Darraweit Guim
Community Fire Meeting

Where:  Darraweit Guim Memorial Hall
Date: 4 June 2014
Time: 7.30pm (supper provided)

Disasters may come on suddenly and then appear to pass quickly. But the results take many months of hard work to deal with.

Community information sessions are a great way to meet with others to talk about the impact of fires.

Dr Rob Gordon is an expert on disasters and emergencies, and has worked in recovery from the Bali Bombings, the 2004 Tsunami and the Victorian bushfires.

Come along to hear Rob talk about:

- how emergencies such as fires affect people and communities
- recognising and understanding how stress affects you and those around you
- how to look after yourself through a difficult period
- ways to look after your neighbours, family, friends and your community.

With the opportunity to ask questions and discuss issues, community information sessions can help you and your community recover from the impact of fires.

This session is being provided by Macedon Ranges Shire Council and the Department of Human Services.

Darraweit Guim War Memorial Hall
Sale of Gifts

It was wonderful to see a good crowd at the Sale this year. The number of available donations were enormous and Bert worked hard to get the best value from each for the hall. Chris’s sponges again bought high prices as did many jams and preserves.

We raised about $3500, thank you to all of you for your support.
Happy Birthday
In June to
Mairead Tighe 6th
Jack Landt 15th

The birthday list might look a bit thin, but we have decided that once you’re 21 we don’t need to announce your birthday.

Red Cross News
SAVE THIS DATE 19th September
for the AGL Community Dinner, supported by the Darraweit Guim Red Cross Unit.

More information and details in following editions of the Tales.

Anybody is most welcome to come to the Red Cross meetings held on the 4th Monday of the month at 9.30 a.m. at the Memorial Hall. If you are new to the area and would like to meet some of the locals, just come along and have a cuppa and a chat with no strings attached.

Bookclub – 17th June

For June, our book is *Burial Rites* by Hannah Kent. Iceland, murder, there will probably be geysers...

For July: *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion. Don is a creature of habit. His work, exercise, dinner, clothes, EVERYTHING is scheduled to the second with zero variation. Then he embarked on “The Wife Project”...

Come along to the tennis clubrooms at 7:30pm. We will discuss the book, and chat about this and that, and maybe you would like to come along just to suggest a book we may try next time?

School News

Last term, after the devastating February fires, the students of DGPS decided to hold a ‘Walkathon’ to raise funds for our local Fire Brigade to show appreciation for their amazing efforts during the ordeal faced by the township and surrounding areas.

The end result was the presentation of a cheque for $436.30 to Brigade Secretary Dani Craig by Liam Hewitt on behalf of the school community. Also visiting with Dani was Glen McKay who drove the DG Tanker 2 for the students to have a look at. It is hoped that this money will help with the replacement of the equipment stolen from the Brigade not long after fires.

Craft Group
Saturday 14th June.
At the hall at 12noon for lunch or 12:30 for craft. Everyone welcome
Help restore a neighbour’s garden

Did your garden survive the recent fires?  
Do you have time to strike some plants?

If the answer to either of these questions is yes then go forth and propagate. If you need pots to propagate into then call Viki on (5789 1237) and when your plants are ready for planting contact Lorreine Dalton (5789 1367) to arrange to drop them off.

If your garden suffered during the fires and you would appreciate some plants please contact Lorreine.

What makes our region special?

Residents, visitors and workers in the Macedon Ranges are invited to complete a 10-15 minute survey to inform a new planning statement that will recognise the region as an area of special significance in state-level planning policy.

Once developed, the statement will form part of Victorian Government policy within the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme, and will guide future development within the shire.

Survey respondents can choose to go in the draw to win an iPad mini. The survey is available online, [mrsc.vic.gov.au/planning-statement](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/planning-statement), and in Council service centres in Gisborne, Kyneton, Romsey and Woodend.

The survey closing date has been extended to Friday 6 June. It asks what residents value about the natural and recreational features of the Macedon Ranges, and how these features should be managed for the benefit of the broader community into the future.

The Macedon Ranges is one of four peri-urban areas identified by the Victorian Government as playing a significant environmental, recreational, tourism and agribusiness role in the state.

Planning statements are also being developed for the Bellarine Peninsula, the Yarra Ranges and the Mornington Peninsula.

After the first round of consultation, Council will release a draft planning Localised Planning Statement for community feedback in July. It will then be considered at the August Council meeting, before being provided to the Victorian Government for inclusion in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.

For more information about the project, visit Council's website or a Council service centre, or contact Council’s Strategic Planning unit on 5422 0333 or [strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au).

Start replanting lost trees and shrubs

The local Landcare Group (Upper Maribyrnong Catchment Group) has some plants available for purchase at 20c a tube.

- 150 silver wattle
- 150 prickly moses
- 150 hop bush
- 61 hemp bush
- 100 woolly tea trees
- 47 golden spray

The only requirement to have access to these plants is becoming a member of the group.

Membership of the landcare group costs $20 per year. Membership of the group gets you:

- Access to indigenous plants at reduced prices,
- Use of group equipment, eg tree planters and spray packs,
- Quarterly newsletter,
- Fields days and farm walks,
- Access to wide range of technical and financial help and
- Much more.

If you would like to purchase any of these plants please contact Fletcher Bakewell on 5789 1255 or email [strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au).
The next workshop, ‘Sustainable garden design: general tips plus design in bushfire zones,’ will be conducted on 26 July by Michael McCoy, an experienced gardening writer and local resident in the Macedon Ranges.

Michael McCoy has written extensively about gardening, including books and articles for the major gardening publications.

Design is key to ensuring that a sustainable garden uses the available space and resources effectively. The workshops will cover assessing a garden site and ensuring appropriate plant selection.

“We know that many of our residents are keen or budding gardeners, so Council is proud to host this series of hands-on workshops in partnership with Western Water,” said Mayor, Cr Roger Jukes.

Western Water’s General Manager, Customer and Community Relations, Peter Donlon said, “We are pleased to be partnering with Council for these workshops, which will help local residents create healthy, sustainable gardens that need less water to thrive.”

The first workshop will take place from 10:30am to 12 noon on Saturday 26 July at the Riddells Creek Neighbourhood House.

All workshops are open to anyone interested in learning and are free to attend. Places are limited, so please register your attendance in advance. Residents can book their spot no earlier than one month prior to the date of each workshop.

Bookings can be made online via www.westernwater.com.au or by calling (03) 9218 5455.

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tr>
<td>26 July</td>
<td>Sustainable garden design: general tips in bushfire zones</td>
<td>Michael McCoy</td>
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<td>Riddells Creek</td>
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<td>6 September</td>
<td>Growing seasonal produce with Vasili</td>
<td>Vasili Maresi, Channel 31</td>
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<td>Gisborne</td>
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<td>8 November</td>
<td>Choosing the right plant for the Macedon Ranges</td>
<td>Simon Rickard</td>
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**Kicking goals for fire recovery**

A community versus emergency services footy match will be held on Sunday 6 July from 12 noon until 4pm at the Romsey Recreation Reserve in honour of fire recovery.

All Macedon Ranges residents—both fire-affected and not—are invited to come along and enjoy live music, entertainment and a footy match that pays tribute to the significant impact that the February fires had on our community.

A team of nominated emergency service volunteers will battle it out against a team of community members, with a few celebrities thrown into the mix.

The football match is being organised by Macedon Ranges Shire Council, who will be meeting with community groups over the next few weeks to draft teams.

More details about the event will be announced soon in local newspapers and on Council’s website, mrsc.vic.gov.au

If you would like to get involved or nominate a player, contact Karen Dunstan, Fire Recovery Officer on 5422
Kindergarten registrations now open for 2015

Enrolments at Council’s eight kindergartens across the shire are now open for 2015. We offer dynamic three and four year old programs in Gisborne, Kyneton, Woodend, Romsey, Lancefield, Macedon and Riddells Creek.

Now is a great time to find out what Council kindergartens have to offer. We have made improvements to our services and facilities over the past year, to meet demand for places and support the introduction of 15 hours of weekly kindergarten for children the year before they start school.

Kindergarten supports a child’s early development. Our educators value each child’s unique individuality and have developed programs that encourage your child to be part of a group, and to listen to and respect others.

Behaviour and skills learnt at this age help children with their transition to primary school. Children develop learning skills and begin to explore maths and science in a fun, play-based environment. Children learn best whilst playing, and our kindergartens provide opportunities to explore and be active participants.

Parents are also encouraged and welcomed to be involved in our kindergartens. Our voluntary parent committees are key to the operation of each service. They provide opportunities for children to participate in excursions, and fund and source equipment to further their educational needs.

When can my child attend 4 year old kindergarten?

If your child is turning 3 or 4 before 30 April next year, they are eligible to attend kindergarten in 2015. Registrations are due on 30 June the year before your child attends kinder. Late enrolments may be accepted. If you hold a current Health Care Card, you may be eligible to enrol at low or no cost.

To register your child for kinder, download a registration form from our website, mrsc.vic.gov.au/children, or drop into a Council service centre in Kyneton, Gisborne, Romsey or Woodend. For more information, call us on 5422 0333 and speak to the Enrolment Officer in our Early Years unit.

2014 Seniors Festival: grants for local activities

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is offering grants of up to $900 to local groups to run an activity during October as part of the 2014 Victorian Seniors Festival.

The Victorian Seniors Festival is a statewide program of activities for older people during the month of October. Events in Melbourne run from 5–12 October, with local activities to follow in the Macedon Ranges for the rest of the month.

Council is supporting groups within the shire to offer activities from 12–31 October, to avoid clashing with the Melbourne events. Any group can apply, but applications must meet certain criteria.

The grants are a great opportunity for local groups to showcase what they do, and for older people to explore what’s on offer in their community.

Activities should be free or low-cost (less than $5), take place in the Macedon Ranges Shire, and address at least one of the following criteria:

- Encourage people to be more physically active
- Encourage people to be creative e.g. participate in an artistic activity
- Promote social connections, particularly for people who might not usually participate.

No more than one activity will be funded in the same township, so groups are encouraged to collaborate to avoid competing for the same pool of funds.

Applications will close on Friday 27 June and all applicants should discuss their proposed project with Stephanie Harper, Council’s Healthy Ageing Officer, before submitting their application.

For further information, contact Stephanie on 5422 0258 or sharper@mrsc.vic.gov.au
Community Thingie 14th June

We mentioned last month that since the community has had its biggest fire event since 1969, and we feel the need to get together and mark it in some fashion. Sadly the method of marking is STILL under consideration, but we are still keen on the above date. Expect a note in your letterbox closer to the day. Sorry to be mysterious.

Variety Club In Town

Some alert residents may have noticed a procession of special vehicles, ranging from the classic to Mad Max, wandering through town last Sunday week. This was a practice run for the next Variety Club ‘Bash’, and your brigade was invited to stop each vehicle and extort some money for the unfettered use of our bridge! We did oblige, and Con made a new special friend… Big thanks to Variety Club for their support, and best wishes for the bash. Go to www.variety.org.au and follow the events tab if you want to know more.

Smoke Alarms

We usually put a reminder in for the end of the daylight savings period, but I forgot. If you haven’t checked your smoke alarm(s) and changed the batteries this year, please do it now. A recent CFA survey revealed that the majority of Australian parents are more afraid of house fire than some of the most common phobias like snakes, spiders and sharks. Despite this, checking their smoke alarm is not top of their annual household maintenance list. You can see the battery bunny playing with a snake here, and he has a big, hairy spider in a box. I don’t know where the shark is. Be more scared of bunnies, please check your smoke alarms!