

# MT ROUSE NEWS & VIEWS



A Project of the Penshurst Mens Shed Inc



***WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF  
MT ROUSE NEWS AND VIEWS FOR OUR  
3RD YEAR OF PUBLICATION***

The editorial staff would like to thank our advertisers and contributors, without whom we would not be able to provide our free fortnightly editions. We look forward to your stories, ideas and suggestions as we try to provide an entertaining and helpful town newsletter.

For this third year we'd like to introduce our mascot, Meriweather the wise owl, who will spend his time drawing attention to the serious and silly. Like his friends Kilroy (year 1) and Pink Panther (year 2), his role is to make us think, or at least smile. Catch him among the pages.



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home schooling



We look forward to seeing you  
**Stay Safe**

*John, Judy & Nicole*

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# DOOR DROP SERVICE

**Visiting Penshurst and surrounds, Friday fortnightly - delivering books directly to you.**

Commencing 14th August throughout Stage 3 restriction period.

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Also available @ Hamilton Library every Mon/Fri 1.00pm-3.00pm and Wed 10.00am-12.00pm

To arrange either service or make enquiries with the Library, please contact us on 5573 0470 or [library@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au](mailto:library@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au) or [www.centralhighlandslibraries.org.au](http://www.centralhighlandslibraries.org.au)




**Grab your Takeaway and extras from Josh & Tracy Hewitt at the  
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**All Day Breakfast, Home-made cakes & slices**

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***NEW MENU ITEMS***

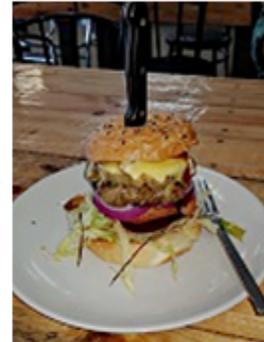
**Huge range of focaccias - Egg & Bacon Rolls & Muffins**

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Friday & Saturday 7 am - 8pm    Sunday 8 am - 7 pm



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Ask about our American Style Burger Menu

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## Penshurst Progress Association

ABN 35 622 662 815

Committee of Management:

Ama Cooke – President 0402 870 738

Mark Dalla Costa – Secretary

Mary Stewart

Tom Cooke - Vice President

Nigel Pyne

Josh Hewitt - Treasurer

Don Adamson

***Next Meeting: 23rd September (maybe) 7.30pm in the Supper Room, Penshurst Hall.***

Good afternoon, its Saturday and I have been gazing out the window at the trees whipping in the wind. The weather is considered 'changeable', which is not so good unless you are a duck, but even they may be blown away in this bluster. I love the sound of the rain on the tin roof while being very grateful to be indoors. The wind is very good at scattering thoughts, so let me pin down a few of my strays.

We've finally heard a little from the Council regarding the new signs in the Botanic Gardens. It is expected that we will have received an email detailing what they will be providing by the time this goes to print. Anyone who wants a copy should email me, otherwise I share it out to the Progress Association members and various other people who are interested in the changes in Penshurst. Just ask.

The town printer has been moved into the office in the Hall. The old Newsletter building has had the carpet cleaned and I will be finishing off the other cleaning this week, before the Association hands the building back to the Council. Everything that was stored in the building is now in the Hall, except for various pieces of history which we handed over to the Mt Rouse & District Historical Society. Thank you to the people who came to help with the clean up.

Congratulations to the Men's Shed on the commencement of their build. It's been a long time coming.

The grant for the Shade Sails for the Gardens is now open and a grant application will be sent to them before the closing date on 12th September. If anyone would like to write a **letter**

**of support** for the project, it would be greatly appreciated. The more town input that goes into the application, the better our chances of receiving the funding. This is a state government grant, not local. I've been in touch with the Council regarding their requirements for the project to go ahead, just waiting a return phone call. I'll chase that this week. Still in the gardens, the dead trees will be, or have been, removed by Council.

The various plastic bins around town (e.g. in front of the Hall and in the Gardens) are to be replaced by enclosed bins split between normal rubbish and recycling. The bin enclosures have smaller openings, which will mean it won't be as easy for people to dump large bags of rubbish, and said people will have to sort the bags before dropping them in.

The entry sign at the grid on the way up Mt Rouse is going to be taken down but not replaced until after a Volcanic Plains Strategy assessment has been done. The intention is to make all signage the same across the region.

And lastly, for this fortnight, I've decided to stand in the Council elections again this October. Thank you to the people who voted for me last time, please consider doing so again. Having spent the past two years, and longer before that, in interactions with the Council, I know where some of the problems have been, and I think the only way to address them is from the inside. I won't be giving up any of my commitments in Penshurst if I do get elected. We'll work around them.

Have a great fortnight and be safe, Ama Cooke



## Penshurst Store



**Amanda & Cam Wilson**

**0439 941 942**

**Café/Bakery 110 Bell Street, Penshurst penshurststore@gmail.com**

### New Hours:

**Monday to Friday 7.30am to 5.00pm**

**Saturday 8.00am to 2.00pm**

**Sunday CLOSED**

Family Pies now available to order  
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or Curry, Chicken Kiev or Butter Chicken,  
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Mark Lomas (Manager) - 0429 609 666

### Western AG Willaura

T: 03 5354 1585

Glen Gray - 0439 541 036

## Riddles

1. What dies but is never killed?
2. I burn bright but am surrounded by shade, what am I?
3. I was once alive, a creature of flesh and bone. I did not survive, now I am but stone. What am I?
4. What is white on the outside, soft in the inside, and golden in the heart?
5. What did the mayonnaise say to the refrigerator?
6. I am even, add one letter and I'm odd. What am I?
7. You can find almost everything on me, I will take you to anywhere you want, and you search on me everyday. What am I?

*In the Garden with Janet*

Will it be warm? Will it still be cold? We have experienced warm and cold. Thankfully some recent rain. August can be a bit hit and miss. It probably won't be as warm as we'd like or as cold as we think it might be. But August is filled with promise. Suddenly there are all sorts of seeds to sow, seedlings to plant out and pruning to be done.

If plants have died recently, try to work out what's gone wrong. Has it been too cold for them? Have they suffered from wet feet? Resolve to change conditions so that replacement plants will survive, or look for hardier plants that can cope with the harsh conditions. Following sensible practices such as building raised-up beds where drainage is poor and incorporating Gypsum into clay soils. I found that even beds raised 15-30 cms by using either stones or a board, make a big difference to drainage.

One plant that stands dry, hot, cold, and so long as well drained, conditions is the **Euphorbia** which is flowering now. There are over 2000 species among them annuals, perennials, shrubs and even succulents. The flowers are all very similar in structure. They have a stigma, a stamen and always green clusters which form showy bracts.



Enjoy walking round your garden or neighbourhood to see the camellias, daffodils, jonquils, magnolias, wattles, almond blossoms out flowering at present.

***Happy Gardening***

**A Thought:** All people smile in the same language.

***Penshurst's Volcanoes Discovery Centre will be closed until further notice.***

"The VDC management committee has been deciding on a monthly basis when to re-open, but now has chosen to close the centre indefinitely". Committee member, Brian O'Brien, said when the centre closed on March 15 it had been hoped it might re-open in July or August.

"However, now that we are back to stage 3 restrictions, that hope has faded. It's just not the large number of daily new corona virus infections in Melbourne, but the numbers of infections that have grown sharply in rural Victoria over the past month," he said.

"We couldn't open even if we wanted to at present because only two people are allowed to congregate in public under stage 3 restrictions. The restrictions last until September 13 and we are hoping for some easing of restrictions back to stage 2, but that's extremely uncertain."

Have you got a story to share in 100 words or less? We'd love to publish it.

## Dunkeld & District Community Bank Branch

Community Bank  
Dunkeld & District

**B** Bendigo Bank

### Kangaroo Island Bushfire Recovery Assistance

We're proud to announce a new partnership with the community of Stokes Bay, Kangaroo Island to assist in the



rebuild of the Stokes Bay Community Hall. Severely damaged during the devastating 2019-20 bushfire season, the Stokes Bay Community Hall is an important gathering place for residents, and its reconstruction will be a priority in the local bushfire recovery process. Dunkeld & District Community Bank Branch will be assisting the committee to rebuild the Stokes Bay Community Hall with \$5,000 donation.



**SCAMS** 17-21 August 2020  
AWARENESS WEEK #ScamsWeek2020

**Be yourself. Don't let a scammer be you.** Scamwatch has seen a 55 per cent increase in reports involving loss of personal information this year compared with the same period in 2019, totalling more than 24 000 reports and over \$22 million in losses.

Our top tips to protect yourself:-

- If you receive a phone call from someone you suspect is a scammer, hang up, find the organisation's number yourself and call them back. Never use a number they give you.
- Don't trust a site or an ad just because it's advertised on social media or classified website, or claims it's endorsed by a celebrity. Check independent reviews and be wary of offers too good to be true.
- Be suspicious of emails and messages asking for your personal information, even if they seem to be from a trusted source.
- Watch out for telltale signs of a scam in unsolicited emails and messages, like not using your correct name, typos and grammatical errors, or suspicious web addresses.
- Don't click on links in unexpected emails or messages, even if it appears to have come from a legitimate source.
- Don't share personal information online with someone you've never met in person.
- Don't give financial or account details, or copies of your identity documents to someone online who you've never met in person.
- Never give strangers remote access to your computer.
- Limit what personal information you share about yourself online, including on social media.
- Use strong passwords for your accounts and internet network, and never share them with others.

Resource - <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/news-alerts/scams-awareness-week>

## We're here for you

Our branch remains open to help see you through COVID-19.  
Call us to make an appointment.

**B** Bendigo Bank



## Exploring Penshurst

## Mount Rouse &amp; District Historical Society



**21. St Joseph's Catholic Church** was built in 1867 of bluestone with a slate roof. The Reverend Julian Wood preached the foundation sermon. In 1897 the transepts, the sacristy and a new sanctuary were added. In 1925 a Presbytery was built next to the church.

**22. Prince Of Wales Hotel** The original Prince of Wales Hotel, on the corner of Martin & Watton Streets, was sold and closed in 1864. This building was the 2nd Prince of Wales Hotel built of bluestone in 1864 the hotel comprised ten large rooms and a ballroom. The rooms were plastered and had decorative ceilings.



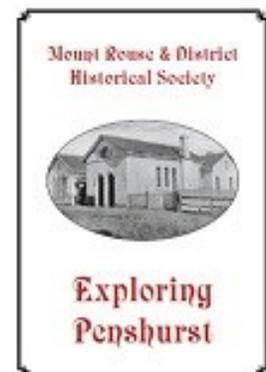
There were also large bluestone stables which can still be seen from Bell Street. The hotel was destroyed by fire in November 1972. The surviving sections have been incorporated into the current building which is now a private residence.



**23. Mount Rouse Shire Offices** By notice in the Government Gazette of January 26th 1864 the Shire of Mount Rouse was proclaimed by his Excellency Sir Charles Henry Darling, Governor and Commander in Chief of the Colony of Victoria. The first meeting of the shire was held on February 3rd of that year. February 11th 1864 saw a special meeting for the laying of the

foundation stone for the shire building. Major additions to the hall took place in 1877. Following the amalgamation of shires in 1994 the building no longer served its previous function and is now utilised by the Volcanoes Discovery Centre.

Thanks to the Mt Rouse and District Historical Society for providing this booklet. We hope the many new residents to Penshurst enjoy learning about their adopted town's history. Copies of the booklet are available for \$5 from historical society member, Brian O'Brien (0437844586).



Friendly faces and helpful staff ...

**Penshurst Liquor & Grocery Store**

**Open 7 days**

**Opening Hours:**

**Monday - Friday**

7am - 7pm

**Saturday**

9am - 6pm

**Sunday**

10am - 6pm



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**Groceries - Bread - Frozen Foods**

**Beer - Wine - Spirits**

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**112 Bell Street  
Penshurst Vic 3289**

**Answers to Riddles:** 1. a bad joke, 2. a lamp, 3. a fossil, 4. an egg, 5. shut the door, I'm dressing, 6. seven, 7. the Internet.

## A PAGE TO SHARE RECIPES

Another winter warmer from Sicily

## Pasta con le sarde (pasta with sardines)

Prep Time 5 mins - Cooking Time 22 mins

### INGREDIENTS - 6 Servings

300g bucatini or other long dried pasta	1 1/2 tbs tomato paste
150ml extra virgin olive oil	4 anchovies, drained on paper towel
2 cups (140g) fresh breadcrumbs	1/4 cup (60ml) white wine
1 large onion, finely chopped	12 fresh sardine fillets
1 small fennel bulb, finely chopped, fronds reserved	1/3 cup (55g) sultanas
	1/3 cup (50g) pine nuts, toasted
	Generous pinch saffron threads

### METHOD

**Step 1** Cook pasta in a large saucepan of boiling salted water according to packet instructions. Drain, reserving 1 cup (250ml) water.

**Step 2** Meanwhile, heat half the oil in a frypan over medium heat, then add breadcrumbs and cook, tossing, for 2-3 minutes until golden. Transfer crumbs to a bowl and wipe pan clean.

**Step 3** Heat remaining 75ml oil in the pan over medium heat.

**Step 4** Add onion and fennel, and cook, stirring, for 2-3 minutes until translucent. Add tomato paste and cook, stirring, for a few seconds. Add anchovies and cook, stirring, for 1 minute or until melted and combined. Add wine and bring to a simmer. Add sardine fillets, sultanas, pine nuts and saffron, then stir to combine. Add enough of the reserved cooking water to loosen the mixture, then cook, stirring occasionally, for 5-6 minutes until slightly reduced. Season, then toss sauce with the bucatini.

**Step 5** To serve, scatter the pasta with the toasted breadcrumbs and top with the reserved fennel fronds.



“In Sicily, women are more dangerous than shotguns. “

Mario Puzo

## Penshurst Hair Design



The Salon is Open

Tuesday,  
Thursday &  
Fridays  
9am - 5pm

Every Second  
Saturday  
10am - 3pm

**Bookings required  
As appointments fill quickly!**

**Phone Mandy**

**Mobile: 0417 511 177**



**Thank you**

## PLACES OF INTEREST IN PENSHURST

### **Volcanoes Discovery Centre**

[www.volcanoesdiscoverycentre.com.au](http://www.volcanoesdiscoverycentre.com.au)

### **Yatmerone Wildlife Reserve**

Ritchie Street, Penshurst

### **Botanic Gardens**

Chesswas Street, Penshurst

### **Penshurst Caravan Park**

Cox Street, Penshurst

For Bookings phone (03) 5576 5220

### **24 Hr Fuel**

91A Bell Street Penshurst

### **Mount Rouse Lookout**

Waller Road, Penshurst

## Monthly Meetings

**As we update the monthly meetings we are looking for a contact person's details for each group. Could someone please contact Mark or Ama with your details.**

- Book Club, 2nd Tuesday each month at Senior Citizen club rooms. 2.00pm
- 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, 1:30 pm at Hospital.
- RSL meets 1st Thursday of February, April, July & October at 6.30 pm at RSL Hall, Ritchie Street.

## *Sammy Scribe's - Few Things I've Learnt*

If you want an honest opinion, ask a 5 year old.  
 Trust your instincts, they're usually right.  
 The best gifts often don't cost a thing.  
 A simple smile from a stranger can turn someone's day around.  
 Life is too short to skimp on chocolate.  
 Sometimes, you have to choose being kind over being right.  
 Gratitude might just be the secret to happiness.  
 With friends, choose quality over quantity.  
 When speaking with the elderly pay attention, they have a lot to offer.



*gratitude  
changes everything*

### **Around the Churches**

#### **The not so gentle art of finger pointing.**

To my horror a memory bubbled to the surface the other day. I recalled with shame that I was denigrating one of my fellow clergy. Quite a tirade it was and my ever so patient listener took it all in good natured silence. When I had exhausted my verve and vocabulary, they quietly gave me the rest of the picture.

Was I aware for example, that Fr. Blogg's wife suffered from a rare medical condition that sapped time, energy and dollars? Did I know about their child's addiction and there were some other unmentionable factors as well.

I apologised and went away chastened and disappointed with myself. Not only was I more sympathetic to Fr. Bloggs next time I met him (in fact I was almost effusive) but it also taught me a lot about the 'not so gentle art of finger pointing'.

We have no idea what another is going through. No concept at all. We are oblivious to the daily trickiness and complexities that others stumble into, wade through, and the monsters they wrestle with. Yet we are swift to engage in the not so gentle finger pointing sport particularly behind their back and especially with our fearless leaders no matter their platform or area of expertise. Would it be such a terrible idea if instead of pointing our finger with retribution and scorn, we instead pointed at another with praise and support? We might disagree in principle with another on all sorts of issues and ideologies, but deep down they are just like us. they laugh, they cry, they get grumpy, they love and are loved. We're not so different. In this little fleeting life, our opportunities to point a finger with understanding and encouragement evaporate all too swiftly.

**Fr. David Oulton - [droulton72@gmail.com](mailto:droulton72@gmail.com)**

**We welcome contributions from the churches that include Penshurst  
in their parishes.**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

19 August 2020

**CALLING ALL LOCAL ARTISTS - \$7000 PUBLIC ART COMMISSION**

Hamilton Gallery and the Greater Hamilton Library are seeking expressions of interest (EOI) for a \$7000 public art mural to activate and support the local arts community during this difficult time. The artwork will be developed for a 10metre length of wall at the entry to the Hamilton Gallery and Hamilton Library.

Gallery Director, Joshua White said while there is no specific theme or design in mind for the commission, it should foster community pride. “Now more than ever, we need the arts to bring optimism and happiness. We know artists everywhere are having a hard time, this is just one way the Gallery, Library and Council are supporting the local arts, while strengthening our cultural identity. “The sculptural works by artist Ian Bow that have been on the wall for many years, have recently been removed for a much-needed rest and conservation work. They will go on exhibition next year for the Gallery’s 60th Anniversary,” Mr White said.

“Southern Grampians Shire has a significant number of public artworks and this will add to the assortment. The work will be positioned outside the entrance to the Gallery and Library. We are seeking a big, bold, high-quality artwork to reflect these important cultural facilities and to represent our strong local arts scene,” Mr White said.



Image Credit: Cedric Douglas, Northeastern University,

Southern Grampians Shire Council Director of Planning and Development, Andrew Goodsell said this commission demonstrates Council’s commitment to activation of public spaces. “We recognise that cultural projects such as this develop our community’s sense of place, identity and pride. They activate spaces and help to enrich our lives. During a time of hardship, these projects can help a community to feel connected,” Mr Goodsell said.

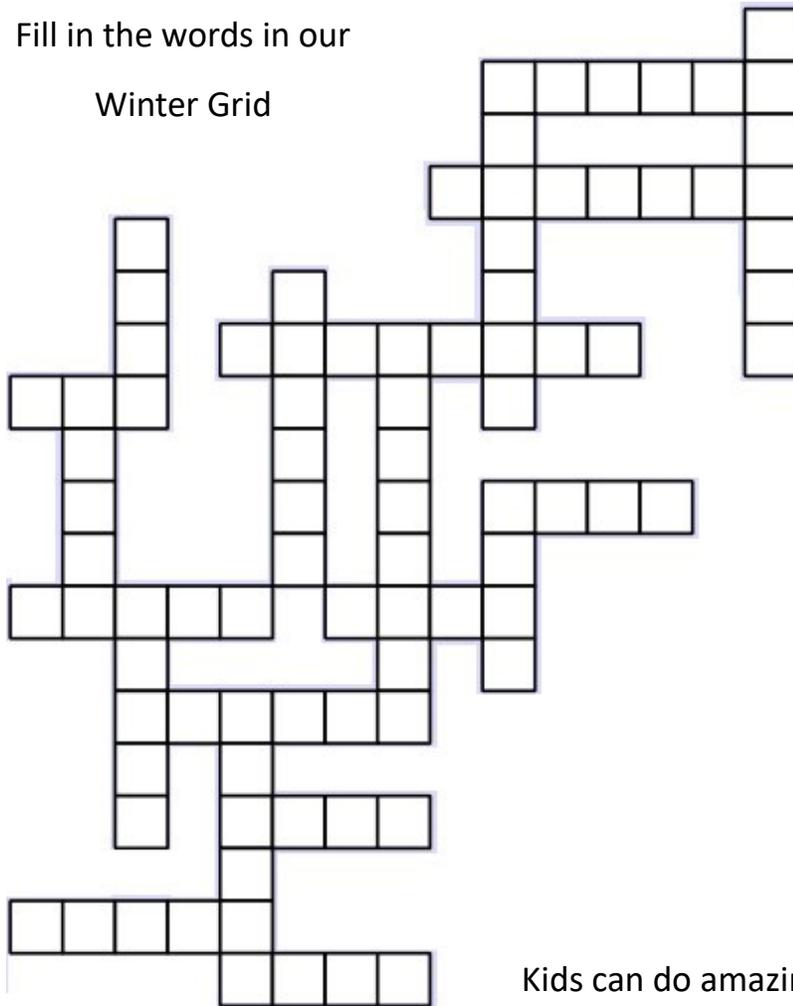
Applications for the EOI close on 30 August, 5pm. Council is seeking the installation of the work to occur in mid-September. For further details and an application form please visit the Gallery website.

If you can’t explain it simply, you don’t understand it well enough.

- Albert Einstein.

A Page for the Children to enjoy

Fill in the words in our  
Winter Grid



**3 Letters**

Ice

**4 Letters**

Bare

Fire

Hail

Rain

Snow

Stew

**7 Letters**

Growing

Rainbow

Weather

**5 Letters**

Cuppa

Lambs

Masks

Sleet

**6 Letters**

Gloves

Sowing

Warmth

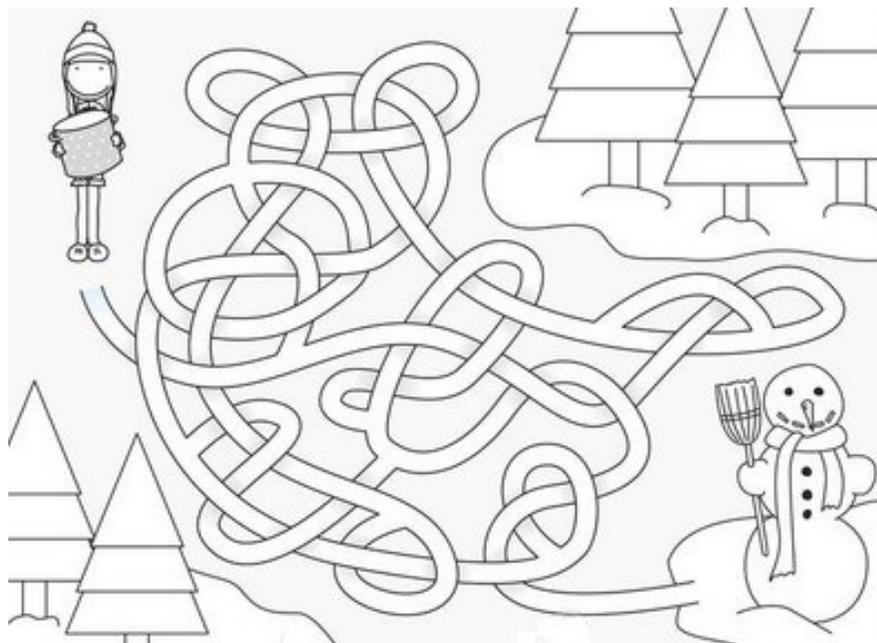
Winter

**8 Letters**

Blustery

Sleeping

Kids can do amazing things ...



**Kid's Winter Jokes**

**What is the best kind of breakfast cereal to eat in the winter?**  
Frosted Flakes!

**Where do snowmen love to dance?**  
At a snow ball

**What did Jack Frost say to Frosty the Snowman?**  
"Have an ice day!"

**What does a gingerbread man put on his bed?**  
A cookie sheet!

## PENSHURST MENS SHED

Update

While the Men's Shed is closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a little movement on the build project.

Building commenced on Monday 24th August. Please stay off the land until it has been completed.

Newsletter: If you have any stories you would like to share events, stories and ideas, please contact Mark or Ama by phone or email.

Mark Dalla Costa

mtrousenewsletter@gmail.com

Ama Cooke 0402 870 738



The Shed's Jigsaw pieces arrived by truck



Published by **Penshurst Mens Shed Incorporated**

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

Is the registered business name of the Penshurst Mens Shed Newsletter

Registered Address: 46 Watton Street, Penshurst 3289

### **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS – 5th September 2020**

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.

**Editor : Mark Dalla Costa**

All correspondence to: mtrousenewsletter@gmail.com

**F R E E   N E W S L E T T E R   E V E R Y  
F O R T N I G H T**

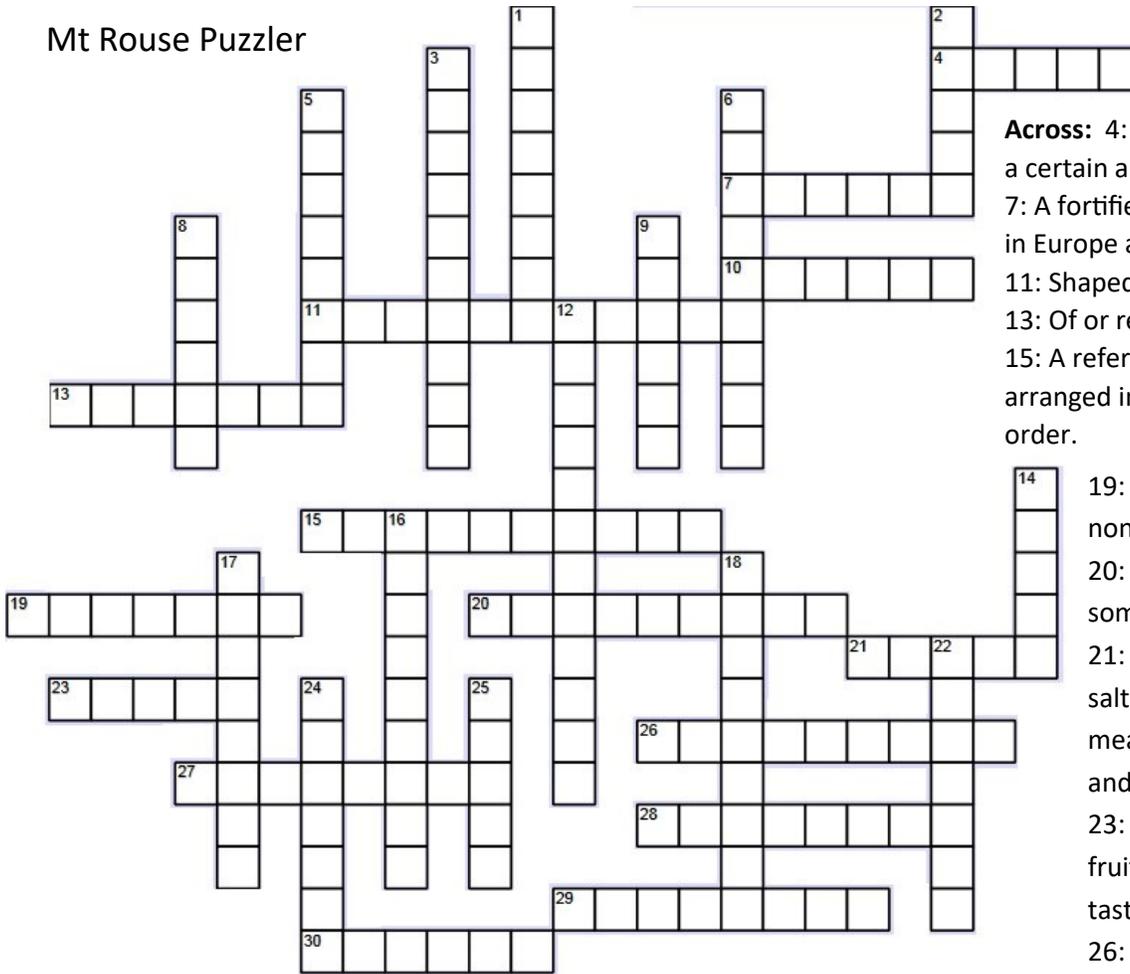
Also available in colour online at

[http://www.penshurstvictoria.com.au/Penshurst&20Newsletter.html](http://www.penshurstvictoria.com.au/Penshurst%20Newsletter.html)

### **Newsletter Advertising Rates (Per Issue)**

**Full page** \$20   **1/2 page** \$10   1/3 page \$7.50   **1/4 page** \$5  
**Business Card** \$3

Mt Rouse Puzzler



**Across:** 4: Equal in value to a certain amount of money.  
 7: A fortified structure built in Europe and the Middle  
 11: Shaped like a cylinder.  
 13: Of or relating to music.  
 15: A reference book arranged in alphabetical order.

19: Questioner or non-believer.  
 20: Famous for something bad.  
 21: Thin strips of salted and smoked meat from the sides and the back of a pig.  
 23: A yellow citrus fruit that has a sour taste.  
 26: The main church of an area that is headed by a bishop.

27: Something that is used or done to deal with and end a problem.

28: Producing or seeming to produce light.

29: A piece of music that is meant to express a lot of emotion and does not have a regular form.

30: Good things that are given or provided freely and in large amounts.

**Down:** 1: Unable to understand or think clearly.

2: To pass a plastic card through a piece of equipment that reads the information stored on the card.

3: Done by using a careful and organized procedure.

5: Spiritually symbolic.

6: To start doing something bad again after you have stopped it.

8: A small animal that usually lives in holes in the ground and has long ears, soft fur, and long back legs.

9: An open container with a handle that is used especially to hold and carry water and other liquids.

12: Uncontrolled in a way that is playful or full of energy.

14: A type of kitchen sink.

16: Of or relating to the sky.

17: A sign beside a road showing the direction and distance to a place.

18: At certain times.

22: Having a graceful design with simple lines.

24: A plant with large green leaves and with thick pink or red stems that are cooked and used in pies, jams, etc.

25: To burn (something) slightly.

Down - 1 elegant, 2 surge, 2 bells, 3 percolate, 10 eloquent, 7 origami, 6 origin, 14 brainstorm, 19 newsletter, 16 explanation, 24 weaver, 25 night, 27 symbol, 28 spider  
 17 paper, 18 simple, 20 dedication, 21 news, 22 complicated, 23 switch, 26 happy, 27 system, 29 birthday.  
 Last fortnight: Across - 5 educate, 8 orange, 9 lucid, 11 melding, 12 lemon, 13 thousand, 15 telephone,

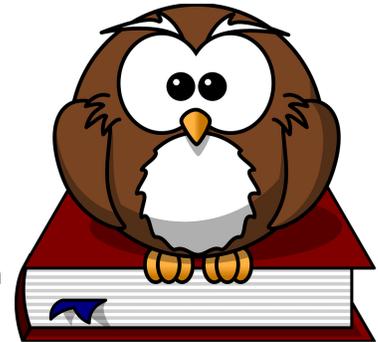
## TAIL END TALES

### WESTERN DISTRICT FACTS

The following facts relating to the Western District of Victoria are taken from a study of the area titled Victorian Places which was undertaken by Monash University in 2015.

The Western District is generally defined as the area bounded on the west and south by the South Australian border and the Bass Strait coastline respectively. The northern boundary is an irregular line skirting the southern terrain of the Dividing Range. The line lies south of Ballarat, loops northwards to Beaufort and then southwards around the Grampians.

Between there and the border the line extends to Harrow on the Glenelg River, but Edenhope (further north) is generally considered to be in the Wimmera region. The easterly boundary is the Geelong region, and further east there is the Bellarine Peninsula.



### LANDSCAPE

The Western District's main geographic feature is a volcanic plain of comparatively recent origin. The plain runs from the Geelong region to west of Portland. It extends beyond the Western District's northern boundary in parts and its southern boundary is generally a line between Colac and Warrnambool. Its most visible land forms are cones, craters and lakes.

The typical vegetation of the volcanic plain was temperate grassland or grassy Eucalypt woodland, ideal landscapes for livestock grazing

### HENTYS

Victoria's first permanent European settlement occurred in 1834 at Portland, where the Henty family came from Tasmania. The Hentys quickly settled northwards, having been told of good sheep pastures around Coleraine when encountered by Thomas Mitchell, the New South Wales Surveyor General in 1836.

### PASTORALISM

The development of towns, though, was less pronounced than the growth of pastoral estates. The predominantly open plain or lightly timbered landscape, set in an area of reliable rainfall, was an ideal sheep walk. It was also ideal for horseback hunting, steeple chasing and the acclimatisation of rabbits, hares and foxes. They soon spread to become the graziers' enemies. Many of the pastoralists were from a Scottish Presbyterian tradition, attracted to building solid and expansive homesteads when they secured tenure of their lands and put down roots.

### TOWNS

The Western District is traversed by the Princes Highway, the Hamilton Highway, and the Glenelg Highway which runs from Geelong to Hamilton. Although Hamilton has been a hub of the Western District with radiating roads and railways, it has been overtaken by Warrnambool, Colac and Portland which are on the Princes Highway.