

THE ROMSEY RAG

THE DECEMBER 2001 EDITION OF THE ROMSEY RAG PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Issue No. 189

-Phillip Elston Massage Therapy & Bowen Therapy -

DECEMBER 2001

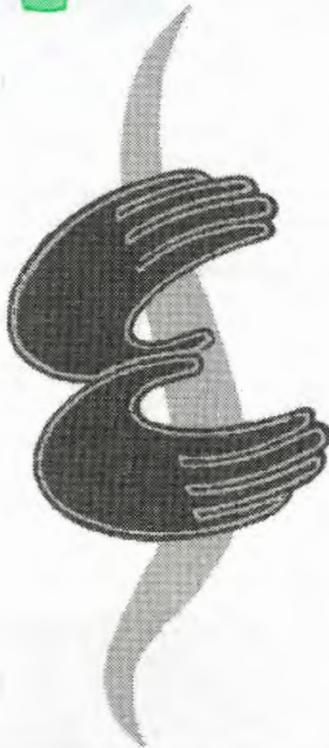
1500 copies produced each month at Romsey Primary School as a service to our community



PHILLIP ELSTON C.R.M. A.M.T.A. MASSAGE THERAPY & BOWEN THERAPY

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MAIN STREET'S NEW SPEED LIMIT

Whoopee and thank you to everyone who joined in many efforts to get our Main Street speed limit reduced back to 60km.

It goes to show small voices can make a difference.

Helen Watts



Editorially Speaking

Romsey Rag Editorial Committee

Barney Healy, Kym Raverry,
Robyn Moore

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Helen Watts & Joan Sparks

Contributors

Articles should be left at the
Romsey Post Office (fax 54295134)
or Romsey Primary School (fax
54295765) by 12.00 noon 21st of
each month (or last business day
prior 21st)

Articles are preferred to be given
electronically or on disk. Legible
typed or handwritten items may
be accepted. All material submitted
to the Romsey Rag must be named
and have contact details supplied.

Articles can be sent as
attachments via email to:
romsey.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

Please ensure that any text is
sent as word documents and
logos/ photos are sent as .jpg, .tif,
.eps file formats at 300dpi.

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 half page

Business Card- \$15/ one month
\$150/year in Business Directory

Quarter Page- \$30

Half Page- \$60

Full Page- \$120

Line ads- For Sale/ Births/
Deaths/ Marriages/
Engagements- \$5

Distribution

1500 delivered to the Romsey
community at the commencement
of each month.



Creating a safer community

How many people see CFA as men and women in yellow overalls on red trucks rushing off to a grass fire or bushfire.

Unless you are unfortunate enough to have your chimney catch fire, have a car accident, have the chips catch fire or worse, you may not be aware that volunteer firefighters are on call all the time and not just the summer period.

Since the start of September brigades in the area have attended five incidents that, very fortunately, were regarded as minor.

What can you do to create your own safer community?

Be careful with the use of candles and oil burners.

We do like the ambiance of a room gently illuminated by candles however any use of naked flame has the potential to start a major fire when it brushes against curtains, when it is accidentally knocked over or left unattended.

Never leave these continue to burn unattended.



Smoke Alarms

A working smoke alarm may prove to be the difference as to whether you can escape a fire or not.

Check that your smoke alarm works

Change your battery on a regular basis, at least yearly

Clean the alarm at least monthly

Note Smoke alarms are compulsory in all residential buildings.

If you own a house that has tenants it is your responsibility to provide smoke alarms

More Information?

CFA has appointed Peter Moore to work with the brigades in the Romsey area to assist them with their administrative work and to provide a link with the community.

Over the next few months we will bring you more snippets of information and events to help you create a safer community.

Peter can be contacted on
0409 407 725

KRAMMER & PARTNERS ACCOUNTANTS

Suite 7, 2nd floor, 902 Mt. Alexander Road, Essendon, 3040

Tel: (03) 9326 0211 (4 lines). Fax: (03) 9370 0759

Email: kandp@ssc.net.au

All correspondence to:
Box 342, Essendon, 3040

Also at:

106a Main Street, Romsey, 3434. Tel: (03) 5429 5477 Fax: (03) 5429 6778

Consulting only:

2nd Floor, 316 Queen Street, Melbourne, 3000. Tel: (03) 9326 0211



ROMSEY AND DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOC.

AIA: A0036344V

The Romsey and District Netball Association would like to congratulate Emma Parks on receiving the VicHealth Sports Focus 2000/2001 Most Disciplined Player Regional Scholarship Award.

Emma was presented with this award at a dinner in Bendigo where she made an emotional speech that made everyone go for their napkins including the men. She thanked her mum and dad, the rest of her family and friends, the club with special thanks to Michelle Thomas, Mary-Anne Blair and Melinda Skinner.

Emma has always been a dedicated member who has strived to improve her skills in all areas. She is an accredited Level 1 coach, a "C" grade umpire and she has assisted in the implementation of our Junior Fun Net and Netta programs. The younger members of our club know they can always approach Emma for help in skills or clarification of rules.

She realises the most important part of any sporting club is the Juniors where they come to enjoy themselves and to gain the correct skills for their sport so that they become confident young people in what they do. This is good for netball and also for life. This definitely applies to EMMA and now she helps to instil this into our junior ers.

WELLDONEEMMA!

ST MARY'S FETE

Well, What a success!!

Thank you to the people of Lancefield for your support of our school fete. It was lovely to see the local community getting behind us. The weather was wonderful, the rides and entertainment were spectacular, the plants, craft, lollies and food stalls were all well attended. A great night was had by all and congratulations to the following winners:

ART COMPETITION WINNERS

- PREP: Harley Bombardier
- GR. 1: Brianna Cowley
- GR. 2: Adam Ferraro
- GR. 3: Estelle Johnson
- GR. 4: Lucy Lingard-Smith
- GR. 5: Joshua Baillon
- GR. 6: Hayley Milner

RAFFLE WINNERS

- 1st Prize: Joseph Barker
- 2nd Prize: Noella Evans
- 3rd Prize: Ashlea Allen
- 4th Prize: Rebbechi Fmaily

LUCKY DOOR PRIZE

Christine Storey

LUCKY WRISTBAND WINNER

Joel Fitzgerald

GUESS THE JELLY BEANS

Bethany Sinclair

GUESS THE M & M's

Kylie Wagstaff (if anyone knows Kylie please ask her to contact the school office to collect her prize)

THANKS

To all the thoughtful people who inquired, telephoned, sent cards and flowers to me during my extended stay in hospital, your kindness is gratefully appreciated. Also to family and friends who supplied many evening meals to the man of the house, who was thoroughly spoilt.

Thank you so much to you all.

JAN THOMSON



SEASONS GREETINGS

Wendy & Allan would like to wish all their customers a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. We thank you for making us welcome during our first year in the Romsey Post Office. Have a great festive season and please drive safely.

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Social tennis at Romsey
Tennis Courts
Thursday morning from
10.00am.

Come for a hit of a set or
two.

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WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?

A recent debate on TV – “Should the cane be brought back into schools”? What a can of worms this disturbed. From those who think it barbaric to those who think its high time teachers were given some support in deterring the minority but very unruly students.

Who is right??? Which way should we turn???

I think everyone agrees there has to be a better way of an adult being able to control a disruptive element under his or her care. Everyone talks of the right of the child and I don't take that away from them but also what of the right of the adult and 90% of other students.

We of the (dare I say) older generation were brought up with a much stricter code of discipline and I honestly think the majority of us didn't turn out too bad, of course individuals will tell us of abuse of the cane in schools. My own schooling from Junior, Secondary to Boarding School, a mixed Boarding School at that, all had strict discipline and the cane for use by the Headmaster. I never, thank goodness, received the cane or ruler but knew I would if I didn't toe the line, it was also a very infrequently used punishment

Behaviour by the few in schools is out of control. Because control has been taken away from the teachers who are subjected in some cases to abuse and threats and have to take it on the chin. Is that Equal Opportunity??

I'm glad that at least we had to learn our 3R's from teachers who were able to do the job they were trained for. I ask those who are against stricter discipline allowed back into schools to give some constructive answers to a big problem instead of just jumping up and down saying 'the cane is barbaric'.

An interesting subject isn't it!!

Helen Watts.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS? - A REPLY

It is always interesting that suggestions for a change in procedures in schools often come from people with only a rather distant knowledge of the current situation. It all seems so simple to the casual observer doesn't it? This seems especially so as we look back through rose tinted glasses to our distant past. As one, who, like Helen, went to school in times when the cane, strap, ruler etc meted out punishment I must admit that my memories of this system do not align with hers. Unlike Helen I did receive these punishments, for what I recall were hardly outrageous behaviours. My memory in fact leads me to the conclusion that the better teachers did not have to resort to these strategies at all, but through positively engaging with students were able to control, motivate and dare I say, even inspire their students. The situations where corporal punishment were used really reflected more on the teachers ability to cope, and were more an indication of their state of mind rather than a deterrent or a valuable way of modifying behaviour.

Corporal punishment legitimises bullying behaviour of the strong over the vulnerable; it disempowers students and does nothing to lead our young people to take responsibility for their own actions. Putting a failed system of the past onto our present school system does not seem to this school to be a positive or even feasible idea. One of the many challenges faced by our present motivated and highly competent teachers is to assist our students to reflect on their values. As a school we expect everyone to model a set of positive behaviours. This not surprisingly includes treating others with respect. Our present students will certainly not respect, or even comply, with rules and procedures that can only be enforced through violence.

Lastly I would like to challenge Helen's view that the behaviour of students at this school, or at any other that I have had the pleasure of working at, is in any way out of control. She has no evidence for this, and should be a little wiser to avoid

being led by the sensationalist sections of the media in this regard. My experience of Romsey students is that their behaviour is generally exemplary. On the few occasions where we have to meet the challenge of negative behaviours, we have a range of strategies that protect the rights of others as well as a process of leading students to make better choices in the future. This is a much harder and more profound challenge than beating children into submission. But one that I think is well worth the effort.

Barney Healy

Principal, Romsey Primary School

LANCEFELD- ROMSEY LIONS CLUB INC. SUNDAY MARKET CONTACT ALAN BAILEY Mobile 0438 414 245

We invite you to join us at our Sunday Market

4th Sunday of every month except:
January - No Market, and
December - 3rd Sunday
Fees \$10 per site, paid on the day
Commence Set-up from 7.00 a.m.
Complete Set-up by 8.30 a.m.

MARKET DATES

- 8. 28th October
- 9. 25th November
- 10. 16th December

'OP SHOP'

Anglican Church Hall Romsey
Open Friday 12.20 - 4.30pm
Saturday 10.00 - 1.00pm
Selection of clothes, linen, books
bric a brac for sale

We are happy to accept donations of good quality clothing, particularly Winter Clothes, Blankets, Doonas, Linen etc., and Bric A Brac

Unfortunately we are unable to accept any electrical goods due to safety reasons.

We cannot accept furniture or mattresses, but the Brotherhood of St. Lawrence Phone 9419 7055 will accept these large items.



**GUIDES
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As a Leader at Guides Victoria, you can make a difference that will last a lifetime. You'll have the opportunity for travel and adventure and learn new skills with our fully accredited training course.

Leaders of Youth

For women who enjoy being with girls, becoming a volunteer Leader gives you the opportunity to share your skills whilst gaining new ones. Guides are aged between 5 and 18 years and most Guide Units are based on a specific age so you can choose which groups you wish to join.

Leaders of Adults

For women who enjoy working with adults and are interested in a leadership role. As well as developing new friendships and having the opportunities to enhance your skills, you will provide valuable support to the Leaders who work regularly with the Guides

For further information please call

Carolyn Atkinson - 5781 0728

Check us out on the web:
www.guidesaus.org.au

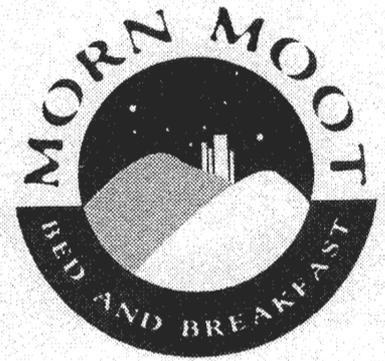


PROFILE OF A GUIDE LEADER

I have been a Guide Leader for fifteen years and during that time have represented Australian Guiding at an international camp overseas, been a member of a Government Youth Forum in Canberra, become an Abseiling Instructor, attended guide camps around Australia. Made friends with Guides from other countries including America, Japan, Malaysia and New Zealand just to name a few.

The opportunities for Guides and Guide Leaders are endless and are up to the individual. If you love the outdoors - you can do it at Guides, if you like craft - you can do it at guides, if you love cooking - you can do it at Guides, if you like indoor holidays - you can do it at guides, if you love overseas travel - visit a Guide Centre overseas, if you like camping - you can do it at guides!!

Romsey Guides are currently looking for new Guide Leaders; if you are female and aged eighteen years plus why not come along one Monday night and see what we do. The Platypus Guides (6-10 year olds) meet at 5.00 - 6.30pm and the Wombat Guides (10-16 year olds) meet at 6.30



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Kym & Ray Raverty

- 8.30pm, in the Scout Hall, Romsey Park, Romsey-Wallan Road, Romsey. We are not always there, often out and about doing activities so you could also call the telephone numbers listed below for more information.

Guide Leaders in Romsey are supported by a network of leaders and parents.

So why not, try something different and see what Guides can do for you!!

Carolyn Atkinson 57 810 728
Marion Skovdam 54 296 365

1400 Dogs

Christmas is over and done for another year. The New Year is just around the corner. Need something to do on the weekend in between? Why not come along to Lancefield Park on either Saturday 29th or Sunday 30th December for Lancefield and Central Highlands Kennel Clubs annual Championship Dog shows. If past records are anything to go by, each day there will be around 1400 pure bred dogs of all shapes and sizes competing for the prized title of Best Exhibit in Show.

An added attraction this year at Central Highlands Kennel Club on the Sunday will be herding instinct tests.

This is where show dogs are tested as to their ability to herd sheep. This is the first time in Australia that this type of event has been conducted in conjunction with an all breeds

championship show.

And whilst at the shows don't forget to wander over to the canteen where the Romsey Lancefield Ambulance Auxiliary will be feeding the multitude. The auxiliary's profits from the venture will be going to provide equipment for the new ambulance station in Romsey.

With judges coming from South Africa, New Zealand, Sydney and Brisbane, the shows will undoubtedly be a success and will enable the clubs to further provide financial assistance to the community. In the past the clubs have assisted the Park Committee by providing funds for the water pump, concrete works and canteen equipment at the park, and by donating monies to the kindergarten and primary school projects.

All we can hope for now is that the weather will be kind to us. Hope to see you there.

Don Gray Peter Renwick

Lancefield Kennel Club Central Highlands.

Ph 54291 828 Ph 5427 0278



LANCEMORE HILL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

5 courses served in our dining room
\$80 per person, \$35 children aged 5-13 years
children to the age of 4 years, no charge

CHRISTMAS FUNCTIONS

from \$25.00 per person
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Kilmore 3764



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Your choice a 2 or 3 course set meal, with a
complementary glass of Brewery Hill
Sparkling Burgundy all for a fixed price.

Two Courses (main course & dessert) only \$24.50

Three Courses (entree, main course & dessert): only \$29.50

Call us to book (or just enquire) on **5429 5262**

- P.S. We have a private Dining Room for groups of 8 to 14
*24 Hours Notice Required

PLEASE NOTE: Over the Summer/Autumn seasons every third Sunday afternoon of each month is "Music at Martins". ie. December 16, January 20, February 17, March 17 etc.

Commencing around 2.00pm there will be performers singing and/or playing. Posters around Romsey and on our signboard will detail who is to perform each month.

There is no cover charge, just a minimum charge of \$10 per head for food and/or drinks

A Merry Christmas to all from Martins '

118 Main St., Romsey

ROMSEY-LANCEFIELD SENIOR CLUB INC.

A9935434P

If you are male or female • Aged 55 years or older

JOIN US - Every Monday 10.30am - 3.30pm

WE PLAY • CARPET BOWLS • CARDS • CHAT & HAVE CUPPAS

The Club is situated behind the Romsey Mechanics Hall and with a joining fee of \$2 A YEAR - why hesitate !

RING President Marie Snowball on 54 29 5536 or Secretary Rae Hooke 54 29 1602

NOW

ROMSEY MEDICAL CENTRE

Dr. Noel Cunningham
Dr. Sally Carter
Dr. Nelum Soysa
Dr. Carolyn Bosak
Dr. Jo Stevenson
Dr. Kieran Fulcher



99 Main Street
Romsey 3434
Phone 54295254
Email doctors@iaa.com.au

WELCOME TO Dr. NELUM SOYSA

Dr. Nelum Soysa has joined the Romsey Medical Centre as a permanent doctor.

Dr. Soysa brings to the practice over 20 years' experience as a GP and most recently owned her own practice in New Zealand. She is available for consultation all day Monday, Wednesday afternoons/evening, all day Thursday and Friday.

Dr. Soysa's special interest include women's health, children and teaching. She brings to the practice a wealth of knowledge and experience.

ACUPUNCTURE NOW AVAILABLE

Would you like to STOP SMOKING?

Do you suffer from:

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Dr. Kieran Fulcher is now offering acupuncture services for these and other conditions at the medical centre.

Fees for acupuncture are \$45 with a Medicare Rebate of \$24.45 applicable
For Health Care Card Holders and Pensioners, the cost is \$8 plus the Medicare Rebate.

ACUPUNCTURE CAN MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

For further information please call the medical centre on
54295254.

The Doctors & Staff wish everyone a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Primary School News

NUMERACY IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Over recent years there has been a lot of emphasis placed on numeracy in schools. Both at a state and federal level governments have highlighted it come election time as was seen recently.



The challenge for all schools is to improve the numeracy standards of their students. The EYN (Early Years Numeracy) program is the state governments latest push to equip schools with skills to improve teaching and learning. There are some excellent numeracy teachers and programs operating at present. What we need to do is build on this expertise through the implementation of EYN and other current best practice.

To give you an insight into the approach being undertaken in EYN, I came across an article written by Alistair McIntosh, Senior Lecturer in Education at Edith Cowan University in Western Australia, that reflects the thinking behind this new initiative. Alistair was analysing two students and their approach to two mathematical problems. Henry Grade 2 and Nicole Grade 6.

I What's eight times two?

H I haven't done my eights yet.

I Could you have a guess at it or a go at it?

H OK... (pause) ... Is it 16?

I How did you work it out?

H (with a smile) By using fingers.

I What were you doing?

H Because eight times two's just like two lots of eight, so it means two eights, so I just

Make it two eights. It's just like plus.

Henry starts in the tradition of mathematics teaching and learning of the second millennium: If you ask me to do something, then either I have been taught it or I can't do it. The teacher's job is to teach me facts and techniques; my job is to learn them and repeat them when asked.

But when Henry is invited to 'have a guess' – quite the opposite of what was instilled in me as a child. And he proceeds, not to guess, but to think: to call on connections and relationships which he has inside him, to use whatever powers he has, and to try to work out this problem for himself in his own way. He relates eight times two to two times eight, which he understands as two eights, or eight add eight, and this he

computes using his fingers as an *aide memoire*. It takes time, but he understands and is in control of what he is doing, and he arrives at the right answer.

Now let us turn to Nicole, an articulate and intelligent Year 6 student, who has been asked to calculate mentally 150 divided by 30.

I Nicole, what's 150 divided by 30?

N 5?

I How did you work that out?

N Well 15 divided by 3 would be 5, and you add on the zero, that's, wait a minute ...

Can you tell me ...

I 150 divided by 30.

N Divided by 30. Yeah. So I did 15 divided by 3 which would be 5, and then, that's

my answer,

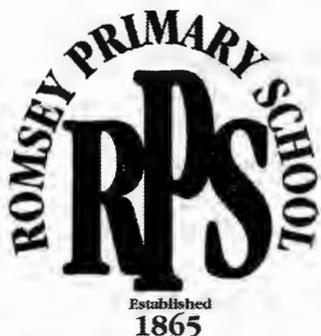
I OK.

N That doesn't sound right.

I Why not?

N Yeah it's 5.

I OK, so what did you do first, when I said 150 divided by 30?



TOGETHER WE LEARN AND GROW

Primary School News

I took the zeros off.

I Right.

N So 15 divided by 3 would be 5.

I OK, why did you take the zeros off?

N Because it's easier to work it out that way.

I OK, why didn't you put the zeros back on again?

N It just sounded right.

I What sounded right?

N 5, because, like, 30, 60, 90, I did that and it sounded right.

I Oh I see, so you checked it a different way, did you? How did you do it that

Other way?

N I went 30, 60, 90, 120, 150.

Nicole, perhaps because she is older and has experienced more second-millennium mathematics than Henry, is having more difficulty in moving into the third millennium, although that wouldn't have been apparent if we had stopped the conversation after she had given the right answer at the beginning. She gives the right answer, then explains that she took the zeros off, turning 150 divided by 30 into 15 divided by 3, and that is obviously 5. But then comes the moment of truth. She continues: 'and you add on the zeros, that's, wait a minute ...'

Realising that adding on a zero gives an answer not of 5, but of 50, she retraces her steps, omits any reference to adding on the zero, and concludes defiantly, 'That's my answer'. Adults have taught her that, faced with zeros on the end of numbers, you can take them off and put them back on. You don't question or understand the procedure, it's just the way things are done.

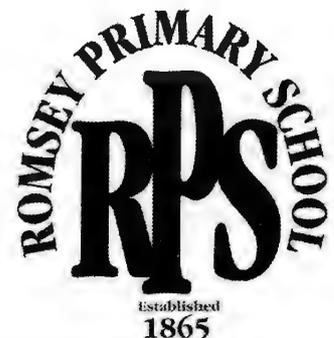
But Nicole is a thinker, given to self-questioning, and, in the end, she is prepared to admit to a dilemma; she recognises a problem with the rule, and trusts to her own understanding. She revisits the calculation and, like Henry, she calls on connections and relationships which she has inside her. She uses whatever powers she has to try to work out the problem for herself in her own way: 150 divided by 30 can be connected to the multiplication '30 times what equals 150?', and this can be calculated by counting up in 30s: 30, 60, 90, 120, 150: five thirties. As the conversation goes on, one can sense Nicole dragging herself forward into the third millennium. She has thrown over reliance on learned rules which she did not understand and therefore could not ultimately control or trust, in favour of a reliance on her own powers of connecting, re-creating and resolving, using methods she chose and could control.



Henry and Nicole are certainly not fully numerate: Henry does not 'know' eight times two, and Nicole is hesitant about a simple division. But both display important ingredients of numeracy, and react in a basically 'numerate' way to a mathematical situation.

Alistair goes on to say that numeracy "is the effective use of mathematics to meet the general demands of life at school and at home." This connection to everyday use of numeracy in our daily lives is of utmost importance to teachers and parents. We need to equip them with the tools by which they can continue their life long learning. They must be given the opportunity to think and learn by constructing their own learning patterns. This information can then be transferred to any future learning experience.

What numeracy have you used in your life today? This is a question we need to pose to our children.



TOGETHER WE LEARN AND GROW

ROMSEY REGION BUSINESS ASSOCIATION INC.

Yes it is on again this year the great Christmas Decoration Competition for the Romsey area. Bigger and better incorporating two new categories.

Best Decorated House.

1st, 2nd and 3rd prize

Best theme. 1st prize

Best Illuminated Window. 1st prize

Competition will be judged on the weekend of the 15/16 December and winners announced on Monday 17/12/2001.

So lets get into the festive spirit and out do the wonderful display we had in 2000.

The Business Association would like to thank the sponsors of this competition, Romsey Foodway, Martins Wine Bar, Romsey Mitre 10, Tom O'Dea Auto Spares, Forbes Automotive Service, Regional Real Estate and Pretty and Practical.

Watch for flyers in local shops for further information.

Ron Cole

Secretary

By now you will have noticed some new furniture appearing in the Main Street. This is part of the Streetscape Project, to improve the appearance of our Main Street and is funded by the State Government, Macedon Ranges Shire and the local community contributing in kind work to a total of \$110,000.

The project also includes improvements to the entrance into Romsey, some work on the Five Mile Creek Bridge, Blue Stone Edging on nature strip between Stawell and Murphy Street, sealing of service road carparks clean up, landscaping tree planting and landscaping around the five mile creek.

The Association and Streetscape committee would appreciate support from the community to achieve its in kind work contribution and further details can be obtained by contacting

Ron Cole on 5429 5411 or Ken Paterson at Mitre 10.

Congratulations to all those who contributed to the fight to have our speed limit reduced to 60kph.

The Romsey Region Business Association would like to congratulate and thank the five families who generously funded the construction of the new town fountain. It is a wonderful new feature to our beautiful main street.

As the festive time is fast approaching we wish all members of our community a merry Christmas and happy and safe new year.

Ron Cole

Secretary



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 PM.

Tuesday and Thursday

9 AM - 6 PM.

Saturdays and Sundays

9AM - 12.30 PM.

Our consulting hours at 80 Main Street Romsey will be:

Monday - Sunday 9 AM - 10.30 AM

Monday - Friday 4 PM - 6 PM.

No appointments are needed during our consulting hours.

Appoinments outside our consulting hours can be made

by phoning our surgey on:
(03) 5429 5711

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Romsey Uniting Church

25 Pohlman Street

Minister- Rev Alan Williams

25 William Street

Romsey 3434

Ph/Fax: 5429 5351

mobile: 0408 380 962

What's News

Another year has flown past, and it's time again to celebrate life, family and friends at Christmas.

2001 has been a roller-coaster ride for many of us. It began with extreme bushfire danger, which fortunately was not realised. Later, we celebrated the opening of our community bank in Lancefield. In September, we and the rest of the world were shocked at the terrorist attacks in the US, and now Australian men and women are at war. And last month was the federal election.

It seems the life is just an endless cycle of largely unrelated events. Nobody knows what 2002 will hold in store for us, but it would be no surprise if it were just as tumultuous.

Yet the Christian faith claims that these seemingly unrelated events are not just random happenings, but that there is some divine purpose towards which all events contribute. Looking at the world, it's easy to say, 'Yeah, right mate. Anything you say?' There doesn't appear to be much order or much sense to be made from all that is going on.

And that is why Christmas is so important to me. At Christmas, we remember that God entered human history as the baby Jesus. He grew up and shared our experiences of life so that life could be renewed in God. It's no coincidence that we celebrate this event at the end of the year, as it is also about new beginnings. For us, the New Year is another opportunity, a clean slate for us personally to begin again (hence, New Year resolutions).

Whilst we may despair at the conflicts around the world, I wonder at what sort of world we are leaving for our children, Christmas is a reminder of the hope of the world in a new born baby.

Rev Alan Williams

On behalf of the Romsey Uniting Church, I wish everyone a very merry Christmas, a happy New Year, and a safe and enjoyable summer (especially for those who have holidays).

What's On

- 2 Dec 9:00am worship and Sunday School, including Holy Communion. This is also the first Sunday of Advent, the church's preparation for Christmas.
- 6 Dec Advent Workshop begins after school and runs until 5:00pm for primary and pre-school children. All welcome.
- 9 Dec 9:00am Sunday School Christmas service.
- 13 Dec Advent Workshop begins after school for primary and pre-school children. As this is the last workshop, it will include Carols singing and a sausage sizzle. All welcome, especially parents.
- 16 Dec 9:00am worship and creche.
7:00pm Combined Churches Christmas Carols at the Romsey Mechanic's Hall.
- 23 Dec 9:00am worship and creche.
- 24 Dec 7:00pm Christmas Eve Carols service at the Lancefield Uniting Church.
- 25 Dec 9:30am Christmas Day service.
- 30 Dec 9:30am worship at the Lancefield Uniting Church.
- 6 Jan 9:30am worship and creche, including Holy Communion.
- 13 Jan 9:30am worship at the Lancefield Uniting Church.
5:00pm DIY Worship, followed by a bbq tea. BYO food and drink. Come along for something completely different!
- 20 Jan 9:30am worship and creche.
- 27 Jan 9:00am worship and creche. We return to our usual time as we begin another year together in a special service.
- 3 Feb 9:00 am worship and the first day of 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.

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 of 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 54 295 170

Leonie Miles (Secretary) on 54 295 071



MERRY CHRISTMAS from the MITCHELL MOBILE LIBRARY

With Christmas fast approaching and the dreaded last minute shopping to be avoided at all costs, the following list of the "Top 10 Stocking Fillers for Christmas 2001" should help all our borrowers to have a hassle free and happy festive season

Please note that the Mobile Library will also be having a holiday over Christmas and will be off the road from Monday 24 December through to Tuesday 1 January inclusive. Service will resume on Wednesday 2nd January 2002 at the Wallan town site.

The mobile staff wish all our borrowers a safe and happy Christmas season and look forward to catching up with you in the new year. In the meantime read on, trash the plastic on a few of these suggestions as Chrissy presents and Enjoy!

TOP 10 STOCKING FILLERS

Adult fiction

*** A Taste for it - Monica McInerney A romantic little tale that commences with a misunderstanding in Australia and continues with further confusion travelling around Ireland. The wine trade, restaurants and romance abound. Good fun and great holiday reading.

***Smoky Joe's Cafe -

Bryce Courtenay finally comes up for air from his Australian trilogy and has written this great little winner. Short, by his previous standards, it's all about Vietnam War veterans, society matrons, marijuana and kids with leukemia, which makes for a story that is both comic and tragic in turn. Worth waiting for.

Biography -

*** Oh, what a circus! - Tim Rice Whilst Lloyd Weber is a household name these days his partner from their early productions - Joseph & His amazing technicolour dreamcoat, Jesus Christ Superstar and Evita - is not as perhaps well known. This autobiography fills in this gap and takes one through Tim's life from infancy to fame and almost to the split up of one of the 20th century's most famous musical partnerships. Very enlightening reading with part two no doubt due to follow soon.

Dawn -one hell of a life -

Dawn Fraser The title says it all! From the Balmain tomboy who started swimming, to combat asthma, to triple gold medallist in the same Olympic event, a feat not equalled for another 36 years. Her clashes with the swimming bureaucrats, that resulted in bans on her swimming competitively, to winning defamation court cases against the same people. Throw in rape, abortion and bankruptcy and the book is a must read about one of Australia's icons.

Non-Fiction

*** Fatal Storm - Rob Mundle

Who can forget the tragedy of the 1997

Sydney to Hobart yacht race? As the event rolls around again this book tries to put all the catastrophic events into some logical sequence without any hype. The dimension of the tragedy itself provides the dramatic narrative and one can only marvel at the Herculean efforts of the rescue workers and be amazed that there were not more boats and lives lost.

The Wrong way home -

Peter Moore writes travel books with a difference. In this particular book he tries to emulate the "hippie trail" of the 1960's and get home from Europe to Australia going overland the entire way. With only one exception (and that as a result of yet another bloodbath in Indonesia's states) he flies only once. The rest of the time he wends his snail trail from the countries of eastern Europe to the Middle East and China and then south through S.E. Asia. His experiences and descriptions capture the essence of local life be it good, bad or indifferent. After reading the chapter about Laos it rocketed into my top 10 places to visit list. Never considered it previously.

Children's picture book *** Gorgeous! - Caroline Childs

A cute read for pre-school, early primary years about a brand new baby zebra called Little Zeb. As Little Zeb's first day unwinds he learns a lot of new words - danger, stick with me baby and of course Gorgeous. It has a companion book, appropriately titled Naughty!, as Little Zeb meets up with Little Hippo and they explore more of the world together.

***Fox - Margaret Wild & Ron Brooks

Won the picture story section of the Australian CBC Awards this year, but is definitely an older reader's picture book. It tells the story of Dog, who has been blinded in one eye, and Magpie, who can no longer fly, both injuries being the result of a bushfire. They become friends and are happy with their life together until Fox enters their world. Fox... cunning as... cannot

bear to see a friendship that excludes him and starts to undermine the relationship. Whilst not exactly light entertainment the story is extremely thought-provoking and the pictures absolutely stunning.

Junior/Teenage

*** Touch Me - James Moloney

This book was shortlisted for the Australian CBC Awards this year, in the older readers section, and should have won! A great read about Xavier and Nuala who are both in their last year of secondary school and on the surface appear to have nothing in common. Xavier's into sport, Nuala isn't. Xavier's into conformity, Nuala certainly isn't. It's a time for discovering who they really are and where they fit in. Compulsive reading from an excellent Australian author.

***Nips Xi - Ruth Starke

This book was also shortlisted in the CBC Awards in 2001, but in the younger readers section, and like Touch Me should have won. However it was an honour book instead. It tells the story of a Vietnamese boy who desperately wants to fit into Australian society and eat Vegemite sandwiches rather than noodles. He comes up with the idea of a school cricket match, cos cricket is such an Australian game, against the local grammar school, but with no coach or equipment and the most assorted team of hopeless hopefuls ever assembled things aren't looking good. A joy to read.

Merry Christmas to all from all the "girls" - Yvonne, Sue, Pauline, Helen, Kabli, Leonie, Jenny, Amanda & Katherine.

ROMSEY FOUNTAIN

- Unveiling Ceremony

In warm sunshine, the much awaited unveiling of the Romsey Fountain was performed on Saturday 24th November, 2001 by Mayor of Macedon Shire, Councillor Clem Gillings.

Spokesman for the Fountain Syndicate Mike Garnett, gave "The Rag" some background to the old fountain for the benefit of those interested in history.

The original Romsey fountain was erected at the corner of Main and Barry Streets, as a celebration of the reign of Queen Victoria who had recently deceased. It was funded by the taxpayers and dedicated by the President of the Shire of Romsey, Councillor William Somerville on Wednesday 24th July, 1901.

The fountain had a basin 12 feet in diameter with a pedestal in the centre supporting dolphins and sea gulls, and also a figure of a woman at the top. The whole edifice was cast in cement. When the fountain was in play, the dolphins and sea gulls would spurt water and the column ascended to the top (nineteen feet above the base) and fell down onto an ornamental dish, from which it shed on to a slightly larger dish and then to the basin below - a drop of ten feet.

The fountain was removed as a traffic hazard in 1924, and the remains subsequently disappeared from the district altogether. Cr. Robb considered the fountain an obstruction and danger, and stated that it had no ornamental value; whilst the council president, amongst much hilarity, stated that a local identity Dick Sullivan would have to go elsewhere for his regular bath once it was removed. This attitude is in contrast to the comments of Councillor Somerville at the time of its unveiling "... the fountain would be an enduring monument to her memory, but if in the process of years it should crumble away he was confident that it would be re-erected, as the respect for the Queen would pass down from generation to generation until time should be no more." Little did he know how attitudes change within a mere 23 years.

In the early 1990's, newly arrived resident Mike Garnett sought Council support for a new fountain, and provided information and designs put together by the Melbourne monumental firm Martinelli. Despite much correspondence with Council over subsequent years, his efforts were unsuccessful.

In the year 2001 he decided to resurrect the idea so that a fountain could be in place during the Centenary of Federation - one hundred years after the original fountain was installed. He obtained the financial support of four other families to assist the venture, and together they fully funded an elegant, sandstone fountain which now graces the site in front of historic Mechanics Hall. Instead of dolphins, the new fountain features horses which are synonymous with the district of Romsey.

The fountain, including a pair of ornamental sandstone seats, was manufactured by the Adelaide firm Classic Touch. One of those to witness the unveiling by Cr. Gillings was local resident George Weire who remembers the old fountain as a young boy - his father would stop there with his horses to allow them to drink from the trough.

The families involved in this fountain project are Bruce & Tricia Thomas of "Burragee" Nulla Vale (north of Lancefield); Richard Graham/Simone Ivanyi of historic "Craigielea", Cherokee; John & Ann Link who hail from Port Melbourne but have a 'country' property in Romsey; Doug and Carol Newnham, a well-respected local family of long standing; and Mike Garnett of "The Chase", North Monegeetta.

The Macedon Ranges Shire assisted the project by landscaping the surrounds to an attractive design, thus encouraging travellers and local residents alike to use it as a focal point for picnics and other enjoyable pursuits.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, officials and members of the public took refreshments at the newly opened Clay Craft and Coffee Shop located nearby.

Romsey Bowling Club News

With pennant nearing the half way mark, our sides are performing as well as expected. In division 1, we have had some close wins at home but not faring too well away. The competition is very even with just a few points separating the sides. The division 3 side has recorded a win at last and continues to fight hard but suffers from unavailability of players and the need to change teams each week.

The club pairs were held on Sunday 28th October. After some keenly contested games, three pairs remain, one in the final and the others to play in the semi final. By the time this goes to press the club championship will have started.

The ladies section, up until the time of going to press, still remains undefeated, with the match on November 20th against Gisborne completing the first round.

Recently, the ladies from the Sunraysia area, who were doing a tour of the Central Highlands, were entertained at a luncheon by our members.

Tournaments have started at the various clubs, with our coming event, the Ida Shaw Triples being held on November 22nd. This is a special event held each year to honour a past member, who was well respected throughout the Association.

A reminder to all members that twilight bowls has commenced and is held each Friday evening with names in by 5.00 pm for a 5.30 start. Even if the weather does not allow us to play bowls, still turn up and enjoy a fine meal and pleasant company.

Wishing you all good bowling for 2001-2002.

Leo Wels.

The Anglican Church

St. Paul's Romsey and Christ Church Lancefield

What you thought

Romsey residents identified the lack of public transport, coordination of the many small community groups, facilities for young people and support for older people as the major issues in this community when they were surveyed recently by members of the Anglican Church. In the last issue of The Romsey Rag we reported on our survey of the community and the response to our first question, 'What do you like about living here?' The other two questions were, 'What do you think are the most important issues and problems for people living here?' and 'If you could change one thing in this community, what would it be?'

Other responses had to do with local employment, attitudes to the Shire Council and conflicting views about development versus preserving the rural lifestyle people have come here to enjoy.

Reviewing the findings of the survey at a recent parish meeting, the church is looking at ways in which it could help the community celebrate some of the great things about living here and how it might become engaged with some of the issues and problems people identify in Romsey. Already there has been an opportunity to share the survey results with our local Councillor, Alice Aird and Council staff.

Christmas Services

Christmas services in the parish will be on Christmas Eve, 7 pm Children's Service at St. Paul's Romsey and 11.30 pm Holy Communion at Christ Church Lancefield; and on Christmas Day, 9.00 am at Romsey. All are welcome to join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Garage Sale

Many thanks to all those who supported our garage sale at the Anglican Vicarage in Lancefield, on Saturday November 10. We seemed to end up with more junk than we began with, but managed a profit of over \$1100.

Kids Club

Our Kids Club meets at St. Paul's church hall in Romsey each week, on a Tuesday evening from 6.45 to 7.45 pm. It's for both boys and girls aged 7 to 12. Each night includes lots of fun and activity, a short time of Christian devotion and supper. For more details phone Milton Wright on 5429 2112 (home) or 9695 4567 (work).

130th Anniversary

St. Paul's Romsey celebrated its 130th anniversary on Sunday November 25 with a parish service. Many past parishioners came from far and wide to join in the festivity.

Epiphany party

Our next Parish Service will be at Christ Church Lancefield at 10 am on Sunday January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany, when the wise man visited the infant Jesus. The service will be followed by sherry and nibbles in the Vicarage garden. There will be no service at Romsey on this day.

Regular Sunday services in the parish are:

9 am Family Communion at St. Paul's Romsey

10.30 am Family Communion at Christ Church Lancefield

Sunday School during term time

As well, a service of Holy Communion is held at Christ Church Lancefield at 10 am on Wednesdays during term time.

The Rev. Doug Edmonds

33 Chauncey Street Lancefield 3435

Telephone 5429 1380 / 0418 595 700

LIONS XMAS CARNIVAL

- FRIDAY DECEMBER 21ST

This year, the Xmas Carnival will be held in Lancefield in the Main Street.

The Carnival was originally held in Lancefield and was moved to Romsey when Lions Park was formed. This year the Shire have planted many small trees in the park and not wishing to damage them we have decided to hold the Carnival in Lancefield.

Lions are working hard to make this Carnival better than ever with many new ideas. The road will be blocked at the Carnival site so children can enjoy it safely.

Raffle will be drawn at 8.00pm. We hope everybody will enjoy the change and give support as always.

Lion Pat Sullivan

Enquiries: Lion Carl Reeve PH: 54 29 1210 or Lion Pat Sullivan PH: 54 29 54 86

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ROMSEY GOLF CLUB

FUNDRAISING EFFORT

The Romsey Golf Club is conducting a fundraising effort to raise funds for the purchase and maintenance of equipment needed for the upkeep of the golf course.

One of the club's members is the internationally known former Test cricketer Dean Jones. Dean has kindly donated two autographed cricket bats to the club to assist in fundraising.

The club is going to run an **'AUCTION BY TENDER'** for the two bats.

Bat One is a very unique and limited edition bat, which has been used by the golfers who participated in the cricket match at the M.C.G. at the beginning of this year. This match was between cricketers and golfing stars. Among the names on the bat are Craig Parry, Aaron Baddeley and Stuart Appleby. There are 15 signatures on the bat.

Bat Two is also a limited edition that has been signed by three former Test captains.

Both bats will be accompanied by a signed letter of authenticity and can be made available for inspection by contacting the Secretary on 54295629.

The format of the 'AUCTION BY TENDER' will be as follows:

1. To enter, simply put your name, address, telephone number on a piece of paper and then indicate which bat you wish to buy and the amount of money that you would pay for each bat.

2. Place the "tender document" in an envelope and address it to "Auction By Tender, c/- The Secretary, Romsey Golf Club Inc., P.O. Box 200, ROMSEY 3434".

3. The **"AUCTION BY TENDER"** will close last mail on **December 15, 2001.**

4. A reserve value has been placed on each bat and this will remain confidential at all times.

5. All entries will be opened by the committee of the Golf Club at their meeting on December 20, 2001 and the tender documents will be examined.

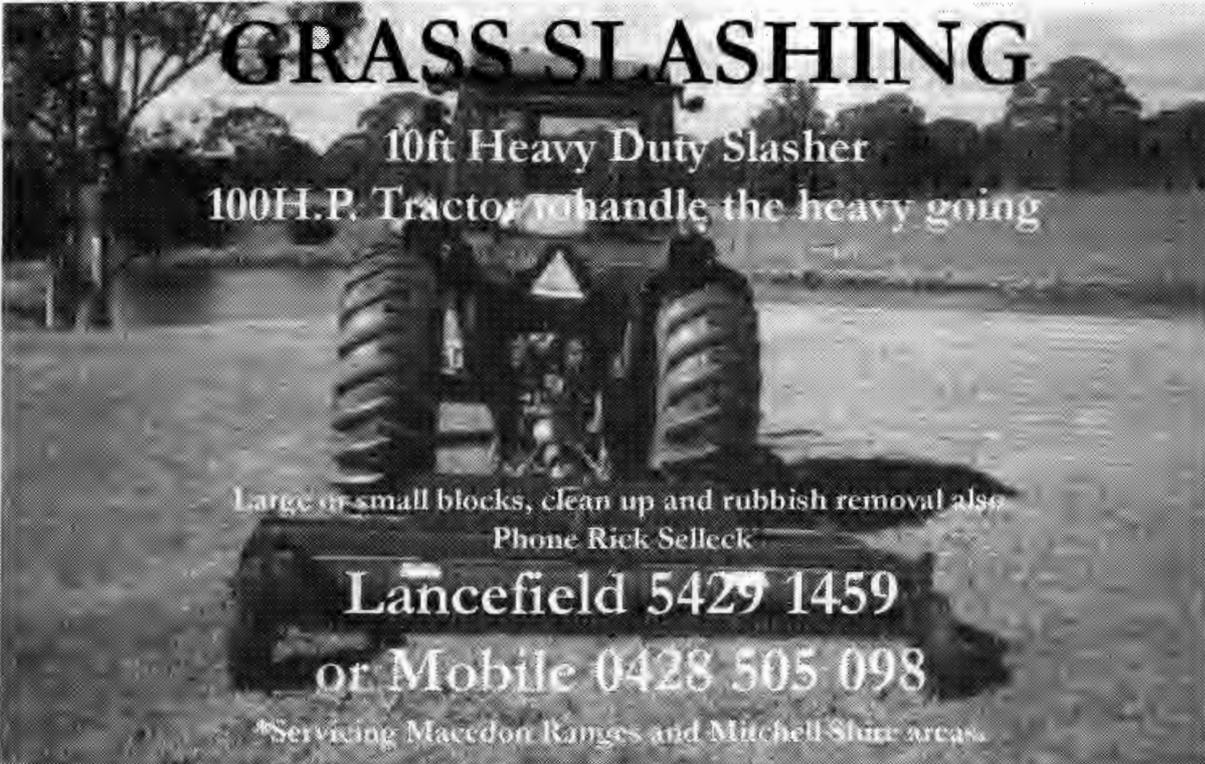
6. The committee of the Romsey Golf Club Inc. reserves the right not to award the sale of either bat to any person who participates in this Auction By Tender should the reserve valuation not be met or exceeded.

Help support your local club by participating in this fundraising effort.

Phillip Norton

President, Romsey Golf Club.

We at the
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would like
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readers
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Christmas
and a Happy
New Year
and look
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LANCEFIELD NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

"The Spirit of Christmas"

Well, it's nearly the silly season again and Lancefield Neighbourhood House will be putting up fairy lights and window displays to get into the Christmas spirit. It's great to drive around the area and see what others have done to make their towns look special.

Our last Christmas bus trip to the Vic Market is on the 14th December. So don't get stressed out and drive into the city, come along with us and let Les, our friendly bus driver, get you there in comfort. (Remember to book early for this one). Departs 9.00am from the front gates of the House - returns around 3.15pm. Cost \$12.50, child \$3.00.

Christmas Cake Decorating is starting on December 5. Learn how to decorate your own Christmas cake for the festive season. Cost \$10 for 3 sessions. BYO cake and quantities of icing (or can be ordered through tutor).

Our famous Christmas lunch for the community will be on 18th December at 12.30pm. All welcome to attend and have a bit of fun and a chat and meet the coordinator and committee.

Our AGM will be on Monday 3rd of December at 7.00pm followed by light refreshments. All members are invited to attend please support the existence of a truly wonderful service in your community. Membership is only \$2.00.

We will be having a Xmas Hamper to be raffled for house fundraiser - donations would be greatly appreciated to our basket. Cost \$1.00 per ticket.

Thank you to all our House Volunteers who have helped make the Neighbourhood House a place that's so welcoming to the community. Merry Christmas folks and have a great New Year.

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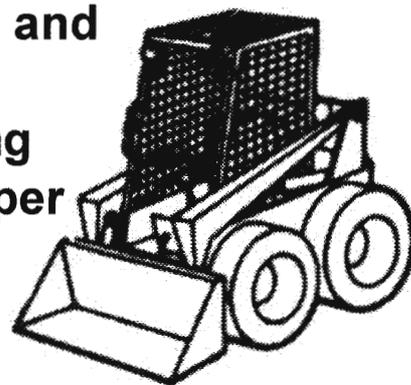
**To all my clients and readers
of the Romsey Rag
I wish you a very wonderful
and fulfilling Christmas.**

**I trust that the new year will
bring with it new horizons and
opportunities to lead you onto
better and greater things**

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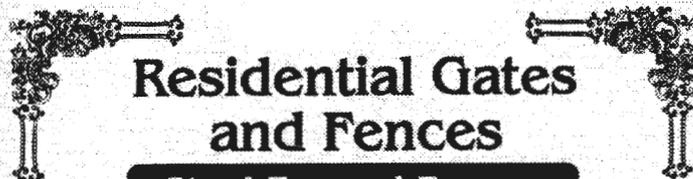
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9am Family Communion :St Paul's, Romsey.

10:30am Family Communion:

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(both services have Sunday School)

Wednesday's 10am Communion Christ Church,
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Children's club (CEBS/GFS) Enquiries welcome

Visitors, explorers, newcomers are always
made welcome at any of our services or events.

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

Rev. Doug Edmonds

*Vicarage, 33 Chauncey Street, Lancefield,
Victoria, 3435 Telephone 5429 1380*

**Please note - all articles/ads for the
Rag must be at the Post Office by 12 noon on the 21st of each month.
Any copy handed past that deadline will not be accepted.
Thank you for your consideration,
Margaret Howatson.**

COUNCIL NEWS - MT WILLIAM WARD

Letter to Mt William Ward

Youth is a State of Mind

The key message for this month, from Peter Kenyon's *Sustainable Local Communities* paper, is "Retain and attract a youthful population." I like that! Notice it says 'youthful' not 'young'! Our wonderful Youth Advisory Committee (who are doing so much it's impossible to list here!) have a great t-shirt carrying the message 'Youth is a state of mind'. It's true isn't it, it's not our actual age but the lightness of our hearts which really matters. What makes us feel youthful? I see fostering optimism in communities as a key role of local government. To retain and attract youth of all ages we need employment, educational opportunities, appropriate housing, transport, services and leisure activities. We need to present ourselves and our region as offering a bright and positive future. Over the past 20 months I have worked with many dedicated people in many different groups on strategies to create a better future for Macedon Ranges. The processes for engaging and involving people in setting future directions for their communities are evolving rapidly and we are learning and improving. Next year I want to engage with Mt William in a new way, in a regular meeting of a creative team of community leaders and service providers.

Thank you so much to those who attended the meetings about the Rural Zone Review and also the 2025 Visioning Forum last month. I attended the Rural Review meetings in Romsey and Woodend but unfortunately was unable to attend the Lancefield meeting, however I did hear about the issues raised. We are at a key change point in this Shire. It seems that broad acre farming is becoming unprofitable because of rising land prices and other factors and increasing number of Melbourne people want to live here. If grazing does not maintain our open green hills, what will replace them? What

kind of agriculture should we encourage and how? What about environmental and land management issues and how do we accommodate an increase in population while retaining the core elements we value? The 2025 Visioning Forum was all about those core values and the challenges ahead. It was a lively, creative day producing a wealth of perspectives and ideas. There was great optimism, and a real look at the challenges, along with a very good feeling of working together. In a diverse group, the amount of common ground was encouraging. Watch out for the 2025 forums outcomes and further opportunities to contribute in the New Year.

Rating Strategy Review

Many of you have spoken to me in recent months of the significance of the shire rating strategy as a factor influencing how the shire develops. A discussion paper commissioned by the Shire on the rating approaches of a number of municipalities will contribute to a review of the Macedon Ranges rating strategy. We will be looking at ways of using differential rates, special rates and rate rebate incentives to support policy objectives. For example some shires have rate rebate schemes to encourage and reward environmentally sound land management practices. There is great potential here and I believe a thorough job should be done, leading to changes in 2003 rather than 2002. I know many people feel that change is overdue, but the pressure to do things quickly can lead to arbitrary decisions, rather than basing them on sound principles and extensive consultation.

Powerful New Reporting on Contracts

As part of an improved process for tracking the performance of contractors providing Shire services, a number of very useful contract performance reports were tabled at the last council meeting. Among these was a report on Excalibur who are responsible for the cleaning of toilets etc around the shire and who are to be congratulated for setting such a consistently high standard. Sports Australia

Leisure Management, who manage Romsey, Riddells Creek and Kyneton leisure facilities, received a more mixed report, with a particular concern being that provision of service at Romsey was rated at only 53% (compared with 90% at Riddell and 85% at Kyneton). On investigation it appears that a major constraint at Romsey is the difficulty in offering daytime activities because of the lack of child care facilities and a general activity room. This will be addressed by the addition of the \$250,000 multi purpose room next year funded fifty-fifty by the Shire and Department of Sport and Recreation.

While BenCon our local road contractors have lifted their game overall, it's easy to see why they are performing poorly on environmental factors – judging by the contract performance report, there is no mention of environmental performance in the contract! I am particularly concerned, as I know many of you are also about damaging practices in drainage works and vegetation removal on our roadsides. The extensive use of herbicides around guide posts and other road structures which concerns many, myself included, is a matter for research and policy formation. The contractors are performing well in doing as the contract directs. The Roadside Management Strategy Working Group which will start up again in the new year will be addressing these matters. Anyone interested in joining? Contact me or Barry Whelan, Environmental Manager at the Shire.

These contractor reports are just one of the many new mechanisms for improving the performance of the shire organisation which are being put in place by our senior management team, ably led by, Lydia Wilson, the CEO. Already as councillors we are more empowered to influence the performance of our contractors through these mechanisms.

More on Pools

I am puzzled and sorry to see the

COUNCIL NEWS - MT WILLIAM WARD

reaction of the Kyneton Pool Committee to the Shire's latest submission for funding for our Aquatic Strategy to Sport and Recreation (SRV). We have explained many times that the strategy is unchanged, we are committed to the shire-wide approach. This is the last round of 1:1 Better Pools funding. One to one funding is rare, it may not happen again. We must put in a bid to fund the first stage of our strategy. SRV have made it quite clear that the only first stage they will fund is the heated pool at Gisborne because it is the fastest growth area and the pool is at the end of its life. They will only fund one pool at a time. The design for the pools

we have had only minor changes since the strategy was developed, mainly increased concourse width as it was simply too narrow. Costs have gone up, and SRV know what costs are, there's no use pretending. Capital costs are not the biggest issue for whether we can support two heated pools, running costs are. We are solid behind the programmed pool approach and it is this management model which makes it feasible to have two pools. With the unified, concerted effort of all I believe we can achieve the strategy goals. The two heated pools will also benefit Mt William as so many of our

students attend Gisborne and Kyneton secondary schools. The submission to SRV includes upgrade works for Lancefield and Woodend as the strategy proposed.

Bits and Pieces

- The community response to the Council adopted policy to oppose any increase in gaming machines has been very pleasing. Keep those responses coming as it strengthens our position with the Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority Board (what a mouthful – these titles are what makes my letters so long!).

- Great to see the Gorse Field days happening. Hope you're all getting stuck into the loathsome stuff. Sadly our bid for \$54,000 funding to the North Central Catchment Management Authority was knocked back, but we'll be trying again. Meanwhile contact Lachlan Milne, Environment Officer, for how to tackle your gorse problem.

- Excellent news about the \$1M upgrade for Lancefield Primary School. The quality of education available at our four primary schools in Mt William is fantastic – and improvements to facilities are always good to see.

- Bruce and I had a great night out at the Romsey PS Cup Eve Gala Night. There was *something in the air* in Romsey that night. What else could have possessed my normally sane husband to invest substantially in an Emu Springs footy jumper? He is a rabid ABC fan – but hasn't a clue about football! Maybe it was Anne Phelan's passionate auctioneering to raise funds for the school. Well done to all for a fundraiser extraordinaire!

Have a wonderful, peaceful Christmas and may the New Year bring you many blessings

Till next time,
Alice Aird, Councillor Macedon Ranges Shire

ROMSEY HOTEL

In behalf of Rod, Joy, Terry and Helen and our families we would like to say thank you for all your support and custom over the last three years. We have enjoyed our time here and wish the new owners, Rob, Liz and their family plus a new Chef Matthew, all the very best and that you support them as you did us.

Terry and Helen will return to Bendigo for a long deserved rest while Joy and Rod will settle back into family life.

Rod and Liz are also offering for the first time at Romsey Hotel, Christmas Lunch. Why not come and meet Rod and Liz and check out the Christmas Menu and book early.

Once again many thanks from us to you our clientele and friends.

Rod, Joy, Terry & Helen.

ROMSEY WALKING GROUP REPORT

Romsey Walking Group have received news of a coach/camping trip of 26 days over to the west coast and up to Darwin where we fly back to Melbourne.

DATE: 12/08/2002

Start saving your pennies - More news early 2002. Ballarat Coachlines are not setting a price just yet because Virgin Blue could be flying the Darwin route and it will make it a lot cheaper.

FOR SALE

Ride-on Mower, Cox 16H.P. Strong unit for big areas. New battery and in good condition
\$2,000 o.n.o.

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or Peter (BH) 54 29 59 76

For Enquiries: Ballarat Coachlines - David Wakling on 1800 654 765 or Helen Watts on 54 29 5250.

REMEMBER - The Romsey Walking Group meet every Tuesday at 9.00am by the Launderette. We car pool to a chosen walk of approximately 2 hours. All ages and state of fitness catered for. If you feel two hours too long a shorter walk is fine. We really do have a lot of fun while exercising. Ladies and Gents are both welcome. Remember slip, slop, slap. Wear good shoes and bring a drink.

Helen Watts

GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY 1ST DECEMBER

2 Thomas Court, Romsey 9.00am - 3.00pm

Furniture: dining table, dressing table, beds, settee and much more
Books, clothes and general bric-a-brac
Come down and pick up a bargain.

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Facilities Available

If anyone wishes to inspect the building, with a view to hiring it, they can do so by contacting the Secretary, Noel Shaw, on 54 29 5509, to arrange an inspection time.

The building can cater for large or small functions such as parties, concerts, weddings, dinners, meetings etc.

No. of Chairs: 230 Tables: 16 9up to 10 per table)

Kitchen: 2 stoves (1 is a commercial stove), 4 door refrigerator, urn, pie warmer, hot water service

Meeting Room: Carpeted and heated

Main Hall: ducted gas heating (coin-in-slot operation)

Toilets: Disabled available & completely indoors

Cost: Charges vary depending on time of day and the facilities required

"FRIENDS OF ROMSEY MECHANICS INSTITUTE"

A big thank you to those people who have responded, so far, and paid a yearly subscription of \$10.00. This is greatly appreciated by the Committee.

If you would like to become a "Friend" of the Romsey Mechanics Institute then post the form below to Noel Shaw, Hon. Secretary, 10 Wrixon St, Romsey or place in a box marked "Friends of Romsey Mechanics Institute", at the Romsey Post Office.

In order to make every cent count - no receipts will be issued unless specifically requested.

Thank you for your support.

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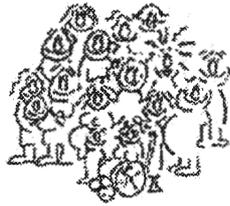
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How often have you thought about joining an exercise group and done nothing about it?

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9.30am ----10.30am.

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If you have a weight problem, we
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TOWN CLUBS OF VICTORIA is a voluntary organization 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 nonexpensive, encouraging environment that raises your self esteem as you work towards, and then maintain, your goal weight.

Meetings held weekly at St. Mary's Parish Hall, Romsey
Tuesdays; weigh-in from 7-7:20 pm, meeting from 7:30pm

For more details contact:

Belinda Mitchell 5429 6740

Judy Van Den Heuvel 5429 5692

2001

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Mass Times

Sat.	10 am Romsey	
	7.30pm Lancefield	
Sundays of the month	1st, 3rd	2nd, 4th, 5th
	8 am Lancefield	Romsey
	10 am Romsey	Lancefield

Daily Masses: as advertised in the weekly bulletin
Reconciliation (Confession): Saturday or by arrangement

PRAYER LIFE

- Rosary recited before weekday Masses and Sat night Mass.
- Rosary also recited at St Mary's Church, Romsey every Thursday 9.30am before Mass.*
- 'Holy Name of Jesus' Charismatic Prayer Group: Tuesday 11am -12.30pm at 57 Metcalfe Drive, Romsey. Please contact: Merle De Silva 5429 5672.
*We are a praying community and if you request prayers for family or individual needs please write clearly, no names necessary, to: The Holy Name of Jesus Prayer Group, 57 Metcalfe Drive, Romsey.
(Please Note: The Prayer Group will be in recess from 11th December. It resumes on Tuesday 8th January)
- Christian Meditation (silent prayer) St Mary's Church, Romsey. Monday 8-9pm (side door), or Ph Stephen 5429 5907

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. 10.30am start.

7th December Coffee/tea morning and afternoons. A table of goods is also offered, plus card games and more. 20c for card game...money distributed among winners! Free lunch. Come to just look...Come to chat and be part of the fun. For transport ph 5429 2130 (Please note the Drop In Centre will resume February 2002)

OP SHOP (St Vincent. de Paul)

Open every **Thursday** at Romsey 10.30am - 12.30pm. **Great bargains!** No article of clothing over \$1. For donations of clothing or furniture ph. Rose 5429 5270

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a program for married couples

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For confidential enquiries Ph 9703 2724

REFLECTION DAY

Wednesday 5th December 10.30am
St Mary's Presbytery, Lancefield

A time to reflect on the past 12 months and an opportunity to prepare for Christmas. Facilitated by John Stuart BYO lunch \$10 donation

Christmas Services Reconciliation

Wednesday 12th December 7.30pm Lancefield

Combined Christmas Carols

Sunday 16th December
Mechanics Hall Romsey 7.00pm

Masses

Monday 24th December 7.30pm Romsey
Midnight Lancefield
Tuesday 25th December 9.00am Romsey

**The Catholic Parish of Lancefield-
Romsey would like to wish our
local community a happy,
blessed and safe Christmas
and a happy New Year**

'From what I have found, there is just too much noise in modern life - and because of this many people are afraid of silence. As God speaks only in silence, this is a big problem for those searching for God.' Sister kateri

Pg 43 A Simple Path by Mother Teresa



COMMUNITY EVENT

COMBINED CHURCHES OF ROMSEY / LANCEFIELD

CAROLS BY CANDELIGHT

SUNDAY 16TH DECEMBER

7pm

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8:30 pm

ALL WELCOME



NETWORK 200

Romsey Living Word Church is participating with churches of ALL denominations Australia wide to distribute the Jesus video to the many families in the Lancefield / Romsey communities.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Did You Know That...?

- ... there have been over 600,000 JESUS videos distributed in Australia in the last 4 years.
- ... there has been 1.8 million homes, representing 4.5 million people in Australia
- ... there are 234 countries in which the Jesus film has been shown
- ... there are 125 languages of the Jesus film available on video in Australia
- ... 638 languages of the Jesus film are available on video world wide
- ... 280 languages are in the process of translation

Over the next months we will be surveying the families in our community to contribute to this Nation wide survey. We appreciate your co-operation in filling out the survey card, with the video. We look forward to meeting you.

If you are interested in any other language we have access, and would quickly get it in for you.
Any further inquiries phone; 54296 327 (Church Office) – 54295 381 (Marilyn Hunter Senior Minister)
5429 6737 (Secretary)

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL

Why were holidays instituted in the first place?

Usually because an event was so important & meaningful to people that they decided to commemorate / remember it by setting apart a special day - a "holiday".

Have you ever thought about the word "Christ-mas"?

It is called such, because it means the festival in which we celebrate the Birth of Jesus Christ.

How far have we come from the TRUE meaning of "Christmas"?

The Pastor, Leaders & all members of the "Living Word" Christian Church wish you all a very meaningful, prosperous & blessed Christmas & New Year.

We pray that Jesus Christ will be "your" REASON FOR THE SEASON and the center of your lives.

NEW MANAGER FOR OUR COMMUNITY BANK

Our local Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank is set to take another major step forward, with the appointment of a new go-ahead manager.

Rod Browning comes to our Bank with a proven track record in banking, as a senior manager with the Bank of Melbourne following a successful Westpac branch banking career.

Rod takes up his Lancefield position in mid-December, and will be quickly out and about in Romsey and Lancefield talking to local businesses and customers.

Lancefield Bank chairman Brian Russell said Mr Browning had extensive experience with both business development banking and home lending.

"Romsey and Lancefield are important population growth areas, and our Community Bank has a key role to play in meeting the needs of home buyers," Mr Russell said.

"Rod's experience and expertise in this area will help people to meet their dream of buying and owning their own home with a loan through Bendigo Bank's range of home lending products.

"His business banking experience will also prove invaluable in assisting

local businesses to grow and develop to meet the needs of our area.

"Rod will be talking to local business owners and managers to ascertain their needs and put forward finance packages to meet them. This will take some time. If any business-people have a need to see him sooner to discuss proposals, I encourage them to phone him without delay."

Mr Browning, of Sunbury, has a long involvement in community and sport. His sporting background includes playing District Cricket with Carlton from 1976 to 1979. He played more than 340 sub-district First Eleven games with Brunswick and Broadmeadows since 1968. He has coached both clubs, and still dons the whites with Brunswick.

Mr Browning takes over from the Community Bank's inaugural manager Ian Alexander, who resigned to take up a position in a different sector of the finance industry. The Board wishes Ian the best.

The Community Bank Branch of Bendigo Bank at 20B High St Lancefield (ph. 5429 1977) is open from 11am to 4pm Monday to Wednesday and on Fridays, 2 to 7pm on Thursdays and from 9am to midday on Saturdays.

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Ironing Press, Singer Magic Press - Excellent condition - \$100

Zeiss-ikon Slide projector & Screen, Perkeo automat - \$150

Brother portable typewriter - \$20

Rover Garden Muncher 1300 kw motor - \$120

**Student Desk, single, hinged top, old style,
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Single King Size Pine slat bed & Mattress, as new - \$200

**Leather Suitcase, opens to hang suits, etc.
with 2 large zip outside pockets - \$50**

**Exercise Bike, Repco Fan Wheel type
with ergometer & seat height adjustment - \$100**

**Hammond Organ - 123KR - Stage 11 Rhythm,
Complete with stool,**

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Excellent Condition - \$460 ono

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\$200

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Romsey Hotel

Commonwealth Bank

Romsey Newsagency

Tickets available for purchase
from the following LANCEFIELD
businesses:

Lancefield Motors, (Shell),
(opp. Lancefield Hotel)

Lancefield Hotel Bortleshop

Lancefield Community Bank in
High Street

Limited tickets on sale from
22/8/2001 to 23/03/2002 and
drawn 30/03/2002 unless all
tickets sold earlier. Winners can
choose either Romsey Service
Station or Lancefield Motors
Service Station to supply prize.
All tickets must be sold for full
prize value to be awarded (Full
Prize Value is: First Prize: \$500
worth of fuel, Second Prize: \$200
worth of fuel, Third Prize: \$100
worth of fuel) If minimum tickets
not sold by
30/3/2002, prize value will be
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Macedon Ranges Health Care

Romsey Medical Centre

99 Main Street Romsey, 3434

Phone: 5429 5254 Fax: 5429 6147

Email: doctors@iaa.com.au

Clinic Hours and Appointments

Monday to Thursday 8:30am to 8:00pm

Fridays 8:30am to 6:00pm

Saturdays 9:00am to 5:00pm

Sundays 10:00am to 1:00pm

Phone 5429 5254 for on-call Doctor

We try to minimise waiting time by operating an appointment system. Appointments are routinely of 10 - 15 minutes duration. You can help us run on time by advising the reception staff if you anticipate a longer time for complicated procedures such as:

- Insurance, pre-employment or licence examinations
- Annual reviews or check ups
- Multiple medical problems
- More than one family member attending
- Counselling or emotional problems

Please note that emergencies are seen immediately and take priority over booked appointments. Home visits are available. Please call the Medical Centre to arrange for these appointments.

ROMSEY LICENSED POST OFFICE

OFFER THE FOLLOWING SERVICES.

PRIVATE POST BOX'S (Small & Large)

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FAX SERVICE

PHOTOCOPYING

LAMINATING

OPTUS PRE PAID PHONE CARDS

TELSTRA PHONEAWAY

TELSTRA PRE PAID PHONE CARDS

PASSPORT APPLICATIONS

OFFICE STATIONERY

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COMMONWEALTH

NATIONAL &

GIROPOST BANKING.



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with separate entrances.

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Call for a brochure

Phone: 03 5429 5337

Fax: 03 5429 6152

Visit our Home Page on:

<http://www.netcon.net.au/romsey>

e-mail: compacct@netcon.net.au