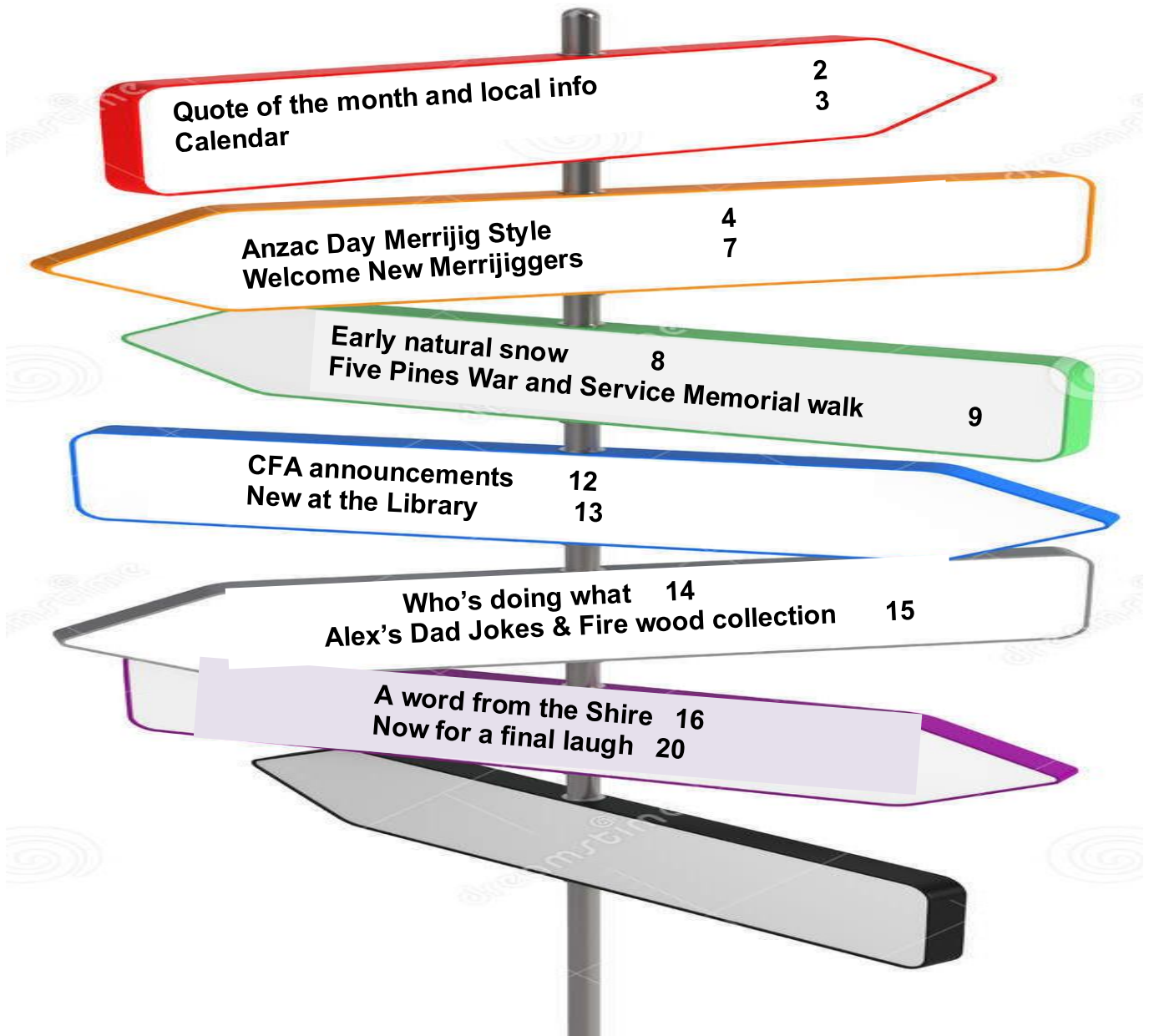
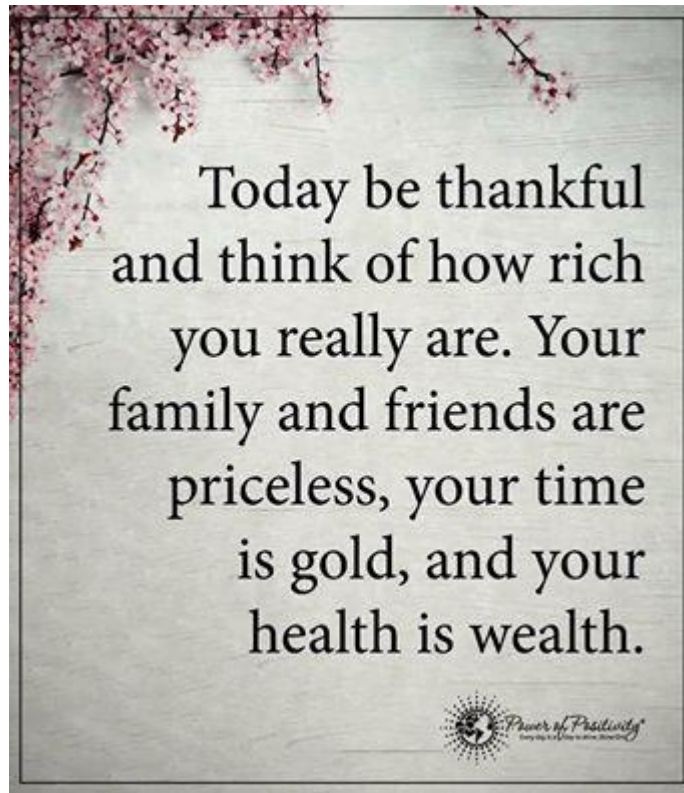


Merrijig Community Newsletter May 2017



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

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**.

May 2017						
◀ April						June ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Public Toilets in Mansfield refurbishment begins – ALL MONTH	2 View C36 Amendment to shire planning @ hall any Tuesday 10 – 11:15	3 Scrabble Club at Mansfield Library	4 Rubbish View C36 Amendment to shire planning @ hall any Thursday 11 -2	5	6
7	8	9	10 Scrabble Club at Mansfield Library	11 Rubbish & Recycling	14 Author visits Library	13
14	15	16	17 Scrabble Club at Mansfield Library	18 Rubbish	19	20
21	22	23 Budget submissions close	24 Scrabble Club at Mansfield Library	25 Rubbish & Recycling	26	27
28	29 Public Toilets in Mansfield refurbishment finishes	30 Budget Submissions from public heard.	31 Scrabble Club at Mansfield Library Last day for submissions for C36 shire planning changes	Notes:		

More Calendar: [Jun](#), [Jul](#), [PDF Calendar](#)

Merrijig's ANZAC Day shines again despite appalling weather



Photo by Gary of BOSS photography

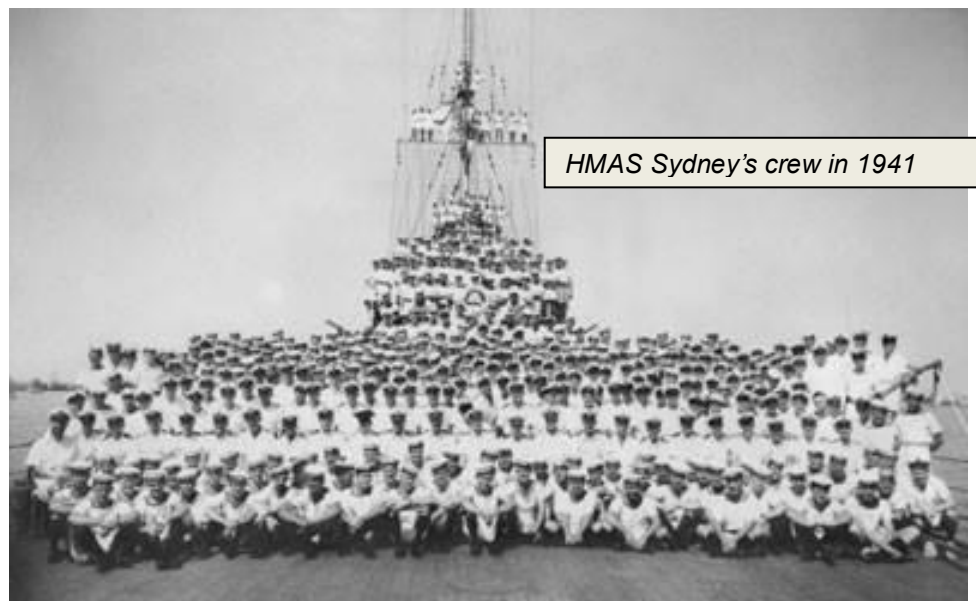
Persistent rain fell on the hundreds of men, women and children who attended the Merrijig Five Pines War and Service Memorial on ANZAC Day last Tuesday. No spirits were dampened though as everyone realised the people we were remembering had to endure far worse. Special mention must be made of the dozen horses and riders who stood firm after their ride in the rain from Merrijig Township.

Further improvements have been made at the site at the top of Buttercup Rd with a beautifully presented Remembrance Walkway. The walkway brought a tear to many eyes as people wandered along the path lined by large pillars. Each one representing a conflict in which Australian Forces had been and are involved.

Already some memorial stones have been placed by the pillars by family members. In recent years many etched stones have been laid under one of the original pine trees to remember family and friends affected by wars.

The gathering, which included the students from GGS Timbertop campus, was welcomed by president of the Merrijig Public Hall Committee, Mr Noel Willaton, who then invited those with wreaths to come forward and lay them against the etched front fence. The ANZAC Dedication was then read by Louise Jacob.

Co-ordinator of the works at the park, Lt Col. Peter Howarth (RL) gave a moving account of the fate of the *HMAS Sydney* and its crew. Peter opened by saying that the focus of the day was usually on the land forces involved in wars. To lift the awareness of the Navy contribution in World War 2, he told the story of the fate of the 645 officers and crew who lost their



HMAS Sydney's crew in 1941

lives on that dreadful day, November 19, 1941.

Peter recounted the story of the *HMAS Sydney* patrolling off the coast of Western Australia when it sighted a merchant vessel flying the Dutch flag. After the *Sydney* approached, the Dutch flag was lowered, the German ensign raised and the covers over the guns quickly removed. Gunfire ensued between both ships and the *Sydney* was clearly doomed. The *Sydney* gunners kept at their posts, firing on the *Kormoran*.

Both ships sank, and no life boats were lowered from the *Sydney*. All sailors and five airmen on the *Sydney* were lost. A total of 317 of the *Kormoran* crew of 397 were rescued and interned as prisoners of war. The loss of the *Sydney* with its full war complement of 645, remains Australia's worst naval disaster.

After the address, which had been listened to in total silence, the hymn, *Eternal Father: Strong to*

Merrijig Students were honoured to wreath



Save (for Those in Peril on the Sea,) was sung, led by Timbertop Chaplain, Sandy Mackinnon. The Ode was beautifully recited without notes by Merrijig Primary School students, Kevin Gannon and Cobie McCormack.

The Last Post, The Silence and The Rouse were played followed by the national anthems of Australia and New Zealand, again heartily led by Sandy.

In conclusion, Peter, made mention of the wonderful community support received for the project and for the service:

“Merrijig Primary School, GGS Timbertop for their participation and logistic support, VicRoads who have always supported our projects on the land that they control, Liz and Eric Siewert from Gone Riding which sponsors the Gunfire Breakfast, the riders who battle the weather to be here, the Merrijig Public Hall committee and memorial sub-committee members who continue to maintain and develop the memorial and parkland,” Peter said.

Speaking of the newest addition to the site, the Remembrance Walkway, *(which has its own story later in the newsletter)* Peter particularly mentioned Georgie Deyell, who successfully applied for the grant for the main project. She also donated the cost of the pedestrian gate stone pillars. He mentioned the Government of Victoria, who financially supported the project, together with funds from the Merrijig Public Hall Committee and private donations, High Country Tree Services who prepared the site, Steve Bell and his team especially Danny Hudswell, who with Rikki-Lee Hudswell laid the pathways, filled potholes and carried out a great tidy-up.

Adrian Lawrence made and generously donated the twin pedestrian gates. And last but certainly not least, Steve Srnec, who obtained, maneuvered and emplaced all the stone pillars which form the focus of both the entry and the Remembrance Walkway, Peter concluded.

Following the service and acknowledgements almost all community members proceeded to the Gunfire Breakfast, which had been relocated to the Merrijig Hall due to the dreadful weather. Eric Siewert and his helpers served about 130 breakfasts in half an hour, a sterling effort. As a result of the donations for breakfasts almost \$500 was raised to be used for the maintenance of the park. Many cheerfully and rapidly consumed the ANZAC biscuits. The flaming braziers were a welcome sight for those who withstood the cold at the park.

For those who haven't ventured to the memorial it is well worth a visit - a chance for quiet reflection. Many riders were disappointed when they received a call early in the morning calling off the ride due to the deluge falling from the heavens. It was ascertained that the road was possibly too dangerous a place for horses to be ridden on, in such conditions where accidents were more a possibility than under normal circumstances. Some who did not get the phone call, did brave the elements although not all rode from the base of the Merrijig Valley some chose to meet riders at the memorial site.



Photo by Anthony Wakeling -

"As people strolled along it for the first time it was very moving to see and hear their reactions. For many it was poignant as they quietly absorbed the names of all the conflicts Australian personnel have been involved in, recalling family and friends who were affected by these conflicts. "Louise Jacob said.

(check out the story further into the newsletter on the new walk at the memorial site)

I was watching a nature show where they said "Contrary to popular belief, humans eat more bananas than monkeys." I thought to myself "That's right! I don't recall ever eating a monkey.."

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An Early natural snow fall

April 9th 15cm snowfall



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The Five Pines War and Service Memorial Park has a New Walk



THE REMEMBRANCE WALKWAY

The planning and delivery of our 2017 project, the Remembrance Walkway, is a result of the efforts of the following:

Peter Howarth project manager and general dogs body worker when needed. (Great job Peter)

Georgie Deyell, who secured the main project grant, together with Noel Willaton, Kerrie Purcell, Laurie and Louise Jacob, who oversaw the project.

Georgie also underwrote the cost of the pedestrian gate stone pillars.

The Government of Victoria, who supported the project financially, together with funds from the Merrijig Hall Committee and private donations.

High Country Tree Services, who prepared the site.

Steve Bell and his team, especially Danny Hudswell, who with Rikki-Lee Hudswell laid the pathways, filled potholes and did a great tidy-up.

Adrian Lawrence, who made and generously donated the twin pedestrian gates.

And last but certainly not least, Steve Srnec, who obtained, manoeuvred and placed all the stone pillars which form the focus of both the entry and the Remembrance Walkway but also helped some old codger (Peter Howarth) affix the plaques.





Boer War—Boxer Rebellion
and the Russian civil War
1899 to 1919

World War I
1914 – 1918

World War II
1939 – 1945

Malaya
1948 – 1960

Korea
1950 – 1953

Borneo
1963 – 1966



Vietnam
1965 - 1973

Gulf War
1990 - 1991

Afghanistan
2001 - 2014

Iraq
2003 - 2009

East Timor
2006 - 2013

War on ISIS
2014 -

Dave Lovick sent in photos of each individual pillar for the newsletter. People of Merrijig are reminded that you are entitled to place a rock for any member of your family who has served or is serving in any are of service to our country.

Your rock can simply be a plain rock from your property or the river, you may leave it unmarked except with your love or write the name of your family member on the rock and any information you have on them.



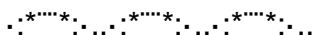
These rocks can be placed at any time on this memorial site as a token from you of the gratitude you have for the members of your family who had worked and are working to make our country safe and peaceful. Many people choose to lay their rocks during Anzac Day or Remembrance Day but you can place your rocks any time you choose throughout the year.

Meet the men behind the rockwork and gates Steve Smec and Adrian Lawrence

The memorial park is looking wonderful and has come a long way since a couple

of Merrijig men John Lovick and Dan Hearn came up with the idea to plant 5 pine trees, in an effort to create a lasting memorial for those who went to WWI. The mystery remains why only 5 were so honoured as previously mentioned in the newsletter, yet we can now make amends to those who were not counted in 1919 (*at the estimated time of planting*), by locals bringing along a rock to acknowledge their own.

Take stroll through these lovely new gates along the beautiful level pathway through the memorial rock pillars, bring a picnic, leave a rock and enjoy the open public space.



Fire restrictions lifted 1pm Tuesday 18th April in Mansfield Shire. But it's advisable to register your burn with CFA on 1800668511. It's free and stops your VOLUNTEER fire brigades from an unnecessary call out. Safety counts if it looks like it could be a big fire then it will be. Ask your local brigade for advice and assistance. In Merrijig call captain Peter Bowker on 0407 305 480

The CFA recommends that you:

Replace smoke alarms which are more than ten years old;

Replace smoke alarms with photoelectric alarms with a ten year lithium powered battery.

If you know of anyone in the community who may be particularly vulnerable due to age, disability or isolation the CFA is able to provide a 10 year smoke alarm.

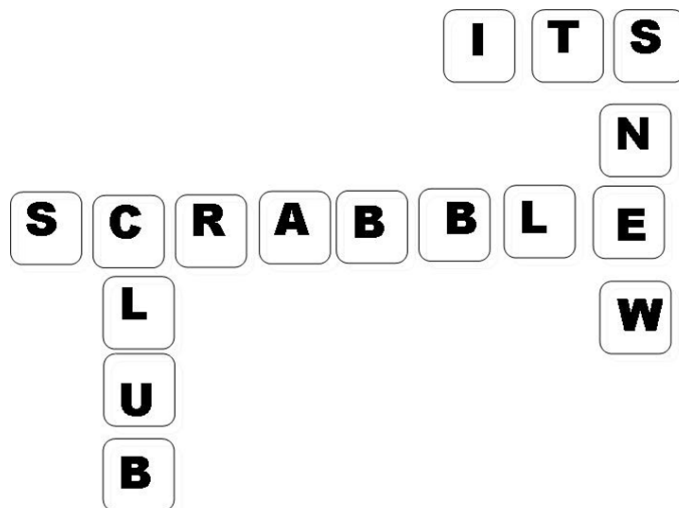
Call John McCombe

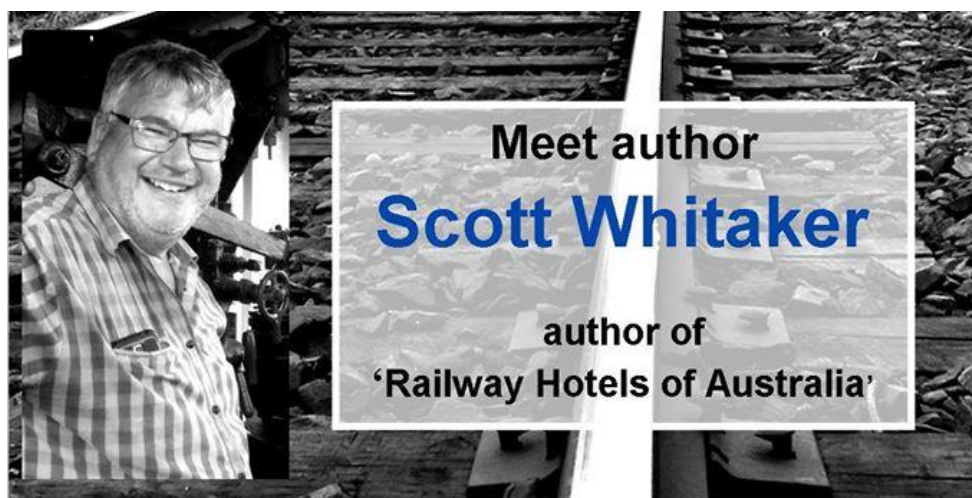
Merrijig CFA Community Safety Coordinator

0409 230098



A Scrabble Club has been organized, it is held at the Mansfield Library every Wednesday at 10am – all ages and skill levels welcome.





Meet author
Scott Whitaker
 author of
 'Railway Hotels of Australia'

Also on at the Library

Next time you ride along the rail trail, try and spot an old railway hotel! There was once over 600 Railway Hotels in Australia and Scott's book Railway hotels of Victoria (Volume 1) details the history of every hotel that once traded or still trades in Victoria.

Scott will be visiting the Mansfield Library on Friday 12 May at 11am.

Morning tea will be provided by Friends of the Library. This is a free event. For more information and to book your place, please call 5775 2176

'Railway Hotels of Australia'

Author Talk

Date: Friday 12 May 2017

Time: 11.00am

Venue: Mansfield Library,
Collopy Street, Mansfield

Cost: Free

Morning tea provided

Bookings preferred:

Please call 5775 2176

In the early days, Railway Hotels (along with Terminus, Junction and Station) were established to service the railway construction workers, or navvies. Later, they became the haunt of the local railway workforce.

There was once over 600 Railway Hotels in Australia, but by the 1920s many had gone. Some had been burnt down – deliberately or otherwise – or even levelled by an earthquake or washed away in a flood.

Join author Scott Whitaker as he journey's around Australia investigating the life of the Railway Hotel.



Who's Doing What Lately?

Local residents, Louise and Laurie Jacob have recently returned from London where they have been housesitting. Whilst there they were able to do some side trips, the last of which was a five day stay in St Petersburg. At - 8 degrees most of the time, keeping warm wasn't a problem as everywhere is geared for the cold. Even on this beautiful sunny day it was still below freezing.



Louise and

Laurie are pictured outside the stunning St Catherine's Palace at Pushkin just out of St Petersburg. This was the summer residence of the tzars. It is here that the famous Amber Room is located.

Their Russian travels and hints about going to Russia can be enjoyed at the following blog address:

www.buttercuptolondon2017.blogspot.com.au

Alex's Dad Jokes

What do you call linking up your watches to form a belt?

A complete waist of time.

My friend turned into an ice cream cone whilst on holiday

He's been a wafer so long now

What do you call a 1000 kg dumpling?

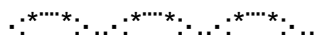
A one ton wonton

What do you get when you give five doses of valium to a lizard?

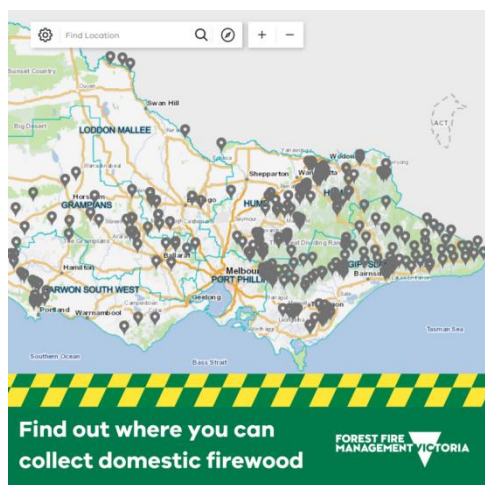
A calmer calmer calmer calmer calmer chameleon.



(this is my favourite this time) LOL



Forest fire Management Victoria



Need help locating domestic firewood to warm you up in this cold snap? Check out our map that shows all designated collection sites available across Victoria!

<https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region>

Designated collection areas are put in place to protect sites of cultural and environmental significance.

People should check where designated collection areas are in their local area as well as checking local weather and forest conditions to make sure it's safe before collecting firewood

The Autumn Firewood Collection Season 2017 is underway til Friday the 30th of June.

If you have any information about the illegal removal of firewood for sale, call us on 136 186 and quote Operation Block Splitter.



Cr Marg Attley:-Your local representative on Mansfield Shire Council. Available to be contacted on: 5776 2231 or marg.attley@mansfield.vic.gov.au

A WORD FROM THE SHIRE

<http://www.mansfield.vic.gov.au/home.aspx>



We apologise for any inconvenience but advise that Mansfield's main public toilet block, at the intersection of High and Highett Streets, will be **CLOSED** for repair works from 1 - 29 May inclusive. The refurbishment will include the installation of polycarbonate sheeting on the roof to allow more natural light, extensive plumbing works, repainting and increased internal lighting. There are alternative public toilets available at the Visitor Information Centre, the Botanic Park and also at the Recreation Reserve playground that can be used whilst the renovation is underway.

Although we've treated over 20 nests in the Fords Creek area this year, the number of European Wasps are still significant in High Street and their increased presence is affecting our food outlets. So, on 12 and 13 April Council staff put in a concerted effort to identify active European Wasp nests within the creek frontage of Fords Creek through the Mansfield Township and we're pleased to report that a further 12 nests were found and treated.

This effort will not solve the current wasp problem but should make a noticeable difference along High Street. Nests are not difficult to treat and details of how this can be done are available on Council's website here - <http://mshire.co/72>

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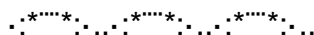
Queen European wasp traps

Set traps in October November when Queens are flying around looking for places to set up a nest

4 tablespoons of honey
 a slurp of vanilla essence (the one with alcohol)
 mix with hot water and divide into 4 x 1.25 ltr coke bottles.
 Put 3 x 10 ml holes in the bottle at 15cm up
 and top with water.
 Hang the bottles it takes a few days to ferment.
 Strain the wasps out and use the liquid again and top with water.
 it also attracts the blowflies.

(I did this in Oct 2015 and so far in 2017 I have only seen 2 or 3 individual wasps)

If everyone did this in the shire the wasps would naturally die out one could assume. I will remind you to do so in the September issue.



Submissions from the public for the Shire budget will be heard Tuesday May 30th at 2pm
 To make a submission write to Mandy Kinnersley Finance Manager of Mansfield Shire via email to
 mandy.kinnersley@mansfield.vic.gov .au before May 23rd.

If you have some ideas on how the shire budget can be brought back into the black here is your opportunity to share it with our council.



Kirsten Lingard of the community Development dept. sent through this information for anyone in a not for profit organization looking for funding

The Westpac Foundation have asked us to forward this information to not-for-profit organisations in Mansfield Shire.

For all enquiries please contact Westpac directly on bgale@westpac.com.au or by phone on (02) 8253 4159

200 Westpac Foundation Community Grants, worth \$10,000 each, will be awarded to local, grassroots not-for-profit organisations with big (or small) ideas that are providing educational opportunities, employment pathways or improvements in the quality of life of disadvantaged Australians in our local communities.

In addition to the financial support the grant provides, Westpac is also committed to providing a range of non-financial support services to help maximise the social impact and sustainability of our grant recipients. Based on the needs of individual grant recipients, we will also be seeking to make connections between their organisation and local Westpac Ambassadors who will help open doors to a range of skilled volunteering, mentoring and networking opportunities across the Westpac Group.

More information about the Community Grants program, including information on the eligibility criteria and previous grant recipients, is available at: www.westpac.com.au/grants.

Please contact Brett Gale bgale@westpac.com.au or by phone on (02) 8253 4159 if you have any questions or require further information.



If you received a letter from us about Amendment C36....

There is no need to be alarmed! This letter is to notify you of proposed changes to existing planning controls around water quality in our waterways. **They are still in draft stage and we are after your feedback if you are interested.** As a planning authority we are required to make contact with all property owners and occupiers of a property that is subject to a planning scheme change. **This is to inform you of the change and give you opportunity to give us feedback.**

There is no requirement for you to do anything. **In the future**, if you are looking to build/develop your land or extend the existing buildings and put additional load on an existing septic tank system you may be affected by this set of revised planning controls. Your future development may need to be assessed through a planning permit and these controls will give yourselves and us some guidance as to the better location for placing a house for example and its septic tank and dispersal field so that impacts to creeks, rivers, lakes and other waterbodies are minimised. It may also affect you if you are looking to remove native vegetation close to a waterway. If you are looking to do any vegetation removal works it is always good to contact the planning department as there are various controls over vegetation removal.

If you have an **existing planning permit**, your development will already have been assessed against the existing controls around wastewater and water quality. Your permit is still valid and if you act on your permit before it expires then you will not be affected by the proposed controls. This is not retrospective. Existing systems will not be affected by these controls **unless** you extend/rebuild and place additional loads on your septic system. In this case you will need to provide evidence that your system can accommodate this additional load.

If you received a letter and you are on town sewerage.....

This means that you are still in a special water supply catchment and under the proposed changes you would be required to apply for a planning permit to remove native vegetation close to a waterway.

Septic system audit scheme.....

As separate project through our Environmental Health Unit, an audit of existing septic systems is being undertaken. This will take several years to complete. This audit is to ensure that existing systems are performing as they should be and not placing poorly treated waste into our waterway systems. You will be notified prior to an inspection and informed if there is anything you may need to do following the inspection.

If you still have questions....

Planning can be a complex area to navigate if you are unfamiliar with it. It is always best to contact a planner to discuss anything if you are unclear. It is highly likely that if you are looking to develop your land or remove vegetation you will need to apply for a planning permit so come in or give us a call to discuss what you might be planning.

The shire have asked that a display be set up in the Merrijig hall – the hall is usually open Tuesday mornings 10 am till 11.15 am and Thursdays 11 am till 2 pm. Otherwise you may view the relevant documents in the Download Files section located on this page

<http://www.mansfield.vic.gov.au/councilservices/planning-and-building-services/strategicplanning.aspx>

or alternatively you may inspect the documents, free of charge, at the Mansfield Shire Council Offices (Planning Counter). We are located at 33 Highett Street Mansfield. A Strategic Planner can assist you with any inquiries (Monday to Thursday 9am to 4.30pm) over the counter, or you can contact us at the following:

Kathy Richardson 5775 8512 or kathy.richardson@mansfield.vic.gov.au

Victoria Brown 5775 8525 or victoria.brown@mansfield.vic.gov.au

You are invited to peruse the information and make a submission.

Submissions should be addressed to:

Strategic Planning Unit
Mansfield Shire Council
Private Bag 1000
Mansfield VIC 3724

Or email: strategic.planning@mansfield.vic.gov.au

Submissions must be received no later than 5pm on 1 June 2017

Information Sessions

Community drop in information sessions will be held in Mansfield at the Shire Offices (Saturday 29 April between 10.30am and 12.30am), Jamieson Memorial Hall (Wednesday 3 May 6.30pm to 8.30pm) and Whitehorse City Council Offices (Saturday 13 May 10.30am to 12.30am) to provide an informal opportunity to ask questions with Council planners.

NOW FOR A FINAL GOOD LAUGH!

Sign over a Gynaecologist's Office:

"Dr. Jones, at your cervix."

In a Podiatrist's office:

"Time wounds all heels."

On a Septic Tank Truck:

Yesterday's Meals on Wheels

At an Optometrist's Office: "If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

On an Electrician's truck:

"Let us remove your shorts."

On a Maternity Room door:

"Push. Push. Push."

At a Car Dealership:

"The best way to get back on your feet -miss a car payment."

In a Veterinarian's waiting room:

"Be back in 5

minutes. Sit! Stay!"

At the Electric Company:

"We would be delighted if you send in your payment. However, if you don't, you will be."

Bye for now Adele

Adele McCormack

45 McCormacks Rd

Merrig 3723

0409 600 655

