



# MURRA-BIT-A-NEWS A FREE PUBLICATION

## May 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](http://www.facebook.com/whats-on-in-murrabit)

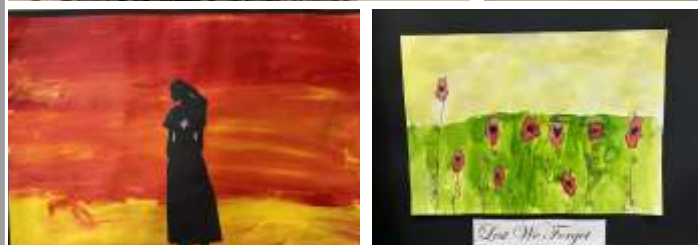
Phone: 03 5457 2205

Murrabit Advancement Association Inc.

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

### Murrabit Community News

About 120 people gathered for the Murrabit & District ANZAC Day Service to remember all who fought for the freedom we now enjoy. Guest speaker, Ali Bohn, spoke of her father's Vietnam service and how his strong values continue to shape the lives of family. Ali's father, Tom Brand, was present for her presentation. Private Tom Brand, served in South Vietnam between 1966 and 1967 for a period of 12 months and 3 weeks. He was a member of 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. Serial Number 3786980 (he has never forgotten this number). The school children's artwork adorned the Murrabit Hall for the service.



The Murrabit Service honours those who came home carrying burdens and whose stories remind us that the impact of war extends far beyond the front lines. We commemorate the 20 brave soldiers from Murrabit, Myall and Benjeroop districts who never returned from World War I and II to our community, whose futures were cut short, and whose absence has been felt ever since. We recognise our soldier men by name each ANZAC and Remembrance Day as poppies are laid by ancestors and our local school children so that their legacy continues through generations. We will continue to tell their stories with pride. **Lest we Forget.**



**COMING UP  
MURRABIT MARKET  
6 JUNE 2026  
8:30AM TO 12:30PM**

WHISKY RUM  
GIN LIQUEUR  
COCKTAILS W

BAKED BROWNING

### UPCOMING MURRABIT MARKET

**6 JUNE 2026 - King's Birthday Long Weekend**

**Live Music by Jimmy Johnson**

**Stallholder bookings to [www.murrabit.com.au/market](http://www.murrabit.com.au/market)  
or phone (03) 5457 2205.**

May kicked off with the Murrabit Market on 2 May. Louise from Riddell's Creek was the lucky mother, winning a lovely pamper hamper. Louise was relaxing reading a book near the Murray River when she received the call that she had won the prize. She quickly got herself back to the market site to accept the hamper from Jodie Hartley (pictured right).



### 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, 17 JUNE 2026.**



## National Motoring Day Success

Murrabit hosted the National Motoring Heritage Day event on the market site on Sunday 17 May. This was the third year that the Kerang & District Vintage Motor Club has used our market site for this event. The Murrabit Rec Reserve Committee provided the BBQ, plus donut and coffee vans were there and Busy Bees of Murrabit opened while the vehicles were in town.

After some rain overnight, the weather held off and it was a great morning. Fabulous to see such a large crowd out and about.



Live music by local group, 'Demenshe' created a lovely atmosphere amongst the vintage vehicles.



### Kerang

69 Wellington Street, Kerang VIC 3579  
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Administration Assistant



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Administration Assistant

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## 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



## Hum n Strum

**Our monthly performance took place at Northaven and it was a packed house!** But, fair dinkum, getting in there is like getting into Fort Knox! Anyway, we made some pretty good music and played a mix of catchy tunes and great sing-alongs that had the staff, visitors and the residents joining in. We all had a mighty time!

Our next performance will be at Murrayhaven in Barham in June.

**The newest addition to our song list** is that cracking good rock'n'roller – *The Green Door*. We liked it so much we put it into our performance at Northaven.

**So if you're 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're 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.

You're welcome to just come along or if you would like to know a bit more, contact Neil Hopkins 0490 830 641 for more information.



## Murrabit & District Heritage Group Inc

Next meeting will be held on **Monday, 15 June 2026** at the Market Office. All welcome. Supper provided. Our focus is the 100th anniversary celebration of the Murrabit Bridge occurring on 4 and 5 July 2026.

## Murrabit Advancement Association Inc

Next meeting will be held on **Monday, 22 June 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 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](mailto: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.*



**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, 5 June.

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**



## Murrabit Lions

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 our President Neil Hopkins on 0490 830 641.

## Murrabit Playgroup News

At the first playgroup session for May we created some lovely 'You help me grow' bookmarks, as well as some very cool handprints sprinkled with colourful glitter. The children then had a go at laminating their creations ready to gift for Mother's Day!



Jeanette came along and added to the mother theme by reading a story titled 'Where's Mum?' by Libby Gleeson and Craig Smith. When Dad, Annie, Jess and baby Jack arrive home from kindergarten, hardworking Mum is not there. Where can she be? Annie and Jess put forward all sorts of wonderful explanations imagining all the fairy-tale adventures that might have delayed her-helping characters like Humpty Dumpty, Jack and Jill, or escaping from the Big Bad Wolf! But when Mum finally does come home there's an even bigger surprise for them. The "bigger surprise" is that when Mum walks in, she appears to have brought all of those storybook characters home with her. The final page reveals the imagined fairy-tale figures crowding in behind her, blending fantasy and reality in a playful ending. Mum says "You'll never guess what happened to me on the way home!" The children's wild imaginations may not have been entirely wrong after all!



**June Playgroup sessions: Mondays 1 June and 15 June, 9:30am to 11:30am, Murrabit Family Hub (opposite Murrabit Trading). Gold coin donation includes a cuppa and morning tea.**



**Annual General Meeting:** Each year, Murrabit Playgroup holds an Annual General Meeting.

This meeting elects a President and Secretary/Treasurer and helps shape playgroup sessions and activities for the upcoming year.

This year, the meeting will be held on **Monday 8 June 2026** commencing at 7:30pm at the Murrabit Family Hub. Families with under school aged children and community supporters are most welcome to attend.

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

**Contacts:** President of Murrabit Playgroup is Nathan Hocking and Secretary/Treasurer Olivia O'Donoghue



0474 707 772. Email: [murrabitplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:murrabitplaygroup@gmail.com)

# Murrabit Playgroup

Play, Connect, Learn,  
Make Friends, Have Fun!

-  **All Welcome**  
Gold coin donation  
Morning tea provided
-  **First and third Monday of each month**  
9:30am to 11:30am
-  **Outdoor play, craft activity, storybook, morning tea, more play.**
-  **Murrabit Family Hub**  
45 Gonn Avenue  
(opposite Murrabit Trading)

Email: [murrabitplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:murrabitplaygroup@gmail.com) or phone Olivia O'Donoghue 0474 707 772

## Colour our Town Mural Project

It has been fantastic to have local artist, Paul Oswin, working in our town over the past few weeks bringing a community mural to life.

Paul was commissioned to work with the community to create a mural that represented the natural environment and Murray River as part of a nature-led recovery project funded by North Central Catchment Management Authority.

Paul has captured the essence of community input so well. Art is a wonderful way to connect and celebrate community by adding colour and a unique point of difference to our little town.

**Community members are welcome to come along to meet Paul and to celebrate the story behind the mural on Monday 15 June 2026, at 11am.**



## Hall News

**Don't forget the Hall celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in November this year - see historical snippet #02 below.**

**The new Community meals,** cooked by community for community, have been a huge hit so far.

The meals have been delicious and enjoyed by between 40-50 people each month. Our next community meal is on Wednesday, 27 May. Bookings are essential by contacting Sharon on 0427 144 205.

**So you reckon some of our seats are a bit tatty?**

Then it's just as well that our very busy little Secretary/Treasurer Jeanette Coulter is currently preparing an application for a grant to allow us to replace the seats in the Hall which, although very comfy, have become a bit worn from regular use. Fingers crossed!

**There's always plenty going on at the Hall; our 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 (Secretary Treasurer) 0458 572 331.

**Have a great month everyone!**

**Neil Hopkins, President**

## Historical Hall Snippet #02

**As we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Murrabit Hall being located on its present site in the middle of town this year, here's a bit of history:**

After the tender of 800 pounds (\$1600) was accepted for the refurbishment of the Hall, Mr J.H. Northey was appointed overseer for construction. The first committee of the Murrabit Public Hall was Mr D.J. Walters, Mr A.W. Thiel and Mr A.W. Whiter.

The official opening, on 3 November 1926, took the form of a concert and dance with around 500 people attending. It cost two and six (25 cents) for the concert and 5 shillings (50 cents) for the dance for gentlemen – while the ladies were admitted free! Music provided by Mr T. Harris and his Kerang Jazz Novelty Orchestra.

About this time Mr Harry Edgar screened pictures each week. Mr A. Danson had also screened pictures for many years in both the old and new Hall. Silent pictures and talkies continued to be screened through the 1930s and 1940s. In 1943 the Hall floor was replaced, the money being raised by 20 residents taking out 5 pound (\$10) debentures. The young peoples Social Club assisted with the purchase of new lighting in 1944.

The Hall became a freehold property in 1947.

The first Ladies Auxiliary was formed in 1948. In 1953 the Nulty brothers took over the picture screenings.

*Stay tuned for another historical snippet about our Hall in the next newsletter.*

### MURRABIT MARKET CLEAN UP ROSTER 2026

June - Murrabit Crafty and Chatty Club

July - Murrabit Playgroup

August - Murrabit Men's Shed

September - Murrabit Men's Shed

October - Murrabit Tennis Club

**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.

# Murrabit

## Community Meal

**Wednesday, 27 May 2026  
Wednesday 24 June 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*


**Murrabit Book club**

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at 8pm in member's home. That member is responsible for supper. There are no membership fees for joining the Murrabit Book Club. 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: Phone: 5457 2331.

**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.

**EMERGENCY  
DEFIBRILLATOR**





*Community members enjoy a community meal*



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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**

Thank you to those who keep adding books to ensure that our **Little Book Library** at Busy Bees of Murrabit/Community Garden continues to be well stocked. Great to see that our community, and visitors, have a love of reading! Some seating will be added to the garden over the coming months so you can add a book, take a book, read a book. It's also the spot to pick up a hard copy of this newsletter.



**Murrabit Recreation Reserve**

The Vince Maher Recreation Reserve at Murrabit is managed by a state government appointed volunteer committee of management. Hiring enquiries to Terry Morton President 0409 692 630 or Stephen O'Donoghue Secretary 0418 577 238. Camping enquiries to Terry.

## Community Meals Update

March saw our third Murrabit Community Meal, with food cooked by the community for the community.

Our first lunch in **February** saw **39** people attend with a delicious meal of corned silverside with mustard sauce and delicious vegies. This was followed by trifle and custard.

**March** was also well attended with **41** people sitting down to a yummy meal of roast pork and vegies. The pork crackling was delicious and had rave reviews! Dessert was stewed apples and custard.

**April** saw our attendance number increase even further with **51** plated meals. A good old fashioned meal of bangers and mash went down a treat, followed by the most delicious individual sticky date puddings and ice-cream.

We have been very fortunate to have a team of very enthusiastic volunteers setting tables, peeling vegies, making gravy and cooking meals. Anyone who is interested in volunteering is more than welcome to come along.

We have also had some very welcome donations of fruit and vegies that have been stewed and frozen for future meals. Very much appreciated.

This month's meal will be held at the Murrabit Hall on Wednesday, 27 May 2026. Meal is at 12.00 noon, followed by a cuppa and cake. Price is \$12 per person. Looking forward to seeing everyone there for a ripping meal and a catch up with friends new and old.

Bookings to Sharon 0427 144 205.



**Jan McClure and Jan Woodier dishing up the trifles**



**Trevor Ritchie, Mark Thomas and Greg Gurnett preparing the vegetables**

*Thanks to all who are volunteering their time to ensure that our residents continue to have the opportunity to connect and share a monthly meal together.*

## Murrabit Group School

Term 2 started with a lot of fun and energy as we participated in the Stomp Dance Program with Koondrook and Cohuna Consolidated schools. It was a full-on week with lessons and rehearsals, culminating in a performance in Cohuna. Thanks to the parents and friends who attended the final performance. The kids all performed enthusiastically and really got into the spirit of the day.

The Swan Hill Cross Country was held last Friday and we had eight students compete. Jade, Huey, Keira, Daniel, Riley, Brax, Lenny and Beau were excellent ambassadors for our school. Congratulations to Riley, Jade, Keira and Beau for progressing to the next stage, which is the Regional Cross Country in St Arnaud.

For Education Week, we welcomed the community to our Open Day on 21 May to meet with the students and teachers and check out the wonderful facilities the students and teachers enjoy every day. In recent months we have been reorganising and our library and are very happy to have it completed and looking spectacular.



If you were not able to come along on Open Day, you might like to visit on Sunday, 5 July. We are opening up the school as part of the weekend to celebrate the Murrabit Bridge's 100th Anniversary. 1926 was also the year the original school and current P-3 classroom was built. The school was of a new design – the most modern rural school at that time. When the building was ready, the students moved the desks, loaded up with books, from the old school at Rabbit Point to the new site!

The Prep-3 classroom is still going strong after 100 years of learning. If only those walls could talk!

The building has been slightly modified with the dividing wall removed. It is now a very light, welcoming and spacious learning environment, which allows for the implementation of creative and individualised learning programs.

## Murrabit Business Directory

Advertise your business on this page for \$10 for a small ad or \$15 for a larger ad (quarter page), \$30 half page.

Send details to [murrabit1@bigpond.com](mailto:murrabit1@bigpond.com)

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# Murrabit Bridge over Murray River 100th Anniversary

1926 - 2026

**Saturday, 4 July 2026**  
**Murrabit Market**

Featuring photographic displays on early history of Murrabit

**Sunday, 5 July 2026**

**9:30am - 10:30am Registration & Ticket Sales**

Busy Bees of Murrabit, Gonn Avenue

Murrabit historical publications and merchandise for sale

Map available on registration

**Morning tea available from 9:30am - Murrabit Lions Park**

Sheave Wheel and Historic Bridge Gates display,  
Murrabit Railway Precinct, Self walk of historic sites, Paul Oswin art trail,

**11am - 12noon - Main Event - Miss Keats Picnic Park @ Bridge**

Unveiling event, storytelling & celebration

BYO Chair. Parking available

**12:30pm Soup & Roll & Fingerfoods @ Murrabit Hall**

Followed by speeches, cake cutting and cuppa

Historic displays

**Event concludes 2pm**

Murrabit Group School open following event

**Pre-event ticket purchases encouraged**

Book online



[www.trybooking.com/DKPPS](http://www.trybooking.com/DKPPS)

**Cost : Adults \$15, Families \$40, children under 5 free**

Neil Hopkins: 0490 830 641

[murrabitheritage@gmail.com](mailto:murrabitheritage@gmail.com)



First all steel construction bridge across the Murray River  
designed for trains and road traffic

