

# MT ROUSE NEWS & VIEWS



## A Project of the Penshurst Mens Shed Inc

F R E E   E V E R Y   F O R T N I G H T

**Editor : Mark Dalla Costa**

**All correspondence to: [mtrousenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mtrousenewsletter@gmail.com)**

At last! Do not be surprised ...

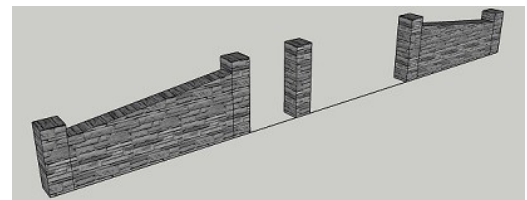
If you wandered down to the Penshurst Botanic Gardens this past weekend you might have noticed some yellow and white markings at the main entrance, the caravan park entrance and the back corner on Chesswas Street. These are the outlines of the bluestone walls that residents of Penshurst have been waiting for, for many years.

Our idea for the gates is shown below (and expanded to include the pedestrian entrance) ..

If everything went according to plan, the gates, or their foundations, are now under construction and we shall shortly have the beautiful entrances we have been anticipating.

In the meantime, the expected completion date for the Mount Rouse

steps has been extended to the end of March, for technical reasons – fire season and contractors needs to be at other sites. We will keep you informed as more information becomes available.



### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS - 9th March 2019

The newsletter will be published on Wednesday fortnightly and we would appreciate submissions at the earliest possible time within the fortnight but no later than the Saturday immediately prior to the Wednesday of publishing.

**WDHS SOCIAL SUPPORT GROUP****INVITES YOU TO JOIN US  
FOR COFFEE MORNING 10.30am**

**When: Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019**  
**Where: Penshurst Newsagency & Takeaway**  
**86 Bell Street, Penshurst**

Representatives from Western District Health Service Social Support Group will meet with you, the ***Penshurst Community*** to report back findings and suggestions moving forward to support you to meet your needs wishes

*We welcome you*

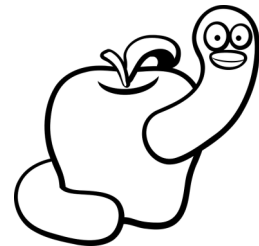
**Brenda Uebergang - Social Support Group Manager ph 55518472**

**Riddles**

1. How many apples grow on a tree?
2. What can you hear but not see?
3. Where do fish keep their money?
4. What grows when you take from it?
5. What jumps higher than a building?
6. What smells better than it tastes?
7. What building has the most stories?

**Answers to last fortnight's riddles:**

1. A mushroom
2. A plane, 1st class, Economy class, business class
3. Because they don't have hands
4. A mushroom
5. A bottle
6. V

**Words to the Wise**

**"All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt." Charles Schulz**

**"Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea." Robert A Heinlein**

**"Where there is love there is life " Mahatma Gandhi**

### A Wandering Monarch in Penshurst

The other day while having lunch on our back porch and regretting that the only butterflies to be seen were Cabbage Whites, a large dark orange visitor landed on our Buddleia bush. It was a Monarch or Wanderer Butterfly. The names seem to be interchangeable. They can be recognised by their relatively large wingspan, up to 10 cm, and by their dark orange wings marked with strong black lines with white spots along the edges.

This unexpected sighting has prompted me to do a little research into these interesting insects as this was only the second one I can recall seeing in Penshurst. (I may not have been looking hard enough and may have missed a few).

First surprise... they are not native to Australia. They came from North America sometime in the middle of the nineteenth century. Whether by boat or windblown is not known.



Monarch or Wanderer Butterfly

Secondly, they only lay their eggs on introduced plants called milkweeds. The well known garden Swan Plant is the one most favoured in Australia.

This plant produces a milky latex liquid which is quite toxic to most other insects and other animals. The Monarch caterpillars have evolved a clever mechanism for diverting this poison into their outer layer which makes them unpalatable to predators. This feature is carried through to all stages of the butterfly's life cycle. Thus the adult butterfly has few predators. The bright colour may also be a protective warning.

They are strong and fast flyers having been timed at over 40 kilometres per hour and are known to migrate over many hundreds of kilometres in the USA. The adults feed on nectar to fuel these impressive flights.

They are unusual amongst butterflies which mostly spend their winters as pupas or chrysalids. The Monarchs overwinter as adults. They congregate in large numbers round particular trees. I have found out that they do this round Sydney and in the Mt. Lofty Ranges near Adelaide. I wonder do our local Monarchs find a nearby place to hunker down during the colder months, or do they like many Victorians, head interstate?

P.S. The morning after writing this we spotted an Australian Admiral butterfly in our garden. It was in a pretty poor state and not very mobile. Dave Munro



Australian Admiral Butterfly



The caterpillar of Monarch Butterfly only eats milkweed.



Post Offices have changed in many ways over the years,  
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## **PESHURST MENS SHED**

**103 Cobb Street Peshurst**

In January and February the workroom of  
the Shed will not be open on high  
temperature days.

*All Welcome*

**The shed is open:**

Monday, Wednesday and

Saturday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Tuesday Social afternoon

2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

## **BOWLING CLUB NEWS**

Kegs O'Connor bowls for the  
Fellowship team (see page 5)





## BOWLING CLUB NEWS

The Corporate Cup is well under way with lots of banter & fun down on the green on Friday evenings, we are fortunate to have once again full rinks with 16 teams participating .

At this stage the Burnbrae Bangers are on top defending their win from last year, MM&M's are second, Camo's Plumbing Third & Ellis Paints fourth; with 3 other teams beckoning just under them, Crustacean's, Tom n Gerry & Page Agricultural. Come down and watch & enjoy some fun with us

Other News: The Ladies held a very successful tournament on the 13th February, once again with full rinks, so we Thank teams from: Grangeburn (3), Hamilton (3), Casterton (2), Coleraine (2), City Memorial Warrnambool (2), Dunkeld, Koroit, Balmoral & Macarthur.



MM 7M's team member Mardi Holmes sending down a bowl



Presentations with Jodie Page & Brenda Uebergang

Results for the day. Resting Toucher: Elwyn Jasper - Macarthur, Roll to ditch: Beryl Povey - Grangeburn, Spider Roll: Marlene Lenehan - Koroit. Phantom Teams: Lead: Fay Grant City Mem. Second: Thelma Thompson City Mem. Skip: Lyn Boxer Coleraine.

Raffle winners: Wendy Colcott (GB), Elizabeth Duckmanton (Dunkeld), Wendy Kosch (GB) Sally Madden (City Mem), Heather McIntyre (Dunkeld).

Winners with 4 games +32 shots : Carolyn Schurmann, Geraldine McDonald & Heather Gough (Hamilton)

Runner up with 4 games +24 shots: Elwyn Jasper, Carol Uebergang & Bev Bourke (Macarthur)

Our thanks to all the girls who helped out, a small band of friendly enthusiastic bowlers.

Thanks also to our sponsors for the day, All the local traders that advertise around the green, MH Premier Farms & Mandy's Hair Design. The Men will be holding their tournament on the 28th Feb.

Club Events will be finalised over the coming weeks.

We are currently updating our memorial box, were name tags of deceased former bowlers, if you have a name tag that you would like to be placed in that box, please contact Dennis Olle 0488 514 548 for collection.

Looking forward to seeing some new faces down on the green,

"Kitty & Jack"

President Michael Ross cooks sausages for the corporate cup

"There are two great days in a person's life – the day we are born and the day we discover why." **William Barclay**

## Mindfulness & Meditation in Brief! With Lisa Gonnet

According to research, meditation and mindfulness have the potential to make you happier and healthier. Your body learns to relax and let go of held on to tension, stress and anxiety. Learning to let your body and mind relax in turn allows you to cope with your daily stresses better, can help assist with pain management, and contributes to better sleep.

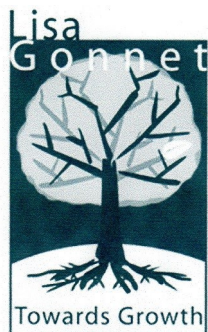
Mindfulness and meditation allow you to focus on the positives and release the negative issues that we come across daily. With regular practice you will quickly see the benefits.

*What is the difference between mindfulness and meditation?*

Meditation typically refers to *formal, seated* meditation practice. It is an *intentional practice*, where you focus inward to increase calmness, concentration, and emotional balance. There are many types of meditation e.g: Breath-awareness meditation, Loving-kindness meditation, Mantra-based meditation, Visualization meditation and Guided meditation.

Mindfulness is all about being aware, you can practice mindfulness *anytime, anywhere, and with anyone* by being fully engaged in the here and now. When you are being actively mindful, you are noticing and paying attention to your thoughts, feelings, behaviours, and movements, and also to the affects you have on those around you. Mindfulness is the simple act of paying attention and noticing and being present in whatever you are doing, whether it be: walking, eating or doing the dishes and housework!

In conclusion, a recent university study found that people spend 46.9 percent of their waking hours thinking about something other than what they are doing, this allowing the brain to run on auto-pilot can make people unhappy. "A wandering mind is an unhappy mind," the researchers said.



**Lisa Gonnet**

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announce the

**2019 Penshurst Art Exhibition**  
**22nd-24th March 2018**

Entries are now available online at  
[www.penshurstcreativearts.org.au](http://www.penshurstcreativearts.org.au)

or by post or delivery from  
Tom Cooke on 0488 557 345

## DUST STORMS AND WILDFIRES

G'day. I'm Rob Rowley a farmer from Illowa near Warrnambool. I was on my way back from the Blessing of Rivers at Wentworth and stopped for a coffee and picked up your newsletter in your town. First, to tell you about the Blessing of the Rivers at the Junction of the Murray Darling. The Blessing came about after seeing the plight of people further up the Darling with dead fish, no water to wash or for stock. As a farmer that has buried mates from suicide and shot drought affected stock when farming in Qld in the sixties I was angry at the water management authority allowing misappropriation of the water resources. But realising there was enough anger up there without mine I decided on a different way to show solidarity by asking all denominations of churches to bless some of their town supply and send a small bottle up to the Blessing of the Rivers ceremony, with politicians welcome to pray but not preach. There was a crowd in excess of 200 with water from all round Australia even as far away as Ireland. The ceremony went live on Facebook with Elder Badger leading the blessing. Please log onto Facebook on Blessing the Rivers to show you care for these people as they are in for the long haul before they see water in their river again.



Rob Rowley recites his poem.



Over 200 people gathered under the river redeems at the Murray-Darling Junction.

On the return trip through Stawell, we saw great open areas of Mallee paddocks ploughed up blowing away in the wind. With areas of scrub where wild fires ripped through till they hit ploughed, open, bare ground. I thought, "no wonder the Grampians burns so well, with scorching winds from the Mallee and the Wimmera, it can be compared to a turbo charger in a diesel motor that forces hot air into the chambers for hotter combustion. There is no tree configuration to slow the wind down on

days of 50 degrees plus". My memory flashed back, to an article in the Weekly Times that said. "Do you think this is drought, in 1500 the drought lasted 25 years!" according to tree rings coral and Antarctic ice core samples and now science is talking Global warming.

Then I remembered a farmer between Mortlake and Lake Bolac that in 1960 put his whole farm ...



## DUST STORMS AND WILDFIRES

... in a spiral of red gum trees that literally stops the wind in its tracks. This is not only warm in winter from the misery flats wind, but gives the grass and stock shade in summer, with the added



Corey Payne co-ordinates the Smoking Ceremony.

advantage when cultivating there are no corners to worry about. When I was in Chinchilla I was told they have found they need 22 trees to the HA to shade the grass as the summers are getting hotter and you never guess the Aboriginal farmers had 10 trees to the acre when we come here. Did you notice when some tribes paint their landscape it is also spiral dot circles too? I noticed at Donald in the ploughed paddocks there are green paddy melon holes in the landscape.

Over in Ethiopia they are digging depressions in their land still today, that collect water and nutrients to grow crops when it is dry in the moist depression and yes there are paddy melons over in Africa too.

Although I am on the coast at Warrnambool we suffer badly with cold winds and lack of shade, for stock. Working with Bob Pearce in the late 1970's I worked out how to make trees stock resistant by simply inserting a stainless steel Mig wire into the tree from the energiser. Cows soon learnt not to eat my apple trees as did the rabbits. I laid an electric tape on top of the young cypress trees stapled on with the office stapler. Having said all this: I am asking your readers if they have an old three point linkage MF disk plough I can buy off them to modify into a single jump disk plough as used in a desert reclaiming article I once saw. As I would like to use all these ideas combined to form tree spirals with wagon wheel rotation grazing and water retention holes where clay ball coated tree seeding can be done. If you can help, my number is 0499992167 Rob Rowley.



Barkindji Aboriginal Elder, Badger Bates talks of the importance of healing the river systems.

Water, the Hub of Life. Water is its mater and matrix, mother and medium. Water is the most extraordinary substance! Practically all its properties are anomolous, which enabled life to use it as building material for its machinery. Life is water dancing to the tune of solids. Albert Szent-Gyorgyi





ABN 35 622 662 815

.....

Committee of Management:

Ama Cooke – President 0402 870 738

Mark Dalla Costa – Secretary

Mary Stewart

Vice President – Tom Cooke

Nigel Pyne

Treasurer – Marjorie Dalla Costa

Don Adamson

.....

It's Sunday morning, before I go to Church, and I am sitting and thinking about the last month with Advance Penshurst. I am blessed to have a great team of enthusiastic people, not just the dreamers who are vital to growth within any community, but those of us who actually sit down and work out 'how' to make things happen. My previous experience on so many committees has taught me that if you don't communicate and don't ask for help, people tend to think you are stand-offish or elitist, which we are not. As we all contribute to the creation of our new, or renewed, Progress Association, each person is inspiring me to keep trying to be the best person I can be.

**This month has seen a number of milestones.**

**We have the vote to change the name on the 27<sup>th</sup>.** I see that as a way of closing the door on past challenges, with the lessons learned neatly filed away but still accessible, allowing us all a fresh start.

The Progress Association team has visited the **Lion's Club of Penshurst & District** and had a great discussion with those present about our plans for the future and our wish that they be involved in some of the activities. We are grateful for their enthusiastic response.

As both the Mens Shed team and the AP Team we visited the **Penshurst Public School** and developed a plan with the Principal Fiona Hermon for a Community Garden in the paddock next to the school. A grant application will be sent to South West Community Grants for funding to buy the needed garden edging, fill for the beds, trees for the orchard and various plants for both adults and children to nurture. The Lion's Club have offered to help with the garden, and it will be open to the whole community to be involved in. In the meantime, the men from the Shed will be working in the area to prepare it for its installation.

We had a phone call from the Council, a few days ago, asking us to come to the Botanic Gardens to discuss the **location of the Entrances' walls**, and as the front page tells, the locations have been marked on the ground. We are a little worried about the cassia bush growing between the left-hand (facing the park) end of the 'wall' and the Bills Horse Trough (turns out it has a very famous history, **thank you Mt Rouse & District Historical Society**), but on closer inspection we realised that, with a little judicious pruning, the Trough will become an added feature to the Entrance. After some discussion with Andrew Curtis, who looks after our Gardens, we look forward to the change that is about to happen and hope the Entrance walls will look as good as the pictures promise.

At the meeting on Wednesday night (Hall Supper Room 7.30pm) we are offering a new plan for the Penshurst Christmas Market which includes moving it to the Botanic Gardens, decorating various locations throughout the Gardens with Christmas Lights and giving Santa a new chair and greater role in the Market. Yes, it's still a market with stalls of various kinds, the bouncing castle, bike competition, Lion's BBQ and the firetruck, but we would also like to grow it into the **Penshurst Christmas Festival**. We begin this year with a request to both schools to have our children decorate a reindeer each to be displayed at the Festival.

You'll also have noticed that the **foyer of the Hall** is being refurbished at the moment. Our thanks to Tom Cooke who is doing the difficult task of painting the ceiling. Once the foyer is done, we intend creating a '**non-accredited**' **Information Centre**; painting the supper room is on the list, but the main hall will have to be done by professionals because of the height of the ceilings. We will continue to seek Grants to pay for the improvements to the Hall, just as the Hall Committee have recently sent one to the Council to replace one of the stoves in the kitchen.

Can we interest you in any of our projects? Do you have ideas of your own to share? Come to the Progress Association meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> and say hi. We welcome everyone.

Ama Cooke

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8am – 7pm Sunday

**Please phone late orders 15 minutes prior to closing, thank you.**

**PLACES OF INTEREST IN PENS HurST**

**Volcanoes Discovery Centre**

[www.penshurstvolcano.org.au](http://www.penshurstvolcano.org.au)

**Yatmerone Wildlife Reserve**

Ritchie St Penshurst

**Botanic Gardens**

Chesswas St Penshurst

**Penshurst Caravan Park**

Cox Street Penshurst

For Bookings phone (03) 5576 5220

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The Mount Rouse steps are closed at the present moment due to renovations.

**Penshurst Church Services**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Tabor  Service every Sunday 10.00am	Penshurst Anglican Church  5pm Mass 3rd Sunday each month  For further details contact Janet Kelly on 5576 5247	St Andrew's Uniting Church Penshurst  2nd & 4th Sunday  11am Service	St Joseph's Catholic Church Penshurst  1st Sunday No Service 2nd Sunday Mass 8.30am 3rd Sunday Lay Service 8.30am 4th Sunday Mass 8.30am 5th Sunday Mass 8.30am
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# PAGE 11 MT ROUSE NEWS & VIEWS

## A PAGE TO SHARE RECIPES

The following recipe was submitted by a reader this week.

### No-Bake Easter Egg Cheesecake—Serves 12

Something tasty for Easter

#### INGREDIENTS

- 250g chocolate biscuits
- 100g butter, melted
- 1/4 tsp fine salt
- 250g leftover dark chocolate Easter eggs (must be plain)
- 2 tbs cocoa powder, sifted, plus extra for dusting
- 2 x 250g blocks Philadelphia cream cheese, softened to room temperature
- 1 cup icing sugar
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 220ml thickened cream, whipped to soft peaks
- extra leftover chocolate eggs, broken into large pieces, to decorate
- 2 x 250g blocks Philadelphia cream

#### METHOD

1. Line a 22cm springform cake tin with baking paper.
2. Place chocolate biscuits, butter and salt in a food processor and pulse to form fine crumbs. Pour into the base of prepared cake tin and use the back of a spoon to press the mixture into an even layer on the bottom and around edges. Chill in fridge for 10 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, roughly chop the chocolate and place in a bowl over a saucepan of simmering water and stir until melted. Add cocoa, stir to combine and remove from the heat. Allow to cool slightly.
4. Place softened cream cheese, sugar, vanilla and in the bowl of an electric mixer and whisk for 2 minutes or until combined. Add cooled melted chocolate and mix for a further minute until smooth.
5. Add whipped cream to cream cheese mixture and fold until smooth.
6. Pour mixture into prepared biscuit base and use a spatula to smooth out the top. Cover and refrigerate for at least an hour until set.
7. Remove cheesecake from fridge. Remove from springform tin, dust with cocoa and carefully transfer to a serving dish. Top with pieces of extra chocolate eggs to serve.



**MONTHLY MEETING DATES**

- Book Club, 2nd Wednesday each month at Senor Citizen club rooms.
- Caramut & District Garden Club, 2nd Tuesday monthly at 10 am. See Garden Notes for venue.
- Combined Churches service 3rd Tuesday every month in W.J. Lewis wing at 11 am.
- Courthouse open 1st Saturday each month 9.30 am to 1230 pm.
- Friends Yatmerone Reserve, 2nd Tuesday each month at Volcano Centre 7.30 pm. New members welcome.
- Indoor bowls 2 pm every Monday at Senior Citizens. All Welcome.
- Lions, 1st & 3rd Tuesday each month at 8 pm.
- Mt Rouse & District Historical Society, 4th Sunday in January, March, May, July, September and November, 2pm at Court House. Phone 557 12145.
- Penshurst Bowls Club, 1st Tuesday each month at 7.30 pm.

- Penshurst Hospital Ladies Auxiliary, 3rd Tuesday each month, Sheppard Room, Penshurst Hospital at 1.30 pm.
- Penshurst Playgroup meets every Monday morning 9.10 am—11.30 am at the pre-school in Watton street. Everyone most welcome. (No playgroup in School holidays)
- Penshurst Pony Club rally, 1st Sunday each month.
- Penshurst Senior Citizens meet last Tuesday monthly, 4 pm at club rooms in Bell Street. Novelty Bingo, last Tuesday of month Feb—Nov at 2.15 pm. Cards & social afternoon, 2nd Wednesday monthly at 2pm
- Penshurst Urban Fire Brigade, 2nd Monday monthly at fire station.
- Residents, Relatives & Carers group, Tuesday bi-monthly, 4 pm at Hospital.
- RSL meets 1st Thursday of February, April, July & October at 6.30 pm at RSL Hall, Ritchie Street.

Would you like your group listed here, contact Mark on 0409192612 or email

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

**Upcoming Events in Penshurst**

**27th February Advance Penshurst Special Resolution Meeting, 7.00pm**

**Community Meeting 7.30pm at the Penshurst Memorial Hall**

**16th March Penshurst Hospital Market & Car boot sale**

**With Penshurst Hair Day and a review of the Community Plan**

**22nd—24th March Penshurst Art Exhibition @ Penshurst Memorial Hall**

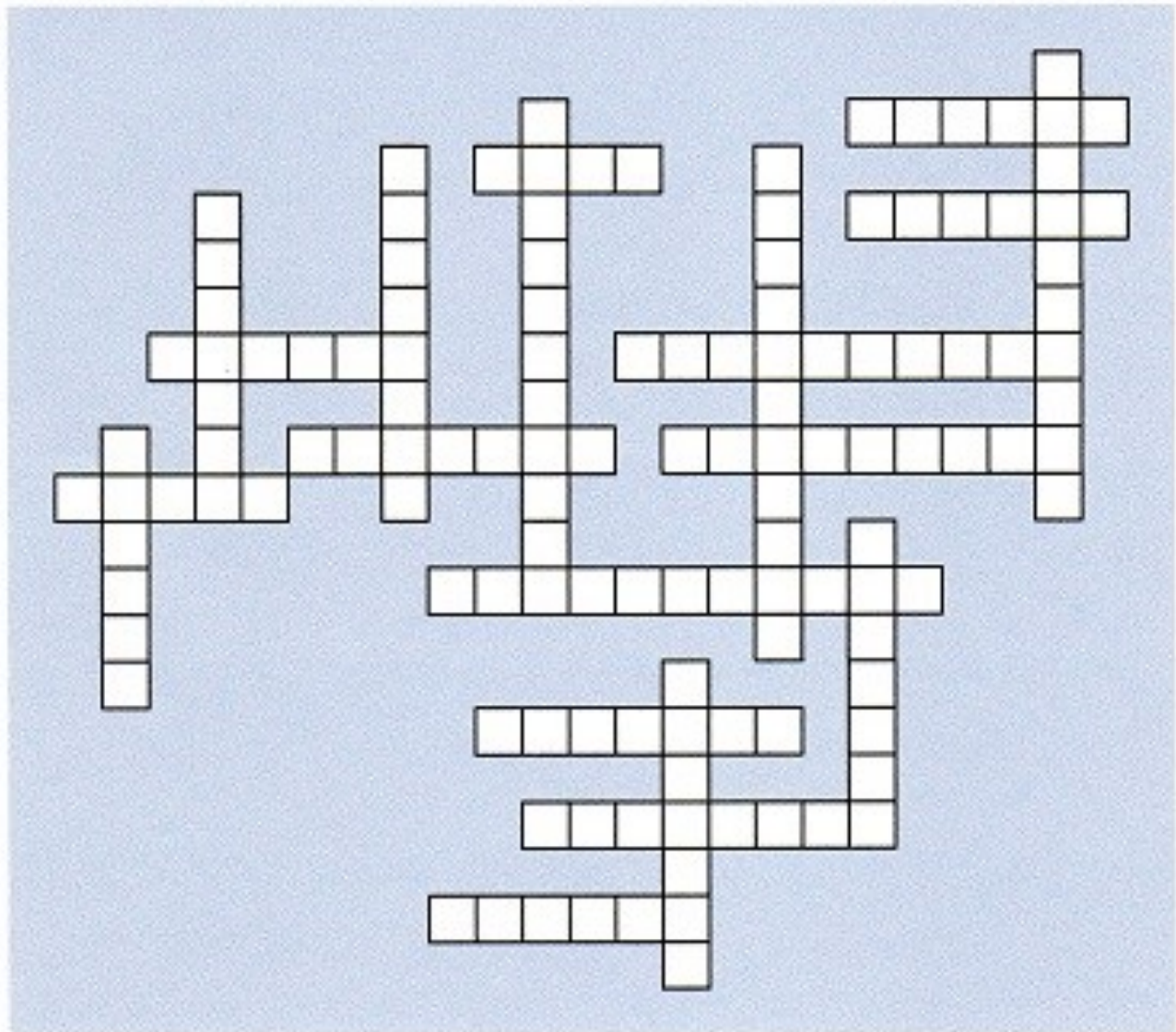


Watch this spot

We welcome contributions to all sections of our Newsletter. Any suggestions for things you would like included please send to the Editor at: [mtrousenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mtrousenewsletter@gmail.com)



Mt Rouse Puzzler Fill-it-in 1



4 Letters

Onyx

5 Letters

Midas

6 Letters

Appeal

Drafts

Locket

Silver

Zenith

7 Letters

Corella

Fanatic

Liberty

Mailing

Romance

8 Letters

Envelope

Sunshine

9 Letters

Rainmaker

10 Letters

Strawberry

Substitute

11 Letters

Investigate

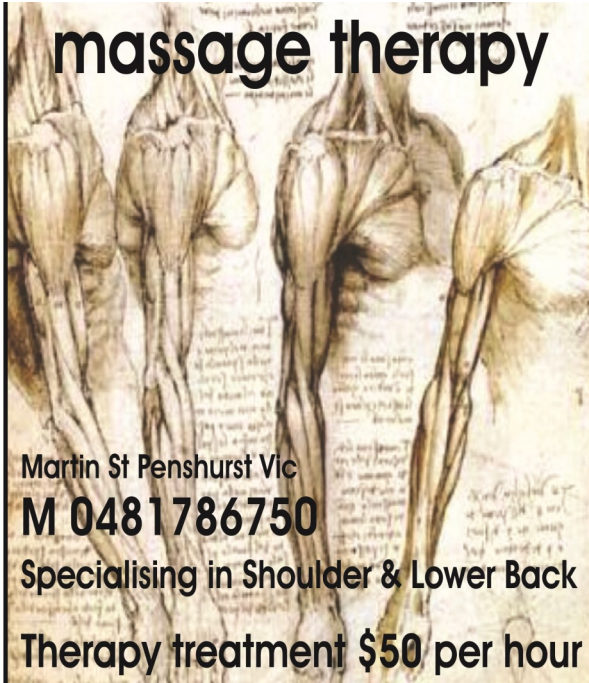
Reservation

Unconscious

Can you fit all the words above into the puzzle?



That space is deliberately blank, to rest your eyes.



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## **CHRISTOPHER COOK CONSTRUCTIONS**

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**Full page \$20    1/2 page \$10**

**1/4 page \$5    Business Card \$3**

## A PAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

What is a Haiku?

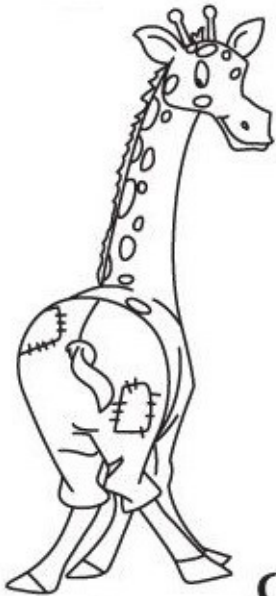
Traditionally it is a Japanese poem of seventeen syllables, in three lines of five, seven, and five, traditionally evoking images of the natural world.

Goat- A Haiku

The giddy goat  
Glides across the mountain  
Defying gravity's laws.



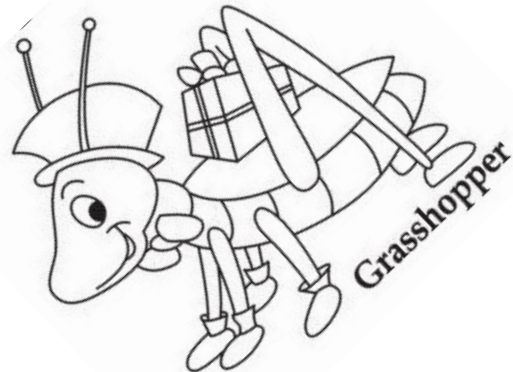
In this form we have shortened it to three lines, 3 words, 4 words, 3 words. Can you write a Haiku?



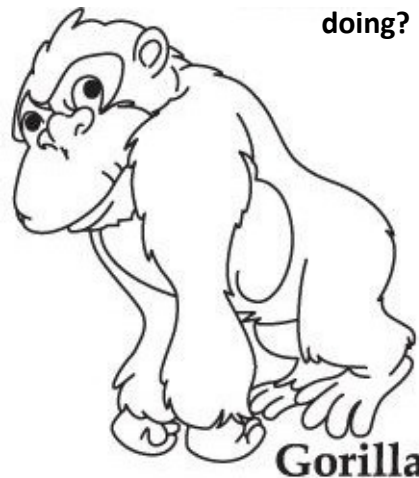
Giraffe

Grasshopper - A Haiku

Cheery summer time  
A grand grasshopper dances  
Before the giraffe.



What is the gorilla doing?



Gorilla



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In this section we welcome your comments and views. If you have good news or a burning issue please send a letter to the Editor at :

**[mtrousenewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mtrousenewsletter@gmail.com)**.

The Editor reserves the right to decide on which letters will be published and whether to precis longer submissions.

**Penshurst Hospital Market & Car Boot Sale**

On again, come down for a great day out!

**SATURDAY MARCH 16TH, 10 AM–2 PM**

Penshurst Memorial Hall, Martin Street Penshurst

Crafts, sausage sizzle, Little Golden Books, Raffles and lots more. Face painting, leather belts and horse whips. Candles, toys, bags, cards, etc, etc.

And of course food, plants and bric-a-brac. Car boot sale.

Gold coin entry with all money going to your local hospital and aged care.

Phone Nanette on 55723257 if you would like a stall

or to book your car



Hair cut, hair colour and morning teas available - with thanks to Mandy of Mandy's Hairdressing & the Penshurst Hospital Ladies Auxillary \$5.00 each. Support Cancer & Leukemia research.



**Published by Penshurst Mens Shed Incorporated**

ABN 56 257 756 133 VMSA No: 301039

**"Mt Rouse News & Views Community Newsletter"**

Is the registered business name of the Penshurst Mens Shed Newsletter

Registered Address: 46 Watton Street, Penshurst 3289

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**Treatments are:**

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Contact Tom Cooke for key collection.

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Conditions apply

**Penshurst Hospital Market**

**Penshurst Hair Day**

**And morning tea**

**16th March**

**Penshurst Art Exhibition**

**22nd—24th March**



**Mandy's  
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**Bookings by appointment**

**For appointments please ring**

**Mobile: 0417 511 177**

**Thankyou**

**TAIL END TALES****THE ADVENTURES OF PUD****Lawn Mowing with Pud**

One day Mrs Pud looked out the window and noticed most of Pud's scallop gear and junk was off her front lawn. The grass was about half a metre high in places so she could not really see how easily it would be to mow but this could be the opportunity to motivate Pud. "You are not sleeping inside the house until you mow the lawn" she gently encouraged him.

With much grumbling Pud searched for the lawn mower and found it where it had stopped months ago. It had been left out in the rain and weather and was most unlikely to go without some maintenance.

Pud dragged the mower onto the concrete driveway and gathered up some tools and clean petrol. Because his eyesight and back were not too good, Pud sat on the concrete, opened his legs wide and drew the mower close to his groin area. Then he began to work. It needs to be said that Pud was addicted to grease and oil. One of his favorite tricks was to lick the dipstick of a car to diagnose the health of the engine. "Needs rings" he would say wisely.

He undid the fuel tank and tipped out the old fuel on the concrete where he was sitting. Then he pulled off the carburettor and blew all the fuel out using his mouth. Then he reassembled all the bits and filled the mower with fresh fuel. Next, he undid the spark plug and cleaned it before pushing it back into its cap and earthing it out on the motor.

This is where his brother in law Bill turned up and surveyed the scene from a fairly safe distance. "Pull the starter cord for me, Bill" said Pud, "I want to know if I have spark".

Bill refused to be a party to that with so much fuel and oil on, under, over and around Pud. "Pull it yourself" says Bill, "I would rather watch than be an accessory to your demise. You are about to blow yourself up." Hard to get good help", thought Pud and proceeded to tug the starter cord himself.

Whoosh went the petrol and Pud just waited, then patted out the flames before they got too hot. "Spark and petrol, should go" he said.

Bill watched in amazement as Pud screwed the spark plug back in, started the mower with his pants still smoking and set into the lawn.

Steve Koala © 2019

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

**An invitation is extended to all ladies to attend the World Day of Prayer event on  
Friday, 1st March at 10:30 am**

**It is to be held in the Sheppard Centre at the Penshurst Hospital**

**The Service has been prepared by the women of Slovenia and the theme is:**

**'Come - everything is ready'**

***Everyone welcome.***