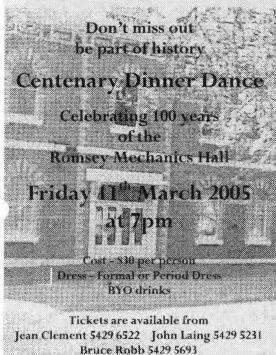
THE ROMSEY RAG

Issue No. 224

1750 copies produced each month at Romsey Primary School as a service to our community and supported by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council March 2005

THE MARCH EDITION OF THE ROMSEY RAG IS PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY - THE ROMSEY MECHANICS HALL COMMITTEE -



ROMSEY MECHANICS HALL 122 MAIN STREET, ROMSEY

The building is situated on crown land and is currently managed by a Committee of 7 (with over 175 years of service between them). New members would be very welcome. The building is not Shire-owned, but over the years there has been Shire assistance with funds for capital works. All running costs must be met from hiring charges.

The main hall is centrally heated via coin-in-the-slot and can seat up to 160 at tables, with 225 chairs available. The kitchen has a commercial stove, 4 door refrigerator, pie warmer and hot water service.

Hiring rates are very reasonable for large and small groups and vary according to time of day and areas used. There is also a meeting room available.

For further information contact the Secretary Noel Shaw (5429 5509) or for booking contact Frank Crossman on 5427 3923.

On March 10th the current building celebrates 100 years of service to the Romsey community.

Why not join us for this wonderful celebration at the Centenary Dinner Dance on Friday March 11th from 7.00 pm. And why not really get into the spirit of the occasion by dressing in period costume?

ROMSEY COMMUNITY HOUSE INCORPORATED

We are pleased to announce that Romsey Community House Inc. received official notification of its incorporation last week. We are now ready to move ahead with locating a "temporary" home, and commencing programs and activities to offer the people of our community. We will also be participating in the consultation and planning process with the Macedon Ranges Shire Council to establish a permanent location for the Romsey Community House Inc. within the community hub redevelopment at the old Shire offices.

The committee of the Romsey Community House Inc. is:

President—Barney Healy

Vice president / Public Officer—Robyn Moore

Secretary—Karyn Gottschling

Treasurer—John Russell

Committee members: Karen Ruggeri, Lisa Weston, Nick Watkins.

The postal Address of the Romsey Community House Inc. is P.O. Box 418

Romsey 3434.

The committee will be meeting monthly. We really need YOUR input now to let us know the kinds of activities and programs you would like to see run at the Community House, and your ideas about how the Community House should function. We would also like to hear from people who have skills and talents to share as activity leaders / program providers. This might be in hobby and interest group areas (eg. photography, creative writing, drama, crafts, etc) or sport and recreation (swimming, exercise groups, dancing) or vocational areas (computer skills, literacy) or any number of areas. Let your imagine run wild—nothing is too "way out" and you might be surprised at the number of people with interests close to your own. Please contact us with your ideas—to our Post Office box or by phoning 5429 5099 and asking for Barney Healy or Robyn Moore.

Editorially Speaking

Romsey Rag Editorial Committee: Barney Healy, Robyn Moore

Layout and Design: Robyn Moore

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

Ragamuffins Page: Muffi—Ali Ashley Stormy—Gayle O'Dwyer

Collation Team Co-ordinator: Joan Sparkes—5429 5848

Contributions:

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

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

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

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

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

Advertising: Rates are GST inclusive.

Front page sponsorship: \$115 per half page

Business card: \$20 per issue \$190 per year in Business Directory

Quarter page: \$45 per issue Half page: \$90 per issue Full page: \$180 per issue

Line ads: eg- For sale, births, deaths, marriages, engagements - \$7.50.

Cheques must be made payable to Romsey Primary School

Distribution:

1750 copies delivered to the Romsey community at the commencement of each month.

		THE ROMBEY RAS WATER 20
EDITION	CLOSING DATE FOR COPY	COLLATING DATE
April 2005	Friday March 18th	Thursday March 24th
May 2005	Friday April 22nd	Thursday April 28th
June 2005	Friday May 20th	Thursday May 26th
July 2005	Friday June 17th	Thursday June 23rd
August 2005	Friday July 22nd	Thursday July 28th
September 2005	Friday August 19th	Thursday August 25th
October 2005	Friday September 23rd	Thursday September 29th
November 2005	Friday October 21st	Thursday October 27th
December 2005	Friday November 18th	Thursday November 24th

ROMSEY PARAMEDIC SUPPORTING VANUATU AMBULANCE

My name is Martin Bartasek. I am an Intensive Care Paramedic at Romsey Ambulance Station. I will be taking up the position of Manager Clinical Services for Promedical in Vanuatu. This position commences on March 14th 2005.

Promedical is a charity organisation answerable to a board of directors (Vanuatu Emergency Management Service Association) and is attempting to set up a pre-hospital emergency care system in Vanuatu. As there is no government funding, revenue is mainly derived from donations, hyperbaric chamber operations, first aid training, occupational first aid supplies and a subscription scheme.

Vanuatu is a group of 83 islands in the South Pacific, between New Caledonia and Fiji. There is a population of about 200,000 people, the vast majority feither Melanesian or Polynesian descent. It is a poor Third World country reging heavily on tourism and copra export.

At this stage there are only two of us to operate a service for the entire country. Our vision is to train the Ni-Vanuatu people to become paramedics to the Victorian Ambulance standard and to set this service up not to be reliant on expatriate staff.

Special thanks must go to Doug Kimberley (CEO of Rural Ambulance). Doug has allowed me leave from the Romsey Ambulance Station to pursue these challenges and bring back some valuable experiences to Rural Ambulance. I must also acknowledge the Riddels Creek Lions Club for its generous donation of medical text books.

So, if anyone is in the region, be sure to look us up: Promedical—P.O. Box 8222, Port Vila, Vanuatu. Phone +61 678 25566 www.promedical.com.vu

The Romsey Rag March 2005 3

LANCEFIELD LIONS CLUB

The Lancefield Lions Club aided the Macedon Ranges Tsunami Appeal by supporting the Tsunami Disaster relief Benefit Concert and Charity Auction, which was held on Sunday January 30th at Kyneton.

Lions donated items and services in many different ways, which resulted in a total of \$3,495 being raised from Lion in the auction. Thanks to all who made bids to achieve this great result.

Members" donations offered included:

President Julie to be sent to gaol for a day. (This was sanctioned by the Police Commissioner).

Lion Milos—6 hours qualified electrical work.

Lion Allan-8 hours mowing grass.

Lion Doug-truck load of sand or soil.

Lion Gordon—Wine selections from Granite Hill Trophy wines.

Lion Julie—Handcrafted wooden coat rack.

Lion members-half day working bee.

We extend our appreciation to members for their time and gifts.

2004 ended with local students from Lancefield, Romsey, Bolinda and Clarkefield schools enjoying the Lions Annual Adventure Park Outing.

Lancefield Mountain Races—March 5th:

Lancefield—Romsey Lions, together with Lancefield Mountain Races Committee, will be proudly holding this annual event which has been successfully run for the last 4 years, with huge potential fro raising money and recognition for the local community. Local CFA, St. John's, clubs and businesses are supported on the day. As well as spectacular horse races, there will be Ute competitions, Tractor Pulls, pony Club barrel races, wood chopping, whip cracking, children's and dog races etc.

Enquiries regarding sponsorship, benefits, entries—phone Lion Julie 0411 643 407 or Faye 5429 1487.

Lions Membership:

We welcome members to come and enjoy great fellowship and rewards of helping your community. Meetings are twice monthly. For information ring president Julie Starec 0411 64 407.

Quote:

You can't stay mad at somebody who makes you laugh" Lion Pat Sullivan

EXPO FOR ROMSEY

Follow up from the Romsey Forum

An Expo will be held soon after Easter. Full details will be available next month.

This is your chance to:

*Advertise your group

*Come along and see what is available for you

Face painting, sausage sizzle, children's rides and more. Get your photos and stories ready to advertise your group.

Any offer of help would be appreciated.

Please contact lion Julie on 0411 643 407

Student Leadership

Following our selection process we were able to announce recently that Georgia Twining and Walter Hultgren were to be our School Captains for 2005. These students were selected through the process of written application, interview and referees. The calibre of students who applied for these positions was outstanding with candidates demonstrating as thoughtful, mature and considered in their responses to the selection criteria. Georgia and Walter were presented with their School Captain badges at a whole school assembly. They started their year as School Captains with excellent addresses to the students, teachers and parents present.



TOGETHER WE LEARN AND GROW

Students in the middle and senior classes have now completed their elections processes for

Junior School Council. Again we have been very impressed with the calibre of our students seeking these leadership positions. The election of office bearers will take place at the first Junior School Council meeting to be held by the end of February.

Our Junior School Councillors for 2005 are: Nathan O'Dwyer, Kara Menzies, Luke Mitchell, Debbie Ashley, Shaye Griffith, Ben Noel, Mark Wilkinson, Jasmine Jordan, Stephen Tobin, Mairead Whelan, Nathan Blair, Emily Scanlon, Dylan Dremel, Tarlee Schultz, Seamus Whelan and Brittany Larkin.

Junior School Council along with other programs such as Peer Mediation, sport teams and classroom responsibilities offer a range of leadership positions for our students at Romsey Primary School.

Quality Beginning to 2005

The Quality Beginning program involved all students in the first seven days of school. This program helps to create a "learning community" rather than the school simply being a place for learning and it recognises the importance of broadening the concept of education to include the teaching of values. This encourages everyone to be involved in supporting and accepting others within the community. By allowing young people to contribute actively to the verbeing of others, they learn to be more compassionate and understanding in their future relationships. The school file that this makes an excellent consistent start to the school year for all our students.

Police in Schools

During terms one and three the children in the senior unit are involved in a series of lessons conducted by Senior Constable Joe Grbac. These lessons provide an opportunity for our students to gain an understanding of the Victoria Police Force and to develop mutual respect. The lessons focus on developing cooperation, caring, inclusion and trust. Already the children are enjoying these sessions as the Police in Schools program not only supports our existing programs but also provides our students with experiences the school would not normally provide.

Transition

The transition of this year's prep students to their school life has been very smooth with these children demonstrating the benefits of our comprehensive transition programs. Following the happy start of our prep students at the beginning of the new school year, prep teachers last week held an additional parent information session to help ensure that the smooth start to the year is sustained throughout 2005. Topics covered were the school routines throughout the week, our focus on literacy and numeracy, strategies to help children learn, as well as assessments undertaken at the commencement of the year.

Sporting News

Students are currently in training for the inter-school cross country competition. This will be preceded by our in-school cross-country event held in March. Training takes place on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes. Again we are looking to enter strong teams in these inter-school events.

Teachers Leanne Lyons and Karren Baker have commenced a ten week lunchtime aerobics program in preparati for the selection of our school aerobics teams for this year. Following our success in achieving second place in the national competition last year, our first year of competition, expectations are high of having another successful year with this fitness program.

The first round of inter-school sport commenced this year with a round robin tennis tournament in Woodend. Again our students were very competitive coming in third in both the singles and girls doubles. Everyone put in a great effort and demonstrated great sportsmanship.

Computers for Sale



Romsey Primary School has a limited number of computers for sale for \$300. These machines have 64MB RAM 10.2GB hard drives, CD drive and 15 inch monitors. They have proven to be very reliable machines. They will be sold on a first in basis. A deposit of \$50 is payable at the office. The machines are available for immediate pick up at the school with the \$250 balance payable at this time.

If you are interested in purchasing one of these computers please call in at the school or phone 5429 5099.

Barney Healy Principal



St. Mary's Parish—Lancefield & Romsey

27 Chauncey Street, Lancefield

Cnr. Main Street & Barry Road, Romsey.

Parish Priest: Fr George O'Connor Presbytery
Pastoral Associate: Sr. Frances Guinane Convent

Sr. Patricia Stone

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

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 7.00 pm Lancefield
1st and 3rd Sunday of the month:
8.00 am Lancefield and 10.00 am Romsey
2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month:
8.00 am Romsey and 10.00 am Lancefield

Reconciliation:

After weekday Mass or by arrangement

Baptisms:

February, April, June, August, October December RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Anyone wishing to know about the Catholic faith is invited to contact Sr. Frances on 5429 1582 or 5429 2130

School Principal:

Men's Breakfast:

Once a term, Saturday morning Mass in Lancefield followed by a hearty breakfast. Telephone 5429 2130 for more information.

REGULAR EVENTS

Christian Meditation Group:

Monday 8.00 pm, St. Mary's church, Romsey. Telephone 5429 5907 for more information.

SVDP Drop-In:

First Tuesday of each month, 10.30 am to 4.00 pm, St. Mary's Church Hall, Romsey. All welcome to come for a game of cars/onat and free lunch.

Spiritual Guidance:

Last Wednesday of each month at the Presbytery, 27 Chauncey Street, Lancefield. John Stuart, Counselor and Guide. Telephone 5429 2130 for more information.

Spring into Romsey Mowers 55-57 Main Road, Romsey

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Ph: 5429 6977

SPECIAL EVENTS: March

School

Easter Mass Times:

Lenten reconciliation—Thursday 10th, March

5429 2130

5429 1582

5429 1359

7.30 pm Lancefield

Holy Thursday—24th March

7.30 pm Lancefield

Good Friday—25th March

Stations of the Cross: 10.30 am Romsey Passion Service

3.00 pm Romsey

Easter Vigil—Saturday, March 26th

7.00 pm Romsey

Easter Sunday— 27th March

8.00 am Romsey 10.00 am Lancefield

Hire of Church Hall

The Romsey Church Hall is now available for regular hire on week days. The hall is also available for special events eg. Parties (conditions apply). Please contact the Presbytery for further information.

For more information, please contact the Presbytery on 5429 2130.

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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

In recent years, the federal government has been asked to say 'sorry' on more than one occasion. There have been repeated calls for an apology for the policy of previous governments to remove aboriginal children from their families. In recent weeks, there has been a call to apologise for placing a mentally ill Australian citizen in detention for months as an illegal immigrant.

In the midst of this, there have been many accusations, from all sides of parliament and at all levels of government, of lying. In every case, an admission of responsibility is sought, and in the vast majority of cases it is denied, with the blame apportioned to someone else.

Why is it so hard to admit we've made a mistake? After all, no one is perfect, are they? Politicians may think that making a mistake makes them less trustworthy, but in a cynical country like Australia, who trusts politicians anyway? Surely admitting a mistake would make them seem more human, more honest, more like the rest of us.

The church is not immune from making mistakes. There have been cases in recent times of the church apologising for mistakes made in the past, both locally and globally. However, there are still many people who have been hurt by the church and who are waiting, seemingly in vain, for an apology and admission of wrong.

Easter is about recognising that we have a problem, that we aren't perfect, that we do make mistakes. It's also about understanding that there is more to being sorry than saying some words.

Being truly sorry means not just regretting the past, but also striving to do better in the future. It's about having hope, that things can improve, that they can be better.

In the Easter story of the death and resurrection of Jesus, God shows us that love and forgiveness, accepting the apology of someone else, means putting the whole thing behind us once and for all. Forgiveness means not seeking retribution or revenge, but accepting an apology as a genuine desire to change.

God has promised to forgive us for any wrong we confess, when we truly turn to God and want to make a fresh start. That's great, but it is only a start. The Christian faith is about relationships, primarily our relationship with God, but also our relationship with one another.

Are we prepared to say sorry to those we have hurt? And are we prepared to forgive those who have hurt us? That is the example, and challenge, that God gives us at Easter.

Rev Alan Williams

What's On

6 Mar 8:15am breakfast, worship and Holy Communion. This includes our celebration of Harvest Thanksgiving. Any donations of nonperishable food for Broadmeadows Uniting-

Care will be gratefully received.

9 Mar UCAF travels to Kyneton to see 'The Pirates

of Penzance'.

13 Mar 9:00am worship and Sunday School.

20 Mar 9:00am worship and Sunday School. This will

include the celebration of Palm Sunday.

21 Mar 8:00am Holy Week Reflection.

22 Mar 8:00am Holy Week Reflection.

23 Mar 8:00am Holy Week Reflection.

7:30pm Holy Week Reflection at Lancefield

UC.

24 Mar 8:00am Holy Week Reflection.

9:00am Good Friday service. This will be followed by the Combined Churches Walk of

Witness, organised by St Mary's Catholic

Church.

27 Mar 9:00am Easter Day worship, including Holy

Communion.

5:00pm family worship. An alternative Easter celebration for those families not going away.

Bring and share meal after

3 Apr 9:00am worship, 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.



DOG CLIPPING &GROOMING

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St Paul's Romsey Op Shop Church Hall Main Street, Romsey.

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Friday 12.30 pm--4.30 pm Saturday 10.00 am—1.00 pm

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Shoes

Children's prams

We are happy to accept items in good condition. We are unable to accept furniture of any kind due to restricted storage space. We cannot accept any electrical items, bike helmets or bikes.





The Anglican Parish Lancefield and Romsey



Vicar: Laurie McIntyre. Phone 54291380 (7 days). He is in the Office at Christ Church Lancefield, on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 10am to 4pm.

Sunday Services:

St Paul's Romsey. 9am

Christ Church Lancefield. 10.30am

Lancefield Guild: after the 10am Service in the Parish

Hall.

2nd Wednesday each month.

Romsey Guild: meets 2nd Thursday each month, 1.30pm.

Next meeting at the home of Mrs Flo Carter.

Anglican Men's Society: meets 2nd Thursday each month at 8pm. Secretary, John Whiteman, 5429 6900.

Easter Services:

Maundy Thursday, 2pm, Special Service.

Eucharist: 8pm.

Romsey:

Good Friday, 12 noon

Easter Day.

Lancefield:

Lancefield:

Easter Day, 10.30am

Enquiries: 54291380.

Experience life to the MAX At the Living Word Church

Sunday Service Times:

10 am at 7 Mitchell Court, Romsey

7.00 at Woodend Community Centre, High Street, Woodend.

Weekly Life Groups at Romsey and Woodend

Evening topic: Marriage

Meet great new friends and have lots of fun.

Kidszone OSHC

Before and After School Program

Other programs include: Men of Fire—Men **Inspire Your world**—Ladies **RYG**—Romsey Youth Group Power House-Kids

You are welcome to join Traditional PASS-OVER Feats 6.00 pm Good Friday Woodend

Needing further information? Pastor Marilyn and staff will be more than happy to assist. Just call 5429 6327



Romsey Veterinary Surgery

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Veterinary Consulting Hours Monday to Sunday 9 - 10.30amMonday to Friday 4-6 pm

No Appointments are required during the above hours for consultation at the surgery.

Appointments are required for Consultations outside of the above hours.

Emergencies will be seen at any time

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8.30am – 8pm

Tuesday & Thursday

9am - 6pm

Saturday & Sunday 9am - 12.30pm

News from the Bargain Box St. John's Op' Shop, Riddells Creek.

Hello Again.

This month I'd like to tell you that due to your unceasing support, we have been able to contribute to the following:-

- Some help to Paul, a friend in need.
- Three large bags of clean, good quality men's, women's, children's & baby's clothing, to be sent to Indonesia through Woodend Lion's Club.
- Postage cost to reimburse good Samaritan customer.
- Donation of raffle prize for Sri Lanka appeal.
- Wool and material to CWA for members use. They knit/crochet rugs for the homeless and are making their 3rd patchwork quilt for a CIKA raffle.
- Ongoing support to Leandra Andrada, our World Vision sponsored child.
- Annual payment of \$2,000 to the Gisborne Secondary School's Chaplaincy Fund.

In addition to the church's regular support to its other worthy causes.

We do thank you most sincerely because without you, it wouldn't be possible.

We have recently been notified by the powers that be we are not to sell (nor thereby accept) the following goods:-

- Helmets bicycle or motor cycle
- Second hand electrical goods
- Cots children or baby
- **Baby capsules**
- Car booster seats
- **Mattresses**

We are disappointed because some of these goods come to us in really good condition, however it is a Diocesan policy and we are bound by it.

Look for our Trading Table in the shop every Friday during March, laden with home made goodies, this is in aid of Bush Church Aid -BCA.

Look forward to your visit. Chris, coordinator. Shop number 5428 6412.

FOR SALE:

N.E.C. Bar fridge—Excellent condition. Hardly used. \$100

Phone 5429 5447

RERRIE MUSIC FESTIVAL
KERRIE HALL
MARCH 19TH

BANDS INCLUDE:
Matt Walker and Ashley Davies
The Breakneck Ramblers
The Brokenhearted Chainsaw Routine
The Wayfaring Strangers
And more
Tickets \$15 per head
\$35 per family

Food and drink available

Watch this space for more information
next month

Proceeds go to the Kerrie Hall

Contact 5427 0202

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Tea or coffee

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With plenty of the region's produce and wines featured on the menu, there is always something to make your mouth water. Dine al fresco or snuggled up in front of the open fires

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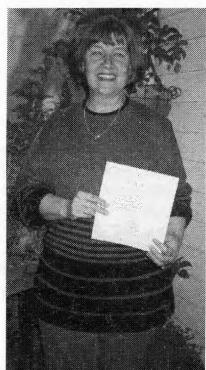


ORIENTAL INSPIRATION

June Deakin's enthusiasm for her Chinese-based art is infectious. Not only that, in the 11 years she has been studying first Japanese, then Chinese art, it has brought her incredible satisfaction, and recognition.

Where has this recognition come from? The Chinese themselves. One of her children started all this by enrolling her in a Ling Nan* workshop. Immediately she realised that she really enjoyed this type of art. Now her work is well-known in Victoria, and she features in a Chinese exhibition in Melbourne at present. However not many may know that it is also currently on display in Hong Kong & Nanjing to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of the original Ling Nan Master. Even more exciting is the fact that she and her husband, Lawrie, will be travelling to China in March for the official opening of these displays, and will be meeting both The Arts Minister of China and the Australian Consul.

June still studies each week with Master Patrick Lam, and although obviously extremely talented in this field, feels she will never conquer the brushstrokes completely, which keeps her striving for perfection.



Left: Here we see June with an award she recently received from the Chinese Government for her contribution to Chinese Culture.

We are fortunate indeed to have someone of such talent and dedication willing to support our Art Show in Woodend. This will be held on the Long Weekend in March, 12-14th, and has now built to a show of substantial standing in Country Victoria. In fact, this year the judge is Mr Ted Gott, Senior Curator of the NGV, and the opening night on the 11th March will be eagerly awaited -as always- by the artists for his award decisions.

The Lions Club of Woodend urges all Romseyites to visit the Exhibition, not only to see June's work, but also to enjoy around 350-400 others. Styles vary from realistic to abstract, and all media are well represented, including a substantial sculpture section.

Entry: \$2.00 Adults

\$1.00 Concession Card Holders. Free to children under 12.

Tickets to preview: Liz Johnston, 5427 1503 (\$15.00 pp; drinks & finger food inc.) Further Information: Garry Dudderidge, 5427 2255

* Why not consider combining a visit to the Art Show with another activity: the Model Train Expo at the Woodend Primary School for example, or the Art Show in the morning and the Hanging Rock Races in the afternoon?

Probus Club Romsey – Lancefield

Meetings of the Ronnsey – Lancefield Probus Club are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at St Mary's Church Hall, corner Main and Barry Streets, Romsey, at 10.00am.

Probus is open to all retired and semi-retired people to enjoy a great social and friendly atmosphere.

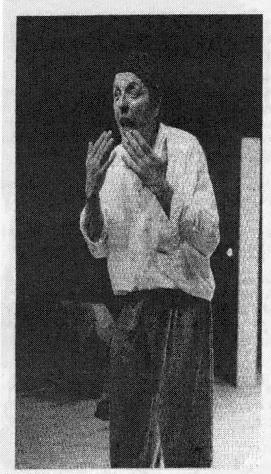
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Robert Barry (President) on 5428 5194 Dorothy Hayes (Secretary) on 5429 1225

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KYNETON TOWN HALL PRESENTS:

ODYSSEY

SATURDAY MARCH 5TH, 2005, 8PM

The Cultural Services Unit is very pleased to announce the performance of *Odyssey* as a part of the 2005 professional touring season at the Kyneton Town Hall.

Winner of the NZ Listener award for 'Best Play' in 2003, Odyssey has become one of Australia's theatre success stories having performed in Malaysia, Canada, the USA and at the Barbican Centre in London, as well as touring extensively throughout Australia including performances at the 1998 Melbourne Festival and 2000 Adelaide Festival.

Odyssey is a tour-de-force production by Andreas Litras that weaves the stories of his family's migration to Australia through the legend of Odysseus, hero of the Trojan Wars. The performance uses a combination of storytelling, clown, song, dance, mime, bouffoon and physical theatre that will delight children and adults alike.

If your family has a migrant history, be it Greece, Ireland or India, *Odyssey* will echo in your mind with the familiarity of old stories around the dinner table. Directed by the renowned theatre teacher John Bolton, *Odyssey* is an irreverent, passionate and joyous celebration of what it means to find a home.

Odyssey plays at the Kyneton Town Hall on Saturday March 5th at 8pm.

We are offering a special ticket price to this show to encourage all members of the community to see this great Australian theatre work of great humour, familiar characters, and a story that we all connect to – the journey of finding a home.

All tickets are \$20, and can be booked by calling Andrea on the bookings line on 1300 88 88 02

ALSO APPEARING @ THE KYNETON TOWN HALL

FEB 11TH:

TAMWORTH ON TOUR - 4 Golden Guitar winners in concert together

FEB 26TH:

DAVE HUGHES LIVE - That's right... The funny man is comin' to town

MARCH 7TH:

CLASS CLOWNS REGIONAL HEAT - local youngsters doing comedy

MARCH 9TH:

DIDATES OF DENZANCE - the first Morning Music of the year

For advertising information please ring Christie Brown on 5429 5099 (BH)

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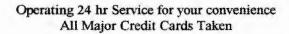
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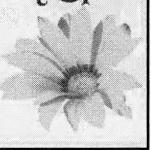
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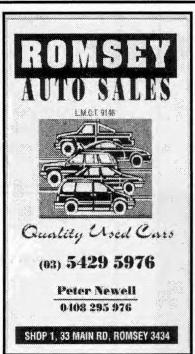


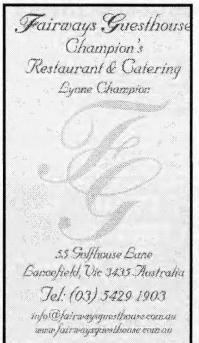
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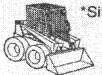
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11

The Romsey Rag

March 2005

Ragamuffins

Imagine you are stranded on a desert island. List 10 things you would want to have with you and why. Send your lists to Muffi by 17th March.

Easter Word Search

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EASTER	SUNDAY
EASTER BUNNY	THANKS
EGGS	TREAT
GOOD FRIDAY	
HOLIDAY	
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Yummy Chocolate by Haillie 4¾

I like Feddos, I like Caramello Koalas, I like Milky Bars and I like Milky Ways. Yummy chocolate.

Chocolate Dolphin by Jason

I'm a chocolate dolphin
I live in a chocolate sea
I blow minty Aero bubbles
And eat chocolate for my tea

Excerpt from <u>Uncle Ray's Chocolate</u> by Kim Crabtree, 11

"Sacha, can you try this new chocolate?" asks Uncle Ray.

"Okay," I say. "But Uncle Ray, you always want me to eat healthy food. Why do you want me to eat chocolate?"

"Well, you see Sacha, I'm trying to make this new chocolate that tastes the same, but you lose weight. Now try it."

I hesitate. I put it to my lips and take a huge bite. I spat it out almost instantly. It was horrible. I can't even begin to describe it

"Another failure," he says sadly. "Go on, get going." He walks out of the room.

I see something from the corner of my eye. It's blue. I walk over to it and pick it up. It looks like chocolate. I take a small bite. It's

delicious. I find some foil and wrap it up. "See you Uncle Ray," I call.

HOT CROSS BUNS

"Bye."

I walk outside and have another piece, it's just so delicious. Then I start thinking. "I wonder what would happen if I was a cat? I wish I was a cat."

I feel a bit strange. I look at my hands. They have black fur all over them. I start to feel smaller. I try to yell out but it comes out as a 'meow.' I'm a black cat!

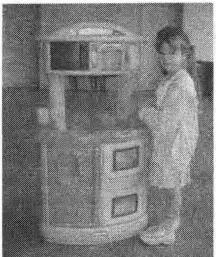
I wish I was human. Nothing happens. Where's the chocolate?! I spot it in the gutter. Water is coming at a great speed, kind of like a tsunami. I bolt after it. I grab it with my teeth and dump it on the sidewalk. I lick it furiously. I wish I was human. I feel taller. I look at my hands, they're normal. I better get home. I hope nobody saw.

The Lion by George 6

Deep in the jungle there lived a chocolate lion. He roared and roared. He had a big spiky chocolate mane. He chased me. I was scared. I ran really fast. I kept looking back. He was right behind me. Bang! I'm seeing stars. Lots and lots of chocolate stars. I'd run right into a tree. The lion was closer now. Then all the leaves fell off the tree on top of me. They were chocolate leaves. They hid me. The lion ran away.

Romsey Toy Library

How Imaginative are your children??



Pretend play – also called make believe play, symbolic play, dramatic play and role play – is one of the ways that young children come to understand the world around them. While true pretend play emerges between ages one and two, its foundation is established during early infancy. As infants become increasingly aware of the world around them, they begin to imitate what they see. They actively explore objects to find out what they can do. As they interact with significant people in their lives, they build the understandings they will need to engage in pretend play. Al-

though children engage in imitation and pretend play naturally, they will not develop high level dramatic play skills unless adults encourage this type of activity. You can begin building the foundation for dramatic play by setting up an environment that promotes exploration.

Providing a kitchen style props, such as this "Little Tikes" kitchen, tea set and

pots and pans, will encourage children's fine motor skills and eye hand coordination. Children will "mix", "pour", "wash", utilizing their hands and fingers. This will also encourage language skills and social and emotional skills.

This shopping trolley with some empty boxes is a fantastic way of encouraging role play.



Lawn mowing is part of most peoples lives and what

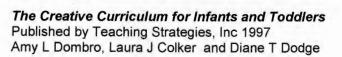
better way to encourage gross motor skills for the

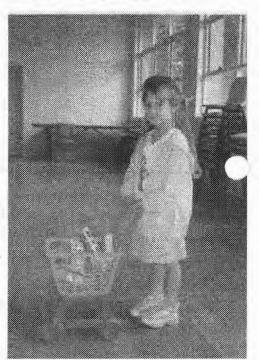
young toddlers starting to walk. This is also great for role play and encouraging the children to play outdoors in the fresh air.

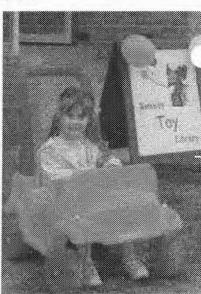
Large ride on cars may encourage children to imitate mum or dads driving habits (all good we hope). This activity with the help of an adults interaction can increase road safety awareness. "I hope you remembered to put your seatbelt on" or "Be careful of that dog, I don't think she looked to see if the car was coming", can assist with your child becoming aware of road safety.

These toys and a lot of other resources are available at the Romsey Toy Library. By becoming a member for only \$25.00 a year for rostered members or \$50.00 for non rostered members, you can borrow these toys and assist your child in learning through play.

The Romsey Toy Library is a non profit organization run by parent volunteers on a roster basis.







Kinder Korner News from the Romsey Kindergarten Inc.

Hi there and welcome to Kinder Korner! Groups underway

All kinder groups have finished their transition period and are operating full-time. This year there are three four-year-old groups and two three-year-old groups at the kinder. There is a staggered start to the kinder year, when the students attend only half the number of sessions a week and in smaller groups than normal, to aid their settling in. Attending kindergarten, especially for the first time, can be a bit overwhelming for children, hence the 'slow but steady' approach in the first weeks.

Annual General Meeting coming up

The date of the kindergarten's Annual General Meeting as previously mentioned in the Rag has changed due to the March public holiday. The AGM will be held on Monday, March 21, when all positions on the committee will be declared vacant and a new management group formed of kinder parents. Guest chairman of the AGM will be Romsey Primary School principal Barney Healy. It is hoped many kinder parents will come along and get involved in the running of their local kinder for the benefit of their children and future students.



Help needed

The kinder is in need of a double couch or sofa for Unit 2, for the Book

Corner area. This will enable parents to sit comfortably when reading to children, especially any pregnant kinder mums. If
anyone in the community has a couch in good condition which they would like to donate to us, please come to the kinder or
ring and ask to speak to teacher Liz Keily. Any assistance would be most appreciated.

Fundraising begins

Fundraising is underway for Term 1, when bulbs and chocolates will be on offer to parents. The kindergarten undertakes fundraising to help improve the kindergarten environment and buy outdoor and indoor equipment. This year we will continue with our popular Trivia Night, which was not only great fun last year but a huge success, raising almost \$2000. We hope the Romsey/Lancefield community will support us in this and other events by attending and/or helping out with donations for raffles etc. Any businesses or service groups who are able to help can contact me on 5429 6583. Any assistance would be most appreciated.

Enrolments open for 2006

The kinder is taking enrolments for the 2006 school year. Forms are available at the kindergarten. A \$5 booking fee and proof of your child's age will be required. Please note both of these requirements must be met before the enrolment is officially recorded. While you can enrol your child for 2006 any time up until September 30, it is advisable to register your interest as early as possible to avoid a possible waiting list. Three-year-olds at Romsey Kindergarten undertake two sessions a week of two hours each and four-year-olds come to the kinder for four sessions a week, each of three hours' duration. If you have a question about enrolments, contact the kinder on 5429 5294, or our enrolment officer, Karen Skehan, on 5429 6243.

Any questions?

Anyone who has any questions about the kinder or our activities is welcome to contact me on 5429 6583. The Romsey kinder is a non-profit organisation run by a volunteer committee. We keep the kinder operating and manage to pay all of our staff and running costs out of kinder fees, which is always a challenge!

Until next time.

LEANNE MANTON

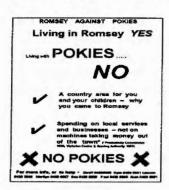
President

Romsey Kindergarten Committee of Management.

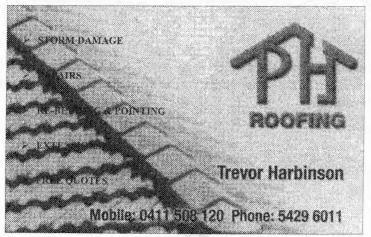
POKIES - Update

-106-x1-80X

- Gaming Commission received a submission from the Macedon Ranges Council about the pokies application. This explains why Council is opposed to the impact of pokies on Romsey. It is likely to be heard in May 2004.
- Letters were included from community groups on the effect of pokies on people they know in the community. Other groups can support the Council submission by writing to the Gaming Commission (PO Box 1988R Melbourne 3001) send a copy to V. Schilling Macedon Ra Council.
- Individuals may write to the Gaming Commission.
- The applicant for pokies (Romsey Hotel) has applied to VCAT to challenge the Council's refusal of a permit to extend the planning premises. This is likely to be heard around May also.
- **Posters**
- ring below if you want one



Romsey Against Pokies Geoff 5429 5523 Kym 5429 5901 Alan 5429 5351 Sue 5429 5285



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SATURDAY 5th MARCH



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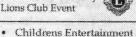
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From the Anglican Parish of Lancefield/Romsey

The days are drawing in and daylight saving will soon be over; and Easter is upon us! In the northern part of the world, Lent tells that the days are lengthening and that spring is coming on, while here we are approaching autumn and we miss a great deal of the excitement that Easter and spring bring, together with relief from the long days of cold, hard winters.

Bede, the Anglo Saxon historian tells us that Easter is a Christian ""conversion" of the pagan spring festival Eostre, into a celebration of resurrection focussing on the death and resurrection of Jesus. It replaces in many ways the celebration of fertility and new life, with the beauty of the birth of chickens from the egg and baby rabbits, these two especially indicating the "new life" which accompanies the arrival of the new growth of spring. It is no wonder that these two symbols of new life remain popular with children, those who manufacture chocolate replicas, and those who consume them! They **remain** powerful and attractive symbols of new life.

However, for Christians, Easter is *the* most important celebration in their Calendar. While Christmas has a direct appeal to families, children and the exchange of gifts, Easter is pre-eminently the basis of Christian faith. Without the death and resurrection of Jesus, Christianity has nothing to say which could not be said by *anyone* celebrating the beauty of this earthly life and our stunning planet.

Apart from the extra-long weekend which every one appreciates, recovering from the long, hot summer, (remember when we had one of those?), the return of Easter is a constant reminder to us of the sacrificial death of Jesus and the astonishment of his resurrection from the dead, totally unexpected by his closest disciples and friends.

Our lives are bound by cyclical celebrations of birth, growing, aging and death, and there is a growing fascination all around us with what death actually means. There is also a huge interest in the possibility of life after death, indicated by the mass of material being published about near death experiences and extra terrestrial near contacts and so on. I suppose very few of us are so completely without some questions about the meaning of life and death, that when someone near and dear to us passes away from this life that we do not question where they have gone and into what state they entered.

St Paul wrote to the Christians, in Corinth centuries ago, "If there is no resurrection from the dead, then Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain......if Christ has not been raised your faith is futile." (I Corinthians 15 from Verse 13). This then is what Christians proclaim at Easter, "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again". All churches welcome those who would like to discuss this, or who would like to join in Easter services. We especially welcome those who have not been for some time, but who make a special effort on Good Friday and Easter Day.

While we enjoy the wonderful holiday weekend we should pause to remember the reason we are having this break, and the basic belief for those who call themselves Christians in this majority "Christian" country.

Laurie McIntyre. Vicar.



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FROGS FOR JUNIOR LANDCARERS

ΩR

SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF WHAT TO DO WITH THE PLASTIC SANDPIT IN THE SHED

By Kerri Mewett DEEPCREEK LANDCARE GROUP

An easy and fun activity for the kids is to create a frog pond for the garden. All you do is build it and the frogs will find it and move in. This is an excellent way to do something with the plastic sandpit most of us have in the shed.

HOW TO

Find a quiet, sheltered position which doesn't receive full sun. Next to the fence is a good spot, and not directly under a tree because dropped leaves may clog up the water.

Dig out enough soil for the sandpit to fit in level with the ground. Position sandpit into hole. You may choose at this stage to place a pond liner into the sandpit. Make sure you use a NON-TOXIC one. Place some rocks around the edge to hide the plastic and to provide a hiding place for frogs. DO NOT STAND on these rocks or you may squash your frogs!

Place a branch into the pond which comes out over the edge to enable frogs to climb out. Do not use Conifer branches because they contain chemicals which won't agree with frogs.

Next, pot up some Indigenous water plants and place in pond. Fill up the pond with tank water, if not, use tap water and allow time for the chlorine to evaporate off before you will see any frogs.

Plant around the pond with Indigenous grasses, reeds and shrubs. Indigenous plants have naturally evolved to suit our weather and soils. Frogs like WILD areas. Leave some long grass along your fence line down the backyard. Frogs do not swim around in water all the time, they like hiding under things and in long grass.

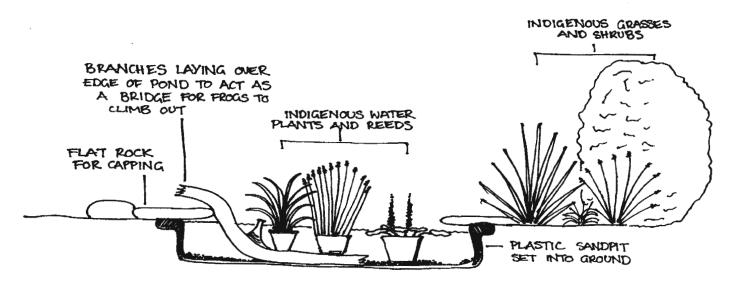
You will receive a great sense of satisfaction when you hear the wonderful singing of the frogs who have moved into the new habitat you have created for them and you can feel great about caring for your environment. Remember that frogs are sensitive to chemicals including weed killers, pesticides and fungicides. Try and cut down on using chemicals and ideally, not using them at all.

LIZARDS

An easy way to attract small lizards to your place is to leave a section of your lawn longer. Instead of mowing your whole block short, leave a section down the back longer. Cut the grass on the highest setting and mow it every 2nd or 3rd time you mow. The lizards move into this longer lawn, then KOOKABURRAS will come and sit in your yard to hunt the lizards to eat. This is an easy way to encourage some wildlife into your backyard. Go on, have a go!

Indigenous Plant Suppliers

Granite Ridge Indigenous Nursery
Western Plains Flora
V.I.N.C. Victorian Indigenous Nursery Co-op – Fairfield, supply water plants



FROM CR. HENRY BLEECK HUB FUTURE FOR LIBRARY - READ ALL ABOUT IT!

It's all systems go for the future of library services in Romsey – with a whole range of community facilities likely to part of it. I'm very excited at our latest plans for Romsey, with the first steps likely to be taken as early as this month (March).

The Shire has secured \$30,000 in Community Support Funding from the Bracks Government for a feasibility study into a larger library and a community hub in Romsey, and I believe the next stages of the project will give us a focal point in our community. The Shire is also putting in up to \$10,000 for the study. The CSF grant has jointly gone to the Romsey Community House, Bungawitta Playgroup, Romsey Primary School and Cobaw Community Health Service, as I would expect they would be key players in the development of the hub.

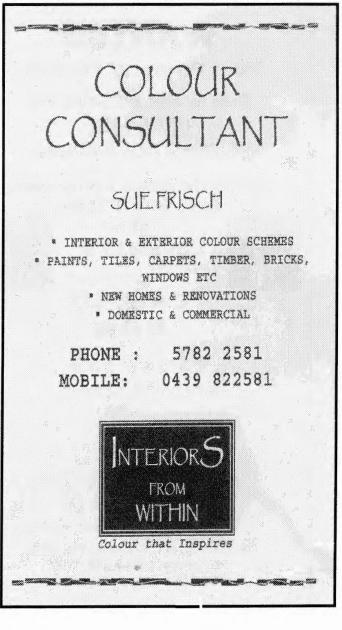
Our temporary library is opening in the Shire offices on March 15, and I hope that at the same time the hard work on planning the long-term future of a community hub has commenced. The Shire is seeking expressions of interest from the community for people keen to have a say in the feasibility process. While there is a long way between a feasibility study and the fruition of a project, these first steps are all-important.

My ideal for a community hub would include facilities such as a community house, youth group, community health and a playgroup. Such an integrated facility would need to be in a prime location convenient to the centre of Romsey. I believe that the Shire Offices is an ideal site, and should be considered. But that's one of the many things that will no doubt come out of the feasibility study.

But either way, it's exciting times for Romsey.

ir Henry Bleeck.
Mount William Ward.







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Tuesday 9.30 am—12.30 pm OR Thursday 9.30 am—12.30 pm

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For more details contact Karen on 5429 5391 or 0419 113 216

Romsey Lancefield Senior Citizens Club

Inc. A003543P

If you are 55 years of age or over (male or female) and would like to join a happy and riendly group of people—look no further than the seniors rooms situated at the rear of the Mechanics Hall in Main Street, Romsey.

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

Ring Rae Hooke (Sec) on 5429 1602.



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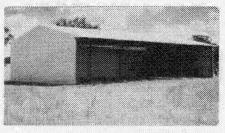
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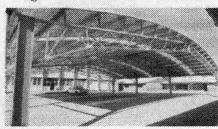
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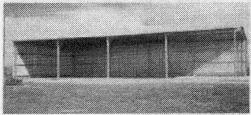
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Romsey Football Club Pre-Season Report

Hey ladies, have you noticed that the blokes in the Romsey pub are starting to look a bit more buff than usual? Have you recently tried to purchase a muscle top only to find stocks running low? Trying to find a connection between these strange occurrences? It's quite simple – Romsey's finest footballers are contestants on Dancing with the Stars! Not really, but they are into the full swing of pre-season training.

After the recent appointment of Kevin 'Fitzy' Fitzgerald as senior coach and the reintroduction of an Under 18 team, pre-season has never been more exciting with a new found enthusiasm that continues to grow from week to week. And with the season only a month away every bit of excitement is needed to be ready for another crack at September glory.

Making full use of the competitive spirit, the boys have been split into four teams that have become known as:

- The Beaters, captained by Luke 'Smooth' Carroll
- The Fockers, captained by Daryl 'Harry' Brinkhuis
- UV40, captained by Mark 'Bulldog' Strack, and
- [TBA], captained by the unimaginative Al 'Meldrum' Meldrum

The teams have been busy compiling points through any means possible, including battling it out in handball matches, racing through time trials, smashing it out on volleyball court and entertaining the boys by telling a few jokes (unfortunately too crude for this article – see Matt Carroll for further details).

It's an exciting time in Redback land for both players and supporters so why not show your support (and get a eye-full of some of the best bodies in town) by coming down to the Romsey Park on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6pm (BYO muscle tops).

The Beaters

Romsey Bowling Club News

With our season drawing to a close, our members have enjoyed another year of bowls. The ladies started off the season having won Division 2 Premiership last year. We moved into the more challenging Division 1. With only 9 ladies to play in a side of 12, we recruited several men who willingly gave of their time on Tuesdays. Thanks to all concerned we finished 4th on the ladder and will play Woodend at Wallan on Tuesday 22nd in the first semi-final.

The men are running a 4's tournament on Monday March 14th, and the ladies tournament is on Wednesday March 23rd. Doss Keating Secretary 5429 6277

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FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CONTACT RON JACKSON – 5429 6354

Romsey Golf Ladies Report

We are still playing golf on Wednesdays and look forward to welcoming anyone who would like to join us at any time. Our next syllabus will be out shortly.

The Relay For Life is almost here and this year we are making a few modifications to our banner, and watch out for our baton! There has been much talk about what we would like for our baton and it will be interesting what even tuates. We welcome any visitors to our site for a chat or whatever and are expecting to have another fun relay. Thanks to everyone who has sponsored us.

Recipe for this month:

Apricot Chews

90 g melted butter 1/2 cup sugar 2 teaspoons apricot jam 1 cup SR flour

Melt butter, sugar and jam together.

Fold in flour.

Place small teaspoons of mixture on greased tray and bake in moderate oven for 8—10 minutes or until cooked. Makes about 30 biscuits.

(PS. This recipe is correct—I haven't forgotten the egg).

Beryl Cole 5429 5411

