



Kyneton Connect



Volume Fifteen Issue Two

Published third Thursday of each even month

April 2020

Festival postponed until 2021



Kyneton's Daffodil & Arts Committee have come to the sad decision to postpone its 48th Festival until September 2021.

"It appears that the COVID-19 pandemic will not be fully over by early September. To bring crowds of people to Festival events would be unfair, even if the immediate danger had apparently passed" Festival Secretary Marg Dearthcott said.

Decisions about events that occur during the Festival but which are not actually organised by the Festival Committee such as the Spring Flower Show and the Antique and Vintage Fair are yet to be made.

The Festival Committee is urging people to continue to plant daffodils in their gardens and is selling bulbs to make a great display in home gardens not only for this year, but for years to come.

"Even though we won't be having the parade, ferret racing and other popular events this year we can still look forward to great displays of our famous daffodils at the entries to the town and in home gardens.

"We are hoping that we may be able to place some daffodil barrows in the streets, and even enjoy scarecrows this year which will help build anticipation for a great Festival in 2021" Marg Dearthcott said.

Social distancing etc has meant the Festival has not been able to continue direct sales of bulbs but it has published its wide bulb range on its facebook page.

Gardeners can place orders by e-mail daffodil@netcon.net.au or phone Festival Secretary Marg Dearthcott on 5422 2282 for the complete list with photos, and for people living within 5 kms from Kyneton, bulbs can be delivered to their homes.

"We are very grateful to our major sponsor Kyneton on Riverside's Community Liaison Officer Aimee Fryer and Hendersons the Gas People who have helped to facilitate compiling and delivering these orders.

"Planting the bulbs is a great activity to promote good health and wellbeing at this time when people may be more able to work on their home and garden" Marg said.

Local Corona Virus Screening

Kyneton Health has built upon its Coronavirus Screening Service with a new Respiratory Assessment Clinic Macedon Ranges locals have rallied behind Kyneton Health to help set up a Respiratory Assessment Clinic in the hospital's old Ambulance Bay.

The new clinic, which formally opened on Tuesday April 14, will strengthen the hospital's response to the coronavirus outbreak, allowing the hospital to continue to safely assess patients who present with risk factors or concerns about the Coronavirus.

Central Highlands Rural Health CEO Maree Cuddihy confirmed patients will not need to enter the hospital's main entrance, instead accessing the clinic through a door to the old Ambulance Bay where they will be met by staff skilled in the management of the Coronavirus.

"At the moment our trained nurses are receiving 30-40 calls a day and testing around 8-10 patients for the Coronavirus.

"Our existing facilities were coping with these numbers but the new clinic means we are better equipped to deal with the possibility of an increase in the Coronavirus should the worst

happen in our region," Ms Cuddihy said.

Ms Cuddihy also praised local businesses for their help setting up the clinic:

"Our local community have been amazing helping us build three assessment rooms in record time. Dr Robert Power from Campaspe Family Practice got the project off the ground, recruiting Kennedy and Co to carry out the majority of the building work free of charge and asking Home Timber and Hardware in Kyneton to donate materials. Kennedy and Co also helped secure further in-kind support from Macedon Ranges Plumbing, Bryan Law Electrical and Amp-Up Electrical. Flooring Xtra provided heavily discounted flooring. We cannot thank our community supporters enough for everything they've done," Ms Cuddihy said.

The clinic will initially operate Monday to Friday between 1pm and 3.30pm, evolving with the needs of the community.

Patients concerned about symptoms associated with the Coronavirus can call ahead on 54229900 to speak to a nurse who will be able to give the best advice for each situation. Patients who meet the clinical criteria will be booked in for an appointment for testing.

"As always, anyone who has serious symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, should call 000 immediately and ask for an ambulance," Ms Cuddihy said.



Powercor depot advancing

The construction of the new Powercor depot in Redesdale Road Kyneton appears well advanced.

As reported in the December 2019 Kyneton Connect the work on the \$19 million depot upgrade was expected to be completed by mid 2020.

As can be seen in the photo the new depot will be significantly larger and will provide space for future growth.

The current Kyneton depot accommodates 20 employees including field crews, engineers and planners.

The new depot will support up to a 25% increase in field resources in the future.



Kyneton Connect's 14th Anniversary Issue

This issue marks the 14th anniversary of the first issue of Kyneton Connect. Over those years our circulation has grown from 2000 to 3850 copies in February this year. Sadly not so many hard copies this month because of the Corona Virus pandemic.

Kyneton Connections, publishers of this newsletter, thanks all of those individuals, community organizations and businesses who have given us such great support over the past 14 years.

Without that support Kyneton Connect's success, community acceptance and growth would not have been possible.

Special appreciation to those listed below, most of them community organisations whose financial support over the past year has been vital to our continued operation.

Kyneton RSL, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Uniting Church Opportunity Shop, Windarring, Cobaw Community Health, Kyneton Secondary College, Sacred Heart College, Business Kyneton, Lions, Rotary, Zonta, Kyneton Daffodil & Arts Festival, Kyneton Primary, Kyneton Community House, Kyneton U3A, RM Begg, Kyneton Agricultural Society, Kyneton Tennis Club, local churches: Anglican, Baptist, Uniting and Our Lady of the Rosary; Kyneton Zetland Lodge, Kyneton Masonic Lodge, Kyneton Horticultural Society, Kyneton Handweavers & Spinners, Kyneton Trail Riders, Kyneton Football-Netball Club, Marist Brothers Old Boys, Joyce Fraser, Arnold Jenkins, Jean & Doug Hedington, Kyneton Health, Kyneton Croquet Club Friends of Botanical Gardens, Tylden Primary, Kyneton Golf Club, Kyneton Aero Club, Kyneton Art Group, Kyneton Angling Club and ADFAS Central Vic.

Very special thanks to Ray White Real Estate Kyneton who from June 2015 have generously paid for the cost of printing every second issue of Kyneton Connect.

We also express sincere thanks to our service business sponsors listed on page 11 of each issue and to the many people and organizations who provide articles and information for this newsletter.

Very special appreciation to the hard working Kyneton Connections Committee, the more than 30 volunteers who home deliver Kyneton Connect, to the Windarring Kyneton Copy Centre team who print it and to Cobaw Community Health who auspiced us and continue to support our operations.

Co-editors: Eric Darricott & Jenny Hince

Connect during the pandemic

Kyneton Connect apologises that in view of the requirements imposed to protect people from the COVID 19 virus, in the main, the April Kyneton Connect will be distributed via email to those on the email distribution list. It can, of course, be read as always on www.kyneton.org.au.

A limited number of hard copies will be available from Collins Newsagency. Hopefully by the time of the June issue it may be possible to resume home

delivery of hard copies of that issue.

You will also notice some change in the nature of the articles.

In normal times a significant proportion of Kyneton Connect advises readers about a multitude of forthcoming events in which they can participate – sadly not this month.

Those wishing to be placed on the list to receive Kyneton Connect in colour by email, perchance similar limitations may still be in place in June, should send their request to eandmcot@netcon.net.au.

New pool and spa laws

On 1 Dec 2019, new laws to improve swimming pool and spa safety came in to effect in Victoria.

Property owners with a pool or spa now have to register their pool or spa with Council and new swimming pool and spa registrations are due to Council by 1 June 2020.

You can register your pool online or you can phone Council on 54220333 for a registration form.

For more information about the new regulations visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/pools-and-spas

Inspiring Women's Dinner

Deborah Cheetham AO Indigenous Australian soprano, actor, composer and playwright was the honoured Guest speaker at the International Women's Day Dinner hosted by the Kyneton Zonta Club on Mar 3.

A magnificent guest speaker, Deborah shared a challenge to all to learn more about Australia's 60,000+ year history.

She gave the 200 strong audience of local women an amazing insight into not only her own personal journey, but many of the issues which continue for First Nation people.

She also provided an understanding of the necessity of all Australians to take that same journey from not knowing, to knowing and understanding. Many of the women attending the dinner were moved and inspired by her journey.



Deborah Cheetham AO with Mayor Cr Janet Pearce, Zonta President Eloise Forbes & Mary-Anne Thomas MP f

Local Kinders to reopen

Macedon Ranges Shire Council's eight kindergartens, including Kyneton's Lady Brooks Kindergarten, will reopen for term 2 on Thursday April 16 with some modifications due to the current coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.

Four year old kindergarten sessions will resume on April 16 and will be free for the term following the announcement of a Victorian Government support package for the sector.

The funding will support kindergarten programs and jobs and will ensure that children can continue to access education opportunities, especially the children of essential workers and those who are vulnerable.

Term 2 will begin with two pupil-free days, as a planned pupil-free day in May has been moved forward to Tue Apr 14 and an additional pupil-free

day has been scheduled for Wed Apr 15.

Staff will use these days to plan a new kindergarten program for the term and exploring models for delivering remote learning.

Council's Chief Executive Officer, Margot Stork said all kindergartens would reopen, however it was understood some parents may choose to keep children at home.

"We'd like to assure parents that we will hold the places for any registered child whether the child attends kindergarten in term 2 or not," Ms Stork said.

As well as four year old sessions (15 hours per week), Council provides three year old kindergarten programs (2.5 hours per week). Due to a drop in attendance last term, and the likelihood attendance numbers will be low this term, Council will not run three year old kindergarten programs in term 2.

"Families of registered three year old children who would like their children to attend kindergarten should contact the Early Years unit to discuss their needs," Ms Stork said.

"We may be able to accommodate some of these children within our four year old kindergarten programs in term 2."

There will be no students on placements, parent helpers, excursions, incursions, face-to-face meetings with parents or parent committee meetings until further notice.

Parents should contact staff members via phone during term 2 should they wish to discuss their child's progress.

Kyneton Chemotherapy

Cancer services in the Macedon Ranges have been boosted with the launch of the region's first Oncology Chemotherapy Service.

The first patients received treatment at Kyneton Health at the end of February.

Patients previously travelling outside of the region will be able to receive a range of treatments close to home, including chemotherapy and other supportive therapies such as blood transfusion and immunotherapy.

The service is overseen by Medical Oncologist Dr Sam Harris, who has been running an oncology clinic twice

a month in the Ambulatory Care Centre of Kyneton Health since 2018. "The team at Bendigo Health Cancer Centre have always been passionate about patients receiving treatment as close to home as possible. The challenges of a cancer diagnosis and related treatment are large enough, without the added burden of travel.

Patients across the Macedon Ranges have routinely travelled 1 to 2 hours for treatment, often on a weekly basis.

"With the launch of this chemotherapy service here in Kyneton, we hope to alleviate some of the stress associated with accessing cancer treatment," Dr Harris said.

The Oncology Chemotherapy Service has been supported by The Lions Club of Kyneton who raised more \$3000 last year.

The donation helped Kyneton Health purchase a designated chemotherapy refrigerator, which is vital to the service.

Patients attending this Oncology Service will benefit from a holistic approach to their care with the close support of Kyneton Health's Allied Health team.

During the present COVID-19 emergency patients will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Physiotherapists, dietitians, social workers and occupational therapists will work alongside Dr Harris to create a personalised program tailored to each patient's treatment plan.

For more information about the Oncology Services at Kyneton Health, please call 54229900.



Dr Sam Harris with Lions President Jen Wyatt and nursing staff from the new Oncology Chemotherapy Service at Kyneton Health.

Cr Anderson reports



Macedon Ranges was lucky enough to only have some smaller fires this summer, and the community responded by assisting those in need. We are now facing the challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic, which will have a much bigger impact on our local businesses and residents than in all likelihood anything most of us have encountered before.

This will be a stressful time for us all, where it will be even more important than ever to remember to look after one another.

Macedon Ranges usually has great events and fundraisers at this time of year and welcomes our many visitors over Autumn. It will be a very different picture this year.

I know Kyneton Connect will do everything it can to continue to provide you with local information and would like to congratulate all involved on your 14 years of service to the community of Kyneton and surrounds. For 14 years you have been connecting businesses, residents and visitors in our region, reporting on significant local happenings, and getting us excited about events to come in the future. Being informed in the coming 6 months will now be more important than ever as we adjust to our changed circumstances.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council will be doing whatever it can to assist in helping staff and the community to stay well during this time as well as in the recovery phases afterwards.

This has meant some services that put our staff or the community at risk have ceased until further notice.

Please be assured we always consider the impact of change in services on the more vulnerable members of our community and will seek to find alternatives where we can.

I have not listed services that have been suspended or altered in response to the current situation here, as this changes rapidly.

Please be patient, and if you cannot find the information you need on our website or Facebook page, which will be updated frequently, feel free to email Council officers at mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au or if a more immediate response is required call the office on 54220333.

Front counter face to face services at all our centres have been ceased for the time being.

I am happy to take calls or emails, but much of the information you may need is more easily gained by contacting council via the above means.

For a while all our consultation will need to be either online or via post or telephone, and we may need to defer some decision making previously scheduled for the next few months.

Remember good hand hygiene and stay home if you are unwell and may be at risk of infecting others, but not so unwell that you require medical advice.

I would like to acknowledge those who served or continue to serve in our armed forces, and although large formal gatherings for ANZAC day will not occur this year, I hope we can all be thinking of those who have sacrificed so much in the pursuit of peace.

I would also like to thank all our health care workers, paramedics, police officers, CFA volunteers and other community volunteer organisations who are continuing to support Kyneton and surrounds to ensure others remain healthy and safe. Be kind to each other and if you want to offer assistance make sure you are doing it through people or organisations that you know and trust. I know you will find ways to take care of each other.

Stay safe and well,

Jennifer

Kyneton RSL closes its doors

Most people will now be aware that the Kyneton RSL has had to close its doors for the foreseeable future due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

"It is to be hoped that the situation will resolve itself in the coming weeks

or months and we will return to business but probably not as we know it" Secretary Mike Gretton said.

"This has obviously meant the cancellation of ANZAC Day Dawn Services, marches and ceremonies throughout the region.

"However, so that our fallen are not forgotten RSL members will lay wreaths to honour them. If other people wish to lay a wreath or floral tribute in memory of the fallen, they are asked to do so in their own time.

"Another way in which the fallen can be remembered is by joining the 'stand-to' campaign and stand in your driveway or on your verandah at dawn on ANZAC Day" Mike said.



The RSL will continue to provide support to our veterans during these challenging times and those in need should contact the Manager, Rebecca Hemphill, via the following email rsllmanager@kyneton.rslvic.com.au In the event that veterans are not able to be assisted locally, ANZAC House have also established a centralised 'veteran's call centre'. This call centre can be accessed 24/7 by contacting ANZAC House on 9655 5555 and dial 1 and you will be put in touch with a member of the team.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has also responded to the current crisis by providing emergency relief packages for those veterans who are unable to access food and essential supplies. For assistance call the DVA hotline on 1800675398.

For the latest news and advice on the COVID-19 situation call DVA on 1800555254.

"Whilst we are not able to hold a ceremony on ANZAC Day to remember the fallen, we should not forget that this year commemorates the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II

"The Kyneton RSL still has about a dozen active members who served in WWII and it is our intention to honour them with a dinner to commemorate VP Day when the current health crisis is resolved" Mike Gretton said.

Cobaw's new building



From the Carpark

Cobaw Community Health's new building at 1 Caroline Chisholm Drive is on track to be completed by Thursday April 16.

Staff will spend the next few weeks moving from their office in High Street and setting up the new facility in preparation for when it can open its doors to the community.

Cobaw continues to run all of its services and groups and the contact number for referrals and enquiries remains the same – 54211666.

Community Choir goes online

The Cobaw *With One Voice Central Victoria* choir has recently celebrated one year since it's official launch on 27 March 2019.

Celebrations weren't typical of this socially minded group as with new rules that restrict gatherings, the choir has now moved to the online platform Zoom where the members of the choir can come together at the same weekly time to connect, laugh and, of course sing.

Conducted by internationally acclaimed singer and musician Gabriel Macura, the *With One Voice Central Victoria* Choir was established with funding from Creativity Australia, the not for profit organisation behind the network of 25 *With One Voice* choirs across Australia.

The choir welcomes anyone who wants to sing regardless of their experience and there are no auditions and no requirement to be able to read music.

The aim is to promote social connectedness and inclusion and improve the health and wellbeing of participants through the benefits of singing.

The Zoom choir has proved so successful that they have had two new members join who have found driving to Kyneton for practice difficult in the past and now they are able to access

the choir.

"This has allowed us to rethink how we may move forward once we are able to reconvene in the future," said Carly Visscher, Cobaw's Community Connections Manager.

"We have been most grateful to the Macedon Ranges Shire Council for its support in allowing us to use the Kyneton Mechanic's Institute for rehearsals but once Cobaw's new building at 1 Caroline Chisholm Drive opens we will have access to new technology that will enable us to continue to offer online access to the choir."

Singing is said to make people happier, healthier, smarter and more creative and a recent Swinburne University study showed that 98% of *With One Voice* choir participants experienced less stress and 66% felt less depressed. "Connecting with each other, even if it has to be online for the time being has never been more important," said Carly.

"If we can provide a safe space where people can laugh and enjoy the health benefits of singing, then we are doing the best we can in a time where we are more isolated than ever."

.Email withonevoice@cobaw.org.au for more details If you are interested in giving the choir a try



Carly connecting with the on-line Choir

Public place glass-only bins

Public place glass-only bins have been removed following the Council's rollout of its new kerbside glass collection service.

The public place bins were installed as a temporary solution to the recycling crisis after Council asked residents to remove glass from recycling bins.

All kerbside collection customers in the shire have been supplied with a 140 litre glass-only bin (purple lid).

Skip bins will remain in place at Council's transfer stations in Kyneton, Woodend and Romsey.

More Police for the Ranges



Residents in the Macedon Ranges will soon see more police on the streets, with an additional 9 officers allocated to the police division that services the local community. Member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas, welcomed the new police resources.

"We're investing in more police than ever before on the streets in Melbourne and across regional areas, in frontline duties and specialised roles to keep Victorians safe." Mary-Anne Thomas said when she met with Macedon Ranges Inspector Chris Large in early March.

Victoria Police is deploying new police when and where they are needed most, using the sophisticated Staffing Allocation Model.

The model has been developed by Victoria Police in consultation with the Police Association of Victoria and is endorsed by the government.

In their latest allocation, police are focusing on meeting minimum service levels for a growing population.

It makes sure each Victorian community has the resources to respond to crime in their local area.

Confining Cats

From Wed July 1 Macedon Ranges Shire Council will require owners to keep cats confined on their property between sunset and sunrise.

The Council states that the measure will ensure cats will be healthier and live longer, won't annoy neighbours and that the requirement will afford greater protection to native wildlife.

What's New in Business

Hayley Maree bridal wear



Hayley Maree is a newly established bridal label in Kyneton specialising in couture bridal, red carpet, event wear, racewear and debutantes.

Hayley is passionate about creating handcrafted pieces that are elegant, modern and timeless, with a touch of whimsical romance.

She has a keen eye for detail and fit with hand finishes that add a special touch to each gown.

Hayley completed studies in fashion design at the Melbourne Fashion Institute, and Box Hill Institute in 2018.

In 2018 Hayley won first place in Australian fashion awards student designer.

Hayley also won 1st and 2nd place in Catwalk for Cancer in 2018.

During her studies Hayley also ran her own costuming business creating ballet tutus for both Australian and International dancers.

Whilst she still loves making ballet tutus Hayley's desire to continue her professional growth has led to the opening of her Bridal boutique at 80 Mollison St in February 2020.

Ready to wear and bespoke pieces are made at the studio in Kyneton.

For an appointment with Hayley to try the ready to wear range or for the bride who would like a custom gown email enquiries@hayleymaree.com or call Haley on 0434028545.

Sign Obsession

Sign Obsession has opened a new premises at 33 High St, Kyneton.

"After being in business for 22 years it has been wonderful to open the doors of our new shop and see the fantastic reaction and support from the community" Melanie of Sign Obsession said.

"Whether you own a business or your just looking for that special gift, Sign Obsession has it all" she added.

Some of the products and services Sign Obsession offers are personalised gifts & toys, workwear, personalised clothing, uniforms, embroidery, shop signage, vehicle signage, 'A' frames, business cards, stubby holders, mugs, vehicle magnets, honour boards, custom stickers, name badges, flyers/brochures, banners, caps, custom stamps, wall art, canvas prints, graphic & logo design and much more.

"Sign Obsession are passionate about providing good old fashioned service" Melanie said.

Open Monday – Friday from 10am to 5pm. Phone 54221886 or email shop@signobsession.com.

You can also find them on Facebook and Instagram.



Business Kyneton

This year is going to be the hardest that many of us have ever faced in business, and our thoughts are with the traders who are and who will be unable to continue operating.

While the Business Kyneton monthly after work catchups are not possible right now, we would still like to encourage everyone to check in on their fellow business owners to ensure they remain connected and supported.

*Kate Fairley,
President - Business Kyneton*

Community Market suspended

Rotary's monthly Kyneton Community Market at the Uniting church has been suspended until the coronavirus pandemic threat subsides.

"While the market generates a worthwhile community hub and raises funds for local community projects, the health of the community is of utmost importance" said Rotarian John Wells.

Rotary considered the suspension carefully but decided that, even with physical separation, the risks were too great.

Kyneton Rotary has also suspended its weekly meetings until further notice.

Kyneton Farmers Market

The Kyneton Farmers Market held in St Pauls Park in Piper Street on the second Saturday has also been postponed until further notice.

Senior Citizens Club

Kyneton Senior Citizens Club has postponed all activities until further notice due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

"We are very aware of its severity and the impact it can have on everyone especially those over 80 with added health conditions" President and Secretary Marj and Ray Williams said

"To alleviate loneliness all members have been contacted and given the option to have home cooked meals delivered to their doorstep with a menu provided thanks to our chef and her assistant who provide home based meals weekly.

"This has been offered not only to assist with nutrition but as a means of outside contact.

"Loneliness can cause depression, illness and much more. We are fortunate to have a buddy system that works extremely well.

"All of the Committee have members that they are directly in touch with.

"A newsletter will be implemented as a keep in touch.

"As we self-isolate, adapt to what's before us, pray for a time when all will be normal again, we urge all to co-operate and care for one another, that is truly Australian" Marj and Ray said.

Helping Hands



Cobaw Community Health has been working with the many local businesses and individuals offering goods and services, and connecting them with their clients and participants.

Carly and Dawn are seen here making deliveries of food and other essential supplies ahead of the Easter weekend to families who are unable to get out or who are struggling financially due to loss of work.

Rotary

The Rotary Club of Kyneton is encouraging newcomers to town to consider joining it or one of the local service clubs as a way to meet people, make new friends and engage with the local community.

Detailed information regarding the groups available can be obtained from the Kyneton Connections Website (www.kyneton.org.au).

The Kyneton Rotary Club, in particular, is keen to meet with people who have recently made a tree change to Kyneton and are interested in becoming involved in the community.

Current club president, Geoff Phillips, spoke of the opportunities that joining an organisation such as Rotary provides.

“Joining a club such as Kyneton Rotary is a great way to meet people and make new friends,” Geoff said.



“We are open to men and women from all walks of life and backgrounds. Our club is involved in a huge range of community projects including running a local market, supporting local schools in a number of ways including Fresh Fruit Fridays, Reading programs and the Interact club.

We also supports the Daffodil & Arts Festival, river maintenance projects and a whole range of other activities.

Kyneton Rotary is also actively involved in national and international projects such as glaucoma treatment in remote communities and providing sustainable water supplies for tribes in Africa, through both raising money and providing participants to help with the actual work” Geoff Phillips said.

Kyneton Rotary usually meets weekly at the Shamrock Hotel on Monday nights from 6.30pm. A meeting typically consists of some socialising, a meal and a guest speaker.

Kyneton Rotary has suspended meetings for the immediate future but will be resuming normal activities as soon as possible.

Enquiries to Mark Ridgeway 0400889574 or at mdridge@gmail.com

#InThisTogether – support for residents and businesses



On April 3 Macedon Ranges Shire Council launched #InThisTogether – a campaign to support residents and businesses during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Chief Executive Officer, Margot Stork said new financial support measures would take effect immediately and would assist the community, residents, businesses, staff and sporting clubs.

“These are unprecedented times for Council, our community and businesses,” Ms Stork said.

“We are all in this together, supporting each other at this very challenging time.”

New support measures by Council include:

- * Debt collection activities on 2019/20 unpaid rates and outstanding amounts ceased on 17 March and will remain ceased until 30 Sept 2020.

- * Interest will not be charged for overdue rates or other payments through to 30 Sept 2020

- *Penalties for late payment of 2020/21 animal registrations due 10 April 2020 will not be applied until 30 Sept 2020.

Other existing measures to help residents, businesses, staff and sporting clubs include:

- * A process to allow suppliers to request earlier payment than Council’s 30-day standard terms to assist cashflow.

- * Groups which hold facility leases with Council are able to request a waiver of their lease fee/rent as a result of the pandemic impacting their sporting, community and hospitality venue operations.

“We have been working on ways to reduce the pressure on our community, businesses and sporting clubs. Please contact us so we can help,” Ms Stork said. “There are a range of options available for those facing financial hardship, and this includes the ability to enable flexible payments and defer payments.

“We know many businesses are facing cash flow challenges. We have the option to pay our suppliers invoices promptly to support the businesses that assist us deliver services to the community.

Ms Stork encouraged any residents experiencing financial difficulties to reach out and contact Council by calling 5422 0333 or emailing mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au

The #InThisTogether initiative looks at supporting the wellbeing of the community at this time and finding innovative ways to deliver services and programs while Council-run centres are closed.

“Already our fitness staff at the Kyneton Toyota Sports & Aquatic Centre are sharing videos to encourage people at home to keep moving and exercising,” Ms Stork said.

“You’ll start to see these initiatives rolling out in coming days and weeks, so keep an eye out for #InThisTogether across our social media channels and on our website.

“We encourage you to join the conversation by using the #InThisTogether on social media and help us spread the positive stories of residents, groups and businesses doing great things.”

To find out more, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au.

Expressions of Interest



At the end of February, about 3 weeks before COVID-19 crisis restrictions were imposed the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) advised that Expressions of Interest had opened for parties interested in using and/or managing part or all of the former Kyneton Primary School site.

The original closing date for Expressions was set at May 1- a deadline which has now been extended to June 1.

In view of the limitations caused by the restrictions on gatherings imposed because of the COVID 19 situation the Kyneton and District Town Square Co-Op had argued vigorously that DELWP postpone the deadline for submissions for the old primary school for two months (July 1st) with a further assessment of the public health situation in June.

The response from DELWP has disappointed the Co-Op whose members and other community members and groups have been lobbying and working on plans to keep the old School and its site in community hands to be used for the community's benefit, for more than 3 years.

"Only a four week delay has been offered, and no indication of a further assessment of the health situation" Co-Op President Rob Bakes said.

"The Co-Op's constitution requires transparency and democratic decision-making, so important matters such as our EOI for the Old Primary School must be approved by our membership at a well-advertised public meeting.

"The Co-Op will push on with its preparations for the EOI submission but may end up in the invidious position of being unable to obtain the approval of our members because of the social distancing restrictions brought about by COVID-19.

"The Coronavirus also creates a

problem for communication with older members of the Co-Op who are not internet savvy, and traditionally have relied on face-to-face engagement to participate in consultation processes" Rob Bakes said

Mr Bakes said that the Co-Op is also keen to hear from commercial interests who may want to take up leased space in the old school. In this regard, the Co-Op Board is open to the negotiation and signing-off of Memoranda of Understanding with any organisation whether Not-for-Profit or commercial. Contact the Co-Op by email at info@kynetononline.org or phone 0427580803.

To join the Co-Op and be part of its EOI process, the Co-Op is urging Kyneton and District residents to sign up for formal membership online on its website kynetononline.org. the Co-Op is offering free space in their zoom meeting room for members and member organisations.

To book a time and obtain a link for a virtual meeting phone Rob on 0427580803.

For more information about the Co-Op visit kynetononline.org.

Old Boys Torrumbarry visit

The start of year 2020 Kyneton Marist Brothers annual visit to the Torrumbarry Weir Tourist Park was attended by the usual suspects and some invited guests and a great time was had by all.

A highlight of the annual visit is the competition for the possum trophy which is name after one of the most respected former teachers at the school, Brother Paul Bourke, who was nicknamed *Possum*.

The possum trophy acknowledges standout behaviour on the trip..

The 2020 winner was John Wilson who will be the keeper of the Possum Trophy until next year.



Kyneton Health thanks the community



Kyneton Health has received an outpouring support from the local community amidst the Coronavirus COVID-19 crisis. It received a large donation of roses - enough to brighten up the entire Service and to go home to community clients.

CEO Maree Cuddihy praised Kyneton residents and local businesses for rallying behind the staff of the hospital.

"We've had an outpouring of support and generous donations from our community; from huge bunches of flowers, coffees, cupcakes and more, these gestures help raise our spirits and bring a smile to many across our organisation.

"Our community's support means the world to our staff and our patients, and I know I speak on behalf of everyone at the hospital as I say a very sincere thank-you," Ms Cuddihy said.

Whilst the hospital encourages everyone to stay at home, they are still admitting sick patients to their acute ward and seeing those who require immediate attention in their Urgent Care Centre.

"We're just asking everyone to please call ahead on 54229900 to speak to one of our nurses who will be able to give the best advice for each situation.

"Our staff are doing an amazing job pulling together and adapting to the constant changes they're faced with. I cannot thank them enough for what they're doing," Ms Cuddihy said.

Cathouse Players Update

President and Artistic Director of Cathouse Players, Bette Sartore, advises that their June production of "Gaslight" has been cancelled, due to the health concerns of the Corona Virus, but all being well they hope to present "Educating Rita" in October. Enquiries: 0490485850.

Funding boost for families

Families in the Macedon Ranges region will soon be able to get the support they need to take the first steps to further education and employment opportunities.

On March 2 Member for Macedon Mary-Anne Thomas visited Kyneton Community House to announce \$70,000 in funding to implement the Family Learning Partnerships (FLP) program at the centre.

The program, which uses an innovative blend of formal and informal learning activities, will help people experiencing educational disadvantage by instilling a culture of learning within families and communities.

Parents will learn the value of education by participating in activities, learning through play, and starting their own pathway to further studies and employment.

It will empower and build the confidence of learners to make informed decisions about their educational and employment experiences.

The program which will be run out of Kyneton Community House, called *Family Stories in the Macedon Ranges*, will receive \$35,000 in funding this year.

The program is funded by the Adult, Community and Further Education Board (ACFE).

Kyneton Community House operates within a community development framework and aims to meet community needs through community building activities, providing services and education programs.

It receives financial support from the Labor Government, ACFE and the Macedon Ranges Shire, and is a member of Neighbourhood Houses Victoria.



Community House Chair Alan Moor, Director Claire Rawlinson and local MP Mary-Anne Thomas

Telehealth

In less than two weeks, Cobaw Community Health has completely altered the way that it delivers its services to ensure the protection of the community from the risk of COVID-19 exposure.

As a part of the local healthcare system, Cobaw remains open and committed to providing the same high quality, supports for the community.

As well as continuing to support existing clients and participants, Cobaw welcomes new referrals.

All of Cobaw's Primary Health team are providing services by telehealth including the adult and child Occupational Therapists, Pediatrician, Pulmonary Rehabilitation Nurse and the Dietician. There are even plans to run the adult exercise groups by video. Staff have been delighted at how open people have been to having their appointments over the phone or, with even greater success, via video and how quickly they have adjusted. This includes services such as physiotherapy, speech pathology and cardiac rehab which are being delivered by telehealth.

"With our children's services appointments, we encourage families to do the video consult on a mobile device so that they can move around the home with the child," says Prue Southey, Manager Primary Health

"Practitioners are able to work with children in the comfort of their own environment using familiar toys and other household objects to assist with the child's therapy."

"Older adults are particularly isolated at the moment with advice from the Government to the over 70s to remain at home," says Ms Southey.

"As with everyone, it is essential to remain physically active and maintain strength and mobility so keeping up with these appointments maintains both regular social connection and exercise.

Cobaw has closed all of its sites in line with the advice of Victoria's Chief Health Officer but telephone lines remain open for new referrals, general enquiries and direct contact with a clinician.

Appointments in person can also be arranged where necessary and some staff are continuing to work with clients in their homes, particularly

those transitioning out of hospital and those needing equipment or those with communication barriers.

Check out the details at www.cobaw.org.au, call 54211666 or email admin@cobaw.org.au for further information.



Immunisation hours extended

Immunisation session hours have been extended in order to ensure children can continue to be protected from infectious disease.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council Director Assets and Operations, Shane Walden said keeping up with immunisations was always important, but was now vital due to the current coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic.

"We understand some people may not want to take their children to a clinic at this time, but following through with timely childhood immunisation is important.

"As a result, our immunisation service is adapting to ensure this can still happen," Mr Walden said.

As well as extending session times, additional precautions have been put in place to ensure the safety of residents, immunisation nurses and staff.

All sessions will be set up to ensure appropriate social distancing, and participants will be required to undertake a brief screening questionnaire and temperature check to ensure they do not present a risk to others.

Only one parent or caregiver should attend a session with any child requiring immunisation.

Children, parents and their caregivers who feel unwell or have a temperature should not attend these sessions.

The new session times for Kyneton and Woodend are:

First Thursday of the month: Kyneton - Noon to 1pm, Woodend - 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

Tools down at Men's Shed



Kyneton Men's Shed has temporarily closed as a result of the strict coronavirus measures implemented by Government, and advice received from the Australian and Victorian Men's Sheds Associations.

This has severely affected support for its members and their community work, especially as the Shed has played a critical role in providing a meeting place for local men, and been a valuable workshop resource for those with practical skills.

Shed president, Phil Thomas said he was disappointed for members and their families, and friends, but health and wellbeing of the community must come first.

"It is now critical to keep in contact with our members and give them support during these challenging times, so we are looking to technology.

From a simple phone call, to Skype and other online meeting platforms, our aim is to stay in touch until the wave has passed over."

"Being able to complete the latest Women's Woodworking course prior to closure was a bonus. Unfortunately, some of the community projects that we have been undertaking are now on hold until the men can get back into the workshop.

Our cubby house raffle will still be drawn on May 1, and the lucky winners will be contacted to arrange collection when we come out of the restrictions."

"We are now looking forward to the light at the end of the tunnel, so our Kyneton Men's Shed members can pick up the great work where we left off," said Phil.

Kyneton Community House

The Kyneton Community House is currently closed to the public (including its Occasional Care Service).

Many of its staff are working remotely but can be contacted via email at

admin@kynetoncommunityhouse.org.au or through its Facebook page.

The Kyneton Community Lunch is also cancelled until further notice.

The House has created a register of helpers, so those finding themselves isolated during this Covid-19 Pandemic can reach out by registering through Community House website, or one of the contact methods above.

The Community House will be matching those in need up with people willing to help out. It could be a grocery shop, walking your dog or just a chat on the phone.

The Community House plan to move as many of its classes and courses online as possible depending on tutor availability. Notification of this will occur through the House website and social media in the coming weeks.

The Kyneton Community House Annual General Meeting which was scheduled for April 18 will be delayed until later in the year.

Probus Club of Kyneton

March saw the induction of the new Management Committee of the Probus Club of Kyneton for 2020/21: President: Phil Parkinson, Vice President: Hartley Uebergang, Treasurer: Ian Geddes, Secretary; Vicky Malcolm, Speaker Coordinator: John Wells, Trips Coordinator: Ruth Geddes, Welfare Officer: Margaret Gray, Attendance Officer; Roy Gibbs, Newsletter Editor: Helen Forsyth and Catering Officer: Margaret Wells.

Currently all Club meetings and activities have been suspended until the current health crisis is over, but once back to normal the Club will resume having its monthly meetings at St Paul's Anglican Church Hall – Yaldwyn Street Kyneton on the first Wednesday of each month (10am).

Meetings are a lively forum featuring guest speakers, plenty of humour, morning tea and a warm welcoming environment.

Following meetings members enjoy a relaxing lunch at a local venue.

If you are retired or semi retired and wish to meet new friends and participate in a wide range of activities (picnics/outings/tours cinema – theatre) please contact 54221289.

A great opportunity to make up for lost interaction once this period of social isolation has passed.

Kyneton District Trail Riders

The March and April rides have already been cancelled because of adhering to restrictions in place due to COVID 19 pandemic.

With luck, the May 31st ride from Greendale may go ahead. It will be a four hour ride through bush with a saddle-bag lunch, suitable for experienced horses and riders.

For more details, closer to the date, ring or text Garry 0400640433.



Message from RM Begg

In these difficult times with the Covid19 Pandemic, the staff and Management of RM Begg Kyneton Aged Care wish to reassure the public that RM Begg is continuing to provide the highest standard of care.

Government Guidelines from both Federal and State Departments are being strictly adhered to, resulting in restrictions to visitors and visiting times.

This means no visitors are permitted. Residents continue to be connected with their family and friends via, email, Face Time, phone calls letters and social media.

Families have the opportunity to book an appointment to speak to their family member via our 'Welcome Window'

All our volunteers who are now unable to visit are continuing to contact the residents they have interacted with via various means.

The comfort, care and safety of our residents is, as always, our main priority.

RM Begg is a Not For Profit, Community Based organisation, that has offered accommodation for the elders of our community since 1959.

We are a 'stand-alone' organisation which means we are not affiliated with multi site providers. This allows us to focus on our community and its unique needs.

Now, more than ever, RM Begg requires community support to assist in our ongoing future.

Kyneton District Services

Accountants

Craig Chester Accounting	5422 1966
Watco Partners Pty Ltd	5422 6511
David J Gibney Pty Ltd	5422 6480
Macedon Ranges Tax & Acc	5422 6460

Acupuncture

Kyn Acupuncture & Allied Health	0411558013
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Auto Services & Repairs

Mead Motors	5422 2450
Kyneton Auto Spares & Repairs	5422 1255
Vereker Bros Smash Repairs	5422 2603

Barber

Quick Snips	0400808157
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Chiropractor

Dr Rohan Kapoor	5422 6488
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Concreting & Paving

MBC Concreting & Paving	0417545159
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Dental

Campaspe Dental	5422 3988
Kyneton Dental	5422 6159

Dry Cleaning

Kyneton Dry Cleaners	5422 1503
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Electricians

Macedon Ranges Electrics	5422 2182
Kyneton Electrics	5422 1369

Fabric & Haberdashery

Alice in fabricland	0439993389
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Financial Planning

Adrian Plowman & Associates	5422 2622
BTP Business Advisors Pty Ltd	5422 1588

Florist

About Flowers	5422 7779
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Hair & Beauty

Studio 48	5422 1200
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Indoor Play Centre

BugALugs	5422 2767
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Legal Practices

Palmer Stevens & Rennick	5422 6500
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LP Gas Supplies

Hendersons the Gas People	5422 7408
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Massage

Kyn Acupuncture & Allied Health	0411558013
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Medical Practices

Campaspe Family Practice	5422 2877
Kyneton Medical Centre	5422 1397
Springs Medical Kyneton	5422 1298

Optometrist

Kosmac & Clemens	5422 3822
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Osteopath

Drs Isabel Mettler & Clare Greig	0423852874
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Real Estate

Ray White Kyneton	5422 2127
RT Edgar	5422 3325

Town Planning Services

Crossroads Town Planning	5422 2235
Macaulay Town Planning	5422 3054

Travel Services

Renee@Travel Managers	0418369411
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Veterinarians

Kyneton Veterinary Hospital	5422 1099
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Video Production & Live

Australasian Audio Visual	5422 3791
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Wheelie Bin Cleaning

Macedon Ranges Wheelie Clean	0427506810
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About U3A Kyneton

U3A stands for University of the Third Age. The idea of U3A began in 1972 in Toulouse, France. Seniors attended university lectures as passive listeners. When the idea crossed to Britain the concept changed and it became a sharing of ideas, skills and knowledge by any interested person.

A member could be a tutor one day, a class member the next and then a volunteer.

It is this model that has been adopted in Australia, but including more social activities.

U3A Kyneton was established in 2005. The group started with 50 members and there are now over 200 members and growing.

There are many courses, for the language lovers there are three levels of French, a beginner's and advanced Italian class. This year Kyneton U3A members are also able to enjoy its fortnightly Film Club and dog walking group.

U3A has a popular photography course, keen Mah Jong players who meet weekly while social activities include a Wednesday coffee club and a monthly lunch club with visits to local restaurants.

U3A Kyneton welcomes those who are over 50 years of age and are fully or partially retired. Members can be new to the area or just wanting to make new friends.

Like all community groups U3A Kyneton is currently in recess because of the Corona Virus pandemic but, as always, when it resumes new members and guests are very welcome to attend the U3A Friday meetings commencing at 2pm at the Red Brick Hall, 23 Yaldwyn Street West.

All that is needed is to have an interest in sharing community activities with new and old friends.

Whilst this may mean some level of learning, the main aim is to have fun with people who have the same interests; enjoying social contact and adding more stimulation and involvement to your life. You don't even have to make a commitment to attend every week.

There are no educational qualifications needed, expected or given.

For further information about Kyneton U3A visit the website or call U3A President Peter Johnson on 0439360763.

Kyneton Lions

Like other community groups the Lions Club of Kyneton is currently in recess due to the COVID19 pandemic.

The Club, established in 1953, was the first country Lions Club to be formed in Victoria, and the 20th Club in Australia.

The Club seeks to assist the local community wherever possible.

Among its many achievements Kyneton Lions played a major role in ensuring the construction of the Ray M Begg Homes in Epping St the first stage of which was opened in 1959.

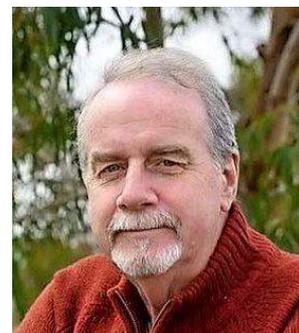
Kyneton Lions is involved, often working with other community groups in a number of activities. These include the Daffodil & Arts Festival, Royal Children Hospital appeal, the Kyneton Show, the Australia Day Breakfast and also giving to local schools, Primary and Secondary Bursary awards to students.

This year Lions have donated funds towards Kyneton Hospital's new chemotherapy Unit.

The Lions also hosted the Combined Service Club dinner with representatives from other Clubs attending.

Kyneton Lions is a very friendly Club and welcomes new members. Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday each month at 7pm in the Watts Pavilion.

For more information call President Jenny Wyatt on 54232674.



President Peter Johnson

Museum's 50th Anniversary



April 16 marks the 50th anniversary of the official opening of Kyneton Museum.

In the 1960s, the popularity of the Pioneer Village in Swan Hill encouraged suggestions that Kyneton should establish something similar.

At a meeting of the Shire of Kyneton in January 1968, the Council resolved "That we form a Committee to confer with the Kyneton Historical Society or any other body with the object of establishing a folk museum for Kyneton."

At its March meeting, Kyneton Shire Council accepted the recommendation that the old Bank of NSW in Piper Street was the best site.

By the end of March an option to purchase was in place and application for a grant of \$20,000 had been sent to the State Government.

A grant of \$13,334, on a 2:1 basis, was offered by the Premier's Department. As its contribution Shire Council paid the \$1,150 deposit on the property. This left almost \$5,000 to be raised as the community contribution.

By February 1969 the Museum Appeal had raised \$4,340. Of this total, \$2,240 came from the raffle of a Holden Belmont sedan - the value of the car, \$1,900 puts all of these costs in perspective.

Working bees held by local service clubs, Apex, Lions and Rotary, were

given a monetary value and accepted as part of the community contribution. Settlement was due on 7 October 1968: at its September meeting Kyneton Shire Council authorised Regulations for management.

Bylaw 58 controlled operation of the Museum. Council was empowered to appoint a committee of up to 20 persons to manage the Museum, with finances controlled by Council.

Meantime donations of items for display were requested from the community and a small committee was formed to receive, or reject, donations.

The level of community support was reflected in the generous gifts of beautiful antiques, elegant costumes, works of art, farming equipment and simple domestic items.

Only a handful of the 8,000 items in the Museum collection have been purchased.

The then Premier of Victoria, Sir Henry Bolte, declared the Museum officially open on April 16, 1970; some months ahead of the opening of Sovereign Hill, Ballarat, in November of that year.

Initially Kyneton Shire's 'Historical Museum' was open from 2 pm to 4 pm on Saturdays and Sundays, staffed by volunteers from the Committee, with three on duty each day.

For many years, from April 1969, Mr Phil Jacobs was employed as caretaker of the Museum, with more extensive opening hours.

Today, the Museum is managed by the Arts & Culture Department of Macedon Ranges Council and all staff have qualifications in Museum Studies.

The Museum is supported by an enthusiastic Friends group, established in 2000, and a team of volunteers who greet and guide visitors.

The usual opening hours are 11 am to 4 pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Sadly the COVID19 pandemic means that the Museum is currently closed and plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary have been cancelled.

Hopefully a grand re-opening and anniversary celebration can be held later in the year.

Golf Club lends a hand

The Kyneton Golf Club wanted to support bushfire affected areas and chose to help the golf club at Mallacoota.

Mallacoota was greatly impacted by recent bushfires and is facing ongoing business and economic hardship.

The Kyneton Golf Club conducted a highly successful Bushfire Relief event with all proceeds going to the Mallacoota Golf Club.

Over 70 players, representative of a broad range of ages, professions and agencies, participated.

The event raised \$1700 which has been sent to the Mallacoota Golf Club. Celia Wallace, Secretary of the Mallacoota Golf Club, was thrilled to receive the money raised.

The Kyneton Golf Club encourages new community members (adults and juniors) who are interested in golf to come along to experience the Kyneton course first hand when they are able.



The Winners

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 54222990, & Jenny Hince 54223364

- Articles for the June 2020 issue of *Kyneton Connect* should be e-mailed to eandmco@netcon.net.au or left at Cobaw Community Health Service in High Street before June 5, 2020
- To have *Kyneton Connect* mailed send name, address and cheque for \$10 for a year's subscription to *Kyneton Connections*, PO Box 146 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

Layout: Marg Dearthcott. Printed by Kyneton Copy Centre, Mollison Street, Kyneton

Auspiced by Cobaw Community Health Service Inc

Kyneton Connect is proudly supported by Macedon Ranges Shire Council

