

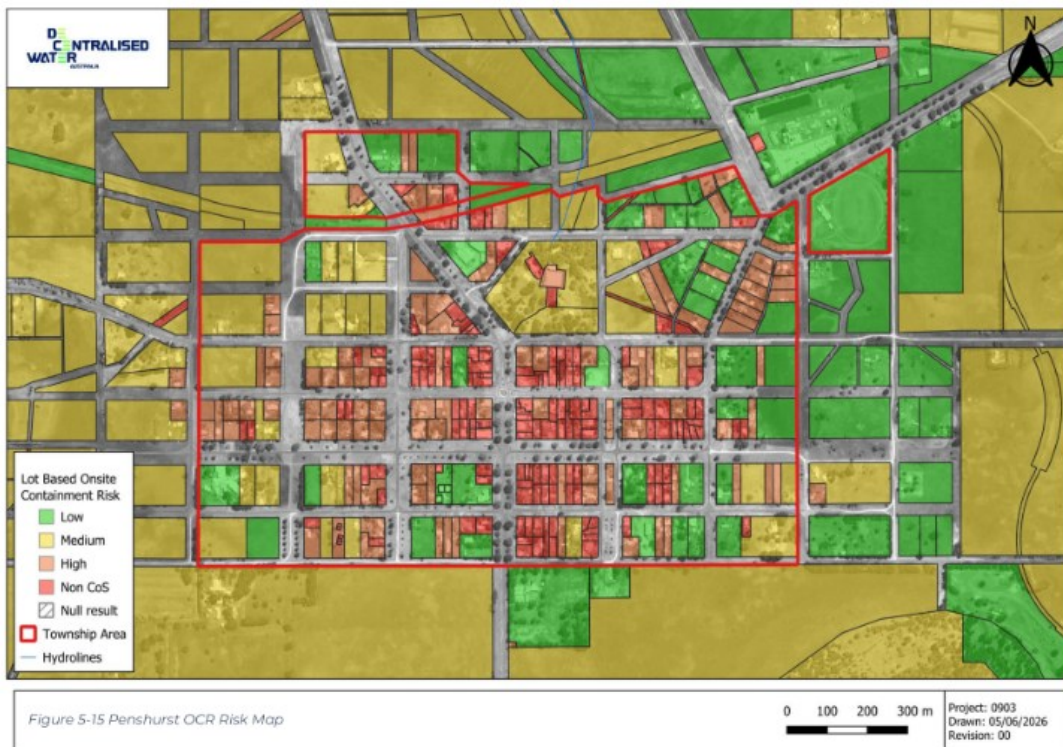
MT ROUSE News & Views



Community Newsletter

SEWERAGE FOR PENSHURST

WORKING TOGETHER ON THE NEXT STEP



SOURCE: SGSC Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2026-2031, Figure 5-15 - Penshurst OCR Risk Map

WHAT THE MAP SHOWS - Council's map assesses lot-based onsite containment risk. Within the township boundary, many properties are High or Non CoS, alongside Medium and Low-risk lots. The classifications extend across many streets, properties and lot sizes.

GOOD MAINTENANCE MATTERS - BUT IT CANNOT CREATE MORE LAND.

Maintenance and improved onsite systems can help manage risk, but they cannot remove the physical limits of constrained lots. Only a sewerage system that takes wastewater away from those lots can solve that underlying land constraint.

FULL STORY AND PETITION: PAGES 2 TO 3

sewerage.penshurst.au



PENSHURST NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

On August 28, Southern Grampians Shire Council released a **182-page Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2026-2031** for consultation with residents via its website by **September 27, 2026**. Whilst almost no Shire resident has heard of this new draft, let alone the feedback request, this is not a minor administrative policy. It concerns public health, housing, development, local businesses, property values and the town's ability to grow.

This draft frames the issue primarily around the condition, operation and regulation of privately owned onsite systems - not around delivering sewerage infrastructure.

The Draft Document's emphasis is on:

- Failing or poorly maintained systems.
- Better Council records and mapping.
- Inspections and compliance activities.
- Owner education and responsibilities.
- Improved approval processes for new or upgraded systems.
- 'Future investigation' and 'long-term planning' for Peshurst.

Continued page 3

Whilst each of these issues is fundamentally important to the health of our environment - and ourselves - these stricter stipulations on maintenance and installation place the burden of responsibility squarely upon residents' shoulders, and they do not provide a solution to the owners of the 161 Peshurst properties identified as non-containment lots.

For Peshurst, the only concrete commitment is future investigation into current operating systems and redefining the requirements for new ones.

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

SEWERAGE FOR PENSHURST

Our town cannot grow without essential wastewater infrastructure

#1	50%	161	VERY HIGH
Penshurst is Council's highest-priority unsewered township	of assessed properties may be unable to contain wastewater onsite	properties are identified as non-containment lots	is Council's overall wastewater risk rating for Penshurst

THREE REASONS PEOPLE MAY HESITATE - AND WHY EVERYONE SHOULD SIGN

1. "My septic system works, and my property isn't marked red."

This campaign is not claiming that every septic system is failing. The red areas on Council's map identify properties where wastewater may not be able to be fully contained within the lot - not a list of badly maintained septic systems.

Even if your system works today, the lack of sewerage affects the whole town. It restricts new housing, limits what can be built or rebuilt, discourages investment and reduces the number of customers supporting local businesses. It may also affect what future owners can do with your property.

A well-maintained septic system cannot create more land.

2. "We've been through this before."

Yes - Penshurst has been considered before, but the problem remains unresolved.

Previous studies should be the starting point - not the end of the discussion. Costs, technology, funding programs and government priorities change. The case must be properly revisited across Council, Wannon Water and the Victorian and Federal governments.

3. "I don't want to have to pay more."

Signing the petition does not commit you to paying for sewerage, accepting a particular scheme or supporting an unspecified household charge. The petition asks government to investigate a practical sewerage solution, determine its true costs and benefits, and actively pursue funding from every available level of government.

Doing nothing also has a cost: restricted development, fewer homes, weaker local businesses and land that cannot reach its full potential. Any future proposal must be affordable, transparent and developed with the community - but Penshurst cannot secure government support unless the community first demonstrates that it wants action.

WHAT THE DRAFT DOES - AND DOES NOT DO

The draft identifies investigation of longer-term servicing options as a high-priority action. However, it does not commit Council to funding or commencing a Penshurst-wide feasibility study, selecting a preferred solution, securing construction funding or setting a delivery timetable.

Signing does not commit you to a particular system or an unknown future charge. It supports the essential first step: obtaining the information, planning and government support needed to secure Penshurst's future.

**WE WANT SEWERAGE FOR PENSHURST.
SIGN THE PETITION**
sewerage.penshurst.au

Please read the facts, view the Council documents and sign the attached paper form or sign online. We need the whole community to show Council and the Victorian Government that this issue must become a funded priority. Every signature strengthens our case.

COUNCIL FEEDBACK CLOSES 27 SEPTEMBER 2026



Penshurst Post Office

31 Martin Street

Postal Services

Cards and Gifts

Stationery and Office Supplies

Collectables

Books

Craft Supplies

Tech Accessories

Bank @ Post



Post Office Boxes available

Pop into the store and try some of our delicious pies, pasties and sausage rolls. Freshly baked bread, cakes and slices.

Treat yourself to a Second Wind by Evolve North coffee and Snug As A Bug Hot Chocolate and browse our everchanging giftware and local produce.

Phone orders and payments are welcome.

Monday & Tuesday - CLOSED

Wednesday to Friday - 7.30am - 2.00pm

Saturday - 8.00am - 2.00pm

Sunday - CLOSED



Penshurst Store



Amanda & Cam Wilson
0439 941 942

Café/Bakery

110 Bell Street, Penshurst

penshurststore@gmail.com

Caramut and District Garden Club

The meeting held at the Penshurst Senior Citizens Club on the 11th of August was our Annual General Meeting. President Marion Starkie was absent for this meeting and requested Marita Smith fill her role for the day. Marita opened the meeting with a quote sent in by Marion. "Failure is never final, it is the courage to continue that counts."

Marita offered our sincere condolences to Josie on the recent passing of her husband Gerry.

Marita presented Marion's report of her year as President.

A big thank you to all members who offered gardens, names and ideas, plus availability.

This helps the club function smoothly. I would also like to thank Gail for all her time and effort that she has put into the club over the last twelve months as secretary, rather demanding at times, well done and thank you.

Mary, our treasurer, thank you for all you do for the club, keeping our finances in order, much appreciated and many thanks.

Thank you to our stall and competition ladies for another successful year. Thank you to all our members for your support and I wish you all well for the coming year.

Marion Starkie

Two beautiful plant gifts were presented to Gail and Mary in thanks from Marion.

Election of office bearers

President.	Marg Humphrys	Secretary.	Gail Makarewitsch
Treasurer.	Mary Underwood	Competition manager.	Gill Hiscock.
Stall manager.	Lorraine Schefferle	Publicity.	Brenda Uebergang.

Competition Aggregate winners

Special.	1st.	Brenda Uebergang	2nd.	Joan Taggart
Bloom.	1st.	Joan Taggart	2nd.	Ann Walter
Produce.	1st.	Jan Street. David Young	2nd.	Marg Humphrys.

The meeting closed with a light lunch which was enjoyed by all (pictured above).

Our next meeting on the 8th of September starting at 10am will be back in Hamilton at the garden of Sue Hards, 281 Mt. Bainbridge Road Hamilton. Please bring a chair and a cup. Also on 86 North Boundary Road there is Grampians Garden Supplies, and a short distance from Bunnings.

The flower of the month is Blossom.

New members are always welcome ring Gail. 0419510364.

Petunias, Geraniums, Marigolds and Snapdragons are great for reliable bright splashes of colour in the Spring garden, Daisies and Lavender never let you down for colour and scent.

Add compost or organic matter to your garden beds before planting to boost nutrients.

HAPPY GARDENING



DAN TEHAN

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR WANNON



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

- ✓ Centrelink
- ✓ National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)
- ✓ Pensions and My Aged Care
- ✓ Medicare
- ✓ Australian Taxation Office (ATO)
- ✓ Veterans' Affairs
- ✓ Immigration, citizenship and passports
- ✓ Australia Post
- ✓ Telecommunications (broadband and mobile coverage)



Dan Listens, Dan Cares, Dan Delivers!

Hamilton: 190 Gray Street, Hamilton VIC 3300
Warrnambool: 158 Koroit Street, Warrnambool VIC 3280

1300 131 692 dan.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au
dantehan.com.au DanTehanWannon dantehan

Authorised by Dan Tehan MP, Liberal, 190 Gray St, Hamilton VIC 3300.

Please fill out my 30 second survey



Services Provided:

- Excavation
- Earth and rock moving
- Landscaping
- Post hole drilling
- All aspects of garden maintenance including lawn mowing.

Contact Andrew to discuss your next project or schedule garden care.

Ph: 0419 875 119

email: ar.earthworx@gmail.com



KNOWLEDGE
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Western AG's core objective is to provide high quality production advice and to supply competitively priced inputs to assist clients to grow the business profitably.

Western AG Hamilton - T: 03 5579 5900

Tim Wilson (Branch Manager) 0429 168 020
Matt Barber (Senior Agronomist) 0488 298 170
Megan Clothier (Animal Health) 0498 226 730
Ben Gay (Merchandise & Logistics) 03 5579 5900
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- Wasps

TREVOR HIRST 0439 375 445
trevor.hirst@outlook.com



TREVOR HIRST 0439 375 445
trevor.hirst@outlook.com



Badges of honour

You know how you look in the mirror and notice a change or two. That somehow you weren't quite as suave and smooth skinned as you were 20 years ago. This especially applies to those of us who are in our dotage. The folk who have noticed some grey hairs.

For me it was the jowls that I noticed. There are lines on my cheeks and around my neck that I'm sure weren't there when I was 22. I jokingly mentioned to someone who knows me better than I know myself, that perhaps I could get some work done. Maybe tighten things up a bit. Make the ugly, flappy bits disappear and help me look a bit younger and more gorgeous than I really am.

Apart from the cost they kindly and appropriately reminded me that my jowls and lines are actually badges of honour.

These 'interesting bits' have been hard won over decades now. They display to all who can stand to look long enough, that I have actually been around the block a few times and while I have stumbled and tripped each time, experience does count for something. It must count for a lot actually.

Perhaps then I ought not to shy and shirk away from the wounds of The Master. Sure it was ugly, messy and bloody, but come the time to see his buddies again these unsightly bits are proof of his ID. Yes, it really is me chaps and here's the picture to go with the story.

More than that, the mushed bits and ugly bits on his hands and feet are proof of love and marks of honour. They are the visual outward display of the love that burns on the inside.

Perhaps I'll save my pennies and wear my jowls with pride after all.

Be.

Daily I read a chunk of psalms. Sometimes they are severely grumpy.

'Appoint someone evil to oppose my enemy;
let an accuser stand at his right hand.'

Sometimes they are gleeful.

'Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth'

Other times there is sage advice.

'Be still my soul.'

Odd that you can read something over and over again and still not properly see it. Just the other day I saw the words 'Be still' and I thought...

'for far too long and far too often, I am *not* still.'

I am not still not in my soul where I should be calm and doona like. I am not still in my scurrying around, like a dorky dad dance. I am not still in my thoughts which are often more like scrambled eggs than a concise 3 point dot plan.

What is it that stirs up this tempest and why can't I seem to quiet it down? Other people can manage beautifully, so what's wrong with me?

I suspect that the starting place for a stiller life is at the deepest place within me. My inner core, my soul, my being, call it what you like. That invisible part that I am drawn to

Continued page 8



Be. (continued)

and yet which is also elusive. That which has always been there, seems to do nothing, but every so often will leap out and bewilder me.

If I can calm this beast, stroke it and make it purr, then the rest of me becomes placid and appropriate.

If I just start with that first word. 'Be'. I don't have to climb mountains, solve the housing crisis or stop crazy wars. I just have to BE. It should be a simple thing but it is always the hardest thing and yet it will always be the most rewarding and essential thing.

Be.

hamiltonanglican.org.au/ Fr David Oulton
p. 0435 867 040 droulton72@gmail.com

Hospital Ladies Auxiliary



**Meeting & Morning Coffee
at Penshurst Store**

Thursday 17th September

At 10.30am

New members welcome.

Penshurst Mens Shed



103 Cobb Street

A great place for basking in the
lovely Spring weather.

Open Tuesday & Saturday

10am - 4pm

For more information talk to
Tom Cooke 0488 557 345
or drop in.

Dad Jokes

1. Why did the scarecrow win an award?
Because he was outstanding in his field.
2. I don't trust stairs because they are always up
to something.
3. What do you call a fake noodle? An impasta.

I was at the dentist's front desk needing to
reschedule my appointment.

Receptionist: "How about tomorrow?"

Me: "Sounds good. What time?"

Receptionist: "2:30."

I froze, locked eyes with her, and slowly began
to grin.

Me: "Are you serious?"

Receptionist: "Umm... yes?"

Me: "Are you telling me I have a dentist ap-
pointment at Tooth Hurty?!"

She completely lost it. I think I've officially
peaked as a father.

4. Why don't scientists trust atoms? Because
they make up everything.

5. Where are average things manufactured?
The satisfactory.

7. What did the shark say when he ate the
clownfish? This tastes a little funny.

Bringing higher education within reach

Have you ever thought about further study but felt that living in a regional community made it too difficult? That's exactly what the new Country Universities Centre Southern Grampians is changing. As one of 55 Regional University Study Hubs across Australia, the CUC Southern Grampians Study Hub is helping improve access to higher education for people who want to study without leaving the communities they love.

Located at South West TAFE's Hamilton campus on Ballarat Road, the study hub provides a welcoming space for students undertaking tertiary courses from universities, TAFE and other providers. Access to the hub is free for registered students from 5am until midnight, 7 days a week, giving students the flexibility to fit study around work, family and other commitments. The fast, reliable internet is also a game-changer for many.

Since opening earlier this year, the study hub has supported over 70 students studying qualifications ranging from a Certificate II through to a PhD. Health courses, particularly nursing, have proven to be the most popular.

Diploma of Nursing student and recent Penshurst resident, Racheal Monaghan, has found the study hub to be "invaluable".

"As I don't have a dedicated study space at home, the CUC has provided me with a venue to undertake uninterrupted study. This has vastly improved my productivity. Not only does the CUC offer secure and comfortable spaces, it also provides desktop computers and multiple screens to attach your own device, along with printing and scanning capabilities. A generous kitchen facility is also available to prepare drinks and snacks or heat up meals."

Centre Manager Zoe Brinsden is passionate about creating a supportive and inclusive environment where students can thrive and connect with others on a similar educational journey. She recently welcomed two new staff members, Nina Hunter and Holly Herrmann, expanding the personalised support available to students. Course advice, learning skills such as academic writing and referencing, and building confidence with digital technology



L-R: Zoe Brinsden, Nina Hunter & Holly Herrmann



Above: Rachael Monaghan



Bringing higher education within reach

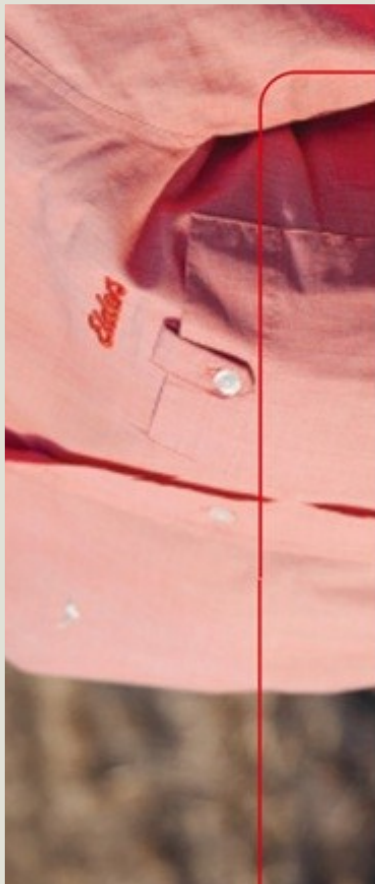
(continued from page 9)

are all part of the holistic support available.

Racheal says the “welcoming and supportive atmosphere created by the CUC team” is her favourite aspect of the study hub. “Staff are always willing to assist and support students with whatever they need to make the most of their learning opportunities.”

After completing her Diploma this year, Racheal hopes to continue working in aged care at Western District Health Service and continue studying online to complete her Bachelor of Nursing. She shares the following advice: “For anyone contemplating study, at any stage in their life, it can be done if you have a passion for your new endeavour and the support of an invaluable resource such as the CUC.”

Penshurst residents considering further study, changing careers or upgrading their qualifications, are encouraged to learn more by visiting www.cucsoutherngrampians.edu.au, emailing degrees@cucsoutherngrampians.edu.au or calling 0448 425 372.



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Lachie Brown 0409 645 915

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Aaron Malseed 0407 782 286

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100 Portland Road,

Hamilton P. 03 5551 5700

E. hamilton@elders.com.au
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A PAGE TO SHARE RECIPES

Lemon Ricotta Dessert Cake

Prep Time 20 mins Cook 45 mins Serves 8

INGREDIENTS

www.taste.com.au

125g Coles organic butter, unsalted, at room temperature, chopped
155g (3/4 cup) caster sugar
1 lemon, rind finely grated
250g fresh ricotta
3 eggs

150g (1 cup) self-raising flour
60ml (1/4 cup) fresh lemon juice
100g (1/4 cup) lemon curd, plus extra to serve
Pure icing sugar, to dust
Vanilla ice cream, to serve

Method

- Step 1 - Preheat oven to 170C/150C fan forced. Grease and line the base of a 20cm springform cake pan with baking paper.
 - Step 2 - Use electric beaters to beat the butter, sugar and lemon rind until pale and creamy. Add the ricotta and beat until just combined. One at a time add the eggs, beating well after each addition.
 - Step 3 - Use a large metal spoon to fold the flour into the mixture. Stir in the lemon juice. Transfer mixture to the prepared pan and dollop with 100g (1/4 cup) lemon curd. Use a flat bladed knife to swirl the lemon curd into the batter. Gently tap the pan on the bench to settle the batter. Bake for 45 minutes or until the cake springs back when lightly touched.
 - Step 4 - Cool the cake in the pan for 10 minutes, then release the side of the pan. Cut the cake into wedges and serve warm, dust with icing sugar, drizzled with extra curd and topped with ice cream.
- **Have an air fryer? Follow these steps** - Replace steps 1 and 3: Place the pan in an air fryer basket. Cook at 150°C for 35-40 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the cake comes out clean. Set aside the cake in the pan for 10 minutes, before transferring to a serving plate.
- If you can, use ricotta bought from the deli as it tends to be firmer and less watery. If you are using ricotta from the supermarket, place it on paper towel on a plate to drain for a few minutes, then weigh it.
 - When you test the cake, try and avoid the lemon swirls on the top. Placing the skewer in these parts can give you a wetter outcome due to the lemon curd but the rest of the cake is cooked and perfect. You then run the risk of overcooking.
 - To serve the cake cold, remove sides as directed then leave to cool until firm and just warm. Use baking paper to lift the cake off pan and place onto a wire rack. Carefully slide the paper out and leave to cool completely. Use fresh ricotta from the deli section of the supermarket.



3 September 2026

Shine a light on Wannon's Local Champions

Dan Tehan MP, Member for Wannon, is calling on the community to recognise the people who go above and beyond in sport and volunteering by nominating them for the 2026 Wannon Sport and Volunteer Awards.

Mr Tehan said the awards provide an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Wannon's sporting community and acknowledge the many people who generously volunteer their time to support others.

"Across Wannon, there are countless people who make an enormous contribution to our communities, whether they are competing at the highest levels of their sport, helping a junior team, responding in an emergency or simply giving their time to make their local community a better place," Mr Tehan said.

"These awards are about making sure those achievements and contributions are recognised. I encourage everyone to think about the people they know who deserve recognition and take a few minutes to nominate them."

Celebrating the people who inspire us through sport

The Wannon Sports Awards recognise sporting achievement, dedication and commitment across all ages and levels of competition.

Nominations are open across four categories:

- * Primary School - Individual or Team Achievement
- * Open - Individual or Team Achievement
- * Secondary School - Individual or Team Achievement
- * Member of Parliament Award

Nominations for the Wannon Sports Awards can be submitted at:
<https://dantehan.com.au/2026-wannon-sport-and-volunteer-awards/>

Honouring the people who make Wannon stronger

Volunteers are the people who step up, lend a hand and make things happen in communities across Wannon.

The Wannon Volunteer Awards shine a light on the individuals and groups whose generosity, commitment and hard work make a lasting difference to the lives of others and help build stronger, more connected communities.

Nominations are open across five categories:

- * Youth Volunteer (under 24 years)
- * Emergency Management
- * Group
- * Inspiring Individual
- * Member of Parliament Award

Nominations for the Wannon Volunteer Awards can be submitted at: <https://dantehan.com.au/2026-wannon-sport-and-volunteer-awards/>

"The people who make the biggest contribution to their communities are often the ones who don't seek recognition," said Mr Tehan. "These awards are a chance to change that - to say thank you, celebrate their achievements and then know their efforts have not gone unnoticed."

Nominations close at 11.59pm on Sunday 4 October.

The 2026 Sport and Volunteer Awards Ceremony will be held on **Thursday 19 November in Hamilton**. For further details, please call 1300 131 692 or 03 5561 6405.



The Hon Dan Tehan

Federal Member for Wannon

Shadow Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

SOUTHERN GRAMPPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL

**Your Council
Your Community****COUNCIL OPENS THE DOORS ON LANDMARK ORGANICS FACILITY AHEAD OF LAUNCH**

Farmers, producers and agribusinesses are invited behind the scenes of one of regional Victoria's most significant waste-to resource projects.

Southern Grampians Shire Council will host a Business Breakfast and facility tour ahead of the official opening of the new Organics Waste Facility at the Hamilton Transfer Station this Spring.

The event, to be held on Thursday 17 September at the Speckled Frog in Hamilton, will give attendees the opportunity to hear directly from Council and organics technology partner Gaia Envirotech about the innovative processing system soon to begin operating at the Hamilton Transfer Station, followed by a tour of the facility.

The new organics processing facility will convert food and garden waste, together with selected agricultural organic materials, into high-quality compost and soil products using advanced enclosed processing technology.

The project is expected to divert thousands of tonnes of organic material from landfill each year, creating valuable products that can be returned to local farms and landscapes while supporting a more circular regional economy.

With production expected to commence in late 2026, the breakfast offers industry stakeholders an opportunity to understand the technology, ask questions and inspect the facility before the first compost products are produced.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Cr Dennis Heslin said the event reflected Council's commitment to working with industry from the outset.

"This is about building confidence in a new regional industry and letting the community in on the ground floor. This is a project we're really proud of and excited about." Cr Heslin said.

"We want to invite the people who may one day be end users of these products to see exactly how they're made, understand the science behind the process and hear their thoughts. As industry insiders, and people who are already involved with the sector, their feedback is invaluable as we prepare to begin production.

"Ideally this will be a two-way conversation. We want to find people who may be interested in trialling the product and providing feedback on what they are looking for so we can best meet those needs," he concluded.

Guests will hear from representatives of Gaia Envirotech, who will explain the technology and science behind the process, while Council staff will provide a progress update, production timeline and future opportunities for agriculture and industry.

Council is encouraging farmers, agricultural producers, industry representatives, businesses, environmental professionals and interested members of the media to attend.

Join us on Thursday 17 September 2026 from 7:30am – 9:00am at the Speckled Frog, Hamilton.

Bookings are essential. Register your interest here [Business Breakfast and Organics Waste Facility Tour Tickets, Thursday 17 September • 7:30 AM - 9 AM | Eventbrite](#)

MEDIA RELEASE

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL

**Your Council
Your Community****COMMUNITY INVITED TO HAVE THEIR SAY ON FUTURE WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT**

Southern Grampians Shire Council invites residents to provide feedback on the Draft Onsite Wastewater Management Plan 2026-2031, with community consultation open from 28 August to 27 September.

The draft plan will outline how Council and community can manage and reduce risks associated with onsite wastewater systems, including septic tanks and other treatment systems used on properties that are not connected to sewerage.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said many properties across the region rely on onsite wastewater systems to safely treat and manage household wastewater.

"When these systems are well maintained and operating correctly, they help protect public health, waterways, groundwater, land and the environment," said Cr Heslin. "However, failing or poorly maintained systems can create risks for both people and the environment.

"This draft plan is about protecting our environment, supporting sustainable development and ensuring wastewater is managed safely now and into the future."

The draft plan outlines Council's five-year approach to managing wastewater risks through better records, informed planning and targeted action in high-risk areas. Supported by updated mapping and environmental assessments, it adopts a risk-based approach to guide planning, development and wastewater management decisions across the Shire.

The plan also proposes improvements to approval processes for new and upgraded systems, while continuing inspection and compliance activities. Community education is another key focus, helping property owners understand their responsibilities for operating and maintaining onsite wastewater systems.

Mayor Heslin said Council has identified priority locations where onsite wastewater management challenges may require additional investigation and long-term planning.

"Penshurst and Glenthompson are the highest-priority locations for future investigation, while Balmoral and Branhholme will remain a focus through risk-based planning, inspections and data improvement initiatives. We would encourage the community to read through the draft plan, provide feedback or to reach out to have a chat to our Environmental Health Team if you would like more information," concluded Cr Heslin.

The plan will replace Council's 2019 Domestic Wastewater Management Plan and reflects changes to environmental legislation, updated guidance and local priorities.

Residents can view the draft plan and provide feedback online through Council's Engage website at www.engage.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au from Friday 28 August until Sunday 27 September. All feedback received during the consultation period will be considered before the final plan is presented to Council for adoption.

E.COLI ALERT LIFTED FOR WANNON AND NIGRETТА RESERVES

Southern Grampians Shire Council would like to advise residents that recent water quality testing at both Wannon Falls (Wannon Falls Scenic Reserve) and Nigretta Falls (Nigretta Falls Scenic

MEDIA RELEASE

SOUTHERN GRAMPPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL



Your Council
Your Community

Continued from page 14

Reserve) has identified **acceptable coliform and *E.Coli* levels** for recreational water contact in accordance with *Environment Protection Act 2027 Environment Reference Standards*.

The previous alert issued in March has now been lifted, with warning signage at both locations removed.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Director Wellbeing, Planning and Regulation, Rory Neeson reminded residents that while the alerts had been lifted, swimming at the Wannon River and Nigretta River Reserves was not recommended.

"Council would like to thank everyone for abiding by relevant safety messages during this time and reminds residents swimming is not advised at either of these locations as they are not safe or dedicated swimming areas," said Mr Neeson.

"Council will continue to monitor these locations over the coming months to ensure the health and safety of the community remains a priority," concluded Mr Neeson.

For further information, please contact Council's Environmental Health Department on 5573 0444.

HAMILTON GALLERY TO REOPEN WITH NEW EXHIBITIONS

Southern Grampians Shire Council is pleased to confirm Hamilton Gallery will reopen to community this Saturday 5 September 2026 with new exhibitions *First Images* by Warrnambool-based artist Jimmi Buscombe and *LOOK! A Children's Exhibition*.

Council temporarily closed the Gallery in August on the advice of specialist contractors after elevated fungal spores were discovered in parts of the building.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said Council was happy to report successful remediation works to public spaces were complete, with reports for air quality within the safe threshold for indoor spaces.

"Remediation works have included maintenance to the exterior of the building to address high moisture levels and preventing future water ingress.

"The Gallery's climate-control system has used hospital-grade filters to assist in the removal airborne spores. Impacted furniture has been removed from the affected areas, and further moisture testing and air-quality has been completed.

"The Gallery will also undergo a deep clean prior to the opening of the new exhibitions on Saturday to ensure any potential residue is removed.

"The ongoing health and wellbeing of staff, volunteers, artists and visitors remains Council's highest priority.

"We thank everyone for their patience during the closure and encourage residents to support the upcoming exhibitions," concluded Cr Heslin.

For more details on the upcoming exhibitions, visit www.hamiltongallery.org/events.

MEDIA RELEASE

SOUTHERN GRAMPPIANS SHIRE COUNCIL



**Your Council
Your Community**

CONTRACTOR INFORMATION NIGHT RETURNS FOR 2026

Southern Grampians Shire Council invites contractors from across the region to attend a networking and information evening on Wednesday 23 September 2026 at Melville Oval.

The Contractor Information Night will provide attendees with valuable insights into Council's upcoming projects and opportunities to work with local government, while also offering a chance to connect with industry peers and key stakeholders.

The event will be particularly relevant for those working in construction, engineering, design, surveying, plumbing, landscaping and infrastructure, with a focus on helping businesses understand how to become a Council contractor and successfully tender for future works. Southern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Dennis Heslin said the event provides practical information for contractors while strengthening connections across the industry.

"This is a great opportunity for contractors from across the south-west to hear directly from Council staff about upcoming infrastructure projects and the requirements of working with us," Cr Heslin said.

"Attendees will hear about Council's 2026/27 capital works program, gain practical tips for preparing strong tender submissions, and learn more about Council's procurement processes. Information will cover the full project lifecycle, from how works are advertised through to Council's long-term planning and delivery of major projects."

Wannon Water will also be in attendance to update participants on upcoming projects and opportunities within the region, as well as providing information on how contractors can stay informed about future works and procurement opportunities.

Cr Heslin encouraged contractors and businesses to attend and to share the invitation with their networks.

The evening will run from 5:00pm to 7:30pm and will include presentations, opportunities to meet Council staff and industry representatives, dedicated networking time and refreshments. While the focus will be on local government projects, the information shared will also be valuable for businesses interested in government contracting opportunities more broadly.

Bookings are essential. Reserve your place through the link [RSVP - Contractor Networking and Information Night 2026](#), or contact Southern Grampians Shire Council on (03) 5573 0444.

Answers to last fortnight's crossword. Across:
1 fresh, 7 request, 8 concert, 10 version,
12 marathon, 14 language, 15 orthodox,
17 convenience, 18 honoured, 21 parachute,
22 trace, 24 highlight, 25 resolution.
Down: 2 express, 3 jest, 4 ponder, 5 few,
6 stretch, 9 dough, 11 invasion, 13 quotation,
16 incapable, 18 circulation, 20 think, 23 mile.

Hatches, Matches and Dispatches, Anniversaries and Birthdays too

*Email, or phone the editor with your
free Community Notices.*

Would you like to add your group, club, or meetings etc to our community information page. Do the details need updating?
Contact the editor.

Across:

6: To spellbind, or egress.

7: To spend more money than usual on something for yourself.

10: To give up or let go of something.

11: To express dissatisfaction.

13: A police officer whose job is to find information about crimes and to catch criminals.

15: Refusing to change your mind, plans or behaviour or being hard to deal with, move or fix.

16: An amount that is more than the usual or necessary amount.

18: A line drawn underneath.

20: Focusing on one issue.

22: One of the flat and typically green parts of a plant that grow from a stem or twig.

24: In general rather than in particular, or including all the people or things.

25: A tall, narrow building or structure that may stand apart from or be attached to another building or structure.

Down:

1: Human framework.

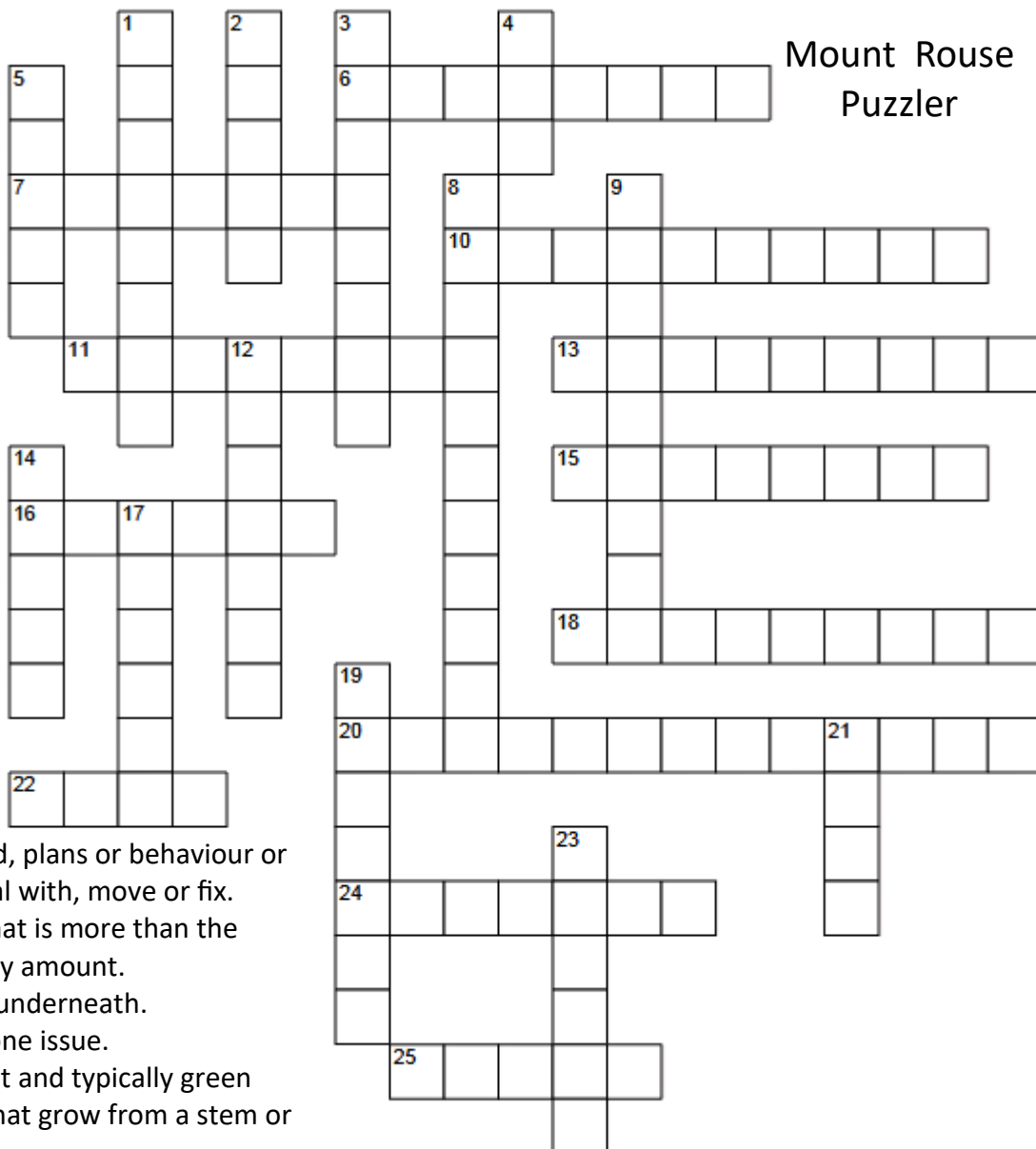
2: Very good at learning or thinking about things.

3: The act of sending someone to another person or place for treatment, help, advice, etc.

4: The making of objects, images, music, etc. that are beautiful or that express feelings.

5: Involving the possibility of something bad or unpleasant happening.

Mount Rouse
Puzzler



8: A business deal.

9: The course or path on which something is moving or pointing.

12: A strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement for something or about doing something.

14: A specific height.

17: The site of multiple adventures, screams, naps and nooky.

19: The process or system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought in a country or region.

21: Two identical or very similar items that form a set.

23: A versatile container, made of wood, metal, or plastic, with a heady aroma.



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Mandy's Hair Design

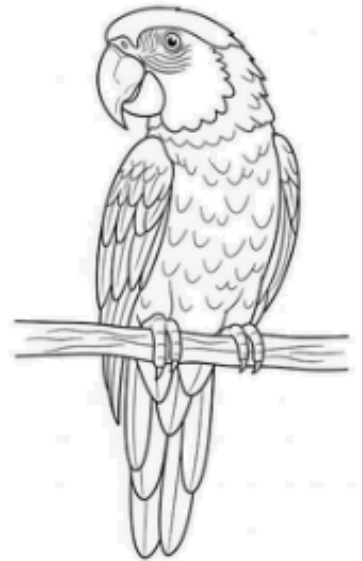
Hamilton

*Bookings by
appointment
only*

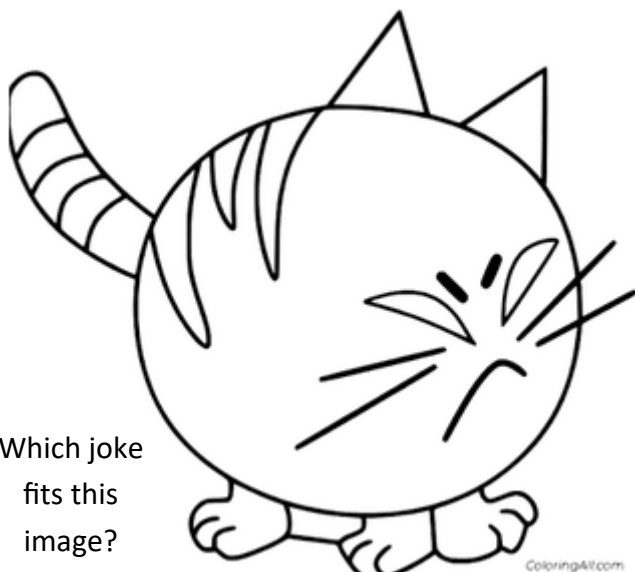


Phone 0417 511 177

For the child in all of us



Q: What do you get when you cross a cow with a trampoline?
 A: A milkshake!
 Q: What do you get if you cross a parrot with a shark?
 A: A bird that will talk your ear off.
 Q: What do you get when you cross a karate expert with a pig?
 A: A porkchop.
 Q: What do you get when you cross a tiger and a blizzard?
 A: Frostbite!
 Q: What do you get when you cross a caterpillar and a parrot?
 A: A walkie talkie!
 Q: What do you get when you cross a lemon and a cat?
 A: A sourpuss.
 Q: What do you get when you cross a frog with a rabbit?
 A: A bunny ribbit.
 Q: What do you get when you cross a chicken and a chihuahua?
 A: Pooched eggs.



Which joke fits this image?



Community Information**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 Gail 0419 510 364

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.
- **Healthy Limbs Club - Wednesday 9.30 - 11.30am each week. No appointment necessary commencing 2nd September**

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 VDC
2026 Meeting Dates: Bi-monthly 2nd Tuesday commencing: 10 March, 12 May, 14 July, 8 September, 10 November and 8 December.
- New members welcome.

Ukulele Group

Meets every Sunday at the Senior Citizens from 2pm until 3pm - Contact Paul 0402 902 013 for more Information

Volcanoes Discovery Centre

- Open every Friday 11 - 3pm, Weekends & School Holidays 10 - 4pm.
New volunteers always welcome. Contact President Jo Vigliaturo 0408 544 670.

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 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.

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

Lions Club of Penshurst & District

- Social dinner 1st Friday, and business meetings 3rd Tuesday each month.
Welcoming new members.
penshurst.vic@lions.org.au
- Weekly Sunday Park Walk 10am @ Penshurst Botanic Gardens, with monthly Morning Tea on the 1st Sunday.

What's On Around Mt Rouse - SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Lutheran Church Tabor 10am <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i> Ukulele Group 2-3pm	31 Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm Bowls Club Meeting 7:30pm	01 Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm Bowls Club Meeting 7:30pm	02 Healthy Limbs Club - Penshurst Hospital 11:30am <i>Newsletter Year 9 Edition 3</i>	03 WDHS - Penshurst Social & Activity Group 10am	04 <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-3pm</i> Lions Club Social Dinner	05 CourtHouse Open Day 9:30am-12:30pm Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i>
06 PARK WALK @ Penshurst Botanic Gardens 10am Lutheran Church - Tabor 10am <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i> Ukulele Group 2-3pm Pony Club Rally	07 Caramut & District Garden Club 10am Friends of Yatmerone 7:30	08 Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm Caramut & District Garden Club 10am	09 Healthy Limbs Club - Penshurst Hospital 11:30am	10 WDHS - Penshurst Social & Activity Group 10am Mobile Library 3-4pm	11 <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-3pm</i> Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i>	12 Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i>
13 Catholic Church Mass 8:30am Lutheran Church - Tabor 10am Uniting Church Service 11am <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i> Ukulele Group 2-3pm	14 Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm Bowls Club Meeting 7:30pm	15 Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm Hospital Combined Church Service 11am PENSHURST BOOK CLUB 2PM Lions Club Meeting 7:30pm	16 Healthy Limbs Club - Penshurst Hospital 11:30am	17 WDHS - Penshurst Social & Activity Group 10am	18 <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-3pm</i> Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i>	19 School Holidays Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i>
20 School Holidays Catholic Church Lay 8:30am Lutheran Church - Tabor 10am <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i> Ukulele Group 2-3pm	21 School Holidays <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i> Country Womens Association(CWA) 7pm	22 School Holidays Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i>	23 School Holidays <i>Newsletter Year 9 Edition 4</i> <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i> Healthy Limbs Club - Penshurst Hospital 11:30am (PPA) Penshurst Progress Association Meeting 7pm	24 School Holidays WDHS - Penshurst Social & Activity Group 10am <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i> Mobile Library 3-4pm	25 School Holidays <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-3pm</i> Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i>	26 School Holidays Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i>
27 School Holidays Catholic Church Mass 8:30am Lutheran Church - Tabor 10am Uniting Church Service 11am Anglican Church Mass 5pm <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i> Ukulele Group 2-3pm HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2PM	28 School Holidays <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i> BINGO! @ Senior Citizens Club 1:45pm	29 School Holidays Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i>	30 School Holidays Healthy Limbs Club - Penshurst Hospital 11:30am	01 School Holidays WDHS - Penshurst Social & Activity Group 10am <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i>	02 School Holidays <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-3pm</i> Lions Club Social Dinner	03 School Holidays CourtHouse Open Day 9:30am-12:30pm Penshurst Shed 10am-4pm <i>Volcana Discovery Centre 11am-4pm</i> BOWLS PENNANT SEASON BEGINS

**Mt Rouse News & Views
Community Newsletter**

Published by
Mt Rouse Community Newsletter Inc

ABN 95 801 619 635

Registered Address: 103 Cobb Street,
Penshurst 3289

Submissions: 46 Watton Street.

**DEADLINE FOR CURRENT SUBMISSIONS -
Saturday 19th September 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
0402 870 738

All correspondence to:
mtrousenewsletter@gmail.com

Also available in colour online at
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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 8.30 am
3rd Sunday Lay Service 8.30 am
4th Sunday Mass 8.30 am
5th Sunday No Service



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



Mobile Library

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every Thursday fortnight
3.00 - 4.00pm

Outside the Hall in Martin St

10 & 24 September

Phone: 5573 0470

www.sthgramplans.vic.gov.au/library

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