

Editorially Speaking

Romsey Rag Editorial Committee:
Joan Gibbs, Robyn Moore

Layout and Design:
Robyn Moore, Anne Cappler, Sue Hayes

Printing:
Robyn Moore, Colin Miller

Advertising /Sponsorship:
Christie Brown—5429 5099 or Romsey Post Office

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 cut off day as advised on this page and the front page.

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: romseyrag@romseyps.vic.edu.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:
\$130 per half page
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Half page: \$100 per issue
Full page: \$180 per issue
Line ads: e.g.- For sale, births, deaths, marriages, engagements - \$10

For invoicing please include name & address details

Cheques must be made payable to Romsey Primary School
Station Street, ROMSEY 3434

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2000 copies delivered to the Romsey community at the commencement of each month.



Macedon Ranges Shire Council - Generous supporters of the Romsey

Romsey Rag Publication Deadlines 2009

Edition	Closing date for copy	Collating date
April 2009	Friday March 20th	Thursday March 26th
May 2009	Friday April 24th	Thursday April 30th
June 2009	Friday May 22nd	Thursday May 28th
July 2009	Friday June 19th	Thursday June 25th
August 2009	Friday July 24th	Thursday July 30th
September 2009	Friday August 21st	Thursday August 27th
October 2009	Friday September 18th	Thursday September 24th
November 2009	Friday October 23rd	Thursday October 29th
December 2009	Friday November 20th	Thursday November 26th

Investing in our rail network

Dear friends

Much has been written about the State Government's *Victorian Transport Plan*. This Plan outlines the steps the Government will take to transform our public transport and roads system. The government will do this by delivering more trains and train tracks, and upgrade stations, and improve our roads so we can spend less time commuting and more time with family and friends.

I would like to highlight one of the Plan's key projects – the *Regional Rail Link* which will bring great benefits to the regional rail network.

Passengers on regional trains often get caught behind metropolitan trains once they enter the metropolitan train system. This 'bottleneck' can cause time delays and frustration for many passengers.

The new *Regional Rail Link* will create a 44 kilometre twin track that will separate regional and metropolitan trains for the first time ever. This new track will remove the bottleneck, and go a long way to improving the reliability of Vline train services.

As part of the *Regional Rail Link* project, the Government will also add an additional 20 new carriages to the Vline network on top of the 54 carriages currently on order.

The *Regional Rail Link* project as part of the broader *Transport Plan* continues the State Government's investment in regional Victoria, and will ensure that we have the right infrastructure to be able to meet the growing needs of public transport and road users in the future.

Warm regards

Joanne Duncan MP
State Member for Macedon

“ATTENTION CITY COMMUTERS”

The Lancefield Romsey Commuter Bus offers a Monday to Friday return service direct to the CBD at the cheapest rate available in the shire.

Still only \$40.00 per week for permanent travelers.

We also cater for casual & adhoc travelers.

Departs Lancefield General Store 6.35am, & Romsey Hotel 6.42am, arrives CBD 7.40am.

Departs Cnr William & Latrobe Sts 5.20pm, arrives back in Romsey 6.20pm & Lancefield 6.25pm Seats currently available.

For more details ring Muir on 0354 255505



St. Mary's Parish - Lancefield & Romsey

27 Chauncey Street, Lancefield
Cnr. Main Street & Barry Road, Romsey

Parish Priest: Fr. George O'Connor
Pastoral Associate: Mrs. Joanne Reuther
School Principal: Mr. Anthony Falls

Presbytery: 5429 2130
Convent: 5429 1582
School: 5429 1359

Parish Website: www.users.bigpond.com/stmlancefield

MASS TIMES

Saturday:

7.00 p.m. (summer time) Lancefield

6.00 p.m. (winter time) Lancefield

1st & 3rd Sunday of the month:

8.00 a.m. Lancefield and 10.00 a.m. Romsey

2nd, 4th & 5th Sunday of the month:

8.00 a.m. Romsey and 10.00 a.m. Lancefield

RECONCILIATION

After weekday Mass or by arrangement.

BAPTISMS

February, April, June, August, October, December.

For more information, please phone 5429 2130.

REGULAR EVENTS

SVPD Drop-In: First Thursday of each month, 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., St. Mary's Church Hall, Romsey. All welcome to come for a game of cards/chat and free lunch.

Spiritual Guidance: Last Wednesday of each month at the Presbytery, 27 Chauncey Street, Lancefield. John Stuart, Councillor and Guide. Tel: 5429 2130 for more information.

YOUTH MASS

It has been agreed that there will be a Youth Mass at the 10 am Mass on Sunday 29th March at Lancefield. In order to practice singing and the music, there will be a practice in the Lancefield Church at 5 pm on Friday 6th March. Please bring any instruments you may play. Please encourage young people to be aware of and to join in these occasions.

FUNDRAISING

It is proposed that this year's major fundraising event will be a fashion parade of **Wedding Dresses Through The Ages**. To be held in October, we require any assistance to create an inventory of dresses available. Any queries, please contact Carmel Kay on 5429 5212 or Kerry McCarthy on 5429 1281. More information will be given as the event draws closer.

BINGO BINGO BINGO

Every Thursday evening at St. Mary's Church Hall at Romsey

Doors Open 7.00 p.m. EYES DOWN 7.30 p.m.

30 games (2 sessions of 15 games) finishing around 9.45 p.m.

\$3.00 per 15 game book Canteen facilities

No entry fee Free tea and coffee

ROLLING JACKPOT GAME 30 – UP \$10 PER GAME

ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been a bustling start to the school year at St Mary's. We welcomed 25 new Prep children to our school, as well as 12 new families.

On February 11th we had a Whole School Mass under our tree at St Mary's. During the Mass, the teachers, year 6 students and school Board members were commissioned by Father George. Also, Prep families were given a candle as a sign of light for their journey at St Mary's. This was followed by a B.B.Q and gave new families a chance to meet the community.

Students in Years 3 and 6 will be involved in the Sacramental program in 2009. The programs will be up and running shortly with the first meeting being held on the 12th February.

In response to the tragic bushfires in our neighbouring communities, the families of St Mary's have shown an overwhelming display of generosity in the donations of items that are needed by those people who lost their homes and all their belongings. The school foyer was inundated with donations of clothing, nappies, toiletries and other items which were taken to Whittlesea to be distributed to those in need.

The children also raised money through a coloured clothes day for our colleagues and families in Kilmore. The outpour of generosity has been amazing and a credit to the members of our community.

This term the students will focus their learning on Civics and Citizenship. They will learn how rights and responsibilities have changed and how they compliment each other. They will be exploring how rights, needs and wants are not always the same and that people share a range of rights and responsibilities. Some grades will examine the levels of government we have in Australia and how decisions are made.

We are looking forward to a term of work and learning together.



Romsey & Lancefield District Historical Society Inc.

Are You Interested In.....

The history of the district? The history of your family? Saving the history of the district for future generations?

COME AND JOIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday March 24th, 7.30pm. At the historic Sidney Seymour Cottage, Palmer Street, Romsey. Enquiries to Elaine 5429 5321.

Subscription is \$20 per person per annum, or \$30 for couples, but we WELCOME visitors to our meetings to "come and have a look".

The Society holds a variety of functions during the year, including guest speakers, lunches, excursions, exhibitions and Open days at Seymour Cottage.

COURT HOUSE, LANCEFIELD:

Our archives of the history of the district are held in the former court house building in Main Road, Lancefield. Open Day is the first Sunday each month, 1.30-4.30pm., or contact our archivist, Robyn, on 0418 172 659 at other times, or research officer, Maureen, on 0408 349 680.

General enquiries about the Society can be directed to Secretary Shirley on 0402 248 540.

SNIPPETS OF LOCAL HISTORY:

Lancefield was first settled in 1846 (north of the present town, near the creek, until it flooded!). Then the town moved to the higher ground where it is presently situated.

Romsey, originally known as Five Mile Creek, because it was approximately five miles from Lancefield, was renamed in 1860. Both were stopping places for people on their way to the goldfields in the north.

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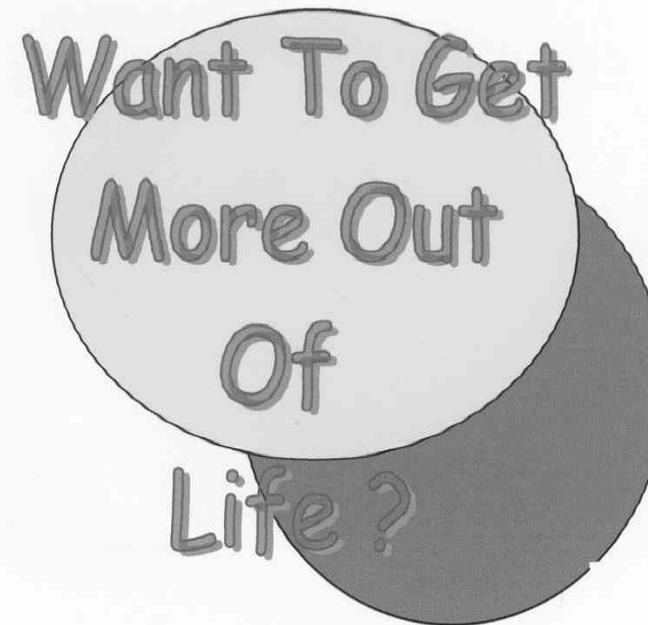
Thank You Wendie

The Committee of Management of the Romsey Community House would like to express its appreciation to Wendie McLaughlin for her contribution to the Committee and the House. Wendie took over the presidency of the Committee when founding president Barney Healy resigned in early 2008. It was a challenging task for Wendie, who was comparatively new to the committee at that time, and she tackled the job with commitment and determination. Wendie steered the committee through the exciting and sometimes frustrating period of moving into our permanent location at the Romsey Hub, and served the committee and the community faithfully. Wendie resigned from the committee in February, and we wish her well and thank her for her time and efforts.

Moving On Project

The Romsey Writer's Group has been delighted with the response from people in the Macedon Ranges area to our call for submissions for the forthcoming book on the theme "Moving On". There have been many diverse and outstanding stories, poems and reflections, and we thank everyone who has submitted material. We have had a variety of writers, male and female, and from all age groups sending in material.

With the closing date for submissions now past, our next task is editing and preparing copy for publication. This is an exciting phase of the project, and we expect it will take many weeks before the final draft of the book is ready for the printers. Watch the Rag for further developments, and news of a competition for illustrating the front cover.



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Something
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And Yes to living

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Romsey Primary School News

Students Support for Bush Fire Appeal

Romsey Primary School held a "Green Day" to raise funds for the bush fire victims. Students wore green clothes, painted their faces with green symbols or had green hair. Green was chosen to symbolise the regrowth after the devastation. For this privilege they made a gold coin donation and overall the students raised \$1,103 which is being donated to the Red Cross Appeal. Along with this we are coordinating a community response to support students in fire affected areas. Our Year 6 students have decided to provide **new** books for children whose schools have been destroyed by fire. Many books have already been collected however we would encourage members of the community to come into Romsey Primary School and add to this donation.

Our students plan to establish a bond with one of these schools and have continued communication with them. This is a way we can teach our students about how fortunate they are and how they can best assist others in times of need.

Interactive Whiteboards

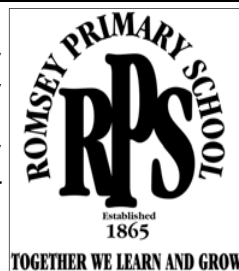
Interactive Whiteboards are a new form of technology to provide students with a highly engaging learning environment. They allow students to learn through touch and make strong visual connections with their learning. The software has extensive resources and teachers can access the Internet, save past lessons and share resources. Interactive Whiteboards also support students working together collaboratively. With the installation of 4 additional boards to classrooms we now have 13 interactive boards of which 3 are mobile so all 17 classrooms have the advantage our using this exciting technology to enhance their learning.



In this classroom students are using their Interactive whiteboard to complete a graph on hair colour.

Quality Beginning to School

Over the first days of the school year all classes participate in the "Quality Beginning" program. This explores and strengthens understanding of our school values of *Learning, Responsibility, Resilience* and *Relationships*. Additionally students will be identifying the elements of a good classroom, student and teacher; covering our *Positive Behaviour Management Program*, resiliency *Bounceback* program and working on setting learning and social goals for the year. The commencement of the year is the time to set high expectations for behaviour and learning.



Meet our New School Captains



Congratulations to Sarah Edward and Thomas Green who were selected as our 2009 School Captains.

Congratulations also to all the other Year 6 students who applied for these student leadership positions and acquitted themselves so well at their interviews.

Carnival Thank You

On behalf of the school I would like to thank everyone who supported our Carnival on Sunday February 22nd. An enormous amount of work was put in before the day and on the day itself by staff, parents and other volunteers to make it an enjoyable and exciting day. Many families from the school donated goods for various stalls, and we thank them as well. Our main sponsors for the Carnival were Peter Newell from Romsey Autocare and the Commonwealth bank of Australia – Gisborne Branch. Their support was also very much appreciated.

Joan Gibbs, Principal

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Nathan Parker
Sales Manager Personal Lending

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2009 FESTIVAL LAUNCH CONCERT

The **Woodend Winter Arts Festival** committee is thrilled to welcome back classical guitarist **Aleksandr Tsiboulski** who will perform at the launch of the festival program for 2009 on **March 27th at St Ambrose Church, Woodend**.



Aleksandr previously performed in Woodend at both the 2005 and 2006 festivals, where audiences experienced his flawless and passionate performances.

Since his last visit to Woodend, Aleksandr has gone on to win First Prize in numerous international competitions, including the 2006 Tokyo International Guitar Competition and the 2007 Southwest Guitar Competition (San Antonio, Texas).

As Australian-American Fulbright Scholar in the Visual and Performing Arts, Aleksandr was based at University of Texas at Austin between 2005 and 2008, where he was assistant to the eminent American Prof. Adam Holzman. Recently returned to Australia, he is maintaining a busy schedule of performances and musical collaborations whilst completing a PhD through the University of Adelaide.

In this concert Aleksandr will present a program of music by John Dowland, Joan Tower, Isaac Albeniz, Manuel Ponce and Leo Brouwer.

The concert will be held on Friday evening, 27 March 2009 at 8.00pm at **St Ambrose CHURCH, Templeton Street, Woodend**. Tickets \$15/\$10 available at the door from 7.30pm.

For further information visit www.woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au

Curious about the activities of Melbourne Water along Jacksons Creek and its tributaries?

Want to know how Hume Council spends our rates? – (speakers & opportunity for discussion) – Riddells Creek

When: Tuesday 10 March @ 7:30pm

Where: Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House, 59 Main Rd, Riddells Creek

Speakers: from **Melbourne Water** - David Ryan (Team leader - Waterway Improvement West) & Mat Kindred (River Health Officer - Jacksons Creek Catchment) will speak on theme "Working together: Current and future works along Jacksons Creek and tributaries". From **Hume City Council** - Damien Harrison (Greening Officer) who will outline "Hume's plans for Jacksons Creek and environs".

Note: Light supper supplied

More information: contact Christina Cheers (Chair - Jacksons Creek EcoNetwork Inc) tel: 9744 1923 or email: ccheers@unimelb.edu.au

Open Day at Holden Flora & Fauna Reserve - Sunbury

When: Sunday 5 April 2009 @ 10:30am

Where: Holden Flora & Fauna Reserve, end of The Strand, Sunbury (Melway 382 F9)

Details: Jacksons Creek EcoNetwork, together with Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water, invite you to explore this little-known 96ha Reserve, which is adjacent to Jacksons Creek. The Reserve was set up to preserve threatened species of the local area and it harbours among others Platypus, Peregrine Falcon, Growling Grass Frog and the Earless Dragon. It also contains highly significant remnant native grasslands, grassy woodlands and scrubland and has spectacular geological sites along Jacksons Creek.

Activities at the Open Day: there will be guides to explain the Aboriginal heritage, as well as the precious local fauna and flora, and to conduct you around the Reserve's beautiful geological formations. Come and see these, plus the work being undertaken by Melbourne Water and Parks Victoria to restore and preserve this area.

Cost: FREE, BBQ lunch provided

More info: for catering purposes please RSVP to Christina Cheers (Jacksons Creek EcoNetwork – Chair), tel: 9744 1923, email: ccheers@unimelb.edu.au

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ROMSEY / LANCEFIELD SENIOR CITIZENS

Meet each Monday.

Come and enjoy lunch, a game of cards, indoor bowls or just a chat with a very friendly group of people.

Bus trips arranged each month.
For details, please ring Rae Hooke on 54291602.

ROMSEY GOLF CLUB

**WOMEN'S GOLF
OPPORTUNITY
TO LEARN GOLF**

**FREE CLINIC
ON
SATURDAY
March 14th
EVERYONE WELCOME!**

WHERE: ROMSEY GOLF CLUB
TIME: 9.15AM

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT:
Lorraine Robb 54295693**

** TOWN GARAGE SALE **

Always wanted to have a garage sale but
haven't got organised ?

Romsey/Lancefield Ambulance Auxiliary
is coordinating a
"Town Garage Sale"
SATURDAY 30TH MAY

What we will do for you :

- Advertise the event
- Provide buyers with a map of garage addresses.
- Ensure no nuisance early birders, as all buyers will have to start at the Romsey Ambulance Station.

What you need to do to participate :

- Gather your goods & prepare them for sale at your home
- Pay \$10 Registration fee to cover advertising & administration cost.

For details contact : Kate ph 0408510475

*A fundraising event for the Romsey/Lancefield
and District Ambulance Auxiliary.*



ROTARY CLUB OF ROMSEY / LANCEFIELD Inc.

District 9790 of Rotary International
P.O. Box 195 Romsey Vic. 3434
Australia.

President: Greg Powell 5429 5999 (AH)
Secretary: Mark Shepherdley 5429 5728 (W)
Meets at Soltan Pepper Restaurant, 118 Main Street Romsey 3434 at 7 pm for 7.30 pm each Thursday

ROTARY and LOCAL SUPPORT for BUSH FIRE APPEAL

As part of Rotary's ongoing commitment to local organisations the Romsey Lancefield Rotary Club Inc. raised in one morning from donations by generous local shoppers outside Romsey Stock Feed and Romsey IGA Supermarket a total of \$477.55 to be donated to Romsey Red Cross for Bush Fire Relief Appeal in our area.

Special thanks to all local shoppers who gave so generously last week to our main collectors Karen Stevens and Keith Rickards. Thanks also to Mark Shepherdley (Romsey Stock Feeds), Romsey IGA Supermarket, and Peter O'Rourke (Macedon Ranges Meat Specialist) for their venues and sausages donated for the morning

Right: At the Rotary Meeting (Soltan Pepper Restaurant) of 19th February 2009: presenting a cheque to Isobel Hood (Romsey Red Cross) to the value of \$477.55 is President Greg Powell (Romsey Lancefield Rotary Club Inc).



Living Word Christian Church



~ Inspire Women's Meeting ~

Saturday 28th March 2009



Pauline Warner grew up in England and has known Jesus Christ as her Saviour from an early age. She is married to Richard and together they have been involved in full-time pastoring, Church planting and have founded the Lighthouse Christian College.

Pauline's strongest gifts are in worship, leadership and empowering others. She also has a strong prophetic edge and a powerful delivery that impacts lives. Her passion is to see women rise up to their full potential in Christ.

REGISTRATION DETAILS:

Cost \$40 (closes 20th March ~ Brunch included)

Registration Enquiries:

Contact: Denise Eddy Ph: 5429 6327

Venue: Living Word Christian Church
7 Mitchell Court Romsey Vic 3434

Ph/Fax: (03) 5427 6327

Email: livingword@iprimus.com.au

Bookings Essential

Sunday Service Times:

10am
@ 7 Mitchell Court Romsey

6pm
**@ Woodend Community
Centre, Woodend**

**Weekly Life Groups,
plus Men's, Women's,
Youth & Children's
Groups**

**Church bus available for
hire for Community
Groups.**

Everyone is Welcome

Romsey Football Netball Club Requires a Canteen Manager for Season 2009

The right person will need to be available on a Saturday for at least 9 home games.

Responsibilities include: organising canteen stock; game day set-up; organising volunteers.

This is a paid position!

If you are interested, please contact **Russell 0403 409 748**.



Romsey Region Business & Tourism Association Inc
PO Box 50
Romsey VIC 3434

Romsey Region Business and Tourism Association (RRBATA)

UPDATE

Romsey Businesses are many and varied

Shop front, home-based, light industrial, trade or professional – Romsey businesses are diverse. On first glance, it is easy to assume that many have nothing in common apart from location. The RRBATA aims to provide an umbrella for all businesses to meet under and exchange ideas as a business community. As a collective group, it is possible to make a difference to both the Romsey community and, more specifically, to business success and viability in this town.

Lots of Issues to talk about

Whether it is discussion about the ODP, events to seek prominence for Romsey (e.g. Rodeo, festivals, expos), street scaping, Christmas decorations, signage, marketing ideas or issues impacting on the broader Romsey community, the RRBATA has a *potentially* important role in our *very important* community. RRBATA is only as good as its membership. The Committee is considering a number of exciting initiatives for the year ahead – consider being a part of these by becoming a RRBATA member so as you can be heard!!

Membership Enquiries

Tracey Newnham (Secretary) 0409 511439
newlec@bigpond.com

Next RRBATA Meeting:

Monday 16th March 2009 at 7.30pm

Focus discussion: "Planning for retirement."

Romsey Community Hub

Members and non members welcome.

Enquiries/RSVP (for catering):

Tracey Newnham 0409 511439
newlec@bigpond.com

"Experience a Serene moment in an Historic church".

The Romsey Uniting Church,
at 25 Pohlman Street, Romsey
will be opening its doors on
Saturday
14th March, 2009
between 11am & 3pm.

You are invited to come and sit and relax – reflect, pray, have a quiet moment in this historic church.

Get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

You may like to have a cuppa and fellowship with others.

Please come and take advantage of the quietness and serenity in this lovely bluestone church.

Riddells Creek Montessori Preschool Still Taking Enrolments

The start of the new school year marks an exciting time for the Macedon Ranges Montessori Pre-school at Riddells Creek, with the appointment of a new enthusiastic Montessori teacher and new hours.

The pre-school is still taking enrolments, and offers a kindergarten program for 3 to 5 year olds during 3 morning sessions per week, on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Sessions start at 9.15am to help families work around school drop-offs for older children.

So what does Montessori mean? Is it different from any other kindergarten?

Our preschool is special in that it aims to cultivate our children's own natural desire to learn by providing an interesting and stimulating environment that develops curiosity, self-motivation and self-discipline for each child.

Montessori refers to our teaching style, developed by a pioneer in early childhood learning, Dr Maria Montessori.

'The education of children does not aim at preparing them for school, but for life' – Dr Maria Montessori.

Scholarships are currently being offered to 4 year olds and over to celebrate our success in keeping the school open and also to mark our 25th anniversary. The scholarship offers free enrolment* for successful applicants demonstrating financial or other hardship or offering an ability to make a positive contribution through their involvement with the pre-school.

To arrange a tour of the pre-school or to receive a Scholarship Application form please phone 5428 6376 or email

macedon.ranges.montessori.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

(*a small standard contribution towards maintenance costs will be required each term)

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday 6th March, 2009.

This year the World Day of Prayer will be held at the Romsey Uniting Church.

A Bible study will commence at 10am and the Service will follow at 11am.

Everyone is asked to bring a plate to share for Lunch.

The Guest speaker will be Max Griffith.
'In Christ we are many members, yet one body'

On Friday 6th March, 2009 over 3 million people worldwide will be praying and worshipping together during an annual day of prayer, using a service prepared by Christian women in Papua New Guinea.

Merle Parker, President of the Victorian Committee for World Day of Prayer, said:

"This is always an exciting day. The extent of unity in prayer is shown by the fact that the first service will begin at Sunrise in Tonga and travel around the world until the sun sets in neighbouring Western Samoa.

By then the Day will have been celebrated in over 170 countries and through Australia, over 1300 services will have been held."

Papua New Guinea is a land of many ethnic groups and over 800 distinct languages of which more than half are unrelated. As a result there is great cultural diversity, yet the women of Papua New Guinea have emphasised the oneness there is in Christ.

In spite of gender inequality, women in Papua New Guinea are beginning to take their place in professions previously closed to them. There are now women who are pilots, engineers, doctors, lawyers, judges, lecturers and also officers in the military forces. In this way they make a very positive contribution to their nation.

Further information and resources can be found on the World Day of Prayer Australia website at
www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org

Romsey & Lancefield Probus Club

President: Mrs. Pat Shannon 5429 6194

Secretary: Mrs. Jeni Clampit 5429 5480

Probus Meetings are held at St.Mary's Hall, Main Street, Romsey at 10am on the fourth Thursday in each month.

There is a guest speaker at each meeting. We have an outing on the third Wednesday of the month.
(Either a trip or luncheon)

Coffee Mornings and Musical Afternoons.

Persons interested in this club and wish to have more information please contact the President or Secretary at the above phone numbers.

LANCEFELD FRUIT SHED

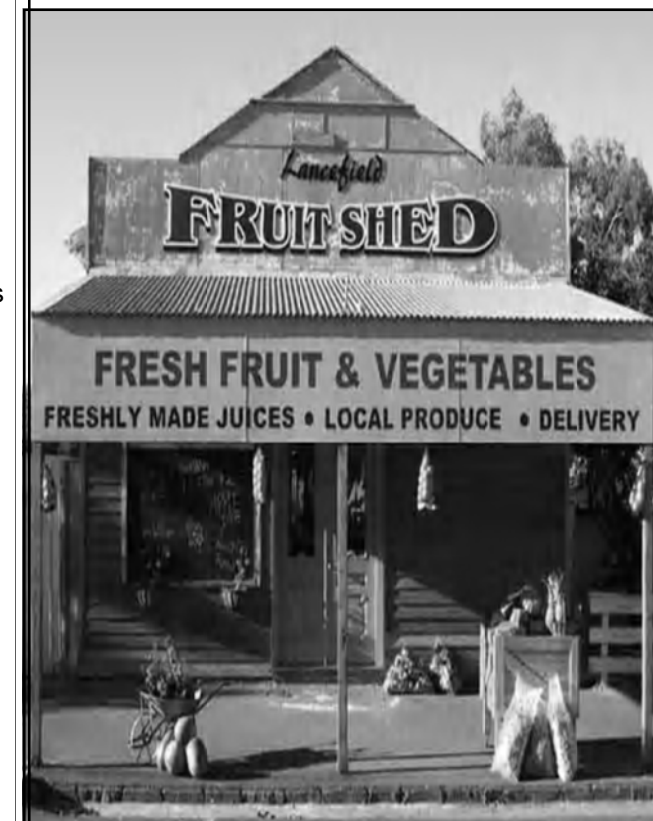
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AMEB Qualifications





Rotary Club of Romsey Lancefield Inc. Will celebrate Rotary's founding

The Romsey Lancefield Rotary Club Inc will celebrate Rotary International's 104th anniversary at their next weekly meeting at Soltan Pepper Restaurant on Thursday 26 February.

Rotary is one of the largest and most influential international humanitarian service organizations in the world. Founded on February 23, 1905, in Chicago, today Rotary has over 1.2 million members who belong to more than 33,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. As volunteers, Rotary members serve the needs of their communities worldwide.

The Rotary Club of Romsey Lancefield raised \$588 on Saturday morning 14 February for victims of the recent Bush Fires and the money will be donated to the local Red Cross Organisation. Thanks to Rotarian Keith Rickards and Karen Stevens (collector) and the Romsey community for their generosity.

The Romsey Lancefield Rotary Club Inc joins Rotary clubs around the world to recognize the day, also known as Rotary's "World Understanding and Peace Day".

Our club is gearing up to support the **Relay For Life** weekend at Lancefield Park with the provision of the evening meal on the Saturday night and the breakfast on the Sunday morning as well as assisting with parking for the **Romsey Rodeo** event.

Local projects supported over the years include continual support and partnerships with the Lancefield Romsey Lions Club, financial support to CFA in both townships, establishment of the Romsey Skate Park, scholarships for all local schools, bikes for needy schools, picture story books for all Prep children in local schools, regular Adopt-a-Highway clean up, Citizenship Awards, support for West Bourke Books Inc., VCE Awards Night, bench for Five Mile Creek Association, financial support for Laurie Green Pavilion in Lancefield Park, Moira Kelly Farm (Kilmore), Water Purifiers to East Timor, computers to Africa Appeal, Emergency Information Booklets for local families and the elderly, support for Cancer Research with Mini Field of Women event, Rotary Exchange student hosting, donations to Cancer Victoria, Juvenile Diabetes Association, Bone Marrow Institute, Organ Donation support, financial support for the Dean Jones Charity Dinner, Genes for Genes Day, Bionic Ear, Romsey Expos, RACV Bin Signage, financial support for secondary students to attend Science Research projects in Australia, drought relief for farmers in Benalla, SIEMENS Science week in Canberra for secondary students, support for Romsey Hub local playgroup gardening supplies, Junior Sports Awards nights, Waist Watchers Project with diabetic educators Wendy Shepherdley (RN), etc.

Current local projects include our Raffle (registered with Victorian Commission for Gambling) to raise funds for all local schools and kindergartens. Tickets are \$2 each (one prize of 6x4 trailer, Husqvarna ride on Mower, push mower and brush cutter from Romsey Mowers). New seat/

benches for Romsey and Lancefield townships, working with local RSL and the development of an Avenue of Honour between both towns, and support for Romsey Rodeo event, and the annual Relay For Life relay.

Worldwide Rotary members conduct projects to address today's humanitarian challenges, including illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty, lack of clean water, and environmental concerns while encouraging high standards in all vocations. Rotary members strive to build goodwill and peace, and provide humanitarian service in their communities and throughout the world.

Rotary's top philanthropic goal is to eradicate polio worldwide. To date, Rotary has contributed nearly US\$800 million and countless volunteer hours to the protection of more than two billion children in 122 countries. Rotary is currently working to raise an additional \$200 million toward a \$355 million challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Romsey Lancefield Rotary Club Inc has raised \$1000.00 towards this project and will continue to raise funds for the next two years as part of a matching program established by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Rotary International.

These efforts are providing much needed operational support, medical personnel, laboratory equipment and educational materials for health workers and parents. In addition, Rotary has played a major role in decisions by donor governments to contribute over \$4 billion to the effort. For more information, visit www.rotary.org/endpolio.

The Romsey Lancefield Rotary Club Inc welcomes new members and we meet each Thursday night at **Soltan Pepper Restaurant** (back room). Members wishing to attend a meeting please contact (PP) Peter O'Rourke (Macedon Ranges Meat Specialist) – Main Street Romsey on 54 295240.

Greg Powell
(President)
Romsey Lancefield Rotary Club Inc.
PO Box 195 ROMSEY Vic 3434
Web: <http://www.rotary9790.org.au> E-mail: romseylancefield@rotary9790.org.au



Greg Powell
(President)
Romsey Lancefield Rotary Club Inc.
PO Box 195 ROMSEY Vic 3434

Romsey Lancefield Girl Guides.

The Platypus Guides have started up again on Monday nights at Lancefield Park, and the girls have planned some fun activities and badges to work on. At the end of this term there is going to be a camp for all the Guides in Black Forest Region. The theme is "Reach For The Stars". Everyone is going to sleep in tents, and there will be lots of traditional activities to do using ropes. All the girls will have the opportunity to be the cook patrol, mess patrol, health and camp patrol. With all the interest in camping the girls have decided to work on the Create Tent badge and the Create Rope badge. They will learn to put up 2 different types of tent, and how to tie a variety of knots and where they can use the knots. Many of the girls have also chosen other badges to work on individually during this term. The Pets badge is popular as is the Arts badge. The girls have already had a dress-up meeting, they all wore their school uniform to Guides. There is another dress-up night coming up – it will be "opposites". If you would like to join us you would be most welcome to come and join in and meet the girls and share in their activities. Who knows, you may really love it!

For more information ring Rita on 5429 1996

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Vale Helen Watts

31/8/44 ---8/2/09

1976 was an important year in Helen Watts's life. It was the year she married Robbie. The year they moved to Romsey and became Australian citizens. It was also the year she had her 1st son.

Helen and Robbie had two sons, Phillip and Adrian. As well as being a wife and mother Helen worked part time as a nursing sister at the Gisborne Hospital. In the Watts' early days in Romsey, Helen would walk with the pusher to Romsey on the side of the Melbourne Lancefield Rd, not because she didn't have a car but because she could. Then after the boys were at school she often rode to the "village" with her small dog in the bike basket.

Helen and Robbie were affectionately known as the 'Lord and Lady Mayoress' of North Monegeetta. The door to their home was always open, whether they were home or not. Helen was a most caring person. Anyone in need, troubled or sick would have a visit from Helen whether she knew them or not. Her visit may have been a simple bit of cheering up or a carton of milk or some housework done for you. Helen was always ready to help with advice if needed and never repeated confidences. Her friendship was everlasting.

Helen was a founding member of the Romsey Walking Group, which still meets every Tuesday. She had a mischievous smile and was always happy. She was the driving force in most of our activities. She was our glue, holding us together, a little dynamo, always forcing us to the next peak. One day when a new member joined, Helen cheerfully said, "There is only one hill in our walk today" - she failed to mention that the one hill was going straight up Mt Macedon. We all knew where to go when Helen was leading a walk. She left arrows, heaven forbid if you were the last person and you forgot to pick them up. Helen was insistent on counting all walkers several times during a long walk, as someone would always do their own thing.

Helen was wonderful at organising fun outings to celebrate big "0" birthdays, girls' trips away and family weekends. She was a second Mum to all the children of the walking group. Family weekends away were always great as long as you were up at the crack of dawn, had your lunch prepared and were out the door ready to number off for the day's walk when Helen was ready to leave.

Helen was an integral part of the Romsey community, volunteering her time for many committees. She became heavily involved in Romsey Primary School life. She was a member of the parents' club and she ran the school canteen for many years. She was responsible for the introduc-

tion of the very popular monthly hot dog & donut day. Helen helped with reading, the swimming program, school excursions, fundraising and school working bees. Mention Helen's name and many people will instantly say "The Last Chance Deb Ball" and the "Wedding" which were fundraisers at the school.

While Robbie was on the scout committee Helen was always there helping to raise funds. She ran some successful Trivia nights. Junior tennis kept her busy ferrying children around on Saturday mornings.

Helen served on the Romsey Fire Brigade Ladies' Auxiliary for many years. She held the position of secretary and she was a tireless worker. One year she was given the honour of officially opening the Romsey Artists' Art Show, which was organized by the auxiliary in conjunction with the Romsey Artists. All money raised from the Art Show went to the local CFA.

Helen was a volunteer on the Romsey Rag. She gave her time once a month to collating, organising other people to help with collating and delivering the Rag.

Helen was always fighting for the general well being of the community. One of her projects was to have the speed limit through the town reduced; thankfully this has now been achieved.

Helen was notorious for her creative spelling and it was almost impossible to read her handwriting. Anything she wrote was a real challenge to decipher.

Helen moved to Clifton Springs after Robbie retired and became a valued member of her new community, as she was of ours.

A true friend to many, with a generous heart, a passion for life and a cheeky sense of humour. Helen will not be forgotten.

Goodbye Helen.



Vale Helen Watts

The first weekend of February was not only disastrous for the hottest Melbourne / Victorian temperature ever, it was also disastrous in claiming the life of a much-loved and respected former Romsey/North Monegeetta resident Mrs Helen Watts, loved wife of Robin and very proud mother of Adrian and Phillip. Helen was the initial enthusiastic leader of the Romsey Tuesday morning Walking Group and a regular contributor to and distributor of the Romsey rag. She was also an excellent, caring and so very compassionate nursing sister, and in that capacity could not have been kinder to my father (the late Harrold Pennington) when he passed away in the [then] Gisborne Bush Nursing Hospital. She was also a good, kind and caring friend and a very capable nurse to all of Dad's family, and I have since been extremely grateful to her for that. Whenever we met, Helen would greet me with "How is the other Helen?", and my greeting in reply would be likewise. I will miss her greatly and I know all her friends and will too. We all have lots of very happy memories of a good, kind, caring and loyal friend and one of the very best people we have been privileged to share with. May God give her the eternal rest she deserves.

Psalm 121

Helen W. Clement.



Romsey Community House Inc.

A Learning and Activity Centre
P.O.Box 418, Romsey, Vic 3434
Phone 5429 6724

Email: romseyhouse@bigpond.com

Programmes and Activities for Term 1 2009 February—April 2009

All activities will be conducted at Romsey Community House unless stated otherwise.

Yoga with Kym Oliver. Wednesday 7.00 -8.30pm, access through side door. Cost: \$140 for 10 week term. Casual Rate \$18/session. All enquiries and bookings direct to Kym Oliver on 5429 2134.

Walking Together Program All groups meet Romsey Lion's Park (Near the creek), Tuesday and Friday 9.30am – 10.30am, Enquiries and bookings to Heather ph: 5429 5895

Drop in for a Cuppa weekdays 9.30 – 5.30 – All Welcome
Tea / Coffee - Gold Coin donation

Writers Group

First Monday of the month, Romsey Community House at the Hub, 7pm – 8.30pm Convener: Dee White

Drop In Craft Mornings

Bring along your own craft every Thursday 10.30am – 12.30pm during the school term. Convener – Karyn Gottcshling

Adult & Children's Art Classes with Gillian ph: 5429 3996

Crop till you drop – 3rd Saturday of the month. Cost \$15 including dinner.

What's New:

Knitting Group – Every Wed 2 -3pm. Cost \$5 session.

Phone 5429 6724

If no answer—leave a message, we will get back to you.

Please also note our new email address:
romseyhouse@bigpond.com

Tuning into kids - a parenting program that helps children learn to understand and regulate their emotions. It teaches parents, awareness and regulation of their own emotions, awareness of their children's emotions, to use children's emotional experiences as an opportunity for closeness and teaching, skills in assisting children to verbally label their emotions, skills in assisting children in problem solving and to guide children's behaviour with appropriate limits.

Registrations essential. Cost: Gold coin donation for tea and coffee.

Dates (6weeks) Friday 27 Feb, 6, 13, 20, 27 March and 3rd April. Time: 9.30 – 11.30. Free childminding is available.

Counselling – Counselling, information and referral service by appointment. Phone Amanda Summers 0411627204. Sessions are 1 hour and cost \$25.

Program and Course Bookings—Enquiries and further information at the above phone number

Bookings - All payments are required at time of booking, and should be directed to the Romsey Community House at the address detailed above. People who have not paid in full 1 week prior to commencement will be deemed as not attending and be placed on a waiting list.

Minimum numbers for courses and programs apply. If minimums are not met courses may be cancelled at the discretion of the Community House or Course provider.

Refunds may only be given in accordance with the Romsey Community House Refund Policy.

Expressions of Interest Sought for Term 2:

If you are interested in **Belly Dancing, Pilates, Paving or Line Dancing** (Tuesday or Thursday evening) please contact the House so that we can plan for these activities in Term 2. Some course and programs require minimum numbers, so it's important to **register your interest! Watch next month's Rag for our term 2 program.**

Don't forget—Romsey Community House is for everyone! The programs offered at the House can only reflect your interests if you let us know what they are.

The Committee is working very hard towards getting on-going funding for a paid co-ordinator. We need the support of the community to add strength to our case. How can you do this?

By actively participating in courses and programs

By joining up as a member of the House—membership is \$1 per year. Membership forms are available at the House.

By volunteering to help with the day to day running of the House—even an hour a week would be greatly appreciated.

By lobbying local and state government.

The committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the House at 7.00pm.

Wanted! Committee Members

A casual vacancy exists on the Committee of Management of the Romsey Community House, following the resignation of President Wendie McLaughlin. There is also an unfilled committee vacancy from the last AGM. We are now seeking two community-minded people who are willing to join our committee and help us to grow and expand in our service to the people of Romsey. If you are interested please contact the Community House office on the above number, email us or call in any weekday morning and see Heather or one of our great volunteers in the office. You will need to be a financial member of the House—it costs just \$1 per year and we can sign you up on the spot.

The next Committee Meeting is at 7.00pm on Tuesday March 10th, at the House. We will be electing a new president and hopefully welcoming 2 new committee members.

Romsey Uniting Church

Pohlman Street, Romsey. 3434

Minister: Rev. Dr Avril Hannah-Jones: 5429 5351 Mobile: 0408 380 962

Church Council Chairperson: Noel Shaw - 5429 5509
Secretary: Jeni Clampit - 5429 5480



**You are most welcome to come to the Romsey Uniting Church Services
and share in fellowship and worship...**

On Saturday 14th March, the Romsey Uniting Church will be open between 11am and 3pm. People are invited to come and sit in a quiet atmosphere to reflect, pray or to just sit quietly. Enjoy a cuppa and some fellowship.

The Season of Lent will commence on February 25th, Ash Wednesday with a service at 7.30pm at Mt. Macedon Uniting Church.

The first Lenten study will be at the Romsey Uniting Church Manse on Tuesday 3rd March at 7.30pm.

The dates for the other Lenten studies are as follows: March 10th at Gisborne; 17th at Heskett; 24th Lancefield; 31st Riddells Creek; April 7th at the Manse.

Further information can be obtained from Rev. Avril Hannah-Jones, Noel Shaw or Jeni Clampit.

A Prayer for the Bushfire Season

Most loving God, you are that divine friend who shares our joys and our sorrows, our days of prosperity and our hours of disaster.

Please let your special blessings encircle all those whose days are now spent with either the threat or the aftermath of bushfires.

By your Spirit, please encourage and sustain – Those who have seen their homes or their livelihood go up in flames, or have been unable to save valuable herds or flocks,
Those who are still reeling from the loss and asking why, or who are now rising up from the ashes with defiant courage;
Those who are grieving the loss of loved ones and friends and the photographic record of several generations or family, or have seen family heirlooms reduced to ashes or melted down to shapeless forms of metal.

By your Spirit, please encourage and sustain – Those who for days and weeks have lived with the threat

of fires, and whose nerves are worn thin;
The children who may suffer nightmares for months to come;
Those who have been fighting fires on many fronts, only to see new ones bear down on them from unexpected quarters;
Those who daily put their lives at risk for others, and the many who through constant exertion and lack of sleep, wonder how they can cope for even one hour longer.

Please encircle these brave souls, loving God, with your care, and indwell them with the deep strength of Jesus Christ.

Hasten that cool or rainy day when the threat is now more and the painful task of rebuilding hopes can begin to take effect.

Through Christ Jesus, our Brother and Redeemer.

Amen.

Written by Rev. B. Prewer : Australians at Prayer.

Church Services during February, 2009

1 st	9am.	Worship Service conducted by Guest Preacher
8 th	9am	Worship and Communion Service conducted by Rev. Dr. Avril Hannah-Jones
15 th	9am	Worship service conducted by the Worship Team
22 nd	9am.	Worship Service conducted by Rev. Dr. Avril Hannah-Jones

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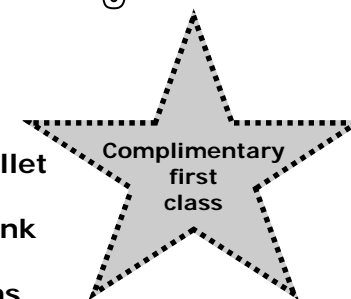
E-mail: mbevan@dynamic.net.au

Dance Station

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- Classical Ballet
- Hip-Hop/Funk
- Competitions
- SFD Examinations



Limited Placements

2009 Enrolment Enquiries:
(03) 54293769 or
0400010122

PRINCIPAL—Natalie Philippe M.S.F.D



Rural Skills Cadetship Program

Grants for tertiary students and host employers

Are you a full-time tertiary student from the Macedon Ranges Shire? Are you studying away from home?

You may be eligible for a grant of up to \$2,500 to complete a paid cadetship in your home town during terms breaks.

Businesses located in the region, wishing to employ a cadet, are also eligible for funding of up to \$1,250 towards employment costs.

For more information please contact Lyn Newberry
54219616 or email l.newberry@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au

More information about the program is available from
www.rdv.vic.gov.au

Notice to Contributors:

When submitting photos for inclusion in the Romsey Rag, please ensure that anyone appearing in the photograph has given consent for it to be published. A written statement to this effect is required at the time of submitting your copy (if copy is sent by email, include this statement in your email).

There are many legal issues surrounding the unauthorised publication of photographs and we will not publish photographs from now on unless such authority is given.

The Editors

Once Upon A Time.....There Was a Kindergarten Teacher Named Jane.

Jane Whelan wasn't always a kindergarten teacher. She grew up in Warrnambool with one sister and one brother. Having left home as a teenager she tried her hand in the hospitality industry in the big city (Melbourne).

After deciding to become a teacher and completing her education to do so, she eventually arrived in Romsey to commence a 20 year career teaching kindergarten children. Her Romsey career began in a pack away kinder set up in the Sunday School at St. Paul's Anglican Church where she was assisted by Lyn Cornish. The Kindergarten facility became permanent when the new premises opened as part of the maternal and child health complex in the mid nineties. Her assistants during the last 15 years included Chris Farrell and Catherine Tighe.

Jane's career included the staging of grand kinder Christmas concerts at the Mechanics Institute (the hottest ticket in town) as well as the many events and performances put on for proud parents of preschool children at the kindergarten.

Jane was famous (or should that be "infamous") for a few things. For example, if she gave anyone "The Eyebrow", they knew it was time to settle down and behave (even Chris!). If there was a birthday party celebrated at kinder, she made sure there was a nice party plate for her enjoyment ("Queen falls, castle crumbles!"). And then there was the stock take of "cute" dads at Father's Nights – for research purposes only.

Many of the current staff members at IGA and Soltan Pepper have been preschooled by Jane. She has been a fixture in the Romsey community whether it is in her long kindergarten role or in other jobs such as being a trainer at the Junior Football Club.

Many a parent has felt the pang of angst as they collected their children from kinder as they heard Jane say, "Sorry about the wet/muddy clothes!" She allowed the kids to have plenty of playtime fun.

Jane's passion has always been the kids, especially the special needs children. Her classes were always characterized by plenty of music, dancing and singing.....and the kids loved her.

Jane Whelan resigned her position as Unit 1 teacher at the end of last year for family reasons. After a career which has touched the early lives of more than 800 children, Romsey Kindergarten and its extended community wishes Jane all the very best for the future.



Council Activates its Emergency Plans

After acknowledging at last night's planning committee meeting, the immense loss to people across the state through the bushfires of the last week, Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Mayor, Cr John Letchford is encouraging residents to tune in to ABC Radio (774 FM radio – Melbourne or 91.1 FM radio– Bendigo) for news and information on days of high fire risk.

Late last week, following CFA advice of high fire danger for the weekend, Macedon Ranges Shire Council set up the Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre (MECC) in Gisborne on Friday night, 6 February, and a control room at its depot with a roster of staff on standby to help clear any fallen trees in cooperation with the emergency services.

Since then, Macedon Ranges Shire Council has been working in partnership with neighbouring municipalities and local emergency services to respond to needs as they have arisen. On Saturday 7 February, 15 members of Council's works crew were out from 8.30am until 3.30am on Sunday morning, then from 6am on Sunday until 4pm that day, clearing limbs and keeping roads clear.

Upon news of the Redesdale fire, Council set up a Relief Centre at Kyneton Town Hall for those wanting to leave home early, which was attended by approximately 50 people. Mayor, John Letchford said it is part of Council's Municipal Emergency Plan to establish a relief centre if a bushfire is a threatening local population centres.

"In this situation, a relief centre will be opened as a safe place to go for those people not intending to stay and actively defend their home. The location of the Relief Centre is likely to be in one of our major townships. The exact location will be determined on the day, and will depend upon the location of the fire and its predicted behaviour. This is when residents need to tune in to ABC radio," he said.

Since Sunday, Macedon Ranges Shire Council's works crew have continued to clear local roads and have assisted with clearing roads in the Mitchell Shire affected by the Redesdale fire, around Glenhope. It has also buried hundreds of sheep on a property at Sidonia

On Monday night, Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Municipal Emergency Resource Officer (MERO), Barry Whelan spent the night in the Mitchell Shire Council's Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre (MECC) at Broadford to relieve the Mitchell Shire's MERO and Deputy MERO's.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council also worked with Mt Alexander Shire Council last weekend to establish a recovery centre at Metcalfe Town Hall for residents affected by fires around Redesdale, Baynton, Sidonia and Mt Alexander.

On Monday, 9 February a community meeting was held at the recovery centre, where CFA and Victoria Police provided an update on the current fire situation and a range of agencies provided information on the support that is available to those affected.

The Recovery Centre will continue to open daily 10am-4pm until Friday 20 February, providing information about support available from agencies such as the Department of Human Services, Department of Primary Industries, CFA, Victorian Farmer's Federation, Telstra, Centrelink, Cobaw Community Health Service, Salvation Army and the Red Cross.

The next community meeting for those affected by the fires will be held on Thursday 19 February, at 6pm at Metcalfe Town Hall.

Key points for residents to note:

Relief Centre: will be established if a bushfire is threatening local population centres.

A relief centre will be opened as a safe place to go for those people not intending to stay and actively defend their home. The Relief Centre will provide information and support for community members as well as first aid if required. The location of the Relief Centre is likely to be in one of the shire's major townships; the exact location will be determined on the day, and will depend upon the location of the fire and its predicted behaviour.

Some people in the community remember the old "Fire Refuge" sites that were set up many years ago. They were often located at a local building or sports ground. We no longer use Fire Refuges as we cannot assume they will be safe. They could be located in the path of the fire, and there will be no-one there to open up the facility or to provide accurate information. A Relief Centre is a much safer alternative.

Recovery Centre: usually established to provide information and assistance for those who have been affected by a bushfire.

For Information:

To find out where the Relief Centre is being established, and obtain further information about the bushfire situation by contacting:

- Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667 (free call). If you have a speech/communication impairment - contact the National Relay Service by dialing 1800 555 677 and request 1800 240 667.
- Stay tuned to your local ABC radio station (774AM radio in Melbourne or 91.1FM radio in Bendigo).
- Visit CFA's website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au

There is also a range of information available via Council's website: www.macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au.

People who wish to offer their condolences to those affected by the weekend's devastating bushfires and show support for emergency service workers can go to one of Macedon Ranges Shire Council's service centres at Kyneton, Gisborne, Romsey or Woodend and write a message for inclusion in the official message book. These messages will subsequently be sent to the Victorian Premier's office for display in a prominent place.

From the Editors:

While some of the information contained in this article is now outdated, we have included it because it contains a useful insight into what happens when a bushfire disaster, such as the one recently experienced, occurs. It also gives readers an indication of how a similar situation would be handled should our community be unfortunate enough to have this experience. The bushfire season is far from over, so we all need to be alert.

Lancefield Romsey Lions Club

Unfortunately I missed getting my article in for last month's issue. Late last year we held our annual Adventure Park Excursion. We took 44 children from Lancefield, Romsey, St Mary's, Romsey, Bolinda, Riddell's Creek and Clarkefield Primary Schools to Bendigo Water World, which has a giant water slide, and gold panning. We had a bar-b-cue lunch, the weather was fine and we all had a great times. I would like to thank John McCarthy for supplying and driving the bus, which made this event possible.

Lion's Children Community Award

This award is a scholarship of \$100.00. We are hoping that this will be an ongoing award each year, given to a child in year 6 at various local schools who has shown an interest in his or her community, whether it be in the capacity of their local school community or in the general community. These awards were given at the end of term in December 2008, to graduating year 6 students. At the presentations last year it was very rewarding to see so many awards made to many of the students in recognition of their school achievements. The recipients of the Lion's awards were:

Nicholas Mumby—Lancefield Primary School

Elke Smith—Romsey Primary School

Timothy Page—Clarkefield Primary School

Next year we hope that these schools, as well as St Mary's and Bolinda Primary Schools will also be included.

The Longest Walk For An Aussie Kid

The Longest Walk For An Aussie Kid was a solo, long distance walk undertaken by Geelong Lions member, Lion John Olsen. John walked from west to east across Australia, beginning in June 2008 from Steep Point in Western Australia to Byron Bay, New South Wales and then southward to be reunited with family and friends in Geelong in early February 2009.

On January 30th John walked into Lancefield for a short stopover. He was welcomed by some of our local Lancefield Romsey lions members. We were pleased to present him with a cheque for \$1,000, to aid his fundraising efforts for the Australian Lions Children's Mobility Foundation (ALCMF) and the Australian Leukodystrophy Support Group (ALDS). After leaving Lancefield John went through Romsey, then Riddell's Creek, and across to Bacchus Marsh, then Balliang and finally Geelong.

Lion's Sunday Market

The Lions Sunday Market began last month, with all proceeds going to the Bushfire Appeal. We have all seen some horrific scenes on television and heard of so many terrible tragedies, as well as tales of remarkable escape and heroism. This has affected so many people. Please help those who need our support in this very difficult time. There are many fundraising events to rally behind. Remember the Lion's Market is held at the Lion's reserve on the 4th Sunday each month, and is one of our main fundraisers. The market is always seeking new stallholders. Anyone interested should contact Lion John on 0438 414 245.

Lions Meetings

The Lions Club meets every 2nd Monday (business) at the Mechanics Hall in Romsey and every 4th Monday (dinner meeting). Anyone who has recently moved to the area, or is interested in finding out more about our Lions Club and Lions projects is encouraged to contact us. You are very welcome to come along to one of our Dinner Meetings. Please contact Lion President Julie Starec on 0411 643 407 or 5429 1990.

Romsey Roundup Rodeo 2009

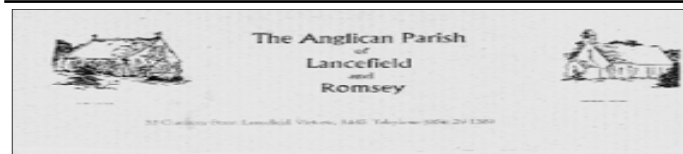
The action was on again this year when the Romsey Roundup Rodeo came to town on Sunday. With an increase number of events, and more competitors, it was a day of action, thrills and spills.

The Romsey Regional Business And Tourism Association (RRBATA) would like to express its gratitude to the organising committee for bringing this event together. In particular, a huge thank you must go to major sponsor Soltan Pepper Restaurant of Romsey, Sandra and Ray Matthews, John Beaumont, Peter Newell, Benny Dwyer, Keith Diprose, Kevin Smith, Tony Attard, Jenny Stillman (Vet), Nikki Rickard-Craven and family, Allan Joynson, Keri, Steven and James Lawler, Chris Rodwell, Liz Dormontt, Donna Newell, Robyn Moore, Louise Noel, and Morgan Webb, for their many hours of planning and work. We would also like to thank the Cowboys and Angels Dance Academy for their demonstrations of linedancing on the day, which added greatly to the atmosphere. Thanks also to Joan Gibbs and Romsey Primary School for the use of the school grounds as a great venue. Thanks goes to those local businesses in town (and out of town) who sponsored the rodeo—without sponsorship such an event is not possible. Thank you also so the local groups who supported the Romsey Primary School carnival that was held in conjunction with the rodeo.

Below are some photos from the day to help you relive some of the exciting moments.



**Romsey Roundup Rodeo
2009**



VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE.

Dear Friends

A brief reflection from someone closely connected with the bushfires:

Such tragedy as the bushfires cause us to ask: "Where is God?" or for those of us with faith: "Where are you, my God?" I sat with a woman on Saturday night as a few dirty, paltry drops of rain fell. She shook her fist at the heavens and asked God: "Don't you know we need more than that?" And yet in the face of this calamity, many members of my church experienced what they see as God's providential care. They think of the wind change that turned the flames away from their property with seconds to spare, the hair-raising drive to safety with flames on both sides of the road, the house that was saved as the nearby hayshed went up in flames.

And all those who survived have experienced God's care through the sacrificial love of the emergency services workers and many friends and neighbours. But not all survived, not all had providential escapes.

Christians have no promises from God that when we place our trust in him our earthly lives will be free of tragedy and disaster. Instead, we have promises about the quality of life awaiting followers of Jesus.

A life with no more death or mourning or crying or pain that lasts for eternity. We have promises that we will be given God's grace to handle whatever trials lie before us. I was so proud of my church members who returned to the wreckage of their burned houses bringing food for any wild birds or animals that might have survived the blaze.

We have a God who understands our pain from the inside. The scandal of Christianity is this: that when God took on human form, he suffered agony and an unjustified and cruel death. Whatever our pain we can bring it to God, confident that God knows exactly what we are going through. Jesus already went through it and conquered it -- that's the Easter story. From unjust death and destruction there comes, for the followers of Jesus, healing, hope, freedom and victory.

That's this month's view from the Vicarage in a year where I hope and pray we

"Seek the Divine in 2009."

Rev. Leroy Coote

Vicar

The Anglican Parish of Lancefield and Romsey.

Specific Advertisements.

Our next Sunday @ Six on Sunday 15th March 2009 with dinner at 5:30pm and a short service starting at 6pm with loud, lively music. **The topic next month is: What is source of Joy?**

"Does anybody have those unfinished craft projects sitting around?"

Don't have a time or place to finish them?
Then have we got both for you.

The "Unfinished Symphony Group" is starting soon.

Details are as follows:

Date: Saturday 21st March 2009.

Time: 1pm – 3pm

Cost: Gold Coin Donation.

Bring along your unfinished "symphony" and friends. For further details, please contact Mrs Jenelle Coote on 5429-1680."

Mystery Box night – Friday 13th March 2009.

Time: 7:30pm

Place: Lancefield Anglican Church Hall.

Cost: Gold coin donation

Guest Auctioneer.

We would love to see you at this exciting new event.

Four week course commencing Tuesday 10th March 2009 from 7:30pm – 9:30pm

"How to drug proof your kids or Making good parents better."

Where: Lancefield Anglican Church Hall

Cost: \$20.00 (to cover cost of material).

This course will make parenting your child a lot easier.

You will need to enrol by Monday 2nd March and if you wish to enrol, please contact the course convenor – Rev. Leroy Coote on 0417-679-682.

General Advertisements:

1. You are cordially invited to any of our Services: 9:00am at Romsey located at 77 Main Street, Romsey and 10:30am (with children's program) at Lancefield located at 33 Chauncey St., Lancefield. All our Services are "Worshipful, Anglican and Relevant."

2. Our Church Youth Group meets from 5pm – 7pm every Sunday Evening – now in two locations. (commencing 8th February 2009)

Grades 5 and 6 meets in the Lancefield Anglican Church Hall.

Years 7 and up meets in the Lancefield Uniting Church Hall.

Cost \$4.00 to cover dinner and future activities. Anyone in Grades 5 and up at school is welcome to come along and see what fun activities we do. All our leaders have up to date "Working with Children's Checks".

For further details on any of our activities, please contact Rev. Leroy Coote on 0417-679-682.

Romsey Kindergarten Inc.

P.O. Box 84
ROMSEY, VIC. 3434
Phone: Unit 1 (03) 5429 5294
Unit 2 (03) 5429 6076



KINDER CORNER - ROMSEY KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Welcome to the first Kindergarten News for 2009. New families and students, a new committee, a new playground and a new teacher, it is an exciting time.

Settling in

Parents and students arrived a couple of weeks ago to commence kinder with a staggered start program. This means reduced days, reduced hours and reduced student numbers in each session to facilitate a gentle transition into kinder life. As the children have been getting to know their teachers and assistants and also each other, mums and dads have been waiting in the foyer eager to hear all about their child's day and to collect their artwork. All the donations of recycled material comes right back home in the form of artwork. Gotta love box construction!

New Committee of Management and Management Structure

The Committee voted in at the November AGM is finding its feet and becoming familiar with its new roles. Nobody mentioned to the new committee that they were also required to be elbow deep in fairy floss as part of their new role, but great fun was had by all at the Romsey Roundup and Carnival.

The transition to Try Youth and Community Services is progressing. Staff have undertaken an induction program to become familiar with their new employer.

New Playground

The playground is now complete, with the installation of additional shade sails over the summer holidays. The children are now enjoying being able to run and play on the grass which has been lovingly attended to by Raelene Mottram. Thanks heaps Raelene for a great job over the summer.

New Teacher

Romsey Kindergarten appointed Kim Bates as the unit 1 teacher in December. Kim was acting in the role from June 2008 due to the leave of absence taken by Jane Whelan.

Fond Farewell

It is with great sadness that Jane Whelan announced her resignation in December. Jane has been a founding member of the Romsey Kindergarten and will be greatly missed. The committee are organising a plaque to be unveiled in her honour and to recognise the contribution Jane has made over many, many years. Stay tuned for further details. We wish Jane and her family all the very best as she begins a new phase of her life.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sue Hayes, President
Romsey Kindergarten Committee of Management
Ph: 0416 066 347

**Romsey Kindergarten
Committee of Management
invites members of the community
to attend the farewell function for
Jane Whelan.**

**When: Friday 27 March
Where: Romsey Kindergarten
Time: 3.30pm onwards
RSVP: Monday 24 March**

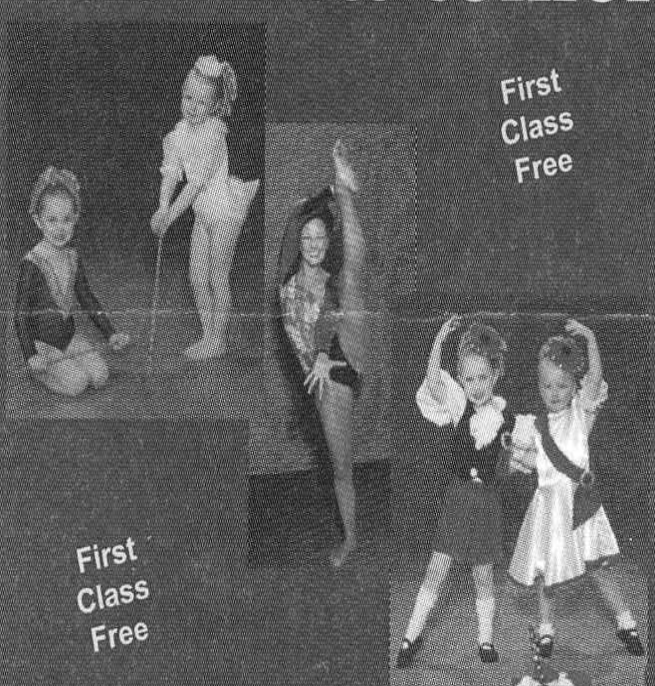
Please contact the Romsey Kindergarten on
5429 6022 if you would like to attend
or email: suzhayes@bigpond.com

**We look forward to seeing as many parents and
students, past and present, at this event.**

**It is the chance to reminisce, catch up and re-
cognise the huge contribution Jane
has made to our Kindergarten.**

• DANCING •

MACEDON RANGES CALISTHENICS COLLEGE



**Contact
Shelley 0423 511 985
Katrina 5427 2561**

KN77595/D



Romsey Junior Football Club

www.rmseyredbacks.org.au

The Romsey Lancefield Junior Football Club held our Annual General Meeting in November 2008. The Club voted overwhelmingly to change its name to Romsey Junior Football Club and from there on in, we are known as the Romsey Redbacks. This historic vote now allows the club to have a true home base where we can build strong community ties and offer our young people a sense of belonging, a place to display their achievements and identity and to build new infrastructure for the Romsey community. A strong and dedicated committee was elected, to take us forward to an exciting 2009 season, we thank them for the commitment to the junior club.

Registration Days were held on November 08 and February 09 at the Romsey Football Club Rooms and we are very happy to announce that we will have 7 teams competing in the RDFL in season 2009. Under 9, under 10, 2 x under 12s, 2 x under 14s and an under 16 team. If you would like to register or enquire for any of our football teams please either ring Melinda Skinner 5429 5893 or Eden Jedwab 0403344462 and they will organise all the information required.

COACHES FOR SEASON 2009:

The Club is very happy to announce the appointment of the coaching panel for 2009. We have built a strong foundation for our players with well educated coaches who strive for best practise in the training and skill develop-

ment of the young people at our club. Congratulations to our coaches on their appointments and thank you for your tireless work in advance.

Under 9	Craig Martin
Under 10	Rick Feehan
Under 12D	Rodney Deans
Under 12B	Michael Richardson
Under 14B	Alan Lever
Under 14D	Steven Wilkinson
Under 16	Stephen Skinner

Season Start

Training sessions are held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Nights at the Romsey Ground. The times will be announced in the next week and you will be notified either by email or through the community forums.

WEBSITE

The Club will launch its own website relevant for our own club needs. The website will include newsletters, game times and grounds, club contacts and links to the RDFL, AFL and other relevant bodies and information. The website is under construction but will soon be found at www.romseyredbacks.org.au. Add it to favourites or even make it your home page.

President	Eden (Jed) Jedwab	0403 344 462 or 5429-5138
Vice Pres	Bill Badger	0419 106 959
Secretary	Melinda Skinner	0437 464 252 or 5429-5893
Treasurer	Linda Wilkinson	0402 639 521 or 5429-6607



John Smith
0408 704 082

*Your agent for
Romsey, Lancefield
and surrounding
districts.*

Service and professionalism is our motto

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We have buyers currently looking to purchase in our area and we need more properties to sell.

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ROMSEY 5429 6842

*Watch this
space for
details
of the
revamped
Romsey
Craft
Market*



2009 Macedon Ranges Relay for Life

A Macedon Ranges Shire Council team of staff, councillors and families will take part in the 2009 Cancer Council Relay for Life at Lancefield Park this weekend.

As part of the ongoing fundraising efforts the team has sold chocolates, puddings and plants, organised raffles, barbeques, silent auctions and a shopping spree. A trivia night that was held at the Kyneton Town Hall raised \$1800 – including individual donations of \$200 from Mayor Cr John Letchford and Cr Helen Relph.

Mayor, Cr John Letchford encouraged those who haven't registered a team yet to think about doing so in 2010.

"This event just keeps growing bigger each year with record numbers of participants registered this year. It's a wonderful community event which helps to raise important funds for cancer research and encourages people to get fit and have fun at the same time," he said.

In 2008 the Macedon Ranges Shire Council team was awarded the highest team fundraiser award, followed by the Woodend Women's Walking group and the Milkybar Kids.

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council team would like to thank the following businesses and individuals who generously supported the team's fundraising efforts:

- Amcal Pharmacy Kyneton
- Balcony on Piper
- Poletti Consulting Services
- Chemart Pharmacy Kyneton
- Chief Executive Unit – Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- Constantino Rumac – Professional Photographer

- Cookie Crumbs
- Cultural Services Unit – Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- Debz Fashion
- Hanging Rock Café
- Highbury Park
- Kyneton Florist
- Kyneton Travel Agency
- L'Schoppe
- Lauriston Press
- Lyndalla Design
- Market Fresh Kyneton
- Marilyn McLellan
- Mensland Kyneton
- Pick up Stitches
- Purple Sage
- Quick Growth Kyneton
- Recreation Unit - Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- RSL Kyneton
- Seasons Boutique
- Shannon Dickson
- Shoe Connection
- Stephen Hendy
- The Emporium on Piper
- Toyworld
- Woodend Depot

The 2009 Lancefield/Macedon Ranges Relay for Life will start at 3pm on Saturday, 28 February and finish at 10am on Sunday, 1 March. During the 19-hour event, teams of ten or more amble, walk, or run around the track inside the Lancefield Park oval passing batons of varying types -some very unusual.

In keeping with other years, the event will end with the release of one thousand white helium balloons, symbolising hope for the future.

DOG CLIPPING AND GROOMING

ALL BREEDS—REASONABLE RATES

PICK UP AND DELIVERY AVAILABLE

PHONE PAULINE
ON 0419513201 OR 4429 6918

Riddells Creek Montessori Preschool Still Taking Enrolments

The start of the new school year marks an exciting time for the Macedon Ranges Montessori Pre-school at Riddells Creek, with the appointment of a new enthusiastic Montessori teacher and new hours. The pre-school is still taking enrolments, and offers a kindergarten program for 3 to 5 year olds during 3 morning sessions per week, on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Sessions start at 9.15am to help families work around school drop-offs for older children.

So what does Montessori mean? Is it different from any other kindergarten?

Our preschool is special in that it aims to cultivate our children's own natural desire to learn by providing an interesting and stimulating environment that develops curiosity, self-motivation and self-discipline for each child.

Montessori refers to our teaching style, developed by a pioneer in early childhood learning, Dr Maria Montessori.

'The education of children does not aim at preparing them for school, but for life' – Dr Maria Montessori.

Scholarships are currently being offered to 4 year olds and over to celebrate our success in keeping the school open and also to mark our 25th anniversary. The scholarship offers free enrolment* for successful applicants demonstrating financial or other hardship or offering an ability to make a positive contribution through their involvement with the pre-school.

To arrange a tour of the pre-school or to receive a Scholarship Application form please phone 5428 6376 or email macedon.ranges.montessori.kin@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

(*a small standard contribution towards maintenance costs will be required each term)



SURPRISE AUCTION.

FRIDAY 13TH MARCH 2009.

7.30 p.m.

ANGLICAN CHURCH HALL,

CHAUNCEY STREET, LANCEFIELD.

ENTRY GOLD COIN DONATION.

SPECIAL "CELEBRITY"
GUEST AUCTIONEER.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

HERE'S A CLUE.....

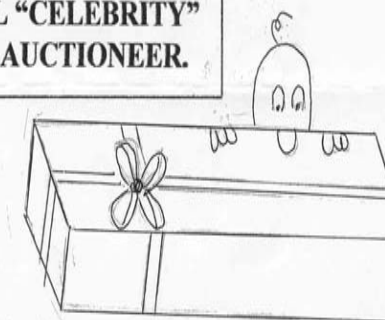
EXODUS 39.11

be an emerald, a sapphire and a diamond.

SUPPER - DOOR PRIZES AND AN EVENING OF

FUN - FOOD - FRIVOLITY.

BETTY DANSEY 5429 1597 JANICE MURPHY 0434 275 145.



**THE
WOOD BLOKE
SPLIT RED GUM FIREWOOD
Feb-March 2009 Prices
PRICES FOR ROMSEY LANCEFIELD
AREA**

2 CUBIC METRES \$200

3 CUBIC METRES \$300

4 CUBIC METRES \$380

6 CUBIC METRES \$555

8 CUBIC METRES \$720

**Minimum Delivery 2 cubic metres
FREE DELIVERY TO LANCEFIELD
AND ROMSEY
PHONE MANNY**

0418-570-249

AH 5429-1135

Prices for Feb-March 2009



and Macedon Ranges
Shire Council presents

Bushfire Relief Concert and Film Night

Macedon Ranges Shire Council invites the local community to be involved in a benefit gig to raise funds for those affected by the recent bushfires and to thank all the people who worked, volunteered and donated to what has been a very testing time.

On Saturday 14 March from 5pm Hanging Rock Reserve will be the venue for a community concert and a special one-off screening outdoors of Baz Luhrmann's epic "Australia". Hanging Rock is the perfect venue for the whole Macedon Ranges community to gather together, have a fun night and raise some much needed cash for the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal Fund.

What to bring? In the past when we have held screenings of films at Hanging Rock, patrons have brought with them their favourite deck chair, blankets and a picnic tea.

Performing artists are invited to participate in the community concert. Expressions of interest are being sought until Thursday 5 March 2009. The concert will start at 5pm and run until approximately 7.30pm; followed by the screening of 'Australia'. Please note that there will be some limitations in the types of performances due to the limited technical equipment that will be available. Also, if you would like to be involved in the community celebration, whether as a Community organisations and local businesses are also invited to participate. To participate or perform on the night, contact Terry Moore via email ter-rym@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au. For further information phone 5422 0383 or 0439 559 587.

Tickets for the event are \$15 per adult, \$10 per child and \$5 for performers. Tickets can be purchased over the phone by calling 1300 88 88 02 or at any Macedon Ranges Council Customer Service Centre (Kyneton, Romsey, Woodend and Gisborne).