TAMBO RAMBLER

Bruthen and District Newspaper
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August 2024 **NUMBER 299**

Bruthen's musical melting pot

GIPPSLAND Community Foundation

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The Tambo Rambler would like to acknowledge the Gunai Kurnai People, the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather, and pay our respects to their Elders both past, present and emerging.

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Bruthen's musical melting pot showcases local talent

Our little town has been spoilt for musical choice lately. Bruthen welcomed a plethora of mostly local talent recently with three great gigs - two at the Bruthen Inn and an artist-run one at the hall. Songs from the East and the popular monthly open-mic were held at the Bruthen Inn while the Dusty Minstrel Show Band Hall Bash rocked the Bruthen Hall.

Solo artists, duos, trios and bands were all showcased over all the events. East Gippsland audiences were treated to mainly EG accomplished musicians at the mini-festivals' huge line-ups.

Bruthen Inn hosted two wonderful gigs over the past fortnight. Songs from the East, in its second year, presented eight local music acts. Creator Todd Cook, of Todd Cook and the Rufous Whistlers fame and guitarist for another iconic local Bruthen band IO told the Rambler.

"Yeah, I'm the instigator and organiser," he said.

"It's the second year we have run the event. It's really trying to build the capacity of the local music scene and to connect artists to other artists and to crowds. Getting people out in the middle of winter can be a challenge but it's really good for people to stay connected during the cold months."

Todd is also the go-to axeman for other musos, including accompanying Olivia Lay on her recent single "Crooked River" and the choice for many other artists and recording sessions.

With his co-organiser Brent Hodgkins of Bruthen Music Recording Studio, Warrior Records and IO, their local knowledge meant there was no problem planning the line-up of fantastic East Gippslanders. Over 150 lovers of great music enjoyed the nine hour mini- festival with some nice quotes as follows :

"The quality of local talent is amazing."

"It's very special to have songs and ballads about our area."

Todd himself summed it up best when he said.

"It was fantastic to bring original artists together from across East Gippsland providing a day of celebration, stories and dancing!"

Just one of the many events which ran as part of the fabulously successful East Gippsland Winter Festival.

Another one was held the next Saturday night with the support of Live Music Australia. About eighty lucky music lovers got to see another great line-up at the Dusty Minstrel Show Band Hall Bash.

Five local bands blew out the cobwebs and had us up dancing all night to the point your aged correspondent suffered for days afterwards! Headbanger's Neck, Breaking Back, Hipster's Hip etc. The Pegs duo artfully opened the night, followed by one-man extragalactic extravaganza Electric Yeti (Paynesville's Nick Fischer). The Snowy River Jammers, led supersonically by Orbost's Ruth Hanson belted out some killer rock songs, followed by Small Town Alien. Jack Hookey

leads his three-piece with super quirky, thought-provoking and amusing songs, all with driving, catchy beats. Check out a snippet of his "Dancing is weird and it's fun", which when you think of it, is pretty weird yet fun, on the Dusty Minstrel Show fb page. Rinaldo Antico, - lead singer of the Dusty Minstrel Show, organised the amazing line-up and delicious catering (polenta and chickpea ragout). His headline show certainly gave the heavy-metal gods something to headbang to. One of the best nights ever held here in Bruthen. With tables and chairs around warm gas heaters outside (thanks Bullant Brewery) and a cosy inside with awesome music from all different genres, everyone left on a musical high into the cold night.

One week later, the Bruthen Inn held its monthly Open Mic Sunday, on the last Sunday of the month. Stretch wrote "30ish attended as it's inside but had 12 names on board with a few new faces". I can't imagine a better way to spend a cold Sunday afternoon than in the warm, cosy fire-lit pub with terrific music and a real selection of styles.

For more footage of the Dusty Minstrel Show Band Hall Bash, check out the excellent montage Rinaldo has put together with snippets of all the bands, as well as other footage of the evening on the Dusty Minstrel Show Facebook page and other socials. Same for Songs from the East and Bruthen Inn Facebook pages.

Pamela B

‘Sew What’ group winding up

After many years of fun, productivity, sharing, and numerous cups of tea (or coffee!), it was decided to wind-up the ‘Sew What’ group as numbers had dwindled to 2 or 3 regular attendees. The name was a very clever play-on-words (to me, as a newbie, I interpret it as “so what if there’s housework/washing/gardening/etc to do, we’re going to craft”!!!)

The group started so many years ago that none of the original members can remember exactly when!! (Possibly around 1996?) They shared in big and small projects initially, and new skills were taught/learnt along the way. Trips out to various places of interest (some to do with craft) were also the order of the day, which were self-funded by our $1 donations every week.

The get-togethers were held in the community health centre every Wednesday at 1pm, and continued there even when the Neighbourhood House took over the reins. You will see one of the really big initial projects on display soon in the Neighbourhood House, following a few repairs. It had been hanging in the waiting room at Community Health for a number of years prior to its removal for those repairs.

As a finale to this wonderful group, some of the remaining attendees met up for morning tea/ brunch at Tambo Valley Honey in the main street of Bruthen, and vowed to keep in touch by doing something similar every few months or so.

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Open 7 days
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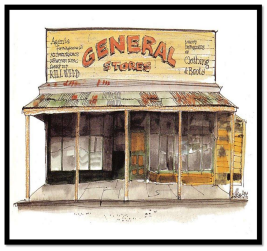


- **Supplier of groceries, fresh fruit & vegies, hardware, fishing supplies and basic newsagency.**
- **Beer, wine, RTD cans and ice.**
- **Swap & Go BBQ Gas bottles.**

Shop local – support local employment
email: BruthenGeneralStore@gmail.com

Changes to Opening Hours at Opp Shop

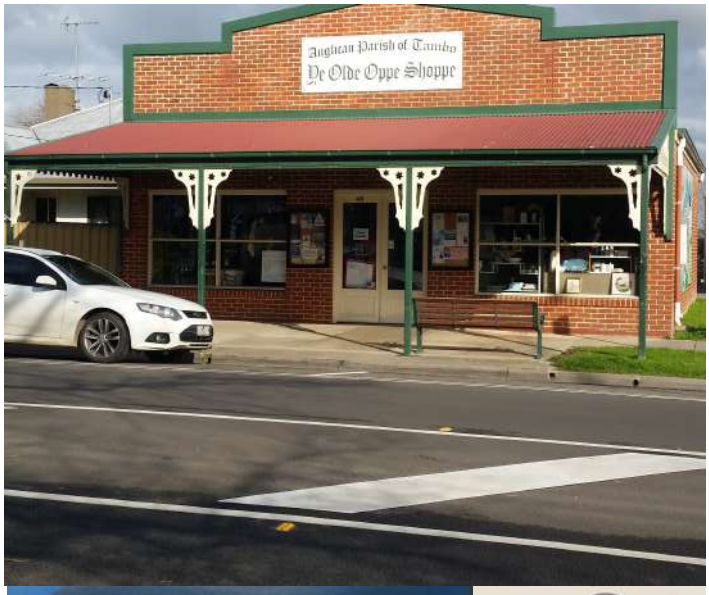
Current Opening Hours: Tuesday to Saturday 10 a.m to 2 p.m.

Locals will notice that current hours reflect a reduction in the days and also the opening hours of the Anglican Parish Opp Shop, Main Street Bruthen.

These changes have been made due to a continuing scarcity of new volunteers, along with temporary absences of regular volunteers. It is hoped that the reduced days and hours are temporary changes and that the previous schedule will be resumed. This of course depends on staffing. Opening times will be displayed in the Opp Shop window/noticeboard and the Tambo Rambler will provide updates.

New volunteers are warmly welcomed. If interested, please drop in and talk to the volunteers on duty for more information on joining the team.

Ros K.



Local Container Deposit Scheme available in Bruthen

Reuse - Recycle - Reclaim

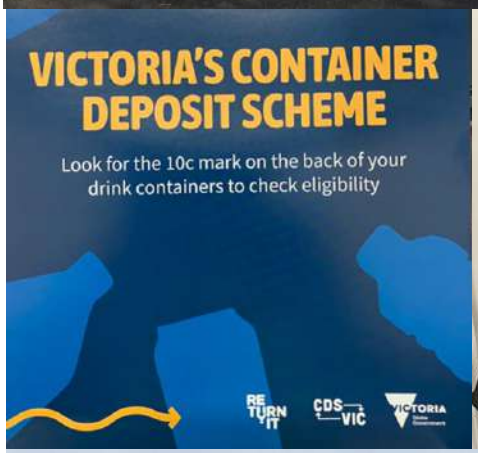
For all those doing the container recycling trip to Bairnsdale - there is now an option on our own doorstep right here in Bruthen.

An authorised Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) is now operating out of the Bruthen BP Service Station (70 Main Street Bruthen)

The scheme will accept the following: Glass, Aluminium (cans), PET (plastic bottle), HDPE (Flavoured Milk Plastic Bottles), Liquid Paper Board (Flavoured Milk Cardboard Cartons & cardboard juice boxes); all of which must display the $.10 cent logo . Staff will count the items, enter the numbers into the machine and the $dollar$ value will be deposited into a nominated bank account. The CDS Terminal is located inside the store.

Customers will need to register their personal bank account details or if preferred, a charity or organisation of their choice into the machine.

Very important is that ALL details are kept private and not shared with staff. (Staff, on request, can assist in store with setting up an account if needed). Customers need to *download* the CDS VIC EAST App to create an account. Money will be deposited into the nominated account later on that day from the scheme. If any reader has any query please do not hesitate to call into BP Bruthen and the friendly staff will assist with set up. Large quantities cannot be guaranteed to be done immediately; however, we will do our best to process them in a timely fashion. We look forward to recycling and reclaiming with you.



Bruthen Inn Hotel

Kitchen is open 7 days

Lunch 12-2pm (excl. Tues) Dinner 6-8pm

Opening from 5pm on Tuesdays (Roast Dinner avail)

Friday night raffles supporting local sporting clubs—10 draws.

Catering for private functions and community meetings

Courtesy bus operates Wed, Fri, Sat nights only

For enquires or bookings contact Bruthen Inn Hotel.

Cheers and beers, Stretch

Cheers for 92 Years

The recent Seniors Lunch at the Nicholson Hotel at the end of July was, as always, a very happy social occasion, and this time a great chance to celebrate the 92nd birthday of local Phil Blanchonette.

Phil (more properly known as Montague Phillip Blanchonette) built up an impressive array of skills over a remarkably varied career that took him to many different places. He was born in Melbourne on July 24, 1932, the second of five children. He began his schooling, however in Launceston Tasmania, when his father took up work there for Bruce Small of Malvern Star bicycles. Phil met up with famed Australian endurance cyclist Hubert Opperman when his dad built bicycles for him … one of which is on display at the Melbourne Museum.

The family moved back to the Dandenongs in Victoria. As a kid Phil was used to doing odd jobs to earn a bit of extra money here and there, and when he left school, at 14, he soon began expanding his skills. And he certainly proved to be adaptable: he worked as a pastry cook and baker, a powder monkey in a quarry, felled timber and worked in saw mills and on the Snowy Mountains Scheme. His favourite always was farm work, including with dairy and stud cattle and sheep. He also spent time in Wangaratta training horses … very fondly remembered … and lived for a couple of years in a wagonette.

In 1955 Phil made his way, walking and thumbing rides, to Benambra for some seasonal work. After a stint of hay-carting, he stayed around, taking up farm work with Jinx (Alan Hollands). A good move this, as in Benambra he met Bev Worcester. They became engaged in 1957 and married in 1960.

Phil and Bev have together taken on a range of farming jobs, not only in Benambra but also in Lindenow, Bombala and Fish Creek. They raised a family of five children and now have the joys of a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In 1980 they moved to Tambo Upper. Phil continued working in the mills at Bruthen and Mt Taylor. There was also a renewed stint at Benambra with Phil doing Monday to Friday as saw doctor at the mill. Meanwhile Bev drove to Ensay North to operate the fork lift at that mill. Both Phil and Bev were key participants in setting up the Bruthen Walking Trails to the north of the township, clearing tracks and putting in markers. The sharp-eyed might also spot a galvanised-iron masked owl somewhere early along the route ….

How might Phil advise his littlies on how to live their lives? “Don’t do anything stupid ….. but enjoy it!” It’s pretty clear that Phil has not lost his zest for living, nor his sense of humour.

Nice work Phil.

Jenny C.

Secretary of the Seniors Club, Sue Smith, with birthday boy Phil Blanchonette.

Phil and Bev.

Phil (back left) with the Benambra Premiership team in 1956.

Great Alpine Road upgrades works start

Regional Roads Victoria (RRV)are improving safety and efficiency on the Great Alpine Road between Bruthen and Cobungra to provide a smoother and more reliable journey for road users.

Safety improvement works on the Great Alpine Road between Bruthen and Cobungra are expected to start mid-August 2024 and be completed by mid-2025, weather permitting.

The safety improvements include:

- Shoulder construction and sealing
- Pavement repairs
- Upgrading existing safety barriers and installing new barriers, and
- Line marking improvements and installing guideposts to improve lane visibility.

RRV understand roadworks can be disruptive and have made every effort to minimise the impact to road users.

Traffic management will be in place at times to allow road users to safely navigate the area whilst works are being undertaken.

Please look out for changed traffic conditions and allow extra time for your journey.

We will provide advance notice on any further traffic changes as the project progresses.

Thank you for your patience as we deliver this important safety project.

The safety improvements between Bruthen and Cobungra will improve safety by:

- Providing smoother and more reliable journeys
- Reducing the likelihood of crashes
- Helping drivers stay in control if their vehicle leaves the road, and
- Improving traction and reducing debris on the road.

The Australian and Victorian Governments are investing $8.06 million through the 2023-25 Road Safety Program to improve safety and efficiency along the Great Alpine Road between Bruthen and Cobungra.

The Great Alpine Road runs from Wangaratta in the north to Bairnsdale in the east, passing through the Victorian Alps.

It is an important route for agriculture, timber and tourism, and is one of the two ‘Great’ tourist routes in Victoria, the other being the Great Ocean Road.

The road is an important link for communities in the state’s north-east and a key connection for the tens of thousands of tourists who visit Victoria’s alpine region each year.

This stretch of road between Bruthen to Cobungra has narrow lanes and tight bends.

From 2015 to 2024, there were 71 crashes on the Great Alpine Road between Bruthen and Cobungra, resulting in 44 serious injuries and three people tragically losing their lives.

These critical works will improve safety and efficiency for local communities, industries and tourists.

Infrastructure plays a vital role in preventing serious crashes. It also helps reduce the severity of crashes should a crash occur.

Mistakes happen, which as humans we can’t always avoid. What we can do is build more forgiving road infrastructure so that when a mistake does happen it doesn’t cost a life.

Stop, rest and recharge in Bruthen

Three new infrastructure projects in Bruthen are proving very welcome additions to the travelling community.

Chargerlec Electric Vehicle (EV) charging company has installed two charging points in front of the Arts & Info Centre. They paid for the power upgrade with the new pole to the Info Centre, and also paid for the power upgrade to the streetscape, a necessary part of winning EV charging contracts.

Bruthen is a terrific place to stop and recharge vehicles. The power points are fast-charging and located close to the newly refurbished toilets, shops, cafes, Tambo Honey, bakery, Bullant Brewery, Bruthen Inn, Wildkraft Apothecary, Opp Shop, Bruthen Bizarre, General Store, the Tambo River Loop and Rail Trail over the beautiful Tambo River to the oval.

So while your vehicle is charging, there is so much to see and experience in Bruthen.

The revamped toilet block is a delight and it's wonderful that common sense prevailed in not demolishing and rebuilding the whole block. All-access pathways have been completed with a picnic table setting incorporated into the new concreting for wheelchair access.

At the Skateboard Park a new waste dump point has been installed next to the toilets, making Bruthen the perfect destination for tourists.

Bruthen Seniors met for a delicious lunch at the Nicholson Hotel on Wednesday, July 31.
This also proved to be a beautiful venue to celebrate Phil Blanchonette's 92nd Birthday.
See story on page 6

Celebrate National Science Week

National Science Week is an important opportunity for STEM, innovation engagement, and education communities to celebrate and showcase science to the Australian public and the world through high-profile science engagement activities, according to Federal Member for Gippsland Darren Chester.

"National Science Week is Australia's annual opportunity to meet scientists, discuss hot topics, do science and celebrate its cultural and economic impact on society," Mr Chester said.

"I am encouraging all Gippslanders to get involved in this year's National Science Week, which runs from August 10 to 18.

"A variety of activities are happening locally this year, including Greenhouse Gardening and National Science Week Storytime at East Gippsland Shire libraries, as well as informative talks with industry experts.

"Gippslanders can also participate in online activities such as the ABC's dark sky project, which encourages people to step outside, stargaze, and explore the wonders of the cosmos. People can also go online, vote for their favourite night sky object or phenomenon, and find out about the impact of light pollution on science, creatures, and culture."

First held in 1997, National Science Week has become one of Australia's largest festivals. Last year, about 2.7 million people participated in more than 1860 events and activities.

In 2024, National Science Week events will be held online and throughout Australia, from science festivals, expert panel discussions and interactive displays to music and comedy shows, online activities and open days. The annual event highlights the importance of sparking an interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics from an early age, and maintaining student participation throughout primary and secondary schooling.

"Science plays a vital role in Australia's economy, standard of living, health, environment, and future," Mr Chester said.

"Throughout National Science Week, we celebrate the contribution of scientists, engineers and technologists around the country and hope to inspire the next generation of young scientists."

For more information, including National Science Week events near you, visit www.scienceweek.net.au.

Succession planning

On behalf of East Gippsland Shire Council and funded by the Gippsland Community Foundation the "Family, Farm, Finance, Future: Succession Planning Expo" is coming to Bruthen on August 30, 2024.

This event has run for the past three years, across East Gippsland and it has gotten better and better each time, with feedback from last year's event incredibly strong. With thanks to the Community Foundation, funding is finally available to run this program in Bruthen.

If you know families or individuals who would like to come but find the cost prohibitive, please tap them on the shoulder with this discount code which will secure them free ticket/s: **BFREETIX**

Your ticket to this not-to-be-missed event includes:

- A series of speakers covering a range of topics (9.30-12pm including morning tea break)
- An expo of local legal and financial businesses, and other low or no-fee services (12-2pm including lunch)
- Free document certification and witnessing
- A free or discount follow up with providers at the event

Get your tickets today: https://events.humanitix.com/bruthen-succession

Bruthen Fire Brigade Annual

On a recent chilly Saturday evening, The Bruthen Fire Brigade enjoyed its annual awards night; a chance to pause and reflect, celebrate, and honour those who have served the community as fire fighters and emergency services.
We honoured our life members (Ken Smith, Colin Froud and Bill Cornwall and partners), and welcomed Commander Glenn Harrap who came to Bruthen on the night to present awards. The awards centered on the CFA Service Medal - pictured. The Medal is based on the Cross of St John - with each point of the star representing the virtues of Dexterity, Explicitness, Gallantry, Loyalty, Observation, Perseverance, Sympathy and Tact. Those virtues are considered to represent the qualities of a fire fighter and the cross has been chosen as the insignia of many fire services, including the CFA. The following recipients were awarded CFA Service Medals in appreciation of their greatly valued service to their local community. (Posthumously) Treasurer Paul Mackenzie for 10 years' service.

- Lieutenant Ross Hermans for 10 years' service.
- Fire Fighter Jason Armistead for 10 years' service.
- Fire Fighter and Brigade OHS officer Bob Cooper for 15 years' service.
- Lieutenant Mike McStephen for 15 years' service.
- Captain James Nicholas for 15 years' service.

Just as important was promotion of Fire Fighter Bryce Lewis to Lieutenant after the Brigade elections. The Brigade further welcomed recently graduated Fire Fighter Alena Walmsley to the ranks as well as Mark Terrill who has just returned to Bruthen and who is about to commence his General Fire Fighter training.

A wonderful night was had by all despite being paged to three jobs (the first two cancelled), with the final job seeing a fire crew return home to Bruthen about 1am after providing assistance to Lakes Entrance Fire Brigade. A final thanks must go to the Bruthen Bowls Club who hosted what was an enjoyable night.

Above: Captain James Nicholas CFA Service Medal

Below: Lieutenant Ross Hermans with Commander Glenn Harrap

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Dinner and Awards Night

Fire Fighter Bob Cooper

Above: Fire Fighter Jason Armistead

Lieutenant Mike McStephen

Left: Newly promoted Lieutenant Bryce Lewis

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Cheers and beers, Stretch

Phone (03) 51575201

Bruthen and District Citizens Association 2023/24 AGM Report

Bruthen & District Neighbourhood House Report 2023/24

The Bruthen & District Neighbourhood House Neighbourhood House (BDNH) continues to make an important contribution to community development, community education, community resilience and community well-being across Bruthen & District area where it primarily operates and draws support from.

Current BDNH groups include:

- Bruthen Mums and Bubs
- Bruthen Men's Shed
- Bruthen Senior Citizens
- Young Peoples Program
- Sew What Group
- Various arts and crafts groups
- Gardening Group
- Bruthen Remembers (History Group)
- Bruthen Bookies (Reading Group)
- Creative Space Groups & Workshops
- School Holiday Programs (multiple)
- Farm Support Program
- Women's Health Promotions

BDNH can also tailor support to groups or individuals on an as needs basis.

While this list is not exhaustive, it demonstrates some of the scope that the BDNH is involved in, and the scope is continuing to grow in diversity.

A key outcome from the 2023/24 period was stand-alone incorporation which enabled the BDNH to be released from auspice of the BDCA after funding was granted in 2018. Planning for this has taken up much time but has realised positive results and the BDNH officially commenced operations under its own incorporation on July 1, this year. The BDNH would like to sincerely thank the BDCA for providing the legal and volunteer support that it received in the first five years of operation. Without this support the BDNH would not be able to grow and mature into the organisation that it is today. While this will be the last report to a BDCA AGM (as the BDNH will no longer be a sub group of the BDCA) it is envisaged that the close relationship between both community organisations will continue well into the future.

Tambo Rambler Community Newspaper 2023/24

The Tambo Rambler Community Newspaper continues to be a key component of community fabric in and around Bruthen and District.

It is pleasing to note that the 'Rambler' continues to receive positive feedback regarding its publications (hard copy & electronic) and is seen as a key means of getting community news, resilience, and recovery messages out there to the growing population of Bruthen and district.

The Rambler wishes to acknowledge the key support of the Gippsland Community Foundation which provided funding for a new photocopier machine and funding which will enable a part time editor to be engaged for the next two years.

Importantly, the Rambler has revised its advertising rates (to raise revenue) and amended publication size (a means of minimizing publication print costs) to make the Rambler self-sustaining and financially viable. This improvement will continue as we strive to ensure the Rambler remains part of the community for years to come.

Bruthen Art & Information Centre Report 2023/24

An Art Exhibition, Bruthen Artists on Show, was held in September with a successful opening event attracting 50 artists and art enthusiasts.

A Regional Arts Grant of $1000 enabled the Centre to host a Plein Air workshop in Bruthen with well-known Bairnsdale artist Rhonda Gray as tutor.

The Centre was painted with completion in September. Funded through the Bruthen streetscape program.

The main sign on the building was replaced with a new sign that looks much better. Funded through the East Gippsland Shire.

Although a shortage of volunteers to man the Centre continues to be a problem we have managed to open for at least 1 or 2 days most weeks of the year.

Issues for resolution

- Attracting more visitors into the Centre. The streetscape works have not helped with this problem but hopefully it will improve when the toilet works are finished.
- Attracting more volunteers to work in the Centre seems to getting harder.
- Maintenance - The gardens around the Heritage Buildings are ongoing problem requiring the committee to hold occasional working bees to keep on top of weeds which seem to be winning at the moment.
- There has been a marked drop in the amount of art and craft items being sold in the current economic environment.

Bruthen & District Neighbourhood House Elections

On Tuesday, July 16, at 6:30pm the Bruthen & District Neighbourhood House (BDNH) held its first elections as a standalone incorporated association, after the auspice from the BDCA concluded.

The BDNH which was originally funded in 2018, was auspiced for the first five years of its existence by the BDCA until such time as the house developed its protocols and procedures; enough to enable incorporation. While the advent of COVID meant a small delay to incorporation, BDCA support and assistance to the Neighbourhood House has now realised this.

A committee for FY 2024/25 was elected with some new faces added to the fold. Many thanks must go to outgoing Committee of Management members Ros Kempton and Jenny Carter - who stood down to concentrate on a host of other commitments they currently have. Many thanks for your hard work over the last three years spent as a Committee member and the BDNH look forward to your continued involvement in upcoming House activities.

The following community members were elected to the new Committee of Management.

James Nicholas (President), Pamela Boyd (Vice President - Operations), Geoff Wigney (Vice President Plans & Projects), Wendy Robinson (Secretary), Nisa Giacomelli (Finance Officer), Faye Brooks, Lucy Whillance (both general committee members).

The role of the committee is to set the strategic direction of the Neighbourhood House, ensure we remain linked and relevant to community needs and ensure that we adhere to Neighbourhood Houses Victoria and State Departmental regulations in administration of the House. The House currently has two staff members being Nikki Willett (Manager) and Kelsey Schueler (Program Coordinator), who manage the day-to-day operational planning and running of House activities. The number and range of community groups and activities that the House supports continue to grow. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with the BDNH or participating in activities you can either drop in to the House at 36 Main Street, Bruthen (open Monday -Friday generally 10-3/3.30pm) or look us up on Facebook. Here's to a great 2024/25 :)

James Nicholas (President)

S A L T W A T E R E S P Y Z R

Z Z K S T Q F D L R Y L B C E

K C Z X O W R G A Z T A A N D

W W R G Z I A G I A Z T L U I

J A O O B E I F S D R Y L M L

R X T E C R U M E W E P A B G

X A R E E O A I Z C H U W A F

B Y G G R N D V H N X S Z T D

L L D U I E A I A G A L A H R

M U F A S L D U L K R G F X A

B U N L T N L O E E K F Z C G

R L L F A W R O F I A O W S O

L I V E D L X S U P E A U T N

Y R A W O S S A C Q S G E Q P

M I S T L E T O E B I R D A J

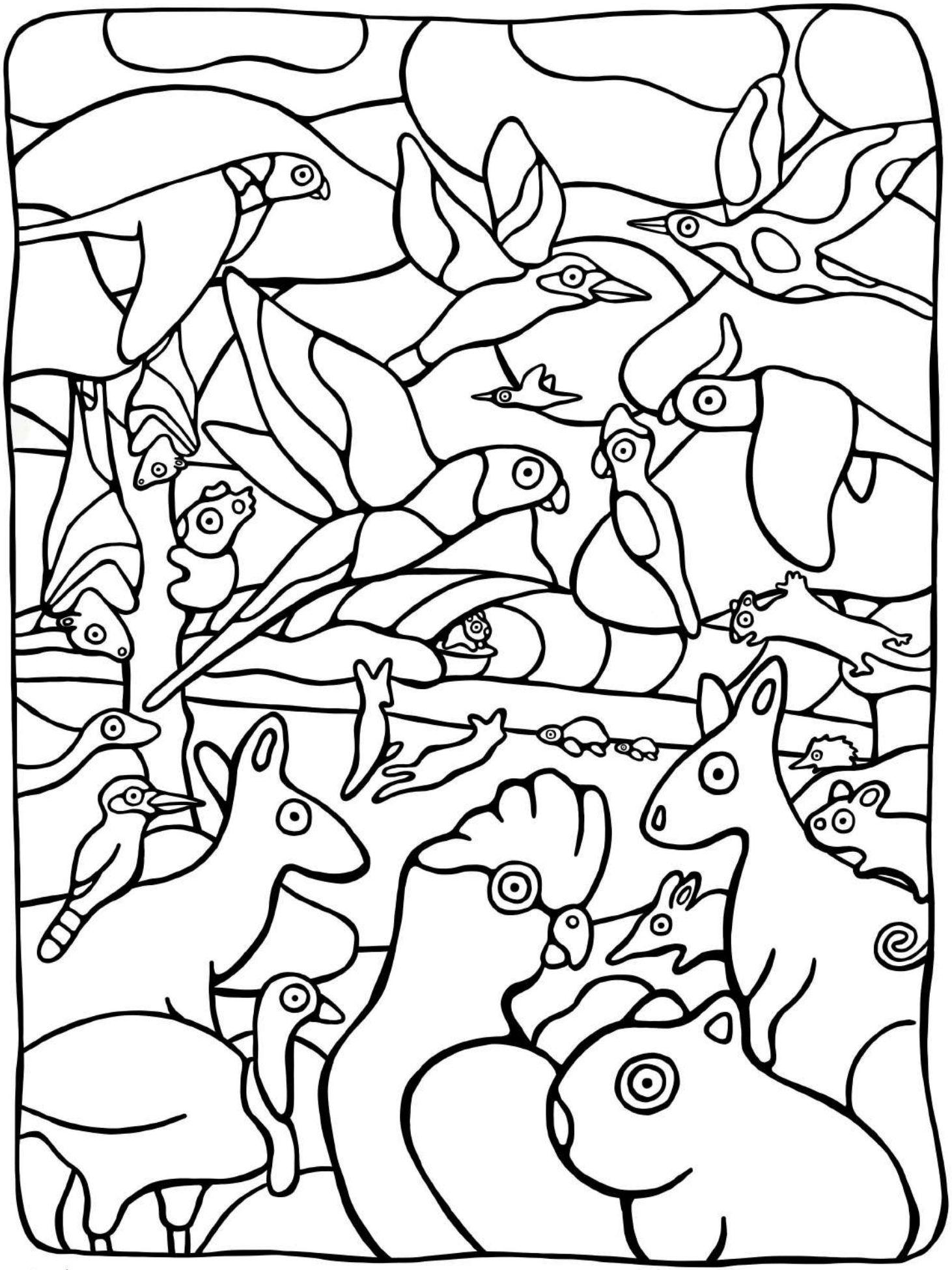
PLATYPUS **ECHIDNA** **EMU** **QUOLL** **WALLABY**

BUDGERIGAR **SALTWATER CROCODILE** **TASMANIAN DEVIL** **CASSOWARY** **QUOKKA**

SEA EAGLE **MISTLETOEBIRD** **WATER DRAGON** **NUMBAT** **KOOKABURRA**

SUGAR GLIDER **LYREBIRD** **GALAH**

Most of Australia's wildlife is found nowhere else in the world, making its conservation even more important – 87 per cent of our mammal species, 93 per cent of reptiles, 94 per cent of frogs and 45 per cent of our bird species are found only in Australia.



brentos @artofbrentos

How many native Australian animals can you find?

WIRES @wireswildliferescue

What's been happening at Bruthen & District Neighbourhood House

July

The recent school holiday programs were not just a hit -they were a resounding success!

This started with our drip bear/bunny art workshops. Over 2 big days we had around 60 children and their parents eagerly gathered at the house to unleash their artistic talents. The experience not only fostered creativity but also encouraged teamwork as kids collaborated and shared ideas, leaving behind a trail of paint and laughter.

The main highlight of our holiday programs was our infamous Disglow Party! The team at B&DNH transformed the Bruthen Mechanics Hall into a glowing wonderland ready for the dancing to begin. Over 100 enthusiastic children turned out for an evening filled with fun and laughter. With a small cover charge at this year's event, we were able to raise $550 for Bruthen Primary School to put towards their end of year big day out. The evening was filled with glowsticks of various colours, illuminating the night while the kids played, danced and sang to the music, their laughter and chatter echoing throughout the hall. One of the highlights of the evening was the temporary tattoos on offer from Happy Tatts, where children eagerly lined up to have their arms adorned with various designs. The kids were all so delighted with this special addition which added an extra touch of sparkle to their night. The smell of delicious food wafted through the air, as parents and volunteers manned the barbecue and popcorn machine serving up some delicious treats that were eagerly devoured by hungry young attendees. A much-welcomed addition as the evening went on was the hot coffee and steaming hot chocolates being sold by Anywhere Espresso, warming both hands and hearts of parents and children alike.

Overall, the success of these holiday programs has reinforced the value of offering engaging activities for children, setting the stage for even more exciting events in the future. None of this would have been possible without the hard work of the B&DNH team combined with the generosity and kindness of Gippsland Community Foundation which provided the funding for these events.

August

Calling all food lovers and culinary enthusiasts. August is shaping up to be a delicious month, as Julie from SBA's Kitchen is back for another exciting workshop "The Food of Poland". Wednesday 21st August 10:00am – 2:00pm Bruthen Mechanics Hall. Please call or msg the house to book in as spots are limited.

September

Julie is back again for 2 sessions, Saturday 14th September and Thursday 26th September. While details are still under wraps, the anticipation is high. Julie's previous workshops have been met with rave reviews, leaving participants inspired and equipped with a newfound confidence in the kitchen. Known for her engaging teaching style and passion for food, Julie will guide you through an immersive experience, sharing her culinary wisdom and insights. Stay tuned for more details!

Bird of the Month August 2024 The Masked Lapwing

Which bird is known for its (often)-poor nesting choices?
It would be the Masked Lapwing. In urban areas they like to raise their family in the middle of a roundabout or a supermarket carpark, then fiercely defend their family from anyone who dares come near them!
Erroneously referred to as a Plover, our southern species was known as the Spur-winged Plover because each wing is armed with a yellow spur at the 'elbow'. Masked Lapwings use these spurs when diving at potential predators, but rarely do they actually strike, preferring to just 'give them a scare'.
A large, conspicuous ground-dwelling bird, it is mainly white below, with brown wings and back and a black crown. They have a dramatic yellow 'mask' of large bright-yellow wattles (fleshy skin) covering the face.
The Masked Lapwing is common throughout northern, central and eastern Australia. Their habitat is varied, but they typically prefer open, short-grassed sites often beside water like swamps, marshes, mudflats and beaches.
When feeding, Lapwings stalk slowly and deliberately, dipping and stabbing at prey just below the surface, seeking out earthworms, insects and their larvae.

Masked Lapwing
(Photo by Chris Healey)

Breeding when conditions are suitable, both sexes share the building of the nest and incubation and care of young. The nest is a simple scrape on bare ground, unlined or sparsely lined with dry grass, rootlets or other plant debris. A clutch of 3-4 is common. Being protective parents, they will huddle the young chicks underneath them for warmth and protection. Young birds are born with a full covering of down and can leave the nest and feed themselves a few hours after hatching.
The Masked Lapwing is notorious for defending its nesting site, particularly after chicks have hatched. Adults will dive on intruders, and you may get a shock if one suddenly swoops towards you, making a loud 'kekekekek' call when you get too close, but it will rarely make contact. They may act as though they have a broken wing in an attempt to lure the intruder away from the nest. After chicks have grown up, they will calm down and stop attacks.
BirdLife East Gippsland meet weekly for Monday morning outings. New members are always welcome. Check our Facebook page and Birdlife Australia events page for more information.
Birdlife Australia recommends participants are fully vaccinated against Coronavirus.

Bruthen - Bairnsdale Bus Timetable
Dysons Bus Lines Ph: 5152 1711

Bruthen to Bairnsdale Morning	**Monday & Friday AM**	**Tues, Wed, Thurs AM**
Bruthen (opp) General Store	08:10 am	09:50 am
Bairnsdale, Corner Main & Bailey St	08:30 am	10:20 am
Bairnsdale Train Station	08:35 am	10:30 am
Bairnsdale to Bruthen Afternoon	**Mon to Thurs PM**	**Friday PM**
Bairnsdale Train Station	1:25 pm	3:40 pm
Corner Chemist (Service & Main Street)	1:30 pm	3:45 pm
Bruthen, Station & Great Alpine Rd	2:00 pm	4:15 pm

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE LIBRARIES

Mobile Service Centre / Library
Bruthen (Main St)

What can you do at this mobile service centre?

- Borrow books, CD's, DVD's, audio books and more
- Pick up a Council newsletter and subscribe
- Lodge a report or request
- Pay an account / make electronic payments
- Make enquiries, collect and lodge application forms
- Register your dogs and cats
- Access and complete surveys
- Learn about and provide feedback on projects in your community
- Use a computer with free internet access
- Have a chat and much more

Wednesdays Fortnightly 11.15am – 12.30pm Fortnightly

Jul 3rd & 17th
Aug 7th & 21st
Sep 4th & 18th
Oct 9th & 23rd
Nov 6th & 20th
Dec 4th & 18th

Phone **5153 9500** with any queries about the service.

Libraries Change Lives

@ GLCH

Mondays & Wednesdays from 8.30 am to 12.30 pm

GP Clinic: Wednesday by appointment only. Call **5155 8300** and select option `1'. Please make sure you let our Customer Service team know you would like your appointment in Bruthen.

Community Health Nurse: Monday and Wednesday, $12 per consult or $6 concession. Note: services will not be denied if you are unable to pay. Call **5155 8300** and select option `1'.

Maternal & Child Health: Once a month on a Tuesday by appointment only. Call **5155 8300** and select option `4'.

Room & Bus Hire: all bookings are to be directed to our Customer Service team on **5155 8300.**

Pathology collection: Monday and Wednesday from 8.30 to 11.00 am. Nurse fees apply.

These services are for Bruthen and district residents. For more information about GLCH, our services and programs, please visit glch.org.au or find us on social media.

Gippsland Lakes Complete Health

Tim BULL MP
MEMBER FOR GIPPSLAND EAST

Servicing Bruthen and district community

143 Main Street, Bairnsdale VIC 3875
03 5152 3491
tim.bull@parliament.vic.gov.au

Funded from Parliamentary Budget

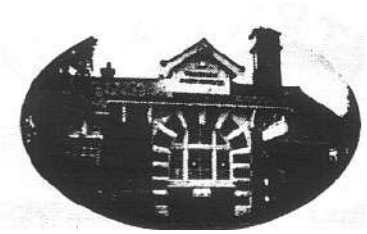
EVENTS & NOTICES

Injured Wildlife Rescue

When you find injured wildlife please keep these details in case of emergency:
WILDLIFE SHELTERS
Jade Whittingham
Wombat Wisdom, (Bairnsdale), 0473 446 161
Holly Corbett
Holly's Wildlife Rescue (No bats) (530 Bairnsdale Dargo Rd Hillside 3875), 0432 539 408
Suzie
Waterholes Wildlife Shelter Clifton Creek Koala specialist, 0447 470 905.
Geoff Nicol
Treehouse Wildlife Refuge Metung, 0419 345 820 Birds, wombats, kangaroos, etc

BRUTHEN LICENSED POST OFFICE
(Est.1893)

East Link Toll Passes



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In event of an emergency

Bruthen has 6 Heart Start Defibrillators

Located at

Bruthen General Store
6.30am – 6.15/7.15pm (7 days)

Bruthen Rec Reserve
for sports events / Caravan Park

Bruthen Police Station
Note: under 24/7 video surveillance

Also Bruthen Bowls Club, CFA and Neighbourhood House

Bruthen Key Events Calander

A long L K @ what's coming up

Month 2024	Event / Theme	Group
Aug (8th)	You're an Instrument (Kids Show)	Bruthen Arts & Events Council
Sept (21st)	Bruthen Market (Spring Fair)	Market Team – N'hood House
Sept (7th)	Casting Off Theatre Show	Bruthen Arts & Events Council
Oct (1st-4th)	School Holiday Program	N'hood House
Nov (23rd)	Bruthen Markets (pre-Christmas)	Market Team – N'hood House
Dec (8th)	Bruthen Christmas Carols	N'hood House & St Matts Parish
2025	**Event / Theme**	**Group**
Jan (18th)	Eat, Drink, Explore Bruthen	Bruthen Arts & Events Council
Feb (15th)	Bruthen Markets (Music)	Market Team – N'hood House

As events approach – more info will appear in the Rambler.

Looking after your well-being and connecting with others is important in challenging times.And we all know that laughter is the best medicine!

This fun, practical Take a Well-Being Break workshop brings farmers/farming families/ couples and service providers in your community together to provide well-being tools and information, connect and share ideas, and to identify practical strategies you can immediately implement to positively impact your well-being.

Get off the farm and give yourself the time and space to bring some calm to the chaos and focus on YOU!

Join us for a workshop on Friday 9 August 10am-2pm, Bruthen Mechanics Hall.

Lunch is provided. Tickets $20 with proceeds going to East Gippsland Women in Agriculture.

Click here to book

YOUR CHIEF HAPPINESS OFFICER, CYNTHIA MAHONEY

Cynthia is an Agricultural Scientist and her technical speciality is in leadership, people development and well-being. She's an experienced facilitator and coach and her sessions are designed to be creative, dynamic, fun and engaging. She ensures participants leave with actionable change to apply back in their communities, workplaces and lives. She has worked with a range of rural industries, teams and communities for over 30 years, and is passionate about working with people to embrace their strengths, develop their life and leadership skills and live courageously.

www.cynthiamahoney.com.au

Supported by:

This workshop is Funded by the Farm Business Resilience Program, which is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Victorian Government's Future Agriculture Skills Capacity Fund.

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TAMBO RAMBLER

Tambo Rambler Advertising Costs

BLACK AND WHITE Advert Options

⇒ 9 x 5 cm - **Cost $15.00**
⇒ 9 x 8 cm - **Cost $20.00**
⇒ 1/4 page - **Cost $25.00**
⇒ 1/2 page - **Cost $50.00**
⇒ Full page - **Cost $100.00**

COLOUR Advert Option 1: Full Page

⇒ One full page, full colour feature / advert placed on the inside cover of the Tambo Rambler
⇒ Plus acknowledgement as the major sponsor for that month's edition of the Tambo Rambler
⇒ **Cost - $165 per edition**

COLOUR Advert Option 2: Half Page

⇒ One half page, full colour feature / advert placed on the inside cover of the Tambo Rambler
⇒ Plus acknowledgement as the sponsor for that month's edition of the Tambo Rambler
⇒ **Cost - $100 per edition**

COLOUR Advert Option 3: Quarter Page Full Colour Promotional Package

⇒ One quarter page, full colour feature / advert placed on the inside cover of the Tambo Rambler
⇒ Plus acknowledgement as the co-sponsor for that month's edition of the Tambo Rambler
⇒ **Cost - $65 per edition**

Closing date for September issue is August 25.

Please send your articles by e-mail only to:
tamborambler@gmail.com
(Word, Publisher, JPG or PNG format with photos please **PDF format will also be accepted**.)

Tambo Rambler is distributed across East Gippsland via email and on the web page at
https://bruthendistrict.org.au/tambo-rambler/

We also distribute to Government representatives, Bairnsdale Library, Victorian State Library, and local Historical Societies
Hard copies are available in Bruthen at the P.O, General Store, Oppe Shoppe, Bakery, Blue Bee, Hotel and Neighbourhood House for a gold coin donation.

The Tambo Rambler Committee and BDCA do not take responsibility for opinions expressed by contributors to the Tambo Rambler.
The Editors reserve the right to reject articles and advertisements and to edit submissions if necessary
All submissions must carry the author's full name, address and phone number. They may be published anonymously if preferred.

Bruthen Football Club 1984 Reunion

From Page 24

In Merv's absence at the Reunion there was a strong contingency of Bittners in attendance including Merv's children Jason, Troy and Tanya and their families including grandson Dilon who also plays for the Club. Tanya and Troy both spoke of their dad's love for the Club. Brothers George and Jason Bittner played in the winning Junior side in 1984 under the guidance of Merv. Other players in that Junior side included Adam Campbell, Troy Southen, Robert Ottosson, Darren Hood, Adrian Bromage, Shane Mitchell, brothers Chris and Andrew Wishart and Matt Van Dam to name a few.

The Senior side, photographed by a professional photographer back in the day, included those who attended the Reunion: Neil Streeter, brothers Colin and Willy Hood, Norm Hooton, Carl Thomas, Mick Spong, Ray Barling and Norm Hooton. Len Mayo who was the President of the Club back in 1984 also came along on the night. There was a lot to reminisce about, and stories were keenly shared.

Carl Thomas aka Bowser who served as coach of the Juniors a few years back and now helps out filling various roles on game day including umpire and barman remembered "it was a brilliant day for the Club – it was a home grand final, it was for both Junior and Senior, it was the last time we ran out of the old club rooms. Every *dog and his bone* were here because it was the first opportunity at the Flag since 1979 and it was played at home. It marked the first run of appearances in the next six Grand Finals – so a very successful era for Bruthen."

The attendance at the ground that day was recorded as being 9,867 people so Bowser wasn't wrong. It's hard to imagine that many people crammed in around the oval.

An old black and white photo from the Advertiser (pictured right) was included in the collage presented to the Club on the night. It shows the old weatherboard club rooms in the background with Peter Whillance aka Wormy in the centre running through the banner and Chris Bromage (dec.) aka Diesel on the right.

Coach Russ pointed out that "Wormy had a big grin on his face as the two of them had a slab on who would be first though the banner. I was horrified! Not 100% concentration on the biggest game of their lives."

Forty years on and the Bulldogs are still going strong and hoping to get a spot in this year's finals - it's looking great for most of our Football and Netball Teams.

Go Doggies!

Peter Whillance (Wormy) and Chris Bromage (Diesel) running through the banner in 1984. (Photo by The Advertiser)

Rhys Kennedy and the team run onto the oval in Buchan on Saturday, July 20, 2024 with a 200 Games" banner made for Rhys's special occasion.

Bottom Right: Russ Donohue presenting collage put together by his wife Tracy. (Photo by Tracy Donohue)
Above: Picture taken on the night of the Reunion
Left: 1984 Premiership Player; Carl Thomas (left) and Premiership Coach; Russ Donohue at the Reunion.

1984 Premiership Players L-R; Norm Hooton, Willy and Colin Hood. (Photo by Tracy Donohue).

Bruthen Football Club 1984 Reunion

On Saturday, July 20, 2024 Bruthen played the last of their match ups against Buchan for the season. It was this contest, reminiscent of the Grand Final played, September 1, 1984, that prompted Russ Donohue Coach of the 1984 Bruthen Seniors side and 1984 Premier player and current valued clubman Carl Thomas to co-ordinate, with the help of Steph Kennedy, a 40-year-Reunion for the 1984 Omeo District Football League (ODFL) Premiership Players.

The present-day match in Buchan was played with enthusiasm, marking 200 Senior Games played for Bruthen by Rhys Kennedy. The Junior players formed a guard of honour as Rhys ran on to the ground with his sons and through the banner lovingly made by wife Steph. Rhys is a club stalwart who has stuck with his club through the highs and lows and his positivity really encourages his teammates. All his team members got around Rhys as he kicked a goal on the day and you couldn't wipe the grin off his face. The final score for the day was Buchan 3. 1 (19) verse Bruthen 22. 15 (147).

The Junior footy side had a challenging task in front of them but gave another great team effort despite Buchan taking the win on the day.

Our netballers had another great round with Under 12's undefeated for the season. Our Under 17's had another convincing win to cement their position at the top of the ladder leading into the finals. The A and B Grade sides, with developing players going from strength to strength, both took out the win also. It is exciting times for all our teams as we head into finals.

So, after a successful day at Buchan, the players and supporters headed back down to the Kennel to join past players, Committee members and supporters of the 1984 side to mark the occasion, when 40 years ago, with the final score of Bruthen 23. 14 (152); Buchan 11. 9 (75) the Bulldogs pulled off a well-deserved win to take the '84 Premiership Flag.

An article published back in the day by The Advertiser stated, "Coach Russ Donohue had his team training in late January for this game and the hard work paid dividends". Russ's wife Tracy put together a collage of photos, articles and even a Telegram received by Russ the morning of the Grand Final wishing his boys well. Tracy donated this to the Club on the evening and it will be hung at the Bruthen Inn for all to see.

The 1984 success extended to the Junior Team coached by Merv Bittner, now life member, who steered them to win the flag that year too. The collage presented was also in recognition of the Bittner family's service to the Club. Merv was unable to join the Reunion, but Russ talked of a man dedicated to his club who filled many roles. Russ told the story of a diligent Merv found at 9am the morning of the Grand Final on the grounds re-doing the white lines. Russ said, "Geez Merv we've got a final this afternoon." Merv replied, "And I've got my junior side playing to win first mate."

Continued Page 22

Back Row:- R. Stewart, G. Naylor, P. Ripper, R. Southon, P. Whillance, C. Thomas, G. Manley, S. Arnold, R. Mitchell, R. Donohue (Coach)
Middle Row :- C. Bromage, R. Neander, D. Kay, C. Hood, P. McKessy, D. Whillance, E. Waller.
Front Row:- M. Bittner, S. (Willy) Hood, D. Stewart, H. Owen, N. Hooten, N. Streeter.

1984 Senior Team Premiership Photo, including recently deceased Life Member Red Mitchell in the white t-shirt who was Runner for the team.