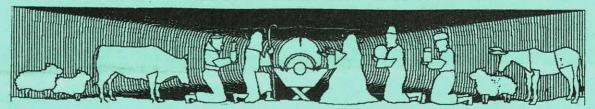
Free, Monthly, Community Publication

The Romsey Rag.

December Edition 1996 No. 136

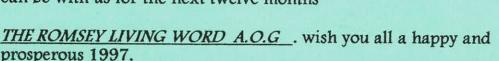
1000 copies produced each Month at Romsey Primary School as a service to our Country Community, in the Heart of Victoria.

The December Romsey Rag is Sponsored by the "Romsey Living Word - Assemblies of God"



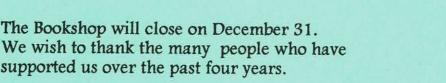
THE ROMSEY LIVING WORD WISH ALL IN ROMSEY A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

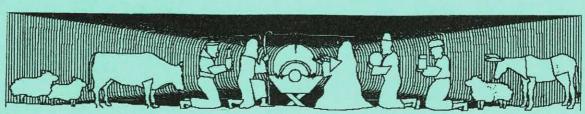
Christmas is that time of the year when people are very aware that it is the season to celebrate. A time of many family and work get togethers, a time we feel there is a greater sense of love for one another. We would like people to reflect why we are celebrating, when we sing those Christmas carols to focus on the words and to appreciate their meaning. By putting CHRIST back into Christmas that joy and love we feel now can be with us for the next twelve months

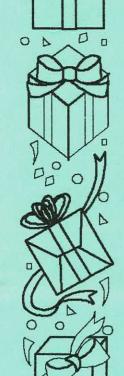


We would like you to know that WE ARE MOVING! From January we will be moving to new premises; Lot 7 Mitchell Court Romsey.Sunday service times as usual. 10:00 A.M. and evening 6:30 P.M. monthly. Enquiries: (03)54 296327, or (03)54 295381

supported us over the past four years.













ROMSEY UNITING CHURCH

Advent services and activities will lead us towards the celebration of remembering Our Lord Jesus' birth with special Sunday School Services at both Romsey and Lancefield Churches 9am Romsey and Lancefield at 10.30 on Sunday 8th December with several of our church members practising in the Church choir for the Ecumenical Carol Service to be held at St. Pauls Anglican Church Romsey on Sunday 15th December at 8.00pm when all local residents will be welcome to join in.

Advent workshop activities will continue to be held each Thursday afternoon from 3.45pm till 5 pm at our Sunday School Hall in Pohlman Street Extra Enrolments can be made by contacting Sandra Strack on 5427 0472. Several Youth Group Members are planning to attend the NCYC Camp and Conference to be held in Tasmania in January. All Uniting Church members are invited to the opening of the new State Centre for the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress on Sunday, 15th December at 2pm at 410 Torquay Road, Grovedale.

Local Uniting Church Services will be as follows:-

- Wednesday, December 25th Christmas Day Parish Worship at Romsey at 9.30am
- Sunday January 5th Parish Worship at Romsey at 10 am
- Sunday January 19th Parish Worship at Romsey at 10 am

Sunday January 26th Parish Worship Service at Lancefield at 10 am

Holy Communion will be celebrated at a parish service on Sunday 29th December at Lancefield at 10am instead of

the usual first Sunday in January with Rev. Ray Outhred officiating.

*** The Callister family will be leaving the Lancefield/Romsey Parish at the end of December and we pray that God will guide them safely into the future and we wish them all of God's blessings with better health ahead for Elaine> We thank them for their three years of ministry with us and make special mention of Ray who contributed to our local religious education in schools programme when for 2 years he taught two classes in both Lancefield and Romsey Primary Schools. Thank you for your assistance Ray.

A severing of ties service for the family and Rev. Elaine will be held at Lancefield Uniting Church on Sunday 22nd December at 10.30am and this will be an opportunity for those wishing to farewell the Callisters. An informal

luncheon will be held following the service - please bring a plate of food to share.

We again thank the Rev. Ray Outhred for his relieving ministry during Rev. Elaine's special leave and we very much

appreciate his offer to do a day of visitation of families each Wednesday in December.

For visits of families you are aware are in need please contact either Noel Shaw on 5429 5509 or Robert Clement on 5429 5225 - thank you Ray for caring about us. During January and February we will have Mr. Bert DeLossa of Broadmeadows with his wife and young child conducting our worship services and doing 2 days each week visiting families in both Romsey and Lancefield. Why not join our Bible Study Group in the New Year - for more details contact Helen Clement.

Congratulations to Michelle Robb who celebrates her 21st Birthday on 12th December.

Wedding Congratulations to Nicole Smithwick and Craig Peet.

We wish a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year together with care and support for Ex Cancer Kids and their

families and supporters

As Convenor of the Romsey Religious Education Programme at Romsey Primary School, Helen Clement would be pleased to hear from one preferably two additional R.E. volunteers and with special thanks to Rev. Paul Wood, John Green, Narelle Heild, Carole Clough and Helen Clement who between them cover all (bar 1) classes.

We wish all Romsey Rag Readers a happy and holy Christmas period with safe travelling for all those going on holiday and to all the Romsey Rag Editorial members and volunteers, our sincere thanks for your effective means of communication within our local community.

Helen Clement 5429 5317.

Bungawitta Romsey Playgroup

Well, another year approaches its finale. Where does all the time go. Playgroup will be concluding on Friday 20th December and resuming in the first week in February 1997. Any new mums who would like to join playgroup or come and have a look at how playgroup runs please feel free to contact any of the

following people: Heather Livermore 54296027

Jan McMinn 54295563

Rachelle McCreaner 54296044

Bernie Neate 54291660

The rooms are available for hire during the holiday break. Please contact Colette Chapman on 54295383 for details. I hope all the parents in Romsey realise that the playground and picnic area is available for all to use. If your little ones are restless and you want to escape the house please feel free to come up. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Romsey for their support over the past year and wish all a safe and Merry Christmas and New Year.

Compliments of the season to all our customers from
Peter and the gang at Hardwick's Butchers.....
Order your Christmas Turkeys, Hams, Pieces of Pork, Christmas Puddings and Cake now....
A safe New Year to you all!

BOLINDA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Our year long correspondence with media personality and author Jackie French, has been most successful. The letters between children and Jackie have gone back and forwards with books being sent and read, and with the last letter the news that Jackie would like to dedicate her next book to us. We are all very excited and proud to have such a wonderful penfriend.

Our Grade 3-6 Camp to Swan Hill for three days was very rewarding. It was also very educationally beneficial to learn about the trials, tribulations and successes of our pioneering forebears. We were lucky to be able to take Snr. Cons. Fiona with us. The Police in Schools Program she has conducted with our children during the year has been most successful. The children have related so well to Fiona, and a much better Police/Community relationship has developed.

While we were on Camp we visited a pheasant farm and we were given a dozen guinea fowl eggs to bring home to try and hatch. EGG-citing news!! The first three have hatched and we will keep you informed of their

progress next year.

We attended the Garden State Awards in Melbourne last Friday to receive our Achievement Award from Kevin Heinze and Jane Edmonson. We all felt very pleased that our grounds and gardens have been given this award.

By the time that you read this report, we will have participated in the Romsey Carols by Candlelight. We have been looking forward to participating in this community event. Our own Christmas Concert will be held next week and of course all the children are eagerly looking forward to this very traditional and lovely event.

Children are also very busy at the moment dusting off their billycarts in preparation for the traditional Billycart Derby to be held this year at Clarkefield Primary School. This is a terrific family day for those able to attend.

In this last report for the year, we would like to record our sincere thanks to Tom Doric at the Romsey Recreation Centre for his tireless efforts in assisting in our Physical Education program over the year. The success of this program would not have been so great without Tom's interest and help.

I would like to thank the many Romsey Rag readers who have indicated how much they have enjoyed our school news during the year, also thanks to Margaret and Trevor, and from everyone at Bolinda, we wish you all a happy and safe Christmas season.

Keith Jenkins - Principal.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE ROMSEY RESIDENTS who signed the petition which was circulated around the Town regarding the clean up of Five Mile Creek. Nine copies have been sent to the Premier's Department and their Ministers and to Members of the Opposition. Any further complaints can be addressed to Karen Osborne, Lot 1, Palmer Street - 5429 6460. Lets hope we get results this time!

A very Merry Christmas and all the very best for the New Year from Margaret, Lynn and Melinda at Romsey Book Exchange/Romsey Secretarial Service - to all our very loyal customers who make it a point to shop locally and keep us in business!

THANK YOU!

Romsey Primary School News December 1996

With just eight days of the school year remaining, it seems quite staggering that the whole year has passed so quickly. A brief scanning of the weekly newsletters produced throughout the year clearly reveals the many varied experiences, programs and successes that have been enjoyed by our pupils throughout the last 4 terms. Credit must go to the supporters and initiators of these experiences. staff and parents working together to improve the quality of learning for the children. Staff will again be providing a "Thankyou morning tea" for the parents who have assisted us with our programs this year. These refreshments will be preceded next Tuesday morning by a Christmas presentation by the pupils and special awards to some of our long serving helpers.

Early next week parents will have the reports from staff regarding the progress of children this semester. These new formats are the result of a year long evaluative process which has aimed to align our reporting more closely with the Curriculum & Standards Frameworks documents which are now used throughout the state. I sincerely trust that parents read and share the contents of the reports with their children and as they do, appreciate the amount of time, effort and assessment that has gone into each report by the staff.

Our final working Bee for the year will be a twilight affair. Parents have been encouraged to come along next Thursday at any time after 5pm and help us rake out the huge supply of mulch into the adventure play areas. We hope that this work will be completed in time to enjoy some social time together over a barbecue tea.

Just ten days ago we were again dismayed to find many of our young trees broken into small sections, rubbish deliberated dumped around the school buildings, security lights smashed, picnic tables upturned onto the young plants in garden beds and sprinkler systems ripped up. Yes Romsey is changing for the worse. To my mind it is very disappointing that this Wednesday the school council will be debating a motion that supports " no access to the school, out of without written permission". I have also supported open access to the schools facilities by the community. It is a shame that a few, irresponsible vandals may well deprive the community minded citizens of Romsey the freedom to use your facilities for recreational purposes.

Some of our children again supported the Carols by Candle light at the Lions Park last Sunday. Congratulations to all those who attended and carried out the organisation required to ensure that the real meaning of Christmas was not forgotten amid the rush and commercialism of what should be a Peaceful family time of sharing and blessing.

At their November meeting the School Council undertook the responsibility for the use of the large white house in Station Street that was formerly the home of Mr Laurie Day. As the School Council are conscious of the value of this building both historically and as an important facility for the community to use, they have been involved for quite some time in

planning for the best use of the property. Community groups which may wish to use the building are encouraged to make contact with me at any time. As you may have already noticed, a great amount of preparatory work has been done before the removal of the external tin fences and the erection of new cyclone fencing around the house. This will not only greatly extend the play and shade areas but will also crate a see through barrier for young children. The building will be used by consultants next year and could become the new base for the before and after school care group. School Council are in the process of negotiating with Western Water and the Macedon Ranges Shire in relation to up-grading this facility.

The Parents' Club wish to thank all those who have supported their recent fundraising and social events. Family portraits were very popular, the Boot Scooting night was thoroughly enjoyed, 154 Melanoma badges were sold during the Anti Cancer Awareness program, many live Christmas trees and chocolates have been purchased and now it is Christmas. Time to thank all those who have supported the school in so many positive ways and by doing so enriching the lives and experiences of many other people. Thankyou most sincerely.

Each year the School pupils, staff and community are invited to nominate citizens of the year. These people, who have provided a great deal of voluntary service to our country community are acknowledged by the school at a the very first full school assembly for the year. Presentations are made which help our young pupils recognize the invaluable contribution that volunteers make to the quality of our lives in so many different areas. If you would like to nominate citizens for this honor, please contact the school before December 22nd.

Farewell and Thankyou Pak Asep. During the last semester Asep, a teacher from Indonesia has been enriching our cultural and language program. He is just about to return to Indonesia and was thanked for his contribution at school assembly and during a special afternoon tea provided by the staff. Indonesian language will be extended throughout the whole school in 1997. Did you know that 145,000 Australians travelled to Indonesia last year. This must provide great opportunities for our children to see the relevance of the language they are learning as well as being a tourist to Indonesia some day themselves.

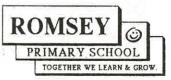
Thanks are also due to Sr Dorothy Walsh who has been organising and conducting a successful program for parents at the old school building on Wednesdays. From the comments received, it has not only been very successful but enjoyable for all those who participated.

Finally it is my pleasure, on behalf of the staff and school councillors, to wish you all a very happy Christmas time.

May the joys you share with family and friends at this time, provide a constant reminder for you, that you are important to us and that we are all needed & highly valued.

Trevor Turnham

Principal.



The Anglican Parish of Christ Church Lancefield and St Paul's Romsey

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 15th

Christmas Carol service (Combined Churches)

Christmas eve

Christingle (Children's crib service)

Christmas eve Christmas Day Midnight Christmas Communion Service Christmas Family Communion service 8pm Romsey 7pm Lancefield 11:30pm Romsey 10 am Lancefield

Sundays

9am Family Eucharist: St Paul's, Romsey.

10:30am Family Eucharist: Christ church, Lancefield.

(both services have Sunday School)

Wednesday

10:00 am Eucharist Christ Church, Lancefield.

Friday Evening 7pm Eucharist at St Paul's Romsey

Visitors, explorers, newcomers are always made welcome at any of our services. You may just turn up or phone and let us know before hand.

Please feel free to ring anytime for any pastoral or religious concerns.

Vicar: The Rev'd Paul Wood BTh,

Lancefield, Victoria, 3435

33 Chauncey Street

Telephone 54 291 380

Children's Christmas Service

Come and celebrate Jesus's birthday with us

Come in your PJ's

Come on Christmas Eve

Come and have a Christingle (means Christlight)

Come and sing some carols around the crib

Come and worship the new born King

Come and pray for peace and goodwill among all people

and I think St Nicholas might even be there!

Bring your Mum and your Dad on Christmas eve, 7pm at Christ Church Anglican Church, Lancefield.

This Christingle service will last about 30 minutes. There is no communion but adults are very welcome.

Equestrian Olympic Gold Medal Winner at Atlanta had its Origin in Lancefield

The Best 3 Day Event Horse at Atlanta - "Sunburst", was bred and reared at "Connemara Park", Lancefield, by well known horse breeder, Breda Wiltshire.

Ridden by 21 year old Wendy Schaeffer (S.A.), "Sunburst" was in the medal-winning Australian event team and on

individual scores, also placed first.

The Wiltshire family sold "Sunburst" as a yearling at the Melbourne Bloodstock Sales - his racing name was "Tungwa" and during a short racing career won over 2,000 metres at Flemington followed by a placing in the Birdsville Cup. Eventually, he was purchased by the parents of Wendy Schaeffer, and re-named "Sunburst" - a much travelled horse, who first saw daylight in Lancefield, to the Olympic Games at Atlanta, bringing home a Gold Medal for Australia.

ROMSEY/LANCEFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS

Senior Citizens meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 10.30am to 3.00pm for carpet bowls, cards and companionship. All residents 50 and over will be made most welcome! Come and join us and have a bit of fun!

Contact - Marg French (Secretary) on 5429 6377 or Marie Snowball (President) on 5429 5536.

A very merry Christmas and all the very best for 1997 from David and Fran and all the girls at the Pink Schnapper

THANKYOU - To all our friends in Romsey, please accept our sincere thanks to everyone for your expressions of sympathy on our recent bereavement. You all make Romsey a special and wonderful place to live.

Carol, Michelle, Tracy, Kirstie and Lisa Bradley.

Romsey Gardenworld

The Plant Professionals: 51 Main Street, ROMSEY.

Christmas is just around the corner and many gardens may need some jazzing up to look their best.

- If yours is lacking colour you can buy some potted bloomers, they can be planted into garden beds or potted into decorative pots.
- Those who are planning to go on holiday should make sure the whole garden is mulched to protect the garden from drying out. Pea straw is excellent for this purpose.
- Plants that have been fed with complete fertiliser will still appreciate a fortnightly application of liquid food such as Thrive, Aquasol or Phostrogen.
- Watch for caterpillars on vegetables and ornamentals either pick them off or spray with carbaryl.
- For the healthiest looking roses you must develop a spray program, spraying every 10-14 days with triforine 500ml concentrate \$11.60 or with Rose Blackspot and Insect Spray 200ml concentrate \$7.10. This not only controls fungus it also controls aphids, caterpillars and thrips.
- Watch out for Slugs and Snails on your flower gardens. They can demolish the seedlings overnight. Keep armed with a packet of Snailbait.
- Now is a good time to apply a wetting agent to your lawn and garden beds. For a wetter, better garden all summer, use Debco's Saturaid. Saturaid granules sink into the soil creating channels so water can penetrate deep down to reach root systems. Saturaid granules work up to six months which outlasts liquid wetting agents which last 4-6 weeks. Available in 300g at \$4.70 and 750g at \$9.35.
- This month specials 4" Azaleas at \$2.50 each.
- Potted Christmas Trees, cut Christmas trees, Gift Vouchers, are all available for Christmas.
- We wish all our customers the very best for Christmas and the New Year from all at Gardenworld.

Open 7 days a week : 9am - 5pm : Phone: 03 54 296 464.

ROMSEY PIZZA & PASTA

Wayne & Pollyanne wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Sunday Special: 1 Family Pizza & Lasagna for \$20.00 or 1 Family Pizza, large Garlic Bread & 1.25 coke

Wednesday Special: 2 Large Pizzas for \$20.00 conditions Apply

Delivery Available Phone Orders: 54 295870

ROMSEY CENTRAL SHOPPING CENTRE

The Owners and Tenants of the ROMSEY CENTRAL SHOPPING CENTRE support community organisations and charities and welcome the opportunity to help out where possible. However, in an attempt to stop future confusion regarding the selling of raffle tickets and promotions, we have decided to implement the following procedures as from 1st November, 1996, and ask all organisations to adhere to the following.

- (1) If you are interested in conducting any activities at the Centre, you must phone the Centre Manager, Prowse Real Estate Pty. Ltd., on (03) 9867 6677 to book a day.
- (2) Only one activity will be allowed on any one day.

Thank you for your co-operation. BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL

AT TIMES LIKE THESE

WE read the headlines daily and listen to the news.... We shake our heads despairingly and glumly sing the blues....

We are restless and dissatisfied and we do not feel secure....

We are vaguely discontented with the things we must endure....

This violent age we live in is filled with nameless fears.... As we listen to the newscasts that come daily to our ears....

But why keep reading headlines that disturb the ear and mind....

There's a book that's called the Bible where, if you look you'll find....

That this age is no different from the millions gone before....

But in every hour of crisis, God has opened up a door.... For all who seek His guidance and trust His wall-wise plan....

For God provides protection beyond that devised by man....

And we learn that each Tomorrow is not ours to understand....

But lies safely in the keeping of the great Creator's Hand....

And to have the steadfast knowledge that We Never Walk Alone....

And to rest in the assurance that our Every Need Is Known....

Will help dispel our worries, our anxieties and care....
For doubt and fear are vanquished in the Peacefulness of Prayer.

By Helen Steiner Rice

LOCOCOCOCO (1) 1 Class Times (1) 7.00 - 7.45 \$2.00 Monday: Intermediate 8.00 - 10.00 \$5.00 Advanced If attending both classes \$5.00 Tuesday: Beginners 7.00 - 8.308.30 - 9.00Revision \$4.00 Per class 1 Christmas Break Up Monday 20th December 1996 Featuring: Cactus Moon \$10.00 per person B.Y.O. drinks and plate for supper

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CHRISTMAS GIFTS AVAILABLE AT YOUR POST OFFICE

- Just arrived, new Ecopaper, totally recycled writing paper decorated with native flora prints. Small \$8.95; Large \$9.95.
- Stamp Collecting kits, reduced for Christmas now only \$12.95 (limited time only).
- Or buy the kids a "Pets in Blanked," a vary alternative pet, no noise, no mess, but just as cute.
- AFL Club cars, reduced from \$9.95 to \$5.95, limited clubs only!
- AFL children's books also reduced, now only \$2.95
- Pewter pins and figurines (with pouches) of our native animals make great gifts for overseas friends and family, as do our range of lightweight native or fantasy butterflies.
- Also now is the time to order your new rubber stamp or replace your old rubber.
 Telstra has just changed your phone numbers, so we are offering a special deal:
 Replacement of your old and reinking of your old

Replacement of your old and reinking of your old pad for only \$15.00. orders will be processed and delivered within 3 days!!

Ron, Beryl and staff would like to wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.

P.S. Post early for Christmas

Totally Natural Beauty Therapy and Nail Studio

Gift Vouchers available for Chiristmas Thurs., 9-6; Frid., 9-9; Sat., 9-5pm

(Extended hours Wednesday 18th and Monday 23rd December)

Suite 2, 110 Main Street, Romsey, 3434.

(03) 5429 5176B/H (03) 5429 1747A/H

FOR SALE: Kyneton Secondary College Uniform - 1 x College Jumber Size 24 - \$20; 2 x White Shirts Size 18 - \$10 each; 1 x School

Dress Size 24 \$30; | x Skirt Size 18 - \$40.

Tel: 5429 6629.

ROMSEY DISTRICT BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION have opened registration for 97 season under 12's, 14's, 16's, and open mixed. Register at Romsey Pizza Shop or Phone 5429 5870, 5429 2111 or 5429 5442.

St. Mary's Catholic Parish - Lancefield / Romsey

Fr. George O'Connor (Presbytery): 292130; Sr. Patricia (School): 291359; Sr. Frances (Convent): 291582.

Mass times: Sat. 7.30pm Lancefield

Sun.	for each month	1st & 3rd Sundays	2nd & 4th (& 5th) Sundays
	8.00am	Lancefield	Romsey
	10.00am	Romsey	Lancefield

Daily Masses: as advertised in weekly bulletin

Reconciliation: (Confession): 11.00 A.M.Saturday. or by arrangement.

Prayer life:

* Rosary recited before weekday Masses and before Sat. night Mass.

* 'Holy Name of Jesus' Prayer Group: Mon. 8pm Romsey Church. Contact: Merle De Silva 295 672.

*Christian Meditation (Silent Prayer) Meetings...Thursdays 8 - 9pm, Romsey. Phone Stephen 295 907

(The two groups mentioned above will be in recess for the duration of the holidays and will resume in the new year)

Special events / programs: *DROP - IN CENTRE

Every **first Thursday** of the month_coffee morning/afternoons will be held at St. Mary's Church Hall, Romsey. 10. 30 am start. The St. Vincent De Paul Conference of Lancefield / Romsey will offer a table of goods for sale, card games, etc. Come and have a browse and chat, you will be most welcome. rt assistance call the Presbytery 292 130

ADVENT - CHRISTMAS

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT Ecumenical Carols (a traditional Christian event where the Anglican, Uniting and Catholic Churches form a combined choir)
Sunday 15th December This year at the Anglican Church in Romsey --- 8.00pm ALL WELCOME

THIRD RITE OF RECONCILIATION --- 8.00pm 17th December Lancefield

CHRISTMAS EVE --- 7.30pm Lancefield

Practice for the Christmas Eve celebrations are to be held at Lancefield at --- 7.00pm on Thursday 12th December. All children wishing to be involved are encouraged to attend.

MIDNIGHT MASS (Carols begin at 11.30pm) Romsey

CHRISTMAS DAY --- 9.00am Lancefield

Other events

20 -24 January. Lay Seminars, with Fr. Robert Faricy, S.J. - author and professor of the Gregorian University in Rome will hold workshops on the Discernment of the Spirit and Gifts of the Spirit. 9.30am to 5.00pm daily. Diocesan Centre, East Melbourne Phone enquiries CCR Centre 03 9853 3811 Youth Rally

22nd March Evening. Camberwell Civic Centre. Phone CCR Centre 03 9853 3811

*The Holy Name Of Jesus Charismatic Prayer Group of Lancefield and Romsey offers intercessory prayers for individual or family needs. We intercede for these needs during our evening meetings at the St. Mary's school hall, Romsey. The words of Our Lord Jesus Christ give us the confidence that our prayers are always heard, "For wherever two or three gather in my name, I shall be there with them." If you would like to request prayers, please write clearly, no names necessary, and address it to:

The Holy Name Of Jesus Prayer Group, 57 Metcalfe Drive, Romsey. (This intercession will still continue over the holidays)

'Hold fast to Jesus, both in life and death, and trust yourself to His faithfulness, for He alone can aid you when all others fail. Your Beloved is of such a nature that He will not share your love with another; He desires your heart for Himself alone, and to reign there as a King on His throne.'

from 'The Imitation Of Christ' by Thomas A Kempis (born 1380 - 1471) Ch. 7

mrcc.file

IT'S BEEN A GREAT YEAR FOR THE CLUB!

This has been a great year for the cub. We've got a new look logo and banner, a great newsletter and new members who enjoy the ever growing member benefits and discounts.

Thanks to Inter-Met of Kyneton we have, our own homepage on the Internet and an Internet account, all of which are free for the clubs own use at our monthly meetings. Our page is located at www.intermet.net.au and email is mrcc@intermet.net.au. This enables us to help members and visitors with their own Internet access and show them first hand how it all works.

A new mother board and processor in the clubs PC has sped things up a bit, thanks to the generosity of John Dudley, a valued member and one of

FUTURE MEETINGS

Every third Sunday of each month

NOV 17th-DEC Break-JAN 19th

2:00 pm at BUNGAWITTA

in ROMSEY

Bring a plate. Entry is free!

Call Deb Burge 286 977

or Stuart McMinn 295 563

for details

the club founders. Other members have contributed greatly to the club and we wish to thank them all!

The Romsey Rag continues to support the club and we are grateful for this. While we all try very hard to assure the club news is there for you, sometimes things don't go quite to plan, as was the case last month. Feel free to call us at anytime with queries you may have. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.



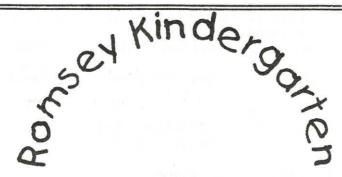
NEXT YEAR!

1997 promises to be even bigger and better!

Our first meeting will be a casual affair, enabling fellow members to catch up with each other and be there for new visitors.

Any one who received a PC from Santa should come along and see what we have to offer you and your family. Membership is not compulsory and we can help with teething problems you may be experiencing. Shareware abounds and is free for everyone to copy.

At our recent meeting we helped several members to solve their long standing problems, let us help you!



The staff and Committee of Management of the Romsey Kindergarten would like to acknowledge and thank the following businesses that have contributed to the success of the Kindergarten this year.

Romsey Chemist, Alford Garage, Romsey Newsagents, Vince the Butcher, Dean Jones, Daffodil Farm, Lancefield, Neville Meyer, Sarsons, Sleepcraft, Coburg, Romsey Gardenworld, Mcleish's Riteway, Romsey Foodtown, Mitre 10, Romsey Movieland, Romsey Recreation Centre and Peter Hogan.

Thank you again for your support.

Forthcoming event for the Kindergarten. 1997 Gala Night, Friday the 28th of February. Bookings for a stall or table can be made to Vicki Zerna on 295085.

To everyone at the Kinder, a wonderful xmas and a happy new year

ROMSEY AND LANCEFIELD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Christmas Message.

As we approach the Christmas period, God's love is ever before us.

This year we should consider that God never meant us to live apart from Him. His desire is that we should live in relationship with Him. He desires to fill our lives completely with His eternal life, through the life of His Son, Jesus Christ, who lives forever, having been raised from the dead.

God reveals Himself as a loving Father who will not force Himself upon us, but encourages us to His side.

The only limitation that we place upon God is the exercise of our will, and God will not interfere with our free choice. Relationship with God is a choice which is entirely ours.

How do we come into this relationship? God the Father points us to His Son, Jesus Christ. Our acceptance of Jesus and the knowledge of Him is the way into true life with God. Jesus said," I am the way, the truth and the life, and no one comes to the Father except by me". In Him all the attributes of God are found, and in Him we will discover God's ways and His plan for our life.

God has placed within us a deep need for His love. We can come boldly and confidently, knowing that as we ask.

He will receive us.

We wish the community of Romsey and Lancefield a blessed and prosperous Christmas.

CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION SERVICE

Tuesday 24th December, 7.30pm. Romsey Mechanics Hall.

Our weekly Sunday morning services are at 10.00am in the Romsey Mechanics Hall, and continue throughout the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

We welcome your enquiries to Geoff Holland (Minister) on 54295673.

Macedon Family Hotel CHRISTMAS DAY M E N U

Entrees:

- * Warm Chicken Salad Served with a Raspberry Vinaigrette
- * Smoked Salmon & Smoked Trout Timbale Accompanied with Melba Toast

Main Course:

- * Christmas Meats

 A selection of Turkey. Ham and Pork with

 Apricot stuffing.
 - Served with traditional Roast Vegetables

Desserts:

- * Plum Pudding Served with Brandy Cream
- * Tartufo Icecream

 Served with a Strawberry Coulis

Tea & Coffee

\$35.00 PER HEAD \$15.00 CHILD (Under 12)

SANTA IS COMING DURING CHRISTMAS LUNCH!
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(Please note that Romsey Secretarial Service/Sewing Alterations and Romsey Rag will re-located to the Office Suite at 110 Main Street, behind Kilkenny's Real Estate)

Sal's Pre-Christmas Shopping Days

Fancy doing your Christmas shopping or just having a day out window shopping without the hassle of driving....then....Come on one (or all) of my pre Christmas SHOPPING DAYS operating on Thursdays (the 5th, 12th and 19th December). We leave 9.30am and arrive back 2.30pm. Adults \$10, children 5-12 \$5, children under 5 FREE. To book your seat on the bus ring Sally on 5429 5807.

LANCEFIELD/ROMSEY LIONS CLUB
CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL AND
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Santa and much, much more.
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GARAGE SALE....SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER, 10-5PM - NO EARLY CALLERS - 39 MAIN ROAD, LANCEFIELD.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JACQUELINE CUTHBERT....who was recently notified of her acceptance into Dance World 301. Commencing in 1997, Jacqueline will undertake full time studies of the Certificate 11 in Dance Course, majoring in Classical Ballet. Jacqueline has been learning dancing since the age of five and it now appears as though her perseverance is being rewarded/ Well done Jacqueline, we hope that 1977 proves to be a fulfilling and rewarding year for you.

LANCEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE 78 High Street, Lancefield. 3435 : 03 5429 1214



DECEMBER ALREADY!

Another year coming to an end and it only seems like yesterday that we started 1996. This year has been very busy with lots of new things and a lot more of the old things. All our classes and activities have been a raging success and the House has seen a lot more of the community. Congratulations to Caroline Middenway for her new position as President and a big thankyou to Margaret Love for her hard work over the last 2 years, and we look forward to her helping out in Fundraising. Other new members of the Committee include Christine Sardon, Else McCarten, Lee McSweeney and Amanda Micallef. Sadly, we say goodbye and a big Thankyou to Kay Grigsby and Alison Hackett. Both Kay and Alison have been a vital asset to the Neighbourhood House over the past 5 years and we wish them the best.

Now is the time for us to evaluate the past 12 months and start planning for 1997. If you would like to comment on anything that you have been apart of at the House over the last 12 months, please drop us a note or call in for a chat. Activities and Classes planned for nest year include:

Adult VCE - Day time subject will be Health & Human Development

-Night time will be either Human Development or Australian Studies

Adult Literacy & Numeracy

Alternative Therapies

Creative Writing

Computer Classes - Beginners & Advanced with different

Programs

Job Search Skills & Communicating With Confidence

Calligraphy Bread Making

Folk Art Natural Beauty Products

Cake Decorating Meditation

Tai Chi Occasional Childcare

Knitting & Craft Group Rural Women's Group

Patchwork

& lots more.

If you are interested in any of these classes or have any ideas for some new ones please ring Nola on 291 214 Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.00 to 3.00.

On behalf of Nola and Committee of Management, we wish you a merry Xmas and a happy & safe New Year. See you in 1997!

MACEDON RANGES SHIRE COUNCIL

MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY REQUIRED

Have you an hour or so to spare? Are you interested in doing some worthwhile voluntary work in the community to help the elderly? If so, the Macedon Ranges Shire Council would like to hear from you. Currently there is a shortage of volunteers in the Lancefield and Romsey area. Doing voluntary work in the community is very rewarding and a visit from a friendly face makes all the difference to the sick, lonely and elderly in the community.

If you can help please contact Irene Sidlo on 5427 8222.

COLLECTOR'S ITEM....

For those of you interested in history and particularly the history of Romsey, Award-Wining illustrator, John Nicholson of Riddells Creek has produced a magnificent drawing of St. Paul's Anglican Church, built in 1871, for screen printing onto linen teatowels for the Church's 125th Anniversary.

Available in 4 colours, this "limited edition" is on sale and display at the Romsey Book Exchange at \$7.50 each.

Any enquires to 5429 5329.

1st Romsey Scout Group

As we come to the end of another year, we can look back on a very successful year of scouting. In June we held a very busy open day with children being able to experience scouting and guiding first hand. From this day, our cub numbers have increased greatly and we have a large cub scout section. Three cubs are ready to progress to scouts at the beginning of 1997, and we wish them luck on their adventurous journey. 1997 marks the year of another jamboree, this time in Queensland. We have a number of scouts who plan to attend the jamboree so you will notice a higher profile in the new year, as the scouting section fundraise to attend this unique experience. Other events to look forward to in 1997 are Founders Day(February), Clean Up Australia Day(March), and a Supper Dance with Darryl Cotton and the Rockafellaz(April). More details will be available in the new year. You are welcome to come along to section nights, become involved as a leader, or become involved in the Group Committee, meetings held currently on the second Wednesday of the month. Merry Christmas to all in Romsey.

Cub Scouts - Boys and Girls aged 8-11, Scouts - Boys and Girls aged 11-15. Leaders - Any age acceptable. Full training provided. Fun and adventure guaranteed.

HALL HIRE: The Scout Hall has been repainted and is looking a million dollars. It is available for private hire for functions, parties etc. at a very reasonable price, 10% discount for those involved in Scouting and Guiding.

For information and bookings please contact Sue O'Brien 5429 5100.

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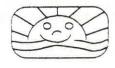
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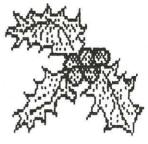
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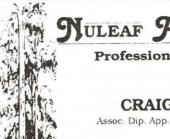
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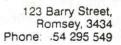
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Items for the Rag should be handed to Margaret Howatson at the Book Exchange before the first Friday in the month. The cut off date for the October Romsey Rag is - Thursday, 31st October, 1996. It would be appreciated if material could be given to Margaret or the Romsey Primary School as early as possible please. Thankyou for your continued support and co-operation.

The Editors.

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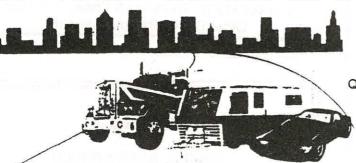
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Items for the Rag should be handed to Margaret Howatson at the Book Exchange before the first Friday in the month. We will not publish the Romsey Rag in January. The cut off date for the February, 1997 Romsey Rag is - Thursday, 6th February, 5pm. It would be appreciated if material could be given to Margaret Howatson as early as possible please. Thankyou for your continued support and cooperation.

We wish all members of the community a Happy Christmas and a safe and peaceful new year.

The Editors.

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Bill Krammer, F.C.A.

(Resident Partner)

102 Main street, Romsey - Tel: 295 477 902 Mt. Alexander Road, Essendon (03) 93260211

Romsey Hours: Thursday & Friday 9am-5pm Other Days - By appointment.

S.R.J.

- * Garden Maintenance
 - * Garden Up keep
 - * Rubbish Removal
- * Window Cleaning
- * Tree reduction/removal
 - --- CHEAP RATES ---
 - * Sean 54 296 264
 - * John 54 296 737

ROMSEY RED CROSS UNIT

Many thanks to all our members who have assisted us during 1996 with special thanks to Doss Keating and Gwenda Allen who have volunteered to share our unit Secretarial duties between them. We are hopeful of further growth in numbers and commitments in 1997.

 With the onset of summer and the imminent fire danger period, we have got our catering teams and registration team (to register evacuees) organised and on stand-by, ready to assist if we are called on by Police during any emergencies. We are called in to assist CFA Auxiliary catering in a Stage 2 Disaster situation. Further volunteers are always welcome. If you are willing and able to assist on a roster basis please contact either Helen Clement on 5429 5317 or Doss Keating on 5429 6277.

NB: Remember prevention is far better than treating a complaint and take time NOW to make your home and

property safe from fire hazards and danger.

- A very pleasant end-of-year function and final meeting for 1996 was held at "RoseAllen" Tea Rooms when only 6 of our members are able to attend, we were very pleased to have Dione Robertson our Regional Co-Ordinator, from Bendigo Red Cross HQ joined us and she told us of Red Cross active and successful involvement in the tragedies of land mines in Bosnia and other 3rd World countries and horrific injuries to feet, legs, and hands of innocent citizens needing very expensive surgery and plastic surgical repairs of thousands of ghastly injuries. Each unit has been requested to help assist in the rehabilitation of these injured people.
- Red Cross Christmas cards, gifts, diaries and calenders will be on sale outside Margaret Howatson's Romsey
 Book Exchange on Saturday 14th December from 9.30 till 12.30 and this is an excellent opportunity to purchase
 cards and gifts at realistic prices and support a worthy organisation too!

Our first meeting for 1997 will be on Wednesday, 12th February at 1.30 at Marion Spring's home - 68 Main Street.
 An advanced note for your diary is Friday 23rd May - Danny Blume at the Romsey Uniting Church Hall.

- Lunch Time Junior Red Cross meetings are to commenced at Romsey Primary School with Leeanne Eames and Helen Clement acting as leaders and we plan to have a stall and a Red and White Dress Up day at the school on Monday 16th December at lunch time to raise funds for the Help the Land Mine Victims Fund Raising Project.
- We wish all Romsey Rag Readers a very happy, safe, Christmas time and a safe and happy 1997 too and we take
 this opportunity to thank the Romsey Rag Editorial Members and all their volunteers for this every effective and
 beneficial form of communication to all local residents.

Doss Keating 5429 6277/Helen Clement 54295 317.

ROMSEY BOWLING CLUB is in need of new members and welcomes all residents of Romsey to come along to any of our informal Friday Twilight Bowls and BBQ Tea Nights. Just front up at the Bowling Club around 5.15p.m. and as long as you have flat shoes on you will be kitted out with a set of bowls and have a go at this great game. We have a good laugh and a BBQ tea, cuppa or beer afterwards - usually finishing around 8.30/9 o'clock. Cost is \$3 for the night and its a great way to find our for yourself what our small, friendly, young club has to offer!!! For more information talk to any member or to Margaret Howatson at the Book Exchange.

Congratulations to all our ladies and men who have done or are going through the games of our club events - especially to Helene Newnham who took out the Ladies Championship with Jean Cropley winning the 100 Up. Our Christmas Break Up is on Friday, 20th, so that should be a fun night. Our wishes of quick recovery to Jan Thomson and to all our oldies who have since retired from the Club - the compliments of the season to you all. May all our members have a safe and happy Christmas and Good Bowling in the New Year!

ROMSEY VOLLEYBALL CLUB

Mixed Volleyball 1997 Competition - Registration Night - Friday, 31st January at 7.30p.m. Competition starts - Friday 7th February. Ladies Volleyball 1997 Competition - Registration Day - 5th February at 9.30a.m. - Competition Starts - 12th February. New players or teams for both competitions are most welcome. Please contact Tom (Rec Centre) on 5429 5637 or Tracey on 5429 5035. To all our players in 1996 thank you for a great year of competition and may your Christmas and New Year be safe and happy. Merry Christmas!!

ROMSEY LEAGUE JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Margaret Howatson, Publicity Officer. 5429 6090/5429 5724.

The coaches for 1997 season have been appointed - U10 - Mark Hegarty, U12 - Russell Carroll and U16 Barry Godbolt. The applications for U14's are still open. Please send them to Secretary, RLJFC, 15 White Avenue, Romsey or ring 5429 6000. President - W. Nettelbeck 5429 5869, V. President R. Conway 5429 5027, Secretary D. Ryan 5429 6000, Treasurer J. Hooke 5429 1464, Registration Day 9th February, 1997.

