

# MT ROUSE News & Views



Community Newsletter

**Don't miss the  
Markets**

**this Sunday  
at the Hall**



## Happy Christmas 2024

*From the Newsletter Crew ... see you in 2025*

*Thank you Florence Collins for sponsoring this colour front page.*

**Joy to the world, the carols are back in Penshurst**

On Sunday evening over 200 people gathered to hear the three schools, Tarrington Lutheran and the combined choir from St Joseph's and Penshurst Public School serenade us with their beautiful voices. There were carols to sing, wonderful music by the Ukelele group and others who shared their talents to celebrate this Christmas season. Santa dropped by, showering the young, and young at heart, with a sack full of lollies. And many bright coloured little elves danced among those seated. (More pictures on page 5)



**Penshurst Post Office**

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas



Postal Services

Stationery

2025 Diaries

Bank @ Post

Cards and Gifts

Collectables

Gift Wrapping

Tech Accessories

Craft Supplies

Books

Post Office Boxes



**Senior Citizens celebrate Christmas 2024**



On Sunday the first of December the senior citizens held their very successful Christmas breakup. Jeff Thomas thanked every one, and the



**Mayor Dennis Heslin (top, right, in blue) for coming along.**

**Above: The Ukulele club were the highlight of the day playing a mixture of songs & Christmas Carols.**



**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. We look forward to seeing you next year.**

5576 5270

Friendly faces & helpful staff ...

**Penshurst Liquor & Grocery Store**



**Open 7 days**

Monday – Friday

6.00am - 8.00pm

Saturday

8.00am - 7.00pm

Sunday

8.00am - 6.00pm

**Christmas Day Trading Hours**

9.00am - 2.00pm

*Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas  
& a Happy New Year*



Sandwiches and lunch packs available  
Order your meat, fresh fruit and vegetables  
by phone for collection at your convenience

**Groceries - Bread - Frozen Food**

**Beer - Wine - Spirits**



**Penshurst's News Agency**

Merry Christmas! I hope this season brings you joy, peace, and lots of great food:

A heartfelt Christmas greeting

**CHRISTOPHER COOK  
CONSTRUCTIONS**

**Ph: 0417 100 243**

**Fax: 5576 5267**



**HIA Reg CB-U 6214**

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Meg Todd (Animal Health ) 0437 772 861

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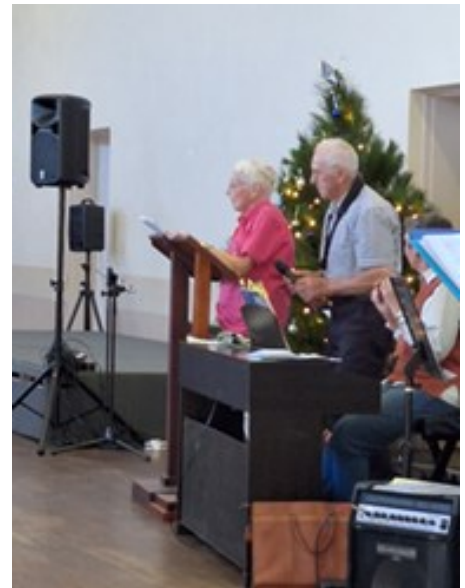
Glen Gray - 0439 541 036

*Joy to the world, the carols are back*



*If you could  
make one wish  
for the world,  
what would  
it be?*

*Peace on Earth  
and good will  
among all  
people.*



**Jill Walkenhorst's smile lit up the room**

**Santa with Val and Helen.**

**Thank you to Amanda & Cam Wilson from the Penshurst Store for sponsoring this colour page**

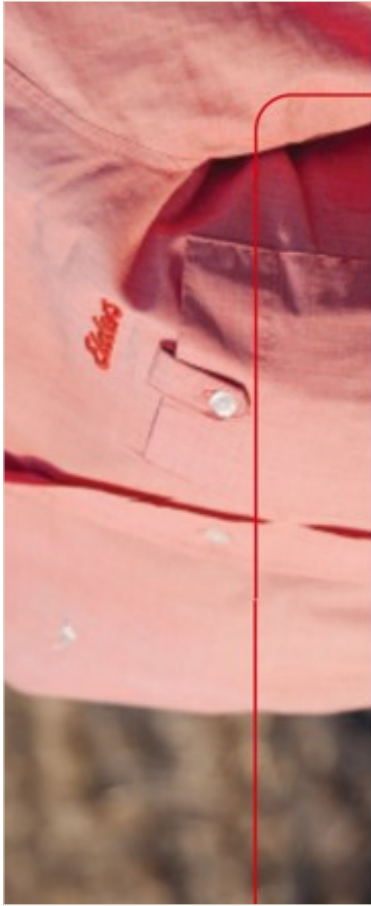




**26 November 2024 Help Shape the 2025 – 26 Council Budget**

Southern Grampians Shire Council invites residents to contribute to the 2025/26 Council Budget, putting out the call for community budget submissions this week. Residents are encouraged to get involved early, to help inform Council on the services that are most important to them. Residents can participate in the budget engagement process by filling out the online submission form or completing a paper-based form available at our Brown Street Customer Service Centre. The engagement process will allow the 2025/26 Annual Budget to be considered by Council for adoption at the June 2026 Council meeting.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin encouraged community members to get involved in the process to share what they felt was important to them and their families. “Whether you’re a ratepayer or a regular user of council services, the budget and how Council prioritises its spending affects everyone,” said Cr Heslin. “Last year we received 34 submissions from residents and a number of business cases from Council officers, resulting in budget allocation for a number of important community projects. “Suggestions from last year that have since been included in our budget include installation of solar lighting around Lake Hamilton, stair replacement at Nigretta Falls, drainage and irrigation work for the Melville Oval playing surface, the purchase and renovation of Glenthompson School, replacement of Pedrina Park cricket nets, and improvements to the Hamilton-Coleraine Rail Trail. “While there are no guarantees that submissions will be included in the budget, all will be considered and assessed against their alignment to our Council Plan,” concluded Cr Heslin.



**ELDERS HAMILTON**

*Proud to be a supporter of local communities*

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David Whyte 0407 347 203

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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

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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





### A Christmas message from Fr. David.

At this time of year I often try to find time to pause and reflect on Mary and Joseph's long, dark, painful journey. Their trek is in fact a symbol of our soul searching where we stumble, tumble along the rocky path of conscience and self examination. Like Mary and Joseph the trek is uncomfortable and disquieting and we might well think... how did it ever come to this? What am I doing here? But at the end of the trek, when we arrive at our own Bethlehem and are candid about our raw, naked, slime, sludge and mire, we will discover that the Christ-child is already there on the straw sleeping comfortably knowing that this is where He wants to be. We worship a God who wants to be right there in the slush of our murkiness. And He actually wants to be there, longs to be there, can be in no other place than right there, because of His unrelenting, unremitting, unquenchable, uncontrollable, uncontainable love.

So my prayer for you and for me is that this Christmas we will not only discover God in the champagne and the tinsel and the family and the sweetmeats and the presents. But that you and I will also have the courage to discover with amazement, delight and surprise, that He is also right there in the muck of our mistakes. Squealing and gurgling with delight. And there with our own beasts of guilt, hand wringing and regret, with the company that we may not have invited, we will discover that we are not as alone as we first thought. That Our Lady and St. Joseph and shepherds and even angels are right here with us. They are welcoming us and cheering us on and are our very best friends forever and ever Amen.



We would like to wish  
you a very  
Merry Christmas  
and a safe and  
prosperous New Year

**The Lions Club of Penhurst & District**

Joy to the world

The photos continue



It was a lovely evening to celebrate the meaning of Christmas among good friends and relatives. The children sang, the music was sweet, and we were reminded that Christmas is a very important time in the Christian Calendar.

**Photos - Above: Marcus Rentsch was MC, cheerfully guiding us through the program. Right are Tony Hogan and Paul Sutherland, the leaders of the Ukulele club.** (Having grown up with the songs of Tiny Tim, listening to them was real pleasure. Editor)

Through the generosity of those gathered, the Western District Health Service will be receiving a donation of \$690.

**Thank you to the Carols committee for giving us another joyful summer evening..**

Help Shape the Council budget  
(from page 6)

The online submission form is live now and can be accessed on our website. Submissions close 10 January 2025. Council is also conducting a short survey about the budget and long-term financial plan, available here. Hard copy forms can be obtained from Council’s customer service centre at 111 Brown Street, Hamilton. Enquiries can be directed to council@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au or 5573 0444. You can always stay up to date with important Council news by subscribing to our Enews letter.

Christmas Jokes

- What did Frosty’s girlfriend give him when she was mad at him? The cold shoulder.
- What do gingerbread men use when they break their legs? Candy canes.
- What do donkeys send out near Christmas? Mule-tide greetings.
- How did the reindeer learn to play piano? He was elf-taught.
- What do you call an old snowman? Water.
- What do you call a snowman with a six-pack? An abdominal snowman.
- What is green, covered in Christmas lights and Christmas bulbs, and goes ribbit? A mistle-toad.
- What is every parent's favourite Christmas song? Silent Night!



## CWA returns to Peshurst

More than twenty women attended the second Country Women's Association meeting on the 26th November at the Senior Citizens building. Ladies from the Hawkesdale CWA had helped to set up the new branch at their first meeting in October. A new committee of management was formed for Peshurst with the President being Jess White, Vice President Sarah Vafidis, Secretary Ali Hunwick and Treasurer Jackie Baker.

After taking care of 'business' the ladies shared supper and great a chat about their many plans for the future, including some very interesting craft ideas. You'll find some here: <https://cwaofvic.org.au/grow-connect-improve/craft/>

A little history from the CWA website:

The Country Women's Association of Victoria was formed 12 March 1928 and today has approximately 5,000 members. Each member belongs to one of 300 branches across Victoria, that maintains its own program and is empowered to meet community needs as well as supporting state-wide initiatives.

The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc. is an organisation of women supporting women, children and families right across Victoria.

It's a vibrant, volunteer philanthropic organisation with a focus on friendship, personal development and advocacy. We have day, night and weekend branches to cater for your needs.

We encourage members to support each other, make a difference in their communities and advocate on community issues, sustainable development and the protection of the environment, and social issues.

The Country Women's Association of Victoria awards education grants and scholarships to non-members and members, while providing training and leadership opportunities to members.

As a member of the Country Women's Association of Victoria, you're also part of a global network of women via the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), which has non-government organisation status with several United Nations agencies.

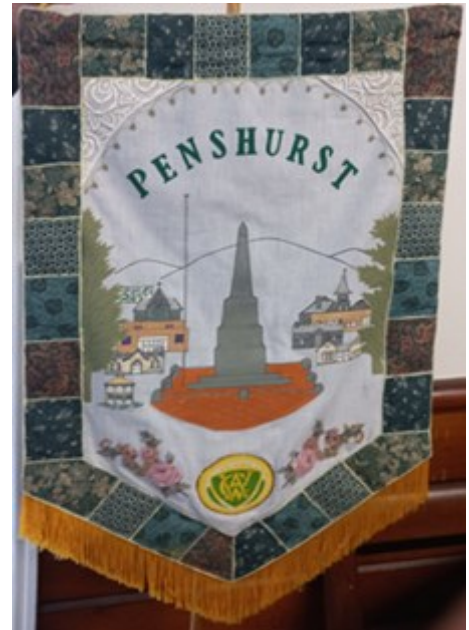
For more information check the CWA website <https://cwaofvic.org.au>, or come to a meeting.

***The next meeting is Tuesday 28th January at 7.30pm. Newcomers are very welcome.***

History repeats itself:

Weekly Times (Melbourne, Vic. : 1869 - 1954), Saturday 23 November 1935, page 26

"NEW branches of the Country Women's Association formed last week brought the total in Victoria and the Riverina to 223, with a membership of 12,000..... A meeting convened by Mrs Twomey and attended by 20 resulted in the formation of a branch at Peshurst. The group president, Mrs Officer, was present and addressed the meeting fully on the Aims and Objects of the Country Women's Association. Mrs Alexander, group secretary, was also present Meeting days were arranged for the second Monday in the month." (Thank you Val Heffernan, Mt Rouse & District Historical Society.)



*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from those who gather at the Penshurst Men's Shed to share our stories, skills and projects.*

*Below: Emma Kealy MP dropped in to say hello last week.*



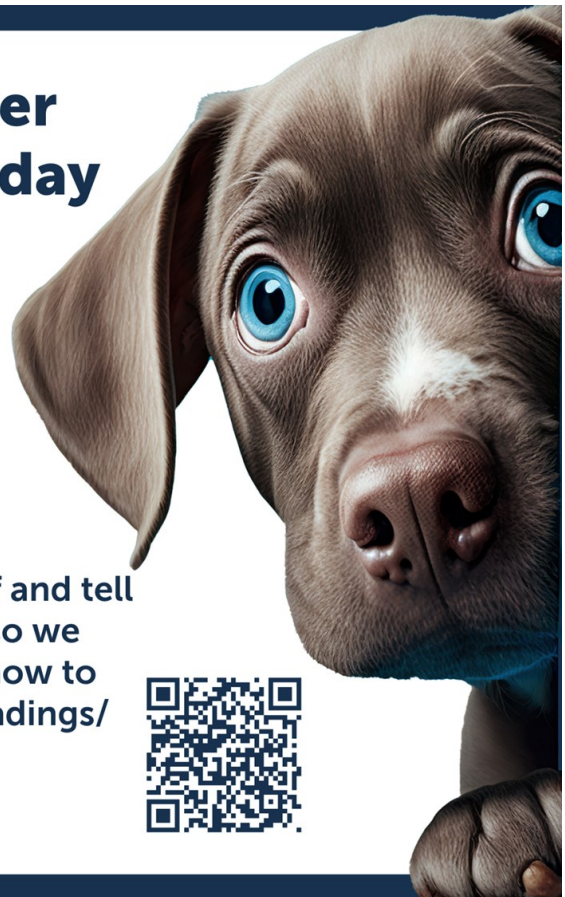
An advertisement for RiST Rural Industries Skill Training. At the top, the RiST logo is displayed with the tagline 'RURAL INDUSTRIES SKILL TRAINING'. Below the logo is a photograph of a man in a dark jacket leaning on a wooden surface. Text overlaid on the image reads: 'Gain the knowledge and skills to confidently step into a managerial role fit for modern Agriculture.' Below the image, the text 'Study Agriculture in 2025' is written in large, bold letters, followed by 'Diploma of Agriculture AHC50122'. Further down, it says: 'Don't move from home to study for your dream career in Agriculture. Our courses are flexible, so you can study around your work &amp; life commitments. Hamilton &amp; Terang'. At the bottom, it says 'Enrol now &gt; Course begins in Feb 2025.' and 'Learn more www.rist.edu.au'. A small code 'T0ID4198' is in the bottom right corner.

## We don't want our meter readers to have a 'ruff' day

Mark the date your meter is due to be read, if there's a dog nearby, they need to be suitably restrained on this day.

If a member of our team can't access your meter, they'll leave a card in your letterbox.

It will ask you to read the meter yourself and tell us the results within five working days, so we can send you an accurate bill. Find out how to do it at [wannonwater.com.au/meter-readings/](http://wannonwater.com.au/meter-readings/)



### Rumi's First Cousin

Many years ago a future Sage named Rumi came from the North down to Persia and found his wondrous teacher who is known as Shams Tabrizi. Although these days Rumi is perceived as a great poet, it is his transformation that is of note and not the fact that he was a beautiful wordsmith. Whatever be the trade of a Man it doesn't overly matter what that be because each person is gifted with the same potential to play out wizardry and integrity in their own particular microverse, it has zero to do with intelligence or status but is essentially an individual's CHARACTER that ultimately is the treasure worth carrying through life. In some great schools of thought it is said, 'work is worship', whether we see that as a relationship with God or just playing our part in the collective of Mankind is a personal thing but the underlying idea is 'do it properly, whatever it may be, do it with dignity and grace' and that in itself has a sweetness about it, and makes the World a better place to wander in.



As part of the network of humanity we are all related in some way , thus the name '*Rumi's First Cousin*' for these articles, so I shall tie my camel outside the pub and begin.

A scaled down reworked translation of the lines of one of Rumi's masterpieces tells us:  
*Come, come whoever you are, ours is not a caravan of despair,  
 Even if you have broken your vows a thousand times, come...*

As people, there is a tendency to break our vows, whether that be our New Years Resolutions, marriage vows, religious vows or even just the failure to keep our word in simple things in daily life. We fall down and it requires a little courage to get up, brush ourselves down and keep walking past the many oases that appear in life and move towards that which I would define as 'a greater destiny'; and that may just be a simple Peace of Mind, for others it would vary depending on their mindset, personal goals or belief system.

Each of us wanders through life, sometimes when things are tough it's like carrying a small torch in the dark and the batteries are pretty close to heading to the recycle bin, and on other days it's like a scene from a movie where the Sun has exploded on the horizon greeting a brand new day, the birds are whistling and even the trees are wobbling in time in the breeze, animals are nodding their heads smiling and one wonders whether they have entered Heaven on Earth. Such is the polarity of the experiences of life.

When I was younger and living in the city, I remember some mornings rushing off to get a cappuccino before work (back in the days when gluten free, lactose intolerant, turmeric, soya or yak milk lattes with drawings on the top were just a twinkle in the sky yet to take birth in the world of modern Man) there often would be what was discourteously named a 'bag lady', a homeless woman pushing a shopping trolley around the main park in the CBD with bundles of plastic bags full of her belongings. Surely treasures to her and no one else. No doubt people would cast their eyes in her direction and think 'poor lady', then go about their business crunching numbers and shuffling papers in the land where not so important things are considered important. Cities can be brutal and hypnotic if we are vulnerable and easily swayed by advertising and promises of wealth, fame and fortune. This striking image of the mysterious bag-lady is etched in my memory and as all things are our Teacher in life, as a young man seeing this, it helped shape me a little in understanding what truly has value.

Rumi's First Cousin (continued)

As we age, we can see we are 'imprisoned by things' and really when we look closely at it, we are all bag-ladies. It is just that the shopping trolley is much bigger and shinier, our bags of collective objects are cleaner and supposedly more valuable, ultimately we drag this trolley through life. However, when we go out the Out-Shoot to the vast Unknown, the trolley stays behind, we know this but sometimes forget.

There is a wonderful story occasionally used by pundits in Central Asia. To understand the backstory, it is said in some religious cultures that if we remember the Name of God at our moment of passing, then our future will be blessed by that God.

*There was once man who had a textile shop, fine satins and silks, he had six sons, so he fittingly named them according to his religious culture, Narayana, Gopala, Govinda, Madhava, Rama, Shiva (as opposed to Zedekiah, Nehemiah, Zachariah, Xavier, Bob or Apollonius) The day finally came for him to pass over. He was sitting up in bed and lovingly looked around the room and dearly says the name of each son with the deepest passion, then he pauses, looks dumbfounded and says, "who's minding the shop" and he dies.*

And here again CHRISTmas is upon us, it comes around so fast like our washing on the Hills Hoist on a windy day and as the year passes never to return again, with its memories of joy, sorrow and indifference, we give thanks and may those in need experience the small joys of life which is essentially the Gift of Life itself, may those with abundance quietly in the background unknown to others go about their business like Santa's Elves and assist those in need.

Rumi's First Cousin

**Penshurst Hair Design**

*Wishing all my valued clients and friends a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.*



*Thank you so much for your amazing support all these years! I'm very blessed.*

Last Day  
20th December

Closed until  
7th January



For appointments please ring

**Mobile: 0417 511 177**

80 Bell Street.

Merry



Christmas

and a Happy New Year

Thank you to all my wonderful clients for your valued and ongoing support in 2024

The clinic will be closed during the festive season re-opening on January 2

See you in 2025 !!

Stay safe and enjoy !

Limited Appointment times available in January 2025 as we welcome our new third Grandbaby

**Leanne Cottrill**  
Body Balance on French  
Remedial Massage & Dry Needling Practitioner





### The challenge of a silent night.

Here we are on the cusp of another Christmas. At this time of year it's easy to be diagnosed with the disease 'sensory overload.' This is a highly infectious disease and passes quickly from one to another, especially in congested areas like supermarkets and dining establishments. There is no immunisation against this debilitating malaise and only enforced isolation, space and the turning off of *all* screens, can temporarily relieve the symptoms.

The carol 'Silent night' would be a script for the medicine we so desperately need at this time. The call to silence and peace is easy to write about, hard to hear and well nigh impossible to put into practice. *To stop. Just stop!* And focus on the maiden, manger and child. To think about nothing else ... nothing at all, is an exercise for the wise and the courageous.

This is my 64th Christmas and I would have hoped for the bombs to have stopped falling, political rhetoric to be quietened and the calming vocabulary of silence to blanket us. To speak of peace on earth and good will to everyone. Why can't we achieve this? But then a quick look at my own frenzied activity, the rubber tyres and barbed wire of doubt and edginess in my heart, the speed with which I think that if only old so and so would...

Silent night must start deep within me. The wise old carol calls me back to a higher ideal and the imperative to persistently keep on trying. May you make the time, space to have a silent night. Instead of the discarded wrapping paper and the credit card debt, may you see what the shepherds saw. Angels and the fresh hope for all people, asleep on the hay.

Fr. David Oulton p. 0435 867 040 [droulton72@gmail.com](mailto:droulton72@gmail.com)



## 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.**



**WISHING EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

We will be closed from  
Sunday 22nd December 2024 to  
Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025.  
Reopening on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
Cam, Amanda & Team

Café/Bakery

110 Bell Street, Penshurst

[penshurststore@gmail.com](mailto:penshurststore@gmail.com)

## A PAGE TO SHARE RECIPES

**Crispy Potato Salad with Blue Cheese**

Prep Time 10 mins

Cook time 45 mins

Serves 8

From taste.com.au

## INGREDIENTS

1kg baby Red Royale potatoes  
2 tbsp olive oil  
2 tsp smoked paprika  
1/2 cup (120g) Coles Sour Cream  
1/4 cup (75g) mayonnaise  
2 tbsp white wine vinegar  
150g blue cheese, crumbled

1/2 cup finely chopped chives  
1/4 cup coarsely chopped dill  
200g sugar snap peas  
200g snow peas  
500g pkt frozen peas  
8 short-cut bacon rashers, chopped  
3 spring onions, thinly sliced

## Method

## Step 1

Preheat oven to 200°C. Line a baking tray with baking paper. Place potatoes on lined tray. Drizzle with oil. Season. Sprinkle with paprika. Toss to coat. Roast for 30 mins or until tender.

## Step 2

Use a clean tea towel to gently crush each potato. Roast for 15 mins or until golden. Set aside to cool slightly.

## Step 3

Meanwhile, place the sour cream, mayonnaise, vinegar and half the blue cheese in a food processor and process until smooth. Transfer to a bowl. Stir in half the chives and half the dill. Season.

## Step 4

Cook combined peas in a saucepan of boiling water for 2 mins or until just tender. Refresh under cold water. Drain.

## Step 5

Cook the bacon in a large frying pan over medium heat for 5 mins or until crisp. Transfer to a plate lined with paper towel. Set aside to cool.

## Step 6

Arrange potato, peas, bacon, spring onion and remaining blue cheese on a platter. Drizzle with dressing. Sprinkle with remaining chives and dill to serve.



*May your plate be full, and your heart  
even fuller, this Christmas.*

**Change of Emergency Shelter Options for Penshurst**

The Penshurst Emergency Management Committee met recently to further the work that has been in play for three years to ensure Penshurst residents have ‘safer’ places to shelter in the event of an emergency.

With common sense (finally!) prevailing, an excellent compromise was gained with the Southern Grampians Shire Council accepting to move the Bushfire Place of Last Resort to the grassed area adjacent to the Memorial Hall on Watton St. The new signs will be up soon. The original BPLR site on French Street behind the Senior Citizens Hall is understood to become decommissioned. It is unclear the timeframe. As long as the signs are still up Penshurst has both grassed areas as designated BPLRs.

**(A BPLR is a (formal) Place of Last Resort** for when your plans have failed. It is an area or premise that provides separation distance from vegetation and protection from direct flame contact and excessive life-threatening levels of radiant heat – but does not guarantee safety.)

Given the Memorial Hall is adjacent to the newly designated BPLR – it makes even more sense for the Hall to become an **Informal Place of Shelter**. **This means the Hall provides an additional communal option to consider as part of individual plans for sheltering in an emergency situation.** New signs will be up on the Hall soon to indicate how to access the Hall in case of an emergency. The PEMC is working with the Hall committee to ensure this will be ready by the end of the year.

The Hall was selected for the following reasons:

- The Hall and the grounds immediately outside were assessed in 2022 by CFA in accordance with Bushfire Place of Last Resort Requirements. This assessment concluded a sufficiently low radiant heat impact that allows the hall to be considered as a shelter option.
- The Hall has a large indoor space with amenities, including disability access.
- Is in a central location away from the fringe of town.
- Is on the main tourist thoroughfare.
- The Hall has been used successfully in significant past emergency events (1977 fires) for the community to gather, assist one another and provide support.

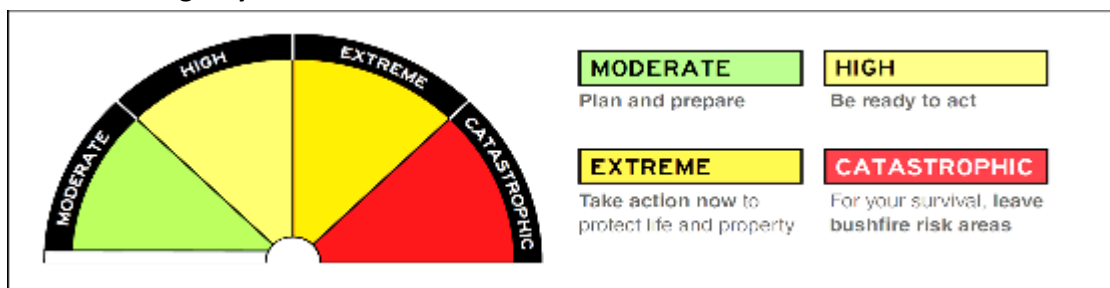
Majority of the community believe it to be the most appropriate community space to gather in the event of an emergency.

The Hall will be open:

- On days of Fire Danger Rating (FDR) level Extreme & above.
- On days of Total Fire Ban (TFB)



When an emergency occurs



Now that these changes have been confirmed, the Penshurst Emergency Management Guide is being finalise and will be posted to all Penshurst residents in the coming week to ensure all residents have the information they need to assist with their own bushfire/emergency plans.

For any questions please contact the Penshurst Emergency Management Committee.  
Peter Linke (Chair) 0417144510 or Richard Benson 0427517729

## Penshurst Shed

Open

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

Penshurst Mens shed is recreating its Not-for-Profit status. We'd like to thank the Penshurst Progress Association for hosting us as we regrew after COVID. Now, with quite a few new members in our ranks, we are looking to a bright and busy future.

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

We are open for everyone.

### Contact

Tom Cooke 0488 557 345

## From the Editor

Merry Christmas. Why is it the world appears to slow down in December, people pack away their toys, groups and activities, and wait, with bated breath, the coming of the New Year? Time flies now. It's not like the eight long weeks of school holidays that seemed to stretch into eternity when I was young. While many other children in my neighbourhood played mad games in the Sydney heat, I hid behind my books and dreams, and funnily enough, a kid's newsletter, the first of many that I created with an old mimeograph machine my father owned.

When we woke up on January 1, it was highly likely we were much the same people we were when we went to sleep the night before. But were we? Someone once said to me "who do you become"? Whether the changes in your life and family are small or magnified from now, from my family to each of yours, have a great Christmas celebration and a very Happy New Year. See you in 2025.

Ama Cooke (no longer president of PPA)



**DAN TEHAN MP**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WANNON

*Working  
for  
Wannon*

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190 Gray Street Hamilton 3300

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[DanTehan](#)

[DanTehanWannon](#)





Mount Rouse Puzzler

Across:

- 2: An opportunity to do something.
- 6: To send out signals by radio or television.

- 21: Strategic, financial or emotional reaction.
- 24: Able to be seen.
- 25: Pinpoint accuracy with style.
- 26: To ignore a nosey someone in a deliberate and insulting way.
- 28: To ask yourself questions or a world heritage gift.
- 29: The light's balance on the world stage.
- 30: An unreasonable reason, or to forgive someone.

Down:

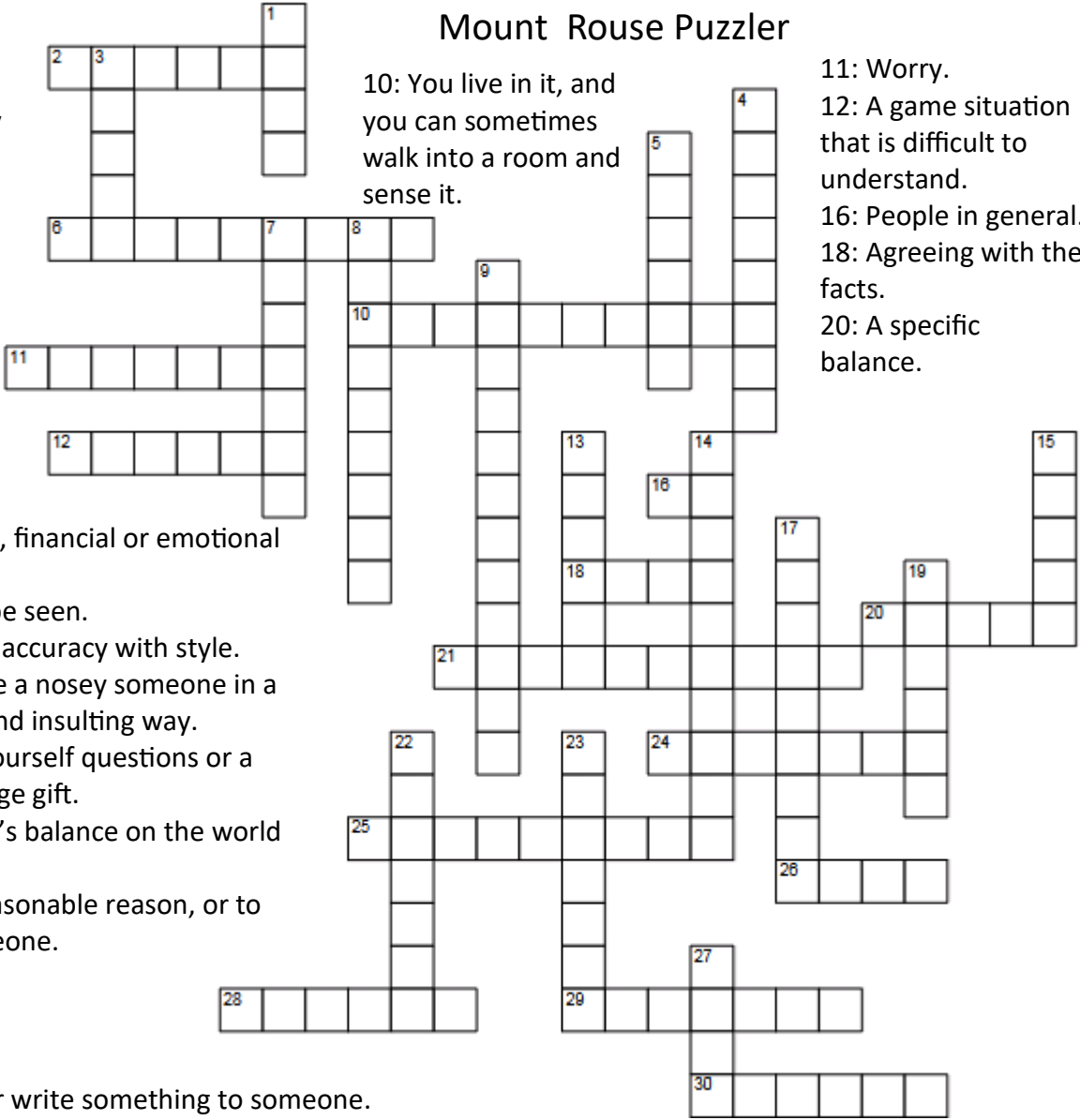
- 1: To say or write something to someone.
- 3: To float in the air without moving in any direction.
- 4: To treat someone or something badly.
- 5: A pet name with claws.
- 7: Furniture with a flat numerical surface.
- 8: There's a monster made of this delicious stuff.
- 9: A part that is attached to and is an extension of something else.
- 13: Holding on tightly or changing gears.
- 14: A biological process, or group of people born during the same time.

- 10: You live in it, and you can sometimes walk into a room and sense it.

- 11: Worry.
- 12: A game situation that is difficult to understand.
- 16: People in general.
- 18: Agreeing with the facts.
- 20: A specific balance.

- 15: A path or pulling something behind you.
- 17: Too funny.
- 19: A piece of sculpture or pleasant and relaxed feeling.
- 22: To shorten a book or play by leaving out some parts.
- 23: Of nature or keeping a place for yourself.
- 27: To be one you must be the other. Current appearance.

Crossword answers from last newsletter: **Across:** 1 top, 5 hypothesize, 8 tempt, 12 pickle, 14 tremble, 15 gyroscope, 19 exotic, 20 license, 22 coffee, 24 innocent. **Down:** 1 truth, 2 addition, 3 intelligence, 4 assessment, 6 refuse, 7 mystery, 9 proof, 10 mobile, 11 ring, 13 circulate, 16 roll, 17 steam, 18 decade, 21 rent, 23 tin.



# PENSHURST CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY & COMPETITION VOTING FORM

## THE ENTRIES

- 9 Penshurst Dunkeld Rd..... map no. 1
- 106 Chesswas St..... map no. 2
- 41 Scales St..... map no. 3
- 56 Bell St..... map no. 4
- 63 Bell St..... map no. 5
- 66 Bell St..... map no. 6
- 100 Bell St..... map no. 7
- 111 Bell St..... map no. 8
- 108 Watton St..... map no. 9
- 148 Cobb St..... map no. 10
- 87 Cobb St..... map no. 11
- 85 Cobb St..... map no. 12
- 84 Cobb St..... map no. 13
- 71 Cobb St..... map no. 14

THIS YEAR THERE'S JUST ONE CATEGORY  
"YOUR FAVOURITE LIGHTS"

TO VOTE PLEASE CIRCLE THE ADDRESS OF  
YOUR FAVOURITE LIGHTS ABOVE

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

one vote per person, please.

Drop your completed entry form in the voting box in the  
Penshurst Post Office by 4pm Tuesday, December 24th.

Winners announced 4:45pm Dec 24th at the Post Office & via Penshurst  
Victoria Facebook page and also in this newsletter in January 2025.

Thank you for participating. We hope you enjoyed seeing all the lights in the  
Penshurst township.



Wishing you and your loved ones a very Happy Christmas!



## LET'S MAKE THE TOWN SHINE BRIGHT

We had a visitor the other night

From: [wildlife.vic.gov.au](http://wildlife.vic.gov.au)

Sounding something like a musical instrument, the Pobblebonk is one of Victoria's most well-known frogs.

Scientific name - *Limnodynastes dumerili*

Did you know? The Pobblebonk is a burrowing frog. With its powerful hind legs, it can dig backwards into the ground where it can remain until it rains. Females use their legs to beat their egg clutches into a frothy mass that floats on the water surface. The Pobblebonk is sometimes known as the Banjo Frog due to the banjo-like 'plonk' or 'bonk' sound it makes.



Description - Pobblebonks can grow up to 8.5 cm in length. They vary in colour from grey, olive brown to dark brown with blackish patches and marbling, with a distinctive white cheek stripe. Skin texture can vary from smooth to warty. The fingers and toes of the Pobblebonk are not webbed, but they have a shovel or spade-like structure on their hind toe that helps them dig.

Diet - The Pobblebonk follows the typical diet of most frogs, feeding on insects, worms and spiders.

Habitat - Pobblebonks occupy wetlands, rivers, farms and dams. They occur throughout Tasmania, Victoria and along the east coast of New South Wales. The Pobblebonk is found throughout most of Victoria as well as being widespread over the western and northern areas around Melbourne. They live in our vegetable garden.

Find all these words in the puzzle.

All the letters must be connected by tiles on top, below, left or right from it, but not diagonally.

Banjo bugs burrowing creek frog garden moss  
musical pond tadpole warty worms

p	o	n	s	t	n	g	o
s	v	d	r	d	e	s	r
c	i	k	a	g	n	s	f
r	e	e	w	o	r	m	m
e	l	u	r	f	i	s	u
p	o	b	r	o	c	a	u
d	i	w	o	j	a	s	m
a	n	y	s	n	l	s	o
t	g	t	o	a	h	s	b
w	a	r	r	b	n	g	u

Frog and Toad



The look-alike of frog is toad;  
They have a similar dress code.  
But I should call to your attention  
Some differences I thought I'd mention:  
A bunch of frogs is called an army;  
A batch of toads is called a knot.  
A frog leap-frogs over a swamp log;  
A toad does not do diddy-squat.  
A frog has skin that's smooth or slimy;  
A toad has skin that's warty and dry.  
A frog enjoys kissing a princess;  
A toad prefers kissing a fly.

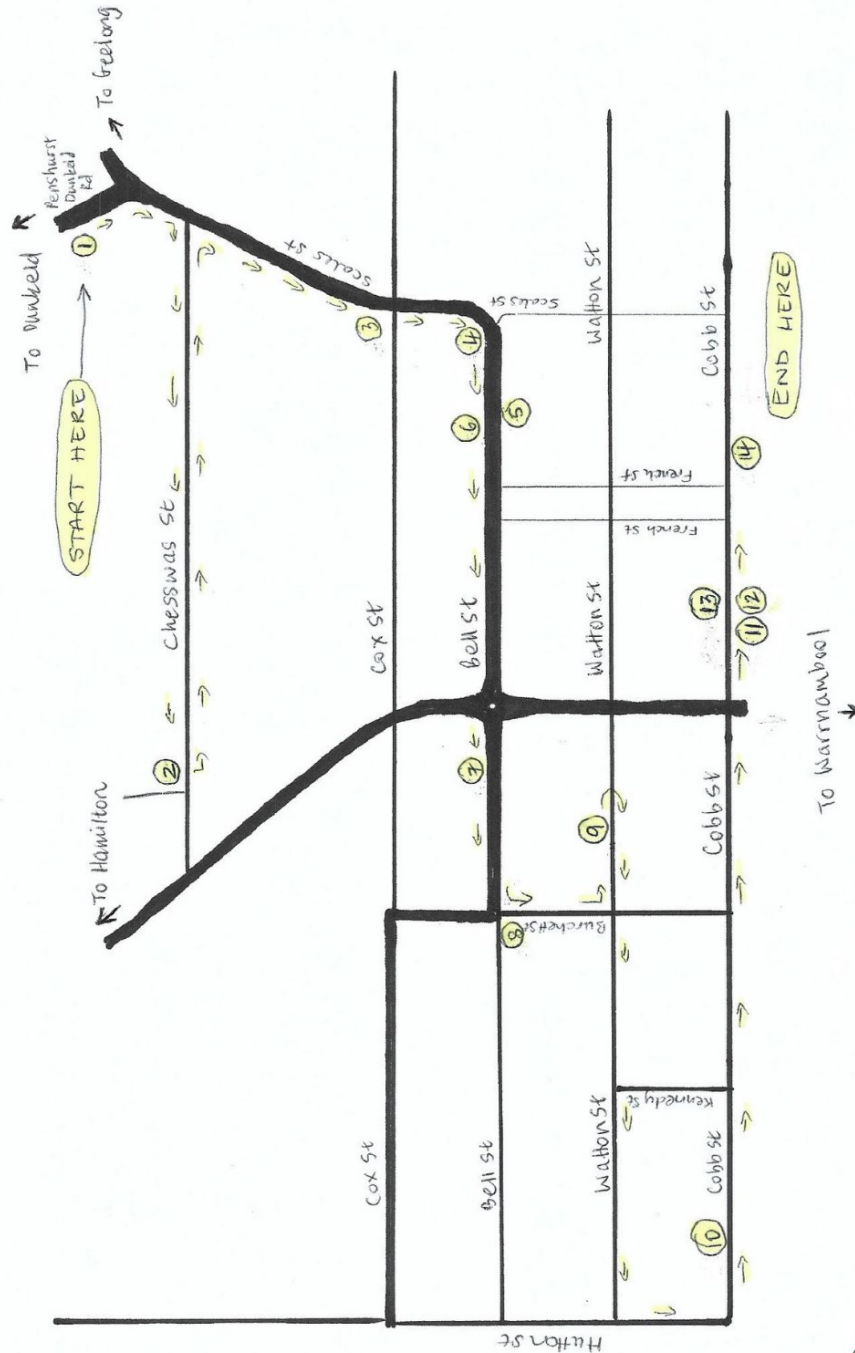
For the kids



Q: Why are frogs so happy?  
A: They eat whatever bugs them!  
  
Q: What happens when two frogs collide?  
A: They get tongue tied!  
  
Q: How does a frog feel when he has a broken leg?  
A: Unhappy.

# PENSHURST CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY & COMPETITION

## THE MAP



LET'S MAKE THE TOWN SHINE BRIGHT

## Community Meetings

### 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.

### 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 Fiona Social Support Group Coordinator on 03-5551 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

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

### Lions Club of Penshurst & District

- 1st Friday dinner meeting. 3rd Tuesday business meeting, each month at 8 pm at Penshurst Memorial Hall, 21 Martin Street. penshurst.vic@lions.org.au

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



**Ambulance**Victoria

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/>

### 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. Phone Jenni 0409 962 969

### Penshurst Senior Citizens

- Meets at the club rooms in Bell Street.
- Bingo.

## 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

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**DEADLINE FOR CURRENT SUBMISSIONS -  
Saturday 4th January 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)

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Per Issue, includes GST from Jan 2025

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**1/4 page \$7.50**

**Business Card \$5**

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continuing support of our  
advertisers. Thank you.



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Community Newsletter***

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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**

Dates for  
December 19th & January TBA

**Phone: 5573 0470**

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

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK  
GREATER HAMILTON LIBRARY**

Penshurst Progress Association Inc

21 Martin Street, Penshurst VIC 3289

ABN 35 622 662 815

president@penshurstprogress.org.au



Australia Day

# Australia Day Nomination Form

## Penshurst Citizen of the Year 2024

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 box at the Post Office

by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. Thank you.