Fire Recovery Concert/Party/Picnic
Saturday 15th March  4:00—8:00pm

You are all invited to come to the Darraweit Guim Primary School to get together as a community to confirm our strength and survival following the recent fires.

BYO Picnic or BBQ food, and drinks, chairs etc. we’ll provide the BBQ’s for you to cook on.

Entertainment and activities provided for all.

Not to mention, the opportunity to catch up with community members you may not have seen since the fires.

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Bookclub – 18th March
This month’s book is *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak.

April’s book will be *Caleb’s Crossing* By Geraldine Brook

Come along this month to the tennis clubrooms at 7:30pm.

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Sale of Gifts
Saturday 31st May

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Craft Group
At the hall at 12noon for lunch or 12:30 for craft on Saturday 8th March.

Special activity in April will be Aboriginal weaving techniques to produce little bags that can be worn around your neck. If you would like to join in bring along a small quantity of twisted raffia.

Everyone welcome

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Red Cross Drop In Morning Tea
Saturday 22nd March at the Darraweit Guim War Memorial Hall
10am—12 noon
Everyone welcome
Happy Birthday
In March to
Lauren Potts 1st
Maxwell Dickson 2nd
Daniel Ryan 6th
Jasper Wright 9th
Natalie Romania 9th
Bradley Callahan 13th
Christine McDonald 14th
Jesse Cruickshank 16th
William Hoban 22nd
Mathilde Wright 25th

Post Fires Pasture, Soils, Animal Health and Farm Water Information Session

Darraweit Guim War Memorial Hall
from 6pm - 8:30pm on Wednesday 5 March
(includes pizza dinner)

At this fire recovery information session presenters from Department of Environment and Primary Industries will provide practical advice on managing your land, water, and livestock after fire.

Information will be supplied about how to use rice bales for erosion control and how to access the supply of these bales free of charge.

Horses during and after an emergency

With the recent fires, we are all very focused on the safety of our horses. As part of the Macedon Ranges Equine Strategy, Council has established an Emergency Management Task Group to help develop fire ready information for horse owners and horse properties.

Part of the task group’s role will be to identify refuges for horses in the event of fire. However in the meantime, we are urging people to make their own private arrangements and look at relocating horses to safer areas on days of high fire danger.

The Emergency Management Task Group is one of many appointed to work with Council to deliver some of the actions in the Equine Strategy. These task groups have been formed out of a new equine industry network, named “R.E.I.N.” (Ranges Equine Industry Network) in partnership with members of the equine community. R.E.I.N. representatives represent a broad cross-section of the equine industry, including large and small businesses, clubs and riders.

If you would like to receive regular updates about equine activities in the Macedon Ranges, please contact Leanne Davey in the Economic Development and Tourism Department on 5421 9617 or email ldavey@mrsc.vic.gov.au To find out more about the Equine Strategy, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/business/strategies

‘A Few Bits Of Nonsense’
with apologies to Edward Lear

There was a young fellow from Guim,
who always looked rather trim.
One day in a gale,
He yelled with a wail,
“This wind is really quite grim.”

There was a young fellow from Darraweit,
Who was always looking at feet.
He cried with a squawk, “I would like to walk
To go have a peep at the monument.”

Now back to that fellow of Guim.
What do you think about him?
He was made with such ‘Care’,
To be one of a pair,
Would fill him with joy to the brim.

School News

Our school has returned to normal after being closed for 3 days due to the bushfires. The student’s first 2 days back at school was greatly assisted by the visits from a large number of firefighters, mainly from the NSW Rural Fire Service, on the Thursday and Friday. Since then we have had a lot of messages thanking us for our wonderful hospitality. On our website you can view the photos taken over the 2 days and copies of the thank you letters presented by our school leaders to the firefighters.

Enrolments are always welcome.

Please contact the school for a tour or further information if required on 5789 1234, or visit our website www.darraweitguimps.vic.edu.au
Community Funding Scheme applications open

The 2014/15 Community Funding Scheme will be opening on 1 March 2014 and will close 5pm on 2 May 2014.

Last year, $164,000 was shared across many inspiring projects and activities around the community; from a sculptural pig project in Newham to the shire-wide Macedon Ranges Community Exchange.

The annual funding scheme provides grants in the areas of recreation, arts, facilities, youth, festivals and events.

Copies of the guidelines and application form will be available to download from mrsc.vic.gov.au/community-funding-scheme from 1 March 2014.

To be eligible for a Community Funding Scheme grant you must discuss your project with a Council officer before submitting your application.

Grant writing information sessions

As part of the Community Funding Scheme, free grant writing information sessions will be held during March and April. Check Council’s website to confirm dates and venues.

The sessions will be informal and friendly, and designed to help community organisations feel equipped to seek and write grants.

For further information, contact Kate Strahan or Trudy Campbell on 5422 0333.

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Telecommunication black spot register

Council has developed a register for internet and mobile service black spots in the Macedon Ranges to support its advocacy campaign for improved telecommunications across the Shire.

The register enables local businesses and residents to record exact locations where internet or mobile services are weak or unavailable as well as provide details on the effect it has on their day to day business.

Data collected from the register will be presented to telecommunication providers and State and Federal Government representatives to highlight the need for better mobile and high-speed internet services in the Macedon Ranges.

To register a black spot, visit mrsc.vic.gov.au/blackspotregister or pick up a form from Council Service Centres, and enter the location details requested by 1 June 2014.

For more information, contact Gaynor on 5421 9615 or email gatkin@mrsc.vic.gov.au

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Fair to showcase lost and rare trades

A Lost Trades Fair, which will showcase traditional lost and rare trades, will be held in Kyneton from 15–16 March.

Demonstrations over the weekend will include, chairmaking, coopering (barrel making), bucket making, letterpress printing, leather carving, french polishing, bootmaking, whipmaking, hedge laying, dry stone walling, stonemasonry, printmaking, spinning and weaving, musical instrument making, lock smithing and toolmaking.

The event will bring together people that have these skills and reignite the significance that these trades and crafts have in today’s environment.

The two-day fair will be held at the Kyneton Museum, 67 Piper Street, from 10am–4pm on Saturday 15 March and Sunday 16 March. Entry via gold coin donation.

For more information, contact Lisa on 0412 363 632 or visit rundellandrundell.com.au
I intend to produce a special issue of the Guim Tales to remember the ‘Day Darraweit Guim didn’t burn’.

If you have photos you think others would like to see please email them to me at speddingmv@gmail.com by 10th March. If you have any questions please feel free to call Viki on 5789 1237.

Fencing volunteers help fire recovery

A BlazeAid base camp is being established at Clarkefield this weekend to coordinate volunteer teams to repair and replace fences lost in the recent fires.

Council’s Municipal Recovery Manager, Jill Karena, reminded residents that free fencing assistance is only available to fire-affected property owners whose insurance will not cover the necessary materials and labour.

"Anyone who is fire-affected but fully covered by insurance should seek out a private contractor to undertake the work. "However BlazeAid will still help insured property owners to clear damaged fencing so that re-fencing can begin,” she said.

Council has worked alongside BlazeAid, the local Lions Club District and other service clubs to find and equip the Clarkefield base camp, which will match donations of fencing equipment and labour with landholders who have lost fencing. “BlazeAid will set up at the Clarkefield Recreation Reserve, which is centrally located to service fire affected properties in the region,” said Ms Karena.

Volunteer fencing teams will begin to work with landholders in fire-affected areas on Monday. Works are prioritised according to need such as livestock issues, and are usually completed in sections over time. Landowners are asked to work with volunteers and provide catering where possible.

Landholders with fencing needs or people who wish to volunteer or donate materials can contact the BlazeAid base camp on 0431 438 375. Residents or community groups interested in volunteering their time to BlazeAid are also encouraged to call this number.

BlazeAid was established by Kilmore residents Kevin and Rhonda Butler in 2009 following Black Saturday, which significantly affected the couple’s 1500-sheep farm. This highlighted the need for urgent assistance in repairing fencing after a fire. BlazeAid volunteers have now rebuilt over 400km of damaged fences. For more information, visit www.blazeaid.com

Any residents requiring other fire recovery assistance should contact Council on 5422 0333.