# MURRA -BIT -A -NEWS PUBLICATION

# March 2025

Community News Contributions Gratefully A ccepted

P.O. Box 3, Murrabit 3579

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

# Murrabit Community News

Plenty happening in Murrabit this month. The Cod Challenge was another sell out event, some great projects have been completed and the Recreation Reserve has been renamed the Vince Maher Recreation Reserve.

Coming up we have a run of events - the usual April market, followed by the inaugural Murrabit Rodeo, then one week later our Easter Murrabit Market, followed by ANZAC Day.

We will have another newsletter out prior to Easter so stay tuned.

In the meantime, the Football and Netball Club are looking for people to help out at the Rodeo. Help is needed on the bar, gate, kids rides and parking. See article on page 10.

Next Murrabit Market will be held on 5 April. Live music by Jimmy Johnson, free bouncing castle for the kids as a school holiday treat and variety of market stalls. Stall bookings via our website: <u>www.murrabit.com.au/market</u> or by phoning 5457 2205.

The Easter Saturday market is always well attended and supported by lots of stallholders who come and stay in our area. Live music by Kim Richie, plus a range of children's activities including a bouncing castle and of course Easter Bunny will be paying a visit and handing out some yummy chocolate treats!

After 40mm of rain on Thursday 19 March we are looking forward to the grass greening up and a run of good weather as we move further into Autumn.

Day light savings ends on Sunday 6 April 2024.

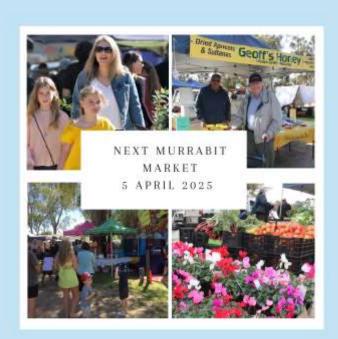
Fire restrictions are still in place and don't end until 1 May so make sure you have a permit to burn.



#### 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, keeping the BBQ, seating areas 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. Phone: 03 5457 2205

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



## **UPCOMING MURRABIT MARKETS**

SATURDAY 5 APRIL 2025

SATURDAY 19 APRIL 2025 (EASTER)

Stallholder bookings to www.murrabit.com.au/market or phone (03) 5457 2205.



# 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:

#### MONDAY 14 APRIL 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 27 April 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.

#### MURRABIT MARKET CLEAN UP ROSTER 2025

April - Men's Shed Easter Saturday - Men's Shed May Market - Murrabit Men's Shed June Market - Murrabit Men's Shed

## 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

# Do you know the history of the cart at the front of the school?

Its been there a long, long time, but it cannot stay on the school grounds in its current condition.

Was it donated to the school many years ago? Would anyone else like to purchase or repair the cart?

## Murrabit Book club

Anyone is welcome to come along to Murrabit Book Club. 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 4 April and Friday 18 April.

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** 

# 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* 



#### Grant Acknowledgement Murrabit Community Centre Access and Landscaping

Driving around Murrabit this month, you would have noticed some works underway at the front of the Murrabit Community Centre, which acts as our Murrabit Markt Office, Visitor Centre and Community Gift Shop. The area is having a makeover thanks to some funding we have been able to secure.

Stage 1 of the works was to remove the old wobbly pavers and replace them with 32 square metres of coloured concrete.

The concreting has now been completed and we can move on to Stage 2 of the project which is to construct the Murrabit Community Garden in this location.

Funding to help assist with Stage 1 of this project was received via Gannawarra Shire Council's Community Grants Program in 2024.

The works have improved safety, access and inclusion to this important multi-purpose facility in our community. The new concrete has also enhanced the visual appeal of the building in the centre of town.

Works to install the Murrabit Community Garden in this location will continue over the coming weeks so that the initial works are complete prior to the April market.













#### Grant Acknowledgement Creating a Family Hub at Murrabit

The Murrabit Advancement Association took a big step and purchased the former Murrabit Uniting Church property back in 2021. After a lot of planning, stage 1 of the upgrade project was completed in June 2024. This included respouting and plumbing the property to the town stormwater system, meaning that when it rains now, water no longer runs under the buildings.

Stage 2 works have recently been completed. Stage 2 included the removal of the old weatherboards from the bottom of the building and recladding the building in corrugated iron. The durable cladding not only means that the building looks a lot better, it is also now safe for young children and will make maintenance much easier into the future.

While paint has been purchased, we are now seeking additional funding for Stage 3 so that we can pay a professional painter to paint the top half of the building.

The completion of the building works has meant that Murrabit Playgroup has been able to restart on the first and third Monday or each month and other programs such as the weekly Crafty & Chatty Club have a more pleasant facility to gather at and enjoy.

Thank you to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) for funding to assist with this project through the Strengthening Rural Communities Program.











#### School News

The last month saw our students complete the swimming program and what a success that was. We participated in the Murray Plains Cluster Swimming Sports against Koondrook, Gunbower and Leitchville. The children had great fun and encouraged loudly. The most pleasing part of the day was that every student from our school participated, which shows their commitment to the school. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> time in a row we have won the Swimming Sports which is an amazing effort. Pippy Morton was named Girl Champion – well done Pippy!!



At the Regional Swimming Championships, Pippy came 4th in the butterfly, 2nd in freestyle relay and 3rd in medley relay. Xavier Hein came  $2^{nd}$  in the freestyle relay. Keira McNeil came  $2^{nd}$  in the breaststroke and 2nd in the freestyle relay, while Jade Lavey came  $2^{nd}$  in the backstroke and 2nd in the freestyle relay. We are very proud of their efforts.

Our School Leaders were selected in March and Mr Peter Walsh MP visited our school recently and presented them with a letter of congratulations as well as their leadership badges (pictured right). Our School Leaders are: School Captains: Xavier Hein and Pippy Morton. School Vice Captain: Clairah Lea. Sports Captain: Myrtle Pappin and Brax Maclean. Bus Captains: Zeik Maclean and Riley Danson. Assembly Coordinator: Emily Murray. Library Monitor: Brandon Thomas.

#### Grant Acknowledgement Murrabit Hall Floor

The Hall was out of action from 3-13 March while the hall floor was refurbished. The hall now looks sensational thanks to a wonderful job completed by Simon Kelly.

Funding to help assist with this project was received by the Murrabit Public Hall Committee of Management via the 2024 Gannawarra Shire Council's Community Grants Program.



We know that these students will do a great job leading our students in 2025.



The students were entertained when they visited Koondrook Primary School for the Indigenous Outreach Day. They participated in Indigenous Dance with visiting dancers and learnt about aboriginal culture. The school was also visited by well known author Susea Spray who spoke about her travels and book writing which the children found fascinating (pictured below).



Coming up, we have a Whole School Get together and Tent Sleepover on 27 March which promises to be great fun.

#### Murrabit Playgroup up and running

Exciting news for families with under school aged children is that playgroup recommenced at Murrabit at the start of March and will continue to be held on the **first and third Monday of each month.** 

Playgroup is held at the Murrabit Family Hub (at the rear of the former Uniting Church - opposite Murrabit Trading in Gonn Avenue).

See Flyer to right for full details.

Jeanette Coulter has kindly offered to come along on the first Monday of each month with some school library books for the children to borrow. We have also done lots of playing outside in our fabulous outdoor space. Quite a few adults have been popping in as well which is always welcome. The children love extra friendly faces around, especially if they are good swing pushers!!

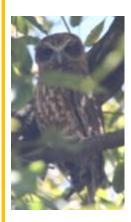
A coffee machine is a lovely addition for the big people who attend and a free morning tea is provided - please pop a gold coin in the jar though so that we can help cover some out of pocket costs.

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 come along.

We have a resident owl in one the trees in the playgroup yard that the children are fascinated by (pictured below) We are making Easter stick trees at the moment and will continue this project at the next session on 7 April. We will also bake and decorate some easter cakes.



Resident owl in the playgroup year (below and right)







# April School Holiday

Create Your Own Bookmark Kerang - 10.30am Tuesday 8 April https://www.trybooking.com/CZWEC





Make an Arty Leaf Collage Kerang - 10.30am Friday 11 April https://www.trybooking.com/CZWEJ

Create Your Own Placemat Kerang - 10.30am Monday 14 April https://www.trybooking.com/CZWEW



Make an Easter Egg Basket & Egg Hunt Cohuna - 10.30am Wednesday 16 April https://www.trybooking.com/CZZGU Kerang - 10.30am Thursday 17 April https://www.trybooking.com/CZZGZ

All activities are aimed at Primary School aged children Booking essential via Trybooking Adults to accompany children



#### Tennis News

Congratulations to our amazing juniors who bought home the premiership flag for the 2024/25 tennis season.

The juniors finals series started off with the semis in Kerang against Gunbower. It was a great result overall with a win by 20 games, Murrabit 57 to Gunbower 37. Eliza and Lenny both won all their sets for the day to help secure the win.

The following week we headed off to Barham to play the Grand Final against the Barham juniors. Due to Barham's numbers, we were only able to play 6 v 6. Our first 3 sets for the day were all wins and put us in a good lead of 18 games to 8. The Barham kids put up a fight in the next round, winning 2 sets to our 1. This meant our lead was reduced to 5 games with 1 round to go. The parents were nervous! James and Lyla had a good win 6-3, Evan and Eliza had a close loss 4-6 and Drew and Zane finished the day with a nice win 6-4. Total games for the day Murrabit 45 to Barham 37. A great day of tennis against mates and all the kids enjoyed the match. Lyla won all 3 sets for the day.



Club Championship finals have been played and completed. Congratulations to our club champions Simon, Sally, James and Lyla. Final results –

Mens – Simon Morton r/up Travis Collier Ladies – Sally McDonald r/up Ang Morton Junior boy – James McDonald r/up Evan McNeil Junior girl – Lyla Morton r/up Eliza McDonald

Although the tennis season is now over we have our major

event of the year to go with our Easter tournament still on the calendar. Entries are now open and will be accepted until sections are full. Make sure you get your partners sorted and maybe even an outfit if you are planning to look the part on the tennis court.

Tournament entry is \$20 per adult or \$15 for juniors. This includes a day of tennis and afternoon tea. We hope to see you there. See the flyer for the entry link or get in touch with any of the Murrabit Tennis Club members.





**Congratulations NDLTA Junior Premiers – Murrabit** James McDonald, Evan McNeil, Zane McKerrow, Drew McNeil, Eliza McDonald, Lenny Hall, Lyla Morton, Imogen Collier, Pippy Morton.

Absent – Maddi Keath, Charlotte Keath, Kobe Teasdale.

Go Murrabit!

**Ang Morton - President** 



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



Enter it's

relaxing competitive

friendly

fun

While in Murrare

explore the HUGE

Easter Market on

aturday or experient camping, fishing or

relaxing by the

Murray Rivi

PO Box 33, Murrabit VIC 3579 Email:murrabitlawntennisclub@gmail.com or 0439:380 604 www.tennis.com.au/murrabit fmurrabittennis

Gannawarra

- ----

# Murrabit Crafty & Chatty Club

10 ladies enjoyed the recent two week Make Your Own Air Dry Clay Creation. There were poppies, owls, birds and plant tags created, all amongst lots of chatter of course!

The Crafty and Chatty Club is all about providing a safe and supportive environment to share and learn together. So far the group has dabbled in learning some knitting, macrame and crochet skills, along with the clay workshops. There are lots of ideas for future projects and always a lovely morning tea. Everyone is welcome and supported so matter their crafting ability.



Connect - Support - Create **Every Wednesday Murrabit Family Hub** Bring along your own craft or just come along **45 Gonn Avenue** 10am to 12 noon

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!

QUERIES: 5457 2205

**Gold Coin** ongtion



#### Hall News

The Hall floor is finished. The floor of the main room and the stage have been sanded right back and recoated so that they match and it looks absolutely fantastic! You'll get a real surprise next time you come

in. It's almost a shame to have anyone walking on it! But we had a yoga session on the new floor and the Line Dancers have sashayed and stomped all over it. And that's what it's for - so that we can use and enjoy it.

I'd like to thank Simon Kelly and the crew for their work. Big thank you to also to Gwen Maher who generously vacuumed, washed, wiped and cleaned the kitchen afterwards (it's amazing how thick a layer of dust managed to cover everything in the kitchen and ante-room). I'd also like to thank the Gannawarra Shire for their very generous support through a community grant which enabled the work to be done.

Our next major event in the Hall will be our Anzac Day service - although its squeezed in amongst a lot of markets this year - 5 April, 19 April (Easter) and 3 May.

And the next social meal/community lunch will be on Wednesday 26. March. Contact Community Care 4429 1900 to book.

Don't forget, 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! **Neil Hopkins - President** 

### Hum and Strum

After a bit of a swap, our March performance was at Murrayhaven instead of Glenarm. We had a terrific time in there as always – Jo, all of the staff and the residents are just so warm and welcoming. A big crowd sang, tapped and clapped along and even laughed at Ficko's jokes!

And Maggie just keeps coming up with new sound effects as accompaniment. The singing bird in the cage is her latest trick it even sings in time.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. And to top it off we were served scones, jam and cream with our cuppa afterwards.

Our next performance is at Northaven on 16 April.

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'd like to pop in every now and then, you'd 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.





#### Murrabit Rodeo

The Football Club are asking for volunteers to help run the Rodeo on the 12 April. Jobs will include –

**Bar Ticket sales:** The Bar will be tickets only (we may have 1 cash/eft line), Bar tickets will be sold from a separate tent. Most people will grab their day/nights worth at the start. This will be a sit down job and will involve cash sales and Square sales.

**Gate:** This will involve scanning pre paid tickets (smart phone required) cash sales and Square. Patrons will receive a wrist band depending on age and/or VIP. This will be predominantly sit down.

**Kids Ride Tickets:** Kids will purchase tickets to go on the rides. They will have the option for "day pass" or individual tickets for rides. This will be a sit down job and will involve cash sales and Square sales.

**Parking Attendants:** Parking areas will be marked, just need to direct cars in the right direction. Will involve standing and walking.

**Bar Sales:** The Bar will be ran from the front of the complex. Patrons will hand over their tickets and receive their drinks. This will probably be a standing job mainly. Volunteers will need to have a current Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) course. If anyone is willing to get there RSA the football club will cover the costs.

There is a training course at Murray ACE on 25 March for anyone willing to attend. Alternatively you can do an online course, link also attached.

#### https://cleartowork.com.au/rsa-vic-online/

Depending on volunteer numbers. shifts should be 2 hours only.

If you can please share this around and let me know names that would be appreciated.

Cameron Coulter - 0473 836 227

#### MURRABIT GROUP SCHOOL COOKBOOKS FOR SALE ONLINE PAYMENT AND POSTAGE CAN BE ARRANGED. \$30 PER COPY. CALL JUDI AT THE SCHOOL 5457 2284. Cookbooks are also available Murrabit Market mornings at the

Hall and also at Busy Bees Gift Shop.

# Masterchefs' Cookbook 2024





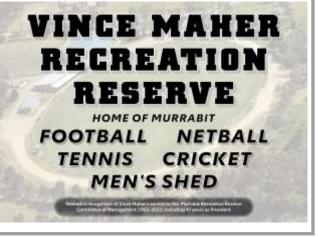
ANZAC DAY - Friday 25 April 2025 Service 10:30am - Murrabit Hall Community Lunch 11:30 - back of Murrabit Hall

#### Renaming of Murrabit Recreation Reserve

A new sign at the entrance to the Recreation Reserve was unveiled on Friday 21 March.

The reserve has been officially renamed the **Vince Maher Recreation Reserve** in recognition of Vince Maher's service to the Murrabit Recreation Reserve Committee of Management (1962-2023) including 47 years as President.

Although Vince stepped down as President in 2021, he continued to serve on the committee through to his passing in November 2023. Vince was instrumental in establishing the reserve and associated facilities to the high quality that the Murrabit community continues to benefit from. Gwen Maher and the extended Maher family along with a large group of community members unveiled the sign in Vince's honour. The unveiling was witnessed by more than 100 residents (pictured below) and was followed by refreshments at the Murrabit Complex.







# 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: 14 September (AGM)

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

**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

