

Creswick District News

Still Priceless

Issue 269 December 2021



The members of *Creswick District News* would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Festive Season. *CDN* would also like to thank the regular contributors, advertisers and readers for their support without which there would be no *CDN*.

Also, a reminder that there will not be a January edition but everyone is looking forward to returning in February 2022.

Neville Cartledge, OAM Life member of Scouts Victoria

Scouts Victoria announced at their Annual Meeting and Awards Presentation held on 18 November, their intention to confer Life memberships on four eminent individuals for 2021. Scouts Victoria only awards up to four Life Memberships in any one year and has a total of only twenty-five Life Memberships at any one time.

Local Creswick Scout, Neville Cartledge, OAM, was one of the four Scouts awarded their Life Membership of Scouts Victoria at this meeting. Greg Landgren, Chairman - Branch Executive Committee, Scouts Victoria, congratulated Neville for *'his significant contribution to the development of Scouting in Victoria. Your contribution has made a difference to countless young people, making the world a better place'*.

Neville was one of the original thirty-four youths who joined the 1st Creswick Scout Troop on their re-establishment in 1950/51 and he is still active to this day managing the Display Area in the Heritage Centre at Pax Hill in Ballarat with a mixture of Pax Hill's and his own personal collection.

During the past seventy years Neville has held positions at 1st Creswick as Troop Leader, Assistant Scout Leader, Scout Leader, Senior Scout/Venturer Leader and eventually, Wendouree/Central Highlands/Kulin and District Leader.

Congratulations Neville.



Sheila and Neville Cartledge
Photo taken in 2018 when Neville received his Scouting
65 Year Service Award Photo by Lorraine Harvey



AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST 26 JANUARY 2022

The Hepburn Shire will once again sponsor the Creswick Australia Day Breakfast, which will be held at Park Lake on Wednesday, 26 January 2022 from 8.00am. Creswick Railway Workshops Association, supported by local community groups, will run the event and it is hoped that those who have volunteered in the past will once again step up to make this another successful event. Please make a note of this because there will not be a *CDN* issue in January. **Information regarding ticketing will be on the Hepburn Shire website and also on public notices around town.**

This is a free event, but everyone is asked to obtain a ticket so numbers for catering can be estimated. Please bring a folding chair, table, plate and cutlery and a cup or mug. Everything else will be supplied. COVID rules will apply, and a COVID Marshal will be checking vaccination certificates. Please adhere to safe distancing rules. Everyone knows the rules now and the last thing needed is for this to become a virus spreading event. If anyone would like to volunteer, contact Marj Poole on 5345 2065.

Creswick District News

The CDN is a community newsletter imparting local information. Copy is invited from individuals and community groups reporting or advising on local events. All contributions are accepted in good faith with no intention or desire to misinform or offend. Articles must carry the name, phone number and/or email address of the sender. The Editor reserves the right to edit or not publish any article. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the CDN Team.

The next issues of CDN
No January Edition
17 February 2022
17 March 2022

Deadline for copy and
advertisements:
1st day of the month.

Newsletter printed by
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Contact CDN: 0407 352 982
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The *Creswick District News* is available beyond this district at \$20 for 12 issues mailed to a destination within Australia only. Contact the CDN with recipient's details at cdn@cbl.com.au

The CDN is also available online at
www.creswick.net/creswick/newsletter



CDN ADVERTISEMENTS

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Creswick District News Inc. gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support provided by the **Community Bank Creswick & District.**



CEMETERY NEWS

A huge thank you to Ray, David, Chris and Kieran for erecting shelters around the Cemetery. These were kindly donated by the Creswick Bowling Club. Seating will be added and eventually a map of the cemetery will be placed in each shelter to help those searching for family graves.

Please be aware during Summer that **NO** candles or incense are to be lit in the Cemetery grounds.

The Cemetery Trust wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a bright and happy 2022.

Wendy Ohlsen
Secretary



The Welcome Back Lunch Creswick Garden Club

Tuesday, 1 February 2022
12 noon - Senior Citizens Rooms

Everyone is welcome even if you are not a Garden Club member. However, numbers are limited and the Club will abide by the COVID rules for the Seniors' Rooms. This means all attendees must be double vaccinated. For \$5, paid on the day, you will receive a two-course meal and be able to enjoy the entertainment which will be a virtual tour of the Chelsea Flower Show. Please book with Jenny on 0408 735 068 by 25 January and advise her if you have any special dietary requirements.

The new Club website is:
www.creswickgardenclub.com

Victoria Street Craft Group

The Group would like to thank everyone who helped and donated goods for the Garage Sale which was a great success. Also thanks to Sean for his kind donation.

CAN YOU HELP?

Along with many other community groups, *CDN* is in need of adding to its small group of volunteers. If you have some regular time you could put aside, some computer skills and an interest in the editing process, please contact *CDN* via email.

CDN Team

creswick Rainfall

Monthly Totals as sent to Bureau of Meteorology by Frank Slade.

	2019	2020	2021
	mm	mm	mm
January	3.0	53.5	134.5
February	23.0	34.0	13.0
March	15.0	36.5	79.5
April	13.5	97.5	20.0
May	161.5	60.5	79.0
June	133.5	62.5	99.9
July	65.0	35.7	106.5
August	98.0	124.5	66.5
September	57.5	67.0	70.5
October	34.0	73.0	91.0
November	71.0	52.2	66.8
December	20.5	58.5	
TOTAL	695.5	755.4	827.2

THE CRESWICK ART SHOW SPRINGS INTO A NEW DIRECTION

Under the patronage of Pavilion Arts, the 2021 Creswick Art Show has entered an exciting phase of its development. President, Andrew Bell could not have been more pleased with the weekend, from the standard of exhibits, the input from the judges and community feedback, declaring it the best Art Show ever.

At the Opening, held at the Town Hall, guests were entertained by the Newlyn Players under the musical direction of Judy Turner.

The judges, David Bromfield and Dr Pippa Tandy, who have travelled the world for over fifty years, exhibiting, curating, designing and publishing art books, did not know who was a professional and who was an amateur painter. *'It takes courage to show paintings. The overall standard in the Art Show was fantastic and it is very heartening to see some exciting works from emerging artists'*, Mr Bromfield said.

In awarding the major Bendigo Art Prize of \$1,000, the judges unanimously chose Mark Payne for his painting *Uplift*, painted *en plein air*. On thanking the judges Mr Payne said that painting *en plein air* inspired rapid brush strokes, giving the painting a sense of being in the moment.

The Brown Award of \$250 for Young Artists went to Sharna van Leest for her entry *Weeping Mountain* and the Community Bank Creswick & District People's Choice Award of \$250, was won by Lisa Timson for *Beer O'Clock*.

The Creswick Old Masters, running in conjunction with the Art Show, was an absolute delight to view. The ambience in the Havilah Masonic Lodge displayed the twenty masters to perfection. To witness the works of Creswick artists who have gone before, including the Lindsay family, Allan Bernaldo, Nettie Mitchell and T G Moyle, must have been uplifting for the contemporary artists exhibiting at the Art Show.

In summing up the success of the Creswick Art Show weekend Andrew Bell said that *'it came from people working together to achieve an event that Creswick can be really proud of'*.

'Events like this just don't happen. My sincere thanks to the committee of volunteers who have worked so hard to achieve this fantastic weekend. And my gratitude to all the exhibitors who took a risk to display their art. Courage and commitment are a winning combination. We anticipate building on this year's success to grow the categories to include portraits and more sculptures. We are optimistic that there might be an annual monumental sculpture exhibition. This is such an exciting time in the overall development of Creswick. I am very happy to be able to participate in this great community!'

Fiona Watson

See photos on back page



Halloween Lantern Parade

'Did you just arrive? You missed everything.' That's how one excited little girl greeted a latecomer. Her friend arrived in time for the burning skeletons but had missed the rest of the program.

The Scouts' sausage-sizzle was that much more delicious for being served in the cold and the wet; the best-selling kids' author, Mr Midnight, had great fun making up scary stories with kids; the parade through the beautiful University grounds with the path lit by a myriad of tea lights was magical; and the burning sculpture was truly awe-inspiring, even scarier than Mr Midnight's scary stories!

Thank you so much to the kids and their parents who braved the weather and joined us for a totally bewitching evening.

Andrew Bell, President

See photo on back page



CRESWICK LIONS CLUB

Cakes, Raffles and BBQs

Yummy Lions Christmas cakes and puddings have been distributed around Creswick and district. Cakes are available at: Community Bank Creswick & District, Creswick Post Office, Flemo's, Davies and Rose, Clunes Medical Centre and Clunes Newsagency. Puddings are available at: Community Bank Creswick & District, Flemo's and the Clunes Newsagency. They are also available from the Lions stall at the market. The last market BBQ will be mid-December.

Christmas raffle tickets will be on sale outside the IGA from 9 to 23 December with winners notified on 23 December.

Barbara Urry, Secretary, 0423 536 794



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CRESWICK WELCOMES THE DUTCH

By Jack van Beveren, Gerarda van Hamond, Jo van Oostveen, Rita Flapper and Marilyn Lennox

PART 2

The Catholic Church and others in Creswick were seeking ways to resurrect their falling congregations and to increase the population in town, which in turn might stimulate shops and businesses to stay. The migration boom was just what was needed to keep the town going.

The Ballarat Diocesan Director of Migration, Fr Des O'Hagan, stepped up. In 1951, as the first waves of migrants began to arrive, he purchased the Railway Hotel at Creswick on behalf of the church. The Railway Hotel, built in 1870 on the corner of Victoria and Lewers Streets by the Roberts family, had traded as a licensed hotel until 1916. It was inherited by two of John and Amelia Roberts' daughters, Annie and Laura, who were teachers at the Creswick Primary school. Annie, their last remaining daughter, sold the former hotel to the Catholic Church in 1951 and died in 1953.



*Railway Hotel water colour by William Tibbits, c1870
Courtesy Creswick Museum*

The former Railway Hotel was quickly renamed *Caroline Chisholm House* in honour of that first, firm, friend of immigrants in Australia. Caroline Chisholm, the wife of a captain in the British East India Company, became a Catholic in 1830. In 1840 she came to Australia to begin her social work, helping women and girls on the goldfields and setting up wayside houses along the roads where women could safely spend the night.

Father O'Hagan immediately instigated the refurbishment of the sixteen-room hostel, and secured enough furniture and fixtures to make it austere but habitable. It was soon filled with migrants, mainly from Holland, and became a clearing-house for all those who could not immediately find shelter or jobs in their new environment.

At about the same time, Fr O'Hagan met Bert and Fien van Hamond in Ballarat and asked if they would be interested in managing the hostel in return for accommodation. The van Hamonds were also tasked with providing general maintenance, cleaning and preparing rooms, providing and chopping wood for the stove and open fires and hot water

in the bathroom. They also provided food hampers and copious information regarding job opportunities and information about local customs and facilities to the newly arrived families.

After some cleaning and alterations, the van Hamonds moved into the hostel in November 1953. There was a large kitchen, from its days as a hotel, a dining room and plenty of bedrooms. Unfortunately, there was also an old-style outdoor dunny, quite a shock to many arrivals. It would be many years before a sewerage system came to Creswick. The hostel became a busy place, with a number of families living there at the same time, all with children – some with as many as nine or ten.

The first migrant family to use the hostel were the Byvoets, who arrived in Creswick in December, 1953. Jo and John van Oostveen were the final couple to live in the hostel. The hostel closed in 1958 when Jo and John moved into the Creswick house which they still live in today.

It is important to recognise that not all migrants came through *Caroline Chisholm House*. The Salvation Army, for instance, sponsored their migrant families to stay in hotels in town and of course those who were sponsored by friends and families generally lodged with them until they could manage on their own.

The majority of the families arrived in Creswick from the Netherlands, but over the years many also arrived from Italy, Yugoslavia, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the United Kingdom. Most arrivals, except those from the UK, did not speak any English and communicating with each other was not always easy. Most families only stayed from six to eight weeks and as soon as they got work, they would find their own places. Many settled in and around Creswick while some moved to Ballarat, an abundant source of employment.

Around Creswick there were empty houses, some from the gold era and others abandoned during the depressions of the 1890s and 1930s. Many were in barely habitable condition which was rather daunting, but the Dutch being very resourceful, renovated the buildings to make them liveable and extended to make room for large families.

The Dutch who stayed on in Creswick have made a huge difference to the town. They were quick to settle in with their children enrolling in the schools, the adults starting businesses and joining the local churches. Their willingness to assimilate was appreciated by the long-term residents who reciprocated by involving them in activities and making them welcome.

Continued on next page

By Craig Barrett

CRESWICK WELCOMES THE DUTCH

There were many cases where residents assisted the new neighbours with food from their garden or kerosene lamps for light and sometimes furniture.

The Dutch were spotless in appearance, refined in their habits, mostly well educated and enthusiastic in their attitudes. Several families, over time, accumulated sufficient funds to begin new enterprises in Creswick. The de Muncks opened a tailoring shop, the Litooy's saw a need for an upholstery business and the de Jong family opened a second-hand goods shop. Bill Meyer, who had experience in the boot-making trade, opened a boot and shoe shop. The van Boggelen family opened a greengrocery, the van Leest and Verhagen families started a building business while the van Beverens bought a cow and began selling cream to a dairy. Dick and Corrie Verhagen opened their café, the *Windmill*. They also ran a catering service and filled lunch orders for the schools. A wonderful effort, by the Dutch, considering their financial position on arrival.

In the 1960s, the economic situation in the Netherlands was beginning to improve and immigration became a less attractive option. Some returned home and the Netherlands-born population of Victoria decreased to 30,707 in 1981, however, by 2016 that number had become settled at 19,814. Most Creswick 'Dutchys' stayed on.

A complete list of names and addresses of all the Dutch families who settled in Creswick and the sources used for this article, is planned to be on the website of the Creswick & District Historical Society. Also available from Jack van Beveren, phone 5345 2658.



When I was in college back in the 1970s studying Fine Arts, one of the subjects I took was Sumi-e, (pronounced soomee-eh). Sumi-e is the ancient Japanese Zen Buddhist discipline for meditation through art. The name itself, Sumi-e, means *The Way of The Brush*.

The importance of this practice was not placed on the finished painting, the focus was on the **doing** rather than the **result**. We would practice over and over again to get a single brushstroke just right.

I still live by this concept in as many ways as I can. When I am out drawing in the field, I am not thinking about the picture - I am concentrating on the act of drawing. When I am working in my vegie garden, I am not thinking about the possible harvest, I am simply weeding, or turning the soil, or tying high growers to a stake. When I vacuum the house, I am not thinking about how clean it will be - I am simply vacuuming. When I pick up litter on the roadside, I try not to get annoyed by the litterer, I merely pick it up.

All these things, like Sumi-e, are about being in the moment. My cat Milly has perfected the Art of Living - and Being in The Moment. I learn a lot from her.

www.craigbarrett.com.au



Kingston, Friends of the Avenue Inc. Remembrance Day

The Remembrance Day Service was a very special occasion this year. Gathering within COVID guidelines was possible and the Newlyn Primary School community was able to participate. As people assembled, students offered sprigs of rosemary and attendees were able to view the students' art installations.

Special thanks to Councillor Tim Drylie (now Mayor), for the Acknowledgement of Country and Brian Reasons, Creswick/Smeaton RSL for conducting the Service. Wreaths were laid by various individuals and community groups, including the Fire Brigade and Newlyn Primary School.

It was a privilege to have Doug Slater from Lake Burrumbeet play cornet at the commemorative services. The haunting sound of the *Last Post* and *Rouse* is an essential part of these ceremonies. The *Ode of Remembrance* was eloquently read by Emma Haintz from Newlyn Primary School and Dianne Cramer of Broomfield presented a moving rendition of *In Flanders' Fields*.

This year the Commitment to Remember was delivered by Trace Williams, representing the Kingston Fire Brigade and Kingston Friends of the Avenue. Her poignant presentation acknowledged the service and sacrifice of men and women in war as well those left behind. It made connections to current lives and the contributions and sacrifices made by essential workers and volunteers. The Service concluded with the National Anthem sung by Newlyn Primary School. Hospitality was then shared at the Commercial Hotel. Thanks again to all involved.

The first meeting for 2022 will be held on 9 February, 7.00pm at the Commercial at Kingston. We intend having meetings every two months and welcome new members. Any inquiries email kingstonfoa@gmail.com.

Season Greetings.

Julie Baulch

On behalf of Kingston, Friends of the Avenue, Inc

Rebecca is Hooked on Growing

Many readers may already be acquainted with the interesting little nursery tucked away in Allendale, 8 km from Creswick on the Creswick-Newstead Road. But have they got to know its energetic owner Rebecca Sprosen?

Rebecca came to Allendale via Sydney and Melbourne in 2004. Originally from New Zealand, Rebecca had a very interesting and varied career before establishing her herb and vegetable nursery in the district. She grew up in Governor's Bay, just outside Christchurch, on the iconic Banks Peninsula.

Rebecca arrived in Sydney in 1979, worked for the TAB as a casual and then began fulltime work for a company assessing patients for wheelchairs, keeping the TAB as a second job. After completing a course in gemmology in Melbourne, she then worked for a diamond and coloured gemstone merchant. Rebecca loved being a gemmologist, going back to a child hood fascination with stones. However, her life was going in other directions, including a partnership business in recycled cartridges, selling merchandise at events throughout Melbourne, and more studies in Marketing at Swinburne University, until she married and moved to Marysville where she acquired the local Licensed Post Office. In 2004, Rebecca bought the property at Allendale which incorporated the original Allendale bakery and dairy buildings. Driving through Allendale today, it is hard to believe that this quiet little spot was once a town boasting ten hotels, a railway station (the railway line to Daylesford only closed in 1976), a school, shops and the bakery.

Rebecca worked at Creswick Nursery from 2006 to 2011. She adored being outdoors after spending thirty odd years working indoors, so began studying Horticulture in 2007 completing a Certificate III at Federation University.

The Creswick Nursery changed hands three times, so towards the end Rebecca started her own small home nursery in 2008 but really threw herself into it after leaving Creswick Nursery. Rebecca originally sold natives, ornamentals and a handful of herbs mostly purchased from wholesalers, under a **Plants for Sale** sign, via an honesty system outside her home. This eventually grew into a small nursery laid out in the old cow yard. Rebecca slowly stopped buying plants in and began growing her own, especially herbs and eventually vegetable seedlings as they go hand in hand. Hence the business slogan *Hooked On Herbs*. She always refers to her nursery as a Home Hobby Nursery, Cottage Nursery or sometimes a Micro Nursery.



Photo: Courtesy Peter McArthur

Rebecca has found that her best business model is to take her stock to markets. Indeed, she now visits ten different markets each month including Ballarat Farmers Market, Maldon Market, Riddells Creek Farmers Market, Talbot Farmers Market, Avoca Market and Castlemaine Weekly Farmers Market. Rebecca admits this is very heavy, hard work - pushing and pulling the trolleys in and out of the truck. She currently employs three casuals who help with pricking out, potting up, repotting and any other odd jobs that need doing.

Rebecca has shown remarkable resilience over the last few years, withstanding a number of setbacks, both personal and professional. The nursery was the victim of theft several times, which led her to erect more

secure fencing around the property and give away the honesty system. Her husband and two other close family members, passed away recently which has taken its toll. To keep busy and help the nursery, she took up welding at Federation University and five years later she is still doing it and loving it.

In 2017 Rebecca went on a road trip along the east coast and discovered northern New South Wales. *'The green landscape reminds me of where I grew up in New Zealand.'* This has prompted her to think about moving. Over the last three winters she has been renovating the house for sale.

It's for many reasons that Rebecca wants to sell, however top of the list is health. She enjoys the growing side of the nursery but the physical work is getting too much for her. With no family ties it's time to move on. *'My time here has, at the very least, been interesting but it is time to start a new chapter.'* We wish Rebecca all the best with the next chapter in her interesting life.

Maria Taylor

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HAMMON PARK AND TRAILS

A tender for construction of the trailhead at Hammon Park opened in early December, bringing the trailhead for the Creswick Trails another step closer. This contract is for the implementation of the community space at Hammon Park which includes additional parking, nature play, cycling jumps course, learn to ride circuit, shaded seating area and cycle wash area. A separate tender also opened for a new all-accessible public toilet and Changing Place at Hammon Park. Council hopes to award the contracts at the Council Meeting in February 2022. Both of these contracts are supported by the Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund made available through the State Government. The Creswick Trails Network is currently working towards a planning permit. Once constructed, the network will comprise of 60 kilometres of purpose built mountain bike trails beginning at the Hammon Park trailhead. Further updates will be provided shortly.

WVTNP UPDATE

Council is strongly opposed to the Western Victoria Transmission Network Project (WVTNP) announcement made recently regarding the proposed route and large terminal station to be located in our Shire.

Council is extremely disappointed at the lack of transparency and poor community consultation with this project and is calling for a full review by the State Government. We understand the announcement will be very concerning for members of our community. Find out more on Council's position at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/western-transmission-lines-project/.

END OF YEAR CLOSURE

Council offices, depots, hubs and libraries will close at 2.00pm on Friday 24 December and reopen on Tuesday 4 January. Transfer Stations are closed on Christmas Day and Code Red days. Staff involved in Emergency Management will carry out their roles and responsibilities in accordance with Emergency Management procedures. For Council-related animal emergencies (eg. dog attacks and stock on Council roads) during the festive season phone 0419 587 955 or for all other Council-related emergencies phone 0419 583 573.

Kerbside bin collection won't be impacted over the festive period, so please put out your bins as usual.

Councillors and staff wish everyone a safe and happy break over the festive season.

AQUATICS SEASON OPEN

Our aquatics season has started and entry is free! The Creswick Splash Park is open everyday from 9am to 8pm.

LOOKING FOR WORK? We are recruiting staff to join our Aquatics Team. Not all roles need pool qualifications. Learn more and apply at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/employment-opportunities.

UPDATE ON AGED CARE

Council made an in-principle decision to withdraw from delivering aged and disability services at the November Council Meeting. Council has been a long-term provider of aged and disability services for the community, and we know the importance and value of this service. The in-principle decision is primarily due to the reforms by the Commonwealth Government in relation to the Home Support Program, which will transition to the Support at Home Program from 1 July 2023.

Council will lead an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to identify and recommend an appropriate future provider, with the final decision resting with the Commonwealth Government. Council expects to make a decision on this in early 2022.

Remember, during this process nothing immediately changes for our clients and staff. Most in-home aged care services across Australia are provided by non-government, not for profit organisations and similar decisions are being made by a number of other Councils. For more information visit our project webpage at <https://participate.hepburn.vic.gov.au/aged-and-disability-services>.

HEPBURN AT THE REX

At the November Council Meeting, Council decided to not proceed with the Hepburn Hub at The Rex project. Council has instructed the CEO to begin the process to sell The Rex building.

The Local Government Act 2020 covers the process required to sell Council land.

Under the Act, we need to undertake a community engagement process in line with our Community Engagement Policy. Council must also obtain a recent land valuation and must publish a notice of intention at least four weeks prior to selling or exchanging the land. We expect this to be undertaken in early 2022.

Community members will have the opportunity to have a say on the sale of the building. We'll share more information next year to keep you up to date.

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GOOD NEWS FROM KINGSTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Showgrounds are looking fabulous and are open to the community. The perfect spot to have a picnic, walk the dog or sit in the heritage listed grandstand and appreciate the view.

Towards the 2022 Show

Even though the 2021 Kingston Agricultural Show had to be cancelled, general improvement works and planning for a fabulous, family-friendly event in 2022 continue.

New Marquees/Disability Shower

As previously mentioned, thanks to State Government Grants, marquees and a disability access shower are available for community events and hirers of the showgrounds.

Volunteer Support

Every contribution counts, so if you'd like to help in any way, please get in touch. The November working bee woke up the grounds from winter. Thanks to all those who attended.

Events and Visitors

It is thrilling to see the grounds in action again. Recently the following groups used the facilities: Southern Explorers; Creswick Adult Riders Club; Welsh Pony & Cob Society; Show Ballarat and Sebastopol Cycling Club.

Get In Touch

For more information, to volunteer, join the committee or become a member, please contact the Secretary on 0419 527 734.

John Rowlands



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Book Review - *Her*, by Garry Disher **Rhonda Cotsell**

I recently discovered the work of Garry Disher, an academic with a Masters in Australian History who has written widely in fiction; including children's books, non-fiction and a number of adult novels centred in the South Australian Mallee. He has also written a series centred on the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria.

The Mallee's distinctive geographical identity and its people makes it a hard area to sell though it has its own magic, visible often only to those of us who know it well. However, Disher's academic background in Australian history can be felt in his storytelling skill and the depth of his knowledge bringing the flatness and isolation, the language and personalities of the people, alive in his fiction, taking me as a reader back home to my Victorian Mallee.

Her is set in the years after World War I and follows the life of a small girl, sold to a travelling pedlar by desperate parents with too many mouths to feed. During the harsher months, along with a woman and an older girl, who also had been purchased in earlier years, they camp on the pedlar's property. Here they spend their days making items to sell such as toasting forks from fencing wire and remaking garments into tea towels and face washers. During the better months, they travel in a horse drawn cart through the Mallee selling these items to isolated farm women. They also make money where they can collecting junk and stealing from unsuspecting property owners. The pedlar is a bully who drinks most of what they make and terrorises the woman and children.

All the characters come alive on the page and in every page the country they traverse and conditions under which they live, are convincingly drawn. I could see the long hot roads and smell the eucalyptus of their evening camps. The hard lives of most they met is vividly realised. Reading the sections where the Spanish flu is rife also creates an unsettling sense of déjà vu as I read in fiction the impact that flu had on everyday life back then, identical in many ways to that we experience in the world we inhabit today.

For those interested, the Creswick library has an excellent collection of Garry Disher's works available for loan.

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VALE PAMELA WORSWICK

Pam Worswick (nee Ritchie), well-known local artist, educator and community volunteer, was born in Haddington, near Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1941. She attended the Edinburgh School of Art, came to Australia in 1947 and in 1971 married Malcolm Worswick. Their son, Toby, was born in 1974. She joined the Box Hill Art Group, where she was Secretary for many years, and was fortunate to be tutored by Herman Pekels, Meg Heres, Jennie Michele and Archibald winner Peter Wegner. In 1994 the family moved to Fish Creek where she joined the Fish Creek Art Group, again serving as Secretary for some years while she also ran a B & B and Malcolm a bookshop.

Pam and Mal came to Creswick in 2003. Pam volunteered at Calembeen Lodge Nursing Home, working with stroke victim Colin until his death in 2006. She held two exhibitions of his paintings and produced greeting cards from his work. Pam also ran beginners' water-colour classes at the Creswick Adult Learning Centre (now the Creswick Neighbourhood Centre). In 2006, she rented the old butcher's shop in Albert Street, where she ran classes and started an Art Group in the hall of the Learning Centre which continues to this day.

Pam continued to volunteer at the Nursing Home and organised exhibitions showcasing the work of many patients. There were also exhibitions at *Persephones Garden* in Albert Street and at the Woollen Mills. The Worswicks were flooded out three times in 2010 - 2011, facing destruction of their garden and the loss of Pam's Studio. They were photographed being evacuated with their cat, Daisy.

When the Adult Learning Centre faced difficulties, Pam accepted the role of Secretary, one of the hardworking group responsible for the restructure. The Worswicks moved to Ballarat in 2017, but Pam continued co-ordinating the Art Group, and volunteering at the Nursing Home until the COVID pandemic forced her to cease these activities.

In her final year, Pam was diagnosed with leukemia and died at Gandarra on 11 October this year. Her friendly, cheerful presence will be sadly missed by her family, friends, and the many people who benefited from Pam's talent and willingness to nurture others in their artistic endeavours.

Frances Fiddian

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Christmas Mass Times

St Augustine's Creswick and

St Peter's Daylesford

Sunday, 19 December – 4th Sunday of Advent

St Augustine's 9.00am for fully vaccinated people able to show proof.

St Peter's 10.30am for fully vaccinated people able to show proof.

Thursday, 23 December

St Augustine's 7.30pm - this mass is open to all including those who cannot provide proof of full vaccination. Masks need to be worn.

Friday, 24 December – Christmas Eve

St Augustine's 6.00pm for fully vaccinated people able to show proof.

Saturday, 25 December – Christmas Day

St. Peter's 9.30am for fully vaccinated people able to show proof.

Subject to change depending on restrictions in place at the time.

For information phone 0448 220 685 during office hours Wednesday to Friday 9.00am – 2.00pm.

Information also available on
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Senior Cits News

November Social Day was a very pleasant get together for Seniors. Hopefully the Social Days will continue next year as usual.

After the Christmas lunch, Seniors will have a short break from 18 December until 5 and 8 January, when the usual activities begin with Scrabble, euchre, bingo and possibly Saturday bowls.

The smart new kitchen will be an asset *for all who cook in it*. Thanks to all who made it possible.

May everybody have a very happy and safe Christmas, with the hope of having a normal New Year in 2022. Get well wishes to anyone on the sick list.

June Gray, 5334 6526



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ST AUGUSTINE'S NEWS

As the year draws to a close, it is timely to say goodbye to the year six students. We thank them for all they have brought to our community and wish them well in their future endeavours.

Over November and December, the year six students were involved in transition days to their Secondary school. The current students were involved in a transition day on 7 December. They were joined by the kindergarten students who experienced what school might look like when they spent the morning at school.

The school managed to fit in quite a lot over the last part of the year. The year two class had their sleepover and the year threes had a fantastic time on camp at Adekate. The year four class have their camp booked in for the first week in December and are very excited about that. The school managed to get a garden club up and running across November with help from a very keen parent, Stacey Trafford, and a group of eager gardeners.

On Tuesday, 30 November and Wednesday, 1 December, the *Life Education* van visited school. Their Mobile Learning Centres serve as a unique learning environment by providing the information, understanding, skills and strategies children require to make safe decisions about their health and well-being.

The annual Sports Carnival took place on Monday, 22 November. Congratulations to all students who participated throughout the day and well done to the winning teams. Green Team won the points trophy and Blue Team the team spirit award. Other winners on the day were the various year level Sports Person of the Day.

Congratulations to:

Foundation	Reggie McNaulty
Year 1	Elijah Coulter
Year 2	Blake Gullock
Year 3	Jack Clohesy
Year 4	Declan Ruddy
Year 5	Hugh Miller
Year 6	Arya Cameron Lench

To all who have followed the school's journey across the twelve months, the Christmas spirit reminds us of the need to be generous of heart to ourselves and all who we meet. May your Christmas be all that you wish for yourself and those around you.

Enjoy the month.

Terry Brennan
Principal



Annual Sports Carnival Winners



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100 Years Ago

Compiled by Creswick Museum

December 2, 1921

Ullina District Association – Cricket – A meeting of the delegates to the Ullina District Cricket Association was held on Wednesday evening last. It was decided to continue the first round of matches to its conclusion on the next three Saturday's, and then discontinue playing until the first Saturday in February, when the second round will be entered upon.

December 6, 1921

BERRY- In loving memory of T. C. J. (Joe), late of H.M.A.S. Sydney, loved and only son of J. T. and S. E. Berry, who was drowned at Port Darwin, Dec. 6th, 1919.

"There will be no more son." – Inserted by his loving parents and sisters, Lincoln Hill.

December 9, 1921

An important alteration in the condition for admission of children to the State Secondary course in the High School has been made by the Education department. In order that as far as possible, no child shall be prevented from reaping the benefits of a secondary education because of financial disabilities of his parents, no charge is made for tuition until the pupil has attained the age of 14.

December 13, 1921

A social and strawberry fete will be held in St. John's

Church of England Sunday School hall this (Tuesday) evening, in aid of the soldiers' memorial window. The admission is 6d and a similar charge will be made for strawberries and cream.

December 16, 1921

It is very gratifying to note that the Creswick District Hospital nurse trainees are keeping up the reputation of the institution for successes at the examinations of the Royal Victorian trained Nurses' Association. Nurses Kathleen McLeod and Ivy B. Wall sat at the recent examination, and both passed, which is very creditable to the young ladies mentioned, as well as those responsible for their tuition.

December 20, 1921

All those interested in the Creswick Victory Brass Band are requested to attend a meeting in the bandroom, over the fire station, on Wednesday (to-morrow) evening, at 8 o'clock. A large attendance is desired, as very important business is to be discussed.

December 23, 1921

The Springmount Sports Club will hold its annual races and sports next Monday (Boxing Day), in Mr. Hackett's paddock, Springmount. It is usual for the club to utilise Christmas Day for this annual gathering, but as it falls on a Sunday, another date had to be chosen.

Merry Christmas, always

Some things will be different this Christmas, but there is always something to be grateful for.

No matter what your Christmas looks like this year, make it merry.

From Jon Grant and the team at Community Bank Creswick & District and Clunes Agency.

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Libby Rigby, Team Leader Creswick Hub and
Clunes Warehouse



As the last month of school for 2021 fast approaches, it is timely to reflect on the interesting year it has been. Amidst several lockdown periods with remote learning, the students were also able to do some great things and achieve very good results.

The recent senior camp to Cave Hill Creek near Beaufort was a great success. With all the camp and excursion restrictions, it was fortunate that this could be held. The students had a wonderful time, participating in some fun activities such as canoeing, archery, orienteering, ropes course, bushwalking and hut building.



Senior students heading to Cave Hill Creek camp.

In the last few weeks, activities included a whole-school excursion to Major League and the movies, Grade 6 Fun Day and Graduation, a school family picnic and, of course, important transition activities for our incoming Foundation students. The year 6 leaders will also be heading off to their secondary schools for orientation days, preparing for the next step in their education.

Some very tall pine trees have been cut down along the southern boundary and the view of Creswick from up on the hill is amazing! Some excavations have also begun to accommodate a new playground for the students. They are very much anticipating this addition to the yard and are fortunate to have lots of great play areas.

The school is looking great at the moment and anyone interested is encouraged to book a tour of the facilities on 5345 2012.

Matthew Reyntjes, Principal

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CRESWICK AND DISTRICT

REGULAR AND ONGOING EVENTS

Anglicare Emergency Food Relief – 2nd Tuesday of the month 10.30am – 12.00pm. All Concession cards welcome, ring ahead on 5333 0600 to receive your pre-packed Food Hamper. Collection is from St Johns Anglican Church Hall, Napier Street, Creswick.

Anglican Parish of Springmount: St John's Church, Napier Street, Creswick. Holy Eucharist: 10.00am 2nd and 4th Sundays. Short contemplative Eucharist: 10.00am most Tuesdays. Contact: Fr Chris Keast 0427 911 792.

Australian Red Cross – first Tuesday every month. RSL Hall 2.00pm 5345 8318 or email nstubs3@bigpond.com

Business & Tourism Creswick – first Tuesday every month. Old Creswick Railway Station 5.00pm Info 5345 2759 or contact via Facebook

Creswick Cemetery – Gates Open 9.00am to 5.00pm. Daily

Creswick & District Aquatic Centre Inc. – first Wednesday Feb. Apr. Aug. Nov 7.00pm Phone 0434 071 185

Creswick & District Historical Society fourth Thursday every month

(except December and January) Seniors' Club rooms 2.00pm. Phone 5345 2065

Creswick & District Hospital Auxiliary meets at hospital last Monday monthly 7.30pm. No meeting in June. New members welcome.

Creswick & District U3A – 0459 981 066 or email u3a3363@gmail.com or www.creswicku3a.com

Creswick Folk Club Second and fourth Friday 7.30pm, Creswick Railway Station, Contact John Harris 0428 842 234

Creswick Garden Club – first Tuesday every month (except January) Seniors' Club Rooms 1.15pm.

Creswick Havilah Lodge – fourth Thursday every month meeting 7.30pm Bob Orr 5345 2165

Creswick Library Baby Rhyme Time Sessions, Tues 11.00am Parents' Club Tue 11.30am Story Time 11.00am Wed

Creswick Lions Club second Wednesday every month. 7.00pm R.S.L. Hall Secretary Barb Urry 0423 536 794 urrybarb@gmail.com Membership Chairperson Maria Marco 0410 499 007 mariamarco3363@gmail.com

Creswick Market – First and third Saturday every month 9.00am-1.00pm. Creswick Neighbourhood Centre, A happy small town market, bookings 5345 2356 creswickmarket.com.au

Creswick Museum – CLOSED creswickmuseum.org.au

Creswick Probus Club – first Tuesday every month (except January) meetings St Andrew's Hall, 10.00am. Inquiries Joan 5334 4207

Creswick Senior Citizens – last Friday each month members enjoy social day and \$5 Lunch at Seniors' Clubrooms 12 noon

Creswick Senior Cyclists – meet Sundays and Wednesdays, 10.15am Creswick Band Rotunda. All casual cyclists welcome.

Creswick Walking Group Tuesdays and Thursdays 8.30am. Meet Albert Studio, Cnr Ballarat Rd and South St. All Welcome, Rain, Hail or Shine.

Creswick Ward meeting – second Monday every month. **Cr Don Henderson** 7.00pm Creswick Railway Station

Cr Tim Drylie by appointment Creswick Community Hub Ph. 0427 503 258 Email: tdrylie@hepburn.vic.gov.au

CRWA Members Meeting – First Sunday every month 1.00pm after Working Bee. Railway Workshops Precinct Judy 5345 1374

Joeys, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers – every Thursday during school term. Enquiries via Scouts Victoria website scoutsvictoria.com.au

Museum Research Centre – Closed until further notice Email requests only to info@creswickmuseum.org.au

Music Jam for music lovers – every Friday 7.00pm-9.00pm Neighbourhood Centre. Audience welcome

Pavilion Arts & Sustainability Inc meets 7.00pm on the 1st Monday of month Creswick Neighbourhood Centre

Pole walkers – St Georges Lake car park. All ages \$2.00 week. Tuesdays 8.00am – 9.30am info. Eliz Rhook, Hepburn Health Service 5345 9150

RSL meeting – last Wednesday each month 1.00pm. RSL Hall Phil Greenbank 0490 374 006

Tipplers – third Wednesday every month. email: barrymarj@hotmail.com

VOGA Cycle Club Regular group rides that may be road, CX or MTB. Details on VOGA Facebook page. Free club membership via www.vogacycleclub.com.au

Broadcasting from Blowhard - Activities Galore!



Teacher Mrs Box and the year 5/6 children worked hard to organise a fantastic afternoon of treats and activities for all the children at the Spring Fete. Thank you also to the community members, local businesses

and all those who donated, created and baked, a real team effort!

Mrs Box has also been busy taking the year 5/6 children to Lady Northcote Camp. After all the disruptions and postponed or cancelled events, it was pleasing to be able to enjoy an adventure camp. The giant swing, canoeing, archery and yabby races provided many highlights.

On a more sombre note, the School Leaders led a fitting Remembrance Day ceremony. Two children from each class laid flowers as a sign of respect which, on this important occasion, is to be commended.

Due to COVID, the script didn't go to plan for our Artists in Residence, Ken and Rebecca. However, the children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to sing, draw, dress-up, make masks and be creative!

Here are the thoughts of a couple of classes and students:

Preps: *The Preps enjoyed making creatures out of plasticine, sticks and nuts. They also loved making flower crowns and butterflies where they cut out different shapes and patterns. Learning new songs and singing them each week was also fun.*

Molly, Year 1/2

Ken and Rebecca were fun to do art with because they know a lot of different ways of doing things. We drew with white paint textas and made plasticine animals. Everyone got to create their own creatures. The dress up costumes are really good. Everyone got to choose their costumes. We had five princesses just in our class!

Fergus, Year 1/2

Ken and Rebecca are really great artists and we had a lot of fun with them in our class. We started doing drawing activities. We had to draw red and then blue things from our classroom. We made animals with plasticine and used gum nuts and natural materials. They helped make our costumes. They asked us what we wanted and then got all the stuff. It was great to do art with them!

Robert Walsh, , Acting Principal

See photo on back page

Creswick Art Show Winners



Mark Payne and his winning picture *Uplift*
Photo: Fiona Watson



People's Choice Award:
Lisa Timson for *Beer O'Clock*.

Halloween Lantern Parade



Burning Skeletons by Jennifer Powell.
Scary! Photo: Terry Hope.

Broadcasting from Blowhard



Remembrance Day ceremony

 A large, dramatic photograph of a bushfire. In the foreground, a dead animal, possibly a wallaby or kangaroo, lies on the ground. The background is filled with intense orange and yellow flames.

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