



# MURRA-BIT-A-NEWS

A FREE PUBLICATION

## January 2026

Community News Contributions Gratefully Accepted

P.O. Box 3, Murrabit 3579

Website: [www.murrabit.com.au](http://www.murrabit.com.au)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/whats-on-in-murrabit](https://www.facebook.com/whats-on-in-murrabit)

Phone: 03 5457 2205

Murrabit Advancement Association Inc.

Email: [murrabit1@bigpond.com](mailto:murrabit1@bigpond.com)

## Murrabit Community News

Welcome in 2026!

Some great events coming up and regular and new ones planned for the coming year.

January Murrabit Market has already been and gone.

Our regular Australia Day Breakfast is next - on Monday 26 January. All are welcome to attend the Aussie Day breakfast from 8am at the Lions Shelter at the back of the Murrabit Hall. Speaker this year is Travis Collier.

The annual Murrabit Australia Day Floatilla will follow at 11am. This is always a fun activity for local families. Bring along anything floatable - life jackets, floaties, lilos, blow-up thongs, etc.

The plan is to meet at the boat ramp and be ready to hit the water at 11am. The finishing line is Morton's sandbar on the NSW side for lunch. There will be a couple BBQs on site. Bring along your own meat and a salad to share or your own picnic lunch. Boats are welcome to float along as well to accommodate our more senior residents and those adverse to floating in the Murray River.

Students will be returning to Murrabit Group School on Wednesday 28 January. Remember the 40 kmph speed limit along Browning Avenue in front of the school - so please slow down and watch out and ensure a safe environment for our local school children and families.

Murrabit Crafty and Chatty Club has recommenced every Wednesday post the Christmas/New Year break as has Line Dancing. Hum n Strum starts on 21 January and first community meal for 2026 will be held in the hall on Wednesday, 25 February 2026. This is being organised as a community-led program.

Next Murrabit Market will be held on 7 February 2025. Variety of market stalls. Live music by DJ Greg. Stall bookings via our website: [www.murrabit.com.au/market](http://www.murrabit.com.au/market) or by phoning 5457 2205.

### MURRABIT AUSTRALIA DAY FLOATILLA

Monday 26 January 2026  
11am

Meet at the Murrabit Boat Ramp and be ready to hit the water at 11am.

Finish line is Morton's sandbar on the NSW side for lunch. BBQs on site.

Bring along your own meat and a salad to share or your own picnic lunch.

Cars can be left at the sandbar before the float. There will be boats to ferry you around (let someone know if you need a ride).

All children must wear a life jacket and be supervised.

The floatilla follows the Australia Day breakfast, which starts at 8am behind the Murrabit Hall.

**All Welcome**

## Australia Day Breakfast

Monday, 26 January 2026

Back of Murrabit Hall  
From 8am

All Welcome

8:00am Breakfast by Lions Club (by donation)

9:00am Welcome, Flag Raising, National Anthem

9:20am Guest Speaker: Travis Collier

9:40am Presentation by Gannawarra Shire Council  
(Cr. Ross Stanton)

10:00am Close and Thank you

Please come along and celebrate all that it means to be Australian.

*Hosted by Murrabit & District Lions Club.*



### NEXT MURRABIT MARKET

7 FEBRUARY 2026

## Hum n Strum Music

**We have had a longer than usual break after a very busy 2025 and we will fire up again on Wednesday, 21 January.**

We have been playing music together for 5 years now and have over 170 songs that we perform with something for just about everyone! We will be sure to add to that again this year!

**If you are interested in music you might like to join us.** Our regular get-togethers are very informal and good fun. We meet each Wednesday at the Murrabit Golf Club from 2 - 4pm and we are always happy for new people to join in. You can come for the whole time or just a part of it. **You don't have to play an instrument, you just have to like music!** And if you're interested in performing, we also play once a month at different spots around the district. Our first performance this year will be at Glenarm in February.



## Birthday congratulations

Gwen Walder (nee Ryland) celebrated her 99th Birthday earlier in January and the family would like to share this wonderful news with the Murrabit community.

## 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](http://www.murrabit.com.au/murra-bit-a-news)

Deadline for articles for the next edition is:

**WEDNESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2026.**

Information can be emailed to [murrabit1@bigpond.com](mailto: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 Book club

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

## Murrabit & District Heritage Group Inc

Next meeting will be held on **Monday, 9 February 2026** at the Market Office. All welcome. Supper provided.

### Kerang

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



### Swan Hill

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



**GRAEME HAYES**

Principal / Licensed Real Estate Agent VIC & NSW



**NATHAN HIPWORTH**

Licensed Real Estate Agent VIC & NSW



**TRAVIS HIPWORTH**

Water Trading / Licensed Real Estate Agent



**CHELSEA MANUEL**

Business Development Manager



**TAMIKA YATES**

Swan Hill Office Manager



**COLIN BALCUM**

Sales Agent



**GEMMA EAGLES**

Property Manager



**CHARLY DELMENICO**

Property Manager



**EMILY EDWARDS**

Property Manager



**HOLLY EAGLES**

Administration Assistant



**TAYAH BOX**

Administration Assistant

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## Grant Acknowledgement

### Murrabit - Hot Water all round!

The community owned toilet and showers have had a makeover thanks to funding received from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) and Gardiner Foundation.

The funding enabled the aged and unreliable gas hot water service to be replaced with a modern heat pump electric hot water service connected to our existing solar system. Toilet seats and bins were replaced, new signage developed, landscaping completed and lighting installed.

The upgraded facilities improve accessibility, reduce the burden on volunteers, and save on the cost of hot water by connecting to our solar system.

The project forms part of the Murrabit & District Community Plan's climate adaptation priorities, which aim to improve climate and community resilience into the future.



Pictured above: **Murrabit - Hot water all round!** project coordination team with the new electric heat pump hot water service - Sharon McCalman, Jodie Hartley, Narelle O'Donoghue and Kylie Leahy.

Below: Reinvigorated toilets.

Right: Lights on in the toilet block, new accessible signage, and refreshed toilet and shower cubicles.



## 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 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.



### 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



### MURRABIT MARKET CLEAN UP ROSTER 2026

February - Murrabit Playgroup

March - Murrabit Fire Brigade

April/Easter - Murrabit Men's Shed





# January Line Dancing!



## • Murrabit

Starting  
Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> January

## • Kerang

Starting  
Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> January

It's going to be a wonderful start to the year!

#KerangNeighbourhoodHouse #LineDancing #Murrabit  
#Kerang #CommunityFun

**FMC**  
MURRABIT  
FOOTBALL MURRABIT CLUB

SAVE THE DATE



**MURRABIT**  
**RODEO**

Saturday 28 March 2026

## Join the Murrabit Chatty & Crafty Club

**When:** Each Wednesday  
**Time:** 10.00am at the  
**Where:** Murrabit Family Hub  
45 Gonn Ave, Murrabit  
**Cost:** Gold coin donation  
**Queries:** (03) 5457 2205

Bring along:

- your art or craft project
- something to eat or
- just come along for a chat

Tea & coffee  
supplied

Auspiced by Murrabit Advancement Association Inc.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

at Kerang Neighbourhood House ♥

We're heading into **2026** with lots of exciting new **programs** and education, and we're looking for **volunteers** to join our team!

### Volunteer opportunities include:

- Op Shop support
- Programs & events
- Community activities

✓ Centrelink-  
registered for  
volunteer work

Call 4403 6640

Or pop in to 11 Scoresby Street, Kerang

Call 4403 6640

Or pop in to  
11 Scoresby Street, Kerang



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## Grant Acknowledgement

### Murrabit Market - Christmas and New Year

Thanks for some unexpected flood recovery funding, we were able to add additional attractions to our Christmas and New Year Murrabit markets that would otherwise not have been possible.

At the December market on 6 December, the funding enabled us to pay for the Rock Climbing Wall (pictured right) live music by Jimmy Johnson, decorations, additional advertising and set up and clean up costs. Santa and his reindeer friend were kept very busy for the morning spreading pre-Christmas cheer across the market site! Congratulations to



Murrabit resident, Melissa Hocking (pictured left) who was delighted to win the lucky shopper prize - a lovely hamper of goodies from Busy Bees! Murrabit children also participated in a Christmas colouring competition with winners announced on market morning. In the playgroup

category, Dorothy Hocking won first prize and Jasper Korkiakankas encouragement. 5-7 years winner was Rumi Hein and encouragement award Eli Wilesmith. 8-9 years Dustin Pappin was announced as the first prize winner and Tyler Long encouragement award. 10 plus years winner was Moppy Pappin first prize and Keira McNeil encouragement. Pictured right are Rumi, Keira and Moppy accepting their book prizes out of Santa's sack. Well done to the 25 children who participated in the competition so enthusiastically. The colourings



remained on display in the window of Busy Bees throughout December and early January (a sample pictured left). For the January Market, which fell on 3 January, the funding covered the cost of the big Cars Bouncing Castle (pictured below) plus live music by Honest Ken, advertising and set up and clean up costs.

There were plenty of visitors still filling the local caravan parks or visiting family over the Christmas/New Year break so having the bouncing castle was certainly a popular drawcard.



20-22 March 2026

#### Friday

- \*Arrive at Murrabit
- \*Registrations Murrabit Complex
- \*7pm tea Murrabit Complex
- \*Camping Murrabit Rec Reserve

#### Saturday

- \*Breakfast from 6am
- \*Fishing from 8am to 6pm
- \*Lunch delivered to the water
- \*7pm tea Murrabit Complex
- \*Major draw
- \*Camping at Murrabit Rec Reserve

#### Sunday

- \*Breakfast from 6am
- \*Fishing from 8am to 11am
- \*12pm BBQ lunch Murrabit Complex
- \*Fishing results and presentations

[www.murrabitchallenge.com.au](http://www.murrabitchallenge.com.au)

## Grant Acknowledgement

### Colour our Town Mural Project

It's been great to welcome local artist, Paul Oswin, back to Murrabit to complete the next stage of our Colour our Town mural project. The newest murals are on the front of the Murrabit Market Office/Busy Bees of Murrabit and provide a bright and colourful backdrop to the Murrabit Community Garden. The new murals form stage 4 of a large project from our Murrabit & District Community Plan aimed at injecting colour and vibrancy into our little town and better connecting the town to the Murray River and surrounds.

The little blue wrens are a welcome addition to the colourful murals that grace our town-four cheeky Kookaburras, Eric the wedge tailed eagle, Murray Cod and Murray Cray. Paul's specialisation in native flora and fauna makes him the perfect fit for the project. Stage 4 has been generously supported by funding from the Gannawarra Shire Flood Recovery funding through the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee. 2026 is going to be an exciting year with Stage 5 funding secured and kicking off soon!



## Community Newsletter Support for 2025/26



Funding has been provided to support the production and printing of community newsletters by Gannawarra Shire Flood Recovery Funding through the Gannawarra Community Resilience Committee.

## Murrabit Advancement Association Inc

Next meeting will be held on **Monday, 16 February 2026** 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.*

## Murrabit Community Meal

**Wednesday, 25 February 2026**

**Murrabit Hall 12noon**

**\$12 per person**

**Bookings essential by phoning**

**Sharon 0427 144 205**

**A great way to socialise and enjoy  
a cooked two course meal**

**-Cooked by community for community-**

*All Welcome*



**Men's Shed is held 1:30pm to 4pm Sundays  
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, 6 February.

We love having new people join us for any activities so please feel welcome to come along at anytime.

Membership fees for the 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**



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## Murrabit Group School News

Lot's has been happening at school over the break. The toilets have been renovated, the library has had new shelving added, the school has been given a spring clean and the gardens will be tidied up ready for the start of the school year. Staff are looking forward to the new school year with the P-3 and 4-6 grades.

A reminder that staff return on Tuesday, 27 January, Gr 1 – 6 students return on Wednesday, 28 January, and Preps start on Thursday, 29 January.

**Greg Adams**

**Principal**

**Murrabit Group School**



## Lions Club News

The Murrabit & District Lions Club held its Christmas breakup at the Koondrook Hotel on 9 December and it was great to see so many members there. Lion

Bill (Bill ABC) attended and it was the last opportunity to catch up with him before his passing.

Our club is deeply saddened by the passing of Bill in late December. He was well known for his skills at the market BBQ. We attended the scattering of his ashes from the Koondrook Wharf earlier in January followed by a get together at the Barham Club where we raised a glass to Bill. We send our sincere condolences to Dorothy and families.

The January market was a very busy one with the great weather attracting many visitors on the day.

Don't forget that our Lions Club will again be hosting the Australia Day Breakfast at the Lions kitchen on Monday, 26 January. Travis Collier will be our guest speaker.

A free breakfast commences at 8.00am followed by the official proceedings at 9.00am

Everyone is welcome to attend to celebrate what a great country we all live in.

### Have you thought about joining Lions?

Murrabit Lions is a very friendly, welcoming group. We are all about friendship and helping our community. Our Club is very much a local community club with our efforts focussed on helping local people and groups.

If you are new to the district or are interested in becoming involved in Lions and helping our community, please contact:

Membership Chairman: Bill Hazen Ph: 5457 2213

or

President Neil Hopkins Ph: 0490 830 641



## Hall News

Welcome to 2026! This year marks the 100th year of our Hall being on it's current site. It was officially opened on 3 November 1926. A concert and a dance were held to celebrate the event. There

are some amazing stories about things that have happened and hi-jinks involving the Hall, and we will bring some of those stories to you through our newsletter over the course of the year.

Sadly, the monthly social meals as we know it came to an end in 2025 The social meals have been a wonderful success here in Murrabit and LUCKILY a very determined group of locals have decided to keep them going. First meal in the new format will be **Wednesday, 25 February 2026**.

The school and the netball club ended their time providing morning tea on market days in the hall at the end of 2025.

But, again, there is a group of locals determined to keep the hall open and serving morning teas on market days, at least for a couple of months while we continue a search for other groups that would like to be involved. Jeanette Coulter, Kyie Leahy, Sharon McCalman, Narelle O'Donoghue, Jodie Hartley, Ang, Belle and Pippy Morton all stepped in and provided beautiful Devonshire teas at the January market. We were all delighted that it was a huge success so much so that we are doing it again for the February market.

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



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- Mobile cool room (with additional freezer section) - \$80 per day.
- Prices are excluding GST



-Kerang Car Wash

Contact: Phone or text 0427 674 473



## Murrabit Fire Brigade

Sunday 11 January Murrabit Fire Brigade tanker and three members - Captain Stephen O'Donoghue, Peter Laursen and Olivia O'Donoghue, plus one member from the Meering West brigade travelled to the Ravenswood area to assist with the bushfire efforts in the Ravenswood/Harcourt/Sutton Grange area as part of a Region 20 Strike Team. Murrabit tanker and fire fighters spent the day blacking out to the north of Mount Alexander (pictured below). Murrabit tanker and Stephen followed up with a night shift in Harcourt a few days later where he was pictured with police officers and other fire fighters from Dingee, Lake Charm, Rochester and Bamawm (bottom right).



Our thoughts remain with communities across Victoria impacted by the bushfires and we thank all CFA volunteers for their service.

## Murrabit Crafty and Chatty Group Christmas Wreath Making Workshop



# MEMBREY'S

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## Save the Date

The **100th Anniversary of the Murrabit Bridge** over the Murray River will be held on the weekend of 4-5 July 2026. There are some projects being completed in readiness for this event. More details to come.

## Tennis News

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed a lovely Christmas break. We have had 3 weeks off tennis over the holiday period and we are now back in action.

We went into the Christmas break after some good wins the 2 weeks prior against the two Kerang teams. It was especially great to see our Division 2 come home with a win.

Our Juniors and Division 1 are both currently sitting 3<sup>rd</sup> on the ladder.

The eight-week junior coaching program finished up prior to Christmas with a games night, break up and Christmas party (pictured below). We thanked our coaches Shaun, Sally and Belle for their work and guidance during the coaching program. It was great to see how much the kids have learned during the last few months and the improvement has been evident with those kids who are playing on a Saturday.



For the occasion, Sara and Tim organised a pizza oven for the night. And what amazing pizzas they were. Thanks Sara, Tim, Jodie (pictured above) and Dale for feeding us all - the pizzas seemed to keep coming all night!

Now that we are into the second part of the season, we are on the home stretch to the finals. Throughout February we will run our Club Championships on Thursday evenings and we look forward to our Easter tournament. Our committee are already busy planning for the Easter tournament. Entries will be out soon. So, get your partners ready, it will be here before we know it.

**Go Murrabit! Ang Morton– President**



## Murrabit Country Market

### Morning Tea Opportunity

Following 25 years of exemplary service, the Murrabit Group School and Murrabit Netball Club finished up providing morning teas in the Murrabit Hall at the December 2025 market. The Hall Committee put on a Devonshire Tea to keep things going for the January market (scone making session pictured below) and intend to do the same for February.

The opportunity is available for another group or enterprising locals to fill the gap in 2026. Opportunities are available monthly, or just for a particular market/s.

The Hall kitchen is of commercial quality to enable a group or private business to register as a food business.

If you are interested, please give Neil Hopkins, President of the Murrabit Hall a call to discuss: 0490 830 641.





## Australian Open

Ang and Simon Morton were delighted to take up the invitation from Tennis Vic to attend the President's event at the Australian Open recently.

It was a great opportunity to catch up with the Tennis Vic staff and meet Presidents from other Country Tennis clubs throughout the state.

The afternoon/evening including tickets to the exhibition match between Sinner and Auger-Aliassime. A great match to watch in THE BEST SEATS IN THE HOUSE!! Thanks Tennis Vic and AO for a great evening. The match was followed by the awesome Red Bull Baseline show featuring Kyrgios, Thompson, Budkov, Kjaer, Cobolli and Rinderknech.

We also got the opportunity to see 'our fav' Roger having a practise hit against Ruud in a packed Rod Laver Arena. I'm sure many of you are heading to the Open in the next two weeks. Have a great time! Ang & Simon Morton (pictured right).



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## MURRABIT COUNTRY MARKET

First Saturday of every month plus Easter Saturday



- Up to 100 stalls of:
- Plants
  - Hardware
  - Clothing
  - Timber crafts
  - Fresh produce
  - Hot food & BBQs
  - Devonshire teas
  - Art & Crafts
  - Giftware
  - Antiques
  - Books
  - Toys
  - & so much more!



*A Small Community Success Story*

### FREE ENTRY

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phone: (03)5457 2205

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[www.facebook.com/murrabbitcountrymarket](https://www.facebook.com/murrabbitcountrymarket)

NO DOGS ALLOWED (Guide Dogs excepted)

Open 8:30am-12:30pm  
Gonn Avenue, Murrabit

24km from Barham

26km from Kerang

50km from Swan Hill





## Murrabit Playgroup News

Lot's of excitement at Murrabit Playgroup in December with two special activities. At the first session we had a visit from the Murrabit Fire Brigade, which created lots of excitement! (photos right). Thank you to Captain Stephen, and Pete for taking the time to bring the shiny red truck down to the family hub for the children to enjoy.

Jeanette also came along with the school library and read the book 'Santa's Fireproof Knickers' by Deabi Yipadee & Carla Martell, a very funny book about Santa's conundrum when his fireproof trousers shrink in the wash and he is faced with a dilemma of how to keep his bottom safe while delivering presents to all the boys and girls down their chimneys!



We also made Christmas trees out of colourful paper to take home and completed our colouring competition entries (pictured above).

The second playgroup session for December was a water play day, again lots of fun with a blow up water park coming along. Once the children had calmed down, we made Christmas cards for the special people in their lives (pictures below).



Playgroup is a great way to meet others and for children to play and learn together in a safe environment.

Gold coin donation includes a cuppa and morning tea.

President of Murrabit Playgroup is Nathan Hocking and Secretary/Treasurer Olivia O'Donoghue.

Email: [murrabitplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:murrabitplaygroup@gmail.com)

**Upcoming playgroup sessions:** Monday, 2 February and Monday, 16 February, 9:30am to 11:30am, Murrabit Family Hub (opposite Murrabit Trading).

# MURRABIT PLAYGROUP



Murrabit Family Hub, Gonn Avenue  
(opposite Murrabit Trading)

## COME AND JOIN US!

FIRST AND THIRD MONDAY EACH  
MONTH  
9:30AM - 11:30AM

GOLD COIN DONATION  
(INCLUDES CUPPA AND MORNING TEA)

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY AND  
FRIENDSHIP

FACEBOOK: MURRABIT PLAYGROUP INC





## Murrabit 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](mailto:murrabit1@bigpond.com)

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## Off Your Plate Cleaning

*because you've done enough today*

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