MURRA -BIT -A -NEWS PUBLICATION

December 2024

P.O. Box 3, Murrabit 3579

Website: www.murrabit.com.au Facebook: www.facebook.com/whats-on-in-murrabit

Murrabit Community News

The Murrabit Advancement Association has had another successful year. The MAA is made up of representatives from all our local community groups and we work together to improve our little town as a great place to live and visit. After purchasing the former Uniting Church property in April 2023, the main project has been to upgrade the Murrabit Family Hub (playgroup building). Both buildings have been re-spouted and connected to the town stormwater system.

A new hot water service was also installed at the shower/toilet block and connected to the existing solar system.

A flood recovery grant was received to fund the entertainment at the 2024 Easter and April markets. Animals 2U was a popular attraction at the Easter Market - along with one of our volunteers donning the big blow-up Easter Bunny suit for some extra special fun! And, the April market was livened up by the giant bubble blower and Jester.

Flood recovery funding towards newsletter printing and distribution costs from the Gannawarra Shire Council was also appreciated along with a grant from FRRR for a new photocopier.

Lots of great events have been hosted, including the Australia Day Breakfast, ANZAC and Remembrance Days, Melbourne Cup Luncheon, Murrabit Cod Challenge, Easter Tennis Tournament, One Year On Pizza Day, hosting of the Gannawarra 2022 Flood Reflections Exhibition, Mother's Day Pot Painting Workshop, Party in a Paint Box Workshop and the 100th Anniversary of the Murrabit Township. We also had the National Motoring Day Federation Vintage Car Picnic on the market site in May and activated the town to support this great event.

Also the year saw the completion of the Giant Cod and Murray Cray murals by local artist, Paul Oswin.

2025 will be equally exciting as a number of other projects are brought to fruition - an upgrade to the community garden, more art by Paul Oswin, further upgrades to the Murrabit Family Hub and landscaping at the front of the Market Office/ Gift Shop. The hall floor is also set to be refurbished. Social groups will continue in 2025 and we will also be re-starting a playgroup on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, commencing February. All of this work is thanks to a group of hardworking and enthusiastic volunteers who work together to ensure Murrabit continues to be a great place to visit and live.

Next Murrabit Market will be held on 4 January 2025. Variety of market stalls. Live music by Honest Ken and FREE Toy Story bouncing castle coming to Murrabit for the kiddos. Come along and enjoy some school holiday fun!

Whatever your Christmas plans, take care, stay safe, and we will see you back in 2025!

Community News Contributions Gratefully Accepted

Phone: 03 5457 2205

Murrabit Advancement Association Inc. Email: murrabit1@bigpond.com

Bringing back the News

The Murrabit Advancement Association has been able to purchase a new photocopier thanks to funding received from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and Gardiner Foundation. This will mean that we will once again be able to print and post the newsletter out to residences across our district in the New Year. *Pictured is the team of volunteers that help produce the Murrabit Community Newsletter each month.*





MEN'S BREAKFAST Friday, 20 December 2024 6:30am to 8:30am, Murrabit Men's Shed Browning Avenue, Murrabit

Queries and further information: Stephen O'Donoghue, Secretary Ph: 0418 577 238

Day out to Tractor Museum

The Murrabit Men's Shed today visited the Nyah Tractor Museum, believed to be Australia's largest private collection of Ford tractors, owned by Ron and Marilyn Dehne. Ron's interest in Ford tractors began when he was a teenager and worked for Arnoldt and Greenwood in Kerang in 1963. Having recently purchased Dick Walters' tractor at a farm clearing sale in Murrabit, the Murrabit Men's Shed was keen to reconnect with Ron and see Dick's tractor, a Ford 2600, now proudly displayed in the museum.

Housed in the former fruit packing shed at Nyah, the tractor collection dates from the 1920s to some of the late model Fords produced in the 1990s. Some of Ron's Ford County models are so rare, they are the only ones that can be found outside of collections in the UK. Ford tractors were phased out after 1991 following a merger with Fiat Geotech.

Ford Motor Company was a leading maker of tractors and farm machinery throughout much of the 20th century, starting with the Fordson in 1917. Founder, Henry Ford, produced the tractor in large numbers at the request of the British government during World War 1 to ensure local food production. The first tractors to be sold under the Ford brand were launched in 1939 with the N series.

Ron's first tractor was a County, purchased in Koondrook, to clear land Ron and Marilyn owned in Tasmania. The wet terrain meant that the first tractor kept getting bogged so Ron purchased another County to free the first.. and the rest is history. Ron's collection now numbers more than 120!

Ron and Marilyn eventually moved from Tasmania to Alice Springs were they lived and worked for 30 years, while accumulating 20-30 more tractors. They moved back to Victoria and the collection kept growing to what it is today, with Ron adding additional space to the shed as the collection continued to grow.

After enjoying an interesting talk by Ron, who we could have listened to all day, the Men's Shed Group headed to the Murray Downs Club for lunch and a reprieve from the heat, before returning to Murrabit, visiting the silo art at Lake Boga and the Lake Boga Community Garden enroute.

The day trip was made possible thanks to funding received from the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee and supported by Victorian and Commonwealth Governments under the Commonwealth -State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) as part of the Gannawarra Community Flood Recovery Program.







Australian Government







Supported by Gannawarra Shire Flood Recovery Funding through the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee

Murrabit Market Wrap Up 2024

The last Murrabit Country Market for 2024 was held on 7 December.

Thank you to all who our loyal shoppers, stallholders and volunteers for your ongoing support, and to Santa and his little elfie helper for spreading some pre-Chrissie cheer across the market site.

Congrats to Myrtle Pappin who was delighted to win the lucky shopper prize - a lovely hamper of goodies by Busy Bees of Murrabit.

Next Murrabit Country Market is on Saturday 4 January 2025. Live music by Honest Ken and a Toy Story bouncing castle will be making its way to Murrabit for the kiddos.

Stallholder bookings most welcome and can be made via the 'online application form' on our website:

www.murrabit.com.au/market or by phoning our office anytime on 5457 2205.



Murrabit Chatty & Crafty Club

Murrabit's new Chatty & Crafty Club is going great. There will be a session on Wednesday 18 December before a two week break (Christmas Day or New Years Day). The Chatty & Crafty club will then be back from Wednesday 8 January 2025. If you don't have a craft project underway, to bring along, don't worry, there's some crafty ladies that will help you out with supplies and advice.





Hum n Strum Music

It's been a really busy time since the last newsletter. We performed at Northaven at the end of November and had a terrific afternoon there. We followed that up the next week with a performance at the final Community

lunch. We played for over an hour and then finished off with a dozen of our favourite Christmas carols. It was a really enjoyable afternoon and terrific to have so many people stay to enjoy the music and sing along with us. And then the next week we performed at Murrayhaven and it was a fabulous afternoon; they are such a welcoming and appreciative audience.

And we finished off with our final session for this year back at the Golf club. Unfortunately Doris was away as she is getting ready for her trip and, sadly, Michael is a bit crook at the moment and couldn't be with us. So we wish him all the best and fingers crossed for a quick recovery. But we had 4 visitors – Gwen, Flo, Barb and Carol - to help us out and they sang along, including plenty of Christmas carols, Angie brought the beautiful little Sofia again and we had a fantastic afternoon. Everyone brought a plate so the afternoon tea was absolutely delicious and lasted for quite a while. It was a lovely way to finish off what has been an amazingly fun and entertaining year at HumnStrum in 2024 and now we're having a short break and will start up again on Wednesday 15 January 2025.

Our regular Wednesday sessions are very informal, great fun and with a very nice afternoon tea. You don't need to play an instrument, you just have to like music! So if you'd like to pop in every now and then and maybe sing along, we'd love you to join us! We meet at the Murrabit Golf Club from 2-4pm.

If you're interested in coming along, contact Neil Hopkins 0490 830 641 for more information.

And we would like to wish everybody the very best for Christmas and we will see you in the new year!



SOCIAL MEALS

Wed 29th January Wed 26th February Wed 26th March Wed 30th April Wed 28th May Wed 25th June January-June 2025

Murrabit Hall Bookings to NDCH Community Care (03) 4429 1900 A great way to socialise and enjoy a home-cooked twocourse meal for just \$10. Australia Day Breakfast 26 January 2025 Back of Murrabit Hall From 8am All Welcome



Guest Speaker: Nathan Henry 8:00am Breakfast by Lions Club (donation) 9:00am Welcome, Flag Raising, National Anthem 9:20am Guest Speaker 9:40am Presentation by Gannawarra Shire Council 10:00am Close and Thank you

Farewell to the 'Mayor of Murrabit' - Hugh Webb



Our deepest sympathy is extended to Judy and the extended Webb family on the passing of Hugh. Hugh was 91 years young and a legend to everyone that knew him at Murrabit. He was a born and bred Murr-a-bit-ian who made a huge contribution to the town and district over his lifetime. He was one of the founders of the Murrabit Country Market and Hugh kept us all in line on the PA System until he needed to relocate off the farm in Punt Lane and into Kerang a few years back. Hugh passed on his knowledge to the younger generation and he was very proud each time he came out to the Murrabit Market at what had been achieved. He was particularly so excited to see the new shade trees and green grass on the market site - something Hugh had tried to achieve over many years. We too were proud that we could carry on Hugh's vision and we just kept banging on about greening Murrabit at every opportunity until some funding became available that helped fulfill Hugh's dream. Hugh was a Gannawarra Citizen of the Year and besides his involvement in the Murrabit Market, Hugh was actively involved in many other groups and sporting clubs over the years. Hugh was a true leader and his legacy lives on through his work and the effort he put into ensuring that young people were able to take the passion to continue to make Murrabit a great place to live and contribute to forward. Hugh's funeral is being held at St. John's Anglican Church, Victoria Street, Kerang on Friday, 20 December at 12 noon.



RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTY SALES PROPERTY MANAGEMENT WATER TRADING ONLINE AND ON SITE CLEARING SALES BROAD AND IRRIGATION FARMS

WWW.GHREALESTATE.COM.AU

Murrabit Group School

It has been another busy month at Murrabit Group School.

Our Grade P-2 students participated in a very exciting sleepover with activities including a Scavenger Hunt, a night walk around town and watching a movie. They also enjoyed a delicious breakfast of pancakes and toast to get their Friday started.

We had a visit from the Bendigo Discovery Centre who entertained each class with some hands on science activities that they found very engaging.

The whole school also participated in the School Swimming Program and we were lucky to do so in beautiful weather. The children were very keen throughout the program, and it was great to see the improvement in swimming skills. Our swimming program finishes with a Pool Party on Tuesday, 17 December.

The school has been a buzz with school concert practice, with singing, acting and speech practice taking place. The concert is always a highlight of our school year as we celebrate the successes of our students and farewell our grade 6 students. I hope you were able to join us for our celebrations.

We farewell 3 staff members who have made wonderful contributions to our school. Ms Bath is going on Paternity Leave and we wish her all the best as she starts a family. We also farewell Ms Green who will be teaching at Koondrook in 2025. Both Ms Green and Ms Bath have been excellent teachers at Murrabit and we will miss their contribution. Darcy Martin, an Education Support staff member will also be leaving us at the end of the year and we wish Darcy all the best.

We will be welcoming two staff members to our school in 2025 though with Bernie Monaghan and Kate Bartels both joining us. Bernie and Kate have taught at Koondrook in recent years and we are very excited to have them joining our staff at Murrabit Group School.

Have a Merry Christmas everyone and a Happy New Year from everyone at Murrabit Group School. Greg Adams, Principal

A Week of Yoga in Murrabit

Get Youtself off to a Great Start for 2025 with our annual "Week of Yoga" returning during January 2025.



Every day Monday to Friday at 7am and on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday evenings at 6pm. There will be classes in Hatha (regular), Yin (slow, deep stretch), and Chair yoga during

the week.

For every level of experience. You can come to every class, or just those that suit you.

Where: Murrabit Hall

When: Monday 6 – Friday 10 January



Cost: \$15/session or \$40 to come as often as you like. Interested in attending?

Phone Neil 0490 830 641 or Robyn 0427 517 236

Bring blanket, cushion, water and yoga mat

If you don't have a yoga mat, no problems, we have heaps!

Lift each other up in Murrabit!

Singer and song writer Josh Arnold worked with Murrabit Group School students to develop a song and clip called 'Lift each other up in Murrabit!'.

These little legends love growing up in the country and getting amongst the action every day. From riding bikes through the dust at the school to fishing and swimming in the mighty Murray River, Murrabit is a great place to be a kid.

If you haven't yet listened and viewed the kid's song, follow it up as it is fabulous!



Sosh Arnold is in Murrabit, VIC. November 15 at 3:83 AM - @

A small School full of great mates on the Victorian border, this is Murrabit Group School. These little legends love growing up in the country and get amongst t... See more



Murrabit Lions News

The Murrabit & District Lions Club celebrated the past year of service at the Koondrook Hotel last Tuesday night. Several of our members attended, and also some

prospective members.

Our Club has been proudly serving the Community of Murrabit & District for over 35 years, but sadly as some of our members are aging, we are in need of some new members to join us to continue the service that we provide to our Community.

We are a very relaxed group and have a good time while raising funds to support our local community groups such as the Murrabit Group School, Men's Shed, Family Hub and others in the area. The time commitment is not huge. We just need a few people to help out on Market days, either in the kitchen serving, or at the barbeque. We will have the occasional working bee to tidy up the cenotaph or help a local community member to do a tidy up around their home. If you are new to our District, it is a great way to meet new people.

Our Club has two meetings each month with a business meeting held on the second Tuesday of each month in our clubrooms at the Murrabit Golf Club and a dinner meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month where we have a guest speaker.

If you are interested in becoming involved in our Lions Club, meeting new people and serving our community, please contact our membership Chairman Bill Hazen on 54572213 or our President Neil Hopkins on 0490830641. We would like to wish the Community a very merry and safe Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the new year. Murrabit & District Heritage Group Inc The heritage group recently held its Annual General Meeting, which included a review of 2024. Here's a little excerpt:

The history and heritage of our local area is truly rich, varied and colourful and I love the many fascinating stories and yarns that are shared around our table at each meeting. And while History is not everyone's cup of tea, the recording of significant events, the tracing of local histories and the bringing to life of the people and their stories is an important part of who we are and contributes hugely to the knowledge and feeling of place which helps to make us all feel safe, comfortable, connected, secure and happy.

The 100 year celebrations of the Murrabit township was an amazingly successful event and I was extremely thrilled and proud to be part of the group that brought it to fruition. It drew close to 200 people back to Murrabit to reconnect, share stories and relive past escapades. The feedback from those who attended tells us that it was not only successful but hugely appreciated by all. All of our planning, preparation and hard work certainly paid off. I'd like to thank and congratulate each of you for the part you played on brining such a wonderful event together. I'd also like to acknowledge the Murrabit and District Lions Club, our community members and those people who having been co-opted via marriage and/or family connection were such a great help.

The photographic display of the history of the railway and bridge developments which hangs on the all in the gift shop is an absolute ripper and is a fine achievement in itself.

As always, our work around local people involved in war means that we are always heavily involved with ANZAC Day. This year's event was again a wonderful success. The possibility of a heritage museum in Murrabit has been discussed and it is an exciting prospect. It would allow people to access and enjoy all of the fantastic information and displays long after any events are over.

Hopefully we can continue to bring snippets of our history to light and life through our articles in the monthly Murrabit-a-news.

Our group is small in number, yet despite this, I think that we achieve some amazing things for our community both past and present. Unfortunately, we've lost two members, Marlene Laursen and Dick Walters, this past year.

Marlene had great interest in, and knowledge of, local history and spent many hours creating collections of cuttings about many aspects of local life. She was always very happy to share this, and her memorabilia became a feature of ANZAC Day decorations.

I'd like to particularly acknowledge the wonderful role Dick Walters has played in the Heritage Group through the years. Dick has a wealth of knowledge to share about all things Murrabit. He has been a true leader who helped our group to achieve some remarkable things and run some fabulous events. With his love of local history, strong sense of purpose and seemingly boundless enthusiasm, Dick was able to share his vision and excitement with people and bring them along on the journey. Dick will be a huge loss to our group. And on behalf of us all, and the wider community, I'd like to say thank you to Dick for his time, care, support and companionship.

Neil Hopkins, President

Next meeting will be held on Monday 10 February 2025 at the Market Office. All welcome. Supper provided.

MURRABIT NEWSLETTER DETAILS

If you are not already receiving this free community newsletter via email, please send us your email address so that we can add you to our email list.

The monthly editions of this newsletter are also available from our website:

www.murrabit.com.au/murra-bit-a-news Deadline for articles for upcoming edition is FRIDAY 17 JANUARY 2024

Information can be emailed to murrabit1@bigpond.com, delivered or posted through our door. Community interest info is free. Advertise from \$10.

MURRABIT MARKET CLEAN UP ROSTER 2025 January - Murrabit Tennis Club



Men's Shed is held 1:30pm to 4pm Sundays or join us for a cuppa and chat at 3pm

The Men's Shed recently sets up for each Murrabit Market all welcome to come along and help out - meet at the Lions Park at 9am on the Friday morning - next set-up is Friday 3 January. We love having new people join us for any activities so please feel welcome to come along at anytime. Membership fees for the 2024/25 year are \$35 to cover insurance costs and can be paid by dropping into the 'shed' on a Sunday.

Contact: Stephen O'Donoghue, Secretary 0418 577 238. Facebook - Murrabit Men's Shed

Murrabit Book club

Book Club meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 8pm, usually in member's homes. New members welcome. Please contact Jeanette Coulter 5457 2331 for more information.



Murrabit Lawn Tennis Club

In the last month of tennis, we have had some very hot days, a wash out and some good wins for all our teams. Our junior team is made up of 14 kids and each week we have a different mix of kids playing, with this being the first season for a number of them. Each week we can see improvement and development of our young ones and their smiling faces show how much they are enjoying their tennis.

The league ran the NDLTA championships last week. This is a new initiative which sees a regular round replaced by the champs in an attempt to encourage each club to enter players for all events. Participants represented our club n the singles, doubles and mixed events.

The last round of tennis prior to be Christmas will be on Saturday, 21 December, playing at home against Cohuna. We will then have a break over the Christmas period and return to tennis on 18 January. We are planning to go out for dinner that evening after tennis for our breakup.

Unfortunately, we have missed two junior coaching sessions - one earlier in December due to the heat. and again recently when the Murrabit School concert took place. Thursday 19 December will be the last night of our coaching program. The 'Hot shots' kids will have a fun evening of games while the 'Tennis for Teens' group will play a mini tournament to finish off the year. A massive thank you to our coaches Simon and Sally, our assistants Belle and Travis and all the parents and members who have helped over the last few months.



Our coaching program continues to encourage and help our youngsters to learn and improve their confidence and skills as tennis players. Hope to see you all there on the last night, for a bit of fun, and dinner and drinks at the clubhouse.

Go Murrabit! Ang Morton, President



Murrabit Accessible Defibs - Snake Bite Kits included

24 hour accessible defib machines are DEFIBRILLATOR mounted externally next to the kitchen door at the Murrabit Hall and at the door to the Murrabit Men's Shed.



These life saving machines are available to anyone in an emergency.



Hall News

We had a fantastic crowd of over 40 people at the November social meal and had a great old time.

Following lunch, HumnStrum entertained for over an hour and a half - lots of people joined in the singing and then

they finished off with a dozen Christmas carols. A really enjoyable lunch!

The first social meal for the new year will be held on Wednesday 29 January. It's a great chance to catch up, or to meet some new people, in a very friendly atmosphere so with a delicious 2-course feed thrown in at a very low cost. why not think about coming along? Contact Community Care 4429 1900 to book.

New Tables - Jeanette (our very efficient Secretary/ Treasurer) acted very quickly after our recent AGM and our new tables have arrived and have been in use already! The kids from Murrabit school found the new lighter tables much easier to work with and set up for the December market. I dropped in to the Hall on Market day and had a chat to a few customers who thought that the new tables were very nice! The new tables are foldable, moulded plastic, easy to carry and very easy to set up.

It was a pleasure to have the Murrabit Group School concert and graduation in the Hall on Thursday, 12 December. And the area at the rear of the Hall was the perfect venue for the after-show supper and chat session! We've got a wonderful primary school here at Murrabit which is a real asset to our district and it's nice to be able to support the school as much as we can.

You might remember we received a grant to help with the costs of refurbishing the Hall floor. We are expecting that to take place in February and we should have a set date for you by the next newsletter.

It's a bit of a quiet time at the moment with Yoga and Line Dancing taking a Christmas break but the Hall is still available for hire and is a perfect venue for a wide range of functions, day or evening, and is extremely well-equipped.

To hire the Hall or for more information, contact Neil Hopkins (Pres) 0490830641 or Jeanette Coulter (Sec/Treas) 0458 572 331.

Have a great month everyone! Neil Hopkins, President

KERANG TO ECHUCA BUS SERVICE 1st Tuesday & 3rd Friday of each month Timetable, Bus stops & Fares

8am - Departs Kerang Railway Station -8.25am - Departs Murrabit Hall

8.45am - Departs Koondrook Hall (side)

9.05am - Departs Cohuna Hall (rear) 10.15am - Arrives Echuca CBD

2pm - Departs Echuca CBD for the return service

One-way, part way and non-concession fares are also available. No bookings necessary. Tickets available from the driver and allow for free transport on Echuca buses whilst there. For more information, please call Public Transport Victoria on 1800 800 007.

Murrabit Rec Reserve

The Murrabit Recreation Reserve is managed by a DECCA appointed committee of management. Hiring enquiries to Terry Morton President 0409 692 630 or Stephen O'Donoghue Secretary 0418 577 238.

Camping enquiries to Terry.





1 December 2024 - 31 January 2025 Open to children aged 0 - 18

Log books read or listened to over the summer to go into the draw for book packs.

Primary students - ask about our special competition for you! Join the challenge via the QR Code





GANNAWARRA

COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO 2025 - 2029 GANNAWARRA **COUNCIL PLAN AND COMMUNITY VISION**

Council is seeking your help to shape the next version of its Council Plan and its Community Vision.

Council will work with residents during the next two months to develop what will become the 2025-2029 Gannawarra Shire Council Plan, which will incorporate Council's Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and the municipality's Community Vision for the next 10 years. For more information, please visit www.gsc.vic.gov.au/ CouncilPlan

Busy Bees of Murrabit

Community owned and operated gift shop and visitor centre, Gonn Avenue, Murrabit (part of the Murrabit Market Office Complex). Open Murrabit Market mornings 9am to 12:30pm. Keep up to date by giving our **Murrabit Promotions** Facebook page a LIKE



LIBRARY SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAM



SUCCULENT WORKSHOP Kerang - Tuesday 14 January, 10.30am Children aged 8+





PLASTER PAINTING Cohuna - Thursday 16 January, 10.30am All ages





MINIBEAST PEGS

Kerang - Thursday 16 January, 10.30am Children aged 5+



PAPER PLANES

Kerang - Tuesday 21 January, 10.30am Children aged 5+



BUILD IT WITH BUNNINGS Children aged 5+

Cohuna - Wednesday 22 January, 2.00pm



BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL VIA TRYBOOKING ADULTS TO ACCOMPANY CHILDREN

MURRABIT COUNTRY MARKET 4 JANUARY 2025



