

# Merrijig Community Newsletter

## February 2018

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Quote of the month.

Nothing is  
**IMPOSSIBLE**  
 — the word itself says —  
**I'M POSSIBLE**



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

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

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

### **Merrijig 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**.

February 2018						
◀ January						March ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Rubbish & Recycle	2 Fed Gvt Mobile service Centre visits Mansfield	3
4 World Cancer Day	5	6	7	8 Rubbish	9	10
11	12 The Regatta (TAS)	13	14	15 Rubbish & Recycle	16 Chinese New Year Crepe Myrtle SALE Bonnie Doon Music Fest	17 Crepe Myrtle SALE Bonnie Doon Music Fest
18 Bonnie Doon Music Fest	19	20 Mans Hosp Aux Golf Day	21	22 Rubbish	23	24
25	26	27	28	March 10 <sup>th</sup> Merrijig Rodeo  March 28 <sup>th</sup> Merrijig Family Fun Day and Family Gymkhana		

More Calendars: [March](#), [April](#), [2018](#)

## A new School year begins with five happy smiling Preppies at Merrijig Primary School



A lovely way to start the February Newsletter is with these happy little five year old's on their first day of school.

The health of the school and the health of the community have always been linked so with our little school continuing to grow it follows that our little community is also growing.





### **IMPORTANT fire preparedness message for horse owners ~**

You may have seen advice about writing your phone number on the horse's hoof.

This is the **WRONG** message to horse owners - this is **NOT** helpful to owners or to emergency services and the reason is that if a horse is spooked and covered in ash or has damaged hooves, you will not see the number.

What is recommend is you use **LIVESTOCK PEN** to write your number on the horse's **BELLY**. You would see this from a greater distance and it's much safer.



Also... have you registered your animals with the National Equine Database (NED)? It is so important to register and pre plan (including relocation) **BEFORE** an emergency occurs.

You can register for **FREE** at [www.tepscon.community](http://www.tepscon.community)

CFA, EMV and local Councils Nationwide have partnered this award winning national initiative .

Please tag all horse owners that you know





## February 2018 Message:

We are well into the fire season now. We should all have updated and run through our fire emergency plans.

Here are some sources of emergency information:

**App:** The VicEmergency app (from Play Store or VicEmergency website) enables you to create a watch-zone, accessed from your smart phone, to keep an eye on any nearby fires;

**Website:** [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au) enables your own watch-zone, and you can register for emailed warnings. Plus other good stuff.

**Hotline:** This is now the only number you will need for warnings, preparedness and recovery info in Victoria. **1800 226 226**

**Social media:** [facebook.com/vicemergency](https://facebook.com/vicemergency)  
[Twitter.com/vicemergency](https://twitter.com/vicemergency)

**Radio:** Local ABC, FM 103.7 (Goulburn Murray), or AM 774.

## Who's Doing What Lately?

Merrijig featured strongly in the

Australia Day award Nominations



Graham Godber of Changue Road was a senior citizen of the year nominee for his work with the Fly Fishing club. When asked about his nomination Graham said "I was very surprised and humbled to learn I had been nominated for Senior Citizen. Never had I imagined I may be considered in any way for an award like that." Graham went on to explain "Apparently I was nominated for my role as Secretary and in more recent years as President of Mansfield & District Fly Fishers Club, during which time it was noted the club has devoted most of its energies and resources not so much to fishing activities but more to the local trout fishery."

As well as his work with the Fishers club Graham mentioned "My work as Librarian / Historian for Mansfield RSL was also acknowledged, particularly that related to our World War 1 Centenary Commemoration project.

Concluding his remarks on this nomination Graham said "I feel my nomination should be shared by many others who have assisted me in both these missions including many within the Fly Fishing Club and also, as regards my RSL role, to Sheena Daykin of Mansfield Family History Group and my wife Joan who has been a constant companion throughout these journeys and provided the most valued support and assistance."

Peter Howarth of Battery Flat in Happy Valley Merrijig was nominated for Senior Citizen of the year for his consistent work on the Merrijig Five Pines war and service memorial site. Adele McCormack, of McCormacks Rd was nominated for Senior citizen of the year also for her work on this Newsletter. Neither was in attendance on presentation day, yet both were honoured to have been nominated for works on projects they enjoy doing and believe are valuable to the Merrijig Community.

Merrijig Rodeo was nominated as Event of the year for providing the event and supporting the community for 40 years with the acceptance speech given by President Beau Purcell enlightening the public on just how much money is put back into the community by the event. Secretary Robyn Baddeley said "The Committee was really honoured to have been nominated for Community Event of the Year." And continued saying "a lot goes into organising the Merrijig Rodeo and it is refreshing that our work has been recognised and that the 2017 Rodeo was seen as "The Best Rodeo to date". "

"We certainly hope that we can continue to make the Merrijig Rodeo bigger and better each year" she said, "and that we can increase our income which, in turn, means we can distribute more money to our much valued beneficiaries who work so hard for us."

Another nomination in the event of the year category was the Merrijig Family Fun Day where President Paul Jackson shared that "We a small group of people who put on this event and welcomed anyone present to come on board to keep the event running." The busy lives people have these days limits time available to spend organizing events like this Fun day," he said when interviewed, "We did think we would have to discard the pedestrian side of the day at one stage and go with the Gymkhana only, but fortunately some keen people have come forward, although busy – they think the event is important enough to keep it going as it has done the last 3 years."

"The idea is to provide an inexpensive family day out with no cost of low cost activities can be enjoyed by the whole family. Any of the districts clubs, groups and organizations including schools can have a free site to raise the profile or funds and for such groups there is no site fee." He concluded by saying it is wonderful, and an encouragement, to have the work past committee members and volunteers have put in being recognised this way."

The young citizen of the year was Merrijig's Bella McMunn who with her dad Tom rode bicycles from Yass to Mansfield to raise money for Bella to take to East Timor to help with a village project. Both Bella and Tom enjoyed the adventure of riding back roads for more than 600km and to raise \$5000 was an amazing. She has been an inspiration with her involvement in many local projects and activities so was a great inspiration for young members of the community.



The winners for Australia Day 2018 are :-

Young Citizen:	Bella McMunn
Citizen:	Colleen Reynolds
Senior Citizen:	Tony Tehan
Community Event:	A third Hand for the Fun Run

The afternoon tea, held in the council chambers, was really well attended and the nominees were provided with an opportunity to say a few words. It was therefore quite a long affair as there were 11 nominees in the Senior Category. Lisa Fricke, the CEO executive assistant commented, "This demonstrates the amount of work done for our community by this sector." Three of these nominees were Merrijig people.



Well done Merrijig people we were very well represented in these nominations.

Then on Australia day itself Geoff Webb or Buttercup Rd Merrijig with his daughter and granddaughter carried the flags on horseback for the official opening of the Mansfield shire Australia Day ceremonies.



\*:° ♦\*:° ♦ \*:°

## Australia Day on the deck

A new flag was unfurled for Australia Day in Merrijig. Family and Friends Sue O'Brien and partner Warren joined Adele on the deck for the annual Australia Day BBQ.



Before moving from the district Sue was a member of the Merrijig craft group who meet at the hall weekly and often took photos of events and activities in Merrijig as it is one of her most favourite places.

Sue walked her daughter Clea 'down the aisle' for her wedding the day before Australia day at Pinnacle Valley where they were interrupted by the lightning and thunder just as Clea and Brent (*Morgan*) were about to say their vows, so the ceremony continued indoors.



## Returned to the fire watch tower on Mt Buller one more summer



*This is what some Absolutely Amazing people did for him.  
To every single person who were involved in this act of kindness for Him I THANK YOU  
Said Greg Deutcher - Chris's younger brother  
pictured opposite Sam giving the thumbs up for this gift given to Chris.*

On January 8<sup>th</sup> Gus Syme said how wonderful it was - "One of those moments in life where I made a moment." I was contacted by Samantha Standish (nee Deutcher) a week ago sitting beside Chris her dad as he had a wish to return to the Mt Buller Fire tower for one last visit - having been our eyes up there for 37 years." Gus went on to say "With one phone call I was able to organise a helicopter. And with the help of Spook, up on Buller and many others we made it happen" Gus concluded saying "It's still very emotional for me it was.....special"

Samantha Standish, who is Chris's daughter, remarked that "the generosity of Mt Buller friends astounds me!" She personally thanked Gus Syme and Andy Kelly (Spook) who made it happen, "you are amazing and have created memories that will last a lifetime!" "I also would like to acknowledge and thank David Wells of DSE and Stewart Kreltzhaim of the CFA who spoke very highly of my dad and helped to orchestrate things" Sam added.

Sam enlightens readers with the explanation of Chris's condition which has brought his life to this stage. "Dads condition is called Cortico Basel degeneration and is a rare neurological disease which results in loss of muscle tone and movement." Chris now resides in Buckland house where he is cared for magnificently and friends are encouraged to visit whenever they have the time.

On Facebook Jacquie Pollard remarked, "What a great group of people who arranged for Chris Deutscher to be taken back up to the fire tower where he spent so much of his life trying to keep the district safe by being the fire spotter." "What a Fantastic result."

Dave Lovick also commented saying "I have fond memories of Chris in the fire tower while I worked for the DSE. Chris would do his morning checks and say morning all on the radio. And I would reply with. - "Morning Deut".- he would always reply with." Morning Dave." I also have fond memories of him playing the drums in the band- "Devils River County Band." Ahhhh. Those were the days 😊"

Paul Volkering our current Mayor also added his feeling, which would certainly reflect those of most of the district "We're all indebted to Chris for his lifetime of service in helping to keep our community safe. What a legend you are Chris."

[http://www.merrijig.com.au/Newsletters/Issue\\_14\\_June2014.pdf](http://www.merrijig.com.au/Newsletters/Issue_14_June2014.pdf) Check out Page 4 for the previous story in the newsletter

### **It was in 2014 that Chris last spent time in his 14 X 14 space on the top of the world.**

This was a job he loved and he said that one had to be a special type of person to be happy in such a position as spending 8 hours a day 7 days a week alone watching for puffs of smoke to rise from the ground.

Chris was happy in his own company, he had his music and his guitar, to keep him busy learning new songs to play in the Devil's river county band at the pub on Friday nights - back in the day (only he was the drummer not on the guitar)

Sam, who did a lot of her growing up hanging out with her dad in the fire watch tower, said "it was a very emotional day but also very gratifying for Dad as the Buller tower was his passion and the place he felt truly at home."



"The generosity of the CFA, DSE and Buller crew was incredibly heart-warming and dad handled the trip superbly." Samantha added "The current fire tower man (*another Chris*) said really precious words to dad about what an honour it was to fill his shoes and that he has kept everything pretty much the same at the tower as a sign of respect to dad!"



Chris is always pleased to see visitors, and Sam concluded the interview saying, "Thank you Adele and hopefully from this more people will visit dad in Buckland - it's a long day!"

(^\_>^)

My cousin Grant remembers when plastic surgery was a taboo subject.

Nowadays you mention Botox and no one raises an eyebrow...

Then he remembers learning that when a woman is mad at you that you still have to text her so she can ignore you otherwise she gets madder...



Young Tayla in action while her grandparents Bruce and Deb McCormack (standing) watch proudly as she shows her skills on horseback.

2 Photos by Andrew Franks Photography



Coby pictured here, concentrates very hard as she opens and closed the gate from the saddle.







### ***2017's Northern Zone Grade 4 Dressage Champion has strong links with Merrijig.***

Judy Kirkham recently left her Changue Rd home of several decades to live in Mansfield but remains a true Merrijigger – she sent in a story about how well her little granddaughter is doing and I asked her mother for more details as the story is an interesting one and shows what dedication can do.

Katie's (*nee Kirkham*) daughter, ten year old Charli Hill continues to excel with her love of horses. (*That is Judy's granddaughter Charli.*) Katie is the second daughter of Judy and David Kirkham.

Young Charli began her love of riding as a tiny tot around about 3 years of age and this passion has never waned. Katie explained that "The presentation night that mum sent you info on was called the NEDSS Presentations (NEDSS in an acronym for North Eastern Zone Series) which was a series consisting of 8 show jumping and 7 dressage events throughout the North East of Victoria."

She further explained, "There were events held at Wodonga, Benalla, Shepparton, Numurkah, Euroa, Seymour, Wangaratta and Moyhu over a 3-4 month period. Due to other riding commitments and Charli contracting pneumonia, we did not attend them all."

"Still Charli was undefeated in winning champion in all of the

dressage events she attended in grade 4. She also came 4th overall in the show jumping in E grade (75cm)." said her proud mum.

"This was all run by the Pony Clubs within our zone and on her 13 hh New Forrest pony called MP Spiderman (aka Spider)."Katie said. "She also competed in the open section on her other pony who is a 13.3hh in grade 3 dressage and in D grade show jumping (85cm) and finished upgrading to C grade (1m) on this pony at the end of the year but as an open competitor you are not eligible to participate in the actual NEDS Series." Katie explained

"We are away almost every weekend competing in either dressage, show jumping or eventing as they all run in different seasons. We generally head away on a Friday and come home on the Sunday as most of them are two day events." She went on to explain. "Charli's dad Rodney does not come away with us as we have a farm and also livestock trucks so he is normally working or on the farm this makes it a real mother daughter affair." Katie happily remarked.



Charli works very hard and rides every day, most days she will ride the two horses, so she literally gets home, runs inside changes her clothes and jumps on her ponies. She has only Mondays off as she is also an avid swimmer and is also in a swim club in Seymour.

"She is very lucky and has three amazing sponsors that ensure we travel in comfort and that her horses and Charli always look flash and I don't know why really," Katie said, "other than to say that maybe people see how dedicated and hardworking she is and I suppose her horses stand out as the presentation of her horses, and Charli herself, is something that we work very hard at no matter where we are." For example Katie said, "Our horses, vehicles floats etc never leave our place dirty or looking unloved and people notice that, right or wrong but it does make a difference. I always remember my Nan telling me that the first impression is the most lasting impression!"

Katie mentioned her sponsors in saying. "That seems to be working in Charli's favour with her sponsors who are Carpiole Equestrian Custom Made who make all her rugs, boots, hay bags etc, Kelcey Equestrian who ensure we travel in comfort with our lovely home away from home and makes sure she looks swish helping us with ensuring our horses are presented nicely at the larger State competitions and Heather Bain Dental Practice who do her ponies teeth for her."

"She trains with David Quick from Isle Of Wight Farm at his place in Murchison and he has been her coach since she started riding, he has competed at the top level of the sport in all the disciplines and is one of the country's top level coaches so we are very lucky to have had him as our coach for so long. He was also my coach back what seems like moons and moons ago!" Katie added.

The dedication of both mother and daughter, all those early morning starts, sometimes in the dark, and time spent preparing both horse and rider is obviously paying off..... Result young Charli won the recent Northern Zone Grade 4 Dressage champion award.

She has qualified two ponies for the interschool State Championships which will be held at Werribee in April and her aim is to try and get onto the National Team in show jumping and dressage and her aim in dressage is to qualify for the interzone state championships in eventing.

## **Beautiful wedding for the youngest son of Tom and Sue Swan of Killarney Lane.**

Christopher was married on Dec. 27th to Claire Disseldorp of Melbourne in Melbourne.

The wedding was at the Astor Theatre and the reception at Quat Quatta.

“Claire was a beautiful bride, it was a really lovely wedding and a good time was had by all.” Said proud mum Sue.



## **Thursday Jan 24<sup>th</sup> showed just how easily fire can strike**

The local CFA and nearby residents were quickly on the scene when dry lightning found the ground amongst tufts of dry grass on property recently sold by Adele McCormack to her nephew and niece Bruce and Deb McCormack.

In recent years a similar situation resulted in lightning striking a fence post at the Motorbike club boundary fence creating a similar grass fire in the same paddock.

While Adele was taking some photos for the newsletter her granddaughters decided to write the report on the incident for the newsletter. They are shown below and on the next page.





## **Lightning Strikes “Bally Patrick”** By Erin Lunam

Ian Davies spotted the lightning strike and alerted the Merrijig CFA, Max Bloomfield drove the fire truck up to Bruce and Deb McCormack’s new paddock. They put out the fire right on time.

At the time Adele McCormack’s friend, grandkids, niece, brother, daughter and sister in law were inside the house when they all left to check any damage following a huge clap of thunder close to the house and discovered the Fire engine heading up the paddock.



*Photo by Michele Lunam*

**Fire at Merrijig** written by Ailish Jayde Lunam (Aged 12 in grade 6 Mansfield Primary school 2018)

Fire was heading up Bruce's paddock. Ian Davies spotted the fire from his place and his brother Geoff rang 000 while he drove to the CFA shed. The fire engine came right in time, only two paddocks away from Adele's house. Adele said "Thank goodness it's not in my paddock this time."

Back at her house was her friend Jackson, her daughter Michele and relatives who all watched as the firemen and neighbours made sure the fire was out.

"Lucky it's over now and we are lucky it did not hit us" said Ailish. Her sister Erin said "It was a bit scary and I am glad they got it out in time."



## **MERRIJIG RESIDENTS APPLAUD COUNCILLORS ON QUARRY DECISION**

After almost two years of objection, Merrijig residents, their families and friends could sleep a little easier after the decision at the ordinary Mansfield Shire Council meeting on Monday, January 16 was voted 3/1 in rejection of a stone extraction application at 401 Buttercup Road.

A delegation of seven residents presented the “No” case to all five councillors again. They were speaking against a recommendation from the council’s planning officers to approve the application.

Councillor Sladdin’s motion to adopt the recommendation had lapsed for want of a seconder. Things changed for the better after Councillor Marg. Attley, the ward councillor for Tolmie, which covers Merrijig, moved for a notice of refusal to be issued. This was seconded by Cr Peter Olver.

*For the detailed report and actual motions see the following link to the minutes of the meeting.*

[http://www.mansfield.vic.gov.au/Libraries/2017\\_Council\\_Meeting\\_Minutes/Council\\_Minutes\\_-\\_16\\_January\\_2018.sflb.ashx](http://www.mansfield.vic.gov.au/Libraries/2017_Council_Meeting_Minutes/Council_Minutes_-_16_January_2018.sflb.ashx) The matter starts on page 21 with the motion to adopt the officer recommendation being on Page 49 and the one to refuse being dealt with on page 51.

Applause resonated around the Council chambers from the 40 residents in the gallery. The motion was well supported by Cr Harry Westendorp and Mayor, Cr Paul Volkerling, all of who received rounds of applause after they spoke of the importance of preserving country, community, peace, tranquillity, rural amenity, viable tourism businesses and other businesses that enjoy the flow on effects from visitors and residents coming to Mansfield and its environs.

“We are very happy and more than a little relieved by this overwhelming show of support from our councillors. They are elected by us for them to represent our views, but they do have to balance the benefits of new businesses wanting to come to Mansfield. This stone extraction proposition is clearly a business wanting to operate in the wrong location”, said Kym Lynch, a spokesperson for the Merrijig Residents Action Group.

“Our key issue was the Significant Landscape Overlay, a technical planning term which provides a proactive envelope for what can and cannot happen in our area. It is there to protect and enhance the area in which we all live, the fabulous views and the countryside we enjoy and work in and with. Much of the Mansfield Shire is protected by this SLO which recognises the unique landscape we have here. It is not just about Mount Buller and its approaches.

“This stone extraction business was wanting to be granted a permit to operate for 10 years, 7am to 4.30pm, five days a week and dig thousands of tonnes of rock. The application did not include an actual surveyed site location, a Revegetation Plan nor a Management Plan. It did not have accurate or appropriate road safety data nor acoustic testing,” Kym concluded.

Ms Angela Killingsworth, who focussed on compliance issues in the group’s presentation said: “The Shire’s acting Governance and Development Services Manager, Ms Dawn Bray, had recommended its approval with 49 conditions, 72% of which would have required monitoring by the Shire or the residents playing watchdog. We think this is an impossible and unfair ask and if this many imposts are needed to ensure the operation is OK, then surely this alone determines it is in the wrong place. Our councillors agreed”, Angela said.

In summary Kym continued “Over the two years we have remained strongly opposed to this business. We have never waived or wilted in our endeavour to stop it. As of Monday night we had 80 written objections with council, a petition of 616 signatories and we had 40 in the gallery plus 23 apologies.

“This stone extraction in this location would damage Merrijig’s tourism businesses and create more issues with road safety, noise attenuating around the Delatite Valley and vibrations in houses and don’t forget the dust which is terrible in the dry times. This application brought a huge conflict of land use between existing rural residential landholders and tourism businesses and stone extraction compatibility.

“Our councillors recognised this. But of even more importance, they recognised that this business would not bring one job, not any money, nor even any stone to Mansfield, as the stone is being sold into Melbourne. Such a negative net income is not sustainable for the Shire.



"However we recognise there is one more possible hurdle to jump, that being a possible VCAT appeal by the applicant. If that happens, and we will know in 28 days, the Merrijig Residents Action Group will be ready to stand by the Council and assist in any way we can. We are hoping it won't come to this," she concluded.

**Photo** – Merrijig Residents Action Group celebrate at the Delatite.

#### **Background Information**

- Application summary
- Mansfield Tourism Facts and Figures

#### **· BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

##### **Application summary**

The owner/applicant of 401 Buttercup Road applied to Council for a retrospective planning permit to allow operations for a 5 day a week, 10 year rock extraction licence, with operations allowed from 7am to 4.30pm across multiple sites on his 400 acre property. The owner had been excavating rock without a permit on the escarpment of his property and trucking it into Melbourne for sale.

Local residents who heard, felt and saw the activities in and around their homes in March 2016 and contacted Mansfield Council which put a stop to this operation.

In a further development, the site of the stone extraction location at 401 Buttercup Road has been sold and is no longer owned by the applicant.

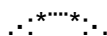
##### **Mansfield Tourism Facts and Figures**

Tourism is the key industry in Mansfield with approximately 1.2 million visitor stays to the Shire every year. Tourism employs 28% of the workforce in the municipality and contributes an estimated \$135 million per year or just over 60% of the Shire's annual gross tourism earnings".

Merrijig and the surrounding area are very much part of this tourist endeavour. There are four accommodation providers as immediate neighbours to the proposed quarry site.

At Merrijig Township approximately 4 kms down the road from the proposed quarry, there are more tourist accommodation establishments and the famous Hunt Club Hotel. Just a few more kilometres up the hill there is more accommodation for visitors and restaurants.

There are also horse riding businesses based in Merrijig and many of their trail rides start in Merrijig and frequently use Buttercup Road as they make their way into the National Park.



## THE CALICO COUNTRY by Christine Sheldrick. January 2018

Despite good recent rain the grass has not greened up , rather the grass cover has become bleached, a unbleached calico colour. It is in stark contrast with the deep green of the trees which line the water courses and fence lines and dot the paddocks.

At this time of the year the weather can become very hot and dry with high uv because of the altitude and the humidity is low making it feel like an oven.

The nearly monotone colour scheme is in such contrast with the vibrancy of spring with all the lush shades of green, the fairy floss blossom and the splashes of gold painted by wattle and daffodils.

Autumn is another time of splendid colour with great splashes of colour from the exotic trees.

Another wonder is the way the perception of the ranges change. Sometimes they are wide open spreading the valleys and lifting the sky high. Another time it feels as if the hills are reaching in and the sky and clouds are at arm's length.

Today in the sunshine with the bright clear sky it is hard to remember the sights and feel of winter. Mt Buller glistening with snow, the misty clouds drifting in the gullies and the racing cloud formations which blow in from the south and west with every conceivable artistic swirl.

Every direction brings something of beauty to wonder at and be thankful to be alive.



### Introducing Christine Sheldrick. –

### A new counsellor on our door step.

We have published pieces by Christine since she and her husband Ray moved to Merrijig and it has been wonderful to see how quickly they have become part of the Merrijig Community. Not only does Christine submit pieces for the newsletter she and Ray attend the memorial services at the Five Pines and volunteer to help out on Merrijig family Fun day amongst other things.

Christine has quite an extensive CV as a

counsellor – she has amongst her qualifications a Master of Counselling - META-Health Practitioner – and is MBTI Accredited

Christine says “I would love to help people again and being new in the area it could be easier for local people to talk with me. Of course confidentiality is part of any conversation. Skype, email, or face to face is fine for me.”

“Because I have been training, teaching and counselling in various situations and institutions since I began as a volunteer at the Manly Drug Referral Centre my experience covers many and varied situations.” Christine shared, “I began my journey along this road because I wanted to learn about addiction and drugs as I had young children and we were living in Sydney.”

Although the telephone service can be dicey in Alpine Ridge at times you can contact Christine via mobile 0412 825 324 any messages left will be responded to as they are received when signal is strong enough.

In this district It can be difficult to get in to see a good counsellor when you need one, so the assistance Christine can give to people in need will be a bonus to the whole community.

## What's happening around here in February?

It's on Again

### GREENSTONE TREES CREPE MYRTLE TREE SALE!

*Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – 9am to 4pm*

*Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – 10am to 1pm*

*Greenstone Trees*

*325 Howqua River Road*

*HOWQUA Vic 3723*

*Tel: 03 5777 3340*

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

*Jan & Brett Shelley*

*Come and get some beautiful colour for your gardens.*

*Large range to choose from including miniature shrubs.*





Sue Swan of Killarney Lane as well as some other Merrijig Ladies are on the Hospital Auxiliary  
And they have put together this wonderful golf day detailed below.

## **MARTINS GARAGE - MANSFIELD HOSPITAL AUXILIARY GOLF DAY -**

*(extract from ENTRY FORM)*

- **3-person modified Ambrose 18 hole competition**

- **Win a CAR for a hole in one (9th hole)**  
(Professionals ineligible – conditions apply)

**Teams of 3: Mixed; Men; Ladies; Family** (min. 2 family members); **Veterans** (combined ages 200+ years)

**Entry Fee:** \$65 pp includes morning tea, on-course BBQ and 2-course lunch from 2.30pm

\$25 pp for non-playing lunch guests only – pre bookings essential

Players who do not have a handicap will be allocated a handicap at registration

**Note: ENTRIES CLOSE 20 February 2018.** Places for competition and lunch are limited

**ALL PROCEEDS TO MANSFIELD HOSPITAL**

**Enquiries:** Sue Parsons: 0427 764 250 Accommodation Enquiries: 1800 039 049

- You don't have to a  
golfer  
to enjoy the late lunch  
and festivities  
after the game -

But those attending for the "lunch only"  
**must** pre book so we have some idea of numbers  
for catering .

**Mansfield Hospital Auxiliary  
MARTINS GARAGE  
Charity Golf Day**

Sunday 25th Feb 2018  
8.30 for 9.30 Shotgun Start

**Win a Holden Equinox  
with a hole in one on the 9th Hole**

18 Hole 3 person modified Ambrose  
\$65 per Person, BBQ on course, 2 Course Lunch  
Bookings by 20th Feb  
Non Golfers welcome for lunch \$25, Bookings Essential  
Great Prizes, Great Sponsors, Fantastic Auction Items  
Registration at Mansfield Golf Club or Sue Parsons  
0427 764 250 or Val Doyle 0407 877 102








## MARTINS GARAGE – MANSFIELD HOSPITAL AUXILIARY GOLF DAY ENTRY FORM

- 3-person modified Ambrose 18 hole competition
- **Win a CAR for a hole in one (9th hole)**  
(Professionals ineligible – conditions apply)

Sunday 25 February 2018  
Mansfield Golf Club  
**8.30 am for 9.30 am shot-gun start**

**Teams of 3:** Mixed; Men; Ladies; Family (min. 2 family members); Veterans (combined ages 200+ years)

**Entry Fee:** \$65 pp includes morning tea, on-course BBQ and 2-course lunch from 2.30pm  
\$25 pp for non-playing lunch guests only – pre bookings essential  
Players who do not have a handicap will be allocated a handicap at registration

**Note:** ENTRIES CLOSE 20 February 2018. Places for competition and lunch are limited

**ALL PROCEEDS TO MANSFIELD HOSPITAL**

**Enquiries:** Sue Parsons: 0427 764 250

**Accommodation Enquiries:** 1800 039 049

✂

**TEAM 1** (Circle: Mixed / Men / Ladies / Veterans (combined age 200+ yrs) / Family (min 2))

PLAYER NAME	gender	handicap	EMAIL (compulsory)	Fee \$65 pp

Total Fee Team 1. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Team Nominee Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

2 Teams on each Tee. We would like to play with the 2<sup>nd</sup> team entered on this form Yes/No

**TEAM 2** (Circle: Mixed / Men / Ladies / Veterans (combined age 200+ yrs) / Family (min. 2))

PLAYER NAME	gender	handicap	EMAIL (compulsory)	Fee \$65 pp

Total Fee Team 2. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Team Nominee Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**NON-PLAYING LUNCH GUESTS** (no entry without booking) Commences at 2.30 pm

NAME	\$25 pp
Total Payment for Lunch Guests	\$ _____

**Please circle:** Cash / Credit Card / Direct Debit Ref No..... / Cheque. TOTAL PAYMENT \$.....

**Submit entry in person** to Mansfield Golf Club at the bar and pay cash or credit card or Direct debit into Mansfield Golf Club Bank CBA, BSB 063711 A/c 10040348 or cheque made out to Mansfield Golf Club.

**Or post entries to:** Sue Parsons, 36 Links Rd, Mansfield 3722 - Please book early to guarantee your place.

**Entries close 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018** Limited number of carts available. Call Mansfield Pro Shop 5775 1218

**MARTINS GARAGE**

MANSFIELD – VICTORIA

MARTINSGARAGE.COM.AU

Est 1960





# Bonnie Doon Music Festival

16th, 17th and 18th February 2018



## Program

**Friday 16th February** - Bush Dance -  
Entry fee at the door

**Community Hall** 6.00pm-7.15pm Two course meal \$15 per head bookings essential - [book here](#) 6.00pm-

7.15pm Various artists with Guest MC Gayle O'Neil

7.30pm-8.30pm Bush Dance Billabong Bush Band

8.45pm-9.30pm

Various artists

9.30pm-10.30pm Bush Dance Billabong Bush Band

**Bowen & Clare Session Stage** 5.00pm-10.30pm Walk Ups/Jammin/Busking -

**Saturday 17th February** - Ticket required

**Bowen & Clare Session Stage**

10.00am-10.30am The Other Band

10.40am-11.10am Cathy Dobson

11.20pm-12.00pm Jenny Taylor Band

12.10pm-12.40pm Paul Carey

12.55pm-1.40pm New Macedon Rangers

1.50pm-2.40pm

Michael Waugh

2.50pm-3.35pm Long and Short

**Community Hall** 9.30am-11.30pm

**Line Dancing Workshop - Mansfield Line Dancing Group**

11.45am-12.45am Workshop - TBA

5.10pm-5.40pm Ian Zierk

1.00pm-2.00pm Singing W'shop - Jenny Taylor

5.55pm-6.40pm Jenny Taylor Band

2.10-2.40pm Mansfield Secondary

6.50pm-7.40pm Long and Short

2.50pm-3.20pm Lipstick and Spurs

7.45pm-8.30pm Paul Carey

3.30pm-4.00pm Gayle O'Neil

8.45pm-9.30pm Reverend and Mrs. Rowdy

4.15pm-5.00pm New Macedon Rangers

9.45pm-10.30pm

**Castle Stage** 11.00am-1.00pm Walk Ups

TSA Songwriter session

1.10pm-1.30pm Sandra Rasmussen

1.40pm-2.00pm Ray Smith

2.10pm-2.30pm Cathy Dobson

2.40pm-3.00pm Gareth leach

3.10pm-

3.10PM. -3.30pm Rory Phillips

4.00pm-8.00pm Walk Ups

**Sunday 18th February** - Ticket required

**Bowen & Clare Session Stage**

10.00am-10.30am Ian Zierk

1.30pm-2.00pm Gayle O'Neil

10.45am-11.30am Reverend and Mrs Rowdy

2.15pm-3.00pm Long and Short

11.45am-12.15pm Paul Carey

3.15pm-4.00pm Rattlincane

12.30pm-1.15pm Bowen and Clare

4.15pm-5.00pm Famous Will

**Community Hall** 8.30am-11.00am Poets/Yarn Breakfast

- Val Kirley, Liz Seaton

11.15am-12.00pm Bill Dettmer

2.00pm-2.30pm Gareth Leach 12.15pm-

1.00pm Ray Smith

2.45pm-3.15pm

Ian Zierk 1.15pm-1.45pm

Sandra

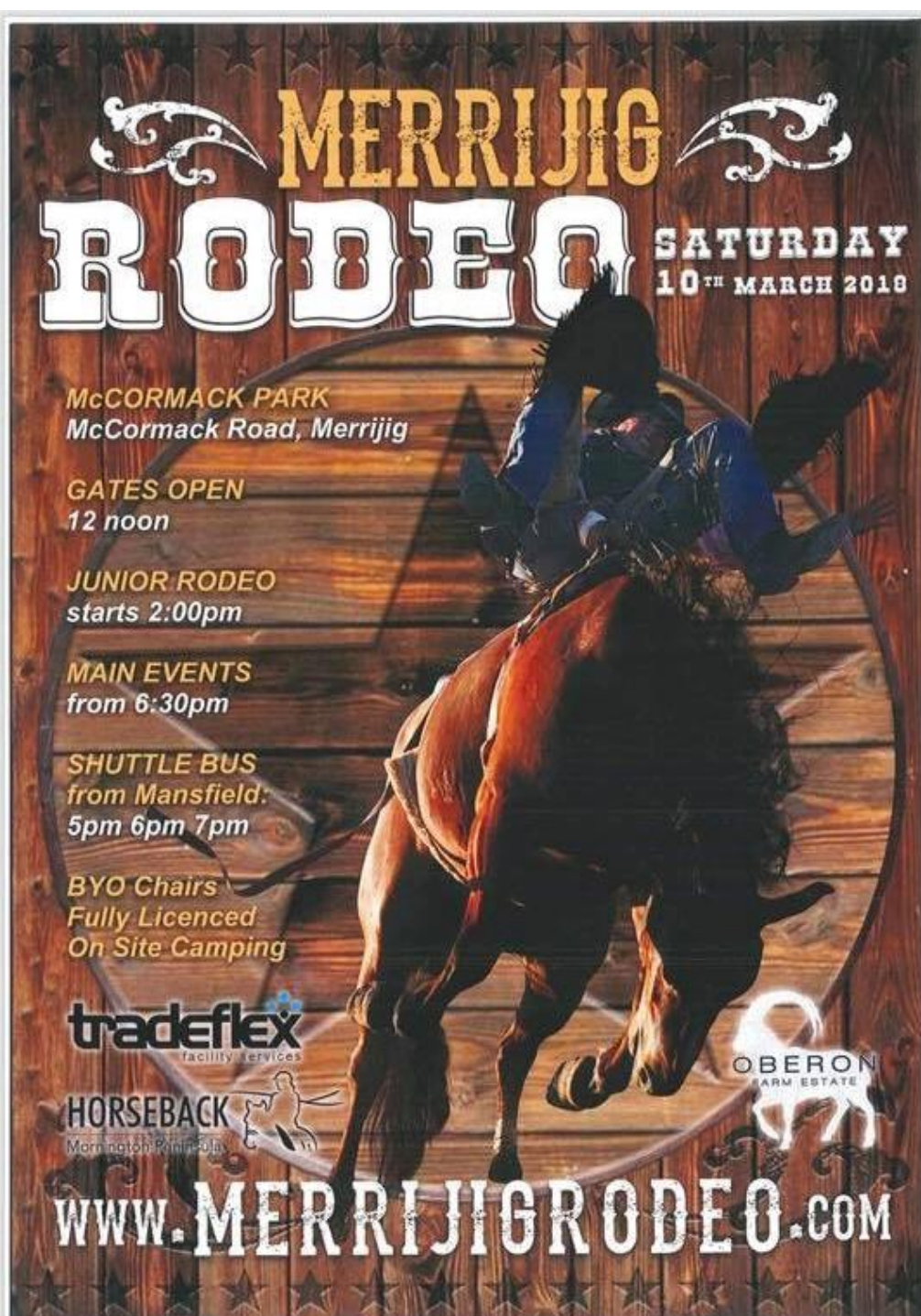
Rasmussen **Castle Stage** 1.00pm-3.00pm Walk Ups

<http://www.bonnedoonmusicfestival.com/program.htm>



# Then coming up in March

**Two events you don't want to miss - so mark them on your calendar today.**



**MERRIJIG RODEO** SATURDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018

**McCORMACK PARK**  
McCormack Road, Merrijig

**GATES OPEN**  
12 noon

**JUNIOR RODEO**  
starts 2:00pm

**MAIN EVENTS**  
from 6:30pm

**SHUTTLE BUS**  
from Mansfield:  
5pm 6pm 7pm

**BYO Chairs**  
Fully Licenced  
On Site Camping

**tradeflex**  
facility services

**HORSEBACK**  
Mornington Peninsula

**OBERON**  
FARM ESTATE

**WWW.MERRIJIGRODEO.COM**

You're on a winner with this event, which as previously mentioned won a nomination for Mansfield Shire Australia Day awards for best event following what was referred to often as "the best Merrijig Rodeo ever"

Contact Secretary Robyn Baddeley if you would like to be involved in providing this event on the areas local calendar for its 41<sup>st</sup> year

As Robyn said the plan is to run an even better one this time.

The organizers are always looking for extra help to lighten the work load, so if you would like to volunteer on the day or help with the work prior or following the event please let

Robyn know at  
[merrijigrodeo@yahoo.com](mailto:merrijigrodeo@yahoo.com)



## The second Merrijig Event

**Also winning a nomination for Event of the year  
Shire Australia Day Awards**

### **Merrijig Family fun Day is now preparing for its 4<sup>th</sup> event.**

For the first time the committee is working 21<sup>st</sup> century style working with email meetings more than physical meetings. People have busy lives these days so going to physical meetings was not going to work as well.

Since 2012 when incorporated body rules changed and such organizations were permitted to use electronic methods for the holding of meeting.

It took a while for everyone to get their heads around it but it's working well now. Ideas are flowing and work is getting done just as well, if not faster than before.

With some of our regular volunteers having other commitments this year - if you would like to be involved in this growing event contact Secretary Tracey Kelly on [merrijigfunday@gmail.com](mailto:merrijigfunday@gmail.com)



## Alex's Dad Jokes

Alex has been on holidays - but never mind I found this Dad Joke Facebook page.

You know

The discovery/invention of the shovel was truly groundbreaking.

But it was the invention of the broom that swept the nation and  
the invention of the wheel that really got things rolling

And then electricity really lit things up.

You might say that the invention of the wheel was revolutionary.





**Merrijig Family Fun Day** ... this year on Saturday March 24th - 10 till 4 - you don't want to miss this - wonderful and inexpensive family day out.



November is the month for the lucky child whose parents Register for the draw of a FREE family pass to cover mum and dad and Uncle and Aunty or best friends family as well as Grandma and Grandpa. All you need to do is email [merrijigfunday@gmail.com](mailto:merrijigfunday@gmail.com) with your child's name and date of birth in November, along with your email address. Simple as that, no strings attached



Book a stall before Feb 14th - its first in best dressed as we try not to double up on the same type of stall. Any club or group - school or organization that makes community great can have a site free of fee - private stalls are only \$25. Promote your club or group, have a fun activity to raise funds, or simply inform the visitors about what you have to offer. With an average of 1000 people visiting Fun Day this is a great opportunity for personal stalls or community stalls. Contact Rhyll - the market manager via [merrijifunday@gmail.com](mailto:merrijifunday@gmail.com)

## Government's mobile service centre visits North East

Federal Independent Member for Indi, Cathy McGowan said staff from the Department of Human Services travel with the centres and can help people with Centrelink, Medicare, Child Support and Australian Hearing payments and services.

The centre has disabled access and Wi-Fi is available for those wanting to create or access their myGov account.

**Mansfield** – near the Courthouse, Highett Street, Friday 2 February – 9.30am to 3.30pm



MANSFIELD SHIRE

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

## A WORD FROM THE SHIRE

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



I was in the restaurant yesterday when I suddenly realized I desperately needed to pass wind. The music was really, really loud, so I timed my farts with the beat of the music.

After a couple of songs, I started to feel better. I finished my coffee, and noticed that everybody was staring at me....

Then I suddenly remembered that I was listening to my iPod through ear buds.

Bye for now Adele

Adele McCormack  
45 McCormacks Rd  
Merrig 3723  
☎ 0409 600 655