

Charlton Community Newsletter \$2

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charltonnewsletter@gmail.com

New School Year Begins

Charlton College was filled with energy and excitement on Thursday as students returned to campus for the commencement of Term 1.

The school proudly welcomed four new Foundation students, marking the beginning of their educational journey at Charlton College. The start of the year also represented an important milestone for the Year 7 cohort, with students officially stepping into high school life. This year, four new students joined the Year 7 group.

Staff and students alike embraced the positive atmosphere as the school community came together for the first day of the academic year, setting an optimistic tone for the months ahead.

The Foundation students at St Joseph's, "Little Joeys", have started school with finesse, settling in beautifully with the amazing help and support of their peers. They are already off to a brilliant start, and we can't wait to see what the future brings. Foundation at St Joseph's School is all about feeling a

strong sense of belonging, feeling safe and comfortable, and having the space to grow both as individuals and as part of a caring community—so every child can truly thrive. At our school every child matters; every child is seen, valued and heard.



St Joseph's 2026 Foundation Students: Corrina Harte-Johnstone, Thomas Pridgeon, Ivy Sexton, Emerson Holmes-Brown, Ivy Wells, Jarrah Mills.



Charlton College 2026 Foundation Students: L - R: Harry Smyth, Scarlett Bullock, Harlow McCabe & Zander White.



2026 Year 7 Students: L - R: Andrei Acantilado, Joshua Bartlett, Hudson McGrath, Chace Hooper Dixon, Daniel Harte - Johnstone, Toby Bourke, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Koko Knighton, Lilymae McPhee, Sophie Roberts, Ruby Wright, Isabella Stahl, Lily Lane.

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advertise please contact Carolyn on 0418 361
971 or email charltonnewsletter@gmail.com

From the Editor

Carolyn Olive

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the first edition for 2026. Due to the impending demise of Microsoft Publisher, I've had to start afresh with new software - Affinity. This has meant recreating over 40 adverts - please let me know if I have made any errors.

Thank you to our sponsors who have committed to supporting us again this year. If you didn't receive a renewal, let me know.

Thank you to Jenny Pollard, who has recently retired as the Buloke Times Correspondent. Jenny has done an amazing job covering all our news for many years. Thank you to the Buloke Times also for allowing us to continue our arrangement of reproducing Charlton content. If anyone out there would like to take over Jenny's position, please contact the Buloke Times.

Congratulations to our Australia Day Awardees: Bill Freeman, Charlotte Stewart & the Charlton Golf Club. Also congratulations to Fletcher Holmes-Brown for being awarded the Buloke Young Citizen of the Year. We've had quite a few over the last decade - quite impressive.

Cheers

Carolyn

Upcoming Events

Please note, events are subject to change.

February:

Redback Rally—Fri 13th & Sat 14th
Courthouse Gallery Exhibition—Sun 15th
OK Motels—Fri 21st & Sat 22nd
Film Festival—Fri 27th & Sat 28th

March:

Charlton Pacing Cup—Sun 15th

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Property of the Month

21 Armstrong Street, Charlton \$500,000-\$520,000

Walk straight in and don't do a thing! This beautifully presented four-bedroom architecturally designed home is neat as a pin and ready to enjoy.

Featuring a new kitchen with pantry, large laundry with abundant storage, ensuite and built-in-robies, every detail has been thoughtfully updated. Enjoy year-round comfort with central heating and cooling, electric shutters and security doors throughout.

The house also includes a double brick garage, small workshop and entertainment area, perfect for family living or hosting guests. Outside you will find a beautiful established garden, vegetable patch, 23,000 litre water tank and a 6.2kw solar system to keep bills low.

Freshly painted, rewired and set in a great location, this property offers complete privacy and a secure yard - ideal for families or retirees seeking peace of mind.

Don't miss this one - just perfect! Move in and start living today!

Buloke Honour for Fletcher

At the Buloke Shire's Australia Day Ceremony held at Charlton Park on Thursday 22nd January, Charlton's Fletcher Holmes-Browne, was named 2026 Youth of the Year, for his contributions to youth leadership and community service. Fletcher's efforts include volunteering with the Buloke Youth Advisory Group, Charlton Youth Group, and Charlton Arts, among others. An active volunteer and advocate for young people, Fletcher contributes to numerous local and state organisations, including the Buloke Youth Advisory Group, Charlton Youth Group, Charlton Arts, the Rex Film Selection Committee, and Young Voices Victoria. He

was also recognised as a finalist in the 2025 VCE Leadership Awards. Consistently stepping up to support community initiatives, Fletcher works to amplify young voices, and ensure young people have access to meaningful opportunities. "Now more than ever, young leaders are needed in Buloke," said Fletcher in his acceptance speech. "This award reflects the people and community who have backed me along the way."

Associate Professor, Monique Watts, a cardiologist and heart failure specialist, delivered the keynote address. Dr Watts, daughter of Dennis & Glenda Watts of

Coonooer Bridge, is the founding Clinical Lead of Australia's first multidisciplinary Women's Heart Clinic and a practitioner at East Wimmera Health Service's inaugural rural cardiac clinic based in Charlton. She spoke about her upbringing in the region, her schooling in Charlton, and her time growing up in Buloke Shire. Dr. Watts's address reflected on how regional communities shape lives, values, and ambitions. Returning to her roots as an accomplished cardiologist and leader in women's heart health, she shared her journey from growing up in Charlton to making a mark in Australian medicine.



Buloke Shire Mayor, Cr. Graeme Milne, Fletcher Holmes-Browne (Young Citizen of the Year), Associate Professor Dr. Monique Watts, Jenny Newell (Citizen of the Year), and Member for Northern Victoria, Gaelle Broad.



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Golden Grains Museum

Welcome again to a brand new year of news and updates from your local Charlton Golden Grains Museum. The museum volunteers have been enjoying a break away from the regular routines that are involved in running and maintaining our collection, but are looking forward to another year of archiving our town and district's local history. With the start of a new year it is time to ask, when was the last time you dropped into the museum? We are open every Sunday from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. or by arrangement with one of the people listed below. Admittance is still a very low \$5, and free for children, with EFTPOS facilities now available. Perhaps your local group or organisation would like to have an interesting topical outing; group tours are most welcome and a cuppa and biscuits could accompany your visit.

Fundraising & Activities

Fund raising efforts will continue and will include our popular Bingo trips to Donald. On the drawing board is also a fashion parade planned for June, celebrations of the Rotunda Centenary in October and much more. Financial donations are always welcome to help our work, and a tax deductibility receipt is available if you require it. Another simple option is to 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. Donations of Charlton related items will be gratefully received so please consider an item's story before deciding to throw it away. It may have some significance to a local family, group or long-gone retail outlet in town.

As mentioned earlier the Charlton Golden Grains Museum is run solely by volunteers and like so many organisations is always looking for members to help maintain, archive and assist with our collection and attend during opening hours to the public. If you have an interest in history and would like to help preserve items for Charlton's future generations contact the museum; you will be made most welcome. You could give as much or as little time each month as you wish and don't need any experience and training will be provided.

Recording your stories

David Beaty has been busy recording interviews with community members and our volunteers. Many of these have been shared on our Facebook page. We'll work on adding them to our website for those of you who don't use Facebook. A monthly podcast is also happening where museum members talk about what we've been up to and about our collection.

The Charlton Foundry

Local residents are familiar with the local Foundry Palms Motel in High Street, but it is unlikely many know of the corner block's

history to Charlton. The Charlton Foundry was founded in 1885 by Mr G. Munro, who was an engineer and maker of agricultural equipment and wagons. In 1905 Mr A. Dabron took on the business with Mr J. Biender as a partner. At its height of production it employed 40 staff, with the well known 'Premier Harvester' stated to be "second to none for work and durability" a top seller. Their quality wagons were also in high demand across Australia. Eventually Mr Dabron became the sole proprietor and continued to produce quality farm implements, but in later years mainly concentrated on maintenance and repairs, finally closing in 1964 after almost 80 years serving the community.

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.

Phone enquiries:

President Diane 0417 511 218

Vice President David 0422 185 885

Secretary Carolyn 0418 361 971

Treasurer Judy 0407 050 186

Archivist Markus 0413 129 216

Anne 0408 547 973

Glenda 0417 801 771

Sue 0407 140 336



Charlton Foundry.

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Charlton's Australia Day

Charlton Australia Day was well attended by our local community. Held at Charlton Park, the event was coordinated and hosted by the Cabbarita CWA, with Charlton Lions Club cooking up a storm for breakfast.

Councillor Bruce Stafford made the opening address and the awards were presented by Wayne Litton, President of the Charlton Forum. Recipients of the awards this year were: Bill Freeman (Citizen of the Year), Charlotte Stewart (Young Citizen of the Year) and the Charlton Golf Club (Community Event of the Year). Guest speakers for the day were Charlton Group Officer, Phil Ellis, and Charlton Captain, Craig Walsh, both speaking on behalf of the CFA.

Bill Freeman (Citizen of the Year)

Bill's main contribution is Secretary/Treasurer of the Charlton RSL Sub-Branch. He had many volunteer roles including with the Charlton Club, Table Tennis, Rotary and Charlton Arts. For the past 7 years Bill has been a cornerstone of the Charlton RSL as Treasurer and Secretary. He spends many hours each month preparing for meetings,

handling correspondence, doing media stories, banking, headquarter meetings and much more.

At the Charlton Club Bill jumps in during the year assisting with members draws and the cup sweeps along with other duties as required.

His passion and involvement with table tennis saw him awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by Table Tennis Victoria.

Bill has held many positions in the Charlton Arts Group, including President and Secretary and has been involved with Cafe Culture, Jazz in July, Film Festival and the Art Show.

Bill has shown that age is no barrier, and continues serving the local community at many levels.

Charlotte Stewart

(Young Citizen of the Year)

Charlotte has contributed to the Charlton Community in many volunteer roles. She is a reliable and valuable member of the Rex Theatre team in roles that include customer

service, ushering, assisting in live performances, coffee sessions, and clean up.

She is first to jump in and assist when required. During the 2022 flood event, Charlotte played a critical role in evacuating 13 horses from Charlton to her family property at Buckrabanyule, along with filling sandbags supporting council workers around the community. Joining the Buckrabanyule Fire Brigade in 2021 she has attended numerous callouts from fires to vehicle extractions, and general on the ground assistance.

During the COVID period Charlotte assisted delivering Meals on Wheels to vulnerable people in the community.

Charlotte was Junior School Captain, member of the Student Leadership Council, and Year 12 Sports Captain along with contributing to the North Central Youth Advisory Council.

After school she commenced her agricultural apprenticeship at Longerenong College where she received the prestigious Apprenticeship Allrounder Award.



Citizen of the year; Bill Freeman with Charlton Forum Chairman, Wayne Litton.



Young Citizen of the Year; Charlotte Stewart pictured with Charlton Forum Chairman, Wayne Litton.



Charlton Golf Club Members: L to R - Anne Kenny, Wayne Southwell, Eily Rosewall, Jamey Soulsby, Chris McGurk, Trevor McGurk & Chris Livingston.



Guest Speakers: Craig Walsh (Charlton CFA Captain) & Phil Ellis (Charlton Group Officer).

Charlton's Australia Day

Her achievements in the equestrian sport are equally remarkable. She has represented Victoria 3 times in the Senior Mounted Games and was honoured as the Flag Bearer in 2025. She also represented Australia in the Horse of the Year Mounted Games in New Zealand (2024) and selected again to compete in Wales in 2025. She recently also earned the title of Reserve Champion at the Ride to Time Championship at Moonee Valley- a notable achievement given the elite nature of the

competition. Charlotte freely gives her time assisting young community members at the Charlton Pony Club and she is a terrific role model for others around her.

Charlton Golf Club Golf (Australia TRIMAX Victorian Sand Greens Championship 2025) - Event of the Year

This event brought together 129 golfers from across Victoria for this prestigious championship. Over the course of the weekend participants and spectators enjoyed

competitive play, local hospitality and rural character. It contributed to a vital boost to the local economy along with promoting healthy lifestyle, volunteer engagement, and the value of regional sport. Over 30 volunteers contributed hundreds of hours with funds raised being used to maintain the course facilities and be shared with local community groups. The event continued the success of previous tournaments and showcased the best of country golf.

Charlton Tennis Tournament

Celebrating 100 years since the inaugural Australia Day Tennis Tournament in Charlton, large numbers of tennis players from across the country, plus an international entrant, converged on Charlton for the annual Australia Day weekend tournament.

Continuing on from recent successful tournaments, the anticipated hot weekend did not drain the enthusiasm for the now firmly entrenched social weekend of tennis.

The standard of tennis remains high, but the tournament is recognised as much for the spirit in which it is played, a high number of returnees guaranteeing the feel remains the same.

Word of mouth continuing to grow the numbers, this year's 15 per cent increase in attendees coming from as far and wide as Queensland, Adelaide, regional NSW, and all around Victoria.

Centre stage this year, though, was undoubtedly the hosting of the first One Point HAM SLAM. Following the success of the One Point Slam at the Australian Open, players took to the courts on Sunday Funday to challenge each other for the chance to win sudden-death, single-point matches to win through to claim the grand prize of a sizeable leg of ham and \$100 cash.

Jarron Morris of Yarra Glen held his nerve to take home the goodies, with Sam "NoHam" Payne the unlucky finalist.

A great spectacle thoroughly engrossed the large crowd watching on, all while enjoying culinary delights — paella from Little Sangria, pizza from The Vale of Avoca, some Asian infusion, pulled pork rolls courtesy of Sue and Ian Robe, and a traditional Aussie barbecue kindly prepared by the Charlton Lions Club on Australia Day eve.

The fun didn't stop there. Following the awarding of the "HAM" champion, spectators were absorbed by the mixed doubles finals, or by the Australian Open on the big screen. The night was capped off by a fantastic fireworks display from Southern Cross Fireworks, made possible by a significant contribution from the Charlton Op Shop, complemented by live music from Greg Towers late into the night.

If you missed this year, you definitely want to get yourself along next.

Great Tennis

On the court, Saturday's doubles day saw some great tennis played, with a total of 74 pairs taking to the courts and keeping those in the tournament box on their toes to ensure courts were filled. A total of 140 matches were played across the day.

A good field of seven pairs contested the Walsh Motors men's open. Winners were Jarrad Bingham and Zac Ranson of

Shepparton, with runners-up Clinton Shelley and Frank Ryan from Bendigo.

Sixteen pairs played in four sections for the Teys Australia "A" grade title, with Bendigo's Denzel Cooper and Sean Penno successful over Glenn Preston (down from Queensland) and Peter French (Adelaide).

Remaining results for the men's doubles were: Charlton Massage Clinic "B" grade won by Mark Hayes and Nick Metz; Fine Farm Organics "C" grade won by Oscar Balic and Kyen Maxted; and Bath Family "D" grade won by Safin Penno and Toby Robe.

In the ladies' doubles, the Charlton IGA ladies open was won by Michelle Balic and Bronwyn Osborne. Priority 1 Property "A" grade winners were Tova Penno and Narelle Smyth. The Foundry Palms Motel "B" grade was won by Cara Sacco and Kylie Evans. JS Plumbing "C" grade winners were Samara and Rebel Connors, and a local victory in the Perry Contractors "D" grade saw Charlton's Mikaylah Crisp combine with Nullawil's Sharna Bartram to claim the win.

Sunday

Sunday's mixed doubles started a little earlier to beat the forecast heat. Played in great spirit, 67 pairs took to the Joe Nihill-prepared grass courts, which played tremendously well across the weekend.

Winning the Community Bank Charlton & District open event were Troy Snow and



D Grade Mixed Doubles Finalists: Hamish Noonan & Summer Starkey, and Elise Turner & Keith Chittleborough.



BBQ Duty: Henry Bourke & Trevor McGurk.

Charlton Tennis Tournament

Eliza Bingham, accounting for Michael and Narelle Smyth in straight sets under lights.

The Cricket Club Hotel "A" grade was won by Terry Smith and Tova Benno; the Bakery Lane Apartments "B" grade by Denzel Cooper and Samara Connors; Atkins Family "C" grade by Lachlan Stark and Tallulah Duffy; the Charlton Caravan Park "D" grade by Keith Chittleborough and Elise Turner; and the Wes Jenkyn Gardening "B" special event by Lucas Kellett and Arina Vasin.

Singles Day

Singles day was a little subdued with the forecast 42-degree temperatures. It did not, however, stop 59 keen souls from stepping onto the singles court, or the 12 who decided rotating doubles would suit better to round out the weekend.

Winners of each event were Charlton's Jo Southcombe, who took out the Charlton Newsagency ladies open singles, securing the

newly minted Rae Heenan (Ellis) perpetual trophy in doing so. Both ladies' and men's perpetual trophies were in circulation this year, named after inaugural winners Rae Ellis (now Heenan) and Doug Bath.

The Fergie Family "B" grade ladies was won by Vaida Penno; the Charlton Hardware "C" grade ladies by Michelle Amalfi; and Charlton's Mikaylah Crisp was the winner of the North West Ag Services ladies "D" grade.

In the men's events, Nick Gattuso returned to reclaim his crown of two years ago in the BQS Group men's open, also securing the Doug Bath perpetual trophy. Ben Turnley won the Les Finlay Family "A" grade, with Les a life member of the club and daughter Anne on hand to present the trophy. The Vale of Avoca "B" grade was won by Lachlan Stark; the Signwise Solutions/Wright's Carpentry "C" grade by Jarrod Bence; and Safin Penno cleaned up in the Hannaford Seed Cleaning "D" grade.

Rotating Doubles

The rotating doubles was hotly contested, with a four-set, four-game format adopted to suit the conditions. Cara Sacco was best-performed lady to claim the Heenan Family ladies section win, while Peter French collected the Steel's Butchers men's section win.

As always, the tournament could not go ahead without its fantastic and generous sponsors, and the tremendous amount of work done by volunteers — from the group of ladies who make fresh rolls and sandwiches each morning, to the dedicated band of barbecue chefs, the tournament box crew, tournament secretary, kitchen supervisor, clubhouse presenter, bar staff, court liner, executive team and all those who played their part.

The obvious enjoyment of players and spectators alike makes it worthwhile and will hopefully continue for many years to come.

See you in 2027!



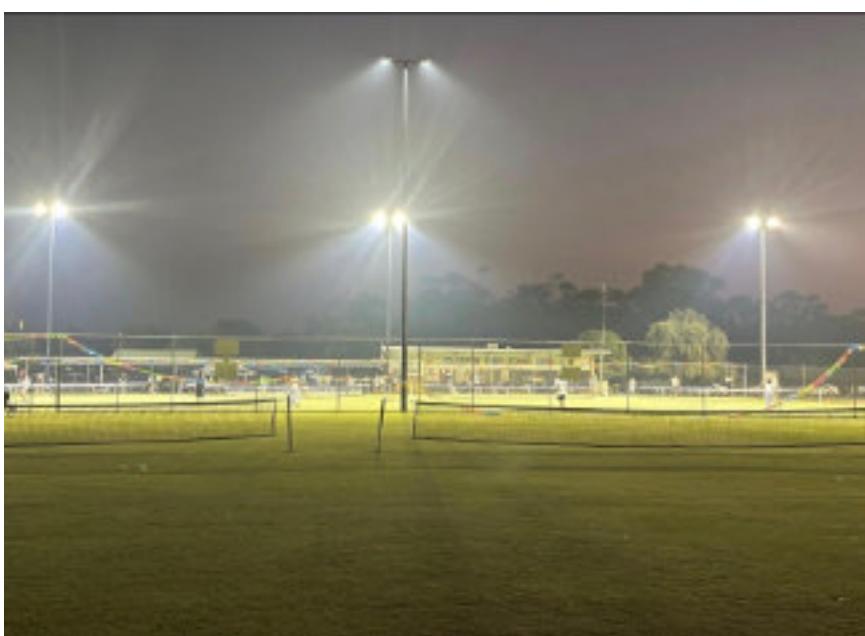
A Grade Mixed Doubles Winners: Eliza Bingham & Troy Snow.



Tessa Fitzpatrick & Sabrina Thompson.



Henry Bourke & Trevor McGurk.



Sunday Funday Finals under lights.



The impressive fireworks display.



Charlton Probus News

The Charlton Probus Club held its annual Christmas gathering on Friday, 12 December, bringing together 38 members at the East Charlton Hotel for a short meeting followed by a festive meal. Thirteen members were unable to attend and sent their apologies. Happy Birthday was sung to Pat Saunders, Sue Walsh and Kim Wishart.

The day began with Grace, read by Noreen Ryan, before members took part in six lucky number draws. Festive cheer continued with the announcement of the Best Hat winners, awarded to Nick Huinck and Wendy Vandenelst.

Greg Barnard claimed the prize in the popular Pass the Parcel game, and the

Travellers' Farewell was delivered by Joan Mundy. To close the occasion, President Kim extended warm Christmas wishes to all members.

The event was marked by good humour, camaraderie and a strong community spirit, setting a cheerful tone for the holiday season.

Due to a catastrophic weather forecast for Friday 9 January, the Charlton Probus Club cancelled its scheduled meeting. The decision was later made to reschedule the meeting for 16 January. With only a few days' notice, it was pleasing to see 33 members in attendance, with 9 apologies recorded. Happy Birthday was sung to Denise Winsall.

After the formalities of the meeting were completed, Sue Livingstone entertained members with a selection of Christmas cracker jokes. As there was insufficient time to organise a guest speaker, Anne Kenny presented a DVD featuring the Back-tos from 1926, 1938 and 1951. The presentation also included a segment on the 1939 flood, along with excerpts highlighting the Primary and Higher Elementary Schools in 1940.

Sincere thanks to the Golden Grains Museum for allowing us to use this DVD.

This year marks a significant milestone as we celebrate 50 Years of Probus in Australia.



Probus Christmas.



January Birthday: Denise Winsall being offered chocolates by Eily Rosewall.



December Birthdays: Sue Walsh, Pat Saunders & Kim Wishart.



Best Christmas Hat winners Nick Huinck and Wendy Vandenelst.

Charlton College Awards

A large crowd attended the 2025 Charlton College Awards Ceremony, held at the REX, celebrating the achievements and contributions of students and staff across the school community. School Captains Fletcher Holmes-Brown and Emmersyn Nelson expertly compered the evening.

In his address, School Council President, Troy Heenan, thanked the community groups and local businesses for their ongoing support for the students and the College programs. This being his final year as a parent, he encouraged the next wave of parents to take their turn on Council. Principal Craig Kelly acknowledged the school's outstanding performance in NAPLAN and VCE, and also individual excellence with Heidi Start being awarded State Javelin champion and Jye Roberts the Wimmera Heywire award.

The Australian Defence Force Long Tan Leadership Awards were presented to Ruby Radcliffe and Fletcher Holmes-Brown, recognising their demonstrated leadership, teamwork and service within the school and

broader community, and their embodiment of values central to the ADF and Australian society. The ADF also funded the Future Innovators Award, celebrating excellence in STEM subjects, with Heidi Start and Zali Heenan named recipients.

Students recognised for outstanding all-round achievement were Maisie Judd, Thomas Judd, Stella Nicolson and Emmersyn Nelson.

Sophie Smyth, Henry Lanyon and Brooke Burr were acknowledged for exemplifying the College's Three R's, Respect, Responsibility and Resilience, each receiving a Parents' Club SWPBS Award for their respective areas.

Artistic scholarships were awarded to Annie Olive, Georgia Wright, Molly Riley and Eli Cossar in recognition of their creative talents.

The Bourke Family Award, presented in Oscar's name, was awarded to Building and Construction student James Fitzpatrick, who also received a Perpetual Trophy.

The North Central LLEN once again sponsored the Vocational Pathways Award, which was presented to Ditch Berg. The Workplace of the Year Award was awarded to College Canteen Manager Caryn Larmour.

Craig Kelly, alongside Charlton Neighbourhood House President Kaylene Cossar, presented Emmersyn Nelson with the 2025 Charlton Dux Scholarship. In her acceptance speech, Emmersyn spoke of the support she had received throughout her schooling and encouraged younger students to pursue their dreams.

The evening concluded with the College Captains' report, acknowledging the positive behaviours demonstrated by students, congratulating their peers on their achievements and wishing them success in the future. They also reflected on the friendships, memories and lifelong bonds formed during their time at Charlton College, and expressed gratitude to the many scholarship donors for their continued support.



Dux: Kaylene Cossar (Charlton Neighbourhood House President) & Emmersyn Nelson.



ADF Leadership: Fletcher Holmes-Brown, Allan McGillivray (RSL President) & Ruby Radcliffe.



Year 12s: Emmersyn Nelson, Elise Fitzpatrick, Poppy Fitzpatrick, Isobel Soulsby, Zali Heenan, Annie Olive, Georgia Wright, Beau Johnstone, Joseph Monaghan, Ditch Berg, Fletcher Holmes-Brown.

Charlton College Awards



ADF: Future Innovators: Zali Heenan, Allan McGillivray (RSL President) & Heidi Start.



10-12 All Rounder: Emmersyn Nelson.



7-9 All Rounder: Stella Nicolson.



Year 6 Encouragement: Maria Perger (Charlton CWA) & Isabella Stahl.



Literacy: 7-9: Marlly Morkos & F-3: Ned Larmour.



North Central LLEN: Julie Bourke (NCLLEN), Student Award: Ditch Berg, Workplace: Caryn Larmour.



Lion's Club Technology: Murphy Fitzpatrick.

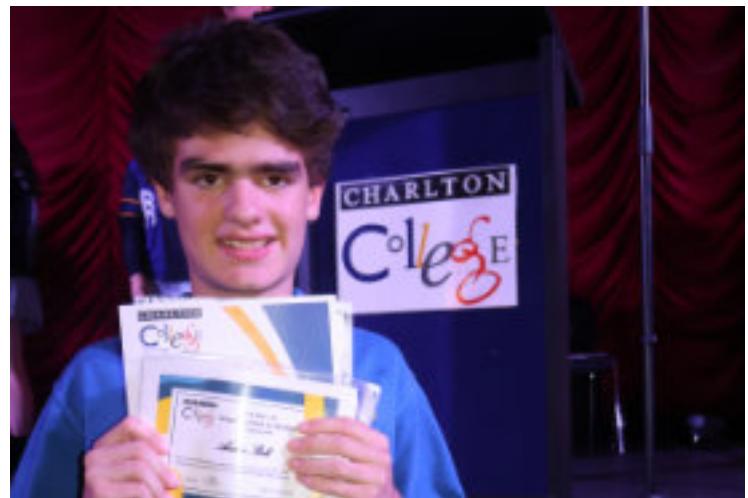


Nutrien Ag: Julie Bourke (NCLLEN) & Michael Olive.

Charlton College Awards



OASIS Improvement in Studies Year 9 & 10: Josie Larmour.



OASIS Improvement in Studies Year 7 & 8: Archie Bell.



School Wide Positive Behaviour Support: F-6: Sophie Smyth; 7-12: Henry Lanyon with Hayley Soulsby (Parents' Club President).



TEYS Award: Kaitlyn Pollock & Tahlijia Sheahan (TEYS Australia).



Oscar Bourke Award: Bourke Family with recipient, James Fitzpatrick.

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Buloke.



LIBRARY LOVERS DAY

Buloke Libraries are celebrating Library Lovers' Day on February 14, along with National Library Lovers Month, and we'd love to share the joy with our youngest readers and their families.

Library Lovers' Day celebrates books, stories and the special place libraries hold in our communities. For young children, libraries are welcoming spaces where a love of reading, imagination, and learning begins.

RECOVERY SUPPORT

Council partnered with Mallee Family Care and the Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCs) to deliver a free recovery support session at the Charlton Municipal Offices for residents impacted by the Charlton and Sea Lake fires.

The session provided confidential counselling, legal assistance, practical insurance support, financial counselling and recovery planning.

It was well attended and received positive feedback, with residents valuing the opportunity to speak directly with experienced practitioners and better understand available supports and recovery steps.

The session complemented Council's ongoing recovery work and referrals, connecting impacted residents with appropriate services during early recovery.

Buloke Libraries will celebrate with:

- Staff will be wearing red
- Romance-themed book displays in our libraries and mobile library van
- Kids can enjoy our "I Love My Library" colouring-in activity

Pop into your local Buloke Library, fall in love with books and tell us what you love most about your library! If you'd like more information to share with families or wish to include Library Lovers' Day in your February activities, please contact your local Buloke Library by phoning 1300 520 520.

RFCS provides support in-person, by phone or online.

Phone: 1300 735 578

Website: rfcsvictoriawest.com.au / finwellsupport.com.au

Email: enquiry@finwellsupport.com.au



HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE 2026/27 BUDGET

This is your opportunity to help shape the future of our community by providing feedback on Council's 2026/27 Annual Budget.

Consultation is open from 22 January to 19 February 2026

Share your feedback online, by email or post, or in person at the Wycheproof Customer Service Centre.

Your input helps guide Council decisions and priorities.

Feedback can be provided in the following ways:

Online survey: www.buloke.vic.gov.au

Email: buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au

Phone: 1300 520 520

Mail: Address your submission to – Buloke Shire Council - Submissions, PO Box 1, Wycheproof, VIC 3527.

AI DRIVING PRODUCTIVITY

You're invited to take part in a practical AI Forum designed for regional agribusiness, manufacturing and food producers. Hosted by RDA Grampians with the Wimmera Southern Mallee Regional Partnership, this FREE event highlights real-world AI examples and local case studies relevant to businesses across our region.

When: 10:00am – 3:00pm Friday 27 February 2026

Where: Longerong Agricultural College, Horsham

Tickets are free but limited - registration is essential.

To book visit: <https://events.humanitix.com/ai-forum-horsham-driving-productivity>

SUPPORTED PLAYGROUP TERM 1 – 2026

Playgroup Term 1 kicks off this week with a beach and summer theme.

BIRCHIP

Birchip IHOM

10:00am – 12:00pm

Friday 6 & 20 Feb

Friday 6 & 20 Mar

CHARLTON

St Josephs Primary School

9:30am – 11:00am

Thursday 5 & 19 Feb

Thursday 5 & 19 Mar

DONALD

Donald Hub

10:30am

Friday 13 & 27 Feb

Friday 13 & 27 Mar

WYCHEPROOF

Old Wycheproof Kinder

10:30am – 12:00pm

Thursday 12 & 26 Feb

Thursday 12 Mar

Thursday 2 Apr

For more information and locations, visit our website: www.buloke.vic.gov.au/playgroup



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SHIRE COUNCIL



BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

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367 Broadway, Wycheproof, Victoria, 3527
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W: buloke.vic.gov.au

CHARLTON NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

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

Welcome to 2026!

The New Year is here and everyone involved in the Charlton Neighbourhood House is excited about the year ahead. We were proud to again be involved with the Australia Day celebrations and the welcome to our new residents in town. Stay tuned for upcoming events and activities through the Community Newsletter, Facebook, Web Page, window displays and flyers. We also will be continuing with many of our popular monthly activities such as 'Monday Yarners', Carers Lunches and the Buloke Book Club.

As always we look forward to getting your input for what you would like to see run through the Neighbourhood House. If you have a passion in an area call in and discuss it with one of the team. Who knows you may be able to share your talent with local residents.

Welcome Back 'Other Locals'

We're excited to welcome back our 'other locals' this month as OK Motels returns to Charlton on the 20th and 21st. Keep your eyes open for the visitors and give a warm welcome to these music lovers who give so much support to our community; they love to have a chat.

Regular Weekly and Monthly Activities

- 'Coffee with a...' Join us every Monday during the school term from 10:30 AM to 12 PM at the FLO Cafe (located in the Rex Theatre) for a chat with local guests, including Buloke Shire Councillors, community groups, and more.
- Yarning²: A relaxed social group for all things yarn —knitting, crochet, macramé, and more! Mondays from 10:30 AM to 12 PM. Everyone welcome.
- Buloke Book Club. A warm welcoming group where you can come along and discuss what has taken your fancy in the world of reading.



[FOLLOW US](#)



www.charltonnh.org.au

Charlton NH

CNH Open Hours Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10am-4pm. Lunch 12.30-1.15pm.



February Highlights

Get e-Prepared

Emergencies are hard enough without the added stress of lost or damaged documents. We are offering to guide you through storing electronic copies of your important documents securely, using the Justice Connect-Telstra program 'ePrepared'. This will be once a month and bookings are essential. Book your 15-minute initial consultation now and a 30-minute follow-up session. Spaces are limited, so don't wait!

Creative & Social Classes

- Mahjong for beginners. An easy introduction to the ancient Chinese game.
- Swimming lessons for the young ones. A 4 week program for the 3 and under and a 6 week program for ages 4-15 years.
- Gentle Water Exercises. Here's an opportunity to get involved with these popular pool sessions.
- Little Local Art Classes with Poppy will become a monthly feature at Mallee Creatives.

Community Volunteering

Did you know that the Charlton Neighbourhood House is the place to go if you require non-urgent transport for medical appointments? Operated by our wonderful volunteers, this may be an option if you are having difficulty finding transport. Have some free time? Maybe consider becoming a driver yourself. Details available from our office.

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 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. If you would like to volunteer pop in and find out how.



info@charltonnh.org.au

view our window

WHAT'S ON FOR



FEBRUARY

<p>Each Wednesday of February till 11 Mar.</p>	<p>Gentle Water Exercises Where: Charlton Pool Time: 2.00pm - 3.00pm * Note first 2 weeks 2.30pm to 3.30pm Total Cost: \$50</p>	<p>20-22</p>	<p>OK Motels Where: Whole Town. Join in the fun as Charlton lets down its hair and welcomes our visitors.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Swimming Classes 0-3, 4-15 y/o Where: Charlton Pool Time: 4.00pm - 6.00pm Total Cost: \$20 0-3 y/o, \$50 4-15 y/o</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>Let's learn Mahjong Where: Mallee Creatives Time: 1.30 -2.30pm Cost: Free, bookings essential</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Coffee with a... Forum Rep Where: FLO Cafe, Rex Theatre Time: 10.30 am-12 pm FREE, pop in for a chat and coffee</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>Coffee with a... Councillor Where: FLO Cafe Time: 10.30 am-12 pm FREE, pop in for a chat and coffee</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Carers & Co. Group Information Sharing Where: East Charlton Time: 12 pm- 1.30 pm Cost: Lunch at subsidised prices</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>Swimming Classes 0-3, 4-15 y/o Where: Charlton Pool Time: 4.00pm - 6.00pm Total Cost: \$20 0-3 y/o, \$50 4-15 y/o</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Swimming Classes 0-3, 4-15 y/o Where: Charlton Pool Time: 4.00pm - 6.00pm Total cost: \$20 0-3 y/o, \$50 4-15 y/o</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Let's learn Mahjong Where: Mallee Creatives Time: 1.30 -2.30pm Cost: Free, bookings essential</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>Little Locals Art Club Where: Mallee Creatives Time: 11am -12pm Cost: Free, but must register Come and join our party</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>Little Locals Art Club Where: Mallee Creatives Time: 3.30-4.30pm Cost: Free, bookings essential</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>We will be closed. Neighbourhood Houses Victoria is calling on the State Government to increase annual funding by \$11.7M or risk the closure of 200 Neighbourhood Houses across Victoria. To keep our doors open, we will be marching to Parliament steps.</p>	<p>Each Monday of School Term</p>	<p>Yarning² Social Group Where: FLO Cafe, Rex Theatre Time: 10.30 am-12 pm FREE, bring your own yarn project</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>Buloke Book Club Where: Library, Senior Citizens Room Time: 10.30 am-12 pm Cost: FREE, discuss any book, no set text.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>BOOK NOW FOR MARCH</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>Swimming Classes 0-3, 4-15 y/o Where: Charlton Pool Time: 4.00pm - 6.00pm Total Cost: \$20 0-3 y/o, \$50 4-15 y/o</p>	<p>e-Prepared & Technology Sessions Where: CNH Time: Appointments only FREE, bookings essential.</p>	<p>20</p>



Reunion & Fundraising Day

Charlton Cricket Club Reunion and Cystic Fibrosis Fundraising Day

The Charlton Cricket Club's 2006-07 and 2009-10 Premiership Reunion and Cystic Fundraiser Day was a tremendous success, bringing together past and present members, supporters and friends for an afternoon and evening of cricket, connection and generosity.

The day began with an exhibition T20 cricket match, which set the tone with plenty of big hitting and entertaining play. The Charlton team proudly wore purple in support of Cystic Fibrosis, complemented by striking purple stumps that reinforced the cause. From around 1.00pm, the crowd steadily built, creating a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere around the ground. The Marnoo club joined in the festivities and were a big part of the day's success, embracing the spirit of the occasion both on and off the field.

At the conclusion of the match, players and spectators came together to enjoy

afternoon tea and refreshments. Throughout the afternoon and evening, a spinning wheel proved popular, with prizes generously donated by local businesses and club connections, adding to both the fun and the fundraising efforts.

Prior to the main meal, the club recognised outstanding service by awarding Life Memberships to five active club personnel, acknowledging their significant contribution and commitment. A beautiful meal of steak and salads followed, enjoyed by the large crowd in attendance.

Reunion teams were then presented, with team captains, Aaron Walklate and Marc Cox sharing memories from their respective seasons and finals campaigns. These reflections sparked laughter, nostalgia and plenty of conversation among the crowd. A generous spread of desserts rounded out the meal perfectly.

An explanation of Cystic Fibrosis was delivered via a powerful and informative

video clip featuring Caulfield Cup winning jockey, Harry Coffey, highlighting the importance of the cause and the impact of the day's fundraising efforts.

The evening continued with a live auction, led by auctioneer JT, featuring items generously donated by local businesses, club connections, Harry Coffey, and Harry's close friend, Melbourne Cup-winning jockey Jye McNeil. The auction was a highlight of the night, raising over \$7,000 for Cystic Fibrosis.

Throughout the event, attendees took the opportunity to catch up, reminisce and view a thoughtfully curated display of club memorabilia, including past scorebooks, photographs and newspaper clippings. The display provided a tangible link to the club's rich history and was enjoyed by all.

The Reunion and Fundraiser Day was a memorable occasion, celebrating the club's past and present while making a meaningful contribution to an important cause, with more than \$11,000 raised on the day.



06/07 Premiership Team: Aaron Walklate, Kirk Boyle, Ben Walklate, Brett Schofield, Daniel Thiesz, Danny Wright, Brendan Gretgrix, Anthony Judd, Marc Cox



09/10 Premiership Team: Aaron Walklate, Kirk Boyle, Ben Walklate, Daniel Thiesz, Andrew Wright, Brett Schofield, Danny Wright, Brendan Gretgrix, Kris Clifford, Anthony Judd, Marc Cox.





Reunion & Fundraising Day



Cooper Boyle batting.



Patrick Soulsby Bowling with Baxter Cheesman.



Returnee, Michael McGurk batting, and fielder, Nick Baird.



Leigh Van Boven batting.



Charlton Team: Cooper Boyle, Angus Soulsby, Billy Sexton, Patrick Soulsby, Ethan Needs, Jackson Zagame, Michael McGurk, Murphy Fitzpatrick, Hugh Sait, Pat Sait, Mitchell Boyle, Ethan Soulsby, Leigh Van Boven.



Awards New Life Members

Charlton Cricket Club Awarded Life Memberships to Five Outstanding Contributors

The Charlton Cricket Club proudly recognised five outstanding contributors with the award of Life Membership, acknowledging their exceptional service, commitment and impact on the club across many years. Kirk Boyle presented the first three.

Brett Schofield was the first to be awarded. Brett arrived in Charlton in 2006 and quickly became a popular and colourful figure around the club. A talented cricketer with a larger-than-life personality, Brett was well known for his love of dress-ups, big hair, face paint and an ability to “rock and roll all night.” While his talent was evident early, it was the 2006-07 Grand Final where he truly stamped his name, batting through the entire innings to score a magnificent 112. Brett was involved in the 2010 Premiership and continued playing through to 2019, recording a personal highest score of 126 not out. Off the field, his contribution has been just as significant, having served the club as Secretary for 15 years. In this time, the club has benefited from many grants that he has been successful in acquiring. Brett remains actively involved to this day.

Adam Soulsby was next to receive membership. Adam began his cricket journey on St Joseph’s oval before progressing to senior cricket in 1989. A skilful all-rounder, he quickly learnt the value of his wicket and the importance of never dropping a catch. His first century came in the 1992-93 season in B Grade, before moving to A Grade in the 1994-95 season. Adam posted his maiden A Grade

century with a score of 121 in a memorable victory against Marnoo.

After completing university studies, Adam spent six seasons playing in Castlemaine before returning home and captaining the club’s A Grade side in 2014-15. One of the proudest moments of his career came in January 2021 when he played alongside all three of his sons, Patrick, Angus and Ethan. Adam currently serves as Club President, a role he has held for the past 12 years.

Recipient three, was Shane Fitzpatrick. Shane commenced his cricket career at just 15 years of age in B Grade, where he quickly established himself as an opening or first-change bowler with prodigious swing and a heavy ball. More than handy with the bat, he was capable of clearing the pickets with ease. Shane progressed to A Grade in 1990-91, before winning the bowling average in the 1992-93 season.

His career-best performance came against Wedderburn in 1995-96, claiming outstanding figures of 7 for 78. In the 2017-18 season, Shane opened the bowling alongside his eldest son, Cobi, returning remarkable figures of 4 for 0 off five overs. Shane has continued to contribute significantly behind the scenes, supporting his children and performing much of the unseen work that keeps the club running.

The club also proudly awarded its first two female Life Memberships. Kelvin Baird and Brian Wright had the honour of doing this, recognising the vital role women play in the success of the club.

The first female recipient was Hayley Soulsby. Hayley first became involved with

the club through supporting her husband, Adam. As her boys began playing, she took on the role of bus chaperone before assuming the responsibilities of scorer. This is a role she has undertaken for 12 years, evolving from traditional scorebooks to digital scoring via iPad. Her scorebooks are widely regarded as works of art. In addition, Hayley has been heavily involved in the administration of junior cricket and currently holds the position of Association PlayHQ coordinator.

The final recipient was Kim Fitzpatrick. Kim initially became involved with the club after coming from the tennis court to support her husband, Shane. Her contribution has been extensive, particularly in junior coaching and the recruitment and coaching of the Association’s girls team, the “Belles”. Kim has travelled extensively across the state supporting the Wimmera Girls Cricket Association and Western Victoria Girls Shield teams. She has supported the cricketing journeys of her three children, Cobi, Maddison and Elliott across club cricket, Country Week, Western Waves and Women’s Premier Cricket, and now continues to support Elliott at Port Melbourne. Kim currently coaches junior players, serves as Secretary for the WMCA, and is the club and association photographer. Her volunteer service spans many years and countless hours of dedicated work behind the scenes.

The Charlton Cricket Club congratulates all five Life Members on this well-deserved recognition and thanks them for their extraordinary contribution to the club’s history and future.



Life Members: Back – Brett Schofield, Kirk Boyle, Shane Fitzpatrick, Greg McGurk, Eric Bish, Adam Soulsby, Hayley Soulsby, John Giblett. Front – Brian Wright, Allan McGurk, Kim Fitzpatrick, Kelvin Baird, Allan Bish, Brendan Gretrix.

Charlton Croquet Club Heritage Award – Inaugural Presentation

In 2025, Croquet Victoria donated a Heritage Badge to each affiliated club, to be awarded at the club's discretion. At a meeting, Charlton Croquet Club decided the badge would become an annual award, recognising a member who has made an extraordinary contribution to our club.

On Tuesday 20 January 2026, members gathered for the presentation of our inaugural Heritage Award, proudly awarded to Barb Dalrymple. The award was originally intended to be presented on Opening Day, however Barb was unavailable. A second attempt was planned for our Christmas lunch, which unfortunately did not eventuate — but as they say, third time lucky!

President Lindsay Patullo sent apologies for being unable to attend the presentation.

Barb joined the Charlton Croquet Club in the 1986–87 season and is one of a very select group of players to have been Club Champion in all four divisions. She won Division 4 in 1992–93 and was also Kara Kara and Murray Valley Champion that season. In 1993–94 she became Division 3 Champion and went on to repeat that achievement on three further occasions.

Barb's first Division 2 title came in 1996–97, followed by four more Division 2 championships. She first won Division 1 in 1998–99 and went on to claim the Division 1 title three additional times. Barb was Club Champion in 1999–00, 2002–03 & 2003–04.

Beyond club competition, Barb has been Kara Kara Champion on three occasions and Murray Valley Champion five times. She has represented Charlton at Victorian Country Regionals held at Red Cliffs, Bendigo, Geelong, Horsham and Traralgon. In 2006, Barb was invited to train with the Victorian State Squad. She has competed in the Women's Invitation Tournament at Cairnlea, and in 2006 played in the Silver Medal.

Barb has competed in many tournaments including Bendigo, Rich River, Red Cliffs and Charlton. She was a member of the victorious Charlton Green Pennant team in the Kara Kara Association in 1991. Barb was a member of the victorious Kara Kara A Pennant in both 1997–98 and 1998–99. In Murray Valley Pennant, she was part of the winning teams in 2001–02, 2013–14 and 2022–23.

Barb won the Peg McGrath Doubles in 2009–10 and again in 2012–13.

In 1995, Barb passed her Referee's Examination and has officiated at all Charlton tournaments since then, as well as at many Victorian Country Regional events. She has served as Club Captain on seven occasions and was Vice-President in 2000–01, stepping up to President during that season. Barb continued as President in 2001–02 and again in 2018–19 and 2019–20. She also served as Murray Valley President in 2001–02 and 2002–03.

In 2012, Barb was presented with her Veteran's (25-year) Badge. She ran the first

hoop in the 2000–01 season and again in 2019–20.

Barb is currently Vice-President, Vice-Captain and Tournament Referee at Charlton, and also serves as Murray Valley Vice-President.

Congratulations, Barb, on a truly well-deserved Heritage Award and for your outstanding service to Charlton Croquet Club.



Arnold, Barb & Tracy Dalrymple.



Standing: L to R: Marie Fitzpatrick, Anne Kenny, Joy Freeman, Val Bourke, Nita Perry, Ena Green, Bill Freeman. Seated- L to R: Pat Mathews, Marj Bartlett, Barb Dalrymple, Margaret Bowen.

Harness Racing Club

WELCOME TO 2026!!

The club welcomes all our members and participants to another full year of racing and activities at the Charlton Harness Racing Club. Coming off such a successful 2025 it is quite exciting to see what can be achieved this year and we welcome all Charlton locals to be a part of this great industry for our town.

Particular thanks must go to our sponsors who continue to see value in what our club contributes to Charlton.

- Community Bank Charlton & District
- GMG Financial Services
- Cricket Club Hotel
- Ames Australasia
- Nth West Ag Services
- Heenan's Charlton Newsagency
- Charlton Caravan Park
- Buloke Shire

WELCOME TO CHARLTON CONNOR CLARKE

We could not have asked for a better start to the year than to have young driver Connor Clarke decide to join us and settle in at the Training Centre. Connor comes from an established harness racing family in Ballarat and is ready to branch out on his own. We are thrilled that he has chosen Charlton and that he fills the last available complex at the training centre. Connor is a talented junior driver and will no doubt give Luke Dunne a run for his money as the leading Charlton driver come the end of the year!

Best of luck to you Connor and a very warm welcome to Charlton!

MEMBERSHIPS

The new season's memberships are currently being sent out – thank you to all our loyal members who continue to support the club.

New members are always welcome – call 0499701322 for more information.



Greg Norman.

VALE GREG NORMAN

Another savage blow to the club recently was the passing of trainer Greg Norman, a much loved friend to many and a great industry participant. He was a very successful driver in SA - the Norman name was synonymous with harness racing in South Australia through many generations. Greg was the private trainer here in Victoria for Cormack Racing and formed a great relationship with them over the years. He loved his time in Charlton and certainly formed some strong friendships here. His expertise, many chats and laughs, and genuine love for harness racing will be so missed by us. Even when he was forced to go home because of illness he kept regular contact with us and everything that was going on in Charlton, often knowing more about our horses than we did!

He was a tremendous asset to the growth of the Training Centre and the club will forever remember him as a great bloke and an important part of the Charlton Harness Racing Club story.

RIP Greggie.

COMMUNITY BANK CHARLTON AND DISTRICT CHARLTON CUP DAY

Lots of work and planning is being undertaken by the committee and members to produce a day worthy of our great town on

SUNDAY MARCH 15TH. FREE ENTRY FOR ALL

Everyone is invited to come along and support this big event as its success really relies on the strong support from Charlton locals.

The theme is – 'WE'RE STILL ALL COUNTRY' with a touch of sunflowers!

Some of the things you can expect are:

- St. John of God Bendigo Hospital Bubbles in the Bush Ovarian Cancer Fundraiser - new time - 12pm start

- Bucking Bull - for the adventurous amongst us
- Fashions on the Field – with a touch of sunflower girls!
- Giveaways and punting vouchers to win
- Charlton Punt Off
- Local legend punting Competition
- **NEW!!! Sulky Bar Enclosure - \$100 Includes drinks and nibbles**
- **Dining \$55 per head**
- **Dressed Marquees for 10 people - \$150**
- Live music with Joss Russell
- Icy poles and show bags for the kids
- BBQ kiosk and bookies
- Win an accommodation package worth \$500
- The Great Sulky Race – Call Andrea for details if you want to register a team \$1000 to the winning team.
- The Charlton Cup Parade – sshhh it's a surprise!!



New Training Centre tenant, Connor Clarke.



Sulky Race in 2025.



St Joseph's School

A Warm Welcome to the 2026 School Year at St Joseph's – literally!

Staff and students have experienced a very warm start to the school year. After a Summer of tumultuous weather and disasters worldwide, we begin the year with hope in our hearts. I have been excited to see the classrooms filled once again with energy, curiosity, and learning. It was so heart-warming to share the smiles and joy as students filtered through the gates over the last couple of days – the Grade 6 students looking so smart in their new T-shirts and the new Foundation students being warmly welcomed by their peers.

This year, we look forward to building strong relationships, setting high expectations, and supporting every student as they grow academically, socially, and emotionally. Our dedicated staff has been working hard to prepare for the year ahead,

and we are committed to creating a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for all.

School Theme for the Year: "Peace Be With You All"

Our school theme for this year is "Peace be with you all," inspired by the words of Pope Leo XIV. Throughout the year, we will focus on building peace in our hearts, our relationships, and our wider community, encouraging students to be peacemakers through kindness, respect, and compassion. By embracing this message together, we aim to create a peaceful, faith-filled school community where everyone feels valued and supported.

What's Coming Up?

We have a busy and exciting start to the year ahead! Our swimming program has kicked off this week, giving students the opportunity to build confidence, safety and skills in the water. Our Swimming Carnival will conclude the Swimming Program on the

afternoon of Friday 13th. We will also gather as a school community for our Beginning of Year Mass, Friday 6th at 10am. Families, extended family and all interested community members are warmly invited, and most welcome, to attend events such as these throughout the year.

Students will take part in activities for Safer Internet Day (February 10), learning how to stay safe and responsible online, and new students will be involved in our speech screening program. School photos are happening in early March.

To add some fun to the mix, we're looking forward to Pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and the Hot Shots Tennis Day for Grade 5 & 6, which is sure to be a hit with students! Add in Harmony Week and our School Feast Day and the term is set to be a ripper!

We look forward to sharing with you all, a fantastic year ahead at St Joseph's — growing, learning and thriving together!



Grade 6 students in their class t-shirts Maddie Lanyon, Eadie Ash, Connor Caine, Yazmin Harte-Johnstone, Flynn Zagame, Edwin Jince & Finn Schofield.



Gr 2/3 Class: Back - Ivy Giles, Eve Mulquin, Sam Revell, Sally Armstrong, Franklin Holmes-Brown. Front - Jovakkim Niju, Ethan Jince, Shepherd Mills & Jaidan Niju.



Thomas Pridgeon & Emerson Holmes-Brown enjoying snack time.



Yazmin & Corrina Harte-Johnstone.



Indoor play - Jaidan Niju, Ethan Jince, Jovakkim Niju, Vinny Roberts (hidden) & William Donaldson.

St Joseph's School



Snack time - enjoying Mr Heenan's company William Donaldson, Wyatt Steenhuis, Tessa Wright, Mr Heenan, Ethena Getley.



Franklin Holmes-Brown & Jarrah Mills.



Ethena Getley, Sophia Sait & Tessa Wright keeping cool.



Ivy Sexton & Emerson Holmes-Brown getting the hang of being a Prep student.



Play-doh time in the hot weather.

Charlton Bowls News

CHARLTON BOWLING CLUB SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS.

On a nice sunny morning on February 2nd, 2026, six Charlton Lady Bowlers got together to play off for the Singles Championships. With only six players a decision was made to play both A and B Grades as we had some newer players in our Club, this made three in each grade.

A bye was drawn in each grade allowing a player to proceed to the final.

In A Grade Lynne Southwell was the Lucky recipient, leaving Eily Rosewall and Cher Brien to play off, the result being 26/16 to Cher. The Final between Cher Brien and

Lynne Southwell resulted in a win to Lynne 26/16 over 30 ends played.

In B Grade Donna Buxton drew the bye and had to wait for Wendy Laffin and Jennie McGrath to play off, Wendy was the Winner 25/18. Th B Grade Final was won by Donna defeating Wendy 27/15 over 24 ends played. Congratulations to Lynne and Donna, Lynne will now play in the NCPA Champion of Champions at Wedderburn on Sunday February 8th.

The finals of our Men's A and B Grade commenced at 6.30pm after a BBQ at 6pm professionally cooked by President Michael O'Brien for the eighteen members who

supported the four players remaining in the Men's Championships.

A Grade was won by Wayne Southwell for the second time defeating John Headon 26/14 over 23 ends. B Grade was won by Steve Harper defeating Brendan (JOCK) Bailey 25/6 over 18 ends.

Congratulations to both winners, as with Lynne having to play in the Champion of Champions in Wedderburn, they can travel together as they did last season.

Other Championships will be programmed to be played in March.



Men's A Grade: John Headon (Runner-up) & Wayne Southwell (Winner).



Men's B Grade: Brendan Bailey (Runner-up) & Steve Harper (Winner).



Women's A Grade: Lynne Southwell (Winner) & Cher Brien (Runner-up).



Women's B Grade: Donna Buxton (Winner) & Wendy Laffin (Runner-up).

Charlton Courthouse Gallery

Bold, thought-provoking works by Charlton artist, Sonya Hindson, will be on display at the Charlton Courthouse Gallery this February, with organisers expecting strong interest from both locals and visitors to the town.

Sonya Hindson's upcoming exhibition and sale showcases a vibrant body of work known for its use of collage, symbolism and striking colour. Her art invites viewers to pause, reflect and question familiar ideas, often placing contrasting images side by side to create new meanings.

Gallery Secretary, Carolyn Olive, said Sonya's work was an exciting fit for the February exhibition calendar, "February brings a huge number of people to town for OK Motels, and we felt Sonya's bold and contemporary work would really appeal to that audience. It's exactly the sort of exhibition that makes people stop in, spend time at the gallery and talk about what they've seen."

The gallery continues to focus on presenting exhibitions that reflect the strength and diversity of local and regional artists while also enhancing Charlton's appeal as a cultural destination.

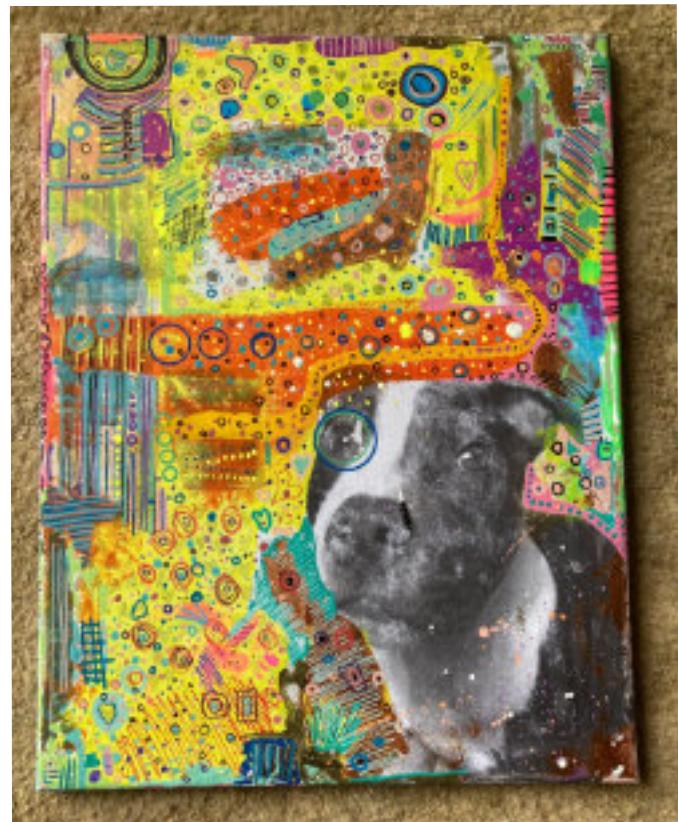
Sonya Hindson, who now calls Charlton home, draws on a lifetime of creative influences and personal experiences. Her

work often combines vintage imagery, hand-drawn elements and layered textures to create pieces that feel both familiar and unsettling, encouraging viewers to engage on an emotional and intellectual level.

The exhibition will officially open on Sunday 15 February at 3.00pm, with all welcome to attend. Gallery opening times will follow over selected weekends throughout February and March.

Thanks to funding received from the Coonooer Bridge Windfarm, the Gallery will be nice and cool with the installation of air-conditioning and ceiling fans in the main courtroom. "This is long overdue", Carolyn explains. "Last February was just too hot to be comfortable in the Gallery. This will make conditions much more pleasant in summer and winter for our visitors and our volunteers."

The Charlton Courthouse Gallery is located at 8 Camp Street. Sales will be available by cash or EFTPOS. Please note the gallery is not wheelchair accessible.



Charlton Film Festival

Charlton Arts will once again bring cinema to centre stage when the Charlton Film Festival returns to the historic Rex Theatre on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 February 2026.

Held in Charlton's beautifully restored Art Deco cinema, the annual festival has been a fixture on the town's cultural calendar since it was first hosted in 1992. Charlton Arts took over the running of the festival in 2000, and it continues to attract visitors from across Victoria and interstate.

The 2026 program features five carefully selected films screened across the two days, offering a mix of historical drama, documentary, international cinema and feel-good storytelling.

The festival opens on Friday night with *Nuremberg*, a historical drama set against the backdrop of the post-war trials. Starring Russell Crowe, Richard E. Grant, Michael Shannon and Rami Malek, the film explores a tense psychological confrontation between a US Army psychiatrist and Hermann Göring.

Saturday morning begins with *TinÓ*, a New Zealand drama-comedy starring Anapela Polata'ivao as a Samoan teacher navigating grief and unexpected connection after the Christchurch earthquakes. The afternoon continues with the French subtitled film *Holy*

Cow, a warm and humorous story of a young man determined to win a prestigious cheese-making competition after tragedy strikes his family.

Later on Saturday, audiences will enjoy the documentary *Love of an Icon: The Legend of Crocodile Dundee*, which delves into the making of Australia's most successful film and features newly discovered archival material from the late John Cornell. The festival concludes on Saturday night with *Song Sung Blue*, a music-driven drama starring Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson as two struggling performers who form a Neil Diamond tribute band.

Festival Coordinator Carolyn Olive said the aim was to offer a diverse program that appealed to both locals and visitors.

"Selecting films is always a challenge, particularly with so many titles now appearing quickly on streaming services," she said. "We try to find films that people haven't already seen and that really shine on the big screen. But for many people, the festival is just as much about the atmosphere of the Rex Theatre, catching up with friends, and enjoying great food, as it is about the films themselves."

Tickets range from \$12 for a single film to \$100 for a full festival pass, which includes

lunch and suppers. Bookings can be made online or at the door.

More information and ticket bookings are available via the Rex Theatre website or the Charlton Film Festival Facebook page.



Song Sung Blue, Sat 8pm

THE REX THEATRE



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



THE REX THEATRE

FEBRUARY COMING ATTRACTIONS

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



Purchase tickets online -
<https://www.rextheatre.org.au/whats-showing.html>



ANACONDA

Sat 7 FEB 8pm
Sun 8 FEB 2pm
Tue 10 FEB 8pm

M. Violence and coarse language
 100 mins | Comedy | Adventure

Doug (Jack Black) and Griff (Paul Rudd) have always dreamed of remaking their all-time favourite movie: the cinematic "classic" Anaconda. It might just get them killed...!



HAMNET

Sat 14 FEB 8pm
Sun 15 FEB 2pm
Tue 17 FEB 8pm

M. Mature themes and a sex scene
 125 mins | Biography

William Shakespeare and his wife, Agnes, celebrate the birth of their son, Hamnet. However, when tragedy strikes and Hamnet dies at a young age, it inspires Shakespeare to write his timeless masterpiece "Hamlet."



THE CHORAL

Sat 21 FEB 8pm
Sun 22 FEB 2pm
Tue 24 FEB 8pm

M. Coarse language and sexual references
 113 mins | Drama | War

As World War I rages on, Dr. Henry Guthrie takes over a British choral society that's lost most of its men to the army. The community soon discovers that the best response to the chaos of war is to make beautiful music together..

Charlton Film Festival
 Fri 27 & Sat 28 February 2026



SEE MORE & BOOK TICKETS: <https://www.rextheatre.org.au/charlton-film-festival-2026.html>

COMING IN MARCH:

MARTY SUPREME | MERCY | WUTHERING HEIGHTS

GARAGE SALE

Charlton Town Garage & Car Boot Sale

Sunday 22nd February 2026
8am onwards

Make space, make money, make a neighbor's day.
Your opportunity, turn unwanted items into cash

Garage Sale \$15.00
Car Boot \$5.00

Venue: Car Boot Sales at Travellers Rest
Collect a map to locate Garage Sales
Enquiries: contact Harry on 0427-911-407



Charlton Arts
proudly presents:

CHARLTON FILM FESTIVAL

Feb 27th & 28th 2026
@ The Rex Theatre

Friday 27th
+ Nuremberg - 8:00pm
Saturday 28th
+ Tinā - 10:30am
+ Holy Cow - 1:45pm
+ Love of an Icon: The Legend of Crocodile Dundee - 4:00pm
+ Song Sung Blue - 8:00pm

Tickets from \$12 for a single film up to \$100 for the full season (5 films, 2 suppers & lunch)

Available online at
<https://www.rextheatre.org.au/charlton-film-festival-2026.html>



Exhibition & Sale

Sonya Flindson

Charlton Courthouse Gallery

Official Opening
Sunday 15th Feb.
3:00pm

Gallery Times:
Sat 21st & Sun 22nd
10am - 5pm

Sun 1st & 8th
11am - 3pm

Cash or Eftpos
8 Camp Street
(No wheelchair access)

Charlton Arts
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Available online at
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The image is a promotional flyer for Everest Institute. At the top left is a blue circular logo with 'Ei' in white. To its right, the text 'Everest Institute' is written in a large, bold, blue sans-serif font. Below the logo, smaller text reads 'RTO No 52100 • CRICOS Provider No : 03374A'. The main title 'Scan to View Our Career-Ready Courses' is displayed in large, bold, white text on a blue background. Below this, a large graphic of a hand holding a smartphone is shown. The phone's screen displays a 'Scan Me' button above a QR code, with a speech bubble icon above the button. To the right of the phone, the text 'Our Courses:' is followed by a list of three items, each with a blue circular number and text: '1 Construction - White Card', '2 Hospitality - Responsible Service of Alcohol, Food Safety and more', and '3 First Aid - CPR, Provide First Aid and more'. At the bottom, the location 'Charlton Senior Citizens Hall, High Street, Charlton' is written in large, bold, blue text. The bottom of the page features a blue footer bar with the website 'www.everest.edu.au', email 'enquiries@everest.edu.au', and phone number '03 8393 6550'.

Seeds of Support

East Wimmera Health Service is thrilled to offer the Seeds of Support Community Grants in 2026. These grants aim to support communities to strengthen efforts in growing and sharing food locally. Two streams are available - individual and community - with more than \$18,000 in funding available.

East Wimmera Health Service acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government in making this grant program possible.

Individuals

Valued at approx. \$100

Available for:

- Individuals/households*

Receive a 12-month subscription to Grow It Local - a platform bringing monthly workshops, sending seeds and a heap of gardening knowledge to people across the country.

Community & Education settings

Up to \$3,500 per group/organisation

Available for:

- Community groups and/or organisations*
- Schools and Early Learning Centres*

Funding the establishment, maintenance and/or upgrade of a garden, new equipment, updating facilities, and/or participating in educational opportunities.

To apply

Apply now at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/BS361FB

Further guidelines available at: <http://bit.ly/3ZJWt6k>

Paper copies available on request.

Applications close: Friday 27th February 2026, 4pm

* Applications must be from the following catchments: Anakie, Casterton, Dimboola, Eltham, Heywood and Warrnambool. Contact Tracy and/or Michelle - email: tracy.hayes@ewhs.vic.gov.au, phone: 03 5471 2180

FISHING COMPETITION

A poster for 'Charlton's February UpMarket Day'. It features a circular logo with a red stylized 'Y' shape on a black and white checkered background. The text 'Charlton's February UpMarket Day' is in a large, italicized serif font. Below it, the dates 'Sat. 21st & Sun. 22nd February 2026' and time '9am - 2 pm' are in a smaller serif font. The location '42 High Street. (Formerly House to Home)' is in a large serif font. A list of items for sale includes 'Collectables, Specialty stalls, Plants, Produce, Jewllery, Cooking'. To the right is an illustration of a woman in a green top and blue skirt carrying a basket, and a man in a yellow top and purple apron standing behind a stall with produce. The text 'Enquiries phone Gill Gretgrix 0427911308' and 'Proceeds go to Charlton Community Projects.' is at the bottom, with a note about address changes for the OK Motels.

Charlton Uniting Church

Charlton Uniting Church Service times for
February 2026.
Halliday Street, Charlton



Sunday 8th February. Uniting Church. 10.00 am
Sunday 15th February. Uniting Church. 10.00 am
Sunday 22nd February. Uniting Church. 10.00 am

East Wimmera Parish - St Joseph's Community

Mass Times

Sun. 8 th Feb.	8.30am.
Sat. 15 th Feb.	7.00pm
Sun. 22 nd Feb.	10.30am

North Central Garden Club

The North Central Garden Club will resume meetings in 2026 and welcome all members to participate. As part of our return, members are invited to bring donations for the trading table: Plants, seeds, cuttings, garden tools, books and other garden related items and encouraged. The trading table will offer an opportunity to share resources, exchange ideas and support one another as we begin a new gardening year together. We look forward to reconnecting with you.

We will meet at 2 pm Tuesday 24th February at the Lions Lodge Camp St.

Enquiries: Aileen 0438 911 495 Sue 0407 140 336
Jenny 0418 531 219

The Golden Rule
Do unto others as you would have
them do unto you.

Job Ready Training in Charlton

Everest Institute is introducing job ready training at the Charlton Senior Citizens Hall, Beginning in March they will be offering the following nationally recognised qualifications:

Responsible service of Alcohol - Dual certificates and accredited by Liquor Control Victoria for employment in Victorian licenced venues

- Construction White Card - Worksafe accredited
- CPR
- First Aid
- First Aid in an Education and Care Setting

Nationally recognised courses with certificate issued and can be used for Credit Transfer if needed. Our trainers put a strong emphasis on real life situations and are qualified to train each subject. In fact the trainer, Brendan Kelly, has recently become a resident of Charlton. Everest institute has been a leading training facility for over 20 years in Melbourne and provides quality education and training. These courses are great as a way into employment paths or even for general interest.

Come along to a session and see for yourself. Hit up the QR code on our advertisement in this issue. See you there.

Charlton Courthouse Gallery

*Public Meeting to elect
new committee.*

Wednesday 25th February

5:30pm

*8 Camp Street, Charlton
New Members Welcome*

Charlton RSL Sub-branch



The 14th February is National Servicemen's Day.

There have been four compulsory National Service schemes running in Australia at different times between 1911 and 1972.

The first scheme was adopted in 1911 following an inspection tour of Australia and report by General Lord Kitchener as to Australia's defence needs and ran until 1929. It required all boys aged from 12 to 18 years to undergo military training while at school and then to serve in the Militia.

The second scheme began in 1940 in response to the outbreak of World War 2. All

unmarried 21 year old men were called up; then, when Japan entered the war in 1941, it was expanded to all men aged 18 to 35. The second scheme ran until the war's end in 1945.

The third scheme ran from 1951 to 1959 and required 18 year old men to register and, if fit for military service, to undergo at least 14 weeks of basic military training, followed by three years of part time service in the Citizens Military Forces.

The fourth scheme ran from 1964 to 1972. It was selective, not universal, and those 20 year old men called up by what was known as the Birthday Ballot had to serve in the Regular Army for two years. Unlike other schemes, conscripts were liable for service overseas; this was the time of the Vietnam War and

eleven Charlton Nashos served there: Brian Cossar; Billy Crossley; Graeme Jackman; brothers Albert Jane, Ian Jane and Barry Jane; Frank Noonan; Ray Roberts; Robert Smyth; John Wilson and Leo White. Over 63,000 men were called up in the Birthday Ballot scheme; of them, more than 15,300 served in Vietnam; more than 200 were killed and 1,200 were wounded. Other Nashos served in Borneo, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea.

More than 280,000 men served as Nashos between 1951 and 1972 in Australia's third and fourth National Service schemes; we honour their service to our country.

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CHARLTON MOTEL

158 High Street, Charlton, VIC 3525
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charltonmotel.com.au

Jade Benham MP

The Nationals Member for Mildura

for Regional Victoria

I welcome you all to contact
me through my office
so I can help you
with any of your
State questions.



Newsletter Subscription

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Charlton Badminton Club

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New Members Welcome

St Joseph's Community (East Wimmera Parish)

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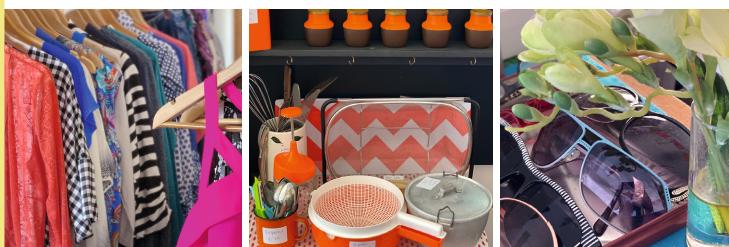


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Charlton Arts

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Cabbaritta CWA

Meet 3rd Monday of each month
at the Lions Lodge.

Tuesday Craft: Every Tuesday morning, 10-12 at the
Lions Lodge. Bring your craft project.
All Welcome.

New Members Welcome
Contact: Secretary, Liz Richardson, 0433 332 595

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Troy Heenan
Mob: 0431 813 344
Rae Heenan
Mob: 0437 093 672

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SECOND
HAND

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



North Central Garden Club

Meetings: 4th Tuesday of each month

Enquiries: Aileen 0438 914 439

or Sue 0407 140 336



CHARLTON CAMPDRAFT CLUB

Annual Event (October)

Back St Arnaud Road

Charlton

Find us on Facebook

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



The Probus Club of Charlton Inc.

® Friendship, Fellowship and Fun
for Retirees and Semi-retirees

Meetings: 2nd Friday of the month

Contact Anne: 0408 547 973

Steel's Butchers Charlton



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Thursday 10am - 4:30pm
Friday 10am - 4:30pm

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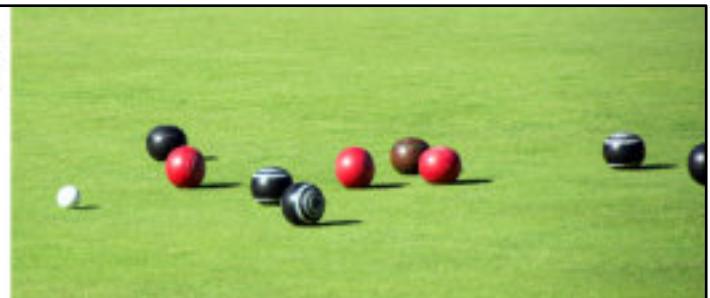
**Charlton Show
(3rd Saturday in
October)**

New members
welcome.

CHARLTON BOWLING CLUB

Gordon Park, Charlton
PO Box 128
Charlton, 3525

New Members Welcome



February 2026

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



Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

March 2026

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

2	3 Mens Shed 1pm-4pm Senior Citz Cards 1:30pm Charlton Craft Group 10-12	4 RSL Social 2pm	5 Mens Shed 1pm-4pm	6	7	8
9	10 Mens Shed 1pm-4pm Senior Citz Cards 1:30pm Charlton Craft Group 10-12	11	12 Mens Shed 1pm-4pm	13 Probus Meeting Red Back Rally	14 Red Back Rally	15 Courthouse Gallery
16	Bowls Club Meeting 7:30pm CWA Meeting	17 Mens Shed 1pm-4pm Senior Cats Fun Day 10:30am Senior Citz Cards 1:30pm Charlton Craft Group 10-12	18 RSL Social 2pm RSL Business Meeting 5pm Lions Business Meeting 7:30pm	19 Mens Shed 1pm-4pm	20	21 OK Motels Fishing Comp Market
23		24 Mens Shed 1pm-4pm Senior Citz Cards 1:30pm Charlton Craft Group 10-12	25	26 Mens Shed 1pm-4pm	27 Film Festival	28 Film Festival
2	3 Mens Shed 1pm-4pm Senior Citz Cards 1:30pm Charlton Craft Group 10-12	4 RSL Social 2pm Lions Dinner Meeting	5 Mens Shed 1pm-4pm	6	7	8 Fishing Comp
9	10 Mens Shed 1pm-4pm Senior Citz Cards 1:30pm Charlton Craft Group 10-12	11	12 Mens Shed 1pm-4pm	13 Probus Meeting	14	15 Charlton Pacing Cup
16	Bowls Club Meeting 7:30pm CWA Meeting	17 Mens Shed 1pm-4pm Senior Cats Fun Day 10:30am Senior Citz Cards 1:30pm Charlton Craft Group 10-12	18 RSL Social 2pm RSL Business Meeting 5pm	19 Mens Shed 1pm-4pm	20	21
23		24 Mens Shed 1pm-4pm Senior Citz Cards 1:30pm Charlton Craft Group 10-12	25	26 Mens Shed 1pm-4pm	27	28 Bowls Fours Medley Tournament 10am

1 Lions paper & cardboard collection from 9:30am.

1 Lions paper & cardboard collection from 9:30am.

1 Lions paper & cardboard collection from 9:30am.

1 Lions paper & cardboard collection from 9:30am.