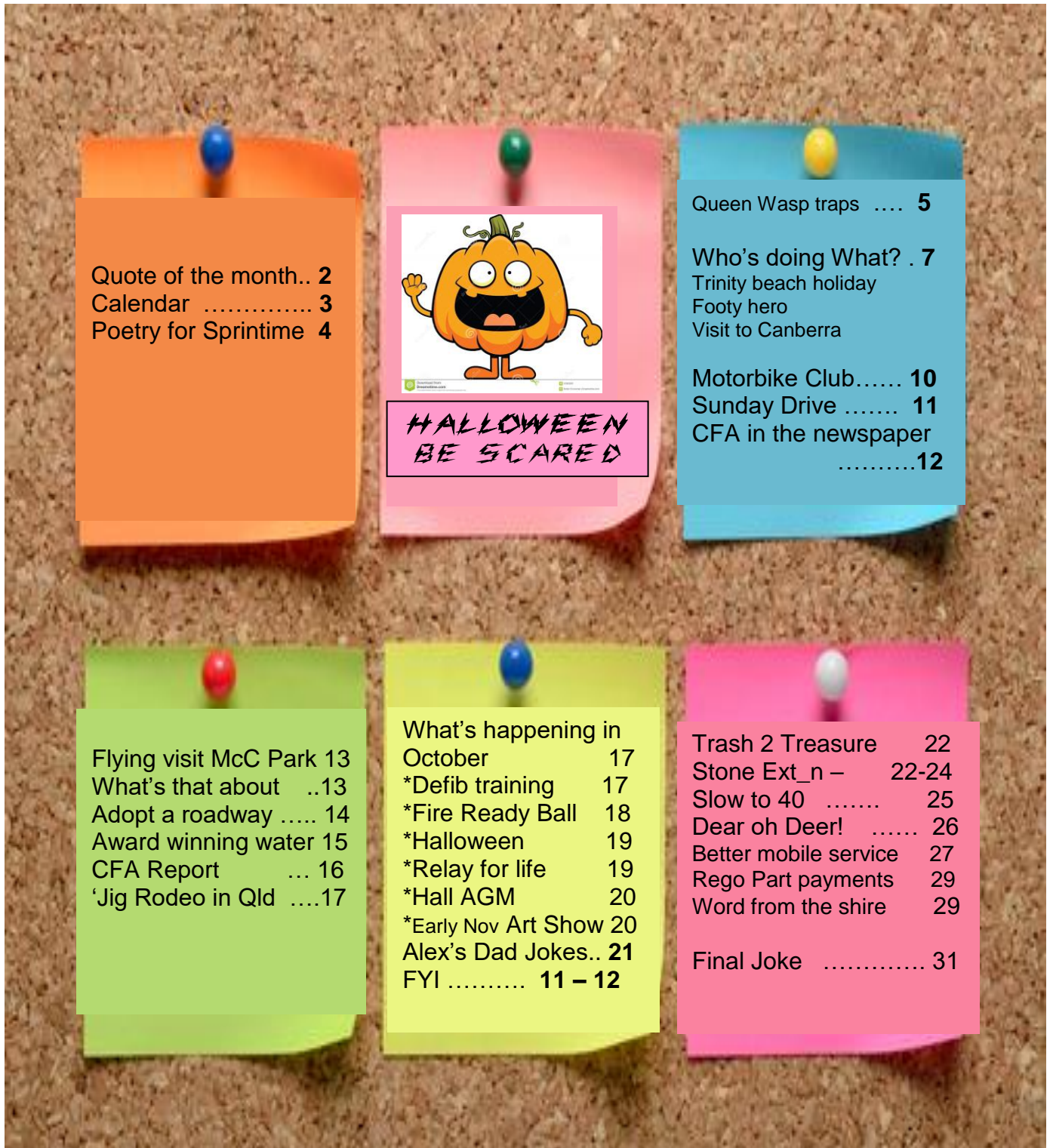


Merrijig Community Newsletter October 2017



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**.

October 2017						
◀ September					November ▶	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Make up queen wasp traps.	2	3 Trivia at the Pub Muscle Mob meets	4 FREE defibrillator training	5 Rubbish	6	7 Relay for life.
8	9 Back to school	10 Muscle Mob meets	11	12 Rubbish & Recycle	13	14
15	16	17 Trivia at the Pub Muscle Mob meets	18	19 Rubbish	20	21
22 Hall Committee AGM	23	24 Muscle Mob meets	25	26 Rubbish & Recycle	27	28 Merrijig Fire-ready Ball
29	30	31 Trivia at the Pub Muscle Mob meets <i>HALLOWEEN</i>	3rd to 6th November Art show in aid of Hospital Aux.			

Springtime in the Mountains

The fragile, featherlike leaves appear overnight
 Soft and tender they float then flap as the breeze turns to fury.
 Blossom too, a perfect petal touched with pastel,
 A haze of white replaces stark branches,
 Bridal confetti dances and drops snowlike.
 Colour returns to the bush.

Splashes of gold as the various wattles remind us of sunshine and golden beaches.

When, oh when will the wind stop
 and the clouds give us a whole day of sunlight!
 From the soft and tender, the delicate and dainty
 rise the rocky bluffs, headlands and mountain tops,
 Steel grey fortresses, buttressed by scree slopes and forest.
 The trees, hardened, broken, split and weathered;
 Limbs dropped and smashed, overtime scattered about.
 High up blue grey snow gum trunks look like striped pyjama pants
 As they drape themselves across the Alpine landscape,
 survivors of many a mid-winter blast.
 Elegant and straight the ghosts of the mountain ash
 tower over the once fire ravaged ranges.
 Silent sentinels of the failure of man to manage nature.

Christine Sheldrick 17.11.2016

(*•♥•*)

Do it NOW

Set up some Queen Wasp Traps around your garden



October and November are the months that the queen European wasp heads out to find a good place to set up her summer nest.

The trick is to catch her while she is flying around so that she doesn't have a chance to lay thousands upon thousands of eggs which will hatch into those pesky European Wasps that annoy we Aussies every summer.

The Late Cyril McCormack had a fear of these colourful critters but could never remember where they came from and more often than not he referred to them as 'New Australian Wasps'. Ha Ha ha

Anyway if you don't want them hanging around your BBQ and outdoor area this summer, get on to it now.



It only takes a few minutes to make up the mixture – another 10 to prepare the empty plastic bottles to be the traps and then perhaps another 10 to hang them in appropriate places.

The mixture can be sieved about once a week to remove the trapped wasps so that it is ready to catch the next lot that fly by. This mix also attracts flies and ants. I have never caught any native wasps or bees, and used this method 2 years ago and had no wasps at all last summer only a few flying by late in the season. Prior to setting the traps in 2015 though, it was almost dangerous to go out of the house there were so many wasps about.

- Hang in sunny areas near water with twine or wire, ideally 2m above ground from branches of fruit trees with curly leaf, shrubs, fence posts etc. (mine are by the compost and around my outdoor area)
- Bait may take up to a week or so to activate.
- Monitor traps regularly and shake up lure every few days.
- Remove trapped wasps using a mesh kitchen strainer and bowl, re-use bait and top up with water.
- Replace bait every 4-5 weeks.

If you add apple juice with a bit of vinegar to it, honey bees will never go in one beekeeper mentioned. The wasps and hornets like the decaying smell of vinegar and the bees do not.

I have had my traps out for about 2 weeks already and have caught 4 queen wasps, and quite a lot of ants along with a few flies.

Here is the recipe for the queen wasp trap and another one for the worker wasps if you don't catch all the queens at this time of the year.

Recipe :- 4 tbs jam - 1 cup of water - A slurp of alcohol based Vanilla - A dash of vinegar

The vinegar, will dissuade bees from traps as they are not fanciers of acidic foods.

The recipe for worker wasps, if you didn't happen to trap the queen in time, is to use meat of some sort. There are no quantities mentioned so use your initiative but include things such as some sort of meat like mince, canned dog food or even liver was suggested as they're searching for high protein food; - Dishwashing liquid and water – something to ferment the mix, some suggestions are Mashed grapes, Sugar and lemon juice or even beer or soft drink – and add vinegar again to avoid attracting honey bees.

For some ideas of where to set up your traps keep this info in mind about the wasp's preferences.

The European Wasp is territorial, usually foraging for food in close proximity to its nest. It does not fly high, preferring to scavenge close to the ground. Large numbers generally indicate a nest is nearby, often in retaining walls, disused rubbish, wood piles, palm tree trunks or even underground. Reduce opportunities for wasps to forage on rubbish, pet food and other food sources. The home gardener must continually clear all fruit that has fallen to the ground. The wasps are also attracted to sticky things and water.

- Do not aggravate a European Wasp. Unlike the bee, they can sting multiple times.
- Do not disturb nests. Only ever approach a nest after dark when wasps are no longer active and use a red light to find your way. Cover yourself head to toe alternatively contact your local council or a pest control operator.

The European wasp poses three distinct threats to the state — agricultural, environmental and to the general public.

- "They destroy beehive nests, so the pollination and honey industry suffers.
- "For the soft fruit industries, like grapes and stone fruit, they break the skin of the fruit so it rots on the vines.

Environmentally, you can have 10,000 to 20,000 wasps per hectare in the air at any one time.

For the general public, the wasps can kill domestic pets and make it simply too uncomfortable for people to be outdoors if they are present in large numbers.

In severe cases wasp stings from an attack by a swarm can be fatal for humans.

Who's Doing What Lately?

Eliza Foster is back from a week at Trinity Beach.... just north of Cairns..."it feels like I've had a month off! Getting away for even just a week to let the bones warm up again has been wonderful!" she said.



"We took the Skyrail trip... it is so amazing... like a cross between a chairlift and a helicopter. I even took my partner with me, who is terrified of heights... but he did say he liked helicopters, and admitted that he enjoyed the old chairlift at Arthur's Seat... so I put two and two together and decided he would enjoy this ride." Eliza commented. "Well, he stared daggers at me for the first few minutes of the trip (*when he didn't look as if he were about to die that is*) The first leg of the lift is the highest from the ground. After that he was ok, and by the end of it all he had a smile on his face." Eliza said happily.

.... the views were truly amazing.

"The second leg up took in Barron Falls Gorge, and the last leg was to Kuranda, where we stopped for lunch and took a look around the township and the township and the old railway station." she concluded



(*•.♥.•*)

Tony and Sandra Lovick's Footy Hero



Daniel is the youngest child in the family of Sandra and Tony of McCormacks Rd . The eldest is Andrew and then Julia – all families live in Geelong, they all love their sport but spend a lot of holidays on the Merrijig farm helping out and enjoying the local area.

They all grew up spending most of their school holidays with Grandparents Keith and Aileen at Merrijig and are all good horse riders and know the high country like all good Lovicks.

(Extract from GFL news) “IN typical, unassuming Daniel Lovick fashion, it wasn’t until after he was awarded another grand final best-on-ground medal amidst the celebrations of St Joseph’s second premiership in three years that he confirmed the win over St Mary’s would be his last in red, gold and black.

The two-time Mathieson medallist informed some teammates that his days in the GFL were all over, before being chaired from the ground through a guard of honour featuring players and supporters.

“I just can’t keep going,” Lovick, who turns 32 early in 2018, said. “To get to where I want to play, and the way I want to play, the time restrictions with having two kids and everything else, I want to enjoy my footy in the last couple of years.”

Coach Heath Jamieson was full of praise for Lovick and the contribution he has made to not only St Joseph’s over 201 games, but also the GFL. “I can’t speak highly enough of Daniel; he’s an absolute warrior,” Jamieson said. “He’s everything you want in a player.

“I’ve been in the GFL for five years and I’ve never seen a defender play like he does. He puts his body in the way all day. He played every minute of the game today ... he’s everything you want a young defender to be.”

Daniel is an electrician in Geelong and is married to Carly and they have 2 little boys under 2.



Daniel started to be noticed in his football career with the Ballarat Rebels in the state TAC Cup under 18 competition but missed out on the National AFL draft. He then played for Geelong in the VFL and went on to become probably one of the top country Victorian footballers winning 2 Geelong Football League 'Best and Fairest' and 5 Club 'Best and Fairest'. He was a regular in Geelong and Goulburn Valley interleague sides as well as representing the VCFL in the National interstate competition.

Daniel played for Shepparton Swans in 2013 and 14 in an effort to help his brother in Law, who was coaching the Swans and this team, in 2014 won the GVFL premiership. In that same match Daniel won their 'Best and Fairest' award that year.

He returned in 2015 to St Josephs, in the Geelong Football League, where they also won the premiership with Daniel being awarded the 'Best on Ground' in the Grand final. He followed up on that achievement with another Premiership and 'Best on Ground' on that special 'one day in September' – in this case the 23rd.

Daniel will probably continue to play for one of the Bellarine teams next year – possibly the Geelong Amateurs where his brother Andrew was the Premiership playing coach in 2014.

Visit to Meet with Politicians in Canberra



Marie Sellstrom national president of Rural Australians for Refugees and the national treasurer Margaret Rasa visited Canberra to meet with politicians to discuss the future of refugees and asylum seekers at the request of the membership. They met with Cathy McGowan, the member for Indi, Mike Kelly member for Eden Monaro, Senators Nick McKim and Richard Di Natale Greens representatives from Tasmania and Victoria, Senator Sam Dastyari from NSW, the shadow minister for Immigration and Border Protection Shayne Neumann member for Blair in Queensland and Lisa Chesters member for Bendigo. As a result of our discussions Cathy

McGowan asked a question of Peter Dutton on the closure of Manus Island and it was clarified that Manus would close on October 31. The members of parliament all stated that they felt sure the United States would honour the agreement to settle people on Manus Island and Nauru in the United States. Marie and Margaret emphasised that the seven women who had been raped on Nauru should never be returned there and that family reunion is a basic human right which must be supported. A number of families have been separated due to the government ruling that people of Nauru and Manus will never come to Australia.



Merrijig Track back in use after a bit of a change ...



The motorbike club picked beautiful weather to come back to their home track at McCormack Park after their grass track fundraising days.

The club was established to allow kids to learn how to ride safely before they were old enough to go bush on their bikes alone following the death of one young man and brain damage to another on their first trip to the bush since buying trail bikes.

Children begin in the club as young as 4 years old and have usually grown out of the facility by the time they are 15 or 16. Some have gone on

to being picked for motocross teams and enjoy the sport on that level while others simply feel safe riding with friends on weekends.

Each year for the past 2 years the club which now has a membership of more than 100 youngsters has held a family camp weekend so that – like on the grass track meets, parents can ride with their kids and share the experience of biking together.

The weekend camps have been so successful and so much fun that it's that time of the year again, MMCs camp out weekend. The venue chosen has ticked all boxes for the club including toilets and some accommodation if required.



"We will have a flat track for the little kids and some solid bush riding at various levels for the rest of the riders." The club's web page reported.

This will be a weekend not to be missed!

(*•♥•*)

Not your usual Sunday drivers

– (this report has been extracted from Victorian Police News page on the internet.)

Well done Police – working on keeping our roads safe.

Monday, 18 September 2017

Highway Patrol officers in Victoria's high country were left shaking their heads after a flurry of speeding incidents on Sunday 17th September.



Police intercepted a car on Mt. Buller Road in Merrijig after it was allegedly detected travelling at 164km/h in a 100 zone shortly after 10am.

The driver, a 25-year-old man from the Docklands, had two passengers with him.

The BMW X6 was impounded for 30 days at a cost of \$1280.

While Mansfield Highway Patrol officers were finishing up the impound, a Holden Commodore was allegedly observed travelling west on Mt. Buller Road at a speed of 194km/h.

The car was pulled over by police a short time later.

The driver was a 29-year-old from Boronia on his probationary license and he was travelling in a hire car.

Later this afternoon, Maroondah Highway Patrol officers detected a car travelling 123km/h on Hewish Road in Croydon – a 50 zone.

All drivers are expected to be charged on summons with a range of traffic-related offences at a later date.

Luke Zammit

Media Officer

Merrijig CFA in the Newspaper



The Mansfield Courier published a story about Merrijig having the “OLDEST (Fire truck) IN THE STATE”: The Mansfield Shire is home to the oldest fire trucks in the state. A recent report has revealed that almost a third of Victoria's trucks are more than 20 years old. And asked the question.... Does this put our volunteers at risk?’ the Courier asked

Merrijig people are impressed at how CFA members keep the truck looking amazing and well maintained and generally people understand and appreciate that vehicles can last much longer than 20 years, particularly a diesel vehicle.

John McCombe who writes the CFA safety message each month said in regard to this story “The truck is in pretty good condition despite its age. It is well-maintained by the CFA and is only ever driven short distances, and not often (except for a weekly 20 km test run) so still has relatively low mileage up.

As Captain Pete Bowker said to the Courier “we would be happy to get a new one that meets our needs, and will welcome the eventual changeover to crew seating on the inside, something that is happening throughout the service. In the meantime the old bus is OK for our needs.”

For anyone interested in being part of the Merrijig CFA regular CFA meetings commence on Tuesday 10th October at 6:30 pm.



Flying visit to McCormack Park

A Chopper dropped in on Saturday Afternoon Sept 16th after arranging with the 'Go To' man of Merrijig, Bruce McCormack, where he could safely put down as part of a photo shoot for a Chinese fashion magazine.

Not long after touching down a black Mercedes Limo drove up and several Models and photographic crew arrived. The organizer wanted some photos of the models mixing with horses and Bruce was happy to accommodate them by allowing them to use his trail ride horses for this purpose.

Bruce is a quiet unassuming fella but is more and more the man people contact when they need some advice or assistance with things around our district. Bruce with his wife Deb run McCormack Mountain Trail Rides and he has been President of Mountain Cattlemen and is presently President of McCormack Park Grounds Management – likely to be even more not currently known to the writer.

He has probably been in all the movies and adverts ever shot around here, and knows the mountains like his back paddock, being the 4th generation of McCormack's to run cattle in the high country. Living on McCormacks Rd, opposite McCormack Park which sits on the original selection made by his 3X great grandparents John and Frances McCormack in 1866, puts him in a prime position to have his finger on the pulse to be the 'Go To' man about Merrijig.

What's that all about?

For those frequent users of the Mt Buller Rd you would have noticed the appearance at the top of Buttercup Rd intersection one of the Buller Bus Shuttles. It was parked there for many days. No it hadn't broken down. When it was first parked there it had at least 30 cms of snow the full length of its roof. It took many days to melt.



It was a timely warning to road users that the police do not tolerate drivers who do not remove the snow from their rooves before proceeding down the mountain.



Adopt a roadside

Following the story in the last newsletter, of Laurie Jacob clearing rubbish in a spontaneous action, which happened to be in Keep Australia Beautiful week without his knowledge, Marion Mitchell has been prompted to jump into action and look into organizing an Adopt a Roadside project in our district. She is currently aware of several people, who on their own volition do pick up roadside rubbish periodically, so this project would be making their efforts formally acknowledged.



Some years ago Frank Johnson, who walked the road verge for his regular exercise, put in quite a lot of effort to start up such a project but it never got off the ground for unrecalled reasons. The safety vests and equipment he acquired then are safely stored in Merrijig Hall. Marion is looking into what has been done and what needs to yet be done to get the project off the ground.

Keep Australia Beautiful or 'KAB', I are working with Marion at the moment, and plan to do a road inspection on October 16th.

One suggestion put forward in the meantime was for each family to clear up perhaps 500 mtrs each side of their property on both sides of the road, maybe once every month or so in the nice weather. This need not take too long and can be done with pick-up sticks and a rubbish bag as shown in the photo. The roadsides would then be clear of rubbish which Vic Roads admits it simply does not have the money or manpower to control.

Of courses it would be far better if people were educated not to throw their litter out of the car window, but we have no control over that.

Once Marion has worked though the necessary red tape she will send out a message via the newsletter mailing list for those interested in joining in to make contact with her.



Award winning water in Merrijig

You've probably all become aware that 'It's official', Merrijig has the Best Tasting Tap Water in Victoria!

At the recent Victorian WIOA (Water Industry Operators Association) Conference in Bendigo, water businesses from around the state were invited to participate in the Ixom Victorian Water Taste Test,

with one sample acknowledged as providing the best tasting water in Victoria. Using a blind taste test approach and under strict tasting guidelines, water samples were judged for colour, clarity, odour and taste. After making it through some tough rounds of judging, it was announced that water from Goulburn Valley Water's (GVW) Upper Delatite Water Treatment Plant was the best tasting tap water in the state.

The Upper Delatite, or Merrijig, Water Treatment Plant, uses micro-filtration technology to supply drinking water to the towns of Merrijig, Sawmill Settlement and Upper Delatite, with raw water for the plant sourced from the Delatite River. GVW Manager Operations Steven Nash said that the award recognises the hard work of a team who ensure safe, clean drinking water is available from our taps every day. "It is a great achievement and acknowledges the work that our dedicated engineers and operators put into producing safe, reliable and great tasting water for our communities."

Mr Nash also said he was delighted that GVW once again had bragging rights to the title of best tasting tap water. "We won this award in 2015 with water from Marysville before North East Water won the title last year - it's fantastic that we've been able to claim it back in 2017!"

A water sample from the Upper Delatite Water Treatment Plant will now be entered in the national competition to be held in Tasmania in October. "We're hopeful that the water will also be named Best in the Nation but it will be a pretty tough competition," Mr Nash said.

GVW will install a Hydration Station at the water treatment plant which is situated near a popular walking track, to acknowledge the town's award winning water and so that residents and visitors will have free access to the award winning drop.

"Be Smart Choose Tap" says Brian Pollard Merrijig Plant maintenance man

Local Merrijig identity, Brian Pollard of Davies Road, takes care of this Merrijig treatment plant and is justifiably proud of the win; making his emergency call outs and after hours work worthwhile. It is a matter of pride with Brian to do his job well and efficiently, so for this award to come to Merrijig is something Merrijig people can be especially proud of due to his dedication on top of GV waters top quality treatment plant.





October Message: Home Fire Safety

Be FIRE READY this summer

The Southern Australia Seasonal Bushfire Outlook 2017 shows the southern fire season is likely to commence **earlier**, possibly October, and be **more active** than usual due to a dry winter and forecasts of a hot summer.

CFA and Forest Fire Management Victoria have brought forward their planned burning program, and are checking staging areas and landing sites for aircrafts across districts.

So it's time to start checking the fire readiness of your property.

- Clean up rubbish
- Plan to have grass around your house eaten down or mown
- Clean gutters
- Check fire-fighting equipment and water supply.

Maybe time to do your annual **chimney clean** as well. If you are looking for a specialist for the job John McCombe (0409 230098) has a local contact.

Over the weekend of Sept 23/24, windy conditions saw more than 50 fires escape from private burn offs across the state.

CFA State Duty Officer Craig Brownlie said that while it's important we start to prepare our properties for the fire season ahead, only do so when conditions are right. "It's important to only burn off when the conditions are right and to check the weather forecast for the day of the burn and for a few days afterwards," Craig said. "Residents should refrain from burning off on days when hot and windy conditions are forecast. It's essential to ensure there are enough people to monitor, contain and extinguish the burn safely and effectively. Never leave a burn-off unattended as it's the resident's responsibility to ensure that it does not get out of control."

If a burn off gets out of control, call '000' immediately. People should have a fire plan and prepare for the event of fire, and remember never to be complacent. It is also important to check with your local council before lighting up, local laws on burn-offs can apply year-round.

It is important for residents to register all burn-offs with ESTA on 1800 668 511.

For more information about burning off, check: <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/burning-off/>

Finally, support your local CFA by marking **Saturday 28 October** in your diary for the annual **Merrijig Fire-Ready Ball**. More publicity and tickets available soon.

No – stop guessing - you don't know these people..... On her return from the Gold Coast a visitor to the 'Australian Outback Spectacular', , notified the Merrijig Newsletter that in a section of the show "Salute to the Light Horse" about rodeo, it's Merrijig Rodeo that gets a mention out there on the big international stage.

Following on the heels of last year's 'Myths and Legends of the High Country', it seems that someone at "Australian Outback Spectacular" loves our part of the world as much as we do.

Photo taken from the internet

The faces are distorted as I don't know the people either and do not have permission to publish them in the newsletter



What's happening around here in October?



Defibrillator training Wednesday Oct 4th

7.00PM at the **Merrijig Hall** with St John Ambulance for a free Defibrillator training session requires a minimum of 8 attendees for the training to proceed.

REASONS YOU SHOULD ATTEND:

- *A free training session
- * Invaluable skill
- *You may need to save someone's life
- *Learn the location of Merrijig defibs and how to access them

This program can only go ahead if we have sufficient numbers, so you are encourage you to attend.

Could you please RSVP to, Louise Jacob on the Merrijig Community Website merrijiginfo@gmail.com or Andrea Pickett andrea.pickett@bigpond.com asap if you can attend.

Save the date - October 28 - for the Merrijig FireReady Bush Ball



Following the great success of last year's Merrijig FireReady Bush Ball and the numerous requests for a repeat dance, the next one will be on Saturday, October 28. Planning is going well with the Merrijig Hall ball sub committee meeting fortnightly to fine tune arrangements.

Our very own popular Merrijig band, Last Drinks, will provide the live music entertainment



The ball is a fund raiser for the hall and the Merrijig CFA and last year saw about 120 people dance their way through the night. It was a great social event, the likes of which haven't been seen in Merrijig for many years. And don't worry about a 'ball gown'. There's no need so break out your best firey coloured comfortable clothes or quirky costume and have a ball.

This year, as the ball occurs on the weekend of the Cox Plate Carnival in Melbourne, there will be a definite racing theme. The night signals that the time is right to start preparing your properties for the coming heat of summer and the potential risk of fire that the season brings.



Door raffles, great food and entertainment will be provided with prizes for most quirky costume, best dancers, best dressed guests and more.

Last year's best dancers, Marie Sellstrom and John McCombe.

This year tables of eight will be sold plus single tickets of course. A superb supper will be provided by the committees of the hall and the CFA. The bar will be provided by the Apex Club of Mansfield.

As tickets are limited to 120 please contact merrijiginfo@gmail.com to book a table of eight or smaller numbers. Or if you'd prefer please phone Louise Jacob on 0419 346 249 or John McCombe on 0409 230 098.



Hall AGM coming up

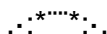


The Merrijig community is invited to attend the Merrijig Public Hall's annual meeting on Sunday, **October 22 at 11 am.**

This is the time of year when the committee and office bearers are elected, the president's annual report is presented and there's an opportunity to become involved in the running of this excellent community facility.

Meetings are held monthly and are never very long - an hour and a half tops.

So if you'd like more information on becoming a committee member contact the secretary, Louise Jacob on 0419 346 249.



Early November

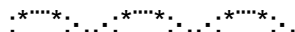
Hospital Auxiliary Art show.

There will be posters around town come October and tickets to the opening night

- Friday Nov. 3rd 5:30 - 7:30 pm

- for sale at Wallaby Ritz for \$25 per person.

The evening includes wine/beer and finger food.



**MANSFIELD DISTRICT HOSPITAL
AUXILIARY**

**41ST ART
EXHIBITION**

Friday 3rd—Monday 6th
November 2017

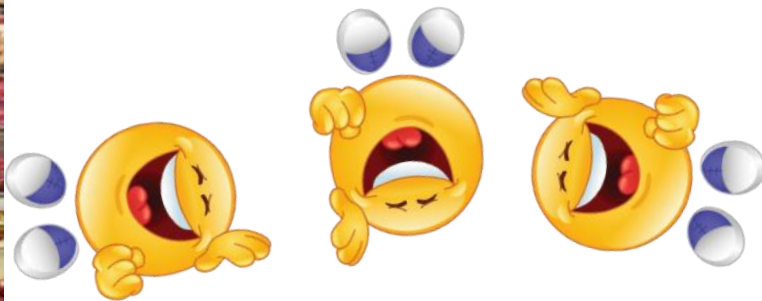
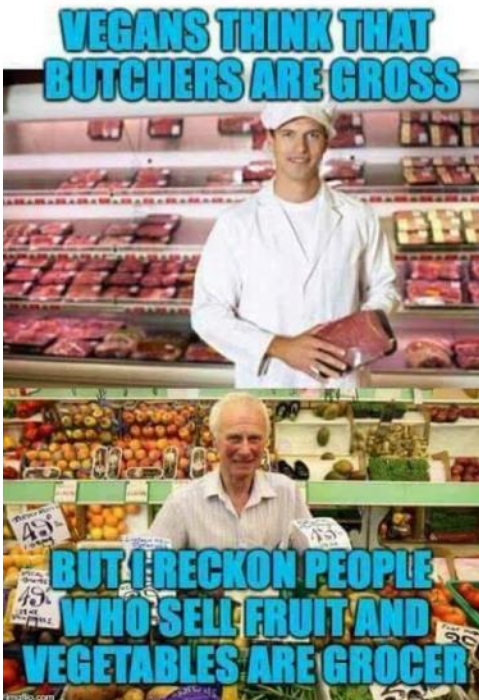
JUDGE: Mandy Hall, Artist

SPONSORED BY:
The Rotary Club of Mansfield and the Harry & Clare Friday Foundation

VENUE:
The Masonic Hall, Highett Street, Mansfield

Alex's Dad Jokes

What's it called when a chameleon can't change its colours anymore?
A reptile dysfunction.



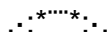
Caveman and a bear walk into a bar.
Bartender says "what's your story?"
Caveman says...
Bear with me...



A rabbi, a priest and a monk walked into bar

The bartender said – what is this some kind of a joke?

If you guys can find a better fish pun...
Let minnow.



Trash 2 Treasure

Following the last very successful Trash 2 Treasure day at the Merrijig Public Hall, the hall committee is interested in holding another in early December if you'd like it. Great chance to sort out your trash and treasure and maybe acquire a Christmas gift or treasure for yourself.

It's also a really good chance to meet some other Merrijiggers and have a good time.

If you'd like a stall or would like this event to happen shoot a quick email through to merrijiginfo@gmail.com and let us know.



Some of the treasures found at the last trash2treasure day at the Merrijig Hall.



Stone extraction matter heard at council

The Buttercup Rd stone extraction application was discussed again at a consultative meeting at Mansfield Shire Council last Tuesday. The meeting was well attended with 24 Merrijig objectors and 28 apologies tabled.

The application has attracted more than 50 written objections, a petition of more than 600 signatures and an extensive 29 page document from the Merrijig Residents' Action Group outlining detailed reasons while the application should be refused and refuting the accuracy of reports submitted to council by the applicant's consultants.

The matter has been before council since early last year when it received complaints of excessive noise and vibration to properties from works being carried out at 401 Buttercup Rd, Merrijig.

Council put a stop to the work and a planning permit application was submitted for consideration. Two amendments to the application were subsequently lodged. The proposal for the stone extraction business is to operate from 7.30 am till 5 pm five days a week for 10 years.

Last Tuesday's meeting was chaired by independent planner, Nick Vlahandreas, who welcomed the 24 objectors, three councillors, the proponent and two council staff. The apologies list of 28 people was tabled.

Spokesperson for the residents' group, Ms Kym Lynch, said it was a productive meeting where both sides were encouraged to present their cases.

"A key question is the veracity of the application itself," she said.

"The essence of our case is that the application should be refused as it goes against the Significant Landscape Overlay which applies to large parts of the Mansfield/Merrijig area. This overlay covers things like "Whether the site is suitable for the use or development and whether the proposal is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses." "The impact of works on views to the land from any road, public viewpoints and private land" and "The impact ...on the natural physical features and resources of the area...soil and water quality".

In addition "The Alpine Approach Significant Landscape area – Section 2.0 aims to "Minimise the visual impact of works by requiring setbacks from prominent visual areas, ridge lines and works in the landscape."

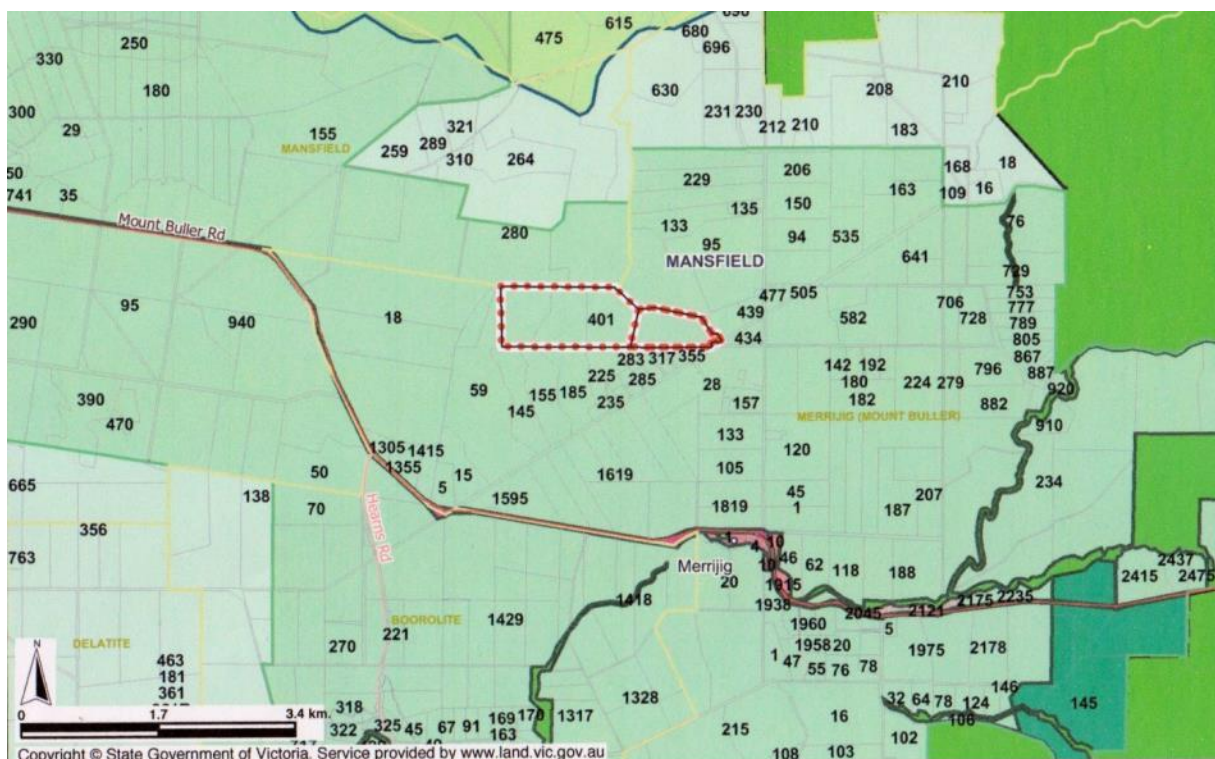
"How can this proposal not adversely affect the pre-existing adjoining and neighbouring residential properties and tourism accommodation which are rural residential rated.

"How is this proposal compatible with the "SLO and the Alpine Approach Significant Landscape Area"?

"Apart from the planning reasons, the location of the site so close to so many properties would have an

unreasonable impact on the those residents and adversely affects the amenity of the area."

Ms Lynch started her address with the following screen shot of the planning map covering the district.



"It can clearly be seen just how many properties are affected by this proposal. It's not only the noise and vibrations but the effect on those using Buttercup Rd with road safety a very real concern.

Ms Lynch acknowledged the area is a farming zone but 'we are paying rural residential rates as listed on our rate notices.'

"Four tourist businesses, which are very popular and some have been there a very long time, would be adversely affected," she said.

"On the subject of fire, Ms Lynch commented that the applicant's offer of having 1000 litres of water on hand for dust or fire will 'go nowhere'. We are very concerned."

Tourism owner and operator, Mary Dunn, of Blue Gum Ridge Cottages, explained there were four to six tourism operators nearby. "Our cottages are directly opposite the gate to the property. The cottages would be impacted very badly by noise, traffic, dust and the danger of the vehicles as our guests use these roads for walking, cycling, horse riding etc.

"We've had comments from guests who saw the sign advertising the application when it was posted on the fence. They said they would have to reconsider coming back if this went ahead.

"The impact on the Victoria Police Alpine Club and Buttercup Cottage & Apartment would both be affected by the noise and dust. Oberon Lodge in Gonzaga Rd would also be affected. And it is not just the accommodation enterprises; it is the flow on to eateries like The Hunt Club, Mill Inn, horse riding businesses, all sorts of local businesses that provide the activities for guests staying in the accommodation.

"As tourism contributes so much to this shire why would it risk this income? Merrijig and surrounds are very much part of this tourism endeavour," she concluded.

There were other Merrijig speakers describing anecdotal stories experienced during its operation last year. Other questions covered the cultural heritage aspect, water and soil, revegetation and fire risk.

The chairman concluded that a report would be submitted to council and likely to be considered at the November or December meeting of council.

"If council determines to grant a permit they issue a notice of decision. If the council allows the permit the objectors can take the matter to the tribunal for determination. If council refuses, the applicant can take to the matter to the tribunal."***

After the meeting, Ms. Lynch said that for those who haven't objected but would like to, objections can be put in writing to the Shire up to the time the council adjudicates on the proposal.

"So note your diaries - November 21 looks like the Council Meeting date for the determination. This meeting is to be held at the Jamieson Hall. We hope to see as many of you as possible to show support for the objection," she concluded.

**Report compiled from notes taken by Merrijig Residents' Action Group.

Slow to 40 rule causes issues on country roads.



As of July 1, it became law to drive past emergency vehicles with flashing lights at 40kmph. This is certainly a sensible introduction to protect our emergency service personnel.

Yet the experience of when I recently crested a hill in a 100 limit zone to be confronted with a police car with lights flashing and a vehicle pulled over on the side of the road, I have reconsidered the generalization of this rule. As after a quick rear vision mirror check, I

applied the brakes as hard as I could but was only able to slow by 25kmph before being alongside the police car.

It occurred to me that this rule, which would work extremely well in suburban areas, is not suitable for open country roads where there are numerous crests and bends where a similar situation could confront drivers. In such situations, applying the brakes enough to even attempt to slow to the required new speed could create danger on the roads for any vehicle. Had there been a heavy vehicle, a car towing a caravan or horse float, a trailer or a boat, a vehicle slowing dramatically in front would cause them to run into that vehicle, as such road users need more space to slow down than a single vehicle. Such heavy vehicles, if they attempted to dramatically reduce speed could lose control of their load creating a dangerous situation for everyone on the road at the time including the emergency workers.

The possible scenarios caused me such concern that I wrote to Vic Roads, RACV and our local member Cindy McLeish expressing these concerns. I have to date received responses from

Senior Engineer, Roads and Traffic of the RACV who said ... Many members have contacted us with issues about various aspects of the recently introduced rule.

We have expressed our concerns to the State Government about the implementation of the rule and its application in certain situations such as high speed roads and service roads. We have also met with VicRoads to discuss these issues and will continue to advocate for changes on behalf of our members.

We encourage our members to contact their local MP's to reinforce their concerns, and I am pleased to hear you have done so.

VicRoads response was Thanks you for your feedback at this time there are no plans to change the rule as this would just add great confusion to the issue. A similar rule has been in place in South Australia, with a lower speed of 25 km/h, for a number of years and there have been no reported major incidents.

"Many people have provided similar feedback and I too have been in such situations." remarked our local State member Cindy McLeish.

If you also have concerns about this rule, please express your fears to **RACV** at Care@racv.com.au, **Vic Roads** via Rodney I Blythe, Senior Policy Analyst VicRoads rodney.blythe@roads.vic.gov.au and **Cindy McLeish** at Cindy.McLeish@parliament.vic.gov.au (Adele your newsletter editor)



Dear oh Deer!

A dear friend, whose garden once upon a time, was amongst those on display in the “Mansfield Open Garden week” (*a fundraising opportunity for the local Hospital*), but which now has been destroyed by feral deer, our local state member of parliament was contacted to see what the Government was doing to control the ever increasing numbers of these introduced pests.

“The government are not doing anything.” Cindy McLeish responded, “There was a cull in the Yarra Ranges of maybe 200 which made little difference.” She added, “Concerns such as yours are widespread in country areas. Vineyards have to add an additional wire to their fences to make them higher so the deer can’t reach in.” Cindy McLeish went on to report that “The parliament did hold an inquiry into invasive species which included deer, rabbits, foxes and wild dogs which was tabled around June 20. The government then have 6 months to provide a response.”

Photo from the internet

It is comforting to know that our MP’s do listen to us when we make enquiries of them as she concluded “You have reminded me though, to start up a campaign. I will also see if I can speak to that inquiry next week to get the ball rolling.”

The garden in upper Merrijig, not far from Pinnacle Valley resort, once was a display of colourful flower beds and blossoming shrubs with flowering trees offering layers of magnificence nature provides. Yet now those shrubs have been eaten out and torn apart, even the trees have had branches ripped from them, “As I’ve seen with my own eyes, the deer stand on their hind legs and beat the branches with their antlers in order to bring them down to a level where they can eat them, they will then tear the branch if they can to enable them to reach more of the foliage.” This disenchanted gardener mentioned.

(Photograph taken from the internet)



There have been examples of deer ringbarking trees by rubbing antlers all around removing the bark, many orchards have been written off, as deer cannot be kept away and although the land they breed so happily in is State and National Park forest land, there is seemingly little these departments can or are prepared to do to bring them under control.

In the national parks they, along with other feral animals such as brumbies in some areas, are responsible for destroying the sphagnum moss beds. Removing the mountain cattle grazing was meant to protect these sensitive areas. Although, had the government accepted the offer of the Mountain cattlemen to fence off the moss beds to protect them been taken up, they would still be in good condition, as deer would not have had free access to them.



It is clear that the managing government departments are not able to control the forested areas with the ever increasing numbers of these feral pests which cross rivers and roads to invade private property and wreak havoc on gardens. "The native animals which saw my property as a safety haven, no longer reside in my garden," the disappointed gardener said, "There used to be wombats, echidna, and even liar birds but now I am lucky to see kangaroo" "Yes the Kangaroo still come, but the smaller animals are no longer living here" she concluded sadly.

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Independents push together on better mobile phone services ahead of fire season

Independent Member for Cathy McGowan has joined with Member for Mayo, Rebekha Sharkie, to push the government for more commitment to rural mobile phone services ahead of the next fire season.

In seconding Ms Sharkie's Bill to compel Telstra to provide 24 back-up power to towers in bushfire prone areas, Ms McGowan has pushed for more funding to address outstanding mobile black spots.

"The Mobile Black Spot Program was a really important part of the government's 2013 election commitment, but they've let the ball drop," Ms McGowan said.

"I have written to the Prime Minister this week putting the government on notice that in the 2018 budget we expect Round 4 to be well funded. This should be enough for the 200 remaining black

spots still outstanding in my electorate of Indi."



Ms McGowan said the funding was needed to make sure people in rural communities had access to the same services enjoyed by their city cousins.

“It is vitally important for all rural and regional Australia, particularly my electorate of Indi, which is absolutely fire-prone,” Ms McGowan said.

“To all the CFA in Indi, to the SES and to the local government emergency managers: it gives me so much pleasure to work together with the crossbenchers who really care for rural and regional Australia. This is an example of how we bring to parliament issues that the major parties refuse to take up.”

Ms McGowan is encouraging anyone who is seriously affected by power blackouts disrupting telecommunications in the upcoming emergency season to contact her office.

People who live in Sawmill, Changue Road and all the other local black spot area – here is your invitation to let Cathy know your concerns.

During Question Time Cathy posed a question for minister of Immigration Peter Dutton after having a meeting with RAR representatives, including the President Merrijig’s Marie Sellstrom,.

She asked about the closure of Manus Island Detention centre and how it would be handled. Mr Dutton began by stating that he had often had meetings with Cathy over concerns of her constituents regarding refugees and understands that she like those she represents are genuinely concerned and that he understands her question is heartfelt. He went on to say that the centre will be closed by the end of October with the support of the PNG government. Approximately 100 of the inmates of Manus Island have opted to take up a return to the country of origin offer as they do not meet refugee status criteria. Another 200, who have no lawful claim as refugees, will be settled into other accommodation in Papua New Guinea, with Australia supporting the PNG government in this action.

He went on to say in his answer that in the past few years there have only been 31 people smuggler boats turned around with no loss of life. The policy is to stop the people smuggling by making it clear that there will be no home in Australia for people coming into Australian waters using people smugglers and the policy does appear to have stopped this illegal practice.

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Finally car rego in portion payments



utes, vans, motorcycles and other can be taken up by anyone

Consumer rights groups have Victorian Government to consider and in 2015 the Andrews introducing quarterly payments families.

Victorian Roads Minister Luke VicRoads IT system had to be instalment option could be

Victorians will be able to **pay their car registration in quarterly or half-yearly instalments** from January; two years after the Government flagged introducing the measure to help low-income families struggling with their bills.

Fee breakdown	Amount
Registration fee	\$290.40
TAC charge*	\$464.00
Insurance duty	\$46.40
Total due	\$800.80

* Incl. \$42.18 GST. This GST amount is the only GST included in the total amount due. This document will be a tax invoice when payment is made.

myVicRoads
Keeping your registration up to date is easier than ever with myVicRoads. Use your account to get reminders and e-billing, and to track payments.

The option will be available for cars, light vehicles, and regardless of income.

been urging the changes for years, Government flagged for low-income

Donnellan said the upgraded before the introduced.

"It'll be ready to go on January 1, 2018, but we needed to upgrade the IT system to accommodate the approximately five million transaction per year," he said.

The Government said there would a \$2.45 administration fee per transaction to cover costs for people who take up the option.

Mr Donnellan said smaller registration payments every three or six months would help Victorians struggling to make ends meet.



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

HORSES AND BUSHFIRE

How prepared are you?

Wednesday 15 November

6.30pm

Mansfield Community Centre

What should be included in your fire plan?

Leave early - where can you go?

Can you leave your horses at home?

What to do if your plan fails?

Your responsibilities

Road closures

Property Identification Code (PIC)

National Equine Database

Information: Sue Hare Arndt 5775 8558

Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/320881>

Don't leave it too late.....

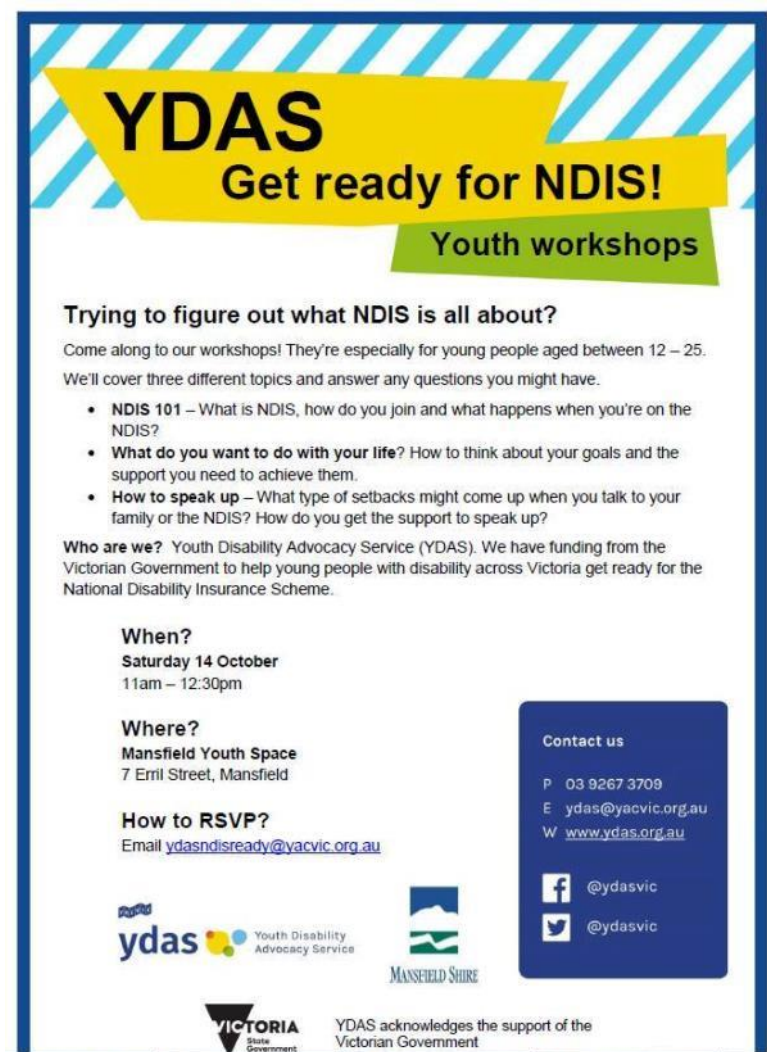
See the flyer for more details.

If you are aged between 12 – 25 years and have a disability but no idea of how the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) can help you, this post could be just what you're looking for. We are running a workshop in collaboration with the [YDAS - Youth Disability Advocacy Service](#) to give you some ideas and pointers to help identify your life goals, the supports required to achieve these goals and tips on how the NDIS can assist you in reaching them.

Full details are provided below or you can ring our Rural Access Worker on 5775 8555 if you've got any queries.any queries

Mansfield Shire Council is running the Horses and Bushfire Forum again this year - Wednesday 15 November at the Community Centre, 6.30pm.

This forum will help horse owners plan and prepare for the upcoming summer bushfire season.



YDAS
Get ready for NDIS!
Youth workshops

Trying to figure out what NDIS is all about?
Come along to our workshops! They're especially for young people aged 12 – 25. We'll cover three different topics and answer any questions you might have.

- **NDIS 101** – What is NDIS, how do you join and what happens when you're on the NDIS?
- **What do you want to do with your life?** How to think about your goals and the support you need to achieve them.
- **How to speak up** – What type of setbacks might come up when you talk to your family or the NDIS? How do you get the support to speak up?

Who are we? Youth Disability Advocacy Service (YDAS). We have funding from the Victorian Government to help young people with disability across Victoria get ready for the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

When?
Saturday 14 October
11am – 12:30pm

Where?
Mansfield Youth Space
7 Errol Street, Mansfield

How to RSVP?
Email ydasndisready@yacvic.org.au

Contact us
P 03 9267 3709
E ydas@yacvic.org.au
W www.ydas.org.au
f @ydasvic
t @ydasvic

Logos: ydas, Youth Disability Advocacy Service, Mansfield Shire, VICTORIA State Government. Text: YDAS acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.

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NOW FOR A FINAL GOOD LAUGH



A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

'Mama, look what I found,' the boy called out.

'What have you got there, dear?'

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, 'I think it's Adam's underwear!'

A painter by the name of Paddy Murphy, while not a brilliant scholar, was a gifted portrait artist. Over a short number of years, his fame grew and soon people from all over Ireland were coming to him in the town of Doolin, County Clare, to get him to paint their likenesses.

One day, a beautiful young English woman arrived at his house in a stretch limo and asked Paddy if he would paint her in the nude.

This being the first time anyone had made such a request, Paddy was a bit perturbed, particularly when the woman told him that money was no object; in fact, she was willing to pay up to \$10,000.

Not wanting to get into any marital strife, Paddy asked her to wait while he went into the house to confer with Mary, his wife.

In a few minutes he returned. "T'would be me pleasure to paint yer portrait, missus," he said "The wife says it's okay.

"I'll paint ya in da nude alright . but I has to at least leave me socks on so I has a place to wipe me brushes."

Bye for now Adele

Adele McCormack
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Merrijig 3723
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