



The Macarthur Christmas Street Party

The Macarthur Street Party was held on December 16th in perfect weather and with plenty to eat and drink. The Lions' Club made sure the food was cooked to perfection and while the adults chatted the children played and enjoyed rides on Andrew Duyvestyn's coach, a perennial favourite for children of all ages. Santa dropped in with sweets for the children to top off a great night. A raffle raised just under \$200 and a local club or group will be chosen to receive this money at the next MADA meeting.

MADA would like to thank Leighton's, Vestas and AGL for generously funding the party. We were pleased that some of the workers from the Wind Farm were able to join us on the night and we hope they had a good time and were looked after by the locals.

A very big thank you to the Lions' for doing the cooking, Andrew Duyvestyn for bringing his coach and magnificent horses, Henry Byron for the marquees and Santa for finding the time to drop in. Thank you too, to those who helped with the preparation of the food and setting up and those who stayed behind to help with the cleaning up, It was good to be able to look at Market Square the next day and not be able to find any sign that a party had been held there the previous night. Well done everyone!



The next General Meeting of the Macarthur Advancement & Development Association Inc.

Wednesday 1st Feb at 8:00 pm at the **Senior Citizens Clubrooms Macarthur**

Swimming Pools and young children

by
Merilyn Cook

I have been prompted to write this article as a result of a front page report in the Spectator (21st January) about a 5 year old boy who had to be rescued at the HILAC pool in Hamilton. The boy and his 7 year old sister had been left at the pool by their parents who then went to work. There seems to be a widespread belief that lifeguards are employed to supervise and look after children in the pool. These children should never have been left unsupervised, that is the responsibility of the parents.

A “Watch around Water” programme being rolled out publishes a list of supervision guidelines. Two that apply to children under 10 state:

1. *Children under 5 must be constantly supervised and remain within arms reach.*
2. *Children under 10 must be accompanied into the facility and constantly supervised by a parent or guardian who must have a clear view of the child at all times.*

The person responsible for children under the age of 10 must be at least 16 years of age. If you ask a young person to be responsible for your children you must make sure they understand their responsibility. A teenager enjoying time with friends may forget to actively supervise younger children.

The primary role of supervision is the responsibility of the parent. Their vigilance should result in the alarm being raised very quickly when a child gets into difficulty. The parent can intervene before the situation becomes desperate.

Although this is generally not a problem in Macarthur we all need to be vigilant to make sure young children are not left in a dangerous situation without proper supervision. Please report instances of young children being left unsupervised to the Pool Manager. The lifeguard is there to supervise generally and to act in emergencies. He/she cannot watch all pool patrons all the time. If they are dealing with an unruly group at one end they may not know that a child is in danger at the other until they are alerted. Please be vigilant at all times, the safety of children is vital.



Inara Douglas goes solo on the water slide.



Barbara Bragg with grandson Eric enjoying a day at the pool.



Kids enjoyed the Vic Swim classes with Brendan Gay.


Macarthur Wind Farm Community Fund

With rounds one and two of the Community Fund Grants decided we are now down to the final round so you may be interested to know which groups in Macarthur have been successful in their applications for funding. In most cases the funding received is only for part of the cost of their project.

In the first round the successful applicants and the projects funded were CFA (Macarthur Group) - Group Command Vehicle, Macarthur Child Care - shade sail, soft fall material and play equipment, Men's Shed - insulation and split system air conditioner and Macarthur Community Health Centre - Mobile Media Centre.

Successful applicants in the second round were the Macarthur Swimming Pool - defibrillator, Macarthur Primary School - blinds for the new building and MADA - Dump Point for caravans and mobile homes.

The final round applications will close on March 30th. If your club/group is planning to submit an application in this round make sure you do not miss the closing date. There are many projects currently on the go in Macarthur and the funding provided is invaluable to organizations in a small town such as ours.



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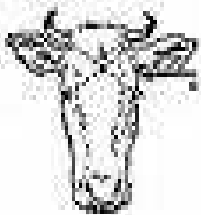
Macarthur RSL News

Members are advised of the next meeting being our 'Annual General Meeting' to held in the 'air conditioned' club rooms on Tuesday 14th February 2012 @ 8pm

Macarthur Golf Club



Ladies Meeting
Monday February 6th
at 9.30 am
All welcome



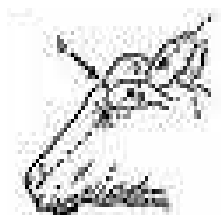
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We missed a few birthdays in January so we would like to give some belated birthday wishes to Margaret Annett,

Betty Brian,
Charlie Rowbottom,
Jean Bennett,

Hope you all had a lovely day with family and friends.

Birthday wishes this month to Dulcie McLeod on the 14th .

Congratulations to Michael Lambevski who has received an offer to study Engineering at the Mt Helen Campus of the University of Ballarat.

Macarthur Memorial Rose Garden

Many thanks to those who have helped keep the garden in good shape and a special thank you to Joe and Andrea Mooney and Narelle for their efforts. Please contact Cheryl Hill on 5576 1041 with any enquiries regarding plaques and rose purchases.

Christmas Lights Winners

The winners of the 2011 Christmas Lights Competition are Peter & Lyn Peach and the winners of the Children's Choice section are Greg and Linda Malseed. These couples have been presented with a gift certificate to spend at the Macarthur Hotel.

A new business was opening and one of the owner's friends wanted to send flowers for the occasion.

They arrived at the new business site and the owner read the card; it read "Rest in Peace."

The owner was angry and called the florist to complain.

After he had told the florist of the obvious mistake and how angry he was, the florist said.

"Sir, I'm really sorry for the mistake, but rather than getting angry you should imagine this: Somewhere there is a funeral taking place today, and they have flowers with a note saying,

'Congratulations on your new location!.'

FAVOURITE RECIPES

5 MINUTE CHOCOLATE MUG CAKE



- 4 tablespoons flour
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons cocoa
- 1 egg
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 3 tablespoons oil
- 3 tablespoons chocolate chips (optional)
- A small splash of vanilla extract
- 1 large coffee mug (MicroSafe)

Add dry ingredients to mug, and mix well. Add the egg and mix thoroughly.

Pour in the milk and oil and mix well..

Add the chocolate chips (if using) and vanilla extract, and mix again. Put your mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes at 1000 watts.

The cake will rise over the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed!

Allow to cool a little, and tip out onto a plate if desired.

EAT ! (this can serve 2 if you want to feel slightly more virtuous).



Macarthur Community Gym Membership only \$50:00 per year.

All new members will have a free induction to the equipment with our local fitness instructor Jodie Nicholls to get you started. You can then choose to participate in Jodie's twice weekly circuit classes which are only \$5:00 per class, and/or secure a key from the health centre so you can go whenever you like.

Membership forms are available from Macarthur Community Health, Enquiries 55522000

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Success on the rink for newcomer

Bowls newcomer, Carole Dunn, has tasted success in her first season of bowls. Carole reached the State Playoffs in Queenscliff last month after taking up bowls in October last year. Well known in racing circles as a jockey, Carole went on to train racehorses and recently decided it was a long way to the ground at her age if she came off one.

Carole's success is down to several things, natural talent, hard work and the ability to stay focused when things go wrong. I suspect a sense of humour helps and Carole has that in spades. She can often be seen at the bowling club trying to perfect her technique and her hard work has certainly paid off. Well done Carole! We are all waiting to see just how far you can go with a little more experience under your belt.

Pictured left. Carole & Anne Wright at Cobden after winning the Regional Novice Singles.

A family of sportsmen?

Sporting ability certainly seems to run in the Lambevski family with all of the boys making their mark in cricket or football or, in some cases, both. Natural talent may play a part, but drive along High Street on any afternoon and you are almost sure to see some of the boys playing cricket or kicking a football. Their love of their sport plus natural ability and the willingness to spend hours honing their skills seems to be paying off and we look forward to seeing them develop and achieve success in their chosen sports.



Macarthur Men's Shed showing off their new sign.

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Blade Runner!

The students at the Macarthur Primary School had a real treat at the end of the school year when a blade on its way to the Macarthur Wind Farm was stopped in High Street to allow them time to inspect it and check out its considerable length. The prime mover transporting the blade was aptly named "Blade Runner".

The children enjoyed getting up close to the blade and were able to stay and watch as it was maneuvered around the corner, a real treat to watch and a real skill on the part of the driver.



Bowls champions
Ken Handreck
and
Mary Millard



Winning Team. L-R. Jennifer McIntyre, Wendy Colcott, Nan Sharrock and Georgina Davis.

MACARTHUR BOWLS

Macarthur recently held their Club Singles Championships for the men and women. The weather wasn't over kind with a very blustery wind making it difficult for the bowlers.

The winner of the Men's Singles was Ken Handreck defeating last years winner Barry Sharrock. Winner of the Ladies Singles was Mary Millard defeating Jean Schroeder. Mary has now won the club's championship 13 times.

Macarthur held their Ladies Tournament on Wed 25th Jan. The winning team played under the Dunkeld banner with 2 locals, Nan Sharrock & Georgina Davis filling in 2 vacant places. The 14 teams enjoyed a great days bowling with the weather being not quite so hot with a nice sea breeze.

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Editorial

For some time now I have been thinking long and hard about several issues that affect both our environment and our finances. This has come to a head with the "Carbon Tax" debate and the legislation passed by Federal Parliament and due to become law in July. Despite widespread opposition to the so called "Carbon Tax" the Labour Government refused to back down and went ahead with the legislation. Each of us needs to consider the following.

The debate and the Governments advertising was grossly misleading. It is a Carbon Dioxide Tax yet none of the politicians and none of the advertising called it that. The term used was always "Carbon Tax" and if it is said often enough people begin to associate it with pollution. Carbon Dioxide is an odourless, tasteless invisible. Every time humans and animals breathe they release carbon dioxide into the air. Carbon dioxide is absorbed by plants that then produce the oxygen we need to live. To remain healthy plants need this exchange.

Advertisement inevitably had a power plant in the background belching out huge amounts of pollution and we were constantly told that the Government was committed to reducing the amount of dirty energy and increasing clean energy. In many cases the image used was that of a power station in England that has in fact been shut down for many years. The visible emissions from many power plants in this country are in fact largely steam.

How many times have you heard wind power referred to as clean or green energy? A wind farm creates a huge carbon footprint during the construction phase. Consider the enormous amounts of concrete and reo in the footings, the consumption of power for the manufacture of the materials used and in manufacturing the towers themselves. The blades, nacelles and hubs come from Europe. Materials have been trucked in every 10 minutes over many months adding to the carbon footprint. Every tower must operate for years before it becomes carbon neutral so how much of the energy produced by a wind farm is actually green? Don't get me wrong, I am not an opponent of wind farms but I do resent them being presented as clean and green!

The Carbon Dioxide Tax is reactive and not proactive. The tax collected goes around in a circle, companies pay the tax to the government who pay it back to us to compensate us for the extra costs incurred as a result of rising prices.

If the Carbon Dioxide Tax is to be effective it has to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. There has been a lot of money spent on research into carbon sinks. Surely if we need to reduce the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere there are some very simple steps we can take. In Africa deserts have been the result of years and years of cutting down trees for firewood. Money put in to projects aimed at planting trees and reclaiming deserts is one way we can be proactive. If farmers are encouraged to return to the old practices of planting hedgerows it would serve several purposes. The hedgerows would absorb carbon dioxide, provide shelter for stock and habitat for wildlife and birds. Shelter belts of trees could also be encouraged.

Under pressure from the Greens many councils have banned the removal of fallen trees from the roadside because the Greens consider the provision of a wildlife habitat more important than the safety of humans in a fire. I can see no sane reason for encouraging native wildlife to live anywhere near a road. By clearing roadsides and encouraging wildlife into hedgerows we would hopefully reduce the number of native animals that end up as road kill.

Many of us have flown into airports and on our approach have looked down into thousands of suburban gardens without a single tree growing in the yard. This is another area we can take steps to address the lack of trees. We can also look at reclaiming our own desert areas. There are species of Australian native trees suitable for this purpose.

We have a right to know exactly what outcomes the tax will produce. Many of us will disagree with the direction our Government is taking but will not speak up. We have a responsibility to our children and grandchildren to break our silence and demand answers from every level of Government, local, state and federal. We have a right to direct and honest answers to our questions.

Some of you will not agree with my observations, all I ask is that you think about the implications of the Carbon Dioxide Tax and, if you have questions, demand answers. If you do agree with me, make your feelings known to the Government. This issue is too important to sit back and hope for the best.

The agenda is being driven by the Greens and the power they wield is disproportionate to their numbers. It is time for the voice of the majority to be heard.

The trial of the naked horseman

In December last year Macarthur witnessed the re-enactment of a notorious day in the history of the town when a worker from a nearby station rode into town naked to purchase a bottle of spirits, the result of a bet he accepted. His arrival in town coincided with a Catholic Church Service being held at the pub. The ladies present were scandalized, the children terrified and the men outraged. The local policeman was called on to bring the miscreant to justice and, at a trial held in the Macarthur Courthouse he was sentenced to a term of hard labour.

The story was acted out and the criminal locked up in the newly renovated police cell. Bev Magilton (Ross) and Alex Philip, life members of the Macarthur Historical Society, were then called on to unveil a plaque detailing the history of the Lock Up. Parts in the re-enactment were played by locals and everyone entered into the spirit of the day, many turning out in period costume.

A visual arts display was mounted to coincide with the "Trial of the naked horseman" with a variety of art media on display. The standard of the artistic works displayed was very high and a visual treat. Some lucky people were able to buy the piece they fell in love with and went home very happy. The rest of us were left to dream of owning one of those pieces of art. Approximately \$1200 raised from the door takings and proceeds of a raffle has been donated to the Royal Children's Hospital.

A lot of hard work went into the staging of this day and it was well worth the effort expended. It was a great day, celebrating the past, appreciating the talent and enjoying the present as a community. What more could you want?

Thank you to everyone involved in presenting a wonderful community event.



No Pressure, No Diamonds

Local pianist, Kate Cowland has recently sat her Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB) fourth grade piano exam. Kate was awarded with the highest grade possible, that being an A+ (High Distinction).

Kate has been learning the piano since she was five years of age. Her teacher, Mrs. Kathryn Salt says the eleven year old has incredible natural talent as Kate's playing ability is well beyond her years. Kate however, believes it is also the long hours of practise she puts in.

Kate, who attends The Hamilton and Alexandra College, arises each morning at 6:15 a.m. to begin her daily practise session before departing for school.

Kate has put her trust in a quote by a Scottish Historian, Thomas Carlyle - "No Pressure, No Diamonds". Kate says, "To achieve what I am capable of, I must show commitment and dedication to my practise routine which sometimes creates pressure." In this case, Kate's efforts have paid off.

Kate is now working on her fifth grade pieces along with the pieces for the school Band and Pizzicato Strings which she accompanies on piano.



LOCAL HORSE WINS HER MAIDEN

Locally owned City Style finally broke through her maiden status with a win at Great Western.

Owners Carole, her daughter Samantha and John Ingram were over the moon with her win. It gave Samantha her first win as a trainer. It's taken a while to get there but hopefully there will be a few more wins in the not too distant future.

MACARTHUR NEWS

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City Style with jockey Christine Puls at Warrnambool recently.

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February 2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1 SENIOR CITIZENS	2	3	4	5
		MADA MEETING				
6	7	8 SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH	9 MEN'S SHED	10	11	12
13	14 RSL AGM 8pm	15 SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH	23 MEN'S SHED	24	25	26
27	28	29 SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH				