



*This Week's Sponsors:*

*Lyn and Rob Bingham*

*Thank you very much*

## SKIPTON SPRING FESTIVAL

With all eyes focused on the Heavens everyone was looking skyward hoping that we would get through the official part of the day for the "Unveiling of the 'Bennie Wilkie' Statue" on Sunday morning.

With a "not-so-good" weather forecast from the night before, everyone was looking skyward hoping that forecasters may have it wrong.

People gathered at the statue nice and early to get a seat and a good spot to learn more about this very much loved Champion Blade Shearer who lived his whole life in Skipton.

With many past residents making the trip to Skipton it was fantastic to see old friends reacquainting their friendships after many years apart. Lots to talk about and heaps to catch up with as well.

It was difficult to calculate the number of people who came to the Festival because some people stayed all day as others stopped for a while and continued their trips after enjoying a snack and to enjoy the various and diverse stalls so well stocked with quality products. Fantastic opportunity to shop for Christmas Gifts for the Family.

The sight of the Marquees all in readiness for the day was fantastic and the organisers would like thank those special helpers who did all of the setting up and then the clearing up later. Everyone had a job and all contributed to the success of the event.

*Continues on page*



*We were lucky to have had better weather and a nicer day on Thursday when these two photos were taken.*

The Weekly Times reporter contacted the Committee because she wanted to put an article together, about Skipton Spring Festival, (but due to deadlines came earlier for their story), so the Committee Members assembled for her visit and photo opportunity on a bit more relaxed gathering.

Rhonda Slater, Bennie and Bessie Wilkie's daughter took the opportunity to practice wielding her Father's original shears. Rhonda used these same shears on Sunday to "Cut The Ribbon"

The shears in the statue have also been used by Bennie when he was in his heyday shearing sheep around the country.



Photo on the right includes the Historical Society Members and Skipton Progress Association Members who have worked so hard to bring this event and all it includes to our Community.

From left is Graeme Pett, Historical SHS, Val Dad SPA, Dave Hunneybell President of both the Skipton Historical Society and Skipton Progress Association Inc, Rhonda Slater, Paul Middleton, Stonemason, and Barbara Pett,

## Public Notices

### Anglican Parish of Beaufort & Skipton

Contact: Marilyn Ellis 5340 3515 for enquires  
**Service times:** 9.00am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays  
 of each month.



### St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Contact Stewart or Belle 5349 5553 with enquiries.

**Service Times:** Presbyterian Congregation  
 Skipton / Lismore

- \* Week One 10 am Skipton
- \* Week Two 10 am Skipton
- \* Week Three 10 am Skipton
- \* Week Four 10 am Skipton
- \* Week Five 11am Lismore.



### St John The Baptist Catholic Church, Beaufort

- \* Week One Sunday LLA 10:00am
- \* Week Two Sunday Mass 8:30 am
- \* Week Three Sunday LLA 10:00am
- \* Week Four Sunday Mass 8:30 am
- \* Week Five Sunday LLA 10:00am .



### Catholic Parishes of Linton, Redan and Sebastopol:

Communities of Linton, Skipton, Smythesdale & Snake Valley

All Linton Parish Enquiries Contact Parish Priest: Fr. Eugene McKinnon,  
 Presbytery: 508 Leith St, Redan Phone: 5331 4981,

#### Sunday Masses throughout

##### St Peter's Catholic Parish of Linton

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| St John's, Skipton        | Sunday 10.30am        |
| St Brigid's, Snake Valley | Saturday 6.30pm       |
| St Peter's, Linton        | Sunday 9.00am         |
| St. Aloysius, Redan       | St. James, Sebastopol |
| Thursday 9.30am           | Friday 9.30am         |
| Saturday 6.00pm           | Sunday 10.30am        |
| Sunday 9.00am             |                       |



### St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Monday** – 10.00am **Tuesday** – 7.00am and 10.00am  
**Wednesday** – 7.00am, 10.00am, 12:20 pm Diocesan Historical Commission  
**Thursday** – 7.00am, 10.00am, 12:20 pm  
**Friday** – 12.05pm, 6.00pm

(Reconciliation at 11.00am until midday)

**Saturday** – 10.00am (Reconciliation at 10.30am)

#### WEEKEND MASSES

**Saturday** 5.30pm Vigil  
**Sunday** 8.00am, 10.30am, 5.00pm

**Bishop:** Bishop Paul Bird CSsR **Parish Administrator:** Fr Ed Moloney.  
**Assistant Priests:** Fr James McKay. **Visiting Priests:** Fr Dan Arundell Fr Barry Ryan. **Parish Secretary Sacramental Coordinator** Tony Beggs. **Finance Officer:** Bernadette Prestwood. **Safeguarding Officers:** Tony Beggs/Maria Noonan



### BIBLE THOUGHT

—the simpleton listens not to good advice and comes to grief, the stupid are ruined by their own complacency.  
**Proverbs chapter 1, verse 32**

### SKIPTON TRANSFER STATION

Beaufort Road, Skipton.

Transfer Station opens next on

Sun 30th October 2023, Wed 2nd November 2023,  
 Sun 13th November 2023, Wed 16th November 2023,  
 Sun 27th November 2023, Wed 30th November 2023,  
**Opening Hours: from 1 pm to 5 pm.**



## Public Notices



Local Community members are encouraged to apply to join the Stockyard Hill Wind Farm Community Reference Group for the next membership term of two (2) years (2024 – 2026).

There will be two (2) meetings each year to consider and recommend funding applications for Stockyard Hill Wind Farm's \$300,000 per year Community Investment Fund.

Terms of reference and application forms can be found on our website and any enquiries can be sent to [contact@stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au](mailto:contact@stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au).

Thank you to all the Community Reference Group members who have contributed to helping their local communities. Thanks to your recommendations, Stockyard Hill Wind Farm has distributed more than \$1.6m into local projects.

Applications close on 17 November 2023.

**STOCKYARD HILL WIND FARM PTY LTD**

Email:

[sharon.knight@stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au](mailto:sharon.knight@stockyardhillwindfarm.com.au)



LISMORE LAND PROTECTION GROUP  
 Promoting Sustainable Landscapes

## Carbon on Farm

With Cam Nicolson



#### Time & Location

16th Nov, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Lismore, Vic. Venue TBD.

RSVP to receive updates on the venue location once confirmed.

#### About the event

*Carbon on Farm: Emissions, inseting and offsetting, record keeping and more for farmers, consultants, advisors, agronomists.*

Agricultural expert Cam Nicolson will provide a detailed overview of the current agricultural carbon requirements and trends in government and industry. After attending this session you will be equipped with the knowledge to start collecting data for your business that will set you up to participate in the carbon space.

RSVP to Sarah on 0439 059 202 or email [lismorelpg@gmail.com](mailto:lismorelpg@gmail.com) or RSVP on our [website events page](#).

#### About the speaker:

Cam Nicolson has over 35 years of experience in the agricultural industry and runs his own consulting business near Geelong, Nicon Rural Services, where he works with grazing and cropping farmers. Cam also operates his own beef and sheep farm.

He has closely followed the ever changing world of Carbon on farms since 2011. He has a realistic approach to tackle this space and provides simple steps on how to best make decisions for your farm.

If you are confused about what the carbon requirements will be for farmers in the future then attend this session as Cam will take you through all there is to know to help you on your way to be an expert in this area.



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## SKIPTON SPRING FESTIVAL

Most of the Visitors made their way across the Mount Emu Creek Bridge to Stewart Park and the Skipton Historical Precinct to learn more about our community and some optimistic people hoped to see a platypus whilst there, however, they were treated to so many special sights with the Park they all left happy..

An ice-cream, fairy floss and busy food vendors, fed our guests and Progress Association BBQ Volunteers were flat out all day. Many thanks to Sam and Phil, Sophia, and their assistants for all of your work, your customers were all delighted with their day.

Members of the Historical Society provided a wonderful tribute, authentic with a jute wool pack for the table colourful dedication to Bennie Wilkie for visitors to learn more about our very special

Skiptonite.

Special thanks to the Members of the Historical Society for their attention to detail in presentation to this display and for the cuppa and nibbles enjoyed as people were thankful for the warmth of the Skipton Museum.

The addition of the new Skipton Wool Museum, featured wool through the ages, and the Nash Wool Wagon and Wooden Wool Press took us all back to yesteryear, with growers thankful for the innovations taken place during the following years, top our time and the self pinning wool presses of today. The group would like to thank Gavan Corbett and Kirsty and Paul, at Fox & Lillie Rural for their generosity and assistance with pressing up the bales in the display.

Thanks too to Fox & Lillie Rural with their well set up display in the CBD and contact with woolgrowers. Maps in their display showed just how the history of fine wool and merino sheep and the important link Skipton has had in the Wool Industry in the past. Dan and Mel McKinnon busy chatting to farmers about Anywhere Crutching.

Milton Savage and Lisa McLean explained the process of shearing and wool handling with a cute little lamb capturing most of the attention of our younger visitors to the show. Thank you both for your time and expertise, and to Milton thank you for providing the Corriedale Sheep for shearing and the fleeces to display on Sunday.

It was quite a treat to welcome John McGrath to the Festival. John has a long background in Blade Shearing training shearers and judging at the Shows, John demonstrated the blade shearing techniques and answered numerous questions.

Very popular were the Children's Amusements and Entertainment in Stewart Park, with the Face Painter kept busy with some terrific unique designs. My favourite was the Dolphin I think.

To the organising Committee thanks from us all. It was a fantastic day, enjoyed by all. K





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To make a difference to your mental health career, visit  
**[jobsthatmatter.vic.gov.au](https://jobsthatmatter.vic.gov.au)**

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## Mayor Gstrein recognised for 20 years on Council

Corangamite Shire Mayor Ruth Gstrein was recognised at the Municipal Association of Victoria annual conference on Thursday night.

Cr Gstrein was presented with a Councillor Service Award for 20 years of dedication.

The Central Ward Councillor was first elected to Council in 2002, and was re-elected in 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016 and 2020. She has served two three-year stints as Mayor between, 2007-2009, then again from 2020.

She has also served as an MAV Board Director for 10 years, including as Deputy President (Rural).

"Having been part of six councils over the time, I have served alongside councillors who have always been focussed on progress and the wellbeing of Corangamite residents and businesses," she said.

"Previous Councillor Geoff Smith, who I had the pleasure of sitting beside for many years, was a great mentor, who always provided me with support and sound advice.

"I love local government and the ability to work closely with groups and the wider community to achieve their goals," Cr Gstrein said.

Cr Gstrein said highlights of her time on Council included

the Apex Park upgrade project, the launch and evolution of the Robert Burns Festival, construction of the Camperdown Stadium and Terang gym and most recently the new library service venture with Moyne Shire and the Twelve Apostles Trail.

"The Camperdown skate park was another terrific project. There were some really enthusiastic young people who got involved and helped with the planning and fundraising and then got to enjoy the fruits of their labour.

"It's never dull. Every day you have no idea of what could arise, who a phone call could come from, how big or small the issues are.

"To me all of these things are important, and I just enjoy being able to play my part.

"Organisation wise, I appreciate the amazing staff we have who do their best to deliver quality services and projects.

Cr Gstrein said her 20 years on Council had also had its challenges, notably COVID-19 and other natural disasters, meeting community expectations with limited finances, and cost-shifting from other tiers of government.

Despite ongoing advocacy, it was disheartening to see the continued deterioration of the State arterial road network, she said.

"Disaster recovery, particularly following floods and fires, has been an inspiration seeing the fantastic connections in our communities and the relationships we have built to support one another," she said.

"At the end of the day, I am one of seven within a team. I am grateful for the support given to me by my fellow councillors along with my incredible family Peter, Christopher and Lucy. I couldn't do this job without them."

The MAV Councillor Services Awards celebrate the achievements, commitment, and dedication of long-serving councillors across the state.

In all, 77 Councillors from across the state received Councillor Service Awards for 10, 15, 20 and 25 years and eight received Mayor Emeritus Awards for three terms leading their respective Councils.

MAV President, Cr David Clark, said serving one's community through your local council is a unique responsibility.

"Communities need dedicated individuals, like those receiving these awards, who are willing to give their time and energy to serve in the best interests of the people and their local communities," Cr Clark said.

"Being a councillor can sometimes be a thankless task. We think it's important, as the peak body for the local government sector, to provide this recognition."

"The MAV has the great privilege of seeing firsthand the hard work and hours dedicated councillors put into their role – often on top of their day job. It's a credit to all those receiving awards."

"Councils are proud to be part of their communities, they are the true local representatives. It's a great honour, but equally a responsibility I know all of these recipients take very seriously," Cr Clark said.

**Photograph: : Federal Local Government Minister Kristy McBain presents Mayor Ruth Gstrein with her 20-year Councillor Service Award.**





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CORANGAMITE SHIRE

# Noticeboard



## Community Volunteer Awards

Nominations now open!



Nominations are now open for the Corangamite Shire Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year, and Community Event of the Year. Closing date will be Friday 27 October.

The awards will be presented in Skipton on 26 January 2024.

To nominate someone, please visit [corangamite.vic.gov.au/VolunteerAwards](https://corangamite.vic.gov.au/VolunteerAwards) or scan the QR code.

## Free green waste disposal

A higher than normal bushfire forecast for this summer means it's time to prune around your property and minimise potential fuel. Council is offering free domestic green waste disposal to Shire residents from Saturday 14 October to Sunday 5 November to help you get ready for fire season.

In addition, green-lidded Food Organics and Garden Organics bins are being collected weekly, instead of fortnightly, until the end of the year.

For more information or to find your nearest transfer station, go to [corangamite.vic.gov.au/Rubbish-and-Recycling](https://corangamite.vic.gov.au/Rubbish-and-Recycling)

## Subscribe to e-News

Stay informed and keep up-to-date with what's happening around Corangamite Shire by subscribing to our monthly e-news at [corangamite.vic.gov.au/e-news](https://corangamite.vic.gov.au/e-news)

## 2024 calendar

Where is your favourite place or top thing to do in Corangamite?

There are loads of amazing places to go and things to do in Corangamite Shire. Council is planning the 2024 wall calendar and we're calling on you to recommend where we should send a photographer. Tell us your pick via the online form at [corangamite.vic.gov.au/2024Calendar](https://corangamite.vic.gov.au/2024Calendar) by Friday 27 October.

## Mobile cinema

Does your community group want to host a movie night? The Mobile Cinema program is available for community groups between November 2023 and March 2024. Visit [corangamite.vic.gov.au/mobile-cinema](https://corangamite.vic.gov.au/mobile-cinema) for more information and to submit an EoI.

Submissions close Friday 20 October.

## Facility Design Grants Program now open

Sporting clubs and organisations across Corangamite Shire can apply for grants of up to \$7,500 through the Facility Design Grants program. The funding provides assistance to clubs and organisations to develop designs for future improvements to facilities.

Application forms and guidelines at [corangamite.vic.gov.au/grants](https://corangamite.vic.gov.au/grants)

## Free RATs from Council

Free Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) are available Camperdown Civic Centre and libraries. You can receive up to 10 tests (two kits) for each member of your household per visit. This initiative is delivered with support from the State Government.

## Winners of the 15th Skipton Photographic Show

Held over the weekend of the 7th and 8th of October, Skipton Photographic Club held their Photographic Show, after a couple of years off, it was very pleasing to organisers to see a return to the popular Show allowing Photographers, Young and those a little more mature!! to share their talents “behind the camera lens” to bring a diverse subject matter in their Catalogue.

Photographed here receiving her award from Stan Foote for the Novice Section, Susan Stanley had terrific success at the Show. Susan entered her photos in various categories, showing much interest in her subjects.

Members supplied yummy refreshments, much enjoyed by the visitors, many of whom had travelled quite long distances to attend over the weekend.

It's time for you to “Start Clicking” so that you have photos to enter next year.

Skipton Photographic Club holds regular Monthly Meetings at the Skipton Mechanics Hall, and each month the Members have a different theme.

Who knows you may well find a fantastic new hobby?

One category could well be “Best Photo of a Canola Crop”!! You would have a lovely bright yellow wall of competitors making the Judge's decision quite difficult.

Many of the Primary School Students are already showing considerable skills with their cameras. It can be a wonderful interest for all ages and makes walks and travelling so much more enjoyable if you have a pictorial record of your journey.

Unfortunately SCN doesn't have Raffle Results at the time of printing, Maybe next edition. K.

### Category Winner:

#### OPEN

Open: Phil Morris “Being Watched”.  
Novice: Amand Brown “Summer Splash”  
Primary School Youth Ruby Sim “Cloud Eye”.  
Non-Primary School Youth Grace Barr “Wave 8”.

#### MONOCHROME

Open: Phil Morris “I'm A Nuisance”.  
Novice: Heather Rasheed “Old Timers”  
Primary School Youth: Patrick Mulcahy “Grazer”.  
Non-Primary School Youth: \_\_\_\_\_

#### NATURE

Open: Bill Blackburn “A Sense of Belonging”.  
Novice: Susan Stanley “Things Are Looking Up”.



Primary School Youth: Patrick Mulcahy “Agge 2”.

Non-Primary School Youth: Grace Barr “Nature's Window”.

#### RURAL

Open: Lynne McConnell “Hard Work”

Novice: Heather Rasheed “No one Home”

Primary School Youth: Ruby Sim “Sweet Three Sum”

Non-Primary School Youth: Patrick Gowans “Skipton From High”

#### PEOPLE

Open: Lyn McConnell “Gazing Out”.

Novice: Barbara Carrick “Up, Up and Away”.

Primary School Youth: Abbie Bradshaw “Harper”.

Non-Primary School Youth: Grace Barr “Dad and Fee”.

#### STREET PHOTOGRAPHY

Open: Karen Bradshaw “Grand Secrets - Books”.

Novice: Susan Stanley “Roundabout”.

Primary School Youth: Non-Primary School Youth: Emma Gowans “Sovereign Hill”.

#### BEST IN SECTION

Open: Phil Morris “Being Watched”.

Novice: Barbara Cavrack “Grand Secrets—Books”.

Primary School Youth: Ruby Sim “Cloud Eyes”

Non-Primary School Youth: Grace Barr “Waves”.

#### CHAMPION PRINT

Phil Morris “Being Watched”.

#### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Joyce Burn “Old Cottage Still Stands”.

#### PACKER'S AWARD:

Phillip Morris “Stockman

**PRIMARY SCHOOL YOUTH ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD:** Winner: Ruby Sim

**NON-PRIMARY SCHOOL YOUTH ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD** Winner: Ruby Sim

#### **PEOPLE'S CHOICE:**

180—Joyce Byrne from Paven near Horsham

## JOINT STATEMENT ON VOICE

*Sunday, 15 October 2023*

We know that a lot of First Nations people will be hurting today. We know that for many Australians, the pain they feel will linger – and for others, it may never fade at all.

To First Nations people, we say this clearly: Victorians respect you and your culture.

We want a better future for you.

We want a better future for your communities.

We want a better future for your children.

And we want a better future for the generations to come.

The Voice was intended to be a way to hear what First Nations people have to say, and work to build a better future –

together. We can all get behind that principle.

Australians have decided that the Commonwealth approach to change the Constitution – in this particular way – was not the right way to go.

There is one truth we know to be self-evident: when Aboriginal Victorians thrive, we're all the stronger for it.

We'll keep working towards a stronger, fairer future for Aboriginal Victorians – led by, shaped by and driven by Aboriginal Victorians.

And at all times, we'll remain in awe of the extraordinary strength, resilience, and survival of First Nations people across this country.

Jacinta Allan  
Premier of Victoria

Natalie Hutchins  
Minister for Treaty and First Peoples



18 OCTOBER 2023

# BSHS NEWS BULLETIN

## DONATIONS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The importance of quality end of life care support has recently been enhanced at the Health Service thanks to a generous donation by the Beaufort and Skipton Health Service Foundation. Nigel Ponder (Foundation President) and Nick Shady (Foundation Director) recently visited the Health Service to view the Comfort Care Station, Lift Chair and Lightweight Wheelchairs purchased with the generous donation.



*Meryn Pease (CEO), Nick Shady (BSHS Foundation Director), Nicole Clarke, (Nurse Unit Manager), Nigel Ponder (BSHS Foundation President).*

The Comfort Care Station is incredibly important for staff and families. We have been able to set up a station at each campus with all the items required, this includes a tape deck with music, aromatherapy, and all the needs for end of life care. Ten lift chairs which are shared between Beaufort and Skipton sites have also been purchased as well as four light wheelchairs, which are much easier to use to transport patients to appointments and are easier to pack into vehicles.

The Beaufort and Skipton Health Service Foundation Limited is an independent organisation that administers donations and sources funding for the benefit of the Health service. The Health Service thanks the Foundation for their continued support to assist the Health Service.





## CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY'S FINEST IN 2023

The Golden Plains Shire Council Community Awards are set to make a return in 2023, offering a formal platform to acknowledge and celebrate exceptional individuals and community organisations that greatly contribute to the Shire.

Nominations are now open for: Citizen of the Year, Senior Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and the Community Impact Award which acknowledges the significant contributions of a community event, project, group, or team.

Nominees are encouraged to showcase their achievements across a range of fields, encompassing community service, arts and culture, environmental initiatives, business, economic development, and sports.

Golden Plains Shire Mayor Cr Brett Cunningham said local residents and community groups continued to make extraordinary contributions to the Shire, and these efforts deserved recognition.

"Every single day we see the Golden Plains community working hard to not only realise their own goals, but also help make other people's lives better through their tireless community work, volunteering, community events and projects," Cr Cunningham said.

"Submitting a nomination for the Golden Plains Shire Council Community Awards is essential to ensure we recognise these remarkable people and groups, while taking the opportunity to celebrate their valuable contributions in our thriving local communities.

"Council encourages all residents to take some time and think about those who have contributed so much to Golden Plains Shire in 2023 and submit a nomination to recognise their achievements and thank them for their work."

Nominations for the Golden Plains Shire Council Community Awards 2023 are open from 9am Monday 9 October to 5pm, Monday 20 November 2023.

An awards ceremony, scheduled for early 2024, will serve as the platform to recognise nominees and unveil the Community Award recipients.

Nomination forms can be completed online at [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations) and at Council's Customer Hubs located at 2 Pope Street, Bannockburn, and The Well, 19 Heales Street, Smythesdale.

To submit a nomination, complete the online form or send the completed nomination form by email to [communityengagement@GPLAINS.VIC.GOV.AU](mailto:communityengagement@GPLAINS.VIC.GOV.AU) or post to Communications and Engagement Officer, Golden Plains Shire Council, 2 Pope St, Bannockburn VIC 3331.

For more information about the Golden Plains Shire Council Community Awards 2023, visit [goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations](https://goldenplains.vic.gov.au/consultations) or call 5220 7111.

## ROAD MAINTENANCE BLITZ KICKS OFF ACROSS REGIONAL VICTORIA

The Allan Labor Government has kicked off this year's road maintenance blitz – improving connections and making roads in every corner of Victoria safer for drivers, passengers and freight transport.

Between now and June 2024, with the winter over and conditions drying up, crews will be carrying out on-road repairs, inspecting and maintaining bridges, traffic lights and signage as well as controlling vegetation on roadsides to minimise bushfire risk on the state's road corridors.

**Minister for Roads and Road Safety Melissa Horne said,** "We've already made record investments in repairing and maintaining our state's roads – our new, long-term road maintenance plan will deliver even better-targeted works and improved outcomes for Victorians."

"We know we are facing a significant and complex repair program after some of the worst floods in our state's history – that's why our plan is backed by a long-term funding commitment and data-driven plan to fix our roads."

Most of this work will be delivered in regional Victoria, where flooding and extreme rainfall has caused the most widespread damage – as part of the first phase of a 10-year, \$6.6 billion maintenance strategy, this year's priority will be patching and repairing damage, before future-proofing our roads to make sure they last.

New road maintenance contracts introduced this year will mean the work is done better than ever – delivering better value for Victorians' money, less disruption while crews get on with the work, and higher-quality road maintenance, where it's needed most.

**Department of Transport and Planning Chief of Regional Transport Michael Bailey said,** "Using more data and more technology than ever before our experts have put together a program of works that will repair the worst of last year's flood damage and deliver smoother, more reliable journeys for hundreds of thousands of Victorians each year."

It also means more local jobs for hardworking regional Victorians, with more than 360 great local jobs and a huge economic boost to regional communities.

It comes on top of a massive maintenance blitz delivered over the past 12 months, which saw more than 1800 kilometres of the state's roads undergo rebuilding and repair work, including hundreds of major road rebuilding, resurfacing, and sealing works on the Western, Hume, Calder, Sunraysia and Murray Valley highways.

More than 370,000 potholes have been patched, 21,000 signs repaired or replaced, tens of thousands of kilometres of roadside grass and weeds have been mowed, slashed, and sprayed and more than 290,000 tonnes of snow have been shifted from roads across the state's Alpine regions.

**FOREST FIREFIGHTERS AT THE FOREFRONT OF BUSHFIRE RESPONSE**

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) is stronger than ever ahead of the upcoming bushfire season with a significant boost to its workforce and rapid response capability.

Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos today announced the Allan Labor Government has bolstered crew numbers to combat bushfires – investing \$21.7 million to create 100 ongoing and 54 fixed term Forest Fire Operations Officer positions, adding to the 550 seasonal firefighters recruited to work with FFMVic this season.

The resources boost means more boots on the ground to respond and reduce the risk of bushfire to communities through planned burns, mechanical fuel treatments and maintenance of our strategic fuel break network.

**Steve Dimopoulos, Minister for Environment, said** *“Living with a changing climate means bushfires are occurring more often and are more intense – that’s why we are investing in our forest firefighters who are at the frontline of protecting our communities and environment.”*

*“It has been a pleasure meeting with some of our forest firefighters and learning more about the special skills and equipment they use to reduce bushfire risk and respond to fires.”*

The recent firefighter recruitment builds an 1800-strong force of FFMVic personnel on the frontline – so alongside other partner agencies, departments and volunteers, Victoria will have more than 62,800 people in fire and emergency roles for this upcoming bushfire season.

**Minister for Emergency Services Jaelyn Symes said,** *“Our emergency management services are well prepared for the upcoming bushfire season and I urge all Victorians to be ready too.”*

The workforce prepares and responds to bushfires all year round – between 1 July and 30 September of this year, FFMVic firefighters responded to 142 fires, which is just below the 10-year average of 148 during the same period.

FFMVic also supports a range of emergency response activities including Victoria’s recent floods and deployment to Canada to combat wildfires.

**Chief Fire Officer Chris Hardman said, Forest Fire Management Victoria** *“Victoria will always have bushfires, but we can assure communities that when a bushfire starts, FFMVic is ready to respond – we work every day to reduce bushfire risk to communities.”*

Victorians are encouraged to do their part to stay safe this bushfire season by preparing their properties, making a Bushfire Plan and staying up to date on emergency information and warnings.

For more information, visit [emergency.vic.gov.au/prepare](https://emergency.vic.gov.au/prepare).



**CELEBRATING THE 2023 VICTORIAN SENIOR OF THE YEAR**

Warrnambool local and Parkinson’s champion Andrew Suggett OAM has won the prestigious Victorian Senior of the Year award for his efforts leading the local Parkinson’s Support Group for more than a decade.

Mr Suggett and 18 other recipients were recognised for their community work today by Minister for Ageing Ingrid Stitt and Governor of Victoria, Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC, at a ceremony at Government House.

Mr Suggett was instrumental in creating an inclusive environment for people to discuss their experiences through a broad range of groups and activities including Painting with Parkinson’s, Exercise for Parkinson’s, and ParkinSong – a fortnightly therapeutic singing group developed by music therapists and speech pathologists.

**Minister for Ageing Ingrid Stitt said,** *“The Victorian Senior of the Year Awards celebrate the outstanding achievements of older Victorians and give us the chance to say thanks for all they do. I congratulate all award recipients and nominees.”*

*“I’m proud to present these awards as part of the Victorian Seniors Festival, which is in its 41<sup>st</sup> year. I encourage all Victorians to get along and join the celebrations that honour our valued seniors.”*

The awards provide a chance to celebrate senior Victorians who share their skills, experience, time, and energy with our community. Other category award recipients include:

- Mrs Hanh Tran, who received the Promotion of Multiculturalism Award
- Mr Douglas Sloan, who received the Healthy and Active Living Award
- Mr Maxwell Primmer, who received the Ageing Well Award
- Mr Dennis Clarke, who received the Veteran Community Award category.

Additionally, 14 Victorians received Council on the Ageing (COTA) Victoria Senior Achiever Awards.

For more information about the 2023 Victorian Senior of the Year Awards and read profiles about award recipients visit [seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/awards](https://seniorsonline.vic.gov.au/awards).

*Sporting News*



**Pennant Bowls Results Division 7**

**Saturday 14th October 2023:**

Skipton Bowlers travelled to Invermay, weather cool and overcast..

**Invermay (2) 109 shots def Skipton (1) 46 shots**



Elizabeth Bolton	Imogen Clarke	Andrew Nethercott	Stu Haley	Lost 8-33
Chris Slater	Madelaide Lincoln	Scott Ferdinands	Tim Clarke	Lost 15-21
Jim Hinton	—————	Doug Smith	Brendan McIntyre	Lost 15-25
Cheryl Sturgeon	Darryl Rowe	Ian Collins	Frank Ellingham	Lost 10-30

**Got an Event Coming Up?**

**To make BOOKINGS FOR**

**SKIPTON MECHANICS HALL**

**Contact: Shayley Grigsby**

**0447 050 095**

**The Boys at Golf City in Ballarat are passionate about Golf.**

**Ben and Richard invite you to their Driving Range to improve your techniques when the actual scoring is taken out of the equation.**

## **Not just for Adults, Golf is for Everyone!!**

Skipton Golf Club is hoping to get Golf up and running again in Skipton after a long recess of the weekly Saturday competition, and Ladies Mid-Week Golf. Golf keeps EVERYONE fit and healthy.

In recent years, Skipton Primary School, together with Tony Collier, has introduced the students to this great game.

## **7 Reasons Golf is Cool for Kids**

**Getting your kids into golf can be a rewarding and beneficial decision for several reasons:**

**1. Physical Activity:** Golf is a sport that requires walking and swinging, which promotes physical fitness. It helps kids develop coordination, balance, and strength. Walking an 18-hole golf course can cover several miles, offering a great way to stay active.

**2. Lifetime Sport:** Golf is a sport that can be enjoyed throughout one's life. Starting young can give your kids a head start in developing their skills, which they can continue to refine as they grow older. It's a sport they can play with friends, family, or on their own.

**3. Social Interaction:** Golf is a social sport that encourages interaction with others. Your kids can make friends on the course and learn important social skills, such as etiquette, sportsmanship, and patience.

**4. Mental Development:** Golf is a mentally challenging game that requires strategy and concentration. It can help improve problem-solving skills, decision-making, and focus.

**5. Time Outdoors:** Golf is typically played in beautiful natural settings. Spending time outdoors in green spaces can have numerous physical and mental health benefits. It's a great way to disconnect from screens and appreciate nature.

**6. Family Bonding:** Golf can be a family activity. Playing golf together can create lasting memories and provide quality time for bonding with your kids.

### **Join Us for a Golf Enthusiasts' Gathering!**

**Date:** October 29th, 2023

**Time:** Meeting at 3:00 PM

**Venue:** Skipton Golf Club

**Calling All Skipton Locals!**

Are you passionate about golf and eager to see Senior and Junior Golf thrive in Skipton once again? Skipton Golf Club invites you to a special gathering on Sunday 29th of October at 3:00 PM.

#### **All Are Welcome!**

Whether you are a seasoned golfer, or you are a budding enthusiast, or if you are simply interested learning more about supporting the growth of golf in Skipton, this meeting is for you.

- **3:00 PM - 4:30 PM:** Informative Meeting
- **4:30 PM - 6:00 PM:** 5-Hole Golf Competition

#### **Refreshments:**

A delicious BBQ will be served during the event to keep you energized and satisfied.

We value your ideas, enthusiasm, input, and commitment to making golf an integral part of our community once again.

#### **Contact:**

For any inquiries or to RSVP, please get in touch with David Sproules:

Email: [davids@e2e.org.au](mailto:davids@e2e.org.au)

- Mobile: 0423 528 255

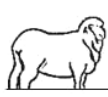
Let's come together to support the return of Senior and Junior Golf in Skipton.

Your presence and enthusiasm can make a significant difference.

We look forward to seeing you on the 29th of October at Skipton Golf Club!



Mount Emu Creek



# Skipton Community News

Community News

Stewart Park

HOUSEHOLDER  
POSTAGE PAID  
Skipton VIC 3361

The Skipton Community News is a project of the Skipton Progress Association Inc. and is published on Wadawurrung land. The Skipton Progress Association respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

18th October 2023

Volume 46

Thank you to this week's sponsor

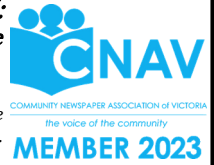
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Issue 32

**FROM THE EDITOR:** Editor Kathy Sproules 14 Scott St Skipton, Phone 03 5340 2340, fax 5340 2434. Email: [skiptonscn@bigpond.com](mailto:skiptonscn@bigpond.com) SCN can also be found online at [www.skiptonaustralia.org](http://www.skiptonaustralia.org) and on Facebook, for those who prefer to read the newsletter electronically. K

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The Editor reserves the right to withhold any items considered to be inappropriate for this publication. Anonymous contributions will not be published. Name and contact number must be provided with all articles intended for publication so contributor can be contacted if required. Views expressed in SCN are not necessarily endorsed or approved by Skipton Progress Association Inc. Kathy Sproules Editor.



## Meetings & Coming Events

**OCTOBER IS SENIOR CITIZENS MONTH** Check out the great Shows and Events that you can go to!! Corangamite Shire and Skipton have it all right near your door. **Check out the details for a morning's entertainment at the Skipton Golf Club on Wednesday 25th of October**, see below!! Assistance with Transport is available if required. Golden Plains Shire and Pyrenees Shire also have great events for you too.



### SKIPTON SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB MEETS EVERY MONDAY AT SKIPTON MECHANICS INSTITUTE HALL

From 2pm till 4pm on Monday, and on the fourth Monday have an earlier start of 12 noon for Lunch. Committee Meeting 2pm. Fantastic way to meet new friends and enjoy a weekly outing. Play Cards, Bingo, Carpet Bowls, and "Other Stuff"!!

- \* Seniors also have trips and outings during the year.
- \* Just come along, you will be happy you did.



### SKIPTON EUCHRE PLAYERS MEETS EVERY TUESDAY AT THE SKIPTON MECHANICS HALL

From 1:30pm till 3:30 pm  
Enjoy a Cuppa and Chat after Cards.



Monday 23rd October: **SKIPTON & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB** meet at 7:30 pm, in the Supper Room Mechanics Hall, Skipton. **October: "TBA"**. Everyone welcome, young, old, amateur, professional or just interested to learn more about your camera and photography in general.

Enquires Karen Crosbie ph 0448871784 or Karen Bradshaw ph 0439 630 884

Wednesday 25th October: **VICTORIAN SENIORS FESTIVAL 2023 "VARIETY CONCERT"** featuring Eric Read. Skipton Bowls/Golf Club, 26 Rokewood-Skipton Road Skipton. at 10:30 am.

A free event presented by Corangamite Shire. Please call Corangamite Shire on 5593 7100 to book. If you require transport to the event, please advise when booking and we can arrange this for you for free.

Sunday 29th October: Join **SKIPTON GOLF CLUB Inc** for a **GOLF ENTHUSIASTS' GATHERING!** Meeting at 3 o'clock and Golf at 4:30 pm. For any inquiries or to RSVP, please get in touch with David Sproules, Email: [davids@e2e.org.au](mailto:davids@e2e.org.au), Mobile: 0423 528 255. See page 15.

Thursday 2nd November. **SKIPTON PROGRESS ASSOCIATION Inc.** regular monthly meeting for November will be held in the Skipton Mechanics Hall, at 7.00 p.m.

Business will include a report on the activities of the **Skipton Spring Festival**, all welcome to attend, especially those who might like to participate as members in future events. For further information please contact Secretary on 0437 455 049 or President on 0431 104 610.

Sunday 5th November: **SKIPTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY** will meet for their **regular monthly meeting at 2.00 p.m. in the Old Police House**, in Stewart Park Historical, Precinct, on Montgomery Street, Skipton.

Contact very welcome, phone Secretary on 0407 310 990, or via email [skipton.history.au@gmail.com](mailto:skipton.history.au@gmail.com)

Saturday 11th November. **REMEMBRANCE DAY 2023**, "at the Eleventh Hour of the Eleventh Day of the Eleventh Month" will be marked by a ceremony at the Skipton War Memorial, on Anderson Street, Skipton, at 11.00 a.m., mounted by the Friends of the RSL Skipton Branch. Everyone is welcome to attend, please contact Secretary, on 0403 530 293 for further information.



Monday 13th November: **STEWART PARK COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT** will meet for it's regular "second Monday" meeting in the Small Meeting Room at the Mechanics Hall at 6.00 p.m. **Anyone interested in joining us is very welcome to come along**, and volunteers are also very welcome at our regular Working Bee's in the Park, next one is Tuesday 21st November, from 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

For further information contact Victoria on 0437 565 404.

Sunday 19th November **FIREWORLD DISCOVERY CENTRE & MUSEUM (Streatham) open from 11:30am until 4:30pm** be a week early as I am unavailable on the third Sunday)

Contact Bruce McKenna, Secretary/Treasurer, 0466 286 011.

Tuesday 21st November: All are welcome to join the **WORKING BEE in lovely Stewart Park**, on Montgomery Street, Skipton, behind the Platypus statue. From **10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.**, there's always something to do. Please wear sensible clothes, boots or closed toe shoes, gloves a good idea. Please **contact Victoria 0437 565 404** for further information,



Monday 27th November: **THE SKIPTON & DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB** meet at 7:30 pm, in the Supper Room Mechanics Hall, Skipton. **November: "TBA"**. Everyone welcome, young, old, amateur, professional or just interested.

Enquires Karen Crosbie ph 0448871784 or Karen Bradshaw ph 0439 630 884