



## DARRAWEIT GUIM PRIMARY BETTER PREPARED FOR BUSHFIRES

Students at Darraweit Guim Primary School will be safer this summer with the Andrews Labor Government making sure schools in the state's highest fire danger areas are better prepared for bushfires.

Labor member for Macedon, Mary-Anne Thomas MP announced that Darraweit Guim is one of 22 schools in the Macedon electorate will benefit from the program.

"Students at Darraweit Guim, and across the Macedon Ranges will be safer during bushfire seasons thanks to this vital bushfire safety upgrade, which will make a real difference for families in the area." Ms Thomas said.

Fire shelter areas at 200 government schools in high-risk areas around the state will be upgraded under the program, including vegetation removal, gutter cleaning, and the installation of gutter guards, door and window fire shutters, water tanks and sprinklers.

"Children are in school at a critical time of the year when it comes to fire risk in Victoria, and these very practical measures have the potential to protect children when they need it most." Ms Thomas added. School shelters are being audited and upgraded based on risk, with work being completed first at higher-risk schools.

These bushfire safety upgrades – combined with the newly funded school emergency SMS service and existing school emergency plans like closing on Code Red days and off-site evacuation protocols – mean students at Victoria's high bushfire risk schools are safer than ever.

To find out more visit <http://www.schoolbuildings.vic.gov.au/Pages/Bushfire-Risk-and-Readiness.aspx>

Darraweit Guim War Memorial Hall

## Annual Sale of Gifts

Saturday 6th May

## WANTED

### Working Vacuum Cleaner

If you are or have replaced your vacuum and don't know what to do with your older one the tennis club would greatly appreciate you considering donating it to them.

Contact Henriette MacDonald 57891217





Darraweit  
Diary

**Sale of Gifts**  
Saturday 6th May

**CFA AGM &  
Elections**  
Monday 8th May

**CFA Quiz Night**  
August 19

## REGULARS

### Bookclub

2nd Sunday of the month  
7:30pm at the Tennis Club

### CFA Brigade Training

4th Sunday—08:45am  
2nd Wednesday—7:30pm  
at the Station

### Craft Group

4th Saturday  
12:30pm —3pm at the hall

### Hall Committee

3rd Monday 8pm in Jan, Mar,  
May, July

### Landcare Group Committee Meeting

3rd Monday  
8:00pm at the school

### Playgroup

Wednesdays 9:00—10:30am  
At the Primary School

### Red Cross Unit

4th Monday at 9:30am  
at the hall



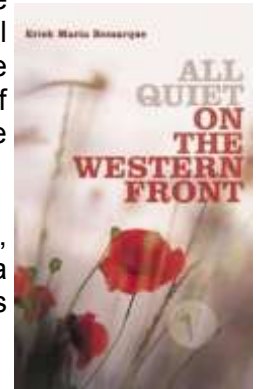
## Bookclub

### Sunday March 12th —7:30 pm

This month: *The Girl from Krakow* by **Alex Rosenberg**. 1935. Rita comes to the university in Krakow intent on enjoying her freedom. When the war arrives, Rita is armed with a secret so enormous that it could cost the Allies everything, even as it gives her the will to live. She must find a way both to keep her secret and stay alive.

Next month: We'll back up one major conflict and learn about the Great War from the 1930 classic "*All Quiet on the Western Front*". **Erich Maria Remarque** says about it, "This book is to be neither an accusation nor a confession, and least of all an adventure, for death is not an adventure to those who stand face to face with it. It will try simply to tell of a generation of men who, even though they may have escaped (its) shells, were destroyed by the war."

We will discuss the book, and 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 and a chat.



## Happy Birthday in March to

Lauren Potts 1st  
Maxwell Dickson 2nd  
Jasper Wright 9th  
Mathilde Wright 25th

## FREE

**Contact Helen 57891305**

- Black 6 seater wooden table and chairs, no cushions.
- Purchased from Ikea. Single mattress, clean and hardly used.
- LOUNGE SUITE 3.5 seater couch with 2 arm chairs. Used but fully functional, use marks along the back head area and on the arm rests.

**Contact Lorreine or Jim 5789 1367**

- Insulation batts.

## Craft Group

Meets at the  
Darraweit Guim War Memorial Hall on  
Saturday 25th March at  
12:30pm

Everyone welcome





# TUSSOCK TRAVELLING IN FODDER ACROSS THE STATE

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party (VSTWP) would like to advise landowners to ensure fodder and hay purchased this summer and autumn is free of noxious weeds and in particular, serrated tussock (*Nassella trichotoma*). The previous year has seen perfect conditions for this weed of national significance to seed prolifically, resulting in many paddocks being infested prior to bailing for fodder.

Whilst it can be difficult to inspect all fodder purchased for noxious weeds, VSTWP Executive Officer Martin Deering suggests that “landowners should attempt to purchase stockfeed from reputable outlets that can verify the absence of declared noxious weeds and from areas outside of the serrated tussock core infestations around the fringes of northern and western Melbourne”. “Landowners are often unaware of the grassy weed in their paddocks, especially during a good spring like the one we just had, and may bale paddock unaware of the viable seeds in the fodder” noted Mr Deering.

In some parts of Victoria, large collections of serrated tussock seed heads are common sight during the warmer parts of the year. The serrated tussock plant produces seed heads that break off at the base and are well adapted to spreading by wind. With each plant having the potential to produce over 100 000 seeds, large infestations can easily produce masses of seed heads. These increase the seed bank, can germinate new infestations, and can become a fire risk. While wind spread seeds are often contained to within half a kilometre of the plant they came from, wind can sometimes carry the seeds up to 20 km away.

The VSTWP recommends that landowners have a designated feed-out area on their property, which allows the landowner to monitor this area regularly for the germination of noxious weeds and serrated tussock,. Once identified plants can be treated as soon as possible, preventing further spread. Other precautions to help prevent serrated tussock spread can include vehicle and machinery hygiene, removing serrated tussock from around watercourses and avoiding the movement of soil off an infected property.

Long standing member and current chairperson of the VSTWP, John Burgess, stated that the VSTWP “advocates that best practice management is to control and treat mature serrated tussock plants prior to

flowering and seeding each season with a registered herbicide, manual removal or cultivation”. “The VSTWP has a range of information readily available on how to best identify serrated tussock, including online videos. The website is full of useful information including landowner case studies, the ‘The Tussock Times’ newsletter and the latest research into treatment options” said Mr Burgess.

For further information, please visit [www.serratedtussock.com](http://www.serratedtussock.com), or contact the VSTWP on [info@serratedtussock.com](mailto:info@serratedtussock.com).



## Becoming an animal-friendly shire

When it comes to pets, do you know the difference between registration and microchipping?  
Do you have issues with wandering dogs or cats in your neighbourhood?

Council is currently working towards the development of a new Macedon Ranges Domestic Animal Management Plan, which supports animal management and pet ownership in our community, and sets out how we can become an animal-friendly shire.

The plan will consider a range of issues, including:

- dog on and off lead areas
- cat curfews
- minimising the number of dogs and cats being euthanized
- reducing the harmful effect of domestic pets on our native birds, mammals and reptiles
- dealing with nuisances caused by domestic pets such as trespassing, attacks and barking.

### **How can you help shape this new plan?**

We want to hear your comments and ideas about how we can develop and improve responsible pet ownership in the shire.

Share your thoughts and complete our survey, available online at [mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay) from Wednesday 1 March or pick up a copy from a Council customer service centre.

Submissions close Monday 10 April.

For more information, contact our Local Laws unit on 5422 0333 or [mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au)

### **Be a responsible pet owner**

Don't forget to renew your pet's registration by Monday 10 April 2017.

There are a number of benefits of renewing the registration of your pet with Council, such as improving the chances of a missing pet being returned quickly if they become lost.

Registration fees also help provide important pet-related services within the shire such as animal control, dog attack prevention programs and other community education that encourages responsible pet ownership.

There are a number of ways you can renew your pet registration. These include:

- Online, via Council's website, [mrsc.vic.gov.au/payments](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/payments)
- BPAY
- Mail
- In person at one of Council's service centres.

For more information, contact our Local Laws unit on 5422 0333.



# Operate and Maintain Chainsaw Course

The Upper Maribyrnong Catchment (Landcare) Group is seeking expressions of interest to attend a two-day Operate and Maintain Chainsaw (TAFE) Course.

The course is planned to be held on **Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th April 2017 at Darraweit Guim Hall**. The cost of course will be **\$150 government subsidised place or \$360 unsubsidised place**.

Note - if you don't hold a post-school qualification then you will most likely be eligible for a subsidised place on the course. However, if you already hold a post-school qualification then you will most likely have an unsubsidised place.

For more information on the Victorian Training Guarantee go to <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/training/learners/vet/Pages/funding.aspx>.

The course will be conducted by Karl Liffman, who has previously conducted Agricultural Farm Chemical Users Courses for the Landcare group. Timber Training Creswick will be the TAFE course provider.

**Send your expression of interest:** to attend the course by **Friday 10 March 2017** via email [upper.maribyrnong.landcare@gmail.com](mailto:upper.maribyrnong.landcare@gmail.com) or call 5782 0184 (John Robinson).

Note - the course will only be held if there are sufficient confirmed attendees.

If it wriggles, hops or has  
wings, we're  
talking about it!



**Macedon  
Ranges**  
Shire Council

From workshops on worms, rabbits and wildlife, to volunteer opportunities that support conservation, Council is delivering a diverse program of free environment events in March, designed to educate, engage and entertain.

On Saturday 4 March, the spotlight is on rabbits as expert Tim Bloomfield presents a free workshop from 10am to 12pm at the Romsey Community Hub for property owners on how to successfully undertake rabbit control.

If you've ever wondered what to do when you are swooped by a magpie or when a blue-tongued lizard suddenly appears in your backyard, join our free evening conversation on living with wildlife.

Presented by Wildlife Victoria on Wednesday 8 March from 6.30pm to 8pm at the Norma Richardson Hall in Woodend, this free discussion explores wildlife stories from your backyard.

On Saturday 11 March, the basics of worm farming are exposed in a free workshop as we shed light on what you need to build a successful worm farm. Held at Woodend Neighbourhood House from 10am to 11.30pm, the course will equip participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to get a worm farm up and running.

If you're looking for a volunteer opportunity that supports our natural environment, come along to an information session and hear from existing Landcare members about what's involved in starting a new group, the benefits of Landcare and what support is available.

Sessions are being held from 6.30pm–8pm at the Gisborne Administration Centre on Thursday 9 March and at Kerrie Hall on Thursday 16 March. For details call 5782 0184.

For more information on Council's environment events or to book, visit [mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au/environment-events) or call 5421 9660.



## A G M & Brigade E lections Monday

08th May 7:30pm

Your Brigade Management Team is approaching the end of their two year terms. How did we go? Come along to our meeting and pass on your input. All those serving in executive roles in the brigade must face the voters, fancy a job? Our next monthly meeting will be an Annual General Meeting open to all members of the community, with the date altered to avoid some holidays. If nothing else you can check out our plans for the old station house.



Please be at Darraweit Guim Fire Station at 7:30pm on Monday May the 8th to have your say on how the brigade is run for the next two years and who gets the epaulettes.

## Bushfire and Burnoff Information

Some members of the community have expressed some confusion about obtaining information when smoke or fire is showing. Is it a threatening bushfire or a planned or notified burnoff? The Victorian Bushfire Information Line has been replaced by:

**[emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au)**

An alternative is to call the **VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)** . Any other numbers you may have plugged into your phone or on a fridge magnet are being diverted at the moment, but it would be better to punch in the new number now.

## Christmas Hampers—Can You Help?



In preparation for the DIY Christmas Carols 2017, for which we are already rehearsing, probably, we are collecting components to sell to eager patrons as Christmas Hampers. Anything you think you would like for Christmas entertaining would be entirely welcome. All it needs is your judgement and a 'best before' date after 25th of December 2017! Deliver to our secretary, or wait further news as the date approaches.

Creating Safer Communities  
100% VOLUNTEER