



MURRA-BIT-A-NEWS A FREE PUBLICATION

February 2025

Community News Contributions Gratefully Accepted

P.O. Box 3, Murrabit 3579

Website: www.murrabit.com.au

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

Phone: 03 5457 2205

Murrabit Advancement Association Inc.

Email: murrabit1@bigpond.com

Murrabit Community News

Australia Day Breakfast was a great success on Sunday 26 January. Guest speaker was Nathan Henry. Nathan told his story of growing up in Murrabit, moving away temporarily to gain a teaching degree and coming back to the area as a teacher and to continue to play footy for the Murrabit Football Club. This progressed to Nathan becoming a leader both in his teaching career and Murrabit sporting clubs, particularly football and cricket. Nathan spoke of the profound influence of family and community on his life and the way this has helped positively shape his own commitment to community, his leadership journey and supporting his own children, and the young people of the district, to participate in sport and community life more broadly. President of the Murrabit & District Lions Club, Neil Hopkins, spoke passionately of his love for community and being able to come together on Australia Day to celebrate what it means to be Australian. Cr. Lisa Farrant announced the Gannawarra Citizen of the Year and Young Person of the Year award recipients as Quambatook resident, Sandra Bennett, and Cohuna resident, Rory Martin. Thanks to the Lions Club volunteers for the delicious cooked breaky. Australia Day is a time to reflect, respect and celebrate.



Pictured above: Murrabit residents enjoying Australia Day breakfast and below: local children enjoying the 20th annual Murrabit Floatilla on the Murray River.



Pictured above: Cr Lisa Farrant, Nathan Henry and Neil Hopkins

The annual Murrabit Australia Day Floatilla followed the Australia Day breaky. It is always a fun activity for local families floating on anything floatable - life jackets, floaties, lilos, blow-up thongs! Thanks to everyone for coming along and making Aussie Day at Murrabit such a special community focused event.

Next Murrabit Market will be held on 1 March 2025. Variety of market stalls. Live music by Reg Poole. Stall bookings via our website: www.murrabit.com.au/market or by phoning 5457 2205.

Next Murrabit Market
1 MARCH 2025

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.

Newsletter is also available from our website:

www.murrabit.com.au/murra-bit-a-news

Deadline for articles for the next edition is:

WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2025.

Information can be emailed to murrabit1@bigpond.com, delivered or posted through our door.

Community interest info is free. Advertise from \$10.

Produced by volunteers. All articles are to be provided in Word format or high resolution picture files.

Murrabit Advancement Association Inc

Next meeting will be held on **Monday 17 March 2025** 7:30pm at the Murrabit Men's Shed.

The MAA runs the Murrabit Country Market, oversees the implementation of the Murrabit & District Community Plan and helps support community connections through the production of this monthly newsletter, the What's on in Murrabit Facebook page, and supporting existing and new community programs, events and activities.

The committee is made up of representatives from all Murrabit community groups. Feel free to come along to the meeting if you would like to contribute to making Murrabit an even better place to live and visit.

Enquiries to murrabit1@bigpond.com or phone 5457 2205.

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.

Hum n Strum Music

HumnStrum is held each 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.

Scrap Metal

I have been in touch with Wrights Metal Recyclers from Mildura about coming down and picking up our scrap metal. He will come in the next few months, and I thought there might be others interested in getting rid of their scrap while they are here. Terry is very good and will pay you for your scrap. If you are interested give Terry a ring on 0427 245 611. **Jeanette Coulter**

Murrabit Book club

With the demise of CAE Book Groups, the Murrabit Book Club has vowed to continue.

CAE have sent us some boxes of books to continue with. We will use these for our book discussions until they run out, then we will choose books that we will all read.

The good news is that we no longer have a limit on how many members we can have and there is **NO** membership fee.

So, if you have been thinking about coming along to our Book Club, now is the time to do it.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 8pm in member's homes. That member is responsible for supper. All you have to do is turn up and enjoy the company of other like-minded people who enjoy reading.

For more information contact Jeanette Coulter (5457 2331).



**Men's Shed is held 1:30pm to 4pm Sundays
(except Australia Day)**

or feel free to join us for a cuppa and chat at 3pm

The Men's Shed 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 28 February

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.

See the **Flyer on Page 11** of this newsletter for activities planned for 2025.

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

MURRABIT MARKET CLEAN UP ROSTER 2025

March - Fire Brigade

April - Men's Shed

Easter Saturday - Men's Shed

GANNAWARRA SPORTING CLUB
DINNER

Inviting members, volunteers, players and supporters from all sporting clubs in the Gannawarra Shire to come together and celebrate local sport, learn and network

Hosted by Brihany Dawson

- TV Host, Entertainer, MC, Vocalist
- Sports Presenter @foxfooty
- Advocate and Ambassador

THE NIGHT INCLUDES:

- Practical and proactive advice for successful grant applications from **The Grants Guy**
- Industry professionals in a Q&A panel on all things sport and recreation, grant funding, club support and more!
- The launch of the Gannawarra Fair Access Policy
- Lucky door prizes to be won!

Bookings essential
<https://www.trybooking.com/CYZLL>
or scan the QR code
Enquiries to grants@gsc.vic.gov.au

**Dimor provided
Drinks at bar prices**

THE GRANTS GUY

COONDROOK RECREATION RESERVE
Penglase Street, Koondrook
Tuesday 25 March, 2025
6:00 PM FOR 6:45PM START

Australian Government | Gannawarra | Victoria

Supported by Gannawarra Shire Council, Recreation Funding through the Gannawarra Community Assistance Committee

Murrabit Playgroup starting 3 March

Exciting news for families with under school aged children. Playgroup will recommence at Murrabit on the **first and third Monday of each month, starting on 3 March 2025 at the Murrabit Family Hub**. See Flyer to right for full details.

Jeanette Coulter has kindly offered to come along on the first day with some school library books for the children to borrow. Jeanette will read a book as well. There will be playtime outside on the wonderful concrete bike track with the fabulous array of bikes, trikes and all other rideable toys available.

There will be a coffee machine for the big people who attend and a free morning tea.

If you don't have under school aged children but would like to be involved in helping to re-establish our local playgroup as a thriving, fun place for little children and their families to connect, learn and play together, please also let us know: murrabit1@bigpond.com or phone Jodie on 5457 2205 or even better-turn up at playgroup. Meanwhile, upgrade works at the Murrabit Family Hub are ready to progress to the next stage with the corrugated iron cladding works now complete (pictured below). Next step is to purchase paint. A working bee held on Sunday 16 February cleaned up the yard and buildings to make the site safe for playgroup to recommence.

The upgrade works are being completed by the Murrabit Advancement Association supported by funding received from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR). A pop up heritage display for the Easter weekend in the old church is also being worked on by the heritage group and the church clean-out has commenced!



MURRABIT PLAYGROUP STARTING 3 MARCH 2025



First and
third Monday
of each
month



Play
Connect
Learn
Make friends
Have FUN!



9:30 - 11:30am
Gold coin
donation

Murrabit
Family Hub
45 Gonn
Avenue





All Welcome

Morning tea
provided

Supported by Murrabit Advancement Association Inc
Queries: 5457 2205 or email: murrabit1@bigpond.com










NEIGHBOUR DAY COMMUNITY WORKING BEE SUNDAY 30 MARCH 2025 9AM TO 12NOON FINISHING WITH A SAUSAGE SIZZLE IN THE PARK

Come along and help tidy up the town in preparation for the influx of visitors over the Easter long weekend. If you can't make it on the day there is always plenty of jobs to do - gardening, watering, mowing, picking up sticks, racking up bark and leaves, washing down signs, whipper snipping, spraying weeds and ants, keeping the BBQ, seating area and playground in the Lions Park clean and tidy. If you see a job that needs doing, we are all volunteers, so please feel free to hop in and lend a hand.

MURRABIT TRADING LTD MURRABIT LAWN TENNIS CLUB 78th Annual Easter Tournament 2025

EVENTS

Mixed - Good Friday 18 April

Doubles- Saturday 19 April

Each day -Sections-
Men's & Ladies - A, Inter & B,
Boys & Girls u16 & u13




For quick and easy way to enter
www.surveymonkey.com/r/BCXV9BQ

Enquiries to: Murrabit Lawn Tennis Club
PO Box 33, Murrabit VIC 3579
Email: murrabitalawntennisclub@gmail.com
or 0439 380 604
www.tennis.com.au/murrabit
[f murrabittennis](https://www.facebook.com/murrabittennis)

Enter It's:

- fun
- relaxing
- competitive
- friendly

While in Murrabit explore the HUGE Easter Market on Saturday or experience camping, fishing or relaxing by the Murray River






Murrabit Tennis News

The tennis season is quickly coming to an end.

Big congratulations to our junior side (pictured below) who have made it into the Grand Final. Well done to Lyla, James, Drew, Ivy, Sadie, Maddi, Zane, Imi, Evan, Kobe, Eliza, Charlotte, Lenny and Pippy. The kids have had a great season. Many of them have juggled other sporting commitments such as cricket, basketball and swimming, and have shared weeks on and off to make sure we field a full team every week. It has been a bonus having a large squad this year.



Unfortunately for our Division 1 team they slipped out of the top four at the wrong point of the season and will miss out on finals this year, along with Division 2.

I would also like to thank and congratulate those juniors who have stepped into the senior ranks when required to help with numbers. They have all continued to improve their tennis skills over the season and it is great to watch.

The Club Championships are still underway with a couple more matches to be played this Thursday night, prior to the finals next week. Thank you to all our members who have participated in club champs. Many of us do not like playing singles, but we do all enjoy the club champs and value the long-standing history of the title.

Matches to be played are Charlotte v Lyla, Eliza v Pippy, Simon v Chris, Tim v Travis, Sally v Ang, Drew v Kobe, Zane v Evan. Good luck to you all.

Although the season is almost done we still have our biggest event to come, the **Easter Tournament**. This will be the 78th year of the tournament.

The committee have been busy organising and seeking sponsorship. Entries are now open, so get your partners organised and names in. See the **flyer on Page 3** of this newsletter for the entry link or get in touch with any of the Murrabit Tennis Club members.

Go Murrabit!
Ang Morton, President



Murrabit Recreation 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.

Murrabit & District Heritage Group Inc

Historical Snippet P.S. Murrabit Paddlesteamer

The P.S. Murrabit was built in 1914 at Koondrook by J. Brooke to replace the P.S. Arbutnot, which was destroyed by fire.

The P.S. Murrabit was 112ft x 23ft with a 90 horsepower engine to drive the paddles. It was owned by a number of shipowners along the river.

Of interest, in 1921, bargemaster, Olaf Olsen was murdered with an axe on the barge the 'Koondrook' being towed behind the P.S. Murrabit. After that, along the rivers, the P.S. Murrabit was often called the 'Murder Bit'!

Crewman, Albert Smith was given a life sentence for the crime. In the subsequent trial, it was revealed that Smith had suffered shell shock on the fields of the Somme, and was prone to periodic fits of insanity. His death sentence was commuted to life imprisonment after a public outcry, and he was released after fifteen years. Although rivermen were hard-headed, this sort of violence was rare on the river.

By 1932, the P.S. Murrabit was owned by Landseer & Tinks and was used to tow barges filled with stones from Mannam for the construction of the locks along the river. In the early years of steam navigation on the rivers, wool was one of the main cargoes being shipped, along with wheat and flour, building materials and general stores. Goolwa was for many years the port to which these cargoes were taken, then transferred to the railway for Port Elliot, later Victor Harbour. From here they were taken by ship to Port Adelaide or directly interstate or overseas. The captains of the P.S. Murrabit over the years were – P. Johnson - 1914, W. Budarick - 1918, A. Price – 1921, F. Weaver – 1930, T. C. Goode - 1939, P. Treleaven – 1948. The P.S. Murrabit's barges were – "Koondrook" – 1917-1921, "Nelson"- 1919, and "Crowie" – 1939.

Source – List of Murray – Darling Paddle Steamers.

If you love local history as much as we do, come and join us at the next Murrabit & District Heritage Group meeting on **Monday 12 May 2025** at the Market Office. All welcome. Supper provided. We will also be having a pop-up display in the old Uniting Church on **Easter Saturday**.



Murrabit Accessible Defib - Snake Bite Kit included

A 24 hour accessible defib machine is mounted externally next to the kitchen door at the Murrabit Hall.

This life saving machine is available to anyone in an emergency.



Note that the machine which is usually at the Men's Shed door is currently being upgraded and is not available until further notice.

Murrabit Crafty & Chatty Club

Murrabit's new Chatty & Crafty Club is held each Wednesday. 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. It is great to see this group growing each week. There is a Make Your Own Air Dry Clay Creation activity coming up over two weeks - 5 and 12 March. For just \$10 for the 2 week program you will get to learn something new and have fun making something to take home - all in a safe and supportive environment. If you can't make the first date, you can still come along on the second week and start the activity. See flyers below for further details.

MURRABIT CRAFTY & CHATTY CLUB

Connect - Support - Create



Every Wednesday
Murrabit Family Hub
45 Gonn Avenue
10am to 12 noon

Bring along your own craft or just come along for a cuppa and chat. If you don't have a craft project, don't worry - some crafty ladies will provide supplies and crafty advice!

Gold Coin Donation

QUERIES: 5457 2205

MURRABIT CRAFTY & CHATTY CLUB

Make Your Own Air Dry Clay Creation!



Wednesdays
5 & 12 March
Murrabit Family Hub
(formerly playgroup)
45 Gonn Avenue
10am to 12 noon

Spread over 2 weeks
BYO Rolling Pin
& Oven Tray
No experience necessary

\$10

includes modelling clay, guidance and morning tea

Queries: 5457 2205



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



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

What's on at Murrabit Group School

The school year has started very well. We welcomed two new teachers in Mr Bernie Monaghan (Grade 4-6 teacher) and Mrs Kate Bartels (Grade P-3 teacher), and they have done a wonderful job setting routines, expectations and curriculum for their classes.

The school is a very happy and calm place to be, with lots of smiling faces. The classroom teachers are supported by specialists who take Library, Art, Music, Italian and our Stephanie Alexander Garden Program. We also have a Tutoring Program and an Extension Music Program, two classroom aides, as well as a Wellbeing teacher who supports the students wellbeing needs.

We are excited about the opportunities in term 1, including the following dates:

28 February – Cluster Swim Day (Koondrook Swimming Pool)

3 March – Indigenous Outreach Day (Koondrook Primary School)

27 March – School Get Together and Student Sleepover

Our swimming program at the start of the year was a great success and saw the students undertake five days of intensive swimming practice at their skill level. The children improved greatly in confidence and technique. They really enjoyed the last day when they participated in a whirlpool and a game of "water polo"!

Our fastest swimmers have participated in the Kerang Swimming Trials and the Mallee Zone Swimming Trials. At the Mallee Zone Trials our swimmers were Xavier Hein, Pippy Morton, Jade Lavey and Keira McNeil. Pippy won the individual Butterfly, Freestyle relay and Medley relay. Xavier won the freestyle relay. Keira won the individual breaststroke and freestyle relay. Jade won the individual backstroke and freestyle relay. A fantastic effort by our champion little swimmers who now progress to the Regional Championships.

Assembly is going to be slightly different this year. Every second Friday at 3pm we will be having a "Celebration Assembly" where we celebrate the wonderful things the students are doing at Murrabit Group School. Activities will include Student of the Week, Curriculum based activities or Special Presentations. Parents, grandparents, friends and supporters of our school are welcome to attend as the students love an audience. Occasionally because of things held on Fridays the assembly will be moved to a Thursday at 3pm. This is the case next Thursday, the 27 February, when we will have our first "Celebration Assembly".

Hope to see you there.



Murrabit Hall News

The Hall will be unavailable from 3-13 March for the hall floor refurbishment work to be completed.

We had a good crowd of around 30 people for the first social meal for 2025 – a very nice start to the year. The

next social meal will be on Wednesday 26 February. Contact NDCH Community Care 4429 1900 to book.

Yoga and Line Dancing are back in full swing after their Christmas break.

The Hall is 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) 0490 830 641 or Jeanette Coulter (Sec/Treas) 0458 572 331. **Have a great month everyone!**



Murrabit & District Lions

Australia Day: What a great day! Our Australia Day breakfast at Murrabit was a wonderful event. We had an excellent crowd of well over 100 who attended and enjoyed a delicious brekkie whipped up by our Lions members. Our guest speaker, local lad Nathan Henry, was an inspiring speaker and did a fabulous job as he spoke passionately about the importance of family and friends and why Murrabit is such a special place. New Shire councillor, Lisa Farrant, was a breath of fresh air as she acknowledged the pride and hard work of our community that goes into making our town and district a great place to live. Thanks once again to Greg Gurnett for offering his time and sound gear – excellent! And of course, thank you to our Lions club members for their amazing contribution, not just on Australia Day, but throughout the year. Thank you to the Gannawarra Shire Council for their strong support of Australia Day celebrations and a special thank you to everyone who came along to show their support and appreciation of this amazing country that we live in.

Working Bee: We had a working bee at the cenotaph on 20 February to prepare the area for ANZAC Day.

Dinner Meeting: Next Dinner meeting will be on Tuesday 25 February and this will be at Andrew and Pattie McDonald's house. While dinner meetings are always great fun, this one will be tinged with a little sadness as we farewell Wayne and Yvonne Clayton who are leaving the district and heading over Stawell way. Wayne and Yvonne have been wonderful members of our club; always ready to hop in and lend a hand, and always with a smile for everyone. While we are very sad to lose them, we wish them all the best in their new venture.

ANZAC Day: ANZAC Day will be here before we know it. It is a very special day in the Murrabit calendar and our guest speaker this year is Dennis Greenwood. I know that Dennis is putting plenty of time and thought into his presentation, and as Dennis is a man who does not do things by halves, he will be well worth listening to.

Murrabit Lions is a very friendly, welcoming group. We aren't stuck in old-fashioned ways and customs but are about friendship and having fun while helping our community. Our Club is very much a local community club with our efforts focused on helping local people and groups. We would love to have you join us! If you are new to our district or are interested in becoming involved in Lions and helping our community, please contact membership Chairman Bill Hazen on 5457 2213 or President Neil Hopkins on 0490 830 641.



**NORTHERN
COUNTRY
LINE DANCERS**



Murrabit Public Hall

Every Thursday 1pm - 3pm
Everyone is welcome - Come alone or bring a group

For more information call
44036640



**Flying Doctor
Dental Clinic**



Our FREE dental service is coming to Kerang
2 February to 7 March

RSL Drive
Next to Memorial Hall
Kerang


in Doctor
er al Clinic
Working after
our oral health

Eligibility criteria apply, so to find out more about our dental clinic, or to book an appointment, please call (03) 8412 0444.



RFDG
Rural Fire Districts
Group

Royal Flying Doctor Service
VICTORIA



SOCIAL MEALS
January-June 2025

Murrabit Hall
Bookings to NDCH Community Care (03) 4429 1900
A great way to socialise and enjoy a home-cooked two-course meal for just \$12.

Wed 26th February
Wed 26th March
Wed 30th April
Wed 28th May
Wed 25th June

Kerang
69 Wellington Street, Kerang VIC 3579
(03) 5450 3792
admin@ghrealestate.com.au

GRAEME HAYES
REAL ESTATE

Swan Hill
34 McCallum Street, Swan Hill VIC 3585
(03) 4016 2005
info@ghrealestate.com.au

 CHELSEA MANUEL Business Development Manager 0403 242 171	 AMY STEEL Property Manager 0432 700 533	 SHARRON WOOD Executive Administration Assistant (03) 5450 3792	 CHARLY DELMENICO Administration Assistant 0434 449 259
 NATHAN HIPWORTH Licensed Real Estate Agent VIC & NSW 0458 428 201	 GRAEME HAYES Principal / Licensed Real Estate Agent 0411 338 649	 TRAVIS HIPWORTH Water Trading / Licensed Real Estate Agent 0435 591 985	
 COLIN BALCAM Sales Agent 0419 203 908	 TAMIKA YATES Property Manager 0432 700 151	 STEPHANIE HAMILTON Property Manager 0432 700 520	 MANDY ALDERSON Property Manager 0434 544 757

SERVICING KERANG, SWAN HILL, AND SURROUNDING AREAS

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

WWW.GHREALESTATE.COM.AU

Hum n Strum Music

Everyone was just busting to get going again after our Christmas break. We have added some great new songs already - a couple of old singalong favourites as well as some bluesy numbers by Creedence and Jimmy Barnes. And we have added another new member at HumnStrum - welcome Kylie Rogers to our group. Kylie has fitted in beautifully and we are loving hearing her sing. The talented and lovely Danielle Hazen is back with us and that is always a pleasure. There is hidden talent all over the place!

A very sad part of January for us was the passing of one of our members, our great friend Michael Lahy. Michael was a lovely bloke with a great sense of humour. He epitomised everything that HumnStrum is all about. He loved music and singing, he loved the fun and social side of our meetings, he delighted in swapping jokes with everyone and he was a fantastic supporter of any and everyone's efforts to make music. We will miss him terribly and send our love and best wishes to Colleen and all of their family, Thank you Michael for all that you did for our group and promoting music for everyone.

Our first performance for 2025 was at the WD Thomas Day centre in Kerang. They are always so welcoming and we had a great time with plenty of laughs and the audience singing and clapping along to every song. We even had one gentleman sing us a racier version of Show Me The Way to Go Home after we had finished the song. We might put it in our next performance! Thanks to Tracy and the staff for a delicious afternoon tea. Our next performance will be at Glenarm on 12 March.

Our regular Wednesday meetings are very informal and good fun. You don't have to play an instrument, you just have to like music! If you would like to pop in every now and then, you would be most welcome. We meet at the Murrabit Golf Club from 2- 4pm (although we often start earlier and finish later). And for those who are like performing we also play once a month at different spots around the district.

If you're interested in coming along, contact Neil Hopkins
0490 830 641



Masterchefs' Cookbook 2024



MURRABIT GROUP SCHOOL COOKBOOKS FOR SALE
ONLINE PAYMENT AND POSTAGE CAN BE ARRANGED.
\$30 PER COPY. CALL JUDI AT THE SCHOOL 5457 2284.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
You're invited to breakfast

FRIDAY 7 MARCH 2025
7.30AM FOR 8AM START

Morton Garner Pavilion
Cohuna Recreation Reserve,
Island Rd, Cohuna

Bookings essential by Monday 03 March:
(03) 5450 9333
Or Trybooking
<https://www.trybooking.com/CZHXW>

FREE EVENT

March Forward
It's time to turn promises into progress

Guest speakers

- Wendy Lunghusen, Director of Clinical Services, Cohuna District Hospital and
- Elise Drake, Indie Rock Singer/Songwriter

Lucky Door Prizes
Suzy Q Coffee Bar
Breakfast included

SPLASH DOWN
Lake Boga
& REV-UP

SUNDAY
MARCH 9TH 2025

Event Entry Fees - \$10 all adults
Children 15 years and under -
FREE entry with an adult

Flying Boat Museum - Entry Fees
\$10 - Adults | \$5 - Children (5-15yo)
All children must be supervised by an adult for the duration of the event

CASH ONLY (NO EFTPOS FACILITIES AT THE ENTRY GATES)

Catalina Park, Willakool Drive
LAKE BOGA VIC 3584 | 03 5037 2850 | museum@flyingboat.org.au
Lake Boga Splash Down & Rev Up

Reflections on Murrabit by "Morrie"

My grandfather was a Saw Doctor who worked for the Ford Motor Company in Geelong. Unfortunately, he suffered from iron filings in his lungs and was advised to move north for his health. That was around 1950, and he would have been aged about 53.

Guess there was little in the way of superannuation back then and certainly no Occupational Health & Safety rules or insurance/compensation.

So, grandfather and his wife Ada packed up their home-made caravan and annex and ended up in Murrabit.

They lived in their basic camp on the river just upstream from the bridge – about where the old boat ramp was.

Nanna was an old bushy type who would walk to town along the railway line carrying her trusty bit of fencing wire which she would use to despatch any snakes she came across along the way.

Ada's best friend was Violet - Doss Monk's mother. I recall that Doss' family had a house on the river, just below the bridge on the downstream side.

Grandfather died in 1954. Not long after, Ada took up with a German chap Alf Weber and they were married in 1955.

Alf lived in a camp on the river where the Little Murray runs in and to access the place you drove in via a farmer's property – can't remember the name but it was near Charles Humphrey's.

They didn't have a car. There was a shack and a few tents and rough huts.

Water was hand pumped direct from the river, lighting was by Coleman lantern (remember the hiss they made after you pumped them up and lit the mantle), milk was usually that lovely, powdered stuff. Refrigeration was provided by the Coolgardie safe. Cooking was carried out on the old wood stove which also provided the heating.

Our family visited 3 or 4 times a year. The men dug out the pit toilet, shot their rifles at everything in sight and drank long necks all day long. Not sure what the ladies did!

The kids ran wild in the bush, paddled canoes, swam across the river, checked the drum nets and caught Cod on handlines.

After Alf died in 1963 (aged 73) Ada found her third husband and they ended up in Portarlington near Geelong.

Most recently, I purchased myself a river paddleboat (the Struggler) set off from Echuca, not sure where I was going - but ended up at Murrabit – Gonn Crossing.

So, after a connection with Murrabit in the 50s and 60s I reconnected some 60 odd years later.

Have been hanging around for a while but have recently moved on and the boat is currently at Beveridge Island.

Certainly, never a local but I do have a strong affinity for Murrabit and the river.

Attended the Australia Day breakfast and ceremony recently and it got me thinking about the Murrabit community. Here is what I have observed over the past couple of years.

You are fortunate to have strong and practical leaders like the presidents of the football and netball clubs, the fire brigade captain, king of the men's shed, the market committee, the busy bees, the golf club and many more. Without exception these men and ladies do not seek publicity or accolades they just get in and get the job done.

These leaders are backed up by a willing band of assistants and volunteers who do much of the doing in a quiet and effective manner.

The bloke who spends much of his spare time mowing the fairways at the golf club, the ladies and gents from the Lions club who provide superb catering whenever it is required, those who run the bar and provide the meals at the footy club and the young lady who produces the newsletter. Unsung heroes all of them.

The community itself is unique – made up of people who never seek the limelight but who are there when they are needed.

While my boat was moored at the end of Punt Lane, it decided to try and sink itself. We got a crane out from Koondrook, raised her up a bit and then needed to pump her out. Well, in a very short time there were pumps running everywhere – couldn't believe it. Where did those pumps come from? Well that one came from the farmer up the road, that one came from etc etc - people I did not know just jumped in and helped out. One chap then took over the rebuilding program and he is still helping me out with repairs and rescues as required.

More recently, I had the boat moored a little furth downstream. Was there one day when a bloke I had never met turned up and we had a chat. Quite nonchalantly he mentioned "we got your boat back the other day". The boat had somehow slipped its mooring, floated off downstream and became tangled in the snags. He saw the problem, so he and a couple of others set about retrieving it for me. That is true community spirit.

Drive around Murrabit and people wave to you. Pop into the shop or the trading store and not only are the staff friendly and helpful but other customers will go out of their way to say hullo or "Gooday mate."

When you stich together the leaders, the assistants and volunteers and the rest of the community who say little but do a lot when needed, you have the true fabric of Australia.

Rural communities are always faced with the problem of diminishing numbers, particularly as young people leave for greener pastures and with reductions in services.

Around the world we see hate, demands, blame on others, violence and a society of entitlement. That is very sad.

However, Murrabit has a community of people who say little, seek nothing but assist their neighbours and strangers whenever assistance is required.

I know Murrabit people would never want recognition or publicity or anything along those lines but what I see is "When things are good, you all have a good time and when things are tough there is always someone ready and willing to lend a hand."

Think Australia Day and Aussie values – think Murrabit.

(Thank you Morrie for sharing these kind words - we think you are pretty cool too!)



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FOR SALE

The Murrabit Advancement Association has the following items for sale.



2100 Polymaster tank \$500
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Yamaha Electone Organ plus Seat
Model BK 5C \$200- Excellent Condition



18 x Red Retro All Steel Chairs
\$10 each



560 - 225 x 200mm Pavers
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1 x Retro office chair \$20



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1 x Rectangle Mirror \$10



240v Rinnai Gas wall heater \$100

**All items good second hand condition
Inspection welcome
Payment on pick-up. Contact 5457 2205.
Items not sold will be sold at the Murrabit Market
so be quick if you are interested.**



2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Community Open Days: (Sundays 1:30 – 4pm)

Community Lunches (lunch at 12noon)

Sundays 25 May (Men's Shed) & 28 September (Terry's Sandbar)

Men's Breakfasts (6:30am to 8:30am) @ Men's Shed

Fridays 16 May & 17 October

Meeting Dates 2025 1:30pm to 3pm:

Sundays 9 February & 14 September (AGM)

Murrabit Market set-ups 9am MAA Shed/Lions Park:

Fridays 28 February, 4 April, 18 April (Easter), 2 May, 6 June, 4 July, 1 August, 5 September, 3 October, 31 October, 5 December

Murrabit Market Stalls 8:30am to 12:30pm: 1st Saturday of each month

Saturdays 1 March, 5 April, 19 April (Easter), 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 2 August, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December

Murrabit Market clean-ups 3pm MAA Shed/Lions Park:

5 April, 19 April (Easter), 7 June, 5 July, 2 August, 6 September

Community Working Bee

Neighbour Day - Sunday 30 March (annual town clean up prior to April and Easter events) 9am to 12noon (followed by BBQ at Lions Park)

Working Bee to clean up the Men's Shed site

Tuesday 4 March 9am - 12 noon (lunch provided)

Special Activities:

Day Trip to Lake Bael Bael Homestead (combined with Heritage Group) & Lunch
- **Thursday 10 April**

Christmas Lunch (combined with Heritage Group) - **Sunday 30 November**

Murrabit & District Business Directory

Advertise your business on this page for \$10 for a small ad or \$15 for a larger ad.

Send details to murrabit1@bigpond.com

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