

# FlatMatters



Kangaroo Flat & District  
Community Enterprise  
Bring You FLAT MATTERS

FREE



Distributed to Kangaroo Flat • Golden Square • Maiden Gully • Marong • Lockwood • Big Hill

October 2025 | 186

## JB OSBORNE THEATRE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT COMES TO A CLOSE



**After more than four years of tireless advocacy, planning, and community engagement, Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise (KFCE) has announced the JB Osborne Theatre Redevelopment Project will not proceed at the current time due to a lack of external funding support.**

The project, which aimed to transform the ageing JB Osborne Theatre into a vibrant, multi-use arts and community facility, was envisioned as a creative hub for Kangaroo Flat.

Plans included a space for theatre, dance, youth programs, arts workshops, and community gatherings designed to foster social connection, support mental wellbeing, and bring creativity to the heart of the community.

Despite widespread local enthusiasm and significant groundwork, including promotional campaigns, parliamentary petitions, community consultations, and detailed redevelopment plans, the project has been unable to secure the necessary funding from the Department of Education and other potential partners.

Simon Wood, Principal of Crusoe College and a strong supporter of the project, paid tribute to the passion and persistence of KFCE and the broader community.

"It has been quite a journey to try and reinvigorate the wonderful school and community asset that is the JB Osborne Theatre.

While the path has not taken us where we wanted to go, the efforts of so many local people, ably led by Geoff Bowyer and the Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise, deserve recognition," Mr Wood said.

"We all acknowledged it was going to be hard work but the benefits to the community and to the students at Crusoe College and the other local public schools were plain to see.

Our goal was to create a true multi-use facility run by the Department of Education and accessible to a wide range of groups. Unfortunately, without an external funding source, it is no longer viable to continue investing the significant time and resources required to bring the project to life.

However, this is not the end of my advocacy for the space, and I will continue to pursue any opportunities that arise to see it redeveloped in the future."

KFCE Chair Geoff Bowyer echoed those sentiments and expressed deep gratitude to everyone who supported the project.

"On behalf of the KFCE board, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our community, our partners, and everyone who shared our vision for the JB Osborne Theatre," Mr Bowyer said.

"While we are disappointed that the redevelopment can't proceed at this time, we are immensely proud of the momentum we built and the awareness we raised about the need for creative, inclusive spaces in Kangaroo Flat.

Our focus now shifts to other important initiatives that support our community's growth, wellbeing and future."

Since it opened in 1978, the JB Osborne Theatre has hosted countless school performances, community events, award ceremonies, and gatherings. KFCE's vision was to ensure this beloved venue could continue to serve future generations in a safe, modern, and accessible way.

During KFCE's advocacy for the project, work undertaken by the Enterprise in partnership with Crusoe College to build the profile of the theatre and its potential included a billboard on High Street, regular letters and information in Flat Matters, a petition tabled in parliament, a brochure which has been widely distributed and many conversations with potential investors, members of parliament and people from all parts of the community. The group also had plans drawn up with detailed costings to bring the JB Osborne Theatre into the 21st century and create an asset that could be used by all for many years to come. Although the project has come to a close for now, KFCE remains committed to advocating for investment in creativity and community infrastructure and hopes the groundwork laid so far will pave the way for future opportunities.



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## LANSSELL SQUARE MAKEOVER

By Erin Downing

Lansell Square is excited to announce a significant upgrade to the centre's ambience, designed to elevate the shopping experience for our community.

Building on our commitment to convenience and comfort, the project will deliver a refreshed look and feel throughout the internal mall and entryways.

The upgrade will create functional and aesthetically pleasing spaces for gathering, dining, and community connection, providing a comfortable, modern, and dynamic atmosphere for all visitors.

Key Features of the Ambience Upgrade:

- **Community Lounge & Dining**  
A new, intimate area will offer diverse and comfortable seating, creating a dedicated space for shoppers to dine, relax, and connect.
- **Gathering Zone**  
The currently underutilised area outside Woolworths will be transformed into a multi-use space, encouraging community engagement and flexible use.
- **Kids Play Landmark**  
Families will enjoy an exciting new play space, making Lansell Square a destination for visitors of all ages.

These enhancements reflect Lansell Square's ongoing commitment to delivering a vibrant and welcoming environment for our shoppers and the wider community. To learn more about the upgrade and view artist impressions, visit their website or follow @lansellsquare on social media.

## WE NEED MORE BUSINESS SUPPORT

FLAT MATTERS is a community publication that is now reliant on revenue obtained from local business to underwrite our publication costs.

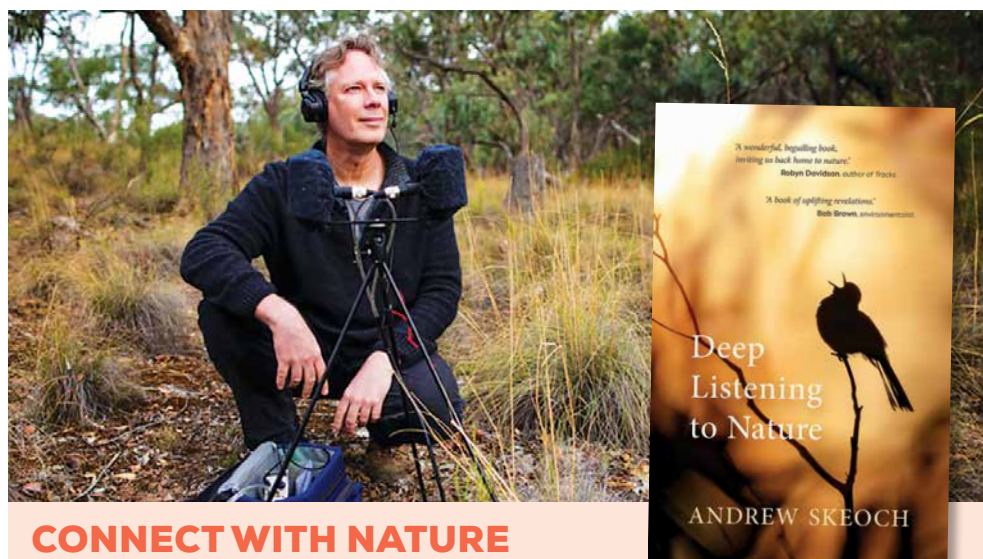
Since January 2025, we have no longer received funding from our former partner, Bendigo Bank, which had underwritten publication costs. This has placed pressure on our financial demands to continue.

The Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise has published 184 editions of FLAT MATTERS, producing a high-quality publication for our region, which is considered vital in keeping you and our wider community informed and connected.

We are now calling on Business, Community Groups and Local Organisations to advertise in our monthly editions of FLAT MATTERS, and our rates are extremely reasonable.

So if you know of any contacts who might be interested, please let us know. Help us to continue to support the Kangaroo Flat region.

Further Information go to  
[www.kfce.com.au/news/](http://www.kfce.com.au/news/)  
or email [flatmatrs@outlook.com](mailto:flatmatrs@outlook.com)



## CONNECT WITH NATURE

Have you ever wondered what Nature is saying? How can we engage our hearing to connect more deeply to nature around us?

To celebrate National Bird Week, Kangaroo Flat Library is thrilled to have renowned acoustic ecologist, professional wildlife sound recordist and author, Andrew Skeoch do a special presentation: "Deep Listening to Nature".

Join us on Monday October 20 from 1.30pm to 3pm for a fascinating afternoon when Andrew will guide us in tuning our ears to the natural world - learning to identify species by sound, understand animal behaviours, and hear the subtle interactions that sustain ecosystems.

Through immersive audio recordings, visual spectrograms (sound made visually), and thought-provoking insights, Andrew's presentation will open your ears to a whole new way of experiencing the environment around you. Andrew will guide you into hearing the communications of nature – developing your listening skills, identifying species by ear, recognising behaviours and repertoire, and finding empathy with the voices of other beings.

Whether you're a nature lover, a curious listener, or simply looking for a peaceful and inspiring afternoon, this event is not to be missed! It's a free event and all are welcome! Bookings are online at [goldfieldslibraries.com](http://goldfieldslibraries.com) or phone the Library on 5447 8344. **See you in the Library soon!**



**Goldfields  
Libraries**





## MINING GROUNDWATER CLEAN UP

**Photo: Member for Bendigo West the Hon Maree Edwards MP with Bendigo Heritage Attractions CEO James Reade.**

A new underground lift has been installed at Bendigo's historical Central Deborah Gold Mine as part of a long-term project to help manage the city's groundwater that has been impacted over the years by past mining activities. The lift allows workers to safely reach pumping infrastructure within minutes, replacing a climb of several hours by a ladder system.

Member for Bendigo West, Maree Edwards says the project is part of the \$53 million Central Bendigo Mine Rehabilitation Project that once completed, will pump and treat groundwater at a purpose built treatment plant before it is returned safely to the Bendigo Creek.

"We are improving the liveability of Bendigo to ensure that mining impacted groundwater continues to be managed in a safe and sustainable way whilst also allowing visitors to experience Bendigo's past. The upgrade of this infrastructure is an important step in a much bigger project we're undertaking to safeguard Bendigo's local waterways into the future."



## NEW ENERGY AT ST MONICA'S

**By Paige Cartwright**

With the arrival of Spring, there was a whole new energy around the schoolgrounds of St. Monica's.

At the beginning of September, the Year One students journeyed over to Ballarat to spend the day at the Ballarat Wildlife Park. All students had a lovely day visiting the enclosures and seeing the various reptiles up close. Many squeals of delight as they learnt and observed the amazing variety animals being cared for by the staff.

A strong team of students performed well at the Catholic Schools Athletic sports which were held in the first week of September. Athletes from St. Monica's were in a variety of track and field events. All represented the school well and some achieved success which offered them an opportunity to compete at the next regional level. We have a tremendous team of Learning Support Officers here at St. Monica's school. On Thursday 4 September, we celebrated them as a team and thanked them for the work they do, unconditionally, for our students and staff. The support that this group of people offers our community goes above and beyond each day. Thankyou!! Our senior students represented our school in Basketball at the Interschool Basketball Competition. The day was filled with sportsmanship, teamwork and a competitive spirit. Both teams experienced wins and close games. All students represented our school with pride, demonstrating excellent behaviour and positive teamwork all day.

We had a marvellous gathering the Friday before Father's Day celebrating dads with Donuts for Dads. It was a great play many of our dads to spend the morning with their children celebrate the important part they play in everybody's lives. Cinnamon donuts were the treat of the day, and the coffee van was flat out. RUOK day was a fun day where we the colour yellow was displayed brightly around the school. Classes partnered up to do some shared activities throughout the day.

**If you are interested at all in a tour of the school or an enrolment, please feel free to contact our school office on 5447 7832.**



## KANGAROO FLAT PRIMARY SCHOOL - BUZZING WITH ACHIEVEMENT

**By Melissa Cusack**

As Term 3 came to a close, our school was buzzing with achievement and community spirit! We have prepared for the launch of our new School Wide Positive Behaviours Matrix, creating lessons, systems and procedures to further support our students and community.

The term was filled with highlights – students were captivated by the science incursion- 'Mad about Science', our Foundation students enjoyed swimming lessons, and our Grade 3 and 4 students had a fantastic time at the Doka camp in Malmsbury. Our Grade 6 students shone as they presented their Passions and Pathways projects at the Bendigo Library and collaborated with graphic designer Wes Franklin to design a brand-new school banner, which will be proudly displayed at graduation and future events.

We also celebrated sporting achievements, with strong representation at the Athletics at Flora Hill, and enjoyed a community engagement day with our Grade 6 students run by 'Boys to the Bush'. Attendance was recognised through our

Golden Ticket Term 3 Celebration, with more than 64 students achieving an outstanding 99% or above attendance! The term wrapped up on a high with Footy Colours Day, a football clinic, and the ever-popular staff vs. student's football match – with staff taking home the win this year!

This term is shaping up to be just as exciting. Highlights include the Foodshare cooking program for selected Grade 5/6 students, Regional Athletics, and a return visit from Dr Nathaniel Swain, who will work alongside staff and students to strengthen classroom practices and learning. Our school captains will also take to the airwaves on Phoenix FM, showcasing their leadership and representing our wonderful school, while some 3 to 6 students will participate in the Cricket Blast competition. To top it all off, we will celebrate our incredible teachers on World Teachers' Day (October 31), with students joining in the fun by dressing up for Halloween to raise money for State Schools' Relief. It promises to be a vibrant and memorable finish to the year with our Grade 6 students graduating and our new foundation students participating in our transition program!







## PREPARE HOMES FOR BUSFIRE SEASON

By Amy Templeton

With summer just around the corner, The Kangaroo Flat Fire Brigade says it is the perfect time to get your home and family ready for bushfire season. The experts are predicting an early start this year, so a little preparation now can go a long way. Simple things like clearing out your gutters, tidying up the yard, and making sure your hoses and pumps are working can make a big difference. Most importantly, have a family fire plan & a fire bag ready to go – know when you'd leave, and where you'd go if a fire were to threaten your home. And don't forget to keep an eye on the VicEmergency app or radio updates when the weather heats up.

Being prepared & having a plan could save your life.

### Join the Kangaroo Flat Junior Fire Brigade!

We're also excited to share that the Kangaroo Flat Fire Brigade is looking for new Junior members!

Our Junior program is open to young people aged 11 to 15 years and provides a fantastic opportunity to:

- Learn firefighting skills in a safe and supportive environment.
- Build teamwork, leadership, and resilience.
- Take part in fun competitions, camps, and community events.
- Be part of a proud tradition of volunteering and service.

If you (or someone you know) are interested in joining, please get in touch with us at: [juniors@kangarooflatfirebrigade.com.au](mailto:juniors@kangarooflatfirebrigade.com.au) or find us on at Facebook at Kangaroo Flat Fire Brigade & send us a message to learn more. From all of us at Kangaroo Flat CFA – thank you for standing behind your local brigade. We couldn't do it without you.



## MAIDEN GULLY FIRE BRIGADE OPEN DAY

By Andrew Howlett

Our Annual Open Day is set to be held on Sunday, November 9th, and our Maiden Gully volunteers are looking forward to welcoming our community and showing off our fire station, vehicles, and other facilities.

This is a great opportunity to chat about your personal summer fire preparations while watching a range of demonstrations.

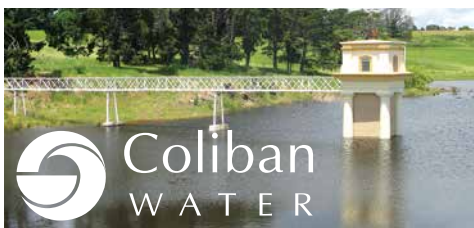
We have some special visitors coming with their vehicles including the FRV's huge Ladder Platform along with other brigades and community groups. Activities run between 10am and 1pm. You can learn how to put out a fire on your stove and there will even be a coffee van to make a purchase! Captain Holly Franchina says, "We would like to see families

drop in to enjoy a free sausage sizzle, get a photo sitting in either the little red fire truck or a full-size truck with Captain Koala, and have some fun learning about fire safety which is critical as summer approaches. You can also find out how you could become an emergency services volunteer".

### New Community Library

Some years ago, we set up a Community Library in the front of our fire station, so residents can swap books. This has been a great success, but the library itself was suffering from the weather. Recently we have installed a new one that has a fire theme and is much larger.

**Happy reading!**



## WATER STORAGE WORRY

Whilst the Coliban region had some welcome rain across winter, local water storage levels remain well below average. The combined catchment storages only rose by 4 per cent in the period from the end of May till the end of August. Then from the end of August till mid-September there was a rise of just 4 percent.

This is a worrying time for Coliban Water and their General Manager Water Climate Strategy, Adam Cramer says the winter rainfall wet the catchment to see some inflows into our reservoirs, but the real test will come during spring.

"The dry conditions will mean a 30% opening allocation for the 2025/2026 rural season, and this is the first time in 15 years that the rural season has not opened at 100%. This allocation is reviewed on the 15th of each month. Allocations may increase if our water resource position improves, but there needs to be significant rainfall and inflows to our reservoirs over an extended period before any changes will be made." Meantime, Coliban Water is urging residents and businesses to reduce their water use to help conserve water supplies. Coliban says it is the everyday water saving habits, from the backyard to the bathroom that collectively help conserve water supplies.



## WE ARE GROWING

Our population continues to show strong growth as more and more people are relocating from capital cities to regional areas.

The Regional Mover Index says the top performing centre here in Victoria is Bendigo, as it attracts new residents looking for affordability, lifestyle and opportunities.

The population of the City of Greater Bendigo was more than 125,000 in 2024 and the region is expected to grow significantly, with forecasts predicting a population of over 172,000 by 2046.

This growth is supported by the Managed Growth Strategy, which plans for an influx of new residents by fostering development in both established areas and the growth corridors like Marong, Huntly, Maiden Gully, and Strathfieldsaye.





## GOLDEN SQUARE PROBUS - HELPING YOU MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR RETIREMENT

By Jan White

If you are 55 or over, retired or semi-retired and just want to make the most of your retirement, then we would love to hear from you!

As a Probus Club, we are certainly about Fun and Friendship..... (and FOOD).

Check out our exciting activities scheduled for October:

### October 9

Girls Day Trip to Castlemaine visiting Green Folly & ASQ Nurseries via Harcourt General Store, coffee then Lunch.

### October 10

Ten Pin Bowls (great fun.)

### October 16

Mini Olympics Fun Day & BBQ.

### October 25

Hanging Rock Market Day.

### November 4

Melbourne Cup All Day Party. *(So much fun)*

But that's not all folks! It's PLUS our regular monthly activities slotted in between.

- Dine Out
- Billiards
- Girls Day Out
- Combined Guys' n' Gals Outings
- Coffee & Scones
- Singing/ Ukelele
- Walking
- Theatre & Movies

And don't forget our Tipplers/Winery & Fishing days. Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month commencing at 9.30am at the Abundant Life Church, McKenzie Street West, Golden Square.

Why not come along to check us out and see what else we do offer.

**For more Information, please call Marg on 0488 694 055.**



## KANGAROO FLAT PROBUS CLUB NEWS

The September meeting was a lot of fun with members wearing scarves, beanies, jackets and caps of their favourite football teams.

Thanks to our Trips and Activities Committee for the party pies and sausage rolls we shared for morning tea. We would also like to thank Heather, Robyn and John for their work as always in the kitchen catering for our morning teas.

Following our meeting on October 8 members will enjoy lunch at the Foundry Hotel, Golden Square.

The Trips and Activities have arranged a number of activities for everyone to enjoy.

### Morning Melodies

The next Morning Melodies is not until Tuesday December 2 at the Capital Theatre. This is "Christmas Concert".

### Puffing Billy

The Getaway is from October 27 to 30 travelling to Lilydale and enjoying a ride on Puffing Billy.

### Picnic Lunch at Victoria Hill Park

On November 19 we will enjoy a BYO Picnic Lunch at Victoria Hill Park in Marong Road. If people could bring their own chairs as well. There is a Coffee Van on site for all the coffee lovers.

### Christmas Luncheon Breakup

Please mark this date in your diary, Wednesday December 10 at 12pm.

This day is our Christmas Luncheon Breakup. It will be held at the Kangaroo Flat Bowling Club and also catered for by the Bowling Club. The cost is \$35 per person.

The Kangaroo Flat Probus meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 9.45am at the St Mary's Anglican Church Complex. New members are most welcome.



The Greater Bendigo Seniors Festival will take place from the October 5-12. Program information can be found at [bendigo.vic.gov.au](http://bendigo.vic.gov.au). On October 7, from 11am to 2:30pm, the Country Women's Association (CWA) in collaboration with WIRE will host a complimentary lunch at the Bendigo Retirement Village for women who are looking for legal or financial advice. Admission is \$5 and a light lunch will be provided by the CWA. Please come along and join us at one of the meetings to see what we are doing in the community.

### Branch Meetings:

**Axedale** 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm

**Bendigo** 1st Friday of the month at 1pm in 150 Neale St Flora Hill

**Dingee & District** 4th Friday of the month at 10.30am in the Dingee Library

**Old Church on the Hill** 3rd Friday of the month at 1pm at the Old Church on the Hill Russell Street Quarry Hill

**Strathfieldsaye** 3rd Thursday of the month 1pm at the Strathfieldsaye Community Church Meeting Room 920 Wellington Street, Strathfieldsaye

**Group Craft** 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1.30pm at 150 Neale Street, Flora Hill

### Contact Details

**Information:** Liz: 0407 501 242

**Craft:** Wendy 0400 113 440

**For more information see CWA Bendigo Northern group on Facebook or email: [cwagroupbendigo@gmail.com](mailto:cwagroupbendigo@gmail.com) for updates about meetings and functions.**

## BWC WRITERS EXPLORE OCTOBER

### The Dos and Don'ts of Editing with Cecile Shanahan

Cecile Shanahan will speak to common issues for anyone editing their own work (or the works of others), what to look out for as well as show before and after of how edits have been introduced into real life writing examples. Cecile Shanahan is a freelance editor who works with local, national and international authors. She edits fiction and non-fiction. Recent projects have included: *The Lasting* by Victor Kelleher, *Groundwork: A Guide for Teens* by Elizabeth Wallace, *Family & Fortune* by Pauline Wilson and several soon-to-be-published books. Cecile is a literary award judge, book reviewer and teacher resources creator. Cecile has also interviewed many of Australia's most celebrated authors and thinkers in her decade long involvement with Bendigo Writers Festival. When not editing, or reading for pleasure, Cecile enjoys volunteering for several organisations such as the Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd) and the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA). *Bring pens and paper and be inspired.*

**7pm to 9pm, Wednesday October 29. Bendigo Library, Activity Room 1, 259 Hargreaves Street, Bendigo. Cost: \$10 including supper.**



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## LOCKWOOD CFA TURNS 75

Everyone is invited to join the Lockwood CFA and their indomitable mascot, Captain Koala, to celebrate their 75th milestone at a Community Fair from 10am to 3pm on Sunday October 26 at the CFA and Lockwood South Community Hall precinct – corner of Crusoe Road and Calder Alternative Hwy.

There will be lots of fun for kids at the Fair, including:

- Face Painting, Kelly Sports, Fire truck Water Hose Target Practice, Primary School Displays, Badge Making & Colouring Sheets and Showbags.

Enjoy a range of refreshments and activities to explore including a raffle, silent auction, community market, vintage fire trucks, Oscar One Mine Rescue demonstration, CFA and SES emergency response vehicles and fire safety demonstrations. Dean Heather, Captain of the Lockwood CFA, commented, "this will be a great opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate and support the Brigade's achievement and have some fun." So, bring your friends, bring the family, and your sense of adventure! The Lockwood CFA members can't wait to celebrate 75 years of community with you all. See you at CFA Lockwood on October 26.

Further information is available from Brett Symes, Lockwood CFA Community Engagement Officer [brett.symes@members.cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:brett.symes@members.cfa.vic.gov.au)



## DEDICATED CHILDREN'S PLAY SPACE OFFERS SO MUCH

At Bendigo Health we are pleased to have created a dedicated environment designed to enhance therapy and enrich the experience of young patients. First imagined about three years ago, the purpose built children's rehabilitation play space project will provide a special area where children can engage in play as a core part of their rehabilitation. At any one time, more than 100 children receive care through the Victorian Paediatric Rehabilitation Service here at Bendigo Health. Bendigo Health Chief Allied Health Officer, Sally Harris says the fantastic new facility would meet the varied and complex needs of paediatric patients.

"Play is recognised as an essential tool in therapy, helping children build strength, improve co-ordination, and regain confidence in a way that feels natural and enjoyable." The \$740,000 Play Space was jointly funded through the Good Friday Appeal along with local businesses, community groups and philanthropic organisations. Bendigo Health CEO, Eileen Hannagan says the organisation was deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to funding the Play Space including Bendigo Ford Fun Run, Agnico Eagle, Frances and Harold Abbott Foundation, Bendigo Bank, Colonial Foundation, Collier Charitable Fund and the Bendigo Chinese Association.

Executive Director of the Good Friday Appeal, Rebecca Cowan said the project highlighted the value of investing in regional healthcare. Bendigo Health continues to deliver patient-centred paediatric care across Regional Victoria, thus ensuring children and families receive the support they need closer to home.

## COUNCIL WORKS UPDATE

**FLAT MATTERS** is now working with the **City of Greater Bendigo** to provide an insight into works projects being undertaken within the Kangaroo Flat region.

More information [www.bendigo.vic.gov.au](http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au)

### The following City projects are currently under construction or recently completed:

Epsom-Barnadown Road Safety Improvements / Road Reconstruction - Near intersection of Peatlings Road, Bagshot
Bendigo Creek Wall Reconstruction - High / Thistle Street, Golden Square
Bendigo Creek Wall Replacement - Nolan Street, Bendigo
Drainage Works - Fenton Street, North Bendigo
Raised Pedestrian Crossings - Fenton Street, North Bendigo
Shared Path - Rennie Street / Gungurru Road, Huntly
Moran St Footpath, Long Gully
Bendigo Creek Low Line Path - Hargreaves Street, Bendigo
Bendigo Creek Low Line Path - Bendigo Tennis Centre
Bridge Deck Replacement - Lake Tom Thumb, Eaglehawk
Bus Shelter Replacement - Retreat Road, Spring Gully
Footpath - Victoria Street, Ironbark
Resealing of Urban and Rural Roads - Various Locations
Market Street Carpark EV Chargers - Market Street, Bendigo
Separated Bike Path - Mundy Street, Bendigo
Tram Track Renewal - Pall Mall/High Street, Bendigo
Netball Courts Renewal - Tannery Lane, Strathfieldsaye
Lighting Upgrade - Malone Park, Marong

## BENDIGO SPORTSTAR AWARDS - HISTORY SEARCH

Organisers of the 2026 Bendigo Sportstar Awards are seeking community support to help find some cherished documents pertaining to the history of the awards.

The Sportstar Committee is hoping that there are some people in the community who may have kept the program of a Sportstar Dinner they may have attended several years ago.

In particular they are keen to find the following:

- 1970/71 Sportstar Dinner
- 1973/74 Sportstar Dinner
- 1977/78 Sportstar Dinner

If you were at the Sportstar Dinner at any of those dates, and have a copy of the official program, we urge you to contact the Bendigo Sportstar Committee via Email [info@bendigosportstar.com.au](mailto:info@bendigosportstar.com.au)

**Your help is appreciated!**

**BENDIGO  
SPORTS STAR  
of the year**







## SCHOOL NO.1592 TURNS 150 YRS OLD

Maiden Gully Primary School is closing in on their 150 Years celebrations. We thought we'd take a step back in time and recognise the many people who have made a lasting impression on the school, be they Head Teachers or Principals, teachers or families. Reading through the scattered records of our history, there are recurring names and themes. Our initial records have found the first Head Teachers to be H. T. Patrick Fitzpatrick (1875-1877) and Herbert B Bashford (1877-1889) followed by a period of fluctuating enrolments causing the school to open and close a few times. Mr. Harry Beckham was the longest reigning Head Teacher, leading the school for approximately 20 years. His contribution to the school and the Maiden Gully community cannot be understated and is still visible today. With a number of Head Teachers and Principals in between, most serving for a handful of years each, Mr Torie Babitsch also spent a significant number of years leading our school community. He was Principal from 1990 through 2005 and is likely known and remembered by many for his time at Maiden Gully. Torie is best remembered for approachability and kindness.

Following hot on Mr. Babitsch's heels and leading us into the present era of the school were David Robins, David Hinton, and Doug Jones.

Mr Jones was superseded by Craig Arrowsmith as the substantive Principal in 2016 to the present day. For the past two years, Mr Jordan Ancrum has been at the helm in the Acting Principal role.

All of these Principals lobbied for desperately needed new facilities alongside Maree Edwards, local MP. Mr Arrowsmith achieved a 5-stage masterplan, with Stage 1 delivered in 2022.

Fighting hard for much needed facilities in a growth area has been a common theme for Maiden Gully Primary School over its 150 year history. Mr Ancrum and the School Council continue the fight to modernise the learning spaces around the school and provide the best learning possible for our students and their families.

History keeps throwing up familiar names. The Monsant, Durston, Trahair, Trevaskis, and Bouwmeester families stretch all the way back to before 1938 and have been strong advocates for Maiden Gully Primary School.

In recent years, it would be remiss not to thank the likes of the Joyce Wood, Betty Thompson, Duncan Thomson and Annette Conway who dedicated many years to the school in varying capacities.

The continuing contributions of a large number of families with generational links, including the Seary and Waterworth families, is testament to the strong community in and around Maiden Gully Primary School.

The formal component of our 150 Years celebrations will include an assembly followed by a walk through the 150 Years exhibit and art show. We invite past families, students and staff to our assembly beginning at 9.15am on Friday October 31.



Member for Bendigo West the Hon Maree Edwards MP with City of Greater Bendigo Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf and CEO Andrew Cooney.

## RECREATION BOOST

Community health and local tourism are set to benefit as construction gets underway on the Bendigo Low Line project. The start of construction is a significant step towards creating a more connected, inclusive and healthier community. The project has been made possible with a \$5 million investment from the Victorian Government and the City of Greater Bendigo has committed \$2 million. The shared pathway is being built along more than 4 kilometres of the Bendigo Creek and runs from Lake Weeroona out to Golden Square. It is designed to encourage active travel and divert cyclists from busy roads and connects seamlessly with Bendigo's existing network of walking and cycling paths, thus helping locals and visitors access their workplace, shops, schools, parks and public spaces. Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards says the Bendigo Low Line will feature 14 entry and exit points and works include lighting, signage, seating and landscaping and the whole project is expected to be completed in late 2026.

"The start of construction on this fantastic project is a significant step towards creating a more connected, inclusive and healthier Bendigo. We are continuing our ongoing commitment to boosting economic growth and also supporting the health and prosperity of the Bendigo region."

## Contact your local Councillor



**Cr Karen Corr**

*Golden Square Ward*

[k.corr@bendigo.vic.gov.au](mailto:k.corr@bendigo.vic.gov.au)



**Cr Damien Hurrell**

*Ravenswood Ward*

[d.hurrell@bendigo.vic.gov.au](mailto:d.hurrell@bendigo.vic.gov.au)



**Cr John McIlrath**

*Lockwood Ward*

[j.mcllath@Bendigo.vic.gov.au](mailto:j.mcllath@Bendigo.vic.gov.au)



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Director / Franchise Owner

**BENDIGO**  
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Email: bendigo@pedders.com.au

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GROUP

innate | nat| adjective  
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**0488 992 714**

## CRIME FORUM IN KANGAROO FLAT

A Crime and Community Safety Forum was held in Kangaroo Flat in September to discuss the rising rates of crime in the region and the concerns of local residents. Nationals Member for Northern Victoria, Gaelle Broad attended the forum along with Shadow Minister for Police and Corrections, David Southwick and Wendy Lovell MP the Member for Northern Victoria Region. Gaelle Broad says the Crime Forum was held at the Kangaroo Flat Sports Club and it gave politicians the chance to hear from concerned residents about crime in our region.

"The Allan Labor Government has weakened bail laws, cut funding to Victoria Police, closed prisons and delayed plans to ban machetes and combat Victoria's illicit tobacco trade. Recent figures from the Crime Statistics Agency show a 15.8 per cent increase in total criminal offences in Greater Bendigo. The number of thefts went from 2,480 in 2024, to 3,405 in 2025. Assaults rose from 909 in 2024 to 1,012 this year whilst burglary and break and enter offences went from 558 in 2024 to 1,177 in 2025. Over the past year there has been a 16 per cent rise in crimes committed by young people.

Our vision is to prioritise community safety, with stronger bail laws and consequences for repeat offenders, recruit more police, combat the illicit tobacco trade, deliver education and mentoring programs for young offenders, and target the root causes of crime."





## Thanksgiving Service For Emergency Services & Community Personnel



10.00am  
Sunday



12 October 2025

Refreshments follow service



*Please come and give  
thanks for the work  
both employed and  
volunteer personnel  
do to keep us all  
healthy and safe.*



*St Mary's Anglican Church*

**48-54 Church Street, Kangaroo Flat**

### ANNUAL EVENTS AT ST MARYS

On Sunday October 12 at 10am we invite you to please come along to our Annual Thanksgiving Service for Emergency Services & Community Personnel and join with us at St Mary's Anglican Church as we acknowledge the work that our volunteer and paid Emergency Services do to keep us all healthy and safe. Then on Saturday November 1 come and enjoy fun, music, colour, friendship, bargains and more at St Mary's Annual Parish Fair between 8am and 1pm. Visitors can expect a wonderful array of stalls organised by Parishioners – baked goods, BBQ, craft, trash 'n' treasure, books, plants, spinning wheel and more. The Free Community Concert will commence at 9am and run through to 1pm with music and song provided by a variety of choirs and bands. The Church Street carpark will be full of stall holders selling a great variety of items. Outdoor stalls are still available. If you would like further information contact Geoff on 0418 145 105 or [younggeoff51@gmail.com](mailto:younggeoff51@gmail.com).

For service and general church enquiries please call Rev Karen Reid on 0418 492 778.

### CONTACT US

Let the community know the great things happening in your area by emailing  
[flatmtrs@outlook.com](mailto:flatmtrs@outlook.com)



**HEALTHworks**  
healthcare

226 High St Kangaroo Flat  
5445 7400



**Peter Cashen**  
MANAGER

296-298 High Street  
Golden Square VIC 3555

P: 03 5454 3944  
E: [bendigo@cartu.com.au](mailto:bendigo@cartu.com.au)

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PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal: Matt Knight

☎ 5447 7832

📍 91 High St, Kangaroo Flat

🌐 [smkangarooflat.catholic.edu.au](http://smkangarooflat.catholic.edu.au)



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## WHERE WILL YOU BE 5 MINUTES AFTER YOU DIE?

Consider this. Jesus came from the Father Almighty God in the heavenly realm. Would the following from the Gospel of Luke be a parable or more accurately an insight of the reality of our future? Luke 16:19-31 Jesus said "There was a certain rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a beggar named Lazarus, who laid at his gate, full of sores. And desiring to be fed with crumbs which fell from the rich man's table; moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores.

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died and was buried; And in hell he lifted his eyes, being in torments, saw Abraham from afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his fingers in water, and cool my tongue: for I am tormented in this flame." But Abraham said, "Son, remember that you in your lifetime received good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and you tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so we are here cannot come to you and you to us likewise."

Then he said, "Father Abraham could you send Lazarus to my five brethren so he may testify to them lest they may also end up in this place of torment. Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets: let them hear them." And he said, "Nay, Father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they would repent." But Abraham said, "If they do not hear Moses, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead."

**Southside Community Church**  
10 Lockwood Road (opposite ALDI)  
Kangaroo Flat  
Sunday Worship 10am

## JESUS SAID...

"let not your hearts be troubled"...John14:27.

He was offering us eternal consolation for every matter that arises in our lives that causes us distress and trouble. When Jesus talks about our hearts He genuinely and literally goes to the heart of the matter. Our head knowledge can be a distraction and even a confusion on important matters. In fact knowing about Jesus is a head process. We've heard about Him. We know His history. We may even confused why He died on a Cross for others. Trying to outthink someone in a crisis at work, at home at sport can lead to conflict, hurt, revenge and rejection. We then encounter a lifetime of pain and unforgiveness.

But, when we turn to Jesus and give Him our lives, then our hearts are brought to a deep knowledge of the love of Christ. His death was His choice based on obedience and love. He wants us to know the following. "be not afraid for I am with you always even unto the end of the world" Matt 28:20. Our heart knowledge of Jesus is a truly beautiful journey for us to walk on with Him. In Psalm 4:23 we are told to care for our hearts for "out our hearts flow the very issues of life".

I recommend that you have heart surgery through the gentle hands of Jesus so your hearts are not troubled. There is no charge for Jesus paid the price for all of us. Yes. He loves us unconditionally and forever. Embrace Him. He is waiting patiently.

**Ps Peter Pritchard**  
0413 682 999

# FAIR

**Saturday 1 Nov**  
**8am-1pm**



**Trash and Treasure**



**Baked Goods**



**BBQ**

**Spinning Wheel**

**Plants**

**Craft**



**Morning Tea**

**Raffle**



**Books**



For further info contact Geoff on 0418 145 105



**St Mary's Anglican Church**

48-54 Church Street, Kangaroo Flat

## Church Corner - WEEKEND CHURCH SERVICES

### UNITING CHURCH

Services have resumed at our Kangaroo Flat Church, cnr Church & Camp Streets, on Sundays at 9:30am. All are welcome. Phone: Minister 0400 853 868

### ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

193-195 High St. Kangaroo Flat  
10am Holy Communion Service  
Each Sunday at 10.00am  
Listen to Life FM 105.1 - Sundays at 8am & 6pm  
For a message from St Mary's Ph 5447 7427.

### BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

94 Spring Gully Rd, Spring Gully.  
Services held 9 am first, third and fifth Sundays of the month and 10am second and fourth Sunday of the month.

### ST. MONICA'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Station Street and High St, Kangaroo Flat  
Saturdays at 6pm and Sundays at 9am.  
Phone 5443 4400

### SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Contact Bobby 0494 380 187  
10 Lockwood Road, Kangaroo Flat  
Sunday Worship Service at 10am

### LOCKWOOD UNITING CHURCH

813 Calder Alternative Highway, Lockwood South. Worshiping every Sunday morning at 9.30am. "All are welcome".

### BAPTIST CHURCH

Church Street, Sundays 10am, and the Karen language service each Sunday at 2pm





VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE SUPPORT WITH GRANTS

The Labor Government is continuing to recognise the efforts of volunteers and community organisations, today announcing that 19 local groups in the Bendigo electorate will receive grants up to \$5,000.

Through the \$9.5 million 2024-25 Volunteer Grant Round, community organisations across Australia will receive funding to buy small equipment for volunteers or reimburse their fuel, transport, or training costs.

For the first time this year, eligible community organisations were able to allocate their funding towards insurance premiums. This change helps successful organisations to better navigate rising operating costs and reduces out of pocket costs for volunteers. Member for Bendigo, Lisa Chesters said this funding boost is welcomed in Bendigo as it will provide greater support for local volunteers and ensure they can continue to support their community. A total of 19 local groups will share in the \$66,225 in funding available to each Federal electorate. This round of successful grant recipients includes several community and neighbourhood houses, sporting organisations, and local services such as Sunshine Bendigo. In order to be successful in the competitive process, groups were required to be a not-for-profit organisation with a minimum of 40% of volunteers in their organisation.

Successful groups:

Group or organisation	Funding
Long Gully Neighbourhood Centre	\$5,000
Eaglehawk Community House	\$5,000
Bendigo Women’s Football Club (Thunder)	\$5,000
Bendigo Theatre Company	\$5,000
Bendigo Blue Light Inc	\$2,213
Mount Alexander Shire Sustainability Group	\$4,361
Campbells Creek Bowling Club	\$1,505
Kyneton Agricultural Society	\$5,000
Maldon Folk Festival	\$3,000
Elmore Football Netball Club	\$4,000
Bendigo Community Toy Library	\$3,500
Marong Neighbourhood House	\$1,182
Bendigo Woodturners	\$2,683
Kangaroo Flat Community House	\$5,000
Barkers Creek Landcare and Wildlife Group	\$2,000
Castlemaine Rocky Riders Mountain Bike Club	\$5,000
Sunshine Bendigo	\$2,814
The City of Greater Bendigo Brass Band	\$1,917
Kyneton Daffodil and Arts Festival	\$2,050



HOMELESS THROUGH WINTER

We have just come through a severe cold winter!

Most of us had to resort to applying a Doona and Electric Blanket on some of those extremely cold nights and in particular on the night of May 20th when the Bureau recorded a temperature of minus 2.4 degrees. But not everyone enjoyed the luxury of a warm and comfortable night. The true picture of homelessness was right before our very eyes. Many Kangaroo Flat residents were seriously concerned for the wellbeing of a homeless woman complete with a number of shopping trolleys full of belongings, sleeping rough on our footpaths and road reserves throughout those cold winter nights.

Some residents tried to help this unfortunate lady by offering food and cash. But not on all occasions were the offers accepted. No doubt many concerned residents contacted Health Authorities, Police and Council trying to get help for the homeless lady. Several residents contacted Ravenswood Councillor Damien Hurrell.

"I was made aware of the situation and received some messages which were mainly focused on the lady and her welfare."

FLAT MATTERS also followed up with the City of Greater Bendigo on a number of issues including rubbish left on footpaths and also we were advised by Jessica Howard, Director of Healthy Communities & Environments that everything was being done to assist the homeless lady.

"The City is aware of the female rough sleeper who has frequented the Kangaroo Flat area and has been working closely with relevant support services. Homelessness is a complex issue that requires coordinated efforts across all levels of government, support agencies, charities, and the private sector. The City has also responded to requests to remove items and waste from the area. The Local Laws team continue to work with other internal departments and external agencies such as Victoria Police to ensure impacts on the amenity of the neighbourhood are mitigated wherever possible."

Hopefully, the homeless person is now adequately being cared for.





## Alcoholics Anonymous

7pm Sunday @ St Marys Anglican Church, 193-195 High Street Kangaroo Flat. Enter from carpark at rear on corner Bank St/Church St. Enquiries 1300 22 22 22.

## Alanon Meetings in Bendigo

Is somebody's drinking effecting you?

We have 3 face to face meetings.

- Mondays @ 7pm - Doxa School, 118 Hargreaves St, Bendigo
- Wednesday @ Midday - Salvation Army Workshop Centre, Gate 1, 65 Mundy St Bendigo
- Saturday @ 5.30pm - 15 Brazier St, Eaglehawk.

Enquiries: 0416 034 008

## Bendigo Ballroom

Lockwood South community hall, 784 Calder Alternate Hwy.

Every Wednesday, 6pm for revision, dance

at 7-10pm, enjoy supper for \$5

Fridays, inquire for times for easy

beginners and advanced. \$5

First Sunday each month @ Marong

Community hall. For more info ph,

0427 598 284 or 0438 550 521.

Daryl Smallman, President.

## Bendigo Bridge Club

We welcome new members! Play:

Monday Club Pairs: 1:30pm

Wednesday Relaxed Pairs: 12.30pm -

Social play.

Wednesday Club Pairs: 7pm

Friday Club Pairs: 1:30pm

Last minute problem? Running late?

Please let the session director know by

calling Jennifer Goddard 0413 745 415

OR Paul O'Hare: 0419 345 240

## Bendigo Coin & Collectables Club Inc.

Meet every Friday fortnight at 7.30pm

Venue - Quarry Hill Community Hall,

Hamlet St. Bendigo.

New Members Welcome

Contact Paul Brownlie - 0408 496 808

## Bendigo and District Parkinson's Support Group

1-2pm. Second Thursday of the month.

Umpires Rooms, Napier St, Bendigo.

A friendly sociable group and an

opportunity to exchange information with

others. Contact 5436 or 0417 332 033

## Bendigo & District Prostate support group

Meet at 6pm on the 3rd Thursday of each

month. They meet at the Bendigo Athletics

centre, 58 Retreat Road, Flora Hill, all are

welcome to attend. For more information

contact 0430 037 922.

## Bendigo and District Quilters

Meet every Thursday 10am – 9pm

at Long Gully Community Centre

Havilah Rd, Long Gully and Last Saturday

of the month – 10am - 9pm

New members welcome.

More information contact –

bendigoanddistrictquilters@outlook.com

Ruth Turner – 0417153057

## Bendigo Evening View Club

“Voice, Interest, Education for Women”

Supporting the Smith Family by raising

funds to help disadvantaged students with

their education needs.

4th Wednesday of month at 6pm for 6:30pm

Queen's Arms Hotel, Quarry Hill. Meals \$27.

Bookings Cheryl Scully 0439 316 021

Or for all enquiries re club

Sue Rawlings 0407 436 311

## Bendigo Garden Club Inc.

3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Bendigo Showgrounds.

Contact: Laurelle Smith, 5447 0017

New members welcome.

## Bendigo Gem Club Inc.

10 Galvin St. BENDIGO 3550

Email: bendigogemclubinc@gmail.com

Website: https://bendigogemclub.tidyhq.com

BGC meet Tuesdays & Thursdays

Zoom chat Wednesdays 8pm

**Tuesdays** - 5-8.30 pm Instruction available

in silversmithing & cabochons

**Thursdays** -10am-4pm silversmithing,

cabochons, faceting,mineral group.

Instruction available

GEM EXPO second weekend September

Members online shop

Silver casting

Only 10 min walk from Bendigo Station

## Bendigo Legion Angling Club

7.30pm 1st Monday of the month.

Bendigo Tennis Centre.

## Bendigo Philatelic Society

**Monthly meetings** on the 1st

Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm.

At the Kangaroo Flat RSL, Station Street,

Kangaroo Flat, opposite the IGA.

Contact: Libby (President) 0448 120 066 or

Margaret (Treasurer) 0427 341 115.

Visitors always welcome !!!

## Bendigo Positive Birthing

www.facebook.com/bendigopositivebirthing

for more details phone: 0447 453 644

## Bgo Radio Controlled Aircraft Club

monthly meetings last Monday of

month 7.30pm in the Y Community Hall,

Lockwood Road, opposite ALDI.

Club's web site on www.brcac.asn.au

## Bendigo Region Women's Shed

Cards 10.30am-12.30pm Tuesdays,

Craft 10.30am-12.30pm on 2nd and 4th

Wednesday, Morning Teas 10.30am-

12.30pm on 1st, 3rd and 4th Thursday at

Community Pavilion, 21 Cunneen Street,

Long Gully.

For monthly Book Club or Woodwork

1-4pm Wednesdays text 0412 258 576.

## Bendigo Bushwalking & Outdoor Club

is a long established club catering for

Bushwalking and Hiking adventurers. It

Meets monthly in the Forest Street Uniting

Church Hall and has pre meeting catch up

for a meal at the Kangaroo Flat Sports Club

at 6pm, for interested participants.

Hans Tracksdorf

M 0400 049 891

## Central Victoria Morris Minor Car Club

For anyone with an interest in Morris Minor

cars. We meet the first Friday of the month,

7.30pm at the Kangaroo Flat Uniting

Church, Church Street, Kangaroo Flat.

(No meeting January).

Email: cvmmccsecretary@gmail.com

Lynne Crichton - Secretary

CVMMCC inc

## Community Enterprise

Last Thursday of each month, 6pm, Sports

Club Dower Park

## Enjoy Church

Phillips Drive, Kangaroo Flat

Details: http://enjoy.church/bendigo.

Contact: Campus Pastor Martin Oravec on

0403 266 008.

## Friends of Crusoe Res & No 7 Park

Meets 5 pm on 1st Wednesday of

every 2nd month, starting February.

Revegetation, nature walks & activities in

the Park. Details on the FoCRN7P Facebook

page or contact the President at

focr7p.volcoord@gmail.com

## Golden Gully Jam Sessions

1-4pm fortnightly on various weekdays.

Informal get-togethers for people who want

to make some music and have some fun!

Aimed at the over 60's, but open to all.

Pop, Rock, Blues, RnB, etc.

No audience. No cost.

Contact: ggjamsessions@gmail.com

## Golden Square Croquet Club

Every Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

Contact Allan 0408 500 439

For Junior players Saturday mornings

contact Bill 54473439

## Heartbeat Bendigo Branch

A support group for cardiac patients, family

& friends. Fundraising for cardiac equipment

through public and social events. Meetings

held bi-monthly on 3rd Sunday. Jan, March,

May, July, Sept, Nov. 2pm at Chum Street

Uniting Church hall. Enquiries to President

Frank Ward - 5447 4545 or 0407 855 685.

## Kangaroo Flat Baptist Church

"Come and Chat Group"

Knitting for missions – a welcome cuppa

and good conversations.

We support a girl in Nepal.

Enjoy good company every Monday 9.30am

till midday. All Welcome!

## Kangaroo Flat Community House

21 Woolcock Avenue, Kangaroo Flat

Ph. 5447 9687

Open Monday - Thursday 9am-3pm

Various programs including: social group,

yoga, craft, playgroup, cooking, meditation,

art, tax help, applications for NILS (No

Interest Loan Scheme)

More information on our Facebook

page: www.facebook.com/

kangarooflatcommunityhouse

## Kangaroo Flat Fire Brigade

Meets First Thursday of each Month.

Fire Fighter Training

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Kangaroo Flat Fire Station

Helm Street, Kangaroo Flat

Contact: 54470204

## Kangaroo Flat Scout Group

Outdoor activities for boys and girls

aged 6 - 18 years old.

Please contact Group Leader

Tim Pannell 0408 451 362.

## Lions Club

1st Wednesday of each month Business

Meeting. 3rd Wednesday of each month

Dinner Meeting.

Please contact Secretary regarding venues.

President Heather Gartside

Secretary Richard Hall 5499 6100

## Maiden Gully Fire Brigade

First Tuesday of each month

Firefighter Training Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Maiden Gully Fire Station

5 Beckhams Road, Maiden Gully

Contact www.maidengullycfa.org.au

## Maiden Gully Progress Association

We hold our meetings at the Maiden Gully

Hall, the second Tuesday of each month at

7:30pm. New members welcome

## Marong And District Senior Citizens

We meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of

each month at the Marong Community

Hall from 11.30am to 3.30pm for various

activities. New members most welcome.

Enquiries to Elaine 5446 7403 or Robyn

5443 9676

## National Seniors Bendigo & District

Over 50s. Bi monthly meetings, guest

speakers. Monthly dine outs and coffee

mornings. Day trips

Contact Jeanette 54439726 or

kjns4647@gmail.com for details.

## Needles & Threads

Meet every second Monday from 9.30am

to 11.30am. We knit, crochet and sew items

for charity. New members welcome.

Venue: St Mary's Anglican Church Hall.

Enter from Church Street, Kangaroo Flat.

Enquiries to Chris 0400 543 069

## Partners of Veterans Assoc

3rd Monday of the month, at 11.30am at

the RSL

## Probus Club of Kangaroo Flat (Mixed) Inc.

Every 2nd Wednesday each month 9.45am

St. Mary's Church Complex High St, K/Flat.

Contact Bev. Blume 5443 1809. - Visitors

welcome.

## RAAF Association –Bendigo Branch.

1st Thursday each month February to

December. Venue, Kangaroo Flat, RSL

building.

Contact Mr. Reinhard Goschiniak, secretary,

5429 3888 or 0419 375 060.

Email, reinhard10@bigpond.com

Membership open to ex Air Force

members, relatives and all interested.

## Rotary Club of Kangaroo Flat:

Meet each Monday 6pm for 6.30 start at

the Rotary Function Centre (opposite Apco).

New members welcome

www.facebook.com/rotarykangarooflat/

## Kangaroo Flat RSL

Contact: Marty Stradbrook, President –

0429 020 485

Member meetings held 10.30am every 3rd

Tuesday of the month

Members Social Club meet Tuesdays





## BENDIGO BANDS SHINE AT 2025 VICTORIAN STATE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Music filled the air at The Capital Theatre on August 30 and 31 as Bendigo proudly hosted the 2025 Victorian State Band Championships for the first time. The event, organised by the Victorian Bands' League (VBL), brought together brass and concert bands from across the state for a weekend of music, competition, and community spirit. Among the standout performers were several local bands who showcased the depth of talent in the region.

### Marist Brass Band: D Grade Champions

Marist Brass Band delivered a commanding performance in the Open D Grade Brass Band division, achieving a clean sweep by winning first place in all four categories — Hymn, Test Piece, Own Choice, and March — and claiming the title of Overall Champion Band for D Grade. Their total score of 221 points placed them well ahead of the competition.

Band President John O'Connor expressed pride in the group's achievement:

*"This result reflects the dedication and countless hours of rehearsal our members have put in. We're thrilled to have represented Bendigo so strongly."*

For more information on upcoming performances, joining a local band, or supporting local music, visit the Bendigo & District Bands' Group Facebook Page.

### Eaglehawk Citizens' Brass Band: Strong Second

Also competing in the Open D Grade, Eaglehawk Citizens' Brass Band impressed adjudicators and audiences alike, securing second place with a total score of 206. Their performance highlighted the band's growth and musicality, reinforcing Eaglehawk's reputation as a key contributor to Bendigo's vibrant banding scene.

### City of Greater Bendigo Brass Band: C Grade Contenders

In the Open C Grade division, the City of Greater Bendigo Brass Band delivered a solid performance, with a score of 196. Their repertoire included brass band staple "The Cossack", Percy Grainger's "Danny Boy", and selections from *The Incredibles*, showcasing both tradition and modern flair.

### Youth Collaboration: A Glimpse of the Future

A standout moment of the weekend was a combined performance by the Marist Brass Academy and Bendigo Youth Brass, which drew enthusiastic applause and praise from adjudicators and attendees.

Claire McLean, Director of Marist Brass Academy, shared her thoughts:

*"This was a fantastic opportunity for all students involved to be a part of such a big event. Thanks to the VBL for inviting us, and to all the students for their hard work and dedication."*

Alicia Parry, Musical Director of Bendigo Youth Brass, echoed Claire's sentiments:

*"I'm so proud of what both groups achieved. It was wonderful to see them work together and pull off such a great program."*

The success of the championships was made possible by the tireless efforts of volunteers, adjudicators, and supporters. Special thanks were extended to sponsors including Yamaha Music Australia, Fine Music, Hal Leonard Australia, and the City of Greater Bendigo, as well as Tim Kelly and the Brassbanned.com team, whose livestream allowed audiences around the world to tune in.

Community bands in and around Bendigo are always welcoming of new members of all ages and skill levels, offering friendly and inclusive environments for anyone interested in brass music. No instrument? No worries - Instruments are available to hire.

## CURIOSITY: BUILDING BREAKTHROUGHS IN LEGO® BRICKS

The groundbreaking exhibition arrives in Bendigo Tuesday March 3, 2026.

A unique collaboration between Bendigo Art Gallery and Discovery Science and Technology Centre, CURIOSITY: Building Breakthroughs in LEGO® Bricks is an exploration of scientific knowledge, technological advancements, engineering feats and mathematical puzzles, recreated in stunning detail with the wonders of LEGO. Designed and built by LEGO® Certified Professional Ryan 'Brickman' McNaught and his highly skilled team of LEGO® brick model builders and craftspeople, the exhibition was originally launched at Questacon, Canberra's National Science and Technology Centre.

CURIOSITY: Building Breakthroughs in LEGO® Bricks blends imagination, learning and endless possibilities – from colonising Mars to crafting infinite 6-brick duck combinations. Visitors can travel to the furthest reaches of the galaxy, witness the wondrous patterns of the natural world and explore the very building blocks of the universe.

The exhibition includes:

- A 7.5-meter-tall replica of the NASA Space Launch System (SLS) Rocket made from over 460,000 LEGO® bricks, and fitted with lights and speakers. The NASA SLS Rocket took Brickman and his team 563 hours to design and build.
- A life-size model of the Mars Rover Perseverance and Mars Helicopter Ingenuity all meticulously crafted out of LEGO® bricks.
- Seven models of a LEGO® minifigure built at different scales, from the towering x64 scale 256cm tall to the 2cm half-scale; meet Bob, Bob, Bob, Bob, Bob, Bob, and Bob...
- An enormous periodic table of elements and models of bridges and spacecrafts from around the world, demonstrating various principles of engineering and design.
- Inspiration for future innovators of all ages, including featured displays showcasing the contributions of iconic female scientists reimaged in LEGO® bricks.



- Plenty of interactive displays that combine knowledge and creativity for kids and adults alike to get hands-on building their own creations.

LEGO® Braille will be integrated throughout CURIOSITY: Building Breakthroughs in LEGO® Bricks thanks to a partnership with Vision Australia. The integration of LEGO® Braille will help make the exhibition accessible to visitors with low vision or blindness and their accompanying families and carers. CURIOSITY: Building Breakthroughs in LEGO® Bricks opens March 3 and runs until November 29, 2026 at Discovery Science & Technology Centre. Entry to the exhibition is included with general admission to the Discovery Centre. Pre-purchasing tickets is recommended at <https://discovery.asn.au>



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Left to right: Bloomin' Good Market  
organiser Greta Donaldson, Artist Andre  
Sardone, City of Greater Bendigo Mayor  
Cr Andrea Metcalf, Loddon Shire Mayor  
Cr Dan Straub and Spencer Page from  
Shiraz Republic/Cornella Canola Walk



Left to right: Artist Andre Sardone, Bloomin'  
Good Market organiser Greta Donaldson  
and Spencer Page from Shiraz Republic/  
Cornella Canola Walk

## BLOOM SPRINGS TO LIFE WITH VIBRANT ACTIVATIONS AND EXPERIENCES

Spring brings vibrancy and fun with the launch of the Bloom program, a celebration of colour, creativity and nature, featuring more than 90 exciting events and experiences across Greater Bendigo and for the first time Loddon Shire.

A dazzling display of 43,000 tulips will transform Rosalind Park, Conservatory Gardens, Civic Gardens, Pall Mall and View Street into a sea of colour. Nature lovers can enjoy everything from cheeky gnome hunts in Canterbury Park Gardens, Dumawul Djaara tours including a new tour at Larni Garingilang at Bendigo Botanic Gardens, scenic wildflower walks including Heathcote's stunning canola fields, to an enchanting Bloom After Dark illuminated trail in Bendigo city centre. This year marks a new chapter with the Bloom program expanding to showcase Loddon's fascinating experiences that include the breathtaking ancient landscapes and waterways, Kooyoora Wildflower Tours, the creative energy of the Loddon Valley Arts Festival, Wedderburn Open Gardens and a host of other unique program events.

The Bloom program reflects a newly formed Greater Bendigo Loddon Visitor Economy Partnership, which aims to unlock fresh opportunities for the region under the banner Destination Greater Bendigo Loddon, the peak tourism body for our region. Local businesses are embracing the initiative, contributing to a diverse and vibrant Bloom calendar of events.

### Bloom program highlights

- Spring in the Bush at various locations until November 30
- Larni Garingilang Walking Tour – Explore native plants with Djaara guides
- Wildflower Walks – Held at various scenic locations across Greater Bendigo and Loddon
- Floral Phone Booth – A bright booth bursting with blooms on View Street
- Kooyoora Cultural Walking Tours with Dumawul
- Spanner Man Art & Inspiration of the Mallee (November 1-2)
- Major Events – Loddon Valley Arts Festival (October 3-6), Heathcote Wine & Food Festival October 4-5 Bendigo Wine Week, Bendigo Agricultural Show, Vegecareian Festival at the Great Stupa (November 1)
- Bloomin' Good Market – Rosalind Park (Sep 28, October 26, November 2)
- Bloom Watch – interactive map with the vibrant flora highlights

For the full program and event details, visit:  
[www.bendigoregion.com.au/explore-bendigo/bloom](http://www.bendigoregion.com.au/explore-bendigo/bloom)

## JOIN BIKETOBER

The City of Greater Bendigo is encouraging residents, workplaces, schools, and community groups to get involved in Biketober, a free, month-long celebration of biking. It is all about helping people discover the joy of riding - whether it's to work, school, to the shops or simply for fun. The challenge is open to everyone, regardless of experience or fitness level.

All rides count - whether it's a short trip to the shops, a daily commute or a weekend adventure - and there are local, national and industry leaderboards with great prizes to be won. Ride solo or as part of a workplace, school or community group.

Registration is quick and free and can be done online  
[www.lovetoride.net/Bendigo](http://www.lovetoride.net/Bendigo)





# FlatMatters FlatMatters

## KEEPING UP TO DATE IN MAIDEN GULLY

At last month's Annual General Meeting, we saw some changes in leadership. James Proctor retired as President, and Paul Gibbons stepped down as Secretary. We sincerely thank them both for their dedicated service. We're pleased to announce that John Storey has been elected President—a role he has held previously. Greg Ralton was re-elected as Vice President, and Caleb Van Cooten continues as Treasurer. Unfortunately, the Secretary's position was unfilled, and John will act as Secretary until it is filled.

### Carols 2025

The Maiden Gully Progress Association is thrilled to announce our annual *Maiden Gully Carols*, to be held at the Maiden Gully Recreation Reserve: Sunday, December 7 starting at 5pm. Planning for Carols 2025 is now underway! A big thank you to the three community members who have already volunteered and taken on various planning roles. We'll be calling for more volunteers for specific duties after our next planning meeting—so please stay tuned. Let's make sure this cherished event goes ahead and doesn't face cancellation like last year due to a lack of support. We will advertise widely through school and early Education Centre newsletters, local shops, our Facebook page and tv and radio community events.

This year's theme celebrates education and community: we aim to showcase all educational institutions in Maiden Gully, from Early Education centres to our local primary school and Marist College. This year we'll also spotlight local talent through a dedicated Facebook campaign featuring community performers. Videos of a Xmas theme performance are to be sent to [admin@maidengully.com](mailto:admin@maidengully.com) for judging. If selected, contestants will be notified and included in the program. (final details will be developed at our next planning meeting).

### Event Highlights Include:

- Food and coffee vans
- Face painting and balloon sculpting
- Raffle and prizes for *Best Dressed in Christmas Theme*: Preschoolers, under 16 and 16+
- A visit from Santa aboard a CFA truck, handing out lollies
- A Facebook campaign to discover and promote local performers

We've invited the Mayor to open the event, and Maree Edwards State Member and Lisa Chester Federal Parliamentary Member will be joining us to judge the costume competition and share festive greetings with the community.

### Wilderhoods

The progress Association has adopted the Wilderhoods program whereby we actively plant and plan in order to attract wildlife back to our community. Ironically the urban sprawl tends to reduce what was habitat for wildlife and now we are attempting to create refuges facilitating its return. We have secured a tentative agreement with one of Maiden Gully's prominent businesses to plant a refuge for wildlife. Further details will be published when finalised.



## WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT

### Cr. Karen Corr - Golden Square

The Golden Square Ward, which includes Golden Square, Quarry Hill, and Golden Gully, continues to thrive with community-led initiatives and local events.

The **Golden Square Action Group** hosts monthly social brekky catchups and quarterly community gatherings, open to all.

At our most recent gathering, we heard from Council about the Bendigo Lowline and Reimagining Bendigo Creek projects, enjoyed a fascinating talk from Desmond Beer on the history of the Central Deborah Goldmine (as he prepares to launch a new book on the topic), and had a lively discussion about how we can revitalise the Golden Square shopping precinct.

To stay in the loop, email [goldensquareaction@gmail.com](mailto:goldensquareaction@gmail.com) or join the Facebook group 'Square Action – Golden Square Action Group'.

Congratulations to the **Golden Square Football Netball Club** for winning the Reserves Premiership, a fantastic achievement! Construction of the new \$2.3M pavilion at Wade Street Oval is also well underway promising upgraded facilities to support inclusive sport and meet the growing needs of the club and wider community.

The **Golden Square Community Pool** is preparing to open for the summer season on Saturday November 15. The volunteer-run team has been working hard behind the scenes, and I encourage everyone to support this fantastic local facility.

I also recently attended the Tuesday Community Lunch at the **Old Church on the Hill**, where the Indonesian community prepared a delicious meal. These lunches are a wonderful way to connect and celebrate our diverse local cultures.

Congratulations as well to the **Bendigo Theatre Company** for their extremely successful performances of School of Rock. I attended opening night and was blown away by the talent - months of hard work and rehearsals at their Allingham Street premises truly paid off.

I've also been enjoying Councillor listening posts, including at the Bendigo Community Farmer's Market in Breen Street, pictured here on a very cold morning with Mayor Metcalf, Cr McIlrath, and Golden Square Action Group members. These sessions are a great way to hear directly from residents.

**If you'd like to raise an issue, share news or ideas, I'd love to hear from you:**  
[k.corr@bendigo.vic.gov.au](mailto:k.corr@bendigo.vic.gov.au)

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### Please contact me with any State Government matters.

**Maree Edwards MP**  
State Member for Bendigo West

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## ALL SET FOR CRICKET

By Rod Wight, President

The Kangaroo Flat Cricket Club has a rich history and we are a proud community sporting club. To date, the club has had an array of successful players, both past and present and a very strong supporter base.

Over the past few years, the club has received upgrades to both our social rooms and training facilities which included new training nets and social rooms, which has been a great boost for our club, players and supporters to ensure we have one of the best facilities in Central Victoria.

Without the support of the City of Greater Bendigo, our major sponsors The Dispensary Bar & Diner, The Kangaroo Flat Sports Club and BuildPro, along with our support sponsors N8 Health, Boland's Plaster Service, CV Floors, SAE facilities management and EFEX, our club certainly wouldn't be able to have the facilities we now have. This season, our club will be led by Peter Patullo Senior Coach and a number of highly rated junior coaches to lead our teams. We also have a very hard-working committee who all put in a lot of hard work to keep the teams competing each week.

Senior Cricket = 55 players on our list that will play in the following grades:

- 1st Eleven
- 2nd Eleven
- 3rd Eleven
- 4th Eleven

Senior training is on a Tuesday & Thursday night from 5.45 at the Dispensary Oval. New players are welcome, contact the club if you require any information.

We now have 90 junior boys and girls across 9 teams.

- Cricket Blast (recommended for kids 5-7, basic skill development and modified games)
- Cricket Blast (age 7+, modified games, was played on Friday night last season)
- U11s (Introduction to hard ball, pads, was played on Friday night last season)
- U12s • U14s
- U16s • U18s

For more information contact Rodney Wight 0408 566 456 [kflatcc@gmail.com](mailto:kflatcc@gmail.com) or [www.kangarooflatcricketclub.com.au](http://www.kangarooflatcricketclub.com.au)

## CONTACT US

Let the community know the great things happening in your area by emailing

[flatmtrs@outlook.com](mailto:flatmtrs@outlook.com)



## NEW PRO AT BELVOIR PARK

Jacob Boyce has commenced his new role as the PGA Professional at Belvoir Park Golf Club. The former Queenslander was introduced to the game of golf at the early age of thirteen and was a promising junior at the Maryborough Golf Club before beginning his PGA Traineeship at the Caloundra Golf Club in 2015.

After playing and teaching the game in Queensland he has made the Trek south for the next stage of his career and he spoke with FLAT MATTERS.

**Q: What made you interested in a role in Victoria?**

A: I've always loved the idea of working in Victoria, the golf culture here is incredibly strong and there's a real passion for the game at both the club and community level. Belvoir Park presented the perfect opportunity for me to step into a Head Professional role where I can not only grow as a coach and business operator, but also contribute to a club that's got such a rich history and exciting future.

**Q: How have you settled in at Belvoir Park?**

A: The members and committee have been very welcoming, which has made the transition smooth. Moving interstate is always a big step, but the sense of community here is fantastic, and it already feels like home.

I'm really enjoying getting to know the members and starting to introduce some fresh programs and services that will add value to their golf experience.

**Q: What are your thoughts of the course layout?**

A: I think the course is a hidden gem. It's got a beautiful mix of holes that challenge every part of your game.

There's a real variety, from tight driving holes to greens that demand precision and I can see why members love it. It's also a layout that allows golfers to be creative, which is something I really appreciate.

**Q: In your eyes is golf in a good development phase in our region?**

A: Absolutely. We're seeing more juniors, more ladies, and more people picking up the game for the first time, which is really exciting. There's also been a big push towards making golf more accessible and less intimidating, which is important for the long-term growth of the sport. Our job as professionals is to make sure people feel supported, confident, and part of a community, and I think the region is in a strong place to do just that.

**Q: Are you expecting to see many new faces on the driving range at Belvoir Park?**

A: Definitely. One of my goals is to bring more people into the club through coaching programs, clinics, and transformation-style challenges. The range is such an important entry point for new golfers, and I'm confident we'll see a steady stream of both beginners and experienced players looking to sharpen their skills.

**Q: Will you have opportunities to play in some PGA Pro Am Tournaments this summer?**

A: I'm never closed off to the idea of competing. It's a great way to stay sharp competitively and also to connect with other professionals and amateurs across the state. Playing in these events keeps me in touch with the competitive side of the game, which I can then bring back into my coaching to help my students.



## A GREAT YEAR FOR JUNIOR FOOTY

By Aaron McLean

What a year it's been at the Kangaroo Flat Junior Football Club!

It's hard to believe season 2025 of the Bendigo Junior Football League (BJFL) has already concluded. Grading matches began at the end of April, with Kangaroo Flat fielding seven teams across most age groups this year. Four teams were able to qualify for finals, with two making it all the way to the Grand Final!!

Kangaroo Flat U12D finished the season on top of the ladder but took the long way through to the decider after a loss to our neighbours St Monica's in the qualifying final. In a tight contest at Harry Trott Oval, Kangaroo Flat took the lead early and went into the three-quarter time break leading 2.4.16 to St Monica's 1.4.10. St Monica's got off to a fast start early in the last quarter, but with less than a minute remaining, Kangaroo Flat captain Roman Grinter received a penalty free kick 30 metres out on a slight angle and was able to kick the goal to put his team in front.

Final Scores were Kangaroo Flat 3.4.22 defeated a gallant St Monica's 2.6.18. The KFJFC best on ground award for each club went to Roman Grinter (KF) and Harry Sheldon (SM).

In the second of our club's Grand Finals, Kangaroo Flat was up against White Hills in the U14 Reserve 2 division at Tannery Lane in Strathfieldsaye. Early goals to Jagger McLean (1.0) and Chase Brown (2.0) saw Kangaroo Flat go into quarter time 3.0.18 to White Hills 1.1.7.

The bigger bodies of the White Hills team were able to exert their influence, and the final scores saw White Hills 8.9.57 defeating Kangaroo Flat 4.4.28. Best players for Kangaroo Flat were Jett Lower, Korbin Hull, Tyler Scullie, Darby Lamb & Nate Hargreaves.

Off the field, we have a dedicated and passionate committee that has taken a more strategic view of the junior football program we want to deliver to local kids and their families.

- Seeking feedback via survey from members on their experience and what they want to see from the club moving forward.

- Established a collaborative partnership with St Monica's Junior Football Club including building on the annual "Community Day" match and Roberts Family Medal.
- Engaging with our local primary schools by establishing a meaningful presence within those school communities.
- Connecting our junior players with senior players and senior coaches to strengthen player development and promote the pathway from junior to senior football.
- Greater "development" focus, with dedicated development coaches and coaching frameworks that prioritise progressive player development through each age group.
- Providing more opportunities for our players and families to connect and socialise at the club throughout the season.

Planning is well underway for season 2026, with expressions of interest open for all coaching roles until the end of October. We are also encouraging existing families and any new players interested in playing football at Kangaroo Flat next season to register their interest via email at kangarooflatjfc@hotmail.com.au. **Go Roos!!!**

## NETBALLERS DOMINATED

By Kate Newman

What a weekend it was for Kangaroo Flat Netball Club, with three of our senior teams securing a place in the grand final – an incredible achievement and a true reflection of the depth and strength of our netball program. Our A-Grade side came out firing, taking control from the very first whistle. Strong defensive pressure and sharp shooting set the tone, with the midcourt working tirelessly to transition the ball and deliver quality opportunities to our shooters.

The girls held their composure through four hard-fought quarters, and the final term turned into a spectator's dream as they surged ahead to take the win. Best-on-court honours went to Ruby Barkmeyer, who returned to the club this season and now adds to her A-Grade legacy – her last premiership win was back in 2016.

A-Reserves delivered another stellar performance, continuing their season-long dominance. After half time, the girls found their rhythm, lifting their intensity and taking the game to an unstoppable level. Best-on was awarded to the ever-reliable Ella Wicks, who capped off her perfect season with not only a grand final berth but also the league's Best and Fairest award – a phenomenal achievement.

Our B-Grade side faced a formidable Gisborne line-up and fought bravely, staying within reach until the final quarter. Despite their best efforts, Gisborne pulled away to take the win by 11 goals, but our girls showed immense fight and spirit right to the end.

It was fantastic to see so much green and white courtside, with the Kangaroo Flat community cheering loudly for every team.



The energy and encouragement from the sidelines made a real difference and once again showcased the unique club culture we are so proud of.

This season has been a huge success – 2 premierships, a Holborn Medal Best and Fairest, a Betty Thompson Medal runner-up, the league goal-scoring award, and club legend Nina Cass awarded Life Membership. Congratulations to all players, coaches, and volunteers – what a season! Kangaroo Flat Netball continues to go from strength to strength under the leadership of Jayden Cowling, and we can't wait to see what's next.

## MARONG PREMIERS

Marong Football Club has claimed their fourth consecutive senior premiership in the Loddon Valley League grand final contested in front of a huge crowd at Newbridge.

In another big year for the club, Marong were in a strong position throughout as they eventually ran out 32 point winners over Bridgewater.

The Marong Reserves side also claimed a flag with victory over Bridgewater.

### FINALScores:

Marong	17.14.116
Bridgewater	12.12.84

### BEST PLAYERS:

Jimmy Gadsden, Jonty Davis, Shannon Geary, Jack McCaig







## EAGLES FLY HIGH

September was a big month for the Maiden Gully Junior Football Club. In the Under 16 Grand Final of the Bendigo Junior Football League played at Strathfieldsaye the Eagles came home victorious by 8 points over Huntly. It was an amazing season for the team who finished fifth at the end of the home and away season and then had to make their way through an Elimination Final, First Semi Final and Preliminary Final to face off with flag favorite Huntly.

The team got off to a great start in the opening quarter kicking three goals against the breeze. The Eagles led throughout and held off a determined Huntly in the closing moments of a great match played in front of an enormous crowd.

### FINAL SCORES:

Maiden Gully	8.13.61
Huntly	8.5.53

### BEST PLAYERS:

Drew Warren, Jack Moresi, Leo Wilson, Darcy Wallace and Lucas Hoxtor

It capped off a great year for the Maiden Gully club as they also won the Under 12 Premiership in the BJFL and the Under 18 side were premiers in the Loddon Valley Football League.

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## POOL TO CELEBRATE 7TH BIRTHDAY

The Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre in Browning Street Kangaroo Flat is set to celebrate its 7th Birthday on Sunday October 26. The pool complex, built at a cost of over \$32 million has become the pride and joy of Kangaroo Flat and as well as being a major employer in our region. It has been a marvellous asset for the region and it all came about through input from local residents both young and old as the pool project was the number one priority at a Community Workshop conducted at the Kangaroo Flat Sports Club on Thursday, 23rd July 2009. The City of Greater Bendigo council adopted the Kangaroo Flat Community Plan in December 2009 with the main priority of the Community Plan being a new aquatic centre. The grand opening was held on October 26 in 2018. Chairman of the Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise Geoff Bowyer told FLAT MATTERS the Gurri Wanyarra Centre in Kangaroo Flat is by far the most important and impactful infrastructure project to have occurred in Kangaroo Flat in the last 50 years.

"No one, including the Kangaroo Flat Community Enterprise could have imagined the extent of the positive health and wellbeing benefits which have been created as a result of the construction and operation of this complex to so many members of the Bendigo and surrounding community.

At any time of day or evening, you can observe a multitude of families and individuals who would not have been attending to their health and wellbeing needs but for the creation of this aquatic centre. The impact and isolation caused during the COVID-19 events and it's aftermath have meant that for many people the centre has offered a welcoming opportunity to reach out and connect with other people, which in turn has immeasurably improved their wellbeing."







## JUNIOR GOLF A RIPPER!

By David Griffin

The Term 3 Mygolf Junior program at Belvoir park Golf Club has been a huge success with 26 Participants attending each week. Leading the sessions was PGA Professional Dean Dixon who said the young juniors have been Improving each week, and their Golf skills have gone to the next Level. Dean Dixon was very pleased with the help and support he received from Belvoir Park members that contribute their time with this program each week, which makes his job of teaching the Juniors a lot easier. He can then work closely with each child individually and help them to Improve their Golf skills.

Dean is also looking forward to working with the new PGA Professional at Belvoir Park, Jacob Boyce, to provide an excellent Term 4 Mygolf program starting on October 16th through to 20th November 2025.

The Final session for Term 3 was conducted last month, and each Junior participant was given a FREE 18 Hole green fee voucher for an Adult and for any children under 15 to play with them at Belvoir Park. Jayne Smith from Golf Australia also gave each Junior a special Ripper Mygolf bag that was supplied by the LIV golf Team of Ripper GC of which Lucas Herbert is a part of. The Junior Participants were from a number of Schools from around the local area of Bendigo including Big Hill Primary, Victory Christian College, Girton Grammar, Castlemaine North Primary, St Joseph's Quarry Hill, Marong Primary and St Monica's Primary.

Belvoir Park Golf Club is now accepting registrations for Term 4 and it already appears we will have another Increase in Juniors wanting to join our Mygolf Sessions.

Enquiries: Davgriff56@gmail.com



## KIDS LOVE BEING OUTDOORS? THERE'S GOLF FOR THAT.

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MyGolf powered by Ripper GC is Australia's beginner golf program that introduces kids to golf through games-based activities in a safe and friendly environment. Participants learn new skills, make new friends and most importantly, have fun!

Sessions are run by PGA Professionals and National Program Deliverers Australia-wide.

**Time: Thursdays 4pm-4:45pm (5-9 year olds) 5pm-5:45pm (10-14 Year olds)**

**Dates: 16th October - 20th November (6 Sessions)**

**Cost: \$60**

**Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/fxc6z2fw>**

**Enquiries: Dave Griffin - 0407 422 845**



Find your nearest MyGolf powered by Ripper GC program at [golf.org.au/mygolf](http://golf.org.au/mygolf)





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## Attention:

### We want your articles!

If you have an upcoming event or community related news, please email us a short article and photo for inclusion in the next Flat Matters.

**CONTACT:** [flatmtrs@outlook.com](mailto:flatmtrs@outlook.com)

Email your pictures and articles to: [flatmtrs@outlook.com](mailto:flatmtrs@outlook.com) by the 14th of the month for the following months publication.



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## BLAC FISHING REPORT

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[www.bendigolegionanglingclub.wordpress.com](http://www.bendigolegionanglingclub.wordpress.com)



Well, a good start to the new fishing year with Trip Captain Nick Atyeo and a small band of five attacking the tricky weather, some rain and wind to fish Bullen Merri on Friday arvo and Saturday and then Tooliorook Sunday morning until the breeze picked up about 10.30am. Our next upcoming trip is to Dartmouth and one bed is left available so if interested talk to me. The November trip is to Rocklands with Fiona as Trip Captain and some good trout and cod reports still surfacing in this location.

At our next general meeting we will be discussing club trips, guest speakers and events to help develop our activities for the next year. Obviously if anyone has a favourite spot or destination it would be

appreciated. Good guest speakers are hard to find and if anyone has any contacts it would be greatly appreciated. Cod Opening Russell Ford Memorial trip is the 5th to the 7th of December at View Bank and based by results from cod closing should be fishing really well with good flows going through early in irrigation season. Please support Ernie with battery donations as this is a good fund raiser. Had a really good weekend up Torrumbarry way last weekend, didn't catch any keepers but a 41cm and 34cm bream with battle scars so one presumes the cod are active and a few carp, caught none from boat and all off the bank.

**Tambo, President**



## GOLDEN SQUARE CROQUET CLUB

Our members enjoy playing on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with setup at 9am and play at 9.30am. Both experienced or beginners are most welcome. Interested players are encouraged to contact Allan ph. 0408 500 439. Recently our members enjoyed a social day hosting the Maldon croquet club members.

### Recent tournament successes:

Michael McLean (Golden Square) and Andy Barbero (Wangaratta) won the Australia – Golf Croquet Advantage Doubles at the Twin City club in September. Michael is a junior player who is now having success in open competition. The juniors train under Bill Humphrey's tutelage on a Saturday afternoon. Under 18's who are interested in learning the game are invited to contact Bill ph. 0417 310 613.

Recently in his first tournament, since starting croquet in 2023 at Golden Square, Allan Breen won his 8 games to win the Division 3 Deniliquin Long Paddock Singles.

Winners and runners-up in Div 1, 2 & 3.

Another win for our club was achieved at the Kyneton Hi/Lo Doubles by Lyn Breen (Golden Square) and Ian Potter (Boort). It was a keenly fought competition with clubs travelling long distances to participate. Tournaments are held regularly by clubs throughout Australia and give players of all abilities the opportunity to gain extra skills and meet new friends.



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