



150 Years Creswick Town Hall Celebrations



Creswick & District Historical Society Exhibition

The Creswick & District Historical Society's exhibition at the Creswick Town Hall from 26 February to 1 March was a huge success following months of hard work by the Society's members. Over 300 visitors came along over the four days and there was plenty of positive feed-back. A big thank you to all those community groups involved who helped make it such a memorable event. These photos were taken at the official opening attended by local councillors, Catherine King MP and Martha Haylett MP.

Marj Poole

Right: Creswick Brass Band



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

21 April 2026

19 May 2026

Deadline for copy and advertisements
1st day of the month

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

The CDN is also available online at www.creswickconnect.au/for-locals/creswick-district-news



CDN ADVERTISEMENTS

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Price Size:

\$20 6 x 3.5 cm

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\$125 14 x 10 cm (portrait only)

\$200 14 x 20 cm (landscape only)

\$375 20 x 28 cm (full page)

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Additional 50%

Anglican Parish of Springmount

2026 EASTER SERVICES

Sunday, 29 March **Sunday of the Passion, Palm Sunday**

St. John's Napier St, Creswick
10.00am

Thursday, 2 April

Maundy Thursday

St John's Napier St, Creswick,
7.00pm

Friday, 3 April **Good Friday**

All Saints' High St, Learmonth,
10.00am

Saturday, 4 April **Easter Vigil**

St John's Napier St, Creswick,
7.30pm

Sunday, 5 April **Easter Day**

St Paul's Templeton St, Clunes,
10.00 am



Creswick Cemeteries News

The team at the cemetery is continually striving to improve the grounds. Thanks to several donations, two more gardens have been laid out. Planting will follow when the weather is a bit cooler.

If anyone would like to help out at the cemetery, we would love to hear from you. There is always weeding, whipper snipping and gardening to be done. Please contact the secretary, Wendy, on 0435 762 600.

Wendy Ohlsen

Congratulations

Congratulations go to the Creswick & District Historical Society for the very successful celebrations held recently for the 150th Anniversary of the Creswick Town Hall.

The displays, posters and photos highlighting many aspects of the Town Hall and community over the years created interest for the numerous local residents and visitors who attended. Well done.

Creswick Rainfall

	2024	2025	2026
	mm	mm	mm
January	97.0	30.5	2.6
February	4.0	46.0	56.8
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	
TOTAL	533.9	688.8	59.4

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Landcare

FREE EVENT

Saturday 21 March 2026
2.00pm-4.00pm
at Calembreen Park
for a free community BB.
with nature-based activities
an interactive drone session

CresFest

Friday 10—Sunday 12 April

www.cresfest.com.au

Local women show how giving makes a community thrive

This year's global International Women's Day theme, *Give to Gain*, isn't an abstract idea in our region—it's something lived, every day, by women who quietly hold communities together.

For **Julie Baulch**, giving began with loss — but grew into something much bigger. After her father, a returned serviceman, died, she was driven to act. *'I wanted to do something to make a difference,'* she says. What she found was an Avenue of Honour at Kingston in decline — *'suckers like trees, plaques broken or missing, grass knee-high.'*

In 1998, Julie helped form the *Friends of the Avenue*, which rallied the community to restore it. Working bees cleared the growth, plaques were painstakingly recovered and repaired, and a sense of shared purpose took hold. Today, the avenue is heritage-listed and considered one of the finest in the world. But for Julie, its true value is simpler. *'The Avenue was envisaged by the community, planted by the community, and cherished and protected by the community,'* she says. *'It continues to bring people together — and that is the gain for all of us.'*

Katrina Bird's giving is energetic and future focused. With four children under 13 and a full-time job, she still finds time to lead the Creswick Brass Band — one of the oldest bands in Victoria (started as a Drum and Fife Band in 1863) but still young at heart. *'We have equal numbers of girls and boys, and we focus on kids coming through,'* she says. *'We do everything possible to reduce barriers to entry and make it accessible and affordable.'*

Under her leadership, the band has grown in both size and confidence. *'Everyone has strengths they bring,'* she says. *'And our younger players are happy to step up and have a go at conducting.'* It's this mix of opportunity and trust that keeps the band thriving — and the community connected.

For **Wendy Ohlsen**, giving often happens in the quietest moments. Through years of work with the cemetery and local history, she supports people at their most vulnerable. *'Give to gain is my job,'* she says simply. *'In my work at the cemetery, I am there for bereaved people, helping where I can — whether it is with wording on a plaque or a shoulder to cry on.'*

Her work compiling *100 Years Ago* for CDN has also given her a long view of history. *'I read about the good deeds of men in our community,'* she says, *'and I know their wives and daughters were probably doing as much, or more — but it was rarely mentioned.'* Things are changing, she says. *'At least we are getting better at acknowledging what women do.'*

Margaret Orr has seen that change firsthand. After more than 50 years of volunteering, she has witnessed both the strength — and the fragility — of community life. *'There are always people with you,'* she says. *'You don't do these things on your own.'*

But she has also seen numbers decline. *'COVID had a huge impact on fundraising,'* she explains. *'And there are just not the same number of people volunteering their time.'* Still, she remains hopeful. At a recent AGM of the Creswick & District Hospital Auxiliary, several new members joined — *'young women,'* she says with a smile, *'in their 70s.'*

Aileen Preston's contribution has shaped how the community tells its own story. Joining the CDN editorial team just five years after it began, she spent 15 years—mostly as editor — helping bring each edition to life. But for Aileen, it was never about the title. *'I saw myself as part of an editorial team rather than as the editor,'* she says. *'I learned a lot from the women before me.'*

Aileen describes a culture of trust and shared purpose. *'Everybody had their role, and it was mainly the women who did the editing and writing,'* she says. *'They were one of the best teams anyone could work with — supportive, and they did their own job well and let others do theirs.'* For Aileen, the real reward was collective: *'the bigger gain from producing a newsletter that is so important to the community.'*

Their stories are all different, but they share a common thread: giving their time and energy to others. This International Women's Day, *Give to Gain* isn't just a theme — it's something these women live, and the whole community gains from it.

Louise McCosker



Creswick-Smeaton RSL

2026 ANZAC Day

The following are the arrangements for the ANZAC Day Commemorations, 25 April 2026.

Wreaths can be ordered up to 19 April via creswicksmeatonrslsec@gmail.com for \$40.00.

CRESWICK

5:40am – Dawn Service - assemble at the Cenotaph (Cnr. Albert and Raglan St.) for a 5:50am start, followed by the Gunfire Breakfast in the Senior Citizens Centre (Water St. next to the Town Hall).

9:30am - Service at the Soldiers Graves at the Creswick Cemetery, 141 Clunes Road.

10:00am - Service at the Memorial Stones, RSL Hall, 60 Albert St.

10:15am - Anyone wishing to take part in the **March** to assemble at the Splash Park (Bottom of Albert St).

10:30am - March commences.

Following the March - ANZAC DAY Service - Creswick Cenotaph (Cnr. Albert and Raglan St.)

12:30pm – 2UP at the front of the RSL Hall.

KINGSTON

Kingston Friends of the Avenue Anzac Day service and wreath laying at Cenotaph

Time: Assemble at 8:45am for a 9.00am start.

Location: Corner Victoria Road and Kingston Road, Kingston (Cenotaph)

Phil Greenbank

Secretary, Creswick-Smeaton RSL

Commemorative Services.

Throughout the year, the RSL will be holding commemorative services at the Cenotaph.

On Saturday, 14 February - *National Servicemen Day* was held.

Australia had four military service schemes between 1911 and 1972. These being 1911 - 1922, 1940 - 1946, 1950 - 1959 and 1964 - 1972. The schemes were all part of national service. Earlier schemes aimed to build a reserve of trained citizen militia. Later ones boosted military strength to meet defence needs. National service had a huge impact on the lives of the men and their families. Some appreciated the mateship and duty but it disrupted careers, education and relationships, with lasting consequences. Many men suffered or even lost their lives because of national service. In 1950, the first use of the word 'NASHOS' was recorded - Aussie slang for those who did National Service.

The second service was on Tuesday, 24 February, commemorating the *National Day for War Animals*. During wars, animals were used by warring armies because of their unique ability to undertake tasks that were difficult or impossible for humans. Over challenging terrain, they carried messages and transported equipment, people and supplies. They also helped to find people and save lives. Unfortunately, many animals suffered and died as a result of the war.

Representing the war animals were the dogs from the German Shepherd Club of Australia - Ballarat Branch. (See photo on page 11)

The next services will be on 25 April - *ANZAC Day*, and 8 May - *Victory in Europe Day*, at 12:30pm.

Phil Greenbank

Secretary, Creswick-Smeaton RSL

0490 374 006 creswicksmeatonrslsec@gmail.com

History Quiz

Compiled by Creswick and District Historical Society members, mostly from Early Creswick by John A. Graham.

1. What year did Captain Hepburn settle at Smeaton Hill?
2. When Sir Thomas Mitchell explored the western part of Victoria, what did he call it?
3. Name the three Creswick brothers who came here in 1842.
4. Where did they build their homestead?
5. Where is Captain Hepburn buried?
6. When was the alluvial channel (deep lead) discovered at Broomfield?
7. Who made the discovery?
8. The mother of which Australian Prime Minister was born and lived her early life in Creswick?
9. When was Creswick proclaimed a municipality?
10. When was the foundation stone of the old hospital laid?

For answers see page 17.

As the iconic Australian singer Paul Kelly said, ‘*from little things, big things grow*’, and that is exactly how *CresFest* has developed over four years, to become one of Australia’s most-loved and successful music festivals. It is run by committed community members for a diverse mix of locals, musicians and lovers of music, ranging from folk all the way through to American blues and African drum beats.

From the very first discussions with interested Creswick locals, Judy Turner, founder and director of *CresFest*, said that her aim was to create a music festival that would involve the whole community, from musicians, artists, schools, service clubs and, of course, the many people who volunteer and host artists. ‘*CresFest has developed beyond my wildest dreams and now with Stella Savy on board as artistic director we are branching out in a way that I hadn’t considered five years ago. This year we have a spectacular line-up of emerging musicians from around Victoria as well as world class artists from around the globe,*’ Judy said.

Again this year, the local community has the opportunity of purchasing tickets at half price. This offer means that instead of forking out money for transport and accommodation to see internationally famous musicians in capital cities, local people can enjoy the atmosphere of a great music festival right here in Creswick. The young ones have their very own *Kidzone*, where they can learn circus tricks and have their faces painted while having heaps of fun.

A huge thank you to the local businesses that are supporting *CresFest* through donations to the amazing raffles that are only being sold during *CresFest*. The prizes are truly fantastic.

For more information and to see what’s on during *CresFest* from Friday,10 - Sunday,12 April, go to: www.cresfest.com.au

Fiona Watson

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Creswick Lions Supporting Fire Recovery

February has been a busy month for the small, dedicated, hardworking members of the Creswick Lions Club along with our helpers Darren, Amanda, Glenda, Katie and Carmel. The club's normal sausage sizzles at the Creswick Market over the last couple of months have been quite successful. Creswick Lions has financially supported the fire recovery effort in Harcourt, as well as collecting and delivering unwanted tools to be distributed to farmers and households that were severely impacted by the Western District fires during January and early February. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this effort - the back of Pat's ute and his trailer were overflowing with items delivered to Haddon Lions who are coordinating the project.



*Rob (Haddon Lions) and Andrew (Creswick Lions)
with the tools donated for fire relief*

Creswick Lions also participated in a Lions Bunnings BBQ at DTC on 28 February with all proceeds going to the fire victims. One of the club's mantras is to work in and with the community groups and to this end we cooked for the Creswick Theatre Company as part of its *Murder Night*. The club was part of a joint Lions sausage sizzle at the Clunes Truck Show on 8 March. We will be cooking for the *Bendigo Bank Tradie's Breakfast* and partnering with the Creswick Primary School to provide a sausage sizzle outside the IGA during *Cresfest*.

The club is very busy for a group of 10 active members and would be most welcoming of new members and more volunteer helpers so that we can continue working for the community. We meet once a month on the 2nd Wednesday at 7.00pm at the RSL Hall. Fresh ideas are always welcome.

Junior Lions, Lion Cubs or Leos (the official name) is something the club is seriously considering. Currently there are two very interested students and we would like to recruit more with a view to forming a formal Leo Club in the town. If there are more interested teenagers in the district, please contact Katherine on 0408 241 294, Leigh on 0438 558 450 or Pat on 0429 581 591 to discuss involvement going forward as this would provide a good platform to support youth-based projects/needs within the town.

Creswick Lions continues to collect car batteries, unwanted spectacles and recyclable cans and bottles. These can be dropped off at 11 Caddy Drive Creswick or contact Pat on 0429 581 591 to arrange collection.

At the May meeting, the club will be distributing the funds that the community has so generously helped to raise during the current financial year. If you have a project or program that you would like us to consider for funding, please email president@creswicklions.org.au or secretary@creswicklions.org.au with a brief outline for us to consider before the end of April. Community welfare continues to be a major focus. The club would also like to consider a signature project moving forward that could attract Lions District funding.

*Pat Tacey
President*



*Katie, one of our wonderful volunteers,
ready for action at our new Creswick Market site.*



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Creswick & District

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Creswick Readiness Group

The Creswick Readiness Group (CRG) continues to strengthen community resilience in 2026, with a clear focus on mental health, wellbeing and preparedness.

Over the past two years, CRG has delivered two accredited Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) courses attended by local community members. The courses equipped participants with practical, evidence-based skills to recognise the early signs of anxiety, depression, substance misuse and crisis states; approach someone safely and provide initial help using the MHFA action plan; and encourage appropriate professional and community supports.

The positive response to these courses has confirmed that this community values practical tools to look after one another. Another course is planned in the next few months, with further details to be shared soon. Please contact Leigh Bell for further details and to register your interest, on mobile 0438 558 450.

In the meantime, here are some practical strategies to support someone experiencing mental health difficulties.

Mental health support does not require you to be a clinician. What it does require is confidence, compassion, and clarity about what to do next.

If someone you know is struggling, suggest they contact their GP, a psychologist or a counsellor. There are also 24/7 crisis support services such as Lifeline (13 11 14). If someone you know is at immediate risk, call 000.

The CRG is proud to support the installation of a Blue Tree outside the local IGA. A part of the *Blue Tree Project*, the Blue Tree serves as a powerful symbol that we recognise those experiencing mental health challenges. Positioned in a central and familiar

location, it invites the community to pause, reflect, and check in with friends, family, and neighbours.

Sometimes a simple question ‘*Are you really okay?*’ can change a life.

Mental wellbeing plays a critical role in disaster readiness and recovery. Bushfires, storms and other emergencies place significant psychological strain on individuals and families. Stress responses are normal during abnormal events but without support, distress can escalate.

By strengthening mental health literacy alongside practical preparedness planning, Creswick continues to build its ‘all hazards’ approach to resilience. A community that knows how to regulate stress, stay connected, and seek help early is a community that recovers faster.

As we move further into 2026, the Creswick Readiness Group remains committed to delivering practical training, strengthening partnerships, and fostering a culture of care across our town.

Upcoming events:

Wednesday 11 March, 10.00am to 12.30pm, coffee with Victoria Police at the Creswick IGA carpark. It’s a relaxed opportunity to grab a free coffee, have a chat with local officers, ask questions, raise concerns, or just put a face to the uniform. While you’re there, you can have anti-theft screws fitted to your number plates to help prevent registration plate theft.

Saturday 21 March, 9.00am to 1.00pm, at the Creswick Market, committee members will be on hand to help download the VicEmergency app, update your watch zones, or just understand how to use it properly.



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This pipeline is expected to deliver a more efficient water system with reduced losses, improved flow, and more stable pressure.

COME AND CHAT WITH US AT THE SMEATON BOWLING CLUB
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2026



To find out more, visit our website:
🔍 www.chw.net.au/forest-hill-connection-project

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Council Meeting wrap-up

- Condolence motions for Rob Anderson of Clunes and Jack Griffiths of Trentham
- Wheelers Bridge item passed with amended resolution
- Domestic Animal Management Plan approved with minor changes
- Mid-year budget review approved
- Four-stream kerbside reform and advocacy item approved
- Priority projects statement approved with minor changes
- Audit and Risk Committee item approved
- MAV and ALGA motions approved
- Planning Delegations approved
- Records of attendance approved

Watch the recording at www.youtube.com/@hepburnshirecouncil5931
Read more at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/latest-news

Sustainable Hepburn Grants Program open

If you're a local community group with a community-based project or initiative that aims to reduce future impacts of climate change and promote or establish circular economy-focused programs, we want to work with you to realise your project goals.

Funding is available for projects that can demonstrate a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions through:

- reduced energy consumption
- reduced or avoided material use
- reduced or avoided waste to landfill
- carbon drawdown
- increasing the use of renewable energy in community facilities across the Shire.

Visit www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/grants



Victoria's Heartland: Place of Plenty

A new chapter begins for central Victorian tourism. Destination Central Victoria has unveiled a vibrant new brand, Victoria's Heartland: Place of Plenty, which celebrates the warmth, richness and opportunity that defines our region. Inspired by what makes central Victoria so special, the brand captures the essence of a place where you can reconnect with nature, indulge wellness, enjoy incredible food and wine and experience creativity.

This exciting launch marks a major milestone for Destination Central Victoria (formerly Daylesford Macedon Tourism), now proudly representing Hepburn, Macedon Ranges, Mount Alexander and Central Goldfields shires.

We look forward to our region being showcased, and it driving tourism and growth in our townships.

Learn more at www.victoriasheartland.com.au

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2026 Reusable product voucher program

To help you make the switch to reusable nappies, period or incontinence products, Council is offering households a \$50 voucher code to use on the purchase of eligible reusable products from local business Darlings Downunder.

Vouchers can be used for cloth nappies, swim nappies, training pants, wet bags, period products, nursing pads, incontinence underwear, and more.

The discount voucher code is valid until 31 May 2026, unless allocated funds are exhausted prior.

Find out more at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/reusables

Council Plan 2025-2029



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Commemorating the National Day for War Animals on February 24.

Representing the war animals were dogs from the German Shepherd Club of Australia - Ballarat Branch



*Amanda Care
Women's Club Champion
Creswick Bowling Club
(photo Bernie O'Malley)*

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Northerly News

Things are going very well at Creswick North PS. Students are settled into their new classes and all programs are up and running, including student leadership, Junior School Council, life skills, before-and after-school programs and breakfast club.

Students have been busy practising during PE and sport classes for upcoming events such as cross country and school athletics. They also participated in *Clean Up Australia Day* in their house groups and managed to do a great job tidying up the school environment. The addition of extra chickens into the chook shed has been a big hit with all the students.

Creswick North Primary School is open for 2026 enrolments so if you would like a school tour to experience our fantastic school, please call us on 5345 2012.

Matthew Reyntjes Principal



Preps 2026

1. Creswick Primary School
2. St Augustine's Primary School
3. Creswick North Primary School




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Creswick Capers Clubs Are Back

It is almost halfway through Term 1, and what a busy start to the year with many exciting events already bringing the school community together.

Parent/Teacher meetings provided a valuable opportunity for families and teachers to connect and discuss student learning. The first assembly for the year was held and it was wonderful to see so many parents coming along to celebrate students' achievements. From the weekly *Student of the Week* awards to classes being recognised for displaying the school values through the *Values Trophy*, there has been much to celebrate. The Year 5/6 leaders led the assembly and despite them feeling a little nervous at first, it ran seamlessly.

This year, the curriculum has been enriched with the addition of Performing Arts and clubs are back on Fridays for all students to enjoy. Students can select a club of their choice from options such as science, art, PE, ukulele, Indigenous culture, nature play, and drama. The school will also welcome two new Indonesian Language Learner Ambassadors (ILLA), Kak Acad and Kak Vriska this semester. They will be working with all students in Indonesian classes, sharing their language and culture.

Additionally, following several school visits last year to observe the strong curriculum work taking place in classrooms, another school was welcomed at the end of February. The visitors had the opportunity to view Creswick Primary's high-quality literacy programs, which focus on explicit instruction and support strong learning outcomes for all students.

Beyond the classroom, *Little Kookaburras Playgroup* is up and running for the year. It has been lovely to see both familiar and new faces at the sessions. Families with children aged 0-5 are warmly invited to come along on Friday mornings. More information is available on the school's Facebook page.

The school looks forward to sharing its journey with the Creswick community throughout the year. If anyone would like a personal tour of the school to see the wonderful things happening firsthand, please contact the school on 5345 2044.

Katelyn Sutton
Classroom Teacher



St Augustine's Completion of New Buildings

Students returned with enthusiasm, energy and a genuine readiness to learn. It has been especially heartening to see the Prep class of 2026 settle so confidently into school life. Their smiles, courage and eagerness to learn have already made a beautiful impression on our community.

The annual School Community BBQ was a fantastic evening of connection, laughter and conversation, bringing families together and strengthening the strong sense of belonging that defines this school. Events like this remind us how fortunate we are to be part of such a supportive and engaged Creswick community.

This year also marks an exciting milestone with the completion of the new school buildings. The modern learning spaces are already enhancing learning opportunities, providing flexible environments that support collaboration and creativity.

Looking ahead, the school is pleased to report very healthy enrolment interest for 2027, reflecting the trust local families place in our school. Finally, congratulations to the outstanding Year 6 leaders for 2026. They have embraced their leadership responsibilities with maturity and pride, modelling kindness and encouragement for younger students.

It is shaping up to be a wonderful year at St Augustine's.

Michael Heenan
Principal

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Brass Band Banter

The Creswick Brass Band (CBB) is back from its break and is filling the Creswick Senior Citizens Centre with the sound of music. CBB is currently working on pieces for *Clunes Booktown* for a performance on Saturday, 21 March from 9.45am. Following that, the band will be preparing for *Cresfest*. Performances are on:

- 10 April from 4.00pm at the RSL
- 11 April from 9.00am at the Creswick Havilah Masonic Lodge
- 11 April from 4.00pm at the Creswick Old Post Office
- 12 April from 11.45am at the old Bank.

Excitingly, the band will have some joint performances with folk musician, Archer, who is no stranger to exploring musical sounds with large groups, having collaborated with Glenferrie Brass Band last year. CBB can be heard playing with Archer on 10 April from 6.15pm and 11 April from 6.00pm at the Creswick Town Hall.

CBB's learners' group is running on Thursday evenings from 6.00pm to 7.00pm at the Creswick Senior Citizens Centre during the school term. CBB welcomes people of all ages interested in learning a brass instrument or those returning to playing. CBB can help with access to instruments if needed. The band has a diverse performance schedule with a variety of community events and with competitions at state and national levels. Rehearsals are held Thursday evenings from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

CBB is a not for profit community band which promotes music in the local community. Donations of any size are welcomed to help with this purpose. You can donate by using the QR code on the CBB's social media pages or email creswickbrassband@hotmail.com for other options. All donations are tax deductible.

Follow CBB on its Facebook and Instagram pages for regular updates about the band's activities.

The Creswick Brass Band



Smeaton Bowling Club

Congratulations to Club Champions for 2025-2026, Barb Adam and Denis Sanford! They proudly represented the club in the regional Champion of Champions and bowled very well.

March is a busy month as the club hosts its Corporate Cup, Steak and Kidney Tournament and Ladies Tournament. It is all hands on deck to organise, cater for and run these events, so thank you to the volunteer members who take on these tasks.

The club's midweek teams did not make finals but two of the Saturday teams, Divisions 5 and 6, participated in the finals. Another successful Pennant season completed and enjoyed by Smeaton bowlers.

Club Events for March:

Wednesday, 11 March - Steak and Kidney Day

Wednesday, 18 March - Ladies Tournament

Thursday 5, 12 and 19 March, 6.00pm -

Corporate Cup

If anyone is interested in learning how to play bowls, make contact and consider joining our friendly, country club. Keep an eye on the Facebook or Web page for upcoming activities too.

Contact - Secretary Russell on 0417 535 297 or smeatonbowling@gmail.com

Laraine Toose



*Denis Sanford and Barb Adam
Smeaton Club Champions for 2025-2026*

I'm here to help.

For assistance with state government matters including housing, roads, transport and education, please contact my office.

Martha Haylett
MP for Geelong

177 High Street, Maryborough VIC 3465
P: (03) 5440 1255 E: martha.haylett@parliament.vic.gov.au

smithard electrical

Travis Smithard
0428 594 574
e: travis@smithardelectrical.com.au
w: www.smithardelectrical.com.au
P.O. Box 261 Creswick, 3363
R.E.C. 19181

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Kingston Friends of the Avenue

Western Renewables Link Presentation

On 2 February, Kingston Friends of the Avenue presented its response to the Inquiry and Advisory Committee on the Western Renewable Link's proposed route to the north of the township of Kingston. The Friends of the Avenue shared concerns about the proposed use of the Avenue for numerous heavy vehicles while the transmission lines and concrete bases are constructed, and the potential safety and psychological impact on visitors to the Avenue. In addition, it shared a projection of how the proposed transmission lines might look from near the corner of Kingston Road and Victoria Road, not far from the 1927 Cenotaph where Commemorative Services are held. Please visit the Friends website kingstonavenueofhonour.org.au for images of a slideshow and a link to the audio of its presentation. Kingston District Power Alliance's fantastic presentations are on its website at kingstonanddistrictpoweralliance.org.

Bunnings BBQ Many thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with the February Bunnings BBQ, especially John Rowlands, who did a magnificent job in planning and running the day.

Working Bee In preparation for our Anzac Day Service, a working bee will be held on Sunday, 29 March from 10.00am. Sign in at the Kingston Fire Station to collect a safety vest. Please bring a whipper snipper or secateurs and/or loppers and wear relevant safety gear including gloves. A free BBQ will be provided at 12.00pm back at the Fire Station.

Save the Dates

21 March – Creswick Market Plant Stall
29 March – Working Bee in the Avenue
18 April – Creswick Market Plant Stall
25 April – Anzac Day Service 8.45am



'What book are you reading Mum?'

The Lifestyle Team at John Curtin Aged Care works hard to provide entertaining and interesting activities for our residents and 18 months ago, working with the Community Engagement Committee, was able to create a Literary Appreciation Group. This group is a mix of residents from the nursing home, the independent living units and the wider community, with currently eight regular members.

In its early days, they read *The Dressmaker* by Rosalie Ham, then watched the movie and compared the two. They read *Finding Eliza* by local author, Heather Whitford Roche, followed by a discussion with the writer. The group's favourite choice is to explore the writings of a particular author, such as Sophie Green, Sandie Docker and Jennifer Scoullar. The stories of these current Australian authors resonate with the group.

Another activity undertaken was writing a poem. After some initial reluctance, this took on a life of its own. Some of the poems have been shared in the past in the *Curtin Chronicle* and on the Facebook page. A Poetry Circle has formed, which has brought in some additional residents. One resident is a local and well-known poet and she is a member of both groups.

The Literary Appreciation Group has now evolved into a book club and it has provided another topic for discussion with visitors: *'What book are you reading Mum?'*

The book club meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month and the Poetry Circle meets on the 4th Thursday, both at 10.30am.

Susan Craven



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Sat 9.00am - 12pm

A.H. By appointment

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Creswick Bowling Club News

Saturday, 21 February was the last round of Pennant Season and the Club's Presentation Night. The Women's Club Champion is Amanda Care and the Men's Champion is Michael Booth – his second. Well done to them both.

Creswick had one team finishing in the four with the Division 2 weekend Pennant side securing second spot and a chance to play in the final series. The team played in the first semi-final against Buninyong at Webconna and was victorious. They now go straight into the Grand Final to be played on 14 March.

Barry conducted his monthly triples on Wednesday 25 February with 14 teams competing. The winning team was from Trentham and the runners-up were from Creswick. Thanks to Beth Huntley who prepared afternoon tea.

Michelle Booth, Trevor Booth and Peter Fontana conducted a four week Pubs and Clubs Friday Night bowling competition in February and early March. It was well attended and the competition was very intense. Barry is organising another Annual Farmer's Day on 25 March. Teams are from the Bridge Garage, members of the football, cricket, and tennis clubs, IGA Creswick, the McCallum Disability Group, local families and Pete's Automotive as well as MWC Painting and some Creswick Club bowlers. This is well supported and a great community event.

Dinner is continuing each Friday evening during the pennant season at 6.00pm. Everybody is most welcome to come along for a simple two course meal for \$12.00 (non-members). The Board will decide when we will change to monthly and social members will be advised by email.

On Sunday, 1 March the Club hosted its 150th tournament, proudly sponsored by the Community Bank Creswick & District, with teams and clubs from all over the State as well as local clubs. Gerry and Travis introduced the day's proceedings. Jeff Unmack, representing the Community Bank Creswick & District, presented the awards.

Congratulations to the many, many club members who supplied food, and their time to organise and cook breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea, and clean up. A great effort from everybody to make the day a great success. A full rundown of the tournament and winners will appear in the next CDN.

Bernie O'Malley

Catherine KING MP
Federal Member for Ballarat

03 5338 8123
Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au
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Catherine_KingMP

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100 Years Ago

Compiled by Creswick Museum

March 2, 1926 Barkstead – the school picnic took place here on 19th February. There was a large gathering, including many visitors from the surrounding districts. The people of this hamlet always enter into public matters in a whole-hearted manner.

March 5, 1926 Tennis – The Mount Prospect Tennis Association was advanced another step on Saturday, when Mount Prospect visited Newlyn. It proved an easy victory for the visitors, who won by the substantial majority of 7 sets to 1. The positions of the clubs now are: Mount Prospect, Allendale, Smeaton, and Newlyn.

March 9, 1926 The swimming basin in Calemben Park, Creswick, continues to attract large numbers of bathers, both local and from surrounding towns. It is by no means rare to see several motor cars at the park which have conveyed swimmers from a distance. All speak very highly of the fine bathing facilities possessed in these sheets of water.

March 12, 1926 Old Creswickians Annual Picnic

The annual picnic of the Old Creswickians was held in the Fitzroy gardens on Saturday last, the 6th inst. A good attendance and perfect weather ensured the success of the function. Approximately 100 were present, including a few of the sadly diminished band of pioneers. Mr. and Mrs. May, who were residents as far back as 1852, rarely miss an Old Creswickian gathering, and they obviously enjoyed the present one.

March 19, 1926 The continuous telephone service in Creswick is now in full swing, and it is a great convenience to subscribers, giving much greater facilities than formerly. Those desirous of becoming

subscribers should make their applications at once, in order that early connection may be made, for the gang of men erecting the lines is now in the district.

March 26, 1926 Smeaton – A dance is to be held in the Mechanics' hall on Saturday (tomorrow) night, in aid of the funds of the Cricket Club. There will be good music.

165 years ago

March 5, 1861 Creswick Mutual Improvement Society

This society met on Tuesday last, in the Wesleyan Schoolroom, Mr. T. Cooper, Vice-President, in the chair. Mr. T. B. D. Williamson read an essay on quartz. The essayist exhibited a plan with diagrams of quartz reefs to illustrate his remarks.

150 years ago

March 1, 1876 The usual monthly meeting of the Hospital committee was held at Leake's Hotel on Monday evening last, the members present being Mr. Thomas Cooper (vice-president) in the chair, and Messrs. Lewis, Orr, Harrington, Martin, Kelly and Constable.

75 years ago

March 2, 1951

Food parcels are still welcomed in England and at Creswick C.W.A. meeting on Tuesday it was decided to continue sending the food parcel to the branch's adopted P.O.W. in England. The meeting heard a letter to Mrs. Doyle from the P.O.W. who especially thanked the branch for the sugar and tins of fruit as they had received only one tin of pears in 12 months.

Looking for relatives

Sue Howard-Smith is interested in locating relatives of the Harris Family connected to the memorial plaque shown in the attached photo. She is researching relatives of Andrew Harris, brother to James Harris who was married to Margaret Dixon.

If you have any information, please make contact with Sue on 0429 629 609



History Quiz Answers

1. 1838
2. Australia Felix
3. Henry, John and Charles
4. They never built a permanent home here.
5. In the family cemetery in the grounds of Smeaton House.
6. 1872
7. Sarah Brawn, Edward Brawn, LR Carter and Wm Graham.
8. Sir Robert Menzies and his mother's name was Kate Sampson.
9. 1858
10. 1863



Creswick Garden Club

In February, the club enjoyed a lovely lunch and very informative presentation from Dr Roy Hardman titled 'Recipe for a Healthy Brain'.

In early March, the guest speakers were Julie and Craig Hulbert from Alpine Perennial Plants in Harrietteville.

The guest speakers for the meeting on Tuesday, 7 April are a lot closer to home. The club will be participating in a Bunnings DIY workshop, making something useful for our gardens. Spaces for this activity are limited to 80 people. Bookings are essential. If you are intending to come, please book with Jenny on 0408 735 068.

The bus trip to *Ferry Creek Plant Collectors Fair* on Saturday, 18 April 2026 is fully booked.

Sue Parker



Central Highlands Rural Health

Central Highlands Rural Health has overseen the completion of the major redevelopment of its Creswick campus. The project has delivered a new 30-bed residential aged care facility and the full upgrade and reopening of the Creswick Acute Ward and sub-acute services. All 10 sub-acute beds at Creswick are now operational, supporting palliative care, transitional care and step-down care.

It was funded by the Regional Health Infrastructure Fund, with strong backing from the Creswick community which raised more than \$150,000 through the Creswick Health Upgrade Appeal. Significant contributions came from Community Bank Creswick & District and the Creswick Auxiliary led by Margaret Orr. Central Highlands Rural Health CEO Maree Cuddihy highlighted the benefit of the development. *'Bringing aged care, acute and sub-acute services together under one roof strengthens the way our teams work. It improves communication, efficiency and the overall experience of care for residents and patients.'*

In other news, after more than two decades of service, Pam Saunders has retired from her role as Director of Nursing at Creswick Health. Pam commenced with Hepburn Health in 2004 and progressed through leadership roles including Nurse Unit Manager, Clinical Care Coordinator and Director of Nursing. Across more than 20 years, Pam led the Creswick team with integrity, professionalism and a strong commitment to patient care and clinical excellence. Pam's legacy extends well beyond projects and milestones. She is widely respected for her mentorship, attention to detail and ability to build strong, capable teams grounded in shared values.

On behalf of Central Highlands Rural Health, we thank Pam for her exceptional contribution and wish her all the very best in her retirement. A new Director of Nursing at Creswick Health will be announced in March, 2026.

Central Highlands Rural Health



BALD HILLS CRESWICK LANDCARE GROUP Drone and BBQ Day

As part of the search for critically endangered Yarra Gums, the Bald Hills Creswick Landcare Group will be conducting an aerial drone survey of the Creswick Forest on Friday, 20 and Saturday, 21 March 2026. Join us on Saturday 21 March 2026 at Calembeen Park from 2.00pm-4.00pm for a free community BBQ, with nature-based activities for children and youth. Our drone operator will also be running an interactive drone session. This free event is made possible with funding from the North Central Catchment Management Authority. To keep up to date, follow the Group on Facebook.

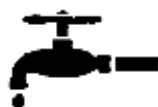
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Ring 5345 7414,
0408 317 872 or 5345 7522
or visit rvahj.org.au for more information.

CRESWICK AND DISTRICT REGULAR AND ONGOING EVENTS

**FORTHCOMING
EVENTS
SEE PAGE 2**

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

**Anglican Parish of
Springmount**
St John's Church, 103 Napier
Street, Creswick
Holy Eucharist: 10.00 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 1st Sunday of the
month**, Assembly of the
Word and Communion.
Contact 0488 220 685.

**Clunes Hit and Giggle
Pickleball**
Wednesdays 1.00 pm 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

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
Historical Society**
Fourth Thursday of the
month. 2pm at the CFA in
Albert St.

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

Creswick & District U3A -
0490 444 519 email
info@creswicku3a.com
website
www.creswicku3a.com

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

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

Creswick Havilah Lodge -
Meeting fourth Thursday
every month 7.30pm.
Bob Orr 5345 2165

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

Creswick Museum
Open Saturday between
11.00am to 3.30pm.

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

**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
[creswicknnc.org/creswick-
market](http://creswicknnc.org/creswick-market)
Email market@cnc.org.au

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

Creswick Seniors Centre
Social Day and Lunch is the
last Friday 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

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.

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via Scouts Victoria website
scoutsvictoria.com.au

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

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

**Parents Without Partners
Weekly Dance**
3rd Sunday of each month
with live band.
Invermay Hall, Muscatel
Street, Invermay.
\$12 & \$10 members. Supper
to Share please.

Social Dance.
Thursday nights at VRI Hall
Ballarat. 7.30pm – 10.00pm.
Phone 0487 222 924.

**Pavilion Arts & Sustainability
Inc**
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

Tiplers
Third Wednesday every
month. Monthly social
gathering of local folk at local
homes. Email:
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

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0404 357 561

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