

# Creswick District News

Issue 314 February 2026

Still Priceless



What a successful fund-raising and happy year the club had in 2025.

Since becoming incorporated in November 2023, Goldfields Recreation and Dance Club (GR&D) has held several tea dances and a Gala Ball with live music at Mechanics Trentham Community Hall, social dances at the Creswick Seniors Centre, wine appreciation events and classical piano recitals.

The aim, as a not-for-profit group formed primarily for the love of community music, dance and recreation, is to bring fun and friendship to those over 18 years of age and to raise funds to support community causes in this region.

## Goldfields Recreation and Dance Club

*For the joy of community*

Club members, volunteer organisers, teachers and the Creswick Senior Citizen's Centre have made activities possible.

The club, supported by many traders in both Creswick and Trentham, is excited to report that for 2025, it has shared \$3,150 with some of the local organisations that do so much for us all.

The recipients are:

Creswick Lions Club Teenage Christmas Voucher program; Creswick Neighbourhood Centre Community Garden; Creswick Wildlife Rescue; Clunes Primary School 2025 Energy Breakthrough; Trentham Lions Club community welfare projects; East Trentham Wildlife Shelter, and Ballarat Base Hospital Kids' Shine Bright Christmas Appeal.

GR&D thanks the following organisations and traders for their contributions to the community fund raising:

Hotel Trentham; Pig and Whistle – East Trentham; our own IGA; The Farmer's Wife; Jean Paul Trijsberg – The Happy Winemaker; Creswick Pharmacy; The American Hotel; Meg's Place; Blue Pyrenees Estate; Smokey Town Café; Michael Unwin Wines; Creswick Woollen Mills; Davies & Rose Rural & Hardware; Olicartia and Trentham Lions Club volunteers.



*Elizabeth and Andrew*

GR&D membership of \$20.00 gives you a year of discounted event tickets and/or ballroom dance classes for beginners to advanced, held on Mondays at the Creswick Seniors Centre.

Find out more:

[goldfieldsrecreationanddance@gmail.com](mailto:goldfieldsrecreationanddance@gmail.com)

Tel: 0402 777 852 or 0427 246 278

## 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

17 March 2026

21 April 2026

### Deadline for copy and advertisements

1st day of the month

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The *Creswick District News* is available beyond this district at \$20 for 12 issues mailed to a destination within Australia only. Contact the CDN with recipient's details at [cdn@cbl.com.au](mailto:cdn@cbl.com.au)

The CDN is also available online at [www.creswickconnect.au/for-locals/creswick-district-news](http://www.creswickconnect.au/for-locals/creswick-district-news)



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\$200 14 x 20 cm (landscape only)

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## Creswick Cemeteries News

Graeme from Broomfield found a small plaque in his garden in January for a Harold Dendy, who died in 1906 at 9 months old. After investigating Creswick Cemetery's records, we found that little Harold is buried at our cemetery in an unmarked grave. The plaque that was found will be mounted on some concrete so that his grave will finally be marked after 120 years. Thank you, Graeme.

*Wendy Ohlsen*

*Secretary*

## Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Ivan

Mr Ivan Reardon celebrated his one hundredth birthday on 14 January with family and friends at Creswick Acute Residential Care where he now resides.

He has led a very interesting life: born in Burma, escaped the war to India where he trained as a spitfire pilot. He then flew with commercial airlines around the Middle East and into Europe, residing in Beirut until 1967, when he moved his family to New Zealand. He moved to Australia in 1978, then to Creswick in 2016. Best wishes and congratulations, Ivan.

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or visit [rvahj.org.au](http://rvahj.org.au) for more information.

## Frank Slade

*Creswick's Weatherman Retires*

On behalf of all CDN readers and rainfall watchers in particular, thank you Frank, for your long commitment to recording the rainfall figures for the Bureau of Meteorology and sharing them with the community through CDN each month, without fail.

Frank has stepped back from this role but CDN hopes that new arrangements can be made. Watch this space!

## Creswick Rainfall

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

	2024	2025	2026
	mm	mm	mm
January	97.0	30.5	2.6
February	4.0	46.0	
March	0.0	31.5	
April	66.4	19.4	
May	34.5	13.8	
June	28.5	74.4	
July	97.5	102.4	
August	41.5	82.5	
September	52.5	38.0	
October	58.5	83.8	
November	35.0	127.8	
December	18.5	38.7	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>533.9</b>	<b>688.8</b>	<b>2.6</b>

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**World Day of Prayer**  
Friday, 6 March

St Andrew's Uniting Church Creswick at 7.00pm.



# The Creswick Garden Club

## *A Bloomin' Good Year Ahead*

The club would like to welcome back all members to another exciting year of learning about everything to do with plants and gardening.

President Jenny Joliffe and her executive team have been busy planning events, bus trips and speakers, covering a wide variety of topics and skills. Jenny said that instead of the club's annual Learning Day, the club will be teaming up with the Ballarat Cacti & Succulent Society to co-host the Western Regional Garden Club's Conference in October.

The first trip of the year is to *The Ferny Creek Horticultural Society Plant Collector's Expo* on Saturday, 7 March. The *Expo* includes over 45 vendors, a ten-acre garden, guided walks, guest speakers, raffles and much more. There are several seats left on the bus. If you would like to come, please book before **21 February** with Jenny, phone **0408 735 068**. The cost is \$45.00 for members and \$50.00 for non-members. Remember, if you are paying by bank transfer, to include your name and the event you are paying for. The bus departs at 7.00am sharp from the old Creswick Post Office site.

It has been one very odd summer: little rain, a lot of hot, dry wind. How will the gardens cope? Some very knowledgeable members are happy to share their expertise in caring for gardens. Just another reason to contact **Secretary Leanne Murray** on **0437 518 159** to join The Creswick Garden Club, meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at the Senior Citizens Centre in Water Street.

*Fiona Watson and Sue Parker*



*President Jenny Joliffe with members Sue Beard and Nell Beyer who were named committee members of the year.*



*Val Lawrence receiving a replica of her stolen award from President Jenny Joliffe at the club's Christmas function*

## Thank You Anne

At the *Creswick District News* Christmas gathering, Barbara Spencer paid tribute to the volunteers who generously contribute their time and talents to produce *CDN* throughout the year. Barbara, a volunteer of many years standing herself, made particular reference to some outstanding and long-serving contributors: Bob Orr, Aileen Preston, Jo van Oostveen and Anne Brennan.

*'In early 2013 Anne Brennan joined the CDN editorial team. Nearly 13 years later it is with great regret that we are here to say goodbye to Anne: the lady who has been such a reliable cornerstone of the CDN over that time. Anne, your commitment to the CDN has been outstanding and we can't thank you enough for your pursuit of excellence in the 140 issues of the CDN you have been involved in during that time.'*

*'You have carried out the responsibilities of secretary and liaising with our advertisers with great efficiency. You have set a high standard for the incoming members of the team, but I am sure they are all grateful for the building blocks you have set in place to make their job that much easier.'*

*'Thank you for the patient training of the new CDN members through the years and especially our newest members who are taking over your role next year.'*

*'I have enjoyed working with you Anne and hope that the CDN can still call on you occasionally for advice in the future. Enjoy your retirement. Stay well.'*

*And so say all of us!*

*The CDN team*

# Friends of Creswick Park Lake Botanical Reserve

## Dreaming Big and Better for 2026

The Friends of the Reserve have a brand new and vibrant Committee, all eager to get to work for 2026.

The small but hands-on team achieved a lot in 2025. Fallen trees were cut, banksias planted near the pond along Dream Gully, the Botanical Reserve mowed and whipper-snipped, ferns planted, garden beds rebuilt and hedges trimmed. A big thank you to Paul for his hard work on the hedges. They look fantastic.

Come along to the *Welcome Back Picnic* where you can renew or register your membership and see what skills you have to help us achieve our dream for the Reserve, where families are enjoying picnics, fishing, walks and jogging around the pathways.

Working bees are held on Wednesdays and the last Saturday of the month. Please meet at the Old Commissioner's Cottage, next to the Men's Shed. All are welcome to come along and help rebuild our Botanical Reserve.

Upcoming events include:

- Working Bees: every Wednesday 10.00am - noon and Saturday, 28 February 10.00am – 11.45am.
- *Welcome Back Picnic*, noon - 2.00pm. Saturday, 21 February at the lake side of the tennis courts. There will be a sausage sizzle and games to play. BYO chairs and picnic rugs.
- Meetings: first Wednesday of each month, 6.00pm – 7.30pm at the Senior Citizens Centre, Waters Street, Creswick.

Please register your interest with President Yvette Dare CAV: A0043427P, Phone 0498 098 193 or via email: [friendsofcreswickparklake@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofcreswickparklake@gmail.com).

# Creswick & District Historical Society

## Celebrating 150 Years of Creswick Town Hall



Many locals and visitors will have seen posters and signs around town about the Creswick Town Hall celebrating 150 years since building began in 1876. In 1873, the Town Council decided to build new offices and offered £50 for a winning design. This was won by architect W.R.H. Creber of Ballarat. The builder who won the tender was A.J. Boulder at a price of £3,000. Council meetings were held in the upstairs chamber for many years and portraits of many mayors and councillors adorn the walls. The building was the centre of town activities where residents paid rates and locals enjoyed the library. The Council Chamber is one of few originals still existing.

In the 1960s there was talk of demolishing the building, but after much lobbying the council offices were opened as a museum. The main hall has been used over the years for many events and as a movie cinema when the Biobox (projector room) was added in the early 1940s.

To celebrate the 150th anniversary, the Creswick and District Historical Society in conjunction with the Creswick Museum will be open from 26 February until 1 March from 9.00am until 3.00pm each day, with displays of historic interest. Other community groups will also be involved. The Creswick Brass Band will play at 2.00pm on 28 February, the Creswick Garden Club will have a floral display to acknowledge one of the first events in the Town Hall and several other groups will have displays. Entry by donation.

The Havilah Masonic Lodge will also be open during this time and this building is unique and not to be missed.

*Marj Poole*

## Hospital Auxiliary News

Creswick and District Hospital Auxiliary recently held its Annual General Meeting and was thrilled to have five new people coming along, increasing numbers and enhancing our ability to support the hospital's patients and staff.

The Auxiliary held its November raffle outside the Creswick IGA and sincerely thanks the IGA for allowing the Auxiliary to sell raffle tickets from its premises, and Creswick Woollen Mill for its donation of one of the prizes.

The prize winners were 1<sup>st</sup> prize, Robyn from Tasmania, in Creswick visiting her daughter; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, Andrew McLean of Creswick; and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize, Jennie from Ballarat, who was here visiting a friend.

The Auxiliary thanks all those people who supported the raffle. The funds raised will assist the purchase of a bariatric wheelchair, to support hospital patients and staff.

*Margaret Orr  
President*



## Creswick Lions Club

Creswick Lions ended 2025 on a high with its Christmas raffle, which sold 500 tickets, and the sale of Christmas cakes. The profits will be returned to the community in various ways over the coming year. The winners of the Christmas hampers were: 1st prize, Carolyne from Springmount; 2nd prize, Carolyn from North Creswick and 3rd prize, Suzanne from Ballarat.

Thank you to everyone who so generously supported Lions, including Steve from the Creswick IGA who donated the 1st prize hamper, Mike from the Ballarat Meat Company and others who donated items for other prizes. The sale of Christmas cakes was also very successful, thanks to the support of the Community Bank Creswick & District, Davies and Rose, Flemos, Goldfields Vets, John Curtin Aged Care, Clunes Pharmacy, Creswick Post Office and the Smeaton Hotel. Towards the end of the year, Creswick Lions received two very significant donations towards the Club's Christmas welfare contributions to the community. The first was a donation of \$500 from Rob and Elaine of Fixlution

Property Maintenance and the second was a donation of \$500 from the Goldfields Recreation and Dance Group. These donations, plus a similar amount from Club funds, were used to purchase gift vouchers for teenagers in need. These were distributed in Creswick by Anglicare. Food vouchers were added to the hampers prepared by the Creswick Neighbourhood Centre.

Moving into 2026, Creswick Lions will continue to collect glasses and car batteries, as well as working at the market. Creswick Lions Club would like to hear of any projects in the community that it may be able to support as a signature project. All ideas will be considered when funds are distributed in May.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at the RSL Hall at 7.00pm. You can also talk to a Lions member who will always be found at the Creswick Market. Contacts are President Pat Tacey on 0429 581 591, Secretary Leigh Bell on 0438 558 450 and Membership Kathryn Shalless on 0408 241 294.

*Pat Tacey, President*

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## Creswick Probus

*Fun, Friendship and Fellowship*

Probus is a great opportunity to interact with a wide range of people who enjoy the company of others. It is a great way to meet new folk, especially if you are new to the area or, after leaving work, you suddenly have lots more time to do things.

Probus meets once a month for a quick meeting followed by morning tea and then a guest speaker or a fun activity. The wide range of speakers during 2025 covered historical topics, travel experiences, staying safe in emergencies. There were also musical performances.

Members have the opportunity to dine out at a variety of local venues and attend a range of high quality performances at group prices, sitting in some of the best seats in the venue. If you would like to find out more, come along to Creswick Probus on the first Tuesday of each month between 10.00am and noon at the Creswick Uniting Church Hall.

Enquiries can also be made through email at [creswickprobus@gmail.com](mailto:creswickprobus@gmail.com)

We would love to meet you.

*Aileen Dellar, Secretary*

## World Day of Prayer

*'I will give you rest'* is the theme this year for the *World Day of Prayer* service prepared by the women of Nigeria.

The *World Day of Prayer* is an international, women-led, ecumenical movement that shares the hopes, concerns and prayers from around the globe.

Each year, women from different countries craft a service, sharing their unique spiritual journey and culture. For 2026, the women of Nigeria have created a service that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties.

This year the service will be held at St Andrew's Uniting Church, Ballarat Road, Creswick, Friday, 6 March at 7.00pm.

*Margaret Orr*



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# Creswick Bowling Club News

The Christmas Break-up Dinner demonstrated a wonderful show of support from all members, who were supplied with a great night of food, Santa and amazing raffles. Over 110 attended this event, one of our better nights for a Christmas Break-up. A great effort from the Social Committee and the members who supplied the catering.

The winner of the RACV voucher was Greg Peel. The two hampers went to Holly Judd and Andrea Coulter, with 25 people receiving minor prizes.

The three week break gave everybody some time to recharge, and recommence bowling on 13 January for Midweek and 17 January for the Weekend pennant. With only six games to be played before the end of the season, there will be a lot of bowls played. Round 15 (Saturday) and Round 16 (Tuesday) were dedicated to support Mental Health Day. The green shoelaces purchased for this cause sold out - thanks to those who bought them.

In Round 17, both Midweek and Weekend competitions supported Women's Health Awareness Day, with the club purchasing merchandise to support this cause. Special shirts were supplied by PBW's representative Chris Jones, to wear on both days.

The Club Champions' Finals were played on 31 January.

The Women's Final was played between Amanda Care and last year's Champion, Rebecca Booth. Travis Hedger and Michael Booth played for the Men's Club Champion. Results next month.

On Australia Day, the club hosted a Free Community Bowls Day which was well attended this year, with over 30 people from Creswick and surrounds coming along to spend an hour trying the game of bowls. Guests were treated to a sausage sizzle and cold drinks.

Thanks to Gerry Flapper, Beth Huntley, Judy Rieniets, Peter Fontana, Rob Ohlsen, Phill Zelley, and Alan



Community members on Australia Day 2026. - photo Bernie

Penrice, who all pitched in to provide advice to the group.

Barry resumed his monthly triples on 28 January, with 14 teams coming along to bowl. The winners were a team from Creswick – Travis Hedger, Jeff Douglass and Jai Chamberlain. Runners-up were also from Creswick, including Reg Rhook, Dean Cooper (retired injured), Gerry Flapper and Bill Hetherington (Daylesford). Thanks to Beth Huntley who prepared afternoon tea.

**Pennant Bowls News:** Weekend Pennant Division 2 are holding their form and are in the four. Division 4 had a good win in Round 14 and with some consistent form, hold off being relegated.

**Midweek Pennant:** Division 2 and 5 are holding positions that may also see them remain in their respective divisions next season.

Dinner is on each Friday evening during the pennant season at 6.00pm. Attendance is good, and everybody is most welcome to come along for a simple 2-course meal for \$12.00 for Non-Members. The club was extremely fortunate to receive a generous donation from Rita Flapper and the ladies from The Victoria Street Craft Group, which has enabled the club to purchase much needed maintenance equipment - much appreciated.

*Bernie*

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# Our First History

## *Six Peaks Speak: Unsettling Legacies in Southern Dja Dja Wurrung Country*

Creswick and surrounds are well known for their *gold* history. But what about before the gold rush opened up the area to the world? What came before?

This is the subject of a new book by local academic and historian Professor Barry Golding AM with support from local geologist Clive Willman.

*Six Peaks Speak: Unsettling Legacies in Southern Dja Dja Wurrung Country* takes us on a compelling journey through the eyes of six iconic mountains in central Victoria – Mt Kooroocheang, Mt Beckworth, Mt Greenock, Mt Tarrengower, Mt Alexander and Mt Franklin. As author Bill Gammage notes in his review, Dr Golding “uses ‘unsettling’ and ‘legacies’ in striking ways to show how land and past influence present and future. It ranges from deep geological time to calls for future repair and restoration”.

The book was written as an outcome of a 2023 State Library Victoria Creative Regional Fellowship in consultation with, and the support of the Dja Dja Wurrung traditional owners. Dr Golding, a long time Kingston resident, also connected with the local community including the late Jack Sewell of Kooroocheang and the late Bernard Righetti whose family live in Hepburn’s historic *Smeaton House*. Both men had collected troves of information and retained an incredible knowledge of the history of the area. Dr Golding is deeply appreciative of being able to spend many hours with them and says their insights greatly informed the Mt Kooroocheang chapter, identifying it as a priceless cultural landscape.

*Six Peaks Speak* has a deep personal connection for Dr Golding. He has always felt uncomfortable living in a landscape taken by force, where what happened and how things might be reconciled today are still far from acknowledged or settled. The book is part of his attempt at reconciliation with First Peoples on Country, something he has long been passionate about.

The book is a ground up history, starting with the rocks that are such a feature of our landscape. It then takes readers on a fascinating journey, informed by detailed research, that tell us so much about each of the mountains and how the Dja Dja Wurrung peoples lived and prospered sustainably around them for tens of thousands of years.

For more information about *Six Peaks Speak* please contact Professor Barry Golding at [b.golding@federation.edu.au](mailto:b.golding@federation.edu.au)

*Louise McCosker*

# Creswick Seniors Centre News

## *Welcome 2026: a new year full of opportunity!*

**Activity Day** will be held on the first Wednesday of the month from 10.00am - 3.00pm. The Craft Group will be creating from 10.00am onwards, so you can bring your own project, learn a new skill, or share your skills with others, whether it is sewing, jewellery-making, felting, quilting or water-colouring. You may prefer to play a round of cards, bingo, or scrabble, or tackle a crossword or jigsaw. Other recreational options include indoor bowls, table tennis, pool, darts and chess. You can also just call in for a chat and to catch up with friends. Refreshments will be available during the day.

**The Social Gathering and AGM** will be held on the last Friday of the month from noon till 3.00pm, with lunch at 12.30pm. The Annual General Meeting is a significant event in the operation of an incorporated association, so we look forward to seeing all financial members there. There will be important information for all members at the AGM.

Please Note: the Creswick Seniors Centre is on Facebook, where updates will be posted regularly.

*CSCC Inc Media Unit  
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## Community Awards

Nominations for the 2026 Community Awards are now open until Friday 6 March. Nominate a person, event or activity that has made a significant impact on the lives of others in Hepburn Shire.

### Categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year (25 years or younger)
- Community Event of the Year
- Hepburn Together Award

Successful nominees will be announced at an event on Tuesday 19 May at The Warehouse - Clunes from 5 to 7 pm.

Nominate at [www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/awards](http://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/awards)



## Stay safe and prepared in extreme heat

During this fire season, stay informed via the VicEmergency app and ABC Radio. Emergency service agencies are stressing that the safest option during a fire is to leave early, well before a fire starts or before you are under threat.

### Stay cool by:

- visiting a friend or family member who has air conditioning
- heading to your local library during business hours to enjoy a safe, air-conditioned space
- connecting with your community to see what local spaces are open and available
- visiting one of our pools or the splash park to stay cool.

And don't forget to keep a close eye on your pets.

### Visit:

- [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/extreme-heat](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/extreme-heat)
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A belated Happy New Year to all in the community.

The world is constantly changing and in aged care that is also the reality as measure after measure is introduced by the regulators to improve this area of care. John Curtin Aged Care Inc is facing a lot of challenges this year and while at times they can appear overwhelming, we are quietly confident that we will meet those challenges. John Curtin has been thrust into the new process of Registration, formerly known as Accreditation. This usually took place over a few weeks, but now is spread across a few months and involves micro audits across all aspects of the business. Management is not given advance warning and when they receive the request, there is a short space of time in which to respond. We can see the strategy behind this process, but it is challenging nonetheless.

The Board fully support and thank Karen Robinson, the Acting CEO and the management team in this crucial time. The Board is also facing change with long term member Malcolm Hull stepping down. Malcolm has served for a number of years as Vice President and Chair of the Infrastructure Committee. His knowledge has been invaluable. The Board thanks him for his service to JCAC and his representation of the Clunes district and wishes him well.

Jeremy Radford will be joining the Board, adding considerable project planning skills to the wide range of Board skills. While there is no further news to share



*Malcolm Hull*

about the Redevelopment Project at this stage, be assured that it is uppermost in our planning. So we are all being kept constantly on our toes. The Board and staff at John Curtin are working tirelessly to ensure that we can continue to provide the high standard of care expected of us by our community.

*Susan Craven*



## Creswick North Primary School

It's been a very smooth start to the 2026 school year at Creswick North PS.

The school welcomed the Foundation students, as well as several other new students in other year levels across the school. It has been wonderful seeing the students greet all their friends again after the holidays. Students have been setting up classrooms and routines in the first week back, and working with their teachers to review expectations and set goals. First term promises many exciting events, including Cross Country, the School Picnic, House Sports and Breakfast Club. Club 2041, the Before-school and After-school program has already begun and is a valuable service to busy families, providing great programs each day.

Creswick North is still open for 2026 enrolments, so if anyone would like a tour to experience this fantastic school, please call us on 5345 2012.

*Matthew Reyntjes  
Principal*

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# 100 Years Ago

*Compiled by Creswick Museum*

**February 3, 1926** Hospital Sports Day – an action very much appreciated was that of several members of the now defunct brass band, who gathered together and practised, and played many selections during the currency of the sports, conducted by Mr. W. Fargher. They enlivened the proceedings, and their music was appreciated.

**February 5, 1926** Blampied – The date of the Blampied Race club's meeting was recently given as 20<sup>th</sup> March. It should be 13<sup>th</sup> March. The club has joined the Bendigo District Association, and that date has been allocated to them.

**February 9, 1926** At West Footscray a laborer found a gold nugget embedded in the Melbourne – Geelong Road. Gravel from Creswick had lately been used to top-dress the road, and it is surmised that the gold came from this old mining town. The sum of 13 pound 10 shillings was paid for it at a Footscray bank. It weighed a little more than 3 oz.

**February 12, 1926** Dean – The continued spell of dry weather is causing a shortage of water in the district. Wells and tanks are giving out, and the potato crops need a good downpour to strengthen the tubes.

**February 16, 1926** "Duck Diving" was a feature at Calembean Park on Saturday afternoon last, when the Creswick Troup of Boy Scouts (to do their good turn) spent the afternoon in taking cut stones, broken glass, etc, from the bottom of the small swimming pool. This has certainly made bathing much more pleasant for the beginners.

**February 19, 1926** Rocky Lead – A few days ago, on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst., Mr. C. C. Phillips celebrated the close of 77 years' residence in Victoria. He arrived in Geelong with his parents per the ship Labuan in 1849.

**February 26, 1926** Shortly after half past eight o'clock on Wednesday night a fire broke out in the residence of Mr. V. N. James, of Reed Street, Creswick, and the house and contents were destroyed. It was a 5 roomed weatherboard building. It is stated that Mrs. James was in the bedroom, putting the children to bed, when the wind blew the curtain on to a lighted candle.

**165 years ago**

**February 1, 1861** After the great fire, as our readers will recollect, an attempt was made to get up a Hook and Ladder Company, which would have formed the nucleus of a Creswick Fire Brigade, but the Municipal Council refused to support the embryo institution, and the consequence is that, if a fire was to break out now, we would be entirely at the mercy of the element.

**150 years ago**

**February 2, 1876** We are requested to state that the members of the Creswick contingent of the Ballarat Troop assemble in front of the American Hotel tomorrow evening, at half past five, to proceed to Ballarat by train, when prizes are to be awarded to the best Swordsmen. Sergeant Major Price acting as judge.

**75 years ago**

**February 2, 1951** In the event of a big fire in the district, the rural brigade's group want to be able to use Creswick fire station as a nerve centre for radio communication with men on the spot and telephone communication through the regional officer to brigades dotted for thirty miles around should they be needed.

## 2026 Community Awards open for nominations

Nominations for the 2026 Community Awards are open from Monday, 19 January to Friday, 6 March. Council is accepting nominations for people, events and activities that have made significant impacts on the lives of others in Hepburn Shire.

### Categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year (25 years or younger)
- Community Event of the Year
- Hepburn Together Award

Successful nominees will be announced at an event on Tuesday, 19 May at The Warehouse, Clunes from 5.00pm to 7.00 pm. Council has decided to host the event during National Volunteer Week (18-24 May) this year to better align the event with the celebration of volunteers.

Mayor, Councillor Tony Clark, said that our volunteers are the lifeblood of our communities and that those who have made outstanding contributions should be nominated and thanked.



## Kingston Friends of the Avenue

On Tuesday, 16 December, Julie Baulch and Trace Williams took four Newlyn Primary School student leaders on a special outing to acknowledge the support and student participation of the school in our Remembrance Day Service. Julie and Trace took the students and their support staff for a drive in a limo and to a cafe for afternoon tea before taking them back for their Graduation Dinner. Many thanks to Newlyn Primary School for their support, and to Trace for providing the limo and acting as chauffeur.

Many thanks to the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing for awarding us a Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour Grant, and to Hepburn Shire Council, who have worked with Kingston Friends of the Avenue to complete these restorative works. Two trees near the end of their useful life expectancy have been replaced, and significant pruning has been undertaken, including the removal of deadwood and hangers in several locations throughout the Avenue and the removal of numerous large cypress branches overhanging the Avenue trees on the eastern side of the Avenue. This will help the trees to grow more evenly, and reduce the risk of damage from fallen cypress branches.

Many thanks to Hepburn Shire Council for watering the young trees in this very dry weather, and for mowing the grass in the Avenue.

Keep an eye out for the date of the Working Bee in April if you'd like to support the Avenue.

### SAVE THE DATES

- 20 February 2026 Bunnings BBQ Fundraiser
- 21 March 2026 - Creswick Market Plant Stall
- 25 April 2026 - Anzac Day Service

*Leah Armstrong*



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## Lyster Opera Orpheus and Eurydice Comes to Creswick

Rehearsals are well under way for Lyster Opera's next production at Creswick Town Hall on Saturday, 14 March at 2.00pm – *Orpheus and Eurydice*.

Director and founder of Lyster Opera, Jamie Moffat, said that the cast loved coming to Creswick as the audience was so enthusiastic and welcoming.

*'We were last here in October for The Merry Wives of Windsor and we couldn't have been more pleased with the reception we received for the production. To see a full house in a small regional town is quite wonderful. The aim of Lyster Opera has always been to bring both well-known and lesser-known operas to country audiences.'*

*'With our next production, Orpheus and Eurydice, a very different tale is told. It's a Greek mythology exploring love, loss, the power and influence of art and human weakness.'*

Composed by Christopher Willibald Gluck, it is said to be his most popular and heartbreakingly beautiful work. The cast features many Lyster favourites, with acclaimed tenor Hew Wagner taking the title role. The exciting news is that for the first time, Lyster Opera will be touring with a full chamber orchestra from Melbourne Opera, led by Pamela Christie. This has been achieved without any increase in ticket prices, thanks to the generosity of the sponsors.

Creswick and other regional towns are so very lucky to be able to experience first-class singers and musicians. Now is the time to book your seats for *Orpheus and Eurydice*. You won't want to miss this tragic opera.

Tickets available at [lysteropera.com.au](http://lysteropera.com.au) or by ringing 0410 890 388

*Fiona Watson*



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# Bald Hills - Creswick Landcare Group

## Impact of Landscape Change on Creswick's Yarra Gums

Existing only in Victoria, Yarra gums, *Eucalyptus yarraensis*, range from the Grampians to Gippsland, and commonly occur in Ballarat and Daylesford. Why are they missing from Creswick and the region between Ballarat and Daylesford? We can still find remnants of their past existence. Bald Hills - Creswick Landcare Group is hosting a panel to explore the factors that have led to the critically endangered Yarra gums disappearing from the area, and what restoration efforts can be done to return them to Creswick and our catchment, and re-link the Daylesford and Ballarat populations.

Join the Group to hear from the panel of distinguished guests:

- Professor Peter Gell, Paleoecologist, Federation University
- Dr Elizabeth James, Conservation Scientist, Royal Botanic Gardens
- Elder from DJAARA

Discussion will focus on the local ecology issues of Creswick and upper catchment of Wattle Flat, Dean, Newlyn, Rocklyn, as well as Mt Prospect, Mollonghip, and Springbank, but is open to anyone interested in learning about conservation, Yarra gums and waterways. An event for adults of all ages, the panel will commence with a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony subject to CFA permit.

**Sunday, 1 March 1:00pm at the Creswick Senior Citizens Centre.**

Light refreshments will be provided. Please book your free ticket using the QR Code to be kept up to date with the event.

<https://events.humanitix.com/creswick-yarra-gums>



A follow-on event for kids is scheduled for Saturday, 21 March. More information will be available on our Facebook page and in the next issue of Creswick District News.

This event is made possible by funding from the North Central Catchment Management Authority.

*Bald Hills - Creswick Landcare Group Inc.*



# Creswick Capers

What a wonderful start to the school year at Creswick Primary School, with students returning full of smiles, enthusiasm, and excitement for the year ahead. It has been lovely to see classrooms and playgrounds buzzing again as students reconnect with friends, classmates and teachers and settle back into school routines.

Over the summer break, the Multi-Purpose Building (MPB) floor was refurbished. It looks absolutely terrific and it will be enjoyed by students and staff for assemblies, sporting activities, and special events throughout the year.

The school would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of the new families joining the Creswick Primary School community. Prep students, taught by Kylie Strong, have begun their schooling journey with confidence and excitement. They are being well supported by their Year 4 buddies, who are helping them navigate the playground and feel safe and settled during their first few weeks at school.

At the other end of the school, the Year 6 students are stepping proudly into their leadership roles. Throughout the year, the student leaders will play an active role in school life, supporting assemblies, athletics days, and special events, while setting a positive example for the younger students. Adding to their excitement, the new Year 6 jackets and T-shirts have arrived, and students are already wearing them with pride.

Welcome back also to all of our dedicated staff for another year. The school is fortunate to have such a committed and passionate team that works tirelessly to support students and the school community.

The school is looking forward to a busy and rewarding year of learning, growth and celebration and can't wait to see what the year brings.

*Katelyn Sutton  
Classroom Teacher*



# CRESWICK AND DISTRICT REGULAR AND ONGOING EVENTS

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS SEE PAGE 2

**Anglicare Emergency Food Relief** – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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: 10.00 am 2nd Sundays  
Service of the Word: 10.00 am 4th Sundays  
Contact: 0413 689 003

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

**Clunes Hit and Giggle Pickleball**  
Wednesdays 1pm at the Clunes Sports Stadium. \$10 covers court hire and all equipment.

**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](mailto:tierneycatherine53@gmail.com)

**Creswick Cemetery** - Gates Open 9.00am to 5.00pm. Daily

**Creswick Connect Committee (previously Business & Tourism Creswick Inc)**  
Meet 5.30pm second Tuesday of the month at Leavers Hotel. Contact Tim 0490 436 264.

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

**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](mailto:info@creswicku3a.com) website [www.creswicku3a.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:calembeen@parkrun.com.au) or find us on Facebook

**Creswick Repair & Share Cafe** 9.00am to 12.00pm at Creswick Market Third Saturday of the month. Bring your broken things to repair. Contact Sam on 0490 719 296.

**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](http://creswicknc.org/creswick-market) Email [market@cnc.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:creswickprobus@gmail.com)

**Creswick Seniors Centre** Social Day and Lunch is the last Wednesday of the month at noon. Lunch prices \$5 - \$10.

Welcome Wednesday Chat, Craft & Games the first Wednesday of the month from 10 am - 2 pm. Updated information on Facebook. Contact Secretary Judy Henderson [creswickseniorcitizenscentre@gmail.com](mailto:creswickseniorcitizenscentre@gmail.com) or via 0407 622 463

**Senior Cyclists** - meets Sundays, 10:00am 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.

**Cr Tim Drylie** by appointment Creswick Community Hub Ph. 0427 503 258 Email: [tdrylie@hepburn.vic.gov.au](mailto:tdrylie@hepburn.vic.gov.au)

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

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

**Goldfields Recreation and Dance Inc.** Ballroom Dancing Classes All levels - Mondays \$10 per annum Call 0402 777 852 or 0427 246 278

**Joeys, Cubs, Scouts and Venturers** - every Thursday during school term. Enquiries via Scouts Victoria website [scoutsvictoria.com.au](http://scoutsvictoria.com.au)

**Museum Research Centre** - Open Saturdays, 11am to 3pm. Email requests to [info@creswickmuseum.org.au](mailto:info@creswickmuseum.org.au)

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

**Parents Without Partners Weekly Dance**

3<sup>rd</sup> 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** Enquiries: [secretary@creswickartspavilion.org.au](mailto:secretary@creswickartspavilion.org.au)

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

**Tipplers** - third Wednesday every month. Monthly social gathering of local folk at local homes. Email: [tonycartwright@gltau.com](mailto:tonycartwright@gltau.com) to join our mailing list.

**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](http://www.vogacycleclub.com.au)

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