, safe, warm and free of distractions caused by constant maintenance needs or animal infestations - possums love our rural located building. You may have seen the link to the petition recently on some of our community Facebook pages.

We would be extremely appreciative if you our community would sign your name to the petition and show your support for our community and our children's education.

<https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/petitions/plan-for-a-new-school-in-winchelsea>

We also attach a copy of an open letter we have sent to our local Politicians and Council Representatives to garner support and bring the topic to the forefront of their discussions.

We have received some positive feedback from both Dr Sarah Mansfield, a member of the Legislative Council and Member for Western Victoria who sponsored our Petition and also Richard Riordan, member for the Polwarth electorate.

We will be looking to hold a Community Engagement Information Session in the New Year and will provide more information to the community about this event in coming months.

If you have any queries or would like to be involved and help support this important community issue, please feel free to contact us.

Request for Consideration of a New School Build in Winchelsea

An open letter to community decision makers and leaders,

The Winchelsea Primary School Council writes to request that significant consideration be given to the renewal of the school's facilities. **School Council requests that a new school be built at a new location, as designated in the Surf Coast Shire's *Growing Winchelsea* plan.**

We believe that the current facilities no longer meet the town's requirements.

The current premises are over 60 years old and the school's enrolment numbers are growing at a rate that will see capacity met in the next three years. The current buildings are incredibly expensive to maintain, with approximately \$30,000 likely to be spent in this school year alone on repairs and maintenance. Regular works include, but are not limited to, plumbing and electrical repairs, termite extermination, light and door replacements and external timber and building repairs. Some areas of the school contain asbestos, leaving the school effectively unable to complete minor renovations or improvements in classrooms, administration spaces and hallways.

The current site is no longer appropriate.

In recent years, the highway that sits adjacent to the school site has been expanded to a two-lane, two-way highway. Traffic flow has substantially increased and with expected population increases predicted in the town, this traffic flow is likely to increase. Fences around the school (including the fence facing the highway) do not satisfactorily allay community concerns and the cost of fence replacement is out of reach for the school's financial capacity. In rural communities like ours, the town's school is always viewed as a central meeting place that is crucial to bringing all members of the community together.

There are other concerns with the current school buildings.

The front office is not easily accessible from the front of the school. The school currently does not have an all-abilities toilet or shower, reducing its ability to be a school for every child. Possums and other animals regularly cause damage within the school.

The School Council believes that interim fixes, patches and short-term repairs are not a sustainable long-term solution for the students in our school. The Winchelsea school community has been forgotten and left out of the State Government's initiatives to improve school facilities across the state. Many schools surrounding Winchelsea have already been provided with new and improved facilities in recent years.

We request urgent attention be given to this pressing need in our community. The children in our community deserve the best facilities possible and would welcome any meetings and correspondence with local decision makers, community members and politicians.

Many thanks for your time and consideration,
Written on behalf of Winchelsea Primary School Council

Shae Callahan (Council President)
School Office
(M): 0409 641 550 (P): 03 5267 2134
callahanshae@gmail.com
winchelsea.ps@education.vic.gov.au

A link to Surf Coast Shire's *Growing Winchelsea* plan is included below and can be found on the shire's website.
[Growing_Winchelsea_Shaping_Future_Growth \(1\).pdf](#)

Winchelsea Star

contact us

NEWS and ARTICLES ARE MOST WELCOME

Include name and address of the sender
Email news@winchelseastar.org.au
Leave hard copy at IGA Supermarket

DEADLINES

5pm Fridays

4pm Sundays - hard copy articles left at IGA

6pm Sundays - sports results and weekend events

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Winchelsea Star or its Committee. The Winchelsea
Star reserves the right to edit or not publish any article.

You can write for the Star

We want the Star to inform, engage, inspire, and interest the residents of Winchelsea and surrounds. And we need your writings to get there.

The Star has no actual reporters or designated writers - we publish what you send us. If you have some news, an opinion, an interest or perspective, or a story - we'd love you to send it in for publication.

The Star loves to hear anything of direct interest to the Winchelsea community. The more local content we can put in, the better!

How much can I write?

You can write just one article. You can start a new column about something you're interested in. You can send us a series of articles on a theme. What would **you** write about?

Your article can spread over 1 or 2 pages (approx 850 words) or you can write longer pieces and split them across multiple editions.

Add a photo or two, an article title and author's name (preferably).

Can you publish my photos?

A picture is worth a thousand words - but context is very interesting too! If you have a photo you'd like in the Star, add a few words describing where, when, who, why and/or what.

Ask permission to use photos

When you send us a photo, you give us implied permission for reproduction.

You have liability when publishing an image, so be sure you own the image or have written approval to use it. It is easy for copyright owners to find stolen images online, where the Star can be found.

Legalities

Our Editors will not approve anything libellous (ie. when a false statement is published in written form and does harm to a victim). The Star is a community newspaper - 'for' and 'against' opinions on contentious topics are welcome, but attacking individuals or groups is not.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Simply email editor@winchelseastar.org.au





Free Digital Mentor workshop

Tony Phelps,
Lead Digital Mentor for Neighbourhood Houses Barwon

Are you ready to become a digital mentor and help close the digital divide in your community? If so, we have an exciting opportunity for you!

We are offering a free 1-day workshop that will equip you with the skills and knowledge you need to become a digital mentor. As a digital mentor, you will help others in your community to develop their digital skills and confidence, and connect with others online.

Where: Winchelsea Community House, Helen Verity Room
When: Thursday 14th December, 10am to 2pm (lunch included)
Cost: FREE!

Our workshop is designed to be **fun, interactive, and informative**. You will learn how to inspire people to get online, overcome barriers and challenges, and develop essential digital skills. You will also receive resources to help you in your role as a digital mentor.

By becoming a digital mentor, you will be making a positive difference in your community. You will be helping others

to stay connected with loved ones, access important information, and participate in the digital world.

So why not join us for our free 1-day workshop and become a digital mentor today?



A letter to Winchelsea Businesses

Jill Evans
Community Developer, Winchelsea Community House

The Winchelsea Community House is hosting a photographic exhibition in February 2024 in the Shire Hall called *Coming Home*.

As the curator of the exhibition, I would like to involve five businesses in the Winchelsea Shopping area in order to promote the exhibition. There are 24 photographs that make up the exhibition. The photos are transfixing. People will notice them straight away and will be drawn to study them.

I would like to create a trail through the shopping centre, a different photo in 5 different business windows with a narrative that explains the photo and leads people to the Shire Hall to see the others.

The photos come as posters and measure 420mm by 594mm. This is A2 paper measurement.

Would you be interested?

You can phone me on 0427 633 255, or email me at shirehall@winchhouse.org.au

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Term 4, 2023

Chatty Cafe

When: Friday mornings 10.30am-12 noon

Winchelsea Shire Hall Space

No bookings required

We will have our Chatty Café Volunteers present to welcome you.

Next session Friday 1st December, 2023

Crochet Group

When: Alternate Saturday afternoons

1.30pm, Winchelsea Community House Space

\$5 per session

Next session Saturday 2 Dec 2023

Drop in – Makers' Create

Where in Winch can you?

Mono print your very own Christmas cards?

Design beautiful, felted Christmas table place mats and coasters?

Paint? Draw and skill share?

Winchelsea Community House Star Room

Cost \$25 per session

All materials provided.

Bookings: Hinterlandartschool@gmail.com

PH: 0493 479 447

Singing Group

When: Wednesday afternoons

4.45pm-6.00pm, Winchelsea Shire Hall Space

Next session 29th Nov, 2023

Pro-rata term fee payable

Knitting Group

Come along and learn to knit or bring your knitting project and come and chat with others.

Winchelsea Community House

When: Thursday mornings 10.30am-12 noon

Next session: Thursday 30 November, 2023

Community Houses such as ours provide programs and activities to learn new skills, brush up on your existing skills and more than anything to connect with others in your community and reduce social isolation. New skills may help you with employment and build your confidence to in turn help others. Activities such as singing and sound healing help your mind and reduce any unwanted stresses. Have a think about doing something for yourself and join in our activities.



Winchelsea Bowls Club

Ph 5267 2241

[Facebook.com/Winchelsea-Bowls-Club-533783333344345/](https://www.facebook.com/Winchelsea-Bowls-Club-533783333344345/)



Winchelsea Star COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD FREE ADS

The Winchelsea Star is pleased to print Announcements of local Births, Engagements, Marriages, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Deaths and Funerals.

Email editor@winchelseastar.org.au or leave at Winchelsea IGA

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Winchelsea Lions
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I need an experienced gardener to help with 2 acres of garden.

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LIONS CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Winchelsea Lions Christmas Raffle is under way.

Prizes are \$300, \$200, and \$100 vouchers from IGA (alcohol excluded).

Drawn December 16th.

Tickets on sale Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays outside IGA.

Or call 0439 817 263.

Proceeds to go towards
a public access defibrillator
at the Golf Club.

SHREDDED PAPER

Winchelsea Lions Club has shredded paper suitable for bedding for pet mice, guinea pigs, chicken boxes or worm farms.

Gold coin donation at Lions paper shed behind Senior Citizens, Harding St.
0476 475 422.

'WHAT A GREAT IDEA!'

Coffee cup holders available from participating coffee shops or Winchelsea Lions, 0476 475 422
100% funds raised go back into the community and saves on landfill.

\$2 for 2 cup, \$4 for 4 cup



New grants for our tiniest towns

From Aireys Inlet to Yea, towns across the state can soon apply for grants from the Labor Government to deliver local projects that will make a huge impact in tiny towns right across Victoria.

Minister for Regional Development Gayle Tierney today visited the Talbot Arts and Historical Museum – which received a grant in 2022 to renovate the museum and create a new community space – to officially launch the first round of the Tiny Towns Fund, delivering on a key commitment from the Labor Government at last year's election.

The grants, which open next week, encourage local community groups to bring their best project ideas to the table – and will give more communities like Talbot the support they need to develop projects to benefit locals and attract visitors.

The fund will offer grants between \$5,000 and \$50,000 to deliver community infrastructure, facilities, and capability-building projects – such as hiking trails, splash parks, playgrounds, community hall and library upgrades and public art.

Applications can come from community and non-profit groups and councils in towns with under 5,000 people across regional Victoria and the 10 interface council areas. Round one of the Tiny Towns Fund will open on Monday, 27 November and close in February 2024, with further rounds to open from next year.

The Labor Government's record \$41 billion investment in rural and regional Victoria since 2014 means small communities are already benefiting from projects that make their towns even better places to live, work, stay and play.

With more people than ever before choosing to live away from major cities, initiatives like Tiny Towns will help ensure regional and outer suburban communities continue to thrive.

For more information visit rdv.vic.gov.au/tiny-towns-fund.

Delivering young regional Victorians the care they need

The Victorian Government is making it easier for young regional Victorians with disability to access allied health services, and backing new healthcare workers to take up a rewarding career outside Melbourne – with relocation grants for graduate speech pathologists and occupational therapists now available.

Speech pathologists and occupational therapists play a critical role in helping people with disabilities improve their communication and participation in everyday tasks. Increasing the regional allied health workforce will mean more young Victorians can get the care they need, when and where they need it – helping them thrive.

Grants of up to \$15,000 will be available to domestic and international students to help them relocate and settle – alleviating the costs of accommodation and moving.

Applications for the first round are open now, with the second and third round grants open to eligible students in 2024 and 2025 respectively.

The grants program is part of the Victorian Government's ongoing investment to grow the size of Victoria's healthcare workforce – with a pipeline of more than 7,000 workers joining the system since the \$12 billion Pandemic Repair Plan was launched in 2022.

This includes more than 2,500 healthcare workers recruited from overseas, with one in four now working in regional Victoria.

The Victorian Budget 2023/24 also invested a further \$440 million to train and develop new allied health, nursing and medical workers.

Graduates can apply for grants at health.vic.gov.au/speech-pathology-and-occupational-therapy-student-grants.

Summer blitz for Big Build regional rail projects

The overhaul of rail services in the state's south west is progressing with work continuing on the South Geelong to Warrnambool Duplication and Stage 2 of the Warrnambool Line Upgrade.

New train detection technology and safety improvements will be carried out at a number of level crossings along the Warrnambool Line with coaches replacing trains between Warrnambool and Warrnambool from Saturday, 9 December to the last service on Sunday, 10 December and again from Saturday, 16 December to last service on Sunday, 17 December.

Key works will include trenching, drainage and the installation of boom mast foundations, supporting the introduction of VLocity trains to run to and from Warrnambool for the first time when the upgrade is complete.

Work on key infrastructure as part of the South Geelong to Warrnambool Duplication will progress over summer, with handrails, balustrade and artwork by local Wadawarrung artist Billy-Jay O'Toole being installed during night closures on the Surf Coast Highway in December.

The Surf Coast Highway will be closed between Baanip Boulevard and the level crossing from 9.30pm to 6am on weeknights from Monday 27 November until Friday 15 December.

Work to return the Surf Coast Highway to its original alignment will begin in February and utility relocations will continue at South Geelong and Marshall stations, and for the level crossing removals at Surf Coast Highway and Fyans Street.

V/Line has also scheduled annual maintenance and infrastructure upgrades on the Geelong and Warrnambool lines from Saturday 3 February to Thursday 15 February. Coaches will replace trains between Wyndham Vale and Warrnambool and Warrnambool Line trains between Wyndham Vale and Warrnambool during this time.



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COVID REPORT to 24 November

Victorian Department of Health

Current trends indicate high levels of COVID-19 activity in Victoria.

The number of people in hospital with COVID-19 increased this week to a daily average of 325, up from 317 last week. The current average is high compared to recent months but remains below the most recent peak in May/June.

Deaths in the most recent 28-day period have continued to increase, with a current 28-day total of 145. Increases and decreases in the reporting of deaths attributable to COVID-19 tend to lag waves of infections and hospitalisations by several weeks.

Use these simple steps to protect yourself and those most at risk:

- Face masks can stop or slow viruses from spreading. Face masks lower your chance of catching and spreading an airborne virus. That's why wearing a high-quality and well-fitted face mask can help protect you and those around you from COVID-19.
- Rapid antigen tests (RATs) are the easiest way to test for COVID-19.

You should get a test:

- if you have COVID-19 symptoms, even if they're very mild
- if you have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19
- before visiting a hospital, aged care facility, or disability care facility
- before visiting elderly people, people with disability or people at higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness.



COVID-19 can spread before you have symptoms. You can protect others by checking that you are negative before you leave home.

Ventilation means bringing fresh outdoor air into an indoor space. Ventilation is important because COVID-19 is airborne.

COVID-19 spreads when a person breathes out very small droplets or aerosols that contain the virus. Aerosols can float in the air for a long time and other people breathe them in, spreading the virus.

Adding fresh air into a space reduces the number of aerosols in a room and reduces the risk of COVID-19 transmission from one person to another.

Booster doses, also known as additional doses, can be given after a primary vaccination course. They protect you from getting very sick with newer variants of COVID-19.

Immunity wanes over time so your protection against the virus is low. Recharge your immunity with a booster dose.

Fight to protect workers from asbestos never ends

Two decades on from a landmark national ban on the use of asbestos, the Allan Labor Government is urging Victorian employers and tradespeople not to ignore the ongoing risk of exposure to the deadly material.

National Asbestos Awareness Week (20-27 November) marks the 20th anniversary of the prohibition on the use, importation and manufacture of asbestos.

Homes built in Australia until 1990 routinely used asbestos products such as cement sheeting and thermal insulation for pipes, and asbestos is estimated to still be present in one in three homes. When disturbed by demolition or construction, the consequences can be lethal.

Asbestos becomes a health risk when fibres are breathed into the lungs, which can cause diseases including mesothelioma, lung cancer and asbestosis. The effects of asbestos are often felt most in the years and even decades after being exposed to its fibres.

WorkSafe is conducting a fortnight-long blitz across the state focused on the safe removal of asbestos.

Inspectors will visit worksites reinforcing messages such as ensuring asbestos is identified prior to demolition, checking there are processes for workers to know where asbestos is likely to be found and what to do if it is, and ensuring any required asbestos removal is undertaken by a licensed removalist.

Australia has one of the highest incidence rates of mesothelioma in the world due to the widespread manufacture and use of the product in the decades prior to 2003.

More than 700 Australians are diagnosed with the incurable cancer every year and former fitter and machinist from Gippsland Brian Healy is one of their number. Mr Healy urged workers to speak up if they feel their workplace is not taking the risk of asbestos exposure seriously.

Employers can find guidance on their Occupational Health and Safety obligations relating to asbestos and tools to reduce the risk of exposure at [worksafe.vic.gov.au/asbestos](https://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/asbestos).

Impersonation scams - how to keep fraudsters at bay

Victorians are being urged to be on the lookout for impersonation scams to avoid handing over their hard-earned money to fraudsters.

With Scam Awareness Week starting today, Minister for Consumer Affairs Gabrielle Williams encouraged Victorians to be alert and aware of the warning signs for scams.

The focus of this Scam Awareness Week is impersonation scams – where scammers purport to be a reputable brand or organisation like a government agency, bank or community group.

So far this year Victorians have reported losing almost \$96 million to scams. This includes \$8.7 million lost by Victorians to “phishing”, when a fraudster sends a fake message or email to seek bank account or password details.

Many people who experience a scam never report it due to feeling embarrassed or powerless, but scams are never the fault of the victim and can happen to anyone.

Consumer Affairs Victoria has created a Scams Quiz so Victorians can learn how to identify different types of scams and know how to check if they are being contacted by a genuine organisation.

There are common warning signs to look out for with impersonation scams:

- You may be contacted unexpectedly and pressured into doing something quickly, like making an urgent payment online
- You may be enticed to click on a link where you are prompted to upgrade or log in to something – this gets you to install malware software to steal your information
- You may be told you will be in serious trouble unless you make the payment immediately, or
- You may be asked to provide your account details via email.
- If you are unsure, call the relevant organisation on the number listed on the genuine website. Genuine organisations will be professional in their interactions and will not threaten legal action or arrest if you cannot pay.

Victorians have reported more than 65,000 scams to Scamwatch so far this year. Almost 1,500 scams were also reported directly to Consumer Affairs Victoria last financial year and shared with Scamwatch, the most common being scam calls and text messages, phishing, fake tradies, and investment and financial scams.

Consumer Affairs Victoria provides information to Victorians to help them understand their rights and options when they think they have been exposed to a scam. To learn more, go to [consumer.vic.gov.au/scams](https://www.consumer.vic.gov.au/scams)



There is almost 9 suicides a day in Australia!
It's a statistic that needs to change and you could be part of the solution.

Get involved and attend this informative FREE workshop.

Robyn Black
(Conquer the Corrugations Committee)

The first safeTALK training session 14 November 2023

GOOD DEEDS ADVENT CALENDAR

1 Give change to Salvation Army	2 Clean someone else's space	3 Write a note to someone	4 Make and hide a happy stone	5 Pay for someone's drink or meal	6 Spend quality time with someone
7 Donate some books	8 Bring a drink to a teacher or coworker	9 Send a card to someone	10 Clean your room	11 Compliment someone	12 Donate some clothes
13 Take a meal to someone	14 Say something nice online	15 Donate to your favorite charity	16 Call your parents	17 Help out a family member	18 Volunteer out of the house
19 Double your tip	20 Donate a toy	21 Clean a stretch of road or park	22 Call a long distance relative	23 Make cookies for neighbors	24 Go caroling

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2023

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International Day of People with Disability



Tim Harte

Australia observes International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) on 3 December.

Established by the United Nations in 1992 and celebrated in Australia since 1996, IDPwD aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by People with Disabilities (PwD), promote their rights, dignity, and wellbeing, and advocate for their full integration into society.

In 2018, the Australian Bureau of Statistics reported that 17.7% of the population, or 4.4 million Australians, were PwD.

IDPwD events across Australia, organised by various entities, aim to educate the public by providing a platform for PwD to share their personal stories.

These narratives humanise PwD, breaking down stereotypes and fostering greater understanding and empathy among those without disabilities, helping them better grasp the daily challenges faced by people with disabilities.

Disability in Australia encompasses visible and invisible forms, including physical, intellectual, psychiatric, sensory, and neurological conditions.

In this context, the concept of disability oversimplifies a complex reality, based on how an individual's physical or mental condition deviates from what is considered 'the norm'. This perspective is often referred to as the Medical Model of Disability and is relevant when seeking treatment or therapy.

However, it falls short in recognising that true barriers to the full and equal participation of PwD in society stem from environmental and attitudinal factors within our community and society.

The Social Model of Disability, which originated in the UK in the 1970s, redefined disability theory. It separated 'impairment', biological deviations, from 'disability', resulting from environmental and societal barriers.

The Social Model of Disability shows that disability arises when an individual's impairments interact with physical and social obstacles. This model empowers PwD by highlighting that many challenges they face are due to societal barriers, not their disabilities.

Tim Harte GAICD is Chair of the Surf Coast Shire Council disability advisory committee, the All Abilities Advisory Committee.



Surf Coast Shire Council will share story times with young children to celebrate International Day of People with Disability and promote early years understanding and inclusion.

Book readings at Torquay Library and Council's kindergartens will aim to increase understanding of disability, celebrate diversity and provide parents with tips and tools on talking with children about disability.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY 3 DECEMBER 2023

Disability advocates and authors Renee D'Offay and Chrissie Davies will each lead a story time at Torquay Library during the following week, in partnership with Geelong Regional Libraries:

- Monday 4 December, 10.30am: Renee will share story time for pre-schoolers.
- Thursday 7 December, 10.30am: Chrissie will share story time for toddlers.

The engaging and fun sessions will include songs and activities and be supported by Auslan interpreters. Story times at Council's kindergartens will be at varying times during the week.



Renee D'Offay became abruptly familiar with living with disability when meningococcal meningitis left her profoundly deaf at 19. She knew virtually nothing about the world that was suddenly hers, but now two decades on as a mum, Auslan educator, teacher of the deaf and passionate advocate she shares valuable insights about normalising disability for young children.

"It's really hard for kids sometimes to understand, but the first message is that everybody is different, and what people need is different," Renee says. "Some people need extra supports with different things, whether that is a cochlear implant for me to be able to hear, or a wheelchair for someone else.

"I think kids will always ask questions, which is good, and I think it's about having open conversations about different situations. Having examples in their lives helps children to understand better, so having books and resources and lots of exposure to those things is what makes it real for kids."

Renee simplifies talking with kids about disability by likening it to kids learning about peers who speak another language at home. "It's the same for someone with a disability. At home they might have a ramp or a hoist, everybody is different, and that's fine."



Chrissie Davies is a child behaviour specialist, trauma-informed educator, consultant, author, mum and 'fierce advocate for understanding neurodivergent children' who move through the world in their own unique way.

"The national average in Australia indicates that one in 10 children have a disability, either visible or invisible. Creating more awareness about invisible disabilities is a big passion of mine as these are still very misunderstood by the wider community," Chrissie says.

"Disabilities such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism, anxiety, foetal alcohol syndrome, developmental trauma and dyslexia are just some of the examples of invisible disabilities that people live with in our communities. These disabilities are not always 'obvious' to other people as they are part of the human brain wiring. We call this our neurotype and is why I encourage families to teach their kids about their brain as a starting point to understanding neurodivergence.

"Education around developmental differences is vitally important as everybody deserves to know that they belong to their community and feel understood by those around them."

Chrissie encourages parents who might be uncomfortable talking with their kids about disabilities to make the most of resources which can help provide facts and appropriate language to use. "The good news is there are so many books available for our kids and families. Storytelling is such an incredible way to impart important information in a child-friendly, inclusive way. There is no safer place than in your arms to introduce them to such an important topic," she says.

"Research indicates that kids who grow up in families where they have access to this information, where it is encouraged as part of their everyday conversations, go on to be more accepting, inclusive and understanding of those with differences to them."

"When we are a family that embraces and celebrates difference, then our kids go on to do the same. True inclusion starts at home."

People can find more information and register for the library story time sessions via surfcoast.vic.gov.au/IDPWD. People can also sign up to receive Council's regular access and inclusion newsletter via surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Community/Access-for-all.

Renee D'Offay is founder of First Hand Auslan and Chrissie Davies is founder of Chaos to Calm Consultancy.





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Upcoming Training Dates



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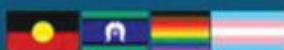
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LivingWorks acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we work and train, lands where sovereignty was never ceded. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging and we extend respect and thanks to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities who have contributed time and knowledge to the development of LivingWorks I-ASIST and safeYARN programs.

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Facebook - Winchelsea Playgroup 2019

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Winchelsea Swimming Pool Redevelopment Project - Update Splash Park Designs

We welcome your feedback on the design options for the Splash Park.

The Winchelsea Pool Redevelopment Project is progressing well with detailed design now underway.

Community members can view the latest design renders and help choose the splash park layout and play elements including spray loops, tubes, jets and fountains by visiting <https://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/About-us/Works-and-projects/>



Backing pre-service teachers at regional and special schools

The Victorian Government is supporting pre-service teachers at schools in rural and regional Victoria and special schools across the state, building a pipeline of world-class teachers at schools that need them most.

Premier Jacinta Allan and Minister for Education Ben Carroll today visited Monash Special Developmental School to announce that students completing their teaching placements are now eligible to receive payments of up to \$420 per day for their work in regional, remote and specialist government schools.

The \$32.2 million Pre-service Teacher Placement Grants program will help to cover the costs student teachers often incur undertaking placements in regional and remote schools – including accommodation, travel and other loss of income.

The new support is designed to encourage teaching students to complete placements in Victorian specialist schools and across regional Victoria, with these schools offering considerable opportunities for future employment when students graduate.

Eligible teachers will be given a daily grant ranging from \$140 per day in regional urban centres and metropolitan specialist schools to \$420 per day in outer regional and remote schools.

The grants will be available to students enrolled in an accredited Victorian school teaching degree from 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2025 – funding up to 11,000 placements over the next two years.

The Pre-service teacher Placement Grants program follows the Labor Government's recent \$229.8 million investment to support the teaching workforce – including:

- \$93.2 million for scholarships to make studying a secondary teaching degree completely free for around 4,000 future teachers each year
- \$95.7 million to expand the successful Australian-first Career Start initiative to support more graduate teachers in government schools
- \$27 million for the Targeted Financial Incentives Program that provides \$50,000 to assist teachers from Victoria, interstate and overseas relocate to hard-to-staff positions in government schools.

Revealing New Data - Regions Counting on New Premier

Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting Inc

2023 Illegal Behaviour Report

Regional Victorians Opposed to Duck Shooting Inc. highlight a damning statistic on page 10 of the Game Management Authority (GMA) season report.

It notes that 11 of their survey respondents admitted to exceeding bag limits, which represents 1.2% of active duck shooters.

The report stops short of articulating that 1.2% of active duck shooters equates to 170 duck shooters exceeding the legal bag limit. This alarming figure is without accounting for the number who did not admit doing so, or the number who committed other offences such as shooting out of hours, shooting protected species, not retrieving wounded birds etc.

How many prosecutions have taken place?
Very few it seems.

2023 Report Proves Bird Hunting NOT Sustainable

With native bird hunting in Victoria under threat, the Game Management Authority released its annual bird shooting season data quickly this year. Normally, stakeholders are kept in the dark about what happened during the autumn shoot until the following year, on the brink of the next shoot.

In its haste to publish, the "independent" regulator seemingly failed to recognise that the reported kill numbers overshot its own sustainability target by a country mile. In 2021, GMA suggested a 10% cull is sustainable.

GMA's (taxpayer funded) helicopter duck count produces two duck population estimates depending on maths techniques used. The regulator chooses the larger estimate. The two relevant counts for 2023 were 2.41 million and 1.9 million. So a 10% cull would be 241,000 or 190,000 respectively.

The subsequent "harvest" of 320,000 ducks this year was hence an overshoot of 33% at best, more likely 68% over the threshold of the regulator's definition of "sustainable".

Worse, this is in a year when Professor Kingsford's annual waterbird survey showed game duck abundance was down to the third lowest in 40 years.

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Thousands march in Melbourne advocating for an end to gender-based violence

Decked out in orange, the colour used to represent a future free from gender-based violence, campaigners marched from the steps of Parliament House towards Carlton gardens.

The Walk Against Family Violence marks the beginning of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in Victoria.

Respect Victoria, an independent statutory authority dedicated to addressing the drivers of family violence and violence against women, is calling for change in the attitudes and behaviours that drive violence and ongoing work towards gender equality at home, at work, at school and in all areas of community life.

Respect Victoria Chairperson, Professor Kate Fitz-Gibbon

"The past few months have been a stark reminder of the need to challenge the harmful attitudes that excuse, justify and even promote violence against women. Every single one of these deaths is devastating and preventable. Violence against women is not a private matter. It is happening in every suburb and town in this country."



Picture: NCA NewsWire / Ian Currie

Ag career opportunities grow as S-W Vic farms look for more workers

Opportunities for people to find a career in agriculture are expanding across south-west Victoria as farming industries struggle to find suitable trained employees.

SWTAFE Agriculture Teaching Education Manager Bec Toleman said the Victorian Government had expanded access to Free TAFE courses in agriculture to meet the demand for employees.

"The Government has recognised the ongoing skills shortage in agriculture and is now offering a free pathway, starting with a Certificate 2 in Agriculture and continuing with Certificate 3 and then either the dairy production certificate or the Certificate 4," Ms Toleman said.

"As long as you've finished one agricultural course, you can enrol into the next and keep moving through for free, which we've never done before."

The Free TAFE offer has encouraged South West TAFE to expand its agriculture staff and course offering.

"We've got more staff on board and have courses in Hamilton, Colac, Warrnambool and Glenormiston," Ms Toleman said.

South West TAFE is planning to introduce a Certificate 4 in Agriculture in Colac next year and a Certificate 3 in Hamilton and is also offering a series of compliance short courses, including use of tractors, quad bikes, front end loaders and a free chemical handling course.

"The Government is trying to support the industry by putting as many options as possible on the table and we're expanding to meet that by adding more staff across all

campuses and new courses to better service the area," Ms Toleman said.

A \$2million project at the Glenormiston campus will add to the SWTAFE agricultural program, with more personal development opportunities for teachers and potential to expand into school camps.

WestVic Dairy regional manager and executive officer Lindsay Ferguson welcomed the increase in courses and said workforce shortages remained a key issue in the south-west dairy industry and one high on the list of strategic priorities for WestVic Dairy.

"Skilled staff are essential for the running of a successful farm business and while backpackers can fill a gap, farms much prefer to employ skilled local staff that have commitment and are permanent," Mr Ferguson said.

"WestVic Dairy has staff members dedicated to helping people discover and develop their careers in the industry and any schemes that can add to the pool of skilled staff are welcomed."

Ms Toleman said there had been a lot of interest in the Free TAFE agricultural certificates, but farmers were crying out for more workers.

"We're finding a lot of farms that are short staffed across the board," she said. "The need for skilled workers is probably at one of the highest levels it has ever been and we haven't fully recovered fully after the border closures during Covid."

"I'm constantly getting calls from farmers asking if I've got people they can employ."

There are also financial incentives on offer for farmers who put students into traineeships through South West TAFE.



WINCHELSEA FACEBOOK

Non-profit community Groups and Pages

What's on in Winchelsea	facebook.com/WhatsoninWinchelsea
Winchelsea FREE	facebook.com/groups/winchelseafree
Winchelsea Community Information	facebook.com/groups/207538644446972
Winchelsea Classifieds 3241	facebook.com/groups/216942861684082
Winchelsea Lost and Found	facebook.com/groups/768187693217518
Winchelsea Op Shop	facebook.com/HospitalAuxiliaryOpShopWinchelsea
Winchelsea Shire Hall	facebook.com/WinchelseaShireHall
Winchelsea Community House	facebook.com/winchelseacommunityhouse
Winchelsea Coronavirus Community Support Group	facebook.com/groups/2676957719207927/
The Green Winchelsea Residents	facebook.com/groups/515322772623126
Growing Winchelsea Inc	facebook.com/growingwinch
Winchelsea Star	facebook.com/TheWinchelseaStar
Winchelsea Movie Club	facebook.com/winchelseamovies
Winchelsea Community Market	facebook.com/100083362387611
Winchelsea Land and River Care Group	facebook.com/envirowinchelsea/
Upper Barwon Landcare Network	facebook.com/UpperBarwonLandcare
Winchelsea & District Historical Society Inc	facebook.com/Winchelseaanddistricthistoricalsociety/
Winchelsea Wildlife Shelter	www.winchelseawildlifeshelter.com/
SCARS - Surf Coast Animal Rescue Service	facebook.com/groups/415211698950674
Winchelsea Gardeners	facebook.com/groups/779878518703025
Winchelsea & District Historical Society	facebook.com/Winchelseaanddistricthistoricalsociety/
Winchelsea Repertory Society Inc	facebook.com/winchrep/
Winchelsea Globe Theatre	facebook.com/Winchelsea-Globe-Theatre-164790897641678
Winchelsea Uniting Church	facebook.com/winchelseaunitingchurch
St Thomas' Anglican Church	facebook.com/StThomasWinchelsea
St John the Baptist Catholic Church	facebook.com/pages/Winchelsea-Catholic-Church/101775670163180
Winchelsea Mainly Music	facebook.com/groups/668500343953191/
Winchelsea Health Club	facebook.com/WinchelseaHealthClub
Winchelsea Playgroup 2019	facebook.com/groups/551663435367031
Winchelsea Girl Guides	www.guidesvic.org.au/
Winchelsea/Modewarre Scouts	facebook.com/1stModewarreScouts
Winchelsea Fire Brigade	facebook.com/winchelseafirebrigade/
Winchelsea SES	facebook.com/groups/WinchSES
Country Women's Association - CWA Winchelsea Branch	facebook.com/pg/CWAWinchelsea/
Winchelsea Bowls Club	facebook.com/Winchelsea-Bowls-Club-533783333344345/
Winchelsea Blues Cricket Club	facebook.com/groups/8999049476/
Winchelsea Blues FC	facebook.com/WinchelseaFNC/
WYLD Winchelsea Youth Leisure and Drop in	facebook.com/groups/569737570027065/
Lions Club of Winchelsea	facebook.com/LionsWinchelsea

Winchelsea Churches



Winchelsea Uniting Church

Hesse St, Winchelsea 3241
uca.winchelsea@gmail.com
0475 777 301
Services 9.30am Sundays

St John's Catholic Church

Mass Times - October
Winchelsea - St. John The Baptist
@ 6pm Sat. Oct. 7/14/21/28

Mass Times - November
Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist
@ 6pm Sat. NOV. 4/11/18

Harding St, Winchelsea 3241
Father Joseph Panackal
0404598558

St Thomas' Anglican Church

Barwon Tce, Winchelsea
Rev'd Phil Jacobson
stthomaswac@gmail.com
0477 672 042

Thought for the Week

"You hurt, you weep,
nothing seems to go right,
and you simply don't know how long
it will be before you are well again.
God understands all that, and
He wants you to be honest with him.
He doesn't want you to hide
how you really feel.
He wants you to talk to him about it.
He promises to listen."

John Bader,
Former U/C Accredited Lay Preacher

Greener schools program to deliver more power bill savings

Dozens more schools will reduce their carbon footprint and power costs thanks to an investment of \$2.2 million through the Greener Government School Buildings program.

Minister for Education Ben Carroll today announced the latest round of the Labor Government's funding for the installation of solar panels at 44 schools by June 2024, taking the total investment in the program to \$20 million.

With the program now in its third round, a total of 276 schools across the state are participating in the initiative, helping them lower emissions and reduce the costs of powering school campuses –

helping reach the Labor Government's goal of net zero emissions by 2045.

Once fully implemented, annually the program will:

- achieve a total installed capacity of 11,153 kilowatts across the school portfolio – enough to generate renewable electricity to power more than 1,350 houses
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions by more than 16,500 tonnes – the same as removing 2,300 cars off the road
- save schools more than \$3 million on their power bills.

To find out more about the Greener Government Schools Buildings program, visit schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/greener-government-school-buildings-program

HESSE RURAL HEALTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Hesse Rural Health's 2023 Annual General Meeting will be held at The Hub, Eastern Reserve, Winchelsea and via Zoom on Wednesday 29th November, 2023 at 7pm.

Please contact Hesse on (03) 5267 1200 or reception@hesse.vic.gov.au to RSVP and receive the remote link invitation.

BUSINESS:

To receive the report of the Board of Directors and the audited Statements of Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2023.



WINCHELSEA HOSTEL AND NURSING HOME SOCIETY INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2022/2023 Annual General Meeting for the General Public will be held at the Winchelsea Shire Hall and Livestream on Wednesday 29th November, 2023 at 6pm.

Please contact Hesse on (03) 5267 1200 or reception@hesse.vic.gov.au to receive the remote link invitation.

BUSINESS

1. To confirm the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting.
2. To receive the report of the Committee of Management and the audited Statements of Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2023.
3. To appoint the Victorian Auditor General's Office as auditor.
4. To elect officers of the Association and members of the Committee.

Carissa Brock
Secretary





Winchelsea Pram Walks

Explore pram-friendly walking routes in your local area with a member of the Surf Coast Shire Child and Family Health team.

Come along, have a chat,
and meet other parents
with little ones!

No bookings required,
simply show up!

Third Tuesday of the month
Cafe La Hoot, 1 Willis Street,
Winchelsea, 3241

FREE

Tuesday, 19 September 2023 |
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Tuesday, 17 October 2023 |
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Tuesday, 21 November 2023 |
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Child and Family Health 5261 0549
childandfamily@surfcoast.vic.gov.au



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Barwon South-West Ag News



A taste you can trace

Traceability can help reduce food waste along the supply chain, ensuring fresh produce arrives at the end of its journey in top condition.

Listen online via the AgVic website: agriculture.vic.gov.au/AgVicTalk to Luke Wood from Escavox discussing the tech used to follow food around the globe and how traceability can transform export businesses.



Victoria will face intensifying biosecurity risks – driven by climate change, increasing trade and travel, and changing land use – so a clear, statewide strategy was required to ensure the state's \$20.2 billion agriculture industry remains protected.

The new strategy outlines 5 overarching goals and 20 actions that will aim to safeguard the state against pests and diseases including foot-and-mouth disease.

The Biosecurity Strategy was formed through extensive engagement with Traditional Owners and nearly 450 stakeholders covering all aspects of Victoria's biosecurity system – from farmers and industry groups to land managers and emergency management agencies.

To learn more about Victoria's Biosecurity Strategy, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/2023-biosecurity-strategy

Continuing to manage the risk of Varroa mite spreading to Victoria

Agriculture Victoria continues to manage the risk of Varroa mite spreading to Victoria.

Field teams are continuing port surveillance, conducting targeted surveillance and deploying sentinel hives at points of general risk along the Victorian/NSW border.

Call the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881 if you see or suspect Varroa.

For more information visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/varroa



Celebrating Victoria's robust biosecurity system

As the country celebrated National Agriculture Day recently, it's crucial to recognise the exceptional efforts of Victoria's Biosecurity System.

Recent 2022-23 performance data paints a clear picture of the essential work conducted by Agriculture Victoria staff on the ground.

Throughout the year, Agriculture Victoria conducted a total of 10,490 inspections, audits, and investigations of plants, animals, chemicals and invasive species, reflecting the dedicated effort to ensure the health and safety of Victoria's agriculture.

New biosecurity strategy keeping Victoria prepared

The Victorian Government has released a new framework to further strengthen the state's biosecurity systems from the paddock to our borders.

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- Social Support Activities
- Gardening - Winchelsea
- Hospital Auxiliary Member
- Consumer Advisory Committee
- Marketing & Fundraising Committee

For more information please contact Hesse on
(03) 5267 1200 or via email reception@hesse.vic.gov.au

Winchelsea Men's Shed



For The Community
Men's Shed Kindling/Offcuts
Bags of Kindling/timber offcuts are available for pick up from the Men's Shed on Wednesday's from 9.30 to 2.30.

If you need a delivery made you can call Bill on 0438 083 373. The price for a bag of kindling is now \$7.00 (up from \$5.00).

Nesting Boxes
Bird or animal nesting boxes are available from The Men's Shed. These can be made to order. Call in on any Wednesday to have a chat.

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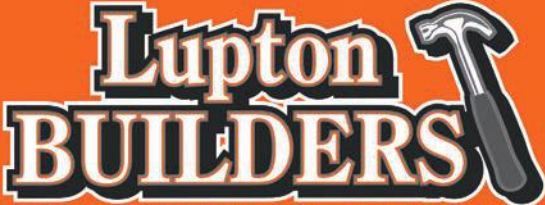
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