

# *MT ROUSE News & Views*



## *Community Newsletter*



**BINGO!**

**Senior  
Citizens  
celebrating  
their  
success.**

**Story page  
2**

Important

**PUB  
UPDATE**

**Stones,  
Springs and  
Wild Things  
community  
seminar a  
success**

**Story page 3**



*This colour page sponsored by Florence Collins. Thank you.*

**BINGO!****Penshurst Senior Citizens Club benefits from  
a Smarty grant**

Thank you to the SGSC for their grant for a new speaker system for the Penshurst Senior Citizens Club, also available to other groups for use.

Pictured are Helen Brown and Ray Allan, after another successful Bingo! afternoon, followed by a delicious afternoon tea (pictured front page).

**Emma KEALY MP****NATIONALS MEMBER FOR LOWAN**

**"If you have an issue you need a hand to resolve, or a great idea on how we can make our region a better place to live, work, study, and do business, I would love to hear from you."**



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[emma.kealy@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:emma.kealy@parliament.vic.gov.au)



## Seminar Highlights Scientific and Social Insights into Wetlands and Volcanic Landscapes

The recent Stones, Springs and Wild Things community seminar held at Penshurst Memorial Hall was a resounding success, drawing a diverse group of attendees from across the region. Hosted by Friends of Yatmerone and the Penshurst Volcanoes Discovery Centre, the event featured a rich program of expert talks, local history, and community engagement.

The seminar commenced with a warm Welcome to Country by Shane Harrison, a proud Kirrae Whurrung man from the Framlingham settlement (right), setting a meaningful tone for the day's proceedings.

Throughout the day, participants engaged with a series of insightful presentations. Dr James Driscoll of Monash University explored the explosive origins of the Victorian Volcanic Plains. Dr John Webb from La Trobe University examined the hydrogeology and geochemistry of groundwater and related this to the local area. Dr Birgita Hansen from Federation University shared the latest research on the intercontinental migration of Latham's Snipe. Dr Greg Kerr from Nature Glenelg Trust discussed what makes a wetland healthy and why wetlands are vital in a drying climate.

Researchers from the Mt Rouse & District Historical Society added a rich social and historical layer to the scientific discussions by sharing stories, maps, and archival documents about local wetlands and the iconic Latham's Snipe. The Society also launched its new publication, *Stones, Springs and Wild Things: A short history of Latham's Snipe around the Mt Rouse landscape*, marking a significant contribution to local environmental history.

In addition to the presentations, the seminar featured a series of engaging displays. These included exhibits from the Penshurst Volcanoes Discovery Centre, the Glenelg Hopkins CMA's Growing Grass Frog project and a collection of maps from the Mt Rouse Historical Society. Nature-inspired artwork by Macarthur artist Wendy Black added a creative dimension to the event. The Friends of Yatmerone also facilitated a mapping activity, inviting participants to contribute their knowledge of local wetlands and wetland bird species to a district map.

"This seminar brought together science, history, and community in a truly inspiring way," said Alison Farrar, President of Friends of Yatmerone. "The level of engagement and interest shows how deeply people care about our local environment and heritage."

The Penshurst and District Lions Club provided lunch and refreshments, helping to create a welcoming and well-catered experience for all attendees. The seminar was supported through the Glenelg Hopkins CMA and the Victorian State Government's Landcare Grants Program.



A COMMUNITY TALENT SHOW EXTRAVAGANZA

# PENSHURST'S GOT TALENT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 18TH  
DOORS OPEN 5.30PM. SHOW COMMENCES 6PM  
PENSHURST MEMORIAL HALL

Join us in celebrating our fabulous community talent show  
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**Big Plans for Penshurst - Hamilton Spectator 15 August 2025**

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THE small, picturesque town of Penshurst is embarking on a series of ambitious projects aimed at celebrating its rich history and enhancing its community spaces, in particular the Penshurst Botanic Gardens. Thanks to a significant \$50,000 budget approval from council, the town is ready to bring several key initiatives outlined in the council's master plan to life. This funding will kickstart a range of improvements in the gardens designed to attract visitors and provide a better experience for residents.

The old barbecue gazebo will be getting a \$20,000 makeover, with the structure being repaired and enlarged. The new and improved design will include seating.

The footbridge over the ponds will undergo much-needed repairs, with new handrails to be installed. There will also be more interpretive signage as well as additional plantings to revitalise the gardens. This will provide a boost to local tourism allowing visitors to learn about the unique flora.

Long-term plans include the transformation of the old tennis court building into a modern camp kitchen for the local caravan park, complete with a new deck out front. For the younger members of the community, it is hoped that shade sails will be installed over the play equipment, ensuring they can play safely and comfortably during the warmer months.

One of the most anticipated projects is an historical walking trail.

The town hopes to install striking corten steel silhouettes depicting people from the 1800s, serving as a powerful visual tribute to Penshurst's bustling past. This unique artistry, combined with new directional and interpretive signage around town, will guide visitors on a journey through time.

The town's passionate progress association has already laid the groundwork for this, having installed 14 historical plaques that tell the stories of Penshurst's pioneers and impressive buildings. With another 19 plaques in the pipeline, this dedication ensures that the town's heritage will be preserved for future generations.

With the combined efforts of the Council, the history society, the Volcanic Discovery Centre, the progress association and community members, Penshurst is setting a shining example of how a small community can work together to achieve big things.

One of the major projects is the rebirth of the town's pub, the Penshurst Hotel, into a community-owned concern. Save the Pub project leader Ray Allan said the campaign was born out of a need to revitalise the township and retain the communities last remaining pub.

"We had a couple of community meeting about the hotel and we agreed to run it as a community collective and started raising funds," Mr Allan said, whose background is in senior property management.

"We are still fundraising but as of this week we now have \$355,000 in the bank. We are looking to raise \$500,000 to settle on the property."



Continued  
page 8



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**“Broken-heartedness is the beginning of all real reception”. Jack Hirschman**

Jack’s line seems rather brutal and not one of the most uplifting phrases that have ever been written. When we have our hearts broken, as we all have and as we all do, we have a choice. We could barricade ourselves securely behind the concrete pylons of bitterness, revenge and retribution. This will effectively keep any potential and possibilities of close relationship and intimacy safely away in another ‘country’, a different dimension. This ensures that the same gut wrenching of hurt can never envelop us again.

Or... we could, if we are very brave and over a long period of time with lots of bumps, bruises and relapses, use the experience to refine our gifts of compassion, understanding and empathy.

In a world that seems to have fiercely set up its cement and barbed wire borders, we need folk that can empathise and understand. Those who, when they hear us howl, can say to themselves... ‘Ah yes I remember this bit. I know what this felt like. I would really have appreciated someone just to sit with me and maybe just quietly pass me yet another box of tissues.’

We need people who will wisely, graciously and with great tenderness receive us when we are at our lowest.

Jack’s words are a call to all of us to transfigure that revolting experience which is our most ickiest, into the most welcoming and sought after ministry.

The really good news is that you don’t need to have a clerical collar to do this. Some of the most scrumptious acts of caring I have ever had the privilege of receiving have been from people that are exactly like you dear reader and you have left me inspired and always wanting more.

### **Of knitting**

At this time of year you may well have noticed that I wear lovely knitted jumpers. These are warm and personal and it is a great joy to wear them both practically and emotionally.

A lot of hours goes into the creation of one of these garments. It doesn’t just happen overnight. In fact it happens over many nights and it’s a wonder to watch them slowly emerge into the fashionable garment they become. Each stitch draws ever closer to the finished product. So what’s all this got to do with parish life and the sorting out the Church of God?

Most days are a single stitch, maybe 2 on a really good day. A little something happens, a conversation, a prayer, a reading, a surprise encounter, a cheeky text. It’s all just part of the potpourri of parish life. It’s hard to step back and see the progress that is being made. What has changed over time? Anything... something? The completed outfit in all its wonder lies hidden from us. We have to be content with just seeing part of what is happening. Sometimes it doesn’t look like much and there are some days when it certainly does not *feel* like much. But then, that’s OK. Maybe the threads of continuity and consistency are the strongest and most colourful and heartwarming of all. The simple knowledge that each and every day prayer is offered and we give The Almighty a chance to whisper back to us. You have to listen for a long time and like the knitting experience, not a lot seems to happen but everything is happening.

It’s helpful to look back over the years and reflect. Where have I / we come from? How has the garment changed, developed? Where were the blunders and just look at the progress?

## Big Plans for Penshurst - Hamilton Spectator 15 August 2025

Reprinted with permission (continued)

"Once we get the pub and the bistro back up and running we will look at seeing if we can open up the accommodation upstairs in the coming years," he said.

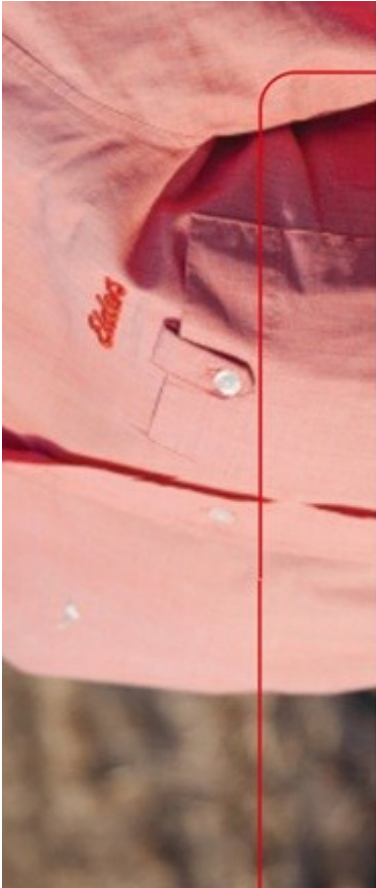
For anyone interested in being part of the Penshurst Hotel project, contact Ray on 0451 545 721

or savethepenshurstpub@outlook.com.

Penshurst also has a number of vibrant events coming up including a Look Over the Farm Gate free mental health lunch for farmers on October 4 at the Footy Club and the Penshurst's Got Talent variety night on October 18th.

### Jokes with a theme

- 1. Why are waterbeds so bouncy?**  
They're filled with spring water.
- 2. Does February march?**  
No, but April may!
- 3. Which month of the year is the shortest?**  
May. It only has three letters.
- 4. What can you find in the middle of April and March but not at the beginning or end of either?**  
The letter R!
- 5. What did the dirt say to the rain?**  
You'd better cut it out, or my name will be mud!
- 6. What did the flower say when he found out it was allergy season again?**  
"You've got to be pollen my leg."



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## ***Creative***

### Our Town Now

We've travelled all over the country and all over the world,  
Many places we've seen and many a place yet to see,  
But all the time we've wanted to find that one special place,  
The town that is our 'happy place' the place we want to be.

Not saying we have not been happy in the places we have lived,  
But have looked far and wide and bought and sold here and there,  
To find that one place where we will stay to the end our days,  
A place where we feel safe, at home, welcomed and people really care.

People often say you're not local, you're not from here,  
You weren't born or grew up in this town,  
But we say we have bought here and made it our home,  
We have new friends here; we are 'new locals' and often just get a frown.

Being in a community is not about living in it behind your four walls,  
It's about getting out and volunteering to help when you can,  
Putting your hand up when a neighbour needs a hand,  
Caring for and helping your fellow man.

We wanted to live in the country in the southwest of Victoria,  
So, after much searching and a few false starts we ended up here,  
In beautiful Penshurst at the foot of Mt Rouse.  
A place we now feel at home in and is becoming very dear.

Robert R Allan - 2025

*Robert R Allan (known as Ray and a new community member) has been writing poetry on a wide range of subjects for almost 50 years and hopes you have enjoyed his first and is going to send one in each fortnight. If you also write poetry please send in to start an ongoing poetry page in the newsletter.*

### **Community Lunch** - 24th August 2025

We had 20 people attend (not all in photo) as unfortunately we clashed with the footy and a few people were also sick and couldn't make it, but we still had another great get together with lots of warm and yummy food to share.

Our next event will be a free Sunday BBQ in the Botanical Gardens in November - look out for more info and come along and catch up with friends and neighbours.





## Look Over the Farm Gate - Farmer Mental Health

Free BBQ Lunch by Penshurst Lions Club

Saturday 4 Oct 25 – 1 to 4pm

Penshurst Football Clubhouse (bar open for purchases)

### Guest Speakers

- Em Howells – BPsych (Hons) – Mental Health Advocate
- Kelly Marson – Community Activation Team Leader - Let's Talk Foundation

Come along and listen to our two great guest speakers, catch up with friends, discuss challenges other farmers may also be facing, and receive practical information on how and where to get help and support with difficult mental health and drought issues associated with farming in South-Western Victoria.

If you can't make it or are struggling now in any way – reach out, speak up, get help!

**It's OKAY to NOT BE OKAY!**

Lifeline – 13 11 14

Beyond Blue – 1300 224 636

Farmer Health – 03 5551 8533



This event is supported by a Look Over the Farm Gate grant provided by Agriculture Victoria under the Victorian Government's 2025 Drought Support Package. #LookOverTheFarmGate



This event is organised by the Penshurst3289 Progress Association and Penshurst Lions Club

Any questions regarding the event please contact Ray Allan, PPA Vice-President on 0451 545 721





## A PAGE TO SHARE RECIPES

**5 Ingredients Chicken & Broccoli Pasta**

Prep Time 5 mins    Cook 15 mins    Serves 6

## INGREDIENTS

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

350g [broccoli](#), cut into small florets,  
stems cut into matchsticks  
300g dried curly fettuccine pasta  
1/2 barbecued chicken, skin and bones  
removed, meat coarsely shredded

2 x 80g Boursin Garlic & Herbs cheese  
125g (3/4 cup) sun-dried tomatoes, coarsely  
chopped

Step 1 - Bring a large saucepan of water to the boil. Add the broccoli and cook for 2 minutes or until bright green and tender crisp. Use a slotted spoon to transfer the broccoli to a bowl. Add the pasta to the boiling water and cook following packet directions or until al dente.



Step 2 - While the pasta cooks, heat a frying pan over medium-high heat. Add chicken, broccoli, cheese and tomato. Use a ladle to transfer 250ml (1 cup) pasta cooking water to the chicken mixture. Stir until the cheese melts. Continue to cook, tossing, for 2-3 minutes or until heated through.

Step 3 - Drain the pasta and add to the broccoli mixture. Toss until well combined. Season.

**Vegetarian Tikka Masala**

1/2 cup (150g) tikka masala curry paste	1 cauliflower, cut into florets
800g Kent pumpkin, seeded, cut into 5cm pieces	400g can diced tomatoes
	270ml can coconut milk

## Step 1

Heat a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add the curry paste and cook for 1 min or until aromatic.

## Step 2

Add pumpkin, cauliflower, tomato and 1 cup (250ml) water. Bring to the boil. Reduce heat to medium-low. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 25 mins or until pumpkin is tender.

## Step 3

Add the coconut milk and stir to combine. Bring to a simmer. Season.



# DAN TEHAN

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WANNON



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## Penshurst Hair Design

Update:

All is well and  
I am on the mend.



I am expecting to  
be back at work  
from the 16th  
September. Please  
ring me to book an  
appointment.

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## Dragonflies

For the young and young  
at heart.

What do Dragonflies look like?

Neither dragons nor flies, dragonflies are insects with more than 320 species known to live in Australia.

Dragonflies have a wide body with 2 pairs of wings. When they rest, their wings lie flat just like when they are in flight as they cannot fold them over their bodies.

Dragonflies can be up to 15 centimetres in length. Different species have distinctive markings and colours, so with practice, you'll be able to recognise one type from another, just like birds.

Where are Dragonflies found?

Dragonflies are common around Australia wherever there is freshwater such as a pond, stream, river or lake. Different species emerge at different times of year, so keep a look out no matter what month it is.

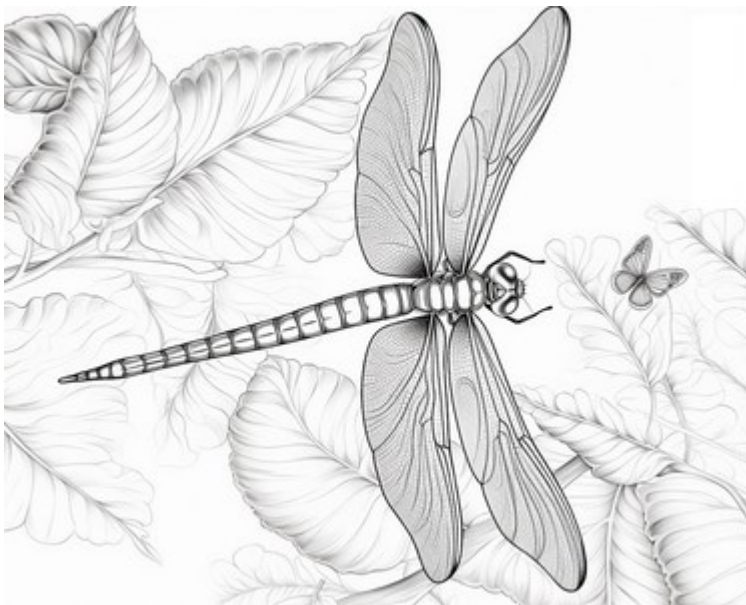
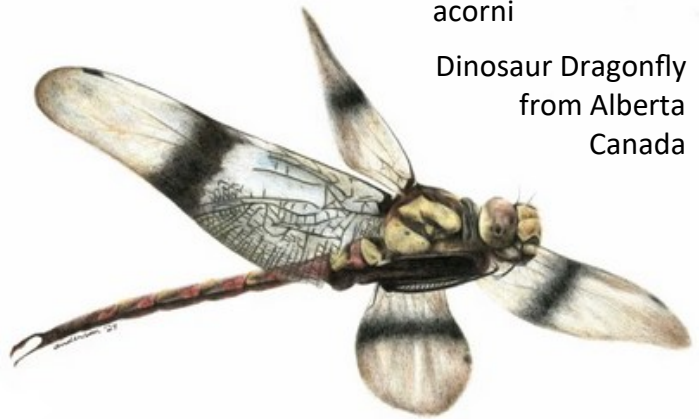
Fast facts:

Dragonflies have been around on earth for around 300 million years. At the time of the dinosaurs, their wingspan would have measured a scary 70 centimetres.

The breeding season for Dragonflies lasts up to three weeks, and many species flaunt bright colours on their wings and bodies to attract a mate. Males may even become territorial and will defend their turf against any rival that tries to upstage him.

*Corduladensa  
acorni*

Dinosaur Dragonfly  
from Alberta  
Canada



### A Dragonfly

When the heat of the summer

Made drowsy the land,

A dragonfly came

And sat on my hand,

With its blue jointed body,

And wings like spun glass,

It lit on my fingers

As though they were grass.

By Eleanor Farjeon

Handle with care. Dragonflies can bite, though it is uncommon and only occurs when they feel threatened, such as if they are caught and handled carelessly. They do not sting, but their powerful jaws, which they use to hunt insects, can pinch or break human skin, especially with larger species. A dragonfly bite is not dangerous and is a defensive action, not an aggressive one.

## Penshurst Shed



Open Saturday & Tuesday  
10am - 4pm

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### Contact

Tom Cooke 0488 557 345



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**Community Calendar & Contacts**

**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 or contact Marita 0439 669 839

**Penshurst Hospital**

- Combined Churches service 3rd Tuesday every month in W.J. Lewis wing at 11 am.
- 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 the Social Support Group Coordinator on 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 the Secretary 0418 141 301. The Court House open for Visitors 1st Saturday each month 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

**Friends Yatmerone Reserve**

- 7.30 pm Community Room behind the Volcano Discovery Centre 11 March, 13 May, 8 July, 9 Sept, 11 Nov and 9 Dec. New members welcome.

**Lions Club of Penshurst & District**

- 1st Friday dinner meeting. 3rd Tuesday business meeting, each month at 8 pm.  
Venue TBA penshurst.vic@lions.org.au

**Penshurst Progress Association (PPA)**

- See page 20



**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/>

If you would like to chat to a local ACO, please email [penshurst.teamleader@ambulance.vic.gov.au](mailto:penshurst.teamleader@ambulance.vic.gov.au)

**Penshurst Senior Citizens**

- See page 20

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

**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.  
Contact Jenni 0409 962 969

**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  
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 5pm

3rd Sunday Lay Service 8.30am

4th Sunday Mass 5pm

5th Sunday No Service

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**Across:** 3: To tell someone that you are grateful for something that he or she has done or given.

6: To intentionally disregard.

7: This is where you go buy plants for your garden.

9: A public sale at which things are sold to the people who offer to pay the most.

10: A bag filled with soft material that is used as a cushion usually for the head of a person who is lying down.

13: Research that is done to get information about what people want to buy, why they want to buy it, etc.

15: A small object produced by a plant from which a new plant can grow.

16: The flesh of an animal used as food.

17: A picture pattern pieced together by small, coloured, hard material.

18: Covering an opening.

20: Out a vaccination program.

22: A flat piece of stone, clay, or wood that has writing on it.

**Down:**

1: To look at someone or something very quickly.

2: A small piece of a substance that has many sides and is formed when the substance turns into a solid.

4: The conditions that surround someone or something.

5: An area of land.

6: To bring a product into a country to be sold.

8: The spiritual part of a person that is believed to give life to the body and in many religions is believed to live forever.

10: To make into a small package.

11: A person who has written something for publishing or who writes in a particular way.

12: A marked path where people can safely walk across a street or road.

14: Public praise, honour, and fame.

15: Having a flat, even surface.

19: Not hard to do.

21: A surprise attack on an enemy by soldiers or other military forces.

**Answers from last fortnight:** 2 spy, 3 desire, 4 glimpse, 6 unlikely, 7 commission, 10 evoke, 11 mugger, 13 oil, 17 complete, 18 convict, 19 swear, 20 carpet, 21 hard, 22 clock.  
**Down:** 1 particles, 2 stake, 5 unclear, 8 manufacture, 9 abridge, 11 minimise, 12 sweet, 14 ban, 15 general, 16 post, 18 crutch.

Mount  
Rouse Puzzler

**Mt Rouse News & Views  
Community Newsletter**

Published by  
**Mt Rouse Community Newsletter Inc**  
ABN 95 801 619 635

**"Mt Rouse News & Views Community Newsletter"** is the registered business name of the Mt Rouse Community Newsletter

Registered Address: 103 Cobb Street,  
Penshurst 3289

Submissions 46 Watton Street.

**DEADLINE FOR CURRENT SUBMISSIONS -  
Saturday 13th September 2025**

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

Also available in colour online at  
[www.penshurstvictoria.com.au/  
Penshurst%20Newsletter.html](http://www.penshurstvictoria.com.au/Penshurst%20Newsletter.html)

**Newsletter Advertising Rates**

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**1/4 page** \$7.50

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Our newsletter is free due to the continuing support of our advertisers. Thank you.

**Community Calendar Dates**

- **PPA**  
4th Wednesday of every second month at 7pm (Jul, Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, May) – community meeting at the Memorial Hall Committee meetings – as required  
24 Aug 25 – Sunday - Community Lunch Event – lunch at Memorial Hall at 12 noon  
4 Oct 25 – Saturday - Look Over the Farm Gate Event – free BBQ lunch for farmers - venue TBA  
18 Oct 25 – Variety Concert at Memorial Hall - starting at 6pm  
17 Aug – 2pm – meet talent, 31 Aug – 2pm – 1st rehearsal, 5 Oct – 2pm – 2nd rehearsal
- **CWA**  
4th Tuesday of each month at Senior Citizen's Club – 7pm in Jun, Jul & Aug – 7.30pm other months – not Dec
- **Ukulele Club**  
Sundays at 2pm at Senior Citizen's Club



**Mobile Library**

Will be visiting Penshurst  
every Thursday fortnight  
3.00 - 4.00pm

**Outside the Hall in Martin St**

11 & 25 September

**Phone: 5573 0470**

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