

Mt Rouse News & Views



Community Newsletter



Friday 26th January 8.30am

At the Penshurst Botanic Gardens

Friends, family, music & food

Celebrating living in a country that is
much safer than most
in the world these days



Penshurst Progress Association

ABN 35 622 662 815

president@penshurstprogress.org.au

Committee of Management:

Ama Cooke – Chairperson 0402 870 738

Brian O'Brien - Secretary

Don Adamson - Treasurer

Tom Cooke, Sue Jellie & Jeff Jellie

Next Meeting - Wednesday 24th January 7.30pm *Penshurst Memorial Hall*

Good morning everyone,

Sometimes I feel like I am drowning in the clutter on my desk, so I take some times to dump, clear or reorganise. I feel like doing that to the contents of my head at the beginning of each year, but so many 'things' transfer from the 'old' to the 'new' that I'm amazed I have room for anything new at all. Why this comment? Because the clutter is back, and the 'to do' list is a challenge, mainly because my handwriting is practically unreadable, particularly like last night, when written in the half-dark, at midnight, when my mind would stop running long enough for me to get to sleep. So this morning the project is, after I finish this commentary, to find the top of my desk. I know the piles are ready to be restacked, because the cat keeps digging in them. She only does that when she thinks they are getting a little too high - or maybe she thinks she is helping? It's hard to tell.

Well, Australia Day is back, and is causing quite a controversy from what I have been reading. To me it is the day we celebrate just being Australian, and being in a 'lucky' country, that doesn't always feel lucky, but I am hoping that none of us have yet to have to pick up a gun to survive here, not including catching dinner - or is that only because I live in the country? It's a time when I am grateful to the Australians who have picked up guns to defend our country, the scars of which are still present across their minds; including those who never actually went to war, but grew up during the times when food was short, and mince meat was eaten raw by the small handful while waiting to collect the meat rations allowed for each family during a shopping trip. Having grown up with my mother's stories of her childhood, I continue to be grateful for every bite.

Updating Penshurst Victoria webpages.

[http://www.penshurstvictoria.com.au/
Community%20Business%20Directory.html](http://www.penshurstvictoria.com.au/Community%20Business%20Directory.html)

Is your business listed on our town website? If so, are the details correct? To update your details or add them to the site please send your business name and contact details to president@penshurstprogress.org.au to be added or updated.

Thank you.

What do you want for 2024? Have you made plans, or resolutions? Or both. From years of experiences I know its smarter not to do either. Life very seldom turns out the way I expected, so my motto is 'day by day', and that works out quite well. Today I plan to clear the clutter, and blanch the beans Tom has brought in from the garden. We are expecting tomatoes, even allowing some for the wallaby that visits during the season. At last count Tom has given away 92 tomato plants. He calls our place 'Tomatoes on Watton'. He threatening that next year he'll grow them all himself. He did that one year and ... I like it better when he gives them away.

Wishing you a wonderful growing season and a great fortnight.

Ama Cooke, PPA.

p.s. why the owl? I was once a Brownie Leader. I think it looks slightly bewildered. LOL



Caramut and District Garden Club

What a welcome rain for the gardens we have been having. Not much good for those trying to harvest though. Despite all the rain, there might still be dry areas in the garden, so check them out and water if necessary.

Bougainvillea are tropical and subtropical climbers. The photo is one growing over a pergola in our garden. Being so dense, it is very dry underneath and nothing really grows there. Yes, although they like hot, dry conditions will also do well in more temperate, frost free areas. As can be seen, it is growing in the open and flowering well over many weeks. And we do get frosts but obviously not bad enough to affect the plant. Bougainvilleas are not vines, rather they are climbing shrubs, and what appears to be flowers are really flamboyant coloured bracts masking insignificant white or pale yellow flowers.



These tropical flowers are named for French navigator Louis Antoine de Bougainville (1729-1811), who explored the Pacific Ocean and claimed Tahiti for the French.

For a wonderful autumn rose display (in 6-8 weeks time), cut back now and fertilise.

Continue to harvest beans, zucchinis and other summer vegetables regularly so they'll produce more crops.



Lawn clippings can be composted or used as mulch which keeps the weeds from growing too freely. There are quite a number of vegetables which can be planted now, either seeds or seedlings. The list is too long, so check the labels of the vegie you wish to plant. I plan to plant beetroot, beans, and lettuce. Potatoes can also be planted and I have quite a few coming up in the compost heap.

A good idea is to do about 15 minutes each day weeding or tidying up so that the garden doesn't get overgrown with weeds or plants that tend to take over the garden. Dehead roses which to me seems as much work as pruning.

The next meeting of the garden club is on Tuesday 13th February in the Woolsthorpe Hall followed by a garden walk. The special flower is a rose. There is a produce stall at each meeting.

On 17th March, there will be a bus trip to Portland to visit a garden at Tyrandarra, Portland Botanic Gardens where the Curator will meet us and talk about the Dahlia display and the Narrawong Lavender Farm. Lunch at own cost at Royal Hotel Portland.

Bus trip costs \$50 and will leave Mortlake at 7am with pickups at Caramut, Woolsthorpe and Koroit.

If you wish to go, visitors are always most welcome, please ring Marita on 0439 669 839 no later than 8th March.

Don't forget to just walk around the garden and appreciate all your hard work and the beauty of your flowers and plants.

Happy gardening!

Penshurst Shed

The Shed is Open
Come and visit
Saturday &
Tuesday 10am - 4pm
Open to everyone -



Contact
Tom Cooke 0488 557 345 for more information



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Saturday - 8.00am - 2.00pm

Sunday - CLOSED

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Tourism helping to revive Penshurst

By John Garland, Hamilton Spectator 30 December, 2023 Reprinted with their permission.

PENSHURST has recently experienced a business revival. With new shopfronts and owners bolstering the ranks, the town's business people are allying to capitalise on tourism growth in the region and their location on key travel routes. This is the first of six articles talking to locals and examining what may lie ahead for the town.

The Business Case

At least 716,000 cars travelled through Penshurst in 2017, according to the latest VicRoads traffic data available. Those numbers are before the town's neighbours really got on the map when Port Fairy won 2019 Aussie Town of the Year, and the opening of the Grampians Peaks Trail made a national splash. The trail's Stage 2 opened in 2021 and took home crowning glories with 'Best in Class' and the Gold Award for Architectural Design at the 2022 Australian Good Design Awards, and earned the state's highest design honour, the Victorian Architecture Medal.



Penshurst is right in between Dunkeld/Halls Gap and Port Fairy/Warrnambool, and drivers must go through it when travelling on the Hamilton Highway.

At least one business owner believes the number of cars through Penshurst could now be well over a million a year. In the last 12 months, Tourism Research Australia saw a 59 percent increase in tourist spend in the Grampians compared to pre-pandemic levels. Statewide, Victoria hit a record high of \$36 billion spent by visitors this year and Visit Victoria's *Stay Close, Go Further* campaign has reach 18 million people around Australia.

The Post Office

Smack bang in the centre of town is Bruce and Jenny Eccles' post office. As Australia Post veterans, they have built businesses around the state and say Penshurst is absolutely a standout location.

"This is a great spot for a young family to start off, or older people to retire, or people who want to start up businesses," Mrs Eccles said. "It is still affordable, but with space – two schools, a kinder, hospital, a bowling club, substantial football club."

"I do not doubt it, this town will be like another Hepburn-Trentham type town," Mr Eccles said, referencing two tourist magnets in the Daylesford area known for their natural beauty, shopping options and old-world charm. "You don't want to go to the coast? It's 50 minutes, you are in Port Fairy, one of the best towns in Australia with multiple tourism awards. You have Halls Gap, multiple tourism awards. The Great Southern Trail is down here on the Great Ocean Road. We can hook the boat up and go down to Nelson and Pritchards, the Glenelg River. Two hours and you are in the Coonawarra region."

"The town itself has much to offer, with its dormant volcano, discovery centre, botanic gardens and the bird sanctuary at Yatmerone Reserve," Mr Eccles said. "Everything is here to happen, you just need the volcano to erupt."

Tourism helping to revive Peshurst (continued)

What it takes

Not obvious are the businesses who operate out of their own homes, manufacturing products like earrings and metalwork to sell online. "We recently put together a group of businesses to rebirth the farmers' market in the town and that could be an ongoing event," Mr Eccles said. "We are hoping to do the first one in March. The group we have got has 24 people involved in it in all walks of business," he said. "They are motivated, they do not need motivating."

Peshurst's lack of sewerage gives it a distinct advantage. "Peshurst is an old septic town, so most of the properties are on two blocks so people have the luxury of space. If they put a shed in, they can manufacture and still run a business from home. We have people who have moved to the town ... who regularly do markets in Warrnambool and Hamilton, and they are very talented people. We have a fantastic bakery where people come all over for food and everyone knows it as – 'oh Peshurst, that's the town with the bakery'."

He made the point that anyone coming off the Spirit of Tasmania may want to only drive a couple of hours before they rest for the night, and Peshurst's caravan park and hotel gives them the opportunity to do that. "If you don't want to take a bit 21-foot, 24-foot caravan down the Great Ocean Road, or you want to go to Robe, this is the place you want to come through. "It ticks all the boxes; we just have to sell Peshurst."

One Step Back

Unfortunately, we have started this and driven this, but we are selling the business," Mr Eccles relayed, explaining his children and grandkids all still live in Gippsland. "It is a half-finished plan in a sense, but our demographic has come in and made this place a better place and a comfortable place to shop."

Reflecting on the importance of keeping small towns alive, he pointed out what he sees as making them special. "These rural towns, they are community hubs," he said. "There are people who come in the door who are in their 60s, 70s; they are not technology minded, or they have lost a partner and they need someone who can help them out with tech or a few forms. That is part of the job in this town. It is not just about business and how much I can take off you, it is about how we can serve you as a community, and how the community can serve the business back. How many businesses do you walk into now and someone looks up at you like 'you're interfering with my texting time'?"

Mr Eccles said properties on the market don't last long in this now. "They are onto it because it is a peaceful town, it is easy to go in and it has a good community spirit to it."

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Our Defining Discussions.

I once made the point that the Archangel Gabrielle knows before he visits the Virgin Mary that this will be a defining discussion. He is well aware that once he steps over the threshold, Mary's life will be changed forever. There can be no going back to her uncomplicated, quiet life.

The angel's next step will slice her story in two, dividing all the days before, from all the ones to come.

It occurs to me that this is not the only defining discussion that has ever occurred in the history of the world. These sorts of discussions are happening all the time. Some of them are appalling. Like when you are made redundant or a grim medical prognosis. That really slices your life in two.

'Dividing all the days before from all the ones to come.'

Some are actually questions like 'Will you marry me?' Whatever the answer, the two people can never be the same again and a series of unstoppable events is ushered in.

It's worth reflecting on these defining discussions and to wonder what might have happened if we had answered differently. It's even more important to reflect on the timbre of the conversation. The way things were said, particularly if you initiated the discussion. Then you had the advantage of knowing that the discussion was about to happen and therefore some power. With this comes responsibility and a duty of care for the respondent.

Finally there is the adjusting to the new circumstances. How are the people travelling in these new days? Even couples that have 'reunited' find themselves in a 'different landscape' with new rules and new ways of operating.

All of us have 'defining discussions'. It's not a matter of if they occur. It's when they occur and how they occur.

Fr. David Oulton p. 0435 867 040 droulton72@gmail.com

The conversation I never had.

They were a smart couple. Attractive, young and obviously 'together.'

They were shown to a cosy table just for two. They ordered and then I thought they would hold hands, look into each others eyes and mutter luscious things to each other.

Not so. Instead of gazing at each other's comely countenance, they each took out their own phones and they stared hypnotically into the screen in front of them. So in my mind I had a conversation with them. Sometimes I wish that I had had the fortitude to actually conduct this conversation but maybe it's better that I didn't. Anyhow, here's the conversation I never had.

Me: "Excuse me... sorry to interrupt, but I couldn't help noticing that you are spending a hefty amount of time and energy looking at your phone when you are obviously together."

The young lady: Without looking up at me "Yeah .. just checking out ..."

Continued page 9

Thank you Penshurst!



In 2023, we visited four country shows and seven small towns, including Penshurst in November, as part of our Community Roadshow. More than 440 people shared their thoughts about our customer outcomes and more than 100 people completed our survey.

What we heard

Our day in Penshurst was all about water quality. We talked about taste, sediment in some old pipes, and the colour and hardness of the water.

People also appreciated our responsiveness and told us about how quickly issues were resolved.

You also told us

About how you save water by using water efficient appliances and recycling water where you can.

You suggested that our bills could be reviewed as you were not aware of the customer support programs we already have in place.

Customer outcomes

We asked you to rate our 2023-2028 customer outcomes.

Your top priority was for us to focus on water quality including:

- Taste
- Sediment
- Colour
- Hardness

How will we use your feedback?

We want to find ways to improve our services, inform key business decisions, and look at trends so we can support your needs as a Wannon Water customer.



Feel free to contact us with any further feedback

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LIONS CLUB OF PENSHURST & DISTRICT FRUIT CAKES

We still have some of our world-renowned scrumptious fruit cakes for sale.

These cakes are too nice to just eat at Christmas time. It's great to have a piece with a cuppa any time of the year. A slice warmed up with a little bit of custard and some cream or ice-cream is a decadent treat to spoil yourself with.

If anyone would like to purchase one for \$20 please see one of our Lions' members or phone 0418 141 301 to arrange to purchase one.



The conversation I never had. (continued)

and her voice petered out as she went on checking out ... well ... whatever it was she was checking out.

Undaunted and with my level of askance rising, I thought I would pursue a line of inquiry with the gentleman.

Me: "So, can I ask, 'have you been together long'?"

The young gentleman: "Yeah, about 6 weeks now" he says this almost matter-of-factly, without lifting his eyes from the screen and making eye contact with me or his girlfriend. "We just don't want to miss anything from our favourite social media platform."

Now this is an imaginary conversation. I can say whatever I like without fear of any consequences or being threatened with 'inappropriate behaviour' or curtly being asked to leave the cafe.

Me: "Don't you think you should actually be checking out each other. The thing that you are really missing out on, is actually right in front of you."

Fr. David Oulton p. 0435 867 040 droulton72@gmail.com

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Penshurst's News Agency

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Western AG Willaura - T: 03 5354 1585

Glen Gray - 0439 541 036

A PAGE TO SHARE RECIPES

Mexican Vegetarian Caesar Salad

Prep Time 10mins Cook time 15mins Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

From Taste.com.au

300g sweet potato, cut into 1.5cm pieces	2 baby gem lettuces, leaves separated
1 tbsp olive oil	400g can black beans, rinsed, drained
3 tsp taco spice mix	1 avocado, thinly sliced
260g (1 cup) Greek-style yoghurt	1 cup fresh coriander sprigs
1 lime, rind finely grated, juiced	100g corn chips
1 tsp honey	Pickled jalapeños, to serve (optional)

METHOD

Step 1

Preheat the oven to 240°C/220°C fan forced. Line a baking tray with baking paper. Place the sweet potato, oil and spice mix on prepared tray and season. Toss to combine. Roast for 15 minutes or until the sweet potato is tender.

Step 2

Combine the yoghurt, lime zest, juice and honey in a bowl. Season.

Step 3

Divide lettuce among plates. Fill with beans, avocado and sweet potato mixture. Coarsely crumble some corn chips over the top. Drizzle with dressing. Serve with jalapeños, if you like, and the remaining corn chips.



Passionfruit Flummery

Prep Time: 5h 15m Servings 6

- 3 tsp (7g sachet) gelatine powder
- 300ml thickened cream
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup (60g) caster sugar
- 8 passionfruit plus extra passionfruit pulp, to serve

· Step 1

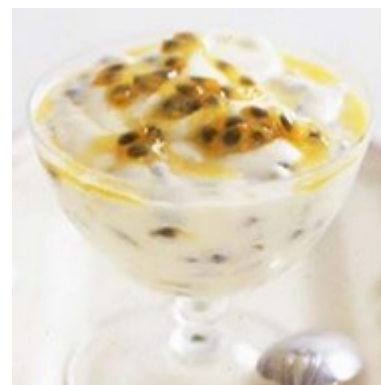
Put 2 tablespoons warm water in a heatproof bowl and sprinkle over 3 teaspoons (7g sachet) gelatine powder. Bring a saucepan of water to the boil. Remove from heat. Sit the bowl of gelatine in the water, stir until dissolved. Remove bowl and set aside at room temperature.

· Step 2

Use an electric beater to beat 300ml thickened cream until soft peaks form. Use clean beaters to beat 2 eggs and 1/4 cup (60g) caster sugar until pale and thick and a ribbon trail forms when the beaters are lifted.

· Step 3

Fold egg mixture through cream. Fold in gelatine and pulp from 8 passionfruit. Spoon into 6 x 3/4 cup (185ml) serving glasses and chill for 4-5 hours. Serve with extra passionfruit pulp.



Penshurst Hair Design



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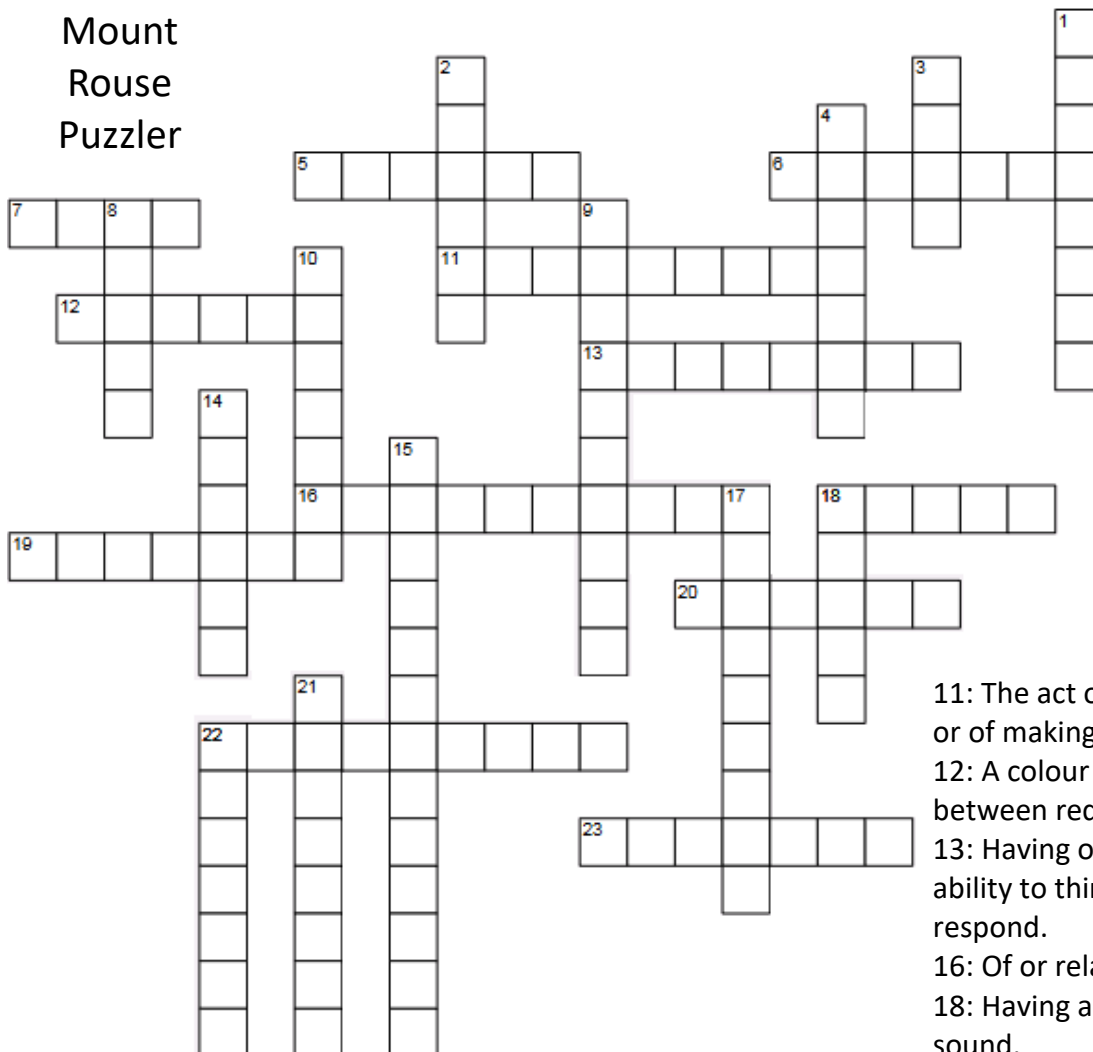
✉ dan.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au

📷 DanTehan

📘 DanTehanWannon



Mount
Rouse
Puzzler



Across:

- 5: Easily broken, torn, etc.
6: To get things from different places and bring them together.
7: A small, quick sound that is made by a machine such as a clock and that often occurs in a series to produce a rhythm.

- 11: The act of becoming bigger or of making something bigger.
12: A colour that is between red and blue.
13: Having or showing no ability to think, feel, or respond.
16: Of or relating to science.
18: Having a rough, harsh sound.

19: A thin rod or stick with pointed ends that is used in making yarn.

20: Strong and healthy.

22: To say or show that something may not be true, correct, or legal.

23: The low, soft sound that a cat makes when it is happy.

Down:

1: The dark-red root of the beet plant eaten as a vegetable.

2: Something you make using numerals.

3: A chemical element that is a valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery.

4: Ending in a point.

8: To add people or things together.

9: Having a pleasing mixture or combination of notes.

10: To allow a person or animal to leave a jail, cage, prison, etc.

14: Chosen, done, etc., without a particular plan

or pattern.

15: Including many things of different kinds.

17: The system of moving wheels inside something that makes its parts move.

18: A way from a starting point to a destination.

21: Very similar and often happening at the same time.

22: A sentence or group of words that is written on or next to a picture to explain what is being shown.

Answers from last fortnight:
Across: 5 tools, 6 modify, 8 barbed, 9 earth, 14 poke, 15 memorise, 19 containers, 20 smartest, 22 mythologies, 23 optimistic, 24 favourite, 25 carrying. **Down:** 1 forty, 2 brains, 3 young, 4 convince, 7 lackluster, 10 restrict, 11 specifically, 12 colours, 13 birdbrain, 16 scientist, 17 crows, 18 omen, 21 reputation.

Community Meetings**Boram Boram Cemetery Trust**

- Contact Jeff Jellie 0407 781 407 or Sue 0418 141 301

Caramut & District Garden Club

- 2nd Tuesday monthly at 10 am. See Garden Notes for venue.

Penshurst Hospital

- Combined Churches service 3rd Tuesday every month in W.J. Lewis wing at 11 am.
- Penshurst Hospital Ladies Auxiliary, 3rd Tuesday each month, Sheppard Room 1.30 pm.
- Residents, Relatives & Carers group, Tuesday bi-monthly, 1:30 pm.

Penshurst Social Support Group

- WDHS meets every Thursday; for Exercise, Activities, Outings and General chit chat. Join us for lots of fun & laughter, Sheppard Centre, - Penshurst Hospital. Please contact Fiona Social Support Group Coordinator on 03-5551 8381 Or @ WDHS on 55518683

Mount Rouse & District Historical Society

- Meetings - 4th Sunday in January, March, May, July, September and November, 2pm at the Court House. New members are most welcome. Contact Joy Doherty 0408 360 801.
- The Court House open for Visitors 1st Saturday each month 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Friends Yatmerone Reserve

- Meeting 2nd Tuesday every second month, commencing February at Volcanoes Discovery Centre 7.30 pm. New members welcome.

Lions Club of Penshurst & District

- 1st Friday dinner meeting. 3rd Tuesday business meeting, each month at 8 pm at Penshurst Memorial Hall, 21 Martin Street. penshurst.vic@lions.org.au

Penshurst Book Club - meets 3rd Tuesday each month at 2pm. Contact Ruth Pihl on 0490418313

**AmbulanceVictoria**

The Penshurst Branch is staffed by local Ambulance Community Officers (ACOs).

Ambulance Victoria is looking for people to join the Penshurst team. If you are interested in becoming an ACO or would like further information, please follow the link below.

<https://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/careers/become-a-first-responder/>

Penshurst Bowls Club

- Pennant Season (October - February) meets 1st Thursday at 7.30pm Alaister 0427 555 973
- Off Season 1st Tuesday at 7.30pm.

Penshurst Pony Club Rally

- 1st Sunday each month. Phone Jenni 0409 962 969

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 Church Services**Bethlehem Lutheran Church Tabor**

Service every Sunday 10.00am

Penshurst Anglican Church

5pm Mass 4th Sunday each month

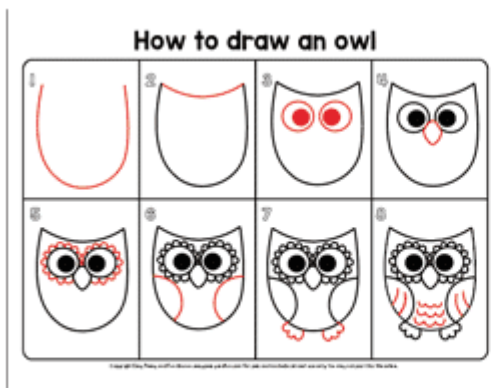
For further details contact Janet Kelly on 0475685946 & Fr. David Oulton 0435867040

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



<https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/how-to-draw-an-owl/>

The Early Owl

by Oliver Herford

An owl once lived in a hollow tree,
And he was as wise as wise could be.
The branch of learning he didn't know
Could scarce on the tree of knowledge grow,
He knew the tree from branch to root,
And an owl like that can afford to hoot.

And he hooted — until, alas! one day,
He chanced to hear, in a casual way,
An insignificant little bird
Make use of a term he had never heard.
He was flying to bed in the dawning light
When he heard her singing with all her might,
"Hurray! hurray! for the early worm!"
"Dear me," said the owl, "what a singular term!
I would look it up if it weren't so late,
I must rise at dusk to investigate.
Early to bed and early to rise
Makes an owl healthy, and stealthy, and wise!"

So he slept like an honest owl all day,
And rose in the early twilight gray,
And went to work in the dusky light
To look for the early worm at night.

He searched the country for miles around,
But the early worm was not to be found;
So he went to bed in the dawning light
And looked for the "worm" again next night.
And again and again, and again and again,
He sought and he sought, but all in vain,
Till he must have looked for a year and a day
For the early worm in the twilight gray.

At last in despair he gave up the search,
And was heard to remark as he sat on his perch
By the side of his nest in the hollow tree:
"The thing is as plain as night to me —
Nothing can shake my conviction firm.
There's no such thing as the early worm."

<https://discoverpoetry.com/poems/owl-poems/>



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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS — Saturday 3rd February 2024

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 : Ama Cooke

All correspondence to: mtrousenewsletter@gmail.com

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