

# MT ROUSE NEWS & VIEWS



**A Project of the Penshurst Mens Shed Inc**

## PENSHURST CHRISTMAS TREE

In early December last year, some of the kids in town (young and young at heart) had fun with Santa at a gathering at the town's Christmas Tree near the gates to the Botanic Gardens. As part of the activity we had asked the school children to decorate some pictures that we turned into lanterns and hung on the tree.

Well! This year, on Saturday 4th December, 10.00am, we are doing it all again. We have contacted the schools and kindergarten and sent them a pretty picture of Christmas tree decorations, for the kids to colour and return to us. We'll then be giving them to the SGSC to be laminated (to help protect them from the weather), and they'll be hung on the tree before our gathering. What else can we do to our tree to make it a feature of the town's Christmas Spirit? Suggestions welcomed.

One of the joyful and musical parts of our event was our busker. We are waiting to hear from the Council as to who it will be this year. Last year Michael Cameron entertained us all with a combination of songs and carols. It was a lovely break from all the seriousness we had to give to having Covid in our midst.

A lot has changed in a year, but some rules still apply. To be part of the gathering, which is outdoors, we have to wear a mask and/or be prepared to socially distance ourselves as necessary. You might want to also bring a chair or an umbrella. It was a lovely morning last year, I had the sunburn to prove it, but you never know.

And everyone in town is invited. It is another step towards next year's 'Party in the Park' for Christmas.

Where will you be on  
Saturday 4th December at  
10.00am to noon.



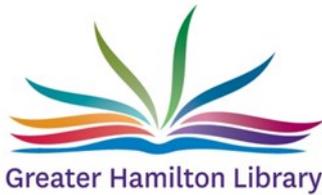
See you  
at the  
Tree.



**Penshurst  
Combined  
Churches  
Christmas  
Carols**

At the end of another Covid year, after careful consideration, the Committee has decided to cancel the Christmas Carols again. This is only the second time in 57 years and so we are looking forward to hosting them again in 2022.

To all involved, thank you in anticipation.



**Mobile Library**  
**Will be visiting Penshurst**  
**every Thursday fortnight**  
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 M : 0400819408

## Penshurst Progress Association



ABN 35 622 662 815

*COVID rules apply*

Committee of Management:

Ama Cooke – Chairperson  
Mark Dalla Costa – Secretary  
Tom Cooke - Vice President  
Josh Hewitt - Treasurer  
Don Adamson

***Next Meeting: Wednesday 24th November***

***NEW TIME 5.30pm - Supper Room, Penshurst Hall***

Good evening, how are you?

I just filled three-quarters of a page about why I think having a Penshurst Citizen of the Year to acknowledge at Australia Day is very important to the morale of the town .. Or maybe just my own. I then hit the delete key. I know any number of people who are quietly working behind the scenes to try and make life as 'normal' as possible for people whose sense of safety and security has been sorely undermined by the last couple of years. And now, as we climb slowly out of the valley of the pandemic, we need that sense of returning to the familiar, even if it is, at first, only a bandaid on a problem that is going to take a great many years to solve. I am about to add a whooping cough shot to my jabs for this year. My daughter is having a baby in January and we've been banned from seeing him/her until the family is covered. I will have willingly bared my arm by the time you read this, knowing that my choice is protecting those I love .. But then I'd sound like a broken record if I start that one again. She is due four days before the PPA AGM, so where will I be on the afternoon of that meeting? LOL

Let's talk about something else. The PPA is in discussion with the Council about creating the Napier Waller Green Space in Bell Street, behind the Lion's information kiosk. We plan to plant water tolerant beautiful plants in a variety of garden beds, with seating, so that those people who like to collect their morning tea or coffee, or stop as travellers, can spend a little time in a restful environment before moving on with their journeys.

We are going into an election year (which I am

told means more money available through grants for our communities), so we are looking at what other projects we can create around the town. Some involve making the streets safer, moving furniture, attempting to animate dead bodies (ha! That got you thinking), and repurposing one particular building that has been on my mind for many years. Some of this involves convincing the Council that our dreams and wishes should no longer be ignored, and that we continue in our commitment, as a progress association, to the future of our town. Speaking of which ...

A week from now will be the final PPA meeting for this year. That's your chance to drop in and give us your nomination form (Citizen of the Year), say hi, and then run away again if you want to. Otherwise you can drop the form in my letterbox at 46 Watton Street. I am still bemused by the speed at which the year has flown. I am hoping that the month or so break until the January AGM will give me a chance to declutter my head, and for someone to decide that they might like the easy job of secretary of the Association. All the roles of the committee become available at the AGM (Annual General Meeting, for anyone who might not know). New residents, and new ideas, are always welcome. At this point I would like to thank all the members of the association who turn up, rain or freezing cold, with masks, to help make choices for the projects what we decide on, and inspire folk like me to keep doing what we are doing to make a difference to this place we chose to move to, and came to love, come hell or high water. See you at the meeting.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and safe fortnight, Ama Cooke Chairperson

5576 5270

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Riddles that are supposed to be a challenge.

1. What kind of coat is always wet when you put it on?
2. What came first, the chicken or the egg?
3. How can you make six into an odd number?
4. I have branches yet I have no leaves, no trunk and no fruit. What am I?
5. How many bananas can you eat if your stomach is empty?
6. What belongs to you but other people use it more than you?
7. I never was but always will be. No one ever saw me but everyone knows I exist. I give people the motivation to better themselves every day. What am I?

### The Life and Times of Erik Axel Pihl

Born 29th October, 1934, Motala, Sweden Died 10 September, 2021, Penshurst, Australia

It was like a scene out of an Agatha Christie novel. Large, ominous grey clouds were gathering over Mt. Rouse as this little huddled group encircled the grave site. Our wonderful celebrant, Heather, called for anyone who had something to say and his young friend, Beau Nieuveld, stepped up. He spoke of a wonderful, enduring friendship between two guys of very different backgrounds and ages who came, and stayed friends, through the love of computers, technology and their shared love of history and languages. Erik was indeed his mentor and friend and Beau's beautiful tribe was a reminder that we are all, in our short or long lifetimes, people of many parts and attributes.



Erik died leaving several lifelong friends and colleagues, many computers and their component parts, one grieving cat who is still looking for him, two adult children (Susann and Martin) and two stepchildren (Kevin and Mark) and a forlorn looking lawn long overdue for a trim. His death was unexpected and sudden, despite his age, and the writer - his wife Ruth - cannot believe that her sweet, difficult, enigmatic, kindly and brilliant husband is no more. After a 32 year marriage, he is sorely missed.

Growing up in a country, and household, frozen and cold, he was not expected to come to much. His mother was evicted from her home for an 'in-family discretion'. She was never forgiven and Erik's last childhood memory of her was that of her running for her life across a frozen lake in the middle of winter. Although he was able, many years later, to find her again (in Stockholm), the bond was broken and he was on his own from the age of sixteen. His father, a peasant market gardener, saw his son from an early age as a lifelong adult labourer like himself, and never quite understood the fact that Erik had different ideas.

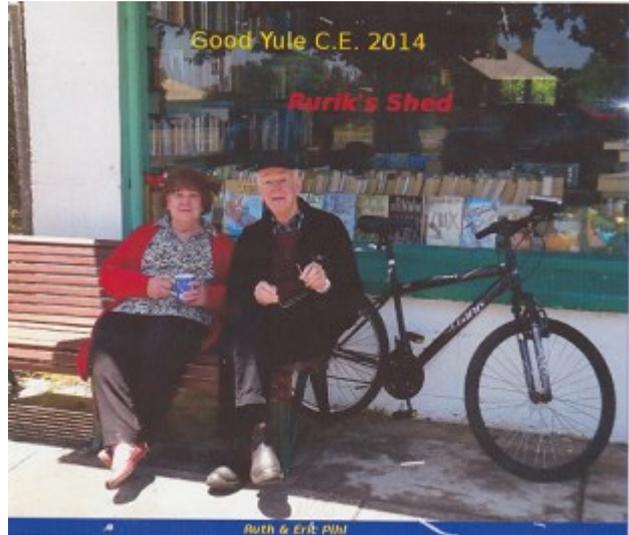
Erik grew up during the years of the Second World War and, although Sweden was technically independent, he saw the German trains, loaded with Swedish iron ore, rumbling across the countryside. Food was scarce and he was one of the many children considered malnourished by Swedish authorities. He was also poorly clothed and his skis (he had several kilometres to go to get to school) were old and tied with strings. In the few old photos existing from those days he looked like an extra from *Les Misérables*. In the winter he slept in an alcove by the kitchen stove and his only books were those left by his mother as she fled.

Despite hardships, or perhaps because of them, Erik grew tall and strong. The physical work he took on in the Army (at 16) and the poorly paid manual jobs he accepted, including postman, night watchman, sweeper etc. hardened and helped him to gain empathy with the working classes. This is probably where his latent Socialism began. Having to go back to school to catch up with his peers, he saw his early adulthood as mostly a struggle, cold and finally, successful.

In the 1960's he went to the Soviet Union (Russia) and was impressed with the increasing power of the proletariat. He marched with the Swedish Communists, I was told, and he expressed sympathy for the Russians' great losses in the War. I think this stayed with him throughout his life, although it was probably hidden in the bottom of his wooden chest of papers, most of which are in the Swedish language.

## The Life and Times of Erik Axel Pihl (continued)

Erik's career blossomed, as it had to, through an incredibly intellect, hard, hard work and an unswerving desire to not only become a doctor, but to enter the world of medical research, development and innovation, especially into various cancers. He achieved this end and more, writing over 160 refereed papers published worldwide, several text books, visiting and working in France, US, UK etc. and attending conferences as speaker in sever other countries, including Argentina. Eventually, when an offer to work and live in Australia came from Monash University, he accepted. The rest is (Australia) history.



The little *rag-tag* boy from the potato fields of rural Sweden had made his mark. Graduating with PhDs in Medicine was a national event it seems, with great ceremony. This included the presence of the King of Sweden and cannon blasts, one each for every graduating student. At the end of this ceremony, the newly proclaimed doctors were given a shell casing from the blasts and Erik's shell is still in the garden, somewhere, in Penshurst.

Arriving in Australia, 1980 Erik and his family of wife, Anna Katarina (sounds like the great heroine of Tolstoy's novel) and his two children. They soon became Australian citizens and, although this marriage did not survive, all settled down to Aussie life. Eric lectured at Monash in Pathology, sometimes as guest lecturer at Melbourne University, and worked in the laboratories in Monash and the Alfred Hospital. Several of his students were there to greet him when he decided to live in the country and moved to Hamilton, then Warrnambool, as regional Pathologist covering the



hospitals of Hamilton, Camperdown, Portland and Warrnambool. It was not long after I met Erik at the Warrnambool Base Hospital that I had a guided tour of the Mortuary.

Retirement did not seem to work out as other people's have. Erik was ousted from his labours of painting the walls of his rural retreat to go back to work in various regional hospitals, including Traralgon, Ballarat, Geelong, Portland and Taranake (New Zealand). Eventually the curtain fell on Erik's working life and Penshurst was the final 'resting' place, literally, for this incredible man.

A local resident asked him, on one occasion as he rode past on his bicycle, '*just what did you do when you worked at the Warrnambool hospital? Were you a cleaner?*' Yes, replied Erik, I did a lot of cleaning up.

Ruth Pihl 19 October 2021

## Caramut and District Garden Club

How the year is flying it will soon be Winter, oops, I mean Summer. The cold wet weather we are experiencing sure makes it feel like the approach of winter. Thankfully, the plants seem to be flourishing with all the rain and there has been enough warm weather to keep them growing. I have never seen so much good clover, or weeds!

Keep weeding beds regularly and ensure the beds are mulched properly which prevents the unwanted weeds germinating. Weeds will grow in pathways also. Those growing in cracks of cement can be hard to pull out but can

be killed by pouring boiling water on them. Weeds compete with plants for water and nutrients, so removing them will allow the adjacent plants to perform better. It is said that one weed's seedling gives seven years weeding. What is a weed? An unwanted plant growing in the wrong place. In WA, the white Arum lily is a real problem, taking over large areas of bush. Cootamundra wattles can also be a problem in some areas. Blackberries are yummy to eat but are also a noxious weed. Birds enjoy eating the fruit of blackberries and so spread them further.

Birds can be a real pleasure watching them in bird baths drinking or splashing in the water. Honeyeaters amongst the flowers feeding and flitting amongst the flowering plants are also a joy to watch.

*So in spite of the weeds, enjoy walking around your garden to view its beauty.*



New Holland Honeyeater having a bath

## A Reflection from Janet

## The Inheritor

A child is a person who is going to carry on what you have started. They are going to sit where you are sitting, and when you are gone, attend to those things which you think are important.

You may adopt all the policies you please, but how they will be carried out will depend on the children.

They will assume control over your cities and your nations.

They are going to move in and take over your churches, schools, universities and corporations.

All your books are going to be judged, praise, or condemned by them. The fate of humanity is in their hands. - Abraham Lincoln.





# Penshurst Store



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1. A coat of paint. 2. Dinosaurs laid eggs much before evolution of chicken. 3. Remove the letter S and you have IX which is 9 in roman numerals. 4. A bank. 5. Just one after that it's not empty anymore. 6. Your name. 7. Tomorrow.

Riddles Answers

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In this section we welcome your comments and views. If you have good news or a burning issue please send a letter to the Editor at: [mtrousenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mtrousenewsletter@gmail.com)

The Editor reserves the right to decide on which letters will be published and whether to precis longer submissions.

Keep them on the highway!



To whom it may concern,

I have lived in this lovely town for nearly four years with no regrets what so ever. My ideas sometimes cause friction so I normally keep quiet.

I walk my dog daily and the wide streets and considerate drivers make it pleasurable and safe. But it is not safe on the streets above and below the park, or to a lesser extent the gravel road to the north of the town because of through traffic. There are a lot of vehicles taking the short cuts and not staying on the highway. So our businesses on the highway lose a significant amount of passing traffic and possible sales.

The drivers who take the shortcuts know the area well. They tend to regularly drive through the town. They are the travellers local business need.

One off visitors would be unlikely to guess a short cut or feel the need to miss main street. They might even read the sign 'Local Traffic Only' and take notice of it. If the traffic was prevented from using the streets as a short cut, kids would be safer, dogs would be safer (and me) plus local businesses will benefit.

The other lovely part is the cost. Very cheap.

Yours Sincerely  
Steve Cole



## Pop up Art, Photography and Cards Sale

**Penshurst Memorial Hall**

**December - Saturday 4th & Sunday 5th, 11th & 12th and 18th & 19th**

See a display of framed photos and Christmas & blank photo cards by local photographer Thomas Cooke and paintings by regional artist Julie Kent.

Find an unusual gift for Christmas.

Be inspired for our up and coming

Photography Show and Art Exhibition in March 2022.



**MEDIA RELEASE**

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL

**4 NOVEMBER 2021 LIFEGUARDS NEEDED AS POOL SEASON APPROACHES**

With pool season fast approaching, lifeguards across the Southern Grampians are needed to ensure outer township pools can operate this summer. The swim season is set to officially commence with the Hamilton Outdoor Pool scheduled to open (weather permitting) on Saturday 6 November 2021. Pools in Peshurst, Glenthompson, Balmoral, Dunkeld and Coleraine are planned to open early December.

Manager Community and Leisure Services, Susannah Milne said lifeguards were unfortunately in short supply this year making it a challenge to fill shifts for all six outdoor pools. "We've been pushing hard with recruitment around the community and further afield this year in an attempt to attract lifeguards for the upcoming summer season," said Ms Milne. "While we always look forward to opening the pools and providing communities respite from the summer heat, this year, the lack of available lifeguards may unfortunately impact on our ability to retain consistent opening hours at some of our outer township pools. "We ask for locals who have previously been a lifeguard whose accreditation may have lapsed - to give us a call as we will be facilitating renewal training next month. For those of you thinking about trying something new, as a lifeguard you have the opportunity to not only develop a really unique and applicable set of skills, but can get involved in your local community."

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Bruach Colliton encouraged residents to support their local pools as they continue to be a valuable asset to the community. "Our outdoor swimming pools are often the hub for our communities during the warmer months so they offer not only an important opportunity for families to escape the heat, but also operate as the heart of our townships during summer," said Cr Colliton. "We want these facilities to be operational for communities to enjoy for years to come so we are putting the call out to anyone who may be interested to put your hand up and join the team."

As per the Outdoor Pool Operations Policy, pools will be opened from 3:00pm to 7:00pm seven days a week, when the forecast temperature is 21 degrees + for all heated pools and 23 degrees + for unheated pools. All pools will open 12:00pm to 7:00pm on weekends and throughout January when the air temperature forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology at 4:00pm for the next day is more than 35 degrees.

For regular updates and to keep up with all the activities during pool season, residents are advised to 'Like' the Greater Hamilton Outdoor Swimming Pools page on Facebook. For more information on pool locations and operating hours, head to [www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au/swimmingpools](http://www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au/swimmingpools) or contact Council on 5573 0444.

Media Enquiries: Alison Quade | 0429 601 208 | [aquade@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au](mailto:aquade@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au)

111 Brown Street, Hamilton 3300 | Locked Bag 685, Hamilton 3300  
Telephone: (03) 5573 0444 | [council@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au) | [www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au](http://www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au)

## A PAGE TO SHARE RECIPES

**Lamb Gozleme one pan pie**

Prep Time 10 mins - Cooking Time 10 mins

**INGREDIENTS - 4 servings**

1 tbsp oil	3 jumbo white tortillas
500g lamb mince	1/2 cup fresh mint, larger leaves torn, plus extra to serve
1 tsp ground cumin	1/2 cup fresh dill, plus extra to serve
1 tsp sweet paprika	200g Castello Fetta Cubes in Brine
2 green shallots, thinly sliced	Pinch of dried chili flakes (optional)
1 egg	Lemon wedges, to serve
240g baby spinach	

**METHOD****Step 1**

**COOK THE LAMB** Preheat a grill on high. Heat the oil in a 24cm ovenproof frying pan over high heat. Add lamb, cumin and paprika. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 4 minutes or until browned. Add shallot. Season. Transfer to a heatproof bowl. Add egg and stir until well combined.

**Step 2**

**WILT THE SPINACH** - Place spinach in a large heatproof bowl. Cover with boiling water and set aside for 30 seconds to wilt. Drain then refresh under cold running water. Drain again then use clean hands to squeeze out the excess liquid.

**Step 3**

**ASSEMBLE & MAKE THE PIE** - Wipe pan clean. Spray with oil. Place a tortilla over base of pan. Top with half the lamb mixture, half the spinach and half the mint and dill. Crumble over half the feta. Sprinkle with chilli flakes, if using. Top with another tortilla and repeat layering with remaining lamb mixture, spinach, mint, dill, feta and chilli, finishing with remaining tortilla on top. Press down firmly. Cook over medium heat for 2 minutes or until base is light golden. Place under the grill for 2 minutes or until golden. Cut gozleme into wedges. Scatter over extra mint and dill. Serve with lemon wedges.



Always believe something wonderful  
is about to happen

- unknown



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Any change, even a change for the better,  
is always accompanied by discomforts.

Arnold Bennett



# DAN TEHAN MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR **WANNON**

As your representative in the Federal Parliament, listening to your views about our local area is my priority.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance:

190 Gray Street, Hamilton or  
1300 131 692



1300 131 692 [dan.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:dan.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au) [dantehan.com.au](http://dantehan.com.au)

DanTehanWannon dantehan

Authorised by Dan Tehan MP, Liberal Party of Australia, 190 Gray St, Hamilton VIC 3300.

### Twomey Family and Kolor Station - Part 3

With thanks to the author Philip Doherty of the Mt Rouse & District Historical Society for this article.

Daniel Twomey managed to buy back Kolor at the public auction for around £39,000 (he was entitled to half the proceeds). In 1867 he was elected to the Mount Rouse Council for the riding of Penshurst.

The Twomey men were renowned as sportsmen. The Hamilton Spectator reported on a major kangaroo hunt on Twomeys' Banemore Station, where five hundred kangaroos were killed by one hundred horsemen. Regular snipe and hare shooting parties were held on all Twomey properties.

Within a year of buying back Kolor Daniel Twomey started to build Kolor homestead. The honour of laying the foundation stone was given to his father John Joseph Twomey.

The original slab house mentioned in the sale notice was believed to have been where the elm trees are at Ray Morton's house on the Warrnambool Road. This would link with the Kolor bluestone woolshed across the road which was built at the same time as the Kolor homestead.

Cornelius, another son of John Snr, had stayed in Ireland to be trained as a priest at All Hallows College. Cornelius later arrived on the ship Great Britain and eventually became Parish Priest at Tumut NSW. He died in Melbourne in 1882, the same year that Edward took over ownership of Langulac Station (south of Kolor).

Records of the day reveal that Daniel Twomey, although quiet and unassuming man was one of the most popular figures in Western District in the early days. He was a very generous host and took an interest in all sports. He married Ellen Cameron, from Penola station S.A. and they had two sons and two daughters. His wife later died on a trip to Europe and Daniel died not long after in 1891 aged 60.

Edward Twomey looked after Kolor until Daniels eldest son Francis O'Connor Twomey (who was being educated in England) came of age.

By the time Francis took over the property the wool industry was in a state of depression and most of the estates around Penshurst were being leased out for dairying. Dairying was rapidly expanding so most of Kolor was divided into dairy farms and leased.

By 1912, Francis Twomey was listed as having 5000 acres at Kolor with another 4524 acres sold to C.R Tulloh (South Kolor Estate). This may have something to do with the settling of the estate of Francis's brother Daniel John who died on a trip to China the same year.

Francis Twomey was a long time President of the Racing Club and the Penshurst Gun Club where regular live bird competition shoots were held at Kolor.

In 1915 Francis enlisted in the First Australian Imperial Force 54 Battalion. An original Anzac he was wounded at Gallipoli, later transferred to France, again wounded at Pozieres. It was at Bullecourt where he was wounded yet again but gained a Commission in the field after the battle. Francis O'Connor Twomey was killed at Hargicourt 1<sup>st</sup> October 1918. He was 41 and unmarried.

With no heirs to take over Kolor and his two sisters living in London, the last of Kolor Station (2714 acres consisting of the homestead and eight share farms) was sold in 1929. Kolor had been in the Twomey family for 77 years.



## Community Meetings

### Caramut & District Garden Club

- 2nd Tuesday monthly at 10 am. See Garden Notes for venue.

### Penshurst Hospital

- Combined Churches service 3rd Tuesday every month in W.J. Lewis wing at 11 am.
- Penshurst Hospital Ladies Auxiliary, 3rd Tuesday each month, Sheppard Room 1.30 pm.
- Residents, Relatives & Carers group, Tuesday bi-monthly, 1:30 pm.
- Penshurst Social Support Group - WDHS meets every Thursday; for Exercise, Activities, Outings and General chit chat. Join us for lots of fun & laughter at Sheppard Centre - **COVID Permitting**. Western District Health Service – PENSURST Campus. Please contact Fiona Social Support Group Coordinator on 03-5551 8381 Or @ WDHS on 55518683

### Mt Rouse & District Historical Society

- Courthouse open 1st Saturday each month 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.
- Meeting 4th Sunday in January, March, May, July, September and November, 2pm at the Court House. Phone 557 12145.

### Friends Yatmerone Reserve

- Meeting 2nd Tuesday every second month, commencing February 2021 at Volcano Centre 7.30 pm. New members welcome.

### Lions Club of Penshurst & District

- 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month at 8 pm at RSL Hall, Ritchie Street.  
penshurstlions@gmail.com

### Penshurst Bowls Club

- Pennant Season (October - February) meets 1st Thursday at 7.30pm Alaister 0427 555 973
- Off Season 1st Tuesday at 7.30pm.



**AmbulanceVictoria**

The Penshurst Branch is staffed by local Ambulance Community Officers (ACOs).

Ambulance Victoria is regularly looking for local ACOs. If you are interested in becoming an ACO or would like further information, please email [penshurst.teamleader@ambulance.vic.gov.au](mailto:penshurst.teamleader@ambulance.vic.gov.au)

### Penshurst Pony Club Rally

- 1st Sunday each month. Phone Jenni 0409 962 969

### Penshurst Senior Citizens

- meet last Tuesday monthly, 4 pm at club rooms in Bell Street.
- Novelty Bingo, last Tuesday of month Feb - Nov at 2.15 pm.
- Cards & social afternoon, 2nd Wednesday monthly at 2pm
- Book Club, 2nd Tuesday each month at Senior Citizen club rooms. 2.00pm

## Penshurst Church Services

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church Tabor

Service every Sunday 10.00am

### Penshurst Anglican Church

4pm Mass 4th Sunday each month

For further details contact Janet Kelly on 5576 5247

### St Andrew's Uniting Church Penshurst

2nd & 4th Sunday

11am Service

### St Joseph's Catholic Church Penshurst

1st Sunday No Service

2nd Sunday Mass 8.30am

3rd Sunday Lay Service 8.30am

4th Sunday Mass 8.30am

5th Sunday Mass 8.30am



### All Saints Penshurst

Wednesday 22nd of December 7pm  
Christmass Mass

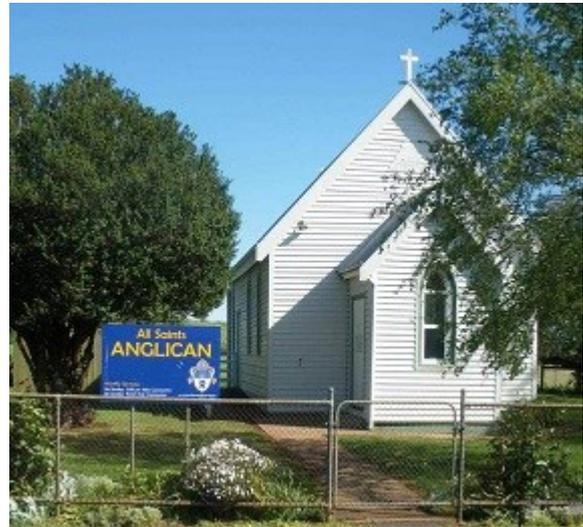
#### **COVID things.**

**At the time of going to print...**

Proof of double vaccination is required  
if you haven't already offered it.

BYO Mask

Sign in using the QR code or  
use the sign in book.



There is an enormous sense of satisfaction when a guy can trim the edges and mow his lawns. You can see where you have been and the cathartic effect of turning unruly grass into a neatly manicured lawn cannot never be underestimated. My doctor would also argue that the physical exertion will help keep my girth at a respectable size and my blood pressure numbers where they should be.

I was contemplating all this other day, and noticed that there were a goodly number of black birds with bright orange beaks running about and digging into my neatly clipped lawns. They weren't bothering me, I was just intrigued. I went to the fount of all wisdom (aka Dr. Google) and discovered that they were Eurasian blackbirds. But what on earth were they doing disfiguring my nicely cut lawn?

Dr. Google replied. "The birds are looking for tasty snacks; it means you have an insect problem. Basically, your lawn is the best restaurant around because it has so many bugs. Birds are simply foraging for grubs, worms, and insects. The good news about this is that the grubs and insects will actually do more damage to your lawn than the birds will, and the birds are helping you control the population."

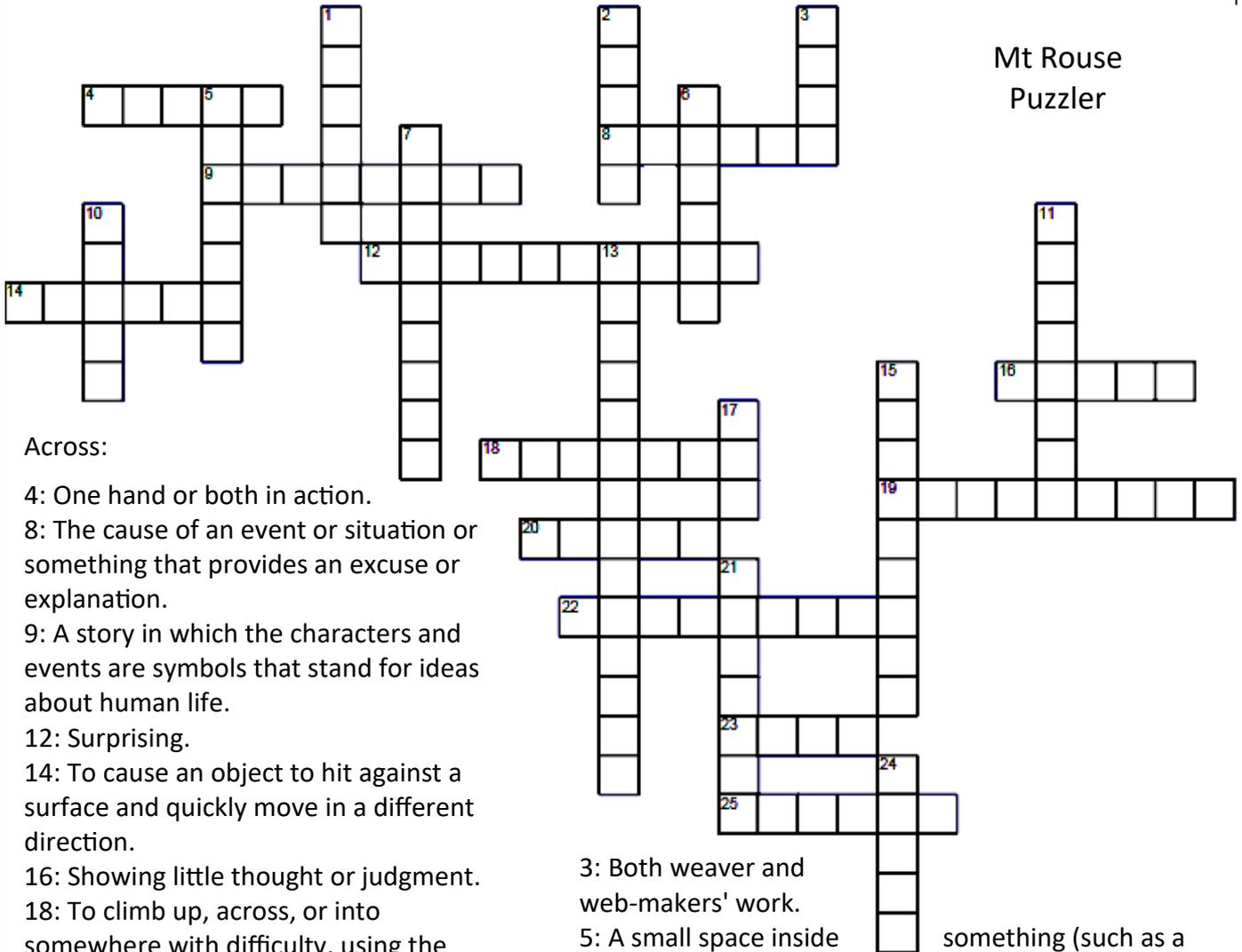
So when I mow the lawn there is actually a whole lot going on. It's not just about getting things tidy and looking lovely. There is a whole ecosystem that is being enhanced and invigorated.

I'm sure that it's true for a lot of things. The outward gesture that we offer might seem insignificant and of little consequence, but for someone else it might mean the world. Never underestimate the value of your work, your ministry, your thoughtfulness, your words, your actions. They are more potent and long lasting than you will ever know.

Fr. David Oulton [droulton72@gmail.com](mailto:droulton72@gmail.com)

**We welcome articles for inclusion here from any of the churches that  
service the Penshurst region**

Mt Rouse  
Puzzler



Across:

- 4: One hand or both in action.
- 8: The cause of an event or situation or something that provides an excuse or explanation.
- 9: A story in which the characters and events are symbols that stand for ideas about human life.
- 12: Surprising.
- 14: To cause an object to hit against a surface and quickly move in a different direction.
- 16: Showing little thought or judgment.
- 18: To climb up, across, or into somewhere with difficulty, using the hands and the feet.
- 19: Breathtaking.
- 20: The central or innermost part of something.
- 22: To stay somewhere beyond the usual or expected time.
- 23: A sound that is a copy of another sound.
- 25: To make a journey.

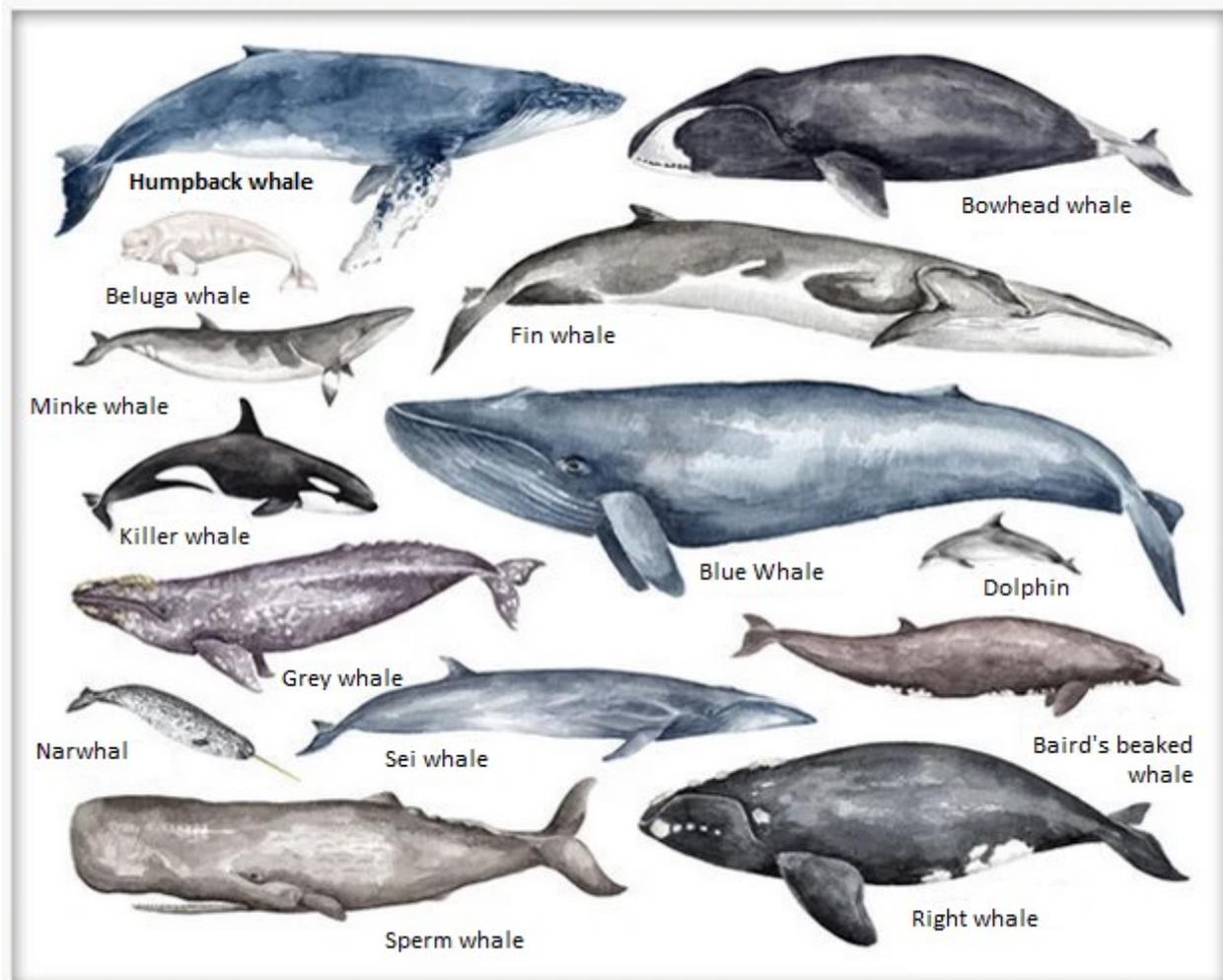
Down:

- 1: A young feline.
- 2: To turn something around and around quickly.

- 3: Both weaver and web-makers' work.
- 5: A small space inside something (such as a machine or your body).
- 6: A small, round dish that you put a cup on.
- 7: The evening's celestial glow.
- 10: Something that helps a person find something, understand something, or solve a mystery.
- 11: Different in a way that you can see, hear, smell, feel, etc.
- 13: To travel all the way around the world in a ship, airplane, etc.
- 15: A type of gum that you chew and that can be blown out.
- 17: Something (such as a planet, the sun, or the moon) that is shaped like a ball.
- 21: To bring to the utmost conclusion.
- 24: Less than anything else.

**Last fortnight's crossword answers - Across:** 1 minor, 4 tidal, 6 phonetic, 8 nifty, 10 badger, 12 rosebud, 15 validate, 16 connection, 18 baguette, 20 linger, 22 angel, 23 sneeze.  
**Down:** 2 realm, 3 studios, 4 tangle, 5 knot, 7 conglomerate, 8 needle, 9 koala, 11 driven, 13 beginning, 14 tangent, 17 gatepost, 19 wrist, 21 niche.

## A page for the children to enjoy



<https://au.whales.org/whales-dolphins/facts-about-whales/>

## Whales - extraordinary creatures from Earth's seas

Whales are social, air breathing mammals, they feed their babies with their own milk, and they take extraordinarily good care of their young and teach them life skills.

Many of us believe whales are special; they certainly invoke a sense of wonder and a feeling of kinship. There is something almost other-worldly about them. Whales enrich the lives of many people who come into contact with them. Whales are unique, beautiful, graceful and mysterious; they nurture, bond, play, sing and cooperate with one another. Here are some extraordinary facts about whales and their lives in the oceans.

Which whale has the biggest teeth? Male narwhals definitely win the prize for the longest tooth. They grow one canine tooth, or tusk, which sticks straight out at the front of their mouths and grows up to 3m (9ft) long – it looks just like a jousting lance used in modern-day competitions. The narwhal's sword-like tusk grows in a counter clockwise spiral and pokes right through the upper left-hand side of the mouth. The narwhal's tusk is thought to be a male sexual trait similar to the antlers in male deer or the mane of a male lion. Very rarely, a female narwhal will grow a tusk or a male will grow two tusks. Ironically inside their mouths, narwhals do not have any teeth at all! The whale with the biggest full set of teeth is the sperm whale. Sperm whales have 40 to 52 cone-shaped teeth, up to 10 to 20cm long, in their narrow lower jaws only. Each tooth is heavy and weighs as much as one kilogram. What else can you learn about whales?

## PENSHURST MENS SHED

We are in the process of completing the extensions and will be opening again next year.

New members will be welcome and a new committee will be required.

Covid rules apply.

Newsletter: If you have any stories you would like to share events, stories and ideas, please contact Mark or Ama by phone or email.

Mark Dalla Costa

mtrousenewsletter@gmail.com

Ama Cooke 0402 870 738

### Penshurst's Website

Have you visited the Penshurst website yet?

Not only is the site full of valuable information, but there are links to many of the important organisations within our town.

Would you like to add a link to your website? Email [president@penshurstprogress.org.au](mailto:president@penshurstprogress.org.au)

Visit our site

**[www.penshurstvictoria.com.au](http://www.penshurstvictoria.com.au)  
and let us know if you have  
any comments.**

**Editor**

Published by **Penshurst Mens Shed Incorporated**

ABN 56 257 756 133 VMSA No: 301039

**"Mt Rouse News & Views Community Newsletter"**

Is the registered business name of the Penshurst Mens Shed Newsletter

Registered Address: 46 Watton Street, Penshurst 3289

### **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS – 27th November 2021**

The newsletter will be published on Wednesday fortnightly and we would appreciate submissions at the earliest possible time within the fortnight but no later than the Saturday immediately prior to the Wednesday of publishing.

**Editor : Mark Dalla Costa**

All correspondence to: [mtrousenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mtrousenewsletter@gmail.com)

**FREE NEWSLETTER EVERY  
FORTNIGHT**

Also available in colour online at

<http://www.penshurstvictoria.com.au/Penshurst&20Newsletter.html>

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**1/4 page** \$5 + GST   **Business Card** \$3 + GST

# Australia Day Nomination Form

## Penshurst Citizen of the Year

Name of Nominee: .....

Reason why you nominated him or her (or group):

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Your name: .....

All Nominee names are kept confidential

Contact no: .....

Thank you for submitting your nomination

Date: .....

Please return by email or drop in the letterbox at 46 Watton Street by  
19th December 2021. Thank you.

Penshurst Progress Association  
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