Winchelsea Star

Weekly Community News

Price $1

Since 1977

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Three Generations – One Team!

It was a family affair when three generations of McDonalds, Rob, son Mark and grandson Milton took to the field together in the Saturday One Day match. Milton is also captain of the Under Thirteens.
See report page 34.

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International Men's Day Focus On Wellbeing With Screening Of Acclaimed 'Just A Farmer'



Surf Coast Shire Council is recognising International Men's Day with a special community screening of the acclaimed Australian film Just A Farmer.

The event, at Winchelsea's Globe Theatre on 20 November, will include presentations by one of the film's actors Damian Walshe-Howling, who has family ties in Surf Coast Shire.

Just A Farmer powerfully and authentically portrays a rural Australian family navigating grief and the impacts of suicide alongside the financial and seasonal pressures of farming life.

Since its release in 2024 the film has featured in more than 150 community-led screenings across Australia, breaking down stigmas and opening conversations about mental health, awareness, connection and the importance of seeking help.

The Winchelsea screening will be followed by a discussion with Damian Walshe-Howling, and time for people to chat, connect and enjoy a light supper.

Representatives from organisations including Lifeline, the Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry and Red Cross will be available to provide information and support.

Just A Farmer was written and produced by Victorian farmer Leila McDougall, who also plays the lead role, and it was filmed against the backdrop of Western Victoria's Grampians Ranges.

Cr Adrian Schonfelder: "Council is proud to be acknowledging International Men's Day and men's wellbeing with this event.

"It will be warm, welcoming, supportive and open to all, and responds to calls from our community to share a public screening of this very real and ultimately uplifting film.

"It is described as a must-watch for every rural community.

"This will be Council's first event recognising International Men's Day, providing an opportunity to acknowledge the positive contributions that men make to families, communities and society, and to raise awareness of some of the issues that affect men including mental health, social isolation and barriers to seeking support.

"Community wellbeing and improving mental health and social connection are priorities in our Council Health and Wellbeing Plan and Council Plan."



Leila McDougall: "This film is not just about telling a story, it's about starting a conversation that is long overdue.

"Mental health in farming communities is a real issue, and I believe Just A Farmer can help bring much-needed change.

"We need to stop telling farmers to be more resilient, and start showing them the empathy, respect and appreciation they deserve."

Damian Walshe-Howling is one of Australia's most respected actors and recognised as a director and writer with a passion for meaningful storytelling.

His role in Just A Farmer brings to life emotional realities faced by many rural Australians, and he brings lived experience through the loss of a loved one after a long battle with mental health challenges – giving him a deeply personal connection with the film's message.

Council's Just A Farmer event will start at 5pm on Friday 20 November at the Globe Theatre.

There will be no cost for community members to attend but bookings are required. Bookings can be made via surfcoast.vic.gov.au/IMD2026 or by calling Council on 5261 0600.

Lifeline provides 24-hour mental health crisis support via 13 11 14, or lifeline.org.au



A Sparkling Winchelsea Christmas



Let's Make Winchelsea Sparkle Together!

A Sparkling Winchelsea Christmas is a community-led celebration, and we welcome: • suggestions • offers of assistance • photos • stories • Letters to the Editor • messages to Mr Winchy Twinkle or Barwon Bright. If you'd like to contribute or get involved, please contact: Elaine Atkinson Coordinator 0458 009 616 christmasinwinchelsea@gmail.com

Mr Winchy Twinkle's Christmas Snippets - What's happening around town!

Santa's Mailbox

From 9 November to 9 December, Santa's Mailbox will be waiting at IGA Winchelsea. Letter to Santa proformas are available at IGA and many local businesses - and yes you'll receive a **personalised reply from Santa**!

Carols by the Barwon

Save the Date! Join us at Lions Park, Saturday 5 December at 5 pm for a magical evening of local talent. If the weather misbehaves, we'll move to the Leisure Time Centre and the music will still shine.

Hidden Elf Christmas Trail

1 - 16 December with 24 businesses joining the fun this year's trail is bigger than ever. New additions include Golden Elf clues and Christmas Bingo - let the mystery begin.

Lions Club Christmas

Lights Competition Families, it's your time to shine! Decorate your homes, complete an entry form (ask Elaine), and see if your house becomes one of our featured winners.

Santa Photos

Book Now! With Santa - and yes fur babies are welcome! Contact Jason Nogueira on 0468419276 to book your session. A wonderful new addition supporting a growing business.

Playgroup Colouring Competition

Our local Playgroup is launching a special colouring-in competition featuring the Hidden Elf Business locations. Keep an eye out for details - little artists get ready!

A note from Barwon Bright While I'm not sharing a full story this week, I've been out gathering voices, moments and festive energy from across Winchelsea....I'll be back in the 9 November edition with a new feature story.



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Winchelsea Structure Plan

Update

Place Plan to Structure Plan

We are working with the community to develop a Structure Plan which will set a clear framework for Winchelsea's sustainable development during the next 15 years.

The Structure Plan will draw from the shared vision and key principles of the Winchelsea Place Plan, seeking to protect and reinforce the town's distinctive character as it grows.

Help shape the future

Tell us what matters most for Winchelsea's future and help shape the Structure Plan.

Have Your Say before **Friday 13 November 2026**. Visit our website to:

- Complete the 10 minute survey online.
- Use the online interactive map to identify an issue, opportunity or priority.

Need information in another format? Contact the Strategic Planning Team on **5261 0600** or email us at **winchelseastructureplan@surfcoast.vic.gov.au.**



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Scan the QR code or visit **yoursay.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/WSP**

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Winchelsea Playgroup Seeking New Coordinator As Danni Steps Aside

Danni Menzies knows the importance of community connections more than most.

“My second daughter Evy, who is now three, was a micro-prem,” she said. “I had a blood clot in my placenta where the umbilical cord was.

“She was born at 29 weeks, so she was the size of a coke can with arms and legs.”

After moving from Geelong to Winchelsea when her oldest daughter Elsie was one, Danni joined Winchelsea Playgroup.

“While I was at the hospital with Evy, my mother-in-law kept taking Elsie to playgroup, which was really great for her.”

The playgroup had such a positive impact on Danni, she became facilitator in 2024. Last year she was named runner-up Playgroup Victoria Champion.

“In COVID I was isolated because I didn’t know anyone except our neighbours and Maternal Child Health nurse. It was so worth it, to go to playgroup and have two hours to talk to other people about our challenges and achievements,” she said.

“Because I helped the previous facilitator Mel and I’m a kinder teacher, I decided to take on the role. I’ve loved it.”

Danni is stepping down as facilitator and is keen to hand the reins to another Winchelsea resident for 2027.

“You don’t need qualifications, you just need to be open minded and organised,” she said. “You set-up play spaces and you can run activities and playdates out in the community if you want.

“You make some really great friends.”

Winchelsea Playgroup is held fortnightly on Thursdays during school term, from 10am to 12pm at St Thomas Anglican Church Hall. A $5 contribution each family contributes to morning tea.

Surf Coast Shire Council promotes local playgroups, recognising that they enhance the development of children and provide social connections for parents. Learn more at surfcoast.vic.gov.au/playgroups.



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Or visit our website: www.winchmc.com.au

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CNAV MEMBER 2026

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Let's Make Winchelsea Sparkle: Families Invited to Join Christmas Lights Competition

Mr Winchy Twinkle is inviting local families to help light up Winchelsea, with the Christmas Lights Competition returning as part of A Sparkling Winchelsea Christmas.

Following the wonderful community response to last year's event, residents are encouraged to decorate their homes and help create a festive atmosphere throughout the town in the lead-up to Christmas.

Mr Winchy Twinkle said the competition is about much more than judging.

"It's about bringing people together, creating magical memories for local families, and sharing the joy of Christmas with our community. Every decorated home helps make Winchelsea sparkle."

The Winchelsea & District Lions Club will again host and judge this year's competition, with judging scheduled for mid-December.

Families are encouraged to put up their lights, get creative and join in the festive spirit.

"Let's build on the wonderful community spirit we've already seen and make this our brightest Christmas yet."

Further details about entry categories and judging dates will be announced soon.

Follow the fun and stay updated: Facebook & Instagram: Christmas in Winchelsea.

Light up your home, light up your street, and help light up Winchelsea this Christmas.





Stitch It Don't Ditch It

We had a very sad Pikachu at Winch House this week, it had lost its tail. After hunting through our stash of cottons a suitable colour was found and the tail was able to be sewn back on. As you can see the outcome was a very happy Pikachu, his friend was very glad to see him again too.

There is an overlocker and sewing machine for community use at Winch Community House. If you want to use them contact reception to arrange a time or if help is required come along when the craft group meets on Wednesdays (school term) from 9am to 2pm. Gold coin donation to Winch House.













Local News Spotlight

Produced with Deakin Uni Journalism students



Op Shop Waiting To Move Into Old Bakery

by George Twine

The refurbished dining room at Chelsea Lodge and the resident's cafe at Hesse Hospital in Winchelsea have a unique benefactor: second-hand clothes, books and homewares.

The Winchelsea Community Op Shop is run by 30 volunteers and has helped pay for all of it. The health service says it wouldn't be where it is without them.

"Their donations have enabled our service to provide more for our residents and consumers," Hesse Health stated in its 2024-25 annual report. "In the past few years, their resilience has been remarkable."

The charity work has allowed Hesse Health to upgrade Chelsea Lodge's dining room, beauty room, and social support kitchen, while establishing a resident's cafe at the Winchelsea site and purchasing adjoining properties.

But it hasn't all been smooth sailing. The op shop started operations in 2011 and suffered a devastating fire in late 2020. Amid the chaos of the COVID-19 pandemic, it took two years for volunteers to be able to reopen at another location.

The struggles, however, only continued.

"We actually got flooded out," says Cheryl Mawson, the only original volunteer remaining on the shop's team. "We had only just opened it, and repairs had to be done with the shop, so we didn't have a very good run."

The loss went beyond just the building. The op shop had been a meeting place for the town, and its proximity to the hospital meant residents could travel a short distance to buy what they might need. With it gone, donors had nowhere to leave their items. Volunteers were heartbroken, and the community lost an important social hub.

The shop is now currently located in a rented property on Willis Street, but Hesse Health said in its 2024-25 report that it has been fundraising to provide the shop with a new, permanent home.

Cheryl said the charity is planning to move into the former Orchard's Bakery building, owned by Hesse Health, but the move been stalled due to heritage listings and council requirements.

Cheryl didn't know when the relocation might take place but, six years after the fire and four years after the floods, Cheryl says the op shop is finally back on its feet.

Since 2025, its has been independently run by the volunteers, which has allowed them some agency over where money is donated. They support the Blue Tree Project, which supports mental health in rural communities.

According to Cheryl, locals rely on the op shop, as do tourists and campers, and younger families moving into the district.



George Twine is studying his final year of a Bachelor of Communication majoring in Journalism at Deakin University





Christmas wares in the Op Shop

If you have any ideas for news stories that you would like Deakin journalism students to follow up, please contact alison.mcadam@deakin.edu.au(please put Winchelsea Star in the email subject line)

This story was produced as part of a partnership between the Winchelsea Star and Deakin University. The pilot project is aimed at providing journalism students with an opportunity to have their work published, at the same time giving the Winchelsea community access to local news reporting.

WINCHELSEA WALKERS

HESSE RURAL HEALTH

WEDNESDAYS 9:30am

meet at the Mud Hut,
opposite Cafe LaHoot



- All paces accommodated, approx 30min - 45min
- Stay for a cuppa at local cafe at own cost

For more information:
Email: hessecommunityadmin@hesse.vic.gov.au
Phone: 5267 1200

Please note: For quality improvement, participants will be asked to complete a short registration form and participation survey.

FREE GROUP

phn WESTERN VICTORIA

Heart Foundation Walking

Car care and safe driving night

For teens and new drivers, or anyone wanting a refresher

Thursday 10 December, 7pm
Birregurra Mechanics Hall

Presented by a licensed mechanic from Colac Auto Care and Senior Constable Josh Goonan. About an hour, with demonstrations.

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Wednesdays 2pm-4pm
at 53 Hesse Street Winchelsea

The Thrive 50+ Healthy Ageing Hub is for people aged 50 years and over and First Nations people aged 45 years and over.
This service is free.

phn WESTERN VICTORIA
An Australian Government Initiative

hessecommunityadmin@hesse.vic.gov.au

HESSE RURAL HEALTH

Frogwood Arboretum

OPEN DAY

Sunday 22 November 2026

Open 10am - 4pm

- Explore up to 10km of grassy pathways winding through 40 hectares of some of the world's most remarkable tree species
- Enjoy avenues of trees and vistas stretching the full width of the fledgling Arboretum
- Have a quiet sit in the "Neolithic" rock Henge
- Bring a picnic blanket and refreshments ready to laze away a couple of hours in your favorite grove of trees
- Explore an undulating access track along a rehabilitated section of the Deans Marsh creek

12 Deans Marsh – Lorne Road, Deans Marsh

Entry opposite Martian's Cafe
Parking at Deans Marsh Recreation Reserve on Pennyroyal Valley Road

Map of planted tree species available at the entrance gate. Dogs on a leash at all times.

Informational talk by the Arboretum Designer at 11.30am at the Henge

Guided creek walk at 2pm from north gate

Gold coin donation entry



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DEFIBRILLATORS IN WINCHELSEA
Accessible to the public 24 hours a day

Winchelsea Lions Club has compiled a list of public access defibrillators in Winchelsea. If you know others, please contact Linda Carter 0439 817 263.

- **Ambulance Victoria** 33 Willis St
- **Bendigo Bank** 11 Main St
- **Globe Theatre** (Side) 17 Willis St
- **Hesse Rural Health** 8 Gosney St
- **Men's Shed** 51 Hesse St
- **Modewarre Hall** (Porch)
- **Netball Courts** Hopkins St
- **Senior Citizens Club** 36 Harding St
- **Uniting Church** 33 Hesse St
- **Winchelsea Bowls Club** Hesse St
- **Winchelsea Golf Club** 13 Anderson St
- **Winchelsea Primary School** Main St
- **Wurdale Memorial Hall** 220 Wurdale Rd

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Sat - Sun 9.42 11.40 14.45 18.37 20.37

COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

7pm second Wed of month
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36 Harding St Winchelsea

Winchelsea and District
PROBUS CLUB
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36 Harding St Winchelsea
New members welcome.
Lorraine 0417 467 927

SURF COAST MOBILE LIBRARY

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Tuesday	2pm-4pm
Saturday	1.30-3.30pm
Thursday	2pm-4pm
Sunday	9.30-12.30pm

Closed Christmas Day, open public holidays.
www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/disposalsites

WINCHELSEA PLAYGROUP

Every second Thursday 10am-12pm
St Thomas Anglican Church Hall
cnr Barwon Tce & Hopkins St, Winchelsea
Danni Menzies 0432019944
winchelseaplaygroup@gmail.com
Facebook - Winchelsea Playgroup 2019
New families welcome

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Email **editor@winchelseastar.org.au** or leave a note at **Winchelsea IGA**

LIONS CHRISTMAS CAKES



Winchelsea Lions have Christmas Cakes available now. Contact Raymond on 0406 371 239

IGA NOTICE BOARD

Volunteers keep the IGA Notice Board up to date. Anything you wish to promote please leave at the IGA. Please limit to no larger than A4. Displayed for a month, other than business cards.

PINE CONES FOR FIRE PITS $5

Winchelsea Lions Club
Contact Ray 0406 371 239

STITCH IT, DON'T DITCH IT

Finished articles for sale in the Display Cabinet at Reception Winch House. The Group meets every Wednesday 9am-2pm at Winchelsea House.

WANTED TO BUY

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & INFORMATION NIGHT

COME ALONG AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR KINDER PROGRAM AND THE PARENT ADVISORY GROUP (PARENT COMMITTEE)

- Hear about what the committee does, meet current members and learn how you can get involved to help support our kinder
- Hear from our passionate educators and learn more about the kinder program
- Pick up your 2027 info packs
- View our optional kinder uniform



PLEASE JOIN US

Wednesday 11th November
@ 7pm

HMK Kinder/Church Hall
32 Hesse St, Winchelsea

Helen Mary Kininmonth Kindergarten
Winchelsea Victoria

We would love to welcome new members for 2027!

Friends of the Barwon Annual General Meeting



When **Wednesday 25 November**
Meeting 6–7pm, supper 7–8pm

Where **Jeff Sykes Rowing Centre,**
8 Barwon Terrace, South Geelong

RSVP **friendsofthebarwon@gmail.com (for catering)**

Guest speaker: Cameron Steele

Cameron Steele is Convenor of the Concerned Waterways Alliance (CWA) and a founding member of People for a Living Moorabool (PALM).

He will share his long experience of grassroots activism, community engagement and advocacy, and how community groups and their networks can have the greatest impact.

He will also explain how CWA and PALM work together for better water management in Victoria, particularly for the Moorabool and Barwon rivers.

A light supper with tea and coffee will be served.

Growing Winchelsea

You're invited to the Growing Winchelsea 2026 AGM

Thursday 12th November
at Sheoak Reserve
Cnr Mercer St & Barkly St,
Winchelsea 3241
6.00pm – 7.00pm

You'll hear from the current project teams followed by a discussion around what a dedicated 'Winchelsea Planning & Design' committee might look like, and how it could work for the community. These informal discussions are what make these gatherings so relatable.

Everyone is welcome. Bring the family. Stay on for a chat - enjoy!

Winchelsea Pickleball Club

Leisure Time Centre, Gosney St Winchelsea.

Wednesday nights are now offering 2 sessions due to an increase in numbers!

6.30 - 7.30pm Wednesday nights

For all junior players and any new, inexperienced adult players! We'll offer free coaching to learn the basics of the game, rules and scoring! All equipment is supplied and you just need to wear sneakers and comfortable clothing!

A great way to learn the basics of the game with the help of experienced players! It's only $5 pp

7.30 - 8.30pm Wednesday nights and 10-11am Thursday mornings

Our regular session for more experienced players! $5 cash pp



Lesley Mathison 0438 672 197
Mary Parish 0428 887 219

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What's on

November 2026

To add your event, email news@winchelseastar.org.au

Monday-Friday

Winchelsea Toy Library
9am-2pm (03) 5267 2028
Winch House, 28 Hesse St, Winchelsea

Monday

Mental Health Support FREE
9:30-11:00am
Winch House 28 Hesse St 5267 2028
Reception@Winchhouse.org.au

1st Modewarre Scout Group
Modewarre Hall, Cape Otway Rd
6:30-8pm (School Term)
Cub Scouts 8-11yo
Venturers 15-18yo Hosted by Torquay or Highton Units
Marie McPadden 0409330147

Co-Working & Studying Space
9am-2pm $10
Winch House 28 Hesse St 5267 2028

Mainly Music
10-11am (School Terms)
Interactive Music 0-4yrs
St Thomas' 25 Barwon Tce 0407838256

Winchelsea Girl Guides
4.30-6pm (School Term)
St John's, Mercer /Harding St
Yvonne Orchard 0448 672 630

Tuesday

Thrive 50+ Healthy Ageing Information Drop In Session FREE
10am-12pm
Winchelsea Community House Hesse St

Bridge
Senior Citizens Centre, 36 Harding St
Elaine Atkinson 0458 009 616

Mat Pilates
6.30pm $25
Winch House 28 Hesse St 5267 2028

Wednesday

Winchelsea Men's Shed FREE
9.30-2.30
51 Hesse St, Winchelsea
Ray Atkinson 0407839139
winchmenshed@gmail.com

Senior Citizens Centre
1- 3.00 pm
36 Harding St, Winchelsea
Jean Shinners 52672263, 0427672263
Jeanshinners@Gmail.com

Mother Goose Song and Rhyme FREE
2pm (School Term)
Winch Community House, 28 Hesse St

Winchelsea Historical Society FREE
1-4pm
Hesse St, Winchelsea

CWA Winchelsea FREE
7-8.30pm 2nd Wed Monthly
Senior Citizens, Harding St
Winchelsea.cwa@Gmail.com

VICSES Winchelsea FREE
7:30pm Meeting And Training
2996 Princes Hwy.
Come And Say Hello!
Winchelsea@Ses.vic.gov.au

1st Modewarre Scout Group
Modewarre Hall, Cape Otway Rd
6:30-8:30pm (School Term)
Scouts 11-14yo
Venturers 15-18yo Hosted by Torquay or Highton Units
Marie Mcpadden 0409330147

Winchelsea Pickleball
Wed 6.30 - 7.30pm
Juniors And Inexperienced Adults
Wed 7.30 - 8-30pm
Experienced Players
Leisure Time Centre, Gosney St.
Lesley 0438 672 197
Mary 0428 887 219

Stitch It, Don't Ditch It!
9.30am-2pm
Winch Community House, Hesse St
Sewing Machine & Overlocker
Gold Coin Donation

Thursday

Chat with Your Councillor
Cr Tony Phelps
10am-12pm First Thursday monthly
Winchelsea Shire Hall 28 Hesse St

Co-Working & Studying Space
9am-2pm
$10 5267 2028
Winch Community House, 28 Hesse St

1st Modewarre Scout Group
5-6pm (School Term)
Modewarre Hall, Cape Otway Rd
Joeys 5-8yo
Venturers 15-18yo Hosted by Torquay or Highton Units
Marie McPadden 0409330147

Winchelsea Playgroup
10am-12pm (School Term)
$5 St Thomas Hall, 27 Barwon Tce
Winchelseaplaygroup@Gmail.com

Winchelsea Pickleball
Thurs 10-11.00 am
Experienced Players
Leisure Time Centre, Gosney St.
Lesley 0438 672 197 Mary 0428 887 219

Knitting Group FREE
10.30am-12pm
Winchelsea House, 28 Hesse St 5267 2028

Vinyasa Yoga
6.30pm
Winchelsea Shire Hall 5267 2028
28 Hesse Street, Winchelsea

Winchelsea Movie Club
7.30pm Third Thurs monthly
Globe Theatre, Main St, Winchelsea
Growingwinchelsea.com/Project/Winchelsea-Movie-Club/

Friday

RSL Meeting FREE
3rd Friday monthly

Community Foodbank FREE
12-2pm
30 Hesse St, Winchelsea 0417 848 292

Phonics with Robot Reg
10.30 (1-3 Yrs) School Terms
1.30 (3–5 Yrs) School Terms
www.robotreg.com.au/Pages/Shae

Chatty Café
10.30am-12.30pm
Winch Shire Hall, 28 Hesse St
Gold Coin Donation 5267 2028

Winchelsea Historical Society
10-3pm FREE
Hesse St, Winchelsea
Margaret Reid 0417 104 627

Geelong Regional Mobile Library FREE
2-5pm
Shire Hall, 28 Hesse Street
0408384331 (During Scheduled Stops)

Senior Citizens Centre FREE
1.00-3.00 pm
36 Harding Street, Winchelsea
Jean Shinners 52672263, 0427672263
Jeanshinners@Gmail.com

TAI CHI
9am-10am
$10 5267 2028
Winch Community House, 28 Hesse St

Saturday

Parkrun
8am
Trebeck Reserve Sussex St, Winch
www.parkrun.com.au/Trebeckreserve/

Lions Club IGA BBQs
9am-12pm First Sat monthly
Outside IGA.
Proceeds To Iga Community Chest.

Winchelsea Land Rivercare
9am First Saturday monthly FREE
Meet At River End Of Dwyer Street
Rod Atone 0428 549318
Stewart Mathison 0428 672054

Crochet Group
1.30pm Every 2nd Saturday
Winch Community House, 28 Hesse St,
$5 Vee 0467 219 227

St John The Baptist Catholic Church FREE
Mass 6pm Sat weekly
Harding St, Winchelsea 0404598558

Sunday

Community Market FREE
9-1pm, 1st Sunday monthly
Leisure Time Centre, Gosney St
growingwinchelsea.com/project/winchelsea-community-market/

St Thomas' Anglican Church FREE
10am weekly
Barwon Terrace
0448 687 588 stthomaswac@gmail.com

Uniting Church FREE
Service 9.30am weekly
Hesse St, Winchelsea 0475 777 301
uca.winchelsea@gmail.com

HESSE RURAL HEALTH

Board Director Opportunities At Hesse Rural Health

Join a Victorian public health board

The Department of Health is seeking applications for part-time Board Director positions at Hesse Rural Health. Appointment terms start on 1 July 2027 and are for up to three years.

These roles offer a unique opportunity to contribute to Victoria's public health system by providing strategic leadership, oversight and accountability to support safe, high-quality and effective healthcare for Victorians. As a board director, you will hold an important position of trust, helping ensure health services operate with integrity and with a strong focus on patient outcomes.

Appointments are based on capabilities and the professional and lived experience applicants can bring to the strategic leadership of Victoria's public health system.

We encourage applications from people of all backgrounds and experiences, including First Nations people, people living with a disability, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, LGBTIQA+ people, and those living in rural and regional Victoria. Living in Victoria, or in a border community near Victorian health services, is preferred.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate the capabilities identified in their applications.

Applications close Sunday 22 November 2026.

Further information about Victorian health service boards and how to apply can be found at

health.vic.gov.au/board-applications

For all enquiries regarding the Board, please contact Kate Lockhart, Executive Assistant on (03) 5267 1200 or email kate.lockhart@hesse.vic.gov.au

Winchelsea Men's Shed

For the Community

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME
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51 Hesse Street, Winchelsea

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Winchelsea Movie Club

3rd Thursday of the month 7:30 pm
Globe Theatre 17 Willis St Winchelsea

Includes the movie and light supper, tea/coffee and wine

October 15	Mr Burton
November 19	My Favourite Cake
December 10	Thelma

10 movies for the year:	$70
HCC concession:	$65
5-movie season:	$40
HCC concession:	$35
Members can bring two guests a year	$10

Enquiries
movies@growingwinchelsea.com

Reducing The Risk Of Mosquito-Borne Diseases

Warm and wet conditions can create ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes, increasing their numbers and the risk of mosquito-borne disease.

Mosquitoes can spread diseases including Japanese encephalitis, Murray Valley encephalitis, Ross River virus, Barmah Forest virus, West Nile (Kunjin) virus and Buruli ulcer.

Chief Health Officer Dr Caroline McElnay is urging Victorians to stay vigilant, with mosquito-borne diseases capable of causing serious and long-term health complications. “Mosquitoes aren’t just a nuisance. They can carry viruses that cause serious illness, so it’s important Victorians don’t underestimate the risk.”

Victorians can take precautions to avoid getting bitten by:

- Covering up with long, loose fitting, light coloured clothing.
- Using mosquito repellent containing picaridin or DEET on exposed skin.
- Limiting time outdoors when mosquitoes are active, particularly around dusk and dawn.
- Making sure holiday accommodation has mosquito netting or screens.
- Using fly spray and mosquito coils when sitting or eating outdoors.
- Removing stagnant water from around the home and keeping lawns and gardens maintained.

“Whether you’re heading away, spending time outdoors or enjoying your own backyard, a few simple precautions can make a real difference.” said Dr McElnay.

For more information about mosquito borne diseases, vaccine eligibility and how to protect yourself, visit the Better Health Channel and Department of Health’s website.

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Ray The Home Maintenance HANDYMAN
abn 47928623462

Arts Rural

To share your stories and inspire the community, please contact Zinaida. 0428 403 784 zinaidacampion@gmail.com

Zinaida Campion



Zinaida Campion is a classical soprano, vocal coach, artist and model raised in Winchelsea. She is an alumna of VOYCE Victorian Opera, a Windfire Vocal Scholar, Co founder of Cecilia's Daughters, Vice President of Geelong Opera, Artistic Director of the Winchelsea Music Season, and founder of Rural Arts Victoria. A keen arts writer, she has a strong background in languages and a love of local history. She is dedicated to working with the local community, and has an all-consuming passion for promoting the arts in rural areas.

Opera, Swords And A Soprano With A Mission



What happens when opera meets medieval fantasy, and the heroine carries a sword? Apparently, the answer is a little magic, a lot of courage, and some rather spectacular sword fighting!

Melbourne soprano Kelly Rae has decided that if the operatic stage doesn't offer the opportunities she dreams of, she'll simply create them herself. Her new production, The Secret of the Sword, is an original operatic adventure combining familiar opera arias, an imaginative fantasy storyline and choreographed combat.

Kelly's inspiration came from a rather unusual disappointment. When she began training as a soprano, she realised she would probably never have the opportunity to perform a sword fight while singing opera. Rather than resign herself to this, she set about writing her own work. The result is a production that challenges traditional ideas about what opera singers can do.

Set in a magical kingdom, the story follows Knight Nirelle, played by Kelly herself, and her squire Kaelen, portrayed by mezzo-soprano Alicia Groves. Together, they embark on a quest to discover the Secret of the Sword, encountering mysterious mages and formidable enemies along the way. Their journey tests their courage and loyalty, with one central question hanging over them: will they choose forgiveness or revenge?

The cast also includes Finn Gilheany, Kieran MacFarlane, Lore Burns and Meredith Grace Jackson. Almost all have undertaken professional stage-combat training, a relatively uncommon skill among Australian opera performers.

Professional fight director Daniel Lamech from Jagaraj Theatre has choreographed the production's combat sequences. Kelly describes his work as breathtaking, with both sword fighting and unarmed combat adding another dimension to the performance.

Yet beneath the fantasy and theatrical action lies Kelly's commitment to opera itself. She is determined that the choreography will never overshadow the expressive power of the human voice. Music and arias spanning from Monteverdi to Wagner provide the operatic heart of the adventure.

The Secret of the Sword is an intriguing reminder that artistic traditions need not stand still. By combining opera with theatrical combat and fantasy, Kelly hopes to broaden the possibilities of the art form and welcome new audiences into its world.

Ciao!

Performances take place on November 12 and 15 at Buxton Hall, Toorak, and November 24 at Athenaeum Theatre Two, Melbourne.

Tickets and further information: linktr.ee/secretofthesword

Also in Winchelsea: Unmasked

A solo lute performance by Australia's premiere lutenist Rosemary Hodgson, as part of the Winchelsea Music Season. Saturday November 28, 5pm at the Globe Theatre. Tickets at the door or via Humanitix. events.humanitix.com/unmasked-xsuppm34

What's on at Winch House

28 Hesse Street, Winchelsea Ph: 0352672028 Email: reception@winchhouse.org.au





Term 4
Yoga & Mat Pilates
In the Shire Hall

Mat Pilates -Tuesdays 6.30pm

Gentle Yoga - Wednesdays 6.30pm

Vinyasa Yoga - Thursdays 6.30pm

Yoga Flow Friday's 6.30am

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Find us on facebook at: winchelsea tai chi group

Please call 03 52672028 or email reception@winchhouse.org.au to register.

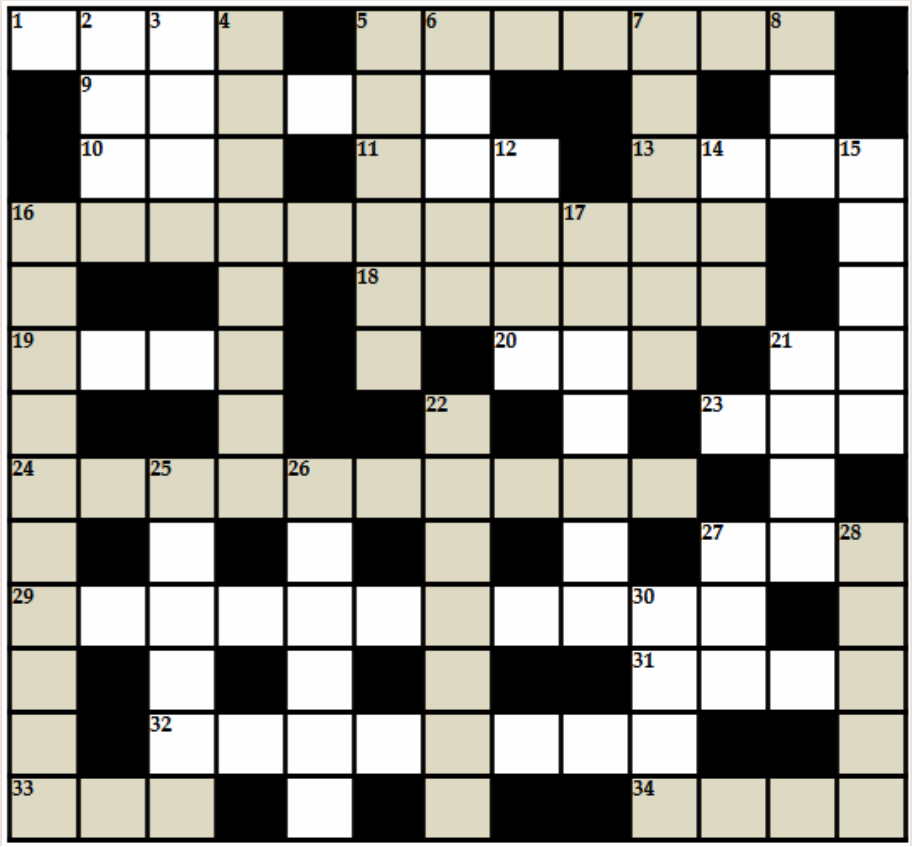
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A4 D/Sided - 30c	A4 D/Sided - 75c	A3 D/Sided - $2
A3 -50c	A3 - $1	

Set by Greg Ware

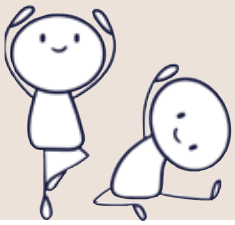
Winchelsea Crossword





Grey squares relate directly to Winchelsea.

Solution on page 22



ACROSS

1 Rounded roof
5 Winch street name
9 Frolic
10 Cereal grain
11 Soak
13 Raced
16 One of the 2 explorers/settle
who disappeared near Winch
1837 (6,5)
18 Winch street near shops
19 Instead of
20 Mend
21 Joe Cocker song "You Are --
Beautiful"
23 Male relative
24 Town near Winch
27 Piece of headwear
29 Likeness
31 Curved structural shape
32 Discretionary
33 & 28 dn Winch's federal
member of Parliament
34 Local street name for the Pr
Highway within Winch

DOWN

2 Monster
3 Irish county or informal name
for salad dressing
4 Winch hair studio
5 & 16 down The partner of the
explorer in 16 across
6 Hawaiian greeting
7 Winchelsea is named for
a town in this UK County
8 Formerly (as in a woman's
maiden surname)
12 Riches
14 Apiece
15 Evil spirit
16 See 5 down
17 Little bit
21 Couch
22 Winch street name
25 Eyesight
26 Distant
27 Female pronoun
28 See 33 across
30 Placid

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Winchelsea Star

Your Weekly Community Newspaper

Since 1977



Invest in Your Community as a Volunteer Editor

Just Five Hours a Week Can Make a Lasting Difference

Do you enjoy the English language? Do you like reading, editing and helping others communicate their stories clearly?

The Winchelsea Star is seeking volunteer editors to join its editorial team and help continue a publication that has served the community for almost 50 years.

This rewarding role requires approximately five hours per week and can be undertaken at your own pace. Editors work collaboratively with a supportive team of volunteers who share a common goal: ensuring the continued success of a newspaper that belongs to and serves the local community.

As an editor, you'll review articles, help maintain quality and accuracy, and play an important role in preserving a trusted source of local news and community information.

The role offers the opportunity to work closely with local people, learn more about what's happening in the district, and contribute to a publication that has connected generations of residents.

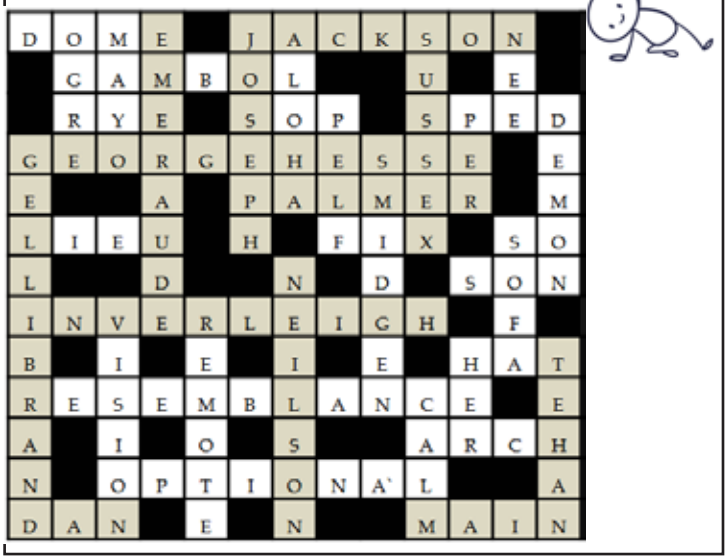
Volunteering as an editor is a practical and meaningful way to invest in your community. The commitment is modest, but the impact is significant.

If you're passionate about language, enjoy reading and editing, and would like to help ensure the Winchelsea Star continues to serve future generations, we'd love to hear from you.

Interested?

Contact the President at president@winchelseastar.org.au

Crossword No 18 Solution



Help Shape the Winchelsea Star Each Week

The Winchelsea Star is inviting expressions of interest for a Designer/Compositor position, offering community-minded people the opportunity to play an important role in keeping local news alive and thriving.

This role is about more than laying out pages. It is about investing in your community and helping tell the stories that matter to local people.

Working with an established template and production system, the Designer/Compositor helps bring each edition of the Star to life. The role generally requires around one day's work per edition, making it an ideal opportunity for someone looking to contribute their skills without a large time commitment.

You'll work remotely alongside a dedicated team of volunteers and contributors who share a commitment to maintaining one of Australia's few remaining community newspapers.

As part of the production team, you'll have the opportunity to hear local stories first-hand, help shape the presentation of community news, and contribute to decisions about page layouts and front-page presentation.

No one is expected to work alone. Training, support and established systems are already in place to make the role as straightforward and rewarding as possible.

If you enjoy creativity, design, publishing, or simply want to be part of something that directly benefits Winchelsea, we encourage you to take a look at the Expression of Interest document and consider becoming part of the Star's future.

Interested?

Visit the Winchelsea Star website to view the Expression of Interest documentation and learn more about the opportunity or contact president@winchelseastar.org.au

The Ripple Effect

Madame Butterfly

A space for the issues that start small but matter deeply—because in every community, even the quietest ripple can create real change.

Working With Water

A space for the issues that start small but matter deeply—because in every community, even the quietest ripple can create real change.

Water has a memory.

Long before streets, houses and fences were built, water followed natural courses through the landscape. It still does.

After heavy rain, locals know where water naturally gathers, where paths become boggy and where drainage struggles to keep pace with the weather.

That local knowledge matters.

Across Australia, many communities are rethinking the way development interacts with natural water systems. Rather than viewing wetlands and natural drainage lines as problems to be solved, they are increasingly being recognised as valuable community assets.

Well-designed wetlands can filter stormwater before it reaches rivers and streams. They can reduce flooding, improve water quality and provide habitat for birds, frogs and other wildlife.

They can also create beautiful public spaces.

Imagine walking paths winding through native vegetation, boardwalks overlooking wetlands and neighbourhoods that celebrate the natural landscape rather than reshape it.

These ideas are not just environmental aspirations. They are planning opportunities.

As the Winchelsea Structure Plan is developed, the community has an opportunity to contribute local knowledge and ideas about how future development can work with nature rather than against it.

Where does water flow after heavy rain? Which areas are prone to pooling? Where are the opportunities to create habitats, improve drainage and enhance the natural environment?

The people who know those answers best are often the people who live here.

The Ripple Effect: *Every observation shared today can help create a healthier, more sustainable Winchelsea tomorrow.*



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Winchelsea Churches

Winchelsea Uniting Church

0475 777 301
uca.winchelsea@gmail.com
Hesse St, Winchelsea 3241
Services 9.30am Sundays

St John the Baptist Catholic Church

0404 598 558
Father Joseph Panackal
Harding St, Winchelsea 3241
Winchelsea @ 6pm Sat.
Oct. 17, 24, 31

Winchelsea - St. John the Baptist
@ 6pm Sat. NOV. 7, 14, 21, 28

Meredith – St. Joseph
@ 9am Sun. NOV. 8

Bannockburn – St. Mary MacKillop
@ 11am Sun. NOV. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Inverleigh – Sacred Heart –
@ 4pm Sun. NOV. 15

Inverleigh @ 4pm Sun. Oct. 18

St Thomas' Anglican Church

0448 687 588
stthomaswac@gmail.com
Rev Christopher Duff
Barwon Tce, Winchelsea
Service 10am Sundays

Thought For The Week

"To make the most of every opportunity. You must first become aware of them. Ask God to open your eyes to see the daily
occasions he gives you to share a simple
word of testimony about the difference Jesus Christ has made in your life. Begin each day by praying "JESUS, HELP ME TO SEE AND LOVE PEOPLE THE WAY YOU DO."

Have a Blessed week.

John Bader
(Christian Pastoral carer)

Psalm 33 World English Bible

33 Rejoice in Yahweh, you righteous!

Praise is fitting for the upright.

2 Give thanks to Yahweh with the lyre.

Sing praises to him with the harp of ten strings.

3 Sing to him a new song.

Play skillfully with a shout of joy!

4 For Yahweh's word is right.

All his work is done in faithfulness.

5 He loves righteousness and justice.

The earth is full of the loving kindness of Yahweh.

6 By Yahweh's word, the heavens were made:

all their army by the breath of his mouth.

7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap.

He lays up the deeps in storehouses.

8 Let all the earth fear Yahweh.

Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

9 For he spoke, and it was done.

He commanded, and it stood firm.

10 Yahweh brings the counsel of the nations to nothing.

He makes the thoughts of the peoples to be of no effect.

11 The counsel of Yahweh stands fast forever,

the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

12 Blessed is the nation whose God is Yahweh,

the people whom he has chosen for his own inheritance.

Overseas or interstate during the 2026 Victorian state election? Here's what you can do.

Eligible Victorians will be able to vote in the 2026 state election from places as far as Dublin and as remote as Antarctica, with in-person and postal voting options available for those unable to attend a voting centre in Victoria.

In-person voting services for Victorians overseas during the election will return for the first time since 2018, after COVID-19 restrictions prevented the service from operating in 2022. Voters will be able to vote in-person in 21 countries, or request their ballot papers by email, to print and return to Victoria via mail or at selected in-person locations.

Interstate voters can cast their vote at any Australian state or territory electoral commission during business hours from Friday 20 to Friday 27 November.

Electoral Commissioner Sven Bluemmel said Victorians travelling within the state will also be able to cast their vote in-person from any voting centre during the election, vote during the early voting period or register for a postal vote on the VEC website.

'Voting in the state election is compulsory for all eligible Victorians, so we're making it as easy as possible with a voting option for everyone,' Mr Bluemmel said.

'If you're travelling on Saturday 28 November, you can choose to vote early, register for a postal vote or access in-person voting, including our interstate and overseas voting options. Plan ahead and make sure your voice is heard.'

A list of interstate and overseas voting and vote drop-off points can be found on the VEC's Voting Centre Locator application at maps.vec.vic.gov.au/elections

For more information on voting options, including postal vote applications, visit vec.vic.gov.au or contact the VEC on 131 832.

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Lupton Builders 0438 840 104
MGT Building 0409 433 687
CAFE
Café La Hoot 0407 528 999
Foxes Den 5267 3005
CHIROPRACTOR
One Body 5267 2240
CHURCHES
Anglican 0448 687 588
Catholic 0404 598 558
Uniting 0475 777 301
CLUBS
Girl Guides 0448 672 630
Golf 5267 2660
Lions 4224 0226
Movie 0409 672 054
Probus 0417 467 927
Scouts 0409 330 147
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Foodbank 0417 848 292
Mainly Music 0407 838 256
Men's Shed 0407 839 139
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HESSE RURAL HEALTH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Hesse Rural Health's 2026 Annual General Meeting will be held at The Hub, Eastern Reserve, Winchelsea and Livestream on Wednesday 25th November, 2026 at 3pm.

Please contact Hesse on (03) 5267 1200 or reception@hesse.vic.gov.au to RSVP and receive the remote link invitation.

BUSINESS: To receive the report of the Board of Directors and the audited Statements of Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2026.

Editorial

Do We Want Film Crews in Winchelsea?

Last week we reported on the Victorian Government's call for regional communities to put themselves forward as filming locations.

Minister for Regional Development Michaela Settle said filmmakers are actively looking beyond Melbourne and are keen to hear from communities that would like to see their towns featured on screen.

The question posed in these pages was simple - Could Winchelsea be one of those places? The answer seems equally simple.

Why wouldn't it be?

Few communities can offer such a remarkable combination of heritage, landscape and accessibility. We have Barwon Park, the historic Bluestone Bridge, the Shire Hall, heritage streetscapes, grand homesteads and the picturesque Barwon River. We sit within easy reach of Melbourne, Geelong, the Great Ocean Road and the Otways.

We also have stories that exist nowhere else in Australia.

The district is closely associated with Thomas Austin, whose release of rabbits changed Australia's environmental history forever. More recently, the area featured in a television production involving an Indigenous chef exploring the harvesting and cooking of wild rabbit, demonstrating that our region already attracts producers searching for distinctive Australian stories.

Perhaps the better question is not whether Winchelsea has the charm to attract filmmakers. Perhaps the question is whether we want them here.

Would you welcome film crews using local locations?

Would you support road closures, temporary production activity and the excitement that comes with bringing a story to life on our streets and in our landscapes?

Would you like to see Winchelsea showcased to audiences across Victoria, Australia or even the world? The Winchelsea Star would like to hear from readers.

If a location scout arrived in town tomorrow, would you encourage them to stay, or would you send them elsewhere?

Share your views in a letter to the editor or on our Facebook page. With the film industry inviting regional communities to put themselves forward, we need to decide soon.

Should Winchelsea answer that call?

Letter To The Editor

Close up look at a distant war

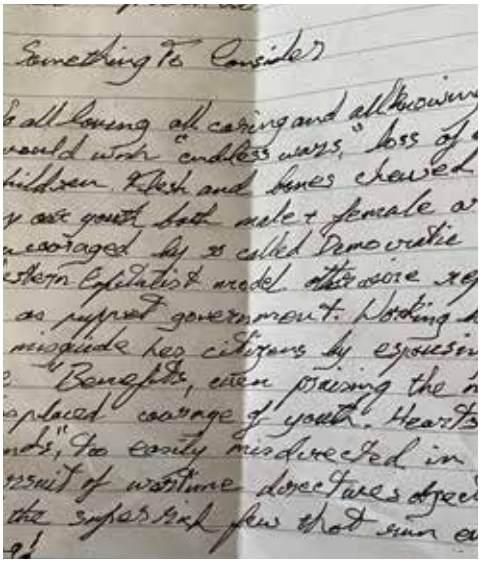
Something to consider

No all living, all caring and all knowing God would wish "endless wars" loss of our children, flesh and bones chewed up and our youth both male and female are encouraged by a so called Democratic Western Capitalist model, otherwise refer to a puppet government working hard to her citizens by expressing the Benefits even praising the naive misplaced courage or youth. Hearts and minds too easily misdirected in pursuit of wartime directives of feelings of the super rich few that own everything.

Wars end when when men refuse to fight

Name withheld

Editor's note. When submitting anything in handwriting, please take pity on our editorial staff and make sure that it is clear and legible.





Used with permission of Gary Clark, Swamp Cartoons Cartoon Books available online: swamp.com.au

Share The Surf Coast Spirit And Think Local This Christmas

Surf Coast Shire residents and visitors are being encouraged to embrace the spirit of Christmas this year, celebrating generosity, kindness and community connection, while supporting local businesses.

Council's Share the Surf Coast Spirit campaign brings together local shopping, Christmas trees, Surfy Santa visits, festive activities and community celebrations across the shire.

At the heart of this year's campaign is Gift It Forward, a new Buy Local initiative that will put $3,000 back into Surf Coast businesses while celebrating the local shops, makers, hospitality businesses and experiences our community loves.

Decking the Shire

From early to mid-November, four-metre solar-lit Christmas trees will bring festive sparkle to five towns across the shire:

- Aireys Inlet: Between the bottom shops and Painkalac Creek
- Anglesea: Anglesea Shopping Village
- Lorne: Next to the Lorne Visitor Information Centre on Mountjoy Parade
- Torquay: In front of NAB on Gilbert Street
- Winchelsea: Between the Anzac Memorial and Bluestone Bridge

Other festive touches will include stars on poles in Torquay town centre and banners in Lorne and Torquay. Also, in early December, Torquay's IGA carpark area off Gilbert Street will be "yarn bombed" in a festive style.

Gift It Forward: Give the local businesses you love a shout out and win

On Monday 16 November, Council will launch Gift It Forward - a new buy local initiative celebrating the Christmas tradition of giving and sharing with others, while supporting local businesses.

Residents and visitors will be invited to nominate a Surf Coast business they love, say what makes it special and choose someone they'd love to share that experience with. If their Christmas wish is drawn, they'll receive a $150 gift from that business for the person they nominated.

Five Christmas wishes will be drawn each week for four weeks, putting $3,000 directly into local businesses while helping more people discover the shops, makers, hospitality businesses and experiences available across the Surf Coast.

Follow @surfcoastbusinesscollective and @surfcoastshirecouncil on Instagram for details.



Surfy Santa, Christmas house lights map and more

Also returning this festive season are Surfy Santa visits, the Christmas house lights map and other community celebrations.

Families can enjoy free photo opportunities with Surfy Santa at (times to be confirmed):

- Lorne Visitor Information Centres on Saturday 5 December.
- Torquay Visitor Information Centre on Saturday 12 December.

Children will be also able to drop off their letters to Santa at both centres between 14 November and 18 December and receive a reply before Christmas.

A time to celebrate and support local

Cr Joel Grist said he was looking forward to Christmas trees, Surfy Santa visits, Santa letterboxes, the Christmas house lights map and other local events and traditions making their return.

"Last year was the first time we introduced Christmas trees in five townships across the shire, in response to community feedback. It's great to see them returning this year to add some colour and fun during the festive season."

He said Christmas was a time to reflect on what matters most, while also supporting local businesses.

"Christmas is a great time of celebration with Christian origins marking the birth of Jesus. It is a time to reflect on messages of peace, hope and goodwill. It's also a time for family, generosity and looking out for one another," Cr Grist said.

"Supporting our local businesses is one way we can put that spirit of generosity into practice. Before shopping online or out of the area, consider the gifts, food, experiences and services available right here on the Surf Coast."

"Every time we shop local, we're supporting the people behind that business, local jobs and the businesses that help give our towns their character."

"Gift It Forward is a new way to celebrate those businesses, share your favourites with others and perhaps give someone special a local gift at the same time. Keep an eye out on Council's Instagram for details."

Find out about everything festive and how you can share the Surf Coast Spirit at www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Spirit.



Join us

VICSES Winchelsea Unit

Road Crash Rescue



Road Crash Rescue (RCR) is a critical service delivered on a daily basis by emergency response agencies across the State. It starts at the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA), where Triple Zero (000) emergency calls for assistance are received.

VICSES has the largest road rescue network in Australia, with 104 of the 133 road rescue service providers in Victoria. Our unit in Winchelsea is a Road Crash Rescue unit. We have a highly trained crew with a range of skills, providing extrication and emergency life support services to the trapped or injured in our local area.

Our VICSES crew works alongside other emergency service personnel, helping to establish safety on-scene, and rescue people from vehicles involved in road accidents. Our members undertake specialist training and use advanced rescue equipment.

Skills, fitness and requirements

To be active in a Road Crash Rescue role, every qualified volunteer needs to possess the physical capability to:

- Lift and carry various items, including road crash rescue tools, between a vehicle and where they will be used.
- Participate in a stretcher carry.
- Access the unit within 8 minutes or live within 10-15kms.

You can play a crucial role in delivering life-saving response.

Storm Response



Every year, VICSES responds to thousands of storm-related emergency calls for assistance. Storms can bring down trees, branches, and power lines, damaging property, vehicles and impacting access.

Participating in emergency response operations resulting from storms and other severe weather events is done through a combination of formal training, on the job experience and effective teamwork.

Volunteers respond to key tasks such as temporary repairs to homes and buildings from storm, wind, flood damage and natural disasters, clearing of fallen trees on roads and buildings, and traffic control under the direction of emergency services personnel.

Our members are one of the first on scene during a severe weather event, helping our community in our time of need.

Skills, fitness and requirements

To be active in responding to storms, every qualified volunteer needs to possess the physical capability to:

- Lift and carry various items, including chainsaws and sandbags, between a vehicle and where they will be used.
- Participate in a stretcher carry.
- Be physically capable to climb a ladder, clear logs, branches and debris, and haul equipment on to or off a roof.
- Access our unit within 12 minutes or live within (10-15kms).

Next Steps

For more information about becoming a volunteer and to explore a wide range of training and other opportunities available to you, scan this QR code to complete your details.

VICSES Winchelsea Unit

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A Tough Summer Ahead For Australia's Pollinators

As Australia prepares for a summer of strong El Niño conditions, Australian Pollinator Week in November is putting the spotlight on how heat, dry weather and changing rainfall can affect the insect pollinators that Australia's food production and ecosystems depend on.

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting strong to very strong El Niño conditions this summer, bringing the potential for extreme heat, dry conditions and increased bushfire risk in some parts of Australia.

For pollinators, a difficult summer can mean disrupted flowering patterns, resulting in less food and water, and fewer suitable places to nest and shelter.

Wheen Bee Foundation CEO Fiona Chambers said Australian Pollinator Week was an important opportunity to highlight the pressures facing pollinators and why they matter.

"When we think about the impacts of extreme weather, it can be easy to overlook the impact on pollinators, but declines in their health and populations can have far-reaching consequences," said Ms Chambers.

Nearly 90 per cent of flowering plant species benefit from flower-visiting insects, making pollination fundamental to plant reproduction, biodiversity and healthy ecosystems. Pollinators are also critical to food security, with about 75 per cent of the world's major food crops depending, at least partly, on insect pollination.

"Our landscapes, ecosystems and food systems are all connected," Ms Chambers said. "When pollinators struggle, the effects can flow through the plants and systems that depend on them.

"Australian Pollinator Week is an opportunity to pay more attention to what pollinators need and, importantly, what each of us can do to help."

Coordinated by the Wheen Bee Foundatton, Australian Pollinator Week is a national celebration of the diversity and importance of Australia's pollinators.

Australia is home to more than 2,000 species of native bees, alongside hoverflies, moths, butterflies and many other pollinattng insects.

Australian Pollinator Week founder and native bee specialist Dr Megan Halcroff said the scale of climate change often leaves people feeling there is little they can do as individuals.

"Australian Pollinator Week is about turning some of that concern into action by giving people the knowledge and confidence to do something meaningful for pollinators," Dr Halcroff said.

In hotter and drier conditttons, keeping flowering plants watered can help maintain food for pollinators.

"We put so much ttme, money and love into our gardens. Keeping those plants alive and flowering through hot weather isn't just for us. It means nectar and pollen remain available for the insects that depend on them.".

While mulching around plants in summer can help retain moisture, Dr Halcroff recommends leaving some areas of bare soil accessible for ground nesting bees.

Supporttng pollinators can begin with something even simpler.

"If you don't have a garden, or you simply don't know where to start… start by noticing," Dr Halcroff said.

She suggested finding a spot outside where you can sit for a while and simply take note of which insects visit, what is flowering and what is thriving nearby.

"Taking an interest is a meaningful first step. The more we notice flower-visitors, the more we learn about them, and the more we understand what they need and how we can help."

Australian Pollinator Week runs from 7–15 November 2026, encouraging Australians to notice, learn about and support pollinators.

Take part in an event, spend some time observing the pollinators in your own backyard or learn about simple ways to make your patch more pollinator-friendly at australianpollinatorweek.org.au.

From the Winchelsea Primary School Newsletter



PRINCIPAL NEWS



Swimming Program: *Reduced Costs for Pool Season Pass Holders*

Some good news for families who will be purchasing a season pass for the local swimming pool with the Surfcoast Shire! (link below) Belgravia has confirmed that it will honour existing season passes for entry to our upcoming school swimming program. This means that families with a season pass will only need to pay $19 for the program, rather than the usual $44. If your family has a current season pass, please notify the school office so we can ensure you receive the reduced rate. The reduced cost ($19) takes away the daily fee and covers the cost of providing swim teachers, associated swim teacher training and the exclusive use of the pool in hours when it's not normally open.

Winchelsea Blues Summer Basketball Program

Winchelsea Blues Basketball Club Inc. invites children aged 5 and up to build their basketball skills, grow in confidence and make new friends through dribbling, passing, shooting, teamwork and fun games.

We understand that family budgets can be stretched, particularly when more than one child wants to participate. To help make basketball more affordable, registration is $85 for the first child and just $20 for each additional child from the same family.

Registration includes a free basketball, plus a chance to win a South East Melbourne Phoenix family pass!

The eight-session program runs from 5:30–6:30 pm at Winchelsea Leisure Time Centre, 15 Gosney Street, Winchelsea, on:

2026: 18 and 25 November; 2 and 9 December

2027: 27 January; 3, 10 and 17 February

Scan the QR code on the flyer to register. For more information, contact Mark on 0422 257 071 or info@winchelseabasketball.org.au.



Winchelsea Tennis Club

Fletcher Allen

Established in 1985, this small Club includes:
- 2 synthetic grass courts
- 2 concrete hard courts
- Clubroom facility
- Newly developed playground for the kids!

Courts are always available to have a hit on - so come down to Hesse Street Reserve! For updates to the Club and competitions, information will be on this page and our Facebook page.

Winchelsea Tennis Club 21 Armytage St Winchelsea
https://www.facebook.com/groups/770786371589798



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Photosensitisation

by Dr Jeff Cave, Senior Veterinary Officer

As spring brings warmer weather and abundant green pasture, livestock producers should be alert to an increased risk of photosensitisation in cattle and sheep.

The condition, which can resemble a severe case of sunburn, can cause significant animal welfare issues.

Photosensitisation is an abnormal sensitivity of the skin to ultraviolet (UV) light.

It occurs when light-sensitive pigments accumulate in an animal's bloodstream and skin.

When these pigments are exposed to sunlight, they trigger a painful burn-like reaction.

In grazing animals, the process is caused by an excessive intake of chlorophyll, the green pigment found in pasture plants.

As chlorophyll is digested, by-products are normally processed and removed by the liver.

However, when animals consume large amounts of lush green feed, or when liver function is compromised, these pigments can build up in the body.

Conditions that cause liver damage, such as liver fluke infestation or poisoning from certain plants, including heliotrope and Patterson's curse, can reduce the liver's ability to remove these pigments from the bloodstream.

Some plants also contain photosensitising compounds directly. One well-known example is St John's Wort.

Damage occurs most readily in areas where sunlight can easily penetrate the skin. In cattle, this typically affects unpigmented skin and teats.

In sheep, the ears and nose are particularly vulnerable.

Early detection is important. Animals suffering from photosensitisation may become restless and agitated due to a painful burning sensation .

Common signs include head shaking, rubbing against trees or fences. kicking at the belly, swollen or drooping ears, and seeking shade during daylight hours.

As the condition progresses, the affected skin may begin to peel away or slough off. In severe cases, animals can go into shock, which may prove fatal.

Prompt action can reduce the severity of the condition.

Size Adjustment For Anglesea's Riverbank Bushfire Place Of Last Resort

Surf Coast Shire Council has reduced the size of Anglesea's riverbank bushfire place of last resort to improve safety, following assessment by the Country Fire Authority.

Council resolved at its October meeting to approve the adjustment to reduce risk of people being exposed to dangerous levels of radiant heat during a bushfire emergency.

The CFA found during an annual inspection that a northern section of the site did not meet radiant heat guidelines due to the proximity and volume of vegetation in the coastal reserve on the opposite, eastern, bank of the Anglesea River.

Bushfire places of last resort, BPLR, are locations where people can seek refuge from a fire when all other survival plans have failed. While they may provide some protection from direct flames and radiant heat, they cannot be considered safe and are exposed to the elements including wind, smoke and embers. The CFA advise do not plan to use a BPLR in a bushfire, they are a back-up when all plans have failed.

Anglesea has two bushfire places of last resort – the riverbank area and the town's main shopping strip car park. No changes are required for the shopping strip BPLR.

Councils are responsible for designating BPLRs. Annual CFA assessments evaluate potential threats within 310 metres of the refuge perimeters.

The coastal reserve on the east side of the Anglesea River is managed by the Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority.

Ensuring communities are prepared ahead of emergencies, supported during them and resilient in their aftermath is a strategic objective in the 2025-2029 Council Plan.

People can find information about preparing and planning for bushfire emergencies via surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Community/Emergencies-and-safety cfa.vic.gov.au/fire-safety/your-fire-plan/make-your-fire-plan/bushfire-plan

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Bellarine Peninsula Cricket Association (BPCA) A1

Winchelsea Cricket Club

Heather Edwards

A huge weekend of cricket for Winchelsea Cricket Club, with all seven sides taking to the field across the weekend!

There were some fantastic individual performances, plenty of team celebrations and even a very special family milestone.

Seniors Scores

A1 – 31/10/2026 & 7/11/2026
Winchelsea 135 defeated by Barrabool 7/297d

Day Two Highlights
Batting
Shane Currie 45
Ben Caldicott 30
Joe Edwards 19

B2 – 31/10/2026 & 7/11/2026
Winchelsea 78 & 1/104 defeated by Drysdale 175

Day Two Highlights
Bowling
Luke Lenehan 3/55
Matt Patridge 2/19
Dan Ryan 2/38
Gabby Lenehan 1/14
Batting
Todd Hardy 51 not out
Jack Jeffrey 52 not out

One Day Side – 7/11/2026
Winchelsea 38 defeated by St Leonards 7/110

Bowling
Xavier Partridge 2/11
Jesse Gray 2/15
Rex Darcy 1/11
Grant Schreurs 1/17
Nate Edwards 1/29
Batting
Xavier Partridge 18 not out
Mark McDonald 13

Three Generations – One Team!

Saturday was a particularly special day for our One Day side and the McDonald family, with three generations taking to the field together in the one team!

Milton, our Under 13s captain, had the opportunity to play alongside his dad Mark and grandfather Rob, more affectionately known around town as Dr Rob!

It was such a special sight watching these three take to the field together and seeing the love and joy shared between them, along with their family cheering them on from the sidelines. A wonderful memory and a reminder of what community cricket is all about!

Junior Cricket

Junior Blasters

Our youngest cricketers continue to bring plenty of energy and excitement to Thursday nights, with 20 little Blasters now taking part! It's fantastic to see more children joining us each week, with registrations continuing to roll in. The sea of Blasters tops out on the field is always a highlight, and it's wonderful watching these young players develop their skills, make friends and most importantly, have an absolute blast!

Under 11s – Stephenson
Winchelsea 10/135 defeated East Belmont McMahon 12/101

Player of the Week – Noah Currie
Batting
Noah Currie 21
Caleb Ford 19
Harry Korth 13
Harry McDonald 10
Bowling
Noah Ryan 5/13
Noah Currie 2/5
Caleb Ford 2/7
Charlie Wood 1/9
Jayce McConachy 1/10
Harry McDonald 1/10

Our Winchelsea Stephenson Under 11s had another impressive win on Friday evening! The boys are working brilliantly as a team, continuing to improve each week and, most importantly, never giving up.

Noah Currie was named Player of the Week after top-scoring with 21 runs and following it up with a tidy 2/5 from his three overs. Noah is one of the most experienced players in the team and a natural leader, always looking out for his teammates and taking the younger players under his wing.

Caleb Ford continued his great form with the bat, contributing 19 runs before picking up two wickets and then taking on wicketkeeping duties for half the match!

Noah Ryan also produced a phenomenal bowling spell, taking five wickets in his four overs! The absolute joy and delight on this superstar's face said it all!

Under 11s – Partridge
Winchelsea 9/63 defeated by Marshall Bears Gold 1/157

Player of the Week – Kade Darling
Batting
Lucas Kofoed 12
Heath Hamilton 11
Kade Darling 10
Bowling
Alex Jewell 1/15

Our Winchelsea Partridge Under 11s are simply a joy to watch! They bring so much happiness to everyone watching and always have an absolute blast out on the field.

Friday evening was a tough challenge for our young superstars as they came up against a very experienced opposition, but they handled themselves brilliantly!

Kade Darling was named Player of the Week after an outstanding batting performance and showing a never-give-up attitude.

Lucas Kofoed and Heath Hamilton also had a great night with the bat and looked like they were having an absolute ball out there!

Alex Jewell claimed our only wicket for the match, which was a massive highlight for him and the boys. Plenty of celebrations all round!

Under 13s
Winchelsea 5/104 defeated St Leonards Wallington 5/59

Player of the Week – Nate Edwards

Hopkins St, Winchelsea, winchelseacricketclub1858@outlook.com
Bellarine Peninsula Cricket Association (BPCA) A1

Winchelsea Cricket Club

Heather Edwards

Bowling
Nate Edwards 2/4
Archie Ryan 1/9
Lachlan Gardiner 1/13
Batting
Milton McDonald 29
Nate Edwards 17 not out
Arthur Wood 9 not out

Anyone would have thought we were at Wallington to play footy on Saturday morning, with freezing temperatures, icy winds, rain, hail and finally a little sunshine towards the end!

For the first time this season, we lost the toss and were sent in to bowl. The first wicket came courtesy of a brilliant direct-hit run out from Tom Harper, setting the scene for plenty of celebrations after every wicket!

Player of the Week Nate Edwards produced a consistent bowling performance before really turning it on in his fourth over. His first delivery clean bowled a batsman while also breaking the stumps, and he followed it up with another ripping delivery on the final ball of the over to take out his second wicket!

Lachlan Gardiner also claimed his first wicket of the season with a brilliant delivery that took out middle stump. Congratulations, Lachlan!

Our batting innings started a little shakily, with some questionable running between the wickets, but the boys managed to pull it all together to secure the win.

Arthur Wood stuck around for 43 balls, retiring twice without losing his wicket. Some big hitting from the ever-reliable Milton McDonald and a controlled innings from Nate Edwards steadied the ship and saw the boys take all six points and retain their place on top of the ladder remaining undefeated for the season!

Junior Girls
Winchelsea 7/89 defeated by St Peters Ford/East Belmont 6/130

Player of the Week – Georgia Kofoed
Batting
Grace Logan 17
Georgia Kofoed 12
Bowling
Georgia Kofoed 3 wickets
Grace Logan 1 wicket
Emily Kofoed 1 wicket

After a washout and a bye, it was finally time for our Junior Girls to get back out on the field, and boy, did they look happy and excited to be back!

The girls had an absolute blast and batted really well, showing that all their hard work at training is really paying off.

Georgia Kofoed took out Player of the Week after a terrific all-round performance, scoring 12 runs and claiming three wickets. Grace Logan continued her fantastic form with the bat, top-scoring for Winchelsea with 17 runs, while Emily Kofoed also chipped in with a wicket.

A very experienced opening batting partnership from the opposition made the challenge difficult for our girls, but to their credit, they never gave up and continued to give it their all.

Our girls are looking forward to being back at their home ground next Sunday. We would love to see a big crowd there cheering them on!

What's Coming Up?

There's plenty more cricket on the calendar next weekend!

Senior Fixtures
• A Grade – Home against Armstrong Creek (Day 1).
• B Grade – Away against Collendina (Day 1).
• One Day Side – Home against Drysdale at Hesse Street Ground.

Junior Fixtures
• Under 11s – Partridge: Friday at 5.00pm, away at Grovedale Recreation Reserve against Marshall Bears Navy.
• Under 11s – Stephenson: Friday at 5.00pm, home against Marshall Bears Gold.
• Under 13s – Saturday at 8.15am (venue to be confirmed).
• Junior Girls – Sunday at 9.00am, home against Barrabool.

Keep an eye on the Winchelsea Cricket Club Facebook page for fixture and venue updates.

Around the Club

The clubrooms will be buzzing again on Thursday night, with meals available from 6.:30pm.

Everyone is welcome to drop in, grab a meal and enjoy a catch-up with the Winchelsea Cricket Club community.

It's shaping up to be another fantastic weekend of cricket for our club. Good luck to all our teams!

Upcoming Events at Winchelsea Cricket Club

TRIVIA NIGHT - **TICKETS SELLING FAST**

Think you've got what it takes to be crowned trivia champions? Gather your mates, put your thinking caps on and join us for a fun-filled night of trivia, laughs and friendly competition!

Date: 5th December 2026
Time: 7:30pm
Location: Eastern Reserve, Winchelsea
Cost: $30 per person or $250 for a table of 10!
BYO Nibbles
Drinks at bar prices

Great company, plenty of laughs and bragging rights up for grabs!

Bring your friends, family and teammates and help us make it a night to remember.

Get your team together and book your spot now using the link below: trybooking.com/DQMJM

Let's get behind the club, support our community and see who really knows their stuff!

SAVE THE DATE – AUSTRALIA DAY 2027

T20 WCC vs WFNC Community Event!!!

More Details coming soon!!!



L-R: Ivy Tudball, Ally Mawson, Lilly Janes

Congratulations to our juniors who represented Winchelsea Football Netball Club in 2027 GDFNL Interleague trials

Wishing you the best of luck with selections, but whatever the outcome to be nominated and then complete the selection process is a credit to you all.

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Winchelsea Golf Club

Rachel Boddington

Results 4/11/26 - Wednesday Weekly Stableford

17 Players

1st - Peter Finch (24) 35 points C/B
2nd - Bill Spencer (17) 35 points C/B
BDL - Denis Chappell (21) 34 points C/B
BDL - David Harvey (18) 34 points
NTP (2nd/11th) - Peter Bath

Ladies Results 4/11/26 - Stableford

Winner: Sue Cuthbert 35 pts
R/up: Di Bartel 30 pts
NTP - 2nd: Robyn Vesey

Results 7/11/26 - Saturday Stableford

13 Players

1st - Tim Parish (22) 37 points
2nd - Tom Shaw (18) 35 points
BDL - Bill Spencer (17) 34 points C/B
BDL - Neil Hickman (12) 34 points C/B
NTP (6th/15th) - Max Bubb

Coming up:

Wednesday 11th November - Midweek Weekly Stableford - Be aware, we have a Social Group joining our competition, teeing off at 9.30am. Please be ready to play by 11am to keep the competition flowing.

Thursday 12th November 7pm - AGM

Sunday 15th - The Longest Day Fundraiser. Join us for a sausage sizzle around 6pm and bring in our 8 players with a cheer!

Our current total as a club is sitting at $5,648 to donate go to: https://www.longestday.org.au/fundraisers/winchelseagolfclubmembers

Saturday 14th November - Stableford

Saturday 21st November - Presentation (after golf) 4BBB any combination.



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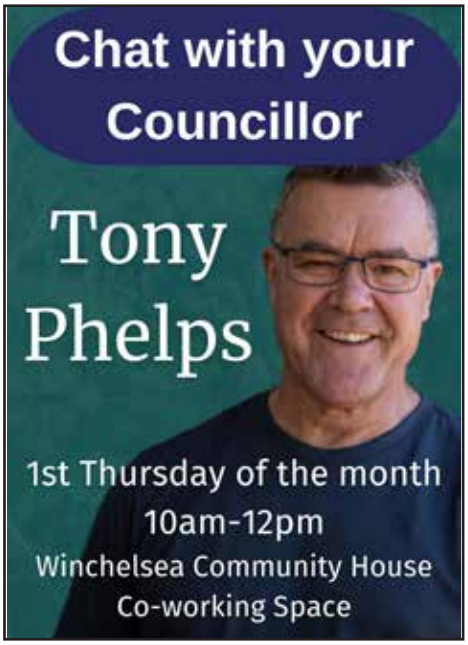
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Chat with your Councillor



Tony Phelps

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Co-working Space



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Winchelsea Bowls Club

Julie Johnson

This past week due to the Melbourne Cup all Midweek matches were played on Thursday. It was terrific to see the amount of Midweek players who attended training Thursday afternoon and once again backed up for the Saturday Pennant. Commitment leads to results and these are being seen across all the Divisions, well done Winch Blues bowlers!

MIDWEEK PENNANT RESULTS

Division 2 Winchelsea 1 def Ocean Grove 3 at home winning all rinks, 66 shots to 54 shots.

Division 5 Winchelsea 2 were def by Geelong RSL 2 away winning 1/3 rinks, 47 shots to 73 shots.

Division 9 Winchelsea 3 were def by Belmont 5 at home, 33 shots to 49 shots.

SATURDAY PENNANT RESULTS

Division 2 Winchelsea 1 def Eastern Park 2 at home winning 3/4 rinks, 103 shots to 70 shots.

Division 4 Winchelsea 2 def Point Lonsdale 1 away winning 2/4 rinks, 89 shots to 80 shots.

Division 8 Winchelsea 3 def Portarlington 3 away winning 3/4 rinks, 102 shots to 75 shots.

Division 11 Winchelsea 4 were def by Geelong RSL 3 at home, 29 shots to 47 shots.

AROUND THE GROUND

Winchelsea Bowling Club member Eric Lewis commenced bowling in season 1972/73 and has been a member for 54 years and a qualified umpire for around 40 years. Eric has not bowled since season 2021 as he sustained a very severe injury just prior to Christmas however, he has always renewed his certifications as an umpire. He comes along to all our home matches and is the umpire of the day which is enormously appreciated by the club members and he is always on top of the aggregate scoreboards.

Eric shared some fond memories of his bowling days with me such as winning the B grade singles and 21 Up in his first year of bowling. Twice a member of the Club 4's Championship in 96/97 and 2004/05 and leading in a team skipped by Davey Bath who were the first rink to ever score 50 shots. In season 2014/15 he skipped an undefeated rink for the season with a 227 winning majority, culminating in a Division 3 Premiership. He is the holder of 11 Premierships and truly has many more memories of wonderful games and friends on the green. We are extremely grateful as a club where Eric gives up 2 days a week to help us and to enjoy being part of a sport of which he has had some wonderful achievements. Congratulations and thank you Eric and when he fronts up again on Tuesday and Saturday I know he hopes the bowls are with us!!



Winchelsea Bowls Club welcomes all visitors. Our Club has a beautiful garden setting in the heart of the town. For the complete newcomer to lawn bowls, looking for a sporting activity that promises much fun and enjoyment with a competitive element, then the friendly, welcoming atmosphere of our Bowling Club is be the place to be.

parkrun 138

7 November 2026

8am Saturdays, Trebeck Reserve, Winchelsea
parkrun.com.au/trebeckreserve



Thirty parkrunners enjoyed the course through Trebeck Reserve this week in great running conditions.

We had visitors from Torquay and Geelong.

Ten amazing people completed their personal best time for Trebeck Reserve parkrun. Congratulations to Christian Kattwinkel, Julie Stirling, Bronwyn Walker, Megan James, Nicholas Phelps, Henry Mangan, Xavier Mangan, Marty Stirling, Greg Mangan and Jacob Sweeny.

This event was made possible by the following volunteers: Graeme Webb, Neil McInnes, Don Smith, Jeff Butler, Jett Butler, Ann Jones, Dianna Vesey, Kate McInnes, Murray Bennett.

It takes a minimum of six people each week to safely conduct an enjoyable event. Please email trebeckreserve@parkrun.com if you are able to volunteer some of your time. Tasks are simple, sociable, fun and very much appreciated.

We are seeking people interested in sharing the role of Run Director. It involves coordinating volunteers, setting up for the event and making sure things run smoothly. The role is easy to learn and there is plenty of support.

Further details of this week's results can be found at trebeckreserveparkrun.com.au/results or check out our Facebook page for more photos and further information.

If you wish to join us any Saturday morning as a walker, runner or volunteer please complete the simple online registration at parkrun.com.au/register, this is free, only needs to be done once and can be used at any of the 5,000 plus parkrun events worldwide.

Winchelsea Star
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