

# *MT ROUSE News & Views*



*Community Newsletter*

## **Victorian Government lauds Volcanoes Discovery Centre upgrade**



"A major part of the \$330,000 upgrade was the development of a rock garden, including geological interpretation areas."

Photographer: Tracey Kruger

With thanks to our sponsors for this colour front page.

Penshurst's

# Volcanoes

Discovery Centre

is currently accepting new Volunteers!

No experience necessary!

**Full training provided!**

Make new friends!

**Contribute to the community!**

Volunteer outings and activities!

**Be a part of the largest tourism organisation in Penshurst!**

Learn new skills!

**Have fun!!!**

Call us today on 0402 083 782

email us at

[info@volcanoesdiscoverycentre.com.au](mailto:info@volcanoesdiscoverycentre.com.au)

or drop in when the centre is open and  
pick up an application form.



Serving the greater Hamilton area

Preventative, repairs & renewals

Heat pump rebate specialist

Hot water upgrades

General plumbing

Gas servicing

Call Dan:

0409 852 887

[www.thehappyplumber.com.au](http://www.thehappyplumber.com.au)

REC. NO. D15302

LIC. NO. 101019

## Emma KEALY MP

NATIONALS MEMBER FOR LOWAN



**"If you have an issue you need a hand to resolve, or a great idea on how we can make our region a better place to live, work, study, and do business, I would love to hear from you."**



34 Firebrace St, Horsham



5571 9800



[emma.kealy@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:emma.kealy@parliament.vic.gov.au)



## **Victorian Government lauds VDC upgrade**

The Victorian Government has praised Penshurst's Volcanoes Discovery Centre for its substantial upgrade to its facilities which it says will draw more visitors to the region and give support to local businesses.

The project wouldn't have happened without \$290,000 from Victoria's Regional Tourism Investment Fund. The Southern Grampians Shire also gave \$40,000 to the project.

The upgrade includes a new outdoor geological interpretation area, a revitalised education space and refurbished internal displays.

The upgrades and new facilities will support the centre to provide school groups and visitors with a richer understanding of how volcanoes are formed, their geology, their history in the region, and how the indigenous people interacted with volcanoes.

Penshurst is at the centre of the Newer Volcanoes Province, the third largest volcanic plain on Earth, which stretches over an area of 15,000 square kilometres and contains over 400 small volcanoes and volcanic vents.

Victorian Tourism Minister, Steve Dimopoulos, said the Penshurst VDC's upgrade would encourage visitors to explore more of the region which is steeped in geological and cultural significance, including the nearby Budj Bim cultural landscape, a UNESCO world heritage site.

"Penshurst's landscape is a geological marvel and the upgrade to the VDC will help visitors learn more about this incredible patch of southwest Victoria. If you are into natural History, I encourage you to visit the centre and experience all of Penshurst's charms for yourself," he said.

Member for Western Victoria, Jacinta Ermacora, said the State Government investment was a big win for Penshurst, helping to attract more visitors, support local businesses and showcase the region's incredible volcanic and cultural heritage.

Southern Grampians Shire Mayor, Cr Dennis Heslin, said the shire was grateful for the State Government funding "which gave a much-needed boost to this very special institution".

"The Southern Grampians region is filled with ancient natural wonders that surprise and fascinate us. These upgrades will give us a chance to share the knowledge and stories we have with a wider audience," Cr Heslin said.

For more information:

23 Martin Street,

Penshurst VIC

0402 083 782

[volcanoesdiscoverycentre.com.au/](http://volcanoesdiscoverycentre.com.au/)



Photographer: Tracey Kruger

The Penshurst Progress Association Inc with the generous support of  
Southern Grampians Shire Council present

# PENSHURST ANZAC DAY

DAWN SERVICE

*25 April 2025*

6AM

Penshurst Cenotaph  
Corner of Martin & Bell Sts

Community BBQ breakfast to follow



**MEDIA RELEASE**

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL

**YOUR COUNCIL,  
YOUR COMMUNITY****COUNCIL INVESTS IN LOCAL ROADS**

Southern Grampians Shire Council continues to invest in the shire's roads with a recent Road Asset Condition Assessment examining road quality within the Southern Grampians.

The Road Asset Condition Assessment (RACAs), completed by external contractor Shepherd Asset Management Solutions, independently assesses road, footpath and carpark surfaces. Shepherd's is currently completing assessments across 30 Councils Australia wide, capturing more than 100,000 kilometres of road data.

The RACAs vehicle travels every kilometre of road in the shire. The tool produces high-definition digital photographs every 10m, as well as condition information such as surface roughness, and defects like edge-breaks, potholes, rutting, cracking, and more.

The Southern Grampians road network data is then reviewed by an experienced road engineer, and Artificial Intelligence, to determine any defects that exist as well as a ranking for each defect type. This data is then aggregated to give an overall condition for each segment.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Acting Mayor Afton Barber said the report assists Council to attain accurate data of each and every road in the shire and uses this to determine which roads should be given the highest priority for maintenance based on their condition and usage. This will enable Council to develop a five-year program to provide best value and strongest outcomes for the community.

"The data collected helps us to identify which roads are in the most urgent need of renewal or repair. This is also guided by safety and traffic usage data enabling us to make these a high priority. Likewise, it also tells us which roads are in really good condition," said Cr Barber.

"Using an assessment tool like RACAs gives us vital information to help manage our large network of roads and better manage our resources. Given the sheer size of our roads network, this is crucial to efficient road management.

"We were pleased to see how the condition of our roads compared to other Councils within the State and remain committed to providing our community with safe roads that support our community's needs.

"The work Council has been doing over the past few years to find efficiencies and cost reductions have allowed us to increase investment in our roads and spend in our capital works program. This investment goes a long way to improve road surfaces and footpath connections."

Shepherd Asset Management Solutions said their assessment accurately maps the condition of Southern Grampians road surfaces.

"We captured 1,655km of sealed roads, 938 km of unsealed roads, and 153km of pathways late last year across the Southern Grampians Shire. "Through this assessment, Council has improved their understanding of the state of their roads and footpaths and have further enhanced their ability to target maintenance and rehabilitation works, supporting best value for money across the Council area."

**MEDIA RELEASE**

SOUTHERN GRAMPPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL



**COUNCIL INVESTS IN LOCAL ROADS**

(continued)

Acting Mayor Barber encourages residents to continue to report any problem areas across the Shire's Road Network. "I would encourage you to report any defects whether that be potholes or cracking for Council managed roads via our Report an Issue section on our website. Please report issues with VicRoads roads to them.

"As a Council we will continue to petition and advocate both on a State and Federal level for better funding for roads across our region and better roads for the safety of our communities," concluded Cr Barber.

council@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au  
www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au 5573 0444

**Penshurst Hair Design**



**Opening Days**

**Tuesday,  
Thursday  
Friday &  
every second  
Saturday  
10am - 2pm**

**By Appointment**

For appointments please ring

**Mobile: 0417 511 177**



**Penshurst Post Office**

31 Martin Street

Post Services

Gifts & Cards

Stationery & Office Supplies

Collectables & Books

Craft Supplies

Tech Accessories

Bank @ Post

Post Office Boxes Available



*body*  
**BODY BALANCE**  
on French

Scan QR Code for more details

Leanne Cottrill  
Remedial Massage Therapist  
mobile 0407835479  
13 French Street Penshurst 3289  
36A Thompson Street Hamilton  
3300  
<https://body-balance-on-french.au3.cliniko.com/bookings>







### What's your colour?

Well, it's official. We're going to have an election. The scurrilous rumour was confirmed with a postcard that came into my letter box the other day.

I expect to get many such postcards, all of them passionate, (as you would expect) offering different perspectives. For all our rolling of eyeballs and heavy sighs, it's great that we live in such a colourful democracy.

In my dotage, I'm more aware of the different colours that different parties sport. This is an excellent marketing instrument and you know immediately which clan your postcard is from.

But the thing I come back to in the midst of the high vis vest, words, hard hats, and my beloved postcards, is the people behind the various hues. While I might dispute reverently and appropriately, while I might dis/agree passionately, I must never forget that these are only academic thrusts and parries. Each of the folk who front up behind a microphone, or splash around with words on a screen, has feelings and emotions. Cut any of them and they bleed. Tell them a half decent joke and they smirk. They have relatives and friends, they engage in jocular and tears. Growing up, they have had their hearts broken and probably broken a few hearts along the way.

Sure the post cards are helpfully colour coded as I triage them across the desk. But it's the *person* behind the colour that's the most important thing. To all of those who are running, no matter what your colour or policy, all the very best. To those of us who vote, remember that first and foremost, at the top of the ballot paper, that these are real flesh and blood human beings, exactly like the one you see in the mirror.

### The sin of Certainty

Way back in January I went to see the film 'Conclave'. It was a fictitious story about the election of a Pope. Towards the beginning of the film the Dean who helps to coordinate the trickiness, delivers a stunning homily to the assembled cardinals. For some of you it might sound a bit Churchy, but hang in there and read this little gem. What it has to teach us as Christians and indeed people of any faith is sage, honest and essential.

I Quote - "St Paul said, 'Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.' To work together, and to grow together, we must be tolerant. No one person or faction seeking to dominate another. And speaking to the Ephesians, who were of course a mixture of Jews and gentiles, Paul reminds us that God's gift to the church...is its variety. It is this variety, this diversity of people and views which gives our church its strength. And over the course of many years in the service of our Mother the Church, let me tell you, there is one sin, which I have come to fear above all others. Certainty. Certainty is the great enemy of unity. Certainty is the deadly enemy of tolerance. Even Christ was not certain at the end. "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" He cried out in his agony at the ninth hour on the cross.

Our faith is a living thing, precisely because it walks hand-in-hand with doubt. If there was only certainty...and no doubt...there would be no mystery...and therefore no need... for faith. Let us pray that God will grant us a Pope who doubts.

And let him grant us a Pope who sins and asks for forgiveness, and who carries on."

**Make Sure Your Furry Friends Are Registered by 10 April 2025**

Southern Grampians Shire Council is reminding pet owners to register their cats and dogs by 10 April 2025, as part of responsible pet ownership. Registration is required for all cats and dogs over three months of age under the Domestic Animals Act 1994. Southern Grampians Shire Council Acting Mayor Afton Barber said registering your pet with the Council offers more than just compliance with the law—it directly contributes to a pet-friendly community. “By registering your pet, you’re helping to support these important services that benefit the entire community,” Cr Barber said.

Your registration fees help fund vital services and facilities, including: \*\* Hamilton Pound: A safe place for lost pets to be cared for until reunited with their owners. \*\* Veterinary support: Access to treatment for animals in Councils care. \*\* Food and bedding: Essentials for animals in our care. \*\* Staffing provisions: Ensuring we have sufficient qualified staff. \*\* Hamilton Dog Park: Off-leash and fenced area for dogs to play safely.

There can often be confusion between microchipping and registering your pets. Microchipping your pet is an essential step and is required under the DAA 1994, but it’s not the same as registering them with the Council. While a microchip provides a unique identifier and contact details, registration ensures your pet is listed in the Southern Grampians Shire Council’s official register. This makes it easier for Council to assist if your pet goes missing or needs urgent care.

You may qualify for a reduced registration fee if your pet meets any of the following criteria:

\*\* De-sexed \*\* Has an obedience certificate issued by a government-approved organisation  
\*\* Over 10 years old \*\* Kept for working stock \*\* Kept for breeding by a registered domestic animal business proprietor.

Continued page 11



**DAN TEHAN** MP  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WANNON

*Working  
for  
Wannon*

📞 Local Call 1300 131 692

📍 190 Gray Street Hamilton 3300

🌐 [www.dantehan.com.au](http://www.dantehan.com.au)

✉ [dan.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:dan.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au)

📷 DanTehan

📘 DanTehanWannon



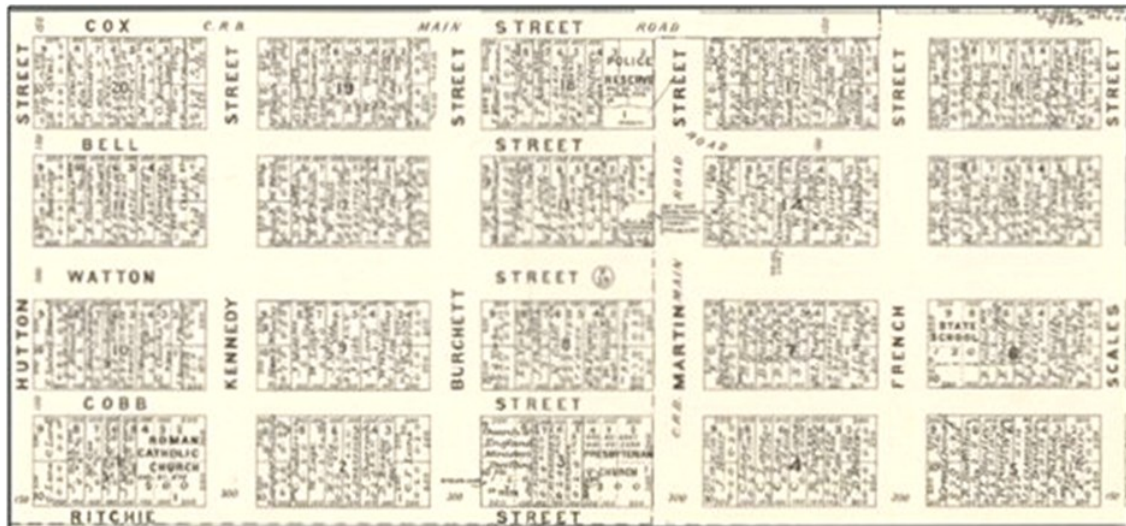


Interesting glimpses into Penshurst's history - continued -

## **NAMING PENS HurST'S ORIGINAL STREETS, 1851**

By Phil Doherty, Mount Rouse & District Historical Society Inc, Part 2

Reprinted with permission



### **7. KENNEDY STREET**

Donald Kennedy was born in 1807 at Glenroy Lochaber Invernesshire and died 1864. He emigrated to NSW 1837, arriving Port Philip 1840.

Donald took up the "Croxtton" run in 1842 with his brother Duncan. They also held "Linlithgow Plains". Donald was elected a Member Legislative Council in 1854 - serving until 1864. He promoted scientific agriculture and was president of the Pt. Philip Farmers Society, Commissioner of the Savings Bank, Deputy Governor of the Colonial Bank and a company director.

### **8. MARTIN STREET**

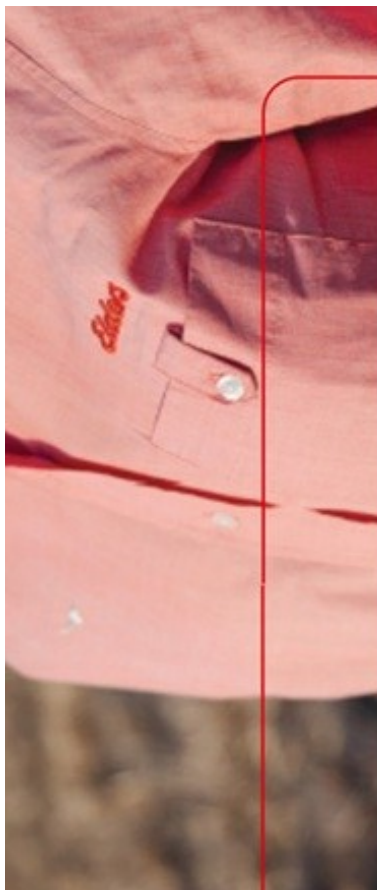
Dr. Robert Martin JP was born in Skye, 1798. After arriving in Australia he overlanded from the Murrumbidgee district, down the Hume and Hovell track, before following the Major Mitchell line to Mt Sturgeon, arriving 1841. He held Mt Sturgeon station until 1859. Martin was the first medical doctor in the district - he was also First Trustee of St. Johns Anglican church Heidelberg, built 1850. He lived across the Yarra river on his property "View Bank".

### **9. RITCHIE STREET**

James Ritchie was born 1812 Blyth Scotland. Ritchie and partner James Scales took up the "Blackwood" run February 1842. By 1845 Ritchie had bought out his partner. He later purchased "Woodhouse" from Adolphus Scales. When James was accidentally killed in 1857, as he was unmarried, his brothers Daniel and Simon took over the running of Blackwood and Woodhouse.

Daniel Ritchie was elected the first Mount Rouse Shire President in 1863.

Continued page 10



## ELDERS HAMILTON

*Proud to be a supporter of local communities*

### BRANCH MANAGER & RURAL

#### REAL ESTATE

Lachy Patterson 0407 704 684

#### WOOL

Andrew Howells 0418 846 291

Kate Methven 0488 415 883

David Whyte 0407 347 203

#### State Wool Manager

Lachie Brown 0409 645 915

#### LIVESTOCK

Aaron Malseed 0407 782 286

Jordy Anthony 0407 649 925

Dillon Dawson 0438 054 593

#### STUD STOCK

Ross Milne 0408 057 558

#### MERINO STUD STOCK & WOOL

Kevin Beaton 0455 119 711

### FARM SUPPLIES

Ryan Gerring 0439 699 110

Damon Hiscock 0439 671 046

Rob Browne 0427 315 793

Rod Evans 0498 750 125

James Whyte 0458 322 094

### AGRONOMY

Mark Rouse 0473 444 288

Gabby Redpath 0438 903 123

Damien Goodman 0438 028 985

### SALES SUPPORT

Ann Hiscock 5551 5700

Wendy Kerr 5551 5700

Annaleace Dohle 5551 5700

Maggie Craig 0427 976 179

100 Portland Road,

Hamilton P. 03 5551 5700

E. hamilton@elders.com.au  
elders.com.au



Southern Grampians Shire Council

## Council Plan

2025-29



Contribute to the future of our region.



Penshurst, Penshurst Botanic Gardens  
Thursday 20 Mar 2025  
5:30pm - 7:00pm  
Refreshments provided



## NAMING PENSURST'S ORIGINAL STREETS, 1851

(continued)

**10. SCALES STREET**

James and Adolphus Scales (Scales).

James arrived from Leith, Scotland where he had been a Chief Magistrate. He settled on Blackwood with James Ritchie 1842, selling out to Ritchie in 1845.

Adolphus held Woodhouse station from March 1848 to June

1854 He also leased the Kolor and Purdeet stations, surveyed from the Aboriginal Protectorate from September to December 1851. The runs were not stocked and he relinquished the leases, which ended up with David Hutton (Purdeet) and John and Daniel Twomey (Kolor).

**11. WATTON STREET**

Dr. John Watton (pictured below) arrived in Melbourne in 1839. The 1841 the census recorder came first to John Watton's station, his 'address' given as Djerrriwha... Weerabin'. [?] Simon Staughton purchased the Brisbane Ranges - Exford run from Watton shortly afterwards. Of the ten adults who were living and working at his station, five were shepherds, so this was clearly a substantial enterprise.



By July 1842 Charles La Trobe approved George Robinson's (Chief Protector of Aborigines) plan for unsuccessful squatter Dr John Watton to take temporary charge of the Mount Rouse Reserve. The Government appointed Watton as a medical officer and not an assistant Protector - presumably as a financial saving. Dr. Watton was still at the Protectorate when it closed in 1849.

**Make Sure Your Furry Friends Are Registered by 10 April 2025** (continued)

"We also remind residents to keep their animal details up to date, it is important if you move to also transfer your pet's registration and update contact details with both Council and the microchip registry," concluded Cr Barber.

Don't leave it until the last minute. Renew your pet's registration now to continue enjoying the peace of mind that comes with being a responsible pet owner. For more information, visit our website [www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au](http://www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au) or contact us directly on 55730444.

Responsible pet ownership starts with you!

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Melbourne, 9th September, 1851.

**PENSURST.**

**N**OTICE is hereby given that a site has been fixed upon for a Township at the under-mentioned place, and that a copy of the approved Plan may be seen at the Surveyor General's Office, Melbourne, or at the Police Office at Hamilton, Grange Burn, viz :—

Penshurst, at the late Mount Rouse Aborigi-  
nal Reserve.

By His Excellency's Command,  
**W. LONSDALE.**





## Penshurst Store



**Amanda & Cam Wilson**  
0439 941 942

**Pop into the store and try some of our delicious pies, pasties and sausage rolls. Freshly baked bread, cakes and slices.**

**Treat yourself to an Amanti coffee or Hot Chocolate and browse our everchanging giftware and local produce.**

**Phone orders and payments are welcome.**

**Monday - CLOSED**

**Tuesday to Friday - 7.30am - 2.00pm**

**Saturday - 8.00am - 2.00pm**

**Sunday - CLOSED**

**Café/Bakery**

**110 Bell Street, Penshurst**

**penshurststore@gmail.com**

## Penshurst Shed

**Open Saturday & Tuesday**  
**10am - 4pm**



Talk to the crew for more information about the Shed and its activities.

We are open for everyone.

**Contact**  
Tom Cooke 0488 557 345

## CHRISTOPHER COOK CONSTRUCTIONS

**Ph: 0417 100 243**

**Fax: 5576 5267**



**HIA Reg CB-U 6214**  
**DB-U 5109**

**112 Bell Street**  
**Penshurst Vic 3289**

## A PAGE TO SHARE RECIPES

***Easy Whole Lemon Cake***

Prep 20 mins      Cook 1h 40 mins      Serves 10

## INGREDIENTS

2 lemons, washed	1/2 tsp baking powder
3/4 cup light olive oil	Double cream, to serve
3 eggs	Lemon syrup
1 tsp vanilla extract	1 cup caster sugar
1 cup caster sugar	1 lemon, thinly sliced
1 2/3 cups self-raising flour	

**Method**

## Step 1

Preheat oven to 180C/160C fan-forced. Grease a 22cm (top) baba pan.

## Step 2

Place lemons in a medium saucepan. Cover with cold water. Bring to the boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium, Cook for 50 minutes or until softened. Drain. Cool 20 minutes. Chop lemons, discarding seeds.

## Step 3

Place lemon in a food processor. Process to a pulp. Add oil, eggs and vanilla. Process for 2 minutes or until smooth. Add sugar. Process to combine. Add flour and baking powder. Process until just combined. Pour into prepared pan. Level top. Bake for 50 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre of cake comes out clean. Cool in pan 15 minutes. Turn out onto a wire rack to cool.

## Step 4

To make the lemon syrup, place 1 cup water and caster sugar in a medium frying pan. Stir over low heat until sugar dissolves. Increase heat to medium-high. Bring to a simmer. Add lemon slices. Cook for 5 to 6 minutes or until syrup thickens slightly and lemon is translucent. Cool 15 minutes.

## Step 5

Place lemon slices on cake. Drizzle warm cake with warm syrup. Garnish with lemon. Serve with cream.

**Lemon sour cream icing**

1 1/2 cups icing sugar mixture  
1/4 cup Bulla Light Sour Cream  
1 lemon, rind finely grated

Make lemon icing: let cake cool completely

Sift icing sugar into a bowl. Add sour cream and lemon rind. Stir until well combined. Pour icing over cake. Allow to set. Serve.

**5576 5270**

Friendly faces and helpful staff ...

**Penshurst Liquor &  
Grocery Store**

**Open 7 days**

**Opening Hours:**

**Monday - Friday**

7am - 7pm

**Saturday**

8am - 6pm

**Sunday**

8am - 5pm

**80 Bell Street, Penshurst**



Sandwiches & lunch packs available

Order your meat, fresh fruit & vegetables  
by phone for collection at your convenience

**Groceries - Bread - Frozen Foods**

**Beer - Wine - Spirits**

**Penshurst's News Agency**

**A cowboy rode into a dusty old town...**

...and stopped at the saloon for a drink. Unfortunately, the locals had a habit of picking on strangers. When he finished his drink, he found his horse had been stolen. He went back into the bar and with a quick move of his hands, he flipped his guns into the air, caught them above his head without even looking and fired at the ceiling. Which one of you cow'rdly sidewinders stole my hoss!?" he yelled. No one answered.

"Alright, I'm gonna have anotha beer, and if my hoss ain't back outside by the time I finish, I'm gonna haf'ta do what I dun in Texas! And I don't like to have to do what I dun in Texas!"

Some of the locals shifted restlessly. He had another beer, walked outside, and his horse was back! As he swung up into the saddle and started to ride out of town, the bartender ran out of the saloon and asked, "Say partner, before you go... what happened in Texas?" The cowboy turned back and said, "I walked home."



**westernAG**  
The Best in Agronomic Advice

KNOWLEDGE  
INNOVATION  
RELIABILITY  
COMMITMENT

- Agronomy Services
- Farm Production & Planning Management
- Seed & Fertiliser Supply
- Crop & Pasture Protection Products
- Animal Health & Nutrition
- General Merchandise
- On Farm Deliveries

Western AG's core objective is to provide high quality production advice and to supply competitively priced inputs to assist clients to grow the business profitably.

**Western AG Hamilton - T: 03 5579 5900**

Tim Wilson (Branch Manager) 0429 168 020

Matt Barber (Senior Agronomist) 0488 298 170

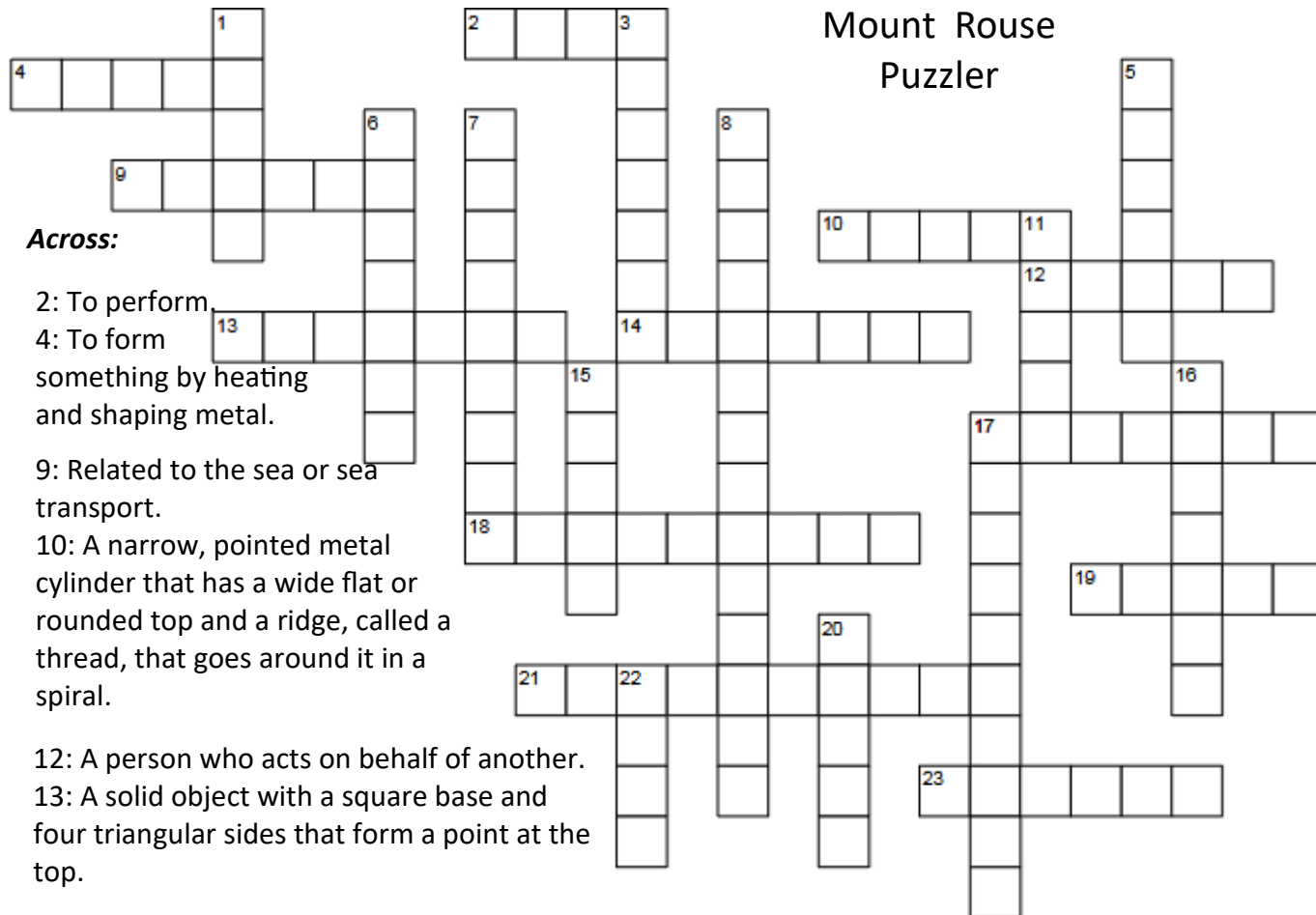
Megan Clothier (Animal Health) 0498 226 730

Ben Gay (Merchandise & Logistics) 03 5579 5900

Glenn Grey (Willaura) 0439 541 036

**ADDRESS—236 COLERAINE ROAD HAMILTON**



Mount Rouse  
Puzzler**Across:**

- 2: To perform.  
 4: To form something by heating and shaping metal.  
 9: Related to the sea or sea transport.  
 10: A narrow, pointed metal cylinder that has a wide flat or rounded top and a ridge, called a thread, that goes around it in a spiral.  
 12: A person who acts on behalf of another.  
 13: A solid object with a square base and four triangular sides that form a point at the top.

- 14: Something such as an action or a statement that tells someone about possible danger or trouble.  
 17: One of the main sections of a book.  
 18: Tending to talk a lot or to enjoy having conversations with people.  
 19: A strong, hard metal made of iron and carbon.  
 21: Not the same.  
 23: To ask someone to go somewhere or do something.

**Down:**

- 1: The hair that some men allow to grow on the lower part of their face.  
 3: Of little depth.  
 5: To manoeuvre for position.

- 6: A piece of information that is sent or given to someone.  
 7: A person who designs buildings, and in many cases also supervises their construction.  
 8: To make someone lost or confused.  
 11: an action; you can do this with a sports match, a movie, TV.  
 15: A small open counter or partially enclosed structure where things are displayed for sale.  
 16: A person who does well in sports.  
 17: A formal meeting in which many people gather in order to talk about ideas or problems related to a particular topic such as medicine or business usually for several days.  
 20: A part of something.  
 22: Something such as a chair that you sit on.

Crossword answers from last newsletter: **Across:** 1 social, 4 drop, 10 rent, 11 connection, 12 waste, 15 fragrant, 16 wonder, 18 acquisition, 19 cognitive, 20 ranch, 23 shelter, 24 scheme. **Down:** 1 strain, 2 beat, 3 meant, 5 shrink, 6 conventional, 7 preference, 8 wording, 9 satisfied, 13 splendid, 14 drawer, 17 even, 21 crystal, 22 stamp.

Fun facts for kids

1. A group of flamingos is called a "flamboyance."
2. Butterflies taste with their feet!
3. The only food that doesn't spoil is honey.
4. Octopuses have three hearts and blue blood.
5. A rainbow always has seven colours: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.
6. Dolphins sleep with one eye open.
7. A giraffe's tongue is blue-black and can be up to 53 centimetres long!
8. Penguins can't fly, but they're excellent swimmers.
9. The smallest bird in the world is the bee hummingbird, which is about the size of a bee.
10. Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.
11. A group of owls is called a "parliament."
12. The loudest animal in the world is the sperm whale.
13. Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.
14. A sneeze travels out of your mouth at over 160 kilometres per hour!
15. Cows have best friends and can feel stressed when they are separated.
16. The heart of a shrimp is located in its head.
17. A group of rabbits is called a "fluffle."
18. The fingerprints of koalas are so similar to humans that they have on occasion been confused at a crime scene.
19. Polar bears have black skin under their white fur.
20. A woodpecker can peck 20 times per second.
21. Astronauts grow taller in space because there's no gravity to push down on their spines.
22. Sharks have been around longer than trees. Sharks first appeared 400 million years ago, while trees came about 350 million years ago.
23. The shortest war in history lasted only 38 minutes. It was between Britain and Zanzibar in 1896.
24. A day on Venus is longer than its year. Venus takes 243 Earth days to rotate once on its axis but only 225 Earth days to go around the sun.
25. The blue whale's heart is so big that a human could swim through its arteries.
26. Honeybees can recognize human faces.
27. Kangaroos can't walk backwards.
28. The Eiffel Tower can grow up to 6 inches taller in the summer due to the expansion of the iron in the heat.
29. Cats spend 70% of their lives sleeping.
30. The world's largest desert is in Antarctica, not in Africa.
31. A giraffe's spots are like human fingerprints – no two giraffes have the same pattern.
32. The Tyrannosaurus Rex lived closer in time to humans than to the Stegosaurus.
33. Some trees can "talk" to each other through an underground network of fungi.
34. A bolt of lightning is six times hotter than the surface of the sun.
35. The Australian platypus is one of the few mammals that can produce venom.



<https://kokotree.com/blog/games-activities/fun-facts-for-kids>



**Boram Boram Cemetery Trust**

- Contact Jeff Jellie 0407 781 407 or Sue 0418 141 301

**Caramut & District Garden Club**

- 2nd Tuesday monthly at 10 am.  
See Garden Notes for venue or contact Marita 0439 669 839

**Penshurst Hospital**

- Combined Churches service 3rd Tuesday every month in W.J. Lewis wing at 11 am.
- 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, Sheppard Centre, - Penshurst Hospital. Please contact the Social Support Group Coordinator on 5551 8381 Or @ WDHS on 55518683

**Mount Rouse & District Historical Society**

- Meetings - 4th Sunday in January, March, May, July, September and November, 2pm at the Court House. New members are most welcome. Contact the Secretary 0418 141 301. The Court House open for Visitors 1st Saturday each month 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

**Friends Yatmerone Reserve**

- 7.30 pm Community Room behind the Volcano Discovery Centre 11 March, 13 May, 8 July, 9 Sept, 11 Nov and 9 Dec. New members welcome.

**Lions Club of Penshurst & District**

- 1st Friday dinner meeting. 3rd Tuesday business meeting, each month at 8 pm. penshurst.vic@lions.org.au

**Penshurst Progress Association (PPA)**

- 3rd Wednesday - February - November 7.00pm Penshurst Memorial Hall

**Penshurst Senior Citizens**

- Meets at the club rooms in Bell Street. Bingo 4th Tuesday each month.

**AmbulanceVictoria**

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

Ambulance Victoria is looking for people to join the Penshurst team. If you are interested in becoming an ACO or would like further information, please follow the link below.

<https://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/careers/become-a-first-responder/>

**Community Meetings**

**Penshurst Book Club** - meets 3rd Tuesday each month at 2pm. Contact Ruth Pihl on 0490418313

**Penshurst Bowls Club**

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

**Penshurst Pony Club Rally**

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

**Penshurst CWA**

- 4th Tuesday each month at the Senior Citizens rooms. Newcomers welcome.

**Penshurst Church Services****Bethlehem Lutheran Church Tabor**

Service every Sunday 10.00am

**Penshurst Anglican Church**

5pm Mass 4th Sunday each month

For further details contact  
Fr. David Oulton 0435867040

**St Andrew's Uniting Church Penshurst**

2nd & 4th Sunday

11am Service

**St Joseph's Catholic Church Penshurst**

1st Sunday No Service

2nd Sunday Mass 5pm

3rd Sunday Lay Service 8.30am

4th Sunday Mass 5pm

5th Sunday No Service



**Mt Rouse News & Views  
Community Newsletter**

Published by  
**Mt Rouse Community Newsletter Inc**

ABN 95 801 619 635

**"Mt Rouse News & Views Community Newsletter"** is the registered business name of the Mt Rouse Community Newsletter

Registered Address: 103 Cobb Street,  
Penshurst 3289

Submissions 46 Watton Street.

**DEADLINE FOR CURRENT SUBMISSIONS -  
Saturday 29th March 2025**

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 : Ama Cooke**

All correspondence to:  
mtrousenewsletter@gmail.com

Also available in colour online at  
[www.penshurstvictoria.com.au/  
Penshurst%20Newsletter.html](http://www.penshurstvictoria.com.au/Penshurst%20Newsletter.html)

**Newsletter Advertising Rates**

Per Issue, includes GST from Jan 2025

**Full page B&W** \$22 +

**Full page colour** \$52

**1/2 page** \$15

**1/3 page** \$9.50

**1/4 page** \$7.50

**Business Card** \$5

Our newsletter is free due to the continuing support of our advertisers. Thank you.



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

**Sponsor our colour front page**

Would you like to sponsor the colour front page of our community newsletter?

Other pages can be sponsored too.  
Cost is \$30 per coloured page per issue.

For more information  
contact the Editor  
Ama Cooke 0402 870 738



**Mobile Library**

Will be visiting Penshurst  
every Thursday fortnight  
3.00 - 4.00pm

**Outside the Hall in Martin St**

March 27th  
April 10th & 24th

**Phone: 5573 0470**

**[www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au/library](http://www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au/library)**

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
GREATER HAMILTON LIBRARY**

**Penshurst3289 - Community Priorities & Vision 2025**

Questionnaire– March 2025

Disclaimer – this document has been created to assist with discussions around the town's short, and long-term vision and priorities.

It is not a final version, it has not been endorsed yet, but is meant as a starting point to discuss ideas, key projects etc.

**The Vision for Penshurst**

Our vision for the future for Penshurst is to be a community that is connected, caring, respectful, vibrant, engaged, active, and our town is an attractive and desirable place to spend time in for residents, visitors and travellers.

Due to the huge range of ideas received only the most frequently requested ideas from the community and previous planning documents have been included and summarised as we do not have the capacity to work on all projects and must focus on those that the most desirable, achievable and beneficial for the wider community.

**Community Survey**

Please number your top 10 priorities from 1 (being the first and most important) to 10 (being the least important – leave all others blank).

Activity	Priority
Review and obtain community support for a 5-year implementation plan for achieving the Botanical Gardens Master Plan priorities, including new ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Life size metal horse sculpture at historic trough In Botanical Gardens.</li><li>• Fenced off-leash dog park for example.</li></ul>	
Complete project to install information board in Botanical Gardens (not the green space) for Napier Waller and add a steel cut out of Napier Waller adjacent to the info board for photographic opportunities.	
Continue to run and expand the Penshurst3289 Market, holding them five times per year, including an annual community wide Trash & Treasure Market or Garage Sale with a map showing participating house locations (like the Christmas Lights map).	
4 large steel, cut out iconic local bird sculptures around main roundabout (approved by main roads etc).	
Position Penshurst as an events destination for music festivals, Sunday music in the park, dances, the arts, collector's shows, vehicle club rallies, gymkhanas, agricultural shows and farm dog trials etc; including bringing back the Penshurst Show as the major annual event.	
'Project Beautifying Penshurst' including planting house verges and nature strips with veggie gardens and fruit trees, improve footpaths and lighting (fairy lights in silver birch trees), improve basketball court, garden murals by kindergarten and primary schools and hanging garden baskets (adopt a basket) on streetlight poles.	
Storm water drains in Bell Street to be cleaned out and maintained.	
CCTV in retail strip, more seating and disabled parking spaces.	
Community health and skills survey to identify benefits of resident's skills, better living and food options, including a Garden Group with a dedicated section on the Penshurst Facebook page to provide gardening and veggie growing advice, veggie swaps and an annual veggie competition.	
Activate empty shops and/or shop fronts to make the retail strip more attractive.	
Advocate to Council and Wannon Water for households to opt into Biogas Digesters instead of septic tanks and develop a free rainwater tank project.	
Better support for local kindergarten and schools through annual fundraising activities.	

Inclusion of local indigenous groups and the town's youth in the development of better historical and local signage and projects.	
Expand the Penshurst3289 community group to include other regional towns in the district; being Tabor, Gazette, Purdeet and Gerrigerrup.	
Identify Penshurst as a 'village' not a town, invoking the feeling of a small country village community, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leveraging Council's business and tourism promotion opportunities.</li> <li>• Promoting Penshurst as the heart of the volcano country.</li> <li>• Add other key assets – old shearing shed, wetlands etc.</li> <li>• Develop a Penshurst3289 brand and logo to provide consistency to all marketing and promotional activities.</li> <li>• New and consistently updated community noticeboards in key locations.</li> </ul>	
Access to better public transport.	
Better Christmas decorations from Council.	
Art History Trail (walking & cycling) joined to other walking trails, including life size statues at key locations – a police officer blowing his whistle, old mail stagecoach, storekeeper, etc and additional historical plaques (including the use of QR codes to link signs to website information).	
Big Things Ideas – a big volcano, big information boards etc, Napier Waller stain glass windows, murals painted by town's youth on key building etc.	
Recycling station with can and bottle recycling machine.	
Review and upgrade of all town signage, in town and approaching town to promote the attractions, history, VDC, Botanic Gardens, birthplace of Napier Waller etc.	
Reinstate the 'Avenue of Honour'.	
Produce an audio and booklet history of Penshurst for sale to travellers.	
Continue to promote the VDC with solar lava lamps in key locations, murals etc.	
Build blue stone entrances on the five roads into town to replace the current steel plastic-coated signs that are peeling and the coating lifting off.	
Mt Rouse improvements, including new directional sign, mural, seating, signage etc.	
Building stronger relationships with Council, the wider community and other key stakeholders to benefit all.	
More community events, e.g. guest speakers at town meetings, annual new resident's function, 3 monthly community dinners in the hall (catered or everyone brings their own food & drinks), movie nights and blue light discos for children/youth.	
Footpath on Bell Street from Post Office to Bakery	

Any other ideas for town activities and improvements:

- 
- 
- 
- 

Note: once completed please drop in the box at the Post Office or email by the **11 April 2025** to: [vicepresident@Penshurst3289.com](mailto:vicepresident@Penshurst3289.com)

Residents of Tabor, Gazette, Purdeet and Gerrigerrup are asked to submit any project ideas for their specific area of the district for consideration.