

Merrijig Community Newsletter

January 2018



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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 Defibrillators are located at Merrijig Motor Inn & McCormack Park

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. McCormack Park unit is located in the machinery shed of the Motorbike Track. If it is the Merrijig Motor Inn should be contacted by phone.

The motor inn phone number is **5777 5702**.

January 2018						
◀ December						February ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day 	2	3	4 Rubbish & Recycle	5	6
7	8	9 Australia Day nominations.	10	11 Rubbish	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Rubbish & Recycle	19	20
21 World Religion Day	22	23	24	25 Rubbish	26 Australia Day	27
28	29	30	31			

(*•♥•*)

Who's Doing What Lately?



Happy New Year !

From the Gold Coast.

Erin and I did make it to see the new year in, just taking a wee break while the band did and my cousin posted this on facebook.

Merrijig Hunt Club Hotel

Christmas Day happy hour crowd

**Under new management for Christmas - a popular opportunity for locals
to spread the season's cheer.**



High tea at the Windsor Hotel

The Merrijig UFO (Unfinished Objects) Stitching Group travelled to Melbourne last week for a wonderful Christmas break up - Afternoon Tea at the Windsor. Many of the group took the V-Line bus on the day, meeting others who were already in Melbourne.

The delicacies served were enjoyed in the beautiful setting of the 19th century hotel which first opened in 1884.

The group returned to Mansfield on the evening bus after a leisurely visit to the city. For those interested in joining the group they meet at Merrijig Public Hall on Thursdays from 11 am till about 3 pm, resuming on January 4. For further details contact Kerrie Purcell on 0437 380 384.

At the Windsor, standing from left: Kerrie Purcell and Lesley Leith. Seated from left: Claire Hirst, Kay Gerrans, and Lynne Taylor



Lesley Leith and 'friend' in the foyer at the Windsor





Some of the Merrijig UFO Stitching Group: from left Louise Jacob, Claire Hirst, Lesley Leith and Kerrie Purcell.



One of the plates of delicacies enjoyed by the Merrijig stitchers.



Merrijig Muscle Mob Christmas wind up

After exercising every Tuesday morning at the Merrijig Hall, the 'Muscle Mob' had a great Christmas lunch at the Mansfield home of one of the group, Coby Dove. Each year one of the group hosts the Christmas break-up with each contributing part of the feast.

If you feel like joining in the low-key exercise regime which is followed by coffee and cake the group meets at 10 am on Tuesdays usually winding up by about 11.30 am. The group resumes after the school holidays. For further information contact Kerrie Purcell on 0437 380 384.



*Enjoying pre-lunch drinks back row from left: Fiona Tweedie, Barb Hayes, Helen Bohren, Jeni Best, Kerrie Purcell, Coby Dove, Sue Dyason, Lesley Leith, Sally Madin.
Seated from left: Louise Jacob, Marie Sellstrom, Jennifer O'Brien, Sue Swan and Rhonda Johnstone.*

MERRIJIG CAMPDRAFT 25th & 26th November 2017, McCormack Park Merrijig.

This year was our biggest year nominations wise with the Dunrobin Feature Novice obviously creating a bit of interest. The weather couldn't have been more perfect with the light rain on Friday evening settling the dust for the Saturday morning start.

The day started with Luke Jackson judging the 1st half of the Maiden. The second half of the Maiden was judged by our guest judge Mr Graeme Baulch who kindly made the trip to Merrijig to handle the bulk of the judging for the weekend. Our Maiden sponsor Jed Culican, of Mansfield Travellers Lodge won 1st place on 'KJ',

Next came the enthusiastic Juniors sponsored by Watson Trail Rides, Mark Lincoln was the judge. Mark also judged the Juveniles, this event was sponsored by the Webb

During the weekend our fabulous First Aid team of Jim and Kathryn Devlin sponsored a cash cow (or 4 cows to be exact) with the 2 Maidens, Juvenile & Encouragement events seeing the 4 marked beasts making an appearance. The pool had jackpotted to \$150.00 after the 2 Maidens and Jason

Parker was under a lot of pressure when he selected the marked beast, but put it around he did and added \$150.00 to his 3rd place and 6th place (on Mobile Kosiosko') prize money. David Reiter judged the Ladies event.

It was still a beautiful day in Merrijig and onto the Open (for Open & Novice) and Graeme Baulch again in control. Another of Alpine Butchery and 'Food with Love Catering's delicious roast dinners, sticky date pudding for dessert and music courtesy of DJ Riley Tanner ended a great day.

Sunday morning, started with sunshine, and Graeme Baulch again took the whip for the Dunrobin Feature Novice. Thanks to Dunrobin Performance Horses riders went home happy.

After rain had dampened the arena during the Novice, the McCormack Memorial Open was next; again judged by Graeme Baulch David Reiter had the whip for the Encouragement which saw the cash cow make its 4th and final appearance, this time it was the winner with the remaining \$50.00 being donated to the 'Women in Camdraft' thanks to the Devlins. Equine Dentist, Barry Stephan once again sponsored this event. Jed Culican took out the Rodwells 'Best local Rider' for the weekend award.

The committee want to acknowledge the continued support shown by the campdrafting community we would also like to thank our judges. We also appreciate the generosity of our local cattle donors and drivers and not to forget the hard workers in the yards, kitchen and Bar.

Again a very big thank- you to everyone who made this draft a success and especially to our sponsors Mansfield Travellers Lodge Motel, Jim & Kathryn Devlin, Harold Boots, Ralph Nemeth (Dunrobin), Kathryn Kirley, The Webb Family ,David Reiter, Graham Pickett & Barry Stephan AND OUR CATTLE DONORS & HARDWORKING COMMITTEE!!!

Andrea

Surprise proposal on Wonnangatta trip

A five-day camping trip to the Wonnangatta for local man, Andrew Jacob, was the occasion for him to surprise his partner of five years, Vanessa Moulday, with a marriage proposal which she happily accepted.

Vanessa is the second daughter of Ron Moulday of Kallista and Yvonne Sherrington of Moorabbin and Andrew is the second son of Laurie and Louise Jacob of Merrijig.

Andrew attended Merrijig Primary then Mansfield Secondary College before moving to Warrnambool for his university studies at Deakin University. After completing his Honours in Environmental Science at Deakin's Burwood campus, Andrew works in environmental consultancy. He and Vanessa now live in their own home in Belgrave.

It is a 1988 model but has been converted at some stage to now have a double bed on end, kitchen up the other with a fridge with the dials on the top not the floor- just what I need. The top pops up and it has a little dining area too.

I pulled out one cupboard as there is more than enough storage for me and put in the porta potty so it has its own ensuite. At the moment it is over at the caravan repair place to have some alterations and minor repairs done, but being a 1988 model van the work it needs is minor. So if you see this rig heading out of Merrijig – I am off to another music festival somewhere.



♪♪*♪♪♪«

Highlights from a short break in China



Laurie and Louise Jacob of Buttercup Rd have recently returned from a two-week visit to China to help celebrate the 50th birthday of a friend who lives locally but who is currently working in China. Laurie and Louise landed in Shanghai for the celebration which was a surprise for their friend, who also travelled with his family to Shanghai. Staying on the banks of the Huangpu River at the Bund the weather proved to be outstanding during the trip.

*The beautiful Pearl of
the Orient one of many buildings
on the Bund which are lit at night*

The buildings along the river in the vicinity of the Bund are lit at night which is spectacular, attracting a lot of visitors and river cruises.

A walk through the nearby Shanghai Yu Garden was delightful.

Next was a flight to Beijing. One of the best things we did was pre-arrange a driver and guide for our visit to China. Few people speak English, and those who do generally have limited English, even in 'western style' hotels. Our guides were both outstanding.



The bamboo forest in the Yu Garden

This intricately sculptured jade dragon boat is at the China National Jade Museum

The Sacred Walk near the Ming Tombs



Non-stop river traffic 24 hours a day deliver goods upstream which must keep an enormous amount of traffic off the roads.

The enormous Tiananmen Square looking at the National Museum of China. The square covers more than 44 hectares!



We also visited the Forbidden City, the Heavenly Tower and Summer Palace. Amazing places which should not be missed.



Two of the highlights of the trip were the visit to the Great Wall near Beijing and the Terracotta Warriors near Xian.

The Great Wall at Mutianyu is one of the best preserved sections of the wall. The wall's total length is 21,196 kms.

Bullet train to Xian



The next part of our journey was towards Xian about 1200 kms south west of Beijing. The bullet train took us there in about 5 hours. Very comfortable and surprisingly quiet.



It was far more pleasant than flying as we saw so much of the countryside. Every square metre is under cultivation.

The fascinating story of the Terracotta Warriors was explained to us by our guide. They were discovered by four farmers looking to sink a well for water in 1974. Buried in underground pits, the 8,000 terracotta soldiers and horses were part of the necropolis of China's first emperor, Qin Shihuangdi, to aid him in the afterlife.

The story goes that the warriors went undiscovered for 2000 years because everyone connected with the creation of them was killed so the secret would be safe. The only survivor was the son of the emperor Qin.

Once discovered the local farmers were afraid to remain after finding the white head of a warrior. Eventually they were given alternative land and the government began the painstaking task of restoring the site where thousands of pieces of terracotta were meticulously reassembled.



The enormous shed which covers the trenches. Notice the tiny figures at the right which are visitors to the site

The amazing detail of a restored archer's head



A horse waiting for restoration

We had a fabulous trip thanks to the excellent organisational skills of local travel agent, Gemma Ferguson of Travel Associates in Mansfield.

January 2018 Message:



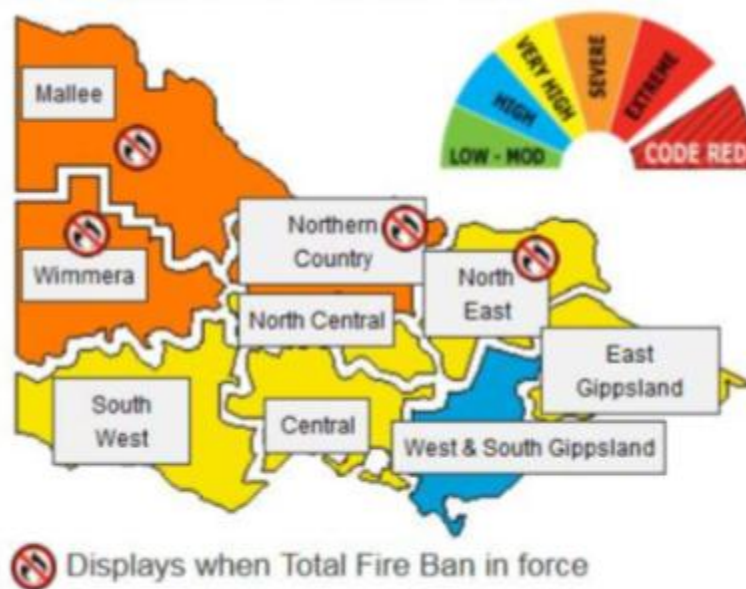
Bushfire Planning Workshop 10 am Saturday 6 January 2018 Merrijig Hall

This is a 2 to 3 hour workshop, conducted by CFA professionals, for participants to be able to manage in a bushfire emergency, either leaving safely or defending where safe to do so.

Places limited. Bookings essential. Ring John McCombe on 0409 230098

Remember that we are now in official **Fire Danger Period**. Keep your eye on warnings and be prepared to act appropriately.

A day of Total Fire Ban in Mansfield Shire will be declared on days of High temperatures and winds - Keep your eye on the indicators.



Have a happy and safe new year.

Forest Fire Management Victoria

Going camping this summer? Don't let your campfire become a bushfire.

Escaped campfires cause over 10% of bushfires every year, so know what you can and can't do:
<http://bit.ly/CampfireSafety17>

[Parks Victoria](#) [CFA \(Country Fire Authority\)](#) [Vic Emergency](#)

Merrijig's newest road

Mansfield Shire Council has accepted one of the suggested names for the road which leaves off Buttercup Rd near Purcells Rd.

After advertising for community input and receiving quite a number of submissions the council's preferred name of Coombs Lane was lodged for approval with the Office of Geographic Names. Before approval an assessment is made to ensure that the suggested name complies with certain criteria. Three submissions were received suggesting Coombs Lane.

The road is located between 401 and 439 Buttercup Rd.

One of the submissions was the following:

".....the Coombs family purchased Merrijig Park in 1925 and farmed the land continuously until December 2006. Shortly after that on April 8, 2007 the death occurred of the last surviving member of the family, Marjorie Beryl Coombs.

She was born in Mansfield Hospital on December 10, 1924, the only daughter of Robert and Ethel Coombs. She had a brother, also Robert (Bobby), who pre-deceased her.

The land through which this lane goes was known as 'Purcells' and was purchased by the Coombs family in the 1960s. It was sold in 2006.

Marjorie was an identity in her own right being a champion horsewoman, known Australia- wide for her prowess. She won her first prize for riding at just under four years of age! She was a champion show jumper and hunter. In 1959 she and her treasured horse Pleasure, were chosen to represent Australia in New Zealand. In 1961 she again returned to New Zealand representing Australia in the Empire Games (now Commonwealth Games). She was Australia's top lady rider. In latter years she was a highly sought after judge of horses.

During the years Marj and her mother Ethel, farmed their property. Two women alone, displaying the tenacity and sense of purpose that coloured their lives.

At her death, Marj very generously bequeathed her estate, mainly to the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre. She also gave generously to the Mansfield Rotary, Lions and Apex Clubs and the Mansfield District Hospital.

We feel the naming of the road running through part of her family property is a fitting way to remember such an important person who affected so many people through her skills and generous nature.”

Other suggestions were:

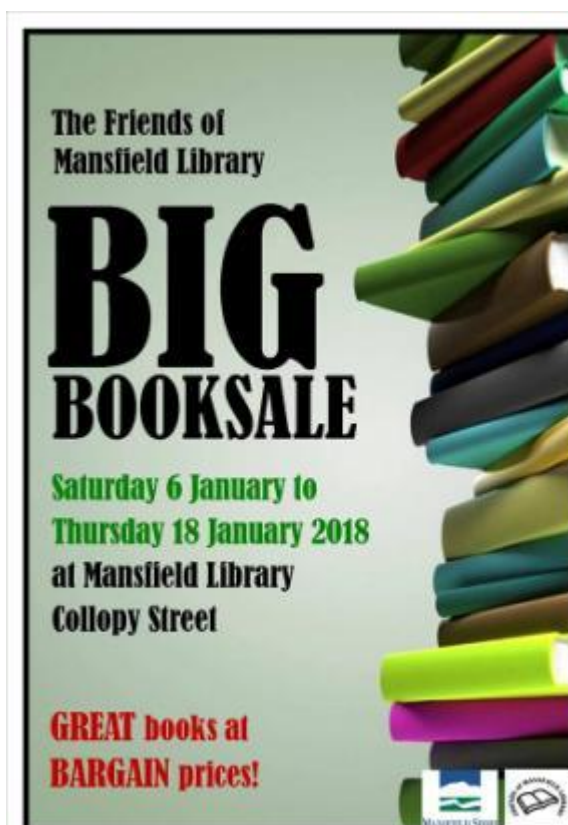
Young’s Lane, Coombs Way, Dodemaide Drive, Wonnangatta/Mystery Rd, Crockett Rd.

The council has erected the sign opposite the entrance to the road.



What's happening around here in January?

Early bird ticketing and camping



registration now available for the Bonnie Doon Music Festival 16th, 17th, 18th February. Great Christmas present 2 day pass \$58. Go to website www.bonnieoonmusicfestival.com



Mansfield library School holiday program 2018



SUMMER READING CLUB - GAME ON!



Read over the holidays for your chance to win an iPad!
Summer Reading Club starts Saturday 16 December ends
 Thursday 25 January @ 2.30pm with a party for all who join the club
 (With thanks to our sponsor **Solarhart** for their generous donation
 of the iPad)

STORYTIME IN THE PARK



THURSDAY JANUARY 4 at 10.30 am
 Join us for an Interactive telling of the story Wombat Stew
THURSDAY JANUARY 18 at 10.30 am
 Come along for a fun session of music and movement
At the playground in Highett St - Bookings not required

MOVIE FUN EVERY THURSDAY PM



DECEMBER 28 at 2.00pm - Chicken Run (Age 7+)
JANUARY 4 at 2.00pm - Trolls (Age 6+)
JANUARY 11 at 2.00pm - Lego Batman (Age 7+)
JANUARY 18 at 2.00pm - Paddington (Age 6+)
Bookings Essential for all movies

MAKER SPACE - RECYCLE RUMBLE



FRIDAY 12 JANUARY from 10.00am - 4.00pm
 Come along to our **MAKER SPACE** where you are welcome to stay
 as little or as long as you like and let your imagination run wild!
Bookings not required

MAGIC WORKSHOPS & MAGIC SHOW



TUESDAY 23 JANUARY
10.00am - Magic Workshop for lower & middle primary age
11.30am - Magic Workshop for upper primary & high school age
3.00pm - Magic show performance by Great Dane Williams
Bookings Essential for both Workshops and Magic Show







**For Bookings and Information please call the
Mansfield library on 5775 2176**

Mansfield Bush Poets Meet up

January 9th at the Library from 3 to 5,

Bring along your favourite poetry or your own

Read or recite to a non-judgemental gathering of likeminded people

Songs are also welcome and the cost is a gold coin for the hire of the room

As well as a small token something to share for afternoon tea

Future meeting dates Feb 13th and March 13th

I wrote this one for the December meeting which was a lot of fun and laughter

In my Retirement By Adele

10/12/17

My interests change as the years go by
Sometimes I am active some times I just sigh,
I've travelled this land from outback to coast
Cities don't grab me its country I like most
The wide open spaces and sky full of stars
The comfortable bush pubs with stools at the bars
The wide open road not a vehicle in sight
Like the land is your own and it really feels right

I've Seen foreign cities by flights through the air
The time waiting in airports just doesn't seem fair ,
That experience done and I'm over the crowds
Getting lost in the streets where no English sounds
Cruising is good and a great way to travel
Once unpacked in your cabin you can completely
unravel
For the foods there for eating, they clean up your
room
You begin to relax - and its over too soon

My favourite thing now as to festivals I go
Where live music washes over like a sweet fall of
snow
The not so famous but talented folk
Have their audience absorbed and enjoying their
joke
Some just play music, some really entertain,
you mark off the ones that you will see again
Community run for the good of their town
Hats off to the organizers, as its my time to slow
down.

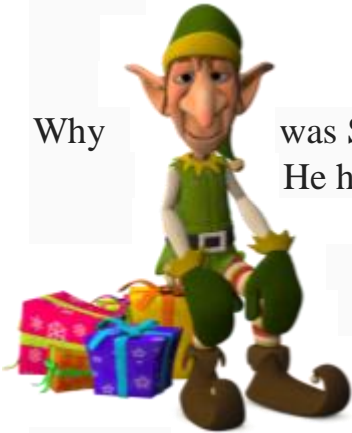
A new adventure - always in the making,
For retirement has options just there for the taking
You wonder how ever you found time to work
Days filled with activities and no time to lurk
As each phase of life comes along, bringing a
change
This one is so great with the largest choice range.
I hope all the young people who work day and night
Put some dollars aside, keeping retirement in sight.

Alex's Dad Jokes

Why can't you starve in a desert?
Because of the sand which is there.



Why was Santa's helper depressed?
He had low elf-esteem.



What does the clock do when it's hungry?
It goes back four seconds



If you get bladder problems...
Urine trouble

Did you know diarrhoea is hereditary?
It runs in your genes



January 16 - Quarry Application Council Determination Merrijiggers.

Families and friends, mark your diaries for Tuesday, January 16 at 5 pm at the Shire Council Chambers After almost two years of applications, objections, consultant advices, consultative meetings and the Shire's planning department work, the Merrijig Residents Action Group has been advised that the application to quarry at 401 Buttercup Road will be presented and voted on by our Councillors at the first meeting of the Council in 2018. So the date again, is the 16th.

Group spokesperson, Kym Lynch, said "We are hoping for a large objectors gallery in excess of 50 people, the more the better. "We are told this application is one of the most contentious ever presented to Council, so the bigger our objectors audience the more our message will be reinforced that we do not want a stone extraction business of any sort or under any conditions. Those against the application already number over 80 written objections and more than 600 petition signatures.

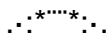
"If you have not lodged a formal written objection, it is not too late - all objections have to be acknowledged up until the time of the meeting. Send an email to Lynn.Plummer@mansfield.vic.gov.au raising your concerns and issues.

The more support we have, the stronger our "no" case. Kym continued: If you can't be there on the night, we will be presenting an apology list to the Councillors, again reinforcing the will of the people is to receive a "no vote" from the Council.

Please email merrijiginfo@gmail.com or text Louise Jacob on mobile 0419 346 249 if you would like your name to be added to the apology list. Backgrounding update: The Councillors have visited the proposed site with the applicant, The Merrijig Residents Action Group have presented the "against" case at consultative meetings and have also privately met with the planners and the Councillors. We will have a final opportunity to reconfirm our strongest objection on the 16th.

For those interested to know the process, anybody who has submitted a written objection will receive advice of the meeting and can request the opportunity to talk briefly at the Council meeting before the Councillors vote on the matter. The meeting will be chaired by Mayor Volkering. The Council paperwork regarding the Shire position will be available (we believe on line) from Thursday 11th January. As at the last consultative meeting, the Merrijig Residents Action Group are planning to put forward a united position on behalf of the residents, holidaymakers, small business operators, indeed everybody who contests this application. The Merrijig Residents Action Group will hold a meeting for all those interested in the final updates from the Shire on the weekend of 13/14th to consider our position relative to the recommended Shire planning department determination.

The time, date and venue to be advised next week.



Imagine being without power for 3 days like the King Valley after the recent storms? No lights, refrigeration, water....



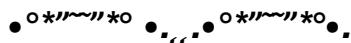
Here are a few tips that can make getting through an extended blackout easier:

- * Keep some emergency cash tucked away - ATMs may not work therefore no shopping with cards
- * Keep your vehicle topped up with fuel during the summer months - bowsers won't work without power
- * Have a 72 hour supply of water stored if you rely on electricity to pump water to your house
- * Do not open your freezer during a black out - it will be fine for a couple of days. Cover with an insulated blanket. Put milk and other essentials into an eski with ice to avoid opening the fridge
- * Purchase a portable phone power pack to keep your phone charged up. Solar camp lanterns and gas camp stove can be useful too. The most important thing during a power outage is to stay safe

For more tips and information go to

Power outages

<https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/safety-and-emergencies/power-outages>



December in 1966..... His Royal Highness, The Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, leaves Timbertop after spending 2 terms at the campus.

HRH returned in 2005 to speak to students, and reminisced that "it was hell" and left him "bloody well bushed", but he loved it all.

Images courtesy of State Library Victoria and smh.com.au



Just on a point of historic curiosity ~ it was due to the Prince attending Timbertop that Merrijig was connected to the electricity grid. Prior to this each property had their own large diesel generator and battery storage for power. Hot water heated by fuel stoves and some homes has gas lighting. Initially the plan was to bypass Merrijig and only connect Timbertop for the Princes' convenience. Naturally Merrijig residents stood together in protest until it was agreed that the power would come to all properties enroot to Timbertop.



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>

After a flood: mould and your health

December 19, 2017

Many residences, sheds and barns across Mansfield Shire suffered water ingress due the volume of rain experienced on 2 December this year.

With the warmer temperatures we are experiencing, residents should be aware of the possible growth of mould and the impact it can have on your health.

For more information about mould and managing mould growth, read this [After a flood: mould and your health](#) document.

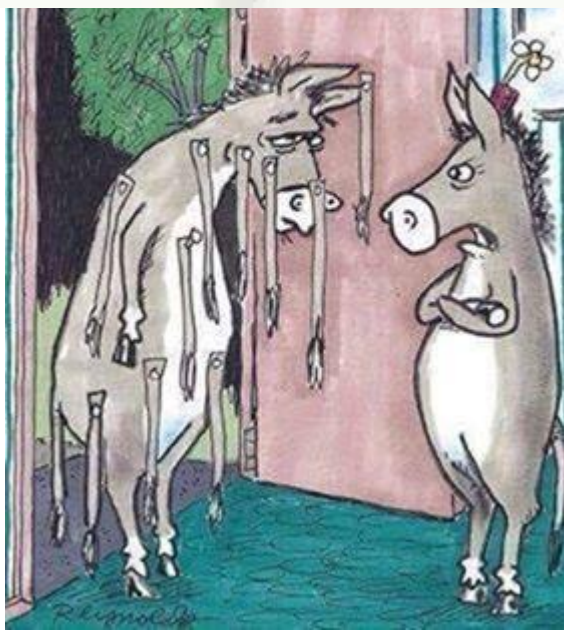
Please remind your visitors



that Mansfield Shire takes the 'carry in-carry out' approach to waste management. Most crown land agencies have had this initiative in place for a number of years, and in July 2016 we also adopted the practice of asking all visitors (and non-visitors) to take their waste with them when they leave the areas they are visiting. Please take your rubbish home with you and dispose of it thoughtfully.

NOW FOR A FINAL GOOD LAUGH!

Archaeologists digging in a pyramid in Egypt have found a mummy covered in chocolate and hazelnuts, and believe it to be Pharaoh Rocher.



Bye for now Adele

Adele McCormack
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