Murra-bit-a-news

OCTOBER 2026 EDITION

A FREE PUBLICATION
PO Box 3, Murrabit 3579
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Community news contributions gratefully accepted
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MURRABIT COMMUNITY NEWS

Farming activity is in full swing across the district, with hay and silage being cut and crops looking promising. It is a busy time for farming families as we head towards Christmas.

With football and netball seasons now finished, tennis and cricket are back underway, and it has been a warm start to the summer sporting season. The light rain received this week has been most welcome, helping to settle the dust and provide a much-needed boost for gardens and paddocks alike.

We have several exciting events coming up. First up is the Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon on Tuesday 3 November, which coincides with 100 years since the Murrabit Public Hall was officially reopened on its current site. The hall was originally built at the corner of Dawe Road and Murrabit West Road before being relocated into the new township of Murrabit. The Hall remains a much-loved and well-supported community facility, and the 100th anniversary will be celebrated with a small historical display and stories from the past shared during the luncheon.

The November Murrabit Market marks its 49th anniversary. Established in November 1977 with 19 stallholders gathered in front of the Murrabit Hall, the market has become an important part of Murrabit and District's history, culture and community life.

As we count down to the market's 50th anniversary in 2027, we are seeking new people with fresh ideas and enthusiasm to help guide the market into its next chapter. We would love to hear from you if you would like to be involved.

Our local Lions Club is also calling for community members to become involved to help ensure the club can continue serving our district well into the future.

We all know small towns are facing challenges, but we also know that difficult times can create new opportunities when people come together and turn ideas into action. Our community is at one of those important turning points. By working together and supporting one another, we can continue to make Murrabit a wonderful place to live, visit and enjoy.

Email murrabit1@bigpond.com or phone: 5457 2205.



49th Anniversary! Live music by Noel Pearson. FREE Rotary Train rides for the kids. Variety of market stalls. Food by community groups. Coffee van onsite. Stall bookings to www.murrabit.com.au/market

Fire Danger Period

The Fire Danger Period has been declared for the following municipalities

CFA

0100hrs Monday 9th November 2026

Gannawarra Shire
Campaspe Shire
Loddon Shire

See the full list and maps:
www.cfa.vic.gov.au/firedangerperiod

COMMUNITY MEAL UPDATE

Wow! What a fantastic turnout for our September Community Meal at the Murrabit Hall! We certainly lived up to our motto, *Cooked by community, for community*. We served up an impressive 65 meals! This included six takeaway meals for people who couldn't join us on the day due to illness or appointments out of town.

Two of our dedicated (some might say crazy!) volunteers arrived at the Hall at 6.00 am to get the corned silverside underway in our newly purchased slow cookers. Using Grandma's time-honoured recipe and her wise words, *Corned beef boiled is corned beef spoiled*, they made sure the meat had plenty of time to cook to perfection.

The silverside was served with mashed spud, mashed pumpkin, broccoli and the most delicious white sauce, made to Robyn's new recipe of *a little pinch of this and a bit of that*. Yummo!

Dessert was fruit, jelly and ice-cream, although our very keen volunteers got a little ahead of themselves and started delivering the sweets before the ice-cream was added! It wasn't until Hoppy suggested that a bit of ice-cream would go nicely with dessert that the penny dropped. Before long, scoops of ice-cream were being added to the half-eaten sweets around the tables. A good laugh was had by all!

We were delighted to welcome 10 members from the Kerang Probus Club, who seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. They complimented us on the delicious meal and the friendliness of our local community.

The Murrabit Hum-n-strummers did a great job provided musical entertainment.

Looking ahead to October, we will be serving bangers and mash as part of the October Seniors Festival activities. We are looking forward to welcoming some new faces and making a few more friends along the way.

A huge thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who continue to help out to ensure that the monthly community meals continue to be a success.

From setting up tables and chairs, laying the tables and peeling vegetables to cooking, serving meals, delivering plates and preparing desserts, there's a little job for everyone.

It is a real team effort, and every helping hand makes a difference!

If you would like to get involved, lend a hand or simply enjoy a lovely meal and some friendly company, we would love to see you.

Bookings are essential, so please get in touch to reserve your place at our next Community Meal. Please call Sharon 0427 144 205.

Cooked by community, for community - and always served with a generous helping of friendship!







MURRABIT PLAYGROUP NEWS

Murrabit Playgroup hosted an activity as part of the Gannawarra 'Less Screens, More Play' school holiday program recently. 16 children kept us very busy for the morning! Thanks to Kaylee from Gannawarra Shire Council and Rachel from Northern District Community Health for organising.



The following week Kaylee returned with a cool farm animal pop up play experience. The boys particularly loved setting up a farm and incorporated some innovative additions like a loading race, truck transport and saleyard. Spiderman and Captain America also became farmyard characters! Our final session for October had 7 children and 10 adults. The boys constructed a really cool block tower complete with rooms and tunnels!



Thanks to the dads and pops that came along to help out keeping the bigger boys entertained!



Everyone is welcome at Murrabit Playgroup.

Upcoming sessions:
2 November: Words Grow Minds Music and Movement Program
16 November: Outdoor Play





Contact: Olivia 0474 707 772.
Email: murrabitplaygroup@gmail.com
Facebook: murrabitfamilyhub



SCHOOL NEWS

Students at Murrabit Group School have been busy this term. The whole school was involved in a whole school sleepover at the start of the term, which involved the Prep/One students sleeping inside the main building and the Grade 2 to 6 students sleeping on the oval in tents and swags. Activities included games, arts activities and a BBQ with the parents, camp fire activities, a night walk and torch games. The students loved the experience and went home with many stories to tell their parents.







Another camping activity was for our Grade 3/4 students who ventured to Billabong Ranch near Echuca. They went with students from Koondrook, Gunbower and Leitchville Primary Schools and enjoyed activities such as horse grooming, orienteering, bungee trampolining, archery and mini golf. The students really enjoy the social interaction with students from neighbouring schools on this camp.

We have had students in our Grade 4-6 participating in the T20 cricket competitions. The first competition took place in Kerang and the second competition took place in Swan Hill. We had boys and girls, who participated in teams with students from the Murray Plains Cluster. They acquitted themselves very well and can be proud of their efforts.

On 12 October we had five of our students represent our school in the Regional Athletics Sports in Bendigo. These students were Keira McNeil (hurdles and relay), Jade Lavey (800m and relay), Moppy Pappin (100m, Long jump and relay), Beau Murray(800m and relay) and Brax Maclean (Tripe jump). All did their very best and can be very proud of their efforts.

Our Prep Transition Program is well and truly under way and we are enjoying having Corey and Oliver in our school getting ready for what school will be like in 2027. Transition days are currently half days.



MURRABIT MARKET CLEAN UP ROSTER

November - Murrabit Fire Brigade
December - Murrabit Tennis Club
January - Murrabit Tennis Club
February - Murrabit Playgroup



A GOLDEN CELEBRATION

On 23 October 2026, Jeanette and Gary Coulter celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, a golden milestone and a wonderful occasion to honour half a century together!

Jeanette and Gary married on Saturday 23 October 1976 at the Uniting Church in Murrabit, followed by their wedding breakfast at the Murrabit Hall. Over the past 50 years, they have built a life together, raised three children, run their own family business, and remained connected to the local community through local sports, recreation, and community groups.

Mum and Dad, as your three children, we are grateful for the family life you have built and proud to celebrate this golden milestone with you. We recognise the sacrifices you have made and the choices that have shaped the life you share today. This anniversary is an opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you for all you have given us.

May the years ahead bring many more moments to treasure together.

Congratulations, Mum and Dad, 50 years together is something truly worth celebrating!

Happy 50th wedding anniversary
With all our love,
Meghan, Brent and Cameron,
and our families.



HUM N STRUM MUSIC

We are back in full swing again. We performed 2 brackets of songs, one before and one after lunch, at the September community meal.

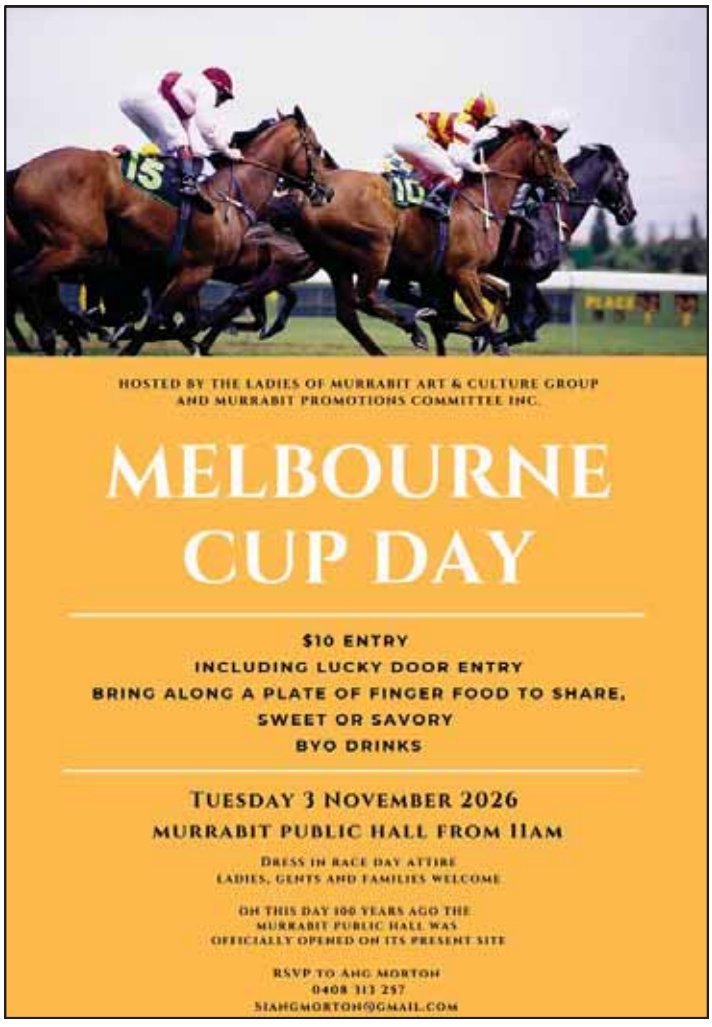
After a bit of mix-up between the keyholders last week (Ficko, Maz and Neil were all away), the group improvised beautifully and held an impromptu singing session on the veranda outside the golf club. And thoroughly enjoyed themselves!

We played from our 4th songbook which includes great tunes like Cottonfields, Take Me Home Country Roads, Dream Lover and These Boots are Made for Walking. We play all sorts of music; we have 8 books with over 180 songs and we reckon that there's something for everyone.

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're always happy for new people to join in. You don't have to play an instrument, and you are welcome to join us for a singalong or just to listen to some good music. You can come for the whole time or just a part of it.

And if you're interested in performing, we also play once a month at different spots around the district. You are welcome to just come along or if you would like to know a bit more, contact Neil Hopkins 0490 830 641.





MURRABIT LIONS TO FOLD!

Well not just yet, but we are in desperate need of new volunteers.

Our current members are aging, and we need new people to continue our good work. Our Club maintains the Cenotaph and Lions Park.

We conduct the Australia Day, Anzac Day and Remembrance Day Ceremonies and provide volunteers for Meals on Wheels.

These activities may not continue if the Lions Club doesn't exist.

The main fundraiser for our Club is the Murrabit Market and we need more volunteers to assist on Market day, to help with cooking, distributing trestles, serving, and technical help in the kitchen with the Point of Sale' system.

Have you thought about joining Lions?

The Murrabit Lions Club 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.

All funds raised are donated to organisations such as the Murrabit Group School, Murrabit Public Hall Committee, Murrabit Men's Shed, Murrabit Playgroup, Murrabit Tennis Club and Murrabit Golf Club.

Are you new to the district or interested in becoming involved in Lions and helping our community?

Please contact:

President Neil Hopkins on 0490 830 641.





MURRABIT HALL NEWS

Our Hall celebrates 100 years since it was officially opened on its current site on 3 November. To mark the occasion a display will be set up in the Hall from Cup Day until after the November market. We would love you to come along and have a look.

We held our Annual General Meeting earlier in the month. Our committee will again be Jeanette Coulter, Kylie Leahy, Sharon McCalman, Narelle O'Donoghue, Kerry Crafter, Greg Gurnett, Abby Grove (our cleaner) and Neil Hopkins. President is Neil Hopkins and Secretary/Treasurer, Jeanette Coulter. Thanks to committee members for their wonderful work in keeping the Hall in great shape so that our community can use it for a wide range of events and activities. Thanks to Greg for his generosity and knowledge in maintaining our Hall PA system, and to Jeanette especially for the fabulous job as secretary/treasurer.

The Murrabit Melbourne Cup Day luncheon is on Tuesday, 3 November. Come along and enjoy a great day. Full information can be found in the newsletter.

Last Sunday we held a working bee at the Hall. Thanks to Kylie, Sharon, Narelle and Jeanette for spending Sunday morning sprucing the place up. The gardens and footpaths are looking a treat now. Jeanette has also put some new plants in the garden at the rear of the Hall toilets and we have added a watering system there too. Thanks to Narelle for slaving away for hours in the Hall toilets with the pressure cleaner. Those toilets have never looked so good!

We are currently looking into grants to upgrade our Hall chairs, which are a bit worn and tired. Thank you to Mel Hocking, who has done a terrific job since taking over the cleaning of the Hall toilets since July.

To hire the Hall or for more information contact: Neil Hopkins 0490 830 641 or Jeanette Coulter 0458 572 331.

Have a great month everyone!

Murrabit & District Heritage Group

Next meeting: Monday, 9 November 2026, 7:30pm. Murrabit Market Office. This is the Annual General Meeting.

Come along if you would like to be involved or if you would like to learn more about the history of Murrabit & District. All welcome. Supper provided.

MURRABIT HALL HISTORY SNIPPET #3

It was decided at a public meeting in 1954 to extend and improve the Hall kitchen and its facilities, with the project costing 630 pounds. As on other occasions, a ball was held to celebrate its completion!

The Murrabit Community Picture Committee was formed in the mid 1950s to get the pictures up and running again at the Hall. This ran very successfully until the early 1960s but with the coming of TV, a Drive-in theatre at Kerang and good 16mm films becoming hard to find the pictures came to an end in 1964.

April 22, 1962 was a red-letter day for the district when the SEC (electricity) came to town. The Hall hosted a concert, with over 500 people in attendance, a dance and the "Switch-On" ceremony.

A new toilet block was the project for 1963. A Variety Fair raised 160 pounds (of the 1000 pounds needed) and many locals gave many hours of voluntary work under the supervision of Mr A. Maher to complete the job. Voluntary labour, one of the great features of our district, saw stumps and bearers replaced in 1972.

The Ladies Auxiliary, formed in 1948, were a small but dedicated band of workers who organised countless dances, garden parties, golf afternoons and other activities to raise funds for the improvement projects for our Hall. Over many years right up to the start of 1980s, they had purchased all electrical equipment, crockery, curtains etc for the kitchen in the Hall.

But many residents have contributed to maintaining the Hall and it is still a source of pride and a centre for community life.

Murrabit Accessible Defibs - Snake Bite Kit included



Hopefully you never need it, but just in case you do.

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

There is also another machine mounted to the right side of the door to the Murrabit Men's Shed. This one has child as well as adult pads. Both have snake bite kits included in the cabinets. These life saving machines are available to anyone in an emergency. In an emergency, always call Triple Zero (000).

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.
Facebook:
Murrabit Promotions





HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE MURRABIT COUNTRY MARKET

Since 1977, the Murrabit Country Market has been bringing people together to raise funds and providing a tourism opportunity. The funds continue to provide many facilities and services that all in the community enjoy. Without the market, our community would struggle to provide what we now all take for granted.

The 50th anniversary of the market is coming up in November 2027. This is a significant historical milestone and important occasion to celebrate. It is also an opportunity to work on creating an exciting vision for the future.

We need people who want to seek a new direction for the Murrabit Country Market.

- Live music and displays
- Sponsorship opportunities
- Marketing and promotion ideas
- Collaborations with other events
- Upgrades to the market site and facilities
- A new event idea, a new direction

The Murrabit Country Market has always been built on community spirit, volunteer dedication and local pride.

Together, we can ensure it continues to thrive into the future.

Don't sit back and wait - your ideas and energy are needed now.

Get involved and help shape the next chapter of the Murrabit Country Market!

Email: murrabit1@bigpond.com or ph: 5457 2205

Next step will be to pull together a catch-up to brainstorm ideas and develop an action plan.

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.

TENNIS NEWS

Tennis season is now well underway, with the first two rounds behind us!

With the season starting a week earlier than usual this year, we felt a little rushed getting the courts ready. However, everything came together beautifully thanks to our wonderful volunteers, particularly Simon, Max, Tim, Drew and Bernie. A big thank you to you all for your time and hard work!

Round 1: Murrabit vs Barham: was played at home as we dusted off the racquets and hit the courts, excited to start the new season and defend our title. Division 1 and our Junior team both had strong wins, dominating across the board. Division 2 faced a tough contest against a strong Barham side, with our young team going down fighting.

Round 2: Murrabit vs Moulamein: we ventured to Barham to take on Moulamein. With some of our more experienced players back in the line-up, we put on a strong performance across all teams, coming away with three wins from three!

Our Division 1 men enjoyed some great tennis against much to the delight of the spectators. Bernie was on fire, getting to everything, while Simon was hitting some brilliant winners. The ladies had a fairly one-sided affair, with the Murrabit girls giving away very few games. Sally's serves were fast and accurate, while Sara put away some great volleys.

Division 2 was thrilled to notch up a win so early in the season after a very strong performance. Carly and Jess both played well, taking out several sets. Trav's knee held out, and he played well alongside a mix of youth and experience in Tim, Chris and Drew. Jess and Drew both played two tie-breakers, making for a long day on court!

Our Juniors also had a big day, playing a 12 vs 12 format. It was fantastic to see so many kids getting involved.

The junior format allows clubs to agree on the number of players each week, and with Moulamein having a big team like ours, we were able to try the 12 vs 12 format for the first time.With 24 kids and 18 sets later, we got through a fantastic day of tennis! Our top section of Evan, Lizey, Pippy and Gus had some great competition and showed the senior players a thing or two. Meg and Wal played their first game of Saturday tennis, and both played amazingly well. It was also great to have Kobe back for a hit.

Junior Coaching Starts This Thursday!

Our junior coaching programs kick off this Thursday at 6 pm and will run weekly until Christmas.

Hot Shots is for children aged three and up, teaching the basics of tennis through plenty of fun, games and activities. It's a great way to get the little ones involved. Sally McDonald and Belle Morton will be coaching our Hot Shots players.

Tennis 4 Teens is aimed at our older juniors, with adults also welcome to join in and pick up a few coaching tips! Participants will receive coaching from Shaun Davey and have the opportunity to experience sets and competition play.

A big thank you to our coaches and Committee members for giving their time to make these programs happen.

Thursday Night Social Tennis

Social tennis and training continue on Thursday nights, and everyone is welcome to come along for a hit or simply sit back and watch. It's always a relaxed and social evening, and we have plenty of spare racquets available. The bar is open, and there's usually a BBQ on offer, so why not come down and join us?

Happy Hitting!

Ang Morton - President





Murrabit Advancement Association

Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, 16 November 2026 7:30pm at the Murrabit Men's Shed. The MAA runs the Murrabit Market, implements the Murrabit & District Community Plan and produces this monthly newsletter, the What's on in Murrabit Facebook page, and supports existing and new community programs, events and activities. All welcome to come along to the meeting. Email: murrabit1@bigpond.com or ph: 5457 2205.

Murrabit MEN'S SHED

A successful community breakfast was held on Friday, 8 October with 16 men from across the district attending. The hearty breakfast menu featured sausages, bacon, tomatoes, onions, baked beans, eggs and toast, all enjoyed with orange juice and freshly brewed coffee. More importantly, it provided a great opportunity for local blokes to catch up, share a chat and start the day in good company.

The Men's Shed meets every Sunday from 1.30pm to 4.00pm. If you'd simply like to drop in for a cuppa and a chat, you're welcome to join us from 3.00pm.

The Men's Shed also assists with the setup of each Murrabit Market. Volunteers are always welcome to lend a hand. Meet at the Lions Park at 9.00am on the Friday before the market, with the next setup scheduled for Friday, 6 November.

We are always pleased to welcome new members, so feel free to come along at any time. Annual membership is $35, which helps cover insurance costs. Membership fees can be paid by visiting the shed on a Sunday. Contact: Stephen O'Donoghue, Secretary 0418 577 238. Facebook - Murrabit Men's Shed. Annual General Meeting will be held at 1:30pm on Sunday, 22 November. All Welcome.



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

Hard copies of this newsletter are available from the Murrabit Store or from the Little Book Library at the front of the Murrabit Market Office/Busy Bees

Deadline for articles for the next edition is:

WEDNESDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2026.

Articles to be submitted in Word format (no PDFs please) and pictures/photos submitted separately.



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.







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RURAL RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL SALES CLEARING SALES



Gemma Eagles

Property Manager

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Email: gemma@ghrealestate.com.au
Address: 69 Wellington Street, Kerang

RURAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT RESIDENTIAL

Murrabit Business Directory

Advertise your business on this page for $10 for a small ad (must be business card size or smaller). $15 for next size up or $30 for half page. Ads are to be submitted so that they can be copied and pasted in please.

Send details to murrabit1@bigpond.com

Golden Rivers Electrical Pty Ltd



Greg Maher
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NSW - 215064C

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