

Creswick District News

Still Priceless

Issue 303 February 2025



Hepburn Shire 2025 Community Awards



Mayor Cr Henderson, Aunty Marilyn Nicolls, Hon Catherine King MP and Steve Ellis

The Hepburn Shire Council recently held its 2025 Community Awards presentations at The Mechanics Trentham. This recognises individuals and community organisations that have made outstanding contributions to the local community.

Creswick District News extends congratulations to local Steve Ellis who received the prestigious award of:

- **Citizen of the Year** - for his exceptional community service and volunteer efforts in various local initiatives.

Steve was nominated by Philip Greenbank citing – ‘With over 40 years’ service to the Creswick Fire Brigade with his many leadership roles, CFA and the Running Championships, as well as his service to the football community’.

Mayor Cr Don Henderson, praised the award recipients and acknowledged their contribution to the community. ‘These winners are exemplary in their commitment to enhancing the well-being of people who contribute to our community’.

Edited extract from Hepburn Shire Media Release

Editor’s Note: CDN also congratulates the 160th Anniversary Clunes Show which won **Event of the Year**.

2025 AUSTRALIA DAY IN CRESWICK

The 2025 Australia Day event was held at the Doug Lindsay Recreation Reserve on 26 January at 9.30 am. Presentations lasted thirty minutes, then morning tea was served. RSL President Alan Morris was the MC and kept the event ticking along nicely. The Federal Member for Ballarat, Hon Catherine King, and Member for Ripon, Martha Haylett, attended and spoke briefly. Mayor Cr Don Henderson, gave the Mayoral Australia Day Address. Also present were Councillors Clark, Hockey, Cornish and Hewitt. Councillor Hood was unable to attend due to Trentham festivities.

The Creswick Brass Band provided the musical entertainment as well as the National Anthem and the Creswick Scouts raised the Australian Flag. The event was facilitated by the Creswick Railway Workshops Association, the Creswick Football/Netball Club, the RSL and was supported by the Hepburn Shire Council. Many locals came together to help make this event happen. A large variety of food and drink was available, with children being catered for with suitable refreshments and games played on the oval. A big thank you to all those treasured local volunteers who made the event a success!

Judy Henderson

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*Creswick Brass Band
Australia Day 2025*

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

18 March 2025

15 April 2025

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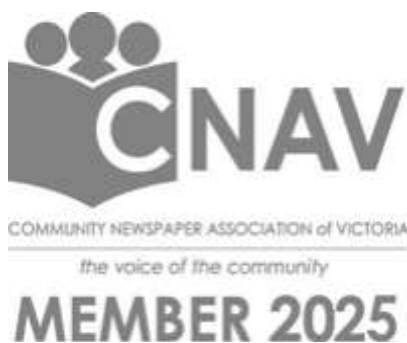
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The CDN is also available online at
www.creswick.net/creswick/newsletter



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Creswick Cemeteries News

If anyone placed extra containers on lawn graves over the last month or so, they are now ready for collection near the office. Any extra containers will be removed and the flowers placed in the containers on the headstones. Extra items on lawn graves can be a hazard when mowing, so please be helpful and keep all trinkets and flowers off the lawn graves and the concrete in front of the headstones. Many thanks. Please remember to park only on the roadways and please don't drive over the grass areas. The roadways on the east and west sides of the cemetery have a turn-around point at the oak trees. Please use this space to turn. Thank you.

Wendy Ohlsen
Secretary

Senior Cits News

The Seniors club rooms are open to members and friends to join the activities for 2025. Facilities are available for indoor bowls, billiards, euchre, bingo, as well as a social day with a meal and entertainment held on the last Friday of each month.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 28 February, where *Home Brew* will entertain.

The unexpected passing of our valued member, Tina King, was a shock to many members and friends. She was a wonderful needle-worker, a talented Scrabble player and she will be missed. Our sincere condolences to her family.

June Gray
5334 6526

St Andrews Uniting Church Creswick Easter Services

17 April
Maundy Thursday
Holy Communion
7.00pm.

18 April
Good Friday
9.30am.

20 April
Easter Sunday
Holy Communion
9.30am.

Come and join us.

creswick Rainfall

Monthly totals as sent to the Bureau of Meteorology by Frank Slade.

	2023	2024	2025
	mm	mm	
January	9.5	97.0	30.5
February	28.8	4.0	
March	45.0	0.0	
April	116.0	66.4	
May	70.0	34.5	
June	125.0	28.5	
July	45.0	97.5	
August	46.0	41.5	
September	25.5	52.5	
October	67.5	58.5	
November	29.0	35.0	
December	23.0	18.5	
TOTAL	630.3	533.9	30.5

HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Creswick & District Hospital Auxiliary thanks all those who supported its recent fund raising raffle.

Winning tickets were drawn by Hospital DON Pam Saunders. First prize went to Carmel Quinlan, second prize to Gemma Hammond and third prize to Steve Ellis.

Proceeds from the raffle will be used to purchase sets of floor and chair alarm mats with transmitter for use at the Creswick Hospital and its aged care facility.

Sincere thanks to prize donors: Creswick IGA, Elaine Wrigley and Beth Huntley.

Margaret Orr



Creswick Bowling Club News

Celebrating its 150th Year!

The Creswick Bowling Club was formed on 3 March 1875 and on Saturday, 15 January 1876, the first green was open for play. Games were played against Clunes, Ballarat, Buninyong and Central. In 1882 games were played at Learmonth and in 1883 the Ballarat and District Bowls Association was formed.

The club has transformed through the years, overcoming several interruptions. On 8 December 1933, just one month after the opening of the club season, disaster struck when the worst flood in Creswick's history engulfed the town.

History repeated itself in 2012 with flooding at the old Victoria Street site. This eventually required the club to relocate to the Doug Lindsay Recreation Reserve, only to be destroyed by flooding again in 2020. Taking two years to be re-established with a totally new green, the club now has a green that is admired by many visitors who come to play against Creswick and is confident that the works undertaken will stand intact for years to come.

The 150th Celebration Committee was formed and invitations were sent out to all of the club's past and present players and their partners to come along and be a part of this historical occasion. A lunch is organised for 23 February with special guests when some of the most decorated members will be recognised with induction into the club's inaugural Hall of Fame.

Both Pennant Divisions are back playing the remaining matches for this season with a full contingent of players to choose from after a disjointed start.

Division 4 Midweek Pennant side had a good win on 14 January, while Division 1 lost to Central Wendouree. Weekend pennant commenced on 18 January and, hopefully, the club can experience some success with the



Sigrid Glasspool and Gerry Flapper

welcome return of Gerry Flapper who missed the early rounds.

The Ladies' and Men's Club Championships are underway, and the finals will be concluded shortly.

Following a very successful Christmas break-up with over 96 people attending and enjoying the night's activities, the club has recommenced Friday night dinners with some good numbers turning up.

The photo shows the unveiling of the new 150th sign and flag with Sigrid Glasspool, our oldest current pennant player and Gerry Flapper, our longest current serving member.

Bernie O'Malley



Kingston, Friends of the Avenue Inc



Algerian Oak at Bullarook Streamside Reserve (Kerrins Bridge).

Trees of Significance - the history and outstanding beauty of the Avenue will always be the main drawcard for visitors to Kingston, however other old trees in the village also have interesting

information will give visitors to the Avenue an extra layer of understanding of the local history of the district. We would love to hear from you if you can share some extra information or have old photos that show these trees.

A very big thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the Bunnings BBQ on 23 December 2024. It was a very busy and successful day. Special thanks to John Rowlands for his organisation of the BBQ, which was a community effort between the Friends of the Avenue, the Kingston Agricultural Society and the Kingston CFA.

Save the Dates:

- Friends of the Avenue plant stall, Creswick Market, 15 March
- Working Bee in the Avenue at Kingston, 13 April
- Anzac Day, 25 April

*Julie Baulch
on behalf of Kingston FOA*

stories. The Friends of the Avenue have recently updated their website to include information about the Giant Sequoia at the former Church of the Holy Trinity; the Aleppo Pine in the grounds of the former Kingston Primary School and the magnificent National Trust listed Algerian Oak at the Bullarook Streamside Reserve, Kerrins Bridge. These trees are an integral part of the Kingston area and will become increasingly important as each year passes. It is hoped this

Special Invitation for Hepburn Shire Town Crier

Hepburn Shire Town Crier, Philip Greenbank, was invited by the Kingdom of Thailand to officiate at the establishment of the **Parliamentary Friendship Group** with Thailand.

Philip opened the evening and then read the proclamation, *'As the Official Town Crier, I now announce the commencement of the Parliamentary Friendship Group with Thailand on this day, Monday, 3rd February 2025 and acknowledged by all in attendance in the State of Victoria'*.

The Parliamentary Friendship Group consists of politicians from all parties, both State and Federal governments, along with Thai representation in Australia, to continue the close ties with Thailand. Over 300 special guests were in attendance, including representatives from 29 embassies, politicians and many organisations in Victoria that have been involved with the Kingdom of Thailand.

Congratulations Phil.



Her Excellency Ms Arjaree Sriratanaban, Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, Canberra and Mrs Tessa Sullivan OAM, Honorary Consul to the Kingdom of Thailand, Melbourne.



Photo reproduced with the permission of the Honorary Consul, Tessa Sullivan

Are you new to Creswick?

Save the Date - Saturday, 29 March 2025 at 3.00pm



A Welcome to New Residents will be held at the Seniors Club Rooms, 2 Water Street at 3.00pm on Saturday, 29 March. This event is a great way to find out more about the town and its community and to make connections with local clubs, groups and associations.



The event is sponsored by the Hepburn Shire Council and facilitated by the Creswick Railway Workshops Association and U3A. Free afternoon tea will be provided.



Please register at the Creswick Hub, via email railwayworkshops@gmail.com, SMS or phone to 0407 622 463.

Judy Henderson



SMEATON BOWLING CLUB NEWS

SBC bowlers are rested and back on the greens for the final weeks of Pennant play. The club has a few teams with the opportunity to play in the finals and hopes they continue to have good results. Bowlers are also out and about supporting other club's tournaments and events.

In January, the club welcomed a full green of bowlers in the Nebpak Transport Mixed 4s; a very successful and social day. SBC also hosted Clunes BC in the annual Tennant Cup/ Thege Shield challenge with their neighbouring country club. SBC retained the honours this year but it is always a very close game and everyone enjoys the friendly socialising afterwards.

December Barefoot Bowls had a wide range of ages participating, from toddlers and young children through to older folks. A beautiful evening had many people enjoying the deck for a pre-Christmas catch up. It is good to see so many locals popping in for a chat and a bowl, as all are very welcome. Next Barefoot Bowls/Community night is

Valentine's Day, 14 Feb at 6.00pm. What a perfect date night!

Upcoming Events Calendar :

Friday, 14 February, 6.00pm - Barefoot Bowls/Community night

Wednesday, 5, 12 and 19 February - Twilight Triples;

Thursday, 6, 13 and 20 March - Unigrain/Essantis Corporate Cup (entries welcome);

Wednesday, 12 March – Steak and Kidney Tournament (entries welcome);

Wednesday, 19 March – Ladies Tournament (entries welcome).

If anyone wishes to learn more about the happenings at Smeaton Bowling Club, please make contact with Secretary, Russell on 0417 535 297, President, David on 0418 584 942 or via email smeatonbowling@gmail.com

Laraine Toose

CRESWICK & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Would like to invite those interested to a literary afternoon

on Wednesday, 26 March 2025

at the Creswick Town Hall starting at 11.00am

A talk will be given by David Rathgen, author of

NO PLACE QUITE LIKE IT: The family history of Walter Withers and Fanny Finn

Walter Withers was a gifted artist, draughtsman and art teacher, who captured the essence of Australia in the late 19th Century. He taught art at the Creswick School of Mines in 1896 and assisted the Lindsay brothers, Percy and Lionel, in their careers. He was also a teacher at the Ballarat School of Mines as well as several private Melbourne schools. David will talk about Walter's early life in England, about his journey to Australia and his career as a successful artist. This talk will be of interest to those keen on history as well as art and literature.

David will have copies of his book for sale – costing \$50.00 (reduced price).

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CRESWICK VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

Busy Place, Can You Help?

Last year the Centre welcomed over 10,000 visitors to the town and with the opening of the Creswick Bike Trails, these numbers will increase. Over the last twelve months the volunteers have enjoyed visiting tourist facilities in the area including Tuki Trout Farm, Log Cabin Lodge, RACV Resort, Creswick Museum, American Hotel, Creswick Woollen Mills, Black Cat Truffles and Creswick Holiday Park, when they were able to familiarise themselves with these wonderful tourism assets.

The Visitor Information Centre is open every day except Christmas Day and Good Friday. Currently there are approximately 50 volunteers on the books, who work a three-hour shift 10.00am to 1.00pm or 1.00pm to 4.00pm, either once a month, fortnightly, or weekly. There are even some volunteers who enjoy volunteering on a more regular basis.

Unfortunately, over the last twelve months, the group has said goodbye to three volunteers who have served the Centre for a long time - Bill Weidner, Michael Clark and Geoff Pidgeon. Bill volunteered for over 15 years, Geoff also for 15 years and Michael for 20 years. Their knowledge and dedication to the Centre and community will be sadly missed. Many thanks to them for their valued contribution.

Volunteers are always welcome and if anyone is interested please go to the Hepburn Shire Council website or alternatively call into the Centre where an application form can be collected.

Jenny Mackenzie

St Andrews' Outreach

Walk into the foyer at St Andrews Uniting Church and you will see a basket and shopping bags containing groceries and toiletries. No, they are not for the St Andrews' kitchen, but are destined to assist the homeless and those who need help to put food on the table. Members of the congregation donate items such as baby food and tinned soup, usually on a weekly basis. These are taken alternately to the Creswick Neighbourhood Centre and Uniting Care in Ballarat.

As one church member said, *'it isn't difficult to add an item or two to your shopping list'*, and the containers fill up quickly. The basket is included in the weekly offertory prayer and is an example of practical Christian giving within our community.

The Church Community

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MP for Ripon

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Sheaf Hay

Once a Common Sight

What was in the paddock during December and January at the Kingston turnoff? A paddock of stooks of oaten hay, cut into sheaves with a binder. What is a binder? A very old piece of farm equipment used to cut and tie sheaf hay. This is a method of cutting hay which was used for many years but very seldom seen nowadays. The stacking of sheaf hay was a real skill as some stacks could be as big as 150 tons.



The purpose of sheaf hay was to be cut into chaff which was used to feed horses and cattle. Years ago nearly every farm in the district had multiple stacks of hay used to feed the working farm horses or for sale to the chaff mills. Chaff mills existed at Newlyn, two at Kingston and Learmonth and one at Smith's Rocklyn. At that time the growing of sheaf hay was important to the economic life of the district.



for the horses. Deliveries were also made as far away as Brisbane, Adelaide and Sydney.

Around the 1970s the stacking of sheaf hay on farms gradually ceased and the hay was transported and stored at the local mills at harvest time. This continued until the closure of Tyners Mill at Newlyn in 1994 while the other mills at Kingston had ceased many years earlier.

The loads of sheaves moving along the roads to the mills were a sight to be seen.

Local, David Preston, remembers, 'My job from eight years old was to drive a truck from stook to stook while men using pitch forks pitched the sheaves to the loader'. Later years saw a loader made to pick up one stook at a time and deliver it to the truck, this saved many litres of sweat. The mill at Newlyn operated for over 100 years, at times working 24 hours a day.

The chaff mills were sited alongside the railway line for transporting the chaff all over the state. Eventually road transport took over the distribution to Melbourne and other places. The Newlyn mill supplied produce stores throughout the state and in the days of the horse and cart delivering milk to households, this chaff was an important source of feed

David Preston

Photos courtesy of Rex Brereton

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*This session is strictly for parents and carers only as the content is not suitable for children.



Presented by
Martin McGauran,
primary teacher and
digital safety educator
and Carley McGauran,
psychologist and mum
to 3 school-aged kids.



An evening that provided some reality checks! A few new changes in our home this week! - Parent

Marty and Carley were simply sensational. Their presentation was relevant, honest and informative. A MUST for each school, every year. - Principal

Incredible session.. Should be essential for all parents!
- Parent

COMMUNITY AWARDS



Council is proud to announce the recipients of the 2025 Community Awards, recognising individuals and community organisations that have made outstanding contributions to the local community.

The winners were announced at a civic event at The Mechanics Trentham on Friday 24 January.

- Citizen of the Year - Steve Ellis, for his exceptional community service and volunteer efforts in various local initiatives (Photo 1)
- Event of the Year - 160th Anniversary Clunes Show, for its significant impact in celebrating and promoting the region's heritage and community spirit (Jenny Redpath) (Photo 2)
- Hepburn Together - Daylesford and Hepburn United Soccer Club, for fostering inclusivity, team spirit, and youth development in the region through soccer (Kirsty Plews and Chris Gingell) (Photo 3)

The civic event also included an Australian citizenship ceremony, with six people becoming citizens. The new citizens hailed from Germany, Philippines, Vietnam, New Zealand and Ireland.

LISTENING POST EVENTS

We will be hosting a series of Listening Post events throughout 2025, aimed at strengthening communication and engagement with the community. The events will be held in major townships as well as smaller communities, with the opportunity for residents to share their ideas, provide feedback on services, and discuss matters that are important to them.

As part of the initiative, senior Council staff and Councillors will be attending local community spaces throughout the year.

The first three Listening Posts scheduled are:

- Saturday 15 February - Creswick IGA, 10am to 12pm
- Thursday 27 March - Daylesford Coles, 4pm to 6pm
- Saturday 3 May - Trentham Spudfest, 10am to 12pm

Details of other Listening Post events, including dates and locations, will be made available on our website – www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/listening-posts

LIBRARY OPERATION CHANGES

As part of Council's budget savings measures, Trentham and Clunes libraries will no longer open to the public on Saturday mornings from March 2025.

The decision was made after careful consideration of usage and borrowing rates, and aimed to minimise disruption to the community.

Meanwhile, Council has received a grant to expand community access to its four libraries beyond opening hours through the Open Access Libraries initiative, which allows library members to upgrade their membership to access library buildings beyond regular hours in the absence of onsite staff.

More on these changes at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The first Council meeting for 2025 is scheduled for Tuesday 25 February at 6pm.

Council meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month commencing at 6pm and are open to the public.

The meetings are recorded and live streamed to Council's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/@hepburnshirecouncil5931

Visit our website for more information at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/council-meetings

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Council's Biodiversity Grants and Sustainable Hepburn Grants open for applications on 3 February.

The Sustainable Hepburn Grants Program supports community-based projects and initiatives that aim to reduce future impacts of climate change and promote or establish circular economy-focused programs, while Biodiversity Grants support community driven biodiversity initiatives.

Applications close on 16 March and announcements will be made about successful recipients in April.

For more information regarding Council's grants program visit www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/grants

To discuss a project idea contact grants@hepburn.vic.gov.au.

POOL SEASON



Remember, our pools and splash park are open and community members can enjoy free entry until 13 March 2025.

For updates during the pool season about unexpected closures, visit www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/pools

YOUR COUNCILLORS



Cr Don Henderson



Cr Lesley Hewitt



Cr Brian Hood



Cr Tony Clark



Cr Tim Drylie



Cr Pat Hockey



Cr Shirley Cornish

Learn more at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/Councillors ☎ 5348 2306 ✉ shire@hepburn.vic.gov.au 🌐 www.facebook.com/hepburncouncil



Creswick Lions Club

Thank you to the generous people of Creswick and District for supporting the club's very successful Christmas hamper raffle. Tickets were sold out and the lucky winners were: first prize Lorraine, second prize Glenda and the third prize went to Wayne.

Thanks to all Lions Club members who spent time selling tickets and cakes. At the time of drawing the raffle, there was only one cake remaining. Thank you to the Community Bank Creswick & District, Davies and Rose, Creswick Post Office, John Curtin Aged Care, Gold Fields Veterinary Services and Flemmo's, who sold cakes on behalf of the club in Creswick and to the Clunes Newsagents and Clunes Medical Centre, who did the same in Clunes.

A number of people help out throughout the year, namely Darren, Faye, Glenda and Amanda and without their assistance the club would struggle. New members and helpers throughout 2025 would be warmly welcomed. If anyone would like to find out more contact membership chairperson Leigh on 0438 558 450 or talk to club members at the Creswick Market.

During the latter part of 2024, Andrew Bell, David Barklay and a group of enthusiastic Ballarat Grammar Students completed a stone maze adjacent to the Lion's Play Ground, thank you to all involved.

November was a sad month for the club with the passing of Ken Fitzsimons, a well-loved member of Creswick Lions and the club expresses sympathy to Ken's family.

Finally thank you to each and every member of the community who has supported Creswick Lions Club throughout the year enabling us to provide a variety of services and assistance in the community. The club continues to collect car batteries and glasses to recycle, contact Pat on 0429 581 591 if you have any to contribute.

*Pat Tacey
President Lions Club of Creswick*

Vic Street Craft Group

The group would like to thank everyone who supported them throughout 2024. It was much appreciated, without that support the group couldn't raise as much for charity as they do.


I would also like to thank our 'girls' for all that they do, again, without their help it wouldn't be possible. Also, the outsiders who sew, knit and crochet. Many thanks!

The final Special Effort for 2024 was won by:

- 1st Paula Duncan, Creswick
- 2nd Barb, Ballarat
- 3rd Lauren Robotham, Creswick
- 4th Susie Porter, Creswick.

Thank you to all who bought tickets, it was a very successful event.

Rita and all the girls



CRESWICK PHARMACY

58 Albert St, Creswick	Jeff Unmack B.Pharm M.P.S	Ph: 53451237 Fax: 53451347
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Get Involved at the Creswick Neighbourhood Centre this Year!



If your New Year's resolution is to give back and become more involved in the Creswick community, then you're in luck - because that's our goal too! The Creswick Neighbourhood Centre (CNC) is always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join the team. There are a variety of new roles available and there's sure to be a perfect fit for you somewhere.

Why volunteer? There are countless reasons to volunteer. By joining the team you can:

- Connect with people and make new friends;
- Learn new skills;
- Gain experience that may help you return to the workforce or find a new job;
- Give back to your community in a meaningful way.

Currently, volunteers are needed for several important programs including:

- **Food Program** - specifically volunteer drivers to help with food collection;
- **Youth Program** - to assist with Games Lab weekly youth program;
- **Housekeeping** - help to keep all spaces clean and welcoming;
- **Community Garden** - assist in the community vegetable garden;
- **Overall Garden and Maintenance** - gardening/yard tidying and basic maintenance to support the green spaces;
- **Creswick Market** - set-up and pack-up team members.

No matter your age or ability, there's sure to be a role that suits you. CNC is excited to expand the team and welcome new faces to the CNC family. If you have some time to spare and want to give back to your community, come in and have a chat.

We'd love to help you find the perfect volunteering opportunity!

Chrissy Austin
Manager

Extract from *Portraits of Creswick and District Through the Years* *Second Edition*

Printed with permission from the Creswick & District Historical Society, Inc

Entertainment and its importance

Imagine living without electricity, no television, no movies, and no computer games. Or worse, no cars! And in a home that was just a tent or crude wooden hut.

As always, some form of relaxation was needed in the gold fields - sitting around a campfire, playing a mouth organ or concertina, or sharing time and stories with friends - but hotels provided the main source of entertainment. The biggest hotels usually had a large room where international performers came to entertain. Davies' Bridge Hotel had a Skittles Alley; the American Hotel advertised (1859) 'A great treat for the Admirers of Song and Music, featuring A. Mantegani - pianist'. Admission Free - no doubt the sale of drinks helped to pay for it. Rosekillys 'British' Hotel offered grand entertainment at its Lyceum theatre, admission 1/-, or 2/- for a reserved seat. Leith's Royal Australian Circus came to town; The Miners' Right Hotel had Cornish and Welsh wrestling.

Then there was the annual Masonic Ball in Anthony's American Hotel where, for two guineas, a gentleman could escort two ladies; the Commercial Club held balls at the British to let ladies attend, but the Municipal dinner was for men only. The Creswick Amateur Serenaders entertained in the Lyceum Theatre to raise funds for the Mechanics' Institute and at the Boxing Day Sports there were all male events - running, sack races, wheelbarrow races, climbing the greasy

pole, rifle shooting and a smoking match! ...

Creswick also produced its own entertainment. The German community had a brass band; and there was a Literary Society, Drama Club, colourful Chinese entertainment and outstanding street parades. A Choral Society, Shakespeare Company, orchestra and brass bands were also soon on the scene.

Local performances, Church choirs and Sunday-school Concerts gave children and adults chances to strut the stage, but it wasn't ladylike for females to be in the theatre or on stage. They could sing ballads and arias, play the piano or violin, but never brass or percussion and vaudeville was absolutely taboo. In their day, young members of the Lindsay family were well represented in all things theatrical. In 1873 a group called 'The Snowflakes' was born. This was to become the very popular 'Creswick Minstrels'.

The 1890s Bank collapse halted many entertainment activities, although concerts were held to raise funds to support families suffering extreme hardship. For example a Creswick A.N.A. Concert in February 1900, to assist Mr J. Ellis and family, where the Creswick Minstrels, a group from the Blue Star and Jubilee Companies, made their debut in the Town Hall and the Jubilee Brass Band entertained outside. And what a great night it was. The Minstrels went on to regularly perform their popular vaudeville style to raise money to support the hospital and local charities.

100 Years Ago

Compiled by Creswick Museum

February 3, 1925

Rocky Lead - A very successful cretonne and ziff ball, in aid of the building fund of St. Joseph's Church, Blampied, was held in Rocky Lead hall on Friday, 23rd ult. Much interest had been created by the novelty, and there was a large attendance from all parts of the district. Of variety in dress there was abundance; and the many varied colors of the ladies' costumes in cretonne gave a picturesque appearance, while the varied "ziffs" worn by the males added a pleasing and, in some cases, a comical aspect to the whole.

February 6, 1925

Smeaton - Under the auspices of the Smeaton Tennis Club, a grand jazz ball will be held in the Mechanics' hall on Thursday evening, 12th inst. The famous Red and Black orchestra has been engaged, refreshments will be supplied by the ladies, and the floor is in first class order. The price of tickets is fixed at 4/-, with 1/- for extra lady.

February 10, 1925

A complaint that two properties on the highest levels at Camp Hill had on Wednesday last been without water led to a visit to that locality on Thursday by Constable Montgomery, as water inspector. It is not generally known that the water was laid on to some of these properties on the higher levels on the distinct understanding that at times they would not be able to get water, the applicants expressed themselves as satisfied to get water when they could.

February 13, 1925

Professor Fenton, the champion horse tamer, will give an exhibition of horse taming and education by humane methods at Creswick on Saturday (tomorrow) night. The sum of £20 will be given to anyone who can bring a horse along that cannot be successfully handled. The exhibition is an education for old and young.

February 17, 1925

It has been decided to hold the woodcarters' day for the Creswick District Hospital on Saturday next. As is well known, the cutters have cut up about 70 cords of firewood in the No. 2 plantation, and the carters will do their part by removing it to the hospital grounds. The wood is stacked, and access can be obtained to it through the second railway gates on the Bald Hills road. All woodcarters, those with suitable vehicles, and other who can give aid in any way are invited to take part in the work.

February 20, 1925

Dean - Miss Gwen Evans, of Yallourn, and latterly of the Teachers' College, Melbourne, has taken up duty as assistant at the Dean Higher Elementary School.

February 24, 1925

A memorial window to the soldiers who fell in the Great War is to be erected in St. John's Church of England, Creswick. It will be unveiled at a service to be held on Anzac Day - Saturday, 25th April, which it is hoped will be conducted by the Vicar-General of the diocese (Dean Tucker). The mother of a former church member who lost his life at the landing at Gallipoli is to be asked to perform the unveiling ceremony.

February 27, 1925

Presentation Convent, Creswick.
Pupils prepared for examinations in: Music, Singing, Voice production, violin and piano, harmony and theory, drawing and painting, plain and fancy needlework.



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Support for Creswick's CFA and SES

In December 2024, the Creswick Railway Workshops Association Inc. donated \$1,000 to both the SES and CFA. This is in recognition of the exceptional service of these emergency responders and is the CRWA's way of supporting them on behalf of community.

Judy Henderson



Happy New Year to Everyone!

2024 ended in some turmoil with an outbreak of COVID upsetting all of the wonderful plans for Christmas activities. Once again, staff rallied to meet the challenge, but it is no fun when isolation and Personal Protective Equipment are the best course of action for containment.

Over 100 residents and families dropped in unexpectedly for lunch just before Christmas. Chef Harrison outdid himself with feeding them all! There was dancing, singing, chocolates and lots of merriment - a true celebration of life and Christmas.

It is gratifying to start the year having received notification the Nursing Home has achieved a 5 star rating. Congratulations to Steve Breuchert and his team. It is rewarding to see the hard work paying dividends.

This year, JCAC will host a series of community forums, with the first being, *How to Access Residential Aged Care*. There was a lot of media coverage on the subject last year which seemed to tell part of the process, with some of the pitfalls, but never the complete picture. Steve Breuchert is going to take us through the process and answer all your questions. This is expected to be held on 27 February at 2.30pm in the Bill Huntley Function Room. Please register your interest with Reception during business hours on 5345 9999.

The first Community Advisory Body meeting will be held on 20 February, allowing residents and their families an opportunity to provide suggestions on what services they would like and how they should be provided.

Susan Craven
President



John Curtin dining room



CresFest 2025

Make it an Experience to Remember by Hosting a Performer

With Christmas and New Year well and truly memories and hot cross buns already in the supermarkets, Creswick is certainly looking towards April when the fourth *CresFest* will be held from Friday, 4 April– Sunday, 6 April.

From the Town Hall, to the Creswick Primary School, to the cafes, bars, bistros, restaurants and streets, Creswick will be humming and strumming to the sound of literally hundreds of musicians and singers who will be invigorating this township like never before.

Leading up to *CresFest 2025*, perhaps one of the most challenging tasks for accommodation manager Pam Harris, is to find lodgings, beds, hotels and campsites for the influx into Creswick.

'The logistics are huge. Accommodation at the RACV Goldfields Resort is booked up nearly a year in advance; bed and breakfast spots are limited and those too are booked up by regulars to CresFest. I believe that out in the community there are people who would love to host a musician for the duration of CresFest. It's a wonderful opportunity to get to know a performer, to share in the excitement of being in the company of musicians.'

In return, hosts are given access to all *CresFest* weekend



Creswick Chorus members Terry Francis and Sally Armitage ready to host musicians at CresFest 25

performances.

Terry Francis and her husband Gavin, were first-time hosts last year. Terry said that it was a most enjoyable experience, 'particularly listening to our guests discussing their music and their opinions on other musicians and their respect for their different styles. Hearing them at the gigs at CresFest made us feel like family. I'd certainly encourage others to become a host. They won't regret it.'

'Preferably we are looking for people who live within a five-minute drive from Creswick's centre and can provide a bed, access to a bathroom and offer breakfast. However, last year some hosts lived in Ballarat, Clunes and Newlyn – and none of these locations proved to be a problem.'

If you think you would like to host a performer at *CresFest 2025* go to the website: www.cresfest.com.au and click on the link, **get involved** then click on **hosts**. Go beyond the ordinary and get involved with your *CresFest*.

*Fiona Watson
Media CresFest*

If you need the services of a **JUSTICE OF THE PEACE** In the Creswick district Ring 5345 7414, 0408 317 872 or 5345 7522 or visit rvahj.org.au for more information.

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CRESWICK AND DISTRICT

REGULAR AND ONGOING EVENTS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A Welcome to New Residents will be held at the Seniors Centre, 2 Water Street at 3.00pm on Saturday, 29 March

Anglicare Emergency Food Relief – 2nd Tuesday of the month 1.00pm – 2.00pm. All Concession cards welcome, ring ahead on 5333 0600 to receive your pre-packed Food Hamper. Collection is from Creswick Neighbourhood Centre, Victoria St.

Anglican Parish of Springmount St John's Church, 103 Napier Street, Creswick
Holy Eucharist: 10.00am 2nd and 4th Sundays
Service of the Word: 10.00 am 4th Sundays
Contact: 0413 689 003

Business & Tourism Creswick Inc.
Meet every second Tuesday of the month at 7pm and open to anyone who is interested. Creswick Neighbourhood Centre. Contact the secretary on info@creswick.net

Catholic Parish Creswick
St Augustine's Church
Mass Sunday 9.00am
except 1st Sunday of the month,
Assembly of the Word and Communion.
Contact 0488 220 685.

Creswick Cloggers (tap dance)
Tuesdays 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Creswick Scout Hall, North Parade, Creswick
Contact 0418 306 321

Creswick-Clunes Uniting Church Parish Every Sunday - 9.30am All Welcome. 130 Albert Street Creswick (The pretty pink church on the hill) Supply Minister: Rev Kate Tierney 0404 853 505 or email tierneycatherine53@gmail.com

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 -
0490 444 519 email info@creswicku3a.com
website 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 -
Meeting fourth Thursday every month 7.30pm.
Bob Orr 5345 2165

Creswick Lions Club
second Wednesday every month. 7.00pm R.S.L. Hall
Membership Chairperson Leigh Bell 0438 558 450
leighbell1234@gmail.com

Creswick Museum
open Saturday between 11.00am to 3.30pm.

Calembeen Parkrun
Every Saturday at 8am a 5km run, walk or come to volunteer! All welcome to join this fun, free weekly activity.
For more information email calembeen@parkrun.com.au or find us on Facebook

Community Repair & Share Event
3rd Sunday, 1.00pm to 4.00pm
Creswick Neighbourhood Centre
transitioncreswick@gmail.com
or 5345 2356

Creswick Market - Third Saturday every month
9.00am-1.00pm. Creswick Neighbourhood Centre, A happy small town market, bookings 5345 2356 creswicknc.org/creswick-market
Email market@cnc.org.au

Creswick Probus Club - first Tuesday every month (except January) meetings St Andrew's Hall, 10.00am.
Inquiries email creswickprobus@gmail.com

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

Freedom In Christ-Church
RSL Hall Albert St Creswick
Jesus heals and sets free.
Sundays 10:15am - 1:00pm
Pastor Margaret Tamkin
Contact Mob. 0449 917 503

Friends of Park Lake
Park Lake working bees
10am-noon every Wednesday, weather permitting.
Meet at the jetty.

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

Museum Research Centre -
Open Saturdays, 11am to 3pm.
Email requests to info@creswickmuseum.org.au

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

Parents Without Partners Weekly Dance
3rd Sunday of each month with live band.
Invermay Hall, Muscatel Street, Invermay.
\$12 & \$10 members. Supper to Share please.
Social Dance, Thursday nights at VRI Hall Ballarat
7.30pm – 10.00pm. Phone 0487 222 924.

Pavilion Arts & Sustainability Inc
7 April 2025 - Monday 6.00 pm
AGM 27 April 2025 - Sunday 2.00 pm
Creswick Neighbourhood House
Enquiries: secretary@creswickartspavilion.org.au

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

Tiplers - third Wednesday every month. email: barrymarj@hotmail.com

Victoria Street Craft Group, every Monday 9.30am – 12.00pm/12:30 pm at the Creswick Bowling Club. BYO lunch.
Contact Rita on 5345 2239 or 0407 452 232

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

Creswick's Park Lake Bridging the Generation Gap

It was a serendipitous moment when Ballarat Grammar School teacher Melita Shillington decided to go to Creswick's Park Lake bonfire night in November last year. There she met members from Friends of Park Lake who were looking for help and in return she was looking for community service projects for her year 9 students.

A bond was formed and soon members of Ballarat Grammar School's *Farm Busters* were coming out to Creswick on a weekly basis to assist with maintenance at Park Lake. But, with 17 energetic and strong students this quickly developed into a more meaningful project – the development of a labyrinth, constructed from local quartz.

Work that would have taken the more mature members of Friends of Park Lake quite some time, was quickly accomplished with strong, helping hands lifting rocks off the trailer and being placed in the distinctive pattern of a labyrinth, chosen as it is a centuries old tool used for walking meditation. Its path winds from the outer edge in a gentle circle to the centre.

Melita Shillington said that the students really looked forward to their weekly excursions out to Creswick. These expeditions had an effect on more than just the students as Gary, the school bus driver, was so moved by what has been developed and is anticipated to be achieved at Park Lake, he has become a member of Friends of Park Lake. *'The students were really surprised and chuffed at what they have achieved and all said that if they had the opportunity, they would come*



Ballarat Grammar School Farm Busters group

again', Melita said.

Andrew Bell, a member of Friends of Park Lake, said that he hoped that this year another group of *Farm Busters* would come to help plant the fernery. *'We have a range of tasks and young hands make light work! Even though the labyrinth is not finished it is already being used by parents with their small children. This is exactly what we hoped would happen. We are thrilled with the results.'*

Fiona Watson

Book Vouchers for Creswick Schools

The Creswick Railway Workshops Association was pleased to support the long-standing Book Voucher and Award Certificates given to students. One student from each of the four schools was nominated. These were presented at the individual December Graduation Ceremonies by a member of the CRWA Committee. The Shire advised that there was no longer funding for this so the CRWA, in the interests of the students, stepped in to do this as an ongoing community contribution.

Judy Henderson



Judy Henderson and Caelan Uniacke



Gladys Williams, Tilly Stevens, Cr Don Henderson.