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Quote of the month

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character.

Martin Luther King, Jnr.

Newsletter email address:

From now on if you have news to share via this media, please use this new email address. merrijignewsletter@gmail.com is where you need to direct your articles, reports or promo’s for the upcoming activities of groups you belong to. Please remember to welcome your new neighbours via the community news and share a few pictures of your most recent or exciting holiday adventure.


Some articles in this newsletter may be sourced by the Mansfield Courier so consider this if you are submitting stories you could be sensitive about sharing with the community wider than Merrijig.

If you’re looking for a Justice of the Peace,

Catherine McNish, Sawmill Settlement 0429 482 309
and from April 3, Laurie Jacob 0439 280 333
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The Merrijig Memorial opposite the Buttercup and Mt Buller Roads junction, has undergone a stunning transformation. Locally known as “The Five Pines”, even though only three remain, the area was quite overgrown and understated.

As a result of community comments last ANZAC Day, a group of Merrijigers put together a request to the Merrijig Public Hall Committee to “sponsor” a renovation/upgrading project, to mark the upcoming ANZAC Centenary but also to encourage the appreciation and understanding of future generations of the service and sacrifice of all Australians who served in war, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

The Hall Committee rose to the occasion, which enabled various applications for grants etc to be lodged and also generously contributed $3000 seed money, to enable the project to proceed.

A project team of Merrijig residents, Frank Johnson, Georgie Deyell, Adele McCormack, Jim Blundell, Paul Jackson, Kerrie and Greg Purcell and Peter Howarth was formed and considered design proposals, budget and all the associated issues.

VicRoads formally gave the Hall Committee management of the site, including the memorial parkland and have been very supportive of the project, which has received grants from Ausnet (formerly SP Ausnet), Mansfield Shire and (hopefully) the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

What you will see at the Memorial is the result of hard work by community members but it would not have been delivered without the above grants and an amazing level of contribution by benefactors in the local community, together with the generosity of many Mansfield businesses. The list is too long (and incomplete!) to record here, however Peter Howarth has undertaken to ensure they are all recognised after the service this ANZAC Day on April 25.

Merrijig morning, on Anzac Day 2015 will be a special time. Closer to the day, a program of the service will be circulated. Hopefully as many as possible will come to the top of the hill, primarily for remembrance, but also to strengthen the links which make this community special.
Dawn service for ANZAC Day at Merrijig Memorial - a chance for all of us to remember

Some thoughts from Frank Johnson of Merrijig

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT WHAT THEY GAVE UP?

I HAVE: as I sit at home on my deck, enjoying the scenery of the river and the mountains over a barbecue and a glass of wine. Yes, it was a different world, with different values and expectations, but they gave up living in “God’s Country” to the unknown of a foreign country to fight for what they believed was their duty to protect our freedoms.

They landed in hell, being Gallipoli, in the early hours of the morning of April 25, 1915 but displayed a lot of traits now identified as the positives of being Australian - determination, mateship, a great sense of humour, initiative and a willingness of never giving up.

Given this occurred 100 years ago on ANZAC Day this April 25, 2015 all local residents and visitors are invited to attend the Dawn Service at The Five Pines (now Merrijig War and Service Memorial) site at the intersection of Buttercup Road and Mt Buller Road, Merrijig. As a part of this commemorative service for the last eight years, mountain cattlemen and women have ridden from the Hunt Club Hotel along and up the Mt Buller Road to the memorial site.

Riders gather at the Hunt Club Hotel at 6.30 am and ride up the hill for a service starting at about 7.30 am. The short service captures the feeling and essence of all those who have represented Australia in all conflicts and peace keeping actions during our history.

At the conclusion of the service a “Gunfire Breakfast” is held on site consisting of egg and bacon sandwiches, coffee, tea and ANZAC biscuits for the small cost of a gold coin donation which will be used to maintain the up-keep of the memorial site.
Anyone who attends is invited to lay a wreath or a rock of remembrance at the site. Rocks can be blank or have names and service details inscribed on them in remembrance of friends and relatives who served.

We have our freedoms to choose what we wish, to do without thoughts of reprisal and this extends to ANZAC Day, however, given this is such an important day on our national calendar and the 100th anniversary of the original ANZAC Day we urge you to take a small amount time out and join the local community to remember what our armed service men and women gave up to protect us and sit back and admire where we live and what they miss.

Frank Johnson

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to say a huge thank you to whoever organised the cleaning up of the Corn Hill Memorial. It is delightful to drive past and see a neat, tidy area that is much more respectful of our past service men and women.

The whole area looks fantastic now and hats off to the people behind the transformation!

Yours respectfully
Carole McCluskey
Principal
Merrijig Primary School

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Dear Editor,

Just a quick note to thank you for the Merrijig Community Newsletters.

I am reposting them direct to the web site for the Victoria Police Alpine Club where our large membership gets to access them.

They are really appreciated and helps us keep up to date with current events. Keep them coming please.

Kind Regards.
John Blaikie
VPAC

********
Easter Tree Sale at Howqua

by Richard Jago Mansfield Courier

Property owners will be keen to attend a special event this Easter, when the potted trees from the Howqua nursery, Sambar Park, will be on sale. Will this be the end of an era for the spectacular 80 acre property, currently being advertised for expressions of interest?

Co-owner of the property, Mike Wilkins, said the park was bought in 2004 and had seen several infrastructure improvements, including a new bridge across the river. The accommodation and the trees produce an income that covers both the costs and management of the property," he said.

“I don’t know of many lifestyle properties that pay for themselves in this way. “But my wife and I have decided on a change of lifestyle and are now in Portsea. “When we bought the property the trees were in-ground on the river flat, but we changed to putting them in pots so we could sell all year round.

“The nursery can of course be expanded and the new owner may want to take this on.”

Property managers Jan and Brett Shelley have been on the property for about two years, with Jan looking after guests in the 40 square accommodation and Brett taking care of all maintenance issues.

Horticulturist Alistair Carroll has had responsibility for the maintenance of the mature potted trees, which are carefully organised on the property’s river flat. “These trees are acclimatised to the area,” he said. “There are maples, magnolias, pin oaks, Chinese elms, crepe myrtles - about 40 varieties in all.”

There are more than 1000 trees and shrubs on sale, some of them up to four metres in height. By Easter the trees will be showing their autumn colours and will be irresistible to avid gardeners.

Sambar Park property managers Brett Shelley and Jan Ash (left) work with horticulturist Alistair Carroll to keep the park and its trees in top condition.

*******
**Film Launch - Saturday, April 11, 6pm - Mansfield Historical Centre, Goods Shed**

**Mansfield’s Anzacs - Personal Stories about Mansfield’s Sons, Daughters & Horses involved in WW1.**

Mansfield Historical Society and Mansfield RSL along with community members and students from the Mansfield Secondary College have worked with a professional film maker to produce three unique short documentaries depicting local stories of war.

These include the horses from Mansfield, the allure of war, letters from the frontline, the women who served, the effect on families, the community and the aftermath of war.

For more information follow this link to the [Film Flyer](#) or contact the Mansfield Historical Society on (03) 5779 1094.

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**Visit to Merrijig for Independent Member for Indi – Saturday, April 11**

Independent Member for Indi, Cathy McGowan AO, will carry out her second ‘Valley Visit’ for 2015 to parts of the Broken Valley. The visit on Saturday, April 11, to Merrijig and Jamieson is a chance for residents to meet with Ms McGowan to discuss important issues affecting communities in the area.

Ms McGowan made a commitment during the 2013 election campaign to visit towns in the Indi electorate to listen to constituents about their views. She visited all valleys last year and these proved to be valuable in providing Ms McGowan information on key issues, and guidance on what areas to prioritise.

Issues raised included mobile phone coverage and NBN connection, the future of agriculture, industry and manufacturing in the north east, small business red tape, health and mental health services, and providing support for youth.

“I’m enjoying getting out and meeting people and listening to their concerns in a number of areas and this allows me to go to Canberra and lobby the Government on behalf of Indi to get positive outcomes,” she said.

People are welcome to attend these public gatherings. For more information, please contact the office of Cathy McGowan on 03 5721 7077.

**Cathy McGowan Broken Valley Visit, April 11**

**Jamieson** Perkins St – opposite the Courthouse - 10.10am  
**Merrijig** - Hunt Club Hotel carpark - 11.45am

Keep an eye out for the Cathyvan!
Who’s doing what lately…?

Judy Kirkham, recently went to Tatura to watch her seven year old granddaughter Charli Hill compete in the Welsh Pony Nationals. Riding on her beloved Trickstar, Charli had an extremely successful weekend bringing home several ribbons to add to her collection.

Judy hopes her daughter, Katie, will hopefully forgive her for putting this in the newsletter but as she is a ‘gloating grandmother’ she could not resist from doing so.

Then the next weekend Charli and family travelled to Sydney. Charli was asked to ride a pony named Christabelle. In a letter to her Nan, Charli wrote that they went to the cricket which was very very hot and then she rode.

Proud mother Katie reported Charli rode very well on a horse she had not ridden before. Quite an achievement for this youngster.
Charli is pictured proudly displaying her ribbons she earned at the Sydney Nationals. We’re not sure what she has won but they are very impressive colours. Congratulations Charli.

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Buttercup to London for Merrijig couple
Louise and Laurie Jacob of Buttercup Rd have been enjoying some great side trips during their stay in London. A five day visit to Sweden and a weekend in Munich which took them into Austria as well, can be found on Louise’s blog at www.buttercuptolondon.blogspot.co.uk
Previous posts can be found on the right hand side.

The oldest stave church in Sweden
Experimental fabric of fibre optic light seen at the Swedish School of Textiles, part of the University of Borås

The beautiful island of Hörö

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A WORD FROM THE SHIRE

Mayor Cr Marg Attley:- Your local representative on Mansfield Shire Council. Available to be contacted on: 5776 2231 or marg.attley@mansfield.vic.gov.au

Mansfield Shire Council Community Matching Fund

The Mansfield Shire Council Community Matching fund has just closed. This fund provides grants of up to $5000 to not-for-profit groups based in Mansfield Shire. The Fund aims to support the valuable work undertaken by volunteers and community groups in our Shire.

For more information visit Mansfield Shire Council or contact the Community Resilience Team Ph: 5775 8555 Email: keira.mcdonagh@mansfield.vic.gov.au or kirsten.lingard@mansfield.vic.gov.au

As well as Council's grants there are a number of other grants currently available and worth checking out!

Mansfield and District Community Bank

Mansfield & District Community Bank® Branch's community funding program has been supporting the Mansfield and surrounding district since the Branch opened in 2007. The funding program is designed to assist community groups with a wide range of projects, events and initiatives on a local level.

For more information visit Mansfield Community Bank website

FRRR

The Small Grants for Rural Communities (SGRC) is the longest running and broadest program FRRR offers, opening twice per year. Grants of up to $5,000 are available for projects and activities that offer clear public benefit for communities in rural, regional or remote Australia. Priority is given to communities of 10,000 or fewer.

For more information FRRR website

Australia Post

Australia Post is calling on community groups, charitable organisations and small businesses that are connecting people and creating positive change to apply for funding of up to $10,000 through the latest Our Neighbourhood Grants program.
**drumMUSTER collection**  
Wednesday, 8 April 2015 to Wednesday, 8 April 2015

**Description:** The next drumMUSTER collection will be held at the Council Depot, Lakins Road, Mansfield on Wednesday 8 April 2015 between 9am and 12 noon. All farm chemical users within the region are encouraged to bring their empty, properly cleaned, non-returnable, steel and plastic farm chemical containers to the depot for inspection and collection. Unclean or partly filled containers will not be accepted and will remain the property of the chemical user. For further information regarding the upcoming drumMUSTER collection, please contact Council on 5775 8555.

**Address:**  
Street: Lakins Road  
City: Mansfield  

**Contact:**  
Rebecca Kirley  
Email: rebecca.kirley@mansfield.vic.gov.au  
Phone: 0357758580  
Mobile:  
Website: http://www.mansfield.vic.gov.au

**And because it’s early in the month of May......**

**Event:** Jamieson Autumn Festival  
**Date:** Saturday, 2 May 2015 to Saturday, 2 May 2015  

**Description:**  
The Jamieson Autumn Festival showcases the natural beauty of Jamieson in Autumn. This high country town is well known for ...

**Address:**  
Street: Perkins and nearby streets  
City: Jamieson  

**More information**

**Books on Wheels.....**

This is not a mobile library but instead is a home delivery service provided to members of the Mansfield community who are unable to visit the library. These may be those who are frail, aged or who have a disability and their carers. It can be on a long term basis or for short-term respite purposes.

The High Country Library Corporation works in partnership with Red Cross and the Mansfield Shire Council to provide the service.

Those interested fill out a form which indicates the number, type and genre of material which they would like to receive. Some people choose to visit the library to make their own choices and then have them delivered at a later pre-arranged time.
Volunteers, with the assistance of library staff select books, DVDs and magazines for patron based on the preferences they have indicated. The volunteers then make the deliveries fortnightly or every four weeks.

If you know of someone who might enjoy this service please contact the library on 5775 2176.

What’s been happening last month.....?

Thrills, spills and buckin’ broncos at Merrijig Rodeo

by Rhyll McCormack for Mansfield Courier

There were bulls, beers, barrels and broncs at the Merrijig Rodeo held on the Saturday of the Labour Day weekend in March.

With perfect weather the visitors thronged to the annual event, where they were treated to one of the best night’s out the Mansfield Shire has to offer.

Featuring the best riders in the Australian Professional Rodeo Association, including local rider Will Purcell, the night was a resounding success as competitors bucked, roped, raced and wrestled away the evening.

The highlight of the rodeo was no doubt the Jess Hearn Memorial Steer Ride, which was won for the second year running by Lachie Cullican, who rode the full eight seconds for a score of 70 points.

Scotty Purcell came in a close second on 64, waving to the crowd as his steer stopped bucking and changed tactics to a flat out run around the arena perimeter.

Third place went to another Merrijig local with Lawrence Prendergast on 59 points, and though no others made the full eight seconds, it was good to see some local ladies trying their hand out with young Marnie Egan also having a go.
Some more great photos for you from Dave Ethell......

Nicole Fitzpatrick

Ellie Gard Jnr on Bar
Spectacular Jake Malay-Murphy Jnr

Winners are grinners!

**********
Council endorses project for Changue Rd Reserve

“The following report is from the President of the Friends of Changue Road Reserve, Nicole Gibson. It is with great pleasure after several years of community consultation including (discussions, meetings, work groups & community surveys), along with strong partnership with the Shire (especially Kirsten Lingard, Sue Arndt and Marg Attley) that we have very exciting news on progress at Changue Road Reserve.

As a result of the Friends of Changue Road survey the following enhancement option has been chosen by the community:

- Formed Walking Paths
- Park Benches
- Signage
- Shade Trees

The Council endorsed this option at its meeting held on March 17, 2015 and further to this confirmed its support of the Friends of Changue Road Reserve group, in collaboration with Council, to be responsible for the implementation of the project.

This is a very positive result which provides the opportunity to enhance a beautiful open space for the community in the Upper Delatite area of Merrijig. The next stage will involve planning and seeking funding.

- A recent working bee on Labour Day weekend saw more than 20 people including several children working on shovels and wheelbarrows to move mulch, slashing & raking - all helping to clear walking paths to Mt Buller Road and the fire track.

- The group hosted a fundraising and promotions stall at the Merrijig Family Fun Day with many members assisting for a great cause.

The groups mission is - To Protect, Preserve & Enhance the Reserve for community use.

If you are interested in being involved in this project, perhaps you have skills which you could offer, please become a member of the Friends of Changue Road Reserve.

More information is available on the groups website which can be found at:

http://friendsofchangueroadreserve.weebly.com or email The Secretary focrri@gmail.com.

*******
Merrijig Family Fun Day a hoot.....by Adele McCormack

Well it was an unqualified success it would seem. So much good feedback. So many people saying thank you for putting this day on. Lots of happy children and happy parents. So many smiling faces above chests full of coloured ribbons and so many happy, tired and dirty little horse riders.

What a wonderful team of people. We had about 50 volunteers to help the committee pull this off on the day and many of the people attending and the stall holders complimented various committee members on a smoothly-run event and this could not have happened without the help of all these wonderful volunteers. In a few weeks’ time when our president returns from his adventures we will have a social barbecue to say thanks - so stay tuned.

Total takings on the day were close to $3500 which may not leave much to go towards the toilet block costs but will give us enough to improve on this year’s event. This year we relied heavily on community sponsorship and support and without that strength of support we could not have covered as many bases as we managed to. For example Van Eyk Horses Merrijig coming in as a major sponsor when we were down to a bank balance of $600 and Pinnacle Valley Resort Merrijig sponsoring the entire cost for the two jumping castles which were operating all day long free of charge to the families. The owners of the jumping castles so enjoyed themselves they asked to be invited back next year.

The static displays with the vintage motorbikes, cars and tractors were a big hit as were the new car and SES and CFA vehicles and those displaying these exhibits were also full of praise for the Fun Day and are more than happy to come back again in the future.

The horsey kids and adults LOVED the gymkhana-style events and beginner riders proudly wandered around the stalls later on wearing their ribbons around their own necks being the first they have ever won. The turn up for these horse events with a competition pony club event running in Mansfield on the same day was wonderful and Jacquie who organised this side of the entertainment was thrilled with the results. Her team of judges and stewards were also pleased to be involved, many asking to be included in future events. The barrel racing was very popular and it didn’t matter if it was the first time going around the barrels or you were experienced, the fun was in the participation.
and it seemed everyone who took part was really happy they could have a go. Kate Bergmuller organised the barrel races even to the point of covering the barrels with bright pink and black wraps making the event very special.

Mr Harold Mitchell AC presented the trophies to the winners of sections of the equestrian program to the delight of the winners. Mr Mitchell said he will take any opportunity to come to Merrijig and had wandered around the fun day before reporting to perform his presentation duties. He told me he was very impressed and could see everyone was enjoying themselves.

Keely Moggach was overjoyed to win with Harold Mitchell AC

Then there were the very popular pedestrian events and novelty games. Paula Allen with her team of volunteers ran the running races, sack races etc while Judy Kirkham organised amongst others the gumboot toss and footy kicking novelty events. I think we wore poor Judy out, as she said when leaving, “I may spend tomorrow in bed I think” :-)

The event was officially opened at 10am to a small crowd. Most of the people came between 11 am and 1 pm but that didn’t matter. Mansfield Shire’s Mayor, Cr Marg Attley, welcomed everyone and was very pleased to be involved with the first Merrijig Family Fun Day. The crowd showed huge support right from the first announcement. Marg Attley introduced State Member of Parliament for the seat of Eildon, Cindy McLeish, who officially opened the day and both she and Marg mentioned me in thanks which, although I know they were dealing with me all the time, I found a little embarrassing because I know for a fact that one person cannot pull off an event such as this it is a whole team working together that makes it happen. The comments were very much appreciated but really undeserved as I am really just the communicator, while others work away in the background.
We were given donations of vouchers from Duckids for beautiful children’s clothing and Cindy McLeish was invited to wander around the crowd and meet people while she chose one boy to be the Master of Merrijig Family Fun Day and a Miss of Merrijig Family Fun Day as well as a cute little one.

Her Master choice was Jaxon McCormack, (who just happens to be my great grandnephew,) eldest son of Jack and Rhyll. Cindy was taken with Jaxon as he looked very smart in his long sleeved McCormack Mountain Trail Rides shirt, jeans and cow boy boots with his chest covered in ribbons from participating in the foot events.

For the Miss prize Cindy liked Maddison Smith, who is a member of the Mansfield Junior Motorcycle Club who have their track at Merrijig. Maddison’s little sister Mika took out the little ones prize, Cindy was taken with the girls in matching gear including cowgirl boots. They did not receive their prizes personally but Daddy happily accepted on their behalf as the girls were busy at the jumping castles at the time and Cindy had to get away to her next engagement.

Another very popular aspect of the day was the monster raffle which was a rolling raffle. The tickets you bought at the beginning of the day were still in the draw until all the prizes were gone. First prize a 12/240v portable Ironman fridge valued at $680 was most happily won by Jacquie Pollard who must have bought half a book of tickets. My friend visiting from NSW won the second draw and was thrilled to be able to ring his daughter to say he had a $250 voucher for Duckids clothing for his
granddaughter. The draws came closer and closer together and some people who had left returned to choose their prizes and everyone was thrilled to be a winner. Every item in the Monster Raffle was a donation and they gave a lot of pleasure to the winners.

We have a list of ideas for improvements and suggestions to go into the future with, in the next few weeks the committee and team will have a debriefing and open discussion about direction and date choice – you are invited to put in your ‘two bob’s worth’ at any time but if you have some suggestions it would be nice to be able to put them on the agenda for discussion at this meeting so feel free to give them to anyone on the team.

The quick survey was very well supported and will give the committees of the future an idea of what was popular and what was the best form of advertising. The family dinner at the Hunt Club Hotel encouraged people to participate in this, giving a very good idea for future guidance.

It was really pleasing to see the area the next day when we returned to do a final pack up as it was very clean, the families who attended were all tidy and people were not dropping rubbish willy nilly around the grounds. That reminds me that our rubbish team of Patrick Bretherton and his good mate who likes to be called Bear were amazing. They worked all throughout the day, changing bin liners and making sure there was no overflowing bins around. They even brought all the bins into the bin storage area before they finished for the day. Such quality volunteers were operating throughout the day from the gate and parking to cooking of chips, running after footballs and gumboots and scrutinising horsey events.

An extremely pleasing result for the work of a dedicated team of locals who honoured me with a presentation of a specially made award I was presented with at the clean up, with some very kind words which brought tears to my eyes. I don’t think anyone does this sort of thing for pats on the back. You do them because there is a need for it in the community in which you live in and love. In my case, because I have developed some experience throughout my life having been involved in various activities and functions – passing on this experience is something I see as being a good member of one’s community and like a tradesman teaching his skills to his apprentice, it’s just what happens. This is not to say I don’t appreciate the acknowledgement of the effort I put in but it is just because I’m lucky enough to be able to.
There you have one quick report on the day after the event. When we have had time to work thorough what worked and what can be better, the future Fun Days will be AMAZING.

**Fantastic support from sponsors**

The working committee is extremely grateful for the invaluable support from the following sponsors:

- Merrijig Public Hall Committee
- Mansfield Junior Motor Cycle Club Committee
- Merrijig - The Sebel Pinnacle Valley Resort
- Gone Riding Store Mansfield
- Kate Bergmuller
- Adele McCormack, M’shed at Merrijig
- Chris & Fiona Dunlop of High Country Horses
- Tony Demenzo of Henry the Third
- Mountain Trail Rides
- Produce and Pet Supplies
- Barb and Craig Jones of Stirling Experience
- Fishing
- K & M Onsite Auto Electrics
- beef jerky
- Carey’s Paint Place
- Mansfield branch of the Bendigo Community Bank
- Andrew and Juliet Jurrjens of AJ’s Laundry
- Catie Mars of Duckids
- Cafe 41
- The Old Fire Station Restaurant
- Mansfield Campdraft Committee
- Merrijig Rodeo & Sports Association
- Merrijig Hunt Club Hotel
- Van Eky Horses
- Peter Arundel
- Eliza Fraser
- Mansfield Shire Council
- Dean Grining of Mansfield Climate Control
- Bruce and Deb McCormack of McCormack
- Francis and Liz Seaton of Mansfield
- Justin Crockett of Oakbank Produce
- Mandy Kirley of Mansfield Hunting and Fishing
- Fern Chadband of Wallaby Ritz
- Kerry Moggach of Kehanake - premium
- Jan Ash of Howqua River Trees
- Mathew Currie
- Georgie Deyell of Debonair K9
- Yenckens Mitre 10 Mansfield
- Mansfield Courier
- Mansfield Sports Shop

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School resumes first day of Term two - Monday, April 13

Gallipoli Oaks Project eNews

Growing as fast as they can

There are only a small number of these rare acorns available each year in Victoria, but rest assured that every single seedling is being allocated to a primary school as soon as it is ready for planting. The first batch of 300 seedlings will be sent before April 25. The second and third batches are already in pots and are busy growing to a suitable size for planting during the Anzac Centenary 2015-2018.

The school’s tree will be available before Anzac Day. A site for it needs to be determined, where it can grow without being interfered with.

Mansfield Junior Football
Under 10s & Under 12s
Training began
Wednesday, March 25
4pm at the Lords Oval
Training
U10s & U12s.
LORDS OVAL 4.15 pm - 5.15 pm on Wednesdays.
U 14s
MAIN OVAL Tuesday & Thursday at 4 - 5 pm
U16s
MAIN OVAL Tuesday & Thursday at 4.30 - 5.30 pm

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MANSFIELD AUSKICK - Starts next term, Friday, April 17.
All inquiries - Kristie Payne 0438 578 300

What’s on at the Merrijig Hall?
The energies of the committee of the Merrijig public Hall has been focused on completion of
the Merrijig Memorial at the junction of the Mt Buller Rd and Buttercup Rd.
See report on pages 4 and 5 of this newsletter.
Here are a couple more photos for you.

What a transformation from its original condition and a flagpole!
And the key players - of course there are many more who contributed in kind and deed.

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PILATES AT MERRIJIG HALL – still drawing a good mob of Merrijiggers

9:30 - 10:30 Thursday mornings - Pay as you go $10.

Classes given by Shona Stoneman - qualified personal and group fitness trainer from Mansfield.

Shona's Pilates Class on Thursday mornings at 9.30 am.

Please give Shona a call on 0419 007 663.

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Mansfield Bushwalking Club

The club has commenced mid-week walks, please refer to the club’s website for time and places. This can be found at http://www.mansfieldbushwalking.com

The first Midweek walk was March 5 when the group walked to Mt Winstanley which started and finished at King Saddle.
On Tuesday, March 17 the Blue Range (Rifle Butts) walk was steep and uphill to start the walk then along the ridgeline where the views were beautiful.

The club has received several requests from various people to accompany them on longer walks,

eg. the Kokoda Trail from September and the Larapinta Trail in NT in mid-May.
If you are wanting further information please contact the club president, David Smithwick on 0400 786 549.

**Social nights** Members & non-members welcome.

Every third Monday of the month at the Delatite Hotel from 7.45 pm with a speaker sharing walking experiences.

In March John and Alva Condon presented their walking experiences in the stunning Dolomites - a famous part of the northern Italian alps. Many thanks to John and Alva.

In February Peter and Julie Ellett presented their three-week walk along the Larapinta Trail near Alice Springs. Great turnout for a very interesting presentation

Many thanks to Peter and Ellett

**Upcoming weekend walk - Change of date**

The Mt Samaria day walk is now on Sunday, April 19. Details contact Maureen on 0419 307 509.

**Social night** - Monday, April 20 at 7.45 pm at the Delatite Hotel.
**Topic:** The Camino Trail.

If any readers are interested in club activities please contact the club president, David Smithwick via the website or 0400 786 549.

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**Mansfield Junior Motor Cycle Club by Tania Ellett**

Mansfield Junior Motorcycle Club held its monthly club day on Sunday, March 15 at McCormack Park, Merrijig. There was a great turnout with 46 children riding, signed up some new members, put through some renewals and spoke with some new prospective members.

Again, it was great to see all the little bikes and riders out on the tracks, especially the girls! A total of 13 girls rode on Sunday which was just awesome to see.
Tania also reported that the club is currently sitting at 74 active members. ‘The weather and riding was great on the day and we would like to give a special thanks to the Merrijig CFA for paying us a visit - always exciting for the kids!’

Tania added that the committee would like to thank young Charlie Payne (with broken arm and all!) for helping out with coaching the junior group. His coaching was great, Tania added! ‘Thanks too, to our regular 'coaching staff' - Craig, Greg & Jason for running some training sessions too. There was a good deal of work with the yellow group on riding positions and riding through the ‘berms’. All the kids did a great job and have some training tips and skills to work on in the coming weeks.

‘Catering again was above par! Pete, Stu and Michelle put on a smorgasbord, that's for sure. The extra food was awesome and we are overwhelmed by the great contributions and offers of help! A huge thank you to all the helpers, Tania concluded.
The club took part in the Merrijig Family Fun Day at McCormack Park (Just below its motorcycle track) on March 28. ‘Our amazing benefactor and property owner Ms. Adele McCormack and her committee have organised the day,’ she said.

The club’s next few meetings will be away from McCormack Park as it will be hosting the Grass Track Events which enable both adult and junior riders to compete in separate events on the same day. These events are fund raising events for MMC and are open to anybody to
compete. There were up to 150 riders at each of the last year's grass track events so the club is hoping for similar numbers this year.

Club Day Dates:

April 26, 2015 - Grass Track/Club Day Friday's Property Long Lane Barwite

May 17, 2015 - Grass Track/Club Day Stoney's Property Soldiers Road, Barwite

May 31, 2015 - Club Day - McCormack Park Merrijig (Junior Riders Only)

June 7, 2015 - Grass Track/Club Day Stoney's Property Soldiers Road, Barwite

Advertisements.........
Merrigig Hall is available for hire for any function
at most reasonable rates
when looking for a venue
for a birthday party, wedding, family reunion
keep your community hall in mind - it’s there for your use
Call Sen Weir 0407 565 962 or 5777 5656

At Merrigig Hall
On Tuesdays
between 10 to 12
& only costing $3.00

Muscle Group
Don’t do any of
these workouts
pictured.
Its good fun & light
muscle strengthening
exercises

The group gathers on Thursdays at
11am, finishing up around 3pm.
Everyone brings along a small plate
of goodies to share
for morning tea and/or lunch. Tea
and coffee are supplied.
New members welcome.
Cost per session is $4.
For further details contact Kerrie
on 04 3738 0384

Quick catering
Emergency Chef
filling in for sick staff. As well as
Group catering, Private parties,
Weddings & Wakes
including advice and preparation
also hiring table waiting teams.

Phone Paul Jackson
0427 384 648
Michele has been busy face painting for a birthday parties
And was a big hit at the Christmas market in Tolmie

To hire Michele for a birthday party or club fundraiser
check out the notice below.

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And yes winter's coming...

Now for a final good laugh!

I used to walk into a room full of people and wonder if they liked me. Now I look around and wonder if I like them.

Spirit Science
Hope you’ve enjoyed all the news and thank you to all the contributors who make this newsletter what it is.

Best regards from Louise Jacob

This month this Merrijig Community Newsletter has been compiled by Louise Jacob of Merrijig and published on www.merrijig.com.au as a community service.

The newsletter is an outcome of the Merrijig Community Plan initiated by the Shire of Mansfield Council and supported by the Merrijig Public Hall Committee.

Every care has been taken in gathering and presenting the information on this site. Enquiries can be directed to merrijignewsletter@gmail.com

The website is designed and sponsored by Merrijig resident, Steve Thompson of Appaloosa Films www.appaloosafilms.tv