

BANNOCKBURN COMMUNITY NEWS

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- » COMMUNITY NEWS
- » HISTORY OF OUR DISTRICT
- » PEOPLE, PLACES AND GROUPS
- » SPORTING CLUB UPDATES
- » LANDCARE UPDATES
- » GARDENING TIPS AND TRICKS
- » CFA UPDATE
- » MP UPDATE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

04 NOTE FROM EDITORIAL TEAM

05 ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY GROUP

06 PROJECT SEED FUNDING OUTCOME

08 COMMUNITY NEWS

12 BANNOCKBURN TENNIS CLUB

14 PEOPLE, PLACES & GROUPS

16 BANNOCKBURN GOLF CLUB

18 COMMUNITY NEWS

23 BANNOCKBURN WILDLIFE RESCUE

24 THE HISTORY OF OUR DISTRICT

25 BANNOCKBURN & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB

28 FRIENDS OF BANNOCKBURN BUSH LANDCARE GROUP

30 BRUCE CREEK LANDCARE

32 BATESFORS, FYANSFORD, STONEHAVEN LANDCARE

34 GARDENING TIPS AND TRICKS

36 NEWS FROM DR SARAH MANSFIELD

TABLE OF CONTENTS

39	GNARLY MARLEY MOMENTS IN BANNO LIFE
40	BANNOCKBURN SURGERY: CELEBRATING 40 YEARS
42	BANNOCKBURN CFA: PREPARING FOR SUMMER
43	UP THE CAMP
45	COMMUNITY DIRECTORY
47	INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

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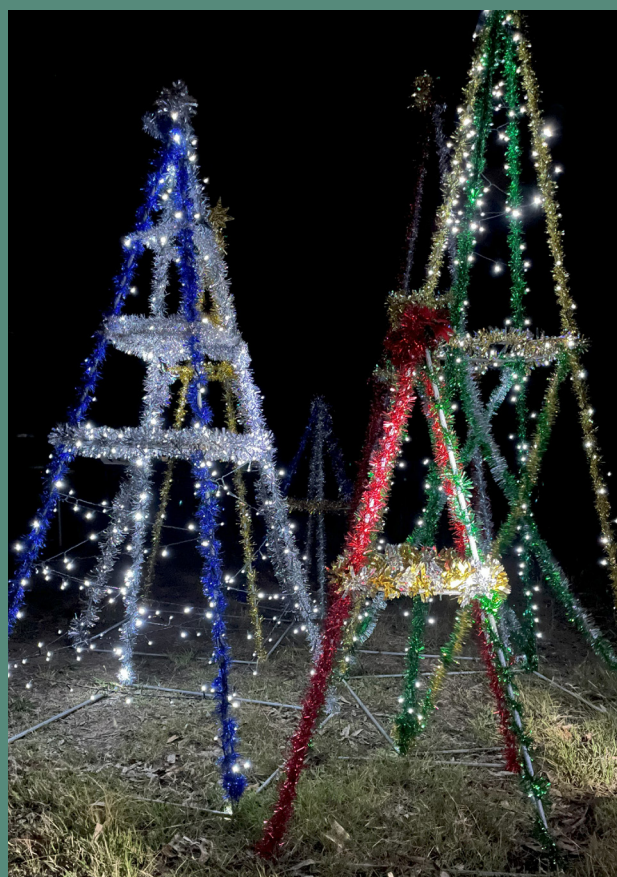
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NOTE FROM EDITORIAL TEAM



Welcome

We thank our contributors for their patience while we fine tune our procedures.

About us

The Bannockburn and District Newsletter is published by a volunteer committee comprising of: Stuart McCallum, Editor, Julia Makin, Design, Peta Mundine, Outreach to submitters and Jarrod King, Web support.

News and views

Appropriate contributions accompanied by the contributors name and contact details are most welcome. Please email contact@bannockburnnews.com.au.

Dates and deadlines

The newsletter is distributed on the second Wednesday of the month. All adverts and Copy for the Wed 12 March 2025 issue should be emailed to contact@bannockburnnews.com.au no later than February 26 2025.

Advertising

Advertising is a great way to let residents know about your business. Rates are as follows:

- 1/9 page: \$17.50
- 1/4 page: \$29.00
- 2/9 page: \$29.00
- 3/9 page: \$35.00
- 1/2 A4 page: \$47.00 (B/W) and \$88.0 (colour)
- Full A4 page: \$85.00 (B/W) and \$160 (colour)

Classifieds are free for small, personal notices from residents. Otherwise \$7.50. Community groups can have ¼ page ad for free. \$30 discount applied ½ and full page adverts for community groups.

Design

With thanks to Julia Makin from Sink or Swim Marketing, www.sinkorswimmarketing.com.au.

Web

Previous copies can be found online at bannockburnnews.com.au

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publishers. The publishers may edit or reject contributions and accept no responsibility for errors or omissions.

ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY GROUP

» The Bannockburn Community Planning Group comprises Bannockburn and District residents working towards making Bannockburn and District a better place to live.

Supported by Golden Plains Shire, as with other towns in the shire, we have developed a number of Priority Projects, one of which is this newsletter, a revival of the former Bannockburn and District Newsletter that Lyell Reeves edited and maintained until 2018.

Since our establishment in 2017, our Committee recognised the important role a newsletter plays in local area and community group communication as well as helping people to find local goods and services.

As a small volunteer group we encourage others to join us in serving the community. We wish to represent as wide a perspective as possible on issues within the shire. We will do that best with a broad membership.

Key achievements:

- A welcoming and Vibrant Bannockburn. \$2000. This is an extension of the work being done by Beautify Bannockburn and includes the Festive Street Decorations project.
- Community Newsletter for Bannockburn. \$3000.
- Local Program of activities and events. \$1300. this includes this newsletter.
- Marking our History and Heritage. \$2000. Helping to recognize our shorter and longer term history.
- Advocating to the shire for more greenery. More shade, more shaded paths more streetscaping and social interaction.
- Greening Bannockburn. \$200

- Advocacy. \$0 Advocating for better movement around Bannockburn Central. Safer and better traffic movement.
- Advocacy. \$0. Advocating for improved public transport connections with Bannockburn.
- Advocacy. \$1000. Advocating for Facilities to support Recreation vehicles in the town area.
- Advocacy. \$0. Safer pedestrian movements. More High Street Pedestrian crossings, particularly for all abilities, vehicles, scooters and prams.

Join the team

The community response to this revival has been so strong that we would welcome more people to the team.

We need help with accounting, promotion, graphics, and distribution. The March and subsequent editions will need to be delivered to suitable drop-off locations in, Inverleigh, Anakie, Teesdale, Shelford, Batesford, Lethbridge and Meredith. We have insurance to cover volunteer drivers.

While we only have resources to do a limited December distribution, the online version will be available free through our website and all in colour.

The March edition will be 3000 copies and also available free online through our website.



PROJECT SEED FUNDING OUTCOME

Project

- Public transport
- **Support Local Initiatives:**
FOBB Ironbark Arbour for Scouts & community in Bannockburn Bush.
- Town Development History
- Improve Road safety
- Recycling and Rubbish
- Town beautification
- Community spaces & bike paths
- Aquatic facilities
- **Community Connectedness:**
Events & Festivals

Seed funding

- Advocate
- \$1750
- Advocate
- Advocate
- \$500
- \$2000
- 1500
- Advocate
- \$1750

Outcome

- Still advocating
- Cost blown out to \$16,000 due to time delay and securing a builder. Also difficulty with site access
- Basic History Trail and a History Brochure
- Milton St speed hump.
- Bin placement thwarted. Supermarket started then stopped. We now have a 3rd bin.
- Tree planting on Milton St
- Conducted 4 community bike rides. Still advocating
- Nothing concrete yet
- Supported Bannockburn & District Arts after council funding cut. Supported rained out Full Moon Festival in Bannockburn Bush post COVID



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Bannockburn & District Probud Club

Venue: Bannockburn Cultural Centre

Venue Address: 27 High St, Bannockburn VIC 3331

Meetings held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month
at 9.30am – 12pm



We welcome new members

To find out more information contact:

Secretary Judith – 0447 621 776

Social Media Officer Linda – 0433 998 115

Email: bannockburndistrictprobus@gmail.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

» These articles are provided by local community groups within the Golden Plains Shire. If you wish to submit content for future editions, please email: contact@bannockburnnews.com.au

Christmas Sparkle Comes to Bannockburn. Inspired by the Romsey Main

Street Christmas Installation in the Macedon Shire, the Bannockburn Community Planning Group decided to install something similar in Bannockburn. They have started small with 6 trees made for them by the Bannockburn Men's Shed and lights around a few of the native trees in High Street. It is hoped that this is just the beginning and Bannockburn's Christmas display will increase each year.

The aim is to assemble a small group of enthusiastic Seasonal Decorators who would like to take on this project and really make Bannockburn sparkle next year.

If you are interested in volunteering and being a part of the Seasonal Decoration Team please email: contact@bannockburnnews.com.au

By Bannockburn Community Planning Group.

Four traditions to start this Christmas Season.

"Oh my goodness! I can't believe it is nearly Christmas again!" so I have been hearing. I can imagine for some, in this time of raised cost of living, it is even more alarming. With



this in mind, here are four types of traditions to start this season, which give meaning to the season, without adding to the cost-of-living burden.

1. The Giving Back Tradition

Donating our time by volunteering is a meaningful experience we can share with our partner or family. There are obvious benefits of doing something good for others. Volunteering together strengthens our connections, reinforces shared values, and helps recenter on things that truly matter.

Importantly, it is a hands-on way to model generosity for children if we have them. By the way, we need plenty of volunteers in our Inverleigh and Bannockburn Op Shops that serve our communities, so please contact us if you would like to be a volunteer in this way. Volunteering for a Christmas, community activity, or more regular availability is a great way to help us and our family build connected relationships.

2. The "Just for Us" Tradition

This time of year usually brings more social and work expectations than usual. Work end-of-year Christmas parties, neighbourhood gatherings, school events, family get-togethers, and gathering with various groups of friends, the list goes on. It may feel like our family relationships get neglected. Think about starting a new tradition making sure we are setting aside time for a date or holiday shopping; make a focus on family relationship time. Whatever we choose to do, make sure our connections stay strong during this hectic time.

3. The "Present over Presents" Tradition

Whether giving presents is important or less so in our families, one thing that can benefit most is traditions that are all about quality time, hanging out, and connecting.

article continues overleaf...

COMMUNITY NEWS

Maybe a family night, playing games, and where everyone shares what they are most thankful for during the year. The simple goal is for each of us being fully present with the others and enjoying each other's company.

4. The Tradition with a Twist

Christmas traditions are, for many of us, a big part of what make this so special. They meld what we valued in the past with the changes of the present.

Traditions often evolve because the family has grown, members move away, new relationships have inspired other traditions, not to mention those who are now gluten intolerant or vegans.

Perhaps instead of a traditional round-robin gift exchange, adopt a Chris Kringle tradition, or purchase presents from a quality Op Shop.

Acknowledging that not all families get on well for Christmas and conversations to change what has been done in the past are difficult. However, traditions are a big part of the festive season, be open to the situation of other family members about what we can manage to do accordingly to meet the circumstances. Perhaps these new traditions may become ones we carry out and adapt in the years to come.

Based on <https://www.prepare-enrich.com/blog/4-traditions-to-start-this-holiday-season/>

Prepare/Enrich is a low-cost programme we offer to explore relationship strength and growth areas in times of transition: preparing for a wedding, an addition to the family, change in career, approaching retirement, or just to enrich your relationship. Please contact me for more information.

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*The Revd
Dr Timothy
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Drum Horse
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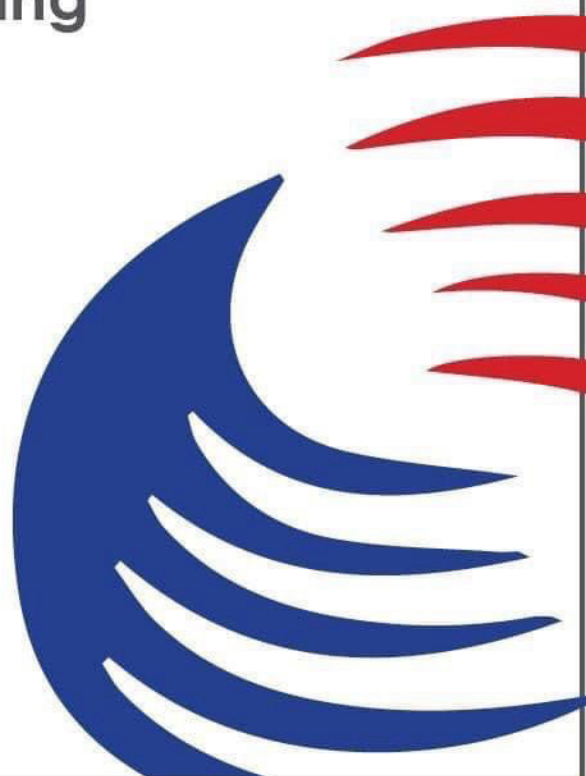
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BANNOCKBURN TENNIS CLUB



» A couple months ago Bannockburn Tennis Club celebrated their long and proud history with a large reunion of past and present players.

Over 100 people attended the event, enjoying morning tea and sharing stories and fond memories from their playing days. Lyle Stephens, who's 91 and featured in the first premiership photo from 1953 to 54 was in attendance.

We were also able to recognise and thank our life members and previous committee members for their contributions for paving the way for our club.

How to find us?

Bannockburn Tennis Club is at the Milton Street Sports Precinct, 134 Milton St.

To contact us email:

bannotc@gmail.com

The club welcomes new players of all ages and abilities. Rachael Le Maitre, Secretary

We have lots happening at the club!

This Summer season we have entered 5 junior and 4 senior teams.

The club offers a wide range of opportunities for tennis players including competition, senior and junior social hitting, coaching opportunities or just casual play.

We proudly manage a beautiful clubhouse and 6 Plexipave hard courts, 2 of which are under lights. The 4 courts behind the clubhouse are always open and accessible to the public.



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PEOPLE, PLACES & GROUPS

» First in a series about people, groups and organisations in Bannockburn

The Bannockburn Book Group was started 33 years ago by a group of young mums who were looking for an interesting and stimulating group for themselves as their children started school. Some of the original members are still there but now they are retired grandparents.

Like any group, membership waxes and wanes as personal needs change. I joined almost 9 years ago after I moved into the district. Initially, it was a way to meet people but now, having recently moved to Geelong, I will still travel to the meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month for 7.30 even though the drive home is late. Why?

I've found that the people in the group, women and the occasional man, of all ages, lifestyles and interests, bring a richness of ideas and outlooks. The books from the Council of Adult Education (CAE) provide the catalyst but ideas, sometimes conflicting, and often not something I've considered,

bring the stimulus. Ages vary so differing world views converge to provide richness. Our youngest member is due to have baby number two, so we are full circle with young mums.

So, what changed? After 70 plus years, the CAE decided to scrap the book club program at short notice. After the initial shock horror, the new version of the Bannockburn Book Group is taking shape ready for 2025.

For more information or to join our book club, please contact **Beth Kershaw 0438 911 576.**

by Marion Wilde.

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BANNOCKBURN GOLF CLUB



» As your local Golf Club, many things have happened since our last report in 2018. Most significantly, the transition from Sand Scrape Greens to fully Grassed Greens.

It has been well over 6 years since we last submitted an article to Bannockburn News and as such it is great to have 'our' local newsletter back in circulation. It has been sadly missed by us as a club, and we are sure many other individuals, groups and businesses. Welcome back!

This transition from Sand Scrape Greens to fully Grassed Greens started as soon as we played our last Sand Scrape Competition on 2 July 2022 after 50+ years on our course, the third course at Bannockburn since the first course was established ¼ mile west of the township. We moved to our current site in 1969 and over the following years have gradually developed the course to what we have today.

In August 2021, and following a very generous donation by a benefactor, Pacific Coast Designs was appointed to undertake the development of Course Master Plan and the detailed greens design to implement this plan. In summary, the Pacific Coast Design team concluded that the Golf Course at the Bannockburn Golf Club was a wonderful golfing experience, and the inclusion of grass greens would only improve the golf on offer.

The new green designs will see the course both be a fun and strategically stimulating test for golfers of all skill levels whilst retaining a balanced challenge.

With the transition from Sand Scrapes to Grass Greens, we realised that the long-term upkeep of the course also needed to be reviewed. With that review, we advertised and eventually employed David Johnston as our new Course Superintendent, our first ever full-time employee.

David's career began whilst he was living over in the UK in his late teens when he started as a summer casual greenkeeper at The Belfry Golf Club. Moving to Victoria on his return, he started at Barwon Heads Golf Club and then at 13th Beach Golf Club before taking up a position with the Metropolitan Golf Club in Melbourne. Moving back to Geelong, he spent another 2 years back at 13th Beach before taking up his position as the Course Superintendent here at Bannockburn. We are extremely lucky to have such an experienced professional leading a dedicated team of volunteers who look after our course and new greens.

BANNOCKBURN WOMEN'S OPEN RESULTS

Heather Phillips Memorial Trophy (Par) – Monday 11 November 2024

Winner – Melanie Barter, Beeac Golf Club 47 pts

A Grade Winner – Judy Scarrott, Bellarine Lakes Golf Club 37 pts

A Grade Runner Up – Alison Pfarrer, Bannockburn Golf Club 36 pts

B Grade Winner – Melanie Barter, Beeac Golf Club 47 pts

B Grade Runner Up – Ellen Jennings, Bannockburn Golf Club 40 pts

Noel Tanner Silver Salver (Par) – Monday 11 November 2024

Winners – Beeac Golf Club
Aggregate Score 110 pts

BANNOCKBURN MEN'S OPEN RESULTS

Norm Carroll Memorial Trophy (4 Ball Better Ball) Friday 22 November 2024

Winners – Andrew and Jordan Richards, Bannockburn Golf Club + 8

Runners up – Glenn Styles & Michael Webster, Clifton Springs Golf Club - + 6 CB

3rd – Vince Drew & Marty Pfarrer – Bannockburn Golf Club +6 CB

Murray Satchell & Peter Moore, Bannockburn Golf Club - + 6 CB

Marika Saisai, Barooga Golf Club & Michael Jochum, Bannockburn Golf Club +6

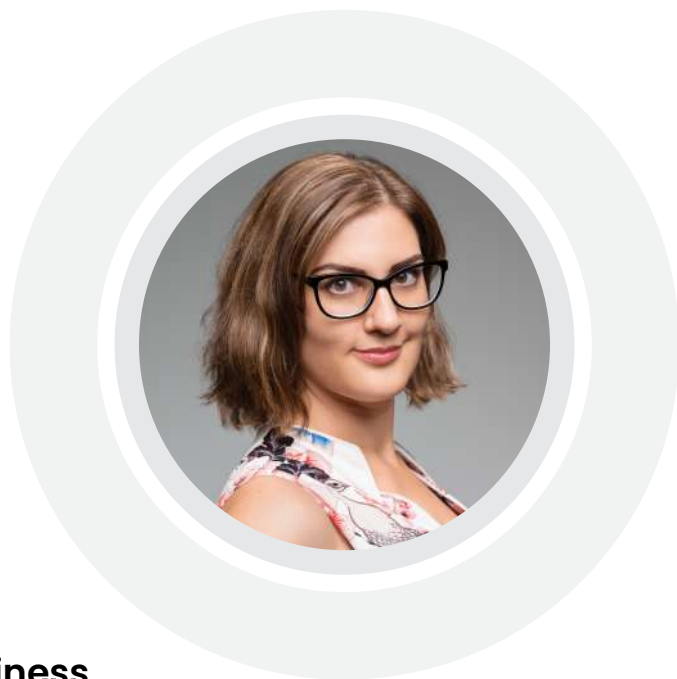
Annual Open Tournament (Stroke) – Saturday 23 November 2024

Open Champion and A Grade Gross Winner – Peter Thompson, Barwon Valley Golf Club 76*

*Following a play-off with Brian Spalding, Koorringal Golf Club.

article continues overleaf...

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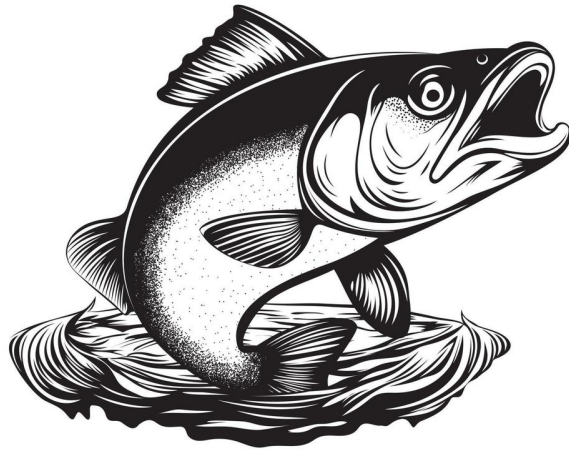
Attention Golden Plains Shire business owners! Ready to make waves with your business? Join Julia Makin, Certified Practising Marketer and founder of the digital marketing agency Sink or Swim Marketing, for a free one hour Business Tune-Up session (normally 30 minutes). This expert session is designed to inspire action and help your business ride the waves to success. Call 0411 873 748 or email support@sinkorswimmarketing.com.au

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COMMUNITY NEWS



B Grade Gross – Greg Armstrong,
Bannockburn Golf Club 83

C Grade Gross – Ken LeMaitre,
Bannockburn Golf Club 86

D Grade Gross – Phillip Bowstead,
Bannockburn Golf Club 91

A Grade Nett – Brian Spalding,
Koorinal Golf Club 76/8/68

B Grade Nett – Martin Pfarrer,
Bannockburn Golf Club 79/12/67

C Grade Nett – Lionel Sexton,
Bannockburn Golf Club 84/16/68

D Grade Nett – Peter Borg,
Bannockburn Golf Club 86/24/62

Mixed 4 Person Ambrose –
Sunday 24 November 2024

Winners Best Gross – Mick
Brown, Mandy Hay, Clint Kitchen &
Andrew Green

Winners Best Nett – Zane Carroll,
Noah Carroll, Rhys Campbell &
Matthew Campbell

Runner Up Nett – Michael
Jochum, Marika Saisai, Karl
Jochum & David Johnson

Bannockburn Angling Club Inc.

Our club, established in 1898, welcomes new members for monthly fishing outings catering to all interests. With 80 senior and 40 junior members, we promote catch and release. Catches can be weighed, measured, photographed, and recorded on club Weigh-in Cards.

For more information, contact
Peter Levy at:

peterellenlevy@outlook.com M
0417 993 887.

Dolphins Basketball Club

Dolphins Basketball Club is a volunteer-run, not-for-profit organization offering Golden Plains athletes the chance to compete in Geelong United Basketball competitions. The club fosters community and youth engagement with a strong, family-friendly atmosphere.

We focus on making basketball enjoyable while developing players' basketball, athletic, and social skills. The club includes junior and senior men's and women's teams, from beginners to high-performance athletes. Programs include:

- Basketball Victoria's Aussie Hoops for young children
- Advanced programs for high-achieving juniors
- Opportunities to represent Geelong in the Victorian Junior Basketball League

Training is held at Bannockburn P12 College. For more information, contact:

<https://dolphinsbasketball.org.au/>

Club President Vince Gandolfo: 0411 328 277

president@dolphinsbasketball.org.au

Catholic Parish of Merdith Mass Times (December 2024)

- Winchelsea: St. John the Baptist @ 6pm Sat. Dec. 21, 22
- Anakie: St. Brigid @ 9am Sun. Dec. 22
- Meredith: St. Joseph @ 9am Sun. Dec. 29
- Bannockburn: St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. 22, 2

Mass Christmas Eve

- Bannockburn: 6.00pm
- Meredith: 9.00pm

Mass Christmas Day

- Winchelsea: 9.00am
- Anakie: 9.00am
- Bannockburn: 11am

New Year's Day

- Meredith: 11am Mary, Holy Mother of God

Article continues overleaf...

COMMUNITY NEWS

Catholic Parish of Merdith Mass Times (January 2025)

- Winchelsea: St John the Baptist @ 6pm Sat Jan 4, 11, 18, 25
- Anakie: St. Brigid @ 9am Sun. Jan 5, 19
- Meredith: St. Joseph @ 9am Sun. JAN. 12 & 11am on Jan 26.
- Bannockburn – St. Mary MacKillop @ 11am Sun. Jan 5, 12, 19 & 9am on Jan 26.
- Inverleigh – Sacred Heart @ 4pm Sun. Jan 19.

Bannockburn Garden Club

Are you a Garden lover who enjoys visiting local and surrounding gardens? The Bannockburn and District Gardening Club Inc. might be just what you are looking for. The gardening Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month except in December.

We do not have boring meetings, a small committee work out an agenda and we meet at the carpark at the rear of the library and car pool to our venue. You can find us on Facebook at Bannockburn & District Gardening Club Inc.

If you would like further information please call Freda on 0414 385 886.

Maude-Meredith Landcare Group Annual Rabbit Baiting (Feb - Mar 25)

Although they may look cute, the European rabbit is one of the most destructive environmental and agricultural animal pests

in Australia. Rabbits not only damage gardens but pose a significant threat to biodiversity and agricultural production. Rabbits graze on native vegetation, crops and pastures, preventing seedlings from regenerating and reducing crop yields, while also competing for feed with livestock and native wildlife. Their indiscriminate browsing and digging reduces vegetation cover, undermines buildings and contributes to soil erosion and stream pollution.

The annual Maude Meredith and Districts Landcare Group annual rabbit baiting program will again run in February – and March 2025. The baiting program uses Pindone-poisoned carrots. Pindone, an anticoagulant that reduces blood-clotting, is regarded as one of the most humane ways to control rabbits. The Pindone is mixed with fresh carrots and then spread in a trail on disturbed ground either manually or mechanically for three nights, spaced three days apart. As Pindone is a cumulative poison it is imperative that all three feeds are carried out on the carrot collection days. There is an effective antidote to Pindone which reduces the risk to non-target animals.

In 2025 baited carrots will be available for collection in Maude between 2–4 pm on Friday 28th February, Monday 3rd March and Thursday 6th March. Carrots can be ordered in quantities of 5kg, 10kg or 20kg.

Everyone is welcome to take part in the baiting program, however the poisoned carrots must be ordered by Friday 21 February 2025. More information about the program, as well as a link to the online order form is available on the Maude Meredith and Districts Facebook page.

For any queries, please contact Laura Hollingsworth: maudemeredithlandcare@gmail.com or Elaine Johns: Ph. 0418 173 730 or 52 819395. Further information about baiting and developing an effective rabbit control program is also available from the Victorian Rabbit Action Network: <https://vran.com.au/>

Article by Maude Meredith and Districts Landcare Group.

Noeline Trevor Creators and Craft Market

We would like to extend our gratitude to the stall holders and the surrounding community who attended the Creators & Craft market at Bannockburn yesterday. Despite overnight rain, the weather cleared by 8:30 am, resulting in a warm and humid day without sunlight, which was fortunate as it would have been uncomfortably hot otherwise.

The event featured 40 stalls, live music performed by BLUE MARI, a barbeque operated by the GOLDEN PLAINS SOCCER CLUB, demonstrations from BOLD HEARTS BELLY DANCERS and LEOPOLD LACE LADIES, and service from CRUZIN COFFEE, our local mobile coffee van.

Thank you for your support of our local creators and crafters. If you are interested in participating in the next market on May 4th (held twice a year), please contact me at 0427923934 to be included in the March mail-out.

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and safe travels during the holidays.

Best regards, Noeline.



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(Opposite Bannockburn police station)**

BANNOCKBURN WILDLIFE RESCUE

» Bannockburn Wildlife Rescue works tirelessly behind the scenes to assist sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife in our region—and they need your support!

Operating in a rural area, the small group of dedicated volunteers; based mostly in Bannockburn, Teesdale, Lethbridge, She Oaks, Maude, and Anakie; travel hundreds of kilometres each week to help animals in need. Unfortunately, not every call results in a successful rescue. Volunteers are also tasked with checking, relocating, and marking deceased wildlife, taking injured animals to the vet, transporting orphaned animals to carers, and even euthanizing macropods on-site when necessary.



In just six months, the team managed 509 macropod cases—an increase from 27 in December '23 to 168 in May '24—without even accounting for the numerous incidents that go unreported.

According to organiser Angela Sumner, many of these cases were discovered when a volunteer happened to be in the right place at the right time, but the team also handles a wide range of other wildlife

cases, including birds, possums, lizards, and koalas. Angela stresses the importance of raising awareness among drivers: "When wildlife is hit by a vehicle, it's crucial to stop and check for injuries. It's rare that kangaroos or wallabies are unhurt after being struck—often, we find them days or weeks later, slowly dying from untreated injuries. A simple phone call for help can make all the difference."

Now a registered not-for-profit with charity status pending, Bannockburn Wildlife Rescue continues to raise funds through donations and grants to support the volunteers. Angela is also seeking funding to provide firearms training and equipment for a local volunteer to safely tranquilise animals when needed.

Donations are greatly appreciated.

Name: BANNOCKBURN WILDLIFE RESCUE LTD
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Banno Life



THE HISTORY OF OUR DISTRICT

» The gaol was built of Lethbridge stone (Clement Nash quarries), in 1860 by Thomas Brooking & Company at a cost of 468 pounds 15 shillings to complement the police station.

When the station closed the lock-up was moved to Bannockburn in 1869 at a cost of 176 pound 12 shillings and four pence, each stone having been previously numbered by the contractors, Trevenna and Gubby. Contrary to popular belief, Historian (Bill Morrow) at the Geelong Historical Records Centre (now the Geelong Heritage Centre), stated that the building was never used for the safe keeping of gold overnight. It was used to hold prisoners overnight awaiting trial before the Police Magistrate (Leigh Road Court of Petty Sessions).

McGillivray, Eric A, The Heritage of Lethbridge, Drysdale : Neptune Press, 1996



Victorian Heritage Database

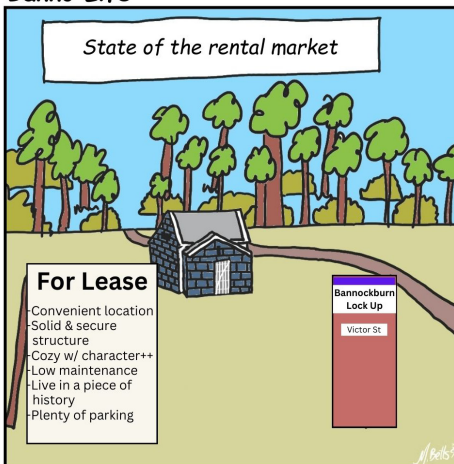
The former lock up, Victor Street, Bannockburn, has significance as a rare surviving example of a 19th century bluestone lock up and a physical legacy of early law enforcement in the Golden Plains Shire. Initially built at Lethbridge in 1860 and dismantled and relocated to its present site in 1869, the austere building is a representative example of standard Public Works Department design as expressed in the gabled forms clad in slate, square coursed basalt wall construction (with each block being numbered), moulded timber bargeboards, broad eaves, small window openings with iron security grilles, narrow ventilation openings in the gable ends and the iron grille gate in the front porch. Internally, the original function of confinement and imprisonment is reflected in

the rudimentary and intact fabric, including the cobbled stone porch floor, timber-lined ceilings, timber floors to the cells, solid vertically boarded cell doors and white-washed stone walls. The relocation of the building to its current site has not diminished its significance. The lock up functioned on the existing site for almost one hundred years. It is in good condition and is predominantly intact.

The former lock up at Bannockburn is socially significant (Practice Note Criterion G) as a symbol of 19th century law and order in the town. While no longer functioning for its original purpose, the lock up is recognised and valued as a tangible link to the town's public infrastructure heritage.

Article originally written by Dianne Hughes and is published here with permission.

Banno Life



BANNOCKBURN & DISTRICT LIONS CLUB



» Bannockburn & Districts Lions Club are dedicated to making our community a better place to live, work and grow.

With like-minded people we provide real change and create opportunities in our communities. If you attend the monthly Golden Plains Farmers Market you will see us cooking our famous sausages. This monthly initiative allows us to raise funds that go straight back into the community.

Recently we have assisted with vision screening sessions at primary schools and leisure centres in conjunction with Lions Eye Health Program Australia.

<https://lehp.org.au/>

In May 2024 we supported The Lions V Districts Cancer Foundation, conducting free skin cancer checks. With a fully booked schedule there were 102 screenings with 25 referrals.

The community donated \$326 and our club donated \$500 to the Foundation. It is estimated that our efforts over the weekend put \$28,000 worth of value into the community!

Last month we sponsored the Peace Poster competition for young people in Bannockburn, which was delivered by Firefly Wellbeing.

We are always on the lookout for new members as well as worthy causes in the community to support.

If you would like more information, interested in joining or have a worthy cause, please email bannockburn.vic@lions.org.au.

Speak to us at the Golden Plains Farmers Market or visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/BannockburnAndDistrictLionsClub>



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FRIENDS OF BANNOCKBURN BUSH LANDCARE GROUP

» We live in a complex world. While there is much that some of us will never understand about Information Technology, Economics, Politics, Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry, we really need to understand Biology because we are part of our planet's ecosystems.

Small is crucial

Life at ground level in the Inverleigh Nature Conservation Reserve.

*Midst miniature mosses and stone
Are creatures which lack even bones,
The hungry crustacean,
A finny relation And beasts from
hot and cold zones.*

*Oh! Come out exploring with me!
Such wonders you surely will see!
With a good microscope,
And a soul full of hope
You'll enjoy this biology!"*

Ada Jackson M.Sc. In Sea Shore, Swamp and Bush. Exploring nature's mysteries. 1941.

We rely on the healthy functioning of what we call 'Ecosystem Services', without which, life on Earth would not be possible. Bees pollinate our fruit crops, flood water is recycled as clean rain by oceans and forests, plants provide us with oxygen to breathe and remove carbon dioxide, returning it as sugars, starch and fibres.

Imagine what the world would be like if dead things did not break down! We depend on a succession of smaller and smaller

organisms to shred, eat, digest, break down and excrete dead material. These recyclers include large and small animals, insects, worms, ants, crustacea, fungi, mosses, lichens, bacteria and algae. The building blocks of living things, the flesh, proteins, fats and fibres are broken down into forms that can be taken up by plants and then animals to produce new food. Anyone who has made compost from their kitchen waste will be appreciative of this process which worms and microbes carry out for free.

In our local Grassy Woodlands, getting down on your knees and looking for the small things that are the drivers of ecosystems can be a real eye-opener.

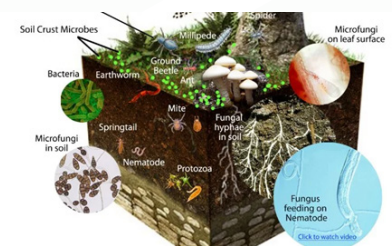
In the Inverleigh Nature Conservation Reserve, the surface layer will usually consist of several species of grass, sundews, mosses, toadstools, mushrooms, lichens, and groundcover plants such as Pigface, Rock Fern, Saloop, Nodding Saltbush, Pink Bindweed, Kidney weed, Stinking Pennywort, Lilies and Orchids, Common Raspwort, Riceflower and Cranberry Heath. If you look carefully, you will also notice pellets of poo or scats from kangaroos, wallabies and rabbits, which will be breaking down to feed these plants.

Beneath this surface layer, but visible only with a microscope are fungi and bacteria busily breaking down any detritus into plant fertilizer to complete the recycling process.

If you can find a rotting stump or log, look carefully at what is happening. Insects are chewing through it, fungi are growing in and on it, and bacteria are reducing complex chemicals to simpler building blocks to be taken

up by plant roots to make new wood.

The trees and larger flowering plants may be things that catch our eye, but down below, it is the small things that make it all these possible.

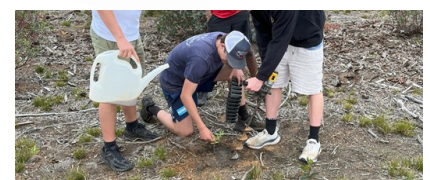


Bannockburn Bush Activity Report

On Monday 25 November FOBB was able to take a group of enthusiastic Geelong Grammar Students doing citizenship activities, on a tour of the bush which included chipping out Blanket Weed at the tip site and doing a delayed tree-planting in the area we plan to transform from a Logged Sugar Gum coupe into a grassy eucalypt woodland. Another project temporarily blocked by WREN.

FOBB is now a full Landcare Group and a supporter of the Geelong Landcare Network

By Stuart McCallum
Friends of Bannockburn Bush



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locals, helping locals - We've got what you need to get the job done

BRUCE CREEK LANDCARE



» Bruce's Creek Landcare Group Inc are bunch of nature-loving volunteers on a mission to promote, protect, and improve our great outdoors.

Our catchment area includes Bannockburn, Lethbridge, Murgheboluc and Teesdale.

And we're always on the lookout for new members - all ages and abilities welcome!

FOur group is reactivating after a bit of a hiatus. Thanks to a generous Community Strengthening Grant from the Golden Plains Shire Council, we are planning to purchase some equipment and run several events in 2025, based on the feedback we received from a recent survey of local residents. The activities that received most votes from the community include the following:

Tree planting – come along and help us revegetate public spaces in our local community.

We will provide the seedlings and equipment; we just need some help with getting plants in the ground. Tree planting is always a fun and satisfying way of reconnecting with nature, and is very family friendly.

Seed collection and propagation workshop

– this workshop will teach hands on skills to be able to identify local plants, collect and store the seeds, and then grow them up into your own seedlings. We will be having a field trip with our experts who will help you collect seeds, and a discussion about best methods of seed propagation.

Nest box building – the importance of providing nesting habitat for our native birds and animal species is often overlooked. Adding nest boxes on your property can help encourage these species to make their home at your place! In this workshop we will provide the materials and equipment, assistance with construction, and information about installation. For this workshop, participants will be charged a small fee to go towards the cost of materials, and you'll take home your very own nestbox!

Landscaping for bushfire – as residents of rural areas, bushfire preparedness is always on our minds. This workshop will discuss the impacts of garden design and plant selection on the safety and survivability of our homes and loved ones during bushfire. With the assistance of the Bannockburn fire brigade, the workshop will include a presentation followed by a practical planting session.

If you'd like to get involved with any of our group's activities, scan the QR code below to find links to our Facebook page, online membership sign up form and more. We would love to see some new faces at our events next year!

By Anita Taylor for Bruce's Creek Landcare Group.



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BATESFORS, FYANSFORD, STONEHAVEN LANDCARE

» Our group has been working together for over 20 years, (some of us for longer), often with the support of the Shire of Golden Plains, the City of Greater Geelong and the Geelong Landcare Network.

Our aim is to protect, restore and manage Batesford's valuable environmental assets, especially the Moorabool River and environs, and preserve Batesford's 'sense of place'. Over these years our Landcare Group has worked with local Councils planting native trees and shrub understory for animal habitat and plant and animal biodiversity, and creating simple walking tracks where people can enjoy the natural world and removing weeds and invasive pests, whether they be plants or animals. We also have a weekly program working with schools, exposing them to the values and practical ways of caring for nature and introducing the next generation to the importance of doing this work.

We inform the local community of the work we do and encourage them to join with us in appreciating and caring for indigenous flora and fauna in Batesford's Reserves, as well nature on their own properties. We encourage people to join in working bees or events like National Tree Day, volunteer to assist with our weekly schools program, join a nest box building workshop, conduct citizen science activities in the Moorabool River, formally

research and document cultural values and the diverse and valuable native flora and fauna in the area, alert locals to the destruction that invasive species such as cats and foxes have on indigenous wildlife, and get involved with rabbit and weed control on their properties.

It is a combined effort by our small group, all of us contributing our passion, skills and interest. Along the way we have learned so much more about the importance of preserving and improving the habitat for Australian plants and animals, insects and reptiles and all living things. Because Australia has mainly an urban population living in and around major cities, made up of people from all over the world, there is little understanding of how we should all be looking after the Australia's native wildlife and fragile ecosystem. Urban sprawl is becoming a major problem for native animals. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-11-24/werribee-zoo-injured-wildlife-urban-sprawl-melb-geelong/104614358>

We are keen to ensure that what we have achieved in Batesford is maintained and expanded into the future along our beautiful Moorabool River, its biodiversity corridor and in the adjacent reserves, preserving, maintaining and building connections and corridors between the valuable ecosystems in the region. All life is interconnected and interdependent, so it is also in the self-interest of humanity to preserve biodiverse ecosystems and protect the ecosphere, (air, land and water), a razor thin shield where the interplay

of the climatic system and biological diversity determine its effectiveness and resilience.

We encourage you to contact us and find out more about our work. Our members and friends have found also that sharing any volunteer work and spreading the load means that it's not an onerous commitment and it's also a pleasant way to connect with others in the community. Let's hope that Batesford will benefit from a continuing interest in preserving its sense of place and healthy, biodiverse and connected ecosystems for future generations in our beautiful natural environment. Check out our website where there is plenty of further information. www.bfslandcare.org

Article by Felicity Spear - Secretary BFS Landcare.





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GARDENING TIPS AND TRICKS

» When I asked what gardening topics people wanted to read about – Growing AVOCADOS was top of the list.

When I asked what gardening topics people wanted to read about – Growing AVOCADOS was top of the list.

I have personally grown them successfully at two properties in Banno, on very different soils. The first was sloped ground that tended to be very dry and free draining, with a rock base and shale chunks found everywhere, with little topsoil (the type of soil you generally see scrubby Aussie bushland on (think - soil like Steiglitz). The other garden, was an open block with a newly built house on Banno's famous cracking clay = a layer of rock deep under an impenetrable depth of slimy cracking clay that swells into a sodden sludge that sticks to your boots in winter because there is absolutely no topsoil to keep it off your boots, then it dries out and forms cracks so big you could lose your toddler in them over summer. But me being me, I grew avocados on both.

Avocados are a popular nutritious fruit that, apart from being the perfect baby food, are high in vitamin C, full of anti-oxidants, great for your skin and a good source of beneficial mono-unsaturated fats and folic acid.

The avocado tree is a large, shady evergreen tree that may be pruned

as little or as much as you require. They have a gentle weeping habit with lush, glossy, green foliage that makes them a beautiful garden addition if you're able to get it past the first five years where they are most susceptible.

Avocados are naturally a Sub-Tropical understory tree that grows in forests, so it is not usually in direct sunlight all day, so if your garden has afternoon shade – rejoice by planting an Avo. They grow well in NSW up to Qld along the coastline where good rains occur over summer and soak deep into forest litter (holding soil moisture and maintaining humidity).

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To grow an Avo successfully here – you need these things:

- Protection from burning sun and freezing frosts while small,

- Rich, well-drained soil with a slightly acidic to neutral PH ranging from 5.5 to 7.
- Adequate water (mainly in the growing season of summer).
- Enough warmth/heat to encourage flowering and fruit ripening.

So, to grow an Avo, you need to create a microclimate that matches those conditions. Once you've done that, Avocado's don't need a lot of extra work – just good placement when planted, plenty of summer water and a few buckets of compost each year.

I created a microclimate by building a 70% shade cloth structure about 2 m tall, with shade cloth on the top as well as the south east and west sides and was open to the N. This protected the trees from the hot summer sun and the cold winter winds and helped hold in deep layers of compost and hay I added to create a "forest floor" effect, these deep layers meant my trees were planted into a large mound of free draining, nutrient rich soil, not dug into the heavy clay.

If you have heavy clay, I recommend large doses of gypsum and creating soil on top of the clay to create garden beds or tree planting locations. (note – clay is often a nutrient rich soil that is great for moisture retention. What it lacks, is soil porosity to allow plant roots to breath, but over years of building up on top of it with manures and hays, the earthworms and soil

micro-organisms will help you turn it into an absolute garden blessing).

On our large block I also planted rows of windbreak trees to the S, E & W to slow down winds and build habitat. But you can plant your Avo's on the North side of a building or fence so that the building slows down the cold southerlies and acts as a heat sink, just remember you want a warm northerly aspect and protection on the south, then add a bit of shade to protect from HOT sun and Freezing Frosts until the trees are tall enough to not be affected by

Avocado cultivars – what sort should I grow???

Avocado are categorised as A type or B type. But are partially self-fertile meaning they should set some fruit on their own if you only have room for 1 tree, but your yield will increase if you have one of each A and B (you can plant two trees very close together if you're short on space – they will compete with each other and effectively reduce the overall size of both trees, but trees grow like this in nature all the time).

There are many varieties to choose from but my pick for cooler areas are Hass (A) and Bacon (B).

Hass is an A Type and is the most popular variety and great in cooler climates. A grafted tree can fruit after 4 years. These trees are very large, up to 10 metres tall by 6 metres wide (in perfect conditions – remember that you can prune them to the size you want). They fruit between September and January with a sweet nutty flavour when ripe. The fruit is large, oval shaped with a bumpy texture

and dark green skin ripening to brown. The fruit needs to be picked in this time because it doesn't ripen on the tree. It will ripen once it has been picked within a week or 2, so pick a few each week and line them up in order so you know which one to use next.

Lamb Hass is also an A Type cultivar and is a newer more improved variety which is Semi-Dwarf growing up to 5 Metres tall and can be easily kept pruned to 3 metres. It also fruits within 4 years. The large fruit has a rich nutty flavour. This tree has the longest harvest time as, when mature, the fruit can store on the tree for up to 10 months. Harvest from November onwards.

Bacon Avocado is a B Type and probably the best cold tolerant variety! A grafted variety can fruit after 4 years. It has medium fruit which has a lighter taste. Unlike the Hass, the fruit falls off the tree once it ripens. It has light brown skin which is easy to peel.

It grows to 6 metres high and 4 metres wide and fruits between June and July.

How long before my avocado has fruit?

For a grafted tree you should start getting fruit 3 to 4 years after planting, not many at first, but by 7 years you should be harvesting a lot of fruit. For a seedling grown tree, it can take between 5 and 13 years before fruiting commences.

Growing Avo's from seed can be a great activity with the kids, and you'll often find them growing in the compost.

Why not give it a go?

"To plant a tree is to have hope for the future"

Happy Gardening all,

Article by Chelle

"

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NEWS FROM DR SARAH MANSFIELD

» First thing's first: welcome back Bannockburn News! Local publications are crucial platforms for informing, connecting and celebrating regional and rural communities. I'm very honoured to be contributing to this first revived edition.

My name is Sarah Mansfield. Living on Wadawurrung country in Geelong with my partner, 2 kids, 6 hens, and cat, I'm a GP, former councillor, cricket fanatic, and Member for Western Victoria in the Legislative Council.

As a doctor, I saw that so much of what affects people's health can't be fixed in a doctor's clinic. Access to healthcare and dental care is too often determined by someone's postcode and income, not their need. And many of the things making people sick has little to do with access to healthcare at all - it's related to our social and physical environment.

Like access to public and active transport, which is at best poor and in many cases non-existent in rural and regional areas. This entrenches car dependence and isolates people who cannot drive, limiting their access to work, education and services. Sitting in congestion isn't good for our physical or mental health and adds to air pollution.

It's hard to address any other health issue if you don't have safe and secure housing, which can be particularly hard to find in regional Victoria. The housing affordability crisis is driving people into poverty, out of their communities, and impacting small businesses and services in regional areas who cannot attract workers.

There are a growing number of households in our region who also can't afford to put food on the table, let alone good quality nutritious food. This has obvious impacts on physical health, but it also impacts mental health and the ability to engage in work and education.

Our health is intimately linked to that of the environment. With climate change and loss of nature, there are a whole range of health impacts that people are experiencing. This is something regional communities are on the front line of - we are the most exposed to severe weather events, drought, and changes to our landscapes.

A report released by the Victorian Greens has revealed struggling regional communities want state government action on low incomes, better access to healthcare, and affordable food and housing as ways to relieve growing cost-of-living pressures.

Energy bills were confirmed as the most significant contributor to cost-of-living pressures from respondents, followed closely by the cost of food.

Accessing healthcare proved to be one of the biggest casualties of

the cost-of-living crisis for people in the regions, with over half of respondents putting health needs aside because

they simply can't afford a visit to the dentist or doctor.

These are all issues that governments can and must do more to address. They are the reason I decided to get involved in politics, and are what I've been focussed on in my work in parliament. For example, I'm proud to say that a recent parliamentary inquiry into food security was the result of a motion I introduced to the parliament. The inquiry resulted in a comprehensive report that the government must respond to.

It is an extraordinary privilege to be in parliament, and a responsibility I don't take lightly.

There is so much more to be done to build healthier and more sustainable communities, and I will continue to advocate for better public and active transport, affordable housing and food security, accessible health and dental care, and protecting our incredible environment for future generations to enjoy.

I love hearing from people in my community. You can get in touch by emailing me at: sarah.mansfield@parliament.vic.gov.au

**Article by Dr Sarah Mansfield
Deputy Leader Victorian Greens
Member for Western Victoria.**

TERM ONE 2025 TIMETABLE

3rd February - 4th April 2025 (9 weeks)

PROGRAM	AGE	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	FEES
EdGym	12mths - 4yrs			9:30-10:15am		9:30 - 10:15am	\$166.50 Term Fee
Soft Play	0 - 5yrs			11am-11:45am			\$12/child
GymSafe 1/2	5 - 6 years				4pm - 5pm	4pm - 5pm	\$175.50 Term Fee
GymSafe 3/4	7 - 8 years				5:10-6:10pm		\$175.50 Term Fee
GymSafe 5/6	8 - 12 years				6:20-7:20pm	5:10-6:10pm	\$175.50 Term Fee
IntroGym	4 - 5 years					Expressions of Interest	\$175.50 Term Fee
Net Set Go Netball	6 - 10 years		4:30-5:30pm				\$144.00 Term Fee
Junior Go Netball Comp	Under 12s	4:10 - 5pm					\$12.00 Per Player
Ladies Netball Comp	16+		7pm - 9pm				\$12.00 Per Player
Aussie Slammers	5 - 9 years		4pm- 5pm				\$144.00 Term Fee
Junior Drop in B'ball	6 - 16 years		5pm - 6pm				\$8.00 Per Player
Senior Drop in B'ball	16+				7:30-9:30pm		\$8.00 Per Player
Geelong United B'ball	All Ages	5pm -10pm		4pm - 10pm			GUB Fees
Rookie Sports - Goldfish	3 - 5 years	9:15 - 10am			9:15 - 10am		\$144.00 Term Fee
Rookie Sports - Sharks	3 - 5 years	10:15- 11am			Expressions of Interest		\$144.00 Term Fee
Indoor Soccer	Junior					Expression of Interest	
Soft Tennis	50+	10am-11:30am				10am-11:30am	See Reception
Pickleball	All Ages			Expressions of Interest			\$8.00 Per Player
Casual Shoot	All Ages	Contact Reception for availability					\$8.00 Per Player
Kyokushin Karate	Jnr & Snr				5:45-7:45pm		See Reception

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**BANNOCKBURN & DISTRICT
GRANTS**

B&DG is a community company established for the benefit of every not for profit organisation based in our local area. We receive dividends from the Bendigo Bank and distribute these funds via grants and sponsorships into the community.

We have 4 Grant Rounds every year.

March, May, August & November.

For further information:

Website: bannockburndistrictgrants.com.au
Bendigo Bank: 5281 1990
Email: 19118@bendigoadelaide.com.au

Are you retired or semi-retired?

Are you 60 or over?

If you are ...

....then you may be interested in our group.



A social Men's group

meeting in Bannockburn twice a month:

***Club meeting (Meal \$25) in Cultural Centre
6 - 9pm First Tuesday each Month.**

***Bus Trip from Bannockburn Cultural Centre
to various destinations! \$10 p.p.**

9am to 4:30pm 3rd Tuesday of the month

Contacts : Rod McKenzie: 0408 527 704

Murray McMillan: 0408 036 783

Keith Burton: 0409 439 831

GNARLY MARLEY MOMENTS IN BANNO LIFE

» We welcome Bannockburn's own gnarly comic, Marleise Betts.

To the Banno teens
Who are losing sleep
About friendships
Group chats
And clothes

People can be mean
Who were once in your team
And it hurts
When they turn on you
Or split

I want you to know
That these issues which seem close
Will one day
Feel so far
Far away

The people that may mean
To you everything
May one day
Be on a much
Different path

And you can choose to rise
Above the gloom and the lies
And succeed
No matter what
You have seen

Then, in many years to come
You will know that you have won
Because these days
That you are living
Right now

They won't mean a thing
But will allow you to sing
About what
Taught you most
As you grew

So, please sleep well tonight
And keep up the good fight
To be the best
That you can
Every day

Woolies carpark

With fear in my heart
I jump into my car
We're out of milk
(And I can't walk too far)

So, I drive down the road
Grimacing as I go
Until I get to the
Woolies Carpark

My car hardly fits
So, I go over the line a bit
And force another car to reverse
(While I sit)

I'm sweating by now
Rude drivers swearing loud
And there are people walking
Where I need to drive

Where's a path for them to walk?
Quick, get me some chalk
Nope, no room for us
Or for them

So, I honk, and I groan
As I sit (in my throne)
While people ignore me
And scroll on their phone

I finally find a spot
And I get out all hot
And bothered
(When I just wanted milk)

I rush right in
Say 'hello' to Helen and to Jim
Grab my milk
And then pay, nice and quick

Rush back out to my spot
With the milk that I got
Start my car to get home
Once again

Curse the space behind the gates
That is going to waste
With piles of dirt and
Stationary equipment

Drive over the curb
Wait until I can turn
Out the in, or maybe
In the out

Nobody really knows
Which way it goes
(But we do know
That it doesn't really work)

I wind down my window
Smell roast chook as I linger
Near the truck loading dock
Before I go

Then I get a little faster
And wonder if I've mastered
The art of the milk
Grab n' dash

But I think, next time
If the weather is fine
I'll be walking to avoid
The bloody Woolies Carpark

Banno Life



BANNOCKBURN SURGERY: CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

» Bannockburn Surgery has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 1983

Initially operating from small rooms tucked between the original supermarket and pharmacy, the practice quickly outgrew its first home. In 1986, it relocated to 19 High Street, offering two consulting rooms, a small treatment room, and a modest tearoom for staff. By the year 2000, the surgery opened its current purpose-built facility at 16 High Street, boasting five consulting rooms, a sixth added in 2010 to accommodate its expanding services.

Over the years, Bannockburn Surgery has flourished, supported by a dedicated team of doctors, nurses, administration, and a practice manager. The practice also collaborates with high-quality Allied Health services, including podiatry and, more recently, acupuncture

with Dr Rimas Liubinas. Plans for additional services are underway, reflecting the practice's commitment to comprehensive patient care.

In April, the practice celebrated a significant milestone—its forty-year anniversary. The occasion brought together past and present team members including doctors, nurses, administrative staff, and allied health for an evening of festivities reminiscing on the past forty years and what the future holds for the practice.

Looking ahead, Bannockburn Surgery is preparing to embark on an exciting new chapter. Plans are almost finalised for a new purpose-built facility adjacent to its current premises commencing building in the early half of next year. The build will allow for further expansion of its services to better meet the growing needs of Bannockburn and its surrounding community.

The surgery is also pleased to announce that their current three GP Registrars will be continuing next year; Dr Bushra Akhund, Dr Abhirami Selvakumar and Dr Ernest Cheng. They have been an accredited teaching practice since 1991 – training future GPs, medical students and nursing students.

Bannockburn Surgery remains committed to accessible healthcare. Patients with healthcare cards or pension cards, as well as those under 16, will continue to receive bulk-billed services. The doctors' welcome new patients, with appointments available daily.

16 High Street Bannockburn 3331
(Tel): 03 5281 1481

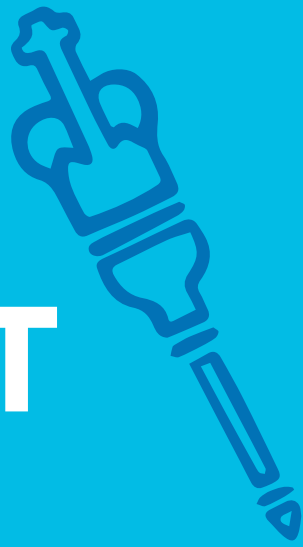
www.bannockburnsurgery.com.au

BANNOCKBURN
SURGERY



The Y Victoria's YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Civic, Political, and Personal Development
for Golden Plains young people aged 16-25
February to July 2025



What is Youth Parliament?

Youth Parliament is an annual residential program run by the Y that draws together 20 teams from across Victoria to advocate for issues that matter to them. Participants get the unique opportunity to research and write a piece of legislation which they will then debate in Victorian Parliament House on Spring Street.

**68
BILLS**

have gone on from the
Youth Parliament program
to become actual
legislation in Victoria
**YOUR BILL COULD
BE NEXT!**

HOW DOES IT RUN?

March to April – Teams write a Bill with the support of a Taskforce member

23rd - 25th of May – Participant Training Weekend Camp

6th-11th of July – Week of Youth Parliament Camp (**Melbourne**)

(Participants are required to attend the entirety of the 2 residential elements of the program).

The Golden Plains Youth
Parliament Team 2025



Visit geelong.ymca.org.au

Registrations Close: Monday 23rd Dec

Register: <https://forms.office.com/r/9WQbmu8vW2>

Contact e: hello@ymca.org.au



2025 Golden Plains Youth Parliament team is proudly sponsored by Y Geelong Youth Services, Bannockburn College P-12, Golden Plains Shire Youth Services

BANNOCKBURN CFA: PREPARING FOR SUMMER

» Given Fire Restrictions are now in force, the window for burning off as part of your property preparation has closed.

So, what to do with the green waste that accumulates over Summer? A pile of green waste (leaves, twigs, bark etc) is not in itself a fire hazard and if it is stacked neatly; away from buildings, it should not be an issue. However, take care with piling up lawn clippings as they can generate a lot of heat and should not be stacked with other flammable materials. You can always take your green waste to the Transfer Station at Rokewood if you are not comfortable having it around your house.

By now you should have your fire plan in place so that you and your family know what to do should your home be threatened by a fire. The CFA website has excellent resources to help you get your head around a fire plan. Check it out at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare.

As part of your preparedness for Summer, you should ensure that you have the Emergency Vic app on your smart device. The Emergency Vic app allows you to set up watch zones so you receive alerts should an emergency event occur in your watch zone area. It is an essential tool to assist you in enacting your fire plan.

Bannockburn Bush Fire Access

Bannockburn Fire Brigade have given big thumbs up to the

much-improved fire access in the Bannockburn Bush on a recent inspection.

Following an escaped burn off in the reserve in November 2023, the Brigade raised concerns with the reserve manager about fire access. Working initially with Friends of the Bannockburn Bush (FoBB) and Ballarat Environment Network and then with the new reserve manager; Western Region Ecological Network (WREN), significant improvements in fire access have been made.

WREN; in consultation with DEECA, have groomed back overgrown vegetation allowing our tankers clear and rapid access. They have reinstated gated fire access off the Bannockburn-Shelford Road into the southern block and improved the gates at some entry points. They've also upgraded the gate locks (we carry keys on our tankers) and put up maps and signposts through the reserve so that in the unlikely event of a fire in the bush, we can get to it quickly and safely. A big thanks to WREN for taking our concerns on board and working hard to improve access.

Article by Dale Smithyman, Bannockburn CFA.

Upcoming planned burns

The Country Fire Authority's planned burning program will be commencing in the district and beyond very soon. CFA's regional vegetation management team and local brigades have been planning the 2024/25 burn program over the last six months. Many grass roadsides are planned for burning between now and May 2025, with weather conditions, grass curing

and CFA brigade member availability being monitored to ensure burns can be achieved.

CFA burns scheduled for delivery and underway can be viewed on the Planned Burns Victoria website. CFA planned burns underway can also be viewed on the VicEmergency website and app. Please register at Planned Burns Victoria to get notifications of upcoming burns.

*Article by Justine Leahy
Biodiversity Advisor, CFA*



Santa Run

It's that time of year again and Santa will be travelling around our town on our fire trucks on Christmas Eve spreading Christmas cheer. Full details of Santa's Christmas Eve route and times will be posted on our Facebook page.



UP THE CAMP

» After World War I, my father and his four brothers, set up a holiday-shack at remote McLoughlin's Beach in Gippsland.

Great fishing is had there, and we had two boats. The hut was a tin building, with matching boatshed, redolent with the smells of fish bait, petrol and oil. Fittings in the shack were minimal; table, chairs, beds, cupboards, a woodstove and, strangely, a telephone, as all the men were bookmakers. 'Cherrylong 12' was the number! A can-dunny out in the tussocks completed the picture.

Over fifty years, family, friends and a few priests dad knew, stayed at 'The Camp', but our first stay there was most memorable. My brother, Frank, still in nappies, had never been out of a cot before. He kept jumping out of bed, coming over to our beds and making us laugh! Thumb in mouth, he 'twiddled' us with his little finger, saying something babyish like 'Pike-adoo, dippy dippy, up the camp!' That meant (we think) 'Frank Donovan, yippee yippee, up the camp'!! The more we laughed, the more he did it, and the more poor mum became exasperated. In the end we all got growled at by dad!

Odd bits of clothing hung on the bedroom walls. One night, we were settling down to sleep when a rat jumped out of a pocket, bounced on my bed, onto the floor and streaked across the kitchen into the cellar.

Heaven knows what dad did with the rodent, but we were all giggling our heads off (again) AND getting into trouble (again)!

The hut was lit by two lamps, and we had our own kerosene lamps to read by in bed, with a wick and a glass shade. The biggest lamp was a lovely petrol fuelled Coleman from Canada; 'The Sunshine of the Night' engraved on it. 'One thousand candle power'. The lamps made a hissing noise, and we drifted off to sleep to that soothing sound. Dad terrified us whenever he lit the Coleman, flames flaring out the top before settling to a good constant light. We often tore outside for safety!

We adored the many fishing trips, everyone coming home sunburnt and tired. Sometimes the men, using both boats, let out an enormous Seine net, dragging in hundreds of fish. One summer,

we encountered two weeks of rain, a full moon and a king tide. Marooned in the hut, all we could do was read, play cards, eat and get bored, watching orange and grapefruit skins from the tip bobbing past the door. Waves crashing on the front window, we prayed, and dad stayed very close to his whiskey bottle!!

Our next sojourn found the hut moved back 40 feet into the tussocks, onto Crown Land, the death knell for the hut. In 1967 it was demolished for a carpark and toilet block. It was a sad day when I went back, collecting a few items I cherished. Now, all I have are my memories...AND the Coleman Lamp, still in working order.

Article by Cambria Parkinson



McLoughlins Beach (Now Nooramunga Marine & Coastal Park)



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COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

TWILIGHT FAIR –19/12/24 4 PM –9 PM

BANNOCKBURN ARTISTS

EXHIBITION /MARKET

We are delighted to once again hold an exhibition and sale of artwork by local artists.

The BCC Hall will be full of interesting work and art demonstrations will be continuous during the evening.

Come and talk to the artists about how they work and get a raffle ticket for a painting to be drawn later in the evening.

‘Summer Art Classes’ 2025 with Deidre Bain

at Alpaca Downs Studio, Russells Bridge (2km from Bannockburn)

Hi everyone, following the success of my recent art workshops, I’m offering further art classes at my home/studio at Alpaca Downs, located at Russells Bridge. (2km from Bannockburn)

I am a member of the Golden Plains Art Inc., the local Bannockburn Art Group and have 40 years’ experience teaching Art, Photography and Visual Communication.

My main art passion is drawing and painting portraits, employing art methods of the Old Masters, that I learned whilst in Florence, Italy in 2017 and 2023.

I am happy to support a variety of levels of experience so come along to learn and develop your creative side.



I will be offering classes from the Middle of January through Term 1 Cost \$60 refreshments, materials incl.

TASTER ONE DAY WORKSHOPS - DRAWING - the Tree of Life, Still Life, Portraits – eyes, nose, mouth, the whole head.

6 WEEK CONTINUATION class - PAINTING – Portraits in OILS Cost \$250 refreshments, most materials incl.

Contact me by email for details or to reserve a place deidre.alpacadowns@gmail.com or (03) 52812675

St John's Op Shop Bannockburn

is now at
11 Byron Stree
Bannockburn
Opening Hours:
Tues-Fri: 10am-4pm
Saturday: 10am - 1pm

Tai Chi

@

Bannockburn
Men's Shed
Wednesday
9.30am - 10.30am
and
Winchelsea
Community House
Fri 9am - 10am

Ph. Desma 0414 944 926

INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

A

Accountant	13, 38
Aged care	29
Air Conditioning	11, 27
Angling	18
Art and Craft	19
Art Classes	45
Artists	45
Avocadoes	34

B

Basketball	18
Beauty Treatment	
Bobcat & Machinery Hire	29
Book Group	14
Bookkeeping	13, 38
Branding	17
Builder /Handyman	13
Building Practitioner	13
Burnfit gym	6

C

Cartoons	23, 24, 39
CCTV	27
CFA	42
Chiropractor	21
Church Catholic	18, 19
Church St Johns	8, 9, 46
Community News	8, 9
Cooling	11

D

Dentist	20
Doctors	40
Dolphins Basketball	33
Driving Instructor	3

E

Ecology	28
Education ELC	9, 14
Education Wellbeing	14
Electrical	27
Equine, Clydesdales	10
Estate Agents	15
EV chargers	27
Exercise	6

F

Financial services	13, 38
Fire Safety	42
Friends Groups	28, 30, 32

G

Garden advice, Avocadoes	34
Garden Club	19
Generators	27
Golden Oldies	38
Golf	16
Grants, community	38
Growing up, Beach camp	43

Gym	6
-----	---

H

Health Information	36
Health services	44
Hesse Rural Health	26
History	24

L

Landcare	28, 30, 32
----------	------------

M

Machine hire	29
Marketing	17

N

Nursery, Indigenous	35
---------------------	----

O

Op Shop	46
---------	----

P

Physiotherapy	29
Pilates	22
Plumbing	27
Podiatry	21
Poetry	39
Pools & Spas	12

Probus	7
--------	---

S

Sleep consultant	43
Social Media	17
Soft Tennis	31

T

Tai Chi	46
Tennis	12
Tennis, Soft	31

Vets	
------	--

Vets	26
------	----

W

Web design	17
Wellbeing education	14
Wildlife Rescue	23

Y

YMCA	37
Youth Parliament	41



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