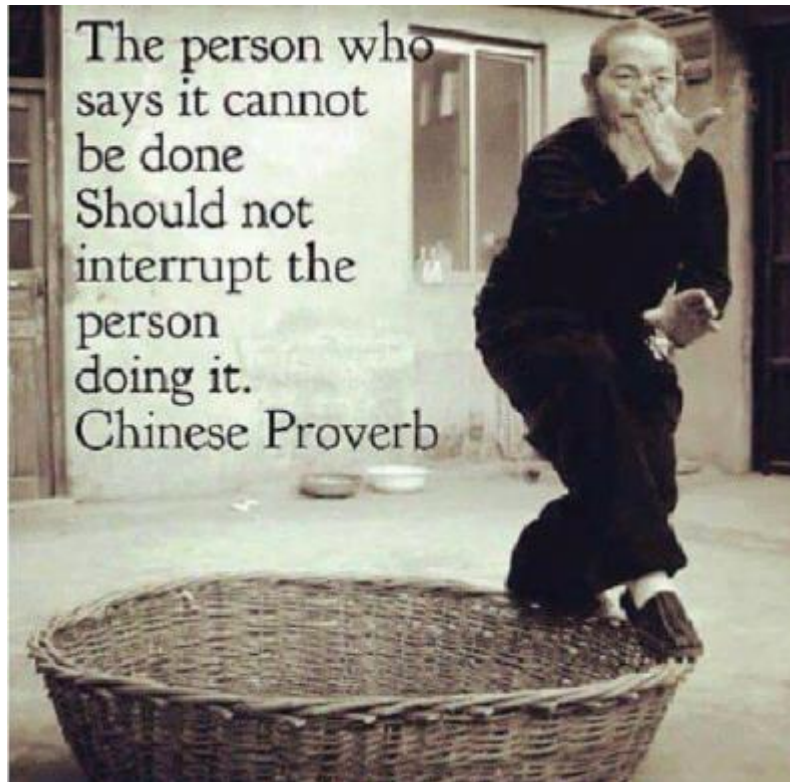


# Merrijig Community Newsletter April 2017

## INDEX

Quote of the month and local info	2
Calendar	3
What's up in April;	4
Greenstone Tree sale	4
Merrijig CFA Brigade	5
Jazz @ the MAG	6
Merrijig Rodeo report	7
Merrijig Fun Day report	9
Who's doing what	15
Skiing in March	17
Mill Inn Easter Hours	18
Heart Kids Fund and awareness raising	19
Anzac day 2017	20
Outdoor Adventures	21
Mt Buller Management wows/ Alex's Dad jokes	22
Air Ambulance Emergency	24
School news / Merrijig Basketball team	25
Family bush walk	26
A word from the shire	27
Volunteer skill bank	29
End of Newsletter good laugh	30

## Quote of the month.



\*\*\*\*\*

Back issues of the newsletters can be viewed on the web at  
[http://www.merrijig.com.au/html/local\\_news.html](http://www.merrijig.com.au/html/local_news.html)

*Some articles in this newsletter may be picked up by the Mansfield Courier so consider this if you are submitting stories you could be sensitive about sharing with the community wider than Merrijig.*

If you're looking for a **Justice of the Peace**,  
 Laurie Jacob, Buttercup Rd 0439 280 333  
 Catherine McNish, Sawmill Settlement 0429 482 309

### **Merrijig Defibrillator is located at Merrijig Motor Inn**

The procedure in case of an emergency where a person is possibly having a heart attack is to dial **Triple Zero**. The call takers at **Triple Zero** have the location of the Merrijig AED registered and will advise the caller of its location if that is the closest unit to your location. If it is then the Merrijig Motor Inn should be contacted by phone. The motor inn phone number is **5777 5702**.

April 2017						
◀ March						May ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Chris McNulty at MAG
2 Family bush walk Daylight Saving Ends  Change batteries in smoke alarms	3	4	5	6 Rubbish	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Rubbish & Recycling	14 Good Friday McCormack's Trail Ride begins	15 HCH ride to Craig's hut
16 Easter Sunday	17 McCormack's Trail ride Ends	18 School goes back	19	20 Rubbish	21	22 Tree sale starts  Tru Blu Trails ride to Craig's hut
23 Tree sale	24 Tree sale ends	25 Anzac Day Horse riders meet at hotel 6:30am Service 7:30 am Five Pines Memorial Park	26	27 Rubbish & Recycling	28	29
30	Notes: May:- Meetings re shire budget Mansfield May 2 Whitehorse Centre Nunawading May 10					

## What's coming up in April ?

### **GREENSTONE TREES**

### **ANNUAL ANZAC LONG WEEKEND TREE SALE**

*(Formerly Howqua River Trees)*

*Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017*



*From 9.00am to 5.00pm daily*

***'BRANCH OUT AND GRAB A TREE – MANY BARGAINS AVAILABLE'***

*Nursery open year round 9.00am to 5.00pm Mon – Fri and 10.00am to 12.00 noon Saturday by appointment.*

*Location – 'Sambar Park' 325 Howqua River Road, Howqua, Victoria 3723*

*Tel: 03 5777 3340*

*Email: [info@greenstonetrees.com.au](mailto:info@greenstonetrees.com.au)*

*Web: [www.greenstonetrees.com.au](http://www.greenstonetrees.com.au)*

*Greenstone Trees is a family run business that has serviced Mansfield and surrounding areas for nearly 15 years.*

*The nursery is situated on a beautiful property nestled in a bend of the Howqua River, about 20 minutes outside*

*Mansfield township. We carry over 100 different plant varieties and have close to 2,000 trees and shrubs on display,*

*many of which are advanced specimens. The nursery specializes in exotic trees carefully chosen for their Autumn*

*foliage, others for their show of blossom, all as beautiful specimen trees.*

*We also stock a large range of fruit and citrus trees.*

*Greenstone Trees sells only quality plants; plants grown to withstand the extremes of the High Country climate.*

*Contact Jan or Brett who are always on site and happy to advise you on species suitable to your needs and to answer any questions.*

*Jan Ash & Brett Shelley*

*NURSERY MANAGERS*

**GREENSTONE TREES – proud sponsors of Merrijig Family Fun Day**

**325 Howqua River Road, HOWQUA,**

**Tel: 03 5777 3340 or Email: [info@greenstonetrees.com](mailto:info@greenstonetrees.com)**

## **Merrijig Brigade**



### **A view to the past.**

As with many of the early brigades, they came into being through a need to protect the local community, and were a standalone resource funded by their local community.

Often the origins of many of the smaller brigades have been lost in time, past members forgotten, and the valuable contributions from individuals gone unrecorded.

The history of the Merrijig Brigade is no exception. There is some conjecture as to the date that the Brigade was formed, and indeed what the original name was. Glenroy / Cornhill has come to light in recent discussions.

With the official opening of our latest extension to the station scheduled later this year, the Merrijig Brigade is looking to honour the commitment and endeavours of past volunteers and office bearers. The Merrijig Brigade is inviting the local community to assist in completing a time line of past fire fighters, members and committee members, and is actively seeking input from the local community in tracing the history of the Merrijig Brigade.

We are seeking any information that would assist us in our endeavours, such as newspaper clippings, official documents, ledgers, photographs and of course personal recollections. We would be very happy to record these verbal stories.

Also, the Brigade is looking to collect and display fire fighting memorabilia from our area such as uniforms, equipment, and documents- really any items that may give the public an insight into the rich history of the Merrijig Brigade.

Please contact John Findlay on (03) 5777 5791 Mobile 0409 949 920 or contact us on our email address: [history@merrijigcfa.com.au](mailto:history@merrijigcfa.com.au)

We look forward to speaking with you about our past.

### REPLACEMENT OF SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES. - APRIL 2ND

PLEASE REMEMBER WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS (END OF DAYLIGHT SAVING) ALSO CHANGE YOUR SMOKE ALARM BATTERIES.

MORE PEOPLE DIE IN HOUSE FIRES THAN BUSHFIRES.

## **At the MAG in Mansfield – check out what’s on this month.**



April first 8pm to 10 pm

Don't be the April Fool and miss this opportunity to hear an exquisite vocalist in Concert. You will be glad you did

Since her emergence on the international jazz scene in 1991 critically acclaimed Palmetto recording artist, Chris McNulty has been hailed by musicians, peers and critics alike as a jazz vocalist-composer with a unique vision, boundless creative energy and a distinctive style.

All info and booking details below 🎵 \$35



*Photo by Jim Filmer*



*Learning to Fly - Merrijig Rodeo, VIC - March 2017*

## **Merrijig's 40<sup>th</sup> Rodeo Another Great Success**

Unfortunately no report from Rodeo committee was received in time for this issue of the newsletter, but some terrific photos have been provided to give a bit of a taste of what a great afternoon and evening it was.

Record crowds of extremely happy people attended this year, with the reintroduction of the Junior events prior to the main events the action began earlier in the afternoon. Merrijig Rodeo were commended for attracting a strong entry list of young enthusiasts which will allow these young people to have a record of performance if and when they choose to continue in this field of sport. "Without a record showing the competitors performance it is difficult for new competitors to enter the sport" one of the committee members mentioned.

The food and bar almost sold out indicating that the crowd was happy. A new system used at the bar this time, after a few hiccups were ironed out, ran smoothly with the benefit of a large donated cool room new to the bar.



McCormack Park  
Rodeo Arena  
looking brilliant  
after sunset

*Photo by Louise  
Brennan*



A great day for the now famous Merrijig Rodeo for its 40<sup>th</sup> event, onward and upward toward the 41st and more.





### Wow what a day!

The weather was brilliant – the attendance was wonderful – the displays, attractions, food and market stalls were brilliant, the games and pedestrian races were heaps of fun but oh did the kids have a ball at the gymkhana this year.

So many photos of happy little kids having fun with their ponies and laughing parents also enjoying the day out with their children and mounts.

Lockie Clegg took out the Cyril McCormack Memorial Trophy for the best Novice Rider at Merrijig Family Fun Day and his proud grandma informed Adele McCormack that Brian Davies who was Lockie's Grandfather was also Cyril's God Father which makes this award even more special for the two families.



"Lockie performed consistently well throughout the whole day" organizer Jacquie Pollard commented.

*Left Mayor Paul Volkering presenting Lockie with his Cyril McCormack Trophy*

*Right Gymkhana organizer Jacquie Pollard happily watches the presentations to the happy riders.*





The kids were not the only ones to get to eat an apple from the apple bob so did the horse.

Not only were the kids smiling, sponsor Ralph Nemith of Dunrobin Performance Horses with proud dad of some of the entrants, Jack McCormack, enjoyed watching the kids have a ball.



Winners were definitely grinners as you can see from the happy McCormack Kids



Size Does NOT matter at the Fun Day Gymkhana. Beside the Bendigo Bank gazebos loaned for the day, is James Pollard and his little rider Hunter, who had a wonderful time.







The winner of the family pass little **Harry Davies**, brought with him to Fun Day his cousins and Aunties to share his prize for being born in June. Next year another month will be chosen at random to allow another child to treat his whole family to a free day out. The Davies family are all promising to come back again next year as they all has so much fun.

*Harry was caught on camera in the stripy shirt by his mum, Nicky, sliding down the jumping castle slide in the 'Frozen' theme castle, one of two providing free jumping all day.*



William Arrowsmith who has been featured in this Newsletter highlighting awareness for Heart Kids got into bull riding – when he was not listing the entries for the guess the number of jelly beans in the jar, which was won by a man who was only one jelly bean off the official count which was mum Joanne’s best kept secret.



Face painter Chele was busy all day decorating happy children, including spidermen, butterflies and lions who walked around with show bags and free fruit donated by High country Fresh.

Many of the visitors were in awe of the Delatite car club who came for the first time to display their much loved cars – those who brought their cars this time mentioned that they will certainly be encouraging more members to come along next year as they thoroughly enjoyed the event. It could even become a show and shine event for them.





Once again the monster rolling raffle was a huge hit and people continuously praised Fun Day committee for doing the raffle in this way so that all the prizes which were generously donated by local businesses were able to be chosen as they were won. And there were some amazing prizes amongst them.

Our volunteers were remarkable, some like Christine and Ray Sheldrick who are new to the district so enjoyed their first experience they assured organizers they would be happy to volunteer again in 2018. Gloria once again came all the way from New Zealand while the team from New South Wales increased by one again this year. Fun day secretary Tracey encouraged her whole family to volunteer selling the show bags and managing the pony rides. From New Zealand, Gloria sent a message "I would like to compliment all of the Merrijig Family Fun Day committee on another successful fun day well run. It is so worth the trip to come over from New Zealand to help - I love the community spirit, the camaraderie, and how welcoming everyone is to 'the person with the funny accent', as well as everyone else. High fives and big pats on the back all round!"



Another volunteer, Jack Augustinsen, who came from Sydney said "I would like to thank all the wonderful friendly people who I met at the Merrijig Family fun day. Your warm welcome and patience for a city person was really appreciated. I will be back next year."

Novelty games included the Easter egg hunt in the hay stack and sack races. There were pony rides and lots of fun in running races and novelty games throughout the day evidence of which was clear with happy children decorated with colourful ribbons pinned across their chests.







The Junior motorbike club manned the BBQ with many of their own happy volunteers as pictured below.



Following the successful event the committee met for its usual debriefing meeting where areas of improvement were identified and activities which worked well were acknowledged. Ideas are tossed around at this meeting on how to grow the event and make it more fun for those who attend.

Some members of the committee though are not able to make the same level of commitment as they did this year for various reasons, and if there is not some interest from others in the community the event may have to be scaled back.

This is a great committee to work on, always a lot of fun at the meetings – still new blood is needed if the event is to continue.

Failing more committee members, the Gymkhana will be what the committee will concentrate on, leaving the other side of the day for people not into horses to be set aside.

The original idea was to bring back some of the good old fashioned fun for families at a low cost for the day out. The Gymkhana is going from strength to strength and is strongly sponsored by local businesses with horse interests, where the pedestrian and novelty side of the day remains static in the numbers it attracts. The lack of interest from the community to showcase their group is disappointing as community groups are given free sites to promote their activities and this year only two groups took up the opportunity The Red Cross and Heatkids. Thankfully the local CFA and the SES, Delatite car club and the vintage motorbikes brought along their vehicles to display.

The wider business community and private individuals are behind the event and the fun day committee is grateful for the amazing support in sponsorship - yet if fun day is not what the community wants, then perhaps the sponsorship from the generous local businesses can best be used by some other committee.



Anyone with ideas of how to improve and grow the event is encouraged to come on board the committee and share their ideas. You do not have to have any experience on committees – our Secretary Tracey came on board without ever having held a position on a committee before and now is a very competent secretary.

She was given a well-deserved round of applause at the end of the debriefing meeting.

Your thoughts and suggestions can be sent to Tracey at [merrijigfunday@gmail.com](mailto:merrijigfunday@gmail.com)

We do hope you will consider taking up the challenge as you will gain more than it will cost you in time and effort.

*Secretary Tracey with her nephew and niece who were volunteers on the day*

## Who's Doing What?

Buttercup Rd, residents Louise and Laurie Jacob are just back from a nine week overseas trip. One of the highlights was catching up with former Timbertop School colleagues who live overseas. Here Laurie and Crona Hodges who lives in North Wales travelled to London to connect.



Laurie and Crona are pictured at the British Museum.

Another highlight was travelling via Germany (visiting another colleague near Munich) and on to Pilatus in Switzerland.



6



Louise, rugged up against the freezing weather, despite the sunshine, pictured at the view point to Hotel Bellevue on top of Pilatus. Two days of stunning weather exposed the magnificence of the Swiss alps.

For more of their story and some great photos go

to <http://buttercuptolondon2017.blogspot.com.au/?view=classic> For previous posts hover the mouse on the right hand edge of the page for the option Blog Archive.

The next post will cover their five days visit to St Petersburg.



## Look who was featured in

[R.M.Williams OUTBACK magazine](#)  
 • [4 July 2016](#) •

Leonora Station – OUTBACK Stations - The McCormacks are mountain people. For generations they have been taking their cattle to the high country of Victoria to graze. Based on Leonora station near Merrijig, Vic, their story is one of 11 featured in the 2016 Issue of OUTBACK STATIONS, our fourth edition of the magazine about Australia's most interesting pastoral properties and the people who live and work on them.

## When did you last ski in Australia in March?

Skiing Mt Buller in March, no way? Well, it's true. It mightn't have been the official opening day but snow lovers alike came out in force to test the bi-product of Mt Buller's Snowfactory, a state-of-the-art technology that'll be in full effect this season.

Click here for Reggae's full report.

<http://buff.ly/2nFxxn8>

On March 23rd, at Mt Buller, a select lucky few



are skiing & boarding down Baldy! They're testing out the Techno Alpin Snow Factory, a \$1.6M investment that creates **snow in any weather**.

This game changer will ensure snow at Mt Buller for opening weekend! "Today's test has exceeded all expectations with a slope that is 70m long, 30m wide and a depth of around 40cm's.

See you soon friends,

from all the crew at **George's Ski Hire**"

## The Mill Inn ..... Easter opening hours

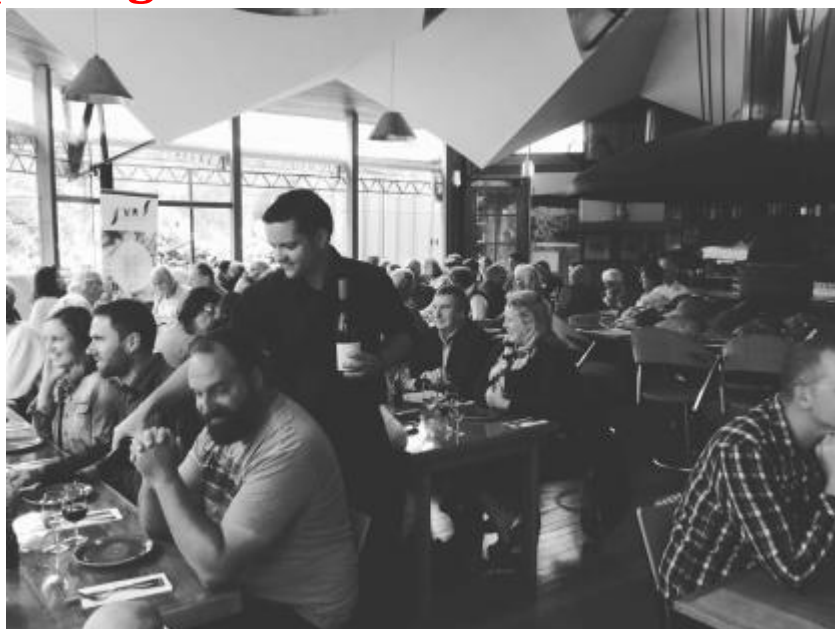
Vanessa said "We are open for dinner each evening over Easter from 5pm and also open for Easter Sunday LUNCH from 12.30

Join us for a special wood-fired lunch on Easter Sunday.

Three courses and a glass of wine - \$50.00pp

Children under 14 - Two courses & juice or soft drink \$25.00pp

Bookings essential" Don't miss out!







Yesterday William's fundraising page for Sweetheart Day was closed. We are so proud that with everyone's support and a lot of hard work William has raised \$3652.55 (including the Merrijig Family Fun Day).

Joanne, Williams mum said "We also raised \$239.63 with the Lorraine Lea fundraiser and \$566.75 from William's merchandise & stall at Beaconhills. This makes a grand total of \$4458.93!!!"

Joanne is pretty proud of her young man and said, "Also with the help of the boys & a couple of other HeartKids mums we raised \$400 at Pakenham Marketplace. Beaconhills also ran a free dress day/sausage sizzle fundraiser but we aren't sure what they raised.

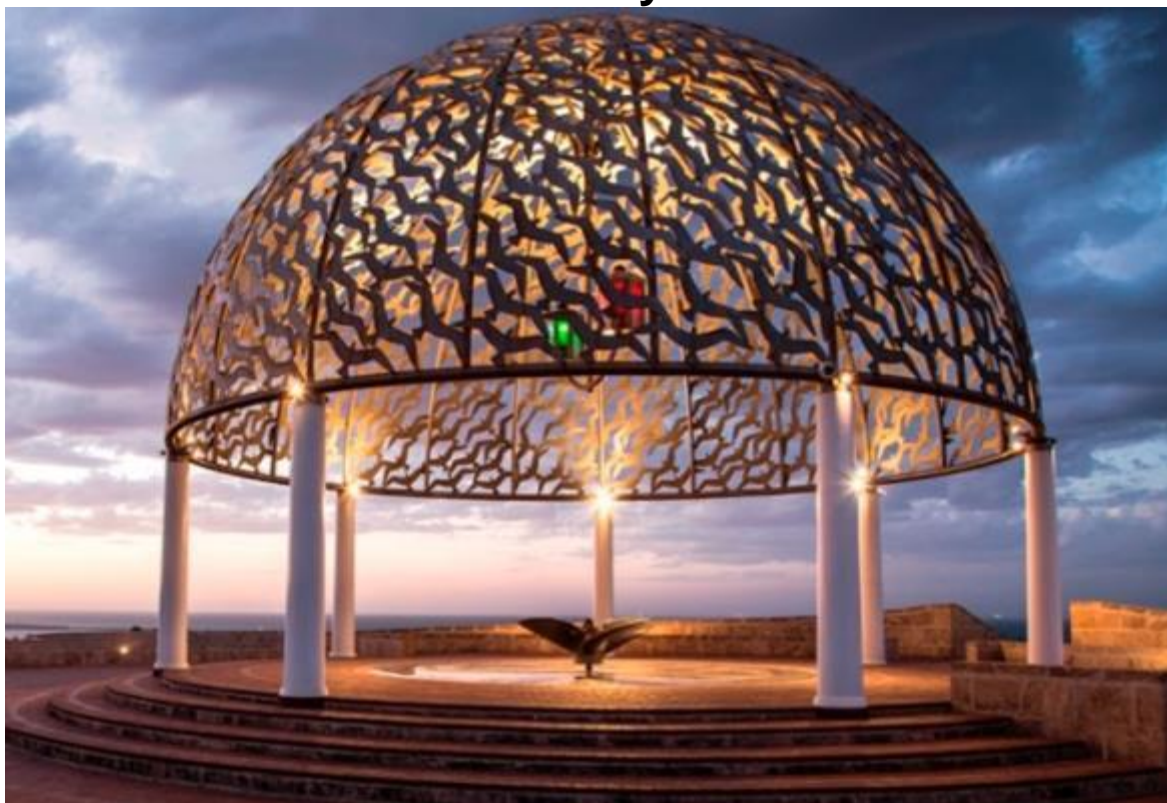
The page closed yesterday 📱📱📱📱📱📱 – what a great effort from this young man to work so hard at raising awareness and money to help others just like him.



## **An old Irish saying "When an old person dies – a library burns down"**

Value the wisdom of our older folk.

## ANZAC Day 2017



The 645 seagulls, is one for each man lost on HMAS Sydney.

This year's commemoration of Australians who served in conflicts will include highlighting the sacrifices of the Royal Australian Navy. The Army aspect of combat often receives the major coverage at ANZAC Day services, given the origin of this day of remembrance, so this year the Merrijig service will include a Naval focus.

The main address will be given by Lt Col Peter Howarth (RL).

Local schools will again be involved in the service ensuring the next generation realises the effects war has on family and communities.

Those wishing to attend the service need to gather at the Five Pines War and Service Memorial at the top of Buttercup Rd by no later than [6.45 am](#). Please park across the road opposite the memorial as usual.

The Gunfire Breakfast will be a fitting conclusion to the formalities and a gold coin donation can be given at the time.

For horse riders on ANZAC DAY TUESDAY APRIL 25 2017 the memorial ride begins at the Hunt Club Hotel car park – all must be ready to walk off at 6:30 am riding up the valley to the Five Pines Memorial Park for the commemorative service which begins at 7:30am

# Outdoor Adventures

**Tru Blu Trails** - Proud sponsors of Merrijig Family Fun Day

## **CRAIGS HUT 2 DAY WEEKEND RIDE 22nd/23rd APRIL \*\*\* INTRODUCTORY PRICE \$400 (NORMALLY \$595) \*\*\***

Do you love The Man From Snowy River movie? Well you need to come along on our horseback adventure to the iconic Craigs Hut and beyond!! This ride incorporates huts, rivers and spectacular high country views.

Our 2 day journey starts from Telephone Box Junction where your trusty mountain steed will be saddled and awaiting your arrival. The first leg sees us venture over Mt Stirling where you will get to take in the magnificent views of the vast high country and Mt Buller. After a rest stop and some photos, we ride amongst the snow gums and past various huts as we make our way to our lunch stop ..... Craigs Hut. Here we will have a long break and a good rest for horse and rider. You will be amazed at the views and can take advantage of getting a photo with you and your horse at the most famous hut in the country.

After lunch we head off the mountain for a short afternoon ride down to our camping spot for the night at King Hut on the beautiful King River. Here you will get to enjoy a swim followed by a hearty roast dinner and a relaxing night by the campfire.

Day 2 starts off by heading down river with numerous river crossings before climbing back up and over towards Razorback Hut. Along the way we take in a lunch break and a rest before we hit the mountain trails for the afternoon to make our way back to Telephone Box Junction. On arrival you will be greeted with some snacks and refreshments (& chairs for those butts!) so you can sit back and relax before heading home.

This ride is being offered at a special once only introductory price of \$400 (normal price is \$595) so get in quick as spots will go fast on this deal!! 😊:)

Please feel free to check out our website or call us now for more information and to make a booking.  
Corey 0409 019 412







[High Country Horses](#)

Proud sponsors of Merrijig Family Fun Day



Got any plans for Easter?? There is another opportunity to ride to Craig's hut on the Easter Weekend if that suits better.

Chris and Fiona say "How about joining us on our Craig's Hut, King Valley Ride 2 days/ 1 night.

15th - 16th April \$640 per person." 🐾 🐾

"All you need is a sleeping bag and pillow and any grog you might like to enjoy around the camp fire. Places are limited." To book email [info@highcountryhorses.com.au](mailto:info@highcountryhorses.com.au)



**Looking for a longer ride** Proud sponsors of Merrijig Family Fun Day [McCormacks Mountain Valley Trail Rides](#) have an Easter 4 Day ride – There are only a Few Spots Still Available.

This ride takes in the Buttercup Valley - Delatite River - Razorback – Craig's Hut - King Valley - Burnt Hut spur  
See Website for full ride details

[www.mountainvalleytrailrides.com.au](http://www.mountainvalleytrailrides.com.au)  
or email Deb for more details ...  
[deb@mountainvalleytrailrides.com.au](mailto:deb@mountainvalleytrailrides.com.au)

Easter 4 Day Ride - April 14th-17th  
for ride description check out the web page



[http://www.mountainvalleytrailrides.com.au/ride\\_descriptions.asp#ButtercupBurntHut](http://www.mountainvalleytrailrides.com.au/ride_descriptions.asp#ButtercupBurntHut)

## Shocking Parliamentary Report On Mt Buller management

*It's been in all the papers and on the TV but this is shocking information about our local ski field management. It's important for the community to be aware that there is a report being dealt with by government and it should be brought into check very quickly.*

[License article](#) taken from The Age Mon Mar 20, 2017

## Perks on Mount piste at Mount Buller and Stirling by Josh Gordon

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/perks-on-piste-at-mount-buller-and-mount-stirling-20170320-qv1w8w.html>

*From my personal experience dealing with this management - When Merrijig Family Fun Day was looking for sponsors for its 2015 inaugural event, Mt Buller Resort management was asked to support this local event – they refused to even provide rubbish bin liners or loan the jumping castle they own. Draw your own conclusions! (Adele)*

## Alex's Dad Jokes

Whenever we drive past a graveyard my dad says, 'Do you know why I can't be buried there?'

And we all say, 'Why not?'

And he says, 'Because I'm not dead yet!'" **GROAN!**

How does a penguin build its house?

I-gloos it together.

What's brown and sticky?

A stick.



## Air Ambulance Emergency

### Not the planned ending to a happy Merrijig Fun Day

as the Air Ambulance was called to transport a seriously injured young woman who had been thrown from a horse on McCormack's Rd Merrijig.

The response from the local people making their way home from Fun Day was amazing, within only moments of her falling people were on hand with assistance. Triple 0 was called immediately and a local doctor offered her services within minutes of the fall. Three first aid trained people volunteered their knowledge and Merrijig people were on the spot with shade shelters, rolled up jackets, towels from cars and sun shades for blanket to ward of shock.

Local Ambulance and Police were also at the site within 15 minutes, risking their lives to save hers, rendering their vital lifesaving skills and ascertaining the need for her to be airlifted to Melbourne.

"I am very proud of my community and how when this emergency situation happened people did not hesitate to jump in and help" said Adele McCormack on whose property the air ambulance landed.

At the time of going to print the young woman is showing positive signs of recovering from the induced coma she has been in since having surgery to stop a bleed on the brain.



## In School News

Great work by all students last Friday at our swimming sports. Thanks to all parents, grandparents and friends who came along to support the children. Champions for 2017 are Kevin Gannon and Quinn Russell, congratulations. Special thanks to Ms Cousins for all her organization and setting up.



## I didn't know – did you?

That there is a men's basketball team called Merrijig

And that for the past 3 years they have been in the grand final playoff. And that this year is the only time they have not taken out the trophy.

This is the team photo taken from facebook –

*photo by Billie Vogelzang*





Caring for Mansfield's Environment

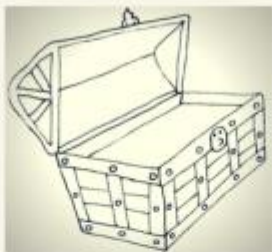
## Discover Mansfield's treasures bushwalk for families

Up2Us Landcare Alliance is working with the Delatite Landcare Group to help families kick start their holiday.

Come and join Landcare on the **2nd April for a family bushwalk** to discover a Mansfield natural treasure. We will meet at Carters Mill car park at 9.45 for a 3.5 km walk to where we will stop and admire the treasure and have morning tea.

We will then turn around and come back and share a picnic or BBQ together at Carters Mill aiming to finish the event at 1.45pm. For further information please visit [www.up2us.org.au](http://www.up2us.org.au) or contact Kerstie Lee 5775 2770/landcare@up2us.org.au.

LANDCARE LEARNING PRESENTS



come and discover Mansfield's *treasures*

START THE HOLIDAYS WITH A BANG AND BRING THE FAMILY TO DISCOVER  
MANSFIELD'S NATURAL TREASURES WITH LANDCARE!

- ACTIVITY SUITED TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN PRIMARY SCHOOL
- 3.5KM WALK TO BEAUTIFUL DESTINATION AND MORNING TEA
- 3.5 KM WALK BACK TO A PICNIC LUNCH (PROVIDED)
- ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN ALONG THE WAY

SUNDAY APRIL 2ND, 2017 | 9.45AM - 1.45PM

MEET AT 9.45AM AT CARTERS MILL CAR PARK

FOR BOOKINGS AND INFORMATION CONTACT KERSTIE LEE 57752770 OR  
LANDCARE@UP2US.ORG.AU

Kerstie Lee - Up2Us Landcare Facilitator - P: (03)57752770  
E: [landcare@up2us.org.au](mailto:landcare@up2us.org.au) - W: [www.up2us.org.au](http://www.up2us.org.au)





## **MANSFIELD SHIRE A WORD FROM THE SHIRE**

“There is no point going back and trying to find the guilty party, we need to fix the problems we face now.” This was the very sensible response by one local at the community meeting held in Merrijig hall on March 5<sup>th</sup> where CEO Alex Green outlined the difficulties facing Mansfield shire with a \$700k shortfall in the budget.

Mr Green did not beat around the bush he simply explained that “The reality is, our costs are growing faster than our rate capping can afford – and somethings need to go”

Rate capping may be necessary in big city councils but forcing rate capping over rural councils makes managing finances increasingly difficult.

As with any periods of budgetary restraint, even in a private household, the only solution is to tighten the belt and cut back until the situation is resolved - and it will resolve if we work together to make the situation better.

Some ideas raised at the Merrijig meeting included a “bed tax” so that the multitudes of visitors coming to our shire and using our infrastructure are also contributing to its upkeep. This fee could be added to the cost of each night’s accommodation and passed on in regular increments to the shire.

The councillors have come up with ideas of their own, but credit to them, they are asking we who live here to have a think about ways to improve our shires situation and pull ourselves out of this \$700,000 black hole in the budget.

Mansfield Shire people have a history of fighting back, 15 years ago the people of Mansfield Shire stood up against the amalgamation of our shire with Benalla and we won our shire back. It’s time to fight again.

We cannot change the past but we can pull together to change the future.

With this in mind please make note of the public meetings scheduled for discussion of this matter outlined below in a notice from CEO Alex Green.

### **PUBLIC MEETINGS – BUDGET AND DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN**

Mansfield Shire residents and ratepayers are invited to attend either of two forums to be facilitated by Councillors and senior officers regarding;

- □ □ □ Council Plan 2017-2021
- □ □ □ Council Budget 2017-2018
- □ □ □ Current issues, including implications of rate capping

#### **Mansfield Forum**

**Tuesday 2 May** – 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm  
Council Chambers, Mansfield Municipal Office

#### **Melbourne Community Presentation and Discussion Forum**

**Wednesday 10 May** – 6.30pm – 8.00pm  
Whitehorse Centre, Waratah Room, 397 Whitehorse Road, Nunawading

Draft copies of the 2017-2018 Mansfield Shire Budget document and 2017-2021 Council Plan are available for inspection from 19 April 2017 at the Municipal Office, 33 Highett Street, Mansfield, during normal office hours or on Council's website, [www.mansfield.vic.gov.au](http://www.mansfield.vic.gov.au)

Any person seeking to make a written submission on the proposed Budget must do so before 5.00pm on 19 May.

For further information, please contact Lisa Fricke, Executive Assistant on 5775 8555.

# COMMUNITY GRANTS



**Round 2 of our Community Matching Fund** (community grants) program is now open, and your club or group is invited to submit an application for funding of up to \$5,000. We've added a new fund with grants of up to \$3,000 available to individual community members to assist with training and skills development. Head on over to our website for more info - <http://mshire.co/CMFund>



## Volunteer Skillsbank

A whole new world of volunteering

Are you looking for a fun role you can take up in your community?

**Volunteer Skillsbank** is a free service where we use an online database which assists volunteers to find the perfect volunteer role and not-for-profit organisations to find the perfect volunteers.

We have a diverse range of volunteer positions available including:

- fishing the local waterways,
- operating an emergency services radio,
- protecting the environment or
- sitting on the board of a not-for-profit organisation.

These are just a few of the roles available.

Contact **Volunteer Skillsbank** today – we're here to help you find the perfect volunteering role.

### Volunteer Skillsbank:

- free service
- new opportunities
- change your life
- connect with your community
- make a difference in someone else's life
- learn new skills
- have fun

Contact **Volunteer Skillsbank** today to find the right volunteer role for you.

Telephone 03 5721 0258

Email [csb@thecentre.vic.edu.au](mailto:csb@thecentre.vic.edu.au)



WANGARATTA  
Chisholm Street  
Wangaratta Vic 3677

T [03] 5721 0200  
F [03] 5721 9994

[wangaratta@thecentre.vic.edu.au](mailto:wangaratta@thecentre.vic.edu.au)

BENALLA  
Samaria Road [PO Box 383]  
Benalla Vic 3674

T [03] 5762 4344  
F [03] 5762 4208

[benalla@thecentre.vic.edu.au](mailto:benalla@thecentre.vic.edu.au)

**NOW FOR A FINAL GOOD LAUGH!**

Someone threw a  
bottle of omega 3  
Pills at me!!  
Luckily my injuries  
were only  
Super fish oil.

Bye for now Adele

Adele McCormack

45 McCormacks Rd

Merrigig 3723

0409 600 655