

The Charlton Community Newsletter

December
2025
Issue 198

\$2

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Charlton's Only Dedicated News Resource

Need For Speed as Airstrip Sizzles

Contributed by Jenny Pollard

The engines roared, tyers smoked and the volume soared as the first Central Victorian Drag & Drive event called the Charlton airstrip home from 13th - 15th November.

Die-hard drivers with classic machines showed that responsible drag racing can be a fun, controlled and family orientated sport – far removed from the concept of hoons doing burnouts on city streets.

While the November outing was the organisation's sixth event (others have been held in Mildura, Ballarat and Heathcote), Charlton ticked all the boxes for the coordinators, Dave and Nadine Curtis, who, along with their supportive team, worked hard to get the event in tip-top shape and bring a positive flow-on effect to the Charlton community.

Dave's already established association with the town helped the initiative, and as his daughter, Nadine explained it was also a case of trying to find airstrips which can be used for this type of event.

"Many are now closed or aren't suitable," she said. "Here in Charlton, it's not close to housing, so residents aren't being affected by the noise or the crowd." The community had also thrown its support

behind the event, Nadine said, and that helped open up opportunities for businesses and the community as a whole.

With the Charlton airstrip being classified as "unprepped" (ie not graded or otherwise tinkered with), had that "rawness" create any problems?

"Well, the feedback on the track has been positive," Nadine said. "Drivers have said it's provided a good challenge and that a different surface has made them use other driving skills to keep the vehicles on the track."

While the perception of drag racing can be "boys and their toys", this event was looking for a more inclusive outreach. While the lure of speed and slick machines was still the attraction, the sport has other things to offer.

"This event is about giving people the chance to get their beautiful machines out of the shed and have a chance to drive them," Nadine said. "Drag racing is often seen as a guys club, but this has been inclusive right from the start. There's respect, and people feel comfortable about bringing their families along." And as Dave Curtis added, "The event is unique, in that the racing is achievable for any car and any driver capability."

There's more emphasis on getting women involved in the driving, with a stock car provided for the Ladies DY0. "Perhaps a woman doesn't feel confident about driving her partner's more powerful vehicle, so this is a way of providing entry and the ensuring the experience is a good one," Nadine said. "It also creates opportunities for learning how to control a car at speed, and these skills can then be carried over into normal driving situations".

The context of the racing is timed sprints on a 200 meter track where the individual races against their own time. Day One (Thursday) was the "test and tune" where each entrant records a set time which they need to try and match over the next two days. An upper speed limit of 170kms was set for the Charlton course and pairs of contenders do "passes" (race) in each of seven brackets (categories). These included Men's DY0, Ladies DY0 and a number of timed categories from 9.50 seconds down to 7.00 seconds. On Saturday afternoon the novelty 20 second run was conducted where drivers used stealth tactics and ingenuity to complete the course in the "slower" time. A number of participants chose to drive in reverse, while others started slowly, then accelerated as the finish line approached.

Continued on page 6.



Plenty of vehicles had names, including The Whale, The Fridge and this one of Organised Chaos as the adrenaline rush of the race start spun over.



Smoke and noise as contenders rev their engines in readiness for the start of the 200 metre timed sprint at the recent Drag and Drive event.

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How the locals like it



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From the Editor

Carolyn Olive

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the last edition for 2025. What a big year for news! We hit 36—40 pages most months.

Thank you to everyone who passed on their appreciation for my efforts to bring you all the Charlton happenings. Thank you also to all the contributors and sponsors. I also want to thank my proofreader, Anne, we make a good team.

Congratulations to Dave Curtis and his Drag & Drive committee on a terrific event. And to Jenny Pollard for such a good write-up. Let's hope it becomes a regular event.

I wrote last time about the rain—and it hasn't stopped. Let's hope we get a good run with the weather so our farmers can harvest their crops and we can all enjoy some sunny Christmas/New Year get-togethers.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year & Safe Travels.

Cheers,
Carolyn

Upcoming Events

Please note, events are subject to change.

December:

UC Upmarket—Sat 6th
Community Carols—Sun 7th
Xmas Fest—Wed 17th

January:

Tennis Tournament—Sat 24th - Mon 26th
Australia Day Ceremony—Mon 26th

February:

OK Motels—Fri 20th - Sun 22nd
Film Festival—Fri 27th—Sat 28th



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Charlton Courthouse Soiree

The year at the Courthouse Gallery wrapped up in style with our Courthouse Soirée, a relaxed and uplifting afternoon celebrating local creativity. The program opened with a beautiful Japanese piano piece performed by Dana Czarki, her thoughtful playing setting a calm and inviting atmosphere for what became a wonderfully diverse showcase.

She was followed by Leon Cossar, who

read selections from his poetry collection *Dust*, offering reflective and evocative glimpses into farming life in our district. The musical theme continued as Eleanor Healy joined Dana on electric bass for three pieces, including a tender rendition of *Just the Way You Are*.

After a break for food, wine and conversation, the stage welcomed guitarist Leo Giakimis and harmonica player Chris

Wyatt. Despite having only recently picked up the guitar and being entirely self-taught, Leo charmed the audience with several heartfelt Greek songs.

The afternoon then shifted into a lively jam session, with clackers, tambourine and bongos adding rhythm as the audience happily joined in. Eleanor closed the soirée with a final song — a warm and fitting end to a delightful community event.



Chris Wyatt, Leo Giakimis, Mark Hodgson & Eleanor Healy.



Leon Cossar.



Dana Czarki & Eleanor

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December 2025 and reopen Monday 5 January 2026.

**Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas from the Community
Bank Charlton & District team.**

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Golden Grains Museum News

Welcome to another catch up from the Welcome to the final 2025 update from your local Golden Grains Museum. It is hard to believe the end of the year has arrived, and what a year it has been. We commented last year on the continuing tragic war in Ukraine and the situation in the Middle East, and here we are another year later. No matter how tough things may sometimes get, it certainly makes us all aware just how lucky we are to live in our special corner of the world.

We are so very proud of the huge amount of work that continues to be done by our wonderful volunteers who freely give up their time. From helping archive items, selling raffle tickets, opening the rooms for visitors, and attending meetings, the museum simply couldn't operate without them. Thank you so much to everyone involved. If you yourself have an interest in history, would like to help preserve items for Charlton's future generations, and enjoy spending time with friendly like-minded people, contact the museum; 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 historic items for future generations.

Among many highlights were the generous grants received towards our amazing new medical exhibition soon to open. Again thanks must go to all the volunteers who put so much work into

cleaning and painting the space ready for exhibition. Further details to follow.

Fundraising is essential to the museum to purchase archiving supplies, pay regular monthly expenses, and for larger projects. We receive our funds through membership fees, admission charges, research requests, grants, donations and fundraising. We are also very grateful to Charlton residents who support our regular trips to Donald Bingo where we receive monies for our group's attendance. Thank you to the drivers; we hope you have all had a little luck with the calls, and that you have enjoyed a great social night out.

If you are involved in a group or organisation why not consider visiting us for an interesting outing—a cuppa and biscuits can even be arranged. Put it on your club's social calendar next year.

Several of our members visited the Rupanyup Museum recently. What an amazing collection of items. There are thousands upon thousands! Just the dress display is worth a visit. We do like to venture out from the confines of our own museum to get some inspiration.

Our feature story this month is a fun recollection from 85 years ago. It is common practice now for schools to run camp experiences for their students but this wasn't always the case. In March 1939 students from Charlton and across the district, including Korong Vale, Yeungroon, Glenoth and Jeruk, had a jam packed day

trip to Melbourne. Taking advantage of cheap rail fares a total of 298 children, teachers and helpers left Charlton for Melbourne Zoo. While there they took part in the Merry Go Rounds, miniature railway, elephant and donkey rides, along with watching live performances of monkeys, ponies and elephants. Pre-arranged buses then took them on a tour of Port Melbourne, St Kilda, Richmond and Parkdale. Stops were enjoyed at the Shrine of Remembrance, Fitzroy Gardens and Captain Cooks Cottage. For many children this wasn't only their first trip to Melbourne, but also their first trip on a train. It can only be imagined how tired everyone was after this big day out.

Enquiries

For all enquiries about our group check out our Facebook Page, search on your browser 'Golden Grains Museum Charlton', or email goldengrains@bigpond.com. You can also view our listings on the Victorian Collections website. Visit

www.victoriancollections.net.au

Phone enquiries:

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Vice President David 0422 185 885

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Judy 0407 050 186

Archivist Markus 0413 129 216

Anne 0408 547 973

Glenda 0417 801 771

Sue 0407 140 336



Some of our volunteers taking part in the Victorian Collections Workshop run by the Australian Museum and Galleries Association, partly funded by Buloke Shire Council.

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Need For Speed as Airstrip Sizzles

And the three days weren't just confined to the track. In an effort to profile the town and wider district, Friday afternoon was devoted to the Poker Run, taking in a visit to Kookas in Donald, the Wooroonook Lakes, the Charlton Golf Club and the Vale of Avoca, before evening meals and then heading to The Rex Theatre for the Aussie road classic "Running on Empty."

Attracting 62 entries (the quota was filled weeks before the event), participants travelled from Adelaide, Tasmania, Queensland, Forbes, plus Victorian locations including Melbourne, Geelong, Ballarat, Traralgon, Warrnambool and Horsham. Strong interest saw the group's Facebook page clocking up almost 91,000 views in the immediate lead up to, and running of, the event.

The involvement of the local community was also widespread with Charlton Lions, OASIS and Charlton College Year 10 work experience students providing meal options on site over the three days. The students' cause also received a generous donation from the Drag & Drive Club. Charlton Car and Vehicle Club, "Wheels on A79" worked the gate, and the Yeungroon Fire Brigade manned their truck on site for the duration of the weekend.

Locals also had the opportunity to experience the thrill of chase, taking a seat with the experienced hands to speed down the airstrip track. Charlton resident, Mark Windsor (a serious car man himself) was an exhilarated passenger as he hitched a ride with Dave Curtis in his white turbo-charged VN Commodore!

As the Saturday afternoon racing

wound down, organizers thanked participants, the crowd, sponsors and the Drag & Drive team for their support, commitment and enthusiasm. All are hoping that there will be further opportunities to run the event here again.

The weekend concluded with a dinner at the East Charlton Hotel where trophies and awards were presented.



Leigh Robert's eye-catching 1959 Plymouth Belvedere lead the parade back to the pits following heats on Friday morning. The gleaming lime-green vehicle was a sleek example of car styling of that era.



Event organisers Dave and Nadine Curtis (centre) celebrate the running of the Charlton event with (l) Christian Truscott (IT and data collection) and (r) Adam Ridley (start line wrangler).



A large crowd of spectators joined the entrants during the Saturday heats - reveling in the exhilaration of the racing.



The cars line up in pairs in preparation for racing.

Timelines Merge at Charlton Remembrance Day

Contributed By Jenny Pollard

Connecting the past to the present in a meaningful way was the context of the Charlton RSL Sub-Branch's commemoration of the 107th Remembrance Day held on Tuesday 11 November.

Highlighting the First and Second World War service of three local soldiers – Private Frank Reginald Elder, Private Gordon McGillivray and Corporal Frank Stewart Rich – the 2025 commemoration showed that these histories weren't the only defining qualities bringing them to the public's attention; it was the attendance of relatives, or association by place, which gave these men a reality which mere words on a page don't always yield.

For the small crowd which braved the cool November conditions, the symbols of remembrance were abundant in the area outside the Charlton RSL Clubroom. From the tiny white crosses with their red poppies encircling the base of the Lone Pine, to the verdant rosemary bushes proliferating nearby, the poignancy of the occasion was further heightened by the recitation of John McCrae's evocative poem, "In Flanders Fields" by RSL Club Secretary, Bill Freeman.

MCing the proceedings, RSL President, Allan McGillivray followed the traditional service which included the Last Post before a minute's silence was observed at 11am. The saying of the Ode and music of the

Rouse concluded the formalities before relatives and the general public were invited to pay their respects by laying a poppy in remembrance of the fallen.

Connections of the three local servicemen invited to attend Tuesday's function included: Robert Elder, (great-uncle Frank Elder – Dooboobetic – was killed on 20th August 1916 aged just 21); the McGillivray family, (great uncle Gordon McGillivray (Yeungroon) who took part in the Battle of Messines and was killed in action on 11th June 1917 - age 26), and Carmel Catherine (proprietor of the Vale of Avoca) representing Frank Rich - a Second World War enlistee – whose place of abode was given as that establishment.

The conversations generated about each of these men helped to shape a picture of who they were and flesh out more than just a name or a service number. The McGillivray family had researched in detail the service information about their relative, while Carmel Catherine was able to provide a living link through location to Frank Rich.

While these men met untimely ends in conflicts far from home – Frank Elder (Pozieres, France), Gordon McGillivray (Messines, Belgium) and Frank Rich (Vevi, Greece) – this added ever more poignancy to their loss at such young ages. The sharing of their stories in a contemporary setting helps to transcend the sepia photos of the past and on memorial days such as these reminds us of the sacrifices and the commitments of the servicemen and women of today in peace-keeping actions across the world.

The ceremony concluded with an invitation to all to share morning tea and refreshments in the RSL Club room.



Representatives of the three servicemen recognized at the 2025 Charlton Remembrance Day are (l-r) Robert Elder (great uncle Frank Reginald Elder WW1), Allan McGillivray and Glynise Chamberlain (McGillivray) (great uncle Gordon McGillivray WW1), Carmel Catherine (representing Frank Stewart Rich WW2) through the association with the Vale of Avoca, and Jenny McGillivray (the McGillivray family).



The general public laid poppies in memory of the fallen following a minute's silence at the ceremony.



Charlton RSL Sub-Branch Secretary, Bill Freeman (l) and President, Allan McGillivray (r) were joined by Branch member, Gordon Risk (back) prior to the formalities outside the RSL Club room.



Charlton College News

It has been a quieter month around the campus with several year levels learning beyond the classroom. Our Year 11's and 12's have now finished their classes and assessments for the year!

Our Year 9 students were on a Canoe Camp along the Glenelg River, enjoying new challenges and developing their teamwork skills. Meanwhile, our Year 10s were out on Work Experience, gaining valuable insights into future pathways.

Back at school, preparations continue for our Primary End of Year Assembly and upcoming celebrations. Although the grounds feel a little quieter than usual, the excitement for the end of term is very much alive.

VCE Exams Wrap-Up

Congratulations to our VCE students who have recently completed their exams. Their dedication, perseverance, and commitment throughout the year have been outstanding. We extend our thanks to staff and families for the support provided during

this demanding period. We look forward to celebrating results and the many pathways our students will take next.

2026 Foundation Students

Our 2026 Foundation students visited for their transition to school, and it was wonderful to see their excited faces as they met their teacher and new classmates. They explored the classroom, joined in fun activities, and began building confidence for their first year of school. We look forward to welcoming them back at the start of next year!

2026 Year 7 Orientation

Planning for our 2026 Year 7 cohort has also begun. Students have participated in information sessions, school tours, and early orientation activities to help prepare them for the exciting move to secondary school.

Celebrating the Class of 2025

On Friday, the 14th of November, we celebrated the Class of 2025! It was a wonderful night enjoyed by all. The old saying 'it takes a village to raise a child' rang true as we were surrounded by the

many familiar faces who have supported our students along the way.

Year 9 Canoe Camp

Our Year 9 students have been busy canoeing along the beautiful Glenelg River this week. With paddles in hand and plenty of enthusiasm, they embraced the challenge of navigating the winding waterway, working together to build their confidence and strengthen their teamwork skills. We can't wait for a full run down of how they went upon their return.

Work Experience Program

After a year of fundraising the time has finally come! Our Work Experience students headed off early Sunday morning and have settled into their placements to start the first week of Work Experience. A big thank you to Mrs Zagame and Ms Carney for accompanying and supporting them during the first week. We also have two students completing their placements locally in the Bendigo and Charlton area.



2026 Foundation Transition.



Year 9 Canoe Camp; Stella Nicholson & Erin Blair.



Yr 9 Canoe Camp; Murphy Fitzpatrick & Mitchell Boyle.



Yr 9 Canoe Camp; Alyson Canham, Erin Blair, Mr Ryan, Murphy Fitzpatrick, Stella Nicholson, Mitchell Boyle, Owen Burr & Arleea Saere.

Work Experience Students

Student	Placement	Industry
Tully B	Fusion Works	Fabrication / Engineering
Eme C	Barberella Hair	Hairdressing
Amali F	Docklands Health	Healthcare / Allied Health
Sheena F	Bikini Moon	Beauty
James F	Elders Wool	Agriculture
Taylah G	Collingwood Children's Farm	Agriculture / Educational
Anika HB	Jayco Corporation	Admin / Manufacturing
Josie L	TWBA	Advertising
Max M	Pondeljak Engineering	Fabrication / Engineering
Sam O	Spring Valley Golf Club	Landscaping / Horticulture
Ruby R	Taylor Knights	Architecture
Ethan S	Endeavour Wool Exports	Agriculture
Heidi S	Vogue Nature	Horticulture / Floristry
Zach D	Neighbourhood House/Mallee Creatives	Community Services / Hospitality



Work Experience: Josie Larmour.



Work Experience: Heidi Start



Work Experience: Sam Olive, James Fitzpatrick, Tully Bourke, Ethan Soulsby, Max Morrison.



Work Experience: Taylah Giles.



Work Experience: Ruby Radcliffe, Amali Fitzpatrick, Josie Larmour, Taylah Giles, Sheena Fitzpatrick, Emese Clarke.



Work Experience: Zach Derks.



Year 12 Graduation Dinner: Back—Zali Heenan, Emmersyn Nelson, Isabel Soulsby, Annie Olive, Taylah Boyle, Mercadiez O'Sullivan, Fletcher Holmes-Brown, Ditch Berg. Front—Elise Fitzpatrick, Poppy Fitzpatrick, Georgia Wright, Joseph Monaghan, Beau Johnstone.

VFBV Recognition for Allan

Allan McGillivray was recently presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV).

Allan's first involvement with rural Association was in 1973 when he was discharged from the Army and found himself dubbed in as Captain of the Wooroonook running team. At the time the existing committee was looking for new members. Allan found himself Chairman of the Demo committee, a sub-branch of the Rural Association. He held that position until the demo committee ceased some years later. By this time Allan was Vice President of the Region 20 Rural Association, a position he held for 11 years, then President for 22 years. At this time the CFA restructured and Wooroonook was changed to district 18. Allan was elected Vice President of the newly formed VFBV. This being the former Urban & Rural Associations combined. This position was held by Allan until he stood down as Captain of Wooroonook Brigade and did not seek re-election at the end of his term but remained Brigade delegate to the VFBV.

The Certificate was presented by Graeme Jilbert (left) who is a State Councillor of the CFA.



North Central Garden Club

Club members met at Bernice Kenny's garden for the final meeting for the year. The shady lawned area provided the perfect setting for a great day. The tables were tastefully decorated—thank you to Aileen, Robin & Lynne in assisting with the setting up. President Aileen opened the luncheon thanking Bernice for inviting us all. A variety of salads, meat platters and a selection of delectable desserts made for an yummy meal.

Laughter & lots of chatter echoed

throughout the garden as guests opened the Kris Kringle parcels.

The competition for the entries for the year was won by Lynne, second was Sheila third was Bernice.

As the year draws to a close we wish you all a very Happy Festive Season we look forward to meeting you all on Tuesday February 24, 2pm at the Lions Lodge.

Images: members enjoying the lunch & the Kris Kringle gifts.





Probus Club News

The Charlton Probus Club welcomed 45 members and one guest to its November meeting.

Greg Barnard reported on the recent Bowls Trip to Nhill. He, along with Eily Rosewall, Nick Saunders and Greg Wain, enjoyed a great day. The group was lucky in the raffles, winning three, although their results on the scoreboard were not quite as successful!

Happy Birthday was sung to Barb Dalrymple, Moira Sheahan, Maretia Doughty, Kevin Mathews and Mary Nener. The lucky draw winner was Elaine Wicks.

Unfortunately, the scheduled Guest Speaker was unable to attend at the last minute. This provided members with some extra time for fun, fellowship, and shared memories then a DVD was shown featuring historical footage of the: 1956 Flood, 1964 Citizens Band, 1947 Tree-planting at the Charlton Community Forest, the 1964 Back To Charlton celebration, the 1991 Fire at St Joseph's Church, and the 2011 Flood. Long-time residents enjoyed the trip down memory lane, while newer members appreciated learning more about Charlton's history.

A warm thank-you goes to the Golden Grains Museum for generously allowing the Club to show the DVD.

The Club is planning to visit the Thales Company (pronounced Tallis) in Bendigo

for a "Bushmaster Tour" on Wednesday 18th Feb. 2026. The Bushmaster is an Australian designed and built armoured military vehicle, built in Bendigo. The Club may have seats available on the bus for this outing. Please contact Sandra Patton (0407

320 633) as soon as possible if you would like to take advantage of this special opportunity. This outing is only available to senior members of the Charlton Community.



November Birthdays—Kevin Mathews, Moira Sheahan, Barb Dalrymple, Mary Nener, Mareia Doughty & Eily Rosewall.

Shopping Night Returns

Charlton's Late-Night Shopping Returns in Spectacular Style

After a six-year absence, Charlton's much-loved Late-Night Shopping Night returned on Friday, and the comeback exceeded every expectation. The event sold out rapidly, with excited locals and visitors moving in guided groups through seventeen participating businesses, rediscovering the warmth, creativity, and charm of Charlton's retail heart.

The night unfolded with nibbles and drinks at the East Charlton Hotel and the sound of chatter filled the venue. The evening flowed with laughter, fun, and a wonderful sense of community, helped along by perfect early-summer weather. Street fronts bustled as friends, families, and neighbours embraced the opportunity to shop local and celebrate together.

Midway through the rotation, groups converged at The Charlton Club, where the specially crafted Cocktail of the Night was enjoyed with enthusiasm. It was a refreshing pause that added just the right touch of festivity before shoppers continued on their trail.

A standout feature this year was the walkthrough of the Travellers Rest's

beautiful new cabin, generously opened by Leanne and Greg Fanning. Their hospitality, complete with refreshments, delighted participants and showcased the exciting improvements underway at one of Charlton's key visitor assets.

A special highlight was the significant contribution from Boral, whose generous donation helped bring the event to life and ensured every group could enjoy a polished, well-organised experience. They provided the major drawcard of the event: the Boral Raffle, filled entirely with items bought from Charlton businesses, valued at over \$500. Boral's generosity was warmly acknowledged throughout the evening. The lucky winner, Lyn Edyvean, had already declared earlier that she and her husband Dave were "having the best night", a sentiment made even sweeter when her name was called.

Charlton's traders matched the energy with an array of Lucky Shopper Awards, including hampers, vouchers, and festive treats, demonstrating once again the generosity and community spirit our town is known for.

The night concluded at the Vale of Avoca with raffles, thank-yous, and a

shared sense that a cherished Charlton tradition had truly returned.

Charlton Neighbourhood House extends heartfelt thanks to every business, volunteer, sponsor, and participant. With such overwhelming support, it's clear: Late-Night Shopping is back, bigger, brighter, and here to stay.



Lyn Edyvean won the hamper.

A New Cultural Home for Charlton

Charlton marked an important moment in its cultural story with the official opening of Mallee Creatives on October 1st. A milestone that has already begun to reshape the creative landscape of our town and the wider Mallee region.

The evening opened with a heartfelt Acknowledgment of Country from Kaylene Cossar, recognising the Dja Dja Wurrung people as Traditional Custodians and honouring the tens of thousands of years in which creativity, identity and knowledge have been expressed on this Country. Her words reminded those gathered that art, story and connection are not new to this place, they are ancient, continuous, and deeply embedded in the land beneath our feet.

The opening speeches also reflected on the long journey that led to this moment. The seeds of Mallee Creatives were planted back in 2019, when a Regional Arts Victoria workshop, arranged by Nola Wright, brought Charlton's creative organisations together to imagine new possibilities. That early spark survived years of challenges, even COVID, and grew through collaboration, community spirit and a shared belief in the power of art to strengthen regional towns.

A significant turning point came following a Bendigo Bank & RDV Tiny Towns seminar. As the idea gathered support, former Bendigo Bank Chair Jon Whykes became an invaluable sounding board, helping weigh options as the project took shape. Bendigo Bank's generous \$50,000 contribution enabled Charlton Neighbourhood House to purchase the building shared with NCLLEN, creating the opportunity for a dedicated art space to flourish. Additional guidance from RAV's

Lorraine Little further shaped the vision into a platform for the entire Mallee electorate, something much bigger than Charlton alone.

The result is Mallee Creatives: a gallery, café and community hub that showcases the work of artists and makers from across the region. It is run entirely by volunteers, people who believe passionately that creativity builds strong, connected communities. As Kaylene shared on opening night, Mallee Creatives stands as "a testament to what can be achieved through partnerships, shared vision, and the contributions of many hands."

The opening also honoured both the past and the future of local creativity. At 99 years old, respected artist Mary Walklate was invited to officially open the space, representing decades of artistic contribution in Charlton. By her side was young Jarrah Mills, the first "junior creative" to leave his mark on Mallee Creatives when he drew on its freshly primed walls while his dad worked on the fit-out, a symbolic reminder that creativity spans generations, and that all ages are welcome here.

Following the success of the inaugural exhibition, *Nully's Ark* by Nullawil artist Sam McCarthy, Mallee Creatives has now opened its second major show: *In All Dimensions*, featuring the work of four artists whose styles range from bold contemporary pieces to deeply expressive drawings and mixed media works. This

exhibition, which runs until January 18, brings new energy into the space and invites visitors to explore creativity from multiple angles. With exhibitions scheduled to rotate every 6–8 weeks, there will always be something new to discover.

Inside the gallery, visitors can enjoy great coffee in the cosy volunteer-run café, browse local produce, and discover handmade pieces that make perfect Christmas gifts—as well as support regional makers. The space is bright, welcoming and alive with the hum of community.

Mallee Creatives is open Thursday to Sunday, 10am–4pm at 9A High Street, Charlton. Whether you're dropping in for a coffee, exploring the latest exhibition, or looking for a unique local gift, this new creative hub promises inspiration, connection and a warm welcome.

As the first chapter of Mallee Creatives unfolds, one thing is clear: this space is more than a gallery. It is a celebration of Charlton's creativity—past, present and future—and an exciting cultural asset for the entire Mallee region.



Marg Byrne & Lynne McRae enjoy a coffee.



A chance to catch up. Marie Byrne with daughter, Lori Mills, and granddaughter, Mixi.

CHARLTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE



Charlton Neighbourhood House
The Heart of Our Community

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

As we head into the Christmas period the Charlton Neighbourhood House would sincerely like to thank all the people who make our house what it is. From the committee who give so much input with the running of the operation, to the many volunteers who freely give up their time with many activities and programs we host. Most of all we would like to thank you, the residents of Charlton who give us so much gratitude for the little things we do. A day hardly passes when someone doesn't comment, 'I don't know what I would do without the Neighbourhood House'.

Sadly, there is pressure to again not recognise the work being done across Victoria by Neighbourhood Houses with the Government refusing to increase funding to the sector. You can help by popping in and collecting a prefilled postcard that you can send to the Minister concerned.

For December the Neighbourhood House will continue operating to our funded hours and will be open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10am to 4pm. We will be closed Tuesdays and Thursdays. We will be taking a well deserved break between December 22 until January 4; reopening on the 5th of January. Hours of operation through January 10am to 1pm.

Don't forget if you are passing to drop in and say hi to our new Administration Assistant Poppy Fitzpatrick. Along with Xanthe, we look forward to the enthusiasm and fresh ideas they will bring.

Santa is coming to town

Santa's mailbox will be out the front, or you can slip the letters under the door, up until December 19th. Your child will get a personalised response from one of Santa's special helpers.

Thank You

Thanks again for the terrific support we have received for our social enterprise, Mallee Creatives, and to the fantastic volunteers who have contributed their time and effort. This is a warm and welcoming space in Charlton to enjoy a coffee and a beautiful place to shop for local produce and art. Mallee Creatives is located at 9 High Street with opening hours Thursday to Sunday, 10am-4pm. We are always happy to have more volunteers for Mallee Creatives. If you have some spare time, love to socialise and help out, your support would be gratefully appreciated.

And what a night our recent, "Sip, Shop and Stroll" was! Another huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported local business. There was lots of fun and laughter, along with many happy winners.

Christmas Window

We always love to see the joy that our Christmas window brings to young and old community members.

This year we were fortunate to have Charlton College Work Experience student- Zach design and create the window for us.

Zach popped into our Social Enterprise the Op Shop, gathered all the materials he needed and then produced this fantastic window.



www.charltonnh.org.au

FOLLOW US



Charlton NH



info@charltonnh.org.au



view our window

CNH Open Hours Monday to Friday 10am-4pm. Closed for lunch 12.30-1.15pm.

WHAT'S ON FOR



DECEMBER

1-19

Santa's Mailbox

Where: Charlton Neighbourhood House

COST: FREE

2

Santa photos

Time: 3:00 to 5:30pm

Where: Foyer Rex Theatre

Bookings essential



10

Carers & Co Lunch

Where: Charlton East Hotel

Time: 12:00pm to 1:30 pm

COST: Lunch at subsidised price



22

Neighbourhood House closes

Re-opening January 5

Merry Christmas to all.

Yarning² Social Group

Monday's

Time: 10.30 am-12 pm



Returning
in
2026

Pickleball

Wednesday's



Coffee with a Community Rep

Monday's



Buloke Book Club

3rd Wednesday of every month



Storytime

4th Wednesday of every month



The year ahead

We are so excited about the year ahead and the many terrific plans we have for the community. All our regular activities such as Buloke Book Club, Carers Group and Storytime will return, along with support for Pickleball, technology assistance and training, Yarners, artistic sessions and so much more.

We are busy exploring a range of new programs as well so if there is something that you think you would like to see us deliver in 2026, please send a text, email or pop in and discuss.

Power Saving Bonus

A reminder that the Charlton Neighbourhood House is happy to assist you in preparing your submission for the one hundred dollar power saving bonus. Call in with your bill and identification and we will complete your application. For everyone application that we process the state government pays us a small allowance, which assists in keeping our doors open.

Community Car

We will continue to complete the administrative work for the community car in 2026, which we are also paid a small allowance by the Charlton Forum Community Car Committee. Remember it is always a good idea to book the car for appointments 2-3 weeks prior, if possible, as the car gets very busy.

Technology

In 2026 we will streamline how we assist the many members of the community who require assistance with technology. Along with classes we will have scheduled drop in sessions, to allow our staff the time required to help.

Have a safe and wonderful festive period!

**Christmas & New Year
Charlton Business
Trading Hours**

Charlton Op-Shop

Normal Trading Hours—Wed - Sat.
Closed Public Holidays

Charlton IGA

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY
BOXING DAY 10:00AM - 2:00PM
NEW YEAR'S DAY 10:00AM - 2:00PM

Charlton Post Office

Christmas Day—Closed
Boxing Day—Closed
New Year's Day—Closed

Cricket Club Hotel

Tuesday 24th Dec—Bar Open (2pm to 7pm)
Closed 25th - 27th Dec
Sunday 28th Dec (4pm - Late)
Monday 29th - Wed 31st (2pm to Late)
Thursday 1st Jan (3pm to Late)

Charlton Newsagency

Christmas Day—Closed
Boxing Day—Closed
New Year's Day—Closed

School Holiday Hours
Monday 5th to Friday 9th January 8am—1pm
From the 12th January
8am - 4pm

Charlton Foodworks

Closed Christmas Day Only

The Rex Theatre

The Rex will be closed from Wednesday 17
December. Screenings resume on Saturday 17 January
at 8pm. Check website - rextheatre.org.au -
for all details of coming movies.

Charlton Pharmacy

Christmas Day—Closed
Boxing Day—Closed
Sat 27th Dec—Closed
New Year's Day —Closed
All other days open as normal
The staff at the pharmacy would like to remind people not
to leave their script till the last tablet.

Bendigo Bank

Closed Thursday 25th December,
Reopen Monday 5th January.

Commonwealth Bank

Closed from Thursday 25th December
until Friday 2nd January.
Reopen Monday 5th January.

Steeles Butchers

Closed 25th & 26th Dec
Closed New Year's Day
Open 2nd Jan, 2026

East Charlton Hotel

Tuesday 24th Dec—9am - Late
25th December - 4th January Closed
5th January — 11am - Late

**Charlton Neighbourhood
House**

Closed from Monday 22nd December
Reopen Monday January 5th, 2026.
Car bookings—0473 759 456

Buloke Shire Council

Closed from 12pm Wednesday 24th December,
2025. Reopen Friday 2nd January, 2026.

**Note: Christmas &
New Year Operating
Hours subject to
change.**

Getley & Sons Real Estate
Closed from 25th Dec.
Reopen 5th January, 2025.
Open by appointment only

The Vale

Open Christmas Eve from 4pm with selected menu
Closed - 25th December 2025
Re-open - 7th January, 2026

Charlton Hardware

Wednesday 24th Dec (8am - 3pm)
Closed—Christmas Day & Boxing Day
27th December Closed
Monday 29th December (9:00am-5:00pm)
Tuesday 30th December (9:00am-5:00pm)
Wednesday 31st December (9:00am-3pm)
Closed New Year's Day
Friday 2nd January (9:00am-5:00pm)
Saturday 3rd January (8:30am-12noon)

Charlton Hair Salon

Closed from 25th December
January—limited availability by appointment.

Charlton Bakery Café

Wed 24th—6am - 3pm
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY
Friday 26th—10am - 2pm
Saturday 27th—7am - 2pm
Sunday 28th—Closed
Mon 29th - Wed 31st —6am - 3pm
New Year's Day—10am - 2pm

Charlton Vintage

Closed Christmas Day
Open 26th & 27th
Closed 28th—31st
Open 1st, 2nd & 3rd January, 2026

Mallee Creatives

4th—7th; 11th—14th; 18th—21st December, 10am to 4pm
Closed 22nd December.
Reopening Thursday 8th January.

CHARLTON MEDICAL

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS 2025-2026

Charlton Medical will be closed for the Christmas-New Year period beginning Monday 22nd December 2025 through until Sunday 4th January 2026. Normal Surgery hours will resume at 9:00am on Monday 5th January 2026.

Please check that you have enough prescriptions to get through this period; if not see the doctor for new scripts before the holidays.

If you require medical assistance during the holidays please call Charlton Hospital on 5477 6800.

In an Emergency Call 000.



Charlton Harness Racing

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FAREWELL AND THANK YOU DOUG GRETGRIX

There was a somewhat 'changing of the guard' at the recent CHRC AGM with life long time harness racing stalwart Doug Gretgrix stepping down from the committee after decades of loyal service to the club.

Doug has fulfilled the roles of President, Secretary, Race Starter and everything in between over the years and his contribution to the wider industry was aptly recognised a few years ago by being awarded the Distinguished Medal Award by Harness Racing Victoria.

Harness racing is dotted throughout history with people like Doug who love the sport and dedicate their lives to fostering its growth.

The Charlton Harness Racing Club is truly indebted to Doug for so many years of commitment and involvement. Thank you Doug.

COMMITTEE FOR 2026

We thank Troy Heenan for his time and expertise in many areas over the last few years in his role as Club Secretary – he steps down and goes with the club's best wishes.

It was a great pleasure to welcome to the committee incoming secretary Lori Mills and general committee member Kye Jenkyn.

Whilst no doubt quite a learning curve lies ahead, they will both add some energy and enthusiasm into all aspects of the club and represent us well. We thank them for 'taking the plunge' and putting their hand up to be actively involved and hope they enjoy the experience of helping to run a trotting club!

The Committee for 2026 - thank you to everyone for giving their time and taking on roles. Without you clubs such as ours would cease to exist, and our community would be the worse for that.

Andrea O'Gorman	President
Janice Boyle	Vice President
Lori Mills	Secretary
Hayley Soulsby	Treasurer
Kirk Boyle	
Zac Steenhuis	
Mark Boyle	
Deb Finlay	
Lachlan Homes – Brown	
Joe Thompson	
Kye Jenkyn	
Murray McLean	

CUP DAY REMINDERS

We are pleased to see that people are organising their groups and finalising plans for Cup Day 2026 on Sunday March 15th.

Marquees are almost SOLD OUT so get in quick to secure yours if that is on your agenda. (Call Andrea on 0499701322)

There will be a change to the format of the day. Due to unforeseen circumstances

relating to the broadcast on Sky television of the day we will be starting a bit later and running into the evening for the final few races.

More details to follow on this.

HIGH TEA COMES TO THE TROTS!

The Spring Carnival in Melbourne is such a great time of the year for all who have an interest in racing, fashion, socialising and welcoming in the better weather after a long winter.

We country folk refuse to be left out of the celebrations with Wycheproof again hosting a very successful Derby Day Wycheproof Cup Day and Charlton hosting for the first time a Melbourne Cup Eve meeting.

The idea of a high tea seemed like a good fit and thankfully that proved to be the case.

The club was so happy to see a strong roll up of ladies and a few brave men and they certainly made the most of a fun filled afternoon.

It has always been a focus of the club to try and engage many different groups to the track and provide an engaging day for them, so a big thankyou to all the people who joined us for the first time, the members who supported this event and the loyal band of workers who again stepped up to ensure that Charlton provided another day that showcased not only our great venue but our great sport.

So many people helped but particular mention must go to Josephine O'Gorman who just happened to announce a trip to Charlton at the worst possible time, and to Marg McGrath, together they form a whiz bang team in the kitchen and produced a really beautiful spread for everyone.

Thanks also to driver Ellen Tormey who gave us some insights into her life in the harness racing industry – quite an eye opener for many.

Our function room looked amazing and smelt even better with so many roses that no doubt rivalled those on show at Flemington.

Thanks all, we really loved having a full, happy, loud room for the day.

RAFFLE NIGHT

Our biggest raffle night of the year celebrating the Melbourne Cup didn't disappoint again. Thanks to Leanne and Greg Fanning who strongly promoted it at the Charlton Caravan Park ensuring the pub was full, and generously supplied many prizes for the night. We are so fortunate to have members such as these who want the best for our town and are prepared to help clubs and foster a sense of country spirit and hospitality.

What was clear was that everyone needs to brush up on their Melbourne Cup knowledge!

Was it a great idea to do this the night before a big race day? The jury is out on that one!

Next Raffle Night will be Sunday
7th December.

CHARLTON GAINS AN EXTRA MEETING

Due to some date clashes, Charlton has been the beneficiary of an extra meeting programmed for Monday 29th December. So if you have family visiting for Christmas and New Year please consider a day at the trots. A chance to catch up with locals, support a local club and enjoy watching our own racing participants go around.

CHARLTON EDGES CLOSER TO A 100 WINS FOR 2025!!

The count up continues! Charlton currently sits on 95 wins for the season with the recent win of Bizzness Class at Horsham for Mick and Luke. With 5 weeks left we will be anxiously watching the fields and all the results. Regardless of the final number we are so very proud of everyone. But we really do want to get that 100, mainly because of the celebration that will follow!!

And as the year draws to close the Committee of the Charlton Harness Racing Club would like to sincerely thank all of our sponsors, especially our local major sponsors - Community Bank Charlton and District, Nth West AG, Cricket Club Hotel, Heenan's Charlton Newsagency, and GMG Financial Group. Also to our great members who continue to support the club, and for all of the participants who race with us every meeting. To our local participants well done – you have done Charlton proud.

Have a great Christmas everyone, and a safe and Happy New Year.

Last time for 2025...

Go Charlton Trots!

NEXT RACE MEETINGS AT CHARLTON

Monday 8th December

Monday 29th December



Kye Jenkyn, Doug Gretgrix & Lori Mills.



Charlton Harness Racing



Briony Zagame, Brittney O'Brien, Kim Thompson, Marisa Byrne, Andrea O'Gorman at the Doanld Cup.



Raffle Night at the Cricket Club Hotel.



All set up for the High Tea.

Charlton Croquet Club

On Monday 1st Dec. in cool conditions the Charlton Croquet Club hosted the Pennant Break up for the Murray Valley Association. Players from Boort, Swan Hill and Charlton participated. Charlton finished 4th in the Golf Croquet Pennant and Swan Hil 3rd. The two Boort teams had a battle to decide 1st and 2nd placing. Boort Blue won 7 matches and a total of 632 hoops to be narrowly beaten by Boort White with 7

matches and 634 hoops. Congratulations to Boort White. There were some very close matches throughout the season. On 13th Oct. Swan Hill and Boort Blue both won 6 games but Swan Hill was the winner with 68 hoops to Boort's 67 hoops. On 10th Nov. Charlton and Swan Hill both won 6 games but this time Charlton was the winner with 69 hoops to Swan Hill's 66 hoops.

Association Croquet did not play pennant

this season but enjoyed three Social Days – one at Boort, Charlton and Swan Hill.

The winners on break up day were Wendy Mills (Boort, Golf Croquet) and Anne Kenny (Association Croquet)

A big thank you to Brian Heenan for preparing our lawns for Pennant Break up.

Thank you to those who supported our Christmas Raffle. The winner was John Powell.



Anne Kenny & Wendy Mills.



Pennant Break up.



St Joseph's School News

Notable Happenings in November

As we move toward the end of the year, November has been filled with energy, learning, and celebration across our school community. There is so much to be grateful for, and we are delighted to share some of our recent highlights.

Two Fabulous Camps – Sovereign Hill & Creswick Log Cabin Camp

Our middle and senior students have returned from **two outstanding camps** — **Sovereign Hill** and **Creswick** — and what a wonderful success they were! Across both experiences, students displayed **exemplary behaviour, positive attitudes, and a spirit of cooperation and enthusiasm** that made us incredibly proud. From stepping back into gold rush history to exploring the natural environment and challenging rope courses, our students embraced every moment. The making of new friends from St Mary's Donald, who we attended camps alongside, was an added bonus!

A huge thank you to our dedicated staff who supported these opportunities. The memories created will stay with students for many years to come.

Transition Programs Well Underway

November has also marked a significant step for many of our students as they take part in our **Kinder-to-Foundation Transition** and **Grade 6-to-Year 7 School Transition** programs.

- **Our incoming Foundation students** have been visiting classrooms, meeting teachers, and becoming familiar with school routines, ensuring a confident and supported start to their learning journey. The final session will happen on Friday 5th December and is a full school day.

- **Our Grade 6 students** have been engaging in secondary school experiences, having now completed a school tour and familiarisation and attended the Information Session with parents. These experiences help build independence, friendships, and readiness for the exciting next chapter ahead. This year's student leaders – Toby, Daniel, Sophie, Ruby and Patrick - have been outstanding in sharing the school captain role. They represented the school with pride, initiative, and care, showing that leadership is about service, teamwork, and making a positive difference. We wish our Grade 6 students every success as they transition to commence their secondary education.

- As a school community we will celebrate the year and the Grade 6 Graduation with Mass at 6:00pm on Tuesday 16th December. All welcome.

These programs are an essential part of helping every child feel prepared, valued, and supported at each stage of their education.

Earlier this month, we celebrated **World Teachers' Day** with a beautiful morning tea at St Joseph's School. Parents and students came together to show their appreciation for our dedicated teachers, adding to a casual but thoughtful celebration that truly highlighted how valued our staff are.

Families wrote notes, cards, and messages expressing gratitude for the care, patience, creativity, and passion our teachers bring to school each day. These messages meant so much and reminded our staff of the incredible impact they have on students' learning and

wellbeing.

Library Makeover – Thank-You Charlton & District Community Bank

One of the most exciting transformations this year has been our **library makeover**, inspired by student voice and agency, and made possible through a **Charlton & District Bendigo Bank Grant**. With new lounge seating, flexible furniture, and modern book browser bins, the space has been redesigned to be more welcoming, comfortable, and user-friendly for all learners.

Students played a key role in shaping the vision—sharing ideas about how they like to read, learn, relax, and explore new books. Their input helped create an inviting environment where students feel encouraged to read more often and enjoy quiet moments with their favourite stories.

The revamped library is well on the way to being completed and we are thrilled that students will have the opportunity to use the space more frequently and take pride in their library. We are so grateful for the grant we received and give a big shout out saying, **“THANK YOU CHARLTON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY BANK.”**

Looking Back With Gratitude – Looking Forward With Purpose

Staff have now completed their final assessments and are in the process of finalising the Semester Two reports for 2025.

As we reflect on the year so far, we **celebrate:**

- the resilience and growth of our students,
- the dedication of our staff,



Little Joeys 2026 Jarrah Mills, Emerson Holmes-Brown, Ivy Wells, Ivy Sexton, Thomas Pridgeon & Corrina Harte-Johnstone.



Little Joeys learning the ropes at St Joe's



St Joseph's School News

- the generosity and partnership of our families, and
- the strength of our Catholic school community.
- At the same time, planning for **next year** is already well underway. Our key focus areas include:
- strengthening learning pathways,
- reviewing the teaching and learning of Mathematics,
- enhancing wellbeing programs,
- continuing to build faith-filled experiences,

- and ensuring our school remains a nurturing, inclusive place for every child.

As we prepare to wrap up the school year, we thank our families and the Charlton community for their ongoing support throughout 2025. We celebrate not just the big events but the everyday moments: the friendships formed, challenges overcome, smiles shared, and milestones achieved!

May the joy and peace of Christmas fill your homes and hearts this holiday season. Wishing all our families a blessed Christmas and a safe New Year!



Grade 3/4 at Sovereign Hill.



Grade 3/4 campers have breakfast - Punarjani Mohan, Mia Wright, Jaxon Krause, Lochie Caine, Johan Siju, Megg Fitzpatrick & Lila Lanyon.



Grade 5/6 cooking damper.



World Teachers' Day.



Refurbished Library.



Refurbished Library.



Refurbished Library—comfortable seating.



St Joseph's School News



Sophie Roberts, Anna Joseph, Maddie Lanyon, Finn Schofield & Flynn Zagame
Hut Building



Yazmin Harte-Johnstone trying out the
High Ropes Course.



Yazmin Harte-Johnstone, Eadie Ash,
Maddie Lanyon, Ruby Wright & Sophie
Roberts complete a group challenge The
Giant Swing.



Eadie Ash atop the Milk Crate Stack supported by team-mates.

Charlton RSL Sub-branch



Charlton RSL 2025 Poppy Appeal was most successful, with over \$2,100 being raised for RSL Welfare, this being our best result since the centenary of Armistice Day in 2018.

Remembrance Day was celebrated on 11th November and we remembered the lives and sacrifices of Private Frank Reginald Elder, died on 20 August 1916, Private Gordon McGillivray, died on 11 June 1917 and Corporal Frank Stewart Rich, died on 12 April 1941 and all other war dead at a moving ceremony at the Lone Pine outside the RSL clubrooms.

Our thanks go to all who supported the Poppy Appeal, to those who attended the Remembrance Day commemoration and to

the Uniting Church ladies who provided delicious sandwiches for morning tea on the 11th.

On 21 November Charlton RSL hosted its annual Community Thanks Night at the clubrooms with a barbecue dinner and refreshments. Organisations and individuals who assisted the sub-Branch in many ways during the year were invited and attendees included Charlton Oasis Club, Charlton Wycheproof Community Brass Band, Charlton Golf Club, Charlton Red Cross, St Joseph's Primary School, Bendigo Legacy Club and Jenny Pollard. Bandmaster Brian Heenan OAM accepted a donation of \$200 for the Band and Judi Perry from Bendigo Legacy accepted \$6,000 being the net proceeds from RSL-Oasis Diggers Day golf day 2025; this brought our total Diggers Day contributions to Legacy for their

support of veterans widows and children to the grand total over the years of \$120,500.

Charlton RSL sub-Branch mourn the death of KENNETH PETER JONES (Ken); Service Number 3715608. Ken served as a National Serviceman in 14 National Service Training Battalion from 07 January 1953 and, after his basic training, as a sapper with 10th Independent Field Squadron Royal Australian Engineers until 18 February 1955. He was awarded the Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal and the General Service Medal.

Ken served at Charlton sub-Branch as President for 16 years from 2002 to 2017, as Secretary for 7 years from 2010 to 2016 and as Treasurer for some years up to 2016.

LEST WE FORGET

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Buloke.

FLOOD PREPAREDNESS TRAINING IN DONALD

Council staff will conduct a flood preparations training exercise from **8:00am to midday on Tuesday, 16 December 2025**, at the Camp Street Levee Bank in Donald.

The activity will include the full process of setting up and dismantling the levee, expected to take several hours.

Traffic management controls will be in place at:

- Camp Street and Byrnes Street intersection
- Camp Street and Donald–Stawell Road intersection

Motorists are advised to follow directions from traffic management staff during the exercise.

This training is part of the Council's commitment to preparedness and community safety in the event of flooding.

JOIN THE YOUTH ADVISORY GROUP

Are you aged between 15 – 24 and want to speak up about the issues that matter to you?

Join the Buloke Youth Advisory Group and help shape the future of youth services, events, and initiatives in our community.

As a member, you'll have the opportunity to:

Represent young people across Buloke

- Advocate for the issues that matter to you and your peers
- Provide advice to Buloke Shire Council on youth needs
- Develop leadership skills and boost your confidence
- Influence local youth programs, projects, and events

If you live in Buloke, now's your chance to get involved.

Applications close: 5:00 PM 17 December 2025

Visit Council's website to apply online:
www.buloke.vic.gov.au/youth-services

CLOSING DATE EXTENDED - BULOKE AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

You now have more time to get your nominations in! Applications for the Buloke Australia Day Awards have been extended to 5:00 PM Friday, 12 December 2025. Nominations are open in these categories:

- Citizen of the Year – For individuals aged 25+
- Young Citizen of the Year – For individuals aged 15–24
- Community Event of the Year – recognising outstanding local events

Complete a nomination form online on Council's website at www.buloke.vic.gov.au/australia-day-awards, or pick up a hard copy from the Wycheproof Customer Service Centre.

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

The land affected by the application is located at **224 Yeungroon-Woosang Rd, Yeungroon VIC 3525**.

The application is for a permit to **construct or carry out building or works associated with a use in Section 2 of Clause 35.07-1 (cottonseed storage shed associated with existing cattle feedlot)**.

The application reference number is **PA25033**.

You may view the application and supporting documents on the Buloke Shire Council Website <https://buloke.greenlightpm.com/planning> or by making contact with the office of the Responsible Authority, **Buloke Shire Office**, Wycheproof on 1300 520 520.

This can be done during office hours and is free of charge. Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the Responsible Authority.

An objection must be made to the Responsible Authority in writing, include the objectors name and contact details, include reasons for the objection, and state how the objector would be affected. An online submission form is available at <https://www.buloke.vic.gov.au/planning-applications-on-exhibition>.

The Responsible Authority will not decide on the application before **18 December 2025**.

If you object to the application, the Responsible Authority will tell you it's decision.

BULOKE'S NEW EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN ENDORSED

Buloke Shire Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) 2025–2028 has been formally endorsed by the Loddon Mallee Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMPAC).

The Plan represents a major step forward in emergency preparedness. The new MEMP incorporates the reflects the modern, multi-agency approach now in place across Victoria.

The REMPC Assurance Sub-Committee



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITH BULOKE

Council is an equal opportunity employer. Our roles are non-gender specific, and Council encourages all suitably qualified applicants to apply. For more information on equal opportunity, call Human Resources on 1300 520 520.

You can find all current employment opportunities at www.buloke.vic.gov.au/employment

Applications can be lodged by:

Mail - PO Box 1, Wycheproof VIC 3527 or Email -

recruitment@buloke.vic.gov.au

EOI – LIFEGUARD

Casual - Band 2 - \$23.16-31.27 per hour (plus casual loading)

→ **EOI Applications Close: 5:00PM 30 January 2026**

Buloke Shire Council is seeking expression of interest from the community to be part of the casual lifeguard team across our pools in Charlton, Watchem, Donald, Birchip, Berriwilllock, Sea Lake and Wycheproof.

Whether you're experienced or just starting out, we welcome applicants of ALL ages.

* Must be aged-16 and over during pool season.

If you're CPR & First Aid certified, great with people and ready to help keep our pools safe and fun, we'd love to hear from you!

- Flexible shifts
- Great team environment
- Skills that transfer across industries

More info, visit: www.buloke.vic.gov.au/lifeguardBULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

praised the plan for its innovative layout, strong alignment with state and regional arrangements and its clear focus on local needs.

The plan provides a practical, easy-to-follow framework to guide prevention, preparedness, response, relief, and recovery efforts.

Community members and partner agencies are encouraged to review the plan, which will shape how Buloke coordinates emergency planning, continuous improvement, and multi-agency collaboration in the years ahead.

You can read the full plan and download a copy by visiting Council's website at www.buloke.vic.gov.au.



BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

PO Box 1 Wycheproof VIC 3527
367 Broadway, Wycheproof, Victoria, 3527
T: 1300 520 520 E: buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au
W: buloke.vic.gov.au

CHARLTON COMMUNITY ART GROUP



THURSDAY NIGHTS

**Drop in any time
between 6pm & 9pm**

**At the Lions Lodge,
9 Camp st, Charlton**

Cost \$3

A creative space to relax, connect, and create.

**LOOKING FOR A WELCOMING PLACE
TO UNWIND AND MAKE ART IN GOOD
COMPANY?**

**ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME.
SUPPORTIVE, SOCIAL, AND STRESS-
FREE.**

**JOIN US THURSDAY NIGHTS FOR A
CASUAL, SOCIAL ART SESSION – NO
PRESSURE, NO EXPERIENCE
NEEDED!**

**BRING YOUR OWN PROJECT OR TRY
SOMETHING NEW.
USE YOUR OWN MATERIALS OR
EXPLORE OUR SHARED SUPPLIES.**

**COME AND GO AS IT SUITS YOU—STAY
FOR 20 MINUTES OR THE WHOLE
EVENING!**

**CALL JODIE TO LET US KNOW
YOU'RE COMING: 0439994883**

Who is this for?

Anyone with a passion for visual art.
People with evening availability due to
work or other commitments during the
day.

Those who lack space or materials to work
on their art at home.

Community members seeking a creative
outlet to support mental wellbeing
Guests staying in Charlton looking for
something to do.

Beginners and experienced artists alike!

What's available:

Bring your own art materials and work on
your individual projects in a friendly,
relaxed space.

No materials? No worries! we have a
limited variety of shared art supplies
available — including watercolour, oil, and
acrylic paints, brushes, sketch pads,
pencils, canvas, and more.

Enjoy a social, supportive environment
focused on creativity and connection.

REX THEATRE



CHARLTON

30-34 High St Charlton 3525
boxoffice@rextheatre.org.au
www.rextheatre.org.au



REX THEATRE DEC / JAN COMING ATTRACTIONS

Movie Prices: General Admission \$12 | Members \$10 | VIP Members FREE | Children under 3 - FREE



Carols at The Rex

Sunday 7 Dec 7:30pm

Entry: \$5 per family including free glo sticks
Singles - gold coin donation
Featuring Wedderburn Choir



WICKED: FOR GOOD

PG Mild themes, violence and sexual references
137 min | Family | Musical | Action

Sat 6 DEC 8pm
Sun 7 DEC 2pm
Tue 9 DEC 8pm

Now demonized as the Wicked Witch of the West, Elphaba lives in exile in the Ozian forest, while Glinda resides at the palace in Emerald City, reveling in the perks of fame and popularity. As an angry mob rises against the Wicked Witch, she'll need to reunite with Glinda to transform herself, and all of Oz, for good.



NOW YOU SEE ME, NOW YOU DON'T

M Coarse language 106 mins
113 mins | Crime

Sat 13 DEC 8pm
Sun 14 DEC 2pm
Tue 16 DEC 8pm

The Four Horsemen and a new generation of illusionists join forces to steal the world's largest diamond from a South African mogul who heads an international crime syndicate.

Seasons Greetings

Holiday closure: from Wed 17 December

Screenings resume: Sat 17 January 8pm



ZOOTOPIA 2

Sat 17 JAN 8pm
Sun 18 JAN 2pm
Tue 20 JAN -
*2pm & 8pm

PG Mild themes and animated violence | 100 mins | Adventure | Animation

Detectives Judy Hopps and Nick Wilde find themselves on the twisting trail of a mysterious reptile who turns the mammal metropolis of Zootopia upside down. Testing their growing partnership like never before, they go under cover in new parts of town to crack the case.



THE HOUSEMAID

CTC 131mins | Thriller

Sat 24 JAN 8pm
Sun 25 JAN 2pm
Tue 27 JAN 8pm

The Housemaid follows a struggling woman who is happy to start over as a housemaid for an affluent, elite couple.



AVATAR: FIRE & ASH

CTC 197 mins | Fantasy

Sat 31 JAN 8pm*3D
Sun 1 FEB 2pm
Tue 3 FEB 8pm

Jake and Neytiri's family grapples with grief after Neteyam's death, encountering a new, aggressive Na'vi tribe, the Ash People, who are led by the fiery Varang.



Save the Date

Victoria's Oldest Regional Tennis Club welcomes you to our

54th

**January Long Weekend
Tennis Tournament 2026**



Sat. 24th Jan – MENS & LADIES DOUBLES

Sunday 25th Jan – MIXED DOUBLES

Late (10:30am) Start (finals under lights 8pm!)

**Mon. 26th Jan – (Aust. Day) SINGLES &
Rotating Partner Doubles**



Grant Success for Charlton Bowling Club

Charlton Bowling Club has secured a Project Support Grant from Buloke Shire Council for \$2,000 to assist in the upgrade of our Shade Frames to support the New Sun Smart Rollover Tarps on the George Parish A Green.

The Support of the Buloke Shire in granting this grant is of great importance to us as we strive to provide a safe SunSmart environment to play lawn bowls. We are also indebted to Joe Dury for upgrading our Shade Frames and Bailey's of Warracknabeal for the manufacture of the new tarps.

The upgrade has seen us remove the existing six tarps, raise and extend the existing frames, to be replaced with three New Rollover Tarps making the task of rolling them up easier with less to handle.



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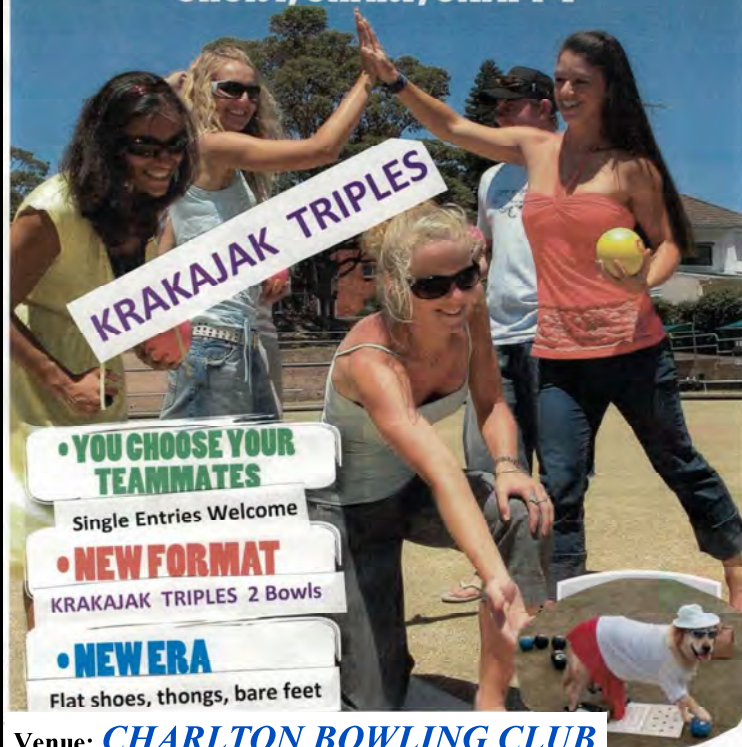
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• NEW ERA

Flat shoes, thongs, bare feet

Venue: **CHARLTON BOWLING CLUB**

Day/Time: **Tuesdays, 7:30pm starting January 13th 2026**
Register by Jan. 6th. Contact Kevin Willey 0428 911 830



Christmas Fest

WEDNESDAY 17TH DECEMBER
AT 5:30PM
Travellers Rest

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Special visit from Santa

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Charlton Croquet Club
Presents

**Have a Crack at Croquet
4 week program**

Date: Mondays: 12th Jan, 19th Jan,
26th Jan, & 2nd Feb

Time: 7pm

Cost: 1st session free-then \$4 adults
\$2 school children

Come and have some fun and learn
some new activities.



Charlton Craft Group

Meets at the Lions Lodge (Camp Street) every Tuesday morning (10am—12pm). The Charlton Craft Group welcomes anyone who shares their passion for crafts of all sorts. Whether it's knitting, crocheting, card making, needlework or other textile related activities, you will be made most welcome.

A small charge of just \$3 covers the venue hire and insurance, and is payable on the morning.

If you have unfinished projects you may want to finish or just want to enjoy a social morning chatting while enjoying your hobby, make a diary date for Tuesday mornings. No bookings required, just pop along.

Hope to see you there.

UNITING CHURCH CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 6th December
9am - 12:00pm

Raffles Giftware Plants
Bric-a-brac Homewares
Clothing Arts/Crafts



CHARLTON ANGLING CLUB INC

FISHING COMPETITION & CHRISTMAS PARTY

Where: Unlimited radius of Charlton

When: Sunday 21st December 2025, 7am to 6pm.

Weigh in: 6pm at Clubrooms followed by end of year presentations, BBQ tea & a visit from Santa. **Families please bring a salad or sweet to share.**

- All members to register by placing their name on the registration sheet at the Clubhouse before fishing
- Photos of fish beside a measure will be accepted as proof of capture, if catching and releasing
- Photos/fish to be presented by fisher at the weigh in to qualify
- Juniors allowed to weigh in Carp. All registered kids receive a prize for participation.

Entry fee: Adults \$5. Juniors \$2. Tea only (not fishing) \$5.

Please join us to celebrate the festive season.
Santa will visit with lollies for the kids.

For more information:

President: Alan Nicolson 0417 386 787

Secretary: Geoff Nicolson 0417 388 652

**All new and current
"fisherpeople" welcome!**



St Martin's Messenger—Dec/Jan

Sunday 7 December	9am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 December	9am	Christmas Crib Service.
Sunday 18 January	9am	Holy Communion
Sunday 1 February	9am	Holy Communion.

Christmas and Hope

The great temptation for us is to lose hope, to see any kind of improvement as impossible, to see, in fact, the world as hopeless.

BUT – keep reading!!! Christmas is a great time to allow that hope to be renewed. Perhaps we keep an eye out to seek out the goodness that is around us that we may not have noticed. (the Good News Stories) Perhaps we can make a promise to ourselves to believe again in hope, for ourselves, for others and for our world. Perhaps we can, at this special time of the year, take a little time to rejoice in the reassurance that hope can give us. To try to, in small ways, move from feeling hopeless to feeling hopeful.

And why at Christmas? Well, God sent to us "Christmas Hope." at this time of the year, a long time ago. This Christmas Hope was also known as Jesus. Jesus came to live on earth – as a baby (just like us) but only for a short time. But what hope he gave us. And he knew where we were coming from, what our lives are like. He cried. He grew. He laughed. He listened to people's stories. He lived in towns, like ours. He ate what we ate. He got to know lots of people. He saw the beautiful world that we live in, as well as the passing nature of the world in which we live. And into this uncertainty, he gave us hope for the future (here on earth and beyond). No wonder he is my Super Hero!!! So promise yourself to rekindle your hope this Christmas and feel the assurance that this brings to your life. And here is a thought – look at a Christmas tree - a green, thriving tree which reminded people of hope and new life. Because of Jesus Christ, we can have this hope and promise of everlasting life.

Prayer: Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. **Amen.** (A Christmas Prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson)

Reverend Judi Bird 0435 593 359
judi.bird@bendigoanglican.org.au



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New Members
Needed
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and a Chat Tuesdays
and Thursdays
1pm -4pm.

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Charlton Uniting Church

Halliday Street, Charlton.

Service times for December:

Sunday 14th – 10.00 am.
Sunday 21st – 10.00 am.
Sunday 28th – 10.00 am.



A Gift of Love.

Time is not measured by the years that you live
But by the deeds that you do and the joy that you give.
And from birthday to birthday, the good Lord above
Bestows on His children, the gift of His love,
Asking us only to share it with others.
To live to the fullest, leaving nothing undone
That would brighten the life or lighten the load
Of some weary traveller lost on life's road.
So, what does it matter how long we may live
If as long as we live, we unselfishly give.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New
Year for 2026. Blessings to you as we celebrate the birth of Jesus
our Saviour.

East Wimmera Parish—St Joseph's Community

Mass Times

Sun. 7th Dec. 10.30am Live streamed into St Joseph's
Sun, 14th Dec. 8.30am
Sat. 21st Dec. 7.00pm
Weds. 24th Dec. 7.00pm Christmas Eve
Sun. 28th Dec. 10.30am

Christmas Mass Times:

Christmas Eve:
5pm Boort
7pm Charlton & Birchip
9pm St Arnaud & Donald
Christmas Day: 9am Wycheproof & Banyena



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Newsletter Subscription

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35a Deakin Avenue, Mildura Vic 3500

jade.benham@parliament.vic.gov.au

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#JBMP



RSL MEETING TIMES.

Monthly meetings will be at the Clubrooms, 11 Armstrong Street
Charlton 3525 at 1630 on the third Friday of each month. Bill
Freeman, Secretary/Treasurer.

Charlton Badminton Club Inc.

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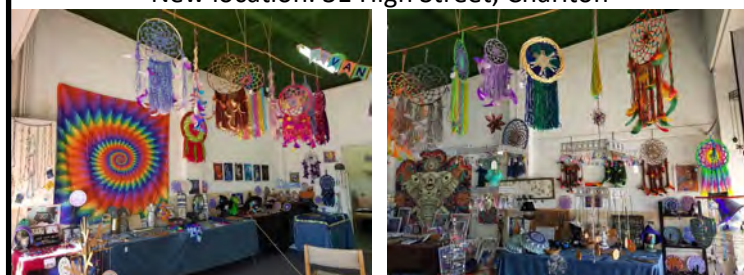
St Joseph's Catholic Community (East Wimmera Parish)

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Charlton Lawn Tennis Club

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Meets 3rd Monday of each
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Tuesday Craft: Every Tuesday
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Bring your craft project.
All Welcome

**Friendship, Crafts,
Community**

New Members Welcome

Contact: Secretary, Liz Richardson on 0433 332 595

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North Central Garden Club

Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month

Enquiries: Aileen 0438 914 439 or Sue 0407 140 336



Charlton Senior Citizens



Monday - Bingo 1:30pm

Tuesday - Cards 1:30pm

Every 3rd Tuesday—Fun Day 10:30am

New Members Welcome

Contact Val Bourke:

5491 1418



**Charlton
Campdraft Club**

**Back St Arnaud Road
Charlton**

Find us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/charltoncampdraftclub>



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



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Charlton Bowling Club

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December 2025

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

Stick This on Your Fridge



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 Senior Citiz Bingo, 1:30pm	2 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Senior Citiz Cards, 1:30pm Charlton Craft Group 10-12	3 Lions Dinner Meeting RSL Social	4 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm	5	6 Lions Paper Collection from 9:30am UC Market	7 Carols
8 Senior Citiz Bingo, 1:30pm Angling Meeting 8pm	9 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Senior Citiz Cards, 1:30pm Charlton Craft Group 10-12	10	11 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm	12 Probus Meeting RSL Meat Raffle @ CCH	13	14 Bowls Singles C/Ships
15 Senior Citiz Bingo, 1:30pm Bowls Meeting 7:30pm CWA Meeting	16 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Senior Citiz Fun Day 10:30am Senior Citiz Cards, 1:30pm Charlton Craft Group 10-12 Forum Meeting 5:30pm	17 Christmas Fest RSL Social	18 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Lions Business Meeting 7:30pm	19 RSL Meeting, 4pm	20	21 Angling Club Comp & Xmas Party
22 Senior Citiz Bingo, 1:30pm	23 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Senior Citiz Cards, 1:30pm Charlton Craft Group 10-12	24	25 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Merry Christmas	26	27	28
29 Senior Citiz Bingo, 1:30pm	30 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Senior Citiz Cards, 1:30pm Charlton Craft Group 10-12	31				

January 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Happy New Year	2	3 Lions Paper Collection from 9:30am	4 Carols
5 Senior Citiz Bingo, 1:30pm	6 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Senior Citiz Cards, 1:30pm Charlton Craft Group 10-12	7 RSL Social	8 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm	9 Probus Meeting RSL Meat Raffle @ CCH	10	11
12 Senior Citiz Bingo, 1:30pm Bowls Meeting 7:30pm Angling Meeting 8pm	13 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Senior Citiz Cards, 1:30pm Charlton Craft Group 10-12 Krakajak Bowls Starts	14	15 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm	16 RSL Meeting, 4pm	17	18
19 Senior Citiz Bingo, 1:30pm	20 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Senior Citiz Fun Day 10:30am Senior Citiz Cards, 1:30pm Charlton Craft Group 10-12	21 RSL Social Lions Business Meeting, 7:30pm	22 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm	23	24 Tennis Tournament	25 Tennis Tournament
26 Senior Citiz Bingo, 1:30pm Tennis Tournament	27 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm Senior Citiz Cards, 1:30pm Charlton Craft Group 10-12	28	29 Mens Shed 1pm - 4pm	30	31	