

Women's Meeting *Inspire* Your World ~ Today

Wednesday 14th June

10:00am

**Living Word Christian Church
7 Mitchell Court Romsey**

Guest Speaker: Ps Joan Davies

- *Dynamic and passionate speaker*
- *Wife of State President for AOG Victoria*
- *State Director of the Victorian Christian Women for 13 years*



Regular Sunday Service Times:

Romsey—10:00am
7 Mitchell Court Romsey
&

Woodend 10:00am –
(1st Sunday only)

6:00 p.m.—
(Remaining Sundays)

at the
Woodend Community Centre

**(No pm meeting
1st Sunday in month)**

**Midweek Meetings, Youth,
Children's Ministry etc.**

- ☞ Entry is free
- ☞ Morning Tea provided
- ☞ Freewill offering
- ☞ Child Minding
- ☞ Invite your friends

RSVP 9th June — Ph. 5429 6327



~ God desires that all women realise their destiny and potential in life ~



Issue No. 238

1850 copies produced each month at Romsey Primary School as a service to our community
and supported by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council

June 2006

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ROMSEY RAG HAS ITS OWN EMAIL ADDRESS

Just a reminder that the Romsey Rag now has its own email address:
romseyrag@romseyps.vic.edu.au

Please use this address when emailing the Romsey Rag. When submitting graphics, please use a Jpeg format, as we cannot guarantee that we can open or print other formats. Also, ensure that text is in a format that can be edited.

Editorially Speaking

Romsey Rag Editorial Committee:
Barney Healy, Robyn Moore

Layout and Design:
Robyn Moore, Anne Cappler

Printing:
Trish Gray

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

Collation Team Co-ordinator:
Joan Sparkes—5429 5848

Contributions:
Articles should be left at the Romsey Post Office (fax 5429 5134) or Romsey Primary School (fax 5429 5765) by 12 noon of the 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: romseyrag@romseyyps.vic.edu.au

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

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

Advertising:
Rates are GST inclusive.

Front page sponsorship: \$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:
1850 copies delivered to the Romsey community at the commencement of each month.



Macedon Ranges Shire Council - Generous supporters of the Romsey Rag

Romsey Rag Publication Deadlines 2006

Edition	Closing date for copy	Collating date
July 2006	Friday, June 23rd	Thursday, June 29th
August 2006	Friday, July 21st	Thursday, July 27th
September 2006	Friday, August 18th	Thursday, August 24th
October 2006	Friday, September 22nd	Thursday, September 28th
November 2006	Friday, October 20th	Thursday, October 26th
December 2006	Friday, November 17th	Thursday, November 23rd

FROM MLA JOANNE DUNCAN

Dear Friends

This is a very exciting time for our community with the rollout of natural gas taking shape. The maps indicating the initial reticulation area have now been released for each town.

While your property may not be included in this initial rollout it is important to keep in mind that this is the beginning of the reticulation process, not the end, and the expansion of this network will continue for several years to come.

Regardless of whether or not you are in this initial reticulation, it is critical that if you wish to be connected to gas you contact an energy retailer as soon as possible.

There are three energy retailers who are licensed to do this initial connection; AGL, Origin and TRU energy. No one can be connected without making contact with one of these retailers.

Prior to any connection each household will be required to obtain a 'Certificate of compliance' from a licensed plumber or gas fitter. They will inspect existing gas fixtures in your home or install any new appliances for you. After completing these works they will issue you with a certificate of compliance.

You will need to quote this certificate of compliance number to your gas retailer who will then contact the distributor to connect your home to gas.

Even if your street is not included in the initial reticulation you still have an opportunity to connect to natural gas. The best way to maximise your chances is to get together with all your neighbours in your street and approach a retailer together to show that there is demand in your area.

The extension of natural gas to towns in the Macedon Ranges has both huge environmental and economic benefits for the area. Natural gas is a much greener source of energy and cheaper than LPG gas and much cheaper than electricity. The average household spends around \$30 - \$35 per GJ for LPG gas. With natural gas you will be charged an estimated \$12-\$14 per GJ.

If you have any further queries regarding the connection of natural gas you can call S P AusNet hotline on 1300 360 795, or my office on (03) 5428 2138.

Kind Regards
Joanne Duncan MP
State Member for Macedon

LANCEFIELD GOLF CLUB

34 Heddle Road, Lancefield

Correspondence to PO Box 89 Lancefield Vic 3435

Clubhouse Phone: 5429 1922 **Secretary Phone:** 5429 2079

Email: info@lancefieldgolfclub.com.au; **Website:** www.lancefieldgolfclub.com.au

Saturday and Sunday Mixed Competition Results

22 April K.Ryan (14) 46; P.Howden (31) 42

6 May **Monthly Medal:** T.Lambert (4) 68;

S.Climas (14) 69

13 May Dalhousie Bowl: T.Hyland, G.McDorman,

B.McDorman, R.McHenry (112);

A gde: A.Nachtigal (8) 37;

B gde: C.Edge (14) 39;

C gde R.McHenry (19) 40

20 May C.Davenport (27) 68; B.McDorman (25) 68

21 May B McDorman (25) 63

Tuesday Mixed Competition Results (Legends)

18 April G.Dudderidge (7) 36

25 April T.Hyland (7) 67; G.Dudderidge (7) 71

2 May D.Jones (4) 37; W.Ray (30) 37

16 May A.Maloney (19) 37

The Pennant Season has finished well for the Club with a win to the 1st Division Team over Broadford in the finals. The winning team comprised Gary Dudderidge, David Brown, Brett Lockens, Trevor Lambert, Terry Hyland, Chris Lingard, and Darren Ryan. The win was even more remarkable since this team had only this year been promoted to this division. Two other teams, both in Handicap Divisions reached the finals and should be congratulated.

The Dalhousie Bowl was held on the 13th May at Lancefield Golf Club. Sixty four players in 17 teams played.

The results are recorded above.

Coming Events include the Lancefield Open on the weekend of the 27th, 28th May.

Many new initiatives have been undertaken over recent weeks. New pathways have been constructed and surfaced with durable Lancefield Toppings. Two committee members have donated many hours of their time to constructing two mounds in front of the 3rd tee and sewn them with tufted grasses. A new pathway to this tee has also been made. The Club's Committee continues to work hard for the benefit of the Club and it's members.

Enquiries or memberships and social group bookings to Secretary, Steve Draper (5429 2079) or access our website www.lancefieldgolfclub.com.au

Shop Theft, the Law and You!

Are you a local Trader?

Are you unsure of where you stand in relation to your rights, powers and responsibilities when dealing with shop-stealers?

Have you ever been concerned that you may be sued civilly for simply protecting your livelihood?

The Bendigo Police, Crime Prevention Office invites you to an information night to discuss these issues.

Topics

The law as it relates to theft

What are my rights to detain shoplifters?

Police procedures

The court process

How to ban known thieves from my store

Hints & tips to reduce shop theft

Working together to reduce crime

Crime prevention advice

If you are a business owner and have ever been unsure of where you stand in relation to the law then you should not miss this opportunity.

Date: 15th of June 2006

Time: 7.30 p.m.

Location: Youth Centre at rear of Mechanics Institute, Lancefield

Spaces are limited

RSVP to

Senior Constable Roger Barr

Lancefield Police Station

Ph: 5429 2000



VICTORIA POLICE

Wu Lin Retreat Lancefield

(seen on National 9 Getaway February 2006)

Proudly Present:-

A COMPLETE Health and Well Being Program for our local community.

JAMES and SHOU MEI SUMARAC from Wu Lin Martial & Healing Arts Centre have considerable knowledge of Traditional Chinese Oriental Martial & Healing Arts.

JAMES is a practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine, **7th DAN** Black Belt in Japanese Karate and Master Instructor of Internal Chinese Kung Fu - both of which he's studied for 36 years, living and studying with many of the greatest Masters in Japan, China & Taiwan.

SHOU MEI -born and grew up in a family of 13 children in the mountain regions of Taiwan and learnt the folk-lore healing methods from her mother. Such modalities as massage, spooning, herbs and the use of foods for medicine were normal duties. Shou Mei says; we were very poor and I learnt these simple survival skills applicable for everyday use that I wish to share with people today.

This month's Topic is : A weight loss program where you use healthy natural foods to lose weight carefully and improve vitality. We would like to invite anyone who is interested to enhance their lives with healthy eating habits based on principles of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Weight loss workshop date is: Sunday 18th June – time : 1-3pm includes a Chinese Tea Ceremony. Cost: \$40 per person. **GUEST TESTIMONIAL SPEAKERS**

Next Months Topic will be about: A STOP SMOKING PROGRAM:

Workshop date is: Sunday 30th July 1 – 3pm Cost: \$40 per person.

Weekly Self-Defence Programs– includes : **Karate** for Adults and Children **Tai Chi Classes (day & evening)** and **Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinic**, as well as **Skin indulgence Treatments including natural non surgical facelift**

first treatment complimentary (vouchers available)

For Information Contact **Shou Mei** on **54292122**



James and Shou practicing Qi Gong at a favorite location on Hanging

LABATA SETS ITS EYES ON THE FUTURE

Lancefield Business and Tourism Association met on the 9 May at the wonderful Lancemore Hill Conference Centre with thanks to General Manager, Kathy Preston. John Nightingale and Cr. Henry Bleeck spoke of the passing of Triz Barnett and her vast involvement in the Lancefield community for decades. LABATA acknowledged her tireless efforts for the Lancefield community.

The forum was then opened for "Ask your Local Councilor" and Cr Henry Bleeck answered some pressing questions. Firstly, the ineffective signage at the Visitor Information Outlet was discussed. Cr Bleeck informed the group of the community grants available and encouraged the group to try and obtain a grant for LABATA's inaugural "GIG" in September. He also discussed street lighting in town, the need for better signage at the new toilet block, expected population growths and the release of the public transport survey. We also discussed the fact that Lancefield does not have an industrial zone and the fact that Lancefield is losing businesses to Romsey and other rural towns that do have an industrial zone. LABATA asked Cr Bleeck to research and report back on this issue.

Our main agenda item for the night was strategic planning for LABATA. We identified that our members are retail traders, accommodation providers, wineries, service businesses and private individuals (or those who are unrepresented in other localities). LABATA worked on a **Mission** Statement and believes it is: To foster ways to identify, improve and support local (rural) businesses, tourism and our community through linkages, partnerships and networking. Our **Vision** is to: Provide a forum for business and tourism operators to have a greater voice regarding our community, share information and stage events for our members and our community.

The meeting went on to general business before winding up at 10pm with time then to relax and chat with friends and associates. LABATA's next Meeting will be held at the MAD Gallery on the 13 June at 7.30pm - all welcome – bring a plate or something to drink!

From Cr Henry Bleeck Dry argument over street trees

Our ongoing dry years have put the issue of our street and garden trees firmly in perspective, and we need to think longer term about how we can balance their needs with those of our communities. I have some concerns over plans by some people to divert a sizeable slug of our scarce local water supplies to a long-term ongoing program to water mature trees. At the same time I am pleased to be able to advise that Shire officers are now working on a tree strategy which will address some of my key concerns.

Over the past nine years the annual rainfall in the region has halved – from the long-term average of 900 mm per year down to just 450 mm. Our officers' survey has estimated that there are 15,000 street trees in the Shire – and they're mainly mature trees. A finite supply of water is a problem in our Shire – and the last thing we want to do is to go splashing it on trees without a firm long-term plan. When water restrictions are in force, watering gardens and trees are among the first areas to be cut back – so when trees most need water there is none available for them. As it is, some of our water is coming from Gippsland from the Thomson Dam system to help supplement our needs, so we can hardly afford to use it on trees.

The Shire needs both short and long-term plans to deal with our trees, and I'm pleased that our officers recognize this. The short-term plan must also include the removal of dead and dangerous trees. I have recently done some inspections with concerned residents who have pointed out some dangerous limbs and teetering trees, and have alerted Council officers as a matter of urgency. Our long-term plan must include a tree replacement program for trees and treescapes that have significant values to our towns, to ensure that the pleasant vistas they create remain an ongoing feature. Our replacement program will need to consider replacing stressed and senescent trees with drought-resistant varieties – both native and European, depending on our needs.

Sporting plan for Romsey

I'm pleased to be able to advise that Romsey's future sporting and recreation needs are being recognised by Council. Following discussions with people around the town, I am very conscious of the need for a second sports oval in Romsey, to cater for Little Athletics, junior football and cricket, and other users. This need has been recognised in the Council's draft Leisure Strategy Plan.

Exploration of the possibility of a joint-use facility with Romsey Primary School is currently underway, and I encourage this co-operation. A shared facility would ensure a quality oval for the school during the week, and by sporting groups outside school hours. Building of partnerships in the community will also mean the long-term sustainability of the sporting facilities in Romsey, and helps provide a recruiting link between school and sporting clubs.

Henry Bleeck.

Your Local Macedon Ranges Shire Councillor.

5422 7027



Here's cheers to five years.

Come and celebrate
Saturday 3 June 2006

It's hard to believe it was just five years ago that we all celebrated the opening of Lancefield Community Bank® Branch. A bank established by the community, for the community for many years to come. Come and join in the celebrations in the main

street at Lancefield from 10.30am, with a sausage sizzle, giveaways for the children, a birthday cake and much more.

For more information call into 20A Main Street, Lancefield or phone 5429 1977.

**Lancefield
Community Bank® Branch**

www.bendigobank.com.au Bendigo Bank Ltd, Fountain Court, Bendigo, VIC 3550, ABN 11 068 049 178, AFSL 237679 (bb21368-v4) (24/04/2006)

Bendigo Bank

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OR

Thursday 9.30 am—12.30 pm

Corner Main Street and Palmer Street Romsey

For more details contact
Karen on 5429 5391 or 0419 113 216
Anna on 54296171
Joanne on 5429 5368
Melanie on 5429 5250

98 Main Street
Corner Palmer Street
Romsey 3434.

Romsey Primary School News

In the past month we have had many very exciting events. A number of these occurred during our school's Education Week celebrations.



Family Science Night

Our school's Family Science Night was a huge hit with our school community. We were full to capacity in each of the areas with parents and students extending their understanding in the four areas of activity: magnetism, flight, colour and mini-beasts. In addition to having fun and learning together, parents gained a greater understanding of some of the work covered in our school science program, and also had the opportunity of working with some of our newer pieces of equipment such as the digital microscopes.



Tournament of the Minds

On the Friday of Education Week we had a large number of parents come along to school to see the Tournament of the Minds challenge. All students had been placed in groups to prepare and then perform scenarios to solve problems relating to a variety of subjects. The broad subject areas are Maths/Engineering, Social Sciences, Language and Humanities. Students need to follow the set guidelines, work cooperatively, and come up with creative and original solutions. Parents and teachers do not help other than to clarify the requirements of the problem. This year's Tournament of the Minds saw many outstanding performances with our students producing some very lateral, creative and entertaining solutions to the challenging tasks set.



CERES Excursion

Our Middle unit students recently visited the CERES Environmental Park in Brunswick as part of their current work on mini-beasts. They had a great day exploring the area and participating in many activities focusing on the care of the environment.

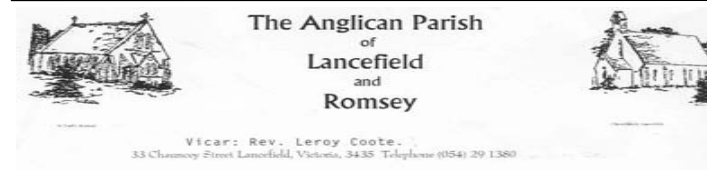


Healthy Breakfast

School started early for many teachers and students on the morning of our first Healthy Breakfast for the year. Lining up expectantly for a breakfast of cereal, juice, toast and fruit these students had a great start to the day. Our Healthy Breakfast events are growing from strength to strength with more students participating each time we hold this activity. The health message is reinforced through class programs and the development of a greater range of healthy choices in our school canteen.

School Readiness

Two of our prep teachers recently presented a talk to parents of current kindergarten children on readiness for school. The talk covered children's stages of development and strategies parents can undertake to assist in children getting the best start to preps in 2007. During the following week a number of parents took the opportunity to come to school and see our prep classes in action. Any parents who wish to come along to the school and have a tour of our wonderful learning environment and discuss the school's outstanding programs are welcome to do so. Barney Healy, Principal.



VIEW FROM THE VICARAGE

A Company of 100 people is supposed to be an organisation working towards the one goal. Each of those 100 people is an individual that has particular characteristics. The head of that company has to blend all those characteristics plus the skills each one has for the job into a cohesive workforce. The common thing each of these people is they work for the one company.

However, sometimes their focus can be distracted and their attention turns to the annoying personality traits or work habits of their colleagues. This leads to conflict within two people in the group. This leads to 98 focussed on the job at hand. But what ends up happening is that more people join in and point out the many bad habits that each of them have. Lunchtimes and the workplace degenerate into an enormous whingeing session. Morale in the company gets to an all time low.

Two weeks later the boss addresses all 100 people and says to them, "In recent weeks, our productivity is down 50 % but also our morale appears to be way down. The reasons are the increase in conflicts amongst each other about things of a personal nature and not work related. Please get your minds back on the job."

How does the company's employees get their focus back despite all the personality issues that are going on? The answer: to bear with one another in love. In the Bible, we are told bearing with one another is a valuable part. Not just in the workplace but in every aspect of our lives. Based on this situation, let us together look at how bearing with one another will help any company function better and us in terms of our relationship with each other and others around us. An expression of responding to God's call is bearing with one another. To bear means to put up with, tolerate or endure. Easy enough in words but actions are another matter. But as human beings, there are many things that annoy us. Personality clashes

can result because of this. There are people we are going to clash with.

Christians are called to focus on Christ. By modelling our lives on Jesus we are provided with a great model on how to bear with one another. That great tool is the model of Jesus. This tool, with the help of God's Holy Spirit, allows us to bear with those things that annoy us about other people. Why? Because Christ's love overcomes all those difficult personality traits that people have. Not just personality traits, but also physical features that prevent us from bearing other people. This can include the clothes they wear, the way they wear their clothes and facial features they may have. But despite the fact that we can't bear particular features about people in general, we are called by God to love them. Bearing with one another may lead to us changing the way we perceive people. A way that ends up being like the way Jesus perceived people, without blemish and each one the same.

The company at the start will function better if everybody focussed on the job at hand. Similarly, let us focus on bearing with one another in love. A love that is modelled on the way Jesus loved.

That the view from the vicarage as we head into winter.

Yours in Christ
Rev. Leroy Coote

Please feel free to check out our services anytime.

They are as follows:

9.00am – Celebration of our Lord at St. Paul's Romsey every Sunday
10:30am – Celebration of our Lord (with Sunday School) at Christ Church Lancefield every Sunday.

10.00am – Wednesday Celebration Service.

If ever in Romsey, please check out the best Op Shop in the Ranges opened Friday 12:30pm – 4:30pm and Saturday from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

FOR SALE

TARA Upright Spinning Wheel with extra bobbins etc \$175

Manual Treadmill (walking machine) \$35

Exercise bike \$35

Egg incubator. Holds approx 30 eggs. Includes expanded range thermometer. \$75

Phone 5429 6533 Evenings

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Working Lives

CULTURE IS 'HERE AND THERE'
(Kebudayaan ada 'di sini dan di sana')

Language, religion, clothing, food and music/dance - students of Indonesian LOTE (Languages Other Than English) are taught that these are the 5 elements of culture. This fascinated me when I was working in the island of Sumatra in 1980/81, and led to my changing from teaching Economics and Legal studies to becoming a teacher of Indonesian as a second language. Being able to partially understand an Asian culture is exciting – it is an entrance into the international world. And it is so necessary for modern students.

The values of community life needed in Indonesia are just as valid in our Romsey community. Responsibility, co-operation, participation and planning are critical there...and here? Each of us can tell 'our' story of how we learnt these values. My Indonesian experience was part of my schooling into how these things operate.

Teaching the Indonesian language to years 7-12 is my chosen profession. My 'real' job is teaching the younger generation about these right ways to express our fundamental values so critical to their future survival.

My wife, Jenni and I moved to Romsey over two years ago. Our 'tree change' from Mooroolbark has brought us excitement and rewards. Urban life and 'Romsey' life are different. It just seems easier to get to know people. It seems natural and normal to have a 'chat' without worrying too much about what time it is, or what needs to be done.

Joining Lancefield- Romsey Lions just seemed part of the larger Romsey 'thing'. Meeting Lion members meant meeting other aspects of our community ... hearing the town history, about other occupations, and people's hopes and plans. Deep Creek, The Mechanics Hall, new housing estates and lack of good rain became points of interest. We have now begun to appreciate these things in Romsey.

"Makin tua makin bijaksana, bukan?" (The older one becomes... the wiser?)

Allen T. Mae, B.Ec., Dip. Ed.



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**PLENTY OF OTHER ITEMS
SALE SAT. & SUN. JUNE 24TH & 25TH
9.00 am TIL 4.00 pm**

231 FORBES ROAD, LANCEFIELD

FOR SALE

Large Delongi Oil Heater with timer \$60
Large rabbit Or guinea pig hutch \$60
Small rabbit Or guinea pig hutch \$40
5429 6392

SCRAPBOOKING WORKSHOPS

MONDAY 5TH JUNE 7.30 - 9.30PM
CALL NATASHA ON 54295002 FOR DETAILS

Vale Pak Ron

At the year 6 graduation at Romsey Primary School each year, an Indonesian award is presented to an excellent of the Indonesian language. The award is named after Ron Viney. Sadly Ron died recently.

Ron initiated the school's Indonesian program, coming out of retirement to volunteer his services. He encouraged several of our teachers to undertake study to become qualified Indonesian teachers and our program has gone from strength to strength.

Ron's enduring love of Indonesian began with his war service in the navy where he was a signalman at Merauke. It was here he began to learn the language for communication with the locals. On his return to Australia, Ron began his teacher training and enjoyed a very successful career where he inspired his students through his dedication and his love of learning.

During his retirement, Ron came to live in Romsey. Some of his family followed him and we were fortunate to have two of his grandsons as students. Andrew Tobin has gone on to become a physio therapist and Matthew Tobin is completing his university studies. Cousins of the boys currently attend Romsey Primary.

There are many remarkable stories to be told of Ron's full and interesting life. As an eighty year old, Ron returned to study at the University of the New Age. It was there he was cajoled into teaching Indonesian once again. Ron held a strong belief that all school studies could be enhanced by learning another language. He had a vision of Australia as part of the global community long before it was a fashionable belief. As our closest neighbours, Ron saw huge advantages in Australian children learning Indonesian. The students of Romsey continue to benefit from Ron's legacy. Without his interest in children and his commitment to teaching, Romsey would not have had the impetus that has enabled us to benefit from the studies of a culture rich and literacy rich Language Other Than English.



macedon ranges leisure

Romsey Recreation Centre

**Contact the Romsey Recreation on PH: 5429
5637 to register your team or individual
entry today!**

Term Three Programs

All our competitions are starting in term three so get your enrolments in early so you don't miss out.

Junior Sport

Junior Basketball

Tuesday nights.
U13 mixed
U15 mixed
U17 mixed

Aussie Hoops

Tuesday nights
Under 10 coaching program
Parents, do you have Basketball experience? We are also looking for volunteers to help with the program!

Junior Soccer

Monday nights
U14 mixed
Parent coaches are also wanted

Goal Kick

Fridays nights
Junior coaching program
We are looking for volunteers to help with our soccer program too.

Senior Sport

Senior Mixed Netball

Thursday nights
Enter a team, 3 men on court maximum

Mixed Senior Badminton

Looking for interests in a senior badminton competition
Register your name now!

Senior Men's Soccer

Wednesday nights
Enter your team now

Mixed Senior Squash

Monday night
Wednesday nights
Individual entries

The Romsey Recreation Centre is also the venue for many association run and privately run sports and activities. These include Junior & Senior Ladies Netball, Volleyball, Pilates & Aerobics. We can also provide information on these programs.

A service provided by the Macedon Ranges Shire Council



Romsey Uniting Church

Pohlman Street, Romsey. 3434

Supply Minister Marion Latham Mobile: 0408 380 962

Marion is available for Pastoral Care on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

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



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

June is a very busy month for the Romsey Uniting Church - Please read and take note of the following dates.

June 4th - 9am. Pentecost Sunday - we will celebrate the birthday of the Christian Church with a special morning tea at 10.30am after the morning service.

June 14th - The UCAF luncheon will be held at 12noon - see advertisement on this page.
7.30pm Discussion re The Da Vinci Code
(see further information below)

June 21st - 7.30pm Discussion re The Da Vinci Code

June 25th - 10.30am Worship and celebration of 29 years since the Inauguration of the Uniting Church. This celebration will take the form of a special combined service at Romsey Uniting Church with a lunch to follow.

What about *The Da Vinci Code*?

The best selling novel *The Da Vinci Code* has been a publishing phenomenon. It has been on the New York Times best-seller list, most of the time as number one or two. Seven million copies are in print, and it is being translated in 40 languages. The film version has recently been released.

The general opinion of the book is that it's 'a good read' and a thriller that is hard to put down. It makes allegedly well-researched claims that Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married and had children, that Mary Magdalene rather than Peter was the head apostle, that Jesus was not considered divine until Emperor Constantine insisted on it for political expediency in 325 AD, and that the Church subsequently suppressed these truths and the alternative "gospels" that documented them, by terror and force.

Reactions to this have included such comments as: 'It shows that the Bible can't possibly be accurate and that the text was changed', 'It nearly made me lose my faith' and 'It made me think I don't have any real facts to back up my faith'.

If you have questions about the Church, the Christian faith and the truth of the Bible or opinions about Dan Brown's ideas as depicted in *The Da Vinci Code*, why not share them?

The Romsey Uniting Church invites you to two open discussion evenings about the book and the film at the Romsey Mechanics Hall on Wednesdays June 14th and 21st from 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Please ring Marion Latham - Mob. 0408 308 962

ROMSEY UNITING CHURCH UCAF

We would like to invite you to our
Annual Winter Luncheon

To be held in the Romsey Uniting Church Hall,
Pohlman Street, Romsey.

On Wednesday June 14th at 12.00 noon

**After lunch we will be joining in an afternoon of
Community Singing.**

Cost \$10.00

RSVP June 10th

Contacts - Hazel Allen 5429 5395 : Alice Long 5429 6567

Services at Romsey Uniting Church during June

4th. 9am. Worship and Sunday School.
Special Church Birthday morning tea.

11th 9am. Holy Communion and Sunday School
Service conducted by Marion Latham

18th 9am Worship and Sunday School.
Service conducted by the Worship Team

25th 10.30am. Uniting Church Anniversary Service
conducted by Marion Latham. Lunch to follow.

Probus Club Romsey – Lancefield

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

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

Contact

Geoff Long President) on 5429 6567 or Dorothy Hayes (Secretary) on 5429 1225



ROMSEY TOY LIBRARY

Hello Everyone

If you haven't been to the Romsey Toy Library of late – or ever! – then you'll be pleasantly surprised by our new range of educational toys.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Macedon Ranges Shire Council, the toy library has been able to establish and improve a multimedia range.

New items include the Leapster, a handheld interactive device developed by the company which made the hugely popular Leap Pads.



The Leapster is an electronic learning machine with a colour LCD screen and touch pen which is used as a control. The Leapster games are so much fun, children often don't even realize that they

are learning new skills or reinforcing existing ones while they are playing!

The toy library also has three Leap Pads – two senior and one junior – and a range of books to go with them. These are also great educational toys which are especially helpful with reading and comprehension skills.

Even if you have a Leap Pad already at home, there's great advantages to being in the toy library, as you can supplement you own Leap Pad books by borrowing ours. Forget about continually buying expensive new ones which the kids will get bored with after a while!

The only way for the Toy Library to prosper and grow is through annual subscriptions, so the committee has just revamped our fees to encourage more people to try the service.

For the first time, we have a concession rate for Health Care Card holders.

The new fees, effective from July 1, are \$25 per year per family (no restriction on number of children) and \$15 per year concession. There will also be a 6-month membership on offer for \$15.

The committee has planned an open day for the toy library in October, so keep an eye on the Rag for further details closer to the time.

The committee is in the process of applying to the Macedon Ranges Shire Council for a grant to help us further improve the toy library range, with a special focus on items which improve fine motor and gross motor skills, as well as pretend/imaginative play materials.

We are also awaiting news on when the toy library's expected move to the new Romsey Community Hub will occur; hopefully construction will begin soon.

For those of you who are not aware, the Toy Library is a non-profit organisation run by volunteers which operates from the St Mary's Church Hall on Saturday mornings from 10am until 11.30am.

The library offers a range of toys, games and educational materials suitable for babies, toddlers and school-aged children.

Often, people donate toys to the library. If you have some items which you think we might find useful, please give me a call or drop in one Saturday morning, it would be greatly appreciated!

Quality toys are expensive and children quickly become bored with a toy once its play value has been exhausted.

By providing new play materials every week or two by using the toy library, parents can save money and significantly contribute towards the development and education of their children. So why not give the Romsey Toy Library a go?

If you need any further information, please contact me on 5429 6936. If you would like to view our range of toys or talk to a volunteer member, just drop into the library any Saturday morning.

I look forward to seeing you at the library!

AMANDA BURLEY
President

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ROMSEY 5429 6842



Mel Leece-Roberts
0409 537 235

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Phone Jean on 5429 6522

DEEP CREEK LANDCARE GROUP

An Open Letter to All Romsey and Lancefield Residents

THE ENVIRONMENT WE ALL LIVE IN

Are you concerned about the effects of global warming but feel powerless to do anything about it?

Do you feel you want to do "something" but don't know where to start?

If you answered "YES" to the above questions the Deep Creek Landcare Group (covering the Romsey and Lancefield Districts) can help to resolve your concerns. Working in co-operation with our local council and state and federal departments and agencies, the Group undertakes worthwhile projects to improve the environment throughout the Lancefield and Romsey areas.

Over the past 20 years it has established an enviable record in the achievement of a wide range of projects of major benefit to our local environment.

It offers interested volunteers the opportunity for practical hands-on involvement in environmental work which really does matter and makes a difference, including:

- * Project identification and evaluation
 - * Project co-ordination
 - * Tree planting
 - * Weed clearing
 - * Many other activities to get your hands dirty
- In addition to the satisfaction of knowing you are doing something to improve conditions for today and future generations the Group offers:
- * A friendly, co-operative environment which encourages individual participation
 - * Latest information on environmental subjects
 - * The opportunity to purchase native plants at concessional rates.

The Group welcomes male and female volunteers from all age groups and backgrounds.

If you are interested and willing to invest the \$20 annual joining fee and a few hours of your time we would love to hear from you!

John Blamey	President	5429 2011
David Blicblau	Secretary	5429 5880

BINGO NIGHT !

Romsey Kindergarten Fundraiser

Following the popularity of its inaugural Bingo Night last October, the Romsey Kindergarten is holding another night next month.

Come along to the kinder's Bingo Night on Friday, June 2, and you could win great CASH PRIZES.

The Bingo Night will be held at the kinder in Main Street, Romsey, and doors will open at 6.30pm, with eyes down at 7pm.

There will be three sessions of bingo, all of 10 games and with cash prizes, and there will be a great cash jackpot prize at the end of each session.

Entry cost is \$5 and this includes a delicious supper. Bingo books cost just \$5 each.

This is an adults-only, alcohol-free event in a non-smoking venue. Only people over the age of 18 will be admitted (ID required).

Come along for a fun night and support your local kindergarten in its quest to raise much-needed funds.

Enquiries to Amanda Burley on 5429 6936.

Events for June

Kyneton Olive Oil '2006 Harvest – New Season Product Launch' Open Weekend

Saturday 10 to Monday 12 June

2090 Kyneton Heathcote Road Barfold Via Kyneton Victoria 3444 (phone for directions)

0419 191 192

www.kynetonoliveoil.com.au

Sample new season products including our brand new tapenade. Extra virgin olive oils, table olives & tapenade grown and processed in central Victoria. Cooking demonstrations by Jake Ward hourly 11 am – 3 pm daily. Children's activities & wine tastings (local wineries). Coffee, tea & cakes are available in the cafe.

Woodend Winter Arts Festival

Friday 9 to Monday 12 June

03 5427 1560

www.woodendwinterartsfestival.org.au

A stellar cast of Australia's best literary, music and visual artists appearing at various venues around the cosy hamlet of Woodend, just under an hour from Melbourne.

Readings from renowned novelists Alex Miller and Terry Denton and a 'Getting Published' panel featuring publisher Nick Hudson. Music features the winners of 2005 Cremona International String Quartet Competition, the Tank Stream Quartet. After each days entertainment, the Bentinck Hotel and Restaurant feature the films of Paul Cox, Australia's most internationally renowned filmmaker. A gem of the Macedon Ranges events season, don't miss it!

For events, markets and more information about the Macedon Ranges visit www.macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au

Visitors can contact our Visitor Information Centre on 1800 244 711 or visit www.macedonranges.org.au for accommodation information.

To book accommodation visit www.triplehillabs.com.au

Best regards,

David Richardson

Tourism and Events Officer

Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Ph: + 61 3 5422 0326

Fax: + 61 3 5422 3623

Email: davidr@macedon-ranges.vic.gov.au



Guides Need You!

We are still looking for new girls to join the exciting world of Guides. This consists of camping indoors and outdoors, cooking, games and learning and different skills, and a whole lot of fun. This term the two Wombat Guides have been busy learning how to camp by themselves and went in a competition called the Stradbroke Cup with two other girls from Platypus. The Platypus Guides have been learning camping skills and have been finishing their tents badge. Beth, Michelle, Gemma and Madi went to Stradbroke and this is what the girls thought of the experience: Gemma: "On the 28th, 29th and 30th of April the guides of Romsey / Lancefield District went to Britannia Park. It was cold and wet but Beth our patrol leader, Michelle, Madi and myself set up our tents and went to bed. The next morning we continued setting up camp."

Madi: "I made a beanie and I enjoyed that. I enjoyed the food. The food was great and yum."

Michele: "It was cold and damp but we all managed to stay warm and dry. Beth, Madi, Gemma and myself got to make a beanie. It was great fun to go. We met new friends at the camp. It was a great experience to go and camp."

Beth: "Saturday morning came and at 7 am Beth, Michelle, Gemma and Madi got up and had breakfast. We set up our kitchen shelter, notice board and flag pole and towel rack. On Sunday we packed up and got our ribbon and went home. By the way, we got gold in our section."

Would you like to join?

We meet Monday evenings at Lancefield Park.

Platypus Guide leader is Rita Vandervalk—Phone 5429 1996.



RIPPER READS

Greetings & salutations to all,
With winter upon us it's time to cuddle up with a good book, a glass of red, a roaring fire and wonder what the peasants are doing.
Enjoy!

Drip Dry – Ilsa Evans

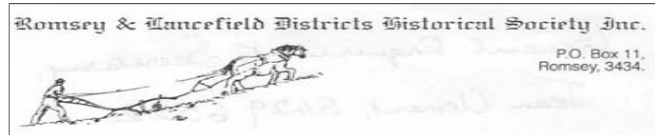
A great little domestic read that most women with children could definitely relate to. Set in suburban Ferntree Gully and told in diary form, a week in the life of Camilla Riley is anything but pedestrian. Encompassing her youngest child's sixth birthday, her mother's fourth wedding, the birth of her sister's twin daughters and the return of her first husband from overseas to become her new next door neighbour – it could be termed the week from hell. A good, funny escapist read.

The Book of Success – Ben Collins

Prominent and not-so prominent Australians describe how they achieved their successes in this book. It could be a source of inspiration for some or a curiosity fix for others. From John Bertrand to Wolf Blass to Mem Fox and Dr Hugh Wirth many different fields are covered. I found the chapters about Tim McCartney-Snape and Michael Milton most interesting. Michael is Australia's most successful winter athlete having won 10 paralympic medals and 11 world championships as a one-legged skier. I particularly liked his comments after he and his visually impaired mate, Bart Bunting, had both won gold at the 2002 Winter Olympics. When interviewed by reporters after the golden day and asked how they were going to celebrate, Michael replied that he was going to get blind and Bart that he was going to get legless. Disabilities? What disabilities!!

The Whole Business with Kiffo & the Pitbull – Barry Jonsberg

A fantastic debut novel from an author with a great sense of humour and a riveting style of prose. Kiffo and Calma have been friends ever since primary school, even though she is talented, sarcastic and quick witted and he is as thick as two short planks. As part of a class that has disposed of two English teachers in quick succession the story revolves around their relationship with the new teacher, Miss Payne, aka the Pitbull and past happenings in Kiffo's life that impact on the present. The pace is fast and the 'fridge notes' most entertaining. Kiffo's obsession and Calma's deductions make for an unexpected and powerful ending



"Families didn't travel much—or did they?"

This will be the topic by our newly-elected Research Officer, Wendy McDonald, at our Tuesday 27th June Meeting. Wendy, now resident in Romsey, has had wide experience in researching family histories for other people, so we look forward to her talk. Visitors are welcome.

Venue : Historic Seymour cottage, Palmer Street, Romsey.

Date & Time: Tuesday, 27th June, 7.30pm
Put it in your calendar!

Future date: Tuesday, 22 August
Lunch at noon

We usually have a daytime meeting in winter, so this year there will be a lunch at the Anglican Hall, Lancefield, on Tuesday, 22 August from 12noon, followed by a walk to the ex-Court House building, to view our Museum and Archives. Those feeling energetic may also like a guided tour of some of the historic buildings in Lancefield.

(Note: there will **NOT** be an evening meeting in August.)

Enquires re the Historical Society:
Jean on 5429 6522

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MEETS AT THE ROMSEY MASONIC CENTRE,
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1ST THURSDAY EVERY MONTH.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
RON JACKSON – 5429 6354



HOUSE NEWS

Romsey Community House Inc.
P.O.Box 418
Romsey
Vic 3434

Romsey Writer's Group

Last year, and again this year, the Community House has conducted a Writer's Group under the expert guidance of local writer Dee White. Members of the group have been writers of different levels of ability and experience, all keen to further explore and develop their writing skills. Topics covered include where to find ideas and how to develop them, and using dialogue in fiction writing. Each course runs for five sessions, and each session lasts for one and a half hours. The sessions are lots of fun and very productive, with several members submitting work to various competitions. There have also been several short stories written, in the editing stage at the moment, that may be published in future editions of the Romsey Rag. Members have come to the group with different personal goals for their own writing, and these individual needs have been well accommodated by Dee in her tuition. The group will reconvene after winter—probably at the beginning of fourth term, so keep watching the Romsey Rag for details. We are always looking for new members of the Writer's Group, so if you would like further information contact Robyn Moore on 0412 275 152.

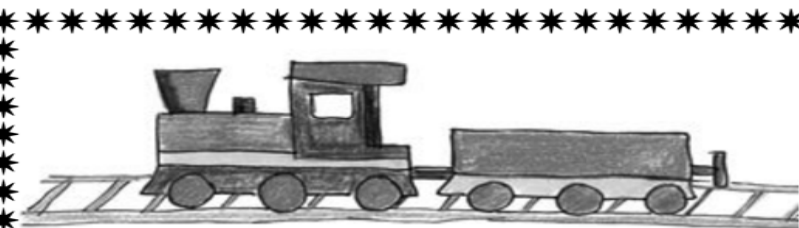
For third term we are offering the following programmes:

- * **Yoga on Wednesday nights at 7.30pm at Romsey Primary School—contact Kim Oliver on 5429 2134**
- * **Aerobics—4 sessions per week on Mondays and Wednesdays at the Rec Centre**
- * **Drop-In Craft Mornings every Thursday at 10.30am at CFA Headquarters**

Returning in fourth term will be Relaxation and Meditation with Karen Ruggieri and Writer's Group with Dee White.

For information about any of these programmes please contact Robyn Moore on 5429 5099 (BH) or 0412 275 152 (AH).

If you have any suggestions for activities or programmes please contact the above numbers or write to us at P.O. Box 418, Romsey.



Romsey Toy Library Inc.

Open Saturday mornings, 10am-11.30am
St Mary's Hall, Main Street, Romsey
(behind St Mary's Catholic Church)



Come see us for:

LEAP PADS CD-ROM PC GAMES
BIKES PUZZLES
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CRICKET SETS TONKA TRUCKS
RIDE-ONS SCOOTERS
DOLLS HOUSE & MUCH MORE



Wide range of toys available for borrowing
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Family memberships From \$25 per year
Save money - don't buy toys, borrow them!
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Drop in and see us or phone
Amanda Burley on 5429 6936



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Places available on
Tues, Wed 4.30 Fri. 4.00

ADULT'S DRAWING CLASS
Tues 7.30pm

Tourism and Small Business Seminar Wows Industry

The launch of Tourism Macedon Ranges Incorporated and an innovative marketing strategy aimed at increasing visitors within the Macedon Ranges were highlights of the Tourism and Small Business seminar held on Thursday 4 May.

Over 50 delegates from the region and surrounds heard from industry representatives and media experts on growing their tourism business and on the profile of today's consumer. Morning and afternoon speakers were involved in panel Q&A sessions, as local tourism operators discussed issues affecting the industry and techniques for promotion and marketing.

Chairman John Ellis launched the first project of Tourism Macedon Ranges -a marketing project, based on a passport book of tourism attractions for local residents. "The seminar has been a great success for Tourism Macedon Ranges, the newly formed industry body set up in support and promotion of the Macedon Ranges tourism industry," he said.

Mayor Geoff Neil reiterated the economic value of tourism to the area and stated unequivocally that Macedon Ranges Shire Council will support Tourism Macedon Ranges Inc.

"With good partners, you will have success. The shire has a good partnership with Tourism Macedon Ranges and I applaud their hard work in establishing our region as a key destination for visitors. I credit our tourism operators for their attendance and I am very hopeful that this innovation will be the big step forward. By supporting the industry there will be a lot of winners and we will all share in that success".

Kylie Lethbridge, Tourism Development team leader reported overwhelming positive feedback from all those who attended.

"It is a great reflection of our industry that so many operators have taken time from their busy day to attend this seminar. Feedback suggests that the discussion on the topics of product development and marketing has helped educate and energise us all", she said.

The seminar, hosted by Athol Guy, was closed by the Honourable Fran Bailey, Federal Minister for Tourism and Small Business.

Media Enquiries:

David Richardson, Tourism and Events Officer,
PH 5422 0326

Martial and Healing Arts Centre

WU LIN RETREAT proudly presents:

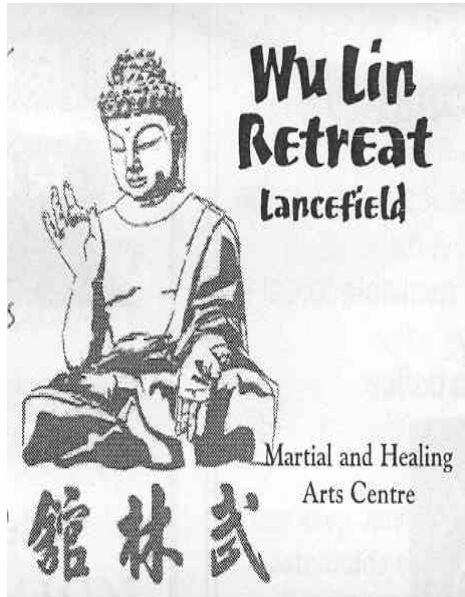
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Program 2: Weight Management Program (based on a natural food regime). Special introductory offer only \$60. Receive consultation, body massage and one Tai Chi lesson.

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Program 4: Ancient Tibetan singing bowl therapy (heal your soul by experiencing deep relaxation and stress relief). Special introductory offer only \$60. Receive consultation and Tai Chi lesson.



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'We stand by our Erections'

House Teams at Hesket Primary School

At the start of the year all the Gr 2/3/4/5/6 children are put into House Teams, there are always four teams. Then the children in each team meet together to choose;

- Captains and Vice-captains
- Team name and colour
- Sports to play in 1st term. (We choose sports at the beginning of each term.)

This year the team names are; The Ferraris, The Lightning Bolts, The Deadly Demons and The Terrorising Tanks.

On Friday afternoons we play House Sports. Our summer sports were cricket and softball so two teams would play softball and the other two would play cricket. The captains make a draw so that everyone plays everyone else once in each sport, they write the draw up on the blackboard beside the drinking taps so everyone know who is playing. We always leave a spare week; we nearly always lose one Friday because of bad weather or an excursion. In cricket there are special rules so that the Gr 5/6 children don't take over too much. You have to retire when you have made 20 runs and if you bat then you are not allowed to bowl until all the kids who didn't bat have had a bowl. In softball we have to always bat in the same order.

The Grand Finals were great. The Ferraris made it into both. They played the Lightning Bolts in the cricket final and the Demolishing Demons in the softball final. In the cricket grand final the Ferraries won but only by a "cat's whisker". In the softball grand final the Demolishing Demons Won making the Demons the Best softball team of 2006 and the Ferraries the best cricket team of 2006. We are now starting the Football and Netball competitions.

Rauri & Alan



T.O.W.N.

Taking Off Weight Naturally

Meets every Tuesday
evening at

St. Mary's Church Hall,
Main Street, Romsey from
6.30—7.30 pm.

Lose those extra kilos in a
friendly, supportive atmosphere.

New members are always
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For further information
contact Debbie 5429 5456

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To all group members, Landcarers, and staff working on environment-related issues in the Maribyrnong and Werribee catchments and beyond.

Please have a look at the information below on some current grant opportunities.

Summary

1. Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants Program 2006 - closes 18 May, 3 August, & 19 October 2006

2. Australia Post/Landcare Community Development Grants Program - closes 31 May & 29 September 2006

3. Threatened Species Network (TSN) Community Grants (Round 9) - closes 2 June 2006

4. BushBroker - Trading Native Vegetation Credits - ongoing

5. PPWCMA Calendar of Grants and Incentives

1. Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants Program

Who can apply: any school or youth organisation that would like to involve their students in Landcare project
Amount: grants of up to \$500 (including GST) are available
Closing date for applications: remaining three Rounds of grants for 2006 will close on 18 May, 3 August, and 19 October 2006.

Purpose: the program helps young people participate in local landcare projects, on their school grounds, and/or within their local community and environment.

What can the funding support: the grants may fund on-ground rehabilitation or restoration works. For example, projects may meet a direct environmental need (eg erosion, water quality, or weed issue), or involve the purchase of indigenous plants. In addition, the program may also fund conservation of natural resources, environmental monitoring programs, waste minimisation, using school grounds as learning centres, or undertaking an environmental field trip.

Mitre 10 Junior Landcare Grants Program also encompasses the following grants:

BI-LO Junior Landcare Land Grants:

Schools and youth organisations are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$500 for land-based environmental projects. Remaining three rounds of these grants (same as Mitre 10) for 2006 close on 18 May, 3 August, 19 October 2006.

Australia Post Junior Landcare Biodiversity Grants:

Schools and youth organisations are eligible to apply for grants of up to \$500 (plus GST) for biodiversity projects. Remaining three rounds of these grants (same as Mitre 10) for 2006 close on 18 May, 3 August, and 19 October 2006.

More information & guidelines: for more details, guidelines and application forms for each of these grants go to the following website link: http://www.landcareonline.com/funding_opportunity_details.asp?fo_id=6 or contact Rebecca Millard (Landcare Australia), tel: 9662 9977, or email: rebecca@landcareaustralia.com.au

2. Australia Post/Landcare Community Development Grants Program

Who can apply: any community group undertaking strategic

projects to care for the environment, including Landcare groups, youth groups and indigenous groups. If your group is not incorporated you will need to form a partnership with an organisation that will accept responsibility for administering the financial aspects of your grant.

Amount: grants of up to \$3,300 (inc. GST) are available for local community projects

Closing dates for 2006 Grants: Round One - 31 May 2006; Round Two - 29 September 2006

Purpose: to enhance the capacity of community groups to undertake Landcare and other environmental projects
What can the funding support: environmental projects such as those that meet a direct environmental need (eg erosion, water quality, or weed issue), field days, tools and equipment, promotion to encourage volunteer involvement, propagation and care of indigenous plants etc.

More information, guidelines and application form: please contact Landcare Australia on tel: 1800 151 105, or go to the following website link to download a copy: http://www.landcareonline.com/funding_opportunity_details.asp?fo_id=9

3. Threatened Species Network (TSN) Community Grants - Round 9

Who can apply: incorporated community-based organisations (unincorporated groups need State or Local Govt sponsorship). Local Govt can develop projects with eligible candidates.

Applications close: Friday 2 June 2006

Purpose: the Threatened Species Network (TSN) Community Grants program has been established to support and inspire community work to conduct on-ground work, specifically targeting the needs of nationally threatened species and ecological communities.

Project work may include:

1. Enhancing, restoring or establishing key habitat
2. Mitigating threats where long-term maintenance is likely
3. Establishing population monitoring programs
4. Managing visitor access
5. Sign posting and more.....

More information: potential applicants should visit the website via the following link: <http://www.wwf.org.au/ourwork/species/tsngrants/> where information about how to apply for funding and copies of the guidelines and application form are available. Electronic versions of the application form are available as a Word doc.

4. BushBroker - Trading Native Vegetation Credits

What is BushBroker: BushBroker is a system to register and trade native vegetation credits. A native vegetation credit is a gain in the quality and/or quantity of native vegetation that is subject to a secure and on-going agreement. Native vegetation credits are listed on the BushBroker register and these can be bought by another party and used as an offset for the approved clearing of native vegetation.

What is an offset: in most cases the clearing of native vegetation that requires planning approval must be offset by a gain elsewhere. Offsets are permanently protected and linked to a particular clearing site. Offsets can often, but not always, be generated on the permit applicant's own proper-

ty.

BushBroker provides a system where offsets can be located on a different property to where the native vegetation is being cleared through the purchase of native vegetation credits.

Who benefits from BushBroker: the trading of native vegetation credits provides benefits for landholders, developers and other land managers, the economy and environment. Landholders are offered an opportunity to improve biodiversity on their property as well as a potentially new income stream. For the environment, BushBroker will lead to more sustainable offset arrangements with larger, more intact, areas of native vegetation and better biodiversity outcomes.

Opportunities for landholders: landholders are invited to register their interest and submit their own price for maintaining native vegetation. BushBroker provides landholders with the potential to generate a new income stream and improve biodiversity by establishing native vegetation credits. Native vegetation is increasing in value to landholders and this program aims to connect those needing environmental offsets with landholders with appropriate vegetation, often for land that is not suited for agriculture. Landholders are invited to submit an Expression of Interest to establish native vegetation credits on their property.

Establishing a native vegetation credit is as simple as achieving a gain in the quality or extent of native vegetation by:

1. improving the management of an existing patch of native grassland, bush or scattered trees (eg through weed or rabbit control)
2. revegetation of cleared land using locally indigenous species
3. protecting old native trees
4. gains for credits need to be subject to a secure and on-going agreement that is registered on title.

When do Expressions of Interest need to be lodged: as the BushBroker program is on-going, Expressions of Interest can be lodged at any time.

More information and Expressions of Interest forms: for copies of the brochure on the BushBroker program, Ex-

“ATTENTION CITY COMMUTERS”

The Lancefield Romsey Commuter Bus offers a Mon-Fri return service direct to the CBD at the cheapest rate available in the shire. Currently **\$40.00 per week** for permanent travelers.
Departs Lancefield General Store 6.35am, 3 pick up points in Romsey, arrives CBD 7.40am
Departs Cnr William & Latrobe Sts 5.20pm, arrives back in Romsey & Lancefield 6.30pm
Seats currently available.
For more details ring Muir on 0354 255505

pressions of Interest application, and detailed information, please contact DSE on tel: 136 186, email: the.bushbroker@dse.vic.gov.au or go to the following website link: <http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/DSE/dsencor.nsf/LinkView/90D1EEF7733B9CD7CA256FA4001617CE3709DD5E6B8342E24A256DE900839EDD>

Explanation of the Program:

Max Coster - Project Officer, Vision for Werribee Plains (DSE), is available to explain the BushBroker program and its benefits to members of Landcare Groups across the Werribee (basalt) Plains during May and June. Please contact Max (details below) if your Landcare Group in the Werribee (basalt) Plains area of both Werribee and Maribyrnong catchments would like him to come and explain the BushBroker program to your Group. Max Coster - Project Officer, Vision for Werribee Plains (DSE) tel: 9742 8771, mob: 0409 435 166, or email: max.coster@dse.vic.gov.au

5. PPWCMA's Calendar of Grants and Incentives

For more information on the current range of grants and incentives, please see the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority's Calendar of Grants and Incentives. Go to the following website link to download a copy: http://www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au/funding_calendar.htm or contact me for a hard copy version of the grants calendar.

regards

John Robinson

Werribee and Maribyrnong Landcare Co-ordinator
Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority
<http://www.ppwcm.vic.gov.au>

Postal address:

PO Box 140, Romsey, VIC 3434

Tel: 03 5429 9629

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Mobile: 0417 518 913

Email: John.Robinson@dpi.vic.gov.au

Macedon Ranges - Calendar of Landcare Events (April 2006) **Coming Events**

2006 International Landcare Conference - Melbourne

When: 8-11 October 2006

Where: Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre

Conference details: The 2006 International Landcare Conference is entitled 'Landscapes, Lifestyles & Livelihoods'.

Further information on the conference and the conference program can be accessed via the conference website, or by contacting the conference organisers: Waldron Smith Management, 61 Danks Street West, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Tel: 9645 6311,

Email: info@wsm.com.au

Conference website: Visit the International Landcare Conference website via the following link: www.internationallandcareconference2006.com.au

BOLINDA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Many of our regular readers will know about our school's involvement with the game of Chess. All children at Bolinda [Preps to Gd 6.] are familiar with the game and children from Grade 2345 and 6 have recently been competing against each other to make the Chess Team for this year. The team will go to Bendigo shortly for the Regional tournament where we will play seven teams from Bendigo schools. Last year's team had a fantastic result in finishing eighth in the Victorian State Championships and our new team will be trying their best to do the same.

We certainly have been, and continue to be, very busy at Bolinda.

We went to Darraweit for a terrific visit from The Shell Questacon Science people from Canberra who had such an array of experiments that every child from Bolinda, Clarkefield and Darraweit were enthralled with how much science is all around us in everyday life.

We have had a Grade 6 Orientation visit to Gisborne Secondary College and the Melbourne University science people who have been visiting Bolinda on an annual basis for twelve years will be working with our children once again before the end of term. Grade P12 children have been to Sunbury to visit places such as the police station, post office, shops and library as part of their studies about Our Community. Grade 6 children are preparing for their Alliance Francaise French speaking competition and the Grade 5-6 children have organised and run a Talent Quest to raise money for little Sophie who was the victim of the terrible road accident in Sydney.

Sunday 10th September - BOLINDA 15TH ANNUAL SPRING FAIR.

Put it in your diaries now !!! You all should know it is not to be missed !!

Many parents are presently considering their educational options for 2007. Perhaps a **Bolinda Educational Experience** is what you are looking for? We would welcome anyone who wants a 'cuppa' and a chat about what we can offer you and your children, or better still, talk to any of our parents.

Well, that's some of the Bolinda news for this month – cheerio for now.

Keith Jenkins - Principal - 5428 5317

BUSINESS PROFILE – LANCEFIELD FRUITSHED

Lancefield Fruitshed opened its beautiful blue doors approximately 3 months ago at 42 High St, Lancefield. Owners Joe and Kitty Schembri have been living in Lancefield for two years having previously lived in Chintin (just outside of Romsey) for six years.

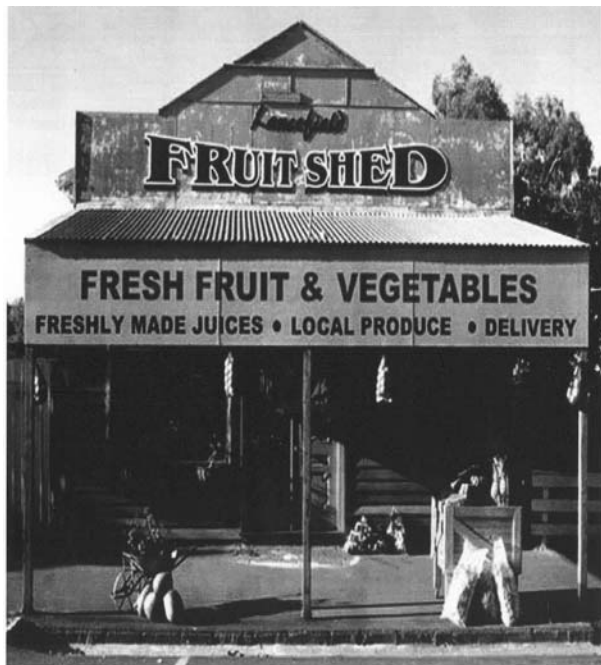
The fruit shed is a family concern with Joe and Kitty's four young children helping out at the shop from time to time, with the youngest often carried on Kitty's back in a rucksack as she goes about setting up the shop with the new day's fresh produce. The three older children attend St. Mary's school in Lancefield.

The family decided to open a 'fruit and veg' shop in Lancefield as it was so hard to buy fresh produce locally and there was always the need to drive out of town to a Sunbury, Woodend, or Kilmore and beyond to buy good quality fresh produce. Most of the Fruitshed's produce comes from the Footscray wholesale market where Joe goes 3 to 5 times a week - depending on demand to keep the produce always fresh.

The business predominantly consists of quality fresh fruit and vegetables and freshly squeezed fruit juice made from any selection of produce before the customers' eyes - no preservatives or additives **just juice!** – as nature intended. Other stock includes fresh eggs (both free-range and caged), honey, fresh herbs and nuts. Joe and Kitty are looking at expanding their range further with produce and products not readily available locally such as dried fruits, cous cous, olives and extra virgin olive oil to mention just a few.

The Lancefield Fruitshed is now embarking on a home delivery service to aid the sick and older members of the community as well as the 'time poor' people who may not be able to get into the shop during trading hours. Our operating hours are Mon to Fri 9am - 5.30pm and Sat 9am - 1pm.

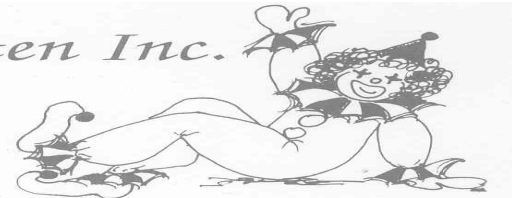
The Lancefield Fruit Shed and all Romsey and Lancefield businesses need the support of the wider community to be able to continue to provide and expand their services, now and into the future, so next time you are out of your local area doing your shopping have a think "Can I buy it in Romsey or Lancefield?" If the answer is 'yes', STOP and consider; Shop Local and help your local towns.



Romsey Kindergarten Inc.

ABN 19 577 045 720

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



“KINDER CORNER” - ROMSEY KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Like all successful institutions, Romsey Kindergarten operates as a team. The lynch pins of this successful team are the “front-women” who are the public face of the kinder and are entrusted with the pre-school education of the children who attend. They are, of course, the teachers – Ms. Jane Whelan (Unit 1) and Ms. Liz Keily (Unit 2)- and their assistants, Ms. Chris Farrell (Unit 1), Ms. Catherine Tighe (Unit 1) and Ms. Kay Futchter (Unit 2). Kindergarten is more than play dough and toys- it is about learning through play and preparation for the school years ahead. These people work very hard to ensure the first educational experience of Romsey children is a rewarding one. The Kindergarten Committee of Management is proud of this team.



Exciting Performance

On Wednesday 26th April, the Bong Bong Hat Band visited the kindergarten and performed to the 4 year old classes. The children were entranced by the amazing skills of this one-man-band, and equally enjoyed the “audience participation”. The Bong Bong Hat Band has been an annual fixture on the Romsey Kindergarten performance fixture for some years, making a significant contribution to the children's musical awareness.

School Readiness Talk

On the evening of Wednesday 10th May, Romsey Kindergarten hosted a “Readiness for School” presentation from the Romsey Primary School. Mr. Barney Healy, the School Principal, gave the evening with an opening address. This was followed by Ms. Jo Emond and Ms. Karren Baker from the prep transition team. They spoke at length on the often difficult issue of deciding when a child is ready for transition from pre-school to school. A question and answer session followed. The evening was very well attended. The Romsey Kindergarten is grateful to both keynote speakers for giving their time to provide such important information to the kinder parents.

Mothers' Day

An annual ritual at most kindergartens is the extensive preparation for Mother's Day. This year has been no exception, with the teachers going to enormous effort to assist children to produce delightful (and functional!) gifts. The 4-year-old children presented their gifts and cards to mums, grandmas and special friends who attended the Mother's Day morning tea on Wednesday 10th May. In addition to Devonshire tea, the Special Visitors were treated to impressive performances from Units 1 and 2, making the morning memorable for all involved.



Mobile Farm

On Thursday 11th May, Jamieson's Run Mobile Farm visited the Kindergarten. Both 3-year-old and 4-year-old children participated in this activity. A child learning to relate to animals is an important part of his or her development and this activity gave enormous pleasure to all involved. The pig, goat, sheep, chooks, duck and others took the experience in “good humour”.



Bingo is Back....SOON!

Friday 2nd June (6.30pm for a 7pm eyes down) is approaching fast so do not forget to mark the diary for another big night out at Bingo!! As well as having a great time with a chance to win and a sumptuous supper, there is the knowledge that this big night is a fundraiser for the Kindergarten. Tables can be booked by contacting Amanda Burley on 54296936.

Jenny Stillman
President, Romsey Kindergarten Committee of Management.

