

# 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

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### TIP OPENING 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 March

- 1 VTAG meets
- 1 Peranbin Swimming Sports
- 5 Clean Up Australia Day
- 5 Seed Savers meet
- 6 Pap Clinic
- 6 Probus meets
- 6 Red cross meets, 2pm
- 7 Sun Spot Checks
- 8 VTBN Sports Day
- 10 RSL meets 4pm C/Centre
- 11 Market Day
- 12 Harris Cup Swimming Carnival
- 15 C'wealth Games Opening, VT
- 15 Boob Bus
- 15 Immunisation Day
- 20 Garden Club meets
- 27 70's + luncheon
- 28 70's + luncheon
- 30 VTBN Ladies Auxiliary meets
- 31 Men's Pitstop night

# date grabbers

- 2nd April Golf season opens
- 21 April Red Cross Blumes Fashions

# Violet Town Village Voice

March 2006

Postage Paid

"Priceless"

No. 290

## Giant Screen Live Broadcast Melb 2006 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony



Bring it on at Violet Town  
Wed 15<sup>th</sup> March – from 4.00pm

Killing Heidi will headline an exciting  
FREE event with activities for the whole family.

Games & activities for kids, 3 bands, roving performers, jumping castle, obstacle courses, video games on the big screen, prizes, cultural entertainment, local food and wine stalls, beer & wine available (Strictly NO BYO)



Be in the draw to win 4 tickets to Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony. For info Ph 5795 2010



## The 'Harris Cup' Sunday 12 March, 4 pm at the Violet Town pool free entry!



Fun events—black out goggles, cork scramble, kick board noodle, baton relay etc  
•Honeysuckle Creek Cup for primary school age team  
•Harris Cup open for all ages  
Contact Robin Harrison 5798 1661 to submit teams

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.

## Proposed Rural Living Zones

The way our townships and areas of closer settlements are planned, laid out and developed can have a big influence on the character of our local communities. We are very fortunate at present to have relatively cohesive small rural communities with quite good levels of home security and generally a welcoming place in our society for the great majority of the people who choose to live here.

This is partly due to our history as predominantly agricultural communities, with towns providing services and a labour supply to farms. There was good sense in townships being compactly laid out, not sprawling. Tightly clustered town allotments help community interaction and keep residents within walking distance of community facilities. This might not seem a big deal in these car dependent modern times, but it is still very important to teenagers who don't want to be dependent, or cannot depend, on being driven everywhere by their parents. It is still very important to lots of other age groups, too, such as parents of small children, elderly people, and potentially all of us. We all benefit from community, and it works a lot better and is a lot less wasteful if everyone does not have to drive to get it.

Urban sprawl east of Melbourne has resulted in housing development being located kilometres away from community facilities. These areas are now suffering big increases in their crime rate and other social problems. Poor town and land planning becomes poor social planning as well.

The Shire's process of preparing to introduce new Rural Living Zones, mainly around townships, has been underway for a few years now, and I think we have been reasonably well informed that this process was happening.

However there has not yet been any organ-

ised public consultation to allow interested members of the community a chance to comment in detail on the proposed changes. There have been public meetings, but these were not opportunities for community members to discuss how we want our communities to develop. The way the land is developed for housing has a huge influence on how our communities develop.

Some questions which the community needs to consider include;

- How do we preserve the rural character and maintain the agricultural production from the valuable farmland that surrounds our townships if the Rural Living Zones come in?  
  
Can the Rural Living Zones be specifically designed so they support the development of new small rural enterprises?
- Is it acceptable for new allotments to be created which have no water supply other than roof rainwater collection?  
  
If every household has some additional water supply for a home garden and for fire fighting, would that help create a better home environment, and happier community members?
- What steps can we take to design for good community interaction, both for our towns, and for the Rural Living areas?

David Arnold  
Ph. 5798 1679  
davidarnold@iinet.net.au

# Village Voice Trading Post

Use this page to post your FREE ad

## FOR SALE

Bertini steerable pram/stroller, matching nappy bag & boot cover, navy, exc condition, \$150;

Antique Queen Anne 2 seater couch & 2 matching chairs, \$350  
Phone 5798 1414 for both the above

Water plants for garden ponds  
Water iris—yellow attractive foliage  
Small \$5, med \$7, lge \$10, bronze red (unusual) \$7. Also some water lilies at \$7. Phone 5798 1455

## FOR RENT

3 bedroom brick house 9 km from Violet Town in the hills. Requires handy tenant who can handle solar power, water pump, combustion stove etc, your own generator an advantage. Please contact Vikki on 02 9418 4979.

## CHILD SITTER WANTED

Responsible and reliable 15 year old plus person, required to mind an 11 year old girl on Friday or Saturday nights as needed. 15 kms out of Violet Town.  
Phone: 5798 1293

## WANTED

**Any jewellery, old or new, for sale at your Op Shop.**

## WORK WANTED

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

All equipment supplied  
Phone Daniel 5798 1525

## Franz Kloft Mechanical Repairs

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# Violet Town Seed Savers and Permaculture Group

What a fantastic afternoon for our February meeting at Virginia & Noel's in Violet Town. We were delighted to welcome Amy and Luc who generated much interest with their talk of their experiences running a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) project at Kaslo in BC, Canada. They are now looking for a suitable place in Australia - Victoria or NSW, to begin a CSA as they are very enthusiastic about the concept.

There are many examples of CSA's but in principle the buyer/subscriber pays the grower/farmer up front for, in their case, a year's supply of fresh seasonal vegetables. At the Kaslo farm they were able to deliver a box of fresh veg. weekly throughout summer to 50 subscribers, and a box every other week throughout winter - and their farm was under snow for half the year!! They spoke about the advantages of 'subscription farming' - for the farmer it assures an income for the year ahead and frees him from the vagaries of the market place (if not the weather!) and the subscriber receives top quality organic veges, picked that day. The subscriber also learns about using seasonal produce & shares in the gluts and shortfalls of produce from the farm. Thanks again to Amy & Luc for sharing their experiences & to Virginia & Noel for their hospitality, it was a great spot under the big shady tree on a hot afternoon.

Next meeting Sunday 5 March for a 2pm start will be at Sandra & Michael Richardson's property in Shean's Creek, 5795 1109. They have a very extensive orchard with well over 100 varieties of fruits. Sandra has done a lot of the grafting herself and is very knowledgeable about different varieties. She also has an extensive collection of quince and grape varie-

ties. Hope to see you there for another interesting afternoon!

Thanks to the following members who brought along seed for the collection and to sell - Barb & Kevin for the telephone peas, cauliflowers, Greenfeast pea & Egyptian broad bean; Judith for the di Cicco broccoli & Roi de Carouby snow peas; Wim for tomato varieties - Russian Purple, Rouge de Marmande, Sasha's Altai, Peruvian Bush, Yellow Ripple Currant, Siberian & Bullock Heart; Venetta for lettuce, pickling cucumber, Scotch Borecole kale & Winter Spinach (green orach) and Virginia for the Tatsoi, Jade & Purple King beans. This is a fantastic effort - well done everyone!!

Hume Corridor Community  
Outreach Health Service

## "Pap Clinic"

Hume Corridor Community Health Service has a female Doctor available to do a pap test. Free transport is available if required

When: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Time: Commencing at 9.00am

Cost: \$10 and Clients Bulk Billed- please bring your Medicare card to the appointment

Bookings Essential: For appointment drop into the Hume Corridor Community Health Service or give us a call on 5736 6366

Supported by: Hume Corridor Community Outreach Health Service, PapScreen Victoria, Victorian Cytology & Dr. Caroline Hawkins

## Notes from your Mayor

### Robyn Machin

2006 seems to be a particularly busy year so far in Violet Town and will continue until at least Easter. The events and activities will draw an enormous number of people to our small village and attract great media attention throughout Victoria to V.T. We have the opportunity to welcome and encourage visitors to stay and enjoy themselves and promote our unique country town and its hospitality.

**Re-elected as Mayor** - I have been overwhelmed by the number of notes, messages and phone calls since being re-elected Mayor at the December Statutory Meeting. Thank you sincerely for your support and goodwill. The new council welcomes one new councillor joining our team - Jackie Laughlin who represents Mt Wombat Ward. A mountain of work faces council as we set our direction and strategies for the future of our beautiful shire for the short and long term. Council particularly look forward to working in collaboration with community groups who have a vision and plans identifying needs and priorities.

**Australia Day** - I congratulate Violet Town's Australia Day organizers for the tremendous celebration of our national day. Father Bob Maguire was a very popular ambassador who delighted the large gathering. This community's citizens continue to shine in their ability which is the envy of our shire. Congratulations to all our citizens of the year.

**Harris Cup Swimming Carnival** - Yes, it's on this year on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March at the Violet Town Pool. This will be part of our local Commonwealth Games activities and I encourage everyone to participate by either swimming or cheering and enjoying the fun.

**Clean Up Australia Day Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March** - your shire is supporting coordination by individuals and community groups to 'clean up' following the most successful day last year. As part of a nationwide event to collect rubbish from roadsides, reserves, waterways



and townships gloves and bags are supplied and litter collected for disposal. I urge everyone to become involved by organizing an 'emu parade' for about 2 hours, of your road or street. Please register your interest with myself or one of the community groups. "Many hands make light work".

**Queens Baton Relay** - 20<sup>th</sup> February was a great morning in Euroa with local runners Gary Abley, Michael Tehan, Andrew McFayden and Alan Triscott. This event brings the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games to us starting in just 25 days time on 15<sup>th</sup> March. **Violet Town - the Centre of Attention on 15<sup>th</sup> March** - a huge crowd from NE Victoria is expected to come to Violet Town to watch the Melbourne 2006 games opening on the giant screen. Killing Heidi are returning to their town for the event with entertainment starting from 4pm. Bring your family and friends and enjoy this FREE event. We welcome our Cameroonian friends to this event. **Floodplain Management Study** - Next stage to commence following funding allocation from Federal and State Governments and council. Please refer to article in December Strathbogrie Community Bulletin for details. **Rural Living Zone Update** - Work continues in the long process of identifying suitable land for rezoning around our towns for rural residential allotments. Council identified the growing trend from people wishing to live near towns but on larger allotments in 2004. The zoning is part of the State Planning Ministers new Farm Zoning which is likely to be implemented this year throughout our shire. The plans will be put on exhibition for public comment and input following Ministerial approval. You will have the opportunity to ask any questions at a forum (date to be advised) to assist with queries prior to public exhibition. Information is available in the library or on CD available from the Shire Office.

*Continued on page 4.....*

**Tourism Lakes and Ranges** – Board has been appointed and commenced operation. It is responsible for tourism and marketing throughout the Shire and has representation from a range of tourism product and service categories. Council are delighted with the interest and goodwill and look forward to rapid development of our local tourism industry.

**Economic Development Study** – has been undertaken by Urban Design PL for our shire. It is currently in draft form and is available for public viewing. Thank you to all who participated in the focus groups.

**Volunteers help Ministerial Advisory Council** – Local volunteers took part in an important part of the MAC's work in providing advice to the Minister on issues surrounding volunteerism in our communities. A past well known local resident Pam Robinson is a member of the advisory group. Strathbogie Shire is proud to be one of just three communities visited and the only rural community to have input at this level.

**Customer Action Requests** – If you have anything you wish to report to the shire regarding maintenance or damage you are requested to phone 57 952010 during office hours or an emergency AH 1800 065993. The CARS system is operated by Christine Washusen who records your request for action. This system is working very well for residents and is a reliable way of reporting and getting a response promptly.

**Council Meetings** – are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6pm.

**Planning Committee Meetings** – are held on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month at 4pm. All meetings are open to the public and regularly advertised in the Euroa Gazette.

*Please keep in touch with me on any comments you have or issues for discussion.  
Ph 57981686*

## Market Report

Start time for the market is 6.30 am and the usual early bird scene is a few dedicated permanents starting to set up and a small early crew of casual stallholders in a queue of cars at the front gate waiting for us (Neil, Howard, Chris and sometimes even Georgina) to show them to their sites. There is an easel at the front gate near the left hand canon with lists of all the casual stallholders and their site allocations. Over the next two hours the market grows and blossoms into a thriving, colourful and vibrant hubbub of activity. We just keep getting great markets month after month and it is really very rewarding.

This month we had 165 stallholders set up on close to 200 sites. Of these 65 were casual stallholders. Amongst our casual stall holders this month were the usual group for this time of the year selling stone fruit, berries, oranges and home grown garden vegetables, always we have a variety of people who have tried their hand at jewellery making and want to have a go at selling some of it. We also had a specialty stall doing airbrushed temporary body tattoos for people and selling hand made soap. Home made lollies by Karla from Sweet Orchards featured in the pool garden and Kerry with her wild laughing witches and shawls and scarves were vocally present in the new central area.

Leah Jones took up a site in the pool garden and was doing numerology readings, excellent I'm told, I feel a bit tempted and I believe Leah will be back next month. Michael is selling top quality cordials and toppings near the canon gate and Michelle had children's clothing in the new central area, another good reason to take a stroll through here. Also in the new central area in February and I believe again in March is Jane Wirth with her hand made concrete garden ornaments. Kathy and her husband Phil are frog and coin collectors it seems and they had a great display that attracted lots of interest.

*Continued on page 5.....*

## Hume Corridor Community Outreach Health Service

### "Sun Spot Checks"

Hume Corridor Community Health Service has a Dr. available to do Sun Spot Screens.

**When: Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

**Time: Commencing at 10.00am**

**Cost: Clients Bulk Billed- please bring your Medicare card to the appointment.**

**Bookings Essential: For appointment drop into the Hume Corridor Community Health Service or give us a call on 5736 6366**

**Supported by Hume Corridor Community Outreach Health Service & Church Street Medical Centre.**



The Peranbin PC Swimming Sports will be held at the Violet Town Swimming Pool on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> of March for students in Years 1-6.

## VTBNC Ladies Auxilliary

We also have 2 male members and for \$2 you too could be a member of the auxilliary. We raise funds for our Nursing Centre to provide 'extras' for the residents benefit. Our March meeting will be held on Thursday 30, at 1.30 pm at the meeting room at Nursing Centre/ Hume Corridor. We look forward to hearing of our share of the 2005 plum puddings. New members very welcome. Pam Ellis, Hon. Sec.

## PRESS RELEASE

Goulburn Valley Community Health Service Inc. Financial Counselling Service provides a free service two days per week throughout the Shire of Strathbogie.

From the 23 February 2006 Anita Smith Financial Counsellor will be in Violet Town every second Thursday from 8.45 a.m. until 4.45 p.m. working out of Hume Corridor Community Outreach Health Service, Cowslip Street, Violet Town.

Anita is available in Euroa on Mondays and alternative Thursdays. On those days she is located at The Shire of Strathbogie - Maternal and Child Health Centre, 2 Bury Street To make an appointment to see Anita in either Euroa or Violet Town ring 57 95 3720 on Mondays and Thursdays. If you just need to talk to someone about your financial problems alternatively you can ring Anita between 8.45 a.m. and 10.00 a.m. on those days also on 57 95 3720.

As Anita says don't let your financial problems overwhelm you. She says people often delay asking for help until it is too late when if they had asked they would have realised that there are a multiple range of options available to assist them.

## VT Red Cross Unit

A clothing display of Blumes Fashions will be held in the supper room at the Community Centre on Friday 21 April at 2 pm. Blumes have been coming to Violet Town for some years& their fashions are very affordable. Cost is \$5 which includes afternoon tea, and a raffle will also be held.

This is a fundraiser for the Red Cross and we invite ladies to come & see the new fashions and styles. More details at our march meeting to be held in the Meeting Room on March 6 at 2pm.

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## Violet Town Senior Citizens

Improved attendance at our last meeting. Senior Citizens Week has been changed due to the Games. A trip is planned during the week October 1-8—further details as we get on in the year. An application for a subsidy to cover costs is in place.

Another shorter day out is to be planned—come and help us decide and register for it. Our regular Alf is having some health problems—wish you well, and if you are come and join us!

Laurie Connors, Facilitator

## Euroa Community Cinema March Movie Hits

3-5	The Producers
10-12	Keeping Mum
17-19	Brokeback Mountain
24-26	Memoirs of a Geisha

## Hume Corridor Community Outreach Health Service

### "Boob Bus"

Wednesday 15 March

Bus leaves Hume Corridor in Cowslip Street at 12.30pm for Shepparton

**FREE**

Bookings essential as seats are limited. For a seat on the bus please call 57366 366.

## Tatong Village Market

Make it /Bake it/ Grow it  
Saturday 4th March  
(1st Sat. of every Month)  
8am to 1pm  
Tatong Tavern Hotel

Martin Doxey 03 5767 2201 or  
Andy Varnik 03 5767 2210

*continued from page 4*

The Kitty Circuit is one end of the market that is interesting to take a stroll through, located at the end of the bitumen and over to the left between the back of the bowls club and the bitumen the Kitty Circuit tends to have stalls that sell mostly commercially produced goods. Nick sells clothing-track suits t-shirts etc and Mary and Phong's stall sells clothing as well with an emphasis on women's clothes. Geoff sells plastic pots, toys and gifts and our good friend Steve sells lots of tools, toys and sunnies.

The charming Chris sells very well priced haberdashery and canvas off the roll. On a huge site (5 sites in fact) in the middle of the kitty circuit are David and Stephen who sell garden fabrics such as shade cloth and boots and shoes, they are known brands with low price tags. Faye on one corner of Kitty Circuit sells animal care products and last but not least is the marvellous Mary. Mary offers us car accessories, sunnies and magnifying glasses. I sort of think of Kitty Circuit as our own little bit of The Queen Victoria Market right here in Violet Town. Who needs to go to the big smoke?

Well that's it for another month. My 'keep the market running smoothly and the co-ordinator happy' tip for stallholders this month is-can stallholders please unload their vehicles as quickly as possible and remove them from the market site before they set up their stalls. This minimizes car congestion and keeps everybody more relaxed.

Thanks and see you at the market.  
Chris 0416233584

## More Market news

### No Dogs policy

The market committee is in the process of implementing in conjunction with the Council a no dogs policy for the market. This decision was made by the committee as a result of concerns expressed by patrons and a number of incidents involving dogs.

The committee will be implementing the policy by the June market.

### Community group of the month

Community group of the month is a new program commencing at the March market. This program is designed to assist the various groups in the town to raise funds and increase their profile in the community. Groups will be provided with signage, a prime site for the opportunity to fund raise and display their programs etc; together with and the right to collect donations at the gate.

The first community group of the month will be the Violet Town Kindergarten who will use the opportunity to display their plans and raise much needed funds required to build their new building.

We are hoping the community will support these groups by offering a gold coin donation. Any group wishing to participate in the program should contact the Market Committee Secretary Sandy Garrett on 57981522

## 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*

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## Violet Town Golf Club

Only a month to go before golf kicks off for the 2006 season at the VT Golf Club.

Don't forget if you're a potential new member or a lapsed member, you are invited to join up for the season for just \$35. This represents a saving of over 50% on the normal adult membership of \$75. Junior membership is just \$10.

So if you're thinking of giving golf a go, you could do a lot worse than trying your local club first.

Opening Day is April 2 when a social event & BBQ will start the season off in style.

For further details ring the president Garrie Moore on 5798 1469.

## Violet Town 70's plus

For—aged 70 & over, any age volunteer, carer or disability.

Monday 27 & Tuesday 28 March will be the 10th anniversary of meals together in Violet Town. A great achievement by participants & the many volunteers who help set up, serve meals, clean up, provide transport & spend time in coming & chatting. We appreciate all helpers & thank the Grade 5 & 6 students from VT for their help.

Please RSVP by Tuesday 21 March to the 'purple book' at Delaheys or phone Pam Ellis 5798 1368.

Our thanks to the VT BNC kitchen 'crew' who provide a variety of delicious meals.

## VT Walking Group

The group met at Fred & Rosie's property late February to discuss the coming years program. Last year was a successful year with new walkers joining, making new friends & welcoming new residents to our town.

Age is no barrier to be part of the group as walks are at a reasonable pace.

Inquiries Dot Rae 5798 1338

## Violet Town Kindergarten

Firstly what a wonderful community we live in. We have been overwhelmed by the support we have received from individuals & groups willing to help the Kinder's financial situation. A big thank you to Norm & the op shop for their generous donation to the Kinder on Australia Day & now the March takings—we are very grateful for their support.

The VT Market Committee have some great ideas to assist fundraising & in March we will have a stand there with plans of the new building.

A very successful day last market at the Kinder with our Devonshire Tea & cake stall. Thank you to all people who supported us & provided food for the stall & a huge thank you to all our volunteers—Janine, Sue, Chris, Margaret, Pam & Rose.

You may have noticed the lovely new addition of a bird bath & seat at the Kinder.

These were kindly donated by Mrs Rita Tobias. We will have an unveiling ceremony followed by afternoon tea for Rita early in term 2. The children have all settled into Kinder well & you only have to watch them happily playing to realise we are all working hard to support a valuable resource in the town.



The Editor—Well done to Norm Campbell & the op shop volunteers for the wonderful donations made at the Australia Day Breakfast (see February Op Shop Notes for details of amounts donated).

Where would this town be without our fantastic volunteers!

## Hume Corridor Community Outreach Health Service Presents

# Pitstop

A Men's health screening night where you can put your body over the pits

- Having problems with Exhaust Emission?  
Is your Oil Pressure too high?
- Is your Torsion correctly adjusted?
- Any signs of rust in your Duco?
- Are your Spark Plugs correctly gapped?

Talk to the maintenance crew and work out your personal service requirements

**Friday the 31<sup>st</sup> March at 6.00pm**  
**Violet Town Football & Netball Club Rooms**  
**BBQ Provided & Bar available**  
**Great "Pitstop" door prizes**  
**Meet Celebrity race-car drivers and great cars**

For more information please contact the Hume Corridor Community Outreach Health Service on 5736 6366

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- ◆ Extensions
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## St Dunstan's News

We are still holding services every Sunday morning at 11.15 am—come along and enjoy the lovely hymns and the meaningful sermons from Fr Roger Ross.

We learned recently of the death of Fr Warren Grace in Bendigo, he was 81. He was rector here at St Dunstans for some time and his wife Mary installed a no-dig garden here. We sent our regrets in a card and we have had a response from Mary. Cheers to all those on the sick list.

## Violet Town Op Shop

In March the op shop will donate all takings to our Kindergarten. With about 18 op-shopping days in March we hope to reach a figure in excess of \$2000. We need bric-a-brac, any old jewellery, books & clothing, any old garden tools, plants are also welcome. One lady brought in a herb garden & it was sold before we had time to price it.

Help us to make March a bumper month to help our Kinder.

When passing the shop take a look at the poster the kinder kids made (on the door of the \$1 shop)—quite a work of art. It consists of the huge icon 'Ossie' with the feathers artistically created by using cut out hands in black & brown. We were very impressed & proud of our young ones & fantastic to get such a big thank you from ones so small, thank you's mean a lot to the volunteers at the shop.

Pam, who has been laid up from a knee operation, should be back with us soon & Lorna also is well on the road to recovery. Marion has been giving us a few extra days which is great, however Pam & Peg will be away over winter, also Julie for a few weeks so we really do need a few extra volunteers over this period. Even a few hours on Saturdays & Sundays would be a wonderful help, we

even supply lunches. Thanks go to Pam Ellis who always comes to the fore when needed, also to Ann, Ted, Lee & Bea for the taxi service to & from work, also Julie & Marion. Lot's of thank yous—that golden word!

We will have been operating for 9 years on the 26th October this year with many changes since those early days of no electric light, mushrooms growing through the carpet, leaking roof (which thanks to our Fire Brigade has almost stopped). We then opened the section featuring children's clothing & nothing over 50c, followed by another room with a huge range of books, then the \$1 shop, also a back room full of sheets, blankets, curtains, bedspreads etc—all things the craft buyer would love.

Since we opened in 1997, the three main organisations we have donated to have received the following -

VT Bush Nursing Centre	\$26,150
VT Fire Brigade	\$11,100
VT Kindergarten	\$ 5,500
Making the grand total of	\$32,750

Many other organisations have also benefited. We also installed the reproduction Collins St lamps in front of the C/Centre to commemorate the wars, with the Lions Club erected the Lions Park fence, supplied balloons for street parades & prizes for floats, helped with the cost of painting the guns at the Rec Reserve, helped the Railway volunteers, Kids on Wheels, also gear for Little Aths etc etc.

All this is done through our hard working volunteers, plus the donations from The VT community, and the great thing is most of the money does not come from our community. Our customers are people from far & wide who love to visit the best little op shop in the N. East, or as one person said, in all Australia.

*from all the Op Shop volunteers*

## Lochgardie Glass Art



We take commissions for:

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

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www.lgmedia.com.au/glassart

## Uniting Church Sunday School News

February 5 saw the start of our Sunday School year with 21 children enjoying a 'healthy breakfast' of pancakes, fruit and fruit juice. As there were plenty of pancakes left over, many adults enjoyed a second breakfast. The age of the children ranged from 2 years to mid teens.

Throughout the morning the children heard the story from Mark 1: 21-28 and made Valentine Day cards for some of the Nursing Home residents.

The team of teachers have some exciting projects planned for the children throughout the year & we welcome any child come along & join in.

*God Bless You,  
Toni McLean  
5798 1486*

## Son of Epicurious

The pictures of the floods in New Orleans were so horrid that I have chosen one of my favorite Cajun recipes for our column this month to give us something more pleasant to think about. The land around the Mississippi delta is fertile and productive and, presumably for this reason, has suffered repeated waves of settlement over the last five hundred years. Each wave of settlement has contributed to the lifestyle of the residents and as a consequence the present cuisine is a flamboyant mixture based on the diet of the original inhabitants but now including contributions from the cultures of Spain, France, Africa (the slave trade) and Britain as well as smaller groups which have melded to make a vigorous nation whose cuisine resonates with contributions from many of the nations which have contributed to their development.

One of the most popular dishes in the Cajun Cuisine is Cajun Blackfish. To cook this you will need to mix or purchase a supply of 'Cajun Seasonings.' This mixture of herbs and spices can be obtained, premixed, in supermarkets and is used in a variety of Cajun recipes. It will not be difficult therefore, to experiment with a number of Cajun dishes while learning and when you feel confident, you can start mixing your own.

### Ingredients for Cajun Spices

- 1) 1 tablespoon garlic powder (or garlic salt)
- 2) 1 tablespoon onion powder (or onion salt)
- 3) 2 teaspoon white pepper
- 4) 2 teaspoon cracked black pepper
- 5) 1 ½ teaspoons cayenne
- 6) 2 teaspoons dried thyme
- 7) ½ teaspoon oregano

Mix the spices together. Store in a cool place.

In addition to the mixture of seasonings you will need, for six people

125 gm. unsalted butter

a fillet of fish for each diner  
2 tablespoons of Cajun spices  
2 teaspoons sweet paprika

### Method

Melt butter in a small pan Brush each fillet well with butter on both sides

Mix Cajun spices and paprika

Sprinkle the mixture over the fish and use your fingers to rub the flavourings evenly over the fillets.

Heat a large shallow pan over high heat. Put one or two fillets in the hot pan and cook for 1-2 minutes on high heat.

Turn and cook a further few minute until done .The surface should be well charred on both sides

Add a little extra butter if needed

Cook the remaining fillets. Serve hot with remaining butter and plain rice.

We have enjoyed our exploration of the Cajun cookery of New Orleans and we have decided to review the Cold Weather Cajun Cook later in the year.

This method of cooking can be used with chicken, seafood, pork or beef.

Barrie Mather

## Sunnyside Oak Tree Restaurant

Bonnie Doon Rd, Boho South

Saturday 25 March—pizza night by Sim from Milkwood Bakery

Sunday 26 March—market day, 10 ams

Please consider helping to get a local market going at Boho South by putting a stall together—stall fees are only \$5—bring along some of that 'trash & treasure' or excess garden produce, home made crafts or other goodies, and by attending to support stallholders. Luncheon and light refreshments are available to purchase.

For further info please ring Olga on 5790 8510.

## Violet Town Garden Club

The first meeting of the year was held on Monday 20th February in the lovely shady garden at Ian & June Chanter's home with 20 members present. The most important decision was reached to continue the Iris & Cut Flower Show. This will be held on 5th Nov 2006. Everyone spoke of how happy they were with the number of visitors last year, and of the lovely flowers & even though it is a lot of work, we decided to do it all again. We spoke fondly of the late Violet Palmer, a member ever since the club began. Farewell Vi.

Are you interested in a bus trip to the Blue Mountains? If enough interest this will be organised by the VT Garden Club—ring Lorraine Ralston on 5798 9517. This will be for 3 days in early October.

Please Note: There will be NO MEETING IN APRIL. This would fall on Easter Monday & as no other day was suitable it was decided to have no meeting that month.

The next meeting will be held on 20th March at the home of George Fadersen, 12 Gilchrist Street, Shepparton. Meet behind the hall at 8.30 am if you want transport. "Don't be late".

We have had the services of Daniel Downie as gardener as our health has broken down & we would recommend him to anyone in our circumstances.

Farewell, see you on the 20th,  
Kath Washusen



## ELLEN FRANCES HOTEL / MOTEL

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## "Basic Spirit"

Saturday 25 March, 8.30pm start

### Meals

Luncheon: Wednesday to Sunday 12.00 to 2.00 pm

Dinner: Wednesday to Sunday 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm

## Violet Town Milk Bar Incorporating Silverwedge Pies & Pizza

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## Violet Town Garage & Engineering Ph. 5798 1452

The Violet Town Garage & Engineering would like to welcome Terry McDonald to their team. Terry is a qualified mechanic. As we are VACC members both Luke & Terry can service your new car without voiding your new car warranty. Feel free to come down and make Terry feel welcome!

## Maternal & Child Health SERVICES

Out of session times please call  
1800 065 or 5795 2010 or Community  
Services on 5795 2555

### MAKING CONTACT

To contact Maternal & Child Health nurse Heather Bryant, phone your nearest centre, or 0407 090 061.

Email [heatherb@strathbogie.vic.gov.au](mailto:heatherb@strathbogie.vic.gov.au) or select community services at [www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au](http://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au)

### VIOLET TOWN

- Hyacinth Street. Ph 5798 1477
- Thursday (open session) 2 pm—3.30 pm
- EUROA
- Bury Street Ph 5705 2010
- Mon. (open session) 9.30 am-12.30 pm
- Thurs (open session) 9.30 am-12.30 pm

When attending a Maternal & Child Health Centre, please take with you:

- your yellow health record book and
- a cloth nappy or rug to place on the scales & change table

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## Probus Notes

Our new year got off to a happy start when we had a BBQ & games day on Jan 19. Participants were organised into teams dubbed the Foxes, Koalas, Wombats & Emus. Each team then competed in Bocci, Croquet, Golf & an egg & spoon race requiring the transfer of 6 table tennis balls from a bucket full of water to an empty bucket some 12 yards away. Prizes were awarded to each winning team. Our first meeting for the year was well attended with 34 members present plus a visitor & a number of apologies.

Claire Penniceard was our guest speaker who brought us up to date on her visit to China. She told about development of technological zones down the east coast which has taken over previously productive agricultural land & which needed 140,000,000 jobs per year to be created just to keep up with current employment. These development zones are staffed by highly skilled people whose wages are about \$2000 per year.

With wages like this it is easy to see why China can export cheaper cars, hardware & white goods. Don't think that cheap means shoddy, all goods are manufactured to a high standard, so high a standard that they build Mercedes Benz cars for Germany because the quality is higher than the German standard.

With the average wage of \$70-\$200 for agricultural workers & the increase in land value in the industrial zones there has been a movement of the younger population from rural areas to the bigger cities. 85% of the population still lives in the country while only 15% live in the development zones.

China's problem is to feed its population. When young members of a family go to look for better paying jobs the task of looking after the farms is left to parents & grandparents using traditional methods & intensive hand labour.

Claire was invited by a group of farmers to give them advice on how to become more productive & was taken to an agricultural province where she met with a delegation of farmers from different areas.

If the soil was good they practiced strip farming with no fences between strips, and grew an inferior type of wheat that is not good enough for bread. In other areas where the land was steep or rocky they raised cattle, sheep or goats. Some farmers had seen a photo of a tractor but none had seen a horse. The average cattle herd was 5 with an equivalent for sheep and goats. Houses were a basic one room structure with mud floors.

Claire was able to make some suggestions about developing a feedlot using the grain from all the farms to raise better cattle & for calves to be reared on the farm using the goat's milk while the cattle were at the feedlot.

This was a really interesting presentation & we thank Claire for her attendance. Next meeting Monday 6 March, 10 am at the supper room.

*Bob Sinclair*

## Strathbogie Shire Immunisation Times 2006

- Wednesday 15 March
- Wednesday 19 April
- Wednesday 17 May
- Wednesday 21 June
- Wednesday 19 July
- Wednesday 16 August
- Wednesday 20 September

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

18 month dose of Triple antigen is no longer required

## What is happening at the Community House?

Lots have been happening at the Community House over the past few months. Our summer holidays were spent with Youth and Art Programs, Health and Well Being Programs as well as supporting individuals and groups within our community.

We have also been busy working on funding applications to redevelop the community house office and youth space with the intention of not only enhancing the community complex but also providing a more suitable home for the services we offer the community. This will include a confidential referral and support room, improving the youth space and providing opportunities for other art and craft based programs to use the space, re-housing and upgrading our computer facility, and building storage facility and disability access via a new verandah area. We will keep the community up to date as the application precedes as well as call for wider community input when appropriate.

The Violet Town Community Phone Book is nearly ready to hit the printers. If you have any additions or changes that you want to see in the book please contact the community house office immediately on 5798 1288 or via email: vtcommunityhouse@netc.net.au The next 15/15 Film Festival is on its way!!! So get your ideas and stories together. Register with the Community House or via www.filmfestival15.com.au The shooting day will be the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2006 and the screening will be in Violet Town on the 4<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm. If you have an idea and would like to become involved but are unsure of how to make it happen please talk to Annette at the Community House and we will be able to work your idea through. Some equipment is available for use, including edit suites but these facilities must be booked.

Work will be starting soon on our Benchmark

project and we are looking for an artist to facilitate the process, work with individuals and community groups, and help pull the artistic part of the project together. Howard Myers and Michael McLaughlin will be fitting the arms to the benches in March and we expect to begin the artistic treatments in March and April. If you are interested please contact the Community House for a brief. We thank the Shire of Strathbogie and the Violet Town Op Shop for their support with this project.

The School Holiday Program for the next Holidays is currently being finalized and we will be offering Circus Workshops, Drama Workshops, Fire Performance, Music, Jewellery Making and a trip to Shepparton, as well as another visit to Luna Park. There will be more work happening on our Kids and Cars Project as well as the creation of our Youth Week Celebrations. There will also be community film nights for everyone's entertainment.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> April we will be celebrating Youth Week with a youth festival at the Skate Park featuring live local youth music, our own youth comedian, Graffiti Wall, Paint Ball, Performances and hopefully a Skate/BMX demo. Look out for posters and more information.

Seniors Week will be broken into two celebrations this year due to the commonwealth games. Barb Symes, Val Russell and Annette Walton are starting to organise the celebrations, please contact any of them with your ideas.

Our next Basic Computer Course will be starting on the 7<sup>th</sup> March at 1pm. If you are interested please put your name down on 5798 1288. There is only one vacancy at this stage.

Our Journeys Group has changed shape into a new and exciting Women's Group which is open to all women in the community.

The Group offers women friendship, support,

## Community House continued.....

with the support of the Hume Corridor Health Service the group meets casually every week but on alternate weeks share meals and are inspired by and learn from varying guest speakers. Activities planned for the next few months include a Mental Health First Aid Course, Health Professionals visits and some fun social gatherings. Generally free all women are welcome. Child care can be arranged Booking essential.

The Upotipotpon Book Club meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7.30pm at different members homes in the community. Everyone is welcome to join and new members are encouraged. Call the community house office for more information.

To celebrate the end of the Pool Season we will be having a Pool Party on the Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. BYO CD's Sausage sizzle and fun games will be apart of the evening.

Carpet Bowls – Every Monday Night at 7.30pm All Welcome Memorial Hall

Line Dancing – Every Wednesday Night at 7.30pm All Welcome Supper Room

Kids and Cars – Starts up again on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 10am as of March. All Welcome

Guitar and Fiddle – Tuesday afternoons and evenings with Paul Wookey. Private lessons, all skill levels. Cost \$ 25 per lesson.

Stone Work – Two Courses will be running in our stone work dry and wet stone laying course due to great response. Tony Rhodes will be facilitating and the course will be held on a Saturday in late March and Early April. Cost for the day is \$35 and lunch will be provided. To be held at the Skills Shed. More inquiries most welcome on 5798 1288.

Motor Mechanics for Women - Learn how o get your car running and how to fix it in an emergency. Course to be held over four weeks for two hours. Cost \$40 Start date to be confirmed. Kind friendly tutor.

Mental Health First Aid Course coming soon. If you would like more information please contact 5798 1288

Children's Art Classes – Starting Term Two suitable for Primary and High School aged students. Tutor Eve Crocker. Put Your name down soon. Adults Art Classes will also be starting at the beginning of term 2. Craft Group – A new craft group has been conceived and we are looking for members. Are you interested in joining a craft group where you can take part in different facilitated activities from beading, jewelry, smocking, felting, origami and basket making? If so please contact the community house office.

We also have a workshop in building Nesting Boxes on the 1<sup>st</sup> April from 10 am. A Digital Story Workshop to support our Living History Project in late March as well as a New Singing Group coming together in the start of term 2.

Programs will be out next week but in the meantime for more information contact the community house on 5798 1288 or Annette on 0417 166 824. Have a great month.

Annette Walton  
Ph: 0417 166 824

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