

The Welcome Record

Ronnie's Pop-Up Shops on Broadway

Never a dull moment in Dunolly. Last Monday evening the local residents were invited to the opening celebration of Ronnie Markham's new venture — the revamped old Welcome Stranger Café on Broadway. She and Lisa, who organised the occasion, regaled us all with champagne and delicious hot savouries, providing a delightful social occasion.

Ronnie has worked tirelessly over the last few weeks, sanding and painting and renovating the place, which now looks wonderful. There is a food and drinks bar at the end called Country Kitchen and Co adjoining the well-equipped kitchen, which will offer light food and drinks, all organic. One side of the front is a pop up gift shop, and what magnificent art pieces were on display.

The other half will be taken over by Jacinta, whom most of us know from her Broadway shop and other venues, selling her clothes and jewellery. Pop-up shops are leased for six weeks, so there will be a turn-over of stock, enabling shops to remain fresh and interesting. This is a great concept and will add to the variety of shops and cafes/restaurants along Broadway.

Ronnie made a welcoming speech to thank us all for coming and outlined the nature of the business, which includes breakfast as well as all day food and drinks. Opening hours are 7am until 7pm.

You must come down and see for yourself and enjoy the welcoming atmosphere.

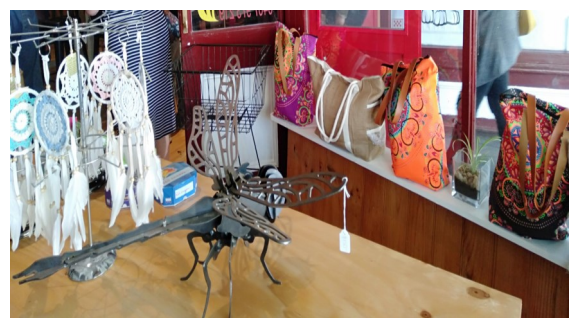
Cynthia Lindsay



Ronnie standing in front of one of the pop-up shops



Lisa, who along with her daughter, will be cooking up a storm at Country Kitchen



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MEMBER 2020

OPENING TIMES

Tuesday 9.30am - 3.30pm

(for advertisements, articles and classifieds)

Wednesday 9.00am – 3.30pm

(to receive payments)

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Contributions are accepted up to **4pm on Tuesdays**. Exceptions are made only by prior arrangement, or for important community notices for the *Classified* pages. If in doubt, please ring us before 3pm on Tuesday to avoid disappointment.

All letters, articles and classifieds must contain the author's full name, home address and daytime telephone number.

All un-acknowledged photo/pictures are from stock.

The Welcome Record aims to present the diversity of viewpoints which reflect the concerns and interests of our community. It will not print contributions which are defamatory or being used as an alternative to a personal approach in dealing with a personal issue. The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of *The Welcome Record*.



Hasn't the rain been useful? It washed the dust off everything, sparked the plants (including weeds) up no end, and put water in the tanks as well. I do hope everyone survived Thursday to Saturday last week in one piece.

I wandered along Tullaroop Road looking for a business which I did not find. On the way back into town, I noticed a paddock full of solar panels behind a very large building which also had the roof covered in them too. Of course I had to go and investigate — it was the True Foods factory. They are certainly doing their bit to combat global warming and saving on electricity bills too.

While we were singing the National Anthem last Saturday Linda and I noticed a "fly over" by a couple of cockies. Much better than a noisy plane.

Surely the most embarrassed person at the Australian Open must be the ball-kid who tripped over a player's leg during a change of ends. That's one for the 21st birthday. Seriously, those young people do a marvellous job in all conditions — can't be easy out there on the hot courts — and no player seems to thank them for the towels delivered to mop their sweaty brows.

Was in Maryborough last Thursday and was driving on the road outside the IGA car park when I thought I saw a tortoise on the footpath. It was — and a kind man had stopped and was carrying the rather large (for a tortoise) animal back towards Philips Gardens. He was carrying it well out in front of him as tortoises have a nasty habit of weeing when upset — and it smells.

What are we supposed to do with the plastic flags we are given on Australia Day? One is not supposed to burn the national flag. They will last for ever — AND I'll bet they are made in China.

Hang up straight away if someone rings and kindly tells you that someone has used your debit card to take money out of your account and that they have cancelled your card to save you from losing any more money. Scam!

Rosie



Keep Calm

Seize the moment!

Remember all those women on the Titanic who waved off the dessert cart .

Erma Bombeck

INDEX

Title	Page
Rosie's Ramble	2
Letters to Editor	3
News from the Dojo	4
Arts & Entertainment	6
Neighbourhood Centre	6
CGSC News	7
CGR&RAI	8
Church Page	9
Recipe	9
Upcoming Events	9
Mosaics - an overview	10/11
Tailings	14
Crossword	17
Waistcoat Willy's Saga	18
Classifieds and Notes	18
Sports	19

Defibrillators available at —

SES, CFA, DFNC, Dunolly Bowls Club, Doctor's Office and Dunolly Town Hall.

In case of emergency, the defibrillators can be accessed at the above venues when they are open.

The unit at the Town Hall is located in the breezeway outside and can be accessed at any time.

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Dunolly Doctor: 5468 1104

Dunolly SES: 5468 1199



LETTERS TO EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As the former chair of DDI and partner of the Ministry of Fun, I would like to express how dismayed I was upon reading the first *Welcome Record* for the year to see an unattributed advertisement for "No Mosaics on Broadway", followed by a lengthy letter by Wayne McKail regarding objections to the placement of the sculptures, after the November 27th 2019 edition of *The Welcome Record* had stated that no more letters on the proposed placements would be printed. It is a matter that is in the hands of the council and continued assertions that there has been a lack of willingness on the part of the "arts groups or Dunolly District Incorporated" to discuss the placement or funding details... are entirely baseless. No one has approached either party, in person, by phone or email to initiate any discussion and the insinuations of impropriety are defamatory.

Anna Ashton, Dunolly

The Editor,

Had I known that TWR's embargo on comment re the "mosaic issue" had been lifted, I'd have submitted this letter earlier. It wasn't until I saw Wayne McKail's letter under the unattributed notice of the No Mosaics petition/photo shoot that I realised I could contribute.

I attended the photo-shoot. There, Mr McKail informed me that there'd be no speakers, just the shoot and petition-signing. I thank him for the time he spent talking to me (after I'd explained that I was broadly opposed to his group's ideas), when he was obviously very busy. I think I was the only dissenter there. Among the protesters were friends and others that I knew. I was interested in their reasons for opposing the art or its placement. I also thank Brian Phillips for his friendly attitude.

Although gathered under the one "No Mosaics" umbrella, people expressed different reasons for their support.

Group 1: Those who genuinely believe that the authenticity of the historic streetscape will be compromised if "modern" art is displayed adjacent to historic buildings.

Group 2: Those who simply hate the art and oppose its location anywhere.

Group 3: People in this group believe that the mosaic project is "the thin end of the wedge", that it will cause Dunolly to change into an art-elitist community with associated loss of what they see as our town's unique values and resultant spikes in land/house prices, a la Daylesford, and pushing "real Dunollyites" further into the wilderness. I love Dunolly — I've lived here for 40 years, but its environment could never be like Daylesford's. The local art project is largely a community effort and bears no resemblance to anything in Daylesford.

Group 4: Members of this group are concerned with process, particularly the machinations of local government. They talk about lack of due process, consultation, transparency, hint at malfeasance, and seem less concerned with the artworks themselves, appearing to be using the issue to show the administrators in a bad light.

At the photo-shoot, some anti-mosaic campaigners confided that they were worried that the issue was becoming too divisive. Hurtful and quite hysterical language has been used in personal communications and social media posts by vociferous opponents of the art project.

I am not suggesting that Wayne or Brian, or indeed the majority of those at the shoot, approve of these comments; in fact, I think they'd see such conduct as damaging to their campaign

For reasons stated in my letter responding to Ned Callow's, (I spoke to him at the shoot and thanked him for his comments), I support the display of the works in question at the two proposed locations. I believe that no building or streetscape will be ruined by these placements (Broadway is already an amalgam of styles — the gaudy facade of the pharmacy clashes unfortunately with the notable buildings either side) and that the many individuals (including schoolchildren), who contributed to this worthwhile project, deserve to see some of their work displayed in a prominent location.

Murray Hall, Dunolly

Letter from the Committee of *The Welcome Record*

It is very disappointing to see that the reputation of *The Welcome Record* has been impugned and denigrated in an open letter by Kate Ashton on Facebook. Social media is a forum where comments are invited and posts are shared, and therefore spread to a wide community.

We are concerned that the issue Kate referred to was not addressed directly to us, where we could have had the chance to clarify the situation. As Kate posted after our business hours, it was unfair that her comments were the only ones to appear, while we were not able to respond until our committee came together to discuss the situation.

The gathering on 25th January — "No to Mosaics on Broadway" was an invitation to anyone opposed to the placement of the sculptures in front of our heritage buildings on Broadway. *The Welcome Record* did not organise the gathering, nor did they make up the advertisement for the event. The fact that Kate accused us of doing so and of being biased is an affront to our integrity as a newspaper. We simply advertised the event. We did not charge for the advertisement as it was a community announcement.

Should an advertisement supporting the placement of the sculptures on Broadway have been received, we would have published that also without hesitation. In last week's paper there were three notices concerning *Sense of Place*. All these were free of charge also.

The inside of our front page clearly shows that the opinions expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of *The Welcome Record*. We are unbiased and always endeavour to express both sides of an issue. While the people who work here obviously have their own personal opinions, they are not represented in the paper.

We try to present a balanced view in all of our reporting.

We are always open to constructive feedback and will respond accordingly if we receive such comments directly to us. However, to have been blindsided with this open letter is unfair and unprofessional.

The Welcome Record Committee

A note from CGSC re mosaics in Dunolly

Council will consider the proposed locations and decide on the matter at the Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 25th February 2020. You are invited to attend the Council meeting, which commences at 6pm in Room 1 of The Community Hub building located at 48 Burns Street, Maryborough. The agenda for the Council meeting will be available on Council's website in the afternoon of Friday 21st February — www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au

Should you have any questions please contact Krystle Leist on 5461 0610 or via email :

krystlel@cgoldshire.vic.gov.au

GCSC
Infrastructure, Assets and Planning

BreastScreen Program

Over recent years there has been a widespread campaign to get women to participate in the BreastScreen program to help detect early stages of breast cancer.

But despite a strong and consistent message, only 58% of eligible women in Western Victoria had a breast screen in 2018. That means 42% of eligible woman (aged 50 to 74) didn't get screened!

BreastScreen Victoria statistics have revealed that over 1,500 women in Victoria might have breast cancer, but don't know it because they haven't had a breast screen. Statistically, 186 of those women live in the Western Victoria electorate and some are in Central Goldfields Shire.

The figures tell us that 32,972 women in Western Victoria didn't have a breast screen in the two years to the end of June 2018. I hope we see this number decrease as more women prioritise their health.

Regular breast screens are an essential component of women's well-being over the age of 50, and I'm taking up the challenge to encourage more women in the community to have a free breast screen with BreastScreen Victoria.

I'm calling on women in Central Goldfields Shire to prioritise a breast screen every two years, along with other important routine health checks.

Appointments at BreastScreen Victoria can be made online at breastscreen.org.au or by calling 13 20 50. Local BreastScreen Victoria locations include Bendigo, Ballarat, Hamilton, Horsham, Warracknabeal and Maryborough.

Jaala Pulford MP

ADVERTISEMENT

WORKING FOR DUNOLLY AND DISTRICT



Hon Jaala Pulford MP

LABOR MEMBER FOR WESTERN VICTORIA



211 Dana Street, Ballarat Central VIC 3350

P: 5332 2405 E: jaala.pulford@parliament.vic.gov.au

Authorised by J Pulford, 211 Dana Street, Ballarat Central. Funded from Parliamentary budget.



KOKORO KAI

News from the Dojo

We're back!

Karate kicked off in Dunolly on Monday 3rd February, and although the break was nice, spending time with family and friends over Christmas and New Year, it is sooooo good to be back in the dojo training again.

Everyone has come back to the dojo refreshed and ready to smash their 2020 Karate goals.

Welcome back all of our members from last year, and a big welcome to our new members.

For more information, pop in and see us at the Dunolly Dojo (RSL Hall) Mondays at 5.30pm, follow us on Facebook or call 0475 344 610.

Melissa Hoban



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Greg Butler

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GARDEN CLUB

The Whispering Weeders Garden Club planning day for 2020 will be at Gail Boardman's on Broadway on Monday 24th February.

Get your thinking caps on ready to make suggestions about what gardens you would like to see and where you would like to go this year. For example - nurseries, public and private gardens and interesting gardening discussions.

Meeting at the centre at 11am. Bring a plate to share for lunch



CARDS — SCRAPBOOKING

Make your own special cards for family and friends at the Neighbourhood Centre. The next session is on Wednesday 19th February at 3.30pm till 5.30pm. The cost is \$12 for three cards all inclusive.

Rhonda will show you how to make the most beautiful cards and you can add your own special touches to make than unique.

Want more information? Call in for a cuppa and a chat or ring 5468 1511 Monday to Thursday or simply email: admin@dunnhc.com.au



Sharon Hiley Coordinator



Screening the Film '2040'

The Goldfields Sustainability Group will be screening the film 2040, at the Maryborough Education Centre Performing Arts Centre, on Thursday 13th February at 6.30pm.

The film is being shown as a follow-up to the very successful Climate Rally held in Maryborough recently. Directed by Damon Gameau, this is a family friendly and optimistic film, full of hope and tangible solutions, in which Damon embarks on a journey to explore what the future could look like by the year 2040, if we simply embraced the best solutions already available to us to improve our planet for future generations, including his own 4yo daughter, Velvet.

The film will start promptly at 6.30pm and finish just after 8pm. There will then be time for some discussion and tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. The event is free but gold coin donations to defray the costs to show the film would be welcome.

For more details contact Brian Park on 5461 4281.

Goldfields Sustainability Group News

Wellbeing – Move It Loddon

Sport Australia's "Move It Aus – Better Ageing Program", has funded the "Loddon Mallee Regional Move It Project" in an effort to encourage older Australians to remain active.

Regular activity supports good mental wellbeing and social connectedness, and the Move It project aims to educate the community on the benefits of staying active.

As part of the "Loddon Mallee Regional Move It Project", Loddon Shire Council has been successful in receiving funding for Move It! Loddon. This will create more opportunity to deliver fitness classes for people 65 years and over in the local area of all fitness level and abilities.

Water aerobics classes are held in Wedderburn and Inglewood. Strength training classes are held in Inglewood, Wedderburn, Bridgewater, Korong Vale, Tarnagulla, Pyramid Hill and Boort. Tai Chi classes are held in Tarnagulla and Inglewood. For timetables and more details, please contact Inglewood & Districts Health Service reception on 03 5431 7000 or Boort District Health for classes at Boort and Pyramid Hill on 5451 5200. Enquire about our six week free trial now.

Loddon Shire Media Release



Some of the activities suggest by Sport Australia's Move It Aus – Better Ageing Program from their website:

<https://www.sportaus.gov.au/>

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Road Works and Upgrades

Wareek's Porteous Road reopened for public use on Monday 3rd February following an extensive bridge upgrade.

Works included the removal and construction of a new bridge, with an increased weight limit. The project was funded through the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development's Bridge Replacement Program (\$500,000), Regional Roads Victoria's Fixing Country Roads Program (\$270,000) and Council (\$310,035).

Burke Street upgrade

An upgrade, between Inkerman and Kars streets, is expected to be complete within the next two weeks.

Works include:

- Footpath renewal
- Replacing all existing kerb and channel
- Formalising the existing school crossing
- Minor drainage works
- Road pavement reconstruction works

The project is funded by Regional Roads Victoria (\$426,000) and Council (\$50,000).

Majorca Road Stabilisation

From Monday 3rd February for approximately three weeks, Council is conducting stabilisation works along Majorca Road, Maryborough.

The road will remain open during these works. Motorists are advised to obey all traffic signs. This project is funded by Council.

Immunisation History Statements

Need to access an immunisation history statement for your child before they start childcare, kindergarten or school?

Statements can be accessed quickly and easily online - via your Medicare online account.

To find out how visit: <https://bit.ly/30XfpWQ>

Please note — families are automatically sent an immunisation history statement when their child turns 5.

At the official opening, the Keep in Touch (KiT) van will be on site to promote mental health and wellbeing in young people.

The Youth Hub, which is aimed at 12 to 18 year olds, will be open every Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30am to 5pm until July, 2020.

Reducing our Environmental Footprint

Central Goldfields Shire Council is continuing its work to reduce energy use and carbon dioxide emissions by implementing a number of energy saving measures.

A series of initiatives have, and will be delivered as part of the Sustainability Victoria Local Government Energy Saver Program which is helping regional councils across Victoria take action on climate change.

This first stage of the Program saw the completion of an energy audit which identified five high energy use Council facilities – Nolan Street administration building, Goldfields Family Centre, Maryborough Resource Centre, Maryborough Sports and Leisure Centre and the Depot.

Reduction measures that have been implemented across these five sites include:

- LED lighting installed in all five Council facilities
- Energy efficient air conditioning installed at Council's Nolan Street administration building and Maryborough Resource Centre
- 37.44 kw solar panel system installed onto the Nolan Street Gym to service Council's Nolan Street Administration building in November 2019.

- 30 kw roof top solar panel system installed at the Maryborough Resource Centre which has been in operation for at least seven years.

Reduction measures that will be implemented in coming months include:

- 10 kw roof top solar panel system to be installed at the Goldfields Family Centre in early 2020 – funded as part of the Local Government Energy Saver Program.

More broadly, across the Shire, Council has completed the changeover of our street lighting from light bulbs to LED light globes. This occurred in 2014 and included all street lights, in all townships, except on our major Regional Roads Victoria roads which will be completed next year.

Additionally, along with many other local councils, Central Goldfields Shire Council, is part of a local government wide Power Purchase Agreement to purchase 100% renewable energy for Council's electricity use (including street lights, buildings and community halls).

Central Goldfields Shire Chief Administrator Noel Harvey said the implementation of these measures will significantly reduce operation costs and emissions.

"It's estimated that by the end of 2020 — when all of the above initiatives are in place — it will save 221 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from being released into the atmosphere each year," he said.

"The energy saving measures have payback periods ranging from 1 to 2.5 years for the LED lighting upgrade, four to eight years for the air conditioning upgrades and four to six years for the solar panel systems."

2020 Community Satisfaction Survey Set To Begin

Each year, Central Goldfields Shire Council participates in the Victorian Government's state-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey.

Residents and households may receive a telephone phone call from now until March from the independent market research agency, National Field Services asking a number of questions about different services Council provides.

The survey data provides Council with a local community perspective on service delivery performance over the past year and useful insight into where Council should focus efforts to make improvements to meet changing community expectations.

Details and individual responses are confidential. Only the overall results are shared with Central Goldfields Shire Council.

CGSC News

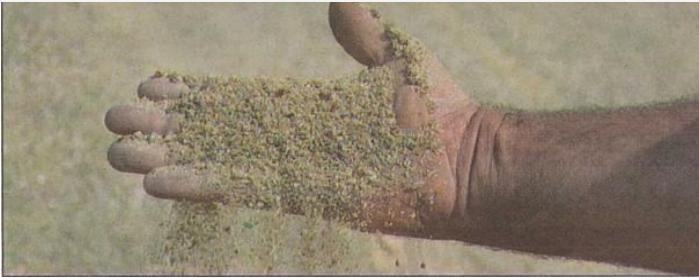
Louise Staley MP
MEMBER FOR RIPON

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Authorised by Louise Staley MP, 177 High Street, Maryborough. Funded from Parliamentary budget.

Asphalt plant turning broken glass into roads



Tonnes of discarded glass has been saved from being dumped in landfill in a unique way, currently being laid on roads around the state and beyond.

The local branch of Centre State Asphaltting, located on Tullaroop Road, began adding crushed glass to its asphalt this year, which is currently collected from, the City of Greater Bendigo.

The process sees Allstone Quarries (ASQ) collect broken glass — which would otherwise be sent to landfill — and crush it at its Eaglehawk facility. The sand-like substance is then transported to companies like Centre State to be transformed.

There are around 5000 glass bottles in every tonne of sand produced and Centre State Asphaltting general manager John Bell-Andrews said using glass is a great way to become more sustainable.

"We started initial discussions on getting in some recycled waste product to use and then ASQ said they already had a stockpile of crushed glass and asked if we could use it," he said.

"This is very important for us because "it's a great sustainable outcome and because there's now a greater focus by Vic Roads on more sustainability with the construction of their road network.

"The glass is very clean, there's no plastic or any residual products in there so it's working really well for us."

Mr Bell-Andrews said the plant has already used around 1000 tonnes of crushed glass since starting the process in the second week of January, which generally makes up 10 percent of the total asphalt mix.

"In the first month of operation we've used close to 1000 tonnes which is great, otherwise it would've gone to landfill," he said.

"In the majority of what we call base asphalt, which goes on the lower layer, we're putting 10 percent of the total mix volume in that. So for every tonne of asphalt that goes out the gate, there's 100 kilograms of glass in it."

The Maryborough plant added an asphalt recycling facility around two years ago to ensure leftover asphalt bitumen didn't go to waste, and Mr Bell-Andrews said using recycled products makes it unique.

"In Melbourne there's currently a lot of asphalt suppliers that do this and use glass, but traditionally in the country regions asphalt plants didn't even recycle their own waste or old road pavements so we've gone from that to now including glass which is quite novel for a Victorian country asphalt plant," he said.

"What we can do with glass is actually recycle it multiple times, so every time a road reaches the end of its life that can be dug back up and can be reprocessed.

"It's not just closing the recycling loop once, it's closing it a number of times."

Finding alternative ways to deal with waste is particularly crucial given the country's ongoing recycling crisis following China's ban on accepting a number of recyclable materials.

According to Sustainability Victoria, an estimated 257,000 tonnes of glass waste is generated in Victoria each year and while 76 percent is recovered, only 48 percent is recycled back into glass cullet for glass manufacturing.

The remaining 52 percent is made up of glass fines — used to create the crushed glass — and stockpiles.

ASQ managing director Tim Bird said finding a new use for old glass is a great opportunity.

"We get broken glass, which is waste glass that cannot be recycled. At the moment we get around 10,000 tonnes per annum. We then crush and grade it and stockpile it, ready to dispatch," he said.

"That 10,000 tonnes was all going to landfill so this is just another opportunity to avoid that.

"When the opportunity came up with Centre State we were looking at what products we could put crushed glass into because you can use it as bedding sand, and in America and New Zealand they're actually using it under turf on things like Rugby pitches."

Courtesy of *The Maryborough Advertiser*

Written by Christie Harrison

**CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS
RATEPAYERS AND
RESIDENTS ASSOC. INC.**

The beginning of this year has taken off with several high profile issues on the agenda for our shire.

We (CGR&RAI) ask that we all start the year with participating in discussion, contribute to council's calls and we all start to be part of shaping our shire. The key to being a successful community is participation and communication.

Let us start with 2020 by contributing and communicating with not only the shire but each other. Talk about issues and trying to understand both sides.

Our past is behind us, however we must learn from it and make sure it never happens again. If we want a stronger more successful community, it begins with us.

The first council meeting for 2020 is on 25th February at the Maryborough Hub, starting at 6pm.

We would like to see council meetings happening in other towns of our shire.

There will be two very keenly followed issues tabled — the Carisbrook levee Stages Three and Four and also the Dunolly Mosaics placement.

We thank everyone who participated in discussions and comments from both sides of these topics. The Victorian government has announced the introduction of Cash for cans and bottles. More on that later.

CGR&RAI now has its newly elected committee in place and the previous committee would like to thank everyone for their support over the past year.

The newly elected committee will look forward to carrying on the successful work from the previous committee and also look forward to your support.

Wayne McKail,
President.
CGR&RAI

Australian Trivia -

What three movies are part of Baz Luhrmann's "Red Curtain Trilogy"?

Answer on page 19



Dunolly Christian Churches

Invites you to worship God
and welcomes you to their services:

Anglican Church Services:

St John's Dunolly

Thursday 6th February, 10am Eucharist
Rev Heather Blackman

Emu

5.30pm, 4th Sunday of the month

Bealiba St. David's

8.00am Mass 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month

Catholic Church Services:

Dunolly, St. Mary's

8.30 Assembly, 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month

8.30 Mass, 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

Bealiba, St. Patrick's

8.30am Mass, 5th Sunday of the month

Uniting Church Services:

Dunolly

9.30am Sunday, Rev Gordon Wild

Uniting Church

This week Rev Gordon Wild will be taking the service at 9.30 am in Dunolly. Everyone is most welcome.

If you have never been to a service taken by Rev Gordon, come they are inspiring to say the least. We are so lucky to have him with us in this time.

UCAF will meet on Thursday 6th at 1.30pm.

Thursday 20th Dunolly hospital service at the Dunolly Hospital at 10.30am.

At 7.30 pm 20th February the Church Council will meet in the Church.

In the op shop we have a large range of clothes in every size and so much more, books bric-a-brac, furniture, glass ware.

Come in and have a cuppa and a chat to the staff. We would love to see you.

Jean Richardson



The Op Shop is open on Tuesdays from 9.30am to 2pm
Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to 4pm



Catholic Church

It was good to see a good turnout for Assembly. There was also the mystery of the disappearing and re-appearing of the door key. St Anthony at work? Mass will be at St Mary's Dunolly on Sunday 9th February at 8.30am

R Mcreedy

Today, if you stumble, know that God is willing and ready to assist you to your feet. Do not fear

Helen Steiner Rice

St John's Church

Thursday 6th February, 10am Eucharist with Rev Heather Blackman

SCRIPTURE VERSE OF THE WEEK

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6.8

Esmé Flett

Hearty lentil and vegie soup

Serves 4 Prep 25 minutes Cook 45 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 brown onion, cut into 1cm dice
- 1 large carrot, peeled, cut into 2cm dice
- 1 celery stalk, cut into 2cm slices
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 400g can lentils, drained, rinsed
- 400g can diced tomatoes
- 2 cups vegetable stock
- 450g savoy cabbage, thickly shredded
- Extra virgin olive oil, shaved parmesan and crusty bread, to serve



Method:

1. Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add onion, carrot, celery and garlic. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 5 minutes or until softened. Add tomato paste. Stir to coat. Add lentils, tomatoes, stock, cabbage and 2 cups cold water. Cover. Simmer for 40 minutes or until cabbage is tender. Season with salt and pepper.
2. Divide soup between bowls. Top with olive oil and parmesan. Serve with bread.

Super Food Ideas (May 2013)

Put These On Your Calendar for February 2020

Sunday	9th	Dunolly Community Market on Broadway - 8am to 1pm
Sunday	9th	Aria Capella Concert at Buckley's of Dunolly 2pm
Thursday	13th	Central Goldfields Your Community workshops - Dunolly Town Hall 6pm to 8.30pm
Thursday	13th	Screen the film '2040' - Maryborough Education Centre Performing Arts Centre 6.30pm
Saturday	15th	Heritage Train - Arrives at Dunolly Station 1.20 pm
Saturday	15th	Gina Hogan - 'The Women of the 60s' concert — Dunolly Golf Club Fundraiser 1pm. Includes local entertainers
Wednesday	19th	Cards and Scrapbooking at the Neighbourhood House - Dunolly 3.00pm to 5.30pm
Monday	24th	Whispering Weeder Garden Club — Gail Boardman's property on Broadway

MOSAICS – An Overview

Adding clarity to the mosaic issue from someone who was there from the beginning

I am writing this as an individual, not in one of my committee roles within the community.

I have been in a fortunate position to have observed much of the process along the way, since the idea had its inception. The grant application itself was a long and tedious process for all involved, taking many days to complete. The anticipation of working with such a famous artist as Deborah Halpern was exciting for all and when the grant was received and the word got out, the excitement of being able to involve Deb in the Dunolly community was immense. The project was titled 'A Sense of Place', indicating the intention to involve the community and have the schoolchildren and members of community groups identify what Dunolly represented to them. Of course, apart from those who were involved with the arts or the Melbourne scene, not all were aware of Deb's outstanding national reputation, with her 'Angel' sculpture being located in the moat outside the NGV from 1988 to 2006 and currently standing at Birrarung Marr, also an impressive body of work, completed over many years. As a collector, I had also known of Deb as the daughter of highly-respected potters, the late Sylvia and Artur Halpern.

The sourcing of materials and the interaction with the schoolchildren by Deborah and the team were some of the first steps, followed by the later involvement with individuals and community groups who were invited to paint the 400 tiles, again focusing on a Dunolly theme (I was personally privileged to have painted about eight of these). This next stage took many months, with much hard work taking place, in ensuring that many community groups and individuals became involved. Of course, all these tiles had to be fired, an arduous task in itself.

There was excitement when the sculptures started taking shape, with the work, involving many hundreds of hours of cutting tiles, grouting and many other technical tasks (all done to meet Deborah Halpern's exacting specifications) was not only carried out by the artists involved, but also by some other artists from local and surrounding areas, who volunteered their assistance and expertise. There were also other locals who were relied upon for their strength when the sculptures needed to be moved from time to time. It is my belief that every participant in this project, no matter how small their contribution, should have their input respected.

Although never personally involved in any discussion, I always had the impression that these sculptures (initially three, but later four) would always be placed within reasonably close proximity of each other.

I did not attend the initial onsite discussion with Council on the changes to Gordon Gardens which was held in late 2018, although I was aware of it. However, I was there at the well-advertised meeting in April, 2019 at the Dunolly Town Hall, when the first Draft Masterplan was presented to the community by the Landscape Architects and Council representatives. There had been a meeting earlier that day with the stakeholders, i.e. the Bowling Club and others, but also the Sense of Place artists, as suggestions had earlier been made by the Sense of Place artists to Council, as to the possible placement of the sculptures there as part of the upgrading of the Gardens.

At this meeting, I was disappointed to hear some of the comments made by a very vocal minority, not just against the proposed placement of the sculptures in the Gardens, but against the art itself.

I believe that everyone's taste in art differs, but it does not mean that one is more worthy than the other. Much discussion followed regarding Art versus Heritage, a common theme which has persisted ever since. Instead of

requesting, as some did, that a heritage artefact from the Museum be installed in Gordon Gardens instead of the sculptures, in hindsight, it may have been more appropriate to suggest that they could be placed at a distance from each other, but still in the Gardens. It was this vocal minority I believe, in not wanting them at all, which influenced the landscape architects' decision in preparing their next draft plan, to only place two in the Gardens and two elsewhere. I then personally followed the progress of the consultation process, advising the community through *The Welcome Record* and *Facebook* as to the closing dates for submissions and also the dates for submission hearings. I also attended the Council meeting when the final Draft Masterplan was adopted. Of course, there were later some discrepancies regarding placement of the sculptures between the second draft, its adoption and even apparently continuing after the adoption, resulting in much confusion.

When discussion initially commenced on *Facebook* in late 2019, regarding this issue, I went to some lengths to commend Council's consultation process as far as the April 2019 meeting was concerned, as I had seen the circulation of coloured flyers to be a positive step.

There will always be questions as to what 'community consultation' represents, as even what I observed as being 'good' publicity for the April 2019 meeting, with these flyers being placed around town and in the Post Office, was not seen by others to be adequate. A mail-out to every household has been stated as being the only way to make everybody in the community aware, especially those who do not read newspapers or are not on social media. This is obviously the way forward, with more of the community now becoming desirous of taking part in decision-making in topics which affect their local area. There is always a transition process however, and hopefully this is something that Council will take on board in the future.

From following the process, I became aware that with this and other draft plans before Council, there comes a point where the community consultation ends and this is at the stage where the second (or third) draft has been prepared following prior input and submissions and before it goes to a Council meeting for adoption. This is obviously a sticking point for some, but I believe it has to happen at some stage, otherwise the rounds of consultation could go on ad-infinitum.

This occurred with the Gordon Gardens plan, consequently no-one was privy to the final draft until after it was adopted; for a variety of reasons, it took a considerable length of time to access the content of the final plan. Even then, as mentioned, the stated placements of the sculptures were to vary.

Most people are aware of the developments which have occurred since the plinth and cage suddenly appeared on Broadway in front of the historic Bendigo Hotel and another plinth located further down Broadway. It was then that the issue of lack of community consultation regarding the placement came to the fore, with many other factors also then coming into play.

Several *Facebook* groups and pages were used as forums for open discussion on the placement, but unfortunately in that process, the waters were muddied substantially, due to the diverse range of opinions voiced.

Social media is a great tool if used properly. Nevertheless, the internet trolls who have taken part in denigrating the art itself have only done themselves a disservice, by displaying their lack of understanding that art is represented in many forms.

As previously mentioned, not everyone's taste is the same, but in this case, the fact that, whatever anyone chooses to believe, this is and always has been a Dunolly community project and this should be taken into account.

.continued on page 11

I took part in many of the *Facebook* conversations during the latter part of 2019, attempting to clarify what the initial process had been, as well as mediating between certain people at times; however, I have stepped back from participating so far this year.

I feel the time has come to isolate some of the issues raised and to attempt to bring some clarity into a situation which has now become a veritable monster, with a life of its own.

In observing the social media posts and the letters to *The Welcome Record*, there were initially two major issues of concern. The first was the intended placement of two of the sculptures in Broadway, with the one proposed for outside the old Bendigo Hotel raising the most objections. The second was the perceived lack of consultation by Council in the latter parts of the process. Both of these of course are intertwined, however it helped to cloud some of the issues for many people. From this, there now has evolved yet another sub-group, those who are now reasonably content after Council, in the intervening period, agreed not to install one outside the Bendigo Hotel, which was their main objection. Others are still vehemently opposed to any being placed in Broadway at all.

In an ongoing *Facebook* saga in several groups, which continues to this day, there are multitudes of uninformed opinions and often irrelevant comments being bandied around on both the art and the placement, by both locals and outsiders, however there are others which are to be considered, such as those relating to the feelings of the children who had participated. If debate on the original issues only had been adhered to, those potentially hurtful comments would not have arisen, but that was never going to happen on *Facebook*.

It must be said here that the Sense of Place artists are not in isolation in their desire to have the sculptures in Broadway. As mentioned previously, many would have been satisfied if the original proposal for placement in Gordon Gardens had gone ahead, especially as each of the sculptures are interactive using a Smart phone and tell a story. However, many artists and other forward-thinkers in the community can see a place for modern art within a heritage streetscape. I have many good friends within this group, as I do in the group opposing the sculptures and/or placement.

The protection of the streetscape itself is a very emotional issue for many, with good reason.

Despite comments to the contrary, people do visit Dunolly for its heritage and buildings; some of this is reflected in the number of visitors to Dunolly Museum for the past year and visitation for our heritage-related events.

There have been some splashes of colour added to buildings over the past years, but generally I believe they do not detract too much from the ambience of the Broadway streetscape.

The Council administrators and staff have obviously held discussions with the Sense of Place artists over some months for the proposed placements to have reached the stage they did, but I would question if Council actually had counted their meetings with the artists as being 'community consultation'.

The administrators know only too well that I will inform them if I believe that communication has been somewhat lacking and unfortunately that obviously seems to have been the case during the latter part of last year.

The closing date for submissions to Council on the updated proposed sites for placement has now passed and consequently a decision will be made in the near future.

The huge amount of media attention and the reports of conflict in Dunolly have certainly served to highlight our presence as a town with a diverse range of opinions, now unfortunately being branded as a town divided.

The absolute rage, hatred, name-calling, bullying and potentially libellous comments and opinions voiced on *Facebook* by some are only something we can be ashamed of; that a few people in a town such as this could stoop so low, based only on differing opinions.

To quote Central Goldfields chief administrator Noel Harvey (hopefully correctly), when he attended a meeting in Dunolly last November, he commented that the challenge of public art is interesting and that it always sparks discussion.

It is just a pity that this did not remain at the healthy discussion stage (and there has certainly been some), without having to incorporate the lowest levels of communication by the interference of keyboard warriors and some others who have resorted to nastiness in order to have their opinions heard.

There are many other heritage towns in Australia where diverse opinions on modern art have been aired; several of these towns have now accepted street art and other art installations and have developed festivals around them; others have not.

A lot of good people have been affected in this whole process, including some of the school children by believing that parts of the community are against the art that they helped create. As stated before, I am personally horrified at the extent this has reached.

For those of us who, early in 2019, were excited at the prospects of promoting a reinvigorated Dunolly as an exciting and vibrant tourism destination, we now believe it has reached a very sad state of affairs. As a few of us have backgrounds in tourism promotion, we will not give up, but it now will be a harder road to present the community as one which is working together towards the same goals.

The one positive to come out of all of this, is that whatever the publicity, good or bad, it is still publicity, so at least the potential tourists will have already heard about Dunolly.

There will no doubt be further developments to come, however I can only hope that the community will accept the decision made by Council, whatever it is, heal some of the personal rifts which have come about as a result of this division and view this situation as a stepping stone towards improved community consultation in the future. Time to move on!

Thank you to Rachel Buckley for storing the artworks while decisions are made, and to the many people who have assisted me over the past year or so during this consultation process and community discussions.

My final word is to be careful what you wish for – if there hadn't been opposition to the Gordon Gardens placement in the first place, this situation may not have occurred.

Jenny Scott.



**CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS 2030
10 YEAR COMMUNITY
PLAN PROJECT**

Central Goldfields Shire Council is working with residents to develop 10 year community plans that reflect the uniqueness and priorities of the eight communities and districts of: Bealiba, Bet Bet, Carisbrook, Dunolly, Majorca, Maryborough, Talbot and Timor.



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HOW WILL THE WORKSHOP RUN?

The workshop is for the whole community. It is a chance for you to learn about all we have heard and to test out draft actions. The workshop will be interactive with a chance to talk together, add ideas and set priorities.

Supper will be provided.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT
www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay

- **Bealiba & District, Bealiba Town Hall**
Monday February 3rd, 2020, 6–8.30pm
- **Carisbrook & District, Carisbrook Recreation Reserve**
Tuesday February 4th, 2020, 6–8.30pm
- **Timor & District, Timor Hall**
Wednesday February 12th, 2020, 6–8.30pm
- **Dunolly & District, Dunolly Town Hall**
Thursday February 13th, 2020, 6–8.30pm
- **Majorca & District, Majorca Town Hall**
Tuesday February 18th, 2020, 6–8.30pm
- **Maryborough & District, The Hub**
Wednesday February 19th, 2020, 6–8.30pm
- **Bet Bet & District, Betley Mechanics Institute Hall**
Wednesday February 26th, 2020, 6–8.30pm
- **Talbot & District, Talbot ANA Hall**
Thursday February 27th, 2020, 6–8.30pm



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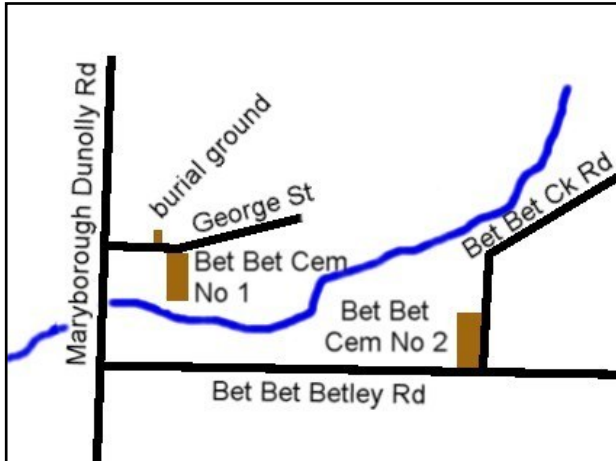
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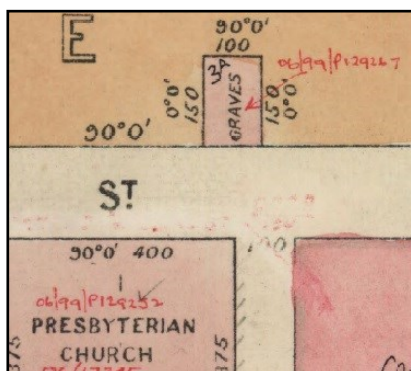
BET BET CEMETERIES

Bet Bet has two surveyed cemeteries and two known burial grounds. The first cemetery was near the Presbyterian Church in George St and the other at the corner of Bet Bet Betley Rd and Bet Bet Creek Rd.



The first cemetery was on the east side of the Presbyterian Church. It was proclaimed on 1st May 1865 but then cancelled six months later on 7th November. The site was probably chosen on account of there already being several burials there. These graves are no longer visible but were probably located on a pretty little rise overlooking the Bet Bet Creek. The Bet Bet Cemetery No 1 was 4½ acres. It was revoked in favour of the second cemetery site. The original cemetery is now part of a bushland reserve between George St and the Bet Bet Creek.

When Bet Bet was first surveyed in 1856 a ten acre reserve was made one mile east of the township on the south side of Bet Bet Creek. In 1862 the Church of England applied for two acres of this for a church but their claim was rejected. In November 1865 it officially became the Bet Bet Cemetery in lieu of the previous one in George St that had been revoked. All burials listed as in the Bet Bet Cemetery after 1865 are assumed to be this cemetery. The proclamation in the *Government Gazette* had incorrect measurements. It said five acres when the allotment was 10 acres. It appears that the cemetery was the eastern half adjoining the Bet Bet Creek Road. This cemetery eventually lapsed, had a road surveyed through it and in 1947 was sold as private land. The graves in this cemetery are likely to be amongst disturbed ground in a triangular 2½ acre section at the south east corner.



There are some graves on private land almost opposite the site of the Presbyterian Church. There are no headstones but at least one grave is recognisable. They should predate the proclamation of the nearby cemetery in 1865.

There is no burial register for any of these sites. Most deaths at Bet Bet were interred in either the Dunolly, Eddington, Timor or Maryborough cemeteries. Those that are confirmed as Bet Bet Cemetery burials are assumed to be at the second Bet Bet Cemetery.

The seven confirmed burials at Bet Bet are —

- ◇ John James Anderson, died 28th December 1868 aged six months, Presbyterian.
- ◇ George William Barber, died 10th December 1873 aged six months, Church of England.
- ◇ Thomas Calder, died 24th April 1883 aged 11 weeks, Presbyterian.
- ◇ Lizzie Crellin, died 18th July 1879 aged 11 days.
- ◇ John Melton, died 11th July 1875 aged two years, Church of England.
- ◇ Augusta Carlina Renzelmann, died 25th Apr 1867 aged seven months, Church of England.
- ◇ Lilly Walker, died 23rd January 1886 aged 14 days.

There are two other confirmed burials at Bet Bet without stating where. They are probably in the burial grounds north or south of George Street.

- ◇ Jane Barber, died 12th March 1859 aged 16 months
- ◇ William Henry Nicolai, died 10th Feb 1857 aged three months.

Other known deaths at Bet Bet are not recorded in other cemeteries. These may be buried at Bet Bet, probably in one of the burial grounds —

- ◇ George Aitchinson, died 13th June 1862 adult, inquest at Bet Bet Hotel, Presbyterian.
- ◇ Petro Boddini, died 26th Feb 1859 adult.
- ◇ Elizabeth Mayham, died 13th May 1864 aged 12.

John Tully



Grave north side of George St



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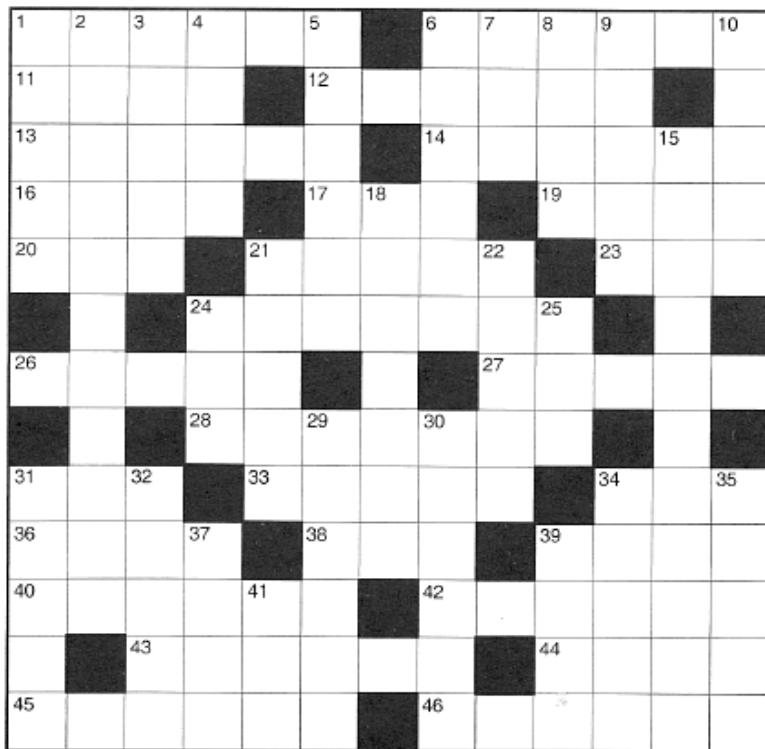
- 31. Make standard golf score on (as in 'he'll ___ the first')
- 33. Man who became premier of W.A. in September 2008, ___ Barnett
- 34. High rocky peak
- 36. Relating to the ear
- 38. Not divisible by two
- 39. Annoy
- 40. Time unit
- 42. Afford opportunity to
- 43. Name of manned spacecraft on lunar missions
- 44. Patchy in colouring
- 45. Fail to carry out promise
- 46. One performing legal duties in public capacity
- 18. Area near pitch (cricket)
- 21. Tuneful sound
- 22. Director of *Muriel's Wedding*, P J ___
- 24. Style of jazz
- 25. A dozen
- 29. Pasta strip
- 30. Bible left in hotel rooms
- 31. Perplexing puzzle
- 32. Inhabitant of Caribbean territory of U.S., Puerto ___
- 34. Bone of lower leg
- 35. Covered with grass (of swamp)
- 37. Contend successfully with difficulties
- 39. Greatly delighted
- 41. Often-alcoholic egg drink

Across

- 1. Room for relaxing or socialising, ___ room
- 6. Firmly in position
- 11. Release (energy, eg.)
- 12. Breathe out
- 13. Cricketer's request to umpire
- 14. Be firm in one's demand
- 16. Appear to be true
- 17. Noisy commotion
- 19. To a location upon
- 20. To ___ is human, to forgive divine
- 21. Calendar, lunar, or solar, eg.
- 23. Semi-solid hair-styling substance
- 24. A clown
- 26. Other name given to Keeling Islands, ___ Islands
- 27. Third letter of Greek alphabet
- 28. Aust./U.S. defence facility in central Aust. (4,3)

Down

- 1. Contract to rent
- 2. Pretend to be (someone else)
- 3. Limbless reptile with long fangs
- 4. Twosome involved romantically
- 5. Irish singer/songwriter, Bob ___
- 6. Religion of Japan
- 7. Tawny brown
- 8. Too (as in 'we should play ___')
- 9. Living creature
- 10. Praise (as in '___ the virtues of')
- 15. Heavy road-smoothing vehicle



Solution for crossword no.2



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DALY - Thomas Patrick

The Daly family would like to sincerely thank everyone for the kindness shown to them on the passing of their dearly loved husband, dad and grandpa. The offers of support have been greatly appreciated.

Please accept this as our personal thanks

The Daly Family



Neighbourhood Watch AGM
To be held on Wednesday 19th February.
At 10am
Meeting held at the CFA rooms
Everyone welcome.



Art Gallery launches 2020 exhibition programme — February dates

An exciting program of local and regional artists and touring exhibitions feature in the Central Goldfields Art Gallery 2020 exhibition program.

The jam-packed program of nine exhibitions will commence with the works of Ian Tully and his exhibition — "Future Farming the Mars Project" to be unveiled late February.

The full program of exhibitions is listed below with more information available on Council's website:

www.centralgoldfields.vic.gov.au/exhibitionsandevents

Ian Tully: Future Farming the Mars Project

Exhibition date: 29 February — 19th April

Renewable Energy Art Award Touring Exhibition

Exhibition date: 29 February — 29th March

CGSC News



DFNC MINI LOTTO

Drawn: 31st January 2020

Numbers: 4, 7, 14, 15, 17

No winner: Jackpot: \$550

\$1 per entry Have a go!

This week 5#s out of 20

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T Long



The Queen Mary

More Stories from Cynthia's Waistcoat Willy's Saga

All aboard the good ship Waistcoat Willy and read some more of Billy's amazing adventures.

Going back to the beginning when Billy first decided he wanted to be a seaman, he fronted up to the shipping office to apply for work.

However, when he took the medical test it was discovered he was colour blind so he was told he would have to train as a steward or a cook. Disappointed but relieved that he was still able to join the Merchant Navy, Billy boarded a train bound for Blakely on the River Severn with a number of other recruits.

On arrival a teacher stood in front of the group and screamed instructions, hair cuts, follow instructions etc. Billy was in training as a steward, learning table waiting, which didn't appeal much.

Then he was promoted to senior steward and given a white coat and a badge designating Senior Steward and assigned to the hospital.

The nurse in charge informed Billy that one of his duties was to prepare her breakfast and the bread must always be fresh. When he asked what should he do with left over bread, nurse said to throw it out. That was not Billy's style, so after the nurse, who was slightly deaf, closed her door to her room at night and turned the TV up loud. Billy would hightail it to the pantry, slice up the bread, spread it with jam and take it to the ward where he offered the patients threepence for a slice of bread, and that became so much in demand he gradually increased it to sixpence. Such a wheeler / dealer.

When he was sent on to another section, Billy passed on his scheme to his relief. Rations were so meagre on that ship, the crew used to regularly go to church because they would get a cup of tea and a sandwich.

After training was over, Billy went back to the shipping office for a new assignment. He was offered a job on the *Queen Mary* as a cabin boy, but surprisingly, he turned it down as Billy preferred a rough old cargo ship, churning through rough seas. A true seaman is Billy.

Instead he was offered the *Tuscany Royal Mail* which suited him fine. There were two Jamaican cooks with whom Billy became good mates. They set sail for Hamilton, Bermuda, which sounded quite appealing, but stopped only to drop off cargo and set off for Freetown in the Bahamas, where they dropped off two huge cases. When opened, out came two Rolls Royce's and workers arrived to polish them and attach little flags. Then they drove round the wharf and the crew all clapped. Quite an experience.

Next stop was Nassau and by now Billy decided to go ashore and have some fun.

He had the grand sum of ten shillings to spend. As he walked along the shore he noticed the tourists throwing coins in the water and the local kids diving for them. Billy wandered into a bar and ordered a beer and was given a shilling change.

What, he thought, nine shillings for a beer. There went his fun night out, and so returned to the ship and walking past the young divers Billy had the idea of diving in and collecting some money too.

Funnily enough, he decided against it.

More next week.

Cynthia



Dunolly Bowling Club Pennant Teams for Saturday 8th February 2020

Division 1 Round 15
Dunolly Blue At Talbot Cars Leave 12.30 Car Third
 Greg Dobbin Alan Weir Barry Cann
 Peter Waters Tony Galofaro Chris Williams
 Evan Weir Alan Parkes Loretta Parker
 Emmet Smith Sheryl Howard Jim Smith
 Chris Williams

Dunolly Gold At Dunolly V MHS Tartan
 Terry Long Bernie Lanfranchie Barry Mortlock
 Aaron Britten Roy Pickering Geoff Davies
 Don Mortlock Ian Flett Peter Harrison
 Wayne Stephens Keith Elliott Stan Shay
 Roy Pickering

Division 3 Round 15
Dunolly Green At Dunolly V Golf Green
 Keith McKenzie Jim Haigh Arthur Deason
 Marg Davies Heather Freemantle Paul Chase
 M Mortlock David Price Peter Freemantle
 Mathew Potter Nancy Pike Joe Lacey
 Paul Chase

Dunolly Red At MHS Black Cars Leave 12.30 Car Third
 John Pinkard Sandra Chaplin Jill Morse
 Don Coe Graham Cain Doris Spiteri
 Hannah Delconte Richard Cain Fabion Delconte
 Karen Stephens Sandra Caldecoat Andrew Mebbrey
 Sandra Chaplin

Emergency Pam Harrison M Shay

Dunolly Bowling Club Inc Mid-Week Pennant Teams 11.2.2020

Dunolly Blue versus Dunolly Gold
 Loretta Parker Heather Freemantle Marg Davies
 Jill Morse Sandra Chaplin Marilyn Mortlock
 Roy Pickering Greg Dobbin Tony Galofaro
 Chris Williams Barry Cann Alice Raven
 Manager. Heather Freemantle
 Emergency Alan Weir
 Cars: LEAVE 8.30 AM

Dunolly Gold Versus Dunolly Blue
 Sheryl Howard Heather Weir Jenny McHugh
 Karen Stephens Pam Harrison Doris Spiteri
 Nancy Pike Mavis Shay Jim Haigh
 Wayne Stevens Hannah Delconte Heather Davis
 Manager. Jenny McHugh
 Emergency Peter Harrison
 Cars
 Set Up Sheryl Howard

UNAVAILABLE LIST IN GLASS CABINET
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Learn to know the difference.
 Facts are irrefutable.
 Opinions can change like the wind's
 direction depending on circumstance.
 Consider opinions then look for truth.



Betley Hall Committee

The first Mechanics Institute hall was built in Glasgow around 1820. It was used as a free reading room as well as for evening adult education classes. By the late 1800s in Australia they had evolved into a social hub for the surrounding community. The Betley Mechanics Institute was one of more than 1,000 built in Victoria during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The Betley Mechanics Institute Reserve Committee of Management oversaw the use of the hall, an oval and several other facilities attached to the hall. The hall is still there but it is now difficult to see where the other things were. The Betley school was across the road and used the hall regularly. The Betley Ladies group was also regular users, and there were many dances, concerts, community meetings, farewells, and other public and private events held there over the years. It is said that at one time Betley had nine pubs, so that suggests a much bigger population than there is now.

But everything changes and in the mid 1990s the Old Lady underwent extensive refurbishment which included getting a new kitchenette and a foyer. Twenty years on and the committee was in recess and things looked bleak for the hall. Then in stepped some locals who believed it was still a pretty good hall and deserved to be used more. So in 2017 a new committee was formed. Since then there havw been several car boot sales to raise funds for necessary expenses, and the hall has been privately hired a few times. A grant from the Bendigo Bank has allowed much needed air conditioning to be installed, and the hall has a Facebook presence to allow for ease of hiring.

Some people have already shown an interest in using it for their groups, and the committee is hoping for some confirmed booking dates soon.

A new outdoor BBQ is being planned for the future, encouraging people to stop and enjoy the tranquillity of the creek side setting.

One committee member comes from a small rural community like Betley where their hall is used probably eight times a year for community get-togethers at pizza nights, BBQs and an annual Christmas bash.

This is something the committee would like to see replicated in some way at Betley. There are a number of newer residents in Betley and it would be a chance for longer term residents to get to know them and an opportunity for the newcomers to feel part of the rural community. It would also be a great chance for drought or flood affected farming families to gather and chat about things. As one committee member said, "People need people to talk to." Committee members agreed they have learned a lot about the workings of local and state governments in local communities. They have also learned more about the origins of their hall, and it has been nice to be able to give back to the community too. They want to be able to use their hall with pride and have it available for the next generation as well. Thanks to Rendell, Rosemary, Connor and Isaac for their input.

Vicky Frizzell

This is the second in a series highlighting the work volunteer committees, organisations and groups do in our small communities. If you would like your group to feature in The Welcome Record please ring me on 54 681 365, leave your name and number and I will get back to you.



Rendell, Rosemary, Connor and baby Isaac



Betley Hall Photos by Marion Edwards