

# YOUR VILLAGE VOICE

is produced monthly by the editorial board of the Violet Town Action Group.

**Coordinator: Terry Frewin ph. 5790 8635**

*Please Note that opinions expressed in articles & letters etc. in the Village Voice are not necessarily those of the editorial board & VTAG.*

Articles to be in the box at Delahey's Supermarket by the 20th of each month, or may be posted to R.M.B. 3061, Violet Town 3669, OR emailed to Terry at 2frews@mcmedia.com.au. If the 20th falls on a Sunday, then there will be a final pick up from the boxes on the following Monday.

**PLEASE NOTE ALL TRADING POST & COMMUNITY GROUP ADS ARE FREE OF CHARGE**

## Business Advertisement Rates

\$20 half page

\$10 1/4 page

Full page ads only if space allows, \$40

For people outside the mail delivery area, it is possible to subscribe to the Village Voice. Cost is \$6.50 per year. Please send name, address & \$6.50 to the  
**Violet Town Action Group,  
C/- RMB 3061, Violet Town 3669.**

## HOURS

Saturday, Tuesday & Friday 8.30am to 12 noon

Wednesday & Thursday 1.00pm to 4.00pm

Sunday 10.00am to 3.00pm

MARKET COORDINATOR: Chris Coles 0416 233 584

CREDIT UNION OPENING HOURS: Phone 5798 1761

Tuesday 9.30am to 1.30pm

Friday 12.30pm to 5.00pm

COMMUNITY HOUSE: 5798 1288 (other times leave message)

Monday 1-5; Tuesday 10-5; Wednesday 10-1 (emergency contact 0417 166 824)

# what's on in April

- 31 March—Men's Pitstop Night
- 2 Seed Savers meet
- 2 Clearing Sale, Longwood
- 2 Golf season opens
- 3 Probus meets
- 3 Red Cross meets
- 4 Kinder unveiling ceremony
- 6 Senior Citizens meet
- 8 Market Day
- 11 Senior Citizens bus trip
- 14 Good Friday
- 19 Transport Forum
- 19 Immunisation day
- 21 Red Cross Blume's Fashions
- 23 70's + luncheon
- 24 70's+ luncheon
- 26 Neighbourhood Watch meeting
- 27 VTBC Ladies Aux meet
- 28 Environmental History G/Valley

# date grabbers

May 12—RSL meets, 4pm

June 9—RSL meets, 4pm

## TIP OPENING



# Violet Town Village Voice

April 2006

Postage Paid

"Priceless"

No. 291

## Violet Town Lions Club Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal is on again!!

On Good Friday, 14 April  
collectors will be out & about  
around town & the Lions will be  
set up in the main street.  
Or contact a Lions member  
to pledge a donation!



*A happy and safe  
Easter holiday to  
all our readers*



The Village Voice is printed on 100% recycled paper and is collated and folded each month by the Violet Town Bush Nursing Centre Day Care clients and community members.

## COMMUNITY FOREST

There may be some funding available to supply the seedlings and pay the ground preparation costs for planting a community forest inside the trotting track on Shadforth Reserve. All the labour and planning work have to be voluntary.

Firewood and future high value timber might be sold to woodcutters, with royalties paid to the community, and some wood might go directly to community projects. Harvest would never be by clearfall, but by selection, always with consideration for the long term development of the forest.

This proposal was discussed at a public meeting prior to the toxic proposal, and was broadly supported at the time. However the community woodlot idea was not then developed as energies were directed to the no toxic dump campaign.

So it is now being revived, and funding assistance has been applied for.

At this stage before seedlings can be ordered we would need to prepare a planting plan, and select suitable species to use. If you have an interest in contributing to these decisions please contact David Arnold on 5798 1679.

## HREP Report

Thank you to everyone who attended the official opening of the HREP Project . It was a great celebration of huge amount of work by a lot of people.

The School Children were a credit to the school and their parents! They sat patiently with the staff waiting for the late arrival of the federal member for Indi, and then through the speeches. Well done.

Also a lovely morning tea put on by the parents. Thank you everyone.

We have been delighted to have Joan Kirner request a visit to the project, it is good to have the hard work of the community recognized by Government Departments and maybe it will lead to more successful funding applications in the future!!!! She was impressed at what a

small community has achieved. We have had a few contacts from other communities wanting to have a look at our town and wanting to know how we did it!!!! Well done all.

There is still planting to be done and of course maintenance so we still have plenty to do. If anyone would like to join the HREP committee you would be very welcome. Hopefully we won't meet as often as last year, but we still need to work with the shire to build the new footbridge and some working bees. See you out walking or jogging or bike riding!

*Robin Landvogt, HREP Committee.*

## Hall Committee Report

All bookings for the Violet Town Community Complex are for now to be made with Virginia Robinson on 57981774. Please leave a message with the date, time and room needed if Virginia is not available. She will get back to you if there is any problem.

The Hall Committee has put in an application to the Shire for capital funding to paint the outside of the complex which is in desperate need of attention. We hope we are successful. We have also had a number of meetings with the shire to formalize the management of the complex by the VTAG Hall committee. This has been a time consuming process but it is nearing completion. Thanks to all who have worked on this process.

We still have one table missing! Please someone must know where it is!

*Robin Landvogt*

**N.B.** My sincere apologies to Margaret Sands to who asked for this thank you note to go in the Feb edition, Terry

*On behalf of my sister Vicki Welsh & myself, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ladies involved with arranging the reception at the Community Hall after the funeral of my mother Gwen Welsh on Tuesday 29 November.*

# Village Voice Trading Post

Use this page to post your FREE ad

WANTED TO BUY  
LARGE QUANTITY OF LEGO, PHONE  
FELIX 57908550.

FOR SALE  
Ford Falcon 1990 EA Model  
4 SPT AUTO, TOW PACK, AC,  
Full Service History, \$3200 ono  
Contact: 5798 1268 or 0413897119

6 REMAC kitchen chairs in good condition, \$20 each, phone 5798 1707

Full set of golf clubs, bag & buggy, \$130;  
Bird breeding boxes, 2', 3', 4' long, \$25 to \$35 Phone 5798 1485.

Quarter horse/Clydesdale, palomino filly,  
17 mths old, quiet, calm temperament,  
easy to catch, lead, trim & float. \$2000  
Ph 5798 1564

CAMPER TRAILER, 7' x 5' large storage  
box, full pull-out kitchen, k/s bed, awning  
& end wall. AS NEW, \$6,500;  
PLANTS FOR SALE, \$1 each  
Phone 5798 1410

GIVE AWAY  
To give away to a good home—male  
miniature fox terrier dog, 16 months old,  
good with children  
Glenise 5798 1401

Free to good home—Jack Russell male,  
14 mths old. Ph 5798 1564

## Franz Kloft Mechanical Repairs

Phone 5795 2910  
38 Railway Street, Euroa

Repairs to all types of vehicles

◆ We now do Wynn's engine  
injector fuel servicing for  
better fuel economy  
& performance

Brakes, Exhausts  
Wheel alignments  
Automatic Transmission  
Services

CALL IN FOR  
FREE QUOTES

## WORK WANTED

Slashing, grading, rotary  
hoeing, general garden  
maintenance, labouring.

All equipment supplied  
Phone Daniel 5798 1525

# Violet Town Seed Savers and Permaculture Group

A good crowd of interested people met at Sandra & Michael's on a hot Sunday afternoon for our March meeting. We welcomed David & Jodi from Arcadia, they are setting up a pick your own heritage fruit tree nursery, and Maggie from Benalla, recently moved down from Brisbane and looking for land.

We eventually braved the heat and took a tour of the orchard with Sandra. This orchard is particularly impressive when you realize that the trees have had minimal irrigation water applied in their 4-6 years of growing. All were mulched heavily, looked healthy and bore wonderful crops. Sandra has done most of the multi-grafts herself and is very knowledgeable about different varieties. She also has an extensive collection of grape varieties, a couple of which had members swooning over flavour! We learnt a lot from this visit and thank Michael & Sandra for their time and hospitality.

Next month Sunday 2 April we will travel to Campbell & Tanya Holt's near Nathalia. They have a small very diverse property of 3 acres in what's known as 'the old Yalca township' (which is why they've got a small acreage in the middle of big farming country). The farm runs 2 cows, Georgie the jersey- for milk, cream, yoghurt and cheese and a beef calf; 2 sheep (for meat); lots of chooks- for eggs and meat; a large veggie garden including 1000 strawberry plants, a variety of brambleberry cultivars and raspberries & a good selection of fruit trees including around 100 heritage varieties of apple trees which Campbell has grafted. Cam & Tan were members of our group when they lived in this area and are also interested in home economics/home production and self sufficiency including preserving - bottling, drying, wine making, cheese making. DIRECTIONS: From Violet Town turn right at the first roundabout in Shepparton, and head

due north on the Goulburn Valley Hwy through Numurkah. 9 k's past Numurkah turn left towards Picola. After 11 k's heading west turn right onto Tyack's Rd (gravel). Just 2 k's north on Tyacks Rd you come to a cluster of 3 houses. This is downtown Yalca, an old Cobb & Co staging post. Cam and Tan's house is 2nd on left, RMB 1111, ph. 5868 2101.

So hope to see you there at 1.30pm for another interesting afternoon!

## CLEARING SALE—SUN 2 APRIL, 10AM LONGWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE

### Plant & Machinery

Honda 4 wheeler TRX350 2x4 2001 model GC; John Deere Sabre ride on mower 15hp hydro drive 38" cut; Superior 6' heavy duty 3pl slasher; Stihl Viking 13.5hp automatic ride-on mower; concrete mixer on wheels 240v with heavy duty bowl; Rapid Spray trailer unit 100 litre tank with 12v pump never used; Tulloch chainsaw/ post digger; 2 more chainsaws; Flymo multi trim 250 electric line trimmer; motor mower with catcher; and more.

### Horse Gear

Saddles; bridles; new and used rugs; saddle blankets; fly veils; new RM Williams and other boots; Pat Parelli educational materials; horse toys; and more. *Note: Horseland Shepparton is having a clean out at this Clearing Sale !!*

### Household & Home Office

Fisher & Paykel Pride 5.5kg smart drive washing machine; Fisher & Paykel ED56 auto-sensing dryer; quality dark green 3 seater Sofa Workshop sofa; matching armchairs; matching sofa bed; chests of drawers; book cases; Sony portable colour TV; Harmon Kardon nk330i stereo receiver; Yamaha CDX-530 CD player; Energy speakers; Panasonic VHS recorder; Canon B320 fax machine; Roll-a-door garage door; Kleenmaid oven; Blanco stove; satin chrome cupboard and door handles; tapware; hand basin; Emmaljunga pram; baby car seat; Rola roof racks to suit previous model Range Rover; Rhodes Gear spare tyre bike shuttle; filing cabinets; framed pictures & paintings; golf clubs; Rossignol sidecut skis; Salomon ski boots; furniture incl timber table to seat 6; assorted bedlinen, household items, kitchenware, baby gear etc

For all details contact 57952627

Hosted by Euroa Pony Club

## Notes from your Mayor Robyn Machin

Warm summer days continue *except for the night of the Big Event!* Violet Town is a hub of activity – school holidays, market, Harris Cup Swimming, Commonwealth Games, cricket and tennis finals, Clean Up Day, a visit by Joan Kirner and lots more. Nobody gets bored in this town thanks to the active community and enthusiasm. **Commonwealth Games Opening** – even though the weather was not so cooperative the crowd was big – almost 2000 came through the gates. Imagine if the weather had been good! This event was a huge effort by many many community members and shire staff – I thank you all and the result of that effort was a most successful event. We all enjoyed having our local band back, the big screen was spectacular and the video packages promoting our people and district received great accolades, the local entertainment and bands along with good local food and wine were enjoyed by everyone. Again, thank you.

**Media promotion and coverage** – our town and shire have had a considerable amount of media coverage both locally and in Melbourne lately, particularly leading up to the 2006 games. It is a very important factor in growing our economy and encouraging visitors and new businesses and people to our area. We need to continue to showcase our district through new events and businesses – the VT market is a great example.

**2006 Major Shire Events** – the schools Heads of the River comes to Lake Nagambie on 8th April. Last year 12,000 people attended – all visitors who stay, spend and come back because they love it. Many community groups cater for this event which is a great fundraiser. At Easter Nagambie will host the National Dragon Boat Championships for the first time. In October the Jayco Herald Sun Tour will both have a staged finish and start in Nagambie and this years



route may come through Euroa and Violet Town. Cycling is a very big sport in Victoria and we have the opportunity to encourage clubs to join us, stay here, eat and ride around our district.

**Kindergarten support** – council and community have provided enormous financial resources this year to support our local kindergarten to ensure its future is safe. Councils Community Services Manager Elin Ree has worked closely with the new committee to clear the way to join the NE Kindergarten cluster which will be an enormous benefit in undertaking the onerous administrative function. Considerable fundraising needs to continue to help our local kinda to which this community is responding willingly.

**Pools closed** – a request to have the shire swimming pools remain open during the school holidays was considered by council. The extension of the contract would have cost around \$27,000 which council considered excessive.

**VT Pool celebrates 50 years in 2007** – are you interested in marking this occasion in any way? Please contact me or the 'Friends of the Pool' if you have ideas.

**Triple J concert** – council had a request from Euroa and Violet Town to support a concert in each town hosted by the radio station which would bring 5 bands. Council could not provide the support requested with just 3 days notice. However council support the idea in future with considerations required for budget, event and risk management plans and insurance.

**Council Plan and budget time** – the annual process has commenced and will be put on public display for comment when completed. Councillors have participated in a number of workshops to determine the direction for our future and the continuation of long term strategies which are progressing. This shire's budget is comparatively small – just \$15 million of which around \$6.5 million is raised through rates.

*continued on page 4*

*Continued from previous page*

The small rate base and burden is being addressed through a number of planning and economic strategies. Your comments are invited when we have completed the draft documents.

**VT Flood Scoping Study Community Reference Group** – the next stage has commenced with federal, state and local government funding allocated. Local representatives appointed by council at the February meeting were Tom Crocker, Neil Garrett and Howard Myers. They will work with GBCMA to complete this stage of the study.

**Please contact me if you have any queries.**  
Ph 0417 496785

## Market Report

Yet another lovely market was had in March. Lots of interesting stalls, perfect market weather, huge crowd, music and entertainment and all round a great market atmosphere.

This month we had 153 stallholders occupying about 175 sites. Fifty-five of these were casual stallholders and of course at this time of the year quite a few of them were fruit or fruit and veg. sellers mostly selling produce that they have grown themselves. One pretty interesting home grown stall was run by Jo Serra who amongst other things had the fattest shiniest eggplants you have ever seen, along side this he had his own olive oil and was offering tastings on bread. Very nice!!!

Other casuals were Simon with his furniture made out of 44 gallon drums.....WOW, Michael from Mildura who offers tastings of and sells Ned Kelly Red and a Spritzer, and Ginnette who sells plums and grapes. A local Strathbogie-ite Julie is doing Tarot and shiatsu in the pool garden and is probably going to be coming along regularly.

Hans had a site demonstrating art clay and he hopes to generate interest in workshops that he would like to run in the future. Jenny Gib-

ney was back with her bonsai plants, mosaic art work and glass and metal jewellery and Bill came from Mansfield with his mostly terracotta garden accessories.

Down the footy end we had brothers Aaron and Adrian. Aaron had very specky hardwood forest furniture, definitely worth a look and Adrian had his very uniquely designed vehicle mounted tent for the serious traveller /camper.

Lastly a very head turning casual was Sid's Frog Toss run by Craig who is the son of Terry Taylor from Plozza's Road. It looked like a game for all ages with a lot of noise to be made and fun to be had. I reckon it was good clean old fashioned fun with prizes if you landed the frog on the lily pad and even if you didn't you got to wet Craig.

We had also this month a great turn up of community groups-the Red Cross and Catholic Church combined a stall, the Euroa Secondary College had a stall with cakes and things brought along by the students. The Violet Town Kinder were the markets inaugural Community Group of the Month. The new community group of the month idea is to showcase one of our community groups each month, they have the right to shake a tin at each gate of the market, have a raffle and have a stall on a premium site in the market. The kinder also had a scones jam and cream set up down the road. I believe that the kinder were very pleased with the results of their efforts.

For the past two months we have had the pleasure of having Garnett at our market. Garnett's alter ego is a clown and this clown roams the market with a smile on his face and a handful of brightly coloured windmills to sell.

Well that's it for another month except to remind stallholders that the rubbish bins and skips on the market site are not for stall generated rubbish. Please take your stalls waste home with you. Thanks and see you at the market

*Chris 0416233584*

## New way for councils to do business

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) today launched the *Lighthouse Community Planning Program* - an innovative new approach to assist local government increase community participation and influence in decision making.

President of the MAV, Cr Geoff Lake said that while it was widely recognised that local government was the level closest to citizens, councils needed to develop solutions that made them more responsive to community needs.

"Civic engagement has traditionally involved councils providing opportunities for communities to contribute feedback and input into council proposals to achieve a defined vision and goals. The Lighthouse Program represents an exciting new direction in community strengthening for local government by improving the capacity of communities to identify, prioritise and solve their own problems.

"Transferring the responsibility for community planning to communities provides a rare opportunity for self-governing, free from outside interference in matters best left to local decisions.

"While this approach may seem far-removed from the traditional roles of government, it recognises the importance of local councils and strengthens their capacity to create communities that are more involved in decision making," he said.

The Lighthouse Program advocates the use of local people, communities and organisations in an equal partnership with government to steer the delivery of local services and programs. The community becomes the driver of change, while local government acts as the facilitator.

A Community Plan is produced and owned by the community and can then be used to develop council, State and Commonwealth

plans, programs and priorities.

"In rural Victoria there have been some outstanding results, with community planning introduced in the Golden Plains and Campaspe Shires over the past two years.

"The Lighthouse Program will establish 'clusters' of projects to operate as knowledge-sharing networks that support councils to assess, plan and implement community planning models.

"We expect it will take some time for councils to explore and develop concepts as it is a different way of doing business, and will challenge councils to think and act differently," Cr Lake concluded.

Strathbogie Shire is one of the pilots in the Lighthouse Program shires. The concept has been embraced and community plans are currently being developed by Nagambie, Euroa and Strathbogie communities. Further funding is being sort from State Government by council to extend the lighthouse project to Avenel and Violet Town.

## Violet Town Hairdressing

22 Cowslip Street Violet Town  
5798 1427

For all your family hairdressing needs  
Also Manicures, Pedicures, Waxing,  
Lash & Brow Tinting

### Trading Hours

**Monday—mobile for clients  
unable to come to the shop**

Wednesday 9 am – 5 pm

Thursday 1 pm – late

Friday 9 am – 5 pm

*Saturdays by appointment for special occasions*

## PROBUS NOTES

A bus load of our members attended the annual NE Probus Group Picnic on 24 Feb at the Stanley sports ground at Beechworth.

After registration we entered our team for the tunnel ball race & joined those already there for a cuppa & chat until the parade of banners led by the Beechworth 'band'. The first lady in the band had enhanced her figure with 2 balloons & had painted her face in red & blue. Her instrument was a whistle. The next 2 ladies dispensed with the balloons but were equally colourful & beat the daylight out of two dustbin lids. The last member of the band was a male in Scottish kilt & had a proper drum to beat. The band was followed by the Presidents of the NE Probus clubs in a snake like procession among the 250 present.

The next item was entertainment by guitarist Lazy Harry until lunch. After lunch was more entertainment by Lazy Harry with songs he had written himself.

It was then time for the tunnel ball race. There were ten teams. We were in the second heat & competed valiantly only to be pipped at the post. In the final, Beechworth won & were awarded the perpetual trophy & a gold medalion to mark the year of the Games. Time then to pack up & come home. As our usual driver Alf was in hospital at the time, Bob White drove the bus & we thank him for a safe trip.

Our March meeting was another well attended meeting with 30 members present & 9 apologies. President Jevan welcomed Dot Hopkins as another new member. Our guest speaker Jan McCooley gave us a most interesting & entertaining presentation on the history, differences & similarities of miniature & small horses. She had us laughing when she let us into some of the secrets of grooming & showing these horses. This was an excellent presentation & proved once again that Violet Town



is full of hidden talent both in terms of occupations & speakers & we thank her for taking some of her time to be with us.

Next meeting will be held in the supper room of the community complex at 10 am on April 3. As always prospective new members or visitors are welcome so come along & at least have a cuppa with us.

*Bob Sinclair*

## THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE An Environmental History of the Goulburn Valley

*Friday 28th April 6 - 7pm  
at University of Melbourne office 21 Nixon  
St Shepparton (upstairs)  
Wine and nibbles supplied No charge!  
All Welcome.*

Professor Janet McCalman & students will be giving a talk on the Science & Citizenship Project, an Environmental History of the Goulburn Valley. This will be an informative talk on their work so far & the chance to meet the team informally afterwards. The Shire of Strathbogie is also one of the partners in this project.

Prof. Janet McCalman is the author of well known books *Struggletown: Public and Private Life in Richmond*; *Journeings: A Biography of a Middle Class Generation*; and *Sex and Suffering: Women's Health and a Women's Hospital*, and an interesting speaker.

For more information phone Robin Landvogt at the university 5823 6600 or email



## Violet Town Neighbourhood Watch

Our next Meeting at the Community Centre will be on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006 at 7.30pm. We are looking for more assistance in distributing the Newsletter. If you can help please come along.

On the agenda will be: -

Reports from the Secretary and Treasurer of the Association and Sen. Const. Trevor Saker who will up date us on any problems in Violet Town area

Meeting dates for the rest of 2006 will be June 28<sup>th</sup>, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, October 25<sup>th</sup>; and December 6<sup>th</sup>. Will you please note these dates on your calendar for 2006.

*(Jevan Dartnall), Co-ordinator  
Violet Town Neighbourhood Watch*



## Peranbin Primary College News

Commonwealth Games flags have been presented to our 4 campuses by Robert Mitchell MP & Bill Sykes MP respectively, these were greatly appreciated.

School Council 2006 has met for the first time with items of business discussed being Pupil-Free Days, ratifying the College Budget for 2006, Professional Learning for teachers, the School's Goals and Targets, and improving communication between home & school, especially where there is a concerned parent.

### HOME MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Strathbogie Shire Council provides several services that aim to support people who are frail, elderly or have a disability, to remain independent within their own homes for as long as possible.

One of the programs that Community Services offers is Home Maintenance, where

regular support can be provided if you are eligible for this service, at low cost.

This program is focused on safety aspects of home and surrounds. The service offers the following:

- Spouting cleaned of leaves, debris
- Pruning of unwanted or unsafe branches
- Weeding
- Mowing (occasional)
- Minor household repairs
- Mulching of gardens

To confirm your eligibility and discuss your needs, please call Mary Bourke, Home Maintenance Coordinator on 5795 2555.



## Lochgardie Glass Art



We take commissions for:

- \* Leadlight Panels
- \* Etched Glass Panels
- \* Restorations

Phone 5798 1464

[www.lgmedia.com.au/glassart](http://www.lgmedia.com.au/glassart)

## VTAG'S ROLE OF SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

It is well known that VTAG is the community group responsible for the famous Violet Town Community Market and the Village Voice that you are reading right now. It is also probably known that the new walking track and the creek revegetation is a VTAG project through its sub committee HREP (Honeysuckle Recreation Environment Project). Other subcommittees are the Hall Committee and Envirotag.

But another role of VTAG, that of supporting our community in various ways, is less well known.

Over recent months VTAG has given support and assistance to community members who have come forward with ideas and projects such as

- ◆ the "10,000 Steps Program" which encourages people to walk for fitness,
- ◆ the "Benchmarks Project" which is installing more resting seats and arms on seats to assist less able people to lower and lift themselves when using the seats,
- ◆ the demand for better community-wide education and involvement in planning the Rural Living Strategy which will direct the development of larger sized housing blocks adjacent to the town,
- ◆ the provision of safer pathways along our main shopping streets, safer crossings, given that the streets are very wide, and lowered speed limits,
- ◆ planning for a Community Woodlot,
- ◆ new tourism initiatives such as the "Tourism Lakes and Ranges Association" and the proposal to establish a "Market Town Promotions" position in Violet Town.

VTAG has also been supporting members of the community financially. At our last meeting \$ 5,000 was given to the Violet Town Kindergarten Committee which is facing survival issues as it makes the transfer

### David Arnold

Land Planning

Permaculture Design

Farm Planning to assist Sustainable Agriculture

ph. 5798 1679

email: murrnong@gmail.com



to becoming a member of a cluster. This is now required by the State government.

Also \$200 was given to teenager Claire Block, to go towards training expenses to help her follow her dream of becoming a top class swimmer.

VTAG is most willing to support the community in as many ways as it can. We are in the process of setting down strategies and guidelines to help us do this as fairly and as sustainably as possible.

### **Violet Town Walking Group**

The group met in February & have a program set up for this year. A get together is to be held with lunch & a walk in Benalla around the lake. Other walks will be Beechworth, Eldorado, Warby Ranges, Bogie Ranges, Peppermint Ridge to name a few. Anyone can Join us & enjoy a day out with good company. Any inquiries ring Dot Rae on 5798 1338



## The Historic Dookie College Winery & Cellar Door



Celebrate the harvest season by visiting our new Cellar Door in the barrel room of the historic Dookie College Winery. We offer free wine tasting from 5 local wineries, weekend winery tours, fresh juice and grape sampling and lots more...

OPEN FRIDAY, SATURDAY  
& SUNDAY 11 am to 5 pm  
FOR BUS GROUPS, WEEKDAY  
VISITS OR FUNCTIONS  
TEL: 58 339 295



### **Senior Citizens Doings**

March meeting was well attended with some interesting stories by Val on her trip overseas.

A visit to Red Gum Resort on Thursday 5 October is in the pipeline with a subsidy to cover costs applied for.

On Tuesday 11 April, meet at rear of hall for a visit to Shepparton RSL—morning melodies, lunch etc. Val Russell is the coordinator and will be in touch.

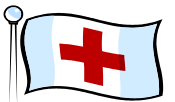
Indoor bowls are taking on a treat—come and join in!

Alf is now home again and progressing. Our next meeting will be Thursday 6 April—be there!!

*Laurie Connors, Facilitator*



### **Violet Town Red Cross Unit**



At our meeting in March the Blume's Fashion display was discussed, we expect a good day as their clothing is very good. An afternoon tea will be held in May at the home of Carol Hart in Baird St, time to be advertised. The next meeting will be April 3rd at 2 pm in the meeting room of the Complex.

### **Violet Town Stationeers**

It was most disappointing to find that vandals had been busy at the station twice in 2 weeks. Plants were pulled out of tubs & thrown on the platform.

Volunteers work hard & give their time to keep our station neat & tidy.

We would say to those responsible, we would appreciate it if they would put their energies into a worth while project around town & let the plants grow unhindered. The police have been notified.

# GEOFF HOLFORD BUILDER - CARPENTER

Builder's registration No. dB-U5552

Member H.I.A. 511496

Phone 5790 8602 or 0408 597 166



- ◆ New Homes
- ◆ Extensions
- ◆ Renovations
- ◆ Garden Features
- ◆ Walkways, Gateway Arches
- ◆ Pergolas & Rotundas

## Violet Town Kindergarten

March has been a busy month for the kinder. Jane & I attended a VTAG meeting & were given a very generous donation. A huge thank you to VTAG, not only for the donation but also their offers of support. This contribution will not only benefit us now, but all future committees in the management of the kinder.

You could not miss the kinder at the local market where the idea of a community group of the month worked wonderfully for us. Thank you to the market committee for all their work, in particular Neil Garrett & Helen Keighery & to kinder parents Darren, Jeff, Noel, Shelagh & Jane for shaking tins & selling raffle tickets. People then saw our lovely new sign—thank you Gordon & Noel—and came for a lovely Devonshire tea in the shade. This was a very successful morning & we'll be back again next month. Thanks to all our volunteers Janine, Sue, Kerrill, Jenny, Rose, Virginia, Chris & Margaret.

We combined with Community House to have

a stall at the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony. A big thank you to volunteers Barbara, Lesley, Marg, Virginia, Liz & parents Jane, Jeff & Darren who spent all afternoon & evening preparing & serving food. We appreciate all the help from our volunteers & without their assistance would not be able to cater at these events.

The over 70's lunch held a raffle for the kinder, thank you Pam & Sue for organizing & selling tickets. Congratulations to K. Hutchins & Coral Cox who were winners of our Feb & March hampers.

On Tuesday 4 April at 2.00PM we will have an unveiling ceremony followed by afternoon tea for Mrs Rita Tobias who donated the lovely bird bath & seat.

Finally thank you once again to the VT community for all your support.

Judy Sands 5798 1414



## PRESS RELEASE - NON MAINS WATER CARTED REBATE

Anita Smith, Financial Counsellor, Goulburn Valley Community Health Service who covers the Shire of Strathbogie advises that the Victorian State Government has now extended the Non-Mains Water Concession to provide greater assistance to low-income Victorians with the costs of buying non-mains water.

The Non-Mains Water Concession, also known as the Carted Water Rebate, is available to households where water is bought for a domestic rainwater tank, or where domestic water is purchased via a co-operative or on-sold. People need to be in receipt of an eligible concession card to be able to apply for the rebate.

The amount spent on non-mains water expenses will be determine the value of the rebate:

- Cardholders spending from \$120 to \$339 can claim 1 rebate of \$85/ year.
- Cardholders spending from \$340 to \$679 can claim 2 rebates of \$85, or \$170 for the year.
- Cardholders spending more than \$680 can claim 3 rebates of \$85, or \$255 for the year.

Eligible persons must complete the Carted and Non Mains Water Rebate application form which is available from the Department of Human Services, Concessions Unit. Ring 1800 658 521 to obtain a form.

## Strathbogie Shire Immunisation Times 2006

Wednesday 19 April  
 Wednesday 17 May  
 Wednesday 21 June  
 Wednesday 19 July  
 Wednesday 16 August

Remember to bring your Child Health Record Book on the day.

# REAL ESTATE

## Stockdale & Leggo Violet Town

Licensed Estate Agents

- Residential Sales
- Rural Sales

## VT 70's+ - Strathbogie Shire Community Support Program

For aged 70 years & over, any age person with a disability, carer or volunteer.

Where: Violet Town Hall

When: Monday 23 & Tuesday 24 April

Time: 11am for a cuppa, 11.30 for lunch

Cost: \$5.50 for 3 course meal.

Thanks to volunteers & VT school students who have helped serve meals, wash dishes & chat to participants.

This program has celebrated 10 years of lunching together. Wow—what a lot of delicious meals devoured during this time. Please RSVP to the 'purple' book at Delaheys or phone Pam Ellis 5798 1368 by Tuesday 18 April.

## VTBNC 'Ladies' Auxiliary

Next meeting on Thursday 27 April, 1.30 pm at the Nursing Centre. All welcome.

P. Ellis, Secretary

# Son of Epicurious

*Loveliest of trees, the cherry now  
Is hung with bloom along the bough,  
And stands about the woodland ride  
Wearing white for Eastertide.....  
(A.E. Housman)*

Many of our culinary traditions have to cope with the reversal of northern hemisphere seasons!

Each year, in the lead up to Easter, the time comes for baking the traditional cakes, buns and pastries for Easter, you might find a Simnel cake \* is too much cake, and hot cross buns are too fiddley. If such is the case, this recipe for Easter biscuits may be the recipe for you

## Easter biscuits

*2 cups of plain flour  
120 gm butter  
1 cup sugar  
grated rind of ½ a lemon  
¼ teaspoonful of allspice or mixed spice  
½ teaspoonful baking powder  
1 egg [beaten]  
¼ cup of currants*

Rub or process the butter into the flour and add lemon rind, sugar, allspice, and baking powder; mix in enough of the egg to make a dough.

Roll out the dough to the thickness of a quarter of an inch and cut into biscuits. Bake on a baking tray for about 20 minutes at 180 deg C. As soon as you take them from the oven, dust with sugar and leave to cool. You will note that there is no 'festival' ingredient in the recipe for these biscuits, but centuries ago, sugar, spices and fine-ground flour were luxuries.

Simnel cake takes its name from the Latin word 'Simila' which means 'fine' because the finest available flour was used in baking it. Maybe it was considered unnecessary to

specify the fineness of the flour used for these important cakes, everybody in the village would have known that.

*\*A Simnel cake is a fruit cake, similar to a Christmas cake, covered in a layer of marzipan. There can be a layer of marzipan horizontally through the middle and, for religious reasons, a number of balls of marzipan, either eleven or thirteen, on top.*

*Barrie Mather*

## Computer Operating Services

- ◆ General PC trouble shooting
- ◆ Data Recovery
- ◆ Training
- ◆ Software development
- ◆ Installation and Consultancy
- ◆ Hardware installation & upgrades

### Don't like paperwork?

Let COS do your number crunching for you  
Excel, Lotus worksheets  
set up and maintained

Phone Warwick Paton 5798 1435

## Strathbogie Shire Disability Advisory Committee Transport Forum

- ◆ Do you know what transport services are available?
- ◆ Do we need better transport in & around the Shire?

Come along & discuss these issues about transport at the **V.T. Community Complex**  
**Wednesday 19 April, 10 am—12noon**  
Free entry—light refreshments  
RSVP 15 April ph: 5795 2777

## Op Shop News

This month we welcome Viv Wiley back to the fold after a few years away running the VT Milk Bar, great to have you on board again Viv. Another big welcome to Helen, another fantastic asset to the op shop. Helen is staying with Lindsay & Pam Brown for a few months, we wish she would stay for keeps. Anyway a big warm Violet Town welcome to Helen. While on the subject of volunteers (no, I'm not asking you to volunteer!), but doing a very rough count the mileage of hours worked in the Op Shop amounts to 2600 hours per year. Even at \$10/hr that's a lot of hard cash.

So far this month's takings for our Kinder amounts to the great sum of \$2257.90, with still 7 op shopping days to go—would be wonderful if we could make the \$3000. We have also given \$200 worth of \$2 scratchies & a beautiful white Camellia set (Sugekka) to raffle with tickets at \$1 each, these will be available next month with proceeds also going to the Kinder.

Two of our volunteers are swanning around Australia at present, Marion is in Adelaide & Julie in Darwin— one wonders just how long this long service lasts—hope you both had a grand time girls.

The Birthday Bird told us that a very gracious lady is getting the OBE this April. We are sure anyone who has come in contact with Thelma Butts will wish her a happy birthday. Thelma is one of our volunteers & is also at the VTBN Centre every week, plus many other organisations—so from all of us 'Happy Birthday Thelma' (and I didn't say how old you were Thelma)

Thanks to Community House kids & Helen for the great job you all did on the outside of the op shop, it looks fantastic & we get lots of comments on how artistic it looks. Our Lorna is looking more like the old Lorna & we hope she will be back with us soon.

We also wish Alf Lipscombe a speedy recovery, we miss you Alf, so get well soon from all of us.

In conclusion we would like to thank all those people who donate left over stock from their garage sales to the op shop. We have been told that in some cases, persons who claimed to represent the op shop have collected left over items, but never delivered them to us.

In future, if you wish to donate left over goods to the op shop, please contact us to make arrangements for collection.

All the op shop volunteers wish you a safe & happy Easter.

*The Op Shop Crew*

Errata: In the March edition, the amount donated to the VTBN since 1997 should have read \$36,500, not \$26,500, apologies.

*Avoid the Mess - call Quik Skips*

3 metre mini skips

PROMPT SERVICE

For all your domestic,  
industrial and building  
cleanups



Ron  
0419 538 538  
Phone: 5762 8080  
email: quikskips@bigpond.com