

THE ROMSEY RAG

Issue No. 201

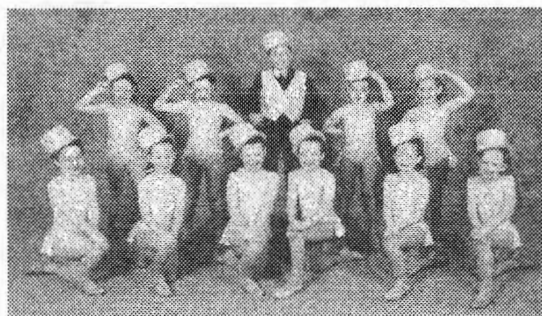
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February 2003

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Call any time for an appointment at your home or office.

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To find out more about the Aussie Mortgage Market, please contact Isabelle Larkin directly on 03 9679 9583, or alternatively, call 0418 140 340.

DON'T FORGET— WATER RESTRICTIONS NOW APPLY IN ROMSEY

Editorially Speaking

Romsey Rag Editorial Committee:
Barney Healy, Kym Raverty, Robyn Moore

Layout and Design:

Robyn Moore

Advertising /Sponsorship:

Margaret Howatson – 5429 5254
or 5429 5724

Collation Team Co-ordinator:

Joan Sparkes—5429 5848

Contributions:

Articles should be left at the Romsey Post Office (fax 5429 5134) or Romsey Primary School (fax 5429 5765) by 12 noon of the 21st of each month (or last business day prior to the 21st).

We prefer articles to be submitted electronically or on disc. Legible typed or handwritten items may be accepted. All material submitted for publication must be named and have contact details.

Articles can be sent via e-mail to:
romsey.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Please ensure that any text is sent as word documents and logos / photos are sent as .jpg files.

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editorial Committee. All contributions remain the responsibility of the author.

Advertising:

Rates are GST inclusive.

Front page sponsorship: \$75 per half page

Business card: \$15 per month

\$150 per year in Business Directory

Quarter page: \$30

Half page: \$60

Full page: \$120

Line ads: eg- For sale, births, deaths, marriages, engagements - \$5.

Cheques must be made payable to Romsey Primary School

Distribution:

1550 copies delivered to the Romsey community at the commencement of each month.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thankyou

Please would you write a BIG THANKYOU to all our community-minded citizens who gave hundreds of hours of their time towards making this a better place.

As we begin another year, THANK YOU to all volunteers in the Fire Brigades, churches and charities, as well as the hard workers on committees for everything from sport for kids, visiting the elderly and the clubs for everyone in between.

It would be dangerous to start naming outstanding people because there are so many, but somebody made Christmas street banners, and now "Proud to be Australian" ones, and somebody has installed seats at intervals along our walking track. Others have cleaned up the path along the creek, and still more people will run events and entertainments during the year, to raise money and to enhance life in our community.

We have a lot going for us in this district and we can all play a part, however small, in helping to keep it a healthy and happy place. Join in somewhere and see how rewarding it is to BELONG and not have to travel

away for entertainment! The selection is yours—and you'll be welcomed with open arms! Believe it or not, you usually gain more than you give.

Grateful Citizen

A LOW ACT

I was saddened to see the item (page 3) in the December edition of the Romsey Rag about the plants missing from the landscaped area of the Medical Centre. As co-ordinator of the Romsey Fountain, I reluctantly advise that at approximately the same time 10 English box hedges planted to beautify the fountain area were stolen, and I am concerned that at any time in the future I may find that another 10 will disappear. The plantings at both the medical Centre and the fountain were done for the benefit of ALL residents, and I consider it a low act by an individual who does not deserve to reside in such a lovely place as Romsey. If by now the person has discovered a conscience, perhaps he/she will anonymously put the plants back where they belong.

Mike Garrett

Collating of the Romsey Rag

In case you have ever wondered, the Rag does not appear in your home as if by magic! Each month a wonderful and enthusiastic bunch of people assemble at the primary school to put this publication together for the people of Romsey. Joan Sparkes is the Collation team Co-ordinator and she would love to hear from anyone who can assist with this important task. Collation day is a busy one, but it is also a very social one, and it may be just the opportunity you are seeking to get out of the house, meet some new people and contribute to your community. The publication and collating dates for the Rag are listed below.

If you would like to volunteer please call Joan Sparkes on 5429 5848

Edition	Closing Date	Collation Date
March 2003	Friday February 21st	Thursday February 27th
April 2003	Friday March 21st	Thursday March 27th
May 2003	Monday April 21st	Thursday May 1st
June 2003	Wednesday May 21st	Thursday May 29th
July 2003	Friday June 20th	Thursday June 26th
August 2003	Monday July 21st	Thursday July 31st
September 2003	Thursday August 21st	Thursday August 28th
October 2003	Friday September 19th	Thursday September 25th
November 2003	Tuesday October 21st	Thursday October 30th
December 2003	Friday November 21st	Thursday November 27th

Are you really prepared?

Tragedy has struck Canberra on a magnitude similar to the Ash Wednesday Fires of 1983, some are saying that they were even worse. Fires in the North East are threatening property, fires in Lysterfield put pressure on local residents.

These are salutary lessons on what can happen in a short period of time, events that will change your life forever.

We ask the question again, "Are you prepared?"

Being prepared means having a plan that includes the very important question of whether you are going to stay and defend your home.

Research in Victoria found that the main reasons for loss of life and injuries were the lack of a plan or failure to maintain the plan. Some reports coming out of Canberra suggest that many of the injuries occurred when people attempted to flee after the fire had almost overtaken them.

The graphic footage of that evening in Canberra clearly shows why we stress that if you are going to leave, leave early and not get caught in the open.

For information or advice contact your local brigade or Peter Moore on 0409 407 725



Remember people save houses and houses save people.

Fire Behaviour

In normal years the trigger to be alert are strong northerly winds, high temperatures and low humidity, unfortunately with such dry conditions dangerous fires can occur on relatively mild days with strong winds from any direction.

"We've had a number of fires in the region that run under a southerly wind, the nearest was in Konakaderra Road near the Deep Creek bridge" said David Allen, Group Officer of the Romsey Group. "With everything so dry it doesn't take much for a fire to take hold."

"We must be vigilant for any possible causes and question everything we do to ensure we are not responsible for any outbreak," he added.

Locals Support to the North East

Local brigade members have been providing crews to serve in the Ovens and Kiewa Valleys as fires burn in the Victorian Alps.

8 members are leaving every three days to do a day or night shift engaged mainly in asset protection in and around the towns and villages in the Victorian Alps.

Between 21/1/03 and 1/2/02 approximately 60 fire fighters will have served some time in the North East.

Romsey Group also had 3 members undertake roles in the Incident Management Team working out of the Ovens Department of Sustainability and Environment.



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Thursday	10.00am - 12.30pm
Friday	10.00am - 12.30pm (if sufficient interest)


Are you expecting a child, have a newborn or children up to the age of 5? Does your child need other children to play with?

A great way for children to play together
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For more information please call:
 Kitty 54 29 6307
 Renee 54 29 6692



ROMSEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Awards

Year 6 graduation is always a special evening as our senior students farewell the primary school that has nurtured their learning for the past seven years. Our year 6 graduation commenced with a special dinner held at school for the students and their teachers. This was followed by the formal part of the program with parents in the school gym. All our year 6 students were presented to the large group of parents and special visitors. The students then entertained us with dance routines, all choreographed by the students themselves. Students were presented with graduation certificates and a school key ring as a memento of their time at Romsey Primary School. Additionally our Year 6 Peer Mediators and Junior School Councillors were recognised, as were our school captains Emma Milne and James Calder. Emma and James reflected on the leadership opportunity offered to them in this role within the school and on the rewards and learning they had made in fulfilling this position throughout 2002.

Special awards were presented to students in special recognition for their achievements at school.

These were:

Principal's Award- Emma Milne- *In recognition of outstanding achievement and positive contribution throughout her years at Romsey Primary School*

CWA Award- Jacqueline Moloney—*In recognition of an outstanding improvement in all aspects of her school work.*
 Rotary Award- Alan Prokhovnik- *For outstanding consistent effort and a positive attitude to his schoolwork*

Performing Arts Award- James Calder, Cassie East & Ashley Petran- *In recognition for outstanding achievement in Performing Arts throughout their years at Romsey Primary School.*

Rona Viney LOTE (Indonesian) Award- Alan Prokhovnik, Adam Neyland- *In recognition for consistent commitment to the study of LOTE (Indonesian) at Romsey Primary School.*

Visual Art Award- Carmen Thomson- *In recognition of outstanding Visual art achievement throughout her years at Romsey Primary School.*

Sport Award- Martin Gray and Daniel Martin—*In recognition of outstanding achievement in sport throughout their years at Romsey Primary School*

The evening concluded with a recognition of our year 6 teachers for 2002 who have done a wonderful job in fostering a caring learning environment for these students- John Mackintosh, Leanne Lyons, Maggie Conrad and Joan Gibbs. Also Janine Neyland and David and Jeanette Blicblau were recognised for their outstanding support for the school over the many years that their children have been students at our school.



School Start 2003

The new school year started with over forty new prep students, and a number of new enrolments at all grade levels. Additionally we welcomed a number of new staff members to our school. Michelle Milner will be joining the senior school team teaching years 5/6, Margaret Maher will join the middle unit teaching 3/4, and Amy Skinner will join the junior unit teaching years 1/2.

For the first two weeks all students will be undertaking a special program to orientate them to their new class group, further develop common understandings of our school values, and work on establishing specific individual learning goals. This program has been developed to form part of our on-going commitment to more strongly engage students responsibly in their own learning, taking greater responsibility for the quality of their efforts at school over the year.



The Anglican Parish
of
Lancefield
and
Romsey



33 Chauncey Street, Lancefield, Victoria 3435.
Telephone 5429 1380

Locum: Rev Tom Morgan
5 Jinker way
ROMSEY 3434. Phone: 5429 6060

SUNDAY: 9.00am St Paul's, Romsey
SUNDAY: 10.30am Christ Church, Lancefield
WEDNESDAY: 10.00am Christ Church, Lancefield

EVENING SERVICES:

1st Sunday of month: 7.00pm Christ Church, Lancefield
 3rd Sunday of month: 7.00pm St. Paul's, Romsey

LANCEFIELD GUILD meets 2nd Wednesday morning each month after Church service in Christ Church Hall, Lancefield.

BABYSITTER AVAILABLE

I am a reliable, experienced Year 12 student available to babysit after school and on weekends.

Please call Sarah Boxall on 5429 6746

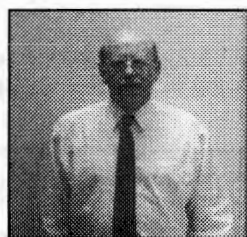
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Colette – 5429 1930
Carol – 5429 5160

LOCAL WEBSITE

I have just recently published a Web Site at
<http://romsey.tech.nu/> and <http://romsey.isgreat.net/> ,
This is a non commercial , non sponsored personal site
that does not carry any advertisements.

The main aim of this site is to provide local weather statistics dating back to 1975 and provide local fire alerts in conjunction with the C.F.A. with whom I have been in touch with via their Webmaster.

I have also been in touch with the Romsey Council in Hampshire England who have visited my site and are very happy to add a reciprocal link on their site to this one.

My query is whether you might be interested in having The Romsey Rag included on this web site, as I am prepared to insert the relevant articles on a monthly basis and perhaps in the near future provide an automatic electronic mailing service of The Romsey Rag.

I already have designed and published the draft layout and format which can be altered accordingly. Please note that this layout is a draft only and will be removed from this site should you desire . May I suggest that you visit my Website and decide whether my proposal is feasible. Please also note that this site is still under construction and will continually be updated.

I would be very happy to provide this service on a gratis basis thus enabling me to continue to embrace the Romsey community spirit

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Peter Moritz
736 Black Range Road
Romsey 3434
Telephone 54270411

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Romsey Uniting Church

25 Pohlman Street
 Minister: Rev Alan Williams
 25 William Street
 Ph/Fax: 5429 5351
 Romsey 3434
 mobile: 0408 380 962



What's News

A new year is a little like a blank canvas. It's outcome has not been pre-determined. It is full of endless possibilities and hope.

Yet 2003 has dawned amidst a sense of anxiety and worry.

There's the possibility (probability?) of war in Iraq. Should we be for it, against it, or completely out of it? How will the tension and conflict affect prices and the economy? Then there's the drought. We've been through drought before, but this seems to be something stronger. When will it break? How many farmers will survive? How will the reduced local supply affect prices and the economy? Related to the drought is the uncertainty over our water supply, both quantity and quality. What measures will we need to take just to survive? How will the strengthening of restrictions affect our quality of life?

Finally, along with many others, I have a child beginning school for the first time. Others will have children attending new schools (such as the beginning of secondary school) or beginning their VCE. These situations all have their share of uncertainty, of how the child (and parent) will cope.

From the church's point of view, all of these issues are simply signs of the times. We live in a rapidly changing world. There are numerous philosophies and beliefs driving people to action. As population grows, the demand on natural resources increases. Our attempts to control our environment for our own benefit has wider implications that are only beginning to come to light.

In short, the world does have a number of problems. However, it's my belief that most of our problems are caused by people.

The existence of problems does not deny hope. Indeed, the existence of problems gives hope meaning. Hope is the belief that things can, and will, get better. It is only by confronting the source of a problem that there is any possible way forward.

My belief is that the source of the problem is human nature (greed and self-righteousness in particular). It is also my belief that the perspective needed to recognise and address this problem can only be found in God.

It is my hope that the church in 2003 will be able to point to God as the source of all wisdom and knowledge, and the hope for solutions, rather than claiming to have all the answers itself. If that happens, then we might just be seen as relevant to your world.

Rev Alan Williams

On behalf of the Romsey Uniting Church, I trust that everyone had a joyful and safe holiday period, and I wish our community well for the New Year.

What's On

- 2 Feb 9:00am worship and Sunday School, including Holy Communion. This service will also include a commissioning for the year ahead.
- 9 Feb 9:00am worship and Sunday School.
- 12 Feb 1:30pm UCAF (Ladies' Guild) meets in the Sunday School hall for a planning afternoon. If you want to know what they will be doing for the year, or have some ideas for them to consider, please come along. All welcome.
- 16 Feb 8:15am worship, beginning with and including breakfast, to celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving.
- 23 Feb 9:00am worship and Sunday School.
- 2 Mar 9:00am worship and Sunday School, including Holy Communion.

You are most welcome to come along to any of these events and share in our life together.

If you have any questions about the Christian faith or the church, please feel free to ask Rev Alan.

TO CONTACT ALL EMERGENCY SERVICES IN THIS AREA -

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LOCAL AUTHOR PUBLISHED GAE ANANDAMAH PETERSON

Over the holidays, I took a photo, at a book signing (having never been to one before, I was suitably impressed) at the Old Crow Trading Post. The book was called: "The Rainbow Children". It's a kids book about a magic carpet and the children in the book go on great adventures, touching down at environmentally sensitive places, yet it has conscience. And the writer is a local woman! It's a great read, a feel good book for kids of all ages which is exactly what a lot of people need after this past year! I thought it would be good to let others know about it too! I believe you can get copies at The Old Crow Trading Post in Lancefield. Michelle.



Romsey Veterinary Surgery

80 Main Street, Romsey, 3434
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Fax: (03) 5429 6259



CONSULTING HOURS:
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4:00-6:00pm
Sat 9:00-10:30am
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At other times by appointment

Romsey Veterinary Surgery

Extension of Hours

Our office hours have been extended.

Our new office hours will be

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

8:30 AM – 8:00 PM

Tuesday and Thursday

9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

Saturdays and Sundays

9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Our consulting hours

at 80 Main Street Romsey will be

Monday – Sunday 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Monday – Friday 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

No appointments are needed during our consulting hours.

Appointments outside our consulting hours can be made by phoning (03) 5429 5711

80 Main Street
Romsey

TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED!

The Lancefield/Macedon Ranges Relay for Life committee is calling on people in the Macedon Ranges to register for the Relay for Life to be held at the Lancefield Park from 12pm Saturday 29th March – to 12pm on Sunday 30th March 2003.

The event calls on teams of at least 10 people to walk, run or stroll relay-style around a track for 24 hours. Team members are encouraged to raise \$100 towards the fundraising effort of their team. Lancefield is one of 30 venues hosting Relay for Life across Victoria during 2003 and this is the first time the event has been held in the Macedon Ranges. Money raised will go directly to The Cancer Council Victoria. If you don't have a team you can register as an individual and we will include you in a team. A generous donor will contribute \$50 towards fundraising efforts for the first 4 teams to register for this event.

All members of the community are welcome to be part of the Relay for Life. Families, friends, community groups and businesses can all join in. Participants have great fun and will enjoy entertainment, spot prizes and a colourful festive atmosphere as teams pitch their tents for the night.

A Candlelight Ceremony in support of survivors or in memory of loved ones is a moving experience and an important aspect of the Relay for Life - we have all been touched by cancer in some way or another.

TAKE THE FIRST STEP TO A CANCER-FREE WORLD

Register your Team for Lancefield/Macedon Ranges Relay for Life

For information ring Bronwyn – 5429 1360 or Bev – 5429 1651

Team enquiries & registration: Karen – 5429 2060 or Tash 5428 1863



Newham Mechanics Institute to celebrate being 100 years old February 2003.

The second week in February 2003 will see the whole of the Macedon Ranges come alive with history and motor-ing enthusiasm. **Saturday February 8th** will witness the staging of the inaugural Macedon Ranges Grand Tour, beginning in Gisborne and weaving its way through the towns and districts of the Ranges finishing at the Gisborne Steam Park.

A host of community-based activities will provide richness to this event including Newham Mechanics Institute that will be at the epicenter of the Grand Tour celebrating its 100th anniversary. The Newham Mechanics Institute Hall being open all weekend Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th February from 10 am to 5 pm will be displaying local craft and memorabilia, including their fine collection of photographs depicting their district families' histories. On Saturday you can present for historic family photos to be taken by Bruce Hedge with the Newham Mechanics Hall as the backdrop. Enjoy refreshments and Devonshire tea anytime over the weekend. Be able to purchase a cap and or a magnet as a remembrance of the historic weekend celebrating the 100th year of the Newham Mechanics Institute, receive a complimentary copy of the history of the Newham Mechanics Institute and be able to order Janny Williams new book on the history of the Newham District. At 2 pm on Sunday February 9th there will be a tree planting and the cutting of the anniversary cake.

The Newham Mechanics Institute 100th anniversary has been supported by the Shire of Macedon Ranges by them making a grant towards the cost of presenting the event for the weekend. This grant is much appreciated by the committee of management of the Newham Mechanics Institute and the Ratepayers of Newham and district. The Shire of Macedon Ranges and its predecessor Shire of Newham and Woodend have over the life time of the Newham Mechanics Institute provided grants that have supported the maintenance of the hall and the grounds.

All members of the Newham Community past and present are invited to the Newham Mechanics Institute 100th anniversary along with the persons who are participating in the Grand Tour and all the community of the Macedon Ranges with their families and friends.



R.A.C.V. ★★★★★ RATED

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NOTE TO ALL ADVERTISERS IN THE ROMSEY RAG

Since the closure of the Commonwealth Bank in Romsey, the Romsey Primary School is no longer able to deposit cheques made out to "Romsey Rag". Could all advertisers therefore please make cheques payable to "**Romsey Primary School**" when paying for advertisements in the Romsey Rag? Thankyou for your co-operation.
Margaret Howatson, Advertising / Sponsorship

MIDLIFE MAGIC

Lancefield Neighbourhood House has prepared a wonderful opportunity for women from 35 to 105. A special day called Midlife Magic is to be held on Wednesday, March 5th. The aim is to bring women together from all walks of life, to learn and share good health and well-being strategies.

The program, presented by series of qualified women, includes such things as *Healthy Mind for a Healthy Body*, *Breast Screen Information*, *Women's Support Groups*, *Women's health*, *Chinese Herbal Medicine*, *Tell Tale Signs of Stress*, *Yoga*, *Aromatherapy*, *Pap Screen Information*, *Kinesiology*, *Continence and Pelvic Floor Exercise*, *Naturopathy* and *Tai Chi*.

The day begins at 9am and ends at 4.15, and includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about midlife issues, and also a fun day to be enjoyed.

The cost is *only* \$10. Bookings and fees have to be in by Wednesday February 19th.

Don't miss this special event—contact us now!

For details, brochure and registration form please contact the

Lancefield Neighbourhood House

PO Box 171, Lancefield 3435.

Phone 5429 1455

Fax 5429 2337

Email—lancefieldhouse@hotmail.net.au

Take Off Weight Naturally

T.O.W.N. Clubs of Victoria

If you have a weight problem, we might be able to help you.

TOWN CLUBS OF VICTORIA is a voluntary organisation to encourage weight loss through weekly meetings which include weigh-in and group therapy. Members are encouraged to adopt a healthy controlled eating style and take up suitable exercise – no artificial methods are permitted.

TOWN CLUBS OF VICTORIA provide a non-expensive, encouraging environment that raises your self-esteem as you work towards, and then maintain, your goal weight.

Meetings are held weekly at St. Mary's Parish Hall, Romsey, Tuesday nights; weigh-in from 7 – 7.20pm, meeting from 7.30pm.

For more details contact:
Belinda Mitchell 5429 6740
Judy Van Den Heuvel 5429 5692

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Fr. George O'Connor 5429 2130
 Sr. Frances (Convent) 5429 1582
 St. Mary's School 5429 1359

Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil 7.00p.m. Lancefield
 1st, 3rd Sunday 8.00a.m. Lancefield
 10.00a.m. Romsey

2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday 8.00a.m. Romsey
 10.00a.m. Lancefield

Baptism:

To arrange Baptism please ring the Presbytery on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Fridays.

Prayer Times

Meditation Group: Mondays 8pm St. Mary's Church Romsey
 Charismatic Prayer Group: Tuesdays at 11am at 57 Metcalfe Drive, Romsey

Drop In Centre

The St. Vincent De Paul Conference of Lancefield/Romsey welcomes our Community to the Drop In Centre at St. Mary's Church Hall, Main Street, Romsey on the **1st Thursday** of every month from 10.30a.m.

Coffee/tea morning and afternoons. Card games – 20 cents a game... money distributed among the winners! Free lunch. Come to just look... Come to chat and be part of the fun. For transport phone Rose 5429 5270.

Op Shop (St. Vincent De Paul)

Open every **Thursday** at Romsey 10.30a.m. – 12.30p.m.
Great bargains! No article of clothing over \$1. For donations of clothing or furniture phone Rose 5429 5270.

Sacramental Program 2003

Parents who wish their children to receive the Sacraments of 1st Reconciliation (Confession), 1st Eucharist (Holy Communion) or Confirmation this year are asked to contact Sr. Patricia at St. Mary's School as soon as possible for an enrolment form. Programs will begin soon.

Excellence Recognised at St Mary's School

Three students from St. Mary's School were recognised last December for excellence as School Leaders, good community members and consistency and success in their studies.

A scholarship was awarded by the CWA to David Scarlett who will attend Sacred Heart college this year,

Rotary awarded scholarships to Tahne Walker, who will attend Assumption College, and to Julie Redmond who will attend Sacred Heart College.

While we recognise the accomplishments of these three children, we also applaud the efforts of all Year 6 students at St. Mary's during 2002. They have been excellent leaders and seniors at the school. This was celebrated at the end of the school year at the Graduation Mass, Dinner and Award Night. We are very proud of the children and wish them well as they move on to the next step in life's journey.



Three very proud scholarship recipients from St. Mary's School, Lancefield.

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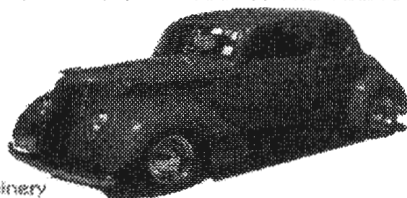
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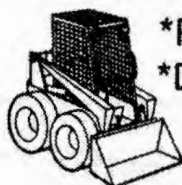
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Romsey needs its own Community BankTM Branch.

A bank is one of the linchpins of any community.

A Steering Committee has been formed to investigate the establishment of a Community BankTM Branch for Romsey.

This information sheet is designed to provide you with further details regarding our proposal for a Community BankTM Branch for Romsey.

What is a Community BankTM Branch?

Community Banking is an innovative concept developed by Bendigo Bank to provide communities with the certainty that banking services and access to funding will be available locally. There are already 78 communities who have opened their own Community BankTM Branch.

Our community would form a company to buy the right to operate a branch of Bendigo Bank. The investment needed to do this is approximately \$450,000.

This is raised by individuals and businesses within the community, contributing to the establishment costs of the operation, initially by indicating your Pledge for financial support. This will be explained in detail further on.

How does it work?

The community purchases from Bendigo Bank the right to run a banking branch. The community also secures the premises and purchases branch fittings and systems. Working capital will be the responsibility of the community. Our branch will be designed to suit our local requirements.

Bendigo Bank provides the coverage of its banking licence, selected and appropriate banking products, staff training and ongoing support.

The banking services made available are determined by Bendigo Bank after consultation with our local company, which runs the branch with Bendigo Bank's support. As with all bank deposits, depositors are protected by Bendigo Bank, which also makes all credit decisions and protects individual client privacy.

Bendigo Bank and the community are each entitled to agreed proportions of the revenue of the local branch. The community is responsible for paying branch running costs.

The envisaged hours of operation for a Community BankTM Branch in Romsey would be normal Bendigo Bank hours which include Saturday mornings.

Bendigo Bank supports the bank branch, product development, systems, acquisitions for additional services (eg trustee services), and fully supports the Community BankTM Branch with operational requirements such as marketing support, training, stationery, etc. Any net profit of the local company – after payment of the branch running costs and Bendigo Bank's entitlement to revenue – is available to be reinvested back into the community.

What are the benefits of a Community Bank™ Branch?

Bringing face to face, full time banking facilities to the Romsey district. By supporting our Community Bank™, you are directly supporting the future of our community, as it directly shares in the branch revenue, with the opportunity to make local profits.

How safe is my money and privacy?

As with all deposits, depositors are protected by the Bendigo Bank, which also makes all credit decisions and protects individual client privacy. Community Bank™ Branch staff will be bound by Bendigo Bank's confidentiality requirements. No board members will have access to any individuals' banking details, however, the board will be given weekly/monthly aggregate branch totals, in order to monitor performance.

What about farm and business banking?

Bendigo Bank offers the Primary Producer Account, which caters for farm owners and operators. This account offers an interest bearing cheque account and overdraft facility at competitive rates. Bendigo Bank also offers a wide range of business banking products and services including commercial loans, overdrafts, e-banking, leasing, financial planning, international products and services including foreign exchange and a choice of money market products.

How do I show my support for the concept?

We are seeking Indicative Pledges between \$500 and \$5,000 from local residents and businesses that would like to become shareholders in the company which runs the local branch. We need a strong show of support before we can move onto the next steps, which involve appointing an independent consultant to conduct a feasibility study.

What is an Indicative Pledge?

An Indicative Pledge is simply the investment of money you are willing to commit to the Project, which can be between \$500 and \$5,000. In the first instance there is no need to send money. The Pledges are used as a gauge of the support of the project. If for example, we receive under \$450,000 in Pledges the Project would be unlikely to proceed.

Will I receive a dividend on my investment?

The rate of return will be dependent on the support given to the new branch and the profit level achieved. One option is to pay a return on funds based on a higher interest rate than would normally be offered by, say, a term deposit. Any excess would be returned to community projects.

The level of support given to the new branch will determine the speed and level of returns.

What happens next?

Your support in returning the Indicative Pledge Form determines the next step.

Inquiries to: Maureen Wiltshire 5429 5292

Doug Newnham 5429 5288

Peter O'Rourke 5429 5240

Trevor Turner 5429 5413



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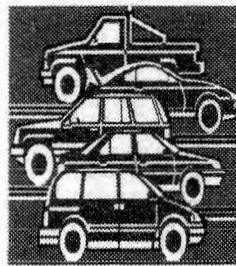
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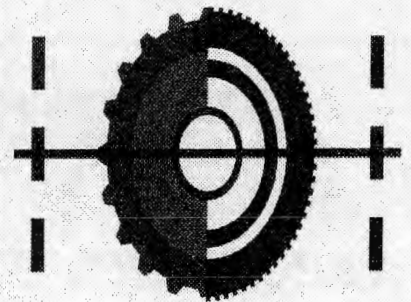
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Thankyou.

VALE

JEAN MARGARET JOHNSTON

20/20/1923—04/1/2003

The president, committee and members of the Romsey Golf Club mourn the passing of their respected life member.

Jean was a valued member of the Romsey Golf Club for over 40 years. During this time she held the position of Ladies Captain for 11 years and was the Ladies Club Champion in 1961, 1967, 1979 and 1980. She was captain of the winning pennant team in 1975 playing with Mary West, Marion Mc Donald, Wendy Laing, Helene Newnham, Margaret Ingleton and Joan Tom.

Jean loved her golf so much and found only playing once a week wasn't enough so joined Gisborne (for a couple of years) as well as Romsey. When the fees went up at Gisborne she left there and played Lancefield as her second club. Romsey was always her home club. At Lancefield all the ladies had a 9 iron except Jean who decided she needed one as well so the purchase was made but it never worked as well as her 7 iron.

Jean was patient and helpful to new beginners and when asked, "what club will I use now" the answer was always "your 7 iron", even in the rough "use your 7 iron." With her favourite 7 iron, her approach shots always finished near the flag so she would only need 1 putt.

Later Jean purchased a 5 wood, which was to become her favourite fairway club. Jean was rarely in the rough even in strong winds her ball always went straight down the middle of the fairway. On three club days Jean always new which of her clubs to take.

Jean was surprised and thrilled to be honoured with life membership in 1990

Although Jean was to become a keen bowler she told us many times she preferred playing golf to bowls. All her friends at the Romsey Golf Club will remember Jean.

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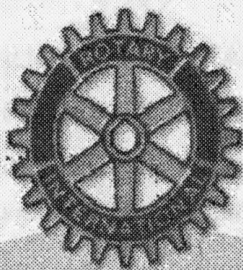
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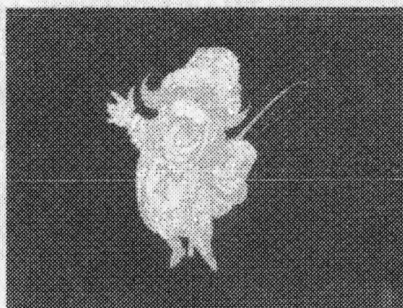
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The

Rotary Club of Romsey Lancefield is holding its Annual supper auction to raise funds for various community groups. This year we are placing special emphasis on the Lancefield junior fire brigade and their effort to participate in the World Junior Fire Olympics in Kapfenberg Austria. We hope you will come and enjoy our hospitality and participate in the silent and general auction. We have a huge array of goods available including Holidays and electrical goods. The evening will commence at around 7.30p.m. The cost is \$12.00 per head which includes a generous supper and first drink. Drinks will be available all evening at bar prices. We look forward to seeing you at the CentreVic Motel for a wonderful and enjoyable evening.



Please RSVP to Mr. Peter O'Rourke,
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Alternatively, Please contact the CentreVic
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GUIDES 2003

Yes! We are back with a whole new term of activities, challenges and fun in 2003!



February is an important month in the Girl Guide calendar as it is on the 23rd of this month, the day we call Thinking Day, that we will remember and celebrate the birthday of Lord Baden Powell, who started the Boy Scout Movement, and his wife Lady Baden Powell who started the Girl Guide Movement. Special events for the Guide region have been organised for this day, starting with some fun water sports and activities at the Lancefield Pool, followed by further activities at the Lancefield Park. Girls from the Black Forest region, which includes Sunbury, Gisborne, Woodend, Terntham and Romsey/Lancefield will take part on this day.

There are many other activities planned for Platypus Guides and Wombat Guides in Lancefield this term. There is always a cooking night (perhaps an international dish or a new way to cook something common!), a Wide game at the Park, a bring-a-pet night, and badges to earn through challenges and service to the community. We also have a weekend camp to look forward to at the end of March. This will be held at Moggs Creek, near Anglesea.

We are always looking for new members, so if you are interested in coming along to take part in what we do just ring either of the numbers listed below. We meet on Monday nights in the Youth Room at the Lancefield Mechanics Hall and are always ready to welcome visitors.

Platypus Guides (7-11 years) meet
5.00—6.30pm.

Wombat Guides (10—16 years) meet
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Probus Club Romsey – Lancefield

Meetings of the Romsey – Lancefield Probus Club are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at St Mary's Church Hall, corner Main and Barry Streets, Romsey, at 10.00am. Probus is open to all retired and semi-retired people to enjoy a great social and friendly atmosphere.

Contact

Bill Black (President) on 5429 5170



Letter to Mt William Ward February 2003

A Common Sense Approach

I hope 2003 has started well for you! I had a heart warming experience in Romsey one early Sunday morning in January. I popped by the skatepark to check out the litter situation, and found keen and talented skater, Daniel Van den Heuvel, and his younger brother Dean, vigorously collecting rubbish around the park and sweeping the skating surface. I discovered that they do this regularly off their own bat. It was very good to see that our combined community efforts to train youngsters to take responsibility for the park are having success. Congratulations to the boys and their parents, the committee and Liz Wynne, the Macedon Ranges Youth Officer. As with most things, it is a minority who do the wrong thing, but that's often what gets the attention. That's why I really wanted to highlight this 'good news story' - as a way of honouring the silent army of people of all ages, who not only do the right thing themselves, but cleanup after others as well. Thanks to all of you who contribute to the maintenance and care of shared community facilities. This is common sense in action!

A lot of people say to me 'it's just common sense', so I've been pondering what we all mean by this. Most agree that common sense is not as common as they'd like! Another way of looking at it is that common sense means the understanding we have in common, or our shared sense of what is right or serves the common good. To me, finding this deeply shared common understanding is vital to good decision making. It's what we're looking for when we engage in community consultation - and it's not easy to reach. I trust in our collective wisdom, when the right questions are asked and we explore a subject beyond our 'knee jerk' reactions.

It is vital that we come to a 'common sense' approach to what kind of development we allow on rural land in the Shire. The **Rural Land Review and the planning scheme amendment C21** based on it, are on exhibition now. The general principles described in the review seem sound and are based on wide consultation. They rightly stress protection of the environment, particularly water and native vegetation, and of agricultural land. I'm not so sure about some of the planning controls included in the amendment to put these principles into practice. Particularly in relation to agricultural land, I think the controls are too rigid and exclude new ideas. I want to see room for innovative solutions. I asked for this frequently during the meetings with the consultants and am disappointed that examples of more creative development models from Australia and overseas were not brought to the discussion table. To me it's not whether more people live in rural areas, it's *how* they live. Houses can have minimal environmental impact. More people residing on good agricultural land does not mean it can't be farmed. It can mean more resources to manage land better. I agree that the C21 proposals don't address the difficulties of our farmers whose land is becoming uneconomic to farm. Is this fair? Do we want only very rich people to live on farms? There needs to be a lot of debate about this so please examine these documents and discuss them widely. It's important for all of us, not just those who live in the rural zones. Please express your views. You can get together and write group submissions. Please let me know if you think there should be further meetings.

The drought is worsening and the Council's **Drought Relief/Recovery Committee**, which includes local farmers and reps from the VFF, Rural Counseling Service, Victoria Police, Department of Primary Industry, is continuing its work to ensure everything possible is done to help farmers and others affected. The committee has recommended not applying at this stage to the Federal Government for Exceptional Circumstances. This may seem strange until you discover how huge a task this application process is and how unlikely it is that Macedon Ranges would

qualify. We will be expressing loud and clear that a regional approach should be taken and State Government should be the leaders, not local.

Romsey residents will be aware that **stage three water restrictions** are now in place. It's good to see that Western Water are actively increasing the water supply to Romsey and that, while restrictions are an unfortunate necessity for this very low rainfall period, our towns are not facing the plight of places such as Kilmore, Broadford and Wallan where water is being trucked in.

Some further work has been done to present the **Macedon Ranges Vision 2025** in a beautiful and meaningful way and to develop it further in the ways people suggested in their responses. 'The 2025 Vision 'promise' is really a broad statement of what we want this area to be like into the future and a call to us all to work on making it and keeping it true. The word 'promise' here is used to mean something the whole community deeply aspires to. The vision says:

Our Promise: We are a vibrant and sustainable region that deeply values our community, heritage and environment, providing a fulfilling quality of life for all.

Our Values

Awareness: We are aware of the attributes and potential of our region

Rich Fabric: Our character is a unique tapestry of People, Heritage and Nature.

Our Home: This area provides everything that we need to live the life we want

Deep Connection: It is a part of us and we are a part of it

These broad statements ring true to me from many things that people have said to me over the last three years. There are many commitments contained in this promise, commitments which I share. Commitments to sustainability, to valuing community, to valuing our heritage, to caring for the wellbeing of all members of our community, to the richness of diversity, to working together to provide what we all need to live well.

We have the vision 2025. It is the beginning of creating the future we want. There are many further steps to build on this foundation. For instance Community Planning for local townships. I want to see each community create a plan for their township and district, describing what is locally valued and priorities in terms of design, development, facilities and services for YOUR town. All the big issues will fit somewhere in this planning approach. For example, gas supply, passing lanes on the Melbourne road, a secondary school for Romsey, a standing library, community transport.

So, with these things and many others in mind, I've decided I will be nominating for the elections in March. It has been a privilege to represent the Mt William community on Council. **I would like to continue to work with the Council and the community for a common sense approach to everything we do in the Macedon Ranges.**

Please phone or fax on 5427 0156, or write via Macedon Ranges Shire.

Till next time,

Alice Aird, Councillor Macedon Ranges Shire



ROMSEY-LANCEFIELD CENTENNIAL TRACK

At 12 o'clock on Australia Day, 2003, Mrs. Jean Tom, our President, officially handed the Track over to our Mayor Geoff Neil on behalf of the Macedon Ranges Shire who will now be responsible for the track's maintenance and on-going improvements. This means that the job of the committee is now finished.

Towards the end, our committee numbered eight – Jean Tom, Leo Vandervalk, Vice President, Trevor Turnham, Treasurer, Heather Turnham, Beryl Cole, Charlie Smith and Joan Sparkes and myself. We have spent the funds we raised with the last act being the placing of the seats along the track and the signage which is being organized by the Shire and will be in place soon.

A large crowd attended, many who had been invited as a small thank you for their help in making this magnificent track a reality, and when I looked back on my rather large file of correspondence and copies of press release, I realized just how many people we had called on to help, and all at the drop of a hat, and all the families who had donated \$20 to purchase a metre of track.

It all started with a public meeting in August, 1998, when a small crowd of local representatives from various organizations attended with the view of coming up with an idea to mark the Centenary of Federation in 2001. We eventually came up with the idea of a Bike/Fitness Track between Romsey and Lancefield, thus joining the two historic towns whilst providing a safe venue to keep fit or just to have a quiet walk!

We applied for a \$30,000 grant from the Centenary of Federation Committee which we got, then secured another major grant of some \$46,000 from the Department of Sport & Recreation, applied for every grant ever advertised and asked the people of the district to become a part of the project and buy a metre of track – this was very well subscribed to and made people feel they were a part of our project.

We then got on with the job of hands on fundraising and keeping the public interested in the project and my committee would just like to thank the people who helped us along the way.

* Ian Wilkins of Slashez who mowed the track (or where it was going to be) so that we could have family fun walks to the corner of Boundary Road where both Romsey and Lancefield people would meet and have a sausage sizzle and a game of cricket and just a good time!

* Thanks to Merrill O'Rourke for the use of the paddock on that corner and to Charlie Smith for mowing the grass in it to let us have our game of cricket!

To the Lions Club who loaned us their BBQ to cook the hundreds of sausages!

* John McCarthy supplied a bus to ferry the tired children (and adults) back to Romsey and Lancefield and also thanks to Syd Green for driving it on one occasion.

* To both the Romsey and Lancefield Fire Brigades who monitored the sausage sizzle on hot days.

* To Miss Clare McCrory who won the Logo Competition in November 1999 and to all the children who entered.

* We applied for the Australia Day Grants in 2000 and 2001 from the Shire and these funds helped us along the way.

Thank you to Stephen Mahon at the Shire for his assistance with this.

* Many thanks to the Romsey Medical Centre for providing the use of the photocopy machine to do all the flyers for the many events we held.

* Sincere thanks to the residents who live along the track for

their total co-operation, without which we would not have our track.

* To Anne Phelan, Ron Chalanor, David Allen and Rod and Joy Dyer and their

staff at the Romsey Hotel where we hosted fundraising dinners, which were just great.

* The Mount Players have performed three times for us and many, many thanks

to Leo Vandervalk and all his crew.

* The advertising signs depicting the start of the track were supplied by Barry Wood of Conally's Real Estate then support when Barry went to Chase Real Estate.

* To IGA Supermarket for their support when we rushed in for food for the sausage sizzles!

* And to Peter and his staff at Macedon Ranges Meat Supplies who supplied the very sausages!

* Ken Paterson and his Staff at Mitre 10 who helped in many ways.

* The local press and the Romsey Rag and Lancefield Mercury for keeping the momentum going.

* To Joan Sparkes, our committee member, who organized Coin Trails at Romsey and Lancefield Schools.

* To all who helped and the car enthusiasts who displayed their cars from far and wide at our Classic Car Display.

* The Romsey Mud Bash whose donation was greatly appreciated.

* Tom Morgan from the Historical Society who was always a great speaker and supporter of our project.

* Construction began in November, 2000 and many, many thanks to the Shire Staff for their total co-operation and enthusiasm – they made it all so easy!

* The Hon. Neil O'Keefe officially opened the track (at both ends!!) for us on Australia Day 2001, marking the Centenary of Federation. A great day for all the committee and thanks to Joanne Duncan, MP, for attending and to Barbara Ryan for playing the National Anthem for us – a very memorable day. We had the obligatory Sausage Sizzle at Merrill's block and even an Aboriginal Ceremony to bless the track.

* The huge stones at the Romsey and Lancefield ends of the track are another story all of their own – phoned Doug Newnham of Newnham's Earthmoving and Ian Mustey of Mustey's Earthmoving in Lancefield and explained that we needed a marker of some sort to celebrate the Centenary and to mark the starts of the track at both ends. The response – job's done, and so the two beautiful stones appeared overnight and the job was definitely done in a spectacular manner. We just can't thank Doug and Ian enough for their community spirit and total co-operation. Trevor Turnham and Charlie Smith erected a seat at the Lancefield Rock with a donation of materials from Frosts Sawmill – everyone has been so supportive. The commemorative plaques were set into the rock by Trevor with the assistance of equipment from Bruce Ferguson – thanks Bruce.

* The Australia Day Banners which don the poles in the township of Romsey are made by Heather Turnham and Trevor with the assistance of the Fire Brigade erects them.

* To Trevor Turnham, Charlie Smith, Frank Crossman and Ron Cole who, with the assistance of Lancefield Mini Mix erected the seats along the track – and don't they look great!

And so, with all this help, we come to the end of our committee's task and as you can see it has been a very long, rewarding challenge. Thanks to all involved – this is a fantastic achievement and will be used for many generations to come. Margaret Howatson, Secretary.

ROMSEY-LANCEFIELD CENTENNIAL TRACK

We are happy to report that the sealing of the formed part of the track is imminent with the forming of the remainder of the track soon to commence.

It is great to see the track being used by so many people including walkers, runners and cyclists. However, it has been noted that horse riders are also using the track and continued use when sealed, will cause significant damage. The track, even when sealed is not designed for equestrian use.

The recently completed Shire Wide Bicycle Strategy highlighted the need for equestrian facilities alongside shared pathways such as the Romsey-Lancefield Centennial Track. The need for equestrian facilities will be monitored, however, it is requested that horse riders use the mown strip alongside the track.

The necessary signage will be erected at the completion of the project reminding users of this. We ask the community to monitor this situation and the police have kindly offered to keep a friendly eye on the use of the track.

This project has taken a lot of time and effort by many members of our community and we would like to thank Sport and Recreation Victoria and the people of Romsey and Lancefield for their financial support.

Margaret Howatson, Secretary. 54295 724.

TRIVIA NIGHT WITH RIDDELLS CREEK CFA

We invite you to a Trivia Night on Saturday 22nd February at 8pm

Riddells Creek Primary School, Main Road.

Teams of 8 – make up a table invite some friends for a fun evening. Assorted Trivia questions, games and prizes.

Cost is \$10 per person includes a light supper. BYO drinks and munchies.

To book a seat, table or for more information contact:

Louise 5428 7683 or 0407 366 778

Darren 5428 7333 or 0418 399 082

St. John's Bargain Box Op Shop

Station Street, Riddells Creek.

Happy New Year!

We're back in business, same hours Thu/Fri 10am till 4pm & Sat 9am till 1pm.

We have fresh stock in the shop, come in and see us.

Thank you for your donations over the Christmas/New Year break, we were inundated with goods and we are grateful for your continued support.

Please donate only items in good repair and clothes which are clean, something you would consider buying, wearing or would put on your children. We no longer have an outlet for rags.

Thank you - that will make our job easier.

See you soon.

Chris, coordinator 5428 6526.

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FREEMASONRY RIDDELLS CREEK LODGE

MEETS AT THE ROMSEY MASONIC CENTRE,
MAIN STREET
1ST TUESDAY EVERY MONTH.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

RON JACKSON – 5429 6354

KEN BALDWIN – 5429 6063

Romsey Lancefield Senior Citizens Club INC A00354P

If you are 55 years of age or over (male or female) and would like to join a happy and friendly group of people, look no further than the seniors rooms situated at the rear of

the Mechanics Hall in Main Street, Romsey.

For a yearly joining fee of \$2 you can play carpet bowls, cards or just chat. We are there every Monday from 10.30am to 3.30pm. There is also a coach trip organised on the first Wednesday of each month.

Transport can be provided and you will be made most welcome.

Contact: Rae Hooke (Secretary) 5429 1602

Raging Ripper Reads... from the Mitchell Mobile Library

A new year awaits us and just think of all those wonderful books out there just demanding to be read. Had a wee bit of a holiday over Christmas and caught up with some much longed for reading time so here's a couple of suggestions to get you started for 2003.

Call Waiting - Dianne Blacklock

It's so nice to read a first novel by an Australian writer and think, great, another author to add to the favourites' list, wonder when her second novel will be released? Dianne Blacklock had me hooked and involved in the world of Ally, Bryce, Meg and Matt from the very first page.

Call Waiting follows Ally through a year of unexpected changes in her life - moving from Sydney to Bowral after her grandfather dies, ditching her real estate agent "would you buy a house from this man?" boyfriend and realising that the flair she has for restoring and decorating old houses gives her life satisfaction and meaning. When she meets Matt Serrano, the local carpenter, romance appears to be just around the corner, but then the path of true love never runs smoothly and one has to keep reading compulsively to find out what, when and why? Just as Ally's life is one big melting pot, her long-time friend Meg is experiencing some emotional upheavals herself, and her own actions threaten her whole family's happiness. A great unputdownable (slack Sunday morning in bed) little read.

The Vincibles - Gideon Haigh

Cricket has never been one of my favourite sports, despite the colour and pace injected by the one day games. Being a spectator in Bay 13 on a day that the Windies beat the Poms off the last ball of the match did a lot to alter my prejudices I'll admit, but you don't often get a 'crowd-standing-on-the-seats' finish like that in this gentlemen's sport. However, I thoroughly enjoyed reading Gideon Haigh's week by week account of the fortunes and foibles of his beloved Yarras Cricket Club for the 2001/2002 season. The book abounds with such gems as..."At the start of each season the player contact list is a freewheeling combination of fact and fiction. You e-mail the wicketkeeper and his wife replies: although it's now his ex-wife, who's busy burning his gear in the backyard. You ring the last number you had for the left-arm spinner, and end up on a pizza parlour's hotline; so you order a Mexicana with extra cheese, which fills a hole, but not that hole in the Third XI." Suburban weekend cricket preserved for posterity with self-deprecating humour and they even have a website - www.yarras.com

Tom Jones Saves the World - Steven Herrick

Steven Herrick is an acquired taste because he writes verse novels - short poems that when read together tell a story as effectively as any prose. His latest one is more for primary age children, but he has written some outstanding young adult works as well. The Tom Jones of the title lives with his parents in a sterile new suburb called Pacific Palms, but wishes that he was back at his old place where his father had more time for him and where he went to the local primary school, rather than being bussed to the closest one. When Tom meets his grandfather at an aunty's funeral, and then subsequently decides to escape from the Pacific Palms Prison with a friend, Cleo, in order to go and visit him, his life picks up dramatically. And how does he save the world??? Well, his own little part of it anyway? You'll have to read the book to find out!

Until next month - enjoy!

Pramercize



from the Lions Park.

Mothers looking to get fit

Join in and get outdoors while having a chat.

Mother and child in a one hour enjoyable exercise session.

Combined walking and gentle exercises.

When: Tuesdays at 10.00am

Where: Romsey

Interested?

Ring Michelle on 5429 6339

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Call Clive on:

5429 6451

0417 320 276



Lancefield & Romsey Community Financial Services Ltd.

WHY WE MUST BACK OUR COMMUNITY BANK

By Maureen Wiltshire, Chair, Romsey Community Bank Steering Committee.

Romsey residents have a great opportunity to join more than 80 communities around Australia in establishing a community-owned and operated branch of the Bendigo Bank.

Most residents would have heard of the public meeting we held last June to get the project off the ground, and no-one could have failed to see the street banners, Saturday morning stalls, letter-box information or the bright red thermometer in the main street charting our progress as we work towards the \$400,000 in pledges we needed to take the first step. After an initial flurry of pledges, our total has reached a plateau over the past couple of months, at around \$180,000 from some 60 Romsey residents and businesses.

It is perhaps timely to remind residents why we need a Community Bank branch, and to reiterate that a branch is not a gift—if we want one we have to meet certain criteria to demonstrate our support.

Why?

A community-owned and operated branch gives us the opportunity to "bank-proof" our town. If we get it up and running, and provide it with enough custom to make it profitable, we keep it. It's as simple as that. If we support it with our business, it will always be there when we want it in Romsey. But residents have to make their pledge to make this happen.

The big banks work to a different agenda. We saw our Commonwealth branch close at the end of June. We saw Lancefield which had two banks in the 1990's suddenly left with one. Lancefield has now "bank-proofed" its town by working as a community to get a Bendigo Bank Community Branch. We in Romsey have the chance to do exactly the same, and to be in charge of our own financial destiny.

Your pledge indicates your intention to buy shares in Lancefield & Romsey Community Financial Services Ltd, the community company established to operate the Lancefield branch. If we're successful, our expanded community-owned company will operate both branches. Under the Community Company concept, the branches operate as full branches of the Bendigo Bank. They provide the full range of services of a Bendigo branch, and deposits and all other business have the same level of protection as the Bendigo's own branches.

But there are some differences in how Bendigo Bank Community Bank operates. They operate like banks used to.

When was the last time you were able to do your banking on a Saturday morning? When was the last time you spoke to a bank manager without having to phone through to Melbourne? When was the last time you had an appointment with a bank manager who came to your home or business without having to go to a Melbourne office?

You will be able to do all of these things right here in Romsey if we get a Community Bank going.

Many people will have already come face-to-face with the energetic manager at Lancefield, Rod Browning. If we get our Romsey branch up and running Rod will manage both and will be co-located in both towns.

Many of our local business people are already familiar with Rod. He visits Romsey and walks down the main street, and calls in

and visits traders. He knows our community. He can make decisions without having to refer everything to head office, and if potential clients have their documentation together, he can approve home loans and business loans on the spot.

You can also see him on Saturday mornings, when the branch is open for business.

What are the other advantages?

Under the Bendigo Bank's Community Bank concept, a proportion of profits go back into projects of local community benefit. A percentage of profits go to Bendigo Bank, a proportion is distributed to our local shareholders, and then the community benefits. Some of the other towns which have Community Banks have already distributed significant funds. In other communities welfare, sports and community groups have benefited, funds have been directed to providing infrastructure to improve their towns, and grants and projects have stimulated local business and the encouragement of professional services. The sky's the limit.

Romsey residents who work in Melbourne will be a key part of our bank. They won't have to come through the door to be a part of it. As long as their accounts are domiciled at Lancefield or Romsey, business conducted at Bendigo's Melbourne branches or at the ATM's or branches of other banks, counts as our local business, and contributes to our profit.

Bendigo also has a very advanced electronic banking system, and accounts can be opened via the Internet.

So what can you do?

As the Lancefield branch has demonstrated the Community Bank is a wonderful concept, and enables towns to "bank-proof" themselves and be in control of their future. But it doesn't just happen. It's not a gift. If we're to get a Community Bank branch in Romsey, we have to work for it, and demonstrate to Bendigo that we want it. That means putting up \$400,000 in pledges to get to first base. Pledge forms have been mailed around the town, handed out at the street stalls and attached to the Romsey rag.

If YOU make a pledge to our Community Bank, our Romsey Community Bank Steering Committee will make a pledge to you. If the community reaches the \$400,000 target in pledges, and fulfils the requirements which follow for a sustainable business plan and the successful filling of shares, We will pledge the "bank-proof" Romsey and ensure the town always has a bank. The Romsey Community Bank branch of the Bendigo Bank.

It's now in your hands.

Need a Massage?

Ring Christine Ryan M.S.C.M. at

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54296 608 or 0412 628 029**

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Community
Health
Service**



GENTLE EXERCISE TO MUSIC GROUP

How often have you thought about joining an exercise group and done nothing about it?

HERE IS YOUR CHANCE

EACH WEDNESDAY MORNING

AT

ST. MARY'S HALL ROMSEY.

9.30am -----10.30am.

Come and join the group to have fun whilst gently improving your fitness

For more information please contact Cobaw Community Health Service on 5422 3011.



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ROMSEY CALISTHENICS COLLEGE

Calisthenics encourages teamwork, good deportment, co-ordination while at the same time singing, dancing, learning exercises to music, swinging clubs and twirling rods. But most of all having fun and making new friends. So come along and have a go—**your first lesson is free!**

Tinies—7 yrs and under

Juniors—9 yrs and under

Intermediates—16 yrs and under

Seniors—16 yrs and over

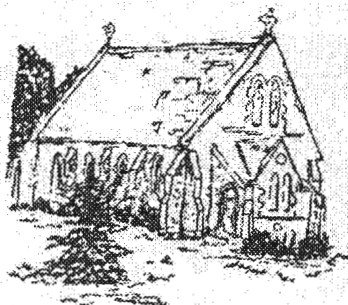
Classes commence Monday February 3rd

For further information contact

Anne Kaufmann 5429 5613

Or

Chris Crow 5429 5792



OP SHOP

**ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN
CHURCH HALL, ROMSEY**

Re-opening on Friday January
31st

12.30PM - 4.30PM.

We are quite happy to accept donations of good quality items during our regular hours on Fridays 12.30pm - 4.30pm and Saturdays 10.00am - 1.00pm but unfortunately, due to safety reasons and lack of storage space, we cannot accept electrical goods or furniture.

Romsey & Lancefield Districts Historical Society Inc.

P.O. Box 11,
ROMSEY, 3434.

**TUESDAY FEBRU-
ARY 25TH: First
meeting for the year.**
Are you interested in
the history of your dis-
trict?

On the fourth Tuesday of each month come and join us to discuss and learn what is really being done to preserve the history of Romsey, Lancefield and this whole area.

A friendly bunch of people meets at the historic Seymour Cottage, Palmer Street, Romsey (Feb. 25th) and the Court House, Lancefield (March 25th) starting at 7.30pm. All the archives, photos, maps, etc are stored at the Court House, Lancefield.

COURT HOUSE, LANCEFIELD

This resource centre for local history is open to the public on the first Sunday each month from 1-30 to 4-30pm, and will also be open Saturday and Sunday 8th and 9th February for the Car Rally Grand Tour. History enquiries may be directed to P.O. Box 101, Lancefield, or ring Archivist Robyn Miller on 5429 5652.

SEYMOUR COTTAGE, ROMSEY

Built in 1855, this "first house in Romsey" is constructed of South-East Asian panels and is probably the only one of its kind in Australia. Given to the people of Romsey, our members have restored and maintained it for the past 20 years. We plan to have it open to the public on the third Sunday of each month this year, starting on February 16th, from 11am-4pm.

Enquiries to the Secretary, Jean Clement, phone 5429 6522.

ROMSEY BARGAINS HAS MOVED

**THANKS FOR SUPPORTING
US IN ROMSEY
IT'S TIME TO MOVE TO A
BIGGER SHOP**

**PLEASE LOOK FOR US AT
SHOP 6/112 MAIN
STREET
ROMSEY**

Put This On The Calendar

Clean – Up Day Sunday March 2nd

Come and help along Five Mile Creek. We're much closer to Couzens Lane and having a clear path for the creek.

Heaps of people used the park over Christmas to walk in the shade and along the old path. There's still green grass along the creek! In the drought only the deep holes have water, but the rains will come again and it will flow.

News

****** The old well along the creek is being restored Watch for more activity to uncover the old well dome if you are a walker along the creek.

******* Help us If you walk along the creek and see a willow branch on the ground, pick it up so that the Council mowers can do their job. Put it on the nearest pile of branches. Council will take away the piles, but they can't mow over fallen willow branches.

If you want to talk about the creek, the creek association committee is:

Sue Kirkegard 5429 5283
Andrew & Peta Sheil 5429 6168
Jessica Holgate 5429 5907
John Nicholls 5429 6475
Jay Brooks 5429 6163

THE AUSTRALIAN ORGAN DONOR REGISTRY

Registration forms from the
Romsey Medical Centre or
Via the Red Cross donation ser-
vice -

"Life Gift"

by ringing

(03) 9349 2278 or Freecall on 1800
777 203

"THINK About It - TALK About It -
TELL your family!"

Winner VLAA Most responsible Centre Award 2002

Registration	Welcome back to all our athletes as we recommence for season 2002-2003 after the school holiday break. If you haven't been able to make it to one of our competition seasons yet and want to join, simply come along to our venue on any upcoming Centre competition day and fill out a registration form. Families new to our Centre will need to bring along a proof of age (birth certificate or similar) of any children being registered, as we need to sight age proof as part of the requirements of registration.
Athletics Venue	Romsey Primary School Lower Oval, Park Lane, Romsey
Age Groups	Children can join as soon as they turn 5. Little Athletics age groups are Under 6 to Under 16.
Upcoming Dates to Remember	<p>SAT 01 February Normal Centre competition SAT 08 February Centre Multi-Event Championship Day—Chance to win a medal FRI 07 February Closing date for VLAA State Multi-Event Championships **SAT 15 February No Centre competition due to Region Track & Field Championships in Albury **SUN 16 February " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " FRI 21 February Centre Twilight Competition from 5.15pm. **SAT 22 February No Centre competition due to AV Victorian Youth Championships in Melbourne **SUN 23 February " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " WED 26 February Centre Twilight Competition from 5.15pm.</p> <p>**SAT 01 March No Centre competition due to VLAA State Multi-Event Championships **SUN 02 March " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " MON 03 March Centre Twilight competition from 5.15pm. SAT 08 March Normal Centre competition **SAT 15 March No Centre competition due to VLAA State Track & Field Championships **SUN 16 March " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " SAT 22 March Centre Track & Field Championships Day—Chance to win a medal</p> <p>SAT 05 April Centre Presentation Day (12 noon—5pm)</p> <p>** Entry to these events is at additional cost—eligibility conditions apply</p>
Events	Events conducted during the spring/summer Track & Field season can include sprints, middle distance, shotput, discus, javelin, long jump, triple jump, high jump and hurdles events depending on the athletes age. Cross country events are distance races varying in length according to the athletes age and are run over autumn/winter.
Training	Skill development coaching is offered during competition meets to all new athletes, and also at scheduled training events to all athletes who are interested in improving. Training/coaching over the school holiday period is only by prior arrangement with Centre Coaches. Training is usually run each Friday (5pm—6pm) unless otherwise advised. When training is on, our Centre sign will be on display at the corner of Barry Street and Main road in Romsey.
Opportunities	We have a number of special centre days including Novelty day, Championship days where athletes can win medals (Centre Track & Field, Centre Multi-Event, Interclub Challenge Day versus Kilmore Little Athletics Centre) and our end of season function, Presentation Day. All special Centre days are focused on family involvement. Activities outside the Centre are at additional cost and include Region and State Championships, as well as Open Days at other Centres.
Parent Help	Parents are needed each week for a variety of simple tasks. No experience is necessary. Each week all Centre volunteers receive free entry into the bi-annual prize draw at Centre level, as well as free entry into two Statewide draws for a chance to win a \$500 voucher at a store of the winner's choosing.
Awards	There are still two Centre Championship days to be held where our athletes will vie for medals. Every athlete who participates regularly will receive at least one medal on Presentation Day. Most annual centre trophies are awarded based on athlete participation, sportsmanship, and improving personal best times, so that every child has an equal chance to win at season end. In addition, we offer weekly encouragement awards to athletes who participate and try hard.
Costs	Registration fees include all Centre activities such as special family days, coaching, competition and championships, weekly and annual awards, Centre Information Booklet, weekly newsletters and importantly, insurance. This season fees are \$65 for one child, \$130 for two, \$160 for three and \$190 for four children (from the same family).
Uniform	Uniform is optional unless competing against other centres, at Open Days or Championships at outside Little Athletics venues—Centre shirt (\$15), plain black shorts or sports briefs, suitable running shoes. Most children compete in suitable clothing they already have, such as shorts, T-shirts, runners and a tracksuit for cooler days. Athletes are encouraged to wear a hat and sunscreen and carry a drink bottle to all events. All uniform items are available by order from the Centre.
Contact	The Lancefield-Romsey Little Athletics Centre Secretary on 5429 6089.