

Charlton's Only Dedicated News Resource

Charlton's Charlotte Rides For Australia

Charlton Pony Club local, Charlotte Stewart, will represent Australia next month in Mounted Games in New Zealand as part of the prestigious Horse of the Year (HOY) event held annually.

Charlotte was selected as part of the team competing at HOY by the Australian Mounted Games Association committee.

The Equestrian discipline of Mounted Games is a "fastpaced competition that showcases the rider's athletic ability, agility, precision of riding and general horsemanship".

Charlotte has previously represented Victoria twice at the Prince Phillip Mounted Games Nationals, in Canberra in 2022 and Benalla in 2023. Under the guidance of her coach, Desmond Haliday, Charlotte will spend the next month preparing for this next exiting adventure.

The Australian team of five plus reserve, consists of three Victorian riders, two from NSW and a Western Australian rider. The riders will compete on borrowed ponies sourced from New Zealand locals and have therefore been selected for their ability to ride a variety of horses as well as for their individual mounted games skills.

In addition to the team event, Charlotte will also compete in the pairs competition with fellow teammate Brodie Haliday-Tough. Charlotte and Brodie have competed as a pair previously at State level, obtaining the title of State Under 18 Pairs Reserve Champions at Ayr Hill last year, coming second to world champion team riders Gabe Smith and Ryan Bissicks.



28 High St, Charlton VIC 3525 Tel: (03) 5491 1909

Charlotte and the rest of the Australian team are honoured and excited for the opportunity to represent their country overseas and further

promote the sport that they passionate about.

Charlotte Stewart riding Jess at the Victorian Team training in 2023. Photo Credit Carolyn Stewart.



How the locals like it.



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From the Editor Carolyn Olive

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the March edition. What a huge month! Charlton has been buzzing with an influx of visitors—the Red Back Rally, the Film Festival, and then the OK Motels weekend. The huge storm that wreaked havoc upon our town tried to derail much of it but thanks to the Buloke Shire and many locals we were looking pretty good for our visitors. The feedback from the many visitors I spoke to was all very positive.

To cap it all off we had ABC Backroads filming for a week. Despite my reluctance I ended up in front of the camera as did many others. They certainly caught up with plenty of community groups and individuals whilst here. We can look forward to the Charlton episode later in the year.

Volume 8 of the Cultural Magazine is now available. It's another great read and well worth the \$5 price.

After completing quite a few large projects over the last few years, I'm looking forward to making progress on many smaller ones that have been on the back-burner. And speaking of projects, if you have an idea for a community project don't keep it a secret. Let me or someone at the Neighbourhood House know—and maybe we can make it happen.

Cheers, Carolyn

Upcoming Events

Please note, events are subject to change.

March: Charlton Pacing Cup—Sunday 17th

April:

Lions Easter Market—Monday 1st Charlton Deb Ball—Friday 12th

May: Dignity to the Fallen—Thursday 9th



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the Charlton Community Newsletter

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Please note that accounts were due on 31st January. If you would like to become a sponsor please contact Carolyn on 0418 361 971 or email charltonnewsletter@gmail.com

Email news, items of interest, stories and advertising items to charltonnewsletter@gmail.com

The Charlton Community Newsletter is printed at the Charlton Neighbourhood House



This beautifully presented 3-bedroom home has everything you need. Two bathrooms, plenty of space with the bonus of shedding and a 16 panel solar system.. This spacious well-presented home is definitely worth a look!

Julie Benaim 0457 904 119 Real Estate sales window at 31 High St Charlton Office 33 High St Wedderburn admin@p1property.com.au

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Refurbishment for Community Bank

Following hot on the heels of the Charlton Community Bank (Bendigo Bank) 20th anniversary in October last year, the premises is now sporting a fresh, streamlined look which will take it into the future.

With no significant upgrades being carried out over the past two decades, this change has taken place in conjunction with Bendigo Bank revising their corporate look – making this the opportune time to revitalize the local branch.

Charlton Community Bank Chairperson, Win Scott said, "We knew the bank was ready for a refurbishment, and with the Bendigo Bank about to introduce changes to their corporate styling, this was an ideal time to complete the upgrade."

Originally scheduled for December, the transformation was carried out over January, with the resulting look yielding a streamlined, contemporary identity.

Changes to the corporate colour scheme include a transition from magenta to "Plum", charcoal (most noticeable on the entry surrounds and street frontage windows) and white. Gone are the multiple photos from the ramp entrance, with a now distinctive fill featuring "Hello Charlton" in large typeface on a plain corporate-colour background. Other changes include fresh signage at the ATM, on the veranda and the building's façade. A digital screen is to be installed in the street-facing window for the promotion of bank-related information, with another screen indoors for a similar purpose.

Branch Manager, Je-Anne McVicar-Williams also indicated that local content, such as the coverage of the Branch's 20th anniversary celebrations, would be shared through the digital monitors.

This upgrade marks another milestone for the local Branch as it continues building its community outreach and growth.



The sleek refurbishment of the Charlton Community Bank adds a fresh, contemporary style to the High Street premises. Pictured are Bank staff: (1-r) Je-Anne McVicar-Williams (Branch Manager), Michelle Ride (Customer Relations Officer), Alena Olive (Customer Service Officer) Tracy Dalrymple (Customer Relations Manager) and Tyler Catherine (Customer Service Officer).



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Golden Grains Museum News

Welcome to the March update from your local Charlton Golden Grains Museum. What a busy time it has been for our town with three big events bringing many visitors to Charlton. The Redback Rally, Charlton Arts Film Festival and the OK Motels weekends all prove what a great location we are lucky enough to live in. I wonder if in 50 to 100 years time others will be looking at old archives of this period as we often look back on events long since passed. Sadly, the terrible storm that roared through our town recently caused considerable damage, and a big thank you goes out to everyone, from Buloke Shire staff to individuals who jumped in to clean things up. Also what an incredible job the volunteers of the SES do in assisting those in trouble. We are lucky to have such people.

This leads us into our wonderful museum volunteers who freely give up their time helping archive items, sell raffle tickets, open the rooms for visitors, or simply attending meetings, helping out when needed; the museum simply couldn't operate without them. Do you have an interest in history? Would you like to help preserve items for Charlton's future generations? Do you enjoy spending time with friendly like-minded people? Contact the museum for further details; you will be made most welcome. You can also become a 'Friend of the Museum' for just \$20. Every dollar goes towards maintaining and improving our town's collection of important historic items for future generations.

Why not drop by for a visit to the

museum one Sunday between 11am and 3pm. Our displays are always being updated and many new donated items are being added. Admission is only \$5 for adults with children being free. EFTPOS is also available with a selection of merchandise available to purchase. If you are involved in a group or organization why not consider visiting us for an interesting outing; a cuppa and biscuits can even be arranged.

Charlton Courthouse

This month's feature story looks at one of Charlton's most historic and beautiful buildings; The Charlton Court House. Built in 1882 by architect J. T. Kelleher for the cost of 1307 pounds, this building was in the Midland Circuit of the County Court that stretched from Echuca to Donald and Kerang to Kyneton. In early days the Judges travelled by train to the various towns using a gold Victorian Railways medallion that allowed unrestricted travel, and overnight accommodation would be provided by hotels. In 1912 a Judge's room was added to the building following criticism of a lack of facilities, and in later years a porch.

One of the Court's earliest Judges was Judge Quinlan who served the area until 1891. A very interesting man, he arrived in Australia in 1853 at the age of 19 searching for gold. He became prominent in public affairs in Dunolly, where at the age of just 24 he was elected as first President of the Town Council. He stood for Parliament twice and founded a weekly newspaper. After a single year at Melbourne University he was admitted to the Bar and developed a thriving legal business. In 1882 Quinlan was offered an appointment as a judge but refused citing the low pay and lack of a pension. He did however accept a position in 1883.

Of the many, many cases he sat on in Charlton one was of a farmer claiming compensation from the contractor laying the Charlton railway line track. Following a spark from the work being done, a fire ensued setting his paddocks alight and causing damage of one hundred and thirty two pounds. Following evidence from both sides, Judge Quinlan noted that the grass along the line should have been pre-burnt and that a spark catcher should have been fitted to the engine involved. He awarded one hundred and twenty pounds to the farmer to much applause from those (mostly other farmers) in the courtroom.

The beautiful courthouse is still in use today for community and private events and we are lucky that there was interest at a meeting in 2006 to preserve it. A committee of Management was formed and a grant was obtained from Heritage Victoria of \$69,000 to restore the building. Following delays the renovated courthouse was officially opened by Judge John Carmody in 2012.

For all enquiries regarding our museum check out our Facebook Page or search on your browser 'Golden Grains Museum Charlton'.

Phone enquiries: President Diane 0417 511 218 Vice President David 0422 185 885 Secretary Carolyn 0418 361 971 Archivist Markus 0413 129 216 Volunteers Anne 0408 547 973 & Glenda 0417 801 771.





Festival Forges Friendships

Contributed by Jenny Pollard

Like two long-time friends, Charlton resident Brigitta Beaty and St. Arnaud visitor, Bronwyn McCulloch were deep into sharing reactions to movies over lunch during a break in Charlton Arts Film Festival.

An annual staple in the local calendar, the two-day event draws people from near and far, and although the two ladies had just met that morning, they gave every impression of having known each other for years. A similar interest in the arts, beyond mainstream, fueling the was the conversation and discussion of the morning's film "Bromley: Light After Dark" revealed the stimulating dialogue which film choices can generate in these events

While there is a long history of people returning year after year to the Festival it's not always the movies which are the main drawcard.

For some it brings an opportunity to catch up with family. For others it's a chance to delve deeper into distant family ties and re-connect with the past. It may even be as simple as grabbing the opportunity for a weekend get-away!

For Bronwyn, the reasons were varied and plentiful. Meeting with like-minded people, alternative films to the standard commercial fare, acceptable pricing for a season's ticket which included suppers and lunch, strong film choices, and a convivial atmosphere.

Having attended other film festivals, Charlton's appeal came from the length of the program ("not too long") the attractive option of lunch being included in the package ("a lovely home prepared meal") and the scope of film genres - starting with a drama ("One Life") and ending on a high note with comedy ("Red, White & Brass").

Brigitta also applauded the shared times following the screenings where discussions

could flow. With both ladies hankering for access to a diversity of film, a proposal for an alternate festival (perhaps of world movies) was mooted.

For first-time attendee, John Smith (Melbourne), it was a chance to visit the country. Accompanying his friend Myf Van de Meene, the festival has become an indulgence of sorts where settling in to watch a succession of films can be enjoyed. A little closer to home the Fisher and Elder families from near Quambatook saw the weekend as a pleasant outing where they could sit around as well as catch up with friends.

Charlton Arts Film Festival Coordinator, Carolyn Olive, said coming up with the right mix of movies was important and the formula of light-hearted, documentary and sub-titled offerings seemed to work well.

"This year we have two films that, although set in Australia ("Shayda") and New Zealand ("Red, White & Brass") still have some foreign language component," Carolyn said. "With more films not having theatrical releases now or moving quickly into streaming services, the selection is becoming more difficult."

The opening night film, "One Life" starring Anthony Hopkins, had undoubtably hit the mark with patrons speaking effusively about the affecting storyline. As a reflective drama, the story concentrates on British humanitarian, Nicholas Winton (Hopkins), who helped save hundreds of predominantly Jewish children from the Nazis on the eve of World War II. A topic which carries resonance with today's Middle-Eastern crisis, this generated many talking points amongst the first-night crowd.

Following a successful outcome for their first event of 2024, the committed members of Charlton Arts will now begin planning their up-coming entertainment and cultural offerings for the year ahead.

Patrons enjoying supper after the Friday film.





Over a delicious luncheon of frittata, salad and fruit salad, catered for by Charlton Arts members, Brigitta Beaty (1) and Bronwyn McCulloch (r) toast the success of the 2024 Charlton Film Festival.



February Probus Meeting

On Friday, the 9th of February, the club meeting was held at the Charlton Shire Hall. **Reports and Celebrations**

Our treasurer, Nick, reported that we have sufficient funds to pass on to the new committee so they can start a new year for the club.

Our membership officer, Gary, reported that there were 39 Members present and 12 Apologies.

Our caring officer, Noreen, reported that a sympathy card was sent to Lynne Minogue.

Birthday wishes were expressed to Val Bourke, Anne Kenny, John and Sheila Grenfell, Jenny Barnard, Maureen Holleran, Elaine Wicks and Deb Cleary. Have a wonderful birthday, one and all.

Congratulations were sent to Anne Kenny for receiving Citizen of the Year for 2024. A well deserved honour for her hard work for the Charlton community.

Thank you cards were received from Neil Cossar and Anne Kenny.

Our outings officer, Sandra Patton, spoke about the pleasant afternoon on Sunday the 21st of January at the Charlton Lions Club. Many members reported that they had a wonderful time listening to "Christmas Down Under" by Andre Rieu, afterwards having a delicious afternoon tea. Sandra talked about a possible trip to the Charlton Feedlot via the Yeungroon Community History Precinct, with lunch at the Wedderburn Pub.

On the 20th March Morning Music at The Capital Theatre will kick off.

Footy tipping

Footy tipping is being headed up by Kevin Mathews. Good luck to all and may your team win.

Jokes

Lee Parker enthralled us with her joke about "The Truckie and the Emu". Garry Larmour also amused us with his story about "Taking the Dog for a Walk."

Lucky Number draw

Congratulations to Joan Mundy on winning the lucky prize draw.

Presentation by Buloke Shire's Community Recovery Team

- Guest speakers this month were Sam Wheelhouse and Jo Postlethwaite of the Buloke Community Recovery Team. Here is a summary of Buloke Shire's Community Recovery Round-Up for Probus Members Key Points:
- Priority initially given to grain harvest traffic after the flood event, to enable farmers to harvest, and to reopen in excess of 150 closed roads.
- \$4.5 million completed in emergency



Probus Group & Buloke Community Recovery Team.



February Birthdays—Sheila Grenfell, John Grenfell, Deb Cleary, Jenny Barnard and Anne Kenny.

repairs on critical public assets, addressing 7,700 issues such as potholes, edge breaks, and various grading works. \$500,000 for addressing similar challenges.

- \$222K in Immediate Reconstruction Works of essential public assets completed.
- \$20M in Rehabilitation Works has been submitted for funding approval, and includes gravel and sealed resheet packages and floodways and rehabilitation packages.
- Upcoming projects set to begin include two gravel road resheeting initiatives and two minor patching efforts across the northern and southern regions of the shire, alongside two major patching packages that are currently awaiting approval.
- The Buloke Shire Council's Community Recovery Team is actively engaging with the community to provide support and information.
- The team recently met with Probus members to discuss:
 - Emergency preparedness: They emphasized the importance of having multiple verified information sources (VicEmergency app, local media, battery-powered radio), and recommended resources like the Red Cross RediPlan and FloodEye.
 - Municipal Emergency Management Plan: This plan is crucial for emergency response and is currently under review with public input encouraged.
 - Road repairs and beautification: The Council is prioritizing road repairs due to flood damage and seeking government assistance. They highlighted completed repairs and upcoming projects.
 - Mosquito-borne disease prevention: The team encouraged residents to use repellents, wear loose clothing, and empty water containers. They also shared the Council's proactive measures.
- Community initiatives: Programs like "Buloke Busy Bees," "Birdie's" playgroup, "Paddock Run," "The Paddock The Goals," and "Buy Buloke" are promoting community spirit and resilience.

Additional Information:

- The October 2022 floods caused significant damage, with repair costs exceeding \$30 million.
- The Council has completed \$4.5 million in emergency repairs and submitted a \$20 million request for further rehabilitation works.

Overall, the Buloke Shire Council is committed to supporting the community through recovery efforts and various initiatives.

Meeting Closed

The meeting closed with some members retiring to the East Charlton Hotel for lunch.



Charlton College conducted its Badge Conferral Ceremony on the morning of Friday February 16th. School Council President Troy Heenan, inducted the College Captains, Dayne Bartlett and Emily Olive, Junior School Captains Samuel Cossar and Marley M^cGurk and School Vice-Captains, Fletcher Holmes -Brown and Angus Soulsby. Both groups of students spoke fondly of the College and their intentions to lead by example and continue to make Charlton College the best school it can be. Parents President, Hayley Soulsby, inducted the College Sports Captains Ebony Start, Nick Thompson and Ned Zagame. House Captains and SLC representatives were also inducted and presented with badges.

Each of the four Foundation students received a book from the Year 12 students as a welcome to the College. The Year 12 students each received badges in recognition of their final year of schooling. The College Captains concluded the ceremony by wishing all those present an enjoyable and successful year.



Junior Captains Samuel Cossar & Marley M Gurk with College Council President, Troy Heenan.



Senior School Captains Dayne Bartlett & Emily Olive with College Council President, Troy Heenan.



School Vice Captains: Angus Soulsby & Fletcher Holmes-Brown.



Senior SLC Representatives.

CHARL

9 March 2024

Charlton College Badge Conferral



Above: Foundation students with their Year 12 buddies.

Above Right: Senior House Captains: Avoca: Annie Olive, Cooper Boyle, Calder: Elliott Fitzpatrick & Elise Fitzpatrick.

Right: Hayley Soulsby with Sports Captains, Ebony Start, Nick Thompson & Ned Zagame.

Below: Year 12 Class: L to R: Fletcher Holmes-Brown, Ned Zagame, Ebony Start, Angus Soulsby, Emily Olive, Cooper Boyle, Ezmerellda Gray, Elliott Fitzpatrick, Dayne Bartlett, Murphy McGeown, Crystal Rose Murray, Saxon Steel, Bonnie Nicolson, Hugh Sait, Ellie Spokes, Nick Thompson, Aleha O'Connor, Andrew Berg.









Contributed by Jenny Pollard

While Tuesday 13th February saw hot and wild weather wreak havoc across Victoria, Charlton also felt the brunt of nature's fury when a band of storms swept across the region.

With the nearby Wimmera region at a "Catastrophic" level of fire danger (the CFA's highest category) and bushfires developing at Pomonal and Dadswell's Bridge near the Grampians, the unexpected onslaught of a mini tornado hitting the Charlton township around 3pm took everyone by surprise.

Substantial damage along the main street saw trees sheared off, fencing destroyed, buildings unroofed and the temporary Post Office window (the former Mensland shop) blown out. (One can only feel for Postmaster, Russell King, with a succession of dramas having unfolded over the past few months). The Nyernila indigenous art trail signage behind the Charlton Club was also flattened, along with numerous trees down in Gordon Park and surrounds. The Rex also lost fencing along the laneway, panels from under the awning and had water in the backstage Green Room.

Sheets of roofing from the corner shops in High Street (Joan Supple's "Florist and Fashion" and Vanessa Doughty's "Zen Den") blew off, landing on a car parked behind the premises. A water tank (empty, presumably) from beside Charlton Hardware, blew across the highway, damaging the Bowling Club signage and finally coming to rest against the Croquet Club fence.

Heading along the Borung Highway towards Donald, around two kilometers of trees had been battered by the wind, bringing down power lines and bending at least one cement pole into a curved shape.

It was hard not to be shocked by the amount of damage which the town had sustained.

Entry from the northern end of Charlton brought the intensity of the storm into sharp relief with a debris field of fractured tree limbs covering the area between the swimming pool and the Gordon Park caravan site and picnic area. Though some clean-up had taken place by the Thursday morning (hard to believe, given the immense amount of litter still on the ground!), workers found many dead birds amongst the wreckage, apparently having been swept up in the onslaught of wind and the falling branches.

And it was nothing short of a miracle that no one had been injured or that more structures weren't flattened in the tumultuous weather event. A saving grace was that school finishing time had shifted to 3:15pm instead of the earlier time of 3 when the maelstrom hit. With less people around the consequences of things like the Post Office window explosion could have been far more problematic had the street been busy.

By Thursday, the Borung Highway from just west of the Vale of Avoca saw traffic being directed with Stop / Go signs as numerous work vehicles and cherry-pickers continued the task of reconnecting power lines which had been brought down. The extent of damage was only apparent from the cemetery heading back east into the town. Minor works were still being carried out along this stretch of road a week after the event.

Back in the township the flattened signage at the Travellers Rest, the Charlton Motel with five units wrecked and the massive eucalyptus branch which somehow didn't smash the Charlton Hall roof were further signs of the wind's force.

Motel managers, Mark O'Connor and Donna Kupfer were shattered by the intensity of the storm, which damaged five of the units when the roofs were ripped off and wrapped around a tree some distance away. Water damage to the ceilings, and bedding, plus the outside veranda being dislodged was just one part of the overall impact of the storm on their business.

"We couldn't believe our eyes," Donna said. "The Motel pool was filled with tree branches and leaves, the tennis court fence was ripped off and the outside pool table (set in place for the "Ok Motels" event) was split in half under a huge tree branch."

"When the roof lifted off the units," Mark said, "it took the veranda with it, dislodging the posts. Danny Wright (builder) has been working here for two days – and has done a ripper job – but the damage is still clear to see." While plans were in place to provide alternate accommodation for the sell-out "OK Motels" music event, Donna said the rooms which were affected had only recently been painted and done up. "So now we are back to square one again!" she said. Further clean ups around the grounds were a work in progress and the tarping of the damaged roofs was expected to happen over the following days.

The hum of chainsaws, front-end loaders, JCB's and other cutting and cartage equipment could be heard and seen across the town over the following days. With the army of workers supplemented by contractors, an incredible job was achieved with most of the refuse having been cleared by the Friday morning.

A week later, after an assessment by arborists, further pruning of potentially hazardous branches was being undertaken across the expanse between the swimming pool and Gordon Park.

Understandably, the storm's ferocity has been a recurring topic of conversation, as its intensity, how it swirled through the town and how it stopped as abruptly as it started, all being recounted as individual experiences are shared.

With many more stories to come to light about house and property damage, along with the accompanying prolonged power outage, this is another of nature's visits which nobody in Charlton wants to see repeated!

(Foot note: The Rex Theatre was screening "The Dry" Double Feature on the following Sunday, the second movie of which was titled, "Force of Nature". Was it an omen?!)



Trees down along High Street following the storm.

Storm Rips Through Charlton



The large eucalyptus branch which just missed damaging the Charlton Hall.



Damage to the temporary Post Office when the window of the former Mensland shop was blown out by the wind. The business has been operating at this location since a fire destroyed the original building further down High Street in November last year.



A cement power pole bent at an angle along the Borung Highway heading towards Donald.



Roofing from the shops near the cenotaph end of High Street landed on this car.



The Charlton Motel sustained damage to five units during the storm.



OK Charlton - Let's Party!

Contributed by Jenny Pollard

After three days of full-on activity Charlton has surely earned a place in the spotlight for community endeavor, as both a host and in partnership with the burgeoning OK Motels Contemporary Music and Arts Small Town Festival, which played out over 23 - 25 February.

From the Friday through to Sunday a combination of the local and the imported brought vibrancy and excitement to the town, aided by the presence of the ABC TV "Back Roads" crew who joined the party to capture "small town" life and the Festival's impact.

From the stunning light and laser Welcome to Country at the Charlton Motel on Friday night, to the posters peppered around town featuring twenty of Australia's top rural social commentary photographers; with the fun and innovative activities like "Marry Your Friends - A Celebration of Holy Mate-rimony", to learning the art of playing lawn bowls and generally slotting into the community like a long-lost friend, OK '24 has seen the event build exponentially on what began as just a night of bands at a retro motel.

Involvement

Community involvement has flourished thanks to outreach to locals in the active planning of the event. A brainstorming session held last November encouraged fresh input. Activities were rearranged to coincide with the February programming, maximizing not just the weekend schedule, but an increase in economic potential. Youth have also taken active roles with the Charlton Youth Group, Charlton College Year 10 students and CWA Juniors all contributing and gaining experience as ambassadors for the town.

And like a master weaver, OK

Motels instigator, Kate Berry has worked hard to draw so many separate groups into the same orbit for the benefit of all. By building relationships, gaining local insight and using her own extensive networks, Kate has seen the evolution of OK Charlton, and it's absolute acceptance by the town, become a major event which not only brings in people from across Australia, but which introduces the elite of indie bands to a small country community. Plus, a lot of visitors spread the word and make return visits outside of the Festival weekend.

Breakfast

The Saturday morning began with the Charlton Lions (assisted by members of the Tennis Club) at the Travellers Rest with the breakfast BBQ of veggie burgers and egg and bacon ready as the revelers surfaced from the TR caravan park and glamping tents. A quick walk over to the town's newest asset - the sleek "Caffeinated Chaos" coffee van run by Tia Fanning - saw a long and consistent queue ready and eager for the sought-after metro fare. Located at the rear of the Charlton Club, the outdoor surrounds, tables and proximity to the river made for a perfect morning setting for a relaxed breakfast and a rehash of the night before's opening session.

A meander down the street brought opportunities for some retail therapy with the Uniting Church Up-Market doing brisk business and Charlton Vintage retro outlet also drawing the crowds. A drop-in at The Rex for the screening of the Aussie classic movie, "Malcolm", was also an option. The Golden Grains Museum and the Charlton Courthouse were also open, with the latter presenting the final showing of local artist, Chris Wyatt's confronting exhibition "Stolen". Outside the Charlton

Neighbourhood House, volunteer, Deb Whykes, chatted with the passers-by or directed them towards a range of activities.

Scones & Bowls

Two highly favoured drawcards were the CWA Devo Tea and bare-foot bowls at the Charlton Bowling Club, both of which heavily patronized by were the predominantly young cohort of visitors. There was glowing praise for the scones and jam and cream, and a surprising eagerness to get stuck into a game of bowls with local bowler, Eily Rosewall, who was the undoubted star and tutor of the day. The conversations returned time and again to how friendly everyone was, how much fun people were having and how well planned the weekend was. CWA Juniors Cody and Lacey Jenkyn and Anna Fitzpatrick assisted Cabbaritta Branch members with hospitality duties, along with initiating conversations with the visitors.

At the Pool

As midday ticked over the action moved to the swimming pool where a huge crowd made the most of the balmy summer conditions, as DJ and Matto spun the music requests. Themed the "Tell Your Friends You Love Them" Pool Party, the highlight of the afternoon was the synchronized swimming performance by "The Clams"-"Melbourne's least professional, most clamtastic Water Ballet Squad". A free event, thanks to sponsorship from OK Motels, Charlton Neighbourhood House, Buloke Shire, Charlton Arts, Bendigo Bank and the Charlton Forum Inc. the 22 member team drew rousing cheers and loud applause from the huge crowd which filled the banks and concourse around the pool. The aquatic



CWA Cabbaritta member, Bernice Kenny is pictured with Junior Branch members (l-r) Anna Fitzpatrick, Lacey Jenkyn and Cody Jenkyn and their "Chicks With Attitude" mascot at the Devonshire Tea at the Charlton Bowling Club.



"Back Roads" sound recordist, Tony, is pictured outside The Rex theatre with Hayden McKinnon. The crew had been in town for a number of days carrying out filming and interviews.



action continued on into the afternoon, with the Charlton Youth Group serving up a storm of gelatos and sorbets to the growing crowd.

Music & Art

Music and art opportunities flowed on with local band "Hound Dog and the House Rockers" playing at the Cricket Club Hotel until late into the afternoon, performer, Mark Squire singing at the Vale of Avoca, and the Courthouse Gallery featuring the paintings of local artist, Chris Wyatt's evocative 'Stolen' exhibition.

Marry Your Friends

If there hadn't already been enough on the go the penultimate event was about to unfurl over dinner at the Charlton Hall where all was in readiness for the "Marry Your Friends" session where couples exchanged non legally binding vows of love, appreciation or any dam thing they could think of! A hugely successful spoof which had run at the Melbourne Writer's Festival, (fake) marriage celebrant, Emilie Baker said it was a great way of profiling the underlying "friendship" theme of the OK weekend. Teaming with writer and radio/ TV personality, Marieke Hardy the pair lead a riotous succession of couples declaring their passion through spontaneous and heartfelt vows as confetti, bouquets, applause and streamers rained down along the red carpet walk to a new life! Local band, "Blend It" (Leo Tellefson, Ross Lane, Danny Walsh and Stephen Melican) revved up the big crowd with sets in between the marriages as members of the Charlton A. & P. Society served the meal. Year 10 College

students – Michael Olive, Sarah Blair, Jye Roberts, Maggie Riley and Isaac Bourke also assisted with the meal along with greeting diners at the door with showers of confetti. The students used the event as a fund-raising opportunity to boost their resources for Work Experience placements later in the year. The packed Hall was a sea of colour, laughter and music, along with a kaleidoscope of fashions sourced from Op Shops on the trip north.

With the evening's music fast approaching and revelers soaking up the atmosphere at the "East" (Charlton Hotel) a steady stream of people headed towards the Charlton Motel where the final preparations



The newly operational mobile coffee business, "Caffeinated Chaos" run by Tia Fanning ran at a high-paced rate over the OK Motels weekend with patrons patiently queuing for a range of beverages and nutritious take-aways. Tia said it had been "Crazy and fabulous!"



Charlton bowler, Eily Rosewall (second left) was the go-to person on the bowling green for newcomers to the game and is pictured with (l-r) Alexandra Cameron, Zu Zu Ates and "Friendly". Alexandra is associate producer for Sydney-based Wooden Horse Productions - the company responsible for shows such as "Mother and Son" (ABC), "The Cape" (Stan) and "The Clearing" (Disney).



The rinks were busy as novice bowlers took to the Charlton greens.



were underway for the big bands of the weekend: The Belair Lip Bombs, Watty Thompson and His Total Fire Band and the headliner, The Peep Temple.

Come twilight and with the crowd surging indoors, welcomes and acknowledgements meant all was in readiness as the first band set the room alight as OK Charlton 24 ramped up to a fitting finale.

FAST FACTS & FEEDBACK FROM OK CHARLTON 24

- CWA made 450 scones for the Devo Tea, starting at 7am Saturday morning.
- East Charlton Hotel served around 200

meals Friday night and just under 200 meals Saturday night. 56 visitors were accommodated upstairs during the event, with the regular "Balcony Crew" doing their cocktails and nibbles Saturday night, and taking care of all their own cleaning up to help out managers, Greg and Leanne.

Charlton A. & P. Society members (along with Year 10 College students) served 320 meals over two sittings of dinner at the Charlton Hall Saturday night. The meal included salads, beef, turkey, roast potatoes, and sliced bread, with drinks available.



Clam-tastic! The performance by the Melbourne-based synchronized swimming squad - "The Clams" - was a huge crowd-puller and received plenty of cheers throughout their presentation.



Members of the Charlton Youth Group were having a blast at the Saturday afternoon pool party. (l-r) Fletcher Holmes-Brown, Emmersyn Nelson, Amali Fitzpatrick, Poppy Fitzpatrick, Annie Olive, Isabel Soulsby, Zali Heenan and Maggie Riley.

- Tia Fanning (Caffeinated Chaos Coffee Van) made 281 coffees in 4 hours on Saturday, using 13-14 kilos of coffee and returning twice to the supermarket for milk | 235 coffees on Sunday in 4 hours, plus big sales of chia puddings, overnight oats, fruit salads and granola bowls ("they were the biggest hit").
- OK Motellers came from as far away as Brisbane and Newcastle, with visitors heading from Melbourne, Geelong and Torquay. While many were returnees, others were firsttimers, having heard via word-ofmouth, podcasts and friends.
- Feedback from visitors: "Everyone's so friendly", 'The Town really embraced us", "Don't change anything here", "It's such a relaxed atmosphere".
- Feedback from locals: "They were all so friendly", "Really lovely people – so tidy and so grateful for anything you do", "They bring such positivity", "The OK Motel community is just the nicest group of people", "They just want to listen and hear things about Charlton".

Charlton's big weekend also included the Lions Club Town Garage Sale on Sunday, with interest and inquiries coming from as far away as Woomelang, Maryborough and Ballarat.

The town also hosted the North West Region CFA Championships at Charlton Park on Sunday.



Matto (l) and DJ (r) kept the requests coming at the "Tell Your Friends You Love Them" Pool Party on Saturday.

OK Charlton - Let's Party!



A. & *P.* Society members, Amy Nicolson (1) and Wendy Laffin (r) lead the Show team in catering for the Saturday evening dinners, with assistance from the Year 10 College students.



One of the many couples taking part in the "Marry Your Friends – A Celebration of Holy-Mate-rimony" was Charlton resident, Bronwyn Fisher (centre right) who committed to her best-friendsince-primary-school, Liz Pearse (centre left). Joining the celebration were close friends (l) Amelia Byfieldt, Kim Laffin (back) and Alison Hart (right). Bronwyn's dress came from local retail outlet, Charlton Vintage.



A full Hall, good food, a great band and plenty of fun with the "Marry Your Friend" ceremonies kicked off the night before patrons moved on to the bands at the Charlton Motel.



Local band – "Blend It" – had the Charlton Hall rocking during dinner on Saturday night as "Marry Your Friends" couples said their vows on stage - (pictured l-r) Leo Tellefson, Ross Lane, Stephen Melican and Danny Walsh.



Creator of OK Motels, Kate Berry (r) took a quick break from her many commitments over the Charlton weekend for this photo op, and is pictured with her close friend, Julia Stuart (l) who was highly impressed with the evolution of the event.

CHARLTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

30-34 HIGH STREET (IN THE REX THEATRE), CHARLTON VIC, 3525 PHONE: 0473 759 456

Welcome to the latest news and updates from your Charlton Neighbourhood House. We must start by giving a huge thankyou to everyone who assisted in the clean up of our town following the terrible storm that hit. Our Shire staff worked tirelessly with the help of contractors and volunteers to return the town back to normal for our residents and expected OK Motel visitors.



We also would like to thank Bronwyn, Paul and Kelvin who did a fantastic job repairing the Nyernila art piece directly opposite the river which sustained signicant damage.

With the terrific support of Buloke Shire Council and the ever vigilant lifeguards we have enjoyed several water based activities at the Charlton Pool during the 2023/24 season. Our early morning swimming and gentle water exercise classes have again proved popular, as was the earlier water acclimation for 0-5 year olds. Still a couple more weeks to go to enjoy our wonderful pool before closing. The pool was also a hub for the recent OK Motels weekend with the synchronized swimming troupe 'The Clams' giving a wonderful performance to our community.

The Charlton Youth Group were on hand to supply the large crowd delicious icecream.



The Charlton Library has also seen Buloke Club and our popular Storytime's return for 2024. Book Club is held on the third Tuesday of the month, while parents and children are welcome on the fourth Tuesday of the month to regular special themed mornings with activities and reading.





The Charlton Neighbourhood House has been very busy with the return of many of our regular monthly activities The Charlton Carers' group meet at the East Charlton Hotel for a lovely lunch and talk by guest, Nurse Tracey from EWHS Advanced Care Unit.



Contact the Neighbourhood House if you would like further details about these regular get togethers.

We were very pleased to have had popular instructor Dawn Ferrier present a CPR/First Aid certificate training course here in Charlton late February. The attendees learnt all the necessary steps to assist persons in need of emergency medical assistance and will help our community members in time of medical emergency.

We are currently taking expressions of interest in hosting a Responsible Service of Alcohol session in Charlton to save locals the trip to Bendigo. Call 0473 759 456 to register your details.



A new initiative we are proud to support in 2024 is our 'Coffee with a community representative' on selected Mondays at the FLO Cafe. We are excited to have representatives from Victoria Police on hand to kick the first session off on Monday March 4 between 10:30 am and 12:00pm. Call by, support the FLO students, and touch base with representatives from various groups and organizations during the year.

Keep an eye open for the latest issue of Charlton's very own Cultural Magazine. On sale at the Charlton Newsagency and Charlton Neighbourhood House, this wonderful publication showcases many talented local people and stories from around the area. Still only \$5.00.

In closing, congratulations to the many people involved in the recent OK Motels festival. Speaking with many visitors across the weekend there was nothing but positive comments on our friendly river town and its residents.

For more information on any of our upcoming events/courses, visit our website or Facebook, check out our window, or pop into the Neighbourhood House Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

17 March 2024





MARCH



Monday Yarners 10:30 -12pm during school terms AT: Rex Theatre Foyer COST: FREE Knitting supplies provided or BYO



140

Monday Yarners 10:30 -12pm during school terms AT: Rex Theatre Foyer COST: FREE Knitting supplies provided or BYO

APRI



Coffee with a Community Advocate and Councillor (22nd) 10:30am -12pm AT: FLO Cafe, Rex Theatre COST: Free (limited numbers)

Charlton Carers Lunch 12:00 to 1:30 pm AT: Charlton East Hotel COST: Lunch at subsidised price Special guest speaker each month



23

Buloke Book Club 10:30 -12pm AT: Charlton Library. Shire Hall COST: FREE Discuss what you have recently read

Children's Storytime - ANZAC Day 10:30 -11:30am AT: Charlton Library. Shire Hall COST: FREE Led by Kelly McCrohan

-

00

Upcoming special event!

Thursday May 9. Charlton Neighbourhood House in partnership with the

Charlton RSL Sub-Branch present

'Dignity to the Fallen'. Special guests Ross McMullin & Lambis Enzirzos will be presenting amazing stories on Pompey Elliott and the mass grave of Pheasant Wood. Not to be missed. Viake a diary date now.

More details to follow.



Coffee with a Community Advocate (18th) / Councillor (25th) 10:30am -12pm AT: FLO Cafe, Rex Theatre COST: Free (limited numbers)



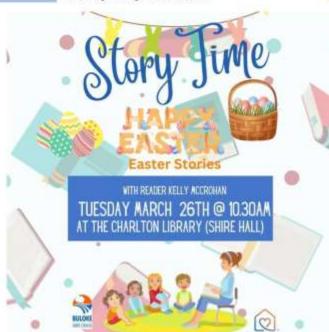
Charlton Carers Lunch 12:00 to 1:30 pm AT: Charlton East Hotel COST: Lunch at subsidised price Special guest speaker each month



Buloke Book Club 10:30 -12pm AT: Charlton Library. Shire Hall COST: FREE Discuss what you have recently read



Children's Storytime - Easter theme 10:30 -11:30am AT: Charlton Library. Shire Hall COST: FREE Led by Kelly McCrohan





Nyernila Wins Award

'The Charlton Neighbourhood House was proud to represent all the community involved with the Nyernila Art Trail project at the Victorian Community History Awards held in Melbourne at the Arts Centre. Presented by Public Records Office Victoria in partnership with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the Victorian Community History Awards are held annually to celebrate the people involved in community history projects who are dedicated to telling local stories which help all Victorians to better understand their past.

Public Records Office Victoria Director and Keeper of Public Records Justine Heazlewood said, "This year's winners demonstrate the many varied and contemporary ways the history of Victoria can be told and shared to reach a wider audience. Well done everyone."

In a collaborative working partnership with the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation the aim of Nyernila was to retell the history of the area prior to colonisation. Numerous Djaara artists were commissioned to create artworks sharing their personal journeys and stories of their elders. The project was driven passionately by Charlton Neighbourhood House President, Kaylene Cossar, and involved many other residents from the area.

Commencing at the Travellers Rest Stop and following the trail along the Avoca river, the permanent open air walking trail exhibition features selected reproductions of Djaara artworks, along with a permanent indoor display currently located at the Charlton Shire Hall.

Thanks must go to the following groups

for their financial support of the project— Buloke Shire Council, through the Federal Government's Our Region Our Rivers funding, Bendigo Community Bank Charlton & District, FRRR through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

In addition to this award, two other projects from the district were shortlisted and recognised for their contribution to our community. The Sir John Monash Tribute Gardens and the Yeungroon History Project. It was an amazing accomplishment as there were the second largest number of entries into these awards ever, only surpassed by the year 2018 when a huge number of projects were completed focused on the centenary anniversary of the ending of the First World War.



Charlton award representatives Markus Phillips (CNH) Garry Larmour & Harry Brindley (representing Lions Club) Carolyn and Clinton Olive (representing Yeungroon History Project)



Markus Phillips and Richard Broome (Royal Historical Society of Victoria President).



Charlton Golf Club will open its 2024 season on Sunday 24th March. Players are asked to assemble at 1.30pm for a 2pm hit off. An Ambrose event, any combination, will be held – you can bring your own partner or simply turn up and a partner will be organised for you. All current and past members and any new players to Charlton will be most welcome. A BBQ tea will be held at 6.30pm – please bring a salad.

Mid week play will commence on Wednesday 27th March. Ladies are asked to have their names in by 9.45 am for a 10am hit off while those playing 12 holes will hit off at 1.30pm.

Working bees will be held at: 9am Sunday 3rd March, 4.30pm Wednesday 6th March, 4.30pm Wednesday 13th March and 9.30am Wednesday 20th March (ladies). Unfortunately, with all the wild weather on Tuesday 13th February the fairways are in a mess with fallen timber so there is lots of work to do. Fortunately, the club house & sheds are okay.

Hopefully there will be good autumn rains and we will be playing on green fairways.

A Clinic for Juniors and adults will be held at Charlton Park at 5pm Friday 15th March and Friday 22nd March.

For more information please contact Jamey Soulsby (0417 582 829), Trevor McGurk (0419 335 900), Eily Rosewall (0427 911 700) or Wendy Laffin (0427 115 194).





CUP DAY 17th MARCH

After many months of preparation the club is almost ready to deliver a fun green inspired Cup Day on March 17th.

We really hope that all Charlton locals will consider popping in to support this big event as its success is heavily reliant on local community participation.

There will be something for everyone and ENTRY IS FREE.

You will notice in the weeks leading up that there will be lots of green around town so we encourage everyone to put some thought into adding a touch of green to their outfits!

We particularly thank our major sponsors for the day Community Bank Charlton and District and North West Ag Services along with GMG Financial Group, Ames Australasia, O'Connors and Betavet.

St. John of God Bendigo Hospital Bubbles in the Bush will again kick off the day early 11am SHARP, where we will add to our already impressive tally of funds raised to support the Team Teal campaign, supporting research into ovarian cancer. Anyone who would like to be involved and lend a hand on the morning setting up can contact Kim Thompson. Many great prizes to win and the ever popular auction will again be worth being part of!

Our big PUNT OFF 4 will take place and we will be cheering hard for Paddy and Joe as they try to get their hands on that elusive trophy! This will be comprehensively covered on Trots Vision so all racing and punting eyes will be on our town.

For those who like a punt but don't want to mix it with the 'Big Boys' our first Local Legends Comp will kick off.

For all details on this follow along on Facebook or contact Andrea 0499701322 for details.

There will be fun for the kids, the cup parade and of course Fashions on the Field with \$500 on offer for the best dressed lady on course.

This day is a big one for our local trainers and drivers too so it would be great for them to have a good crowd cheering them on.

The club is especially excited to welcome Irish band A Bunch of Celts who will play late in the afternoon and into the evening.

Marquee and Dining is almost booked out so get in very quickly should you be thinking about these.



Sanderson Family-Ryan, Abby, Naomi and Shane.

So Charlton – get your green on and see you on March 17th! Only you can make this day a success.



FAREWELL SANDERSON FAMILY

It is with great sadness that Charlton will be farewelling the Sanderson family in the coming weeks as they move their racing stable to a new establishment.

We thank them for all that they have contributed to our club and for the friendship that they have extended to us.

Over the last few years they have become central to the fabric of the Training Centre and the racing community, and we have certainly enjoyed sharing in their great success on the track.

Our town has been particularly proud of the accomplishments of Ryan and Abby as they have established themselves in the very competitive driving ranks. Both have been a real credit to Naomi and Shane and have represented Charlton brilliantly in the public domain. We will certainly miss them all but will continue to follow them from afar and will always consider them as we do Greg Norman and the Markhams 'a little bit Charlton'.

Abby – hope you won't miss 'Whoop Whoop' too much!!

RACE DATES COMING UP March 17th Cup Day April 1st Easter Monday April 10th Djaara Cup Day



St Joseph's School community has commenced the 2024 school year in a hive of activity. We are thrilled to have welcomed four new foundation students, four new families and two new staff members to our school family. Ms Katie Brown has taken up the position of F-2 teacher, bringing a wealth of early childhood knowledge along with her Bachelor of Education. We have also welcomed a new learning support officer, Claudia Lee, who has returned to St Joseph's School, having previously attended as a pupil. Claudia is working in the 3-6 Classroom two days each week. Mrs Tammy Wright has also returned in 2024, but in a new and exciting role. Tammy is working as our leader in the Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS) initiative which we have joined this year, and she is already implementing new ideas. She has many happy customers for breakfast at school each Tuesday and Wednesday morning!

The beginning of the school year was celebrated with an opening Mass, under the theme of welcome, which was very apt considering the new members who have joined our community and that we were welcoming the new school year. Students and staff added their handprints to a welcome banner as a sign of unity and belonging.



Welcome sign

We have just completed our annual swimming program, focusing on water familiarisation, water safety and some stroke development skills. The program was shortened slightly due to the recent storm activity. We were lucky, however, to be able to culminate our learning in a swimming sports carnival where all students were able to demonstrate what they had learnt, along with some novelty relays and activities. It was amazing to see the sea of blue and orange as students arrived at school in their team colours! The day commenced with a sausage sizzle and after a ball scramble for juniors and seniors to end the carnival, students enjoyed a welldeserved icy-pole! This year team Dory was lucky to get over the line, beating team Nemo to take out the prize. Team captain, Rosie Fitzpatrick, accepted the special trophy on behalf of the winning team, to the sound of many happy cheers!





Year Six Shirts—Isaac Roberts\ Henry Lanyon, Darcy Olive, Marlly Morkos, Willow Caine, Rosie Fitzpatrick.



Swimming Trophy – Rosie Fitzpatrick



Breakfast Programme – Flynn Zagame and Mrs Tammy Wright



Charlton Bowling Club

Two in a row for Michael at Charlton Bowling Club

Charlton Bowling Club Inc has commenced playing Championships with the Club Singles being completed.

Michael O'Brien has won his second Club Championship two years in a row which not many bowlers have done before him. He defeated Doug Gretgrix in the final with some lead swings by both players until Michael prevailed.

Lynne Southwell has now won her third Championship in a row defeating Susan Nelson in the final 25/15. After twelve ends the scores were level 10/10 when Susan had a nap losing five ends and dropping eight shots, then it was Lynne's turn for a nap for the next five ends and Susan got within three shots, Lynne put the better bowls down to finally win.

Congratulations Lynne on getting Runner Up in the NCPA Champion of Champions being defeated by Ruth Hall from Wedderburn.

Super Veterans Badge for Doug Gretgrix

Charlton Bowling Club congratulates Doug Gretgrix on attaining eighty years of age



Charlton Club Champion Michael O'Brien being congratulated by Runner Up Doug Gretgrix.



Charlton Ladies Club Champion Runner Up Susan Nelson & Club Champion Lynne Southwell.

and receiving his OBE (over bloody eighty) Super Veterans Badge presented by Vice President Eily Rosewall. Below is Doug's Citation.

Doug commenced playing bowls (as the records show), in the 1985/86 season playing Night Pennant, and his name was also handwritten on the Men's Members List but didn't appear on the RVBA List.

Doug was first registered in 1989/90 with Charlton Bowling Club and has been a worthy member of our club having held many official positions since the 1991 AGM. His bowling attributes are listed below:

- Jnr Vice President: 1994/95
- President: 1 year in 1995/96
- Snr Vice President: 1996/97
 But not to go on to President next year.
- General Committee: 7 years from 1991/92 to 1998/99 includes President.
- Match Committee: 7 years from 1991/92 to 98/99
- Pennant Selection: 1993/94 after 4 declines Terry Byrne stated, "No one has the guts to do this, but they wish to criticize, Doug accepted. And then 1994/95, 95/96.
- Night Pennant: assisted in the running for 10 years from 1989/90 to 98/99.

- Press Correspondent: 1 year 1996/97
- Fours: 91/92 playing lead for Arthur Edwards, Courtney Keith, and Kevin Edwards.
- B Grade Champion: 1992/93
- Club Champion Runner Up: 2023/24 to Michael O'Brien
 Division 2 NCDA Depart
- Division 2 NCBA Pennant attributes:
 - 95/96 Dave Frankum, Doug Gretgrix, Ted Wood, Ken Ewins.
 - 96/97 Doug Gretgrix, Dave Frankum, Graham Hunter, Terry Byrne

Doug left our Club from 1990 to pursue a career with Harness Racing and since retiring he returned to our Club in 2019/20 season.

Doug is a worthy committed member of Charlton Bowling Club Inc always willing to assist when asked without hesitation.

The Committee and Members of the Charlton Bowling Club Inc. together with family and friends present here today congratulates you on your achievement of becoming a Super Veteran and appreciate your commitment to the Club and the sport of bowls. Be Proud, We are.



Eily Rosewall & Doug Gretgrix.



Charlton Croquet Club held its Association Croquet Section Championships for 2024 on 8th & 10th February. Congratulations to Naomi Patullo for winning Section 4. Sue Nicholls finished 2nd and Margaret Bowen 3rd. Sue and Margaret were tied at the end of time in their match but Sue won in extra time. Naomi and Sue will now compete in the Murray Valley Championships at Swan Hill on 9th March. Lindsay Patullo (Sect. 1) and Anne Kenny (Sect. 2) are the only players in those sections so they proceed automatically to the Championships in Swan Hill.

On a warm day Charlton Croquet Club held its annual Invitation Doubles event on Sat. 17th Feb. Players were from Boort, Quarry Hill and Charlton. The visitors took out the prizes with three players winning both their games. Barry Lovell (Quarry Hill) was the winner, with Helen Gourlay (Quarry Hill) runner up and Ian Potter (Boort) third.

On Monday 19th Feb. Golf Croquet players held their annual Social Night. There were 20 players from Boort and Charlton. The winner was Sue Nicholls with 3 wins, 25 hoops. The runner up was Denise McDougal (Boort) with 3 wins, 23 hoops.

The Croquet Club was delighted to receive a donation from the Charlton Campdraft Club after its successful Campdraft event in November 2023. They decided to support "a sport that brings likeminded people together in a positive way." On Thursday 27th March five of the Campdraft members joined in a game of Golf Croquet. The winners were Bill Freeman with 18 hoops and Tahlijia Sheahan (Campdraft) with 17 hoops. Thank you to the Campdraft Club.



Section 4 Championships: Margert Bowen (3rd), Sue Nicholls (2nd) & Naomi Patullo (1st)



Back L to R: James, Nathan & Sam (Charlton Campdraft), Val Bourke, Joy & Bill Freeman, Front. Francie Stahl, Margaret Bowen, Terri Wolfe (Campdraft), Lindsay Patullo, Tahlijia Sheahan (Campdraft), Nita Perry, Sue Nicholls, Dawn Mulquiny.



Doubles. Back L to R; Kerry Lanyon (Boort), Bill Humphrey & Barry Lovell (Quarry Hill), Pat Mathews (Charlton) & Ian Potter (Boort). Front: Margaret Bowen, Helen Gourlay & Chris Eiffert (Q. Hill), Naomi Patullo, Nita Perry & Anne Kenny

Charlton RSL Sub-branch



Charlton RSL sub-Branch has two projects in hand which will soon come to fruition, namely a plaque at the Cenotaph to mark the centenary of its unveiling and dedication on 23 June 1923 and the installation outside the Clubrooms of silhouettes of service personnel representing Army, Air Force, Navy and Nurses.

The unveiling and dedication of the Cenotaph in 1923 had a suggestion of the Keystone Cops about it. The official party, including the Acting Premier Sir William McPherson, got bogged and missed their train at Wychitella; they then caught a railway motor -tricycle there but unfortunately it broke down near Buckrabanyule; they then commandeered a goods train and eventually arrived at Charlton very late and very muddy! The best laid plans ...

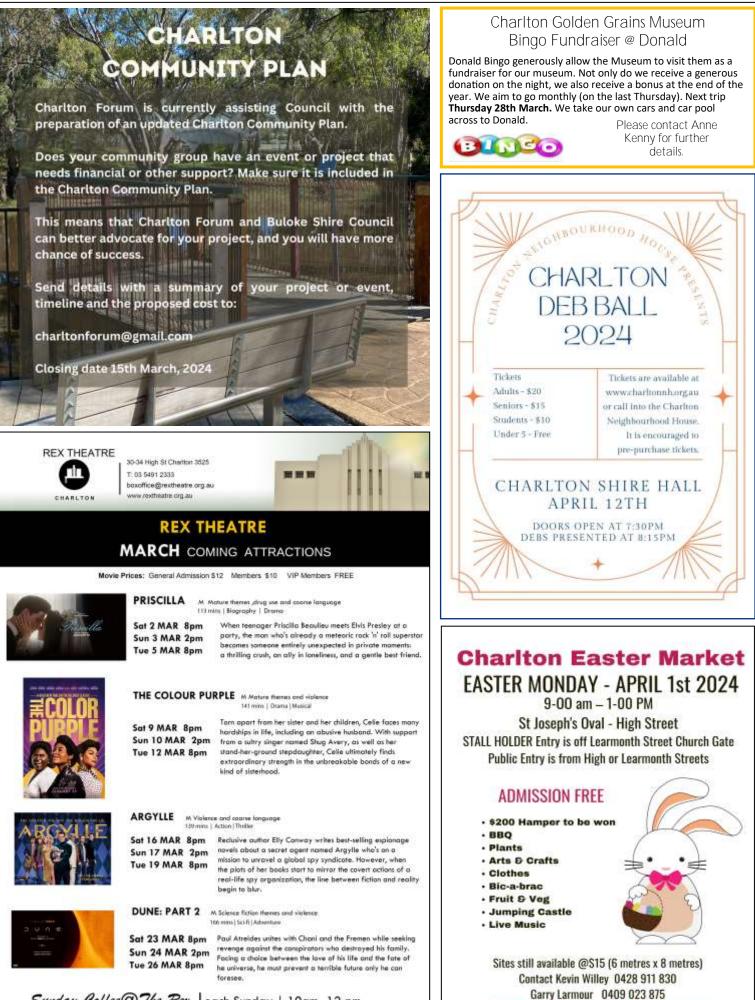
Approximately 300 men had enlisted from Charlton to serve in the Great War. Of them, 50 paid the Supreme Sacrifice; their names are recorded on the Cenotaph, as are those of the 13 Second World War Charlton casualties.

Plans are underway for ANZAC Day commemorations in April, details of which will be advised in next month's Newsletter.

LEST WE FORGET

DOGS ARE ENCOURAGED BUT MUST BE ON LEADS

Promoted by Lions Club of Charlton Inc.



Sunday Coffee 74e Rex | each Sunday | 10am - 12 pm FLO Students Cafe - each Monday of school term | 10:30am - 12pm



St Martin's Messenger—March

Sunday 3 March	Holy Communion	3pm
Sunday 17 March	Holy Communion	3pm
Thursday 28 March	Maundy Thursday Service	5.30pm

Lent

Jesus was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

From Mark 1: 9-15

Lent leads us to find new life in the old stories both of Jesus and of our own lives.

Jesus has just been baptised. Now he is led into forty days of starvation and temptation by the devil in a desert. We can only imagine how difficult it must have been sitting around in this empty space, waiting. How reasonable the devil must have sounded. Three times the devil suggests that Jesus take control of the situation rather than just waiting in trust on God's word.

This sort of temptation is everywhere in our world. It takes courage and conviction to act in obedience to God, when the weight of the world's advice is telling you the opposite: to hate, not love, to alienate, not reconcile, to withhold and not share.

Let us look for some space, like the desert, where we can think and reflect. Take time to listen to someone who is foreign to you. Someone who perplexes you. And challenge yourself to go against the grain, by instead of looking for why they are wrong, trying to sit with their words and ask if there is something true that you need to hear in what they are saying. This is courage and conviction to listen to another's story.

Lent asks us to slow down and rethink and renew our relationship with God, a relationship that can become lost or fractured by other demands in our lives. Let us take time to honour the original story of infinite love, forgiveness, salvation and the miracle of the Resurrection. **Prayer**

God help us to live slowly: To move simply: To look softly: To allow emptiness: To let the heart create for us – space – for there is no space that God opens up in our lives that God does not fill. Amen

Reverend Judi Bird 0435 593 359, judithblackbird@ outlook.com



Charlton Uniting Church



Charlton Uniting Church, Halliday Street, Charlton. Service times for March: Sunday 10th – 10.00 am – Communion Sunday 17th –10.00 am. Sunday 24th – 10.00 am. Sunday 31st – Easter Sunday. 10.00 am

Time is like a river.

You cannot touch the same water twice, Because the flow that has passed will never pass again. So enjoy every moment in life.

East Wimmera Parish—St Joseph's Community

Mass Times		
Sun. 3 rd Mar.		10.30am (Livestreamed in)
Sun. 10 th Mar.		8.30am
Sat. 16 th Mar.		7.00pm
Sun. 24 th Mar.		10.30 am
Easter		
Holy Thurs.	28 th Mar.	7pm (Livestreamed in)
Good Fri.	29 th Mar.	10.30am
Easter Vigil	Sat. 30 th Mar.	7pm

North Central Garden Club

After our annual recess during December and January, the NCGC resumed meeting on Tuesday February 27th when 13 members gathered to kickstart our year. After dealing with some items of general business that had arisen during our break, most of our meeting focused on putting together our syllabus for 2024. Some fresh ideas were adopted and we look forward to a fun year focusing not just on gardening but also the fellowship of likeminded friends.

The NCGC always looks forward to welcoming new members, so if you think our club might be the right fit for you, please come along.

We meet every month on the 4th Tuesday at 2pm at the Lions Lodge in Camp Street, Charlton. For any further information, please contact:

President: Bernice Kenny ph 5491 1334 Secretary: Lynne McRae ph 0408 113 104

Charlton Connect Church



Services Sundays, 5pm @ Charlton Senior Citizens 1 High Street, Charlton

CONNECT CHURCH

Collective Society Youth Fridays, 6:30pm @ Charlton Stadium 33-49 Davies Street, Charlton

Thank Ufou

Thank you to everyone who visited, called and sent their best wishes while I was in hospital late last year and early this year. **Regards**

Neil Cossar



THINK.SHOP.BUY.

CHARLTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY



To become a Charlton Community Newsletter Sponsor Please contact Carolyn at charltonnewsletter@gmail.com or 0418 361 971 The Charlton

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28 March 2024



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Open 7 days a week Monday to Saturday: 9:00am to 7:30pm Sunday: 9:00am to 7:00pm

High Street, Charlton 03 5491 1080

Charlton Baker From our family to yours

> Phone 0492486534 60 High Street, Charlton

Monday—Friday 6am to 3pm Saturday 7am to 2pm



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Charlton Arts

Annual Film Festival Charlton Art & Photography Show School Music & Art Awards









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Charlton Op Shop

Hours: Wed. Thurs. Fri. 10am – 3pm Sat. 9am – 12 midday Open Public Holidays

80-82 High Street, Tel: 0491 634 932

Can be open by request Follow us on Facebook

Charlton Senior Citizens



Monday - Bingo 2pm Tuesday - Cards 1:30pm Every 3rd Tuesday—Fun Day 10:30am New Members Welcome Contact Val Bourke: 5491 1418



The Probus Club of Charlton Inc. Friendship, Fellowship and Fun For Retirees and Semi Retirees.

Proud sponsor of the Charlton Community Newsletter

Contact Anne on 0408 547 973

Steel's Butchers Charlton

Hours: Thursday 10am - 4.30pm Friday 10am - 4.30pm For large or specific orders please call ahead to our Wedderburn shop. 54943 334

> Find us on Facebook

49 High Street , Charlton PH: 03 5491 2034





Become a Charlton Newsletter sponsor

Small advertisements \$100 Large advertisements \$200 Banner advertisements negotiable depending on placement in newsletter. For more information contact Garry Larmour on 5491 1647 or Carolyn Olive 0417 361 971.



Charlton Angling Club Proud sponsor of the Charlton Community Newsletter



New memberships are now available: Adult \$10, Junior U18 \$5 and Family \$15.





- Daily Newspapers
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- Greeting Cards
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- Toys
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69 High St Charlton, Vic, 3525 Tel: (03) 5491 1680

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P.0 Box 128 Charlton, 3525 5491 1830 Proud Sponsors of the Charlton Community Newsletter



The Charlton Lions Club Inc. are proud sponsors of the Charlton Community Newsletter.

Stick This on Your Fridge



31	24		10	3		
		17 Mid Northen Fishing Comp—Laanecoorie Charlton Pacing Cup	Fishing Comp Ulupna Island	Mens Bowls 100UP 10am		Sun
	25 Senior Citz Bingo, 2pm 26 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm NCGC Meeting	18 Senior Citz Bingo, 2pm Bowls Meeting 8pm CWA Meeting	11 Senior Citz Bingo, 2pm 12 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Senior Citz Cards, 1:30pm	4 Senior Citz Bingo, 2pm		Mon
		19 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Senior Citz Fun Day 10:30am Senior Citz Cards, 1:30pm	12 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Senior Citz Cards, 1:30pm	5 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Senior Citz Cards, 1:30pm		Tue
	27	20 RSL Social 2pm Lions Business Meeting	13	6 RSL Social 2pm Lions Dinner Meeting (The East)		Wed
	28 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Charlton Club—Open 5:30pm	21 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm	14 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm	7 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm		Thu
	29 Charlton Club—Closed 30	22	15	8 Probus Meeting	_	۲ <u>۲</u>
	30	23 Mens Bowls 21UP 10am	16 Mid Northen Fish- ing Comp—Laanecoorie	9 Fishing Comp Ulupna Island	2 Lions Paper Collection from 9am	Sat

April 2024

28	21 Fi	14	7		
	21 Fishing Comp				Sun
29 Senior Citz Bingo, 2pm	22 Senior Citz Bingo, 2pm	15 Senior Citz Bingo, 2pm Bowls Meeting 8pm CWA Meeting	8 Senior Citz Bingo, 2pm Angling Club Meeting 8pm Senior Citz Cards, 1:30p	1 Lions Easter Market Senior Citz Bingo, 2pm	Mon
29 Senior Citz Bingo, 2pm 30 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm	23 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm NCGC Meeting	16 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Senior Citz Fun Day 10:30am Senior Citz Cards, 1:30pm	8 Senior Citz Bingo, 2pm Angling Club Meeting 8pm Senior Citz Cards, 1:30pm	2 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Senior Citz Cards, 1:30pm	Tue
	24	17 Lions Business Meeting	10	3 Lions Dinner Meeting	Wed
	25 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Bowls Closing & Presenta- tions 1pm	18 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm	11 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm	4 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm	Thu
	26	19	12 Probus Meeting Charlton Deb Ball	5	Fr]
	27	20 Fishing Comp Bowls Fours Champion- ships 10am	13	6 Lions Paper Collection from 9am	Sat