



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER No. 411 MARCH 2024

Free, but your spare coins help cover costs. Thankyou all for the \$66.15 collected last month.

STORMY TIMES

By Christina Flann

Yarragon was battered by the insane storm on February 13th, not as much as poor Mirboo North or Hallston. Pretty dodgy Valentines present for our whole area.

There are still lots of trees down all over the place and this was a particularly impressive example on Yarragon South Road. Luckily it fell away from the road, but still took out fencing and the roots are a bit of a hazard.

It went from roots in the air to truncated stump and roots on the edge of the road to neatly sawn off trunk with witches hats.

Thanks to everyone who has chopped trees up, moved debris off roads, helped neighbours and kept everyone informed.

Hopefully the electricity is back on for the majority who read our newsletter and the damage minimal. Have a look at pages 8 and 9 for information on the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund and page 19 for council links.



Photo by Sharni Norton

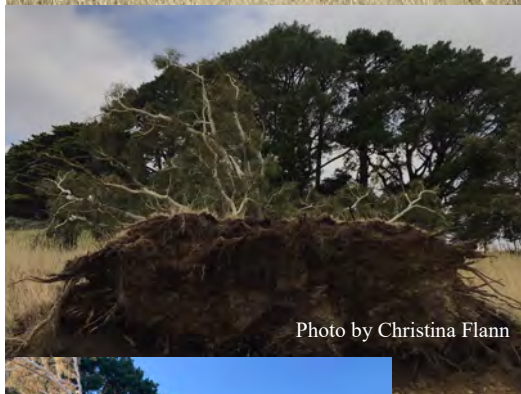


Photo by Christina Flann

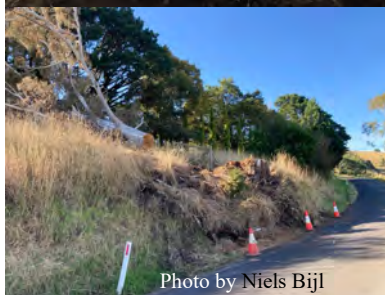


Photo by Niels Bijl



Photo by Christina Flann

YARRAGON POST OFFICE; *your bank in disguise*



Deposit & withdraw cash
 Deposit cheques
 Check account balances
 Pay bills
 Organise travel money & insurance

and post and collect your mail!

REGULAR & TO DO

MONDAY

MOBILE LIBRARY

2:30–5:30pm
Yarragon Hall carpark



FIRE BRIGADE

7:30pm at fire station,
1A Murray St.
Captain Ashley Smith
0427 274 666
yarragonfb@gmail.com



BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

New members welcome
contact: yba3823@gmail.com



TUESDAY

CRAFT GROUP

9:30am–12:30pm
Uniting Church Hall,
Campbell St.



Join us for craft and laughs.

YDCA

TBA, CFA meeting room
Secretary Richard Polmear
0407 347 545



Q: What did one sea say to the other one?

A: Nothing, they just waved.

Oscar

WEDNESDAY

GARDENING GROUP

10:00am or 10:30am to lunch time
at the backyard of the Uniting Church,
Campbell St.
Share your knowledge and learn from other gardeners.



PLAYGROUP

9:30–11:30am at Yarragon Hall,
Campbell St.
\$5 per family and bring fruit to share
Ph Jen : 0413 666 245



LIONS CLUB

2nd & 4th Wed at St Jarlath's Catholic Hall in Rollo St.
President Bill Cropley
0448 361 213.
Secretary Allan Logan
0435 576 100

LIONS on MANE op shop
Wed to Sun
10:30am to 2:30pm.
LIONS GARAGE SALE,
Hann's Lane
Every 4th Saturday, often more.

LEARN TO TANGO

No partner or experience necessary.
7–8:30pm,
Uniting Church Hall

THURSDAY

BOWLS CLUB

Shady Creek Rd
Ph: 0490 831 283



October to April, social game night 1st & 3rd Thursdays followed by a meal.

Meal orders must be placed by 5:30pm on the Tues prior.

Oscarism of the Month:

You know, the shaky, shaky bang bang thing = Tambourine

SATURDAY

CRAFT & PRODUCE MARKET

4th Saturday,
9:00am–1:00pm
Yarragon Public Hall
Campbell St



SILKROAD COMMUNITY TRAFALGAR FARMERS MARKET

First Saturday of Every Month, 9:00am – 1:00pm
Trafalgar Croquet Club, 25 Ashby St, Trafalgar

YARRAGON STUDIO FESTIVAL

2:30–9:00pm 2 March
www.yarragonstudio.com.au /festival



SUNDAY

St Mark's Anglican Church

See Page 7 for current meeting times. Usually at St David's Uniting Church: on the Second Sundays of the Month at 8:30am, and the Fourth Sundays of the Month 8:30am.

St David's Uniting Church

Campbell St. Service details on noticeboard at church.

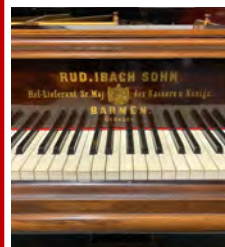
St Jarlath's Catholic Church

YARRAGON
10:00am
Mass
every Sunday;
Trafalgar
6:00pm Mass
every Saturday
Parish Office 5633 1166



YARRAGON STUDIO CONCERT

3:00pm 24 March
Ronan Apcar
piano recital
www.yarragonstudio.com.au



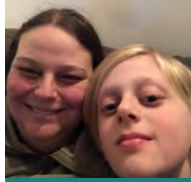
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Co-Editor:
Debbie Churchill

Newsletters can be picked up from:


- * Post Office
- * Foodworks
- * Yarragon Pharmacy
- * Fozigobble Café
- * Lions on Mane Op Shop




Co-Editors:
Christina Flann and Oscar Bijl

and viewed on www.yarragonnews.au

To subscribe to e-newsletters, arrange advertising, and contribute articles *which must include your name and phone number*, you can write, email or phone:

 Yarragon Community Newsletter
PO Box 209, Yarragon 3823

 yarragonnews@gmail.com

 0438 565 721



Items for inclusion *which must include your name and phone number* can also be placed in any of the donation boxes.

Business Card: 9x5.5cm	\$15
1/4 page: 13.7x9.3cm or banner: 6.9x19.05cm	\$40
1/2 page: 13.8x19.05cm or 27.5x9.5cm	\$60
Full page: 27.5x19.cm	\$75

Advertising space is available & **limited**. Please organise advertising with the editor, details above.

The remarks or views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the views of the Editor, Committee of Management, or any volunteer involved in the production of this newsletter.

Although every effort is taken in the compilation and printing of this newsletter, no responsibility is taken for any errors that may occur. © 2024 Yarragon Community Newsletter.

**NEW DEADLINE for
April 2024 edition
21 March
12 noon**

WHAT BIRD IS THAT IN MY GARDEN?

By Margaret Young



I am taking a break from packing boxes and making trips to the Op Shop to continue my list of birds I have seen while living up here on the hill. May 2009, immature Blue Wrens on the front lawn, then many more have visited over the years hopping on the lawn, pecking cobwebs off the windows and something off the *Cymbidium* orchids just outside the window - so close.

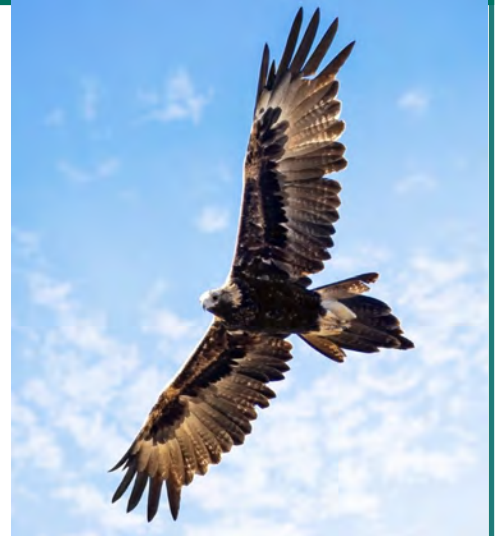
I saw great flocks of Ibis in the paddocks down on the flat, digging their beaks into the ground to find grubs as I took my morning walk along the Walking track. I also saw, on many occasions, Black Shouldered Kites hovering over the paddocks looking for prey. Currawong calling from up the hill, Welcome Swallows nesting in the carport and crapping on my car till I filled in their nesting spot.



Eastern Spine Bills in the flowering gums in the back garden. Grey Song Thrush, I love the soft brown/grey colour of their feathers. Many Wood Ducks and ducklings on the dam and at my front gate and in the alpaca house. The parents find all sorts of odd places to raise their babies.

Brown Thorn Bill, first sighting of many. A small Owl near the shed one night, just a fleeting glance so couldn't identify it clearly. Grey Herons and Cormorants on the dam. Quail in the alpaca house, only ever sighting and a surprise. Gold Finches in the garden.

Two magnificent Wedge Tailed Eagles being chased by two Swamp Harriers.



The Wedgies were not bothered. Five Wedge Tailed Eagles sailing lazily above the hill, then two on another day being chased by very upset Magpies.

Of course I have seen plenty of Magpies and enjoyed their carolling in the morning, as well as Kookaburras, except when the start laughing at five in the morning!!

Willy Wagtails built a nest in the ornamental grape vine on the back veranda so I was able to watch the progress of the babies through the window close up. Grey Fantails flitting around me as I worked in the garden.

Southern Boobook Owls on the clothes line catching moths flapping around the kitchen window. A Peregrine Falcon dining on a hapless Homing Pigeon in the pine trees while the Crows/Ravens complained loudly. Another Mopoke Owl outside the front gate.

Two White Browed Scrub Wrens and Yellow Thorn Bills in the vegetable garden. One Silver Eye, saw more of these in my Caulfield garden than up here. Red Browed Fire Tails now and then.

A bird that got me very excited as I didn't know it at all, was either a Lewan's Rail or Australian Spotted Crake, or even a Buff Banded Rail. Two of them popped out of the flower bed one wet day, popped (cont. next page)

WHAT BIRD IS THAT? (Cont.)

By Margaret Young

back in and disappeared. They looked like small ducks with a short sticky up flicky tail. I saw another a few days later down the back yard and never again till last month I was driving past our editor's house up the hill and one ran across the road in front of me! Christina says she has seen Buff Banded Rails around her dam.



Another once only sighting — several Purple Swamp Hens around the little dam in the goat paddock. They had begun pushing down the reeds to build a nest but the goats decided to eat the reeds so the Swamp Hens went off to a safer location.

The King Parrots had been visiting for a while. I think they go around the local farms and check out who has put out seeds for them. One day eight arrived, male and female or juvenile, and one ate out of my hand. This has happened many times while I have been here.



Mat Gilfedder eBird

I have always wanted have Spotted Pardalotes in my garden but they are very elusive and I hadn't seen any till one knocked itself out on the window. My little granddaughter was staying with me so together we gathered it up and got out my bird book and studied its pretty feathers then gave it a decent burial in the garden. My granddaughter is 10 now and has developed a keen interest in birds.

Rainbow Lorikeets have been around when the flowering gums are in bloom and Crimson Rosellas arrive in time to dine in my orchard as well as to pull up grass in the lawn in the Winter. Another fatality at the window was a European Gold Finch but I haven't seen any for ages.

Not a bird, but has wings are the micro bats. They like to hide in the folds of my Drizabone coat on the back verandas and I have to be careful when I am putting it on. Don't get bitten by a bat!



More Fire Tail Finches on the back lawn in late Winter chirping, hopping about and flashing the red on their tails. A Thornbill built her nest inside the shirt of the scarecrow and raised her tiny chicks while complaining if I was working nearby. I have told the story of one building her nest in a bag in the shed.



More Wedge Tailed Eagles but less sightings these days. You might have guessed I am keen on Wedgies. A Whistling Kite on the corner of the chook house studying the chooks. Only one I have seen and I sent him on his way quick smart.

And finally, another lovely surprise up near Christina's again, a female Lyrebird on the side of the road one day and the next day it ran across in front of me. [Ed's Note: I saw my first Lyrebird on this hill crossing the road recently, maybe it was the same one! - CF]

That is most of the birds I have see while living up here. Flocks of Galas and Cockatoos are just down the road but have never come to my garden. I wonder what birds I will see in my new garden in Yarragon!

CLIMATE RESILIENT HOMES

By Amanda McLeod



Many of us struggled with the mid-February power outage for hours, days or weeks. We were lucky the following day was mild. How would your home have performed if it was 37 degrees outside and you had no appliances to keep you cool? How would you cope with a more prolonged outage? What do you need to do to prepare for worsening weather as the climate warms?

Malcolm McKelvie will present on climate resilient homes, followed by a group discussion and a light supper. (Members \$5, Non-members \$8)

THURSDAY 28 March, 7pm

Uniting Church Hall, 7 Campbell Street, Yarragon



For more information and to RSVP: www.bbsn.org.au/events

YARRAGON CRAFT AND PRODUCE MARKET

By Kathie Chalmers

The sun was shining for another Yarragon Craft and Produce Market in February. Thanks to all the amazing stall holders and the community for joining us at Waterloo Park. It was a lovely market day with a friendly atmosphere, a great variety of stalls and even with a little bit of water there was plenty of laughter. Thanks to all the Yarragon Craft and Produce Market team for another successful day.

The next Yarragon Craft and Produce Market will be held on 23rd March 9am until 1pm at Waterloo Park.



WHAT ARE THE EDITORS UP TO?

By Christina Flann, Debbie Churchill & Oscar Bijl

Oscar

Is now the drummer of the Warragul Junior Municipal Band.

Christina

Plucking Elderberries for jam (Niels does the jam bit, I just do the destruction bit).



Debbie

Attended the opening of the Sex and the Country exhibition at ARC Yinnar. *[Exhibited in it too -CF]*

PROJECT REFERENCE GROUP

By Christina Flann & Inge Mitchell

Christina is part of the Yarragon Project Reference Group (see introductions for some members on page 9). Inge Mitchell is also a member and says "About 10 community members (the Project Reference Group or PRG) are considering seven projects in Yarragon. One of these is the former Yarragon primary school site in Rollo Street. The original Project Reference Group (2021/2022) for this site considered this land to be a passive park.

Shire staff and the consultant engaged by Council have now put a draft masterplan together. This is being considered by the current PRG along with six other Yarragon projects.

Should anyone wish to read the plan for 3-5 Rollo Street (former primary school site), or the other 6 projects, please contact Richard Polmear, Yarragon and District Community Association secretary. Email: secretaryydc@gmail.com"



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THOUGHTS FROM A LOCAL

By Roy Lindsay

The first Baw Baw Council Meeting of 2024 took place in February, and although no Yarragon-specific matters were handled, a Sports Pavilion Design and Development Policy and Fair Access Policy was endorsed by Councillors with community consultation and comments being called for.

This will be an important consideration for the forthcoming development of Dowton Park, and the Community is encouraged to participate. Details are available on Council's website and comments are requested before March 15.

Council has been asked to review and advise on progress on our 2023 Budget Submission on Yarragon Drainage. At that time, clearing of open drains on the northern side of

Waterloo Road was considered an urgent requirement, and this work was carried out in mid-year, greatly reducing flooding risks in that area. We now await Council advice on mid-term and longer-term requirements including Hazeldean Road and progress on the long-awaited retarding basin in that area.

2024 is Council Election year, and in addition to all positions being vacant, there is a likelihood of at least 2 of the 9 current Baw Baw Shire Councillors retiring from Local Government. Have you ever considered standing for Council? Basic requirements are detailed on the website of the Victorian Election Commission, and in particular at www.vec.vic.gov.au/candidates-and-parties/becoming-a-local-council-candidate

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Community of Yarragon Good Friday Appeal

GOOD FRIDAY, 29th MARCH, 2024

Our door-knockers will be out and about the week of, and on Good Friday! Please keep an eye out for our wonderful volunteers and dig deep for The Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal! This year we have eftpos facilities.

Monster Raffle tickets are now available! The major prize, kindly donated by Yarragon Lions Club – Lions on Mane Op-Shop is \$2000 of vouchers of the winners choice. Tickets can be purchased in local shops, direct deposit, or through our online platform (see our Facebook page for details).

Catch us on Good Friday in Main Street, Yarragon, at the Easter Egg Hunt, or the Yarragon Hotel, from 4pm to purchase any last minute raffle tickets or to make a donation.

The Monster Raffle is drawn at The Yarragon Hotel on Good Friday, March 29th from 7pm, and livestreamed on our Facebook page. Please come along! It is a fantastic afternoon/evening full of entertainment with live music, a karma keg, auctions, lucky number draws, raffle, and a live announcement of Yarragon's final tally.

Community of Yarragon
GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL
Monster Raffle
Tickets \$2

**DIRECT DEPOSIT
BANK DETAILS**

Name: Good Friday Appeal
BSB: 633-000
ACC: 159 586 098

Please include a reference,
Eg: MONSTER. Jessica Rabbit
Inbox us a screenshot



REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

EASTER EGG HUNT

1.30PM FRIDAY 29TH MARCH 2024
MARKET STREET PARK - YARRAGON

MUST BE PREPAID TO SECURE YOUR SPOT

\$10 Per child

Community Bank
Trafalgar & District
Bendigo Bank

ORGANIZED BY
goodFriday
appeal
THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The Community Bank Trafalgar & District are the sponsor for our 2024 Easter Egg Treasure Hunt! We are very grateful for their support and excited for what this collaboration will bring.

This is a very popular community event which has sold out every year. We have a record 140 tickets available this year, so get in quick.

Tickets are available now at: <https://shoutforgood.com/event-ticketings/EasterEggHunt>

Contact us:

Email: yarragongfa@gmail.com Phone: 0407 309 609 (Lisa)
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/yarragongoodfridayappeal/>
Instagram: [yarragon_good_friday_appeal](https://www.instagram.com/yarragon_good_friday_appeal)

ANGLICAN PARISH NEWS

By Dean Spalding

The Anglican Parish of Trafalgar (which includes churches in Trafalgar, Yarragon and Thorpdale) usually meet in YARRAGON at St David's Uniting Church building at the following times: on the Second Sundays of the Month at 8:30am, and the Fourth Sundays of the Month 8:30am.

So in March, for example, Sunday 10 March, which is Mothering Sunday, there will be an 8:30am Communion Service at St Davids UCA Campbell Street led by the Anglican minister Revd Dean Spalding.



However, for Holy Week and Easter (24-31 March) we are joining with other local denominations for some combined services. And so on Sunday 24 March which is Palm Sunday we are encouraging our congregations to join with the Uniting Church in Trafalgar for a 9:15am ecumenical service being offered by Revd Moira Dodsworth.

Then on Maundy Thursday, 28 March, again we are encouraging a joining with the Uniting Church for a Tenebrae Service (a service of the shadows) at St David's Campbell Street at 5:30pm.

BOOK FAIR

By Geoff Conway

Memories are a little fuzzy when you ask people when the first Yarragon Charity Book Fair was conducted. There is a consistent reference to 2002. Given we have had a couple of years out for pandemic control it could be argued that 2024 will be the 20th Book Fair in Yarragon. I'm going with that!



So, lets celebrate the 20th Yarragon Charity Book Fair in style.

This year's event will be held on the 4th and 5th of May at the Yarragon Public Hall.

Donations have been coming in steadily all year and once again we are going to run out of storage space for all the stock we have collected. It is a great problem to have.

As we indicated last year, the post-pandemic environment has required some changes to how we manage Book Fair, particularly in meeting the guidance provide by health authorities. However, our Book Fair patrons have embraced the new arrangements and continue to support us generously.

Interest in books and reading does not seem to wane and the crowds that come to our book fair represent a complete cross section of the community; all ages and all interests.

The book Fair is primarily a fund raiser for our volunteer

firefighters and our school. But there is also a quiet sense of achievement in bringing people to our town to share their passions and interests through books and reading.

Benefits for the fire brigade and the school are clear with the funding of many items of firefighting equipment and improvements to the facilities for our volunteers at the Yarragon Fire Station and the school library.

As always, we must thank the hundreds of local and district residents who donate books for our Fair. They are generous and consistently supportive of our event.

We are also very grateful to the amazing volunteers who support the running of Book Fair each year. Members of the fire brigade, parents, teachers and students from Yarragon Primary School, and those in the community who offer their time and energy to sort, stack and restack books.

If you would like to join in you are most welcome. If you can spare an hour or a half day (or more) that would be



wonderful. (I must warn those who have not been part of setting up for Book Fair in the past and are thinking of coming along this year – it can get a bit raucous and the laughter in the hall can be a bit distracting.)

If you would like to help out, give Geoff a call on 0418 318 900. I am sure we can find something for you to do.

GERF are here to help in natural disaster.

If you've been impacted by natural disaster, you may be eligible for a GERF grant.

You'll be assessed on the severity of your situation, so Gippslanders most in need can access help first.

Have you experienced any of the following due to natural disaster?

—Significant property damage

—Your permanent place of residence (home) is uninhabitable

If anyone is in these situations and needs help, visit their website: <https://gerf.org.au/get-help/>



GERF: STORM APPEAL

Media release

Once again in Gippsland we are dealing with the forces of nature following the storm event earlier this week. It is estimated that more than 100 residents may be adversely impacted by the high winds and associated downpour. Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund President Andy Tegart said "These are devastating circumstances for the families affected and it is important that GERF respond promptly to assist them with vital financial support in their time of need."

Mr Tegart announced that Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund is launching an appeal to raise funds to support Gippsland residents impacted by the current storm emergency. "We recently provided more than \$150,000.00 to residents impacted by flash flooding and it is highly likely that we will distribute at least that amount for this current event.

Assessments are currently underway by Municipal Recovery Managers and we would like to be in a position to respond promptly when referrals for financial assistance come through" Mr Tegart said.

Donations to the appeal can be easily made via the GERF website www.gerf.org.au and all donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible. Mr Tegart said "Every dollar donated to the appeal is distributed to those affected by the storm and individuals & businesses in Gippsland have always been very generous in their support. Your donation will be helping us to help others in their time of need".

The Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund has been supporting Gippsland residents impacted by natural disaster since 1978 and is run completely by volunteers.

www.gerf.org.au

**GIPPSLAND EMERGENCY
RELIEF FUND**

PRG INTRODUCTIONS #1

Compiled by Christina Flann

Tessa Hoogerbrugge: I have been a resident of Yarragon for the past 12 years and run a law firm within Baw Baw Shire. I have joined the PRG to provide a voice for the residents to be heard alongside the voices in favour of increasing tourism, with the aim for them both to work together.



Whilst it's not a glamorous topic, the absence of a toilet in the plan for the Rollo Street Park (the old primary school site) is the element I am pushing to be rectified. I welcome you to reach out to me (thoogs@gmail.com) to express your thoughts/feelings/gripes in relation to the upcoming projects so I can share your voice.

Christina Flann - Yarragon Community Newsletter Co-Editor, Member BBSN, Yarragon Studio Concert Series/Festival Organiser As a newcomer to Yarragon, I am keen to get involved in the local community. That's why I volunteer as co-editor of this newsletter and felt it was important to have someone from the newsletter to report back to the community about what the PRG are doing. Feel free to contact me with questions and suggestions via email: christinaflann@gmail.com

G'day, my name is Adam Wright. I have lived in Yarragon for over 20 years with my wife and we are raising our 2 young kids who are both in Yarragon primary school. I would like to thank James Glen for putting this group together. For many years there has been a significant number of people in this place that want to have an opinion/say in what happens in our town. Being in this group gives myself and anyone else the chance to put forward opinions and ideas for Yarragon directly. Feel free to email me on aaw1983@yahoo.com

Peter Court: Yarragon South. With family ties to Baw Baw we have built our Family Home in Yarragon South. I am a member of the Yarragon Primary School Council, a member of Yarragon CFA and have been involved in Coaching Soccer at various Clubs in Baw Baw. With a young family and our long-term future in Yarragon, I would like to be involved and support the development of Yarragon. pcourt66@hotmail.com



Kevin McLaren, President Yarragon Bowling Club*: I have always had a sense of community and as I have lived & worked here for 29 years I value the networks made here in Baw Baw Shire. I joined the PRG to work towards the future betterment of all Yarragon facilities & residents. President.yarragonbowls@gmail.com



*Plus lots more that will be in next newsletter

FROGS

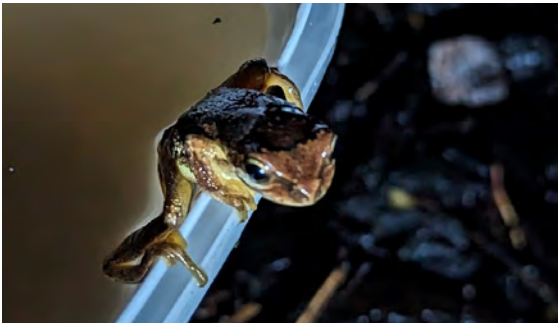
By Katie Grace



Have you ever taken the time to appreciate the wonders of nature at night? Perhaps you've heard crickets or owls? At my place, the sound of frogs chirping, barking or croaking under the stars is the main chorus I hear. It's a delight to my senses! The darkness helps us to hear more clearly and the outdoors can feel like a completely different place.

My recent night adventures discovered a little striped marsh frog in a basin of water. From the dam across the way its friends were calling. How incredible is the diversity of life we share this planet with!

Adventure out on a night stroll this summer and observe what you can hear in your area...write a list or use an app like iNaturalist or FrogID app. Send me a story or photo of your discoveries to katie@greenesc.com.au and share the fun!



INVISIBLE APPLE CAKE

Recipe by taste



9 Ingredients

- 1 kg pink lady apples
- 60g butter, chopped
- 180ml (¾ cup) milk
- 3 eggs
- 140g (¾ cup) caster sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 100g (¾ cup) plain flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- Select all ingredients

ADD TO SHOPPING LIST

5 Method Steps

Step 1

Preheat oven to 180C/160C fan forced. Grease an 8cm-deep, 11 x 20cm (base size) loaf pan. Line with baking paper, extending the paper over the 2 long sides.

Step 2

Peel and core **apples**, then slice into very thin wedges.

Step 3

Place **butter** and **milk** in a microwave-safe bowl and heat for 1 minute. Stir until butter is melted.

Step 4

Whisk the **eggs** and **caster sugar** in a bowl for 1 minute or until well combined. Whisk in butter mixture and **vanilla**. Sift over **flour**, **baking powder** and **cinnamon**, then whisk to combine. Add apple and stir until well coated.

Step 5

Spoon the apple mixture into the prepared pan. Bake for 55 minutes or until the top is golden. Cover loosely with foil and bake for further 15 minutes or until the cake springs back when lightly touched. Cool cake in the pan for 30 minutes, before turning onto a wire rack to cool further. Slice and serve warm or at room temperature.



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MYSTERY FOUND, MYSTERY SOLVED: PUBLIC TOILET NOTICEBOARD KEYS

By Niels Bijl

Short version: For anyone who has any posters or public announcements for our community and its visitors: The keys to the noticeboard at the Yarragon Public Toilets can be picked up at Pennyworth O' Lollies.

It was such a heartwarming experience to walk around Yarragon in the last couple of weeks, handing out posters and flyers of our first ever Yarragon Studio Festival to all the shops, galleries and hospitality in Yarragon. The sense of community was overwhelming: pretty much everywhere I went people wanted to know more about our plans for chamber music in this area.

Jo Wolswinkel and John at Town and Country Gallery were especially interested and supportive, and we quite quickly found ourselves talking about the noticeboards on the walls of our public toilets. We quickly agreed that pretty much all visitors to our beautiful community visit those toilets, which must make their noticeboards the most noticed wall in town. It's also a simple fact that we, as locals, don't visit these public toilets as much, so not many of us have noticed that those boards have not been upgraded or looked after for a while.

As a matter of fact, both Jo and John had no idea where the keys were, but they suggested I should go and talk to the lovely people of the Yarragon Lions Club Op Shop. At the Op Shop the initial response was to go to Pennyworth, which was immediately corrected because of the recent change of ownership of that shop: therefore the keys must be at the Yarragon Milk Bar. Which turned out to be incorrect...

Andrew Trewern, who runs the Yarragon Milkbar acknowledged that his parents had previously owned the lolly shop, but has never

owned or even seen keys to the notice boards.

By that time I had almost given up on the possible existence of those illustrious keys, but I decided to drop in at Pennyworth O' Lollies, because, well, it never hurts to ask. And they DO sell Liquorice, so there's always a need to drop in. Pun intended. [Ed's Note: *drop means liquorice in Dutch –CF*].

The response at the lolly shop was pure gold though: "Could it possibly be these keys?" A set of keys was presented immediately. I got to spend the next 45 minutes carefully opening the glass doors of the noticeboards, and cleaning out the majority of faded and illegible posters, some of them dating back to about a decade ago. I did leave the ones that seemed quite recent, or concerning public announcements and businesses that are still current.

So if anyone has any information they'd like to share with both our community and the thousands of visitors traveling through Yarragon each week: the noticeboards are a great way to reach an audience. And as far as I know now, the keys can always be picked up at the best lolly shop in Gippsland.



LION'S CLUB REPORT

By Alison and Glenn Butterworth



After the hectic end to January, including cooking for the Australia Day Celebrations in Yarragon, February has started at a more pedestrian pace.



our shop. In the next few weeks, we will start to reduce the prices on our summer stock. Can our prices go much lower you may ask. To get the answer, come on in and see.

Of course, don't forget that we stock a large range of books, DVDs, kitchen ware and craft supplies



At the Op Shop we are back into our usual routine... barring a 4 day power outage...of 10.30am to 2.30pm Wednesday to Sunday. We are grateful for the donations which keep coming into our store. What we do need is a few more pairs of hands to sort the donations, and get them "shop ready". We are a friendly bunch and enjoy ourselves when we are at the shop. If you can see yourself being available for an hour or two, we will welcome you with open arms. You can choose your own hours, and the maximum shift is 4 hours (not including stopping for a coffee on the way home). Many of our volunteers are not Lions club members as this is not a pre-requisite for volunteering at

The time is getting a little closer to when the executive will be making decisions on where to donate our profits. If your club or organization need a bit of financial help, please send a letter to Lions Club of Yarragon, PO Box 116, Yarragon 3823 outlining your request. All requests will be kept confidential.

YDCA

By Richard Polmear



Baw Baw Shire is actively pursuing community input through the Project Reference Group on a number of projects and other initiatives relevant to Yarragon. This includes the question pondered last month, what defines "Yarragon identity".

YDCA continues to engage with Baw Baw Shire Council and recently met with the Planning Team.

Members are reminded that membership fees are due. The cost is \$25 per person or \$30 per family. Please pay to Treasurer Jen. Members will receive updates from sub-committees between meetings.

The next meeting of the YDCA will be advised to Members but will be held at the Fire Brigade building, Murray St, Yarragon, commencing at 7pm.



Fine art - Flowers - Jewellery

Local artists; handcrafted works; Allambee Flower Farm flowers

'Rosella fly-by'
acrylic on canvas, 91x61cm
by Rachel Knoester

Town & Country
Gallery
YARRAGON

Ph: 5634 2229

OPEN 7 DAYS 10-5

www.townandcountrygallery.com.au



STAYING ALERT THIS SUMMER

By Tegan Brown, Secretary & Community Safety Officer

Emergency Information

The best place to find all the most up to date emergency information is from VicEmergency.



VIC EMERGENCY

www.emergency.vic.gov.au

VicEmergency is where you will find information about emergencies and warnings. You can find real time interactive maps about the incidents occurring across Victoria. They may include floods, storms, fires, earthquakes, beach closures, shark sightings and more.

VicEmergency can be accessed online on their website, by following their facebook page or by downloading the app onto your phone.

Always try to access information from multiple sources to stay up to date such as the ABC local radio or other emergency broadcasters.

Bushfire Plans

The most recent storm damage and fires in Victoria are again a timely reminder to have your Bushfire Plan created and ready to use if needed. It is a good time to familiarize yourself with the plan again and adjust it if needed.

If you haven't already created a plan, then now is a good time. CFA has some great resources to help you to develop your own individual Fire Plan. Go to this website for detailed step by step instructions and guidelines. <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/your-bushfire-plan>

Training in YOUR street

The volunteer members of the Yarragon Fire Brigade train every Monday night. This usually consists of members practicing their skills with hoses deployment, water access from a fire hydrant, pump operations, radio communication and ultimately water coming out the end of the nozzle.



These skills require teamwork and constant familiarisation with the equipment on the fire trucks. We practise these skills so that we can be prepared for any incident that we may be required to attend to. We will be practising our skills in various streets around town in the coming weeks. Please come and say hello if you have any questions. We will identify that we are in training with our sign boards.



green



Katie Grace
0429 429 630
katie@greenesc.com.au

Seniors ~ NDIS ~ Respite
SOCIAL AND THERAPEUTIC HORTICULTURE

If you have finally been able to bring yourself to throw out your favourite pair of jeans, well past their use by date, thinking they were going into land fill, think again. This need not be the case. Cheryl Cook and Janine Richardson have been working with a group of Artists in the Baw Baw Arts Alliance who are creatively combining old textiles into creative works of Art.

The results of their weekly group gatherings in the Trafalgar Railway Station Artspace will be exhibited at 'The Station Gallery', Yarragon during March.



Janine Richardson

Cheryl and Janine (current president of the Arts Alliance) both love leading others to develop confidence in their skills, encouraging them to extend ideas through play and experimentation with discarded textiles.

One of the group members, Margaret Clark, described her first encounters with the textile group as a chance to 'hear others spark an idea, a chance to explore and discover talents she didn't know she had.' Margaret loves using simple materials, creating Art from rejected objects and fabric where waste becomes treasure in a carefully constructed work of Art.

June Dolan feels the same way. June is talented with needle and thread but spent many years following patterns and their instructions rather than playing and experimenting with her tools and materials. She now enjoys the chance of having her brain work differently without the conventional boundaries required in following instructions.

Charlie, Janine's granddaughter, was there for the day and, while usually a perfectionist, loved being taken out of her comfort zone.



Charlie

This is just a snapshot of one of the many drop-in groups run by the Arts Alliance.



Margaret Clark



June Dolan



Buy new original artworks off the wall.

March 30 to April 7
2024

Warragul Exhibition Hall
15 Howitt St. Warragul

Baw Baw Arts Alliance
with Warragul Rotary



Baw Baw Arts Alliance
Yarragon Railway Station

OPEN Wednesday to Sunday 10:30 am - 4pm
www.bawbawartsalliance.org.au



Entries Open
bawbawartsalliance.org.au



YARRAGON BOWLS CLUB

By Richard Polmear

As our traditional bowling season draws to an end, it is pleasing to report that this season has seen significant progress towards the Board's objectives. We have grown our membership base to levels not seen in many years and our bank balance is sufficient to support our application for a synthetic green from Sport and Recreation Victoria. Similarly, we have managed to move to all electric operations to utilise our 13kW of solar and avoid gas costs. There is still much to do, however, we have taken giant strides in the last two seasons in particular and this last season especially.

An update on our Pennant competition performance so far, with all home and away games completed:

- Saturday Pennant Div4 finished 3rd on the ladder in a very tight competition. They have a home elimination final against Yallourn North.
- Saturday Pennant Div6, a team shared with Thorpdale, finished 9th on the ladder of 12 teams.
- Tuesday Pennant Div3 finished 4th in a tight competition. They have an away elimination final against Trafalgar.

15th February saw our member only, monthly sponsors draw won by Leeanne Evans with a receipt from Yarragon FoodWorks. Her prize was a \$25 voucher for Warragul Country Club.

We take pride in the fact that we have a family friendly environment. Our Twilight Barefoot Bowls program runs on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month during daylight savings. For our offerings of 1st and 15th February we had over 60 patrons and a good night was had by all. Future offerings are on the 7th and 21st March 2024 which will complete our Twilight Barefoot Bowls program for this season. Come and join us for a bowl (no experience needed) a light meal and plenty of opportunity to socialise in a friendly environment. For those wishing to attend please notify the Club (on the Club's mobile) by no later than the Tuesday prior to the Thursday event they wish to attend. Only the first 70 patrons can be accommodated. Cost is \$15 per adult and \$10 per child. After our 21st March night, our Twilight Barefoot Bowls program will resume with daylight savings in October.

Our next Bunnings BBQ is Sunday 17th March.

Our sponsors for the 2023/24 season:

- Fowler Street Dental
- Gift and Glamour
- Gippsland Food and Wine
- Gippsland Fresh Wholesale
- Neilsen Funerals
- Paul O'Toole Cartage
- Select Office Supplies
- The Cheeky Monkey
- The Shot House
- Town and Country Gallery
- Trafalgar Auto Electrics
- Trafalgar Tyre Service
- Vin Rowe Farm Machinery
- Warragul Country Club
- Westfalia
- Yarragon Automotive
- Yarragon Country Style Bakery
- Yarragon Foodworks
- Yarragon Lions Club
- Yarragon Pharmacy
- Yarragon Post Office

We also recognise the tremendous support that the Community/Bendigo Bank of Trafalgar and District has provided the Yarragon Bowling Club and encourage locals to support them.

Thanks to all our sponsors and supporters.

Without you we would not exist!!!

To contact the bowls club about sponsorship, games, or hiring facilities (with limited catering available):

Email:

yarragonbowls@gmail.com

Phone (quicker response)

0490 831 283

Website [https://](https://yarragon.bowls.com.au)

yarragon.bowls.com.au



YarragonBowlingClub



Yarragon Hotel

www.yarragonhotel.com.au

OPENING HOURS

Every day from 11am

Lunch 12 - 2:30pm

Dinner 5:30 - 8:30pm

Take-away 5 - 8pm

Bookings appreciated & recommended

Enquiries | 03 56342202

IS OUR OPEN SPACE MATCH READY IN BAW BAW SHIRE?

By Baw Baw Planning Alliance – a committee of the Baw Baw Ratepayers and Citizens Association

- Is our Open Space up to scratch?
- Is it well located, designed, safe for users and well maintained?
- When will Baw Baw Shire update its Open Space Strategy?
- Is Council maintaining a register of open spaces and monitoring their success and failures?

When was the last time you visited a park to watch footy, or played a game of netball? Where do you take your children to play on the swings or walk your dog? When did you last go for a walk along a creek or to watch birds in a wetland? More importantly, what was the quality of the experience for you? Was it convenient to get to? Was the space well maintained? Were the playing surfaces even and well drained? Did you feel safe using the space? Was there adequate weather protection and shade in summer? Each of these places are part of what is called Public Open Space in Baw Baw Shire.

Open space for public use is an essential element of community health and wellbeing which is guaranteed by the State Government and the Shire to be included in all developments in various ways.

The Shire's published Open Space Strategy (2014) for local reserves requires them to be well placed within neighbourhoods, easily accessible and within walking distance of all homes. They should cater for a broad range of age, gender and ability with activities such as barbecues, picnics, space for small group activities, children's play, shaded relaxation, strolling and at some locations, accessible toilets. When asked to provide a copy of the current Open Space Strategy, the Council Planning Department was unable to find the document without some "digging" into its archives and it's not on the Council website.

This raises the question: which policies and strategies are currently being used to direct Council and developers in the location, design and provision of open space which best meets the needs of residents? The current Open Space Strategy is now nearly a decade old and predates the substantial development post the adoption of the Precinct Structure Plans. As these plans guide the development of our new urban areas, surely an update or refresh is needed now. The open space in established areas of our towns and in rural areas also requires a more considered review. The Shire needs to make clear that it understands the needs of the current and future community, as well as its Community Vision

and Health and Wellbeing policy, when assessing development applications to ensure that developers provide open space in the right location to suit the needs of existing and future residents and its own ability to maintain them to an appropriate standard.

Is Council maintaining a register of open spaces and monitoring their success and failures? Council also must be more accountable for the way it manages and maintains its existing open spaces.

Often residents want to interact with an outdoor living space outside their own home and garden but within their immediate neighbourhood without having to drive to it. Open space must not be developed on leftover, unsuitable land. All open space should promote safety and amenity while providing comfort and convenience for all users with access to the broader walking and cycling network. This is what local reserves in neighbourhoods are for. Well designed, accessible open space is a vital part of a healthy community and it's one of the things that makes the difference between a featureless expanse of a housing estate and a real community. Good urban planning features local parks and reserves as an essential and central element in the development of all new communities.

While Baw Baw Shire has a substantial number of open space reserves that are highly functional and well cared for, some of the reserves developed in new housing estates over the past decade of rapid growth may not meet our community's needs and expectations. Some of these reserves are poorly designed and located on less-



than-optimal land while offering little opportunity for safe and comfortable use by all.

People living within relatively new estates could and should be able to assess their own local reserves and let the Shire know what is and isn't working for them. If local reserves in new neighbourhoods are not the best they can be now, then things are likely going to get worse with the forecast rate of development in the Shire. There is little reason to doubt that the quality and placement of larger purpose, open space developments such as sports grounds will also deteriorate over time.

Now is the time for a long-needed discussion with the public, Council, Councillors and developers about the way open space is being planned, designed and maintained in the Shire to ensure that it enhances community health and wellbeing into the future.

Contact: Inge Mitchell mobile: 0411 453 175

RESPONSE TO FLOOD

By Jim Whiley

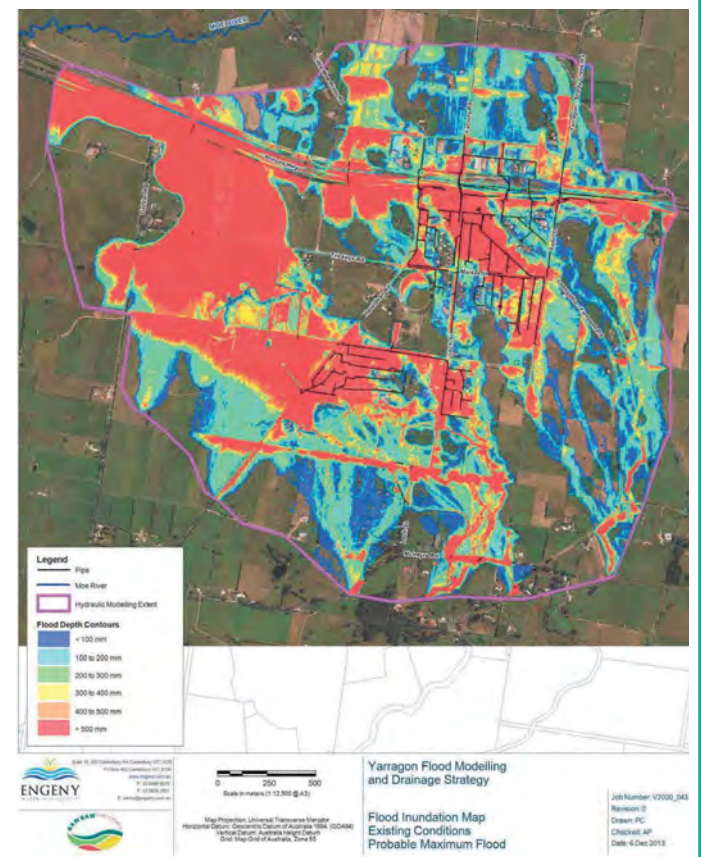
Re the article on page 16 titled: WHY IS THERE NO FLOOD MAPPING IN BAW BAW SHIRE?



RESPONSE TO FLOOD

By Greg Dyer

And that excludes the PMF flood for Yarragon which can be found in the Yarragon flood study which would be much worse!



YARRAGON PUBLIC HALL COMMITTEE NEWS

By Lynette Vaughan, Secretary

Welcome to all our regular hall users who are now busy and into the new year.

It is wonderful to have playgroup back with us on a Wednesday morning.

You will notice the upgraded floor in the Peg O'Rourke Room. The floor needed to be restumped. The hall users will have noticed that the floor was sinking into the Yarragon mud. The Baw Baw Shire Council attended to all the works needed to repair the floor and install the new vinyl. The Committee would like to extend our thanks to the Baw Baw Shire Council for organizing and paying for these works.

We would like to thank the Craft and Produce Market Group for their very generous donation of \$500.00. The Committee has decided to put the money towards the cost of a new shutter on the kitchen servery.

We have organized to have the roof of the hall repaired and repainted. The exterior will also be repainted.

It is wonderful to have our hall used so much by the community and we encourage anyone who needs a space for an event to get in touch.

For Hall bookings please phone Alison on 0474376002



FREE, BUT NOT REALLY

By Judith Conway, Yarragon Newsletter Treasurer

Thanks to Yarragon Uniting Church for their recent generous donation

Since it began over 40 years ago, the aim of the newsletter has been to foster connections and a sense of community, and to entertain and inform in a positive way that celebrates all that is good about living here.

In the beginning it was a double-sided A-4 sheet, written by hand then typed by a friend. Now it is 16 or sometimes 20 pages, in full colour. Many readers choose to receive it electronically, but we think it is important, for many reasons, that paper copies are also available.

A generous bequest, when interest rates were higher and printing costs were lower, gave us many years of financial confidence. However, that is no longer the case; interest rates dropped, printing costs rose, and as our population increases, we need more copies.

The cost of printing 210 copies, in full colour, with 16 pages, costs \$635.25

This makes it approximately \$3 per copy.

Our advertising income varies from month to month, but is, on average, \$350. So our advertisers, every one of them worth their weight in gold, cover about \$1.60 of the cost of each paper copy.

That leaves a shortfall of \$1.40, so over the 210-copy print run, we're around \$294 short.

The distribution points also have donation boxes, and we collect anywhere between \$50 - \$130 each month in them. Thank you, dear generous donors. But we still have a shortfall, and month-by-month it is adding up.

We have no intention to pressure every single person who takes a newsletter to pay for it; in our opinion, access should never depend on ability to pay.

However, in our increasingly cashless society, it may be more convenient for some of you to make online donations. If you are one of these people, and you'd like to help us out, the newsletter bank details are as follows:

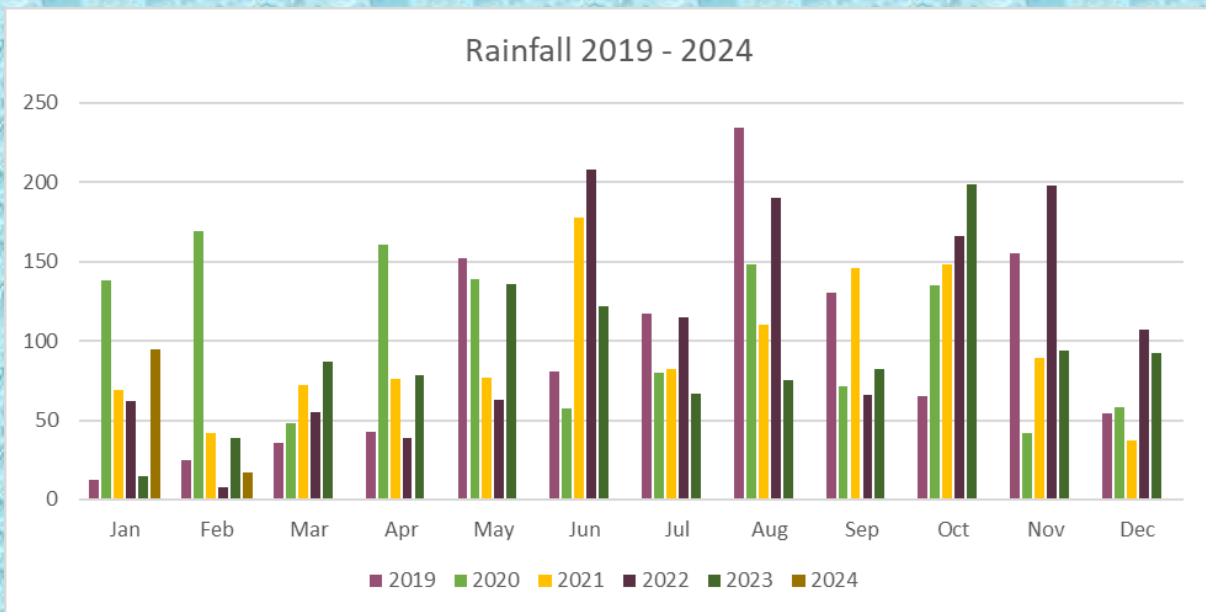
Account: Yarragon Community Newsletter

BSB: 633 000

Account#: 146 800 743

Ref: donation (and your name if you'd like us to know who you are).

Thank you for reading right to the end. Together we can keep our newsletter going for at least another 40 years.



Rainfall Record for 2024 and the five years prior, as recorded in McIntyre Road, Yarragon.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	To Feb total	Total
2019	12	25	36	43	152	81	117	234	130	65	155	54	37	1104
2020	138	169	48	161	139	57	80	148	71	135	42	58	307	1246
2021	69	42	72	76	77	178	82	110	146	148	89	37	111	1126
2022	62	8	55	39	63	208	115	190	66	166	198	107	70	1277
2023	15	39	87	78	136	112	54	75	82	199	69	92	54	1086
2024	95	17											112	



COUNCIL News.

Julia Baird to headline International Women's Day event.

Tickets are now on sale for an unmissable event at the West Gippsland Arts Centre this March.

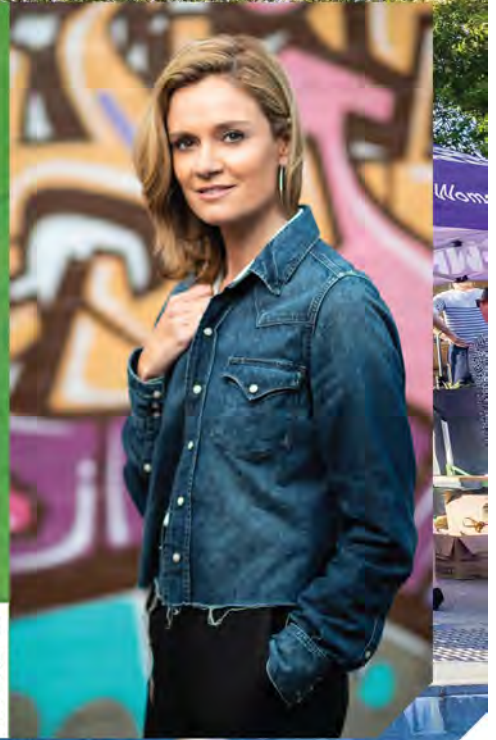
Baw Baw Shire Council and Women in Gippsland are thrilled to present their annual International Women's Day event on **Friday 8 March**, an evening sure to be filled with celebration, connection, inspiration, and hope.

Australian journalist and bestselling author and broadcaster Julia Baird will attend as the keynote speaker.

The night will also feature a panel discussion with inspiring Gippsland women from diverse backgrounds, including Victorian Multicultural Honour Roll recipient, Arfa Khan and Gippsland Women's Health CEO, Kate Graham. Producer, podcaster and author, Aleisha McCormack will moderate the panel, while local Jules Cole will bring the energy as MC.

Tickets are \$30 for general admission and \$18 for under-18s and concession cardholders. All proceeds go to not-for-profit Women in Gippsland to continue its advocacy work.

To purchase tickets for this year's event, head to the West Gippsland Arts Centre website at wgac.com.au or phone the Arts Centre on **5624 2456**.



THE EARLY YEARS CAREERS EXPO IS COMING THIS MAY.

It's not too late to submit your Expression of Interest (Eoi) to be a stallholder at the inaugural Early Years Careers Expo happening this May.

Baw Baw Shire Council would like to hear from local businesses or community groups who are connected to the early years sector and are keen to spread their word at a free event.

Eoi's are open until Monday 4 March, so click the QR code in this article, or visit Council's website to get yours in.

The Early Years Careers Expo will take place at the West Gippsland Arts Centre on **Thursday 30 May** and is a chance to explore careers in this field. There will also be a pop-up playgroup and the chance to learn more about preparing cover letters and resumes.

The expo will run from **9.30am – 12.30pm**. See you there!



STORM EVENT – COMMUNITY UPDATE.

Following the storm event on Tuesday 13 February, Baw Baw Shire Council has provided several community updates to help assist affected residents.

Stay tuned to our social media pages, and the dedicated storm update page in the 'latest news' section of Council's website for current information.

Following the storm, the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (GERF) was launched, which is an appeal to raise funds to support Gippsland residents impacted by the current storm emergency.

Donations can be made via the GERF website, at www.gerf.org.au and all donations more than \$2.00 are tax deductible.



VISIT US AT FARM WORLD IN MARCH!

Staff from Baw Baw Shire Council will be at Farm World, which will run from **22 – 24 March**.

Farm World, which is held at one of Baw Baw's premier destinations, **Lardner Park**, is one of Victoria's biggest regional agricultural shows.

Make sure you head over to Council's stand to chat with officers, share your thoughts and feedback with us and find out what's happening in the Shire this year.



W bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

E bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

T 1300 229 229

STORM AFTERMATH IN YARRAGON

Pictures by Christina Flann

Disasters obviously suck, but they still bring out the best in people. Locals checked in on each other, offered freezer space to neighbours, shared generators, those with solar power charged phones for friends. The clean up is ongoing and will be for some time. Businesses are open again. Hann's lane is now open again, the wayward roof has been removed and there are tarps on the hole it left. Luckily, the inhabitant wasn't home when it happened. Neighbours got together and cleared roads where possible. That wasn't an option at the huge tree below that fell on Earl's Rd, but Yarragon South Rd was cleared by locals. I even got a before and after of the broken chaos and the neat wood piles at the Kingwell's and a sad displaced birds nest.

WELL DONE, GEORGE!

Sent in by Inge Mitchell

It is worth commending George's (Yarragon Supermarket) quick thinking about what to do with his perishable food stock when the power went out.

I have been told he offered the fridge and freezer food to the shire's Foodbank.

