Darraweit Guim War Memorial Hall
Sale of Gifts
Saturday 31st May
From 7:15pm

Come along and join the fun with other residents at our annual Sale of Gifts. This is the only fundraiser that the hall runs each year. We use this money to help maintain and insure the hall and keep costs for hire to a minimum for local residents and groups.

Don’t forget to bring along something to auction as well. Some of the things that sell well are:

- Home baking
- Home made preserves
- Vouchers for your skills
- Home grown fruit and veggies
- Or just about anything that you can think of.

This year one of the items on offer will be a voucher for a meal for two at the Beveridge Pub. They are now under new management and they have:

- Café open from 9am – 7 days a week
- Monday $10 Pizza night
- Tues - $15 parma night
- Wednesday – Kids eat free
- Sunday roast $15 lunch and dinner

The Hunter’s Tryst is family friendly.
Happy Birthday
In May to

Richard Guy 2nd
Gillian Guy 3rd
Hannah Laffan 6th
Julia Maguire 8th
Camille Hughes 15th
Patricia Hoban 15th
Libby Tobin 17th
Stuart Loft 20th
Natalie Sorraghan 21st
Chloe Bosch 21st
Sarah Findlay 29th
Callum Loft 29th
Chloe Smith 30th

**Bookclub – 20th May**

May’s book will be *Flying Too High* by Australian author **Kerry Greenwood**. The second in the Phryne Fisher series, now on the telly, and a lovely romp by a liberated lady in 1928 Melbourne.

Another Australian author for June, *Burial Rites* by **Hannah Kent**. It is a historical novel based on a true story, set in 1830, in steamy northern Iceland.

Come along this month 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?

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**Craft Group**

**Saturday 10th May.**

At the hall at 12noon for lunch or 12:30 for craft.

Everyone welcome

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**Open Day**

**Wednesday, 28th May**

9.00am to 3.30pm

Come and see a small rural school in action, talk to our staff and parents and see what the small rural school environment can offer you and your children.

For further information contact the school on 5789 1234
February fires leave lasting impact

From soil erosion and burnt trees to major re-fencing works, the task of property cleanup after the February fires is proving to be an ongoing challenge for many residents in the Macedon Ranges.

Council’s recovery team has received 376 requests for assistance from fire-affected residents to date. Cleanup is proving to be a tough issue, especially for those with large quantities of fencing and burnt trees.

A work crew from Loddon Prison has joined the recovery effort to help Council with cleanup. The new partnership with Loddon Prison will bring some extra pairs of hands to the recovery effort, while giving prisoners preparing for release a chance to make a contribution to the community.

Other requests for assistance have included tank cleaning and water replacement, disposal of dead livestock, reinstating firebreaks, assessing burnt buildings, fixing cut fences, and referring residents to agencies that can help them with fodder, fencing and counselling.

Long-term recovery planning is also underway for issues such as soil erosion, introduced weeds and pests, livestock health and water quality, all of which pose an ongoing risk to the land and livelihood of farmers.

The BlazeAid camp continues to operate from Clarkefield, with more than 655 volunteer days already contributed to erect 29km of new fencing and remove 62km of burnt fencing. More than 66 properties in the Macedon Ranges have registered to receive fencing assistance from BlazeAid, and so far nine have been completed with new fencing.

Many fire-affected residents saying how important it is to stay connected with neighbours, friends and family who live locally, Council is now looking at ways to bring people together through community events and activities. Further details to be announced soon.

Apologies for cancellation of Our community after fire conversation

The “Our community after fire” conversation, which the Upper Maribyrnong Catchment (Landcare) Group organised and that was to be held on 16 April 2014 at the Darraweit Guim War Memorial Hall, unfortunately had to be cancelled.

This event was cancelled as the Department of Environment and Primary Industries withdrew the availability of its facilitators to facilitate the conversation session.

The Landcare group apologies for any inconvenience this cancellation has caused for local residents.
To celebrate its launch in June, the Macedon Ranges Agribusiness Forum is running a photo competition to celebrate the shire’s farming community.

Participants of all ages are encouraged to submit inspirational photos of agriculture in the Macedon Ranges that capture the following themes:

- Livestock
- Horticulture
- Landscape
- Farm life

Shortlisted photos will be exhibited at the official launch of the Forum on 26 June 2014 with an overall winner announced on the night. The winner will receive a hamper of local produce to the value of $200.

Finalists of each theme will also have their photographs framed and shown in a special photographic exhibition that will tour the Macedon Ranges as well as feature in the Forum’s ongoing promotion campaign.

Visit Council’s website, mrsc.vic.gov.au/agphotocomp, for full entry details, or pick up an entry form from a Council service centre in Gisborne, Kyneton, Romsey or Woodend. The competition is closes on 1 June 2014.

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

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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.
Fire Restrictions

In case there was any doubt, the Fire Danger period has now ended, please be familiar with the remaining Shire restrictions before wielding a matchbox!

All burn-offs should be registered with ESTA (Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority) on 1800 668 511, advising location, date and expected start/finish times, estimated size & what you intend to burn. Unregistered burn-offs can cause brigades to be called out unnecessarily. We are already the country brigade with the most turnouts this year, we don't need the work...

Chimney Safety

It seems a bit odd to go straight from bushfire to chimney fires, but our group has attended at least two fires this year resulting from the cranking up of the family fireplace. They start when build-ups of creosote and whatever else has found its way in there is ignited by a hotter than usual fire. If you just have a traditional brick chimney resulting hot gasses can leak into to your roof space and ignite the structure, or the whole chimney can conduct enough heat to cause ignition indirectly. Even if you have a stainless steel flue the extra heat can destroy the rivets holding it together, and/or deform the joints. If you have a flue without a chimney dangerous heat can be conducted to your roof structure. A chimney fire last year could have opened up cracks that cause problems this time.

What to do if your chimney starts roaring like a Rolls Royce Avon? Don’t panic! Place a spark guard in front of the fire to stop hot soot falling out. Pour water over the fire to extinguish it and keep a supply of water available, should it be needed. Call 000 and keep a watchful eye on the fire (inside and out) until we arrive. If you venture into your roof space beware of poisonous gasses!

How to avoid it? Keep it clean! Check for nests & visiting possums before lighting up for the first time. Check for build-ups of creosote. Don’t run your fire banked all the time.

Community Thingie 14th June

One for your calendars. Our community has had its biggest fire event since 1969, and we feel the need to get together and mark it in some fashion. The method of marking is still under consideration, but the date above has been set. More details next month!