



## New Life for Old Hospital site



The Old Kyneton Hospital site is entering a long-awaited new chapter, with construction now well and truly underway on Embracia Kyneton — a 126-bed aged care home.

Infinity Constructions began work in December and has already completed the cut-and-fill stage, with locals observing rapid progress across the historic grounds at the end of Simpson St.

“We’re so excited to see Embracia Kyneton coming to life,” Embracia Victoria Managing Director Sarah MacKenzie said.

“Our aim is to create a warm, safe and truly comfortable home for older people - larger bedrooms, beautiful shared spaces, a café, activity rooms and physiotherapy services”

A distinctive feature of the development is its intergenerational design.

The aged-care home will sit alongside the Embracia Childcare and Kindergarten, creating opportunities for children and older residents to connect through shared activities, stories and play.

While construction progresses on the western side of the site, Embracia is also advancing its vision to restore and revitalise the Old Kyneton Hospital building itself, transforming it into a vibrant mixed-use destination for the community.

The proposed adaptive re-use development may see commercial offices on the ground floor and entertainment and function spaces on the first floor, taking in sweeping views

of the Campaspe River and the rolling Kyneton hills.

The Old Kyneton Hospital is Victorian Heritage-listed and its restoration is being guided with the support of Heritage Victoria, to ensure the building’s architectural and cultural significance is protected.

Embracia reports that Abode Restorations has completed extensive investigation works in preparation for conservation, revealing both the challenges and the resilience of the 19th-century structure.

The building, Abode notes, is fundamentally sound — constructed with a longevity modern buildings could only dream of.

Embracia aims to reinstate original features of the old hospital lost through decades of renovations, celebrating the hospital’s architectural significance while adapting it for contemporary use.

With aged-care construction in full swing, heritage restoration underway, and momentum building across the precinct, the Old Kyneton Hospital looks set to re-emerge as a vibrant asset for the community.

## At the Harcourt fires

For the Kyneton Fire Brigade Fri Jan 9 started at 7am with two fires in the Cobaws and then another in Fryers Ridge Conservation Park around 11:30am.

The Brigade was called out to a fire at Ravenswood South at about 3pm. On arrival the Brigade’s tanker formed up with other local brigades from the Coliban Fire Brigades Group.

The initial task was to provide defence of defensible properties along Leversha Road which was done until the wind change arrived.

Attempts were made to enter the Harcourt township, but the first three attempts failed as the trucks were beaten back by fires over a number of the roads and the Calder Freeway. They finally made it into Harcourt and started protecting unburnt houses and

structures along Mills Road. A number of residential homes were saved.

It was now early evening and the Brigade was tasked with getting to Sutton Grange. They went around the back route, where they were confronted with a new fire head approaching Mclvor Road. The Kyneton tanker was tasked with knocking down the fire before it jumped Mclvor Road. With flames approaching 5 metres high, the crew braved the heat and dense smoke that reduced visibility down to less than a metre. The firefighters managed to knock down the fire front enough to stop it crossing Mclvor Rd. Other Coliban Fire Brigades Group crews followed, dousing the fire front.

For the remainder of the evening, the Brigade worked along Reservoir Road, protecting homes that had survived the fire.



The Kyneton Tanker crew was then relieved around 10pm by another crew from Kyneton for the overnight shift.

Over the duration of the Harcourt fire the Kyneton Fire Brigade provided tanker and command and control crews day and night for 3 to 4 days.

## Town Garage Sale Mar 21

The Kyneton Whole Town Garage Sale is on Sat Mar 21.

Maps will be on sale at the Good Food Hub (35 High St) 8am–12pm for \$5.

Registration for houses is \$10 each via the Kyneton Community House website or at the House, 34 Mollison St. Registration strictly closes 12pm Thur Mar 12.

## Kyneton Drill Hall for sale



After consideration of a protracted audit by the Defence Department of its assets across Australia the Federal Government announced at the start of February that it had accepted that 67 of the 68 underused assets recommended in the audit to be divested including historic assets such as the Victoria Barracks in St Kilda.

The Kyneton Drill Hall in Market St, whose formal name is the Mont Saint Quentin Barracks, but which the Defence assessment called the Kyneton Training Depot, is one of the assets recommended for “full divestment”.

Structural assessment of Kyneton Depot deemed it unsuitable to occupy as the site is dilapidated and has significant structural damage.

Built in 1903 it was the home of Kyneton and District Mounted Rifle Corps.

The Barracks became the training place of the 430 Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets from 1980, when the Squadron was formed, until 2020.

In 2020 the cadets were informed renovations would be done, and they were to move to a temporary home in the Kyneton Scout Hall for a few months, but the renovations done revealed further problems and the cadets never returned.

In Feb 2024 the 430 Squadron Air Cadets parades were moved to Gisborne Secondary College.

## Daff bulb sales start Mar 7

The annual sale of quality daffodil bulbs by the Kyneton Daffodil & Arts Festival Committee will begin on the morning of Sat Mar 7 in Woolworths car park. Sales will be held on most Saturdays after that up until mid-May.

Details of sale dates Woolworths Car Park: Mar 7, Mar 21, Apr 4, Apr 18 & May 2 & May 16, and Rotary Community Market: Mar 14, Apr 11 & May 9.

## Free Food workshop

Omnia Community Health (formerly Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health) is partnering with Veg Action Group to deliver a free hands-on food workshop next month.

Nutritionist Beck O’Farrell from Big Bowl of Happy will deliver the *Eat More Veg* workshop at the Kyneton Community House’s Good Food Hub 35 High St 6-8pm Wed Mar 25.

In this two-hour workshop, participants will be guided through cooking tasty, vegetable-packed recipes before sitting down to enjoy them together.

The workshop provides participants with thriftily, practical skills they can immediately put into practice at home. They highlight how everyday actions like eating more vegetables can lower the risk of diet-related chronic diseases.

Bookings can be made by going to [www.sunburycobaw.org.au/eat-more-veg](http://www.sunburycobaw.org.au/eat-more-veg). More information call 54211666.

## Body Bop fundraiser

Body Bop is a community based dance and movement group who rehearse in the Lauriston Hall.

They have built a following as part of the Kyneton Daffodil & Arts Festival Parade and other events.

On Sat Feb 21 they are having a fundraiser at the Hall with a line-up that includes the talented Nicola Turner, Tasha Luke and the Amazing Valentinos. Doors open 7pm. Show from 7.30pm.



## Festival - Open Gardens

The Kyneton Daffodil & Arts Festival are seeking people who are passionate about their garden to open their garden to the public during this year’s Festival in September.

Open days, times and other organisational matters can be discussed with the Festival. Contact [kynetondaffodilandartsfestival@gmail.com](mailto:kynetondaffodilandartsfestival@gmail.com)

## Lost Trades Fair



The Lost Trades Fair which started in Kyneton in 2014 is relocating back to the Macedon Ranges.

This year the event will be held at Hanging Rock Reserve on Mar 28 & 29 and promises a weekend inspired by nature and human talent.

The Fair’s artisans - the rock stars of traditional and heritage trades – will share their skills, trades, talent, stories, culture, knowledge and celebrate the enduring pursuit of hand-made with the very finest levels of human craftsmanship on display.

The event inspires audiences with creativity, artisan talks and all day demonstrations.

The ticket price includes parking and full entry to Hanging Rock, so there is time to climb the rock, explore, watch live demonstrations, have a go at many of the trades or just bring a picnic, relax and take in all that the weekend offers.

The fair will showcase more than 150 artisans from across Australia and ten international guest artisans, including artisans from Britain, Sweden and America who will share skills across woodwork, metal, print, paper, gold and textiles; many will run workshops in the region before and after the event.

Tickets are available online. Visit the Fair website for details and links to booking.

Tickets on sale through Humanitix.

## Courts “progressing well”

“Works on the new netball courts at Kyneton Showgrounds are progressing well, and we’re confident they remain on schedule to be completed in April prior to the start of this year’s netball season” Daniel Grigson, Council Officer advised Kyneton Connect.

“If there was a change to current forecast timelines as we get closer to this completion date, we’ll communicate that as early as possible with relevant user groups” Daniel said.

## \$100M Precinct start announced

On Jan 29 national diversified developer Goldfields has announced that construction of Stage One of its new \$100m retail precinct *Cornerstone: Kyneton* proposed for both sides of the Edgcombe Rd-Pipers Creek Rd intersection is scheduled to commence in the first quarter of 2026.

Completion / handover including the precinct's opening for large format retail is scheduled to occur in early 2027.

Goldfields Managing Director, Marco Gattino, said "Early interest in *Cornerstone: Kyneton* has been extremely strong with Bunnings, McDonalds, Supercheap Auto, Petstock, KFC, 7 Eleven, and Shine Station Carwash taking up major tenancies in the new precinct."

Construction of *Cornerstone: Kyneton* is expected to generate over 200 permanent and casual jobs once the new operators begin and an estimated 75 local construction jobs during the build.

Responding to questions from *Kyneton Connect* Hugh Doyle, Goldfields General Manager - Retail & Mixed Use, confirmed that each of the buildings for the seven listed tenants will be constructed during Stage I.

Mr Doyle advised that all of the road works associated with Stage I will be completed within Stage I as will the proposed traffic lights for the Edgcombe Rd-Pipers Creek Rd-Saleyards Rd intersection.

Goldfields said that their civil tender process has recently closed and they are in the process of appointing a civil construction group to deliver Stage I.



## Allied Health services builds



*Kyneton Health's Tamsyn Dicker and Occupational Therapist Maddie Ryan*

In recent months, Kyneton Health has strengthened allied health services for the community, with improvements to lymphoedema care, cancer support services, and a new podiatry service.

Local residents living with lymphoedema or cancer no longer need to travel long distances for supportive care.

To better support people at risk of, or living with, lymphoedema, the team at Kyneton Health now uses the SOZO body analyser, a medical grade device designed to measure fluid levels in each limb to help detect and monitor lymphoedema, track how well treatment is working over time and assess muscle, bone and fat levels to support healthy ageing and recovery. This same technology also benefits people attending Oncology Support Programs and Healthy Mind and Movement Programs, helping them rebuild strength and confidence during and after cancer treatment.

Kyneton Health has also bolstered its podiatry service with the purchase of a new Doppler ultrasound device to

better support people with complex health needs. The device assesses blood flow in the feet and lower legs, helping identify circulation issues and support safe podiatry care.

The device was purchased using funds raised by the community last year, highlighting the generosity and strong support of local people.

Podiatry services are available to patients with a GP Chronic Condition Management Plan or a Support at Home package, with no out of pocket cost. You can discuss your foot and lower limb health needs with your GP to determine suitability for referral to CHRH podiatry services. All services are bulk billed.

For more information call 54229946 em: [alliedhealth.kyneton@chrh.org.au](mailto:alliedhealth.kyneton@chrh.org.au)

## Music at Mark's Country Place



Head to the Kyneton Mechanics Institute on Sun Mar 1 for a special afternoon of classical music in support of Mark's Country Place, the developing all-access garden in Kyneton dedicated to people of all abilities.

Music for Mark's Country Place is a Baroque concert featuring distinguished Melbourne Symphony Orchestra musicians and local mezzo-soprano Kristen Leich, with all proceeds supporting the creation of an inclusive community space for people with disability and their families.

The performance will be followed by refreshments, providing an opportunity for musicians and audience members to connect and share in the experience.

More details and to purchase tickets visit [Humanitix](http://Humanitix)

## Councillors' Update



It has been a difficult January, with high temperatures and winds.

Although Macedon Ranges has been lucky to not have any extensive fires, at the time of writing this article, our neighbouring shires, particularly Harcourt in Mount Alexander, have not fared so well. Thank you to all Macedon Ranges residents for offers to assist, and for supporting those who have lost property, homes or business revenue as a result.

Thanks also for gladly giving up your ability to swim or attend the gym at the Kyneton Sports and Aquatic centre to allow it to function as an emergency relief centre.

A huge thank you to all council staff and emergency services volunteers for all your ongoing efforts to keep us safe and help with recovery.

The Kyneton and Malmsbury CFA community meetings, demonstrating to us all the importance of our fire plans were well attended and greatly appreciated.

Councillors have resumed briefings and our first council meeting for the year is set for Feb 25.

We have many policies to review and update this year, as well as some strategic masterplans.

Ongoing planning permits have a new process if there are 5 or more objectors, of having meetings between applicants and objectors followed by a report and decision in a Council Meeting, with most still being issued under delegation by staff.

We are continually trying to improve the process and make dealing with planning applications as smooth and time efficient as possible, so any feedback on what has worked well and not so well is always welcomed.

Best to copy us in whilst writing to the planning department via [mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au). Did you know there is a lot of information on our

website to help you plan things before you even lodge your application?

Exciting news for Kyneton is the commencement of consultation for the design of the new upgraded skate park, pump track and youth focussed space.

This project has been made possible due to an Australian government grant for both design and construction.

Our Yoursay webpage, which you can subscribe to for notification of any new consultations about things around the Shire, has details of how you can be involved, including a survey on pre design open until Feb 24 followed by a full concept design survey and workshop in April.

As your West Ward Councillors, we will be starting to plan our community catch ups/ listening posts soon, and the mayor has commenced "Meet the Mayor" sessions.

More details available on our website and we usually post in social media closer to the dates.

We are always happy to hear from you but remember we may often ask you to call or email staff directly as they are best placed to answer your question and your request is formally logged, so the process is much quicker.

Please continue to feel free to copy us in though, so we are aware of your concerns.

Finally, you still have time to nominate someone for our community awards until Feb 22.

This is an opportunity to recognise people who often go unnoticed for their great contributions to the Macedon Ranges.

Best wishes for the year ahead

*Cr Jennifer Anderson on behalf of Cr Janet Pearce & Cr Kate Kendall*

## International Women's Day Dinner

The Zonta Club of Kyneton will celebrate International Women's Day 2026 at their annual dinner on Wed Mar 4.

This year, UN Women in Australia's theme is "Balance the Scales", highlighting the urgent need to ensure fair, inclusive and accessible justice for every woman and girl.

Guest speaker is the inspiring Sarah Barnbrook, who was awarded Volunteer of the Year and honoured for Youth Impact, at the Women Changing the World Global Awards, held in London in 2025.

Sarah is the founder of the charity Away from Keyboard (AFK), which encourages children, teenagers and adults to move away from the keyboard and interact in face-to-face activities, reducing the impact of social isolation.

Sarah actively contributes to global and national policy conversations on digital safety, ethical technology and the rights of children and women. She is an accredited UN delegate, who regularly engages in forums in New York and Geneva, and has delivered workshops and parallel events at the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Sarah will be joined at the Dinner by over 160 local women to help fund-raise for Zonta's local and international projects, supporting us to build a better world for women and girls.

The event will be held at the Kyneton Bowling Club.

Tickets will cost \$70 and will be available through the Humanitix booking platform at the following website address – <https://events.humanitix.com/zckiwdd2026>.



## Happening in the Gardens



Another year has rolled around and it was fantastic to see the Friends of the Kyneton Botanic Gardens volunteers back in the Gardens for their January working bee to get some of the beds into shape given the battering they received with the heat, wind and lack of rain.

On a perfect January morning, whilst Head Gardener, John, and team member David got stuck into the children's park, the Friends made a great start on the herb garden, then shortly after that, the rose bed.

After a quick break sharing scones and jam, the team went on to clean up the daffodil bed and dahlia display.

The trident maple planting area and adjacent bed was also weeded and tidied up.

The resulting load of debris in the trailer and ute was testament to the amount of tidying that was achieved in a short time.

John and his team sincerely appreciate the volunteers' efforts and value the contribution they make to this wonderful community asset and also thank the President of the Friends of Kyneton Botanic Gardens, Michael Warner, for making time to discuss upcoming projects on the drawing board for the new year.

2026 FKBG Membership is \$20 single, \$30 family valid to June 30.

See the website for details: [www.kynetonbotanicgardens.org.au](http://www.kynetonbotanicgardens.org.au) or follow the Friends on Instagram. Working bees for 2026 are held monthly in the Botanic Gardens.

For inquiries please email: [friendsKBG@outlook.com](mailto:friendsKBG@outlook.com)

## Council CEO reappointed

Macedon Ranges Shire Council has reappointed Chief Executive Officer Bernie O'Sullivan for a further three-and-a-half-year term. The decision was made during the Confidential (Closed) section of the December Council Meeting.

## Kyneton Show Turns Recycling into Community Support

Sustainability and community spirit went hand in hand at last year's Kyneton Agricultural Show, with a simple recycling initiative delivering meaningful local impact.

As part of its ongoing push towards sustainability, the Kyneton Agricultural Show introduced Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme across the showgrounds.

Special collection bags were attached to general waste bins, making it easy for patrons to recycle eligible cans.

More than \$300 was raised through container refunds over the two-day event. Rather than keeping the funds, the Kyneton Agricultural Society chose to donate the full amount to the Kyneton Men's Shed, recognising the vital contribution the group makes to the success of the annual show.



*Kyneton Show's Louise Conron with Ian Curnow of the Men's Shed*

The Men's Shed has long been a quiet powerhouse behind the scenes of the Kyneton Show. Members generously donate countless volunteer hours throughout the year, repairing, fixing and maintaining a wide range of equipment and infrastructure used across the showgrounds.

One of their most visible contributions is the much-loved Woodwork Tent. Members spend many hours in advance cutting timber templates that allow children to build their own toolboxes, toy cars and other projects, giving young showgoers a hands-on experience that is both fun and educational.

## Shed ready for a bumper year

The Kyneton Men's Shed has returned to work following the Christmas break and is looking forward to 2026 with tremendous enthusiasm.

Shed president Ian Curnow says the new year promises to be one of the

best yet and invites prospective members to call in for a look.

"Kyneton Men's Shed can justifiably lay claim to being one of the best equipped the Macedon Ranges," he told Kyneton Connect.

"In addition to the traditional woodwork equipment including a quality wood lathe, we have a full metal workshop, complete with a top-notch metal lathe and welding equipment, a new three D printer, and a laser printer.

"We also have cards on Wednesday, and Trivial Pursuit on Thursday – both starting at ten o'clock - and our Friday lunch barbecue starting at midday is proving to be a real winner.

"These three events – especially cards and Trivial Pursuit – are great times for new members to come along. Cards and Trivia start at 10 o'clock, and I really encourage newcomers to either come and play, or simply sit and watch. Ladies Day is still on Tuesdays, together with our first women's woodwork class for 2026."

"I encourage all men to consider joining the Shed," Ian said, "it's both a way of contributing to the community, and making new friends, especially for retired men."

The Shed is located at 2 Riverwalk Boulevard adjoining Bupa.

## Tim Pilgrim: Wild by Design

Kyneton Library will welcome Central Victorian horticulturalist Tim Pilgrim on Thu Apr 2, 5.30-6.30pm, for a talk inspired by his first book *Wild by Design*.

Tim will explore naturalistic gardening, an approach shaped by untamed plants, wildlife habitat, seasonal rhythms and a changing climate.

Books will be available for sale.

This event is part of the Changemakers Macedon Ranges Festival.



## Mitre 10 Kyneton



Rose & Ian Lowe

Kyneton Plumbing Home Timber & Hardware at 42 Beauchamp St has recently become Kyneton Mitre 10.

The plumbing and hardware business has operated in Kyneton for over 100 years with the Lowe family having been there for 40 years.

Being with Mitre 10 will allow the business to offer their valued customers an even better range of products at competitive prices and great personal service.

Starting out as a one person operation specializing in plumbing, the business today, with 34 employees, offers a huge range building trades and hardware supplies and has significantly expanded its floorspace in recent years.

Owners Ian & Rose Lowe said that they would continue to expand Mitre 10 Kyneton along with their son Michael and daughter Kathleen.

Kyneton Mitre 10 is open 7 days.

## Nurse Next Door

Based in Kyneton, *Nurse Next Door Macedon Ranges* is a nurse led Support at Home, NDIS and nursing provider serving Macedon Ranges and surrounding shires.



Operated by sisters and registered nurses Anna and Magda, Nurse Next

## What's New in Business

Door supports clients 24/7, with no long-term contracts.

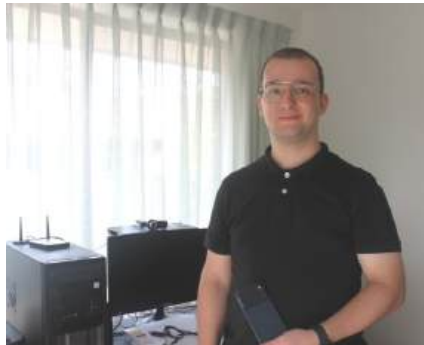
Anna and Magda have worked across hospitals, aged care and disability services, learning that the best outcomes are when care is consistent, respectful and person-centred.

The sisters observed that many people living in facilities could have remained at home with the right help, yet were missing the comfort of routine, familiar surroundings and connection.

Anna and Magda welcome enquiries at 34 Mollison St, inside Kyneton Community House by appointment on [macedonranges@nursenextdoor.com.au](mailto:macedonranges@nursenextdoor.com.au) or calling 1300052247.

## Skyline Phone & PC Repairs

James Sciberras has now located his business Skyline Phone and PC Repairs in Kyneton.



Although until recently James' business address was in Docklands he already has a significant number of clients in Kyneton and nearby areas.

His business offers phone, tablet, and computer repairs, including specialized Apple device repair. Everything from phone screen repair and battery replacements to laptop servicing, data recovery, and Samsung mobile repair, as well as gaming console repairs is provided.

"Whether it's your smartphone, desktop, or laptop, we deliver fast, reliable, and affordable repair solutions backed by a 6-month warranty" James said.

Business hours are 9-5pm Mon-Fri and 10-4pm Sat. James is located at 1A Castles Cres – Phone 0405619622 to make an appointment.

James has previously served in the Australian Army, and has a special offer for fellow veterans and emergency service workers - 10% off repairs, accessories, and refurbished phones.

## Twenty 9 Piper Café opens

Twenty 9 Piper has officially opened on Piper Street, bringing a fresh new space for locals to eat, drink and gather.



*Issy, Leilah, Julia, Grace, and Glenn Cattanach*  
Locally owned and operated, the café has been thoughtfully designed as a welcoming place for great coffee, simple quality food and relaxed catch-ups.

Currently offering a soft opening menu, with an expanded brunch menu arriving soon, the team is focused on building a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. Plans are also in place to introduce a liquor licence, so guests can enjoy a relaxed meal with a glass of wine or similar.

Twenty 9 Piper looks forward to welcoming the community. Open 7 days 7am-4,30pm.

## Red Cart Vintage is moving

Owner Kathy O'Neill is in the process of moving Red Cart Vintage from Piper St to 142 Mollison St (formerly McIntyre's Veterinary Clinic). More details next issue.

## Midland moves to new facility

Midland Pty Ltd, designers and manufacturers of a diverse range of trailers for trucks using Australian sourced steel and components have moved into their new purpose built facility at 88 Redesdale Rd Kyneton.

Midland commenced operation at the new site at the start of this year having moved from their much smaller site at 8 Hoyle Court.



## Alex Muir Australia moving

On Feb 9 Alex Muir's homewares and lifestyle store located in Piper St for several years closed temporarily while stock was relocated to the new site at 158 Mollison St.

The brand new shop that will allow a beautiful retail offering to sit alongside an interior consulting space.

Alex Muir Australia will continue to trade 7 days a week at the new location.

For the last two weeks in February, the old Alex Muir site will become a 'Relocation Sale' space where samples, styling pieces and end-of-range items will be cleared at up to 50% off.

Alex and her team are looking forward to the change, and the chance to embrace new opportunities in a vibrant area of Kyneton's retail and hospitality precinct.



## Kyneton Auctions relocated

Kyneton Auctions has relocated from High St to 19/21 Piper St (formerly Duck, Duck, Goose & Larder).

Auctions are held on the first Monday of each month with the next auction due on Mon Mar 2.

For full operational details visit [www.kynetonauctions.com.au](http://www.kynetonauctions.com.au).



## New at Embracia

Embracia Childcare and Kindergarten has announced a range of exciting additions to its curriculum for 2026, designed to enrich children's learning experiences while keeping fun at the heart of early education.

New programs being introduced include Little Sports Heroes and Hey

Dee Ho Music classes, supporting children's physical development, creativity, confidence, and love of movement and music. Children from all rooms will participate in these sessions fortnightly on Tuesdays and Thursdays, ensuring every child has the opportunity to learn, explore, and grow through active and joyful experiences.

## Sacred Heart Open Evening



Sacred Heart College will be providing the opportunity for parents and children to explore their prospective school, speak with staff and students and have their questions answered about the educational experience on offer at the College at an Open Evening on Thu Mar 26, 4:30-7:30pm. This event will offer hands-on experiences for children, aimed those in Years 3 – 6, allowing them to immerse themselves in creative and learning opportunities, while parents discover more about the diverse educational offerings and supportive wellbeing structure of the College.

## Grant for Agricultural Society

Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas has announced recipients of the 2025 Agricultural and Pastoral Society Grants Program, supporting projects that bring communities together and promote Victoria's agricultural industry.

The program supports projects and activities promoting agriculture, improving infrastructure and upgrading amenities for community use during annual agricultural shows and events.

Kyneton Agricultural Society is one of the grant recipients and will receive \$4,987.07 for the installation of a hot water service and dishwasher, along with relocating the existing hot water service to the toilet block. Nearby Daylesford and Lancefield also received grants for their Show infrastructure.

## RM Begg Aux fundraisers

The RM Begg Auxiliary's next markets will be on Sat Mar 7 and Easter Saturday Apr 4. These will both be held in the carpark of RM Begg on Epping Street.

The Auxiliary will also be conducting a raffle with great prizes in the weeks leading up to Easter.

Tickets will be available from Reception at RM Begg and from outside Woollies during the week prior to Easter.

It will be drawn on Easter Saturday at the market.

## Community House News

Kyneton Community House is looking for a major sponsor for the Community Lunch program.

This program is bigger than ever before and growing so needs a helping hand.

Interested parties can contact CEO Claire Rawlinson on 54223433 to discuss.

Harmony Day is coming and KCH are celebrating with a multicultural Community Lunch.

Join in the fun on Wed Mar 25 from 12:30pm at the Good Food Hub, 35 High St.

Take-away will also be available if you don't have time to have a sit down lunch.

The KCH Community Kindergarten has now opened at 5 Hutton St - There are a handful of places available for the Tuesday/Thursday session.

For more information contact [Stephanie.Boyle@kynetoncommunityhouse.org.au](mailto:Stephanie.Boyle@kynetoncommunityhouse.org.au) to enquire.

The KCH Garden is currently undergoing a transformation and volunteers are needed to help move things along. If you have a few hours to spare please get in touch with the House.



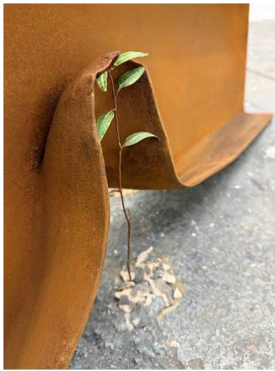
## Around the Galleries At the Stockroom

98 Piper Street

Exhibition to 1 March

*Plant Life*

Work from Sofi Basseghi, Steven Bellosardo, Kris Coad, Amber Cronin, Rhett D'Costa, Beverly Downs, William Eicholtz, Peter Ellis, Gracia Haby & Louise Jennison, Clare McCracken & Heather Hesterman, Anthea Kemp, Sara Lindsay, Sally Mannall, Julie Millowick, Betty Mula, Laetitia Olivier-Gargano, Petra Rodgers, Sarah Rudledge, Jason Waterhouse, Lisa Waup and Rosie Weiss.



*Grit (detail image) Jason Waterhouse*

Utilising the three exhibition spaces at Stockroom Kyneton, this dynamic show presents a diverse range of materials and forms, including drawings, paintings, artist books, ceramics, photography, sculpture, video, and performance.

## The Old Auction House

52-56 Mollison St

Upcoming artist exhibitions:

Until Mar 3, "*Prettier than Perfection*" – Group *Flora & Fauna Exhibition*

When it comes to florals and flora, it is often the imperfections that create the most beautiful scenes, come and explore how these artists capture the beauty around us.

Feb 19 – Mar 30, "*Living Legacy*" – Group *Fauna Exhibition*

In line with World Wildlife Day on March 3rd helping to raise awareness of preservation and protection all types of animals through their likenesses in art.

Apr 2 – Apr 20, "*Seasons of the Ranges*" – Group *Autumn Festival Exhibition*

A look at the dramatic seasonal changes of the Macedon Ranges through the artwork inspired by this magnificent region.

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Apr 2 – Apr 27, "*Ranges*" – Artist *Collective*

An exploration of how growing up in Victoria's serene Macedon Ranges shaped the ongoing artistic inspirations for a close-knit group of friends turned artists.

## Art on Piper 44 Piper St

During February the Macedon Ranges Photographic Society are exhibiting a celebration of the beautiful area we live in with unframed captures of their 40 members.

Art on Piper is delighted with their new glass sculpture member, Michelle Leeder, who produces intriguing kiln work, adding to the wide range of creative offerings by their 24 strong cohort.

During the Autumn Festival, AOP's 8<sup>th</sup> birthday gathering is on Sun April 12. It will be a fabulous chance to meet the makers.

## Handweavers & Spinners at Fair

Kyneton Handweavers and Spinners group will again participate in the Lost Trades Fair, at Hanging Rock on Mar 28 & 29.

This is your chance to watch fibre preparation, spinning and weaving demonstrations, talk to members and find out more about the craft and the Group which meets on the first Saturday of each month (except January) at the Red Brick Hall, Yaldwyn St West. You will also be able to purchase lovely hand spun yarn for those Winter projects, woven articles and hand knitted hand spun items which you would not find anywhere else.

## Montage Workshops

Kyneton Library will host a free of charge, two-part montage (cut-and-paste) workshop led by local artist Diane Garrett on Saturdays Mar 14 & 21, 9.30am–12.30pm.

Across two extended three-hour sessions, participants will learn collage techniques applicable to decorative projects such as room screens, ceramics and other surfaces.

Participants should bring their own scissors and paper images. Some images, glue and backing boards will be supplied. Places are limited.

Bookings are required for both events. Book via [goldfieldslibraries.com](http://goldfieldslibraries.com) or call Kyneton Library on 54221365.

## Kyneton Band's Annual Concert



The Kyneton Municipal Band will hold its annual concert in the Kyneton Botanic Gardens starting 2pm on Sun Mar 1.

The musicians from both the Kyneton and Daylesford brass bands will combine to present a concert featuring music that suits all tastes.

Bring your picnic seats and enjoy the big band sounds in the beautiful botanic gardens.

The band will also be playing in the Mechanic Reserve from 10am on Sat Feb 21.

Come and listen and find out all you need to know about how to be a band member. The Band will have some instruments there for you to have a go on.

Contact the band master Hugh Davies on 0418519398 for more details.

## Old Boys Reunion

The 79<sup>th</sup> reunion of the Kyneton Marist Brothers Old Boys was held at the Shamrock Hotel on Sun Jan 25.

The Kyneton Marist Brothers School opened in 1926 and closed in 1967.

As the membership diminishes the event has become a family affair rather than just the past pupils. Forty-two members and guests attended and enjoyed the camaraderie and for some to renew friendships.

The Alma Mater was delivered by Vice President Michael Halley with special guest and Old Boy Father John Hegerty saying grace.



Fathers John Hegerty and Declan O'Brien with John Keating

## Student Achievement Awards

On Jan 17 the 2025 Brian Ward achievement award presentation was held, at Zetland Lodge, with the recipients from the six local primary schools receive a certificate and \$250 to help with their transition to secondary school.

This is the eighteenth year the awards have been held. The awards are funded from Zetland Lodge and the Freemasons Foundation.



## Tylden PS start of year

Tylden Primary School has been buzzing with excitement this term as its newest students, the Prep children, have settled beautifully into school life.

“From the very first day, the Prep students have shown growing confidence as they learn classroom routines, make new friends and explore all that Tylden Primary has to offer.

“A big part of this smooth transition has been the school’s Big Buddy program, which pairs each Prep child with a supportive Grade 6 student” Principal Bree Sliwczynski said .

“The Grade 6 Buddies have taken their role seriously, helping the Prep students find their classrooms, unpack their bags, and feel safe and welcome during playtimes.

“Whether reading stories together, playing games in the yard or offering a reassuring smile, the Buddies have quickly become trusted friends”.

## School Fair – Mar 21

The much-loved Tylden Primary School Fair, will be held at the School on Sat Mar 21.

This year’s fair will feature an array of attractions for all ages, including market stalls, children’s activities, live entertainment, homemade treats, raffles and a silent auction. It’s a wonderful opportunity for families, neighbours, and visitors to come together in support of Tylden’s small but vibrant school.

## VIEW Club’s Birthday

The recently formed Kyneton VIEW Club welcomed 45 new members in its first year.

VIEW stands for Voice, Interests, and Education of Women, and is a valued part of The Smith Family.

Because of this incredible growth and the generosity of its members, Kyneton VIEW is now officially sponsoring three Learning for Life students through The Smith Family. This support provides these students with the extra tools and resources they need to stay in school and create a better future for themselves.

Each month the Club meets at the Kyneton Hotel on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday from 11am to hear from some fantastic speakers as well as fun social get togethers.

In April Kyneton VIEW will celebrate its 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday and will be joined by Glenda Serpell, the founder of Sunshine Bendigo.

If you’d like to attend any of VIEW’s monthly lunch meetings, contact Lyn on 0418126392.

## CFA community events

The Kyneton Fire Brigade had an active December with community events.

A Junior Competition was held on Sun Dec 6 and a visit was made to Our Lady of the Rosary on Fri Dec 12.

The Brigade also attended the Carols on Sun Dec 14, attended Journey Early Leaning Christmas breakup and did the Santa run for Kyneton on Christmas eve.

The Santa photos sessions on Dec 12 & 13 were very popular - the photo below shows the Brigade members involved.



## A special Connect in April

Expect the next Kyneton Connect to be special. April 2026 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first issue of Kyneton Connect in April 2006.

## Kyneton RSL activities



The Kyneton RSL Sub-Branch has a bus trip planned on Mar 26 which will visit the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance in the morning and after a sandwich

lunch there will be a visit to the nearby Australian National Veterans Art Museum.

Flyers about the trip are on the Kyneton RSL website and scattered round the RSL club rooms. If you wish to attend, add your names to the list on the café notice board or contact the office.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wed Mar 25 at 5pm. Nominations for all committee positions are requested. Forms are available from the office.

All the favourite events are still happening at the RSL: Morning Melodies, Camaraderie night, Veterans Catchup, raffles etc. More information is available at the RSL, on noticeboards and the website.

## Skatepark Design consultation

Consultation on the design of the new upgraded Kyneton skate park, pump track and an associated youth focussed space has commenced.

The upgraded Park will be supported by a \$750,000 funding commitment from the Federal Government.

Input can still be made through the Your Say page of the Council’s website until Feb 24.

Once finalised later this year, these designs will then inform the tendering and construction process to deliver the new facility.

## Seniors have resumed

Kyneton Senior citizens have resumed their weekly meetings Thursdays 11-2pm.

The Feb 19 meeting will be at Harper Lee and on Feb 26 the Seniors are back at the Bowling Club.

Activities offered include bingo, scatergories, Quiz, board games, bi-monthly speakers etc . Subsidised meals at Bowling Club only. New members welcome.

# YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE. BUT YOU CAN CONTROL WHEN YOU LEAVE.

When the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme or Catastrophic, leaving early is your safest option.



Download the VicEmergency app  
or go to [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://emergency.vic.gov.au)

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



## Kyneton District Services

### Accountants

Watco Partners Pty Ltd 5792 2580  
David J Gibney Pty Ltd 5422 6480

### Acupuncture & Chinese Medicine

Dr Michele Downes 0407582036  
Little Window Acupuncture 0459678684

### Art Studio and Gallery

Maxine McKee at Trio Art 0467025354

### Auto Services & Repairs

Kyn Auto Spares & Repairs 5422 1255  
Vereker Bros Smash Repairs 5422 2603

### Chiropractor

Performance One 5422 6488

### Computer Repair

Computers OK 0421367040

### Concreting & Paving

MBC Concreting & Paving 0417545159

### Day Spa & Beauty

Ellenis Day Spa 5422 3795

### Dental

Campaspe Dental 5422 3988  
Kyneton Dental 5422 6159

### Dry Cleaning

Kyneton Dry Cleaners 5422 1503

### Electricians

Macedon Ranges Electrics 5422 2182  
Kyneton Electrics 5422 1369

### Financial Planning

BTP Business Advisors Pty Ltd 5422 1588

### Fishmongers

The Fishmonger Kyneton 0408127392

### Insurance

Macedon Ranges Insurance 4411 2704  
Simplex Insurance Solutions 5422 3333

### Legal Practices

Armstrong Collins & DeLacy 54221677  
Palmer Stevens & Rennick 5422 6500

### LP Gas Supplies

Hendersons the Gas People 5422 7408

### Medical Practices

Campaspe Family Practice 5422 2877  
Kyneton Medical Centre 5422 1397  
Springs Medical Kyneton 5422 1298  
Goonawarra Medical Centre 9744 9900

### Optometrist

Kosmac & Clemens 5422 3822

### Osteopath

Organic Mechanic Osteo 0423852874

### Phone & PC Repairs

Skyline Phone & PC Repairs 0405619622

### Podiatry

One Step Podiatry 54221397

### Real Estate

Ray White Kyneton 5422 2127  
RT Edgar 5422 3325

### School Aged Childcare

BugALugs 5422 2767

### Shoe Suppliers

Kyneton Shoes 5422 2090

### Sewing Machine Repair

Jeff's Sewing Machine Service 0431788360

### Town Planning Services

Macaulay Town Planning 5422 3054

### Veterinarian

Dr Greg McIntyre 5422 1310

## Kyneton Events Calendar

Fri Feb 20	GROW Festival Kyneton Racecourse
Sat Feb 21	Body Bop fundraiser 'The Amazing Valentinos' Lauriston Hall 7pm
Wed Feb 25	Kyneton Community Lunch 35 High St 12.30pm (each Wed during term)
Fri Feb 27	Thoroughbred Racing Kyneton Racecourse 11am  'The Deplorables' Kyneton Bluestone Theatre 7.30pm
Sun Mar 1	Kyneton Band's Annual Concert Kyneton Botanic Gardens 2pm MCP Baroque Concert Kyneton Mechanics Institute Top Gun Truck and Car Show Kyneton Racecourse 10-3pm
Tues Mar 3	Vision Australia Mystery Auction St Andrews Hall 1.30pm
Wed Mar 4	Zonta's International Women's Day Dinner Kyneton Bowling Club
Sat Mar 7	RM Begg Auxiliary Stalls RM Begg Car Park 9-1pm Opening Day Annual Daffodil Bulb Sales Woolworths Car Park 8.30-1pm
Mon Mar 9	Labor Day Holiday
Fri Mar 13	Thoroughbred Racing Kyneton Racecourse 11am Kaz Cooke 'Braces, Bonkers & Brilliant' Kyneton Town Hall 7pm
Sat Mar 14	Kyneton Farmers and Makers Markets St Paul's Park 8.30-1pm Kyneton Community Market Cnr Ebdon & Yaldwyn St West 8.30-1pm
Fri Mar 20	Luke Kidgell 'Good Intentions' Kyneton Town Hall 7pm Old Time Dance St Mary's Hall 7.30pm
Mar 21 & 22	Autumn Flower Show Watts Pavilion 11-4pm Sat & 10-3pm Sun
Sat Mar 21	Tylden Primary School Fair Tylden Primary School 10-3pm  Kyneton Whole Town Garage Sale across Kyneton  Run the Rock Hanging Rock
Wed Mar 25	Eat More Veg Cooking Workshop 35 High Street 6-8pm
Thur Mar 26	Sacred Heart College Open Evening 4.30-7.30pm
Fri Mar 27	Kitty Flanagan 'Glad Game' Kyneton Town Hall 8pm
Mar 28 & 29	Lost Trades Fair Hanging Rock Reserve
Sat Mar 28	Thoroughbred Racing Kyneton Racecourse 11am
Fri Apr 3	Good Friday  Football-Netball Kyneton v Woodend Hesket Twilight Showgrounds
Sat Apr 4	RM Begg Aux Stalls RM Begg Car Park 9-1pm
Thur Apr 9	Thoroughbred Racing Kyneton Racecourse 11am
Sat Apr 11	Kyneton Farmers and Makers Markets St Paul's Park 8.30-1pm  Kyneton Community Market Cnr Ebdon & Yaldwyn St West 8.30-1pm
Mon Apr 13	Tiki & Zuku Shadow Puppetry Bluestone Theatre 10.30am & 2pm

### Diabetes Education Session

Join Diabetes Educator Community Health Nurse, Breallen, in the Kyneton Library at 10am Tue Feb 24 for a friendly and informative diabetes education session where the differences between Type 1, Type 2, and pre-diabetes, common risk factors, and possible complications will be discussed.

Simple, practical ways to reduce risk, including everyday food tips and easy ways to move more will be shared.

Register your attendance by contacting Shan Spiers on 54220333, or [VillageConnect@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:VillageConnect@mrsc.vic.gov.au).

### Mystery Auction

A Mystery Auction will be conducted by the Kyneton Friends of Vision Australia starting 1.30pm Tues Mar 3 in the Uniting Church.

Admission is \$7. Donations of new articles would be appreciated – call Kathy 0418145847.

### Tigers first match for 2026

Good Friday, April 3 will see the Kyneton Football-Netball Club teams playing their first matches for the 2026 season.

They are to be twilight matches against Woodend Hesket at the Kyneton Showgrounds.

## A chat with Kaz Cooke



Much loved Australian author, cartoonist and author Kaz Cooke is coming to Kyneton to chat with women young and old, about how best to cut through the jungle of hard-sell advice via TikTok, Insta, fake AI, even faker celebrities, dodgy online info, mansplainers, mean girls and wacky wellness influencers.

Kaz' Cooke's chat 'Brave, Bonkers & Brilliant' will be held in the Kyneton Town Hall Fri Mar 13 at 7pm.

Book via the Council website, call 1300802888 or email [ktickets@mrc.vic.gov.au](mailto:ktickets@mrc.vic.gov.au).

## Fire Emergency Relief Centre

During the impacts of the Ravenswood South (Harcourt) fires in January, the Council swiftly opened an Emergency Relief Centre in the Kyneton Toyota Sports and Aquatic Centre to support our neighbouring communities.

Up to 80 people accessed the centre, with 60 staying overnight on the first Friday night of opening.

Mayor Kate Kendall visited the Centre each day and was impressed by Council's coordinated, dedicated and agile response.

"Our Local Laws Officers were also on hand supporting more than 20 pets including dogs, cats and guinea pigs.

"We also held a town hall meeting at Kyneton Town Hall, which was well attended by residents from Mount Alexander Shire" Kate Kendall said.

## Autumn Flower Show

The 2026 Autumn Flower Show hosted by the Kyneton Horticultural Society will take place in the Watts Pavillion at the Kyneton Showgrounds on Mar 21 & 22, 11-4pm & 10-3pm.

After last year's stunning pavilion with over 580 entries, the Society is excited to see even more entries this year.

The Show schedule is available and entries are accepted online.

Check for updated and new sections and a People's Choice award for the best weed!

The society will also welcome aboard the CWA Woodend Eves, who will be serving up their famous scones, jam and cream. Enjoy local artists, businesses and much more.

For more information about the Show, volunteering on the day or becoming a member, head along to [www.kynetonhort.com.au](http://www.kynetonhort.com.au) for more information.



## The GROW Festival

A one-day conference, field day and festival by farmers for farmers, foodies, gardeners and environmentalists featuring international & local speakers, exhibitors and paddock-to-plate food producers will be held at the Kyneton Racecourse on Fri Feb 20.

Headline speaker and documentary maker is Peter Byck, launching his docuseries "Roots So Deep".

For more information and to buy tickets visit [www.growfestival.au](http://www.growfestival.au).

## Free public transport travel



Significant changes introduced by the Victorian government allow all passengers under 18 to catch a train, tram or bus for free with their Youth myki card anywhere in the state.

Youth myki cards are available to purchase for \$5, both online on the Transport Victoria website or at staffed stations.

From Jan 1 holders of Victorian Seniors Cards have been able to catch a train, tram or bus for free on weekends.

The opening of the Metro tunnel from Feb 1, now allows train travellers from Kyneton to change to the Metro service at Footscray and disembark in the new convenient stations in centre of the city or in Parkville rather than Southern Cross.

## Get ready for the 2026 season

Kyneton Netball Association Registrations are now open for the 2026 season.

Support is available for families who may need assistance, including family discounts.

For further information contact Nicole Backman, Registrations Co-Ordinator at [kynetonnetballjuniors@gmail.com](mailto:kynetonnetballjuniors@gmail.com) or 0416718600.

Kyneton Netball Association caters for age groups from Under 9s through to Under 16s.

Membership \$20. Enquiries 0419124159.

To the best of the Editors' knowledge the information contained in this newsletter is correct at the time of printing. Where inadvertent errors are made corrections will be included in the next edition.

**Kyneton Connect Co-Editors:** Eric Dearthcott 0419357192 & Jenny Hince 0408388473

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- To have Kyneton Connect mailed send name, address and payment of \$15 for a year's subscription to Kyneton Connections, 18 Castles Cres, Kyneton 3444 or free by e-mail-write to e-mail address above. All recent issues of Kyneton Connect are posted on website [www.kyneton.org.au](http://www.kyneton.org.au)

Layout: Marg Dearthcott



**Auspiced by Omnia Community Health Service**

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