

Creswick District News

Still Priceless

Issue 320 August 2026



The British Hotel - the next chapter

Something great is happening in the heart of Creswick. The British Hotel is undergoing a transformation, and is capturing the interest of residents and visitors alike. Built by James Rogers in 1854 at the beginning of Creswick's gold rush era, it was a wooden structure, not the brick building we see today.

It was a thriving hotel with many functions in the centre of the town. The mining companies held meetings there. The Benevolent Society too. During elections, crowds gathered to hear candidates make their pitch. A group of sixty influential townsfolk, the 'Commercial Club' met weekly to discuss local topics. The hotel's 'concert hall' was open each evening providing varied entertainment to the masses. The hotel prospered at the epicentre of events.

In 1871, a fire broke out in the upper storey, quickly destroying the timber hotel, making way for it to be rebuilt in bricks and mortar.

By 1916, there were fifteen hotels in the Creswick District, a legacy from the prosperous gold rush era. The Licences Reduction Board sought to reduce the number of hotels down to eight. The British was described in the Creswick Advertiser as a '...two-storey brick building, of 18 rooms, with eight bedrooms for the use of the public.' Importantly the stabling was noted as high calibre and very much in use. The hotel retained its licence along with the American and the Farmer's Arms.

The British Hotel has served its community for generations and been a witness to the changing times of our town, from mail coaches to mobile phones, from horses and carts to electric vehicles. It finally ceased trading in 2007 when its betting licence was lost. It opened again as the town's temporary supermarket in 2019 while the IGA was under construction. Then it stood still, the windows boarded, falling into disrepair.

But what's coming next?

The building was bought by local business owners

Geoffrey and Jan Sparks, in 2025, and work was started in order to halt the decline of the building and prevent further damage by vandals. CDN discussed these works with Jan Sparks.

So far the chimneys have been repaired, rendered and painted, the roof replaced, the bay windows replaced, and the outer paintwork almost completed. Some internal work has also taken place. Further work will include building an elevator for access to the upper floor, at the rear of the hotel.

The old TAB shop will be the third in a group of 3 retail shops facing Albert Street. Building permits should soon be available, to allow this work to proceed.

How will the hotel serve the community when it opens its doors once again?



The British Hotel building will not be a 'pub' again. There will be 4 two roomed office spaces on the second floor with lift access and new amenities block and kitchen.

The lower floor will be a blank slate available on approval, for a suitable tenant.

As well as the Hotel building, there will be 3 small retail shops facing Albert street, each with its own small kitchen and bathroom.

At the rear of the shops, 3 "Art rooms" with their own shared amenities, will allow for artist, music teachers, writers or small office spaces. In total there will be 11 rental spaces available.

What does this town need? Geoff and Jan Sparks are looking forward to hearing ideas from the community.

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

22 September 2026

20 October 2026

**Deadline for copy and advertisements
1st day of the month**

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Creswick 3363

The *Creswick District News* is available beyond this district at \$20 for one year (11 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

B&W COLOUR SIZE

\$20	\$30	6 x 3.5cm
\$30	\$45	6 x 4.5 cm
\$50	\$75	8 x 6cm
\$100	\$150	12 x 8cm
\$125	\$200	14 x 10cm
		(portrait only)
\$200	\$300	14 x 20 cm
		(landscape only)
\$375	\$575	20 X 28cm
		(full page portrait)

**The CDN acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung people
as the Traditional Owners of this land and
we pay our respects to Elders past and present.**

Creswick Senior Citizens Centre

The July Social Luncheon was well attended by members and friends, enjoying the entertainment provided by the amazing Creswick Ukestra.

Welcome to Sarina and Georgette, back on 15 August after a short break, when Yoga and Sound Bathing returns on Saturdays at 9.30am.

The Shire session on Brain Health and Memory was well attended with a good deal of information shared by Louise Mayall, MECWACARE. The September sessions are:

- Wednesday, 2 September at 1.30pm Nutrition Food and Mood.
- Wednesday, 16 September at 1.30 pm The Bottom Line.

Both important topics for all ages.

CSCC is holding a *Paddy's Market* on Saturday, 14 November and would be pleased to receive any donations from the community for this fund-raising event. Especially fabric, yarn, quilting and craft implements, unfinished projects, unwanted jewellery and paraphernalia suitable for crafters and creatives! There is a limited number of spaces for those who wish to join us, \$15 per table.

Judy Henderson
CSCC Inc Secretary

Creswick Rainfall

*Provided by
Creswick North Primary School*

	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	38.5
April	66.4	19.4	28.5
May	34.5	13.8	78.8
June	28.5	74.4	153.2
July	97.5	102.4	83.7
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	442.1

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Creswick Brass Band
30 August playing at the new Australasian No. 2 Mine from 10.00am to 12.00pm.
20 September playing at a Weekend of Music in Beaufort from 10.00am. hosted by Beaufort Brass Band.

Father's Day Sunday
6 September
Dean Community Reserve
Kite Festival

Dean Sheep Dog Trials
4 October
Dean Community Reserve
Contact Brian 0438 304 479

Letters to the Editor

From our next edition, *Creswick District News* will include a **Letters to the Editor** section.

We invite readers to submit short letters on local issues, community matters, events, or topics of general interest.

Letters should be respectful, accurate, and focused on issues rather than personal attacks.

As a guide, letters should be no more than 250 words, and shorter letters are welcome.

Please include your full name and contact details when submitting a letter.

All published letters will include the name of the writer.

Contact details will not be published.

Publication will be at the discretion of the Editorial Committee.

Letters may be edited for length, clarity, or legal reasons.

Letters should be submitted by 25th of each month to cdn@cbl.com.au



For more than two years, JCAC has been developing the small garden at the end of the building known as *Peacock*, which is for special needs residents. The maintenance team has been creating a Sensory Garden, which will be open to the public during the Garden Lover's Weekend on 7 and 8 November. A beautiful fountain, kindly donated by the Creswick Garden Club has been installed and provides a 'sense of sound' to the garden. This garden is rarely on view to the public so please take the opportunity over the Garden Lovers Weekend to drop in and take a walk through. JCAC residents aren't spending much time in any of the gardens at present, as it's winter and far too cold, but spring is just around the corner and the days are again getting longer!

Susan Craven

JCAC Board President

Creswick Garden Club



A big crowd turned out at the August meeting to welcome Peter Leigh from Post Office Farm Nursery, a specialist grower of hellebores. Around 90 keen gardeners came along to learn more about this beautiful winter perennial.

Please join us at the next meeting on 1 September at the Senior Citizens rooms, 2 Water Street. The club will be welcoming Sherri Symons from Woolgrow Australia - as seen on *Landline*. Sherri will be bringing along a selection of Woolgrow's natural wool products,

These innovative products can act as a natural fertilizer, help with weed control and deter slugs and snails. They provide a sustainable and environmentally friendly alternative for the garden.

Come along, learn more and see the products for yourself. Sherri will have plenty available to purchase. Everyone is welcome. Members \$2, Non-members \$5. A light afternoon tea is included.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Sue Parker

Creswick Men's Friendship Shed

Celebrating 25 Years

This September, the Creswick Men's Friendship Shed celebrates 25 years of service to the local community. Established in 2001, the Shed has been a place where community members can connect, share skills and meet new people.

Over the past quarter century, members have worked on countless projects, from woodworking and metalwork to projects that have benefited community groups and public spaces throughout the Hepburn Shire. The Shed has welcomed generations of local men and women through its doors, creating a place where skills are passed on, stories are shared and friendships are formed.

On Tuesday, 15 September the Shed celebrates this milestone. It acknowledges the many members, volunteers and supporters who have played a part in its story over the past 25 years and helped make it the valued community space it is today.

For more information about the Creswick Men's Friendship Shed visit the Facebook page. Learn more history of the Shed in a book by Barry Golding, *The Men's Shed Movement: The Company of Men* and also *Shoulder to Shoulder: Broadening the Men's Shed Movement*.



Creswick Bowling Club

The Indoor Bowls season has drawn to a close. The Division 1 Men's side have maintained top spot and commence their finals campaign on Tuesday, 28 July against VRI at Webbconna. Unfortunately, Division 2 did not reach the finals and will be relegated to Division 3 in 2027.

At the Men's Indoor Championships, Matt Blackburn won first place with Travis Hedger the runner-up.

The Pairs Championship final saw Gerry Flapper and Phill Judd playing against Bernie O'Malley and Travis Hedger. The winners were Gerry & Phil.

The Triple Indoor Champions this year are Mick Kay, Bruce Andrews and Gerry Flapper.

The Ladies' Indoor Club Champion for 2026 is Eva Mitchell and the runner-up is Elizabeth Cosgrove. Congratulations to all those who entered.



Another very successful year for Travis Hedger, Rod Brehaut and Gerry Flapper who won back-to-back Victorian State Triples recently.

Amanda Care participated in the Australian deaf games alongside 32 other hearing impaired bowlers. She also won in the Over 55s at Sunbury and travelled to Ocean Grove to play in the Integrated Pairs.

Fortnightly Outdoor Triples was cancelled again due to wet weather.

The Bowls Director has organised 3 pre-season practice matches -

- Creswick v Daylesford Saturday, 12 September.
- Creswick Intra-club match Saturday, 19 September.
- Annual Practice match against Learmonth Sunday, 27 September.

Lists are up on the notice board for our members to place their names.

Bernie O'Malley

Creswick Neighbourhood Centre

Successful Community Fundraiser



On July 18 in mid winter, a robust group of volunteers gathered in the Wayapurra Hall at the Creswick Neighbourhood Centre to raise funds for the much needed cooling systems and was hopeful of installation before summer time comes. The event was instigated by the Creswick Chorus, a group which gathers in the Hall every Wednesday to sing their hearts out. During warmer months the group has to move the choir of more than 30 from the Hall and squeeze into the house. The heat affects all of the Hall bookings during summer. The cost to install split systems into such an enormous open space has been prohibitive.

The group was proactive *'What can we do to help? Let's have a concert!'* The group collected donations from friends, family and many generous local businesses. They offered a delicious supper, and tended a bar while local performers created an unforgettable show, in a Hall decorated with sparkling fairy lights. The doors opened to a line up stretching to the car park.

The group extends their thanks to all volunteers, saying *'We are humbled and grateful. What a community. We were so thrilled to have exceeded our fundraising target with a whopping \$7,760! Importantly we spent the evening having so much fun doing it.'*

Thanks go to all who supported us especially:

Musicians

- Archer
- The Amazing Creswick Ukestra
- The Creswick Chorus
- One Part Gin
- The Hanz On Drumming Group
- Stella and Mishael

Artists who donated original works for auction

Transition Creswick for their donation of \$1,000

The night was a huge success. A full Hall. A full belly and full hearts.

Chrissy Austin
Manager

Dear Friends.

This little township is better known for 'puddin' thieves and wombats', but a new species has emerged - Pumpkin thieves! It was a poor year for we vegie gardeners, especially in the curcubit department.

I had only two decent pumpkins set and even one of them was not too keen on growing to be a big girl. However, the other one did really well, a lush, dark green beauty which was left ripening and hardening off in the garden. You harvest them after they have endured a frost or two. Time came to harvest, but where was that pumpkin? Even the weeds did not reveal its whereabouts. Some miserable pumpkin thief had nicked it. The multitude of bugs who live contentedly in the garden were not hungry enough to consume a whole pumpkin. No folks I am sorry to say that a new level of crime has emerged - Pumpkin Stealing! So, beware! The joy of nicking peoples' prize pumpkins could extend to your area.

We do not condone violence in the home, but a grab by the scruff of the neck and a good shake could teach him/her that stealing a poor old widow's only pumpkin, is not a nice thing to do. However, if starvation was the only alternative, all sympathy is extended. It was grown to be enjoyed, if only by a Pumpkin thief!

C.Weed (Who used to write the Gardening column for the C.D.N. for many years.)



Creswick Cemeteries News

Thank you to Peter for making a lovely pergola near the office to grow some wisteria on. It makes a nice addition to front of the cemetery.

A reminder to all visitors that ALL dogs MUST be on a lead at ALL TIMES while in the cemetery grounds. The cemetery is NOT a dog park. Please keep to the paths for your own safety and that of your pet.

It is against the law to place any ashes on graves or in the grounds of the cemetery without permission from the Trust Secretary.

Please contact Wendy 0435 762 600 if you wish to place ashes in the cemetery.

Wendy Ohlsen
Secretary



Friends of Park Lake Winter Solstice Bonfire Festival 2026

Families and friends came and enjoyed a wonderful evening, costumes were fantastic once again. A massive thankyou to IGA Creswick and the Community Bank Creswick & District, being our major sponsors. We have been able to create a wonderful family event for the community to enjoy,

A big thank-you to the local CFA. for their assistance, Creswick Scouts for a great sausage sizzle and the drummers for everyone's entertainment. To the Men's Shed, thank you for providing your power supply. Thank you to Ian Kronberger for the use of his amp, it worked brilliantly.

The support from local retailers was greatly appreciated. A massive shout out to Flemo's Milkbar, Creswick Pharmacy, Creswick Post Office, The American Hotel, Tell Tales Collectables, Davies and Rose, RACV Goldfields Resort, The Farmers Wife, The Farmers Arms Hotel. Congratulations to all our winners.

Raffle Prizes: 1st— RACV Resort Creswick. Three Course Dinner for Two at Three Founders Restaurant.
- Tara Mosswood.

2nd – Trailer Load of Wood - Zac.

3rd – The Farmers Wife Hamper - Jane Murphy.

4th – Farmers Arms Hotel (\$25 Meal Voucher) - Hayley Richards.

Lollie Jar Guess: - Leo Collins.

Colouring Competition: Prizes donated by: Creswick Post Office, Tell Tales Collectables, Creswick Bakery.

5 – 7 Yrs: Grade 1, St Augustine's, Luca Thomas

8 – 10 Yrs: Age 8, Creswick Primary, Hadley

11 and Over: Year 6, Creswick primary, Amelia Aver

Best Dressed Girl: Mariah Jelly – Prize donated by Creswick Pharmacy.

Friends of Park Lake working bees every Wednesday 10.00am -12.00pm. Meet at the jetty. We have had a bit of a break, blaming the weather, so cold and wet! We are back into it. Join us!

Next meeting: - Wednesday, 2 September. 4.00pm - Senior Citizens Centre Creswick.

Yvette Dare, President



St Augustine's Primary School

The opening weeks of Term 3 have been filled with learning and opportunity at St Augustine's Primary School, with students participating in a range of experiences across the school.

Students have enjoyed opportunities to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Prep, Year 1 and Year 2 students recently visited the Discovery Centre in Bendigo, where they explored Science concepts through hands-on investigations and interactive experiences. Year 4 and 5 students are also preparing for the STEM MAD Showcase at Damascus College, where they will have the opportunity to share ideas, collaborate with others and apply their learning to real-world challenges.

Leadership and connection continue to be important parts of school life. Year 6 Term 3 Leadership Team have commenced the term with confidence, embracing their leadership roles and setting a positive example across the school. Year 5 students are also beginning preparations for their future role as Year 6 buddies, building connections with children from Creswick Kindergarten during an upcoming visit.

Students have also been developing their understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and perspectives through NAIDOC Week learning. Supported by Catholic Education Ballarat Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Education Officer, students have engaged in classroom activities and resources through *Amplify*, including music from Aboriginal artist Baker Boy. This learning connects with this year's theme, *50 Years Deadly*, celebrating 50 years of NAIDOC Week.

The youngest students recently celebrated 100 Days of School, a milestone in their first year of learning. Dressed as 100-year-olds, the Preps delighted the school community with their creative costumes and imaginative ideas about life at 100.

The school community has also enjoyed a visit from the Creswick CFA, with Fireman Phil and Fireman Tim sharing important fire safety messages with students. Preparations are underway for the annual Art Show, celebrating the creativity and talent of students across the school.

With many more learning experiences, events and opportunities planned for the remainder of the term, it's shaping up to be another exciting term of learning and growth at St Augustine's.

Jess Reynolds



Kingston Friends of the Avenue Community Rally and an Anniversary

Kingston, Friends of the Avenue Inc. was overwhelmed by the community support for our rally on 2 August 2026 opposing AusNet's proposal to use the Avenue of Honour as their construction transport route for the Western Renewables Link. Many thanks to all who attended, volunteered and/or helped spread the word. Special thanks to our speakers: Michael Taffe, Kain Richardson, Darcy Gervasoni, Caitlin Grieve, Cassandra Rochaix and Ruth Ord Evans.

The turnout of over 300 people, including families connected to the Avenue, demonstrated just how deeply our community values the Avenue of Honour. We were particularly pleased to have strong support from the new generation of farmers in our district. The strong show of community support strengthens KFOA's determination to protect this place of remembrance for future generations.

On 10 August 1918, the community gathered, and the first planting of Avenue trees took place. At the end of that day, 250 of the 286 trees were set in place with timber guards and name plaques. For further information visit KFOA's website kingstonavenueofhonour.org.au or view the plaque installed opposite the Commercial Hotel, beside the tree planted by Catherine King MHR on the 100th anniversary of the Avenue.

Matthew Daniel, Hepburn Shire Council's Senior Arborist, has identified four trees in need of replacement. They are:

- Percival Charles McHutchison, Tree West 76
- William Shaw, Tree East 84
- Frederick William Martin, Tree East 103
- Archibald Smith Johnson, Tree East 106

If you have a connection with any of these servicemen, please contact KFOA via kingstonfoa@gmail.com. Where possible, families participate in a tree replanting ceremony.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, 19 September – Creswick Market Plant Stall.

Wednesday, 23 September – Kingston Friends of the Avenue AGM.

Julie Baulch

2026 Daylesford Rotary Art Show

A call for entries



Entries have opened for the 2026 Daylesford Rotary Art Show, with organisers calling on local and regional artists to take part. You can enter via daylesfordartshow.com.au

This not-for-profit event runs from 29 October to 3 November 2026 at the Daylesford Town Hall in the heart of Daylesford.

Presented by the Rotary Club of Daylesford, the annual show has built a strong reputation for showcasing a wide cross-section of artistic talent, from emerging regional artists through to established practitioners, while also providing a major fundraising platform for local and international community initiatives supported by Rotary.

Oil painting, acrylic, watercolour, drawing are accepted. Photographs are not accepted. Organisers have confirmed that entries are now open, with submissions priced at \$25 per artwork. All entries must comply with a maximum size restriction of 1.2 metres in any direction, and standard terms and conditions apply.

Artists are encouraged to submit works across a broad range of categories, with the show continuing its commitment to inclusivity and diversity in artistic expression. All works submitted are also included in an online showcase component.

For further information:

E: info@daylesfordartshow.com.au

P: Melissa on 0427 223 358

CDN Survey

Thank you to all of our readers who have completed the survey.

We'll share the results with you next month.

There is still time...

Either drop in a hard copy into the visitor centre or use the link on our facebook page:

facebook.com/CreswickDistrictNews
We'd love to hear from you!

Creswick Brass Band



The band has spent the winter months keeping warm rehearsing for the Victorian Bands League State Championships on August 16. Ten bands entered into C-Grade this year indicating a healthy brass banding community. As part of preparations for the competition, we were fortunate to have a rehearsal with Ken McDonald, known for his experience playing in top English bands before emigrating to Australia. Ken's expertise is always welcome to help the band improve.

The Band's Annual General Meeting on 20 August is at the American Hotel. The AGM is a time to reflect on the past year of banding and welcome new members to committee.

The band may be focusing on competitions during the winter but there are still community play outs on the calendar. On August 30, the band will be playing at the new Australasian No. 2 Mine from 10.00am to 12.00pm. On 20 September the band will be playing at a Weekend of Music in Beaufort, hosted by Beaufort Brass Band. The band will be there from 10.00am. This weekend invites bands from the region to come and play, filling the Beaufort Town Hall with music for the entire weekend.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in learning an instrument then please contact us! A learners group runs from 6.00pm to 7.00pm Thursday evenings at the Senior Citizens Centre (behind the Creswick Town Hall) for people of all ages and experiences. From 7.30pm to 9.30pm the band has its regular rehearsal and those who are curious about the band are welcome to come and listen.

The Band

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Council News

Acting CEO appointment

Janet Dore has been appointed Acting Chief Executive Officer of Hepburn Shire Council.

Ms Dore served as Chief Executive Officer of the Transport Accident Commission from 2007 to 2015. She has also held senior local government roles, including General Manager at the City of Newcastle and Interim CEO at the City of Ballarat, along with several council monitor and administrator appointments.

The appointment will run from 3 August to 23 August. This short-term arrangement enables Council to continue working with the Victorian Government to establish an appropriate decision-making mechanism, including the potential extension of Ms Dore's appointment beyond 23 August.

Read the full statement at
www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/news

New Multipatcher joins fleet



Our new Multipatcher has been out repairing rough road edges and potholes as part of Council's ongoing road maintenance program.

Owning our own Multipatcher means Council crews can respond more efficiently to road defects when conditions are suitable, delivering faster, cost-effective repairs for our community.

The versatile machine can be used to repair potholes, road edge breaks, rutting and pavement wear, and storm-damaged road surfaces.

Your Councillors



Cr Tim Drylie



Cr Brian Hood

Learn more at www.hepburn.vic.gov.au, phone (03) 5348 2306 or email shire@hepburn.vic.gov.au

Djuwang Baring

A reminder that maintenance works have commenced on a section of the Gravity trails at Djuwang Baring.

The closures are in place so planned maintenance and restoration works can occur, ensuring this popular asset is ready for spring and summer. The closure is part of our annual program and ensures the best rider experience on our trails.

Please note that G7 and G10 will remain open so riders can access other parts of the trail network.

We'll be monitoring the weather, but are planning to reopen in mid-September.

For more information and to view a closure map visit, www.djuwangbaring.com

Outdoor Dining and Trading Policy

Council is completing a review of its Outdoor Dining and Trading Policy and wants to hear from businesses and the community. We want to ensure the revised policy supports vibrant, well-managed public spaces while responding to current operational, economic, and community needs.

Drop-in session:

- Creswick Hub
- Tuesday 25 August 2:30–3:30 pm

For more information, and to have your say, visit www.participate.hepburn.vic.gov.au/odtp



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Have you signed up to our eNewsletter, Hepburn Life? It's a great way to stay in touch with Council news. Visit

www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/hepburn-life



Bald Hills – Creswick Landcare Group



The Landcare Group will be holding its Annual General Meeting on 22 August from 2.00pm -4.00pm at the Creswick Neighbourhood Centre. It's open for all members of the community to attend, but asks non-members to RSVP on the email below, to enable planning for attendees and refreshments.

The guest speaker is Mr John Delpratt, Honorary Fellow of University of Melbourne, School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences, and a member of Woorndoo-Chatsworth Landcare (south-west of Ballarat). John is an expert on native grasslands, and will provide a landscape context for current funding grants and activities from City of Ballarat and Hepburn Shire.

For the City of Ballarat grant, the group has partnered with Clunes Landcare & Waterways Group to deliver some small creekside revegetation projects in Tourello, Ascot and Sulky, as well as two ecology tours. For the Hepburn Shire grant, the group will be raising awareness of remnant and vulnerable grasslands, which are often found on roadsides, to generate and harvest seed for the Seed Bank. If you still have kangaroo, spear or wallaby grasses (*Themeda*, *Austrostipa*, or *Rytidosperma* - formerly *Austrodanthonia*) along your roadside in the district, the group would love to hear from you.

baldhillsreswicklandcare@gmail.com

David Unwin
President

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Art Escape 2026

Since March, the Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance Ballarat Inc has provided the opportunity for 15 men and women from Creswick and the surrounding district, to come together on a weekly basis in Creswick to participate in *Art Escape 2026*, a program funded by the Community Bank Creswick & District, to enable people living with dementia to enjoy painting, socialising and each other's company.

Glenda Hipwell, Secretary of the local Dementia Alliance said that without this support the arts program would not have taken place.

'We are so grateful to the community bank as it has enabled 15 people living with dementia to enjoy this weekly outlet for their creativity. Coming together in this way the participants have been able to find different pathways to express their feelings,' Glenda said.

The culmination of this six-month program is an exhibition of their art, the opening to be held at the Creswick Senior Citizens on **Wednesday, 2 September between 4.00pm – 6.00pm**. The works will then be on show at Art on Albert for the whole of September and convenor of the gallery, Julie Reed, said she was delighted that the art will be on display, and for sale.

'This is exactly what the gallery is for. To showcase the students' work and to make the work accessible to the community.'

Well-known local artist Chris Dobson runs the weekly programs and has been an absolute inspiration, teaching painting techniques, working on theory and helping each person get their works ready for the exhibition.

The next step for Glenda Hipwell is to try and source on-going funding for *Art Escape*.

'The six-month program has made such a difference to the lives of the participants. It would be great if the program could continue into the future.'

Creativity takes courage, perhaps none more so than when the artist has been diagnosed with dementia. *Art Escape 2026* has been a huge success giving the 15 participants a weekly outlet for creativity, joy and, importantly, connections.

Fiona Watson



Creswick Capers

It's shaping up to be another busy and exciting term at Creswick Primary School, with students embracing a wide range of learning opportunities, community partnerships and experiences that extend well beyond the classroom.

The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program continues to flourish, providing students with hands-on opportunities to grow, cook and learn about sustainability. Alongside this, our participation in the Indonesian Language Learners Ambassador Program has allowed students to connect with native Indonesian speakers and develop a deeper appreciation of Indonesian language and culture.

Additionally, our Year 5/6 students have launched into the Passions & Pathways program, exploring future education, training and career opportunities through real-world experiences. Recently, students visited La Trobe University, Bendigo TAFE and Bendigo Tech School, participating in hands-on activities across fields including paramedicine, criminology, biomedical science, outdoor education, coding and robotics. The experience provided valuable insights into the many possibilities available beyond primary school.

Most excitingly, preparations are well underway for the upcoming production of *Madagascar Junior*, which will be performed at Mount Rowan Theatre later this term. Adding to the school's performing arts opportunities, Year 3/4 students are participating in an African drumming project funded through the school's recent Creative Arts Grant. Students have been developing their rhythm, collaboration and musical expression, with their drumming performance becoming a special part of the school's production.

Supporting student learning and wellbeing continues to be a priority at Creswick Primary School. We are fortunate to have a range of services available onsite, including Smile Squad dental services, a provisional psychologist working with students each Wednesday, and Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Allied Health students providing valuable support and expertise within our school community.

With so many exciting programs, partnerships and learning experiences taking place, it's sure to be another wonderful term of learning at Creswick Primary School.

Katelyn Sutton
Classroom Teacher

JAY'S

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Creswick Readiness Group

Building a resilient community starts with learning practical skills, staying informed and connecting with the people and organisations that support us. This month, residents across Creswick and the wider Hepburn Shire area are invited to participate in a range of free community events designed to improve health, strengthen environmental knowledge and build emergency preparedness.

Throughout August and into September, there are also opportunities to learn life-saving stroke awareness skills with Ambulance Victoria, explore practical approaches to holistic weed management, and discover how healthy soils support healthy trees. These sessions provide practical, everyday knowledge that can be applied at home while also helping to build a stronger, more connected community.

Registrations will soon open for a free Mental Health First Aid course on 24 and 31 October. This course will provide participants with the confidence and practical skills to recognise and respond to someone experiencing a mental health problem or crisis in wake of an event, helping create a more supportive and resilient community.

Everyone is encouraged to come along to one or more of these free events. Check out the events through Eventbrite.

Thursday, 20 August 9.30am

Holistic Weed Management for Bushland Areas and Morning Tea – Trentham

Friday, 21 August – 2.00pm

Soil Basics for Tree Health with Free Afternoon Tea – Creswick

Thursday, 27 August 9.30am

Holistic Weed Management for Bushland Areas and Morning Tea – Creswick

Friday, 28 August 2.00pm

Soil Basics for Tree Health with Free Afternoon Tea – Trentham

Monday, 7 September 10.00am

Ambulance Victoria: Stroke Awareness (FAST) and Morning Tea – Clunes

Saturday, 24 October and Saturday, 31 October

Free Mental Health First Aid Course (registrations opening soon)

Isaac McCann

GOLDFIELDS VETERINARY SERVICES

5 Castlemaine Road Creswick

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100 Years Ago

Compiled by Creswick Museum

100 Years Ago

August 3, 1926

At the meeting of old scholars of the North Creswick State School on Saturday evening last, Mr. W. D. Merritt was elected President, Mrs. W. B. Grose vice-president, and Miss L. Curtis secretary. A series of entertainments will be held in the State School. It is hoped that all the old scholars will attend these functions, and help to make the movement a success.

August 6, 1926

The committee of the Old Creswickian Association in Melbourne has decided that the next Back to Creswick is to take place during the week commencing on Saturday, 18th November. The previous Saturday would have been chosen but for the difficulty in obtaining a special train on that day, due to the traffic in connection with the V.R.C. Spring meeting.

August 10, 1926

To raise funds to entertain the Back to Creswick Visitors, Mock Wedding, Breakfast and Party will be held on Wednesday, 11th August, in the Town Hall. The parents of the Bride, Mr. and Mrs. G. Long, of Geelong, where they do B Long, give all their dear friends of Creswick and District, a hearty invitation to attend and see their longest daughter, Phyllis, united to Mr. Arbuckle Stout. No presents please. Just one shilling and plate for the ladies, and 2/6 for Gents. C. P. Howie, D.C

August 13, 1926

Cr. Thos. Cushing has been appointed a justice of the peace empowered to give consent to the marriage of minors.

August 17, 1926

It has been decided to hold the annual woodchop for the Creswick District Hospital on Saturday, 2nd October. This date has been selected so that the wood chop will not be interfered with by the football matches.

August 20, 1926

A Wattle Fair is to be held in Wesley Hall on Wednesday and Thursday next, and will be opened by Lady Peacock at 3 o'clock on the Wednesday afternoon. There will be various stalls for the sale of useful and ornamental articles and competitions will take place. Details are given in an advertisement.

August 24, 1926

Newlyn Mechanics' Hall, Thursday, 26th August. Grand Hospital Ball. Lucas' Jazz Orchestra. Laid out Supper. The Social Event of the Year. Gents, 4/; Ladies, 2/6. H. Inverarity, (Miss) M. McKay Joint Hon. Secs.

165 years ago

August 2, 1861

Two Log Bridges – Tenders are invited for the erection of two log bridges, the one near the Black Ball Store, the other near Gubbin's Gully, Red Streak.

150 years ago

August 2, 1876

We are glad to notice the improvement in the returns from Cameron's Freehold Co., amounting to 46 oz for the past two days. Cunning's Co. obtained 26 oz; and Ryrie's 20 oz 13 dwt. The manager of Ryan's Junction expects to be ready to open out tonight.

75 years ago

August 3, 1951

The former members of the Allendale Fire Brigade met to decide what to do with the money lying in the bank since the brigade ceased operating. The meeting decided to donate 40 pound to the Allendale hall committee with a proviso that the fire brigade must approve of the use to which the money is put.

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Northerly News

In the first week back after the winter holiday break, students had their annual school photos taken. Following that, we embarked on the two week swimming program held at Swim N Survival Academy. Students catch the bus to Wendouree and do ten 45 minute sessions with the wonderful swimming staff. It is great to see the improvement in swimming skills displayed by students during these sessions.

The school is fortunate to have two Physiotherapy students doing their placement here. Carissa and Abbey are from LaTrobe University in Bendigo. They are spending four weeks at Creswick North, developing their clinical skills with a focus on paediatrics and supporting students.

The Year 6 students are starting their transition programs into Year 7 with their selected secondary schools, including local Government, Private and Catholic schools. It will be a big final semester at primary school for these students as they get ready for secondary school.

The school is also starting to plan the information night and transition days for the incoming Foundation students. It is very exciting to have so many new families joining the school, as well as lots of siblings coming into Prep to join their older brother/sister.

The new futsal court is well underway. There's still a bit to finish off, but hopefully it will be completed soon and ready for action. The students are very excited and can't wait! The new court will complement the extensive and engaging grounds, with netball/basketball courts, several playgrounds, cubby houses, chook shed and bike/scooter tracks.

Creswick North is currently open for 2027 enrolments, so if you would like a tour to experience our fantastic school, please call us on 5345 2012.

Matthew Reyntjes

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8 December, 2026

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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

Ballroom Dancing Classes
Goldfields Recreation and
Dance Inc.
All levels - Mondays
\$20 per annum
Contacts: 0402 777 852 or
0427 246 278
email:
info@goldfieldsrecreationanddance.org
web:
goldfieldsrecreationanddance.org

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: Pastor
Andrew Shearer-Cox
0429 261 954 or email
ucpastorandrew@outlook.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
creswicknc.org/creswick-market
Email market@cnc.org.au

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

Creswick 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
creswickseniorecitizenscentre@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.

**Joey's, Cubs, Scouts and
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Every Thursday
during school term. Enquiries
via Scouts Victoria website
scoutsvictoria.com.au

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

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

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with live band.
Invermay Hall, Muscatel
Street, Invermay.
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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

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
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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