

# Tarrangower Times

Est 1858

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Friday, December 24, 2021

Merry Christmas  
**Christmas Supplement** *pages 9 - 11*

SHOP  
LOCAL

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LOCAL

## Christmas comes early for two lucky winners

☆ **Left:** Cecilia, happy winner of the air conditioning competition. **Centre:** Local electrician Pat Cummins was excited to give away not one, but two, fully installed air conditioners. **Right:** Lucky winner, Max from Walmer.  
*Article on page 3*

## Maldon Hospital amalgamation

**R**ecent feedback on the possible amalgamation of Maldon Hospital and Castlemaine Health found two contrasting perspectives. Those who saw opportunity and those who were concerned about the loss of independence.

The feedback process involved over 100 face-to-face meetings, including fortnightly meetings with Maldon Hospital staff, social media posts and a community survey that received 174 responses.

There were eight key themes identified from the findings: management structure, improved services, greater specialisation, transparency, loss of existing services, improved access to a diverse range of GP's, diversity and local identity.

Community comments from the survey in relation to the key themes include:

### Management Structure

'There must be provision for Maldon residents on the management committee.'

'Once amalgamation happens there is no going back. I encourage the Maldon board to really consider this and think of the Maldon community. Not many of the board members on the Maldon board are local and live in the community.'

'I am NOT in favour of the proposed amalgamation. Having lived through the amalgamations of organisations for which I

*Continued on page 8*

## Merry Christmas and a happier new year

We hope your year's highlights are still to come and keep on coming in 2022.

If you need us over the festive season, our team is here for you.

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2021  
2021

# Community Diary

If you have a community event that you would like publicised in this Community Diary, please email: karen@tarrangowertimes.com.au or send details to us at PO Box 18 Maldon 3463, or drop a note into the letterbox in the office door to have it listed.

This is a free community service.

*It is a good idea to advertise closer to the event.*

## EVERY DAY EXCEPT MONDAY

**LIONS CLUB OP SHOP**, 10am to 2pm. Enq: Jenny 0407 158 833.

## FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

**CASTLEMAINE FARMERS MARKET**, 9am to 1pm at the IGA carpark in Forest Street. Enq: www.castlemainefarmersmarket.org or 0490 366 243.

**MALDON PONY CLUB RALLY** (except January) at the Maldon Campdraft grounds at 9.30am for gear checks for a 10am kick off. Enq: Kira Chalmers 0407 140 580.

## EVERY SUNDAY

**MALDON MUSEUM**, Shire Gardens, 11.30am - 2pm. Admission \$2.50 adults, children free.

## EVERY SUNDAY FORTNIGHT

**MALDON PÉTANQUE CLUB** games every second Sunday at St. Brigid's at 1.30 for a 2pm start. Enq: Sandy Noble 0429 006 130. Andrew Leckie 5400 1054.

**SOCIAL PÉTANQUE** is played on the Penny School pistes every second Sunday, alternating with MPC, at 1.45 for a 2pm start, unless rain is bucketing down, or it is over 30°. Enq: 0459 093 452.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

**ATHENAEUM LIBRARY**, 97 High Street, Maldon. Open 10am-1pm includes book sales. Tina Fratta 0437 094 469.

**MALDON MARKET**: Hand Made, Home Grown, 9am - 1.30pm. Bill Woodfull Recreation Reserve.

**THE MALDON VINTAGE MACHINERY & MUSEUM** is a haven for machinery enthusiasts before and after the industrial revolution, but with more. Open 10am-4pm. Entry free - donations welcome. More info: Peter 0408 146 537.

## LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

**CASTLEMAINE REPAIR CAFE**, 10am - 1pm at Castlemaine Community House, 30 Templeton St. Enter from back door. Bring along broken electrical, general sewing repairs and maybe a cuppa and weekend paper in case you have to wait a while. No kitchen because of COVID. Gold coin donation. Learn to repair.

## EVERY MONDAY

**LAP SWIMMING**, Maldon Swimming Pool, 6pm - 7pm.

**OCCASIONAL CHILDCARE**, Maldon Neighbourhood Centre 9.30am-2.30pm. Enq. 5475 2093 or info@maldonnc.org.au.

**ATHENAEUM LIBRARY**, High Street, Maldon. 2-4pm. Suzette Phillips 0429 776 893.

**MALDON BRIDGE CLUB** at the Maldon Hotel, 1.15pm - 4.30pm. New players welcome including solo players. Enq: Danny Murphy 0430 733 782.

**MALDON WALKING GROUP**, starting at 9.30am for a gentle walk. Start at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre. No booking required. Cancelled if heavy rain or a Code Red Day. Enq: 5479 1000.

## Tarrangower Times

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**Available from:** Maldon Newsagency, Castlemaine Newsagency, Newstead Country Store and Baringhup General Store.

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#### CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES:

• Community and News 12noon Tuesday.

• Late notices such as Births and Deaths by 10.30am Wednesday.

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**SOCIAL GOLF** - 8.30am - 9 holes, free for members or \$10 green fees. Enq:

maldongolf4u@gmail.com or Gay Reid 0413 013 766.

**NORDIC POLE WALKING** (during school terms), 9.30am at Castlemaine Botanical Gardens. Further info and bookings 5479 1000.

## FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD MORNINGS** from 10am MNC Community garden.

## SECOND MONDAY OF THE MONTH

**THE MALDON GARDEN, FLORAL ART AND CRAFT CLUB**, 2pm. Enqs: Carmel 0417 014 763.

## THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD MORNINGS** from 10am MNC Community garden.

**THE MALDON GARDEN, FLORAL ART AND CRAFT CLUB**, 2pm. Enqs: Carmel 0417 014 763.

## EVERY TUESDAY

**AQUA AEROBICS**, Maldon Swimming Pool, 6pm. Cost \$9.50 (or \$6 with season pass).

**COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICE**. Book the day prior for your door-to-door service. Trips within and to Maldon & Castlemaine in the morning, fortnightly trips to Maryborough and Kangaroo Flat. Phone 5475 2093. \$3 one way, \$5 return. More info: www.maldonnc.org.au/community-bus.

**MAH JONG** for seniors 10am-1pm at Maldon Community Centre. Beginners welcome. Enquiries: Kerry 0407 738 855.

**MALDON BOWLING CLUB**, at 10am, as long as COVID restrictions allow.

**MALDON BRISK WALKING GROUP**, 7.30am meet at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre.

**MALDON SOCIAL TABLE TENNIS**, 1.30pm-3.30pm, Maldon Community Centre. Cost \$10 subscription to Maldon Seniors, \$2 donation on the day. Enq. Anne 0425 859 662.

**MALDON CROQUET CLUB**, 9.30am. New members welcome. Enq. Damien Kennedy 0428 130 764.

**YOGA AND RELAXATION**, Maldon Neighbourhood Centre Hall. Evenings 6-7.30pm. Come and try, first class free. Enq: Andrea 0427 772 878.

## FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

**NUGGETTY LAND PROTECTION GROUP** meeting. For further info contact Christine Fitzgerald - ckfitz5@bigpond.com - 0419 347 408.

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

**ATHENAEUM LIBRARY**, High Street, Maldon. 2-4pm. Enqs Suzette Phillips 0429 776 893.

**CANASTA** for seniors 10am at Maldon Community Centre. Beginners welcome.

Enquiries: Lyn 0409 566 551.

**COMMUNITY LUNCH** (no lockdowns) 12 noon, Maldon Community Centre.

Delicious two-course lunch during school terms. All welcome. \$5. Enq: 5475 2093

**OR COMMUNITY PANTRY** (during lockdowns) Delicious home-delivered meals for a \$5 donation. Order info@maldonnc.org.au or 5475 2093.

**EASY STEPS TO FITNESS AEROBICS**, 9am - 10am Maldon Neighbourhood Centre, beginners welcome. \$10 concession, \$15 full. Enq: Sean 0419 210 043.

**HATHA YOGA WITH WENDY**, 5 - 6.30pm at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre.

**LAP SWIMMING**, Maldon Swimming Pool, 6pm - 7pm.

**MALDON MEN'S SHED**, 10am to 4pm at rear of Vintage Machinery Museum (accessed from Phoenix Street). All welcome. Contact Barry Murfett 0403 352 753.

(Note: Closed on days of Total Fire Ban or over 38°).

**MALDON MUSEUM**, Shire Gardens, 11.30am - 2pm. Admission \$2.50 adults, children free.

**NORDIC POLE WALKING** (during school terms), 5.30pm in Maldon. Further info and bookings 5479 1000.

**THE MALDON VINTAGE MACHINERY & MUSEUM** is a haven for machinery enthusiasts before and after the industrial revolution, but with more. Open 11am-3pm. Entry free - donations welcome. More info: Peter 0408 146 537.

**YOUNG AT HEART PLAYGROUP**, Maldon Neighbourhood Centre 10-11.30am. Enq. 5475 2093 or info@maldonnc.org.au.

## EVERY WEDNESDAY FORTNIGHT

**ART & CRAFT GROUP**, 1.30pm - 4pm at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre.

## EVERY FOURTH WEDNESDAY

**MALDON CEMETERY FRIENDS WORKING BEE**, 9.30am - 11.30am. Please come out and help get our historic cemetery clean, weed free and blooming! Our cemetery grounds and buildings need a little care and attention from some willing helpers on a regular basis. Training, equipment and morning tea provided. BYO Hat, sunscreen, insect repellent and especially gardening gloves.

## EVERY THURSDAY

**AQUA AEROBICS**, Maldon Swimming Pool, 6pm. Cost \$9.50 (or \$6 with season pass).

**TAI CHI EXERCISE GROUP (CHIRP)**, 10.30-11.30am at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre. Contact Jenny 0417 475 270 to register.

**MALDON BOWLS CLUB**, Bowls practice anytime Thursday until dark.

**MALDON BRIDGE CLUB**, 12.45pm to 4.30pm at the Maldon Hotel. New players welcome including solo players. Enq: Danny Murphy 0430 733 782.

**MALDON CROQUET CLUB**, 9.30am. New members welcome. Enq. Damien Kennedy 0428 130 764.

**MALDON CHESS CLUB**, 10.30am. Do you play? Come along. Do you want to learn? Come along. For enquiries contact John 0438 012 076.

**NORDIC POLE WALKING** (during school terms), 9.30am at Castlemaine Botanical Gardens. Further info and bookings 5479 1000.

**OASIS KID'S CLUB**, 3.20pm-4.45pm Maldon Baptist Hall, Edward Street. All primary aged children welcome. Free. Enq Gavin & Julie 5475 2338 or 0458 084 728.

## SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

**FREEMASONS MALDON** meet at 7.30pm. Enq: Peter 5472 2202.

## THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH 2022

**MALDON GOLDEN MOVIES** will resume fantastic films from Thursday 17 February 2022, Subject to COVID regulations from then on. BYO smart phone and green Vax tick to scan QR code. Maldon Community Centre, Francis Street

## EVERY FRIDAY

**ATHENAEUM LIBRARY**, High Street, Maldon. 2-4pm. Enqs Suzette Phillips 0429 776 893.

**CHAIR YOGA**, 11am - 12 noon at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre.

**COMMUNITY PANTRY** Delicious home-delivered meals. Order mtalexcommunitypantry@gmail.com or phone 0472 537 866.

**COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICE**. Book the day prior for your door-to-door service. Trips within and to Maldon & Castlemaine in the morning, fortnightly trips to Maryborough and Kangaroo Flat. Phone 5475 2093. \$3 one way, \$5 return. More info: www.maldonnc.org.au/community-bus.

**LAP SWIMMING**, Maldon Swimming Pool, 6pm - 7pm.

**MALDON MUSEUM HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE**, 10am - 1pm.

**MALDON SOCIAL WALKING GROUP**, Gentle walking. 9.30am meet at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre.

**HATHA YOGA WITH WENDY**, 9 - 10.30am at Maldon Neighbourhood Centre.

**IMT - ARE WE BEING HEARD?** Between 9am and 11am. You can listen to us on your phone you know. Listen on the TuneIn Radio App- MAINfm 94.9, or on your computer http:// mainfm.net, OR SMS during the program on 0488 863 186. Please SIGN Your SMS.

**SOCIAL GOLF** - 8.30am - 9 holes, free for members or \$10 green fees. Enq: maldongolf4u@gmail.com or Gay Reid 0413 013 766.

## SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

**MALDON RSL SUB-BRANCH** Monthly meeting in the Maldon RSL Hall behind the Athenaeum Library at 3pm. All Service and ex Service members are welcome to attend. No meeting in January.

## LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH

**MAREE EDWARDS LISTENING POSTS** are postponed until further notice. My office is still available for assistance, please contact us on 5410 2444 or maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au.

## EVERY SATURDAY

**ATHENAEUM LIBRARY**, High Street, Maldon. 9.30am - noon. Enqs Suzette Phillips 0429 776 893.

**MALDON MEN'S SHED**, from 9am to 12pm at rear of Vintage Machinery Museum (accessed from Phoenix Street). All welcome. Contact Barry Murfett 0403 352 753. (Note: Closed on days of Total Fire Ban or over 38°).

**MALDON CROQUET CLUB**, 9.30am. New members welcome. Enq. Damien Kennedy 0428 130 764.

**THE MALDON VINTAGE MACHINERY & MUSEUM** is a haven for machinery enthusiasts before and after the industrial revolution, but with more. Open 10am-4pm.

Entry free - donations welcome. More info: Peter 0408 146 537.

## TUESDAY 21 DECEMBER

**MALDON BRASS BAND**, Carols around town 6.45-7pm til late.

The *TT* will be taking a two-week break after our last edition for the 2021 year on Friday 24 December. The next edition will be published on 14 January 2022.



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# Police arrest in Maldon



☆ One of the vehicles involved in the incident near the railway line in Maldon last week.

**POLICE have arrested and charged a man after a car was stolen from a rural property in Maldon on Wednesday.**

The 36-year-old man has been charged with theft of a motor car (x3), reckless conduct endangering serious injury, fail to stop vehicle on request, careless driving, unlicensed driving (x2), common

law assault (x2), threat to inflict serious injury and prohibited person possess firearm.

The charges follow the theft of a car from a property on Old School Lane in Ravenswood on 15 December about 1.30pm and a subsequent collision and incident where a man and his vehicle were doused in petrol on Bendigo-Maldon Road.

According to police, no one was injured during the incident.

Sources nearby to the scene on Morris Street, Maldon told the *Times* that they heard a bang as one car slammed into a tree.

"I heard another bang and saw a second car heading towards the car that had crashed," said the witness.

A man was then seen on top of the crashed car with a jerry can, pouring petrol over the car. Three men in their twenties were seen running into a neighbouring property, while the second car was seen driving away.

"I heard the police shouting for one of the men to get on the ground."

The investigation remains ongoing with the Western Region Crime Squad investigators following up a number of enquiries in relation to the incident.

# Christmas comes early for two lucky winners

*Continued from page 1*

**LOCAL electrician, Pat Cummins, generously offered a free air conditioner to one lucky winner this Christmas. Amongst the entries were Cecilia, a woman in her 90s and Max, a 75-year-old gentleman living with his wife in Walmer.**

Unable to decide between these two deserving winners,

Pat agreed to supply and install an air conditioning unit in both homes!

"Christmas is a happy, comfortable time for some and not for others. I wanted to do something to help," said Pat.

Cecilia, who was born in Maldon and has lived in the area all of her life told the *Tarrangower Times*, "I appreciate it very much. I have ceiling fans, but after a while, when

the air warms up, there's just warm air moving around."

Max, who has lived the past 23 years without air conditioning said, "We cope, but there are times when it gets to 42 degrees and we've thought, 'God we're going to die!' Obviously we didn't, but we thought we were going to."

"Thank you very much to Pat. We're going to have a lovely cool summer this year!"

# Council outlines plan to improve residents' health

**TACKLING climate change and its impact on health, increasing healthy eating and active living and reducing harm from gambling and tobacco are among the top priorities Mount Alexander Shire Council will focus on**

**to improve residents' health over the next four years.**

The health and wellbeing priorities are outlined in Council's newly-released 2021-2025 Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, which was developed with

extensive input from health and community organisations.

"The plan sets out what Council, together with other stakeholders including health and community service organisations, will do over the

*Continued on page 16*

# Refreshing Maldon Primary School



☆ L-R: Business Manager Debra Watson, Chase, Martha, Essie, Yoshi, Vance and Acting Principal Alisa Burdett.

**MALDON Primary School will be looking refreshed during 2022 with the recent announcement of three successful grant applications. The Department of Education will be funding a new shade sail over the amphitheatre area at the back of the school.**

Alisa Burdett, Acting Principal said, "This will be a great space for students to do some of their learning outdoors. It will also provide shade for our outdoor assemblies and performances." The shade sails are set to be installed before June 2022.

Debra Watson, Business Manager, was successful in applying for a grant through

the Victorian Schools Garden Program to turf the school football oval. "I applied for this award, because I think it is important for the children to have some nice, natural grass to play on." This project is also set to be completed by mid 2022.

Yoshi, Grade Five told the *Tarrangower Times*, "Last summer, in 2020, there were just rocks and if people fell over they would hurt their knees. When we have grass they won't. Well done Debra for getting the grant."

Vance, Grade Five said, "We're pretty grateful to be getting new grass."

Another grant the school was successful in obtaining

this week was a Minor Works grant through the Department of Education, totalling \$50,000. The minor works will be to paint all the ceilings in the school building.

"The ceilings in this beautiful heritage building are so high. In the previous building works in 2016, the allocated money was insufficient to paint the ceilings as well as complete the other renovations. It will be nice to have the ceilings freshened up again." Alisa Burdett said. "I'm looking forward to these projects in 2022. It's nice to have something to look forward to."

# Jeff brings it home: but leaves us wanting more



**IN the midst of all the lockdown fun and the rounding up of infiltrators from Melbourne, it was easy to overlook one of the year's most incredible box office sensations- happening right here on our doorsteps.**

The final nail-biting episode of the thrilling 'Maldon Acting Class' was completed in October, under the sure hands of series creator and impresario par excellence, Jeff Jones, and Maldon is already clamouring for series two.

With its biting social commentary and occasional cruel satire, Mr Jones has managed to plumb the depths and

(some say) scaled the heights of theatre, combining high drama with jolting surprises, fusing slapstick in-your-face-comedy with grief laden pathos. And that's before he even starts with his six students.

The Acting Class is a series of weekly challenges and explorations for a select few amateur Thespians ranging from the complete beginner to those who should know better. Only under the patient and capable hands of Mr Jones has this odd assortment of has-beens, wanna-bes and surely-can't-bes been able to bloom into fruition like a pond of fertiliser.

The series of challenging and at times unbelievable scripts have kept audiences (or would have done had there been any) in a state of excruciating suspense. Second guessing the resolution of these crazy plots, madcap dialogue and twisted subplots has become this year's water-cooler conversation obsession.

But, and with no doubt an evil glint in his eye, it seems we can expect more fireworks from Mr Jones in series two, including a resolution to the many cliff-hangers, including: 'who is the man in the face mask?' 'Is an audience at 3.9 m<sup>2</sup> per person even legal?' 'How do we end this improvisation?' 'Can I please go to my safe place forever?', and 'Who's brought the chocolate brownies?'

With his enviable reputation on the line, ringmaster Mr Jones will no doubt keep us guessing until series two returns in the new year. Until then he can rest assured that he has created another sparkling star in his already brilliant firmament of a career; a masterpiece of manipulation of magnificent Maldon talent: a show that truly must go on and on.

**Mark Fuller and the Class of 2021.**

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# Maldon Graduation



☆ Our Graduation was on Monday night, 13 December. Students enjoyed a meal with school staff at the Maldon Hotel and then shared speeches and their ‘life so far...’ movies with their parents/carers at school afterwards. We have 17 grade six students graduating.

# Maldon Village Quilters



☆ L-R: Deanna Buck, Sharon Leonard, Ruth Bowman (half obscured by Janet), Janet Purcell, Helen Keown, Gillian O’Neill, Laraine Blume, Valda Campbell, Susan Dixon, Bev Coates, Karen Dickson, Kaye Kinlyside, Gaylene Whitehead and Christine Gibb.

**THE Maldon Village Quilters group has a history spanning decades and as people have moved on or retired from the group, others have** joined and the group continues to thrive.

Meeting for many years each Tuesday in the Folk Festival Office, COVID forced

and Sews, had been meeting at the old Muckleford Hall since 2015 and we were able to shift to this location where we now meet every Wednesday as well as monthly on the third Saturday. The group has approximately 18 current members.

Our biannual Quilt Show as part of the Maldon Easter Fair was started some 12 years ago by Janet Williamson of the Blue Light Camp and local patch worker and current member Debbie McDonald. Over time the Show has continued to grow, attracting visitors from across the State and gaining a solid reputation in the patchwork community for the standard of quilts and the quality of the display. Unfortunately, as with so many things due to COVID, the Show did not go ahead in 2020 and is still questionable in 2022.

The Quilt Show was our major fund raiser for local community organisations and all takings from our Quilt Raffle and door takings were

# Newstead Graduation



☆ Graduating class of 2021. L-R: Nekoda, Josh and Danny.



☆ Some of the quilting group’s beautiful creations.

donated. The group is proud to have been able to donate a total of \$6,500 since 2016 with beneficiaries including the Maldon Hospital, Easter Fair Committee, Maldon Neighbourhood Centre, Mount Alexander Shire Accommodation and Respite Group, Maldon Athenaeum

Library, Maldon Swimming Pool and the Maldon Archives and Museum. A pretty good effort we believe for a relatively small group.

In addition, at the request of Maldon Hospital, we made and donated two quilts to be used for palliative care

*Continued on page 6*

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**LISA CHESTERS MP**



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**Maree Edwards MP**

STATE MEMBER FOR BENDIGO WEST

Listening Posts are postponed until further notice.

My office is still available for assistance, please contact us on 5410 2444 or [maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:maree.edwards@parliament.vic.gov.au).



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# Christmas Carols in Maldon

Continued on page 6



☆ Sharing strawberries and enjoying the music.



☆ Christmas carols and bubbles- what more could you want?



☆ Making new friends.



☆ Nash, Chloe, Florence and Meghan looking at the Grade 4, 5, 6 artwork projected onto the Wool Stash building in Main Street.



☆ Some of the jokes told by Reverend Darcy Vaughan were pretty funny.



☆ Enjoying some mother-son time.



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# Christmas Carols in Maldon



☆ Beautiful performance by this newly formed group.



☆ Reverend Darcy Vaughan being mobbed by the children.



☆ Emily and Nicholas were excited to meet Santa.



☆ Nash loves the Christmas Carols.



☆ All smiles at the Maldon Christmas Carols.

**THE sun was still burning hot as the annual Christmas Carols began at 7pm last Saturday at the Bill Woodfull Reserve. Families watched with anticipation as the shadows across the oval became longer, bringing relief from the heat as they settled on the their picnic rugs to enjoy the festivities.**

Reverend Darcy, dressed in a colourful Christmas shirt, was the fun and playful MC for the night, eliciting help from the children to tell jokes, until he was scared off the stage by a horde of children ascending the stage steps.

The Maldon Brass Band and local performers, the last to delight in the shadows, did a fantastic job performing all of the most loved carols.

As expected, Santa stole the show, delighting the patiently queued children with bags of lollies and icy-poles, with assistance from the Maldon Lions Club, who do a wonderful job hosting the annual event.

## Letters to the Editor

### ‘Where To Now Maldon?’

At times I sit in the Shire gardens on a nice sunny day looking around the town of Maldon, and in so doing contemplate, in a somewhat philosophical way, a number of questions and thoughts about the town.

I think about what parts of the town have vanished, but vanished doesn’t mean gone – in any place – things change all the time. Yet, the way I see it, nothing’s ever really gone. If nothing’s ever really gone, then what stories – what memories – are attached to the town in all the time that came before, and at times more than we’ll ever know.

Then I consider, what is history? What is heritage? Then are these two terms interrelated or interconnected in any way.

While considering this quandary looking at the buildings and features around me as to what has survived and what has disappeared, I think how do we identify what is important? Then how do we protect what we want to keep? And why are some things considered more important than others?

While sitting in the gardens I see the power lines disappear into trenches and think about how far the clock can be turned back in time before the living breathing town of Maldon turns into a museum piece like Sovereign Hill in Ballarat or the Pioneer Settlement in Swan Hill? Or is this all just a too philosophical a view to consider?

What would happen if we again made real historic conservation the aim of the town again? Perhaps the residents of Maldon should be given the chance to collectively decide the fate of their town, but perhaps the majority could not care less what happens to the town. Just over 50 years ago the citizens of Maldon were given a chance to choose the direction they wanted their town to go in the future. This was something special, very few towns get a chance like that, even though there are not many left from that time, but it is probably time again for the next generation to take the baton to ask the question ‘Where To Now Maldon?’.

Or is Maldon at the heritage cross-roads again, with the town and its residents needing to either re-affirm the heritage protection, and the need to

lobby the local shire council, along with the State Government Planning Department to instigate the strengthening again of the much needed heritage planning controls. Or do we just let all the previous hard work done by the previous generation fade away like the very history and heritage that they wanted to preserve for us, which seems to be disappearing at a rapid rate.

***Yours &c., Slowly Decaying.  
Name and address supplied***

### A beacon for press freedom

I never expected to find solidarity with Barnaby Joyce! And certainly not on climate change.

But I so applaud his brave stand on the present plight of Julian Assange. It is time that fair-minded Australians speak out against the outrage being perpetrated against this individual who stands as a beacon for press freedom against forces, which make no mistake, would have us through deceit and dissembling, bound in chains.

***Yours,  
Guy F. Southey***

### IPBJ

As The President of Victorian Branch of The Institute

for the Prevention of Bad Jokes (IPBJ), I wish to draw attention to, and demand action over, the attempts at ‘humour’ posted regularly in the window of Brad Hooper Architect, 35-37 Main Street Maldon. I feel forced to take steps as IPBJ is based on the scientifically proven true fact that bad ‘jokes’ are deleterious to personal, community and spiritual health not to mention business activity.

‘His wife criticised his poor sense of direction, so he packed up and right’ and ‘My IQ tests results are back. It’s wonderful! I’m negative!’ were, I believe, recent ‘jokes’ posted in the aforesaid window. There was no attempt at concealment and I am afraid even children could see what is written, with undeniable harm to their psychological

development. In such circumstances, I ask the mothers of Maldon, and dads too, to turn their little ones’ heads away when passing.

Fortunately, Maldon Pharmacy is next door at 33 Main Street and medications are available for the elderly who might suffer post-traumatic stress at the sight of such signage.

A deep sense of responsibility prevents me reprising further examples of past attempts at ‘wit’ but, alarmingly, I have been informed by reliable authorities that the person responsible (Brad Hooper, Architect, I presume) plans without a vestige of community concern to place the following in his window during January and February. ‘Joke One: An old lady at the bank asked me to help check

her balance, so I pushed her over.’ ‘Joke Two: Circles are entirely pointless.’

The entire Committee of the Institute for the Prevention of Bad Jokes is, like me, extremely worried about the effect on business activity at that part of Maldon should such travesties be indeed published in the street window. People simply won’t come to that part of town. If they do, they risk intellectual impairment and moral degradation. We call upon the good folk of Maldon to rise up and march upon the offices of Brad Hooper, Architect, or at least to lodge a petition of protestation with the Council.

***Yours sincerely,  
Graham Pitts, President.  
Institute for the Prevention of Bad Jokes (Victoria).***

## Maldon Village Quilters

Continued from page 4

patients, and have made three Healing Quilts for members facing serious illness as well as one for another much loved member of the Maldon community. Some of our members also make Hero Quilts for Australian service personnel, especially those serving abroad, and others make caring quilts for neonatal units and other worthy causes.

During the COVID lockdowns the sewing machines worked overtime as we all dug into our cupboards to finally complete all those unfinished projects, and counted our blessings each day that we had such a beautiful yet functional hobby to occupy our time and minds - and a healthy stash of fabric we knew would come in handy one day!

We were very happy to have been able to help with the recent quilts for a family

whose young mother is facing a serious health battle. We feel privileged to be able to contribute to and support our local community while pursuing a hobby (perhaps better described as an obsession) that brings us so much pleasure, as well as enjoying the friendship and support of such a wonderful group of women.

***D Buck  
Member***

• ALAN  
• CHERYL  
• STEVE

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# Tis' the season at Maldon Hospital



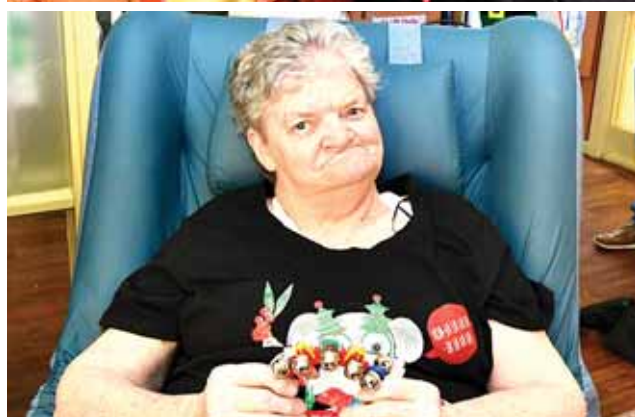
MALDON Hospital held their annual Resident Christmas party on Saturday. It was a wonderful day despite the hot conditions with many family members attending.

The Maldon Brass band performed and as always, did a fantastic job bringing back lots of memories with the carols they played. It was a great effort given the heat.

Residents contributed to the celebration, making Christmas cake and shortbread to great accolades from all who sampled it. Volunteers and staff made sure that everyone had a lovely time.

*Jacinta Onans*

☆ Residents of Maldon Hospital had a fantastic time celebrating with their family at this year's Christmas party.



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**Thompson family Funerals**  
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~ The family that care ~



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If you plan to travel through Victoria, during fire season, it's important to check the Fire Danger Rating every day. If the rating is Extreme or above, avoid travelling to high risk areas, including to cities and towns.

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# Maldon Hospital amalgamation



*Continued from page 1*  
have been employed, I believe that ‘bigger’ is not necessarily ‘better.’

## Greater specialisation

‘Youth mental health services and support seem quite under serviced...I would like to see greater investment in youth mental health, starting from primary school age.’

‘Access to specialists for those on public healthcare can be hard. I have had difficulty getting an appointment with an ENT specialist as there is only one for public health in Ballarat and none in our area. The waiting list is long.’

## Improved services

‘Love if this happened. Maldon needs more services and this is a great solution.’

‘I am pro any and all improvement in services, in particular care and services for demential (for non-aged care patients) and allied health.’

‘It would be good if more services could be offered by Maldon Hospital. If an amalgamation means this would happen, then our family would support it.’

## Transparency

‘It is important to keep the community informed and promote community consultation. Does the amalgamation provide an opportunity for outreach services to the smaller towns in the region?’

‘Clear communication as to what the amalgamation might look like prior to implementing. Community input into processing with amalgamation.’

‘It is not clear what is to be gained for our Maldon community and hospital from this proposed amalgamation. There is, however, potentially a lot to be lost. We are not in favour of the amalgamation.’

## Loss of existing services

‘I am very concerned that current services would be lost and moved to Castlemaine. We need to at least maintain current services and continue to grow more.’

‘Excellent idea, as long as it improves our already great

services and does not diminish them.’

‘I fear that this will reduce accessibility to what is already an under-resourced area. The population has expanded and diversified and the health system has not kept up.’

‘Maldon Hospital is an integrated part of Maldon-please do the best to maintain its services. Travel can be a problem for some.’

## Improved access to a diverse range of doctors

‘There is a desperate need for more GP’s across the board.’

‘Access to more than one GP in Maldon, preferably a female doctor.’

‘More doctor availability in Maldon, not just one doctor with no options.’

## Diversity

‘Outlying communities and diverse communities need to be front and centre of this decision, as well as consideration of employment and great working conditions for employees.’

‘The merged organisation should gain the ‘Rainbow Tick’ (as CHIRP has) to ensure it is LGBTIQ knowledgeable and welcoming.’

## Local Identity

‘Maldon Hospital must retain the name Maldon Hospital.’

‘While I support the idea I have concerns, mainly the loss of identity.’

‘We’ve seen mum miserable, frightened and teary in the big impersonal feel of Castlemaine aged care.’

‘I support the amalgamation if it strengthens the viability of Maldon Hospital in the future and maintains its unique local community connection.’

‘Once amalgamated, Maldon will be forgotten and it

will all be about Castlemaine Health.’

## Board Commitments

The Boards of Maldon Hospital and Castlemaine Health held a Community Presentation webinar last week to report on the community engagement findings which included an outline of their commitments to the community:

- The urgent care that is already established will continue to effectively service the community of Mount Alexander.
- Maldon Hospital and Castlemaine Health will remain using their regular business and trading names with an underpinning new entity name.
- Mountview Home and Jessie Bowe House will continue to provide the same care.
- The new entity would ensure that local fundraising for each health service will go directly to that local health service.
- Volunteers will be recruited and work locally.
- No loss of services at either healthcare facility.
- No reduction in staffing levels and people will be able to work when and where they work today, unless they wish to change.
- Local representation of the board for both communities would be strongly recommended to the Minister for Health.
- Community advisory committee in Maldon and Castlemaine would be mandatory.
- The local community to have an opportunity to participate in the future of the health service.
- Can’t predict what unification of the two health services will look like, but assure the community that it will strengthen health services in the region.

Vanessa Healy, Maldon Hospital Board Chair, told the *Tarrangower Times*, “We’ve been looking at the best

options to sustain the hospital. There are a lot of external factors such as compliance and administrative burden. Many other small hospitals in Victoria and in the region are in the same boat.

“The community engagement has been very positive. We’ve had excellent discussions with an array of stakeholders and community groups in Maldon, Castlemaine and the district – they’ve all been very constructive.

“Even though the surveys have finished we are still happy to have conversations with people and receive ongoing Feedback. However, these won’t be able to be included in the report.”

“The report will be considered by the boards in coming weeks and months. Should approval be given, it then goes to the Department of Health for their consideration,” said Vanessa.

## Next Steps

- Final analysis, report prepared
- Health Services review report independently
- If the voluntary amalgamation proposal is recommended and meets requirements of the Health Services Act 1988, the report will be provided to the Health Secretary for review.
- If voluntary amalgamation is agreed to be in the public’s interest, the report and recommendations will then be sent to the Health Minister for approval.
- If the proposal is approved by the Department, Maldon Hospital and Castlemaine Health will commence the consultation process for new Strategic Plan and new Clinical Services Plan in the new year, which will include defining a shared vision and setting out the long-term direction for the future.

To view the webinar on the engagement findings visit: [www.maldhosp.vic.gov/](http://www.maldhosp.vic.gov/).

## Steve's Wine pick

Santa & D'Sas  
'Valentino' 2016  
Heathcote  
Sangiovese



Matthew D'Sciascio and Andrew Santarossa are justifiably very proud of their 'Valentino' 2016 Heathcote Sangiovese. Just four weeks ago this wine cleaned up at the 2021 Australian Alternative Varieties Wine Show, taking out **Best Red Wine, Best Wine of Show, Best Red Italian Variety Wine** and **Best Red Museum Red Wine**. It was also awarded 96/100 and a **Gold Medal**.

Fruit from six different clonal Sangiovese blocks at the Heathcote vineyard were sourced and fermented separately in a search for complexity and the wine was kept in barrel for almost two years – as is traditional in Tuscany. With almost two years bottle age, this remarkable Sangiovese is a classic example of the variety boasting deep and complex fruit flavours and a savoury maturity.

This is a wine that begs to be decanted an hour or so before serving, and your patience in doing so will be amply rewarded.

Enjoy your festive wine in moderation and we wish all of our customers and their families a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

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## Cascade Art



☆ Sam Varian - Sybil moon and stars.

### SOAK UP INSPIRATION

Cascade Art Gallery is open until 5pm Friday 24 December for last-minute gifting or just to soak up inspiration and take in a bit of art culture here in your own backyard! Free entry.

We introduce the extraordinary sculptural ceramics by John O'Loughlin. There are new pieces arriving in mid-January. Don't forget that Gift Certificates are available.

There are original artist-made prints from many emerging and professional, local and Victorian Artists.

We have an abundance of artworks in the print drawers, flip boxes and archives. These are still available by artists we

continue to represent. They include David Moore, David Frazer, Liz Sullivan, Jan Palethorpe, Judy Holding, John Wolseley, Dean Bowen, KJ Bishop, Sam Varian, Stephen Tester, Clayton Tremlett, Anita Laurence, Wayne Viney and Philip Davey.

Our current JEFF GARDNER – PRINTMAKER exhibition continues until 31 January 2022. Jeff Gardner number one prints, framed and unframed, have been released from the archive. *Lucy The Dragon* illustrations and poetry book by Jeff Gardner.

This book is not just for children. Lucy is also a story for the young at heart.

This hard-cover quaint little book was designed, printed and bound in Australia. Limited edition of 400 hard covered bound books, 48 pages RRP \$40 GST inclusive.

The gallery re-opens 6 January 2022. Thursday – Sunday 10am – 5pm.

Kareen Anchen

Cascade Art Gallery

The Church, 1A Fountain Street, Maldon

[www.cascadeartgallery.com.au](http://www.cascadeartgallery.com.au)

ALAN  
CHERYL  
STEVE



LANGS

Steve, Alan & Cheryl thank the community and friends for their support in 2021 and wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and better year in 2022!

0438 560 128 or 5475 2218



## Maldon's Eaglehawk Motel



☆ Relax in the tranquil garden at Maldon's Eaglehawk Motel.



Maldon's Eaglehawk Motel has new owners. Olivia and Adrian Millman took over from Debbie and Chris a few weeks ago. Olivia and Adrian love Maldon and look forward to exploring the town more when time permits.

There are still a few rooms available over the festive season. So, if you have friends or family visiting over the holidays and don't have enough space, give Olivia and Adrian a call.

Maldon's Eaglehawk Motel has 11 spacious, well-appointed rooms. Each room has a front door that opens onto the tranquil, lush garden. There is a pool and barbecue area, perfect for alfresco dining.

Olivia and Adrian wish you and yours a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. They will be closed on Christmas Day but open for the remainder of the festive season.

### Maldon's Eaglehawk Motel

35 Reef Street, Maldon, 5475 2750

[www.maldoneaglehawk.com](http://www.maldoneaglehawk.com)

Adrian & Olivia thank their customers and friends for their patronage in 2021 and would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy 2022.



## Thompson family Funerals

Castlemaine & District Funeral Parlors

123 Mostyn St., Castlemaine 5472 2202



- The family that cares -

Peter Thompson and family of Thompson family Funerals would like to extend their wishes to the community for a

Peace filled Christmas and New Year

Compassion Respect Understanding







## Tarrangower Village



☆ The gardens are looking good at Tarrangower Village this year.

**T**arrangower Village is a not for profit organisation managed entirely by a volunteer committee dedicated to operating the Village for the benefit of its residents through the provision of maintenance and administrative services for those capable of living independently.

When the *Times* caught up with Noel Farrington, President, this week, he said, “We are ever so lucky to have such a talented, hard-working committee at Tarrangower Village.”

The Village, which is within walking distance of Maldon’s central precinct, is entirely self-funded. They are committed to providing quality, low-cost Independent Living in Retirement accommodation for people residing in Maldon and the surrounding district.

They maintain a waiting list of approved applicants, and if you would like to make an application or inspect the Village, contact the Secretary at PO Box 61, Maldon or via email at [secretary@tarrangowervillage.com.au](mailto:secretary@tarrangowervillage.com.au).

Tarrangower Village Committee of Management would like to wish the residents and the Maldon community a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.



**The Tarrangower Village**  
*Sends best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all residents, committee and supporters.*

### Maldon Newsagency & Tattslotto

*Barbara, Graeme & staff wish all their valued customers a safe and Happy Christmas and best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year*

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## Marc Hanson



☆ No job is too big or too small for Marc, and his rates are more than reasonable. Phone Marc on 5475 2705 or 0409 307 823.

**M**arc has garden maintenance covered. Rubbish removal, sawing and wood splitting. Grass slashing, whipper snipping, raking and weeding. Do your gutters need cleaning out, or do you need rubbish taken to the tip? Marc can cover all of these tasks.

If you haven’t completed your summer clean up, now is the time to tackle it!

No job is too big or small for Marc. His rates are reasonable, and he gets the job done quickly.

Marc and his family would like to thank their customers for their support throughout the year and to wish everyone a happy Christmas and a good year in 2022.


**MARC HANSON**  
**Ph: 5475 2705 ~ 0409 307 823**  
*Merry Christmas to all our clients!*  
Garden maintenance including mowing, rubbish removal, sawing and wood splitting at reasonable prices. No job too small. Grass slashing our speciality.



**ROBERT COX MOTORS**  
HIGH STREET, MALDON, 3463

**Robert Cox**  
Rob and Chris thank all their customers for their support and wish them a Merry Christmas and a great year in 2022.

**Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year's Day**  
**TELEPHONE 03 5475 2381**



## Lisa Chesters MP



☆ Lisa says, “This Christmas buy, support and donate local where you can.”

**T**his year has been harder than most. Everyone in the community has had to adapt to change, restrictions and face adversity in one way or another. I know many of us are looking forward to 2022, but we mustn’t overlook the magic that the holiday period can bring to the region.

It is more vital than ever that we look out for one another this Christmas and buy, support and donate local where you can. Local business owners in Maldon, Castlemaine, Tarrangower and surrounding areas are our friends, family and valued members of the community. Now is the time to rally around them to ensure that they don’t just survive through these difficult times, but thrive.

This Christmas, buying local can keep small business going, local people employed and communities thriving. For every \$100 spent in a local business, up to \$70 stays in our community. This is compared to only \$3 when we shop online from a store located elsewhere. The Mount Alexander region includes so many unique stores, selling products you just can’t buy anywhere else. It’s also home to some of the best markets in the region. Markets are a great way to meet the maker and find out more about unique products.

This year, I’d also encourage residents to donate to those in need. A random act of kindness to a community member or donation to local charity can go a long way. After the turbulent year we’ve had, many in our community are feeling uneasy about the Christmas period so it’s more important than ever that we do our best to bring joy to others, whether it’s donating a gift, sharing a meal or inviting them to an event.

Ultimately, Christmas is about being together and celebrating what we have. However you prepare for the festive season, I wish you a safe and happy time and look forward to working with the community again in 2022.

**Lisa Chesters**  
*Federal Member for Bendigo*



**WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A  
HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND  
A SAFE NEW YEAR.**

Federal Member for Bendigo

**LISA CHESTERS MP**

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Authorised by L Chesters, ALP, 16 Myers Street, Bendigo







## Maldon Fudge and Ice Creamery - Still Making it in Maldon!



☆ So many flavours of yummy fudge to choose from. Maybe a little of everything?

☆ Bubblegum ice cream is a great choice this summer.

☆ Quality wooden Music Boxes by Wooderful Life are available at Maldon Fudge & Ice Creamery this Christmas. The Australian animal one plays Waltzing Matilda!

**M**aldon Fudge and Ice Creamery have happily settled into their new premises at 29 Main St and are looking forward to a busy holiday season. The move has given the long-established and much-loved business some increased shop space and allowed them to introduce some unique product ranges to Maldon.

Along with the new premises, some exciting new Ice Cream flavours have evolved. Maldon Butter Toffee and Orange Choc Chip are all proving very popular. Carmen has also developed some new Vegan Ice Cream recipes using coconut milk. Vanilla, Cherry and Chocolate Coconut have delighted all customers who have tried them.

Old favourites French Vanilla, Milk Chocolate, Rum and Raisin, Bubblegum and Strawberry are still incredibly popular. The famous traditional Brandy Cream Ice Cream will be available again this December. You can place orders by calling in or phoning Carmen on 0447 573 050.

The move has allowed owners Carmen and Stephen to set up a separate production area to make their delicious Ice Cream and Fudge. The new space has also provided room to introduce a range of Nougats. They are all made on-site. Salted Butter, Raspberry Cream and Licorice are proving to be very popular. Making products on-site ensures high-quality products every time and supports other local businesses.

In addition to the products made on-site, the business is also stocking a small range of other products. They have beautiful Wooderful Life Carousels, Baghera Ride-on Cars and pedal Cars. There is also a range of individually named products such as storybooks and pencil cases.

Gift vouchers and take home packs remain available. Carmen and Stephen are looking forward to seeing you over the summer.

From mid-December, the shop will increase opening hours to Wednesday to Sunday 11am until 4.30pm.

From 26 December the shop will be open seven days per week 11am until 4.30pm over the holiday period.

**MALDON FUDGE AND ICE CREAMERY**

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## BERRYMAN'S CAFÉ & TEA ROOMS - MALDON

30 Main Street - 5475 2904  
Open 7 days  
Full menu is available to take away.  
We also have some individual home-made frozen meals.

## BULL & MOUTH HOTEL - MARYBOROUGH

119 High Street - 5461 3636  
Open for Breakfast, Lunch and afternoon tea  
Sunday - Tuesday 9am - 5pm and  
Breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner  
Wednesday - Saturday 9am - 10pm.



## CAFÉ MALDON - MALDON

52 Main Street - 5475 2022  
Open 7 days - dine in and takeaway  
Please call to book. Only 10 inside and 8 outside.  
Seating is for one hour only.  
Please keep your mask on until seated.  
<https://order.hungryhungry.com/cafemaldon/menu>

## CROWN HOTEL - NEWSTEAD

8 Lyons Street - 5476 2222  
Open 3pm every day  
Meals Thursday - Sunday  
Friday night roast  
Sunday night pizza 5.30pm - 7.30pm  
Bottle shop open from 3pm.

## CUMBERLAND HOTEL - CASTLEMAINE

191 Barker Street - 5472 1052  
Open Monday - Thursday 9am-12pm, Friday 9am-1am, Saturday 10am-1am, Sunday 11am-11pm.  
Meals at the Bistro 7 days per week.  
Lunch 12pm-2.30pm, Dinner 6pm-8.30pm.  
Extensive Menu.

## DIG CAFE - NEWSTEAD

13 Lyons Street - 5476 2744  
Well known, well loved cafe with excellent food and coffee, fully licensed. Open 8.30am until 3.30pm each day and Friday nights for takeaway pizza from 5pm until 8pm. Bookings essential as numbers are restricted. [www.digcafe.com.au](http://www.digcafe.com.au)

## GOLD EXCHANGE CAFE - MALDON

46 Main Street - 0439 368 077  
Open 7 days  
Limited dine-in and takeaway.  
Monday-Friday from 6.45am-3pm and  
Saturday and Sunday from 7.30am-3pm.

## KANGAROO HOTEL - MALDON

89 High Street - 5475 2214  
Monday closed  
Tuesday 4pm til close  
Wednesday 12pm til close  
Thursday 4pm til close  
Friday Saturday and Sunday 12pm til close.

## Le Sel DELI - MALDON

12 Main Street - 0417 329 776  
Open 7 days a week  
Monday to Thursday 9am - 3pm  
Friday to Sunday 9am - 5pm  
Saturday night **Le Sel French Bistro** contact us for bookings.

## MALDON FUDGE & ICE CREAMERY

29 Main Street  
(Between IGA and the Pharmacy)  
Great range of Fudge, Nougat and Ice Cream.  
Ice Cream is also available in take home tubs.  
Open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday  
11 am - 4.30pm.

## MALDON HOTEL - MALDON

58 Main Street - 5475 2231  
OPENING HOURS  
**Monday & Tuesday:** 4pm - close  
**Wednesday - Sunday:** Middyay - close  
**Bookings recommended**

## MALDON ROSE CAFE - MALDON

6 Main Street  
(formerly Zen Cafe)  
Everything baked on premise.  
All Press coffee, Harney & Sons tea.  
High teas available.  
Open 10am - 4pm Saturday & Sunday.

## MALDON TAKEAWAY - MALDON

10 Main Street - 0476 887 062  
Open 11am-7ish every day.  
Fish and Chips, burgers, hot dogs,  
loaded fries, souvlakis, pizza, coffee  
and happy to be here service.



## NEWSTEAD COUNTRY STORE - NEWSTEAD

12 Lyons Street - 5476 2252  
Normal trading hours:  
**Monday & Tuesday:** 7am-2pm  
**Wednesday - Friday:** 7am-7pm  
**Saturday:** 8am-7pm  
**Sunday:** 9am-4pm



## RAILWAY HOTEL - CASTLEMAINE

65 Gingell Street - 5472 1250  
Great food, both traditional pub food and gourmet.  
Daily specials.  
Open 7 days a week for dinner and lunch on weekends. Phone : 5472 1250 for bookings.

# Health & Fitness Directory

## KEYSTONE PILATES

Keystone Pilates provides a safe friendly environment where people of all ages and abilities can work on their strength, flexibility and balance.

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## MALDON GOLF CLUB

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**SOCIAL GOLF** – 9am Monday and Friday. Ring to check times - 9 holes, free for members or \$10 green fees

**RECREATIONAL** - exercise and dog walking memberships available.

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much-loved broadcaster. And when Australia needed clear, scientifically backed COVID-19 facts and advice, it was Norman Swan who stepped up every day to provide the answers we required.

### *The Last Voyage of Mrs Henry Parker* by Joanna Nell

As the wife of retired ship's doctor Dr Henry Parker, Evelyn is living out her twilight years aboard the Golden Sunset. Every night she dresses for dinner and regales her fellow passengers with stories of a glamorous life travelling the world. But when Henry goes missing, Evelyn sets off to search every part of the ocean liner to find him. If only she could remember the events of the night before as clearly as she can recall the first time, she met Henry. Where is Henry?

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## BLAST FROM THE PAST

### THE BAPTIST CHAPEL

During the early days of Maldon, Baptists were one of the smaller Christian groups. Within the Baptists there were effectively two congregations, the English and the Welsh. Their first baptisms by immersion were said to have taken place in the Loddon River. In the late 1850s the Welsh Baptists may have opened the district's first Baptist chapel at Peg Leg.

In September 1860, following the arrival of the Rev Robert Morton, a group of mainly English Baptists formally agreed to build a chapel at North Maldon in Reef Street, just south of Adair Street East. While they waited for their chapel to be constructed they held services in the old weatherboard Court House on the Commissioner's Reserve.

The Baptist Chapel was completed within two months and the opening services were held on Sunday 25 November when the Rev David Rees from Geelong preached at three services. The morning and evening services were conducted in English and at the afternoon service Rees preached in Welsh. The Chapel was full or overcrowded for each service. The day's collections totalled more than £12.

On the evening following the opening, a tea meeting was held in the Chapel grounds. A huge crowd enjoyed a spread prepared by the ladies of the congregation. The Rev Morton was the meeting's chairman and after the meal introduced the recently ordained Presbyterian minister, the Rev Alex Robb, who outlined the purpose of the evening.

Dr Hugh Smith reported on the Chapel's financial position. The building had cost £130 and £93 had already been contributed, leaving about £40 to be raised. Responding to Smith's report Henry Tregaskis, a member of the Wesleyan Church, said he would be sorry to go home with his Baptist brethren still in debt. He proposed a collection, calling on all present to reach deep into their pockets. Within minutes £10 had been collected. After further cajoling, Tregaskis extracted cash and promises to cover the remaining debt, much of it from his Wesleyan friends.

The Rev Robb then gave an animated address saying he was in agreement with most Baptist beliefs but drew the line at baptism by immersion. On this matter he hoped they would agree to differ. The Rev Rees also addressed the meeting and the Welsh Choir sang 'some beautiful anthems'.

The one blot on the evening was Dr Smith's claim that the Welsh Baptists at Peg Leg had refused the English Baptists the use of their chapel. Embarrassed by this accusation the Rev Morton soon after publicly apologised to his 'Welsh friends' who, he said, had not only offered the use of their chapel but had also helped build the new place of worship.

*This information was supplied by the Maldon Museum and Archives.*

### *The Tea Ladies of St Jude's Hospital*

by Joanna Nell

The Marjorie Marshall Memorial Cafeteria has been serving refreshments and raising money at the hospital for over 50 years. It is staffed by dedicated volunteers.

Stalwart Hilary has worked her way up through the ranks to Manageress; Joy has been late every day since she started as the cafeteria's newest recruit. Seventeen-year-old Chloe, the daughter of two successful surgeons, is volunteering during the school holidays because her mother thinks it will look good on her CV.

When they discover the cafeteria is under threat of closure, this unlikely trio must band together to save it.

### *The Great Escape from Woodlands Nursing Home* by Joanna Nell

At nearly 90, retired nature writer Hattie Bloom prefers the company of birds to people, but when a fall lands her in a nursing home she struggles to cope with the loss of independence and privacy. From the confines of her 'room with a view' of the carpark, she dreams of escape.

Fellow 'inmate', the gregarious, would-be comedian Walter Clements also plans on returning home as soon as he is fit and able to take charge of his mobility scooter.

When Hattie and Walter officially meet at The Night Owls, a clandestine club run by Sister Bronwyn and her dog, Queenie, they seem at odds. An unexpected friendship begins to grow.

*With thanks to reviews from Good Reads.*

**The Maldon Athenaeum Library Team**

## Funding strengthens Australia's rural heartbeat

**Grants of more than \$800,000 support bushfire recovery and community resilience**

**SEVENTY-NINE community-led projects that will boost remote, rural and regional communities across Australia are sharing in \$809,234 in funding, thanks to FRRR's Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) program.**

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# IMT - In Maldon Today Radio Program



☆ The whole team hard at work from left: EC, Nancy, Slats, Loz, Mike and Tony.

**TODAY give your eardrums a well-earned rest; we have finished for the year. On the other hand, you can feed your addiction on Mixcloud and listen to the IMT archives.**

Last Friday the A-Team (Alison, Loz and Mike – simply the best) kicked off the program for the first hour with in-depth discussions of Maldon's Christmas decorations and the great Bowls comeback win. There was a feast of Dad jokes to lighten the mood, and some in-studio dancing. The second hour was presented by The Rest (not the best): Nancy, EC, Tony and Slats. They covered useless Christmas gifts and fripperies, the backhanded compliment of becoming a member of the 300 Club and witty sayings of US politicians - with shmaltzy Christmas songs to set the mood. Episodes 11 and 12 of The Plunketts rounded off the whole show with a touch of class. Just a touch.

Mark January 14 in your new 2022 diary now. Nancy

and Slats will kick off the new year with a ruthless grilling of Daisy Bainbridge that is sure to uncover the shocking truth about Maldon's Twilight Dinner. Whatever that is.

To catch up on our previous programs click on <https://www.mixcloud.com/nancymay007/>.

See our ad on page 15.

**Mike Smythe**

## MALDON BRIDGE CLUB THE COMPETITIVE EDGE



**'WHO knew bridge was so competitive, so fraught – so intoxicatingly fun? The hordes who are flocking to play during lockdown, that's who. The game has been on-line for decades, but it took a global pandemic to truly energise it there.'**

It is not surprising to read this as players from our club, along with surrounding clubs e.g., Castlemaine and Bendigo certainly took advantage of playing on-line and our players were quite successful at it. It is all about gaining the competitive edge from many games played, as well as the interaction with other players.

There is an advantage to playing on-line as Bridge is surprisingly good, both to learn and to play online, apparently. 'You don't have to be nearly so polite,' it has been said. 'You can run around your house screaming with rage, and nobody knows.' I would like to see that face to face!

There was certainly some competitive spirit this week as players settled to their respective tables after the draw was announced. Many a preamble was made on understanding the drawn partner's mode of play to help gain the best contract available as the cards were dealt.

The hands were mixed and varied with odd 'yarboroughs,' one-point hands etc., which made play difficult for some. Not so for the winners and

place-getters this week, which were finalised in quick time by Danny and helpers.

In first place was the astute partnership of Newstead Jo and Louise with 81 points. Second place went to Mary and Werner who worked hard for their 78 points. Kevin and Danny gained third place with 75 points. Fourth place went to Ken and Campbells Creek Jan with Sue and Fred taking out fifth place with 58 points.

Well done everyone on playing a great game from difficult hands.

There was a birthday celebrated last week by Gretchen and Happy Birthday was wished by everyone.

Incidentally, Gretchen made mention of her lunch with an 'out of town' Bridge player who was delighted to hear that Gretchen 'played at Maldon Bridge Club'. The Lady evidently has a holiday home in the area and looks forward to reading our bridge notes each week in the *TT*! So, there you go – far and wide we are read!!

The welcome respite at afternoon tea is always welcome and delicious egg and bacon quiches were on the menu. Thank you team Maldon Hotel once again for your hospitality throughout the year.

*'As the sun of the old year sets down for a new sunrise of the New Year, hope you also forget all the negativities of last year for positivities of the New Year. Wish you a happy New Year 2022.' See you next year!!*

Whatever your age group or skills please feel free to join us each Thursday from 12.45pm to 4.30pm to help us in our endeavour to:

**USE IT OR LOSE IT**  
**Judy McKnight**

*Continued on page 16*




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DEATH NOTICES

BURCHELL  
Deborah Lee  
"Debbie"

In loving memory of Deborah 'Debbie' Lee Burchell, who passed away peacefully on Thursday 16th of December 2021, aged 60 years.

Forever cherished by her loving Husband Steven and their Children, Mark, Renee and Brooke, their partners, Sarah, Shane and Dean, and Grandchildren, Sharnie, Georgia, Maddy, Vaydah and Éila.

The Funeral Service for Debbie was held on THURSDAY (December 23rd).

NAPIER PARK

BURCHELL, Deborah

Deb your battle is over. You were an inspiration, brave, never complaining, just got on with life the best you could. So many great times together, so many tears and laughter. We will miss you and remember you always.

Flo and Doug.

PUBLIC NOTICES

The TT will be taking a two-week break after our last edition for the 2021 year on Friday 24 December. The next edition will be published on 14 January 2022.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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**and sign it so we can read it out on air**  
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THANK YOU

**TAYLOR, Alec Laurence**  
Beth Taylor and family would like to thank everyone for their support given to us on the passing of Alec.  
Your words of kindness and expressions of care are heartfelt by us. The flowers, cards, phone-calls and food are greatly appreciated.  
To Dr Fowler and staff at Mount View Maldon Hospital, we would like to thank you for your dedicated professionalism and compassion given to Alec while he was in care. Also thank you to Baringhup Maldon Show Society and Nuggetty Landcare Protection Group Inc for providing a beautiful afternoon tea.

Seen anything interesting?  
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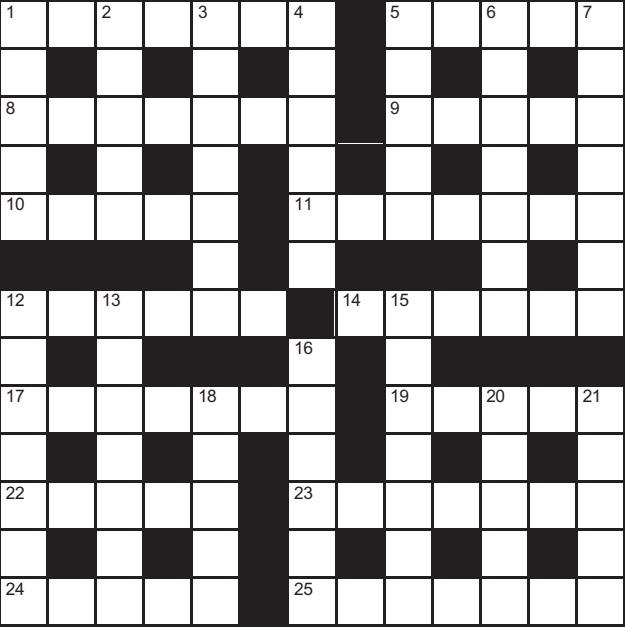
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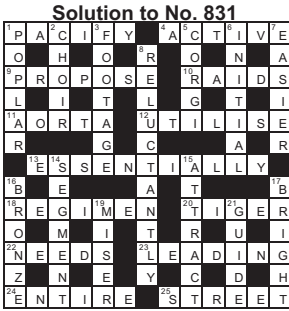
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Rainfall Baringhup

Week Ending 21.12.21

5.0mm			
Monthly Totals So Far:			
Month	2021	2020	2019
Jan	92.9	44.6	3
Feb	8.9	56.3	12
Mar	72.3	32.8	4
Apr	9.8	99.6	4
May	42.0	49.2	100
June	54.0	38.3	75
July	63.1	23.5	35
Aug	35.0	48.7	45
Sept	47.7	40.9	19
Oct	87.8	47.1	4
Nov	57.5	25.7	38
Dec	18.3	29.1	3
TOTAL	596.0	535.8	348

Rainfall Maldon

Week Ending 21.12.21

N/A			
Monthly Totals So Far:			
Month	2021	2020	2019
Jan	83.4	35.2	4.8
Feb	17.0	52.8	21.6
Mar	83.8	37.0	7.6
Apr	14.4	145.4	5.6
May	53.6	66.2	115.5
June	81.0	49.2	92.2
July	82.8	32.8	53.6
Aug	41.8	62.2	57.6
Sept	49.2	54.6	29.4
Oct	76.8	73.2	8.6
Nov	62.4	37.2	43.0
Dec	18.8	39.2	9.8
TOTAL	668.6	685.0	449.4

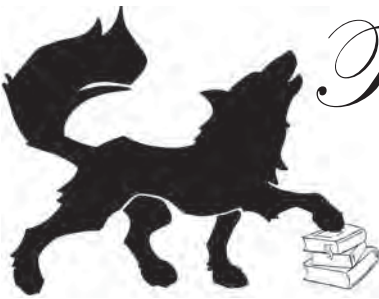
Rainfall Newstead

Week Ending 21.12.21

3.2mm				
Monthly Totals So Far:				
Month	2021	2020	2019	
Jan	101.6	53.6	5.0	
Feb	13.6	38.0	18.2	
Mar	67.2	35.8	6.2	
Apr	11.4	107.6	5.0	
May	53.2	56.2	113.6	
June	62.6	46.6	82.8	
July	68.2	29.4	43.0	
Aug	44.0	69.6	51.6	
Sept	70.0	46.8	31.2	
Oct	85.4	56.2	9.8	
Nov	70.4	22.8	42.0	
Dec	18.6	31.2	8.4	
TOTAL	666.2	593.8	416.8	

Water Storage Capacity as at 21.12.21

Site	Cairn Curran	Max ML	147,130	Current ML	98,100	% Full	66.68
Site	Malmsbury	Max ML	12,118	Current ML	10,565	% Full	89.50



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## Play it safe and respect the river this summer

**DESPITE their beauty, rivers can be deadly and remain the top location for drowning. In the lead-up to school and summer holidays – a peak period for drowning – Dr Amy Peden offers tips to stay safe this summer.**

With the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) recently declaring a La Niña event, the outlook for summer in Eastern Australia is likely to be wetter than average. With that comes rising river levels – an important factor we need to be mindful of when enjoying our beautiful waterways this summer.

“The prediction of a wet summer with above-average rainfall will increase water levels in dams, lakes and rivers,” said Dr Amy Peden, an injury prevention researcher at the School of Population Health, UNSW Medicine & Health. “For rivers this can mean conditions can vary hour-by-hour, resulting in new debris or snags being washed downstream. It can also impact the speed with which the water is flowing as well as an increased risk of flooding.”

“Every year more than 10 people die in flood-related

incidents, some after intentionally entering floodwaters. It is never safe to enter floodwaters, be it on foot, in a vehicle or on a bike, and they should be avoided at all costs. This includes not allowing children to play in floodwaters or near drains.”

“We see extremely elevated rates of river drowning in rural areas compared to the city – up to 29 times the risk of drowning in a river in an area classified as very remote when compared to areas classified as major cities. With rivers, there is also the added element of flood risk and changes to the river environment with debris, in addition to fast-flowing water,” explained Dr Peden.

“And finally, one of the biggest issues we see in cases of river drowning in Australia is alcohol consumption. My research shows elevated blood alcohol concentrations are a real issue at rivers. On average, adult river drowning victims who had been drinking were four times the upper legal limit for driving a car (a BAC of 0.20% or higher) at their time of death. Consuming such significant amounts of alcohol around the water understandably increases drowning risk

and was often involved in fatal incidents as a result of falls into water or jumping into the water from trees or bridges.”

“There is a lot people can do to reduce their risk of drowning in a river. Rivers are beautiful, natural places to swim but deserve respect. It’s vital to always supervise children around the water and for people of all ages, as well as children, to be aware of crumbling river banks that can cause unstable edges leading to falls into the water,” said Dr Peden.

Dr Peden suggests if you’re in an unfamiliar location, heed any warning signs and talk to locals about the safest places to swim and what conditions have been like lately.

She said always enter the water feet first and be cautious of debris. Always avoid alcohol prior to getting in the water and if you’ve had a few drinks, don’t go back in.

“Look out for your friends around the water too, especially if you’ve got a mate who’s had a few too many. Wear a lifejacket when paddling or boating. And learning first aid and CPR skills are helpful in all kinds of emergencies including responding

to drowning incidents, particularly if you’re in a rural location where it may take some time for medical assistance to reach you.”

Dr Peden said rivers can be deadly because the different hazards of the river are often hidden beneath the surface or hard to see.

“Often the river may look calm and still, but it’s not until you observe it for some time or look at the speed with which a tree branch or leaf is moving through the water, that the speed of the current becomes apparent,” explained Dr Peden.

“Similarly, the murky water often hides shifting and slippery riverbeds and submerged objects like glass and snags such as tree branches. So, it’s really important to check the conditions before you go in. Enter slowly, feet first and be aware the water may take you away if your feet are off the bottom. If you do get caught in the current, it’s important to stay calm, float feet first down the river and wave your arms or shout for help.”

## Council outlines plan to improve residents’ health



*Continued from page 3*

next four years to protect, promote and improve community health and wellbeing in the Shire,” said Mount Alexander Shire Council’s Director Corporate and Community Services, Lisa Knight.

“This is all about improving the health and wellbeing of all community members and promoting and supporting positive health outcomes” Ms Knight said.

“Council will work with our partners to protect public health and prevent disease for an improved community benefit.

“This plan gives us clear objectives and strategies, and outlines which partners will do what and when, and while the plan is based on state-wide health priorities, it very much reflects local needs.”

The plan was developed with Healthy Mount Alexander, a local health network that includes Castlemaine District Community Health, Castlemaine Health, Maldon Hospital, the Central Victorian Primary Care Partnership, Women’s Health Loddon Mallee, Castlemaine Community House, the Maldon Neighbourhood Centre and Council.

It mirrors state-wide health priorities for 2019-2023, spotlighting four priorities specific to our shire’s needs, based on the shire population’s current state of health.

For example, data from the Healthy Heart of Victoria Active Living Census (2019) shows that in Mount Alexander Shire:

- only one in six adults eats enough vegetables
- only one in two adults meets daily recommended fruit consumption
- just 18 per cent of adults drink the recommended eight cups or more of water a day
- one in 13 households are food insecure and do not have enough to eat
- 56.1% of adults are overweight or obese.
- one in 10 adults smoke

Council currently influences people’s health in many ways including by developing and maintaining public spaces, identifying and addressing barriers to healthy participation in events or to connecting with community, planning, environmental management and monitoring, health promotion, access to support services to improve health, waste management, prevention of infectious diseases, supporting community projects, food safety and monitoring the quality of drinking water.

Ms Knight said annual action plans would be developed with partners and progress would be monitored and evaluated quarterly and reported annually.

“We are looking forward to continuing to work with our partners on improving the health and wellbeing of our residents.”

View the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 on Council’s website at [www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/MPHWP](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/MPHWP).

## Funding strengthens Australia’s rural heartbeat

*Continued from page 13*

Natalie Eggleton, CEO of FRRR, says that the diversity of projects reflects the critical role that these groups play in the vitality of their communities.

“As we found in our Heartbeat study, rural community groups and NFPs really are the heartbeat of rural communities. However, many community groups have found it tough to access funding,

especially over the last two years, so we are delighted to be able to step in and support them to deliver on local priorities.

“We are seeing initiatives address local needs ranging from enhancing organisational capacity, to providing training so that the groups can better support their communities, to upgrades in critical community infrastructure so that people have a safe and accessible space where they can meet.

“This diversity of projects confirms that these community organisations are best placed to lead the way when it comes to supporting their communities, facilitating recovery, and building resilience,” Ms Eggleton said.


One particularly notable aspect of this round of grants is

the total value of the projects being supported in the Small & Vital Stream.

“We often hear from community groups that the funding they receive from FRRR helps them secure the balance of funds for their projects. While we are awarding \$446,638 toward Small & Vital projects, the total value of the projects we’re supporting is nearly \$3 million. This means that, on average, for every \$1 awarded by FRRR there’s another \$6.50 going into the community either in cash or in-kind. That’s wonderful to see and we’re delighted to be able to help local organisations make progress toward getting these critical initiatives up and running,” Ms Eggleton said.

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