

MT ROUSE News & Views



Community Newsletter

Post found from 1890 crash Site



A 135 year old post which was at the site of a major rail accident in 1890 which claimed seven lives near Penshurst, has been donated to the Mt Rouse and District Historical Society.

A historical society committee member, Jeff Jellie (above), noticed the old post when he was walking along the old railway line with Roland and Sue Cameron who own the property the line ran through.

Story continues page 5

This colour page sponsored by June and family. Thank you!

Barefoot Bowls team's incredible achievementsMore on
page 6

A huge turnout this summer yet again for the barefoot bowls series played Friday nights over 6 weeks. With weekly meat raffle and drinks at the bar, many of our Penshurst locals enjoyed balmy evenings and friendly competition.

A big finals weekend for the Penshurst Bowls Club, with the 1st division coming second overall (on the back of a Premiership year!) An incredible achievement, congratulations to you all.

**Penshurst Monthly Pot-Luck Dinners**

At the Senior Citizens Hall at 6pm
for a 6.30pm start on the
3rd Friday of each month.

Next Dinner 20th March

Confirmed dates for the following few months are –

17 Apr & 15 May 26.

BYO a main dish to serve 4-6 people, a dessert and your drinks.

Tea, coffee, milk, sugar will be provided.

Come along, bring a neighbour and share a laugh or two.

GOLD COIN donation for the Senior Citizens Club.

Everyone welcome – no bookings required!

THE PUB COLLECTIVE – MONTHLY UPDATE

Edition No. 3 | February 2026

Welcome to the February edition of our regular update on the Penshurst Pub. We are pleased to share the latest developments as they stand.



As many will appreciate, while probate and related legal processes are underway, some information may evolve over time. For clarity and consistency, this newsletter remains the primary and authoritative source of updates. We encourage the community to rely on these monthly communications for accurate information as the process progresses.

Liquor Licence Update

We are delighted to report a significant milestone since our last update. The pub's liquor licence has been successfully renewed and extended through to **31 December 2026**. This has been formally confirmed with Liquor Licensing Victoria and means that, upon settlement, only a licence transfer will be required. This outcome materially simplifies the transition to reopening a fully functioning pub.

We extend our sincere thanks to **Jody Roth** for facilitating this process.

Settlement and Ownership

In relation to settlement, key stakeholders have reaffirmed that **community ownership of the pub remains the clear priority**. Our shared objective is for the bar and bistro to reopen as soon as practicable following settlement, ensuring this important asset continues to serve and strengthen the Penshurst community.

Legal representatives are currently working to have an administrator appointed to oversee probate as a priority. Once this step is completed, sale contracts can be issued. We must respect this legal process and allow it to proceed as required.

Fundraising Progress

Raising the remaining funds for purchase continues to be our number one priority. We currently have **\$450,000 secured and held on deposit**, accruing interest. A total of **\$500,000** will be required for settlement, placing us within close reach of our goal.

We acknowledge that some potential investors are waiting for contracts to be issued and a settlement date confirmed before committing further funds. This is entirely understandable. We remain confident that once contracts are in place, the final stage of fundraising will be successfully completed.

Community Raffle Outcome

The Penshurst Progress Association, in collaboration with the Save the Penshurst Pub community and nine local charitable organisations, has now concluded the community raffle. The two winners are:

1. **Richard McDonald** (purchased ticket)
2. **Renee Hayes** (recipient of one of the 103 donated volunteer tickets)

A total of **313 tickets** were sold from the 400 available. We thank everyone who supported this initiative.

THE PUB COLLECTIVE – MONTHLY UPDATE

Edition No. 3 | February 2026 (continued)

We also extend heartfelt thanks to the anonymous donor who contributed 100 community tickets. This generosity truly reflects the spirit of Peshurst.

After raffle administration costs and share allocations, **\$5,000 in net proceeds** will be distributed across ten local community groups, with **\$500 allocated to each group**. This is a wonderful outcome and a meaningful contribution to the organisations that play such a vital role in our town.



Staying Informed

Monthly updates will continue to be shared via this newsletter, Facebook, email distribution and the supermarket noticeboard. For enquiries, please contact savethepeshurstpub@outlook.com, which remains the official point of contact.

Looking Ahead

With strong community backing and steady progress, **2026 is shaping up to be the Year of the Peshurst Pub.**

Warm regards,

Interim Directors

Peshurst Hotel 1861 Pty Ltd

Jacqui Norris | Eileen Copeland | Ray Allan | David Bull

Emma **KEALY MP**

NATIONALS MEMBER FOR LOWAN



“If you have an issue you need a hand to resolve, or a great idea on how we can make our region a better place to live, work, study, and do business, I would love to hear from you.”



34 Firebrace St, Horsham



5571 9800



emma.kealy@parliament.vic.gov.au

Post found from 1890 crash Site (continued)

The horrendous accident was about three kms from Peshurst, and 100 metres from the Blackwood Rd intersection with the Hamilton Highway.

“The post was where the accident started and the train derailed, and ended up about 70 yards from there, in which is now Jellie’s property,” Jeff said.

“Roland and Sue kindly let me collect the old post for the historical society,” he added.



The story of the crash, from a Hamilton Spectator feature from 2000, continues below.

Rail Tragedy Peshurst 1890

Tomorrow (March 27, 2000) a commemoration will be held in Peshurst for an event that happened 110 years ago. It was no ordinary event – seven young men met rather horrible deaths three kilometres from Peshurst while returning home to their camp near Hawkesdale after a hard day’s work. Six are buried in Peshurst’s cemetery and tomorrow their lives will be honoured in song and prayer. **Brian O’Brien** sifts through the Spectator files and the inquest to turn back the clock to that fateful March day in 1890.

**Quiet is the rail at the end of the day
Silent now from the hammer blows
And silent forever
The voices of working men
Who died on their homeward journey**

IT MAY have taken 110 years to once again honour their lives, but this Ruth Pihl poem on a plaque to be unveiled at the Peshurst cemetery tomorrow shows that the lives of seven young, single Irishmen haven’t been forgotten.

The accident was huge news at that time. Well, seven people killed today would still make national headlines.

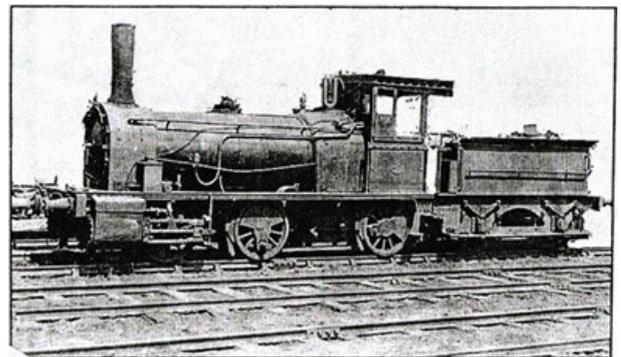
It left a tremendous impression on Peshurst, even though most of the ‘navvies’ weren’t native to the district. Even allowing for the flowery writing of the time, the impact of the crash obviously moved people deeply.

There were not many dry eyes in Peshurst on Saturday night (the night of the accident),” The Spectator wrote.

Weeping

“The men who had fallen victims to this terrible disaster, although but casual residents in the district, had made themselves well-known and liked. If their own mothers and sisters were not there to weep for them, our common humanity asserted itself, and the poor fellows did not go unwept.”

Mrs Tilley, the wife of the Peshurst Hotel owner (the injured were treated in its billiard room) was not alone in feeling the anguish of the moment. “I knew them all,” she said in a voice broken with emotion. “They all stayed, at our place. Nice, quiet men they were. It’s a shocking affair.”



Locomotive type, 103, is the same as that which took part in the accident.

Barefoot Bowls team's incredible achievements



Winners of the Corporate Cup, Summer Series Barefoot Bowls! From left to right - Darryl Pye, Barry King, Mardi Holmes. Honourable mention to Darryl Monroe.



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Going cheap.

I'm reflecting back over the Black Friday sale, the Christmass sale and the boxing day sale. Discounts and bargains galore. At the same time nation continues to rise against nation often for the sake of greed and wanting what someone else has.

This 'acquisition' comes at a cost that no one can calculate because the currency is human lives. It seems that left over tinsel, redundant wrapping paper and outdated technology aren't the only things that are going cheap and for the taking. With all that swilling around in my soul some questions have come to the surface of my mind and heart.

Has human life always been this discounted and expendable? Why did we get out our red marker and put sacred life in the bargain basement bin? By what authority has this been done?

Is there a way forward where we can put human life back on the top shelf with a price tag of 'Irreplaceable - not for sale'?

So let's start with the easy one.

Yes, we have not always valued the sanctity of human life. The Master who opened wide his arms to embrace death and subsumed it into the dimension of the sacred, died at the hands of others because it was expedient for the day. He was one of countless millions in history.

Why do we do this? Many reasons. Greed, convenience, failure and fear, just to name a few. You can also get a great combo deal on these reasons.

By what authority has this been done? Not sure, but I do know that every time we do not call this out, we are complicit in this action, we devalue ourselves and we diminish our brothers and sisters. The way forward must be a collective exercise for every single person, starting with the person in the mirror.

Observe the rest

Some time back Jeanine and I went to see the film. 'The Choral'. It's a charming movie and it involves a choir with all the sparkle and hard work that goes into making intoxicating music. There was a line in the film I remembered long after I walked out of the cinema.

One of the choir leaders is guiding one of the choristers and helpfully says 'Remember to observe the rest'.

Now in 'Musos language' I think it means to make sure that the chorister observes the pause in the music. Pauses and silences when adroitly used in music can lead us on and draw us into the mystery and magic of the music.

It works the same way with a good preacher / speaker. You can either prattle quickly because you are nervous and want to get it all over with, something I have been guilty of on many occasions, or you can have a practice or 6 and find out how it flows. Where do you want to ladle in a nice dollop of silence to enhance the message?

It also works in the art of personal conversation. The most fruitful, potent and luscious conversations are those where silence is blended gently with the talking bits. In the quiet nothing is said, because nothing needs to be said; yet the 'rest' or silence serenely weaves a bond between the two people.

Finally a little lesson for myself. 'Observe the rest' is a solemn lesson and a warning to make sure that there is at least one day off a week, the required annual leave and a week of retreat. It's enriching for me and my family but also the folk I serve.

Observing the rest is not a luxury where nothing is happening, but it is an essential implement to make sure everything can happen.



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Term 1 dates for 2026 are Friday February 27th & Friday March 27th @ 10.30am in the School's Community Room.

Please contact the school office on (03) 55765438 for further details.

St Joseph's Primary School 11 Martin
Street Penshurst 3289.

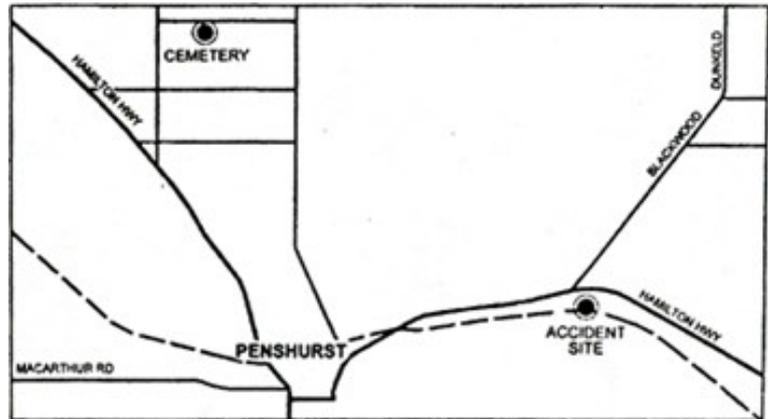
Rail Tragedy Penshurst 1890 (continued)

The circumstances surrounding the crash are pretty clear. About 30 men were travelling an open truck normally used to cart gravel. This time the truck had about two tones of chaff in it for the horses down the line at the Hawkesdale camp.

The truck was being pushed in front of the locomotive where it was due to pick up the married men working on the line at Hawkesdale and cart them back to their camp at Penshurst. It was this decision to push, rather than pull the truck, that was to prove fatal.

When they left the Penshurst station about 7.30pm on Saturday, March 1, the men settled themselves down on the chaff for the ride down to Hawkesdale. They were not to know that just a few minutes into their trip, their lives would be literally turned upside down.

The train picked up speed going down a slight incline about three kilometres from the town – but no-one picked up the fact a large white bullock had got through an unfenced section of the line and was now careering along in front of the rapidly-closing train.



The horrific smash occurred about 100 metres from the Blackwood Rd intersection with the Hamilton Highway.

Bullock on the line

Danger only sunk in when the bullock was just 20 metres away and although the driver reversed the engine and applied the tender brake, the open truck hit the bullock at an estimated 15 miles per hour (24 kms) hurling it 16 metres away. The light truck – whose side was less than half a metre high – catapulted off the line, eventually overturning and trapping a number of men underneath. But worse was to follow – the engine ploughed full bore into the truck. The scene was horrific with six men killed instantly and nine injured. A seventh man died before he could be rescued. Those killed were:

John Dillon, 24 – arrived in Adelaide eight years previously from county Galway. Death due to suffocation under the overturn wagon.

James O'Brien, 28 – born in county Limerick, eight years in Victoria. Believed to have been an ex-constable. He was smothered under the wagon but could talk with rescuers, but died because of the inability to move the wagon quickly.

John O'Donnell, 21 – from Blakeston (SA) with a brother living in Penshurst. The engine ran over his body and cut him in two.

John Dunphy, 24 – born in country Waterford and had spent 13 years in New South Wales and 11 months in Victoria. He had a hairdresser brother in Penshurst. He died of a broken neck.

Patrick McGee, 33 – came from New Zealand. Fell under the engine wheels and was decapitated.

William Waters, 23 – born in county Cork and was four years in Australia. He was supposed to have had a brother at Ararat. He was jammed under the wagon with a fractured skull.

James Callanan 22 – born in Ballarat he had two aliases, James Stanley and James O'Donnell. He died of a fractured skull, broken ribs and shoulder and severed arm.

Incredible escape

Three men, Moran, Nevin and Burns – had an incredible escape from death or serious injury.

Continued page 11

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Rail Tragedy Penshurst 1890 (continued)

They were thrown out of the truck onto the line – directly into the path of the engine. Luckily, they fell between the rails and the locomotive passed over them.

When news of the tragedy reached the town, Dr Sweetnam, Constable Hall and a number of townspeople raced out to the wreckage, moved the engine back and lifted the truck from the men it imprisoned.

The killed and wounded were laid on the bank at the side of the rail and later were taken into Penshurst. So badly hurt were three of the wounded that a special train was ordered to take them into Hamilton Hospital on Sunday.

The Spectator reported the shocking tragedy caused ‘an immense and painful sensation in the district’.

“Excepting the Cootamundra (NSW) disaster some years ago, no such extensive butchery has ever taken place in Australia, and in this colony what will always be known as the Penshurst disaster has no parallel.”

They were described as a splendid lot of men – fine, strong, hardy and well behaved.

“Strangely enough all the men were Irish, all were quite young and all were unmarried,” the Spectator reported.

Emotions high

Feelings were running high in the town the following day with ‘one of the district’s leading gentlemen’ calling it murder.

“Such an inhuman butchery is a disgrace to civilisation, and if we may only have railways at such a cost, we would a thousand times prefer to be without them,” the unnamed man said.

The Spectator also thought many questions should be asked at the inquest.

“It is very strongly felt that to put a lot of men – men who are practically under orders and expected to do what they are told – into a light truck, place the latter before the engine, and then rush it along at high speed in the dull light of the evening on a line not adequately fenced and on which cattle have been frequently known to stray, is an act of rashness for which somebody should be brought to terrible account.”

The funeral of the men on the following Monday was a huge affair – 35 horse drawn vehicles, over 100 horsemen and a large number of mourners on foot. Four wagons were used to transport the seven coffins to Boram Boram cemetery.

“The town was plunged into great gloom and business was completely suspended. There were tears drawn to every eye, and sobs shook the stoutest frames at this melancholy spectacle – seven coffins ranged by the side of as many graves.”

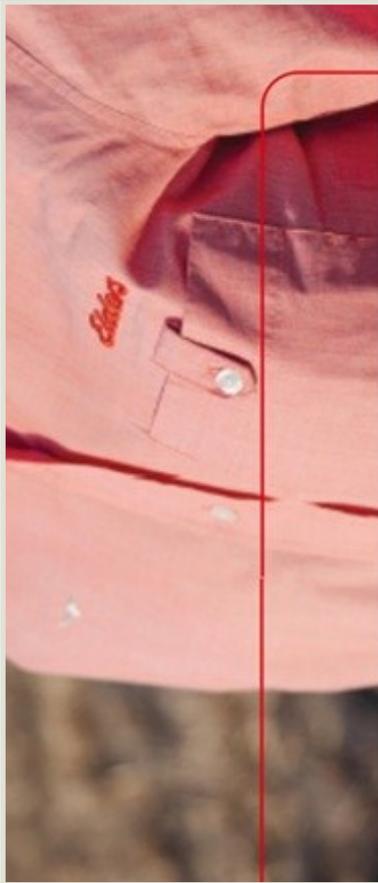
Tomorrow’s commemoration will begin at 1.30pm at the accident site (see map) with songs, and readings from the inquest. It will then move to the Boram Boram cemetery when a plaque will be unveiled and the burial site reconsecrated.

Steam brake not working

The fatal journey also had an element of bad luck about it. The guard, Patrick Pearce would normally travel on the truck, but because there were so many men on the truck, he was forced to travel on the engine. As well, the steam brake on the locomotive was broken going into Hamilton the previous day and wasn’t operating when it took off for Hawkesdale.

The driver, James Simpson, had already been involved in a tragedy just a few weeks previous when he ran over a woman at Gate 54 at Branxholme.

(Shared with permission)



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The cost is \$30 per edition, which covers the cost of the colour printing. The newsletter continues to be free to subscribers thanks to everyone who advertises with us.

We also enjoy any contributions that you make—stories, articles, poems .. Whatever comes to mind.

We are proud that the newsletter continues to be supported by the town and outer communities. It's also international. Available by email or online (see the back page).

Penshurst Shed



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Loveseat (above) \$85.00



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"Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing
and rightdoing there is a field.
I'll meet you there.

When the soul lies down in that grass
the world is too full to talk about."
— Rumi

"Peace begins with a smile.."
— Mother Teresa

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Just for a change .. Some really old jokes

This brainteaser is from Sumeria in 1200BC.

"Three ox drivers from Adab were thirsty: one owned the ox, the other owned the cow and the other owned the wagon's load.

"The owner of the ox refused to get water because he feared his ox would be eaten by a lion; the owner of the cow refused because he thought his cow might wander off into the desert; the owner of the wagon refused because he feared his load would be stolen.

"So they all went.

"In their absence the ox made love to the cow which gave birth to a calf, which ate the wagon's load.

"Problem: Who owns the calf?"

An ancient "your mom" joke, Ancient Rome, between 63 BC to 14 AD.

"The Emperor Augustus was touring the Empire, when he noticed a man in the crowd who bore a striking resemblance to himself.

"Intrigued, he asked: 'Was your mother at one time in service at the Palace?'

"'No, your Highness,' the man replied, 'but my father was.'"

A PAGE TO SHARE RECIPES

Southern Style Sweet Potato Salad

Prep Time 10 mins Cook 30 mins Serves 6

INGREDIENTSwww.taste.com.au

2 large gold sweet potatoes, halved lengthways, thickly sliced
 1 tbsp olive oil
 1 tbsp Cajun seasoning
 1 corn cob, husk and silk removed
 1/3 cup (80ml) buttermilk
 1/4 cup (75g) whole-egg mayonnaise

1 tbsp lime juice
 1/4 cup finely chopped coriander
 1 avocado, stoned, peeled, cut into thin wedges
 1 red capsicum, seeded, thinly sliced
 1 red onion, thinly sliced
 1/2 cup coriander sprigs

Method**Step 1**

Preheat oven to 200°C. Line a baking tray with baking paper. Combine sweet potato, oil and Cajun seasoning in a large bowl. Arrange in a single layer on lined tray. Bake, turning occasionally, for 30 mins or until sweet potato is tender.

Step 2

Meanwhile, heat a barbecue grill or chargrill on medium. Cook the corn, turning, for 10 mins or until lightly charred and tender. Set aside to cool. Use a knife to cut down the side of the corn to release the kernels.

Step 3

Place the buttermilk, mayonnaise, lime juice and chopped coriander in a small bowl and stir to combine. Season.

Step 4

Place sweet potato, corn, avocado, capsicum, onion and coriander sprigs in a large bowl. Drizzle with the buttermilk dressing and gently toss to combine. Transfer to a serving platter.



Sometimes, peace looks like a quiet kitchen,
 a simple meal,
 and a heart that finally slows down.
 It's in these ordinary moments—
 cooking for yourself, sharing crumbs with a
 loyal companion,
 listening to the rain outside—
 that life gently reminds you:
 you don't need a perfect day to feel fulfilled.
 Growth doesn't always roar.
 Sometimes it whispers,
 "You're doing okay. Keep going."
 Find joy in the small rituals.
 They are proof that you're healing,
 one calm moment at a time.

From: Admin - Saleem
 Facebook Page: You are my Life

"Cooking can cure almost anything."
 Michelle Dockery

Across: Mount Rouse Puzzler

1: To breathe in suddenly and loudly with your mouth open because of surprise, shock, or pain.

5: To order someone not to do something.

6: Cleanse by causing large quantities of water to pass through it.

8: More important, powerful, or successful than most or all others.

10: A large, round object in space that travels around a star.

13: A region marking a boundary.

16: Having or showing a tendency to argue or fight.

18: Not existing or active anymore.

19: Measurement of how much petrol or diesel a car uses.

22: The dry stems of wheat and other grain plants.

23: An agency or means of doing something.

2: Relating to the highest female singing voice or the highest voice part in a singing group.

3: Misinformation about the behaviour and personal lives of other people.

4: A chemical element that is a valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery.

7: Relating to a subject in an appropriate way.

9: An act of changing physical location or

position.

11: The act of looking at something closely and carefully.

12: Something, such as a point previously claimed in an argument that is later given up.

14: The hard outer covering of something.

15: To throw something with a quick, light motion.

17: Someone or something that provides what is wanted or needed.

19: To compel by force or threat.

20: To compensate for.

21: To push yourself suddenly off the ground and into the air using your legs.

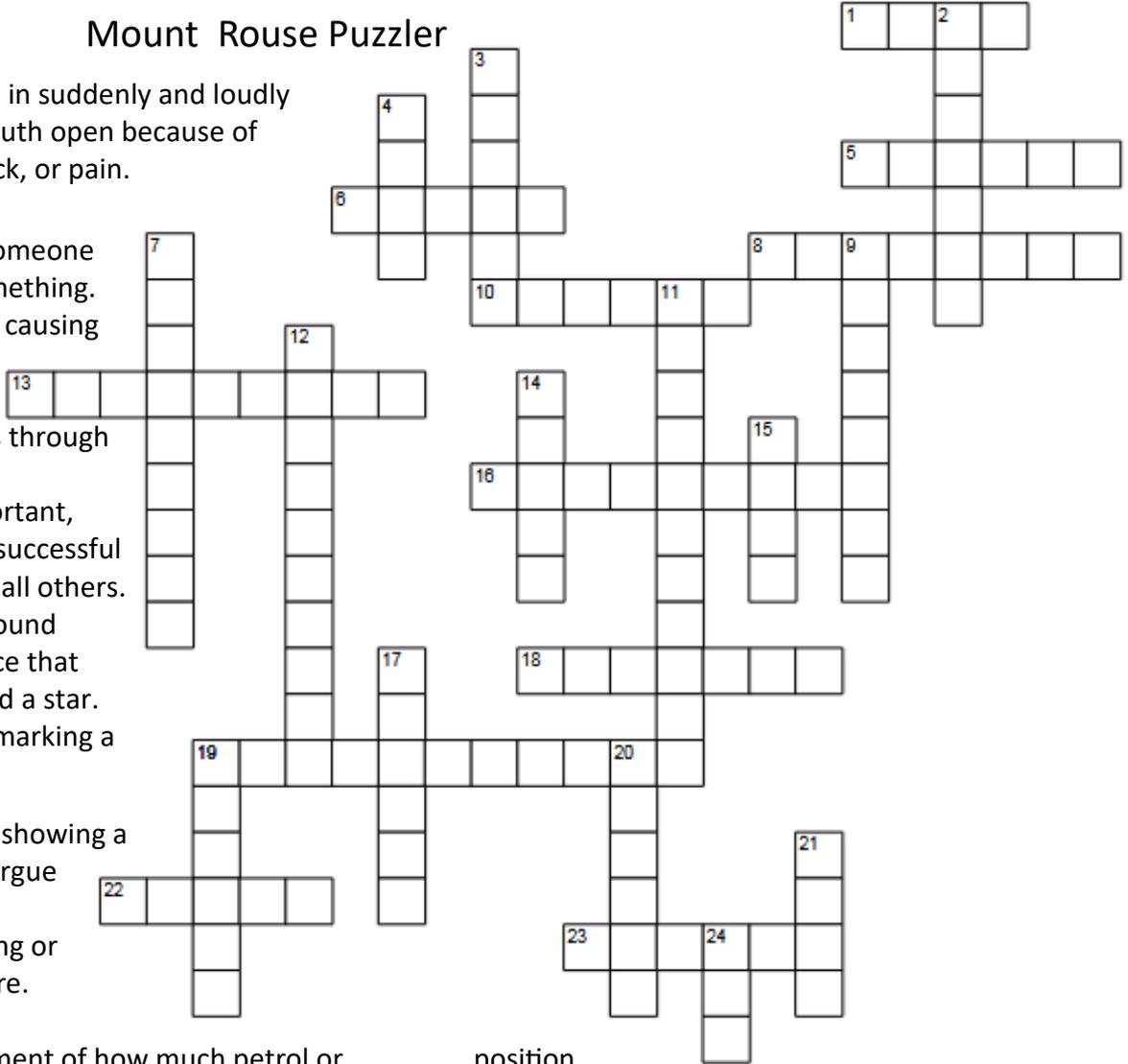
24: Frozen water.

Crossword answers last fortnight: **Across:** 2 slip, 5 shoot, 7 collar, 11 kick, 12 original,

13 retiree, 14 dictionary, 17 infection, 20 leave, 21 tumble, 22 reader, 23 sign, 23 fish,

3 path, 4 goal, 5 satisfaction, 6 metal, 7 cake, 8 aviation, 9 confession, 10 discovery, 15 tease,

16 timber, 18 nuclear, 19 design.



DAN TEHAN

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WANNON



My office can assist you with information about Federal Government services including:

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- ✔ Pensions and My Aged Care
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Community Calendar & Contacts**Boram Boram Cemetery Trust**

- Contact Jeff Jellie 0407 781 407 or Sue 0418 141 301

Caramut & District Garden Club

- 2nd Tuesday monthly at 10 am. See Garden Notes for venue or contact Marita 0439 669 839

Penshurst Hospital

- Combined Churches service 3rd Tuesday every month in W.J. Lewis wing at 11 am.
- Residents, Relatives & Carers group, bi-monthly, 1:30 pm.

Penshurst Social Support Group

- WDHS meets every Thursday; for Exercise, Activities, Outings and General chit chat. Join us for lots of fun & laughter, Sheppard Centre, - Penshurst Hospital. Please contact the Social Support Group Coordinator on 5551 8381 Or @ WDHS on 55518683

Mount Rouse & District Historical Society

- Meetings - 4th Sunday in January, March, May, July, September and November, 2pm at the Court House. New members are most welcome. Contact the Secretary 0418 141 301. The Court House open for Visitors 1st Saturday each month 9.30 am to 12.30 pm.

Friends Yatmerone Reserve

- 7.30 pm Community Room behind the Volcano Discovery Centre
2026 Meeting Dates: Bi-monthly 2nd Tuesday commencing: 10 March, 12 May, 14 July, 8 September, 10 November and 8 December.
- New members welcome.

Lions Club of Penshurst & District

- 1st Friday dinner meeting. 3rd Tuesday business meeting, each month at 8 pm. Venue TBA penshurst.vic@lions.org.au

Penshurst Book Club - meets 3rd Tuesday each month at 2pm. Contact Ruth Pihl on 0490418313



AmbulanceVictoria

The Penshurst Branch is staffed by local Ambulance Community Officers (ACOs).

Ambulance Victoria is looking for people to join the Penshurst team. If you are interested in becoming an ACO or would like further information, please follow the link below.

<https://www.ambulance.vic.gov.au/careers/become-a-first-responder/>

If you would like to chat to a local ACO, please email penshurst.teamleader@ambulance.vic.gov.au

Penshurst Bowls Club

- Pennant Season (October - February) meets 1st Thursday at 7.30pm
Alaister 0427 555 973
- Off Season 1st Tuesday at 7.30pm.

Penshurst Pony Club Rally

- 1st Sunday each month.
Contact Jenni 0409 962 969
- **PPA (Penshurst Progress Association)**
4th Wednesday of every second month at 7pm (Jul, Sep, Nov, Jan, Mar, May) – Community meeting at the Memorial Hall
Committee meetings – as required

COMMUNITY MARKETS

Sunday 8 March, 3 May, 11 October & 13 December

- **CWA**
4th Tuesday of the month at 7pm.
In the senior citizen Clubrooms.
No meeting in December
- **SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB**
Meets at the Club rooms in Bell Street.
Bingo last Tuesday each month. 1.45pm.
- **UKULELE GROUP**
Meets every Sunday at the Senior Citizens from 2pm until 3pm
Contact Paul 0402 902 013 for more information

**Penshurst Church Services
Information on the back page**

What's On Around Mt Rouse - MARCH 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
23	24	25	26	27	28	01
	Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm BINGO! @Senior Citizens Club 1:45pm CWA 7pm		WDHS Social Support Activity Group 10am Mobile Library 3-4pm		Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm Ukulele Class	Lutheran Church Tabor 10am Pensurst Pony Club Rally Ukulele Rehearsal 2pm
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
	Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm Total Lunar Eclipse 10:33pm		WDHS Social Support Activity Group 10am	Lions Club Dinner 6pm	Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm <i>Historical Society @ CourtHouse Open Day</i> 9:30am-12:30pm	Lutheran Church Tabor 10am Uniting Church Service 11am Catholic Church Mass 5pm Penshurst Market 9am-
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm Caramut & District Garden Club 10am <i>Friends of Yatmerone 7:30pm</i>		WDHS Social Support Activity Group 10am Mobile Library 3-4pm		Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm	Lutheran Church Tabor 10am Catholic Church Lay Service 8:30am Ukulele Rehearsal 2pm
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm Penshurst Hospital Combined Church Service 11am <i>Penshurst Book Club 2pm</i> Lions Club Meeting 7:30pm		WDHS Social Support Activity Group 10am	Community Pot Luck Dinner 6:15pm - All Welcome	Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm	Lutheran Church Tabor 10am Uniting Church Service 11am Anglican Church Mass 5pm Penshurst Bowls Club Presentation 1-8pm <i>Historical Society 2pm</i> Ukulele Rehearsal 2pm
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm CWA 7pm	(PPA) Penshurst Progress Association Meeting 7pm	WDHS Social Support Activity Group 10am Mobile Library 3-4pm		Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm	Lutheran Church Tabor 10am Ukulele Rehearsal 2pm
30	31	01	02	03	04	05
	Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm BINGO! @Senior Citizens Club 1:45pm		WDHS Social Support Activity Group 10am	GOOD FRIDAY	Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm <i>Historical Society @ CourtHouse Open Day</i> 9:30am-12:30pm	EASTER SUNDAY Lutheran Church Tabor 10am Pensurst Pony Club Rally

For the young and young at heart - Spaghetti & Marshmallow Structures

To construct a stable and tall spaghetti and marshmallow tower, focus on a strong, wide base and use triangles throughout the structure for rigidity.

Materials Needed

- Dry spaghetti strands (around 20-30 strands per person/team)
- Marshmallows (use full-size marshmallows, around 10-20 per person/team)
- Optional: String, tape, and scissors (often included in the challenge version to reinforce joints or create tension supports)

A flat building surface and a ruler/measuring tape

1 Step-by-Step Building Guide

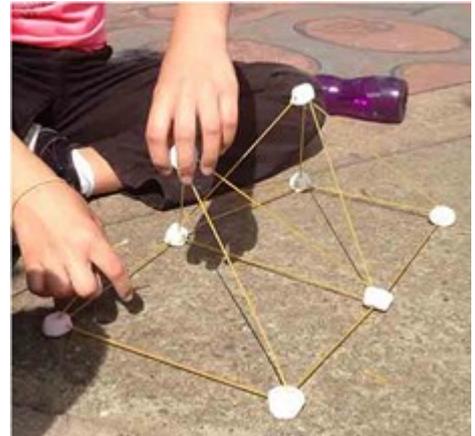
1. **Plan and Design:** Before building, think about how you will create a stable structure. Triangles and pyramids are the strongest shapes in engineering.
2. **Build a Strong Base:** Start with a wide base, such as a square or triangle, to distribute the weight evenly and prevent tipping.
 - Push two strands of spaghetti into a marshmallow, ensuring they are centered and stable.
 - Continue adding marshmallows and spaghetti to form the base shape, ensuring the spaghetti is pushed firmly into the marshmallows.
 - **Build Upwards with Triangles:**
 - From the base marshmallows, push spaghetti strands upward to form pyramids. This adds immense rigidity.
 - Connect the upward-pointing strands from different base sections with a central marshmallow to create the pyramid's point.
 - Repeat this process, creating layers of pyramids or squares reinforced with diagonal braces to add height while maintaining stability.
 - **Reinforce Joints:** Use small pieces of tape or string to reinforce connection points if they feel wobbly. Bundling two or three spaghetti strands together with tape can create a stronger "beam" for vertical supports.
 - **Place the Final Marshmallow:** If the challenge requires it, carefully place one marshmallow at the very top of your completed, free-standing tower. The structure must be able to support it for a short period (e.g., 15 seconds).

Measure and Test: Once complete, measure the height of your tower and see how it holds up.

Tips for Success

- **Embrace Triangles:** Triangles effectively transfer forces, making them much stronger than squares which can lean.
- **Balance is Key:** Ensure weight is distributed evenly to keep the centre of gravity over the base and prevent the tower from falling over.
- **Iterate:** If a part breaks, learn from it and try a different approach. This trial-and-error process is a core part of the engineering design challenge.

Time Management: When doing this as a competition (typically with an 18-minute limit), balance planning with actual construction time.



Mt Rouse News & Views
Community Newsletter

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**DEADLINE FOR CURRENT SUBMISSIONS -
Saturday 7th March 2026**

The newsletter will be published on
Wednesday fortnightly and we would
appreciate submissions at the earliest
possible time within the fortnight but
no later than the Saturday immediately
prior to the Wednesday of publishing.

Editor : Ama Cooke

All correspondence to:
mtrousenewsletter@gmail.com

Also available in colour online at
[https://mtrousenewsletter.org.au/
index.htm](https://mtrousenewsletter.org.au/index.htm)

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Business Card \$5

Our newsletter is free due to the
continuing support of our
advertisers. Thank you.

Penshurst Church Services

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Tabor

Service every Sunday 10.00am

Penshurst Anglican Church

5pm Mass 4th Sunday each month

For further details contact
Fr. David Oulton 0435867040

St Andrew's Uniting Church Penshurst

2nd & 4th Sunday

11am Service

St Joseph's Catholic Church Penshurst

1st Sunday No Service

2nd Sunday Mass 5pm

3rd Sunday Lay Service 8.30am

4th Sunday Mass 5pm

5th Sunday No Service

"Dare to courageous in life.
You have nothing to lose."

— Lailah Gifty Akita



Mobile Library

Will be visiting Penshurst

every Thursday fortnight

3.00 - 4.00pm

Outside the Hall in Martin St

25 February

12 & 26 March

Phone: 5573 0470

www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au/library

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