Mitchell and Surrounds Equine Landcare Group
Dedicated to caring for the land and the environment
   – For the benefit of our horses and our community –

Invites you to our Workshop

Integrated Pest Management for the Horse Farm
With Cindy Edwards

The reliance on chemicals to control internal parasites in horses is not sustainable and resistance to these chemicals is becoming increasingly evident. Administering chemical drenches to horses is expensive and hazardous to the horse handler. Continual use is not good for the horse’s health or welfare. Dung contaminated with chemicals is detrimental to the biodiversity of pastures and is harmful to the environment.

There is a better way!

Come and learn about sustainable, biological parasite management for horse farms.
   – includes manure management, dung beetle identification and a farm walk

All Welcome
Saturday 27 February 2016
Darraweit Guim Hall, Darraweit Guim war Memorial Hall
RSVP by 25 February for catering purposes.

Free for MSELG members or $25 for non-members.
Membership available on the day for $25.00, includes the Workshop

9am registration 9.30am start – 12.30pm
Light lunch provided

For more information and to RSVP contact Christine Barbuto on 0429964059
email mitchellequinelandcare@hotmail.com
Happy Birthday in February to
Roma Heanly 6th
Alannah Smith 11th
Ethan Scott 15th
Harry North 24th

Old blankets, towels and old pillow cases wanted
If you have any old blankets, towels (even with holes) and pillow cases (without holes) that you are not using or throwing in the bin or taking to the op shop Helen Callahan is collecting them for a shelter.
Please, no pillows or cushions because they cannot be used.
If you have any please ring Helen 5789 1305 and she will pick them up from you.

Our community on Facebook
Put into the Facebook search: Darraweit-Guim-CFA for CFA News
DarraweitGuim The Where’s the Fox Hat site including the latest Guim Tales and other news
DarraweitGuimPS our Primary School

Book club
Monday 8th Feb
7:30 pm

Well, we gave the mornings a go, but some member’s circumstances have changed, and we have decided we preferred the evening sessions, still at the tennis club, now on the 2nd Monday of the month. Hope everybody is keeping up...

As advised, this month's monster book is The Sunne in Splendour, a historical novel written by Sharon Kay Penman. So keen on the concept of Richard the 3rd she wrote the whole book twice, (after the first version was stolen from her car!).

Next month: Reckoning by Magda Szubanski. This tale of war and suburbia, sexuality and comedy, is likely to be the most popular Australian book of the year. Anyone who doesn't adore Magda the clown will be awed by Szubanski the A-grade non-fiction writer.

Come along this month and talk books, or maybe chat about this and that, and maybe you could come along just to suggest a book we may try next time? Come along to the tennis club and, if nothing else, have a cup of tea!
2016 Kinder enrolments

There are limited places available in four-year-old kinder programs at Council kindergartens in Gisborne, Kyneton, Lancefield, Macedon, Riddells Creek, Romsey and Woodend. There are also limited places in our three-year-old activity groups at Gisborne, Kyneton, Macedon and Romsey.

If your child turns three or four before 30 April 2016, they may be eligible to these programs and we are still accepting late enrolments.

If you hold a current Health Care Card, you may be eligible to enrol at low or no cost.

Registration forms are available online, mrsc.vic.gov.au/children, or at any of Council’s customer service centres in Gisborne, Kyneton, Romsey and Woodend.

For more information, contact Council’s Early Years unit on 5422 0333.

Music in the Sticks is looking for new members

If you are aged 14–25 and interested in learning a range of new skills in areas such as event management, sound and lighting, publicity, media, photography, film, hospitality, and live and studio recording—then Music in the Sticks (MITS) is where you need to be in 2016!

MITS is a program for young people in the Macedon Ranges Shire with an interest in the music industry. The group meets approximately twice a month and has been running for over 15 years.

To find out more or register your interest, contact Natalie on 5422 0333 or email mits@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Valentine’s Day movie at Hanging Rock
13th February from 7pm

Celebrate Valentine’s Day at Hanging Rock at the annual twilight viewing of Peter Weir’s film, ‘Picnic at Hanging Rock’ on Saturday 13 February.

Pack a picnic basket and blanket, and come and enjoy the unique atmosphere of watching the film as the sun sets behind the Rock.

Based on the 1967 novel by Joan Lindsay, the Australian classic was shot in 1975 and continues to fascinate with its intriguing tale of vanishing schoolgirls.

Tickets are $25 per adult, $10 per child and $60 for a family. Gates open at 7pm with the film beginning at dusk—at around 8.30pm. The café will be open for coffee and light snacks before the film begins.

For bookings visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/film-night. For enquiries, phone 5421 1468.
The rain drums on my roof as I’m writing this, in this very odd summer, and as I look out over our green backyard (with black bits from a couple of years ago) I am reminded that the arrangement of a house’s garden can have a significant affect on the impact of a bushfire. The garden needs to be part of the fire plan. Landscaping for bushfire is much the same as any type of gardening. It involves planning, designing, planting and managing the area around your house.

A CFA publication *Landscaping for Bushfire: Garden Design and Plant Selection* (find the link above) provides information on garden design and plant selection which can be used for new or existing gardens in high-risk bushfire areas.

The main aim? You should aim to keep the area around your house and other structures (such as carports and sheds) free of plants that can easily catch fire and then ignite the buildings. You should also separate the flammable elements from each other and the house itself.

Garden design should incorporate the following four principles:

- Create defendable space
- Remove flammable objects from around the house
- Break up fuel continuity (keep plants separate)
- Carefully select, locate and maintain trees.

Let’s hope it gets greener and greener.

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In other breaking news—welcome to the world, **Harry North**.

Harry arrived 24th January.

A new CFA recruit in the making?